

**STOCKPORT COUNTY
v LUTON TOWN**

**SATURDAY 16TH AUGUST 2003
KICK OFF 3.00PM**



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STOCKPORT COUNTY 2003-2004

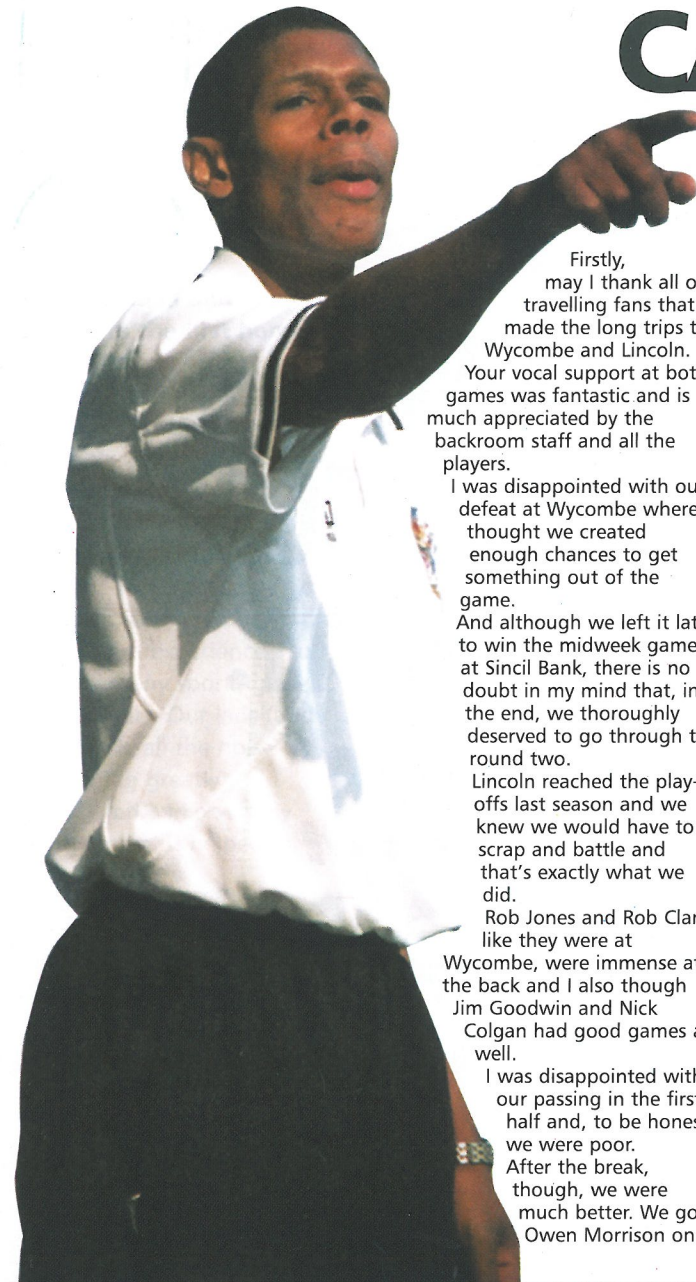
THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF STOCKPORT COUNTY

CARLTON PALMER

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF STOCKPORT COUNTY



CARLTON



the ball and he showed us why he's such an exciting talent. I made a difficult decision before the game when I picked Stuart Barlow ahead of Aaron Wilbraham. But I was disappointed with Alby at Carlisle and I was disappointed with him at Wycombe. I rate the lad highly, that's why I've given him a longer contract. He has to take on board what I tell him, though. I've told him that he's been taking too many touches and not really working hard enough for the team. The quality of the squad now is such that I can leave players out and I hope Alby will be wondering whether he or Stuart will start today. That sort of competition is a good thing. The lads have had a tough start with two away games so we gave them a day off on Wednesday to recover. They are a fit bunch and they will cause teams all sorts of problems but they have got to believe in themselves and that's something myself, Ricco and John will be trying to install into them. Finally today I'd like to mention Dave Challinor. It was a terribly difficult decision to leave him out in favour of Rob Jones but I think the Big Man's performances have totally vindicated that decision. Dave, though, has acted like the true professional he is and even though he didn't travel to Lincoln following the birth of his baby son he still found time to ring the lads and wish them all the best. The skipper is a terrific lad and that gesture is typical of him. Football is very much a squad game these days and his chance will come, that's for sure. Enjoy the game.

Carlton

Firstly, may I thank all our travelling fans that made the long trips to Wycombe and Lincoln. Your vocal support at both games was fantastic and is much appreciated by the backroom staff and all the players. I was disappointed with our defeat at Wycombe where I thought we created enough chances to get something out of the game. And although we left it late to win the midweek game at Sincil Bank, there is no doubt in my mind that, in the end, we thoroughly deserved to go through to round two. Lincoln reached the play-offs last season and we knew we would have to scrap and battle and that's exactly what we did. Rob Jones and Rob Clare, like they were at Wycombe, were immense at the back and I also thought Jim Goodwin and Nick Colgan had good games as well. I was disappointed with our passing in the first half and, to be honest, we were poor. After the break, though, we were much better. We got Owen Morrison on



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A MESSAGE FROM BRIAN KENNEDY

Good afternoon and welcome to the first home game of the season.

I am greatly privileged to become the major shareholder of Stockport County. I sat with the fans at Lincoln on Tuesday night as my kids insisted on feeling the real atmosphere of the Hatters, and I can honestly say I have not experienced such a passion at any sporting event for many years. Our lads (and lassies) made all the noise despite being greatly outnumbered, which visibly lifted the team. It helped me

realise the responsibility we have in order to put Stockport County on a firm financial footing for the future, as well as being able to compete on the park. The two often do not go hand in hand. However, I have great confidence in our management team headed by Niels de Vos and Mike Baker as acting Chairman, to achieve this critical balance, and ensure the long-term success of County. This responsibility has to be shared by the Stockport community and I thank every supporter, sponsor and the board for their support today.



"...I can honestly say I have not experienced such a passion at any sporting event for many years"

I would also like to thank personally Brendan Elwood for his tremendous efforts over the last few years, who along with his team have made Stockport County a force in football and a great asset to the community.

On the football front, which is why we're all here, I have to say I was impressed by our second half performance against Lincoln. Some of the new boys performed superbly, but I'll leave it to the coaches to dish out praise and constructive criticism alike. Carlton Palmer is a passionate, genuine winner, and his enthusiasm and reasoning

ability have impressed me. I believe he will develop to become a great manager as he has a great hunger to learn as well as to win. I am delighted to have the skills of Kevin Richardson and John Hollins to assist in guiding the team and overall I think we have a harmonious balanced coaching team, which is critical for success.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Let the battle commence.

Brian Kennedy

NEXT IN LINE

The reserves will be playing their home fixtures at Cheadle Town's Park Road Stadium this season with a 7.00pm kick-off. Admission prices are £1 for season ticket holders, OAPs and children and £2 for adults. The first game is on Wednesday August 20 when Macclesfield Town are the visitors.

Nantwich Town 2 County 3 Tuesday July 22
 County raced into a two goal lead at Jackson Avenue as Ali Gibb crossed for Aaron Wilbraham to head home the first before Wilbraham flicked on Gibb's cross to Rob Clare who headed home his side's second.

After 24 minutes the Dabbers were back in the game when Martin Pemberton headed straight past a helpless Lee Jones. It was soon 3-1, though, as Aaron Wilbraham headed his second of the game following a good cross from Luke Beckett. Again the home side came fighting back and, after Dave Challinor climbed all over his man in the box, Mark Gardner stepped up to convert a 35th minute penalty.

Although County created numerous chances after the break they were unable to add to the scoreline.

County (first half): L Jones, Hardiker, Pemberton, Challinor, Clare, Goodwin, Lescott, Wilbraham, Beckett, Welsh, Gibb
 County (second half): Spencer, Lord, Tonkin, R Jones, Palmer, Lambert, McLachlan, Morrison, Ellison, Williams, Bailey

Bromsgrove Rovers 0 County 0 Saturday July 26
 County (first half): Spencer, Goodwin, Pemberton, Gibb, Clare, R Jones, Lescott, Wilbraham, Beckett, Lambert, Ellison
 County (second half): Spencer, Lord, Challinor, Hardiker, Tonkin, Morrison, McLachlan, Collins, Baguley, Palmer, Williams

Cheadle Town 2 County 6 Monday July 28
 The Hatters turned in a fantastic performance in the annual pre-season friendly at Park Road as they smashed six past Cheadle Town.

Mat Bailey opened the scoring after six minutes when he turned in Jamie Baguley's cross.

The home side were level just three minutes later when Joe Connor - grandson of County legend Jack - was given time on the edge of the area to pick his spot. Trialist Elliot

Onochie tapped home Danny Newby's low cross after 32 minutes before a Chris Williams' penalty just before half time sent County in 3-1 up at the interval.

The second half brought more of the same as Alex Lord headed the Hatters' fourth after Mat Bailey's shot came back off a post. Former County trainee Darren McConnell threatened to make a game of it as he pulled it back to 4-2 with a header from Matt Smith's cross. But Jamie Baguley scored County's fifth on the hour and the best goal of the game, a 40-yard left-foot shot that fired into the top corner leaving the 'keeper completely helpless. And, with 18 minutes left, Onochie made it 6-2 heading home Alex Lord's goalbound header after a good cross from Chris Williams. Amazingly, County hit the woodwork on eight occasions during the game.

County: Coppinger (Forshaw), Lord (Perry), Brolly (Lord), Allen, Meadowcroft (Henry), Brownhill, Williams (Campbell), Baguley (McCabe), Bailey (Le Fondre), Onochie, Newby (Zhang).

Halifax Town 1 County 3 Wednesday July 30
 The Hatters continued their warm-up to the new season with a convincing 3-1 victory at the Shay. Kevin Ellison opened the scoring on 37 minutes with a shot from the edge of the area after Aaron Wilbraham had broke down the right and delivered an accurate cross. It was 1-1 at the break, though, as Simon Parke converted from close range after Mark Monington had headed a long free kick back across goal.

Ellison returned the favour for Wilbraham to make it 2-1 before Luke Beckett headed home Rickie Lambert's free kick from the left on 64 minutes. County: Spencer, Goodwin, Pemberton, Gibb, Clare, R Jones, Lescott, Wilbraham, Beckett (Onochie), Lambert (McLachlan), Ellison (Morrison). Unused subs: Coppinger, Challinor, Collins, Hardiker, Tonkin.

Carlisle United 1 County 1 Saturday August 2
 Craig Farrell gave the Cumbrians the lead at Brunton Park when he sent James Spencer the wrong way from the penalty spot after 56 minutes. The Hatters grabbed a draw, however, when Rickie Lambert sent a 40-yard free kick crashing into the top corner. County: Spencer, Goodwin, Pemberton (Challinor), Gibb, Clare, R Jones, Lescott (McLachlan), Wilbraham (Welsh), Beckett (Barlow), Lambert, Ellison. Unused subs: Coppinger, Morrison.

Mossley 2 County 0 Wednesday August 6
 A shock defeat for the Hatters who fielded a strong team at Mossley's Seel Park. Tony Carroll opened the scoring on 27 minutes when he ran through and fired past advancing 'keeper Ben Coppinger. And Cianar Kilheeny wrapped up the game in the last minute when he took the ball off substitute 'keeper Toby Forshaw and slotted into an empty net. County: Coppinger (Forshaw), Lord (Meadowcroft), Tonkin, Challinor,

Date	KO	V	Opponents	Comp	Score	Att
JULY						
Mon 28	7.45pm	A	Cheadle Town	Friendly	W 6-2	372
AUGUST						
Wed 6	7.45pm	A	Mossley	Friendly	-	-
Wed 20	7.00pm	H	Macclesfield Town	Div 1 West	-	-
Wed 27	7.00pm	A	Shrewsbury Town	Div 1 West	-	-
SEPTEMBER						
Wed 10	7.00pm	H	Bury	Div 1 West	-	-
Wed 24	7.00pm	A	Wigan Athletic	Div 1 West	-	-
OCTOBER						
Wed 8	7.00pm	H	Wrexham	Div 1 West	-	-
Wed 22	7.00pm	A	Rochdale	Div 1 West	-	-
NOVEMBER						
Wed 5	7.00pm	H	Oldham Athletic	Div 1 West	-	-
Wed 26	7.00pm	H	Carlisle United	Div 1 West	-	-
DECEMBER						
Wed 10	7.00pm	A	Blackpool	Div 1 West	-	-
JANUARY						
Wed 14	7.00pm	H	Wigan Athletic	Div 1 West	-	-
Wed 28	7.00pm	A	Wrexham	Div 1 West	-	-
FEBRUARY						
Wed 17	7.00pm	A	Oldham Athletic	Div 1 West	-	-
MARCH						
Wed 3	7.00pm	H	Rochdale	Div 1 West	-	-
Wed 17	7.00pm	H	Blackpool	Div 1 West	-	-
Wed 24	7.00pm	A	Carlisle United	Div 1 West	-	-
APRIL						
Wed 7	7.00pm	A	Macclesfield Town	Div 1 West	-	-
Wed 14	7.00pm	H	Shrewsbury Town	Div 1 West	-	-
Wed 28	7.00pm	A	Bury	Div 1 West	-	-

Hardiker, Williams (Newby), Morrison, Baguley (Allen), Bailey (Campbell), Barlow, Welsh (Davies). Unused sub: Le Fondre.



■ AARON WILBRAHAM scored twice at Nantwich.

COMING THROUGH THE RANKS!

THE LATEST FROM THE YOUTH TEAM



Matches postponed as County travel to China

County's Under-19 squad left for China on Thursday which has forced the postponement of today's league game against Rochdale and next week's against Bury.

Pre-Season Friendlies

County 2 Rochdale 0
 Two goals in the final half hour gave the Hatters victory against 'Dale. Adam Le Fondre headed home James Callery's right wing cross on 61 minutes before he fired his second with ten minutes remaining, shooting home from ten yards after another good cross from Callery. County: Coppinger (Forshaw), Wonfor (Perry), Brolly, Allen (Hadfield), Meadowcroft, Henry (McAllister), Campbell, McCabe (Brownhill), Davies (Callery), Smith (Le Fondre), Newby (Best) (Kay).

County 4 Arawa College 0 Wednesday July 23
 Paul Douglas opened the scoring for County against their Japanese visitors on 20 minutes, firing home from Callery's cross. Five minutes later the Hatters doubled their lead when Le Fondre converted from close range after another good cross from the impressive Callery. The home side had to wait until five minutes from time to make it three when Joe Yoffe sent Danny Campbell through and he finished from the edge of the area with his left foot. And the scoring was completed a minute later as Danny Newby scored the rebound after Zhang Xiaobin had hit the post. County squad: McEwen, Brownhill, Wonfor, Kay, Hadfield, Henry, McAllister, Allen, Callery, Zhang, Yoffe, Douglas, Woolcott, Le Fondre, Oakes, McCabe, Newby, Campbell, Brolly. All players were used in three 30-minute periods.

County 0 Macclesfield Town 2 Saturday July 26
 Both goals for the Silkmen came in the final ten minutes. County squad: Forshaw, Langford, Brownhill, McAllister, Kay, Callery, Pearson, Woolcott, Oakes, Le Fondre, Yoffe, Raynes, Campbell, Newby, McCabe.

Name	League		FA Cup		League Cup	
	Apps	Gls	Apps	Gls	Apps	Gls
Damien Allen	1	0	-	-	-	-
Jamie Baguley	1	0	-	-	-	-
Mat Bailey	1	0	-	-	-	-
Liam Brownhill	1	0	-	-	-	-
Danny Campbell	1	0	-	-	-	-
Ben Coppinger	1	0	-	-	-	-
Mattie Davies	1	0	-	-	-	-
Adam Le Fondre	0(1)	0	-	-	-	-
Alex Lord	1	0	-	-	-	-
Lee McCabe	0(1)	0	-	-	-	-
Danny Meadowcroft	1	0	-	-	-	-
Danny Newby	1	0	-	-	-	-
Scott Oakes	0(1)	0	-	-	-	-
James Wonfor	1	0	-	-	-	-

Brolly, Hadfield. All players were used in three 30-minute periods.

