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### welcome the Robins

Welcome to this afternoon's game against Swindon Town, where both teams know that a decent result will mean they are virtually safe from relegation for another season.

It's been a superb four weeks for the U's since the appointment of manager Phil Parkinson, with results meaning we've hit the top half of the table for the first time since September, before slipping back to 13th after last week's excellent draw at Barnsley.

After today's match - the first of our Ladies' Days - we'll need you to get voting on your March Player of the Month - see page 25 for more details of how you can get your hands on a superb Adidas watch courtesy of The Co-op Jewellery Store, Colchester. WELCOME THE NEW BOYS

We were pleased to sign two new players ahead of Thursday's transfer deadline. 19 year-old striker Ben May joins us from Millwall on loan until the end of the season, whilst 22-year-old Mike Edwards has signed from Hull City on a short-term contract, again until the end of the season.

Ben will wear shirt 28 and Mike 29 and we wish them both all the best during their time at the club.

### inside today's issue...

p5 New boss Phil Parkinson reflects on a hectic month of fixtures and tells us how hard he's been working around transfer deadline day.

**p6** It's the second time a Swindon Town team has visited Layer Road this week after the reserves came to Essex on Wednesday - take a look at this afternoon's opponents.

**p20** What have the U's supporters made of recent events? We've got your recent letters and e-mails here.

**p27** Monday sees our latest event at the Mercury Theatre - find out what's on the agenda for another top evening of entertainment.

p29 Chairman Jon Burns brings you the latest from the CUSA, including details of all the upcoming trips on the road.



p10 Former boss Mick Wadsworth was in town for our last home game - see how the action unfolded in the 2-0 win over Huddersfield Town here!

**p14** He's been back on the goalscoring trail in recent weeks and is one of the leading candidates for Player of the Month - we speak to Kem Izzet.

**p46** When we invited questions for a Q&A with local journalist Francis Ponder, your responses flooded in. Here's what the Evening Gazette journalist had to say!









Today's Joint Match Sponsors are Gray Dawes Travel and Holiday Inn, Colchester. We welcome both parties to this afternoon's game and hope that they enjoy their day out at Layer Road.

Holiday Inn Colchester and Six Continents Hotels have had a long standing relationship with Gray Dawes Travel Colchester, with a close business relationship developing since the hotel opened 10 years ago.

Gray Dawes are based in Colchester and they have been invited along by the Holiday Inn is to thank them for their support and loyalty over the years. Gray Dawes also support the Six Continents local cluster, The Crown Plaza Cambs and the Holiday Inn Brentwood and lpswich so it is a thank you from them as well!

Gray Dawes Business Travel is one of the top 11 Business travel agencies in the UK and one the leading independent business travel management Companies. The headquarters are in Colchester and they have seven other offices in the UK.

Gray Dawes has over 75 year of experience in the industry and the Colchester office is where the reservation team proactively mange customers business travel and related services.

We hope they will enjoy their time at Holiday Inn Colchester, as well as their Corporate Day at Colchester United. Both the Holiday Inn and Gray Dawes are local companies looking to work with fellow businesses in the area, so take a look at what they have to offer!

We also welcome in our Sponsors Lounge representatives of Coca Cola and Sports Match as guests of the Colchester United Community Sports Trust. Enjoy the game!

#### TODAY'S MASCOTS

NAME: ADAM PRICE ABE: SEVEN FROM: LAYER DE LA HAYE, NR.COLCHESTER ATTENDS: LAYER DE LA HAYE SCHOOL HOBBIES: FOOTBALL, FOOTBALL, FOOTBALL & BEAVERS FAV. TEAM[S]: ARSENAL & COLCHESTER UTD FAV. U'S PLAYER : SCOTT MCGLEISH



NAME: RICHARD NAMMOND AGE: NINE FRDM: WITHAM ATTENDS: POWERS HALL END JUNIOR SCHOOL HOBBIES: PLAYING FOOTBALL FAV. TEAMISS:



COLCHESTER UNITED AND IPSWICH TOWN FAV. U'S PLAYER: ALAN WHITE

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THE MANAGER -SPONSORED BY:



### 

Welcome to Layer Road for this afternoon's game against Swindon Town - I hope that Andy King, his players and the Robins supporters have had a safe journey to Colchester and get home without any problems this evening.

I've been pleased with the response that I've had from the players and the existing coaching staff at the club and four points from the last two away games was the least they deserved for the effort they put in.

I think that all you can ask of the players is to give every ounce they've got for Colchester United and they've done that both on the training pitch and in games. in fact, they've almost had to be dragged off the pitch at times because they've worked so hard and ended up so tired at the end of matches.

The 4-0 win at Chesterfield was a highlight and as comfortable an away win as you're likely to get although we had to work hard especially in the first half to establish our superiority.

The draw at Barnsley was also very pleasing, because the lads put in a solid performance, rolled up their sleeves and sacrificed themselves for the sake of the team. Barnsley are a very strong physical side and I knew it would be a tough game, but the lads came out of it with enormous credit. As a result, we were very pleased on the journey home from Yorkshire.

We're pleased to have added two new faces into the squad on transfer deadline day. We've brought 19-yearold Ben May in from Millwall on Ioan until the end of the season. Ben is a big strong lad who will chase things down and cause defenders problems and we needed another body in as we had decided to let Simon



Atangana leave the club. He is a different style of player to Simon, but he is hungry to do well and it gives us a good chance to take a look at him.

#### Experience

The second player that has been added to the squad is 22-year-old Mike Edwards, who joins us from Hull. Despite his young age, he has a lot of first team experience down with Hull and had fallen out of favour with Peter Taylor. I felt that we needed some cover in defence and I didn't want to take any chances with further injuries. Mike can play anywhere across the back four and he knows his position and will do a good solid job for us.

Mike featured in our 5-0 reserve team win over Swindon Town on Wednesday, a match which also saw two other triallists given a run out at Layer Road. The first was Jon Nichols from Bath University's 'Team Bath' and I think he did well. He was at Torquay as a youngster, but dropped out of league football to go to university. I know the coach at Team Bath and he recommended Jon to me as the best player for them all season, and he certainly did himself no harm in the reserve team game.

We can take a massive step towards safety with all three points this afternoon. Swindon had a very good run in mid-season, went off the boil a bit but seem to have been rediscovering their form lately. They're another strong team with a dangerous front man in Sam Parkin and this will be a tough game.

#### Resting

Because of the effort and commitment the lads have shown recently, this week has been about resting the players. All the coaching staff felt the boys needed to rest and recharge their batteries, so we gave them an extra day off on Monday because they need to be fresh coming into this final leg of the season.

We're not safe yet, though, and we have to be careful not to take our eye off the ball - there's no room for



slip ups and we need them to be concentrating right up until the end of the season, because nothing less than total effort and commitment will do from both the players and the coaching staff.

I'd like to make a special mention to all the supporters who followed us up to Chesterfield and Barnsley. These are two extremely long trips but the backing we had on both games was exceptional and I can assure you the lads thoroughly appreciated it and we were pleased you were able to go home with a smile on your face.

Finally, today is Frank Reepe's last game with Colchester United, after which he is leaving us to take his Chartered Physiotherapy course. Frank has been the ultimate professional whilst he has been at the club and we wish him all the best for the future.

Parky

### in gown....

#### Having kept one in-form front man at bay last Saturday, the Colchester United defence will have to be on their toes once again if they are to preserve a clean sheet against Swindon Town this afternoon.

Some heroic displays at the back at Barnsley last week saw Bruce Dyer seven goals in nine games before the match - restricted to just one goal in the 1-1 draw. Meanwhile, in the South West, Robins striker Sam Parkin was banging in a hat-trick as Andy King's side romped to a 5-0 win over Notts County.

It took Parkin's tally to an impressive 24 goals for the season and, with the Swindon fans in love with their big target man, it seems the appreciation is more than mutual.

Parkin, who joined from Chelsea, believes he has made the right move to progress his career - and he's more than happy to do it with the Wiltshire-based club. He said: "Swindon gave me a twoyear deal when there wasn't much on offer last summer. I'll always appreciate that. Junior Lewis has just joined us on loan from Leicester and he's confirmed what I think - people still regard us as a big club."

However, all is not rosy for boss Andy King, who seems convinced that winger Danny Invincible will be leaving the club in the summer. He has also lost Jon Beswetherick back to loan club Sheffield Wednesday, but appears to have made an astute addition to the squad in Leicester City's Junior Lewis.

Town's form had been erratic in recent weeks and had some fans looking nervously over their shoulders at the bottom four. But, in a result that sees them sitting a point better off than the U's going into this afternoon's game, that demolition of an otherwise in-form Notts County will have surely laid any relegation fears to rest. And, in truth, a win for either side today will secure Division Two football for another year.

#### The Robins' last line-up v Notts County was...

Griemink, Heywood, Ifil, Lewis (Hewlett), Reeves, Gurney, Duke, Miglioranzi, Robinson (Young), Parkin, Invincible (Sabin)



BART GRIEMINK Griemink started the 2000-01 season as first choice goalkeeper and even deputised as captain, but ended up on the bench as Steve Mildenhall took his place in goal following a suspension for the Dutch keeper. Bart played every game last season to Richard McKinney's misfortune and was one of the most consistent performers.



JEREL IFIL Watford youth product Jerel joined Swindon on loan from the Hornets at the end of January and has gone on to make eight league appearances in Division Two. Standing at just over six feet tall, the 20-year-old has helped Andy King's side to two clean sheets in the matches he has played.



MATTHEW HEYWOOD Signed from Burnley, Heywood was ever present in the latter half of 2000/0 and missing just four games last year, it is no surprise that he swept the board in last year's Player of the Year Awards. The tall defender has signed an extension to his contract, much to the delight of the fans and he will be looking to show the same strength and commitment as he did last year.



JUNIOR LEWIS Midfielder Junior arrived at the County Ground on Ioan ahead of last Saturday's 5-0 drubbing of Notts County. Having been taken to Leicester City by former Foxes boss Peter Taylor, Lewis has been unable to hold down a regular first team berth at the Walkers' Stadium and ventured out on Ioan to Brighton at the end of last season before returning to Division Two in a Robins shirt.





ALAN REEVES Experienced centre back who is particularly strong in the air. Reeves always causes problems from set pieces and for a brief period in season 2000/01 he was the club's top goalscorer. Reeves signed a new one-year deal in the summer of 2002 and has been a regular feature at the back for the Robins this season.



**ANDY GURNEY** Established a regular starting place with Reading in 1999/2000 and figured in the Royals' promotion push last year. Andy was keen to join Town after their impressive performance against Reading and King snapped him up on a Bosman in the summer of 2001.Gurney missed just four games last year through suspension has been an integral part of King's squad this season as club captain.



SAM PARKIN Very young and very promising forward who joined the club from Chelsea. The transfer followed months of speculation, with Andy King, a huge fan of the player, tracking him for several months. Parkin joined the club from Stamford Bridge where his development was hindered by a glut of international stars. Has built up a reputation as a lethal striker - something that 24 goals this season (including a hat-trick last week!) has proven.



**DANNY INVINCIBILE** Australian midfielder who endeared himself to the fans having been recommended to Colin Todd by Harry Redknapp at West Ham. Danny subsequently joined the Robins on a free transfer when Todd watched him in a trial game. Danny is at his most dangerous when he is running at defenders and he was ever present again last season with eight goals to his name, attracting a lot of interest from a number of clubs.



STEFANI MIGLIORANZI Miglioranzi is the product of the American College football system. Having been at Portsmouth, he joined Swindon in July of 2002. The 22year-old is a Brazilian born American but holds an Italian passport.



STEVE ROBINSON Tough tackling and energetic right-footed midfield terrier signed from Birmingham City, Found in the centre or right of midfielder, Robinson likes to win the ball and pass it on quickly



**DAVID DUKE** Left-sided midfielder that arrived on a free transfer from Sunderland in 2000. Usually a winger, Duke can also play at wing-back and will want to build on a decent start for Swindon. Consistency is the key for the Scotsman who has shown glimpses of what he is capable of. especially when running at defenders with the ball.



#### MATTHEW HEWLETT

The former Bristol City player was called into the England Under 21 squad, but a number of injuries curtailed his flourishing career. In the end Hewlett made over 100 appearances for City, but left them to join Town on a Bosman in the summer of 2000. Has been the midfield general this season and Town sorely miss his presence when he's injured.

#### GARETH EDDS

21-year old Australian who, having joined us on a month's loan from Nottingham Forest, has now signed for a year. Played nearly 40 games at Forest before joining Town and has been excellent in the right-back role. Was a consistent performer at the start of the season but has since had to fight for his place with Andy Gurney. Played for Australia's U23s side against Leverkusen.

#### ADAM WILLIS

A trainee at Coventry, Willis never made the break through to the Sky Blue's first but has made the centre-back position his own in Andy King's back four - did enough at the back end of last season with some magnificent displays to warrant an extension to his contract. Has been superb again this season, that despite a lack of sleep due to the birth of his baby!

#### **KEITH O'HALLORAN**

Irish midfielder who was one of several Bosman signings Colin Todd made in the summer of 2000. O'Halloran is a talented right-sided player who became first choice on the right of midfield, a position Swindon struggled to fill in the past. Started 2001/02 well, converting three goals from the penalty spot before enduring an horrific tackle at Bournemouth in August. Keith subsequently missed the rest of the season but is set to return this time around. When fit, it will seem like a new signing having been out for so long.

#### ERIC SABIN

A target for former U's boss Steve Whitton, few had heard of the young Frenchman when he joined Swindon last summer, but with Andy King comparing him to Thierry Henry he brought a lot of flair and excitement to Town's front line. Sabin looks particularly dangerous when the ball is played behind the opposing defence for he has blistering pace. With a bit more confidence in front of goal, Sabin could prove to be a great acquisition.

#### DARREN DYKES

Darren is somewhat of an unknown quantity having signed from Buckingham Town. However, the youngster made a huge impression when facing Didcot Town in a pre-season friendly and he was subsequently snapped up in a matter of weeks. The central midfielder has had trials with Spurs and Leyton Orient, but after failing to secure a contract had been helping out with his father's business before he landed the deal at Town.

