



News From The

Potter's Diary

Lou states after the disappointment of losing at Portsmouth, that we have got a very inexperienced side and while we don't seek to use that as an excuse it's an undeniable factor.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 3RD

Confirmation that Northern Irelands clash with Albania is on and Gerry McMahon and Nigel Worthington will miss todays game.

Teenager Andrew Griffin is called up for training with the Engalnd U18 squad for a 3 day session (8-10 Dec) after just one full game and six sub appearances. Lancs league side win top of the table clash at Liverpool with goals from Mike Macari and Neil Mackenzie.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 4TH

A 1-0 win over Charlton Athletic thanks to Mike Sherons 16th goal of the season. The game was watched by the lowest home gate of the season 7456. It was also our first win in seven games.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 5TH

Lou Macari praises the supporters saying the players kept going even though they weren't playing very well because they sensed that our fans were behind what is a young side. He also revealed that Graham Stokoe pulled out of the Charlton game at the last minute through illness.

A last minute man hunt found replacement Neil Mackenzie buying a pie and then not having time to eat it as he was rushed to the dressing room. Neil came on as sub for the last 12 minutes.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 6TH

Youth team beat Grimsby 3-0 at home with goals from Crowe 2 and Taaffe.
First team prepare for tomorrows clash with Tranmere. Nigel Worthington to step up his fitness with a runout in tomorrows Lancs League home clash with Oldham Athletic.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 7TH

A fine 2-0 home win over Tranmere Rovers with goals from Shezza and a Dave Higgins own goal.

The Lancs League side beat Oldham Athletic 1-0.

Larus Sigurdsson makes his 100th full appearnace for Stoke City. Two years and seven days since his debut at Portsmouth.

CHARITY MARATHON

On Saturday 14th December, a 12 hour Christmas marathon in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care is to take place at St Chads Chruch in Stafford. There will also be a Christmas Fayre, face painting and refreshments in the church.

The Marie Curie nurses will be singing a Christmas Carol 'O Come All Ye Faithful' on the pitch 15 minutes before the match kicks off between Stoke City and Swindon. Marie Curie nurses care for people suffering from cancer in the patients own home, in order to spare the patients the additional trauma of staying in hospital.

Our 'visits' to patients homes last between at least three hours up to 24 hours, so that not only do the patients receive continuing care but their relatives are able to enjoy a well earned rest.

Their are 42 nurses in North Staffordshire funded mainly by charitable donations and the NHS. All monies raised in Staffordshire are used to fund the care of cancer sufferers in Staffordshire.

If you are able to organize a fund raising event or able to offer any help at our organised fund raising events, please contact our fundraising office on 01782 271160/279486



Marie Curie nurses and family meet
Mike Sheron and Ray Wallace

INFORMATION REQUIRED - PLEASE!

Can anyone supply the following information?
Who scored the goals when Stoke beat Mow Cop 26-0 in a Staffs, cup-tie in 1877; what was the attendance of the Stoke Rangers friendly at The 'Vic' in 1937; who has been sent-off most times playing for the Potters and is there any unusual nicknames associated with Stoke players over the years other than those everyone has already heard of!
Please send your information to Tony Tams at the club's Commercial department.

Victoria Ground



FUTURE FUNDING

The future funding of the Football Trust is a very important matter for us and the whole of football. The Trust provides essential support for safety and improvement work and for the redevelopment of grounds to meet the requirements of the Taylor report. The transformation we are seeing at our grounds would be impossible without them.

Our top clubs have largely completed the Taylor task and the Trust is now concentrating on clubs in the Second and Third Divisions, whose needs are considerable but whose resources are extremely limited.

Just as this crucial stage of implementing Taylor is reached the national lottery has halved the Trust's income. The crisis will deepen now that the mid week draw is round the corner.

The Football Trust is urging Government to:

- extend the Taylor implementation timetable to 2003, thus making its reduced annual income available over three more years to enable the smaller clubs to see through the Taylor task;
- reduce pool betting duty to help consolidate the pools business and thus the income of the Trust.

The Trust's work is of enormous value and its future must be safeguarded. Please play your part by writing NOW to your MP - House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA urging him to make representations to the Chancellor.

STOURBRIDGE V STOKE CITY

TUESDAY 17 DEC 7.30PM

We will be sending down a strong line-up for this fixture in recognition of the home side's 120th anniversary.

The Beazer Home Midlands Club play at the Amblecote Ground and have also fixed up games against Wolves and West Brom.

Our own Chic Bates is a living legend at Stourbridge where he was a regular goalscorer before moving into the Football League with Shrewsbury Town.







Today's mascots for Stoke include Carly Mainwearing of silverdale (pictured top). She is six years old and comes from Silverdale. Her hobbies include watching the Potters, playing with friends and cooking with Nanny!

Our second mascot today (pictured centre) is **Scott Segrue**. He is seven years old and his favourite played is Mark Stein.

Swindon's mascot this afternoon is Claire King (9). She is an avid Robins fan and her favourite player is Paul Allen.
Both Claire and Scott are here today in the party of our Matchday Sponsors Potters Packaging Ltd.

FORTHCOMING HOME GAMES

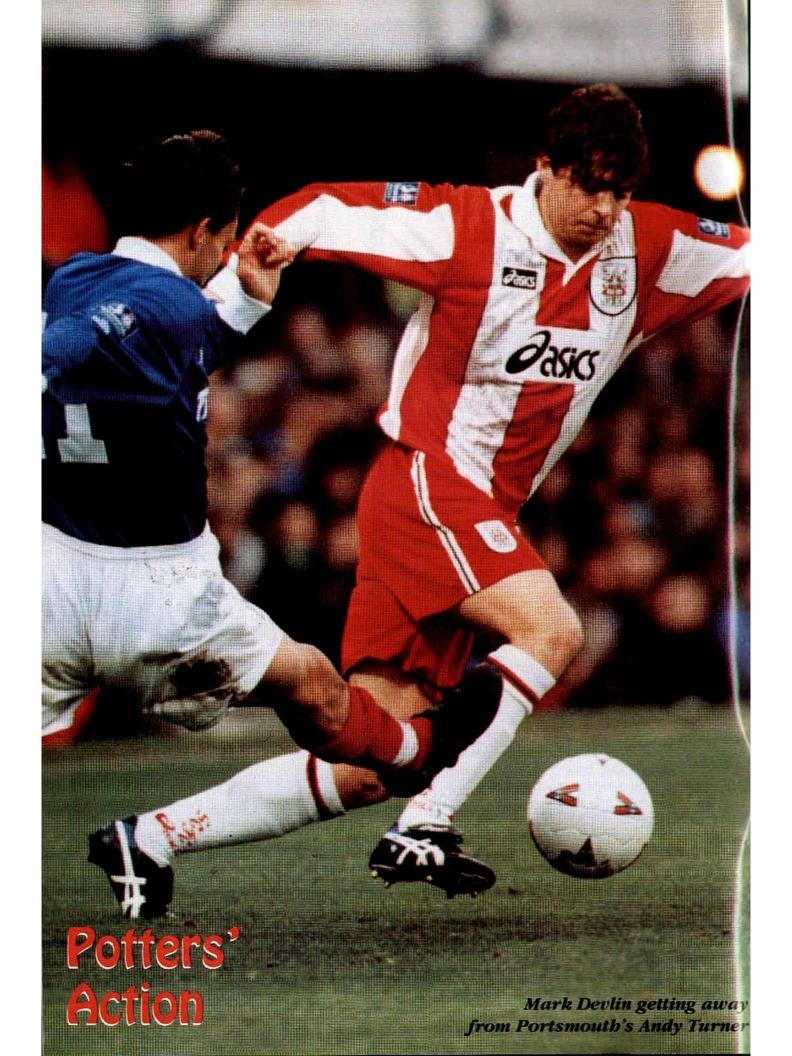
Boxing Day - 26 Dec - Barnsley - 3.00pm ko
Saturday 4 Jan - Stockport County (FA Cup R3) 3.00pm ko
Friday 10 Jan - Birmingham City - 7.45pm ko
Wednesday 22 Jan - Norwich City - 7.45pm ko
our home game against Oxford United will be shown live by
Sky Sports 3 on Friday 7 February 7.45pm ko
it was due to be played on sat 8 February.

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come all ye faithful Joyful and triumphant O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold Him Born the King of Angels. O come, let us adore Him, (Chorus) O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore

Him. Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light, Lo! He abhors not the Virgins womb, Very God, Begotten, not created. (Chorus) Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above, Sing ye "All glory," To God in the highest. (Chorus)



The Manager Speaks

Hello again. Our third home game on the trot sees us chasing a third successive win and (to add a little extra edge to the afternoon) we're going for the hat trick against swindon - the Club where I began my managerial career.

steve McMahon has got them playing well after promotion last season and all the signs to date suggest they have more than acclimatised to the higher league. In fact, they are only one point and one place below us in the table, so we can expect a ough match. I made a lot of friends during my time with the Club and I know many of them will be here today, though hopefully they will be going back home disappointed.

The FA Cup Third draw has probably been the biggest news for us this week. I'm sure many of you watched it on BBC on Monday evening and waited with baited breath after our name was pulled out for a home tie.

"It's all very well pulling out a big tie at bome but it can be a double edged sword"

Would it be Manchester United, Liverpool or perhaps
Newcastle here on January 4th..? Well, it was Stockport
County - not a tie to guarantee us a sell-out crowd, but
nevertheless I am still delighted with the draw. We're at home,
which was the number one priority, and it's a game which I
feel we should be more than capable of winning and that's the
key. I want to make progress in the competition. It's all very
well pulling out a big tie at home, but if it means the odds are
immediately stacked against you going further it can be a
double edged sword. We can use the Stockport tie as a bit of a
launch pad and try to make this our year.

Going back to the League, last Saturday's win here against Tranmere was a great way to follow up the victory over Charlton. Even more pleasing was the fact we didn't concede any goals for the second successive game, something we have not done too often this season. I was especially impressed by our two centre-halves Larus Sigurdsson and Justin Whittle against Rovers. They had a tricky task against one of the most prolific goalscorers in modern football, but I think John Aldridge would have to concede he came off second best. I cannot recall him having a single shot at

goal during the entrie 90 minutes, which highlights just how well our defenders played.

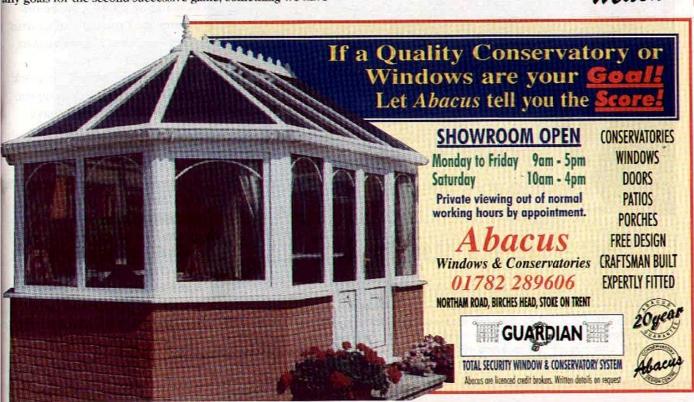
I'm sure you were all encouraged, too, by the continuing progress of young Andrew Griffin at left back, who is growing into the role and showing a steady nerve. It was suggested in the media last weekend that he was even keeping a player twice his age out of the team. It's a good job they also pointed out Andrew is only 17, because otherwise it could have made our Nigel Worthington feel very old indeed.

