

Potters Review

THE OFFICIAL STOKE CITY FOOTBALL CLUB MATCHDAY MAGAZINE



v Luton Town

Nationwide League Division 2

Saturday 2nd December 2000

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The Manager



After the ups and downs of recent weeks the players' response against Swindon last Saturday was very encouraging.

I've always said you cannot expect any easy games at this level of football but the win at the County Ground was as comfortable as you will ever see.

The players deserve credit for the way they tackled what could have been a difficult game. Best of all, once they were in a winning position they never looked like letting go.

All-in-all it was a tremendous pick-up after the Nuneaton defeat and it proved the players are together - they have to be to produce a performance and a result like that.

Importantly, it put us back up to sixth place and, despite our recent inconsistencies, we are still only nine points behind the leaders with a home game in hand coming up to Christmas.

We know we need to put a good run together to catch the teams at the top, but we are not in too bad a position.

This week there has been more speculation over the future of James O'Connor after he was left out of the side at Swindon.

James did not travel to the County Ground for a good reason - he stayed at home to think about his situation and consider where he believes his future lies.

We firmly believe that James' future is with Stoke City and we want him to reach that conclusion too.

I am not intending to carry on this game which seems to have developed whereby both parties

Gudjon Thordarson

C *I am building a team here and you don't do that by letting one of your best players go...*

voice their opinions via statements in the media.

We had a good long chat with James at the end of last week and put our thoughts to him. We rejected a transfer bid from West Brom, which tells you everything about our desire to keep him here, but unless James himself can come to terms with continuing his career at Stoke City the situation may not resolve itself in the way that we would most certainly prefer.

I am building a team here and you don't do that by letting one of your best players go. But at the end of the day the sum of the team is greater than any one individual player and I will not pick people if I am not sure whether they are mentally prepared for it.

I cannot say whether James will be ready to play for us today. Only he can make that decision and the ball is very much in his court. I simply want him to get back to what he does best, which is playing football.

This afternoon

we are without Bjani Gudjonsson, who is suspended, but Wayne Thomas is available again after completing his three-match ban.

We would have been without Brynjar Gunnarsson had his second yellow card against Nuneaton two weeks ago not been overturned on appeal, though he is on six yellow cards and needs to watch his step because with a very busy fixture programme ahead of us we do not want to be losing players.

We hope to have Rikhardur Dadason back soon, although today may be a little early. His absence is frustrating for me, but especially frustrating for him because he will literally need to be starting over again once he returns.

Rikhardur needed games to build up his fitness after coming over from Norway last month, but his freak accident in training has delayed him.

The good news is the damage to his back was restricted to muscle spasms and they will clear up given time.

Looking at our squad overall, I still see plenty of firepower.

Kyle Lightbourne proved that with his two goals against Swindon and Peter Thorne has been a little quiet lately, but I expect him to burst back into life soon because we are creating the chances and the goals will come.

Thank you for your support and enjoy today's game.

Rikhardur Dadason - hopes to be back soon.

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Captain's Comments



PART of the platform for our great win at Swindon last Saturday was laid down in the dressing room two days before.

After recent setbacks in the league and of course that FA Cup knockout by Nuneaton the time had come to talk and have an open exchange of views. So that's what we did. On Thursday we had a dressing room meeting and everyone got their chance to have their say on how the season was going, why, and how we could improve matters.

A number of very good points were made which should stand us in good stead. The meeting went very well although it would be wrong to say we had crisis talks or assume we have a divided camp, as has been suggested in the local media.

Sometimes when a manager or coaches speak players listen but keep their own views to themselves. On this occasion we were all very much encouraged to say what we felt and provide feedback and now everyone knows where they stand.

The fact that we could hold a meeting like that and so much good should come out of it proves we do have a team spirit. You can't have an open and honest exchange of views if people are not together and ultimately don't want to work together.

That's not the case here, we are very much together and everyone wants to be part of success at this club.

Of course, it's one thing talking about these issues and quite another to then go out and try and do something positive.

We knew our form had not been good, recent results had been poor, and we needed to do go to Swindon and win our next game 3-0 turned the words into actions. One result isn't the be all and end all, but it did put us back in the top six and reminded everyone that our season is still very much alive.

We haven't had our good run yet but we are still right up there and in with every chance of promotion.

Swindon was potentially a tricky fixture away to a struggling side in desperate need of points but we handled it well.

We were a bit lucky with the first goal, but took advantage to go 2-0 up and then proved we have learned how to defend and protect a lead.

You can never dominate a game for the entire 90 minutes, so it's important to know how to cope when the opposition come at you and that's not something we have always handled. But we did last Saturday, shutting the door in Swindon's face.

It also proved we hadn't got our minds on the Liverpool game four days later.

I'm sure that would have been suggested if we had lost!

Now what we need is to sort out our home form. It's not been too good recently and this is a big game for us today.

With no fixture next weekend and then a really hectic spell before Christmas we need to get ourselves in a good position ready for our run on the rails.

One of the more pleasant aspects of the last week was the build-up to the Liverpool game. The cameras were down from Sky and Central TV on Monday afternoon and rolling at Greens Health Club across the road.

In a very relaxed atmosphere I did a couple of interviews in the jacuzzi - definitely preferable to standing outside in a winter wind and at the end of the day everyone went home happy because the media got their shots and the football club enjoyed loads of free publicity.

Until next time...

Swindon was potentially a tricky fixture away to a struggling side in desperate need of points but we handled it well.

with Tony Dorigo



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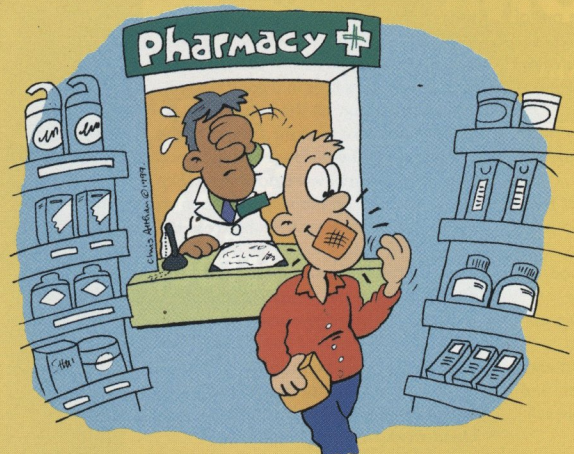
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Don't Give Up Giving Up

Visiting Manager

Lil Fucillo arrived at Kenilworth Road as a member of the scouting staff in September. In October he became assistant to boss Ricky Hill and in November was the manager.

Not that Fucillo planned things that way. Even though the 44-year-old was the Board of Directors' unanimous choice to succeed Hill a return to management was not what he had in mind when he rejoined the club he had served with distinction as a player.

Bedford-born Fucillo began his career as an apprentice with the Hatters aged 16, working his way through to the first-team and twice bouncing back from broken legs.

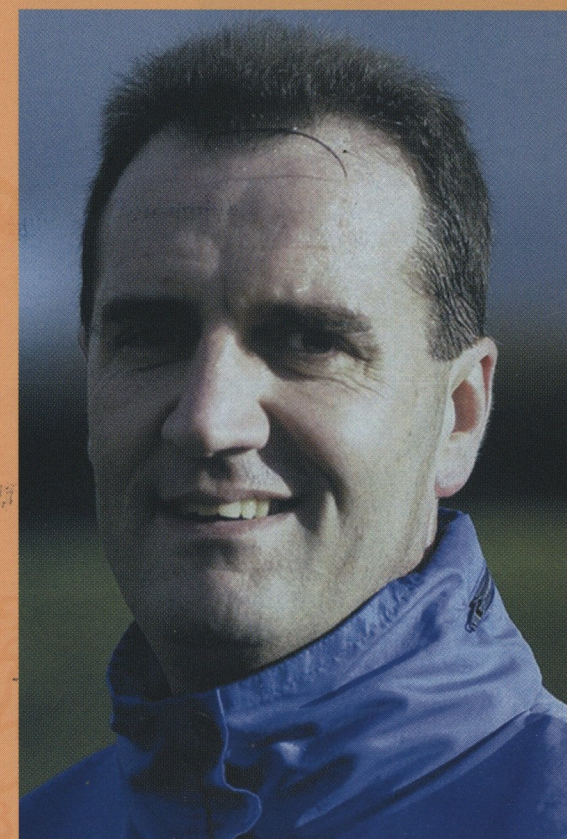
In ten years he made over 180 appearances and helped the club reach the old First Division at the start of their most successful modern period in 1982. After that it was off to wind down his playing career in the United States before returning to England initially as a coach and then as manager of Peterborough in 1992.

While at London Road he guided Posh to their highest-ever league position, tenth in Division One, before leaving to coach at Sheffield Wednesday and then Barnet before completing the full circle with his return to Luton.

His task is a difficult one, but he has the support of the players even though he was none-too-complimentary about their defeat at Port Vale.

"You don't expect 11 players to play well every week but you do need the majority of them to be together," he says.

"We need everybody on deck to get out of this and ultimately it can't come from me or any other manager - it has to come from the players out there on the pitch."



...Lil Fucillo

Today's Opposition...

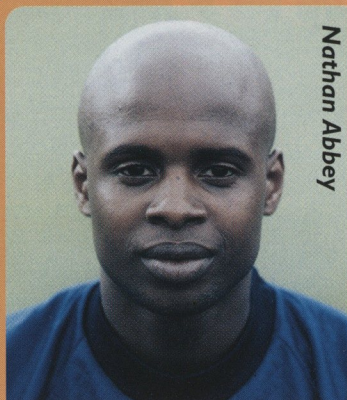
Luton are seeking an improvement on their last visit to the Potteries seven days ago when they went down 3-0 to Port Vale and, in truth, deserved little more from the match.

It was a poor performance which prompted some plain speaking afterwards from new boss Lil Fucillo, brought in to replace the sacked Ricky Hill last month and facing a huge task with the Hatters lying next-to-bottom of the table.

Fucillo immediately apologised to the travelling Town fans for the surrender at Vale Park. "They were shouting and cheering and right behind us," he said, "Yet we produced a second-half performance like that. We looked like novices at times, we defended poorly, and we couldn't pass the ball.

"The whole team looked frightened and I can't put my finger on why at the moment. I haven't blasted the boys because they've done well in recent weeks and it's unfair to slate them when I think we need to pick them up more."

Fucillo is realistic enough to know that, however the pick-up comes, it must come quickly. Luton are in danger of being cast adrift with fellow strugglers Oxford at the foot of the table and fighting out



Nathan Abbey

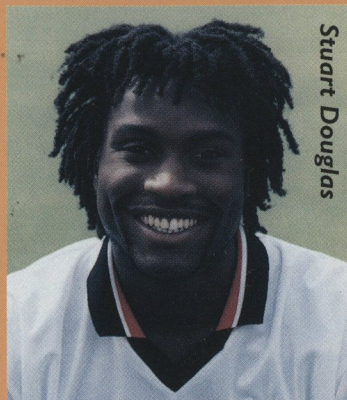
their own private battle for the wooden spoon. They are seven points adrift of safety, have won only two of their 18 league games, and haven't won away at all.

Five draws from their nine away league fixtures suggests they are not necessarily pushovers on their travels, but until Fucillo can land the striker he so desperately seeks points seem set to continue to be hard to come by.

The experienced and much-travelled Lee Nogan, now 31, was brought in from Darlington last month and may be a longer-term answer to Luton's problems. Nogan, though, lacks match sharpness, and in any case the manager believes his team has more fundamental problems which won't be solved by a new striker alone.

"At Vale our forwards didn't get any real service. The players know what's required but we just didn't hold the ball and get it up there. We need to work on that.

"We're in a bad position, that's an understatement, but there are a lot of games to play and, with



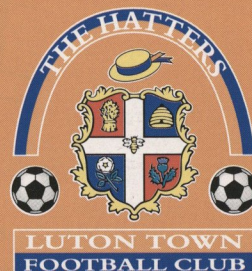
Stuart Douglas

three points for a win, if you get two or three wins, you start moving.

"What I really needed was for the team to play at home this week. When we get to Christmas we'll know a little bit better where we stand. We have to win every other game and then we have a great chance of staying up."

Former Hatters star Hill, appointed in the summer after the five-year reign of Lennie Lawrence, quickly paid the penalty for a poor start.

There are those fans who believe his execution was possibly premature and undoubtedly harsh - expectations around the club at the start of the season were modest after three years of



treading water in the Second Division's mid-table zone. Aside from reaching the play-offs in 1997, Luton have rarely threatened to recapture the First Division place they lost four years ago on the back of a slide which began when they lost their ten-year membership of the old Division One in 1992 prior to the formation of the Premiership. Hatters supporters still wonder just what might have been had the club been able to hang on until the Premiership gravy-train pulled in.

Instead, money became typically tight and the club's financial problems were well-chronicled prior to the arrival of new owners, led by new chairman Mike Watson-Challis, last summer.

The purse strings are now rather slacker, though if Fucillo is to remodel his team into successful relegation fighters he will surely have to do it with a reasonable degree of parsimony while Third Division football threatens. His predecessor splashed out £425,000 in the summer to sign one of the best goalkeepers in the lower divisions.

Mark Ovendale, from Bournemouth, was Ricky Hill's

first big-money signing as manager and Luton's first since coming out of receivership.

That said, the gloves were worn by Nathan Abbey, 22 and a former Town YTS, at Vale last Saturday with Ovendale on the bench and Fucillo could go with either today. Norwegian defender Kent Karlsen was signed from Vaalerenga last

"When we get to Christmas we'll know a little bit better where we stand."

month and, despite a personal nightmare last Saturday when he was at fault for two of the goals, is a dominating centre-half forming a good partnership with former West Ham and Portsmouth star Adrian Whitbread.

