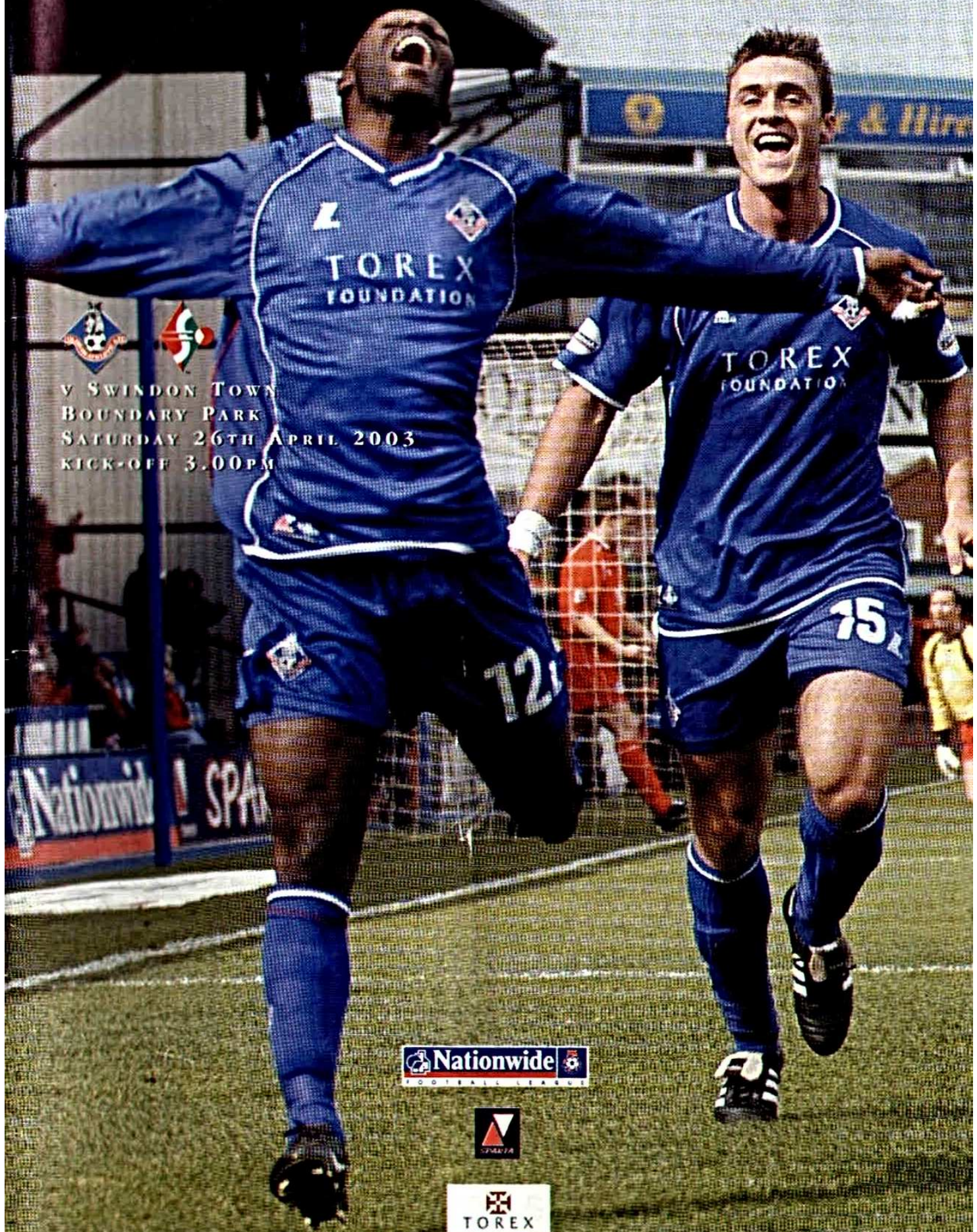


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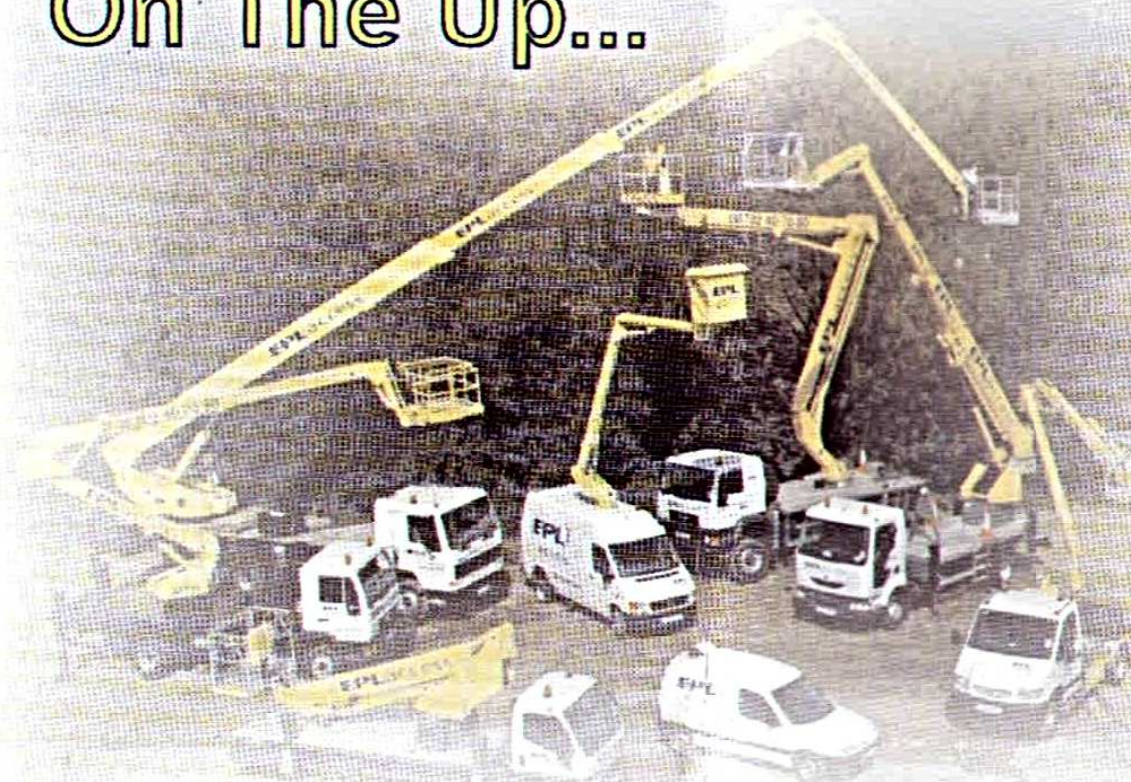
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COMMUNIQUE TO ALL Latics FANS.

I am sure you will agree we are having a fantastic season, the second in succession, after a decade in the doldrums, play offs not absolutely certain, but almost.....

Down to you and the lads Iain, last two games!

Off the pitch we have not managed finances as well as we should. The Club is still dependent on me and I continue to inject significant amounts of capital into the Club on a regular, routine basis. To ensure the Club has a long term, stable, financial future, we have to restructure the non-playing side of the Club. This is an essential prerequisite to provide a solid foundation for the playing side.

I have long since seen the division between the playing side and the non-playing side of the Club as an endemic fault line running through the very core of football as a whole. Well, at Oldham we are doing something about it.

Iain Dowie has agreed to work with me to conduct a widespread review of the whole Club with particular reference to football related matters. He will also use his knowledge and act as a sounding board for me on my Business expertise. The review will include everything from corporate structure to how we provide the pies on a Saturday afternoon!

Alan Hardy, who has served the Club well for many years, could provide an immense amount of valuable input to Iain and myself. However it is with great reluctance that I announce that Alan is currently suspended from his duties whilst remaining on full pay and will do so until further notice.

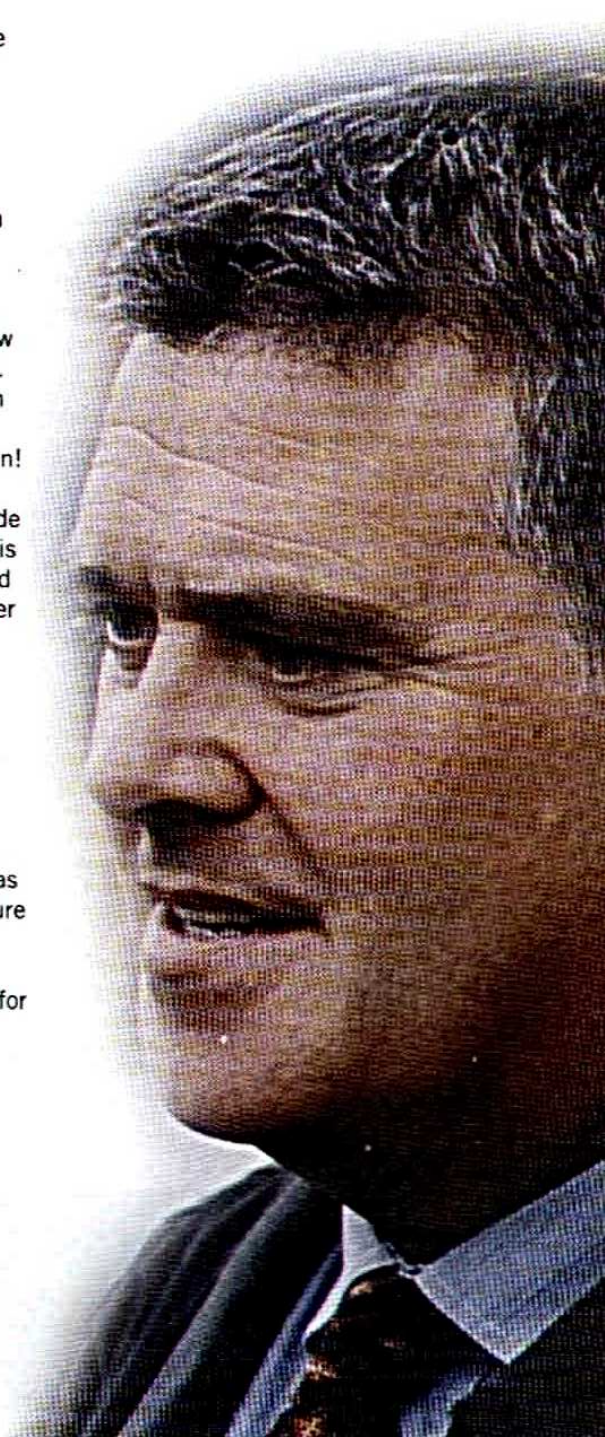
In the meantime any communication you need to make with the Club should be directed to Iain, Sean Jarvis or myself.

We will make further announcements in due course, but it will be sometime before the strategic review is completed.

Plans for next season are already underway even before this season has finished and both Iain and myself have repeatedly committed our future to Oldham Athletic Football Club.

Your continued support and commitment to the Club is not only vital for our success but is also extremely well received; we appreciate it immensely, please keep it up.

Chris Moore.



Dowie's Diary

4

**IN OUR OWN HANDS**

Welcome to this, our final league home game of the season, where we find ourselves in a very good position with our destiny in our own hands. I would first like to go on record as saying that in spite of all the financial hardships the club have found themselves in, the players, fans, staff and everyone at the Football Club have ensured that this has been a monumental season, whatever the outcome of our last two games.

I feel we have a team, which is young and progressing with its very important share of excellent senior pros, and every day these players have been totally committed to the programme I have employed this season. This year has been an amazing experience for me as a young manager and one I am sure will stand me in good stead for the future.

It is very important that

not only the players get the praise, but my backroom staff. John Harbin, who has revolutionised the club since he came; Tony Philliskirk (right), who has adapted fantastically well to coaching senior players; our workaholic physio Paul Caton; Andy Rhodes our goalkeeping coach, and more lately John Sheridan and Lee Duxbury, who have just taken over their roles and are already putting their excellent stamp on things.

HARD WORK

It is also imperative to mention the hard work behind the scenes by people such as Centre of Excellence Co-ordinator Gil Prescott, Tanya Blakey, Judith Lane, our famous chef Lil and last but by no means least, Chairman Chris Moore, who gave me my first opportunity and has bankrolled this club this year. His financial commitment can never be underestimated and he



has been a very able ally for our progression this year.

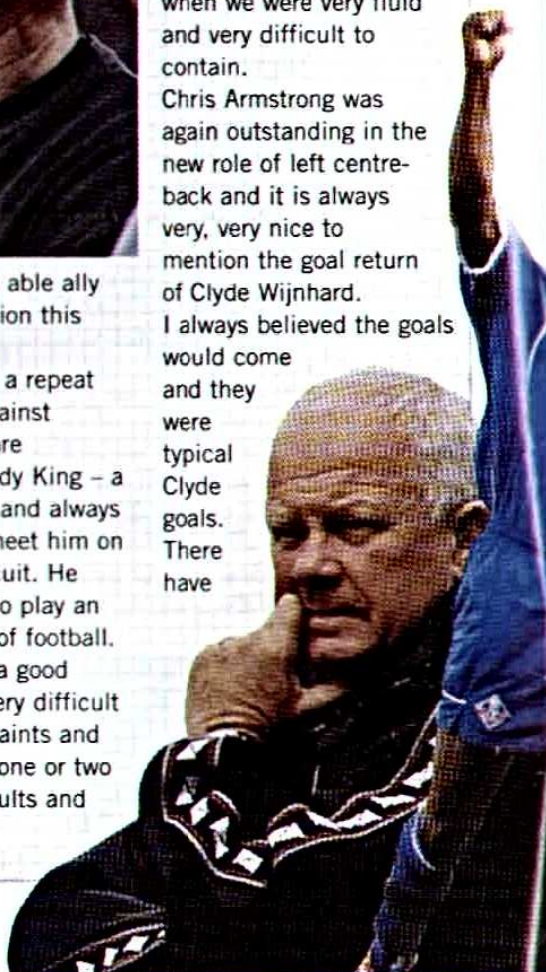
We will look for a repeat performance against Swindon, who are managed by Andy King – a great character and always fun when you meet him on the football circuit. He likes his sides to play an attractive style of football. They have had a good season under very difficult financial constraints and have produced one or two outstanding results and runs, so we are

aware it will be a very difficult task.

However we will be looking forward to a repeat home performance, particularly for the first 45 minutes and last 20 minutes of the game against Chesterfield when we were very fluid and very difficult to contain.

Chris Armstrong was again outstanding in the new role of left centre-back and it is always very, very nice to mention the goal return of Clyde Wijnhard.

I always believed the goals would come and they were typical Clyde goals. There have



JOHN HARBIN



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POST MATCH
INTERVIEW
AND
MATCH
HIGHLIGHTS
ON
LATICS WORLD**

OLDHAM ATHLETIC

5

been a number of outstanding performances all season and it was particularly pleasing to see Fitz Hall and Will Haining again show what quality players they have become and, together with Chris Armstrong, they will only improve in the years to come.

MONUMENTAL

I do not want to single out players, but David Eyres at 39 has been monumental and continues to defy logic by managing somewhere near 15 goals, while his commitment and effort have been inspirational.

He is a model for all young pros to follow.

It was an excellent all-round performance, everyone involved that day deserves special praise, and it sent us on the

trip to champions Wigan in good spirit. We started fantastically with a goal straight from the kick-off involving David Eyres, Josh Low, Clyde Wijnhard and a wonderful finish from the ever-improving Wayne Andrews.

TIME TO BOUNCE BACK

However from that moment of inspiration some 12 seconds into the game, our performance lacked the guile, creativity and drive that has been so evident in recent weeks. To perform like that in such a big game was a bitter disappointment to myself, the staff and the team itself, but I know we will use it as a positive and bounce back because every time we have faced disappointment this season we done just that. I am not drawing a line under this defeat. We will learn from it and analyse the video, but we must bounce back as we have done this year. To only

lose, hopefully, two games away from home all year is a monumental achievement and one we should all cherish. We did feel that we had the beating of Wigan on the day, but our performance was not to be and it is no good spinning it some other way, it was a bad day at the office. But



this season has been all about positives and we want to end our league campaign here with a good performance in front of you, the fans, who have supported us so resolutely this year.

We hope you are here in numbers and with your best singing voices. We need a big atmosphere for this game and those to come. Once again I thank you for your outstanding effort and in your financial commitment when the club faced difficulties.