Seriously, though, that wasn't strictly true. Andrew was preferred but we had to consider that Nigel - although available again after his three weeks out with a back injury - was short of match practice so we gave him a run with the 'A' team in the Lancashire League that morning.

Nigel is missing again today, of course, called up for Northern Ireland's World Cup qualifier against Albania along with Gerry McMahon. Best of luck to them both.

Enjoy the game.

Lou Macari





Commercial Break



From left to right: Joan, Rob Bailey, Margaret, Wayne, Josie, Tony Tams and Lorraine Hampson

Welcome to today's sponsors...

In the Executive Suite we welcome today's Match Sponsors Potters Packaging, we welcome Tom Segrue, Angela Heath and their guests.

This afternoon we are also entertaining John Elliot of Solo Phones - our Matchball Sponsors - and his quests.

We hope you all enjoy your day with us and let's top it off with three points!

MATCHDAY MONEYSPINNER

V SOUTHEND UNITED

20861 - £468.00 NOT CLAIMED

20136 - AUTOGRAPHED FOOTBALL

If not claimed by 5.00pm today the £468.00

will be added to the Jackpot for our

Boxing Day clash v Barnsley

V CHARLTON ATHLETIC

08863 - £271.00

Won by Darren Brass from Bradeley
08372 - AUTOGRAPHED FOOTBALL

Won by Philip Viggars from Weston Coyney

V TRANMERE ROVERS

25013 - £475.00 Won by Wendy Ward from Crewe 24550 - AUTOGRAPHED FOOTBALL NOT CLAIMED

Don't forget to buy your ticket before today's game



This cheque for £269,088.92 represents a payment for initial work which was carried out by John Mowlem and Company Plc in the month of October. The presentation was made by SDC Chariman Cllr Ted Smith (left) and SCFC Chief Executive Jez Moxey (centre) to John Mowlem Regional Director Steve Bradbury

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Stadium Development
Company Ltd is owned by
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An enormous amount of work has gone into overcoming the complex issues which have surrounded this particular development over the past two years since the stadium was first muted. As John Mowlem & Co. continue to drive the foundation piles into the ground on which the magnificent stadium will sit. This cheque presentation signifies the successful way in which the private and public sectors can work together for the benefit of the whole community.

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THE ACTIONAL

Word From The Chief Executive

We welcome our special guests today local members of Parliament Mark Fisher and George Stevenson who will present a cheque on behalf of the Football trust to the President of Stoke City FC, Sir Stanley Matthews before today's match against Swindon Town.

He is joined by Peter Lee, Chief Executive of the Football Trust and David Dent, Secretary of the Football League and will mark the official announcement of the Trust's grant offer towards the club's new Stadium at Trentham Lakes.

The impressive new Stadium would not have been possible without the support of the Trust.

The Club is grateful to the Trust for its generous support and to its backers Littlewoods Pools and their fellow pools companies. The Trust is continuing its vital role helping clubs to implement the Taylor Report.

"It is essential that the Football Trust has the funding to play its full part in implementing the Taylor Report"

This essential work is threatened due to a decline in income brought about by the National Lottery.

The Trust is urging the Government to safeguard their future so that it can continue to help clubs such as Stoke City to complete the Taylor task.

Mr Stevenson said: "I am delighted to be invited here today to present the Football Trust's cheque towards the impressive new ground at Trentham Lakes.



"I congratulate the Club on

their far sighted plans to relocate to a new stadium for their magnificant supporters and I applaud the valuable contribution the Trust has made towards the cost of the project.

It is essential that the Trust has the necessary funding to play its full part in ensuring that Taylor is properly implemented throughout the football and make certain the interests of spectator safety and comfort continue to be met.

Mr Fisher commented: "It is a great pleasure to be here today, on this memorable occasion, to help mark the important contribution the Trust has made towards the club's new Stadium.

"I congratulate Stoke City on the impressive progress they have made in constructing what will be an excellent home for the club. I commend the work of the Football Trust which has a vital role to play in the game."

Enjoy the game.

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Batty

Sheron

Cranson

Sturridge

Worthington

Wallace

Sigurdsson

Forsyth

Prudhoe



Reserves & Youth

Pontins League Premier

Augu	ust		
19	Blackburn Rovers	H	2-
27	Nottingham Forest	Α	0-
Sept	ember		
	Sheffield Weds	Н	1.
9	Liverpool	A	1-
	Oldham Athletic	H	1-
25	Birmingham City	Α	1-
Octo	ober		
	Derby County	Н	4-
21	Manchester United	Н	2-
Nov	ember		
	Bolton Wanderers	Α	2-
11		H	3-
	Leeds United	A	P-
25	Everton	Н	0-
	ember		
	Liverpool	Н	2-
17	Sheffield Weds	A	P.
Janu			
6		H	
21	Oldham Athletic	A	
Feb	ruary		
5	Manchester United	Α	
17	Bolton Wanderers		
26	Tranmere Rovers	A	
Mar	ch		
3	Leeds United	Н	
18	Everton	Α	
24	Nottingham Forest	Н	
Apr			
2	Blackburn Rovers	Α	
15	Derby County	Α	

PONTINS LEAGUE CUP

We have four games to play in the opening group stage and must finish either first or second in our mini-league of five clubs to progress.

Fixtures:-

Stockport County (Away) - December 19th Wrexham (Home) - December 23rd Manchester City (Home) - Sunday January 19th 1997, Tranmere Rovers (Away) - January 30th Kick off 1.00pm



BOLTON WANDERERS

7.00PM KO MONDAY 17th FEBRUARY 1997

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE										
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.			
Stoke City A	15	12	1	2	37	13	37			
Manchester United A	15	10	3	2	53	19	33			
Crewe Alex. Reserve	16	9	3	4	25	16	30			
Everton A	16	7	6	3	33	26	27			
Liverpool A	14	7	2	5	24	18	23			
Tranmere Rovers A	16	6	4	6	25	29	22			
Burnley A	14	6	1	7	26	25	19			
Blackburn Rovers	16	5	4	7	27	27	19			
Morecambe Reserve	14	5	2	7	23	36	17			
Wrexham A	14	4	3	7	20	22	15			
Oldham Athletic A	14	4	3	7	18	27	15			
Morecambe Reserves	14	3	5	6	11	29	14			
Preston North End A	12	4	2	6	13	32	14			
Bury A	14	3	2	9	11	22	11			
Bolton Wanderers A	14	3	1	10	19	24	10			

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE

Tuesday 3rd December

LIVERPOOL O STOKE CITY 2

Scorers: M. Macari, MacKenzie
Team: Busby, Heinola, Callan, Talbot,
Woods, Stokoe, MacKenzie, Beeston,
Goyle, M.Macari, P. Macari
Subs: Hooth, France, Grove

Subs: Heath, Fraser, Crowe, Cartwriaht, Wooilscroft Inone used

MIDLAND YOUTH CUP

** Wednesday 4th December

PETERBOROUGH UNITED 2 STOKE CITY 4

Scorers: Cairns, Crowe, Heath, Taafe
Team: Fraser, Brownsword, Clarke,
O'Connor, Wade, Wooliscroft, Dickin,
Heath, Crowe, Taffe, Godbold
Subs: Cairns, Lowe

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE

Saturday /th December

STOKE CITY 1 OLDHAM ATHLETIC 0

Scorer: Dickin

Team: Busby, Heinola, Worthington, Woods, Talbot, Beeston, Coates, Callan, P. Macari, Gayle, Taffe

Subs: Crowe, Fraser, Dickin, Heath, Wade

Round-Up with Ashley Grimes & David Coates

Midland Melville League 1996/97

League 1996	/97	
August		
10 Grimsby Town	A	1
17 Leicester City	Ħ	4
24 Lincoln City	Α	2
31 Mansfield Town	H	4
September		
6 Notts County	H	3
21 Peterborough United	H	
28 Port Vale	Н	1
October 5 Di L C'h		1
5 Birmingham City	A H	2
12 Wolverhampton Wds. (LC) 18 Wolverhampton Wds	A	1
	A	4
26 Walsall	_	
November 2 West Bromwich Albion	н	2
9 Aston Villa	Ä	i
	Ĥ	3
15 Birmingham City 23 Coventry City	A	0
29 Nottingham Forest	Ĥ	3
December		
7 Grimsby Town	Н	3
14 Leicester City	A	
21 Lincoln City	Н	
January		
4 Mansfield Town	A	
11 Northampton Town	Н	
25 Peterborough United	A	
February		
1 Port Vale	Α	
8 Shrewsbury Town	Α	
15 Walsall	Н	
22 Northampton Town	Α	
March		
1 West Bromwich Albion	Α	
8 Aston Villa	H	
15 Coventry City	Н	
22 Wolverhampton Wds.	Α	
29 Derby County	Α	
April		
5 Derby County	Н	
12 Nottingham Forest	A	
19 Shrewsbury Town	Н	
26 Birmingham City	Н	
May		
3 Notts County	Α	

MELVILLE MATCH FACTS

Friday December 6th 1996
STOKE CITY 3 GRIMSBY TOWN 0
Scorers: Crowe (2), Taaffe
Team: Fraser, Brownsword, Clarke,
Cartwright, Wade, Wooliscroft,
O'Connor, Heath, Crowe, Taaffe, Jones
Subs: Dickin (for O'Connor),
Cairns (for Taaffe),
Godbold (for Crowe)

On Monday a crowd of 2784 turned out for our latest Family Night Football Pontins League game against Liverpool.

We put on a decent performance and took an early lead through Paul Macari. There were not too many clear cut chances in the second half but our second goal came just before full time when substitute Steve Taaffe scored on his first appearance for the Pontins side.

Stoke City:

Muggleton, Heinola, Worthington, Woods, Talbot, Moore, Devlin, Keen, P.Macari, M.Macari, MacKenzie. **Subs** - Crowe, Heath, Taaffe.

Liverpool:

Warner, Prior, Hessey, Brazier, Turkington, Matteo, Quinn, Cassidy, Jones, Dalglish, Kennedy. Subs - Parkinson, Naylor, Rizzo

Our Lancs League side have also had two good wins away at Liverpool and home to Oldham Athletic with the bonus of Carl Beeston playing in both games.