Ex-Leicester favourite Julian Watts is likely to complete the central defensive trio, unless Fucillo decides to use him in attack, with

home-grown duo Emmerson Boyce, 21, and Matthew Taylor, 19, on the flanks.

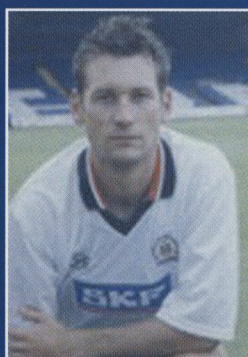
Town's Scandinavian double swoop included Helsinki-born midfielder Petri Helin, who played in Finland's recent World Cup qualifier against England, from Finnish League side Jokerit.

Matthew Spring made his Hatters debut four years ago aged 17 and has now topped a century of appearances, while Paul McLaren was a year older when he broke through in 1994 and the 24-year-old lynchpin of the midfield is now heading towards 200 games.

In attack, Lee Nogan has over 100 career goals although the Welsh international is still waiting to make his impact for his eighth club. His most likely partner is the speedy former YTS Liam George, an Irish under-21 international and Luton's leading scorer last season. Other options include Andrew Fotiadis, capped by England at under-15 and under-18 level and who combined his football education with completing his 'A' levels and Andre Scarlett, more of a winger than a striker and scorer of his one and only league goal on his senior debut against Oldham two years ago.

Luton Town F.C.

Player Focus... Paul McClaren



Few players have given more to the Luton cause in recent years than Paul McLaren.

Only just turned 24, but closing in on 150 appearances despite missing most of the 1998/99 season

through injury, he is a whole-hearted midfielder who can always be relied upon to compete.

McLaren's natural strength was what brought him to the attention of Hatters' scouts in the first place.

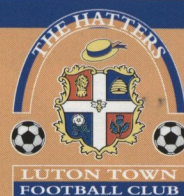
He was still a schoolboy when playing regularly in their youth team and a YTS offer was deemed a formality.

Forceful and always ready to back up attacks, he quickly became a regular after his first-team debut in 1994.

Now McLaren has developed into a cultured and tenacious midfielder, with good vision and a strong tackle, not to mention a useful crosser of the ball.

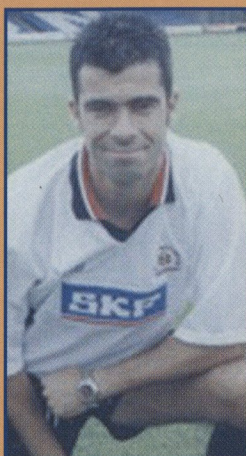
A versatile player, he began the 2000/2001 season in the centre of the back three before reverting to midfield.

He also has a strong shot yet, surprisingly, had only two league goals to his credit at the start of this season and that's a statistic he is keen to improve having failed to find the net since.



Watch out for...

Julian Watts



An experienced player worth keeping an eye on - but where, exactly? The evergreen Watts, now 29, was thrust into attack for the last final 15 minutes at Port Vale with Lil Fucillo looking for a forward to hold the ball up.

It was a novel role for the big defender, but given his manager's complimentary remarks afterwards it's one Watts could be called upon to reprise at some point this afternoon.

Watts has always been strong in the air, and even though Luton have struggled this season he is enjoying the relative security of regular first-team football.

That's not always been the case. The Sheffield-born star was the victim of managerial changes in the past and his 50-plus appearances for Luton are more than he achieved at any of his previous clubs.

Rotherham gave him his first taste of League football in 1990, and it was an ambition achieved when he signed for the home town club he supported, Sheffield Wednesday.

Trevor Francis took him to Hillsborough, but David Pleat sold him to Leicester for £200,000 in 1996.

Two years later he left Filbert Street as a Bosman transfer, joining John Ward at Bristol City. Three months later, Ward was out, and soon afterwards so was Watts, with neither of the next two City managers wanting to keep him.

Watts jumped at the chance of first-team football with Luton and was an ever-present in 1999/2000, scoring his first goal for the club at home to Reading in January.

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BIG WINS

As recent as five years ago in November 1995, the Potters recorded their best-ever League win over the Hatters, beating them 5-0 at The Victoria Ground after a late goal-rush 94 in the last 17 minutes). Simon Sturridge netted twice in front of 9,382 fans.

Two years earlier at Kenilworth Road Potters' goalkeeper Gordon Marshall had a nightmare as the Hatters charged in to register a 6-2 win after being 2-0 down! Former England and Chelsea striker Kerry Dixon scored a hat-trick for Luton.

YOUNGSTER

Stuart Roberts, only 17 years of age, kept goal for Stoke in the two FA Cup games between the clubs in season 1984-85. After a 1-1 draw at Luton, the Hatters won the replay at The Victoria Ground by the odd goal in five despite some heroics from young Roberts.

EIGHT-GOAL TV THRILLER

Stoke City had goalkeeper Peter Fox sent-off during their home League game with the Hatters in September 1982. The final score was 4-4 after a tremendously exciting contest. George Berry headed the Potters in front; Paul Walsh equalised from 25 yards and then Berry again found the net from Mark Chamberlain's corner. Fox was dismissed after handling outside his area in an attempt to thwart Walsh who

went on to score only for the referee to bring play back, award a free-kick and point the finger at the Stoke 'keeper.

Derek Parkin grabbed the keeper's jersey and he did well although before half-time Brian Stein (Mark's brother) headed in Dave Moss's deep cross to make it 2-2.

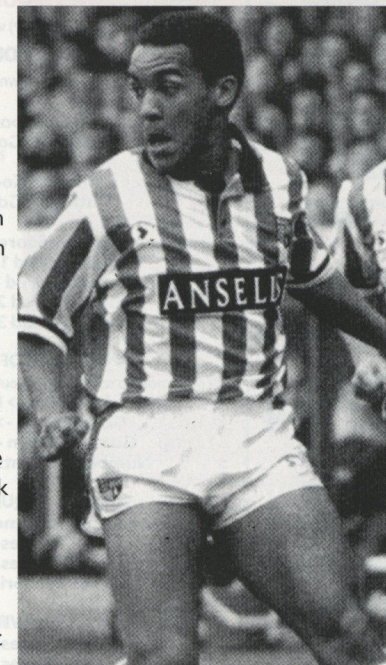
Soon after the break the ten men of Stoke then took the lead when Chamberlain's precise cross was nodded in by Paul Bracewell. But in the 58th minute Ricky Hill laid on another equaliser for Luton, scored again by the dangerous Stein.

Luton then edged in front for the first time just after the hour mark when Brian Horton's chip caught Parkin out of position and Mal Donaghy stormed in to power home a header. Stoke came again and Brendan O'Callaghan made it 4-4 with a cracking drive from the edge of the area. The excitement though was not yet over....in the 85th minute Luton were awarded a penalty but Moss hit the post as Parkin dived the other way. A great game and a fair result.

FOOT IN BOTH CAMPS

Among the many players who have served with both clubs down the years we have: Jimmy Adam, Iain Allinson, Viv Busby, John Dreier, Ashley Grimes, Vince Hilaire, Paul Holsgrove, Mick Kennedy, Alex McClure, David Oldfield, Bryan Small, Frank Soo and Mark Stein.

*Mark Stein -
played for both clubs*



Past Encounters

Stoke City's playing record against the Hatters:

Venue	P	W	D	L	F	A
Home	16	7	6	3	31	22
Away	16	6	5	5	16	22
Totals	32	13	11	8	47	44

Southern League

Home	2	1	0	1	5	5
Away	2	0	1	1	2	3
Totals	4	1	1	2	7	8

FA Cup

Home	1	0	0	1	2	3
Away	1	0	1	0	1	1
Totals	2	0	1	1	3	4

Simod Cup

Away	1	0	0	1	1	4
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Stoke City v Luton Town Connections

by Tony Matthews

Goalscoring Head 2 Head

in the graphics below, Potters' figure is to the left with the goals scored indicated in red and Hatters' to the right and scored in blue

Stats&Facts

Stats compiled by Football Information Services

Where



How



Top League Scorers



29 in 18 games Team Goals 17 in 18 games
1.61 goals Ratio per Game 0.94 goals

6 in 11 games Player's Goals 3 in 18 games
0.55 goals Ratio per Game 0.17 goals

5	Games Scored In	3
3	Games Scored 1st Goal	0
4	Games Scored 1 Goal	3
1	Games Scored 2 Goals	0
0	Games Scored 3 Goals	0

IMPORTANCE OF GOALS

(Taking out top scorers, how would results be affected)
2 (4pts) Games Won -> Drawn 0 (0pts)
1 (3pts) Games Won -> Lost 0 (0pts)
2 (2pts) Games Drawn -> Lost 1 (1pts)
9 Number of points gained 1

SCORING SEQUENCES

Consecutive Games Scored
2 Games 1
3 Games 0
2 games Maximum Scoring Run 2 games

CONSECUTIVE GAMES WITHOUT SCORING
1 2 Games 0
1 3 Games 1
0 4 Games 3
3 games Maximum Dry Spell 8 games

Potters' Results

STOKE CITY GOALS	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
0	1	1	2	1				
1	2	3	3					
2	1	1	1					
3	1		1					
4								
5								
6								
7								

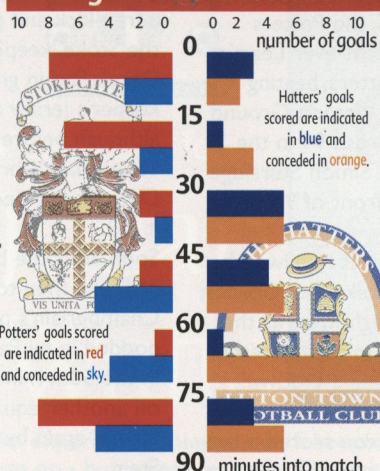
shows the number of results for each scoreline.
eg. Stoke have won 2 games 3-0

Hatters' Results

LUTON GOALS	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
0	2	1						
1	2	3	1					
2	1	2						
3	2	1	1					
4	1		1					
5								
6								
7								

eg. Luton have drawn 3 games 1-1
and won 1 game 3-1

When goals scored & conceded



Average time of Scoring / Conceding

56 mins	All Goals for	95 mins
55 mins	Home Goals For	90 mins
56 mins	Away Goals For	101 mins
81 mins	All Goals Against	51 mins
120 mins	Home Goals Against	54 mins
64 mins	Away Goals Against	48 mins

Table shows average time taken for both teams to score and concede goals in home and away games.

Last 10 Games Form Guide Comparison

Potters : WLSWLWWSLW F 15 A 13 Pts 17

Hatters : LSLDLWSLL F 13 A 21 Pts 6

Form Guide shows last 10 results. W = Won, L = Lost, S = Score Draw, D = No Score Draw. Most recent result to the right

Luton Town's Last 10 Years - The Complete Record

	DIV	FAC	WC	LS	Gls	Ave	Att
90/91	1	4	2	Elstrup	15	10,275	
91/92	1	3	2	Harford	12	9,711	
92/93	1	4	2	Gray	19	8,213	
93/94	1	SF	1	Dixon	9	7,878	
94/95	1	4	1	Marshall	11	7,350	
95/96	1	3	1	Guentchev/Marshall	9	7,223	
96/97	2	3	3	Thorpe	28	6,294	
97/98	2	1	2	Thorpe	14	5,879	
98/99	2	2	5	Douglas	9	5,527	
99/00	2	3	1	George	14	5,658	

Seasonal Progress Comparison



SATURDAY, 18th NOVEMBER

Peter Thorne makes his 150th appearance for the club in the F.A. Cup first round tie against Nuneaton Borough at the Britannia Stadium. He fails to add to his goal tally of 63, as the Nationwide Conference side hold us to a 0 - 0 draw. Brynjar Gunnarsson is dismissed after 42 minutes for collecting two yellow cards, the second one coming after the referee decided he was encroaching at a free kick.

MONDAY, 20th NOVEMBER

A young Avon Insurance League lineup go down 1 - 0 against Walsall at Newcastle Town. The visitors included Brett Angel, Darren Wrack, Chris

last Saturday, and the prospect of a one match ban disappears. Dean Crowe pays a hospital visit for precautionary x-rays on an injured ankle, after coming off late on in yesterday's Avon Insurance game. Former City boss, Gary Megson, fails with a bid of around £750,000 for midfielder James O'Connor, who has submitted a transfer request which has been turned down by Mr. G. He said 'We are not looking to sell any of our players.' Striker Rikki Dadson is another injury doubt for tonight's visit to Nuneaton Borough.

WEDNESDAY 22nd NOVEMBER

Last night saw our terrible F.A. Cup record continue, with a 1 - 0 defeat at

The West Midlands media are still linking the Irish U21 International with a move to West Brom in the near future.

THURSDAY 23rd NOVEMBER

Mr. G. breaks his silence on the James O'Connor saga by insisting 'we are not trying to drive him away from Stoke City Football Club. He asked me in September if we were going to sell him, and I said no. We have been assisting him in trying to buy a house in the area.'

Rikki Dadson is an early doubt for Saturday's game at Swindon. He is struggling to overcome a back injury sustained in training on Monday when he slipped on sodden turf.

FRIDAY 24th NOVEMBER

Bjarni Gudjonsson looks set to miss next Saturday's clash with Luton Town at the Britannia Stadium, following his fifth booking of the season last weekend.

The Brentford game is re-arranged for Wednesday, 17th January.

City fail in a bid to take Bradford City striker Isiah Rankin (22) on loan, with a view to a permanent deal. The player, who was a £1.2 million buy from Arsenal in 1998, has been on loan at Birmingham City and Bolton Wanderers. He now wants to remain at Valley Parade in order to impress new boss Jim Jefferies.

