

# U's Review

## Swindon Town

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### Gavin's Goals

The U's midfielder aiming for more goals



### Transfer Drama

The full story of the Gareth/Wayne swap



### Sam Parkin

Swindon striker on Robins' forward power





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# INSIDE...



**Welcome to this afternoon's game against Swindon Town, where the U's will be looking to get a positive result against a side that doubled them on the way to the Play-Off Semi-Finals in 2003/4.**

The U's still hold a position in the upper echelons of League One after the Bank Holiday weekend and will be hoping to maintain their good start with a win today.

There's a real buzz about the place at the moment after two excellent cup draws as well as the transfer sensations of the past couple of weeks.

Finally, we would like to welcome Councillor John Jowers - leader of Colchester Council - to this afternoon's match. We hope he enjoys his time at Layer Road!

**4**

Parky looks back on at the results over the Bank Holiday weekend and discusses the ins and outs of the transfer news this week.



**22**

It was the biggest transfer news at Layer Road since the departure of Lomana Tresor Lua Lua. We look in depth at the Gareth Williams/Wayne Andrews swap deal.



**8**

The U's have now won every one of their last seven home fixtures and a convincing win over Doncaster Rovers was the most recent of these triumphs. We've got pictures here!



**30**

Ben May has impressed since signing on loan from Millwall. The tall front man tells us that he's really enjoying his football at the moment.



**10**

After the disappointment of a play-off defeat, Swindon are looking to go one better this year. We take a close look at the Robins and talk to Sam Parkin.



**52**

Gavin Johnson has started the season in goalscoring form with three so far in 2004/05. We speak to the U's left winger to find out the secret of his success.



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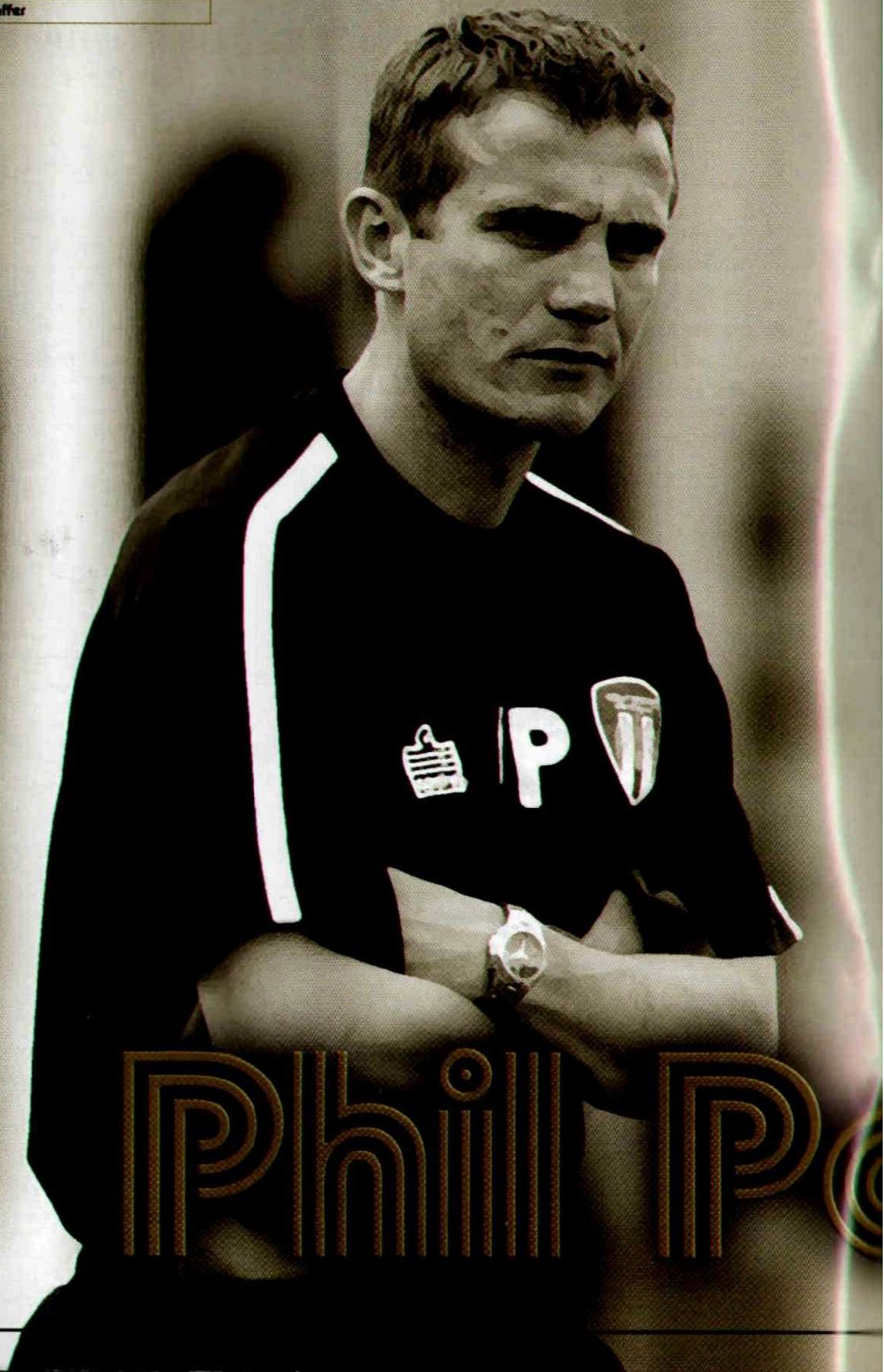
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Phili P



**"The signs are positive and once the injured lads get back, they will have to work hard to get back in the first team picture, because others have come in and taken their opportunity during the past couple of weeks."**

We were very pleased with the way we played against Doncaster Rovers last Saturday. Doncaster probably started the brighter of the two teams but then we had a great period where we scored three goals in quick succession.

You're never going to dominate a game for ninety minutes and, when you're on top, if you get chances you've got to put them away. It was a good performance against a side with a lot of qualities and I think they'll be up there around the play-off zone.

#### Debut

The game also saw the debut of John White and, as I have already gone on record as saying, I was very pleased with how John did. It was a big call to ask a lad to make his debut in a position that he's never played before but he did exceptionally well and confirmed what we already knew - that he is going to be a good player.

We followed that game with a trip to Hartlepool and, whilst not wanting to make too many excuses, we were down to the bare bones for this match. As well as our other injuries, we had lost Kevin Watson who, having got a cut on his ankle, picked up an infection in the wound.

Having said that, we still had chances to win the game, but I have no qualms with the way that the lads played in that match, because they rolled up their sleeves and had a real go in a game between two tired teams.

The first goal lifted Hartlepool physically and gave them something to hold onto. We found it difficult to raise the tempo of our game and, despite creating two or three good chances, we came away pointless.

No team apart from Luton picked up maximum points over the Bank Holiday weekend and it's going to be a very even division this year.

Tuesday saw us involved in some transfer activity and the deal to take Wayne Andrews to Crystal Palace has been mooted for a couple of months now. Wayne is a player that we got for nothing and, now in the last year of his contract, he could have walked away for nothing in the summer.

#### Delighted

Once he knew of Palace's interest, it was always going to be difficult to keep him here but, by the same token, I am delighted that we have been able to bring Gareth Williams to Layer Road.

As you will remember, he is a natural goalscorer and he has been really enthusiastic about coming to Colchester United. All in all it is an excellent bit of business for us and, with Gareth on the pitch, you always feel that there are goals in the team. When the ball goes near him, you think he is going to do something positive with it.

He has scored nine goals in fifteen games in his career so far and will get his goals in a different style to Wayne Andrews. Wayne

got his goals with raw pace, but Gareth will mainly score due to intelligent movement in the box. With the players behind him, we will be creating decent opportunities to add to his tally.

We come into this afternoon's game feeling very positive. If you take five or six key players out of any squad, you would be very pleased if you could cope with that. We have managed to do just that, as we're still sat in third place in the table.

#### Positive

The signs are positive and once the injured lads get back, they will have to work hard to get back in the first team picture, because others have come in and taken their opportunity during the past couple of weeks.

Finally, I would like to welcome Andy King and his Swindon side to Layer Road. They had a great season last year and have had a reasonable start to the season. When you lose out in the play-offs, teams can start the next season with a bit of a hangover, but they are gradually getting into their stride and will give us a good test this afternoon.

#### Party

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# RECENTLY...



**With the new season now in full swing, we will be keeping you bang up to date with recent events at Colchester United in our 'Recently At Layer Road' page.**

The official website - with all its associated products! - remains the best place to keep on track with goings on with the U's, but we know you may not always be able to get to a computer.

And last week was another hectic seven days as the U's got things back on track in 2004/5 before an amazing transfer story developed...

**28.08.04**

After defeat to Chesterfield the previous Saturday, Colchester return to League One action in some style as they defeat Doncaster Rovers by a 4-1 scoreline. Phil Parkinson's men have to ride a storm at the start of each half, but show defensive resilience and an incisive edge up front.

A three goal blast midway through the first half from Craig Fagan, Gavin Johnson and Greg Hallford put the U's into a comfortable position and, although Rovers pull one back on the stroke of half time, a Joe Keith free kick on 70 minutes eases the pressure and the win moves the U's into second place in the table.

Striker Wayne Andrews is introduced from the substitutes' bench, rested from the starting eleven after his partner gives birth to his second child. Ryan Tyler Andrews is born at the end of the week and our congratulations go to Wayne and his family.

**29.08.04**

After a training session on the Layer Road pitch, the U's make the long trek north in preparation for the match against Hartlepool on Bank Holiday Monday. They arrive at their hotel in Darlington early on Sunday evening and, after a brief swim, the players have their evening meal and retire to their rooms for the night.

One player who is missing is Kevin Watson who had picked up an infection in his calf. The match against Hartlepool would be the first that the former Reading man had missed in 2004/5.

**30.08.04**

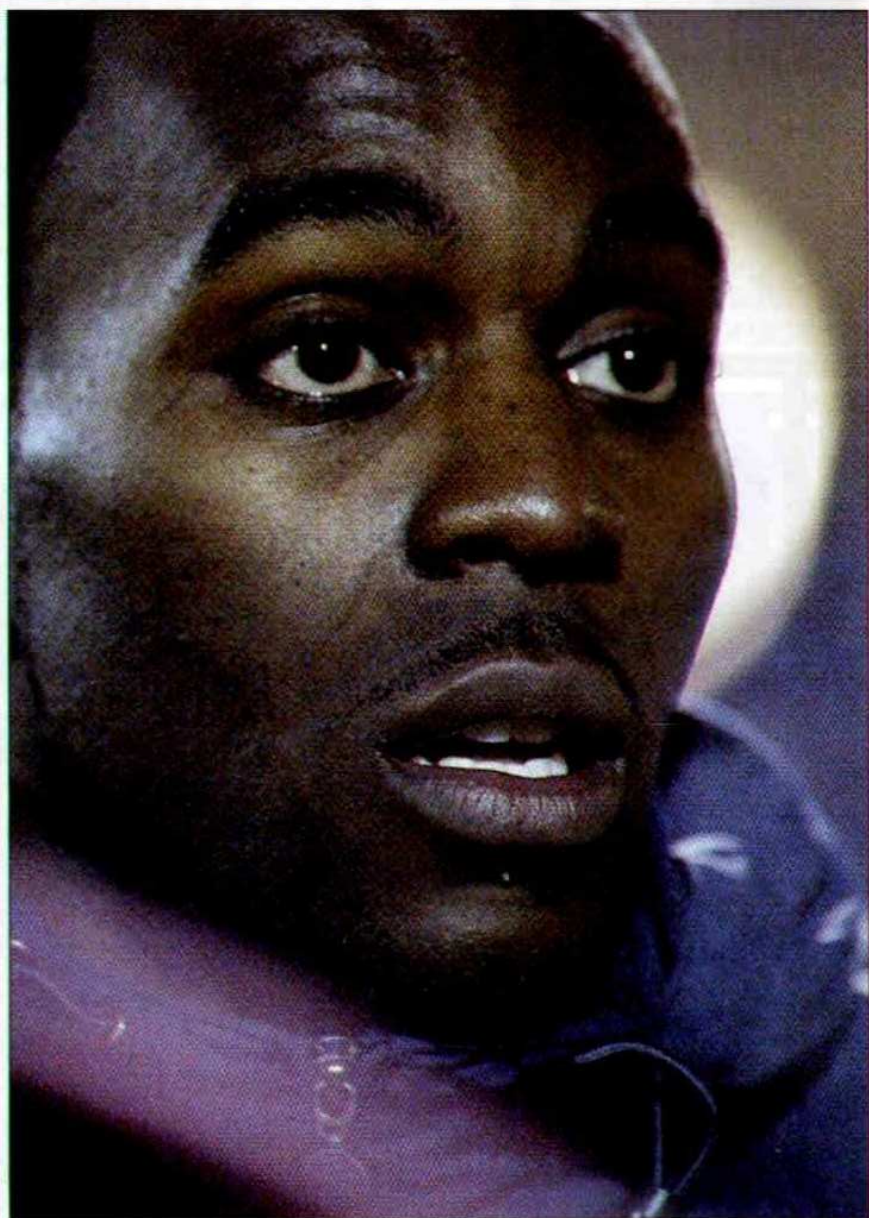
An injury-ridden U's side fall to defeat in the north east after a hard working performance against Hartlepool. Phil Parkinson's men did everything asked of them in the first half before falling behind just before the break and, just as it looks like they are due to get back into the game, they concede a second midway through the second half.

Ben May is left wondering how he failed to score against Neale Cooper's men after a superb performance up front and it is left to Joe Keith to score a consolation goal for the U's as he sends in another of his trademark free kicks in the final minute of the game.

**31.08.04**

With just fifteen minutes to go before the transfer deadline expires, Wayne Andrews becomes a Premiership footballer. The striker joins Crystal Palace in a move that sees Gareth Williams come to Layer Road, as well as the U's receiving a guaranteed six figure sum and future additional clauses.

The full story of a sensational transfer deal can be found in today's matchday magazine on page 22.



**Wayne Andrews** - transfer drama



# U'S ACTION



**John White** - in action on his U's debut



**Craig Fagan** - is too strong for his marker



**Liam Chilvers** - rises highest

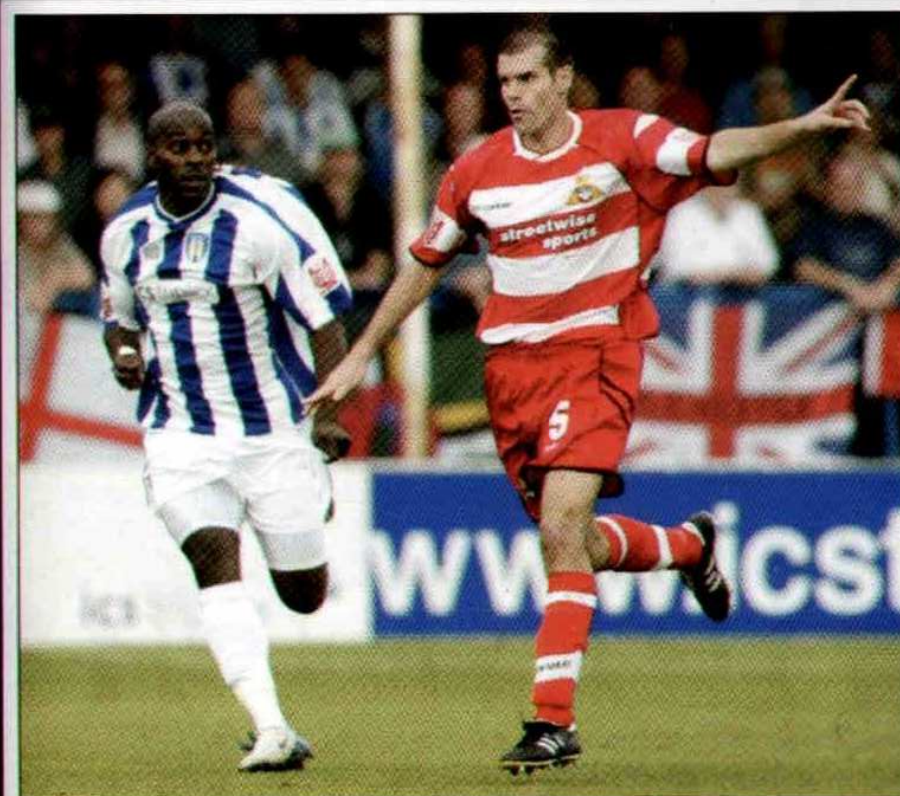


**Joe Keith** - feels the force of this tackle





**Greg Halford** - scores The U's third goal



**Wayne Andrews** - in action for the last time in a U's shirt

## THE WAY THE U'S LINED UP...

|                                    |
|------------------------------------|
| Davison                            |
| Halford, Chilvers, Brown, Stockley |
| Keith, Watson, White, Johnson      |
| Fagan, May                         |

**SUBS USED:** Baldwin for Chilvers 67, Andrews for Watson 84, Bowditch for White 89

**SUBS NOT USED:** Gerken, Cade

**GOALS:** Fagan 15, Johnson 22, Halford 27, Keith 70

**YELLOW CARDS:** None

**RED CARDS:** None

**DONCASTER ROVERS:** Warrington, Marples, Ryan, Doolan (Ravenhill 73), Blundell (Ipoua 63), Fortune-West, Fenton, Green, McIndoe, Foster, Coppinger (Mulligan 78)

**GOAL:** Doolan 44

**YELLOW CARDS:** None

**RED CARDS:** None

**ATTENDANCE:** 3,803

Colchester United continued their hot form at Layer Road by defeating Doncaster Rovers by a 4-1 scoreline. It was the U's seventh home win on the trot as Parky's men moved back up to second place in the table.

First half strikes from Craig Fagan Gavin Johnson and Greg Halford gave the U's a commanding lead and, although Rovers pulled one back on the stroke of half time, Joe Keith swung in a superb free kick midway through the second half to kill off the game.

### From the Managers:

**Phil Parkinson:** "I'm very pleased with the lads. We are patching things up in one or two areas with one or two key players out injured, but I thought today we were tremendous.

"They started the brighter, but every time we went forward we looked exciting and that we could score goals.

**Dave Penney:** "We were a little bit naive in the first half to be honest. However, John Doolan's goal just before half time was important. It lifted us a bit and I felt we started the second half brightly.

"We made some bad mistakes. When we went a goal down, we showed some naivety in how we responded. Rather than trying to get ourselves composed, we looked for a quick goal and we raced forward and left ourselves exposed for a counter-attack and ultimately we paid the price."



# IN TOWN TODAY...



**As the U's themselves well know, the addition of a loan signing to the squad can really brighten a team's fortunes and get things going on the pitch.**

The addition of the likes of Graham Barrett, Gareth Williams, Liam Chilvers and Craig Fagan have all boosted the team on the pitch at a time when they needed it most.

And, after losing the first two games of the 2004/5 season, Swindon Town boss Andy King wasted no time in freshening things up at the County Ground in order to get his side's fortunes back on track.

## The last ten years

1994/95 Division One, 21st (relegated)  
1995/96 Division Two, 1st (promoted)  
1996/97 Division One, 19th  
1997/98 Division One, 18th  
1998/99 Division One, 17th  
1999/00 Division One, 24th (relegated)  
2000/01 Division Two, 20th  
2001/02 Division Two, 13th  
2002/03 Division Two, 10th  
2003/04 Division Two, 5th

## Last time at Layer Road

### 15.08.03 U's 0 Swindon 1

Colchester United lose their opening home game of the season as they fail to break down a resilient Swindon side. Just as the game seems likely to end in a 0-0 draw, Tommy Mooney pops up to volley home a goal and send the visiting fans into delirium. It would be one of only four home defeats for the U's in 2003/4.

## Last time at the County Ground

### 17.01.04 Swindon 2 U's 0

A soft goal after Sam Parkin makes the most of a mistake by Simon Brown to give Swindon the lead puts the U's on the back foot, before Phil Parkinson's men rally to have chances of their own. However, Parky's team talk at half time goes out of the window almost immediately as Tommy Mooney heads home to double the lead and secure the win.

## Robins' last five League One results

11.08.04 L2-3 v Luton Town  
14.08.04 W2-1 v MK Dons  
21.08.04 W2-1 at Bristol City  
28.08.04 W3-0 v Hartlepool  
30.08.04 L2-3 at Walsall



**Andy King** - impressive additions to the squad

The Robins had at least got some points on the board by the time that King made his early season additions - a win against MK Dons getting them off the mark - but the new faces have made an immediate impression since arriving in Wiltshire.

Striker Darius Henderson, a former team-mate of Phil Parkinson's at Reading, has notched four goals in three games for the Robins after penning a loan deal from Gillingham.

Two of those goals came in the West Country derby win over Bristol City, a rare triumph for Town against their near neighbours. And Henderson has quickly struck up a productive partnership with Sam Parkin up front.

King was delighted with the impact that Henderson has made, so much so that he looked to repeat the feat by adding Mark Yeates on loan from Tottenham. The midfielder immediately repaid that faith as well as he put in a sterling performance as Swindon saw off Hartlepool by a 3-0 scoreline.

After the win against Pools last Saturday, Yeates told local press: "I had to repay the faith the manager put in me when he put me in the team.

"The main thing was to get out there and play and to play my natural game. I was pleased with

how it went. I can't dwell on it though. You have to look to the next game at Walsall. I think I've got six games while I'm here and I want to do progressively better in each one."

## Disappointing

That game against Walsall was a disappointing one for King's men, however, as they fell to a 3-2 defeat having been 2-0 ahead within the first half an hour. Henderson was again on target as the Robins gave it a real go up in the West Midlands.

The results that Swindon have had this season show that League One will be a tight affair this season. However, the County Ground side should be expected to be in the mix up when the table starts to take shape in the coming months, as they have one of the stronger squads in the division.

Yet there are always surprise packages in the division and King will be hoping that, in future, his team can hold onto two goal advantages away from home.

"There are loads of clichés that can be used, it's the consistency of good teams that close games when the game is won. We should have been more professional, stronger, more determined," he told the club's official website after the game.

# SWINDON TOWN



Swindon Town last league kit...

v Walsall 31.08.04 12-3  
Scorers: Howard, Henderson



Rhys Evans



Andy Gurney



Sean O'Hanlon



Jerel Ifil



David Duke



Brian Howard



Mark Yeater



Matt Hewlett



David Duke



Sam Parkin



Darius Henderson

#### Rhys Evans

Originally at Chelsea, Andy King swooped for the young stopper in 2003 to give first choice keeper Bart Griemink more competition for the number one shirt. Since then Evans has been a regular between the posts for Town and has turned in many match saving performances. Will relish the chance to battle it out with new keeper Steve Book.

#### Andy Gurney

After starting at Bristol Rovers and spending time at Reading, Andy was snapped up by Swindon on a Bosman in the summer of 2001. He made 45 appearances in all competitions last season, weighing in with a useful contribution of nine goals, including expertly taken free kicks at Plymouth and Tranmere last season. Transferred to Swansea City on deadline day.

#### Sean O'Hanlon

After impressing during an eight-game loan spell last season, Sean signed for Swindon Town in March 2004 on a permanent basis from Everton. Having come up through the youth ranks at Goodison Park, O'Hanlon left Merseyside in search of first team football and was a rock in the centre of defence towards the end of the 2003-04 season and is surely one of Town's brightest prospects.

#### Jerel Ifil

Powerful defender Jerel joined Town in the summer of 2004 after enjoying three loan spells with Town

previously over the past three seasons. Jerel became a fans' favourite during his brief stays in Wiltshire and having finally signed on the dotted line, gives Andy King several options at the back.

#### David Duke

Last season hardly missed a game and rarely put a foot wrong on the left hand side of Town's midfield. The Scotsman arrived on a free transfer from Sunderland in 2000. He has become increasingly more effective beating players and he contributed more to the team with his hard work and endeavour.

#### Andrew Nicholas

Andrew was a regular member of Liverpool's U19s title winning team in 2003 and won plaudits with his consistent performances at left back. With his path into the first team at Liverpool seemingly blocked, King snapped him up in the summer of 2003. With good height, terrific pace and recovery he has made the left back slot his own during the last campaign.

#### Mark Yeater

Dublin born midfielder, currently on loan from Premiership side Tottenham Hotspur. It is the second time that Mark has left White Hart Lane to head out on loan, having previously spent time with Brighton & Hove Albion during their run towards the play-offs in 2003/4.

#### Matt Hewlett

Previously Hewlett made over 100 appearances for

Bristol City, but left them to join Town on a Bosman in the summer of 2000. He has now made well over a hundred appearances for Swindon Town and continues to be a consistent performer in the centre of midfield. He tends to be the engine room at the heart of the team.

#### Brian Howard

The youngster joined Town from Southampton in 2003 having playing for the Saints reserves for two years. The left sided midfielder proved to be a revelation on the flanks last season and should regularly be getting a pat on the back from the Town forwards as he continues to put chances in front of them.

#### Sam Parkin

Young and very promising forward who joined the club from Chelsea in 2002. Whilst at the Stamford Bridge club he joined several other clubs on loan and it is with them that he built up a reputation as a lethal striker. And that has continued at Swindon, where he is nearing 50 goals.

#### Darius Henderson

A burly striker signed on a month's loan from Gillingham, Darius instantly repaid Andy King's faith in his ability by scoring twice on his debut to earn a derby day win over Bristol City. Having started at Reading, he left the Madejski to sign for the Gills, but struggled to hold down a first team place. There is the possibility that his loan switch could be converted into a permanent move.



### the rest of the squad...

**Grant Smith** Scottish, midfielder, DOB 05.05.80  
Previous Clubs: Wycombe Wanderers, Reading, Hearts, Livingston, Clydebank, Sheffield United, Halifax, Plymouth Argyle  
Total STFC appearances: Nine, no goals

**Adi Vitanich** English, defender, DOB 30.09.69  
Previous Clubs: Reading, Barnsley, Walsall, Oxford United, Kidderminster Harriers (currently on loan)  
Total STFC appearances: 81, two goals

**Rory Fallon** English, striker, DOB 20.03.82  
Previous Clubs: Barnsley, Shrewsbury Town  
Total STFC appearances: 26, seven goals

**Lloyd Opara** English, striker, DOB 06.01.84  
Previous Clubs: Colchester United, Cambridge United, Stevenage Borough, Hornchurch  
Total STFC appearances: One, no goals

**Steve Robinson** English, midfielder, DOB 17.10.75  
Previous Clubs: Birmingham City, Kidderminster Harriers, Peterborough United  
Total STFC appearances: 138, six goals

**Alan Reeve** English, defender, DOB 19.11.67  
Previous Clubs: Norwich City, Gillingham, Chester City, Rochdale, Wimbledon  
Total STFC appearances: 226, 12 goals

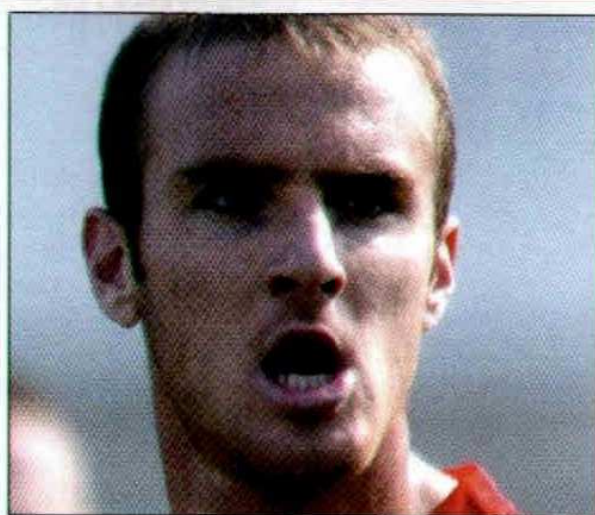
**Matt Heywood** English, defender, DOB 26.08.79  
Previous Clubs: Burnley  
Total STFC appearances: 171, nine goals

**Steve Book** English, goalkeeper, DOB 30.09.69  
Previous Clubs: Forest Green, Cheltenham Town  
Total STFC appearances: One, no goals

**Stefani Miglioranza** Brazilian, midfielder, DOB 20.09.77  
Previous Clubs: Portsmouth  
Total STFC appearances: 88, eight goals

**Sammy Igoe** English, midfielder, DOB 30.09.75  
Previous Clubs: Portsmouth, Reading, Luton Town  
Total STFC appearances: 45, five goals

Also: Michael Pook, Andy Caton, Luke Garrard



**Andy Nicholas** - strong defender

### Fans View

*How have the past twelve months been as a Swindon fan?*

As a fan (and very minor shareholder!) I have been pleased with the steady progress made on and off the pitch despite the bitter disappointment of losing on penalties in the Play-Off semi-final.

