

Stockport County  
Official Matchday Magazine  
Price £1.70



**COUNTY**

**V**

**Swindon Town**

Saturday 15th November 1997

Kick off 3.00pm

Nationwide League

Division One

Stockport

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# FRIDAY NIGHT IS COUNTY NIGHT

Friday night has become County night - well, it has if you are a girl under the age of sixteen. Yes, County have launched a football fun night at Stockport Georgians F.C. on Cromley Road in Woodsmoor every Friday from 6pm - 8pm. Our very own Jacqui Cooper is overseeing the coaching and the first session will be free to any girl - with following sessions costing just £1. So if you are under 16 and want to play football either for fun - or you want to play for our own ladies teams - just turn up. For further details ring 0161-456 4005 (24 hrs).



Football fun for the girls... every Friday

## Sadly Missed

Several weeks ago Keith Parkin who resided in the Edgeley area for many years and who was a regular and loyal fan of County even in their darkest hours, sadly passed away after a short illness. Keith was a regular face on Edgeley and regularly attended the roadshows!

He leaves a son, daughter and granddaughter. Our sympathies go out to his family. He will be sadly missed by all at Edgeley Park.

## Win Tickets for the City Game

The forthcoming match against Manchester City on November 29th is a sell out - but you can win two tickets and two shirts signed by the County team on the day thanks to the Vernon Building Society and the Stockport Express. For further details just buy next Friday's Stockport Express and you could be on to a winner.



Win two City tickets with me, Vernon!

## More Winners

Our recent match against Sunderland produced the big cash prize in our 50-50 draw. The winning ticket was worth £470 (ticket no. 24860) - not bad for a £1 stake. So if you've got some loose change - invest a pound at the ground today. Our consolation winners against Sunderland were as follows: 2nd Prize A pair of County match tickets won by ticket no. 25251 3rd Prize A case of Robinsons Best Bitter won by ticket no. 25003 4th Prize A Baseball Cap won by ticket no. 25123



Stephen Grant picks out a winner

## Nice One Trevor

Local journalist and literary whiz Trevor Baxter was at Edgeley Park last week to launch his new book Vintage 'Port. This exceptional publication was launched with the help of skipper Mike Flynn, Martin Nash and Vas Kalogeracos. It is currently on sale in the club shop priced £13.95. A Christmas stocking definite!



(Clever Trevor... and his book!)

## Another Ban



Missing from action... Colin Woodthorpe

Colin Woodthorpe is not available for selection today after picking up his fifth yellow card recently. Colin will miss three games - but by a strange quirk of fate the ban will help Colin because he has picked up a back injury and could do with the rest.

## Birthday Boys

Today is a special matchday for two of our most dedicated and loyal supporters Sean and Sam Davis. The two Sheffield based football fanatics travel to watch County home and away week in and week out and they are both celebrating their birthday this week.

Dad Sean is 40 tomorrow and has watched County for more than 30 years. Born in Stockport, Sean now lives and works as a solicitor in Sheffield with his partner Irwin Mitchell. Sean never misses a match and bores everyone to tears in Sheffield by talking non stop about the Hatters.

Son Sam was eight on Tuesday and has left all his pals at his birthday party this morning to make sure he is here today. Sam, who even had a County cake - is encouraging his younger brother (8 months old) Tony to be a County fan.

Both Sean and Sam will be presented with a special gift by one of the players after today's game. Best wishes to them both from all at E.P. and from the rest of the family Tony, Holly and mum Karen.



Dedicated Duo. Sean and Sam

## Emergency Evacuation

In the event of an emergency evacuation we ask all spectators to listen closely to the PA announcements which will direct you to the exits which are to be used. In the first instance you may be asked to enter the playing area via the pitch perimeter gates, where further instructions will be given. Please respond to the announcements and to the requests of the stewards and police officers to ensure safe evacuation of the stadium.

We hope you thoroughly enjoy your visit to Edgeley Park if for any reason you don't, no matter how small please write to:

Steve Bellis  
c/o Stockport County Football Club,  
Edgeley Park, Hardcastle Road,  
Edgeley, Stockport, Cheshire, SK3 9DD

The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of Stockport County Football Club.





## "WE'RE RELYING TOO HEAVILY ON BRETT AND ALUN"

### THE VIEWS OF GARY MEGSON

It's certainly nice to be back at Edgeley Park having completed two of our longest trips in the last four days. Both of our performances at Ipswich and Reading were very good but obviously the result at Reading wasn't and indeed was scant reward for the way we played. The Ipswich trip is not one that any player looked forward to. It's an awkward place to get to, but despite the journey we started brightly and got better - so much so I felt we controlled the game from near enough the start to the finish, we were well worthy of our 2-0 win and we could possibly have extended the scoreline.

I thought we produced a similar performance at Reading but a combination of slack finishing, the quality of our final ball and the performance of the officials meant we came away with nothing to show for our efforts.

We need to start contributing with goals from other sources other than our two centre forwards in order to turn the pressure we are creating into goals. At the moment we're relying too heavily on Brett and Alun to be our goal scorers and there needs to be more willingness from others to get into goalscoring positions and have the moral courage

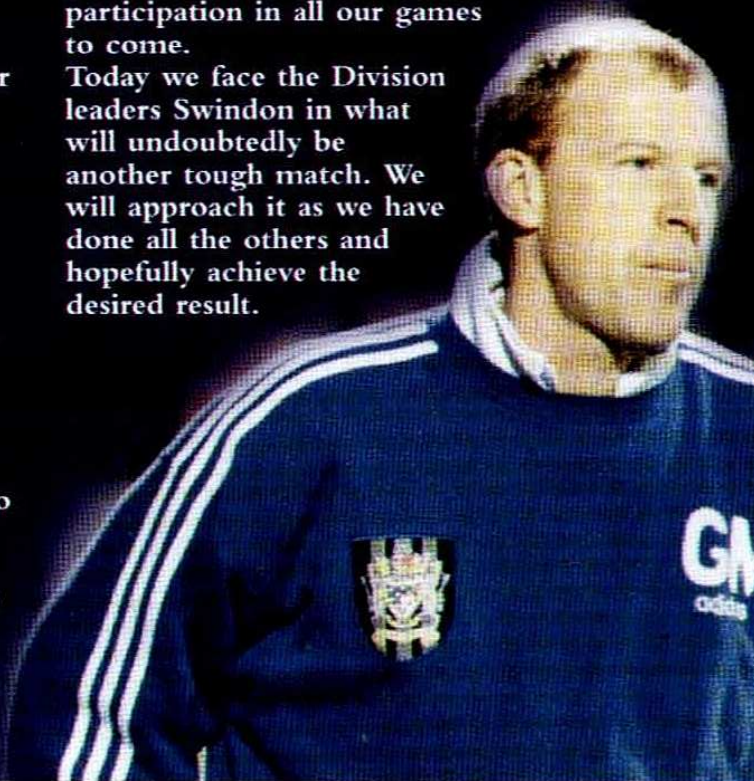
to chance their arm in front of goal. On the injury front Colin Woodthorpe has a back strain but he is suspended so that isn't too much of a problem at present.

Once again, I would like to personally thank any of our supporters who made either of the two long journeys. If anyone made both then your dedication and commitment to the club is greatly admired and much appreciated. Our home form to date has been good and this is in no small way due to the supporters who have played their part. This was something that we knew would be vital to us this season, hence my appeal to you before a ball had been kicked at home and I reiterate those sentiments that we need your continued participation in all our games to come.

Today we face the Division leaders Swindon in what will undoubtedly be another tough match. We will approach it as we have done all the others and hopefully achieve the desired result.



Colin Woodthorpe.... more back problems at Reading



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# **ELECTRICAL SUPPLIERS TO STOCKPORT COUNTY FOOTBALL CLUB**



# IT HAS TO BE

The World Cup 2006

The Football Association launched its bid to host the 2006 World Cup last week with an impressive promotional brochure outlining the reasons why it just has to be England. The highly colourful and extremely professional brochure opens with a personal message from the Prime Minister Tony Blair who gives his wholehearted support saying "I believe that our country has the vision, the enthusiasm and the commitment to host an excellent World Cup in 2006. The carnival atmosphere of Euro 96, I feel sure, has amply demonstrated our passion for football and our capacity for friendship and organisation. Our commitment to sport is unrivalled. Since 1990 we have invested, as a nation, over £1.8 billion in facilities with a host of bold initiatives still to come. The Government therefore supports England's World Cup bid wholeheartedly." Mr Blair is not the only big name to appear in the promotional literature with the likes of Tony Banks, Lennart Johansson and Arsene Wenger also offering favourable comments alongside the expected faces of Bobby Charlton, Gary Lineker and Geoff Hurst.

## Excellence

We do of course have a great case for hosting the World Cup, having already revealed our excellence at staging such events during Euro 96. Some of the statistics from the European championships a little over a year ago are staggering. Did you know for example that 1,279,371 spectators attended Euro 96 - a record for the tournament.

- Also
- \* 6.68 billion viewers in 192 countries watched on TV (+6.5% increase over '92)
  - \* Euro 96 yielded a record profit of £69 million
  - \* 250,000 foreign fans arrived in England for the tournament

However one of the most important features of Euro 96 was the fact that, despite media fears, there was not one serious outbreak of crowd violence. The tournament staged so superbly by the English promoted the following comment from UEFA President Lennart Johansson "From every point of view this was the best European Championship ever. England proved that football can do it."

It is not just the exceptional organisation however which makes England the ideal venue for any footballing event - it is the passion.

## Admiration

Even that hard to please footballing maestro Eric Cantona had nothing but praise for English football - in his own inimitable style he said "Everything is beautiful about English football. The stadiums are beautiful, the atmosphere is beautiful - even the cops on horseback are beautiful."

It is this interest and admiration for the sport in this country, coupled with the recent investment in English football that has seen the English football league go from strength to strength to such an extent that

- \* Aggregate attendances at league games have risen in ten of the last eleven seasons since 1986.
  - \* Nearly 23 million people attended last season - the highest since 1979-80.
  - \* 18 English clubs are now listed on the London stock markets.
  - \* 133 foreign players representing 37 countries play in the Premier League alone.
- The appeal of football in this country is worldwide and it remains every players dream to play at Wembley - a stadium described by Pele, as the church of football, the capital of football and the heart of football. It is of course well known that the old lady of football stadia has seen better days, but £200 million plus has been committed to the lavish remodelling of the stadium to turn in into an 80,000 seat venue of legends - whilst retaining its historical and indeed beautiful character.



# ENGLAND!

## Campaign begins

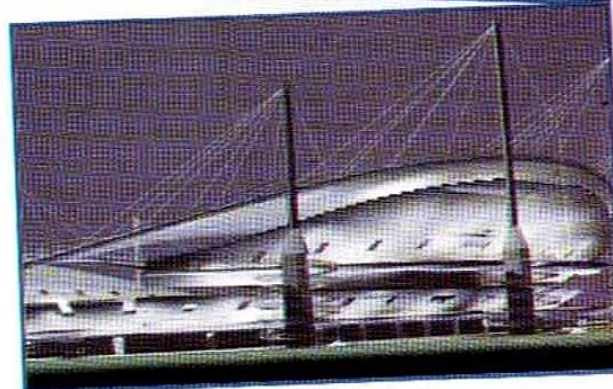
### Astonishing

Wembley is not the only ground to undergo a remodelling programme in fact English football has already undergone a quite astonishing stadium revolution. Around £600 million has already been spent converting 40 of the country's leading venues to all seaters and nine brand new stadiums have been built. Add to this the other five new stadiums that are already at the advanced stage of planning or construction and you have the perfect venue for the world's largest football events.

You simply cannot compete with the atmosphere, the character, the facilities and the safety of football in England and even some of our most notable opponents have openly revealed their admiration for the progress we have achieved. After our defeat by the Germans in Euro 96 - German International player Marco Bode said "Our semi final in the venerable Wembley Stadium was the highlight of my European Championship. I can still clearly remember the atmosphere as, just before the match, 60,000 English fans sang the Euro 96 anthem, 'Three Lions On A Shirt' warming up I felt a shiver down my spine and I couldn't resist secretly joining in."

The Football Association have made great strides alongside all the other footballing authorities in this country to restore the pride and passion that should always be associated with football in this country. Football came home in 1996 and in 2006 - IT JUST HAS TO BE ENGLAND!

Steve Bellis



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## SWINDON ARE FLYING HIGH



High flying Swindon Town arrive at Edgeley Park this afternoon in the middle of an excellent run of form which has propelled them to the top of Division One. The Robins have been a real surprise package this term and Manager Steve McMahon must be absolutely delighted with the way his team have coped with only their second season back in Division One.

Last season proved to be a time for consolidation after

following the departure of Wayne Allison to his home town club of Huddersfield, he will be looking to become a permanent fixture in the first team.

### HEADLINES

The goalkeeping situation at Swindon has hit the headlines in recent weeks and there were fears that Steve McMahon may have to field an outfield player in goal for their last fixture against Q.P.R. Regular

# ROBINS TOP OF

winning the Second Division championship in 1996.