Skipper Tony Dorigo should be available for tomorrow's game at Swindon after overcoming the cramp which forced him to come off at Nuneaton.

SATURDAY 25th NOVEMBER

Our fifth away win of the season, as Swindon are over-powered in a 3 - 0 victory. A Richard Dryden own goal, and two from Kyle, in a comfortable win, which pushes us up into sixth place in the League table.

Sidelines

Roper and Chris Marsh from the first team squad. Brynjar, James and Wayne will miss, because of suspensions, tomorrow night's F.A. Cup replay at Nuneaton Borough, Kyle Lightbourne is an early doubt after limping off on Saturday with a back strain. Tomorrow's winners face a trip to Bournemouth in the second round.

TUESDAY, 21st NOVEMBER

Referee Chris Foy rescinds Brynjar's second yellow card

Nuneaton Borough in front of the Sky Sports cameras.

Mr. G. commented:-
'The players were never up to it.

Sometimes player's think they are too good to make things happen, they expect things to happen. It does not work that way. We have got to show more discipline, commitment and professional attitude.' Midfielder James O'Connor issues a statement saying he is unhappy under the management of Gudjon Thordarson.

Two goals for Kyle Lightbourne at Swindon Town last Saturday. He is now on five goals this season.

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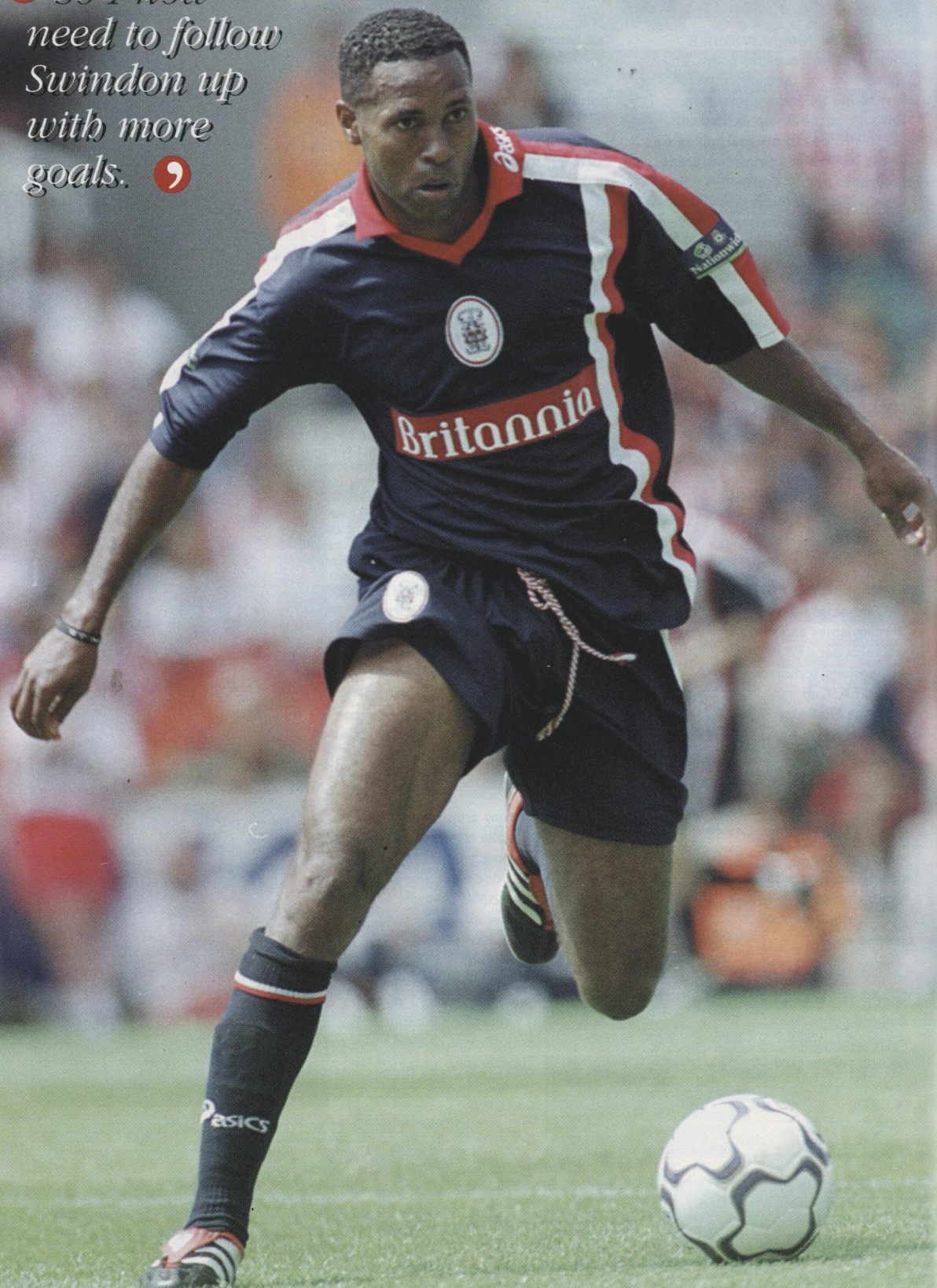
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6 So I now
need to follow
Swindon up
with more
goals. 9



Player Interview with ...

...Kyle Lightbourne

Kyle Lightbourne turned last Saturday's much-needed victory at Swindon into his own personal triumph with his first goals for over a month - but he doesn't want it to end there.

"Now I'm scoring again I want it to go on," he says. "I've never had a run of consistent goalscoring since I joined the club and it's what every striker needs.

"Hopefully this is the turning point I've been waiting for. I still believe I can score goals but it's never really happened for me yet here."

Kyle's two goals were his first since netting in the 2-1 defeat at Swansea in mid-October and took his tally to the season to five. It was also the first time he had scored two in a league game since Chesterfield in September of last year.

Now he says he's seeking the sort of consistency he admits has eluded him since his £500,000 move from Coventry three years ago.

"That's why I've never really been among the leading scorers. You need a run where you get something like eleven in eleven games to get you up there.

"So I now need to follow Swindon up with more goals. There are times when I've felt I've played reasonably well without scoring and as a forward that's often the hardest thing to do, keep playing well when the goals are not coming.

"Having said that you have to take one game at a time. That's the way we approach things here because the manager treats it as a squad game and picks certain players against certain teams.

"So you can be in and out of the side even if you are playing well and that's something you have to live with. It's a squad game even more than a team game and we want to do well as a squad."

The sweeping victory at the County Ground followed a talk-in amongst the players on Thursday following the FA Cup defeat at Nuneaton Borough - and the determination in the dressing room was carried out on to the pitch.

Said Kyle: "We took a lot of stick for Nuneaton and we made it clear to ourselves that we wanted to turn the

season around.

"So the Swindon result was just what we were looking for. We were really fired up beforehand and knew we needed to start well and then keep it going.

"It was a very important result for us because our season was in danger of drifting away. Now we are back in the top six, which just shows how close the league still is and why you shouldn't lose heart at this stage. If we can get a run going now we could climb higher and get right in among the leaders. Promotion is by no means out of the question."

Ironically, Kyle might not have been in the side but for an injury to Rikhardur Dadason. The Icelandic arrival coincided with a feeling that he and Peter Thorne would be the main men in attack, with the likes of Kyle, Paul Connor and Dean Crowe in the wings.

There was a similar situation at the club last year when Arnar Gunnlaugsson arrived on loan from Leicester. Places were under threat and Peter Thorne thought he might be the one to miss out after a barren run - then he hit four against Chesterfield and never looked back. Said Kyle: "Peter's run from then until the end of the season was amazing and I would love to do something like that to prove to people I am capable of regularly scoring goals.

"But at the end of the day it's about what we do as a team. We've got five strikers here, two out on loan, and the key is to find the combination that can work together. "That's not always easy. Sometimes me and Thorne work really well and other times we look as though we have never played together before.

"It can be frustrating, because we are all trying to do our best and get the results the club needs.

"When you look at the strikers we have here we shouldn't be struggling for goals. Last season we had no problem at all when it came to finding the net.

"But we started this season slowly and all of a sudden we are finding it especially difficult to score at home. I can't believe that will go on - once we get off the mark again more will surely follow. I can't see any other outcome."



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Today's opponents had one of the best known Chairmen during the 1970's. The late Sir Eric Morecambe loved Luton Town, and every opportunity he got, he would plug them on his shows. What better profile could a club wish for? Now I don't know if he gave team talks before the games, but if he told any jokes, I'm sure the players went out onto the pitch with smile's on their faces.

Our Chairman during that period was Albert Henshall. He was one of the old school. He was a local businessman, and he loved Stoke City. Some individuals become involved with football clubs just for the benefits that position brings. Albert was the opposite. He loved the matchday atmosphere, and he lived life to it's maximum.

A typical matchday would be drinks at opening time and then a meeting up with directors' of the club we were playing that day.

As hosts, Stoke City's board had a reputation that was noted for it's generosity. When we played at the Victoria Ground, the oppositions' director's invariably

A Wing & A Prayer

left well after normal closing time. Most times they didn't remember the scoreline. Our board of directors had a wonderful capacity for enjoying life to it's fullest, and also amazing stamina when it came to consumption of strong drinks.


The matchday ritual wasn't complete until the Chairman entered our dressing room at 2.30. He would go to every individual and enquire about family matters. When he came to me, he always told me one of his latest jokes. He had a wonderful sense of humour, and he knew I always appreciated a good joke.

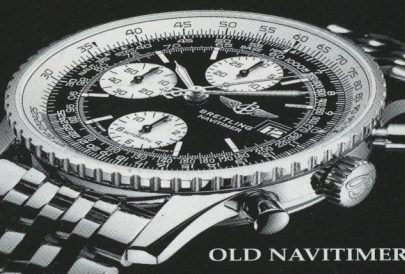
During the early 70's we had two players on the fringe of the first team. Sean Haselgrave and George Jackson. Now they weren't really that alike, however, on occasions, the Chairman would go to Sean, and think it was George, and vice versa. It was a constant source of amusement to all the lads. To the day he retired, Albert never sorted out the misunderstanding!

Can you imagine the Chairmen of today's clubs having that personal touch?

with Terry Conroy




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2000/01 **SCFC** 17

1 Gavin WARD Home Ian Holmes Away	2 Mikael HANSSON Home Maintech Services Away	3 Clive CLARKE Home June Forrester Away
4 Henrik RISOM Home Jeff Conley Away	5 Nicky MOHAN Home Knypersley & Biddulph S C Away Stoke City Supporters Club	6 Brynjar GUNNARSSON Home Tollgate Hotel & Leisure Away The Oatcake - M Smith www.oatcake.co.uk
7 Bjarni GUDJONSSON Home Mary & Roger Davies Away	8 Graham KAVANAGH Home Julian & Sam Away	9 Peter THORNE Home Connect Insurance Away All Staff Solutions Tel: 849309
10 Rikhardur DADASON Home Hunts Removals Away Crazy Bear Ltd	12 Kyle LIGHTBOURNE Home Stephen Jobn Away Matthew Craig	14 Carl MUGGLETON Home Pat & Dave Hancock Away
15 Tony DORIGO Home Jeff Conley Away	16 Paul CONNOR Home Jeff Lea & Family Away	17 James O'CONNOR Home Southern Supporters Club Away
18 Ben PETTY Home Julia Zuk Away	19 Stefan THORDARSON Home Hobb Computer Services Away Bargain Booze Cross Heath	23 Wayne THOMAS Home She Stood There Laughing Away
Gudjon THORDARSON Home Steve Hill - Railway Vue Away Bargain Booze, Trentbarn	John RUDGE Home WaverNorth 2000 Away	POTTERMUS Stoke City Supporters Club Tel: 01782 744674

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Stoke City Star Marc Goodfellow

talks to BBC Radio Stoke's Nigel Johnson

What made you want to become a professional footballer?

I wanted to play football from an early age, that's all I've ever wanted to do.

How did it all begin?

It started when I was about 8 and I was playing at junior school and being selected for the South Derbyshire team. I progressed through all the school teams at all ages, and was picked up by Derby County. I was with them from the age of 10 until 14. Then I moved to Stoke City.

Are you enjoying yourself at Stoke?

I'm enjoying myself very much indeed at the Britannia Stadium.

Who has been the most influential person so far in your career?

That must be Dave Kevan, the youth team manager. He has helped me a great deal, and the improvement in my game is very much down to him. He has always been available when I've needed help.

Which player do you admire most at the club?

That must be Peter Thorne. I admire the way that he scores his goals, and the example he sets as a centre forward.

Who do you admire on the International scene?

When I watched the World Cup in 1990 I was most impressed with the performances of Roberto Baggio, the Italian striker.

How did you feel when you scored the winner against Charlton in the Worthington Cup at the Britannia Stadium?

It was an unbelievable experience, a dream come true. It was nice to score on my debut, and I felt very pleased when Rikki Dadason was able to do the same when he came on as sub against Barnsley.

How do your friends react when they know that you are playing in the first team?

They are very supportive, and take pleasure in seeing me being selected to play for the first team.

What is your favourite position?

Perhaps centre forward may be the favourite, although I don't mind playing on the flanks, but if I'm honest, it doesn't really bother me.

What is your ambition for the future?

I wish to play in the Premiership, and be selected for England. Everyone wants to play for Manchester United, but I wouldn't mind which club I played for as long as I was in the Premiership.



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Football in the Community

After School Clubs Presentations

Welcome to this afternoon's home fixture against Luton Town. Football in the Community would like to wish **Happy Birthday to Ivan Richardson & Joshua Burnett**. Also a big welcome to **Werrington Wolves**. Enjoy the game! **Hursty**.

