

# THE ALEX

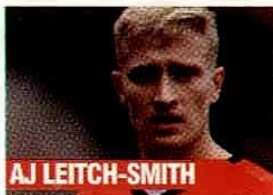
£3

vs SWINDON TOWN

nPower League 2

Saturday 17th March 2012

Kick-off 3.00pm



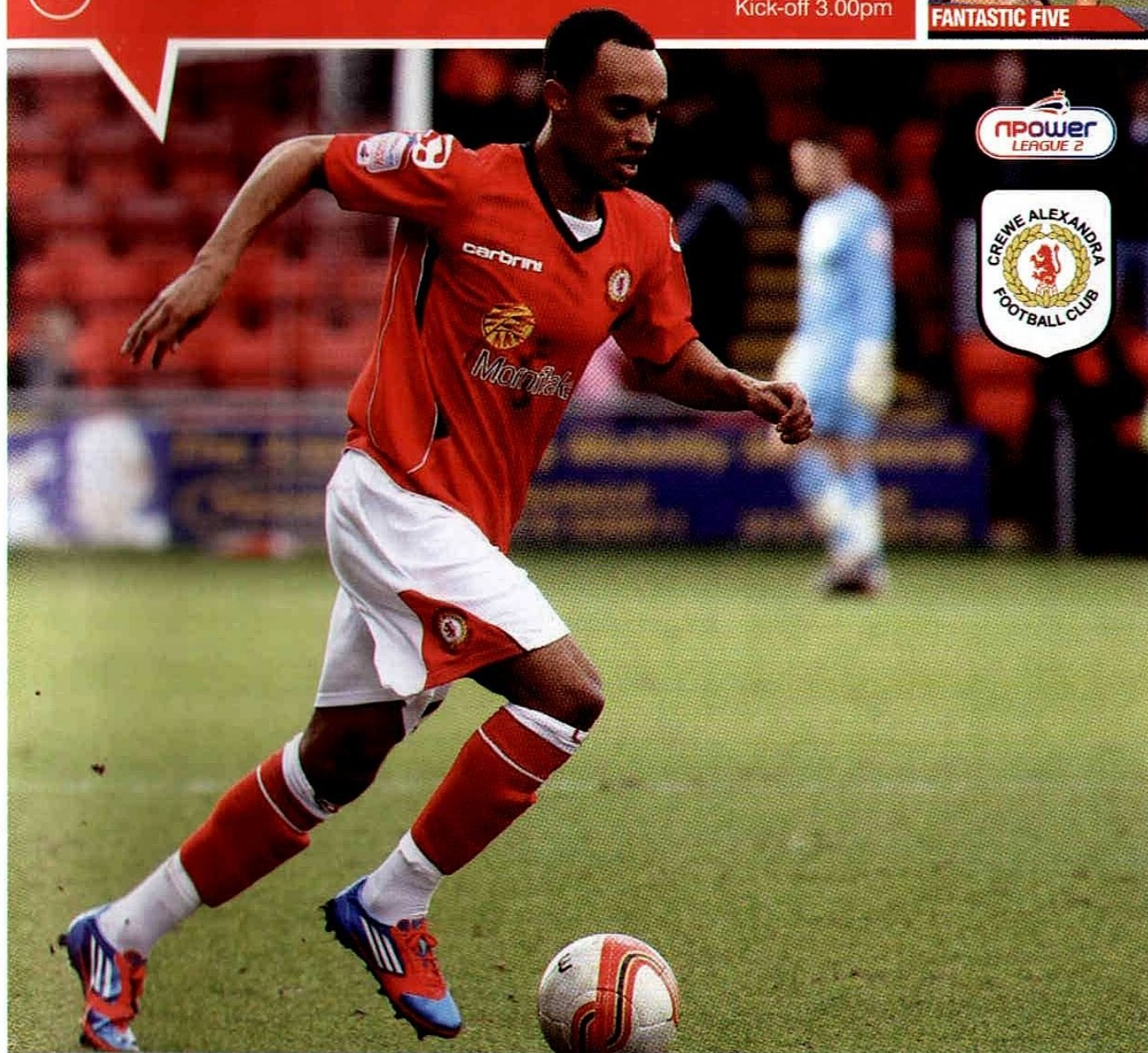
AJ LEITCH-SMITH



ENGLAND U18'S



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**npower**



It's been quite a week for Nick Powell. After playing for England Under-18's at Gresty Road, he then scored two at Gillingham before picking up the League Two Apprentice-of-the-Year award last Sunday.







# STEVE WRITES...

## THE MANAGER

### ALL WE CAN DO IS GO FOR IT

**I**t is a warm welcome back to Gresty Road for this afternoon's match with Swindon Town. Paolo Di Canio's side are currently top of the division and looking odds on to win the title sooner rather than later. Although they overcame us on the opening day of the season, they made an indifferent start to the season and some critics were questioning the appointment of Paolo in his first managerial role.

He rode that early storm, carried on introducing his own ideas and improved his squad. They have been the most consistent side at our level and their form in the second half of the season saw them achieve a 10-game winning streak after losing to Torquay on Boxing Day. Every team with designs on promotion has to discover a level of consistency and Swindon have done that. They will deserve their immediate return to League One at the end of the season.

Paolo is a passionate Italian and he has been good for our league. He has raised the profile and interest in our football and he always has something enlightening to say in his interviews! It will be intriguing to come up against him this afternoon because he likes his team to play the right way. He has always been a winner as a player and is determined to be one as a manager and good luck to him.

We know that facing the current league leaders is going to be tough. We respect them and admire them for what they have achieved so far, but the players do not fear them. They have shown already this season that

we can compete with the best sides in the league and get a result. We recently drew here with Shrewsbury after conceding an awful goal and if that hadn't had gone in when it did, it could have been a game we could have won.

The players have shown that never-say-die attitude that I have been trying to instil since I took over. That was there in abundance again at Gillingham last weekend. After the disappointment of our performance at Rotherham, it was important that we bounced back with a better one down in Kent and the players gave it their all to get a result. We had to win the game twice if you like after throwing away a 3-1 lead far too easily, but I was delighted with the way they responded and continued to press for a winner. They got their reward with Max's (Clayton) injury-time winner. The lads deserved it and so did those supporters who made their way to Gillingham to support us. I'm sure you had an enjoyable journey home.

I publicly apologised for our performance at Rotherham and the players were told in no uncertain terms afterwards that it wasn't acceptable. It was by far our worst display under me as manager and I was so annoyed afterwards that I didn't go over to the travelling supporters to applaud them. They know that it is not my style at all and I can only apologise to them for that. It won't happen again and I hope the seven-goal thriller made up for it at Gillingham!

All the players put a shift in at the Priestfield Stadium but I must say

Nick (Powell) was exceptional. I don't think you will ever see a better goal anywhere than his first one and his second was equally well executed for different reasons. He is now our top scorer with 11 goals and is only getting better with experience. We must congratulate him on his League Two Apprentice of the Year award, an honour he collected in London on Sunday evening.

It is important that we try and protect him as much as possible and as a club we have done that. We don't want to over expose him too much in the media and getting too involved with that. To his credit he doesn't take too much notice and as a Football Club we want his football to do his talking for him and he is certainly doing that at the moment. His goals and award marked a terrific week for him following his performance for England Under-18s against Poland. The support and atmosphere was great and everyone was very proud to see Nick, Max and Ben Garratt all on the pitch at the same time for their country, especially to have it here at the Alexandra Stadium. It was a big decision for me to allow Max and Nick to play for England instead of at Rotherham, but I think it was a one-off for them to play in front of their home crowd. I'm sure they would have enjoyed the experience.

I am going grey quicker and my voice is not the best from all the shouting but there is never a dull moment here at Crewe. You just never know what can happen and that is what makes us an exciting team. One thing is for certain with ten games left, we won't be sitting back and picking up draws. There are



30 points up for grabs and we want as many as we can get to make sure we have enough to be in at least 7th place. As usual we will be looking to win every game and will go for it.

Swindon will know they are in a game today and I'm sure Paolo will remind them that we were the better side in the first half at the County Ground back in August. We should have been two or three goals up at the break, but missed those chances and found ourselves 1-0 down instead after a dubious penalty on the stroke of half-time. They scored two more in the second half at the right time but we felt the score line was not a true reflection of the way we played.

We only have Carl Martin struggling at the moment with a thigh injury and it is very encouraging to have virtually a full squad to choose from. That is testimony to the physios at the club and the work Andy Franks has done on their fitness levels. We have had a busy schedule, so to come through virtually unscathed has been very pleasing.

Your support is going to be very important in the remaining games and I can only thank you for the support you give the players. It makes a hell of a difference and all I can ask is that you get behind them again today from the first whistle to the last, as you have done.

Thanks for the support.

*Steve*



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## CLUB DIRECTORY

**Crewe Alexandra Football Club**  
Gresty Road, Crewe, CW2 6EB

### CONTACTS

Telephone: 01270 213014  
Fax: 01270 216320  
Email: [info@crewealex.net](mailto:info@crewealex.net)  
Ticket Hotline: 01270 252610  
Sponsorship and Marketing: 01270 213014 Ext 113  
Alexandra Soccer Centre: 01270 216682  
Official Web-Site: [www.crewealex.net](http://www.crewealex.net)

### PERSONNEL

Chairman: John Bowler  
Directors: N. Hassall, D. Rowlinson, J. McMillan,  
R. Clayton, D. Gradi, D. Potts and J. Rowlinson  
Business Operations Manager: Alison Bowler  
Finance Operations Manager: Andrew Blakemore  
Supporters Service Manager: Bev Dyer  
Promotions Manager: Martin Robbins  
Press Officer: Rob Wilson  
Media Relations: James Beckett  
Club Chaplain: Steve Clapham  
Club Doctor: Mike Freeman  
Club Historian: Harold Finch  
Kit Man: Mark Cunningham

### COACHING STAFF

Manager: Steve Davis  
Assistant Manager: Neil Baker  
Director of Football: Dario Gradi  
Fitness Coach: Andy Franks  
Senior Physiotherapist: Rob Sharp  
Community Project Manager: Ray Walker  
Assistant Academy Managers: James Collins  
and Neil Critchley  
Academy Recruitment Officer: Phil Swift  
Academy Operations Manager: Paul Anthrobus

### HONOURS

Football League Division 2: Runners Up  
2002/2003, Play-Off Winners 1996-1997  
Football League Division 3: Third and promoted  
1993/94  
Football League Division 4: Third and promoted  
1963-64, Third and promoted 1988/89, Fourth  
and promoted 1967/68  
FA Cup: Semi Finalists 1888  
League Cup 3rd Round: 1975, 1976, 1979,  
1993, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2008  
Welsh Cup Winners: 1936, 1937  
FA Youth Cup Semi Finalists: 2003/04  
Football League Most Admired Club: 2005





## "WE WILL KEEP FIGHTING RIGHT UNTIL THE END"

Defender Adam Dugdale says that the never-say-die-attitude that has been installed at the club always gives us a chance in our remaining ten matches. The Railwaymen showed that fighting spirit to win a seven-goal thriller against Gillingham last weekend and keep our play-off hopes very much alive. Young Max Clayton popped up in the right place at the right time again to head home a Byron Moore cross and seal three vital points in our quest to reach the top seven.

**D**ugdale says that the Alex dressing room won't accept defeat until the final whistle: "We will continue to fight until the final minute of any match because you never know what might happen. Max has got in there and scored another important goal for us and we won't be settling for anything less than wins at this stage of the season.

"We killed ourselves really at Gillingham because we were 3-1 up and were cruising really. We have got to learn to see those type of games out because it did cost us against Wimbledon. We have to stop conceding the goals like we did," says Duggy.

"The good thing is that we are fit as a group and have a great belief to go right to the end. It has paid dividends for us earlier in the season, like away at Morecambe, and we are now unbeaten in six games. We have a drawn a few in that run but we want to remain unbeaten for as long as possible to give ourselves the best possible chance of getting into a play-off place.

"It was an outstanding performance at Gillingham and some of the football we played on the day was exceptional. The two young lads have scored important goals and we all know what AJ (Leitch-Smith) is capable of when he gets chances.

"Nick's goal (the first one at the Priestfield Stadium) was unbelievable. I was close to him when he hit it and it has flown in the top corner. It was a fantastic strike and we all know what a talent he is. He is destined for big things and it certainly helps when you have him and Max in the team because you know they can score a goal out of nothing and win you the game."

After serving a frustrating three-match ban following his dismissal at Barnet, Dugdale is determined to retain his place in the heart of the defence. The defender had prided himself on playing in

every game until his suspension and he is eager to finish the season strongly and win himself a new deal here at Gresty Road.

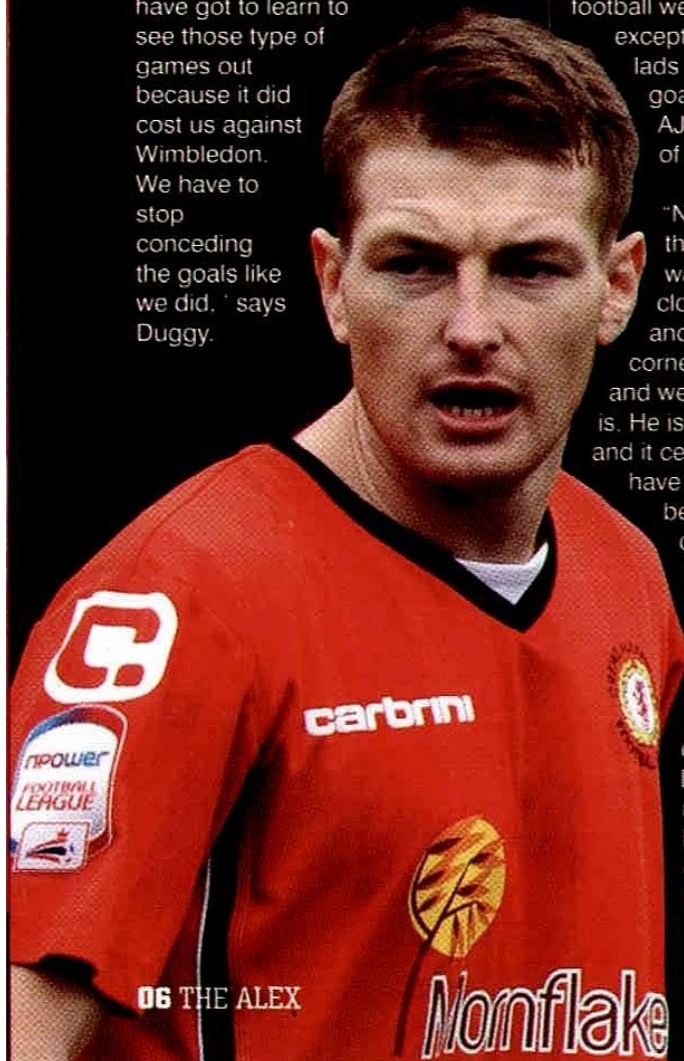
Next up this afternoon are table toppers Swindon Town and Dugdale knows it will be a stern test against the most consistent side at our level.

"Swindon are the best side in the league because they are top by some distance and have been outstanding over the last 20 games or so," says Adam. "It is the sort of game you look forward to as a player because you want to test yourself against the best.

"They have been on a great run and look favourites to win the league but we know that on our day we can be a match for anyone. They are all tough games because you can be facing a team with something to play for every week. Teams are going for promotion or a play-off place and then you have the teams fighting for their lives at the bottom, wanting to stay in the league.

"You have to earn every point and although we respect everyone, we don't fear anyone. All we do is look forward to the challenge and give everything we have to try and get a result.

Duggy added: "The dressing room was buzzing after what happened at Gillingham and we just want to take that confidence into the Swindon game and make sure our little run continues."





# POWELL HONOURED AT FOOTBALL LEAGUE AWARDS

Huge congratulations to our own Nick Powell who was voted the Apprentice Player of the Year for League Two at last weekend's Football League awards. The event was held at the Brewery Hotel, London, and Powell overcame stiff competition from Northampton's Danny Banister and Swindon's Miles Storey to claim the award, sponsored by Kit Bag. Powell, 17, is pictured with Kitbag's Commercial Director Ed Boardman and was interviewed by Football League enthusiast Mark Clemmitt on the main stage in front of 600 people.

**T**here were 17 major awards handed out on a star-studded evening in the capital. Southampton's Rickie Lambert was named the Championship Player-of-the-Year with Huddersfield's Jordan Rhodes winning the League One award and Swindon's Matt Ritchie (pictured) claiming the League Two award. Crystal Palace's skilful winger Wilfried Zaha picked up the Npower Young Player award.

Congratulations also go to the long-serving manager Graham Turner, now of Shrewsbury Town, who was honoured with the prestigious contribution to League football award – the award that our former manager Dario Gradi was honoured with last season.

Greg Clarke, chairman of the Football League said: "The Football League Awards 2012 has given us another opportunity to celebrate success at league clubs both on and off the pitch. It gives us the change to reward those who have demonstrated commitment beyond the call of the duty or achieved great things. I would like to offer my congratulations to all the winners and all those were nominated."





## Player Interview

### MAX CLAYTON

## Clayton desperate for another start after late Gills winner

Amazingly Max Clayton's statistics for the first team actually stands at four goals from his two starts for the first-team! The 17-year-old produced a match winning touch once again at the Priestfield Stadium last weekend, when his injury time header from Byron Moore's cross sealed a remarkable three points in a seven-goal thriller. Boss Steve Davis had once again turned to his teenager to try and grab a late winner and he duly obliged with a glancing header into the far corner.

**I**t was Clayton's England Under-18 International team-mate Nick Powell inspiring Crewe to a wonderful victory in Kent, scoring two exceptional goals and creating another for the recalled AJ Leitch-Smith but the local lad showed once again that he is a born goalscorer.

After Danny Spiller was red carded for a reckless challenge on our substitute Jordan Brown, the stage was set for Clayton to once again provide his match-winning intervention and keep our play-off hopes very much alive.

His winning goal at Gillingham ended an almost perfect week for the son of our former striker Paul Clayton. In mid-week he had started and finished for the England Under-18s in their fine 3-0 win here at Gresty Road over their Polish counterparts. He had a hand in a couple of those goals and showed the watching Steve Davis that he can also play in a wide role of a three.

It was no great surprise that Clayton described representing his country in front of his home crowd as 'right up there with making his senior debut'.

"I think playing for England at my

home ground was the proudest moment of my life," said Max.

"It was a great night and I really enjoyed it and of course it was good to get a 3-0 win. Personally, I managed to get two assists as well so I have to be pleased with that and I'm glad that I could help the team to victory.

"It was a great turn out by the fans and a great game to play in. It's a night that I can't really speak about to be honest. Playing at Crewe for England was a dream really, and like I said it is really hard to explain what it meant to me."

Crewe Alexandra, England and Polish fans turned out in force for a friendly International to see our first-year professionals Nick Powell, Ben Garratt and Clayton line up for their country.

It is the first time since Seth Johnson lined up for England U17 against Russia back in 1997 that an Alex player had pulled on the Three Lions shirt at Gresty Road. On that night, the likes of Stoke duo Matthew Upson and Jonathon Woodgate lined up for England, and over 6,000 fans turned up at Gresty Road to cast their eye over the next generation of England youngsters.

Clayton, along with Powell and Garratt, has now represented England at U16, U17 and now U18 levels, and he feels the experience of international football can only make him a better player.

Crewe fans who attended the game might have been surprised to see Clayton operate in several different positions for England, including a centre midfield role, while Powell generally operated in a much deeper position than he does in his club colours.