Steve McMahon has kept faith with many of the players who brought the Wiltshire club their success, and they've rewarded him this season with some excellent performances. However, the player who's grabbed most of the headlines this season is one of their most recent acquisitions, **Chris Hay**. Hay is a pacy young striker who was drafted in from Scottish giants Celtic a week before the new campaign started. He signed a three year contract and has already gone a long way to paying back the bargain looking £330,000 fee/ The 23 year old has scored 13



**Steve McMahon**

goals already this term and will be looking to add more to that tally this afternoon. He made a total of 20 first team appearances for Celtic but has only started to blossom since moving south and testing himself in the English First Division. He is likely to be partnered by former Aston Villa front man **Steve Cowe** who was originally introduced to Swindon on loan but has since put pen to paper to secure a permanent deal. He struck seven times in thirty two starts last term, but is looking to become more prolific. What he lacks in height, he more than makes up for with pace and skill, and

number one, **Fraser Digby**,

suffered a training ground injury which has kept him ruled out for a couple of weeks, and usual reserve

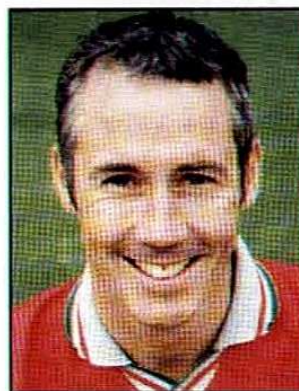
keeper **Frank Talia** is also currently ruled out. This lead to local born **Steve Mildenhall** being thrown in at the deep end in Town's recent fixture at Portsmouth, Mildenhall was in outstanding form as Swindon pulled off an excellent 1-0 win, but he also suffered a nasty injury which resulted in him hardly being able to walk or kick during the second half. After a great deal of press speculation that Swindon would have to field a non-specialist for their following game, Fraser Digby declared himself fit enough to give it a go and played in the 3-0 victory over Q.P.R. However, he is unlikely to feature today

as McMahon has managed to sign Liverpool's **Tony Warner** as a temporary replacement.

### EXPERIENCE

At the back Swindon can count on a highly experienced line up.

**Brian Borrows, Ian Culverhouse and Alan McDonald** have all played in the Premier



**Ian Culverhouse**

League for Coventry, Norwich and Q.P.R.

respectively. Culverhouse was the first to arrive for a tribunal set fee of £250,000 in December 1994 following nine extremely successful seasons with Norwich City. The cultured defender began his career at Spurs and can play in either full-back position, or as a sweeper. Borrows prefers to play in the right back slot and is another player who likes to put his foot on the ball. He has spent most of his career at Coventry but

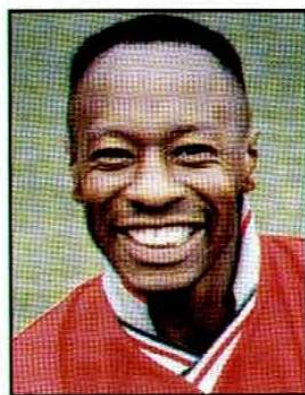


Jason Drysdale

agreed to join Swindon in the summer after successfully helping the Sky Blues to stay in the Premier League last season. Another one club man is **Alan McDonald** who made his first ever move during the summer and signed a two year deal for Swindon. He is a highly committed defender who has a wealth of experience and also over

## MARAUDING

**Ty Gooden** was signed by former manager John Gorman in 1993 and quickly became a huge hit with the fans who appreciate his marauding runs down the left hand side. He made over 30 appearances in Swindon's championship season after being released by Wycombe Wanderers. Gooden is provided with service by Swindon's highly talented ex Newcastle and Watford man **Jason Drysdale**. A number of injuries have limited his appearances in a Swindon shirt although he appears to be over the worst, and is now looking forward to a settled place in the first team.



Mark Walters

Midfield player **Kevin Watson** came through Tottenham's junior ranks and made 12 first team appearances under Terry Venables before being loaned out to Bristol City and Barnet. He arrived at the County Ground on a free last summer and made 18 starts in Division One.

# THE TREE

50 international caps to his name.

Filling the other defensive position will probably be **Craig Taylor** who is the younger brother of former Town favourite Shaun. Craig signed a three year contract last April after impressing during a trial period. The Robins paid non-league Dorchester Town £25,000 for his services and Manager Steve McMahon believes Craig has the potential to be even better than his older brother.

## LINKED

Stockport County, of course were linked very strongly with Swindon's midfield battler **Darren Bullock**. The tough tackling former Huddersfield man signed a three and a half year contract in February but has found it difficult to settle and was rumoured to be coming to Edgeley Park in July. Bullock is currently sidelined through injury and his anchorman role in midfield has gone to **Scott Leitch** who signed for a bargain fee of £15,000 last summer. Leitch is a former Hearts, Dunfermline and Motherwell player who enjoyed a successful loan spell as Swindon coasted to the Second Division title and was delighted to make a permanent move down south.

## ADMIRED

Swindon are to be admired for holding on to their league form despite being plagued by a number of injuries. A notable example of this is **Mark Walters** who on his day is one of the most talented wingers around. He has enjoyed successful spells at Aston Villa, Rangers, Liverpool and Southampton before joining Swindon on a free transfer last summer. Also struggling with injury is the gifted Frenchman **Philippe Cuervo** who impressed manager Steve McMahon during a trial period at the County Ground and signed a three year

contract just prior to the new season starting. Both club captain **Mark Seagraves** who, of course, used to play at Manchester City and Bolton Wanderers, and former record signing **Mark Robinson** are also sidelined through injury. Also in contention for a place in the starting line up today are **Gary Elkins**, **Michael Pattimore** and **Peter Holcroft**.



Gary Elkins

# McMAHON'S MISSION

## Steve has eyes on promotion prize

Steve McMahon brings his team to Edgeley Park this afternoon hoping to add to his advantage at the top of the table. After arriving at the County ground in November 1994 and suffering the humiliation of relegation in his first season, McMahon is anxious to be as successful as possible with his Swindon team.

As a player, he collected almost every honour available in the game for both Club and Country. He began his career at Everton scoring 11 goals in 100 games for the Goodison Park outfit before a £175,000 move took him to Aston Villa. He enjoyed his spell at Villa until newly installed Liverpool player-manager Kenny Dalglish took him to Anfield for £375,000 in 1986. It was during this spell in his career that McMahon emerged as a midfield general of the highest quality, bagging League and FA Cup winners medals galore during the glory years at Anfield. He also gained international

recognition collecting 17 full England caps and was a member of the England squad which won its way through to the semi-finals of the 1990 World Cup Finals in Italy.

At Christmas time in 1991, Steve completed a shock £900,000 move to Manchester City where he continued to perform at the highest level until being allowed to leave and become player-manager at Swindon Town in November 1994.

Swindon were in a state of decline when he arrived and he was unable to arrest the slide sufficiently for them to avoid relegation to Division Two. However, in his first full season in charge he led Swindon to the Second Division Championship in fine style, making 21 appearances along the way despite a series of injuries.

Last season he had his work cut out as cynical observers suggested that the Robins were amongst the favourites for the drop. His side held firm though and consolidated which has given the launching pad for this seasons promotion push.



## THE ROBINS - HISTORICALLY

Swindon Town FC was founded in 1881 by Reverend William Pitt as a result of a merger between two teams from the old and new areas of the town. There were signs of success even in the early years, as the club won the Wiltshire Senior Cup from its inception in 1887 and retained it for the next six years.

Swindon suffered a disappointing spell at the turn of the century but improved between 1908 and 1914 whilst under the watchful guidance of manager Sam Allen. They were inspired by such players as Harold Fleming and Jock Walker and failed to finish lower than Fourth in the Southern League. The Robins were crowned as Champions twice and runners-up three times. The 1909/10 season saw Crystal Palace, Tottenham and Manchester City beaten at Town went marching on to the FA Cup semi-finals where they lost to eventual cup winners Newcastle United 2-0. The following season saw Swindon win their first Championship but when they played Manchester United for the Charity Shield, they lost 8-4!

1926 saw the arrival of David Hyman Morris at Swindon for £110 and it proved to be a bargain as over the next seven years, "Harry" as he was known, set many goalscoring records which still stand today. The Second World War had a major effect on football in this country, although Swindon managed to prosper by paying players on an appearance basis only, and therefore dramatically reduced the wage bill. Things took a turn for the worse after the war and didn't improve until Swindon's golden era in 1969. Town just missed out on promotion as Champions by goal difference but, of course, the highlights for the Swindon faithful was the visit to the twin towers of Wembley to see their side beat Arsenal 3-1 after extra time.

The 1969/70 season brought more silverware as the club won both the Anglo-Italian Cup and the Anglo-

Italian Cup winners cup, beating Roma and Napoli respectively. Swindon also reached the sixth round of the FA Cup and finished fifth in the Second Division - the best position the club had achieved to that point. However, the clubs fortunes declined again, and by the early 1980's, Swindon were languishing in the Fourth Division. Lou Macari became the club's new manager and after a shaky start in 1984/85 which saw him sacked for nine days, before he was reinstated, his belief in fitness and a direct game plan paid off as Swindon were crowned champions with a record 102 points. The following season saw promotion achieved again as Gillingham were defeated in the play-offs.

In 1990 the team, now being managed by Ossie Ardiles, beat Sunderland at Wembley in the play-offs to gain promotion to the First Division but players and fans alike were dismayed when the Football League decided to demote the Robins two Divisions for financial irregularities. On appeal, the decision was changed to a drop of one Division and Sunderland took Town's place in the top flight.

However, in 1993 with Glenn Hoddle in charge, Swindon grabbed a place in the Premiership by beating Leicester City 4-3 in a nail biting play-off final at Wembley. This was followed by two disappointing campaigns which saw the team suffer successive relegations from the Premiership to Division Two. The yo-yo effect was now clearly a feature of virtually every campaign and was evident again in 1995/96 as the club climbed back to the First Division as runaway champions of Division Two, under the guidance of Steve McMahon.

Last season proved to be one of consolidation for the Robins although they did show some promising signs, and have built on those to provide them with a platform on which to build this seasons promotion challenge.



SWINDON



TOWN



Back row: Wayne Allison, Mark Seagraves, Fraser Digby, Steve Mildenhall, Frank Talia, Steve Finney, Kevin Watson.  
Middle: Alan McDonald, Mark Walters, Craig Taylor, Gary Elkins, Mark Robinson, Scott Leitch,  
Ian Culverhouse, Frederic Darras, Alex Finlayson.  
2nd front row: Lee Collins, Peter Holcroft, Phil King, Darren Bullock, Wayne O'Sullivan (left club), Ty Gooden, Steve Cowe.  
Front row: Jason Drysdale, Jonathan Trigg (Physiotherapist), Ross MacLaren (Reserve Team Coach),  
Steve McMahon (Team Manager), Mike Walsh (1st Team Coach), Les O'Neill (Chief Scout), Alex Smith.

This afternoon we welcome high flying Swindon Town to Edgeley Park for what promises to be a highly competitive encounter.

It would be fair to say that the Robins' start to the season was not wholly anticipated, following their nineteenth position finish last season. Whilst clearly Steve McMahon has moulded a fine squad of players, man of the moment is certainly Chris Hay whose tally of twelve goals this season (nine in the last eight games) represents over half of Town's total tally of 23 league strikes.

The County ground has certainly been home sweet home for Swindon this season. Like County they have not yet tasted home league defeat recording seven wins against:- Crewe (2-0), Tranmere (2-1), Port Vale (4-2), Bury (3-1), Norwich (1-0), Q.P.R. (3-1) and last Saturday against Bradford when Steve Cowe in the side in place of the injured Wayne Allison scored the only goal of the game with a curling left foot shot past Gary Walsh. Their other two home fixtures saw draws against Huddersfield (1-1) and Nottingham Forest (0-0).

Two of their three away wins came in their first two away fixtures with maximum three point hauls gained at Reading (1-0) and

Stoke (2-1) - this was the first league game played at the Potters Britannia Stadium. They had to wait until the last day of October to record their other away win gaining a hard fought 1-0 success at Portsmouth, man on target needless to say being the ubiquitous Chris Hay.

The period between these wins saw five away fixtures with just two points picked up with a brace of goalless draws at West Bromwich Albion and Sunderland. Their three defeats have come at Ipswich (1-2), Wolves (1-3) and at Maine Road where struggling City had an all too rare success hitting six goals without reply.

The Coca Cola Cup saw Swindon able to concentrate on the league at an early stage with a first round exit at the hands of Watford. A 2-0 first leg home defeat was always going to be difficult to overcome and so it proved, the second leg ending up 1-1 at Vicarage Road.

This seasons scorers (All competitions):-

Hay 12, Allison 3, Taylor, Walters 2, Casper, Cowe, Finney, Gooden, Leitch 1.

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# Know the Score - your guide to good health

A health column for football supporters. Provided by Stockport Centre for Health Promotion in Partnership with Stockport County F.C.

## WINTER SUN SAFETY

Are you planning to escape part, or even all of the approaching British winter? If the answer is yes, then you need to think about skin care during your holiday.

Going skiing?

The combination of high altitudes, bright sun and crisp mountain air can catch even the most seasoned skiers and snowboarders unawares.

Too much exposure to ultraviolet rays can cause sunburn and may lead to skin cancer.

