

# County Life

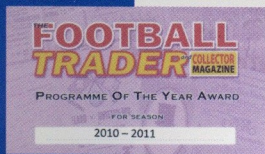
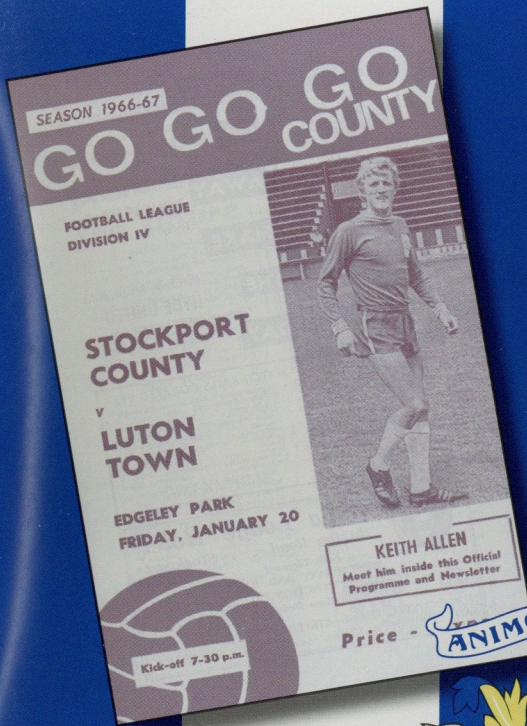
THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF STOCKPORT COUNTY

£3.00

Friday 02.09.11  
 Kick Off: 7.45pm  
 Blue Square Bet Premier



Stockport County  
 v Luton Town



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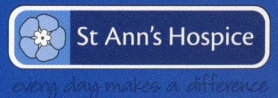
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# Welcome to Edgeley Park

## Home of Stockport County FC since 1902

### Directory

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**Directors:** Kevan Taylor, Mike Clark, Ken Graham, Tony Evans  
**Chief Executive Officer:** Graham Shaw  
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**Assistant Team Manager:** Willie McStay  
**Head of Youth:** Stuart Delaney  
**Recruitment Officer:** Alan Lord  
**Physiotherapist:** Rodger Wylde BSc (hons) MCSP, SRP  
**GK Coach:** Bernhard Hirmer  
**Fitness Trainer:** Will McCutcheon  
**Club Medical Officers:** Dr. D Dawson, Dr. S Greenhough, Dr P Bazley  
**Kit Man:** Richard Landon  
**Club Secretary:** Tony Whiteside  
**Commercial Manager:** Rob Clare  
**Office:** 0161 286 8903  
**Media:** Phil Brennan  
**Supporters Liaison Officer:** Andy Calvert  
**Safety Officer:** Gordon Taylor  
**Groundsman:** Danny Walker  
**Chaplain:** Rev. Billy Montgomery  
**Ticket Office:** 08456 885799  
**Community Foundation:** Mike Smith  
**County Gold Bond Weekly Draw:** Anthony Summers

### County Life

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### Honours

Div 2 Runners-up 1997  
Div 3 (North) Champions 1922, 1937  
Div 3 (North) Runners-up 1929, 1930  
Div 4 Champions 1967  
Div 4 Runners-up 1991  
League 2 Play-off Winners 2008  
Div 2 Play-off Finalists 1994  
Div 3 Play-off Finalists 1992  
Autoglass Trophy Finalists 1992, 1993  
Div 3 (North) Cup Winners 1935  
Div 3 (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, 2011  
Football League Youth Cup Winners 2007  
Football League Youth Cup Finalists 2010

### Football League Records

**Biggest Win:** 13-0 Halifax Town, January 6th 1934  
**Best Run of Results:** 9 consecutive wins without conceding a goal, March 3rd 2007  
**Consecutive Away Wins:** 8 April 12th 2008

### Evacuation Procedures

In the event of an emergency at Edgeley Park requiring evacuation of the ground in part or whole, spectators are requested to remain where they are and listen carefully to announcements over the public address system.

The announcements may direct spectators in a specified area of the ground and require evacuation through exit gates to the outside of the ground or through perimeter exit gates onto the pitch. Club stewards and Police Officers will assist in directing spectators to the safest locations. If requested to evacuate a specified area of the ground, spectators should do so as calmly and quickly as they can to assist in a safe and speedy evacuation.

All emergency announcements will be preceded with a chime.

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Proud to be associated with The Hatters

Take another look

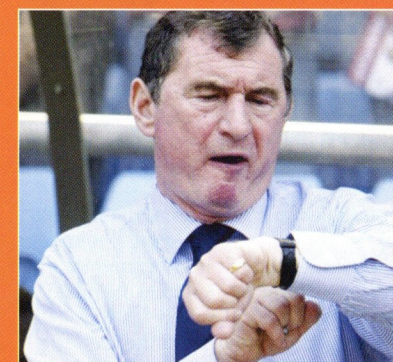
## Football historian Leigh Edwards looks at Luton Town's leading lights

### Classic Campaign 1987-88

Ray Harford plotted Luton Town's 1988 Littlewoods Cup final triumph. Danny Wilson replaced Peter Nicholas in midfield, while Micky Weir arrived from Hibernian and Mike Newell moved to Leicester. The Hatters won 5-2 at Oxford and Ian Allinson was signed from Stoke in October, with Luton losing just twice in 12 matches including a 7-4 win the return match against Oxford, finishing ninth in the top-flight. They defeated Wigan 5-2, Coventry 3-1, Ipswich 1-0, Bradford City 2-0 and Oxford 3-1 in the Littlewoods Cup before beating Arsenal 3-2 in the final. Luton were also FA Cup semi-finalists and Simod Cup finalists.

### Managing to Succeed – David Pleat

Articulate manager David Pleat guided Luton Town to the Second Division title in 1981-82. A former winger, he played for Nottingham Forest, Luton, Shrewsbury, Exeter and Peterborough before becoming Nuneaton's player-boss. He rejoined Luton as coach in July 1972 and became manager in January 1978, guiding the Hatters to the FA Cup semi-finals in 1984-85. Taking charge of Spurs in May 1986, he led them to the 1987 FA Cup final, then managed Leicester City before rejoining Luton in June 1991. He took the Hatters to the FA Cup semi-finals again in 1993-94, leaving in June 1995. Now working in the media.



## Luton Town

### Names & Games

#### FAB FOUR



#### Bruce Rioch

Influential midfielder Bruce Rioch was capped 24 times by Scotland after leaving Luton Town. Signing professional for Luton in September 1964, he starred in the 1967-68 Fourth Division title triumph and netted 46 goals in 149 League games prior to joining Aston Villa for £100,000 in July 1969. He was a key figure in their 1971-72 Third Division title success and moved to Derby County in February 1974, helping to win the League Championship in 1974-75. He played for Everton, Derby again and Torquay, since managing Middlesbrough, Millwall, Bolton Wanderers, Arsenal, Norwich City and Wigan Athletic.



#### Ricky Hill

England international midfielder Ricky Hill was 'Player of the Year' when Luton Town won the Second Division title in 1981-82. Signing professional at Kenilworth Road in May 1976, he was 'Player of the Year' again in 1982-83 and starred as Luton were FA Cup semi-finalists in 1984-85. He featured in two consecutive Littlewoods Cup finals including the 1988 Wembley triumph and netted 54 goals in 436 League games before moving to Le Havre in July 1989. Reuniting with David Pleat at Leicester City in August 1990 and later as a coach at Sheffield Wednesday and Spurs, he briefly rejoined Luton as manager.



#### Brian Stein

England international striker Brian Stein scored twice in Luton Town's 1988 Littlewoods Cup final triumph. Moving to Kenilworth Road from Edgeware Town in October 1977, he was leading marksman in Luton's 1981-82 Second Division success and also starred as they were FA Cup semi-finalists in 1984-85 and 1987-88. He joined French side Caen in July 1988 and moved via Annecy back to Luton in July 1991. Voted 'Player of the Year' for the second time in 1991-92, he netted 130 goals in 427 League games overall for the Hatters before joining Barnet in August 1992. His younger brother Mark also played for Luton.



#### Malcolm MacDonald

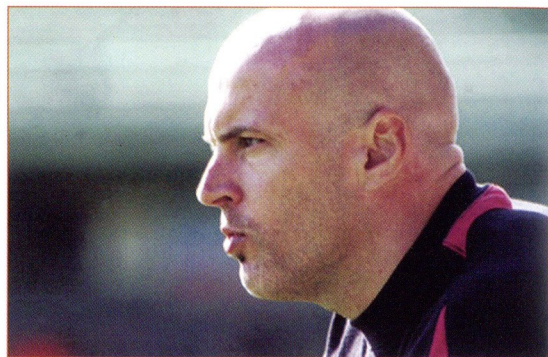
Ace marksman Malcolm Macdonald was capped 14 times by England after leaving Luton Town. Initially with Tonbridge, he joined Fulham in August 1968 and moved to Kenilworth Road in July 1969. He was Luton's top scorer in two consecutive seasons including the 1969-70 promotion success and netted 49 goals in 88 League games before being sold to Newcastle United for £180,000 in May 1971. An FA Cup finalist in 1974, he joined Arsenal for £333,000 in August 1976 and was an FA Cup finalist again in 1978 before injury ended his career. He managed Fulham and Huddersfield Town and has since worked in the media.



## Luton Town

- 01 MARK TYLER
- 02 DAN GLEESON
- 03 FREDDIE MURRAY
- 04 KEITH KEANE
- 05 DEAN BECKWITH
- 06 GEORGE PILKINGTON
- 07 ALEX LAWLESS
- 08 AMARI MORGAN-SMITH (1243)
- 09 MATTHEW BARNES-HOMER
- 10 DANNY CROW
- 11 ROBBIE WILLMOTT
- 12 SHANE BLACKETT
- 14 AARON O'CONNOR
- 15 JAKE HOWELLS
- 16 ED ASAFU-ADJAYE
- 17 WILL ANTWI
- 18 CURTIS OSANO
- 19 JAMES DANCE
- 21 CHARLIE HENRY
- 24 ALEX LACEY
- 25 GODFREY POKU
- 26 JJ O'DONNELL
- 28 ADAM WATKINS
- 29 DAN WALKER
- 30 KEVIN PILKINGTON
- 31 LEWIS KIDD
- 32 ASH DEENEY
- 33 RYAN DASILVSA
- 36 CHRISTIAN TAVERNIER

## Opposition Luton Town



### Gary Brabin

Gary Brabin actually began his career as an apprentice with Stockport County signing professional forms in 1989, although after only 2 appearances for the first team (SCAN 974) he was released.

Gary played for non league side Gateshead before moving to Runcorn where he played in two successive FA Trophy finals. He returned to Football League action when he joined Doncaster Rovers in 1994.

He moved to Bury for £125,000 in March 1996 but played only 5 league games before being sold to Blackpool in the summer for £200,000. He spent a loan spell at Lincoln City before joining Hull City in 1999.

Having left the 'tigers' in 2001 Brabin had spells with Boston United, Torquay United, Chester City, TNS, Halifax Town, Southport and Burscough before retiring as a player.

After spells as manager at Southport and Cambridge United Brabin was originally brought to the club as Chief Scout at the time Richard Money was appointed manager in October 2009, Brabin was reassigned in the new role as assistant manager in the summer of 2010.

Following the departure of Richard Money in March 2011, Brabin took control of the Hatters until the end of the 2010/11 season.

After playing over 275 times in League football as a tough-tackling midfielder, Brabin moved into management firstly with Southport - guiding them to the Conference North Play-offs - before moving south to manage Cambridge United in 2008.

In his first - and eventually only - season at the Abbey Stadium he guided the U's to the Blue Square Premier Play-off final after finishing runners-up to champions Burton Albion, but lost to Torquay United at Wembley. Despite that set-back Brabin was awarded the BSP Manager of the Year award before behind the scenes differences at the Abbey led to him leaving the club in July 2009 before arriving at Kenilworth Road.



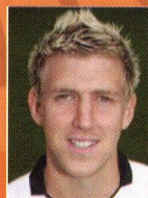
### Mark Tyler

Hugely experienced goalkeeper who signed a two-year contract at Kenilworth Road in June 2009 to become Mick Harford's fifth signing of the summer following his release from Peterborough United. Mark made 483 appearances in 15 years at London Road and was rewarded for his loyalty with a testimonial against Liverpool in 2007. After falling down the pecking order at Posh he found first team opportunities hard to come by and in 2008/09 he was loaned out to League 2 Bury where he made 11 appearances for the Shakers. A former England Youth international, Tyler was handed the number one shirt by the Hatters boss who admitted he'd failed in an attempt to sign the stopper the previous summer. After a hugely successful two years between the sticks at Kenilworth Road, Mark signed a new contract in the summer of 2011.



### George Pilkington

Highly experienced defender who joined the club on a free transfer in August 2008. Having began his career as an Everton trainee, Pilkington joined Port Vale in June 2003, after a loan spell at Exeter City. Having started 223 league games for the Valiants, the highly-regarded defender has been named Player of the Year twice. Injury frustrated the centre-half in his first season at Kenilworth Road in 2008/09 but he still managed to pick-up a Johnstone's Paint Trophy winners' medal. Pilkington hit the headlines for his goal scoring exploits in the Town's first season in the Conference, twice scoring braces in early season victories over Mansfield and Crawley. His impeccable form on the pitch led to him winning a string of end-of-season awards and underlined his loyalty to the Hatters by signing a new contract at the end of the 2009/10 campaign.



### Dean Beckwith

Centre-back Beckwith became the Hatters' second signing of the summer of 2011 following his release from League 2 side Northampton Town. The 27-year-old, who signed a two-year deal at Kenilworth Road, was a key member of the Cobblers' squad in 2010/11 which reached the fourth round of the League Cup following wins over Brighton, Reading and Liverpool. The commanding 6ft 3in defender has experienced promotion from the Blue Square Bet Premier before having been part of the Hereford United side that won the Play-Off final against Halifax Town in 2008. With almost 250 senior appearances to his name after starting his career as a junior at Gillingham, the centre-half enjoyed his best goal scoring season last season scoring three goals. The defender turned down offers from a number of Football League clubs but was delighted to agree terms to bolster the Hatters' defensive options.



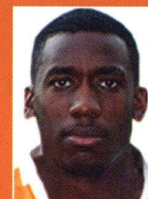
### Will Antwi

Ashford-born centre-half who signed a six-month contract in July 2011 following his release from Dagenham & Redbridge. Capped once by Ghana, Antwi began his career as a scholar at Crystal Palace, making four league appearances before moving to Aldershot in 2004. After one season at the Rec, Antwi joined Wycombe Wanderers where he made 42 league appearances between 2005 and 2009. With first team opportunities limited at Adams Park Antwi joined Dagenham on loan before making the switch permanent in July 2009 until he release following the Daggers' relegation.



### Danny Crow

A nippy poacher of a striker, Crow joined the Hatters from Cambridge United in May 2010 following the expiry of his contract at the Abbey Stadium. The front man started his career as a trainee with Norwich City and made his senior bow in the Premier League for the Canaries in December 2004. A loan spell at Northampton followed towards the end of the 2004/05 season before he was released by Norwich and signed for Peterborough in the summer of 2005, notching 17 goals in his debut season at London Road. Following a short loan spell at Notts County, Crow was released by Posh and was snapped up by Cambridge in September 2008. The energetic forward's strike-rate of 22 goals in 43 league starts won him many admirers and his 19 goals during 2009/10 saw him scoop the U's online Player of the Year award.



