

The *Alexandra* Football Special



MAIN CLUB SPONSORS

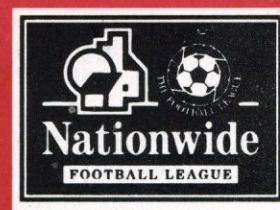


BOLDON
JAMES

CREWE ALEX

V

LUTON
TOWN



DIVISION TWO

SATURDAY
15th MARCH, 1997
Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

Price £1.50

Season 1996/97 Issue No. 22

SPARKY'S

☐ Electrical Wholesale ☐ Retailer
☐ Contractors ☐ Repairs



Kevin Westwood
12 Bayley Road
Willaston Cheshire

Telephone:
(01270) 665730
Mobile: 0831 680977

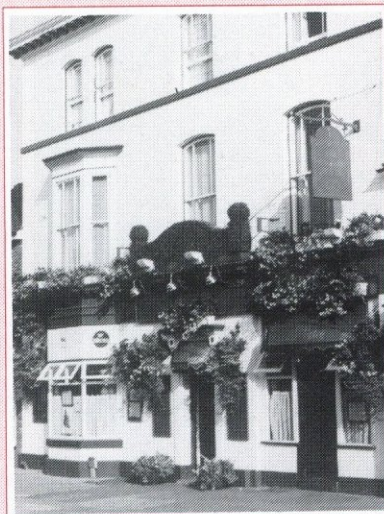
The Malbank Hotel

Accommodation

A La Carte

Restaurant

Bar Meals



Proprietors: Mr. & Mrs. C. Evans

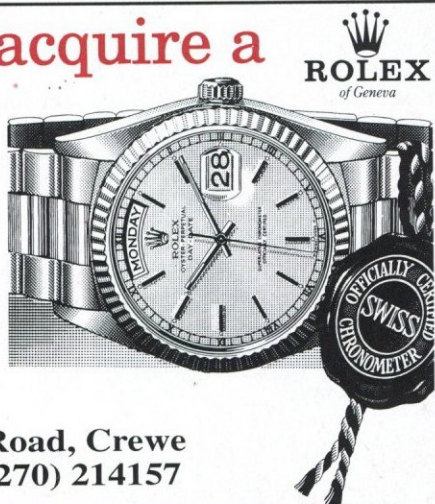
14 Beam Street
Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 5LL
Tel: 01270 626011 Fax: 01270 624435

**Where to acquire a
taste for
Oysters**

John Pass

Watchmaker
& Jeweller

179 Nantwich Road, Crewe
Telephone: (01270) 214157



Ford RINGWAYS



New & Used Car Sales • Service
Parts • Accessories

Approved Ford Accident Repair Centre

Ford Direct Specialists

Open 7 Days

RINGWAYS
The Complete Dealership

Macon Way
Crewe
01270 583511

*Support the
team that
supports yours*



Caught.
Ball watching!

The official ball supplier to:



Reprographics by SentyBox Tel: 0895 251220

CREWE ALEXANDRA F.C. Co. Ltd.
GREYSTY ROAD, CREWE, CW2 6EB.
Telephone: 01270 213014

Recorded Information Telephone Line
The ONLY official Crewe Alexandra Club Call
0891 12 16 47

Supporters Information and Ticket Line
01270 252610

Programme Editor: Harold Finch
Crewe Alexandra Official Programme

Views expressed by individual contributors are
not necessarily those of the Football Club

SAFETY AT SPORTS GROUNDS ACT 1975 and 1985

The Stadium at Gresty Road is a sports ground designated under the above acts. In the interest of spectators safety certain conditions must be observed at all times. These are listed on the Football League Regulations which are posted on entry and in different areas of the stadium.

The Main Stand is designated as a no smoking area. Any spectator acting in contravention of these conditions is liable to ejection from the ground or arrest.

Encroachment on to the playing area is forbidden at all times. Closed circuit television is in operation at the stadium and can be used as evidence in a court of law.

First aid and medical facilities are provided at the stadium with first aid posts at the Family Stand, Gresty Road Stand and Main Stand Areas of the ground.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

In the event of an emergency, Club Stewards/Police, will put into operation set procedures and direct spectators accordingly. Spectators are asked to comply with these instructions. Please remain calm and observe the directions given to you.

Please remember the Club Stewards are here to assist you and we hope that you have an enjoyable visit, in a safe environment at the Stadium.

Cliff Simpson - Stadium Manager



What a week! The disappointment of going out to Stockport and then a fine 1-0 win at Notts County. As I write these notes, I've witnessed the fantastic Liverpool v Newcastle game.

I think that is the game which puts it all into perspective. People say how could we let Gillingham back in it? You have got to give them credit! You have to give Newcastle credit for the way they played when 3-0 down, and you have to give Gillingham credit for almost saving their game. I'm always amused when commentators talk about "throwing away a two goal lead". No-one throws anything away. The others put on pressure and you either cope or you don't. That is the beauty of football.

Just one other thing on the Liverpool v Newcastle game. How many times to you hear Managers talk about "battling and scrapping". Well, that was a proper football game. Not about battling but more about skill!

Credit to Stockport for being a really good side. Not kicking us off the park but playing good football and seeing us off with the penalties. They have had a fantastic season and all credit to them. We still have to go there in the league and that will be a game to test our ability! If we are good

DARIO WRITES

enough we will rise to the occasion.

Sometimes people think I'm joking when I talk about the 50 point safety zone. We should be automatically thinking of promotion! Don't we always!! Notts County went to Wembley instead of us last year and now they are in a real relegation battle. Why is that? Well why not!!

That dividing line between success and failure is very thin!

I'm first of all happy that we will not be fighting a relegation battle. Even if Bournemouth fail to survive we will be safe! If we are good enough we will do even better. At the moment we are not quite sure whether we are good enough.

Terrific support at Notts County which we did little to encourage in the first half. Our defending was poor but Notts maybe didn't quite have the ability to punish us. Our strength in midfield kept us in with a chance and in the end Danny Murphy both made and almost scored the only goal, which typified his performance ably assisted by Gareth Whalley and Phil Charnock.

That is not to suggest they were the only ones who made a contribution, but there is a difference between playing well and playing well enough to be the difference between winning and losing!

I spoke to Lee Jones during the week about joining us. He has been here before so I know I will enjoy coaching him. At 23/4 he is not quite sure and there will be many voices in his ear. I hope he will listen to reason and join. We would improve him I'm sure. It's interesting to hear that Bournemouth are one of the clubs trying to sign him.

Today and Tuesday we entertain the two clubs directly above us. Luton played really well against us earlier in the season but are only one point ahead of us. I don't spend much time looking at league tables but I was surprised to see that only Brentford and Chesterfield have won more matches away from home than us. Mind you, only Notts County and Preston have lost more!

With so many important games coming up we need a few reinforcements. Colin Little and Jamie Moralee have been at Lillleshall Rehabilitation Centre all last week. Dele continues to make progress but is still some weeks off being ready. Steve Macauley and Ashley Westwood will have a chance today, though Fran Tierney is still troubled by his hamstring injury.

Hope you enjoy the game and thank you for your support.

Dario Gradi

*An exclusive range of Leisure Wear for
all ages.*

Alex
LEISURE

only available in the Club Shop

★ **SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER** ★

£1 off retail price (restricted to one voucher for each purchase)

MAN OF THE MATCH



M.S. Harvey was delighted to present **Rob Savage** with the Man of the Match Award after the gillingham game. Rob seems to be a regular winner of this prize and a firm favourite with our sponsors.

Many thanks to **NWF** for their continuing support, and we look forward to welcoming staff and guests of NWF again next season.

THE ALISON - CLAIR PAGES

SPECIAL OFFER!

BRISTOL CITY

Tuesday, 25th March

For the above fixture we have a number of places available in the Sponsors Lounge for pre-match hospitality.

The package will consist of bar facilities prior to kick-off, pre-match four course meal, seats in the Family Stand, tea, coffee and bar available at half time.

Use of Sponsors Lounge at full time - Bar open
- Total cost £20.00 per head.

Please contact Alison or Clair as soon as possible to reserve your space.

SALE TIME

£10 off all Replica Shirts

£5 off all Replica Shorts

Three Stripe Jog Pants now only £20

**FREE Kit Key Ring with every Club Mug
for only £4.25**

NEW RED LION CLUB DRAW

£1,000 WINNER

B3178

Mr. D. Bell, Westminster Street, Crewe

Agent: Mr. Krynicki

Prize:	Card No.
£500	L0814
£250	G1554
£125	D2948

Name	Address
L. Taylor	Borrowdale Avenue
Mrs. Molynux	Winniford Street
Mrs. Hough	Weaver Road, Nantwich

Postcard from Poland

Dear Alison &
Clair,

I am sincerely
in hope you will
be able to help
me in this
matter.

I am interested
in the sport of
Association
Football. I have
a collection of
badges from
football clubs.

Please be so
kind and send me
some of your
football badge to flourish my collection.

Please let any of your supporters have my address if they are
interested in exchanging badges with me.

I will be very much obliged and wishes success in 1996/1997
Season.

If anyone would like to write to our Polish fan and exchange pin badges, please contact Claire for the
address.



AWAY TRAVEL

STOCKPORT COUNTY

Saturday, 29th March, 1997

Kick off 3.00 p.m.

Admission: Standing: Adults £8.00 Jnr/ O.A.P. £4.00
Seating: Adults £10.00 Jnr/O.A.P. £4.00

Coach: Members £5.00
Non-Members £7.00

Departs: 1.00 p.m.