I hope you have enjoyed the product this year and you have my word there will be no stone left unturned to further improve the performance in the years to come.

Yours in absolute appreciation, Iain Dowie.

COME ON LATICS

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DAVID EYRES

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JOHN WILLIE TO HIS MATES



PRESSING Matters

Football is littered with managerial casualties every season, but few pour out their innermost feelings in advance of them walking out. Chestfield boss Dave Rushbury did just that, here at Boundary Park at Saturday. He had just watched his side humiliated 4-0 by Latics. With surprising frankness Rushbury chose his words deliberately and told the after match press conference: "I don't want to leave anybody in the lurch but I am wondering whether I want to put myself through any more of this."

"I will take a look at myself, not just because of this game, but because we are clearly not getting the results we need. "I have enjoyed being the manager for this football club and I believe I have made changes to its benefit. "But I am seriously considering my position." Rushbury, who was under contract until the end of the season, added pointedly: "Maybe it is time for someone else to bring out the potential which this team definitely has."

"Over the last six to eight months we have fought against all sorts of things, inside and outside, and it is taking its toll."

"I will have word with the chairman and see what my future holds."

Three days later he was gone, his resignation accepted.

Former Manchester United skipper Bryan Robson, now working as a newspaper columnist, has paid tribute to his old pal and teammate Peter Schmeichel. The Great Dane has called time on his illustrious career and will leave Manchester City at the end of the season. Robson said: "Peter wasn't just one of the best goalkeepers I have played alongside - he was one of the all-time greats."

"He was right up there with Lev Yashin and Peter Shilton."

"He has had a tremendous career and had the ability to make outfield players better at their jobs, too."

"He was a great communicator as well as being a winner."

He kept his teammates in front of him on their toes and that is why I say he made players better."

"Peter Schmeichel will be remembered fondly by both Manchester clubs."



"Over the last six to eight months we have fought against all sorts of things, inside and outside, and it is taking its toll."

DAVE RUSHBURY
Speaking after the 4-0 defeat here at Boundary Park.



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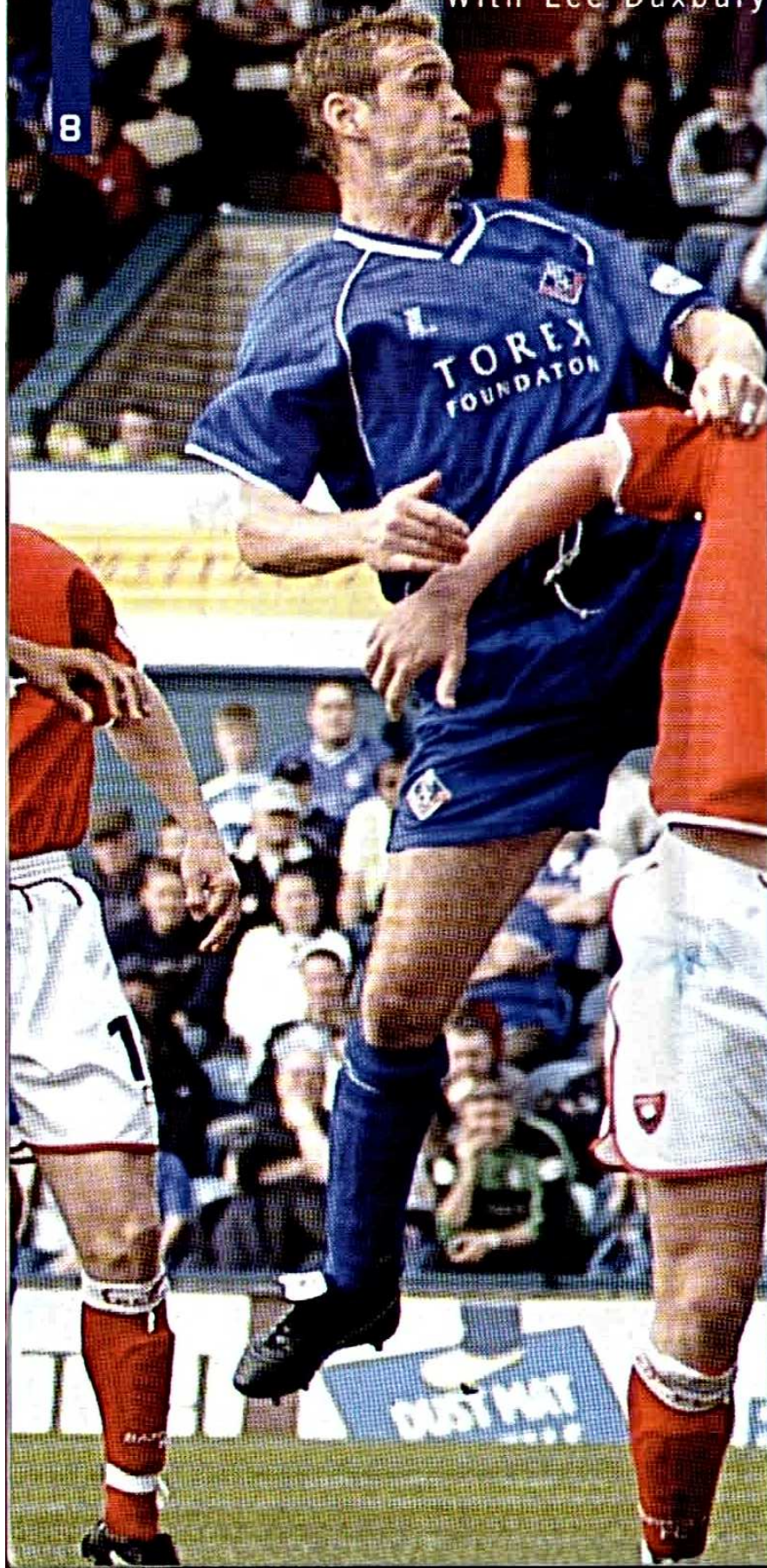
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ENCOUNTERS Close

With Lee Duxbury



Oldham Athletic club captain Lee Duxbury began the season in the knowledge that he wouldn't be playing as much as he had in previous campaigns, but will end it with at least two reasons to smile.

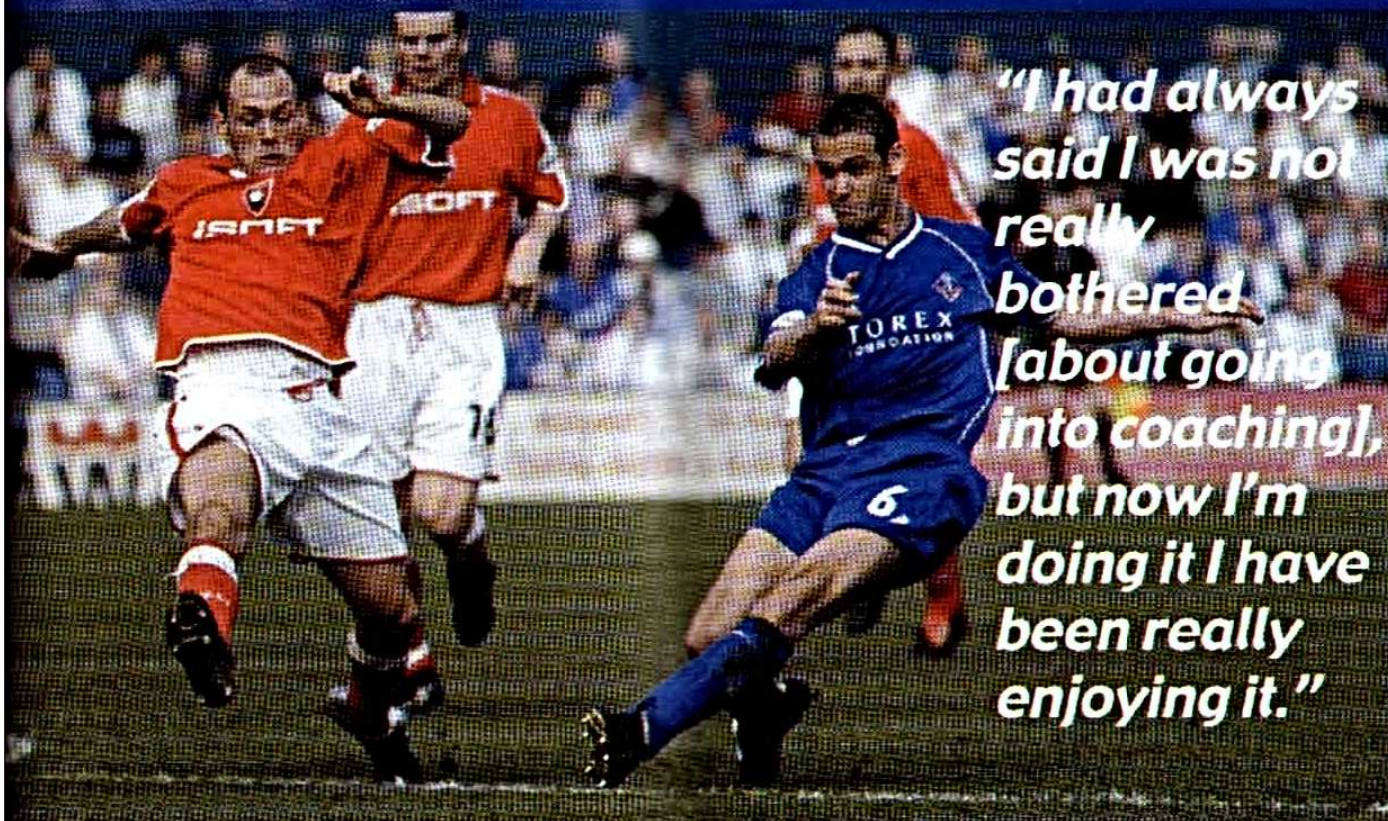
For Duxbury, who cost Athletic £350,000 from Bradford City in March 1997, has made 34 League appearances this season in Latics' push for promotion to Division One and also been given coaching responsibilities for the youth and reserve sides.

STEP UP TO COACHING

"Personally I have had a good season on the pitch in the first team," explained Duxbury, whose elevation with John Sheridan to the coaching ranks came after the redundancies of David Cross and Billy Urmson in February.

"I had a chat with the gaffer at the start of the season and he said he wasn't going to use me as much as I had been playing. For the last 10 or 12 years I have usually played 50 matches a year, but I think I'm the seventh highest in appearances this year.

"I have done quite well considering I wasn't expecting to play as much and I'm quite happy with that aspect...but with all this hard work we've put in we want to win both our matches and make sure we're in the playoffs.



"I had always said I was not really bothered [about going into coaching], but now I'm doing it I have been really enjoying it."

"I have enjoyed the coaching very much. It is hard work when you are new to it, but after a season, when you realise what it's all about, it will be easier for me. I am not scared of hard work, it's the way I've been brought up really. "I have been given an opportunity which a lot of ex-players would die for and I have got to grasp it. I had always said I was not really bothered [about going into coaching], but now I'm doing it I have been really enjoying it."

OLDHAM BOUND

The midfielder, who is moving to Oldham to ensure he sees more of his family around his increased workload, began his career as a trainee with Bradford City and

made 209 League appearances before joining Huddersfield for £250,000 in December 1994. However 11 months later the 33-year-old, who had a loan spell with Rochdale in January 1990, returned to Valley Parade in a £135,000 deal to add another 63 League appearances to his total before his departure for Boundary Park.

"I have enjoyed it tremendously, Oldham Athletic is a very family-orientated club," enthused Duxbury, who has won promotion via the playoffs with both Huddersfield and Bradford City...and hopes to make it a hat-trick this season.

"I have always been successful as a player; I have been captain and

been up there with Player of the Year. In the first few seasons we struggled at the wrong end of the table, but now we are at the other end it is enjoyable."

AND TODAY?

What then is Duxbury, who will reach 250 League appearances for Athletic if he plays against Swindon Town and former club Huddersfield, expecting from today's game?

"A win," concluded Duxbury, who has made more than 550 League appearances in his 15-year career. "No other result will do this weekend."

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PARK LIFE

PLAYER OF THE YEAR PRESENTATIONS

Today will see a different format for the presentations of the Player of the Year. Normally these would take place before kick off but this afternoon they will take place after the game.

At the end of the game the players will make a lap of honour around the stadium to thank fans for their support over the last 12 months.

During the lap of honour a stage will be erected in the centre of the pitch. The Arena of Life will then perform a 20-minute show followed by an address from Latics Manager Iain Dowie.

Then the Lookers Player of the Month award followed by the Boundary Blues Player of the Year and then the Supporters Association Player of the Season award will be made and then most prestigious of all the Lookers Player of the Season will take place.

The event should only take an extra 35 minutes in total and should be spectacular ... so don't leave the stadium too early or you will miss a great event.

DOUBLE DUTCH

Han van Eijden was a welcome visitor to Boundary Park against Chesterfield last weekend.

Han lives in Holland, Woerden to be precise, and is a follower of the Feyenoord Football Club.

Han's visit to Boundary Park was in fact the 92nd English ground he had visited throughout the Football League.

Clyde Wijnhard, an ex-Ajax player (arch enemies of Feyenoord), presented Hans with a plaque (left) to commemorate the occasion and



after the game handed over his match shirt!

Hans and his colleagues thought that Latics were fantastic and the Boundary Park hospitality was second to none.

IT'S A REVOLUTION



Revolution Radio 96.2 visited Boundary Park with their lunchtime quiz show. Latics' famous quiz team of Dean (repeat the question) Holden, John (it must be Hull) Eyre, David (Red Rum) Miskelly and Les (dingo) Pogliacomi were superb amassing 200 points to go into fifth place.

Chris Gregg, the Revolution's programme controller and presenter, was quizmaster of the event, which took place in the Chronicle Suite.

CHRONICLE SUPPORTS THE LATICS

On the Lookers car park today you will find a van selling merchandise sponsored by The Chronicle.

By calling at the van you will be able to purchase Latics 'Thundersticks' for £2.50 and Latics 'Fan Hands' for £3.

The Chronicle are backing Latics throughout the play offs and by purchasing one or both of the items you will be supporting Latics financially.





£493 TO SPONSOR

Latics' Strike it Lucky jackpot of £493 was last week won by Peter Worrall, a staunch Latics fan and sponsor.

Peter's winning ticket number 40567 was drawn by Alan McNeil the ex-Latics star.

Peter Worrall is

head of Scania Trucks at Middleton, a long-term sponsor at Oldham Athletic.



GOING TO THE McALPINE?

Fans who are travelling "over the hill" to visit the McAlpine Stadium for the Huddersfield Town v Oldham

Athletic game next Saturday should be aware of the contents of a letter we received from The Terriers. Huddersfield inform us that "In order to assure good crowd behaviour stewards will address the difficulty persistent standing of supporters in seating areas throughout the game.

"Huddersfield have adopted a no-tolerance approach

to spectators standing during the match.

"Huddersfield Town do not wish any supporter to jeopardise his or her own safety and that of other people. "It is an offence for any spectator to persistently stand in a seated area. "Your cooperation will be appreciated".

COMMUNITY COACHING FOR ALL

Latics coaches Tommy Wright, Gil Prescott, Ronnie Millward, Gary Lewis, Frank Wolstenholme, Dennis Taylor and Chris Reape took charge of an open session day at the all weather pitch at Chapel Road last week. Hundreds of children from all over the borough took part in skills training sessions and six-a-side matches, a few names were noted ... who knows, they could be the next stars of Boundary Park!!



ARE YOU YOUR TEAMS BIGGEST FAN?



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sponsor of the Football League, is looking to hear from fanatical football supporters who dedicate their life in support of their first, and maybe only, true love - their football team. So, if you support one of the 72 Football League teams and you think you are your teams biggest and most loyal fan we want to hear from you.

All you have to do is visit nationwide.co.uk/football and explain to us why you think you are your clubs greatest fan. A

panel of judges will then decide which fan has shown the greatest commitment, sacrifice or loyalty to their team. One winner from each of the 72 Football League clubs will be given a pair of season tickets for season 2003/4 as a reward for their outstanding support. The closing date for entries is May 31st, prizes will be pre-designated seats and all winners will be notified by Friday June 13th.



