

COLCHESTER UNITED

the award winning colchester united matchday magazine

COLCHESTER
UNITED FC



V LUTON TOWN

MONDAY 21ST

APRIL 2003

KICK-OFF 3.00PM

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Preserves of Distinction



WELCOME

WELCOME the hatters

Welcome to this afternoon's game against Luton Town, where a couple of familiar faces are returning to Layer Road. Carl Emberson and Aaron Skelton have been in and out of the Hatters team this season and we're sure you'll give them a warm welcome today.

The match is the U's penultimate home game of the season - the last being against QPR in just under two weeks time. Please note that this game

is all ticket and you need to buy your tickets in advance! Contact the Ticket Office on 0845 330 2975 for more details.

Also, after today's game, be sure to stick around because the Ladies are in town. The Colchester United Ladies side will be making their Layer Road debut today as they take on Gillingham Ladies - the match is free for you to stay and watch, so enjoy the fare on offer!



inside today's issue...

p5 Manager Phil Parkinson tells us how he thinks things have gone recently, as well as the latest on his plans for the summer.

p6 This afternoon's game provides the U's with another chance of recording a double after a 2-1 win at Kenilworth Road in December. Take a look at the men trying to stop that happening - our visitors, Luton Town.

p10 The first points dropped at home for six games, the U's had to work hard for their point. The best of the action shots from the Notts County game here!

p14 The Ladies will be strutting their stuff on the pitch after the mens' fixture - take a look at the squads of both sides here.



p20 What have the U's supporters made of recent events? We've got your letters and e-mails on the hot topics affecting the club.

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p47 The players have done their bit, but there are plenty of unsung heroes at the club. How do you fancy giving someone a bit of recognition?

p48 And some of our younger guns have had a great season too - find out how you can vote for our Young Player Of The Year!

match SPONSORS

This afternoon's Match Sponsors are **Falcon Plumbing & Heating**.

Ardent fans of the U's through thick and thin, this is the third time that Falcon have been Match Sponsors this season. We hope that they and their guests have a good time this afternoon and, if previous occasions are anything to go by, they certainly will!

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HONOURS:

Division Three Play-Off Winners 1997/98
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Southern League Cup Winners 1937/38 & 1949/50
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Welcome to Layer Road for this afternoon's game against Luton Town - I hope that Joe Kinnear, his players and the Hatters supporters have had a safe journey to Colchester and get home without any problems this evening.

Luton have done well this season to have come up and to earn a top half finish in their first season back in Division Two. I'm sure that Joe and the rest of the club would have liked to get into the play-offs at the first attempt, but it's still been a successful season for them.

Looking back at the last home game against Notts County, I thought that in the first half we could have scored a couple of goals before conceding the goal just before half time. I didn't think we necessarily deserved to concede that goal as we'd defended well in the first half, but I told the lads to keep at the game in the same manner after the break.

Deflate

Conceding a goal just before the break can deflate you, and it certainly gave Notts County a lift. In the first half we created a few good chances, but I think we probably got a bit tired in the second half.

To be honest, I think the lads have given an incredible amount of effort over the past few weeks, and perhaps in the last twenty minutes of that home match that began to catch up with some of the players. We also have one or two key players missing who can unlock



SEE PHIL PARKINSON
REGULARLY ON U'S WORLD -
MORE DETAILS ON PAGE 25

doors for us and, against another team who are doing well at the moment, so overall I was very pleased with what was a good point.

We are finishing this season with a tough series of fixtures and I knew that when we beat Swindon in late March, that was a massive victory for us because it took us to 52 points and gave us a virtually safe position in the table ahead of a hard run in. We can now go into our remaining games with the opportunity to try players out and try different options without compromising on our goal of picking up as many points as possible.

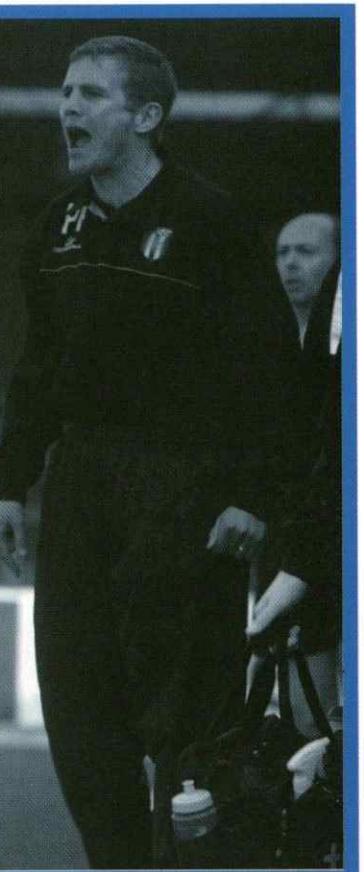
Fresh legs

It is a fine balance between trying these options and not affecting the team strength, and although we want to win every game, there are players that deserve their chance as well as using it as an opportunity to give the team some fresh legs.

However, if you look at the bench against Notts County, you can see that we haven't got all that many options available, especially in the attacking third of the field.

And, with the end of the season coming up, contract talks are beginning. It's a difficult time in football, both for the club and the players. The club have to be aware of where they will be pitching their offers, whilst the players have to consider what is realistic for them to be asking in this current climate.

It's at the stage now where even football agents are saying that their players are happy to have offers on the table, because they



saying now that clubs are releasing players and not necessarily replacing them. They want to run with smaller squads and, just because they're releasing four or five, it doesn't mean the same amount will be taken back on. It's a difficult time and, if you've got a contract, you're one of the fortunate ones.

Finally, the summer's nearly upon us and we're now working out what the players will be doing over the next few months fitness wise to ensure that every member of the squad comes back in preparation for the new season in top shape, mentally and physically.

Parky

Like Colchester United manager Phil Parkinson - and a host of other bosses around the country - Luton Town chief Joe Kinnear already has one eye on next season.

Coming into this afternoon's match, the Hatters are 13 points adrift of the final play-off spot with the recent defeat at QPR finally putting to bed any hopes that there may be a second successive promotion for Kinnear's men. But, again like Parky, the bubbly Luton manager has been discussing with his board just what is available to spend over the summer as he looks to strengthen his squad.

He told the Luton Herald & Post: "I've got seven players out of contract and I need to decide whether I want to keep them or let them go. If I do let them go I need to be sure that the wage structure allows me to bring in Sammy Igoe and one or two others.

"I can't keep what I have got and strengthen it otherwise I would have done that two months ago and we would probably be sitting in the play-offs now. I've got a board meeting on Tuesday and I'll want to find out if I have any kind of budget.

"I need that clarified to see what direction I am going in. Am I still dealing in free transfers or can I go and spend £50,000 on a player?"

Igoe, who joined the Hatters from Parkinson's old club Reading on loan until the end of the season, has impressed Kinnear in his short time at Kenilworth Road. And, if the former Wimbledon manager has his way, he will be hoping to keep the pacy winger.

Kinnear added in the paper: "I hope that he will join us. He's been a breath of fresh air since he came in and has been arguably our best player in both games he's played. He was in tremendous form at Cheltenham. He's a difficult player to stop when he's travelling with the ball."

"He's very bright and can see a pass. I would dearly love to sign him but I will have to juggle the books again. I need to get players out to get players in. Carl Griffiths knows he won't be involved next season. He knows he's on his way and one or two others have a good idea that they will also be going."

"I've got to make decisions about both keepers and we'll have to wait and see. I'll probably be able to say more about them next week after the QPR game."

Kinnear plans to offload at least six players to make way for new signings. So despite the fact that the play-offs are out of reach, there's still plenty to play for!

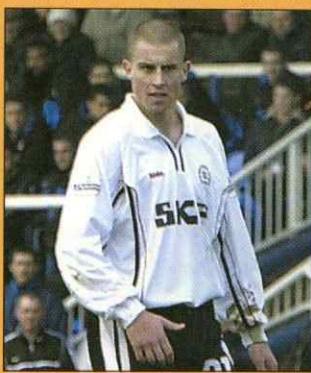
The Luton team that lost 2-0 at QPR on April 12th was...



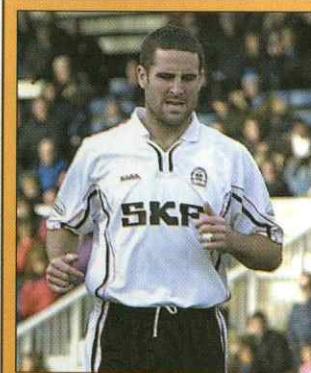
MARK OVENDALE When Mike Watson-Challis became the chairman in the summer of 2000, he made cash available to secure goalkeeper Ovendale from Bournemouth for £425,000, a Luton record fee for a goalkeeper. He was previously with Wisbech, Northampton and Barry Town. Last season he was one of two capable goalkeepers fighting for the keeper's jersey, competing with former U's stopper Carl Emberton.



EMMERSOIN BOYCE The defender was signed as a YTS boy in the summer of 1995 after coming through Luton's Youth Development programme, and made the breakthrough to the League squad at the age of 19 midway through the 1999/2000 season. He became a regular at right back, with a liking to attack on the overlap, and signed a new contract in the summer of 2002.



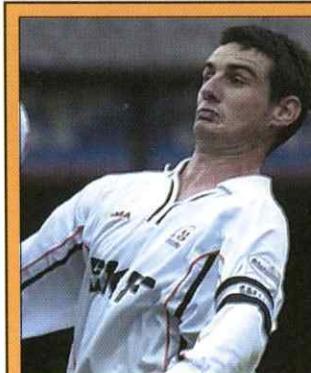
CHRIS WILLMOTT Chris became the latest in a long line of ex-Hatters to return to Kenilworth Road when he signed on a month's loan from Wimbledon at the end of January 2003. Bedford-born Willmott, 25 when he returned to Luton, grew up in the same Youth Team as Matthew Spring, Emmerson Boyce, Gary Doherty and Andrew Fotiadis. Tall and strong, good in the air but also with the ball at his feet and an intelligent player.



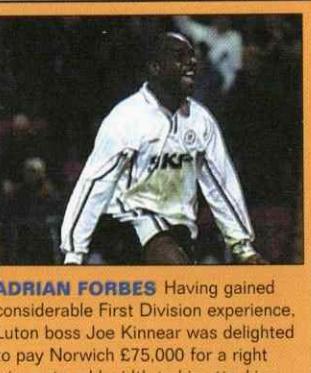
CHRIS COYNE Australian Coyne signed for West Ham as a teenager, but Premiership chances were few and far between, and after loan spells at Brentford and Southend, Coyne went to Dundee. A £50,000 cheque persuaded the Scottish Premier League club to let the defender move to Kenilworth Road in September 2001 and Coyne rapidly became a crowd favourite in the promotion run that followed.



KEVIN NICHOLLS The tough-tackling midfielder began his career as a trainee alongside Kem Izzet at Charlton. Luton's offer of £150,000 led to him moving to Kenilworth Road. He quickly became team captain, and his huge enthusiasm and ferocious tackling soon made him a big favourite with Luton fans, although opponents did not always view his all-action style with similar relish.



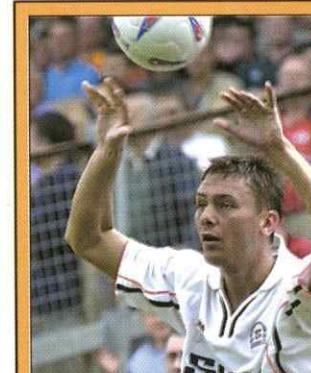
MATTHEW SPRING There was relief all round when the competitive midfielder accepted a new contract at Kenilworth Road at the end of last season. He was influential in the Luton team that won promotion last season, and manager Joe Kinnear's determination to guide Luton to a second successive step up helped to persuade Spring to remain at his only club, rather than insist on leaving under freedom of contract.



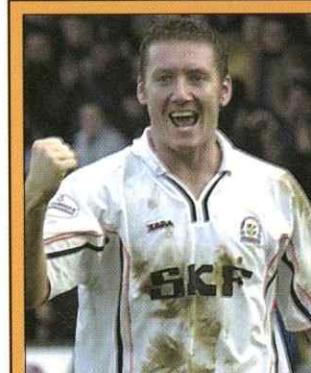
ADRIAN FORBES Having gained considerable First Division experience, Luton boss Joe Kinnear was delighted to pay Norwich £75,000 for a right winger to add width to his attacking formation. Forbes is noted for his ability to run at and past defenders, either to deliver crosses from out wide, or to cut in and have a crack at goal.



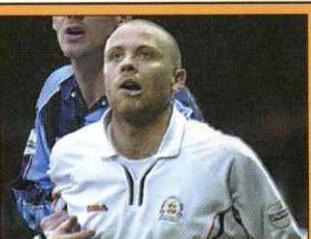
PETER HOLMES A product of the FA School of Excellence, from the same year as Michael Owen, Sheffield Wednesday were his first club, but their relegation from the Premiership in May 2000 left them desperate to cut the pay-roll and he joined Luton for a nominal fee.



SOL DAVIS It was a huge disappointment to Swindon Town, and a coup for Luton, when the highly-rated defender decided to leave the County Ground after his contract expired at the end of last season. Swindon boss Andy King failed in attempts to persuade him to sign a new deal, and Luton manager Joe Kinnear nipped in to add the tough-tackling left back to his squad.



STEVE HOWARD Joe Kinnear swooped on deadline day in March 2001 to prise the tall striker away from Northampton for £50,000, and the deal looks a bigger bargain with every game. He helped Northampton win promotion to Division Two, and they grudgingly accepted a third of their asking price for a player who would have left for nothing soon afterwards under the Bosman ruling.



PAUL HUGHES A former Chelsea player under Glenn Hoddle, Hughes followed the former England manager to Southampton but a serious groin injury and new management at St Marys saw him leave the Saints and join Luton just before last season kicked off.

DAVID BAYLISS A horrendous illness and injury crisis, with 24 players unavailable, led to Luton making one of their best signings last season. Manager Joe Kinnear spent a week in November 2001 chasing players to try to plug the gaps, and discovered to his great delight that Rochdale were prepared to release their longest-serving player. Centre-half Bayliss jumped at the chance to join the Hatters, and played a full part in the promotion campaign that followed.

AHMET BRKOVIC Believing a move would be good for his career, the midfield playmaker refused new terms at Leyton Orient in the summer of 2001, to join Luton on a Bosman free transfer. Orient had signed him on a free from HNK Dubrovnik in the autumn of 1999, and he became a regular in their league squad. He was bitterly disappointed when they failed in the play-offs to win promotion to the Second Division, and decided he might have a better chance if he joined Luton.

DEAN CROWE The striker was signed on loan from Stoke City in September 2001 when an injury crisis decimated the Hatters squad. He made an immediate impact, scoring on his debut, at Plymouth, and was soon signed on a permanent deal. His goals helped Luton win promotion last season. Crowe began his career as a YTS boy at Stoke, but found it difficult to hold down a regular place in their league side after a change of management and an influx of Scandinavian players.

