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COUNTY

Coca Cola League 1

v Luton Town

Saturday September 18th 2004

Kick-Off 3.00pm

Official Match Programme £2.50



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They wore the shirt... County 3 Luton Town 0 - FA Cup Round 3 1958

Honours List

Division Two Runners-Up
1997

**Division Three (North)
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1922, 1937

**Division Three (North)
Runners-Up**
1929, 1930

Division Four Champions
1967

Division Four Runners-Up
1991

**Division Two Play-Off
Finalists**
1994

**Division Three Play-Off
Finalists**
1992

Autoglass Trophy Finalists
1992, 1993

**Division Three (North) Cup
Winners**
1935

**Division Three (North)
Cup Finalists**
1934

**Manchester Senior Cup
Winners**
1898, 1899, 1915, 1923

Cheshire Medal Winners
1923, 1925, 1929, 1930,
1931

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1934, 1949, 1953, 1956,
1957, 1959, 1961, 1963

**Cheshire Friendly Trophy
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1966, 1967

**Cheshire Premier Cup
Winners**
1970, 1971

Club Contacts

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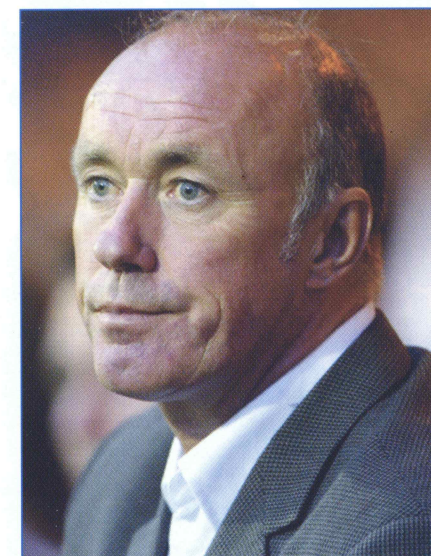
County Official Website

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County ClubCall 09068 121638

Sammy McIlroy

I was absolutely devastated after last Saturday's game at Ashton Gate. Okay, Bristol City are a decent side but we made them look like Brazil with some awful defending.



I was absolutely devastated after last Saturday's game at Ashton Gate. Okay, Bristol City are a decent side but we made them look like Brazil with some awful defending.

What made it worse was the fact that we'd worked so hard all week on training pitch trying to put things right, and we then go and turn in an awful performance like that.

Some of the things that happened in Bristol you wouldn't see in the local Sunday league. The players don't mean to put in a performance like that and I feel sorry for all our supporters who travelled to Ashton Gate – despite the result they were absolutely magnificent and were still singing when the game was clearly beyond us.

HOME TRUTHS

The players lost their day off on Sunday as we had them in at Manor Farm. As you can imagine the session wasn't pleasant and a few home truths were

told. The players had a chat between themselves and, to be fair, they know where we are going wrong. Being honest, though, we all do. We have a soft centre at the moment and it doesn't matter who we are playing. If we had put the Berlin Wall up at Ashton Gate Bristol would still have got through.

We have got a very young squad and one or two of the lads need to be taken out of the firing line to give them a breather, but at the moment we don't have too many options.

I have been working tirelessly all week to try and bring in an experienced central defender to try and bolster the squad but a couple of deals we had lined up fell through at the last minute, which is very frustrating.

CONFIDENT

However, we'll keep trying and I remain confident that we will be able to announce the signing of an experienced defender by the middle of next week. To compound matters today, though, both Mark Robertson and Jon Daly, who missed last week's game through injury, are still a little way off from returning.

We'll juggle one or two things around but it's clear to everyone who has watched us recently that several players are lacking confidence.

We face a very, very tough game against a Luton team that are absolutely flying and, if we are to kick-start our season, we need you right behind us.

The lads are apprehensive and a little nervous in possession so, if they make a mistake, please encourage – we must all stick together.

STRONG

We must all remain strong, on and off the pitch because that's the only way we'll turn things around.

You are fantastic supporters and I know you are hurting at the moment, but those that know me know that I'm hurting just as much as you.

This is the hardest situation I've ever faced in football, including Northern Ireland, but I'm determined to sort it out.

If we all stick together I'm certain we'll soon start climbing the table.