Lancashire FA 1 County 4 Friday August 1
 A good win for the young Hatters who won with goals from Joe Yoffe (2), Paul Pearson and Damien Allen. County squad: Coppinger, Forshaw, Jones, Kaye, Hadfield, McAllister, Henry, Callery, Pearson, Le Fondre, Yoffe, Oakes, Woolcott, Allen, Davies, Brownhill, Zhang. All players were used in three 30-minute periods.

County 5 Stockport and District FA 2
 The Hatters scored twice, midway through the first half to go 2-0 up. First, Adam Le Fondre finished from the edge of the area after being put through by Matt Davies. Then Jamie Kay converted after defenders failed to clear a corner. Their opponents hit back and Lee Morris made it 2-1 on 40 minutes with a well struck shot from the edge of the box. Le Fondre scored again on the stroke of half time before firing home from 20 yards for his hat-trick on 55 minutes. Lee Morris scored his second with a 65th minute penalty before Matt Davies sealed County's win after a good run and cross from James Callery. County squad: Forshaw, Coppinger, Allen, Kay, McAllister, Brownhill, Henry, Zhang, Pearson, Davies, Le Fondre, Newby, Callery, Hadfield, Perry, McCabe, Woolcott. All players were used in three 30-minute periods.

In The Spotlight
 This week's player in the spotlight is second year youth trainee Damien Allen. Damien comes from Cheadle and was born on August 1, 1986. A midfielder who joined the Centre of Excellence at 13, Damo will captain the Under-19s and reserves this season. In his first year as a YT Damo made 18 youth team appearances, scoring once. His reserve team debut came as a second half substitute against Wigan Athletic on November 13, 2002 and his second appearance was at Doncaster Rovers on February 26, 2003.



■ ADAM LEFONDRE



■ DAMIEN ALLEN

Date	KO	V	Opponents	Comp	Score
AUGUST					
Sat 9	11.00am	A	Oldham Athletic	League	L0-1
Sat 30	11.00am	H	Rochdale	League	-
SEPTEMBER					
Sat 6	11.00am	H	Burnley	League	-
Sat 13	11.00am	A	Tranmere Rovers	League	-
Wed 17	2.00pm	A	Bury	League	-
Sat 20	11.00am	A	Blackpool	League	-
Sat 27	11.00am	H	Wigan Athletic	League	-
OCTOBER					
Sat 4	11.00am	A	Carlisle United	League	-
Sat 18	11.00am	H	Preston North End	League	-
Sat 25	11.00am	A	Burnley	League	-
NOVEMBER					
Sat 1	11.00am	H	Tranmere Rovers	League	-
Sat 8	11.00am	H	Blackpool	League	-
Sat 15	11.00am	A	Wigan Athletic	League	-
Sat 29	11.00am	H	Carlisle United	League	-
DECEMBER					
Sat 6	11.00am	A	Preston North End	League	-
Sat 13	11.00am	H	Oldham Athletic	League	-
JANUARY					
Sat 10	11.00am	A	Rochdale	League	-
Sat 24	11.00am	H	Bury	League	-

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ON THE LEAGUE LADDER

CHRIS DAVIES ROUNDS UP THE NON LEAGUE NEWS

Shaun Teale packed his bags to go on a well-deserved holiday after he had steered unfancied Burscough to a shock FA Trophy success last season. With £90,000 in the bank after an amazing run he was certain that there would be some money in the pot to invest in new players for the coming season. "No chance," said chairman Frank Parr on his return. "In fact," said the chairman, "we will have to cut the wage bill." When Teale got over that little shock he told the chairman exactly what he thought of him and was then immediately told which door he could go through.

There lies the reality in all grades of football as clubs tighten their belts and try to

■ Burscough chairman **FRANK PARR** and **SHAUN TEALE** celebrate their astonishing FA Trophy success



live a bit more from their means. That was certainly a close season shock after Teale had given Burscough the best days of their lives, but to be fair they have made a great replacement in Mike Marsh. The ex-Liverpool player, who couldn't play professional football again, has been a revelation at the non league clubs he's been with and I feel that Burscough may get even more success this coming season.

Who's going to win the Conference this time round? As usual there are a cluster of clubs who will be fancied such as Chester, Dagenham & Redbridge, Stevenage, Shrewsbury and dark horses Telford. I go very confidently for Shrewsbury who I think will bounce back at the first time of asking. Exeter have too many internal problems even to be considered but Telford could be the shock team after chairman Andy Shaw has spent

£20million on the ground and is now looking at signing quality players. Former Coventry and Stoke forward Lee Mills is an example of the kind of player signing for Telford. Mark Wright will surely have his side geared up again and Dagenham have now gone full time in an effort to go one step further, I will stick with Shrewsbury.

Former County



■ Former County star **PAUL COOK** has joined Accrington Stanley.

players have joined the non league roundabout during the summer. Paul Cook has gone from Burnley to help Accrington Stanley's first season in the Conference whilst Glynn Hancock, who was so unlucky here at Edgeley Park, has signed for Leek Town. Remember Kevin Slinn? Well he's signed for Grantham Town. Simon Travis was a popular figure here at Edgeley Park but he is going to encounter something a little different this month. He has been chosen to play for England in the World University Games in Korea. The heat in Korea will be around the 100 mark and they say that to beat dehydration you need to drink five litres of water to replace the 2.5 kilos that you will lose in a game.



THE FAR POST...

CONFUSION AT EDGELEY PARK:
IT WAS ONLY AFTER HE'D BEEN PENALISED FOR THE FIFTY SIXTH TIME THAT THE WING-THREEQUARTER REALISED HE WAS AT THE WRONG GAME....



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JON CHAMPION

A special feature in our new-look matchday programme will be occasional articles written by guest contributors. Our thanks go to Match of the Day commentator Jon Champion who gets the series underway with his thoughts on the new season.

Hope springs eternal in the fertile minds of football fans at this time of the year. History shows that teams who have lost heavily on the opening day of a season have still gone on to win titles; sides hailed as potential champions following an August flourish have still suffered relegation come May.

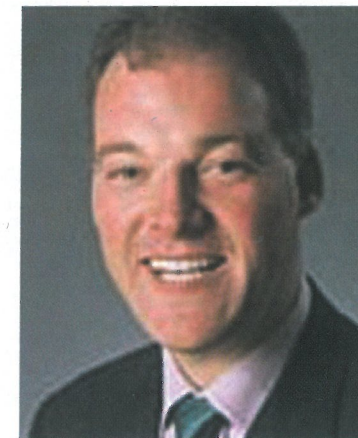
But while next to nothing should be read into last weekend's narrow defeat at Wycombe, the first HOME match of a campaign is always guaranteed to get the juices flowing, so Luton Town's arrival at Edgeley Park has been

eagerly awaited. A strong home record has to be the bedrock of any successful season. Luton began as they mean to go on against Rushden last week - now it's County's turn to attempt to get off the mark.

Of course it's been a summer of particular upheaval for the Hatters with changes of both ownership and management. There again, when is the close season ever a quiet time for any club these days?

I grew up watching York City, near permanent residents of football's backwaters, but even they have enjoyed more than their fair share of excitement, being saved from oblivion by their own Supporters' Trust. The new board, made up entirely of fans, promptly sacked manager Terry Dolan on purely financial grounds and days later made 27 year old player Chris Brass the youngest Football League manager since the War. 34 minutes into his first game in charge at Carlisle, Brass was red-carded...no-one said it was going to be easy.

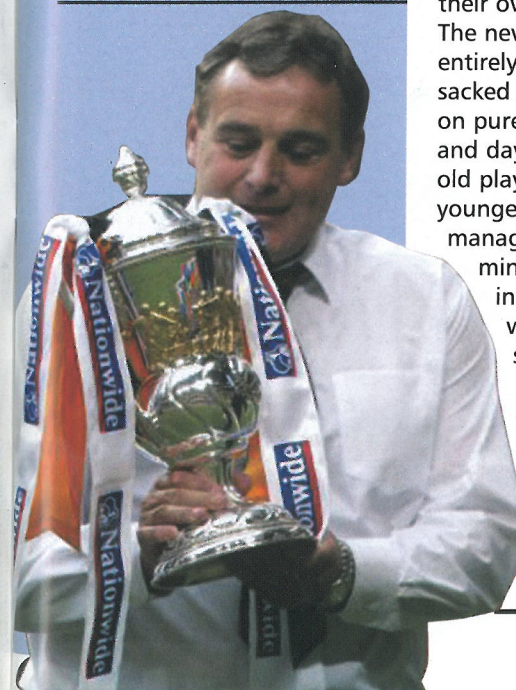
At the other end of the scale, the fat cats of the Premiership, fortified by the signing of another



lucrative television deal, stroll into action today with no such worries. Just as financial reality seemed to be dawning, along comes a hitherto unknown Russian with phenomenal buying power and, as one Premier League manager bemoaned to me only last week, hikes up the transfer market for everyone else. Yet it's not as simple as that. Abramovich's millions have probably saved West Ham, and who's to say that at last, some of the money may not trickle down into the Nationwide League - that's not a prediction, merely a hope.

I start my season today at Ewood Park watching newcomers Wolves make their Premiership bow against Blackburn. It's taken long enough for the Old Gold to reach the top table and I know many Stockport fans will be wishing Dave Jones well having got them there. A difficult job for a very able manager, but as you know, he's good at those!

■ **DAVE JONES** celebrates Wolves' Play-Off win last May





SKIP!

THE VIEWS OF COUNTY CAPTAIN DAVE CHALLINOR

Tuesday night was the first occasion that I wasn't involved in the squad since I arrived at Edgeley Park from Tranmere back in January last year.

The reason for my omission, though, wasn't football related as the Gaffer had kindly allowed me time off to attend the birth of my son. I'm delighted to say that there were no complications and that Ethan Thomas weighed in at a healthy 6lb 12oz. The lads I have spoken to were pleased with the second half performance at Lincoln and were, naturally, delighted that

we'd reached the next round. After losing at Wycombe on the opening day it was essential that we bounced back at Sincil Bank and that's exactly what we did.

That sets things up very nicely for this afternoon's game against a Luton side that have started the campaign impressively with two wins. In saying that, though, when we played them in our final away game of last season we drew a game that we did more than enough to win so confidence is high that we can collect all three points come 4.45pm.

I managed to get my first County goal at Kenilworth Road but it looks as though I'll be on the bench today as the Gaffer sticks with Rob Clare and Rob Jones.

It's not a nice feeling to be out of the side especially as I was an ever-present last season but I have faith in my own ability. In football you know a chance will come around sooner or later and when mine comes along I intend to grab it. There was a flurry of transfer activity just before the Wycombe game. Nick Colgan arrived from Hibernian and Lee Jones moved on to Blackpool. I'd like to welcome Nick to Edgeley Park and wish Jonah all the best at Bloomfield Road.



■ **DAVE CHALLINOR**
Leading by example.

He was a popular figure in our dressing room and he got a bit of stick on Saturday evening after Blackpool's 5-0 defeat at QPR.

When we saw the result a few of us rang him because we thought he must have been in goal! Back to today, though, it's important to get off to a winning start and, as always, you can play a big part. You out-chanted the Wycombe fans throughout the whole game last Saturday – please get behind the lads this afternoon.

"...you know a chance will come around sooner or later and when mine comes along I intend to grab it."



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Stockport

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Sale Sharks have perhaps the most famous rugby player on the planet, capable of destroying any defence single handed. The sight of Jason Robinson (or Billy Whizz as he is affectionately known) in full flight is worth the admission money on its own. But the Sharks deadly back line is no one man show.

The orchestrator of the back line is Scotland Scrum Half and Captain, Bryan Redpath. Working alongside Bryan is England Fly Half Charlie Hodgson, who is the heir apparent to Jonny Wilkinson. At centre Springbok International and the Zurich Premiership's leading point scorer Braam Van Straaten is paired with Australian International. On the wings we have Mark Cueto and Steve Hanley who have each picked up the leading try scorer award in the last two seasons.

In recent seasons, perhaps the

Sale Sharks have lacked muscle in the forwards but new signings for this season have created a pack to match the reputation of the backs. England Internationals Alex Sanderson, Peter Anglesea, Chris Jones, Andrew Sheridan and Andy Titterrell are supported by Scotland's Iain Fullarton, Jason White and Australian Stuart Pinkerton.

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Here's what the press have to say about their visits to the Sharks

Sharks play an exhilarating brand of rugby. Jason Robinson is simply awesome ...

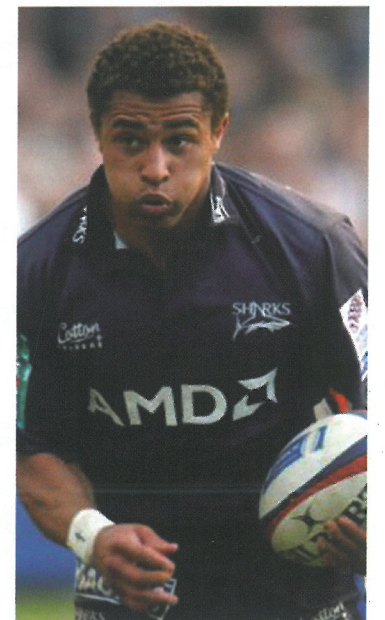
The Sun

A capacity crowd saw rugby of outstanding quality ...

The Times

In the last two seasons Sale Sharks have become genuine title challengers ...

Sky Sports



■ JASON ROBINSON

Friday 12th September KO 7-45pm Sale Sharks v Northampton Saints

Northampton pipped the Sharks for third place in the Zurich Premiership last season. Both sides have many internationals in their squads. It's undoubtedly the game of the round, and if the previous encounters are anything to go by you will enjoy a points spree and a nail biting finish.

Friday 26th September KO 7-45pm Sale Sharks v Bath

Sale Sharks have an excellent home record against Bath who were THE team five years ago. Bath have undergone a close season transformation and will provide great opposition under the Edgeley Park lights.

Friday 10th October KO 7-45pm Sale Sharks v London Wasps

The reigning Zurich Premiership Champions, Wasps, arrive at Edgeley Park. Last season Wasps came up on the rails and beat the Sharks in their last ever game at Heywood Road. That defeat hurt the Sharks who are determined to put the record straight.



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THE BIGGER PICTURE

It is understandably difficult to imagine Stockport County competing with the likes of Liverpool, Real Madrid and AC Milan on the world stage. Simply mentioning our club in the same sentence as these aforementioned giants would raise eyebrows in certain sectors but believe it or not Stockport County are in great demand.

Living and indeed operating in the shadows of clubs like City and United has long been seen as a major disadvantage but the clubs ability, particularly during the last fifteen years, to survive and at times prosper in such circumstances has seen the club become a role model to developing football nations across the world. When Stockport County first ventured into China three years ago the clubs mission statement bore no resemblance to that of any other English club making the same journey. It would have been folly to try to market the club as an international leader in footballing terms so instead the club was promoted on its ability to survive in one of the most competitive leagues in the world through a combination of community marketing and commercial creativity. In simple terms we were offering the Chinese the opportunity to benefit from our experience in terms of making the club an integral part of the community and generating innovative income streams to ensure that the club was sustainable. The Chinese received this new approach with great enthusiasm.

VIRTUES The Chinese football league is only just a little over eight years old and therefore has much to learn from its international counterparts. So while the likes of Liverpool, Real Madrid etc, etc extol their on field virtues in the far East we have carved out our own little niche assisting the Chinese with their commercial, community and youth development systems. During the coming season we will update you on the progress the club is making on the raising of its profile overseas and of course the financial benefits. This year the club will generate almost a quarter of a million pounds profit from its China initiatives and this is just the start.

On seeing the work done in China by the club. The British Council invited Steve Bellis, the clubs Commercial General manager, to Johannesburg in the summer of 2001 to facilitate a seminar for the South African Premier League on the subject of community marketing. As a result of that seminar the club has now been invited to Zambia to work with the Zambian Football Association and one of its top clubs. The South African Premier league have also visited Edgeley Park and visitors to the 4-0 home win against Northampton last season included the owners of Zambian club, Kitwe United. The County success story has spread even further. The club was recently visited by a delegation from the government of Sao Paulo in Brazil. They were so impressed by the clubs ability to survive and its commitment to the community that they have invited the club to address the top Brazilian clubs to assist them with a community-marketing programme.