CARL EMBERSON Wanting competition for the first team goalkeeper's spot, Joe Kinnear signed Emberson in the summer of 2001. Ironically, Plymouth, who went on to edge Luton out of the Third Division championship a few months later, were also interested in a player who chose to leave Walsall under the Bosman ruling.

CARL GRIFFITHS An impressive scoring record - a goal in every 2.5 starts for seven previous clubs - led to the striker becoming a major target for Luton after their relegation from the Second Division in 2001. They got their man from Leyton Orient for £65,000, but he suffered a broken leg soon afterwards and missed most of the

promotion season after a highly promising start.

IAN HILLIER The day before making his debut for Luton he was training with Spurs, where he was captain of the reserves, but a crop of injuries at Luton led to Joe Kinnear taking the young right back on loan, and Hillier settled in so quickly that Luton soon decided to buy him for a bargain £30,000 fee and he became a regular squad member.

MARVIN JOHNSON Longest-serving player at Kenilworth Road, Johnson is probably the most popular member of the Kenilworth Road staff with his colleagues and fans alike, but he knows that his first team chances are likely to be limited this season as younger men make an impact. He is the only member of the staff to have appeared in all four divisions for Luton.

ALAN KIMBLE When Luton won promotion last season, Joe Kinnear felt that he needed more experience in his squad to help his young side cope with the Second Division. He knew exactly what he was getting when he signed defender Kimble, because the two had been manager and player together at Wimbledon for most of the 1990s. Now they have teamed up again after the Dons released Kimble last summer.

LEE MANSELL The young midfielder is hoping to make the permanent breakthrough into Luton's first team this season, after making a dramatic surprise debut. Because of injury absences, he had to make the transition straight from the youth squad to the first team in January 2001, and was just 58 seconds into his debut against Queens Park Rangers, in an FA Cup third round replay, when he scored.

ALAN NEILSON With Luton's promotion bid going well in February 2002, Joe Kinnear felt it was the right time to boost his squad for the run-in, and defender Neilson, a former Welsh international, was signed on a free transfer after being released by Grimsby as part of a cost-cutting exercise. He brought with him plenty of top football experience.

RUSSELL PERRETT Having helped Cardiff City win promotion to the

Second Division in May 2001, the big central defender was the victim of a huge recruitment drive at Ninian Park and Perrett knew his first team future at Cardiff might be limited. Luton boss Joe Kinnear had a long-standing friendship with Cardiff owner Sam Hammam, from the time when they were manager and owner at Wimbledon, and Hammam allowed Perrett to join Luton a few days before last season began. It proved to be a shrewd acquisition, with Perrett an automatic choice in the promotion-winning team, losing his place only when injuries and a suspension intervened.

STEVE ROBINSON Having rebuilt his side to win promotion from the Third Division, manager Joe Kinnear knew that an even stronger squad was needed for this season's challenge, and one of his first summer signings was midfielder Robinson, for £50,000 from Preston North End. Capped five times by Northern Ireland, the attacking midfielder had made his name at Bournemouth after joining the Cherries on a free transfer from Spurs, where he had been a trainee.

AARON SKELTON It was a case of going "back home" when the defender, born a few miles from Luton, signed for the Hatters for the second time in July 2000. He had joined the club as a schoolboy, and worked his way up through the ranks to be on the fringe of the league team when he was 19. But a succession of injuries sidelined him for long periods and a change of club, on a free transfer to Colchester in the summer of 1997, brought a much-needed change of luck and Skelton rapidly became a big favourite at Layer Road.

TONY THORPE When he joined Luton as a Bosman free transfer in the summer of 2002, it was the fourth time he had signed for the Hatters! After first playing for the club in 1992 at the age of 18 Thorpe had spells at Fulham and Bristol City before returning to Luton twice in 1999 on loan deals, but a permanent move could not be sorted out, until, in the summer of 2002, Thorpe became a free agent, and could hardly wait to get back to his old pals at Kenilworth Road. They will be delighted if he can reproduce the strike rate of his first spell at Luton - 60 goals in 144 games.

Fresh from running his first and only London Marathon, Colchester MP Bob Russell is urging Colchester United supporters to make their voices heard in the forthcoming local elections to help push through plans for a new community stadium.

It is just over a week since Mr Russell completed the Marathon wearing his beloved U's shirt and he had a lot to thank the Layer Road crowd for. Last Saturday the Liberal Democrat's sports spokesman spent the afternoon watching Colchester United's 1-1 draw with Notts County. But the Colchester United season ticket holder was not just taking in the match.

Bob was busy collecting money for his chosen charities as sponsorship for the big event the next day. And the U's supporters made a considerable contribution to the estimated £1,800 he raised for the Children's Ward at Colchester General Hospital and The Guide Dogs for the Blind.

The 57-year-old MP does not expect to take part in another one and he completed the event in a time of six hours and 20 minutes. "It was a fantastic occasion. I shall always remember this as a special day," he said after the gruelling run. "The warmth of the crowd throughout the course was what kept me going. I got a serious groin injury at about the

halfway point but was determined to battle on - and even managed a bit of a sprint for the final 50 yards down The Mall for the finishing line."

"Special thanks to U's fans," he added. "I collected £530 at Saturday's game. I wore a U's shirt throughout the 26 miles, with

many in the U's crowd giving a cheer when they recognised the U's badge."

Back in the House of Commons with aching limbs last week Bob was back to the business of championing local issues though. He wrote to the Matchday Magazine to stress the importance of Colchester United supporters demanding backing for a new Community Stadium from candidates of all political parties in the coming elections.

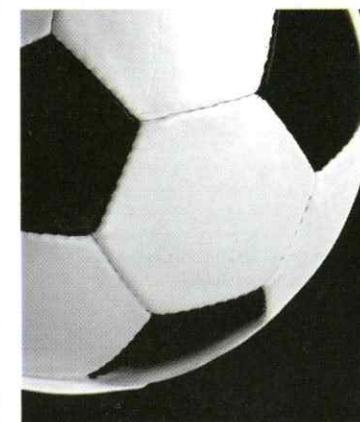
Mr Russell said: "If there is an election in your area on Thursday, May 1, here is your chance to ask the various candidates in your ward if they support the new Community Stadium at Cuckoo Farm. The plans

are well advanced but have yet to be approved by the Council. There are concerns that there is a lack of enthusiasm in some quarters to see the stadium proceed."

"U's fans should write to every candidate in their ward to ask for written confirmation that, if elected, they will support the new stadium," Mr Russell continued. "The best way forward for the club is for every political party to give written declaration that they will approve the stadium plan before the summer is out."

"Here's your chance to influence the outcome. Ask the candidates if they will support the new stadium," he concluded.

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MATCH STATS...

COLCHESTER UNITED 1 (DUGUID 7)

NOTTS COUNTY 1

BOOKINGS: JACKSON, WHITE ATTENDANCE: 3,435

action shots



Ben May challenges the Magpies' 'keeper



Dean Morgan looks for the ball



Karl Duguid puts the U's 1-0 up...



...and celebrates with Scott McGleish and Kerm Izet



Scott McGleish powers forward



Johnnie Jackson gets to the ball first



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APRIL AUCTIONS

The U's April Auctions have continued over the last week on the official website and a number of Colchester United supporters have already got their hands on some special items of memorabilia.

Today we welcome Peter Hammond of Witham to Layer Road as he is presented with the gloves worn by Simon Brown in action this year. Peter got hold of Brownie's signed gloves for a bargain price of £41 in the online QXL auction through cu-fc.com a week ago and Simon was more than happy to present them to him at the match this afternoon.

Our auctions give U's fans a massive opportunity to get their hands on numerous items of authentic memorabilia direct from the club. The U's have been auctioning off shirts, shorts, books, and perhaps most (in)famously Steve Whitton's pants over the past year.

And over the past week fans have won auctions for Joe Dunne's signed away kit from last season emblazoned with 'U's Forever,' a 'Season To Remember' book signed by former goalkeeper Scott Barrett,



who scored against Wycombe in 1991, and the kits worn by Scott Fitzgerald and Scott McGleish last season.

This month we are going a bit silly with all the online auctions that are

taking place through the official website on the recently re-launched QXL.com site, which is now much easier to use. The first item we put on auction this month was a video signed by Lomana Lua Lua.

The video is currently available to buy in the Club Shop, illustrating Lomana's magic to its full effect. We now have a signed copy of the DVD available but bidding closes on Thursday so make sure you check that out.

We are also auctioning a signed Thomas Pinault kit now, complete with name, number and Nationwide Football League badges. The kit was worn in action by Thomas last season and both the long-sleeved shirt and his shorts are signed and available for you to bid on until Wednesday.

We have more of last season's yellow away kits worn by the players with the likes of Alan White, Joe Keith, and Micky Stockwell's likely to be available soon. The most recent item to be put up for auction though is some unique memorabilia signed by

new manager Phil Parkinson.

Parky was surprised last summer at the number of stars who turned up at the Madejski Stadium for his testimonial against an England XI. Former England stars Jamie Redknapp, Struan Pearce, Chris Waddle, and Paul Gascoigne were just a few who turned out for Parky and we have a signed T-shirt from one of the U's manager's finest hours as a player.

The 'Five Parkinsons' T-shirt produced by Reading fans especially for the testimonial is signed by Parky himself and we have thrown in a signed programme from his first match in charge of Colchester United for good measure. The matchday magazine includes Parky's first manager's notes, an extended interview with the boss and extensive reaction to his appointment.

Keep logging on to cu-fc.com to be in with a chance of owning his authentic package and a variety of other items of authentic Colchester United memorabilia!



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As the summer months approach and we begin formulating our plans for the 2003/4 season, Colchester United continue to look for different ways the town can support the club.

So, like many other Nationwide league football teams that run their own weekly lotteries, we are now extending our Gold Bond Super Draw to include a brand new Corporate Membership scheme.

As you would expect, membership of this particular scheme is aimed at local businesses that wish to show active support of the club as it enters this new exciting era under Phil Parkinson.

Starting from just £40 per month, membership of the scheme gives local businesses FIVE individual memberships to the Draw, plus a whole range of additional benefits. Although your company's annual outlay would be met with just one "second" prize of £500, the package the club has put together gives you nearly £700 worth of products from the club.

THESE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- You will have the opportunity to entertain customers in the Railtrack Stand with a series of five pairs of tickets to matches in the 2003/4 campaign.
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- Membership is to be paid by monthly standing order - so there is no need for a one off outlay - and, to encourage your company to renew, Colchester United will provide a

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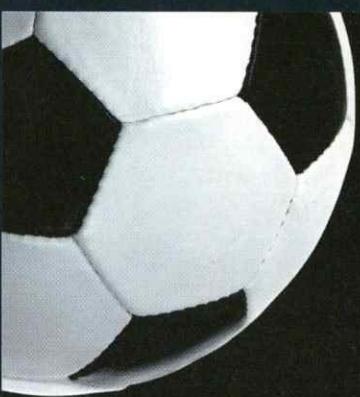
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FITZ & PIECES

the U's SKIPPER TALKS ABOUT NEW AMBITIONS AND THE RETURN OF A FORMER U's MAN...

In this afternoon's match against Luton, we'll be looking to get another three points in what will no doubt be another tough clash. All of the players were disappointed to have only got a draw against Notts County last time out at Layer Road and I think that speaks volumes for our recent achievements when we're disappointed with a draw against a decent side like County.

A few supporters came up to me after the match and, understandably, they were also disappointed not to have won the game. I think it also goes to show how high the recent run of form has set expectations amongst supporters and the confidence amongst supporters that we'll win every game at home is sky high. It would be very hard to keep up the high standards we've set ourselves in recent weeks, but every one of the players will be doing their best to do so.

To be honest, although the game appeared to be a low tempo one, I think it was more the fact that we were a bit jaded rather than any of us taking our foot off the pedal. With the contractual situation at the club - 14 of us are out of contract in the summer - many of us are not in a position to coast towards the end of the season, we all have to work hard to prove we're worth a new deal.

In the match against Notts County, I thought we'd defended quite well up until conceding the goal just before half time. We had limited them to very few opportunities and had our own good chances to kill the game off. I think that, had we got the second goal when the opportunities presented themselves, we would have gone on and won comfortably.

Johnnie Jackson was particularly excellent in that match and I think he has more than played his part in recent weeks. He has given us an option both

defensively and pushing forward and he's demonstrated that he has a very sweet left foot. He's been a useful addition to the squad.

To their credit, County worked extremely hard and closed us down at every opportunity. And the goal, coming at the time it did, really knocked the stuffing out of us and gave them every incentive to come at us in the second half.

They had a good strikeforce in Heffernan and Stallard, as well as Allsopp in the second half. It's been the case in most matches we've played this season that the opposition have had a strong pairing up front and we've had to work exceptionally hard to keep them at bay.

In contrast, rather than the front two being the focal point of our attacks, we've shared the goals around a little bit more. By not having a 20-goals plus front man, though, it means that we have had to be stronger on the defensive side and as a team I think we've done it well.

In the last matchday magazine, you will have seen that of the eight Player of the Month votes, six have been won by defenders or the goalkeepers. I personally am very pleased with that being a defender and it goes to show that we are getting the recognition for the work we're putting in. And, from my point of view, I'd rather us be winning 2-0 or 3-1 than 4-3 every week, because it shows I'm doing my job well.

The season is coming to a close now and looking back I'm glad we had the March we did because the remaining fixtures will all be tough. We looked at the fixture list in August and knew we had to come into this final stretch in a strong position - and thankfully we've achieved that. We aren't resting on our



laurels, though, we definitely want to keep the points ticking over.

Of the teams that are up there, I think that Wigan are obviously up and it's just a matter now of who will join them. Cardiff will no doubt have given us a tough test on Saturday, but my personal pick for the team to join Wigan would be Crewe.

I have only played half the games this season, but Dario Gradi's team have been far the best side we have played since I've been back in the team. We like to think of ourselves as a good footballing outfit, but they taught us a lesson when they came down to Layer Road and showed us where we have to improve. They can also mix it physically and probably deserve to go up. But Cardiff have the big time players, so it won't be a battle for the weak hearted!

Finally, I'd like to welcome Aaron Skelton back to Layer Road this afternoon. Skelton was a good servant of the club during his time in the blue and white stripes and showed that he could fill in a number of positions in the team. He still has a lot of mates in the current squad and I'm sure you'll all give him a warm welcome this afternoon.

Fitz

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COLCHESTER UNITED
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ng Official Messageboards

This afternoon's match against Luton Town is the U's penultimate home game of 2002/3, with Phil Parkinson's men looking to complete another double after a 2-1 win back at Kenilworth Road in December.

We have taken some of the best posts from the club's messageboards - as well as the recent e-mails and letters - to form today's Barside Banter. This week, U's fans are discussing what next season might hold for the club as the current campaign draws to a close.

And although Barside Banter has become the home of the messageboard gossip in recent times, we are still willing to accept your views by more conventional means! To get your views published, you can either e-mail us at editor@colchesterunited.net or post us a letter to the Media Department, c/o Colchester United Football Club.

Striking For Glory

Well, I think the game against Notts County provided us with a more realistic picture of what's ahead for next season. Yes, the recent run has been absolutely superb, but there is still plenty of work to do for the season ahead.

