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The midfielder on his goalscoring
return to the side

Jobi McAnuff

The winger looking forward to 2007

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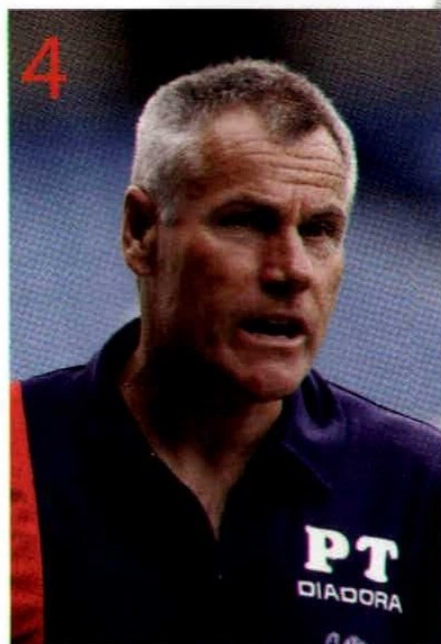
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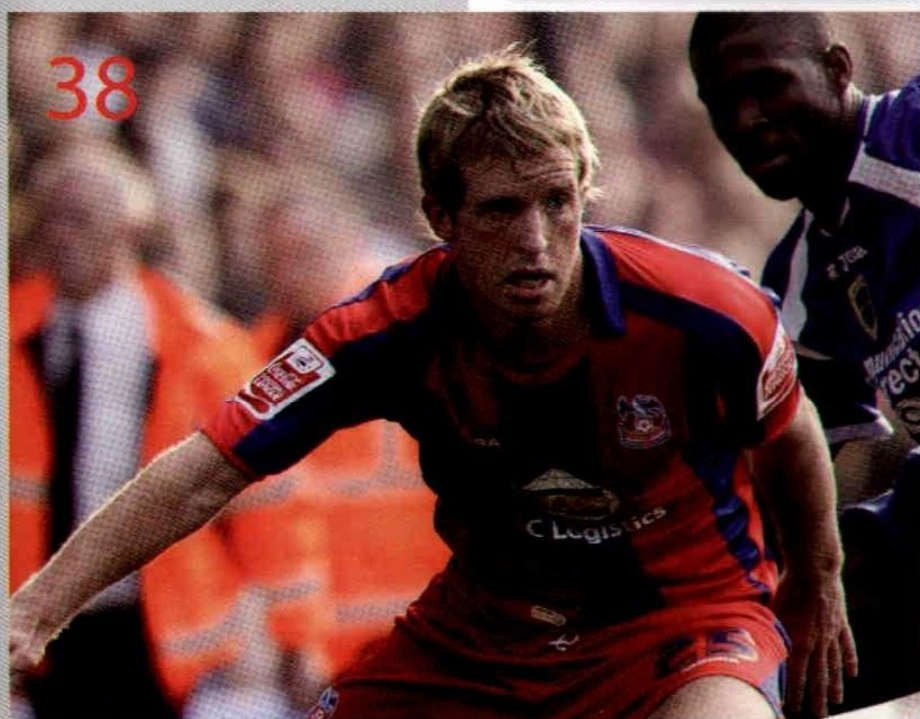
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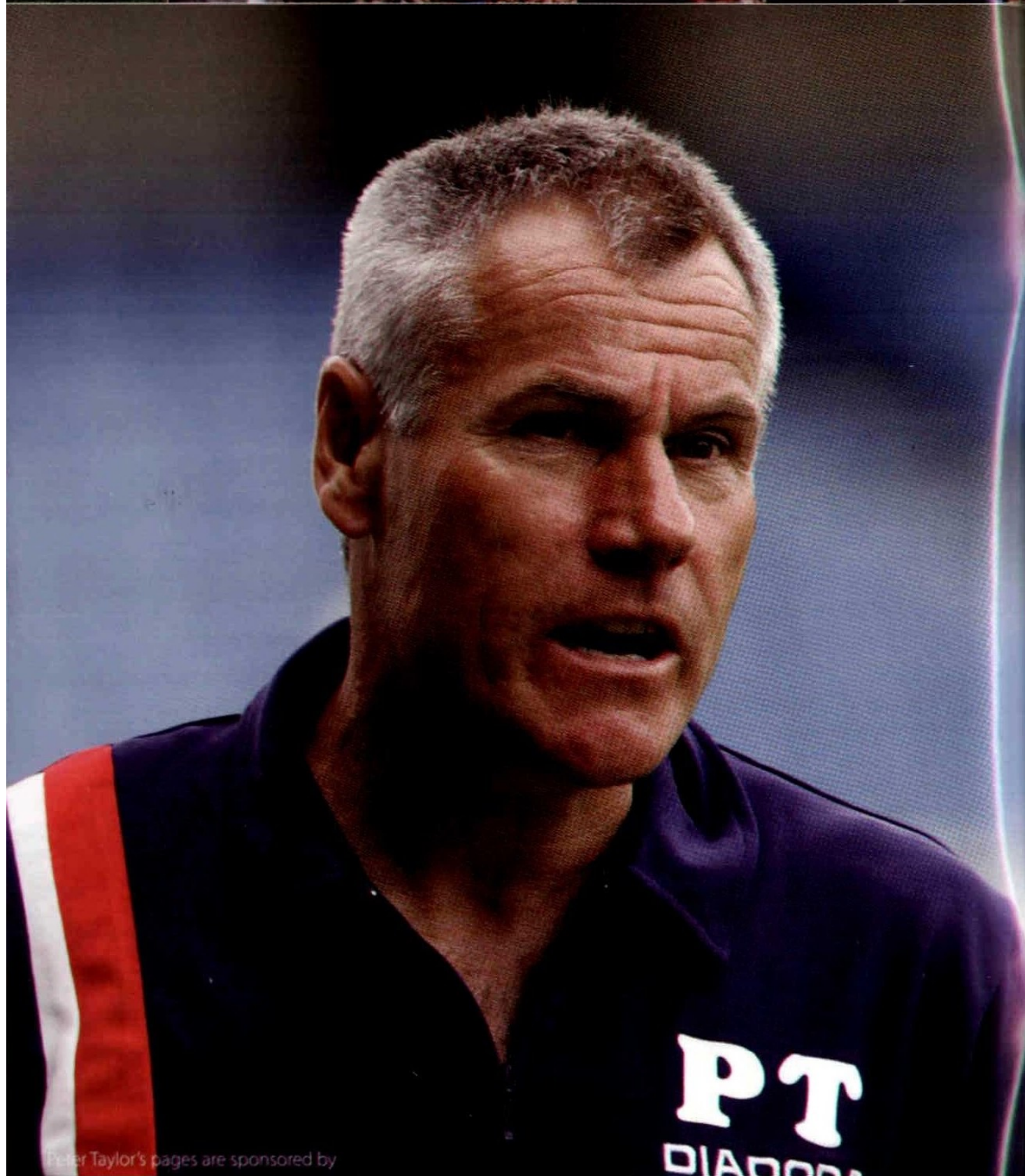
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4 Crystal Palace v Swindon Town





The Taylor Report

Peter Taylor

Hello and welcome to Selhurst Park for this afternoon's game with Swindon Town in the third round of the FA Cup.

Firstly, I'd like to welcome Paul Sturrock and his staff and players here this afternoon for the game. They have had a terrific season in League Two so far and will no doubt arrive here full of confidence and hopeful of getting a result.

That is the magic of the FA Cup, as it gives teams a chance to face clubs who are above them in the league rankings on an equal footing and it is one of the reasons why everyone in the game looks forward to it and hopes to embark on a run in the competition.

We are no different and hopefully we can put in a good performance today and if we play to our full potential then there is no reason why we can't be in the hat for the fourth round draw when it takes place on Monday afternoon.

A run in the FA Cup always comes as a terrific boost to any club. If you can keep on progressing, then the chance of pitting your wits against a top side could be just around the corner and it can be a good way to gain more confidence in the team.

It will be a tough game for us though. Swindon will make it tough, of that I have no doubt and we will need to be prepared for the game and work hard throughout because they will certainly be keen to make a good impression and progress to the next round themselves.

We come into the game on the back of a decent set of results over Christmas, so we want to maintain that run of four games without a defeat this afternoon.

All of our games over Christmas were tough matches, Sunderland are a good side and we had to play that game in



difficult conditions here, Southampton and Cardiff are both amongst the top six at the moment and we came away from St. Mary's and Ninian Park with well earned draws and Norwich City have shown this season that they are well capable of picking up good results on the road so that was another decent result for us.

I wasn't happy with the way we started the game on New Year's Day, but after the first 20 minutes or so, we improved and put in a very good team performance to take a two goal lead. When they pulled a goal back, we showed tremendous character to add a third goal just before half time and that proved to be the clincher.

I said before Christmas that it was going to be an important part of the season for us and would give us an idea of where we could go in the second half of the season.

Those results show that we can be one of the better sides in this division and as I've said all season, the players we have here are better than the league position we find ourselves in.

We now need to keep it going and pull ourselves further up the league table and make sure that in the second half of the season we can get involved in the race for a play-off place.

That is still our aim and we will be taking each game at a time and hope to keep the run of results going.

We need to concentrate on this afternoon's game first though and hopefully we can celebrate getting to the next round by this evening.

Enjoy the game,

Peter.



Eagles Newsdesk

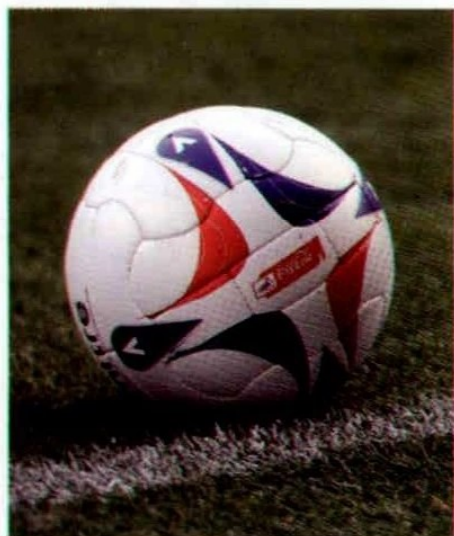


PICK YOUR FAN OF THE YEAR

The Football League Awards incorporating FourFourTwo's Top 50 Football League players are back and the search is on for the 2007 Football League Fan of the Year.

The category was a great success in the inaugural Football League Awards which took place in March 2006, and the Awards will once again recognise the commitment of fans, alongside the achievements of the players and clubs. Anybody who knows a fan who has gone above and beyond the call of duty is encouraged to visit www.fourfourtwo.com and put their nomination forward.

The winning fan will follow in the footsteps of Jeff Hall - the 2006 Fan of the Year - a fanatical Chesterfield FC supporter who demonstrated the important role fans play for their club. Jeff was presented with his award for his dedication to the Spireites over the years. The 65-year-old has never missed a match since 1958. A loyal servant to the club, Jeff has undertaken many roles at Saltergate, including stewarding and selling programmes. He has even painted the ground and often helps to clean up the dressing room after matches. The closing date for nominations is 31st January 2007.



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FA CUP REPLAY DETAILS

In the event of a today's match being level after 90 minutes the replay will take place on Tuesday 16th January 2007 at the County Ground, 7.45pm kick-off.

Ticket prices will be:

Stratton Bank Stands (Uncovered Seating)
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On the Day Adults £18 / Conc £13 / Jun £7

Further details available on the club's website at www.cpf.c.co.uk or from the box office on 08712 000071.





DON ROGERS RETURNS

The club are pleased to welcome former Eagle and Swindon Town favourite Don Rogers to today's game.

Don began his football career as an apprentice with his local club Swindon Town in the early 1960s, signing professional forms with them on his 17th birthday in October 1962.

It was somewhat surprising that he did not move to a Division One club until November 1972 when Bert Head, former Swindon boss and now manager of Crystal Palace paid £150,000 for Don.

Don returned to Swindon Town in March 1976 before he finally retired from the professional game.

Palace fans from the early 1970s remember Don as a wonderfully gifted player who left some marvellous memories of his exploits on the playing field, especially here at Selhurst.

He will be appearing on the pitch during the half-time break this afternoon.

For more details on Don's Palace career see 'Cult Heroes' on pages 50 and 51.

Club Honours

Division One Champions:

1993/94

Division One Play-off winners:

1996/97, 2003/04

Division Two Champions:

1978/79

Division Two Play-off winners:

1988/89

Division Three Champions:

1920/21

Full Members Cup:

1991

FA Youth Cup:

1977, 1978

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The Fletch Files

Hello and welcome back to Selhurst for this afternoon's FA Cup tie with Swindon Town.

We come into the game after a tough period over Christmas and we knew it was going to be hard, but to be unbeaten and have two wins and two draws out of it was good and we'd have taken that at the start.

After Monday's win over Norwich, we have had a couple of day's rest but we've been back in working hard over the last two days. Obviously we had a lot of games over a short period of time so you've got to recover when you can and now we've done that, we're looking forward to getting back into it.

We don't have any midweek games now until the end of the month so we have a week between each match to prepare for the next couple of weeks. There are both advantages and disadvantages to that, as when you're on an unbeaten run like we are you want the games to come thick and fast so you can keep it going, but it also gives the lads a chance to replenish after the games. We're just taking every game as it comes though and hopefully we can get a win today.

We can't rest on our laurels though. You always want to stay unbeaten and the main thing in the Championship is consistency and if we can get that in your team then you could be up there towards the end of the season, so every game we play we want to win and this one is no different.

If we can keep the unbeaten run going on, then that would be great but we know that we've got to keep on working hard on the training pitch and in games.

We know this afternoon's game is going to be tough, as Swindon are going quite well in their league this season and I think Paul Sturrock has proved with his teams in the past that they're always very well organised, pretty physical and generally good sides.

So, we know that if we're anything but on our game this afternoon then we could be in for a tough game.

They have some experienced players in the side along with some younger players but we've just got to try and do what we do well and if we go into it thinking that because they are in a lower league it will be an easy game for us, then we could come unstuck.

We need to treat it like any other game and show Swindon respect and I think we're quite good at doing that and we treat every team the same, because if you don't there is every chance that you can get beaten.

We will be doing our utmost to get through to the next round though and everyone is looking forward to it. It's always good to have a home draw and hopefully we can take advantage of it.

The FA Cup is something that everyone looks forward to and I have fond memories from last season when I reached the final with West Ham. The FA Cup is the FA Cup, it's always a good game and there are always a few shocks along the way, so we need to make sure that we're not one of those shocks. You never know what might happen in the FA Cup, no-one thought West Ham would get to the final last year for instance, so it's there to go at and be enjoyed.

Personally, I'm pleased to have been back in the side and having a run of games over the last couple of weeks. I came here to play football and I'm the same as everyone else here, but it's not going to be just 11 players that achieves anything at a club, it's about the full squad. So whoever plays, everyone is pushing in the same direction to achieve the goal. Competition for places is good and it keeps everyone on their toes, so we're just working hard on the training pitch and on a Saturday afternoon.

Enjoy the game,





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Mark Lawrenson and the FA Cup

"I think we were 2-0 up but we got done 3-2 and it was a big upset. Funnily enough though, when I signed for Brighton we played Scarborough when they were still a non-League team and we beat them three or four, which made up for it a little bit."

Lawro's favourite FA Cup year is 1986, when he appeared in his one and only Final and picked up a winner's medal. But his abiding memory of the day is not the goals in Liverpool's 3-1 victory over Everton or holding the trophy aloft, but something altogether more surreal.

"At the end of the game we did everything you'd expect; got the Cup, went down the steps, did the lap of honour, went back to the changing room, drank champagne out of the Cup and then it was time to get in the bath and go home.


"But then, when we went to get into the bath, we found three of our supporters in their already and fully-clothed in their suits! In those days the old Wembley baths were like a mini-swimming pool, you had to stand up. So here we had three Scousers going, "Come in guys, it's nice and warm in here." Only our supporters could get not just into the ground, and not just into the tunnel, or the dressing rooms, but into the team bath too!"

After injury brought a premature end to Mark's playing career he joined the Match of the Day team in 1997. Since then he's has seen plenty of FA Cup games, with his favourite being last year's epic 3-3 draw in the Final between Liverpool and West Ham, which brought in 11.3m viewers on the BBC.

"It's the best one I've ever seen," says Lawrenson, who's looking forward to getting back on the road to Wembley.

"The Millennium Stadium has been fantastic for football, the way the city of Cardiff has embraced it – hopefully the new Wembley will take that forward. The really great thing is that nearly everyone that goes to the Final this year will never have been to the new stadium before. It's certainly going to be another FA Cup day to remember."

The BBC will broadcast one live match from Rounds One and Two of The FA Cup sponsored by E.ON, and then from the Third Round onwards three out of four of the live games it shares with Sky. For the Semi-Final, the BBC has first-choice of the live game and the Final is shared between the two broadcasters.



It's no understatement to say that The FA Cup has always been an important event in Mark Lawrenson's life.

Growing up as a fan supporting Preston North End he experienced all its highs and lows. As a player for Preston, Brighton and Liverpool he's been on the end of Cup upsets but also had the joy of lifting the famous trophy aloft at Wembley. And now, working for the BBC as a co-commentator and pundit, he still experiences all the drama of The FA Cup first hand.

Lawrenson's first memory of The FA Cup as a fan was the 1964 Final when Preston, then of the old Second Division, played First Division West Ham United, a match he still has vivid memories of.

"I was only seven then but I remember the game well and I can still name the Preston team. We were twice in the lead but then West Ham scored two goals in the last two minutes to win 3-2. It's probably the first time I remember crying, which is a bit soft for a northern boy!"

As a player his FA Cup debut was no less dramatic, playing for Preston against non-League Scarborough in the second round in the 1975/76 season and being on the wrong end of a Cup upset.

"That's another match I'll never forget," says the former Republic of Ireland international. "I must have been 18 and I started on the left-hand side of midfield but the game should never have been played. It was thick snow, two or three inches deep, the pitch froze and the temperature never got above freezing. To be fair to our manager Harry Catterick went to the referee before we kicked off and said to him it shouldn't be played."



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From The Sidelines

Paul Caton



Since my last set of notes, we have picked up a few new injuries in the squad, so it has been a busy week for us.

Firstly, we are without Marco Reich for the next few weeks. He had a freak accident against Norwich City on Monday, as just before he had a shot at goal he got a kick on the outside of his forearm. Usually these things turn out to be a bit of bruising and can be shaken off. He was very sore at the time, but there was no evidence of instability on the bone. He gave it a few minutes to see if the pain would go away but he was still in discomfort and given that we were on the verge of half time, we saw it out and then the surgeon had a look at it. We still weren't sure but with the amount of pain he was in we decided to take him off and an x-ray the next day showed it was the right decision as he had a small crack in the bone and it's been put in plaster now for four weeks.

We've also had knocks to both of our left-backs and sometimes these things happen. Gary Borrowdale played in the Sunderland match after forcing his way back into the team. However, he felt quite sore afterwards and all the signs he was showing were of an acute abdominal strain and we gave it a few days to see if things would settle down. However, they didn't and we re-examined him and it was diagnosed as a hernia, as has happened with a few players at the club. He's been over to Germany to see the surgeon that we use who can get the players back quickly and hopefully that will all go to plan and he can be back in the next two weeks.

Danny Granville came in to replace Gary on Boxing Day and then pulled up with a tight hamstring after the Southampton game. We had a scan on it and that shows that there has been no tear but he is still quite uncomfortable with it and he's doubtful for today's game.