Although we lost our first two games this season, the results have now improved and I think confidence is returning again throughout the Club and hopefully our attendances will increase again like last season.

*Which of the summer signings are you most looking forward to seeing in action?*

Jerel Ifil made a good impression in his previous loan spells with the Club and I am looking forward to him making a big difference to our defence this season.

On-loan Darius Henderson endeared himself to Town fans with an excellent brace on his debut which sealed a rare win at rivals Bristol City recently so I hope he'll be around for a while to help improve Town's goalscoring figures.

*What are your expectations for the coming season?*

I am expecting at least a top six place again and when Andy Nicholas is fit to play alongside the likes of Jerel Ifil and Sean O'Hanlon, I am expecting the goals against column to be lower than last season.

My attitude is that if you can prevent the opposition from scoring, you cannot lose the match! Off the pitch I hope that the Club can finally resolve the question of a new Stadium with help from Swindon Council.

*Which team do you think poses the biggest threat in League One this year?*

I was impressed by Port Vale last year who had a good second half of the season and no Town fan present at the away match last year will forget our recovery from 3-0 down to draw 3-3. I think Port Vale are capable of scoring lots of goals again this year and may pose the biggest threat this season.

*What do you expect from Colchester United and what do you think this afternoon's result will be?*

I am expecting a tough match against Colchester United who have made a good start to the season but I expect the result to be a narrow Swindon win by three goals to two - if we can score first!

● Questions today answered by Adrian Smith, Swindon Town supporter and reporter for the Town official website. For his views on today's game, visit [www.swindontownfc.co.uk](http://www.swindontownfc.co.uk) later tonight!



**The County Ground** - home of the Robins



# OPPOSING VIEW



**Although both Colchester United and Swindon Town will be looking to be challenging at the right end of the league table in 2004/5, the two teams both have plenty to look forward to in the Carling Cup.**

As you will have no doubt read, Phil Parkinson's men will face West Brom in the Second Round of the competition and Swindon's draw is equally as good. For the second year in succession, Andy King's side will take on Leeds United and striker Sam Parkin is hoping that his side can go one step further than last year.

In the match against the then Premiership side, the Robins ran their opponents close, before goalkeeper Paul Robinson came up for a corner and scored an amazing header to send the Elland Road club side through to the next round.

Sam admits that that he and his team-mates were perhaps a little overawed on the day, but are going up ready to go this time around.

"We were playing a Premiership side in a Premiership stadium and I think we perhaps showed too much respect to their players," he admitted. "We did well, though, and it was only because of a great goal by their goalkeeper in the last minute that we didn't get anything more out of the game.

"It's great to draw them again - it will give the club a real financial boost and you have to say it's been a bit up and down since I've been here on the money side. Things like this will keep the directors happy!"

However, as the U's found last year with their fifteen cup outings, a run in one of the knock out competitions can perhaps distract a side from their goals of promotion.

During their flurry of matches in the FA Cup and the LDV Vans, the U's picked up just two points in the league. With that in mind, is the league a priority for Swindon?

"The manager would definitely agree with that," Sam acknowledged. "Rushden gave us a chance to rest a few players because we'd already had four games and then we've got two on the Bank Holiday weekend.

"It's important for us to get off to a strong start in the league and we'll be concentrating on that, but the cups obviously do have those financial benefits."

That strong start in the league looked like it

might evade Andy King's men, after they lost their opening two fixtures against Wrexham and Swindon. However, they picked themselves up from their early setbacks and now find themselves in 11th place in the table after their next four fixtures.

23-year-old Parkin believes his side didn't get the rub of the green in those two matches, but have since come into their own, not least with the win over Bristol City in the West Country derby two weeks ago.

## Morale booster

And that 2-1 win proved to be a real morale booster for the Robins: "That game is probably the biggest one of the season for Swindon fans and it's a real confidence booster for the players. After the lows of the play-off exit last season, it has picked us right up again and we will be looking to kick on from there," Sam confessed.

Goalscorer in the match against Bristol was Gillingham striker Darius Henderson, who had only signed on loan for the County Ground two days earlier. Having lost Tommy Mooney to Oxford United in the summer, Sam was glad to see the striking ranks bolstered as the season enters full swing.

"If we're going to be successful, it's important that we have three good strikers and with Darius here now, we have that. Hopefully we can keep him for a longer period, because he has already shown in the Bristol City game what he can offer us.

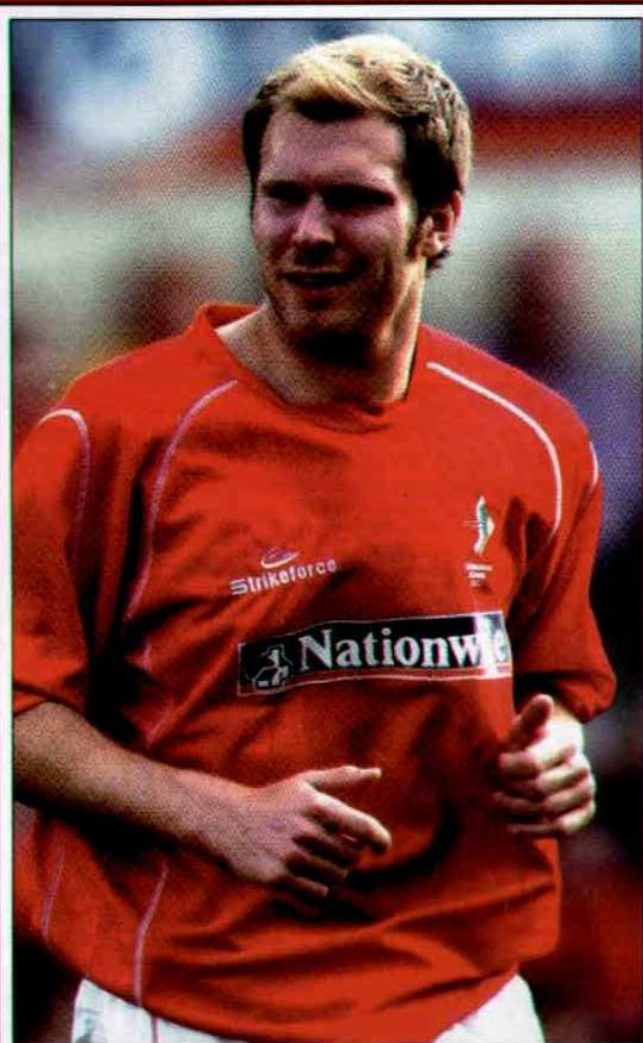
"Last year was a big season for me after my first year at Swindon and I got plenty of goals but I now have to do that again. We're going to need all of the strikers

scoring regularly if we're going to achieve anything this year."

The former Chelsea forward knows that there is an opportunity there for Swindon to take the division by the scruff of the neck this year, but stresses that, like Hartlepool last year, someone unexpected could be right up at the top when the important games at the end of the season come around.

He said: "It's definitely a more open division. Last season, QPR, Plymouth and Bristol City set the early pace and they were up there for most of the season. Colchester and Luton have started off brightly this year and I think there will probably be a surprise package like those two sides that will be up there as the season goes on.

"It's too early to tell just yet, but it's going to be very interesting to see how things develop!"



**Sam Parkin** - needs to repeat last season's form



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## robins' dream team

**Football historian LEIGH EDWARDS selects a post-war Swindon Town 'Dream Team' with the help of several Robins' supporters and club officials.**

**FRASER DIGBY:** England U-21 goalkeeper who was a key figure in Swindon Town's 1992-93 First Division play-off final triumph. Signing professional for Manchester United in April 1985, he moved to Swindon in September 1986 and featured in that season's promotion success. He was ever-present in 1988-89, starring as they qualified for the play-offs in successive seasons and were Coca-Cola Cup semi-finalists in 1994-95. Also featuring in the 1995-96 Second Division title triumph, he had a testimonial in July 1997 and played 417 League games before joining Crystal Palace in August 1998, then played for Barry Town.

**ROD THOMAS:** Welsh international right-back who was capped 30 times while at Swindon Town. Initially with Gloucester City, he moved to the County Ground in July 1964 and was a key figure in Swindon's 1968-69 promotion and League Cup 'double' success. He also starred in their 1970 Anglo-Italian Cup final triumph and netted five goals in 296 League games prior to joining Derby County in November 1973. Featuring in their 1974-75 League Championship campaign, he moved to Cardiff City in November 1977 and subsequently had spells with Newport County and Gloucester again before becoming a publican.

**JOHN TROLLOPE:** Long-serving left-back who holds Swindon Town's appearance record. Signing professional at the County Ground in July 1960, he made his League debut in Swindon's 1-1 draw at home to Halifax Town a month later and was ever-present in seven consecutive seasons including the 1962-63 promotion success. He featured in Swindon's 1968-69 promotion and League Cup 'double' campaign as well as their 1970 Anglo-Italian Cup final triumph. Scoring 21 goals in 770 League games for Swindon, he was coach before managing them between November 1980 and March 1983, then their youth-team boss.

**GLENN HODDLE:** Former England international midfielder who was player-manager as Swindon Town reached the Premiership in 1992-93. Signing professional for Tottenham Hotspur in April 1975, he starred as they won promotion in 1977-78, then won the FA Cup in two consecutive seasons and the UEFA Cup in 1984. He moved to Monaco in July 1987 and helped win the French title in

1987-88, becoming Swindon's player-boss in August 1991. Scoring once in 64 League games, he left to take charge of Chelsea after the 1992-93 First Division play-off final triumph and has since managed England, Southampton and Spurs.

**COLIN CALDERWOOD:** Commanding central defender who was capped 36 times by Scotland after leaving Swindon Town. Signing professional for Mansfield Town in March 1982, he moved to the County Ground in July 1985 and starred as Swindon won the Fourth Division title in 1985-86. He also helped to win promotion in 1986-87, then featured in two further play-off finals including the 1993 Wembley triumph. Scoring 20 times in 330 League games for Swindon, he moved to Tottenham Hotspur in July 1993 and subsequently played for Aston Villa and Nottingham Forest. He is now managing Northampton Town.

**SHAUN TAYLOR:** Influential central defender who was ever-present alongside Colin Calderwood as Swindon Town reached the Premiership in 1992-93. He impressed with Bideford before moving to Exeter City in December 1986 and starred in their 1989-90 Fourth Division title triumph. Joining Swindon in July 1991, he was the sole ever-present player in their 1993-94 Premiership campaign and also featured in the 1995-96 Second Division title triumph. He netted 30 goals in 212 League games while at the County Ground before moving to Bristol City in September 1996 where he has become development coach.

**MIKE SUMMERBEE:** Brilliant winger who was capped eight times by England after leaving Swindon Town. Initially with Cheltenham Town, he moved to the County Ground in March 1960 and was an important figure in Swindon's 1962-63 promotion success. He netted 39 goals in 218 League games prior to joining Manchester City in August 1965, amassing a vast collection of domestic and European honours under the Joe Mercer/Malcolm Allison partnership at Maine Road. Subsequently with Burnley, Blackpool and Stockport County, he is a successful businessman and his son Nicky also starred for Swindon Town.

**ERNE HUNT:** England U-23 international striker who was Swindon Town's leading marksman in four successive seasons including their 1962-63 promotion triumph. Born locally, he signed professional at the County Ground in March 1960 and netted 82 goals in 214 League games for Swindon prior to joining Wolverhampton Wanderers in September 1965. He was top scorer as they regained top-flight status in 1966-67 and subsequently played for Everton, Coventry City, Doncaster Rovers and Bristol City, featuring in their 1973-74 FA Cup run. He ran the Full Pitcher pub in Ledbury and then became a window cleaner.



**Glenn Hoddle** - play-off success

**PAUL RIDEOUT:** England U-21 international striker who was Swindon Town's leading goalscorer in two consecutive seasons. He was Swindon's youngest League player at 16 years 107 days against Hull City in November 1980 and netted 38 goals in 95 League games while at the County Ground before joining Aston Villa in June 1983. Moving via Italian club Bari to Southampton in July 1988, he rejoined Swindon on loan in March 1991. He had spells with Notts County and Glasgow Rangers prior to joining Everton in August 1992 and was an FA Cup winner in 1995, then played for several clubs in China and Tranmere Rovers.

**PETER NOBLE:** Versatile favourite who was ever-present in Swindon Town's 1968-69 promotion and League Cup 'double' triumph. Initially with Consett, he joined Newcastle United in November 1964 and played top-flight football before moving to Swindon in January 1968. He scored twice in their 1970 Anglo-Italian Cup final success and netted 62 goals in 216 League outings prior to joining Burnley in June 1973. An FA Cup semi-finalist in 1973-74, he was twice ever-present for the Clarets and leading marksman in 1978-79. He subsequently played for Blackpool and has since run a sportswear business in Burnley.

**DON ROGERS:** England U-23 international winger who scored twice in Swindon Town's 1969 League Cup final success. Signing professional at the County Ground in October 1962, he featured in Swindon's 1962-63 promotion campaign and was ever-present in four successive seasons. He starred as Swindon won promotion again in 1968-69 and the Anglo-Italian Cup in 1970, reuniting with Bert Head at Crystal Palace in November 1972. Moving to QPR in September 1974, he rejoined Swindon in March 1976 and netted 148 goals in 412 League games overall for the Robins. He has since run his own sports shop in Swindon.



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# STATS ANALYSIS



**U's Media Manager Matt Hudron takes a look at the statistics for this afternoon's game against Swindon Town...**

If the stats are anything to go by, this afternoon's game is all about goals, goals and more goals. With that now having been said, it's probably going to end up a goalless draw!

However, Colchester come into today's encounter as the division's top goalscorers with fourteen, whilst Swindon's six games to date have totalled 22 goals, including two matches with five or more strikes hitting the back of the net!

It is somewhat appropriate that goals be the theme of the day after the U's transfer dealings this week. Wayne Andrews has departed for pastures new after a year of sterling service in the blue and white stripes and some memorable goals to boot.

## Potency

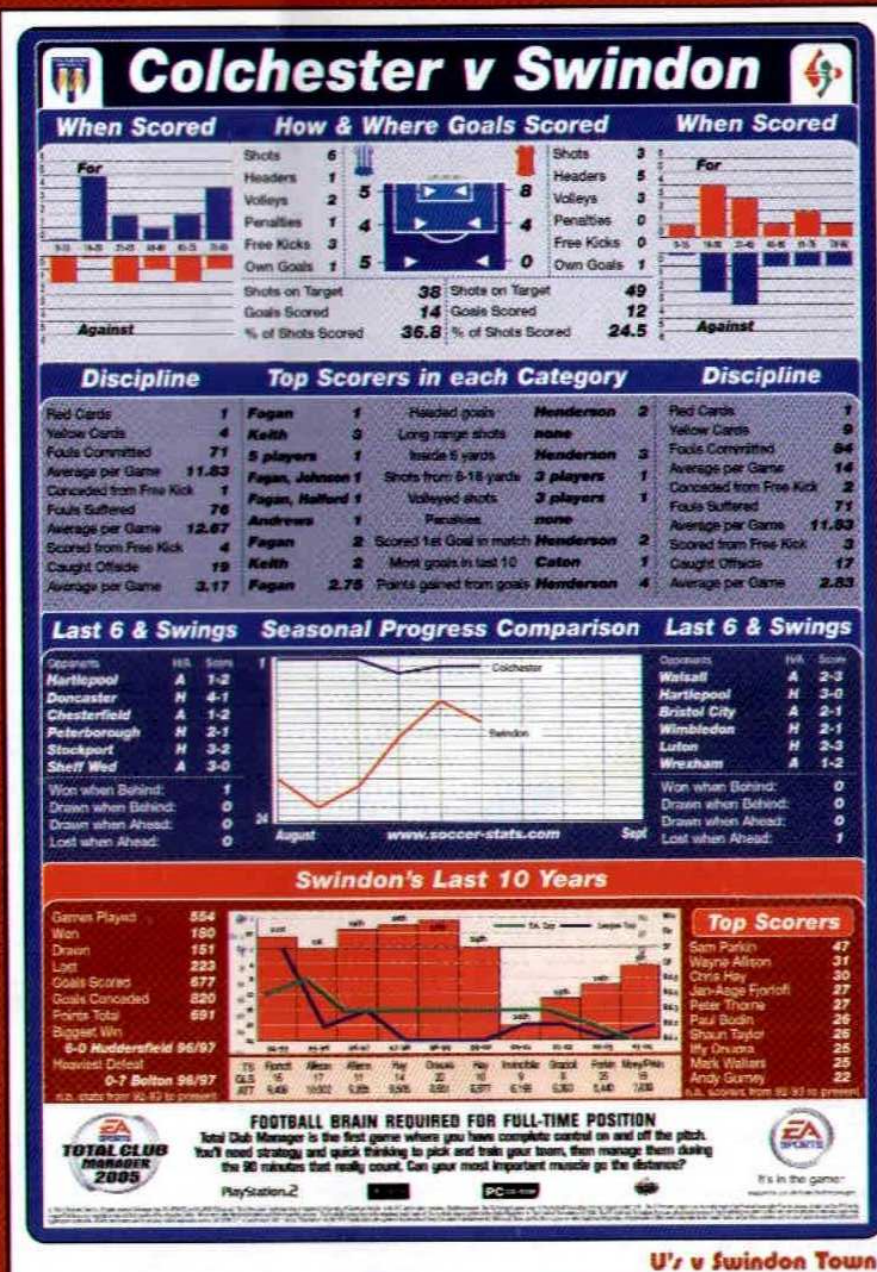
Wayne's pace will be missed, as will his banter around the club, but in his place comes another striker who knows where the goal is. In his U's appearances to date, Gareth Williams has shown a potency in front of goal, scoring eight in eleven starts and eight in fifteen in total.

That is the same ratio of goals that Craig Fagan has achieved since putting pen to paper on a permanent deal in March last season. The U's front man has already got four to his name in 2004/5 and his reputation now goes before him as the man marking job at Hartlepool testifies.

The duo will no doubt get a chance to flourish together up front in the future - although not necessarily today after Ben May's recent excellent performances. And, in the games that they have played together, they are already hinting at a very prolific partnership.

The matches they played together saw the U's score 12 in seven games and Williams and Fagan scored seven of those. If that same ratio continues over the season, the U's fans will be more than happy!

This afternoon's visitors arrive with a striker that has had a similar impact during his own loan spell as Gareth has done when he has been here on a temporary basis. Darius



**U's v Swindon Town**

Henderson has scored four in three games since joining from Gillingham on loan and is expected to be a big threat once again alongside the prolific Sam Parkin.

## Big

With two big target men up front, it's not surprising that the Robins score plenty from within close range after great play down the wings.

Some eight goals have come within the six yard area for Andy King's men and the U's

centre halves will no doubt be preparing for an afternoon of heading the ball away and the full backs will be ready to stop the crosses getting into that area in the first place.

It should prove to be an interesting afternoon, not least around the half hour mark. The U's three goal flurry against Doncaster last Saturday takes it to five strikes in that period of the game, whilst Swindon have also scored three and conceded three in that same time period.

Enjoy the game!



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# BARSIDE NINJA

## Music for the masses, but is anyone listening?

When it comes to transfers, the U's have been able to pull off the odd coup in recent years - Izzet, Fagan and Chilvers (to name a few) were all steals. But it's not very often that the U's are doing the selling! This week's Premiership deadline day deal to take Wayno to Crystal Palace is fantastic business for the club.

Personally, Gareth Williams in return would have been fine for me, so to also get in excess of £100k in cash is a superb return for a player whose contract expires next summer.

All we can say is good luck Wayne, welcome Gareth and hello money! Good to see a different type of striker, and someone who works well with Craig upfront. It will be interesting to see if Parky gets any of the money to spend on strengthening the squad.

There has been a plenty of discussion on the attendance levels at Layer Road, following the lad's excellent start to the season. 'What do the U's have to do?' is the cry being belted out.

There is, of course, only one answer - having a decent stadium in which the corporate bigwigs and a willing joe public are ready to part with their hard earned... Obviously being there or thereabouts when it comes to playing good football (and getting

results) helps.

When I started this week's column I remembered a conversation I had a few years back with a football-loving friend. A Spurs fan by trade, with the very occasional visit to FLR thrown in (three, maybe four trips in ten years), he said he would get a season ticket if (surely he meant when?!) the U's got a new stadium.

### Crucial

Being a Community Stadium, we are obviously at the mercy of other key stakeholders. There can be no doubt that the council's involvement is crucial to the long-term future of the club.

The sad thing is that the longer the project takes, the more chance there is that yet another local kid, a potential fan of the future, will be sporting a shirt with Henry or Ronaldo emblazoned across the back rather than donning the hallowed blue and white stripes - and the support for the club which represents the local community is lost.

Still, for us hardened fans, Layer Road is the place we call home for now, so lets continue to make it a fortress...

Pouring over the inner pages of the weekend's Football First saw Colchester joint top of the league

in terms of goals scored, and with the best strike rate in terms of shots per goal. Another area where the U's are performing well is discipline, having committed the least number of fouls and only Bournemouth having conceded fewer yellow cards.

Now, here at Ninja Towers we're not ones for omens (haven't we been here before? - Ed), but I wonder what last years stats show for Plymouth? Having said that QPR committed more fouls than anyone else last year - and people call them West End Girls...

It was good to see John White enjoying a successful League debut against Doncaster, as it was interesting (and refreshing) to hear Parky's reasons behind the changes to the team. Things did not go according to plan on Monday, however, with a fruitless trip to the Monkey Hangers.

### Bizarre

The U's away form seems a tad bizarre so far this season - a superb away win on the opening day of the season followed by a couple of misfires at Chesterfield and Hartlepool, both games that we probably didn't deserve to get anything from. Still it's early days and I am sure Parky and George will be working hard turning these long trips oop north into games with greater reward.

Also good to see Joe Keith delivering the goods when it comes to freekicks - three beauties already. I'm sure 'Jinky' would be the first to admit he's not reached top form yet this season, so it's good to see he's banging them in.

Finally, it would be rude not to have a go at the numpty in charge of the fixtures machine who gave us Hartlepool away on a bank holiday. Having to travel to somewhere like Hartlepool is harsh enough, but to make the U's fans do it on a day when public transport is typically up the spout and the roads are busier is just plain nuts.

On a brighter note, the draws for the second round of the League Cup and the LDV could not have been much kinder. WBA will be a good occasion - forgotten how long we've waited for Premiership opposition. And as for the weed... People often say 'revenge is a dish best served cold'. Who are they kidding? There are scores to settle. This dish is boiling hot. Bring it on, I say, **BRING IT ON.**



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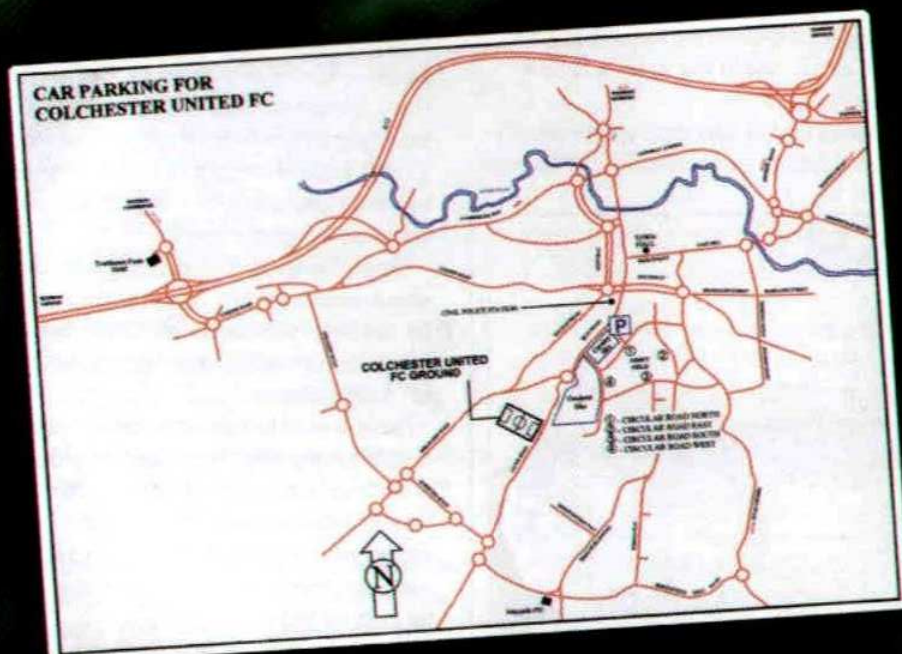
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# KARL DUGUID

**First of all, what a cup draw against Southend United in the LDV Vans Trophy - there was nothing better that we could have been given in the opening round of that competition.**

This is a fantastic chance for us to pay back for what happened last season and to make it up to the fans, who we let down last season when we lost the game here at Layer Road.

As soon as I was told, I was buzzing and it's a match that I'm desperate to be fit for. I can't wait for it to come around and it's the sort of match that I'd pay money to be involved in! I'm eager to get back and be ready for their visit and I know that

Kem Izzet is as well.

We really have to put one over them this time around.

On Wednesday, I went to Felixstowe for an isokinetic test on my injured leg. This test measures the power in your muscles compared to the non-injured leg to see how much has been lost during the time you've been out. I've come through it well and the strange thing is, my injured leg is currently stronger than the non-injured one!

I feel in a much more positive frame of mind than a couple of weeks ago and I told Stuart when I came in earlier this week that there is already better movement in my leg as a result of the injection I had a week ago. Hopefully, we are going to start on some proper ball work soon and get towards full fitness.

The big news this week has been the move of Wayne Andrews to Palace. I think the games a bit bent if he can get a move after a couple of seasons, whilst I've been trying for ten years! Only kidding, though, Wayne is a great lad and deserves this opportunity to try his luck at the highest level.

He's done well for us during his time at Layer Road and has given us some exciting times. He will be missed in the dressing room too as he has a bit of banter around the place to lift the lads when things aren't going so well. Mind you, his banter isn't as good as mine!

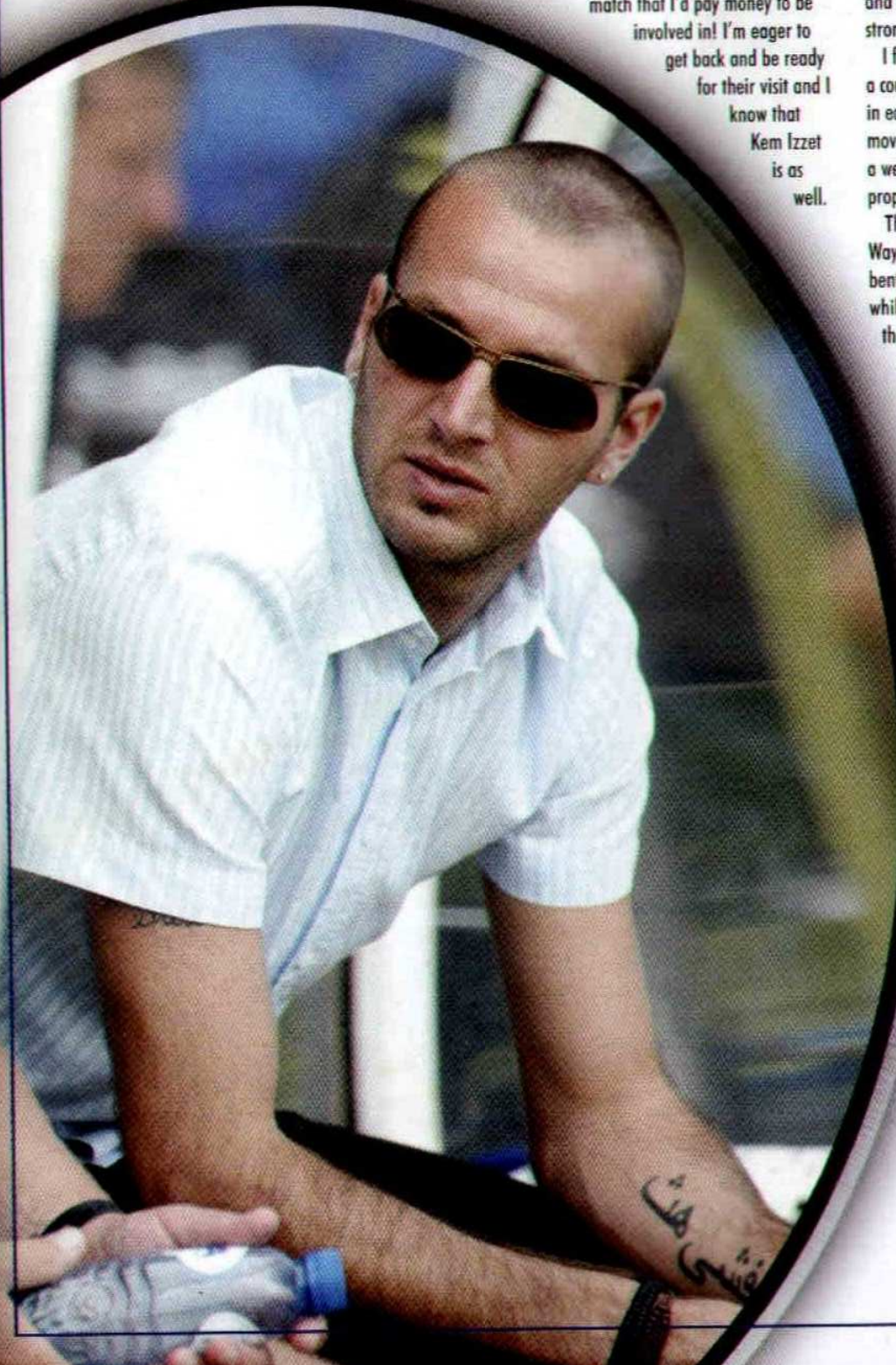
The deal saw Gareth Williams arrive at the club and I am really pleased to see him back. Gareth is a natural finisher and when he has been here before, he has shown that he is prolific in and around the box.