#### DAVID BAMPTON

Swindon manager, Andy King, has handed promising Town scholar, David Bampton, the No. 21 shirt in his first team squad. 17-year-old Bampton has been added to the Swindon squad following several impressive displays during Town's reserves unbeaten start to the campaign. Bampton has proven that he is a dependable 'battler' and will further bolster King's options in midfield.

#### ALAN YOUNG

At 19 years of age. Young is one of Swindon's brightest hopes for the future. Having already played for England's Youth team, Young has risen from Town's youth set up to the fringe of the first team squad via the Reserves. King has made his admiration for the

youngster very clear and he could well figure in his plans this year after a growing influence on the first team last year; he made seven appearances in total in scored the winner in Town's 1-0 win over Blackpool.

#### NATHAN

Nathan is just one of three players to have signed professional contracts last summer having impressed in Town's successful youth team. The midfielder was ever-present in Viv Busby's U19s side and was eventually drafted into Andy King's squad, making his debut against Colchester in the LDV Vans Trophy. Edwards also figured in Town's 0-2 trip to Stoke as well as their last game of the season against Wycombe and he could well become even more influential this season - King has high hopes of the youngster.

#### **KEVIN HALLIDAY**

Another youngster to have qualified from Town's youth ranks, Kevin is one of Town's more experienced young faces. Having captained the U19s to considerable success. Kevin made his debut in season 2000/01 when he played against Millwall in the LDV Vans Trophy. He came on as a substitute in the same competition last season and appeared on the bench a number of times, but as yet is yet to make his full league debut.

#### **CRAIG FARR**

Goalkeeper who was an unused substitute for the Robins in the 2000-01 season and will hope the departure of Steve Mildenhall gives him more of a chance. Has impressed greatly when given the chance in Town's second string and has become Bart Griemink's understudy this season. Andy King is a huge admirer of Farr and his display between the sticks against Wimbledon in pre-season is testament to his ability.





#### Three of Colchester United's players have strong links with their opposition this afternoon.

Goalkeeper Richard McKinney spent the whole of last season with the Robins without getting much of a look in and Tottenham Hotspur loanee Johnnie Jackson played more than a dozen games on loan at the County Ground earlier this season.

The third U's player with links to Swindon is David Marsh, who bid £1,100 to be Colchester United's number 71 at the beginning of the current season. Marshy is officially a non-contract player at Layer Road now and he will be warming up with the U's for the third time today. Marshy was a U's trainee back in the late 1970s but he fulfilled his dream of stepping up to the first team through an auction on the club's official website.

"Swindon is my home town but I played at Colchester and I am Colchester through and through now," he said. "When I am warming up today some of my friends will be booing from the Swindon end. I think they will be quite rowdy and there will be quite a few of them but we will be friends again after the match and I am looking forward to it."

David spent a lot of money to fulfil his dream but the telecommunications executive certainly doesn't have any regrets: "It has been absolutely worth it. I think one of the most exciting things was actually winning the auction in the first place. That was nail-biting stuff because there were a number of other people bidding right up to the second it closed and to get confirmation from the club that I had won was just fantastic."

"I had always searched on the auction website QXL.com to see if there were any Colchester United items being auctioned. I was amazed that you actually had the chance to be a Colchester United player, and after leaving the club as an apprentice 22 years earlier it meant so much to me when I came back to Layer Road."

"The photo shoot at the pre-season media day was brilliant too and the players were just brilliant with me. Warming up on the pitch before the Stockport match, away at Huddersfield and today against Swindon are obviously fantastic experiences too, it makes you feel almost part of the team."

Signing at the age of 42, David did not

expect to walk into first team football straight away but he has enjoyed being out on the pitch

regardless. "To be out on the pitch rather than looking on to it from the stands is a completely different feeling and you feel like you're the centre of attention," Marshy enthused. "My boss is a season ticket holder at Layer Road and he says I am too fat to be out on the pitch!"

'It has been a good experience and all the people behind the scenes right up to the Chief Executive, Marie Partner, whether things are going good or bad on the pitch, everyone is very friendly. Everybody seems to care an awful lot about the club and work hard because they love the club." David has not only

found himself the subject of local press reports but he has

also attracted the attention of some national media outlets. "It has been fantastic but they never write what you actually say," he insisted. "It was interesting to open a Sunday paper though and see a whole page about Colchester United with a little bit about me there. I have also been on Capital Radio, BBC Radio, and in the Daily Mail!"

And while David has not played for the U's this season he has played at some fantastic football stadiums. Through the Football Aid charity Marshy has been able to donate money to various charities to play in football matches alongside some of the game's greatest stars.

"I played a game at Old Trafford which Bryan Robson and Brian McClair played in and there are 19 games taking place across the summer up and down the country," he explained. "They are 11-aside games, the match at Newcastle is



being captained by Peter Beardsley and the game at Rangers is captained by Mark Hateley."

"In the game at Old Trafford the whistle went and I got the ball and passed it. Then realised I was passing it to Bryan Robson and realised it was quite a bad pass too! There were only about 400 people in the stadium but it was a great experience. It just demonstrates that while a couple of years ago you could go and watch football and not do much else now you can be a player and play at these grounds and there certainly seems to be much more openness in football now."

Marshy insists that we will be seeing more of him next season but for now he still has one final wish. "My ultimate ambition is still to play for Colchester United's first team," he says. "We are nine points clear of the relegation zone now and I would love to just step onto the pitch as a substitute for a couple of minutes but we'll just have to see."

#### ACTION PHOTOS OF YOUR OWN CLUB

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PAGE TEN

> action shots



MATCH STATS... COLCHESTER UNITED 2 (IZZET 74, McGLEISH 81) HUDDERFIELD TOWN 0 BOOKINGS: WHITE ATTENDANCE: 3,835

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PAGE ELEVEN

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Transfer deadline day saw its usual flurry of activity in Division Two (see page 33) and Colchester United played their part in keeping the Football League staff busy with the registration papers of two new players.

Both young players, the duo had very different reasons for hoping that things worked out for them at Layer Road. The first, 22-year-old Mike Edwards from Hull City, had the final year of his contract bought out by the Third Division club and is keen to impress manager Phil Parkinson and extend his short term contract into a longer term deal.

He told U's World: "My situation changed when I was at Hull, but it is good that I have managed to find somewhere else and be given the opportunity to try and prove myself whilst helping the team along.

"I've had quite a few changes - seven whilst I've been there! But I think that things have worked out well and hopefully this could be a good chance for me to further my career.

"I played in the reserves on

Wednesday and it was clear that there's a good set of young lads at Colchester and I've been made welcome in my short time here. I like to play on the ball and it was good to be playing alongside other players that like to do the same." Despite his

young age, Edwards has already got 208



senior appearances under his belt and is confident that the knowledge and experience of promotion and relegation battles will stand him in good stead as he steps up a level. And, having left a mid-table Hull side, he's already enjoyed the positive atmosphere around a successful Colchester United outfit.

He added: "It's good to come into a



team doing well and the atmosphere in the dressing room is great. I've still got a lot to do yet, but I'm relishing the challenge and hopefully get a longer contract." For 19-year-

old Ben May, however, the aims are somewhat different. Like the recently departed Gareth Williams, the pacey Millwall front man has struggled to hold down a regular place in the first team and is hoping that a regular goalscoring spree will be enough to push him into Mark McGhee's longer term plans.

He told U's World: "It's happened quickly - I was out on the training ground on Thursday morning when I was called over and told I was coming on loan to Colchester. I couldn't believe it!

"I've had five starts and five substitute appearances, it's been frustrating not to get a run in the first team. This is my chance to get a run of senior football and I hope that I can prove what I can do here. I'm a big striker who can hold the ball up and win my headers. Hopefully, I can say I can score goals too but we'll have to wait and see how I get on!

"My time at Millwall in the first team and reserves has gone OK, but I haven't scored as many as I'd like. There are a few of the old boys here and I spoke to Danny Steele this morning and he said that this is a good club and I hope that I can get along with everyone here and show what I can do."

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A victory over Swindon Town today will mean that the U's have won five home games on the spin for the first time since August 2001. That is something of a turnaround for a Colchester United side that had won just three out of the last fifteen at Layer Road and midfielder Kem Izzet believes that turning home territory into a fortress is going to be the key to changing this short term improvement into long term progress.

He told the matchday magazine: "We've won our last four and that's really been the main factor behind our rise up the table. Home success is crucial to any team's good fortunes, because you have to be strong on your own territory. We know that, until recently, we have been disappointing at home this season and hopefully that is something we can correct next season."

Kem has played his part in that recent upturn in fortunes, getting two in the last three games as the U's have lifted themselves into a relatively comfortable mid-table position. And, as this afternoon's game concludes a hectic March, the midfielder and the rest of the lads are happy with how things have gone in recent weeks.

"We managed to get some good results and, by the end of the month, we were going into games desperate not to get beaten," he added. "Even in the game against Barnsley, where we only managed to get a draw, it was a deserved result because we worked so hard and the team is riding high at the moment.

"In some ways, with the form we're in, we wish it was the new season because we'd like to be able to start afresh with the run of form we're in. But, on the other side of the coin, the lads are all really tired and the rest that we'll get at the end of the season is going to be much appreciated by everybody. Mind you, the way things were after the home defeat to Blackpool, we'd take this league position and situation every time!" Kem acknowledges that his personal success in recent weeks has come in no small part due to the tactical switches put in place by new boss Phil Parkinson. And, with a little more freedom to roam forward, the Whitechapel-born midfielder is hoping to meet a preseason target.

He added: "I like the new manager and the ideas he's put into place, and he appears to like the game that I play. I've been working hard to try and improve my game over the past few weeks, so hopefully he's seen that.



"The changes he's made have definitely benefited me. He's noticed the problems we'd been having when we weren't doing so well and made sure the defence hold a higher line up the pitch. That means that the midfield are able to push on into the penalty area and that fact alone has meant that I have got on the scoresheet more regularly in recent weeks.

"I'd set myself a target of ten goals at the start of the season and I'm four short of that at the moment. But I'm in good form at the moment and I know that, if I manage to get in the right positions in the box, then I can come close to achieving my aims by getting those goals."

Wednesday's reserve team game at Layer Road - also against Swindon Town- saw Brett Poate of Southampton making his third appearance for the U's as he aims to earn a contract having been released by the Saints. Izzet, along with Joe Keith and Pat Baldwin, took the decision to step out of the Premiership to progress his career - and it's a decision he's never regretted

"To be honest, unless you're a Wayne Rooney, you're just not going to get your chance in the top flight as a youngster and you have to take one step back to take two forward in the future," Kem continued. "I'm coming up to 100 appearances, so this has definitely been the right move for me.

"And I think I'm in a team that could do well next year and be a side in the top half of the table rather than one in the bottom half as we've been more recently. Obviously, there are contracts up in the summer and whilst I'd really love for everyone to be kept on, it's more likely that some will leave as the manager takes a look at things. Even so, the boys are confident and I think that we can have a decent season next time out."





PAGE FIFTEEN



OFTICIAL KIT SUPPLIER TO COLCHESTER UTD FOOTBALL CLUB www.strikeforceteamkits.co.uk



#### It's been one of the most talked about games for many months now - and it's finally available for sale! The computer game addicts amongst you will no doubt be aware that Championship Manager 4 is out in the shops and the U's players have already been road-testing the addictive football management game.

Kem Izzet and Joe Keith will be taking an in-depth look at what the new game has to offer and bringing us their views from a professional footballer's perspective in the matchday magazine against Notts County.

Do they think that they are accurately represented in the game? Can they do a better job at man management than boss Phil Parkinson? Under their tenure, will the U's rise to the top or sink down into the Third Division? We'll bring you up to date next time!

Thanks to Bastion, the PR agency assigned to promote one of the most popular football management games on the market, we have copies of the game to give away, signed by Kem and Joe.

To win, simply tell us how many points the U's picked up in the league last season. Was it:

a) 53 b) 55 c) 57

Simply e-mail in your answers to

editor@colchesterunited.net or write to us at The Media Department, Colchester United Football Club, Layer Road, Colchester, Essex CO2 7 JJ - closing date for entries is Monday April 7th.

If you're not lucky enough to win, you can buy the game from the Shopping Zone on the club's official website, www.cu-fc.com. Not only can you get your hands on the best football game on the market, every purchase through the club's official website earns Colchester United direct revenue!





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PAGE SEVENTEEN

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### the u's skipper talks about recent good form and the potential for more...

Well, what a month! You may recall that in my notes for the Port Vale programme back at the beginning of the month that I said that this would be a month to shape the rest of our season.

To be honest, we'd put ourselves under pressure with results earlier in the season but, in the seven games we've played in March so far, we've come through the test with flying colours.

In some ways, it's been good that the fixtures have come so thick and fast when we're playing well. When you're winning, you're itching to get back out on the pitch and carry on picking up points. Mind you, when you've lost a weekend game - and I've mentioned this before in my notes you want to get out there and get that match out of your system.

But, whilst we've collected some very useful results during the past few weeks. I'd still say that we're yet to play well over a 90 minutes spell. Our success has now come largely due to the work ethic the boys have shown and the weekend game against Barnsley was a perfect example of that.

We didn't put on a great footballing display, but you take a look at the quality of some of their players and you would say we did well to get a draw there. I thought the boys showed some excellent character and, even though it'd been a long month, they just kept on going right until the final whistle. That would probably be my pick of the results we've had, although a 4-0 away win against Chesterfield was obviously pretty high up on the list!

I think it is some measure of how far we've come since the end of January



that, as a team, we were genuinely disappointed to have even conceded a goal at Oakwell on Saturday. We're desperate to keep a clean sheet and it was something we weren't happy with.

The one low point was the defeat to Oldham Athletic. Although things conspired against us during the first half, the boys know they just weren't at the races regardless of those problems. Yet, despite that blip, we were able to lift ourselves and kick on once again in the more recent fixtures.