Directions: Exit M63 at Junction 11 and join A560,
following signs for Cheadle, after ¼ mile turn right
into Edgeley Road and after 1 mile turn right into
Caroline Street for the ground

Nearest Railway

Station: Stockport (5 min. walk)



PAUL BACKHOUSE

**Lockitt Street, Crewe
Cheshire CW2 7BB
Tel: 01270 214216
Fax: 01270 505635**



*CLS Paul Backhouse are
proud to be associated with
Crewe Alex, as match sponsors
for today's game - Good luck
for the remaining part of
the season*

PLEASE NOTE

The advertisement for the
Co-op Wedding Services which appeared in
the Stockport edition gave an incorrect telephone
number. It should have read **0161 432 0818**

MESSAGE TO ALL SUPPORTERS

Please note that the
**PRESTON N.E. fixture on
Monday, 31st March
will be ALL TICKET.**

Please purchase match
tickets as soon as possible.

This game will also be
LIVE ON SKY
Kick-off 6.00 p.m.

CREWE ALEX CLUBCALL

0891 12 16 47

Calls charged 50p per minute at all times

Dear Alison,

I would like to ask your help in making my grand-daughter happy in her hour of need. Donna, who was fifteen on 28th February has just been diagnosed as having Hodgekinson's Disease. As you can imagine, the family are devastated. Donna is eldest in my son's family and the only girl. How can you help.

Donna is a fanatical Crewe supporter, as is her dad, and they rarely miss a game. Donna also plays a lot of football herself. As you will be aware, with this illness and the treatment, it will cause Donna to lose her hair.

Is it possible you have a Crewe supporters' hat that can be autographed by some of the players. I know she would wear it with pride, and would help take away some of the pain of losing her hair.

I would be so grateful if you could do this for me, because I know this sort of therapy would help her through the illness. In honesty, anything with the players autographs on would be wonderful for her.

I don't mind what the cost is, Donna is worth it. Donna's address:

**Donna Harper, 13 Smithy Green,
Gatesheath, Tattenhall, Chester**

I do hope you can help.

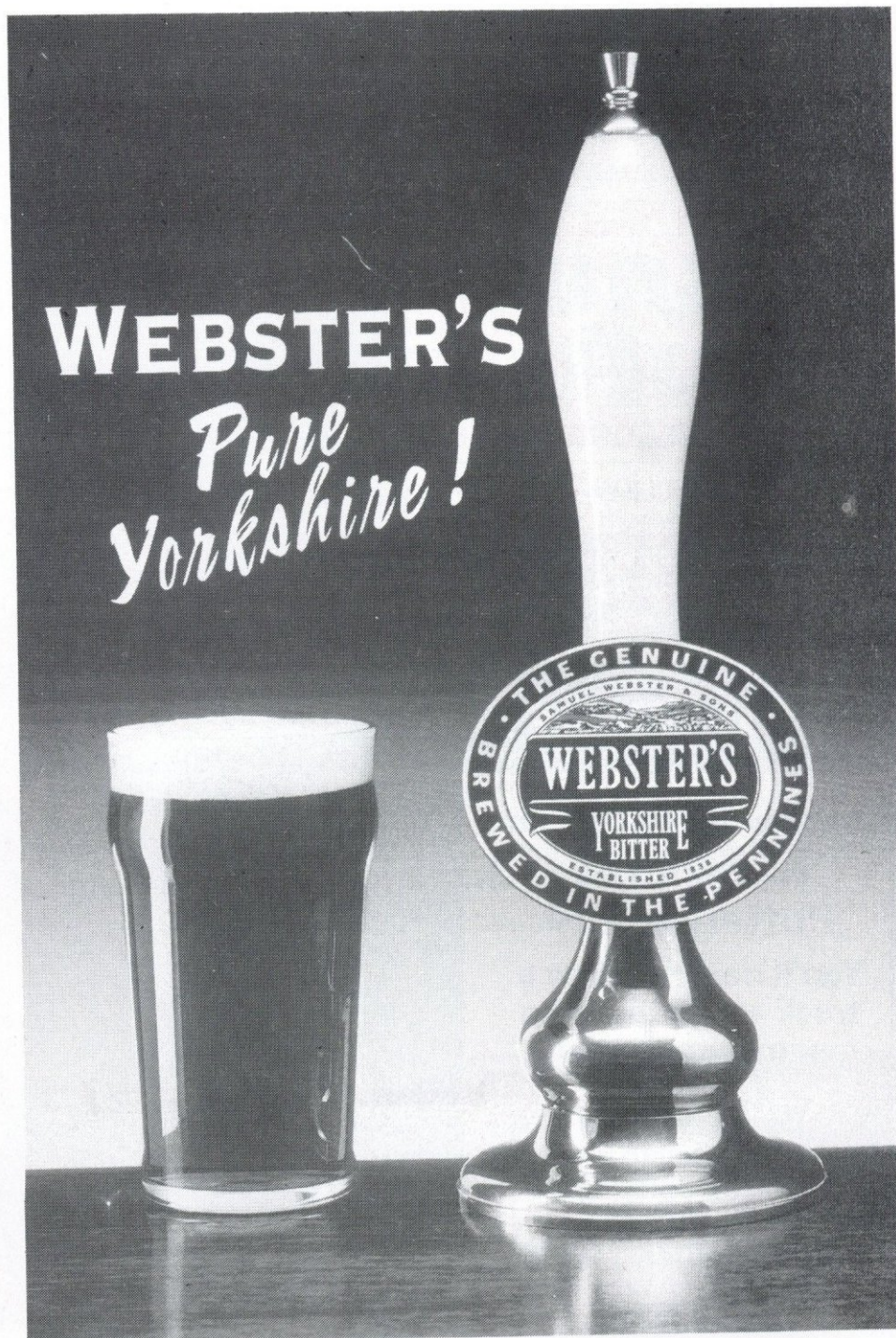
Many thanks
Your sincerely,
G.W. Harper (Grandad)

Reply:

Clair and myself are asked for numerous donations to all types of causes, and unfortunately we can only help so many.

We were both moved by this letter and have been in contact with Donna's grandfather.

Best wishes Donna from all at Gresty Road, and hope you will keep us informed as to your progress.



KIT SPONSORS

(a) Shirt £25 (b) Shorts £15 (c) Socks £10 (d) Tracksuit £35 (e) Footwear £25 (f) Trainers £35

DELE ADEBOLA	(a,b) Katherin Wills (c) The Chadwell Boys (d) "From Brenda, Concorde, with love from your number one fan"
BILLY BARR	(a) In Memory of E. Latham (b) Peter Hallett
PHIL CHARNOCK	(c) Salford Travelling Alex
STEVE GARVEY	(a) Angela and Arthur Carter (c) Pete Witten from Luxembourg
MARK GAYLE	(Full Kit) Junior Alex
BRIAN LAUNDERS	(a, b, c) Trish and Paul, The Office Bar, Benalmadena
STEVE MACAULEY	(Full Kit) Sandbach Travelling Alex
JAMIE MORALEE	(Full Kit) Gee Bee (Crewe) Ltd.
DANNY MURPHY	(Full Kit) Russell Hickson, John Ford and all the lads at Ideal Standard Middlewich
STEVEN POPE	(Full Kit) Frank Platt
MARK RIVERS	(Full Kit) Crewe Alex Official Supporters Coach
ROB SAVAGE	(Full Kit) Sandbach Travelling Alex Cricket Team
SHAUN SMITH	(Full Kit) Sandbach Travelling Alex
LEE UNSWORTH	(a,b,c) Lee Arnold (d) Jayne Bowyer, Middlewich
ASHLEY WESTWOOD	(Full Kit) Sandbach Travelling Alex
GARETH WHALLEY	(Full Kit) Crewe Alex Official Supporters Coach

If your favourite player is not included in the list above, and you would like to sponsor part of his kit, then call to see Elaine or Clair in the Club Shop

MATCH & BALL SPONSORS

	MATCH SPONSOR	BALL DONOR
17/8	Stockport Co. Phil Grocott	Friends & Family of Simon Ashley
31/8	Watford Advasport	C. Hulme
3/9	Port Vale Ridgway Caterers	Omega Music
10/9	Bury Courage	
14/9	Wrexham ClubCall	Crewe Training Centre
1/10	Blackpool Courage	Gwyneth Dunwoody M.P.
12/10	Brentford	In memory of Norman Warham
15/10	York City Nurdin & Peacock	CEF
2/11	Wycombe Royal Bank	Dagfields Craft Centre
16/11	Kidderminster (F.A. Cup 1) Rowlinson Packaging	Top Marques
30/11	Shrewsbury T. Courage	Plumb Centre
20/12	Notts Co. Robert Eardley	C. Hulme
28/12	Bournemouth	In memory of Simon Ashley from John Ford & the Sandbach Supporters
4/1	Wimbledon (F.A. Cup 3) S & E Cheshire TEC	Ajax Insurance Brokers
1/2	Burnley Courage	In Memory of T. Nichols
15/2	Walsall Tunstall Assurance	Peter Hallett/Nestlé
1/3	Gillingham N.W.F. Agriculture	Rickie Garner
4/3	Stockport Co. (A.W.S. Nthn. Qtr. Final) Co-Op Wedding Services	
15/3	Luton Town CLS	"Clarke & Son", The Beer Cellar 150-151 Market Street
18/3	Millwall Royal Bank	CEF/Graham Geary
22/3	Peterborough Utd. Sentinel	Toad Innovations Ltd.
25/3	Bristol City	Friends of Stanley Parton
31/3	Preston North End Courage	CAFC Supporters Association Anna Gray, Soft Furnishings
12/4	Bristol Rovers Nestlé	G.E.P. Consultancy & Training
26/4	Chesterfield Rolls Royce	C. Hulme

Volvo Trucks with Volvo Finance from Volvo Locally

The new Volvo FH from
**Hartshorne
(Potteries) Ltd.**

You'll never look at a
truck acquisition the
same way again

Hammond Road
Parkhouse Industrial Estate
Newcastle-under-Lyme
Staffs. ST5 7RX
Telephone: (01782) 566400

VOLVO





FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY

with *Chris Walters*



At today's match we are entertaining the winners of the "Wagon Wheels" Mothers Day Card competition. The response from the local schools was magnificent, which made the selection of the winner even more difficult. The winning card came from Stacey Saint of Gainsborough School and was selected by the mums here in the office at the club.