To be honest, we've not had a player of his type since the days of Tony Adcock - who, incidentally, was a red head as well! - and I hope he continues to do well for us up front.

This afternoon's match is a big game as, like I have mentioned before, home form is all important. QPR and Brighton got promoted off the back of their home results last season and if you can win your home games, you've always got a great chance.

Hopefully our injury worries will have eased a bit, although the gaffer has seen in the last couple of matches that the likes of John White can come into the team and make a really positive contribution to the cause. Get behind the lads today,

Doogie







# DEADLINE DAY DRAMA

**Colchester United fans had a big surprise when they woke up on Wednesday morning, with the news that Wayne Andrews had departed for Crystal Palace in a permanent move.**

However, if their eyebrows were raised at that news, they would have virtually fallen off their heads when they saw that popular striker Gareth Williams had returned to Layer Road AND the U's had received a guaranteed six figure sum and future clauses if Wayne does well at Palace.

The full story unfolded on the club's website on Wednesday and here are the key points from the biggest transfer story at Layer Road since Lomana Tresor Lua's departure to Newcastle United...

## **TIMELINE OF THE MOVE...**

Following a number of negotiations between the U's and Crystal Palace during the summer, the sensational swap of Wayne Andrews and Gareth Williams finally came to a head on transfer deadline day.

Despite the move having been discussed for a while, it was eventually completed just fifteen minutes before the Premier League transfer window closed. Here, we outline the key points of the deal that saw the U's gain a new number eight:-

**4.30pm** After days of negotiations, a final offer from Crystal Palace is faxed to the U's prior to the 5pm monetary deadline. With this in place, contractual details with the two players now needed to be tied up before midnight.

**7.45pm** Gareth Williams arrives at Layer Road, having been given permission by Crystal Palace to discuss contractual terms with the U's.

**8.15pm** In South London, Wayne Andrews drives into Crystal Palace's Selhurst Park ground to sort out his contract with the Premiership club.

**10.30pm** The U's finalise negotiations with regard to the contract to be given to Gareth Williams.

**10.45pm** Gareth Williams puts pen to paper on his new permanent contract with the U's. But the fun isn't over just yet...

**11.15pm** The transfer agreement for Gareth Williams is faxed to Crystal Palace, to be signed by the Chief Executives of both clubs.

**11.30pm** The transfer agreement to transfer Wayne Andrews registration to Palace is sent via fax to Selhurst Park.

**11.45pm** The transfer agreement, now signed by both clubs, is sent to the Premier League offices by Crystal Palace, just fifteen minutes before the midnight deadline.

**Wednesday 10.00am** Gareth visits Palace to sign his release forms and become a fully fledged U's player.

## **Parky pleased by Palace swap**

With the Andrews/Williams swap deal happening late on Tuesday night, Colchester United's internet TV station U's World caught up with the Layer Road boss on Wednesday morning and this is what Parky had to say...

*This transfer has been rumbling on behind the scenes for a while but what are your thoughts on completing the swap with Wayne Andrews and Gareth Williams?*

Ever since the Dowies have moved to Crystal Palace, obviously their connection with Wayne at Oldham has meant that they have been very keen on him. Initially they wanted to do a straight swap with Gareth but we held out and we managed to get a very good fee and a quality striker as well.

*It is a big step up for Wayne, how do you think he will fare in the Premiership?*

They have got faith in him to do it for them, he has been excellent for us. He is a player who we got for nothing and we have sold him for a large profit. How well he will do I am not sure, he showed against Charlton in pre-season that he is capable of those moments of inspiration and I think Palace are thinking he could come off the bench and score the odd goal which might help them stay in the Premiership.

*This transfer seems like a good deal for everyone involved on the face of it?*

I am happy because if you stand in a player's way of going to the Premiership we would have been bringing Wayne Andrews back here when he doesn't want to be here. That would not have done the dressing room or the club any favours and now we have got Gareth Williams who is desperate to play for us.

Gareth really wants to be here, he really wants to score goals for us and he wants to keep us at the top end of the table so if you weigh up all of those things and the fee I think it is a good deal for us.

*Gareth already has some history at Colchester United, having had two loan spells here. Is he a player you were looking to sign on a permanent basis anyway?*

Oh yeah, Gareth scored a hat trick in my first game in charge. Not this summer but last summer we tried to sign him on a permanent basis and we nearly did get him back. He came on loan again at the back end of last season when he was a bit slow to get started because he had been out of first team football for so long.

He played little bits at Cambridge and Bournemouth last season but I don't really need to tell the supporters about Gareth. He is a natural goal scorer and I compare him with Jamie Cureton who was at Reading and is now at QPR. Gareth needs to work at other aspects of his game and I have told him in no uncertain terms that he is coming here to work. He's not coming here to train each day and put the ball in the back of the net, he has got to work on the other side of his game. He has got to improve his fitness and I expect him to roll up his sleeves and give it a good go and prove that Gareth Williams can be a player not only in this division but also the division above.

*Gareth has struggled to get into the Crystal Palace team but this is chance to show what he can do isn't it?*

If you look at Gareth's record he has got nine goals from 15 starts in his career and from what I have seen of him I don't think that ratio will diminish as time goes on because he is one of the best finishers I have seen. To keep getting into those positions he is going to have to work hard at other aspects of his game in terms of his fitness and his speed etcetera. But if the ball is in front of goal there are not many other players that you would



want to be on it than Gareth Williams because he is a top finisher and I think all teams need those sorts of players.

He is a natural goal scorer, he is a different kind of player to Wayne Andrews in terms of how he is going to get his chances. Gareth will get his chances through intelligent movement in the box, drifting off players' shoulders whereas Wayne Andrews was all about pure pace but I think overall, over the season, Gareth will score more goals.

*He showed last season in brief glimpses that his partnership with Craig Fagan could be very effective?*

That partnership was our best goal scoring spree of last season with two clever forwards. One thing that is important is that you don't want to lose the pace out of the team and while we have lost that with Wayne, we have got Craig who is very quick, Cadey is quick and Ben May is a strong runner who can get in behind. We've still got that pace up front but what we have also got is that natural goal scorer in Gareth Williams.

● For Parky's views on everything related to Colchester United check out U's world at [www.cu-fc.com](http://www.cu-fc.com) when you get home.



**Wayne Andrews** - Potential to succeed in the Premiership

## Board ready to back Parky's transfers

Following the club's dramatic transfer dealings late on Tuesday night, Chief Executive, Marie Partner, confirmed that the Colchester United Board will continue to make funds available to Parky, should he find a player to take the club forward.

After revealing the Wayne Andrews and Gareth Williams swap deal also involved a six-figure cash sum, the immediate question on many fans' lips was 'Will Parky get to spend the money?'

And Marie was quick to reassure supporters that Parky will be backed in the market, not least because of his previous record at bringing players in.

She told the club's official website, CU-FC.com: "Where the money's concerned you have to, as always, think of the business first. The business is that which goes on the pitch and, although there is never the promise of what money comes into the club via transfer fees will go straight back out again, the Board of Directors feel that they always have a priority to help produce a squad that can do the job.

"If the manager feels that there is a player there that will continue to take the club forward I don't think there would be any hesitation from the board that, if it's the right signing, money would be made available."

### Substantial

So far in the transfer market, Parky's record has been quite impressive. Although the U's boss did not want to lose Andrews, securing a very substantial sum of money for a player he paid nothing for must be seen as good business.

Add to that the fact that he simultaneously secured the services of a striker who has represented his country at U21 level, with an impressive strike rate on loan with the U's then you would expect Parky to be smiling like the cat who got the cream.

That is not to mention his other notable successes in the transfer market. Craig Fagan, Kevin Watson, Liam Chilvers, Wayne Brown and Aidan Davison have all made impressive starts to the current campaign and cost Colchester United the grand sum of nil in transfer fees.

That record to date has boosted the Colchester manager's reputation at selecting the right players for the U's and has given him a stronger hand to continue to bring in fresh talent.

"There is an element of trust with Phil now," Marie admitted. "He doesn't just go into the market looking for the next player that will be available, he looks for players who can benefit Colchester in the long term, that is to say beyond this season.

"You have to therefore be sure that if you're going to pay money for a player, that value is going to be realised within that longer term period."

"We feel confident now that Phil has got a good network out there and knows what he is looking for. The board have the trust and faith in him after what he has done in the transfer market so far."



# DEADLINE DAY DRAMA

## Wayno moves on

**"It's like the first day of school all over again," Wayne Andrews told U's Review from Crystal Palace's training ground on Wednesday morning.**

Less than ten hours after the deal between the U's and the Eagles was finalised, Wayne was arriving at his new Premiership workplace.

"Last night was a bit crazy," he admitted. "I got a phone call in the morning saying that the deal might happen but you never know until it is signed and sealed. It came out of the blue really and I think sometimes it is better if transfers happen that way because you don't have time to dwell on what might or might not happen."

Rumours had surfaced not long after Iain Dowie took over the managerial reigns at Palace that Wayne could be swapped with former U's loanee Gareth Williams. Obviously Wayne knew Dowie well from his time at Oldham but did he have an inkling that he may be reunited with his previous boss?

"It had been spoken about but it was something out of my hands and I think the way I played at the beginning of this season showed that I was committed to Colchester whatever happened," Wayne insisted.

"Some of the lads had been talking about it in the changing room so there was no point in me trying to pretend nothing was going on but you can't get carried away with these things."

"I left all of my boots at the training ground (at Colchester United) too so that shows just how little I knew about what was going on. I would have taken some boots if I thought I wasn't going to be at Colchester this week and I have struggled to find some for training this morning!"

### Impressive

After an impressive start to the season, the fast forward did not make the journey to Hartlepool over the Bank Holiday. But it had nothing to do with sorting out a move to his new club.

"Once I realised this move definitely was going to happen it completed what has been a great week for me all in all. I have got the full set now really, I've got a girl and a boy and I am very happy," Wayne said.

And, looking around his new top flight surroundings, the former Watford trainee could barely contain his excitement.

"I am buzzing, it is better to be chasing than to be chased in many ways when it comes to getting into the

first team. I know I am going to have a lot of work to get into the side at Crystal Palace but I am prepared to work hard in order to get my chance."

He continued: "It is going to take a while to settle in but I know Fitz Hall who is here from our time at Oldham and a couple of the other players but I am still a bit wary to be honest."

"Obviously I will be struggling a bit to get into the team at first but I will work hard and hopefully I will get a few games and be able to take it from there. I am 27 in November so I am getting towards my prime and I feel this is the right time for me to make this step. Having spent three years out of League football in some ways I feel that I am 23 or 24 so I think I can go on from here."

With the two clubs involved finalising the transfer less than an hour before Tuesday's midnight deadline, Wayne had not told many of his team mates that he would not be around Layer Road anymore.

"None of the other players knew it was going ahead and I have only spoken to Craig (Fagan) and Bobby (Bowry) about it so far. I will speak to the other players when I get a chance but I thought it was only fair that I phoned Craig because I have been playing up front with him."

"I didn't want him to think I had left him in the lurch. He was pleased for me but also a bit shocked and I think he may have been concerned if I had gone to another League One or a Championship team but I have gone straight to the top really."

"The main reason I phoned Bobby was to get directions to the training ground but I think he was happy for me because he is a bit of a Crystal Palace fan at heart."

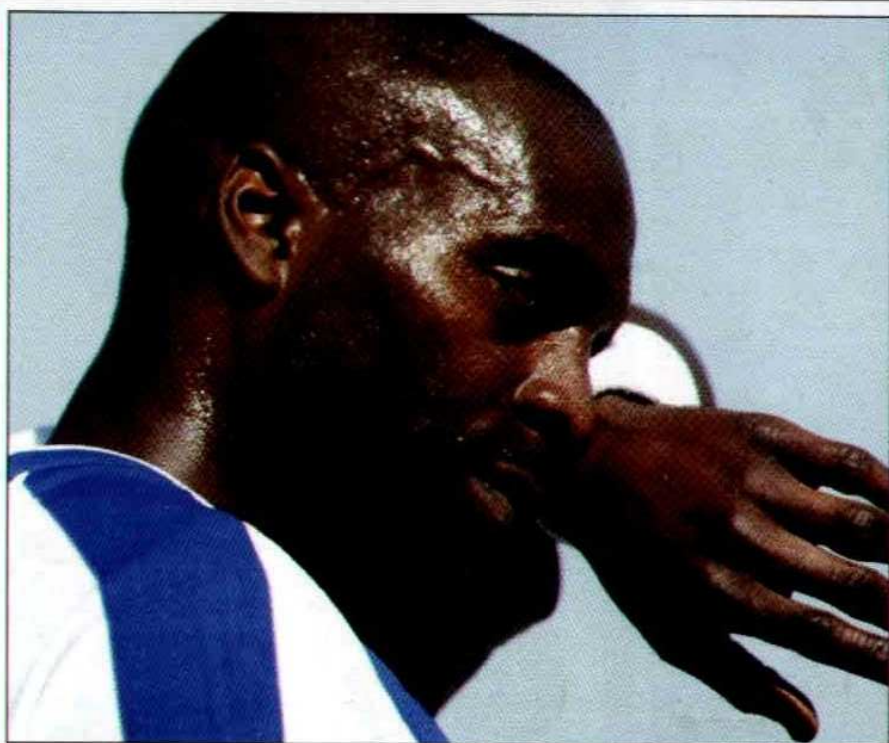
Having scored 16 goals in just over a year at Layer Road, Wayne insists he will miss the friends he has made in Colchester, and he will keep good memories of his days playing in blue and white stripes.

"I have enjoyed it at Colchester a hell of a lot and it has been great the way the fans have related to me," he enthused. "It was hard when I initially came down from Oldham but the more time went on the more I enjoyed playing for Colchester and I am sad to leave but this is the start of another chapter in my life."

"It may have taken a while for things to get sorted out but it was important to get it right. I could have left for nothing in the summer but the club have been nice to me and I think the deal looks good on them."

Wayne also insisted that he is unlikely to be the last player demanding interest from a Premiership club from the current U's squad.

"If you look at the players there, I am not the only one who can make this sort of step up, there's Greg (Halford), Craig, Whitey (John White) when he plays in the team, who can all go on to play at a higher level and I think a lot of clubs might start watching them," Wayne suggested.



Wayne Andrews - Don't cry mate, you'll be alright!



## Back for good

**Having spent two loan spells at Layer Road in the past two seasons, Gareth Williams was delighted to secure a permanent deal with Colchester United this week.**

The Wales U21 striker was looking forward to his next career move for a number of reasons, but most of all he was looking forward to reinstating his strike partnership with Craig Fagan.

"I am looking forward to playing in front of the Colchester supporters again, I'm looking forward to seeing the boys and I am particularly looking forward to playing up front with Craig Fagan again," Gareth said.

"I felt that we had a very good partnership even though we hadn't really trained together or played together before. The Notts County game is the one that springs to mind because we both scored goals and I am sure we can repeat that if we play up front together."

Gareth and Craig only played three matches together before a bizarre stomach strain forced the former Birmingham trainee out of the remainder of the season. But the U's scored nine goals in those three matches, Craig netting four and Gareth two. The 4-1 win over Notts County showed that Gareth's intelligent movement created a lot of space for Craig to exploit and the Welshman also reminded the Colchester faithful of his deadly finishing.

### Relief

"I am just looking forward to coming and playing for Colchester because up until now I have not had much first team football, apart from a few loan spells," he told U's Review on Wednesday. "I was at Colchester until 11pm last night and didn't get home till half past midnight so it was quite a relief to get the deal finalised in some ways."

"I definitely think I can score goals consistently for Colchester and I have every belief in my goal scoring ability. If I was to set myself a target, realistically I would be looking to score 15 goals from this point in the season, I think that is fair and anything over that would be a bonus. Obviously I have got a bit of catching up to do because Craig has already got four goals this season."

"It has been a bit frustrating at Palace but it has been the only club that I have known and I have not been in any other position than that so far. In my heart I was reluctant to leave in a lot of ways but my head was saying that it was the right thing to do."

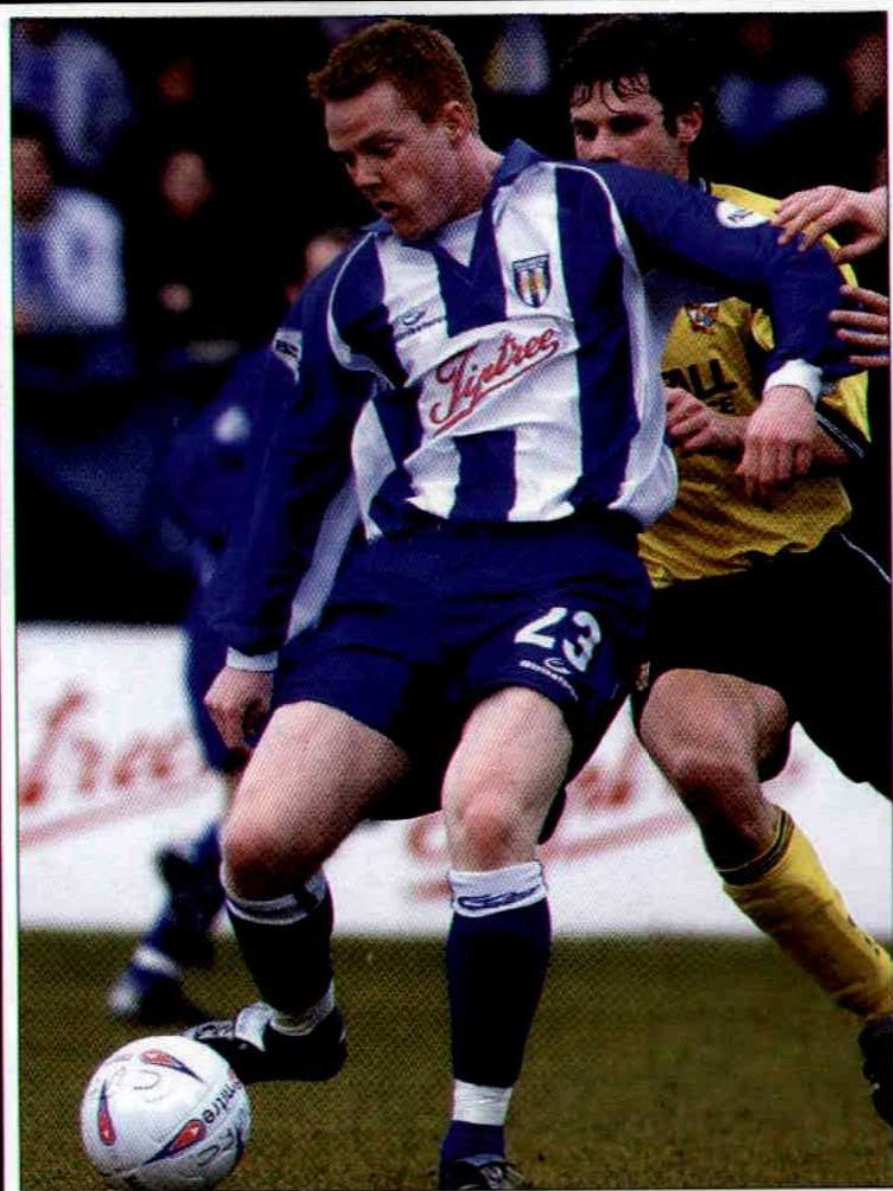
While Gareth has moved away from the Premiership club for whom he made just one appearance last

season, the cool finisher has high ambitions for his time with Colchester United.

"Ideally, I hope to get promoted at Colchester. When I first came here we were 20th in the division and by the time I left at the end of the season we were tenth. Under the new manager the club has gone from strength to strength and there are some very good players at the club. The League table doesn't lie and hopefully we can maintain a strong challenge for promotion."

Gareth also had brief loan spells at AFC Bournemouth and Cambridge United last season and, despite scoring in his first game for the other U's, those loan spells did not go well for him. He is pleased to be heading back to a club that he knows and likes.

"The best thing about coming is that I know the players, the management team and the staff already so it is not a massive step for me to come back to Colchester. On the pitch I know, for example, that if Joe Keith is playing on the right he is going to want to come inside and roll diagonal passes in behind the defence. That is something that should help a lot and I am looking forward to playing, getting into the team and hopefully scoring a few goals," Gareth concluded.



Gareth Williams - Permanent contract



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# LOOKING BACK

WITH CARL MARSTON

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## 5 YEARS AGO

*A traumatic week at Layer Road ended with new manager Steve Whitton, who had taken over the reins from Mick Wadsworth, enjoy a victory in his first match in charge.*

The U's did not get their noses in front on Saturday, August 28, 1999, until the 88th minute against the big-money names of Reading, but it was to prove conclusive.

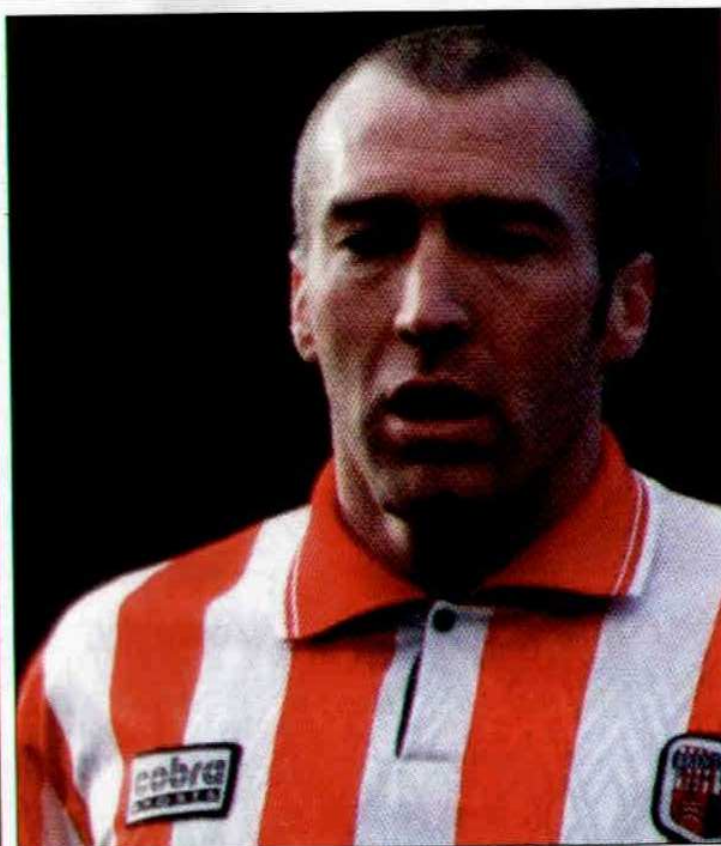
Skipper Warren Aspinall blasted home a last-gasp penalty to complete a stirring comeback from the Essex club. Twice, United rallied from a goal-down in a thrilling encounter. They were rewarded with only their second win of the season.

A brace from Aspinall, sandwiching a poacher's goal from Karl Duguid, secured the victory, after Reading had taken the lead twice through Nicky Forster and Martin Williams, who had a loan spell with the U's back in 1995.

Aspinall said: "I'm 100% behind Steve (Whitton), and it's up to the Board to back him. I reckon we're only a couple of players away from a good squad. Perhaps the squad is a little too young at the moment.

"I want to stay and get another contract. We have to stick together as a group of lads. I think we can make the play-offs this season," said a rather optimistic Aspinall.

**U's line-up:** Brown, Wilkins, Burton, Greene, Duguid, Keith, Aspinall, D Gregory, Launders, Moralee (sub Forbes, 76), Lua Lua. Unused subs: Richard, Germain, Pinault, Walker.



Warren Aspinall - Late penalty winner

## 10 YEARS AGO

*It was as if a huge weight had been lifted from manager George Burley's shoulders when Tony Dennis nipped in to sweep home Colchester United's winner at Scarborough on Saturday, September 3, 1994.*

Dennis' strike, which came after 70 minutes, left Burley beaming and saw the U's rise off the foot of the Football League table. A depressing run of six straight defeats, at the start of the season, had finally been ended.

Furthermore, a barren spell of 598 minutes without a goal was also ended, leaving Burley able to cherish his first victory since taking over the managerial reins at Layer Road.

Colchester did not play like a basement side. Trevor Putney dictated the midfield and Steve Whitton, despite a nasty head wound, led the front-line with cunning and determination. But it was the welcome return of Peter Cawley at the heart of defence, after injury, that did more than anything to turn the tide for the floundering U's.

The U's winner, which was only their second goal of the season, was set up by Putney, who fed Mark Kinsella on the right. Whitton exchanged a one-two with Steve Brown before unleashing a shot that keeper Gavin Kelly could only block, and Dennis was the first to react by stabbing the ball home from six yards out.

It was Dennis' first goal for the club since his arrival from Chesterfield during the close season.

**U's line-up:** Cheesewright, English, Davis, Cawley, Caesar, Dennis, Putney, Brown (sub Fry, 80), Whitton, Kinsella, Abrahams. Unused subs: Burley, Emberson.



Cyril Lea - In charge

## 20 YEARS AGO

Cyril Lea's men embarked on a good run in September, that led to four league victories on the trot.

The run began, after the disappointment of a 4-3 defeat at Bury, with a narrow 1-0 success at Mansfield on September 19, 1984. A crowd of 2,084 at Field Mill watched the Stags go down to a Keith Bowen goal. It was Bowen's second goal of the season, following an earlier strike at Scunthorpe.

**U's line-up:** Chamberlain, Farrell, Phillips, Parkinson, Day, Houston, Groves, Osborne, Bowman, Adcock, Hull. Sub: Irving.





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# DAVID GREGORY

## Say What You See!

How many managers have we seen, during interviews, evading the questions and defending the indefensible whenever one of their players is criticised? Arsene Wenger has become one of the most successful managers in the world at club level but he obviously has trouble with his eye sight if we are to believe his after match comments.

Any time an Arsenal player is involved in any controversy, his stock answer is, 'I didn't see the incident'. Funny then, if an Arsenal player goes down in the opposition box Wenger sees the slightest tug or trip. As for Sir Alex Ferguson no one is ever to blame except the officials.

So is it me or is it a breath of fresh air to hear Jose Mourinho doing his very honest post match interviews? He can come across as arrogant and self opinionated but I think he just has great belief in his own ability and says it as he sees it.

He trusts in his methods that bought him success at his previous club Porto and he will definitely be doing it his way at Stamford Bridge.

I don't know how much 'sexy football' Abramovic wants to see but while Mourinho is manager it will be a case of getting results. It will be interesting to see if the Russian owner will be happy at winning games of little entertainment. Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson and

### Next Stop, Europe

Arsenal's Wenger will be a lot happier than Chelsea boss Mourinho after the Champions League draw at the end of last month. After seeing the groups, all the English teams have got a good chance of progressing to the second round.

Chelsea has got a tough task as they are pitted against Champions League holders Porto, Paris Saint Germain and CSKA Moscow. It will be a tough trip to Moscow and there is already controversy about this match up. It seems that

one of the companies that Abramovic owns sponsors CSKA to the tune of forty million pound and UEFA are looking into a possible conflict of interest.

I still expect both Chelsea and Porto to progress. Arsenal will win their group because they have nothing to fear from Panathinaikos, PSV Eindhoven or Rosenborg. Manchester United should also be top in their group. If they play to their potential Lyon, Sparta Prague and Fenerbache should be overcome without too much difficulty.