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 Chesterfield F.C.	 Brentford F.C.	 Colchester United F.C.	 A.F.C. Bournemouth
 Bristol City F.C.	 Peterborough United F.C.	 Barnsley F.C.	 Oldham Athletic F.C.
 Torquay United F.C.	 Bradford City F.C.	 Hartlepool United F.C.	 Doncaster Rovers F.C.
 Walsall F.C.	 Swindon Town F.C.	 Wrexham A.F.C.	 Sheffield Wednesday F.C.
 Tranmere Rovers F.C.	 Hull City A.F.C.	 Luton Town F.C.	The 'Coca-Cola' Football League. The Real League.

AroundEP

Hello everyone and welcome back to Edgeley Park for what looks certain to be an entertaining clash against Luton Town.

The 'other' Hatters have made a fantastic start to the season and will fancy their chances of winning their third successive game at EP. But the 'real' Hatters can produce a result when you least expect it, can't they, and we really do need one today. Make some noise for the boys – let's make it happen!

UNLUCKY

Fraser McLachlan has returned early from his loan spell at Northwich Victoria with a fairly serious knee injury. The popular midfielder was victim of a late tackle against Morecambe – his third game for Vics – that damaged his medial ligament. The 21-year-old now faces around a month on the sidelines. Meanwhile, there was better news for Michael Byrne on loan at Leigh RMI. The striker marked his debut with two goals in the Railwaymen's impressive draw with Conference promotion-chasers Aldershot.

INTERNATIONAL CLASS

Congratulations to Scott Best who became the latest County player to win international honours at Edgeley Park. The young defender played for Northern Ireland Under-19s in their recent clash with Denmark at Ballymena.

MEET RICKIE AND LUKE THIS WEDNESDAY

The next Supporters Club meeting will take place this Wednesday, September 22, in the Supporters Club Bar on the 1st floor of the Cheadle End complex. Luke Beckett and Rickie Lambert will be in attendance to answer your questions with the action kicking-off at 8.00pm.

Everyone is welcome so please try and get along to support the event.

DISCOUNTED TICKETS

Don't forget that you can make big savings for our LDV Vans Trophy clash with Bury on Tuesday, September 28th, if you purchase tickets in advance.

Adults booking their seats before close of business on Friday, September 24th, will pay just £10 with concessions charged £5 – and this applies to all areas inside Edgeley Park.

Prices for tickets purchased in the week of the game will be £12 (adults) and £6 concessions.

Staying with the game against the Shakers for a moment we also have a fantastic, one-off hospitality package available as well. Check out Page 53 of today's programme for full details.

far right. Michael Byrne scored twice for Leigh RMI



right. Scott Best played for Northern Ireland Under-19s against Denmark



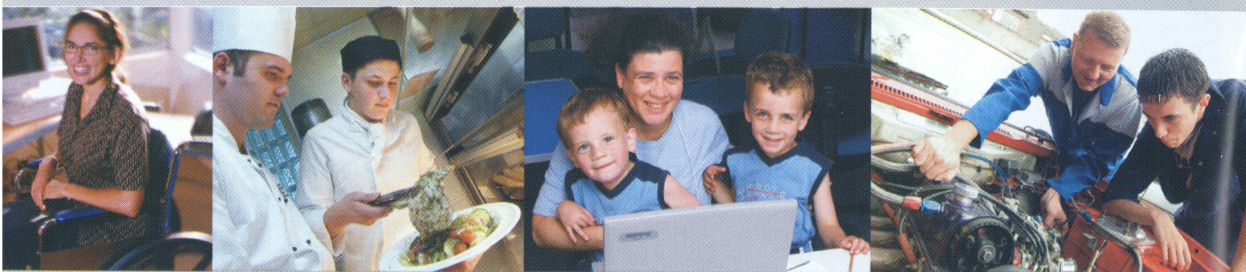
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AroundEP

FIFA has designated this weekend as the eight FIFA World Fair Play Day.

