

**STOCKPORT COUNTY
v SWINDON TOWN**

SATURDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2004

KICK OFF 3.00PM



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Next Home Game

BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION
Saturday February 28
Kick Off 3.00pm

Next Away Game

NOTTS COUNTY
Saturday February 21
Kick Off 3.00pm

Next Home Reserve Game

ROCHDALE
Wednesday March 3
Kick Off 7.00pm

Next Home Youth Game

CARLISLE UNITED
Saturday March 13
Kick Off 11.00am



COUNTY HONOURS

Division Two Runners-Up	1997
Division Three (North) Champions	1922, 1937
Division Three (North) Runners-Up	1929, 1930
Division Four Champions	1967
Division Four Runners-Up	1991
Division Two Play-Off Finalists	1994
Division Three Play-Off Finalists	1992
Autoglass Trophy Finalists	1992, 1993
Division Three (North) Cup Winners	1935
Division Three (North) Cup Finalists	1934
Manchester Senior Cup Winners	1898, 1899, 1915, 1923
Cheshire Medal Winners	1923, 1925, 1929, 1930, 1931
Cheshire Bowl Winners	1934, 1949, 1953, 1956, 1957, 1959, 1961, 1963
Cheshire Friendly Trophy Winners	1966, 1967
Cheshire Premier Cup Winners	1970, 1971

We hope you have enjoyed your visit to Edgeley Park, however, if you have experienced anything that you feel is unsatisfactory or, indeed, have any ideas on how we can improve things, please contact Dave Swanton at the club address listed above.

Thank you for your support - please come again.



Founded 1883

STOCKPORT COUNTY FOOTBALL CLUB
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EDGELEY PARK WELCOMES YOU

WELCOME

Welcome back to Edgeley Park for another vitally important game for both teams. The Robins are flying high at the moment on the back of a seven-game unbeaten run and they'll be looking for the points to enhance their credentials as serious promotion contenders.

For County, well, we've reached the stage in the season when draws, particularly here at Edgeley Park, must be turned into wins. We have eight home games left and, realistically, we must gain maximum points from at least half of them to give us a fighting chance of climbing the table.

What a boost it would be for everyone connected with our great club if that run could start today ... and it can.

We are all in this together so let's get right behind the lads from the very first whistle. It wasn't too long ago that EP was known as Fortress Edgeley. A return to that sort of atmosphere in the final weeks of the season could make the difference between Second and Third Division football.

Come on County!



Rickie Lambert and Parfett's Managing Director Steve Parfett, present Dennis Hinks, Peterborough Fan of the Match, with a case of Scandia Gold.

WELCOME ... PART TWO

Our last match programme contained a special welcome to Lee Cartwright following his recent move from Preston North End. Well, since then Sammy has added Dave Walton, another very experienced player, to his squad here at Edgeley Park, albeit on a one-month loan from Derby County. And wasn't the 30-year-old defender outstanding on his debut last Saturday when we kept our first clean sheet away from home for almost four months.

Dave made his name with Shrewsbury Town before signing for our Cheshire neighbours, Crewe Alexandra, in 1997 for a cool £500,000.

After more than 150 senior appearances at Gresty Road he moved to Pride Park on a Bosman-free last summer.

It's great to have you on board Dave.

ELVIS LIVES!

Lewis Gates is once again Elvis on April Sat 24th and YOU can sway those hips to his amazing performance until the early hours! This fantastic evening of entertainment, which

also includes a delicious 3-course dinner with coffee and a superb disco, is available at just £20 per person.

No, we've not made a mistake; the price really is £20 per person!

Tickets are going fast so don't delay ... book your party with Julie or Jenny now on 0161-286-8891 or mail elvis@stockportcounty.com

FAMILIAR FACES

There were a couple of familiar faces in the press box at Wrexham last week. Our former youth team boss, Joe Jakub, was working for the Press Association.

And Marc Lloyd-Williams took advantage of a blank Saturday with his latest club, Aberystwyth, to provide co-commentary for a Welsh speaking radio station.

Check out Page 51 for our special interview with the former County striker.

FAN OF THE MATCH

Well done to Dennis Hinks, the Scandia Fan of the Match against Peterborough United.

You too could win a crate of Scandia lager - click onto the Scandia link on the home page

of our official website

www.stockportcounty.com for more details.

THANKS

A big thank-you to the Manchester Evening News and Clint Hughes for the splendid action photos in this afternoon's match programme.

COME AGAIN

We're back in action here at Edgeley Park on Saturday February 28 when we entertain another promotion-chasing side, Brighton. We produced one of our best performances of the season to beat the Seagulls at the Withdean Stadium back in October.

And a similar result in a fortnight's time would really boost our chances of climbing away from the relegation zone.

We are all in this together so please make sure you come along and, better still, bring a friend. Your vocal support DOES make a difference.

Normal admission prices apply and tickets are currently on sale. Thank you for your continued support.



THE CARPET CENTRE

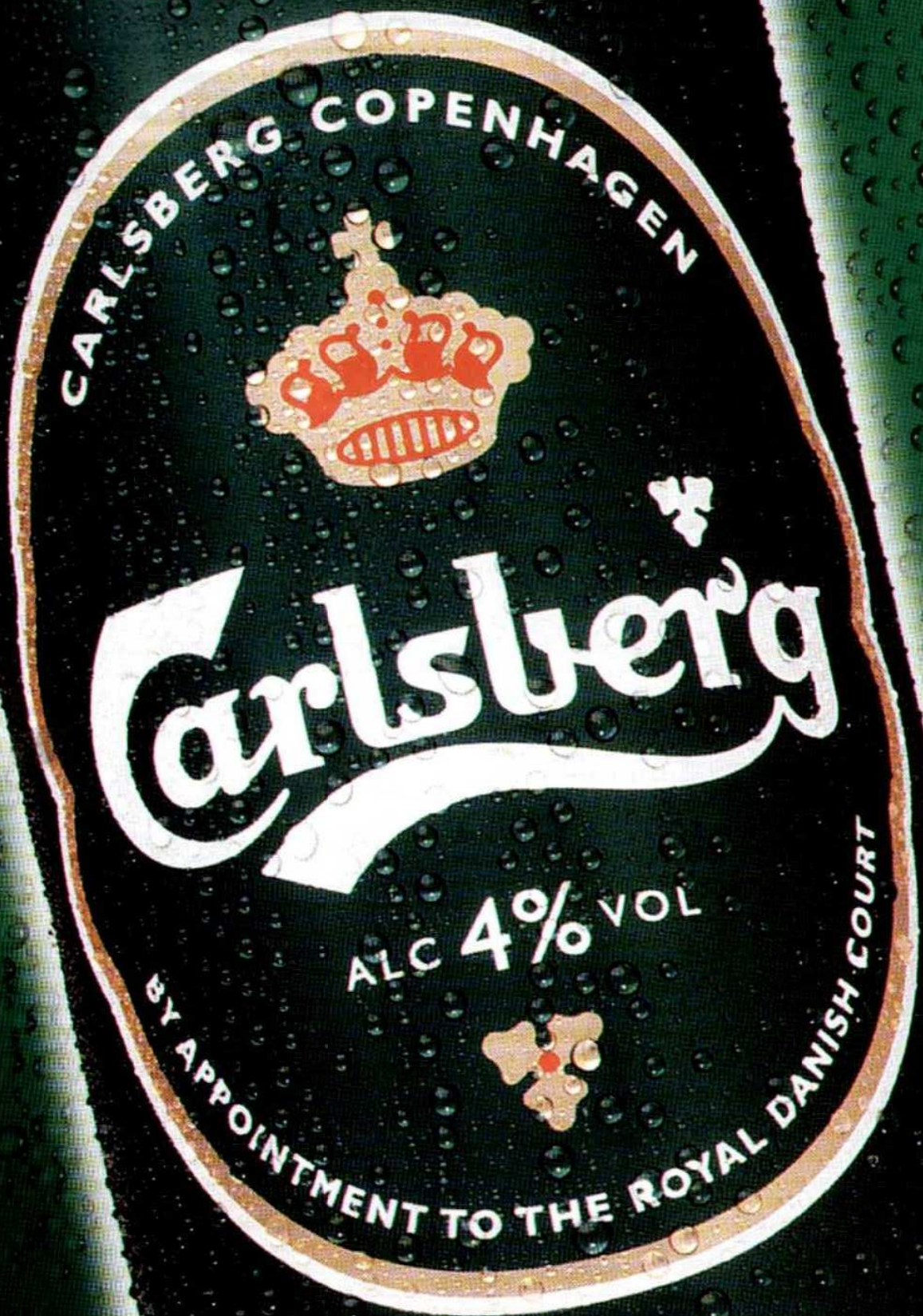
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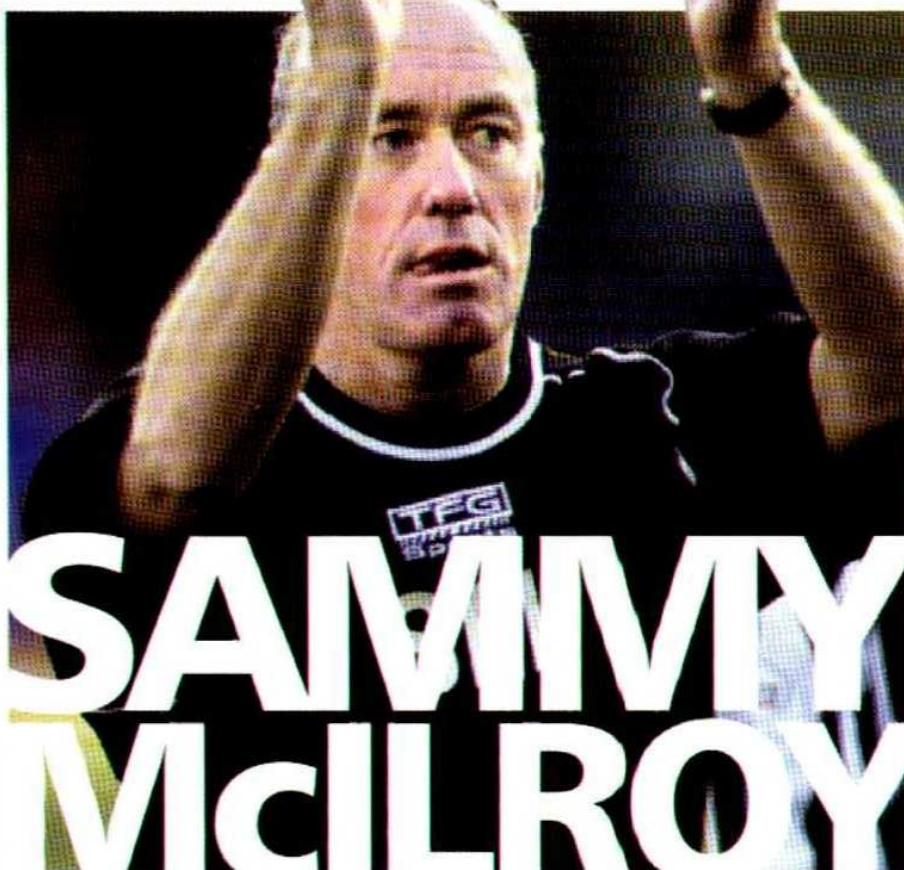
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SAMMY McILROY

We travelled to Wrexham last week and came away with a point against a team chasing a play-off spot.

It was a much better performance from us defensively and a lot of credit must go to Dave Walton.

He's a vastly experienced player at this level and that experience benefited the young players around him.

Clean sheets are so important. We managed to score six goals in our previous three away games, at Port Vale, Luton and Tranmere, yet returned home with just two points because we conceded sloppy goals.

I'm sure Dave's loan spell with us

will help tighten things up and provide a platform for us to go on and win games.

IN TOUCH

We've draw our last two games, which has kept us in touch with the pack just outside the relegation zone, but we need to win a couple of games quickly, particularly here at Edgeley Park.

We face a really tough test today, though. I know Andy King well and he has assembled a very good squad at Swindon. He's had his ups and downs with the Robins but, at the moment, they are very much

on an up. They are unbeaten in seven games and currently occupy a place in the top six on merit. They are playing very well. I'm not too worried about other teams, though. It's what we do that counts and things are still very much in our own hands.

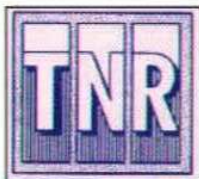
NO SECRET

It's no secret that I'm still looking to bring in two more players but it doesn't look likely that I'll be able to get them in quickly. It's going to take a little time.

In saying that, though, the squad we've assembled is good enough to help us climb the table. I've received a number of letters from fans telling me that the team is playing better and that certain players have improved their game. I think we have improved since me and Mark arrived at Edgeley Park and I'm sure that we'll get even better.

But, as I said earlier, we need to start winning games here. And your support can make all the difference. The vocal backing at Wrexham was different class, absolutely magnificent. It sounded as though we had more fans in the ground than the home team and I can assure you that support like that really does help the players, particularly the younger ones. Please continue to back the boys. Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate Danny Griffin on his call up to the Northern Ireland squad to face Norway on Wednesday. Let's hope he win's a cap as a County player.

Listen to Sammy McIlroy throughout the week on County World. Visit www.stockportcounty.com for details.



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NEXT IN LINE



County Reserves moved to within a point of leaders Wigan Athletic at the top of Division One West with a 4-2 win at Wrexham on Wednesday night thanks to goals from Ashley Williams, Kevin Ellison, Owen Morrison and Jim Goodwin. A full report will feature in our next programme against Brighton.

COUNTY RESERVES 1 DONCASTER ROVERS 2

A friendly against Doncaster Rovers was arranged at short notice and took place at our Manor Farm training ground on Wednesday February 4. County had two trialist forwards in their starting eleven; one from Nice in France and the other being Michael Bird from Aberdeen. Bird is an ex-scholar from Bolton Wanderers who joined the Dons in the summer.

Doncaster went 2-0 up thanks to goals either side of half time from Martin Drury and Jon Maloney. County created several chances but Bird, Chris Williams and Kevin Ellison all failed to find the back of the net. Second half substitute Michael Byrne saw two efforts stopped by the Rovers 'keeper before he finally beat him from 15-yards after a brilliant run that saw him go past three Donny defenders.

In the final minute the Hatters wasted a golden opportunity to get back on level terms. The lively Byrne was brought down in the box but Owen Morrison missed the resultant penalty.

County: Spencer, Brownhill, Baguley, Lescott, Meadowcroft, A Williams, Morrison, C Williams, Trialist (Byrne), Bird (Zhang), Ellison

Unused subs: Allen, Bailey

OLDHAM NEXT UP

Our next match is away at Oldham Athletic next Wednesday February 18. The kick-off at Boundary Park is 2.00pm.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

This week the spotlight falls on Chris Williams who has been out of the first team squad recently. Chris comes from Wythenshawe and will be 19 on February 26. He is the second youngest player to play for County making his debut against Watford in November 2001. He is a product of our Centre of Excellence whom he joined at 12 and he signed as a youth trainee in the summer of 2001. Andy Kilner took him on the pre-season

tour of Finland in July 2001 and he scored against SC Kings. Chris has scored 2 goals in 13 first team appearances, whilst he has scored 11 goals in 31 games for the reserves. He has also scored 11 goals in 31 youth team games. Chris was given a two-year contract on his 17th birthday.

Date	KO	V	Opponents	Comp	Score	Att
JULY						
Mon 28	7.45pm	A	Cheadle Town	Friendly	W 6-2	372

AUGUST						
Wed 6	7.45pm	A	Mossley	Friendly	L 0-2	200
Wed 20	7.00pm	H	Macclesfield Town	Div 1 West	L 0-2	189
Wed 27	7.00pm	A	Shrewsbury Town	Div 1 West	L 2-5	89

SEPTEMBER						
Wed 10	7.00pm	H	Bury	Div 1 West	W 3-0	83
Mon 15	7.45pm	A	Woodley Sports	Cheshire Cup	L 0-1	233

OCTOBER						
Wed 8	7.00pm	H	Wrexham	Div 1 West	W 3-2	121
Wed 22	2.00pm	A	Rochdale	Div 1 West	W 3-1	39

NOVEMBER						
Wed 26	7.00pm	H	Carlisle United	Div 1 West	W 2-1	76

DECEMBER						
Wed 10	2.00pm	A	Blackpool	Div 1 West	W2-0	109

JANUARY						
Wed 7	2.00pm	A	Wigan Athletic	Div 1 West	W2-1	47
Wed 14	7.00pm	H	Wigan Athletic	Div 1 West	D0-0	127
Wed 28	7.00pm	A	Wrexham	Div 1 West		

FEBRUARY						
Wed 11	7.00pm	A	Wrexham	Div 1 West	W4-2	104
Tue 17	2.00pm	A	Oldham Athletic	Div 1 West		
Wed 25	7.00pm	H	Oldham Athletic	Div 1 West		

MARCH						
Wed 3	7.00pm	H	Rochdale	Div 1 West		
Wed 17	7.00pm	H	Blackpool	Div 1 West		
Wed 24	2.00pm	A	Carlisle United	Div 1 West		

APRIL						
Wed 7	2.00pm	A	Macclesfield Town	Div 1 West		
Wed 14	7.00pm	H	Shrewsbury Town	Div 1 West		
Wed 28	2.00pm	A	Bury	Div 1 West		

PONTIN'S HOLIDAYS LEAGUE DIVISION ONE WEST

		Pld	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Wigan Athletic	10	7	2	1	25	9	+16	23
2	Stockport County	10	7	1	2	21	14	+7	22
3	Carlisle United	11	6	1	4	25	22	+3	19
4	Shrewsbury Town	11	5	2	4	25	17	+8	17
5	Blackpool	9	4	3	2	13	10	+3	15
6	Oldham Athletic	9	4	1	4	11	13	-2	13
7	Macclesfield Town	11	3	4	4	13	17	-4	13
8	Bury	10	3	0	7	13	22	-9	9
9	Wrexham	10	2	2	6	20	26	-6	8
10	Rochdale	10	2	0	8	11	25	-14	6



COMING THROUGH THE RANKS!

THE LATEST FROM THE YOUTH TEAM

The Under-19s are due to start their Merit League fixtures today against Mansfield Town after two weeks without a game. A friendly was arranged against Port Vale after the end of the North West Conference games but this was postponed due to snow on the Manor Farm pitch. The Under-17s have had two good wins; 3-1 at Wrexham and 3-0 at home to Walsall.

WREXHAM 1 COUNTY UNDER-17s 3

The game against Wrexham on January 31 took place at Lex XI's Stansty Park ground after the Red Dragons' Colliers Park training ground was declared unfit due to it being waterlogged.

The youngsters were on top from the start scoring after five minutes when Paul Douglas hooked home a James Callery cross. The second came five minutes later from the penalty spot after Jordan Hadfield made a good run into the box to be upended by Liam Jones. Adam Le Fondre put the penalty away into the bottom right hand corner. Douglas and Le Fondre both had chances to increase the lead before the Red Dragons started to get into the game. County keeper Sam McEwen made three good saves in the last ten minutes of the first half.

The play flowed from end to end at the start of the second half and County increased their lead after 57 minutes. Adam Oakes broke down the left and his cross was headed on by Le Fondre to Callery who fired home from ten yards. The home team then started to have more of the ball and McEwen made an excellent save from Chris Evans tipping his effort over the bar.

Wrexham pulled a goal back after 77 minutes from a Joe Feeney free kick which found Mike Williams in space at the back post to head home. In the closing minutes Paul Pearson forced an excellent save from keeper Michael Jones.

County: McEwen, Brownhill, Kay, Woolcott, Beeston (McAllister), Best, Hadfield (Pearson), Callery, Douglas (Kubicki), Le Fondre (Yoffe), Oakes

COUNTY UNDER-17s 3 WALSALL 0

Last Saturday saw the game switched from Walsall to our Manor Farm training ground late on Friday. The youngsters started brightly with Paul Woolcott, Paul Douglas and Adam Le Fondre all forcing saves from the Saddlers' keeper. Walsall looked dangerous on

the break and County goalkeeper Sam McEwen made a good save from the visitors' centre forward. On the stroke of half time, James Callery scored with a shot from 15 yards across the keeper after being put through by Woolcott.

The second goal arrived five minutes into the second half with Callery crossing for Le Fondre to drive home from 15 yards. Le Fondre and Callery both had chances to increase County's lead before substitute Robert Jordan tapped home Adam Oakes' cross for the third after 67 minutes. County: McEwen (Duncan), Foster (Henry), Kay (Crank), Woolcott (Stuart), McAllister, Raynes, Callery (Desmond), Pearson (Bowler), Douglas (Jordan), Le Fondre (Yoffe), Oakes

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

This week's youngster in the spotlight is first year youth trainee James Callery. James is from Prestwich and was born on October 6, 1986. He joined our Centre of Excellence at 13 and can play on the right wing or in central midfield. He has scored one goal in six games for the Under-19s whilst for the Under-17s James has scored four goals in nine games.