#### Hungry

Although we're on the verge of Division Two safety, we won't be taking it easy once we know we've secured our league status. This team wants to push on and finish as high as possible with as many points as we can. We're hungry for success now and any improvement on last season has to be seen as progress.

Everyone is enjoying their football at the moment and everyone wants to be involved. Injuries, suspensions and not being involved become even more frustrating when the team is doing well.

And the most pleasing thing is that

the recent run of form has been a sustained one. When a new manager comes in, there is always a pick up in performance for three or four games maximum but we have continued to play well on a longer basis. The lads will be disappointed if they don't push on from here and start next season on a similar note.

It will help, of course, to have a preseason under the new manager. Due to the hectic first month he's had in charge, the manager has only been able to take training sessions geared to the next match. I'm sure he wants to implement his ideas more fully and probably tinker with how things are done!

Finally, on behalf of the rest of the squad, let me thank those fans who have been backing us over the past month - with a special mention to those who have followed us away from Layer Road. There have been four long away trips during March and we appreciate what a strain it must have been on the wallet! Every one of the lads appreciates your backing and it has made a big contribution to the cause recently.

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This afternoon's match against Swindon brings a hectic March to a close, with the U's looking to continue their excellent run of form. But what have you made of the recent improvement in Colchester United's fortunes?

We have taken some of the best posts from the club's messageboards - as well as the recent e-mails and letters - to form today's Barside Banter.

And although Barside Banter has become the home of the messageboard gossip in recent times, we are still willing to accept your views by more conventional means! To get your views published, you can either e-mail us at editor@colchesterunited.net or post us a letter to the Media Department, c/o Colchester United Football Club.

#### It's All Like A Dream!

I sit here wondering when I am going to wake up and realise that the last few weeks have all been a dream - the transformation since Steve Whitton was "relieved of his duties" has been pretty staggering.

I look forward to Saturdays again now and couldn't have said that in the earlier part of the season, or indeed most of last.

Phil Parkinson has brought an air of professionalism and total commitment to the club since his arrival and the players have responded magnificently, however let's not forget that George Williams has also made a significant contribution and he was the one that got the ball rolling.

If this had happened after the cup defeat by Chester we might be looking at a possible play off place; but nevertheless, next season promises much if Phil can build on the excellent start he has made.

**Richard Lay** 

#### **#** A New Feeling

Wow! Having only followed the U's for about five seasons, I can't recall such a good run of form. Our goal deficit has been eroded week by week and now stands at a mere minus 2!

OK, some of our goals have been gifts, but when you are on a roll these things go in your favour in football, don't they?

Is it all due to Parky? Or is it the players trying to impress the new boss? I think a bit of both. What has happened is Parky has injected some motivation into the players and in general it shows, they look like they are trying they look like they care. The performance in terms of footballing ability may not be great, but the results are coming and goals are coming!

But hang on, what about a word for Gareth Williams? He scored six goals whilst here - will we do so well now he has gone back to Palace? Hopefully he has given our strikers some belief that was lacking before and, although a gift, McGleish scored again on Saturday. A few months ago, it was more likely to snow on Christmas Day than Scotty score a goal!

As the season draws to a finish, I'm hoping for a top ten finish and I think we can do it. Will it all go t\*\*s up again? I think not - we have a manager who is getting the players "up for it" and that makes all the difference. Attitude wins games, as much as skill, finesse and of course scoring more goals than the opposition!



#### THANKS GO TO FOCUS DIY

Due to the generosity of the local branch of Focus DIY & Gardening, the U's ground staff will be able to make Layer Road look more spick and span than ever! We have been given a top of the range vacuum machine which will help Dave Blacknall, Bill Chatten and co. clear away the matchday rubbish and generally keep Colchester United's stadium looking top notch.

Focus DIY & Gardening staff will be attending a match at Layer Road soon as a token of our gratitude. Oh, and of course, I look forward to oRigiN8tion doing their thing at half time again!

Bruce McClellan

#### Optimism Riding High

Well done to Parky and the players for a well earned point against Barnsley last Saturday. The optimism amongst the supporters is the best it's been since Steve Wignall brought the U's up to this division. The Barside was packed against Huddersfield and the atmosphere was great, let's hope it continues for the rest of this season and into the next.

Also, well done to Colchester United Ladies Reserves on beating Basildon United Ladies and achieving promotion! James Nason - The Basildon Barside

#### Play-Offs Next Time?

With the U's becoming more and more consistant over the last month could we make play-offs next season? It all depends on who is brought in over the summer, but with the right players added to the existing squad, then who knows! It an exciting time to be Colchester United fan.

**Rich Pipe** 

#### No Time For Complacency

It is certainly not the time for any complacency from the players or fans this afternoon. Although we have strung a good run of results together, so have others. Swindon will be on a high after their 5-0 win last Saturday, and we have to keep their top scorer Sam Parkin very quiet this weekend.

Finally, as one of the collectors at the game against Huddersfield, may I say a big thank-you to all who put money into our buckets before and after the match. Mick Wadsworth kindly donated a pound and, although the coin tried to escape, but I managed to keep it zipped up safe and sound in the end.

Derek Ansell

#### · Parky For Manager Of The Month

Next week, we'll see for certain if there is a conspiracy against us - if Parky doesn't get Manager of The Month for a month which has included two four goal demolitions of other teams, then there is something very wrong in the world. We've been robbed before - George had the same record as the winner last month but surely we can't be again? Can we? Sean Field

PAGE TWENTY ONE

### Program med For Success

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### cathansis

I must say that our last home game has to rate as one of the most enjoyable Saturdays I have ever spent. First of all, I'd like to say an enormous thank you to everyone who contributed to our 'Pitch in a Pound' appeal. The response we had was just overwhelming.

One of the drawbacks about being married to an accountant is that you have someone hanging around you giving you forecasts of how much you can expect to receive.

"Hmmmm," he said, "an average crowd of just over 3,000, take out the away fans, and you need a third of the crowd to contribute. I'd say that a decent estimate, with a better than average response would probably make about £500."

I knew the old fella was right, but we'd gone too far to call the whole thing off, and somehow I just knew that we'd get a good response from U's fans. We had our collecting team of Derek Ansell (Old Phart from the message boards), Judith Ost (Pharmaceutical) and myself, plus Sean 'Hatman Provocateur' Field had knocked us up some very natty signs to go on our buckets.

Francis Ponder had been a star over at the Gazette, giving us the lead story on the Thursday, so we were about as well set as we could be for the collection.

I was feeling very nervous as I parked myself outside the Club Shop, but I needn't have worried. The response was superb. Towards kick off time I found that people were actually queuing to drop their pound into my bucket. I experimented with my calls - I found, "Upset the FA for a quid" seemed to be more effective than, "Pay the Fine".

Not everyone supported the campaign, of course - there were one or two who muttered, "Let them pay their own fine." as they passed, but those who disagreed with what we were doing were very much in the minority.

It was so well supported, even the Evil One himself chipped in a quid. Good job it wasn't my bucket - something like, "I think you owe us a bit more than that, sunshine!" might have spilled from my lips (and was another reason why I took myself off to the other end of the ground, out of harm's way).

I did manage to overcome my shyness to

demand a quid from Alan White, on the grounds that he was involved in the scrap in the first place.

Good job we nabbed Wadsworth's quid before the game - I don't think he would have been in quite a good mood after. Oh, that result was just so good. Look, I've even been able to write his name in full for the first time in about two years.

Shows what venting the spleen properly can achieve. Although I did get a stern telling off from a Huddersfield fan, (one with a capacity for charity and forgiveness which filled me with awe) who quoted my words back at me at length. I was really quite chuffed - I didn't think anyone read my stuff that closely.

2-0, a sunny day, people giving me vast sums of cash and knowing that we beat a Wadsworth team - it just doesn' t come much better, really.

Although it did - us collectors, ably assisted by Jo from CULFC and my daughter Lottie, took ourselves up to the CUSA bar and started to count the cash. Our excitement rose the nearer we got to that magical £1000 mark. I was so amazed when we reached that final total -£1072!

We put all the cash in a bucket, creamed off the £72 for Comic Relief, then headed off to the Directors' Lounge to hand the cash over to a very pleased looking Peter Heard and Marie Partner. It was days before I got the smile off my own face, too - I still have a little grin when I think about it. What a day, Thanks so much once again.

You know those adverts they do for credit cards, where they list the cost of various things? Well, I had my own moment like that during the week, when Ernie and myself joined his mate Nick and an Ipswich fan called Alistair in the away end at Portman Road.

Something like this:

2 very cramped seats at Portman Road £46

A Balti pie £2

The look on an Ipswich steward's face, when he told me I was going the wrong way, and I handed him my ticket and said, "I'm supporting Reading." PRICELESS.

"B..b...but I thought, you're Colchester......"

"Ha!" I said. It's all changing now!

It must be said, that although I wasn't around for the Burley saga (although I have several friends who freely admit that



it ruined their Christmas), I do have a bit of a problem with Ipswich, mainly because I invariably find their fans patronising and insufferably smug, and their 'Layer Road retirement home' jibes really stick in my craw.

So for me there can be few places outside Layer Road where it is more satisfying to watch football than in the away end at Portman Road, running through every anti-Ipswich song that the Reading fans could come up with (and fair play to the Rz, they do sing!). Oh if you can't drive a tractor clap your hands...

But there was one that night. Saltergate. Too tight to sign up for the SMS service, I relied on my mate Ruth to text me the scores. So we had a little cheer at half time, 1-0. And from then on....silence. It later transpired that she's fallen asleep.

Shame the result didn't go to plan, but Nick is a notorious jinx (at the final whistle I did point out that he might get a letter from John Madejski, asking for his season ticket back). As we were trying to unfold our aching knees (I'm only 5'4", I dread to think how the six footers coped), I had another text message.

To be fair, the dejected band of Reading fans were very kind to this pair of twits who suddenly leaped into the air yelling and cheering for all they were worth, like something from The Muppet Show.

That can't be bad for a fortnight...seeing the Evil One return to his beloved North with his tail between his legs, handing a grand over to the chairman, singing naughty songs to the Farmers, and picking up a beautiful, breathtaking 4-0 away win. I love my U's.

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Coming soon to the club's official website is the offer that will revolutionise the way you see the web. We'll be bringing you full details in the next few weeks on cu-fc.com, but we promise you it's an offer you won't want to miss!

In a nutshell, you'll get broadband for a very competitive price - and we'll throw in a 12-month subscription to U's World absolutely free. Yes, for free!

So you can look forward to superb quality video match highlights and the chance to take full advantage of our fantastic interactive searchable video archive. The quality is so good it's almost like being at the game.

You can also look forward to faster access (up to ten times quicker than dialup) and the ability to download music and video clips in next to no time. Forget that horrible buffering malarkey, that's yesterday's news mate. Whereas we're bringing you tomorrow's news today!

Your broadband connection will always be on - none of that painful dialling up and it will also free up your phone line, meaning you can talk and surf all at the same time. So, if you're about to go broadband, just hang on for a couple of weeks and do it with us. It will be worth the wait!

Full details will appear on the site very soon but if you want to register your interest right now, send an email with Colchester United in the Subject Field to broadband@premiumtv.co.uk

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And, as well as the broadband special, we've got yet another U's World special offer for Colchester United supporters!

If you can't wait until our special broadband offer - or if you're posh and already have it! - then we've got a great deal. Because, if you sign up today, you'll be able to take advantage of our amazing close-season offer.

For just £34.99 you'll get access to U's World, the club's exclusive internet, TV and Radio channel, for 12 months - and because we're so generous, we'll throw in an extra 2 months for free. Yep, you heard us right, £34.99 for 12 months plus an extra two months free, or £19.99 for six months with one extra month free. Remember that's less than 70p a week and the club directly benefits from every new subscription.

But what's been going on recently? Well, take a look at last week's U's World calendar...

Monday 17th March: Boss Phil Parkinson, goalscorer Kem Izzet and the impressive Karl Duguid all reflect on the 2-0 win over Huddersfield Town on the Saturday, which lifted the U's further clear of trouble.

Tuesday 18th March: Another Tuesday, another match! Parky previews the game at Chesterfield, for which U's World also provides exclusive online commentary. The goals from the Huddersfield match also go online.

Wednesday 19th March: We reflect on a stunning win at Chesterfield with Sam Stockley who threw in another man of the match performance - and Parky's in front of the cameras again, with a big smile on his face!

Thursday 20th March: Those four goals from the Chesterfield match go online, as well as the news that Gareth Williams was to return to Crystal Palace. Reserve team coach Brian Owen tells us how the triallists got on in a 0-0 draw at Portsmouth, whilst our first feature piece goes online. We catch up with Geraint Williams, Thomas Pinault, Alan White and Richard McKinney at the golf course!

Friday 21st March: Parky and on-fire striker Scott McGleish preview the weekend game against Barnsley. And, in the second of our feature pieces, young defender Pat Baldwin tells us he's more than ready to step into the space left by Alan White at the back.

Saturday 22nd March: We bring you live commentary of the match at Oakwell, where McGleish gets the U's goal in a 1-1 draw.

Sunday 23rd March: The goals from the weekend draw go online - another great point!

Monday 24th March: Reflecting on a job well done at Barnsley, we speak to



Scotty McGleish, captain Scott Fitzgerald and Parky once again!

Tuesday 25th March: With cu-fc.com breaking the news that Parky will take a look at three triallists on Wednesday, we become the first people to speak to youngster Brett Poate who is attempting to win a contract having been released by Southampton.

This latest offer is a limited one that runs until the 9th April, so don't delay sign up straightaway!

#### VOTE FOR YOUR PLAYER-OF-THE-MONTH!

Well, it's been a hectic few weeks with the U's about to engage on their eighth fixture of a busy March this afternoon. There have been goals a plenty, fighting displays in virtually every fixture and we can look back on four weeks which have lifted Colchester United to the verge of Division Two safety once again.

And, after today's game, we'll be asking you to vote for your Player of the Month for the final time this season -April will see you voting for the Player of the Year! Who has impressed you most in the recent upturn in form? Who has been the key man?