### Amari Morgan-Smith

Striker or wide man who arrived at Kenilworth Road as a free agent following a two-year spell at Ilkeston Town. He put pen to paper on a two-year deal after two years with the Blue Square Bet North side in which he scored 34 goals in 77 starts. The fast and skilful front man's impressive form for the Robins earned him a call-up to the England C squad at the end of last season, earning his first cap against the Republic of Ireland in May. Wolverhampton-born Morgan-Smith started his career as a trainee with Wolves. He then signed for Crewe and then Stockport where he made one Football League appearance before moving to Ilkeston. Before the 2009/10 season began the striker impressed in a trial for Championship side Derby County and has since gone on to score three goals in seven appearances for Ilkeston. Earlier this season his former boss Kevin Wilson hailed the striker, who scored 23 goals last season, as the "hottest property in non-league football". With huge interest in the forward, Town boss Richard Money was delighted to beat off competition from a number of Championship and League One sides for Morgan-Smith's signature. And, hours after completing the paperwork, Morgan-Smith was thrust into action for his debut against Mansfield and scored in the 2-0 victory.

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We are proud to supply Stockport County FC with the Award Winning Match Day Card Scheme for the second season. The scheme promotes upcoming fixtures, gives fans something free to collect, while promoting local companies and bringing revenue into the club.

Another service we provide is branding including the re-work of the Club crest and the new

1883 Club branding, website and brochures. If you have been in contact with the commercial department you would have seen more of our work in the form of brochures and we also do the artwork for this very programme 'County Life'.



If you are interested in promoting your company through the Stockport County FC Match Day Card scheme or to find out how we can help your company with it's marketing contact Andy Calvert on 07976 131145, [info@matchdaycards.com](mailto:info@matchdaycards.com) or visit [www.matchdaycards.com](http://www.matchdaycards.com)

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## Gold Bond Weekly Draw for Stockport County

### Good Afternoon to you all.

The Gold Bond Lottery is one massive source of income to the club and also one WE as fans can control. Our canvass team is out week nights signing up everyone, so look out for us because WERE COMING TO A HOUSE NEAR YOU! We'll probably be wearing our unmistakable blue County jackets and I.D. badges.

It only cost's £1 a week and you get the chance to win lots of cash too! So if you don't already do it, please get in touch either via the phone number at the bottom, the email address or join online at [www.county.goldbondlotto.com](http://www.county.goldbondlotto.com)

Congratulations to the following on winning this week's Gold Bond Draw. The £2,000 Jackpot winner is, Alan Draper who pays his £1 a week via the online website listed above. This just shows it's now easier and more convenient than ever to play. So join online tonight at [www.county.goldbondlotto.com](http://www.county.goldbondlotto.com)

Best Wishes, Ant

### Half Time Draw Winners

Mansfield Town, 29th August 2011

#### 1st Prize, £250 Cash

(31458) Margaret Curtis, Heaton Mersey

#### 2nd Prize, SCFC History DVD

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#### 3rd Prize, Bottle of Wine

(31315) Alan Wigley, Mansfield



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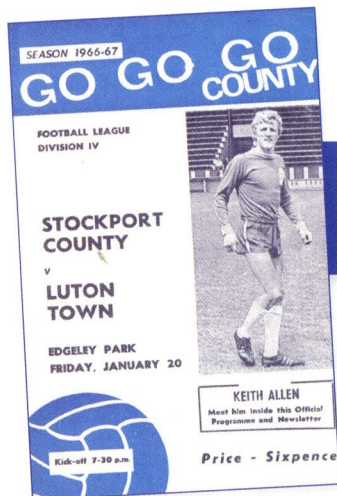
(0161 432 2044)

THE PINEAPPLE, CASTLE STREET, EDGELEY.

To join the list of companies who support SCFC and the Gold Bond weekly draw and appear on this list costs just £5 per week. As part of this package you will receive 2 complimentary executive box tickets to a game of your choice as well as entry into the Gold Bond weekly draw. Contact Ant on 0161-477 7926 for further details.

# 1966-67 Champions!

# Cover Stories



Today's front cover features a past campaign and a former Edgeley Park 'hero'

1966/67 and the GO! GO! GO! County bandwagon was well and truly on the road! Beginning with an opening day fixture away at Barrow, the Hatters came away with a splendid 1-1 draw.

## FRIDAY NIGHT-COUNTY NIGHT

This was followed by a five match winning run! Beating York City at home on the Friday 3-1, next up was Lincoln away the following Friday and a Keith Allen header gave us the points! Monday night a home 2-1 win against Barnsley saw County go top of the league! Saturdays papers carried the story: '10,000 chanting fans roar County to the top!' Chesterfield were next to be beaten at home 3-1. County then travelled down to Luton and the Cheadle Enders went mental as the Hatters beat the 'pretenders' 0-3!

On November 4th County beat Exeter City at home 1-0. This was the start of another five game winning run! In fact the Hatters were unbeaten in ten games. Then the 11th was away at Chesterfield as the County fans packed the covered end were sent into raptures after only four minutes when Keith East fired home! In the end though after a somewhat disputed penalty we went down 2-1. Police had to move in as the angry County fans invaded the pitch! (Despicable behaviour!)

The next home game though we made amends by completing the double over Luton winning 1-0 at EP. On February 11th 5,000 County fans travelled to Southport but our bogey team did us 4-0! In the last 15 games of the campaign though it was quite obvious that we would come away with the title. We won nine of those games drawing four and losing only two matches, the last was the 4-5 farce at home to Lincoln on the last day! In this run we drew 1-1 at Gresty Road. 8,000 County fans boosted the crowd to 11,385

a League attendance record that will never be beaten at Crewe.

A 1-1 draw at Notts County on Wednesday 26th April saw a late Bill Atkins header earn us the point needed to guarantee promotion! Three days later at the Racecourse ground over 3,000 ecstatic County supporters did their own lap of honour around the pitch as the 2-2 draw ensured that we were the Champions of the Fourth!

### Champions

Just before the final game against Lincoln, County played two friendlies at home against 1st Division opposition. Man City came first and even though we had seven Reserves on we still beat them 1-0 (Nothing changes!) Blackburn Rovers came next and we beat them as well 1-0! City fans had the cheek to come in the Famous Cheadle End an hour before the game-but when the County fans arrived out of the pubs they legged it over the pitch and all the way round to the Railway End.



Being in the famous 14 wooden steps and under the tin roof of the Cheadle End really was an experience you found hard to describe-you just had to be in there! 3,000 fans packed sardine fashion bouncing on the wooden steps, swaying forward in to the barrier-it really was just like the: 'Swaying Mass of Humanity!'

A great season with some great players!

Matt Woods and Eddie Stuart at the back. Allchurch and Price on the wings. Lister scoring the goals after Frank Lord had left mid season. Mulhearn in the nets! It really was the season of all seasons for us! GO! GO! GO! COUNTY!



# He Played at the Park

## Anthony Pilkington

Born: 6/6/88  
Apps: 80 Goals: 17

*"It's a great feeling to score at Wembley, one which I'm struggling to describe really" – Anthony Pilkington after the 2008 League 2 Play-off final*

By Tony Mason

## Anthony Pilkington's football path is real Roy of the Rovers stuff.

After his career began moving through the youth systems of Preston, Manchester United and Blackburn; it was at Atherton Collieries where he started to make his mark.

Four appearances which included an excellent hat-trick against FC United, encouraged County boss Jim Gannon to snap up the 18 year old on a short term contract in December 2006.

Under Gannon's guidance 'Pilks' impact was instantaneous with an impressive 3 goals in his first 4 appearances.

Pilks was also part of the County team that secured a football league record nine game winning streak without conceding a goal.

During the 2007-2008 season Pilks was a key player of Gannon's 4-2-3-1 formation, his pace and technique were crucial to keeping the fluid system.

As the season continued, Pilkington's influence grew and if any game epitomised his class it was the 2008 Play off final against Rochdale.

An even first half between the two young sides left the second half keenly poised at 1 -1, until Pilks took control.

Pilks popped up to head in a bouncing cross to

give the Hatter's the lead and then provided the pass for Liam Dickinson to score the decisive third goal.

The next season in league one again had Pilkington playing a key role as the scouts flocked to County.

Unfortunately Pilkington proved to be a catalyst in County's return to unsettled times. The financial problems forced the club's hand and he signed for Huddersfield in January 2009.

He continued his successful career with the Terriers and soon caught the attention of Paul Lambert. The Norwich boss signed up Pilks for their Premier League campaign.

County fans no doubt will watch the 23 year olds future with great pride at the lad from the Collieries who took his chance at Edgeley Park and never looked back.



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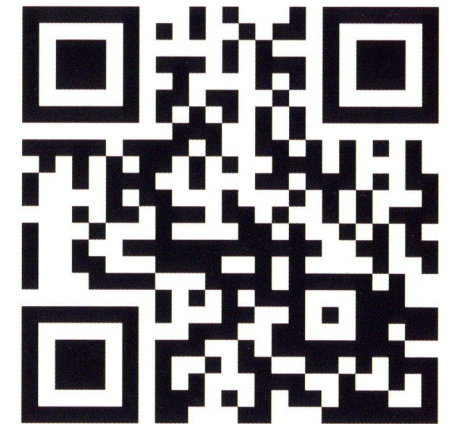
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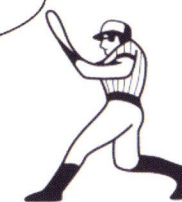
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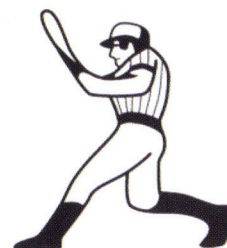
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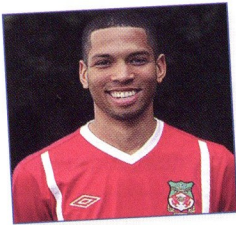
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## Role Reversals

By Stuart Hammonds, Chief reporter on The Non-League Paper

**T**HERE have been many players over the years who have undergone an on-pitch makeover. I used to love watching Leicester City's Steve Walsh play at the back one week, before playing up front the next. Paul Warhurst, too, at Sheffield Wednesday and Blackburn.

Just recently, Wrexham boss Dean Saunders has made an astute move in moving Nat Knight-Percival the other way, with the leggy left-winger starring at centre-half in the Welsh club's blistering start to the Blue Square Bet Premier season.



At over six feet tall, the 24-year-old looks a natural at the heart of defence because he heads the ball well, he's quick and he's left footed.

It's a combination top level managers are crying out for, and the reason Knight-Percival has adapted so easily to life at the back is because he has the intelligence to take the differing aspects of playing football on board.

As a semi-pro, I've had to change from playing centre-half – my normal position – one week to a holding midfield role or right-back the next.



You're only moving a matter of inches in where you line-up, but it does make a difference and although I'd perform adequately to start with, after a couple of games I'd have to be switched back to stop me becoming a hindrance to the team.

It sounds ridiculous but having players behind you, when in midfield, can unbalance you. You don't have to make that last-ditch tackle, win the header from a goal-kick and clearances don't have to be hit with such force.

At full-back, you take throw-ins, go on the overlap and are often isolated one-on-one with a winger – things that

don't normally happen in your comfort zone. The four different Alfreton lads who tried filling in for Josh Law at right-back in the first-half against Wrexham last Saturday will tell you what I mean!

That is why I have so much respect for those who can make a go of it.

Liam Hatch turned in some sterling performances for Darlington in his usual striking role last season, but regularly played centre-half, including at Wembley in the FA Trophy final win over Mansfield.

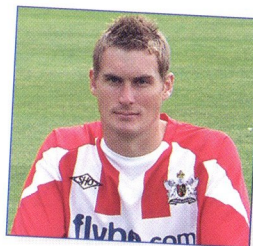
An Conference viewers will recall seeing Darius Charles play for Ebbsfleet at centre-half or left-back, but he is carving out a reputation as a forward to be feared in the Football League with Stevenage.



The best example, however, is also in League One.

Matt Taylor was a commanding goalkeeper who I watched in Burscough's FA Trophy win over Tamworth in 2003. The next time I saw him (or didn't see him, more to the point) he was ghosting in behind me at the far post to head in a goal while playing centre-half for Team Bath at Hitchin.

Little more than four years later, he's won promotion from that league with the now-defunct Students, from the Conference and League Two as Exeter City's inspirational captain, and is now playing in front of 15,000 every week at The Valley.

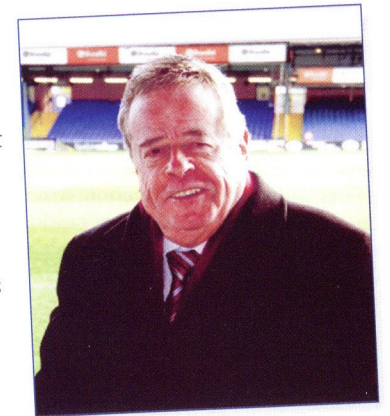


As well as all those football achievements, Taylor's CV also includes two degrees from Sheffield Hallam and Bath universities. Now, what was I saying about intelligence?

## View from the Board Room

By Lord Peter Snape

**W**ell Monday's game certainly demonstrated that being a Stockport County supporter can be a frustrating business to say the least. A game that had all the makings of a 0-0 draw ended in our first defeat of the season.



We all know, including Didi, we weren't sharp enough on the field and we all know that a repeat performance tonight against Luton will lead to a similar result with perhaps an even worse scoreline. After that terrific first half at Kidderminster, it was difficult to believe that it was almost the same team.

Whilst these notes are being written before the transfer deadline I hope that the efforts that are taking place today (Tuesday) to strengthen the team are successful, and that at least one addition to the playing staff will be in our line up tonight. What we need as one long time Edgeley Park devotee told me on Monday is a 'strong, pacy, 20 goal a season striker'. You bet we do. So does every other pro football club. It's finding 'em that's the problem. But we're looking!

Which leads me to the behind the scenes saga here at the club. The internet age means that rumours whether malicious or not, about 'bickering behind the scenes, shareholders holding out for extra pennies and new plastic stadiums making millions for some' are just that....rumours. Often spread by those who profess to have the club's interest at heart they are damaging and distracting.

These are the facts about the current negotiations about this club's future. Talks between the shareholders' representatives and Tony Evans and his colleagues are amicable and on going. A proposal will be

put to the shareholders in the next couple of weeks on which they will vote. Any change involving ownership or partnership in the football club needs a 75% majority to be implemented.

So far the existing shareholders have invested £564,000 in Stockport County over the last year. Under the proposals from SIML they will further invest a sum of £240,000 over the next two years making a total investment of over £800k by the 2015 group. Over the same period SIML will invest around the same amount. In addition we will receive a sponsorship package of around £100k from GT Law. There are no provisions in these proposals for the existing shareholders to receive payment for their loans and shareholdings.

Those are the facts. They should not distract us from the most important reason why we are all here tonight. We are all supporters of Stockport County and our club's success on the field means more to me than any future Board Room position. I will be voting for any proposal that guarantees that my grandson will have as many opportunities to cheer on 'the County' as I have had over the past 60 years.

*Animo et Fide*



# Across the Border

## Turkish Delight

By Sean Graham

Most folk go on holiday to wind down and spend countless hours by the pool drinking the local beer or heading to the beach for a dip in the sea, that much I could say was true as Team Turkey enjoyed themselves to the full in Oludeniz.

I met many people there fans of all clubs, the local sides and some British sides too, Rangers, Celtic, Hearts, Millwall, Spurs, Everton, Arsenal, Man Utd, Chelsea all with a great deal of passion for their clubs but the passion the Turkish people had for their clubs, Galatasaray, Fenerbache and Besitkas, had to be seen and heard to be believed.

In fact it was hard not to offend some of the people we met when talking about football but I tried to keep the peace by buying both Fenerbache and Galatasaray magazines even though I could not speak the language!

The main topic of conversation was the match fixing which had happened in Turkey this season, everyone had their ideas, Reggie who is a Galatasaray fan, thought that Fenerbache would be deducted so many points that the club could face relegation!