Under 17's Results 2003/04

Date	Opponents	V	Score
23/07/03	Urawa University	Home	4-0 Douglas, Le Fondre, Newby, Campbell
26/07/03	Macclesfield Town	Home	0-2
01/08/03	Lancashire FA	Away	4-1 Yoffe 2, Allen, Pearson
04/08/03	Stockport & Dist FA	Home	5-2 Le Fondre 3, Davies, Kay
09/08/03	Trafford	Home	1-0 Yoffe
30/08/03	Notre Dame College	Home	2-1 Jackson 2
08/09/03	Oldham Athletic	Away	4-3 Le Fondre 2, Oakes, Yoffe
13/09/03	Port Vale	Home	3-3 Jordan 2, Pearson (pen)
20/09/03	Tranmere Rovers	Home	1-1 Brownhill
27/09/03	Shrewsbury Town	Home	0-1
01/10/03	Burnley	Home	1-0 Douglas
04/10/03	Wrexham	Home	3-0 Douglas 2, Le Fondre
11/10/03	Walsall	Home	4-0 Callery, Le Fondre, Oakes, Yoffe
08/11/03	Shrewsbury Town	Home	4-2 Oakes 2, Bowler, McAllister
22/11/03	Port Vale	Away	2-1 Le Fondre 2
28/11/03	Everton	Away	0-3
12/12/03	Walsall	Away	3-5 Le Fondre, Foster, Yoffe
14/01/04	Burnley	Home	4-0 Le Fondre, Douglas, Oakes
17/01/04	Celtic	Home	1-1 Le Fondre
21/01/04	Notre Dame College	Away	5-1 Le Fondre 3, McAllister, Oakes
24/01/04	Shrewsbury Town	Away	5-0 Brownhill, Callery, Desmond, Jordan, Yoffe
31/01/04	Wrexham	Away	3-1 Callery, Douglas, Le Fondre (pen)
07/02/04	Walsall	Home	3-0 Callery, Douglas, Le Fondre



James Callery



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ON THE LEAGUE LADDER

CHRIS DAVIES ROUNDS UP THE NON LEAGUE NEWS

One of non-league's greatest giant killers are at it again. Altrincham's victory in the last round of the FA Trophy was nothing short of sensational when they won away at Weymouth. Now today they have another giant task on their hands as they entertain Shrewsbury. Everything about Altrincham in past years has been their exploits in different Cup competitions. Their league form has been rubbish but there is something about the Cup that seems to bring out the best in the Robins. Graham Heathcote will have them fired up for today's big test and we wish them well.

Another side who are having a terrible season in the league is Stalybridge Celtic but after stumbling through a replay at Marine in the last round of the Trophy, the Bower Fold outfit have a plum home draw today against our friends from Canvey Island. A win could revitalise their season and of course put them a step nearer to the Final at Villa Park. Conquerors of AFC Wimbledon, Colne, have gone a step further in the FA Vase when last Saturday they beat Bristol side Bittern 2-0. Colne are now in the Quarter Finals and have gone further than any other side from the Second Division of the North West Counties League. They have another home tie and must fancy their chances against Eastwood Town from Nottingham. The Unibond League look set to put the cat amongst the pigeons with a call for a fourth official next season. One of their games the other week ended with just two officials and the league say that they should have cover on hand.

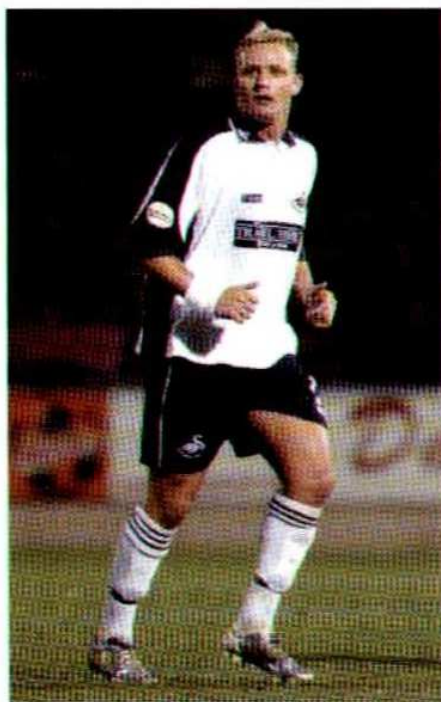
That just isn't on! There is a general shortage of referees at the lower end of the scale and that problem would be further exaggerated if

the Unibond took more referees on board.

By the way, don't you agree that all this messing about with the offside law is causing more confusion and arguments to an already difficult job for the poor old officials? Let's go back to the old law. If you're offside, you're offside. Forget the interfering bit and make it easy for everyone to understand.

Flavour of the month, Lee Trundle, is certainly setting the world alight at Swansea but did you know that he started his career at Burscough. The Scouser scored four in his very first game against Blackpool Wren Rovers and hasn't stopped scoring since. Expect bids before the end of the season.

Who are the only non-league team to win the FA Cup? You may be surprised, shocked and even amazed to learn that it was Tottenham Hotspurs in 1901. They beat Sheffield United in the Final in the days when Spurs were in the Southern League.



■ Lee Trundle started his career at Burscough



■ Will Moss Lane witness another giant-killing act this afternoon?

THE FAR POST...

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TICKETS GOING FAST FOR NIGHT OF THE YEAR AT EP!



■ Saint Luke... our 2003 Player of the Year

We are delighted to announce that this season's Player of the Year Gala Dinner, sponsored by M & H Coach Travel, will take place here at Edgeley Park on Sunday May 9. Last year's event was a huge success - not surprising when you consider the 'sold out' signs were posted more than four weeks in advance! And this year promises to be no different, particularly when you consider that we've held the ticket prices - now selling like hot cakes, incidentally - at £25 per person.

Just take a look at what's included...

- A delicious 4-course dinner
- The chance to vote for your Player of the Year
- The chance to vote for your Young Player of the Year
- The chance to vote for your Goal of the Season
- Special Video Presentations
- The opportunity to mingle with Sammy and all the first team squad
- The opportunity to obtain personal photographs and autographs
- Entertainment throughout the evening

You may recall that during the evening we also present the first team shirts to the individuals and companies who have sponsored Sammy's players.

And, apart from the official shirt, sponsors also receive two FREE tickets for the bash so it's a great way to guarantee your place on the best night of the year at EP!

Although many people renewed their sponsorship following last season's event there are still several players still available including our Ireland Under-21 international Jon Daly and new-boy Mark Robertson.

This event WILL sell out so don't be disappointed ... if you have any enquiries about booking tickets or sponsoring players please contact Martin Bellis on 0161 286 8925 or E-Mail martin.bellis@stockportcounty.com



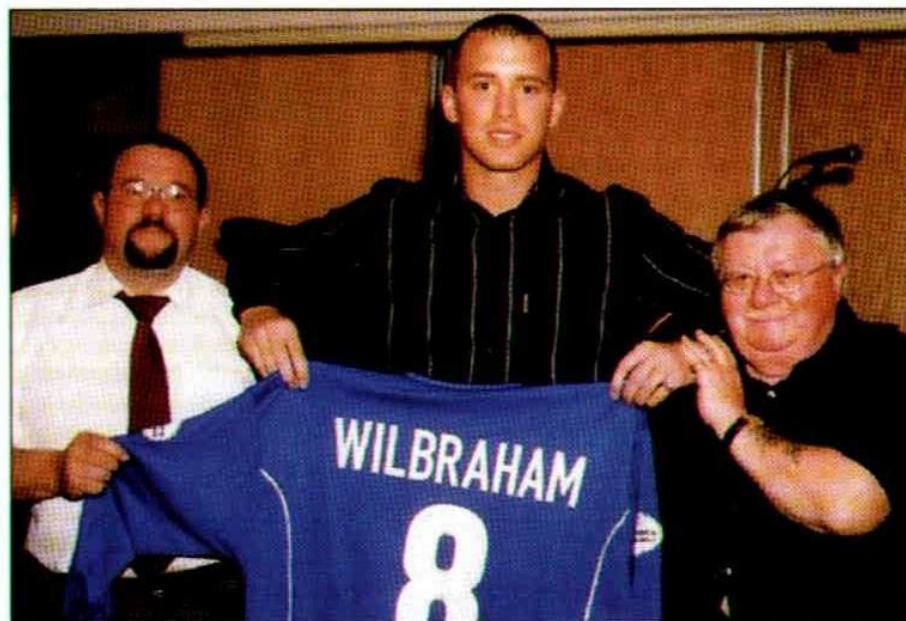
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■ The Fingerpost Travel Club sponsored Aaron Wilbraham



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GET THE SUB ON!

In the week that FIFA supremo Sepp Blatter has called for the number of substitutions in friendly internationals to be restricted to a maximum of five it's perhaps worth recalling that substitutes weren't allowed at all in the English game until the start of 1965-66

And on the opening-day of the new season Frank Beaumont entered the County record books as our first-ever sub when he came off the bench to replace Dennis Hoggart during a 1-0 defeat at Chester in front of almost 10,000 fans at their old Sealand Road ground.

Albert Harley was the first substitute we used in the FA Cup when he replaced Len Allchurch in the shock FA Cup defeat at Macclesfield – then a Cheshire League side – on December 13 1967.

And the following season Ian Ledgard became the first County player to come off the bench in the League Cup when Tony Morrin made way for him in a 5-1 defeat at Derby. The former Blackburn striker managed to find the back of the net as well to become the first Hatters sub to score in a game.

The Baseball Ground was also the stage for

the first FA Cup goal scored by a County substitute; a quite incredible 25 years after Ledgard managed the feat in the other cup competition. Super-sub Brian McCord sent more than 3,000 travelling fans into raptures when his late goal looked to have earned the Hatters a much-deserved replay. But the joy soon turned into despair when current Stalybridge Celtic boss David Miller scored an unfortunate own goal in the dying seconds to ease the Rams into round four.

Peter Bebbington has the distinction of being County's first substitute goalscorer in the Football League. The defender replaced Gordon Low at Mansfield on October 11 1969 and notched his first, and only County goal, in what proved to be his solitary substitute appearance for the Hatters.

On the other side of the coin Aaron Wilbraham has come off the bench no fewer than 55 times for the Hatters – ten more than Tony Dinning in second place.

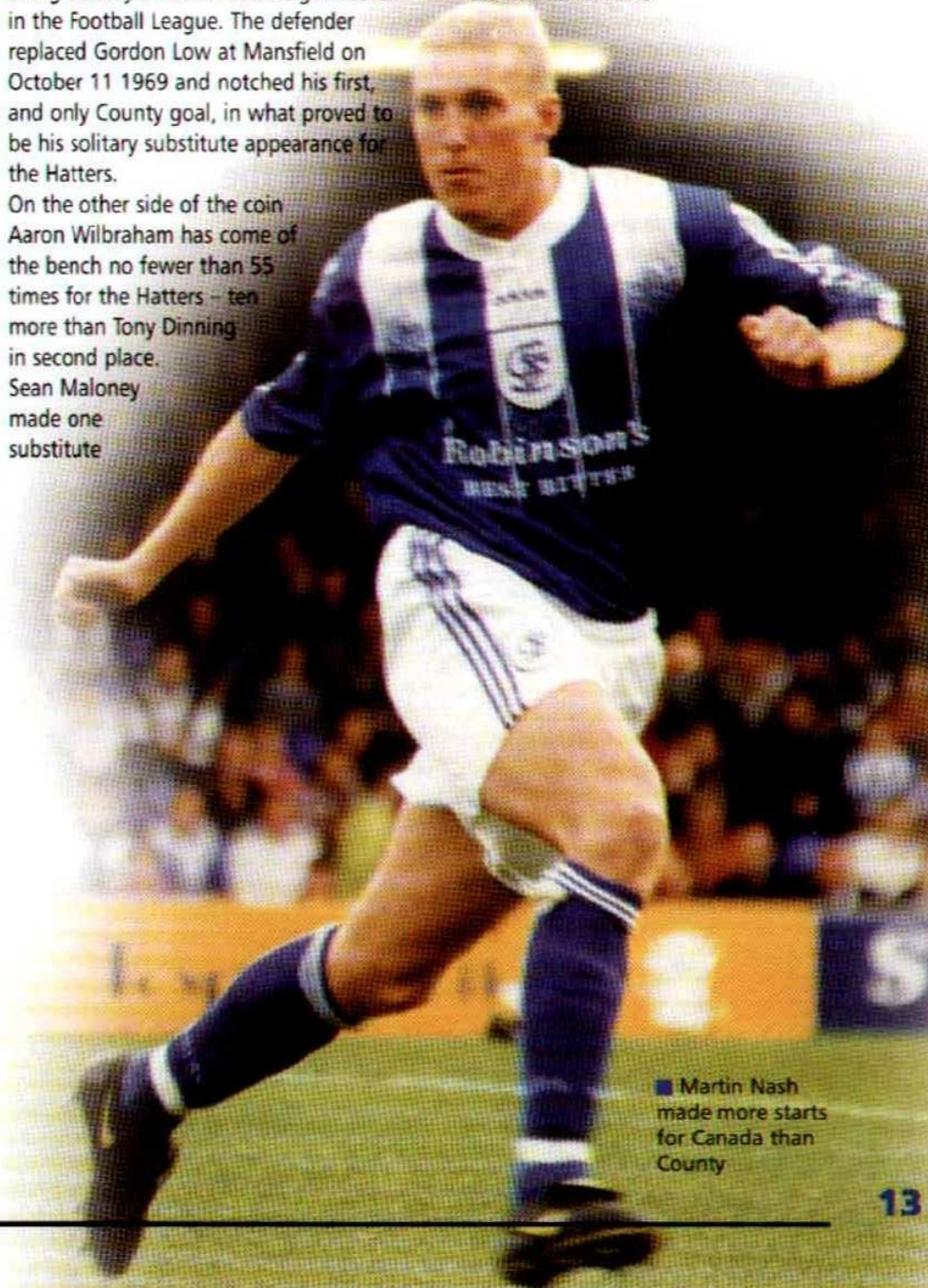
Sean Maloney made one substitute

appearance for County without actually touching the ball! On August 20 1979 the Glossop-born striker, spotted playing for local side Grove United, replaced the injured Paul Edwards with less than a minute of the Fourth Division clash with neighbours Rochdale remaining. He didn't figure again for the Hatters, surely the shortest County (or Football League career?)

Martin Nash was capped 8 times for Canada during his two seasons at Edgeley Park. His 11 County League appearances were all as substitute.



■ Sean Maloney's Hatters career lasted less than a minute



■ Martin Nash made more starts for Canada than County

FORTHCOMING GAMES AT EDGELEY PARK

Sale Sharks v Saracens
Friday 27th February
Powergen Cup Quarter Final
Kick Off 7.45pm



Saracens dumped the Sharks out of last years competition and have all ready lost here this season, but Sarries will have England hero Richard Hill MBE leading from the front. The prize for the winners will be a HOME tie in the Semi Finals.

PLEASE NOTE SEASON TICKETS ARE NOT VALID FOR THIS GAME. SEASON TICKET HOLDERS HAVE UNTIL FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY TO PURCHASE THEIR SEAT.AFTER THIS DATE ALL TICKETS WILL BE ON OPEN SALE.

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CLUB WELCOMES SHELS' FANS

SHELBOURNE FAITHFUL MAKE SECOND VISIT TO EDGELEY PARK



One of the best aspects of a match day that appears to have come back into football in recent years is the socializing amongst the fans. Not too many years ago away fans were herded in and out of towns to such a degree that you rarely got chance to sit down and have a conversation with a visiting supporter. Fortunately that has changed and now you can trade on stories of how good – or how bad

– your side is compared to the opposition over a pint or two before the game. Also, these meetings are often a useful source of information on which pubs are worthwhile, and safe, to head for on away trips.

The Hatters Independent Supporters Club have always been great advocates of mixing with other fans both before and since their involvement with the Football Supporters Federation. A connection with James Gannon gave them the chance to take the social links to the international stage a couple of years ago when some of the people who knew Jim well made a trip out to Dublin to see him play for his then club Shelbourne. A single e-mail for information led to a reception from the Shels supporters club that was superb with the socializing over a pint (or ten) of Guinness often being almost more important than the football! Further visits have been made and the County fans even managed to delay the kick off for one league match when they presented Jim with his Stockport County Hall of Fame certificate and a salver to commemorate his appointment as honorary vice president of the Hatters Independent Supporters Club. The most recent visit from England came when a sizable party were lucky enough to be able to make the trip across to Dublin and watch the last game of the season, and congratulate the Shelbourne fans on their club being crowned League champions.

BENEFIT

These sorts of fan links can only be of benefit to Stockport County as a starting point for publicizing the existence of the club further afield. Indeed after our visit the Shelbourne fans changed their traditional organized trip to head over to England last season and watch the match against Cardiff City. We must have managed to keep them entertained – even though they were more or less force fed Balti pies at half time – as they are back again this weekend for some socializing, shopping and of course football watching.

We'd like to welcome you back to Edgeley Park and hope you enjoy your weekend. If by any chance you bring us a bit of good fortune and three points that will be welcome as well.

Now then if someone can identify clubs in the Caribbean, Spain and Italy who need to establish friendly contact with a group of county fans let us know. We can always head out as ambassadors to County and establish a few more social connections!



■ Jim Gannon ... honorary vice president of the Hatters Independent Supporters Club

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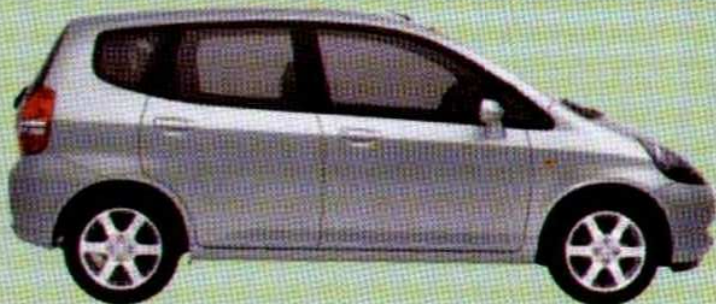


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Typical example: Jazz 1.4 i-DSI S On the road price £9,000 Customer deposit £1,392.00 Deposit Allowance £300 Advance £7,307.50. 36 x monthly payments of £145. Final payment (GMFV) £3,841. Total amount payable £10,498.50 APR 9.2%. Annual mileage 10,000 miles. Excess mileage 6p per mile. Total cash price includes £475 delivery & number plates. £25 first registration fee and VED in line with Government Legislation. The Guaranteed Minimum Future Value will be used to pay the Final Payment if the car is returned after the last monthly payment provided the car has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book, is in good condition and the maximum permitted mileage has not been exceeded. A £95 Credit Acceptance Fee is included in the monthly payments and a £45 Option to Purchase Fee is payable with the final payment. Offer not available to limited companies. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over subject to status. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Full written quotations available on request. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. the £300 Deposit Allowance applies to the Honda Jazz 1.4 i-DSI S bought with Honda Aspirations between 1 July and 20 September 2003. The dealer will deduct the amount from the customer invoice to reduce the amount borrowed. All retail purchasers of the Honda Jazz 1.4 i-DSI S aged between 25-70 will be applicable (subject to conditions) for one years free insurance. The car must be registered between 1 July and 29 September 2003. models subject to availability.

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PRESS PRESSING FOR HOLLINS

Stockport tiger Star manager John Hollins won't have any time to relax when he arrives in China to take up his new position next week. The former Arsenal and Chelsea star will fly straight into a press conference within a couple of hours of arriving in the Chinese capital Beijing.

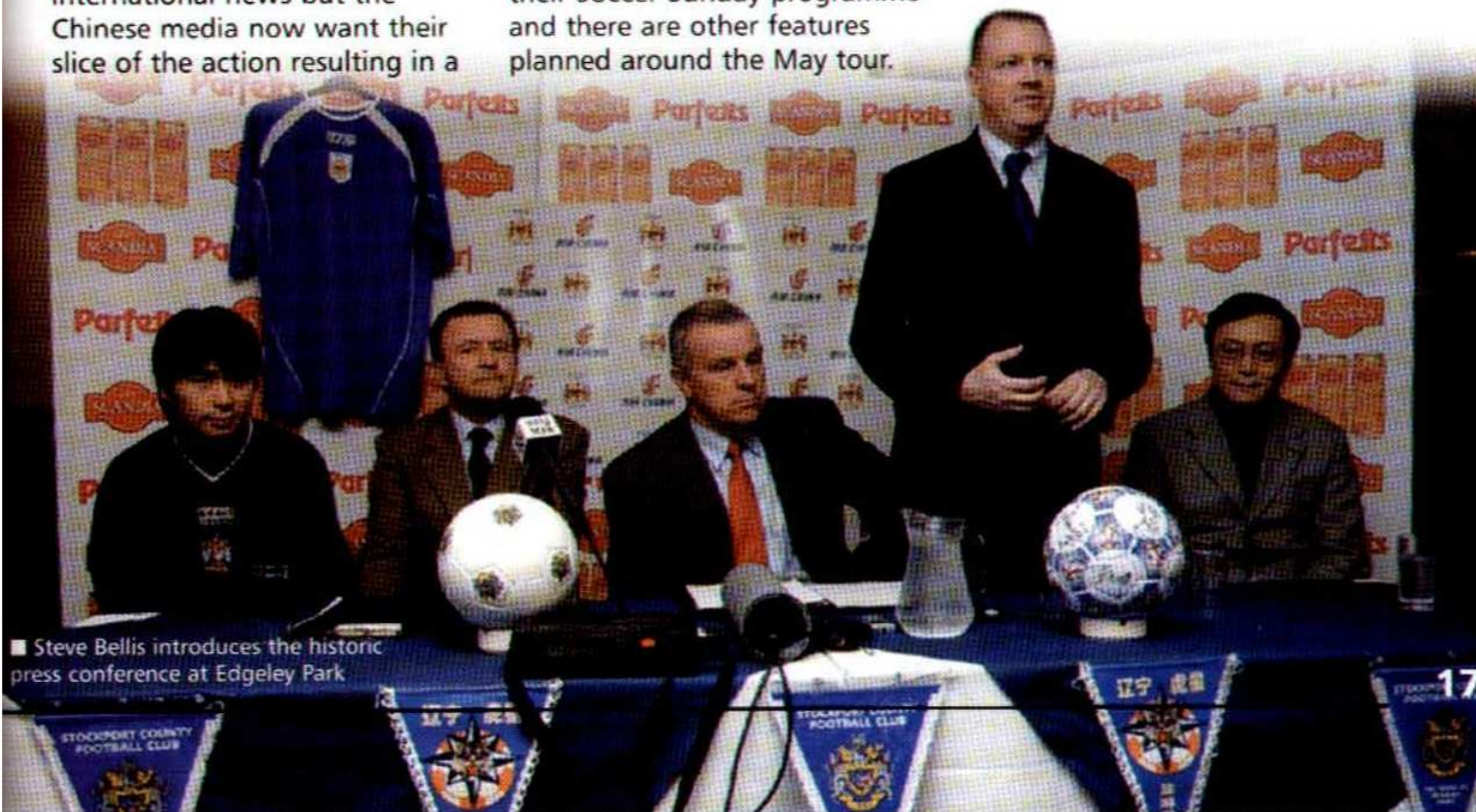
Hollins was appointed as the first-ever manager of a joint venture club in China when he accepted the hot seat of the Shenyang based club created by Stockport County and Shenyang Tiger Star. At a packed press conference the man who won the Third Division Championship with Swansea and then took Rochdale into the play offs spoke of his excitement at the challenge presented by his new role.