Simply send in your votes to editor@colchesterunited.net before midday on Friday 4th of April to have a chance of winning a great Adidas watch courtesy of The Co-op Jewellery Store, Colchester. You will meet the winning player (briefly!) on the pitch before the game against Notts County just over a week later. Get voting and keep your eyes open for the Player of the Year news!

PAGE TWENTY FIVE



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### a celebration of essex sport

Colchester United supporters can look forward to another great night out at the Mercury Theatre on Monday evening. Following on from the successful 'Evening With The U's' back in October, which packed out the impressive venue. The celebration of Essex sport will start at 7.30pm and tickets are available from the club shop today or by phoning the Mercury Box Office.

Monday night's event broadens the scope of local sport, while retaining a distinctive Colchester United flavour. Each half will be kicked off by a routine from Braintree-based dance group Origin8tion, who have been performing at matches at Layer Road throughout this season.



And the guest list for the event was completed with professional darts legend Bobby George confirming that he will appear earlier this week. Bobby will join a number of other Essex sporting stars, including former county cricket stars Ray East and Don Topley on the stage for a special 'Question of Essex Sport.'

One of darts most colourful characters, Bobby is one of Essex's best known sporting stars. Well known for his catchphrases on the darts circuit, he is bound to bring some extra



sparkle to the big event.

The evening will also see Neil Kelly questioning new Colchester United manager Phil Parkinson and the second half of the night will take in The Steve Daking Show with an array of impressive pool playing and trick shots.

A 'lucky programme' priced just £1 will be sold on the night and those who buy one will have the opportunity to win an authentic framed Wembley seat back bearing the number 98, commemorating the U's triumphant Division Three Playoff victory in May 1998.

The original wooden seat back comes complete with a certificate of authenticity from Wembley Stadium. It is framed alongside a photograph of the U's players and management celebrating their memorable 1-0 victory, a plaque recording the day, the certificate itself, and comes from a very limited edition.

Each of the programmes sold on the night will be numbered and one number will be pulled out of the hat giving one Colchester United supporter a very special prize indeed.

Tickets are still available from the Mercury Box Office (01206 573948), the Club Shop at Layer Road. These are priced at just £6.50 and £8.50 for what is expected to be another memorable night in the company of the U's players and other local sporting stars.



#### Ground pictures taken from www.footballgroundz.co.uk



# on the road

After today's match against Swindon Town at Layer Road our next away trip is the longest of the season with a journey of more than 300 miles to look forward to.

Plymouth Argyle are always going to be tough opponents on home soil but there is an impressive new stadium to see on the Devon coast. Home Park is the most southerly League Ground in England.

#### **GROUND INFORMATION**

Ground Name: Home Park Capacity: 20,134 Address: Plymouth, PL2 3DQ Main Telephone No: 01752-562561

#### WHAT IS THE GROUND LIKE?

Recent months have seen the transformation of Home Park. Three sides of the ground have been completely re-built. Both ends and one side of the ground have been replaced with covered all-seated stands that are single-tiered. Most impressively, the corners between these stands have been filled so that the ground is totally enclosed, on those sides.

This leaves just the Grandstand at one side of the pitch, as the only remnant of the old Home Park. This classic looking stand is partly covered, with seating at the rear and a large terrace at the front. The Club were hoping to re-develop the Grandstand of the ground, at the end of last season, to fully complete the rebuilding of Home Park. However due to uncertainties surrounding income from TV rights, this has been postponed and is unlikely to happen before this Summer.

#### WHERE WILL THE U'S FANS BE SITTING?

Away fans are housed in the Barn



Park End, which is now all seated and also covered. As you would expect from a new stand the facilities and views of the playing action are both good. The normal allocation for this end is 1,300 seats, although this can be increased to 2,022 if demand requires it.

There have been reports of overzealous stewarding in the away end and fans have been ejected on a number of occasions for merely standing up, rather than remaining seated during the game so make sure you are on your best behaviour. Also be aware that smoking is not permitted in the seated area, only on the concourse behind the stand

#### FANCY A PRE MATCH PINT?

The Cherry Tree is a good 15-20 minute walk away from the ground (turn right from the car park at the home end and walk up the hill along the main road. At the large set of traffic lights at the top of the hill turn left and you can see the pub about 50 yards down on the right). The Pennycomequick is recommended if you are walking to the ground from the railway station. Dave Potham recommends The Britannia which is the closest pub to the ground and is a Wetherspoons outlet. This pub is opposite the Embassy Club, which is best avoided by away fans. Alcohol is available within the ground.

#### HOW TO GET THERE BY CAR

Take the M5 to the South West and at the end of the motorway continue onto the A38 (The ground is well signposted from the outskirts of Plymouth on the A38). On going into Plymouth, turn left onto the A386 (towards Plymouth). When this road splits into two keep on the left hand side (signposted Plymouth) and after about a mile you will see the ground on your left. The ground is well signposted 'Plymouth Argyle Home Park' on the way into Plymouth.

There is quite a large car park at the ground, which is free. It is operated on a 'first in before the game, first our after the game basis'. If you are last in, then on average it takes around half an hour to clear. The car park is normally full by 2.30pm on matchdays.

#### TICKET PRICES FOR AWAY FANS

Adults	£15	
OAP's/St	£10	
Under 16s		£5

Away travel information is kindly supplied by Duncan Adams of the Internet Football Ground Guide (www.footballgroundguide.co.uk) This information is meant purely as a guide and we cannot be held responsible for any changes that may have taken place since its completion.







### HILL H.

#### Good afternoon U's fans and a warm welcome back to Layer Road for the visit of Swindon Town.

Last time out, our temporary scribe, the King of the Bacon Butties Roger Westlake filled in tremendously and made the CUSA page far more interesting than I ever have! Thanks Roger, and what a historic programme it could turn out to be with the wonderful 2-0 win over the almost doomed, in more ways than one, Huddersfield Town.

Yet another club that Mr Wadsworth has dug his claws into - stand up Scarborough, Oldham and Carlisle!

We were lucky and even more so now as we all march to the beat of Phil Parkinson's drum. Take a good look U's fans - six wins, four draws and just one defeat from the last 11 games goes to show what a lot of us already knew and believed in, that you the U's are a pretty decent team after all.

The magical seeds that George Williams began to sow and that now Parky helps grow and flourish could very well bring the U's its best finish. What do you reckon we need for safety though with just seven matches to go? I tell you what, I wouldn't mind having it all sorted by the time we travel to Wycombe - that would be some party!

After Huddersfield were beaten - with a helping hand (gesture) from Kevin Sharp the U's trounced Chesterfield 4-0 at Saltergate with thanks to a sublime own goal (great finish) and a huge keeper "cock-up". It seems like that game was the last time in a U's shirt for Gareth Williams - such a quality performer who fitted in so well, and I am sure that we all wish him well in the Palace first team and the Wales squad.

Also I would like to take this opportunity to thank Liam Chilvers for his time at the Club - another with a good future ahead.

New ground time for some of us last weekend as we travelled to Barnsley. Such a lovely sunny day, and even better news, Bill and Keith Stott were back with their bumper bag of lollipops! Scott Robinson was back in the fold also, and so too was the "Latvian Love-God" lvars Plucis (when he shouts it's a sort of cross between Barry White and Marlene Dietrich).

It was a great turn out of U's fans, not only on the CUSA coaches as many travelled up for the weekend - Messrs Barham and Hughes up to no good in Sheffield I understand! It was a good game and a deserved point with the CUSA posse voting well in favour of Sam and Fitz for their men of the match. Indeed Fitz very nearly scored, before Scott stole it off his toes for the equaliser!

Speaking of man of the match, it is almost Player of the Season time again when we hassle you for your votes at the turnstiles, so get your thinking caps on.

Just a few things to mention, and firstly looking to tomorrow,

forget the decorating or the trip to Tesco and come and watch the Colchester United Ladies take on Barking Ladies in the Cup Final at Maldon Town FC. Kick off is at 10.30am and if you don't fancy a drive, they are laying a coach free of charge from Layer Road at 9.30am. At the time of writing there are about 15 seats left - pop up to the Corner Bar after today's match and see me if you wish to join us.

Monday night at the Mercury Theatre. Have you got your ticket yet? They are still on sale today from the Club Shop and the CUSA hut behind Terrace Three priced from just £6.50. The CUSA have put together a rag tag bunch of ex-cons to take part in the "Question of Sport" style quiz in the first half and we desperately need your coughs in the audience!

Come and meet our enigmatic Manager Phil Parkinson and ask him some probing questions - "Just how short is Jamie Cureton?"

Looking further ahead, the CUSA AGM is on 30th April and just two days after the last home game v QPR, it will be party time in the CUSA Corner Bar as tradition dictates as up until 6ish we all try to make Jerry Carter's stocktaking job a little easier!

The CUSA football team are in town again, and have had a couple of fixtures recently against the newly formed Colchester United fans team from the CUFC Official Messageboard. I will give more details in the next matchday magazine, but if you can't wait a full match report can be found on www.cusa.co.uk

A very Happy Birthday to my good chum and CUSA barman, Peter Turner for last



week, and also to the youthful Chris (concession please!) Rogers whose 31st birthday it was yesterday.

Lastly, a word on our Vice-Chairman Alan Dews. Alan is still very poorly in hospital after major surgery last week and on his behalf I would like to thank everyone for their kind words and wishes. Needless to say he will be kicking every ball with the U's this afternoon from his hospital bed, hopefully listening in on the radio. Alan, we all miss you terribly and hope that you have a good and speedy recovery, and that before too long you are back with us at Layer Road. Up the U's

#### JON BURNS

#### SATURDAY 5 MARCH

Y Fymouth anguje Coach leaves layer road at 6.30AM Adult Members 218 Concession members 216

SATURDAY 19 APRIL

V CARGETT CIEY COACH LEAVES LAYER ROAD AT 8.30AM ADULT MEMBERS £16 CONCESSION MEMBERS £14

**SATURDAY 26 APRIL** 

V WYCOMDE WANDENES COACH LEAVES LAYER ROAD AT 11.00AM ADULT MEMBERS £9 CONCESSION MEMBERS £8

PAGE TWENTY NINE







#### TERRIERS WOES GROW AND GROW

After their defeat against the U's two weeks ago, things continue to get worse for HUDDERSFIELD TOWN.

Since losing to the U's, the Terriers have picked up just one point from the subsequent two games to dump them to the bottom of the table with just seven games to go. And that recent run of results put paid to former boss Mick Wadsworth, who was sacked as manager by the Yorkshire side on Wednesday morning.

That came after the news on Monday that the club's players decided to put the cash-strapped side into administration - the squad having not been paid for the last three months.

With no formal rescue plan to keep the club going until the season's end having been in place, the players took advice from the PFA and made the unprecedented move to draw up a petition to put the club into administration.

The move has shocked Taylor, who was surprised that the players made the administration application without his knowledge.

"This is the first time that this has happened to my knowledge and I am utterly amazed," Taylor told the club's official website.

FROM

Wimbledon

Cambridge United

#### **DEADLINE DAY DEALS...**

With transfer deadline day passing on Thursday, we thought we'd bring you up to date with all of the moves that took place involving Division Two clubs. The U's obviously brought in Ben May and Mike Edwards, but what have the rest of our league rivals been up to?

#### INTO DIVISION TWO

PLAYER Tom Youngs (F) Paul Robinson (F) Mike Flynn (D) Efan Ekoku (F) Mark Hudson (M) Glyn Thompson (GK) Duncan Roberts (GK) Gavin Strachan (M) Kieran McAnespie (M) Arran Lee-Barratt (GK) Gareth Ainsworth (M) Martin Taylor (GK) Lee Fowler (M) Jonathan Douglas (M) Stefan Oakes (M) Sammy looe (M) Lawrie Dudfield (F) Paddy McCarthy (D) Tony Scully (M) Kevin McCleod (M) Stephen Kelly (D) Gordon Greer (D) Junior Lewis (M) lain Anderson (M)

OUT OF DIVISION TWO

PI AVER

Ben Burgess (F) Mark McCammon (F)

Albano Correira (F)

Alan Judge (GK)

Andy Rammell (F)

Leon Best (F) Paul Dalglish (M)

Jay Lovett (M)

Robin Hulbert (M)

Paul McCarthy (D)

Greg Strong (D)

Lee Mansel

Andy Marriott (GK)

Barnsley Sheffield Wednesday Middlesbrough Fulham Bedford Town Coventry City Unattached Norwich City Wimbledon Wycombe Wanderen **Coventry City** Blackburn Rovers Leicester City Reading Hull City Manchester City **Cambridge United** Everton Tottenham Hotspur Blackburn Rovers Leicester City Preston North End

FROM

Brentford

Barnsley Notts County

Blackpool

Brentford

**Bristol City** 

Luton Town

Cheltenham Town

Wycombe Wanderers

**Bristol City** 

Swindon Town

Stockport County

Wycombe Wanderers

	TO	FEE
	Northampton Town	£50.000
	Blackpool	Free
	Blackpool	Free
1	Brentford	Free
	Chesterfield	Free
	Northampton Town	Free
	Oldham Athletic	Free
	Peterborough United	Free
	Plymouth Argyle	Free
	Cardiff City	Undisclosed
	Cardiff City	Undisclosed
5	Barnsley	Loan
	Cardiff City	Loan
	Chesterfield	Loan
	Crewe Alexandra	Loan
	Luton Town	Loan
	Northampton Town	Loan
	Notts County	Loan
	Peteborough United	Loan
	QPR	Loan
	QPR	Loan
	Stockport County	Loan
	Swindon Town	Loan
	Tranmere Rovers	Loan

TO	FEE
Hull City	£100,000
Millwall	Free
Hereford United	Free
Oxford United	Free
Bristol Rovers	Free
Birmingham City	Undisclosed
Southampton	Undisclosed
Scunthorpe United	Loan
Gravesend & Northf	leet Loan
Shrewsbury Town	Loan
Scunthorpe United	Loan
Nuneaton Borough	Loan
Oxford United	Loan

"After all I have done. I have bankrolled the club and kept the thing going recently. I have even paid the players' wages out of my own pocket and contributed a great deal to them over the past months. I feel I have been stabbed in the back.