We did not know what would happen.....until now.

On Thursday the Turkish side were due to join 32 elite European clubs in the draw for the Champions League group stage being held in Monaco. UEFA has announced league runners-up Trabzonspor (who had already been eliminated in the qualifying rounds) will take their place.

Fenerbahce were crowned league champions last term, piping Trabzonspor to the Super Lig title with a dramatic 4-3 win at Sivasspor on the final day.



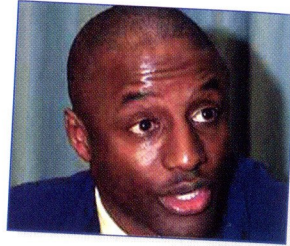
The club have even asked to be relegated rather than be withdrawn from the Champions League but that appeal has been thrown out leaving the Turkish champions with no Champions League money and an investigation which will rumble on leaving more than 30 players and officials in jail pending a trial, including Fenerbache chairman Aziz Yıldırım.

It is a shame that innocent Fenerbache players, officials and fans will miss out on a year of European football because of a few greedy and corrupt men (allegedly)!

One of the most famous match fixing allegations that I can remember, following allegations by the Sun in 1994, saw Bruce Grobbelaar, John Fashanu and Hans Segers go on trial for match fixing. Grobbelaar was accused of



taking £40,000 to make sure Liverpool lost to Newcastle in 1993 but also accused of blowing his chance of adding £125,000 by making an 'accidental' save against Manchester United.



The allegations against Segers and Fashanu concerned a Wimbledon loss to Manchester United in the same year.

The jury was unable to reach a verdict at both trial and retrial and all three were acquitted. Grobbelaar won £85,000 libel damages against the Sun in 1999, but this was overturned two years later.

Fingers crossed that we have seen the last of it....it is hard enough trying to get a fixed odds coupon up at the best of times!

If its not match fixing then it is playing players that you shouldn't be playing, as the Sion v Celtic row rumbles on....

As with the rest of the Scottish clubs, Celtic ended up being knocked out of Europe by Sion on Thursday but could be given a reprieve if the Swiss club are kicked out because they signed players while they were under a transfer embargo, so their 3-1 win against the Glasgow side could count for nothing if FIFA or UEFA decide to throw them out.

It takes you back to the good old days of the eighties, 1985 when Celtic played Rapid Vienna and after losing the away leg 3-1, they came back to Celtic Park and beat the Austrian's fair and square 3-0....but then all hell broke loose as some mad man from the "Jungle" (the part of the stadium where the hardcore Celtic fans stood) decided to throw a half bottle on the pitch as Rapid complained about Tommy Burns' challenge on the goalkeeper.

The bottle came on, which was a stupid thing to do in the first place, and landed nowhere near the Rapid player but there he was rolling around the ground as if it had actually hit him! Celtic had to replay the match in Manchester....which they lost 1-0 and two Rapid players were attacked by so called Celtic fans as the Austrians headed for the final against Everton, which thankfully the Toffees won 3-1! Some justice done at least!

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# A Quick Guide to Luton Town

## The Hatters

By Bernard Jordan

### Mixed Fortunes

The 2008/09 season was one never to be forgotten by anybody connected with Luton Town Football Club. Due to the problems created by a previous regime they were deducted 30 points and as a result were relegated from the Football League into the Blue Square Premier, interestingly had the deduction not taken place Luton would have finished 15th in the League Two table. The disappointment which must have been felt was lessened somewhat by winning the Johnstone's Paint Trophy, beating Scunthorpe United 3-2 after extra time in the final at Wembley in front of a crowd of 55,378. Having accounted for Brentford, Walsall, Colchester United and in the southern final, as they booked their place on the big day, goals from Chris Martin (on loan from Norwich City) and Tom Craddock helped take the game into extra time. Then Claude Gnakpa scored what was, with due apologies to the Iron and their fans, probably the most popular winning goal ever scored at the Stadium. The winning Luton team was: Brill, Asafu-Adjaye, Emanuel, Keane, Pilkington, Spillane, Nicholls, Hall, Martin, Craddock (Gnakpa), Jarvis (Parkin),

### So Near Yet So Far

In the two seasons since, Luton have reached the promotion play-offs on each occasion but they have so far been unsuccessful. In 2010 they lost out to York City in the semi-final and last season, after beating Wrexham in the semis – first 3-0 away and then 2-1 at Kenilworth Road. They were victims at Manchester City's Eastlands (before it was renamed Etihad Stadium) as A.F.C Wimbledon completed a memorable nine-year rise to the Football League. The game ended goalless before the Dons won 4-3 on penalties. Going back two seasons, Tom Craddock scored 22 (1) goals and former Q.P.R. star Kevin Gallen 16 (2) as Luton finished runners-up to the promoted Stevenage and last season, when they finished third, Matthew Barnes-Homer was top marksman with 16 goals, Robbie Willmott scored 15 and Jason Walker 14.

### Joe Payne's Supper 10

First formed in 1885, Luton were fonder members of the Southern League and then joined the Football League's Division Two in its sixth season in 1897. Three years later they failed to be re-elected after finishing next to bottom, it was in 1929/21 season, with the formation of Division Three (South), that Luton were re-admitted into the league. One of the most amazing feats during the Thirties was Joe



Payne's 10 goals in a 12-0 win over Bristol Rovers in April, 1936, Runners-up to Coventry City that season, Luton went one better 12 months later, Payne netting 55 of their 103 goals. Payne won one "Cap" for England in May, 1937, and scored twice in an 8-0 win over Finland in Helsinki. Other league

honors have been won as follows:-

League One Champions 2004/05 – Steve Howard led the way with 18 (4) goals and Ahmet Brkovic 15 (2); Division Two Champions 1981/82 – Runners-up to Birmingham City 1954/55 (Gordon Turner scored 32 goals) and to Middlesbrough in 73/74. Division Three Runners-up to Leyton Orient 1969/70 and to Plymouth Argyle 2001/02; Division Four Champions 1967/68 – Bruce Rioch – 24 goals.

Turner, who later appeared in the charts with 30 goals in 1956/57 and 33, 12 months later, holds the club record of 243 League goals overall.

### F.A. XI Bonanza

In May-July, 1951, Luton's stalwart centre-half Syd Owen, who made 388 appearances for the club in league matches alone, was selected along with the likes of goalkeeper Sam Bartham, Reg Flewin, Jackie Sewell and Jimmy Hagan to go on an F.A XI tour of Australia. It proved something of a success, with 20 matches all won and 153 goals scored against 13. Owen scored twice himself in a 13-0 win against Central Queensland, which was one goal less than he managed for Luton in all those games. He was voted Footballer of the Year in 1958/59 season, right at the end of his career.

### F.A. Cup Finalists

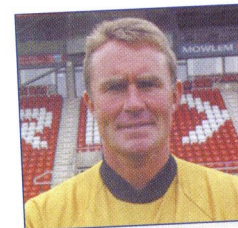
Luton reached the 1959 F.A Cup Final against Nottingham Forrest at Wembley, but were beaten 2-1 by a side which included Roy Dwight, Elton John's uncle. Dave Pacey scored the Luton goal and their side was: Baynham, McNally, Hawkes, Groves, Owen, Pacey, Bingham, Brown, Morton, Cummins, Gregory.



The Previous season, Luton had visited Edgeley Park to face County in a third round tie and our 3-0 victory must rank as one of our best-ever FA Cup results. Bill Holden scored two of the goals and Arnold Jackson the other. The County team on that famous occasion was: Grieves, Betts, Webb, Murray, Franklin, Clempson, Finney, Moir, Holden, Jackson, and Davock.

### Fairytale

The 1988 Littlewood's Cup final at Wembley had something of a fairytale finish. With 10 minutes remaining, and mighty Arsenal leading Luton by 2-1 the Gunners were awarded a penalty, but future County keeper Andy Dibble crowned a fantastic



performance by saving Nigel Winterburn's spot kick. Three minutes later Danny Wilson bundled in the equalizer and, with just 90 seconds left, Ashley Grimes left foot cross from the right was met by Brian Stein and the despairing dive of

John Lukic could not prevent the trophy heading to Bedfordshire. Brian Stein had actually scored first to give Luton a 1-0 lead at half time, only for Arsenal's Martin Hayes and Alan Smith to put their side ahead with two quick goals in the 71st and 74th minutes. The winning Luton side was; Dibble, Breacker, Johnson, Hill, Foster, Donaghy, Wilson, B.Stein, Harford, Preece, Black. Subs; Grimes, M.Stein. Arsenal must "Love" playing Luton in cup football, for in 1986 in an FA Cup fifth round second replay Luton turned in a sparkling performance to deservedly win 3-0 with Mark Stein on fire, scoring one goal himself and forcing on OG.

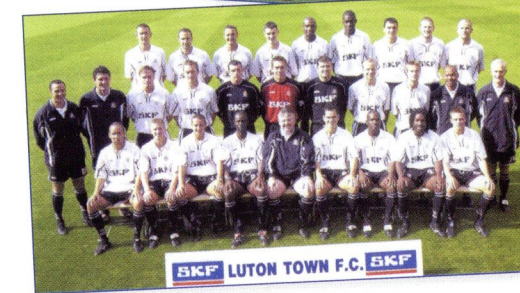
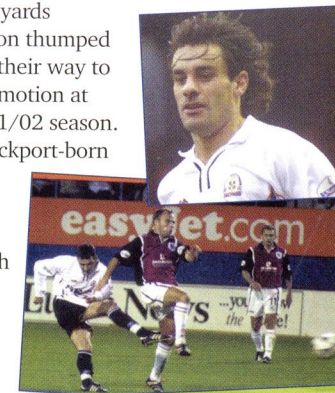
### First v Second

Following a narrow failure to win promotion in 1968/69 season, the Following campaign for Luton got away to a marvelous start with nine wins and four draws in their opening 13 games, Unfortunately, this form was not maintained and Rochdale were among a chasing pack which was catching up fast. When the two sides met "Match of the Day" cameras along with a crowd of 15,876 were present to witness what was a first v second clash. Although Rochdale had much the better of the game, Luton scored twice in the final quarter-hour to take the points through John Collins and former County man Keith Allen. Luton later completed the "Double" and this time a promotion party followed as the Hatters finished Third Division runners-up to Orient.

### Wonder Goals

Matthew Spring and Jean-Louis Valois struck wonder

goals from 25 and yards respectively as Luton thumped Darlington 5-2 on their way to again securing promotion at the end of the 2001/02 season. Steve Howard, Stockport-born Dean Crowe and a Kevin Nicholls penalty made up the nap hand which enabled Luton to go crazy for the second successive home match.



### 2-0 Massacre

Manager Joe Kinnear was right in his description of the game played at Kenilworth Road in February, 2002, when Luton met Plymouth in front of a full house of 9,585. Somehow Plymouth, with a mixture of good luck and inspired goalkeeping by Frenchman Romain Larrieu, denied the rampant Hatters until the 79th minute when Kevin Nicholls converted a penalty. Steve Howard healed the clinching second goal three minutes from time following Jean-Louis Valois corner.

### Famous Ex Hatter

Of course, the list of famous ex Luton players is endless, topped obviously by Malcolm Macdonald, who progressed to Newcastle United and Arsenal, won 14 England "Caps" and at Wembley in April, 1975, scored all five goals in a 5-0 win against Cyprus. Two Luton goalkeepers, Ron Baynham and Bernard Streten, were also "Capped" by England, while Matthew Upson, Kerry Dixon, Mick Harford, Steve Forster, Ricky Hill, Colin Todd, Danny Clapton, Derek Kevan, who later joined County, and Jesse Pye all spent time at Luton.

### Good Old Days

In the good old days, 1985 to be exact, when Luton were in the old First Division, they almost pulled off a plum signing. Frank McAvennie came down from Scotland originally to sign for Luton, but due to a problem with the contract he went to West Ham United instead and became a great favourite there.

# Stocky on the Oche

By Tony O'Shea



Welcome to Edgley Park for tonight's game against Luton and to the battle of "The Hatters", a warm welcome also to all those Luton fans who have travelled up for the game, this is our 3rd game on the trot that has been changed by either day and/or time and yet another of our games that has been switched from a Saturday afternoon, I thought that that football was in the "entertainment" business and the fans are the paying customers?

Changing games to suit 3rd party needs isn't serving your customers interests and will only lead to disappointing attendances -Cambridge away on a Thursday night will be a prime example! I know of many County fans who were looking forward to away games at Bath, York even Southport who cant make plans in case the games are rearranged, quite a lot of County fans lost money on the Forest Green game because they bought train tickets in advance that couldn't be changed how is this looking after your customers needs? however many Luton fans are here tonight no one will convince me otherwise that there wouldn't have been more if we had played the game at 3.00pm on a Saturday afternoon!

Last Friday we played Lincoln away and by all accounts we were lucky to get a point, on Monday we played Mansfield at home and it has to be said that it was a very disappointing performance and result, Its down to personal opinion, some will say we have only lost once in six games other will say we have only won once in six games, whatever your viewpoint I think the first few games have shown us how difficult this league will be, any thoughts people may have had that it would be a stroll will, I hope, have been banished and reality has set in.



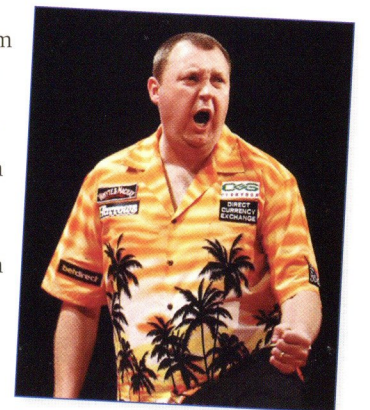
Talking of off field problems, last season I mentioned about trying to organise a pre-season friendly in Holland, unfortunately with everything that happened close season, it wasn't possible, when I said we had problems it was nothing to the problems faced by one of our potential opponents, R.B.C

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Roosendaal, who actually went BUST and have now gone out of business, such a shame as they were a lovely friendly club who reminded me a lot of County!