Looking around the other teams in the division, most have a high scoring striker to lead the team. After a slow start, I think that Scott McGleish has been excellent in the second half of the season, but he is not going to be a 20 goals a season plus forward of the ilk of Tony Adcock.

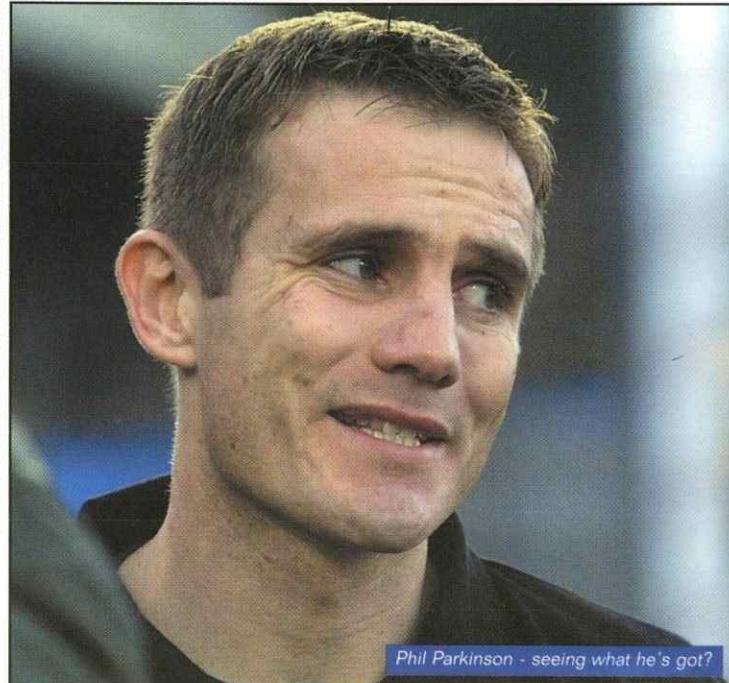
If we are to sustain the progress - or fulfil the potential - that we have seen from the lads in the latter part of this season, we really need a front man who will consistently score goals throughout the season. It's great that the goals have been spread around this season, but there's plenty to be said for having a prolific forward!

Steve Roberts

Trying Out Our Options

OK, so last Saturday's performance against Notts County, didn't set the

barside banter



Phil Parkinson - seeing what he's got?

the stuttering start and average performances throughout the season we previously have had.

Parky seems to be a man with a clear idea of what wants and will explore all available options.

Justin Waller

Summer? No Thanks!

I'm very sad now the season is coming to an end - not quite how I felt in January - just wanted it to end then! It has been an amazing turn round. The side is so much more impressive now and I especially enjoy that we attack from the off!

We seem so much more positive under Parky and long may it continue. I look forward to next season.

Mind you, I have to report that remarkably one wally near me on the Barside had the stupidity to abuse Parky! Yes, you know who you are - you called him a pillock! Unbelievable - this man has saved us. You just can't please some people!

Ian Bown

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Lea Finch

Ladies day

Firstly, I'd just like to apologise to anyone who has ever had to endure previous rants of mine along a similar theme, but Ladies' football is a bee that I've had in my bonnet since the days of spacehoppers, spangles and the Clangers.

Long ago (and I mean LONG ago) when I was a schoolgirl, the most important piece of equipment that a footballer was held to have was - a willy. I have no idea why, as every time I have ever seen a player use his to stop a ball it has taken the physio about five minutes to revive him, but when I was at school, if you didn't have one, then you weren't allowed to play.

It was a ridiculous situation, as we were growing up in Dagenham, always an area known for producing professional footballers, and all of us were encouraged to play the game in our back gardens and streets as soon as we could walk. Yet as soon as we started school, we were ushered onto a netball court and informed that from now on, this would be the game we were playing.

There were no opportunities for girls to play football, no girls' teams away from school - if you were lucky you might get a kick about with the boys in the street.

Football was deemed too dangerous for us girls, so they gave us hockey sticks and balls made from wood and leather instead, so we could rampage around on grass taking lumps out of each other with blunt instruments. Far more civilised behaviour for young ladies than trying to develop the art of crossing, or curving a free kick over a wall.

It's all the FA's fault. Back in the early days of the 20th century, ladies' football was massive. Dick-Kerr's factory team from Preston once attracted a crowd of 50,000 into Goodison Park. They toured all over Britain, Europe and the USA. Their forward line scored around six goals a game, with their star centre-forward Florrie Radford averaging about two goals a game.

Ada Ancombe, of Portsmouth Ladies, was such a good player that a mens' team once allegedly offered two of their players in return for her. Ladies' football up until the 1920's was a growing and entertaining sport. So the FA announced that it was a showbiz style entertainment, and banned ladies football from all major football grounds, effectively killing off the game for the best part of 60 years.

It really saddens me when I think back to some of the girls I was at school with, who could have been outstanding footballers if only

they had been given the chance to play. If they had been born even 10 years later, then they could have at least had the chance to join properly run teams.

I did get to play football, eventually, as when I started work at an insurance company, they had an annual five-a-side tournament. Not having much of a clue what I was doing, I plonked myself at right back, ran around a lot, and kicked everything that moved.

Not stylish, not skilful, but with no referee a very effective technique, earning me one and only sporting trophy, a runners up medal. Unless of course you count a five-a-side game against Thurrock Ambulance, in which I picked up two awards - shortest shorts, and dirtiest player.

Life is so much different for my own girls. The opportunities for them to play football are endless. If they're not playing, it's because they don't want to, not because they're not allowed. I know I'm always saying it, but I am only here on the terraces because my daughter had coaching from the club's Football in the Community scheme.

I doubt if I ever would have even bothered visiting Layer Road if it wasn't for them, and it's unlikely that the girls would, either. They have been given all the opportunities to play football that the boys have, if not more, as special coaching days are laid on just for the girls.

My favourite moment came on the last day that Lottie went to primary school, when her friend Emma Squirrel (now of the U13s side which have just become Essex champions) became the first girl ever to earn the Player of the Year trophy at that school. I was completely thrilled, not just for Emma, but because I knew that she had just undermined the pontifications of so many ignorant people that, 'girls can't play football'.

Incidentally, my friend's son, from a predominantly male household, once made the mistake of uttering that phrase in my car. I think from the look on his face that he would have preferred at that moment to be in a car-load of rottweilers wearing steak flavoured shorts, as we all turned on him.

"I'd play you off the pitch," growled Lottie, in a menacing sort of way. I think he declined her offer to prove it.

Anyway, I hope that loads of people will stay on for this afternoon's double header, especially those who have never seen a Ladies match before. I think you will be pleasantly surprised at the quality of football played. Personally I always wanted to be able to play like Debbie Green (but never could!).

Other players to look out for are Louise Gaskin, who has a shot to rival Thomas Pinault's, Darel 'Kamikaze' Poole (I spent some time acting as a first aider for the ladies team, and she used to scare me witless), Bonnie Horwood who has also been called up for England's U17s and the diminutive but deadly Danii Hoy.

I could go on all day, but I have a word count to think of - but I can't go without mentioning, of course, Krista 'Sparky' Hultquist from culfc.com, who first introduced me to the Ladies team.

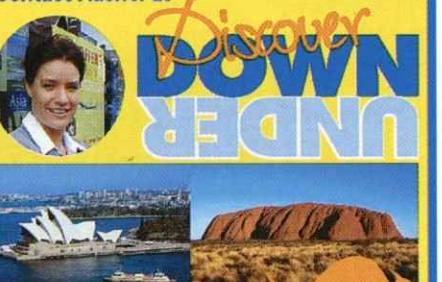
As for the mens' team, of course, well, I'm still surrounded by a warm and contented glow which isn't just caused by my unwashed shirt fermenting. Supporting the U's just feels good nowadays.

Good luck to everyone in a Col U shirt this afternoon, irrespective of the contents of your shorts!

LEA FINCH

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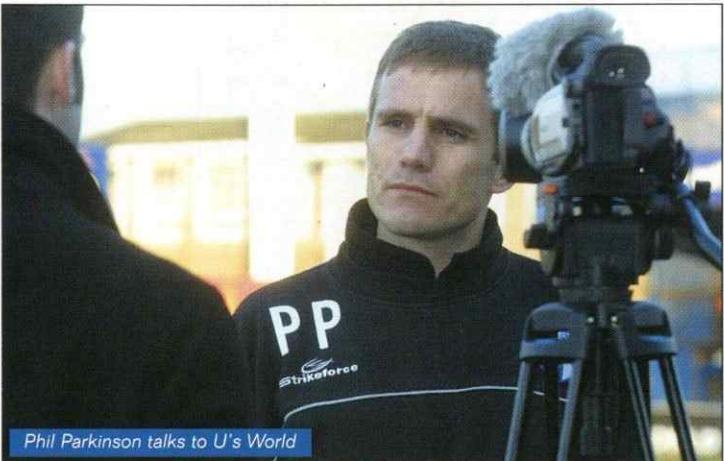
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Phil Parkinson talks to U's World

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Over the past week, we've provided U's fans with the following in-depth analysis of life at Layer Road:

Thursday April 10th: We head down to the Siege House in Colchester to grab footage of Phil Parkinson's special day as he received his Manager of the Month award. We also bring exclusive match footage from the trialist game at Layer Road on the Wednesday.

Friday April 11th: We preview the weekend clash with Notts County, as the U's look to extend their recent impressive home form. Richard McKinney, who has been outstanding in recent weeks, tells us he is hopeful of picking up a result.

Saturday April 12th: Live commentary from Layer Road as the U's take on the Magpies. Karl Duguid's goal is broadcast across the world as FREE!

subscribers from several continents tune in.

Sunday April 13th: The weekend goals go online and by Tuesday, goals from all three Nationwide League divisions are available to watch for U's World subscribers.

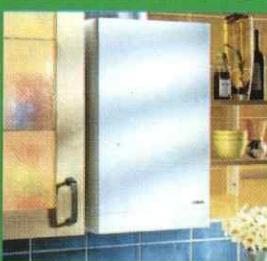
Monday April 14th: Boss Phil Parkinson backs Dean Morgan on U's World after the striker had come in for stick from fans at the Notts County game. Alan White also reflects on a hard fought draw.

Tuesday April 15th: We bring you footage of the U's U16s game against Scotland and talk to Recruitment Officer Adrian Webster for his views on how the game went. (You can see more on this game on pages 38/9)

Wednesday April 16th: There's exclusive commentary on the U's reserve team game against Northampton Town at Layer Road. Trialists Matt Harold and Jack Smillie attempt to impress the Colchester United coaching staff, whilst we also bring you exclusive news of the 2003/4 season ticket package.

There's a whole lot more on offer from the past few months and remember, from now until the end of the season, you'll get the first 24 hours absolutely FREE!

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Recent debate on the club's messageboards has seen Colchester United's two professional goalkeepers go head to head as the fans' favourite. Simon Brown is proving to be one of the strong contenders for the supporters' Player of the Year but, as he returns to full fitness, the Chelmsford-born shot stopper could find his way back into the first team blocked due to the fine performances of fellow keeper Richard McKinney.

Since returning to the side after Brown's injury against Oldham in early March, the Northern Irishman has more than played his part in the U's revival in the second half of the season.

Described as 'a revelation' by club captain Scott Fitzgerald, McKinney has put in some first class displays and has proved that Colchester United are very well off indeed in the goalkeeping department with Dean Gerken also coming up through the ranks.

Having joined the U's last summer with just one professional appearance under his belt, the five month absence from first team football must have brought a serious sense of déjà vu for the player who celebrated his 24th birthday on Friday.

But, with four clean sheets in the last six games to his name, life couldn't be sweeter for the former Manchester City and Swindon Town player.

He told U's World: "I've got no complaints about how things are going at the moment for me - I've kept a few

clean sheets and saved a penalty since I've been back in the team, so I just hope that I can keep it all going.

"I think that with each week that passes I am getting more confident in myself. When I came on in the second half against Oldham, I hadn't played for five months and it's a lot different playing for the first team than it is for the reserves. The tempo is a lot lower in the reserves, whereas in the first team you have to be aware of what's going on around you all the time."

The pinnacle of a series of man of the match displays came a fortnight ago at Plymouth, where McKinney not only saved a penalty but also pulled off a string of fine saves to earn the U's another creditable point in our recent superb run of form.

It was an afternoon to remember for the Ballymoney-born shot stopper - and for his kit sponsors, who made a point of buying the shirt that the goalkeeper wore in that match. Richard's kit clashed with that of the officials (after

theirs had originally clashed with Plymouth's!) and it is now firmly in the possession of U's fans.

"The penalty save at Plymouth was a massive boost because, if you stop a spot-kick, you get the feeling that nothing is going to get past you that day," Richard added. "I also made a good save from Marino Keith which I managed to get at the second attempt which was really pleasing. Some games are like that when you get luck on your side and that was one of them!"

Fans remain divided over which keeper would be their automatic choice between the sticks and it has made for some fierce discussion over the past couple of months. It makes a pleasant change to have two goalkeepers that are as good as each other and McKinney himself enjoys the friendly rivalry that he shares with Simon Brown.

He added: "It's been good because we've both known we've got some competition for our place. The games that Brownie's played, he's put in some high class performances and I know that, whilst he's injured at the moment, he will be back and I will have to be at my best to keep my place."

McKinney is nearing 20 appearances for the season, something he would have gladly accepted when he signed his contract with the U's some nine months ago. And, having been one of the hundreds of players desperate for a deal last summer, things have turned out very rosy indeed.

"When I was at Man City there were seven goalkeepers and it was a struggle to get reserve team football," he said. "Nicky Weaver was playing well and they signed Carlo Nash which meant I had no chance of getting in. I only played one game at Swindon, so I moved on once again and I have to say that coming to Colchester was probably the best thing that's happened to me in my footballing career."





on the road

...to Wycombe Wanderers

Next Saturday is the final away day of the 2002/3 season for Phil Parkinson's players and, as was the case last season, we conclude our travelling with a visit to the old adversaries, Wycombe Wanderers.

With the U's safe and Wycombe virtually there, it's bragging rights that are at stake, not least with the Chairboys having taken three points from Layer Road earlier in the season.

Colchester United haven't won away at Wycombe since September 1993, so here's hoping for a better result next weekend!

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ADAMS PARK

Adams Park is located on the outskirts of Wycombe on the Sands Industrial Estate. The recent addition of The Woodland Stand, (now known as the Servis Pak Stand), a new stand that runs down one side of the pitch has helped a lot to improve the overall look of the ground. The new stand is particularly impressive. It is a large two-tiered stand, complete with a row of executive boxes and it dwarfs the rest of the stadium.

The other three stands are smaller affairs, but they are all covered. Only the home end remains as terracing. An additional 1,000 seats have recently been added to the Roger Vere Stand, which houses the away supporters, doubling its capacity. The local council have stipulated that the capacity of Adams Park cannot rise above 10,000, so the additional seats have meant that certain areas of terracing, such as the paddock area of the Seymour Taylor Stand, have been made 'out of bounds' to fans.