The winner, Stacey, will be presenting her mum with a bouquet of flowers before

today's match. I hope all the families enjoy the match today.

Last week we saw the Wyche C.P. from Nantwich win the local final of the Panini 6-a-side competition and go through to the area final at the Pitz Centre in Manchester as Crewe Alexandra's representatives.

The competition here at Crewe attracted over 28 schools and was held on the Astro Turf over 4 days with the Wyche coming out on top, with Church Coppenhall and

Offley second and third respectively. All the youngsters who took part received a Panini Album and stickers each, so everyone was a winner.

The next holiday period on the horizon is Easter and at Easter we shall again be holding our goalkeeping and strikers courses at Shavington on Monday & Tuesday, 24th/25th March and Wednesday & Thursday 26th/27th March. The other courses will be held at Haslington C.P., Middlewich Football Ground, Malpas and Tarporley. On the local courses youngsters will each receive £40 holiday vouchers and one lucky person will win a £400 Haven Holiday.

For any more information contact Chris Walters 216682.

JUNIOR ALEX

At today's match Debbie the Face Painter will be here. Hopefully Debbie will be at all the remaining home matches. In the Junior Room we have Football and Music Videos, there are also new posters donated by Omega Music and by today's game we will have the latest Top Twenty Chart on show, you will also be able to gain an Omega Discount Card if you fill in the questionnaire available in the Junior Room.

After Easter we will be revealing a new coaching course for Junior Alex members, so watch this space.

Enjoy the match

Chris Walters
216682

adidas
INVITE YOU
TO VIEW CREWE
ALEXANDRA F.C.
1996/1997
TRAINING
WEAR RANGE

adidas

ARE PROUD TO BE OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS OF
OFFICIAL KIT & TRAINING WEAR TO
CREWE ALEXANDRA F.C.

These items form part of the OFFICIAL range available now from CREWE ALEXANDRA Club Shops at the ground

**CREWE ALEX
CLUBCALL
0891 12 16 47**

Calls cost 50p per minute at all times

On Becoming a Septuagenarian

At one time, September 1975 to be precise, I thought I might not make it to my 50th Birthday. Having done so, I set myself another target, to reach 70, a figure often referred to as one man's life span - "three score years and ten". Last weekend, I achieved that aim also. To set precise targets from now on would be tempting fate. Instead, I will take each day, month and year as they come along.

I make no secret of the fact that my involvement with Crewe Alexandra F.C. is something I value greatly and now goes back over several decades. Trying to take so many years into account, and furthermore, trying to pick out specific games, players and even goals is no easy task.

However, if I had to pick one person out from all of those I have come into contact with at Crewe Alexandra, then the person who would be at the top of my list of all time favourites would not be a player, or administrator but a groundsman who served this club for many years. His name - Sid Barratt.

As a groundsman, Sid was superb, when you think that in his day he had to manage with the minimum of equipment and most of the time on his own, then the condition of the Gresty Road playing surface and all its surroundings was truly amazing. He did not have the benefit of travelling to work in a car, he made the journey to and from his Sandbach home on his bicycle. I spent many hundreds of lunch hours in his company, our conversations were not always connected with football but covered a multitude of topics. Sid was one of those servicemen who served in what was known as "The Forgotten Army" in Burma and was himself wounded by the Japanese. His passing proved to be a loss to many people.

When it comes to players, this is really difficult when thinking of the numbers involved but here goes with a few of my favourites, Peter Leigh, what a great captain he was of our team, Gordon Wallace, a player with a lovely touch and possessing great skills. How about Stan Bowles, his stay at Gresty Road was not a very long one but nearly every goal that he scored in our colours was a memorable one. Still a great friend of mine, Frank Lord, one of the best headers of a ball we have ever had.

More modern times have given us David Platt, Craig Hignett, Rob Jones, Geoff Thomas and Neil Lennon - and who knows what the future holds for Gareth Whalley and Danny Murphy. No doubt there will also be youngsters not yet figuring in the senior squad who will come along and become household names in the future.

During the next decade it could see the era of instant playbacks become a reality, although rejected at the present time it is more than likely that the topic will most definitely come up again in the not so distant future. Should it become fact, what an ordeal it would be for the match referee when he has to wait to see whether the decision he had to give in an instant was the correct one or otherwise!

Long gone are the days when Crewe Alexandra had to rely on re-election to keep their place in the Football League and hope that the hard canvassing done on behalf of the club would be enough to keep them in the league structure. The club used to be the butt of many comedians, nearly all reference to the club being of a derogatory nature.

Nowadays the club is treated with respect, and although the ground may not be full to its existing capacity, it must be categorically stated that the affairs of the club are run both efficiently and professionally. Scouts from all ranges of clubs do

not need to ask for directions of how to find Gresty Road, they come here so regularly many could possibly do it blindfolded.

Remember those days when continuity of service by players and managers alike never used to last very long, success was so very limited and so far as resources were concerned they were either very limited or non-existent. No era during my long association with the club can compare with the present one. I do not need to go into any great detail, it is both well known and well documented. Just think, Season 1997/98 will see Crewe Alexandra either in Division Two or possibly one Division higher. That will make four successive seasons in a higher league - something we may have thought about but never believed it could happen.

As an Honorary Life Vice President of Crewe Alexandra F.C. I take great pride in all I do in association with and on behalf of Crewe Alexandra F.C.

Until the advent of Play-Off Finals and the Auto Windscreen Final being held at Wembley Stadium, the thought of going to Wembley to see Crewe Alexandra F.C. there was but a pipe dream. It did become a reality, "my team" had won their way through for their first ever visit to those famous twin towers at Wembley.

In revealing my greatest thrill to date - that is easy - that was the time that I travelled down with the team and Dario for that play-off final - the motor cycle escort to the Stadium followed by the walk through that tunnel and out on to the Wembley turf. It was real - I have the photograph to prove my statement! In addition I watched the game from the Press Box. We lost I know, but it is something I will always remember.

So, please Dario, I sincerely hope that Crewe Alexandra will be at Wembley Stadium yet again in the not too distant future, and that as before you will allow me to travel with you and the team.

HAROLD FINCH



SCS
The Upholstery
Specialists

2 FLOORS

of over

100

3-PIECE SUITES

including

THE LARGEST SELECTION OF

LEATHER

3-PIECE SUITES

at

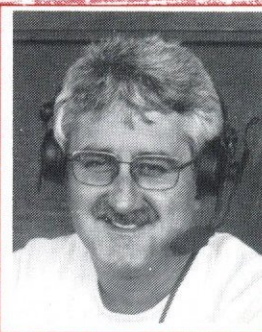
Grand Junction Retail Park, Crewe

Tel: (01270) 501020

THE PRESS PAGE

with **Graham McGarry**

**BBC RADIO STOKE - THE NUMBER ONE STATION
FOR SPORTS NEWS**



Welcome to Gresty Road for this Second Division promotion encounter between the Alex and Luton Town.

The less written about the first meeting between these two clubs the better as far as the home side are concerned. Our visit to Kenilworth Road was one you can say is best forgotten.

Now nearly three months on from that 6-0 drubbing, both sides today know the three points of offer are of great importance.

While Brentford fans this week for some unknown reason were disgruntled with their manager Dave Webb, in my opinion they still remain strong favourites to take one of the automatic promotion places - who joins them? Take your pick from seven other candidates.

On the showing at Kenilworth Road, the Hatters looked 'certs' for a return to the First Division after a season's exile, but perhaps their F.A. Cup drubbing at Bolton seems to have taken its effect.

Well, I'm pretty sure both sets of players and supporters will, as they say, be up for this game. Whatever the result turns out to be, March the 15th will be a day to cherish for one of Crewe Alexandra's dedicated fans.

50 years ago today Gresty Road was preparing itself for the visit of Halifax Town and Bernard Morgan, now residing in Manor Way, was about to take up what has now become half a century of service for his beloved club.

His first job being one of the 18 turnstile operators which saw him collect the gate money.

Admission for the game being 1/6p for the Pop Side, 2/3p Stand Side, 9p Juniors and if you wanted a programme you'd be asked to splash out 2p.

The team line-up read: Poskett, Ward, Randle, Micklewright, Franklin, Barlow, Davies, Waddington, Harrigan, Ferris, Jones.

Bernard told the Alexandra Special "I've seen great changes at the club, all may I say for the

better. The credit must go down to the Chairman, the Manager and the Secretary who have worked extremely hard together to achieve a real homely family stadium. Another pleasing part is that the modern day technology has helped the club to be able to cater for bigger crowds which ensures spectators can get into the ground without any real fuss".

Bernard, a retired railwayman, loves his sport - he's still heavily involved in his other love, that being Crown Green Bowls, which occupies his time during the summer months. But on match days he can still be found on duty, his current position being responsible for all the turnstile operators, and making sure the rota for the operators is kept to, while he's also taken on the job of paying the match officials.