FORTHCOMING HOME FIXTURES

MIDIAND MEIVILLE YOUTH LEAGUE

Lincoln City

Saturday December 21st

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE

Liverpool

Saturday January 4th

Pontins league												
1996/97												
Team P W D L F A Pts. Stoke City 12 7 1 4 19 18 22												
Stoke City				2	23	9	19					
Manchester United	9	6				14	19					
Sheffield Weds	9	6	1	2	22							
Blackburn Rovers	10	5	2	3	13	17	19					
Tranmere Rovers	11	5	1	5	20	23	16					
Nottingham Forest	11	4	4	3	15	18	16					
Everton	11	4	3	4	15	17	15					
Derby County	10	3	2	5	16	14	11					
Oldham Athletic	11	2	5	4	13	19	11					
Birmingham City	10	2	4	4	9	10	10					
Bolton Wanderers	10	2	3	5	- 11	14	9					
Leeds United	8	2	2	4	7	12	8					
Liverpool	10	ī	4	5	11	15	7					



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NATIONWIDE

AROUND THE GROUNDS



NATIONWIDE MANAGER OF THE MONTH AWARDS

Birmingham City boss Trevor Francis is the Nationwide League Manager of the Month for November following his charges' magnificent set of results during the month which has also helped them to establish themselves firmly in the promotion race.

The former England International has guided the St Andrew's side to 13 points from seven Nationwide Football League encounters which include victories over Bolton Wanderers, Wolverhampton Wanderers, Swindon Town and Norwich City. The Division Two Manager of the Month award goes to Preston North End's Gary Peters who has seen the Lillywhites accumulate three wins and a draw from five Nationwide fixtures. At the start of the month, the Deepdale club were third from the bottom of the Second Division but following their recent splendid form were within nine points of the playoffs by the end of November. In Division Three the monthly accolade will be presented to former Liverpool star and Danish international Jan Molby whose Swansea City players have enjoyed a memorable month.

The Vetch Field side picked up 12 points from a possible 15 in the Nationwide Football League during November and are now within sight of the Third Division promotion-chasers.

The Nationwide Manager of the Month Awards are announced at the end of every month during the campaign to recognise the most successful managers in each of the three divisions and all recipients of these accolades will receive a solid silver salver prior to one of his side's forthcoming fixtures.

The manager will also be asked to nominate a local school to receive a cheque for £150 to go towards sports equipment and kit.

NOVEMBER TRANSFER DETAILS

Brett Angell

Sunderland to

Stockport Lee Ashcroft West Brom to Preston Frank Bennett Southampton to **Bristol Rovers** Simon Bochenski Barnsley to Scarborough Martin Carrutbers Stoke City to Peterborough Jason Cundy Tottenham to Ipswich John Dreyer Stoke City to **Bradford City** Andy Edwards Birmingham to Peterborough Steve Finnan Birmingham to Notts Co Sean Gregan Darlington to Preston David Hillier Arsenal to Portsmouth Peter Holcroft Everton to Swindon Jason Kavanagh Derby Co to Wycombe Jae Martin Birmingham to Lincoln Scott McGleish Peterborough Utd to Leyton Orient Scott Mean AFC Bournemouth to Brighton Robbie Painter Darlington to Rochdale Darren Rowbotham Shrewsbury Town to Exeter Les Sealey Levton Orient to West Ham Stuart Slater Leicester to Watford



TEMPORARY TRANSFERS DURING NOVEMBER

Terry Cooke Manchester Utd to Birmingham City Aidan Davison Bolton Wanderers to Hull City Neil Gregory Ipswich Town to Torquay Utd Jason Harris Crystal Palace to Bristol Rovers Glyn Hurst Barnsley to Mansfield Town David Kerslake Tottenham to Swindon Town Matt Jackson Everton to Birmingham City Andy Marsball Norwich City to Gillingham Gavin Peacock Chelsea to QPR Jobn Sheridan Sheffield Wednesday to Bolton Mark Stein Chelsea to Stoke City Paul Tisdale Southampton to Huddersfield

John Walker

Grimsby to Mansfield

the official STOKE

FOOTBALL CLUB





Photographer Paul Bredbury (Stoke City Club Photographer

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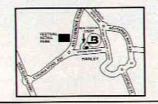


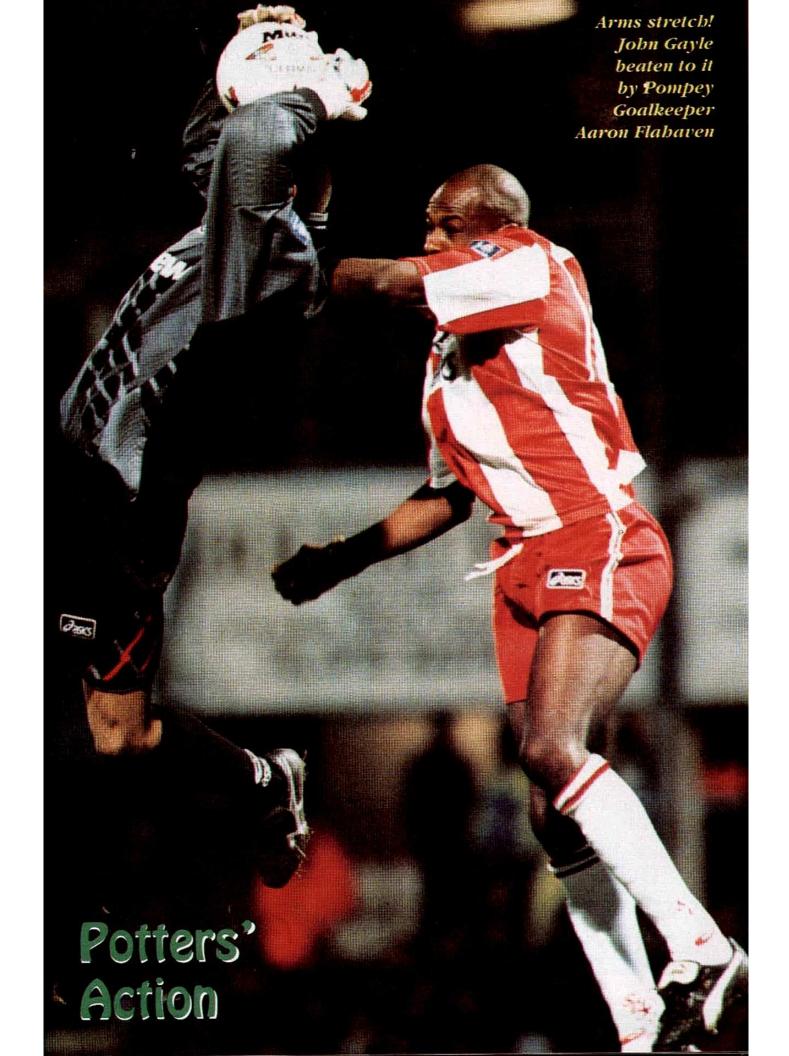
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In Town Today...

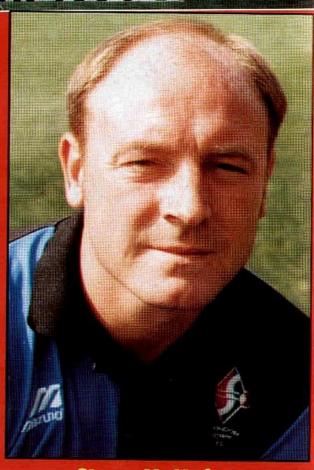


Swindon Town, our welcome visitors to The Victoria Ground for this afternoon's Nationwide League game, had an excellent 1995-86 season which culminated with them winning the Second Division championship in some style - they finished nine points clear of runners-up Oxford United.

Now managed by the former England midfielder Steve McMahon, the 'Robins' only lost four matches out of their 46 last term - at home to Shrewsbury Town and away at Oxford United, Wrexham and York City.

McMahon certainly assembled a pretty mean defence at The County Ground - only 34 goals conceded at League level - while his attack was as good as any in the Division with a tally of 71 goals scored.

In fact, on winning promotion McMahon firmly believed that his players would readily equip themselves in a higher Division. Occasionally they have done just that, proving they are as good as any other club in this section. But of late some results have gone against them and they have tottered badly, losing games when realistically speaking, they should have gained something for their efforts, especially at Birmingham where they lost 1-0! Nevertheless Swindon Town are a footballing side and there is no doubt that whoever plays against them certainly have a chance of gaining a favourable result. McMahon has not had too much money to spend on new players but his squad is a useful one with a fair sprinkling of experience and youth spread throughout the ranks.



Steve McMahon

SMINDO Rown



Wayne Allison

Of late the 'Robins' have fielded the following players, all of whom are likely to be in contention for a place in the line-up against the Potters today:

FRASER DIGBY

Goalkeeper Digby has been in splendid form this season. Aged 29, a native of Sheffield, he on Manchester United's books as a youngster but failed to make an impact at Old Trafford and left to join Swindon in 1986 for £32,000. He has now made over 450 appearances for the 'Robins' as well as winning five England U/21 caps.

MARK ROBINSON

A right-back, in the centre of the defence or wide midfield, he started his career with West Bromwich Albion and after good spells with both Barnsley (159 outings) and Newcastle United he signed for Swindon in July 1994 for £600,000. Born in Rochdale in 1968 he has now amassed a career total of more than 30 appearances at club level.

DAVID KERSLAKE

Kerslake plays at either right or left-back. He returned to The County Ground last month on loan from Tottenham Hotspur.

Born in Stepney (London) just before England won the World Cup in 1966, he started his career with

The Robins

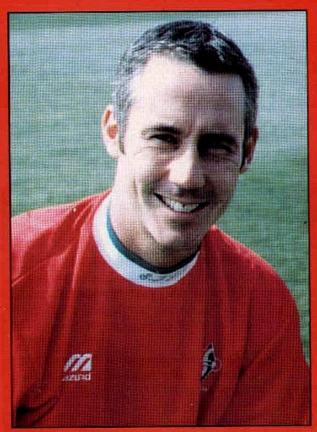
Q.P.R. before transferring to Swindon (first time round) in 1989 for £110,000. He made 165 appearances for the 'Robins' in four years prior to a £500,000 move to Leeds United. He never fitted in at Elland Road and six months later left Yorkshire to return to Spurs for £450,000. Capped by England at U/21 level, he certainly has skill and commitment and is now looking forward to helping Swindon climb the table.

FACT

IN 1969 SWINDON CAUSED A MAJOR SHOCK WHEN DEFEATING ARSENAL 3-1 IN THE LEAGUE CUP FINAL AT WEMBLEY.

MARK SEAGRAVES

Veteran centre-back played twice for Liverpool and three times for Norwich City at the start of his career. He then had a spell with Manchester City before making almost 200 appearances for Bolton Wanderers. He left Burnden Park for Swindon for £100,0000 in June 1995. A real hard-tackling defender, with good heading ability, Seagraves was born in Bootle 30 years ago.