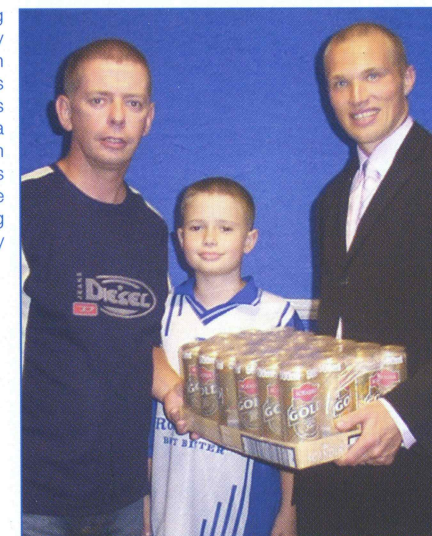


FIFA WORLD FAIR PLAY DAY

The date has been chosen to link this year's events to another special celebration: the United Nations International Day of Peace, an invitation to all nations and people to honour a cessation of hostilities around the world. Today especially, is a reminder that every player, coach, referee and fan must not lose sight of the fact that the best formula for playing football is by demonstrating fair play and respect.

County fans showed their sportsmanship a fortnight ago when the applauded Torquay striker Martin Gritton off the pitch despite the

Despite County going down 2-0 to Torquay United, Fan of the Match Andy Holliday was delighted to receive his prize of a case of Scandia Gold at the game on 4th September. Along with his son, he collected his prize from new summer-signing Warren Feeney



fact that he had just scored two goals against their side.

It was an outstanding gesture – please keep up the good work today.

PEELS ARE OFF TO HULL AND BACK!

We've just received notification the the Peels on Wheels Travel Club are running a coach to Hull next Saturday. It leaves the Bobby Peel on Castle Street at 10am and it's just £12 per person.

Please ring Caz Burt on 07970 216696 to make your booking.

TRUE BLUE ...

has been brought to you today courtesy of Chris Davies, Chris Peel, Ian Lancashire, Andy Gosling, Mike Smith, Steve Southart, Stuart Crawford, Ian Watts, Jon Keighren, Simon Smedley, Ian Butterworth, Des Hinks, Steve Bellis, Geoff Thomas, Des Hinks Jnr, Jacci Cooper and Gary Richards.

CAN YOU HELP?

Do you have a spare copy of the match programme for last season's home agme against Queens Park Rangers?

If you can help please telephone Mr Gibbon on 01582 456637.

5050

County v Torquay United
Saturday September 4

1st Prize	No. 5425	£150
2nd Prize	No. 3565	Executive Day
3rd Prize	No. 3658	Pair of Match Tickets
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Beckett's Bets

Luke didn't do too well with his last predictions although, to be fair, he did tell us that England would draw in Austria.

But that was the only one of his top five tips that came in and for that he can thank David James, can't he? However, he Hitman is confident of doing much better today and, to add a little competitive edge to the proceedings, we've invited Ian Dooley from the Stockport County Supporters Club to give us his verdict of what will happen in League One over the next few hours.

"We'll beat Barnsley, Luke."
"No you won't Efe, it'll end 1-1."



Blackpool v Swindon Town

Luke's Prediction: 0-1 Another defeat keeps the Seaside's bottom.

CountyBet: 7/1

Ian's Prediction: 1-2 Swindon are a good away side and should see off the Seaside's.

CountyBet: 15/2

Bradford City v Bristol City

Luke's Prediction: 2-2 Two good teams to share the points at Valley Parade.

CountyBet: 12/1

Ian's Prediction: 1-2 The Robins found their feet last week so this should be an away win.

CountyBet: 15/2

Brentford v Port Vale

Luke's Prediction: 2-1 Vale are on the slide so I'll say a home win at Griffin Park.

CountyBet: 7/1

Ian's Prediction: 0-0 Two well-matched sides will share the points in the capital.

CountyBet: 17/2

Chesterfield v Walsall

Luke's Prediction: 1-0 The Spireites will continue their good form at Saltergate.

CountyBet: 7/1

Ian's Prediction: 2-0 Chesterfield are the surprise side so far, another home win.

CountyBet: 8/1

Colchester United v M K Dons

Luke's Prediction: 2-0 Home banker at Layer Road.

CountyBet: 11/2

Ian's Prediction: 3-0 The U's are going well and will cruise to an easy home win.

CountyBet: 10/1

Doncaster Rovers v Oldham Athletic

Luke's Prediction: 0-0 A stalemate at Belle Vue between these two mid-table sides.

CountyBet: 9/1

Ian's Prediction: 1-0 The League One new boys will just edge it against the Latics.