Don't forget that snow reflects sunlight back onto the body, increasing the amount of UVB rays reaching exposed skin. While sand only reflects about 17% of UVB back on to the body, freshly fallen snow can increase the amount of UVB reaching the skin by 85%. Up to 80% of the sun's rays can penetrate through light cloud, fog and mist, so don't be fooled by an overcast day.

Protecting yourself from the sun whilst on the slopes is easy and doesn't have to be expensive.

Make sure to protect the vulnerable parts of your body which are the face and neck, especially the tips of the ears, nose and lips.

The best way to protect yourself is to:

- \*Wear goggles or sunglasses with UVA and UVB filters to protect your eyes. Look out for those labelled with the British Standard BS2724:1987 as these will give good protection.

- \*Wear a ski hat with ear muffs, a scarf or high collar to help protect the head and neck.

- \*Apply a high factor sunscreen or sunblock to all exposed skin, including the face, neck, ears and lips. Look for a sunscreen with a protection factor (SPF) of at least 15.

If you find that you do suffer from sunburn apply after-sun cream. It will help counteract the drying effect, especially from wind burn, although it won't repair any skin that is seriously damaged from the sun.

Going for warmth and relaxation? Then you need to remember to follow the basic sun safety guidelines that apply during our summertime. They are:

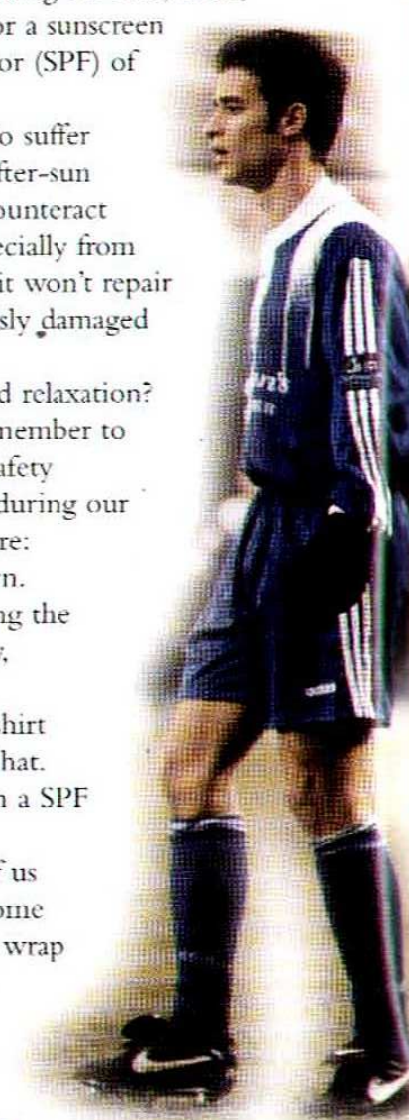
- \*Take care not to burn.

- \*Seek the shade during the hottest part of the day, usually 11am - 3pm.

- \*Cover up with a T shirt and a wide brimmed hat.

- \*Use a suncream with a SPF of 15 or more.

Finally, if like most of us you'll be staying at home for the duration then wrap up warmly and look forward to an early Spring!



Wrap up warm this winter

Know the score is a regular feature in the programme. We aim to keep you top of the "health league" throughout the season. For more information about any of the articles featured or if you have any other questions about health issues or local health services then call at Into Health, Stockport's local health information shop on Chestergate in Stockport town centre. Or write to "know the score" c/o Stockport County FC.



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



Damon Searles recent form earned him an International call up last week. Our impressive full back was on standby for the Welsh squad who face the lengthy trip to Brazil. Thankfully for us - Damon was not called to travel - and will be parading his skills today - but I'm sure the Welsh call will be the first of many. Well done Damon.



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## DIDN'T HE USED TO



## PLAY FOR US...?

In the years prior to Brendan Elwood's chairmanship, Edgeley Park was occasionally graced by former "big name" players seeking out their playing careers in the lower divisions. One such County signing was former England international Mike Summerbee...Phil Brennan takes a look at his career.



Mike Summerbee-M/City  
1974/75 (last season with club)

Mike Summerbee was born in Preston in December 1942, his father George had been a player in Preston North End's pre-war side. The family moved to Cheltenham when Mike was six years old, when his father became manager of the town's non-league team. On leaving school Mike had a trial at Bristol City but soon became homesick and returned home where he started as an office junior at an aircraft factory, continuing to play football locally he was soon spotted by Swindon Town's chief scout Cecil Green. Soon after signing professional terms Mike made his first team debut still aged only sixteen during the 1959/60 season, in

which he made fifteen appearances scoring his first ever league goal. Mike became a regular in the Robins line up over the next couple of seasons, whilst earning himself some extra money during the closed season working as a grave digger with his flat mate Ernie Hunt. Mike was an integral part of the Swindon Town team to get promoted as the Robins finished runners up in the Third Division in 1962/63. The club's stay in the Second Division was to be short lived, as they were relegated at the end of the 1964/65 season, although this was to be Mike's best season for the club as he scored thirteen goals in forty one appearances, including a brilliant individual performance at Maine Road capped with one of the goals in the Robins 2-1 victory.

### Outstanding

Mike's outstanding performances had been noticed by several leading clubs and Swindon were aware that the twenty two year old forward was destined for bigger things and indeed had already turned down a £12,000 bid for Tottenham Hotspur before accepting a bid of £35,000 during the summer of 1965 from Manchester City.

Mike quickly became a favourite with the Maine Road fans with his obvious talent and his ability to create chances for his fellow forwards. He was also never afraid to "get stuck in" which as a forward endeared him to the City faithful. The club lost just five games that season (1965/66), with Mike an everpresent, on their way to clinching the Second Division championship. The following season required a period of settling in as the new boys acclimatised to the First Division with their new signings Colin Bell, Tony Book and Francis Lee, whilst their neighbours from across the

city were chalking up their second championship in three seasons.

The following season (1967/68) City suddenly appeared to find their feet, as their self belief instilled by Joe Mercer and Malcolm Allison became more evident, the season built to a fitting climax as the Blues had to win away at Newcastle United to be sure of pipping Manchester United to the title, with the game only ten minutes old Mike (who had been a pre-match injury doubt) settled any early nerves with a clever goal, and although the Geordies made City fight all the way, the championship went to Maine Road courtesy of a 4-3 victory. The season spent defending their title was a disappointment for all concerned, and although Mike earned personal recognition with his first England appearances for the games at Wembley against Spain (1-1) and West Germany in Hanover (0-1), the citizens struggled in the league. However, the obvious talent of the squad was evident as the Blues reached the F.A. Cup Final against Leicester City and Mike made his mark on the game by creating the only goal for Neil Young as the Cup went to Maine Road.

### Wembley\*

The 1969/70 season saw City advancing on two Cup fronts, in the League Cup, and the European Cup Winners Cup. City returned to Wembley in the League Cup for the final against West Bromwich Albion, a game played on a pitch ruined by heavy snow and the recent Horse of the Year Show, and even though City won the Cup in extra time (2-1), the heavy pitch was a telling factor as the ball stuck in the mud and Mike came out of a tackle with Ray Wilson with a hairline fracture of his leg. During his comeback Mike took a knock on the same leg in a league game against Sheffield United a couple of days before the European Cup Winners Cup Final forced him to miss the victory against Gornik, although his ever-present run to the final ensured



Man City - European Cup Winners  
Cup final squad

him a winners medal.

Mike was one of the players put on standby for England's World Cup squad for the Mexico World Cup in 1970 and although he didn't get the chance to play in the tournament, he made his third England appearance against Switzerland the following year at Wembley and scored his

only international goal in a 1-1 draw. In total

Mike made eight full appearances for his country, three more came in 1972 against West Germany, Wales and Northern Ireland. This was also the season that City were top of the First Division but only won three of their last eight games to hand the title to Derby County. His final cap came in 1973 when he came on as a substitute in Moscow against Russia as England won 2-1.



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**S.C.F.C. 1978/79 Season**

**Back:** Lees, Thompson, Bradd, Cassidy, Rogan, Smith, Prudham, Leaburick, Thorpe.

**Front:** Park, Rutler, Fogarty, Summerbee, Halford, Goodfellow

#### Final

Mike's days at Maine Road appeared to be numbered with the appointment of Ron Saunders and although the club reached another League Cup Final in 1974, where they were beaten by Wolverhampton Wanderers, Mike was destined to leave the club which he duly did in the summer of 1975, having made over four hundred appearances scoring sixty seven goals for City Mike joined Burnley for a fee of £25,000. Unfortunately for Mike the Clarets were relegated at the end of his first season, and although he enjoyed his spell at Turf Moor, making fifty one appearances without scoring, he was transferred to Blackpool in December 1976. Mike only made three appearances for the Seasiders in his time at Bloomfield Road and during the closed season he signed for Stockport County (August 1977).

Mike's first appearances for County came in the seasons opening fixture at Edgeley Park against Watford, he scored his first goal for the club and his first for over two years in a defeat at Aldershot, in total, Mike scored four goals that season all of which came in away fixtures, the teams fortunes had started to fade and following three defeats (two at home) player/manager Allan Thompson was relieved of his management duties.

The chance to become County's sixteenth manager since the war was offered to Mike in March 1978, a challenge he accepted, although there was to be no marked improvement with the team winning only three more games to the end of the season. The 1978/79 season started reasonably well in both the League and League Cup culminating in a return to Old Trafford for Mike as his new charges were drawn against Manchester United in the League Cup, a night that will be forever remembered for the poor refereeing that turned a likely County victory into an injury time defeat, with Mike taking his team on a well deserved lap of honour. Later that season Mike scored his first goal at Edgeley Park in a victory over Portsmouth. Unfortunately the Hatters won only six more games that season to finish a disappointing seventeenth in the table.

#### Resigned

The following season (1979/80) saw Mike play in twelve of the opening thirteen fixtures scoring what was to be his last ever league goal in the draw with Darlington at Edgeley Park (1-1) and six games later, following a heavy defeat at Bradford City (1-6), Mike Summerbee resigned as manager (his place to be taken by former County player Jimmy McGuigan), Mike didn't play for the club again and retired from football, having made over eight hundred appearances and scoring over a hundred goals to concentrate on his growing shirt manufacturing business. Following his retirement Mike appeared in the prisoner of war movie "Escape To Victory" with Brazilian superstar Pele, Mike also became friends with Hollywood film stars Michael Caine and Sylvester Stallone who were the stars of the film. His involvement in football had become more or less non existent, (apart from watching his son Nicky, who like his father had started his career at Swindon Town before moving to Manchester City), until his great friend and former team mate Francis Lee ousted Peter Swales as Chairman at Maine Road and called for Mikes involvement to help bring back the glory days to Manchester City, a task that at present is proving to be harder than they could have imagined.



**Mike Summerbee-M/Clity marketing office 1997**

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In non-league terms, Barrow could be described as a sleeping giant. It's a long time since the Cumbrian Club were in the Football League and playing host to Manchester United in the FA Cup, but maybe at last there is a glimmer of hope that a bit of success may just be around the corner.

They currently lead the Unibond Premier Division by a street - well 9 points to be exact, but it is a healthy lead even at this time of the season. Whilst favourites Altrincham and Hyde United struggle to stay in touch, Barrow have managed to shrug off their early season problems. They had a transfer embargo placed upon them by the Unibond League as they had failed to pay Chorley the £5000 fee for striker Karl Marginson. It wasn't until after the season had

started that Barrow managed to pay off the debt and allow manager Owen Brown to strengthen his side. He certainly hasn't wasted any time and the club that can usually guarantee a four figure gate are more than making up for lost time.

Another fallen giant, Witton Albion have also made a good start under new manager Kevin Tully. They head the

Unibond First Division and are slowly recovering some of the pride they have lost as they slipped out of the Conference and seemed to be disappearing into oblivion.

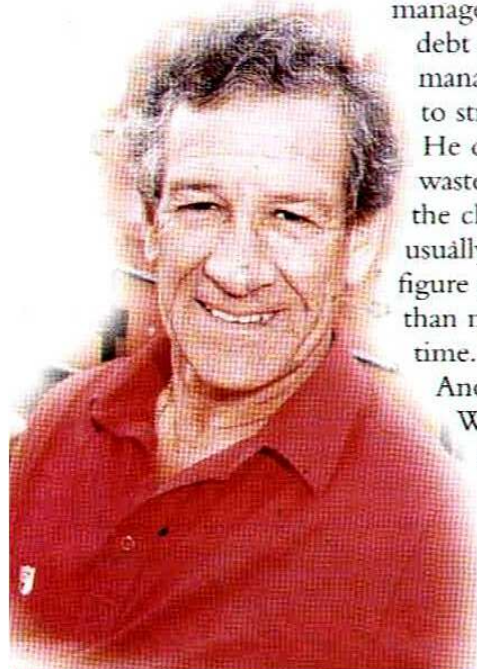
Stalybridge Celtic made a bid for former County starlet Martin McDonald last week but his club Doncaster quoted a £20,000 fee. The boss of the Nationwide League's bottom club is Danny Bergara and he obviously doesn't want to lose a player that has always shown a lot of promise. Stalybridge were frightened off by the fee and they will be getting a bit desperate as they slide towards the bottom of the Conference.

It was very sad to note last week the death of Cannon Reg Smith who was the President of the North West Counties League. Also a Vice Chairman of Bury FC, the Cannon was a very funny After Dinner Speaker and he will be very sadly missed.