On the Darts front, I was in Holland last weekend for the Hemeco Open, it was played over 3 days and I reached the quarter finals before losing to Jan Dekker, a young up and coming player from Holland, the Tournament was won by Phil Taylor who beat Kim Huybrechts 5-3, this weekend I'm playing in the Winmau World Masters and all the action can be followed on ESPN, following the Masters, I've a major exhibition game at the Circus Tavern in Purfleet, it used to be the home of the PDC World Championships and is also famous for its connection to both the Sunday Sport and the Daily Star and page 3 – although I know nothing about that! I'm playing Wayne (Hawaii 501)

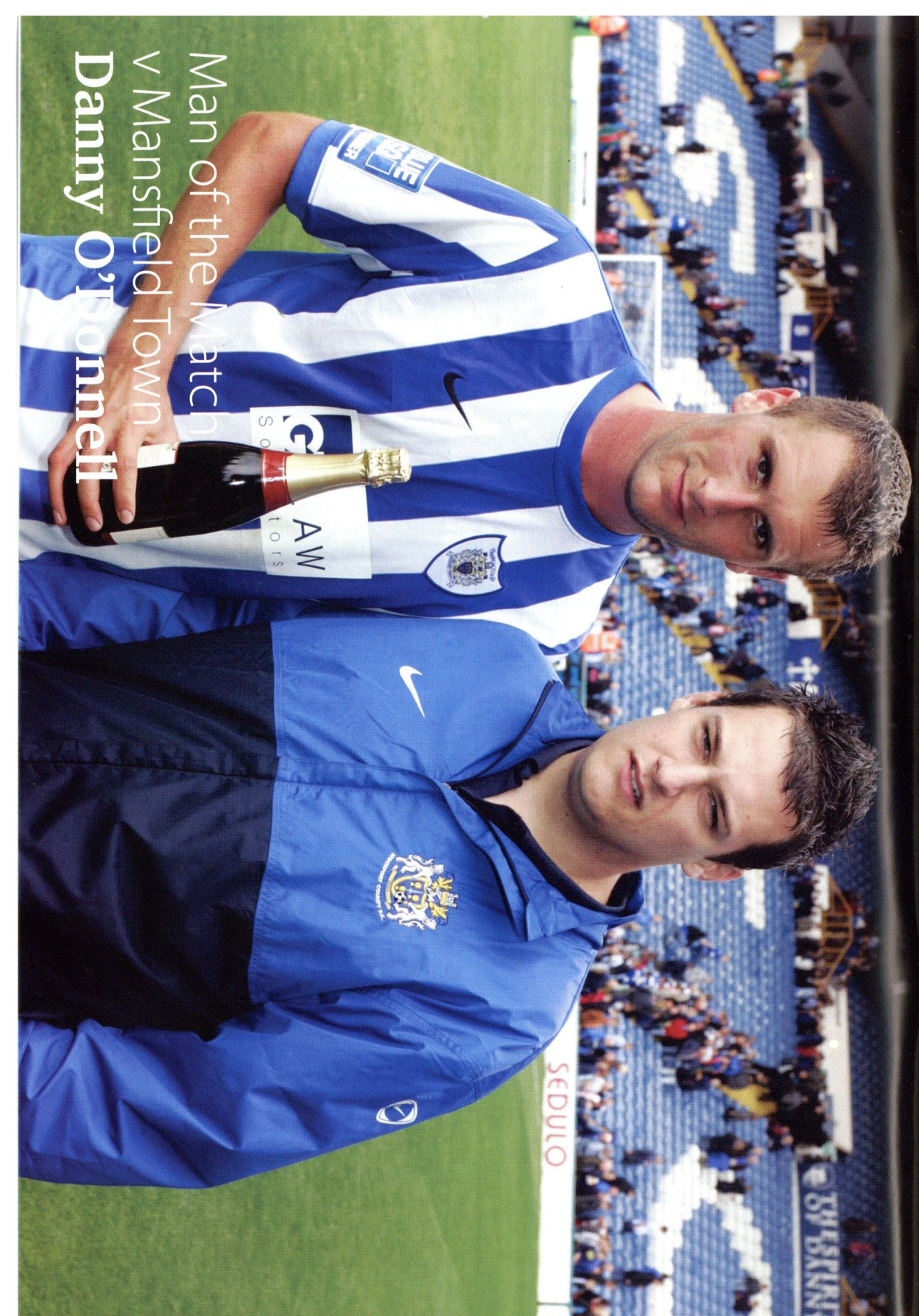
Mardle in a warm up match before the battle of the champions, PDC World Champion Adrian Lewis against BDO World Champion Martin Adams, it should be a great event, I'll let you know next time how both events went in the next programme, anyway that's all for now, keep the faith, keep supporting Didi and the boys!



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## Pure 107.8 FM's Jon Keighren

From the Commentary Box

By Jon Keighren

Last week I discovered one of the things I really miss about not being in the Football League any more – the Carling Cup.

The opportunity to take a break from the League and pit our wits against a Championship or Premiership side was always a welcome distraction.

But I was amazed to read QPR boss Neil Warnock's comments after his team was knocked out by Rochdale last week.



Warnock said he was pleased to be eliminated and added:

"I don't think people care about the competition. They should revamp the cup.

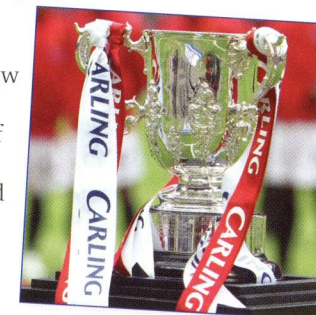
"I'm not disappointed to be out; the competition is not a priority for us. If I can't get motivated for the competition I can't blame the players if they can't."

Elsewhere Norwich boss Paul Lambert fielded a much-weakened side, making eleven changes, and they were duly dispatched 4-0 by MK Dons.

But maybe Lambert and Warnock have a point – QPR could only attract a 'crowd' of 4,775 to Loftus Road, whilst the average gate in the competition was less than 8,000.

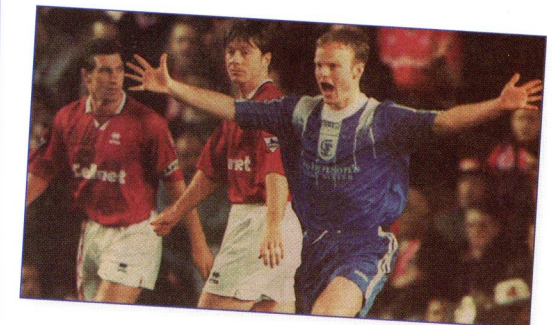
So, if the Premiership no longer cares about the competition, how can it be revamped? Well, one solution would be to take all of the top teams out of it and put the Blue Square Premier sides in instead.

Just imagine if County were to draw Middlesbrough at home in a repeat of that famous 1997 semi final – I would envisage a gate of up to 6000 or even 7000 for a tie of that nature.



It would certainly reinvigorate the competition - the Championship clubs would take it very seriously, as they would have a genuine chance of some silverware at the end of it, whilst the BSP clubs would help to breathe new life into a competition that is currently dying on its backside.

Surely I am not the only one who is sad to watch this once great competition being treated with disdain by the so-called big clubs, who are clearly more worried about a testing Saturday afternoon at Wigan than a midweek trip to Walsall.



Something needs to be done, otherwise the Carling Cup risks becoming a competition populated by Premier League reserve sides, and deemed unworthy by the majority of their supporters, who can't be bothered to go and watch it.

Finally, I am delighted to say that my old commentary partner Phil Staley is back in town this evening – the former Macclesfield and Accrington boss has spent the last few years living out in Australia, but he is back in the UK for a few weeks and it will be wonderful to have him back behind the microphone once again. We often don't realise how important our friends are until they're no longer around.

*These are Jon Keighren's personal views and not necessarily those of Pure 107.8FM*

# Oliver Holt



They say that many footballers prefer playing for their clubs rather than their countries these days. And I suppose, as a journalist, the most memorable games I have ever seen were in club competition.

The Champions League finals between Manchester United and Bayern Munich and Liverpool and AC Milan were the most dramatic football stories I've ever covered.

But the strangest, most unpleasant, build-up to matches have definitely involved England.



I'm in Sofia tonight for the Euro 2012 qualifier against Bulgaria and any trip to eastern Europe brings back memories of the game against Slovakia in Bratislava in October 2002.

The night before the game, we became aware of reports that there had been trouble in the city centre and it soon became apparent that an England fan had been shot in the main square.

He had been carried to the England team hotel and laid out in the lobby where his wounds were treated. I remember Rio Ferdinand saying the kerfuffle had woken a lot of the players from their sleep.

There were reports of more trouble and a group of us were told to try to find out what had happened. I felt like a proper ambulance-chaser that evening, travelling round from hospital to hospital, hearing England fans' tales of heavy-handed police treatment.

It was an unpleasant reminder of my time working on the Liverpool Daily Post and Echo, occasionally being asked to go round to the houses of bereaved families who had lost a loved one in an accident.

I hated that part of the job, as most reporters do, and I can still see the haunted face of one mother, who opened the door to me the day after her son had died in a culvert under the M53 on the Wirral.

Anyway, I digress. Thankfully, no one died in Bratislava. There was more trouble at the match but England crowd problems gradually began to improve after that.

My other memory of a bizarre build-up to an international involved England's opening game of the 1998 World Cup against Tunisia in Marseilles.

England fans fought running battles with local youths for much of the night and the port looked like scene from the apocalypse with fires burning everywhere.

A group of us found ourselves at the Sofitel Hotel which had views of the port and there, in the lounge, was Graham Kelly, then the FA's chief executive, staring out at Marseilles ablaze and puffing on a giant cigar.



It was a surreal image and of course hooliganism problems dogged England throughout that tournament and again at Euro 2000 in Belgium and Holland.

Fortunately, the general absence of hooliganism makes covering England is an altogether far more pleasant experience these days.

It would be nice if we could actually win a tournament some time soon. Still, one step at a time.

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# Orson Cartier

Our resident 'voice of reason' columnist (Really!? ... Ed.) Orson Cartier has unearthed, yet another, undercover story about our beloved football club that he insists needs to come to your attention!



Yesterday, in the exercise yard, a bloke known as 'Strange' Steve sidled up to me with some astonishing news! As we were being escorted back to our wards, 'Strange' whispered to me that plans are afoot to move Stockport County to the tax haven that is the Isle of Man!



Apparently, an anonymous consortium (rumoured to be led by that big bloke from BBC's hit soap opera Eldorado) is intent on upping sticks and moving everything, including Edgeley Park, to the Manx Metropolis of Sulby (between Ramsey and Castletown).

As we are now away from the jurisdiction of the Football League, we are immune from petty rules such as, not being able to play outside of the town, so the Consortium (known as the Alliance to Relocate at Sulby Enterprise) has carte blanche to carry out its ambitious plans.

The move is bound to be a hit with County fans as the I.O.M. Steam Packet offer reasonable prices to the island...



According to my source, all County's current players would have to leave as a by-law of Sulby Council states that anybody working within a 4-mile radius of the Village Hall must be born in the village hospital. With a population of 794 (last count), the 'Born Locally' rule may present a problem when it's considered that half of that figure will be female, half again would be children, half again would be too old and half again would probably be 'bobbins' at football. This only leaves 49 3/4 potential players eligible to 'the powers that be'. This shouldn't be a problem as long as they stay injury free.

It has been pointed out that the local distillery...er...distils a clear whiskey called Glen Kella...so, let's say 1/4 of the above work there and another 1/4 are alcoholics, that leaves us with about 24 (ish) players - about right for a football squad.



As the TT races feature high on the list of 'local attractions' in Sulby ... the course runs through the town ... any pre-season matches will have to be played away from home, as organisers of the TT don't want football fans who are clueless about road safety 'wandering' into the middle of the road during the event.

'Strange' Steve also revealed that any income made from catering at the ground would go directly to local government officials as a 'courtesy' payment for allowing us to play there. Catering, of course, would 'bin' the usual burgers/pies etc for the Manx national dish of 'kipper butties'.



As Steve was bundled back to his bed after scuffling with a warden, I thought that this 'hot news' may be a figment of his 'feverish' imagination as only last week he announced to anyone who would listen that he was the love-child of Rolf Harris and Felicity Kendal (this turned out to be untrue), but then he again approached me during occupational therapy with the excuse of borrowing some raffia, this time he told me that in order for County to relocate to the British Principality, the whole backroom staff would have to speak fluent Manx... To be honest, I considered this latest information to be load of old cobbles so imagine my astonishment when I thought I overheard our manager shout "By vie ihiat daunse ihaim" last Monday. This sounded suspiciously like ancient Manx to me and I hastily wrote down what I thought I'd heard on a fag packet and intended to spend 17 hours in Stockport Library in an attempt to decipher the phrase. Alas, I lost interest and went to the pub, but something somewhere 'rings true' about what 'Strange' Steve was saying!



Early this morning I decided to communicate with 'Strange', it was somewhat awkward as he's currently in solitary confinement after he attacked a warden with plastic scissors (again!). But, through tapping an empty tin mug on the radiator in morse code, he explained that the whole deal may be in jeopardy as the 'bloke from Eldorado' has managed to get some community theatre work and won't have time to concentrate on SCFC and go round reform schools.

As 'Strange' Steve is a permanent 'resident' at the Centre and isn't allowed day release, it's going to be difficult to gain any more info into what's going on at County... as especially as there's a good possibility that he'll be transferred to Broadmoor... but, I'll keep you informed!!

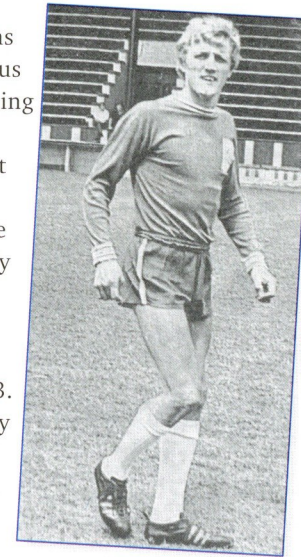
(Didn't you 'hear' that we were moving to the Shetlands last year!? ... Thin end of the wedge Orson .... really!! Ed.)

# Abbey Hey to Zennor FC

Hatters 1 Pretenders 0 by Ian Lancashire

The World knows that Stockport is the Hatting Capital of the World. Luton came along some fifty years later and made straw toppers! Now let's get on to the football side of things!

County have had some good wins over their opponents-some by three goal margins, notably the 3-0 win in the 3rd round of the FA Cup in 57/58 season. Luton at the time were top of the old 1st Division! They finished a very creditable eighth that season. The Hatters finishing 9th in the 3rd Division North. 1959/60 season Luton finished bottom and began a slow decline with relegations seeing them drop into the 4th division at the end of the 1964/65 season. So my first visit to Kenilworth Road was on May 7th 1965 when the 'Pretenders' beat us 2-0. The game at Edgeley Park though was a different story with Keith Allen netting a hat trick in our 4-1 victory. The following season was of course our glorious Championship winning campaign. After an opening day draw at Barrow: 1-1 County then won five on the trot. The fifth victory being yet another three goal win over Luton. This time at Kenilworth Road 0-3. January 20th County got the double over them when Norman Sykes scored the winner. 1-0.



However, it wasn't long before Luton came to join us in the 3rd division. They won the 4th at the end of the 67/68 season. November 29th 1968 Luton came to Edgeley Park. This was when the Golden Vision Alex Young made his debut for County. Freddie Goodwin and Bill Atkins scored in our 2-0 victory. The return

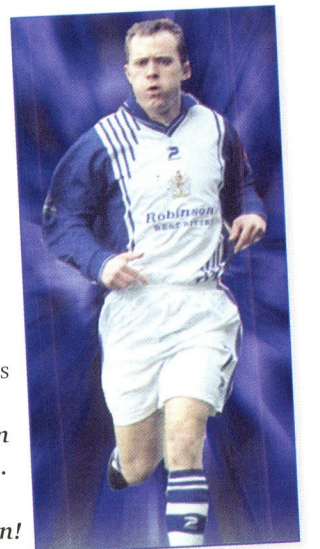


game though on April 25th saw us lose 4-1. Myself, Dav, and Dek Foden thumbed it there on the night! Got back home at four the next morning!

1969/70 was of course our dreadful relegation season. Luton went up! Then at the end of the 73/74 season Luton won promotion back to the 1st Division. However, they were out of their depth as they came back down again the following season. 81/82 once again saw them promoted back into Division 1.

I've enjoyed going to Kenilworth Road in the past as I am sure many Hatters fans have. Who can forget our great promotion season going there already up and seeing Kevin Cooper smash in that penalty kick with over 3000 fans packed into the end. Weird though how you go underneath somebody's house to get in there! So for playing Luton at home again on a Friday night under the Edgeley Park floodlights! It's just like the good old days init!

.....Er, apart from one thing of course... the division we now find both ourselves in!