CountyBet: 6/1

Hartlepool United v Torquay United

Luke's Prediction: 1-0 Hartlepool will be too strong at home to edge out Torquay.

CountyBet: 6/1

Ian's Prediction: 2-1 A long trip home for Torquay after losing at Victoria Park.

CountyBet: 7/1

Huddersfield Town v Barnsley

Luke's Prediction: 1-1 The points will be shared in this fierce local derby.

CountyBet: 11/2

Ian's Prediction: 2-1 The Terriers will pick up the victory in a close Yorkshire derby.

CountyBet: 7/1

Peterborough United v Hull City

Luke's Prediction: 1-2 Aaron Wilbraham's team are on the march and will pick up another three points.

CountyBet: 8/1

Ian's Prediction: 0-0 Hull can't put a run together and I can see a tough no score draw.

CountyBet: 17/2

LUKE'S TOP-TIPS

Every week we'll be placing a fiver on Luke's bankers with all our profits at the end of the season donated to charity: he will win, won't he! Anyway, a bit of fun for a good cause can't be bad, so here we go.

Norwich City v Aston Villa

Away win - CountyBet 6/4

West Ham v Ipswich Town

Home win - CountyBet Evens

Wigan Athletic v Sheffield United

Home win - CountyBet 4/5

Bristol Rovers v Lincoln City

Home win - CountyBet 4/6

Mansfield Town v Rochdale

Home win - CountyBet 8/13

£5 wins £116.15

Can you do better than Luke or Ian? If you would like to go head-to-head with Luke in a future programme then drop us a line marked Beckett's Bets giving your name, age and telephone number.

CountyBet can be accessed via our official website www.stockportcounty.com and, remember, all bets placed directly benefits the Hatters

Sheffield Wednesday v Bournemouth

Luke's Prediction: 2-0 The Owls will be too strong for the Cherries at Hillsborough.

CountyBet: 6/1

Ian's Prediction: 2-1 I can't see the 'big boys' getting anything other than a home win.

CountyBet: 7/1



Stockport County v Luton Town

Luke's Prediction: 2-1 A great game for us to get going against the leaders.

CountyBet: 10/1

Ian's Prediction: 2-1 A coupon buster and the start of our season.

CountyBet: 10/1

Tranmere Rovers v Wrexham

Luke's Prediction: 2-1 Rovers are hard to beat at home and will pick up the points.

CountyBet: 7/1

Ian's Prediction: 2-1 Tranmere are yet to drop a home point and should come out on top in this local derby.

CountyBet: 7/1

Can you do better than Luke or Ian? If you would like to go head-to-head with Luke in a future programme then drop us a line marked Beckett's Bets giving your name, age and telephone number.

Telephone 08000 322365 to set up your CountyBet account now!

MatchReview

Coca-Cola League One
Saturday September 4 2004

County 0
Torquay United 2

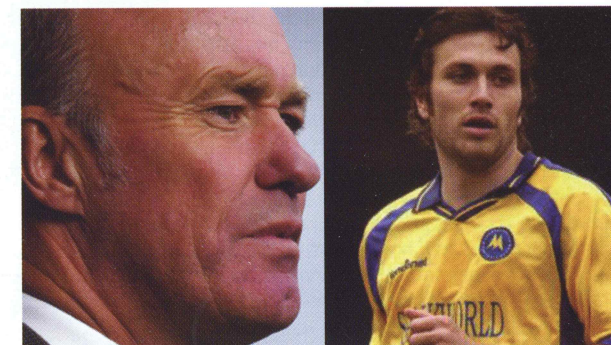
County Spencer, Geary, A Williams, Mair, Adams (Jackman 78), Cartwright, Lambert, Robertson (Morrison 62), Bridge-Wilkinson, Feeney, Daly (Barlow 63)
Unused subs Goodwin, Hardiker

Torquay Van Heusden, Canoville, Woods, Taylor, McGlinchey, Bedeau, Wardley, Meirelles (Hockley 82), Phillips, Gritton (Noble 85), Kuffour
Unused subs Dearden, Owen, Willis
Goals Gritton 30, 58
Booked Woods

Attendance 4,372

Visitors 182

Referee Joe Ross (London)



Mclroy

"It was a really below-par performance. We were lethargic, our passing was dreadful and there was no spark.