The story of the joint venture club has already become international news but the Chinese media now want their slice of the action resulting in a

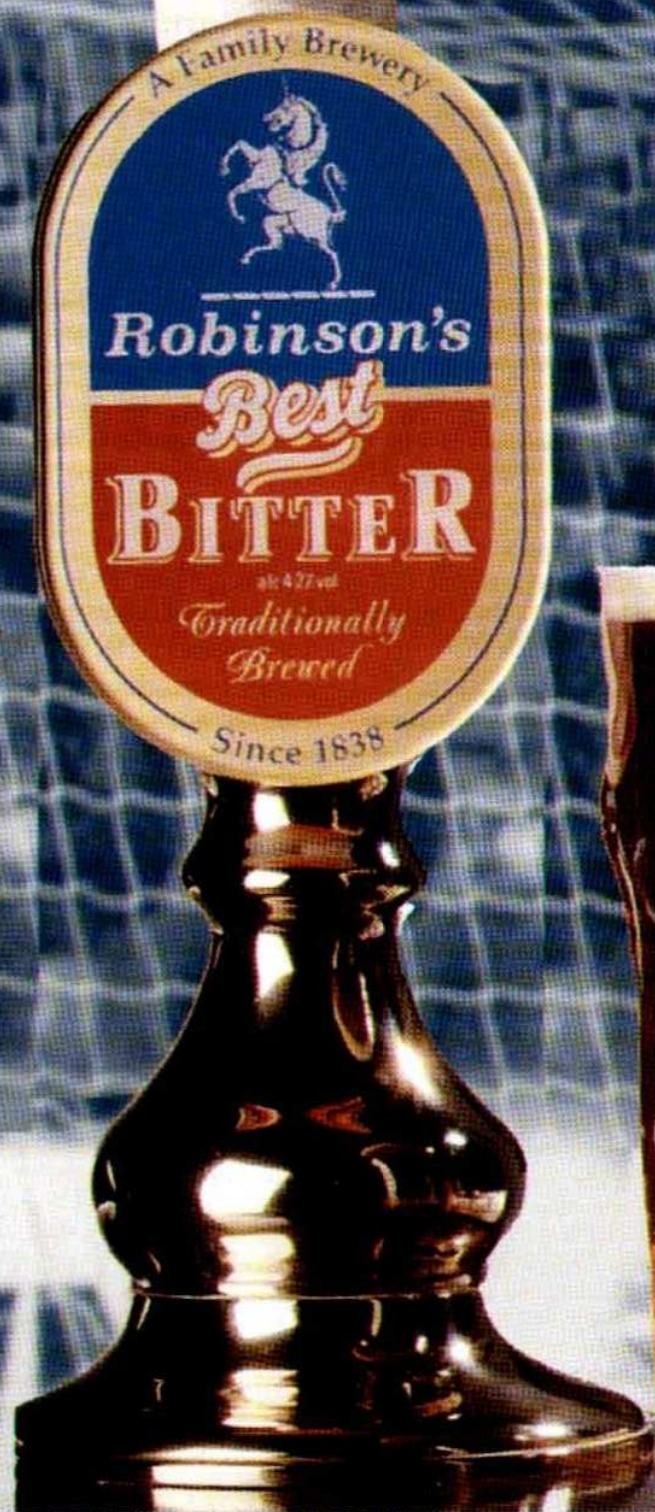
change to the originally planned schedule next week.

Hollins will fly out with County Chairman Mike Baker, Commercial General Manager Steve Bellis and Language assistant Gao Zheng on Tuesday evening arriving in the Chinese capital at midday on Wednesday. He will also be accompanied by an ITV crew, who will produce two features about his arrival in Shenyang. With the temperature in Shenyang now warming up to acceptable levels (around 0 degrees centigrade), the squad have flown back from the southern city of Nanning to wait for the arrival of their new boss. Hollins will meet his team for the first time on Thursday when he takes them for their first training session in the club's Shenyang stadium. The first session will be captured by Granada TV for their Soccer Sunday programme and there are other features planned around the May tour.

During their time in Shenyang Baker and Bellis will make arrangements for the Tiger Star team to visit the UK in March. Friendlies are being planned with Hyde United, Stalybridge Celtic and Woodley amongst the potential opponents. It is hoped that County fans will turn out to support their Chinese sister team and make them feel at home. It is an adventure that has clearly excited John Hollins, "It is a fantastic opportunity for myself and also for Stockport County. To a large extent we are going into the unknown but we have the support of the British government, the Chinese football authorities and hopefully our supporters here in Stockport. I am looking forward to bringing the team to Stockport at the earliest opportunity and to playing against Sammy's boys in May in Shenyang"



■ Steve Bellis introduces the historic press conference at Edgeley Park



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LENS CAPTAIN

THE WEIRD AND WONDERFUL WORLD OF STEVE SOUTHART OUR RESIDENT SNAPPER

The latest results from the Improbable Research Society have recently landed with a pleasing thud onto my desk, proving beyond reasonable doubt that some people have got too much time on their hands. And I'm one of them. For the uninitiated, the Improbable Research Society (find them at www.improbable.com) publish the *Annals of Improbable Research*, where you can submit the results of any pointless experiments, which you may have carried out. The most pointless may result in your receiving an Ig Nobel Prize at the end of the year. So, what qualifies as pointless research? Well, take some of these published articles as your reference, and you will begin to get the idea. Previous research papers have included: "The effects of peanut butter on the rotation of the earth," "Infectious diseases in bricks," "A decade of burnt food," "An astrology chart for bacteria," the bizarre "The sleep-retardant properties of my ex-girlfriend," and the classic "Feline reactions to bearded men."

ARCHIVES

From the archives of the society's magazine, you can read about (if you find yourself so inclined to do) "Tumbling Toast" "Lighting a Grill with Liquid Oxygen" (which, as the website helpfully points out, is not recommended), "Make Your Own Electric Pickle" and "The Effect of Ale, Garlic and Soured Cream on the Appetite of Leeches."

Of course, some people have to go one step further and publish their results on the Internet. For a particularly fine example of this, log on to www.twinkiesproject.com to find an in-depth analysis of the properties of America's favourite confection, the Twinkie. (For a British perspective, you can conduct similar experiments on the Wagon Wheel, despite the fact that they are about half the size they used to be, even though the manufacturers say it is because our hands have grown bigger.) On this site, the Twinkie was

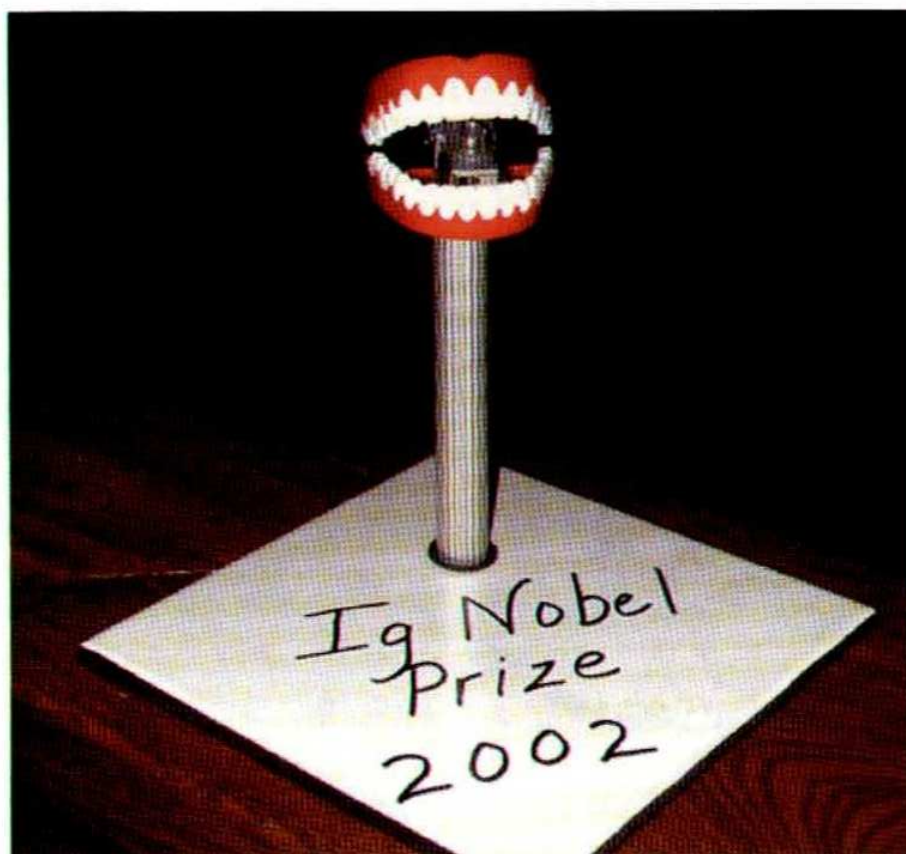
subjected to gravity tests to chart the effect of dropping one out of a sixth-floor window onto concrete. It was then subjected to flame-resistance, oxidation and solubility tests (i.e. it was drowned and then set on fire.) Finally, it was the subject of a Turing Test to look for signs of artificial intelligence by asking it and a student a series of questions. Apparently, the Twinkie was found to be having an innate intelligence, while results for the student were less conclusive. Similar confectionary-based experiments include a pioneering experiment to separate conjoined marshmallow duckling quintuplets using a scalpel, a soldering iron and an office stapler. With understandably mixed results.

SPIN-OFF

Without doubt the most bizarre spin-off from the Society for Improbable Research, however, is the "Luxuriant Flowing Hair Club For Scientists." As the publicity blurb for the club states,

"the public loves to see and applaud scientists who have luxuriant, flowing hair." Well, we do, don't we? It's a tradition that dates back to Newton via Einstein and top-class astronomer-turned-rock-god Brian May, that mad professors should be so bound-up in their work that they eschew traditional grooming devices such as combs or haircuts, unless of course they truly suffer from "pili trianguli et canalculi" which is the scientific term for un-combable hair syndrome. So today's bods are submitting their own barnets to a contest to find out who is the most hirsute boffin in the world.

Incidentally, if you like what you have seen here and on the websites named above, the Improbable Research Society will be on tour in March as part of British Science week, and will be appearing at Manchester University if you want to go along and see hairy scientists talking about pointless things.



Stockport County supporters claim to have more original songs than any other team in Great Britain – and it's hard to argue against them.

A Swaying Mass of Humanity, a booklet containing 100 County favourites spanning four decades was so popular that the fans took to the recording studio to release Songs of the Cheadle End, a unique CD featuring no less than 46 of the best Hatters hits. Throughout the season Ian Lancashire will take us back in time to some memorable County games and some equally memorable County songs!

This afternoon his Time Machine takes us back to 1967 and an overnight journey to Swindon.



■ County Legends ... Former Swindon hitman Bill Atkins and Jim Fryatt

My first look at Swindon came in the opening home match of the 1967-68 season – just four month's after we gloriously claimed the Fourth Division title.

In front of over 9000 at Edgeley Park my beloved Hatters won 2-0 thanks to goals from Keith East and Derek 'King' Kevan. Ironically the following season, 1968-69,

LANCS'

Swindon was our first away game. We lost 1-0 on the day, but what a great trip!

It was midnight on the coach from Mersey Square. A strong stench of alcohol was evident as many 'rubber-legged' Cheadle Enders climbed (and fell) onto the bus ready for the arduous trek south.

Arriving in Swindon around 7.30 in the morning the slowly-sobering mob of 'dossier jacketed' County fans looked around for a cafe. We found one and very soon an argument had started over the extortionate price of a mug of tea! (This was definitely not the Mersey Cafe!).

Good news followed, though, when Woolworth's opened and we chipped in to buy a ball and found a local park near the ground for our customary 25 a side game of footy. Passing the time until the pubs opened at 11 o'clock the footy game had by now turned into a mass brawl as flying tackles went in! All in fun though!



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LYRICS

Finding a pub we all went in and held our breath ... how much would a pint cost? (I just about managed to be able to buy a couple!).

Anyway, it wasn't long before the customary sing-song was in full swing and many of the songs paid homage to the great Jim 'Pancho' Fryatt, idol to thousands of Cheadle Enders.

Arthur Brown: Fire

*I am the God of Stockport County,
And I bring you ... Fryatt!
Da-da-da ... Fryatt!*

Manfred Mann: Mighty Quinn

*Come on without, come on within,
You've not seen nothing like the mighty Jim
... Fryatt!*

The Move: Fire Brigade

*We're gonna call the Fryatt Brigade,
Call the Fryatt brigade,
Cos now we know that it's the County's turn,
Ooh! Call the Fryatt brigade!*

Ay-Ay-Ay we are my favourite people

*Hi-yi-yi-yi, Ogley is better than Yashin,
Bill Atkins is better than Eusabio,
The Donny are in for a thrashin'*

*Hi-yi-yi-yi, Pancho is better than Pele,
Bill Atkins is better than Eusabio,
The Cheadle End 'ave been on the tele!*

With Len Allchurch and Johnny Price supplying the bullets for Fryatt and former Swindon hitman Bill Atkins, (25 goals in 75 games for this afternoon's visitors), another Hatters legend, County made a solid start to the campaign. But, following a goalless draw at Gillingham on October 12 1968, the Edgeley faithful were stunned when the club accepted a record £30,000 bid from Second Division Blackburn Rovers for fans' favourite Fryatt.

In the very next game, though, utility man Fred Goodwin was pushed up front to fill the void and scored FOUR times as County hammered Orient 5-2 at Edgeley Park.

A 5-0 defeat at Southport followed but six wins and two draws in the next eight games – including a 3-0 revenge mission on Southport in front of 12,454 and the TV cameras at EP – propelled the Hatters right back into the promotion shake-up.

But when Swindon Town came to town on March 8 1969 County had slipped back down the table on the back of seven win-less games.

That dismal run ended, though, when they upset the form book with a 2-1 victory over a Robins side that, seven days later, would beat Arsenal at Wembley to lift the Football League Cup ... typical County, eh!

The home team took the lead on 14 minutes. Johnny Price's corner was flicked on by Alex Young. John Trollope, trying to keep the ball out, deflected it onto the bar and defender Danny Campbell came thundering in to power it over the line.

The league-leaders equalised in first-half injury time when Peter Noble headed Don Rogers' cross past Brian Lloyd.

County, though, were not to be denied and won the game when Price's shot from the edge of the box was deflected past Peter Downsborough.

The following week Arsenal were expected to stroll past Swindon in the Wembley showcase.

But the Robins rocked the Gunners when Ian Ure's feeble back pass left Roger Smart with the easiest of chances to beat Bob Wilson.

Late in the game, though, Downsborough spoiled an otherwise impeccable performance when he gifted

an equaliser to Bobby Gould with just four minutes remaining.

On a pitch decimated by the Horse of the Year Show in midweek extra time was probably the last thing both sets of players needed.

The additional 30 minutes, though, was the cue for Robins' talisman Rogers to turn on the magic. He gave the Wiltshire side the lead in the first period of extra time and then waltzed through the mud from the half-way line in the dying seconds to make the game safe.

Unfortunately the rules of the day prevented Swindon taking their rightful place in Europe but, back in the Third Division, they achieved their pre-season target when they were promoted in second place – on goal difference – behind champions Watford after both teams finished on 64 points.

Inconsistent County beat Watford home and away but finished back in 9th spot with 46 points from their 46-game campaign.

The Hatters average attendance of 7,173 was almost 11,000 behind Swindon's incredible figure of 18,055 – an average higher than First Division Burnley, 16 Second Division outfits and every other team in Divisions' Three and Four.



■ Muddy Marvels... Swindon Town celebrate their magnificent League Cup victory over Arsenal in 1969

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FROM THE HEART OF EDGELEY PARK

COUNTY IN THE COMMUNITY WITH MIKE SMITH

Good afternoon and welcome back to Edgeley Park for the visit of Swindon Town. Let's all get behind the team and give all the lads our vocal support, it really helps! It's been a busy period for us here in the Football in the Community office of late, with our After School Sessions and In-Set Day Courses set to take off after the school holidays. Read on ...

Ballboys/Girls

We are pleased to welcome back to Edgeley Park, Queensgate Football Club, who are providing ballboys/girls for this afternoon's fixture. The players are made up from their under 8s, 9s and 10s teams, and are as follows:- Oliver Anderson, Toby Anderson, Kieran Beaumont, Alex Boyd, Adam Davies, Josh Davies, Alex Elliott, James Hardy, Michael Hickman, Ben Irving, Chris Johnson, Alex Nichols, Adam Sedgewick, Becky Shaw, Matthew Staley and Louis Woodward. Hope you enjoy the game boys. Fingers crossed we can provide a win for you on your visit.

Soccer Course BOOM!

Our Soccer Course BOOM takes place next week at Stockport School. Over 130 children have already enrolled on the course and the details

are as follows:

Venue: Stockport School, Mile End, Stockport
Date: Monday 16th - Friday 20th February 2004

Open To: Boys and Girls

Cost: £20.00 and £35.00

Time: 6/7 year olds - 10am to 12noon

8/14 year olds - 10am to 3pm

Required: Packed lunch, warm clothing, shin pads

Ref No: FITC56

To enrol on the course, please collect a form from Reception or the Club shop, complete and hand in to a member of staff at reception.

Hurry, though, today's the last day for enrolment! If you require any further information, ask to speak to a member of FITC Staff and we will gladly help you.

Stockport County players, Danny Jackman and Danny Griffin, will be coming along to the Course during the week to sign autographs and answer questions etc. Don't miss out - join in!

New Opportunities Fund

Along with our Soccer Course BOOM, we will also be running a holiday course in Adswold, as part of our New Opportunities Funded 'Out of School Childcare' programme. The course

details are as follows:

Venue: St. Ambrose Primary, Adswold

Date: Monday 16th - Friday 20th February 2004

Time: 9am to 5pm

Open To: Boys and Girls

Cost: £40.00

Required: Packed Lunch, Warm Clothing, Shin Pads

Ref No: NOF 11

The course is open to children who attend the following schools - Adswold, Cale Green, Bridge Hall, St. George's, St. Ambrose, Ladybridge, Cheadle Heath, St. Matthew's, Our Lady's, Alexandra Park and Larkhill. See you all next week.

National 6-a-side Competition

Our local winners, St. Peters Primary (Hazel Grove), attended Manchester United's Cliff Training Complex to compete in the Area Finals. The school representing Stockport County were playing for the right to progress into the Regional Finals against winning schools representing Manchester United, Manchester City, Stoke City, Macclesfield Town, Bolton Wanderers, Rochdale, Oldham Athletic, Wrexham, Port Vale and Crewe Alexandra. A full report will appear in our next programme against Brighton on February 28.

FITC Guests

Our guests for today's Valentine fixture are the players from St. Peters and the players from the runner-up school, Great Moor Junior. All the players will be doing a lap of honour during the half-time interval and will be presented with their certificates by a County player afterwards. Give all the lads a cheer - they all thoroughly deserve it!

Senior Citizens Bingo Club

Our popular Bingo Club, held every Wednesday here at Edgeley Park, is still going from strength to strength. Last week saw the club embark on a trip across the Pennines to the Meadowhall Shopping Complex, in Sheffield, supported by Football in the Community. If anyone would like to join the Bingo Club, pop along to Edgeley Park on Wednesday afternoons and ask for Joan Baxter. Eyes Down, Clickety Click!

And Finally...

That's all for now folks, enjoy the game and have a safe journey home.

Yours in sport

Mike Smith

Football in the Community Officer



■ Vernon Bear and Sharky dropped into our popular Bingo Club's Christmas Party

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S.C.S.C. 

Welcome back to Edgeley Park for another crucial Second Division match against in-form Swindon Town. Few people will forget County's fantastic victory down at the County Ground last October when James Spencer's penalty save helped County to all three points. I wrote about earning our first 'double' of the season in the Peterborough programme, but unfortunately the result didn't go County's way that day. Well, we have another bite of the cherry this afternoon as we attempt to claim the full six points from Swindon. It certainly won't be an easy game, though, as their recent seven-game unbeaten run suggests.

The Robins have shown that with determination, and a bit of time, how a struggling Second Division side can force their way up the table and be a threat in the league. Sammy McIlroy is trying to do a similar job here at Edgeley Park and last Saturday saw another piece of his jigsaw put in place with the temporary signing of Dave Walton from Derby County. Sammy acknowledged the need of a bit of height at the back, which was clearly evident during the Peterborough game. The defensive performance last Saturday was one the best I've seen for a long while and reminded me of the days when players like Alan Finley, Bill Williams and Mike Flynn were patrolling the back four. Hopefully Sammy will be able to make Dave's move a permanent one, as I believe he would be an excellent acquisition to the side.

WELCOME 'HOME' JOHN

It was interesting to hear about the return of John Hollins to Edgeley Park, although only briefly, before he takes up his post as Stockport County's new manager of their sister club in China, Tiger Star. John has been appointed to oversee this promising club with the hope of lifting them to the top flight in the Chinese League. It's nice that County have found a place for one of football's true gentlemen of the game and he is someone that is held in high esteem amongst County faithful following his brief stint as caretaker-manager here at Edgeley Park earlier this season.