We have heard of many things over the years that have delayed a football match but there was a new one last week when a hedgehog delayed the start of the Selby Town v Curzon Ashton game. It certainly didn't give poor old Curzon any luck, they went down 5-2.

There was an unusual situation last week in the replay of the North West Counties League Cup tie between Maghull and Nantwich. The final score after extra time was 3-3 and the game went into penalties. Maghull ended up winning that little contest 3-1 and were no doubt 'over the moon'. Then they found out that the referee had made a mistake and Nantwich should have gone through on the away goals rule. It can be a cruel game.

**Danny Bergara turned down Celtic bid**



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Well with way over a third of the league season gone already isn't it nice to reflect on the progress County have made to date. I well remember Chris Marsden telling us last June that the squad wasn't good enough or big enough to make much



**Chris Marsden...  
wise words**

of an impression on Division One, but that "first team" players were more than adequate and barring injuries we would survive. Chris moved on to a bigger (or should that be richer) Club than ours and one of life's little ironies sees Birmingham along with Sunderland, QPR and Manchester City looking up the table at County. Most of the

County faithful would clearly have settled for this state of affairs, County generally playing consistently good football and getting their reward with points home and away. It's now 20 games, I think, since County last lost at Edgeley Park.

Now you might bemoan the home points dropped against Bury, Birmingham, Middlesbrough and more recently Sunderland, but there is no one in the entire league anywhere near County's home record. I'll settle for that! There have been plenty of anxieties expressed about the

Board not spending the Club's money on transfer fees or on the wage bill. For me this season was always going to be one of consolidation; staying up first and then building to improve things. Signing players for record fees on three year contracts isn't going to be much help to County if we slide into Division Two - just have a look up the road at Oldham and see how they are struggling along and how many players they've sought to unload to survive financially. They don't seem to have two halfpennies to rub together and aren't setting their division alight either.

Let's be thankful for what we've got and retain the patience to gradually and steadily heighten our expectations, that way we survive as a club. Just remember that it's only 6 years since we left Division Four and that we were re-elected as recently as the 1984-85 season!

A sense of perspective needs to be kept by County directors and the fans, but boy am I enjoying giving City fans some stick for a change!



**"It's only six years since we left division four"**

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## County Ladies are finding their feet



County Ladies  
Manager... Sue  
Short

Stockport County Ladies are beginning to find their feet after losing some of their best players to other teams. Last weekend they faced Man City Ladies who are currently leading Division 2. County's keeper, Helen Moy, who has recently returned to the side has been an inspiration and was once again Man of the Match with some outstanding saves.

The game was pretty evenly matched with the majority of the early pressure coming from the League leaders. At half time the score was 0-0 mainly due to good defending from County.

In the second half it was much the same but the breakthrough came when Moy again made a save which hit the post only to

fall unkindly to City who scored from 2 yards out. County lifted their game to try and get the equalizer but couldn't break down City's defence. Tracey Matthius came close when her corner seemed to be heading into the net but was agonisingly just over the bar.

With County pushing forward so much there were gaps in the defence and City made certain with a second goal which was a superb 20-yarder.

County came close when Paolo flicked on another Matthius corner but this was cleared off the line.

Manager Sue Short was pleased with her side's performance and said "We just need to turn these good performances into points and get out of this losing streak that we are stuck in at the moment."



Helen Moy...  
an inspiration

## Under Twelves... Unlucky

This game started with a vengeance with Warrington taking an early lead, but County kept the pressure on with some great shots from Stephanie Butt and Hayley Thompson, this paid off with a brilliant goal from Sarah Humphrey quickly followed by her second goal. Warrington pulled away again despite some fantastic saves from our superb goalie Keeley Harte, leaving County a hard job to do, but once again they pulled a goal back with a magnificent header from Sarah, giving her a hat trick.

After the team talk at half time Gazza (Claire Gaskell),

Kirsty McDonald, Rebecca Bailey the defenders were determined that Warrington would not score another goal and they played a brilliant second half. Then all of a sudden Rebecca made a break, took the ball up the field, passed to Sue Wynes who took on two defenders, passed the ball back to Rebecca who went on to score the fourth goal. Although the girls played a great second half and everyone was pleased with their performance, it was not quite enough to win. We woz robbed girls.

Report by Claire Gaskell

## Strikers stroll on!

On Saturday 25th October, Stockport County Strikers, our Disability Football Team, played against a Disability team from Exeter, at Davenport Centre Playing Field.

Stockport County Strikers lined up as follows:- 1. David Isaac, 2. Tony Ross, 3. Neil Mottershead, 4. Andrew Abernethy, 5. Bill Whyte, 6. Johnathon Richards, 7. Wayne Kelly, 8. Tristian Wilson, 9. Dale Rowlinson, 10. Stuart, 11. Patric Carney. Subs. Jason Gandy, Glyn Vardy, John Carney, Kevin Clarke, Alex Cunningham and Dominic Cojeen.



Young striker...  
Andrew Bentley

By half time Strikers were 4 goals to 0 up, and in the second half used all the subs to give them valuable experience. The final score was Strikers 6 Exeter 1.

Strikers scorers: Whyte 2, Wilson 1, Rawlinson 1,

Carney P. 1, Stuart 1.

Exeter scorer: Mark Knight 1

Our thanks go to Mark Frankland of Stockport County of the Clubs Community Team, for organising the playing area and refereeing our game so well.

Our thanks also to Stockport Mencap for their permission to allow our visitors to stay overnight at their building, also to the Stockport Strikers Ladies in hosting our visitors over the weekend.



The Strikers



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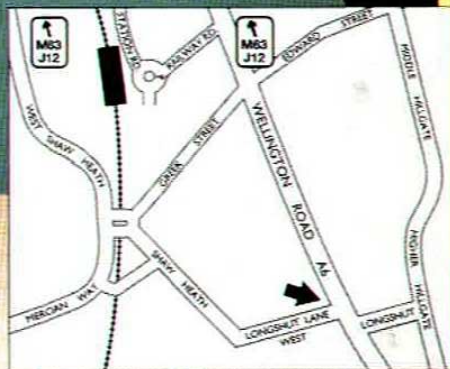
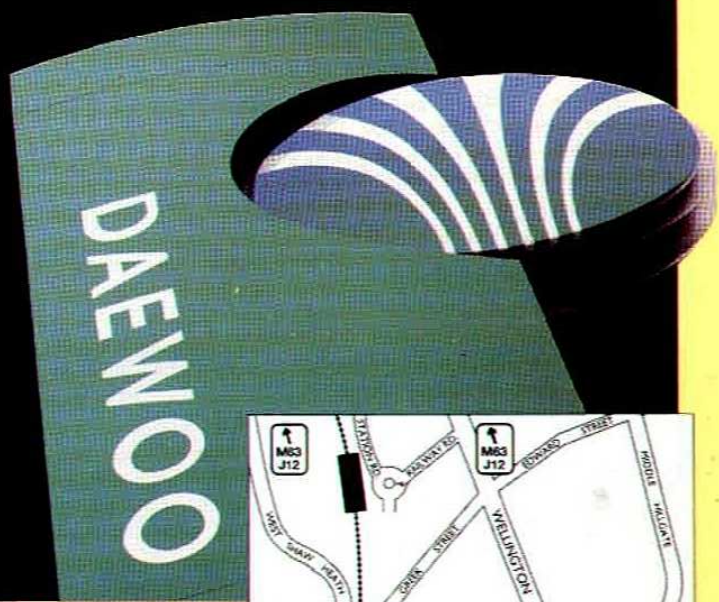
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## Topical titbits

### Swede expensive at this time of year

Tomas Brodin's hate-hate relationship with Leeds United has ended with the Swedish International being released by the West Yorkshire club - at a price. No doubt there will have been mathematicians calculating Brodin's cost to Leeds and pretty depressing reading the resulting statistics make too, at £1.5 million per goal and £250,000 per appearance when extras are added to the £4.5 million fee. Worst of all is the fact that the Swede cost the club almost £6 per minute for every day of the 101 weeks he was on the books.

### Scarborough Chairman to emulate TIT

John Russell, chairman of Nationwide Third Division Scarborough is use to a three wheeled Reliant Robin - as used by Del-boy and Rodney Trotter (Trotter's Independent Trading) - on a five day marathon around Football League grounds. Russell's theory is that the humble 'Robin' will serve to emphasise the growing disparity between the wealthy clubs and those struggling in the lower divisions and he hopes to gain support and some positive action from the exercise. He will of course, be sponsored by local firms and supporters of the club. The AA or RAC could be looking at a busy few days!

### Crystal Ball Clouds Over

New grounds and new facilities always catch the imagination of supporters. Nowhere more so than at Derby County's plush Pride Park stadium. However, already the scene of an abandonment due to floodlight failure in the stadium's opening game against Wimbledon earlier this season, it appears that the crystal ball supplied to the Pride Park public address announcer is showing signs of malfunction too. Two weeks ago, the announcer read out half time scores including that from Goodison Park as Everton 0 Southampton 0. Except that the game didn't actually kick off for over another 24 hours, and Southampton led 1-0 then.

### Bod' on the Move

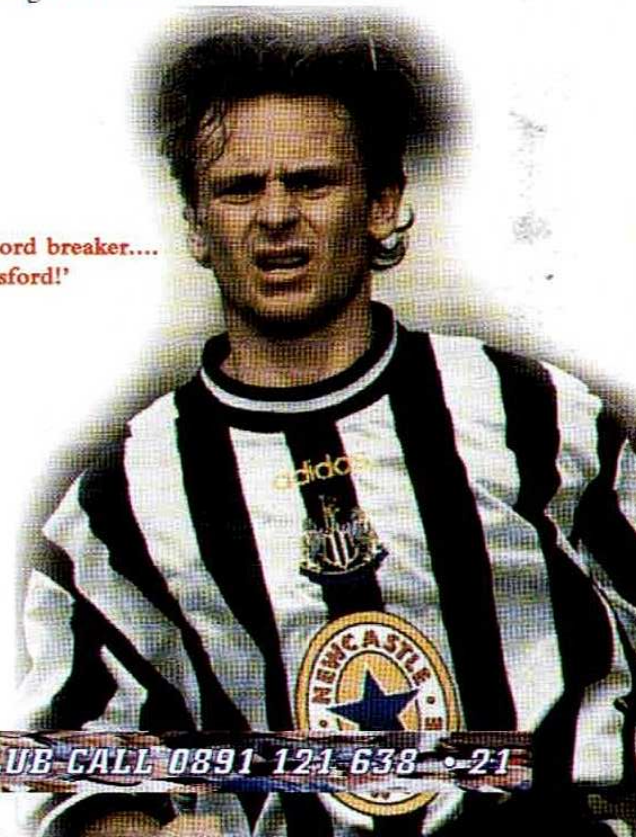
Former benefactor of Peterborough United and far from fans' favourite at Edgeley Park, Premiership referee, Martin Bodenham was on the move recently. As he prepared for last weekend's Premiership game between Arsenal and Manchester

United - billed as the match of the season (United are involved in several of these each season) - Mr Bodenham drove his 1903 Oldsmobile in the London to Brighton Veteran Car Run. He was accompanied by no lesser figure than the former League referee and garage owner, Jim Parker from Preston who held records at various times of the season for red and yellow cards issued. Bodenham has recently moved house too, from his Cornish guest house to Ferring in Sussex. Perhaps he will now have a new hair stylist too.

### Headers at Premium in Premier

The weekend before last saw two "records" broken. John Beresford's late equaliser for Newcastle United in the 3-3 draw at St. James' Park on the Saturday was the first headed goal that Leicester City had conceded in the Premiership this season. By the same token, in the Monday night game between West Ham and Crystal Palace, John Hartson's 13th goal of the season - placing him firmly at the head of the top division's leading scorers - was his first header to count in that tally. Sadly though, for Hartson, the goal eventually had to be struck from the records as with 65 minutes gone, referee David Elleray led the players from the pitch following a floodlight failure which was unable to be repaired within a reasonable time resulting in the abandonment of the match.

'Record breaker....  
Beresford!'