"After the Tranmere game we trained brilliantly all through the week and then we give a performance like that.

"As manager I take full responsibility because I never, ever want to send a team out to play so poorly. It was dreadful."

Gritton

"It's been great to get some chances and put two away. This victory will go a long way to strengthening us. There was pressure on us before the game but we were buzzing and everything has worked out for us.

"The defence was resolute and let's hope this result will take a bit of the pressure off us."

Warren Feeney came close to equalising just before half time against Torquay

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Climbing the Pyramid

Arsenal's unbeaten record in the Premiership is quite incredible and it brings into play similar records from the wonderful world of football.

Arsenal's 3-0 win over Fulham last weekend takes them to 45 but they are still a little behind the British record held by Celtic of 62 between 1915-17. Steaua Bucharest hold the European record with 104 between 1986 and 1989 whilst the world record appears to be held by a team in the Gold Coast between 1989 and 1994 with 109 games unbeaten. Non-League is also attempting to get on the

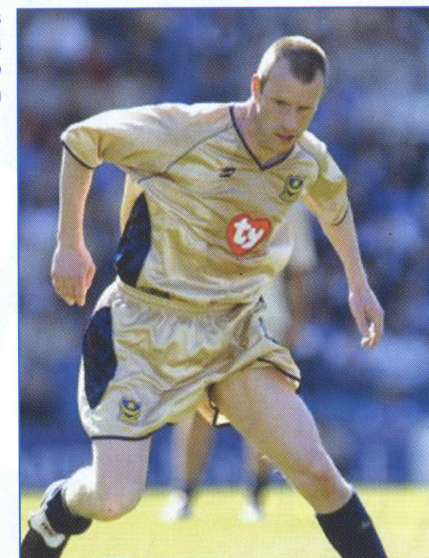
bandwagon and AFC Wimbledon are currently on a great run with 69 games unbeaten and chasing the non-league record set by Cornish side St Blazey who between May 2001 and April 2003 went 75 games without a defeat. Come on Wimbledon, you can do it!

It was sad to see my old friend Peter Wragg pushed out at Northwich Vics last week. Wragg has got a tremendous record in non-league football but due to his 'other' job he now restricts himself to assisting managers. Steve Burr probably thought that he needed somebody who had a little more time and has made an interesting appointment with Dave Moss his new assistant.

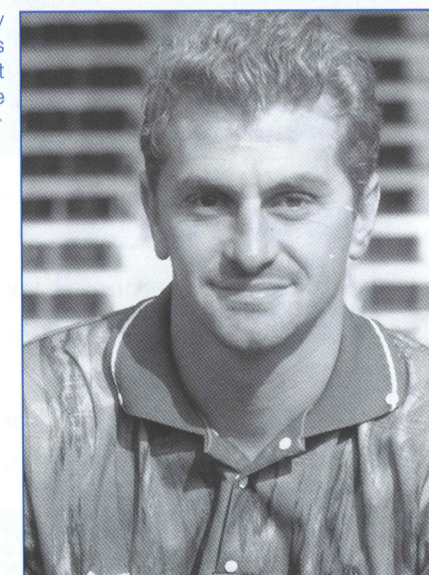
There was also a shock at Weymouth where chairman Ian Ridley resigned after he thought his job had become non-existent. Martyn Harrison had bought a majority shareholding in the club and Ridley, who had revitalised the club with the appointment of Steve Claridge, has reluctantly stepped down. Weymouth are a very ambitious Conference South club with a good crowd base and the highest paid manager in non-league. Even so, it is a puzzle why Claridge remains there despite receiving many offers from higher up the ladder. Stalybridge Celtic are having a bit of a torrid time so far this season. Last season wasn't much better either but manager, former County defender Dave Miller, cited injury problems as the root cause. He may run out of excuses this time round with Woodley manager, another former County player, Tony Hancock a possible candidate. How's this for a transfer with a difference? Hornchurch wanted £5,000 for their goalkeeper Danny Gaye but Braintree could only afford to give £4,000. Desperate to get away, Gaye decided to pay the other £1,000 himself!

The Isle of Wight are apparently short of referees. County FA official Keith Stroud decided to advertise and said in the job description that refereeing was fun and very rewarding! Where's the fun in being spoken to by players in an abusive manner or glared at as if the mother-in-law has suddenly turned up at the front door.