Julian Speroni is another one to have been incredibly unlucky after getting back into the team just before Christmas. He picked up a very similar injury to what Iain Turner sustained, as he tore a groin muscle in training. He felt it tightening up when he was kicking during the games and then the next day it was a lot more painful and a scan revealed there was a tear so he's going to be out for another two or three weeks.

We're hoping that Dougie Freedman can be fit for this afternoon though. He was withdrawn against Norwich on Monday after getting a kick on the ankle. He was in a lot of pain after the game and he has also had a scan but there's nothing too serious and co-inciding with that, the pain in his ankle has also settled down and he has been back training with the squad and has had no reaction so he should be in the squad today.

Tommy Black fractured a rib whilst he was on loan with Bradford, but he is back in training with the squad here on Monday. The rib has healed quite well though, so he should be okay.





Getting to know you

Gary **BORROWDALE**

Which Palace player has the worst haircut?

Stuart Green – he takes ages with his straighteners.

What has been your good deed for the day?

I fed my fish.

How many times did it take to pass your driving test? Two.

Do you read the newspapers? If so, which one?

Probably the Sun or whatever is lying about in the training ground.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Just relax really.

If you could, which law would you change in the country? The tax.

What is your favourite piece of clothing?

My trainers, I have a big collection.

Who is the funniest player in the dressing room and why? Wardy, the Peckham Beckham, he just makes me laugh.

If you could change places with anyone in the world for 24 hours, who would it be?

P. Diddy – he's living the life.

Have you bought anything interesting lately?

Not really, some Apple Sourz!

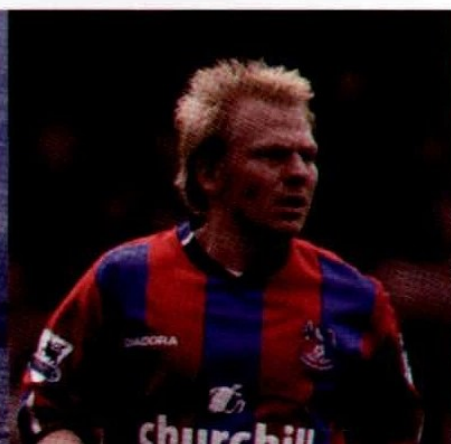
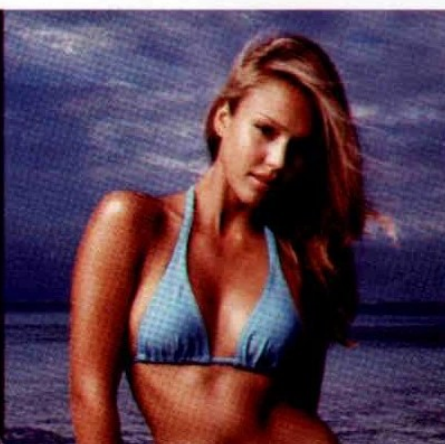
What is your dream car? A McLaren Mercedes.

If you could invite any three people for dinner, who would you choose? Jessica Alba, Christina Milian and Christina Aguilera, for obvious reasons.

Who is the most famous person in your mobile phone? Aki Riihilahti.

Which player has the worst taste in music? Dougie.

If you could be an animal, which one would you be? A dolphin.





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Today's Visitors

Swindon Town



Photo by Chris Adams

Crystal Palace v Swindon Town 17



The Opposition **Swindon Town**

This afternoon sees Palace get their FA Cup campaign for the season underway, as we welcome Swindon Town from League Two to Selhurst Park for this third round tie.

The Robins will no doubt arrive in SE25 brimming with confidence too, after enjoying a fine first half of the season so far.

A New Year's Day victory over the Milton Keynes Dons ensures that, like Palace, Town have made a winning start to 2007 and they find themselves firmly involved in the promotion race in League Two.

It has been achieved with considerable unrest about the County Ground too, with a new manager having to be appointed just a few months into the season following the appointment of Dennis Wise in the close season.

Last season saw the Wiltshire club relegated, but with a determination to bounce back the Board made the step to appoint Wise and his former Chelsea team-mate Gustavo Poyet as their new team in charge.

It all started well too, as Swindon made a flying start to the season by winning their first six games in the league to place them as the early front runners in League Two.

There were soon rumours of discontent though, with stories that Wise had fallen out with the Board over various matters and when Kevin Blackwell was sacked as Leeds United manager in late September, more rumours began to link the former Chelsea pair with their old Chairman Ken Bates at Elland Road.

Sure enough, an approach was made by the Yorkshire club and just a month after Blackwell's departure, Wise was appointed at Elland Road leaving Swindon to begin the search for a new boss again.

Experienced defender Ady Williams took charge for two weeks on a caretaker basis before the arrival of Paul Sturrock, who has got the team's promotion charge back on track.

He won his first four games at the helm, including FA Cup victories over Carlisle United and Morecambe to settle him into the job and has since picked up more impressive results to establish them firmly in the chase for one of the automatic promotion spots.

They currently sit in fourth place and are only out of the automatic spots on goal difference, but following that excellent win at second placed MK Dons earlier this week, they will be confident of enjoying a good second half to the season.

With a largely young side in place, mainly due to the productivity of the club's youth system, Sturrock will be looking to build a squad capable of lifting the club back into League One and beyond, as he managed when in charge at Plymouth Argyle.

Swindon's last visit to Selhurst came six and a half years ago in August 1999 and they went away with three points in the old First Division that day courtesy of a 2-1 win with goals from Iffy Onuora and Giuliano Grazioli, whilst a certain Clinton Morrison was on the scoresheet for Palace.

The Manager **Paul Sturrock**



It was never going to take Paul Sturrock long to find himself a new job this season, following his somewhat surprising sacking at Sheffield Wednesday earlier in the campaign.

He was out of work for less than a month before taking over at Swindon Town and is now looking to build on what was a great start to the season for the Robins.

The fact that the supporters at Hillsborough still chant his name shows just how highly regarded he was with the Yorkshire club and if rumours are true, he even has a clause in his contract allowing him to return there should the chance arise in the future.

Swindon will be hoping that is never the case though, as Sturrock has made a good impression at the County Ground since taking over the reins from former boss Dennis Wise, who left with his assistant Gus Poyet to take over at Leeds United in October after less than half a season with the club.

Sturrock has a proven track record wherever he has been as a manager, particularly in the lower leagues of English football having won three promotions with former clubs Wednesday and Plymouth Argyle.

A former striker, Sturrock was highly rated as a player and a Scottish international, as he became a legend with Dundee United in his career. He scored nearly 200 goals in almost 600 appearances after starting his career at Tannadice as a youngster.

He began his touchline career there too, as a coach before he took the step to become a manager in his own right with St. Johnstone

in 1993, where he led the club to the Scottish First Division title in 1997. His success there saw Dundee United come calling and he returned to his former club as boss the following year.

Spending two years in charge of the Tangerines proved tough though and it was in 2000 when he made his first move south to take over at Plymouth Argyle, then floundering in the basement league.

He quickly turned it around at Home Park though and built a hungry, young and talented team who would take the Pilgrims up two divisions in the space of three seasons, although he wasn't there to preside over them in the Championship having been appointed by Premiership outfit Southampton in March 2004.

It was another short stay for Sturrock though, as the St. Mary's club surprisingly dispensed with his services after less than six months in charge but he was quickly snapped up again soon after when Sheffield Wednesday appointed him.

Again, he turned a struggling side around and led the Owls to promotion back into the Championship via the play-offs in his first season at the helm. It was a terrific achievement given that they were in 14th spot in the table and seemingly floundering when he took over there.

Now he will be looking to work that magic in Wiltshire with Swindon Town and given his track record, it would take a brave person to bet against the 50-year-old, ably assisted by Kevin Summerfield as always, achieving once more at the County Ground.



Key Players

Christian Roberts

Position: Striker

A lively foil for Lea Peacock, the Welsh striker was a £50,000 capture from Bristol City back in 2004 and has been a popular player at the County Ground ever since. The 27-year-old began his career with hometown club Cardiff City but never really made the breakthrough at Ninian Park and following loan spells with both Drogheda and Hereford United, he moved on to Exeter City in the summer of 2000. He found his form with the Grecians and that prompted Bristol City to sign him. A respectable rate of goals there convinced Town to sign him and he adds pace and aggression to the front line. With three goals in two FA Cup games so far this season, he will be keen to add to that tally today.



Ady Williams

Position: Defender

The former Welsh international centre half has been a rock at the heart of Swindon's defence so far this season following his summer switch from Coventry City. Now 35, Williams has a wealth of experience under his belt having made more than 500 appearances in his career. He made his name over two spells with his hometown team and Town's local rivals Reading, where he had the distinction of playing in every position for the club in his younger years. A £750,000 move to Wolves in 1996 saw him away from Elm Park for four years before he returned to Reading's new home at the Madejski Stadium in 2000 and helped lead the Royals back into the Championship and build a platform for the success we now see them enjoying.



Jamie Vincent

Position: Defender

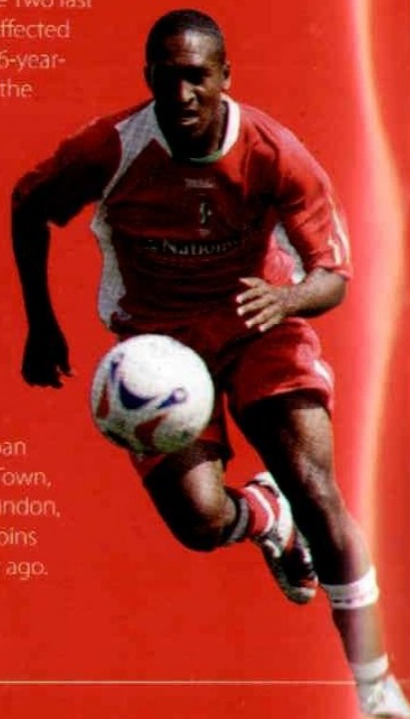
A familiar face at Selhurst Park, Jamie actually began his career with the Eagles as a youngster and went on to make 29 appearances for the club before moving on to AFC Bournemouth in 1996. Now 31-years-old, Vincent was Dennis Wise's first signing for the club earlier this season when he joined from Millwall and he has gone on to make the left-back spot his own. After leaving Palace, left-back Vincent has spent the majority of his career at Championship level with the likes of Huddersfield Town, Portsmouth, Walsall, Derby County and Millwall, costing cumulative fees of well over £1m in the process.



Aaron Brown

Position: Midfielder

A lively midfield player whose ambition to play at the highest level saw him request a transfer following the club's relegation to League Two last season. However, that hasn't affected his game too much and the 26-year-old has been working hard in the team this season to try and take them back up. Born in Bristol, Brown started his career with City in his hometown and impressed with his early performances at Ashton Gate before he was signed by Queens Park Rangers in the summer of 2004. The move didn't work out too well for him though and after finding himself on loan with the likes of Cheltenham Town, Torquay United and finally Swindon, he was allowed to join the Robins permanently just under a year ago.





One To Watch

Lee Peacock

Position: Striker

The big Scottish striker remains a focal point of Swindon's attack and is sure to pose a threat to the Eagles this afternoon should he be involved.

A powerful and experienced player, the 30-year-old has been a popular figure at the County Ground since joining from Sheffield Wednesday last January on a free transfer.

With a proven goalscoring record at almost every club he has been with, he remains a dangerous figure and will no doubt cause a few problems to League Two defences this season.

Standing at over 6'0", Peacock offers a number of options for his team-mates and is comfortable with the ball at his feet in the box or whilst on the run at opposition players.

After struggling with a knee injury towards the end of last season, a summer operation has cleared that up and the hard working hitman has been one of the first names on the team sheet this season.

Born in Paisley, Peacock started his career as a youngster with Carlisle United where he spent two and a half seasons learning his trade before heading to Mansfield Town in a £75,000 switch. It was at Field Mill where he began to make a name for himself and his record of 30 goals in 90 League games saw Manchester City lodge a £500,000 bid and he was on the move again.

Whilst things didn't work out for him as planned at Maine Road, where he made a handful of appearances in his one season with the Blues, it didn't stop Bristol City paying £600,000 to take him to Ashton Gate in August of 2000.

He proved highly successful with the Robins and netted 63 goals in 175 games to become one of the hottest properties in the lower leagues, prompting Wednesday to swoop and sign him on a Bosman free transfer in the summer of 2004, beating off the competition of numerous other clubs in the process.

His time at Hillsborough didn't go as well though, with injuries restricting his appearances there but Swindon were delighted just under a year ago when Wednesday allowed him to come back to the west country.





Player Profiles



Swindon Town Squad Statistics

Swindon Career

Player	Apps.	Goals
Goalkeepers		
1. Peter Brezovan	14	0
13. Jon Stewart	0	0
25. Phil Smith	15	0
Defenders		
2. Jack Smith	68	1
3. Jamie Vincent	20	0
4. Sofiane Zaaboub	11	0
5. Jerel Ifil	135	0
6. Ady Williams	24	0
14. Andy Gurney	176	27
15. Andrew Nicholas	112	3
34. Michael Timlin	8	1
Midfielders		
7. Gareth Whalley	29	0
8. Aaron Brown	47	4
12. Ricky Shakes	66	4
18. Paul Evans	17	4
19. Michael Pook	62	2
23. Curtis Weston	25	1
27. Ben Wells	6	0
28. Andy Caton	15	1
Forwards		
9. Christian Roberts	71	17
10. Lee Peacock	40	10
20. Royce Brownlie	17	2
21. Lucas Jutkiewicz	22	3
22. Blair Sturrock	3	0
24. Ashan Holgate	12	0

Peter Brezovan

Giant Slovakian goalkeeper who signed on a season long loan from Czech club FC Brno. The 27-year-old became an instant hero by saving two penalties on his debut for the club against Hartlepool United. Standing at 6'7", Brezovan has quickly become a popular figure at the County Ground and was named as the PFA Fans' League Two Player Of The Month in September.

Jack Smith

The former Watford man joined the Robins in the summer of 2005 and has become a regular in the team ever since. The 23-year-old began his career at Vicarage Road but found a regular spot in the team there hard to come by, hence his move west. He can play at either left or right back, making him a useful member of the squad.

Sofiane Zaboub

The French left-back joined in the summer after a successful trial at the County Ground, having previously played for FC Brussels in Belgium. The 23-year-old had trained with Aberdeen in the summer and linked up with Swindon in November.

Jerel Ifil

The big central defender joined Swindon back in the summer of 2004 following three earlier loan spells at the County Ground from Watford. His performances during those loans saw him become a firm favourite with the supporters and it was a popular move when it was made permanent. The 24-year-old has now made over 100 appearances for the club.

Gareth Whalley

The 33-year-old midfielder joined from Wigan Athletic in the summer of 2005 and will be hoping to use his experience to good effect this season. A good passer of the ball, Whalley started his career with Crewe Alexandra and went on to play for Bradford City and Cardiff City before returning north to Wigan in 2004.

Ricky Shakes

The pacy winger joined Town from Bolton Wanderers in the summer of 2005 and has established himself on the right flank with some exciting displays. The 21-year-old has also picked up international honours for Trinidad and Tobago, but narrowly missed out on a spot in their World Cup squad.

Andy Gurney

Experienced defender who is currently recovering from an ankle injury which required surgery in the summer. Capable of playing anywhere across the back four or in midfield, the 32-year-old is now in his second spell with the club having also played for Reading and Torquay United.

Andrew Nicholas

The 23-year-old defender arrived at the County Ground in 2003 from Liverpool, after coming through the ranks at the Anfield



outfit. He couldn't break into the team there though and made the decision to chase regular first team football elsewhere. Enjoyed a loan spell with Chester City in 2005.

Paul Evans

Welsh midfielder who joined from Nottingham Forest last summer and has vast experience having played over 400 games in his career. The 32-year-old has played for Brentford, Bradford City, Blackpool and Forest after starting out with Shrewsbury Town. Has a powerful shot amongst his repertoire and is something of a set-piece expert.

Michael Pook

The young midfielder has taken to life in the first team particularly well after signing his first professional contract in 2005. A box-to-box player, the 20-year-old is a product of Town's youth ranks and was always an impressive player for the juniors and reserves prior to making the breakthrough into the first team.



Royce Brownlie

The Australian forward joined Town in the summer from Queensland Roar, four years after previously having a trial at the County Ground. With an eye for goal and never afraid of trying an audacious shot, Brownlie can be used as either a striker or on the right flank, where he has featured mainly so far this season.

Lucas Jutkiewicz

A powerful young striker, who emerged through Town's youth team having previously been on the books of his hometown club

Southampton. Described as a 'boy in a man's body' by former boss Dennis Wise, he made his debut for the Robins towards the end of last season and has been involved again this season.

Blair Sturrock

Striker and son of the manager, who also played under his father for Plymouth Argyle along with spells at Dundee United, Rochdale and Kidderminster Harriers. The 25-year-old is a tall forward, who is still waiting to make his full debut for the Robins after joining early in December.

Curtis Weston

All action midfielder who joined from Millwall in the summer and has quickly established himself in the team at the County Ground. The 19-year-old became the youngest ever player to feature in an FA Cup Final when he came on as a substitute aged just 17 back in the 2004 final against Manchester United for the Lions.

Ashan Holgate

The 20-year-old is another product of Town's youth team and can operate as either a striker or midfield player. A tall and pacy player, Holgate spent a month on loan at Newport County earlier this season.

Phil Smith

The current number one choice at the County Ground, the 27-year-old was signed from Crawley Town in the summer. He had been there for two years after an earlier spell with Margate and is now looking to make his name in the professional ranks. Started as second choice to Peter Brezovan, but is now in possession of the shirt.

Ben Wells

A youth team product, currently in his first year as a professional after signing in the summer. An energetic midfielder, Wells will be looking to gain any experience possible this season.

Andy Caton

The 19-year-old can feature as either a midfielder or a striker and offers a strong physical presence given his tender age. Another player to have emerged from the youth team at the County Ground, he has been involved in the first team squad this season.

Michael Timlin

Midfielder who is currently on loan from Fulham and that is a deal that Town are trying to extend until the end of the season. A goalscorer and good passer of the ball, the 21-year-old came through the ranks at Craven Cottage but has yet to make the breakthrough into the first team there. Had previous loan spells with the likes of Doncaster Rovers and Scunthorpe United in recent years.