My only doubt concerns Liverpool. They should finish above Olympiakos but they will have to get results against Deportivo and Monaco if they are to progress from their group. It would be great to see all four English clubs in the last sixteen of this prestigious competition.

### Managerial Merry Go Round...Again!

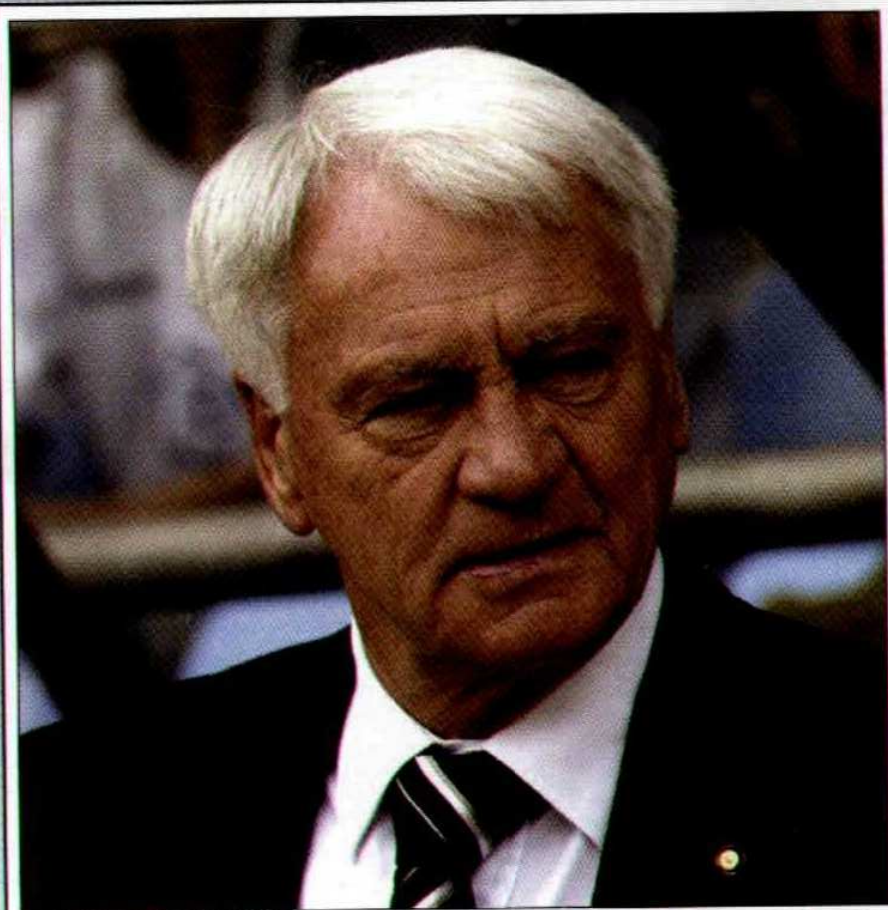
It seems only the other day that I was talking about managerial casualties so early in the season. Paul Sturrock's departure has been quickly followed by the dismissals of Craig Brown and Sir Bobby Robson. Preston had accumulated four points from their first five games but this obviously wasn't deemed to be good enough, so Preston dispensed with Craig Brown's services.

Their next game however saw them pick up three points and move them into mid table. Surely this proves that it was far too early to be thinking about sacking the manager. It makes me wonder if there were some underlying problems between board and manager at Deepdale.

Along with a lot of other people I expect, I was saddened to hear the news last Bank Holiday Monday of Bobby Robson's dismissal. Maybe this decision should have been reached at the end of last season so that a new manager could have been installed and been able to oversee the pre season.

I did feel it was time for Sir Bobby to move, maybe upstairs and a head coach bought in to manage the team affairs. This isn't possible now as the club felt they had to move forward without Robson's services. I'm sure he thinks he has got something to offer for the next few years but I hope he seriously considers giving up full time management and maybe concentrating on doing a few commentaries and putting his feet up. Enjoy the game,

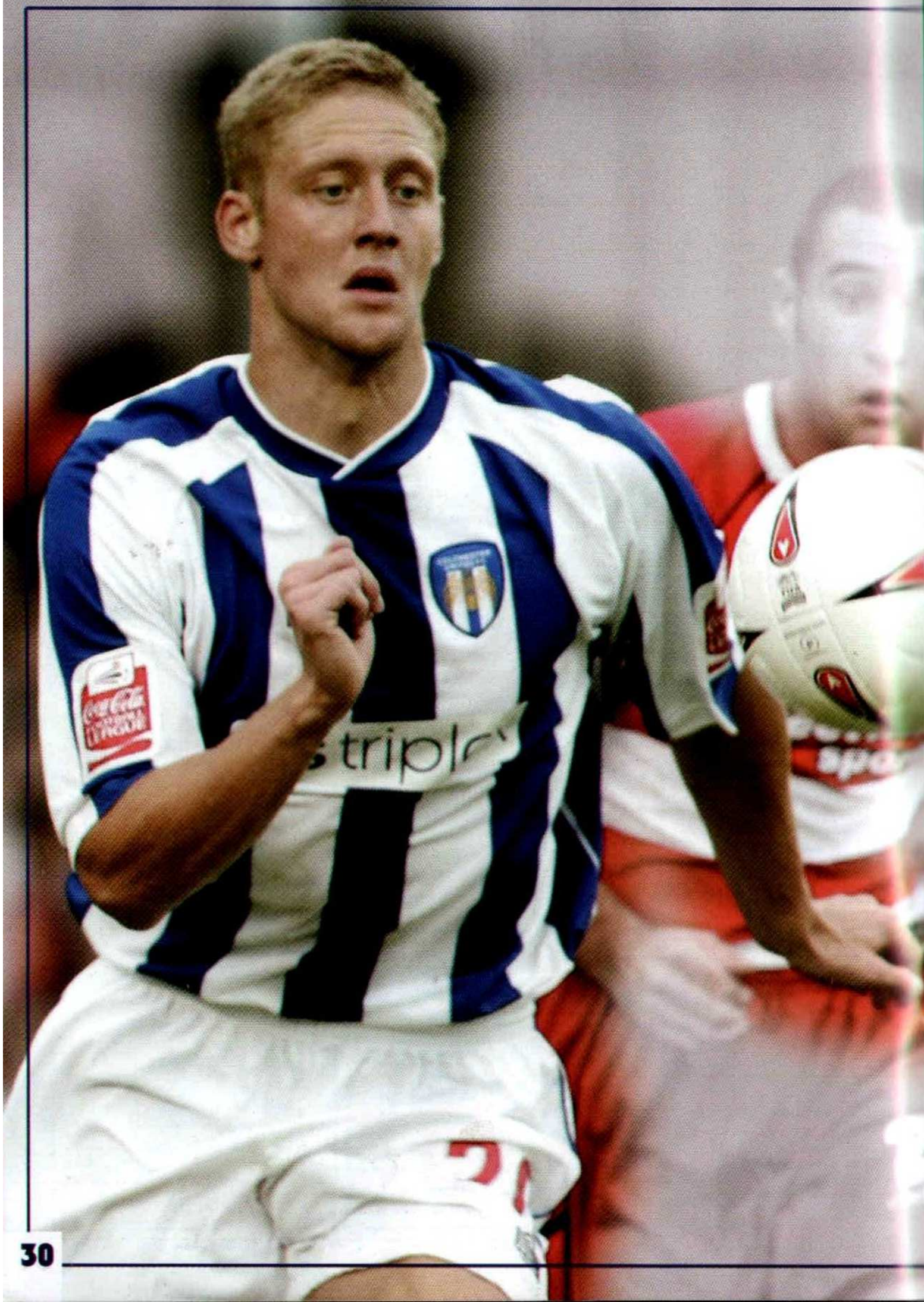
David Gregory



Sir Bobby Robson - sad departure









# MAY'S MISSION

**Football is all about taking opportunities. Whether it is a player in a team converting a chance in front of goal or a player on the sidelines making the most of a chance to play due to team mate's unavailability, doors open all the time for an individual to make a name for themselves.**

For loanee Ben May, a number of factors have combined to see him line up alongside Craig Fagan in the U's starting eleven.

Firstly, when Phil Parkinson's quest to bring in a striker on a permanent deal hit a brick wall, Ben was called upon by a manager who had seen him work hard for the team during the final few games of a roller coaster 2002/3 season.

Then, having penned a two month loan deal at Layer Road, Ben has seen himself elevated into the first team after impressing in training and the U's loss of Wayne Andrews due to the birth of his second child at the end of last week.

The 20-year-old has sparkled in his appearances to date, culminating in two excellent ninety minute displays over the Bank Holiday weekend.

Ben had come off the bench on the first day of the season to play a part in all three goals against Sheffield Wednesday and repeated his feat against Doncaster Rovers last week as he played an instrumental part in two of the U's four strikes.

And his display at Hartlepool was even better. The big front man not only won the vast majority of his headers, but also showed superb footwork in and around the box to be the U's most creative player of the day as they fell to defeat up in the north east.

The Millwall loanee was pleased with how he has been performing and told the matchday magazine: "I'm happy to have played the last couple of games because the more games you get under your belt, the better. I think I've been playing well and hopefully I will have done enough to keep my place for next Saturday."

Ben has now played twelve games in a U's shirt without notching but has hit the bar twice during that

time as well as creating a number of opportunities at Victoria Park on Monday.

Although the front man is keen to break his duck before his loan spell is up, he was at pains to point out that his role in the team is not solely about hitting the back of the net. Eager to be a real team player, Ben is ready to keep working hard for the cause.

He continued: "I haven't actually scored a league goal for Colchester yet - I've only got the one against Charlton to my name so far. I have to keep working hard for the team and try my best to help get the best result that we can and, if I score, then it's a bonus."

## Hard

"I was really disappointed not to score against Hartlepool as I felt I'd done really well in that match. I want to score goals for Colchester United - and I feel that perhaps I'm trying a bit too hard at the moment. Hopefully, when I get the first one, then they'll keep on coming."

Ben spent a season on loan at the U's divisional rivals Brentford last season and has clearly developed his game as a result of a prolonged spell at Griffin Park. The 2003/4 campaign may have largely been one of struggle for the Bees, but Ben admits that he learned a lot from the experience.

"I think I've matured a lot," he confessed. "Confidence is higher and, as the number of appearances you've made continues to grow, you can only get better. Those games have taught me a lot on

how to hold the ball up and bring other people into play and, once I've got a few goals, I can then say my finishing has improved as well!"

It was just over a year between Ben's two spells here at Layer Road and during that time, the U's have changed dramatically, not only in terms of playing personnel, but also in the way that the club is run.

As someone who saw the early days of Parky's tenure at the club, Ben is well equipped to see how the U's have changed during that time.

"The club seems more professional now and they appear to be a club that wants to go places. The fans are really behind what is going on on the pitch and, under Phil Parkinson, things are only going to keep getting better," he said.

And, as well as praise for his manager, Ben also had positive words to say for his strike partner, Craig Fagan. The duo played together for the matches against Doncaster and Hartlepool last week and quickly struck up an understanding.

Ben's height compliments the guile that Craig shows on the ball and the U's number twenty admits that he enjoys playing alongside the former Birmingham City striker.

"Craig's a natural forward, a natural finisher. He's probably the best forward I've worked with so far," Ben acknowledged.

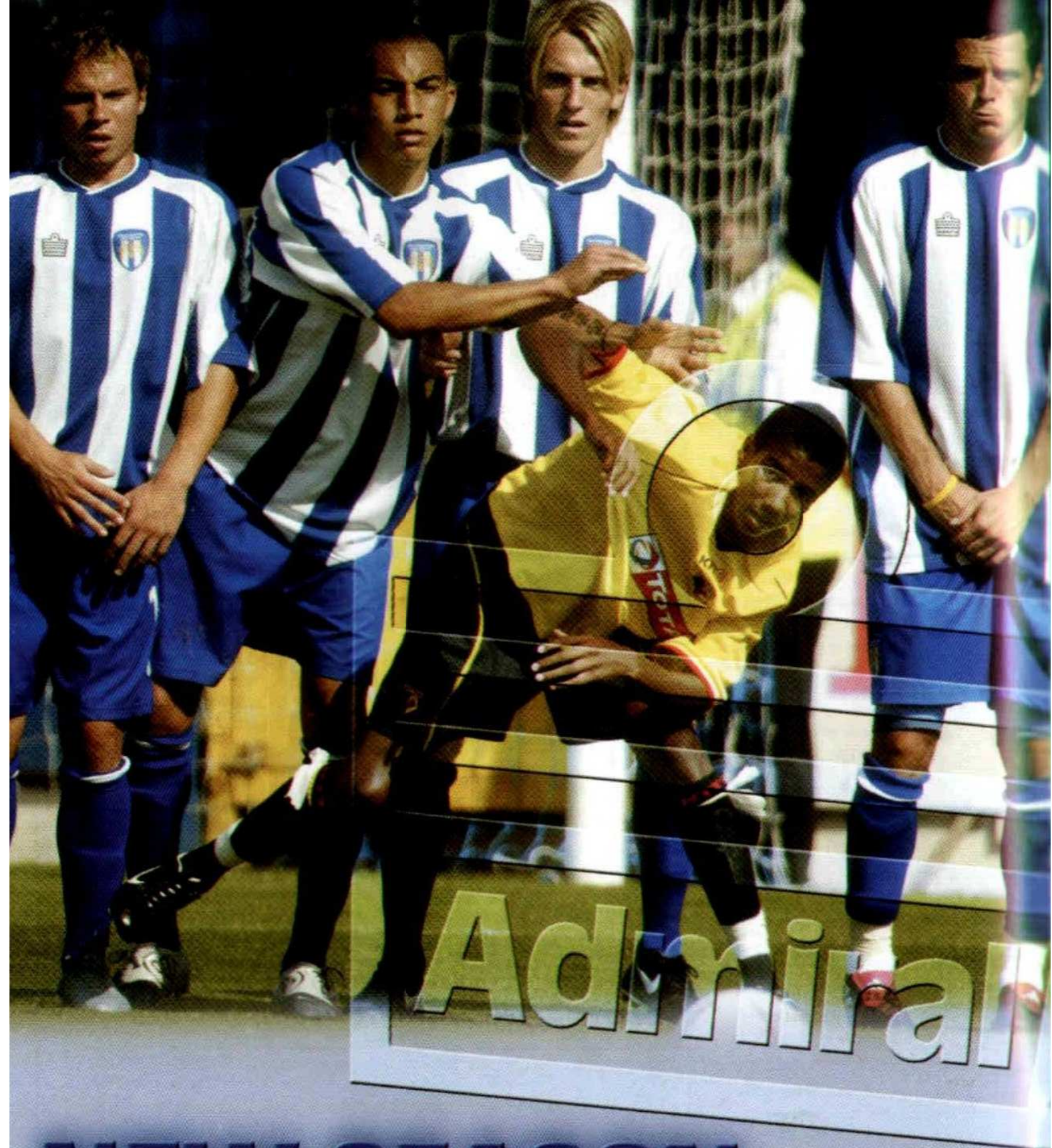
"We've only played two games together so far, but I'm already happy with our partnership and the more we play together, the better it's going to get."

With plenty of goals to follow, hopefully!



**Team player** - Ben congratulates Greg Halford on his goal against Doncaster Rovers





# NEW SEASON, NEW KIT

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**Many, many fans saved money on their tickets for this afternoon's game against Swindon Town and you can do the same for our match against Milton Keynes Dons in a fortnight's time!**

Tickets for the Dons are now on sale, whilst those for the game against Port Vale at the beginning of October also go on sale from the U's Ticket Office soon.

As you will have read in the matchday magazines so far this season, the costs of running a growing and ambitious football club have meant that the U's have had to raise matchday prices for the new campaign.

But, if you buy your ticket in advance of the matchday, you'll be able to buy your tickets at the same prices that were on offer in 2003/4!

That means those fans that attend regularly will be able to take advantage of the price freeze on ticket prices and will save £2 for each match that they attend in the new campaign. The "advance purchase" idea brings the U's in line with similar ticket schemes around the Football League.

What's more, for each match that you buy in advance through the U's Ticket Office, your details will be registered on our ticketing system, earning you Match Credits which could prove very vital if we have another season of cup success as seen in the current campaign!

You will have plenty of time to buy in advance for a game. Tickets go on sale three weeks before each fixture - hence the MK Dons game now being on sale - and, if you can't get to the phone during that time,

the club will also accept cheques sent via the post/e-mail booking requests as a means of buying tickets in advance of the matchday.

*The cut off point for advance purchases are as follows:-*

Saturday games: 5pm on the Friday  
Tuesday games: 5pm on the Monday  
Friday games: 5pm on the Thursday

#### PLEASE NOTE

In the Family Enclosure, we would ask that adults do not go into this area without a child. Secondly, those children who are under 16 but may appear older are asked to provide ID - the club can give you a card that will work as a proof of ID. Finally, there are no Senior Citizen rates in this area.

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| <b>Block B</b><br>(Restricted view) | All £10  | All £11                                     |
| <b>Block F</b>                      | Adult £16<br>Concession £9                       | Adult £18<br>Concession £11                 |
| <b>Block G, H, I &amp; J</b>        | Adult £12<br>Concession £6                       | Adult £14<br>Concession £7                  |
| <b>Family Standing</b>              | Adult + child (U12) £13                          | Adult + child (U12) £15                     |
| <b>Terrace 6</b>                    | Additional child £4                              | Additional child £4                         |
| <b>Terrace 3 &amp; 4</b>            | Adult £13<br>Concession £7<br>Students/Forces £7 | Adult £15<br>Concession £9<br>Concession £9 |
| <b>Terrace 7</b>                    | Adult £13<br>Concession £7                       | Adult £15<br>Concession £9                  |

\*no student or Forces discount in the Barside Terrace  
For more details on matchday tickets, call the Ticket Office on 0845 330 2975.





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# STUART AYLES

**Last weekend against Doncaster Rovers, Kevin Watron was substituted late in the game because his calf had started to swell up.**

There was no tear in Kev's muscle or anything like that so we had him looked at and the problem was diagnosed as an infection with a little bit of cellulites, which is inflammation of the connective tissue of the skin. Kev has been taking antibiotics to clear this problem up and he should be okay for today's game against Swindon Town having trained at the end of the week.

This week we have had Karl Duguid's right and left leg muscles tested for strength to see if there is any difference between the two limbs as a result of his long lay-off. I am very pleased to report that everything was absolutely spot on where we hoped it would be. This will obviously help his rehab and therefore we also now know there should be no delay in getting Doogie back playing.

Karl has been back in rehab after a week of rest

following the injection to his right knee that I spoke about last week. I have been able to push Doogie quite hard since he has been back in the treatment room, the next step is to put him back into training and then have him play some reserve team football in three to four weeks time. We have been doing a lot of functional work this week and he should be back on the training ground working hard next week.

## Working hard

Bobby Bowry is also coming along quite nicely and after the setback we had a week ago we have got back to where he was prior to that problem. We have been working hard on getting Bobby ready for today's game and if he doesn't quite make that he should make next week's trip to Bournemouth without any problems.

Last week I told you that Kem Izzet's had visited a specialist about his ankle and I am glad to tell you that he has been able to work very, very hard on his rehab this week. Kem will be working even harder next week with a view to putting him back in training the following Monday.



**Bobby Bowry** - almost back to fitness

After suffering a mystery injury to his knee in a reserve team match a couple of weeks ago, Ross Crouch has progressed very well in the past week. The pain around his knee has eased tremendously and this means we have been able to increase his workload from exercising on a bike to running on a treadmill as well as the rehab he needs to do. This does not appear to be a serious problem for Ross and therefore we can expect him to be back in training before too long with careful management of his knee.

## Great performance

Gavin Johnson put on a great performance at Hartlepool United on Bank Holiday Monday considering he had been up all night with a sickness bug. However, I think Gav's performance may have taken a lot out of his body and we have been working hard to get him back ready for today's game.

Hopefully, we are coming to the end of most of the injury problems we have had during this early period of the season. The big thing will be getting Doogie back in action I suppose, because he has been out for so long, but Kem should be back training in just over a week's time so hopefully the treatment room should be a lot less crowded soon.

Stuart

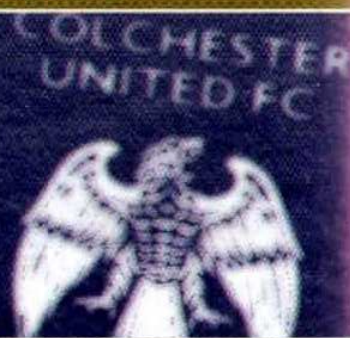
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**Stuart Ayles** - sees to Liam Chilvers



# UP FOR THE CUP



## U's handed chance of LDV revenge

The U's have once again been given a cracker of a cup tie as they take on Southend United in the First Round of the LDV Vans - and we've got the important ticket information right here.

With tickets due to go on general sale on Monday for the West Brom Carling Cup tie, it will once again be a busy time in the Ticket Office, so read on carefully to find out what you can buy and when!

The match against our Essex rivals Southend is scheduled to be played on Wednesday, September 29th - just over a week after the match against the Baggies here at Layer Road.

Prices for the match against Steve Tilson's outfit will be those charged for matchdays in 2003/4, i.e.:

### Evening Gazette Main Stand

#### Blocks A, C, D

Adults £16

Concessions 9

#### Block B (restricted view)

All £10

### Burger King Family Area Seating

#### Blocks H, I, J

Adults £12

Concessions £5

### Terracing

#### Terraces 3, 4, 7

Adults £13

Concessions £7

### Burger King Family Enclosure

Adults £13

Concessions £7

Please note that there are not the usual prices in the Family Enclosure. For this particular match, we are unable to offer these prices as, if the opponents so request, we have to ensure that the same pricing levels are available for both home and away fans.

### Vice President Tickets £16

This match is all ticket for visiting supporters, but not for home fans. Tickets go on sale on Tuesday, September 7th and there will be one level of priority purchases, which works as follows:

#### SEASON TICKET HOLDERS/CUSA MEMBERS

Tickets will go on sale to Season Ticket holders and CUSA members on Tuesday, September 7th.

Season ticket holders are able to buy their ticket either in person or over the telephone, with a limit of FOUR tickets per season ticket.

CUSA members are also able to buy in person or over the phone. If the transaction is done in person, you must have your membership card with you and, if over the telephone, we ask that you provide us with your name and membership number.

There will also be a limit of FOUR tickets purchased per transaction. From the cup games last season, we found that many supporters wished to buy a number of tickets so they were able to sit with their families.

However, we have put this upper limit on each individual transaction to stop the bulk buying that occurred in some of the earlier cup games last season - although, at the club's discretion, we may allow larger purchases should family sizes exceed four.

Season Ticket holders and CUSA members will be able to buy under the priority system until Friday, September 10th.

#### GENERAL SALE

Tickets will then go on general sale on to all U's fans on Monday, September 13th. Again, there is a limit of FOUR tickets per transaction to allow families and friends to be together in their chosen area of the ground.

Tickets will also be on sale AFTER the match against MK Dons on Saturday, September 18th, but not before. And, as the match has not initially been designated all ticket, we can say at this point that tickets will be available to buy on the day.

After detailed discussions on Thursday, it was decided that the

## LDV VANS TROPHY



Match Credit system will not be implemented for this match. Whilst we feel that there will be a sizeable crowd for this particular fixture, we feel the arrangements made should ensure that the vast majority of regular supporters will be able to get their hands on a ticket.

It is likely, should the U's progress further, then this system will then come into force.

#### RESERVATIONS/E-MAIL BOOKINGS

Please note that there will be no reservations of tickets for this game - tickets should be purchased at the point of the telephone call or visit to the Ticket Office.

We will also NOT be accepting e-mail bookings for this game - should you wish to attend, please call the Ticket Office on 0845 330 2975 or visit Layer Road in person.

#### POSTAL DEADLINE

Tickets will be posted out up until Wednesday, September 23rd. After this point, tickets will need to be collected from the club.



LDV Vans Trophy - can we go one better this season?



# U'S VIEWS

**With the 2004/5 season now in full swing, U's supporters have once again provided us with more of their views to the U's media department.**

In this week's letters page, one particular Layer Road follower has put pen to paper to talk about the start to the season and the players that have shone so far. What a great couple of weeks it has been!

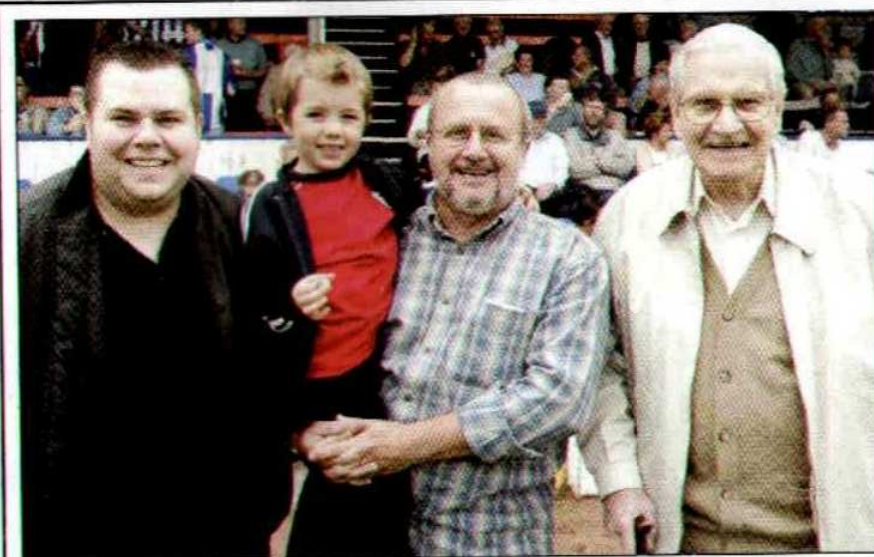
Over the course of this coming season, we will again be looking for regular letter writers to contribute to this page so, if you want to see your name in the award winning matchday magazine in the next few months, you can contact us at [editor@colchesterunited.net](mailto:editor@colchesterunited.net) or by writing to us at the following address:-

**U's Views,**  
Media Department,  
Colchester United Football Club,  
Layer Road, Colchester,  
Essex CO2 7JJ

## Cup Fever

Well cup fever has hit Layer Road again, with the LDV draw pitting us for a potential revenge clash against Southend, and a real test against Premiership WBA in the Carling Cup.

It was widely reputed last season that our league form suffered though exploits in the Cup competitions, true as that may be, this season Parky has prepared a squad with higher quality and commitment, so I believe we can cope with these



**The Pattersons** - Four generations at Layer Road

extra demanding fixtures and keep up the good form in the league.

A great start to the season is most welcome as the need to play catch up is discarded, and with the only blemish on our record so far being two away defeats against Hartlepool and Chesterfield by an odd goal in three in each, this season is set up to be even more memorable than last, and by god was last season memorable.

All of us seem to be expecting great things this season, including a push for automatic promotion or via the play-offs and some exciting cup games, the catalyst is now in place for all of this to happen, it is now down to the belief the players and the

management and fans have in them that will determine whether or not ours and their dreams do come true.

The noise and support in the ground this season is already well up on last season, so lets keep on behind them, and show the rest of the town what they are missing

So far so good.

**Mark Sapsford**

## What A Week!

It truly is exciting times at Colchester United. Two brilliant cup draws followed by some amazing transfer news later in the week, just as we'd calmed down from the news that Southend were coming back to Layer Road!

You really get the sense now that the club are dealing at a higher level than they ever have done before and that the season coming up really could be an exciting one. I know there are one or two that like a grumble but even they must be struggling to find something to complain about!

**Gary Ross**

## A Family Affair

It was a true family day out last week at Layer Road when Doncaster Rovers came to town. Five-year-old Jacob Strugnell saw his first ever U's game as they ran out 4-1 winners and he was joined by four other generations of the same family!

Jacob is pictured above with his uncle Ben Patterson (27), grandad Reg Patterson (54) and great granddad Geoff Burkett (83).

Hopefully, Jacob will have seen enough to come back again this afternoon!