The annoying thing is no one told me that this was likely and there was no hint from the PFA in today's meeting that this course of action would be taken. Ann Hough, the club secretary, found out by pure chance when she rang the PFA head office and got a copy of the petition, signed by the players, requesting the club goes into administration."

#### LEAGUE TO OPEN PARACHUTE FOR RELEGATED CLUBS

The Football League looks set to introduce a system of parachute. payments for relegated clubs from the First and Second Divisions from the beginning of next season onwards.

This initiative follows a unanimous decision by the 24 members of Division One to create an 'ad hoc' arrangement for the current season which will see the three clubs promoted to the Premier League contributing £100,000 each to a fund to be shared by the clubs relegated to Division Two.

The League's Board of Directors has now agreed to formalise and widen this arrangement by drafting new regulations to be voted on by all 72 member clubs at the League's AGM on June 5. If voted through the new regulations would come into force for the start of next season.

The proposed regulations for future seasons would see the three clubs promoted to the Premier League each giving up £165,000, with £120,000 to be received by each club relegated to Division Two and £34,000 by each club relegated to Division Three.

#### Nationwide League Division Two LATEST TABLE

	HOME				AWAY							
	P	w	D	LF		w	D	L	F	A	Gd	Pt
Wigan Ath	39	11	7	1 31	14	14	4	2	29	9	37	86
Crewe Alex	39	10	3	6 26	5 16	12	5	3	44	20	34	74
Cardiff City	38	12	5	3 32	15	9	5	4	27	18	26	73
Oldham Ath	39	8	5	6 28	16	11	8	1	26	15	23	70
Bristol City	39	11	5	3 32	13	9	4	7	33	28	24	69
QPR	39	12	3	5 34	19	6	7	6	23	23	15	64
Tranmere Rvrs	39	10	5	4 28	3 21	7	5	8	24	32	-1	61
Luton Town	39	8	5	7 29	25	8	5	6	27	28	3	58
Blackpool	39	10	6	3 30	17	5	5	10	20	32	1	56
Plymouth Arg	39	9	5	6 35	24	5	7	7	20	22	9	54
SWINDON TOWN	39	8	5	7 30	25	5	6	8	23	30	-2	50
Wycombe Wdrs	39	8	5	6 37	7 29	5	5	10	19	25	2	49
COLCHESTER UTD	39	7	6	6 22	17	5	7		25	32	-2	49
Barnsley	39	6	8	6 24	1 27	5	5	9	22	28	-9	46
Brentford	39	7	6	621	16	5	4	11	17	32	-10	46
Chesterfield	39	10	4	627	1 23	3	3	13	12	34	-18	46
Notts County	39	7	7	5 30	28	3	8	9	24	34	-8	45
Stockport Cnty	39	6	8	6 33	3 33	5	1	13	18	29	-11	42
Port Vale	39		4	9 25	5 27	4	5	10	18	33	-17	42
Peterboro' Utd	38	5	6	8 20	19	4	7	8	17	30	-12	40
Cheltenham Tr	39	5	6	B 19	27	4	7	9	24	33	-17	40
Mansfield Tn	39	8	2	9 35	5 37	3	5	12	22	41	-21	40
Northampton Tr	39	7	3	10 21	24	3	5	11	14	36	-25	38
Huddersfield Tn	39	6	7	7 22	2 23	3	3	13	7	27	-21	37

## 'going to the game?' First





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#### the latest From the treatment room with the u's Physic Frank Reepe

Good afternoon and welcome to my last match as first team physiotherapist for Colchester United. I have decided to take some time out of professional football so that I can further my education and I will be starting my degree in physiotherapy soon.

I am going to miss being part of this football club massively though, it is a great football club and there are a lot of nice people working here. The players are all good, honest pros. I have enjoyed working with the new manager and it is a shame to be leaving but I feel to progress in the game and to get that extra bit of knowledge I am going to need to do this degree. It is a decision I haven't taken lightly and I will be sorry to go.

The last couple of weeks have been busy and we have discovered some complications with Gavin Johnson's injury. Unfortunately the bone that broke originally has not reunited or healed properly. That means the bone is going to need grafting, plating and then, if there is any excess movement in the ankle, which I think there may be, then that may well get tightened at the same time.

Gav also has a loose body in the ankle, which means there are bits of bone floating about within the ankle so it is frustrating for him, frustrating for me and frustrating for the fans of the club but it is something that needs to be done. Gavin was being operated on this Wednesday by an ankle specialist. Hopefully the operation has gone well and he will be able to train within four or five months.

It seems like the last six months has been a lot of time wasted and it is a massive setback for Gav because he was back in training for a week. For him to have an operation after six months must be extremely frustrating for the lad.

Adifferen

topnotch health club

On a more positive note, Mark Warren should be back in training at the beginning of next week. Mark is up to sprinting, turning and gentle ball work so, providing he does not get any reaction before next week, he should be able to join in training on Tuesday. Mark's recovery was a bit slow until he had an injection in his groin. The surgeon felt that would be necessary to speed the process up and that has done wonders: two weeks from the injection and he is almost training again so it is good news.

Another player to have had an injection is Kevin Rapley. The surgeon originally advised us to leave it six weeks and let nature take its course but Kev's situation is that he needs to get back training. We want him back so we pushed the surgeon to a certain degree, hounded him and got it done three weeks quicker. This week we have just let the knee settle down after the injection, which is common practise.

I should have more idea of the situation by this weekend. There has been no adverse reaction so far but he has been resting a lot. I would let you know more in the next week how Kev is getting on but obviously I won't be here. He needs another week of rehab after rest before we could gauge how he is recovering though. In the first couple of days he could have a reaction so you have to get over the first few days as a hurdle and then you can really assess how far he has got and how quickly his recovery will be.

Another player with a knee problem of course is Joe Dunne and he has been noticing a clicking sound in the joint, which is something of a concern. It hasn't really stopped him doing his rehab so far but considering the problems Joe has had with his knee we decided to take him to see a specialist. He had an MRI scan on Tuesday, we are awaiting the report and then we will look at what is going on in the knee as to what kind of treatment he needs. That could be an injection to shrink down the swelling, or just progress as we had done.

Unfortunately the disease Joe had means that there were nodules of fat or inflamed tissue so we wanted to eradicate anything sinister and discover whether the disease is coming back. There are various things it could be but more should be known about that soon.

Adrian Coote was injured in the recent reserve team match at Portsmouth. He landed quite awkwardly and quite hard on the side of his hip. We sent him for an x-ray to make sure there was no serious injury and that came back all clear. He has got a lot of bruising and a lot of colour around the hip and soft tissue damage so we have to let that settle down before any strengthening work can be started.

Simon Brown has got a weakness in the lower abdominal muscles, thankfully not a hemia as we first feared. Brownie is doing a lot of strengthening work to improve that and, touch wood, he shouldn't be too far away from training.

Unfortunately Mark Warren, Gavin Johnson, Joe Dunne, and Kevin Rapley have all been spending time in the treatment room and there have been a lot of injuries over the past six to eight weeks. It hasn't made my time extremely pleasurable but I am still going to miss this club massively and I wish everyone here all the best for the future. Who knows, once I have more qualifications under my belt in four years time I could return with Colchester United in a new stadium and in a higher division if there is a vacancy!

All the best

#### FRANK REEPE

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#### FRank Reepe (Physio)

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PAGE THIRTY SEVEN


### **UI7S FIXTURES** 2002/3 season Sat Aug 17 Gillingham D3-3

**COLCHESTER** United

TFAC

1

Sat Aug 24	Portsmouth	W1-0
Sat Aug 31	In Service Training	
Sat Sep 7	QPR	W1-0
Sat Sep 14	Peterborough United	L0-2
Sat Sep 21	Southend United	D1-1
Sat Sep 28	Brighton & HA	W2-1
Sat Oct 5	Luton Town	LO-3
Sat Oct 12	Leyton Orient	D2-2
Sat Oct 19	Cambridge United	LO-1
Sat Nov 2	Brentford	L1-2
Sat Nov 9	Wycombe Wanderers	W5-3
Sat Nov 16	Brighton & HA	P-P
Sat Nov 23	Luton Town	L1-3
Sat Nov 30	Cambridge United	LO-1
Sat Dec 7	Leyton Drient	LO-6
Sat Dec 14	Brentford	D3-3
Sat Dec 21	No Fixture	
Sat Dec 28	Christmas Break	
Sat Jan 4	In Service Training	
Sat Jan 11	Wycombe Wanderers	W6-2
Sat Jan 18	Gillingham	W4-1
Sat Jan 25	Portsmouth	L1-4
Sat Feb 1	No Fixture	
Sat Feb 8	QPR	00-0
Sat Feb 15	Peterborough United	L2-4
Sat Feb 22		W2-0
		2月 通信

### **FINAL LEAGUE TABLE**

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
22	15	3	4	49	23	48
22	13	6	3	45	20	45
22	13	4	5	46	19	43
22	10	6	6	40	32	36
22	9	6	7	38	45	33
22	8	5	9	41	37	29
22	7	5	10	37	50	26
22	5	7	10	44	41	22
22	3	11	8	28	41	20
22	5	5	12	39	57	20
22	5	5	12	33	51	20
22	4	7	11	34	58	19
	22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22 22	22 15   22 13   22 13   22 13   22 10   22 9   22 8   22 7   22 5   22 5   22 5	22 15 3   22 13 6   22 13 4   22 10 6   22 9 6   22 9 6   22 7 5   22 5 7   22 5 5   22 5 5   22 5 5   22 5 5	22 15 3 4   22 13 6 3   22 13 4 5   22 10 6 6   22 9 6 7   22 8 5 9   22 7 5 10   22 5 7 18   22 3 11 8   22 5 5 12   22 5 5 12	22 15 3 4 49   22 13 6 3 45   22 13 4 5 46   22 13 4 5 46   22 10 6 6 40   22 9 6 7 38   22 8 5 9 41   22 7 5 10 37   22 5 7 18 28   22 5 5 12 39   22 5 5 12 33	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$

As I mentioned in my previous set of notes, the U17s have concluded their league season and as you can see from the league tables on the left, they have done really well to finish in mid-table with such a young side.

Unlike the Centre of Excellence, league tables are kept and. although we also look upon this as a developmental league, we also feel it is important to instill a winning attitude.

Coaching at our Centre of Excellence is based on a progressive pattern and, by the time the boys reach Micky Cook. they should be technically sound and have a good tactical awareness.

At U9s, U10s and U11s, the emphasis is on fun.

The U9s play 8 v 8 matches, the U10s play 9 v 9 whilst before Christmas the U11s play 9 v 9 before moving onto full scale 11 v 11 after the festive period. The coaching is based on forming links through small sided games, especially 3 v 3 and 4 v 4.

At U12s to U14s, more pressure is introduced e.g. time, space and opponent. Players' technique is



Greg Halford - another success stor

also observed in conditioned games.

From U14s to U16s, tactical awareness is important and we look at individual, group and team tactics with regard to defending and attacking principles. This is accomplished through shadow play and phases of play.

Over the years, there have been many great players and the one thing they had in common was that they all had good technique. All players that come to our Centre of Excellence are encouraged to do a lot of self-development work. To be comfortable with the ball, you have to work with the ball.

Finally, last week was very satisfying for everyone involved in our Youth Development team to see Dean Gerken, Greg Halford, Marc Canham and Dean Morgan on the bench for the first team game at Barnsley, Well done! Make A Move,

ADRIAN WEBSTER





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# UEGK

### Since our last first team match at home against Huddersfield Town, the U19s have had two long away journeys, playing at Kidderminster Harriers and Swansea City in the Merit Division.

The boys put in a good performance although Kidderminster were not the strongest side we have come up against this season. You can only play the team who are put in front of you though and we came away 3-0 winners with goals from Greg Halford, Ben Cranfield and Angelo Harrop.

The following week we travelled to Swansea, which was another long journey and we had to be up early to leave at 6am. We lost 2-0 against a strong, physical Swansea side but I was pleased with the way we performed, especially so because I fielded four 15-year-olds and one 14-year-old boy and none of our lads were intimidated with what they came up against.

We played very well at Swansea and created the best chances in the first half. It was probably the youngest side that I have fielded for a long, long time and it is all about baptisms by fire and giving these lads bigger and bigger challenges to see if they can progress. I was very please with the way they came through that, the boys played some good football at times and it was our inability to make the right decisions on two occasions which allowed them to score rather than them playing better football than us. I feel that this is one of the most important aspects of our youth system at Layer Road; that we can present young lads opportunities to play at a level they may not have otherwise experienced and I think this benefits the boys as they continue their progression.

Another very encouraging aspect of the youth policy at Layer Road over the past week was to see four of our young players on the bench at Barnsley last Saturday. Both Dean Gerken and Greg Halford are still only 18-years-old, in the second year of our youth programme. Marc Canham was with us last year and some people forget that Dean Morgan would still be in the third year of the youth programme if he had not been given a professional contract.

It shows that the production line is working and it is another element that illustrates the possibilities that are being made for the boys here. I always tell the lads that they should make sure they are ready when the opportunity comes. Every



time they jump up a level that jump becomes bigger and I have the utmost confidence that any of our boys will do a good job if they are called into first team action. Credit should go to Phil Parkinson and I am sure that he won't be let down by our boys.

There have also been encouraging signs from the last two reserve team matches with a number of our boys being involved in the good 0-0 draws at Millwall and Portsmouth recently. We are keen to put the lads in an environment where they may come up against some hard tests and I certainly think that will make them stronger.