Max admits there are adjustments that need to be made when making the step into international level: "Playing for England is obviously a completely different experience to playing with Crewe but I love it. It's great working with Noel (Blake) and the coaches, and it can only help me learn more and make me a better player.

"It is flattering that I get to play in more than one role for England, and that versatility is only going to help me in the future, but I'll play wherever he wants me to play really."

The youngster admits that seeing some familiar faces in the



England squad does help, as does his exposure to first team football here at Gresty Road.

"I feel comfortable around the players and playing back at my own age group. The senior games has definitely helped me when I play at this age group because I feel stronger and bigger, and now I want more senior games to help the international side further."

After the game though, Max was quick to turn his attentions back to club level, and is now targeting becoming equally as comfortable in the Crewe first-team as he feels when playing at his own age group.

There may have been some memorable moments for Clayton already this season, none more so than his late, late winner at Gillingham to go with a similar one at Morecambe back in November, or even his sweet volley which gave the Alex the lead against Accrington last month - but you have to remember that Max has still only started just two games for the club!

Understandably Max is desperate for more first-team action at the club, but he realises he must be patient in his quest for regular starts.

"Obviously I want to play as much as I can, but I know it is in my best interests for Steve (Davis) to feed me in slowly because I know eventually that I will be playing. I've just got to keep doing what I am doing and hopefully score some goals when I get my chance.

"To start at Bradford was a learning curve for me. It was a tough game and the team did not play as well as we can on the day. I found it tough going but I learnt a lot and what is expected of me at first-team level.

"I think I have improved since then and become stronger and now all I can do is keep doing well in training and hopefully I will get another start soon."



### On playing for England at Gresty Road ...

*"Playing at Crewe for England was a dream really, and like I said it is really hard to explain what it meant to me."*



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## **PUKKA-PIES**

### **...don't compromise**





# A VIEW FROM THE DRESSING ROOM

with David Artell

A very good afternoon and a warm welcome to the Alexandra Stadium for today's visit of league leaders Swindon Town, a game that we come into off the back of a thrilling win over Gillingham last weekend.

**I**t was a pretty unbelievable game, but I don't think anybody in the ground that had seen the first half would have believed what entailed in the second half if you had of told them at half time. Thankfully we came out on the right side of a seven-goal thriller.

But I think we deserved it. We dominated for long periods in the first-half and Gillingham didn't even have a shot, so to concede three goals in the second half was very disappointing, especially from two long throws.

As a defender playing in a game like that is not very nice because you want to keep clean sheets. We felt in control at half time, but we gave a really silly goal away minutes in to the second half and then two more later in the game. We know we have to get better at that.

Every player has to do a job, and not the spectacular things, we need to dig in and nullify the opposition's threat, and that is something we know we have to improve on.

But the result is the most important thing. We went to

Rotherham and didn't play very well at all but got a point; at Gillingham we played very well and got all three and now the season is very much still alive.

I think even a point at Gillingham would have kept the season alive. If we had of lost it would have been a big ask, but a win has put us right in the mix, and to be honest I think there are two places in the play-offs to play for.

**"As the old cliché says, we just need to take one game at a time and see where that takes us, starting with Swindon today..."**

Oxford's position is obviously one we can look at, but Crawley are having a bad run at the moment too, and even though they have games in hand, they have to play Saturday, Tuesday games nearly every week between now and the end of the season which is not easy. Hopefully if they slip we can take advantage and that is the plan.

As the old cliché says, we just need to take one game at a time and see where that takes us, starting with Swindon today, and if we can get a win today it shows that we can beat anybody.

But if we play like we did at Gillingham and can keep up our good home form we have got a chance. It is all about how you perform on the day in this league. We won't fear Swindon today, but we will respect them.

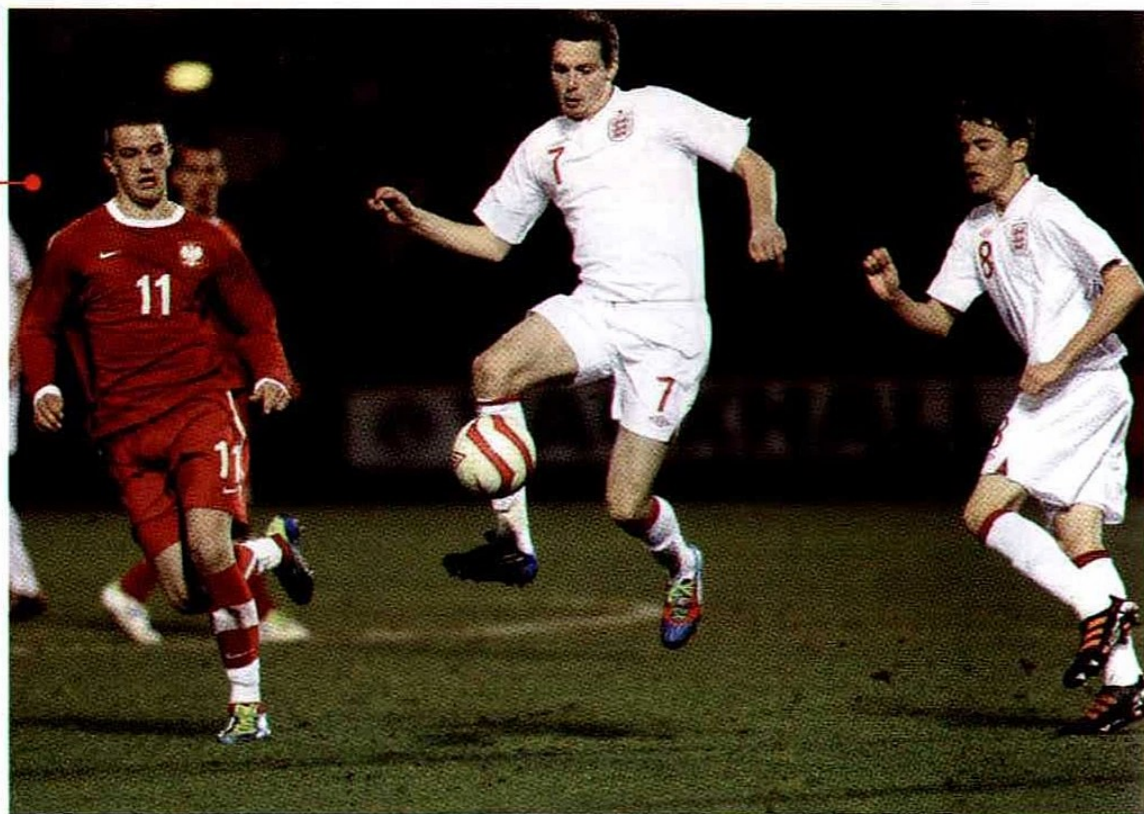
On the opening day of the season we were perhaps a bit unlucky not to get something at Swindon. We had some great chances in the first-half and then I gave a dubious penalty away on the stroke of half time, which gave them a massive boost, so we know that we can compete against them.

But it is up to us to go out today and show why we should be in the play-offs and hopefully take a step to getting there. Hopefully the supporters can get behind us today, because we need them and if they can show us some real support that can only help us.

**Enjoy the game.**



1



2





3



4



5



## CAPTIONS

- 1 Nick Powell pulls the ball down head of Poland's Jakub Legierski.
- 2 Everton's Hallam Hope celebrates putting England 2-0 ahead.
- 3 Max Clayton shields possession from Pawel Wojowski.
- 4 Plymouth's Matt Lecointe celebrates making it 3-0.
- 5 Ben Garratt barks out the orders at an atmospheric Gresty Road.

## MATCH STATS

**ENGLAND** 3

Hiwula 10, Hope 61, Lecointe 64

**POLAND** 0

Under-18 Friendly

International

The Alexandra Stadium

Date: 7th March 2012

Attendance: 6,112

Referee: J. Bialek

## ENGLAND

- 1 Jordan Pickford (↓46mins)
- 2 Jack Stephens (↓46mins)
- 3 Daniel Potts (↓46mins)
- 4 John Lundstram (c)
- 5 Adam Jackson
- 6 Jack O'Connell
- 7 Nick Powell (↓61mins)
- 8 Jordan Lussey (↓61mins)
- 9 Hallam Hope (↓69mins)
- 10 Jordie Hiwula (↓46mins)
- 11 Max Clayton

## From The Bench

- 12 Tyler Blackett (↑46mins)
- 13 Ben Garratt (↑46mins)
- 14 Jack Barmby (↑46mins)
- 15 Jordan Willis (↑46mins)
- 16 Ben Osborn (↑69mins)
- 17 Matt Lecointe (↑65mins)
- 18 Jack Dunn (↑61mins)

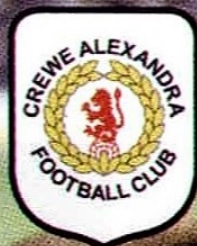
## POLAND

- 1 Przemyslaw Frackowiak
- 2 Robert Sulewski
- 3 Alan Uryga
- 4 Pawel Wojowski (↓67mins)
- 5 Adam Radecki
- 6 Tomasz Kedziora (c)
- 7 Kamil Wlodyka (↓65mins)
- 8 Piotr Zielinski
- 9 Lukasz Wronski
- 10 Arkadiusz Milik (↓61mins)
- 11 Jakub Legierski

## From The Bench

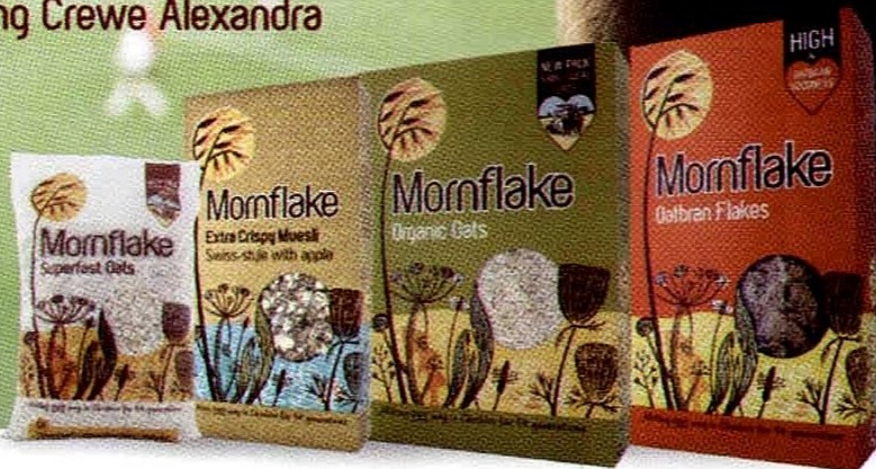
- 13 Norbert Misiak (↑65mins)
- 15 Marcin Flis (↑67mins)
- 18 Marcin Stromecki (↑61mins)





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Bathers at Kangai, Turkey, spend hours immersed in warm water while 10-centimetre-long fish gently nibble away at their dead skin.

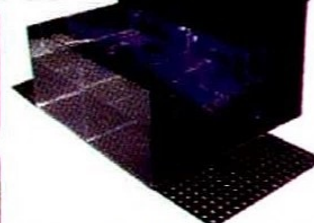
These fish (Garra Rufa - also known as doctor fish) are natural inhabitants of Kangai's hot pools. They have no teeth, but when you immerse your feet into the warm water they get to work by gently nibbling off any dead hard skin.

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Left: Garra Fish at work





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The club shop offers everything from our popular away kit, to official club watches to sweatshirts and teddy bears. The Crewe Alexandra beach towel is a best seller with Alex fans, so make sure

you get yours in for your 2012 summer holiday!



You can also visit us on-line through the official web-site or by calling us on **01270 213014 ext 101**.

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## JUNIORS

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# Don't forget to vote now!

## Do you want a single Town Council for Crewe – Yes or No?

On 1 February ballot papers were delivered to all electors in Crewe

**Please use your vote to have your say!**

**Your vote is important to us!**

**Please remember if you do not vote, you have no voice!**

**Return the ballot in the pre-paid envelope by 29 February**

**Results of the consultation and a draft recommendation will be communicated in the local media and on our website in April 2012**

For more information see the Cheshire East website or email [communitygovernancereview@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:communitygovernancereview@cheshireeast.gov.uk) or phone 0300 123 5016

Thank you

[www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/crewegovreview](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/crewegovreview)

**Cheshire East**  
Council





## Player Interview

AJ LEITCH-SMITH

### Local lad aims to make up for lost time

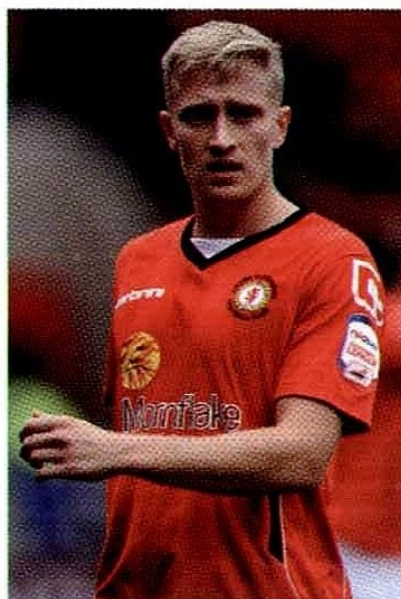
With the crucial run-in towards the end of the season approaching, Steve Davis will need to use a large number of his squad. The club's physiotherapist and fitness departments deserve great credit for keeping the majority of our squad available for selection. The likes of Steve Phillips, Matt Tootle, Luke Murphy, Ash Westwood, Harry Davis and Adam Dugdale have been virtually injury free and played in the majority of the games. It has been key to our sustained effort to break into the play-off places.

**AJ** Leitch-Smith has made great strides with his injury record as well this season. The Crewe-born forward has already surpassed his personal best for appearances having made 31 and scoring six goals. There has been a vast improvement in getting the talented 22-year-old out onto the pitch, but there is still the possibility of more to come from him.

To his enormous credit, Leitch-Smith has worked exceedingly hard to overcome the niggling injuries that have so far hampered his Crewe career. He has become stronger physically and that has helped him mentally. He knows that he can now stay fit and make a contribution to the cause over a period of games.

Saying that he has not totally conquered those little set-backs that have prevented him from fully establishing himself as a regular in our front-line. He has only recently returned from a troublesome ankle problem but again was in the right place at the right time to score our second goal at Gillingham on Saturday.

"I've had a number of injuries over the last couple of seasons but I feel



as though I am improving now," says AJ. "It has set me back in terms of holding down a place in the team but I have worked hard and played a number of games this season.

"It has been a lot better and I've been doing extra work at training to make sure that I am in better condition. It has helped me and I feel as fit as I have ever done.

"I am available for selection and want to play my part before the end of the season."

AJ fully appreciates that he has a fight on his hands to convince the boss that he can be relied upon to stay fit and score the goals we need to remain in the promotion hunt. The competition is fierce for places, especially with Nick Powell showing what he is capable of in a more advanced position and Max Clayton improving all the time.

"We do have some very good forwards here and it will be those who score the goals and play well that will stay in the team. We are still optimistic of doing well this season because we have quality in the squad and can beat anyone on our day," says AJ.

"I have to work hard to try to stay in the team. After winning at Gillingham, we are still not out of contention for a play-off place and remain confident. We need to put a run together to make sure that if anyone slips up, we can take advantage of that.

"We have to keep putting the performances in and make sure that we are clinical in front of goal to finish the chances we always create. There are still enough points to play for and we just have to keep pushing on and hope that someone slips up."





# THE ROBINS SWINDON TOWN

## ARE WE SEEING THE CHAMPIONS ELECT THIS AFTERNOON?

**S**windon Town's charismatic manager Paolo Di Canio has been saying for a few months now that only 'he and his players can burn up their chance of promotion this season'. That is the Italian's way of proclaiming that his Swindon side are the overwhelming favourites for the League Two title and a return to npower League One at the first attempt is within their grasp.

After recently enjoying a 10-game winning run, Swindon have firmly established themselves as the most consistent team in the division and their manager has earmarked another nine points as a target for guaranteed promotion. Their impressive run was ended by their

arch-rivals Oxford United (typically for us!) in a bizarre match which saw the visitors virtually dominate after the U's had their striker James Constable sent-off after barely ten minutes!

How the Robins went on to lose 2-0 was anybody's guess and Di Canio was more perplexed than anyone. He said in his post-match interview: "I watched the game back and though Mamma Mia, we are three levels over this level! We lost but we completely dominated the game." They quickly overcame their 'derby' defeat with an emphatic 4-0 win over Dagenham and Redbridge.

Di Canio has not been afraid to tip his side as the best in the league, even when they were placed out of the automatic spots and that confidence he has in his squad has paid

dividends. At times this season, he has reacted angrily to defeats, but this man-management has only spurred his players on to become better and improve. Di Canio was a winner as a player and it is pretty obvious that he is just as determined to be just as successful as a manager. He is a perfectionist who doesn't enjoy losing too much and says he has been able to convert his players into 'battling warriors'.

The results do speak for themselves. After a shaky and nervous first half against Crewe on the opening day of the season, they eventually won 3-0, but then suffered surprising away defeats to Cheltenham and Dagenham. A slow start to the campaign saw them lost 2-1 at home to Oxford and lose narrowly away at Shrewsbury. The odds on them being

## ONES TO WATCH

### GOALKEEPER

#### Wes Foderingham

Swindon Town signed Crystal Palace goalkeeper Wes Foderingham on a three-month loan deal on Friday 14th October 2011. The former England Under 19 'keeper then made his move permanent in the January Transfer Window. Foderingham, 20, first came to the attention of Crystal Palace in a pre-season friendly last season against Bromley where he put in an outstanding performance against the Eagles. He trained with the club throughout pre-season and was signed in August 2010 before returning to Bromley on loan to continue his development as well as a loan spell at Histon. Foderingham, who began his career with Fulham enjoyed a prolific start to his Swindon career and didn't concede a goal in his first five games.

### DEFENDERS

#### Joe Devera

Devera became Paolo Di Canio's first signing as Town boss in June 2011. Devera linked up with the Robins

after an established spell with Barnet and will hope to use his considerable experience to help Swindon to success. The 24-year-old, who is of Venezuelan descent, made 177 appearances during a six-year career with the Bees, and was named the club's Player of the Year in 2008 and 2011. A product of the Barnet youth system, Devera can play at either right-back or centre-back, and will add much-needed depth to the Town defensive line.

#### Callum Kennedy

Former Reading youngster Kennedy was first granted a taste of first team action by former Town boss Paul Sturrock. The youngster made a surprise start in the 4-1 win over Brentford in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy in September 2007. Numerous substitute appearances then followed in Season 2008/2009, before he made his full debut

against Carlisle United at the start of December 2008. He was awarded a new one-year contract in the summer of 2009 although injury caused lack of first team action, but Kennedy did sign a new one-year deal in January 2010.

After loan spells at Gillingham and Rotherham United during Season 2010/2011, Kennedy returned to The County Ground as first-choice left-back for Season 2011/12.

#### Alessandro Cibocchi

Paolo Di Canio sealed his tenth signing of the summer with the capture of left-back Cibocchi in July 2011. The 28-year-old joined Town on their pre-season tour of Italy last week, and did enough to convince







PAUL BENSON

promoted were increasing by the week and there was immediate criticism of Di Canio as a new manager.

The Wiltshire club didn't panic and slowly but surely, their quality has

shone through. They won three tough league games against Rotherham, Southend and away at Crawley in September to really ignite their season and they followed that up with more convincing victories against Barnet (4-0), Port Vale (2-0),

Gillingham (2-0) and Morecambe (3-0) as they headed into Christmas. They were beaten 1-0 at Torquay on Boxing Day but that defeat acted as a spur for a club record run of ten successive wins. Including in that unbelievable sequence of results

*continued on p20*

Di Canio he was worth a contract. The Italian has signed a two-year-deal at The County Ground, and will compete with Callum Kennedy for a first team place. Cibocchi made his first appearance for the Robins in pre-season at Swindon Supermarine.