Christmas Soccer Schools

Football in the Community would like to announce the dates for the Christmas Soccer Schools - they are as follows:-

Thursday 21st December 2000

Stone	Stone Youth & Adult Centre (INDOORS)
Newcastle	Clayton High School (INDOORS)
Cheadle	Cheadle High School (INDOORS)

Friday 22nd December 2000

Leek	Brough Park Leisure Centre (INDOORS)
Sneyd	Holden Lane High School (OUTDOORS)
Trentham	Ash Green Primry School (OUTDOORS)

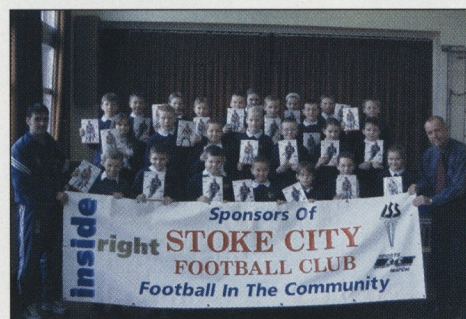
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- Signed pen-picture of their favourite player
- Mini tour of the Stadium

For further information and bookings, call Simon Bradley on 01782 59 22 52.



Pictured left are children from St. Filomenas Primary School, Caverswall. Also pictured are head teacher Mr. Wheatley and Football in the Community's Richard Carter. Over forty children took part in the after school coaching club at the school. Also, next Spring, the school will be participating in the Sponsored Penalty Shoot-out.

Pictured right are Adrian Hurst & Richard Carter, along with children from The Glebe Primary School who took part in the after school coaching club at the school. Nearly sixty children were brushing up on their football skills during the six week coaching course.



Sponsored Penalty Shootout News



Due to the appalling weather conditions recently, this year's sponsored penalty shootout had to take place inside the local village hall. A great turn out from parents and friends ensured another successful event ran smoothly. All the children enjoyed the event immensely, and some are pictured below with Football in the Community's Mark Degg and number 1 quality Don.

Also pictured are football apprentices Ryan, Billy and Chris, who, as part of their college tuition, had to plan, organise, deliver and evaluate a coaching session - all three did so, very successfully.

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In the last programme we published the first part of the minutes from the SCFF meeting held on 10th November. Today we complete the picture, starting with the working group reports:

Families

The families working group has held two meetings, to discuss both progress and feedback on the new Family Stand, and other feedback from supporters relating to family issues. The group has also had review meetings with the club. One idea put forward is for a competition involving the players. The club likes the idea and the first one will take place at the Wigan game in January. The feedback and comments received regarding the new Family Stand has been on the whole extremely positive. However, there is one area about which there are still some major concerns - safety. It was promised that the Family Stand would have a sterile block next to the away fans, turnstiles would be policed, stewards would be handpicked and there would be a zero tolerance policy. The club said that there would be clear signs saying 'Family Area' put up in the stand. After the Millwall game families experienced confrontation with the 'hooligan element' as they tried to reach the south car park, using the pathway behind the family stand. The club said that they would look to put a double fence in place, on that particular pathway, for future high priority games. What lessons have been learnt from the events that unfolded at the Millwall game? The club reassured the forum that this is a top priority for SCFC. Ideas would be brainstormed, both for short and long term solutions. The time had come for radical changes. It was stated that the police are 100% responsible for dealing with public disorder, the club 100% responsible for safety. CCTV will be used against the hooligan element.

Other issues re: families

- Feedback suggests that families would like to see the Family Stand have a 'No Smoking' policy.
- A questionnaire to gauge supporters' feelings about the new 'Family Stand' so far is being considered.
- The issue of kids' prices in other areas of the stadium will be reviewed.
- The club will be running a special promotion on ticket prices for the Luton game. It is to be a special Kids Party day, to encourage as many children as possible to come along to the game. Kids will pay just £1, with 5 kids allowed per season ticket holder and 4 per other adult.
- Andy Morgan will attend the next SCFF meeting in January.

Stan Memorial

A project fund committee has been set up with Nigel Johnson as Chair. The committee will be responsible for fund raising, both for the Statue of Sir Stan and the Stanley Matthews Foundation. The project is seeking charitable status. In summary:

- The funding of the statue will be undertaken first. The foundation is the second phase.
- The committee wished to thank supporters for the collection at the Millwall game, which raised £2,300.
- The possibility of the statue being situated in Hanley Museum during construction is being considered to enable fans to watch work in progress.
- The committee is actively looking for sponsorship and hoped for a grant from the Football Foundation, and even lottery funding.
- Letterheads are being produced.
- There is to be a fundraising dinner on February 1st, 2001.
- There will also be collections at the Wigan game, on the anniversary of his birthday and in Hanley on the anniversary of his death.
- A limited addition of smaller replica statues would be produced and sold.
- Britannia is to open an account to enable donations to be made at any of their branches.
- There was also a suggestion for collection boxes, to be situated in various place.
- Tean and District Supporters' Club, who unfortunately, are disbanding, have generously donated £750 to the fund.

The club confirmed that the number 7 shirt is not being retired. The FA is not keen to set a precedent in the English game.

True Supporters Against Violence.

Confirmation is awaited from the Football Foundation regarding a grant for the production of more pin badges. Subject to approval, a badge promotion will be targeted for the Reading home game on 13th January.

SCFF Representation, Succession and Reselection

In February the SCFF will have been up and running for 1 year.

Discussion is underway as to how the succession and re-selection process will be managed. A plan will be presented at the next SCFF meeting. It was agreed that:

- The SCFF must remain accessible and

Fans Forum Minutes Part 2

- democratic.
- Supporters' groups reserve the right to say who they want to represent them.
- It was acknowledged that some continuity it important.

Representatives expressed a desire to have a representative for the disabled on the forum (this has since happened with Mr. Lindsay Leighton being co-opted.)

Tim Gallimore stated his intention to stand down as Chair of the SCFF in February.

Supporter Trusts

The issue of Supporter Trusts had been an agenda item for this SCFF meeting. However, because of the lack of time, it was agreed to place it on the agenda for the next meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at 7 pm on Friday 26th January at the Britannia Stadium. Please pass on any agenda items to your representative, or send directly to the SCFF at the usual address.

Thank you for your support.

STOKE CITY FANS FORUM

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Pot of Gold

BRITANNIA BONANZA HALF TIME DRAW VERSUS NUNEATON

Mr. L. Hawkes from Trent Vale won first prize with ticket number 1796, and took home £130 - not bad for a Saturday afternoon. Also for Nuneaton's half time draw, we paid out a second prize of £50, and ticket number 2811 was drawn out of our treasure chest at half time and Mr. Perth from Bucknall went home with the second prize.

POTTERIES LOTTERY HALF TIME DRAW - SPONSORED BY SOLO PHONES

Winning Numbers Versus Liverpool. 3 7 18 19

Check your ticket. Jackpot Prize was £500 for matching all four numbers. If you missed the numbers at half time, you can telephone the results hotline on 01782 592288, Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 5.00 pm to find out what the numbers were. Remember, match just three numbers and you're still a winner. There are over fifty £5 consolation prizes to be won. Have a scratch at The Match!!

AGENT'S BONUS FOR DECEMBER, 2000

An offer open to both existing agents and prospective new agents. If you can add 10 new members to your existing agency during the month of December, 2000, you will be entered into a draw to win a meal for two at a local restaurant. This works out at only two and a half new members per week. The draw will take place in early January, 2001. WATCH THIS SPACE FOR THE WINNERS!!

THE POT OF GOLD WEEKLY DRAW AGENT OF THE WEEK. MR. BILL CLEE OF ENDON.

Bill has been a Stoke City lottery agent since 1971, and collects 170 Pot of Gold members for us each week. Not only does Bill collect Pot of Gold, but he travels to most away fixtures, on some of them he organises a lunch trip with his merry band of supporters. He also runs 'Play Your Cards Right' in the Legends Bar for every home

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Cheshire Bakeries, Congleton	Acorn Garage, Baddeley Green	Last Option.Com Ltd. London
Moving Menu, Stoke	Roy Evans & Sons, Fenton	Johnson Walsh Engineering, Norton
Lally Contractors, Sneyd Green	Woodlea China, Fenton	Barney's Barbecue, Tunstall
Norton News, Norton	J G Meats, Hanford	Booth Newsagents, Bentilee
J & J Comley News, Fenton	Kraftkabin, Stoke	GMR Plumbing & Heating, Congleton

IT'S WORTH BEING A MEMBER OF THE POT OF GOLD WEEKLY DRAW.

POT OF GOLD WEEKLY DRAW RESULTS - WEEK 26

Week ended 1st December, 2000.

£1000	Winning Number A3904.....V Dennis, Meir
£500	Winning Number B6397.....R Chorley, Fenton
£200	Winning Number G0816D Wibberley, Hartshill
£100	Winning Number F3482S Finn, Stoke

Numbers of the Pot of Gold Weekly Draw are still rising, so why not be a winner like the members below. It only costs £1 per week to win big cash prizes. To join ring Tracey or Jo in the Promotions Department on 01782 592288 NOW. 8000 people can't be wrong!! Join the team.



game. Bill's best moment with the lottery department was when his wife won £1,000 in the 1970's. His best moment with Stoke City was when they won the League Cup in 1972, and his worst moment was relegation from the First Division in 1984/85 when Stoke only got 17 points. Many thanks to Bill Clee for all of his support, not only to the Promotions Department, but Stoke City Football Club.



Look out for Margaret and Mabel in stores selling our tickets. To date, we have raised £7,198.55 for the North Staffs Special Care Baby Unit.

Also last week, our representative, Margaret, sold Pot of Gold Instant Weekly Tickets in Smith's News, and in fact, Doris Wibberley from Hartshill won the £200 prize. We sell Pot of Gold Instant Tickets in local newsagents, post offices and supermarkets all around the Stoke area.

POT OF GOLD WEEKLY DRAW - BUSINESS DRAW

This afternoon's Business Draw winners are:-
Sky Box.....Michael Ward, Acorn Garage.
Waddington SuiteStephen Heath, Kirsty Jayne China.
10 Match TicketsMichael Lally, Lally Contractors.

If you would like your company to join the business draw, just telephone Jo or Tracey in the Promotions Department on 01782 592288. The business draw costs as little as £10 each week. Listed below are twenty companies who all enjoy the benefits of being in the Pot of Gold Business Draw.

POT OF GOLD WEEKLY DRAW - BUSINESS DRAW WINNERS BURY 26th DECEMBER, 2000

Sky Box.....Gary Randall, GMR Plumbing
Waddington SuiteCraig McCarthy, Cheshire Bakeries
10 Match Tickets.....Anthony Durber, Woodlea China.

Lawsons Travels

On the Road with The Potters

The victory against Wrexham was followed three days later by another difficult away game against Northampton Town, who were positioned just one place and one point better off than the Potters in the League.

Looking back

Tuesday 7th November, 2000.
Nationwide League Division 2
Kick-off: 7.45 p.m.
Venue: The Sixfields Stadium.
Attendance: 5,375
Stoke Following: 692
Result: Northampton Town 2 Stoke City 2

The Journey

Heavy rain falling almost continuously for three days before the match put this fixture in doubt, but a mid-day inspection ruled the pitch playable. I travelled to the game by car, leaving the Britannia at 3.55 p.m. via the A50 eastbound to join the M1 at Nottingham. The rain was still pouring down, and much flooding was in evidence, especially the River Trent, which had burst its banks where crossed by the M1, so much so that there was a six mile queue of northbound traffic, simply caused by driver's slowing down to witness the extent of the water. Fortunately, only a few minutes delay southbound, and we soon ran into

dry weather heading south to junction 16 to leave onto the A45 following the Sixfields complex signs. The ground is very easy to locate, and large car and coach parks available for visiting fans. Two Official Travel Club coaches made the trip, most fans making their own way by car for this fixture.

Mileage - 188 Miles, Round Trip.

The Ground

For Sixfields read Bescot Stadium without roof support posts. Very similar in construction and appearance to Walsall's ground and Chester City's Deva Stadium. Sixfields is slightly more ambitious in design, very functional but modest in size. The capacity is 7,653 with 944 seats for visitors in the South Stand - all unreserved. This game was all-ticket for home and away fans. Admission was £12. Built in 1994, the ground is a major improvement on the Cobblers previous three sided home at the County Ground, which was shared with the County Cricket Club. Plenty of catering outlets outside the stadium on the retail park, where most early arriving Stokies were to be found. Inside the visitors enclosure, two catering kiosks provided a limited choice of food and hot drinks. Toilet facilities were good for both Ladies and Gents. Hot water, hand driers, soap even! Stewards were good humoured, including some familiar faces from the Brit amongst their ranks on the night.

The Programme

'The Cobblers' programme was a blockbuster of a publication, with 80 pages, and so heavy it weighed you down in your coat pocket. Four pages on the visitors, including some interesting stats from the Potters archives. In depth analysis of the fairly infrequent meetings between the

clubs with Stoke very definitely having the upper hand. Plenty of reading at a price of £2.

The Match

Another one of those Stoke City epics - down to ten men, backs to the wall at times and putting the home goal under siege the rest of the time. Why can we not produce this sort of team work and application in the majority of our games? A pulsating game for the neutral, played in difficult conditions, Stoke took the lead with a Kavanagh pile-driver after 10 minutes, only to concede an equaliser from ex-Leeds youngster Jamie Forrester, in prolific scoring form right now, two minutes later, regained the lead with Jamie O'Connor after 24 minutes and then gifted the home side an equaliser right on half-time, when a deep right wing cross caught Carl Muggleton napping for Steve Howard to bundle the ball home. A couple of minutes into the second period, and the over officious Mr. Hill dismissed Wayne Thomas for a tackle on Forrester - no previous yellow card - as the balance of the game tipped in Northampton's favour, but Stoke found the resolve and commitment to battle it out for a deserved point, and at times looked capable of snatching victory, only the crossbar denying Thordarson in the closing stages.