PETER WARD coaching in Xi'an.

AMAZED This summer Al Ittihad FC, one of the most wealthy and well-known clubs in Saudi Arabia visited Edgeley Park having been introduced by Radio Commentator Jon Keighren. They too were amazed at the clubs unique approach to the community and to commerce and have requested a long-term co-operation with the club.

Even more recently Bakili Bullets, the top football club from Malawi, were in Stockport and were hosted by Des Hinks, this club are expected to return later this month to meet Steve Bellis with a view to the signing of a long term friendship agreement.

This interest in the club is far from superficial. Each co-operation agreement is signed with a view to creating new long-term income streams and this is now the case in China.

In a climate where survival is becoming increasingly difficult, Stockport County are generating new income streams from markets that would have been nothing more than a pipe dream a few years ago. The clubs international profile could be the key to its future success.



Full house signs are up for our match in Baoji in 2001.

PETER WARD and STEVE BELLIS celebrate another agreement in Chengdu last year





LENS CAPTAIN

THE WEIRD AND WONDERFUL WORLD OF STEVE SOUTHART OUR RESIDENT SNAPPER



I know that August is supposed to be the silly season in the media, when the papers get bored because Parliament is not in session and there is nothing more exciting than athletics to fill the back pages. But this year has been particularly quiet, I have noticed. In fact, at the risk of repeating myself, it has been dull, dull, dull by anybody's standards.

Flicking through my copy of "The Daily John Leslie" the other day, all I could find (other than an 18-page article "proving" that Ulrika Johnssen is the most evil person on the planet and a picture of a cat who had just spent 2 hours in a tumble dryer) was page after page of top-notch journalism telling us that it is summer. Why the newspapers are so amazed that summer happens

every year at about this time, is beyond me. It can't just be an excuse to print a picture of lovely Julie, 21, on the beach, in her bikini. It can't just be an excuse to print the "Phew! What a Scorcher!" headline.

Every year, and I stress again that it is usually July or August, we get some moderately temperate conditions, and the whole country is whipped up into a frenzy. The first sign that something may be afoot is that the hemlines of ladies' skirts gradually rise. But then comes the downside, as men strip off to reveal wobbly bellies that could easily be accommodating quads. A few strategically-placed tattoos add to the overall effect. Before you know it, you have naked ramblers scaring livestock on the Pennine Way. And this way lies anarchy.

Another, more serious side effect of the warm spell, is that every shop in the kingdom sells out of sausages, lager, air conditioning units, fans, water, paddling pools, ice tea and flip-flops. Everyone phones in sick (the best excuse I heard is the guy who said he could not possibly come into work because his front door would not lock, so he had to work from home. I'm sure his work colleagues were very sympathetic towards his plight.), the economy is in ruins. Train lines buckle, traffic

grinds to a halt. The tabloids scream about global warming and print maps of how Britain will look in 30 years (this map consists of a 3 mile square bit of land in what is now West Bromwich.)

Meanwhile, our European neighbours, with temperatures 5 degrees higher than ours, for 4 months longer, just go about their business and watch thunderstruck as the plucky Brit flails around making himself look ridiculous simply because the sun has designed to make an appearance.

But don't worry; the one thing you can rely on is that it won't last. As you watch this match, you are probably having to wear about three jumpers because the Mediterranean weather has made an unexpected about-turn. Britain... loathe it or ignore it, you can't love it.



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JON KEIGHREN

IMAGINE FM

WELCOME back to Edgeley Park after a summer of major upheaval for Stockport County. The visible signs of change are evident all over the place - from the signs outside to the new lengthened playing surface, which Danny and Lee have manicured to perfection in time for this afternoon's match.

First of all, let me say I have been supportive of Brian Kennedy's involvement - the additional security of ground sharing with the top rugby union club in the north of England far outweighs the negatives. During the summer, I was lucky enough to chair a Fans' Forum at the Fingerpost and was thoroughly impressed with the words of Brian, Chief Exec Niels de Vos and Media Manager Dave Swanton.

■ **IMPRESSIVE...** Niels de Vos



Cheshire Sport have cleared the club's debt to Brendan Elwood, enabling us to start with a clean sheet of paper and build a solid foundation in order to achieve promotion back to Division One in the near future. But the experienced members of staff who worked so hard to help Brendan achieve his dream of First Division football have been retained, giving an excellent blend of new ideas and proven accomplishments. The likes of Gary Glendenning, Steve Bellis, Andrea Dawson and Des Hinks remain crucial to the successful future of this football club.

So the future looks bright and we welcome our new friends from Sale Sharks and hope that many of them will be able to enjoy both rugby union and football within the walls of Edgeley Park. As I said at the end of last season, if Oldham Athletic or Notts County had been offered a similar deal, they would have snatched Brian Kennedy's arm off.

Another major change over the summer has been the new commentary deal between Stockport County and Imagine FM. This is the sixth consecutive season that Imagine FM has been the preferred choice as County's official radio station and we are proud to be associated with the club once again. We are also doing our bit to try and help Cheshire Sport achieve their immediate aim: more bums on seats. We have agreed to relinquish full commentary at home games and provide a service of extended inserts instead. Hopefully this will encourage any "floating" fans to come to Edgeley Park on a matchday, rather than listen at home.

Naturally, this is not an ideal solution for many fans that simply can't make it due to work commitments or through illness

or infirmity, but we hope that the deal will contribute towards the long-term financial viability of the football club. As ever, we are interested in your views.

But as part of the new deal, we have been able to enhance our coverage of away matches, which are now provided in simulcast (I've always wanted to use that word) via both 104.9 Imagine FM and to County World subscribers on www.stockportcounty.com. And for the first time, I am teaming up with expert summariser Des Hinks on away trips to provide listeners with the best possible service, whilst Matthew Rudd anchors the show back in the studio. The commitment includes more interviews, more features, more competitions and more interaction with your County favourites.

I remain quietly confident about our chances this season - Rob Jones has looked outstanding in defence alongside our future full England international Rob Clare. They have dominated our opening two games and look to be a formidable partnership. Also, many congratulations to Rob Clare on becoming our captain at the age of just 20 - it's a testimony to how highly rated he is amongst the County management team.

Owen Morrison and Stuart Barlow made their full debuts on Tuesday night in the Carling Cup win at Lincoln and looked highly impressive. They could prove to be two very astute signings and they have both settled into the camp very quickly. Indeed Stuart is already broadening his Scouse accent by spending far too much time in the car with Kevin Ellison and Rickie Lambert!

Enjoy today's game

PAUL HARRISON

SPORTS EDITOR STOCKPORT EXPRESS

Following a disappointing result a week ago and a poor first-half performance at Lincoln in the Carling Cup on Tuesday, County finally got it right in the second half at Sincil Bank.

Once Rickie Lambert and Fraser McLachlan took control of the midfield and used the flanks County looked a different side. Three of the new boys' performances have stood out this week. Who would have thought that Rob Jones, Stuart Barlow and Owen Morrison would keep out Dave Challinor, Aaron Wilbraham and Ali Gibb?

But that's what happened on Tuesday night and I fully expect all three to start the game today. Gibb missed the win at Lincoln through injury, but if Carlton Palmer is true to his word then Morrison will start the game on the right wing today. Morrison proved time and again that he is a genuine winger who can use both feet.

Hopefully we will see the form that catapulted him into the limelight at Sheffield Wednesday.

Jones has made an impressive start to his league career and his form isn't good news for Dave Challinor. Jones and Clare will have their hands full with Tony Thorpe who has started the season with three goals in his first two games.

Challinor admitted in his Stockport Express column this week that the season hasn't started the way he had hoped, especially as he was an ever-present last season. The other plus on Tuesday was the form of Nick Colgan who kept County in the game when the home side dominated the first half.

I'm sure all County fans will wish Lee Jones all the best if he makes his move to Blackpool, but it has been clear for well over a year that his days at Edgeley Park were numbered.

Hopefully, Colgan will have the same impact and instil the same confidence that Ola Tidman did when he joined this season.

Finally, I think the bet of the day has to be Luke Beckett to break his scoring duck. I can't see him going three games without a goal.



■ **NICK COLGAN** kept County in the game at Sincil Bank

Don't forget we want to hear your views on every game this season. Feel free to email your opinions to stockport@gmwn.co.uk every Monday

LIVE COMMENTARY



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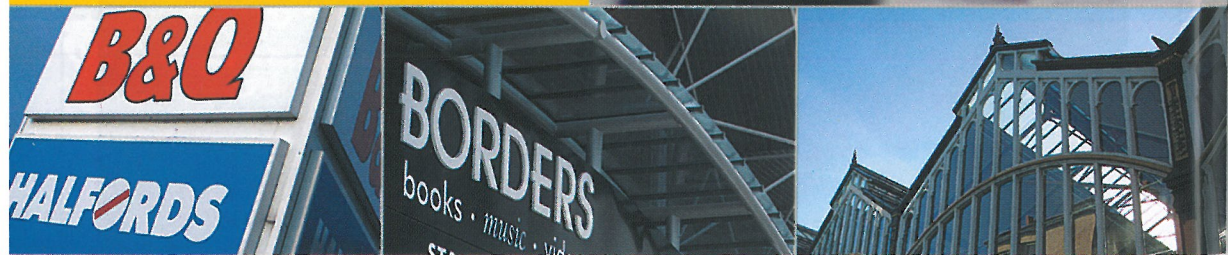
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FROM THE HEART OF EDGELEY PARK

COUNTY IN THE COMMUNITY BY MIKE SMITH

Good afternoon and welcome back to Edgeley Park for our first home fixture of the 2003/04 season. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Carlton, Kevin, John and all the players the best of luck for the season ahead from us all in the Community Office.
We have had a hectic Summer Schedule this year with us undertaking activities in and around the Stockport/Tameside area, which has certainly kept us all busy each week! Read on...

BALLBOYS/GIRLS

On ball duties today are players from Hyde United Junior FC under 13's, the boys are as follows:- Lewis Hilton, Daniel Penny, Daniel Higgins, Joshua Ollerenshaw, Brett Venables, Graham Drabble, Sam Whitingslow, Kieron Maguire, Jamie Crossland, Tyler Devlin, Nick Torkington, Michael Cantellar, Michael Mullholland, Richard White and Ben Ogden.
Enjoy your duties and the game boys, Good luck.

FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY GUESTS

Our guests for the visit of Luton Town today are winners from our 'Skills Challenge' activity. Children are sponsored to carry out four skills such as the 'Beckham Shooting - Accuracy', 'Del Piero Penalties', 'Gerrard Passing', 'Zidane Dribbling'. Each participant is awarded points for each skill, the boy and girl from each class taking part with the most points wins two tickets to see Stockport County in action. The winners are:-
Our Lady's Primary, Edgeley - Joe Egerton 72, Hannah O'Neil 61, Christopher Flannagan 64, Samantha Murphy 71, Kieran O'Neil 83, Laura Watson 85, Marley Hannon 101, Gabby Ball 79, Lewis Bond 111, Abi King 59, Michael Flannagan 84, Charlotte O'Neil 101 and Nathan Blake 102.
St. Anne's Primary, Openshaw - Grace Maxwell, Javler Losa-Evans, Katie Macken, Joseph Ditrapaner, Jenny Quinn, Robert Atkinson, Megan Hughes, Connor Tumelty, Lauren McGarr, Lewis Probert, Kirsty Upton, Matthew Morris, Collette Tattersall and Liam Tumelty. (Scores were not available at time of writing).
Outwood Primary, Heald Green - Chloe Litster 86, Jake Readman 126, Andrianna Livesy 73, Liam Ramsden 91, Fides Lu 93, Matthew Theaker 90, Femi Carty 116, Ryan Saunders 92, Saba Ali 92, Jake Ogden 136, Kirsty King 134, Nick Godsell 146, Zara Berry 87 and Grant Spencer 146.
Each child taking part in the Skills Challenge is sponsored for each skill, with the money raised split 50/50 with the School and Football in the Community. Over the last six years we have raised a staggering £60,000 for local Primary schools. Many thanks to all the children, schools and teachers that have participated in the Skills Challenge. Look out for us in your school soon!



NEW OPPORTUNITIES FUND

Out of hours childcare courses are available during each school holiday, all year round. The courses are held at Adswold Primary School, Garners Lane, Adswold, and are open to both boys and girls aged between 8 & 12. The week long course starts at 9am and finishes at 5pm each day, at a cost of £35.00 per child. Daily rates of £7.00 per child are also available. The children take part in football sessions, small-sided games, fun games, table tennis, multi-sports, arts and crafts plus much more! For more information on the New Opportunities Fund project, contact Mark Frankland on the above number.

SUMMER SOCCER MANIA!

We have three Soccer Courses taking place before the school term starts at:-
FITC 52 - Moorfield Junior School, Hazel Grove
FITC 53 - Stockport School, Mile End
FITC 54 - Reddish Vale High School, Reddish
All courses are open to boys and girls aged between 6 & 14
6/7 year olds - 10am to Noon each day - £20.00
8/14 year olds - 10am to 3pm each day - £35.00
SCFC players will be in attendance during the week to sign autographs etc. For more information contact the FITC office on 0161-282-2971 or collect an application form from Main Reception/Club Shop.

And Finally...

That's all for now folks, give the lads a big cheer this afternoon on their way to three points, have a safe journey home, see you soon.
Yours in sport
Mike Smith
Football in the Community Officer



FITC STAFF

As we start a new season here at Stockport County, our FITC full time Staff are as follows:-
Mike Smith - Football in the Community Officer
Mark Frankland - Senior Assistant
Dave Wardle - Assistant
Neil Garside - Assistant
Jacci Cooper - Community Development Officer
Jayne Bennis - Assistant Development Officer
Robert Curran - Community Coach
Jason Swapp - Trainee
If you require any information regarding Football in the Community, either locally or nationally, contact any of the above on 0161-282-2971.



STOCKPORT COUNTY FC SUPPORTERS' TRUST

Perish the thought!

We're not Insurance Sales Executives. Good grief no, we're County fans! County fans who sit on the committee of the Stockport County Trust. Football Trusts are a kind of insurance for football teams run by supporters. We want to sell our Trust to you - we want you to become a member of the Stockport County Trust. Hmmm. We're insurance sales execs. Bah! Does that make us dull people?

Yeah okay some of us probably are, but anyway, dull people helped save York City and the York Trust now runs the club. And Northampton. And Lincoln. And Bury. And the list gets longer. You need dull people - just in case - and dull people need you. We've kept our part of the bargain - now it's your turn.

Supporters' Trusts are backed by the Government, the PFA, the Football Association, the clubs and well, virtually everyone in the game with the exception of most of the fans. They were dreamt up around three years ago as a way for football supporters to have a greater say in how their clubs are run.

We've all seen recently that a football club's fortunes can turn on their head in a matter of just weeks, so it makes sense that Stockport County has a Trust - both as insurance against problems in the future and,

just as importantly, to give County access to grants that only the Trust, as a Registered Friendly Society, can access.

County has always appeared to be run reasonably soundly. That is why; set up just over a year ago, the Stockport County Trust has gone virtually unnoticed. I mean, you only buy insurance when you think you might need it? We know that.

But that's also why insurance companies train their sales force to put their foot in the way of a closing door, to behave like merciless dogs of war, desperate only for the next cent, and the next. Is that what you want us to become is it? Do you really want us knocking on your door on a cold November night trying to sell you Trust Membership not leaving until your cheque is signed even although it's 3am? We will you know.

No? Good.

Then you can join the Stockport County Trust for only £15 (£1 for Under-16s until they become 16) by either taking our leaflet from the Club Shop or visiting our web site at www.stockportcountytrust.com where you'll also find the famous County Score Prediction Game, news on our initiatives and a couple of unsold Carlton Palmer 'Wonderland' t-shirts. How could you holiday without? Tsk.