Having spent the majority of his life being connected with the Alex, he's more than qualified to name some of his all time greats.

He puts Neil Franklin at the top of his list, while under the Dario Gradi regime David Platt is his favourite to have played under the league's longest serving manager.

Local players have also given him hours of enjoyment with such names as Eddie Morris, Eric Barnes, Ray Evans, Roy (Nipper) Walton and Gordon Cooke coming to the fore.

From everyone at the club Bernard, we wish you plenty more years here at Gresty Road. And while on the theme of celebrations may I on behalf of the club and its supporters say a happy 70th birthday to Harold Finch.

Enjoy the game,
GRAHAM



**Simply the best....
BBC Radio Stoke Sport**

- Sports news every half hour through the day
- Saturday Sport 2.00 - 6.00 p.m.
- Tuesday Midweek Sport 7.00 - 10.00 p.m.
- Friday Night Sport 5.30 - 7.00 p.m.

94.6 FM

Who's Who at Kenilworth Road

Welcome to THE HATTERS

It was in the 1968/69 Season that Luton last visited Gresty Road, that was in the Third Division after Crewe had gained promotion from Division Four in the previous season. By sheer coincidence Crewe had clinched promotion the previous season in the final game at Gresty Road against Luton Town. That was also the season in which Crewe had managed to preserve an unbeaten home record for the first time in their history.

Luton Town were relegated at the end of last season from the First Division and they were tipped before a ball was kicked for the current season to be one of the teams most likely to get back at the first attempt. Their performances so far are showing that it is quite likely that they will do so.

Prior to their home game with Millwall last weekend they had only been defeated twice at Kenilworth Road in league fixtures and both of those had come in the early part of the season. Indeed, opening day saw Burnley winning 2-1 and then on the 14th September a single goal by Chesterfield also secured the Saltergate club their three points. Millwall their close rivals gained revenge for their home defeat at The New Den by winning 1-0 to halt them after such a good run.

Teams when visiting Kenilworth Road have found it quite hard to score goals there, in 17 games they have conceded just 10 but when playing away from home the total is a higher one, 26.

Away victories have come at Wycombe 1-0, Shrewsbury 3-0, Millwall 1-0, Gillingham 2-1 and their most recent away victory came at Notts County on the 1st February when they won 2-1. They come to Gresty Road seeking a double after winning their home game at Kenilworth Road 6-0 in mid December. Danger man will be Tony Thorpe with a total of 22 goals to date including two hat tricks.

Coca Cola games saw them progress through to the third round. After defeating Bristol Rovers 4-2 on aggregate they then had to face Premier League opposition in the form of Derby County. The first leg took place at Luton and it was a goal by Julian James that eventually divided the teams. The return game at the Baseball Ground ended in a 2-2 draw which meant that Luton went through on aggregate 3-2.

Local rivalry was the order of the day for the third round for they were paired with another Premier League side, Wimbledon. At Selhurst Park they earned a creditable draw, the game ending 1-1 and so it went to a replay at Kenilworth Road and this time they were to go out beaten 2-1.

Torquay United away was to be their first game in the F.A. Cup this season and they got through that one by a single goal. Second round opposition was provided by non league side Boreham Wood and a 2-1 victory saw them through to round three. Mighty Bolton Wanderers then had to come to Luton for the third round and another draw 1-1 meant that yet another replay was required. Up at Burnden Park the replay saw plenty of goals but unfortunately most of them went to Bolton, the Trotters winning 6-2.

It would be a lot to ask for a reversal of the scoreline between the clubs down at Luton, one goal would suffice.



In charge at Luton is **LENNIE LAWRENCE** who has been there in a managerial capacity since December 1995 when he took over from Terry Westley. His first position as a Manager came in a caretaker capacity at Lincoln City before becoming the Manager of Charlton Athletic in 1982. After leaving the Valley he went to Middlesbrough and from there he went to

Bradford City in May 1994 and six months later came to take over at Luton.

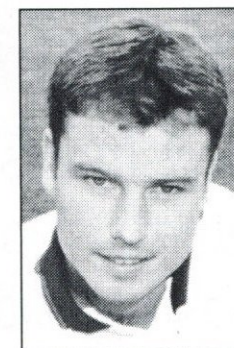


IAN FEUER

In the No. 1 spot is **IAN FEUER** who came from West Ham United for a fee which could reach a total of £580,000 depending on appearances for Luton. An American, his first taste of league football came when he had gone out on loan from West Ham to Peterborough United. He had been spotted by West Ham when playing in

Belgium but it was from American side, Los Angeles Salsa that he joined the Hammers. His deputy is **KELVIN DAVIS** who had joined the club in July 1993 but so far he has only made an occasional appearance in the senior side.

JULIAN JAMES. He had joined the club as a trainee and signed for the club in July 1986. He has made the full back position his own and has topped the 200 mark in appearances to date. He had been capped at Under 21 level by England. When he made his full debut for the club in a Littlewoods Cup at Leeds he was sent off on that occasion. **DARREN PATTERSON.** Another experienced defender whose league career had started with Wigan Athletic before moving to Crystal Palace in 1992 for a fee of £250,000. He moved to Luton in August 1995 for a fee of £200,000 which will rise according to appearances. Has also been a member of the Northern Ireland squad.



STEVE DAVIS

At the heart of the defence will be **STEVE DAVIS** who cost the club a fee of £750,000 when he signed from Burnley in July 1995. He had joined Burnley from Southampton in August 1991 after having been on loan to Notts County and Burnley. During his time at Turf Moor he had been a consistent member of their team

and helped the Lancashire side in getting promotion. Can also score vital goals.

MARVIN JOHNSON. Born in Wembley. He signed for the club in July 1985 and he too has now reached the 200 mark in appearances for the club. Although he has played many games at full back he has done well when playing in the centre of the

Luton F.C. - Season 1996/97



BACK ROW (left to right): Stuart Douglas, Jamie Woodsford, Sean Evers, Kim Grant, Paul McLaren, Darren Patterson, Gary Simpson, John Taylor, Ben Chenery, Bontcho Guentchev, Graham Alexander, Matthew Upson, Robert Kean, Chris Wilmott. **THIRD ROW:** Cherry Newbery, (Club Secretary), Clive Goodyear (Physio), Wayne Turner (First Team Coach), David Oldfield, Des Linton, Marvin Johnson, Nathan Abbey, Ian Feuer, Kelvin Davis, Mitchell Thomas, Aaron Skelton, Andrew Fotiadis, John Moore (Youth Team Coach), Trevor Peake (Reserve Team Coach), Les Shannon (Chief Coach). **SEATED:** Julian James, Tony Thorpe, Steve Davis (Club Captain), Nigel Terry (Director), David Kohler (Chairman), Lennie Lawrence (Manager), Cliff Bassett (Director), Chris Green (Director), Gary Waddock (Team Captain) Dwight Marshall, Richard Harvey. **FRONT ROW:** Liam George, Gary Doherty, Jimmy Cox, Steve Augustine, Andrew Barr, Nick Webb, Russell Lawes, Terry Sweeney, Matthew Spring, Andre Scarlett, Andrew Smith, Ian Jones.

Today's Ball Donor:

"Clark & Son"

The Beer Cellar
150-151 Market Street



defence. His debut for the club was against Wimbledon in 1988. **GARY WADDOCK**. Started his playing career with Queens Park Rangers and he made over 200 appearances for them before going to join Charleroi in Belgium. He then had spells with Millwall, back to Q.P.R., Swindon Town and Bristol Rovers. Joined Luton in December 1994 on a free transfer.

CERI HUGHES. Capped at full level by Wales, his debut in the Luton colours came in 1990 against Aston Villa but his career has suffered some setbacks through injury but he has now put all those behind him. A very influential midfielder player who is now well over the 100 mark in appearances for the club. **GRAHAM ALEXANDER**. He had become the first signing by Manager Terry Westley when he recruited him for Scunthorpe United for a fee in the region of £100,000 in July 1995 after monitoring his progress for some time. He can play in midfield or act as a defender if required.

DAVID OLDFIELD. Born in Perth, Australia, this is his second spell with the club for it has been back in 1988 that he made his full debut for Luton against Watford before moving on to Manchester City and then to Leicester City. He was six years at Filbert Street before returning to Kenilworth Road in the Summer of 1995. **TONY THORPE**. Definitely the one to watch for he has already gone past the 20 mark in goals scored during the current season. He had formerly been with Leicester City before moving to Luton in the early part of the 92/93 Season. Scored a hat trick against Crewe in the game at Luton this season.

PAUL SHOWLER. Started out in non league circles having played with both Altrincham and Barnet and was a member of their team when they joined the Football League after winning the Conference title. From Barnet he moved to Bradford City where he played under the present Luton Manager, Lennie Lawrence. He came to Luton in August 1996. **PAUL McLAREN**. He joined the club straight from school and was capped by England at Youth level. He has operated as a defender and also in the midfield. Still not a regular in the Luton side.

KIM GRANT. Born in Ghana. He cost the club a fee of £250,000 when he moved from Charlton Athletic in March 1996 and he scored on his debut for the club against Ipswich Town. He played for the Ghanaian National Squad in the Summer of 1996 playing against Egypt and Denmark. **DWIGHT MARSHALL**. Born in Jamaica. Started out with non league side Grays Athletic but it was with Plymouth Argyle that he had his introduction to League football. His transfer from Home Park was a fee of £150,000 in the summer of 1994. Broke a leg in February 1996 but has now fully recovered from that setback.