Stoke Man of the Match

Chased around the pitch all night, scored into the bargain, and looked at last in the sort of form that made him the 'Away' player of the season last term - the vote goes to James O'Connor.

CHRISTMAS CRACKER!

With Christmas fast approaching, why not top up your Stoke supporter's festive stocking with a Supporters Club membership priced at just £5. In addition to free or reduced cost entry into Supporters Club events, membership entitles supporters to free entry into our members draw, free 'Personal Accident Insurance', discounts at the Britannia Stadium Shop and Hanley Store, and an exclusive Supporters Club key fob. Application forms are available at the Ticket Office at the Britannia Stadium, the Hanley Store, or by contacting the Secretary as detailed below. We will endeavour to get all membership packages, for applications received by 10th December, sent out in good time for Christmas.

CLUB CONTACT - NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS

In a bid to help give Stoke City Supporters a better service, we have introduced a new e-mail facility for the Supporters Club. The new e-mail address is: **STOKECITYSUPPORT@FAXVIA.NET** We are, of course, also continuing our '24-7-365' service to supporters with our existing postal, telephone/answerphone and fax arrangements. If you wish to contact us, please write to the Secretary, 11 Westland Street, Penkhull, Stoke on Trent. ST4 7HE, and include a stamped addressed envelope for a reply. You can also telephone or fax us on 01782 744674.

NICHOLAS J. MANSFIELD -
STOKE CITY SUPPORTERS CLUB

PROMOTION PRIORITY

It's back to League action this afternoon, following our mid-week involvement in the Worthington Cup. Promotion is, without doubt, the main objective for the Club and its supporters, and so it's full steam ahead as we take on Luton Town this afternoon.

NOTICE BOARDS

Stoke City Supporters Club are pleased to have donated FIFTEEN information boards in and around the Britannia Stadium to help Stoke City supporters keep in touch with events at the Football Club. From now on these boards will be used to display information such as:

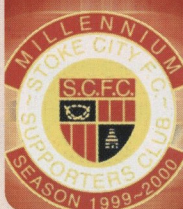
- Match ticket arrangements
- Stoke City Fans Forum
- Official coach travel details
- Supporters Club events
- Commercial news
- Stoke City merchandising
- Supporters Club news
-and much, much more!

If any supporter or supporters' representative group has information they would like to include on the notice boards, please contact the Secretary as detailed below.

FORTHCOMING FUNCTIONS

A number of possible functions were discussed at our Committee Meeting this week, and full details of any forthcoming events will be published as soon as things are finalised.

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RALPH LAUREN

ARMANI JEANS

HACKETT

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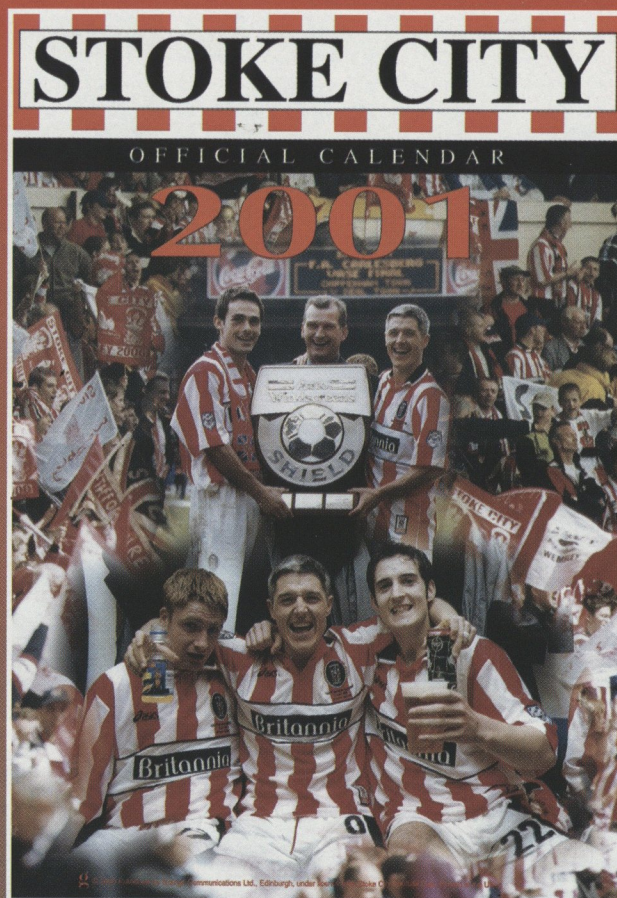


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while stocks last.*



Stoke City Firsts

Appearances & Goals

- The FIRST player to make 100 'League' appearances for Stoke (City) was full-back Alf Underwood who reached the milestone on 14 November 1892 v Preston North End (h). This total was made up of 79 'First' Division outings and 21 in the Football Alliance.
- The FIRST 'Potter' to amass 100 Football League appearances for the club was goalkeeper Billy Rowley who reached the target on 16 September 1893.
- Tommy Clare, full-back partner to Underwood, became the FIRST Stoke player to top the 200 appearance mark in 'League' football.
- And yet another full-back, the legendary Bob McGrory was the FIRST Stoke City footballer to reach the milestones of 300 and then 400 League appearances.
- John McCue, ironically yet another full-back, was FIRST Stoke player to break through the 500 League appearance barrier for the club (doing so in 1959-60). He was later joined by Eric Skeels.
- Taking in all competitive senior matches, the FIRST player to amass in excess of 600 appearances for the club was McCue. He was later joined by Skeels and Frank Mountford.
- The FIRST Stoke City player to reach the milestone of 100 League goals for the club was Charlie Wilson - during the 1929-30 season.
- And the FIRST player to crack in 100 goals for the Potters in Division One soccer was Freddie Steele, who was also the FIRST to net 150 League and Cup goals for the club.
- The FIRST 'Stokie' to grab a double hat-trick for the club in a senior game was Tim Coleman, who cracked in seven

Statistician Tony Matthews looks at Stoke City's FIRST double figure league victory

of the eight goals in a League Division Two encounter with Lincoln City in February 1957.

- The FIRST man to make over 500 League, Cup and Wartime appearances for Stoke City and net more than 200 goals in the same competitions was the late Frank Bowyer.



Freddie Steele



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Great Stokeie

with Dave Coxon

In one of the frankest interviews to date, my featured player today gives his views on his departure from Stoke, his funniest moment in the game, the non-league scene, and much, much, more. So, who is today's player? Well, the non-league mention was a clue, because today I will be looking back with Stafford Ranger's manager Ian Painter.

Ian was first spotted by West Midlands scout Joe Day playing for Crestwood Colts in the Walsall Sunday League. Joe realised he had come across a talented lad, and he promptly took the nippy forward up to Neville Briggs at Bramall Lane. Shortly after, Briggs moved to the Vic, and with him, he not only took Ian Painter, but also Carl Saunders and Steve Parkin.

Ian's apprenticeship began in 1980, under the leadership of Alan Durban, and two seasons on, the Welshman was so impressed, he gave him his League debut two days before his 18th birthday, at home to Everton. One hundred and twenty three appearances and 24 goals followed, before he moved to Coventry City for £75,000 in July, 1986. Ian's career though, was plagued by injury, and after four years at Highfield Road, he was forced to call it a day as far as the professional game was concerned.

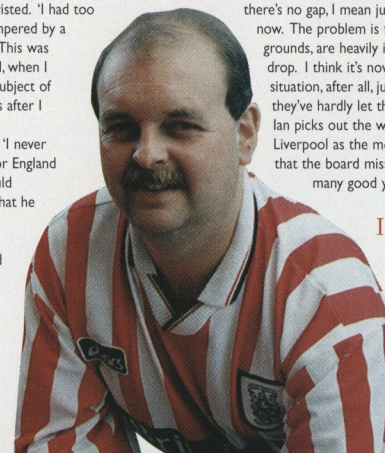
Of his retirement, he admits to feeling bitter and twisted. 'I had too many operations - you could say my career was hampered by a series of misdiagnosis and unnecessary operations. This was confirmed to me some five years after I had finished, when I saw my records. Incidentally, whilst we are on the subject of my injuries, not many people know that two months after I joined Coventry City, I failed a medical!'

The talk then turned to his departure from the Vic. 'I never wanted to leave Stoke, I loved it, but I was playing for England Under 21's and I went to Mick Mills to see if he could increase my £250 per week wage. I was informed that he would talk to the board, but Coventry had asked if they could talk to me, and permission had been given. Soon after, Mills called me into his office and said that the board would increase my pay to £275 per week. I then spoke to Coventry, who said they would pay me £500 per week, and £10,000 to sign on. I then went back to Mick Mills and told him what I had been offered, and that ideally I still wanted to stay at Stoke, but after another discussion with the board, I was told it would be best if I left. Recently, I played in a testimonial with Mick Mills, and I asked him why, when I was

playing for England, was I allowed to leave, he said the board had told him to sell anybody to reduce the overdraft. Shortly after Bouldy, Dixon and Parkin left.

My funniest moment in the game is also Steve Sedgley's, and he re-lived it in Mike Stowell's testimonial programme. It happened during a training session at Highfield Road. The ball was played to me, and I smacked it and caught it just right. Unfortunately for me the gaffer, John Sillett, was coming up the steps. Despite shouting out a warning, the ball cannoned off his nose and he hurtled backwards down the steps. My first thoughts were either dig a big hole or hide with the other lads. I did the latter, and thought I'd got away with it, but when I looked around with a red nosed gaffer after the culprit, Cyrille Regis and Keith Houchen were pointing at me! John Sillett, obviously, didn't see the funny side, because he dropped me into the reserves and didn't speak to me. He eventually picked me, and said 'perhaps I can see the funny side,' but really I knew it was because he had so many injuries. So now you know why John Sillett has got a big red nose!!

It hurt me to ask the next question, but just 24 hours after Nuneaton I asked if the gap between non-league and league was closing. 'In most cases there's no gap, I mean just look at some of the non-league grounds now. The problem is too many clubs in Division 3 have bad grounds, are heavily in debt, and are simply happy to avoid the drop. I think it's now time to go to a two up two down situation, after all, just look at the sides that have come up, they've hardly let themselves down, have they?' Ian picks out the winners against Manchester United and Liverpool as the most important goals for the reds, but feels that the board missed the chance to invest when they had so many good youngsters.



Ian Painter fact file.

- Born Wombourne, 29th December, 1964.
- A member of the England youth side who finished 3rd under Graham Taylor.
- Played for England under 21's in Italy.
- Managed Bilston United before taking up the position he now holds as manager of Stafford Rangers.
- Runs his own sports shop in Wombourne.

A Nostalgic look with Julian Boodell

Collectors Corner

Apart from 1984-85 and the FA Cup, Stoke don't have too many records, one of the few notables in our history is that we gave a debut to the first player of Chinese decent ever to play in the Football League. Frank Soo, who, but for the war would have won Full International recognition for England (he was born in Buxton in 1914) Instead the excellent half back, who formed part of Stoke's pre-war and war-time half back trio of Tutin, Turner & Soo had to make do with eight England war time/victory caps, playing alongside fellow Stokies Stan Matthews & Neil Franklin. (War-time caps not counting officially).

Having made his debut in Stoke's 1-6 drubbing away at Middlesbrough on November 4th 1933 the wing half who was a crowd pleaser - for his artistry and trickery made 173 appearances up to the last season before the war 1938-39. He scored five goals in the



league and added four more from 12 FA Cup ties. He added 99 war-time appearances for Stoke scoring 13 goals in the process. His last match for the Potters was in a league North Second Phase game at the Baseball ground on 2nd april 1945, Stoke losing 1-2 to Derby County.

Frankie then joined Leicester City managed by his old Stoke boss Tom Mather before moving on to today's visitors Luton Town, then drifting in to

non-league with Chelmsford City. His first move into coaching came with the Israeli National Team, before moving to Sweden and Italy, returning to manage Scunthorpe Utd and St Alban's City. He died aged 76 in Buxton in January 1991 I am interested in any programmes that Frank Soo appeared in playing for Stoke or England and am willing to offer £40 for any war-time issues and pre-war always & £125 for any pre-war home programmes.

Please write to Julian Boodell 69 Gayville Road Battersea London SW11 6JW, or call 020 7207 1186, e-mail julianboodell@hotmail.com

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Off the Pitch

ABANDONED MATCHES

With the winter months approaching, there is always a chance that matches may be abandoned through adverse weather. For supporters to be considered for entry to the re-arranged fixture, it is imperative that they retain their match ticket stub. To prevent problems to yourselves, always keep your matchday ticket stub until the end of each match.

THE CLUB IS PROPOSING RUNNING A 'FEEDER' SERVICE FOR THE TRAVEL CLUB FOR THE NEW YEAR'S DAY FIXTURE VERSUS NOTTS COUNTY

PICK UP PLACES

Kidsgrove.....	Town Hall.....	8.55
Golden Hill.....	Post Office.....	9.05
Tunstall.....	Tower Square.....	9.15
Burslem.....	Opp. Queen's Theatre.....	9.25
Hanley.....	Bus Station - Albion.....	9.35

Straight to the Britannia Stadium

Chesterton.....	Dragon Square.....	9.15
Newcastle.....	School Street.....	9.25
Trent Vale.....	Black Lion.....	9.35
Stoke.....	Kingsway Car Park.....	9.55

THE PRICE WILL BE AN EXTRA £2 PER PERSON ON TOP OF THE COACH FARE, AND MUST BE BOOKED AT THE SAME TIME AS BUYING MATCH TICKETS AND COACH TICKETS. PLEASE ALSO STATE WHICH STOP YOU WISH TO BE PICKED UP AT. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT, AS THIS MUST BE STATED ON YOUR TICKET.