It's been a torturous three-month wait for the football season to finally start again and it was nice to be amongst fellow sufferers last week at Wycombe. It's been a bleak period severely lacking in football unlike previous years. No World Cup, European Championships or even Commonwealth Games to pass the time. So last Saturday was a joyous occasion, albeit for a temporary period before the final whistle blew which brought with it County's first defeat of the season.

The close season at Stockport County has been anything but boring. The takeover by Cheshire Sport was confirmed mid-July and with it came fresh new faces into the club. On behalf of the SCFC Supporters Club we would like to welcome Brian Kennedy, Niels De Vos and the rest of the crew to Edgeley Park and hope they all have a long and prosperous stay with Stockport County. The takeover also sees top Rugby Union side, Sale Sharks make the short journey from their previous home of Heywood Road to here at Edgeley Park. A few noticeable changes have already been made to the ground to accommodate Sale Sharks and hopefully we will see a strong partnership form between the two clubs.

The Supporters Club committee had their first meeting with the new regime the other week to discuss the future. In attendance were Niels De Vos and Dave Swanton. 'Swanny' will act as a vital link for all the Supporters groups of Stockport County in the future as Public Relations officer to both Stockport County & Sale Sharks. Both Niels and Dave were very open and honest in the meeting and will be prepared to help

THE HARDCORE

out the Supporters Club wherever possible. Issues such as Fans Forums, Players attending meetings and Prize Draws were discussed and hopefully we will be in a position to announce such events in the next few weeks.

Onto Supporters Club matters and it's been a rather hectic pre-season dealing with all the renewals of memberships as well as new members. The open day here at Edgeley Park the other week proved very successful, as we managed to sign up 50+ members. Although many were renewing their memberships, we still managed to attract some new members for the forthcoming season. If you haven't renewed your membership, then now is the time to do it if you want to receive some of the fantastic benefits of the Supporters Club. Remember, membership entitles you to access to the Supporters Club Bar before, at half time and after all First Team games. You will also receive a regular Newsletter and be able to attend the many functions that are organised throughout the season. All this for just £5 for Adults and just £1 for under 16's.

Regular users of the Supporters Club Bar might wish to note that the issue of capacity was raised with Niels and Dave in our meeting. We are currently looking at ways we can increase the capacity of the Bar, which up to the end of last season we were limited to 250. It will probably still be this limit for the next few weeks until we can come to some sort of solution. We are aware that the Supporters Club Bar has encountered these problems through it's own success. But hopefully we can try and avoid any further problems this season. I would advise members who wish to use the Bar to arrive as early as possible to guarantee entry. We noted last season that between 2.30pm and 2.50pm was the time that most people arrived in the Bar. Although most of the times we could accommodate everyone, there were some games when we had to refuse admission when we reached the maximum capacity of the room. Also, don't forget to collect a ticket at the front door to guarantee you entry at half time. There will be a number of people handing these out at the entrance to the Bar. We do apologise for any members who are refused entry to the Supporters Club Bar last season because the limit of the Bar had been met. Again, I would advise those people to arrive earlier to avoid disappointment this season.

At last, here we go again. Another season of football at the hallowed Edgeley Park.

First things first. Everybody at the Hatters Independent Supporters Club (HISC) extends a warm and sincere welcome to Brian Kennedy, his family, and everyone involved at Cheshire Sport Ltd. to Edgeley Park for their first home game in charge of Stockport County.

We hope that the positive and productive relationship already established between the new regime and all supporters of Stockport County will be long and fruitful. Our particular thanks must go to Dave Swanton (Swanny) who has worked tirelessly throughout the summer to promote Stockport County, work that has inevitably involved meeting with HISC on a number of occasions.

HISC were honoured to be invited to attend the Press-Day and the Open-Day (see picture) and equally honoured to be invited to contribute to the club's excellent match-day programme.

HISC have been very busy since the end of last season. Our web site has benefited from a complete makeover. The web site is aimed at you, County Supporters, so why not visit www.hisc-online.co.uk and let us know what you think of it.

We were all thrilled when Niels de Vos agreed to appear at our pre-season forum at the Fingerpost in Offerton, to field questions from County supporters. Wayne Morris was also in attendance and made a very positive impression.

The icing on the cake was when Brian Kennedy decided to drop in on the meeting (see picture). Brian certainly knows how to make an entrance, and he and Niels left everyone present buzzing with the potential of what Cheshire Sport has to offer Stockport County.

The next HISC event is to be held on Tuesday 19th August and will be



■ The Hatters Independent Supporters Club enjoyed a successful open day at Edgeley Day on August 3rd.

hosted by Bollington branch at nearby Henbury in the Cock Inn. All are welcome, and two County players will be present as is traditional at HISC events.

Thanks to the support and encouragement of the Club, HISC will be holding events on a monthly basis this season. County players will be in attendance at each event to meet County supporters. Events are already planned later this year for the Bobby Peel, Reddish and Bredbury branches of HISC. Watch this space for details.

Before we conclude our first offering to this season's programme, we would like to wish all the best to Phil Staley and his family who are immigrating to Australia next week. HISC were touched to be invited to attend Phil's recent "deportation do", and this was a gesture typical of the man.

Few of us will forget Phil's commentary on many County matches, which was done with professionalism and genuine enthusiasm. In addition, Phil always had time for supporters and recognised their importance to the club that they follow. Keep in touch Phil, and we hope that it goes well for you down under.

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FEMALE FOOTIE

A CLOSER LOOK (BUT NOT TOO CLOSE) AT OUR LADIES BY JACCI COOPER

Welcome back to a new season although for the Ladies' club there does not seem to have been any break with activities for one age group or another and tournaments most weekends.

First of all we would like to send congratulations to Amanda (AJ) Goodwin and Jade Malpus two of our first team youngsters who were both selected for the England U19's training camp at Warwick University last week. Unfortunately, of our two other hopefuls Nikki Daniels was one month too old for the age group and Emily Shenton was injured and could not attend the trials. We also had a number of even younger players recommended for the trials – a great boost for the club.

■ LUCY LUTTON

scored in the 5-0 win at Merthyr Tydfil.



Following such a fantastic season last year the first team suffered a bit of a reality check in their first pre-season warm up game when they were heavily defeated by Doncaster Rovers Belles. The girls' response to this defeat was excellent, though, as they went on to win the Knowsley tournament beating such opposition as Everton (twice) and Oldham Curzon in the final.

They then travelled down to Merthyr Tydfil last Sunday to play a team who will be playing at the same level as County next season but in the Southern Division. Goals from Donna Davidson, Nikki Daniels, Jade Malpus, Jane Fox and Lucy Lutton gave County a great 5 – 0 win in a game that they dominated from start to finish not allowing the opposition even a shot.

This win sets them up nicely for their first game in the National League tomorrow (17th) when they travel to Middlesbrough.

Also in action tomorrow are the Reserves who begin their pre-season friendlies with a game against Hopwood Ladies at Cheadle Town.

The leagues start for all our other teams on weekend of 6th/7th September. We will have Under 10's, 11's, 12's 13's 14's & 16's competing in the Tameside Junior League; Under 16's in the Lancashire Girls' League, two teams in the Cheshire & Manchester Women's Football League and the



■ England trialist ... **AMANDA (AJ) GOODWIN.**

Reserves in the National League Reserves Division 2 North.

We are currently looking to recruit players for our U14's squad for next season. They are progressing to play 9-a-side and we therefore need to bolster the squad size. We are also looking for a goalkeeper for one of our open age squads. If there are any players who wish to find out more about the club please contact Jacci Cooper on 0161 282 2971.



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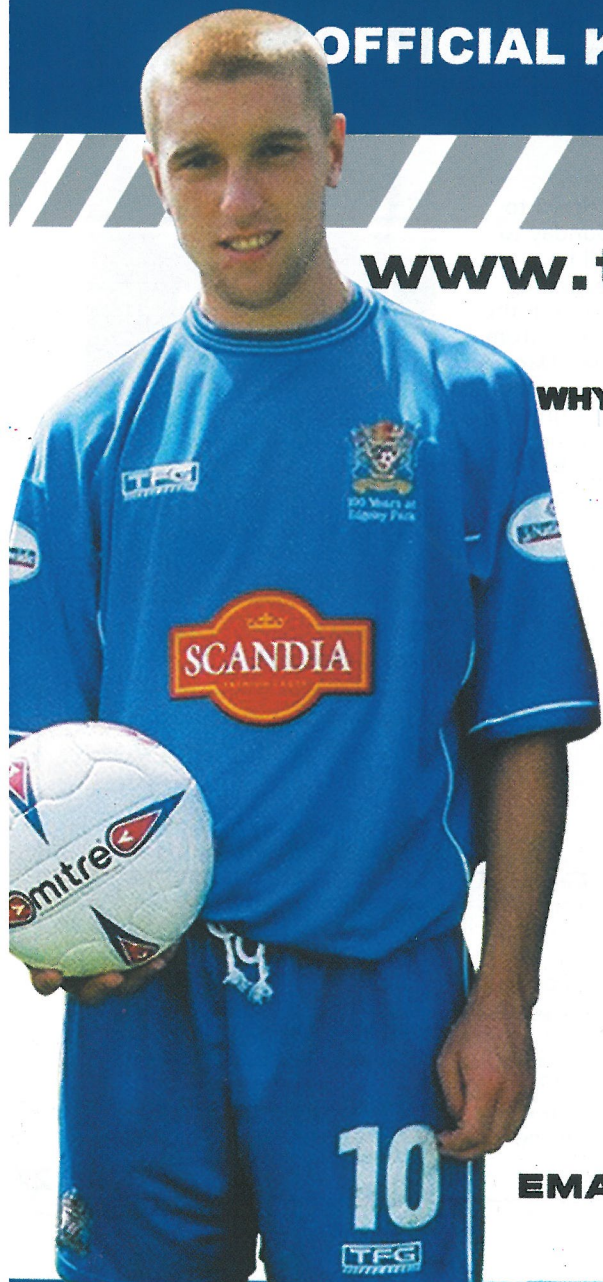
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LANCS' LYRICS

Stockport County supporters claim to have more original songs than any other team in Great Britain – and it's hard to argue against them.

A Swaying Mass of Humanity, a booklet containing 100 County favourites spanning four decades was so popular that the fans took to the recording studio to release Songs of the Cheadle End, a unique CD featuring no less than 46 of the best Hatters hits.

Throughout the season Ian Lancashire will take us back in time to some memorable County games and some equally memorable County songs!

Today his Time Machine transports us to 1966 and a couple of trips to Luton Town's Kenilworth Road.

The GO GO GO COUNTY bandwagon was gathering momentum throughout the 1965-66 season and a massive

following travelled to Luton on May 7 1966.

The other Hatters won that particular Fourth Division clash 2-0 but the real Hatters didn't have long to wait to gain revenge.

On September 17 1966 a couple of goals from the great Frank Lord and a penalty from David Shawcross helped us to a 3-0 win.

The success kept County at the top of Division Four after our six opening games had yielded five wins and a draw.

It was a position we'd maintain throughout the season as well as the Blues stormed to the championship with three games still to play.

As you can imagine the 3-0 romp at Kenilworth Road created a party atmosphere on the terraces as the travelling Cheadle Enders bellowed out song after song.

One of the favourites on the day, to the tune of Dublin in the Green, was:

*Oh his name is Johnny Price
and he goes running down
the wing,
And when he scores the
crowd all roars and this is
what they sing,
We all support the County
we're loyal and we're true,
And we'll fight, fight, fight
with all our might,
For the boys that play in
blue.*

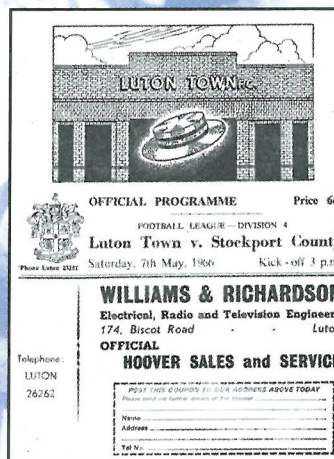
*We are the greatest
supporters and we'll follow
them home and away,
And you'll here the shout*



when the lads come out,
Wherever the Hatters play!

The picture – look at the travelling fans behind the goal – from our 1965-66 clash at Kenilworth Road shows the inimitable Len White sliding for the ball watched in the background by none other than Matt Woods. Woods would move to Edgeley Park during the summer to captain our championship heroes.

Another player to head north and switch hats and star in a title-winning side was former England star Derek Kevan. Part of the deal saw Keith Allen, who'd scored an Edgeley Park hat trick against Luton the previous season, make the opposite journey. Steve Sherlock is another to have played for both clubs. The full back made 245 appearances for County yet managed just two for Luton.





■ Gary Megson tried to bring **TONY THORPE** to Edgeley Park in 1998.

This afternoon County open their 2003/04 home league campaign against the other Hatters, Luton Town who have made the long trip North from Bedfordshire. In the penultimate match of last season the two sides shared the spoils at Kenilworth Road, Steve Howard's second half effort putting Luton in front, only for Dave Challinor's first strike for County to ensure that both sides had to settle for a point. Despite that game being little over 3 months ago it will count little as a form guide as a lot of water has passed under a lot of bridges since then, County subsequently coming under the 'Cheshire Sport' umbrella, whilst it has been hard to keep up with exactly what has been going on at Kenilworth Road, suffice to say that the supporters must surely be hoping for a period of stability to ensue.

On the field Plymouth Argyle's final day victory over Wycombe Wanderers allied to Town's 2-1 defeat away at Swindon Town, saw the Pilgrims overtake Luton on goal difference, leaving Luton in a creditable ninth place finish, albeit 15 points adrift of a play off position. An extremely poor start to last season saw Luton fail to



pick up a single point from their first four league outings and concede 13 goals in the process. This worrying start to the campaign did not seem to affect confidence and late September saw Luton embark on a run of five straight victories. After this spectacular run tailed off their form became a little inconsistent, until another purple patch starting around Christmas gave genuine hope that a play off berth may be attainable. Sadly for Joe Kinnear the latter season form was very patchy and Town soon faded from the play-off picture.

Whilst most teams boast a significantly greater points haul at home, this was not the case for Luton last season. Of their total of 65 points, 32 were picked up at home whilst 33 were attained on the road. At Kenilworth Road Luton ended the season with a won eight, drawn eight, lost seven record. The home maximums were recorded against Chesterfield (3-0), Swindon Town (3-0), Cheltenham Town (2-1), Cardiff City (2-0), Wycombe Wanderers (1-0), Northampton Town (3-2), Plymouth Argyle (1-0) and Huddersfield Town (3-0). Of their eight home draws last season, four games ended up without the scoreboard moving with encounters against Port Vale, Queens Park Rangers, Oldham Athletic and Tranmere Rovers all ending up goalless. The four other drawn fixtures saw both Wigan Athletic and County draw 1-1 at Kenilworth Road, while the visits of Notts County and Bristol City both ended up 2-2. Of their seven home defeats, the biggest drubbing came

LUTON TOWN

at the hands of Crewe Alexandra, who hit four unanswered goals. The other visitors who secured all three points on their trip to Bedfordshire were Peterborough Utd (3-2), Barnsley (3-2), Mansfield Town (3-2), Colchester Utd (1-2), Blackpool (3-1) and Brentford (1-0). On their travels Luton amassed 33 points last term from a won 9, drawn 6 and lost 8 record. Their most emphatic away success coming in their penultimate away trip to Colchester Utd where a Steve Howard hat trick and goals from Carl Griffiths and a Kevin Nicholls penalty earned a 5-0 victory. Steve Howard bore the brunt of the goal scoring duties last season and ended the campaign with a creditable 23 goals in all competitions. Incredibly, seven of their eight other awayday successes came following visits to teams in the Granada TV and Yorkshire TV regions namely:- Huddersfield Town (1-0), County (3-2), Oldham Athletic (2-1), Crewe Alexandra (1-0), Tranmere Rovers (3-1), Barnsley (3-2) and Port Vale (2-1). The other win coming at Wycombe Wanderers by a 2-1 scoreline. Their six away draws in the 2002/03 campaign came at Cardiff

City (0-0), Brentford (0-0), Bristol City (1-1), Peterborough Utd (1-1), Cheltenham Town (2-2) and at champions Wigan Athletic (1-1). Their eight other away fixtures all ended in defeat, with subdued coach trips home defeats at Blackpool (2-5), Plymouth Argyle (1-2), Northampton Town (0-3), Chesterfield (1-2), Notts County (1-2), Mansfield Town (2-3), Queens Park Rangers (0-2) and Swindon Town (1-2).