NEXT MEETING

Don't forget that the Supporters Club's next General Meeting has been arranged for next Wednesday 18th February. As usual the event will take place in the Sapphire Suite, with all the action starting around 7.30pm. At time of going to press, the names of representatives due to attend from the club is still to be announced. Hopefully further details will be announced by our President Kenny Boxshall on the pitch prior to today's game and at half time.

RACE NIGHT

Keep the date of Saturday 28th April free in your diaries as the Supporters Club are holding another Race Night here at Edgeley Park. Our previous ones have been hugely popular, so make an effort to come along and support us. Watch this space for more information nearer the date.

2004 CALANDERS

There are still a last few remaining 2004 Supporters Club Calendars on sale in the Club Shop or Supporters Club Bar. They have now been reduced from £6 to just £3. Don't forget that we also have on sale Supporters Club pin badges and key rings priced at £2. Whilst the ever-popular Cheadle End CD's are selling like 'hot cakes' with only a few remaining in the Club Shop and Supporters Club Bar.



■ Alan Finley took no prisoners at the heart of County's defence in the early 1990s

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Hatters Independent Supporters Club

**ONE POINT GAINED OR TWO POINTS LOST?**

The two matches since the last home programme have seen County draw twice. In both games it would be difficult to decide whether it was a case of one point gained or two points lost. Against Peterborough the goals again came from positions other than the solitary forward – perhaps more evidence that the new system is working. However, this was more than counteracted at Wrexham where a panicky home defence was put under too little pressure almost directly as a result of the lack of support for Aaron Wilbraham up front. County created fewer chances than the opposition – which under normal circumstances is to be expected away from home, but meant they did not take advantage of the three-man defence adopted by the Welsh side.

On a positive note as mentioned previously the County back line looks much more stable than it did before the recent signings. They just need to improve their concentration and get some help from the players further up field in delaying the opposition's attacks. One thing is clear – if County draw all their games through to the end of the season it's very unlikely we'll have climbed out of the bottom four position we find ourselves in at present. Hopefully, the management can find a way to include the in form players whilst giving us a chance of winning games. Without some of these the draws will have to start going down as two points lost.

YOU ARE THE TWELFTH MAN

There was a football match on television last week where a team played the second half with only 10 men, they came from 3-0 down to win 4-3. The so-called pundits said it was one of the best comebacks ever. Well what about our own comeback with 9 men away against Birmingham in the FA Cup a few years ago, the referee certainly seemed to favour the home side, and eventually our brave, spirited lads lost by the odd goal. The passion and support shown by the County faithful that day was also evident in lifting the players at Wembley. On those occasions and many more, our supporters have helped to lift the players and benefited when the players have turned a loss into a draw and a draw into a win.

There are people who do not understand the loyalty that football supporters have to their club. They do not understand the anguish, and the blind faith that binds us all together. Those that have seen the light know that for County to be successful we need to give the club our undivided support.

How can we demonstrate that we all care? Look at the person sitting in your seat, yes that's you. If we all start to make even more noise, or in some cases join in with the cheering and clapping it will help to create a good atmosphere around the ground, which will in turn boost the players' confidence. We all win if we can achieve that goal making each and everyone of you the twelfth man. The results will improve, and we will climb up the league table and out of a relegation position. Then we can start making sure the media attention at Edgeley Park is on County as well as the other team that recently moved in.

FIVE ANSWER QUESTIONS AT THE FINGERPOST

HISC have always been proud to work along side the club, arranging events where the players go out into the community to meet the supporters. As supporters we always appreciate our heroes giving up their free time.

Twelve days ago a full house at the Fingerpost in Offerton got some insights from four of the newest players at the club – Danny Griffin, Danny Jackman, Mark Robertson and Ashley Williams –

on their reasons for coming to the club and their hopes for the season. Chief scout Gil Prescott also came along to give us something of the management's perspective on things. Questions covered topics as wide ranging as the preference between blades and studs; the impact the Edgeley Park surface is having on the team; which players are planning to move to the area; and the scouting system being built up by Gil; amongst many other questions. We also had Imagine's Jon Keighran who popped over to host the meeting in his usual inimitable style.

HISC would like to express our thanks to all those who gave up their spare time to attend, and a full summary of the evening on the HISC web site. We trust our guests from the club enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to their next chance to meet the supporters.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING BEFORE NEXT HOME GAME

The HISC AGM will take place before the next County home match on 28 February 2004. The meeting will be held in the upstairs room at the Florist pub on Shaw Heath, and more thanks are due here to the pub's landlord for permitting us to use the room. The meeting will start at 12.45 and will be over in plenty of time to fit in a pint or two before County complete the double over Brighton. All HISC members are invited to attend and all the usual AGM business will be covered including the elections to the central committee posts.



■ Gil Prescott, Danny Jackman, Danny Griffin, Ashley Williams and Mark Robertson were popular guests at the Fingerpost ten days ago



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Matchday Programme*



FEMALE FOOTIE

A CLOSER LOOK (BUT NOT TOO CLOSE) AT OUR LADIES BY JACCI COOPER

For the second game in succession the first team were beaten 1-0 away from home, this time by Chesterfield. A goal 10 seconds before half time gave the Spireites all three points. The result means the team drop out of the top two for the first time in the season although they remain level on points with Oldham Curzon.

The girls have a break from the league tomorrow when they travel to Crewe Vagrants in the semi final of the Cheshire Ladies Shield. Hopefully they can repeat their performance of last year when they won the trophy.

HNR were the only other senior team in action and they lost their game against Tameside away 2-0.

The Under 16's Hatters travelled to Bolton where they won 5 - 0. Jodie Palmer (2) Danni Airey (2) and Hannah Clarke were the scorers with Lucy Milward MOTM.

The Under 16's Blues also bounced back with a 4-1 win over Heyside Angels. The goals came from Kate Needham (2) Alex Foat and Kirsty Allen. Goalkeeper Sarah Burns was the heroine for the Under 13's in their 2nd round Challenge Cup tie on Saturday when she saved all four of Buxton's spot kicks in the penalty shoot-out. County took a 2-0 lead with goals from Lisa Mitchell and Olivia Hockin but Buxton levelled the game at 2-2.

Neither side scored in extra time so the game went to penalty kicks with County winning 2-0 to take them into the next round.

In their league cup semi-final the Under 11's were unlucky to face top of the table Hopwood Girls who were in fine form and who beat the County girls 5-0.

The Under 12's beat Hyde United 16 - 1 with goals came from Sophie Williams (5) Cheryl Burns (4) Jemma Pratt (4) Grace Campbell (2) and Becki Forster (1). The Under 10's were beaten 2-0 by Denton Town.

WORK EXPERIENCE

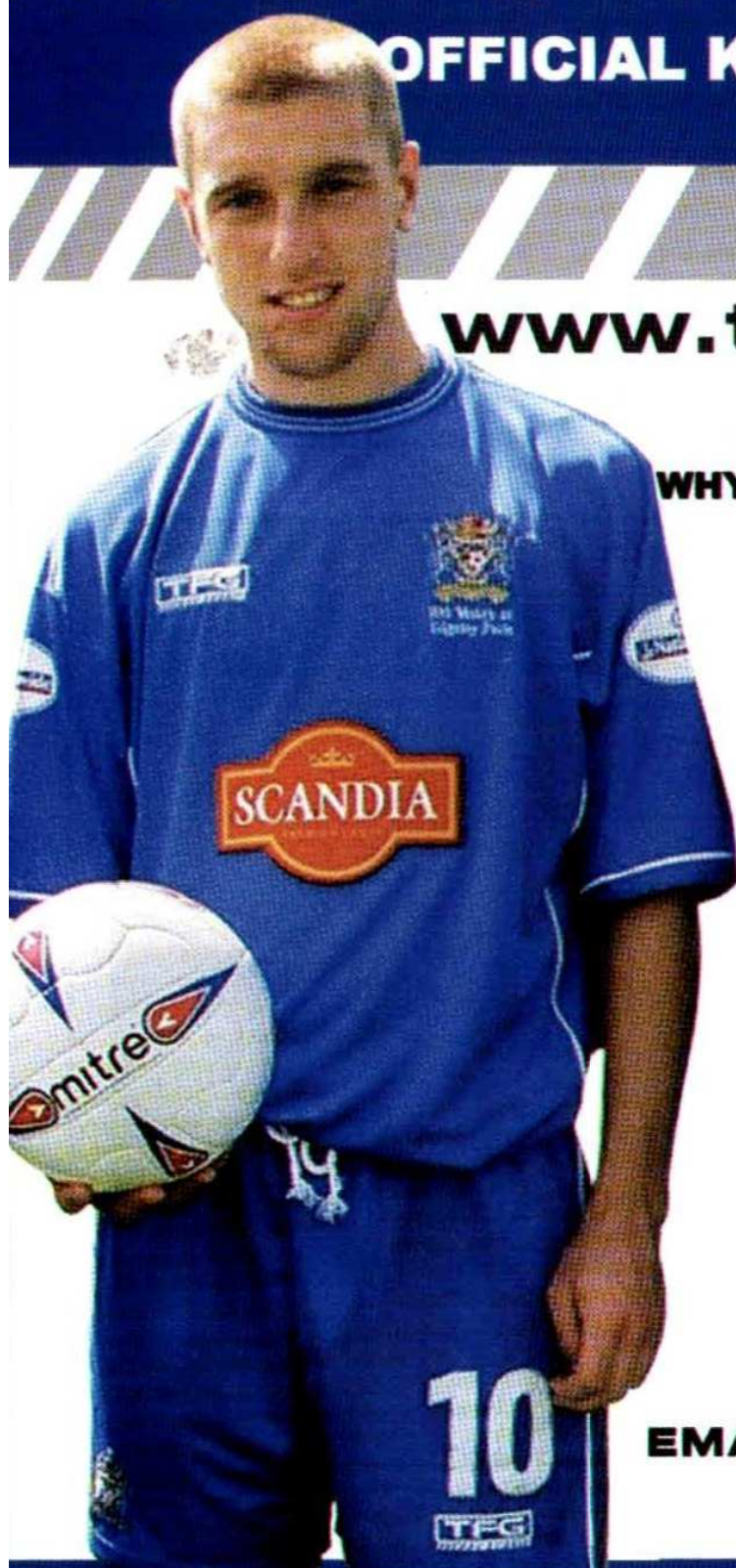
We find that several of our players ask to come along to work in the Football in the Community Department for their work experience weeks from school or college. Obviously we try to ensure that they experience as wide a variety of different activities whilst they are with us - mainly on the coaching side. Not many of them, though, get to attend the Bingo Club Christmas Party - especially as very special guests! Dani Sorton and Emma Gould did, though, and they made a fantastic job of their new roles!



■ Work experience with a difference!



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MEDIA MAN

Congratulations to John Hollins who was named as the new coach of our Chinese side Stockport Tiger Star last week, a club now partly owned by Stockport County.

John remains one of the nicest people in the game and I am delighted to see that his association with County has remained intact, despite his rather messy and acrimonious exit from the top job at Edgeley Park.

John was largely responsible for keeping us in the Second Division last season after his arrival at the club in January 2003. His calming influence behind the scenes had a dramatic effect on Carlton Palmer – although sadly, it didn't continue into the current campaign. John's sheer dignity in the LDV game at Mansfield, managing the side through 90 minutes having found out he was going to get the boot just before kick-off, was incredible and someone of that calibre deserves every success. At no point did he even give the players a clue about the turmoil behind the scenes and they went on to win a tricky tie. John's broad experience in the game makes him the ideal choice for the gig in China, although it has to be said there will be significant difficulties to overcome, not least the language and the diet! But if anyone can overcome the cultural barriers, I would put my money on it being 'Gentleman' John Hollins. Tiger Star play in the Chinese Second Division and, having visited the country on our last tour in 2001, I can tell you that their standard of football is swiftly catching up with ours. Generally speaking, it is a less

physical game in the Far East – well, you don't get many Chinese players built like Razor Ruddock. But technically they are more than capable of causing a few shocks at international level in the coming years.

Many supporters will look at the deal with Tiger Stars, particularly whilst the Hatters are struggling in our own league, and wonder why we are bothering. But I can assure you, the work put in by Steve Bellis and Mike Baker will generate over £200,000 this year – and our share in Tiger Star has cost us nothing. The deal is a "no-brainer", as they say in New York (and Milton Keynes). No-one at Edgeley Park has taken their eye off the ball – survival in

Division Two is paramount – but the club are absolutely right to pursue new and exciting revenue streams. Domestic income alone will never be enough to keep a club of County's size afloat in the long-term, that's for sure.

Finally, whilst we're thinking of foreign climes, best wishes to our former young professionals Peter Wild and Phil Carratt who have both flown out to New Zealand to spend a season with Metro FC in their equivalent of the Premiership. Andrew 'Nipper' Thomas was also offered a deal but has had to reject it for family reasons. All three are highly capable footballers and deserve to make a good living out of the game – let's hope they all do.



■ Tiger Feet! ... John Hollins is hoping to lead our joint-venture Chinese club to promotion

LIVE COMMENTARY



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**HOME AND AWAY WITH YOUR OFFICIAL
COUNTY STATION**

■ TOMMY MOONEY HAS
PLAYED IN THE PREMIERSHIP
FOR WATFORD AND
BIRMINGHAM



A tough game is in store for Sammy McIlroy's men this afternoon against a Swindon Town side that are tucked in behind the three main promotion contenders this season - Plymouth, QPR and Bristol City.

The Robins' push for a place in Division One continued at the County Ground last Saturday when they extended their unbeaten run to seven games with a 4-2 victory against Rushden & Diamonds.

Swindon's starting line-up against Rushden was: Rhys Evans, Matty Heywood, Andy Nicholas, Alan Reeves, Sean O'Hanlon, Andrew Gurney, Sammy Igoe, Matt Hewlett, David Duke, Tommy Mooney, Sam Parkin.

RHYS EVANS is now playing for his hometown club after starting his career as a trainee with Chelsea. He didn't manage to break into the first team at Stamford Bridge but he gained valuable experience with loan spells at Bristol Rovers, QPR and Leyton Orient. The 22-year-old proved to be an excellent shot stopper and showed good command of his area but was unfortunate to receive a bad leg injury which cut short his time at Brisbane Road. Later in the season he made his debut for England Under-21s. After his release

from Chelsea last summer Swindon beat off competition from a number of clubs, including County, for his signature.

One player who might receive a mixed reception today is **MATTY HEYWOOD** who started his career with Burnley. The Chatham-born defender only managed 15 appearances during his time at Turf Moor before Swindon boss Andy King snapped him up on a free transfer in January 2001. The 24-year-old has enjoyed a couple of fine seasons at the County Ground and it was no surprise that he swept the board at the Player of the Year awards in 2001-02.

ANDREW NICHOLAS started his career as a trainee with Liverpool although he never made an appearance for the Reds' first team. The 6'2" defender arrived at the County Ground at the start of the current campaign and has made 15 league appearances for the Robins so far.

Veteran defender **ALAN REEVES** joined Swindon before the 1998-99 season after spending four years at Wimbledon where he had the tough task of replacing John Scales. Birkenhead-born Alan started his career at Norwich, where he failed to break into the first team, and went on to serve Gillingham, Chester and Rochdale who consider him to be one of their best-ever players. His sheer presence and a willingness to



SWINDON TOWN



■ VASTLY EXPERIENCED DEFENDER ALAN REEVES

throw himself into the thick of the action were evident last season and he deserved his runner-up spot in the Player of the Year awards.

SEAN O'HANLON is currently on loan from Premiership outfit Everton although Swindon are hoping they can strike a deal with the Toffees to keep him at the County Ground on a permanent basis. The 21-year-old has impressed during his loan spell and after the 4-2 victory against Rushden & Diamonds, Swindon boss Andy King revealed to the press that he would like to take the young Evertonian on a long-term contract. The defender has made three appearances ahead of this afternoon's game at Edgeley Park. Celebrating his 30th birthday just two weeks ago was **ANDY GURNEY** who started his career with Bristol Rovers. He scored 10 goals in 135 appearances for his hometown club before moving to Torquay for the start of the 1997-98 season. Andy

impressed during the Gull's surge into the Third Division Play-Offs, which prompted Reading to pay £100,000 for him in January 1999. Andy King snapped him up on a Bosman-free in the summer of 2001 and the versatile player has been a near ever-present ever since.

SAMMY IGOE started his career as a trainee with Portsmouth where he scored 11 goals in 177 appearances. After a series of impressive performances for Pompey, he moved to Reading in March 2000 for £100,000 although most of his time with the Royals was spent on the subs bench. Last season he was restricted to just a handful of starts and on transfer deadline day he joined Luton on loan. However, after just two games a training ground accident forced an early return to the Madejski Stadium. It was clear he was no longer in Alan Pardew's plans and he left to join Swindon in the summer of 2003.

It was predicted that **MATT HEWLETT** would go right to the top of the game after joining his hometown club, Bristol City. The attacking central midfielder, who was once on loan at Burnley, was called up to the England Under-21 squad during his time at Ashton Gate but a number of injuries halted his flourishing career. After 12 goals in 153 appearances for City he decided to join Swindon on a Bosman-free in the summer of 2000. He had a steady run last season and doubled his goal tally for the club by netting in the 5-2 win at Edgeley Park in January. A hard-working player, he also possesses good passing skills.

DAVID DUKE joined Swindon from Sunderland in August 2000 after failing to make an appearance for the Black Cats. He is an extremely versatile player but has mainly played on the left side for the Robins, either as a wingback or as a winger. The consistent performer missed just two games last season and won awards from the fans for his consistency and as Most Improved Player. His attacking style and dangerous crosses

were most effective and he also worked hard on the defensive side of his game, best shown in the home draw with Bristol City in March when he managed to keep a tight reign on Scott Murray.

One player with Premiership experience is **TOMMY MOONEY** thanks to his time at Watford and Birmingham. The Billingham-born striker spent over seven years at Vicarage Road and hit 65 goals in 288 appearances. He started his career at Aston Villa before moving onto Scarborough and then Southend. After his time with Watford he joined Birmingham where he had a good record of 15 goals in 39 appearances. Last season he was completely out of favour at St Andrews and was loaned out to Stoke, Sheffield United and finally Derby before deciding to join Swindon close to the start of this season.

SAM PARKIN started his career at Chelsea but was always going to struggle to break into the first team set-up at Stamford Bridge. Loan spells with Millwall, Wycombe, Oldham and Northampton followed before he signed for Swindon at the start of the 2002-03 campaign. Andy King's faith in him certainly paid off as the talented striker netted 26 goals during the season, which helped him walk away with the majority of the club's Player of the Year awards. The former England Schoolboy is tall, useful in the air and has two good feet along with being a cool and clinical finisher in the box.

Swindon brought on two substitutes against Rushden - former Barnsley striker **RORY FALLON** who scored for the Tykes in County's 4-1 win at Edgeley Park last season and ex-Portsmouth midfielder **STEFANI MIGLIORANZI**.

Town's three unused subs were former Southampton midfielder **BRIAN HOWARD**, veteran defender **ADRIAN VIVEASH** and 6'4" keeper **BART GRIEMINK** who has served Birmingham and Peterborough.



This afternoon County welcome Swindon Town to Edgeley Park for this crucial fixture and will be hoping to record a

league double over Andy King's side having come away from the County Ground in late October with a fine 2-1 victory courtesy of goals from Stuart Barlow and Aaron Wilbraham. The Robins are firmly bedded into the play off places and are unbeaten since their 2-0 Boxing Day defeat away at Rushden and Diamonds so they will represent extremely formidable opponents as County continue to battle out of the relegation places. Sammy McIlroy will clearly be hoping that the improved defensive solidarity displayed at Wrexham last Saturday in which County picked up only our fourth clean sheet can be replicated this afternoon and a morale boosting third home win of the season will set up County for next weekend's crunch visit to Notts County.

HOME SOIL

On home soil Swindon Town have picked up 28 points so far this season from a won eight, drawn four and lost three record. Four of these last eight home maximum three pointers have come in their last four home matches, as the side has hit a rich, consistent run of form, helped by the prolific goalscoring feats of Tommy Mooney and Sam Parkin. The first two of these wins came over the Christmas and New Year period when South Coast visitors Brighton & Hove Albion and Bournemouth were both on the wrong end of 2-1 scorelines. Mooney and Parkin were both on target in their 2-0 home victory over FA Cup survivors Colchester United whilst last Saturday they completed their quartet of home wins, wonder what that feels like? with an entertaining 4-2 success against Rushden & Diamonds. Tommy Mooney opened the scoring for the Robins' robbing former County man Leo Roget of the ball before chipping Jamie Ashdown. They

had opened up a 2-0 half time lead courtesy of an Andy Gurney spot kick awarded after Sammy Igoe's cross had been handled. An own goal by Alan Reeves who diverted Rodney Jack's centre into his own net threw the visitors a lifeline, but David Duke restored the Robins two goal lead. Jack immediately responded for Diamond's but Barry Hunter settled matters in stoppage time, the Diamonds player being responsible for the games second own goal. The most sizeable of their home wins was back in August when Notts County conceded four without reply. Their other three home wins have come following visits by Wrexham (1-0), Peterborough United (2-0) and Wycombe Wanderers (2-0). Swindon have had to settle for a share of the spoils against Blackpool (2-2), Luton Town (2-2), Port Vale (0-0) and Queens Park Rangers (1-1). In addition to County, only two other visiting sides have taken all three points at the County Ground. On the opening day of the season the Sheffield Wednesday fans must have been dreaming of how well their season was going to pan out as they returned back to South Yorkshire with a 3-2 win and league leaders Plymouth Argyle also won by a 3-2 scoreline back in December, four of the games five goals coming in the games final fifteen minutes.