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OLDHAM ATHLETIC

A PAGE DEDICATED TO OUR COUNTERPARTS IN DIVISION 2
TODAY WE LOOK AT WIGAN, STOCKPORT, HUDDERSFIELD, PORT VALE, QPR AND BARNSELY



PAUL JEWELL'S reward for steering Wigan Athletic to promotion

will be a new two-year contract. Wigan sealed

promotion and also the Second Division title with four matches remaining, and without kicking a ball as Crewe's 2-2 home draw against Bristol City the Tuesday before Easter confirmed them as champions.

While Latics and Wigan have each lost only

twice away in the league, Jewell's side has amassed even more wins and points on its travels. It has 15 victories and collected an amazing 50 points compared with 42 picked up by Iain Dowie's side.

FORM GUIDE
WLWWDW

STOCKPORT COUNTY will have the Second Division's tallest player next season after signing 6ft 7in central defender Rob Jones from Unibond League club Gateshead.



Jones (22), who is Gateshead's 12 goal top scorer, recently had a trial with Latics but it was Stockport who came up with a firm offer for the player who had also been a target for Stoke City. As Jones was signed after

the transfer deadline, Stockport fans will have to wait until next season before seeing him in action.

FORM GUIDE
DLWWWW

DENIS LAW, the former Manchester United and Scotland legend, has been unveiled as the honorary president of the Huddersfield Town Survival Trust. Law, who kicked off his career with the Terriers, is the figurehead for the Trust which has already raised £40,000 from subscriptions and

donations. Fans are digging deep to help Town and recently came up with the readies for an overnight stay in Swindon which had been scrapped for financial reasons.

Three consortiums are interested in buying the club, including one featuring former director Paul Haigh.

FORM GUIDE
LLWWDL



Valiant 2001 have appealed to fans to buy £160,000 of shares so they can complete the takeover of Port Vale.

The group, which beat off rivals to exchange contracts with administrators Poppleton and Appleby, need to raise £500,000 by

the end of April to satisfy the Football League.

FORM GUIDE
LDWWLD

KEVIN GALLEN has landed a hat trick of awards at QPR who are all but assured of



a play-off place. The striker has been voted supporters' player of the year, players' player while

he has also scored the club's goal of the season.

FORM GUIDE
LWOWWW



Cash-strapped Barnsley, who recently came out of administration, can at last raise their glasses to some

financial cheer, a sponsorship deal with a vodka firm. The two year shirt sponsorship deal with VK Vodka Kick is reported to be worth a six-figure sum and owner

Peter Doyle says he hopes it is the beginning of a long and fruitful relationship.

FORM GUIDE
DLLLWL

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2. WAYNE ANDREWS SMASHES LATICS INTO A ELEVENTH SECOND LEAD.

3. CLYDE WIINHARD CELEBRATES LATICS SECOND GOAL AGAINST CHESTERFIELD.

4. WILL HAINING, ONCE AGAIN A TOWER OF STRENGTH
5. DAVID EYRES DRILLS HOME NUMBER FOUR AGAINST THE SPIRETTES.

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ANDREWS, WIJNHARD (2), EYRES

OLDHAM ATHLETIC

15



THE BURNING ISSUE

Whatever he does, wherever he goes, Wayne Rooney will rarely be out of the spotlight.

That is the price the Everton wonderkid will pay for becoming a virtually overnight sensation following his fabulous debut for England.

Teenager Rooney is already something of a cult figure for the blue part of Merseyside and there is little doubt that the world stage awaits.

He is set to make a fortune and good luck to him.

This week he got caught up in a spitting row following the Liverpool-Everton derby and it is odds-on that he will find himself in the football pressure cooker for the rest of his career.

Welcome to the goldfish bowl of stardom.

JUST A KID...

But one thing that should be remembered in all the Rooney mania is that the kid is, well, just a kid.

He is a 17-year-old who just happens to play football for a living, and does it well.

So did George Best and Paul Gascoigne but they were eventually swallowed up by the pitfalls and pressures.

Their prodigious talents made heroes of them but they couldn't handle the fame and adulation that went with it. We all know where it led. And what a waste.

There is nothing to suggest that the young Rooney, who has been labelled as the new Alan Shearer, will fall into the same trap, but Everton boss David Moyes was right when he said England should NOT select him for their next game in South Africa in May.

He, like fellow Scot Sir Alex Ferguson did with his young eagles at old Trafford, has thrown a protective arm around the lad. Moyes explained: "What is the point of us trying to look after Wayne if he is to be travelling all over the world.

"It is not so much the extra games which are the worry but the length of time he will be away.

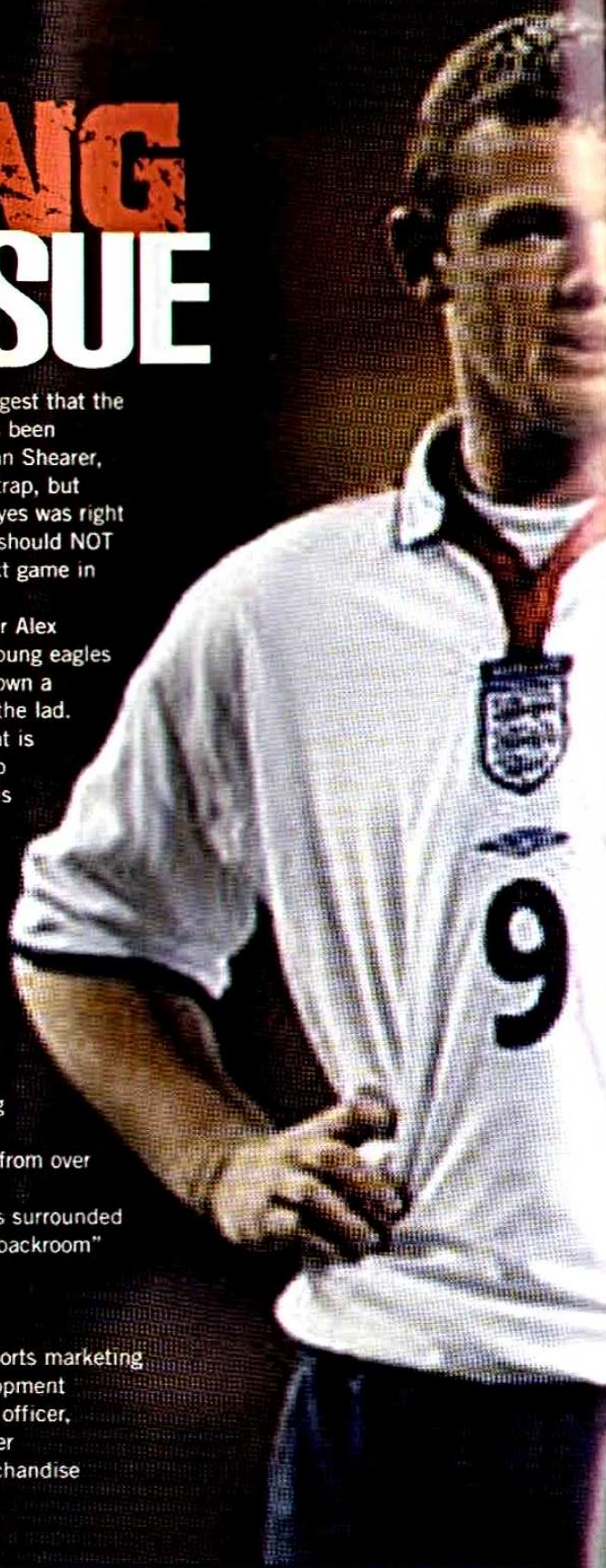
"We are all thrilled for Wayne. He cares about his club and is just starting out on the long road.

"We must protect him from over exposure."

To that end Rooney has surrounded himself with his own "backroom" team.

BUSINESS SENSE.

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Rooney's destiny will be in their hands. Top agent Paul Stretford, who has shaped the lives of many professional footballers, is also mindful of that his latest signing was at school this time last year.

He says: "Most footballers of his age come through the system gradually, his progress has been like a volcanic explosion.

"The life-change he and his family have had to contend with has been cataclysmic."

So far Rooney has taken it all in his youthful stride and he is also fortunate to have the added safety net of a caring family.

The youngster is said to be on £13,000 a week which probably makes him the country's highest earning teenager but that is peanuts to what prudent management can bring in over the coming years.

GOOD ENOUGH?

In sport it is often said that if you are good enough then you are old enough. There is no doubt that Rooney can live his dream on the football pitch - it is off it where possible problems lie in wait. Rooney is said to enjoy riding his BMX, meeting his mates down the chippie and spending time with his girlfriend. Isn't that what most 17-year-olds do?...And long may it continue. He has the world at his feet, let's hope the rug isn't pulled from under them. The Life of Wayne Rooney is unlikely to be the same again. Only time will tell how football's latest hero will cope.

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He wore the blue shirt

So who do you reckon is the greatest full-back ever to represent Latics?

There is no lack of competition, but it's hard to think of anyone who could surpass Mr Consistency himself, Denis Irwin.

Incredibly, the Irishman was available on a free transfer when Latics snapped him up in the summer of 1986. Seventeen years later, he is still performing at a high level for Wolves. And in between, he became one of the most medal-laden footballers of the modern era.

OUT IN THE COLD

Born in Cork in 1965, Denis showed great promise as a teenager when he established himself at Schoolboy and Youth international levels.

He turned professional at Leeds United and had rattled up over 80 senior appearances by the age of 20.

Yet Leeds boss Billy Bremner decided to release the young man, who interested two clubs as he looked to pick up the pieces of his career.

Chesterfield offered higher wages, but thankfully Denis opted for Latics, reasoning they were in the (old) second division and had recently signed his good friend Andy Linighan.

It was to prove an inspired choice for both parties as Irwin and Oldham Athletic were an ideal marriage of styles.

The player himself was highly proficient in defence but also excelled at getting forward. And Latics were piecing together their best squad for years, one which loved to attack from all channels.

GLORY BOY

It's surely no accident that Irwin's first year at Boundary Park saw Athletic go close to promotion, only missing out in the play-offs against his old team Leeds.

The following two seasons were less successful, but Denis proved himself a classy all-rounder who could be relied upon to perform impressively week in, week out. He never seemed to have a bad game, regardless of the opposition and no matter what the circumstances.

At the back, he hardly put a foot wrong; his distribution was wise and accurate; and, whenever there was a free kick around the opposition penalty area, he had a sledgehammer of a right foot.

Latics swept through 1989/90 on a tide of cup euphoria, with Irwin playing in 60 games before he suffered a groin strain at Wembley, not that you would



Denis Irwin

have noticed as he played on regardless for an hour. But the Littlewoods Cup final proved his swansong as Manchester United moved in with an offer of 625,000 (rising to 700,000) and Latics made their record sale.

RED LETTER DAYS

Stepping up a grade was no bother at all to Denis, who immediately bedded in alongside fellow new boys Gary Pallister and Paul Ince.

A switch from right to left, brought about by United's capture of Paul Parker, was also taken in his calm stride. And the honours began to arrive. Flow became flood after United won their first title for a quarter of a century and launched a clear domination of English football.

Denis helped them to seven championships, two FA Cups, a League Cup, the European Cup Winners' Cup, the European Super Cup and, most prestigious of all, the 1999 Champions League.

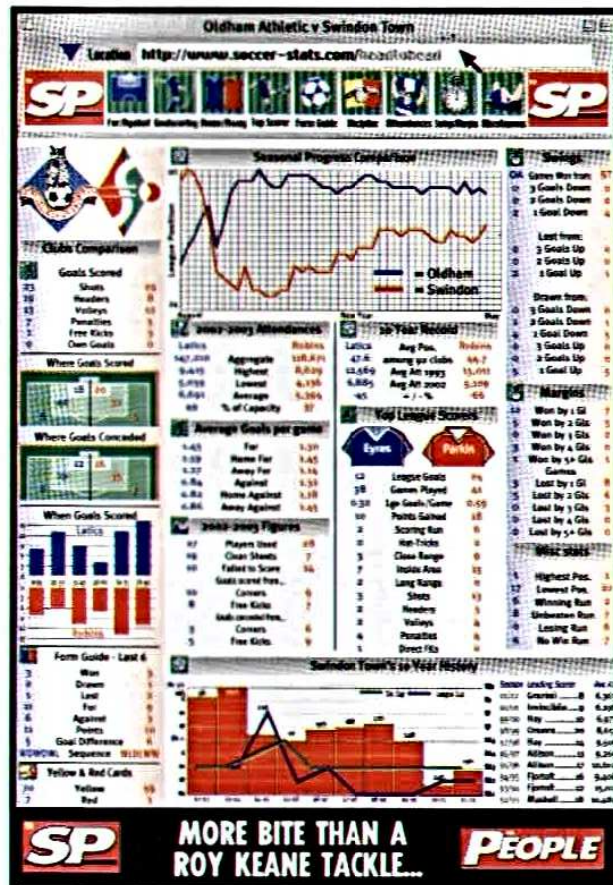
He became only the sixth player to reach 500 appearances for United and, in addition, won 56 caps for the Republic.

Not bad at all, especially for someone who could have ended up on the scrapheap.

[illegible]

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PEOPLE



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TODAY WE LOOK AT SOME OF THE FIRST GOALSCORER ODDS AVAILABLE FOR THIS AFTERNOON'S MATCH.

Clyde Wijnhard @ 4/1
Wayne Andrews @ 9/2
Carlo Corazzin @ 11/2
Scott Vernon @ 11/2
David Eyres @ 9/1
Josh Low @ 12/1
Lee Duxbury @ 14/1
Paul Murray @ 14/1
Fitz Hall @ 25/1
Clint Hill @ 28/1
Chris Armstrong @ 33/1
Julien Baudet @ 33/1
David Beharall @ 33/1
Will Haining @ 33/1
Darren Sheridan @ 40/1
Sam Parkin @ 15/2
Alan Young @ 10/1
Danny Invincibile @ 16/1

ALWAYS ON ALERT - BE OUR NEXT SIGNING

One of the best ways to keep in touch with what's going on at Boundary Park is through our exclusive SMS Service. (The only service which actually benefits the club.)

It's now easy to subscribe to the Latics SMS service, just send a text saying CLUB OLDH ON to 82222 and that's it, you can also sign up through the website by visiting the Mobile Zone section of www.oldhamathletic.co.uk. (The

service is available for all UK networks. Alerts cost no more than 25p (incl vat)

As well as getting all the goals and team news from the Easter weekend games against Chesterfield and Wigan and manager Iain Dowie's thoughts on those matches, this week also saw subscribers getting news of a triallist playing in the reserves and the announcement of club restructuring from Chris Moore.



**LATICS WORLD
FREE TRIAL**

Due to unprecedented demand, we have extended our free trial until the end of the season. So, sign up at any time between now and when the final ball is kicked, and you will receive the first 24 hours absolutely FREE! Latics World continues to bring you exclusive video and audio from Boundary Park and our games on the road. Since last Saturday's programme, we have got footage of Iain Dowie's post match press comments following the win over Chesterfield and defeat at Wigan and we also have highlights of both matches in the highlights section. John Sheridan also spoke to Latics World this week about his retirement from playing, his new role as a coach and his pleasure in the Under 19's title win.

LATICS ON DVD

You can now see the Latics 2-1 win over Barnsley again and again,

whenever you want as we have produced a DVD of the match including pre and post match interviews and full commentary from Latics World's Dan Shaw.



DVD's are on sale in the club shop now priced just £16.99 (Latics World subscribers can get them for just £14.99) In the club shop today there should also be DVD's of last Saturday's excellent 4-0 win over Chesterfield again featuring pre and post match interviews and all the action with full commentary, these are again priced £16.99 and just £14.99 for Latics World subscribers.

WEB WATCH

www.oldhamathletic.co.uk

TOTAL FC

The Government is set to launch an investigation into football's finances - the biggest in the game's history. A far-reaching probe will involve more than 150 MP's and peers and it is expected to last for six months. The inquiry will be led by Labour MP Alan Keen, chairman of the Parliamentary football group.

The crisis facing the game has been brought about by the collapse of ITV digital and sky high wages, some of the biggest in Europe. But Government officials want more money from the wealthy clubs to find its way into the Nationwide leagues. And they could even bring in legislation to make it happen. They believe it may be the only way of securing the futures of clubs in the lower leagues.