In Cup action, Luton had limited success last season. In the Worthington Cup, their fans must surely have enjoyed their first round 2-1 success away to Watford. They were again drawn away in the second round this time to Premiership outfit Aston Villa. Luton exited the competition 3-0 but would take some consolation from the 20,833 gate. In the LDV they were also drawn away at the first two stages. In round one they eased through 2-0 at Woking, whilst the second round saw a trip to Stevenage where Town emerged victorious by the odd goal in seven. Their run in the competition ended at the next hurdle when they were surprisingly beaten at home 2-1 by Cambridge Utd, the winner being a 'golden' goal. In the FA Cup non



■ **MATTHEW SPRING** scored twice at Edgeley Park last season.

The 'other' Hatters arrive here at Edgeley Park this afternoon on the back of two good results which have kicked off their season in style.

And, a strange quirk is that both of Luton's opening couple of victories have come against two of last season's champions. Third Division title winners Rushden & Diamonds travelled to Kenilworth Road on the opening day and, despite being a goal down at the interval, a double strike from Tony Thorpe and a last minute goal scored by Matthew Spring gave Luton a 3-1 victory.

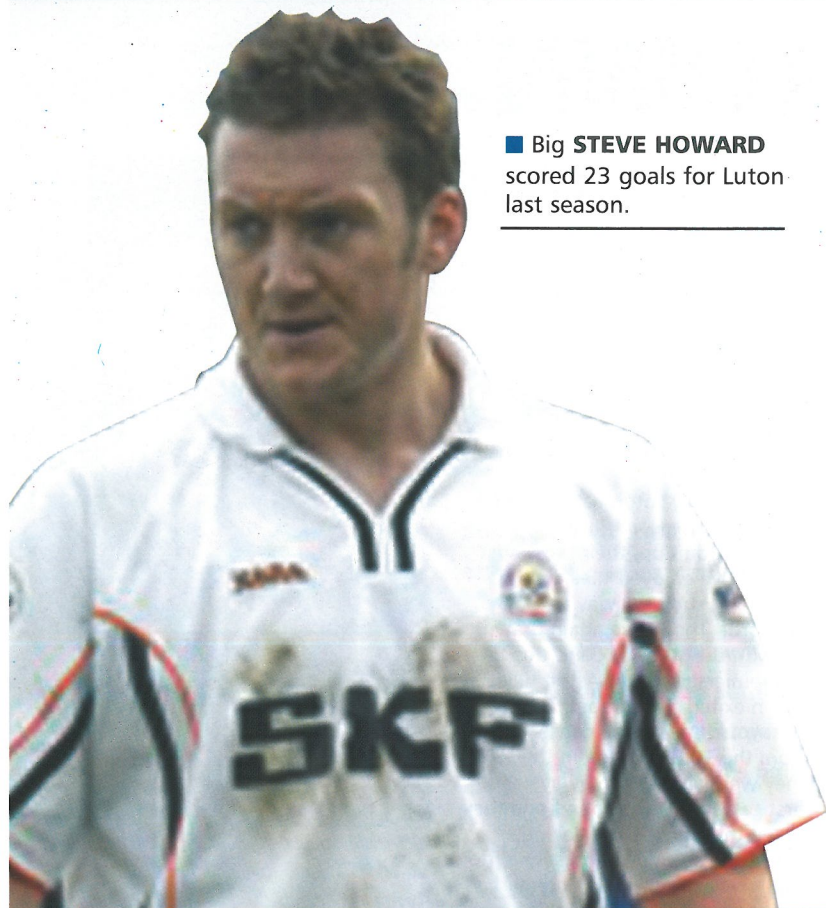
Then, on Tuesday night, Conference champions Yeovil Town made the journey to Bedfordshire but left the Carling Cup at the First Round stage as the home side ran out 4-1 winners. An own goal by Luton defender Emmerson Boyce cancelled out Kevin Foley's opener but further strikes by Thorpe, on-loan Courtney Pitt and Steve Howard eased the Hatters into Saturday's Second Round draw.

league minnows Guiseley will have enjoyed their day out at Kenilworth Road despite being eliminated 4-0. The second round saw Luton bow out 3-0 to Wigan Athletic at the JJB Stadium.

The kamikaze capitulation against Tranmere Rovers aside, County had an impressive run of form here at Edgeley Park at the tail end of last season and will clearly be hoping to get off to winning ways here this afternoon.

LAST SEASON'S SCORERS (all competitions)

Howard 23, Thorpe 16, Brkovic 8, Spring 7, Fotiadis 6, Nicholls 5, Hughes 4, Crowe, Holmes, Perrett 2, Coyne, Deeney, Forbes, Griffiths, Robinson, Skelton 1



■ Big **STEVE HOWARD** scored 23 goals for Luton last season.

County first crossed swords at league level with this afternoon's opponents on the opening day of the 1937-38 season.

It was our first game back in the (old) Second Division and a bumper 19,077 watched us come out on top 2-1 thanks top goals from James Smailes and Bernard Oxley.

Luton gained revenge on New Year's Day 1938 when they won the reverse fixture by an incredible 6-4 scoreline!

Whilst Luton have generally had the better of things at Kenilworth Road they had to wait 65 years to return home with all the points from Stockport.

That solitary success last came last season when they came from behind to win 3-2. Keith Allen, who later joined Luton in an exchange deal with Derek Kevan, scored a hat trick against his future club in a 4-1 win on September 10th, 1965.

And three years later 13,246 packed Edgeley Park to watch us win a Third Division game 2-0 with Fred Goodwin and Bill Atkins on the scoresheet.

The game saw former Everton idol Alex Young make his County debut following his record £15,000 move from Glentoran. The most important County-Luton game was an FA Cup third-round tie on January 4th 1958.

The Bedfordshire side – then flying high in the (old) First Division - arrived at Edgeley Park as red-hot favourites.

But they were sent packing on the wrong end of a 3-0 hammering with Bill Holden scoring twice and Arnold Jackson adding the other.

The game is also remembered for County wearing the famous Wolves' old gold strip as the teams first choice colours were the same – white and black.

■ The debut of **ALEX YOUNG** against Town in 1968 attracted more than 13,000 to Edgeley Park.



■ **COUNTY** wearing Wolves' famous old gold and balck hammered First Division Luton 3-0 in the FA Cup of 1958.



Our home league & cup record against The Hatters

League	P	W	D	L	F	A
League	7	4	2	1	13	7
FA Cup	2	1	0	1	5	3
League Cup	P	W	D	L	F	A
Play-Offs	Never Met					
Associate Members Cup	P	W	D	L	F	A
	Never Met					

Home League Statistics

First Meeting	2-1, Sat Aug 28 1937, Div 2
Last Win	2-0, Fri Nov 29 1968, Div 3
Last Draw	1-1, Tue Oct 15 1996, Div 2
Last Defeat	2-3, Sat Oct 5 2002, Div 2
Biggest Win	4-1, Fri Dec 10 1965, Div 4
Biggest Defeat	2-3, Sat Oct 5 2002, Div 2
Biggest Attendance	19,077, Sat Aug 28 1937, Div 2
Lowest Attendance	3,922, Sat Jan 31 1970, Div 3





	Venue	Score	Attendance	Position	Visitors																	
Sat Aug 9	Wycombe Wanderers	A	1-0	4826	19	681	Colgan	Goodwin	Clare	Jones	Pemberton	Gibb	McLachlan	Lambert	Ellison	Beckett	Wilbraham	Barlow	Challinor	Hardiker	Morrison	Spencer
Tue Aug 12	Lincoln City (Carling Cup 1)	A	0-1	2,296	-	294	Colgan	Goodwin	Clare	Jones	Pemberton	Morrison	McLachlan	Lambert	Ellison	Becket	Barlow	Hardiker	Welsh	Palmer	Wilbraham	Spencer



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IN THE BLOOD

OUR JUNIOR SUPPORTERS' CLUB

Hello again and welcome back to Edgeley Park for our first home match of the season against Luton Town.

A warm welcome to our friends from the Junior Hatters who have made the journey north to be here as our guests this afternoon. We have joined them for football at Power League before lunch then onto today's game. We hope you have enjoyed your visit and have a safe journey home. There have certainly been some changes since last season with the formation of Cheshire Sport and of course Sale Sharks, exciting times both on and off the field.

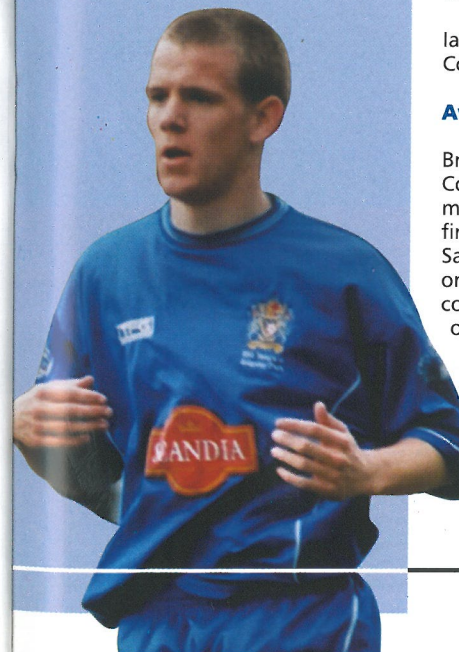
Looking back on the end of last season we held our End of Season Disco and Presentation Night here at the ground, probably one of the best events we have held. Thanks to all that helped and also to the players and management team who came along to join us. For

those who did not make it our awards were as follows:

- Luke Beckett Leading goalscorer, Player of the Year
- Jim Goodwin Goal of the Season
- Ali Gibb Clubman of the Year
- Rob Clare Young Player of the Year

Two seasons ago we asked members to send in a question they would ask their favourite players, we printed these in the programme and those used received a signed autographed photo. We have decided to run these again in the programme page for this season. To enter simply write down your question to which player and either bring it along to our regular monthly meetings or post to: 'County Juniors' c/o 30 Stainburne Road, Offerton, Stockport SK2 6BB. Don't forget to add your own name and address and look out for your question appearing in the coming weeks.

Junior's Young Player of the Year **ROB CLARE**.



Well that's all for this time. Enjoy today's match.

Ian Butterworth
County Juniors

Away Travel

Brenda will again be running Junior Coaches to a large number of away matches this coming season, the first being to Plymouth next Saturday August 23. To book seats on this coach or any other please contact Brenda on 0161 487 2766 or myself on 0161 456 7606.

Coaches arranged at present:

Sheffield Wednesday
Saturday September 13

Rushden & Diamonds
Saturday September 27



■ **VERNON** pays a visit to St Pauls School in Withington at the end of last term.

Oldham Athletic
Tuesday September 30

Swindon Town
Saturday October 11

Brighton & Hove Albion
Saturday October 25

Barnsley
Saturday November 29

Meetings

Your next County Juniors meeting will be held here at Edgeley Park on Sunday September 14, usual start time of 10.45am until 1.00pm. We will leave for Power League at 11.00am. County players will be along to join us. New members are always welcome.

Further meetings:

Sunday October 12
Sunday November 9

...for small businesses

A free morning seminar for small businesses based in Stockport is planned for:

Thursday September 25th,
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• looking for the basic skills to fulfill your legal requirements

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• happy to save money

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To reserve yourself a place and a free buffet lunch call Debbie Cartledge on 0161 456 0119 or email at debra.cartledge@stockport-pct.nhs.uk

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HIV clinic is every Monday (except Bank Holidays). There is a walk in testing service between 4.30-6.30pm. Results will be advised by Health Advisor. If very anxious you can be booked into 24 hr testing session each Tuesday morning. Between 8.00-9.00am (by appointment only). Results will be available the following morning. If these days are not convenient you can book an appt in the STD screening sessions, results being arranged by Health Advisor.
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SECOND LOOK!

CHRIS PEEL ON ALL THINGS SECOND DIVISION

Last season's play-off failures Bristol City and Queens Park Rangers began their Division Two campaigns with convincing opening-day wins last Saturday. Gareth Ainsworth scored twice, including the division's first goal of the season after just four minutes as Ian Holloway's Rangers won by the convincing scoreline of 5-0 against Blackpool at Loftus Road. Richard Langley, Kevin Gallen and Steve Palmer also helped themselves against the luckless Seasiders, who also had Richie Wellens sent-off. Losing play-off finalists historically struggle the following season, but Rangers have bucked that trend on the evidence of this first game to justify the bookies 9/2 favourites' tag. Meanwhile at Ashton Gate, Lee Peacock and Lee Matthews hit a brace apiece, with Lee Miller also scoring as Danny Wilson's men, who missed out on promotion to eventual play-off winners Cardiff

The weekend's Second Division fixtures

Blackpool v Wycombe Wanderers
Bournemouth v Barnsley
Brentford v Peterborough United
Brighton & Hove Albion v Queens Park Rangers (Monday)
Chesterfield v Bristol City
Colchester United v Swindon Town (Friday)
Grimsby Town v Port Vale
Hartlepool United v Tranmere Rovers
Notts County v Wrexham
Rushden & Diamonds v Plymouth Argyle
Sheffield Wednesday v Oldham Athletic

City, beat Notts County 5-0. Oldham Athletic endured a torrid summer, with their very survival at stake. However, although a deal was finally concluded and the Latics survived, a number of star players have gone and Iain Dowie faces a tough season. This was evidenced with the opening day defeat 3-1 at home to Brighton, with Leon Knight scoring twice and Darius Henderson converting from the penalty spot as the Seagulls began life successfully without Bobby Zamora. Peter Beadle was sent off on his debut as Brentford slumped to a 4-1 defeat by promotion hopefuls Tranmere Rovers. Gary Jones and Shane Nicholson gave Rovers a commanding lead, with Stephen Hunt halving the deficit from 12 yards after the restart, before Simon Haworth and Nicholson, with his second penalty, wrapped up the points. Bees boss Wally Downes saw Beadles' dismissal as a key element in the defeat and accused the Rovers bench of putting pressure on the referee to show red.

Iain Anderson spared relegated Grimsby Town from defeat against Plymouth Argyle at Home Park. Michael Boulding had opened the scoring for the Mariners before Marino Keith and Graham Coughlan hit back for Argyle, only for Anderson to make it 2-2 on 64 minutes. Tony Thorpe struck twice as Luton Town, another club with an unhappy summer behind them, beat promoted Rushden & Diamonds 3-1, with Onandi Lowe grabbing a consolation goal for Brian Talbot's men. Relegated Sheffield Wednesday opened their Division Two account with a 3-2 win at Swindon Town with Lloyd Owusu scoring twice according to the papers, though one appeared to be an own goal. Bury Player of the Year Michael

Nelson capped a memorable debut by scoring Hartlepool's winner as they came from behind to beat Peterborough 4-3 at London Road.



■ **KEVIN GALLEN** hit one of QPR's five goals against Blackpool.



■ Former County star **SHANE NICHOLSON** scored two penalties against Brentford.



TELLY VISION

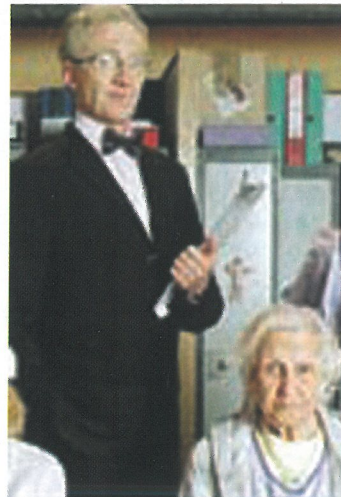
What a terrible summer...it's been too hot and there's been nothing on the telly. At least in the olden days you could look forward to Summertime Special with such luminaries as Les Dennis, Lennie Bennett, Keith Harris, the Roly Polies and the exquisitely turned-out Brian Rodgers Connection. Who, I want to know, was Brian Rodgers? What did he look like? Why the air of mystery? Why always the same dance steps, but in different costumes?