OUR HOME LEAGUE & CUP RECORD AGAINST THE ROBINS IS:

League	P	W	D	L	F	A
	12	7	1	4	22	18

FA Cup	P	W	D	L	F	A
	Never Met					

League Cup	P	W	D	L	F	A
	Never Met					

Play-Offs	P	W	D	L	F	A
	Never Met					

Associate Members Cup	P	W	D	L	F	A
	Never Met					

First Meeting	2-0, Sat Oct 25 1958, Div 3
Last Win	3-0, Mon Apr 24 2000, Div 1
Last Draw	1-1, Sat Nov 18 1995, Div 2
Last Defeat	2-5, Sat Jan 18 2003, Div 2
Biggest Win	3-0, Mon Apr 24 2000, Div 1
Biggest Defeat	2-5, Sat Jan 18 2003, Div 2
Biggest Attendance	10,544, Sat Oct 25 1958, Div 3
Lowest Attendance	1,680, Fri Mar 1 1985, Div 4

CREDITABLE

Away from home the Robins have secured a creditable 18 points from won five, drawn five and lost five record. The first of their away wins came at the first attempt, a late Tommy Mooney goal being sufficient to earn all three points at Layer Road as they defeated their hosts Colchester United 1-0. A long trip up to sunny Cleethorpes proved fruitful as they left Grimsby Town victorious having come from a 1-0 half time deficit to win 2-1, whilst another place, seemingly unaffected by global warming - Boundary Park Oldham, was the venue of their third away win, Sam Parkin hitting the solitary goal.

The other two away wins have come at Griffin Park where they have triumphed 2-0 over Brentford and next Saturday the Hatters will be hoping to achieve Swindon's feat of picking up maximum points at Meadow Lane, the Swindon scorers being Howard and Mooney in their 2-1 win over Notts County. The five away draws picked up by the Robin's have come following excursions to Bournemouth (2-2), Brighton & Hove Albion (2-2), Barnsley (1-1), Sheffield Wednesday

(1-1) and in their last away game at Blackpool (2-2). The heaviest of their five away defeats came at Saltergate, where they went down 3-0 to Chesterfield. The four other defeats on the road have come at Bristol City (1-2), Tranmere Rovers (0-1), Hartlepool United (0-2) and Rushden & Diamonds (0-2).

SIGNIFICANT

Their push for a play off place or better has certainly not been hindered by any significant cup

involvement in the Carling Cup first round, two goals from Sam Parkin and Tommy Mooney's first strike in club colours gave them a hard earned 3-2 win away at Southend United. They were rewarded with a nice money spinning trip to seriously troubled Premier League outfit Leeds United. The bulk of the 29,211 crowd at Elland Road must have thought that their favourites were bowing out of the competition when Gurney and Parkin gave Swindon a 2-0 lead. A second half fight back saw the tie pulled back to 2-2 and Leeds prevailed in the ensuing penalty shoot out 4-3. In the LDV Trophy the Robins were drawn away at Boston United in the first round and they fell at the first hurdle, going down 2-1. The FA Cup gave them yet another away draw, although they must have fancied making progression in the competition when they were drawn away to struggling Wycombe Wanderers. In a miserable day at the office a Gurney penalty was all that they had to show as they were soundly beaten 4-1. The County faithful travelled in significant numbers to Wrexham last Saturday and were full of vocal support for the team, lets hope that this unblinking loyalty is rewarded with a good performance this afternoon although I'm sure a lousy performance but with three points come ten to five would be an equally acceptable outcome at this stage of the season.

This Season's Scorers

(all competitions)

Mooney, Parkin 15; Gurney 5; Howard, Miglioranzi 3; Igoe, Milner, Robinson 2; Burton, Duke, Fallon, Hewlett, OG 1



■ Swindon's Brian Howard clears from Paul Bolland during the Robin's recent 2-1 victory at Notts County

FIXTURES AND STATISTICS 2003 - 2004



Venue Score Attendance Position Visitors



Sat Aug 9	Wycombe Wanderers	A	0-1	4826	19	681	Colgan	Goodwin	Clare	Jones	Pemberton	Gibb*
Tue Aug 12	Lincoln City (Carling Cup 1)	A	1-0	2,296	-	294	Colgan	Goodwin	Clare	Jones	Pemberton	Morrison
Sat Aug 16	Luton Town	H	1-2	4,566	21	646	Colgan	Goodwin	Clare	Jones	Hardiker	Morrison
Sat Aug 23	Plymouth Argyle	A	1-3	7,594	22	316	Colgan	Goodwin	Hardiker	Clare	Jones	Lescott
Mon Aug 25	Tranmere Rovers	H	1-1	4,886	22	1,147	Colgan	Clare	Hardiker	Jones	Challinor	Morrison*
Sat Aug 30	Peterborough United	A	2-1	4,395	22	376	Colgan	Clare	Hardiker	Jones	Challinor	Gibb†
Sat Sep 6	Port Vale	H	2-2	5,316	20	1,419	Spencer	Clare	Challinor	Jones	Hardiker	Gibb
Sat Sep 13	Sheffield Wednesday	A	2-2	22,535	20	870	Colgan	Clare	Challinor	Jones	Hardiker	Morrison†
Tue Sep 16	Hartlepool United	H	1-2	4,021	21	498	Colgan	Clare	Challinor	Jones*	Gibb	Lescott
Sat Sep 20	Blackpool	H	1-3	5,420	21	1,109	Colgan	Clare	Challinor	Hardiker	Gibb	Lescott
Wed Sep 24	Everton (Carling Cup 2)	A	0-3	19,807	-	2,052	Colgan	Clare*	Challinor	Jones	Smith	Williams+
Sat Sep 27	Rushden and Diamonds	A	2-2	4,049	21	590	Colgan	Hardiker	Challinor	Jones	Smith	Welsh
Tue Sep 30	Oldham Athletic	A	0-2	7,015	21	937	Colgan	Hardiker	Challinor	Jones*	Smith	Morrison
Sat Oct 4	Chesterfield	H	0-0	4,764	22	418	Colgan	Hardiker	Challinor	Jones	Smith	Morrison+
Sat Oct 11	Swindon Town	A	2-1	7,060	20	251	Spencer	Clare	Challinor	Jones*	Pemberton	Gibb
Tue Oct 14	Mansfield Town (LDV Trophy R1)	A	2-1	3,718	-	196	Spencer	Clare	Challinor	Jones*	Pemberton	Gibb
Sat Oct 18	Notts County	H	2-2	4,727	21	296	Spencer	Clare	Challinor	Jones+	Hardiker	Gibb
Tue Oct 21	Colchester United	H	1-3	3,683	21	81	Colgan	Clare	Challinor	Hardiker	Pemberton	Gibb*
Sat Oct 25	Brighton and Hove Albion	A	1-0	6,171	20	350	Spencer	Clare	Heath	Hardiker	Pemberton	Morrison
Sat Nov 1	Queens Park Rangers	H	1-2	5,461	21	976	Spencer	Clare	Heath	Hardiker	Jackman	Morrison*
Wed Nov 5	Wrexham (LDV Trophy R2)	H	5-4*	1,469	-	175	Spencer	Clare	Heath*	Hardiker	Jackman	Williams 1
Sat Nov 8th	Stevenage Borough (FA CUP 1)	H	1-2	2,538	-	465	Spencer	Clare	Challinor	Hardiker	Pemberton	Gibb
Sat Nov 15	Grimsby Town	A	1-1	4,014	21	263	Spencer*	Hardiker	Heath	Clare 1	Jackman	Gibb
Sat Nov 22	AFC Bournemouth	H	3-2	4,622	20	249	Myhill	Hardiker	Clare	Heath	Jackman	Gibb
Sat Nov 29	Barnsley	A	3-3	9,047	21	644	Myhill	Hardiker	Clare*	Heath	Jackman	Gibb
Tue Dec 9	Blackpool (LDV Trophy R3)	H	0-1	2,337	-	591	Myhill	Hardiker+	Challinor	Heath	Jackman	Gibb
Sat Dec 13	Brentford	H	1-1	4,081	20	159	Colgan	Challinor	Lambert	Hardiker	Goodwin	Gibb+
Sat Dec 20	Bristol City	A	0-1	10,478	21	311	Colgan	Hardiker	Clare	Heath	Jackman	Gibb
Fri Dec 26	Wrexham	H	0-1	6,256	21	1,104	Spencer	Hardiker	Heath	Clare	Pemberton*	Gibb
Sun Dec 28	Port Vale	A	2-2	6,237	21	757	Spencer	Gibb	Challinor	Clare	Hardiker	Morrison*
Sat Jan 10	Wycombe Wanderers	H	2-0	4,406	21	241	Spencer	Hardiker	Clare	Griffin	Jackman	Gibb
Sat Jan 17	Luton Town	A	2-2	5,960	21	414	Spencer	Hardiker	Clare	Griffin	Jackman	Gibb*
Sat Jan 24	Plymouth Argyle	H	0-2	6,608	21	1,176	Spencer	Hardiker	Clare#	Griffin	Jackman	Gibb
Tue Jan 27	Tranmere Rovers	A	2-3	7,137	21	603	Williams	Goodwin	Hardiker	Griffin 1	Jackman	Gibb*
Sat Jan 31	Peterborough United	H	2-2	4,653	22	179	T Williams	Gibb	Hardiker	Griffin	Jackman	Cartwright
Sat Feb 7	Wrexham	A	0-0	5,046	22	826	T Williams	Hardiker	Walton	Griffin	Jackman	Cartwright
Sat Feb 14	Swindon Town	H										
Sat Feb 21	Notts County	A										
Sat Feb 28	Brighton and Hove Albion	H										
Tue Mar 2	Colchester United	A										
Sat Mar 6	Bristol City	H										
Sat Mar 13	Brentford	A										
Tue Mar 16	Hartlepool United	A										
Sat Mar 20	Sheffield Wednesday	H										
Sat Mar 27	Blackpool	A										
Sat Apr 3	Rushden and Diamonds	H										
Sat Apr 10	Chesterfield	A										
Mon Apr 12	Oldham Athletic	H										
Sat Apr 17	Queens Park Rangers	A										
Sat Apr 24	Grimsby Town	H										
Sat May 1	AFC Bournemouth	A										
Sat May 8	Barnsley	H										

* Won on silver goals rule

~ after extra time



■ All the support Stand up & be County campaign





Pemberton	Gibb*	McLachlan	Lambert	Ellison	Beckett	Wilbraham	Barlow*	Challinor	Hardiker	Morrison	Spencer
Pemberton*	Morrison	McLachlan	Lambert	Ellison†	Beckett	Barlow 1	Hardiker*	Welsh†	Palmer	Wilbraham	Spencer
Hardiker	Morrison	McLachlan*	Lambert	Ellison†	Wilbraham†	Barlow	Collins*	Welsh†	Daly†	Challinor	Spencer
Jones†	Lescott	Ellison	Gibb	Wilbraham*	Beckett 1	McLachlan†	Spencer	Daly*	Morrison	Challinor†	Collins†
Challinor	Morrison*	Lescott	Ellison†	Beckett 1	Goodwin	Daly	Barlow	Welsh*	Gibb†	Lambert	McLachlan
Challinor	Gibb†	Lescott	Ellison*	Beckett 1	Goodwin	Daly	Barlow	Welsh*	Morrison†	Lambert	Williams
Hardiker	Gibb	Lescott	Goodwin	Ellison†	Beckett*1	Daly	Smith†	Wilbraham*	Morrison	Welsh	Lambert
Hardiker	Morrison†	Lescott	Lambert	Ellison†	Williams	Daly*	Smith	Wilbraham*2	Goodwin†	Barlow	Gibb†
Gibb	Lescott	Goodwin	Hardiker	Lambert†	Williams†	Wilbraham1	Smith*	Daly†	Welsh†	Barlow	McLachlan
Gibb	Lescott	McLachlan+	Welsh	Lambert*1	Daly	Wilbraham	Smith*	Morrison+	Spencer	Jones	Barlow
smith	Williams+	Lescott	Hardiker	Welsh	Lambert	Wilbraham	Daly*	Barlow+	Spencer	McLachlan	Morrison
Smith	Welsh	Lescott	Lambert	Morrison+	Barlow 2	Wilbraham*	Daly*	McLachlan+	Spencer	Ellison	Williams
Smith	Morrison	Lescott=	Lambert	Welsh+	Wilbraham	Barlow	Goodwin*	Daly+●	McLachlan=	Spencer	Ellison
Smith	Morrison+	Goodwin	Lescott	Welsh*	Barlow	Wilbraham	Gibb*	Ellison+	Spencer	Williams	Clare
Pemberton	Gibb	Goodwin	Hardiker	Ellison+	Wilbraham 1	Barlow 1	McLachlan*	Welsh+	Lambert	Morrison	Williams
Pemberton	Gibb	Goodwin	Hardiker	Ellison+	Wilbraham	Barlow 2	McLachlan*	Welsh+	Lambert	Morrison	Williams
Hardiker	Gibb	Lescott*	Goodwin	Ellison	Barlow	Wilbraham	Lambert*	Welsh+	Colgan	Morrison	Williams
Pemberton	Gibb*	Lambert	Goodwin 1	Ellison+	Barlow #	Wilbraham	Morrison*	Welsh+	Williams #	Spencer	Lescott
Pemberton	Morrison	Goodwin	Lambert	Welsh	Daly*	Wilbraham 1	Barlow*	Challinor	Colgan	Jones	Lescott
Jackman	Morrison*	Lambert	Goodwin	Welsh	Barlow	Wilbraham	Williams*1	Challinor	Pemberton	Lescott	Colgan
Jackman+Pemberton	Williams 1	Lescott*	Lambert 1	Goodwin 1	Welsh	Barlow 1	Challinor*	Pemberton+	Morrison*1	Colgan	McLachlan
Pemberton	Gibb	Goodwin 1	Lambert	Welsh*	Daly+	Barlow*	Morrison*	Wilbraham+	Williams*	Lescott	Colgan
Jackman	Gibb	Goodwin	Lambert	Welsh+	Daly*	Morrison	Colgan*	Morrison+	Barlow*	Challinor	Lescott
Jackman	Gibb	Lambert1	Lescott+	Welsh #	Wilbraham1	Williams*	Barlow*1	Pemberton+	Challinor #	Colgan	Morrison
Jackman	Gibb	Goodwin1	Lambert1	Welsh #1	Wilbraham	Williams+	Challinor*	Lescott+	Morrison #	Barlow	Colgan
Jackman	Gibb	Goodwin#	Lambert	Welsh	Williams*	Wilbraham	Barlow*	Morrison+	Lescott #	Colgan	Pemberton
Goodwin	Gibb+	Welsh	Wilbraham	Heath	Lynch*	Jackman	Barlow*	Morrison+	Spencer	Clare	Lescott
Jackman	Gibb	Goodwin	Lambert	Welsh	Lynch*	Wilbraham	Barlow*	Lescott+	Daly #	Spencer	Challinor
Pemberton*	Gibb	Lambert	McLachlan	Welsh #	Wilbraham+	Lynch	Morrison*	Barlow+	Williams #	Lescott	Challinor
Hardiker	Morrison*	Lambert	McLachlan	Welsh	Barlow1+	Lynch1	Ellison*	Wilbraham+	Lescott	A Williams	C Williams
Jackman	Gibb	McLachlan	Lambert 1	Welsh	Barlow*	Lynch 1	Wilbraham*	Ellison	A Williams	Morrison	Goodwin
Jackman	Gibb*	Lambert	McLachlan 1	Welsh	Barlow	Lynch+1	Morrison*	Wilbraham+	Goodwin	Ellison	A Williams
Jackman	Gibb	Robertson*	McLachlan	Welsh	Lambert	Lynch+	Barlow*	Wilbraham+	Morrison#	A Williams	Goodwin
Jackman	Gibb*	McLachlan+1	Robertson	Welsh	Lambert	Lynch	Ellison*	Barlow+	Spencer	Wilbraham	A Williams
Jackman	Cartwright	McLachlan	Robertson*	Welsh+	Lambert*	Lynch	Barlow*	Wilbraham+	Goodwin	Spencer	Ellison
Jackman	Cartwright	McLachlan*	Robertson	Welsh+	Lambert	Wilbraham	Goodwin*	Morrison+	Barlow	Spencer	A Williams

■ All the lads support the Stand up & be County'd campaign.



The Stockport Express and Times say...

Stand up & be County'd

■ We need your support again in a fortnight's time when Play-Off chasing Brighton visit Edgeley Park for another crucial Second Division fixture. Please make sure you come along to get behind the lads and, better still, why not bring a friend? Tell them to, Stand up & be County'd.



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NUMBER CRUNCHER

ANDY GOSLING'S STATISTICAL UPDATE

COUNTY LEAGUE GOAL TIMINGS 2003/04

Minutes	0-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90	Total
Goals Scored	6	4	9	6	5	8	38
Goals Conceded	7	10	7	6	9	10	49

OUR VISITORS GOAL TIMINGS 2003/04

Goals Scored	9	4	6	6	6	13	46
Goals Conceded	7	3	9	4	10	8	37

EDGELEY PARK GOAL SUMMARY

(League & Cup) 2003/04

	Chadwell End	Railway End
For	10	13
Against	15	15

SECOND DIVISION HOTSHOTS 2003/04 SEASON

	League	Cup	Total
Taylor (Blackpool)	16	10	26
Knight (Brighton & Hove Albion)	19	1	20
McPhee (Port Vale)	14	2	16
Mooney (Swindon Town)	14	1	15
Parkin (Swindon Town)	12	3	15

2003/04 DIVISION TWO DATABASE

LARGEST HOME WIN

8-1 Hartlepool v Grimsby Town (12/9)

7-0 Plymouth Argyle v Chesterfield (3/1)

LARGEST AWAY WIN

5-1 Plymouth Argyle at Port Vale (18/10)

HIGHEST CROWD

25,296 Sheffield Wednesday v Chesterfield (20/12)

LOWEST CROWD

2,897 Colchester Utd v Oldham Athletic (13/12)

PENALTY SCORERS

5 Sheridan (Oldham Athletic) 4 Hunt (Brentford) 3 Hetherington (Notts County),

Knight (Brighton), Taylor (Tranmere) 2 Eight Players 1 Seventeen players

TOTAL SUCCESSFUL PENALTIES

51 (Home team 38, Away team 13)

STATISTICAL SHORTS

- The debut of Dave Walton in the hard earned point at Wrexham last Saturday takes the number of County players used in league action to date this season to thirty one.
- Only two Division Two sides have scored more away goals than County. Plymouth have hit 27 goals on their travels and Hartlepool Utd have struck 24. County and second placed QPR have hit 20. Wrexham, our opponents last Saturday, are the most goal shy home side in the Division, the Racecourse fans having witnessed their favourites score on only 16 occasions.

APPEARANCES AND GOALSCORERS 2003/04

	LEAGUE		CUP		COUNTY LEAGUE CAREER	
	APPS	GOALS	APPS	GOALS	APPS	GOALS
Stuart Barlow	11(10)	6	4(2)	4	11(10)	6
Luke Beckett	5	4	1	-	63(3)	38
Lee Cartwright	2	4	0	-	2	-
Dave Challinor	14(3)	-	4(1)	-	78(3)	1
Rob Clare	23	1	5	-	94(10)	1
Nick Colgan	14(1)	-	2	-	14(1)	-
Wayne Collins	0(2)	-	0	-	0(2)	-
Jon Daly	7(6)	-	1(1)	-	43(22)	8
Kevin Ellison	10(3)	1	2	-	33(14)	2
Ali Gibb	21(3)	-	3	-	155(8)	1
Jim Goodwin	18(3)	3	5	2	40(14)	6
Danny Griffin	6	1	0	-	6	1
John Hardiker	29	-	5(1)	-	59(5)	3
Matthew Heath	8	-	2	-	8	-
Danny Jackman	12	-	2	-	12	-
Rob Jones	13	2	3	-	13	2
Rickie Lambert	23(1)	5	5	1	45(8)	7
Aaron Lescott	12(2)	-	2(1)	-	65(7)	1
Simon Lynch	9	3	0	-	9	3
Fraser McLachlan	12(2)	2	1(1)	-	41(6)	3
Owen Morrison	9(10)	-	1(3)	1	9(10)	-
Boaz Myhill	2	-	1	-	2	-
Martin Pemberton	5(1)	-	3(1)	-	20(6)	-
Mark Robertson	4	-	0	-	4	-
Shaun Smith	3(3)	-	1	-	3(3)	-
James Spencer	11	-	3	-	13(1)	-
Dave Walton	1	-	0	-	1	-
Andrew Welsh	19(6)	1	4(2)	-	35(18)	3
Aaron Wilbraham	20(7)	7	3(1)	-	106(52)	34
Anthony Williams	3	-	0	-	3	-
Chris Williams	4(4)	1	3(1)	1	5(9)	1
Own Goals	0	1	0	-	0	-

SECOND DIVISION ATTENDANCES AND LEADING SCORER

	Total	Highest	Average	2002/03 Ave	Leading Lge Goalscorer
Barnsley	147,916	20,438	9,861	9,758	Betsy 9
Blackpool	92,892	8,340	6,193	6,991	Taylor 16
Bournemouth	97,853	8,909	6,990	5,829	Teaney 9
Brentford	76,725	8,631	5,115	5,759	Hunt 9
Brighton & Hove Albion	93,617	6,804	6,241	6,651	Knight 19
Bristol City	117,182	14,294	11,479	11,890	Peacock 12
Chesterfield	58,708	5,606	3,914	4,108	Robinson 6
Colchester United	51,683	5,083	3,692	3,367	Andrews 10
Grimsby Town	60,457	6,172	4,651	5,884	Boulding 12
Hartlepool United	74,970	7,448	5,355	4,943	Robinson 7
Luton Town	84,238	8,339	6,017	5,747	Forbes, McSheffery 9
Notts County	81,865	7,702	5,458	6,154	Hetherington 10
Oldham Athletic	100,143	13,007	6,676	6,699	Vernon 10
Peterborough United	80,759	10,194	5,384	4,955	McKenzie 10
Plymouth Argyle	153,107	17,882	10,936	8,981	Frio 12
Port Vale	86,192	7,958	5,746	4,436	McPhee 14
Queens Park Rangers	221,376	17,839	14,758	13,206	Gallen 12
Rushden & Diamonds	62,727	5,823	4,481	4,330	Lowe 13
Sheffield Wednesday	334,894	24,630	22,326	20,327	Kuigi, Owusu 5
STOCKPORT COUNTY	73,470	6,608	4,896	5,489	WILBRAHAM 7
Swindon Town	109,863	10,573	7,331	5,440	Mooney 14
Tranmere Rovers	112,045	9,645	7,470	7,677	Dadi 7
Wrexham	71,777	8,497	4,785	4,263	Sam, Jones 6
Wycombe Wanderers	76,547	6,445	5,103	6,002	Currie, McSpornan 5



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

(Except possibly winning the game, of course).