TEAM CHECK

Crewe Alexandra

Red Shirts, White Shorts

Manager: **Dario Gradi**

TEAM	Changes	Goal Time
1 JASON KEARTON		
2 PETER BILLING		
3 LEE UNSWORTH		
4 ASHLEY WESTWOOD		
5 CHRIS LIGHTFOOT		
6 GARETH WHALLEY		
7 STEVE GARVEY		
8 ROB SAVAGE		
9 PHIL CHARNOCK		
10 DANNY MURPHY		
11 BILLY BARR		
12		
13		
14		

LUTON TOWN

Colours to be announced

Manager: **Lennie Lawrence**

TEAM	Changes	Goal Time
1 IAN FEUER		
2 JULIAN JAMES		
3 DARREN PATTERSON		
4 GARY WADDOCK		
5 STEVE DAVIS		
6 MARVIN JOHNSON		
7 CERI HUGHES		
8 GRAHAM ALEXANDER		
9 DAVID OLDFIELD		
10 TONY THORPE		
11 PAUL SHOWLER		
12		
13		
14		

Officials

Referee: **B. Coddington** (Sheffield)
Assistant **M.A. Cooper** (Red & Yellow Flag)
Referees: **G. Edgeley** (Yellow Flag)

Meet the Referee

BRIAN CODDINGTON from Sheffield is a Local Government Officer and this is his first season as a Football League Referee. Last season he officiated as a Linesman in the Coca Cola Cup Final and the First Division Play-Off Final. Is interested in most sports and is at present working on a degree with the Open University

Today's Match is sponsored by:



PAUL BACKHOUSE

Lockitt Street, Crewe
Cheshire CW2 7BB

Tel: 01270 214216 Fax: 01270 505635



Crewe Alexandra Supporters

Special Offer

Big Mac for only 99p

NORMAL PRICE £1.84

Limit one coupon per customer per visit. Please present this coupon when ordering
Coupon to be retained by McDonald's. Subject to availability
Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer

only at



11 Delamere Street, Crewe
18-22 Mill Street, Macclesfield

Valid after 10.30 a.m. until 31st May, 1997



CLIFF SIMPSON'S STADIUM NEWS

As I said in the Gillingham programme, hindsight is a great commodity when planning match days at Gresty Road. This was obvious at the game versus Stockport. I had information of Stockport expecting to bring 1,000 supporters plus to the ground on Tuesday, 4th March and therefore arrangements were made to locate any overspill into A1 and A Stand. As most will know, six to seven hundred arrived and they were located in the Bovis Stand, but at least we were aware of the possibility of more supporters! My thanks go to all supporters who kindly moved into other areas for that game and for their co-operation.

At the supporters evening questions were asked regarding stewarding and policing policies at the ground and also the standing issue. I hope I gave

supporters the information they required but if there are any items which supporters would like to know more about with regard to the stadium, spectators safety, match day operations etc., please feel free to ring me or come to the ground to discuss your questions.

As you know, the game against Preston on 31st March is to be live on Sky and will certainly be taking up a lot of time in the planning stages, including meeting with the various agencies involved, i.e. our safety advisory group, local authorities, F.L.A. and the television companies reps. Unfortunately, at the stadium we have not had suitable television facilities in the past and when we have had 'big' games in the various cup competitions hydraulic platforms have

had to be brought in to take the TV cameras over the main stand and view down onto the pitch. Not ideal for anybody. After several meetings with the various interested parties we have decided to make a permanent camera and commentary gantry on the roof of the Ringways Stand which will enable matches to be televised / recorded in a first-class facility. The whole job will have to be ready for the 28th March so that over the weekend of 29th / 30th, Sky structural and cabling teams can come in and set up for what should be an exciting occasion for all concerned. At all times during the construction of the gantry, spectators safety will be paramount and I will keep you informed of progress.

Today's game sees the start of a very busy period at Gresty Road with five games in seventeen days but all being well we will finish on the 31st with an exciting occasion on what we hope will be one of many 'Sky' games to be televised live from here.

Finally, Bernard Morgan, our Head gateman, has been with the club for fifty years today and must have seen tremendous changes at the ground and in football in general. The club thanks Bernard for all his efforts in the past and on a personal note I thank him for the help he has given me in the last six years I have been here.

Enjoy the game.
Cliff Simpson
Stadium Manager

What if
a house went up for sale
that was only 50 yards
from the ground?





Nationwide Mortgages :

You know the last house in the street you pass every Saturday just before the entrance to the ground? Well it could go on the market at any time. Imagine living in that house. You could leave for the match at five to three and still have time to get a burger before kick off, wake up every morning to see the glorious sight of deserted turnstiles, the same birds that eat worms from the pitch would also eat from your bird table. It's nice to know that should it become available you could get a mortgage quote and a decision, in principle, within an hour. To find out more about Nationwide mortgages or any other financial matter just give us a call. All the best for the season!

Call free on: **0800 30 20 10** quoting ref: FB016

or visit our football site on
<http://www.nationwide.co.uk>

 In tune with people


THE BUILDING SOCIETY.

Mortgages are subject to status, valuation and security. Available to those aged 18 or over only. Written quotations available on request from Nationwide Building Society, Nationwide House, Pipers Way, Swindon SN33 8JW. Nationwide Building Society, Nationwide Life Limited and Nationwide Unit Trust Managers Limited represent only the Nationwide Marketing Group, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for life assurance, pensions and unit trust products. Nationwide Unit Trust Managers Limited is also regulated by IMRO. Nationwide telephone advisers are introducers for the Nationwide Marketing Group. Please note that for various legal, regulatory and customer service requirements your call will be recorded. Nationwide is a member of the Building Societies Ombudsman Scheme and subscribes to the Code of Banking Practice.

**YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE
OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.**

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE - DIVISION TWO

as at 13th March, 1997

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brentford	34	16	13	5	50	31	61
Luton	34	16	9	9	57	39	57
Millwall	35	16	9	10	46	42	57
Crewe	33	18	2	13	46	38	56
Bury	33	15	10	8	47	34	55
Burnley	36	15	9	12	55	39	54
Walsall	34	15	8	11	42	35	53
Stockport	32	14	10	8	45	35	52
Watford	33	12	16	5	36	26	52
Bristol City	34	14	9	11	52	39	51
Wrexham	32	12	15	5	38	32	51
Chesterfield	33	13	10	10	29	28	49
Bournemouth	37	12	10	15	34	37	46
Blackpool	34	11	12	11	42	37	45
Preston	36	13	6	17	38	47	45
Gillingham	34	12	8	14	42	46	44
Shrewsbury	37	10	12	15	45	58	42
Plymouth	35	10	12	13	38	48	42
York	35	11	8	16	38	53	41
Bristol Rov.	35	10	11	14	36	39	41
Wycombe	35	10	8	17	34	45	38
Peterborough	36	8	12	16	47	64	36
Notts Co.	35	5	11	19	24	45	26
Rotherham	34	4	12	18	25	49	24

CREWE ALEX GOALSCORERS SEASON 1996/97

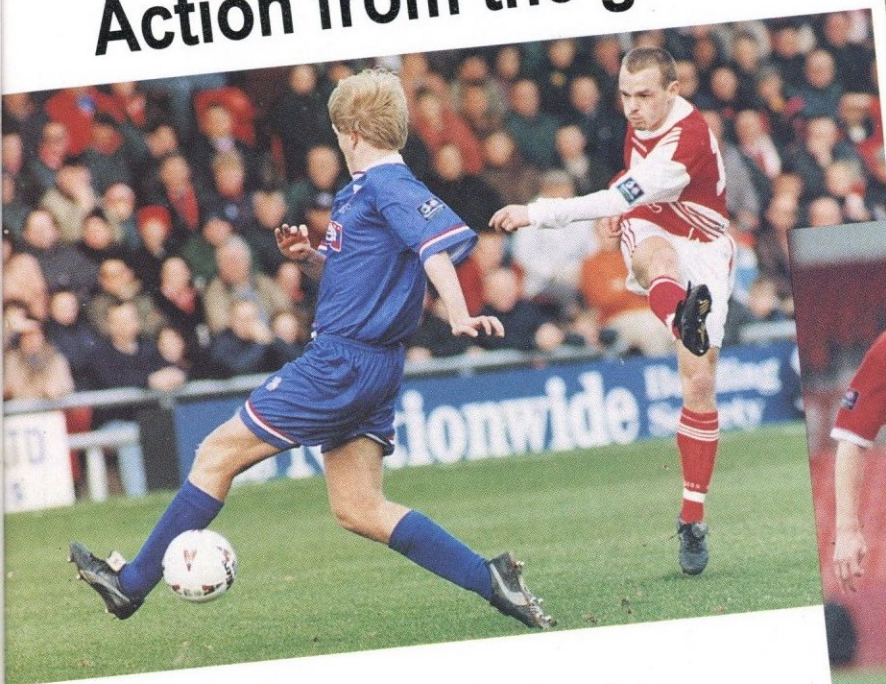
	Lge	C.C.C.	F.A.	A.W.S.	Total
Adebola	12	1	1	-	14
Murphy	9	-	3	2	14
Rivers	6	-	-	-	6
Smith	3	-	1	-	4
Tierney	3	-	-	1	4
Barr	4	-	-	-	4
Macauley	2	-	1	-	3
Ellison	2	-	-	-	2
Whalley	2	-	-	-	2
Savage	1	-	-	-	1
Lightfoot	1	-	1	-	2
Garvey	-	-	1	-	1
Charnock	1	-	-	-	1
Westwood	-	-	1	-	1
Opponents	-	-	1	-	1
Totals	46	1	10	3	60