WHERE WILL THE U'S FANS BE SITTING?

Away fans are mostly located at one end of the ground in the Roger Vere Stand, where just over 2,000 supporters can be accommodated. The club usually has a relaxed friendly feel about it although Colchester United supporters are not necessarily given the warmest of receptions. The ground is situated in a nice setting with a wooded hill overlooking the ground (this normally has a small contingent of supporters watching the game for nothing) and with green fields surrounding the other sides.

FANCY A PRE-MATCH PINT?

As the ground is on the edge of an industrial estate, there aren't many pubs around. The nearest pub to Adams Park, is the Hourglass in Sands about 15 minutes walk from the end of the road up to the ground but away fans are not normally welcome for big games or local derbies. There is a supporters club in the Vere Suite behind the Seymour Taylor Stand. Away fans can get admittance for £1 on a first come first served basis providing they can prove that they are members of an official supporters' club.

HOW TO GET THERE BY CAR

Leave the M40 at Junction Four and

take the A4010 towards Wycombe. Turn left at the fourth roundabout, and the ground is well sign posted from there. There is a fair sized car park located at the ground, and some of the industrial units provide match day parking (around £1.50-£2). As there is only one road that leads from the stadium it can take a long time to get out of the official car park at the end of the match. Therefore it may be better to park in one of the industrial units that line Hillbottom Road towards the ground.

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Away travel information is kindly supplied by Duncan Adams of the Internet Football Ground Guide (www.footballgroundguide.co.uk) This information is meant purely as a guide and we cannot be held responsible for any changes that may have taken place since its completion.

Good afternoon U's fans and Happy Easter to you all. I hope that the little bunny rabbit brought you all that asked for in the way of lovely choccie!

Well, just three games to go now after hopefully surviving (literally) the trip to Cardiff on Saturday - please God let them get promotion! Don't forget that everyone's favourite away trip to Wycombe Wanderers is an all-ticket affair, and with well over half the tickets already gone I think that it will be one hell of a day.

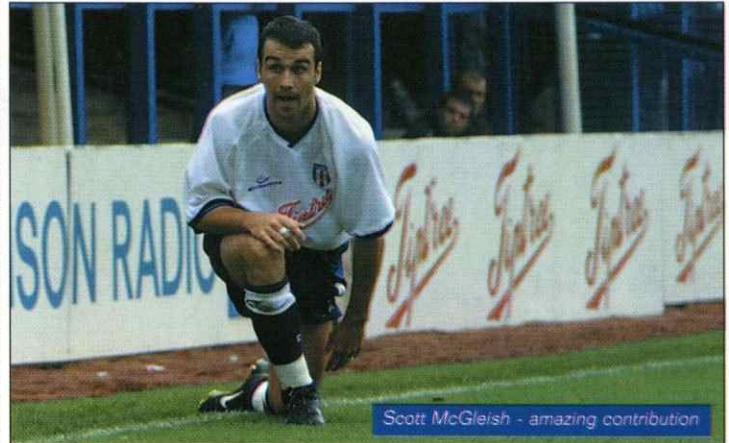
Then comes QPR, and again I must remind you that this is all-ticket game for both sets of fans, so don't forget to pick them up from the CUFC Ticket Office as soon as possible. QPR are going to bring a lot of supporters along I think, so my advice is to get here early and avoid the mad rush.

I still have to pinch myself when I think about how well things have gone in the last few months. I sincerely hope that it will encourage a few more through the turnstiles and that the U's can finish on a high with plenty of atmosphere behind them. Yes, I do mean behind them, even when certain players are having a dodgy day.

It is counter productive having a go at your own players when there are 11 on the pitch playing against our side who must be p**sing themselves with laughter. It doesn't help, does it?

Against Notts County I thought that the U's played well enough for their point and yet again another unbeaten game. Scott McGleish was amazing with his contribution, and I have to disagree with Franny Ponder and his mark for Monsieur Pinault - I thought that he was tres superb. Good old Doogie being in the right place at the right time, just getting a toe end on it, but then again they all count.

There is a lot of talk of contracts at the moment, and by the way, great news to see that "George" Williams has signed his. Parky has some very tough choices to make, and naturally he is keen to see everyone play. Good news for the likes of Marc Canham who did his chances no harm at all at Plymouth, and one who a lot of fans would like to see continue his career at the U's, and not just because he is sponsored by the CUSA Corner Bar of course!



Scott McGleish - amazing contribution

To tell the truth there are a lot of good players at the club, and what a nice link to the CUSA Home Player of the Year competition that is taking part today. Our members are asking for your votes inside every entrance and if you miss them you can still vote after the match in the Corner Bar or the CUSA Hut. The CUSA Away Player of the Year has already been chosen (my lips are sealed) by those who travel on the CUSA coaches, and if that voting is anything to go by, it is going to be a close one!

Just a reminder about the CUSA AGM on Wednesday 30 April at 8pm. Only current members can attend and this year will see the election of a new Committee for the next two years as part of the Agenda. The closing date for nominations has already passed and as a consequence voting will be required for the six Committee Member positions available. The Officers posts have not been contested. I look forward to seeing you all in the Corner Bar that evening.

Just a couple of birthdays to mention this time, with many congratulations to Annelie Bartlett for last week and CUSA Secretary Mary Wightman for next week. After many years of outstanding service, Mary is stepping down from the Committee this year and we will all miss her terribly, especially me. I would like to thank you Mary so very much from all of the CUSA members - you will be a hard act to follow.

Also on the committee, and we were

delighted to see Alan Dews back at Layer Road for the Notts County game, whilst Linda Brandom continues to be poorly and has not seen a game now for quite a while. Best wishes to you both.

Away from Layer Road, a word about my old friend, Neil Warnock. Looks like he has found himself in just a little bit of hot water with his comments about Graham Poll. Shame, it couldn't have happened to a nicer guy, and by the way do you want your golf balls back yet?

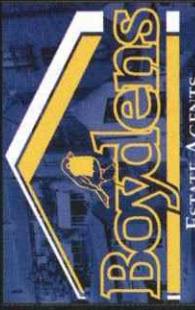
Two final reminders, don't be in a hurry to leave Layer Road this evening because the Colchester United Ladies are playing Gillingham at 5pm, and lastly, as the local elections come closer don't be afraid to ask your Councillor just who or what is delaying the new Community Stadium. One or two are dragging their heels big time, so get on their case!

Enjoy the game.

JON BURNS
Chairman

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div two review

COUNTY FACE UNIBOND NIGHTMARE

With time running out to lift themselves out of administration, NOTTS COUNTY could be facing football in the Unibond League next season. As detailed in the last matchday magazine, the Magpies have been told by the Football League that they have been in administration for long enough and, unless they resolve their financial problems, they will be booted out of the competition.

The talk is that, should their League place be revoked, they will have to restart as far down the football pyramid as the Unibond.

That was something that left former chairman Derek Pavis less than impressed and he told planetfootball.com that he was hopeful of a successful resolution to the problem.

"I will not let this club die without a fight," he said. "It would be a big step to throw Notts out of the league. They are talking about playing in the UniBond League. The UniBond league! With the facilities there are at

Meadow Lane, with the stadium we have, with the history of the club, that could not be allowed to happen.

"I am not sure the Football League would go through with it if it came to it. I don't know who the people are trying to take over the club, but I hope they are successful," concluded Pavis.

COBBLERS APPOINT WILKINSON

Seemingly headed for Division Three next season, NORTHAMPTON TOWN have appointed Martin Wilkinson as permanent boss after a prolonged spell as caretaker manager. Wilkinson took over after the departure of Terry Fenwick and had initially been appointed until the end of the season, but the board opted to extend his tenure in charge of the Cobblers.

Wilkinson had his coaching

staff

boosted by the appointment of former Gillingham coach Richard Hill, who had been made redundant by the First Division club earlier in the week.

"We've been looking to get the right team in place ever since we arrived and we think this a further step along the road," Cobblers acting chairman Ken Good told the club's official website. "The season is not over yet and there is a long way to go. "Martin and Richard have the full support of the board and the

Nationwide League Division Two

LATEST TABLE

| | HOME | | AWAY | | P | W | D | L | F | AgD | Pt |
|-----------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------------|
| | W | D | L | F | | | | | | | |
| Wigan Ath | 42 | 12 | 7 | 2 | 33 | 15 | 15 | 4 | 2 | 31 | 9+4092 |
| Crewe Alex | 42 | 11 | 4 | 6 | 28 | 17 | 13 | 5 | 3 | 45 | 20+3681 |
| Cardiff City | 42 | 12 | 5 | 4 | 33 | 17 | 11 | 5 | 5 | 34 | 20+3079 |
| Bristol City | 42 | 13 | 5 | 3 | 39 | 15 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 34 | 29+2976 |
| Oldham Ath | 42 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 31 | 18 | 11 | 9 | 1 | 27 | 16+2475 |
| QPR | 42 | 13 | 3 | 5 | 36 | 19 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 28 | 25+2073 |
| Tranmere Rvs | 42 | 12 | 5 | 4 | 31 | 22 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 24 | 32+1 68 |
| LUTON TOWN | 42 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 28 | 25 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 28 | 32+1 60 |
| Plymouth Arg | 42 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 35 | 24 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 22 | 24+9 58 |
| Blackpool | 42 | 10 | 6 | 5 | 31 | 21 | 5 | 5 | 11 | 21 | 35-4 56 |
| COLCHESTER UTD | 42 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 24 | 18 | 5 | 8 | 8 | 25 | 32 -1 54 |
| Notts County | 42 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 36 | 31 | 3 | 9 | 9 | 25 | 35-5 52 |
| Swindon Tn | 42 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 30 | 26 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 24 | 32-4 51 |
| Peterboro' Utd | 42 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 23 | 20 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 24 | 32-5 50 |
| Brentford | 42 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 26 | 18 | 5 | 4 | 12 | 17 | 34-9 50 |
| Wycombe W | 42 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 38 | 37 | 5 | 5 | 11 | 19 | 26-6 49 |
| Port Vale | 42 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 28 | 29 | 5 | 6 | 10 | 20 | 34-15 49 |
| Stockport Cty | 42 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 35 | 34 | 6 | 1 | 14 | 22 | 31-8 48 |
| Barnsley | 42 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 25 | 29 | 5 | 5 | 11 | 23 | 32-13 46 |
| Chesterfield | 42 | 10 | 4 | 7 | 27 | 26 | 3 | 3 | 15 | 13 | 40-26 46 |
| Cheltenham Tn | 42 | 5 | 8 | 8 | 22 | 30 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 26 | 35-17 43 |
| Huddersfield Tn | 42 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 26 | 23 | 4 | 3 | 14 | 10 | 30-17 43 |
| Mansfield Tn | 42 | 8 | 2 | 11 | 36 | 43 | 3 | 5 | 13 | 24 | 46-29 40 |
| Northampton Tn | 42 | 7 | 3 | 11 | 21 | 26 | 3 | 5 | 13 | 16 | 42-31 38 |



Richard Hill - Cobblers appointment

other coaches.

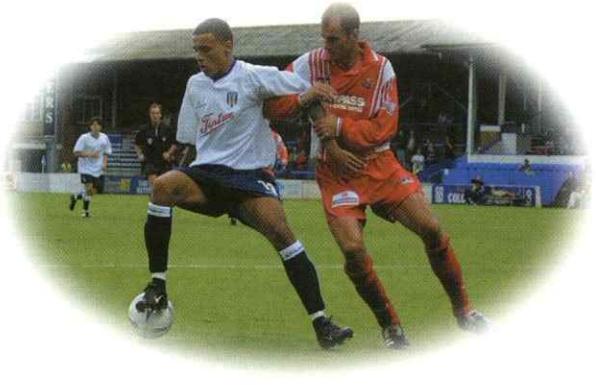
"Mark Kearney and Paul Curtis have done a fantastic job in very difficult circumstances in the last few weeks, but with Martin's ability and experience and Richard's undoubtedly qualities, we feel this gives us stability and strength in the backroom staff. If we are going to be relegated, we aim to come back at the first attempt and I don't think we can say that more clearly than with these appointments."

Wilkinson's hopes of keeping up the Sixfields club took a heartbreaking blow last Saturday when they fell to a 3-2 defeat at Port Vale. They seemed destined to pick up three points as they led 2-1 going into injury time, but two strikes at the death left the Cobblers players crushed.

"I don't know what to say," admitted Wilkinson. "We had to chase the game and we did that, we did that well. We got the second and we knew we just needed to tidy it up and stay strong. From a coaches point of view you would look at that on a Monday and try and put it right but we are running out of games. It sums up our season, it is heartbreaking."

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new Face

Former Hull City defender Mike Edwards made his home debut for Colchester United when he came on as substitute in the 1-1 draw with Notts County.

But another man made his first appearance on the pitch for the U's during the same match.

Stuart Ayles has been at Layer Road for less than a fortnight but the former Cambridge United and Southend United physio is already feeling at home in the U's treatment room.

The man who has taken up the position vacated by Frank Reep, has a long history in football, starting as a non-league player in South Suffolk. "I played for a number of teams in the Jewson League including Felixstowe, Hadleigh, and Brantham," he told the Matchday Magazine. "Judging by my nose you can probably tell that I played as a centre half."

But his progression into physiotherapy wasn't immediate: "It wasn't something I was particularly interested in when I was a player," Stuart explained. "When I stopped playing I started taking my coaching badges and about 15 years ago, like most people, I thought I was going to be the next Bobby Robson."

"I had become disillusioned with coaching to some extent by the mid-1990s," he continued. "I had done by basic anatomy and physiology qualifications, I needed to undertake first aid and I did a basic injuries course and found that I really enjoyed it."

After working as a physio in the non-league, Ayles then took his first job with a professional club at Southend United's Centre of Excellence. He then moved closer to home to work in Ipswich Town's Academy, which Stuart says is run to Premiership standards. Most recently he was first team physiotherapist for Cambridge United, where he worked for the best part of two years.

Speaking about his first impressions of Colchester United Stuart said: "Everyone has been very supportive from the manager and the chief executive all the way down to the players. The most important thing for me is to lighten the atmosphere in the treatment room as much as I can."

"No player likes to be in the treatment room because they are professional athletes and they want to be doing what they are paid for. This is the last place they want to be so I try to keep it friendly

and lighten the atmosphere, especially for those with long-term injuries."

Most Colchester United supporters would have caught their first glimpse of Ayles last Saturday as he attended to the players who received knocks in the 1-1 draw with Notts County.

"Everything seemed to go well apart from the result," he said. "When you're sat on the bench you're just like a supporter in that you are willing the team to win. Last Saturday I had to come on to attend to Thomas Pinault, who got a couple of knocks, and Doogie, after a dubious moment in the box but there were no new injuries following the game and if we can avoid any further injuries in our last four games we should have most of the squad fully fit for pre-season training."

A number of Colchester United players have been in the Layer Road treatment room recently and Stuart brings us up to date with those individuals below.