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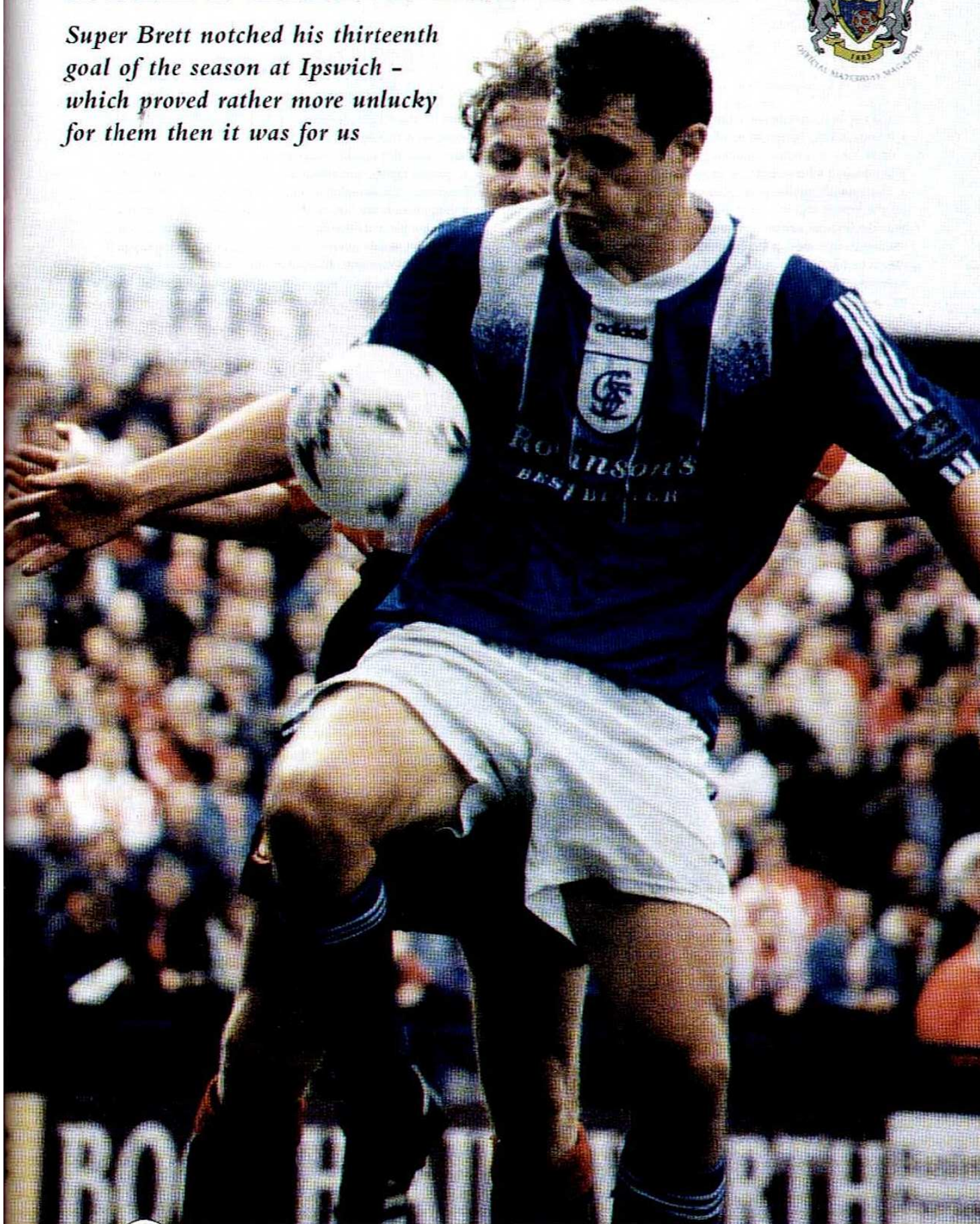
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# UNLUCKY FOR SOME!

*Super Brett notched his thirteenth goal of the season at Ipswich - which proved rather more unlucky for them then it was for us*



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# GIRLS



# TALK

## Grass roots - or is it glass roots!

Thank goodness we are back with a home match after two distance away trips which have been rather difficult to get to. Not too many of us were able to take the time off work to travel to East Anglia for a Tuesday night match and sometimes other things do have to take priority over football, not often but just occasionally, so I was unable to go to Reading either.

So for the last couple of weeks I have concentrated on the kids matches for my football fix which has led me to a couple of gripes relating to facilities for kids' football.

Firstly the pitches we are asking these kids to play on are not very well looked after. Apart from the usual problems of the grass being too long and dog owners allowing their pets to use the playing area as a toilet we now have to check the pitch for rusty cans and glass.

This was brought home to me last week when we had a bad injury in our lads' team whilst playing on a pitch where the grass was too long and there was some hidden glass by the touchline. The result, following a perfectly good tackle, was a horrendous cut knee which required sixteen stitches, a huge bandage, crutches and at least a week off college. The motto is double check for glass and any other potential dangers.

It would also seem that we have to check for stray motor cyclists. Apparently the

pitch which the

younger

girls

from

Stockport County Ladies play on had been ruined by somebody driving a motorcycle all over it last week.

The second point is the difficulty of finding training facilities. It is a struggle to find decent facilities at a reasonable cost, especially indoors. Such facilities are very scarce and very expensive which makes it very difficult for those of us trying to run junior teams - and then we moan about kids hanging around on street corners!

There are even more problems when you are trying to run girls' teams. With the lads there is not quite the same requirement for dressing rooms, toilets, etc. The lads will just get changed in the cars and nip into the bushes if necessary. You cannot really ask the girls to do the same. Add to this the fact that in the girls' leagues the opponents have usually travelled a fair distance and the requirement for decent facilities becomes even greater. Still it is all part of the fun and that is what playing football definitely is. So for all you girls out there who would love to have a go we have started a new football 'fun night' to learn new skills and enjoy some games. Whether you are 6 or 16, whether you have played previously or have never kicked a ball before, please give us a call and we will let you know all the details.

For further information on the football fun night ring

0161 456 4005

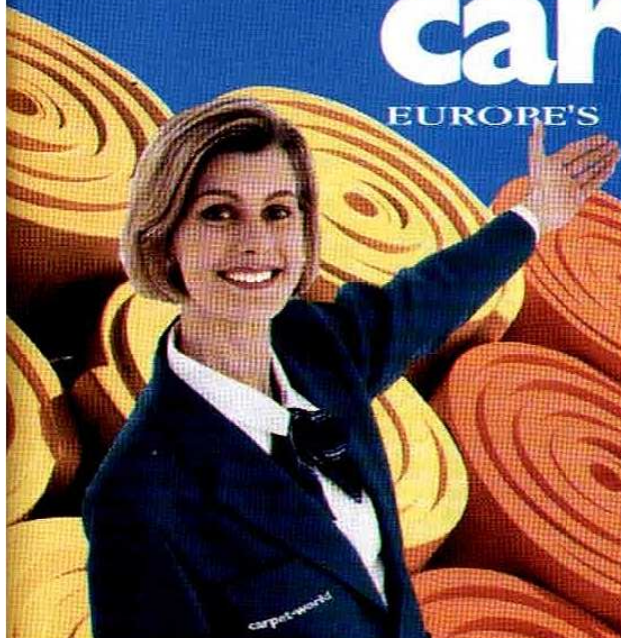
"A good pitch is hard to find!"



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# MIKE



# FLYNN

## *"One of those days"*

### *The views of skipper Mike Flynn*

It felt great to be back in action at Ipswich. I waited a long time for it - too long in fact but it was well worth the wait. It was a great team performance and I really enjoyed it. I have been asked many times since the Ipswich game why I didn't wear my usual number five shirt and to be honest I don't know. I think the gaffer just put me down at 6 without thinking because he had been so used to putting Martin in at number five. I wasn't bothered though, I was delighted to get a shirt. Having said that - if selected I'll be wearing five today - the blue one is mine.

It was also nice to be offered the captains arm band back and although Tom did have a little joke about how well the team had done under his leadership, I don't think he was all that bothered.

Saturday was disappointing! We didn't play as well as we can do in the first half but we created a lot of chances and should have come in at half time with a lead. Instead we were the victims of a very dubious penalty decision, many people will have seen the incident on TV, and will understand why the gaffer and myself made so much of it. It was just whacked at me and the referee didn't give it, he was attracted by the linesman who was under some pressure from the home fans and was clearly influenced by them. Before the game we were confident of being able to pick up all three points - and to be fair we played very well in the second half but the longer the game went on the more we got the impression that it was going to be one of those days. It was one of those where, on the way back, everyone was asking the same question "How did we not get the three points?" but every team will experience games like that.

Today we meet Swindon who have surprised a lot of

people by surging to the top of the table. Everyone expects the likes of Sunderland, City, Middlesbrough, Wolves and Birmingham to be up there but as the league has panned out there are a few teams up there who people didn't expect to be there. It will be a difficult game for us - Steve McMahon has assembled a strong side but we have nothing to fear because we can compete with anyone.



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O - own goal X - player booked ■ - player sent off \* - star player

## FIXTURES

5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Flynn*	Gannon	DURKAN	Marsden	Angell	Armstrong	Cooper	Dinning	Nash(4)	Kaligeracos(11)D
Flynn	Gannon	Durkan	Marsden	ANGELL	Armstrong	Cooper	Dinning(7)	Searle	Kaligeracos(11)
Flynn*	Gannon	Durkan	Marsden	Angell	Armstrong	Dinning	Searle	Richardson(11)D	Mutch(10)
Flynn	Gannon	Durkan	MarsdenX*	Angell	ARMSTRONG	Richardson	Dinning(4)	Cooper(11)	Kaligeracos(9)
FLYNN	Gannon	DINNING	Marsden*	ANGELL	ARMSTRONG	Kaligeracos	MUTCH	COOPER	Durkan
Flynn	Gannon	Richardson	Marsden	ANGELL	ARMSTRONG	Cooper	Mutch(6)	Dinning(5)	Durkan(7)
McIntosh D	Dinning	Searle	Marsden	Angell	Armstrong	Richardson	Mutch(11)	Cooper	Durkan
McIntosh	DINNING	Searle	MarsdenX	Angell	ArmstrongX	Richardson	Mutch	Cooper(7)*	Gannon(6)
McIntosh*	Gannon	Durkan	Marsden	Angell	MUTCH	Cooper	Richardson(7)	Grant(9)	Searle
McIntosh	Dinning	Gannon	Marsden*	ANGELL	Mutch	Cooper	Durkan(7)	Travis(10)D	Searle
McIntosh	Dinning	Gannon	Marsden	ANGELL 2	ARMSTRONGX	Cooper	Mutch	Searle(3)	Travis
McIntoshX	Dinning	GannonX	Marsden*	Angell	ARMSTRONG	Cooper	MUTCH(11)	Searle	Travis
McIntoshX	Dinning	Gannon	Marsden	ANGELL	ARMSTRONG	Cooper	Mutch	Nash(4)	Bound
McIntosh	Dinning	Gannon	Marsden	ANGELL 2	Armstrong	Cooper	Mutch	Nash (4)	Searle
McIntosh	DINNING*	Gannon	Searle	ANGELL	ARMSTRONG	Cooper	Mutch(10)	Kaligeracos	Bound
McIntosh	DinningX	Gannon	Searle	ANGELL	Armstrong	Cooper*	Mutch(10)	Nash(4)	Bound
MCINTOSH	DinningX	Gannon	Searle	Angell	Armstrong	Cooper	Mutch(10)	Travis	Bound
McIntosh	Dinning	Gannon	COOK D	Angell	Armstrong	Cooper	Mutch(10)	Searle	Nash
McIntosh	Dinning	GANNON	Cook	Angell	Armstrong	Cooper	Mutch	Searle	Nash
McIntosh	Flynn	Gannon	CookX	ANGELL2*	Armstrong	Cooper	Mutch	Searle(3)	Travis
McIntoshX	Flynn	Gannon	CookX*	Angell	Armstrong	Cooper	Mutch(11)	Searle(3)X	Travis(10)



with fun against Sunderland!



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# DEAR GLADYS

**GOT A POINT TO MAKE?**  
*Then Make it to Gladys Nutter*  
*The Only Octogenarian Worth Writing to.*

**Dear Gladys**

I just thought I'd write and congratulate the club on the Cheadle End concourse - it's magnificent. We must be the only club in the Division with a Jazz Band playing whilst we buy our burgers. Well done County Michael Harding

**Gladys**

Oh I wondered what that racket was - but I like a bit of Jazz myself - especially with a nice juicy cheeseburger.



**THANK YOU DEREK**  
**You will be sadly missed**

Everyone at Edgeley Park was very sad to hear, this week, of the sudden death of one of the clubs most loyal supporters and good friend Derek Heath. Derek, a lifelong supporter, played a major role in the setting up of Stockport County Ladies Football Club and has done more for Ladies Football in the town than most. Well respected by all the leagues, Derek passed away after a short illness and will be sadly missed by all those who had the pleasure of meeting him we wish his family well at this sad time and we thank him for all his work on behalf of the club.

Dear Gladys  
We are holding a Football Programme Fair at Altrincham FC on Sunday 23rd November. Could you please mention this in your "Matchday programme".

On sale will be Books, Pictures, Badges, Mags and other items of football memorabilia dating from Pre war to present date. I have enclosed a Poster with all the details.

Yours in Sport

Bob

**Gladys**

You can't sell Mags, she's my best mate. I've addressed your fair anyway - cos I'm nice like that. I might even Bob in myself Bob!

**Dear Gladys**

Hi my name is Andrew Day and I am writing to say what a good job Gary Megson and the new management team are doing at County. After the success of last season under Dave and Sainty the pressure to be successful in this higher division must have been great. After an unlucky start Gary and the boys have really turned things round and the future at Stockport County looks greater than ever before. And with new acquisitions Paul Cook, Eric Nixon, Colin Woodthorpe, Martin McIntosh and Kevin Cooper all performing superbly the rest of the year looks rosy. And this doesn't even include the youngsters Ian Gray, Vas Kaligerabus, Stephen Grant and youth team hot shot James Flood this now means we have the strength in depth to see off injuries and suspensions without a worry. Good luck for the rest of the year

Yours faithfully

Andrew Day (15)

PS: Could you please send me a photo of any County players or the whole team. Thank you!

**Gladys**

Ooh what a wonderful day - and a nice letter too. I agree with your sentiments entirely.