Ian Culverhouse



Mark Walters

FREDERICK DARRASS

Partnering Seagraves at the heart of the Swindon defence, Darrass arrived at the club last summer from Corsican club Bastia. Aged 25 he has ability and style and can also slot in at full-back if required.

GARY ELKINS

Taking the No.3 shirt is likely to be 30 year-old Elkins, who was recruited from Wimbledon for just £20,000 six months ago. A determined player, born in Wallingford, he won England schoolboy and youth caps before signing professional forms for Fulham in 1983. He played over 120 games for the 'Cottagers' and five on loan with Exeter before going to Plough Lane in 1990. He made 127 first team appearances for the 'Dons'.

FACT

BETWEEN 1983 AND 1993 SWINDON'S MANAGERS WERE ALL EX-INTERNATIONALS, NAMELY LOU MACARI, OSSIE ARDILLES AND GLENN HODDLE.

KEVIN HORLOCK

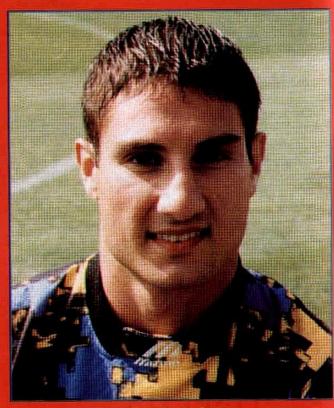
The 24 year old is one of Swindon's midfield battlers. He joined the club fromWest Ham United on a free transfer four years ago and has been in fine form for the 'Robins' over the last two seasons. He has now made close on 200 appearances for the Wiltshire club.

MARK WALTERS

Walters is no stranger to the Victoria Ground. The former Liverpool, Aston Villa and England winger, played 11 games on loan with Stoke in 1994. He enjoys a wide berth on either flank for Swindon, whom he joined from Southampton at the start of the season. A former team-mate of manager McMahon's at both Villa Park and Anfield, Walters has lost none of his trickery and he is still a class player. Born in Birmingham in 1964, he left Villa for Glasgow Rangers for £500,000 in 1987; joined Liverpool for £1.25 million four years later and after loan spells with Stoke and Wolves he moved to Southampton in 1996. Winner of one full, one 'B' and nine U/21 caps for England, he gained a European Super Cup winners medal with Villa and Scottish Premier and Scottish League Cup winners medals while at Ibrox and an F.A. Cup winners medal at Anfield. Walters is fast-approaching the milestone of 550 appearances at club level, and he's hit 125 goals.

WAYNE O'SULLIVAN

The Republic of Ireland U/21 international joined Swindon as a trainee in 19912, turning professional two years later. Born in Akrotiri, Cyprus in 1974, he is a strong running midfielder who looks set for a bright future in the game.



Frank Talia

The County Robins

SCOTT LEITCH

Leitch plays in centre-field and was on loan at Swindon last season from Hearts before joining the 'Robins' permanently at the start of this season. He is now a key figure in the team's engine-room. Born in Motherwell in 1969, he played over 100 games for Dunfermline Athletic between 1990 and 1993.

WAYNE ALLISON

Striker Allison stands well over six feet tall and weighs almost 14 stones. He was secured from Bristol City for £475,000 in July 1995 and last season scored 20 goals for the 'Robins,' Born in Huddersfield in 1968, he started out with Halifax Town and before transferring to Ashton Gate served with Watford. He's an awkward customer, dangerous at set pieces and is a constant menace to defenders, especially in the air.

FACT

THE YOUNGEST PLAYER EVER TO APPEAR IN A LEAGUE GAME FOR SWINDON IS PAUL RIDEOUT WHO AT THE AGE OF 16 YEARS, 107 DAYS LINE UP AGAINST HULL CITY IN NOVEMBER 1980.

STEVE FINNEY

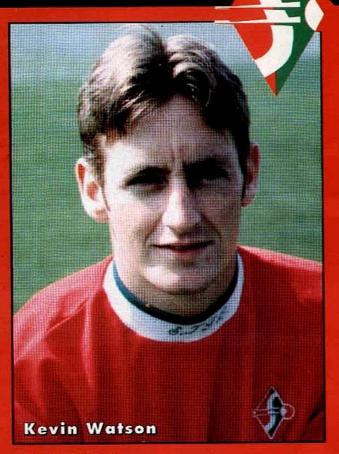
Finney (23) was born near Hexham racecourse and first played for Preston North End before going to Manchester City in 1993. Unfortunately he never made an appearance during his three-year stay at Maine Road playing all of his football in the reserves. But Steve McMahoin was impressed with him and June 1995 he lured him to Swindon on a free transfer. He is now a vital member of the 'Robins' squad.

GARY THORNE

Youthful player Thorne (aged just 19) from Reading was promoted to Swindon's professional ranks in the summer of 1995 and last term made two appearances for the senior side. Although on the small side, he has a lot to offer and is extremely dangerous inside the area.

STEVE COWE

Aged 22 from Gloucester, Cowe left Villa Park for Swindon last March after failing to get a game with the Premiership club. He has only managed 20 outings so far for the 'Robins' but has already shown a lot of character as a utility forward.



TY GOODEN

Gooden from Canvey Island is a 24 year-old utility player who came through Arsenal's nursery to sign for Wycombe Wanderers from where he switched to Swindon in January 1994. He's now made 60 first team appearances for the 'Robins.'.

PETER HOLCROFT

The midfielder has recently joined the club on a free transfer from Everton. Aged 20 he is highlyrated by manager Steve McMahon.

Steve Mc Mahon

Steve McMahon took over the reins as playermanager at The County Ground in November 1994, joining from Manchester City. Born in Liverpool in 1961, McMahon played exactly 100 League games for Everton before transferring to Aston Villa for £175,000 in 1983.

He returned to Merseyside after two years, making 204 League appearances with Liverpool before moving to Maine Road in 1991. Capped by England 17 times, McMahon won medals galore at club level and he has now accumulated 625 senior appearances at club level (72 goals scored)

POTTERS SPONSORS

24 Aug Man. City

+ Showguard * Cheshire Bakeries

+ Showguard * Cheshire Bakeries @ Myatt & Leason \$ R & A Malkin 28 Aug Bradford City

* CLE @ In Memory of Mr. Bevan 7 Sept. Crystal Palace + Bass * Trentham Gdns.

18 Sept. Northampton Town + Peerless Travel * Brownsword

22 Sept. Huddersfield Town + Consolidated Holdings

* Crawford Doors

@ Armstrong Steel 4 Oct Norwich City * Cox Hire Ltd.

19 Oct. Sheffield United + Bass * Kraft Kabin

@ Armstrong Steel \$ Marstons 23 Oct. Arsenal

+ Bass/PSP * A.D. Booth & Son @ Brownsword Ass. \$ Parker Hirst 26 Oct. Portsmouth

+ Autoglass "Pipemaster " Rowley Electrical Distributors Ltd 20 Nov Wolves

+ Bass * DM Construction \$ C & H Storage

23 Nov. Southend United
* Connect Insurance

@ Weaver Business Machines

4 Dec. Charlton Athletic

* Compass Couriers 7 Dec. Tranmere Rovers Showguard * Park Premier Services

Showguard * Park Premier Services
@ Ian Smith Stationers
14 Dec. Swindon Town

+ Potters Packaging * Solo Phones 26 Dec. Barnsley

* R.A.P. Distribution 4 Jan. Stockport County + Unicorn Decorators

11 Jan. Birmingham City

+ Mackintosh * 5 & 5 Sports @ PR Racing \$ Autoglass

@ PR Racing S Autoglass
29 Jan. Bolton Wanderers

+ Jim Phillips * Brownsword Ass.

@ Armstrong Steel
\$ Ryland Multifleet
7 Feb. Oxford United

+ Heritage Finance \$ Mearsk Line
* In Memory of Ray Broomhall
22 Feb. Q. P. R.

' Universal Mineral Supplies @ Trentham Gdns \$ Morris's G G

© Trentham Gdns \$ Morris's C 5 Mar. Grimsby Town

* Enza Motors 8 Mar. Ipswich Town

+ Bass * Paul Ginnis Consultancy

@ SCSC Programme Shop

\$ Autoglass 29 Mar. Oldham Athletic

+ Peerless * Crawford Doors @ Marstons

\$ SCFC (Kypersley & Biddulph)

5 Apr. Reading + Jim Phillips @ Lindley Catering * Debbie Richardson

\$ Heritage Finance

19 Apr. Port Vale + Parker Hirst ' Ash Hall Nursing

@ Cheshire Bakeries \$ Barneys Bar B-Q 4 May W.B.A.

+ Cream Personnel/Sovereign * Ken Jervis \$ B & K Wheelton

@ Rowley Electrical Distributors Ltd

A-Z of the P

McDONALD, Edward

Signed from Burlsem Port Vale in August 1896, right-half Ted McDonald made only two League appearances for the Potters before returning to his former club in May 1897.

Three years later he signed for Notts County and later played for Portsmouth. Born in Newcastleunder-Lyme in June 1876, he played his early football with Newcastle F.C. and during his time with Vale was described as being a 'resourceful player.'

McGEACHAN, James

A very talented but tempestuous entre-half who had a good career both in Scotland and in England. Born in Edinburgh in February 1871, he was playing exceedingly well for Hibernian when Celtic moved in for him at the start of the 1894-95 season.

McGeachan certainly thought about a move to Glasgow but instead of joining the Scottish giants he chose Bolton Wanderers, moving to Burnden Park in November 1894. Three years later he was suspended by the Wanderers' committee for failing to travel for an away game at Sheffield.

This ban was lifted, but in the interim period he had lost his place in the team to Bobby Brown and was subsequently transferred to Stoke for £150 (December 1897). He spent three months at The Victoria Ground, making six League appearances for the Potters before being suspended sine die for misconduct.

He quickly left Stoke in February 1898 to return to Hibs. Then, perhaps surprisingly, McGeachan went back to Bolton for a second spell in 1899, finally retiring in 1901 (through injury). He scored five goals in 81 appearances during his time at Bolton. He died circa 1935.

McGROARTY, James

An Irishman, born in Londonderry in August 1957, right-winger McGrorty was secured by Stoke in September 1977 for £7,000 from Finn Harps. He spent almost three years at The Victoria Ground, scoring twice in nine first team appearances before returning to Finn Harps. He later served with Glenavon and Crusaders prior to taking over as manager of Dungiven Celtic (1993).

McGRORY, Robert

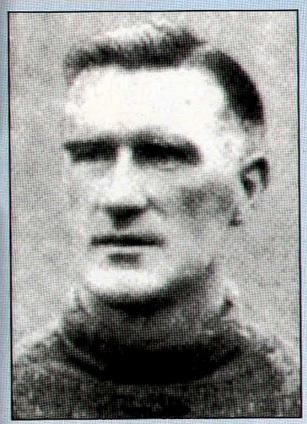
Bob McGrory joined Stoke in April 1921 following service with Dumbarton and Burnley for whom he made just three League appearances. He was to stay at The Victoria Ground for the next 31 years, as a player and then manager. Born in Bishoptown on 17 October 1891, and a Scot through and through, he was an apprentice joiner on Clydeside before taking up football. He never regretted that decision and had a terrific career in the game, performing supremely well at right full-back for the Potters. He was a strong-tackling defender, whose positional sense was second to none.