# Match Action v Lincoln City



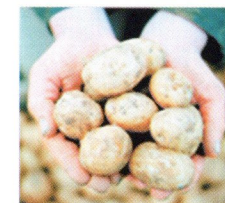
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# Stat Attack

2011/12

## First Team Stats Appearances and Goalscorers

By Steven Oldham

Name	D.O.B	Place of birth	Scan No.	League		FA Cup		County		Career Goals
				Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	
Nabil Bramhim-Bounab	28/04/1988	Fresus (France)	1301	3(1)				3(1)		
Nick Chadwick	26/10/1982	Stoke-on-Trent	1302	5(1)	2			5(1)	2	
Elliott Chamberlain	29/04/1992	Paget (Bermuda)	1313	(5)				(5)		
Cameron Darkwah	02/09/1992	Manchester	1287			0(1)	0	0(6)	0	
Tom Elliott	09/11/1990	Leeds	1311	4(2)	2			4(2)	2	
Ryan Fraughan	11/02/1991	Liverpool	1303	3				3		
Matthew Glennon	08/10/1978	Stockport	1283	6		2	0	4(1)	0	
Martin Gritton	01/06/1978	Glasgow	1304	3				3		
Daniel Hall	14/11/1983	Tameside	1305	1				1		
Andy Halls	20/04/1992	Manchester	1260	1		0	0	29(6)	0	
Euan Holden	02/02/1988	Aberdeen	1306	6	1			6	1	
Mark Lynch	02/09/1981	Manchester	1280			2	0	30(1)	0	
Matty Mainwaring	28/03/1990	Salford	1249			0	0	25(6)	1	
Ryan McCann	21/09/1981	Blantyre	1307	4(1)				4(1)		
Sean McConville	06/03/1989	Liverpool	1315	3				3		
John Miles	28/09/1981	Liverpool	1308	4(1)				4(1)		
Jon Nolan	22/04/1992	Liverpool	1316	1(1)				1(1)		
Daniel O'Donnell	10/03/1986	Liverpool	1295	4(1)		0	0	11(1)	0	
Ian Ormson	16/05/1994	Liverpool								
Keigan Parker	08/06/1982	Broxburn	1314	(1)				(1)		
Carl Peirgianni	03/05/1992	Peterborough	1312	5(1)				5(1)		
Johnathan Routledge	23/11/1989	Liverpool	1309	5				5		
Danny Rowe	09/03/1992	Manchester	1261	2(1)		1	0	8(18)	1	
Sam Sheridan	30/11/1989	Trafford	1310	6				6		

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Wrexham United	6	5	1	0	14	3	11	16
2 Gateshead Town	6	5	1	0	13	5	8	16
3 Kidderminster Harriers	6	4	1	1	11	6	5	13
4 Darlington	6	3	2	1	7	4	3	11
5 Tamworth	6	3	2	1	7	6	1	11
6 York City	6	3	1	2	10	5	5	10
7 Forest Green Rovers	6	2	3	1	12	6	6	9
8 Mansfield Town	6	2	3	1	7	6	1	9
9 Luton	4	2	2	0	10	4	6	8
10 Cambridge United	6	2	2	2	6	6	0	8
11 Fleetwood Town	6	2	2	2	3	6	-3	8
12 Braintree Town	6	2	1	3	11	8	3	7
13 Barrow	6	2	1	3	9	7	2	7
14 AFC Telford	5	2	1	2	6	6	0	7
15 COUNTY	6	1	4	1	5	5	0	7
16 Ebbsfleet United	6	1	3	2	7	8	-1	6
17 Newport County	6	1	2	3	9	9	0	5
18 Lincoln City	6	1	2	3	7	9	-2	5
19 Southport	6	1	2	3	6	13	-7	5
20 Kettering Town	6	1	2	3	5	12	-7	5
21 Alfreton Town	6	1	2	3	5	14	-9	5
22 Hayes & Yeading United	5	1	1	3	5	9	-4	4
23 Grimsby Town	6	1	1	4	3	11	-8	4
24 Bath City	6	0	2	4	2	10	-8	2

### BIGGEST ATTENDANCE

4,283 - Wrexham United vs Fleetwood Town, 29/08/11

### BIGGEST HOME WIN

Braintree Town 5-0 Grimsby Town, 16/08/11

### BIGGEST AWAY WIN

Alfreton Town 1-6 Forest Green Rov, 16/08/11

### MOST GOALS IN A GAME

7 Alfreton Town 1-6 Forest Green Rov, 16/08/11

### TOP SCORERS

- 1 Jon Shaw, Gateshead (7)
- 2 Reece Styche, Forest Green Rovers (6)
- 3 Jason Walker, York (5)
- 4= Andy Morrell, Wrexham (4)
- 4= Danny Rose, Newport County (4)
- 4 = Adam Boyes, Barrow (4)
- 4= Jake Speight, Wrexham (4)

# PREMIER SPORTS

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12 AUG FOREST GREEN ROVERS V STOCKPORT COUNTY

19 AUG LINCOLN CITY V WREXHAM

26 AUG FLEETWOOD TOWN V YORK CITY

02 SEP STOCKPORT COUNTY V LUTON TOWN

03 SEP BRAINTREE TOWN V LINCOLN CITY

10 SEP MANSFIELD TOWN V NEWPORT COUNTY

27 SEP KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS V GRIMSBY TOWN

06 OCT CAMBRIDGE UNITED V STOCKPORT COUNTY

14 OCT LINCOLN CITY V FLEETWOOD TOWN

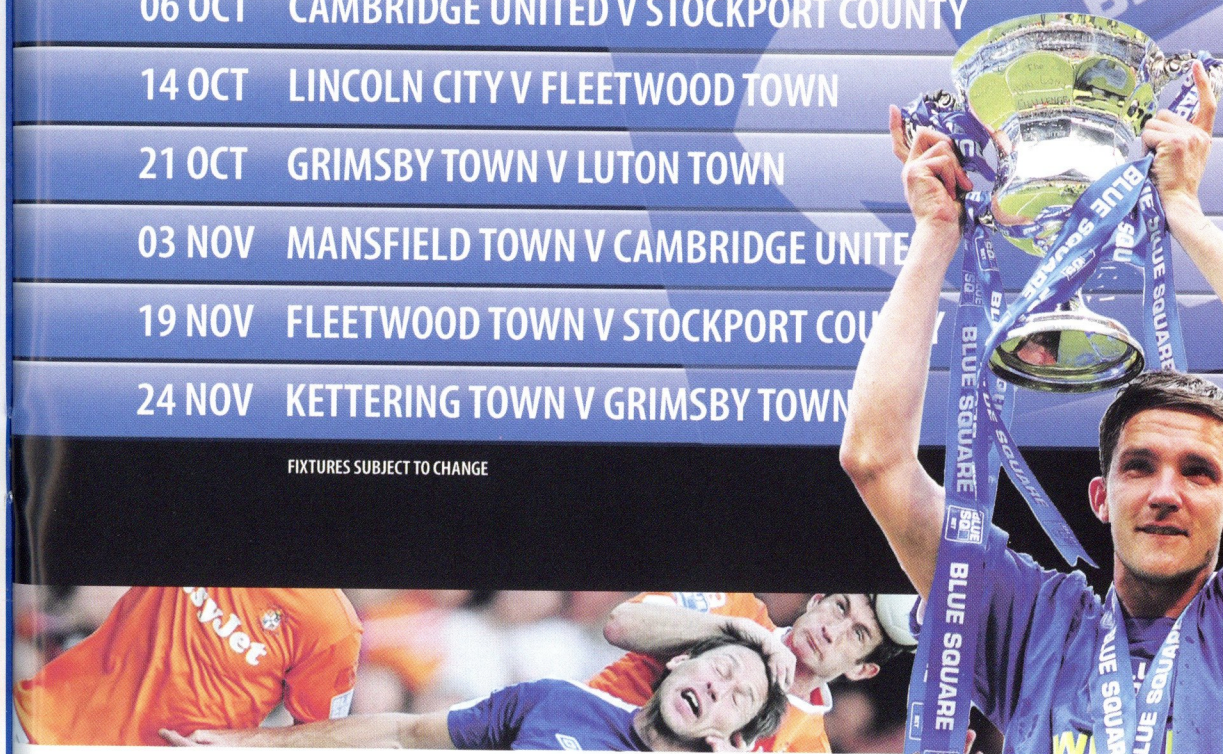
21 OCT GRIMSBY TOWN V LUTON TOWN

03 NOV MANSFIELD TOWN V CAMBRIDGE UNITED

19 NOV FLEETWOOD TOWN V STOCKPORT COUNTY

24 NOV KETTERING TOWN V GRIMSBY TOWN

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# Stockport County 2011/12

## Fixtures & Results



**Key**  
 Home Games: **Bold Blue text**  
 Number of player substituted (45)  
 Player Booked **■**  
 Player Sent Off **■**  
 Goals Scored **Bold**

### 2011

Day	Date	Team	Kick-off/Res	Att H/A	Points	Pos	Ref	Starting Eleven										Substitutes					
Friday	12/08/11	Forest Green Rovers	1 - 1	1,848 (464)	1	N/A	R Whitton	Glennon	Holden	Routledge	Hall	Gritton	Miles	Fraughan	Sheridan	McCann	<b>Chadwick 1</b>	Brahim-Bounab	Ormson	Halls	<b>Elliott (9)</b>	Piergianni (10)	Parker
Tuesday	16/08/11	<b>Kettering Town</b>	1 - 0	3,429 (109)	4	6	J Simpson	Glennon	<b>Holden 1</b>	Routledge	Miles	Fraughan	Sheridan	McCann	<b>Chadwick</b>	Elliott	Brahim-Bounab	Piergianni	Ormson	O'Donnell (21)	Gritton	Parker (11)	Chamberlain (10)
Saturday	20/08/11	<b>Ebsfleet United</b>	1 - 1	3,674 (86)	5	8	W Barratt	Glennon	Holden	Routledge	O'Donnell	Gritton	Fraughan	Sheridan	<b>Halls</b>	Rowe	<b>Chadwick 1</b>	Piergianni	Ormson	Nolan	Elliott (9)	Brahim-Bounab (7)	Chamberlain (18)
Tuesday	23/08/11	Kidderminster Harriers	1 - 1	1,886 (333)	6	9	A Davies	Glennon	Holden	Routledge	O'Donnell	McConville	Miles	<b>Sheridan</b>	McCann	Chadwick	<b>Elliott 1</b>	Piergianni	Ormson	Gritton	Rowe (10)	Brahim-Bounab (7)	Chamberlain (19)
Friday	26/08/11	Lincoln City	1 - 1	2,152 (267)	7	8	S Martin	Glennon	Holden	Routledge	<b>O'Donnell</b>	McConville	Miles	Sheridan	Chadwick	<b>Elliott 1</b>	Brahim-Bounab	Piergianni	Ormson	Nolan (19)	Gritton	McCann (21)	Chamberlain (10)
Monday	29/08/11	<b>Mansfield Town</b>	0 - 1	3,571 (436)	7	15	P Banks	Glennon	Holden	O'Donnell	McConville	Nolan	Gritton	Sheridan	McCann	Rowe	Elliott	Piergianni	Ormson	Miles (14)	Halls	Chadwick (9)	Chamberlain (18)
Friday	02/09/11	<b>Luton Town</b>	7-45 pm																				
Saturday	10/09/11	Telford United	3-00 pm																				
Saturday	17/09/11	<b>Grimsby Town</b>	3-00 pm																				
Tuesday	20/09/11	Newport County	7-45 pm																				
Saturday	24/09/11	Tamworth	3-00 pm																				
Tuesday	27/09/11	<b>Fleetwood Town</b>	7-45 pm																				
Saturday	01/10/11	<b>York City</b>	3-00 pm																				
Thursday	06/10/11	Cambridge United	7-45 pm																				
Tuesday	11/10/11	<b>Darlington</b>	7-45 pm																				
Saturday	15/10/11	Wrexham	3-00 pm																				
Tuesday	18/10/11	Bath City	7-45 pm																				
Saturday	22/10/11	<b>Forest Green Rovers</b>	3-00 pm																				
Saturday	05/11/11	<b>Hayes &amp; Yeading United</b>	3-00 pm																				
Saturday	19/11/11	Fleetwood Town	5-45 pm																				
Saturday	26/11/11	<b>Southport</b>	3-00 pm																				
Tuesday	29/11/11	Grimsby Town	7-45 pm																				
Saturday	03/12/11	Luton Town	3-00 pm																				
Tuesday	06/12/11	<b>Gateshead</b>	7-45 pm																				
Saturday	17/12/11	<b>Alfreton Town</b>	3-00 pm																				
Monday	26/12/11	Barrow	3-00 pm																				



### 2012

Sunday	01/01/12	<b>Barrow</b>	3-00 pm
Saturday	07/01/12	Gateshead	3-00 pm
Saturday	21/01/12	Braintree Town	3-00 pm
Tuesday	24/01/12	<b>Telford United</b>	7-45 pm
Saturday	28/01/12	<b>Kidderminster Harriers</b>	3-00 pm
Saturday	04/02/12	Alfreton Town	3-00 pm
Saturday	11/02/12	<b>Newport County</b>	3-00 pm
Saturday	18/02/12	York City	3-00 pm
Saturday	25/02/12	<b>Wrexham</b>	3-00 pm
Saturday	03/03/12	Darlington	3-00 pm
Tuesday	06/03/12	Ebsfleet United	7-45 pm
Saturday	10/03/12	<b>Cambridge United</b>	3-00 pm
Saturday	17/03/12	Southport	3-00 pm
Saturday	24/03/12	<b>Bath City</b>	3-00 pm
Saturday	31/03/12	Kettering Town	3-00 pm
Saturday	07/04/12	<b>Lincoln City</b>	3-00 pm
Monday	09/04/12	Mansfield Town	3-00 pm
Saturday	14/04/12	<b>Braintree Town</b>	3-00 pm
Saturday	21/04/12	<b>Tamworth</b>	3-00 pm
Saturday	28/04/12	Hayes & Yeading United	3-00 pm

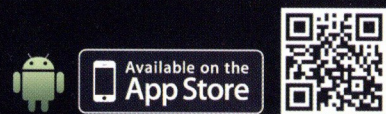
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## Match Action v Mansfield Town



## Who would voluntarily choose to be a Sunday League referee? Meet Mo Awill

Childhood is seemingly the defining factor in what position someone ends up spending the majority of their life playing the beautiful game in. The sprinter on the wing, the disciplinarian in the middle and the big lad will play at the back.

These are formulaic standards that characterize most people's earliest associations with football. For some people though there is a hole in this and it's referee shaped.

Apparently not fussed by the glory of participating in the match, those who choose to be referees selflessly blend into the background so that law and order can be maintained in sometimes physically passionate circumstances.

The role of referee is in general a thankless one, just ask Mark Clattenburg. One mistake puts your position in the spotlight and the countless correct and acutely well observed ones are immediately forgotten about. After all if a referee has a good game, it isn't back page news.

If a player makes a mistake though they're able to hide behind the potential successes of their teammates, but a referee has no such safety, as if he makes a mistake he's alone, often in a sea of disagreeing fans and players.

Thankfully some people are seemingly gluttons for punishment and are willing to accept these pitfalls and voluntarily choose to oversee games of all levels, but why? Mo Awill is one such person. He isn't though a Premier League referee, or even a referee in a professional division, he has the most thankless task in football. He's a referee in London's Southern Sunday Football League.

To make matters worse, when I go to see him it's a bleak and cold winter's day, pouring down with rain and it's prematurely dark considering it's only a little after midday.

Awill, like the players revels in these conditions and his position on the pitch, but when after the game I ask why, it causes him to pause for a moment.

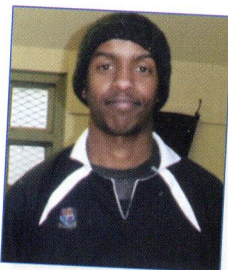
He forces a smile and stares back at the pitch on which he's just officiated, which is only a glass of water short of a marsh and pauses, mulling over the question in his head and seemingly questioning why in actual fact he has dragged himself out on such a cold and wet winters Sunday.