ON RETURN FROM THE GAME THE 'FEEDER' COACHES WILL BE WAITING TO RETURN YOU TO YOUR DROP OFF STOPS.

WIGAN ATHLETIC SATURDAY 23rd DECEMBER, 12 NOON KICK-OFF

DISABLED SUPPORTERS

The visitors' stand has two designated platforms in prime positions with ancillary catering and toilet provision. Each platform can cater for six wheelchairs and six helpers. The disabled are admitted free of charge, whilst helpers pay the standard admission price. Please contact stadium ticket office on 01942 774010 for more details.

TRAVELLING SUPPORTERS

Free Car Parking is available for up to 2,500 vehicles on a

first-come first served basis. As with all new stadiums, drivers should expect slight delays when leaving the Car Parks. Coach parking is available on site. For Rail Travel, Wigan North Western/Wigan Wallgate Stations are approximately one mile from the ground.

ROUTES TO BRISTOL ROVERS SATURDAY 16th DECEMBER THE MEMORIAL STADIUM, FILTON AVENUE, HORFIELD, BRISTOL.

Travelling by car:

From South West/Midlands/North
Exit M4 at Junction 16 (s/p Thornbury, Filton A38.) At roundabout take the A38, Gloucester Road (Filton.) Keep straight on for 4.4 miles, passing through Patchway, and past Filton Aerodrome. Turn left at traffic lights. At sixth set of lights, turn left into Filton Avenue, and the stadium is on LHS after 0.1 miles.

From East

Exit M4 at Junction 18 (s/p Bristol M32,) on to the M32. After 3.1 miles, exit at Junction 2 (s/p B4469 Fishponds, Horfield.) At roundabout, turn right (s/p Memorial Stadium) and as the road divides, branch right on to Muller Road. Go straight on, passing through five sets of traffic lights. At sixth set of lights, turn left into Filton Avenue, and the stadium is on LHS after 0.1 miles.

N.B.

The M32 is often very congested, particularly on Saturday afternoons, and supporters travelling by car may wish to consider the following alternative routes:-

- Exit M32 at Junction 1 (s/p A4174.) At roundabout turn right (3rd exit) on to A4174 and keep straight on for either 1.6 miles and turn left into Filton Avenue (stadium is on LHS after approximately 1 mile,) or approximately 2 miles and turn left on to the A38 (see route from South West/Midlands/North.)
- Exit M4 at Junction 20 (s/p Bristol (West)) on to M5 for approximately a quarter of a mile before exit at Junction 16 (see route from South West/Midlands/North.)

Be a part of the New Leek & District Stoke City Supporters Group?

Stoke City Supporters are inviting you to join a regular group of supporters travelling to home matches on an organised coach, plus additional benefits.

This newly formed group will operate from the Dyers Arms Public House on Macclesfield Road.

To launch the new scheme, a evening at the Dyers Arms for all interested parties is planned, this will take place on 14th December 2000 starting at 7.00pm.

No entrance charge

The evening will consist of a question and answer session with the Stoke City Manager, Gujon Thordarson, and information about the group and the benefits for supporters joining.

Membership to the scheme is free

Stoke City Football Club are very supportive of such groups and have pledged to fully support the scheme.

Why not give it a try?

Take the hassle out of driving to home matches? plus other benefits?

Be at the Dyers Arms Pub for the launch
14th December 2000 7.00pm start
For More detail contact Andy Morgan at the
Britannia Stadium on 01782-592217.

Fans Eye View

by Malcolm Clarke,
National Chair of the
Football Supporters
Association



I write this (on a wet coach heading for Swindon) as Leeds move for Rio Ferdinand for an astonishing £18m and Rangers have paid £12m for Tore Andre Flo. For such sums to be paid when the transfer system might end because of an EC directive shows the top clubs' extraordinary determination to remain in the money-spinning European competitions.

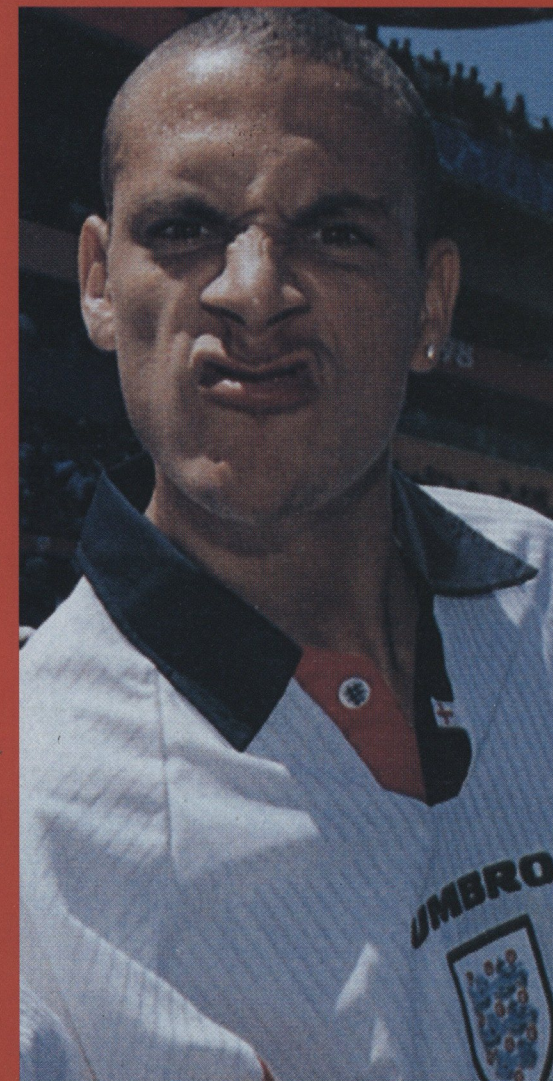
Two days before you read this I am part of a group from all sectors of football meeting The European Commissioner responsible for sport, to discuss this issue.

The initial response to this issue by those who run our game was, I feel, typically blinkered. FIFA and UEFA had two years to respond to Europe's concern, but ignored the issue until it was almost too late. It will be difficult to make the case that football should have an exemption (or a 'special protocol' in Euro. language) from the rules governing other types of employment. Demanding it just because it's football won't be enough. There is such a case, based on the damage which a total free-for-all would do to the fabric of our game. There would be no incentive for investment in the development of young talent, and as Gordon Taylor has said, clubs could become just like Euston station, with players coming and going all the time.

The problem for the authorities is that the case must be based on social and community as opposed to commercial arguments. But it will be evident to the Commission that the English game is dominated by money, particularly at the top end - and it is the Premiership which is leading the opposition to the Commission's proposals.

Transfers are no longer a major way of distributing money down from the top of our game. In 1998/99 (last season's figures are not yet out) only nett £27m was paid by Premier League to Football League clubs (£11m of which was for one player, Chris Sutton.) This is small beer compared with the sums paid between themselves and to overseas clubs, and of course, with their massive TV income. If they are really concerned with the survival of Football league clubs - they know what to do with some of that TV money!

Finally, may I welcome today Yvonne Fletcher, an active FSA member, who is the elected fans Director on the Hatters' board - the first woman to hold such a position in British football.



Rio Ferdinand - an astonishing £18 million transfer to Leeds United (a world record fee for a defender).

On the Ball

with **Ladbroke's**

STOKE CITY V LUTON TOWN

Today see's the visit of Luton Town, a team in free-fall down the Division Two table, and without a victory on their travel's so far this season.

Stoke, meanwhile, will be looking to get a good run of results together, to mount their promotion challenge. I predict a comfortable home victory, by possibly 3 - 0 with Thordarson scoring the first goal.

IN THE OTHER WEEKEND'S ACTION:-

IPSWICH TOWN V DERBY COUNTY

Ipswich (8/13) have surprised many with their performances in the Premiership so far this season, and find themselves in third spot. I predict another victory for them today against a Derby side easily disposed of last weekend against a weakened Manchester United side.

MANCHESTER UNITED V TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

Manchester United (2/7) are in cruise control. Having travelled to Derby last weekend to watch them, I could not believe the ease in which they brushed aside Derby County, without the likes of Stam, Giggs, Cole and Beckham. Another home victory today, and another Premiership title come May.

BRISTOL CITY V BURY

Bristol City (2/5) continued their long unbeaten run last weekend with a hard earned draw against Wigan

Athletic. They should get back to winning ways with a victory against a Bury side in decline since their bright start to the season.

WALSALL V PORT VALE

Walsall (1/2) can continue with their excellent home form, where they are unbeaten so far this season, and although our neighbours Port Vale have enjoyed better fortunes of late, a home win looks the likely outcome.

WYCOMBE V BOURNEMOUTH

Wycombe (8/11) have proved a difficult side to overcome this season, and can continue their recent form with a victory over a struggling Bournemouth side.

SCUNTHORPE V HULL

Scunthorpe (5/6) put six past Mansfield last weekend, a victory which moved them up into the top six. With just the one defeat at home, Scunthorpe are taken to beat a Hull side which is also in good form, but whose away form has seen them register only two victories from nine so far this season.

TORQUAY UNITED V CARDIFF CITY

Cardiff (11/10) are now turning their early season draws into victories, and their promotion challenge is now coming to fruition. They should have too much quality for a poor Torquay side.

My suggestion is that you perm my selections in the following bet:-

Perm any 6 from 7 = 7 bets @ £1.00 = £7.00 staked

Perm all 7 from 7 = 1 bet @ £3.00 = £3.00 staked

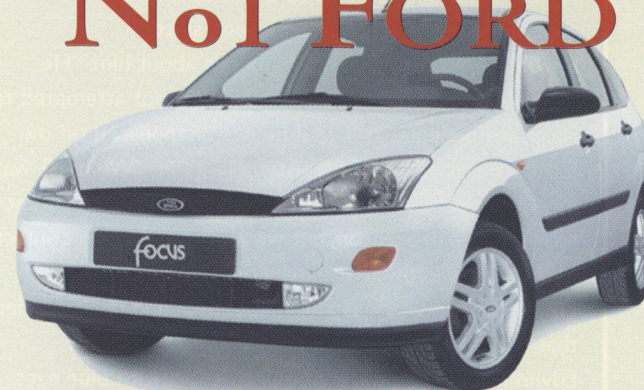
Total Stake = £10.60 (deduction paid)

If all correct you would win **£214.00**

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR SELECTIONS.

No of Selections	Dbls	Tbls	4 Folds	5 Folds	6 Folds	7 Folds	8 Folds	9 Folds	10 Folds	Full Cover
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3	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
4	6	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
5	10	10	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	26
6	15	20	15	6	1	-	-	-	-	57
7	21	35	35	21	7	1	-	-	-	120
8	28	56	70	56	28	8	1	-	-	247
9	36	84	126	126	84	36	9	1	-	502
10	45	120	210	252	210	120	45	10	1	1013

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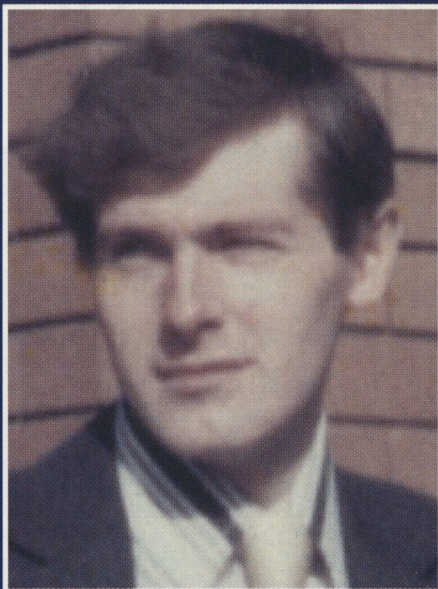
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Palmerston House, Bollington,
Macclesfield, Cheshire. SK10 5PW

Telephone: 01625 574342

Facsimile: 01625 574879

EDWIN PARKES AGE 51



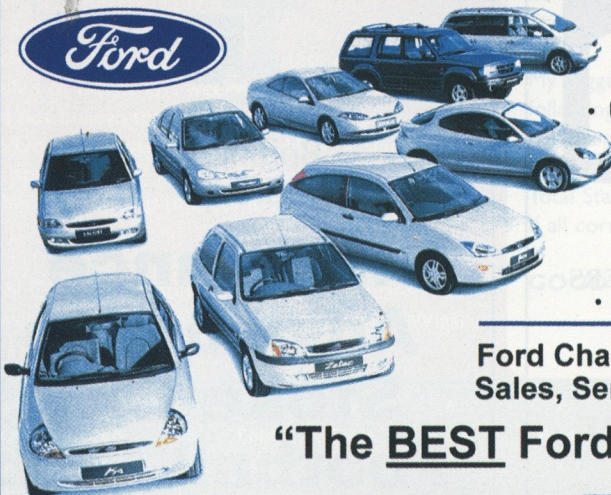
Edwin disappeared on the 9th January, 1991 from his home in Longridge Avenue, Merseyside. He was on his way to Rainhill hospital where he received treatment on a regular basis, but he failed to arrive at his hospital appointment, and has not been seen since. Edwin's family are extremely anxious about him. 'He never took a change of clothes, and has not attempted to claim any benefits. It is as if he has disappeared off the face of the earth,' said his sister, Margaret. 'We don't want to put any pressure on him to return if he doesn't want to, whatever the reason, but we just want him to contact us and let us know that he is alright.' Edwin used to work as a farm labourer, and his family feel that he may be doing some casual farm work now. Edwin is 5' 8" tall, and is of stocky build, with blue eyes and short dark brown hair. If you have any information about Edwin's whereabouts or well-being, please contact the National Missing Person's Helpline on Freefone 0500 700 700. All calls are treated in the strictest confidence.