Hanley Glass & China

108/110 City Road, Fenton, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs Tel: 01782 412221

Fax: 01782 744830

otters



Bob McGrory

He was hardly ever flustered, played the game wholeheartedly and was very rarely spoken to by the referee. A terrific and loyal club man who gave everything he had once he had stepped out on to pitch. He went on to appear in 511 League and Cup games for the Potters, skippering the team for a considerably long time. He made his debut in May 1921 and played his last first team game fourteen years later in May 1935 when well past his 43rd birthday.

In 1932 he had actually stepped down from regular first team football to take over the running of Stoke's reserve team buit injuries meant that he was recalled to senior action much to the delight of manager Tom Mather. McGrory appeared in all 42 League games in his final season as a player in 1934-35. When Mather left the Victoria Ground for Newcastle United in June 1935,.

McGrory was asked to take over the managerial hot-seat. And he took to it like a duck to waterand he made hardly changes in the personnel at the club. He gradually replaced the ageing players with younger ones and steadily built up a useful side. One of his best buys was Tommy Sale. In the summer of 1952 McGrory himswelf stepped down as boss, handing over the reins to Frank Taylor.

He remained in close contact with the club, right up to his death in Glasgow on 24 May 1954.

KIT SPONSORS



Lou Macari

Tollgate

Tollgate Hotel & Leisure, Ripon Road, Blurton

Chic Bates Stoke City Supporters Club. 11 Westland Street, Penkhull, S-o-T.





Carl Beeston
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Gerry McMahon Steve Hill The Railway Vue, Impington, Cambs

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Richard Forsyth Stoke City Southern Supporters Club contact Andy Peck





John Gayle Roger Lamb and Len Palmer

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Mike Sheron Joyce and Kevin James

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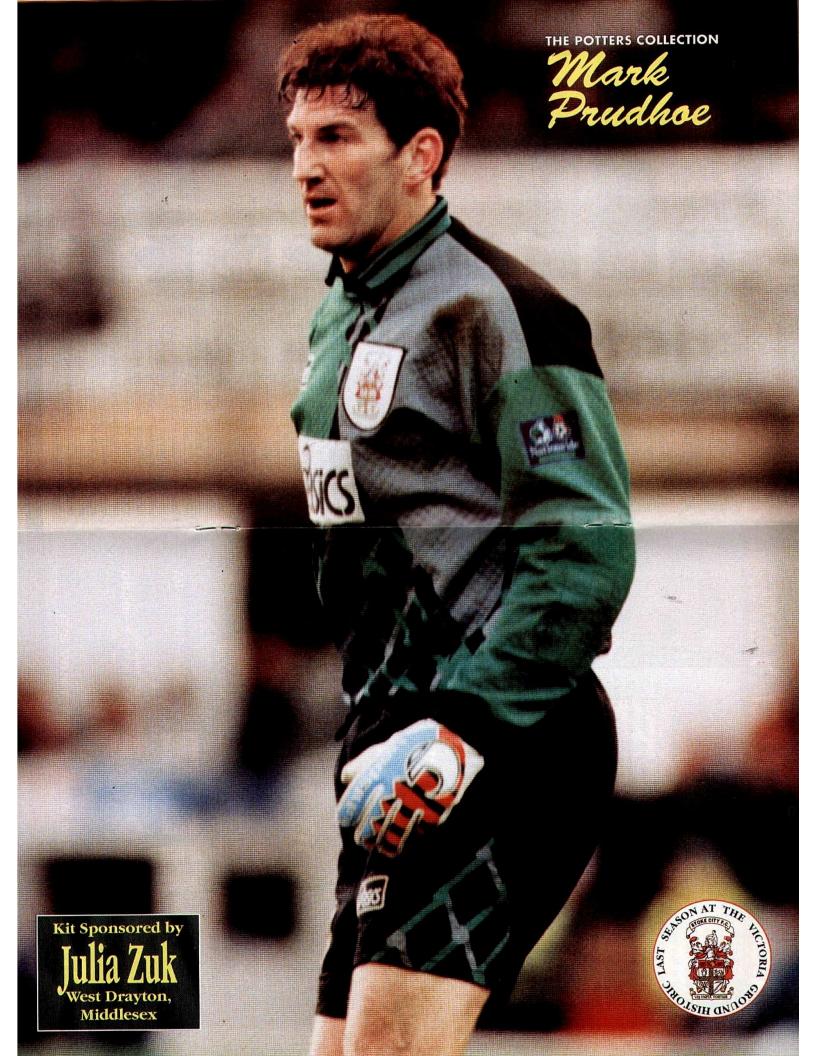




Justin Whittle Cpl. C. Harris, S. Sgt. R.D. Munro, Maj. J. R. Nixon

Nigel Worthington The Oatcake, Fanzine







The Youth Club Stoke City Junior Potters

CHRISTMAS APPROACHES, BUT NO YOUNG ROBINS!

Unfortunately 'The Junior Robins' cannot be with us today but we wish them well for the rest of the season and hope they have a very Happy Christmas.

As I pointed out in last weeks programme we were going to be trying out a new skill competition at half-time but it seems we shall have to wait a little longer before we can undertake what would be an entirely new concept in the Junior Potters activities.

YOUNG BLUES POSSIBILITY!

We are awaiting confirmation from the Junior Blues of Birmingham if they are going to be coming to the Victoria Ground on Friday 10th January. The game originally scheduled for Saturday 11th January has been bought forward 24 hours to accommodate the Sky Television cameras.

If we do have the pleasure of entertaining the Birmingham youngsters it could well mean another of our half-time penalty competitions or we may consider the skill test we had originally planned for today's visitors

MCALPINE STADIUM ON NEW YEAR'S DAY

Bookings for the Junior Potters trip to Huddersfield Town on New Years Day will be taken on Monday 16th December from 9.00am (TEL 413511). We shall be running a coach for the game only!

Which will be leaving the Stoke End Stand at 11.45am with the rest of the official Supporters coaches. The cost of the trip will be £5.00 for Junior members and £6.00 for Adults, which as normal includes match ticket and coach travel.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR 96!

You should be receiving your autographed Christmas Cards shortly along with the Stoke City Pennant that was unfortunately omitted from the package on Launch Day in September. The first team squads names will be on the cards and I'm sure they will hold pride on your shelves.

ALL SQUARE WITH THE PRENTON PUPS

Last weeks
competition with the
"Prenton Pups" of
Tranmere finished all
square at 11-11 after a
sportingly fought
contest had
entertained the crowd
and we were very
grateful of their



generous vocal support throughout.

The penalty takers for the Junior Potters on the day were; Lee Barnett (who was our goalkeeper for the competition), Craig Pritchard, Martin Gillan, Tom Cuell, Gavin Smith, and Natalie Bourne.

Our young counterparts from Birkenhead were represented by Ben England, Michael Docherty, Alex Matthews, Nicky Beadles, Steve Sutton and Gary Baldwin.

We all look forward to our visit to Prenton Park on March 1st when we hope to be meeting up with Alan Beadles and his youngsters again

CHRISTMAS PARTY 96

You should all be aware by now that tickets are now on sale at the Stoke City Reception for the Junior Potters Christmas Party, which will be taking place at the Fenton Community Centre in Manor Street, Fenton, next Friday evening 20th December.

The celebrations start at 7.30pm and will continue until approximately 11.00pm.

As last year we shall be having a "buffet meal" and a top class Disco" with music for all tastes, We also be holding a raffle, probably taking place during the evening, with some super prizes and of course we shall be having a visit from our seasonal visitor Father Christmas with his usual prezzies for everyone.

Last year's party was incredibly well attended and we are hoping that we get the same turnout for the 1996 event.

See you all next Friday!

Phil

AWAY GAMES AT HOME



WITH A

NIME

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IT'S WHAT YOU'VE BEEN MISSING





Travelling Man

The Festive Season fixtures take the Potters to Selburst Park on 28th December to meet Crystal Palace and on New Years Day to the McAlpine Stadium, new bome of Huddersfield Town.

Palace first played at Selhurst Park in 1924 having gained League status a few years earlier in 1920. The original ground was designed by the famous stadium architect Archibald Leitch who declared his intent to make Selhurst Park London's largest ground. Selhurst was selected to stage an England v Wales International in 1926 and also hosted the occasional home fixture for Millwall, as did most other London grounds when the Den was closed because of crowd disturbances.

Palace spent the majority of the next thirty years in the Third and Fourth Divisions and it was not until the 1960's that Palace really progressed on the field winning promotion to the First Division for the first time in 1969.

Selhurst Park enjoyed it's highest attendance of 51,482 on the 11th May 1979 against Burnley as Palace clinched the Second Division Championship. Ground development was taking place to keep pace with the Club's improving League status and today the stadium has an all-seated capacity of 26,309. The most recent development is the Holmesdale Road Stand, built on the site of the former open terrace bearing the same name. This two tier stand was completed in August 1995 and provides 5,341 seats on the Lower Tier, with 2,806 seats above in the Upper Tier.

The Stand has a distinctive curved cantilever roof and towers above the rest of the stadium. Behind the opposite goal is the Whitehorse Lane End providing 2,245 seats backed by a row of Executive Boxes (and a Sainsbury Supermarket directly behind).

The Main Stand has been gradually added to over the years with several buildings extended out at the back of the stand for office and hospitality accommodation. Facing the Main Stand is the Arthur Wait Stand - a venue for visiting supporters. Named after a former Chairman. This stand seats 9,754 fans.

Selhurst Park, is of course, shared with Wimbledon FC and in spite of the tenants success in the Premiership, Palace as the home club continue to draw by far the larger attendance at the stadium. If you are travelling down for the game, allow plenty of time for the journey. The notorious A23 is always very busy with traffic. From Junction 7 of the M25 northwards into Croydon delays are inevitable.

Coached depart:

Standard 8.45am, Executive 9.15am

Prices.

Executive - £12.00 Adults, £10.00 Concessions Standard - £10.50 Adults, £8.50 Concessions Programme price this season is: £1.80 New Year's Day and a familiar journey in recent seasons to Huddersfield Town. However, the old Leeds Road ground has gone with the futuristic design of the new McAlpine Stadium to replace it.

Whether you like it or not, this award winning stadium is certainly different from any other venue in the Football League



and fired the imagination of the local population during its construction.

Opened in August 1994, the current capacity is 19,663 which will be increased by a further 5,000 when the North Stand is constructed. A joint venture between the Football and Rugby League Clubs and Kirklees Council, the stadium won the Royal Institute of British Architects Building of the Year Award in 1995. Visitors will again be accommodated in the South or Gardner Merchant Stand.