CHRISTY

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FITTER NOT FATTER

So now the festivities are over, let's take a look at your family lifestyle. One third of children and two thirds of adults are now overweight. Preventing overweight is top of the league for your family's health. The only sure way of losing weight and keeping it off is to make gradual small changes to what you eat to make it healthier and to do more exercise in your daily life.

How's your family doing?

Always have healthy snacks (low fat and low sugar) available in your house?

No? Stock up on fruit. Buy a popcorn maker. Chuck out those remaining Xmas chocolates and peanuts!

Eat breakfast?

Those who do are much less likely to snack, be obese and diabetic than those who usually don't

Limit fast food meals, supermarket ready-meals and convenience foods?

They have more than one and a half times the fat than homemade versions. Make your own. Teach your children how.

Do you exercise?

Getting kids off the couch and into physical activity needs inspiration from their parents. Don't be tempted to write excuse notes for PE.

Not tempted by bigger pack sizes cause they're cheaper?

Not such a bargain for just a few pence more to get the extra calories and fat that comes with these 'value meals'. Do take advantage of special offers on fruit and vegetables. Avoid super-size portions.

Limit TV viewing?

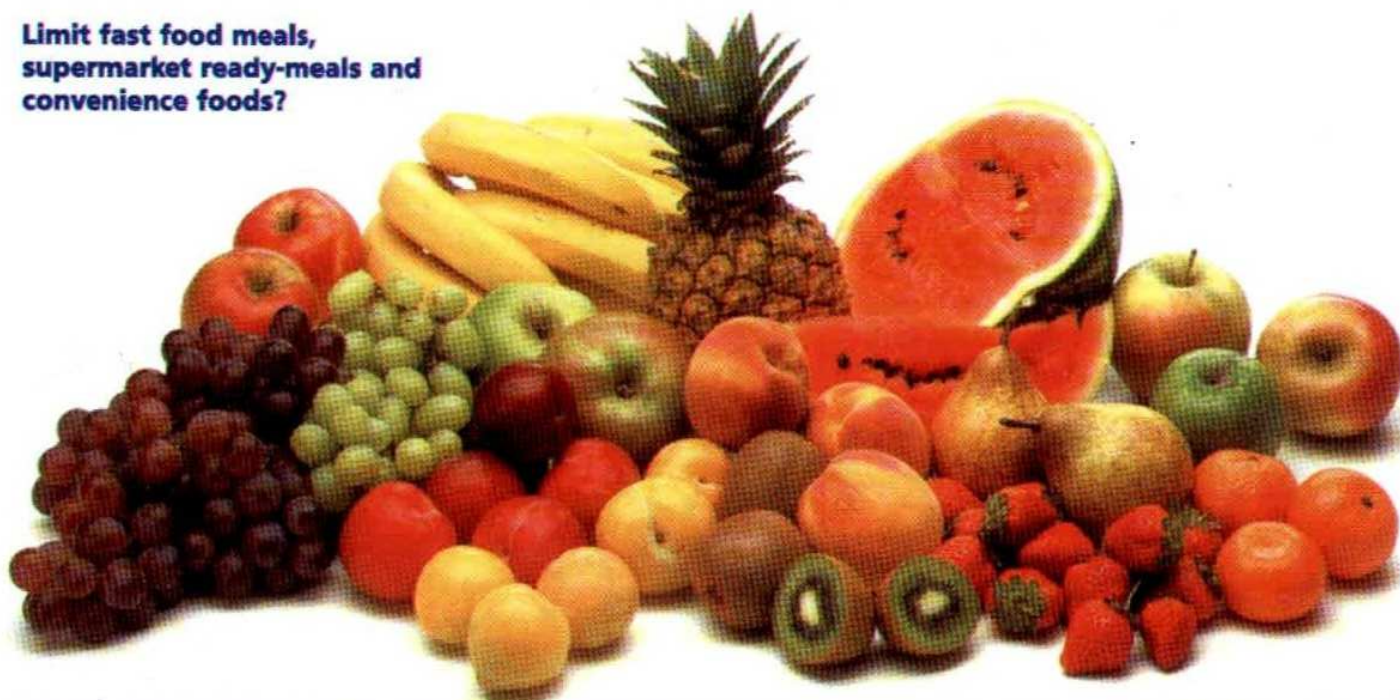
TV viewing can encourage obesity, as it replaces physical activity and encourages snacking— especially for

children. Eating family dinner together in the evening seems to decrease viewing and improve quality of food eaten.

Walk your children to friends' houses?

Children are 20% less active at weekends than during the week. They should be moderately active for an hour every day. Consider walking them rather than driving. And while driving round and round car parks looking for a space right outside the entrance to the shops consider maybe you could save a fortune on that costly gym membership by walking there instead.

Health experts are now saying that we will see cases of children dying before their parents, due to obesity. So look at your family lifestyle now!



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

0161 429 7010

Minicom 0161 429 8225

IntoHealth@stockport-ha.nwest.nhs.uk

www.stockport.nhs.uk/intohealth/



THE MASCOTS...

We are delighted to offer a very warm Edgeley welcome to our four mascots this afternoon. Gregory Eyre, who lives on the Greek island of Kefalonia, is currently visiting his granddad, Arthur Collister. Luke Beckett is the 12-year-old's favourite player and his favourite pastime is his Playstation. Katie Arnfield tells us that James Spencer is here favourite County player. The 10-year-old, who plays goalkeeper for County Ladies Under-11s, attends Dial Park Primary School in Offerton. When she's not playing football she also spends time playing her cornet.

Alex Davies is also 10. 'Big Al' who attends Ludworth Primary School in Marple Bridge includes playing football, cricket and his Playstation amongst his hobbies. His favourite County players are James Spencer and John Hardiker.

Our youngest mascot today is 5-year-old Sam Bickley who is still 'cock-a-hoop' that Middlesbrough beat that team from Stretford on Wednesday night! The youngster, who attends Abingdon Primary School, loves playing football and gymnastics. His favourite County player is Andy Welsh. Enjoy your day guys!



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SECOND LOOK!

CHRIS PEEL ON ALL THINGS SECOND DIVISION



■ Grimsby boss Paul Groves lost his job after the Mariners 6-0 defeat at Oldham

The weekend's Second Division fixtures:-

Bournemouth v Notts County
 Brentford v Queens Park Rangers
 Chesterfield v Rushden & Diamonds
 Grimsby Town v Brighton & Hove Albion
 Peterborough United v Bristol City
 Port Vale v Oldham Athletic
 Sheffield Wednesday v Hartlepool United
 Wrexham v Barnsley
 Wycombe Wanderers v Luton Town
 Tranmere Rovers v Swansea City (FA Cup)
 Sheffield Utd v Colchester Utd (FA Cup - Sunday)

Last Sunday was officially "Celebration Sunday" for Oldham Athletic as the Latics began life in a new era following the takeover of the club by an American-based consortium. As a result the game against Grimsby Town was free to all comers, resulting in a bumper 13,007 crowding into Boundary Park with many more outside the ground and unable to gain access. On the pitch the day was also a celebration for the Oldham team, as the luckless Mariners were humbled 6-0, a result that signalled the end of Paul Groves' reign at Blundell Park. Oldham's top scorer Scott Vernon grabbed a career-first hat-trick as the Latics stormed into Grimsby from the kick-off. Oldham went in front after nine minutes when a defence-splitting pass from Danny Boshell set up Vernon's first and the 20-year-old striker was on target again as early as the 15th minute. The home side could do little wrong and made it three in the 27th minute when full-back Adam Griffin, with his back to goal, found the net with an overhead kick. Grimsby were all at sea (pun fully intended!) and Jamaican international Jermaine Johnson used his pace to drill in the fourth from the edge of the box, and a fifth followed seconds before the break when the lively Vernon grabbed his 12th goal of the season. Shell-shocked Grimsby were reduced to 10 men in the 44th minute when defender Mike Edwards was sent off for a professional foul on Johnson. The second half just had to be an anti-climax after that little lot, but Oldham managed one

more goal two minutes from time following a clever twist and turn in the box by substitute Calvin Zola. The game proved three things - one, Oldham are better than their league position suggests, two - Grimsby are worse than their position suggests and three - Boundary Park in February is really a giant fridge-freezer with goalposts at either end. Not dissimilar in August, actually! Plymouth Argyle are in a sticky patch - a loss and a draw from their last two games - and boss Paul Sturrock was left to reflect on his side's misfortune after they were somehow held to a goalless draw at home to Bournemouth. Skipper Paul Wotton had a late penalty saved by Bournemouth keeper Neil Moss, while Argyle also hit the woodwork four times in the second half.

Queens Park Rangers took advantage with a tight 3-2 home win over improving Notts County in West London. QPR manager Ian Holloway expressed relief after his side made it eight consecutive home league wins, whereas County manager Gary Mills blasted his side's poor defending. The Magpies were punished for a lack of concentration at the back and goals from Andy Parkinson and Ian Richardson were not enough to salvage a point.

Bristol City manager Danny Wilson is keeping his feet firmly on the ground after the Robins extended their winning sequence to eight games. The game with Brentford at Ashton Gate was heading for a draw until Matthew Hill scored from an 87th minute free-kick and then Leroy Lita's goal two minutes later sealed the points against a spirited Brentford team. Today's visitors Swindon Town continued their upward surge with a 4-2 win over Rushden in a thriller at the County Ground. Tommy Mooney opened the scoring for the Swindon with his fourth goal in five games, dispossessing Leo Roget before expertly chipping Jamie Ashdown. Andy Gurney doubled the lead from the penalty spot after Andy Burgess handled a Sammy Igoe cross. Alan Reeves handed Rushden a reprieve when he diverted Rodney Jack's centre into his own net eight minutes into the second half. However, David Duke seemed to have sealed the game 15 minutes from time, only for Rodney Jack to make it 3-2 two minutes later. However, Rory Fallon ensured Swindon's win with a headed own goal in stoppage time.

Nationwide Division 2

Team	P	HOME					AWAY					GD	PTS
		W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A		
Plymouth	30	10	4	1	38	10	7	5	3	27	17	38	60
QPR	30	12	3	0	34	6	4	6	5	20	22	26	57
Bristol City	29	10	4	1	27	8	5	6	3	16	14	21	55
Swindon	30	8	4	3	29	17	5	5	5	17	20	9	48
Barnsley	30	6	8	1	21	12	6	3	6	19	22	6	47
Brighton	30	10	3	2	26	10	3	4	8	16	23	9	46
Port Vale	29	10	3	2	33	21	3	3	8	14	21	5	45
Luton	28	10	3	2	28	14	2	6	5	16	25	5	45
Wrexham	29	5	5	5	16	12	8	0	6	19	18	5	44
Hartlepool	29	6	6	2	21	8	5	4	6	24	28	9	43
Bournemouth	29	7	5	2	21	15	3	5	7	12	18	0	40
Rushden & D	29	7	4	3	30	19	4	2	9	19	28	2	39
Blackpool	30	6	2	7	19	18	5	4	6	18	25	-6	39
Colchester	29	6	6	2	17	13	4	2	9	12	24	-8	38
Tranmere	29	7	6	2	21	14	1	7	6	12	26	-7	37
Oldham	30	7	3	5	25	17	1	9	5	21	28	1	36
Sheff Wed	30	3	8	4	17	17	5	4	6	17	22	-5	36
Brentford	30	6	2	7	22	26	3	4	8	10	20	-14	33
Chesterfield	30	5	6	4	22	19	2	4	9	7	27	-17	31
Grimsby	28	4	4	5	19	15	3	5	7	12	34	-18	30
Peterborough	30	2	6	7	21	24	4	5	6	14	19	-8	29
Stockport	30	2	6	7	18	25	3	7	5	20	24	-11	28
Notts County	30	3	5	7	18	20	3	2	10	12	32	-22	25
Wycombe	30	4	3	8	21	25	0	7	8	11	27	-20	22

TELLY VISION

Well, ITV (who are currently behaving in a very mature way about the, ahem, problems at the BBC, while secretly laughing themselves silly) have unleashed yet another "new, updated" evening news programme. After the demise of the iconic "News at Ten" they tried the "News at 9.30" and then when the BBC moved their news to 10 o'clock ITV moved theirs back to 10 o'clock with bells on, except it was a shorter version so that you didn't lose track of the two bits of James Bond film that were before and after the news, and now...ITV presents the News at 10.30. Brilliant. And it's all shiny with a thumping disco beat and Trevor is standing up and all the graphics behind him are all swirly. I say again - brilliant. I'm sure the red-braces brigade who plan such things are delighted with the "look" and the "feel" of their flagship. Except, well, I think it might be better to just sit someone at a desk at a reasonable hour and read me the news stories from the day.

Call me old-fashioned, but I think it's on too late, I think Sir Trevor MacDonald deserves a chair at his age, I don't need spinning graphics to understand a news story and I don't think that a pumping garage bass-line

is appropriate when the headlines are about people losing their lives in a fire, or something similarly grave.

It's yet another example of dumbing down on TV (don't even get me started on "I'm a Celebrity, Can I Have My Career Back".) And the BBC are no better. Have you noticed that the BBC 10 o'clock news are doing the same thing? A story on interest rate rises is accompanied by a graphic of a little house with a graph behind it explaining in great detail how an interest rate rise of a quarter of one percent increases interest rates from three and three quarter percent to four percent.

Any political story needs eye-candy like Nicholas Witchell or Andrew Marr standing outside Downing Street or BBC Television Centre freezing their backsides off. If the current trend continues, this time next year we will be sitting down to incisive political journalism such as "The Prime Minister, who is a very important man, has said he was very sorry that he hadn't found any big nasty guns in Iraq, which is

somewhere very far away."

If I want the news presented to me like I was a ten year-old, I would watch Newsround (sadly without John Craven these days, apparently) or listen to Radio 1's Newsbeat. So, buck up, BBC - and ITV - don't give me bells and whistles, give me the news.
Steve Southart. News at 9.30, 10 or 10.30 (delete as applicable). Stockport.



Sir Trevor MacDonald



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WHO ARE YA?

A DETAILED LOOK AT THE STOCKPORT COUNTY SQUAD LIST JUST FOR OUR VISITING SUPPORTERS

2. Danny Griffin

Sponsored by: Dove Hindsley

Danny joined us earlier this month from Dundee United. The 26-year-old defender, who has also served St. Johnstone has just been called into the Northern Ireland squad to face Norway next week.

3. Danny Jackman

Sponsored by: The Jack Beeby Family

Danny joined us from Aston Villa last month in a £70,000 deal following a successful loan period. Created our second goal at Tranmere in midweek with a teasing cross into the box.

4. Dave Challinor

Sponsored by: The Stockport County Trust

The former Tranmere defender arrived at Edgeley Park in January 2002 for a fee of £120,000. The 28-year-old is currently on loan at Bury.

5. Rob Clare

Sponsored by: Mike Whorall

The England Under-20 captain has come through the ranks at Edgeley Park and has already attracted interest from a couple of Premiership clubs. Could be back in the squad today after missing 3 games with an ankle injury.

6. Mark Robertson

Mark joined us earlier this month from Dundee. The Australian-born international midfielder has also served Burnley, Swindon Town and St Johnstone. Has quickly endeared himself to the Hatters faithful with his all-action performances.

7. Aaron Lescott

Sponsored by: Ian Brown

Aaron was Carlton Palmer's first signing when he joined us from Sheffield Wednesday in November 2001 for £75,000. The brother of Wolves defender Joleon is a prodigious worker in midfield.

8. Aaron Wilbraham

Sponsored by: The Fingerpost Travel Club

Homegrown striker who scored the winner in our memorable victory at Brighton. Our longest-serving player made his 150th League appearance in our recent home game against Brentford. Returned to the starting line up at Wrexham after a six-game absence.

9. Luke Beckett

Sponsored by: Stockport County Supporters Club

The former Chesterfield striker has been a revelation since his arrival at Edgeley Park with 40 goals in just 72 appearances. Unfortunately he will miss most of the remainder of the season after damaging a cruciate ligament against Port Vale last September.

10. Rickie Lambert

Sponsored by: Spirit Management

The Liverpoolian arrived at Edgeley Park from Macclesfield Town in April 2002 for a £300,000 fee. Has blossomed since the arrival of Sammy McIlroy and is currently playing his best football since arriving in Stockport.

11. Martin Pemberton

Sponsored by: Danny Buckland

Joined County on a Bosman free from Mansfield in May 2002 after helping the Stags to promotion just a month earlier. Has also served Oldham, Doncaster, Scunthorpe and Hartlepool. Returned from a recent loan spell at Rochdale with a back injury that will keep him out of action for six months.

12. Jim Goodwin

Sponsored by: DH Sports

Also signed on a Bosman free in May 2002 from Glasgow Celtic after making just one first team appearance for the Hoops. Jim, who was capped by Ireland last season, replaced the injured Fraser McLachlan during the second half at Wrexham.

13. James Spencer

Sponsored by: Dan and Big Al

The young custodian became County's youngest ever keeper when he played in the 2-1 win at home to Watford in April 2002 at just 16 years of age. A series of impressive performance this season has earned him many accolades.

14. Fraser McLachlan

Sponsored by: The Stockport Express

Another player to come through the Centre of Excellence at Edgeley Park. Fraser made 24 appearances for the first team last season. The young midfielder is a doubt today after limping out of our last game at Wrexham.

15. Kevin Ellison

Sponsored by: Harry Bates Plumbing & Heating

The former Leicester man arrived at Edgeley Park in November 2001 in a £55,000 deal. Didn't make the 16-man squad at Wrexham.

16. Jon Daly

The Irish Under-21 international striker - a product of our School of Excellence - is currently on loan with our Third Division neighbours, Bury.

17. Rob Jones

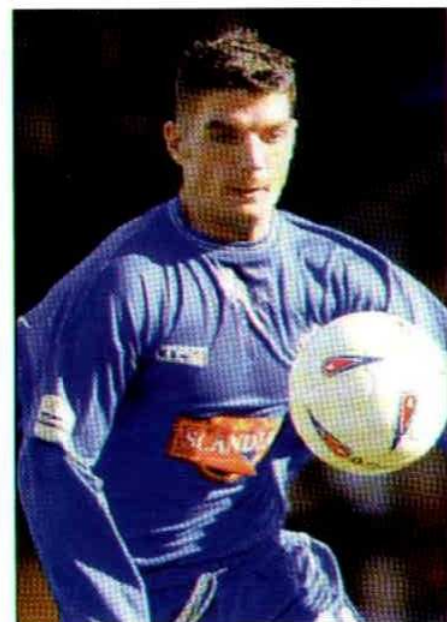
Sponsored by: Everyday Print

Arrived from Gateshead last March for a bargain £5,000 but had to wait until our opening day game at Wycombe for his debut. Currently on loan down the road at Macclesfield.

18. John Hardiker

Sponsored by: Allens Accountants

The former Morecambe defender signed for County in January 2002 and immediately gained 'legend' status when he scored two goals in an unforgettable last four minutes to beat league leaders Manchester City 2-1 at Edgeley Park seven weeks later.



John Hardiker is the Conference's most-expensive defender

status when he scored two goals in an unforgettable last four minutes to beat league leaders Manchester City 2-1 at Edgeley Park seven weeks later.

19. Andy Welsh

Sponsored by: Dave & Babs Murphy

The Scottish Under-19 winger is another product of the club's youth academy after writing in for a trial. Now benefiting from a regular starting place he has the ability to cause defenders real problems down either flank.

20. Owen Morrison

Sponsored by: Manchester Colour Laboratory

Arrived on a free from Sheffield United in the summer, the Northern Ireland Under-21 International can play down either flank. Came off the bench to replace Welsh at Wrexham.

21. Stuart Barlow

Sponsored by: UMIST

Another summer signing after being released by Tranmere Rovers at the end of last season. Scored his 10th goal of the season with a tremendous far-post header at Vale Park in our final game of 2003. An unused sub last Saturday.

22. Lee Cartwright

Sponsored by: Delta Telecom

Lee joined us from Preston in time to make his County debut in our last home game against Peterborough. The 31-year-old is a Deepdale legend after chalking up almost 500 appearances for the Lancashire club.

23. Chris Williams

Sponsored by: Alan Rycroft

The young striker has the ability to frighten defenders with his blistering pace. Another product of our highly-successful School of Excellence. Scored his first County goal against QPR in November.

25. Anthony Williams

Anthony made his County debut at Tranmere after joining us on a one-month loan from Hartlepool United. The Welsh Under-21 International goalkeeper has also served Macclesfield, Gillingham and Bristol Rovers.

26. Ali Gibb

Sponsored by: MG Domestic

The former Norwich and Northampton midfielder, who arrived in Stockport in February 2000, is a firm favourite with the County faithful. Missed Saturday's game through suspension but available today.

31. Simon Lynch

Currently in the second month on loan from Preston. The former Celtic striker has scored three times since moving to Edgeley Park.

33. Ashley Williams

Ashley joined us in December from Hednesford Town after a short trial. The young defender was on the bench at the Racecourse but is still to make his County debut.