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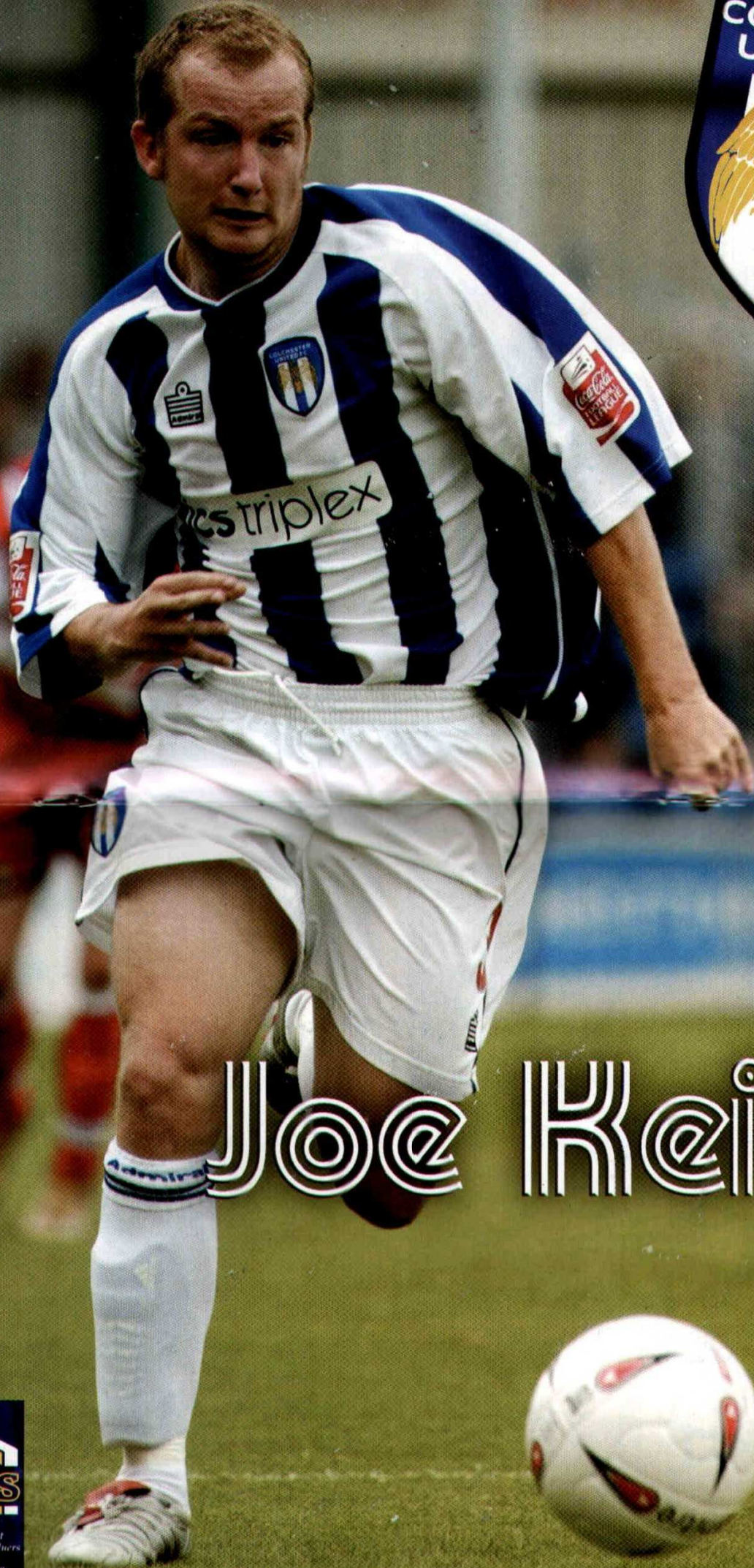
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Joe Keith





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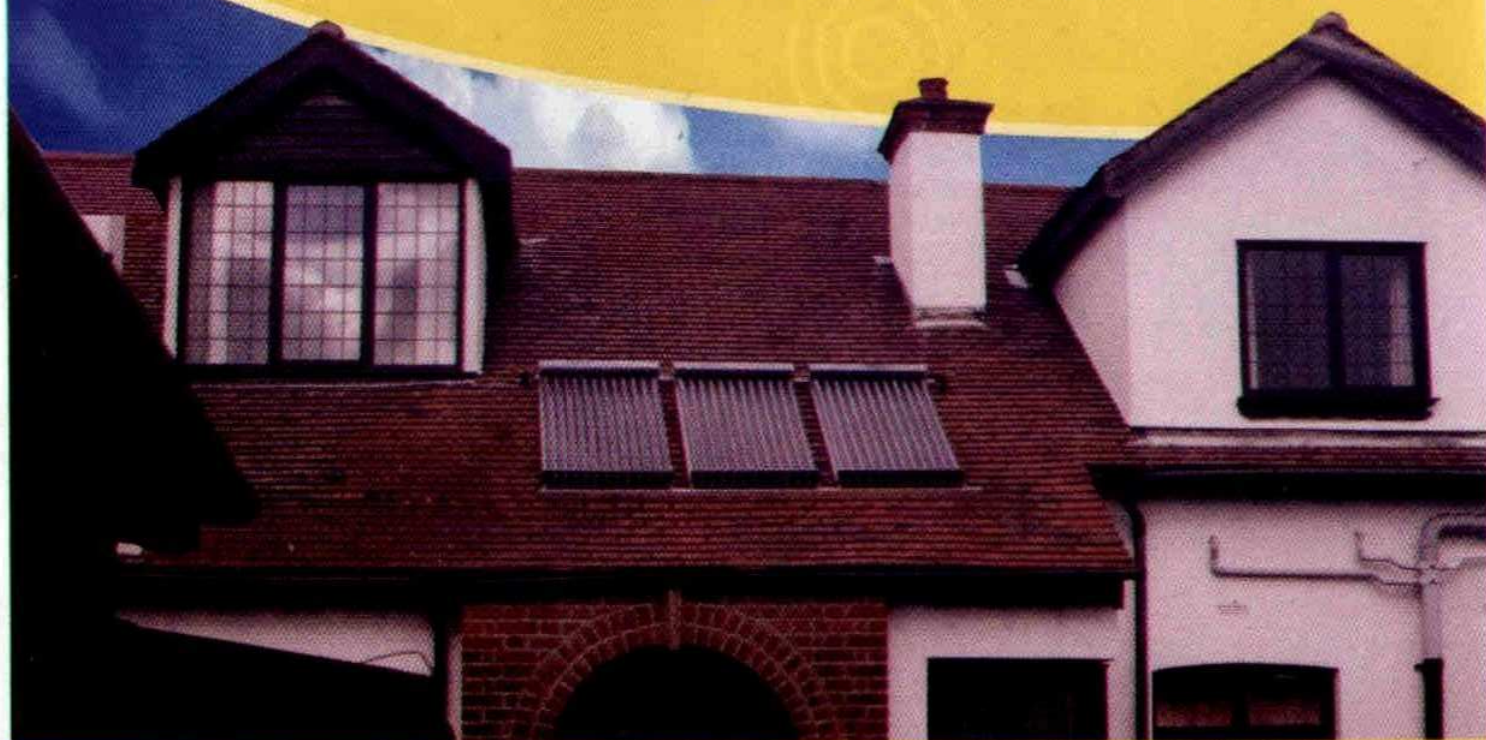
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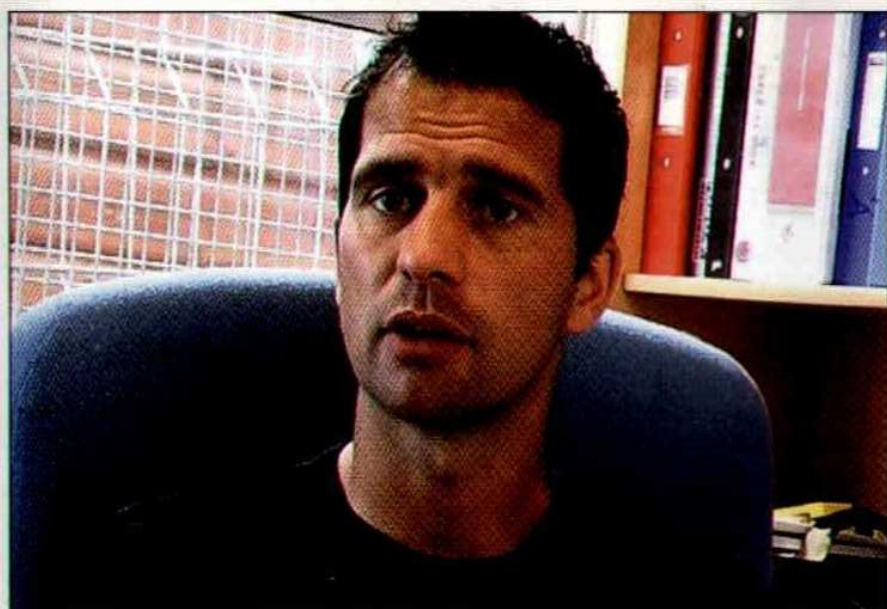
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Joe Dunne

## Good afternoon and welcome to our match against Swindon Town today.

The U18s have not had a match for a couple of weeks now but there has been plenty going on around the youth department.

Last week we had an in-house training session for our Centre Of Excellence staff, who took two teams made up of our best U16s and U18s players. Danny King, Gary Twyman, David Gregory, Brian Swift, Adrian Webster and Phil Eley were the coaches involved and I decided to give them three periods of 25 minutes to coach different tactical aspects of the game.

Our coaches basically coach the same kids week-in, week-out and I thought it was a good idea to give them the opportunity to coach some of our best kids in order to get things out of these boys that they may not be able to get over to the younger kids that they work with.

All the coaches said they were pleased with the way the session went and it was a good experience all-round. I think the players and coaches enjoyed it and it won't be the last time we do something like this.

Obviously there are tactical, technical, physical and mental aspects of the game and you can't necessarily coach all of those aspects to some of the younger age groups our coaches have been working with. I feel it is important that both our coaches and our players progress and I think this exercise was very beneficial.

Since we last spoke, there has not been a match and I have tried to address that by arranging a

game against Chelmsford City's reserve team today. Last weekend Robbie King and Jamie Guy were added to the first team squad to travel to Hartlepool on Bank Holiday Monday and that is another very encouraging sign for the youth set-up.

Although Robbie and Jamie did not get on the bench on Monday it was good to know that George Elokobi and Garry Richards were substitutes. Having second and third year boys make up the squad is fantastic for the club and should act as an extra incentive for the rest of the boys.

As I have told you before, Craig Johnston is currently on loan at Holstead Town for a month. I have seen Craig play for Holstead a couple of times and he has done very well. Hopefully Craig can benefit from playing men's football week-in, week-out and use it as a springboard to pushing for a first team place here. I am sure there will be other opportunities for more of our young players to go out on loan as this season progresses.

Those of you who were here last weekend will have seen John White make his full debut against Doncaster Rovers. We have spoken about our young players being able to show that they can adapt to play in different positions and John illustrated that very well. He can play at full back, centre back or in midfield, and that can be said of a lot of our youngsters coming through. Versatility is very important in football and shows our players are able to dip their biscuit - now that's saved me a tenner this week!

Up The U's

Joe Dunne



Youth Team Fixtures - 2004/2005

## Under 18s

### AUGUST

|    |                   |      |
|----|-------------------|------|
| 14 | Brighton & HA (H) | L0-1 |
| 21 | Portsmouth (H)    | L2-3 |

### SEPTEMBER

|    |                     |            |
|----|---------------------|------------|
| 11 | Southend United (H) | ko 11.00am |
| 18 | Wycombe Wdrs (A)    | ko 11.00am |
| 25 | QPR (H)             | ko 11.00am |

### OCTOBER

|    |                   |            |
|----|-------------------|------------|
| 9  | Leyton Orient (A) | ko 11.00am |
| 16 | Gillingham (H)    | ko 11.00am |
| 23 | Brentford (A)     | ko 11.00am |
| 30 | Southend Utd (A)  | ko 11.00am |

### NOVEMBER

|    |                   |            |
|----|-------------------|------------|
| 6  | Wycombe Wdrs (H)  | ko 11.00am |
| 13 | QPR (A)           | ko 11.00am |
| 20 | Leyton Orient (H) | ko 11.00am |

### DECEMBER

|    |                   |            |
|----|-------------------|------------|
| 4  | Gillingham (A)    | ko 11.00am |
| 11 | Brentford (H)     | ko 11.00am |
| 18 | Brighton & HA (A) | ko 11.00am |

### JANUARY

|    |                |            |
|----|----------------|------------|
| 15 | Portsmouth (A) | ko 11.00am |
|----|----------------|------------|

All home games to be played at the Colchester Garrison 'B' Ground

|                | Pd | W | D | L | F | AGd | Pt |
|----------------|----|---|---|---|---|-----|----|
| Leyton Orient  | 2  | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2+2 | 4  |
| Brighton & HA  | 2  | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1+1 | 4  |
| Portsmouth     | 2  | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4-1 | 3  |
| Gillingham     | 2  | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 4   | 0  |
| Southend Utd   | 2  | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 3   | 0  |
| Wycombe Wdrs   | 2  | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 3   | 0  |
| Brentford      | 1  | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2   | 0  |
| QPR            | 1  | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1   | 0  |
| COLCHESTER UTD | 2  | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4-2 | 0  |





## Youth Team Fixtures - 2004/2005

### Under 16s

#### SEPTEMBER

|    |                    |            |
|----|--------------------|------------|
| 4  | Northampton Tn (H) | ko 11.00am |
| 11 | Oxford United (A)  | ko 11.00am |
| 18 | Wycombe Wdrs (H)   | ko 11.00am |

#### OCTOBER

|    |                        |            |
|----|------------------------|------------|
| 2  | Leyton Orient (TBC)    | TBC        |
| 9  | Cambridge Utd (A)      | ko 11.00am |
| 16 | Luton Town (A)         | ko 11.00am |
| 23 | Northampton Tn (A)     | ko 11.00am |
| 30 | Rushden & Diamonds (H) | ko 11.00am |

#### NOVEMBER

|    |                     |            |
|----|---------------------|------------|
| 13 | Oxford United (H)   | ko 11.00am |
| 27 | Leyton Orient (TBC) | TBC        |

#### DECEMBER

|    |                        |            |
|----|------------------------|------------|
| 4  | Cambridge Utd (H)      | ko 11.00am |
| 11 | Luton Town (H)         | ko 11.00am |
| 18 | Rushden & Diamonds (A) | ko 11.00am |

#### JANUARY

|    |                    |            |
|----|--------------------|------------|
| 15 | Wycombe Wdrs (A)   | ko 11.00am |
| 22 | Northampton Tn (H) | ko 11.00am |

#### FEBRUARY

|    |                        |            |
|----|------------------------|------------|
| 5  | Leyton Orient (TBC)    | TBC        |
| 12 | Cambridge Utd (A)      | ko 11.00am |
| 19 | Luton Town (A)         | ko 11.00am |
| 26 | Rushden & Diamonds (H) | ko 11.00am |

#### MARCH

|    |                   |            |
|----|-------------------|------------|
| 5  | Oxford United (A) | ko 11.00am |
| 12 | Wycombe Wdrs (H)  | ko 11.00am |

All home games to be played at the Colchester Garrison 'B' Ground

Our pre-season has now concluded and we're getting ready as I write this for our first set of fixtures this weekend.

Our build up to the new campaign has included a number of training sessions and match play, where we have taken on the likes of West Ham and Ipswich Town.

Looking back at what we've done to prepare the lads, I don't know whether we might change things next year. The teams that we played were nearer match fitness and so perhaps next year, we might do more training before we get into the friendly match programme.

Because the lads are all school boys - several of them are still under 15 years old at the moment - it is trying to get the balance right. The conditioning side of things is important and some of them are still going through their growth spurts, so we have to be careful.

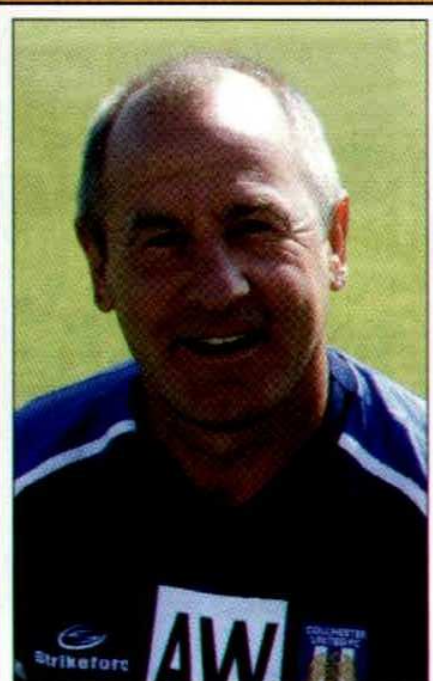
The games we have played have been a great opportunity to line ourselves up against the Academy sides, which is something we don't always get the chance to do in the regular season.

At the early ages, the younger players are probably better at the bigger clubs than here, as you might expect. But, as you go through the age groups, we've found that we're able to compete with the things that we do to develop the lads and, in fact, you would be hard pressed to tell which is the Centre of Excellence side and which is the Academy team.

We have had some great results at Ipswich, West Ham and Norwich and so it balances itself out. I have had players come in from these sorts of teams when they have been released at U15s level and they're not as good as those that we have.

The longer the lads are with us in the system, the more they develop and the more they know what we're looking for. And, with players coming out of the older age groups and into the youth team, the system is certainly bearing fruit.

Adrian Webster  
Youth Development Officer



Adrian Webster

"The conditioning side of things is important and some of them are still going through their growth spurts, so we have to be careful."

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THE U'S CENTRE



# CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

**Good afternoon and welcome to Layer Road. Let's hope the first team can record their fifth straight home win of the season today against Swindon Town.**

After a busy pre-season of training sessions and match play the boys in the Centre Of Excellence were given the Bank Holiday to take a break.

Our training nights have now switched to Wednesdays and Fridays and, from September 15th, we will switch to the Astro turf. Our U9s, U10s, and U11s train from 6pm to 7.30pm and our U12s/U13s, U14s/U15s, and U16 teams from 7.30pm to 9pm.

## Paired

Last Saturday was an 'in-service' day for our Centre Of Excellence coaches and this allowed youth team manager, Joe Dunne to give them the opportunity to coach two teams mixed from our U16s and U18s. Each coach was paired off for the session to work together as follows:

### Yellow Team

Danny King  
David Gregory  
Adrian Webster

### Blue Team

Gary Twyman  
Brian Swift  
Phil Eley

The game was split into three 25-minute periods and the focus was on tactics in an 11 versus 11 match situation (I mention this because at U9s, U10s and U11s level our teams play eight-a-side games on a 60 X 40 yard pitch).

The first pair of coaches were responsible for setting up the system of play and individual roles. The second pair would then step in after perhaps looking at the shape and balance of their team. Finally, the last pair would have obviously seen the

## Centre of Excellence Fixtures...

| DATE             | OPPOSITION    | U9 | U10 | U11 | U13 | U15 |
|------------------|---------------|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| <b>September</b> |               |    |     |     |     |     |
| 5TH              | Northampton   | H  | H   | A   | H   | A   |
| 12TH             | Oxford        | A  | A   | H   | A   | H   |
| 19TH             | Wycombe       | H  | H   | A   | A   | A   |
| 26TH             | Southend      | H  | H   | A   | A   | H   |
| <b>October</b>   |               |    |     |     |     |     |
| 10TH             | Cambridge     | H  | A   | H   | A   | A   |
| 17TH             | Luton         | A  | H   | A   | H   | A   |
| 31ST             | Rushden       | H  | H   | A   | A   | H   |
| <b>November</b>  |               |    |     |     |     |     |
| 7TH              | Northampton   | A  | A   | H   | A   | H   |
| 14TH             | Oxford        | H  | H   | A   | H   | A   |
| 21ST             | Gillingham    | A  | H   | A   | A   | H   |
| 28TH             | Leyton Orient | H  | H   | A   | H   | A   |
| <b>December</b>  |               |    |     |     |     |     |
| 5TH              | Cambridge     | A  | H   | A   | H   | H   |
| 12TH             | Luton         | H  | A   | H   | A   | H   |

overall picture and would make the changes they deemed necessary, if they thought that would benefit the team.

## Feedback

After each period the two coaches would get together with Joe for some feedback. I thought this was an excellent exercise and I know the coaches thoroughly enjoyed it.

I would like to thank both teams for their attitude and application, which helped to make this a very worthwhile exercise. It was also nice to see manager Phil Parkinson take time away from his

busy match preparation schedule to take an interest in how we are all trying to improve as coaches.

Today our U16s kicked off their season with a home game against Northampton Town and tomorrow our U9s, U10s and U12s/U13s teams are at Essex University against the same opposition. The matches kick off at 11am while our U11s and U14s/U15s team travel in the opposite direction to face the Cobblers. Lets hope we have a winning start all round.

Make A Move

Adrian Webster

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# THE RESERVES

**A young looking Colchester United reserve got their first win of the season on Wednesday night, with Liam Coleman grabbing the goal for the U's.**

With the first team having had two games in three days over the weekend, the majority of the U's older players were rested for the trip to Milton Keynes Dons.

However, it was two of the U's professionals that shone in the game at the National Hockey Stadium as the visitors ran out 1-0.

Stephen Hunt, returning to competitive action having served his three game ban for the sending off at Chesterfield, was one of the U's star performers, turning out in his more favoured left back role.

The former Southampton youngster had been utilised in left midfield in his appearances to date since signing permanently at Layer Road, but dropped back into defence for the game against the Dons.

"Stephen did very well in his first game back," U's coach Brian Owen told the matchday magazine. "He prefers being in that position and he put in a very accomplished display."

Bowditch, who has made a series of substitute appearances since joining the U's after a successful pre-season campaign, also pushed his claims for a first team place against Swindon Town on Saturday.

The former Spurs man admitted last week that he has been surprised at how often he has got in the box during his appearances in a Colchester shirt, but he continued to provide an attacking thrust in Wednesday's second string clash.

## Finishing touch

And he provided the assist for the sole strike of the match, with teenager Liam Coleman providing the finishing touch. Coleman, like the rest of the U's third year YTs is likely to spend much of his playing time in the reserves as he attempts to push for first team recognition.

The game was one that was not plentiful in terms of chances, but Brian was pleased with how the U's performed on the night against very competitive opposition.

"This was a very good team performance and that was something the manager was very pleased with," he admitted. "It was an excellent defensive display and Garry Richards was probably the man of the match at centre half - he was outstanding."

"We had to soak up a lot of pressure, but Garry and the rest of the defenders did their jobs very well and kept the home team at bay."

With a number of first team injuries at the moment, the time is ripe for the fringe players to make impressions in games such as these and Brian was pleased with how the U's younger players staked their claim against the Dons.

"When you consider this was a very young side, they acquitted themselves very well. The younger lads have been given their chance in recent matches and they need to remain ready if called upon."



## Pontin's Holidays Combination Central & East Season 2004/2005 Fixtures

### AUGUST

Wed 18th Q.P.R. (H) 10-1

### SEPTEMBER

Wed 1st MK Dons (A) W1-0

Wed 8th Aldershot Town (H) 2.00pm

Wed 15th Stevenage Boro (A) 2.00pm

### OCTOBER

Wed 6th Crawley Town (H) 2.00pm

Wed 27th Luton Town (H) 2.00pm

### NOVEMBER

Wed 24th Millwall (H) 2.00pm

### DECEMBER

Wed 1st Luton Town (A) \* 2.00pm

Wed 15th Brighton & H A (A) 7.00pm

### JANUARY

Wed 26th Peterboro' Utd (H) 2.00pm

### FEBRUARY

Wed 2nd Northampton Tn (H) 2.00pm

Wed 9th Peterboro' Utd (H) \* 2.00pm

Wed 16th Oxford United (A) 2.00pm

### MARCH

Wed 9th Reading (H) 2.00pm

Wed 30th Gillingham (A) 2.00pm

### APRIL

Wed 13th Woking (A) 7.00pm

Wed 27th Southend United (H) 2.00pm

\* = Pontin's Combination Cup Fixtures



**Liam Coleman** - goal enough to give U's win





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# COMMERCIAL NEWS

**Welcome to this afternoon's game against Swindon Town, where we'll hopefully continue our good form at home at the start of this season.**

The Commercial Department has been buzzing this week as a result of the excellent cup draws we were given last week. With ties against West Brom and Southend United on the agenda later this month, it's sure to be an exciting time at Layer Road in the next few weeks!

Our commercial products continue to sell quickly

but it is not too late for you or your company to get involved with Essex's leading football club. Take a look over the next couple of pages to see what we have on offer.

We have welcomed back several companies who have been involved in the past but we are always - of course - looking for fresh business as well. If you're new to the area and want to promote your business, give us a call!

## Hitted Out!

The U's brand new home kit finally arrived in the

Club Shop at the end of last week and already it has proven to be extremely popular. Getting on for 500 kits have been sold by the shop to date as U's fans clamour to get their hands on what has been a very well received new strip for the team.

The Colchester United club photographer Rob Sambrook was out and about with his camera at the match against Doncaster Rovers and took a number of photos of fans in their new shirts, a selection of which are here.

Have you bought yours yet? Priced at just £39.99 for adults and £29.99 for kids, it's a great way to show your support for Essex's leading football club!





# COMMERCIAL NEWS



**Matchball Sponsor** - Matchball Sponsor for the game against Doncaster Rovers was Kevin Hicks. Kevin was treated to the sponsorship by his wife as he celebrated his birthday and the whole group enjoyed the day immensely.

## Match Sponsor

A warm welcome this afternoon goes to first time Match Sponsors - P A Contracts.

Based in Kelvedon, P A Contracts can undertake all types of building works - large and small. carpentry, plumbing and electrical works all undertaken.

Paul Ambrose is here this afternoon celebrating his engagement to Vicky Vamplew. Many of Paul and Vicky's friends who frequent The Angel Public House in Kelvedon have come along this afternoon to ensure their celebrations start off on the right track!

I hope they all have a wonderful afternoon and evening and thank them all for their support.

## Terrace Four Sponsorship

As you may have already seen, we are offering - for the first time in the U's history - the opportunity for a business to sponsor the Terrace Four area of the Layer Road ground.

The area would be branded under your company's name in a similar fashion to the CSS Recruitment Stand at the Layer Road end of the U's stadium. We would also be able to include advertising hoardings, although the exact

make-up of the sponsorship package could be tailored to suit the individual company's needs.

So, if you're a local business man who would like to see your firm get involved with Colchester United in the form of stand sponsorship, please give Julie Ager a call on 01206 715306 to discuss the possibilities!

## Ground Board Advertising

With each game that passes, we are delighted to be able to fill in more spaces on the advertising board front. If you look around you today, there a whole host of companies both large and small who are not only promoting their company but also supporting their local football club.

Again, we are able to provide a whole range of different packages to suit companies of all sizes and advertising boards start from as little as £700 for the whole of the 2004/5 season. If this is something you'd like to find out more about, please give us a call on 01206 715306.

## Kit Sponsor

There are now only very limited spaces remaining with regard to kit sponsorship. Even since our last

Saturday, we have secured several more sponsorships and time is running out should you wish to get involved with sponsoring one of the first team players.

Again, if you would like to get on board by sponsoring your favourite U's player, take a look at the available members of the first team squad on page 62 and give us a call on 01206 715306.

Remember, for your money, you get your name or that of your company alongside the picture of the player in question for the duration of the 2004/5 season and you will also receive that player's shirt at a special presentation evening at the conclusion of the campaign.

## Matchday Magazine Advertising

We hope that you have enjoyed reading today's matchday magazine and that it has given you plenty of entertainment. If you are a local business who would like to advertise inside the U's Review publication, drop us a line at 01206 715306 and we will discuss with you the opportunities to take out an advert.

There are now only limited spaces available, but they start at the bargain price of just £500!



### Face in the Crowd

Is this you ringed at our recent game against Doncaster Rovers? You have just won a meal for

two at the Huntsman's Tavern!

All you have to do now is call Julie on 01206 715306 to claim your prize.



Face in the Crowd



**Match Sponsor** - Match Sponsors for our last league game against Doncaster Rovers last Saturday were Allan Jones and family. Allan brought along wife Val for her birthday, as well as their three children - Kylie, Roanna and Bryony.

### Schultz's Shorts

#### **PREMIER PARTNER GOLF DAY** **Tuesday 28th September 2004** **Stoke by Nayland Golf Club.**

This is our next Premier Partner event and I am pleased to say that the teams are coming in thick and fast.

This is a great day for golfers and a chance to play with and meet your favourite Colchester United player(s).

Teams are in four which can be you and your friends or you can sponsor a player to be the fourth member of your team. The golf days are always popular and are full days from start to finish.

- Coffee and Bacon Roll on arrival.
- Morning Golf - 9 Holes in Team Texas Scramble
- Buffet Lunch
- Afternoon Golf - 18 Holes Individual and Team - Stapleford Competition.
- Evening Meal and Prize Presentations
- Nearest The Pin and Longest Drive Competition.