All things considered it has been a busy time for the youth department recently. Not only have we been looking at some of the scholars that may be brought into the system next season but we are also looking at lads for the Centre of Excellence. It has all been going at 100mph. We have also been doing some of the lads' coaching certificates and Theresa Lock and myself have been undertaking our 'First Aid At Work' certificates. Adrian Webster and our physiotherapist, Graham Jones, both have these certificates and once Theresa and I have completed the course each member of staff in the youth department will be fully qualified in First Aid. I have been told that I am an excellent resuscitator by the people teaching the course although I have also been told off for over-zealous kissing

Micky Cook

### COLCHESTER UNITED UISS FIXTURES 2002/3 SEASON

Sat Aug 17	Southend United W7-	0
Sat Aug 24	Brighton & HA L1-2	2
Sat Aug 31	In Service Training	
Fri Sep 6	Peterboro' Utd (Cup) 02-	2
Sat Sep 14		540
Sat Sep 14 Sat Sep 21	Southend Utd (Cup) W2- Cambridge Utd (Cup) W2-	2.1
and the second se		
Sat Sep 28	Gillingham LO-	-
Sat Oct 12	Portsmouth LO-	24
Sat Oct 19	Wycombe Wanderers 13-4	4
Mon Oct 21	Aldershot Tn [FAYC] W4-1	1
Sat Nov 2	Leyton Orient 01-	1
Mon Nov 4	St Albans City (FAYC) W4-:	2
Sat Nov 9	Brentford L3-	
Sat Nov 16	Portsmouth LO-	1
Mon Nov 18	Peterboro' Utd [Cup] W5-	4
Sat Nov 30	Wycombe Wanderers W1-	
Tue Dec 3	Arsenal (FAYC) LO-2	
Sat Dec 7	OPR D1-1	
Sat Dec 14	Leyton Orient W1-	
	the second s	
Sat Jan 11	Brentford LO-	-
Sat Jan 18	Southend United D1-1	
Sat Jan 25	Brighton & HA DO-I	
Sat Feb 8	QPR W3-	- A.
Mon Feb 10	Gillingham D2-3	2
Wed Mar 5	Northampton Tn [Cup] LO-	2

### LEAGUE TABLE

Brentford   1510   4   1492128   34     Portsmouth   1510   4   1331023   34     Wycombe W   16   7   3   62724   3   24     Leyton Orient   16   6   4   61925   6   22     Gillingham   16   6   3   71822   4   21     COLCHESTER U   16   4   5   72428   4   17     OPR   16   2   5   91927   8   11     Southend U   16   2   4   10   1445-31   10		Pd W	0 L F	A Gd	Pts
Wycombe W   16   7   3   627   24   3   24     Leyton Orient   16   6   4   622   23   -1   22     Gillingham   16   6   4   619   25   -6   22     Brighton & HA   16   6   3   7   18   2   4   21     COLCHESTER U   16   4   5   7   24   24   21     QPR   16   2   5   9   19   7   8   11	Brentford	1510	4 149	21 28	34
Leyton Orient   16   6   4   622 23   -1   22     Gillingham   16   6   4   619 25   6   22     Brighton & HA   16   6   3   718 22   4   21     COLCHESTER U   16   4   5   724 28   4   17     QPR   16   2   5   919 27   8   11	Portsmouth				
Gillingham   16   6   4   61925   -6   22     Brighton & HA   16   6   3   71822   -4   21     COLCHESTER U   16   4   5   72428   -4   17     QPR   16   2   5   91927   -8   11	Wycombe W	16 7	3 627	24 3	24
Brighton & HA   16   6   3   7   18   22   -4   21     COLCHESTER U   16   4   5   7   24   28   -4   17     QPR   16   2   5   9   19   7   -8   11	Leyton Orient	16 6	4 6 22	23 -1	22
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### **MERIT DIVISION**

Sat Mar 1	Torquay United W5-1
Sat Mar 8	Walsall LO-2
Sat Mar 15	Kidd'minster Harriers W3-D
Sat Mar 22	Free Week
Sat Mar 29	Swansea City LO-2
Sat Apr 5	QPR
Sat Apr 12	Southend United
Sat Apr 19	Rushden & Diamonds
Sat Apr 26	Cirencester
Sat May 3	In Service Training



As well as calling into the Club Shop you can now order through the new look cu-fcshop.com - take a look! U'S TRAINING T- SHIRT - ORIGINALLY £24.99 ADULTS, £19.99 CHILDREN - NOW FREE WITH PURCHASE OF ANY REPLICA HOME OR AWAY SHIRT WHILST STOCKS LAST!

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# Pounds Phadied

### A £1,000 Thanks

Many thanks to all the fans that so kindly donated to the "Pitch in a Pound" effort at our last home game against Huddersfield Town, which was kindly organised by Lea Finch. As I am sure you are aware the generosity of you, the fans, more than covered the £1,000 fine imposed on the club by the FA for the incident last September at the match against Oldham.

The strength of feeling from U's fans meant that there was a surplus from the collection, meaning there was a small amount to pass onto Comic Relief.

The club were appreciative of the fans efforts, with the collectors on the day going up to the Colchester United boardroom to hand over the £1,000 to Chairman Peter Heard and Chief Executive Marie Partner, both of whom were delighted with the supporters' contribution.

Marie told the matchday magazine: "This is a truely superb gesture by Colchester United fans, who have rallied around the club magnificently at today's game. We always say we have a special set of supporters at this club and this only goes to reinforce that.

"It is symbolic of the positive cycle of change we are seeing at this club at the moment that the fans are prepared to contribute to a cause such as this and shows that everyone is united behind taking this club forward in the future. We cannot say thank you enough!"

Special thanks go to all the collectors, but a special mention must also go to Derek Ansell (pictured) for his noble efforts that prompted Mr Wadsworth to also generously donate a £1 to the cause.

Seriously, though, grateful thanks to all you fans that so kindly showed your commitment to the club. As Marie says, it is symptomatic of the positive things that are happening to the club at the moment - let's keep it going!

We really are very pleased with the generosity so many of you showed to your football club and would remind



you that there is another simple way to 'Pitch in a Pound' that provides long term benefits to Colchester United.

If you are not already a member of our weekly Gold

Bond Super Draw, then you may be interested to know that just £1 a week gives you seven separate chances to win over 450 prizes each week.

Most importantly, for every £1 subscription received, we are able to add 40p to the club's development so you can see what a substantial amount could be raised for the club over the year if every adult fan attending the club was to become a member.

So if you can spare a minimum of a £1 week why not ring me so that I can arrange for you to join - you could be giving the club even more support all through the year.

JOHN ESSEX

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PAGE FORTY ONE





### Vice Presidents' Club

Join our Vice Presidents' Club in 2003 enjoy a pre-match pint complimentary matchday magazine and half time refreshments. Then, after you have cast your vote for the Man of the Match, you have a chance to mingle with the players for a post match drink.



### colchester united Vice presidents club season 2002/3

Lt Col Peter Andrews OBE Mr. M. Barber Mr. J. Barber Mr. B. Brown Mr. P. Cox Mr. S. Brake Mr. C. J. Firminger Mr. C. Forster Mr. M. Gadbury Mr. R. Gamble Mr. P. Gardiner Mrs. M. Goodwin Mr. T. Grisedale Mr. P. Hammond Mr. C. Head Mr. J. Head Mr. D. Henshall Mr. T. Horsfall Mr. C. Jenner Mr. M. Jones Mrs. R. Jones Mr. P. Joyce Mrs. S. Joyce

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### commercial e markeving derartment

You can call us dir	ect
John Schultz	01206 715304
Jerry Carter	01206 715305
Julie Ager	01206 715306
<b>Commercial Fax</b>	01206 715307
Email: commercial@	Colchesterunited.net

# Keep Going!

Well done the lads - after picking up another point at in-form Barnsley. Parky's boys are showing the spirit and determination to give us fans what we want. With only three more home matches after this one, we find ourselves in the position of confidently talking to sponsors and advertisers about next season!

### PERIMETER ADVERTISING

As you look around Layer Road, do you fancy seeing your company name on a 20ft advertising hoarding? We have a handful of prime sites that have been released before the end of the season- with 10ft board



Huddersfield Match Sponsors were Kent Blaxill and pictured here with Commercial Manager Jerry Carter are Shop Manager Ian Thacker, Trade Customer Wes Payne and Sales Manager Andy Witney.

at prices starting at £800 + VAT. We are offering a special deal now where you can order next season's site and we will hold the cost at the 2001 price.

This will provide free advertising for our remaining home matches including the blockbuster sell out games against Luton Town and Queens Park Rangers. Find out more by calling us in the Commercial Department 01206 715305/6 and pick up a bargain board!



Matchball Sponsors for our match versus Huddersheld Town recently were Studio Executive Cars. Pictured with Commercial Manager Jerry Carter are Michael Jones, Anne & Peter Gray and with Eddie the Eagle is Rachael Jones.



# EUMINIARIEHEIL

### DON'T MISS THIS ONE -**MONDAY NIGHT, BE THERE!**

Another night to remember and a must for all U's fans comes this Monday, when you get your chance to meet Phil Parkinson at the Mercury Theatre for a 'Celebration of Essex Sport'. (See pages 26 and 27).

The event is packed with some light hearted entertainment and you will see quite a few people associated with the U's surprising us with their skills! Tickets are going well and are on sale priced at £6.50 and £8.50 from the Club Shop in Layer Road.

If, late in the day, you decide to join

us, any unsold tickets will be available on the night from the Mercury Box Office. Be there - if it's anything like our previous events, you won't want to miss out!

We now have another chance this afternoon to get behind Parky's boys as we go for another three points and go another long way towards securing Second Division status for another season.

Got an idea or something to say? Call us in the Commercial Department anytime, we just love to talk football! Up the U's

Commercial & Marketing Manager

Jerry Carter

# matchday sponsorships

All the Sponsorship for the rest of this season has now been taken. A massive thank you to all the companies and individuals listed below that have supported us in this way

Match Sponsor

**Gold Bond Lottery** 

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Depesition

West Ham United **Stockport County** Brentford Wigan Athletic Cheitenham Town Oldham Athlatic Wycombe Wanderers Chesterfield Barnsley **Bristol City Chester** City **Plymouth Argyle** Cardiff City Peterborough United Tranmere Rovers Crewe Alexandra Blackpool Mansfield Port Vale Northampton Huddersfield Swindon Town Notts County Luten Town Queens Park Rangers

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### **GOLD BOND LOTTERY**

More congratulations to this weeks winners...

£2,000: J Strachan and M Hawthorn £500: A Holerhan and Miss Keeling

£200:

P Worthington, A Thorpe, K Millership and N Marsdon £100:

M Scott, A Pawson, C Bateson, Mrs Gilmore, Mr Ashton, R Reynolds, Mrs Thomas, Mrs Hepton, G Boden, E Marks, J Waddington, J Wood. Mr Manuel and Mrs Scott

There are now over 500 consolation prizes also paid out every week and it costs you just E1 weekly to be a Gold Bond member. And, as we keep telling you, there are SEVEN chances for each £1 entry to win top cash prizes!

 With the top weekly prize of you also have a £2.000. monthly top prize of £5,000 and a top quarterly prize of a brand new Vauxhall carl

Find out more - telephone 01206 715321 - the U's On The Move Gold Bond Lottery hotline and speak to John Essex, Lottery Development Officer.







# Safor Safor

# in Reserve

E

### A Dean Morgan hat-trick helped Colchester United reserves to a 5-0 victory on Wednesday afternoon in a match that featured three triallists.

The game started in perfect fashion for the U's, as they took the lead after just three minutes. Chris Keeble laid the ball into the centre of the park and Marc Canham's first time ball into the box found a great run by Jon Nichols, who reacted well to lift his shot over Craig Parr and into the back of the net.

It would be a first half in which Nichols would link up well with Canham and, although he had a quiet spell in the second period, the Team Bath midfielder had another good period towards the end of the game. Canham was excellent throughout and was unlucky not to score when a shot in the second half cannoned back off the post.

The U's doubled their advantage on 22 minutes. A long ball from the back saw Dwayne Edwards and Dean Morgan pressurise Swindon goalkeeper Craig Farr who had come to the edge of his box to head clear. The header went to Chris Keeble 35 yards from goal and he hit a first time volley into the back of the net.

The U's continued to hold the upper hand throughout the first half, and had a flurry of chances just before the break. Firstly, Canham drove in a shot from distance which deflected over the bar.



Dean Morgan - impressive hat-trick

Then Brett Poate's diagonal ball found Edwards, whose shot was well held by Farr and then Greg Halford's run and pass found Keeble, but his turn and shot was again well saved.

Swindon came out brightly at the start of the second half, but the wind was taken out of their sails ten minutes after the interval. After a foul by Farr on Dwayne Edwards, Morgan slotted home from the spot to double his personal tally and make the scoreline three to nil.

Ten minutes after that, Canham - put through by Morgan - smacked a shot which came back off the inside of the post. Straightaway, Swindon had one of their best chances of the game when a great run by Dykes found the head of Mooniaruck, who could not quite get his flashing effort on target.

It was a miss that would prove crucial when the U's made it 4-0 on 73 minutes. Morgan was played in by Canham this time, and the striker held off the attentions of the Swindon defence and slotted a low shot past Farr at his near post.

The U's were rampant at this stage and were winning the second ball in a fashion that has become a natural occurrence in the first team. They made it 5-0 on eighty minutes. Herring let the ball drop over his shoulder, but Morgan was quick to seize on the ball and smack another shot past the helpless Farr.

Swindon were not going to give up, however, and probably had the best of the last ten minutes. First Mooniaruck conjured himself some space on the edge of the box after a corner and curled a shot which beat Gerken only to crash back off the post.

Then Dykes, who had been the visitors' most impressive player of the afternoon, ran at the U's defence after a mistake by Nichols but his shot was well saved at full stretch by Dean Gerken.

Of the triallists, Nichols had a competent game, whilst Poate showed why he has been given three bites of the cherry so far with a fine display at left back. The pick of the bunch was Mike Edwards, though, who put in an unhurried and solid performance at centre half.