#### **Alan McCormack**

McCormack signed a two-year-deal at The County Ground in July 2011 following a successful trial. McCormack started his career at Preston North End, before a series of loan moves preceded a switch to Southend United. He went on to make 130 appearances for the Shrimpers, scoring 15 times during three seasons at the club between 2007 and 2010.

Charlton Athletic secured his services last summer following Southend's relegation to League 2, and McCormack went on to make 24 appearances for the Addicks, scoring once. McCormack competes with Michael Timlin, Jonathan Smith, Simon Ferry and Oliver Risser for a midfield slot, but has recently played at right-back for Town.

#### **MIDFIELDERS**

##### **Oliver Risser**

Risser penned a two-year-deal at The County Ground in July 2011, and was named club captain shortly after although he has since been replaced as captain by Paul Caddis. The 30-year-old is a Namibian international who has played in Norway, Germany and Greece during his career. A powerful defensive midfielder, Risser has recently played as a centre-back and scored for Town against Crewe on the opening day of the season.

##### **Simon Ferry**

Ferry made the permanent switch from Celtic in August 2010, penning a three-year deal.

The midfielder had enjoyed a hugely successful season at SN1 in 2009/2010, making 42 starts and scoring twice in Town's play-off campaign. Having joined Celtic at the age of 12, Ferry progressed the ranks at Parkhead, however, he was sidelined for nearly two years with a serious ankle injury, and 2009/2010 was his first full season of professional

football, a season in which he was agonisingly close to success. Ferry made 25 appearances during the 2010/11 season and was often a frustrated figure on the substitutes bench, especially during the second half of the campaign. The 23-year old has already proved to be a major part of the side and scored his second goal of the campaign in the FA Cup win over Huddersfield Town.

##### **Matt Ritchie**

After two separate loan spells, Matt Ritchie signed a two-and-a-half year contract at with Town in January 2011. Ritchie made his full debut for the club in the 2-0 Johnstone's Paint Trophy second round win over Torquay United at The County Ground, before going on to make 34 appearances during the rest of the season, scoring 12 times. A bustling attacking midfielder, the 22-year-old was voted Fans' Player of the Year for his efforts in 2010/11. Ritchie's

*continued on p20*





# THE ROBINS SWINDON TOWN

they impressively won 4-1 at promotion rivals Southend and 3-0 at home to Crawley.

The run saw them go top of the table and now brimming with confidence and belief they are odds on favourites to go on and win the title. A 2-0 win over rivals Cheltenham Town last weekend has taken them eight points clear of Shrewsbury Town and only they can 'burn it up' now.

Di Canio's new squad needed time to gel into a winning machine but his investments have made them almost promotion certainties. Alberto Comazzi arrived from the managers' homeland in late June and Alan McCormack and Alan Connell were signed on free transfers from Charlton and Grimsby respectively.

Full-back Joe Devera signed from Barnet, and for a fee of £30,000 the highly-rated midfielder Jonathan Smith came in from York City.

The summer spending spree also saw the Namibian International Oliver Risser and duly score on his debut against Crewe Alexandra and the Italian striker Raffaele De Vita arrived on a free transfer from Scottish side Livingston.

That firepower has only been added to further with young Billy Bodin returning from a loan spell at Torquay United in January. The Welshman has returned with a real appetite for goals and has scored three from his seven appearances. He had previously scored against Crewe as a Torquay United player in a 3-0 win at Gresty Road back in November.

The January transfer window saw Di Canio swoop for the vastly experienced Paul Benson from Charlton Athletic. The former Dagenham and Redbridge striker now 32, adds some real class to their finishing and has already scored eight goals for the club following his six-figure move to the County Ground.

Benson's arrival in the New Year was not the only permanent capture with goalkeeper Wesley Foderingham signing from Crystal Palace after impressing on loan and Luke Rooney from Gillingham. Late movement on deadline day also saw young midfielder Lee Cox sign from Inverness.

Swindon have one of the most competitive squads at this level and goalkeeper Foderingham is being

## ONES TO WATCH

fine form so far this season was rewarded with the League 2 Player of the Year Award at the 2012 Football League Awards.

### Jonathan Smith

Swindon Town secured the signing of York City midfielder Smith in June 2011. The former Forest Green Rovers man joined the Robins for an undisclosed fee, signing a two-year contract at The County Ground. The 24-year-old was highly-rated during his time with the Minstermen, and has continued to impress for Town.

### Luke Rooney

Former Gillingham winger Luke Rooney joined in January 2012 in one of the biggest transfers of the League Two January Transfer Window. One of the brightest prospects to emerge from Gillingham's youth system in recent years, Rooney came through the Gills' academy and went out on loan to non-league Lewes before making his Football League debut in September 2009. He went on to have two loan spells with Eastbourne before becoming a regular in Andy Hessenthaler's side. He made a total of 61 appearances for

Gillingham, netting six goals. Since his move to Town, Rooney has made ten appearances and scored twice.

### Lee Cox

Town signed midfielder Lee Cox from Scottish side Inverness Caledonian Thistle on Tuesday 31st January 2012. Cox, 21, was born in Leicester and began his career with his hometown club, winning the Premier League Academy title with the Foxes in 2006/07. He rejoined Inverness in the summer of 2009 following his release from the Foxes. He was a regular in his first season for the Scottish club, helping them win the Scottish First Division title in 2009/10. After injury early in the 2011/12 campaign, he returned to action at the start of December and has made nine appearances since then. In total he started 56 league games for Terry Butcher's

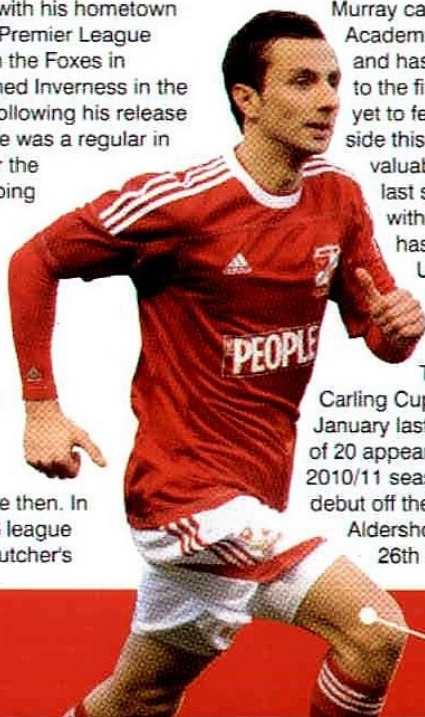
## FORWARDS

### Ronan Murray

Swindon Town signed Ipswich Town striker Ronan Murray in late November on a loan deal until 14th January 2012.

Murray came through the Academy at Portman Road and has progressed through to the first team squad but is yet to feature for Paul Jewell's side this term. He gained some valuable league experience last season in a loan spell with Torquay United and has been capped up to U19 level with the Republic of Ireland.

The frontman came off the bench for the Tractorboys in the Carling Cup defeat at Chelsea in January last year and made a total of 20 appearances during the 2010/11 season. Murray made his debut off the bench against Aldershot Town on Saturday 26th November, before





kept on his toes by the experienced Phil Smith and Italian Mattia Lanzano.

Young defender Callum Kennedy is one of the most promising in the league and Italian centre half Allesandro Cibocchi has settled in well since arriving in July. Scottish defender Paul Caddis has been a fundamental part of their success this season and midfielder Matt Ritchie is regarded as one of the finest players in the entire division.

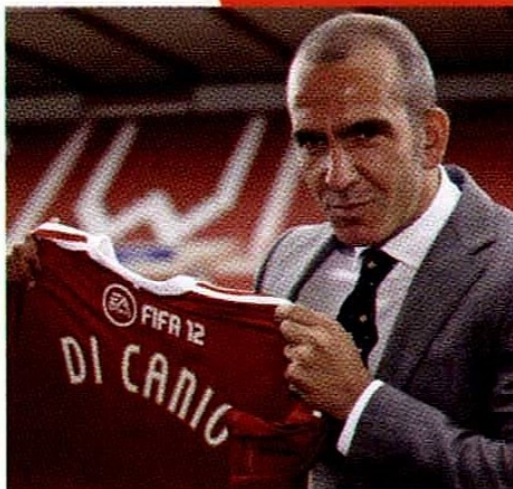
Swindon will win promotion at the end of the season and will want to clinch the championship as quickly as possible. Di Canio may have his critics and his antics has seen him sent to the stands on three occasions this season, but he has proved that he is a fine man-motivator who thrives under pressure. He and his team rode an early storm to rise to the top and they will take some real shifting now. Today, we will get the chance to test ourselves against the champions elect.

## MANAGER – PAOLO DI CANIO

**F**ormer West Ham United and Charlton Athletic striker Paolo Di Canio was unveiled as Swindon Town manager on Monday 23rd May 2011.

The Italian signed a two-year contract, and joined the club alongside assistant Fabrizio Piccareta and fitness coach Claudio Donatelli. The Town job is his first as a manager after a glittering and often controversial playing career.

Di Canio made a flying start to his Town career with a 3-0 home victory over the Alex in League 2, and has since guided Town to the top of League Two, including a run of 10 straight wins.



As a player, Di Canio made over 500 senior appearances with the likes of Juventus, Napoli, Lazio, and AC Milan, before a move to Britain where he excelled with Sheffield Wednesday, Celtic, and perhaps most notably West Ham United where he scored over 50 goals, most of them spectacular.

rejoining on loan until the end of the season in January.

### Billy Bodin

The son of Town legend and Under 18's manager Paul, Bodin signed his first professional contract at The County Ground in 2010, alongside fellow youth team graduate Will Evans.

Bodin has progressed through the ranks at the club, having played from Under 9 level upwards in red and white. He was top scorer for both the Under 18 and reserve teams at The County Ground in Season 2009/2010, and was rewarded with a one-year deal by then-manager Danny Wilson. The 19-year-old, who can play as both a left-winger and a striker and started Town's first game of the season against Crewe Alexandra before linking up with Wales U21s and then moving on to a successful loan spell with Torquay.

### Jonathan Tehoue

Swindon Town signed Leyton Orient striker Jonathan Tehoue on loan until the end of the season on Wednesday 7th March. A strong striker with top flight experience in his native France, Belgium and Turkey, Tehoue came to

E10 with an impressive pedigree and made a name for himself in England by netting Orient's equaliser in their 1-1 draw with Arsenal in the FA Cup last season. He had originally looked set to join Huddersfield Town in the 2008/09 season, but the ongoing dispute with Konyaspor scuppered a move to England at that time. But having secured his release from his Turkish club in late 2009, Tehoue began to make up for lost time by becoming a super-sub for the O's - 10 of his 11 goals last term came from the bench.

### Raffaele De Vita

Italian striker De Vita signed a two-year deal with the Robins in June 2011, joining Town after a spell in Scotland with Livingston. De Vita joined Blackburn Rovers aged 15 and came up through the youth and reserve team ranks at Ewood Park. Despite a hat-trick in a reserve team game against Wigan Athletic, first team opportunities never surfaced and the frontman opted to leave the Premier League side. In July 2008 he moved into Scotland to join Livingston where he spent three seasons. Last term he made 31 appearances, scoring 11 goals.

### Paul Benson

Swindon Town completed the signing of Charlton Athletic striker Paul Benson on a two-and-a-half year deal on 1st January 2012. Born in Southend, Benson joined Dagenham & Redbridge in 2005 and struck 28 times in 2006/07 to help Dagenham & Redbridge win the Conference title, and netted 22 goals the following term, scoring in all three play-off matches as Daggers defeated Rotherham United 3-2 in the League Two play-off final to clinch promotion to League One. In total, including FA Trophy matches, Benson notched 84 goals in 201 games for John Still's side, before joining Charlton Athletic for an undisclosed fee on Monday 30th August and made his debut for the club the next day in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy - against his former side. In total he scored ten goals in 28 starts for the Addicks before joining Swindon where he has made a prolific start scoring five times.







# THE ROBINS SWINDON TOWN

## WE HAVE PREVIOUS...



**SWINDON TOWN 1  
CREWE ALEXANDRA 3**  
League One  
Saturday 21st December 2002

Dean Ashton set Crewe on their way to a comfortable win at the Crown Ground, a victory that would be their 8th win in 9 games. Stephen Foster and Rodney Jack added their names to the score sheet to make it a fine start to the festive period in a season in which the Alex would return to the Championship.

In a fairly open first-half, both sides had their chances and if Swindon's finishing had been better we could well have been behind going in at the break. The pace of Eric Sabin, Stefan Miglioranza and the superbly named Danny Invincible worried Crewe, but Swindon wasted four decent openings when they were on top and it came back to haunt them.

The decisive break through came in the 16th minute. Crewe were patient in their build up at the back before finding Kenny Lunt in space, and his super curling pass set up Ashton perfectly for him to slot home his seventh goal of the season and give the Alex the lead.

Swindon pressed for a leveller, but Sam Parkin, Invincible and Miglioranza all wasted excellent chances and soon, Town found themselves two goals adrift. Lunt's perfectly flighted free-kick was headed on by Ashton and he was so unlucky to see his effort bounce down and out off the cross-bar before Stephen Foster rushed in to head home on 38 minutes.

Town came out for the second half in similar attacking fashion, with efforts from Matthew Hewlett and Sabin. Steve Robinson also sent a good effort just wide of Ince's post and the Crewe

number one was called into real action to punch a Duke free kick away in the 50th minute.

But Crewe always looked a threat on the break with Jack's pace the key. For all their efforts to get back into the game, Swindon were dead and buried by the hour mark when Ashton raced clear to break the offside trap and his unselfishness in front of goal presented Jack with the simple task of tapping home his 11th goal of the season.

It just wasn't Swindon's day in front of goal with Reeves placing a free header straight into the arms of Ince and boss king tried to alter things by bringing on Chris Sutton's brother John for his debut - but they looked liked they were never going to score until they got a chance from the penalty spot.

Dave Walton was the guilty party for Crewe, as the ball seemed to bounce up and hit him on the hand and when Swindon's top scorer Sam Parkin put Ince the wrong way from the spot, Town had a consolation goal.

**Swindon:** Griemink, Gurney, Reeves, Heywood, Duke, Miglioranza, Robinson, Hewlett, Invincible, Parkin, Sabin (Sutton)

**Crewe:** Ince, Wright, Tierney, Walton, Foster, Lunt, Brammer, Sorvel, Vaughan, Jack (Rix), Ashton

**CREWE ALEXANDRA 1  
SWINDON TOWN 0**  
League One  
Saturday 13th December 2008

A real poachers strike from Shaun Miller in first half stoppage time finally gave Crewe Alexandra a deserved home win. Miller was in the right place at the right time to convert a close range rebound after Phil Smith had stopped a shot from Joel Grant.

Crewe's task was made a lot easier with Swindon Town's striker Billy Paynter seeing red after a clash with Michael O'Connor. The red mist once again descended on Paynter who was shown the red card for an off-the-ball incident.

Following the dismissal on 66 minutes, the ten men of Swindon gave it

a real go with a back header from substitute Blair Sturrock the closest they came to an equaliser. It would have been harsh on the Alex who shaded the better of the chances throughout the game.

Crewe had earlier started the game at a pace and nearly forced home an early opening after a promising run and cross from Grant, but after his delivery had been flicked on Anthony Elding, his strike partner Miller just couldn't quite reach it.

That early momentum continued with the Swindon keeper Phil Smith diving on a Eugen Bopp cross and Elding having a goal bound header cleared off the line after Dennis Lawrence had stayed up in the penalty area following a free-kick from O'Connor.

Before the red mist descended on him, the former Port Vale forward Billy Paynter was the biggest threat for the visitors. He sent a Anthony McNamee cross into the side netting before being denied a shot on target only because of some superb defending by John Brayford.

Swindon's best chance came towards the end of the first half when another good delivery from our former loanee winger McNamee picked out Lee Peacock at the far post, but after adjusting his feet accordingly he put his eventual shot a yard wide.

Just after the fourth official signalled three minutes of stoppage time, Crewe broke the deadlock with a fine team goal. Bopp was involved again on the edge of the Swindon penalty area, releasing Grant inside the penalty area and after his well-struck shot was parried out by Smith there was Miller to tap home what would be a priceless winner.

Miller missed two decent chances to extend Crewe's lead in the opening minutes of the second half, but Crewe







were soon given a massive boost with Paynter's red-card just after the hour mark.

Swindon may have been reduced to ten men but they still enjoyed good possession in the Crewe half. They gave it a real go and Simon Cox headed just wide and Michael Timlin had a shot from distance, which made Tomlinson work.

**Crewe:** Tomlinson, Brayford, O'Donnell, Lawrence, Abbey, Miller, O'Connor, Bailey, Bopp (Murphy), Elding (Donaldson), Grant

**Swindon:** Smith, Smith, Aljofree, Ifil, Kennedy, McGovern (Sturrock), Pook, Peacock (Easton), McNamee (Timlin), Paynter, S Cox

### SWINDON TOWN 3 CREWE ALEXANDRA 0 League Two Saturday 6th August 2011

Crewe Alexandra's 2011/12 season started with a defeat but the 3-0 scoreline at the County Ground certainly flattered Paolo Di Canio's side. The Alex could and should have been ahead at the break after wasting four decent chances to go ahead.

As it was they went in at the break behind after a soft penalty award for David Artell's pull on Billy Bodin when in control of the majority of the possession. Before the opening goal, Shaun Miller, Danny Shelley twice and Nick Powell all had opportunities to put the Railwaymen ahead.

The task of fighting back was made doubly difficult when their German captain Oliver Risser unleashed an unstoppable half volley from 25 yards just after the hour mark before some lapse defending allowed centre-half Aden Flint to nod home a free-kick from close range.

Crewe had started the game in excellent fashion. Shelley delivered a corner from the right hand side and a climbing Dugdale was unfortunate to see his downward header saved by Phil Smith in the Swindon goal. The ball did spin out of his grasp but the grounded goalkeeper did well to block

and then smother at the feet of Shaun Miller.

The best chance for Crewe fell to Shelley though. Powell produced a sublime touch on 36 minutes. Controlling a dropping ball superbly to trick his way past Flint before laying it off perfectly for the supportive Shelley, but the midfielder couldn't keep his shot down.

As the first half drew to a close, Artell was placed in a foot race with Bodin going into the penalty area and after contact between the two players, the Swindon player went to ground and the referee pointed to the spot. It appeared soft with neither player in control of possession as it ran behind the by-line. The Alex players couldn't believe it and Artell was also booked for the infringement. Full-back Kennedy stepped up to put Phillips the wrong way.

The second half started with the flying Matt Ritchie trying to steal in at the far post behind Tootle. The lively winger got their first but couldn't quite direct his header on target to really trouble Phillips.

Byron Moore came close to a leveller with a deflected effort, but it was the home side who would score again on 63 minutes. After appearing to clear the danger from our box through Ashley Westwood's diving header, the Swindon captain Risser collected the ball 25 yards out before sending a perfect half volley past Phillips.

Soon after Flint was given far too time and space to nod home from close range. Phillips got a hand onto it but couldn't keep it out up against his post. Swindon's late sub Alan Connell was so nearly gifted a fourth goal in the 86th minute after Bell had attempted to bring a high ball under control inside the penalty area, but the game ended 3-0 as Paolo Di Canio began his Robbins career in excellent style.