Managers, directors, broadcasters and fans will all be asked for their views. Brussels have plans in the pipeline for clubs to negotiate to negotiate their television deals but that would only benefits clubs with a global appeal. It would allow the livies of mighty Manchester United to tap into an Asian market worth around £700M a

season - but for smaller clubs it would be disastrous.

According to figures revealed by Soccer Investor magazine, only SIX Premiership clubs showed a profit in their last accounts.

Not surprisingly Manchester United - the richest club in the world - had the best balance sheet with a return of £32.3M.

Their debts stand at £39.2M but the club's market value is a whopping £366.3M and no other club even gets into three figures.

The other clubs in profit are Spurs, Everton, West Brom, Southampton and Liverpool. Even double-chasing north London giants Arsenal had a £23.3M loss with a club market value of 94.3M.

By far the biggest debt is at glamour club Chelsea and they must surely be hoping they hit the Champions League jackpot by the end of the season. They lost £16.5M and are in the red to the tune of £136.M with a market value of of just £25.4M.

Former Leeds United chairman Peter Ridsdale, who quit over the club's growing financial crisis, is also to be quizzed by the inquiry team and will no doubt have plenty to say. Their loss is showed at

£33.9M - the biggest in the Premiership - with debts of £117.8M and a market value of just £14.8M.

MP Keen - a Middlesborough supporter - said: "We have to look at ways to help clubs avoid going bust." Boro also have money problems.

They had losses of £21.9M, debts of £76.7M and a market value of £7.5M.



Mr. Keen could look to his own bosses for help because tax experts claim that the Government is raking in around £500M a year from football.

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FOOTBALL

OLDHAM ATHLETIC

23



Manchester United
Market value

+£32.3m
£366.3m

Everton, Spurs, Southampton, West Brom and Liverpool...
All made a profit over the last year.



Arsenal
Market value

-£23.3m
£94.3m



Chelsea
Market value

-£16.5m
£25.4m



Middlesbrough
Market value

-£21.9m
£7.5m



Leeds United
Market value

-£33.9m
£14.8m

Former Leeds United
Chairman Peter Ridsdale.



The big money transfers of several key players such as Jonathan Woodgate, Rio Ferdinand, Robbie Fowler and Robbie Keane did little to please the Clubs fans or accountants...



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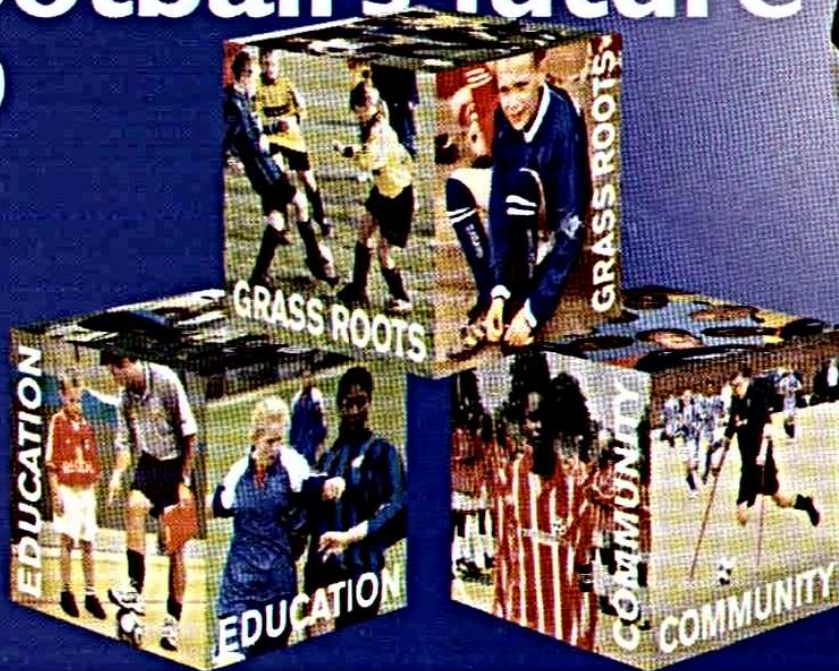
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WAYNE ANDREWS ON THE RACE TO BE KING OF THE CASTLE...

THE charge is on to be Latics' top scorer for season 2002/03, with David Eyres leading the way and Clyde Wijnhard tucked in one goal behind on 13.

But momentum counts for a lot in any race . . . and right now the force is with breakneck striker Wayne Andrews. Lightning quick Wayne has struck five in the last six games, reaching a dozen goals in his first year back in the professional ranks. Northampton (twice), Barnsley, Chesterfield and Wigan have all been unable to stop him, but Wayne is constantly raising his targets.

PASS MASTER

He explained: "Just the other day, I spoke to the gaffer and told him I felt able to score in every game. "Confidence is very important for strikers and, although it wasn't a problem before, I'm going out believing a goal will come. "The gaffer and Tony Philliskirk have worked hard with me, and I'm taking chances now which I might have missed seven or eight games ago. "My finishing has definitely improved. I'm trying to pass the ball into the net more often and stay cool in the head. "I might have had 16 or 17 goals by now if I had finished like that all season, but the most important thing is to learn from your mistakes. "I can get there so quickly that I don't always realise how much time I have got. There is no need to snatch at things, whereas I could be guilty of that before."

PARTNERS IN CRIME

Wayne has formed a good understanding with Clyde Wijnhard, and they are establishing themselves as Iain Dowie's first-choice pairing. When Clyde ended a lengthy scoring drought in the home game

against Chesterfield last week, his sidekick was first on the scene. Wayne said: "I was delighted for Clyde because he deserved those two goals. It was hard for him after his injury, especially as he didn't even play a reserve game before he came back.

"People expected him to carry on where he left off and just start scoring again, but he had to get normal fitness followed by match fitness.

"It must have taken quite a few games to find his feet again, but maybe Clyde just needed a bit of luck around the box, which he got from a Chesterfield mistake.

"From my point of view, he's great to play up front with and his hold-up play seems to blend well with my pace.

"Clyde might not track back all that much, but he's a finisher, he's a great platform for our attacks and he has loads of the qualities you look for in a striker."

LIGHTNING STRIKE

Wayne struck the fastest goal of his career on Monday, pouncing within 11 astonishing seconds at champions Wigan.

It comfortably beat his previous best, which was after a minute and a half for Watford, but unfortunately didn't prevent defeat at the JJB Stadium.

While that result meant Latics were still short of a clear cut play-off spot, Wayne is hoping to settle any nerves with a win over Swindon today.

He said: "Tranmere are doing their utmost to spoil things by catching us, but we are confident against anyone. It's another big game against Swindon and hopefully we'll make sure of our place."





Swindon Town manager Andy King has certainly had an eventful tenure since his appointment in November 2000, only five months after his arrival at the County Ground as Colin Todd's assistant.

The former Mansfield Town manager successfully kept the Robins in Division Two, albeit only after a tense final day defeat of Peterborough United coupled with Bristol Rovers' defeat by Wycombe Wanderers.

However this was not enough to secure his own future with former Liverpool boss Roy Evans replacing him. King took court action against the club and, with Evans stay only a short one, the former Everton midfielder was back in charge in December 2001.

EVER PRESENT

Ever-present in the League this season has been goalkeeper Bart Griemink, the former Dutch Under-21 international now in his third season with Swindon after a free transfer from Peterborough in June 2000. Youth scheme graduate Craig Farr is highly regarded by the club and made his senior debut as a substitute in the LDV Vans Trophy defeat of Southend in October, before earning his first start in the second round against Kidderminster Harriers.

Central defender Alan Reeves, twin brother of former Latics striker David, was told he could leave the club

in 2000 but forced then manager Todd to reconsider. The 35-year-old made the 400th League appearance of his career earlier this season. Another ever-present is defender Matthew Heywood, who swept the board in the Player of the Year awards last term. The 23-year-old failed to make the breakthrough at Burnley and joined Swindon on a free transfer in January 2001.

Australian Under-23 international Gareth Edds initially joined Swindon on a month's loan from Nottingham Forest in August, but the right-back then signed for a year. Fellow defender Adam Willis has featured little this year because of injury. Defender cum midfielder Andy Gurney has made more than 300 League appearances in a career that began with hometown club Bristol Rovers. The 29-year-old, who arrived on a free transfer from Reading in June 2001, has scored nine goals this season.

Another Bristolian is Matthew Hewlett, albeit this time with City. The former England Youth international suffered a number of injuries early in his career, but the midfielder passed the 100 League appearance mark for Swindon earlier this month.

Australian midfielder Danny Invincible, who has scored eight goals this season, has been

virtually ever-present since his arrival in July 2000, having been recommended to the club by then West Ham manager Harry Redknapp. Steve Robinson has been another regular in midfield this season, his third with the club following his £50,000 arrival from Birmingham City in February 2001. Another virtual ever-present is David Duke, a free transfer from Sunderland in 2000.

The same cannot be said for Keith O'Halloran, who has not played since breaking his leg at Bournemouth in September 2001, while Junior Lewis arrived on loan from Leicester City last month.

GRADUATES

Four young scheme graduates looking to make the breakthrough are Nathan Edwards, David Bampton, Kevin Halliday and Mark Draycott. Another, Ian Herring, made his senior debut earlier this month, following in the footsteps of midfielder Darren Dykes, who had a trial with Tottenham before signing from Buckingham Town this season.

Central midfielder cum defender Stefani Miglioranzi is a product of the American College system and played Major League Soccer. The 24-year-old has impressed since joining Swindon from Portsmouth in July.



BART GRIEMINK



ANDY GURNEY



SWINDON TOWN



ROBINS' MANAGER
ANDY KING

OLDHAM ATHLETIC

27

TOP SCORER

One player who has had the scouts flocking to Swindon this season is striker Sam Parkin, the club's top scorer with 24 goals following his arrival from Chelsea in August. The former England Schools international failed to make the breakthrough at Chelsea, but impressed during several loan spells, including one with Athletic that produced three goals in seven games at the end of the 2000/01 season.

Eric Sabin has scored four goals in his second season with Swindon, the little-known Frenchman having arrived on a free transfer from Wasquehal in June 2001. Another option is teenager Alan Young, a product of his hometown club's youth system.



LOCAL HERO COLIN CALDERWOOD

01/07/85 - 22/07/93
APPEARANCES
412
GOALS
21

OTHER CLUBS
Nottingham Forest
Aston Villa
Tottenham Hotspur
Swindon Town
Mansfield Town
Tottenham Hotspur

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS:
Scotland: 36 caps 1 goal

Born in August 1956, in Luton, King made his name as a lively midfielder having joined his home town club in 1974. His next stop was Everton, the club with which most people associate him, who he signed for in 1976 for £35,000.

He made 150 appearances for The Toffees, scoring an impressive 38 goals in four seasons at Goodison before joining QPR.

Having retired as a player, he turned to coaching, and was given his first managerial appointment at Mansfield Town in 1993 following George Foster's departure.

Following that Andy spent some time out of management but was still involved in the game, and was working with former Everton team-mate Peter Reid at Premiership club Sunderland as a scout when Colin Todd took him to Swindon as his assistant manager in the summer of 2000.

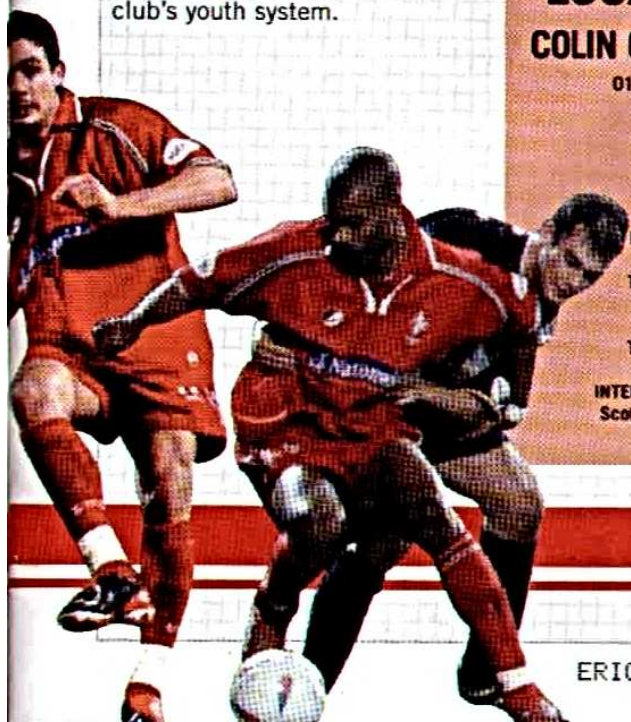
When Todd got the call from Jim Smith to be his assistant at Derby County, King was given the opportunity to impress chairman Terry Brady, and after four games in charge he was given the job full-time, on November 6, 2000.

ROBINS BEST EVER ELEVEN?



ERIC SABIN

DANNY INVINCIBLE



the boys a bit special

NUMBER 9

SAM PARKIN

Birthplace: Roehampton
DOB: 14/03/1981
Position: Attacker
Signed: 09/08/2002

Red Cards: 1
Yellow Cards: 0
Goals so far this season: 24

Very young and very promising forward who joined the club from Chelsea on Thursday August 1, 2002. 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. However, whilst at the club he joined several other clubs on loan and it is with them that he built up a reputation as a lethal striker. Joined Millwall in September 2000 and made his debut in the Football League for the Lions in a 5-0 demolition of Oxford United. Netted a brace on his first ever appearance and made it three in two with another against Peterborough at London Road. He then went on loan to Wycombe Wanderers in November 2000 after having a trial with Queens Park Rangers. He also had the option of a temporary move to Luton but decided to join the Adams Park outfit. Scored twice in 13 games for the Chairboys. Went on loan once again to Oldham Athletic before joining Northampton last season. Has been prolific for the Robins this season scoring 24 goals.



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ANTIPODEAN DUO EDGING CLOSER...

OUR AUSSIE GOALKEEPER AND KIWIS STRIKER ARE STARTING TO MAKE DECENT PROGRESS FOLLOWING THEIR RESPECTIVE BACK AND ANKLE INJURIES.

Big Les, as you know, has been suffering from a lower back condition, which is causing irritation on his sciatic nerve.

The nature of this type of injury restricts most activities, and it has been a particularly frustrating few weeks for Les as he watches his teammates go out to train and play. However, his symptoms are slowly beginning to settle, and a further visit to a specialist surgeon, at the time of writing, will hopefully confirm that he will be pushing for a return to action very shortly. With regard to our Kiwi centre forward, Chris Killen, the ankle injury, which has troubled him for a number of weeks, has improved sufficiently to allow him to return to training. It's been a peculiar type of injury, which has puzzled our surgeon as to the source of discomfort.



Again, like Les, Chrissy has made good recent progress, which encourages us to believe that he will be back before the end of the season.



END OF SEASON COMES EARLY

Two of our first team squad members have finally had to succumb to their playing season being over earlier than planned.

I've already mentioned that surgery has put an end to Deano's season, and his rehabilitation begins in earnest this week, in preparation for next season.

Our other casualty, Matt Appleby, has also had to write the season off due to his persistent hip problems. Our surgeon confirmed that Matty should concentrate on

targeting being fit for pre-season training in order to let the injury fully settle down.

WILKY AND SCHOEY UPDATE

Two of our bright young scholars have also had to end their playing season early.

Despite Paul Wilkinson's best efforts, his ankle injury will not be fully healed until the season finishes. Wilky has stuck to his rehabilitation diligently this season, despite numerous setbacks. However, it should be a good learning experience for him, and I've no doubt that if he works extremely hard over the summer, he will have a much stronger new season. Likewise, Marc Schofield, who underwent knee surgery, earlier in the season, has had to target next season for a return to playing. Schoey has battled hard throughout the season to regain full fitness and was very close to a return to action before aggravating the problem.

Similarly, with a summer of hard work behind him, Schoey, I'm sure, will play a big part in next year's youth team.

Paul Caton



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WELCOME EVERYONE TO BOUNDARY PARK ...

Home of the Gods to the last game in the regular season. What a great season we've had, and it's not over yet by a long way, no matter what happens, this season as seen the re-emergence of the mighty Latics to being a force to reckon with.

Off the field events have gone really well AGAIN this year. The sports Forum at the Pennine Way being my highlight of the year, Iain Dowie's honest and very open answers to question put to him just one of the reasons the night was a great success.