Steve Claridge has turned down a number of offers to stay at Weymouth



Former County defender Dave Miller is under pressure at Stalybridge



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EdgeleyEvents

This afternoon we go back in time to the days of Division Three (North) and Division Three (South).

In the 1950s one of the highlights on the fixture calendar was the representative game between the best players from each section.

And, on April 2, 1957, it was the turn of Edgeley Park to host the attractive North v South clash.

The attendance at EP underlines just how important this game was for supporters - a bumper 12,743.

A quick glance at the two teams shows two County stars, Bill Holden and Ken Finney, in the Northern side with Bournemouth's Reg Cutler - who would move to Edgeley Park 5 years later - playing for the South.

Also appearing for the Southerners was Ted Phillips whose 161 goals in 269 Ipswich appearances helped the Suffolk side win Division Three (South) in 1957, Division Two (1961) and Division One, 1962. After a spell at Leyton Orient he joined Luton in February 1965 scoring 8 goals for the Hatters in just 12 appearances before finishing his career with Colchester United.

The Northern trainer on the night was also a former County favourite - Billy Newton.

The Stockport Express reported the following week: "Even though the North were deserved winners, I don't think anyone would deny that the more cultured football came from the South. The Northern side looked at times like they had never met each other before. Even so, they had the great advantage of getting the first goal. This was a glorious flying

header from County's Bill Holden after Alf Ackerman had chased a through pass, shrugged off a challenge from Parker and crossed a lovely centre from the dead line.

"The South equalised some 15 minutes later when Neil Langman headed past Bob Gray.

"For the rest of the first half, the South looked the more likely to take the lead, but the score remained at 1-1. Then, three minutes after the break, the North missed a penalty after Parker had handled.

"The winner came in the last minute when a free-kick had been headed behind for a corner by Jardine. The flag kick, taken by Crispey, was met by the head of Holden and beat Pickering and might well have scored but Ackerman made certain from a foot out by slamming the ball into the net.

Holden was certainly a Northern star, a fact that gave much pleasure to the Stockport people who were perturbed to see one columnist express the view that his selection was only due to sentimentality with the game being played at Edgeley Park.

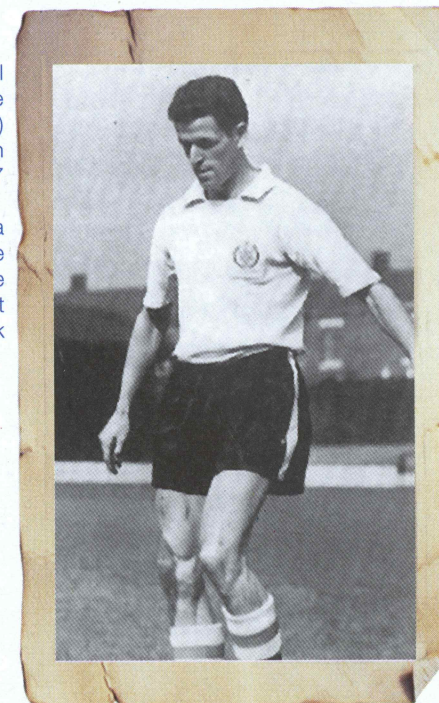
Final score Northern section 2 Southern section 1.

Northern section Bob Gray (Gateshead), Robert Brown (Workington), Tom Cahill (Barrow), Edward Hunter (Accrington), Ron Greener (Darlington), Barry Hutchinson (Chesterfield), Ken Finney (County), Ivor Broadis (Carlisle), Alfred Ackerman (Carlisle), Bill Holden (County), Brian Crispey (Hull)

Southern section Peter Pickering (Northampton), Alex Jardine (Millwall), George Fisher (Colchester), Glen Wilson (Brighton), Patrick Parker (Southampton), John Elsworth (Ipswich), Mike Hellawell (QPR), Don Mills (Torquay), Neil Langman (Plymouth), Ted Phillips (Ipswich), Reg Cutler (Bournemouth)

right. County's Bill Holden scored for the Division Three (North) representative side in 1957

far right. We issued a special 12-page programme for the North v South game at Edgeley Park