**Swindon:** Smith, Kennedy, Flint, Devera, Caddis, Ritchie, Risser (Ferry), Timlin, De Vita, Smith (McCormack), Bodin (Connell)

**Crewe:** Phillips, Tootle, Davis, Westwood, Artell, Dugdale, Bell, Miller (Clayton), Moore, Shelley (Leitch-Smith), Powell

## FACTS & FIGURES

- Today Swindon Town make their 12th visit to Crewe for a league encounter and arrive as clear leaders of League Two. It was on the opening day of this season that the Alex last faced Swindon, a game the Robbins won 3-0.
- Back in the 1996/97 season, Crewe Alexandra won promotion to the second tier of English football by virtue of their 1-0 win in the play-off final over Brentford at Wembley.
- On the opening day of the following 1997/98 season, Crewe made their first appearance in Division One in an away game at Swindon, but lost the game 2-0. The Crewe line-up on that day was: Kearton, Unsworth, Smith, Westwood, Lightfoot, Pemberton, Rivers, Lunt, Adebola, Johnson and Charnock. In the reverse fixture in January, Crewe won 2-0, with goals scored by Colin Little and Kevin Street.
- Kenny Lunt, had made his league debut in the away game at Swindon, and he is still playing league football with Hereford United today. Another player in the Alex side was Dele Adebola, and he is also still in the league after moving to Hull City from Nottingham Forest in the close season.
- Our last home meeting with Swindon was in season 2008/09 a game Crewe won 1-0 thanks to Shaun Miller goal just before half time. Later in the season the sides drew 0-0 in the reverse fixture.



## LAST FIVE

SWINDON 2-0 Accrington  
SWINDON 2-0 Burton  
Oxford 2-0 SWINDON  
SWINDON 4-0 Dag & Red  
SWINDON 1-0 Cheltenham





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**crewealex.net**

## FREE TWO-WEEK PLAYER TRIAL IN MARCH!

Following Crewe's thrilling 4-3 win over Gillingham last weekend, hopes of a late burst in to the League Two play-off hopes are very much alive as we enter the business end of the season here at the Alexandra Stadium.

That win at Gillingham is sure to lift everyone's confidence and speaking after the game to Crewe Alex Player, Alex defender Adam Dugdale said just that.

Dugdale was interviewed by BBC Radio Stoke's Graham McGarry who had just about calmed down after commentating on a pulsating game. Crewe Alex fans who were listening via the club's premium

subscription service Crewe Alex Player will certainly have enjoyed the excitement generated through Graham's commentary!

Those supporters who missed out on the commentary were able to relive the game on Player after the game, and if you aren't a current Player subscriber, you still can by taking advantage of a free trial offer on Player!

Throughout the month of March, Alex fans will be able to sample Crewe Alex Player for two weeks for FREE! This will give fans access to all of the match commentary, match highlights, and interviews and features that Player has to offer, for nothing!

Alex fans who take up the trial will also be able to see the return of the Dugdale/Tootie show, after the duo returned to your screens last week, so make sure you don't miss out by starting your trial.

To begin your trial simply click through to Player from the club's official website and following the on-screen instructions. Please note if you do not cancel your subscription after 14 days you will automatically move on to our monthly subscription plan priced at £4.29 a month.

If you do opt to make Player a more permanent part of your Crewe Alexandra experience following your trial, you also become entitled to a FREE ticket for a home game of your choice at the Alexandra Stadium between now and the end of the season.

Any supporter who takes a Player subscription out during the month of March, either on a pay monthly basis or by direct debit, will receive a ticket to a home game of their choice. So as a Crewe fan you could get a match ticket for Tuesday's game with Bradford City, or the potential crucial games with Cheltenham or Bristol Rovers later in the season, for absolutely nothing, as well as their Player subscription! Don't miss out on this excellent offer!

If you want to claim your free ticket, email [jbeckett@crewealex.net](mailto:jbeckett@crewealex.net).

While Player is the best way to stay up to date on all your Crewe Alexandra news, the club's Twitter page @OfficialCAFC is another excellent way to keep in touch with the news from Gresty Road.

Followers receive live updates from all of our games this season, as well as breaking news alerts and snippets of the videos that Player has to offer, so why not join the Twitter revolution and find a new way to stay in touch with your Football Club?





# CLUB CONNECTIONS

FOOTBALL HISTORIAN LEIGH EDWARDS TAKES A LOOK AT THE CLOSE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN CREWE ALEXANDRA AND TODAY'S OPPONENTS SWINDON TOWN.

## WEMBLEY WINNER

Former Swindon Town midfielder Gareth Whalley featured in Crewe Alexandra's 1996-97 Second Division play-off final success. He turned professional at Gresty Road in July 1992 and also helped Crewe to win promotion in 1993-94, scoring nine goals in 180 League games before joining Bradford City for £600,000 in July 1998. Briefly returning to Crewe on loan in March 2002, he joined Swindon from Wigan Athletic in August 2005 but was unable to prevent relegation in 2005-06, making 24 League appearances while at the County Ground.

## YOUTH INTERNATIONAL

Ex-England Youth central defender Ashley Westwood played for both Crewe Alexandra and Swindon Town. He moved to Gresty Road from Manchester United for £40,000 in July 1995 and starred in Crewe's 1996-97 Second Division play-off final triumph, scoring nine goals in 98 League games before sold to Bradford City for £150,000 in

July 1998. Moving to Swindon on loan from Chester City in March 2007, he made nine League appearances while at the County Ground. Fellow England Youth international Anthony McNamee also played for both clubs.

## PROMOTION WINNER

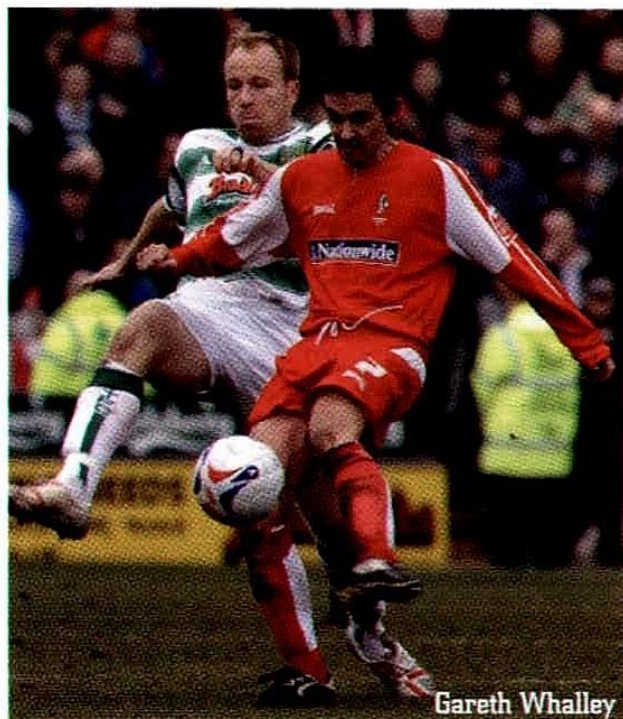
Former Swindon Town left-back Mark Gardiner helped Crewe Alexandra to win promotion in 1988-89 and 1993-94. Signing professional at the County Ground in October 1984, he was a member of Swindon's 1985-86 Fourth Division title squad and scored once in ten League games for today's visitors prior to joining Torquay United in February 1987. He joined Crewe in August 1988 and also helped Dario Gradi's side to reach the play-offs in two consecutive seasons, netting 35 goals in 193 League outings before moving to Frederikstad in June 1995.

## CUP HERO

One-time Crewe Alexandra central defender Colin Prohett was ever-present for Swindon Town in 1976-77. Moving to the County Ground from Norwich City in September 1974, he starred as Swindon took West Ham and Everton to FA Cup fourth round replays in 1974-75 and 1976-77 respectively and netted ten times in 160 Third Division games prior to joining Chesterfield in September 1978. He joined Crewe in October 1979 and was ever-present in 1980-81, scoring once in 79 League outings before moving to Cardiff City as reserve team coach in July 1981.

## WARTIME FOOTBALL

Former Swindon Town inside-forward Fred Chandler played for Crewe Alexandra either side of the Second World War. Moving to the County Ground from Blackpool in May 1936, he played alongside Jimmy Cookson in Swindon's attack and netted seven goals in 21 Third Division (South) games for today's opponents prior to joining Crewe in May 1937. He formed a notable left-wing partnership with Matt Johnson and played for the Alex in wartime football, scoring 22 times in 80



Gareth Whalley





Anthony McNamée

League outings while at Gresty Road before retiring in May 1947.

### LEADING MARKSMAN

Former Crewe Alexandra striker Keith East was Swindon Town's leading marksman in 1965-66. Moving to the County Ground from Portsmouth in May 1964, he partnered Don Rogers and Mike Summerbee in Swindon's attack and netted 21 goals in 45 League games for today's visitors prior to joining Stockport County in December 1966. He joined Crewe from Northampton Town in July 1971 and briefly played alongside Stan Bowles, scoring eight times in 34 Fourth Division outings while at Gresty Road before moving to Folkestone in June 1972.

### WING WIZARD

Winger Tommy Weale played for both Swindon Town and Crewe Alexandra during his career. Moving to the County Ground from Folkestone in July 1929, he made his League debut in Swindon's 4-1 defeat at Fulham on New Year's Day 1930 and scored in his only other first-team appearance in the Robins' 4-1 reverse at Watford three months later. He joined Crewe in July 1931 and created numerous chances for Jimmy McConnell and Bert Swindells, netting 27 goals in 101 Third Division (North) outings prior to joining Burnley in February 1934.

### TITLE TRIUMPH

Former Crewe Alexandra striker Peter Coyne featured prominently in Swindon Town's 1985-86 Fourth Division title triumph. Moving to Gresty

Road from Ashton United in August 1977, he was Crewe's leading marksman in two consecutive seasons and netted 47 goals in 134 Fourth Division games prior to joining Hyde United in July 1981. He reunited with Lou Macari at Swindon in August 1984 and also featured in their 1986-87 promotion campaign, scoring 30 times in 110 League outings before moving to Colne Dynamos in July 1990.

### TOP SCORER

One-time Crewe Alexandra inside-forward Tommy Armstrong was Swindon Town's top scorer in 1933-34. Moving to the County Ground from Airdrie in July 1933, he scored on his League debut in Swindon's 2-1 win at Newport County a month later and netted 30 goals in 64 Third Division (South) games for today's opponents prior to joining Crewe in July 1935. He partnered Bert Swindells in attack and featured prominently as the Alex won the Welsh Cup in two consecutive seasons, scoring ten times in 68 League outings while at Gresty Road.

### EVER-PRESENT

Former Swindon Town left-half Teddy Ware was ever-present as Crewe Alexandra finished eighth in the Third Division (North) in 1937-38. Moving to the County Ground from Clapton Orient in July 1936, he contested a first-team slot with Stan Wilcockson and made five Third Division (South) appearances for Swindon prior to joining Crewe in July 1937. He formed an effective half-back line with Gardner Blake and John Scott, playing 61 Third Division (North) games while at Gresty Road until retiring during the Second World War.





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# CREWE ASI



## TIME TO GET BEHIND THE BOYS

**T**he last three games at Gresty Road have seen crowds in excess of 4000, 5000 and 6,000 respectively. OK, so 6,112 turned out to see England, but if there was ever a game for lapsed, disillusioned or even new fans to get behind the Alex, it's today's visit by run-away leaders, Swindon Town. Their manager, Paulo Di Canio is an attraction all on his own! But with seventh-place in sight, and Steve's declaration to "go for it!" now is the time for all Alex fans to get behind our team.

It's been quite a week or so for Nick Powell. Joining Max Clayton and Ben Garrett on England duty in front of the aforementioned 6000+ crowd, Nick scored arguably one of the best goals ever by a Crewe player in a Man-of-the-Match display against Gillingham, and donned his best "bib and tucker" to collect the League 2 Apprentice of the Year trophy at the Football League Awards on Sunday.

Nick is a "shoe in" for further recognition at our Player of the Season Awards Night on Saturday 21st April. He was already a contender for Goal of the Season before Saturday, and has to be a strong candidate for both Young and Player of the Season Awards. Voting will begin soon for both these awards, however if the number of different players to receive our Man of the Match award is anything to go by, Byron Moore was the eighth winner in nine games since its inception against Hereford, it'll be the tightest race in years!

Should you wish to join us at our End of Season Party, act fast! Despite additional seats being made available, it is a virtual sell out! Fun and laughter will be provided by Comedian/Impressionist Les Gibson.

Live music will be provided by a fantastic Blue's Brother Tribute Band, signing classic songs such as Everybody Needs Somebody to Love, Soulman and Jailhouse Rock. Steve, Neil and the players will obviously be in attendance, with most staying for the duration of the evening.

We started this season with a trip to Swindon. Unfortunately we were on the wrong end of a 3-nil scoreline and failed to win the following three league games. However, the reverse of those fixtures has so far yielded five points, and a further three today will go a long way to securing the 70 point total Steve is looking for to extend the season.

Crucially, of the final ten games, six are at home! Consequently, Steve has called on us, the fans, to help the team over the finishing line. A full main stand made for a fantastic atmosphere last Wednesday night, and more of the same in the remaining home games will be most welcome.

The most effective form of marketing is "word of mouth." At work and school on Monday, don't just enthuse about the Alex to your mates! Encourage them to come to see for themselves against Bradford City on Tuesday night, or Northampton in two weeks time, or Bristol Rovers on Easter Monday! Together, we can make a difference!

Enjoy the game!

### End of Season Party



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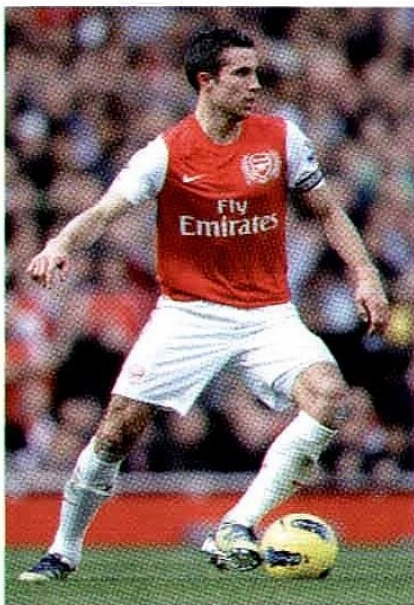
**Probably the best lager in the world...**



# TOPICAL TALKING POINTS

Season 2012/13 will, providing that everything goes according to plan, see Rotherham United moving back to Rotherham. Their new ground will be named the New York Stadium and in the match programme when we made our last visit to the Don Valley Stadium, season ticket prices for the new stadium were announced.

**W**e made just three visits to the Don Valley, but we were never to come back with the full points although we did manage a draw on two occasions. The layout of the ground is not exactly conducive to provide a good football atmosphere, and for visiting supporters in particular their view is very restricted. However it



**Arsenal's Robin Van Persie has to be favourite to win the Footballer of the Year Award.**

would only be fair to mention that on our three visits I have always found the staff there to be friendly and helpful. Long may the good relations between the two clubs continue.

F.A. Cup replays saw both Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur win their respective replayed games. Chelsea made the trip to take on Birmingham City and in charge for the first time was Roberto Di Matteo who has been appointed the temporary manager of the club after Andres Villas Boas was relieved of his job. Di Matteo made a number of changes for the trip to Birmingham and not in the starting line-up were Frank Lampard and Didier Drogba. There could be even more changes to come.

Tottenham had to come from behind to eventually win their replay against Stevenage but it was not without some cost. Michael Dawson sustained an injury in the game and it may be that he will not be able to play again in the current season. Another player who had to be replaced was Aaron Lennon, but his absence could prove to be a short one. The loss of such key players could have a real effect on their final league position when the season ends.

Following a run of poor results there was a managerial change at Tranmere Rovers after their defeat at Chesterfield. Les Parry is the man to lose his job, and somebody who is quite familiar to Rovers fans replaces him. The person concerned is Ronnie Moore who is back at Prenton Park for a third time until the end of the season.

The financial position of clubs is one topic, which could easily worsen. At Glasgow Rangers, the players have been asked to take large cuts in their salaries, an item which has not been cleared at the time of writing. Details of the items under investigations keep appearing in the press and it will be some time before the whole picture is clarified.

When it comes to stealing the headlines with regards to goal scoring though, then the name of Robin Van Persie quickly comes to mind. In league or cup games, the goals keep coming at a steady rate. According to press reports it would seem that Manchester City are showing a great interest in him. He is out of contract with Arsenal next year, and they will try to persuade him to come to the Etihad Stadium to continue his career.

If you think of serial goal scorers, Lionel Messi is another name that quickly comes to behind. Was it really a surprise that Messi set a new record of scoring five goals in a Champions League game in Barcelona's 7-1 victory over Bayer Leverkusen. Still only 24 years of age, he has already scored 250 goals in just 378 games and in this season already got 50 goals. Just what would be his value in the transfer market today. It is impossible to even guess a figure. What an asset Barcelona have.



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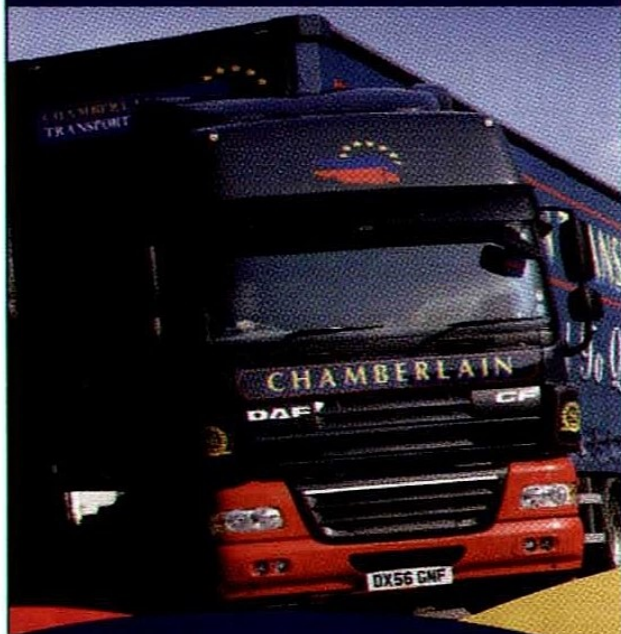
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# RECALLING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A DATE - SATURDAY MARCH 10TH

Just a week ago, it was a visit to Gillingham to see Crewe in action, a routine I have followed for many years. It was exactly 78 years to the day that at, seven years old and one day old, I had a birthday treat, I was going to see my first ever football match.

**C**rewe Alexandra were at home to Accrington Stanley, and I was taken to the game by my Uncle, my Aunt and my Grandmother to the game. There is no mention of my Grandfather for he had no interest in football at all, the others were in fact all season ticket holders.

My knowledge of the rules of football was not existent, but there was plenty of excitement when the goals were scored. On that day a total of six were scored, four by Crewe and two by Accrington. It was some years later that I was to realise that the Crewe player wearing the number five shirt was a really famous player. It was Fred Keenor, a Welsh international who had been in the Cardiff team that won the 1927 F.A. Cup Final 1-0 to Arsenal. One of his international jerseys and his cap are on display in one of the lounges at our ground.

Looking back, I would never have thought, that the date Saturday March 10th 1934, watching Crewe Alexandra in action, would be the start of a journey that has taken me all over the country to see my team. Supporters have seen themselves in various spots on the ground, I started in the main stand, then a spot on the edge of the grass at the Railway End of the ground, the main popular stand, and then the Gresty Road End, in other words, I have done the round trip.

It was not too long after finishing my National Service that I joined the Supporters Association, serving on their committee, and helping out in

various ways. That led to me taking over as Editor of the matchday programme.