34. Dave Walton

The former Crewe and Shrewsbury defender has joined us on a one-month loan from Derby. Performed impressively on his County debut at Wrexham last Saturday.

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HEEEERE'S VERNON...!



What a great result last week, apparently we and Wrexham did what Peter Andre did as well ... yep we didn't win it and we didn't score too?

I think my mate the Irvinator should go on the celebrity thingy ma jig! I think he would win with his hands down and up! He used to be a window cleaner you see and that job had it's up and downs and he said it was proving to be a bit of a pain! Irvin would be great on the celeb challenge thingy. I know it wouldn't bother him coz his favourite animal is a ssssnake! He saysss he likes the noissss they make, you know the 'ssssssss' type noisssse!

Also his favourite drink is a milk snake I believe, he says he likes the ssnake semi skimmed. Which sounds a little funny although he was having a pint at the time. I remember him saying he had a race with the snake once and Irvin amazingly won, he was proud of himself but praised the snake for trying he said 'I knew it would be tight but the snake didn't have the legs in the end!' He celebrated by having a milk snake, he had a semi one and gave it a good shake too!

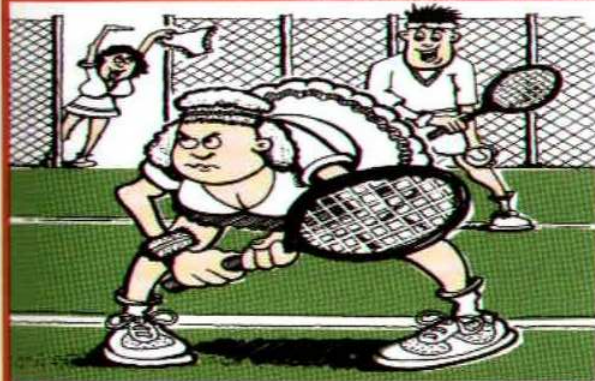
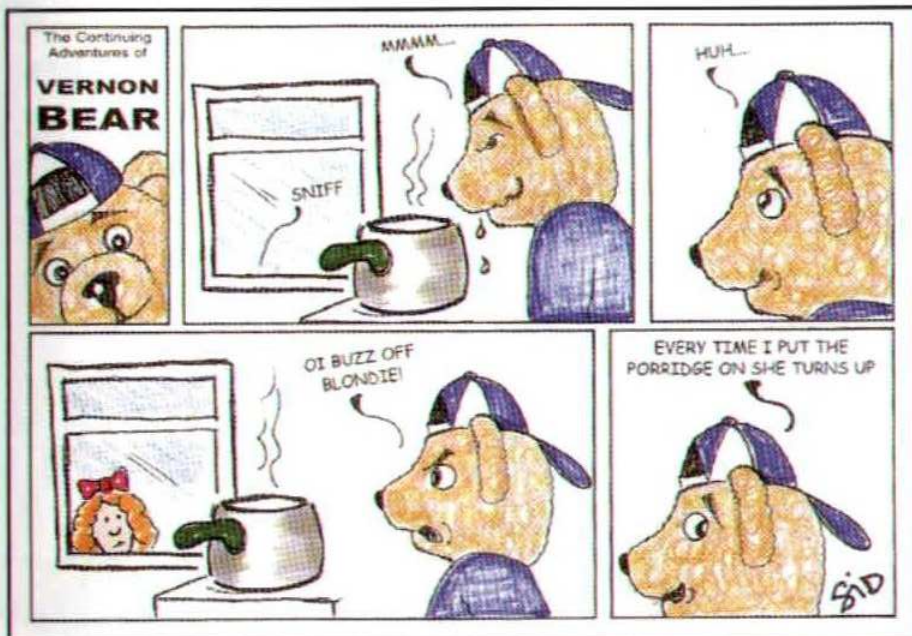
Irvin also likes beatles and things, he's got quite a few of their LP'sss including that song about the man with 'Hay on his Stomach!' Yep

honest 'Strawbelly Fields!' He told me a joke once which was really funny, he said 'What does a bee use to brush its hair? I said 'what Irvin?' He said 'A honeycomb!' He had all kind of animal jokes including the one about the pig who went to hospital in an Hambulance! Anyway enough of Irvin's jokes, I am now going to welcome everyone from that place where Donald Duck doesn't like losing ... yep honest they ask him all the time, they say 'Swin-Don?'

Before I go I must say Happy Bearthday to a few people who, erm ... are having a Bearthday either today or soon - so here goes folks. Happy Bearthday to Dan-Wah Merrell who was 8 last week! Bung Wai Dan-Wai! Happy Bearthday also to TJ & Becks who were 2 last week and big bear hug to you both. Today is a special day as it's VD today so Ronny Jutter was saying anyway. He says he wishes VD everyday! So all you people who are either in love or in the pub enjoy your Valentines Day including Chris Murphy and Dot Harvey. Chris has told me to tell you Dot that before he met you he was 'incomplete!' However now he's with you he's 'completely finished!' (or something like that anyway!) Seeya at Halftime

Chow Bearmbinos
Vernon

PS: If people from Poland are called Poles, then what does that make people from Holland?



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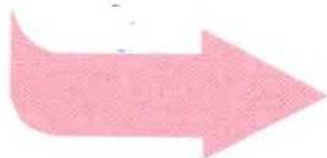
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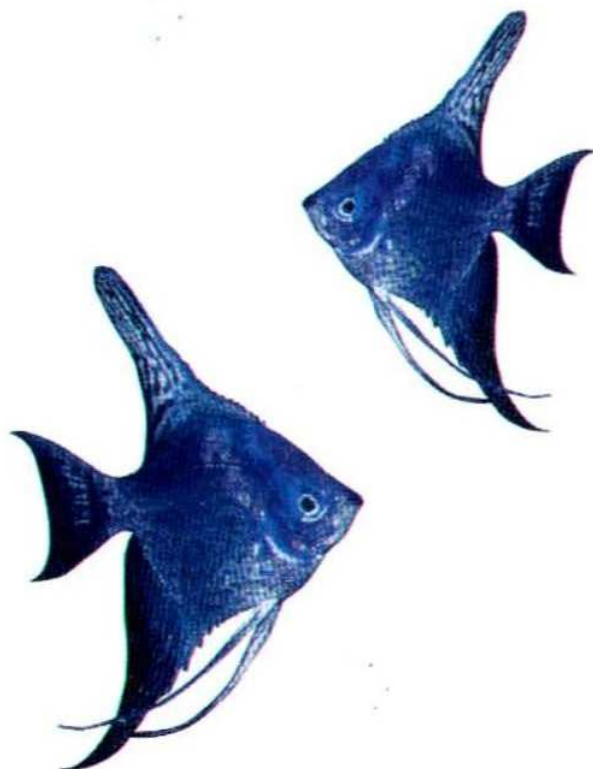
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REDDISH PUPILS EXCEL AT STUDY CENTRE!



Reddish Vale Technology College is a superb school. It has 1550 pupils currently on role. It is one of the largest schools in Stockport and has a top range of facilities.

Every Monday night 15 of us (Year 8) chosen by our tutors come to the Stockport County Study Support Centre with one of our teachers Mrs Mansell.

Year 8 pupil Shaun: "It's superb I really enjoy coming to the centre"

Daniel: "I like coming to the centre because Gary is funny! (And I like the free biscuits and drinks.)" James: "I enjoy coming to the centre because it boosts my education and it's more fun

than being a couch potato!"

Hayley: "The mentors are really helpful. Rachel, Frances and Shelli are helping us create a 'Big Brother' style Video Diary. It will be about our time at the centre. I can't wait to see the DVD when it is finished it should be really funny!"

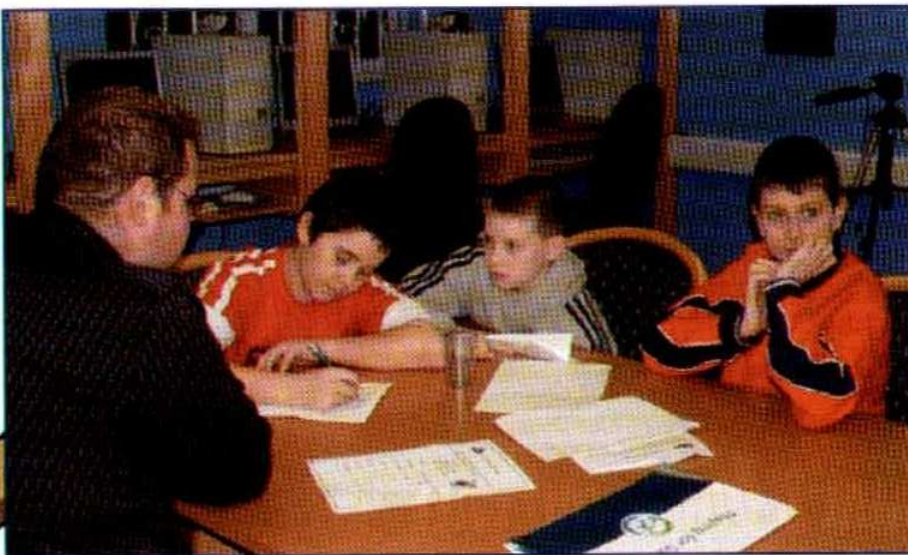
The Study Centre gives us a chance to improve our Maths, English and ICT skills. We are given a wide range of great activities to choose from such as video editing (making our own DVD Movie Trailers) and creating

PowerPoint Presentations on China (finding information on Beijing and Shanghai).

Writing this article and downloading the pictures for the matchday program has been fantastic! We have also used Publisher to design posters and Excel to work out how much the County players earn. The Centre is really cool! It is brilliant fun and we are also learning lots of new skills!

After half term we are going to be interviewing a County player!
By James and Dean

Reddish Vale pupils have learnt lots of new skills at the Study Centre



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ANNOYING SUNSHINE, POWDERED SOUP AND DAVE WALTON!

No-one could ever say that life watching County is either dull or predictable. Just when you least expect it, which in recent years has been almost always, the team will get a result and then just when you fancy them we get beat.

So, as we set off for Wrexham on Saturday, I can honestly say that we expected little but from experience knew that we might get something. In light of the recent weather we also expected to get wet and cold but in true County style we were to be stumped once more.

The trip to the Racecourse ground is a pleasant one and a relatively short one. I didn't realise it had been so long since we last played there, eight full years in fact. Despite the time that had elapsed I remembered that pub that we always used to frequent pre-match for Wrexham matches. It is a quaint looking place called the Wheatsheaf on the Mold road and it hadn't changed much.

Two of my companions were a pair of Chinese lawyers who have been at the club on a placement. I wanted to introduce them to the culture of away games, so the pub was an obvious starting point. They soon baffled the lovely welsh lass behind the bar by asking for two teas. They've got a bit to learn about English football just yet! Also in tow was my father who instantly managed to bring up a completely inappropriate subject with our Chinese friends. Dad commenced the afternoon's discussions with, 'It's sad about your fellow country men at

Morecambe'. (Just the topic they were hoping for to brighten up their afternoon!) Having managed to change the subject we left for the game and were soon in a long queue of traffic. I was just about to congratulate Wrexham on their following these days when most of the traffic turned left into Sainsburys. On our arrival at Wrexham we were greeted warmly as usual and the Chinese got their cameras out to record anything and everything that moved, bless them! Then it was kick off time and we were shown to our seats from where we couldn't actually see the game. This had nothing to do with the view it had everything to do with the sun. For those that have forgotten it, it is a large round yellow object that is very bright, warm and hasn't been seen for about two months. It wasn't very warm but it was bright, very bright in fact and we couldn't see anything without holding our hands over our eyes like a bunch of pretend sailors.

In all honesty there wasn't a great deal to see in the first half and as we disappeared into the lounge at half time so did the sun. Inside the lounge our hosts provided some soup, which was nearly warm and of the powdered variety. You can always tell powdered soup because of the flat odd tasting carrots. Suitably unrefreshed we returned to our seats to watch the boys battle out a hard fought 0-0 draw. One man made a huge difference. Dave Walton, brought in on loan from Derby was outstanding and

gave us that dominance and height that we have struggled for in recent times. His last ditch tackle on Chris Armstrong was sheer class and underlined his contribution on the day.

The soup had done funny things to my tummy and I couldn't even face an Indian so it was off to the Chinese. After a fabulous vegetable chilli dish from the Mayflower in Davenport all was well with the world and I began to look forward to today. Saturdays draw at the Racecourse can be considered a good point but only if we win at home. Today is the day!



■ Dave Walton was outstanding on his County debut at Wrexham

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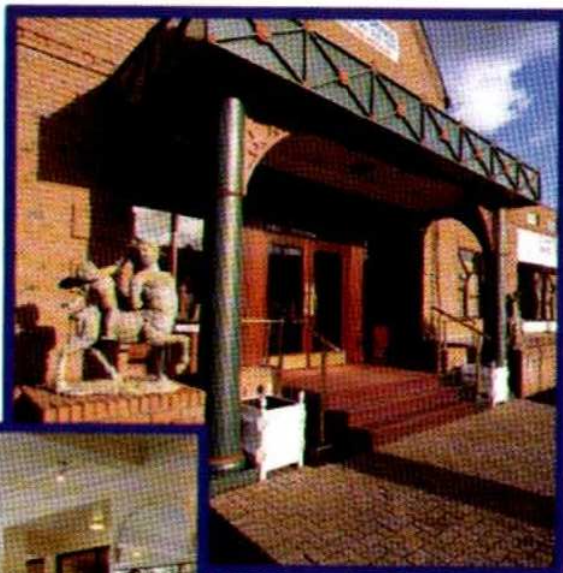
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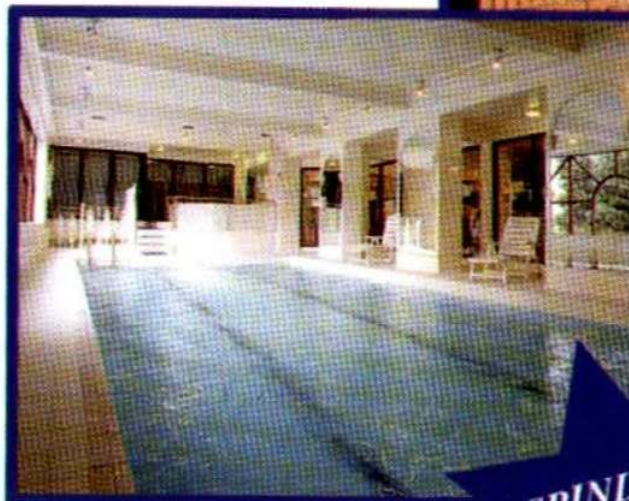
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FORMER STRIKER WISHES COUNTY WELL

Marc Lloyd-Williams was a familiar face in the press box at Wrexham on Saturday and the former striker believes that his old club are capable of staying in Division Two.

Willow is currently playing for League of Wales outfit Aberystwyth Town and with no game on Saturday, he was at the Racecourse Ground working for a Welsh radio station.

Lloyd-Williams said: "It's a shame that County are in the Second Division relegation zone after they were doing so well in the First. Hopefully they can pick up and avoid relegation."

The 31-year-old was quick to spot familiar faces such as Richard Landon, Rodger Wylde and former kit man John Bishop, and he also fondly remembered his days as a Hatters player.

Marc recalled: "I was fortunate enough to score for County and I actually enjoyed playing left back which sounds daft because I'm a striker."

"But I really did enjoy my stint as a defender. Unfortunately things just didn't work out for me at Edgeley Park."

"The fans got behind me every time I played, though, whether it was at left back, on the wing or up front. Every time I pulled on a County shirt they were right behind me, and as a player that's really encouraging."

The goal Marc referred to was back in February 1996 when two late strikes - the first from Alun Armstrong - helped us to a

crucial 2-0 victory against next week's opponents Notts County in front of over 6,000 at Edgeley Park.

That was the only time Marc - a £10,000 capture from Bangor City in March 1995 - found the net in 22 appearances for the club after making his debut as a substitute on the final day of the 1994-95 season in the 1-0 defeat at Rotherham.

Since then, though, goals certainly haven't been hard to find and, at a time County are in desperate need of a regular marksman, how ironic it was on Saturday when Sammy McIlroy's men were struggling beat former 'keeper Andy Dibble, last season's leading European scorer was sat in the stands.

Lloyd-Williams hit over 50 goals for Bangor City during the 2002-03 campaign, more than any of the Premiership's big names such as Alan Shearer, Thierry Henry and Ruud van Nistelrooy.

But because his goals were scored in the League of Wales, they didn't count as much as they would have done in any of Europe's top footballing nations, which meant he missed out on a deserved Golden Boot award.

Marc explained: "I scored more goals than anyone else during the season but I finished fifth in the awards table. It was done on a points basis so I missed out. I suppose that's the way it goes."

"I feel that finishing just behind Van Nistelrooy, Henry and Shearer is an accolade in itself, though."



■ Willow loved his time at Edgeley Park

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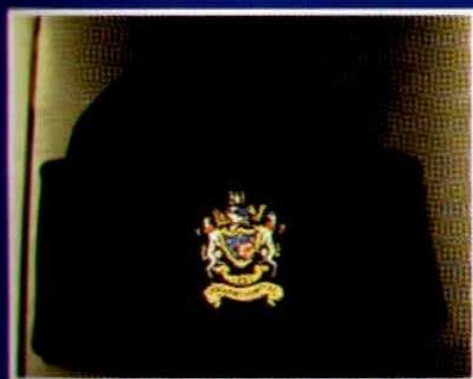
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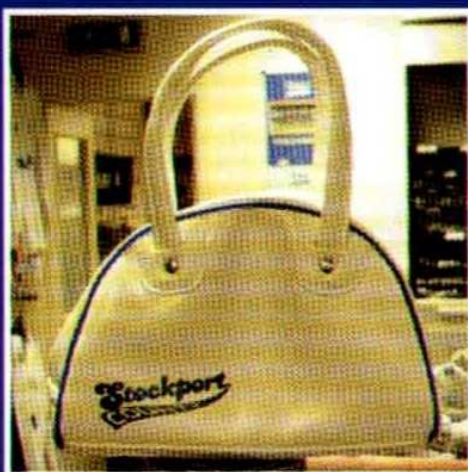
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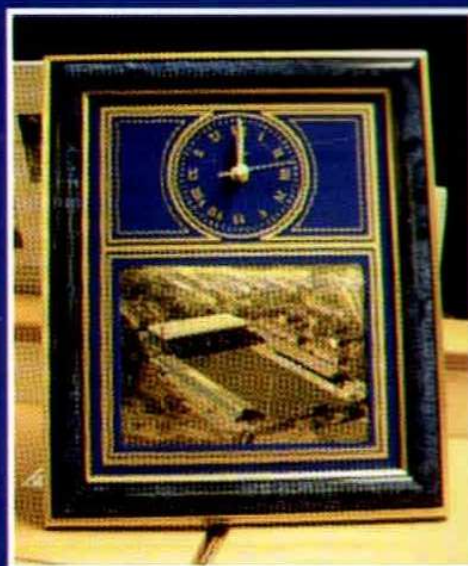
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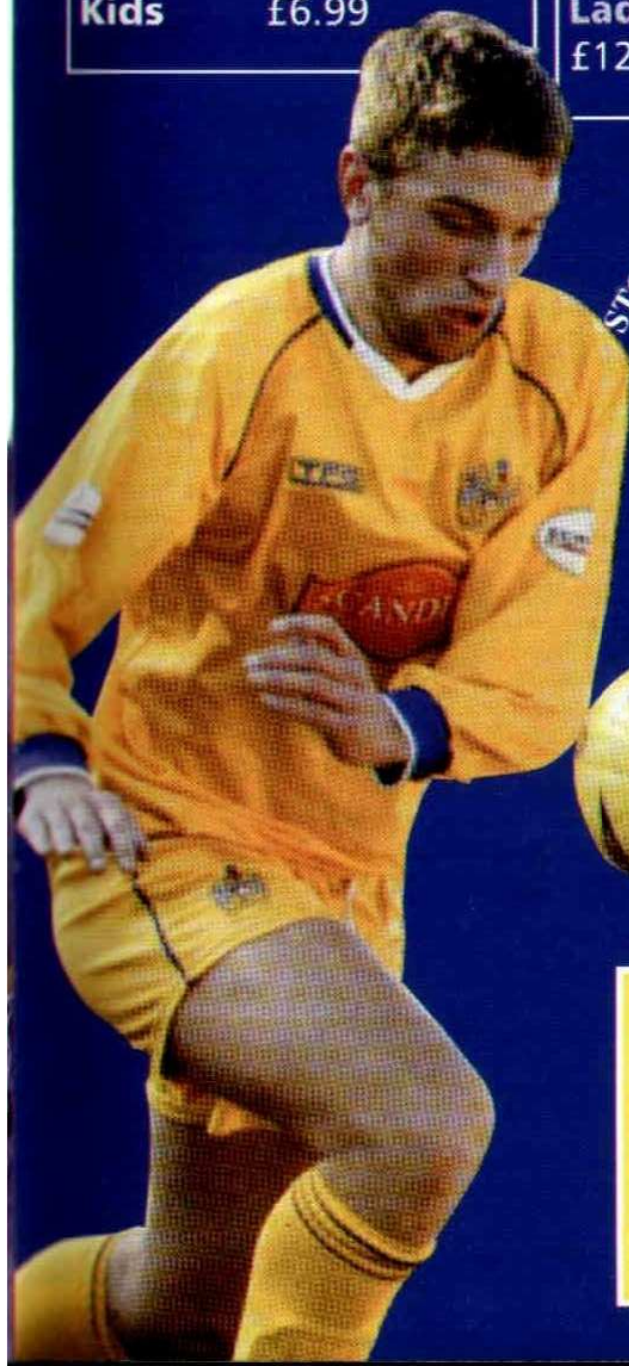
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■ Former Spurs striker Chris Armstrong got no change out of Danny Griffin all afternoon at the Racecourse last Saturday.