## FACE IN THE CROWD

If this is you - pictured at our recent game against Sunderland - you've got problems - and big ones too. Oh and Muriel (our domestic assistant) would like her marigolds back please.

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**Just look at Stockport's winning line-up this Christmas:**

- **Premier League stores and superstores in the town centre and purpose built retail parks.**
- **The unique character of the 21 district centres with long-standing, traditional and family-run businesses and specialist shops;**
- **An historic 750 year-old market;**



You can shop just round the corner from Edgeley Park, in and around the bustling Castle Street, or at any of the district shopping centres and parades which are: Bramhall, Bredbury, Brinnington, Cheadle, Cheadle Hulme, Compstall, Davenport, Gatley, Hazel Grove, Heaton, High Lane, Marple, Marple Bridge, Offerton, Reddish, Romiley, Stockport town centre, Woodford, Woodley, and more!

**Stockport Council has organised a 'Shop Local' promotion to support local retailers' and put the borough in the first division for shopping.**



**This year's winning line-up includes:**

- **town centre 'shopping spectacular' of events, carols, music and guest appearances organised by town centre retailers, plus Christmas lights in the town centre provided by Merseyway Shopping Centre;**
- **'Shoptmobility' scheme for people with disabilities in the town centre**
- **giant 50ft high Christmas Tree in Mersey Square and Council Christmas trees throughout the borough;**
- **late night shopping in the town centre every Wednesday from November 19th and every Thursday from December 4th; (most town centre car parks free after 5pm on many late night shopping days)**
- **Merseyway opens at 10.30am on Sundays from November 23rd;**
- **'kaleidoscope' of magical Christmas activities organised for the borough by the Council's Community Services Division**
- **Improved Park 'n' Ride central shuttle buses ('Santa's Shuttle') for town centre shoppers on Saturdays;**



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**for a  
HAPPY CHRISTMAS**



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**Supporting local shops**



Club Historian Richard Harnwell looks back down the years

# 1967-68

The Go-Go-Go County era masterminded by Chairman, Victor Bernard, entered a new testing phase with County taking their place in Division Three as the previous seasons champions of Division Four.

County unveiled the club's new 'County Arrow', a new train to escort fans to away games in time for the new term, but its first journey in the club's eagerly awaited first game of the season, saw a disappointing start with a 0-3 reverse at Reading.

Six days later, over 9,000 turned up for the first home game of the season against Swindon Town.

Manager Jimmy Meadows replaced Jones and Stuart with Colin Parry and Johnny Price and the change worked as County scored twice through Keith East and Derek Kevan, without reply. The County team that day was:



Stockport County: 1. Ken Mulhearn, 2. Bill Haydock, 3. Brian Gallagher, 4. Colin Parry, 5. Matt Woods, 6. Fred Goodwin, 7. Len Allchurch, 8. Bill Atkins, 9. Keith East, 10. Derek Kevan, 11. John Price.

Starting his first full season for County was striker, Bill Atkins who was enjoying scoring for fun in the League Cup.

Atkins netted all four goals in the 1st round against Crewe which included a hat-trick in the replay at Edgeley Park. County were rewarded with a 2nd round tie at home to Sheffield Wednesday and despite scoring three times through Atkins, Kevan and East, County were eventually beaten 3-5.

Highly rated keeper Ken Mulhearn had just one more league game to go - a 3-1 home win over Bournemouth - before a part exchange deal with Alan Ogley was agreed with Manchester City.

It was long before County paid Torquay United just £7,500 for the services of the exciting goal scoring talent of Jim Fryatt. Fryatt scored on his County debut, the first goal in a highly entertaining 4-3 win over Southport which earned an 'almost' unheard of - 5 stars, from the match report from The Daily Express.

Had the clubs away form been better, County could well have made a serious late bid for promotion, but heavy defeats were the 'norm' during the season. In fact County conceded 17 goals in the final five games of the campaign

that saw the club defeated four times.

Swindon gained revenge over County in the return with a 2-0 win of their own just before Christmas.

The biggest embarrassment of the season came in the 1st Round of the F.A. Cup were they were drawn again local, non-league Macclesfield Town.

The 'Silkmen' earned a credible 1-1 draw at Edgeley Park with Bill Atkins scoring for County, but remained 2nd favourites for the replay. Derek Kevan scored, but was then sent off in the replay as Town progressed courtesy of a 2-1 victory.

In the end, County finished a disappointing 13th in the league after promising so much more. Despite this, County averaged over 8,000 crowds for the season and Jim Fryatt netted an incredible 22 times from just 32 league games. In the process, he became the first marksman to break through the '20 barrier' since Jack Connor in 1955-56. Swindon failed little better and finished just two points higher than County, the season before their famous League Cup success at Wembley over Arsenal.



**BILLY HAYDOCK**

Defender Billy Haydock, pictured here as a part of Asa Hartford's backroom staff in the late 80s, played in every match of the 67-68 campaign.

It was the second successive season that Haydock had appeared in every game, having won a Fourth Division Championships medal the season before. His one goal this season came in a 4-2 home victory over Bury at Edgeley Park in late April.

## How They Finished - Division Three

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Oxford United	46	22	13	11	69	47	57
2. Bury	46	24	8	14	91	66	56
3. Shrewsbury T	46	20	15	11	61	49	55
9. Swindon Town	46	16	17	13	74	51	49
13. Stockport Co.	46	19	9	18	70	75	47

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# STICK IT IN YOUR DIARY



**Wednesday 19th November 1997**

Rochdale reserves v Stockport County reserves  
Pontins League Division Two  
Kick Off:- 7.00pm

**Saturday 22nd November 1997**

Crewe Alexandra v Stockport County  
Nationwide League Division One  
Kick Off:- 3.00pm

**Wednesday 26th November 1997**

Stockport County reserves v Lincoln City reserves  
Pontins League Division Two  
Kick Off:- 7.00pm

**Saturday 29th November 1997**

Stockport County v Manchester City  
Nationwide League Division One  
Kick Off:- 3.00pm

**Saturday 6th December 1997**

West Bromwich Albion v Stockport County  
Nationwide League Division One  
Kick Off:- 3.00pm

**Wednesday 10th December 1997**

Rotherham Utd reserves v Stockport County reserves  
Pontins League Division Two  
Kick Off:- 7.00pm

**Saturday 13th December 1997**

Stockport County v Tranmere Rovers  
Nationwide League Division One  
Kick Off:- 3.00pm

**November 1997**

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

**December 1997**

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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# ENTERTAINING BUT FAR TOO NEGATIVE!

*Sandy McGregor reviews the latest 'County' book.*



The popularity of books on football seems to have gone through the roof over the last few years. Probably five years ago the only books on football that you could get were player's ghosted biographies and the odd history of specific clubs. Nick Hornby was the first man to tap into the idea of football fans putting their opinions into print with the excellent 'Fever Pitch'. The idea that one man's obsession with Arsenal would make a best seller never seemed to occur to anyone before.

A number of fans have written about one season in their club's history. The finest of these to me is James Ferguson's *The Black Diamonds* and the *Blue Brazil*. For those of you who don't know the *Blue Brazil* are Cowdenbeath. Ferguson's book takes you through the worst season in the club's history. Following league reorganisation the *Blue Brazil* were way out of their

depth in the Scottish First Division and managed to go a whole season without a home league win. The tale of dismal performance after dismal performance is one that will strike a chord with County fans who have memories of the dark days of the seventies.

Last season County fan Dave Espley decided to go to every match. He is of course the

editor of the *Tea*

Party, the excellent County fanzine. Dave planned to keep a diary of the season and write a book about the life of a lower division football fan. The book 'Saturday Night and Thursday Morning' has now been published. Little did Dave realise when he started out on his mission that he would end up going to sixty seven matches and seeing the most momentous (so far)

season in the club's history.

Ex-manager David Jones also had a book published about last season but Dave Espley's is a fans eye account of how it all looked. David Jones' book was ghost written by a journalist who rattled the book off in double quick time. I felt reading that book that it was quite likely that the guy who wrote the book had not been to a single game last season. It contained a number of factual errors which should never have made it through to the printers. It did strike me that Jonesy was cashing in.

As I said earlier Dave Espley's book is very much how the season looked if you were a supporter. As befits any serious football fans Dave has to base his work and social commitments around County. Unlike books written by players or managers this contains a lot of descriptions of the journeys to and from matches. If you go to every match in a season then you will almost inevitably more time travelling to matches than you will actually watching the matches themselves. There are enough tales of car, bus and train journeys to put Michael Palin to shame.

The description of the matches are pretty good as well. As someone who was at almost all the games that he describes I can vouch for the accuracy of them and also the way that he catches the mood of the moment. A couple of times I did spot factual errors but not as many to detract from the book. It is an entertaining read with a fair few laughs along the way.

What I did have problems with was how negative Dave was. He does have a lot of time for County fans and his descriptions of them lie somewhere between Desmond Morris and Johnny Morris. The Board of Edgeley Park also get a lot of criticism, given that they have been instrumental in getting the club from the foot of the Fourth Division to the First Division I would have thought that a bit of credit was due. Dave also finds time to have a go at the Police, the Stewards, the people who produce match programmes (close to the bone), the people who buy match programmes and the caterers. The only people that he has much good to say about are Alun Armstrong, Danny Bergara and Jarvis Cocker. It almost makes you think that Dave only comes along to County so that he can have a moan.



*Alun Armstrong...  
one of the few to escape criticism  
in new book*





## OUR MAN IN THE COMMUNITY

Good afternoon and welcome back, it's a bit cold isn't it!! Just as I write these notes John and Alan are up at Ewood Park, Blackburn Rovers undertaking their initial assessments for the FA certificate qualification with topics such as 'keeping possession in a small sided game', 'turning 2 x 2', 'playing the ball forward in a 6 x 6 game'. So all the schools we are currently visiting this term can look forward to some exciting sessions soon, - Good Luck once again lads on behalf of all in the FITC Office.

### PANINI PRESS RELEASE



**PANINI DO IT AGAIN.** Following the enormous success of last year's Panini Schools 6-A-side Cup Panini is once again sponsoring the competition for 1997/1998. Over 1,500 primary and junior schools took part in last year's competition, and Panini aim to get over 2,000 involved this time. The Panini Schools 6-A-Side Cup is a fundamental part of the Football in the Community programme, the nationwide initiative to involve young people in the

positive benefits offered by the sport.

Coordinated by Football in the Community Officers based at 90 clubs around England and Wales, the tournament will commence with local schools competitions involving up to 18,000 school players. The local winners will enter into 8 Area Finals which will be held between 9th and 20th March. The next stage will be one Northern and one Southern Regional Final in early April. The Panini Schools 6-A-side Cup '98 will culminate in the opportunity of the 2 Grand Finalists to fulfil probably every young boy's (and many girls') dream of playing at the Final at Wembley. With the launch of the Superplayers '98 sticker collection this October and in preparation for their Official World Cup sticker collection in 1998

Panini are thrilled to sponsor the competition again. The Panini Schools 6-A-Side Cup gives thousands of children the opportunity to enter into a tournament that is fun and offers fantastic prizes along the way.

Panini are delighted to be involved with the Football in the Community initiative for the second year running, it once again gives them the opportunity to do something for their most valued customers - children!

For further information contact your local Football in the Community Officer.

We are now well underway with The Panini Schools Six-A-Side Cup, every Primary School in Stockport have been sent an application form to enter and replies are coming in thick and fast! Games will be played at Pitz in Ardwick week commencing 1st December 1997, operating on a mini-league basis, with overall winners going on to represent SCFC in the Area Finals.

A quick hello to pupils and parents from The Ryleys School in Alderley Edge who are our guests at today's game, hope you enjoy the game as much as the Soccer Course.

Our sponsored penalty shoot outs take us upto Brookside, High Lane on Monday and Maycroft in Brinnington on Tuesday, hope the weather is good and the children enjoy the day.

Don't forget we still have some Wagon Wheels Football Fun Books to give away (free of charge) to children, if you would like one just contact us in the Community Office and we will gladly send you one.

Well that's it for now see you all back here at EP for the game against MCFC, look out for details of another great competition we are running in the next notes.