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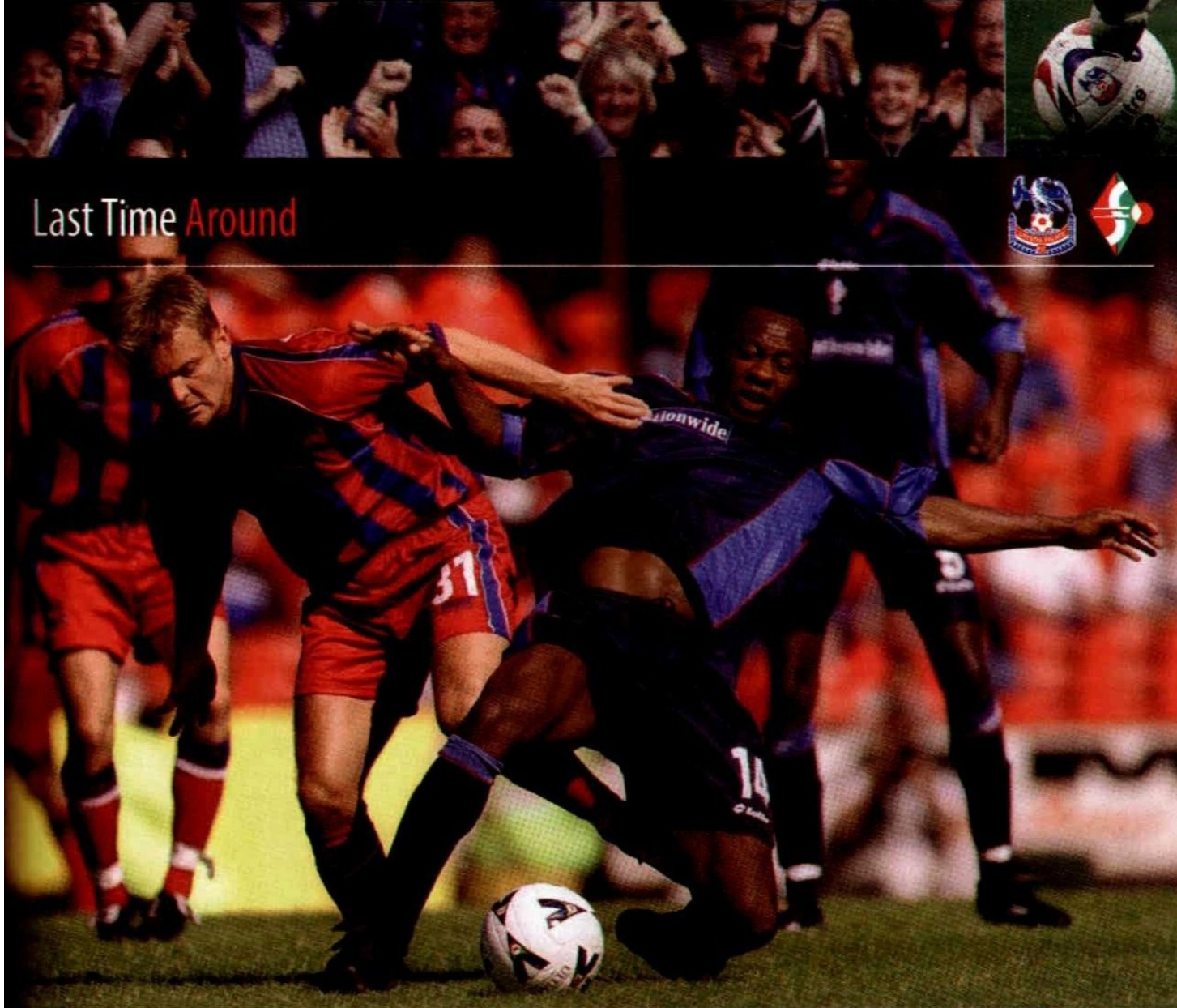
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Last Time Around

The Clubs' last meeting at Selhurst Park

21.08.99

Crystal Palace
Swindon Town

1 (Morrison 11)

2 (Grazioli 32, Onoura 50)

PALACE: Digby, Smith, Austin, Woosley (Harris 81), Linighan, Frampton (Rizzo 66), Thomson (Svensson 58), Mullins, Rodger, Morrison, Bradbury.

SWINDON: Talia, Robinson, Hall, Davies, Reeves, Davis, Howe, Ndah, Walters, Onoura, Grazioli (Hay 77).

This match was Palace's second home game of the 1999/00 season and took place on a hot, sunlit afternoon at Selhurst Park. The Eagles were unable to secure their first victory of the term though as visiting Swindon Town came from behind to gain their own opening win of the campaign.

Palace had a perfect start when Clinton Morrison netted with a delightful curling shot from the edge of the Whitehorse Lane penalty area in the 11th minute. But Palace failed to build upon this bright opening and paid the price just after the half an hour when Guiliano Grazioli crashed the ball past former Swindon goalkeeper Fraser Digby from the closest possible

range with an acrobatic overhead kick after Palace's defence had failed to deal with a Town corner.

Then, five minutes into the second half big Swindon striker Iffy Onoura showed real opportunism in turning a cross shot from Grazioli into Palace's net from a yard or so as the ball ran towards the unguarded left side post. Palace's response lacked conviction despite the use of all three substitutes and Town gained their third consecutive victory over the Eagles at Selhurst Park, to the obvious delight of their former Eagles men Gareth Davies and George Ndah.



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So, come on in and see us looking our birthday best.

YOUR M&S



Matchday Message Board

Happy 13th birthday today to Josh Godfrey. Love from mum and dad.

Happy belated birthday to Bradley who was seven on 23rd December 2006. Love from auntie Mel and uncle Paul

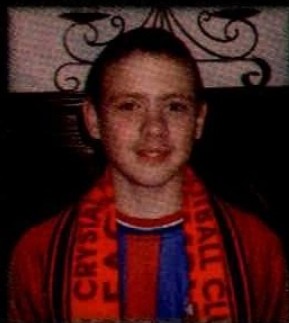
Happy 60th birthday today to Pauline Muggridge, with love from her husband Chris.

The winner of the Selhurst Super Draw at the match against Sunderland on 22nd December was Angie Button of Kingston. Angie went home with £675 thanks to the lucky numbers 3542.



The winner of the Selhurst Super Draw at the match against Norwich City on 1st January was Steve Blaker of Croydon. Steve went home with £700 thanks to the lucky numbers 1450.

Happy 21st birthday to Martin Fitzgerald from mum, dad and Claire.



Happy 14th birthday Kristian. How on earth have you survived 10 years of watching Palace! Best wishes from mum, dad, Marla, Ernily, Joe and Otto the Bassett Hound. xxx

Happy 16th birthday to Craig Connery. Love from mum, dad, Liam and Megan Crystal Alice. x



Happy 60th birthday Pauline. Love from the Gibbons family. x

A big Eagles welcome to Katie Pockett on your first visit to Selhurst Park this afternoon. Katie will be sitting in the Main Stand with fiancée Marc. We wish Peter Taylor and the team good luck for today's game! We hope her first visit will leave her feeling glad all over!



Happy birthday to Daniel Brownlee and Philip Haywood who are both celebrating their 16th birthdays in January.

Happy Birthday to Natasha Powell. 25 YEARS OLD TODAY (or quarter of a century as someone might say!). Hope you have a great day, and get everything you 'put on your list'. Lots of love Nathan.X(big kiss).

Happy Birthday to Josh have a great day lots of love from all the family





Away from SE25

Any Arsenal fans grasping groggily for the aspirin this morning after a heady Friday night should head back to bed. As hangover cures go, the return of Thierry Henry, who made his first team comeback in Tuesday's Premiership drubbing of Charlton after five wearying weeks on the sidelines, is without equal.

It is often said that no one player is bigger than the club who employs him, but Henry might just be the exception. He is Arsenal's most talented, most marketable, most outspoken and most highly-paid player, a man whose dogged determination to marry aesthetic idealism with the cold-blooded business of winning is matched only by the man who employs him, Arsene Wenger.

He inevitably marked his return with a goal, saw another wrongly chalked off

for offside, provided two assists and generally performed the Messianic role to perfection. It was as if he had never been away.

And yet, for the first time since he arrived at the club from Juventus as a disenchanted winger in 1999, Henry's status as Wenger's chief Untouchable is under threat. While he remains irreplaceable, recent events have given the lie to the theory that he is indispensable. Odd though it may seem, given that Arsenal pulled off the remarkable feat of making a Sheffield United midfielder look unbearable in goal during a dismal 1-0 defeat last Saturday, the north Londoners have played their best football this season when their talisman has been in absentia. Henry's struggles with sciatica have given Wenger a window into the future, and the prospects are stunning. The talents and maturity of Francesc Fabregas, Emmanuel

Adebayor, Ashley Cole and Kolo Touré have been obvious for some time now, but it is the development of Arsenal's B list which will give Wenger most pleasure.

Robin van Persie, in particular, has matured at an astonishing rate and comparisons with Dennis Bergkamp appear to be rooted in more than just wishful thinking. His penchant for the spectacular now prompts more than the odd gasp from the crowd: without his goals, Arsenal would be seven points worse off, and cast adrift amongst the Premiership's flotsam and jetsam.

The same is true of Gilberto. The Brazilian has enjoyed his most prolific season in an Arsenal shirt but, more than that, he has proved himself the team's natural leader. His breathless performance against Watford on Boxing Day – where he made decisive contributions at both ends of the



with **Andrew Fifield**

pitch - was reminiscent of Patrick Vieira in his all-action pomp, and there is no greater compliment than that, or at least not to Arsenal fans.

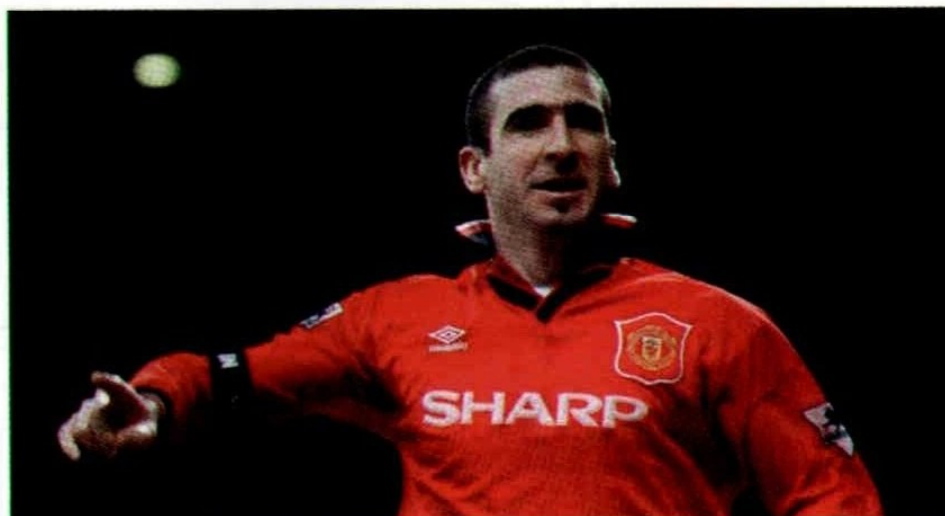
Gilberto is that rare breed of footballer, the unassuming type, but he sets a tireless example and Wenger has suggested that his quiet demeanour hides a raucousness which makes him a dressing-room favourite.

Now compare him to Henry. The latter is a supreme artist blessed with that rarest of gifts, the ability to transform a match with a casual flick of one of those preternaturally long legs, but captaincy does not become him.

It is not that he is alien to the team ethic and neither is his oft-trumpeted passion for Arsenal feigned. But geniuses are rarely easy company. Henry is a notoriously demanding team-mate and while his point-blank refusal to accommodate those who do not live up to his standards might have enabled his own career to flourish, they are not traits usually associated with an armband.

A parallel could, perhaps, be drawn with Eric Cantona. The former Manchester United midfielder held a similarly iconic position at Old Trafford as Henry does at the Emirates, and nobody contributed more to the side's success in the mid-1990s. Indeed, without Cantona's extraordinary performances at the fag-end of the 1995-96 season, Newcastle's aeon-long wait for silverware might have been shortened by a decade.

Yet although Cantona did lead United towards the end of his career, he never seemed the best candidate for captaincy. The tantrums were too numerous, the temperament too fragile. His style was less 'follow-the-leader' than 'watch-in-awe', a point neatly observed by Roy Keane in his autobiography who wrote, with an affectionate mix of reverence and ridicule: "Collar turned up, back straight, chest stuck out, he glided into the arena as if he owned the ***** place. Any arena, but nowhere



more effectively than Old Trafford. This was his stage. He loved it, the crowd loved him."

The demise of United was widely predicted when Cantona surprisingly announced his retirement in 1997, and yet the shunting of such a pivotal figure to the sidelines merely allowed the club's exceptional crop of youngsters - David Beckham, Nicky Butt, Paul Scholes, the Nevilles et al - to prove their class on the greatest stages of all. It was as if the retirement of Cantona served as a liberation: it gave the rest of the team space to breathe and the results were spectacular.

The same is true of Arsenal and Henry. Freed from his magnificent, but moody, presence, Wenger's young cavaliers have been largely excellent, always excepting the odd hiccup which is the bane of any side in transition.

Nobody has benefited more than Emmanuel Adebayor, the striker whose on-field relationship with Henry has been stormier than most. In a humdrum league game against Charlton last March, Adebayor sparked a volcanic reaction from his skipper - all flailing arms, bellowed obscenities and turf-pummelling frustration - by opting to shoot from a tight angle rather than pass.

If Adebayor's indiscretion had come at a pivotal moment in a delicately-poised match, such enervation would be

understandable, but Arsenal were already three goals up. Henry's very public display of irritation with a colleague still adjusting to the peculiar rigours of English football merely suggested that it was he, rather than Adebayor, who should have been issuing the apology.

But times have changed, and now it is Adebayor who carries Arsenal's attack. He has blossomed into a forward of exceptional strength, pace and movement and he has developed a priceless habit - shared, it should be said, by Henry - of delivering at crucial times. Three of his seven goals this season have been winners and Arsenal's tame defeat at Bramall Lane can be attributed to Adebayor's absence through injury, as much as Henry's.

It is surely no coincidence that the 22-year-old's transformation from misfit to maestro has taken place with Arsenal's No14 watching ruefully from the stands. Before Henry was injured, Adebayor appeared to visibly shrink in his presence, utterly undermined by the Parisian's star-spangled reputation. Now that the Togoese has proved his talents on his own terms, he should discard the inferiority complex. An emboldened approach will be one of several changes Henry might notice in a side that will continue to flourish long after he has strode into the sunset.



Action Replay

 **Coca-Cola** CHAMPIONSHIP

When Palace play Norwich at Selhurst Park there are usually goals, and it was no different this time as the Eagles beat the Canaries 3-1.

Despite three games without defeat Peter Taylor made six changes. Leon Cort, Dougie Freedman, Michael Hughes, Marco Reich and Kuqi all came into the starting line-up with Jobi McAnuff, James Scowcroft, Clinton Morrison and Mark Kennedy all on the bench, while Danny Butterfield and Ben Watson did not make the 16 man squad.

The match nearly got off to a disastrous start for the Eagles as the Championship's leading goalscorer, Robert Earnshaw, shot wide from a narrow angle after a mix up between Cort and Scott Flinders. The Eagles soon got a grip of the ball though, but in a deathly silent atmosphere both sides struggled to get going.

It seemed that both sets of supporters and players were suffering from New Year's Day hangovers as entertainment and efforts on goal were few and far between in the first 10 minutes. However, the visitors burst into life and had three great chances in a matter of minutes. First Dickson Etuhu's low cross was scrambled clear before Darren Huckerby hit the bar after cutting inside from the left. The Norwich forward did the same seconds later but this time Flinders pulled off a good save low to his left.

Palace couldn't settle and Norwich continued to test Flinders through a Doherty header and a Carl Robinson strike but luckily both went straight at the young goalkeeper.

After a disappointing opening 25 minutes Palace took the lead. Green's corner from the left was headed back across goal by Cort and Hudson rose highest to nod home from just in front of the goal-line.

The goal was just the boost Palace needed and three minutes later they scored a second. Freedman collected

a loose ball on the halfway line and sprinted forward before sending a pass through to Kuqi on the left hand side who calmly fired past Paul Gallacher in the Norwich goal.

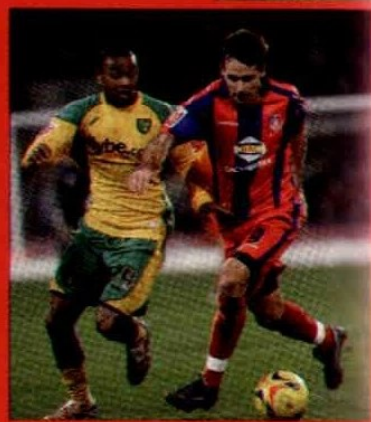
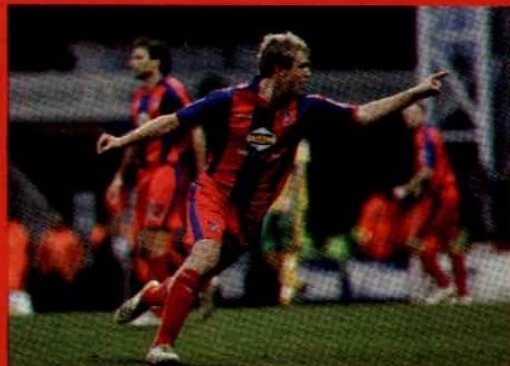
Confidence was sky high in the Palace camp as half-time approached and Reich shot narrowly wide from the edge of the box before Hudson headed into the side netting from another Green corner.

Just before the break though Norwich got a route back into the game when Earnshaw scored from the penalty spot after Youssef Safri's free-kick hit the hand of Carl Fletcher. It was a bad time to concede for Palace but they still went in two goals up at half-time thanks to a fantastic finish from Green. Kuqi ran onto a Darren Ward long ball before laying the ball back to the winger who crashed a first time left-foot drive into the net from around eight yards out.

As expected Norwich put Palace under pressure at the start of the second period and in the 55th minute Cort did well to put off Earnshaw as he came close to converting an Andy Hughes cross in the six yard box. A few minutes later Cort went close with a stooping header from substitute McAnuff's right wing cross and Michael Hughes was denied by a great tackle from Gary Doherty.

Freedman hit a snap shot from the edge of the box just wide in the 62nd minute as Palace sought another goal to kill off the match but the visitors were piling forward and substitute Dion Dublin went close with a volley from 10 yards.