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LeagueOneReview

Luton Town arrive at Edgeley Park this afternoon seven points clear at the top of Coca-Cola League One following a 1-0 home win against rivals, and early-season surprise side, Chesterfield last Saturday. Rowan Vine scored the winner after 49 minutes but the (other) Hatters were helped by red cards to former County defender Shane Nicholson and teammate Steve Blatherwick. Mike Newell's side are now unbeaten in their first eight games. Chesterfield were second but dropped to fourth on the back of this reverse. Colchester United, however, kept up their good start to the campaign with a 3-1 win against Bournemouth at Dean Court. Craig Fagan and

Former County defender
Shane Nicholson was
red-carded at Luton



Dennis Lawrence scored
Wrexham's winner
against Bradford City



Gareth Williams gave the U's a two-goal cushion at the break but a Sam Stockley own goal set up an exciting finale. Ben May sealed the win for the Layer Road outfit with a third goal 11 minutes from time.

ANCHORED

Blackpool remain anchored at the bottom after a 2-1 defeat at the KC Stadium against Hull City. Stuart Green opened the scoring after 15 minutes for the home side but former County striker Scott Taylor gave the Seasiders hope with a goal just before the break. However, Stuart Elliott scored the winner for Peter Taylor's side after 57 minutes to keep the pressure on leaders Luton.

Mark Albrighton scored the winner for Doncaster against Milton Keynes Dons at the National Hockey Stadium to maintain Rover's steady start to the campaign.

Oldham Athletic survived a late scare to beat Hartlepool United 3-2 at Boundary Park. John Eyre and new boy Kevin Betsy put the Latics two up on the hour before Chris Westwood halved the deficit with 12 minutes to play. However, thoughts of a Pool comeback ended a mere four minutes later when Jermaine Johnson netted Oldham's third. There were still more thrills to come for the Oldham faithful, though, as a late own goal from Adam Griffin set up an exciting last few minutes.

HAT-TRICK

Pawel Abbott scored a second-half hat-trick as Huddersfield Town beat Port Vale 3-0 at Vale Park. The Polish forward scored after 62, 67 and 75 minutes to end the game in less than a quarter of an hour and maintain the Terrier's promotion charge, which currently sees them in fifth spot. The defeat saw an end to Vale's 100% home record this season and was their first home defeat since January. It was also the first time in 33 home games that Vale had failed to score – a bad day all round for Martin Foyle's team then!

Down in Devon, Brentford came from behind to grab a 2-2 draw with Torquay United. Stuart Wardley had given the Gulls a two-goal lead three minutes after the break only to see the Bees sting back with late goals from Chris Hargreaves and Sam Sodje. Sheffield Wednesday were a goal up through Glenn Whelan against Walsall but Michael Standing scored just before the break to secure a point at the Bescot.

An early strike from Dennis Lawrence in the second minute was enough for Wrexham to take all three points against Bradford City at the Racecourse. Steve Jenkins scored the first-half winner for Peterborough United in their 1-0 win against Swindon Town at the County Ground to help end the recent slump for Barry Fry's team. No goals and even less thrills it seems as Barnsley and Tranmere drew 0-0 at Oakwell.



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Luton Town

League One runaway leaders Luton Town made it 22 points from a possible 24 last Saturday when they narrowly defeated Chesterfield 1-0 at Kenilworth Road.

IN GOAL

Marlon Beresford arrived at Kenilworth Road in the summer of 2004 from Barnsley. The 35-year-old is a veteran in the English game having made over 450 appearances for Bury, Northampton, Crewe, Burnley, Middlesbrough, Sheff Wed, Wolves, York, Bradford and Barnsley.

IN DEFENCE

Kevin Foley has come through the youth ranks at Kenilworth Road and signed professional forms with the club in the summer of 2002. He is still only 19 years old but has already made nearly 50 appearances and great things are expected of this cultured defender.

Curtis Davies is a product of Luton's Academy and signed professional forms in the summer of 2003 having been a solid and consistent performer in the club's Under-19 side over the past couple of seasons. Chris Coyne started his career with West Ham although he only ever made one substitute appearance during his time at Upton Park. The Australian centre back, after loan spells with Brentford and Southend, left to join Dundee in March 2000 before joining Luton for £50,000 in September 2001.

Sol Davis started his career at Swindon where he made 128 appearances. He was out of contract at the end of the 2001-02 season and decided to join Luton on a Bosman free transfer. The highly-rated left back has since made nearly 100 appearances for Town.