U's: Gerken, Halford, Poate, Nichols, M. Edwards, White, Keeble, Canham, Morgan, Coleman (Irving), D. Edwards. Subs: Johnston, Hopkins,

MATT HUDSON

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		INSURANCE
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	led 27 Sep	Oxford United A W1-0 Bristol Rovers H W1-0
	ed 2 Oct	Norwich City A LO-3
10.0	led 9 Oct	Southend United H DO-O
	led 30 Oct	Cheltenham Town H W4-2
W	led 13 Nov	Leyton Orient H W2-1
W	ed 20 Nov	Crystal Palace A 01-1
Tu	e 26 Nov	QPR A W2-0
	ion 9 Dec	Peterborough Utd H W6-0
	ed 18 Dec	Barnet A W3-0
	ies 7 Jan	Brentford A LO-3
-	led 15 Jan led 29 Jan	Bristol City H LO-1 AFC Bournemouth A W3-1
	ed 5 Feb	Cardiff City H LO-1
	e 11 Feb	Plymouth Argyle A L1-2
W	ed 19 Feb	Portsmouth A P-P
W	led 26 Feb	Brighton & HA H W3-1
W	ed 12 Mar	Millwall A DO-O
W	led 26 Mar	Swindon Town H W5-0
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# CALL TO A



### He may inspire mixed emotions amongst Colchester United supporters, but Evening Gazette reporter Francis Ponder has spent more time with the U's than most. Last week the club's internet TV station, U's World, took questions from U's fans and posed them to the man who has been reporting on the town's football team for more than a decade.

Here Francis tells us why there is so much coverage of Ipswich Town in the local newspapers, which figure at Layer Road has made the biggest impact on him down the years, and insists that everyone will be copying his hairstyle sooner or later!

What football team do you support? I have been born and bred ten miles from Colchester. Colchester United are my first team, Tottenham Hotspur are my second team.

Do you think the local press have some responsibility in attracting the public to support the town's football team? I believe the press can play its part but I believe the fans will come if the players and the team are actually doing it on the pitch, that's where the main promotion comes from; if the lads are putting on a good performance and getting the right results. In your opinion, are there too many column inches dedicated to Ipswich Town in the local papers?

If the questioner is talking about the Evening Gazette this is one of those questions which we're in a lose-lose situation. If you have a look, more than 25% of Ipswich Town's membership comes from supporters in north and mid Essex. We are in business at the Evening Gazette as a newspaper, just a Colchester United are in the business of football, we have a duty to those readers who follow Ipswich Town as we have a duty to all of the other sports that we cover.

We believe that we get the mix right, we would love more pages for sport and we would love to do that pull-out in the centre pages every time Colchester have a game but unfortunately we are governed by the space we are given and certainly on



post match days we give the best part of three pages up to Colchester United coverage. And most days of the week Colchester United dominates most of the back page.

What do you perceive to be the main strengths of the current Colchester United team, manager and Board? Phil Parkinson is still very new to the job but what I see I like. He is a very professional man, he appears to leave no stone unturned in his preparation for games and for studying opposition but we will have to wait and see what happens when it is Phil's first full season.

Regarding the Board, I have felt for quite some time now that they run the club in a very sensible way. When you look across the country at other Football League clubs, even some Premiership clubs, and compare it to Colchester United and the way that Peter Heard and the other two directors are running the club I don't think the club's supporters have anything to complain about. I think we are in safe hands.

With regard to the rest of it you just have to look at the website and everything else that has all grown in the last two years to make Colchester United renowned across the world.

### How do you think things have changed recently in comparison to previous regimes experienced at Layer Road?

That's always difficult, people always seem to think that I am right inside but I'm not right inside. I have to look from outside and we are still a small club but I think this club is on the right lines. If you look at the club since it has been back in the Football League since the days of the GM Vauxhall Conference and it has been nothing but success. All the way along we've had two play-offs, three Wembley finals and promotion. What more can you ask for in ten years?



# Francis ponder 🔫

CONTRACTOR OF CONT

### Did you make a bid for Steve Whitton's shorts when they were auctioned recently?

As far as some supporters are concerned I am already wearing them! I personally didn't agree with that whole situation but if it made money for the club, and that's what the bottom line is, then power to your elbow.

### How does life at Layer Road compare now to when you first started reporting on the U's?

I wonder if the questioner thinks I have been here for a lifetime because I have been covering Colchester United since about seven weeks into their first Conference season. Comparing it in those eleven years I suppose it depends on how the club is doing doesn't it. If you've got the two Conference years then it was nothing but success, we just missed out, everything was hunky dory, we were taking four coach loads of supporters away to every game but I personally believe there is only one place to be and that is in the Football League. Winning promotion and staying in Division Two for a sixth season is just tremendous as far as I am concerned.

# Who do you think has been the best manager of Colchester United in the past 30 years?

That is a big question. Dick Graham was a good manager but Dick gained fame by beating Leeds United and although it sounds heartless that is all Dick did. He had to dismantle that good side and build a completely new one. I would have to say I liked Jim Smith and I think the new manager Phil Parkinson is very much on the same lines as he Jim. He has great belief in his players as Jim did and his players would run through a brick wall for him. I also believe that Steve Wignall did a fantastic job in his four years as manager of the club; two promotion play-offs, one promotion, two Wembley finals. I think that record speaks for itself.

You are in a privileged position of travelling with the players to away matches, do you find it hard to mark them out of ten and be objective because of this?

No, I don't find it hard but I won't do



it on the team coach when I know they are looking over my shoulder. I think that is not fair. I know they are interested in what marks they get and they either believe them or they don't.

I try to be objective and Phil Parkinson told me before the Barnsley match that he wouldn't want that job, to actually mark the players and I find the hardest part of my report is having to find a sentence to describe each player's performance on a particular day. Some fans are going to disagree with what you write but it is just a matter of opinions.

Some of the players may care about the marks they get in the paper but they are professional footballers and they really shouldn't care about the marks that I give them. They will know if they have had a good game or a bad game. I can only follow the ball. The nature of my game is following where the ball is and somebody can have a cracking game, marking somebody out of the game without seeing much of the ball and sadly I'm not necessarily going to see that because of the nature of what Ihave to do. Why do you feel that it was not necessary to criticise Steve Whitton when it was clear all was not well at the club? That particular questioner has a point but I always felt and still feel now that some supporters have very short memories. Four or five years ago when Steve took over, the club was allegedly almost broken by the previous manager. Mick Wadsworth, we were rock bottom of Division Two when Steve Whitton took over and he did a fantastic job, I don't care what any supporter says, he did a fantastic job keeping the club in Division Two for four seasons. Every manager has hit pitfalls, Steve Whitton certainly had his faults, as we will probably find Phil Parkinson has his. But being close to the club without being inside it there isn't vast pots of money to chuck about and I know Steve Whitton was concerned that if money was going to be spent it was going to have to be the right kind of money and the right players.

Do you feel that mixing business with pleasure with regard to your relationship with Steve Whitton compromised your position as a local journalist reporting the facts? I wonder where the supporters get this

PAGE FORTY SEVEN

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idea that I have socialised big time with Steve Whitton. I can put my hand on my heart and honestly say that apart from taking Steve Wignall and his wife out to dinner on behalf my newspaper and being the guest of John Worsp and his wife at one Christmas do for the club I have never socialised with any of the managers or any of the players and I made it a rule the day I took over coverage of Colchester United that my job stops at interviewing the players before games, and watching the games. I have never been out on drinking sprees with any manager or player and I can honestly say that. Where the idea comes from that I am a great buddy of Steve Whitton, I really don't know.

What is your opinion of Thomas Pinault? Thomas is one of those players who thinks that I don't mark him highly enough. I am willing to discuss that with him and I have done. I have given him my views and whether he believes them or not is up to him. I believe we have not seen the full potential yet of Thomas Pinault, I think he can be a very good player. When his game is right there is not a finer passer in the team than Thomas. I like the way he tackles, challenges, runs back, the way he does everything but that doesn't mean to say he always has a good game.

Do you think you could cope if Colchester United fulfilled its potential? I would love it. I would absolutely love it because it would be another challenge and I think all of us need new challenges. To be fair to the supporters you tend to get in a rut when you appear to stand still. If Colchester United got promoted and we travelled to all those lovely grounds like the Hawthorns, St Andrews and all the grounds I haven't been to, watching the U's play Premiership football, I would love it. Covering Colchester United in the Conference and lower divisions I have been to an awful lot of rubbish grounds. The best grounds are to come. Give me promotion and I'll be there along with the supporter who asked that question.

If it wasn't your job to cover the U's would you pay to watch the team? Yes, I came to this ground with my father when I was six-years-old. Colchester's reserve team were still in the Eastern Counties League then which is now the Jewson League and



my dad would bring me here every week. He would bring me to the reserve team game one Saturday and the first team game the next Saturday. I loved and my dad and I would hardly miss a game so I would certainly do that again.

Where do you see yourself in five years time?

One year from retirement.

### Where do you see Steve Whitton in five years time?

Why does that matter? I haven't got a clue, I hope the man gets himself a job. I think 85% of the time and I think managers who manage lower league teams don't get enough credit for what they do.

Have you ever had driving lessons? Yes.

Have you ever thought about getting a more up-to-date haircut? I believe I am ahead of the game because with hairstyles and with clothes styles. There is only so far you can go and it comes full circle. I am ahead of the game because in a few years time everybody is going to be growing their hair long and I will have been there beforehand. The person who is asking that question may well have an FP haircut in a few years time!

### David Marsh bid £1,100 to be a Colchester United player this season, would you consider doing something similar?

If I had that much money to be able to do that I would definitely give the club £1,000 and more if I had it. I wouldn't want to be an unplaying substitute or whatever, if I had the kind of money to give it to the football club I would give what I could.

### Did you pitch in a pound in the supporters recent collection to pay off an FA fine?

That is between me and the club but I did pitch in a pound and the slogan 'pitch in a pound' is mine! I pitched in a pound five times.

In your time supporting the U's who has impressed you most at the club? I look at people like Bobby Svarc, who I



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think is probably the most influential and talented footballer who has ever played for Colchester United, I remember a lad called Tony Kelly who Steve Foley brought here who was another talented footballer who unfortunately could not walk past a Chinese shop without going in but you need to sit down and look at all this and study it to think who has influenced you down the years. George Fisher, an old captain of Colchester United in 19whatever was another good one and the manager of the time, Benny Fenton, a top manager who got us to the bring of the old Division Two. There are an awful lot of people who have been here and it is very difficult to pick a best XI.

How could I forget Lomana Tresor Lua Lua? He is probably the most exciting player I have ever seen in my life in a Colchester shirt. In the 1950s we had ball players like Sammy McLeod and Bobby Hill, great players, but Lua Lua was explosive and on his day there wasn't a better player in Colchester. But Lomana didn't always have a great day but on his day I loved watching him. He was very explosive and I know opposition defenders hated players like because he ran at them and defenders in any division don't like players who run at them.

### What is the worst football match you have ever seen?

That has to be a 7-3 defeat at Darlington in November 1993. We weren't at the races that night and how we scored three goals I will never ever know. We were just run all over the place and to have lost that game 7-3 was incredible because my man of the match was John Keeley, the goalkeeper because he played such a storming game and still let in seven.

Would you ever consider reporting on a Colchester United Ladies match? Yes I would, given the time I would love the opportunity to do it. People must realise that I have a lot of other demands on my life though. I don't just come to Colchester United, there are a lot of other things that I have to cover for the Gazette. That said, it is no surprise to me at all that football has taken over as the most popular sport for women from netball and hockey and I think that's great!



What do you seriously think is the U's potential for reaching the play-offs next season?

I would love to see that as much as anybody else. We have to be realistic and say it is about finances - we would have to strengthen over the summer and that will mean bigger wages. I think the fans have a part to play by lending their support, because the club needs their backing. We've got a new manager and a team playing well and that's what people have said was lacking in the past. Now it's time for people to back those words.

### ITV Digital has played its part - can it benefit the U's?

Let's hope that if all those problems had one effect, it was to brought all the big spending teams to a similar level to the U's for attracting players. If the banks called in all their money tomorrow, Colchester would be one of the clubs that survived. Just look at Real Madrid, £250m in the debt where's the business in that? If the Spanish bank called in the money tomorrow where would Real Madrid be? I think Colchester are heading along the right lines slowly but surely and lets hope that Phil Parkinson can do a great job here next year with his team.

Have you ever had facial hair? It's not even worth asking that question is it? All I can say is the fan who asked that question cannot have been around very long. A few of Christmases ago I had been ill and I was sporting a nice white beard. We stopped off one night on the way back from an away match and the club's marketing manager at the time, Brian Wheeler, went into this room with a jukebox and put on a load of Kenny Rogers songs and everyone was singing along to that.

Was Perry Groves a donkey or a genius? How could you possibly call Perry Groves a donkey? The club sold him for £50,000 he was George Graham's first signing at Arsenal, he had tremendous pace and if you have got pace in football today you will get somewhere because a lot of managers feel that they can build on pace. Perry certainly had that, he had his enemies when he was here but he was still only a teenager then but he earned £50,000 for Colchester United and he went on to play extremely well for Arsenal. 

# GOAL PUTS SMILE BACK ON SKIPPER COOK'S FACE

U's 1 Swindon Town 0 From the Evening Gazette, Monday February 21 1983

### SKIPPER Micky Cook chose the perfect time to score his first goal of the season.

It was his first sortie into the Swindon penalty area and his venture paid handsome dividends as he was on hand to score the goal that handed Colchester United three vital promotion points.

Cook's moment of glory came in the 71st minute and really it could not have been more simple.

On-loan striker John Linford, watched from the stand by his Ipswich Town manager Bobby Ferguson, met Ian Allinson's floating corner kick with his head and Cook was perfectly placed to stoop and head the begging ball over the line from close range.

But the joy at being the U's matchwinner was not all that made Cook's night so special. For it also made up for the uncharacteristic error that cost the U's dearly at Wimbledon last Tuesday, when his mistake gift-wrapped the opportunity for the opposition to nip in and score the winning goal.

"Yes it was that extra bit special after Tuesday" admitted the visibly delighted Cook, now back to his effervescent self after full recovery from a virus and bout of flu that ruled him out of two games recently.

Cook's goal also spared teammate Phil Coleman's blushes after failing to convert two good chances that had befallen him earlier in the game.

The first came in the 17th minute, another Allinson corner, Coleman rising above the defence to meet the ball. Unfortunately as he launched the ball towards goal it hit his shoulder and ballooned over the crossbar.