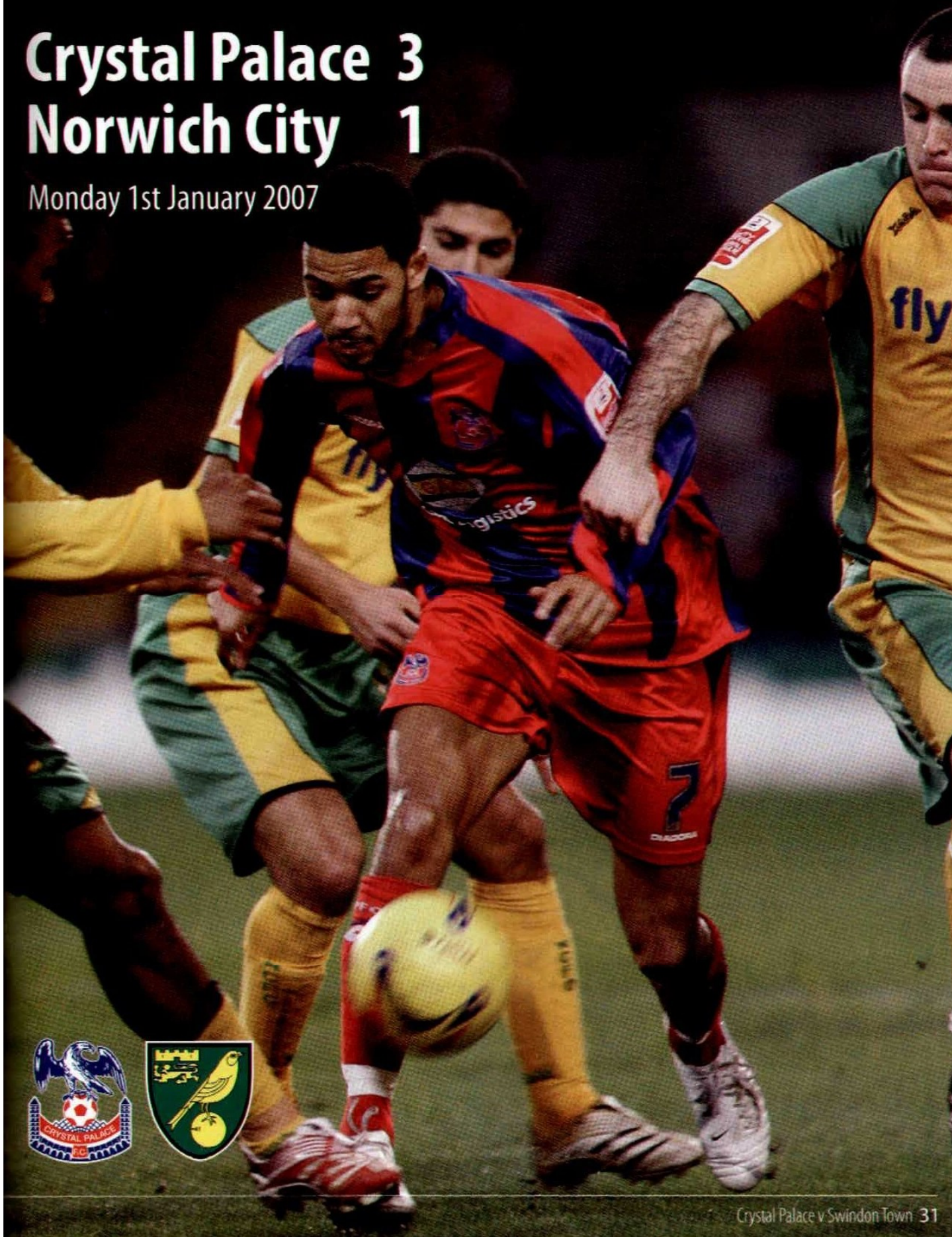
Chances came and went for Palace as time ticked away with McAnuff heading over from a Green cross, Fletcher striking wide from the edge of the penalty area and Kuqi heading inches wide from a Morrison cross in the dying seconds, but it didn't matter as Palace finished their Christmas and New Year programme unbeaten and with eight points out of 12.

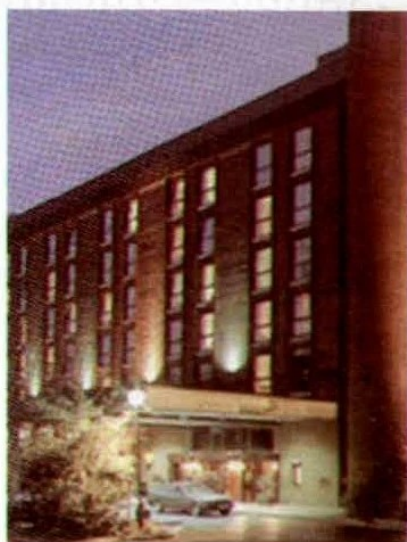




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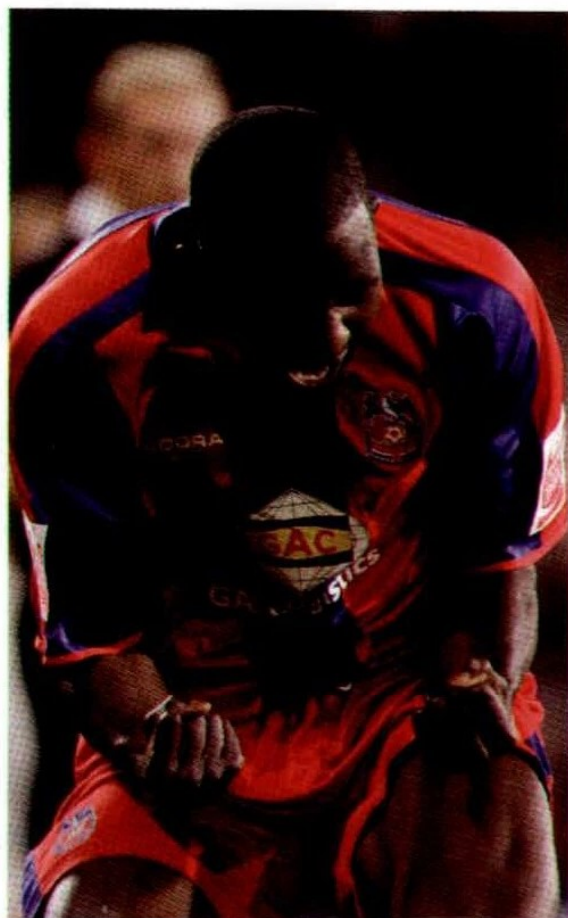
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On The Airwaves



BBC London's Tom Watt

Talks footy in his regular column

I'll spare you the clichés about this competition and that's not an easy promise to make, I assure you. I get as misty-eyed as the next sentimental old git about the first weekend in January and the Third Round of the Cup. Suffice to say, we're the only country in the world with an occasion anything like it. We might, these days, undervalue the thing ourselves but it's worth remembering that, everywhere else, they get more excited about the old tin pot and its history than they do about their own domestic knock-out competitions.

That said, this isn't necessarily the kind of draw to set pulses racing around Selhurst. That's not meant to be disrespectful about Swindon anything but, as Third Round ties go, though, it's one which casts a club that's far happier as the giantkiller in the role of the giant to be killed instead. They'll have trundled up the M4, the Swindon team and their supporters, knowing they're guaranteed a good day out however the game goes. The only way this afternoon will make headlines would be if the visitors were to win themselves a place in Round Four. Palace? It's a hiding to nothing, isn't it, for a Championship team?

It's been a pretty bumpy ride at the County Ground – most of it downhill – since relegation from the Premiership, at the first time of asking, back in 1994. There are signs, just at the minute, though, that the tide's beginning to turn for Wiltshire's finest. A new board couldn't stop Swindon being relegated from League One last season, but over the summer, Dennis Wise and Gus Poyet arrived, bringing optimism and a few column inches with them, and the club made a very respectable start to life back in League Two.

As soon as Kevin Blackwell departed Elland Road, the money was always going to be on one of Ken Bates' all-time Chelsea favourites

joining Leeds. Losing a newly-appointed management team could have been a body blow to Swindon's ambitions. What goes around, though, comes around. Wise and Poyet leaving might not have been ideal but the timing of their going couldn't have been much better.

Sheffield Wednesday showed Paul Sturrock the door at around the same time and, as far as I'm concerned, Swindon are probably better-equipped for a promotion season now than they were back in August. Sturrock's got nothing to prove but, I'd guess, feels like he wants to go ahead and prove something anyway. Getting his new club out of the bottom division will do for a start.

Right now, Swindon are where they want to be in the table, tucked up in the promotion places. Palace, of course, are anything but. So, who needs a run in the FA Cup more? Swindon are going to push on anyway, aren't they? They've plenty to do getting on in the league. For Palace, on the other hand, this season of all seasons, the first Saturday in January feels like a chance to start all over again.

The first half of the Championship campaign has been enough to have supporters – and the manager – crawling up the walls: frustrating, inconsistent, disappointing hasn't been the half of it. You – and Peter Taylor – will know better than me why it's gone how it's gone. It's like a jigsaw puzzle: looks like most of the right pieces are in the box; blown, though, if you can find the right place to get the thing started. But I'm an optimist as well as being a sucker for a bit of tradition. This mightn't be the first time a team discovered that one-offs in the Cup turned out to be the key to getting the week-to-week stuff right in the league.

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Kent County Cricket Club, Worsley Bridge Road, Beckenham,
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Tel: 01689 860522
Darwin Sports Centre, Jail Lane, Biggin Hill, Tel: 01959 540606
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Pavilion Leisure Centre, Kentish Way, Bromley,
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Priory Sports Centre, Tintagel Road, Orpington,
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Palace Radio 1278am

Eight points over the holiday period - we would have taken that beforehand, no question! We're still nine points off the play-off places so we can't rest on our laurels. Four wins from our last five home games is the sort of form we need to maintain. Now we must produce that form away from Selhurst. A look at the upcoming fixtures suggests that we have half a chance. We must start at Coventry next weekend. It doesn't have to be pretty, but as we move into the second half of this campaign results are all that matters. Our defending has been much better of late and young Scott Flinders deserves a special mention for coming back to his best after a disappointing start to his Palace career.

I know from the calls we get into the station that the FA Cup holds a special place in the hearts of all Palace fans, so we look forward to this afternoon's Third Round tie against Swindon with relish.

We fondly remember our march to Wembley in 1990, but a more remarkable journey to the semis in 1976 with a young Peter Taylor in his prime, is a memory cherished by older fans.

Leeds, Chelsea and Sunderland, all huge clubs at the time, succumbed to our talented winger who took them apart one by one. A trip to Wembley as a Third Division side would have been assured if Southampton had not used strong arm tactics to keep PT quiet in the semi-final.

Let's hope today is the start of another long FA Cup journey.

Jerry Clark - Palace Radio presenter.
020 8653 5796
studio@palaceradio.net

Show Times:

Midnight - 7am: Non-Stop Music Mix

7am - 8am: The Golden Hour with Trevor Smith

8am - 10am: The Late & Lazy Breakfast Show with Nigel Wearing, Sarah Hughes and Laura Ashley

10am - 12noon: Good Morning Selhurst with Terry Byfield and Dave Comley

12noon - 1:30pm: The Wibbly Wobbly World with Chris Green and Bill Relyea

1:30pm - 3pm: Fixture Focus with James O'Reilly, Trevor Hayes, Keith Jeffcoat and Don Madgwick

3pm - 5pm: Live Match Commentary with Eamonn Marren and Bill Relyea

5pm - 6pm: Your Shout with Nick McDonald and Clive Bowden

6pm - Midnight: Match Replay and Non-Stop Music Mix



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Player Feature

Stuart Green

Palace star Stuart Green is looking to continue where he left off on New Year's Day this afternoon, providing he is selected of course!

The midfield ace took his tally to two goals from only two starts for the Eagles by notching the third goal against Norwich City here on Monday to seal a 3-1 victory over the Canaries and ensure Palace's holiday schedule finished without a defeat.

Now Green is hoping he gets the chance to add more to his record this afternoon, with a place in the starting 11 again the immediate aim.

The 25-year-old believes he has more to offer to the team when playing from the kick-off, rather than having to make an impression in a limited scale of time from the substitute's bench and after his man-of-the-match display in the first game of the year, is hoping he gets the nod again this afternoon.

Given his goals-per-games ratio, Green is now concentrating on working hard to keep his place in the side whether that's in training or when he has the opportunity out on the pitch.

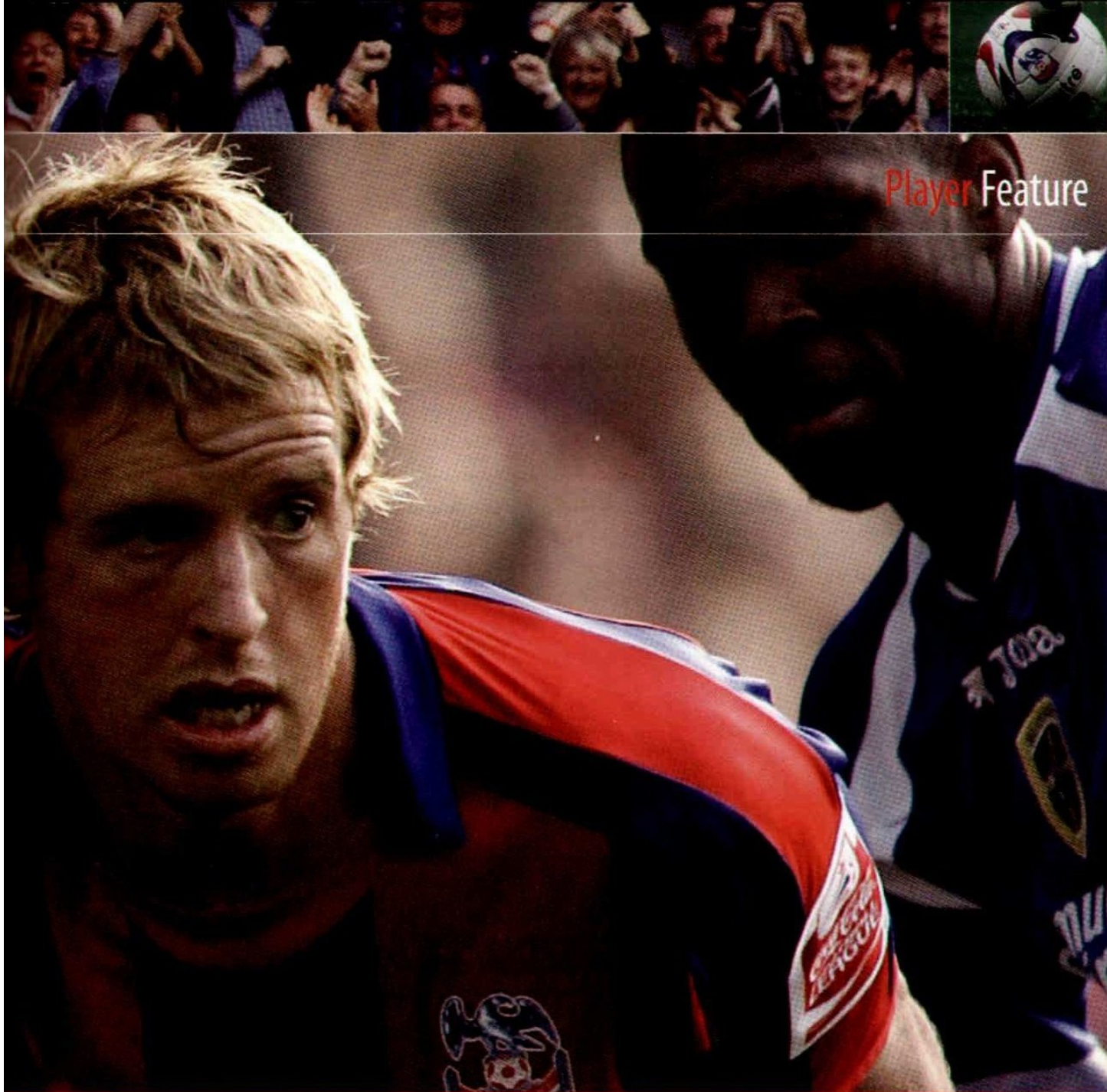
"It's been a difficult time, but I've just had to keep my head down

and work hard in training," admitted Stuart, following his first full 90 minutes for the club earlier this week, a good achievement considering the lack of recent match practice.

"After 60 minutes or so, I thought that the hard work put in in training had paid off and I managed to keep going.

"It doesn't help that in your first game back you're up against Darren Huckerby though and the first 20 minutes were very difficult for us!

"We got the goal though and things calmed down then and at times, I



Player Feature

thought we were terrific and it was a good team performance after those first 20 minutes.

"The Christmas period has been tough for us and we haven't played brilliantly but we've had some great results and hopefully we can build on it now."

Green has had to show his patient side since his switch from Hull City on the final day of the August transfer window, with Palace's sizeable squad meaning chances to impress have been few and far between to date.

Capable of playing as a right-sided

midfielder or through the centre, Green feels he can offer more to the team's cause over a longer period of time and with that chance now possibly upon him, is doubly determined to make an impression.

"I've had a lot of substitute appearances and maybe I haven't done a lot coming on with 20 minutes to go, but I don't really count sub appearances because I've never really been a fantastic substitute," he explained.

"I give it everything I've got, but it's two goals in two starts now so I'm

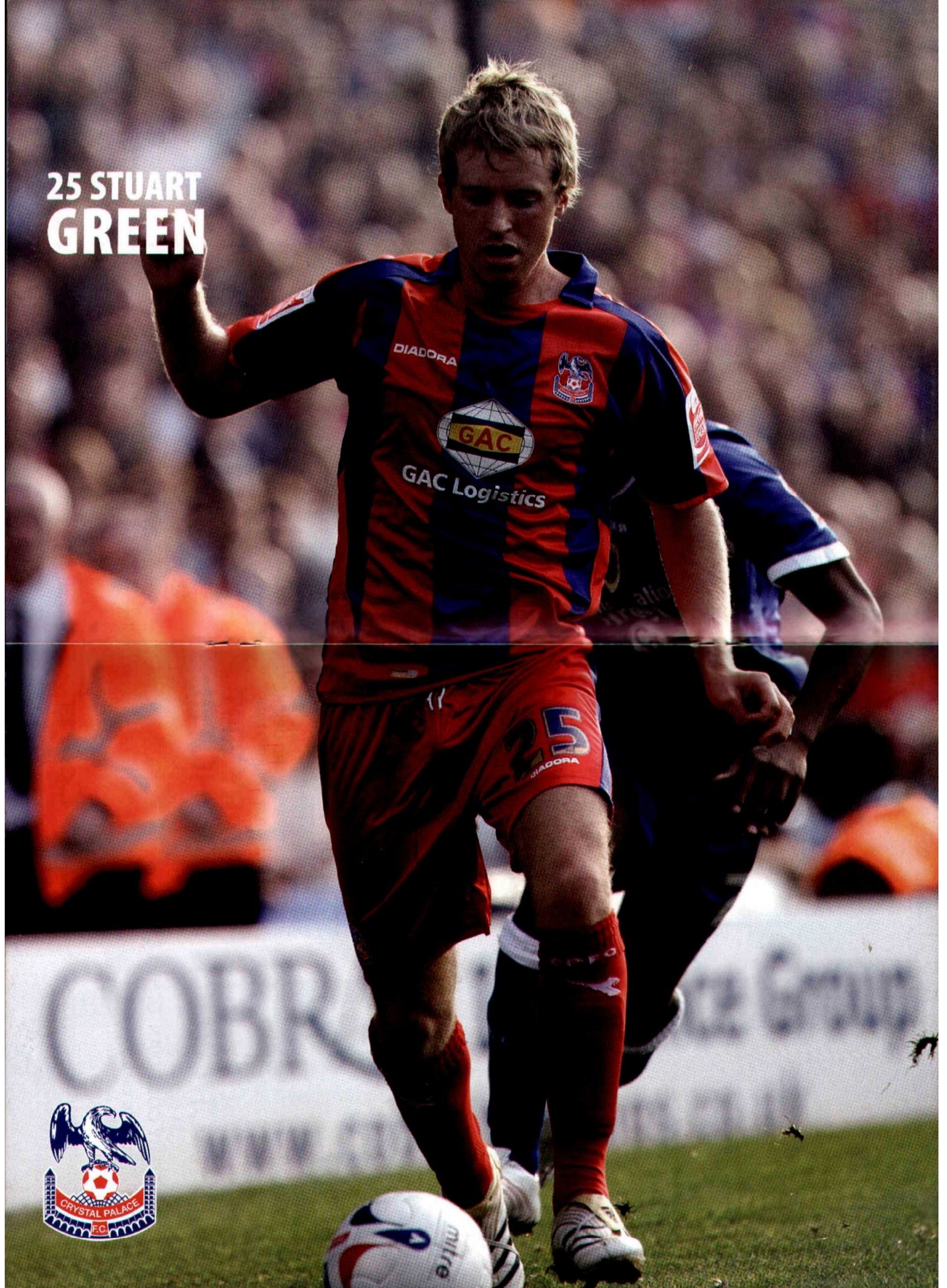
delighted with that."