Eventually he forces a stunted chuckle of realisation and says "well ... I mean it is my job these guys they need a referee, someone who has to be impartial. For me personally I obviously want to go a long way in this, so, I mean it is a hobby as well as a job".

The same as any player, Awill is clearly inspirational in his hobby and dreams of progressing through the ranks, but even at this level of football he is subject to criticism.

Despite overseeing the game in a clear, fair and authoritative manner, he was seemingly the punching

THREE  
MATCH  
BAN



bag for player's frustrations, even when there was little to complain about.

The standard phrase that would echo around the vast playing field of Clapham Common was "\*\*\*\*\*" hell ref" but this is seemingly a part of the game that Awill has accepted and blanked from his hearing for the overall benefit of the two teams and for the personal enjoyment of his hobby, as he refused to let the abuse get to him.

"Well as long as it's not directed directly at me then I don't mind. It is a game of football and emotions are running high, so we [referees] just get on with it and be adults about it."

This 'as seen on TV' abuse of the ref is such a part of the game now that he even gauges a successful game by the lack of abuse he is subject to and not the quality of his officiating.

So when I ask him if making a good decision gives him a buzz, I'm surprised by the answer. "No as long as it's a quiet game really. As long as I'm not getting any personal abuse then I guess I'm doing a really good job".

This isn't to say that all referees don't revel in the adrenaline of refereeing, as Martin Hansson, now infamous for missing Thierry Henry's handball in Ireland's decisive second-leg qualifying game for the 2010 World Cup, said quite the opposite.

When asked how he feels after a match in Mattias Löw's fascinating documentary Rättskiparen (The Referee) he exclaimed "I feel more joy than when I played myself and won".

Hansson is equally aware of the abuse that referees are subject to from fans and the media, but he's seemingly a wall of professionalism and simply says in response to how it affects him "I get energized and want to improve my game".

When I ask Awill about whether he enjoys his hobby, even in the face of such adversity and unflinching criticism from players, I'm slightly taken aback by his unquestioning assertiveness.

"Absolutely" he said without hesitation "I think that's what makes a better referee really" and thankfully so, as without him and many more similar gluttons for punishment, football as we know it simply wouldn't exist.

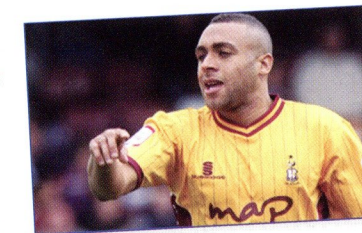
Daniel Mobbs, [ThreeMatchBan.com](http://ThreeMatchBan.com)

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## Blue Square Premier Round-up

BLUE SQUARE BET  
PREMIER

By Bernard Jordan



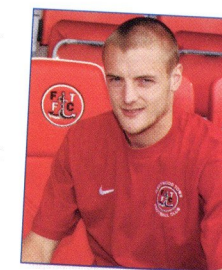
Star of the Week: Wrexham striker Jake Speight, signed from Bradford City, who scored the leagues first hat-trick of the season in his sides 4-1 win at Alfreton Town last Saturday.

Speight then netted as early as the second minute in a 2-0 win over Fleetwood Town on Monday as his team continued to top the table on goal difference.

### Wrexham and Gateshead continue to lead.

Two further wins each for table topping Wrexham and Gateshead, along with Alfreton Town's first success of the season at York City, were the highlights of the Premier League results last weekend and Monday. The Welshman continued to put their off-field troubles on a back-burner with 4-1 and 2-0 wins respectively over Alfreton away and Fleetwood Town.

The Cod Army, following their summer transfer activity and recent acquisition of the highly-rated Jamie Vardy from FC Halifax Town, are certainly finding it hard going to date and despite starting the season as one of the promotion favorites, have won only two games to date.

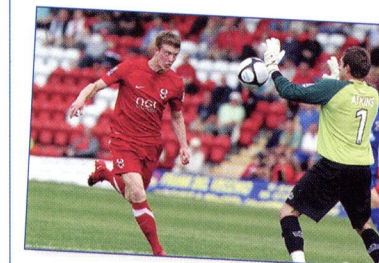


Gateshead, despite a fine display by Barrow keeper Danny Hurst, edged the North East derby seven days ago by 2-1, with Jon Shaw scoring both their goals and Adam Boyes replying with all three goals coming in the first half. Shaw was again on the mark as the Tynesiders followed up with a 1-0 home win over Grimsby Town on Monday. A round of applause for Alfreton this week. Promoted after winning the Blue Square North last season, they had failed to win in their opening five games. But faced, on Monday, with a York City team who are quickly establishing a reputation as the great unpredictable's they broke their "Duck" with a 1-0 win secured for them by Levi Mackin's 43rd minute penalty. York went into the game third in the table, having played out a goalless draw at Fleetwood on Saturday.

Kidderminster Harriers are another team to win both their games last weekend, a 2-0 home win over

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Southport on Saturday being followed by a 3-1 success at Newport County two days later. Jack Byrne scored in both. Newport by the way, have welcomed

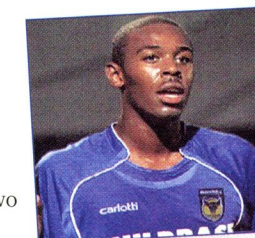


back Gary Warren, who recently captained Great Britain to runners-up in the world student games in China.

Another keeper in top form, and named Man of the Match, on Saturday was Darlington's Sam Russell in his sides 2-1 win at Grimsby. Greg Taylor, with a deflected shot, and Paul Arnison gave Darlo a two-goal lead at half time, but on the re-start only Russell's brilliance restricted the Mariners to a single goal reply from Congolese striker Serge Makoko.

Darlo followed up with a 3-1 win over Lincoln City on Monday, Ryan Bowman scoring twice. Reece Styche was on the mark again, the equalizer in Forest Green Rovers 1-1 draw at Ebbsfleet united on Saturday, followed by two goals in his sides 3-0 win over winless Bath City on Monday. Southport were another team to claim their first win, coming from behind to beat Barrow 2-1, while in the meeting of two promoted sides on Monday. Ebbsfleet scored twice in the last few minutes to defeat Braintree Town 3-2. Calum Willock scored the winner in the 90th minute.

Tamworth are currently in a play play-off position following a 2-0 win at Bath and 2-2 home draw with A.E.C Telford United, a game in which Kieron St Aimie had given them a two goal lead.



COUNTY LIFE || 39

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# Hall of Fame – You Decide

Over the season we are asking the supporters to select one person from each Team of the Decade to go forward to an end of season vote which will see 3 men elected to the Stockport County Hall of Fame. Each of the men in today's team that is not already a Hall of Famer has a code by his name.

## To vote for your nominee

**Email:** send the player code to [scan@gogogocounty.org](mailto:scan@gogogocounty.org)

**On the Web:** Go to Stockport County's Official website, Click the Fans tab, and select SCAN scheme

**In Writing:** Send you selection to SCAN Scheme c/o Edgeley Park, Hardcastle Road, Edgeley, Stockport, SK3 9DD or fill in a form at the Family Lounge

Later in the season we will have a longer profile of the nominee and have a vote to elect the 3 new Hall of Fame Members who will join:

## HARRY HARDY

Inducted May 2004



Served County for 6 years between 1919 and 1925.

# Team of the Decade – 1940s

## Harry Hardy

County's England International goalkeeper and already a Hall of Fame member. After breaking into the first team in September 1920 Harry was only absent when called up for representative games. With 214 games in the 20s he is second only to Waterall. His England cap came in December 1924 in a 4-0 win over Belgium. 238

## Billy Richardson - VOTE HOF1940a

One of many players from the North East on County's books before World War 2. Billy made his debut early in County's first Div Three North season. Described as "a player with plenty of bustle" he helped County back into Division Two and missed a handful of games over the next 3 and a half seasons. 254

## Joe Reid - VOTE HOF1940b

Joe is another man born in the North East but joined County from Manchester City in the summer of 1920. He made the left back slot his own until December 1924 when Richardson switched sides due to the arrival of Billy Bocking. In addition to his 140 plus games Joe managed to notch one goal, at Rochdale in 1921. 242

## Billy Newton - VOTE HOF1940c

A club stalwart whose name can be mentioned alongside Trevor Porteous and Jimmy Stevenson. Billy's playing career might not have been the longest – chalking up some 150 league appearances between 1927 and 1931 – but he returned to the club in September 1932 as a coach and stayed until the start of 1970s. 333

## Albert Waterall - VOTE HOF1940d

Albert tops the appearance charts for the 20s with 217 games, although having played for the club since 1913 his overall total is much higher. He came to Edgeley Park from Notts County and went on to play for a club record 13 years. A major contribution to this longevity was his versatility, playing in a number of positions both forward and defence. He left in the summer of 1926 as the club's then highest appearance maker to date. 206

## Jack Wilson - VOTE HOF1940e

Hailing from Leadgate in County Durham Jack had played locally until May 1922 when County brought him to the North West. Jack was to put in a four season stint with County whilst they stayed in Division Two. He contributed 12 goals from inside left but played more games at left half, his 20s Team of the Decade position. 263

## Ben Boardman - VOTE HOF1940f

In a 7 year spell at Edgeley Park Benny fell just short of 200 appearances as County challenged continuously for promotion from the Northern section. Boardman was regarded as a tricky but versatile winger as he also featured inside. In one spell of 5 games around the New Year of 1927 he scored 7 goals from inside-right. County sold him to Manchester City in the summer of 1931. 290

## Harry Burgess - VOTE HOF1940g

Joining from Sandbach Ramblers in 1925, this youngster immediately impressed and the scouts were watching him virtually from day one. With 71 goals he was top scorer for the club in the 20s. After joining top flight Sheffield Wednesday in 1929 Harry went on to play at the top level with the Owls and Chelsea until the war. Sixteen months after leaving County he made the first of 4 England appearances, scoring 4 goals in the process. 314

## Frank Newton

Having scored 93 goals in 101 games Frank ranks alongside Kevin Francis as one of the most consistent scorers for the club over a prolonged period. He started as understudy to Joe Smith, so ONLY scored 18 goals in his first full season. His chance to be first choice came from 1929 and he responded with a goal tally of 38 and 37. He continued his scoring at Fulham and Reading before an injury in a Friendly game ended his career. 341

## Joe Smith - VOTE HOF1940h

Probably the biggest attraction ever signed by County – Joe drew 22,500 to Edgeley for his debut game; around 18,000 more than the previous home game two weeks earlier. County were to be deducted points for playing him despite instructions not to as his registration was not in order. The former England international and twice FA Cup winner certainly repaid the cost of his signing. He was the first to score 5 in a League match and in his first full season scored a record 38 League goals. 328

## Horace Fielding - VOTE HOF1940i

With 74 appearances in the 20s Fielding claims the outside left slot. He had joined from Mossley early in the 1926-27 season but was a bit part player for the next two seasons, when he had injury problems. Eleven goals in his first season as a regular saw him make his mark and after another impressive season helping County to a second consecutive runner-up spot it was top flight Grimsby who acted to sign him for a substantial fee. 326

*Selected from the men who played the most games and scored the most goals in competitive matches between 1 January 1920 and 31 December 1929. Includes at least the top 7 appearance makers and top 3 goal scorers. Players qualify for only one Team of the Decade.*

*The number at the end of each profile shows the player's Stockport County Appearance Number where applicable*



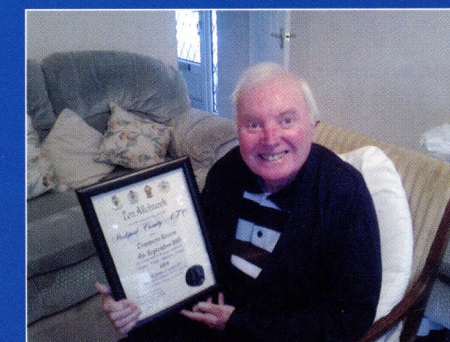
the  
**Stockport County**  
**Appearance Number**  
scheme

"County supporters recognising every County debutant in a senior competitive match"

A trip to South Wales recently gave Des Hinks the chance to make the SCAN presentation to one of the favourite players of the club's 1960's supporters.

Winger Len Allchurch may have been nearly 32 when he joined County in 1965 but he went on to play his part in the Go Go Go revival of the club. Len had been playing League football since October 1951 and had even played 4 first division games in the 1965-66 season before moving to County in October for a club record fee. The Welshman made an immediate impact by scoring after 16 minutes of his debut.

Each summer there were doubts about Len resigning but he stayed long enough to chalk up his 500th League game whilst at the club and was voted player of the year in 1968-69. Len's memory is not what it was but he was delighted to receive the memento of his time at County from the Supporters of the Club.



Visit the SCAN website for details of the scheme, to view the presentations made to date, and register to be a presenter. Or email [scan@gogogocounty.org](mailto:scan@gogogocounty.org) for more information.

Go to Stockport County's Official website, Click the Fans tab, and select SCAN scheme.

# Writers Reign

## 12 O'CLOCK kick-offs, eh. Who'd have 'em?

By Gary Carter

**R**eality check time. We are a brand new team with a brand new manager and, maybe, brand new owners. So as depressing a 1-0 defeat to Mansfield on Monday was, was it really unexpected? Not for me.

Frustrating it certainly was, as we should have earned at least a draw but any divine right we had to get a result went out of the window about five years ago. Now today comes a huge test in a side that should, by rights, still be in the Football League. If it was not for the ludicrous amount of points taken off them in 2008, they would have retained their status.

The fact they have not bounced back yet despite showing they were not among the two worst teams of that season shows how tough this league is. If anything, this will provide a good marker as to where we lie this season. Are we contenders? Or are we, which I believe we are, a club that needs two or three years to turn around and get a solid foundation again?

There is no point building things on sand, which the past few years most certainly have been and whatever base there was rapidly eroded. Time is a commodity that seems to be leaking from football by the day. That is exactly what we need, on the pitch.

Off it, something needs sorting – it might be already by the time you read this. Whether it is under Tony Evans' stewardship, the previous leaders', or someone from leftfield's, the club has gone through enough torture and punishment in recent seasons.

Never mind Animo et Fide, the

motto for many supporters recently has been, 'Just when you think it can't get any worse.'

I am proud to call myself a Stockport County supporter – there's certainly no-one else I'd back. So hopefully any differences that exist among those behind the scenes – whatever they may be – there is a common goal.

The pride of a club that has, quite frankly, been tarnished by recent seasons.

Whoever is the leader, it will not be a quick fix. Turning around this club will take a lot more than a quick flash of cash and a name or two.

I don't know about anyone else, but when I eventually become a father, I want to be able to take my child to County matches, so if it is a choice between long-term stability and chasing an immediate return to the Football League, I know which one I would rather have. Every long-term plan has to have a start. Hopefully we will be able to put ours in place properly soon.



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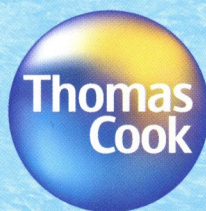
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## The BIG Interview

Carl Piergianni

by Pure 107.8 FM's Pete Liggins



Who the sponsors pick for Man of the Match (and then who Rob Clare actually ends up giving the champagne to) is always an eagerly awaited moment for me in the game. I always find it interesting to hear whether or not others have seen the same things as myself and Jon Keighren in the press box.

On Monday it went to Danniell O'Donnell, but you sense the accolade could have easily gone to his central defensive partner Carl Piergianni.

He put a stunning performance in, together with O'Donnell, limiting Mansfield to pot shots around the County penalty box. The young defender was also honest enough after the game to admit his part in the Stags goal. "Little things went wrong for us in the end, I didn't track the runner for the goal. We had cancelled them out and they didn't have many chances, again we could have scored but we've just got to get over it now and look forward to Friday night against Luton."