The quizzes go from strength to strength and a BIG THANK YOU to Lynne the quizmistress, also Anne and Janet for doing the butties.

Thank you also to the bar staff in the sponsors suite during the reserves nights as well as the quizzes.

Can I just remind you the quizzes will carry on throughout the summer and as usual will be held on the first Monday of the month. We are still in the Sponsors Lounge and the doors open at 7:30. It costs £1 per person and you can have as few in you team as you like with a maximum of 6. Anyone is welcome, it's not university challenge, even I get the occasional question right.

The Travel Club membership grows by the week and with a trip to the Millennium Stadium coming up here's a reminder that to travel on the official clubs coaches you must be a member of the Travel Club. It's free to join and membership lasts a life time unless revoked by the club, to join you need to have two passport sized photos and fill in a membership form which you can get from either the club shop or Barlows.

A BIG THANK YOU goes to the stewards on the coaches who have again done a great job on you behalf, making sure you get on the right coach, directing you to the right pub, etc.

On the field highlights, 18 clean sheets, 8 games winning run, going into March unbeaten away in the League and great away wins at Derby County and Premier League club West Ham Utd in the cup.

It has to be mentioned that Chris Moores investment of £4 million has been vital for the success we have had so far this season and we all thank him very much, may he and the team get the rewards they deserve.

On the road the Latics fanatics have given several clubs their highest attendance and as the players out play their opponents the Fanatics have out sang their rivals.

At home the award for the most vocal stand goes to.....The Lookers Stand, they won it by a country mile, come on The Chaddy End you've some catching up to do.

See you all at Huddersfield, see you in the Millennium Stadium, see you in Division One.



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FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY

EASTER SOCCER SCHOOLS

During the first week of the Easter shool holidays, soccer schools at Failsworth and Churchill Playing Fields, Greenfield have taken pace with the weather that week being so good it made the soccer schools that much more enjoyable with all children being able to take part in great conditions.

Over the first week approximately 120 children have participated. Tuesday to Friday this week we were at Royton & Crompton School with soccer schools for boys and girls aged six and seven years and eight to 12 years.

Like the first week, the numbers of children taking part are very good and at the time of writing these notes I am hoping we continue to have dry weather for the rest of the week.

IRISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT COACHES VISIT TO BOUNDARY PARK

I mentioned in the Latics v Barnsley programme notes about the visit of four football coaches lead by Lee Carroll on a fact finding mission.

Several community coaching venues are being set up in Northern Ireland and Lee together with other members of the party including Tommy Wright the ex Northern Ireland goalkeeper had a very productive four days in Oldham.

A couple of days ago I received a letter from Lee back in Ireland suggesting that they all had a good time and will be implementing much of the information and ideas gained during their visit.

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Boundary Buzzzzzzzzzz

CHAMPIONS



Division Two North

	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	Gd	Pts
Oldham Athletic	8	6	1	1	22	11	11	19
Notts County	8	4	2	2	12	6	6	14
Stockport County	8	3	4	1	10	8	2	13
Chester City	8	4	1	3	11	13	-2	13
Doncaster Rovers	7	3	3	1	9	7	2	12
Burnley	8	2	3	3	12	13	-1	9
Bradford City	7	1	5	1	8	8	0	8
Lincoln City	8	1	3	4	9	13	-4	6
Grimsby Town	8	2	0	6	9	16	-7	6
Carlisle United	6	1	0	5	5	12	-7	3

LATICS ARE CHAMPIONS

Oldham Athletic Under 19's will this afternoon at half time be crowned champions of The Football League Youth Alliance Division Two North.

Under the guidance of John Sheridan and Lee Duxbury the youngsters have gone from strength to strength.

Congratulations to all concerned for a job well done.

Six wins, one draw and only one defeat is a fantastic achievement and many of the youngsters will still be available next season in the same competition.

THE LATICS SHOP

Our lady football fans will be pleased to hear we are now stocking a range of Footie Chick products which include make up purses, day bags and of course fashionable t shirts all at affordable prices.

Fitted pink footie shirts have arrived and other products are due week commencing 19th May and of course we are open as always throughout the summer.

Bestseller this week is the club crest temporary tattoos, four for only 99p and great for the playoffs, buy now to avoid disappointment.

Other playoff merchandise will be arriving shortly so keep popping in the club shop to see what's new.

FUNDRAISING

Welcome to the final home League game for the 2002/03 season, an appropriate opportunity to say a big "thank you" to everyone who has been involved in contributing to a very good year for off-field Fundraising.

Thanks to all Latics Starline Agents, Collectors and Members, your efforts have been invaluable. Thanks also to the Strike-it-Lucky administrators and ticket sellers who have reached new heights with the donations to the Club.

Onward and upward must be the mantra in Fundraising for the benefit of your Club. Please continue your involvement, if any of you fancy joining the FUNDRAISERS you will be made welcome and you will be part of the LATICS TEAM.

Enjoy the summer break.

MARKETING MIX

SEAN JARVIS, MARKETING MANAGER

Brilliant supporters....

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to say thanks for your support this season. In every initiative we have run from inflatable Chaddy's to Latics Nights you have supported us and your enthusiasm keeps us motivated to continually try things new. So a massive thanks from the Marketing and Commercial team and of course myself. However for us, this is when planning for the 2003/04 season begins.

2003/04 is closer than you think..

As always it is our objective to continually move forward and be innovative. We are already working on Latics TV that will be broadcast around the ground next season prior to matches (in hopefully refurbished bars). Then of course we will be working on new literature, new packages, new advertising campaigns - in fact the list is endless.



If you are wondering where you can find the

information during the close season, there will be plenty to choose from. Firstly I would recommend the official website - as always we carry information on there first - everything from player signings to advertising opportunities. So if you want to keep your finger on the Latics pulse, make sure you visit the website daily. We will also endeavour to communicate to you via the local media - including the Chron, Advertiser, GMR, Revolution, Manchester Evening News etc etc.

Then finally where budgets allow, we will be mailing information on the latest opportunities and events.

Back to today....



I am sure you will give a big welcome to the Arena of Life project who will entertain us today. Their show will arguably make the end of season celebration (forgetting our venture in the play offs for the moment) possibly the best Boundary Park has ever seen. Rather than perform to a half empty stadium, the Arena of Life children have asked to undertake their show at the end of the game. Then shortly after the show, the players will do their lap of honour. Then last but by no means least Iain Dowie has promised to come out and address the crowd. So all in all it will be a real spectacle and one definitely not to be missed. So please hang around for an extra 10 or 15 minutes and enjoy the show of all shows!

Boundary Blues...

Lots of parents have approached me about the Boundary Blues and information on membership. At the time of press we are finalising an application form and the offers that go with membership. It is hoped in the next couple of weeks we will be mailing all our members regarding



the great new offer. So keep your eyes peeled for the postman!

Business Newsletter now out.

Our second business newsletter is now out and its a must for all corporate supporters or individuals wanting to get involved in sponsorship or advertising. Not only does it list all the details for possible opportunities at the play offs it also gives info on next season including how to get the most out of any advertising campaign and the chance to literally pick and mix. If you would like to receive a copy then either email me at sean.jarvis@oldhamathletic.co.uk <<mailto:sean.jarvis@oldhamathletic.co.uk>> or call me on 0870 753 2000.

Fancy watching a game on Sunday?

Well tomorrow you can. It's our inaugural Latics corporate tournament and we have got eight teams competing to be the first winners. The Lookers stand will be open from 10:30am - with the tournament matches starting an hour later. So if you fancy coming to Boundary Park on Sunday and having a further dose of footie, completely free of charge, then visit the ground and cheer on one of the teams.

Finally I would like to thank all supporters both individual and corporate for your support today. I am certain you will make the ground the loudest its been for some time.

Tip to help the Club Number 3

Never Buy unofficial merchandise - as your club does not see a penny of it!

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OLDHAM ATHLETIC

35

DATELINES: AUGUST 18 and DECEMBER 7 1994

RESULTS: SWINDON 0 - Latics 1. Latics 2 SWINDON 1

THE 1993/94 season wasn't a great one for Oldham Athletic, but the Premiership double over Swindon was a definite highlight.

As two clubs who were relatively small, relatively unglamorous and relatively skint when it came to competing on the big stage, Latics and the Robins knew they had to take points from each other.

And it was Latics who came out on top, though only after two close battles which were settled in dramatic fashion.

PROLOGUE

Latics were in their third year of top flight football and had avoided relegation the previous season by the skin of their teeth.

It was the famous Great Escape, but Joe Royle saw his squad weakened in the summer when Ian Marshall was transfer listed at his own request before joining Ipswich for £750,000.

Swindon, under the new management of John Gorman, were entering their first Premiership campaign after winning promotion via the play-offs.

Both clubs lost on the opening day, with Marshall scoring at Boundary Park on his Ipswich debut, and they were looking for a kick-start at the County Ground four days later.

EPISODE ONE

Team: Gerrard, Fleming, Jobson, Redmond, Pointon, Halle, Milligan, Henry, Bernard, Adams, Olney. Subs: Hallworth, Brennan, Ritchie.

In an unusual move, Royle abandoned his attacking instincts for the first away game of the season.

Striker Andy Ritchie was sacrificed as Latics strung five men across midfield in an effort to add width while stifling the opposition.

His plan worked to good effect as Latics took command from the start, ensuring goalkeeper Paul Gerrard had one of the quietest nights of his career.

But at the other end chances went begging and it looked as though misses from Paul Bernard, Richard Jobson and Gunnar Halle would be costly.

Two minutes into stoppage time, however, Latics carved out one last opening.

Neil Adams took a quick throw, Halle made a surging run to the byline and his deep cross was headed in by swooping midfield man Bernard.

EPISODE TWO

Team: Walsh, Fleming, Jobson, Redmond, Pointon, Halle, Milligan, Bernard, Holden, Sharp, McCarthy. Subs: Hallworth, Pedersen, Ritchie.

By the time Latics and Swindon met at Boundary Park in December, the game already had the look of a key battle.

The visitors were rock bottom with one win out of 19, while Royle and his injury hit team were hovering just one place above the drop zone.

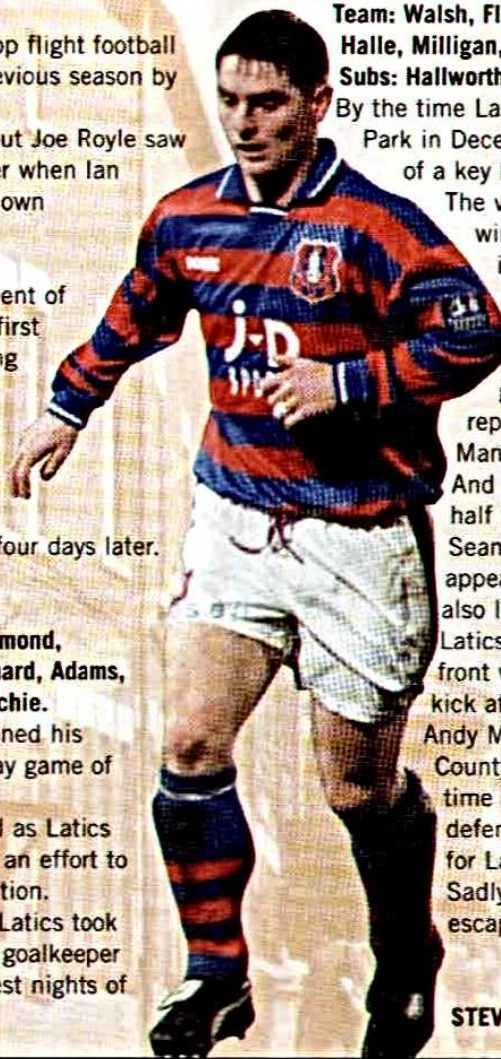
Latics were missing influential stars like Ian Olney, Nick Henry and goalkeeper Gerrard, who was replaced by loan ranger Gary Walsh from Manchester United.

And there was a double blow in the first half when Neil Pointon and new signing Sean McCarthy, making only his second appearance after signing for £550,000, also limped out.

Latics did well to beat the odds, going in front when Rick Holden curled in a free kick after 41 minutes.

Andy Mutch levelled but, just like at the County Ground, there was a late twist, this time coming from the unlikely source of defender Steve Redmond, his first goal for Latics.

Sadly, neither side could ultimately escape relegation.



STEVE REDMOND. First Latics goal

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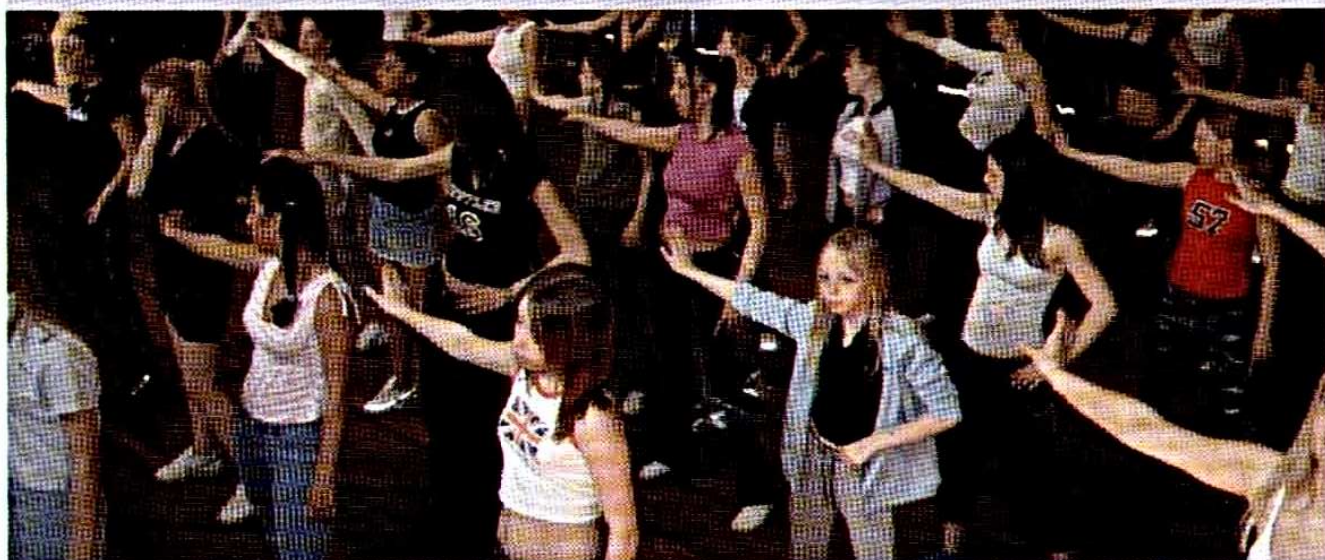
The following feature is made up of editorial produced by school pupils from across Oldham. As part of our ongoing commitment to community development throughout the town Oldham Athletic are very proud to be hosting the project for the second time this season, once again in partnership with the Gifted and Talented Stand of Excellence in Cities.

This particular Strand is part of a Government objective to provide funding and opportunities for academically gifted, and talented pupils in sports and arts to explore and nurture their talents. The pupils took part in a rigorous audition process which included some 500 pupils from 13 High Schools across the community.

From this the pupils you will see perform in our after match season celebration, and the media and film making team's of the project were selected and gave up a week of their Easter break to prepare for today's performance, which we assure you will be something to remember. Please join us in our support of the community by staying on after that

final whistle, enjoy the lap of honour of the team as they show their appreciation for your superb support this season, enjoy the 20 minute show, and after the performance is complete Iain Dowie will take the stage and the Mic!! to reflect on the season and share his preparations for the promotion push.

Imagine getting 70 young key stage three students, putting them in a large room, playing some music and hoping they will co-operate and dance well together. Well 'The Arena of Life' did that and after just two days they are already performing like stars.



The Arena of Life is a project, in partnership with Oldham's Gifted and Talented strand and Oldham Athletic, which gives 11-14 year olds the chance to work at a professional level. Over 450 pupils from schools around Oldham auditioned for this chance of a lifetime but only 130 got through to take part.

Just 2 days in to the project, we visited the dance workshop. This is just one of five areas in the Arena of Life and the students are already performing at a very high standard.

However the main question is:

Can school rivalry spoil the show? In just one word the answer is NO!