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IRISH EYES ARE SMILING

There's a strong Northern Ireland contingent at Edgeley Park these days and three of the lads received international recognition this week.

Danny Griffin has been called into the full squad by Sammy McIlroy's successor Lawrie Sanchez and both Scott Best and Shaun Brolly have been invited to special training camp for Ireland's Under-18s.

County fans will be hoping that Griffin collects his 28th cap in Wednesday's game against Norway to become the ninth Hatters' player to collect full honours whilst at Edgeley Park.

Jarkko Wiss – who played for Hibs in their recent Scottish Cup semi-final victory over Rangers – won nine Finnish caps during his stint in Stockport to make him our-most capped player.

Martin Nash, Canada, is second on 8 followed by Shefki Kuqi for Finland (7), Petri Helin also for Finland (6), Nick Colgan for Ireland (3), with Harry Hardy, Jim Goodwin and Paul Jones all winning one cap for England, Ireland and Wales respectively.

Scott and Shaun, both Under-17 internationals, will spend three days at Lilleshall between February 22nd and 25th when the Irish staff will assess the youngsters ahead of the forthcoming Under-19 World Cup campaign.



■ Danny Griffin could become County's ninth international on Wednesday

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IN THE BLOOD

OUR JUNIOR SUPPORTERS' CLUB

Hello again and welcome back to Edgeley Park for another vital home match against Swindon Town. Points are all important now and three points today would be a welcome start to February after the excellent

away draw at Wrexham last Saturday. Today we welcome our friends from Swindon Juniors who have this morning played football with us down at Power League before lunch and onto this afternoon's game. We

hope you have enjoyed your visit to us and have a safe journey home. Last Sunday we held our regular monthly meeting. I hope those of you who came along enjoyed yourselves whether you stayed at the ground or played football at Power League. Our thanks to Aaron Wilbraham and Andy Welsh for coming along and joining in. Thanks again Aaron and Andy. That's all for now, cheer on the lads to a much needed three points.
Ian Butterworth
County Juniors



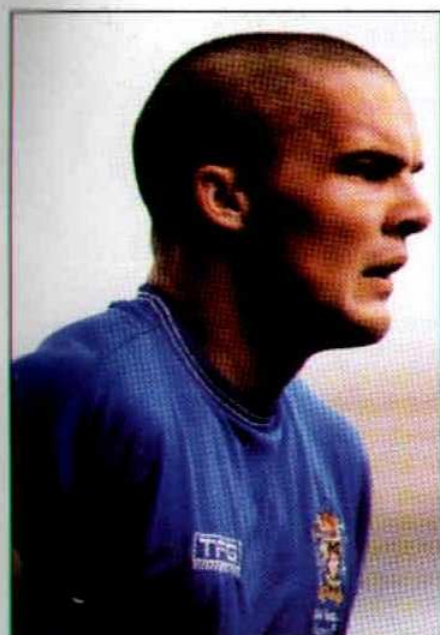
Autographs collected at our Christmas Party

AWAY TRAVEL

Our next away travel will be on Saturday February 21 when we travel to Notts County to be guests of their County Juniors. At the time of writing this coach is nearly full so to check availability of seats please contact either Brenda on 0161 487 2766 or myself on 0161 456 7606 ASAP after today's game.

Further coaches to:

Blackpool - Saturday March 27
Chesterfield - Saturday April 10



Jim's favourite goal was his free kick at Northampton last season

QUESTIONS TO JIM GOODWIN

The following are just a few of the questions we put to Jim Goodwin at our last meeting.

Q) What is your favourite position?

A) Midfield

Q) Have you been the penalty taker at any other club?

A) Celtic

Q) Who did you support as a child?

A) Liverpool

Q) What's your favourite colour?

A) Red

Q) What colour would you like as an away strip?

A) Black and White

Q) Favourite goal scored?

A) Free kick at Northampton

Q) How many pairs of boots do you have?

A) Six (Adidas)

Q) Favourite holiday destination?

A) Cyprus

Q) Who was the most difficult person you've played against?

A) Micky Evans (Plymouth)



EDGELEY P A R K

"so much more than a football club..."

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OUR ALL-NEW CORPORATE HIGH FIVE!

STOCKPORT COUNTY FOOTBALL CLUB ARE DELIGHTED TO UNVEIL OUR ALL NEW CORPORATE HOSPITALITY HIGH FIVE! TO COVER THE FOLLOWING GAMES

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Saturday February 28

BRISTOL CITY

Saturday March 6

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

Saturday March 20

OLDHAM ATHLETIC

Monday April 12

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Saturday May 8

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To make a booking please ring Martin Bellis on 0161 286 8925 or E-Mail
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Prime seats for the big match

*Special Corporate Gift presented to you plus
a signed photo of Sammy McIlroy for each
of your guests.*

Photo of the presentation itself!



BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

A LOOK AT SOME OF THE COMPANIES INVOLVED IN THIS AFTERNOON'S GAME

MATCH SPONSOR

Britannia Security Group was set up eleven years ago with our Head office based in the North West and regional offices within the Midlands and London areas, allowing us to provide an effective nationwide service. We provide a wide range of physical security equipment and services to secure all types of Businesses from Commercial, Industrial, Council, Health Authorities, Police Authorities and Blue Chip Companies. All our installation are covered by a 24 hour manned service which gives the added peace of mind in knowing that out of hours, an engineer can be contacted in the event of any emergencies.

MATCHBALL SPONSOR

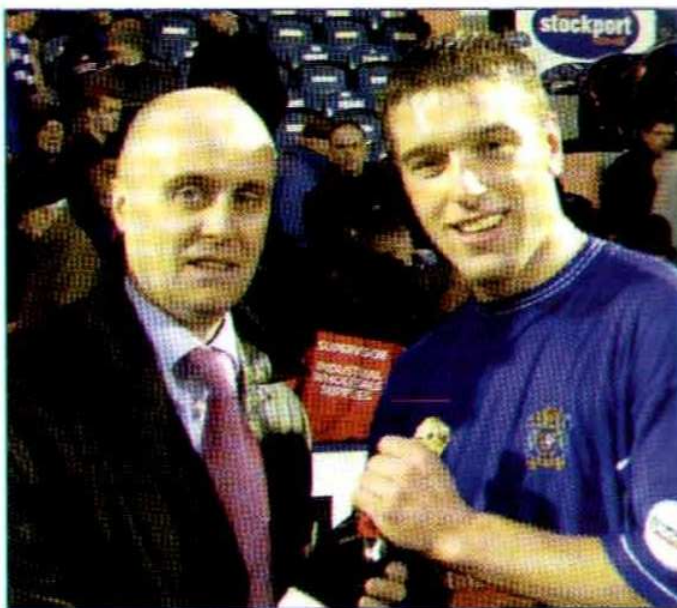
This afternoon it is our great pleasure to welcome The Waterloo pub to Edgeley Park as our official

matchball sponsors.

The Waterloo is a County pub through and through due to the enthusiasm of its landlord and landlady Simon and Jayne Murphy. If the second name sounds familiar, for a County loving landlord it should do because Simon is the son of the former Fingerpost landlord Dave Murphy. Simon, in fact, spent 23 years learning the trade at the Finger before taking over the Waterloo a little over eleven months ago. Since their arrival the Waterloo has gone from strength to strength and has become very much a County stronghold. From the Robbies stable, the Waterloo is situated on Waterloo Road opposite the once famous Strawberry Studios. The beer is excellent and there is always a buzz about the place helped by the two hockey teams, the football team and the

darts team who use the pub as their headquarters. The next time you are in the vicinity call in at the Waterloo you are guaranteed a warm welcome and great pint.

We thank both Simon and Jayne for their support and we hope that they and their guests have a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon with us.



Stuart McCue, a guest of match sponsors Colourplan, presents Rickie Lambert with a bottle of champagne for his man-of-the-match performance against Peterborough in our last home game



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NOT IN - CAN'T WIN

THE FOLLOWING are the latest winners from County's Cash Bonanza - everybody's favourite game!

Cash Bonanza

Winners from Week 44
Drawn on Friday Feb 6

£100 Jackpot Accumulator

Not Won - Next Week £400
1, 6, 11, 28

£200

Mr J Smith, Bredbury Green
K2157 - Agent 120

£300

Mr E G Horobin, Bredbury
B4972 - Agent 170

£1000

Miss A Hosler, Heaton Norris
J1658 - Agent 035

Half-Time Draw

County v Peterborough, Saturday January 31

1st Prize - No. 11356 - £175

2nd Prize - No. 8528 - Executive Day

3rd Prize - No. 8523 - Pair of Match Tickets

4th Prize - No. 8516 - Pair of Match Tickets

5th Prize - No. 8537 - Case of Beer

All above prizes must be claimed from the lottery office within fourteen days.

No cash equivalent will be given. Match tickets are not transferable. The promoters' decision is final.

Any queries ring Matthew on 0161 286 8890.

HALF TIME DRAW SELLERS REQUIRED

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

Would you like to watch Stockport County for free?

Would you like to earn extra cash?

Are you over 16 years old? If the answer to the above questions is 'yes' we need you to sell our popular half time draw.

For more information telephone 0161 286 8890.

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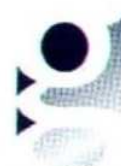
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■ Most people inside Edgeley Park thought John Hardiker headed our 12th-minute equaliser against Peterborough a fortnight ago. However, Posh striker Clive Platt got to the ball just before him to score a spectacular own goal!



PAUL WILL

Former Nottingham Forest boss Paul Hart is hoping to get back into management as soon as possible following his dismissal from the City Ground club.

Hart was sacked last Saturday after Forest's 1-0 defeat at home to Coventry City, a result that extended their agonising run to fourteen League games without a win.

The one-time County defender said: "I hope to return to management in the near future. I enjoyed my time as manager of Forest.

"I believe that during my time as manager, the club has progressed off the field and has recovered from a precarious financial position to one of stability."

Hart, son of a famous father – Johnny Hart scored 69 goals in 169 appearances for Manchester City – turned professional at Edgeley Park in September 1970.

He made his League debut in place of John Coddington in the 4-3 victory over Lincoln City; Jim

Mulvaney scored a hat trick in a game in which County scored three times in just two minutes.

Six months later, and still 17, he became a first-team regular and on his 20th birthday, in May 1973, reached 100 appearances.

The County of the early 70s afforded good grounding in the realities of football for a promising entrant. Matt Woods, sacked after an FA Cup defeat at Blyth Spartans, was Hart's first manager and a top-class centre-half himself. Billy Haydock and John Chapman were experienced fullbacks to play one's first games alongside; and Ian Lawther, twelve seasons after first appearing for Northern Ireland at centre-forward, dropped back in 1972 to partner the young Hart.

Addressing our Gala Dinner to celebrate 100 years of football at

Edgeley Park in 2002 Hart revealed that his County grounding shaped his football career. "I remember a game at Grimsby," he recalled. "I'd made a couple of mistakes that led to goals and when we came in at half-time Ian Lawther picked me up and pinned me to the dressing room wall. I can't repeat what he said but I don't think I made those mistakes again!

"County had some real hard-nosed professionals at the time, men like Sammy McMillan, Alan Ogley and Tommy Spratt. I learned so much from them and I've used that County education at every club I've been with since."

Despite his tender years Hart was always destined to play at the highest level but his move to Second Division Blackpool for £25,000 in the summer of 1973



■ Class of 1972 ... Paul Hart is on the right of the middle row next to Ian Lawther



BOUNCE BACK

must rank as one of the club's biggest mistakes.

Not just the fee – eight month's earlier Arsenal had paid £200,000 for the 23-year-old Jeff Blockley – but more the fact that in their wisdom County officials forgot to insist upon a clause guaranteeing us a percentage of the profit on his resale.

In March 1978 the Seasiders pocketed the whole of the £300,000 paid by Leeds United for Hart's services!

He was now in Division One, and Europe. Five years at Elland Road saw him develop into one of the most accomplished defenders in the country and it remains a mystery that he wasn't selected for England. That the likes of Russell Osman and Steve Foster were capped during this period must have been a great source of frustration to him.

In May 1988, aged 35, he retired after spells with Nottingham Forest (2 more seasons in Europe), Sheffield Wednesday, Birmingham City and finally, next Saturday's opponents, Notts County; but before the year was out he was manager of Chesterfield with a remit to keep the Spireites in the (old) Division Three. Narrow failure was followed in 1990 by play-off defeat at Wembley against Cambridge United, this after Chesterfield had recorded a 6-0 aggregate win over Danny Bergara's County in the semi-final! The sack came soon after the 1990-91 season began.

A playing swansong with Grantham proceeded youth coaching, first with Forest then at Leeds where he enhanced his reputation by winning the FA Youth Cup in 1993.

After leading Forest to the First Division play-offs last season the Nottingham club were expected to mount another promotion campaign this term. That it has not materialised is due, in the main, to the sale (and non-replacement) of

key players and a horrendous injury list.

And, after slipping into the relegation zone and facing a spell in English football's third tier for the

first time in almost 50 years, the axe has fallen on one of County's finest defenders.

He won't be out of the game for long.



■ Paul Hart won't be out of football for long

STOCKPORT'S BARMY ARMY



It's County v County at Meadow Lane next Saturday for an absolutely crucial six-pointer – defeat for either side would see them edge that bit closer to the Third Division next season.

Only Wycombe are lower in the table than the two County's, who themselves are separated by just three points ahead of this afternoon's action. The Second Division relegation dogfight is something both sides have become familiar with over the last couple of years, especially the Magpies who produced a 'Great Escape' in 2001-02 when they had looked certain to go down.

Going into March, the men from Meadow Lane hadn't won in ten games and were just one off the bottom. But five wins out of their next six took them out of the bottom four and then nearly 16,000 packed into Meadow Lane on the final day of the campaign to see a 2-1 victory over Huddersfield which secured their Second Division status. The early 90s saw a rapid decline for Notts County who were actually playing top-flight football as recently as 1991-92 but were relegated in the final season of the old First Division before the formation of the Premier League.

They managed only three seasons in the new First Division before finishing bottom of the table with 40 points in 1994-95, despite lifting the Anglo Italian Cup during the campaign.

A place in the Play-Offs was secured in their first season in Division Two but disaster struck the following season when they finished bottom once again with only 35 points.

Twelve months later, though, they were celebrating with the 1997-98 Third Division championship and were just one point off from achieving a magnificent century of points.

Their last few years in Division Two has seen a couple of near misses on the Play-Offs but this season they are in real danger of suffering relegation once again unless they can start winning games. Only Colchester, Brentford and Hartlepool have been beaten at Meadow Lane this



Meadow Lane

season, the most recent coming at the start of November so Sammy McIlroy's men must fancy their chances of picking up maximum points next Saturday. However, our record down the years isn't the best and we have lost four out of our last five visits, our only success during that period coming in 1996-97 when two own goals kept our promotion bandwagon well on track.

TICKETS

It's pay-at-the-gate for County fans at Meadow Lane with prices of £16 (Adults), £10 (OAPs), £7 (12-15 years) and £3 (Under-12s).

Students can gain admission for £9 although these must be bought at the ticket office at the ground on production of a valid NUS card.

DIRECTIONS

Exit M1 at Junction 26. Take A610 to Nottingham. At the roundabout (traffic lights) take the third exit. Pass through two more sets of lights and go straight on at the next roundabout. (The Gateway Hotel should be on your left.) Travel through five more sets of lights and at the main junction (Trade Kitchens should be on your right) turn right onto the main ring road and follow 'football traffic' signs. Once you have passed

Nottingham Forest FC (on the left) continue over Lady Bay Bridge and turn left into Meadow Lane.

TRAIN INFORMATION

Trains leave Stockport at 9.55am, 10.55am, 11.55am and 12.55pm arriving in Nottingham at 11.28am, 12.27pm, 1.29pm and 2.28pm respectively. Coming home, direct trains leave Nottingham at 5.42pm, 6.42pm and 8.14pm arriving back in Stockport at 7.26pm, 8.25pm and 9.56pm respectively.

Alternatively, trains leave Nottingham at 6.01pm and 7.15pm, which, after changing in Stoke-on-Trent, arrive home at 8.18pm and 9.25pm.

A Cheap Day Return costs £11-90.

COACH INFORMATION

Stockport County Supporters Club coaches leave Edgeley Park at 12.00pm, priced £10 with the usual £1 reduction for members. Telephone 0161 286 8899 for bookings.

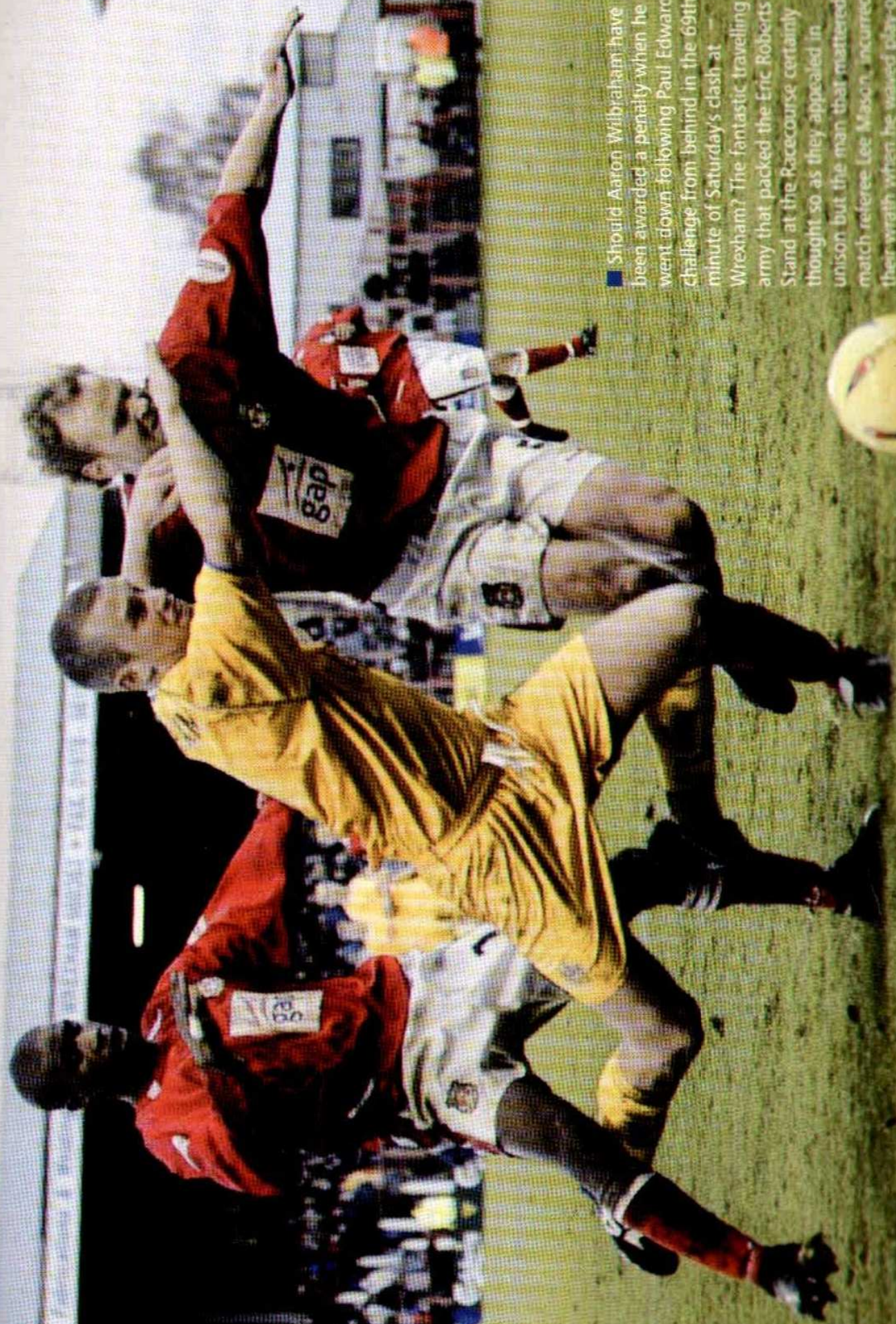
Peels on Wheels will also be leaving at 12.00pm, priced £10. Contact Phil Robinson on 07762 043 424 to book your seats. The Fingerpost Flyer leaves at 12 noon, priced £8. Telephone Lou Spalding on 07970 549194 for bookings.

OUR AWAY LEAGUE & CUP RECORD AGAINST THE ROVERS IS:

League	P	W	D	L	F	A
	12	2	2	8	11	25
FA Cup	P	W	D	L	F	A
	Never Met					
League Cup	P	W	D	L	F	A
	Never Met					
Play-Offs	P	W	D	L	F	A
	Never Met					
Associate Members Cup	P	W	D	L	F	A
	1	0	0	1	0	1

Away League Statistics

First Meeting	1-2, Sat Feb 21 1914, Div 2
Last Win	2-1, Sat Mar 22 1997, Div 2
Last Draw	2-2, Wed Apr 26 1967, Div 4
Last Defeat	2-3, Tue Jan 21 2003, Div 2
Biggest Win	2-0, Sat Mar 28 1959, Div 3
Biggest Defeat	1-5, Wed Mar 17 1971, Div 4
Biggest Attendance	14,000, Sat Mar 31 1923, Div 2
Lowest Attendance	4,238, Sat Mar 22 1997, Div 2



■ Should Aaron Wilbraham have been awarded a penalty when he went down following Paul Edwards' challenge from behind in the 69th minute of Saturday's clash at Wrexham? The fantastic travelling army that packed the Eric Roberts Stand at the Racecourse certainly thought so as they appealed in unison but the man that mattered, match referee Lee Mason, incurred their wrath when he waved play on.

starting	goals
player	sub scored
1	1
2	1
3	1
4	1
5	1
6	1
7	1
8	1
9	1
10	1
11	1
12	1
13	1
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98	1
99	1
100	1

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