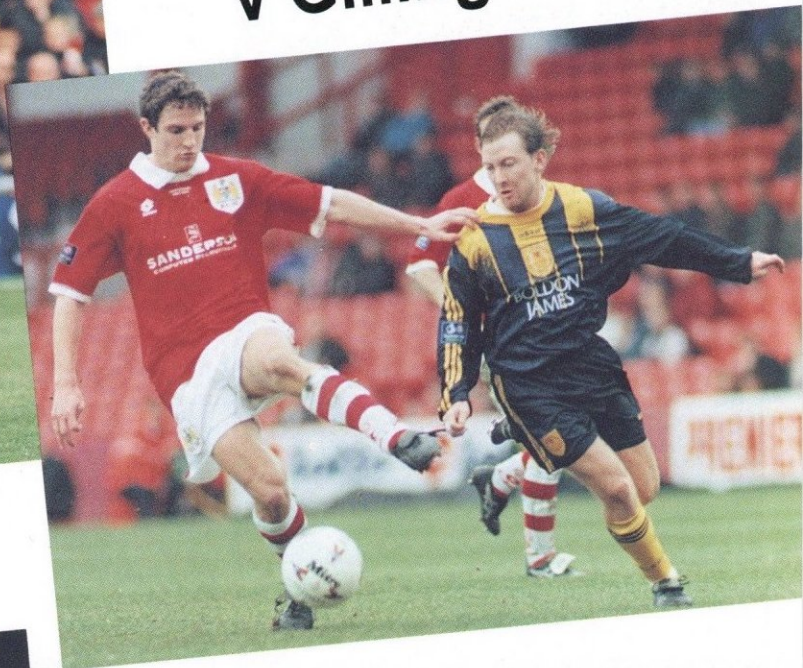
Action from the games



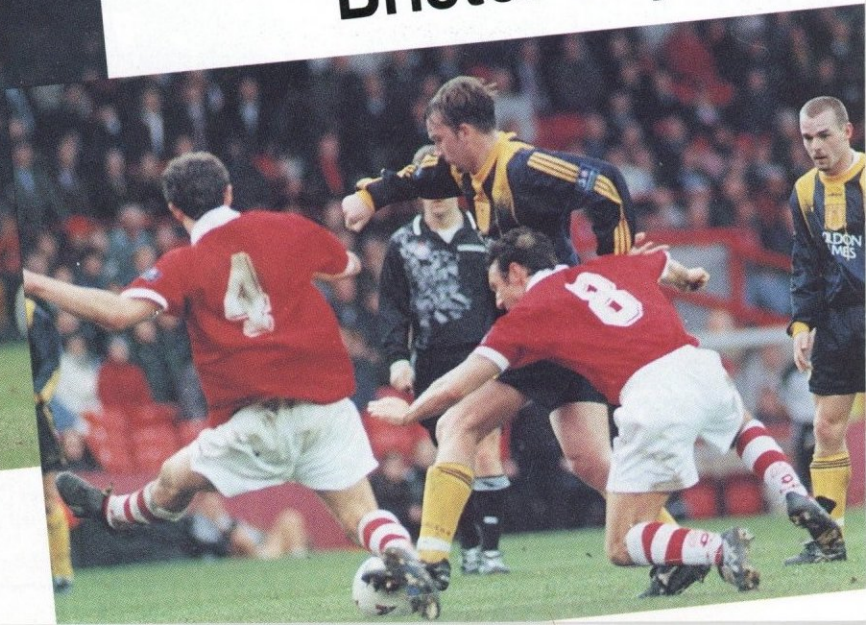
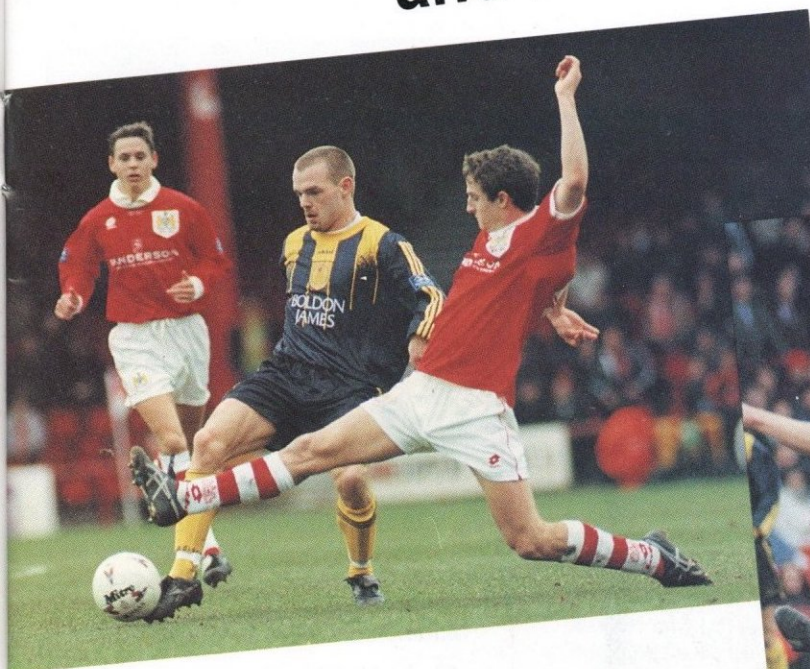
v Gillingham



and



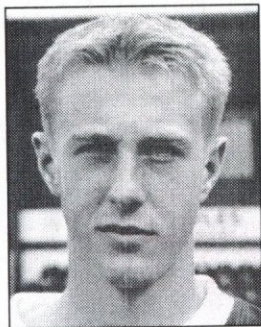
Bristol City



YOUTH NEWS AND VIEWS

Compiled by Malcolm Hughes

Today we take a close look at the statistics for the youth team so far this season. We have used no less than 44 players, of which only 5 have been trialists. They have scored 46 goals and conceded 48, with 19 different players scoring the goals.



Robert Hulse
Leading Scorer



Peter Morse
Back after injury



Tom Betts and Ben Rix, who were presented with their Adidas replica gear prior to the game against Walsall

Lancashire Football League

Leagues Tables as at 8th March, 1997

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester Utd. 'A'	23	17	4	2	90	26	55
Stoke City 'A'	23	17	3	3	51	17	54
Crewe Alexandra Res.	26	15	4	7	54	33	49
Everton 'A'	24	11	6	7	52	39	39
Wrexham 'A'	25	12	3	10	43	37	39
Liverpool 'A'	22	11	2	9	36	29	35
Tranmere Rovers 'A'	24	10	4	10	32	45	34
Blackburn Rovers 'A'	22	8	6	8	40	30	30
Burnley 'A'	21	9	2	10	34	36	29
Bury 'A'	23	8	3	12	20	35	27
Oldham Athletic 'A'	21	7	5	9	24	33	26
Preston North End 'A'	21	6	2	13	21	52	20
Morecambe Res.	22	5	2	15	25	60	17
Marine Res.	22	3	7	12	20	56	16
Bolton Wanderers 'A'	23	4	3	16	28	42	15

DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool 'B'	24	16	2	6	55	25	50
Manchester City 'A'	23	12	5	3	41	20	50
Chester City 'A'	25	13	6	6	44	33	45
Manchester United 'B'	24	13	3	8	71	45	42
Oldham Athletic 'B'	26	10	8	8	45	36	38
Crewe Alexandra 'A'	24	11	4	9	45	49	37
Everton 'B'	25	10	6	9	58	48	36
Burnley 'B'	22	11	3	8	36	31	36
Blackburn Rovers 'B'	23	10	5	8	36	23	35
Blackpool 'A'	26	9	7	10	38	35	34
Stockport County 'A'	25	9	4	12	39	52	31
Carlisle United 'A'	25	8	6	11	40	50	30
Tranmere Rovers 'B'	25	7	6	12	42	49	27
Wigan Athletic 'A'	22	6	7	9	30	38	25
Bury 'B'	24	7	3	14	32	51	24
Rochdale 'A'	24	6	5	13	31	48	23
Marine Youth	23	2	4	17	26	76	10

Player	Appearances (subs)	Goals
Chris Allen	11 (2)	3
Paul Arrowsmith	4 (2)	1
Mark Beeston	7 (1)	
Matthew Blake	1 (1)	
Andrew Bostock	(1)	
Karl Breen	3 (3)	
Chris Brown	9 (2)	1
Ben Burrows	8	
Gareth Chadwick	1 (1)	
Lee Cox	16	7
Neil Critchley	10	2
Neil Cutler	3	
Mark Gayle	2	
John Grant	3 (2)	1
Tony Henrickson	1	
Sam Hill	6 (2)	
Mark Holdcroft	5	
Steve Hoults	1 (1)	
Robert Hulse	13	8
Seth Johnson	6	2
Andrew Jones	11 (1)	2
Robert Jones	(1)	
Carl Laurie	2 (4)	
Scott Leydon	5 (3)	1
Kenny Lunt	22	4
Chris McCready	1	
Peter Morse	11	
Paul Mottram	10 (1)	
Craig Owen	1	
David Pierce	2	
Paul Richardson	9	1
Stuart Scheuber	(3)	
Arran Smith	13 (2)	1
James Smith	1	
Peter Smith	8	4
Lee Unsworth	1	
Richard Walker	10 (2)	2
Karl Walton	(1)	
Colin Webster	9 (2)	1
Kevin Welsby	2	
Scott Westwood	8 (2)	1
David Whittaker	13	2
Mike Williamson	1 (6)	
David Wright	16	1
		+ 1 O.G.