My pick of the TV week was certainly Sir Patrick Moore's performance as the Egyptian Sun-God, Ra in a programme examining the Gods of Ancient Egypt. This was basically a Mad Professors' Convention – each and every contributor having a shock of mad white hair – whereby the

ancient Egyptian habit of making up rude stories involving the stars of the night sky, was put under the microscope.

It was doubly entertaining for me because we went on holiday to Egypt, and so spent most of the programme pointing madly and saying, "been there". I don't remember there being quite so many cheeky deities on holiday, though – maybe they were all in other hotels.

Finally, on an unrelated matter, how does something as grizzly as "Eyes Down" – an alleged comedy – get commissioned? Set in a bingo hall and starring Paul O'Grady (already sounds good, don't it?) this egregious offering raised not one smile. Which is poor, because I laugh at anything. I think this series is trying to tap into the "Phoenix



Nights" generation, but I'm afraid on this showing Paul O'Grady is not fit to lace Peter Kay's drinks. Happy viewing.

WHO ARE YA?

A DETAILED LOOK AT THE STOCKPORT COUNTY SQUAD LIST
JUST FOR OUR VIITORS SUPPORTERS

3. Anthony Tonkin

Signed from Yeovil Town in September 2002 and made his debut just two days later in the 1-0 defeat at Tranmere Rovers. Hasn't figured yet this season after handing in a transfer request on the eve of the new campaign.

4. Dave Challinor

The former Tranmere defender arrived at Edgeley Park in January 2002 but couldn't stop County from suffering relegation to Division Two. Ever-present last season but hasn't figured in the opening two games following the arrival of 67" centre back Rob Jones.

5. Rob Clare

The England Under-20 captain has come through the ranks at Edgeley Park and has already attracted interest from a couple of Premiership clubs. Scored his only goal for the Hatters in last season's Worthington Cup victory at Lincoln.

6. Carlton Palmer

Manager of County these days although he is still available to play if required. Hasn't made an appearance following his dismissal in the 2-0 victory at Cheltenham Town on February 8 last season although he was on the bench at Lincoln on Tuesday.

7. Aaron Lescott

The former Sheffield Wednesday midfielder took a while to win over the support of the County faithful but his performances in the second half of last season were impressive. A groin strain picked up in the final friendly

at Carlisle has ruled him out for the first three weeks.

8. Aaron Wilbraham

Talented striker who has been carefully nurtured at Edgeley Park since a youngster. A problem back ruled him out of the majority of last season but he came back into the team in late March and scored seven times in the Hatters' last six games as they ensured Second Division survival.

9. Luke Beckett

The former Chesterfield striker has been a revelation since his arrival at Edgeley Park with 36 goals in just 66 games prior to this season. Won over the Blue & White Army immediately with his committed displays and eye for goal.

10. Rickie Lambert

The Liverpoolian arrived at Edgeley Park from Macclesfield Town in April 2002 for a £300,000 fee. Last season he failed to make any real progress but after putting in the hours in the summer this season could be a better one for Rickie. Scored a superb 35-yard free kick in the final pre-season game at Carlisle.

11. Martin Pemberton

Joined County on a Bosman free from Mansfield in May 2002 after helping the Stags to promotion just a month earlier. The left-sided player was in and out of the team last season and will be hoping for better fortunes during the current campaign.

12. Jim Goodwin

Also signed on a Bosman free in May 2002 from Glasgow Celtic after making just one first team appearance for the Hoops. Scored a double against Barnsley at the start of last season and a fantastic free kick in the 3-0 win at Northampton, which won the Irish international County's Goal of the Season Award.

13. James Spencer

The young custodian became County's youngest ever keeper when he played in the 2-1 win at home to Watford in April 2002 at just 16 years of age. He's made three further appearances since then and is now understudy to Nick Colgan.

14. Fraser McLachlan

Another player to come through the Centre of Excellence at Edgeley Park. Fraser made 24 appearances for the first team last season. His only goal to date was a superb 20-yard volley at home to Watford in April 2002.

15. Kevin Ellison

The former Leicester man arrived at Edgeley Park in November 2001 and quickly became a favourite with the fans nicknamed him 'Psycho' in recognition of his aggressive displays on the left hand side. Scored his first ever County goal in the memorable 3-1 win at Blackpool in October 2002.

16. Jon Daly

The talented Irish Under-21 International has, unfortunately, missed the start of the season with a broken bone in his foot although he is expected back next week. Daly currently has ten goals to his name and will certainly



■ LUKE BECKETT

be looking to add to that once he starts playing this season.

17. Rob Jones

Arrived from Gateshead last season although he had to wait until last Saturday to make his debut in the 1-0 defeat at Wycombe. The 67" defender has already taken the place of Dave Challinor and the centre back looks like a solid addition to Carlton Palmer's squad.

18. John Hardiker

The former Morecambe player signed for County in January 2002 and immediately gained 'legend' status when he scored two goals in an unforgettable last four minutes to beat league leaders Manchester City 2-1 at Edgeley Park in March. Replaced Martin Pemberton at Lincoln in midweek and could start today.

19. Andy Welsh

The Scottish Under-19 winger is another product of the club's youth academy after writing in for a trial. Also came on as a second half substitute at Lincoln in midweek and will hope to start challenging for a place on the left hand side.

20. Owen Morrison

Arrived on a free from Sheffield United in the summer, the Northern Ireland Under-21 International appears to be a fantastic addition to the squad. Played on the right at Lincoln in midweek and made a number of good crosses and runs into the box.

21. Stuart Barlow

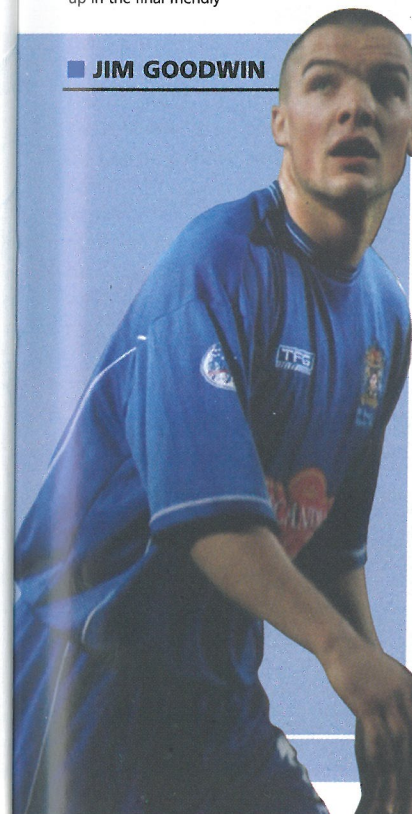
Another summer signing after being released by Tranmere Rovers at the end of last season. Following a successful trial, he signed a one-year contract on the eve of the new season. Scored County's late winner in the Carling Cup at Lincoln to book his new side a place in Round Two.

22. Nick Colgan

Currently on loan from Scottish Premier League side Hibernian until January 2004. The 'keeper, who has made three appearances for Republic of Ireland, made a number of fantastic saves to keep County in the game at Lincoln on Tuesday night.

26. Ali Gibb

The former Norwich and Northampton player arrived in Stockport in February 2000. After well over 100 appearances for County, he netted his first goal in the 3-1 win at Blackpool in October 2002. The winger won over the supporters with his accurate crosses and mazy runs down the right hand side.



■ JIM GOODWIN

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HEEEERE'S VERNON...!

Hi Bear Folks,

Where have you been all summer? I've been sweating my little paws off and nobody has bought me an ice cream or anything. The only thing that has been cool (which is usually me) has been the water off Sharky's back He's been in the reservoir next to the ground so I haven't sent much of him recently. He's only been once but took to the ground like a duck out of water (without the feathers though coz sharks can't have feathers, it would be like a duck with no feathers, actually if you go to the butchers on Castle St????).

Well, it's another season ahead and have we going to have a bearill time, as you may notice my column is getting shorter! So I'm going to have to write a little quicker this season. I nearly wasn't going to be here today, so I phoned in ill, but my mate and boss Ted Le Tice said that he looks after his wife for a couple of hours and then he feels better, and that's what he told me to do. I rang him later and said I

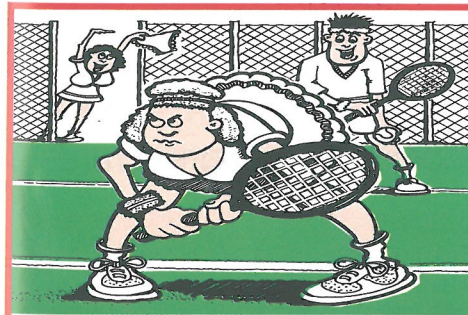
took his advice and that I will be into work up in the Robbie's Stand in 20mins, I also thanked him for his advice and told him he had a lovely house. Anyway, good luck to the boys today and a big welcome to the heaviest toilet in the

world, yep honest.... Loo-Ton!!!

Seeya at Half time
 Chow Bearminos
 Vernon



PS: My half-time dance will be in memory of our old friend Brian who passed away recently, God Bless you my friend!



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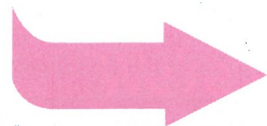
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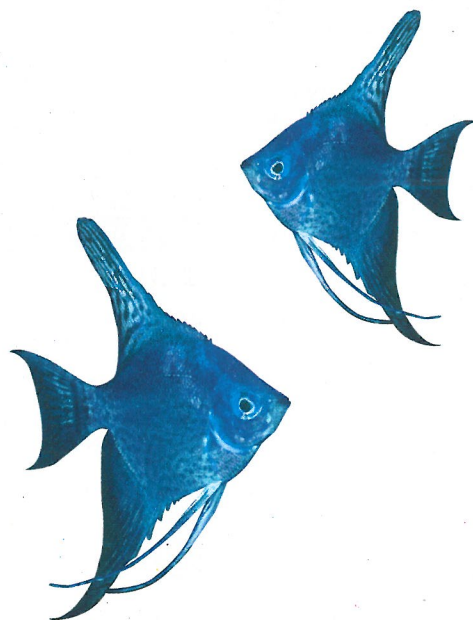
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■ **ROB CLARE** holds up Wycombe's Simon Paterson with Rob Jones looking on during our opening-day defeat at Wycombe.



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PLAYHOUSE DISNEY, TURKISH WATCHES AND WHITE CHICKEN TIKKA

I spent the entire journey down to Wycombe last week trying to get the blasted theme tune to Playhouse Disney out of my head. Anyone with children under five and access to Sky's Kid's channels will know exactly what I am talking about. Before leaving for the club last Friday morning I provided my 4 year old with some breakfast and sat her down in front of this annoying programme. Within minutes I found myself glued to little Alex and Big Dave as they leapt around their colourful set and burst into song.

I can remember the words right now but I won't bore you with them. As it turned out I would probably have preferred watching the omnibus edition of Playhouse Disney (not that there is such a thing) than sitting in the numerous traffic jams that we endured on our way to the team hotel.

When we eventually did arrive, we were greeted by about three million screaming kids. It would appear that the team hotel is a firm favourite for those wishing to visit Legoland. Twenty-four hours later Legoland seemed a preferable option to the action that unfolded at Wycombe.

Thankfully the kids were packed off to bed early and we were left to discuss our potential for the opening match in the comfort of the hotel bar. Having decided that we were going to win, and comfortably, we headed off into the yuppie land of Windsor in search of a cool beer and an appropriate eatery.

We nipped into the slug and lettuce, which reminds me of the starters I normally eat in China, and

enjoyed a cold beer in the unusually empty bar. The heat it would seem was a tad too much for the Windsor folk who all appeared to have disappeared.

There was a rumble and some of the party thought that a storm was about to break but there was no reason for concern, it was simply my stomach telling me and everyone else in a five mile radius that it was time to eat.

We were nearly too late, thanks to my Rolex watch purchased from a highly reputable dealer in a Bazaar in Turkey. To be fair I had had this watch for six years and it keeps perfect time for at least one second per day but what can you expect for £3.50 and a kebab.

Thankfully the Spice Route where we had chosen to eat were not too fussy about the time and we were soon sat down perusing the menu. If you are ever in Windsor and fancy a curry then this is the place. It is without doubt one of the finest Indian restaurants ever to open its doors although this is also reflected in the price.

This is the only curry house that I have visited that serves White Chicken Tikka, which is exactly the same as the red chicken Tikka but not red. Not only does it taste fantastic but you don't get a big red ring round your gob either.

As with most of these overnight stops we had a fabulous time until the game, then things started to go wrong. It was difficult to be too critical, with the game played in near 100-degree heat but the lads will not need telling that this was not one of their best displays. They were not helped by the referee, who appeared to have got his



watch from the same dodgy Turkish dealer as me. How he could stop the game for drinks as well as all the usual stoppages and then only add on three minutes at the end was completely beyond me and indeed everyone else in the stadium.

We left feeling a little disappointed and even a little cheated by the gamesmanship that had ensued but we cheered ourselves up with the thought that there are another 45 games to go.

Today we face Luton looking to achieve our first of many maximum point hauls of the season. One thing is for certain if we play half as well as we did against them at the end of last season then we will win handsomely. The again if we played like we did at times against Wycombe I could be in the curry house by half past four.

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STOCKPORT'S BARMY ARMY

The fixture list hasn't done too unkind this season giving County the long trip down to Plymouth in mid-August rather than in the depths of winter.

It's sure to be a lovely weekend in Devon giving the travelling Blue & White Army the chance to stay for the weekend or longer in either Plymouth or nearby Torquay, which has always been a popular choice for a 'stay-over'.

Last season, when we made the trip to Home Park, Argyle were stuck in 16th place but a good run of form in the second half of the season gave the Pilgrims an 8th-place finish, just a couple of positions behind Cardiff City who nicked the last Play-Off place. An impressive return, considering it was Plymouth's first season back at this level for four years.

This season, excluding today's trip to Rushden & Diamonds, Plymouth have failed to register a victory in their first couple of games. On the opening day, a second half equaliser from Iain Anderson earned Grimsby Town a 2-2 draw in front of nearly 10,000 at Home Park.

And then on Tuesday night, goals from Craig Fagan and Thomas Pinault gave Colchester United a 2-1 victory in the Carling Cup First Round clash at Layer Road. Mickey Evans' first half equaliser was a mere consolation.

Last season County were beaten 4-1 at Home Park, their first defeat in four trips to Plymouth - a run that dated back to September 1969.

Jim Goodwin's brace of own goals along with Marino Keith and Steve Adams made it a painful journey home for the County fans, whose only cheers in Devon that day came from Paul Wotton's equalising own goal in the first half.

Prior to this, County had won three and drawn one of their previous four trips to Home Park. The three victories came in consecutive seasons in the early 90s. In 1992-93, goals from P R Williams and a Kevin Francis hat-trick gave the Hatters a memorable 4-3 win at the end of March as they picked up three crucial points on their way to the Second Division Play-Offs.

The following season it was another high scoring victory on the opening day of the season as a brace from Francis and a goal from Andy Preece secured a 3-2 win.

And, it was victory again in 1994-95 as

goals from Deiniol Graham and Tony Dinning gave County a 2-0 victory in what was to be Danny Bergara's final game in charge of the Hatters.

In all competitions, County's record at Home Park reads:
P9 W3 D2 L4 F14 A17

TICKET INFORMATION

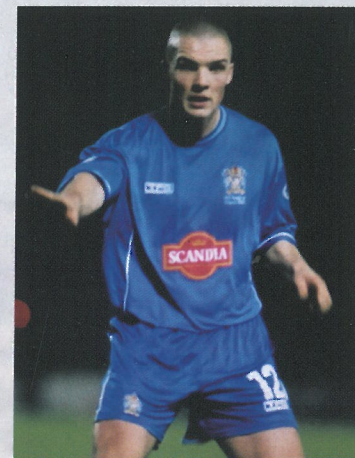
Home Park has undergone major modernisation programme over the last few years and County fans will once again be housed in the Barn Park Stand which is behind the goal. It's pay-on-the-gate for travelling fans with prices of £15 (Adults), £10 (Students, OAPs) and £5 (Under-16s).