His first goal for the Eagles came back in mid-October, when he netted a tidy equaliser against Cardiff City at Selhurst Park, but then found himself back out of the team for the following game and that is something he doesn't want to see happen again.

However, given the squad of players at Peter Taylor's disposal, Green knows that there is always going to be fierce competition for a starting berth, particularly in the midfield positions.

Continued on page 43

25 STUART
GREEN





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Player Feature *continued*

"I was disappointed last time to miss out after I'd scored," he admitted. "But with the squad of players we've got here, you've got to think to yourself that you're not at a lower league club, you're at a big football club with fantastic players and if it happens again, it happens again."

"If I play on Saturday, then I'll hopefully try and do a similar thing and keep it going."

Having worked under Taylor for a number of years at the KC Stadium before following him south to SE25, Whitehaven born Green always knew that he would get a chance to impress, so along with the team who are now four games unbeaten, it's all about finding the consistency to take into the second half of the campaign.

"I've worked with the manager for quite a long time now and I know that if you work hard and show your commitment, then he will give you an opportunity," explained Green.

"I didn't think it would take this long, but I've stuck in there and kept working."

"Since I've been here, we haven't been good enough and we know that as a squad."

"We've seen the signs that if we can perform like we did after the first 20 minutes (against Norwich), there's no reason why we can't make the play-offs and we'll certainly be giving it a good go."

This afternoon sees attentions turned away from the Championship though, as Palace begin their FA Cup campaign against Swindon Town.

It always comes as a welcome distraction at this time of year for everyone, with the dream and benefits of a cup run in the minds of fans, players, managers and officials across the nation.

Whilst a home draw is always a bonus, the former Newcastle United junior has enough experience to know it will be a tough game for Palace, despite people looking at Swindon's League Two status and expecting a home win.

"People will look at Swindon and think it's going to be a win for us, but it's not an easy tie," he admitted.

"They'll come and make it difficult for us, they will want to enjoy their day and we will have to be switched on from the start."

"We'll be looking to get an early goal and try to make it a bit easier for ourselves than we did against Norwich."

"A cup run is important to every club and we're looking to keep our recent run going and get into that next round."

Along with another fine performance, that would represent a perfect outcome for the affable Stuart, who's determined to prove himself at the Palace.



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SOUTHERN

Cup Chatter

with Andrew Fifield

Torquay is not renowned for much - a touch of the Basil Fawlty's, of course, and an unwanted reputation as one of God's larger south-coast waiting rooms. But now the town is attracting headlines, albeit unwanted ones, after its football club was taken over by Chris Roberts, a London-based businessman and former footballer who was described as having "his feet on the ground" by the club's old owner Mike Bateson.

That prediction, sadly, now seems a little misguided. Roberts immediately sparked a furore at Plainmoor by threatening to sack any players found to repeatedly con the referee by diving. It was, in many ways, an admirable stance, but it caused huge unrest among United's playing and coaching staff, to the extent that Ian Atkins, the manager, resigned weeks later.

Roberts, true to form, decided the obvious candidate to rescue Torquay from a League Two relegation battle was Lubos Kubik, a former Czech Republic defender with 56 caps to his name. Unsurprisingly, things have gone from bad to worse, with United recently hitting rock bottom after a five-game losing sequence. Kubik is being placed under pressure to sell leading scorer Jamie Ward, whose progress has been monitored by a clutch of Championship clubs, and he now admits he might not even be in charge for today's south-coast derby with Southampton. "I really don't know some things which are going on here," he said, echoing the thoughts of football followers nationwide. "I am really unhappy about the situation, not only in the locker room. If I know I can't help here I will say so to the chairman and we can finish here."

.....

This may be the weekend which sparks much unabashed gooiness from football's dwindling band of romantics, but not everybody is joining in the fun. There has been much consternation amongst lower league clubs at the BBC's decision to televise the singularly uninspiring tie between Manchester United and Aston Villa tomorrow. That is hardly surprising, given the infinitesimal odds of a Villa upset - they have not beaten United since the opening day of the 1995/96 season - and the fact that the £250,000 cheque handed to sides featured in live coverage could perhaps be better spent at grounds other than Old Trafford. Still, if the choice boils down to keeping a League Two minnow in business for a few more months or paying three weeks of Rio Ferdinand's salary, there is only one winner.

.....

While we're on the subject of a lack of seasonal cheer, spare a thought - if you can - for Millwall supporters. The Lions' cup run may have come to a grinding halt by the time you read this because, as on every other FA Cup occasion this season, the club were forced to play their tie with Stoke City on a Friday night



Rio Ferdinand

following 'police advice'. Apparently there was simply no way the Staffordshire constabulary could cope with the prospect of a 1,000 beery south Londoners descending on the Britannia stadium in daylight hours, despite the fact that Saturday afternoon league meetings between the clubs are hardly exceptional events. The same was true of Millwall's second round tie with Bradford, which was also brought forward 24 hours, despite both teams playing in League One. As a result, around 200 hardy Millwall followers were forced to negotiate the M1 on a Friday night, and all for a dubious reward of a goalless draw. Some might smile and say that the Lions are simply paying the price for making the lives of rival supporters a misery for countless years, but the ridiculous fixture scheduling at least suggests that it is not simply paranoia which fuels the Den's favourite war-cry of "No-one likes us."





Ticket Info

Match: Coventry City
Venue: Ricoh Arena, Coventry
Date: Saturday 13th Jan 2007
Kick-off: 3pm



Tickets for this match are now on general sale. Prices:
Adults: £22 **OAPs, students & 16-18s:** £11
13-15s: £10 **7-12s:** £9 **Under 7s:** £8

Match: Hull City
Venue: Selhurst Park, London
Date: Saturday 20th Jan 2007
Kick-off: 3pm



Tickets for this match are now on general sale. Prices:
Adults: £25-45 **Concessions:** £10-30

Match: Sunderland
Venue: Stadium of Light
Date: Tuesday 30th Jan 2007
Kick-off: 8pm



Tickets for this match are now on general sale. Prices:
Adults: £24 **OAPs:** £14 **Under 16s:** £8

Selhurst Park Stadium Plan



Through The Palace Gates

with Chris Waters

Hull City

Saturday 20th January 2007
Coca-Cola Championship
Key Player: Nicky Barmby

Palace will look back on the festive season with a smile after going through the four game period unbeaten against some decent sides, and are now slowly moving up the table in the right direction. The next home game sees the Eagles welcome another team that has recently hit form as the Tigers come to town.

Peter Taylor's former club went all out to snare Colchester boss Phil Parkinson in the summer but his tenure was unexpectedly brief and disastrous as his new team won just five games before he was sacked after a 4-2 thumping at home to Southampton in early December.

Former Derby manager Phil Brown stepped up to the plate as caretaker manager before landing the job permanently after picking up 10 out of a possible 18 points since his appointment, including a convincing 4-1 win over Cardiff and an impressive 2-1 away win at high-flying Sheffield Wednesday – a win that moved City out of the relegation zone.

BROWN OBJECTIVE

"The objective is to stay in the Championship," said Brown. "We've got a 20 game mini-series now to get points on the board. Hopefully the club will stay in this division."

After Iain Dowie apparently turned the job down, ex West Brom and Nottingham Forest boss Gary Megson was meant to be a front-runner, but it would have been hard for chairman Adam Pearson to look beyond Brown, a man desperate for another chance at management after being sacked as Derby boss just seven months into the job early last year.

Brown had joined the Rams after being a successful part of the Bolton coaching staff, but after defeat at home to Colchester in the FA Cup and lying sixth bottom of the Championship the Derby board lost patience.



FAGAN FORM

Key to Hull's recent upturn has been the form of striker Craig Fagan and veteran Nick Barmby. Fagan, a 2005 capture from Colchester, has hit three goals in six games since Brown's appointment while Barmby slammed in a brace against Wednesday.

Now 32-years-old, the former England midfielder has only started seven games this season but scored four goals, and his football brain makes up for any lack of pace with his precise passing and clinical finishing. The only question is whether the midfielder can keep fit and help play his home-town club out of trouble.

Palace have a decent home record against the Tigers and haven't lost to City since 1985. The last clash here between the two sides was just over a year ago when goals from Clinton Morrison and Andy Johnson sealed a 2-0 victory. The Eagles will be keen to avenge the last-minute equaliser at the KC Stadium that denied them three points in September and a win will help propel them up the table towards the coveted play-off positions.



On The Road

Coventry City

Saturday 13th January
Coca-Cola Championship
Kick-off 3pm

Coaches:

Depart Holmesdale Road at 9.30am and are priced at £23 for Eagle Gold members, £26 for Season Ticket holders and members and £29 for Guests.



By Road:

Leave the M6 at junction three then take the A444 towards Coventry city centre. At the first traffic island go left and you will see the Ricoh Arena on your right.

follow the signs for the 'Jaguar/Racquet Centre' to take you to the parking facility. The Club are asking fans to pre-book their Park & Ride space by calling 0247 623 6986.

Parking:

Parking at the stadium is for permit holders only and fans are encouraged to use the park and ride facilities or a satellite car park. The park and ride scheme costs £7 per car (including return bus travel to the stadium for all the cars occupants) and is located at the Jaguar Research and Development Centre in Whitley. Continue on the A45 towards Coventry and at the large roundabout that is the junction with the A46 continue on the A45. At the next roundabout

By Rail:

Coventry train station is about three and half miles away from the stadium. There is a shuttle bus that operates from the bus station to the stadium. It departs every 10 minutes and costs £3 return (for adults), otherwise jump in a taxi.

Sunderland

Tuesday 30th January
Coca-Cola Championship
Kick-off 7.45pm

Coaches:

Depart Holmesdale Road at 12pm and are priced at £36 for Eagle Gold members, £39 for Season Ticket holders and members and £46 for Guests.



By Road:

Exit the A1 at the Durham/Sunderland exit and take the A690 towards Sunderland. After about eight miles, turn left onto the A19, signposted for the Tyne Tunnel. Stay in the left hand lane and take the Sunderland slip road onto the bridge over the River Wear. Turn right onto the A1231 following the signs for Sunderland. Go straight over four roundabouts into Sunderland. Then go through two sets of traffic lights and you will see the Stadium car park on your right, about a mile after the traffic lights.

There is also a park and ride scheme in operation on matchdays, free for both home and away supporters. This is situated at Sunderland Enterprise Park, which is well signposted just off the A1231. Buses run every five minutes for 90 minutes before kick off and continue after the game until everyone has gone.

By Rail:

Sunderland train station in the city centre is within 15 minutes walking distance of the stadium. Exit the train station between WH Smith and the bakery then turn left and walk down High Street West before turning left again to walk up Fawcett Street to the Wear Bridge. From here you can see the stadium as it is on raised ground.

Parking:

There is limited parking at the ground, so supporters can park in the city centre and walk to the ground (about 10-15 minutes).



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From the Archives

with Ian King

Ian King looks back to a match between Crystal Palace and our visitors from seasons gone by.

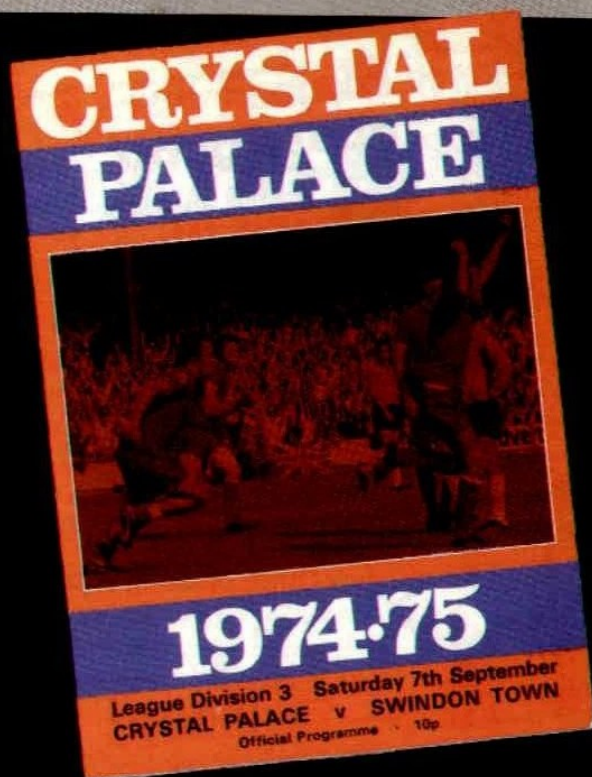
Saturday 7th September 1974

Division Three

Crystal Palace 6 Swindon Town 2

PALACE: Paul Hammond, Roy Barry (Don Rogers), Stewart Jump, Jeff Johnson, Derek Jeffries, Mel Blyth, Mark Lindsay, Alan Whittle, David Swindlehurst, Nicky Chatterton, Peter Taylor.

SWINDON: Jim Barron, John McLaughlin, John Trollope, Terry Hubbard, Ron Potter, Colin Prophett, David Moss, Dave Syrett (Frank Burrows), Peter Eastoe, Joe Butler, Hugh McLean.



Relegation from Division Two in April 1974 meant that Palace were tasting life back in the Third Division for the first time in 10 years and that was not the proposition manager Malcolm Allison envisaged when he took up the reins in March 1973. Our visitors Swindon Town had also been relegated with us as they travelled to Selhurst Park for this fourth game of a season that both clubs were already finding a bit difficult.

Malcolm Allison had already brought Welsh centre-forward Wyn Davies to the club on loan but a dose of flu ruled him out of

facing the Robins and David Swindlehurst deputised while Don Rogers had been dropped by Allison for the previous week's game at Halifax but was back on the bench for this fixture against his former club.

PALACE'S FIVE GOALS IN 11 MINUTES

On a blustery afternoon Palace began by playing plenty of close football and with captain Roy Barry linking well with Peter Taylor on the right, John Trollope in the Swindon defence had a torrid time, being booked after only seven minutes for a high tackle on Taylor. Barry in fact grazed the bar in the 18th minute and 60 seconds later crossed for left back Stewart Jump to shoot the Eagles into the lead from 20 yards following a mix-up between Hubbard and McLaughlin. This started a blitz of goals as Palace netted five times in 11 minutes, which was claimed as a League record.

Two minutes after the opening goal there was a long punt downfield in the wind towards the Holmesdale Road goal and Swindlehurst managed, under pressure, to head the ball over Jim Barron and towards the net where a despairing lunge by a Swindon defender failed to clear the ball before it was ruled to have crossed the line. The tall England Youth international striker scored his second goal and number three as Alan Whittle rode three tackles and set him up to shoot home three minutes later. In the 29th minute Taylor had gathered the ball in his own half and set off down the right wing, outpacing Trollope and cut the ball back from the by-line for Whittle to tap in for number four and 60 seconds later defender Colin Prophett handled a cross from Taylor and Whittle scored from the spot.

At half-time the 13,964 crowd were in raptures while statisticians groped for the record book (it is considered Palace's quickest sequence of rapid scoring) and inevitably the match lost some



Peter Taylor, after a dazzling run down the wing, crosses the ball from the byline for Alan Whittle to hook home to score the fourth goal.



momentum in the second half although the sharpness of Whittle and the runs from Taylor continued to menace the Robins' defence. However, it was the visitors who produced the next goal of the game when after an hour's play Palace keeper Paul Hammond could only parry a shot from Dave Syrett and Peter Eastoe was there to sweep home the loose ball. Stung by this Palace conjured up a reply five minutes later through Nicky Chatterton whose 20-yard shot took a deflection off Joe Butler to wrong foot Barron. However, Eastoe had the final say with the Robins' second goal 10 minutes from time, punishing some shoddy defensive work. Don Rogers came on for the injured Barry and almost added a seventh as he clipped a shot narrowly wide of a post.

DON ABOUT TO LEAVE

The newspapers had been rife with rumours that Malcolm Allison was prepared to let Don Rogers leave the club and this continued into the Sunday morning papers after the game. During the summer it was known that Chelsea were interested in Don and

this added to speculation after the Swindon game that he was going to be part of a transaction that would bring the Blues striker Ian Hutchison to Selhurst Park. Deals were struck within the next seven days as first long-serving defender Mel Blyth was allowed to join Southampton and then to the surprise of most Rogers did leave Palace in a swap deal, not for Chelsea but their West London Rivals Queens Park Rangers. Coming the other way would be Rangers reserve centre-half Ian Evans and their skipper Terry Venables, the latter stunned by the move and for probably the only time in his life "lost for words". During the same week the Eagles current goalkeeping coach Tony Burns made his debut for the club when brought in to replace Hammond for the game at Southend on the Friday 13th September while Wyn Davies made his third and final appearance on loan from Blackpool.



CULTHEROES

with Alex Warner

Don Rogers

I always felt a bit sorry for Palace fans growing up in the mid to late 1990s when all we ever did was hark on about the glory years of Wright and Bright. I know how you feel as my late 1970s Eagles induction was dominated by folk nostalgically going on about the great Don Rogers.

It's testimony to his greatness that even though we were marching towards the pinnacle of the top flight and had such starlets as Kenny Sansom, Jim Cannon, Billy Gilbert and Vince Hilaire, that everyone was yearning for the return of Don. Though it grated occasionally, the yesteryear obsessives did have a point.

Surprisingly Rogers does not appear in the Reverend Nigel Sands' otherwise excellent book '100 All Time Palace Greats', though arguably he featured in the top dozen or so most talented players to appear for the club. Indeed, Don is in the company of Johnny Byrne, Cannon, Ian Wright, Mark Bright and our beloved Dougie Freedman as one of the most affectionately talked about wearers of the Eagles shirt.

If we thought the world of Rogers, then supporters of today's visitors Swindon Town believed him to be some kind of deity figure. It's hardly surprising given that Don scored two goals in extra time at Wembley in 1969 to win the League Cup for them.

Born in the old Somerset mining town of Midsomer Norton, Rogers made his debut for Swindon Town in a 4-1 win over Southend in November 1962. After scoring in the FA Youth Cup Final the following season, Rogers came of age in the 1966/67 campaign where he scored 18 league goals. He was Swindon's top

scorer with 32 goals including seven in Swindon's FA Cup run the next season and despite attracting great interest from leading clubs, he remained loyal to the Robins.

It was in 1968/69 that Rogers presence reached fever pitch within the game with Don scoring his most famous goal, racing from the half-way line to round Bob Wilson and incredibly clinch Third Division Swindon's giant-killing extra time victory over Arsenal in front of a massive 98,130 fans at Wembley. A year later, Town (now promoted to the second tier) reached the FA Cup Sixth Round against Leeds whose manager Don Revie altered his entire formation to ensure that Rogers was man marked.