Trust us to help football

The Football Trust is helping the game at all levels - from providing kit for school teams, pitches and changing rooms for grass roots football, safety and improvement work throughout the game right up to providing vital assistance to help League clubs complete the essential task of redeveloping their grounds in line with the Taylor Report.

Over the last 20 years the Trust has received and distributed £250m from Littlewoods, Vernons and Zetters Pools and Littlewoods Spot the Ball competition for the benefit of football.

Up and down the country, clubs are building new grounds and stands, installing seating, and providing safe and comfortable facilities for their spectators to enjoy. Every club depends on the support of the FOOTBALL TRUST and the success of the pools companies. Both are crucial for football's future.



THE FOOTBALL TRUST
Helping the game



LITTLEWOODS VERNONS ZETTERS
Making sure football wins
the Pools each week

THE FOOTBALL TRUST, WALKDEN HOUSE, 10 MELTON STREET, LONDON NW1 2EB

BAKERS COACHES

SUPPLIERS OF THE
CREWE ALEXANDRA
TEAM & SUPPORTERS COACHES

**COACH & CAR HIRE
GROUP & BUSINESS TRAVEL**

- ◆ 12-53 Seater Coaches ◆
- ◆ Modern fleet all equipped with lap belts ◆
- ◆ Personal & professional service ◆

*Quality Coach Travel for
Business & Pleasure*

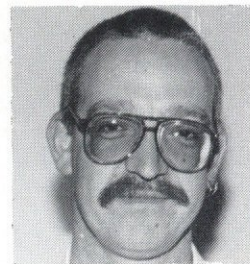
Spring Grove, Congleton Road
Biddulph, Stoke-on-Trent. ST8 7RQ

Tel: (01782) 522101

In the Crowd

by Marco

TRIAL BY COMBAT



You will all be aware that for the last three seasons the Alex have won the Bobby Moore Award in front of all ninety one other professional football teams. That means that the Alex have been the 'cleanest' team in this country for the last three seasons. I'm sorry if I am repeating myself but I think that this is a laudable achievement. I think that it's worth shouting about. I think that it is something that we should be telling everyone. It is something to be proud of. What's even more significant is that, whilst we haven't won promotion, we haven't really suffered as a result.

I know. You're asking yourself "what is this daft sod getting at?" This is my point. Football is a "beautiful game". It can be Pele's 'jogo bonito'. It doesn't have to be a 'man's game', a 'gentlemen's game played by thugs'. You can play the beautiful game and still do well.

You might have guessed over the last few months that I am that most exasperating of creatures, I am a purist. It is true that in most things in which I get involved I tend to be pedantic and purist and my football is no different. I am a dreamer and an idealist.

Don't get me wrong. I have got nothing against a hard, fair, tackle. Mark Hughes has turned hard, fair tackles into an art form. Most of his tackles walk the very thin line between a hard tackle and attempted murder. Roy Keane, on the other hand, wouldn't know a fair tackle if it jumped up and sliced his legs out from under him.

I assume that it is entirely down to St. Dario that our players do, as a rule, tend to maintain their self discipline and do not run around the field trying to injure, maim, wound, hang, draw and quarter and generally disembowel their fellow professionals. I happen to think that this approach to the game is not only laudable, it is the only right and proper approach.

Now when you take the stance on this subject that I do, games become very hard to swallow. The two home games, one after the other, between Burnley and Blackpool were nothing short of disgusting. In the Burnley game, I thought the Alex played impeccably. In the first half in particular, they were dancing rings around their opponents. At that time however, the Burnley manager (a certain Adrian Heath whom I remember as a half decent football player) obviously decided to put an end to the good looking football and they came out in the second half with the express intention of testing the taste of all eleven Alex players for Mid-Cheshire Hospital Trust food. What was really frustrating was that it almost seemed as if the referee was suffering from that well-known "it's a man's game" syndrome and let them get away with 'grievous bodily harm' on more than one occasion.

Now, I'm not saying that football should all be finesse and skill (although I really do look forward today when it is) and, as I have said on many occasions before, I appreciate a well executed tackle the same as the next man, but a footballer's career is short enough without well paid specimens of Piltown Man trying to make it even shorter. It winds me up something cruel when Gary 'Neanderthal' Brabin - and all his kind - lashes out at one of our players because the Alex player can play and can make the ball do what he wants it to and young Mr. Neanderthal hasn't got

the first clue what to do with it. Rather than learn what to do with it, he simply acts on his 'hunter-gatherer' instinct and tries to break his opponents' legs.

What is even more upsetting, and more than a little confusing, is that a significant percentage of these Neolithic football teams are managed by ex-players who were actually decent footballers. Adrian Heath (whom I have already mentioned), Steve Coppell, Dave Webb to mention but three. What makes decent footballers want to murder other decent footballers? Well, don't expect an answer from me, 'cos I haven't got one.

My only automatic response is a puerile one and that is to refuse to play any team, in any competition, which we know is absolutely certain to leave us with at least one long term injury. By the way, did anyone see what did happen to Dele against Burnley? I automatically assumed that one of those moronic amoebae from the land of the 'dark satanic mills' had crocked him.

If we accept that we have to put up with teams trying to kick the living daylight out of us every once in a while, surely we are not unreasonable if we expect the referee to make his best efforts to stamp it out (I accept that, by and large, the referee at the Blackpool game did try - even if he succeeded only partially in his valiant attempts). However, referees seem to be largely of the opinion that football is not only a man's game, it is a game where they are only bound to protect those players for playing 'big' or 'sleeping giant' clubs from lowly players from lowly clubs. This perception seems to be based on the premise that lowly players from lowly clubs are bound, by their very lowliness, to be inferior players and, consequently, more likely to resort to violence.

Is it unreasonable to expect the Professional Footballers' Association to do something to protect their members from the more unscrupulous and inept members? I would certainly expect my union to leap to my aid if I were getting my legs broken on a regular basis by 'fellow union members' and I would be seriously aggrieved if they refused to take my part. But football seems to be riddled with the schoolboy attitude that to take any kind of formal action against a colleague is morally wrong; it's 'carrying tales'. This is a man's game; especially if you're a 'Northern Man'. You have to take the knocks and be thankful that you weren't killed. There's a word that sums up this attitude, but I cannot use it here in front of a mixed audience.

At the end of the day, the only way to respond to that sort of attitude from both the opposition players and the referees is to keep your head, take the moral high ground (I love taking the moral high ground) and stick the ball in the back of the net (although I suppose, if he was inclined to do so the referee could always disallow it). I've said it before and I'll say it again, I am convinced that it is worth waiting for the type of football that Dario wants to create at this club.

I would not want to see Tommy Smith, Chopper Harris or Norman 'bites yer legs' Hunter at the Alex. I'd go for Bobby Moore, Jimmy Greaves and Peter Osgood every time. Dario said himself at the supporters' forum that, after the way Tony Ellis tried to crock our players in the Blackpool game,

he wouldn't sign him is his life depended upon it. And guess what! I agree with him.

This is a game of football. It is the 'jogo bonito'. At its best it is a beautiful, continuous, flowing movement of man and ball which is spontaneous, almost poetic. Every game and every move is different and unlike every other before it. It is potentially a thing of absolute beauty, not some kind of course medieval trial by combat where the team with the most players left on the pitch after ninety minutes is adjudged to have God on its side.

And to quote myself (from an earlier tirade), anyone who watches the Alex regularly knows that they can produce the pure 'jogo bonito', 'Champagne' game once in a 'Blue Moon' (like against West Ham, Birmingham, Southampton, Sheffield Wednesday and more recently against Brentford and Burnley) even where the opposition is doing its best to ensure that the Alex players spend the rest of their lives in wheelchairs. Those games where it does all click together stand out in the memory like beacons of footballing light in an otherwise dark, satanic landscape.

On the performance of the last thirteen years, however, I reckon it's a safe bet that the days on which we will have to be content with table wine will get less and less and the days on which we can enjoy a good bottle of Champagne will come more and more frequently. In a couple of years time maybe we shall even be enjoying the odd glass of Dom Perignon 1953.

Here's to a steady diet of Champagne for breakfast, lunch and dinner (or breakfast, dinner and tea for us plebs) and the eternal hope that the footballing amoebae don't manage to smash the glasses before we get to take a drink.

MARCO

WE ARE LOOKING TO SIGN 15,000 DEFENDERS!


ARMY
BE THE BEST

The Army has vacancies now! Good pay, travel, excellent training and plenty of sport. Interested? Call in at your local Armed Forces Careers Office for further details about joining the best team in the country!

177 Nantwich Road
Crewe CW2 6DF
Tel: (01270) 212503

When it's a question of taste...

...Contact the winning team. Ridgway Caterers have based their catering services upon care, personal attention to detail and excellent home baking. By working closely with their customers for well over a decade, they have, together developed a superb range of comprehensive menus for events ranging from one to one thousand. Whether your chosen venue is at home, a marquee, village hall or specialist event, please contact Gerald or Pamela for advice.



Official caterers to Port Vale FC, Stafford Rangers and Crewe Alexandra FC, Armitage Centre, Manchester, Civic Caterers and major contractors to sporting events.


RIDGWAY
CATERERS

70-72 Williamson Avenue, Ball Green, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire ST6 8AU
Telephone 01782 544788 Evening 01538 373196 Fax 01782 537418

Accept no substitutes



Reserve your car NOW!

Avis means big company service at competitive rates, so whether you rent for business or pleasure, you'll save trouble, time & money when you rent from us.