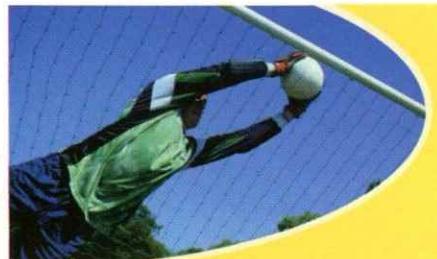


operation and he is unable to bear weight on his left ankle for another three weeks. The surgeon will tell us when we can move on to weight-bearing exercises but Gavin is certainly not at home with his feet up. He has been doing a lot of work on his upper body strength, his right leg, and we have also done some non-weight bearing work on his left leg.

■ **MARK WARREN** is receiving no treatment at the moment and he has been back training for more than a week now. Mark has been coming in in the mornings though to do some extra work, which is very professional of him. **ADRIAN COOTE** is more or less ready for action now but he is coming in some afternoons to do some extra fitness work.

■ **KEVIN RAPLEY** is coming along really, really well and he has been doing lots of running and ball work. Kevin has been working hard at Top Notch and he has progressed well but there is still a chance that there is something that has not been picked up in his knee and we will be seeing a specialist soon.

■ **JOE DUNNE** has an appointment to see the surgeon who operated on his knee on April 23. I have pushed Joe on to do a lot of functional work and he is running now so that is a big step for him. He is coping with that very well and I am pleased with the way things are going for Joe. The surgeon will tell us if there is any debris in the knee but that may just require a bit of a wash out. It has been a long struggle for Joe and although I think he is pleased with the way things are going at the moment we have to be careful not to create any other problems while working on his knee.



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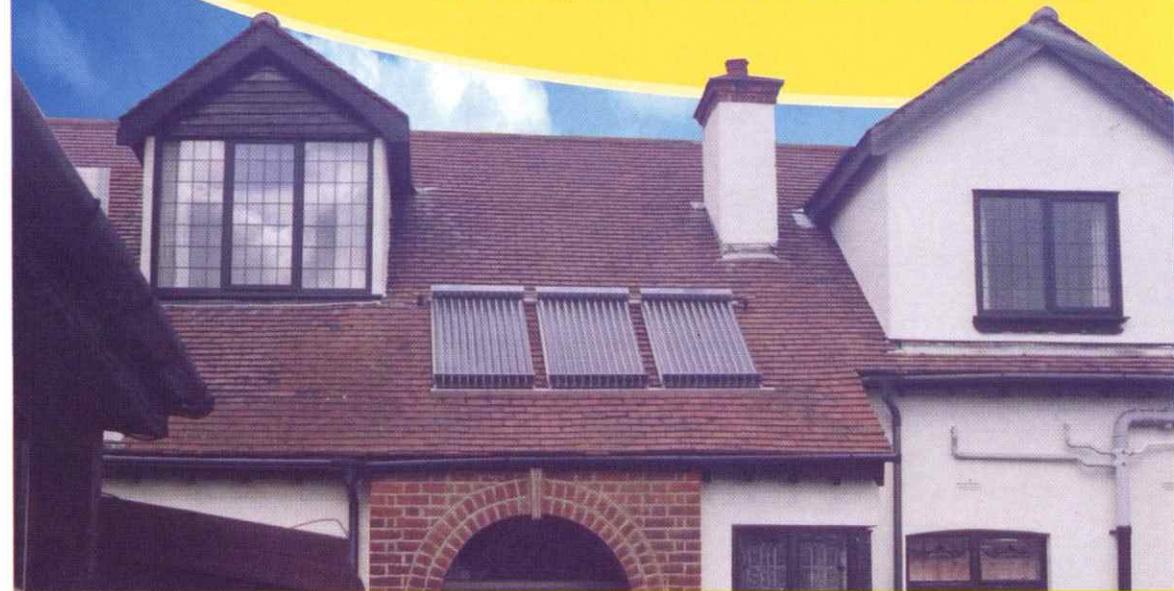
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IFDS - BASILDON



The evening before the first team's last home match, Friday, April 11, saw our U16s side play a prestigious fixture against the Scottish Youth FA's national U16s development squad.

It was a brilliant opportunity for our boys and we made a special occasion of the fixture with a piper leading the teams out for the match at Garrison B.

Overall I was very pleased with our boys' performance. Trying to keep everything in perspective, I was a little bit disappointed with the first half. It took us a little while to get into the game, I think we were a little bit intimidated by the opposition and at half time I said to the boys 'We haven't really played yet, if we settle down and play I think we can get a result against them.'

To be fair to the lads they responded in the second half and it was an excellent performance. Even though it took us a little bit of time to settle down in the first half, defensively we were very solid. We



didn't give a silly goal away and as we got into the game more the performance improved and the boys grew with that.

I think the experience the boys picked up from the match was invaluable. They played a quality

opposition, and playing the way they did, they can hold their heads up high and I am sure it will stay with them for a long while.

Considering that it was an U16s fixture and we had eight U15 boys playing on the night meant I was even more pleased. When you think that we have another seven or eight of those lads who have another year at school and in the Centre Of Excellence it is very encouraging.

The manager, Phil Parkinson came into the dressing room before the game and after the match and that was really good for the boys. He spoke to the boys before the match and wished them all luck. Phil watched the whole game and then came in and said some very complimentary things, which I think will stick with the players. I know if I was a player sitting there listening to what he had to say I think you could only get excited about wanting to play next season and wanting to play for Colchester United.

Craig Johnston, who is currently a first year scholar in the youth system at Layer Road was



particularly impressive on the night. Craig's father is Scottish so he was particularly keen to perform well on the night, as was our captain, Robbie King, who also has Scottish blood in him.

It was a very exciting performance by Craig and his strength is that when he picks up the ball he goes at players. He is very quick over 20 yards and he is a very exciting player to watch. I think the next step for Craig is to improve that end product. Too many times he gets into a good position and his cross goes behind or his shot at goal is off target so I think we need to build on that and make sure Craig is a little bit more composed in those situations but he did make some electrifying runs on the night.

There were a handful of players who will be permanent fixtures at Layer Road next year too. Robbie King, who played at centre back, has been offered a scholarship, Charlie Moxom, who played at right back, is another boy who has been offered a scholarship and Jamie Guy, who played up front is another who is likely to join the youth

department next season too. Another two boys who played against Scotland are being considered for scholarships so it was another chance for them to impress us and we will be continuing to look at them closely over our next few games.

Russell Pond, who was with Leyton Orient until earlier this year, also played very well on the night. Russell played in midfield and he was busy all over the pitch, constantly closing down the Scots when they were in position. He was a regular in the Orient's U17s earlier this season and has also appeared for their U19s so we are taking a close look at him.

Another mention has to go to goalkeeper Matt Green, who pulled



Parky takes it all in

off an outstanding save from a free kick in the second half. Mark Cousins, who has played a number of games for our U19s in the Merit Division was in goal in the first half but we put Matt on for the second half and he performed well. His save from the free kick was one of the highlights of the match, keeping the score at 0-0 to preserve a draw.

Overall it was a brilliant experience for our young boys and I am sure they will all grow from the experience.

Make a move.

ADRIAN WEBSTER



Match action

Match Stats

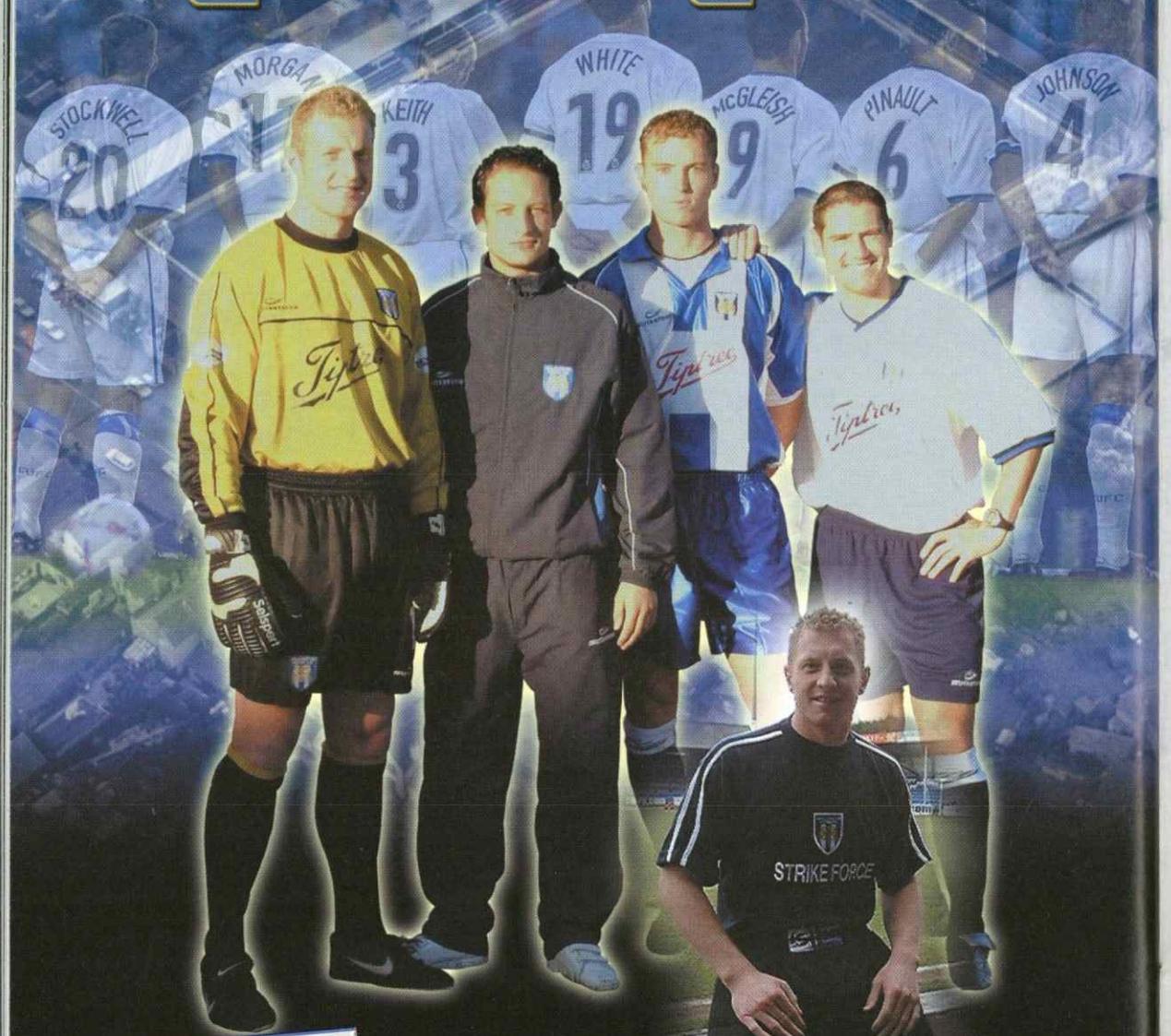
COLCHESTER UNITED U16S 0

SCOTLAND U16S 0

Colchester United: Mark Cousins, Charlie Moxom, Liam Bailey, Robbie King, Matt Paine, Russell Pond, Craig Johnston, Joe Harding, Jamie Guy, Richard Harris, David Wareham.

Substitutes used: Ashley Daniels, Matt Cross, Craig Hughes, Ali Giritli, Matt Green

Colchester United



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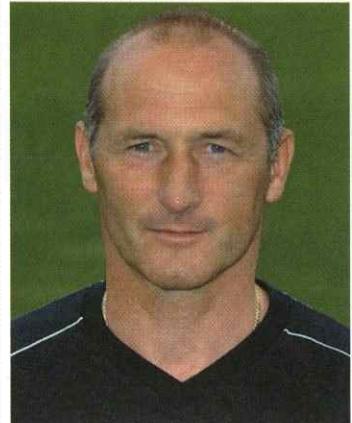


KC

U19's

Colchester United U19's Fixtures 2002/3 season

| | | |
|------------|-----------------------|------|
| Sat Aug 17 | Southend United | W7-0 |
| Sat Aug 24 | Brighton & HA | L1-2 |
| Sat Aug 31 | In Service Training | |
| Fri Sep 6 | Peterboro' Utd [Cup] | D2-2 |
| Sat Sep 14 | Southend Utd [Cup] | W2-1 |
| Sat Sep 21 | Cambridge Utd [Cup] | W2-0 |
| Sat Sep 28 | Gillingham | L0-1 |
| Sat Oct 12 | Portsmouth | L0-4 |
| Sat Oct 19 | Wycombe Wanderers | L3-4 |
| Mon Oct 21 | Aldershot Tn [FAYC] | W4-1 |
| Sat Nov 2 | Leyton Orient | D1-1 |
| Mon Nov 4 | St Albans City [FAYC] | W4-2 |
| Sat Nov 9 | Brentford | L3-7 |
| Sat Nov 16 | Portsmouth | L0-1 |
| Mon Nov 18 | Peterboro' Utd [Cup] | W5-4 |
| Sat Nov 30 | Wycombe Wanderers | W1-0 |
| Tue Dec 3 | Arsenal [FAYC] | L0-2 |
| Sat Dec 7 | QPR | D1-1 |
| Sat Dec 14 | Leyton Orient | W1-0 |
| Sat Jan 11 | Brentford | L0-2 |
| Sat Jan 18 | Southend United | D1-1 |
| Sat Jan 25 | Brighton & HA | DD-0 |
| Sat Feb 8 | QPR | W3-2 |
| Mon Feb 10 | Gillingham | D2-2 |
| Wed Mar 5 | Northampton Tn [Cup] | L0-2 |



Last Saturday the U19s travelled to Southend and the highlight of the journey was that the lads were able to play on Roots Hall and the pitch was excellent.

Both teams played some good football on the day and it could easily have been 6-2 to us at half time.

Unfortunately we went 1-0 down and then 2-0 down and it has been our Achilles heel this year that we have let in too many soft goals. The first goal we conceded came from a set play and while I am not naming names Eddie Edwards should have marked his man and he didn't compete when the ball came into the box.

Southend's second goal was struck against Danny Irving's shoulder on the way into the net so that was a bit of freak occurrence. Although we were 2-0 down we did play some very good football and Eddie Edwards played well giving their defence quite a few problems.

Tired

Robbie King turned out for the U19s again at Southend but he had played the previous night for the U16s against Scotland. He was naturally very tired so I took him off at half time. It was Eddie Edwards who scored our goal, which saw the match finish 2-1 to Southend and although he could have had a hat-trick I wasn't too disappointed with the performance.

Matt Green had a rare opportunity to show what he can do in goal in the U19s at Southend and I must say he put in a tremendous performance at Roots Hall. Southend had a number of lads on trial but they looked like a quality side and they could be a team to be reckoned with in the U19s next season.

Last week was very busy with first aid courses and our annual day on the golf course last Thursday, which we were all looking forward to as it is usually a good social event and the weather was also kind to us.

At the time of writing these notes we were preparing to take on Rushden and Diamonds on Saturday. That gives us a chance to meet up

with Geoff Harrop again, who left the club last summer. We have seen Geoff a few times since he left to take over Rushden's youth system and it is always good to see him because he did a huge amount for the youth set-up at Layer Road. We will be welcoming Geoff back but not to the extent that we do his side any favours on the football pitch.