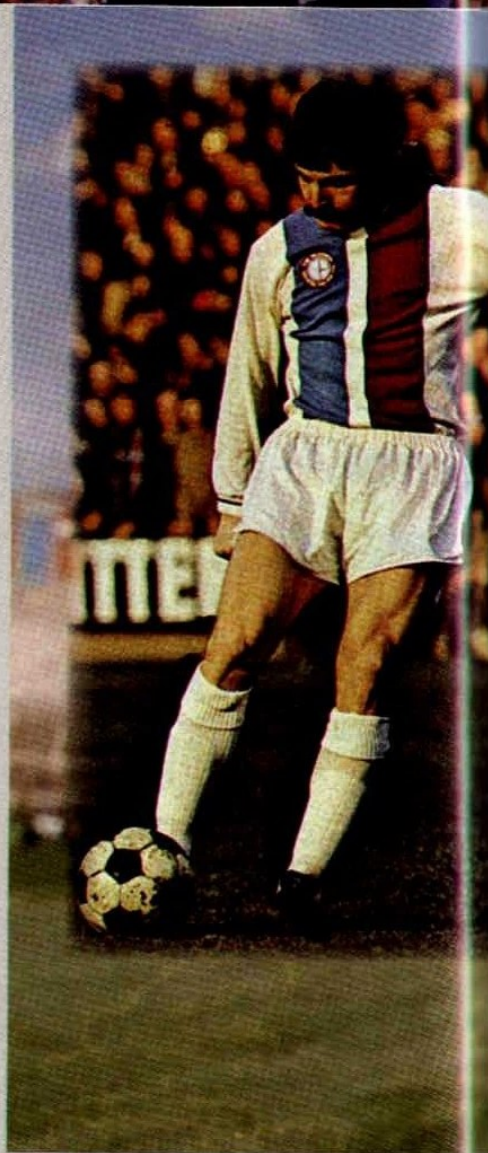
Although Swindon went on to win the Anglo Italian Cup they fell on hard times financially and former Robins boss Bert Head splashed out a Palace record fee - £150,000 - to bring Don to Selhurst in Autumn 1972. We'd had an abysmal start to the season and Head was in desperate need of a proven goalscorer. Rogers fitted the bill and scored the game's only goal on his debut against Everton in SE25 - an audacious solo run climaxing in a nonchalant flick over the bemused keeper. He ended up netting 13 times from 26 games that season.

Don had blistering pace, a lethal left foot and great innovation. His creativity, coupled with explosively accurate shooting, meant that watching him was a prosaic experience. He could dance past whole defences, either on the wing or in the middle - it mattered not where he was on the park. The real shame was that Rogers lacked a strike partner and the following season became a marked man

as sides worked out that without Don flourishing fully, Palace had little else to offer. It's testimony to his skill that he still managed to find the net on 15 occasions in a side that was relegated for the second successive season.

Under Malcolm Allison, Rogers' role was less aggressive in midfield and he lost his spark before moving to QPR in September 1974. In departing to Loftus Road, Rogers was continuing to contribute - his transfer was part of the deal which brought Terry Venables and Ian Evans to Selhurst, paving the way for the successful emergence of the 'Team of the Eighties'!

Part of the nostalgic reverie around Don is that he symbolised a showboating, stylish seventies era for the Eagles which, though not ultimately successful, was invigorating





and witnessed the transformation of Crystal Palace from a humdrum lower division outfit to a charismatic club punching its weight in the top flight and cups. Don Rogers, Malcolm Allison, Peter Taylor, Alan Whittle, Vince Hilaire and John Burridge all stand out as representing all the fun and frolics that were integral to supporting Palace during this dizzy decade.

That famous televised image of Rogers terrorising Manchester United during our mud-drenched 5-0 victory at Selhurst in December 1972 makes the hairs bristle on the backs of every Palace fan, as he scored two cheeky goals and inspired another couple. ITV commentator Brian Moore was rhapsodising hysterically as Rogers teased United into submission and our romp that afternoon encapsulated a

crazily chaotic era, during which countless photos of the period depict Don's dress sense hilariously epitomising all the hideously gaudy and bizarre fashions of the early 1970s. His mud-stained baggy shorts, droopy Mexican bandit moustache, silly sideburns, dark floppy hair, horrendous flairs and ridiculous wide collared shirts were a sight for sore eyes and appear on page after page of Palace history books. In some team shots, Don's rather tubby figure and cheeky pose make him look almost feminine like in that classic claret and blue vintage kit! Take a look at Hy Money's outstanding pictorial masterpiece 'Hy on Palace' and you'll see what I mean. There's also a fab shot on Money's website of her with Don in which he is sporting a truly garish jacket that is in a class of its own in terms of rank awfulness – eclipsing

anything your favourite aunt might errantly offer as a Christmas present.

It's outrageous that Don never represented England though unlike many cult heroes, his tale is totally unblemished and he returns, once again, to Selhurst today as a true legend in the eyes of both sets of appreciative supporters. Don retired from football with dignity, running a sports shop in Swindon, as well as finding time to make several visits to SE25 as well as talk with great affection about Crystal Palace in the Centenary DVD, where the camera reveals just a hint of that dodgy coiffeur that symbolised seventies Selhurst.

Welcome back Don and long live those nostalgic yearnings in SE25 and Swindon.

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Sounding Off

with Rob Fox



in there.

Well, things are sort of back to normal in the Fox's den after the Christmas period. But even though it was a decent break, it's still hard trying to motivate yourself to get back to work.

It started well, as we did just enough on the Friday night game against Sunderland to claim the three points, and then two credible draws against Southampton and Cardiff City. I was able to go to the match at Ninian Park, and it was a pleasure meeting some of you. The weather was atrocious wasn't it? Driving up, once we were over the bridge and into Wales, the rain just streamed down making driving a precarious business. Most of the carriageways had surface water and it was pretty scary I can tell you. Still, we made it there and back in one piece, so that's ok.

Then we had Norwich at home on New Years Day. Well, being that I only had two glasses of wine ALL day, and was in bed by 11.30pm, I was feeling great that morning!

I arrived at the ground around noon and went to see all the people that I have contact with on a matchday and I felt quite sorry for those who were still suffering from their New Years Eve celebrations. Still, most seemed to have had a good time.

We certainly seemed to be under the cosh for the first 20 minutes or so, but once we got that all important first goal, and then a second just a couple of minutes later, after that we never really looked in trouble. Poor old Mr Huckerby. Palace Radio mentioned that he must be the most booed player at any one game over the season.

I have to admit that I was excited as soon as I saw the team sheet. I predicted the right score of 3-1 to people just prior to the game; I wish I had had a flutter now. There will always be discussions as to who are the best forwards to start with in a game, and so far, as far as I can see, it's definitely Dougie and Shefki for me. It's great to have the additional talents of Clinton and James, and who knows we might even play three strikers in some games. For me, Dougie's ability to make things happen is key. He also has the knack of bringing in those around him to contribute to the game and from what I've seen so far, the Scot and Finn duo seem to have a great understanding between them.

But of course, today we can forget about the league and think of our FA Cup exploits this season. Even though we are playing a club who are below us in the league, we must not underestimate them, because if we do, well, look what happened against Notts County! A good cup run helps not only the club on a revenue basis, but all

the time we're winning will give the players confidence. I'd love to see us do really well, and to get a Premiership club or two along the way would be fantastic. Bring 'em on, that's what I say!

Well, it's Tuesday night as I type this, and this evening saw the start of the new programme on ITV called *Fortune*, featuring our Chairman Simon Jordan. Well I've just watched it, and it's a bit like *Dragons Den* meets *Jim'll Fix It*! I thought SJ came across well, as did a couple of the 'contestants', especially the little lad who was pitching for a fully equipped caravan for CLIC Sargent, a charity that cares for children and young people with cancer. It's not ground breaking TV, but I'll definitely be watching next week.

Right, new for 2007 on my page, is 'Foxy's Funnies'! Each home game will feature a joke to get you chuckling. (I hope!) If you have a favourite, why not drop me a line here at the club and it could get featured.

Right, that's it from me, remember, be loud, be proud be Palace!

'Come on you LAGLES!'

Enjoy the afternoon

Rob



Fans' Eye View

with Laurie Dahl

It's one of the most treasured days of the season by fans; FA Cup Third Round day. Everyone, Swindon included, will be dreaming of a romantic run in the Cup and if Millwall can get to the Cup final, anyone can.

I trust your Christmas was an enjoyable time. The win over Roy Keane's Sunderland and holding top six Southampton at St Mary's and Cardiff at Ninian Park certainly helped the turkey sandwiches go down.

The ironic Jingle Bells cries of 'oh what fun it is to draw away' may betray a reassessment of expectations. The promotion campaign that seemed to be up and running after the win over 10 man Leeds hasn't yet come about but Peter Taylor is firmly setting his sights on the top six. It looks a long shot, but if anyone knows it's a realistic aim it's the man who manages, and is closest to, the players.

I might say I haven't the foggiest how Palace beat Sunderland but I did manage to see Mark Hudson's winning goal through the mist. There were periods when it looked like the match might be heading for abandonment but by the end of the game the fog was no worse than it had been at the start.

Given events at Anfield earlier there must be credit due to the referee Lee Probert. Quite what Sky TV would've said if he abandoned the game only they'll know. The game recalled an FA Cup Third Round replay at Vale Park. Having drawn 0-0 at Selhurst, Port Vale hosted a game that was shrouded in deep fog and behind the goal the Palace fans couldn't see much beyond half way for much of the game.

It was a great moment to see the players emerge from the mist, arms raised, acknowledging a goal none of us had seen. It took a call back to London on one of those newfangled mobile phones to my friend's girlfriend, listening to the commentary on the radio to ascertain

who the scorer was. The news filtered across the sparse terrace that it was Ian Cox who had scored the Palace goal. Unfortunately we saw more Vale goals in the one net we could see and we were knocked out losing 4-3. It remains the most extreme fog in which I've seen half a game.

One pleasing aspect of the 1-0 win over the Mackems was the performance of Julian Speroni, who earned both his first clean sheet and win in the league. It was a good reward for the Argentine who has patiently filled the substitute goalkeeper role since his signing in 2004. He's performed with distinction in League Cup games over that time but really grasped his chance this time.

Well, he would have if it wasn't for a groin injury that meant two games after his recall to the first team he was forced out. That presented a chance for Scott Flinders at Southampton on Boxing Day. Flinders has struggled somewhat since his £400,000 signing from Barnsley this summer. Taylor gave him the Number one jersey ahead of Gabor Kiraly which was a clear indication of the manager's high opinion of the young England Under 20 keeper. Flinders, who bears an uncanny resemblance to Richard McCourt, of Dick and Dom in da Bungalow fame, was under immense pressure on Boxing Day but put in a sterling performance to repay his manager's faith at last.

Flinders' handling was secure and he showed his best handling from corners yet. It was certainly his best match yet for Palace. He was comfortable enough to have stuck big stickers of Shefki Kuqi's face on the Southampton strikers at corners, while shouting 'Bogies' in their ears, and he wasn't covered in creamy muck muck at the end of the game. It would've been good if he did the Pants Dance at the final whistle but receiving the congratulations of his team mates sufficed. Flinders was helpless for the Saints goal that took the wind out of our sails, having withheld a

late onslaught in the first half, just after the restart. Going behind seemed to give Palace an impetus they'd lacked thus far and they soon equalised through Jobi McAnuff to set up the favourite song of the red and blue army. The Eagles went close to a second goal through Marco Reich and had a good penalty shout for handball but it wasn't to be, despite Kenwyne Jones' sending off.

Charlton fans received a good Christmas present, when Alan Pardew was appointed on Christmas Eve. The saga at the Valley has been a joy to behold





as a Palace fan. They may not have traditionally been rivals, but the relish that accompanied our relegation from the top flight at the Valley means many of us now hold a grudge against the Valiants. That was compounded when Iain Dowie swapped Selhurst for the Valley. The foolish sacking of Dowie after only 15 games, when his record in the individual games was better than Alan Curbishley's in the corresponding fixtures the previous season, saw the mysterious promotion of a certain Les Reed. Looking like an accountant you'd dread to be stuck with at a party, Reed was all over the papers,

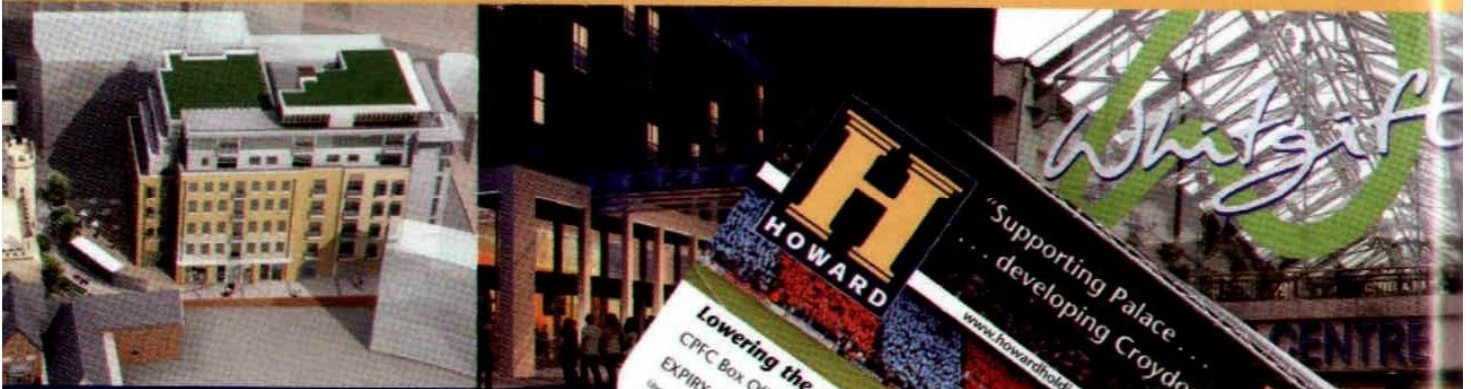
radio and TV like a rash during his time in charge. It was as if he knew his time in the limelight would be brief and he wanted to make the most of it. Perhaps he fancied himself as BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2007. It says something when, 10 days after being given a three year contract (after Alan Pardew was linked with the Valley hotseat), it is still no surprise that he's sacked. If ever there was a clearer example that some men can coach and some can manage, this was it. We'll watch our former hero Pard's time at the Valley with interest. He's started like a train and what chance of Pard's

saving the Addicks at the expense of Alan Curbishley's West Ham? I still fancy Charlton to drop. So much for Charlton fans' arrogant 'We'll never play you again' chants.

Enjoy the game today, let's hope we can have a little run in the Cup.

Come on you P's!

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Palace Ladies



Happy New Year from everyone at Palace Ladies

Palace's first home fixture of 2007 will be in the Surrey Cup against either Surbiton Town or Corinthian Casuals on Sunday 21st January.

All the Ladies' home games are played at Whyteleafe FC. For more information please visit www.cplfc.co.uk

Ladies Fixtures 2006/07

2006

Aug 20	Watford	L 1-5
Sept 3	Keynsham Town	W 6-3
Sept 17	Bristol City	D 2-2
Sept 24	Millwall Lionesses	L 2-6
Oct 1	Brighton & HA	D 1-1
Oct 4	Barnet	W 2-1
Oct 15	AFC Wimbledon	P-P
Oct 22	Portsmouth	L 0-4
Oct 29	Portsmouth	D 1-1
Nov 5	Reading Royals	L 0-4
Nov 8	Watford	L 1-2
Nov 12	Reading Royals	L 0-1
Nov 19	Keynsham Town	L 0-1
Nov 26	Millwall Lionesses	P-P
Dec 3	AFC Wimbledon	L 1-2
Dec 10	Bristol City	D 1-1
Dec 17	Southampton	P-P

2007

Jan 14	Brighton & HA	A
Jan 21	Barnet	A
Feb 4	West Ham Utd	H
Feb 25	AFC Wimbledon	H
Mar 4	West Ham Utd	A
Mar 11	Southampton	A

Womens Premier League South

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Watford	13	12	0	1	56	21	36
Portsmouth	11	8	3	0	34	10	27
Barnet	13	7	1	5	28	20	22
Millwall Lionesses	11	6	2	3	29	16	20
Bristol City	14	5	5	4	27	27	20
Reading Royals	12	6	1	5	21	21	19
Keynsham Town	13	5	1	7	30	36	16
West Ham Utd	12	4	3	5	14	17	15
Crystal Palace	13	2	4	7	17	32	10
AFC Wimbledon	11	3	1	7	11	29	10
Brighton & HA	12	2	2	8	27	45	8
Southampton	13	1	4	7	18	36	7

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SECOND ROUND		RES.	REP.	PENS.
Aldershot Town	Vs Basingstoke Town	1-1	3-1	
Barnet	Vs Northampton Town	4-1		
Bradford City	Vs Millwall	0-0	0-1 aet	
Brighton & Hove Albion	Vs Stafford Rangers	3-0		
Bristol City	Vs Gillingham	4-3		
Bristol Rovers	Vs AFC Bournemouth	1-1	1-0	
Bury*	Vs Chester City	2-2	3-1	
Darlington	Vs Swansea City	1-3		
Hereford United	Vs Port Vale	4-0		
Kings Lynn	Vs Oldham Athletic	0-2		
Macclesfield Town	Vs Hartlepool United	2-1		
Mansfield Town	Vs Doncaster Rovers	1-1	0-2	
Milton Keynes Dons	Vs Blackpool	0-2		
Rushden & Diamonds	Vs Tamworth	1-2		
Salisbury	Vs Nottingham Forest	1-1	0-2	
Scunthorpe United	Vs Wrexham	0-2		
Stockport County	Vs Wycombe Wanderers	2-1		
Swindon Town	Vs Morecombe	1-0		
Torquay United	Vs Leyton Orient	1-1	2-1	
Tranmere Rovers	Vs Peterborough United	1-2		

FA Cup 2006/07



FA Cup Fourth Round 27th January 2007

FA Cup Fifth Round 17th February 2007

FA Cup Quarter Final 10th March 2007

FA Cup Semi Final 14th April 2007

FA Cup Final 19th May 2007

THIRD ROUND		RES.	REP.	PENS.
Barnet	Vs Colchester United			
Birmingham City	Vs Newcastle United			
Blackpool	Vs Aldershot Town			
Bristol City	Vs Coventry City			
Bristol Rovers	Vs Hereford United			
Cardiff City	Vs Tottenham Hotspur			
Chelsea	Vs Macclesfield Town			
Chester City	Vs Ipswich Town			
Crystal Palace	Vs Swindon Town			
Derby County	Vs Wrexham			
Doncaster Rovers	Vs Bolton Wanderers			
Everton	Vs Blackburn Rovers			
Hull City	Vs Middlesbrough			
Leicester City	Vs Fulham			
Liverpool	Vs Arsenal			
Manchester United	Vs Aston Villa			
Nottingham Forest	Vs Charlton Athletic			
Peterborough United	Vs Plymouth Argyle			
Portsmouth	Vs Wigan Athletic			
Preston North End	Vs Sunderland			
Queens Park Rangers	Vs Luton Town			
Reading	Vs Burnley			
Sheffield United	Vs Swansea City			
Sheffield Wednesday	Vs Manchester City			
Southern United	Vs Barnsley			
Stoke City	Vs Millwall			
Tamworth	Vs Norwich City			
Torquay United	Vs Southampton			
Watford	Vs Stockport County			
West Bromwich Albion	Vs Leeds United			
West Ham United	Vs Brighton & Hove Albion			
Wolverhampton Wanderers	Vs Oldham Athletic			

*Bury have since been disqualified from the competition



A^{To}Z ABCDEFGHIJ

Welcome to a feature where we take a look at many things related to Palace, going from **A** and working our way through to **Z**.

Today it's **P** for play-offs.

Originally introduced by the Football League as a way of settling both promotion and relegation issues, the play off's have been kind to Palace since their inception in 1986, with the club benefiting from promotion to the top flight three times out of the five that we've taken part.

After a few seasons, the relegation part of the idea was scrapped in 1988/89 and Palace's first participation in the competition came about in May 1989 when we met today's visitors Swindon Town.