At first I thought my knowledge would be enough to produce material for the programme, but I was quickly to learn there were still many gaps to fill. I spent hours doing research at the Football League offices in Lytham St Annes, and in various libraries. In these years, those visits gave me so much pleasure and most importantly confidence.



**Cardiff City's captain Fred Keenor celebrates with the FA Cup in 1927.**

Friendship in football would often start from a brief meeting; others develop over years and happily continue right up to the present day. It always gives me a boost when visiting an away ground to meet people I know. Visiting a new ground is always something to remember and I will readily admit to a ritual I try to observe, that is to walk out through the players tunnel and out on to the pitch, so far my requests have never been refused.

Ambitions? Well I still have a few. So far I have never seen Crewe Alexandra end a season as Champions of a league, or indeed score 100 league goals in a season. There is still the hope if I live long enough this could happen. Before the season ends, I still have to add Crawley Town to my list, there is also the hope that Crewe will play at Old Trafford, I have never visited there to see Crewe in action. There are also the new grounds of Arsenal and Manchester City to visit.

My proudest moment to date is being on the first-team coach and escorted in to Wembley Stadium. Then the walk down the tunnel at the old Wembley Stadium and then seeing Crewe win 1-0 against Brentford in the Play-Off Final. Sitting in the press box there was another amazing experience I will always remember.

Just what is it that Crewe Alexandra has given me as an 85-year-old supporter over such a long period of time? I have been able to meet so many managers and

secretaries of my club. Players and ground staff too, the list goes on and I have always made myself welcome whenever I meet any of them, I enjoy my contact with a truly great club, and I feel have earned their respect.

Finally onto a coincidence. When I saw my first game back in 1934, I was to see Crewe score four goals and on the 78th anniversary of that date, I would see Crewe score four again, this time at Gillingham.



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Everyone is delighted to have McDonalds supporting us again this season and the fast-food restaurant based on Macon Way in Crewe has bought you some great competitions throughout the season, so make sure you log-on to the club's official and check your match day programme for more before the end of the season.



McDonalds will be giving you the chance to win yourself some match tickets and other Crewe Alexandra items, such as signed balls and shirts... so make sure you pop into Macon Way before

the big game at Gresty Road.

## IMMY SHIMMY – ALEX PLAYERS TO SUPPORT WORTHY CAUSE

The Crewe Alexandra squad and Football Club are supporting the Immy Shimmy Charity Foundation. Led by our senior professional Steve Phillips, the Alex players are trying to raise funds for such a worthwhile cause.

The players are trying to raise a modest amount of money and if you would like to help then please visit [www.immyshimmy.co.uk](http://www.immyshimmy.co.uk) or make a direct donation through the Co-op Bank.

We can guarantee that all money raised will be used to support the family in this way. Any money not used by the family will be donated to Macmillan Cancer Care.

### BANK DETAILS

Bank: Co-op Bank  
Sort Code: 08 91 04  
Account Number: 08208079

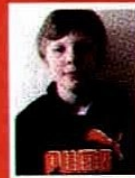
We will also be selling some raffle tickets at the match today to raise funds. For just £1 you can win a framed signed Alex shirt, as shown in the Club Shop. We will also be holding auctions on the official web-site and the forthcoming Crewe ASI Supporters night on 21st April.

## SPECIAL GUEST – MAZZY DILLION

We would like to welcome Mazzy Dillion of the Cheshire Regiment to this afternoon's game against Swindon. We hope you have a great day with us at the Alexandra Stadium and it goes without saying that everyone at Crewe Alexandra Football Club thanks you and your colleagues for all the great work you do in the services over in Afghanistan. Stay safe.



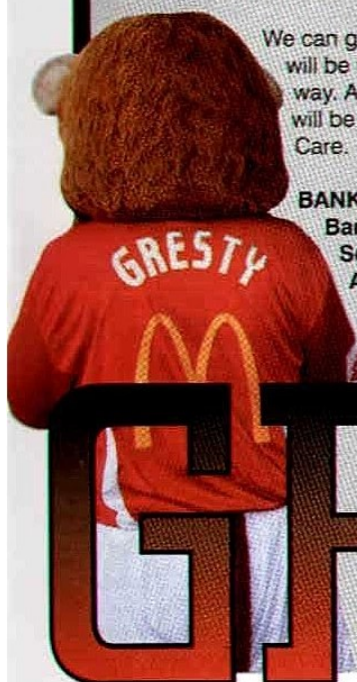
## TODAY'S MASCOTS



Name: Ewan Hall  
Age: 9  
Additional info: Plays for Willaston Wildcats Under 9s and attends the club scouts at St. Andrews.



Name: Owen German  
Age: 7 on Sunday 18th March.  
Happy Birthday Owen!  
Favourite Alex Player: Luke Murphy  
Additional Info: Plays football for Crewe's pre-Academy



# GRESTY



# EDITOR'S SAY

## EVEN SUCCESSFUL MANAGERS FACE UNCERTAINTY

Sir Alex Ferguson has always had a way with words and he aptly describes this time of the season as 'squeaky bum time'. He is of course referring to the title run-in and he often uses the now legendary phrase to start implementing the mind games. His opposite numbers usually take things in their stride, but previously he has got a rise from Kevin Keegan and Rafa Benitez when it has come to the crucial run-in.

**T**he canny Scot will soon turn his intentions to his city neighbour Roberto Mancini and his squad of players. How they handle it will be interesting although of course Mancini has previously won the Serie A title with Inter Milan on three occasions.

The humorous term 'squeaky bum time' can now refer to the behaviour of chairman and owners at this time of the season. They can become rather trigger-happy and usually point the gun directly at the manager! If they believe that a manager is unlikely to fulfil their original objective then they can often lose their jobs in February and March.

The logic being that a new manager may spark a mini-revival and they can collect enough points to secure a European place, promotion, a play-off place or survival. Sometimes it can have the desired effect. On other occasions it can become an absolute disaster and in this instance the judgment of an owner must be questioned.

One thing is for certain managers can now receive the sack even if they think they are doing reasonably well. That is why as football supporters we have been left scratching our heads a little at the recent sackings of Lee Clark at Huddersfield and Gary Megson at

Sheffield Wednesday. Both of those proud Yorkshire clubs were in the hunt for promotion either automatically or through the play-offs in League One. The Owls were third in the league when Megson was dismissed just days after his side won their local derby in front of 36,000 passionate supporters.

Clark's Huddersfield side had set a new record when remaining unbeaten in 43 matches over 11-months and had suffered just three defeats in 55 matches before he was dismissed following a narrow 1-0 loss to Sheffield United. The Terriers had been in a play-off position but their chairman Dean Hoyle felt that Clark was not the man to see the job through. He basically questioned his mental strength if the club had to endure the play-offs again after they lost 3-0 to Peterborough in last year's final at Old Trafford. Many argued that Clark deserved another crack at the chance to take the club up.

Clark's replacement at the McAlpine Stadium is Simon Grayson, a man who was sacked as Leeds United boss as his chairman Ken Bates wasn't totally convinced that he was the right man to secure at least a play-off place in the Championship.

The managerial merry-go-round continued to gather pace with the former Cardiff and Stockport

County manager Dave Jones replacing Megson at Hillsborough. At another of his former clubs, Wolverhampton Wanderers, they sacked the long-serving Mick McCarthy and eventually replaced him with his assistant Terry Connor. It appeared that the Premier League club didn't have a contingency plan in place and had to promote from within after a number of potential targets embarrassingly rejected the opportunity to try and save the club from relegation. Connor, likeable as he is, has not won a game and the pressure is now mounting on the Wolves owner Steve Morgan.

Another club trying to remain in the top flight is Queens Park Rangers, who despite spending a lot more than fellow promoted clubs Norwich City and Swansea City are struggling to avoid a relegation scrap. Their solution was to sack Neil Warnock and unveil Mark Hughes as his successor. His higher-profile was to suppose to attract better players before the closure of the transfer window and it certainly worked with five new faces arriving at Loftus Road. Unfortunately, the Rangers team is needing time to gel and results have not drastically improved.

Like him or hate him, the experienced Warnock has always been a superb motivator and





**The sacking of Lee Clark of Huddersfield surprised the football world.**

manager, especially in the lower leagues and it was no great surprise when he was appointed Leeds' new manager shortly after leaving the London club.

The managerial dismissals also occur at the very top of our game too. The Chelsea manager Andre Villas-Boas has been fighting a losing battle ever since he succeeded the fairly successful Carlo Ancelotti in the summer. His record at Porto was impressive with three trophies in one season, but his age and personality went against him. At just 33 and with no previous playing career to speak of, Villas-Boas found the job of transforming an ageing Chelsea side into a success an appointment too early.

The Chelsea dressing room was formed under previous boss Jose Mourinho and the ghost of the now Real Madrid coach haunts the corridors of their Cobham based training ground. A friend to the players, Mourinho had forged a siege mentally at Chelsea and earned the respect of his key players by being successful.

Villas-Boas inherited an older and more powerful dressing room

and was told to faze them out with one eye on the future. He wanted to build his own team but the likes of Frank Lampard, Ashley Cole, Florent Malouda, Fernando Torres, Didier Drogba, Michael Essien and Salomon Kalou were not happy about being left out of big games. A 3-1 first leg defeat to Napoli in the Champions League sealed Villas-Boas' fate.

It became obvious that the senior players at Chelsea were not prepared to commit to the philosophy employed by their young manager and his days were numbered following just three league wins in 12 matches. The senior players had seen the back of another manager.

One thing they have to accept is that there needs to be a transitional period at Stamford Bridge and they will have to accept that they cannot play in every game. Some will inevitably leave in the summer regardless of who takes over from interim boss Roberto Di Matteo.

Chelsea's owner Roman Abramovich has always been a trigger-happy owner. He wants perfection and that means winning the Champions League and Premier League title playing

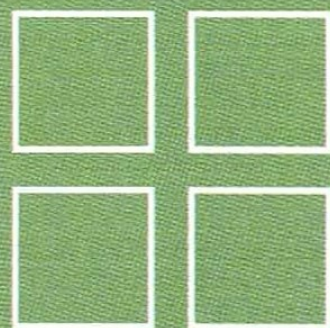
Barcelona-like football. It is almost an impossible job and Villas-Boas paid the ultimate price because the club is not even guaranteed a top fourth finish at the moment. Not to be competing in the Champions League with the budget they have would be an absolute disaster, but no club can assume they are going to be successful. Two of the top six are going to miss out this year and every year thereafter. Even Harry Redknapp's Tottenham, who have played some breathtaking football this season, will be nervously looking over their shoulders at their London rivals Arsenal and Chelsea.

Football managers now have to contend with impatient owners and the high expectations of supporters. Without the comfort of transfer speculation to use on their back pages for the majority of the season, the media are a lot more focussed on managers and how they are doing. They have become the number one stories and that has only enhanced the pressure on them to succeed. Whilst Villas-Boas may now be fish-and-chip paper as they say, it won't be long before a fresh target emerges.



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# The FOOTBALL LEAGUE Paper

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## WE CANNOT EXPECT OFFICIALS TO HAVE HAWK EYES!

**F**ootball is a conservative business. Difference is odd, newness is dangerous; the status quo has long been cherished.

Just look at the way Graham Westley is mocked for working his players, or how Ian Holloway is seen as a 'character' just because he can deploy a metaphor.

It is little wonder then, that while sports like tennis and cricket - cricket, for goodness sake - have used new technology to help officials, football remains stubbornly rooted in the dark ages.

Even before last week's lunacy at Bolton, when neither linesman nor ref spotted that Clint Hill's header was a yard over the line, nobody had been able to raise a sensible objection to goal-line technology.

By that, we mean Hawkeye - a bunch of cameras would track the ball and send a high-pitched beep to the ref telling him if it had crossed the line.

It's accurate, it wouldn't cost much, it wouldn't stop the

game. And it would ensure that poor linesman don't get abused for failing in an impossible task.

Every report of the Bolton v QPR match said that the ball was 'clearly' over the line. What most didn't mention is that it was only clear after you'd nipped inside to watch a replay or gone home to see it on Match of the Day.

Yes, some eagle-eyed fans and players might have seen it.



Would England have beaten Germany in the World Cup with the help of hawkeye.

But, unlike the lino, they weren't on the other side of the pitch, trying to see past two players on the line and making sure there weren't any fouls in the box.

Tests have proved that the human eye is not capable of processing all the information a linesman needs to take in - when a ball is kicked, when a run is made, where every defender is on the pitch and the speed of the pass.

Every decision is therefore an educated guess. We should be amazed that they get so many right, not that they drop an occasional clanger.

So why are the authorities so resistant to giving them a hand?

One particularly daft protest is the 'pub debate'. This is basically that football needs controversy so that we've all got something to talk about 'down the pub'.

I don't know about you, but I tend to talk about how the team is playing and the way they lined up. We don't sit there going 'Well, I think it crossed the line'. 'Hmm, I'm not sure it did'. And if we did, I'd give it up as terrible craic and get drunk at home.

The other argument, usually peddled by FIFA, is that any new technology must have the capacity to be implemented at every level of the game. Hawkeye, they say, is too expensive.

Maybe, but there is another - cheaper - way. Let those who can afford Hawkeye have it. For those who can't, give the fourth official a monitor and a radio to the ref.

It might not be as quick, but in the time it takes for players to protest, or to celebrate a goal, he could watch a replay and give the ref a yes or a no. Even that's got to be better than rank and repeated injustice.





## 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR MADGE

**E**veryone at Crewe Alexandra Football Club was delighted that our avid fan Majorie Capper enjoyed her 100th birthday with us for the Shrewsbury game.

Madge was our very special guest during our 1-1 draw with the Shrews and we were delighted that her beloved

Railwaymen didn't lose on her big day! Madge first attended a match in 1918 shortly before the end of the First World War. She has regularly attended matches at Gresty Road for nearly 89 years!

All her friends and family and everybody at the club wishes our oldest fan a very happy birthday!



## YOU CAN SAVE MONEY ON YOUR HOLIDAY WITH THE ALEX!

If you are planning a well-deserved holiday in 2012 then make sure you make our partners at Thomas Cook your first port of call. In partnership with Thomas Cook and Going Places, the Football Club has helped create the Crewe Alex Holiday club, bringing you savings on any holiday, weekend break, hotel booking or flights you may need. Crewe Alexandra supporters using Thomas Cook have saved thousands of pounds already and you can too.

It couldn't be any simpler to receive a discount on your holiday either. There are no contracts, no membership forms to fill out or phone calls to make...all you have to do is mention you are a Crewe Alexandra supporter when you are making your booking. That is all there is to it.



There really is no catch to it. You simply call into your branch of Thomas Cook (wherever that may be in the country) and declare your allegiance to Crewe Alexandra! It's as simple as that. So what have you got to lose? You will only be rewarded for your loyalty to the Railwaymen!

So, if you are thinking about booking some time away this year then make sure Thomas Cook or Going Places is your choice.

## GOLD MEMBERSHIP FOR THE DAY

The club offers supporters the chance to experience 'Gold Membership' for just £35. With our npower League Two remaining matches coming up against Bradford City (20th March), Northampton (March 31st), Bristol Rovers (April 9th), Cheltenham (21st) and Aldershot on the final home game of the season on Saturday 5th May you can enjoy the end of the season in style.

This exclusive offer will provide you with a seat in the Directors' Box for the match and usage of the Gold Area in the Carlsberg Lounge and bar facilities before and after the game. That is not all because we also provide a buffet together with tea and coffee.



You will also receive a complimentary match day programme on arrival.

Please note for this offer, the dress code is smart casual. Children welcome at reduced rate.

If you are interested in this offer please contact Alison Bowler on 01270 213 014 ext 113.

## SPONSORSHIP WITH THE ALEX

Crewe Alexandra has just the ticket for all your advertising and sponsorship campaigns. Our flexible gives local and national companies an ideal platform to promote your brand to our fan base. Our opportunities range from web-site and concourse sponsorship through to the matchday programme, kit sponsors and electronic newsletters.

As well as advertising with us you can also boost your brand and company profile by taking one of our matchday sponsorship options. You can sponsor a first-team match for as little as £800 + VAT or a matchball for just £300. Don't miss out call us now on 01270 213 014.







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Bigger and better than ever before, Sport Relief 2012 is coming from 23rd to 25th March and Crewe Alexandra are encouraging fans to be part of it in the UK's biggest year of sport!

Over one million men, women and children across the country are expected to pull their socks up and take part in a Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile, and we urge you to join the great British public at the Crewe Mile, which will take place at Cumberland Sports Ground on Sunday 25th March. There's something for everyone with a choice of tackling 1, 3 or 6 miles and plenty of other entertainment on offer.

The official Sport Relief Socks and T-shirts are the perfect gear to wear as you go the extra mile, or fans can also wear their club colours with pride as they break a sweat for a fantastic cause.

Over the past ten years, Sport Relief has raised a staggering £124 million which has transformed lives for some of the most vulnerable people living right here in the UK and across the world's poorest countries. By taking part you will be raising cash to help people who live unimaginably tough lives every day.



**SPORT  
RELIEF**

Alex manager Steve Davis: "Please enter the Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile today - the money you raise by getting sponsored will help poor and disadvantaged people here in Cheshire, across the UK and in the world's poorest countries. It doesn't matter whether you do 1, 3 or 6 miles, whether you do it with your mates, against the clock or as a family team - just make sure you are at that start line on Sunday 25th March, have a fantastic day and most importantly raise some serious cash by getting sponsored."

To enter the Crewe Mile or to find more details on the hundreds of other Sainsbury's Sport Relief Miles, which are taking place nationwide, go to [sportrelief.com/mile](http://sportrelief.com/mile).

**one game**  
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FANTASTIC

5

In the opposite dug out this afternoon is a true legend of football Paolo Di Canio. The Italian is now on the verge of taking Swindon Town to promotion in what is his first season in football management. The Wiltshire club are runaway leaders at the top of League Two and Di Canio's bold prediction suggesting that it would be his side winning the title this season is now just a handful of games away! Di Canio is proving to be a winner as a manager, as he always was as a player.

You don't play for top clubs such as AC Milan, Juventus, Glasgow Celtic, Lazio and West Ham if you do not have that inbred winning mentality and the Roman-born Paolo has that in abundance. Here we look back at the maverick's colourful career.

5

## THE BEST TRAINER AT THE CLUB

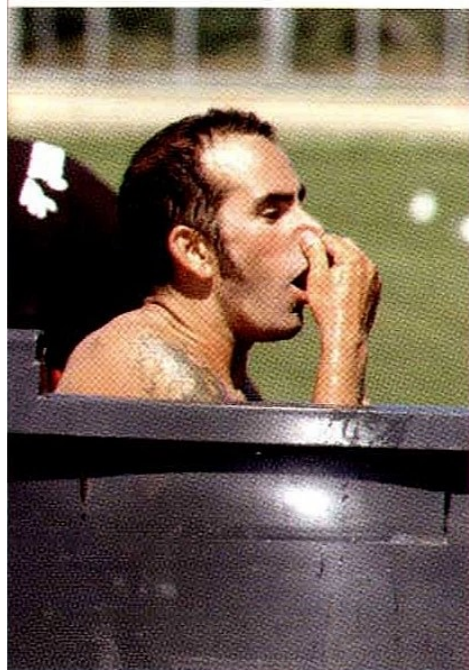
His former boss at West Ham, Harry Redknapp always hailed his Italian forward as the 'ultimate professional' during his four seasons at Upton Park. Di Canio's dedication to training, fitness,

conditioning and diet set the perfect example to young players coming through the ranks and Redknapp loved him for it.