Busy

With that out of the way we only have one game left in the Merit Division this season and that is against Cirencester. We will be busy at Layer Road this week with a number of the lads from the Centre of Excellence training with us in their Easter break. We are looking at one or two of the lads with a view to scholarships for next season so there are important decisions to be made.

I must mention our U16s recent encounter with Scotland at Garrison B. Craig Johnston was excellent in the 0-0 draw and all of the boys can be very pleased with the way they performed on the night. It was great to see Phil Parkinson there on the night and I think he got quite excited about Craig. Phil has stood by his word that he places great importance on youth football and I think it will have boosted all the boys confidence to see the manager there on the night.

Happy Easter to every one of you.

MICKY COOK

LEAGUE TABLE

| | Pd | W | D | L | F | A | Gd | Pts |
|----------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| Portsmouth | 15 | 10 | 4 | 1 | 33 | 10 | 23 | 34 |
| Brentford | 14 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 48 | 21 | 27 | 31 |
| Wycombe Wdrs | 16 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 27 | 24 | 3 | 24 |
| Brighton & HA | 15 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 18 | 21 | -3 | 21 |
| Gillingham | 15 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 17 | 23 | -6 | 21 |
| Leyton Orient | 15 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 20 | 22 | -2 | 19 |
| COLCHESTER UTD | 15 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 22 | 26 | -4 | 16 |
| QPR | 14 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 17 | 24 | -7 | 10 |
| Southend Utd | 15 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 12 | 43 | -31 | 9 |

MERIT DIVISION

| | | |
|------------|-----------------------|------|
| Sat Mar 1 | Torquay United | W5-1 |
| Sat Mar 8 | Walsall | L0-2 |
| Sat Mar 15 | Kidd'minster Harriers | W3-0 |
| Sat Mar 22 | Free Week | |
| Sat Mar 29 | Swansea City | L0-2 |
| Sat Apr 5 | QPR | W3-2 |
| Sat Apr 12 | Southend United | L1-2 |
| Sat Apr 19 | Rushden & Diamonds | |
| Sat Apr 26 | Cirencester | |
| Sat May 3 | In Service Training | |



COLCHESTER UNITED VICE PRESIDENTS CLUB SEASON 2002/3

| | |
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COMMERCIAL & MARKETING DEPARTMENT

You can call us direct...
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 Jerry Carter 01206 715305
 Julie Ager 01206 715306
 Commercial Fax 01206 715307
 Email: commercial@colchesterunited.net



The Notts County Match Sponsors were GW Sales. Pictured with Jerry Carter is Graham, Rob and Paul Went of GW Sales.

Looking Forward...

Welcome to Layer Road on Easter Monday for the season's penultimate home match against Luton Town. As the players start to look forward to a well-earned summer break, the preparation for next season is already well underway.

The season will be one to remember for many reasons, with the U's home record in the second half of the season meaning many of you will be considering season tickets for the 2003/4 campaign. Turn to page 46 for more details of next year's package.

If you want to be involved with Colchester United beyond the ninety minutes every other Saturday, we are looking for an army of matchday volunteers to extract that extra pound from supporters at our matches.

This will make a massive contribution towards club needs. I know we have many fans that really work hard for us on the fund raising front and would welcome a chat with any of you true U's if you would like to get more involved next season.



The Notts County Match Ball Sponsors were Tolway Fixings. Pictured with Jerry Carter and John Schultz is chairman of Tolway Fixings Chris Ivory, along with his eight year old son Josh.



And, if you are considering either sponsorship or advertising, now is the time to start talking about next season - call us in the Commercial Department anytime and we will try to accommodate you.

PERIMETER ADVERTISING

As you look around Layer Road do you fancy seeing your company name on a 20ft Advertising hoarding? We have a handful of prime sites that have been released before the end of the season - with 10ft board at prices starting at £800 + VAT.

We are offering a special deal now where you can order next season's site

and we will hold the cost at the 2001 price. This will provide free advertising for our remaining home blockbuster sell out game against Queens Park Rangers. Find out more by calling us in the commercial department 01206 715305/6 and pick a bargain board!

Whether you sponsor a players kit or want to talk advertising, don't miss out this year call us in the next week or so and talk about the different choices.

Let's get right behind the lads and pick up another three points off the Hatters.

Up the U's

Jerry Carter
Commercial & Marketing Manager

matchday SPONSORSHIPS

All the Sponsorship for the rest of this season has now been taken. A massive thank you to all the companies and individuals listed below that have supported us in this way

| Opposition | Match Sponsor | Ball Sponsor |
|---------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| West Ham United | Falcon | Witham Cleaning & Building |
| Stockport County | Gold Bond Lottery | LayerBrick |
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| Wigan Athletic | Vice Presidents Club | C.U.S.A. |
| Cheltenham Town | Hedgerows Restaurant | Chenery's Outside Catering |
| Oldham Athletic | Design & Print Integration | FirstGER |
| Wycombe Wanderers | First Great Eastern | Queens Head Golfing Society |
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| Barnsley | Falcon Plumbing & Heating | Village Link |
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| Notts County | Design & Print Intergration | Steve Lamacq |
| Luton Town | Falcon Plumbing & Heating | Alan Jones |
| Queens Park Rangers | Peter Richbell & Co | |



GOLD BOND LOTTERY

Now over 500 winners every week and there have once again been many top Prize winners this week! It costs you just £1 weekly to be a Gold Bond member. Seven chances for £1 every week to win top cash prizes. Congratulations go to our top winners this week:

£2,000:
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J Truscott

£200:
Mrs Bowen & R. Stubbington

£100:
Mrs Ward, Mrs Carr, Mrs Smith, P. Kerr, C. Wright, S. Poole

SEVEN CHANCES - JUST £1 WEEKLY!

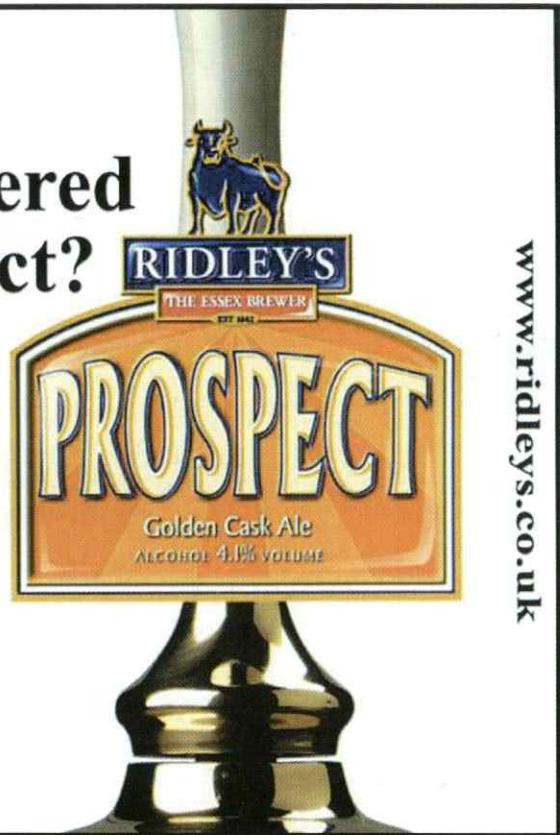
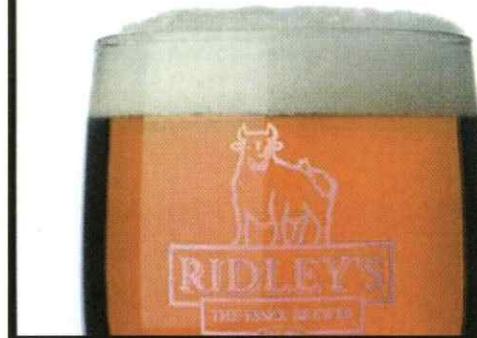
One pound will give you Seven Chances a week to win a top weekly prize of £2,000 or monthly prize of £5,000 and every three months a brand new car.

With many more pay outs ranging from £5 to £500 you really can help the U's financially - every new member paying one pound a week does make a difference!

You can pay on a monthly or quarterly standing order or one of our door-to-door collectors can pay you a regular visit.

Want to know more? Just call Lottery Development Officer John Essex, on 01206 715321.

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e Clacton Marks Tey Brightlingsea Colchester Cog

Ti Commentary on every U's match home and away only on BBC Essex. All the news from Layer Road on our daily sports bulletins.

AVON
INSURANCE
AGUE

in RESERVE

Colchester United's reserves continued their good form in the Avon Insurance Combination with a 1-0 win over Northampton Town at Layer Road on Wednesday afternoon.

It was a very hot day and a number of school children who came to watch the second string in their Easter Holidays were taken away by their parents to find ice creams during the half time break.

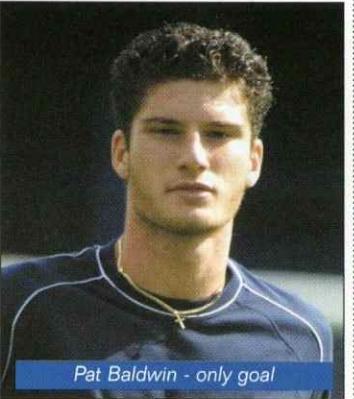
It was a close match between the U's and the Cobblers and 18-year-old goalkeeper Dean Gerken was called on to make a good save down to his right early on in the game as the visitors broke free from the Colchester defence. The best chance of the first half fell to Greg Halford though when his fine near post header from a Marc Canham corner was tipped over well by visiting goalkeeper Glyn Thompson.

Colchester United bossed possession in the first half but neither team really threatened to score. The U's played trialist Matt Harold up front alongside Adrian Coote and he showed some good touches but had few opportunities to strike at goal. The 18-year-old Harlow Town striker had played the previous week in a trialist match at Layer Road and in the reserves last outing at Luton.

Wycombe Wanderers Jack Smillie had a competent game for the U's at right back. The youngster played his part in a sturdy back four completed by Pat Baldwin and Mike Edwards in the centre and young John White at left back.



Pat Baldwin - only goal



Dean Gerken - clean sheet

second string

AVON
INSURANCE
LEAGUE

Fixtures 2002/03

| | | | |
|------------|------------------|---|------|
| Wed 14 Aug | Gillingham | H | D1-1 |
| Wed 28 Aug | Reading | H | W1-0 |
| Wed 4 Sep | Oxford United | A | W1-0 |
| Wed 27 Sep | Bristol Rovers | H | W1-0 |
| Wed 2 Oct | Norwich City | A | L0-3 |
| Wed 9 Oct | Southend United | H | DO-0 |
| Wed 30 Oct | Cheltenham Town | H | W4-2 |
| Wed 13 Nov | Leyton Orient | H | W2-1 |
| Wed 20 Nov | Crystal Palace | A | D1-1 |
| Tue 26 Nov | QPR | A | W2-0 |
| Mon 9 Dec | Peterborough Utd | H | W6-0 |
| Wed 18 Dec | Barnet | A | W3-0 |
| Tues 7 Jan | Brentford | A | L0-3 |
| Wed 15 Jan | Bristol City | H | L0-1 |
| Wed 29 Jan | AFC Bournemouth | A | W3-1 |
| Wed 5 Feb | Cardiff City | H | LO-1 |
| Tue 11 Feb | Plymouth Argyle | A | L1-2 |
| Wed 19 Feb | Portsmouth | A | P-P |
| Wed 26 Feb | Brighton & H.A | H | W3-1 |
| Wed 12 Mar | Millwall | A | DO-0 |
| Wed 26 Mar | Swindon Town | H | W5-0 |
| Tue 1 Apr | Luton Town | A | LO-1 |
| Wed 16 Apr | North'ton Town | H | W1-0 |
| Tue 22 Apr | Wycombe Wdrs | A | 2pm |
| Wed 30 Apr | Cambridge United | H | 2pm |

LEAGUE TABLE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pt |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Crystal Palace | 23 | 16 | 5 | 2 | 59 | 17 | 53 |
| Norwich City | 23 | 12 | 8 | 3 | 37 | 15 | 44 |
| COLCHESTER UTD | 23 | 12 | 5 | 6 | 35 | 18 | 41 |
| Bristol City | 23 | 12 | 5 | 6 | 46 | 34 | 41 |
| Reading | 22 | 12 | 4 | 6 | 44 | 28 | 40 |
| Portsmouth | 22 | 11 | 6 | 5 | 38 | 21 | 39 |
| Plymouth Arg | 22 | 12 | 3 | 7 | 39 | 35 | 39 |
| Brighton & H.A | 21 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 36 | 22 | 35 |
| Millwall | 23 | 10 | 4 | 9 | 29 | 27 | 34 |
| Brentford | 22 | 10 | 4 | 8 | 38 | 38 | 34 |
| Southend Utd | 22 | 10 | 4 | 8 | 32 | 32 | 34 |
| Oxford United | 23 | 10 | 3 | 10 | 34 | 33 | 33 |
| Leyton Orient | 24 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 45 | 42 | 32 |
| Luton Town | 19 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 33 | 21 | 31 |
| Cardiff City | 22 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 23 | 22 | 31 |
| Swindon Town | 20 | 9 | 2 | 9 | 26 | 43 | 29 |
| QPR | 22 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 30 | 30 | 28 |
| Cambridge Utd | 22 | 7 | 5 | 10 | 35 | 37 | 26 |
| Cheltenham Tn | 21 | 7 | 4 | 10 | 41 | 37 | 25 |
| Peterboro' Utd | 21 | 7 | 3 | 11 | 35 | 41 | 24 |
| Wycombe W | 24 | 6 | 4 | 14 | 22 | 48 | 22 |
| Bournemouth | 23 | 5 | 6 | 12 | 36 | 49 | 21 |
| Bristol Rovers | 23 | 5 | 6 | 12 | 26 | 41 | 21 |
| Gillingham | 22 | 4 | 7 | 11 | 22 | 40 | 19 |
| Northampton | 21 | 4 | 3 | 14 | 27 | 50 | 15 |
| Barnet | 23 | 2 | 3 | 18 | 19 | 66 | 9 |

COLIN WOOD

Colchester United Football Club are pleased to announce excellent discounts on season ticket prices for the coming 2003/4 season, resulting in huge discounts to suit everyone's pocket.

With Phil Parkinson's side recording five wins and a draw in their last half dozen matches at Layer Road can you possibly afford to miss out.

There have been exciting times at Layer Road in recent weeks and with the new manager picking up Nationwide's Manager of the Month award in his first month in charge there is a lot to look forward to in the coming year. Phil Parkinson is a very ambitious manager and with new faces likely to come in over the summer it looks like the home of the U's will be the only place to be on a Saturday afternoon.

Rout

Who would want to miss out on matches like the 4-1 rout of Port Vale and goals like Thomas Pinault's 30-yarder against Bristol City, Dean Morgan's wonder strike against Wigan and Kem Izet's outstanding volley against Peterborough.

Colchester United want you to be a permanent fixture at Layer Road next season. And with this in mind the club have, as ever, been particularly conscious of encouraging families, freezing the price of family tickets and reducing season tickets bought before May 31, 2003. Again the club have sought to maintain good value for season ticket holders wanting to follow the U's at every home match.