In the early years of the play offs, the format was also slightly different. For the teams finishing in those coveted spots, they would have to play each other both home and away in the so called 'semi final' match, before then going on to play the other side left in the play offs, once again in both home and away matches (there was no single leg final at Wembley to start with).

So for Palace, their first ever flirtation with the play off idea saw them lose by a single goal (which came about courtesy of a spectacularly lobbed own goal from distance, by Palace's Jeff Hopkins), before the Wright/Bright combination dispatched Swindon 2-0 in the home leg of the tie, to get us through to the final.

We then faced off against Blackburn Rovers. Palace had finished third, with Blackburn fifth, but as has been proven over the years, none of that tends to matter in the play-offs.

After a tense tie in the away leg at Ewood Park, Palace found themselves 3-1 down at the end of the first game, with Eddie McGoldrick bagging a vital away goal to keep the Eagles in it. It could have been possibly worse, as Blackburn themselves missed a penalty that would prove costly come the game at Selhurst Park in early June 1989.

With a deficit to climb from the first game, and in front of a crowd of 30,000, they took the game to Rovers.

Ian Wright scored from Alan Pardew's cross in the opening quarter of the game, and Dave Madden added another courtesy of a penalty just after half time in front of the ITV cameras.

Extra time beckoned and arrived, and with only a few minutes left on the clock, Ian Wright scored another to cue up a pitch invasion minutes later as Palace were promoted as winners, 4-3 on aggregate.

Our next appearance in the play offs came in 1996 when after challenging Derby for second spot and automatic promotion to the Premier League, Palace eventually lost away at Derby in the league late that season to miss out on second. In the end we settled for third place and a two legged tie against our friends from Charlton.

After a poor start in the early stages of the away leg, Palace came back from a goal down to lead 2-1 at the end of the match, courtesy of strikes from loan defender Kenny Brown and midfielder/striker Carl Veart, who stooped low to head home in the first game.

The tie was virtually over in the opening 20 minutes of the return match at Selhurst when Ray Houghton lashed in a shot from distance to give Palace a 1-0 win in the home game, 3-1 overall on aggregate.



The final itself (at Wembley of course) turned out a disappointing affair, and Palace went down to the odd goal in three against Leicester. Andy Roberts opened the scoring for us with a well taken low shot from outside the penalty box, but Marc Edworthy conceded a penalty to make it 1-1 and of course, our old friend Steve Claridge popped up in the last seconds of extra time to shin a mis-hit cross into the net, giving Nigel Martyn no chance.

Palace finished third but were met with disappointment. However, the very next season things improved as they finished sixth and went back to the play off finals at the end of season 1996/97. After overcoming Wolves during the usual two legged affair (including a couple of cracking Dougie Freedman strikes in the home leg and a thumper from David Hopkin in the away



with Alan Russell

LMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

game) this left Palace with another play off final to contest at Wembley.

On a blisteringly hot day, the red and blue lined up against the white as Palace took on Howard Kendall's Sheffield United. As these games go, the finals (with so much at stake) are quite often not classics, and the game was settled with the immortal words of "Hopkin, looking to curl one ..." that have become burned into the mind of any Palace diehard as a 1-0 victory and last minute win, did to the Blades what Leicester had accomplished to us a season before.

That was the end of Palace in the play offs for a few years, and it wasn't until a remarkable run of games and surge up the table under Iain Dowie during 2003/04 that we were back again.

With a sixth placed finish under our belts, it was home first for a 3-2 victory over Sunderland, with each of Andy Johnson, Neil Shipperley and Danny Butterfield scoring with fine well placed efforts. As anyone who was there will tell you, the away trip to the Stadium Of Light was a nervy affair two days later and Palace, after dominating the opening quarter of the game, were hit by two quick sucker punches to make it 2-0 to Mick McCarthy's men.

Despite scoring twice, Palace only needed one goal to claw it back and after surviving the second half sending off of Julian Gray, our nerves were tested to breaking point when Darren Powell popped up in the dying seconds of normal time to power a header into the net at the far post from Shaun Derry's corner.

The extra time came and went and it was down to penalties to see who had the most steel in their blood.

After a couple of misses apiece, it was Michael Hughes who became the hero of the day when he dispatched the winning penalty to send Palace to Cardiff for a Millennium stadium final against favourites West Ham.

Once again it was another hot day, and with Palace in charge for the opening part of the game, it was Neil Shipperley who stepped up to the plate with a second half winner from close range to get Palace promoted again, and give the club a 100 per cent record at a ground where most fans haven't seen their team play.

Following another season at the top level it was back to the play offs again for Palace last season, but this time round for the first time, we failed to make the final stage. A 3-0 deficit at home to Watford left a mountain to climb in the away leg, and the second game itself was devoid of much action from either side and finished 0-0.

So that's a potted history of Palace play offs so far.

With the competition now firmly part of Football League folklore though, it's likely we'll be in for many more nerve jangling and exciting rides through it again in the not too distant future.



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Kit Symons' All Time XI

Ever wondered who the idols of the Crystal Palace players may be? Well now you have the chance, as we find out who the members of the Eagles squad and management would choose if they were to pick an all-time favourite XI.

It could be players they've played alongside, friends from their youth team days or the world stars that we see on the international stage - it's a chance to show tactical acumen (as available too, as whatever formation they prefer can be used).

This week, we hear from first team coach Kit Symons, who selected a side from players that he has lined up alongside and players he has faced during his playing career.

There is a varied mix, with players from his international days with Wales, who he lined up alongside and also his time in the Premiership. With a 4-4-2 formation, this is Kit's team.

Kit Symons' XI is listed below.

Goalkeeper: Neville Southall The legendary Everton stopper played behind Kit during his appearances for Wales. One of the all-time greats, who made over 800 appearances in his club career and won 94 caps for Wales.

Right back: Michael Reiziger The Netherlands star, who played for Ajax, Barcelona and eventually Middlesbrough, faced Kit in an international game which ended in a rather heavy scoreline in favour of the Dutch back in 1996.

Centre back: Tony Adams The former Arsenal and England captain was undoubtedly the best central defender of his generation in the Premier League and on the international scene.

Centre back: Fabio Cannavaro Kit faced the current World Player Of

The Year during an international match for Wales. The former Parma, Inter Milan and Juventus star is now playing his trade with Real Madrid.

Left back: Paolo Maldini Another to have faced Kit in his time against the Italians. The AC Milan idol will go down as one of, if not the, greatest modern day defender.

Right midfield: Alessandro Del Piero The Italian half-striker is always a dangerous customer, whether as an out-and-out striker or from the deeper positions. A Juventus legend, he also faced Kit during an international fixture.

Central midfield: Paul Scholes Still going strong with his only ever club Manchester United, Kit came up against the flame-haired star during a Manchester derby match in his time with City.

Central midfield: Patrick Vieira The rangy French star was a constant performer during his time in England with Arsenal and this was where Kit faced him, again during his time at Manchester City.

Left midfield: Ryan Giggs A Welsh international team-mate, the pacy winger is still going strong with Manchester United and will no doubt go down as an Old Trafford legend along with the likes of Best, Charlton and Law.

Centre forward: Marco van Basten Kit came up against the Dutch master in one of his early appearances against the Netherlands prior to the Euro 92 competition. A shame that the AC Milan ace's career was brought to a premature end through injury.

Centre forward: Ian Wright One of the top strikers in the country during his time with both Palace and Arsenal and no doubt a nuisance to Kit when he played against him!



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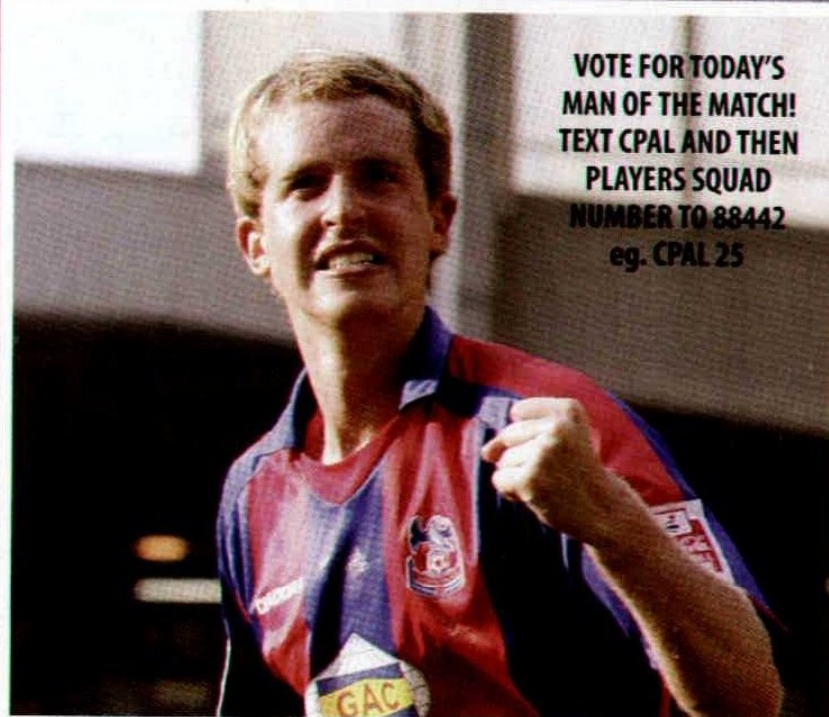
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You can watch the post-match press conferences of ALL of the games from the festive period to hear the thoughts in full of Peter Taylor after the games with Sunderland, Southampton, Cardiff City and Norwich City. With a decent return over that period, the boss had plenty to say and spoke of how he hopes his side can continue that run into the new year and the rest of the season.



A Christmas Day treat for all Palace World subscribers was a sneak look at the Dougie Freedman tribute DVD. Showcasing part of the documentary style feature on our goalscoring hero, there were around 10 minutes of footage from the full 50 minute feature and World viewers could see Dougie selecting his favourite three Palace goals and speaking about his time at the club in general.



Eagles midfielder Marco Reich gave his thoughts on the festive period after his appearances against Southampton and Cardiff City. The German ace spoke of how he still feels the team could be playing with more confidence and when that is back, the results and performances will follow on and Palace can start to climb the table. He also speaks about his hard work and determination to get back into the starting line-up.

To see all of the goals and reaction from today's match and the previous games from this season, make sure you log on or subscribe to Palace World with all the latest from SE25 on your computer screen!



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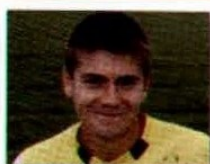
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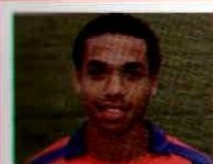
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The Hart of the matter

Everybody likes a good joke over Christmas. Well, what's happened to the Boys from The Boleyn.

The Hammers didn't so much lose to Reading on Saturday, as capitulate. Perhaps the goal that summed it up best was the fourth, where Nicky Shorey went for a lengthy waltz through their defence, before it was set up for Doyle. The Hammers' defenders reaction to Shorey's run was to...well, they sort of all ran away. There is no doubt that as left-backs go Shorey is pretty talented. But in those few moments the Hammers defenders contrived to make him look like a cross between George Best and Cristiano Ronaldo, and he certainly isn't that good.

Alan Curbishley's reaction, when shortly after this goal they trooped off at half time, could hardly be said to be predictable. No one expected them to catch up four goals; but it was expected he would make some

changes aimed at reducing the deficit, so that they could at least claim to have "won" the second half, and improve moral as a result. But not a bit of it. Four goals down and with an Argentinian World Cup striker sitting on the bench, the Hammers manager elected instead to remove a striker, and to replace him with another defender. "I was fearing it might get a lot worse," he explained after the match. What, worse than six-nil? "Yes, I had to stop it becoming eight," he clarified. Just in case you have forgotten, West Ham were not playing Barcelona or Brazil last Saturday. They were playing Reading.

It all seemed a far cry from that heady day just a couple of weeks back when Curbishley strode onto the West Ham pitch before the game like a returning hero, and his team duly disposed of Man Utd. He had confessed to the press after the match that he had had a little doubt about taking a gamble on a job with a

team fighting a relegation battle, as he did not want to return to being a Manager outside the Premiership. He had made this comment as though it was already clear (after the Man Utd win) that it would not happen. But that was then, and this is now. "Now" is after four matches over Christmas for only one point, culminating with the mother of all humiliations.

Of course the radio phone-ins on Saturday evening were red hot with fans who claimed they had "never been so angry in my life." The people who produce these programmes smelt blood, and fanned the flames by encouraging those who phoned to make increasingly bizarre comments. Not that they needed much encouragement, mind you. It has to have been the shortest honeymoon in football history. Just a couple of weeks after similar phone-ins had made neutrals reach for paper bags as they listened to Hammers fans scrambling to outdo each other in the



with Ian Hart



praise for their new Manager following that win against United, they were now waiting for his head. "Clueless" was a word that was frequently voiced to describe him, whilst the decision to go more defensive when they were 4-0 down provoked outpourings of bile, the likes of which had not been heard since.... since....well, since last month when some were ringing phone-ins to call for the head of Alan Pardew.

If it's not bad enough when your fans start putting the boot in, the last thing the club needs is a former employee joining in. Since West Ham have often been headline news this season – Argentinians, Icelandic takeovers, sackings – Julian Dicks has been trotted out to give his two penny worth on several occasions. He has come to realise that the more outrageous are his views, the more likely he is to be invited back to comment when next time there is a crisis. To that extent he has built a little

cottage industry for himself. West Ham problems; send for Rent-a-Dicks. On this occasion he explained to the world that the solution was easy. Get rid of Reo-Coker and Harewood. It's not clear whether he felt those two were entirely responsible for the abject defending against Reading, but we won't dwell on that.

Instead, having taken the view of an ex-player, it was interesting to hear the view of a current one. Yossi Benayoun described his team-mates as "performing like a bunch of drunks." I presume it was a description, rather than an actual fact. But in any event, Benayoun was quick to absolve himself from such blame. "In our last game (a home defeat to Man City) I was the best man on the pitch," he announced. "But what could I have done against Reading? I only touched the ball twice." Fair enough. Clearly nothing to do with him then.

The sad fact is this club is in danger of imploding. They have fans who (totally understandably) sung to their players that they weren't fit to wear the shirt and (rather less logically) are already calling for the head of a recently appointed Manager. They have players who seem to be increasingly at odds with each other and not prepared to take responsibility. And they have an Icelandic owner who must be wondering if he could ask for his money back and start again. Perhaps he is checking to see whether they are still under guarantee? There has been talk of a £20m "War Chest" being used in the transfer window. "There's no limit to the money available," he said. No limit? Wow! "But we must be realistic. We're not Chelsea." Ah, so there is a limit. Whatever the sum, it needs to be spent successfully otherwise Magnusson and his friends will have paid out around £100m to acquire a Championship club. Now, what would Julian Dicks say about that?



Player Interview

Palace star Jobi McAnuff has spoken of his hopes for 2007 and how the whole squad are determined to put the last 12 months behind them in the remainder of this season.

Following defeat in the play-off semi finals in May, the second half of last year hasn't progressed as well as anyone at Selhurst Park would have liked, but there is a steely determination to put things right in 2007.

A decent run of results over the crucial Christmas period has set Palace up to embark on what will hopefully be a swift rise up the table and back into promotion contention, which has always been the aim of McAnuff and his team-mates.

"We've shown good form and taken a decent return, so we're happy with the results," admitted the former Wimbledon, West Ham and Cardiff City man.

"We could have performed a bit better than we have done but it's just important to get the points on the board.

"A good Christmas can really set you up for the new year and second half of the season.

"If we can get another couple of good results in the next few games, it can bring you a little bit closer and we still have a lot of games to go."

McAnuff was amongst the goals himself over the festive period, netting Palace's equaliser in the Boxing Day fixture with Southampton at St. Mary's as the Eagles took an impressive point against one of the teams they hope to be competing against in a race for promotion.

"A good run can really shoot you up the table and get us into that chasing pack with the teams who are up there or thereabouts," he added.



Jobi
McAnuff





Player Interview

"There are quite a few teams there, but I think once we're up there, we will be one of the harder teams to beat really."

In order to progress there though, the 25-year-old knows that the recent improvement has to continue over the remaining months of the season and everyone within the Palace squad is just as determined to put things right.

"There is no doubt that we need to start picking up and everyone in that eleven who goes out there has got to start performing," added Jobi.

"It's time that we got ourselves together as a team really, get some points on the board and try to make a run to the play-off spots."

"We feel it's still possible but it's going to be a crucial couple of games for us over the next few weeks."

As for 2007, McAnuff admits to having a few New Year resolutions on the pitch and is confident that there can be an overall improvement to things in SE25 given the spirit and determination within the squad.

"I haven't got as many goals as I would have liked after starting off pretty well, so I'd like to get a few more this year," he admitted.

"I still feel there is more to come from myself, I'm still getting back to where I want to be after the hernia operation I had earlier in the season."

"Like everyone else here though, I'm sure there is more to come from all of the boys."

Looking back over the previous 12 months though, Jobi is keen to banish most of the memories after last season's outcome and the tough few months earlier in this campaign.

"I think losing in the play-offs last year was a big disappointment for us," he said.

"We thought we had a great chance of progressing having beaten Watford in the league games but we had a bad spell of five minutes (in the first leg) which determined our season."

"That was a big blow and it hasn't gone as we would have liked this season so far, but if we can get a couple more decent results, we can put 2006 behind us and have a better 2007."

After a New Year's Day win on Monday, another victory this afternoon and a passage to the FA Cup Fourth Round would be just ideal!