Di Canio famously described not giving your all in training as a 'smack in the face of fans, it's a moral insult to them all.'

He goes on in his 2000 autobiography "Training is a way of life for me. I always went in on

my days off. Too many times there are way too few doing extra training. I don't understand this. I don't understand why you wouldn't. It is only benefiting yourself. You only become fitter and a better player."

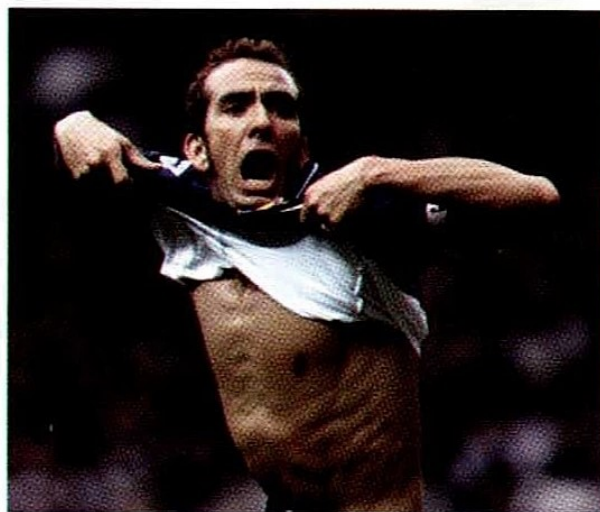


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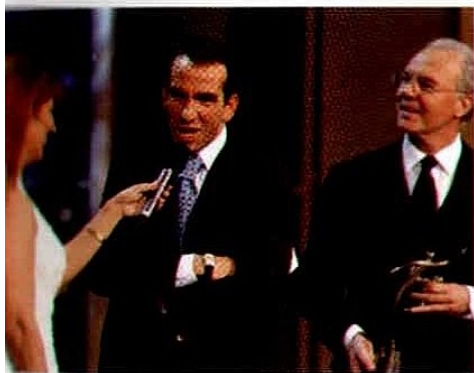
## OVERCOMING MIND GAMES

Di Canio scored many memorable goals in Britain but his winning goal against Manchester United in the 4th round of the FA Cup back in 2001 lives long in the memory. Cheered on by almost 10,000 West Ham fans at Old Trafford, Di Canio wasn't fooled by Fabien Barthez's mind games after breaking the offside trap.

The French goalkeeper tried to trick Di Canio into believing that he had been caught offside by stopping and raising his hand. Di Canio took no notice and slotted it home for West Ham's first win in Manchester for 15 years. "He didn't fool my brain" was Paolo's way of expressing it.







# 3

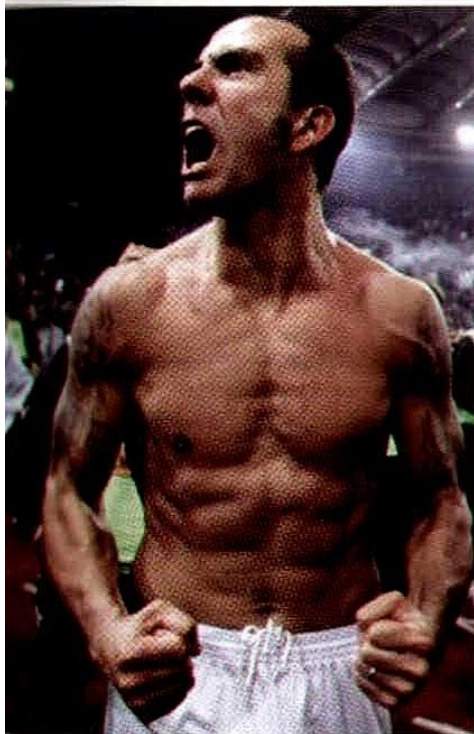
## FAIR PLAY PAOLO

Sadly, Paolo's career in England is remembered for his shoving over of referee Paul Alcock as a Sheffield Wednesday player. Alcock certainly made a meal of his fall, but the Owls striker deserved his record 11-game ban and £10,000 fine. That regrettable incident overshadows this particular moment of unrivalled Fair Play during a match between his beloved Hammers and Everton in 2001. With the Everton goalkeeper Paul Gerrard lying injured after leaving his goal and clearing up field, Di Canio could quite easily have headed into the empty net after Trevor Sinclair crossed but instead he plucked it out of the air and the game ended 1-1. He received a standing ovation from the Everton fans, an award from FIFA for 'displaying a special act of sportsmanship' and a death threat from his West Ham team-mate Stuart Pearce!

# 2

## DI CANIO TWISTS AND TURNS AGAINST MILAN

Back in 1994, Paolo Di Canio scored arguably the most famous goal of his entire career against the soon-to-be European Champions AC Milan. With



just 12 minutes on the clock, the Napoli number 7 collected a long ball from Renato Buso inside the Milan box, but with his route to goal blocked by the covering Christian Panucci, Franco Baresi and Stefano Eranio he decided to go for goal himself and after twice fooling the Italian internationals, with dummies

and drag backs, he drove his left-footed shot past a surprised Sebastiano Rossi from an acute angle. As the Sao Paolo Stadium erupted, Di Canio withdrew his shirt and raced towards the Neapolitan crowd.



# 1

## ANTICS ON THE TOUCHLINE

Paolo Di Canio rages with passion and he has lit up League Two with his touchline antics. Not only did he predict early on that Swindon would win the npower League Two title this season but his celebrations, gestures and interviews have certainly caught the imagination. He recently thanked the FA for imposing his third touchline ban after 'waving his arms around in the technical area' but it was his wild celebrations to mark Swindon's winning goal at Northampton that supporters adore. He got banned for his Mourinho impression but it will live long in the memory.



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## BBC RADIO STOKE QUITE A WEEK FOR THE CLUB'S ENGLAND YOUNGSTERS!

Well if you were among the 6,000 plus crowd who watched last week's Under-18 international friendly you should have gone home well pleased with the performances of our three youngsters who pulled on the Three Lions shirt.

**W**hile the game turned out to be easy for Noel Blake's team in the end, off the field you probably saw a first at the Alexandra Stadium as the passionate Polish fans in the crowd lit up the stadium with their colourful flares.

One person today definitely familiar with those kind of scenes is the Swindon manager Paolo Di Canio who came across far more hostile situations during his wonderful playing career in Italy.

Di Canio arrives here with his Swindon team well on course to give him a promotion in his first season as a manager in England, and this afternoon he will have a couple of staunch Juventus fans in Andrei and Dom at the game watching him from the stands, and then they will be watching the Juve/Fiorentina match later tonight on TV.

Of course the staging of England's game last week was the first time Crewe players had

represented their country on the home ground since Seth Johnson did that back in the 1990's.

Speaking to BBC Radio Stoke afterwards Max Clayton said: "Playing for England Under-18s in my hometown was the proudest moment of his life."

The 17-year-old striker played the full 90 minutes in England's 3-0 win over Poland at the Alexandra Stadium.

"It was an amazing experience and it will be something I will never forget."

Clayton, and his Alex team-mate Nick Powell, were the

only two players from outside the top two divisions to start the game.

The Alex forward, who has been a regular in the League Two side's first team squad this

season, has represented England at U16 and U17 level, and featured for the U18s in Slovakia earlier this season.

Clayton was part of the England squad that reached the European Championship semi-final in Serbia, and then went on to play in the quarter finals of the U17 World Cup in Mexico last season, scoring against Uruguay in the group stages.

"Being with the England squad is great experience for me, and everyone treats us well," he continued.

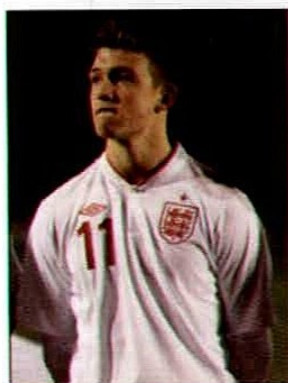
"Playing at Crewe for England was the proudest moment of my life, and it is really hard to explain what it meant to me."

Congratulations go to the clubs long serving historian Harold Finch who last week celebrated his 85th birthday.

Finally for now don't forget to get your votes in for the end of season ASI Player of the Year evening on Saturday April 21st which is heading towards a sell out.

Enjoy the game today it should be a cracker.

Graham



A memorable week for young Max Clayton.

Cheddleton **BBC RADIO STOKE** Alsager  
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## SHARP SHOOTERS

Player	Team	Lge	Cup	Ttl
Izale McLeod	Barnet	17	4	21
Matthew Tubbs	Bournemouth	13	6	19
Jack Midson	Wimbledon	16	2	18
Lewis Grabban	Rotherham	14	3	17
Tyrone Barnett	Peterborough	16	1	17
Adebayo Akinfenwa	Northampton	16	0	16
Kevin Ellison	Morecambe	14	2	16
Darryl Duffy	Cheltenham	11	4	15
Danny Hylton	Aldershot	11	3	14

## WHERE TO SEE GOALS (By Ground)

Ground	Home Team	M	Gls	G/Mt
Cherry Red Records	Wimbledon	18	62	3.44
Sixfields Stadium	Northampton	19	64	3.37
KRBS Priestfield Stadi	Gillingham	18	59	3.28
Fraser Eagle Stadium	Accrington S	16	51	3.19
Vale Park	Port Vale	18	57	3.17
Alexandra Stadium	Crewe	17	53	3.12
Underhill Stadium	Barnet	16	50	3.12
L.B Barking & Dag Stad	Dag & Red	17	52	3.06
Broadfield Stadium	Crawley Tn	16	49	3.06
Globe Arena	Morecambe	19	54	2.84
Coral Windows	Bradford	18	51	2.83
Edgar Street	Hereford	18	51	2.83
Plainmoor	Torquay	19	53	2.79
Kassam Stadium	Oxford Utd	17	47	2.76
County Ground	Swindon	18	48	2.67
Memorial Stadium	Bristol Rvs	18	46	2.56
Roots Hall	Southend	18	42	2.33
Pirelli Stadium	Burton A	16	37	2.31
Home Park	Plymouth	17	39	2.29
Greenhous Meadow	Shrewsbury	17	38	2.24
Don Valley Stadium	Rotherham	17	37	2.18
Moss Rose Ground	Macclesfield	19	41	2.16
Whaddon Road	Cheltenham	18	34	1.89
The EBB Stadium	Aldershot	17	31	1.82

## TEAM LEADERS

Team with the most..  
**shots on target** 232 Crawley Town. **shots off target** 251 Crawley Town. **corners** 250 Dag & Red. **hit woodwork** 18 Swindon. **offsides** 119 Shrewsbury. **fouls** 401 Oxford Utd. **yellow cards** 67 Bristol Rovers. **red cards** 7 Dag & Red.

## PLAYER POWER

Player with the most..  
**Shots** 83 Tyrone Barnett (Crawley Town). **Shots on target** 48 Izale McLeod (Barnet). **Shots off target** 49 Nick Powell (Crewe). **Assists** 16 Ryan Hall (Southend). **Crosses** 134 Laurence Wilson (Morecambe). **Offsides** 64 Izale McLeod (Barnet). **Fouls** 58 Adebayo Akinfenwa (Northampton). **Free-kicks won** 72 Jermaine McGlashan (Cheltenham).

# PRESS ASSOCIATION Sport

2011/12 SEASON



## GOAL COUNTER

1147

RIGHT FOOT 623 goals

54.3%

LEFT FOOT 281 goals

24.5%

HEADERS 209 goals

18.2%

Own goals 28 (2.4%), Other body part 6 (0.6%)

## QUICK-FIRE GOALS

From the start of a match

Will Evans (Macclesfield vs Hereford) 0:06

By a substitute after coming on

Jeff Goulding (Acc Stanley vs Cheltenham) 0:31

## DISCIPLINARY



3.0 cards per match

0.2 cards per match

## QUICK-FIRE CARDS

From the start of a match

Joe Martin (Gillingham vs Aldershot) 1:42

By a substitute after coming on

Andrew Fleming (Southend vs Morecambe) 1:29

## SUB TOTALS

Subs used ..... 2047

Offsides ..... 1894

Corners ..... 4614

Shots Off Target ..... 4366

## BEAT THE TRAFFIC

Total number of goals you would have missed by leaving every match ten minutes early

1 8 5

## RESULTS

How many times each result has occurred this season - home sides score shown first

0-0	25
0-1	30
0-2	21
0-3	8
0-4	5
0-5	1
1-0	44
1-1	53
1-2	38
1-3	8
1-4	3
1-5	-
1-6	1
2-0	36
2-1	32
2-2	22
2-3	12
2-4	-
2-5	5
2-7	1
3-0	18
3-1	17
3-2	11
3-3	4
3-4	2
3-5	-
3-6	1
4-0	6
4-1	9
4-2	2
4-3	2
4-4	-
4-5	-
5-0	-
5-1	1
5-2	1
5-3	-
5-4	-
5-5	-
6-0	1

In the npower Football League Two this season there have been 4517 shots on target, goals constitute 25.4% of all shots (doesn't include own goals). The woodwork has come to the rescue of the defending side on 164 occasions (the biggest beneficiaries being AFC Wimbledon 11).

There have been 117 penalties awarded this season and of those 97 have been scored (a success rate of 82.9%). Gillingham have been awarded most penalties - 12. Northampton have given most penalties away 11. The team to score the most penalties is Gillingham 11. Hereford missed 3 penalties in the npower Football League Two this season.



## MANAGERIAL RECORDS

### Steve Davis

Played 19 Won 9 Drawn 6 Lost 4 For  
33 Against 26  
Av Pts/game 1.74  
Biggest Win(s) Bristol Rvs 2 Crewe 5  
(31/12/2011). Biggest Loss(es)  
Bradford 3 Crewe 0 (26/12/2011).

### Paolo Di Canio

Played 35 Won 23 Drawn 4 Lost 8 For  
61 Against 25  
Av Pts/game 2.09  
Biggest Win(s) Won 4-0 on 2 occa-  
sions Biggest Loss(es) Burton Albion 2  
Swindon 0 (17/09/2011).

## MANAGER HEAD TO HEAD RECORD

Played...0 Steve Davis.....0 Paolo Di Canio.....0  
Draws...0 Goals 0 Goals 0

### Player with the most...

#### shots

Nick  
Powell 82

#### shots on target

Nick  
Powell 33

#### shots off target

Nick  
Powell 49

#### assists

Ajay  
Leitch-Smith 7

#### crosses

Byron  
Moore 53

#### fouls

Lee  
Bell 25

#### free-kicks-won

Nick  
Powell 52



### Player with the most...

#### shots

Matt  
Ritchie 79

#### shots on target

Matt  
Ritchie 41

#### shots off target

Matt  
Ritchie 38

#### assists

Matt  
Ritchie 11

#### crosses

Matt  
Ritchie 45

#### fouls

Raffaele  
De Vita 37

#### free-kicks-won

Paul  
Caddis 56

## GAMES SINCE

0	a win	0
2	a home win	0
0	an away win	1
6	a defeat	2
6	a home defeat	20
3	an away defeat	0
1	a score draw	13
34	a no score draw	27
0	conceding a goal	2
0	scoring a goal	0
0	conceding > 1	2
0	scoring > 1	1
5	keeping a clean sheet	0
6	failing to score	2
9	back to back wins	0
19	back to back defeats	39
0	gaining a point	0
1	losing a point	2
5	win by > one	1
8	loss by > one	2

## SHARP SHOOTERS

Crewe	FL Cup	Tot	Swindon	FL Cup	Tot		
Nick Powell	10	1	11	Matt Ritchie	9	1	10
Byron Moore	7	1	8	Alan Connell	8	2	10
Ajay Leitch-Smith	6	0	6	Paul Benson	8	2	10

## TEAM HEAD TO HEAD RECORD

Played...25	Crewe wins.....10	Swindon wins.....11
Draws.....4	Goals 25 (1.0 per game)	Goals 25 (1.0 per game)
0-0's.....2	Times failed to score 11	Times failed to score 8

Biggest League win at Crewe for each team:

05/02/1983 Crewe 3-0 Swindon

07/11/1998 & 08/04/1996 Crewe 0-2 Swindon

## PRESS ASSOCIATION Sport



## LEAGUE STATS



9	Position	1
36	Played	35
15	Won	23
7	Drawn	4
14	Lost	8
52	Goals For	61
52	Goals Against	25
52	Points	73



## Record Against Top Half of Table

W	D	L	RANK	W	D	L	RANK
7	3	8	4	13	0	5	1

## Record Against Bottom Half of Table

W	D	L	RANK	W	D	L	RANK
8	4	6	13	10	4	3	6

## Record When Scoring First

W	D	L	RANK	W	D	L	RANK
13	3	1	8	20	2	1	1

## Record When Conceding First

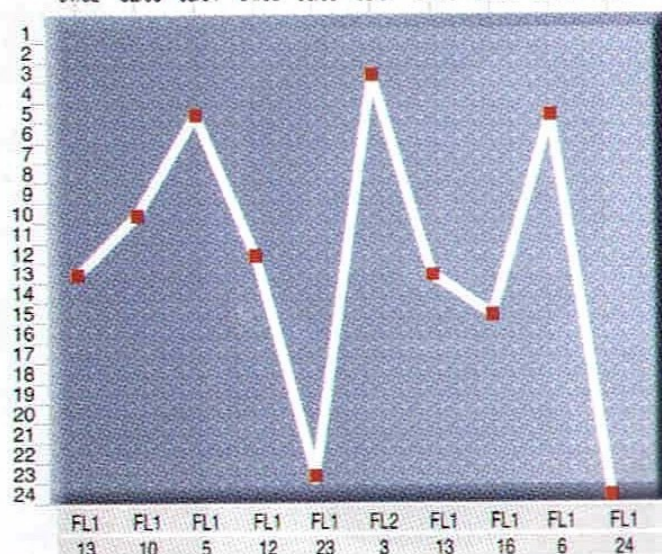
W	D	L	RANK	W	D	L	RANK
2	4	13	12	3	1	7	9

## Match Scores

Wins: 1-0[4], 2-0[2], 2-1[1], 3-1[3],  
3-2[2], 4-1[1], 4-3[1], 5-2[1]. Losses:  
0-1[4], 0-2[2], 0-3[3], 1-2[3], 1-3[2],  
Draws: 1-1[6], 3-3[1]