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In the Family Area today, your young son or daughter can visit Santa Claus in his grotto free of charge (located next to the first aid station.)

Santa will be here from 1.30 pm until 2.50 pm. **SO DON'T DELAY - SEE SANTA TODAY!**



scarf at the ankles. At each changeover point, team members must pass the baton on, this can be picked up if dropped.

The winning team is first past the post with their ankles tied, and baton in hand. The contest is a straight knock-out, win and you go through to the next round.

There are two races planned for today.

Race 1 - 2

Hilltop Primary v

Oakhill Primary

Race 3 - 4

Brookhouse Primary v

St. Giles, Cheadle

School's Three Legged Relay Race

Today see's the start of the 'Schools Three Legged competition.' Some 16 teams will be taking part in the competition at forthcoming Stoke City home matches between now and the end of the season.

The Rules?

Junior school pupils from year's 4-5-6 will make up the teams. There are 12 members - 2 from each year, 1 girl, 1 boy.

The race will start on the half-way line adjacent to the Sentinel Stand. There will be 5 changeover points, being the corners of the pitch, and the half-way line opposite to the Sentinel Stand. Team members are tied together by a

Race 5 - 6

The Richard Heathcote Primary v

St. Mildred's

Race 7 - 8

Bishops Rawle Primary v

Warrington Primary

CHEER THE KIDS ON!!!!!!

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Live Group

Performing Live: 'WISH' The Song: 'THE REASON'

'Wish' is Barry Daniels and Tee Green. Tee has worked with Darryl Hall, A1, The Lighthouse Family, E17 and Alexandra O'Neal, among many others. The song that they are going to perform today was written by Barry Daniels, with a little help from his friends, following the tragic death of both of his children from Batten's disease, which led to the formation of the Rhys Daniels Trust. With the songs' great sounding LA production and tender heartfelt lyrics, this is 'THE REASON' that 'WISH' will be special this Christmas. The single is released on December, 11th.

Marketing & News

CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES

Mon 18th December 2000	The offices will close at 3.00 p.m.
Tue 19th December 2000	The offices will open at 11.00 a.m.
Wed 20th December 2000	Open as normal
Thur 21st December 2000	Open as normal
Fri 22nd December 2000	Open as normal
Sat 23rd December 2000	CLOSED (Wigan Athletic (A) K.O. 12 noon)
Sun 24th December 2000	CLOSED
Mon 25th December 2000	CLOSED - MERRY CHRISTMAS
Tue 26th December 2000	Open as normal for a match day - Bury
Wed 27th December 2000	Open as normal
Thur 28th December 2000	Open as normal
Fri 29th December 2000	Open as normal
Sat 30th December 2000	Open as normal for a match day - Bristol City
Sun 31st December 2000	CLOSED
Mon 1st January, 2001	CLOSED - HAPPY NEW YEAR (Notts. County (A) K.O. 1.00 pm)
Tuesday 2nd January, 2001	CLOSED (in lieu of Boxing Day)

MAN OF THE MATCH SPONSOR

*'The Kidsgrove
Tavern Old Boys.'*

Today's Mascots

JOE CHELL

Date of Birth: 31-5-95

School: Ascot Heath Infants School

Hobbies: Football & Computers

Favourite Player: Peter Thorne & James O'Connor

Ambition: Stoke City footballer



LAUREN CHELL

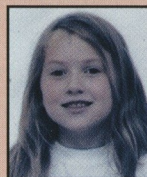
Date of Birth: 11-6-93

School: Ascot Heath Infants School

Hobbies: Football, swimming & dancing

Favourite Players: Peter Thorne & James O'Connor

Ambition: Teacher



REBECCA HOLLAND

Date of Birth: 8-12-91

School: Sir John Offley School

Hobbies: Irish dancing, watching Stoke & playing football

Favourite Players: Peter Thorne & Graham Kavanagh



Stokies at a recent visit to the Louisiana Superdome, the largest indoor sports arena in the world, where the New Orleans Saints played Carolina Panthers in the 77,000 capacity stadium.

John Alcock, Mike 'Chuck' Butcher, Carl Bullock, Simon Alcock & Craig Rushton (Blackpool)



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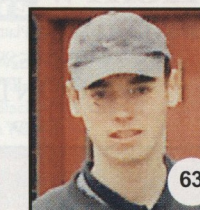
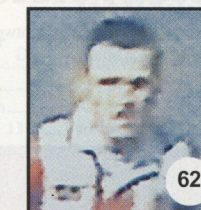
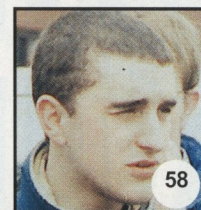
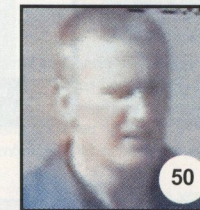
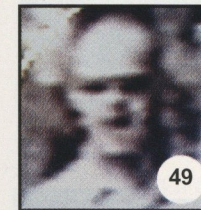
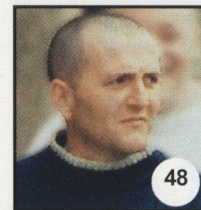
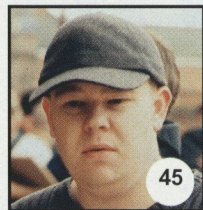
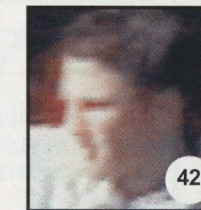
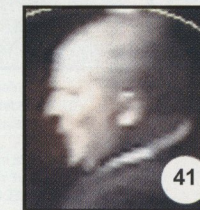
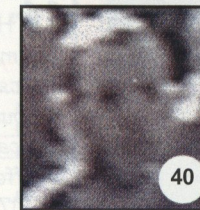
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STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE PUBLIC APPEAL

STOKE CITY F.C. -v- CARDIFF CITY F.C. 30th APRIL 2000

A number of incidents of serious public disorder occurred at the stadium during the match and afterwards in Stoke Town Centre. These people are **NOW WANTED** in connection with these incidents.



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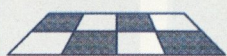
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BRENTFORD

Chairman Ron Noades has resigned as manager, following the 3 - 1 home defeat by Kingstonian in the F.A. Cup. Coach Ray Lewington takes temporary charge. Three players have been offered free transfers - Andy Woodman, Scott Marshall and Lorenzo Pinamonte.

MILLWALL

Striker Neil Harris, who was top scorer last season with 25 goals, and has already scored 14 this season, was the Nationwide Player of the Month for November. He is being watched by several Premier League sides, including Spurs, who are reported to be ready to put in a £5 million bid.

The Lions, meanwhile, are linked with Peterborough striker Dave Farrell, who has scored four goals in his last five games.

LEADING LEAGUE AND CUP SCORERS

14.....HARRIS.....Millwall
14.....FORRESTER.....Northampton Town
13.....BUTLER.....Reading
12.....CURETON.....Reading
11.....LEITAO.....Walsall
11.....SCOTT.....Brentford
11.....THORPE.....Bristol City

FULL TRANSFERS

RHYS WESTON.....Arsenal to Cardiff City
CHRIS TATE.....Scarborough to Leyton Orient
IAN MOORE.....Stockport County to Burnley
MARCUS BENT.....Sheffield United to Blackburn Rovers
NEIL MACKENZIE.....Cambridge Utd to Kidderminster H



IAN MOORE Striker Ian Moore was Burnley's recent record £1 million signing.

LOAN DEALS

RICHARD EDGHILL.....Manc City to Birmingham City
PAUL BUTLER.....Sunderland to Wolves
CARSTEN FREDGAARD.....Sunderland to Bolton WFC
ALEX O'REILLY.....West Ham Utd to Wigan Ath
DANNY ALLSOPP.....Man City to Notts County
RICHARD DRYDEN.....Southampton to Swindon Town
ADAM NEWTON.....West Ham Utd to Notts County
DARYL CLARE.....Grimsby T to Northampton T
ADRIAN WHITBREAD.....Portsmouth to Luton Town
DAVID WORRALL.....Dundee Utd to Plymouth Argyle
JAMES DUDGEON.....Barnsley to Lincoln City
KNUT ANDERS FOSTERVOID.....Molde to Grimsby Town
JAMES THOMAS.....Blackburn Rovers to Sheffield Utd

FIXTURES FOR SATURDAY, 9th DECEMBER.

F.A. CUP SECOND ROUND

Swindon Town v Gateshead
AFC Bournemouth v Nuneaton Borough
Scunthorpe v Brighton & Hove Albion

Kidderminster/Burton	v	Carlisle United
Cardiff City	v	Cheltenham
York City	v	Reading
Chester/Plymouth	v	Oxford United
Canvey Island/Port Vale	v	Torquay/Southend
Wigan Athletic	v	Gravesend/Notts County
Darlington	v	Luton Town
Rotherham United	v	Northampton Town
Bristol City	v	Kettering/Hull
Southport	v	Kingstonian
Mansfield/Peterborough	v	Oldham Athletic
Lincoln City	v	Dagenham & Redbridge
Morecambe	v	Cambridge United
Bury/Northwich	v	Leyton Orient

NATIONWIDE FIRST DIVISION

Barnsley	v	Sheffield United
Birmingham City	v	Wimbledon
Blackburn Rovers	v	QPR
Bolton Wanderers	v	Crewe Alexandra
Crystal Palace	v	Watford
Huddersfield Town	v	Wolverhampton Wanderers
Norwich City	v	Gillingham
Nottingham Forest	v	Portsmouth
Preston North End	v	Burnley
Sheffield Wednesday	v	Stockport County
Tranmere Rovers	v	Grimsby Town
West Bromwich Albion	v	Fulham

LDV VANS TROPHY, NORTHERN SECTION,
FIRST ROUND
Wrexham v Halifax

FORTHCOMING LIVE GAMES ON

SKY SPORTS

December

Sunday 3rd.....Bolton Wanderers v Watford
Friday 8th.....F.A. Cup 2nd Round Walsall v Barnet
Sunday 10th.....F.A. Cup 2nd Round Blackpool v Yeovil
Wednesday 13th.....Worthington Cup 5th Round
Saturday 16th.....Sheffield Utd v Sheffield Wed (11.30 am)
Sunday 17th.....Burnley v Blackburn (4 pm)
Friday 22nd.....Bristol City v Bristol Rovers
Friday 29th.....Barnsley v Watford

January

Monday 1st.....Preston N E v Bolton Wanderers (12 pm)

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday matches kick-off at 7.45 pm.
Sunday matches kick-off 1 pm



THE TOP CROWD

Last Saturday was 12,708 at Ashton Gate to see Bristol City held to a 1 - 1 draw by Wigan Athletic.

DEREK STILLIE (Wigan) Had a rare outing in goal for Wigan last Saturday, but made some fine saves to help earn his side a point which keeps them level with Walsall on 38 points, and just one point behind league leaders Millwall, who are on 39.

Nationwide



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Ticket & Travel Information

LDV Vans Trophy 1st Round

v Scarborough (Home)

Wednesday 6th December 2000 k.o. 7.45 p.m.

Prices have been REDUCED for this fixture.
The Sentinel Stand and the Family Area will be
CLOSED for this fixture. Tickets will be issued on an
UNRESERVED BASIS priced £8 Adults £3
concessions.

South Car Park passes are available priced £1 each
(seasonal passes are valid.) Normal Prices of £2
Adults £1 Juniors apply to the Legends Bar. Visiting
supporters are to pay cash at turnstiles, prices £8
adults £3 concessions.



Nationwide League Division Two

v Bristol Rovers (Away)

Saturday 16th December 2000 k.o. 3.00 pm.

Admission to this fixture for Stoke City supporters is
STRICTLY BY TICKET ONLY.

Allocation 1132 terrace, priced £11 Adults £5.50
concessions.



Nationwide League Division Two

v Wigan Athletic (Away)

Saturday 23rd December 2000 k.o. 12 noon

THIS FIXTURE HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS
STRICTLY TICKET ONLY.

Seat ticket prices £12 Adults £7 Concessions.



Ticket Sales Dates for Bristol and Wigan Premier &
Legend members may purchase one ticket from
Monday 4th December, 2000 Season Ticket Holders
may purchase one ticket from Tuesday 5th December,
2000

Worldwide Fan club members may purchase one
ticket from Thursday 7th December 2000 City Loyal
members may purchase one ticket from Friday 8th
December, 2000 Any remaining tickets will go on
general sale on Saturday 9th December, 2000

Nationwide League Division Two

v Bury (Home)

Tuesday 26th December, 2000 k.o. 3.00 p.m.

Normal Admission Prices/Arrangements apply to this
fixture. Visiting supporters are to pay cash at
turnstiles, prices £16 Adults £9 Concessions.



Nationwide League Division Two

v Bristol City (Home)

Saturday 30th December 2000 k.o. 3.00 p.m.

Normal Admission Prices/Arrangements apply to this
fixture. Visiting supporters are to pay cash at
turnstiles, prices £16 Adults £9 Concessions.



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Nationwide League Division Two

v Notts County (Away)

Monday 1st January, 2001. k.o. *1pm

Admission to this fixture for Stoke City
supporters is STRICTLY BY TICKET ONLY.
Allocation 4500 seat tickets priced £13 Adults
£7 Concessions. Premier & Legend members
may purchase one ticket from Monday 11th December, 2000.
Season Ticket Holders may purchase one ticket from Tuesday
12th December, 2000.

Worldwide Fan Club members may purchase one ticket from
Thursday 14th December, 2000. City Loyal members may
purchase one ticket from Friday 15th December, 2000. Any
remaining tickets will go on general sale on Saturday 16th
December, 2000.