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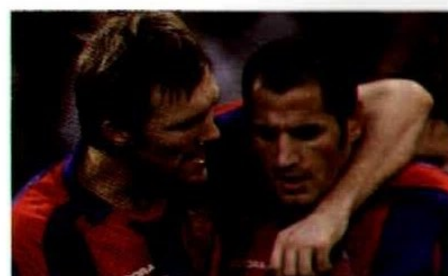
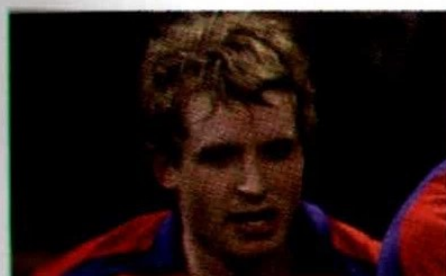


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Player Statistics 2006/07

	Crystal Palace Career Record										Internationals			This Season									
	League Apps	Gls	FA Cup Apps	Gls	Lge Cup Apps	Gls	Other Apps	Gls	Total Apps	Gls	Nation	Caps	Gls	League Apps	Gls	FA Cup Apps	Gls	Lge Cup Apps	Gls	Other Apps	Gls	Total Apps	Gls
Tommy BLACK	67(60)	10	3(2)	2	15(6)	5	0	0	153	17				0	0	0	0	(1)	0	0	0	1	0
Gary BORROWDALE	60(23)	0	3(1)	0	7(4)	0	1	0	99	0				10	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	11	0
Danny BUTTERFIELD	125(5)	5	6	0	12(1)	0	3(1)	1	153	6				18(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	0
Leon CORT	18	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	3				18	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	3
Carl FLETCHER	14(4)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	Wales	18	0	14(4)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	0
Scott FLINDERS	5(1)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	7	0				5(1)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	7	0
Arron FRAY	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dougie FREEDMAN	202(95)	94	6(5)	1	16(3)	9	4(4)	2	335	106	Scotland	2	1	4(19)	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	24	3
Lewis GRABBAN	0	0	0	0	(2)	0	0	0	2	0				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Danny GRANVILLE	117(5)	9	4(3)	0	6	1	3	0	138	10				15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0
Stuart GREEN	2(9)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	2				2(9)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	2
Mark HUDSON	48(8)	4	3	0	7	0	0	0	66	4				19(1)	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	21	3
Michael HUGHES	108(15)	7	3	1	6	2	5	0	137	10	N. Ireland	71	4	10(3)	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	14	1
Mark KENNEDY	23(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	R. of Ireland	34	3	23(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0
Gabor KIRALY	90	0	4	0	1	0	2	0	97	0	Hungary	70	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0
Shefki KUQI	14(8)	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	4	Finland	47	5	14(8)	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	4
Matt LAWRENCE	13(3)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	17	0				13(3)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	17	0
Jon MACKEN	14(11)	2	(2)	0	2	0	0(1)	0	30	2	R. of Ireland	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
Jobi McANUFF	57(8)	10	2	1	2	0	2	0	71	11	Jamaica	1	0	22(2)	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	3
Clinton MORRISON	190(32)	81	5	1	18(4)	9	1(1)	0	251	91	R. of Ireland	36	9	17(8)	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	26	6
Marco REICH	18(9)	2	1(1)	0	2(1)	2	(1)	0	33	4	Germany	1	0	4(2)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	7	0
James SCOWCROFT	17(3)	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	4				17(3)	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	4
Charlie SHERINGHAM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tom SOARES	75(16)	4	1(2)	0	3(1)	1	2	0	100	5				21(1)	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	3
Lewwis SPENCE	0	0	0	0	(1)	0	0	0	1	0				0	0	0	0	(1)	0	0	0	1	0
Julian SPERONI	11(1)	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	18	0				2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Phil STARKEY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iain TURNER	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0				5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
Darren WARD	60(1)	5	2	1	1	0	1	0	65	6				18	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	19	0
Ben WATSON	77(21)	5	4	0	6(3)	0	1(1)	0	113	5				10(4)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	15	0
Rhys WIGGINS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0





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ATTENDANCES

ENGLISH LEAGUES 2006/07

	PLD	AVGE	HIGHEST	LOWEST	AV. 05/06
BARNLEY	13	12,002	21,253	9,479	9,054
BIRMINGHAM CITY	13	21,962	29,431	18,002	27,392
BURNLEY	13	12,459	15,061	10,039	12,462
CARDIFF CITY	13	16,595	20,109	13,250	11,720
COLCHESTER UTD	13	5,318	6,065	4,249	3,969
COVENTRY CITY	13	20,240	27,212	16,178	21,302
CRYSTAL PALACE	14	17,424	20,159	16,093	19,457
DERBY COUNTY	13	24,619	31,920	21,295	24,166
HULL CITY	13	18,085	25,512	14,895	19,841
IPSWICH TOWN	14	22,009	27,276	19,337	24,253
LEEDS UTD	14	19,469	23,037	16,268	22,355
LEICESTER CITY	14	22,246	30,457	18,677	22,234
LUTON TOWN	14	8,524	10,260	7,468	9,139
NORWICH CITY	13	24,682	25,423	23,863	24,952
PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	14	13,674	17,088	9,965	13,776
PRESTON NORTH END	14	14,308	19,603	11,728	14,617
QPR	14	12,405	14,793	10,882	13,441
SHEFFIELD WED	14	23,609	28,687	19,034	24,853
SOUTHAMPTON	13	22,852	30,548	18,979	23,614
SOUTHEND UTD	14	9,838	11,415	7,901	8,053
STOKE CITY	13	16,038	23,003	11,626	14,432
SUNDERLAND	13	29,368	40,116	24,242	33,904
WBA	13	20,313	26,606	17,417	25,404
WOLVES	14	20,092	27,203	17,410	23,624

TOTALS					
PREMIER	218	34,281	76,018	14,636	33,892
CHAMPIONSHIP	323	17,740	40,116	4,249	17,607
LEAGUE ONE	308	7,314	23,466	3,077	7,578
LEAGUE TWO	308	4,053	10,010	1,384	4,194
GRAND TOTALS	1,157	14,437			14,287

(Note: Calculations are mostly based on first published attendances)

GOAL STATS - ALL DIVISIONS 2006/07

GOALS - AVERAGE PER MATCH

Division	Gls	Matches	Avg	05/06 Avg
Premier	517	218	2.37	2.48
Cham'ship	826	323	2.56	2.44
League 1	775	308	2.52	2.50
League 2	779	308	2.53	2.52
TOTAL	2,897	1,157	2.40	2.49

GOAL DIFFERENCE

Division	Best	Worst
Premier	Man Utd +34	Charlton -23
Cham'ship	Birmingham +20	Southend -23
League 1	Oldham +24	Brentford -26
League 2	Walsall +25	Grimsby -19

GOALS SCORED

Division	Best	Worst
Premier	Man Utd 49	Watford/WHU 12
Cham'ship	WBA 48	Southend 22
League 1	Oldham 45	Northampton 18
League 2	Lincoln 49	Torquay 18

GOALS CONCEDED

Division	Best	Worst
Premier	Man Utd 15	Charlton 40
Cham'ship	Stoke City 21	Leeds Utd 49
League 1	Scun/Donca 20	Brentford 46
League 2	Walsall 16	Accrington 47

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Today's Mascots

Please offer a warm welcome to our lucky mascots this afternoon...

Jacob Carter-Mays is nine-years-old and goes to Caterham School. He enjoys football swimming and chess. Jacob's favourite Palace players are Dougie Freedman and Michael Hughes. We hope you have a great day on your 9th birthday - lots of love from Mum, Dad, Leah, Nanna, Grandad, Luke, George and Harry. Have a great day as mascot!

Kirsty Bygraves is 12-years-old and goes to Edenham High School. She loves football, and Playstation. Kirsty suffers from Cystic Fibrosis and is a mascot today as a special treat. Her favourite Palace player is Ben Watson. Enjoy your day at Selhurst Kirsty!

Monica Heise is nine-years-old and goes to Meath Green Junior School in Horley. She has been a season ticket holder for two years, and never misses a home game. Monica's favourite player is Ben Watson, but she also likes Scott Flinders. Enjoy your special day as mascot!

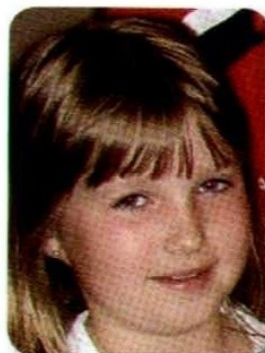
Adam Stonley is seven-years-old and goes to Manor Primary School in Uckfield, East Sussex. His favourite players are Clinton Morrison, Dougie Freedman and Tommy Black. Adam's hobbies are sport especially cricket and football. He plays for Maresfield Dynamos JFC (though usually in goal). Have a fantastic day as mascot Adam!



Jacob Carter-Mays



Kirsty Bygraves



Monica Heise



Adam Stonley



Palace Study Centre "Palace's Commitment to the Community in Action"

Today I review the Playing for Success (PFS) 2006 year quoting verbatim from the recent published Playing for Success Annual Yearbook

This has been a year of considerable growth and change for Playing for Success. In March 2005, the DfES invited all local authorities (LAs) in England to register their interest in hosting a PFS centre. Following subsequent information sessions and meetings, hosted by the Department, a large number of clubs and LAs submitted proposals for new centres. In autumn 2005, 26 new centres were given approval, which built on the earlier expansion in the summer of 2005 when 14 new centres were approved. This brings the total number of clubs committed to PFS to 154, of which 99 are open. The DfES is now well on its way to reaching its target of 150 centres open by 2008.

The Football Foundation agreed to provide funding to eight more clubs as part of the 2005 extension, bringing the total number of clubs supported by the Foundation to 24. This has been particularly significant for the development of PFS within clubs from the lower divisions.

These centres brought in new LAs and sports, including outdoor pursuits, athletics, speedway and sailing. This expansion demonstrated that the PFS model can motivate a diverse range of sports and organisations to become involved, at a scale which was not envisaged when the initiative began in 1997. A number of the new centres appointed staff and started their pilot programmes

during the summer term of 2006 working towards opening in September 2006.

Both the DfES and the Football Foundation continue to demonstrate their commitment to PFS. Government Ministers continued to open centres whenever possible, a policy reaffirmed by the new Secretary of State for Education and Skills Alan Johnson MP.

In April 2006 HRH the Princess Royal opened Rotherham Titans RUFC PFS centre and Maurice Smith, HMI Chief Inspector of Ofsted, opened the new centre at Southend United FC. These events were important in showcasing the work of the centre and of the initiative as a whole.

Today we welcome Swindon Town. They too have a Study Centre; in fact they have two fully equipped air conditioned study centres, one in the Nationwide Centre and one in the Cecil Green Suite. They are ably led by Martin Turnball and were one of the earliest Study Centres to open (November 1998). We wish Martin and his team a good new year but let's hope that Swindon wilt under incessant pressure from Palace and we motor into the next round of the world's greatest cup competition.

Chris Myant, Centre Manager

Email: cpssc@hotmail.com

Tel. No. 020 8768 6066





2006/07 match statistics

Key

● Player in starting XI ● Substitute appearance ● Unused Substitute

<45 Sub on inc. minute >45 Subbed inc. minute 1 Goals scored

● Yellow Card ● Red Card

					SCOTT FLINDERS	MATT LAWRENCE	DANNY GRANVILLE	DARREN WARD	MARK HUDSON	LEON CORT	JOE MCANUFF	JAMES SCROWCROFT	DOUGIE FREEDMAN	ION MACKEN	CLINTON MORRISON	JULIAN SPERONI	BEN WATSON	MARK KENNEDY	TOMMY BLACK	MARK HUGHES	
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15	16	17	18
Sat Aug 5	Ipswich Town	W 2-1	25,413	K Wright	●		●		●	●	●	●	● <45	●	● >45		● <82	● >82			
Tue Aug 8	Southend Utd	W 3-1	18,072	K Hill	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	● <45	● >45	●		● <79	● >79			
Sun Aug 13	Leeds Utd	W 1-0	17,218	R Styles	●	●			●		●	●	●		● <73		● >45				
Sat Aug 19	Birmingham City	L 1-2	20,223	M Jones	●	● <66	●		●		●	● >85	● <64		● <85		● >64				
Tue Aug 22	Notts County C. Cup R1	L 1-2	4,481	M Thorpe	●	●		●						● >79		●			● <76	●	
Sat Aug 26	Burnley	D 2-2	16,396	I Probert	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	● >77		● <77					●	
Sat Sept 9	Luton Town	L 1-2	9,187	P Armstrong		●	●		●		●	●	● <62		● <67	●					
Tue Sept 12	Southampton	L 0-2	17,084	C Penton		●		●	●		● >55	●	● <55		● <55	●					
Sat Sept 16	Norwich City	W 1-0	24,618	A D'Urso		●	●		●		●	●	●		● >73		●			●	
Sat Sept 23	Coventry City	W 1-0	16,093	S Bratt		●		●			●	●	● <88		● >88	●	● <18				
Sat Sept 30	Hull City	D 1-1	18,099	M Thorpe				●	●		●	●	● <78		● >45	●				●	
Sat Oct 14	Cardiff City	L 1-2	18,876	P Walton		● >45			●		● >67	●	● <67		●						
Tue Oct 17	WBA	L 0-2	16,105	R Lee			●		● >45			●	● <65		● <68	●					
Sat Oct 21	Leicester City	D 1-1	28,762	G Salisbury				●					● <73			●	● <85				
Sat Oct 28	Plymouth Argyle	L 0-1	17,084	M Russell	●	●		● >73								●					
Tue Oct 31	Sheffield Wed	L 2-3	19,034	A Hall					●	● <46			● <76				● >46	● <34			
Sat Nov 4	QPR	L 2-4	13,989	P Dowd	●					● >87			● <69		●					●	
Sat Nov 11	Stoke City	L 0-1	18,868	I Williamson	●	●						● >70	● <60		●						
Sat Nov 18	Barnsley	W 2-0	20,159	K Friend		●					●	● >71	● <77		● >77		● >84				
Sat Nov 25	Preston North End	D 0-0	14,202	U Rennie	●	●					●	● >69	● <73		● >73		● >84				
Tue Nov 28	Wolves	D 1-1	17,806	K Stroud	●	●			●		●	● >74	● <73		● >73						
Sat Dec 2	QPR	W 3-0	17,017	M Dean	●	● <44						●	● >81		● <81						
Sat Dec 9	Colchester Utd	L 1-3	16,762	R Lewis	● <24							● <74			●		● >73			●	
Sat Dec 16	Derby County	L 0-1	23,875	J Moss	●	●	●			● >76	● <76				●		● >46				
Fri Dec 22	Sunderland	W 1-0	17,439	L Probert	●	● <85			●		●	● <71	● <83		● >83	●		● >89			
Tue Dec 26	Southampton	D 1-1	30,548	R Beeby	●	●	●		●		●	●	● <66		● >66						
Sat Dec 30	Cardiff City	D 0-0	13,704	M Jones	●				●				●		● >84		● >75				
Mon Jan 1	Norwich City	W 3-1	16,765	C Boyeson	●	●			●	● <46	●	● >74		● <74						●	
Sat Jan 6	Swindon Town FA Cup R3	H																			
Sat Jan 13	Coventry City	A																			
Sat Jan 20	Hull City	H																			
Tue Jan 30	Sunderland	A																			
Sat Feb 3	Ipswich Town	H																			
Sat Feb 10	Leeds Utd	A																			
Sat Feb 17	Birmingham City	H																			
Tue Feb 20	Southend Utd	A																			
Sat Feb 24	Luton Town	H																			
Sat Mar 3	Burnley	A																			
Sat Mar 10	Leicester City	H																			
Tue Mar 13	WBA	A																			
Sat Mar 17	Plymouth Argyle	A																			
Sat Mar 31	Sheffield Wed	H																			
Sat Apr 7	Preston North End	H																			
Mon Apr 9	Stoke City	A																			
Sat Apr 14	Wolves	H																			
Sat Apr 21	Barnsley	A																			
Sat Apr 28	Derby County	H																			
Sun May 6	Colchester Utd	A																			





Coca-Cola CHAMPIONSHIP

Pos	Name	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Birmingham	27	8	4	1	24	12	8	1	5	22	14	+20	53
2	Derby County	27	7	3	3	16	11	8	2	4	20	17	+8	50
3	Preston	27	9	4	1	24	8	4	4	5	16	20	+12	47
4	Southampton	27	8	4	1	19	9	4	5	5	25	23	+12	45
5	WBA	27	10	2	1	32	10	2	5	7	16	21	+17	43
6	Colchester	27	11	0	2	34	11	2	4	8	11	19	+15	43
7	Stoke City	26	8	3	2	21	7	4	4	5	14	14	+14	43
8	Cardiff City	27	6	6	1	20	9	5	4	5	16	19	+8	43
9	Wolves	27	7	4	3	19	13	5	2	6	9	16	-1	42
10	Sunderland	27	7	2	4	18	11	5	2	7	18	21	+4	40
11	Sheffield Wed	27	5	4	5	20	21	6	3	4	19	16	+2	40
12	Burnley	26	6	3	4	20	15	4	4	5	12	13	+4	37
13	Plymouth	27	4	7	3	19	16	4	5	4	14	18	-1	36
14	Ipswich Town	27	7	2	5	22	18	3	3	7	15	19	0	35
15	Crystal Palace	27	7	1	6	18	15	2	6	5	13	17	-1	34
16	Coventry City	27	6	3	4	15	10	4	1	9	10	21	-6	34
17	Norwich City	27	7	3	3	20	13	2	4	8	14	29	-8	34
18	Leicester City	27	5	4	5	15	16	3	4	6	11	18	-8	32
19	Luton Town	27	6	5	3	24	17	2	2	9	11	28	-10	31
20	QPR	27	5	3	6	19	19	3	3	7	15	22	-7	30
21	Hull City	27	4	2	7	17	18	3	4	7	10	20	-11	27
22	Barnsley	27	5	4	4	17	17	2	1	11	12	30	-18	26
23	Leeds United	27	5	2	7	14	20	2	1	10	13	29	-22	24
24	Southend	27	4	4	6	18	24	0	5	8	4	21	-23	21

(Correct up to and including 06.01.07)

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| 2 | Matt LAWRENCE | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 | Danny GRANVILLE | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 | Darren WARD | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 | Mark HUDSON | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 | Leon CORT | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 | Jobi McANUFF | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 | James SCOWCROFT | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 | Dougie FREEDMAN | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10 | Jon MACKEN | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11 | Clinton MORRISON | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12 | Julian SPERONI | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14 | Ben WATSON | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15 | Mark KENNEDY | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 16 | Tommy BLACK | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 17 | Michael HUGHES | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 18 | Gary BORROWDALE | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 19 | Tom SOARES | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 20 | Danny BUTTERFIELD | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 22 | Marco REICH | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 23 | Carl FLETCHER | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 25 | Stuart GREEN | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 28 | Gabor KIRALY | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 31 | Arron FRAY | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 32 | Shefki KUQI | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 33 | Lewis GRABBAN | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 34 | Phil STARKEY | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 35 | Rhys WIGGINS | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 36 | Lewwis SPENCE | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 37 | Charlie SHERINGHAM | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 38 | David WILKINSON | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 40 | Ryan HALL | <input type="checkbox"/> |



SWINDON TOWN

MANAGER

Paul Sturrock

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Peter BREZOVAN | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 | Jack SMITH | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 | Jamie VINCENT | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 | Sofiane ZAABOUB | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 | Jerel IFIL | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 | Ady WILLIAMS | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 | Gareth WHALLEY | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 | Aaron BROWN | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 | Christian ROBERTS | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10 | Lee PEACOCK | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12 | Ricky SHAKES | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13 | Jon STEWART | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14 | Andrew GURNEY | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15 | Andrew NICHOLAS | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 18 | Paul EVANS | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 19 | Michael POOK | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 20 | Royce BROWNLIE | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 21 | Lucas JUTKIEWICZ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 22 | Blair STURROCK | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 23 | Curtis WESTON | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 24 | Ashan HOLGATE | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 25 | Phil SMITH | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 27 | Ben WELLS | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 28 | Andy CATON | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 34 | Michael TIMLIN | <input type="checkbox"/> |

MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE: J. Friend

ASSISTANT 01: B. Garfield

ASSISTANT 02: A. Rayner

4TH OFFICIAL: J. Ross

NEXT HOME MATCH

Saturday 20th January

PALACE v HULL CITY

Football Championship

Kick-off 3pm

TODAY'S OTHER FIXTURES



Barnet v Colchester

Birmingham v Newcastle

Blackpool v Aldershot

Bristol City v Coventry

Chelsea v Macclesfield

Chester v Ipswich

Derby v Wrexham

Doncaster v Bolton

Hull City v Middlesbrough

Leicester v Fulham

Liverpool v Arsenal

Nottm Forest v Charlton

Peterborough v Plymouth

Portsmouth v Wigan

Preston v Sunderland

QPR v Luton

Reading v Burnley

Sheff Utd v Swansea

Southend v Barnsley

Tamworth v Norwich

Torquay v Southampton

Watford v Stockport

West Brom v Leeds

West Ham v Brighton

Wolves v Oldham