If you are unable to play, but would like to be involved as a sponsor you can sponsor a hole or the Nearest The Pin and Longest Drive Competitions at £100 each.

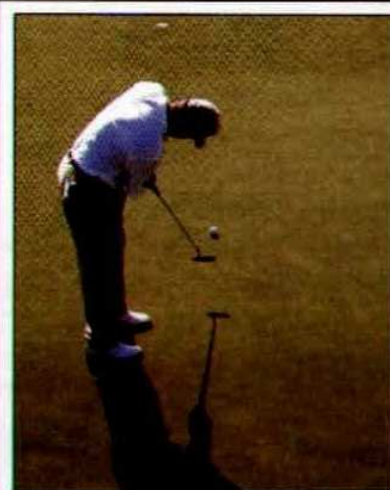
The Cost for this day is £275.00 per team of four or three plus a player.

Join us for another great day of golf in this our next Premier Partner event.

Please call me on 01206 767678, Fax 01206 761225 or a-mail [john@colchesterunited.net](mailto:john@colchesterunited.net)  
Up the U's,

**John Schultz**

Corporate & Promotions Consultant



**Golf Day** - why not join us?



# U'S ACTION

## FREE-KICK TRICKED SWINDON

MOVE USED BY BEN FENTON AT THE VALLEY  
U'S 5 SWINDON TOWN 0

FROM THE COLCHESTER GAZETTE, TUESDAY MARCH 6, 1956

A SURPRISE free-kick move, which Benny Fenton used at times when he captained Charlton, on Saturday produced one of the smartest goals seen at Layer Road this season. No sooner had he slipped the ball forward into the penalty area than Bob Dale came racing from behind him at full speed to slam it into the net.

This piece of strategy worked like a charm. Fenton's pass was beautifully judged and the Swindon defence were taken completely by surprise as Dale ran on to it. Fast, open football, with Fenton and Dale exploiting to the full the speed of Grice and Wright on the wings and Plant giving his third three-goal display of the season, enabled the U's to register their biggest win this League campaign.

### Boosted

They also put their 'goals for' total ahead of those scored against them. Plant has now boosted his personal bag of goals for the League side to 15, although he was playing for the reserves in the early part of the season.

McCurley, who heads the United's goalscorers with 22, did not have a good match against Hudson, Swindon's big centre-half. No player, however, can be on top form all the time and the United centre-forward has led the

attack in dashing style this season.

Dale's goal - his second in successive matches - came in the 20th minute and was only one of three that resulted from free-kicks. The first was in the 12th minute and on this occasion Plant scored with a hook shot after Fenton had slipped the ball forward.

Left-back Fisher is not likely to forget his first goal for the Colchester club - or the crowd his reaction to it. Taking a free-kick from about 35 yards range just before half-time, he obviously had no thoughts of putting himself on the scoresheet. But goalkeeper Sam Burton lost sight of the ball for a split second as Plant went down to try to head it.

### Amazed

The inside-left missed and when Burton dived he was nowhere near enough to prevent the ball entering the net. Fisher was so amazed that he turned his back on the goal, got down on his knees and paid homage to the soccer gods.

Although Swindon were well and truly licked in this match - sweet revenge for the 3-1 defeat at the County Ground earlier in the season - they showed some neat approach play. The Town also tried hard to beat a United defence which forced them to shoot from outside the penalty area and

Percy Ames made two saves which rank with the best seen at Layer Road this season.

In the 40th minute he leapt across the goal to bring off a great one-handed save from Andy Micklewright. And in the 50th minute he clutched cleanly, in the middle of a dive, a fast shot from Bob Edwards.

But the hardest shot of the match came in the 33rd minute when Fenton hit the ball on the half-volley and it crashed against the near post. This was a full blooded effort which Burton never saw and which made the spectators shout with surprise at its speed and power.


### Wide

Miss of the match arrived in the 24th minute when Edwards, Swindon's inside-left, was clean through with only Ames to beat. The goalkeeper advanced to try and narrow the angle and Edwards drove the ball just wide of the far post.

Grice and Fox were injured in a collision in the first half and had to go off with facial injuries. Both resumed, Grice with stitches in a gashed cheek. But his play certainly did not suffer and time and again he left Fox floundering hopelessly by speed and feinting.

Goals just had to come from the





right-winger's pulled back crosses. Right-back George Hunt made the mistake of delaying clearing in front of goal in the 84th minute and Plant pounced on the ball to score. Two minutes from the end he added number five from a Dale through pass.

Both Fenton and Dale were outstanding in this match. Not only were they strong in defence, but they were quick to back up their colleagues in front with a good service of the ball. This wing-half strength, plus the speed of Grice and Wright on the wings, opened up the Swindon defence.

The United's attack plan worked to perfection with Plant increasingly in the goal-getting picture and he is seizing his chances smartly.

U's: Percy Ames, Johnny Harrison, George Fisher, Benny Fenton, Reg Stewart, Bob Dale, Mike Grice, Sammy McLeod, Kevin McCurley, Ken Plant, Peter Wright.

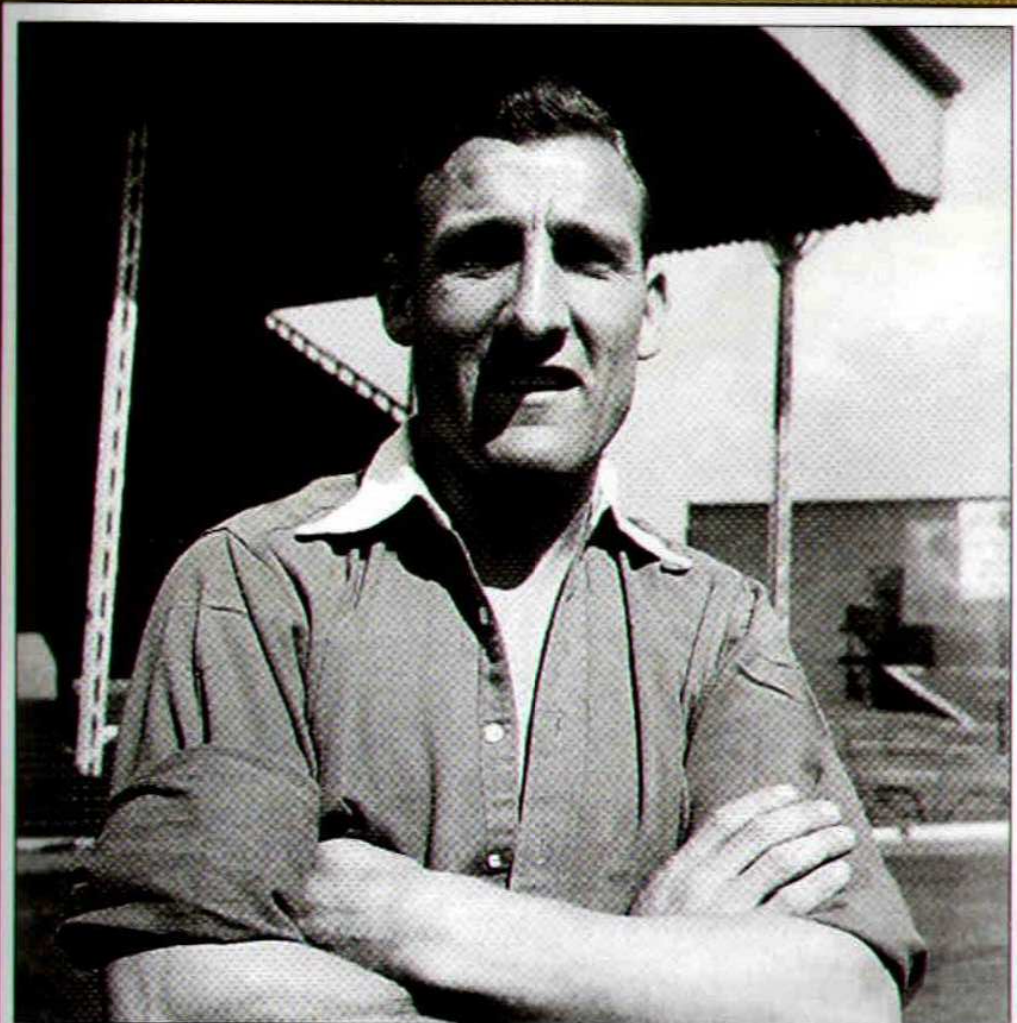
Swindon: Burton, Hunt, Fox, Cross, Hudson, McShane, Gibson, Micklewright, Owen, Edwards, Brennan

Attendance: 6,836

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# GOAL MACHINE!

**After his goal flourish at the end of last season, Colchester United supporters would not have been surprised to see Craig Fagan start the new campaign in goal-scoring form in the U's early games.**

A few more eyebrows might have been raised if, after the final home game of 2003/4 against Rushden & Diamonds, you'd have predicted that one of the goalscorers that day, Gavin Johnson, would be equally prolific in the first month of the new season.

And the 33-year-old midfielder admits that his potency in front of goal has been a pleasant surprise and that he is eager to keep hitting the back of the net as the season develops.

A run of three in three games has got the winger off to a flying start and he told the matchday magazine: "Yeah, things have been going really well.

"I've had a bit of a problem with my back, which is now getting better. It had been causing me a few problems but I'm over the worst of it and I think my performance picked up on Saturday against Doncaster. Hopefully, that will continue.

"I had a scoring run like this quite a few years ago - well over ten years probably - when I scored four goals in four games, but this is something a bit different for me. I had quite a few chances at the end of last season, which I didn't put away. I got one at the end against Rushden but, in truth, I should have had three or four more.

"This season, it's been much better, chances have landed at my feet and I've managed to put them away."

Last season saw the goalscoring burden shouldered by four players as Scott McGleish, Craig Fagan, Rowan Vine and Wayne Andrews all hit double figures in what was a memorable season.

However, it took until February and Greg Halford's goal against Hartlepool United that a defender added to the 'Goals For' tally. This season has been somewhat different with Halford one of a number of players behind the front two getting on the scoresheet.

As a result, the U's are amongst the top scorers in League One - and the Football League as a whole - and Gavin agrees that that could be the factor that lifts the Layer Road club from their mid-table position last year to a play-off spot or more this time around.

"The team are creating plenty of chances and, whilst the forwards are scoring goals, there are opportunities all around with Joe Keith getting a couple, Greg Halford and Sam Stockley also getting on the scoresheet," he said.

"As long as you keep getting in good positions, those chances are going to fall at your feet sooner rather than later. At the moment, I'm taking them!

"We had three or four players scoring goals last year and we need the guarantee of three again this year if we are to keep pushing up the league this season. Goals have got to come from midfielders and forwards if we're then going to take that extra leap."

With the summer departures of Scott McGleish, Alan White and Simon Brown, Gavin stands alongside Karl Duguid and Joe Keith as one of the longest serving members of the current Colchester United squad.

He admits that there has been something of a dramatic turn around in fortunes and, under Phil Parkinson's tutelage, the U's are now real contenders to be involved at the right end of the League One table.

"Things have turned around in a big way," Gavin admitted. "Steve Whitton did a superb job keeping Colchester in the Second Division, and then the new manager has stepped it up another level.

"The whole set up is more professional now and the club is moving forward."

The fact that the U's are up at the right end of the table is positive news enough, but that they have done it without the likes of Karl Duguid, Kem Izzet and Bobby Bowry is a real credit to those who have been involved.

Without their more experienced players they have picked up some good results both at home and on the road. And whilst Gavin admits that the squad will benefit from their senior players being back in contention, there is no guarantee that they will walk straight back into the team.

He said: "We are a very young squad at the moment. A number of the senior players are out with injury and whilst it's good to have youth in your side, you do need to have that experience as well.

"They'd be pushing for places, but you can't say whether they'd be playing or not as the team has done well in pre-season and the early games. Obviously, they'd be hoping to be in the team, but whilst people have got the shirts on, they have the advantage and they need to keep doing the right things."

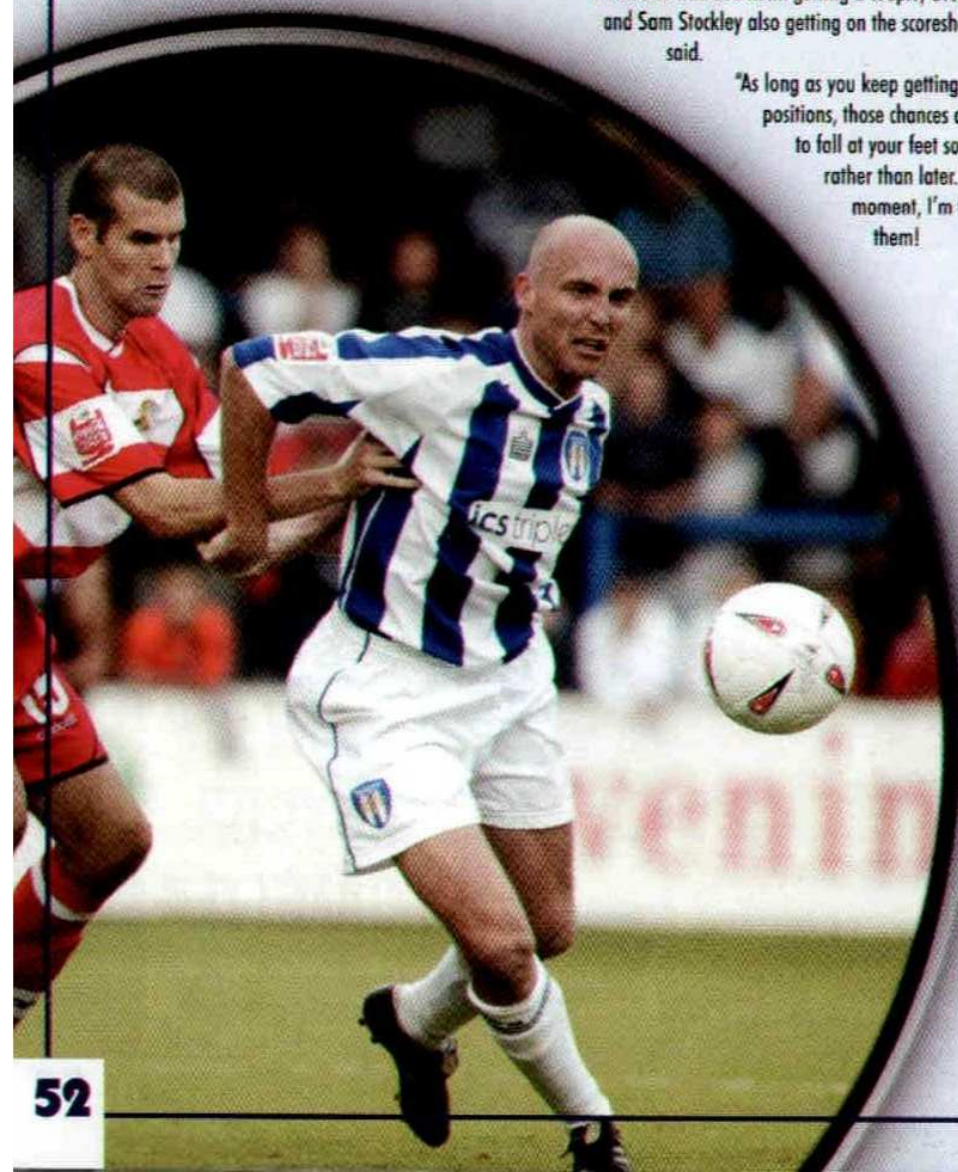
With the host of injuries in the U's midfield, Gavin was switched to a central midfield role for the trip to Hartlepool on Bank Holiday Monday. Chances are he'll return to his left wing role in the longer term, though, and it's a position that he has relished in his time out wide.

"I'm enjoying it out on the left wing," he confessed. "Sam and I have a bit of an understanding developing between us now and he does a lot of the work down the flank which lets me come inside and get on the ball.

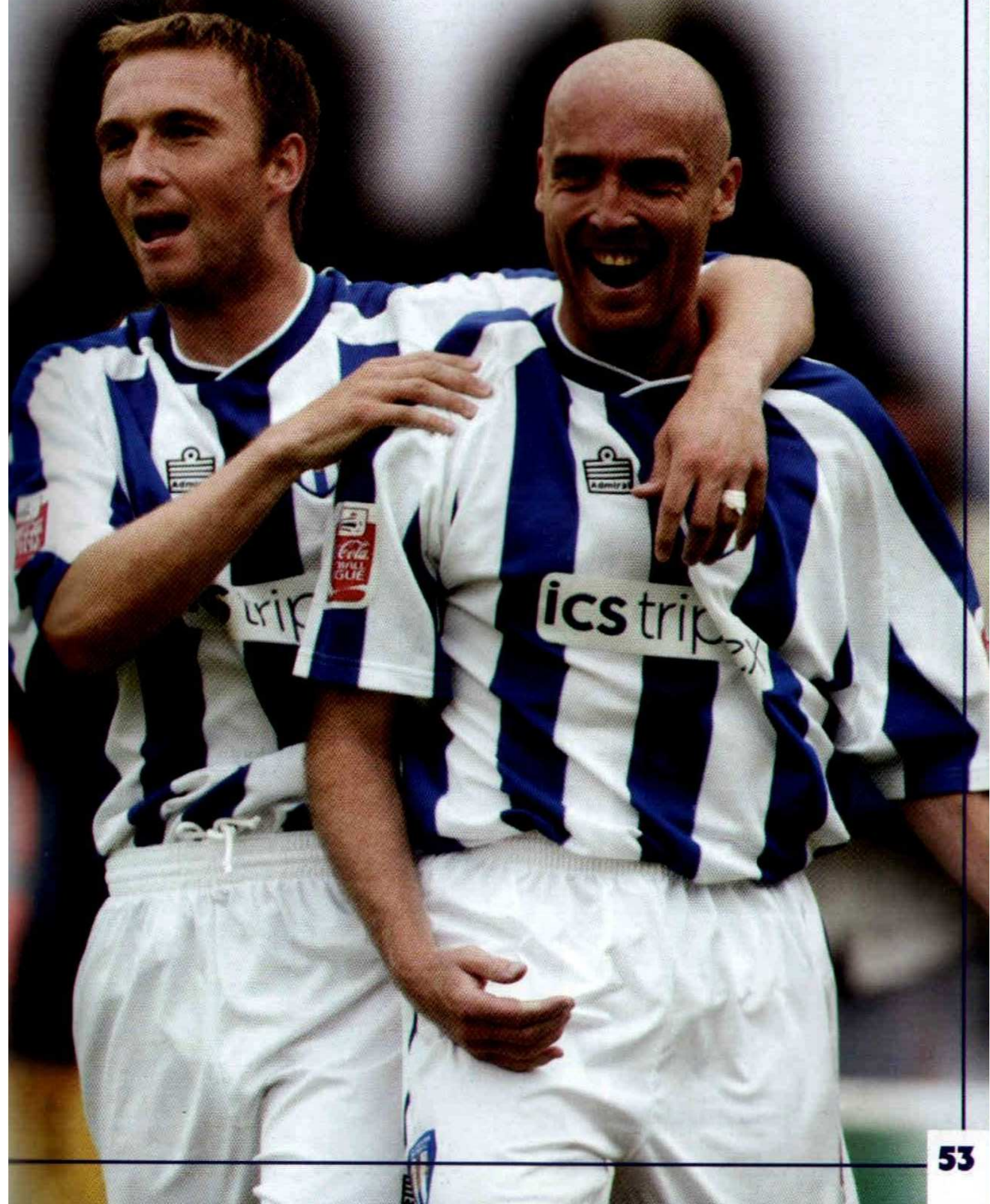
"Working on that partnership does take time - it started to work at the end of last season and, after the summer break, we had to start again. But, with a lot of talking and a bit of understanding a partnership goes a long way."

So, as he nestles in amongst the top scorers in the U's squad, is Gavin aiming for any particular number of goals?

"I'm not setting myself any targets. I didn't think I'd have three after five or six games - but hopefully I'll get a few more!" he said.











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# U'S LADIES



The U's ladies got their season off to a great start last Sunday with a 3-1 win away over London rivals Haringey Borough.

There were no less than five players who were making their debut in the squad, with Kate Longhurst (15), Danielle Griffiths (14), Kirsty Cammell (16), Ashley Gooding (16) and Mel Kinsalla (16) playing their first league game at senior level.

It was an extra special day for Centre of Excellence U16s player Kate as not only did she score her first goal, she was also voted Player of the Match.

The U's Ladies got off to a tentative start with first match nerves apparent, and they played a game of safety for the first 20 minutes as the players looked to build up some momentum and test out the ability of the opposition.

However, the U's were already looking dangerous going forward and save for a little bit of composure in front of goal, could have had at least three or four goals in the first half hour. Their efforts were rewarded when skipper Nicky Bryan led from the front and smashed home a long range shot to give the U's a narrow 1-0 lead and open the U's account for the season.

Haringey were finding it difficult to gain any sort of possession as the U's looked to build upon their lead, chances were wasted as shots were fired wide or scrambled away and it wasn't until Kate Longhurst was brought down

in the box that the U's luck looked to change, debutante Kirsty Cammell bravely stepped up to convert, only to see her blasted penalty saved.

Caught on the back foot, the U's conceded a succession of corners and failed to clear properly on the third attempt. As a result, Haringey hit home with their only shot of the half and caught young keeper Mel Kinsalla blind sided as the ball hit the net for 1-1 on the stroke of half time.

Understandably, manager Steve Downey was not best pleased to concede such a soft goal and the half time chat reinforced the U's belief in themselves as they went up a gear from the whistle and duly pinned Haringey into their own half.

## Brilliance

Kate Longhurst, Charlotte Smith and Amy Warnes were peppering the goal area with shots but could not seem to hit the target. It took a moment of brilliance from Smith to get the all important second goal with a mazy run around the rooted defence and a shot from a tight angle across the keeper into the left hand corner.

The goal boosted the team once more leaving the back four of Danielle Murphy, Krista Hultquist, Jane Swift and Vicky Beales with little to do as the midfield of Debbie Aylward, Kirsty Cammell, Nicky Bryan and Charlotte Smith dominated the play whilst Haringey could do little to stop the onslaught.

It would only be a matter of time before the



Charlotte Smith - Moment of brilliance

U's would score again and Haringey never looked like getting into the game at all, the fairly respectable score line belied the amount of shots that the U's strike force threw at the keeper and Longhurst finally got what she deserved with a goal from close range sealing the score at 3-1 to the U's.

It was a positive start to the season but there is still some work to do to get the players performing to their full potential. Competition for places is hot with a further nine players returning home from holidays this week in time for the start of the Women's EA Cup.

This weekend the U's Ladies start their FA Cup campaign with a plum home draw to lower division side Rushcliffe Eagles who play their football in the East Midlands League.

The game will kick off at 2pm and with all the great facilities at Wivenhoe Town F.C. it's a great game for you to come down and support the ladies.

The admission is FREE and ample parking, licensed bar, hot and cold food and drink and covered stands provide you with the perfect opportunity to lend your support to the fairer side of Colchester United.

**SO WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? COME AND SEE THE LADIES IN ACTION THIS SUNDAY!**

All the info you need on the Ladies side can be found on their award winning website

**www.culfc.com**



Nicola Bryan - Long range opener



# KIDS CORNER

## Hi Kids!

Welcome back to Layer Road - it's only a week since we were here last but I hope you've been keeping yourself busy. Last weekend was a Bank Holiday, which meant that - if you didn't go to Hartlepool - you probably had your dad home from work. Did you get up to much? Let us know what you did!

It was a long trip up to the North East last Saturday and Eddie was exhausted by the time that he got back to Layer Road after the match on Monday. Five hundred miles of flying is going to tire out even the fittest eagle in the world!

So, if Eddie comes to see you today, give him a hug and a word of encouragement and let him know that his efforts in getting to the game against Hartlepool was appreciated!

Love

Claire & Eddie x



**Mascots v Doncaster Rovers** - Adam Birkin & David Martin enjoy their day as mascots



Claire and Eddie

## Want To Be A Mascot?

Lucky Cameron Wales is mascot for this afternoon's game - and what a day he's going to have. He'll be looked after by Eddie's good friend Howard and will get to meet all of his favourite Colchester United players.

When he's done that, he'll be allowed to run onto the Layer Road pitch - I'm sure some of your dads would love to try that out! - and then warm up with the players. And, after Cameron has got his breath back, he'll lead the teams out for the start of the match just before 3pm.

If this is something you'd like to do, or maybe

you're a mum or a dad who wants to treat your child, then call the Community Department on 01206 572378 for more details!

## Today's Mascot

**Name:** Cameron Wales

**Age:** Nine

**From:** Witham

**Hobbies:** Football/cricket/Playstation

**Favourite U's Player:** Joe Keith

**Favourite Other Teams:**

Rangers and Manchester United



## Nosey Grabs Garry!

Our resident Kids Reporter has been busy once again. Daniel 'Nosey' Parker spoke to Greg Halford for last Saturday's matchday magazine and he wasted no time in getting another exclusive interview in the bag for Kids Corner. The 12-year-old cornered big defender Garry Richards for a word or two after the recent reserve team game against QPR and found out how the season was going for the 19-year-old centre half.

### Firstly Garry, how did you get interested in football?

Well both of my older brothers played football from a young age, and I always went and watched them play, and I've always wanted to be a footballer since then really.

### What team did you support growing up?

It's always been Man United really, it's sort of run in the family you know, so...

### Is Colchester your first club?

Well I was at West Ham for four years before this, and then I've done well and come to Colchester.

### What's it like in the Col U setup?

Yeah it's really good, coming in at youth level, there are plenty of opportunities and it's now up to me to grab one of them.

### How does it compare to West Ham?

Obviously there are a lot more opportunities here, and at the club, they're looking to promote youngsters to be honest.

### What was your first reaction when you were given a scholarship?

Well I was delighted really, you know when it come through the door yeah!

### After what was a promising pre-season, what do you think you can do this year?

Well hopefully I can break into the first team and get a few run outs under my belt.

### You're an up and coming defender, what do you hope you can achieve in the future?

Well hopefully I can break into the first team at Col United first, and once I've done that, become a regular and things, hopefully I will gradually go as high as I possibly can!



Garry Richards - Talks to Nosey



# C.U.C.S.T.

**The Community Sports Trust continues to be the leading provider of sporting opportunities in Essex and the latest innovation starts this school term in the form a brand new Schools Football League for Colchester Primary Schools...**

The brand new "Colchester Schools Football League" will be kicking off in the new school term as part of the already highly successful "Primary Schools Coaching And Education Programme" run by the Community Sports Trust in over 60 participating

schools in Colchester and the surrounding districts.

As a leading provider of "Education Through Sport" in Essex, the new league was the brainchild of the Sean Hillier, who is the Schools Liaison and Development Officer at the Trust.

## Startling

He explained how the league came about after some startling statistics were revealed following a monitoring exercise: "Over the last few years, we had noticed a major decline in participation levels in competitive football by pupils in the Colchester Borough Schools.