Matchday ticket prices will see a slight increase next season with the following applicable in 2003/4:

Main Stand and Clock End
Seats (Blocks A, B, C, D and F):
Adults £16, Concessions £9

Family Area Seats
(Blocks G, H, I and J):
Adults £12, Concessions £5

Standing

(Terraces 3, 4, and 7)
Adults £13, Concessions £7

Family Enclosure

Family Ticket
(one adult and one child)
£13, Additional child £3

All restricted view seats behind the dugouts will be reduced to concessionary rates next season. But the best way to save money is to buy your season ticket before the end of May, with all season tickets costing you 30% less than you would pay over the season's League matches for individual tickets.

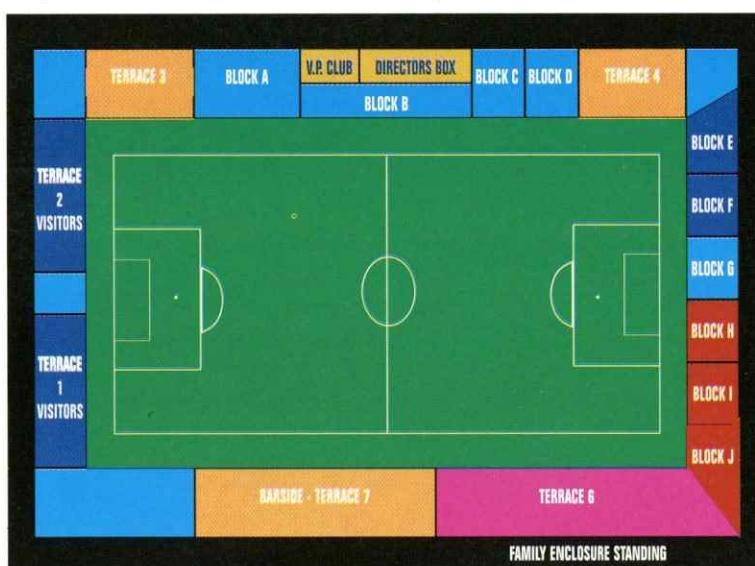
For example if you buy a season ticket for a seat in the Main Stand or Clock End you will save a massive £111 over the course of the season — that's nearly seven games free!

Paying for individual matchday tickets in those areas of the ground

over 23 League games would cost £368 but if you buy your season ticket by May 31 you will have to pay just £257! That amounts to a saving of £4.82 per game.

Matchday tickets for the Family Enclosure have been frozen for next season but the season tickets for this part of the ground have been reduced even further from the present prices. If you buy a family season (for one adult and one child) before May 30 you will pay just £209, a saving of £90 over the season which amounts to an adult and child getting into every League match at Layer Road for less than £10 a time!

How can you pass this great value up? To make sure you get your hands on a season ticket and be part of Parky's plans for the future of the U's fill in the application form opposite or call in at the U's ticket office before May 31.



Whilst Kem Izet's performances over the 2002/3 season have installed him as one of the contenders for the Colchester United Player of the Year, the former Charlton Athletic trainee also stands a chance of retaining his Young Player of the Year title.

In the award's first year of running last season, Kem gained 32% of the votes cast on unofficial website colounline.com last April to see off the challenge of Thomas Pinault (27%) and become the U's top young player for the 2001/2 campaign.

And, as he is still aged only 22, he is a contender once again for the Young Player of the Year. The award is open to all Colchester United players who are aged 24 or under at the start of the calendar year and, as with the Clubman of the Year award, we are extending the voting to all Colchester United supporters this time around.

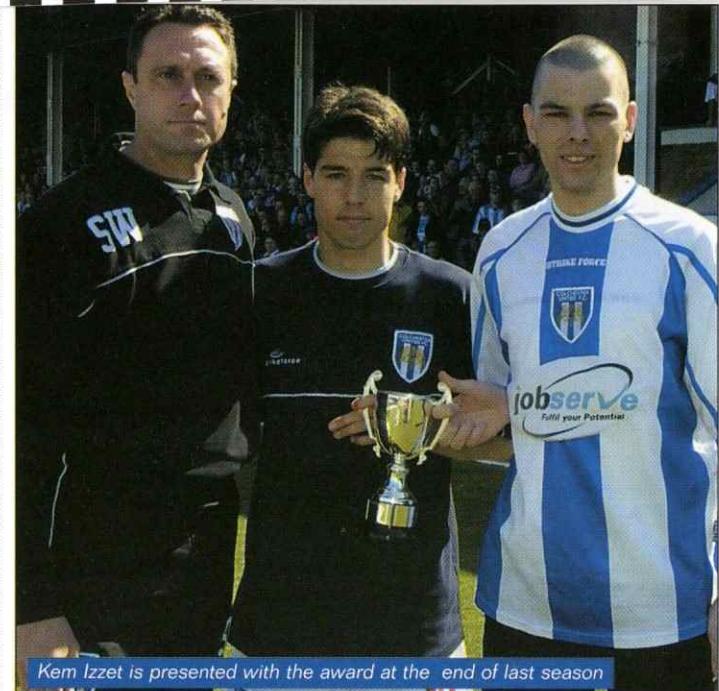
Several young faces have made a big impact to the team's fortunes over the past nine months as the squad inherited by Phil Parkinson is one with a distinctly youthful feel to it.

With Parky likely to be busy in the transfer market over the summer, next season promises much for Colchester United. And this season's Young Player of the Year (in association with colounline.com) nominees are as follows:

**Kem Izet
Pat Baldwin
Dean Morgan
Thomas Pinault
Richard McKinney
Marc Canham**

SO WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
You will be able to vote in one of three ways for your 2002/3 Colchester United Player of the Year. On each occasion, we will need your nominated player, your name and your contact telephone number.

Send in your vote to editor@colchesterunited.net AND ypoty@colchesterunited.com - multiple entries from the same address will only be counted once, so no funny



Kem Izet is presented with the award at the end of last season

business!

Send in a postcard with your vote to Colchester United Young Player of the Year, PO Box 7152, Boxford, CO10 5WZ

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, April 30th and the winning player will be presented with their trophy on the pitch before the QPR game.

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STOCKWELL MAKES IT ALL LOOK EASY

U's 3 Luton Town 1

From the Evening Gazette, Monday April 2 2001

COLCHESTER United new boy Kemal Izzet can be forgiven for thinking Second Division football is a doddle.

Thrown into the fray for his Football League debut as a 30th-minute midfield substitute for injured wingback Joe Keith, the 20-year-old Charlton Athletic loanee went back to the dressing room for his half-time cuppa with his team 3-0 up and the game already won.

His first 15 minutes of League football had been a dream come true.

With his older brother — Leicester City's Turkish international striker Muzzy Izzet watching from the stands, the pint-sized deadline day signing looked determined to soak up the glory that went with it.

While young Izzet revelled in his unexpected baptism, evergreen Mick Stockwell — the oldest man on the pitch — stole all the thunder, along with the U's miserly defence.

The back line didn't give Joe Kinnear's Hatters a look-in while leading scorer Stockwell stretched his goal tally for the season to nine — just one short of his best ever haul in 19 years with Ipswich.

Former Luton apprentice Aaron

Skelton netted the third from the penalty spot, while Steve Howard, the Hatters' recent £50,000 signing from Northampton, netted a late consolation goal — also from the spot.

Even that goal was scarcely merited, the penalty coming after Alan White — another former Luton man — was harshly adjudged to have handled.

U's boss Steve Whittom made two changes from the side which lost 1-0 to fellow strugglers Swindon Town on the same ground 11 days earlier.

Skipper Simon Clark, back in the starting line-up after a month's absence, returned along with strikers Keith Scott and Scott McGleish in place of Ross Johnson and Barry Conlon, while utility man Karl Duguid switched from striker to wingback in place of the unwell Joe Dunne.

With Luton fighting for their lives in the bottom three and the U's only ten points and four places better off, the game was rightly billed as a crunch six-pointer.

But it took the ever-alert Stockwell just 17 minutes to ease the U's worries after Skelton had gone close in the first 60 seconds and Richard

Dryden and Liam George had both tried their luck for the visitors.

Stockwell seized on a great knock-on by Scott to shoot a low drive under Hatters keeper Nathan Abbey from around 12 yards.

Home keeper Andy Woodman did well to turn away a curling Howard shot, but Stockwell struck his second killer blow on 37 minutes after Izzet had replaced Keith, who was unable to continue after a tough tackle from teenager Lee Mansell.

Skelton pinged a free-kick into the box from out near the left touchline. McGleish nodded it on for Stockwell to superbly control the ball before slotting another brilliant shot past Abbey from a tight angle.

Colchester rammed home their superiority and made it 3-0 for half-time four minutes later as Skelton smashed home an unstoppable penalty after Luton's Finnish international Petri Helin handled a Scott header in the area.

Helin was a sub for his country in the World Cup qualifier against England at Anfield a week earlier and a starter in Finland's goalless draw against England in the same competition last September.

The U's gave Luton a real lesson in finishing in the first half and the unmarked McGleish should have made it 4-0 four minutes into the second.

But he shot straight at Abbey having been put clear by Scott who had robbed Matthew Spring on the halfway line.

Skelton was also denied a goal by an acrobatic save from Abbey, while Luton squandered a 67th-minute sitter when Stuart Douglas — who had been brought on as third striker for the second half — shot wide with only Woodman to beat.

The visitors did manage a late consolation with that 83rd-minute

"...evergreen Mick Stockwell — the oldest man on the pitch — stole all the thunder, along with the U's miserly defence."



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ager a call on 01206 715306 for more details**



eddie the eagle

Hi Kids!

I'm back again today after having last Saturday off - I hear that my girlfriend Edwina was busy entertaining you all at the match against Notts County, whilst I was left doing the chores back at home.

I tell you, having to do the dishes, the ironing and the hoovering has made me realise just how much work she has to put in around the nest, so I'll be a little bit nicer when I return home in future!

Mind you, I'm glad that she's back home safe and sound today as I heard that she was beginning to enjoy herself a bit too much without me. I hope you enjoyed her brief appearance at Layer Road, but I also hope that you missed me a lot too!

We were very grateful at our last home game to be visited by the Easter Bunny from ASDA, who dished out free chocolate to you all. How many Easter eggs did you get this year? Are you getting fed up of eating all your chocolate yet? Hmm, that's a bit of a silly question eh?!

Now, most of you are on Easter holidays at the moment, so no doubt you've got plenty of time on your hands. And, mums and dads, I bet they're getting under your feet already, huh?

Well, I want the kids to get busy over the next week or so and start



drawing some pictures - either of me or of Edwina. What would we look like surrounded by Easter eggs? What do you think our nest looks like?

Get your pens and pencils out and start drawing some pictures and the best of them will appear in the matchday magazine for the last game of the season against QPR.

Send your entries to:

Eddie The Eagle,
C/o Julie Ager,
Colchester United FC,
Layer Road,
Colchester,
Essex,
CO2 7JJ.

Eddie



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COLCHESTER UNITED
COMMUNITY SPORTS TRUST



A very Happy Easter to you all. We are very busy at the moment with our Easter Holiday Courses for the kids, who are enjoying working off all that chocolate while they brush up on their soccer skills...

ANNUAL SUMMER SOCCER CAMP

Supported by



Come and meet and be coached by the
Colchester Utd Professionals
4-8th August 9.00am - 1.00pm

This fantastic and VERY popular Summer Holiday Football Course is now taking bookings. Time on the camp includes

- Coaching with the Colchester United Professionals and Community Staff
- Exciting competitions and challenges
- Small sided "World Cup" tournament

The camp will offer each player...

- Adidas Football shirt
- Soccer Camp t-shirt
- Trophy of attendance
- Fun practices
- Player of the week prizes
- Opportunity to progress to Colchester Utd's "Advanced Coaching Programme" and "Centre of Excellence"

Cost £50 (£42.50 for second & third Child and Blue Eagles members)

The course is open to boys and girls and booking forms are available from the Community Soccer Centre, contact Steve Downey on 01206 572378.

Today we welcome to our Matchday Club The TRIMLEY RED DEVILS U9s Team. The boys play on Saturday mornings in 7-a-side mini soccer in the Felixstowe and District Youth League. The A and B team are made up from a squad of 16. Both teams have done very well this year and will finish in 4th and 5th place respectively. The B-side is also through to the League Cup Final, which is being played on 26th April at Woodbridge Town FC. We hope they enjoy their great matchday experience.

TOP ACCOLADE FOR STEVE BARTLETT
Colchester United's Steve Bartlett was honoured for his commitment to disability football at the

Essex County Council's Sports Coach of the Year Awards on April 11.

Steve, who manages Colchester United Pan Disability and recently became coach of the England Cerebral Palsy team, was the winner of the Coaching Disabled Sports People category and received his award at the Essex Records Office from Great Britain Jujitsu team member Carrie Bywater.

"It's really nice to be nominated and win an award but it's obviously not the reason why I'm involved in working with disabled athletes," said Steve.

"Being part of an evening like this definitely makes me look back on what's been achieved though," he added.

Steve first got involved in disability football after he was approached by Gary Smith of Marketfield School to help coach disabled athletes in a series of after school sessions.

Since then he has gone on to manage Colchester United Pan Disability FC who boast England Learning Disability World Cup winners Chris Kemsley and Dave Ashmoore in their squad plus, as coach of the England Cerebral Palsy team, he could be involved in the World Championships that takes place in Buenos Aires later this year.

Hosting the evening was BBC Essex's Roger Buxton.

"People like Steve help keep sport thriving in Essex and these awards are our way of saying thank you to everyone here tonight," said the veteran of local radio broadcasting.

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOOTBALL FESTIVAL

The Colchester Utd Community Sports Trust annual "Football Festival for Centre of Excellence girls" held this week and was another huge success for the trust, with teams from all over region parading their silky skills at the Soccer Centre, Clairmont Road.

The clubs enjoyed a sunny day of football for girls from U10 - U16 with a small presentation at the end for Player of the Day and Team of the Day.

The festival, which is held as a celebration of the girl's hard work over the season, also gives some teams the opportunity to play against girls of a similar standard. The majority of Centre of Excellence sides compete in the F.A. South East Centre of Excellence League, however for some sides such as Rushden & Diamonds, Norwich and Cambridge the travelling involved in order to compete is too onerous and their talented

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SAFETY IS OUR GOAL



youngsters compete in county girls leagues instead. This festival provides an excellent platform for these clubs to assess their players and compete against teams of a similar standard in a safe and enjoyable environment.

The annual festival is held at the King George V Playing Fields, Clairmont Road and this also demonstrates how important good quality local authority facilities are for this type of targeted community work.

If you would like to find out more about the opportunities in your area please contact the Community Soccer Centre on 01206 572378.