Personally, I prefer the design of the Riverside Stadium at Middlesbrough (which is, of course, the 'blueprint' for our own new stadium on the Trentham Lakes site)but I reccommend fans who have not yet visited the McAlpine Stadium to go along and have a look at first hand - it is certainly light years ahead of the old Leeds Road ground it replaced. Please reserve your coach seats for this one as soon as possible as demand is certain to be heavy.

Standard Coaches depart: Executive Coaches depart: 11.45am 11.45am John

Tinally, may I take this opportunity of wishing all our travelling fans a Happy Christmas on behalf of the Travel Club and Tony Tams and his staff in the Commercial Department.

Community Programme News

Christmas Greetings

Andy Morgan and myself would like to thank all members of the Community Programme staff for their belp and assistance throughout the last year.

Their belp bave sometimes been beyond the call of duty and we wish them all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

MATCHDAY BIRTHDAY PARTY

Birthday coming up? Not sure what to buy them?

How about the unique

Matchday Birthday Party

YOU RECEIVE...

Match Tickets Matchday Programme Ground Tour Signed Autographed Football P.A Birthday Announcement . Signed Birthday Card Meet a First Team Player

Ooke City Community O Programme would like to wish all participants who have taken part in any Community Programme activity over the last twelve months a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

TEA PARTY

Last Monday saw the last Hospitals' Tea party of the year. Once every three months we invite local hospitals down to the Victoria Ground for an afternoon of bingo and tea tasting. It's great to see all the old folk enjoying themselves

The only problem we now have is that we no longer have a pianist, due to his work commitments he is no longer able to play, so if you enjoy playing the piano, and are prepared to give up the odd afternoon why not give the Community Office a ring on 01782 744347



A photo from a recent trip to Chester

This Christmas wise men get seven days for the price of five



subject to availability and normal terms of

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British Car Rental

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ANY OF THE EVENTS ABOVE, L THE COMMUNITY HOTLINE ON 01782 744347

Andy & Ade



NATIONWIDE



AWAY GAME INFORMATION Ipswich Town

SATURDAY 21ST DECEMBER 3,00PM KICK-OFF
Our initial allocation is 750 seats in the Cobbold Stand Prices: £14.00 Adults £7.50 Senior Citizens £6.00 Juniors
You are advised to purchase tickets in advance as there is only one turnstile per block. Supporters with tickets pass through a special entrance.

Tickets are now on sale from the Stoke City Box Office.

Crystal Palace

SATURDAY 28TH DECEMBER
Depart 8.45AM
Fare - £10.50 Adults
£ 8.50 Juniors/Senior Citizens
Executive Travel
Depart 9.15AM.
Fare - £12.00 Adults
£10.00 Juniors/Senior Citizens

Huddersfield

WEDNESDAY 1ST JANUARY
Depart 11.45AM
Fare - £6.50 Adults
£5.00 Juniors/Senior Citizens
Executive Travel Depart 11.45AM
Fare - £7.50 Adults
£6.00 Juniors /Senior Citizens

to Ipswich Town...

SATURDAY 21ST DECEMBER 1996 3.00PM KICK-OFF PORTMAN ROAD, IPSWICH.

How to get there...

M6 South to join A14 (At junction 19 M1). Follow A14 all the way to outskirts of Ipswich, then join A1156 (signposted Ipswich West and North). Follow A1156 (Norwich Road) and turn right into Chevallier Street, then straight on for West End Road.

Parking

Visitors car parking is on the left hand side of West End Road.

GROUND CAPACITY IS 22,559 PROGRAMME PRICE IS £1.50.

The town centre is a five to ten minute walk.

DISABLED FACILITIES

Visiting supporters have five wheelchair spaces and thirteen seats. Also there is a ramped access to a toilet (not disabled).

Booking in advance is required. (01473 - 219211)

Tickets for home fixtures can be purchased fourteen days before the fixture from the Box Office inside the Club Shop at the Stoke End of the ground. For telephone bookings with payment via Access or Visa cards, a booking fee of £1,50 will be charged.

TICKET OFFICE/
CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS
01782 413961

CLUB SHOP 01782 747078

SALES & MARKETING 01782 412855

GENERAL ENQUIRIES & ADMINISTRATION 01782 413511

In order for the club to deal with telephone enquirles more efficiently, please ensure that you dial the correct telephone number for the department which you require

Supporters Club News

STOKE CITY'S BIGGEST HOUSE WARMING PARTY

Next year sees Stoke City's historic move from the Victoria Ground to their new stadium on the Trentham Lakes site. The Supporters Club aim to be right in the thick of it as the Potters take that giant leap into the new millenium.

Stoke City Supporters Club are both privileged and very proud to be able to sponsor the first ever game at the Potter's new home.

As part of the celebrations we are inviting twenty five lucky Supporters. Club members to be our guests and attend the historic first match as our Club representatives. Each of the lucky Supporters Club Members will be seated in one of the best seats in the house, will be served with a first class meal which will be available, and will be amongst the first to experience the executive treatment which the Football Club are hoping will take it forward into the next century.

All you have to do is to become a member of the Supporters Club; it's as simple as that! All members on 22nd February 1997 will go into an independant draw and the first twenty five out of the hat will be the ones to be lucky enough to experience the executive lifestyle at City's new home. In addition any Supporters Club Member from this season, the last at the Victoria Ground, will have their name recorded on a large framed scroll which will be housed iin the new stadium and will be displayed there for all future City supporters to see in years to come. Membership costs only £3.00 and entitles members to all the usual benefits as well as being entered into this exciting draw! You won't get better value for money this side of Stoke City's next move to a new ground!

JOIN YOUR SUPPORTERS CLUB TODAY!

Not the Secret Policeman's Bowls!

That's right, we can't keep it a secret any longer, we have provisionally arranged a special Ten Pin Bowling night with the Stoke Police who man our home games here at the Victoria Ground. The date is due to be 16th January, and special reduced cost rates will be available for our party booking.

Full details will be published later, but anyone who may be interested should contact the Club Secretary and he will forward details as soon as they are available.

CLUB

Please write to the Secretary, 11 Westland Street,



Penkhull, Stoke-On-Trent, ST4 7HE, remembering to enclose a stamped S.A.E for a reply. Please note: no personal callers at this address. Anyone wishes to contact the Supporters Club in person should call at the Programme Club, either before or after each first-team home game. You can also telephone or FAX us (24 hours) on 01782 744674.

CHRISTMAS CHEER!

It is finally left for me to wish all Stoke City Supporters a very Happy Christmas, and as this is our last home game before the Festive period lets hope for an early Christmas present with three points here against Swindon this afternoon.

> NICHOLAS J MANSFIELD SECRETARY STOKE CITY SUPPORTERS CLUB

Boodell's Banter With Julian Boodell

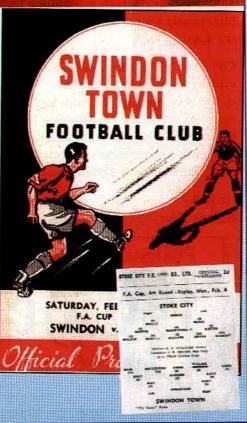
Season 1951-52 saw Stoke struggling, taking just 2 points from the first 22 games including a 0-6 thrasbing on the opening day at Newcastle United, it was also the season that George Mountford returned from Columbia. Having managed to dispose of Sunderland in Round 3 of the FA Cup 0-0 and 3-1 Stoke at the wrong end of the First Division - faced todays opponents Swidon Town then of the 3rd Division South.

The first match at the County Ground on February 2nd had 28,140 in attendance. Sammy Smythe carning a 1-1 draw for the Potters, the programme was priced at 3d (1.5p) and bought 12 pages was certsinly better value than the single sheet card issued for the replay - 1d. The first programme is relatively easy to find £2-4 bought the card is a lot harder to get hold of £15-20. Needless to say Stoke lost the return 0-1. The 29,332 in attendance was the largest gate by some 8,000 until the end of the season.

Stoke finished third from bottom and Bob McGrory who had been at Stoke from April 1921 resigned as manager. Relegation was only postponed for one season. 52-53 saw Stoke finish second bottom and it was ten seasons before top flight football was regained.

I need several home programmes from 51-51 season and am willing to offer a minimum of £15 for the following: Arsenal, Burnley, Charlton, Fulham, Sunderland, FA Cup 3rd Round, Spurs and West Brom. If you can help call Julian Boodell, 22 Gayville Road, Battersea, London, Sw11 6JP Tel: 0171 350 1183.

The Christmas edition of Potters
Monthly is now available £1 plus post
from the above address - if you know
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who is a keen Stoke fan it would
make an excellent stocking filler.
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the end of the season.





Ian Bayley writes...

Stoke and Swindon's regular rivalry on the football field has been concentrated into the last decade. So Sentinel reporter Ian Bayley didn't have that far to go in his latest trip back in time.

The modern link between Stoke City and Swindon is undeniable, and all down to two men. Lou Macari - Swindon manager from 1984 to 1989. Stoke boss for the two spells from 1991-93 and 1994 to present; Chic Bates, a Swindon player with over 70 appearances in the later 1970's, a return to the Club as a coach under Macari nearly ten years later and, of course, assistant to Lou in his two spells at Stoke.

On April 23, 1988, they were in command of a Swindon side who arrived at the Victoria Ground feeling well satisfied. They had consolidated in Division Two after promotion the previous season, and the general feeling was that an improving side could only get better.

Even though the game in the Potteries was a little more than an end-of-season, mid-table affair with little other than pride at stake, Town's productive goals tally of 73 for 60 against in their pevious 44 fixtures suggested something might happen.

What did happen was quite remarkable. Stoke were thoroundly outplayed, yet won 1-0 courtesy of Simon Stainrod's 16th minute goal, his first for the club nearly four months after his £98,000 move from Aston Villa.

City boss Mick Mills confessed to being almost embarressed by the scoreline. "I have never felt so deflated by victory", he said, looking beyond the result to ace problems awaiting him during the summer recess as he tried to reconstruct a squad to deliver the promotion supporters were yearning for after three years of mid-table meanderings.

He had picked a side from what he had available, adding: "Anyone could have chosen our team.

They were the only ones I could put out, and I put that performance down to a lack of competition."

Macari accepted his team's fate without excuse or complaint, and even managed a joke: "I have never seen a team miss so many chances in one game.

Everyone in the dressing room is in a state of shock, and even our coach driver is worried."

"He watched the game and says we are the unluckiest bunch he has ever seen. He thinks we are jinxed and reckons we are an accident waiting to happen on the way home, in fact, I think he's just shot himself."

Swindon hit the woodwork four times, including a last ditch effort from striker Jimmy Quinn, and watched Stoke goalkeeper Scott Barratt make a series of saves.