Yet another Allinson corner offered Coleman his second chance to score — but this time the ball ran wide of the post as he sought to capitalise on a mis-timed clearance from Swindon's Gary Emmanuel.

Steve Wignall's header seconds before half-time was on target. But he could only watch an excellent save by visiting goalkeeper Jimmy Allen who somehow managed to scramble the effort away.

And from the rebound it was Roy McDonough's turn to be denied by the goalkeeper when his follow-up shot was blocked.

Swindon, in return offered little threat to the U's goal, although on the evidence of the first 20 minutes



# gazette

one suspected the U's might have to be in top gear to keep their visitors at bay.

For during that spell the Wiltshire outfit, also eager for Third Division football next season, had enjoyed the better of the opening exchanges.

But then the U's started to click and thereafter Swindon, who had inflicted the U's most convincing defeat earlier in the season, could really look no further than a goalless draw.

The U's tightened their grip in the second half — and Cook's goal was the reward for the 2,386 Layer Road faithful who turned up on a bitterly cold evening.

Once again McDonough continued to impress in his relatively unaccustomed role as a centraldefender. In midfield Jeff Hull ran tirelessly while Roger Osborne enjoyed one of his best games of the season.

Few would disagree that this was not the greatest game Layer Road has produced. But to see Cook's close range header find it's way into the net made it all worthwhile! "...Cook's goal was the reward for the 2,386 Layer Road faithful who turned up on a bitterly cold evening."

U'S: Walker, Cook, Longhorn, McDonough, Wignall, Coleman, Allinson, Osborne, Linford, Adcock and Hull. Sub (not used): Ward. SWINDON: Allan, Baverstock, Bailie, Emmanuel, Lewis, Graham, Hughes, Batty, Rideout, Quinn and Barnard. Sub (not used): Blacklaw. REFEREE: Mr M. Bodenham BOOKINGS: Longhorn, Hull (U's). Graham (Swindon).

### PETER JONES





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# LADIES TEAM ARE SPONSORED BY

# US FUHE

### It's Mothers Day at Layer Road, so I thought I would tell you a little bit about the various mums in the U's Ladies team ...

First up, it's yours truly. Yes, this may shock you but I am actually a mum believe it or not! I have two boys who - strangely enough - both love football and most people will have seen Charlie toddling around the club on a weekday, here he is showing off his new Colchester United kit, a third birthday present.

Then there's my eldest James, who has even had the privilege of helping our groundsman Dave Blacknall sort out the pitch - he even let him sit on the tractor, mad man!

As for my Mother's Day, my boys will be accompanying me to the Essex County Cup Final at Maldon Town FC. They are both matchday mascots and cant wait, last year they bought me a new pair of shin pads for Mother's Day, much appreciated by me of course!

There are other mums in the team, too. The assistant player/manager for the reserve team, Karen Dredge (aka Stumpy), is also a proud mum of Ellie, aged three, and is pictured here posing for one of the Ladies Calendar pictures. Ellie is a budding footballer like her mum, and thinks nothing of whacking the football around her garden.

Last up is our very own first team manager Jane Swift, who is expecting her first baby in July. What a very special baby it will be too. Not even born yet, he or she has already earned



the nickname of Baby Socca!

Jane married coach Brian Swift just last year and with him an established coach at Colchester United's Centre Of Excellence and Jane, who as well as a manager and player, also coaches at the Girls' Centre Of Excellence. surely their newborn will have all the attributes necessary for greatness on the football field!

We shall keep you posted ...

So there are some of the mums in the squad. Unlike the men we actually have to stop playing football to have babies! If Jane is anything like me, she will be back sooner rather than later. I was coaching right up until Charlie was born and was back kicking a football within six weeks. Just cant keep stay away for too long!

So, on to tomorrow and, just in case you hadn't noticed, the Ladies are playing in the Essex County Cup Final versus Barking at Maldon Town FC. kick off at 10.30am. We would appreciate your support! So Come Alona!

Good luck today lads.

### Sparky

### WIN! FREE TICKETS TO THE NOTTS COUNTY GAME!

We've got free tickets to give away for the upcoming game against Notts County on April 12th. To win - and get in for free for the match against the Magpies - simply tell us, in no more than 100 words why your mum is the best mum in the world!



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Welcome to the first of our themed "Ladies Days", which are being staged at Layer Road as part of the new scheme launched by the Nationwide Building Society to support the development of women and girl's football.

Nationwide's sponsorship of the women's pillar of the F.A.'s partners programme focuses on maintaining the momentum of the fastest growing side of the game in the UK - women's football. Football has overtaken all others sports in terms of girl's participation at schools and clubs around the country.

As part of this scheme we have tage two themed ladies days, starting today with "Mothers Day" and this is followed on the 12th April with a further "Ladies Day" and more free two available for women and girls.

Today, we are pleased to present our U11 girls for the half time entertainment focusing on the fairer and of the game. And a big thanks must go to George Bingham of Anglia IV who will formally open the Ladies Days for us. Also, a very warm welcome this afternoon to Susanna Battersby from Sportsmatch and Dominic Lever from Coca-Cola Enterprises, our guests this afternoon who are present to launch their joint sponsorship of the Colchester United 'Girls into Teams' Project.

The project, which was established this year to form two new girls football teams for U10s and U11s. Coca-Cola provided £2,000 sponsorship, which was matched by government agency Sportsmatch. Along with providing the girls with professional coaching and competitive playing opportunities the funding has purchased the girls new Colchester United kits and sweatshirts, which they are proudly wearing this afternoon.

CUCST would like to express its gratitude to Sportsmatch and Coca-Cola for their generous support and hope that you will give the girls and our guests a warm hand. What's more, we hope you enjoy the game and give the girls plenty of encouragement as they display their football skills.



From our U10 Centre of Excellence team we have...

Sasha McDonald Maegan Doyle Leanne Cullivan Rebecca Hollocks Katy Birbeck Josephine Ribet Hannah Whittle Vicky Hall Amelia Southgate

And from our U11 FITC team we have...

Jemma Hennessey Rachel Grime Amy Bryant Lily Travis Sian Williams Rachel Kilby Chalie Clark Ella Neale



On the next Ladies Day we will bring you more from our girl's sides and a quick introduction to some of the ladies team as they take the girls through their paces. This will be finished off when the U's Ladies play their final league fixture of the season against Gillingham directly after the men's game on 21st April.

If you would like to find out about female soccer simply contact the Community Soccer Centre on 01206 572378.

Recognising our community partners...





# BARCLAYS

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PAGE FIFTY FIVE

# SHINGLINES.



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Key: Played Played, came off as sub Substitute (came on for number in box)

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Sat Aug 31	Wigan Athletic	н	W1-0	2,721	8	Morgan 4
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Wed Sep 11	Coventry City (WC1)	A	L0-3	6,075		
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Tue Sep 17	Northampton Town	A	L1-4	3.663	16	Sampson O.G. 3
Sat Sep 21	Oldham Athletic	н	L0-1	3.021	15	
Sat Sep 28	Queens Park Rangers	А	L0-2	12,906	20	
Sat Oct 5	Wycombe Wanderers	н	L0-1	3,252	20	
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Sat Dec 14	Luton Town	A	W2-1	5.890	15	Duquid 45 Marries 51
n Dec 20	Cardiff City	н	L1-2	3,096	15	Duguid 45, Morgan 58
Thu Dec 26	Peterborough United	н	D1-1	3,760	17	Stockwell 5
Sat Dec 28	Blackpool	A	L1.3	6.040	18	Izzet 7
Sat Jan 4	Tranmere Rovers	н	D2-2	2.846	17	Izzet 45
Sat Jan 11	Crewe Alexandra	н	L1-2	2,949	20	McGleish 12 Keith 69
Sat Jan 18	Wigan Athletic	A	L1-2	5,792	21	Stockwell 41
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ri Feb 14	Mansfield Town	H	W1-0	3.247	16	McGleish 12 Pinault 82
Sat Feb 22	Cheltenham Town	A	D1-1	3.607	18	McGleish 88
Sat Mar 1	Port Vale	н	W4-1	3.581	17	Williams 44
ue Mar 4	Northampton Town	H	W2-0	3,408	15	Williams 7, 36, 72 Keith 53
Sat Mar 8	Oldham Athletic	A	L0-2	5.223	15	Williams 28 McGleish 76
ue Mar 11	Brentford	A	D1-1	3.990	16	
Sat Mar 15	Huddersfield Town	н	W2-0	3.835		Keith 84 (pen)
ue Mar 18	Chesterfield	A	W4-0	3,835	15	Izzet 74 McGleish 81
at Mar 22	Barnsley	A	D1-1	9,154	12	Izzet 43 Williams 48 OG 68 Morgan 81
at Mar 29	Swindon Town	Ĥ	Diri	5,154	13	McGleish 38
at Apr 5	Plymouth Argyle	A				
at Apr 12	Notts. County	н				
and the second sec	Cardiff City	A				
Aon Apr 21	Luton Town	Ĥ				
And the second sec	Wycombe Wanderers	A				
at May 3	Queens Park Rangers	H				
at may a	Yudens Faik nangers					

Please note that these are subject to change. Nationwide League unless stated.



# B Stratsistics

2 Joe DUNNE 3 Joseph KEITH 4 Gavin JOHNSON 5 Scott FITZGERALD	6 Thomas PINAULT 7 Karl DUGUID	8 Mark WARREN	<b>3</b> Scott Mcaleish	10 Kemal 12261	11 Dean MORGAN	14 Chris KEBLE	15 Adrian COOTE	15 Marc CANHAM	17 Bobby BOWRY	18 David HADRAVA	19 Alan WHITE	20 Micky STOCKWELL	21 Triston CHAMBERS	22 Danny STEELE	23 Leke ODUNSI	24 Pat BALOWIN	25 Sam STOCKLEY	26 Lloyd OPARA 27 Greg HalfOrd	31 Richard McKINNEY	32 Dean GERKEN
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# colchester united man-of-the-match awards

As voted for by the Vice-Presidents and Matchday Sponsors

Opponent **Stockport County** Brentford **Wigan Athletic Cheltenham Town Oldham Athletic** Wycombe Wanderers Chesterfield Barnsley **Bristel** City **Chester City Plymouth Argyle Cardiff City** Peterborough United **Tranmere Rovers Crewe** Alexandra Blackpool **Mansfield Town** Port Vale Northampton Town **Huddersfield Town** 

Man-of-the-Match **Thomas Pinault Richard McKinney** Dean Morgan **Alan White** Sam Stockley Kem lzzet Kem lzzet **Alan White Bobby Bowry** Simon Brown Alan White Simon Brown Kem izzet Adrian Coote Simon Brown Simon Brown **Liam Chilvers Gareth Williams** Sam Stockley **Johnnie Jackson** 

Runner-Up Mark Warren **Alan White** Mark Warren **Bobby Bowry Thomas Pinault Thomas Pinault Kevin Rapley** Simon Brown **Thomas Pinault Kevin Rapley Thomas Pinault** Kem Izzet **Scott Fitzgerald** Kem Izzet **Micky Stockwell** Joe Keith Kem Izzet/Scott McGleish **Scott McGleish Thomas Pinault Thomas Pinault** 



Huddersfield Match Sponsors Kent Blaxill voted new boy Johnnie Jackson Man of the Match. Pictured here is Johnnie receiving his award from Kent Blaxill Sales Manager Andy Witney.



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# **Geams**

## COLCHESTER United Swindon town

	Pld	GI
1. Simon BROWN	0	□
2. Joe DUNNE		□
3. Joseph KEITH	0	□
4. Gavin <b>JOHNSON</b>	0	
5. Scott FITZGERALD	0	
6. Thomas PINAULT	0	□
7. Karl DUGUID	0	□
8. Mark WARREN	0	
9. Scott McGLEISH	0	
10. Kemal IZZET	0	
11. Dean MORGAN	0	
12. Kevin RAPLEY	0	
14. Chris KEEBLE	0	□
15. Adrian COOTE	0	□
16. Marc CANHAM	0	D
17. Bobby BOWRY	0	□
19. Alan WHITE	0	
20. Micky STOCKWELL	0	□
24. Pat BALDWIN	O	
25. Sam STOCKLEY	0	
26. Johnnie JACKSON	0	□
27. Greg HALFORD	O	
31. Richard McKINNEY	0	
32. Dean GERKEN	0	
71. David MARSH	0	

	Pld	GI
1. Bart GRIEMINK	0	
2. Gareth EDDS	0	
3. Junior LEWIS	0	
4. Matthew <b>HEWLETT</b>	0	
5. Adam WILLIS	0	
6. Andy GURNEY	0	
7. Keith O'HALLORAN	0	
9. Sam PARKIN	0	
10. Stefani MIGLIORANZI	0	
11. David DUKE	0	□
14. Eric SABIN	0	
15. Darren BYKES	0	
17. Danny INVINCIBLE	0	
19. Matthew HEYWOOD	0	
21. David BAMPTON	0	□
22. Alan REEVES	0	□
25. Steve ROBINSON	0	
26. Alan YOUNG	0	□
28. Nathan EDWARDS	0	□
31. Kevin HALLIDAY	0	
32. Craig FARR	0	

### match orricials

Referee: Mr G. Poll (Herts) Assistants: Mr M. Tingey (Bucks) Mr S. Proctor-Green (Lincs) Fourth Official: Mr P. Walton (Northants)

### next here...

**v** Notts County Saturday April 12th 2003 Nationwide League Division Two Kick-Off 3.00pm

v Luton Town Monday April 21st 2003 Nationwide League Division Two Kick-Off 3.00pm

### Last Line-UPS

Colchester United drew 1-1 at Darnsley McKinney, Stockley, Fitzgerald, Baldwin, Jackson, Bowry (Stockwell), Pinault, Izzet, Keith, McGleish, Duguid,

### Swindon lown =

won 5-0 at home to Notts County Griemink, Heywood, Ifil, Lewis, Hewlett, Reeves, Gurney, Duke, Miglioranzi, Robinson (Young). Parkin, Invincible (Sabin),