THE LAST CHANCE TO BUY TICKETS FOR THIS GAME IS
AFTER THE BRISTOL CITY HOME GAME ON SATURDAY
30th DECEMBER, 2000, as the ticket office is closed on Sunday
31st December, 2000 and Monday 1st January, 2001 (THE
MATCHDAY)



Away Travel

FIXTURE	DEPART	PREMIER MEMBER	LEG & WFC	S/T HOLDER & OAP	JUNIOR MEMBER	NON MEMBER
Bristol Rov	10.30 am	£10.00	£11.00	£9.00	£13.00	
Wigan Ath	9.30 am	£7.50	£8.50	£6.50	£10.00	
Notts County	10.30 am	£7.50	£6.50	£6.50	£10.00	

■ ALL TICKETS ARE SOLD SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS AND
AVAILABILITY

Ticket Purchases

Tickets can be bought in the following ways:-

- In person from the Britannia Stadium Ticket Office.
- By telephone - 24 hour telephone bookings - Ticket
Master 0990 133221
- By fax - 24 hours - 01782 592201
- By post - From the Britannia Stadium, Stanley
Matthews Way, Stoke on Trent. ST4 4EG. Cheques and
postal orders made payable to Stoke City FC Ltd.

EXPRESS WINDOWS: Both Stadium Ticket Offices will have
Express Windows open from 1.00pm for adult cash only purchases
for the Stand and Blocks indicated by signage for supporters
convenience. There is no facility for concessions at these windows.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR SUPPORTERS

WHEEL CLAMPING

Due to problems being encountered on the South Car Park by
persons, who, by various means, are endeavouring not to pay to
park their vehicles, a wheelclamping system is in operation. Warning
signs will be displayed and any vehicle parked on the South Car
Park not displaying a valid car park pass will be clamped.
The operation will be carried out by a private company, release fee
will be £50.00 and vehicles will be towed away two hours after the
end of the match. The owner of any vehicle clamped will make all
enquiries to the wheel clamping company and not to Stoke City
Football Club.

with Ian Cranson

Reserves



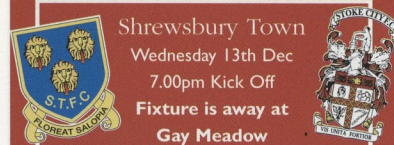
FIXTURES 2000-01

Mon 14th Aug	Shrewsbury Town (2pm)	1-1
Wed 30th Aug	York City (7pm)	0-3
Wed 6th Sept	Scunthorpe United (7pm)	2-1
Mon 18th Sept	Sheffield United (2pm)	0-0
Wed 27th Sept	Wrexham	3-1
Wed 4th Oct	Grimsby Town (7pm)	3-1
Mon 9th Oct	Darlington (2pm)	1-3
Wed 25th Oct	Wrexham (2pm)	3-1
Wed 8th Nov	Blackpool (2pm)	2-1
Wed 15th Nov	Lincoln City (7pm)	2-2
Mon 20th Nov	Walsall (Newcastle Town)	0-1
Mon 4th Dec	Wigan Ath. (Newcastle Town)	H
Wed 13th Dec	Shrewsbury Town (7.30pm)	A
Mon 8th Jan	York City (Newcastle Town)	H
Wed 24th Jan	Wigan Athletic (2pm)	A
Mon 5th Feb	Scunthorpe Utd (Newcastle Town)	A
A Wed 14th Feb	Sheffield United (7pm)	H
Mon 26th Feb	Grimsby Town (Newcastle Town)	H
Wed 14th Mar	Darlington	A
Mon 26th Mar	Blackpool (2pm)	H
Wed 11th Apr	Wrexham (7pm)	A
Wed 18th Apr	Walsall (2pm)	A
Mon 23rd Apr	Lincoln City (2pm)	A

Kick-off times are in brackets.

The only disappointment was that two such quality pieces of finishing didn't get us all three points after we led 2-0...

Coming Next



The value of being able to call upon experienced players was highlighted when we took a point from our Avon Insurance League trip to Lincoln.

The match finished 2-2 - and we were indebted to two cool pieces of finishing from Kyle Lightbourne.

Kyle grabbed a goal in each half and both times kept his head to walk the ball around Lincoln's goalkeeper before rolling it into the net.

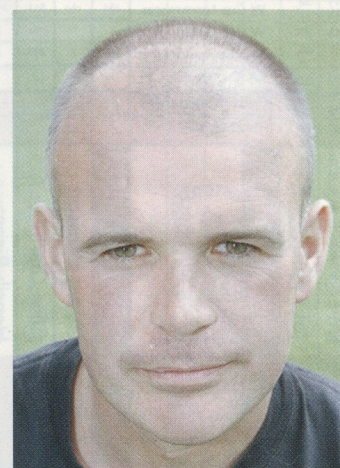
The only disappointment was that two such quality pieces of finishing didn't get us all three points after we led 2-0. Kyle put us in front with as well worked a goal as you will see after nine minutes when Marc Goodfellow dummied Dean Crowe's cross.

After 50 minutes Kyle's persistence paid off when one of Lincoln's centre-backs misjudged the bounce of a long ball out of our defence and he nipped in to round their goalkeeper for a second time. Unfortunately, we let them back into it within five minutes when our Icelandic triallist goalkeeper Hjórvar Hafliðason brought down a home forward to concede a penalty. Within ten minutes we were caught asleep at the back and they equalised. After that the game could have gone either way and while we were the better side overall we never looked really watertight at the back. A draw was probably the right result. Five days later we fielded a really young side against Walsall at the Lyme Valley and went down 1-0. Our plans had to be redrawn



after the seniors drew their FA Cup tie with Nuneaton, meaning a replay on the Tuesday and regulars like Lewis Neale, Ashley Woolliscroft and Lee Collins being pulled out of our squad to travel to Warwickshire with the first-team.

Brian Wilson, Gareth Owen, Mark Cromie and Martin Shaw all started a reserve game for the first time and the average age of the side was 18 with Dean Crowe the veteran at 21! Having said that, the lads coped very well against a strong Walsall outfit boasting the likes of Chris Marsh, Ian Roper, Darren Wrack, Dean Keates and Brett Angell. Though we didn't create many chances we had plenty of the play while restricting Walsall to long-range efforts and the game was even-stevens until the 84th minute, when Keates scored the only goal from 20 yards. There are times when you can take quite a bit of satisfaction from a defeat and this was one of them. The young players all did well and give us plenty of hope for the future.



We faced the might of Manchester United at the Lyme Valley Stadium and went down 3-0 - but it was a far better performance than our previous home defeat, 1-0 to Crewe.

This time the lads didn't make the mistake of paying the opposition too much respect and standing off to let them play. We got stuck in to United and the final score wasn't a true reflection of the game. We had long spells of possession but didn't take the chances we had, while they had three chances and took them all. So the big difference between the two sides was the quality of the finishing - and ours was poor on the day. United punished us twice with goals before half-time and that could have killed us completely. But to our lads' credit they took the game to them in the second-half and United had to work hard to hold on to what they had before hitting us with a late third goal. So overall not a bad performance and if we can play like that against the best youngsters in the country, but improve our finishing, there is plenty to look forward to. We were especially impressed by the dedication of goalkeeper Danny Allcock. Danny had been

through a difficult week with his grandmother passing away but he wanted to play in the game and handled the situation very well with great maturity and professionalism.

The fixtures get no easier, and six days after United we faced Manchester City at the Platt Lane training complex and went down 1-0. Again, we had a fair portion of the play but on this occasion struggled to create too many chances in what was a tight match and lost to a goal after 25 minutes. With Marc Goodfellow's promotion we are lacking a little in attack but we are working on it and should see an improvement soon.

FA Youth Cup

WE face a third round replay against Wolves at Molineux this Tuesday (Dec 5, 7pm ko) after a 0-0 draw at the Britannia. Hopefully the lads will find it easier to make inroads then they did against a very defensive visitors' line-up on Monday. Wolves played with just one striker and used two other forward players wide to stop our full-backs attacking! A game of few chances rarely threatened to produce a breakthrough and it always looked like a tie which one goal might settle. We had the best of what opportunities there were, but too often let ourselves down with a poor final ball or a poor finish. Our best effort came from Kris Commons, who forced a good save from their goalkeeper from long range. But there is nothing for the lads to be afraid of in the replay. The two teams are very closely matched, but we are ahead on points so far and defensively we were very solid.

with Dave Kevan

Academy

UNDER 19'S FIXTURES 2000-01

Sat 26th Aug	Southampton	2-2
Sat 2nd Sept	Norwich City	2-2
Sat 9th Sept	Sheffield Wednesday	2-2
Sat 16th Sept	Nottingham Forest	3-6
Sat 23rd Sept	Newcastle United	1-5
Sat 30th Sept	Middlesbrough	3-3
Sat 7th Oct	Barnsley	2-3
Sat 21st Oct	Leicester City	0-2
Sat 28th Oct	Everton	0-3
Sat 4th Nov	Bolton Wanderers	3-1
Sat 11th Nov	Crewe Alexandra	0-1
Sat 18th Nov	Manchester United	0-3
Sat 25th Nov	Manchester City	A
Sat 2nd Dec	Liverpool	H
Sat 16th Dec	Wrexham	A
Sat 13th Jan	Wolverhampton Wands	H
Sat 20th Jan	Blackburn Rovers	A
Sat 27th Jan	Manchester City	H
Sat 3rd Feb	Manchester United	A
Sat 10th Feb	Wrexham	H
Sat 17th Feb	Liverpool	A
Sat 24th Feb	Blackburn Rovers	H
Sat 3rd Mar	Wolverhampton Wands	A
Sat 10th Mar	Everton	A
Sat 17th Mar	Bolton Wanderers	H
Sat 24th Mar	Crewe Alexandra	A
Sat 7th Apr	Derby County	H
Sat 21st Apr	Huddersfield Town	A

We got stuck in to United and the final score wasn't a true reflection of the game...

Coming Next



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Nationwide League Division 2

	HOME					AWAY						
	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	Pld	W	D	L	F	A
Millwall	19	6	1	2	18	5	6	2	2	18	11	20
Walsall	19	7	3	0	23	8	4	2	3	12	10	17
Wigan	19	8	1	0	14	5	2	7	1	11	9	11
Rotherham	19	5	2	3	20	13	6	2	1	13	9	11
Reading	18	7	1	1	29	9	3	1	5	8	13	15
Stoke	18	4	2	2	13	6	4	4	2	16	14	9
Weymouth	19	6	1	2	16	8	2	5	3	4	7	5
Bristol City	18	3	3	3	16	10	4	4	1	11	5	12
Northampton	18	3	3	2	10	10	5	1	4	11	10	1
Wrexham	19	3	2	5	10	14	4	3	2	20	18	2
Cambridge	19	4	3	3	19	13	2	3	4	11	15	2
Peterborough	19	5	2	2	15	10	2	1	7	8	16	3
Bury	18	4	2	3	10	12	3	1	5	7	11	6
Notts County	18	2	3	3	12	13	5	0	5	9	16	8
Bristol Rovers	18	0	5	3	6	10	5	2	3	18	10	4
Brentford	16	4	3	2	10	13	1	4	2	7	12	8
Colchester	19	3	3	4	9	10	2	3	4	7	11	5
Port Vale	17	4	4	2	17	8	1	1	5	3	14	2
Bournemouth	18	2	4	3	9	8	2	3	4	17	16	2
Oldham	18	3	2	4	10	11	2	2	5	9	18	10
Swansea	18	2	3	4	9	10	2	3	4	10	15	6
Swindon	19	2	4	4	12	19	2	1	6	6	18	19
Luton	19	2	1	6	9	15	0	5	4	8	17	15
Oxford	19	1	2	7	7	14	1	0	8	10	28	25



League Appearances
Nat'wide Goals
W. Cup Appearances
W. Cup Goals
FA. Cup Appearances
FA. Cup Goals

Total Appearances
Total Goals

	8	12	1+5	5+5	17
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Mikael Hansson					
Clive Clarke					
Henrik Risom					
Nicky Mohan					



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Stoke City v Luton Town



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2 Mikael HANSSON	2 Gavin McGOWAN
3 Clive CLARKE	4 Matthew SPRING
4 Henrik RISOM	5 Julian WATTS
5 Nicky MOHAN	6 Marvin JOHNSON
6 Brynjar GUNNARSSON	7 Peter THOMSON
7 Bjarni GUDJONSSON	8 Paul McLAREN
8 Graham KAVANAGH	9 Stuart DOUGLAS
9 Peter THORNE	10 Mark STEIN
10 Rikhardur DADASON	11 Liam GEORGE
12 Kyle LIGHTBOURNE	12 Adam LOCKE
14 Carl MUGGLETON	13 Stuart FRASER
15 Tony DORIGO	14 Andrew FOTIADIS
16 Paul CONNOR	15 Matthew TAYLOR
17 James O'CONNOR	16 Nathan ABBEY
18 Ben PETTY	17 Emmerson BOYCE
19 Stefan THORDARSON	18 Tresor KANDOL
20 Kris SIGURDSSON	19 James AYRES
21 Robert HEATH	20 Peter HOLMES
22 Chris IWELUMO	21 Andre SCARLETT
23 Wayne THOMAS	22 Dean BRENNAN
24 Matthew BULLOCK	23 Jude STIRLING
25 Ashley WOOLISCROFT	24 Scott WARD
27 Frode KIPPE	26 Friedrich BREITENFELDER
28 Lewis NEAL	28 Rocky BAPTISTE
29 Mark GOODFELLOW	29 Kent KARLSEN
31 Birkir KRISTINSSON	30 Petri HELIN
	31 Lee NOGAN
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