BARCLAYS

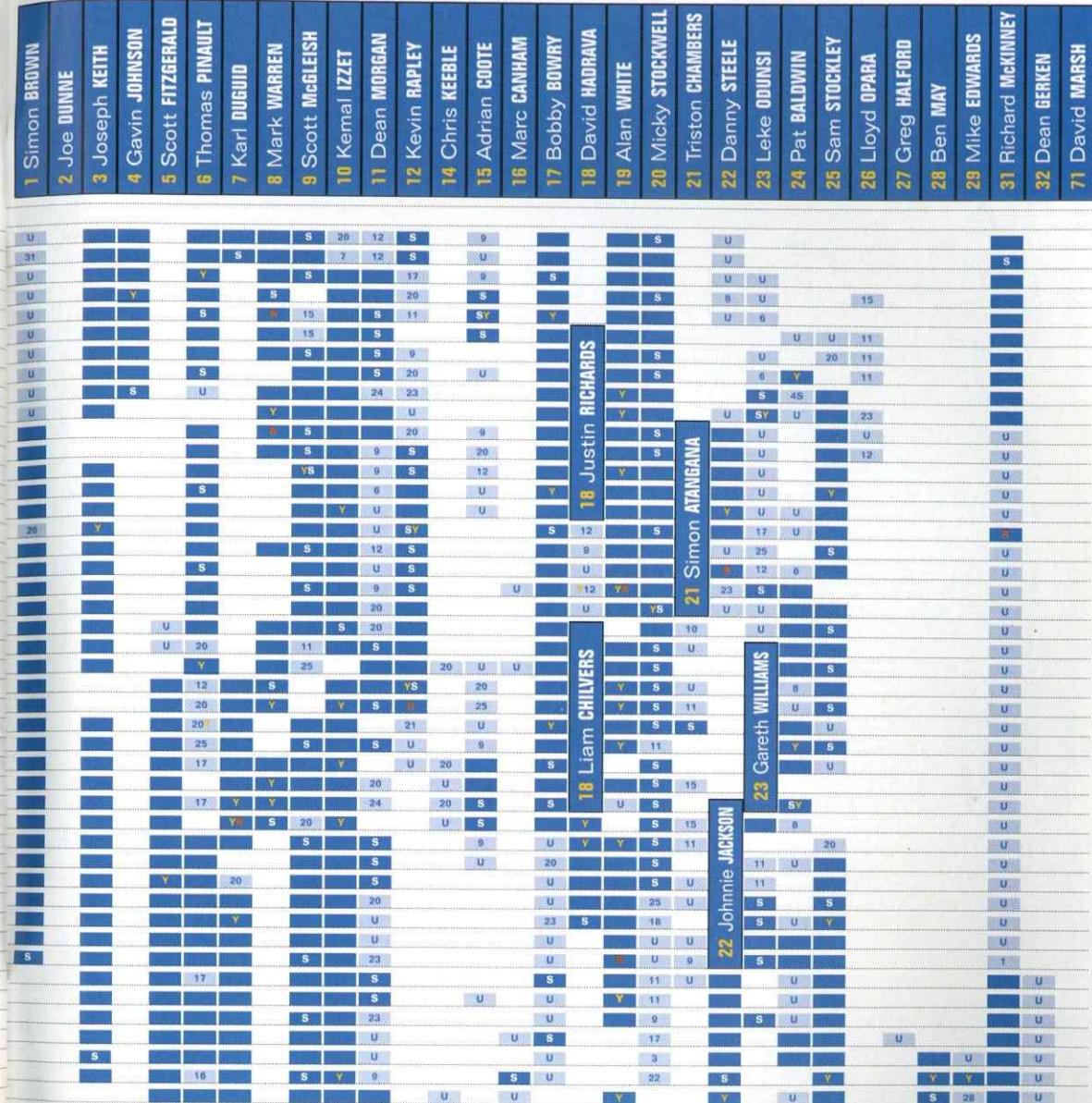


how they lined up...

Key: Played s Played, came off as sub 7 Substitute (came on for number in box)
 U Unused sub Y Booked R Sent Off

| Date | Opposition | H/A | Score | Att | Pos | Colchester United Scorer(s) |
|------------|------------------------|-----|-------|--------|-----|-----------------------------|
| Sat Aug 10 | Stockport County | H | W1-0 | 3,300 | - | Pinault 58 Keith 53 |
| Tue Aug 13 | Tranmere Rovers | A | D1-1 | 7,499 | - | |
| Sat Aug 17 | Crewe Alexandra | A | L0-2 | 5,138 | - | |
| Sat Aug 24 | Brentford | H | L0-1 | 3,135 | 19 | |
| Mon Aug 26 | Peterborough United | A | W1-0 | 4,203 | 12 | Keith 80 |
| Sat Aug 31 | Wigan Athletic | H | W1-0 | 2,721 | 8 | Morgan 41 |
| Sat Sep 7 | Cheltenham Town | H | D1-1 | 2,845 | 10 | Keith 58 (pen) |
| Wed Sep 11 | Coventry City (WC1) | A | L0-3 | 6,075 | - | |
| Sat Sep 14 | Port Vale | A | L0-1 | 3,328 | 14 | |
| Tue Sep 17 | Northampton Town | A | L1-4 | 3,663 | 16 | Sampson O.G. 36 |
| Sat Sep 21 | Oldham Athletic | H | L0-1 | 3,021 | 15 | |
| Sat Sep 28 | Queens Park Rangers | A | L0-2 | 12,906 | 20 | |
| Sat Oct 5 | Wycombe Wanderers | H | L0-1 | 3,252 | 20 | |
| Sat Oct 12 | Swindon Town | A | D2-2 | 4,152 | 21 | |
| Fri Oct 18 | Chesterfield | H | W2-0 | 3,211 | 17 | |
| Tue Oct 22 | Cheltenham Town (LDV1) | A | L1-4 | 1,369 | - | |
| Sat Oct 26 | Huddersfield Town | A | D1-1 | 8,912 | 19 | |
| Tue Oct 29 | Barnsley | H | D1-1 | 3,096 | 18 | |
| Fri Nov 1 | Mansfield Town | A | L2-4 | 3,414 | 20 | |
| Sat Nov 9 | Bristol City | H | D2-2 | 3,338 | 21 | |
| Sat Nov 16 | Chester City (FAC1) | H | L0-1 | 2,901 | - | |
| Sat Nov 23 | Notts. County | A | W3-2 | 4,626 | 19 | |
| Sat Nov 30 | Plymouth Argyle | H | D0-0 | 3,714 | 19 | |
| Sat Dec 14 | Luton Town | A | W2-1 | 5,890 | 15 | |
| Fri Dec 20 | Cardiff City | H | L1-2 | 3,096 | 15 | |
| Thu Dec 26 | Peterborough United | H | D1-1 | 3,760 | 17 | |
| Sat Dec 28 | Blackpool | A | L1-3 | 6,040 | 18 | |
| Sat Jan 4 | Tranmere Rovers | H | D2-2 | 2,846 | 17 | |
| Sat Jan 11 | Crewe Alexandra | H | L1-2 | 2,949 | 20 | |
| Sat Jan 18 | Wigan Athletic | A | L1-2 | 5,792 | 21 | |
| Sat Jan 25 | Blackpool | H | L0-2 | 3,305 | 23 | |
| Sat Feb 1 | Stockport County | A | D1-1 | 4,011 | 21 | |
| Sat Feb 8 | Bristol City | A | W2-1 | 11,107 | 20 | |
| Fri Feb 14 | Mansfield Town | H | W1-0 | 3,247 | 16 | |
| Sat Feb 22 | Cheltenham Town | A | D1-1 | 3,607 | 18 | |
| Sat Mar 1 | Port Vale | H | W4-1 | 3,581 | 17 | |
| Tue Mar 4 | Northampton Town | H | W2-0 | 3,408 | 15 | |
| Sat Mar 8 | Oldham Athletic | A | L0-2 | 5,223 | 17 | |
| Tue Mar 11 | Brentford | A | D1-1 | 3,990 | 16 | |
| Sat Mar 15 | Huddersfield Town | H | W2-0 | 3,835 | 15 | |
| Tue Mar 18 | Chesterfield | A | W4-0 | 3,226 | 12 | |
| Sat Mar 22 | Barnsley | A | D1-1 | 9,154 | 13 | |
| Sat Mar 29 | Swindon Town | H | W1-0 | 3,787 | 11 | |
| Sat Apr 5 | Plymouth Argyle | A | D0-0 | 7,122 | 12 | |
| Sat Apr 12 | Notts. County | H | D1-1 | 3,435 | 11 | |
| Sat Apr 19 | Cardiff City | A | | | | |
| Mon Apr 21 | Luton Town | H | | | | |
| Sat Apr 26 | Wycombe Wanderers | A | | | | |
| Sat May 3 | Queens Park Rangers | H | | | | |

Please note that these are subject to change. Nationwide League unless stated.



Face in the crowd



Face in the crowd

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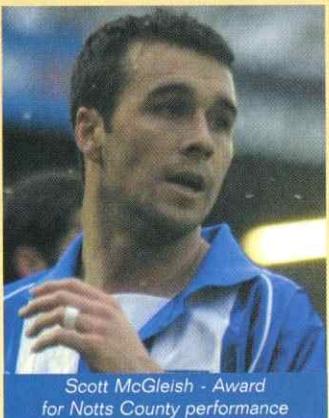
COLCHESTER UNITED MAN-OF-THE-MATCH AWARDS

As voted for by the Vice-Presidents and Matchday Sponsors

Opponent
Stockport County
Brentford
Wigan Athletic
Cheltenham Town
Oldham Athletic
Wycombe Wanderers
Chesterfield
Barnsley
Bristol City
Chester City
Plymouth Argyle
Cardiff City
Peterborough United
Tranmere Rovers
Crewe Alexandra
Blackpool
Mansfield Town
Port Vale
Northampton Town
Huddersfield Town
Swindon Town
Notts County

Man-of-the-Match
Thomas Pinault
Richard McKinney
Dean Morgan
Alan White
Sam Stockley
Kem Izet
Kem Izet
Alan White
Bobby Bowry
Simon Brown
Alan White
Simon Brown
Kem Izet
Adrian Coote
Simon Brown
Simon Brown
Liam Chiivers
Gareth Williams
Sam Stockley
Johnnie Jackson
Pat Baldwin
Scott McGleish

Runner-Up
Mark Warren
Alan White
Mark Warren
Bobby Bowry
Thomas Pinault
Thomas Pinault
Kevin Rapley
Simon Brown
Thomas Pinault
Kevin Rapley
Thomas Pinault
Kem Izet
Scott Fitzgerald
Kem Izet
Micky Stockwell
Joe Keith
Kem Izet/Scott McGleish
Scott McGleish
Thomas Pinault
Thomas Pinault
Richard McKinney
Thomas Pinault



Scott McGleish - Award for Notts County performance

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the teams

COLCHESTER UNITED LUTON TOWN

| | Pld | Gl | | Pld | Gl |
|-----------------------------|-------|-----------|----------------------------|-------|-----------|
| 1. Simon BROWN | | ○ □ | 1. Mark OVENDALE | | ○ □ |
| 2. Joe DUNNE | | ○ □ | 2. Aaron SKELTON | ..... | ○ ..... □ |
| 3. Joseph KEITH | | ○ □ | 3. Alan NEILSON | ..... | ○ ..... □ |
| 4. Gavin JOHNSON | | ○ □ | 4. Matthew SPRING | ..... | ○ ..... □ |
| 5. Scott FITZGERALD | | ○ □ | 5. Russell PERRITT | ..... | ○ ..... □ |
| 6. Thomas PINAULT | | ○ □ | 6. Marvin JOHNSON | ..... | ○ ..... □ |
| 7. Karl DUGUID | | ○ □ | 7. Adrian FORBES | ..... | ○ ..... □ |
| 8. Mark WARREN | | ○ □ | 8. Kevin NICHOLLS | ..... | ○ ..... □ |
| 9. Scott McGLEISH | | ○ □ | 9. Tony THORPE | ..... | ○ ..... □ |
| 10. Kemal IZZET | | ○ □ | 10. Carl GRIFFITHS | ..... | ○ ..... □ |
| 11. Dean MORGAN | | ○ □ | 11. Steve ROBINSON | ..... | ○ ..... □ |
| 12. Kevin RAPLEY | | ○ □ | 12. Chris COYNE | ..... | ○ ..... □ |
| 14. Chris KEEBLE | | ○ □ | 15. Dean CROWE | ..... | ○ ..... □ |
| 15. Adrian COOTE | | ○ □ | 16. Carl EMBERSON | ..... | ○ ..... □ |
| 16. Marc CANHAM | | ○ □ | 17. Emmerson BOYCE | ..... | ○ ..... □ |
| 17. Bobby BOWRY | | ○ □ | 18. Ahmet BRKOVIC | ..... | ○ ..... □ |
| 19. Alan WHITE | | ○ □ | 19. Steve HOWARD | ..... | ○ ..... □ |
| 20. Micky STOCKWELL | | ○ □ | 20. Peter HOLMES | ..... | ○ ..... □ |
| 24. Pat BALDWIN | | ○ □ | 21. Paul HUGHES | ..... | ○ ..... □ |
| 25. Sam STOCKLEY | | ○ □ | 22. David BAYLISS | ..... | ○ ..... □ |
| 26. Johnnie JACKSON | | ○ □ | 23. Ian HILLIER | ..... | ○ ..... □ |
| 27. Greg HALFORD | | ○ □ | 24. Sol DAVIS | ..... | ○ ..... □ |
| 28. Ben MAY | | ○ □ | 25. Duncan JUPP | ..... | ○ ..... □ |
| 29. Mike EDWARDS | | ○ □ | 26. Sammy IGOE | ..... | ○ ..... □ |
| 31. Richard McKINNEY | | ○ □ | 31. Alan KIMBLE | ..... | ○ ..... □ |
| 32. Dean GERKEN | | ○ □ | 32. Lee MANSELL | ..... | ○ ..... □ |
| 71. David MARSH | | ○ □ | 36. Robert GILLMAN | ..... | ○ ..... □ |
| | | | 37. Chris WILLMOTT | ..... | ○ ..... □ |
| | | | 38. Michael LEARY | ..... | ○ ..... □ |
| | | | 39. Stephen O'LEARY | ..... | ○ ..... □ |
| | | | 40. James OSBORN | ..... | ○ ..... □ |
| | | | 41. Kevin FOLEY | ..... | ○ ..... □ |
| | | | 47. Robert BECKWITH | ..... | ○ ..... □ |

match officials

Referee:

Mr C. Penton [Sussex]

Assistants:

Mr S. Rubery [Essex]

Mr C. Francis [Cambs]

Fourth Official:

Mr J.M. Hayto [Essex]

next here...

v Queens Park Rangers

Saturday May 3rd 2003

Nationwide League Division Two

Kick-Off 3.00pm

last line-ups

Colchester United -
drew 1-1 at Notts County
McKinney, Stockley, Jackson,
Fitzgerald, White, Duguid,
Morgan, Izzet, Pinault, McGleish,
May (Edwards)

Luton Town -

lost 0-2 at QPR

Ovendale, Boyce, Coyne,
Willmott, Davis, Spring, Nicholls,
Holmes, Hughes (Neilson),
Forbes, Howard

Evening Gazette