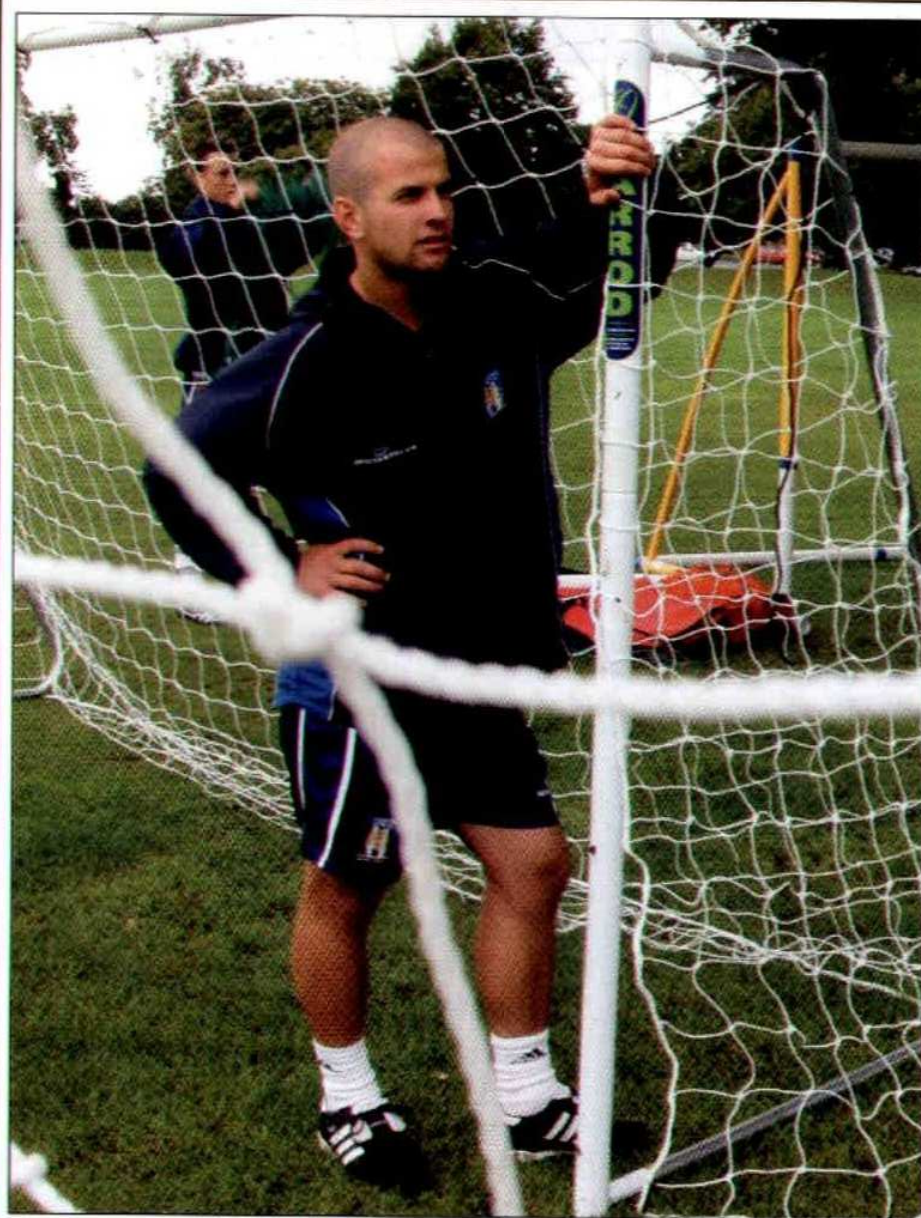
**Happy days** - some of the kids involved

"After I had conducted some research, it became obvious that schools were actually really interested in addressing this issue and setting up a proper league for the children play in."

The Community Sports Trust are already running a flourishing Coaching and Education programme in primary schools delivering 100 sessions every week, where the children benefit from professional coaching in football and other sports during their usual curriculum time P.E. lessons, and it was from here that the idea of a competitive schools league first raised some interest.

## Fantastic

Sean continued: "We had such a fantastic response to the survey that there are now 22 schools who want to be involved and with the Sports Trust as the organising body, we are able to set up an independent partnership and obtain the appropriate



**Sean Hillier** - came up with new League idea



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Community Sports Trust**

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funding to run the league."

The league is set to commence in September and has been split into four mini leagues containing mixed teams of boys and girls, with the FA Mini Soccer Centre in Clairmont Road, Colchester as the designated central venue for all of the matches which will take place on pre-set dates once each month.

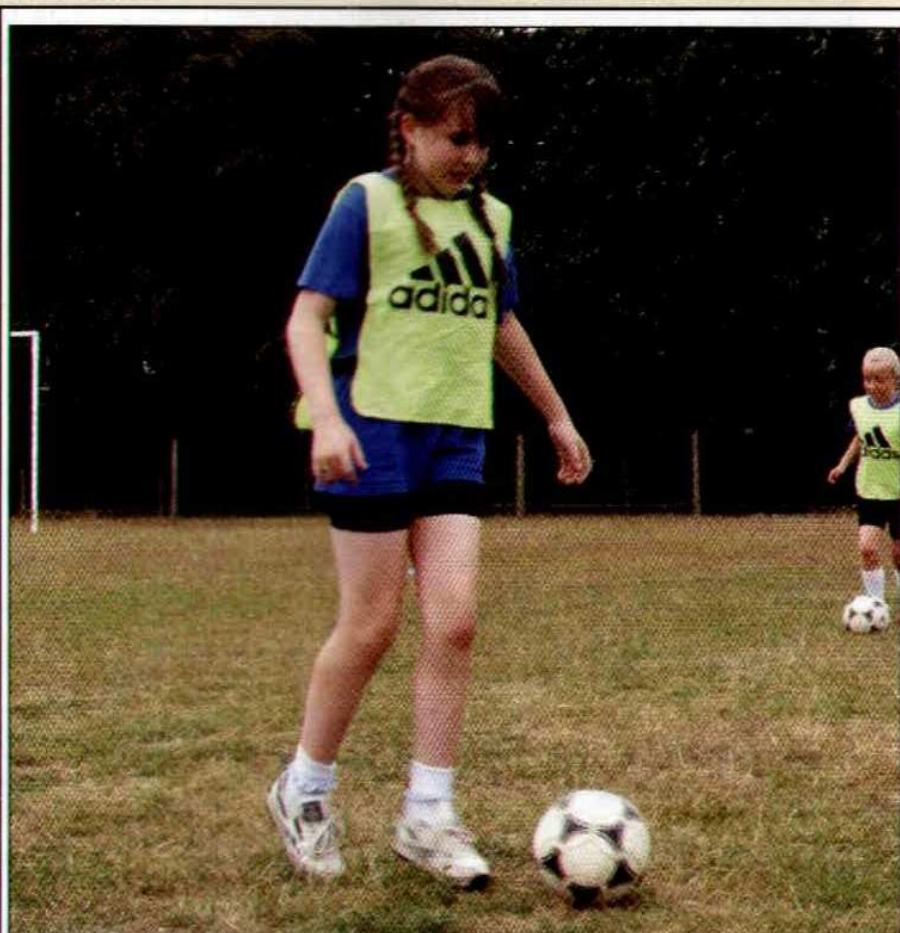
#### Encouraged

Schools across the country are actively encouraged to increase the number of Physical Education Lessons within their Curriculum as part of the Government's "Schools Boards Coordinator Programme", and this new league will help to build upon the Sports Trust's existing programme and enhance the sporting opportunities available to pupils in primary school education.

Sean added: "We are really looking forward to the first games and we will publish all the results on our website, so that the pupils can see how they are doing."

However, Sean urged that although the league is due to start, it is not too late to take part, adding: "We can still accommodate more schools, it is simply a matter of deciding upon the best day for your school to take part and we will do the rest for you."

Want to find out more? Simply contact the Community Soccer Centre on [info@cucst.org.uk](mailto:info@cucst.org.uk), telephone 01206 572378 or visit our website at...



Learning new skills - Victoria Morgan enjoys a coaching session

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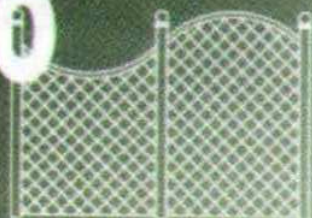
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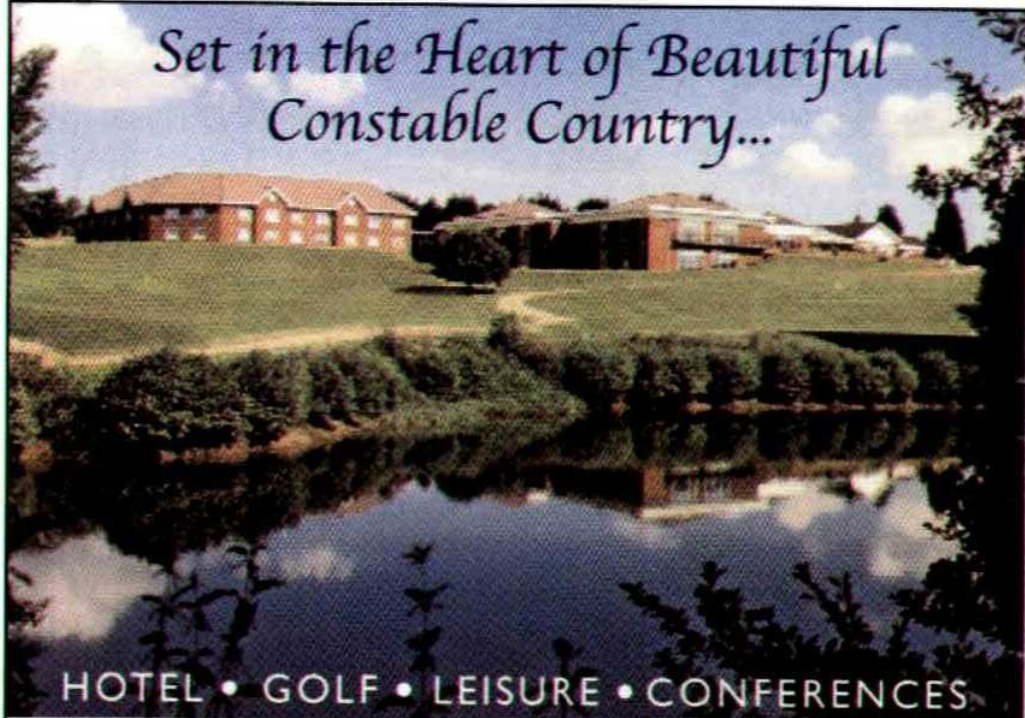
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# ONE WORLD



## They said it...

A selection of quotes from our League One rivals this week...



"I have had worse feelings after a game, but it is pretty bad today. In all the games we have played this year, I thought we could have got a result, but not today. We didn't deserve anything at all from the game. We were awful in the first half and weren't any better in the second half until we scored in the 83rd minute.

"We were totally outplayed - the players didn't want the ball and we couldn't pass it out of defence. I think it was 43 minutes before we actually passed a ball!"

**Huddersfield boss Peter Jackson reflects on a bad day against Doncaster Rovers.**

"The youngest part of our team is the part you expect to do most for you. Calvin Zola and Iain Hume were a threat to the opposition. The only way they are going to get better is by playing. If you leave them out and put in the experienced players they will never get better."

**Brian Little reflects on the youth in his strikeforce at Prenton Park**

"It was possibly the worst performance of the season, but the lads dug in and battled. They have good character and if they can keep that and work hard for nine months we'll be hard to beat. Our senior professionals create a good atmosphere on the training ground, we have a good bunch of lads here.

"It shows the character of the squad because Brian Carey, at the age of 36, has played three games in six days with an injury. Andy Dibble's 40 and he's also played the same number of games with an injury.

"I cannot believe Brian and Dibbs have done three games. Young Shaun Pejic came on and did great again, Andy Holt got us a goal from his throw and Danny Williams was outstanding.

"With better finishing Chris Llewellyn could have had a hat-trick. I thought Hector Sam played very well and Chris Armstrong worked his socks off."

**Wrexham manager Denis Smith reflects on an 'ugly' victory over Barnsley**



"I am aware of what has been said but it doesn't worry me or affect me. I am totally focused on the job I intend to do here and I have no doubts about my ability to do it.

"We haven't made the start we wanted but it is only now I am getting my full squad available. Tony Butler and Danny Coles have missed games through injury, Tommy Doherty has picked up a few knocks and Luke Wilshire has been away at the Olympics.

You are talking about players who I would be looking to for a full season."

**Brian Tinnion deflects any criticism of his early games in charge of Bristol City**



**Denis Smith** - pleased with battling performance



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# BO'S MEMORIES

## Brian's adventures in football

*As Brian Owen looks back over his several decades in football, today we focus on his time with the England set-up.*

*Brian was involved in coaching our national team at various levels and he also reveals that his first meeting with today's visiting manager, Andy King was during an England coaching camp...*

It has been impossible to miss some of the negative press surrounding current England manager Sven Goran Erikson recently and I must admit that my meeting with Sven many years ago did not do too much for my marital relations at the time.

Sven's first coaching job was as manager of a team called Degerfors who were then in the Swedish third division. I had been asked to go out to Scandinavia to be his guest coach but, as it happened, I was offered a post coaching with the England B squad, who were heading out to the Far East and it was an opportunity I could not turn down.

Obviously, at that time, I never expected Sven would become England manager all these years later. He had been to college with Anders Nyberg, a Swedish coach who was a friend of mine, and a few years later, when he was in charge of IFK Gothenburg he came over to watch a lot of Ipswich Town games and I met up with him again at Portman Road.

Sven was always very studious in his approach to football and often came over to England to watch Liverpool and Ipswich as well as watching Hamburg in Germany. It was on these trips to the UK that I re-acquainted myself with him and, having seen him at Ipswich, I invited him for a meal at my house.

He stayed at the Copdock Hotel so I went over there to pick him up and we quickly got chatting about football. Anyone who knows me will know that this is something that I am very good at and it didn't seem like Sven and I had been talking for long when I realised we were two hours late for the meal my wife, Carol, was cooking.

She had been expecting us for a long time and to say she was not too happy when we arrived home two hours late to a burnt dinner is something of an understatement. I think Carol was more upset with the meal than Sven but he has never been to our house for dinner since.

Sven didn't give me any tips on style when I met him but I did end up wearing a Swedish hat in the 1970s. The photo on this page is of me with England B at the Olympic Stadium in Munich. I am wearing an ice hockey hat given to

me by the manager of Leksand Ice Hockey Club. I wore that hat all the time and took a lot of stick for it as you can imagine. You could only get away with wearing something like that in the 70s and I must admit I don't have it anymore.

Coaching with England was a great experience for me though and it was something I was involved with for around 18 years in total from the early 1970s. I had just started the job when I came to Colchester United as a player and the first game England played after we had beaten Leeds in the FA Cup in 1971 was out in Czechoslovakia.

### Coincidence

Danny Lydon had refereed that Leeds match and by coincidence he flew out with us as an official for the international. On the plane I spoke to Danny and he told me that he physically had to pinch himself when the U's had gone 3-0 up because he just couldn't believe it!

My initial duties with the England B squad were coaching and physio work. I had experienced a few injury problems towards the end of my time at Watford, I had done my coaching badges and a treatment of injuries course at Lilleshall so I suppose it was handy for the FA to have someone with a dual role. Ken Firth, my manager at Watford, probably put my

name forward for the job but it came out of the blue when I received a letter asking me to work for England and I was delighted.

In 1972 I was writing a book with Nigel Clark, who was at the Daily Mirror then. Nigel had joined our training camp out in Spain where we were playing a tournament. He was typing the first chapter out by the side of the pool with me and just as we finished an unexpected gust of wind picked all the paper up and dumped it in the pool much to all the lads' amusement.

I was just 26 when I started working with England and I came off the staff in the 1982/83 season, having been involved with the youth side, U18s, U21s, and the 'B' squad. Alf Ramsey was the England manager when I first started, and I went on to work under Don Revie, Ron Greenwood and Bobby Robson. I also know all the managers of the national team since then including Terry Venables, Graham Taylor and Glenn Hoddle, who I coached from U16 level through to the U21s.

It was physio with the England U21s when I first came into contact with Andy King, who played in the team at the time. He was a very skilful player and a cheeky chappy around the changing room. Of course I have been bumping into Andy for a few years now and we often see each other at games and have a chat. Let's just hope he's not too cheerful after this afternoon's game!

All the best

BO



Nice hat! - Brian's 'fashion' sense leaves Trevor Francis baffled!





# Looking Good!

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# BRAINS OF LAYER ROAD

**In our latest edition of the Brains of Layer Road, we appear to have two rather clever people on our hands.**

Supporter Dave Todd - who works for Sky Sports - and midfielder Kem Izzet both manage to score well, although Kem's total was boosted by the fact that he had a passenger in his car who was helping him along. (No

names mentioned, but his initials are BBI)

**Answers:** 1. A fawn (no, bambi isn't acceptable); 2. Paddington; 3. Shropshire; 4. Nadia; 5. Polo; 6. Australia; 7. St Andrews; 8. Northampton; 9. Justin Hawkins; 10. Builder.....as in 'Bob the builder, can he fix it?'; 11. Charles Dickens; 12. Tony Blackburn; 13. Cat; 14. Po, La La, Tinky Winky, Dipsy; 15. South Africa; 16. 1901; 17. Roger

Federer; 18. Currys; 19. Sun Hill; 20. Tony Adcock.

Dave tops the charts with Kem just behind, although if there had been any more cajoling for extra marks from the U's midfielder, a stewards enquiry may have been necessary!

**Current scores:** 1. Dave Todd 16 2. Kem Izzet 15 3. Gareth Pettman 14 4. Pat Baldwin 10 5. Marie Partner 10 6. Dean Gerken 10 7. Karl Duguid 10 8. Craig Fagan 7

**1. What is the name of a baby deer**

KI: A fawn? ✓

**2. Which bear lived with Mr and Mrs Brown?**

KI: Ah, I don't know, Yogi bear? ✗

**3. In which county is Shrewsbury?**

KI: Nooo, I don't know my counties! Is it Shropshire? ✓

**4. Who won Big Brother 5?**

KI: Ah, that woman... Nadia! ✓

**5. In which sport do you have chukkas?**

KI: Polo, yes that's what it is! ✓

**6. The Island of Tasmania is part of which country?**

KI: Are there trick questions in this quiz? Is it Australia? ✓

**7. Which Scottish town is known as the home of golf?**

KI: St Andrews ✓

**8. Which team is nicknamed the Cobblers?**

KI: They were in our league last year, the ones Scotty went to! Northampton! ✓

**9. Who is the lead singer of the Darkness?**

KI: Sorry, not a clue ✗

**10. What was the job of the hero of the 2000 Christmas no!**

KI: Builder, right? ✓

**11. Who wrote 'Great Expectations'?**

KI: Ah, give me a clue. C? That's the first letter? Charles Dickens! ✓

**12. Which celebrity was the first person to be heard on Radio 1?**

KI: Is it that bloke out of I'm a Celebrity? Tony Blackwell? Blackburn? ✓

**13. A british blue is a breed of what animal?**

KI: A butterfly? ✗

**14. Name three of the teletubbies?**

KI: Po, La La and Dipsy ✓

**15. Where does Manchester United's Quinton Fortune come from?**

KI: South Africa ✓

**16. When did Queen Victoria die?**

KI: 1963? I dunno! (That would make her about 150-something, Kem!) ✗

**17. Who won this year's mens Wimbledon?**

KI: Roger Federer ✓

**18. According to their adverts, who are 'always cutting prices'?**

KI: Is it Asda? It's Asda surely? ✗

**19. What is the name of the police station in 'The Bill'?**

KI: Sun Hill - I saw it last night! ✓

**20. Which red-headed striker left Colchester United for Manchester City?**

KI: I'm going to make myself look like an idiot here - Perry Groves? ✗



**1. What is the name of a baby deer**

DT: A fawn ✓

**2. Which bear lived with Mr and Mrs Brown?**

DT: Paddington ✓

**3. In which county is Shrewsbury?**

DT: Shropshire, isn't it? ✓

**4. Who won Big Brother 5?**

DT: Nadia ✓

**5. In which sport do you have chukkas?**

DT: Is it polo? ✓

**6. The Island of Tasmania is part of which country?**

DT: Australia ✓

**7. Which Scottish town is known as the home of golf?**

DT: Gleneagles? ✗

**8. Which team is nicknamed the Cobblers?**

DT: Northampton Town ✓

**9. Who is the lead singer of the Darkness?**

DT: I don't know ✗

**10. What was the job of the hero of the 2000 Christmas no!**

DT: Builder, Bob the Builder ✓

**11. Who wrote 'Great Expectations'?**

DT: D. H. Lawrence ✗

**12. Which celebrity was the first person to be heard on Radio 1?**

DT: Tony Blackburn ✓

**13. A british blue is a breed of what animal?**

DT: A duck? No? ✗

**14. Name three of the teletubbies?**

DT: La la, Dipsy and Tinky Winky ✓

**15. Where does Manchester United's Quinton Fortune come from?**

DT: South Africa ✓

**16. When did Queen Victoria die?**

DT: 1901 ✓

**17. Who won this year's mens Wimbledon?**

DT: Roger Federer ✓

**18. According to their adverts, who are 'always cutting prices'?**

DT: Currys ✓

**19. What is the name of the police station in 'The Bill'?**

DT: Sun Hill ✓

**20. Which red-headed striker left Colchester United for Manchester City?**

DT: Tony Adcock ✓





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# PLAYING AWAY...



...with steve tovey

Bill Shankly once said something along the lines of football not just being a matter of life and death, but something more important.

While this appears true of all those professionals in the game, with the exception of Kieron Dyer who can only be called professional in that he gets paid for playing football, for us supporters that simply can't always be the case.

## I Don't Like Mondays...

Nor should we be expected to be any other way, and Hartlepool away on a Bank Holiday Monday was just a couple of hundred of miles and a public holiday too far in my case. Whoever comes up with the fixture list had obviously indulged in one too many complimentary caffeine-filled soft drinks from a certain sponsor when they devised that one...

I don't really understand why we have a full league programme on Bank Holiday anyway. It's as if we are expected to give up every spare day in our calendar for our beloved game.

Well, I'm sorry Mr Mawhinney, Chairman of the Football League, who sent me and millions of others a lovely email explaining why the "Championship" had been re-branded (the original engraving on the Division One trophy apparently, not a cheap marketing stunt, honest), but it's too much to ask for us all to turn out twice in one weekend.

In Mr Mawhinney's email he states: "The supporters are central to these plans. Last season 16m supporters attended League games; the most for 40 years. We

are looking to build on this to attract 21m supporters to League games by 2010. To achieve this goal we as a League must ensure that the next generation of football supporters follow their local club."

If the Football League is looking to increase gates by six million attendees, all I'm saying is, the calendar needs to be a bit more supporter friendly, and without a five hour away trip on a Bank Holiday.

## No-one ate all the pies...

As I've said, I'm of the opinion there shouldn't be a full league programme on Bank Holidays. I just don't think there's any need for it, when you come down to it... OK, on one hand, you can argue a captive audience, I mean, most of the country's work force is on leave, and what better to do than head down the footie, yeah? Also, it's tradition!

As long as there have been chicken balti pies on sale in football grounds, there have been full programmes on Bank Holidays. And you can't mess with tradition, right?

For me, my main beef with using public holidays for football is part laziness, and part my own preference for using these extra days for going out, doing something different, even if that means family stuff. I mean, there aren't actually that many days all in where people can get together.

At the weekends, there's the U's on a Saturday, Premiership (and in my case, Sunday League) football on Sundays, and enough midweek games to keep you going, and your calendar busy, so why is it you can be left to miss out on seeing your team because you make the selfish choice to actually do something other than football on a public holiday.

And if Mr Mawhinney and his cohorts are looking to boost attendances, they are going to have to look at how the fixtures are laid out (If you give a hoot, if it were down to me, I'd go for five leagues of 18, with the bottom two regionalized as far as possible, and reduce the fixtures while increasing the competitiveness of the leagues as each game means a little more - 46 games is way too much)

## Down with the Wednesday

Colchester's match against Hartlepool attracted 800 spectators less than the previous match at Victoria Park, and over 1,500 less than the match before that. Now, that could just be Colchester's not so massive fan base not filling up the away end due to a long distance haul, but reduced attendances on Bank Holidays is a common theme.

While Parky's old boys Reading played on Tuesday night and drew an average 15,000 attendance, in League Two 'the gaffer's' other previous side, Bury, were 12% down on previous gates this season, while the U's first away opponents of the season Sheffield

Wednesday were down a fifth on their previous home match. Simply, on public holidays, there are other things to do.

However, the Premiership, admittedly with one eye on this weekend's England games, offered only two matches, one of which featured Portsmouth and Fulham, teams that hadn't played on the previous Saturday, while Manchester United's goal-less draw with Everton was a rearranged fixture following United's Champions League qualifier against Bucharest the following week... and it's not as if either team or their supporters actually had to travel far.

Wayne Rooney didn't even bother going back.

Added to the dip in people actually attending games is the physical impact on the players, having to travel and play within forty-eight hours of their normal Saturday fully competitive match, and a break from the usual training routine. Even with a Tuesday game there is time for a rest day and an assessment of injuries, before the preparations for the following game.

The effects for Colchester were the absence of Kevin Watson for the trip to the North-East, and in a thin squad also missing Bob Bowry and Kem Izzet, it was to prove a big loss.

## Opinions are like...

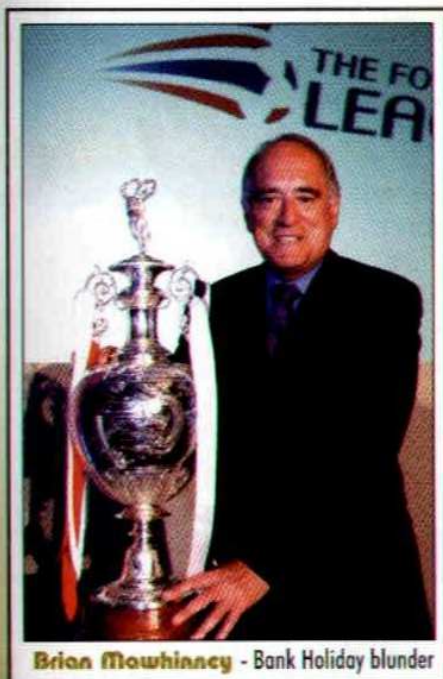
I'm sure you'll all have your opinions on this, but mine is, and always has been, this sport that we give so much time, dedication, money and love to can give a bit back every now and then and not demand so much from it's supporters.

I already willingly and enthusiastically give a large amount of myself to football, and in accordance with Mr Mawhinney's wishes I already support my local team, I'd even have followed them to Hartlepool if it hadn't been on Monday. Just let me have my holidays, my days off, without being expected to miss out on seeing my team if I actually chose to do something on a day off work.

Bank Holidays are few and closely packed in over the Summer, and with 31st August being the last real day of the summer, (and it was sunny!) the Football League should consider whether it really is worth putting on a full league programme two days after the last round of matches, when the impact all round and on attendances is obvious.

And don't even get me started on the Christmas/New Year break idea.

Quite why we play three matches in five days while the country is on holiday, why players are forced to train on Christmas Day and supporters expected to travel around the country on Boxing Day (ok, it's alright when we're at home, but Boxing Day is for sitting in front of the TV complaining about the pop on the box)...[rant til fade...]



Brian Mawhinney - Bank Holiday blunder



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 Foundation Degree - Management of Hospitality  
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 BA (Hons) Business Management  
 BA (Hons) Business Systems Management  
 BA (Hons) Sport Management  
 BA (Hons) Hospitality Management
- **Computing and Administration**  
 Foundation Degree in Computing
- **Health, Care and Education**  
 Foundation Degree in Health and Social Care  
 Foundation Degree in Early Years, Childcare  
 and Education (0-8yrs)

Colchester Institute, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3LL  
 Telephone: (01206) 518777 Email: [clearing@colchester.ac.uk](mailto:clearing@colchester.ac.uk)



Colchester  
 Institute

[www.colchester.ac.uk](http://www.colchester.ac.uk)



# U'S ACTION



**Ban May** - takes time to relax!



**Aidan Davison** - repels this attack

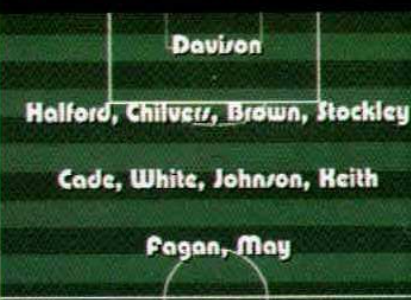


**Going close** - No joy for the U's



**Joe Keith** - skips past his man

## THE WAY THE U'S LINED UP...



### SUBS USED:

Bowditch for White 64, Baldwin for Chilvers 80

SUBS NOT USED: Gerken, Richards, Elokobi

GOALS: Keith 90

YELLOW CARDS: Chilvers

RED CARDS: None

**HARTLEPOOL UNITED:** Konstantopoulos, Ross, Nelson, Westwood, Robson, Williams, Sweeney, Strachan, Humphreys, Boyd, Betsy

GOAL: Williams 38, Boyd 70

YELLOW CARDS: Betsy, Williams

RED CARDS: None

ATTENDANCE: 4,371

● Injury ridden Colchester United fell to a 2-1 defeat at Hartlepool on Bank Holiday Monday as a resilient home team made life tough in the north east for Parky's men.

The U's rode an early storm only to fall behind just before the break and, although they were sharper, brighter and more dangerous going forward after the break, they couldn't find a way past the home defence.

The 105 U's supporters had something to cheer about as Joe Keith swung in a late free kick for his third of the season, but as it was the last kick of the game, it was to prove a temporary high for the visitors.

### From the Managers:

**Phil Parkinson:** "I know it sounds like I'm making excuses, but we were down to the bare bones and we had to play Gavin Johnson despite him being up all night with sickness.

"I thought there were two very tired teams out there and our lads gave their all. Take four or five players out of any squad in the league and it will have a major effect, but I've no arguments. My lads worked as hard as they could and I thought the front two looked dangerous throughout."