The pupils are mixing in with each other fantastically and already new friendships have been borne that will last a lifetime. Just ask Emma Critchley, 14, of Our Lady's High school who said

'Everything about this set up is top class and the co-ordinators are brilliant. We are working really hard but still everybody is enjoying themselves. The people here are brilliant and there is absolutely no tension between schools.'

This will also help them in their life, Martine Knight of Saddleworth school says... 'This gives me a great head start in life because I want to be a choreographer when I am older.' As we entered the dancers were performing 'Night Fever' followed by 'Ladies night' and finished off with 'Sex Bomb'. They were all performed without one fault, a clear indication of teamwork.

So in the words of Lucy Nolan of Crompton House 'Our friendships that we've made, will last a lifetime'

'GO HARD OR GO HOME'

'Go hard or go home!' said Oldham Athletics manager Iain Dowie, on day one of the Arena of Life project, to the gifted and talented pupils. Dowie also uses this statement to encourage his team. This is just one similarity between the Arena of Life programme and Oldham Athletic football club. In the Arena of Life project, it's all about team work and being team players, likewise Oldham Athletic, who the project is in partnership with, have to work as a team when playing out on the field. The football team must work together in small groups, such as strikers, defenders etc. and then they all come together as one full team, in order to get the desired results. Similarly the Arena of Life team have to work in different areas, such as media and marketing, filmmaking, vocals, dancing and presenting but they all have to come together to produce the spectacular post-match show that will draw the curtain on the regular season at Boundary Park this afternoon. As well as producing a magnificent show, the Arena of Life aims to break down any cultural and social barriers by having children from different backgrounds and races all working together to reach one common goal. It also helps to break down any school rivalry and when you see the pupils working together it is obvious that there is NO tension between any members of the group. Within Oldham's football team the players must have to trust each other and have faith in each other, as do the students participating in the Arena of Life project. Choreographer Sharon Toothill commented,

"Everyone is working very well as a team despite all being from different schools. Their performance will be ready for the day, and it will be quite something to see."

If it wasn't for Oldham Athletic and Excellence in Cities, the gifted and talented youngsters of Oldham would be missing out on this wonderful opportunity to meet new people a memory that will last forever, and there's one thing for sure, nobody will be going home from this project!

IN THE MIND OF

MARKETING Media Marketing is often thought of being one of the least important areas of the Arena of Life, but I assure you it is not. Without the Media Marketing team: stars would not be born, talent would go unnoticed and stadiums would go unfilled.

Media Marketing is the heart of any project. This goes for the 'Arena of Life' too. The Arena of Life is a project, in partnership with Oldham's gifted and Talented Strand and Oldham Athletic, that helps young people aged 11-14 to work at a professional level. Almost 500 pupils auditioned for this chance of a lifetime. However only 130 got through, 14 of these make the Media Marketing team.

It's thanks to that team that you are reading this article or that the Arena of Life has been advertised at all. The team works extremely hard but they all seem to have made friends as well. We interviewed the editor of the team Josie Tyas, 12 from St Augustine's school:

'I joined the project because my English teacher chose me, but I am really enjoying it, it's a good experience

and I think it will help me in later life. I'm really glad I came.'

Also the team advertises the game, so look around you, I wonder how many seats are filled today with parents, family and friends of the performers who will take centre stage (or field!!) straight after today's game?

The Media Marketing team also held a press conference with Latics boss Iain Dowie, Chief Executive Alan Hardy and of course the stars of the Arena of Life!



We spoke to Jacob Stone, 11, from Counthill School a member of the Media Marketing team

'I was really nervous about the press conference, but it was a good experience. I didn't want to be a journalist but being in the Arena of Life has made me have second thoughts. Meeting high profile people and interviewing them is a huge confidence booster!'

As you can see the Media marketing team is one of the most important things in any project and the people in it shouldn't be ignored. Without them the Arena of Life wouldn't be possible!

SINGERS appear to be confident people, but that's far from the truth. Some are actually scared out of their skin, but they put on a brave face and face the music. The singers on the Arena of Life are no exception to this.

The Arena of Life is a project, in partnership with Oldham's Gifted and Talented strand and Oldham Athletic, which gives 11-14 year olds the chance to work at a professional level.

The young people will be singing and dancing live after today's game as Latics bring the curtain down the regular season and embark on the final push for promotion in the play-off's.

The students will perform many great

hits including 'Ladies Night' 'Let's go round again' 'Burn Baby Burn' 'Can't fight the moonlight' 'Ain't no stopping us now' 'we are family' and 'Sex Bomb'.

Sally Jo Riley, 12, a singing star from Crompton House, said:

'I joined the project because I wanted some fun. It will help me in later life, as my dream is to be a professional singer. I am really enjoying it at the moment but it is really tiring. But I'm not nervous!' However lots of people are nervous, like Jak Wren, 14,

from Saddlewoth School, 'I got told to join but now I am here I am really enjoying the singing. I want to be a professional singer when I am older so this will help me a lot but I'm really nervous!'

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brief encounters

past encounters...great games...connections...

OUR LEAGUE RECORD AGAINST SWINDON

Home: P13, W7, D4, L2, F26, A18

Away: P14, W4, D3, L7, F18, A25

Total: P27, W11, D7, L9, F44, A43

LAST TIME HERE

Wednesday, January 16th 2002
Nationwide League, Division Two
Latics 2 (Eyre 2), Swindon Town 0
Attendance: 3,970

LATICS: Rachubka, McNiven, Beharall, Balmer, Armstrong, Duxbury (Baudet), J Sheridan (Appleby), Murray, Eyres, Smart (Eyre), Reeves.

Subs (not used): Holden, Hardy.

SWINDON: Griemink, Gurney, Heywood, Reeves, Invincible, Duke, S Robinson, McAreavey, Howe (Young), Foley, Sabin.

Subs (not used): McKinney, M Robinson, Davis, Willis.

Super-sub John Eyre ended Latics' nightmare start to 2002 by scoring the goals which earned their first victory of the year.

Latics had lost their first three matches of January and were badly in need of a pick-me-up as their confidence had been dented further with each loss.

The night had not begun well with Allan Smart taken off on a stretcher while David Reeves struggled on after being hurt only 15 seconds into the match.

But with the supply of strikers running out, Eyre came off the bench to seize his chance with a goal in each half.

Eyre struck first on the stroke of half time when his flick from a corner was bundled out, but only after it had crossed the line by a matter of inches.

And the same player struck again nine minutes from the end with a close-range header from a David Eyres cross, his sixth goal of the season.



FIRST MEETING

Saturday, February 2nd 1924
FA Cup, 2nd Round
Swindon Town 2, Latics 0
Attendance: 22,458

LATICS: Matthews, Grundy, Wynne, W Taylor, Pilkington, Naylor, Douglas, Howson, Blair, Stanforth, Jones.

Latics could not have experienced more contrasting fortunes and emotions in their two ties in the FA Cup campaign of 1923/24.

Relegated from the First Division the previous season, Latics defeated top-flight team Sunderland 2-1 at Boundary Park in the first round.

The euphoria of that victory soon disappeared as Latics became victims of a giantkilling act in round two when they lost 2-0 at the County Ground.

Swindon were founder members of Division Three South in 1920 and were still in that regionalised league when they were paired with Latics.

Amazingly it would be a further 42 years before the two teams would meet again which would be in a Division Three match over Easter 1966 when they clashed on successive days, Latics winning 1-0 away and 24 hours later held 1-1 at home.

PAST MASTER

The goals of both Latics and Swindon were safe in the hands of Chris Ogden, a player whose father Fred also kept goal for the Boundary Park club.

Following the release of Maurice Short and Barry Gordine, 18-year-old Ogden found himself as Harry Dowd's No 2.

And midway through the Third Division championship winning campaign of 1973/74, Ogden found himself first choice ahead of Dowd making 26 league appearances to qualify for his medal. Ogden made 128 league appearances for Latics before joining Swindon for whom he played 24 league matches in 1978/79, after which he had a short spell at Rotherham before hanging up his gloves.

CONNECTIONS

Strikers Chris Jones and Ray Treacy and midfielder John Kelly have all starred for Latics and Swindon.

Jones, who kicked off his career at Manchester City, joined Latics on loan from Swindon in 1971 making three appearances and scoring one goal.

He later played for Walsall, York, Huddersfield, Doncaster, Darlington and Rochdale finishing his career with 96 league goals.

Treacy, who won 42 full caps for Eire, also made three loan appearances scoring once, this time borrowed from Preston.

He had two spells at West Brom and also starred for Charlton and Swindon and in his career scored 79 league goals.

Kelly was another Irishman and a £35,000 capture from Swindon in 1987 having earlier played for Tranmere, Preston and Chester while after leaving Latics he starred for Walsall, Huddersfield and Chester once again where he finished his league career.

DID YOU KNOW?

Latics and Swindon have met three times in cup competitions, twice in the FA Cup and once in the League Cup. Swindon edge the honours with two wins to one.

Stuart Barlow has the distinction of being the only Latics player ever to score a hat trick against Swindon.

Latics' biggest win against Swindon in their 30 league and cup meetings was 5-1 in 1997. Swindon beat Latics by the same scoreline in 1969 and three years earlier registered a 6-3 success.

FEATURE MATCH

Monday, March 31st 1997
Nationwide League, Division One
Latics 5 (Barlow 3, Richardson pen, Rush), Swindon Town 1 (Cowe)
Attendance: 5,699

LATICS: Kelly, Duxbury, Serrant, Snodin (Graham), Rickers, Fleming, Rush, Ritchie, Richardson, Barlow, Reid. Subs (not used): McCarthy, Hodgson.

SWINDON: Digby, Robinson, King (Gooden), Bullock, Seagraves, Darras, Culverhouse (Finney), Anthony, Thorne, Cowe, Smith. Sub (not used): Coughlin.

Latics gave their survival hopes a shot in the arm following this emphatic Easter victory against Swindon Town at Boundary Park. Despite this much-needed win, Latics remained next-to-bottom of Division One and it would ultimately prove in vain as Neil Warnock's side would one month later be relegated to Division Two.

Stuart Barlow scored his second hat trick of the season to make it six goals in his last five matches and 11 for the season while Lee Richardson, with a penalty, and Matthew Rush were also on target. While Barlow and Rush, the latter sparkling on his home debut, stole much of the thunder, it was two other players who made so much difference.

The restoration of Andy Ritchie and Richardson provided the sparkle which had been lacking as Latics scored five goals in a match for the first time in two years and seven months.

Ritchie turned in a vintage performance while Richardson provided the creativity and subtlety the midfield had lacked in his absence.

BOUNDARY BANTER

LINDA'S LABOURS OF LOVE



WHEN NEWS BROKE of Latics' financial plight last October, one particular supporter was - as ever - amongst the first to offer assistance. Linda Humphrey, of Limehurst Village, could almost be described as an unofficial member of Boundary Park staff these days, such is the depth of her involvement with the club.

Sean Jarvis, Latics PR & Marketing guru, paid tribute to her work this week, telling me that "if there were 20,000 Latics supporters like her then Real Madrid would be worried about us!".

Linda, 43, has been a Latics fan since attending her first game at Boundary Park in 1991, but her voluntary activities for the club first started about eighteen months ago. "I started doing mail-outs for Derek

who does Strike-It-Lucky and things just snowballed from there", she says.

"I genuinely just enjoy doing things for Latics - I love the club. People think I'm mad for doing all this stuff - one told me football was just a man's game - which really annoyed me."

Linda now has connections with practically every level of off-the-field activity at Latics. She is, for example, a member of the Boundary Blues committee and arrives early on matchdays to supervise the ball-boys - sorry, Linda, "ball-persons".

And on Monday nights when most of us are putting our feet up to relax after the grind of the first day back at work, Linda is out door-knocking on the club's behalf.

Linda explains: "I've been a Starline agent now for about 2 years."

"I collect every other Monday which takes about three hours of the evening up. I go around neighbours' houses collecting and really enjoy it. I know everyone where I live so I wouldn't be worried about being about on my own in winter or anything."

As with anything public-spirited, it's important for volunteers who put in hours of unselfish work to feel appreciated - or they tend to stop. But Linda's contributions are well-recognised by club officials.

Sean Jarvis said: "As an individual, she's incredibly dedicated to the cause."

"She's always there to volunteer to do any job that the commercial or sales and events staff need, ranging from something as basic as stuffing envelopes to doing research."

"Every single club event we ever organise and hold, Linda is always there, involved in some capacity. "In terms of merchandising she's also there to offer advice to us from a pure fans' perspective and then, of course, there's her massive involvement with the Sponsor-A-Seat campaign."

When the SAS campaign was launched in November last year, club officials readily admit they were surprised by the scale of the logistical exercise needed to get such a scheme up and running. With so much work involved, and staffing levels already at premium, someone was needed to take charge and ensure everything ran smoothly...guess who?

Sean Jarvis says: "Linda has single-handedly processed, checked and verified all the names according to

LATIC FANATIC AND SAFE FOUNDER

CARL MARSDEN REPORTS FROM THE TERRACES AT BOUNDARY PARK.

4
|

the application forms."

"That's all probably taken her on-and-off in the region of about three weeks of her own time. She has also done it very methodically to ensure there are little or no errors – as have occurred at other clubs.

"We have had very few complaints which is of great credit to her given the size of the task." Having made physical contact with about 6,700 plastic blue and white seats at Boundary Park, Linda – whose favourite Latics player of all-time is Sean McCarthy(!) – is probably unique amongst Latics fans.

She says: "I'm working on my fourth stand now – putting some stickers in the Rochdale Road End. There's some Bury fans who have just bought seats in there." And Linda, Matty Appleby's biggest fan, explains why there was a slight initial delay in stickers being placed on their respective seats.

She says: "We had to get sufficient in to be able to do a row first. It made more sense to gather a big batch together first before setting out. They also had to be placed on the seats in a certain way so that it looks consistent. Now there are just odd ones here and there to do and I have to go out and find that specific seat."

Although Manchester-born, Linda has lived in Oldham now for over 20 years after relocating to settle down with her "other half" David Wrigley. The pair met through a mutual friend Linda made friends with at an England Vs Scotland clash in the 1980s.

In and around the club, Linda has made an army of friends and gave me a list of those to mention that

included Diane Cheetham, Lisa Rose and Leanne Russell in the club shop; Leslie Schofield, who washes the players' kits; Mel, who prepares players' meals in the kitchen; and her favourite ex-player, Sean Garnett. "It's been really quiet since he left", she says.

Linda admits she didn't initially support Latics, but remains tight-lipped as to her previous affiliations.

"I attended my first-ever Latics game in 1991 and pretty much instantly became a Latics fan", she recalls.

"We started coming together as a family that year with myself, David and our two daughters Kristy and Karla. Latics is a family club and that's what we love about it."

On matchdays Linda sits in the front row of the Main Stand. She says: "I've always sat there. The fans are pretty good near us. I never hear much moaning, despite what some people have said about the Boundary Park atmosphere at times. There's a really good mood and feeling there. Nobody calls the team where we sit, they just get behind them."

Linda has amassed a mightily impressive attendance record, missing just one home game in twelve years – due to an operation – and just four away matches in that time.

"Nowadays I sit with David and my daughter Karla. There's also Jean Waterhouse, who does Boundary Blues with us, and Janine and Ian – a couple that I have known for many years – sitting there", she says.

Karla, who is 18, recently joined Latics' dance troupe, the Blue

Crew, which performs dance routines pre-match and during half-time at Latics home games. "She's only been doing it a few months, but really enjoys it", Linda says.

"She's at college now studying childcare while my other daughter, Kirsty, who is 23, is a social worker."

I first became aware of Linda when – as part of The Oldham Advertiser's "I'm Backing Latics" campaign – she won a £50 clothing voucher from 'Demolition'. However, whether she will have used it yet is quite another matter...

Sean Jarvis tells me Linda is always wearing a football strip whenever she is seen around the club and he is convinced she collects nearly every item of clothing in the Club Shop. Sean also warned me about another of Linda's habits – bad football score predictions. When I asked Linda what Latics' ultimate fate this season will be she was without hesitation in her response.

"I know we're still going to get automatic promotion", she declares.

"I have every confidence in Iain Dowie and the team. If not though, I will admit, I am stressed out at the thought of the play-offs."