Piergianni's partnership with O'Donnell at the back has come unexpectedly, with the senior player seizing his chance after coming on for the injured Nabil Bounab against Kettering, but it's certainly one bearing fruit for the Hatters. Carl says he's enjoying playing next to Danny. "He's a really good player and I'm learning a lot quickly from him. We're getting better and better together by the game."

The nineteen year old came to Edgeley Park as a result of Peterborough United's success last season. Carl knew it would be difficult to make an impact on the team after the club's promotion. "After they went up to the Championship I wasn't going to be involved getting games there. I wanted to go somewhere that I could play and have more of a chance. Didi Hamann said that he was interested and so I came down from a trial and things went from there".

Even with the Manager's willingness to use his entire squad and keep players fresh during the tough start to the season, Piergianni has been an ever present in the side. But Carl says he's taking nothing for granted, "I've still got to earn my place and keep playing well, but it's good for me to get games, more experience and getting better".

After playing twenty one times for Altrincham last season while out on loan, County's Number 22 has valuable experience of life in the Blue Square Premier. But it's clear that Carl feels he has taken a big step up joining the Hatters. "I'm with a much bigger, better club this year and hopefully we'll do better than what Altrincham managed last year. I didn't play against Luton, but it'll be nice to face them. It's a local place to where I lived and it'll be a big game, but we'll be up for it though and come back even stronger. I think we've got a great chance to win it".



# Stockport County

## Youth Development

It's been a strange week as we had no official youth alliance fixture so the youth team played a friendly against a team from Liverpool called East Villa FC whose manager is friends with Tony Evans. The club conducted themselves in a professional manner and passed the ball around really well for an amateur youth team and were really appreciative of the game.

I feel that they just played us at a bad time as at the minute our strikers are on fire and Josh Amis scored 4 with Danny Whitehead again on the score sheet. The game ended up 9-3 and a huge difference with games like this is fitness and possession and our lads are getting better and better at keeping the ball.

Cameron Darkwah went to Mossley on loan this week and the youth department will be giving him our full support and wish him well. Cam just needs games and we are sure he will get goals which will get him knocking on Didi's team sheet.

As many of you may know we have increased the scouts to 12 for the Centre Of Excellence

and I can assure you it's already making a big difference as we have some top quality young players coming in. This is great for SCFC and we guarantee that these seeds of our future will bear fruit like we could never of dreamed.

We hope to have a 'Coaches Seminar' at Manor Farm in September for amateur coaches from all over the North West. So if you are interested in attending then please mention it to your fellow coaches and mail us for further information to youth@stockportcounty.com for the attention of Simon Cooper.

Yours In Football and Humility  
**Simon Cooper**  
*SCFC Performance Coach*

 <b>Andy Graham</b> Corporate: Available Fan: Available	 <b>Ben Say</b> Corporate: Available Fan: Ian Brown	 <b>Brandon Windsor</b> Corporate: Available Fan: Available
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# Player Profiles

### Andy Graham

**Age:** 17  
**Nickname:** Graham Iniesta  
**Position:** Centre Mid, Striker, Right Mid, Left Mid  
**Height:** 5'10

Andy is a lively player with great feet and makes things happen with his sharpness of passing and his range of passing. He is captain of the youth team and with Paul Sunderland in midfield compliment the quick passing rotation philosophy Stuart Delaney has with the squad. Andy has made a few appearances for the reserves last year and will be pushing for the first team this season if he takes his game to the next level which he is more than capable of doing.



### Ryan Jennings

**Age:** 16  
**Nickname:** Jeniniho, "Gorton Massive"  
**Position:** Centre Mid, Striker, Left Mid, Right Mid, Right Back, Left Back

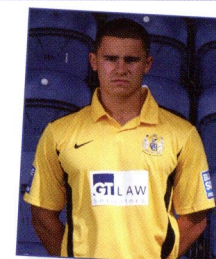
Ryan is a first year and played for the youth team when he was just 15. He is strong in the tackle and has fantastic feet but just needs to channel his heart and head in a balanced manner. He is a player who can play anywhere on the park but who is ideal in the hole behind a front striker as his pace and shooting power bring goals to any team. Ryan is another product of Wright Robinson School in Gorton and is one of a trio of players that we have gained from that school. (Jake Thompson, Dylan-Rhodes Murphy)



### Ben Say

**Age:** 17  
**Position:** Right Mid, Right Back  
**Nickname:** The Brick  
**Height:** 6'0

Ben has had a tough time with injuries but he is without doubt one of the fittest players at the club. He has the potential to do anything he wants in the game and is a full back who likes to attack up the flanks. At the back end of last season Ben was involved travelling with the first team and we expect him to be pushing to get into the first team squad this year. He hails from Liverpool and is a great lad to have in the dressing room as he can play in a number of positions. Ben was picked up by the club at the age of 15 when he was spotted playing for a local Merseyside club.



### Danny Whitehead

**Age:** 17  
**Position:** Striker, Centre Mid, Right Mid, Left Mid  
**Nickname:** The Flash  
**Height:** 5'11

Danny is a second year and like Ben Say travelled with the first team to a number of matches at the end of last season. He has great pace and scores a lot of goals inside and outside the box using his great striking power. He loves to get behind a back four running the line and then cutting inside with balls fed from Paul Sunderland and Andy Graham. He has two great feet and can score with either and creates openings by beating full backs and delivering great balls for strikers in the centre to feed off. I believe when Danny gets his chance and a run of games he could possibly be at this club for a very long time as he is only going to get better and better.



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# Stockport County

## Supporters Alliance



...and the colours white and blue

It was early morning on a Bank Holiday Monday when I turned over in bed to check the time on my alarm clock to realise that for some unknown reason I had to wake up and get my body down to Edgeley Park. Unfortunately it wasn't a dream; it was indeed this Monday that Mansfield Town were the visitors for a noon kick-off. I always used to bemoan the Premiership for their bizarre kick-off times, and now I know exactly what it feels like – I miss those traditional Saturday's already!!

To continue with my rant we of course are playing tonight (Friday) due to our game being screened live on Premier Sports. Although it's not a well known channel within the SKY platform, it's still a source of revenue to the Football Club and a chance for Stockport County to get some national recognition for those people who have subscribed to tonight's match.

### Supporters Club Update

Unfortunately we can't really update you with much at the moment in relation to the Supporters Club until we have a chance to speak to certain people within the Football Club. With the ownership of the Football Club still be negotiated by interested parties, we just have to play the waiting game until everything settles down behind the scenes. We of course are still committed to providing you the supporters with a active Supporters Club and we are busy preparing things once our future is a bit more clearer.

### Membership

Don't forget that membership renewals are now due for the current season. In the current economic climate, we've once again frozen membership prices to just £6 for Adults and £2 for Concessions. Included in the price of your membership, you'll receive regular newsletters, the chance to attend 'Fans Forums' to meet County Management and Players and many more offers. For more details

regarding renewing or joining the Supporters Club, you can e-mail [info@scfcsupportersclub.com](mailto:info@scfcsupportersclub.com) or visit [www.stockportcounty.com](http://www.stockportcounty.com) and click the 'Fans' area of the website.




### County Merchandise

Hopefully everyone is enjoying the facilities offered in Bergara's Bar pre-match as it's certainly been a huge success since the Football Club opened up the facility to supporters. But whilst you are enjoying the hospitality in Bergara's Bar why not grab yourself some County merchandise. Currently available are eighteen different Stockport County crest mugs featuring crests from the 1930's to the current date. We also have available Stockport County window stickers in both small and large sizes. Remember, all proceeds from the sale of these items goes directly back to Stockport County.

Stuart Crawford  
SCFC Supporters Club






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# Stockport County Community Life

**G**ood evening and welcome back to Edgeley Park for the second time this week, where we entertain Luton Town FC, a warm welcome back to our ex-Commercial Manager, Simon King, who support's the other Hatter's!

**NHS Stockport** The Hatters aim to help kick flu into touch...

Stockport County players are urging their fans not to score an own goal this season in the fight against flu.



Each winter thousands of people put their health and lives at risk by not having the free flu vaccine they are entitled to.

So this year The Hatters have joined forces with NHS Stockport to encourage people to have the jab.

County Player, Mark Lynch said "It's really important that you have you flu jab if you're entitled to it. It will help protect you against what can prove to be a really nasty illness. Last winter we saw the devastation it can cause to families with some people ending up critically ill in hospital. I don't want that to happen to any of my family and friends so I'll be doing all I can to persuade them to have the jab."

The vaccine is free to anyone regarded as "at risk" which includes people aged 65 and over as well as all pregnant women.

It's also free to people who have

- diabetes
- a chest problem or breathing difficulties (such as asthma, bronchitis or emphysema)
- a heart problem,
- kidney disease or liver disease



Community Partner



- a neurological condition (such as Parkinson's or motor neurone disease)
- a low immune system due to disease (such as cystic fibrosis or Crohn's disease) or treatment (such as cancer treatment)
- had a stroke
- a problem with the spleen (such as sickle cell disease) or if the spleen has been removed

You should also get your free the vaccine if you live in a residential or nursing home, or if you are the main carer of an older or disabled person.

The vaccine is available from your GP from October. The quicker you get your jab the sooner you'll be protected. Don't be complacent or wait until there is a flu outbreak this winter - book an appointment as soon as possible.

If you're not at risk but you know someone who is, please encourage them to get the flu jab - it may just save their life.

SUPPORTED BY



Our Disability Officer, Jordan Raynes, will be coordinating the

'iCount' League for the 2011/12 season.

We are very pleased to announce the launch of our 'iCount' pan-disability league, in partnership with the Cheshire County FA at tonight's fixture versus Luton Town. The league came about after our successful bi-monthly tournament, held at Aquinas College, throughout last season and the current Ability Counts provision ran by the Cheshire FA.

Ability Counts has been split into two leagues (Cheshire East and Cheshire West), with Stockport County Community Foundation running the East side and the Cheshire FA running the West side in Chester.

Organisations entering the 'iCount' League are -



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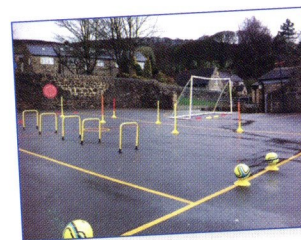
- Stockport County FC
- Manchester City FC
- Stockport Deaf FC
- Stockport Cerebral Palsy Society
- Heathfield House (NHS/Pennine Care)
- Sale Town FC
- Stockport Strikers FC
- Manchester Amputee's FC
- Aquinas College

All League fixtures will be played each month outdoor at Aquinas College and in the Winter months, indoor at Houldsworth Village, Reddish.

Tonight at half time we will be having a group photo with some of the teams on the Edgeley Park turf to officially launch 'iCount'. The first round of fixtures start next Tuesday (6th) at Aquinas College. I will keep you posted via County Life and www.stockportcounty.com of the scores and league table each month.

Our thanks go to Dawn Georgeson from the Cheshire FA for all her help and guidance in setting the league up.

The new School term starts next.....and we are all raring to go with our Sponsored Skills Challenges, After School Sessions, PPA Sessions and In Set Days, amongst others.....



We are pleased to announce that Matty Mainwaring is our official Stockport County Soccer Course ambassador for the new Football League Soccer Course website coming soon. The new project will make it easier to enrol on one of popular Soccer Courses, download an application form and will offer parents the chance to pay by debit/credit card.

Each Football League Club (and Stockport County!) will have their own dedicated page listing all the



details of courses, staffing qualifications, photo's, etc and will be a great tool for us to promote the courses to a wider audience.

'I can wholeheartedly recommend your child attending the Stockport County Community Foundation Soccer Course, I started out playing football by attending a soccer course similar to those run by our Community Foundation Team, which helped build my knowledge of the game and also my confidence and led to me becoming a much improved player and taking more of an interest in the game, to where I am today, a professional footballer at Stockport County FC. Give the Community Foundation Team a ring and reserve your place!'

Matty Mainwaring, Midfielder, Stockport County FC

I will keep you posted about the launch of the site over the next few weeks.....

Another season begins and Spurley Hey JFC under 12's are here again, the team play in the Stockport Metro League and are looking forward to a brilliant season in Division 2.



The boys train on a Thursday evening and are looking to recruit a Goalkeeper, if you are interested in playing for Spurley Hey please contact liam.smith@spurleyhey.co.uk or log onto the club website.

Spurley Hey would like to thank Manchester based, Clear Law Solicitors, for the sponsorship this coming season.

Players on duty at Edgeley Park this evening are Tom Moore, Joe Hall, Kyle Tattersall, Ashley Graham, Matthew Thompson, Josh Borthwick, Brodie Adamson, Liam Arden, Harrison Hardy, Nathan Eadie, Conlan Ford, Aaron Widdowson, Danny, Jordan, James.

*Animo et Fide*  
*Enjoy the game.....*



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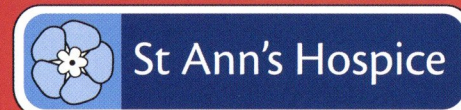
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# Stockport County Juniors

Hello again and welcome back to Edgeley Park for this evenings game with Luton town. Back to Friday night football just like the Go Go County era of Vic Bernard for those of us who are old enough to remember! Like last Monday's visitors Luton were in the football league a short while ago and are naturally looking to climb back as soon as possible. Both Junior supporters clubs use to do regular exchange visits with one year football and chips at a nearby school. If any Hatters Juniors have made the long trip north tonight we hope you enjoy your visit and have a safe journey back down the motorway.

I hope you all enjoyed the Bank Holiday weekend I write these notes before last Monday's home game in the hot Madeiran sunshine so hopefully we will have another three points to add to our unbeaten start. Our last home game with Ebbsfleet was I thought a strange sort of game where neither team seemed to put together a period of sustained pressure and probably a draw was the right result. We then had two difficult away games at Kidderminster and Lincoln. The first game we looked to have a useful away win but a late equaliser robbed us of all three points. The Lincoln game was a back to the wall show and in the end was a good point earned, I thought this was a good result having seen some hammerings over the years. So all told up to last Monday's game not a bad start to the season with matches coming thick and fast. Due to the recent vandalism at the ground we have been told the family lounge will be in the M and H suite, entrance on Hardcastle Street. We should be open from around 6.30 to just before kickoff.

That's all for now hope the new school term starts well for you all, and good luck to those of you who are starting at a new school.

*Enjoy the game  
Ian Butterworth  
County Juniors*

## Away Travel

We have decided not to run a coach to Telford a week tomorrow.

We are now taking bookings for Tamworth on September 24th.

This trip will depend on numbers for further details please contact Ian on 0161 456 7606 or see him in the family lounge.

## Meetings

Our first meeting of the season will be held here at Edgeley Park a week on Sunday 11th usual start time of 10.45am to approx 1.00pm.

Hopefully we will be taking some of you down to Power League in Heaton Mersey for football.

We look forward to welcoming two members of the County squad along to join us.

Stockport County's Community Foundation recently held a very successful 'soccer school' at Stockport School (Mile End), great to see plenty of 'County Juniors' on show.



## Just For Fun

Answers to our quiz in last Monday's programme are as follows:

1. Ebbsfleet Town
2. Telford United
3. Newport County
4. Tamworth
5. Fleetwood Town
6. Bath City

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To find out more details and availability for the Mascot and Kids Ticket Initiatives contact Rob Clare on 0161 286 8903, email: [rob.clare@stockportcounty.com](mailto:rob.clare@stockportcounty.com)

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- Framed poster of both sides of card
- Advert in 'County Life' Match Day programme

Price £450.00

### PACKAGE TWO

- 100 free tickets for kids
- Advert in 'County Life' Match Day programme

Price £300.00

# Stockport County

## Ladies Football Club

By Mark Lockyear



Stockport County Ladies finally kicked off the new season on Wednesday 17th with a difficult away trip to Salford. Since relegation to the Northern Combination two seasons ago, County had only managed to take 1 point from a possible 12 in their 4 meetings with Salford.