**Neale Cooper:** "It was a much better performance than Swindon. We didn't do the things we were good at on Saturday - like passing the ball on the ground - but we changed that today and it worked."



# ON THE ROAD



**Fitness First Stadium**

## AFC Bournemouth

**After this afternoon's game against Swindon, the U's are back on the road once again as they look to get back to winning ways away from Layer Road.**

They're heading south this time as they go to Bournemouth and it's a ground where the U's have not done too badly over the years.

Ground Name: Fitness First Stadium  
Capacity: 9,600  
Address: Dean Court, Kings Park, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH7 7AF  
Main Telephone No.: 01202-726-300  
Ticket Office Enquiries: 01202-726-303  
Pitch size: 105 x 78 yards

### WHAT IS THE GROUND LIKE?

Anyone who visited the old Dean Court will not recognise the completely re-developed ground. In a matter of months the old ground was completely demolished and a new stadium built. This currently comprises three new stands, which are of roughly the same design and height and are quite smart looking, with the Main Stand having a row of executive boxes to its rear.

Each is a covered single tiered stand, with good views of the playing action, with perspex wind shields at each side. The stand roofs have perspex panels, helping get more light to the pitch. They sit at each side of the pitch and at one end, which means that the South End of the ground is open.

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

Away fans are located on one side of the East Stand, at one side of the pitch. The normal allocation for this area is 1,500 fans, but this

can be increased to 2,000 if required.

The stand is shared with home supporters, offers a good view of the playing action and generates a good atmosphere. The facilities are okay and beer is served on the concourse as well as such delights as the delicious 'Football's Famous Chicken Balti Pie'.

### PANCY A PRE-MATCH PINT?

There is a bar behind the Main Stand, called the Cherry Tree, but this is for home supporters only.

There is one pub by the dual carriageway, called the Queens Park, that is popular with both home and away fans. The pub shows SKY Sports and serves Ringwood real ale.

To find this pub, simply walk away from the ground, on the road going from the main entrance to the stadium. At the end of the road turn left and the pub is a little way up on the left.

### HOW TO GET THERE BY CAR:

Follow the A338 towards Bournemouth. The ground is situated on the left of the A338 in the outskirts of Bournemouth. If you keep looking up to the left as you go into Bournemouth you will eventually see the tops of the ground floodlights.

At this point take the next exit off the A338 and turn left towards the ground. There is a large car park located at the ground. Alternatively, there is a council run car park, on the opposite side of the dual carriageway, which is handy for getting away quickly after the game.

### HOW TO GET THERE BY TRAIN:

The nearest train station is Pokesdown which is roughly a mile from the ground and is around a 15 minute walk away. However, most trains arrive at Bournemouth Central, which is around

a half an hour walk to the ground. Either try to get a train to Pokesdown or grab a cab (£7-£8).

If you do arrive at Pokesdown Station (which is served by trains from London Waterloo), then exit the station (there is only one exit) and turn right down the main Christchurch Road (A35). Proceed for about 400 metres and then turn right into Gloucester Road. Dean Court is located down the bottom of this road.

If you arrive at Bournemouth Central, then leave the station by the South exit, thereby facing an Asda Supermarket. Turn left and walk down to the main Holdenhurst Road. Turn left (going away from the town centre) and then keep straight on along Holdenhurst Road for around 25 minutes, reaching the Queens Park pub.

Continue straight on past the pub until you reach a roundabout at which you turn right into Kings Park Drive. The ground is down the bottom of this road on the left. Alternatively you can catch a Yellow Number 33 bus to the ground, normally a half hourly service.

● Thanks to Duncan Adams of the excellent [footballgroundguide.co.uk](http://footballgroundguide.co.uk) for the above information.

## CHERRIES' FACTFILE

LAST FIVE GAMES: DDWWL  
LAST FIVE AT HOME: LDDDW  
TOP SCORER: James Hayter, five  
LEAGUE POSITION: 14th

RECENT NEWS: After progressing through to the Second Round of the Carling Cup and drawing Premiership side Blackburn Rovers in the process, Bournemouth were brought back down to earth on Bank Holiday Monday as they fell to defeat against Luton Town at Kenilworth Road.

The Hatters are of course flying high in League One at the moment and, although the Cherries fought hard to keep the league leaders at bay, a late Kevin Nicholls strike was enough to give Mike Newell's men all three points.

Bournemouth boss Sean O'Driscoll was not too disheartened, however, saying: "We were magnificent to a man. Luton are the best side I've seen this season and we held them for 80 minutes."

"For long periods of the game, I thought we controlled it without looking a threat to their goal, but the boys are disappointed they have lost."



# C.U.S.A.

## Good afternoon U's fans and CUSA members, and welcome back to Layer Road.

This match against Swindon Town will be the first of six for the U's in a busy September, as last week we learned that our 'beloved' rivals Southend United will be our first opponents in the LDV Vans Trophy.

Could revenge be any sweeter than picking them off at home after they bounced us out of the Southern Final last season in, shall we say, a less than agreeable fashion?

Come on you U's - you have to do this one for the fans. Please, please, please!

Hey, but wait a minute, the Baggies with Kanu, Inamono and Earnshaw in tow will also be in Colchester the week before in the Carling Cup!

Phew, what a week that promises to be. Don't forget that the West Brom game is not yet an all ticket match but, for last week and after the game today, CUSA members and season ticket holders are allowed to purchase them before anyone else.

The CUSA is delighted that the club has extended this offer to our members, many of which are not season ticket holders and we hope that similar arrangements can be made in the future.

Back to Coca Cola League One action and after the exhilarating 4-1 victory over Doncaster, it was a tired looking U's that lost 2-1 to Hartlepool on Bank Holiday Monday. To be fair, Pools were a

pretty average outfit which made for a dullish game, but given the injuries and the long journey less than 24 hours after playing should we be that upset? At this stage of the season are we setting our expectations too high?

The CUSA had a full coach for this trip and, after fears and reports of road delays from the team bus, we left at 6am instead of 7am. A big thank you to our members for their understanding in this matter. Please appreciate that we make these decisions with the best intentions, as we would rather arrive two hours before kick off than 30 minutes after it. Remember Wrexham last season?

### Thanks

We were well looked after thanks to our drivers 'Normski' and Alan, as well as Travel Secretary Jeanette. I do have to apologise for the lack of quiz - sorry, next time, but it did give us a chance to use the video for the first time and watch the Donny match again. Try to look happy next time we score Judith - Video Vic has you in his sights!

One last thing on the Hartlepool match and that is that we have in our possession a grey and navy Adidas jacket that was left behind in the away end. Come and see us in the CUSA Hut behind Terrace Three or call me on 07752 531600 if you would like to claim it back.

Looking ahead, and as a reminder about Bournemouth, you'll need to purchase your ticket at one of their windows before walking around to the

### CUSA Travel Details

**Saturday September 11th - AFC Bournemouth**

**Coach leaves Layer Road at 9am**

Adult Members £17

Concession Members £15

**Saturday September 25th - Oldham Athletic**

**Coach leaves Layer Road at 8am**

Adult Members £23

Concession Members £21

**Saturday October 9th - Walsall**

**Coach leaves Layer Road at 7.30am**

Adult Members £15

Concession Members £13

away end. Also, you may already know that the Walsall away game is now a 1pm kick off due to the England fixture that day.

Sadly, this is of no benefit to the CUSA coaches, given the strict laws on supporters coaches stopping near football grounds for drinkies, so we'll have to rely on the radio instead. Still, this is always a good trip as they have a lovely social club for before the match and, as an added bonus, we'll get to see Mark Kinsella play again!

Now you've heard of Where's Wally, well then here's a new one for you - Where's Mouse! Rumour has it that other 'pleasures' have been taking our beloved U's friend Kevin 'Mouse' Grimsey away from the footy action this season. So if you can find him at Layer Road today as I'll give a special prize to the first person that does - I'll need proof though!

There was big news on Wednesday morning as Wayne Andrews departed these shores for Premiership Crystal Palace. We do however get the chance to welcome back Gareth Williams and, now the much rumoured swap has taken place, this is a deal that most fans will consider to be very good business.

Lastly, I think that the U's commercial department are missing out on a trick with sponsorship of our three players. Get Pat Baldwin, Jamie Code and Ben Bowditch together on a photo shoot and instantly you have a successful advertising campaign for Toni and Guy - worth a try?!

Good luck to CUSA FC in their first Sunday League game tomorrow.

Up the U's,

Jon Burns



Jamie Code - lovely hair...



# FIXTURES & RESULTS

## Coca-Cola Football League One Table 2004/2005

|                     | P | W | D | L | F  | A | W | D | L | F  | A  | G  | Pt |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|
| Luton Town          | 6 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 4  | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 6  | 7  | 18 |
| Chesterfield        | 6 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6  | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3  | 3  | 4  | 13 |
| Colchester United   | 6 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 9  | 4 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 5  | 4  | 6  | 12 |
| Hull City           | 6 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3  | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 7  | 4  | 5  | 12 |
| Tranmere Rovers     | 6 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 7  | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1  | 2  | 3  | 11 |
| Port Vale           | 6 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 9  | 4 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3  | 5  | 3  | 10 |
| Bradford City       | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6  | 5 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3  | 2  | 2  | 10 |
| Wrexham             | 6 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 5  | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3  | 4  | 1  | 10 |
| Hartlepool United   | 6 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 5  | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3  | 5  | 0  | 10 |
| Sheffield Wednesday | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2  | 4 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 8  | 7  | -1 | 10 |
| Swindon Town        | 6 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 7  | 4 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 5  | 6  | 2  | 9  |
| Walsall             | 6 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 8  | 6 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 5  | 7  | 0  | 9  |
| Brentford           | 6 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 8  | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2  | 10 | -3 | 9  |
| Peterborough United | 6 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4  | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 4  | 6  | 2  | 8  |
| AFC Bournemouth     | 6 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 5  | 4 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3  | 3  | 1  | 8  |
| Oldham Athletic     | 6 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2  | 5  | 1  | 7  |
| Huddersfield Town   | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2  | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 4  | 5  | -2 | 7  |
| Doncaster Rovers    | 6 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4  | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 4  | 10 | -3 | 7  |
| Barnsley            | 6 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 6  | 7 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4  | 5  | -2 | 5  |
| Bristol City        | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6  | 4 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3  | 7  | -2 | 5  |
| Stockport County    | 6 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3  | 5 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 6  | 6  | -2 | 4  |
| Milton Keynes Dons  | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3  | 4 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3  | 8  | -6 | 4  |
| Torquay United      | 6 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2  | 7 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1  | 3  | -7 | 2  |
| Blackpool           | 6 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2  | 9 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1  | 3  | -9 | 2  |

## CUFC Roll Call 2004/2005

| PLAYER         | APPS |      | GOALS |     | CARDS |   |
|----------------|------|------|-------|-----|-------|---|
|                | LGE  | CUP  | LGE   | CUP | Y     | R |
| Aidan DAVISON  | 6    | 1    | -     | -   | -     | - |
| Greg HALFORD   | 6    | 1    | 1     | -   | -     | - |
| Joseph KEITH   | 6    | 1    | 3     | -   | -     | - |
| Gavin JOHNSON  | 6    | 1    | 2     | 1   | -     | - |
| Wayne BROWN    | 5    | 1    | -     | -   | 1     | - |
| Kevin WATSON   | 5    | 1    | 1     | -   | -     | - |
| Karl DUGUID    | -    | -    | -     | -   | -     | - |
| Wayne ANDREWS  | 4(1) | 1    | 2     | -   | -     | - |
| Craig FAGAN    | 6    | 1    | 4     | 1   | 2     | - |
| Kem IZZET      | -    | -    | -     | -   | -     | - |
| Jamie CADE     | 3(2) | 1    | -     | -   | -     | - |
| Pat BALDWIN    | 1(2) | -    | -     | -   | -     | - |
| Dean GERKEN    | -    | -    | -     | -   | -     | - |
| Stephen HUNT   | -(1) | -    | -     | -   | -     | 1 |
| Ben BOWDITCH   | -(2) | -(1) | -     | -   | -     | - |
| George ELOKOBI | -    | -    | -     | -   | -     | - |
| Bobby BOWRY    | 2    | -    | -     | -   | -     | - |
| Liam CHILVERS  | 6    | 1    | -     | -   | 1     | - |
| Garry RICHARDS | -    | -    | -     | -   | -     | - |
| Ben MAY        | 2(4) | -(1) | -     | -   | -     | - |
| Ross CROUCH    | -    | -    | -     | -   | -     | - |
| John WHITE     | 2    | -(1) | -     | -   | -     | - |
| Sam STOCKLEY   | 6    | 1    | 1     | -   | -     | - |

Date Opponent Venue Ref. Pos. Att. (Away)

### AUGUST 2004

|          |                       |   |      |   |             |
|----------|-----------------------|---|------|---|-------------|
| Sat 7th  | Sheffield Wednesday   | A | W3-0 | 1 | 24,138 (54) |
| Tue 10th | STOCKPORT COUNTY      | H | W3-2 | 1 | 3,346 (174) |
| Sat 14th | PETERBOROUGH UNITED   | H | W2-1 | 1 | 3,754 (30)  |
| Sat 21st | Chesterfield          | A | L1-2 | 3 | 4,028 (27)  |
| Tue 24th | CHELLENHAM TOWN (CC1) | H | W2-1 | - | 2,144 (11)  |
| Sat 28th | DONCASTER ROVERS      | H | W4-1 | 2 | 3,083 (54)  |
| Mon 30th | Hartlepool United     | A | L1-2 | 2 | 4,371 (10)  |

### SEPTEMBER

|          |                            |   |  |  |  |
|----------|----------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Sat 4th  | SWINDON TOWN               | H |  |  |  |
| Sat 11th | AFC Bournemouth            | A |  |  |  |
| Sat 18th | MILTON KEYNES DONS         | H |  |  |  |
| Tue 21st | WEST BROMWICH ALBION (CC2) | H |  |  |  |
| Sat 25th | Oldham Athletic            | A |  |  |  |

### OCTOBER

|          |                        |   |  |  |  |
|----------|------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Sat 2nd  | PORT VALE              | H |  |  |  |
| Sat 9th  | Walsall                | A |  |  |  |
| Sat 16th | Blackpool              | A |  |  |  |
| Tue 19th | WREXHAM                | H |  |  |  |
| Sat 23rd | TRANMERE ROVERS        | H |  |  |  |
| Wed 29th | SOUTHEND UNITED (LDV1) | H |  |  |  |
| Sat 30th | Bristol City           | A |  |  |  |

### NOVEMBER

|          |                   |   |  |  |  |
|----------|-------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Sat 6th  | Bradford City     | A |  |  |  |
| Sat 13th | F.A. Cup (1)      |   |  |  |  |
| Sat 20th | HUDDERSFIELD TOWN | H |  |  |  |
| Sat 27th | Torquay United    | A |  |  |  |

### DECEMBER

|          |                 |   |  |  |  |
|----------|-----------------|---|--|--|--|
| Sat 4th  | F. A. Cup (2)   |   |  |  |  |
| Tue 7th  | BARNSELY        | H |  |  |  |
| Sat 11th | HULL CITY       | H |  |  |  |
| Sat 18th | Brentford       | A |  |  |  |
| Sun 26th | AFC BOURNEMOUTH | H |  |  |  |
| Tue 28th | Luton Town      | A |  |  |  |

### JANUARY 2005

|          |                    |   |  |                 |  |
|----------|--------------------|---|--|-----------------|--|
| Sat 1st  | Swindon Town       | A |  |                 |  |
| Mon 3rd  | OLDHAM ATHLETIC    | H |  |                 |  |
| Sat 8th  | WALSALL            | H |  | or F.A. Cup (3) |  |
| Sat 15th | Milton Keynes Dons | A |  |                 |  |
| Sat 22nd | LUTON TOWN         | H |  |                 |  |
| Sat 29th | Port Vale          | A |  | or F.A. Cup (4) |  |

### FEBRUARY

|          |                 |   |  |                 |  |
|----------|-----------------|---|--|-----------------|--|
| Sat 5th  | BLACKPOOL       | H |  |                 |  |
| Sat 12th | Tranmere Rovers | A |  |                 |  |
| Sat 19th | BRISTOL CITY    | H |  | or F.A. Cup (5) |  |
| Tue 22nd | Wrexham         | A |  |                 |  |
| Sat 26th | Hull City       | A |  |                 |  |

### MARCH

|          |                     |   |  |  |  |
|----------|---------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Sat 5th  | BRENTFORD           | H |  |  |  |
| Sat 12th | Stockport County    | A |  |  |  |
| Sat 19th | SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY | H |  |  |  |
| Sat 26th | Peterborough United | A |  |  |  |
| Mon 28th | CHESTERFIELD        | H |  |  |  |

### APRIL

|          |                   |   |  |  |  |
|----------|-------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Fri 1st  | Doncaster Rovers  | A |  |  |  |
| Sat 9th  | HARTLEPOOL UNITED | H |  |  |  |
| Sat 16th | Huddersfield Town | A |  |  |  |
| Sat 23rd | BRADFORD CITY     | H |  |  |  |
| Sat 30th | Barnsley          | A |  |  |  |

### MAY

|         |                |   |  |  |  |
|---------|----------------|---|--|--|--|
| Sat 7th | TORQUAY UNITED | H |  |  |  |
|---------|----------------|---|--|--|--|



1. Arden DAVISON

2. Greg HALFORD

3. Joseph KEITH

4. Gavin JOHNSON

5. Wayne BROWN

6. Kevin WATSON

7. Karl DUGUID

8. Wayne ANDREWS

8. Gareth WILLIAMS

9. Craig FAGAN

10. Ken IZZET

11. Jamie CADE

12. Pat BALDWIN

13. Dean GERKEN

14. Stephen HUNT

15. Ben BOWDITCH

16. George ELOKOBI

17. Bobby BOWRY

18. Liam CHILVERS

19. Garry RICHARDS

20. Ben MAY

22. Ross CROUCH

23. John WHITE

25. Sam STOCKLEY



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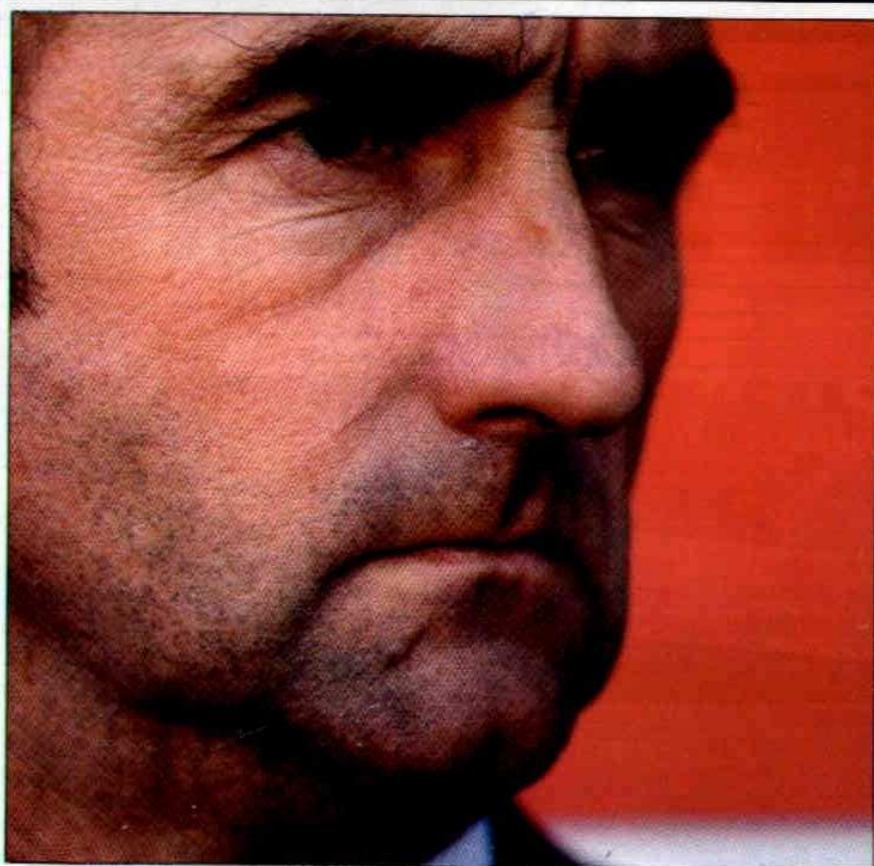
At A Glance

| TABLE                         | NEXT MATCH   | LAST MATCH |
|-------------------------------|--------------|------------|
| Coca-Cola Football League One |              |            |
| Pos                           | Team         | Pts        |
| 7                             | Chesterfield | 0          |
| 8                             | Colchester   | 0          |
| 9                             | Doncaster    | 0          |

**Match Reports, Interviews, Latest News**  
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# NEXT UP



**Stuart Murdoch** - dissatisfied with start

## Milton Keynes Dons

**Life for the newly named Dons has been less than easy in the newly named Coca Cola League One.**

Formerly known as Wimbledon of course, the club's move to Milton Keynes has been a difficult one, as the club has endeavoured to secure a new supporter base in a new hometown while being relegated from Division One last season and having to deal with the constraints of administration.

Escaping relegation from Division One would have required something near a miracle for Stuart Murdoch's side last season, with so many young, inexperienced players having such a large deficit to make up in terms of points halfway through the season.

And while there are some impressive young prospects at the club, transfer targets were difficult to secure during the summer

with the club still in administration. Some of the pressure may have eased when the club emerged from that period with a new name but early results in League One soon made life difficult again.

Having drawn their opening match of the season against Barnsley, the Dons went on to record four straight defeats in the League, conceding three goals on three of those outings (at Port Vale, Oldham, and against Bournemouth).

### Future

This string of results saw manager, Murdoch publicly questioning his future with the club. "I'm disappointed with the way things are going - and if I find I cannot motivate a team, maybe I am better off walking away from it," he said.

"There are important moments in games and we are not capitalising on them. We go 1-0 down in every game so we have got no confidence. It is not a question of bringing people in to strengthen - I do not think one

player can wave a magic wand. It is a question of people doing their jobs properly.

"It's very difficult to name a player who is playing to their ability level at the moment. Perhaps they need a new manager," Murdoch conceded.

### Impressive

But the Dons responded to that statement of dissatisfaction in impressive style with a 3-0 Carling Cup first round victory over Barry Fry's Peterborough United. And that was followed by a first League win of the season against fellow slow starters Torquay United on Bank Holiday Monday.

Jason Puncheon's first half strike was enough to give the Dons a 1-0 win and the Milton Keynes based team could have extended their lead on several occasions at the National Hockey Stadium.

However, that result still left Murdoch's men with just four points from their opening six matches, and in the bottom three of what has already proved to be a very competitive division. It looks like MK Dons could be in with a very tough battle on their hands in their first season in League One.

### STOP PRESS!

Tickets for this game - and the Carling Cup game against West Bromwich Albion on Tuesday September 21st - are on sale now. Under the new ticketing arrangements for the 2004/5 season, you can save £2 by buying in advance of the matchday. See page 41 for more details!

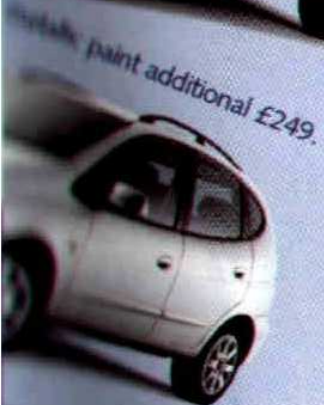
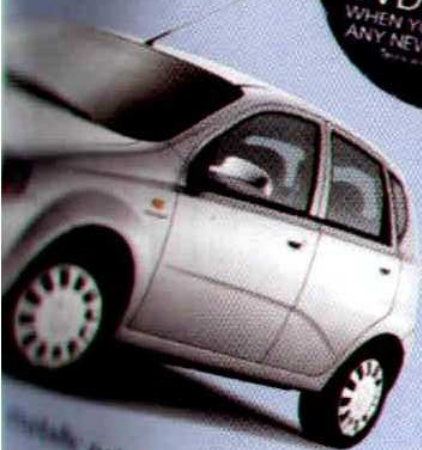
### CAN'T MAKE THE GAME?

If you're unable to make the game - or perhaps you're saving for the trip to Oldham on September 25th - then why not sign up for our official SMS service? Text CLUB COLC to 88442 now and we'll keep you bang up to date with all the news from the match!

### FANCY THE U'S FOR PROMOTION?

The bookies are changing their minds on the U's fairly often, but you can get odds of 25/1 for the title. Just visit [www.layerbet.co.uk](http://www.layerbet.co.uk) today for more details!





metallic paint additional £249.

# LIKE WHAT YOU'VE SEEN TODAY?

The U's matchday magazine is an award winning product. If it's caught your eye today, then you may be interested in advertising **YOUR** company inside.

We have limited numbers of spaces available from as little as £500 for the season. Call the Commercial Department on 01206 715306 for more details!



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Keepers Lane, Leavenheath, Nr. Colchester  
or e-mail sales@stock...



# THE SQUADS

## Colchester United

Manager: Phil Parkinson

Colours: Blue & White

|                          | Pld | Goal |
|--------------------------|-----|------|
| 1. Aidan DAVISON .....   | ●   | ■    |
| 2. Greg HALFORD .....    | ●   | ■    |
| 3. Joseph KEITH .....    | ●   | ■    |
| 4. Gavin JOHNSON .....   | ●   | ■    |
| 5. Wayne BROWN .....     | ●   | ■    |
| 6. Kevin WATSON .....    | ●   | ■    |
| 7. Karl DUGUID .....     | ●   | ■    |
| 8. Gareth WILLIAMS ..... | ●   | ■    |
| 9. Craig FAGAN .....     | ●   | ■    |
| 10. Kem IZZET .....      | ●   | ■    |
| 11. Jamie CADE .....     | ●   | ■    |
| 12. Pat BALDWIN .....    | ●   | ■    |
| 13. Dean GERKEN .....    | ●   | ■    |
| 14. Stephen HUNT .....   | ●   | ■    |
| 15. Ben BOWDITCH .....   | ●   | ■    |
| 16. George ELOKOBI ..... | ●   | ■    |
| 17. Bobby BOWRY .....    | ●   | ■    |
| 18. Liam CHILVERS .....  | ●   | ■    |
| 19. Garry RICHARDS ..... | ●   | ■    |
| 20. Ben MAY .....        | ●   | ■    |
| 22. Ross CROUCH .....    | ●   | ■    |
| 23. John WHITE .....     | ●   | ■    |
| 25. Sam STOCKLEY .....   | ●   | ■    |
| 37. CUFC FANS .....      | ●   | ■    |

## Swindon Town

Manager: Andy King

Colours: Red & White

|                              | Pld | Goal |
|------------------------------|-----|------|
| 1. Rhys EVANS .....          | ●   | ■    |
| 2. Sean O'HANLON .....       | ●   | ■    |
| 3. Grant SMITH .....         | ●   | ■    |
| 4. Matthew HEWLETT .....     | ●   | ■    |
| 5. Adrian VIVEASH .....      | ●   | ■    |
| 7. Sammy IGOE .....          | ●   | ■    |
| 8. Rory FALLON .....         | ●   | ■    |
| 9. Sam PARKIN .....          | ●   | ■    |
| 10. Stefan MIGLIORANZI ..... | ●   | ■    |
| 11. David DUKE .....         | ●   | ■    |
| 12. Jerel IFIL .....         | ●   | ■    |
| 13. Matt BULMAN .....        | ●   | ■    |
| 14. Lloyd OPARA .....        | ●   | ■    |
| 15. Andrew NICHOLAS .....    | ●   | ■    |
| 16. Steve ROBINSON .....     | ●   | ■    |
| 17. Brian HOWARD .....       | ●   | ■    |
| 18. Alan REEVES .....        | ●   | ■    |
| 19. Matthew HEYWOOD .....    | ●   | ■    |
| 20. Steve BOOK .....         | ●   | ■    |
| 22. Michael POOK .....       | ●   | ■    |
| 23. Luke GARRARD .....       | ●   | ■    |
| 24. Andy CATON .....         | ●   | ■    |

### Match Officials

Referee: Mr K. Wright (Cambs)

Assistant Referee: Mr C. Francis (Cambs)

Assistant Referee: Mr T. Mason (Kent)

Fourth Official: Mr J. Hayto (Essex)

### Next Here

v MILTON KEYNES DONS

COCA-COLA FOOTBALL LEAGUE ONE

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> - 3.00<sup>PM</sup> KICK OFF

# Evening Gazette