## SWINDON - TEN SEASON RECORD

01/02 02/03 03/04 04/05 05/06 06/07 07/08 08/09 09/10 10/11

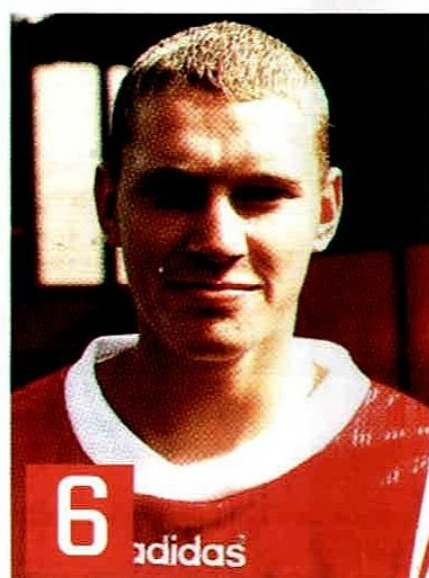
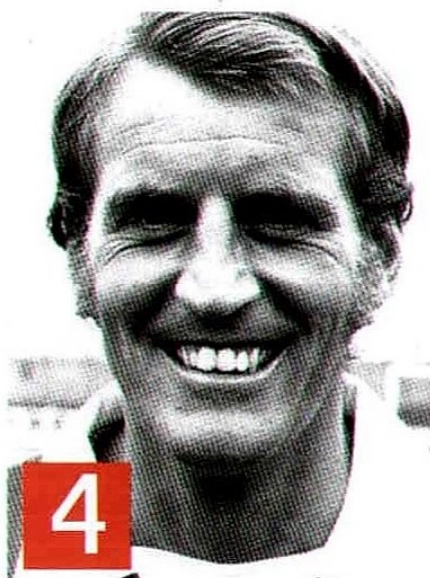
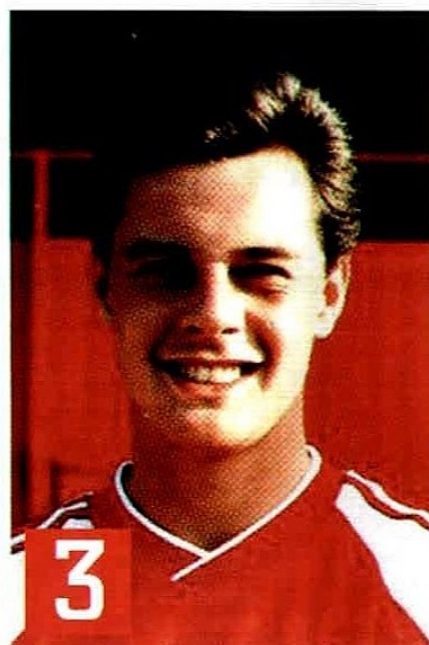
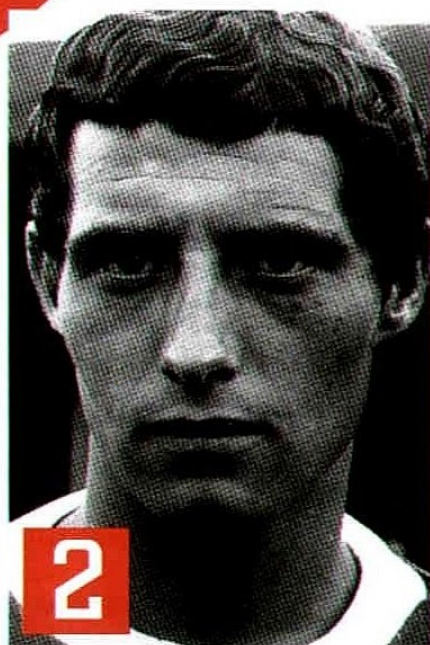
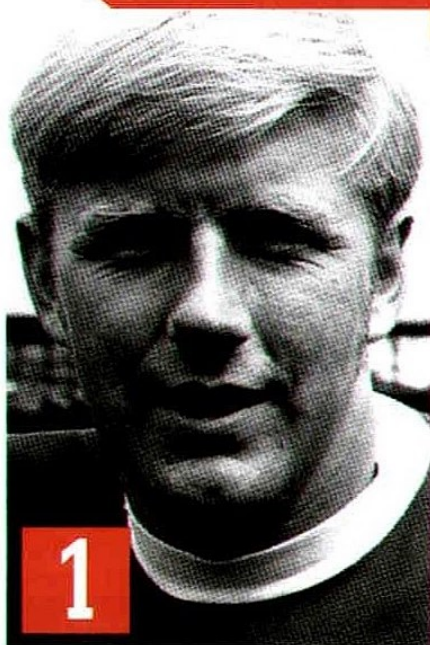


\*up to and including 11/03/2012

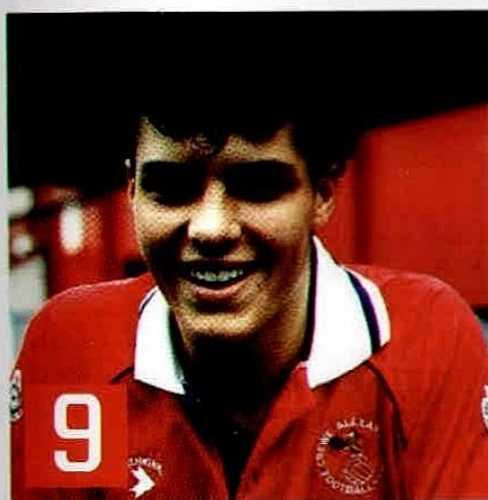
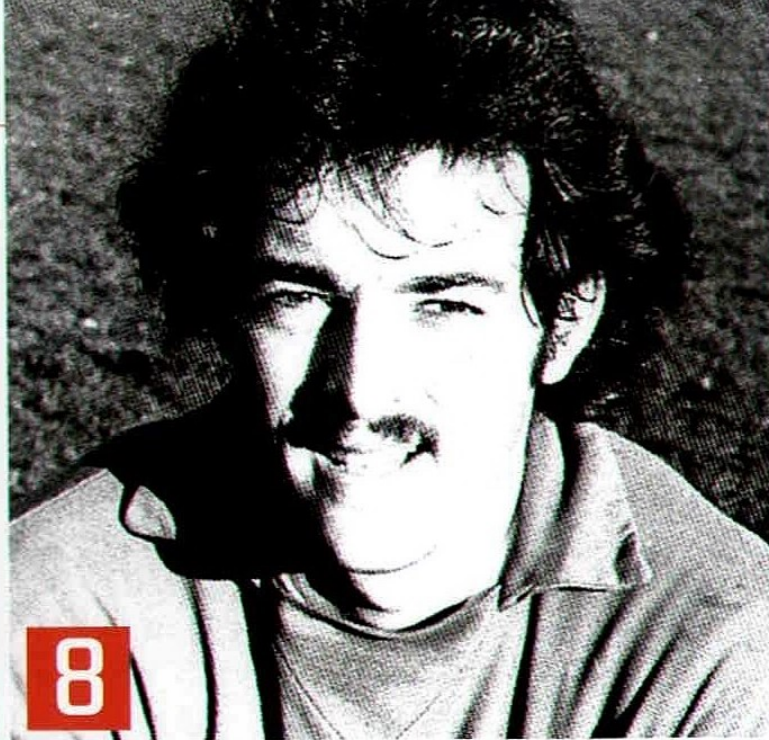


## HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR ALEX PLAYERS?

Arguably this is the toughest one yet. Thanks to our club historian Harold Finch, who celebrated his 85th birthday last week, we have some real testers for all this afternoon. If you get five or more this afternoon then you have done really well indeed. Why not test yourself and then your friends and family to see if you can name more.







1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

THE TEN CREWE PLAYERS THAT FEATURED IN THE SHREWSBURY TOWN PROGRAMME WERE AS FOLLOWS:

(1) John Pemberton; (2) Kevin Welsby; (3) Steve Garvey; (4) Gareth Chadwick; (5) Pete Smith;  
(6) Dave Ridings; (7) Paul Tait; (8) Dale Jasper; (9) Dean Greygoose; (10) Billy Barr

Today's answers will be revealed in the next issue of The Alex.



2 WEEKS

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## TOTAL STYLE



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Friday & Saturday 9 'til 4  
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Monday 9 'til 1, Friday &  
Saturday 9 'til 4





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## Six remaining games at an unbeatable price!

**W**ith just six home matches remaining at the Alexandra

Stadium, you can enjoy the decisive run-in from the luxury of your own ticket seat! Crewe Alexandra continue to offer one of the cheapest seats in the entire Football league and you can now purchase an adult season ticket for just £80!

With the likes of Bristol Rovers, Bradford City and Aldershot on the final day of the season still to visit Gresty Road in the remaining games of the season, there are still some great fixtures to look forward to, so why not come and get behind your local Football Club and make a

difference with your vocal support?

We pride ourselves on offering cheap tickets to young supporters and you can now purchase an under-11 season ticket for just £13 or a 12-16 at just £19! A student six pack ticket price is unbelievable value at just £24. That is just £4 per match!

Come and support your local team and don't forget that our offer of a free season ticket for an Under 11\* still applies as well.

Please contact the Ticket Office on **01270 252 610** for more details.

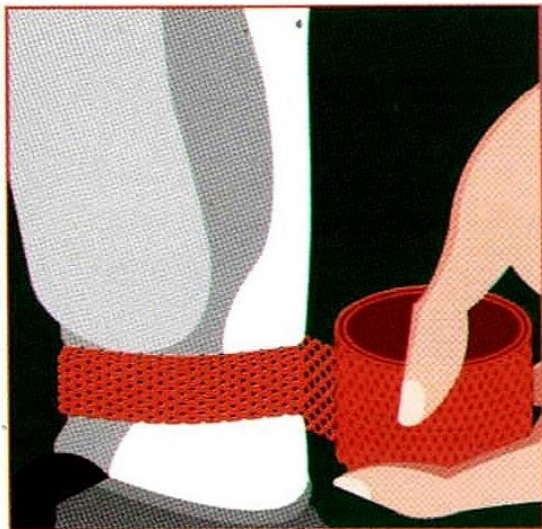
Thank you for your continued support of the Railwaymen!

A family ticket consists of one adult and one child under the age of 11.

### TICKET PRICES

TYPE	COST
Adults	£80.00
Seniors	£60.00
Students	£24.00
17-19	£45.00
20 yrs	£56.00
U11	£13.00
12-16	£19.00
Gold	£184.00
Silver	£129.00





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# DIARY DATES

## MARCH



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Liverpool host local rivals Stoke City in their F.A. Cup Quarter Final.	19	20 The Alex get the chance to avenge their 3-0 Boxing Day defeat at Bradford City when the Bantams visit Gresty Road.	21 Manchester City host Chelsea in the Premier League. Don't forget you can have a bet with us at Coral.	22	23	24 Crewe travel to Edgar Street to face Hereford United. Could our former captain Kevvy Lunt line up for the Bells?
25 It's the Final of the Johnstone's Paint Trophy as Swindon take on Chesterfield at Wembley. Jamie Lowry could be involved!	26 Manchester United host Fulham at Old Trafford.	27 Oxford United take on Accrington Stanley at the Crown Ground. This is the U's game in hand over the Alex.	29	29	30	31 A hectic month for the Alex ends with Northampton Town's visit to the Alexandra Stadium.



18/03



27/03



## CREWE ALEXANDRA v BRADFORD CITY

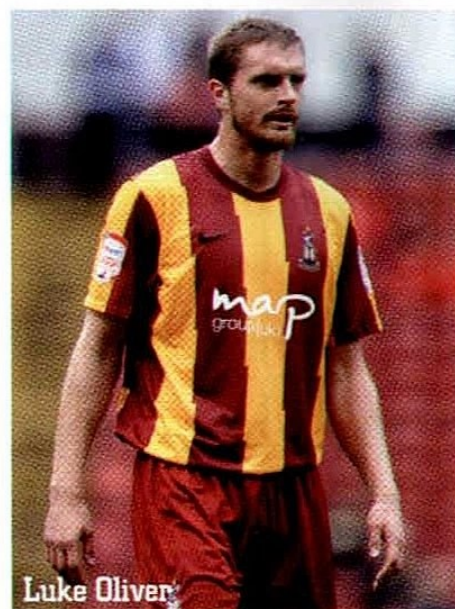
### 20/03/12 • KICK OFF 7.45PM

	Match Day	Members
Adults	£19.50	£16.50
12-16 yrs	£9.00	£7.00
Under 11's	£5.00	£4.00
Senior Citizens	£15.50	£13.00
Disabled	£15.50	£13.00
Student *		£9.00
17-19 years**		£11.00
Family Ticket ***	£19.50	£16.50

\*Student tickets are only available upon purchase of a £10 student membership. This can be acquired through production of a valid student ID and recent passport sized photograph

\*\*17-19 tickets are available upon purchase of a £10 membership

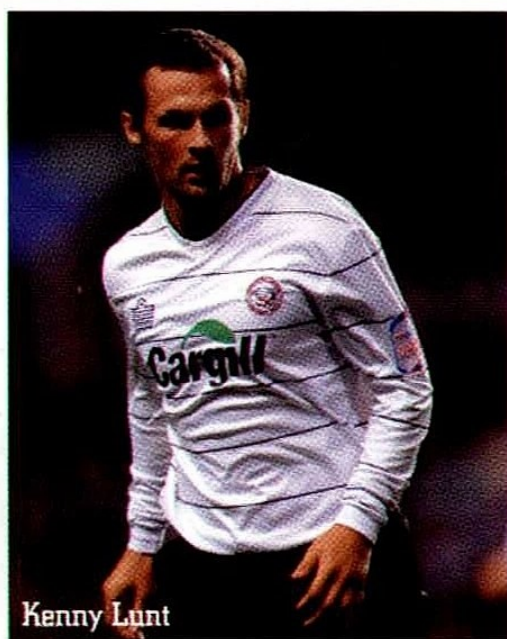
\*\*\* 1 Adult & 1 Under 11 in the Family Stand



Luke Oliver

## HEREFORD UNITED v CREWE ALEXANDRA

### 24/03/12 • KICK OFF 3PM



Kenny Lunt

	Advance	Match Day
Adults	£16.00	£14.00
Senior Citizens*	£13.00	£10.00
Juniors Under 16's	£13.00	£10.00
Juniors Under 11's	£3.00	£3.00
Students	£13.00	£10.00

\* Over 65's

Coaches depart at **10.15am** and are priced at  
Season ticket holders and members **£12.00**

Non Season ticket holders **£13.00**



# AHEAD OF THE GAME

## Bradford City

**WHO?** Bradford City

**WHERE?** Gresty Road

**WHEN?** Tuesday 20th March - Kick Off 7.45pm

**COMPETITION?** npower League Two

### LAST TIME WE MET?

Bradford 3-0 Crewe

Monday 26th December 2011

Scorers: Bradford - Wells (2), Hanson (64,84)

### Scorers:

Crewe: Moore (74)

Rotherham: Le Fondre (15), Pringle (72)

### FANCY A FLUTTER?

You can bet on the game with our official betting partner Coral. All your bets help Crewe Alexandra financially.

### CAN'T MAKE IT?

Don't worry, you can catch all the action live on Crewe Alex Player, whilst we'll bring you post match reaction and highlights following the game too. Sign up for as little as 10p a day.

### WHERE'S THE LINK?

#### STEVEN SCHUMACHER

Steven Schumacher was one of Steve Holland's key signings ahead of his first season in charge of the Alex. Schumacher had spent three years with Bradford between 2004 and 2007 before moving to Gresty Road.

During his time with Bradford, Schumacher scored 13 times for the Bantams including an F.A. Cup goal against Crewe in a comfortable 4-0 win for Bradford in which Shaun Miller made his Crewe Alexandra debut.

As for Schumacher he would spend three seasons with the Alex making over 70 league appearances before moving to Bury in the summer of 2010. Schumacher was captain of the Shakers as they achieved promotion to League One last season. Since then Schuey has netted six times for Bury and has continued to impress at a higher level.

### WHO'S THE GAFFER?

Phil Parkinson

### BRADFORD'S LAST THREE

Wimbledon 3-1 BRADFORD

BRADFORD 2-1 Oxford

BRADFORD 1-1 Accrington

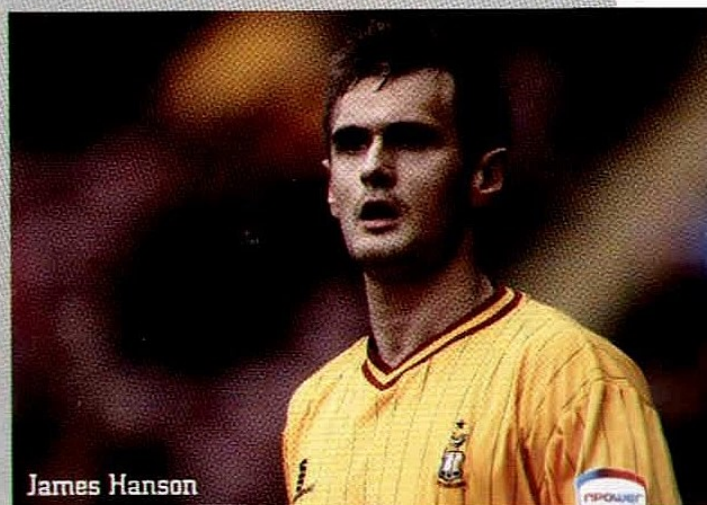
### WHO TO WATCH?

#### JAMES HANSON

Powerful forward James Hanson arrived at Bradford in the summer of 2009 after developing a reputation with non-league side Guiseley as a man with an eye for the goal. During his time with the Yorkshire club, Hanson hit 46 goals in 67 appearances and quickly caught the eye of several scouts.

With plenty of interest from other clubs, it would be Bradford that would make the move for him, and Hanson would quickly earn the affections of the Valley Parade faithful with a goal in Bradford's remarkable 5-4 win at Cheltenham Town in August 2009.

Hanson would go on to score 13 times during his first season in professional football, including a goal in Crewe's 3-2 win at Bradford in October 2009. Hanson, has continued to be sizeable threat to League Two defences since and has reached double figures in terms of goals this season, including a brace in Bradford's comfortable win over the Alex on Boxing Day.



James Hanson





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# FROM INSIDE THE DRESSING ROOM

WITH  
AJ LEITCH-SMITH

## AS A KID...

**Team you supported as a boy?** Man United

**Childhood idol?** Zinedine Zidane

**First ever match you saw?** No idea! It would have been a Crewe game.

**Favourite subject at school?** P.E.

**Worst subject?** English

## AS A PROFESSIONAL...

**First professional game?** Bury at home

**Proudest ever moment in football?** My first goal against Barnet

**Funniest thing you have seen in football?** Stitching Max up at Gillingham!

**Fixture you always look for in June?** Vale home and away

**Best stadium you have played at?** Villa Park in the Youth Cup.

## YOUR TEAM-MATES...

**Best mate (s) in football?**

Murph...just

**Who is the dressing room joker?** Dave Artell tries to be!

**Worst gear?** Belly with his fake gear.

**Always has something to sell?**

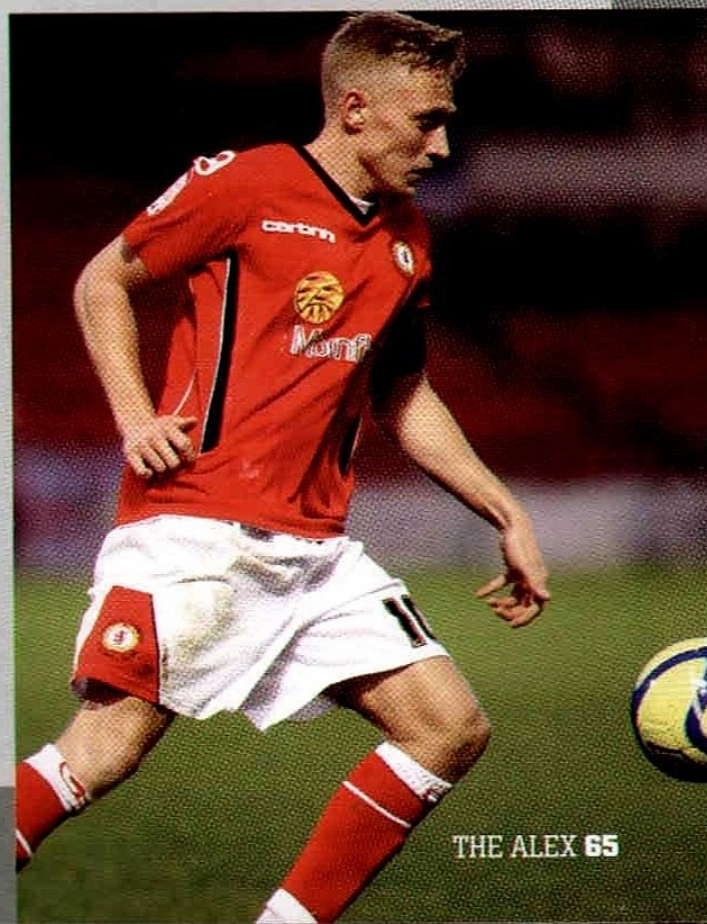
Belly with more fake stuff like his bracelets!