AVIS

RENT - A - CAR

- Unlimited mileage
- Special low rates
- One-way rentals
- Luxury cars
- National 24 hour back-up service
- Delivery & collection service

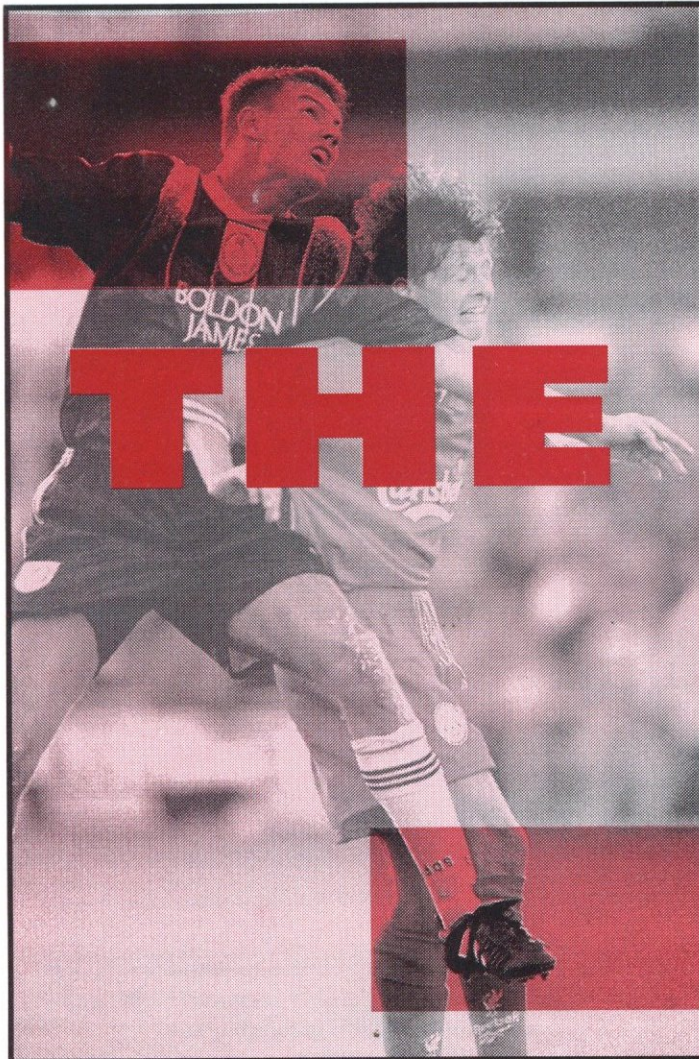


Avis features Vauxhall cars

PHONE NOW FOR AVIS SAVERS ON

01270 500988

Bradfield Road Service Station,
Bradfield Road, Crewe.



FOLLOW THE ALEX

in The Sentinel

Latest Sport News
and Results

Every night in the Sentinel

and every Saturday
in The Green 'Un



GRR-ESTY'S PRIDE

in association with



Nestlé



Send all your jokes, letters and ideas to:

Grr-esty and Claire, Crewe Alexandra F.C., Gresty Road, Crewe. CW2 6EB

Hi Kids. I hope today's result will be better for us than when we played down at Kenilworth Road on December 14th, 1996. The team was Luton Town and the score was 6-0. "Come on Alex!" I'm sure that Luton Town will have brought many junior "Hatters" to support them. Welcome to Gresty Road. Everyone at the Alex welcomes you here. Enjoy your day.

Claire XXX

Half Time Teaser

Unscramble the following to reveal items in the Grr-esty range which is now available in the club shop.

1. belabias apsc
2. kis asht
3. oopl ihstrs
4. westrtiashs

Guess the Result

CREWE ALEX.....LUTON TOWN.....

Joke of the Match

What do you call a girl standing between two football posts

A. Annette

Thank you to Amanda Knots from Newton-le-Willows

Thank You

Everyone in the pride would like to thank:

Mummy Grr-esty

Nestlé

Laura

Debbie

Danny

Staff and children - Ward 16, Leighton Hospital

Omega Music (Crewe)

Sarah Parker

Gemma Louise

Man of the Match

Who is your Man of the Match? Write in and let us know. If yours is the same as Grr-esty's, then you could win a Nestlé Gift Pack. There are five packs to give away. Good Luck. Correct names will be drawn from a hat.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MESSAGES

Grr-esty, Debbie and Claire would like to say happy birthday to:

Debbie Cave	Aged 9	9th March
Stuart Price	Aged 9	11th March
Wayne Doyle	Aged 12	11th March
Robert Fox	Aged 21	23rd March

Do you know of anyone whose birthday is coming up? Why not make it that extra bit special by having it printed in the match day programme. Write in and let us know.

Unscramble the following words to reveal ANIMALS. When you have the animals write them in the grid. The name of another animal will appear in the box.

1. onmeyk	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. tca				-	-	
3. nilo	-	-	-	-	-	
4. tgier				-	-	
5. lepentah	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. bezar	-	-	-	-	-	
7. hroes				-	-	-
8. odg				-	-	

The animal is.....

Grr-esty Writes

Let me thank everyone who has sent in letters and photos - myself and Claire have enjoyed reading all of your letters. We are trying to get through all of them so keep them coming in and you could be in the next programme.

Keep writing

Grr-esty

GRR-ESTY'S NEWS

My friend Chris Walters at the Community Programme, has asked me to tell you about the next holiday courses, on the 24th and 25th March for you budding goalkeepers, and the 26th and 27th March for all you strikers. All of these courses are held at Shavington Leisure Centre - for more information call Chris Walters on 01270 216682

Grr-esty's Message

I would like to thank Debbie, Grr-esty's little helper, for all the hard work that Debs has done over the last few months. Debbie is going to be working with the Junior Reds - good luck Debbie and enjoy yourself, keep working hard.

Grr-esty



Nestlé



Nestlé



Nestlé



Nestlé

Top of the League
for your local

LEISURE

01270 537239



BOROUGH OF CREWE AND NANTWICH

Serving the Community

Leisure Division

Municipal Buildings,
Earle Street, Crewe,
Cheshire CW1 2BJ

- Live Theatre
- Fitness Programmes
- Rollerskating
- Formal/Informal Games
- Social Activities
- Events
- Pools (Including Outdoor Brine Pool)
- Parks & Playgrounds
- Function Rooms
- Conferences
- Reduced Rates for Option Card Holders

**CREWE ALEX
CLUBCALL**

0891 12 16 47

Calls charged at
50p per minute at all times



RENAULT



- NEW & USED CAR SALES
- LIGHT COMMERCIALS
- SERVICE • PARTS • FLEET CENTRE

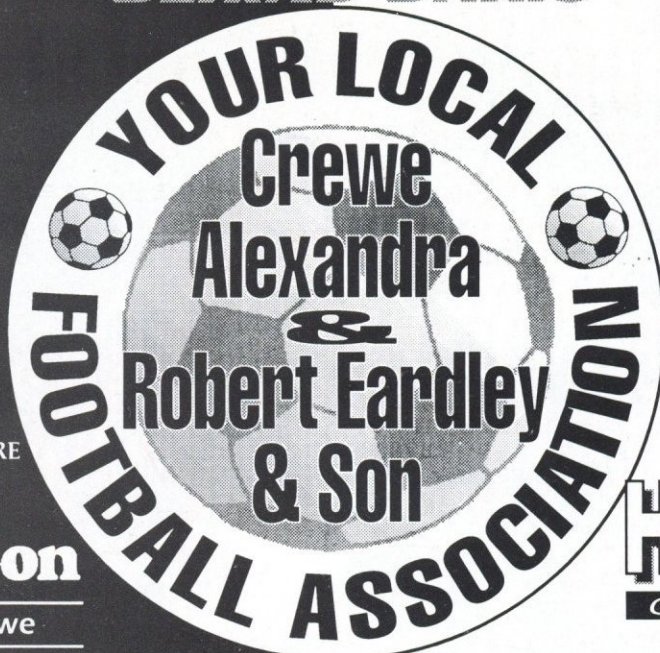
Robert Eardley & Son

Coppenhall Garage, Crewe

Tel: 01270 585090

SALES: Mon/Wed/Fri: 9am-6.30pm; Tues/Thurs: 9am-8pm; Sat: 9am-5.30pm; Sun: 11am-4pm
SERVICE & PARTS: Mon-Fri: 7.30am-6pm; Sat: 8am-1pm

**THE DRIVING FORCE
BEHIND DARIO**



Volkswagen Group

- NEW & USED CAR SALES
- SERVICE
- PARTS



**High Street
GARAGE**

HIGH STREET, CREWE

01270 584669

Open: Mon-Fri 9am-6pm; Sat 9am-5pm; Sun 11am-4pm Late night opening Thursday 'til 7pm



Yet another live football exclusive - all England's qualifying games from Wembley

**TV, Video, Satellite
& Hi-Fi Repair Centres**

- Same Day Call Out
- Free Estimates
- Free Collection & Delivery

New Pace
Satellite Systems

from **£99.95**

+ Installation

TELECENTRE

**Service
at Your Service**

3-5 WELSH ROW
NANTWICH, CHESHIRE
Tel: 01270 623183

81 COLERIDGE WAY
CREWE, CHESHIRE
Tel: 01270 589392

Cheshire County Council



Economic Development

**18-24 Years Old?
Unemployed 2 years
or more?**

Crewe Training Centre offers a wide variety of Training Courses and Employment Opportunities which may be just right for you

Ring Now

for further information contact
Tony Wood or Mark Groves on



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

01270 589228

Committed to Equality of Opportunity

HANDY JACK

D.I.Y.

SUPERSTORES

NANTWICH & NORTHWICH



Picture Collection No. 21
ADEMOLA BANKOLE