"But, if we get to Cardiff and have to play them there in the final, Clyde will get a hat-trick – he's saving his goals up for them at the moment – mark my words!."

I hope for all our sakes that, this time, Linda's got it right...

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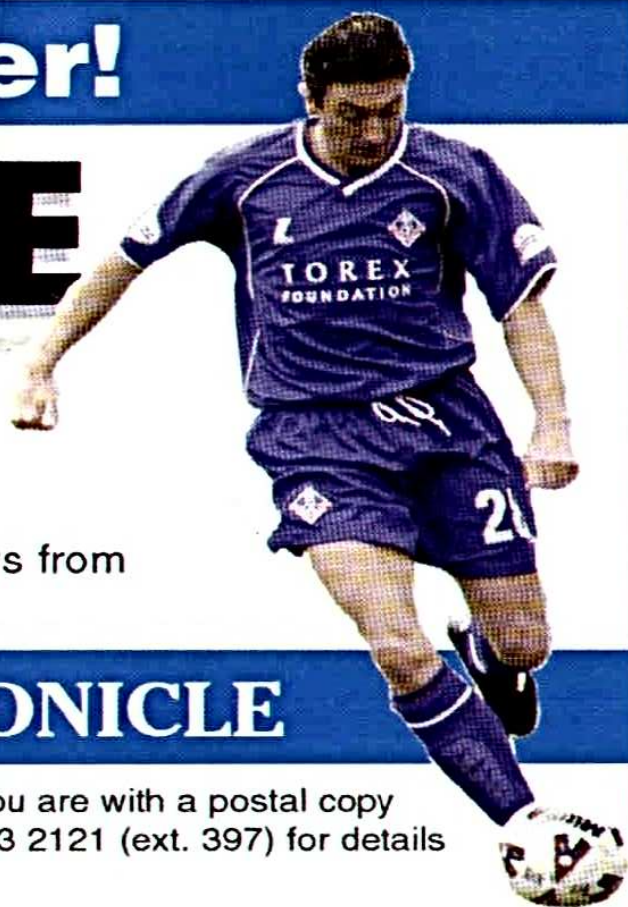
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chaddy chirps

With all the uncertainty at Latics, I again find myself linked with a move to Real Madrid. All I can say is that I can't effect what other people are saying, but it's nice to be linked with other clubs. I'm not saying whether I will or I won't be here next season. But all I can tell you is, I am the mascot of Oldham Athletic, I'm thoroughly enjoying it and there's no reason why I shouldn't stay. It's nice being linked to other clubs. Real Madrid are a big club and I've got a Figo key ring. Am I ambitious? Course I am. And there's nothing wrong with that.

Who Wants To Be A Millionaire winner Major Ingram is guilty of what must be one of the worst possible crimes known to man. The crime of course being that he gave ITV an excuse to put Martin Bashir on TV. ITV used the courts in this case, to get out of paying a large some of money. Now that rings a bell. For ITV to accuse someone of cheating them out of money, the words pot and kettle spring to mind. They have had plenty of practice in agreeing to pay one party a lot of money and then using lawyers so they don't have to pay it, so it was no surprise when they won their court case. I bought a sandwich for my dinner yesterday. The Cheese salads were on offer at 99p, so I turned it upside down and bought it for 66.

Then I asked the shop assistant "How much do you charge for one little drip of coffee." She said, "That would be free, Chaddy." So I said "Drip me a large cup full then."

Ex-Latics player Mark Allott was so worried about getting a bad reception, when he returned to Boundary Park with Chesterfield the other week that, in true Saddam style, he brought along a look alike in the form of mascot Chester The Field Mouse. With both Allott and Chester looking like twins and wearing identical kits, fans weren't sure who was which. However, they gave the game away in the pre-match mascot penalty shoot-out. I only won 3-1. So it was definitely Chester The Field Mouse as Allott would never have scored the one.

With the summer approaching, people's thoughts will soon turn to potential new signings. Iain Dowie sent me out on a scouting mission and I have identified six possible signings. Let's sign the Wigwam cheerleader girls as new members of the Blue Crew. When I saw them as I ran out onto the pitch on Monday, my feathers were well and truly ruffled...

However, once in the middle of them, I must admit I was completely mesmerised. Dancing girls as good as them, is enough to fill a 30,000 seater stadium in any town full of red-blooded males. Although I don't pay, they were worth the admission fee alone. Speaking of being worth the admission fee, if today's Arena Of Life display is anything like the last one, then it will certainly be a good day.



GO HARD OR GO HOME!

CHADDY'S JOKE OF THE WEEK.

A farmer rings up the vet "2 of my chickens have stopped laying", the vet replied "How do you know" ...Farmer said "I've just run over them in my tractor"

OLDHAM ATHLETIC MASCOT CHADDY

OLDHAM ATHLETIC

4
3

FITNESS CHIRPS.

No.26. Go Hard Or Go Home. This basically means do it properly or not at all. If you're going to do something that matters then put the effort in. Slogan's like this can also be of help in normal life. For instance after putting "Go Hard Or Go Home." On my mum's front door, she went to Tesco, extremely well prepared with a shopping list, went straight in there, did her shopping and got straight out. A thoroughly professional job!

CHADDY'S EMAIL OF THE WEEK.

Email - chaddy@oldhamathletic.co.uk
Dear Chaddy, We are six cheerleaders who work in a town where no one likes football. We think we are very good, but all the home fans seem interested in looking at is pies. What can we do?
Chaddy Replies- Dress up as giant pies and dive on the floor like Van Nistlerooy and all 12 of the home fans will love you.

BOOK CHADDY (NOT REF'S).

For cheaper than it costs to fund George Galloway, but more expensive than his conscience, you can have the morally uncorrupted Chaddy A Pillow Of The Community Owl at your Presentation Night, Summer Fete, Birthday Party, Celebration in Cardiff, Wedding, Business Presentation/Promotion, Etc, Etc. Call Latics on 0870 753 2000.

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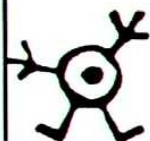
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OUR END OF SEASON MASCOT

It's been a great season so far, Latics are still up there with the 2nd Division's best and we have a superb mascot to lead us on to further glories! Let us introduce Joshua Sweatman who is eager to bring the lads luck. Joshua goes to St Josephs RC Primary School and enjoys plaing football for Heyside Juniors and my school team, watching Latics play, swimming and playng on my play station in his spare time. Joshua is really looking forward to meeting his favourite player, David Eyres, this afternoon, and thinks that today's scoreline will be 2-0 to Latics. We hope that you enjoy this very important game, Joshua, and good luck to our boys in blue too!



CAMELOT, HERE WE COME!

Whatever the outcome of the season, we'll be celebrating Latics success over the past 12 months and looking forward to the new season as we enjoy a summer trip to Camelot. It'd be great if you could all come too! Saturday 28th June is the date for your diaries - the sun is sure to be shining and we're looking forward to a fun-filled day. £15 will book you a seat on the coach and a ticket for park entrance - and you can bring your Mum or Dad for the same price too! So make your booking today in the Boundary Blues Lounge, or in the Latics shop during usual opening hours - but be quick, as places are limited. Look forward to seeing you then!

BIRTHDAYS

It's the last day of the standard season for us at Boundary Park and time to wish some of our members a very Happy Birthday; Matthew Lill, Matthew Winterburn, Joshua Harte, Katie Jackson, Owen Leese, Thomas Rowlands, Andrew Royle, Michael Ball, Samuel Herring, Sheree Renshaw, Daniel Smith, Maxwell Sherriff, Samuel Clancy, Emma Cocker, Nicholas Finnegan, Saul Ashworth, Craig Kenworthy, Andrew Kilgannon, Nathan Noon, Nathan Mayberry, Dannielle Marland, Jack Dale, Rachael Squibbs, Martyn Stewart, Mark Penter, Liam Paull, Matthew Neale, Adam Leese, Tyrone Kerr, Dean Makin, Ryan Green, Josh Ashworth, David Schofield, Callum Longden. Enjoy this fun-packed day at Latics, let's enjoy the party atmosphere and here's to three more points towards promotion!

2 MATCHES, 2 FABULOUS MASCOTS!

We had two important and exciting matches over the Easter weekend, and our Boundary Blues mascots lived up to the challenge of performing a starring role in support of our brilliant team! It's a story of the two Michaels, the first being Michael McAndrew who looked after the team as we prepared to meet Chesterfield. And what a good luck charm he proved to be! He started the day well as he came face-to-face with his hero, David Eyres (pictured below), then the afternoon just got better as Clyde showed his return to form with a two goal starring role and the boys wound up 4-0 winners. What a result! Last Monday, we made the short trip to our neighbours, Wigan, and Michael Bedford (below) did the club proud as he represented the super Blues at the JJB. Michael loved having the opportunity to meet the players and his particular favourite, Carlo Corazzin, which even surpassed his experience of witnessing the lads beat Colchester earlier in the season at their place. The only downside was the final score - but wasn't it a cracking start

with Wayne's super-speedy goal? The boys done good and thanks from everyone at Latics - keep supporting the Blues on to the First Division!



KEEP WATCHING THE BOUNDARY BLUES PAGE ON THE LATICS WEBSITE

- depending on the last 2 results of the season, we may be organising further trips and there won't be much time to tell you about it, so the website will be our method of communication! So keep logging on to www.oldhamathletic.co.uk for all your latest Latics & Boundary Blues news - and we hope to see you all soon!

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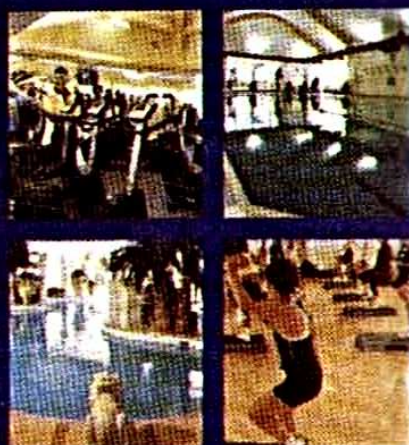
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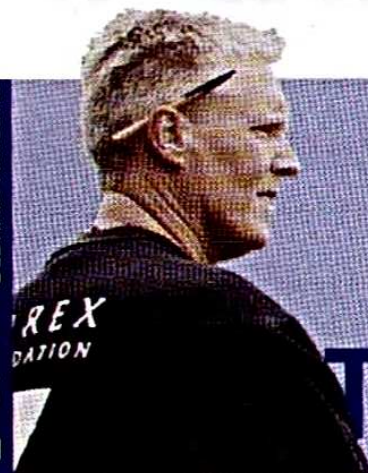
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KEY MOMENTS

with

TONY PHILLISKIRK

Promotion would provide the perfect finish to Tony Philliskirk's first season as Latics' first-team coach.

After four years working with the club's trainees and running the reserves, Philliskirk was elevated by Iain Dowie when he succeeded Mick Wadsworth as manager.

It has been a memorable campaign for Philliskirk who also has the distinction of serving Latics as a player, albeit only for a seven-month spell in 1988/89.

Here Philliskirk, who scored a century of goals in his playing career, looks back of some of the magic moments from the campaign and reflects on his coaching career thus far.

STEPPING UP

It was nerve wracking to begin with wondering how I would cope with the step up and also how the players would respond to me. But I needn't have been apprehensive as they have been great and as the season has progressed I have gained in confidence. I have enjoyed working with Iain, John Harbin and David Cross until he recently left the club.

PERSONAL HIGHS

The highlight will hopefully be this afternoon when we collect three points which will guarantee our place in the play offs. We have been working towards this moment for the whole of the campaign and it has taken a monumental effort when you consider the injuries we have had, the suspensions and the financial problems.

There have been several performances which I have been proud to be involved in and another satisfying moment was when we secured eight wins in a row.

TOP TWO ELUDES

It would have been the piste de resistance had we finished in the top two and won automatic promotion, and may be we might have done had we been able to string a run together in recent weeks. It was so near and yet so far and in the end just proved too elusive. But even up to last weekend it looked as though we might still win automatic promotion. If you had told us at the start of the season we would need two points to guarantee a play-off place with two matches remaining we would have taken it. When you look at the other teams battling for promotion - QPR, Bristol City, Cardiff and Crewe - they are big clubs who have spent a lot of money or played at a higher level. And they have players who have played in the Premiership in the past whereas we have a mixture of youth and experience. Look at our back four and how few games Will Haining, Chris Armstrong and Fitz Hall had played before the start of the current campaign.

AWAY-DAY DELIGHT

I think the reason we have done better away from Boundary Park is because teams attack us and are more adventurous which suits us as Clyde Wijnhard, Wayne Andrews, Paul Murray and Josh Low are quick breaking from

midfield. It has been a different story at Boundary Park where teams have often played 4-5-1 and sat deep and defended. They have come for a point and ended up nicking three. When teams have put a lot of bodies behind the ball we have lacked the guile to break them down, though there have been a lot of occasions when we have not had a lot of luck.

PLAY-OFF PROSPECTS

The play offs hold no fears and I know that nobody will want to play us. We have had terrible injury troubles but the great thing is that everybody should be back which will be a big lift. Clyde Wijnhard, Clint Hill and Josh Low were probably Iain's three major signings but when you look at the time they have missed the lads have done fantastically well.

We have lost only eight times in 44 league matches which is unbelievable and it has probably been the best season for about 10 years so there is plenty to be positive about.

BEEN THERE

As a player I was involved in play offs five times and was once a winner with Burnley when we beat Stockport at Wembley. David Eyres was in also in the Burnley side. I have lost in the final for Bolton against Tranmere and also lost in the semi-finals with Preston, Bolton and Cardiff so know what they are all about and that anything can happen and they are a lottery.



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COACHING MOVE

Towards the end of my career I was only given 12-month contracts with Cardiff, Halifax and Macclesfield. In my last season at Mac when Sammy McIlroy was manager we won promotion to Division Two but I was looking at avenues to stay in the game. A lot of publicity was given to me taking up refereeing, but at the same time I was also taking my UEFA coaching licences and that is how I first met Andy Ritchie. When he was appointed manager he telephoned and asked if I was interested in working with Bill Urmson with the kids. And though I was 33 and still playing I took a career decision to go into coaching which has turned out to be the right move.

CROWN JEWELS

While it was satisfying to reach the quarter finals of the FA Youth Cup, where we lost to eventual winners Arsenal, I have derived more pleasure from seeing four of those lads go on to feature in the first team. Will Haining has become a regular in the absence of Clint Hill while Scott Vernon, Danny Hall and Adam Griffin have all had a taste. The aim is to help develop young players and bring them through to the first team and to bring those four through has been great.

OLD BUDDIES

I first met Iain Dowie when we were both taking our UEFA coaching licences and a group of us formed a small clique. There was also Nigel Pearson, Neil McDonald, who is at Bolton, and

Blackpool's Mick Davies.

We all had similar ideas and when we coached would bounce ideas off each other. And when you are on a two-week residential course you get to know people well. I could see how driven Iain was and he had a future in the game in management. I was impressed with the way he went about things - it isn't easy coaching in front of 40 professionals, managers and ex managers. I kept in touch with Iain and it was ironic that three years later he should come here and it is unbelievable how things have worked out.

DREAM TEAM

Iain and I are different characters - he is more vociferous and I am more laid back - but we work well together and bounce ideas off each other. He lets me have my say on team selection and it is my job to analyse the opposition. I have my own ideas and, though I may not be as forceful as Iain, he values my input and he often takes on board what I suggest. You need diversity and though we sometimes disagree I think that is healthy and though we may have differences we are rock solid together. And Iain has proved he is going to be one of the top managers in the game sooner rather than later. His biggest attribute is that he has the respect of the players and the lads want to play for him. If you have a group of players who are not with you then you are snookered.

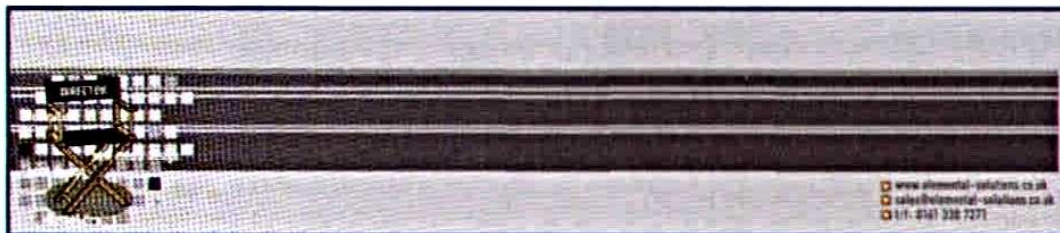
MANAGEMENT

Iain often asks me about my own managerial ambitions, but at the

moment I simply want to be one of the best coaches in the country. I am still a student and have a lot to learn. I see myself as more of a coach than manager whereas Iain always knew he was going to be a manager which is where we are different. Management doesn't appeal at the moment but may be it will in the future, who knows?