**Spends the most time in front of the mirror?** Toots - The Model

**Spends too much time on their phone?** Bakes (Neil Baker) is always making a call

**Dressing Room Dope?** Brains - Byron Moore

**Best trainer?** Nick Powell, always puts it in.







Substituted player (square number replaced by) Substitute 1 scorer sent off own goal

DATE	OPPONENTS	H/A	KICK-OFF	RESULT	ATTENDANCE	FIRST XI
Sat Aug 6	Swindon Town	A	3.00pm	L 3-0	8,248	Phillips Tootle Davis Westwood Artell Dugdale Bell Miller (19) Moore
Tue Aug 9	Preston North End (CC1)	A	7.45pm	L 3-2	5,401	Phillips Tootle Davis Artell 1 Dugdale Bell Murphy Miller 1 Latch-Smith
Sat Aug 13	Gillingham	H	3.00pm	L 1-2	3,401	Phillips Davis Westwood Artell Dugdale Bell Murphy (16) Miller 1 (19) Moore
Tue Aug 16	Rotherham	H	7.45pm	L 1-2	3,451	Phillips Westwood Artell Dugdale Bell Murphy Miller (16) Latch-Smith (15) Moore
Sat Aug 20	Shrewsbury Town	A	3.00pm	L 0-2	5,050	Phillips Davis Westwood Artell Dugdale Bell (18) Murphy Miller Latch-Smith
Sat Aug 27	Plymouth Argyle	A	3.00pm	W 1-0	5,720	Phillips Davis (14) Westwood Artell Dugdale Bell Shelley Murphy Miller 1
Tue Aug 30	Bury (JPT1) - Won 4-2 on penalties	A	7.45pm	D 0-0	1,295	Phillips Davis Westwood Artell Dugdale Bell Murphy Miller Shelley
Sat Sep 03	Oxford United	H	3.00pm	W 3-1	3,680	Phillips Davis Westwood Artell Dugdale Bell Murphy Miller 2 Latch-Smith 1
Sat Sep 10	Barnet	H	3.00pm	W 3-1	3,142	Phillips Tootle Davis Westwood Dugdale 1 Bell Murphy 1 Miller 1 Latch-Smith
Tue Sep 13	Burton Albion	A	7.45pm	L 0-1	2,246	Phillips Tootle Davis Dugdale Bell (24) Murphy Miller Latch-Smith Moore
Sat Sep 17	Accrington Stanley	A	3.00pm	W 2-0	1,503	Phillips Tootle Davis Westwood Dugdale Bell Murphy Miller (12) Latch-Smith 1
Sat Sep 24	Port Vale	H	3.00pm	D 1-1	6,622	Phillips Tootle Davis Westwood Dugdale Bell (12) Murphy Miller Latch-Smith
Sat Oct 1	Dagenham & Redbridge	A	3.00pm	L 1-2	1,725	Phillips Tootle Davis Westwood Dugdale Murphy Miller Latch-Smith Moore 1
Wed Oct 5	Macclesfield Town (JPT2)	H	7.30pm	W 1-0	2,271	Phillips Tootle Davis Dugdale Murphy Moore Sarcevic (10) Clayton 1 Turlton
Sat Oct 8	Southend United	H	3.00pm	L 1-3	3,808	Phillips Tootle Davis 1 Westwood Dugdale Murphy Miller (19) Latch-Smith Moore
Sat Oct 15	A.F.C Wimbledon	A	3.00pm	W 3-1	4,604	Phillips Tootle Davis Westwood Dugdale 1 Murphy Miller (18) Latch-Smith (17) Moore
Sat Oct 22	Macclesfield Town	H	3.00pm	L 0-1	3,872	Phillips Tootle Davis Westwood Dugdale Murphy Miller Latch-Smith Moore
Tue Oct 25	Cheltenham Town	A	7.45pm	W 1-0	3,099	Phillips Tootle Davis 1 Dugdale Bell Murphy Miller (12) Moore Sarcevic
Sat Oct 29	Aldershot Town	A	3.00pm	L 1-3	2,582	Phillips Tootle Davis Westwood Dugdale Bell (14) Murphy (12) Miller Latch-Smith 1
Sat Nov 5	Torquay United	H	3.00pm	L 0-3	3,521	Phillips Tootle Davis Westwood Dugdale Bell (14) Murphy Miller Latch-Smith
Tue Nov 8	Oldham Athletic (JPT (N) QF)	A	7.00pm	L 1-3	2,163	Phillips Tootle Westwood Artell Dugdale Murphy Miller Moore (12) Sarcevic
Sat Nov 12	Colchester United (FA Cup 1)	H	3.00pm	L 1-4	2,325	Phillips Tootle Westwood Artell Dugdale Bell (24) Murphy Latch-Smith (12) Moore 1
Sat Nov 19	Morecambe	A	3.00pm	W 2-1	2,159	Phillips Tootle Artell Dugdale Bell Murphy Miller (10) Latch-Smith Moore
Sat Nov 26	Hereford United	H	3.00pm	W 1-0	3,591	Phillips Tootle Artell Dugdale Bell Miller Latch-Smith (27) Moore Martin C
Sat Dec 10	Northampton Town	A	3.00pm	D 1-1	4,579	Phillips Tootle Artell Dugdale Bell Latch-Smith Moore 1 Martin C Powell
Sat Dec 17	Crawley Town	H	3.00pm	D 1-1	3,635	Phillips Tootle Artell Dugdale Bell Miller Moore Martin C Powell
Mon Dec 26	Bradford City	A	3.00pm	L 0-3	11,060	Phillips Tootle Artell Dugdale Bell Moore Martin C Clayton (4) Powell
Sat Dec 31	Bristol Rovers	A	3.00pm	W 5-2	5,037	Phillips Tootle Artell 1 Dugdale Westwood Bell (6) Moore Powell 2 Lowe
Mon Jan 2	Morecambe	H	3.00pm	L 1-0	3,840	Phillips Tootle Davis Westwood Artell Dugdale Bell (6) Latch-Smith Moore
Sat Jan 7	Plymouth Argyle	H	3.00pm	W 3-2	3,707	Phillips Tootle Davis Westwood 1 Artell Dugdale Bell Murphy 2 (28) Latch-Smith
Sat Jan 14	Oxford United	A	3.00pm	W 1-0	7,052	Phillips Tootle Davis Westwood Artell Dugdale Murphy Moore Shelley
Sat Jan 21	Dagenham & Redbridge	H	3.00pm	W 3-1	3,282	Phillips Tootle Davis Westwood Artell Dugdale 1 Murphy Moore Powell 1
Sat Jan 28	Barnet	A	3.00pm	L 0-2	2,260	Phillips Tootle Davis Westwood Artell Dugdale Murphy Moore Powell
Tue Feb 14	Burton Albion	H	7.45pm	W 3-2	3,157	Phillips Tootle Davis Westwood 1 Murphy 1 Miller Moore (20) Shelley 1 (19) Martin C
Sat Feb 18	Southend United	A	3.00pm	L 0-1	5,645	Phillips Tootle Davis Westwood Artell Murphy Miller (18) Martin C Powell
Tue Feb 21	Accrington Stanley	H	7.45pm	W 2-0	3,175	Phillips Tootle Davis Westwood Artell Bell (12) Murphy 1 Miller (19) Martin C
Sat Feb 25	A.F.C Wimbledon	H	3.00pm	D 3-3	4,246	Phillips Tootle Davis Westwood Artell Dugdale Murphy Moore 1 Shelley
Tue Feb 28	Port Vale	A	7.45pm	D 1-1	6,356	Phillips Tootle Davis Westwood Artell Dugdale Murphy Moore 1 Shelley
Sat Mar 3	Shrewsbury Town	H	3.00pm	D 1-1	5,086	Phillips Tootle Davis Westwood Dugdale Murphy Miller (19) Moore Martin C
Tue Mar 6	Rotherham United	A	7.45pm	D 1-1	2,447	Phillips Tootle (12) Davis 1 Westwood Artell Dugdale Murphy Miller (12) Moore
Sat Mar 10	Gillingham	A	3.00pm	W 4-3	5,426	Phillips Tootle Davis Westwood Artell Dugdale Murphy Latch-Smith (13) Moore
Sat Mar 17	Swindon Town	H	3.00pm			
Tue Mar 20	Bradford City	H	7.45pm			
Sat Mar 24	Hereford United	A	3.00pm			
Sat Mar 31	Northampton Town	H	3.00pm			
Fri Apr 6	Crawley Town	A	3.00pm			
Mon Apr 9	Bristol Rovers	H	3.00pm			
Sat Apr 14	Macclesfield Town	A	3.00pm			
Sat Apr 21	Cheltenham Town	H	3.00pm			
Sat Apr 28	Torquay United	A	3.00pm			
Sat May 5	Aldershot Town	H	3.00pm			





## FOOTBALL LEAGUE 2 TABLE

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Swindon	35	15	2	1	40	8	8	2	7	21	17	+36	73
2	Torquay	36	10	6	3	32	21	9	3	5	18	17	+12	66
3	Shrewsbury	35	13	4	0	28	10	6	4	8	23	23	+18	65
4	Southend	36	8	6	4	25	17	11	1	6	36	25	+19	64
5	Cheltenham	36	10	4	4	23	11	9	3	6	32	25	+19	64
6	Crawley	34	11	3	3	36	17	5	8	4	22	26	+15	59
7	Oxford	35	8	7	2	30	17	6	6	6	19	18	+14	55
8	Gillingham	35	10	4	4	36	23	6	2	9	27	29	+11	54
9	<b>Crewe</b>	36	7	4	6	28	25	8	3	8	24	27	0	52
10	Rotherham	36	8	3	7	21	17	5	8	5	30	30	+4	50
11	Morecambe	36	6	4	9	29	25	6	7	4	23	18	+9	47
12	Aldershot	35	8	3	6	18	13	6	2	10	20	29	-4	47
13	Accrington	35	8	2	6	26	25	3	11	5	17	21	-3	46
14	AFC W'bleton	36	6	4	9	29	37	6	4	7	21	27	-14	44
15	Port Vale *	35	8	3	7	32	25	7	5	5	25	22	+10	43
16	Burton	35	6	6	4	18	19	5	4	10	26	37	-12	43
17	Bristol R	35	6	5	7	21	25	5	4	8	22	31	-13	42
18	Bradford	35	6	7	5	28	23	3	5	9	16	24	-3	39
19	Northampton	35	5	4	10	26	38	5	3	8	21	28	-19	37
20	Barnet	35	5	4	7	21	29	5	3	11	21	34	-21	37
21	Macclesfield	36	5	9	5	22	19	3	2	12	12	26	-11	35
22	Hereford	36	4	3	11	17	34	4	8	6	22	24	-19	35
23	Plymouth	36	3	7	7	17	22	4	4	11	21	34	-18	32
24	Dag & Red	36	6	1	11	21	32	3	3	12	13	32	-30	31

\* Port Vale deducted 10 points

## 1ST TEAM APPEARANCES & GOALSCORERS

PLAYER	APPEARANCES					GOALS				
	Lge	CC	JPT	FAC	Tot	Lge	CC	JPT	FAC	Tot
5 David Artell	23+1	1	2	1	27+1	1	1	-	-	2
7 Lee Bell	21+4	1	1	1	24+4	-	-	-	-	-
32 Jordan Brown	0+2	-	-	-	0+2	-	-	-	-	-
19 Max Clayton	1+15	-	1+2	-	2+17	3	-	1	-	4
16 Jordan Connerton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23 Brendan Daniels	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 Harry Davis	30+2	1	2	-	33+2	3	-	-	-	3
6 Adam Dugdale	32	1	3	1	37	3	-	-	-	3
27 Wes Fletcher	3+2	-	-	-	3+2	1	-	-	-	1
18 Ben Garratt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24 Casper Hughes	0+4	-	2	0+1	2+5	-	-	-	-	-
26 Michael Koral	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
28 Jamie Lowry	8+1	-	-	-	8+1	-	-	-	-	-
13 Alan Martin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 Carl Martin	27+3	-	1+1	1	29+4	-	-	-	-	-
17 Kelvin Mellor	0+5	-	0+1	0+1	0+7	-	-	-	-	-
9 Shaun Miller	25+4	1	2	-	28+4	5	1	-	-	6
11 Byron Moore	31	1	2	1	35	7	-	-	-	1
8 Luke Murphy	31+2	1	3	1	36+2	5	-	-	-	5
29 Jason Oswell	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30 Greg Pearson	9+1	-	-	-	9+1	3	-	-	-	3
1 Steve Phillips	36	1	3	1	41	-	-	-	-	-
25 Nick Powell	25+4	1	2	1	29+4	10	-	1	-	11
22 George Ray	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14 Antoni Sarcovic	1+5	-	3	0+1	4+6	-	-	-	-	-
12 Danny Shelley	10+10	0+1	1+1	-	11+12	1	-	-	-	1
10 Ajay Leitch-Smith	20+7	1	0+1	1	22+8	6	-	-	-	6
2 Matt Tootle	31+1	1	2	1	35+1	-	-	-	-	-
31 James Tunnicliffe	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
20 Oliver Turton	0+2	-	1	-	1+2	-	-	-	-	-
4 Ashley Westwood	29+2	-	2+1	1	32+3	2	-	-	-	2
21 Andy White	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Opponents						2	-	-	-	2
TOTAL GOALS						52	2	2	1	57

### SUBSTITUTES

Clayton	Powell	Martin	Murphy	Leitch-Smith	Clayton	Ray		
Moore	Powell	Westwood	Shelley	Martin	Sarcovic	Clayton	Ray	Hughes
Martin C	Powell	Martin A	Leitch-Smith	Shelley	Clayton	Hughes		
Shelley	Martin C	Martin A	Davis	Clayton	Hughes	Powell		
Moore	Martin C	Shelley	Martin A	Clayton	Hughes	Powell		
Leitch-Smith	Martin C	Martin A	Sarcovic	Mellor	Clayton	Hughes		
Sarcovic	Hughes	Martin A	Connerton	Mellor	Clayton	Turton		
Shelley	Martin C	Martin A	Tootle	Mellor	Hughes			
Moore	Martin C	Martin A	Sarcovic	Mellor	Clayton	Shelley		
Shelley	Martin C	Martin A	Sarcovic	Mellor	Clayton	Hughes		
Moore	Martin C	Martin A	Shelley	Sarcovic	Connerton	Mellor		
Moore	Martin C	Martin A	Shelley	Sarcovic	Mellor	Hughes		
Powell	Martin C	Martin A	Sarcovic	Clayton	Turton	Hughes		
Hughes	Powell	Martin A	Westwood	Leitch-Smith	Martin C	Koral		
Martin C	Powell	Martin A	Bell	Clayton	Turton	Hughes		
Martin C	Powell	Bell	Martin A	Mellor	Clayton	Turton		
Martin C	Powell	Martin A	Artell	Bell	Shelley	Sarcovic		
Martin C	Powell	Artell	Martin A	Shelley	Hughes	Koral		
Moore	Martin C	Martin A	Artell	Shelley	Sarcovic	Powell		
Moore	Martin C	Martin A	Artell	Shelley	Sarcovic	Powell		
Martin C	Powell	Martin A	Bell	Shelley	Clayton	Turton		
Martin C	Powell	Martin A	Davis	Shelley	Sarcovic	Mellor	Clayton	Hughes
Martin C	Powell	Martin A	Davis	Shelley	Clayton	Hughes		
Powell	Lowry	Martin A	Davis	Shelley	Clayton	Fletcher		
Fletcher	Lowry	Davis	Miller	Shelley	Martin A	Clayton		
Fletcher	Lowry	Martin A	Davis	Westwood	Leitch-Smith	Clayton		
Fletcher	Lowry	Martin A	Davis	Westwood	Murphy	Leitch-Smith		
Davis	Leitch-Smith	Martin A	Murphy	Mellor	Clayton	Fletcher		
Powell	Lowry	Martin A	Murphy	Mellor	Clayton	Fletcher		
Moore	Powell	Martin A	Miller	Mellor	Clayton	Lowry		
Powell	Lowry	Martin A	Mellor	Clayton	Turton	Pearson		
Lowry	Pearson	Martin A	Leitch-Smith	Shelley	Mellor	Clayton		
Lowry	Pearson	Leitch-Smith	Shelley	Martin A	Martin C	Clayton		
Powell	Tunnicliffe	Martin A	Mellor	Clayton	Turton	Oswell		
Pearson	Tunnicliffe	Martin A	Bell	Shelley	Mellor	Clayton		
Powell	Pearson	Martin A	Shelley	Mellor	Clayton	Turton		
Powell	Pearson	Martin A	Bell	Miller	Martin C	Clayton		
Powell	Pearson	Martin A	Bell	Miller	Martin C	Clayton		
Powell	Pearson	Martin A	Artell	Shelley	Clayton	Turton		
Martin C	Pearson	Martin A	Leitch-Smith	Shelley	Turton	Brown		
Shelley	Powell	Martin A	Miller	Clayton	Pearson	Brown		

Mark Bebbington : Architectural Technician

### PLANS DRAWN

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# TODAY'S SQUADS

## MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee:  
**Mr. D. Deadman**

Assistant Referees:  
**P. Graham** and  
**J. Whitely**

Fourth Official:  
**J. Hunt**

## NEXT GAME AT THE ALEX

vs  
**BRADFORD CITY**  
nPower League 2  
Tuesday 20th  
March 2012  
Kick off 7.45pm

## MATCH STATISTICS

### HALF-TIME

THE ALEX THE ROBINS

### FULL-TIME

THE ALEX THE ROBINS

### ATTENDANCE

### MAN OF THE MATCH



## CREWE ALEXANDRA

Manager: **STEVE DAVIS**

Played		Goals		
1	Steve Phillips			
2	Matt Tootle			
3	Harry Davis			
4	Ashley Westwood			
5	David Artell			
6	Adam Dugdale			
7	Lee Bell			
8	Luke Murphy			
9	Shaun Miller			
10	Ajay Leitch-Smith			
11	Byron Moore			
12	Danny Shelley			
13	Alan Martin			
15	Carl Martin			
17	Kelvin Mellor			
18	Ben Garratt			
19	Max Clayton			
20	Oliver Turton			
23	Brendan Daniels			
25	Nick Powell			
26	Michael Koral			
29	Jason Oswell			
30	Greg Pearson			
32	Jordan Brown			



## SWINDON TOWN

Manager: **PAOLO DI CANIO**

Played		Goals		
1	Mattia Lanzano			
3	Callum Kennedy			
4	Aden Flint			
5	Joe Devera			
7	Paul Caddis			
8	Simon Ferry			
9	Paul Benson			
10	Matt Ritchie			
11	Etienne Esajas			
12	Alan McCormack			
13	Oliver Risser			
15	Nathan Thompson			
16	Lee Cox			
17	Alan Connell			
19	Luke Rooney			
20	Abdul Said			
21	Lander Gabilondo			
23	Raffaele De Vita			
24	Jonathan Smith			
25	Jonathan Tehoue			
26	Phil Smith			
27	Alessandro Cibocchi			
30	Leigh Bedwell			
31	Billy Bodin			
32	Chris Smith			
34	Ronan Murray			
35	Wes Foderingham			
37	Louis Thompson			
39	Mehdi Kerrouche			



**Mornflake**

**carbrini**



**CORAL**