Recommended road directions to Home Park:

- Take the normal route to Junction 1 of the M60, continuing straight ahead onto the M56.
- Exit onto M56 Junction 7 / Junction 8.
- Bear left onto the A556 Chester Road for just over four miles.
- Leave the roundabout onto the M6 for 60 miles.
- Continue straight ahead onto the M5 for 31 miles.
- Leave the roundabout onto the A44 Pershore Road for 13 miles.
- Leave the roundabout onto the A46 Cheltenham Road for 15 miles.
- Continue straight ahead onto the M5 for 110 miles.
- Continue straight ahead onto the M5 / A30 A38 for 44 miles.
- At Manadon Junction roundabout, leave onto A38 A386 for 1 mile.
- Bear left and Home Park should appear after about half a mile.

Recommended train route to Home Park:

For County fans wishing to make the long journey to Devon by train, it is possible to do so although you'll need to get your skates on once the game finishes. The only train back to Stockport that night leaves Plymouth at 5.15pm so a taxi is definitely needed to pick you up from Home Park at the end of the match. Another downside is the fare. If you've failed to book in advance then a Saver Return will set you back no less than £95!



● **JIM GOODWIN** endured a Home Park nightmare last season!

- Depart Stockport, 7.27am.
- Arrive Birmingham New Street, 8.55am.
- Depart Birmingham New Street, 9.12am.
- Arrive Plymouth, 1.09pm.
- Depart Plymouth, 5.15pm.
- Arrive Birmingham New Street, 8.38pm.
- Depart Birmingham New Street, 9.18am.
- Arrive Crewe, 10.19pm.
- Depart Crewe, 11.24pm.
- Arrive Stockport, 11.59pm.

Coaches to Home Park
Stockport County Supporters Club will be running an executive coach down to Plymouth, leaving Edgeley Park at 7.45am. The price for the trip is £18, with the usual £1 reduction for members. To book your seats, contact the club shop on 0161 286 8899.

The Finger Post Travel Club are also running a coach down to Home Park, leaving the Finger Post at 7.45am. The price for the trip is £18. To book your seats, contact Lou Spalding on 07970 549194.

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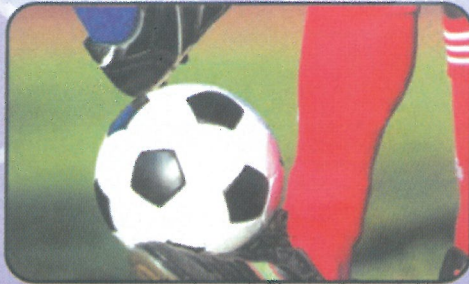
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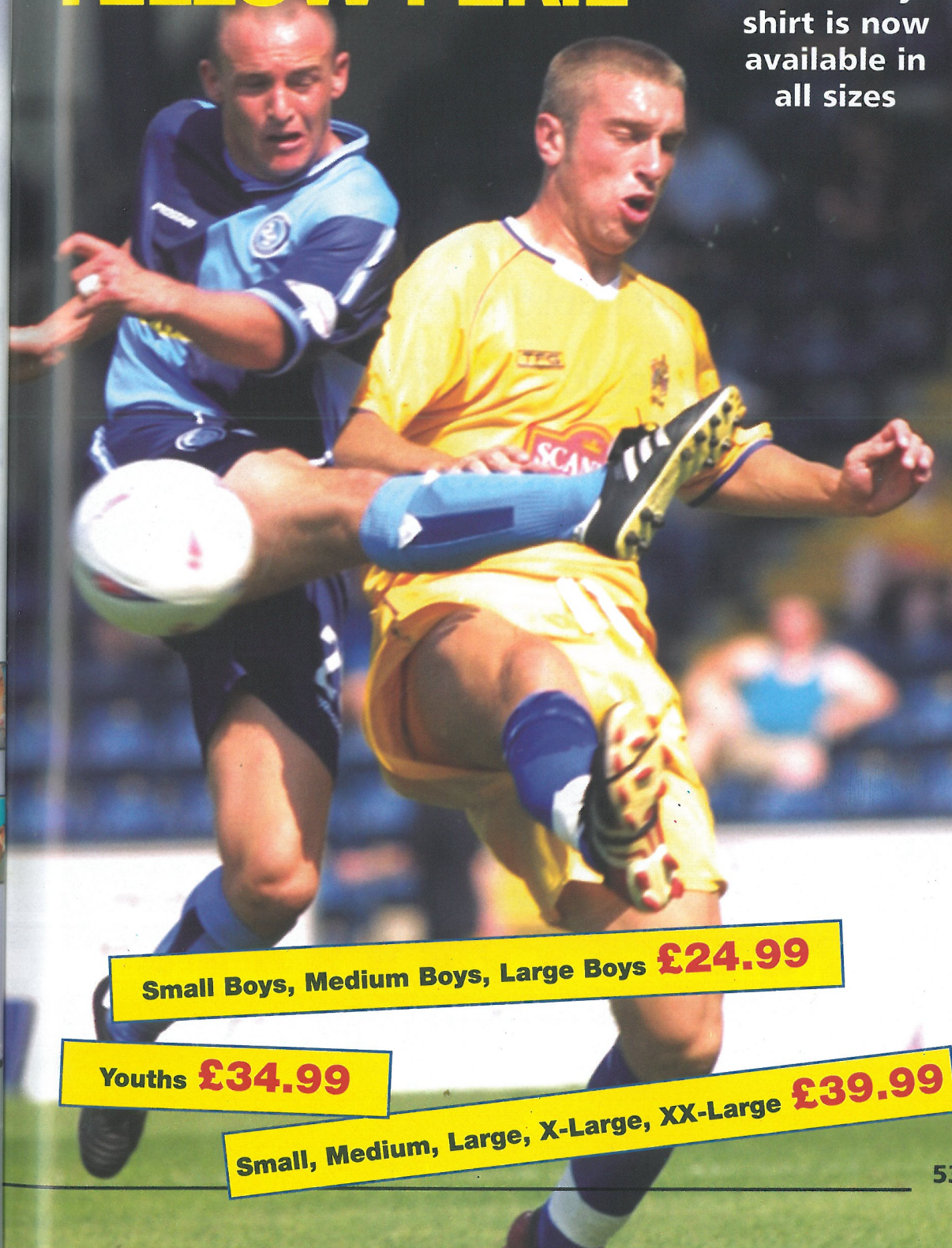
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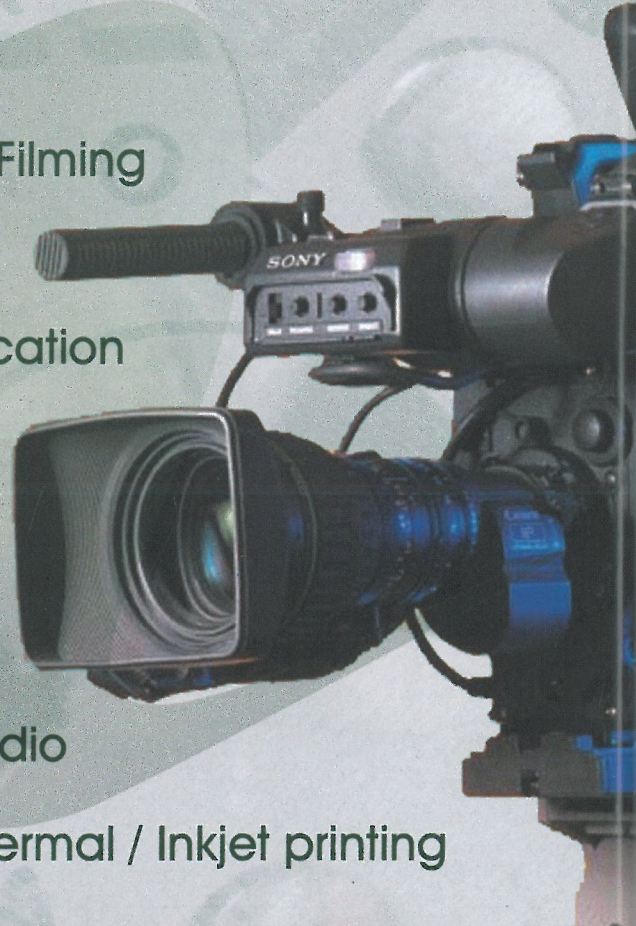
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EP

THE LATEST NEWS AND VIEWS FROM EDGELEY PARK

WELCOME Welcome back to Edgeley Park for our first home game under new owners Cheshire Sport. Unfortunately we were unable to turn second-half possession into a goal at Wycombe last Saturday but the lads bounced back in midweek when they reached the Carling Cup second round with a 1-0 win at Lincoln. Hopefully we will receive a favourable tie when the draw is made after this afternoon's game. Get behind the lads from the first whistle to help us mark this exciting new chapter in our illustrious history with three points.

CAPTAIN ROB Rob Clare, who captained us at Sincil Bank in the absence of Dave Challinor, Aaron Lescott and Ali Gibb, enjoyed a similar experience with the England Under-20 side during the close season. The cultured defender, who led the Three Lions out against Italy, is now keeping his fingers crossed that he makes the squad for November's World Championship Finals.

BEST WISHES JAMES Our best wishes go to trainee James Wonfor who fractured his tibia and fibula during last weekend's Under-19 game at Oldham Athletic. It's a real double blow for James as he broke the same leg just eight months ago. We're keeping our fingers crossed that you make a full and speedy recovery James.

OH, RODGER, RODGER We're delighted to report that Rodger Wylde will be back on the bench this afternoon after missing last week's game at Wycombe. The popular physio couldn't make the Causeway Stadium clash as he was recovering from a cartledge operation needed after he twisted his knee on an early-morning run ahead of last month's friendly at Bromsgrove. Amazingly it is the first league game Rodger has missed since he took up occupancy of the treatment room at

Edgeley Park in the summer of 1989!

CHINA SYNDROME Our Under-19 squad, headed by coach Craig Madden and Centre of Excellence Director Mick Wiblin, jetted out to China on Thursday. The kids - the first British team to visit the country since the SARS epidemic - are scheduled to open the Urumqi Hongshan Stadium against a select side from the Xinjiang Province on August 19th and the interest is such that a capacity 10,000 gate is guaranteed. A full report on the ground-breaking tour will appear here in the matchday Programme and www.stockportcounty.com the club's official website when the young Hatters return from the far East.

FLY THE FLAG Fans are, this season, able to identify assistant referees by the colour of the flag they carry this season. This afternoon Mr G Simpson will use the red & yellow flag. Mr A Parker will carry the yellow flag.

CONGRATULATIONS Our recent Open Day at Edgeley Park saw around 3,000 fans visit the club on a glorious afternoon. The day was a huge success for the club and quite successful as well for a couple of younger supporters. Nick Entwistle and Adam Britton (pictured) won the raffle to appear on this season's team photo and the lads lined-up with Carlton and the boys at the photo shoot on earlier this month. Well done Guys.

R.I.P. It is with great sadness that we report the passing of two County fanatics, Graham McKnight and Brian McLaughlin. A special tribute to both supporters appears on Page 66 of this afternoon's programme.

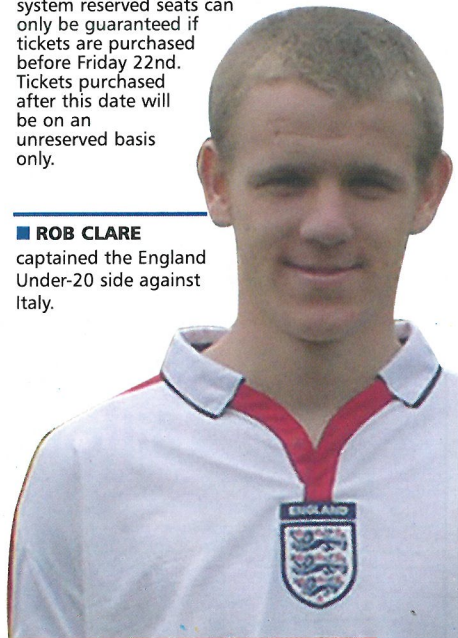
COME AGAIN Our next game here at Edgeley Park is on Bank Holiday Monday, August 25th when the visitors are our Cheshire neighbours, Tranmere Rovers. Fans are advised that due to the



■ Hatters fans Nick Entwistle and Adam Britton won the raffle to appear on this season's team photo.

installation of a new ticketing system reserved seats can only be guaranteed if tickets are purchased before Friday 22nd. Tickets purchased after this date will be on an unreserved basis only.

■ **ROB CLARE** captained the England Under-20 side against Italy.



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ANDY GOSLING'S STATISTICAL UPDATE

COUNTY LEAGUE GOAL TIMINGS 2002/03

Minutes	0-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90	Total
Goals Scored	9	10	10	10	9	17	65
Goals Conceded	13	4	11	11	14	17	70

OUR VISITORS GOAL TIMINGS 2002/03

Minutes	0-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90	Total
Goals Scored	9	4	10	13	11	20	67
Goals Conceded	9	13	8	10	7	15	62

EDGELEY PARK GOAL SUMMARY (League & Cup) 2002/03

	Cheadle End	Railway End
For	26	19
Against	20	24

SECOND DIVISION HOTSHOTS 2002/03 SEASON

	League	Cup	Total
Earnshaw (Cardiff)	31	4	35
BECKETT (COUNTY)	27	2	29
Hulise (Crewe Alexandra)	22	5	27
Murray (Bristol City)	19	8	27
Parkin (Swindon Town)	25	1	26
Stallard (Notts County)	25	1	26

DIVISION TWO DATABASE

LARGEST HOME WIN
 6-1 Oldham Athletic v Mansfield Town (14/9)
 6-1 Mansfield Town v Tranmere Rovers (5/10)
 6-1 Plymouth Argyle v Peterborough United (4/3)

LARGEST AWAY WIN
 5-0 Crewe Alexandra at Mansfield Town (31/8)
 5-0 Wycombe Wanderers at Northampton Town (31/8)

HIGHEST CROWD: 18,085 Bristol City v Plymouth Argyle (26/12)
LOWEST CROWD: 2,721 Colchester United v Wigan Athletic (31/8)

PENALTY SCORERS
 6 Stallard (Notts County)
 5 Corden (Mansfield), Keith (Colchester), Tinnion (Bristol City)
 4 Six Players
 3 Five Players
 2 Eight Players
 1 Twenty Three Players

TOTAL SUCCESSFUL PENALTIES: 99 (Home Team 56, Away Team 43)

STATISTICAL SHORTS

- Now recovered from his injury problems which curtailed his run in to the end of last season, Luke Beckett is fast closing in on his 20th career league appearance. At the close of the 2002/03 campaign the popular striker had made 197 league appearances, 74 for Chester City, 62 for Chesterfield and 61 in County colours.
- Division Two football was watched by a total of 3,892,469 spectators last season, this worked out at an average of 7,052 and is 1.8% down on the previous season.