INFLUENCES

Phil Neal managed Bolton while I was there and he was very much in Iain's mould. He let the players have their say and wasn't dictatorial and he had their respect. Mick Brown, who is now Manchester United's chief scout, was a terrific coach at Bolton. He always demanded the best whether it be on the training ground or in a practice match. His man management was superb - he knew which players to give a kick up the backside and which to put an arm round. And even now I often think back to Mick and how he would have dealt with a situation. He also treated players as though they were his own son - all players may make mistakes and they know when they have done so and don't need hammering. As for tactics I admired John Ward when he came to Burnley to assist Adrian Heath. Iain has also been a major influence here because he, too, is an excellent coach from whom I have learned a lot from him and also John Harbin about driving yourself as a person. John is innovative and makes you think about yourself and how to improve personally.



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PLAYER	LEAGUE		CUP		TOTALS	
	P	G	P	G	P	G
ANDREWS	34	11	7	1	41	12
APPLEBY	12	0	0	0	12	0
ARMSTRONG	32	1	6	0	36	1
BAUDET	22	2	4	0	25	2
BEHARALL	32	0	7	0	39	0
BOSHELL	2	0	0	0	2	0
BURGESS	7	0	0	0	7	0
CARSS	24	1	3	1	27	2
CLEGG	7	0	2	0	9	0
CORAZZIN	37	3	6	1	43	4
DUXBURY	33	4	3	0	36	4
EYRE J	29	2	6	0	35	2
EYRES D	38	12	7	2	45	14
GILL	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRIFFIN	0	0	0	0	0	0
HALL D	2	0	0	0	2	0
HALL F	38	4	8	1	46	5
HAINING	24	1	3	1	27	2
HILL	16	1	7	0	23	1
HOLDEN	5	2	1	0	6	2
KILLEN	26	3	7	1	33	4
LOURENCO	5	1	3	0	8	1
LOW	19	2	4	1	23	3
MISKELLY	9	0	3	0	12	0
MURRAY	28	1	2	0	30	1
POGLIACOMI	37	0	5	0	42	0
SHERIDAN D	30	1	6	0	36	1
SHERIDAN J	5	0	1	0	6	0
VERNON	7	1	2	2	9	3
WIJNHARD	23	10	4	3	27	13

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION 2

POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	GD
1	Wigan Athletic	44	28	12	4	67	25	96	42
2	Crewe Alexandra	44	25	9	10	75	40	84	35
3	Bristol City	44	23	11	10	77	46	80	31
4	Cardiff City	44	23	10	11	67	42	79	25
5	Queen's Park Rangers	44	23	10	11	68	45	79	23
6	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	44	21	15	8	63	37	78	26
7	Tranmere Rovers	44	21	11	12	60	54	74	6
8	Luton Town	44	17	13	14	65	59	64	6
9	Plymouth Argyle	44	16	13	15	60	50	61	10
10	SWINDON TOWN	44	15	12	17	57	58	57	-1
11	Colchester United	44	14	15	15	53	55	57	-2
12	Blackpool	44	15	12	17	55	60	57	-5
13	Stockport County	44	15	9	20	62	66	54	-4
14	Peterborough United	44	13	15	16	49	53	54	-4
15	Brentford	44	14	11	19	46	54	53	-8
16	Notts County	44	12	16	16	61	69	52	-8
17	Wycombe Wanderers	44	13	12	19	59	65	51	-6
18	Port Vale	44	13	11	20	49	67	50	-18
19	Barnsley	44	12	13	19	50	63	49	-13
20	Chesterfield	44	13	7	24	40	72	46	-32
21	Cheltenham Town	44	9	18	17	50	67	45	-17
22	Huddersfield Town	44	11	11	22	37	55	44	-18
23	Mansfield Town	44	11	8	25	63	93	41	-30
24	Northampton Town	44	10	8	26	37	75	38	-38

DATE	K-O	@	OPPS	RES	ATT	AWAY	POS
Sat10/08	15:00	H	Cardiff City	1-2	8083	2437	17
Tue13/08	19:45	A	Peterborough	1-0	5204	318	13
Sat17/08	15:00	A	Brentford	0-0	5356	461	12
Sat24/08	15:00	H	Tranmere	2-0	5933	1063	9
Mon26/08	15:00	A	Blackpool	0-0	8201	2117	7
Sat31/08	15:00	H	Wycombe	0-2	5963	203	14
Sat07/09	15:00	A	Notts County	3-1	5435	692	10
Sat14/09	15:00	H	Mansfield Town	6-1	5490	396	6
Tue17/09	19:45	H	Bristol City	1-0	5583	353	3
Sat21/09	15:00	A	Colchester	1-0	3021	426	3
Sat28/09	15:00	H	Huddersfield	4-0	7643	1242	3
Sat05/10	15:00	A	Swindon Town	1-0	4326	390	1
Sat12/10	15:00	A	Port Vale	1-1	5563	1772	3
Sat19/10	15:00	H	Luton Town	1-2	6916	610	4
Sat26/10	15:00	A	QPR	2-1	15491	792	4
Tue29/10	19:45	H	Northampton	4-0	5512	141	2
Sat02/11	15:00	H	Stockport	2-0	8251	1361	2
Sat09/11	15:00	A	Plymouth	2-2	8216	133	2
Sat23/11	15:00	H	Cheltenham	0-0	6575	283	3
Sat30/11	15:00	A	Barnsley	2-2	11222	1627	3
Sat14/12	15:00	H	Wigan Athletic	0-2	8269	1836	4
Sat21/12	15:00	A	Chesterfield	1-0	4052	651	4
Thu26/12	13:00	H	Blackpool	1-1	9415	1970	5
Sun29/12	15:00	A	Crewe	2-1	9006	1472	4
Wed01/01	15:00	A	Tranmere	2-1	9795	1521	4
Sat04/01	15:00	H	Peterborough	0-0	5922	138	3
Sat11/01	15:00	H	Brentford	2-1	5039	107	2
Sat18/01	15:00	A	Wycombe	2-2	6226	571	2
Sat25/01	15:00	H	Crewe	1-3	7597	1162	3
Fri31/01	19:45	A	Cardiff City	1-1	12579	161	3
Sat08/02	15:00	H	Plymouth	0-1	6657	506	4
Sat15/02	15:00	A	Stockport	2-1	8168	3151	4
Sat22/02	15:00	H	Notts County	1-1	5657	347	4
Sat01/03	15:00	A	Mansfield Town	1-0	5712	1240	4
Tue04/03	19:45	A	Bristol City	0-2	11194	345	5
Sat08/03	15:00	H	Colchester	2-0	5223	134	4
Sat15/03	15:00	H	QPR	0-0	7242	1119	4
Tue18/03	19:45	A	Luton Town	0-0	6142	302	4
Sat22/03	15:00	A	Northampton	2-0	5646	720	4
Sat29/03	15:00	H	Port Vale	1-1	7209	309	5
Sat05/04	15:00	H	Barnsley	2-1	6191	725	3
Sat12/04	15:00	A	Cheltenham	1-1	4439	801	5
Sat19/04	15:00	H	Chesterfield	4-0	6885	294	4
Mon21/04	15:00	A	Wigan Athletic	1-3	12765	3998	5
Sat26/04	15:00	H	Swindon Town				
Sat03/05	15:00	A	Huddersfield				

LIVE ON Latics WORLD

CUP TIES FA CUP

16 NOV	1	H	BURTON ALBION	D2-2	5802	1022
27 NOV	1(R)	A	BURTON ALBION 1-1, 2-2	W5-4 (pens)	3416	509
7 DEC	2	H	CHELTHAM TOWN	L2-1	4416	485

4 JAN 3

13 APR SF

17 MAY FINAL

WORTHINGTON CUP

10 SEPT	1	H	NOTTS COUNTY	W3-2	4205	108
2 OCT	2	A	DERBY COUNTY	W2-1	9029	1543
5 NOV	3	A	WEST HAM	W1-0	21919	916
3 DEC	4	A	CRYSTAL PALACE	L0-2	7431	638

17 DEC 5

LDV TROPHY

22 OCT	1	H	CARLISLE UNITED	L4-3	2821	161
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Played	Sub	Scored	
1			
2			DEAN HOLDEN
3			DARREN SHERIDAN
6			LEE DUXBURY
7			PAUL MURRAY
8			JOHN SHERIDAN
9			BEN BURGESS
10			JOHN EYRE
11			MATTY APPLEBY
12			WAYNE ANDREWS
13			DAVID MISKELLY
14			MICHAEL CLEGG
15			JULIEN BAUDET
16			LESLIE POGLIACOMI
17			SCOTT VERNON
18			DANNY BOSHELL
19			CARLO CORAZZIN
20			DAVID BEHARALL
21			FITZ HALL
22			DANNY HALL
23			WILL HAINING
24			CHRIS KILLEN
26			ADAM GRIFFIN
27			MARC TIERNEY
28			DAVID EYRES
29			CLINT HILL
31			TONY CARSS
32			CLYDE WIJNHARD
33			CHRIS ARMSTRONG
34			JOSH LOW



Played	Sub	Scored	
1			BART GRIEMINK
2			GARETH EDDS
3			DEAN MARNEY
			(ON LOAN FROM SPURS)
4			MATTHEW HEWLETT
5			ADAM WILLIS
6			ANDREW GURNEY
7			KEITH O'HALLORAN
9			SAM PARKIN
10			STEFANI MIGLIORANZI
11			DAVID DUKE
14			ERIC SABIN
15			DARREN DYKES
17			DANIEL INVINCIBLE
18			CRAIG FARR
19			MATTHEW HEYWOOD
21			IAN HERRING
21			DAVID BAMPTON
22			ALAN REEVES
25			STEVE ROBINSON
26			ALAN YOUNG
28			NATHAN EDWARDS
31			KEVIN HALLIDAY
			JUNIOR LEWIS
			(ON LOAN FROM LEICESTER)
			NICK WILLIAMS
			(ON LOAN FROM WATFORD)
			CHRIS TAYLOR

box office

TICKET OFFICE OPENING HOURS:

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

9AM - 5PM

NON-MATCH SATURDAYS

9AM - 12.30PM

MATCHDAYS

9AM - 3PM OR WEEKDAY 9AM - 7.45PM

ON THE ROAD

Nationwide League Division Two

Saturday 3rd May 2003

Huddersfield Town v Latics

Kick off 3pm

Tickets now on open sale at the Boundary Park Ticket Office - Adults £14.50, Students £10, Senior Citizens £7 and Juniors £5. Of the 2,800 tickets allocated only 900 now remain on sale.

TRANSPORT

Standard coaches priced at £6 can now be booked in the Latics Shop. Coaches depart Boundary Park at 1pm.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO PLAY-OFFS

Until final League positions can be ascertained no dates can be confirmed for the play-off games. The dates that have been offered to the club for games are
1st leg home game - Saturday 10th/Sunday 11th May
2nd leg home game - Tuesday 13th/Wednesday 14th May
The play-off final will take place at the Millennium Stadium on Sunday 25th May, kick off 3pm. See website www.oldhamathletic.co.uk and local press for ticket details.

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ASST.

4TH

A. KAYE

W. RAMSAY

P. WOOD

A. ASTLEY

TEXT YOUR MAN OF THE MATCH

IT'S SIMPLE!

SIMPLY TEXT YOUR VOTE FOR THE MAN OF THE MATCH TO 85166. IT'S EASY.

1. Type in OLDHAM then a space then the player's squad number into your messaging service, i.e. OLDHAM 34 (for Josh Low),

2. Send the text message to 85166. It couldn't be easier.

When we have received your vote (and you can vote as many times as you like) we will calculate who is in the lead and at intervals during the second half we will broadcast the ongoing results.

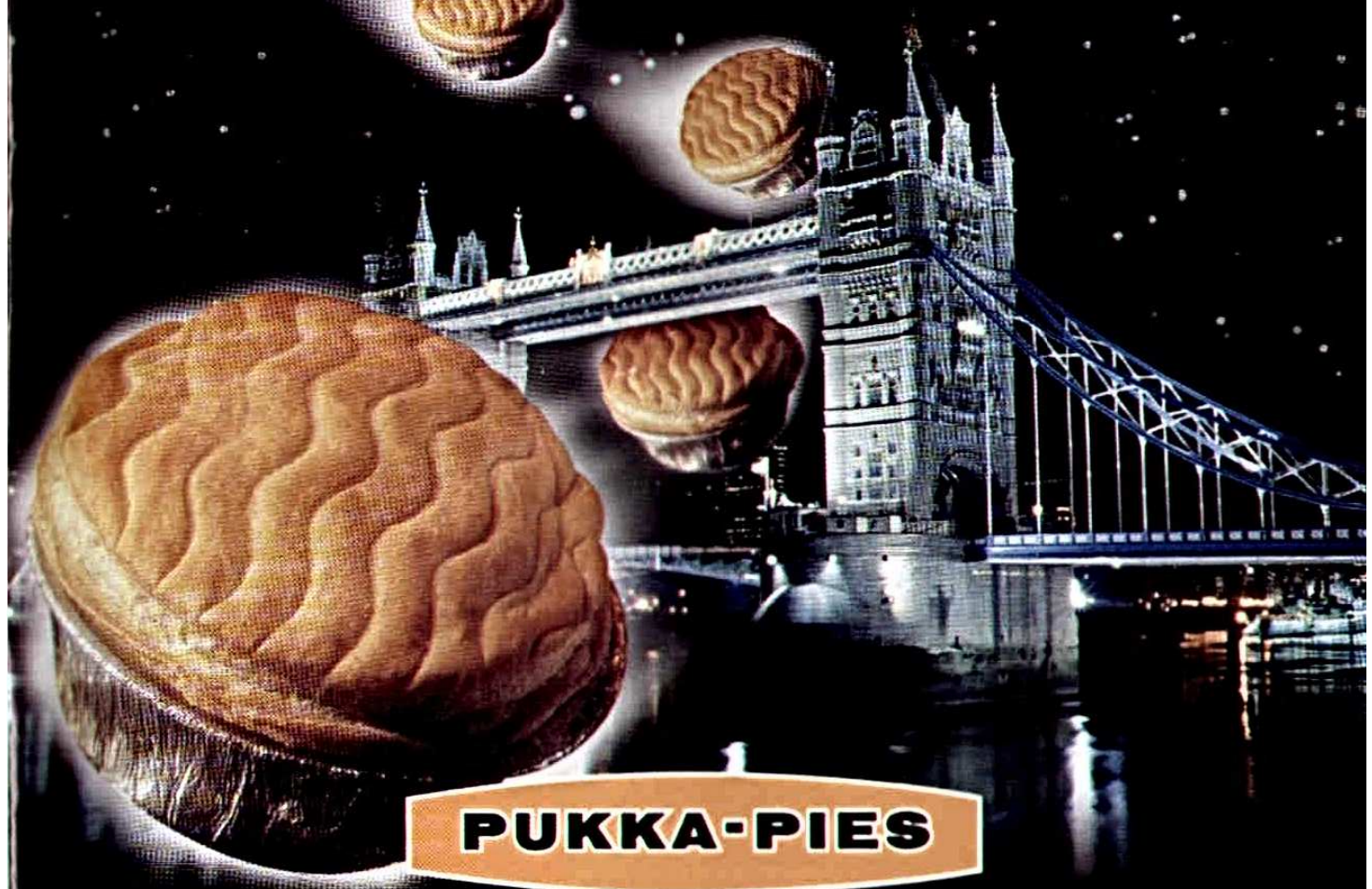
Just before the final whistle the scoreboard will flash who the fans' man of the match it - so keep your eyes peeled.

Each text message costs 50p - lines open as soon as the second half kicks off.

SO GET TEXTING YOUR VOTE.



It's a taste invasion!



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