Yours on behalf of FITC

**Mike Smith**

**Assistant Community Officer**



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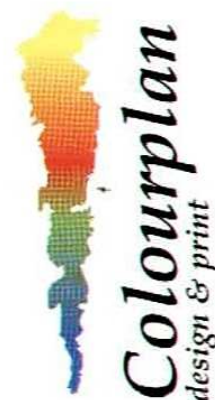
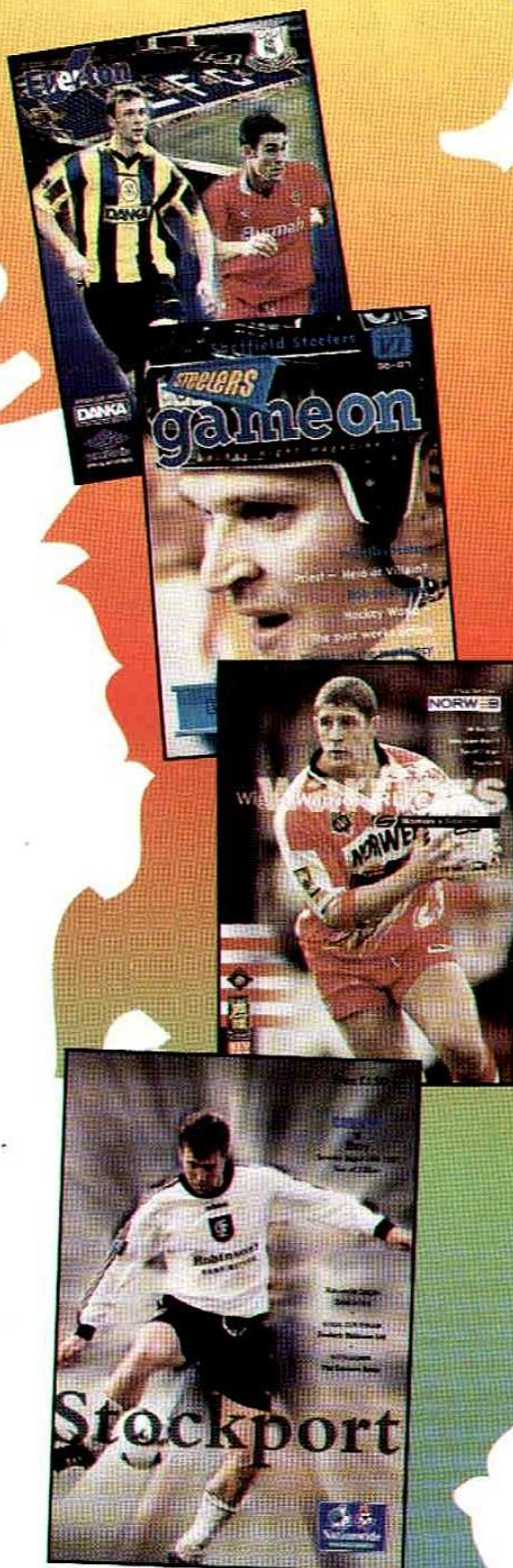
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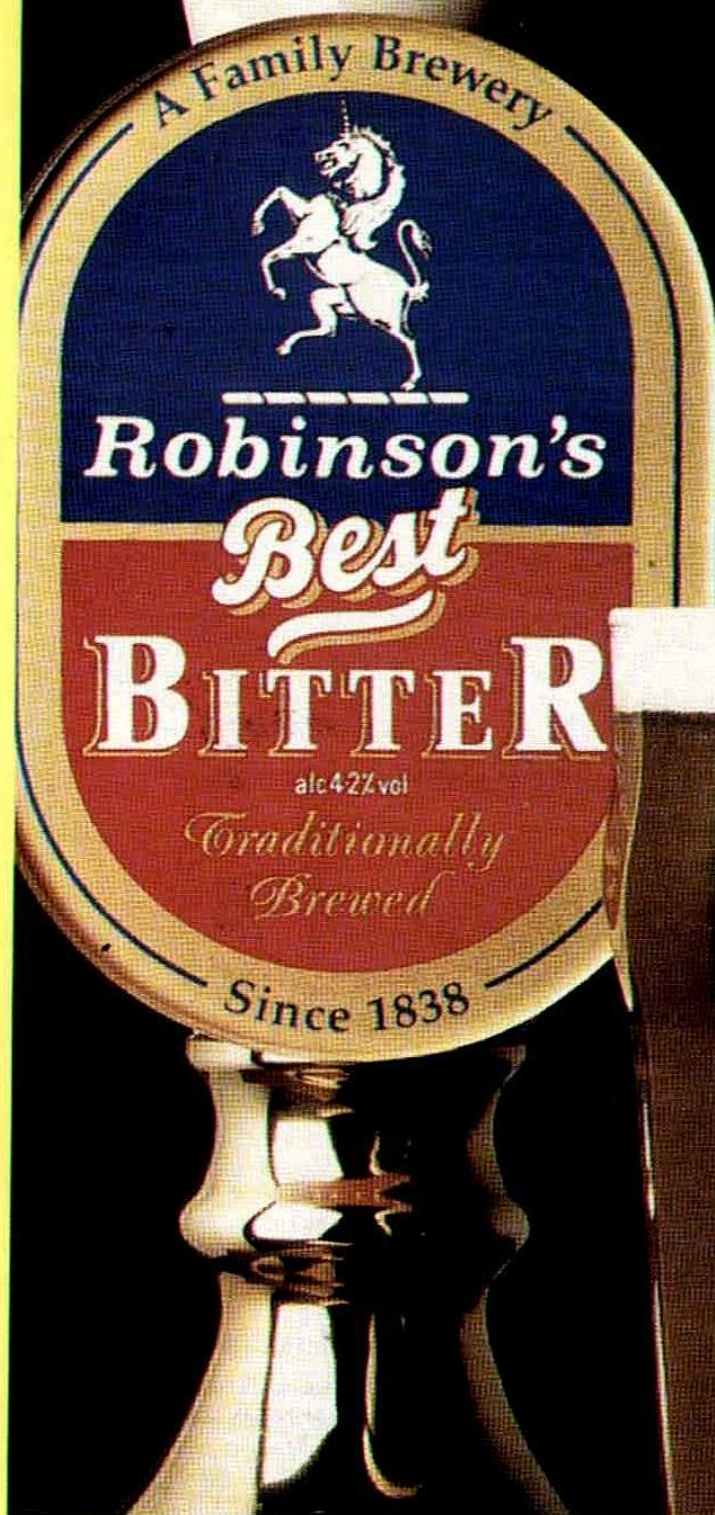
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*John Grogan gives the fans view of our game against Ipswich Town*

## NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

### Ipswich Town 0 County 2

Until a couple of seasons ago, Stockport County had not faced Ipswich Town in any competition. Now we have played the Suffolk side three times and can boast the enviable record of played 3 won 2 drawn 1.

This was however the first ever league meeting between the two sides on a wet and miserable night in East Anglia. Being a Tuesday night you wouldn't expect too many County fans to make the four hour journey, but typically a couple of hundred booked the necessary time off work, threw in a sickie or went to work on Wednesday knackered - just to make the trip.

Portman Road is a traditional style ground and has a warm and even historical feel about it. The walls of the lounges are adorned with team photographs that even those supporters only half interested in the sport - can identify. Sadly the Paul Mariners, Terry Butchers, Alan Brazils, Arnold Muirers etc have all been replaced by players who have hardly become household names and on this showing - that is no surprise.

County on the other hand -

Courtesy of last seasons Coca

Cola heroics do have that

household appeal and they played with the same vigour, style and self belief that we all witnessed last term.

After twenty minutes - boosted by the typically vocal County following - we were already saying - "we'll be disappointed if we don't win this".

The return of Mike Flynn at centre half made the back four look unbreachable and for all those who had been longing to see Flynn and McIntosh (no disrespect to TD - it's just that they look so alike) - were treated to an awesome display - somewhat confused by the fact that Flynn wore number six instead of his customary five. Brett Angell tested the Ipswich 'keeper in the first half and Alun Armstrong had a good chance but failed to take it. There was a score midway through the first half but Eric was on hand to block the danger. County controlled the first half with Cook and Bennet dominant

and Cooper terrorising the home side.

It was two of those who helped to break the deadlock and ensure maximum points. First Cook whipped in one of those vicious free kicks which Angell converted in his usual style. Then Cooper made a fool of the Ipswich substitute and swung over an equally effective cross which Angell easily turned into his 13th goal of the season.

Not for the first time this season County managed to get the home side booed off at the end and the ridiculously long journey home seemed only half the distance.

When I arrived home I just had enough energy to have a bleary eyed look at the league table on TeleText. We were ninth in the table and on this showing could finish there or thereabouts on the 3rd May.

Mike Flynn....  
returned to action at  
Portman Road



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# MORE BULL...



# FROM BELLIS...

## 'Nightmare on Elm...Park'

There may be a few tears in Reading when Elm Park makes way for a few more houses in the summer but I will be absolutely delighted. It is not a ground that I have visited very often - but on each occasion that I have made the trip - I have returned feeling about as cheerful as your average Turkey at this time of year.

Last Saturday's visit was typical.

The build up to this game was fine - the team were in high spirits having destroyed Ipswich at Portman Road four days earlier and I was in high spirits because I always am before a game. Having decided to stay overnight my brother-in-law and myself decided to heed the advice of the hotel reception and walk to the ground from the hotel. I was a little unsure about this for two reasons - one: I don't like walking! Two: the last time I was told a ground was a short walk away was at Stoke and I lost about three stone in weight.

Thankfully this receptionist was a better judge of distance and at about 2.15pm we were being greeted by the always friendly director in the Elm Park boardroom. Unfortunately as I mentioned earlier - Elm Park tends to be more like Elm Street for us - judging by the many nightmares we have endured there in the past - and this was to be no exception.

The part of Freddy Krueger was played by the referee unably assisted by his two linesmen - ooh er sorry - assistant referees. Now I know that I am biased but we were always in charge of this one and never looked likely to concede a goal - unfortunately courtesy of our woeful finishing we didn't look like scoring one either - but you'd settle for a scoreless draw at Reading wouldn't you?

So with the game heading for that predictable goalless scoreline - enter the man in black. The ball was driven into the box like an exocet and it struck Mike Flynn's hand on the way through the box. Now for Flynn to deliberately handle a ball played at about 300 mph (slight exaggeration, sorry) from six yards - he would have needed the reflexes of a Tasmanian Devil. The ref didn't think it was a penalty so

he waved play on but as the crowd grew louder he thought he'd better check with the linesman - who, for reasons known only to himself awarded a penalty. What a pity - this same chap failed to see Carl Asaba send Damon Searle sprawling before having a go at another visiting player. Asaba's aggression which merits a red one - earned him a card as yellow as the man who provided it.

So to cut a long story short we returned empty handed - despite a second half barrage of attacks. Thankfully next season we will be playing at the Majedski Stadium and will hopefully get a bit more luck. One man who didn't need any luck last Saturday was our former keeper Neil Edwards who was playing his second game for his new club Rochdale. I know that players come and go and time moves on and all that rubbish but I must admit to having a little lump in my throat when I heard that Neil had gone. He was an excellent servant to this club - he was one of our hardest workers in the community and he was a genuinely nice guy. Along with everyone else - I wish Neil, Cheryl, the young one and the dog (TJ) all the very best - and they will always be welcome here.

Well today we meet the Division leaders - a team managed by a man fortunate enough to escape the top job at Maine Road. Let's hope it's a good one and do our damndest to cheer the boys on to victory.



Neil Edwards...A quality professional and a genuinely nice guy.



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# NEXT STOP



# GRESTY ROAD

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Telephone: (01270) 213 014  
on Saturday November 22nd 1997  
Kick off: 3.00pm

## TICKETS

Crewe, being the model of ambition and foresight, are yet to improve their ground and as a result only 981 County fans will be able to attend this fixture. Tickets went on sale on Monday October 27th and were quickly snapped up ensuring a full(ish) house on the day. Priced at £13.00 and £6.00, the tickets went like hot cakes, to use a technical phrase, and there is likely to be a highly charged atmosphere for this local derby.

## ROUTE

Dead easy if you have at least a modicum of sense (NB if anyone is available to give John Rutter a lift please contact the club). Follow along the usual routes to the M6 and exit at junction 17 (sign posted A534 Congleton, Sandbach, Crewe). Stay on the A534 for 5.5 miles following signs to Crewe, Nantwich A534, over three roundabouts and through the village of Wheelock. At the 4th and 5th roundabouts, which are close together, follow Nantwich A534, M6 signs, and signs for Crewe Station into Crewe Road. Go straight over the next roundabout (sign posted Station and Nantwich A534) into Nantwich Road and over the railway bridge. Pass the station and turn first left into Gresty Road. The ground is on the left hand side after 0.5 miles.

## PROGRAMME

Good old Crewe often provide the programme equivalent of the fat, wheezy boy who always gets picked last in the playground. Last years offering was an innovative A4 production which was just big enough to put in your inside pocket and mess up your fringe at the same time.

Still, let's hope that this season's effort has retained the excellent Marco Crisp Whose column it is a joy to behold (or so rumour has it!)

## RAIL TRAVEL

Crewe is possibly the best club to travel to by train of all the 92. It has regular services both to and from, and the station is situated a mere Ted McMinn first touch from the ground. Services run directly from both Manchester and Stockport but please check with that fine industry, British Rail, for full details.

## MATCH PREVIEW

Without any disrespect to Crewe, this is not the fixture that most County fans were most eagerly looking forward to this season. The Hatters made two visits to Gresty Road last season, winning one and losing one, and although this may not represent the hardest fixture this season it will be by no means the easiest (that particular honour looks like being saved for seven days later. Ha Ha!) Once again, it looks like depending on how County perform on the day, but if they're anywhere near top form then three points are a definite possibility.

## MATCH PREDICTION

Crewe 1 County 2



"Damon Searle...made his debut  
on our last league visit to  
Gresty Rd



Martin McIntosh

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## PREMIER LEAGUE SHOPPING



# NO MORE TARGETS



*"Alun Armstrong's tips for the top."*



"The goals have dried up for me recently but I am not concerned. In the past I have put myself under pressure by setting targets for goals, but no more! This season I'm just going to take each match as it comes.