APPEARANCES AND GOALSCORERS 2002/03

	LEAGUE		CUP		COUNTY LEAGUE CAREER	
	APPS	GOALS	APPS	GOALS	APPS	GOALS
Luke Beckett	41 (1)	27	5	2	58 (3)	34
Alan Blayney	2	-	1	-	2	-
Keith Briggs	13 (6)	1	6	1	47 (11)	2
Ben Burgess	17 (2)	4	3 (2)	2	17 (2)	4
Dave Challinor	46	1	5	-	64	1
Rob Clare	31 (5)	-	2	1	71 (10)	-
Peter Clark	21	1	-	-	66 (6)	3
Jon Daly	25 (10)	7	1 (1)	36 (16)	8	-
Kevin Ellison	17 (6)	1	1	-	23 (11)	1
Karim Fradin	8 (1)	-	4	1	72 (9)	9
Ali Gibb	43 (2)	1	5	-	134 (5)	1
Jim Goodwin	22 (11)	3	5	-	22 (11)	3
Gordon Greer	4 (1)	1	-	-	4 (1)	1
John Hardiker	19 (4)	-	5	-	30 (5)	3
Michael Ingham	-	-	1	-	-	-
Brad Jones	1	-	-	-	1	-
Lee Jones	24	-	3	-	72 (2)	-
Rickie Lambert	22 (7)	2	4	-	22 (7)	2
Aaron Lescott	36 (5)	1	2 (2)	-	53 (5)	1
Fraser McLachlan	18 (4)	-	2	-	29 (4)	1
Carlton Palmer	22	1	3 (1)	1	42 (1)	4
Martin Pemberton	15 (5)	-	1 (1)	-	15 (5)	-
Neil Ross	1 (3)	1	3 (2)	-	3 (6)	2
James Spencer	1	-	1	-	2 (1)	-
Andrew Thomas	1 (1)	-	-	-	8 (4)	-
Ola Tidman	18	-	-	-	18	-
Anthony Tonkin	23 (1)	-	3	-	23 (1)	-
Andrew Welsh	7 (6)	2	0 (1)	-	16 (12)	2
Aaron Wilbraham	8 (7)	7	-	-	86 (45)	27
Peter Wild	0 (3)	1	0 (1)	-	1 (3)	1
Chris Williams	0 (1)	-	-	-	1 (5)	-
Own Goals	-	3	-	-	-	-

SECOND DIVISION ATTENDANCES AND LEADING SCORER

	Total	Highest	Average	2001/02 Ave	Leading Lge Goalscorer
Barnsley	224,427	12,474	9,758	13,323	Dyer 16
Blackpool	160,784	8,772	6,991	5,993	Murphy 16
Brentford	132,466	9,168	5,759	6,714	Vine 10
Bristol City	273,464	18,085	11,890	11,220	Murray 19
Cardiff City	300,161	15,245	13,050	12,523	Earnshaw 31
Cheltenham Town	107,063	6,382	4,655	4,073	Alops 9
Chesterfield	94,492	6,813	4,108	4,391	Reeves 8
Colchester United	77,896	5,047	3,387	3,839	Keith 9
Crewe Alexandra	155,508	9,562	6,761	7,129	Hulise 22
Huddersfield Town	218,646	13,769	9,505	10,881	Smith 17
Luton Town	155,177	9,477	6,747	6,853	Howard 22
Mansfield Town	112,412	8,134	4,887	6,919	Christie 18
Northampton Town	119,849	5,906	5,211	5,253	Gabbiadini 12
Notts County	141,535	10,902	6,154	5,958	Stallard 24
Oldham Athletic	154,078	9,415	6,699	5,800	Eyres 13
Peterborough United	113,870	7,767	4,951	5,457	Clarke 17
Plymouth Argyle	206,561	11,922	8,981	8,788	Keith 11
Port Vale	102,099	6,395	4,439	5,206	Bridge-Wilkinson 9
Queens Park Rangers	303,744	16,921	13,206	11,749	Gallen 13
STOCKPORT COUNTY	126,240	8,168	5,489	6,245	Beckett 27
Swindon Town	125,126	8,629	5,440	6,362	Parkin 25
Tranmere Rovers	181,164	9,795	7,877	8,655	Haworth 20
Wigan Athletic	167,918	12,783	7,301	7,717	Liddell 16
Wycombe Wanderers	138,051	8,383	6,002	6,621	Faulconbridge 6

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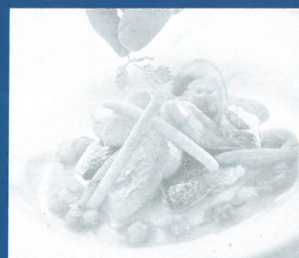
(Except possibly winning the game, of course).

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We understand that your expectations are high and we aim to exceed them. Our experienced team have the ability to accommodate the needs of both small meetings right through to large scale events. Our main suite, The Pavilion, can seat up to 100 guests in its wood panelled elegant surroundings. Something no other venue locally can boast.

In business, if you have the responsibility of keeping customers happy, our Matchday Hospitality is second to none, offering the finest cuisine, outstanding service and great football.

For life's celebrations you couldn't be in better hands. Weddings – we have a civil ceremony licence, birthdays, christenings & dinner parties. Rest assured we have a package to suit your every need. At Edgeley Park we are in the business of creating memorable occasions.

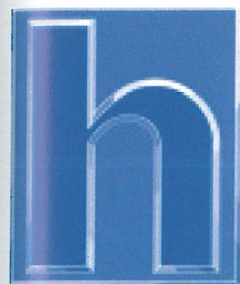
For further details of what Edgeley Park is able to offer you please contact us by telephone on 0161 286 8891.



BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

A LOOK AT SOME OF THE COMPANIES INVOLVED IN THIS AFTERNOON'S GAME

Match Sponsors



Hyde Group Limited have a group of engineering companies

based around the Dukinfield and Stockport area; which design and manufacture tools and components for the aerospace industry.

Many of the 1,300 employees in the Hyde Group are supporters of Stockport County and Hyde Group is pleased to maintain its sponsorship of the local football team.

We wish the new management team at

'County' every success both in the Boardroom and on the pitch, and look forward to a successful future for both the football and rugby playing sides.

Let's hope the first game at home gives us a positive result, helping to keep 'County' moving 'onwards and upwards'.

Good luck to everyone involved with the club!

We are delighted to welcome back Steve Cree and Stuart Ferguson from the Site Supply Company, this afternoon's matchball sponsors.

You may have spotted County fanatic Steve warming up with the lads and joining the team huddle before our last home game against Tranmere Rovers after winning a 'matchday to remember' in our special on-line auction. Stuart is a Rangers fan but Steve tells us he's working on that!

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The Site Supply Company



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NOT IN - CAN'T WIN

Cash Bonanza

Winners From Week 18
Drawn on Friday August 8,
2003

£100 Jackpot Accumulator

Not Won - Next Week £600
3, 10, 23, 26

£200

Paul German, Offerton, K7822
Agent 278

£300

Mr J Burgoyne, Edgeley, K3593
Agent 137

£1000

C Johnson, Brinnington, A1276
Agent 18

Cash Bonanza is the Fastest Growing Lottery in the North West

For just £1 per week you can support the North-West's fastest growing lottery whilst at the same time receiving over 280 chances each week to win a prize. Your £1 entitles you to a unique membership card with ten numbers on - these numbers go into all the draws, except the Jackpot Accumulator. All these prizes will be paid out on a weekly basis.

All memberships on the Cash Bonanza system are entered into the Jackpot Accumulator Draw. The Accumulator will be drawn on a weekly basis. If when the four numbers drawn the membership turns out to be not used or a temporary cancellation of the draw will accumulate by a further £100 (to a maximum of 15 weeks) or until

it has been won.

Cash Bonanza is drawn every Friday by the Cash Bonanza computer. All prizes are paid immediately by post.

How To Join

You can pay Stockport County's Cash Bonanza Lottery by standing order, cheque or through one of our approved collectors who will call weekly. All our collectors have an official badge for your inspection. Preferred Payment Method (please highlight one):

Cheque - Please enclose a minimum of 4 weeks entry (£4)
Standing Order - Please complete an application form.

Collector - We will arrange your local collector to call within the next two weeks. Thank you for your support.

Any queries ring Matthew on 0161 286 8890.

HALF TIME DRAW SELLERS REQUIRED

Do you have two hours to spare before every home game? Would you like to watch Stockport County for free? Would you like to earn extra cash? Are you over 16 years old? If the answer to these questions is 'yes', we need you to sell our popular half time draw. For more information telephone 0161 286 8890



COUNTY HONOURS

Division Two Runners-Up	1997
Division Three (North) Champions	1922, 1937
Division Three (North) Runners-Up	1929, 1930
Division Four Champions	1967
Division Four Runners-Up	1991
Division Two Play-Off Finalists	1994
Division Three Play-Off Finalists	1992
Autoglass Trophy Finalists	1992, 1993
Division Three (North) Cup Winners	1935
Division Three (North) Cup Finalists	1934
Manchester Senior Cup Winners	1898, 1899, 1915, 1923
Cheshire Medal Winners	1923, 1925, 1929, 1930, 1931
Cheshire Bowl Winners	1934, 1949, 1953, 1956, 1957, 1959, 1961, 1963
Cheshire Friendly Trophy Winners	1966, 1967
Cheshire Premier Cup Winners	1970, 1971

We hope that you have enjoyed your visit to Edgeley Park. However, if you have experienced anything that you feel is unsatisfactory or, indeed, have any ideas on how we can improve things, please contact Steve Bellis, c/o Stockport County Football Club, Edgeley Park, Hardcastle Road, Edgeley, Stockport, Cheshire SK3 9DD. Thank you for your support

Richard Harris is on the end of a crunching tackle from Rob Jones at the Causeway Stadium last Saturday. The former Gateshead defender, who has already forged a fine understanding with young England skipper Rob Clare, has impressed everyone with his first two performances since stepping up from non-league.





STAND UP FOR THE HATTERS!



■ Top Hatters ... a typical scene from Edgeley Park in the 1930s.

If fans of either side start encouraging each other to 'stand up for the real hatters' this afternoon could we, respectively, ask the Luton supporters to sit down!

Both teams proudly carry the Hatters nickname and both clubs, and their sets of supporters, will tell you that they are the originals. Luton, though, were originally known as The Straw Plaiters due to the town's straw hat-making industry that gathered momentum in the 19th century.

It was only after straw plaiting largely disappeared in the 1930s that traditional wool felt hatting was introduced, which inspired a change in nickname. By then Stockport was firmly established as the centre of Britain's hat manufacture. In fact, in 1900, the year County were elected to the Football League more than 10,000 men, women and

children worked in the town's thriving hat industry. And it was the world-famous Christys Company, based on Hillgate, which led the way in the mechanisation of the British hatting industry. Indeed, in 1883 – the year of County's formation - Christys, with around 1,500 workers had established itself as the largest hatting factory in Europe. In addition to Christys there were another 30 major hat manufacturers in the town, many of international repute, and small hatters' workshops throughout the surrounding areas.

Barely a street was without its hat works, hat shop or planking cellar, or one of the many ancillary trades that had developed to supply the industry.

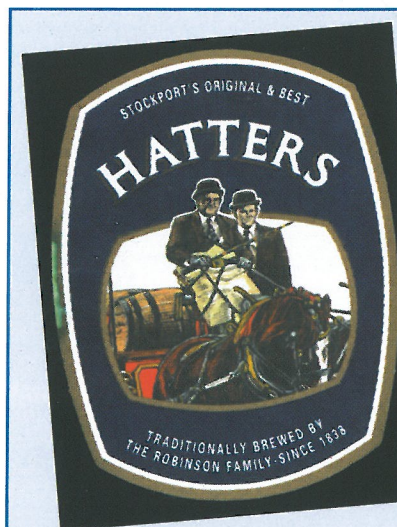
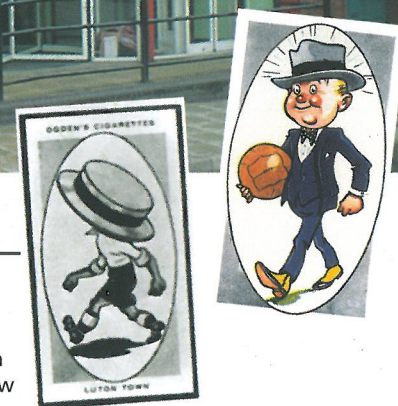
When discussions began in the late 1990s about developing a museum to celebrate Britain's hat making achievements, location was never an issue. Opened to celebrate the millennium the UK's ONLY hat museum is, of course, based on the A6 close to Mersey Square in Stockport.

And such is its popularity it was voted Britain's Best Small Visitor Attraction last year. So Luton fans, we don't mind you borrowing our nickname – just remember that we are the original Hatters!



■ The UK's only Hat Museum is based in Stockport.

■ Ogden's produced a series of cigarette cards in the 1930s. County's showed Harry Hatter wearing his trilby - Luton's was a figure of a player wearing a straw hat.



■ Traditional Hatters Mild is a popular drink throughout the town

Stockport also has its very own Hatters Mild. Local firm Frederic Robinson Ltd. introduced the drink due to the 'Hatters' name being synonymous with Stockport for over 200 years because of the town's former hat making industry. Their beer mats also reaffirm the point that County have derived their nickname from the industry and that Robinson's own horsemen wear traditional bowler hats when showing their familiar shire horses.



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Sadly Missed

The Chairman, Directors, officials and players were saddened to hear of the passing away of two of the clubs most ardent supporters during the summer.

Graham McKnight

One of the clubs most loyal sponsors, Graham McKnight was one of the real characters involved with the club. His involvement with the club stretches back more than a decade when he completely fitted out the new club shop at no cost to the club. His company, Second City Shopfitters created the first professional retail unit at Edgeley Park and Graham himself became one of the most popular members of the Executive Club.

Grahams original first love Manchester United, where he was equally popular amongst staff and players alike, was soon relegated to his second love as his involvement at Edgeley Park intensified. Graham was very much part of the furniture and was always in his seat at the rear of the Home Directors Box with his lovely wife Sandra well before kick off.

Graham simply hated missing games and despite the seriousness of his illness he still managed to persuade the nurses at Christies to let him escape to watch the game at Edgeley Park.

It is fair to say that the Home box will never be the same again without Grahams wit and his constant updates from grounds around the country. He will be sadly missed by everyone at the club especially Commercial Manager John Rutter whose relationship with Graham was far more than just professional. John and Graham were like brothers and as John put it " I have lost a member of my family."

Hopefully Grahams support for the club will live on through his wife Sandra who never misses a match at Edgeley Park. Our thoughts are with Sandra, her family and all of their friends at this sad time. The club will of course give Sandra the same support that Graham always gave the club.

Brian McGloughlin

In July the club lost another one of its finest fans and characters. Brian McGloughlin simply lived and breathed Stockport County and he was never too far away from Edgeley Park.

Brian travelled home and away in support of the club and was well known by the players who often left him tickets at the away fixtures. Brian almost spent more hours in the club shop than the staff and he always had a prediction or a 'predicament' as he called it.

One of his all time favourite players was Mike Flynn and Mike was extremely sad when the club informed him of the sad news about Brian. Mike said" Brian was the salt of the earth and was always around when I finished training. I used to leave him tickets for the away games and he always used to have me down for the winning goal. This a great loss to the club and it won't be the same when he is not around when I return with Blackpool next month"

Brian's family and club officials gathered at Edgeley Park this week to scatter Brian's ashes in front of the Robinson's Brewery stand. His family raised a smile at the service at the stadium when his brother said: "If the visiting goalkeeper makes a mistake at that end of the ground, it will probably be Brian putting him off from behind the goal!"

Our thoughts are with Brian's family and friends at this sad time and Brian will of course, be sadly missed by everyone at the club.

Obituaries penned by Steve Bellis

STOCKPORT COUNTY YOUTH 2003-2004

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF STOCKPORT COUNTY





STOCKPORT

10

starting goals
player sub scored

3. Anthony Tonkin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Dave Challinor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Rob Clare	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Carlton Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Aaron Lescott	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Aaron Wilbraham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Luke Beckett	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Rickie Lambert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Martin Pemberton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Jim Goodwin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. James Spencer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Fraser McLachlan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Kevin Ellison	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Jon Daly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Rob Jones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
18. John Hardiker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. Andy Welsh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. Owen Morrison	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. Stuart Barlow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. Nick Colgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23. Chris Williams	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26. Ali Gibb	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
27. David Holt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28. Jamie Baguley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
29. Mat Bailey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
30. Alex Lord <i>COLLINS</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
32. Ben Coppinger	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

02



LUTON

starting goals
player sub scored

3. Alan Neilson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Matthew Spring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Russell Perrett	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Adrian Forbes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Kevin Nicholls	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Tony Thorpe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Steve Robinson <i>PITZ</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Chris Coyne	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Emmerson Boyce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Ahmet Brkovic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. Steve Howard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
21. Paul Hughes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. David Bayliss	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23. Ian Hillier	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24. Sol Davis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
32. Lee Mansell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
33. Dean Brill	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
34. Dean Crowe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
38. Michael Leary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
39. Stephen O'Leary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
41. Kevin Foley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
47. Robert Beckwith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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Assistants: G Simpson & A Parker
Fourth Official: I Nolan

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