Despite these statistics, County didn't allow their nerves to get the better of them and started the game in a determined mood. Few chances were created in a nervy, yet evenly balanced contest dominated by the midfield players, and the match remained goalless at the break. The tempo increased dramatically in the 2nd half with both teams doing their utmost to break the deadlock; Salford were restricted to shooting from outside the penalty area and keeper, Laura Bowater, was called into action to make a number of excellent saves. As the half wore on, County could consider themselves unlucky not to take the lead when Angela Ashioti's angled shot deflected off the post. County finally got their reward in the 72nd minute when a text-book move which started from the keeper, progressed from defence to midfield eventually found its way to Georgia France whose strike curled perfectly past the keeper's outstretched arms and into the corner of the net. 1-0. The final 15 minutes were played at a frantic pace and both teams should be applauded on the standard of football, not to mention their fitness and commitment as both teams kept playing until the referee finally brought the game to an end.



Nomads who had narrowly been defeated by Sheffield Wednesday at the weekend, 1-0. This was a more open contest with both sides creating plenty of opportunities for the entire 90 minutes in an exciting encounter. Nikki Daniels gave County an early lead with less than 2 minutes gone, arguably County should have increased their lead on several occasions before Nomads stunned County with a deserved equaliser in the 37th minute. Half-time 1-1. 7 minutes after the restart, Georgia France continued her goal-scoring exploits from last week with a superbly take free-kick from 25 yards that flew into the net. Chances came and went for both sides until Nomads drew level with an equally superb strike from a similar distance on 73 minutes. Their joy was short-lived though as within 4 minutes County, rather fortuitously, regained the advantage thanks to an own-goal. Bet Langford made certain of the points a few minutes later though, with a well-taken strike that the keeper couldn't hold. Final score 4-2.

With maximum points from these two fixtures, County have already equalled the points total from their opening 6 games last season!

*Photos courtesy of Gary Gomersall*

*For information, results and match reports, please visit our website: [www.stockportcountyladiesfc.co.uk](http://www.stockportcountyladiesfc.co.uk) or contact the club secretary, Mark Lockyear on 0798 188 5470.*



Whilst the 3 points were most welcome, the match was especially notable for 3 young players from last season's reserves making their 1st team debuts; Colette Garvey, Georgia France and Cheryl Burns, who is now in her 11th season with the club having joined as an U10! It would have been 4 had 16 year-old Reanne Healey been called into action from the bench.

This week, again on a Wednesday, County entertained newly-promoted Linotype Cheadle Heath



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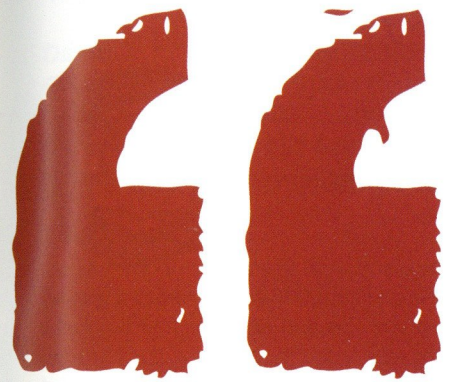
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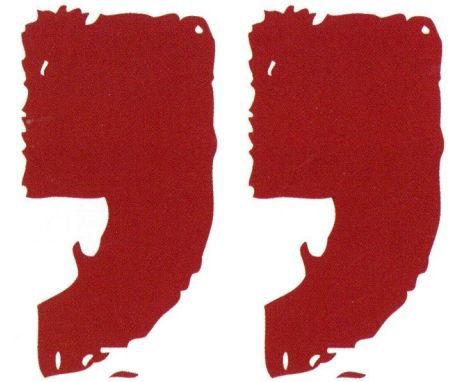
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# We will follow the County...

## Newport County v County

**Date:** Tuesday, 20th September, kick-off 7.45pm  
**Ground:** Spytty Park (Newport Stadium), Newport, NP19 4PT  
**Capacity:** 5,058 (3,246 seats)  
**Telephone:** 01633 662 262  
**Website:** www.newport-county.co.uk



### The Ground

Newport Stadium, known locally as Spytty Park, is an athletics stadium that has served as Newport County's home since the mid-'90s. This means that a running track encircles the pitch. However, thankfully for those who remember the views at Brighton's Withdean and Rotherham's Don Valley temporary homes, at Newport the stands at either end of the ground are placed directly behind the goals & are taken down for the athletics season, then put back up when football comes back around. Away fans were previously housed in the 1,197 capacity Spytty Road End, but are now allocated the smaller, 949-seater Cricket Club End at the other end of the ground. There's food and toilets in the corner of the ground where away fans enter. To the left-hand side of the away end is The Shed, a covered terrace where the home fans gather & plenty of banter can be had.

### Ticket Prices

#### Cricket Club End

Adults - £14

Concessions\* - £10

Under 16 - £5

\*Senior citizens & full-time students



County Travel depart from Edgeley Park at 2pm, priced £18 for adults and £15 for juniors. Please call the Booking Hotline on 08456 885 799.

### Food & Drink

Unfortunately, the club house at the ground isn't open to away supporters when bigger clubs are in town. Visitors can use the cricket clubhouse located on the other side of the cricket field behind the away end. Otherwise, with the ground being located by an industrial estate, there's little else to choose from nearby. There's plenty of places in the city centre, but it's a good 45-minute walk away and a taxi will set you back £7 or so.

### Parking

The great news for those travelling by car is that there is plenty of parking at the ground, and what's more, it's free to park. There's the main car park, located behind The Shed terrace, which is the first car park on your left as you approach from Langland Way; and a little further on is a smaller car park just next to the Velodrome. However, as access is only via one road, please bear in mind that it can get very busy after the games.

## Next at Edgeley Park...

Saturday 17th September 2011 v Grimsby Town. Kick-Off 3pm

Tuesday 27th September 2011 v Fleetwood Town. Kick-Off 7.45pm

Saturday 1st October 2011 v York City. Kick-Off 3pm



## Telford United v County

**Date:** Saturday, 10th September, kick-off at 3pm  
**Ground:** New Bucks Head, Watling Street, Wellington, Telford, TF1 2TU  
**Capacity:** 5,600 (2,200 seats)  
**Telephone:** 01952 640 064  
**Website:** www.telfordutd.co.uk



### The Ground

Construction on Telford's New Bucks Head stadium began in 2000 and finished three years later. Originally having a capacity of 6,300, this has been reduced to around 5,600. It's an impressive little ground, with a modern main stand on one side and a thin, uncovered terrace on the other, and identical covered terraces behind each goal. One of these terraces, the Frank Nagington Stand at the southern end of the ground, houses up to 1,480 away supporters. Bitter, lager & cider are available from the concourse, as well as plenty of hot food. Entry is via turnstiles I and J. Please note that a very limited amount of seating is available, but is restricted to those with limited mobility or very young children. Please consult a steward as soon as you enter through the turnstiles. Disabled supporters should go the assisted entry gate in the north west corner of the ground and meet the ground safety team.

### Ticket Prices

Frank Nagington Stand

Adults - £11

Concessions\* - £8

Under-16s - £1

\*Senior citizens & full-time students

County Travel depart from Edgeley Park at 12noon, priced £12 for adults and £10 for juniors. Please call the Booking Hotline on 08456 885 799.

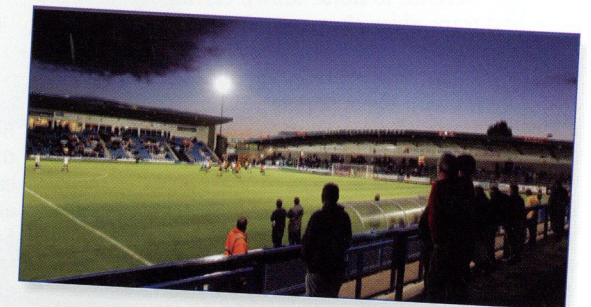


Photo: James Baylis

### Food & Drink

As mentioned, alcohol & hot food are sold in the away stand. A range of pies, sausage rolls and more is on offer. There's a club bar at the ground, behind the home terrace, but it's fairly small and although away fans are normally welcome, access is restricted if there's a decent-sized crowd. There is a bar called the Dugout Bar at the Whitehouse Hotel right next to the ground, although understandably this can also get very busy. Otherwise there's the Cock Hotel and The Swan, both around five minutes walk down the main road going away from Telford/toward Shrewsbury, and a large number of pubs in central Wellington, near the train station.

### Parking

There's a car park at the ground, which has 85 spaces available for fans at a first-come, first-served basis – priced at £2. Parking is also at the Telford College of Arts & Technology (TCAT), which is located on the opposite side of Heybridge Road next to the ground, for £3. Although there is a car park behind the Sir Stephen Roberts (Main) Stand, this is for the Whitehouse Hotel.

## Edgeley Park Normal Matchday Prices 2011-12

### Main Stand

Adults - £18

16-21 & over-65s - £11

7-16 year olds - £3

Under-7s - free

### Cheadle End and Popular Side

Adults - £16

16-21 & over-65s - £11

7-16 year olds - £3

Under-7s - free

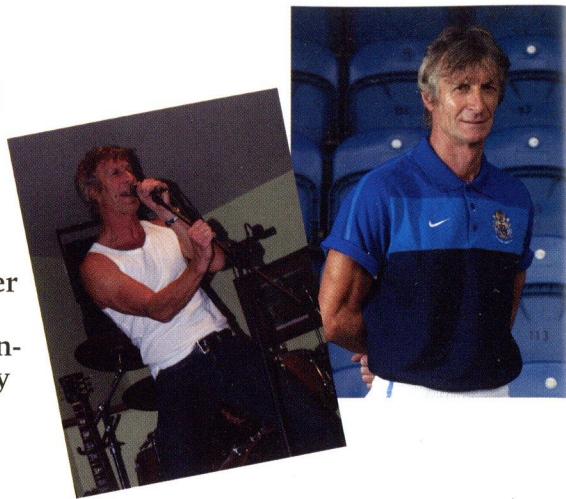
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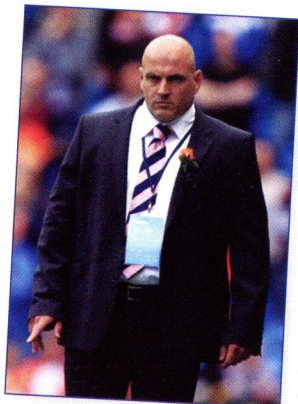
# On the Wylde Side

By Rodger Wylde

I was stood in the car park outside the Forest Green players entrance the other week, having made my debut in any capacity of my football career in the 'non-league', waiting for our bus driver 'Nasty Baz' to negotiate the bus through the somewhat randomly parked cars.



As I was stood I contemplated the relevance of the contradicting motives the chairman of Forest Green displayed by actually allowing cars in the parking area in preference to horse drawn carriages and pony and traps given that everything else about the club is 'green' - even down to the ban on meat pie sales which were replaced by samosa's and strawberries with black pepper! I was just mulling over the effects of the carbon footprint would have on the ozone layer as the 4x4's pumped out petrol gas from their massive exhaust pipes as they set off on their way home from the match when an extremely large shaven headed figure, totally dressed in black, approached me from the shadows. In fear of being mugged in these leafy suburbs I quickly pulled out the pockets of my track-suit to prove that I did not have a bean (money) on me!



This still did not deter pace of the giant as he continued his direction towards me! Oh dear, I thought, he is maybe just an old fashioned skin head who wants to seek retribution against any random ageing 'mod' for some past 'hiding' he might have been on the end of. Just as I was about to put to good use the years of training I have

indulged in by 'exiting stage left,' a familiar scouse voice stopped me in my tracks, 'Rodger Wylde, how the devil are you?' The floodlights behind the large man in the darkness had prevented me from seeing his face, but the voice was unmistakable. 'Brabs,' I exclaimed relieved at not now facing the prospect of having to repel a would be attacker by hitting him on his knuckles with my chin, 'what are you doing in these parts?' It transpired that Gary Brabin, an ex-County player who I had known since he was sixteen had been commentating on our game which had been aired by SKY. Brabs looked very different from the last

time I saw him, he had shaved all his hair off and he had lost the spotty complexion that was present as a young lad.

Brabs said, 'how long have you been here now Rodge?' 'This is my 24th year,' I replied. "Wow," he exclaimed, 'you could write a book.' 'I have, and you're in it!' I said. I then narrated to him the story of how Danny Bergara had made Bish stand outside his office door the day Danny gave Brabs a free transfer 'just in case he (Brabs) kicked off,' as Danny told Bish. This after Dave Jones and John Sainty made a hasty exit at the prospect of a 'nuclear explosion' when Brabs heard the news of his free transfer. At the news all Brabs did was to punch a hole in The Gaffer's office door and vow, 'you will buy me back one day for a hundred thousand pounds.' County didn't in fact buy him back but Doncaster Rovers paid that very amount for him.



Brabs did, however, on his return to Edgeley Park playing for Blackpool, manage to break the nose of our poor Alun Armstrong in a collision just in front of the County dugout. I am sure to this day that Brabs meant the incident to signify it was either Danny's, Dave's or Saints nose he would like to have broken and poor Alun's for giving him a free transfer from County!



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## Match Officials

**Referee:** Robert Merchant

**Assistants:** Matthew Pope,  
James Mainwaring

**4th Official:** Darren Handley

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## Ball Boys



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# Squad Check

## County v Luton



## Stockport County

## Luton Town

1 MATT GLENNON (1283)	01 MARK TYLER
2 MARK LYNCH (1280)	02 DAN GLEESON
3 EUAN HOLDEN (1306)	03 FREDDIE MURRAY
4 JON ROUTLEDGE (1309)	04 KEITH KEANE
5 DANIEL O'DONNELL (1295)	05 DEAN BECKWITH
6 DANNY HALL (1305)	06 GEORGE PILKINGTON
7 SEAN MCCONVILLE (1315)	07 ALEX LAWLESS
8 JON NOLAN (1316)	08 AMARI MORGAN-SMITH (1243)
9 MARTIN GRITTON (1304)	09 MATTHEW BARNES-HOMER
10 JOHN MILES (1308)	10 DANNY CROW
11 RYAN FRAUGHAN (1303)	11 ROBBIE WILLMOTT
12 IAN ORMSON	12 SHANE BLACKETT
13 CAMERON DARKWAH (1287)	14 AARON O'CONNOR
14 SAM SHERIDAN (1310)	15 JAKE HOWELLS
15 MATTY MAINWARING (1249)	16 ED ASAFU-ADJAYE
16 RYAN MCCANN (1307)	17 WILL ANTWI
17 ANDY HALLS (1260)	18 CURTIS OSANO
18 DANNY ROWE (1261)	19 JAMES DANCE
19 NICK CHADWICK (1302)	21 CHARLIE HENRY
20 TOM ELLIOTT (1311)	24 ALEX LACEY
21 NABIL BRAHIM-BOUNAB (1301)	25 GODFREY POKU
22 CARL PIERGIANNI (1312)	26 JJ O'DONNELL
24 ELLIOTT CHAMBERLAIN (1313)	28 ADAM WATKINS
	29 DAN WALKER
	30 KEVIN PILKINGTON
	31 LEWIS KIDD
	32 ASH DEENEY
	33 RYAN DASILVSA
	36 CHRISTIAN TAVERNIER

The numbers in brackets are the player's unique Stockport County Appearance Number, showing his position in the list of players to make their debut for the club in a senior competitive game.

### News 'Archive' on Stockportcounty.com

To read Historical Match day Programmes from previous encounters between Stockport County and this seasons opponents visit [www.stockportcounty.com](http://www.stockportcounty.com)