It is more important that we are playing well, although I feel that we could play better. I was obviously pleased that we played so well against Sunderland, being a Geordie boy, but I was disappointed that my header did not go in. I thought I was going to get a bad reception from the Sunderland fans but to my surprise I got a round of applause. I then found out that the gaffer had told a number of local journalists that I was a Sunderland fan -

which couldn't be further from the truth - Thanks Boss! It's going to be hard work between now and the end of the season but I think we will finish in a comfortable position - we've just got to keep playing as we have done so far. I'm approaching my 150th league game for the Club in what seems to have been a very short time, but I'm enjoying playing for the side in this division - it is a great experience.

Finally - my tip for the top three are Sheffield United, Nottingham Forest and Middlesbrough - (Sorry Sunderland!)"

**Alun Armstrong**



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# In-The-Net



<http://www.stockportmbc.gov.uk/county/>

## Anyone Fancy a Kickabout?

The Stockport County Mailing list is currently looking to recruit new blood, to compete in the prodigious Euronet Annual Football Tournament next year. The competition began in 1996 in Nottingham, with various Football supporters competing. The event attracted National coverage and BBC Radio 5 had updates during the day. Middlesbrough were victorious and were hosts this year. The County Mailing List Team have played in both tournaments, with a fine record: Played 6, Won 0, Drawn 1 and Lost 5. Next years tourney will take place the weekend after the World Cup Final. So if you want to play for County against the likes of Aston Villa, Southampton, AEK Athens and those two teams from down the Road, then join up to the mailing list and make yourself known (you will be most welcome). In particular we are currently searching for a keeper as stand-ins (fall

downs?!?) Matt Savage and Matt Bird are more like David Nixon than Eric Nixon. Whats more, you may even be selected for the England Internet Team - who are currently looking to recruit from the various Club teams.

## Bird Wings Way To The Top

Stockport County Euronet (sorry Euronet) full back Matt Bird is currently leading the Stockport County Internet Prediction league. So far this season, Matt has yet to predict an incorrect outcome. More impressively Matt has predicted 2 of the last 3 actual results (against Sunderland and Ipswich). If Matt is to continue his fine run, then

today County must beat top of the table Swindon Town 2-1.

## Current Prediction League Table

- 1 Matthew Bird 13
- 2 Ric Harris 11
- 3 David Birley 10
- 4 David Underwood 9
- 5 Christine Wilson 9



## NO!!! . THAT BLADE OF GRASS

Mike Flynn certainly wasn't a happy chappy last week at Elm Park. After 42 minutes referee Mark Halsey awarded Reading a penalty, accusing the County skipper of hand-ball.

When realistically he had no chance of getting out of the way. During the week the decision was not forgotten and fans frustration was evident on the County mailing list - with numerous members supporting Flynn's innocence. Martin White (AWhite@dircon.co.uk) was obviously not impressed and had this to say in his match report: "I've seen worse

referring decisions, but he was a "take the free kick FROM THAT BLADE OF GRASS!"... "NO! Not that blade, \*THAT\* blade" merchant. He did that a few times and really got on my nerves. I have to admit I thought it was a penalty from where I was when it first happened, but didn't get a good view as it was up the other end of the pitch. It did seem like it was traveling at a fair rate, and was more a ball to hand than a handball. However, with that ref, it was always going to be a penalty." Even the Reading fans felt somewhat fortunate, with one fan saying "the ref gave an extremely harsh penalty for handball, and Trevor calmly slotted it home. I think that it was a case of a ref giving a slack decision to atone for what they realise was an earlier error, as a Stockport player had blatantly controlled the ball with his hand in the area only ten minutes previously, and this had gone unpunished." Meanwhile Ian Brown (kirt@globalnet.co.uk) looks on the bright side "I have a friend who is a mad City fan. Everyday he used to come over and have a go at us County fans for being a lowly 2nd Div club. So how happy was I when I saw the recent league positions!!!

To all City fans out there...wake up and smell the coco beans!! County are a force to be reckoned with this season and you won't be getting any points of us. Let alone six easy points!!"

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## THE ORIGINAL



## SHOOTING STARS

Dear Hatters' fans,

Our new and exciting youth programme has proved very popular and the entertainment today is brought to you courtesy of some of our 'Rising Stars' from 6 years upwards. They have been looking forward to performing for you and I know you will warm them with the usual Edgeley Park Welcome!

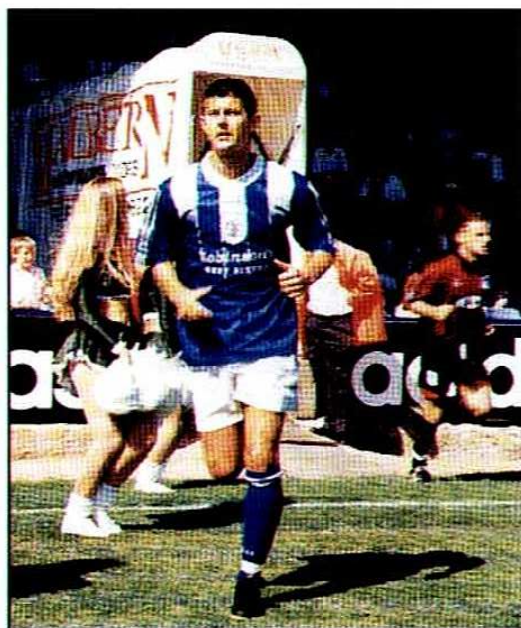
Classes run weekly and our 'Rising Stars' are now appearing within the community - watch out on Wednesday next when we are switching on the Christmas Lights at Merseyway Shopping Centre with Bobby Davro!

Anyone interested in the Rising Stars Programme should call 0161-439-8491 or 0161-973-0633

Good Luck to The Hatters today from both **The Original Shooting Stars** and The Rising Stars!!

Bye for now

PAT



The Rising Stars will be greeting the teams today

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**Mike Flynn... boost at Bellefield**

Mike Flynn made his return from injury on Saturday 1 November after getting the all clear the day before in the A teams 2-0 victory over Everton B at Bellefield. The experience of the County captain rubbed off on the youngsters as they inflicted Everton's B first defeat of the season and ended their own run of four games without a win.

The first half was even with both teams having chances but no goals being scored. The second half was the same until County scored after eighty minutes. James Flood ran into the area onto a through ball from Martyn Gunn to slot the ball past the advancing Everton keeper. The second came five minutes later when a move involving Adam Lillis and Ben Johnson allowed substitute Adam Salmons to slide the ball home at the

back post.

Team: Fish, Taylor, Johnson, Vaughan, Flynn, Green, Gunn, Lillis, Thomas, Flood, McConnell (sub Salmons) subs not used: Abel, Hussain, Briggs.

Last Saturday 8 November it was Vaz Kalogerakas turn to have a run out with the A team against Oldham Athletic B at Oldham's training ground next to Boundary Park. Vaz has only sixty minutes with reserves as a substitute at Burnley on the 29 October in the last three weeks as there was no reserve game on the other two weeks. Aaron Wilbraham gave County a 1-0 victory with a first half goal.

Team: Fish, Taylor, Johnson (sub Smythe), Vaughan, Green, Kalogerakas, Gunn, Foster (sub Salmons), Wilbraham (sub Thomas), Flood, Furlong. Subs not used: Lillis, Wright.

This week I introduced second year Bob Green the A team captain, Stockport born Bob progressed through the school of Excellence and signed YT forms in 1996. Bob a centre-half enjoyed the experience of playing along side Mike Flynn in the recent game at Everton, especially as he is the County's captains boot-boy. Last season he made 15 plus 2 substitute appearances for the A team and 1 plus 1 substitute appearance for the reserves.

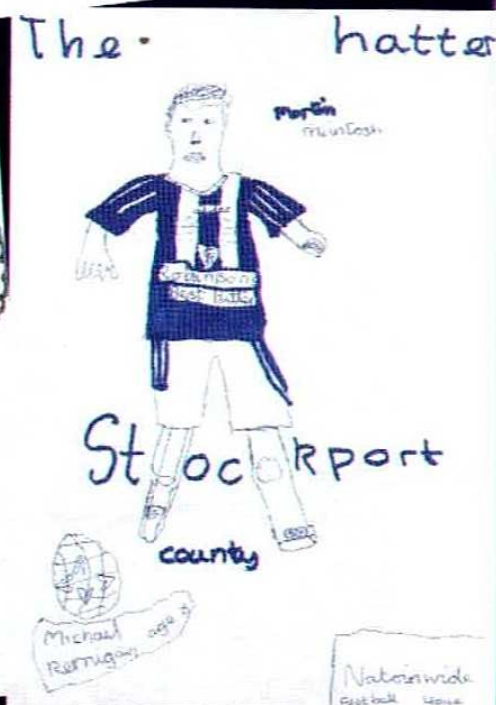
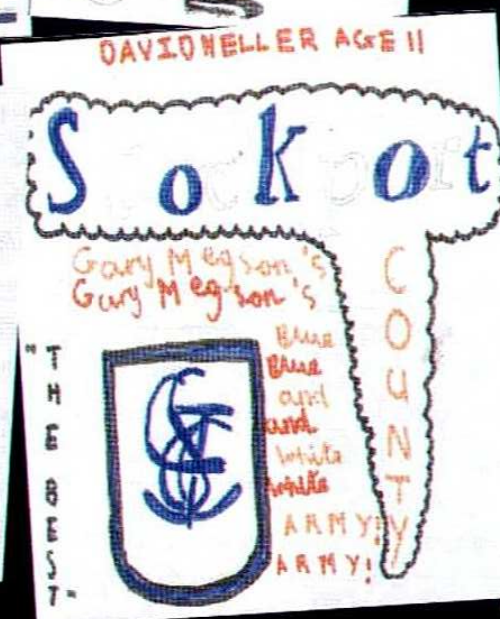
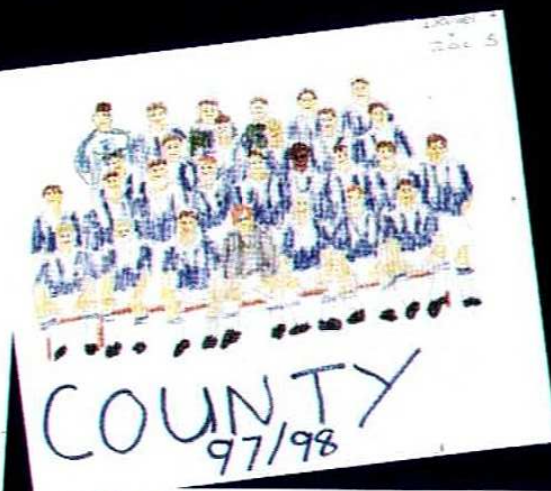
**Geoff Thomas**

**Robert Green... local boy**

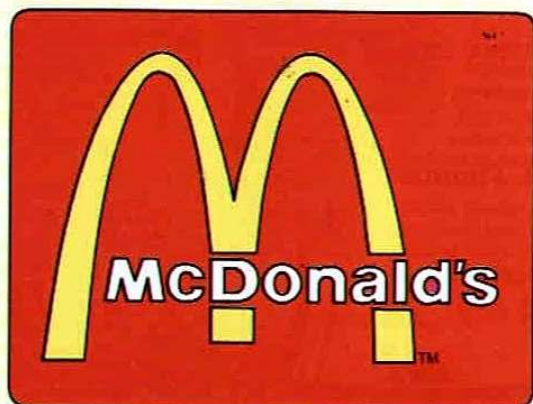
LANCASHIRE LEAGUE 1997/98				
(Home games played at Edgerton Boys Club Knutsford)				
DATE	OPPONENTS	VENUE	SCORE	SCORERS
23/08/97	BURNLEY B	A	6-3	Wilkinson 1, Gifford, Flood, Vaughan
30/08/97	LIVERPOOL B	H	6-4	Flood 1, Salmons 2, Wilkinson (pen)
02/09/97	NANTWICH T. (Vet Cpt)	H	10-9	Wilkinson 1, Salmons 2, Flood, Lillis, Thomas, Vaughan
13/09/97	CHESTER CITY A	H	7-3	Wilkinson 1, Flood 2, Lillis 1
15/09/97	CHESTERFIELD (Vet Cpt)	H	0-1	
17/09/97	CREWE ALEX. A	H	2-5	Wilkinson, Lillis
20/09/97	BURY B	H	9-0	Flood 1, Wilkinson 1, Vaughan
24/09/97	MAN UTD B	A	1-6	Wilkinson
01/10/97	CARLISLE UTD B	H	4-2	Thomas 2, Flood (pen)
04/10/97	Marine Youth	A	2-2	Flood, Thomas
11/10/97	WIGAN ATHLETIC A	H	2-3	Wilkinson 1
18/10/97	BURNLEY B	H	1-1	Thomas
25/10/97	Manchester City B	A	1-4	Thomas
01/11/97	Everton B	A	2-0	Flood, Salmons
08/11/97	Oldham Athletic B	A	1-0	Wilkinson
15/11/97	Blackburn Rovers B	A		
22/11/97	Blackburn Rovers B	H		
25/11/97	Bury B	A		
29/11/97	Liverpool B	A		



# YOUNG AT ART



Why not send us your colour picture about Stockport County. All pictures that appear in the programme will win a prize from the club shop. Send your pictures to County's Top Drawer,  
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