One Swindon player who couldn't do right for doing wrong in front of goal that afternoon was Dave Bamber, who was to be signed by Mills from Watford's eight months later after a short spell at Vicarage Road.

Bamber further strengthened the links between the two clubs, but never quite hit it off at Stoke and was on his way again 12 months later released by Mills' success of Alan Ball, to join Hull City for £100,000 after 12 goals in 49 appearances.

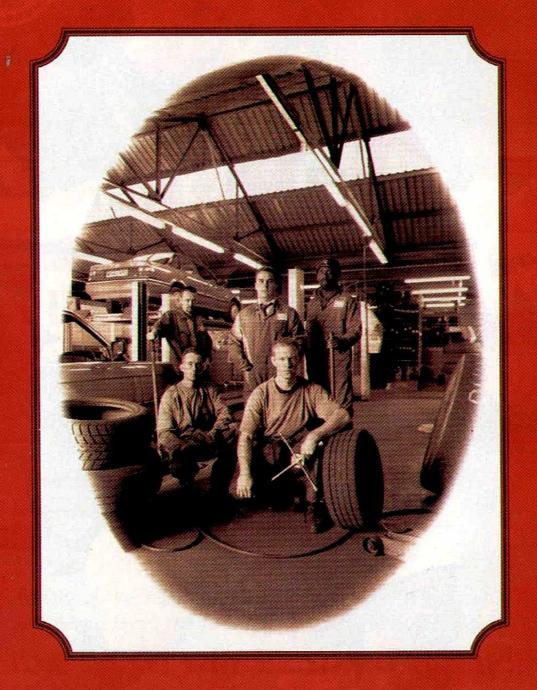
STOKE: Barratt, Parkin, Carr, Puckett, Berry, Ford, Henry, Shaw, Stainrod (Hemming, 89), Heath. Sub: Ware.

SWINDON: Digby, Hockaday, King, McLoughlin, Parkin, Gittens, Bamber, Barnes, Quinn, Foley, Wegerle (White, 75).
Sub: O'Regan.

Follow Ian Bayley on STOKE CITY every night in

The Sentinel

and read his ball-by-ball report in Saturday's
SPORTS FINAL

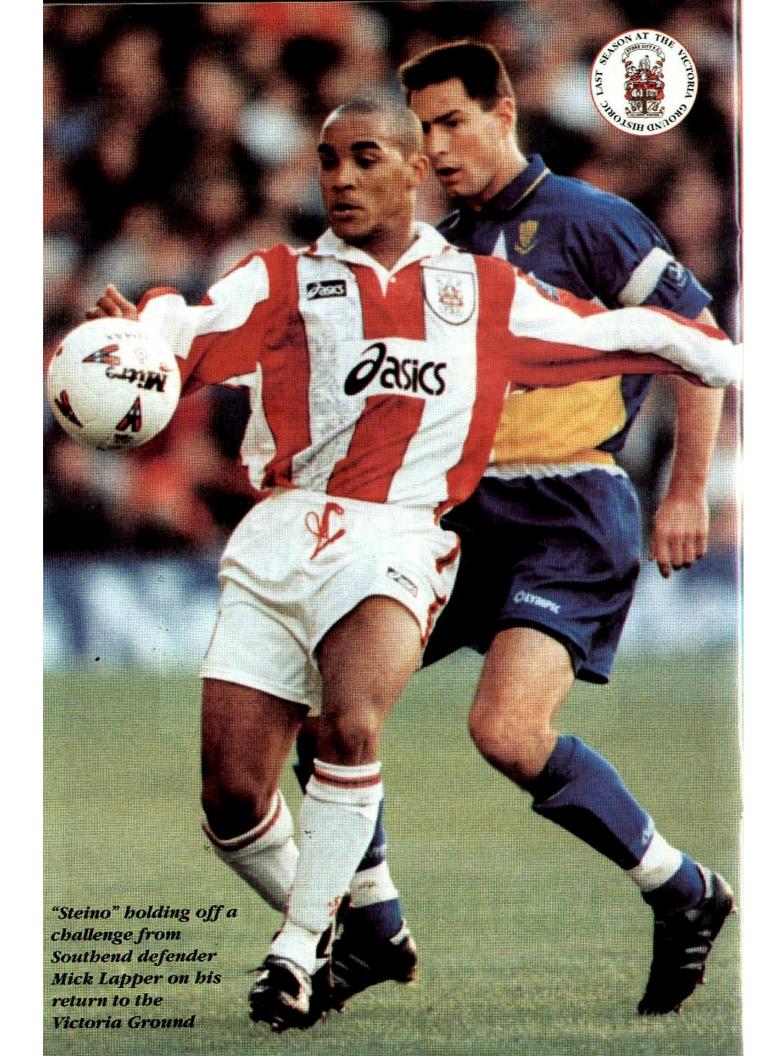


THE OLD SMITHY AT BATCHWORTH

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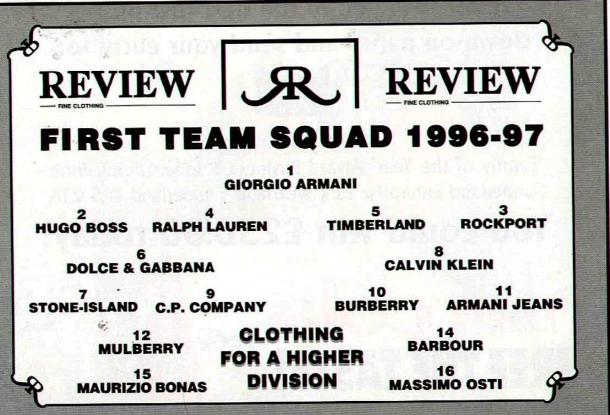
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THEIR HISTORIC
LAST SEASON AT THE
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1996-97







Boothen End View

Jell, it's a far bealthier-looking picture than when I last put pen to paper. Then we were sixth from bottom but - because of bow tight the Division is - two victories bave shot us up nine places. However, that should tell it's own story for as quickly as we have moved up the league, we can just as quickly move down if we don't regain some consistency. Consistancey, though, is something that most of the Division are striving for and today's visitors Swindon fall very much into that category.

Steve McMahon is a firm believer in playing football the attractive way but at times this season (like so many) they have fallen below his expectations. On the plus side only Bolton have won more home games than the Wiltshire outfit, but their away form tells a different story with eight defeats from eleven. Today's game is going to be tough, but if we are to make a serious challenge then it is from these games that we must be taking maximum points.

What's that they say? The result is far more important than the performance? Well this was certainly the case when we took on Charlton.

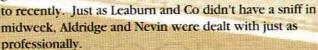
Consistancey, is something that most of the Division are striving for

Victory in this one was a must, and the fact alone seemed to affect our lads who at one point had a job to string two passes together. Not that Charlton were that much better: in fact their shooting was so poor you got the impression that they couldn't hit a barn door from two paces. As the half drew to a close it was hard to disagree with the Stokie next to me who said, " If this match carried on until next Saturday I swear it would end up 0-0.

One thing in our favour though is that we have got the Division's hottest property - and not for the first time this season he has proved to be our saviour. Steino unleashed a shot that keeper Salmon couldn't hold and in the blink of an eye the predator had struck and that was that: although well into injury time Charlton hit the barn door but that nice assistant referee on the far side spotted an offside and we were saved. If ever the chap in question is in the area, drop me a line: I owe him a drink.

Next up was Tranmere Rovers (or as it was billed Sheron v Aldridge). Again, it wasn't a classic but it was a vast improvement on the Charlton game.

First of all let me heap some praise on our defence (for a change) who I have given a fair amount of stick



However, at the other end Rovers were having a job and a half containing Shezza and they were made to play after 27 minutes when - from a perfect cross by Macca - he chested the ball down, giving Nixon no chance to take it from him. Victory was secured with eight minutes remaining when You Know Who burst through from his own half, leaving three Rovers players in his wake. But Nixon got to the ball first only to see his clearance charged down by Shezza.

Our top scorer steadied himself and looked up to see Steino making ground in the box, but it was only right that he should give something to the man who had been given the job of making him a bit of glory, so a perfect low cross was duly despatched by Tranmere defender David Higgins. That was that: Tranmere had enough possession, but no-one can deny we deserved the victory. Man of the match? Well, it's hard to look any further than Shezza, but what of Andrew Griffin who is playing as if he has been in the first team for years? Or Macca who (at least I thought) for the first time since his arrival from Spurs relished the prospect of going at defenders.

So, its Stockport at home in the FA Cup, and the chance to get revenge for our defeat in the play offs. You can't ask for any more than a home game against a second division side but it will be tricky as I'm sure Sheffield United and West Ham will testify.

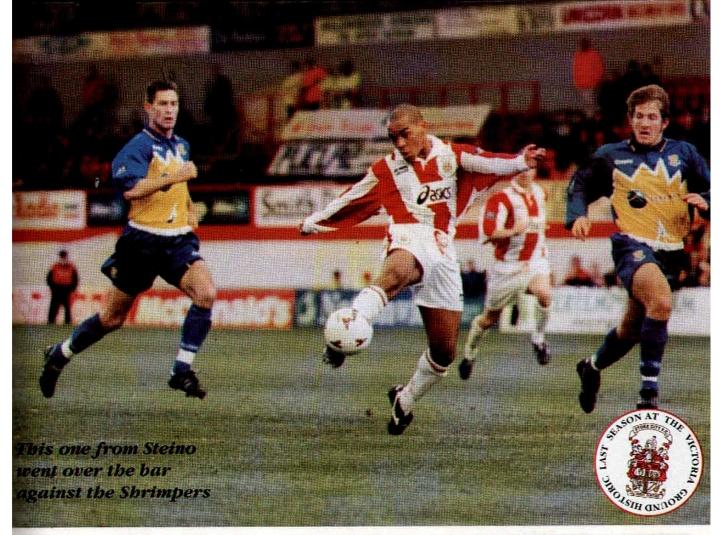
So that's it Stokies: have a great Christmas and get behind the Reds today.





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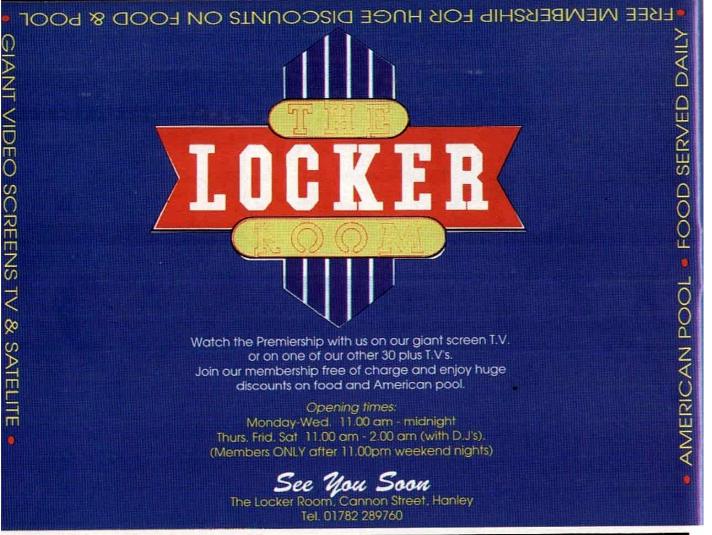
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on this day in History



1901

A trip to Burnden Park to play Bolton Wanderers brought Stoke no joy as they went down 2-1 to the Trotters in a First Division game before 6,000 fans. Mart Watkins scored for the Potters as they suffered their fifth away defeat of the season.

1912

Playing in the Southern league Division Onc, Stoke travelled down to Reading where they crashed to a 6-2 defeat in front of 3.000 fans. Amateur international outside-left Harold Hardman, later chairman of Manchester United who four years earlier had won an Olympic gold soccer medal with Great Britain, scored one of the Potters' goals.

1929

Two goals by Jack Shirley - one a thumping 20 yarder - enabled a struggling Stoke side beat Bradford Park Avenue 2-1 at The Victoria Ground in a Second Division League game which was attended by 8,881 fans. Prior to this match the Potters had suffered six defeats out of seven starts, drawing the other.

1935

A fine strike from Tommy Sale was enough for Stoke to beat the F.A. Cup holders Sheffield Wednesday 1-0 at Hillsborough in a First Division game which was seen by 14,000 fans. Goalkeeper Norman Wilkinson, playing only his second game for Stoke following his move from Huddersfield Town, had a blinder between the posts.

1946

Fifty years ago Syd Peppitt was the toast of all Stoke supporters following his hat-trick in a terrific 4-1 win at Brentford in a First Division League game which was attended by 29,172 fans. This was in fact the Potters' second successive 4-1 scoreline.

1963

In front of a pre-Christmas crowd of 36,209 at White Hart Lane, Stoke battled hard before going down 2-1 to Spurs in an entertaining First Division match. Calvin Palmer scored for the Potters who had George Kinnell alongside Eddie Stuart at the heart of the defence.

1974

A crowd of 34,685 at Elland Road saw Stoke lose 3-1 to, the reigning Football League champions Leeds United. The Potters gave a good account of themselves and scored through Ian Moores, but Don Revie's men were always one step ahead and won well in the end.



Calvin Palmer - scorer in 1963

1985

Goals by Neil Adams and Graham Shaw helped Stoke to an encouraging 2-1 win at Sheffield United in the Second Division match at Bramall Lane where the gate topped 12,300. This was Stoke's fourth win on the trot and their third on their travels in the season.

World News...

1937

Much bloodshed in Nanking following the occupation by Japanese forces.

1953

Winston Churchill received the Nobel Prize for literature

1959

Archbishop Makarios elected President of the new Republic of Cyprus

1964

Jomo Kenyatta takes office as the first President of Kenya

1978

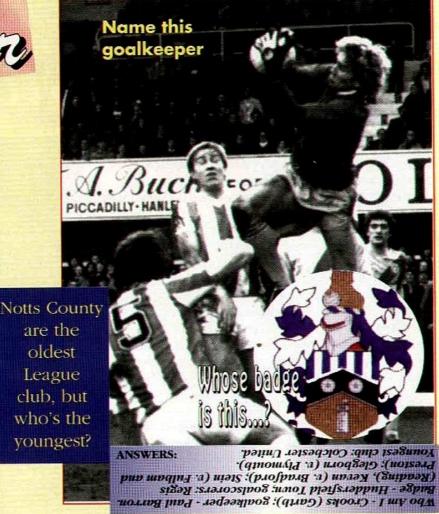
Militants continue to march in Iran demanding the abdication of the Shah

POTTERS

Who Am 9?

Take the letters as indicated to spell out the name of a former Stokie.

- My first is in Charlton but not in Arsenal
- My second is in Crystal Palace but not in Wycombe
- My third is in Tottenham but not in West Ham
- My fourth is in Brentford but not in Barnet
- My fifth is in Woking but not in Orient
- My last is in Chelsea but not in Fulham



Follow the Potters with Stuart Fear on THE SPORTS STATION



Signal Gold 1170 Medium Wave

JUDGEMENT DAY RESULTS

It was billed as Judgement Afternoon

Mike Sheron against John Aldridge: two of the most lethal strikers in the First Division.

No prizes for guessing who came out on top.

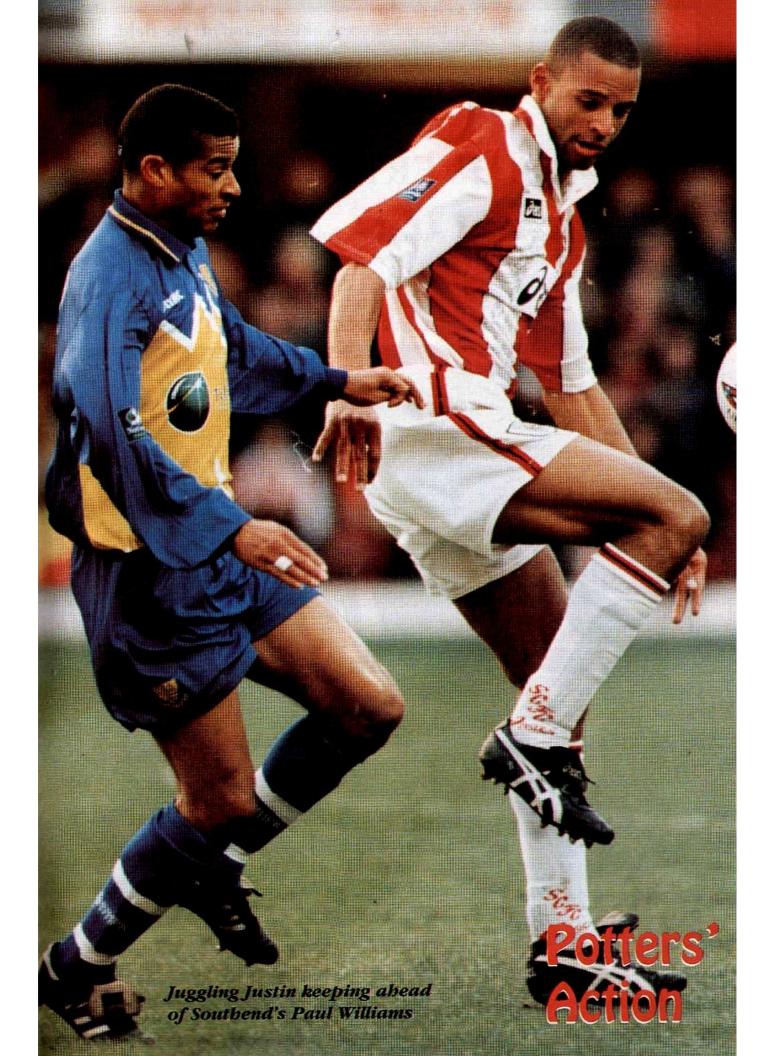
A beaming Lou Macari in the after match press conference,

"Sheron was well ahead on points at the end and I would have liked to have seen that second goal go in cleanly because he deserved it, but someone will probably take it away from him."

Well that's number 17 of the season long may there be many more this season.

More revelations after today's game on 1170 MW.

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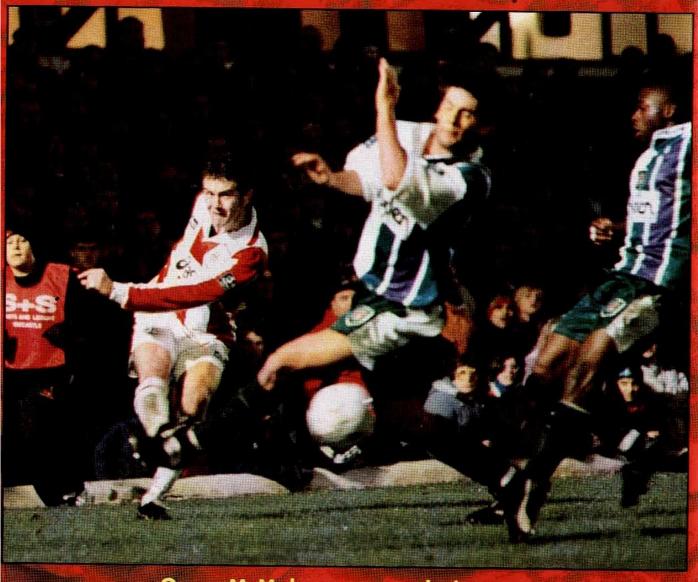


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Gerry McMahon crosses during our recent match against Charlton Athletic

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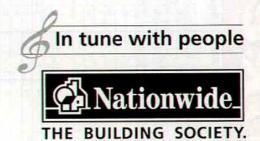


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GOALS AND GLORY

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Griffin	3+5		-		3+5		Stokoe	0+1	100	10.20	1000	0+1	ē
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12/96) by Da

- Important announcements regarding public safety will be notified to spectators by means of the Public Address System.
- The announcement will be preceded by a loud warning signal to catch the attention of the crowd.
- Listen carefully to the announcement and be ready to respond in a calm and controlled manner.
- Stewards and/or police will assist and direct spectators to the nearest safe exit where necessary
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ons: 1926-27 Football League Cup winners: 1971-72 Runners-up: 1963-64 Autoglass Trophy winners: 1991-92 F.A. Cup semi-finalists: 1898-99, 1970-71.

1971-72

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Note: The views expressed by individual contributors in this programme may not reflect those of the Directors and Management of Stoke City Football Club.

The Teams

Stoke City

- MARK PRUDHOE
- ALLY PICKERING
- **ANDREW GRIFFIN**
- LARUS SIGURDSSON
- JUSTIN WHITTLE
- RICHARD FORSYTH
- GERRY McMAHON
- RAY WALLACE
- MARK STEIN
- MIKE SHERON
- GRAHAM KAVANAGH
- KEVIN KEEN
- MIKE MACARI
- **NEIL MACKENZIE**



REFEREE: Mr. G. Cain (Bootle) ASSISTANT REFEREES:

Mr. M. L. Dean Mr. S. J. French RESERVE OFFICIAL: Mr. A. Dewfield

Swindon Town

- FRASER DIGBY
- WAYNE O'SULLIVAN
- **GARY ELKINS**
- SCOTT LEITCH
- MARK ROBINSON
- KEVIN HORLOCK
- STEVE COWE
- **KEVIN WATSON**
- STEVE FINNEY
- WAYNE ALLISON
- MARK WALTERS
- TY GOODEN
- **ALEX SMITH**
- **GARY THORNE**



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BRADFORD CITY V READING

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NORWICH V CRYSTAL PALACE

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OPR V SOUTHEND UNITED

STOKE CITY V SWINDON TOWN

WOLVES V OLDHAM ATHLETIC

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