IN MIDFIELD

Ahmet Brkovic is a Croatian midfielder who has been at Luton since October 2001 after they signed him on a Bosman free from Leyton Orient. The O's had previously brought Ahmet to England on a free transfer from HNK Dubrovnik in August 1998.

Kevin Nicholls is a tough tackling midfielder who began his career at Charlton and skippered England's Under-

18, 19 and 20 teams. He later joined Wigan who later, surprisingly, placed him on the transfer list; Luton snapped him up for a bargain £25,000 in August 2001. Steve Robinson is a Northern Irish midfielder who started his career as a trainee at Spurs, making two appearances. He joined Bournemouth on a free transfer in October 1994 before Preston paid £375,000 for him in May 2000. He left Deepdale in the summer of 2002 when Luton paid £50,000 for his services. Paul Underwood started his career at Enfield before Rushden gave him his first chance of league football when they signed him for £50,000 in August 1997. He joined Luton on transfer deadline day last season when they fought off competition from a number of clubs to capture his signature.

IN ATTACK

Rowan Vine is a Portsmouth striker who joined Luton on a three-month loan deal on the eve of the new season. The last two seasons have seen Rowan spend season-long loans with Brentford, scoring 13 goals, and then Colchester, scoring 12 goals.

Steve Howard joined Luton for £50,000 from Northampton in March 2001 and has certainly repaid that transfer fee scoring 71 goals in 148 appearances. The powerful striker picked up the Fans Player of the Year award in 2002 and then the Players' Player of the Year award in 2003.

IN CONTENTION

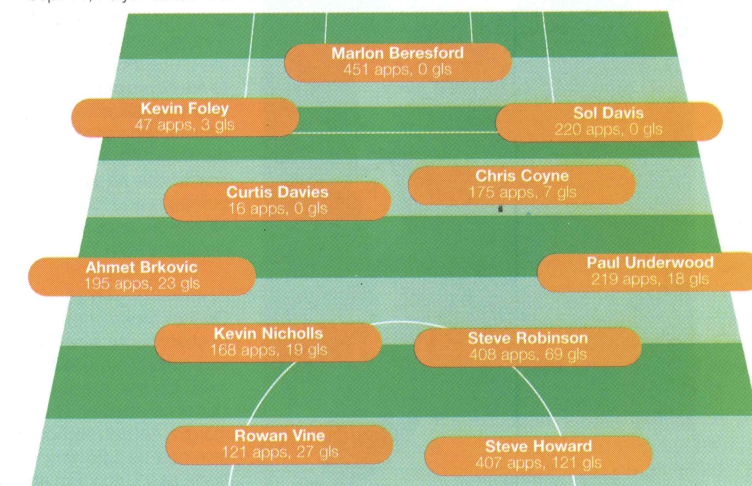
Michael Leary is a midfielder who has come through the ranks at Kenilworth Road, signing professional forms in the summer of 2002.

Enoch Showunmi is a Nigerian striker who joined Luton in September 2003 after impressing during a trial period.



The Hatters XI v Chesterfield

Sept 11, Player career record in italics



LutonTown

Opponents Luton Town may share our nickname but that's where the comparisons end when considering our respective starts to the season.



Whilst County initially suffered some ill fortune in the early games of the season, the lethargy and crass defending of late, allied to the paucity of supply up to our forwards is really concerning.

A mistake is only a mistake if lessons are not learnt from it, but the self belief of the players needs to be rapidly re-ignited. Ralph Waldo Emerson the 19th century American philosopher when talking about ability stated that "what lies behind us, and what lies before us are tiny matters, compared to what lies within us" – food for thought for the players.

Thought for the day over, even the most optimistic Luton fan could not have predicted their start to the season which has seen them pick up 22 points from the first 24 on offer. This has enabled them to establish a seven point gap over their nearest challengers Colchester United and our next opponents Hull City and leaves them standing a massive 18 points above County.

At Kenilworth Road they have picked up maximum points, winning all their four games to date. All have been tight encounters and low scoring affairs won by a single goal. The opening day of the season saw our neighbours from Boundary Park make the trip down to Bedfordshire and Will Haining gave

Big Steve Howard has started the season brilliantly



Oldham the perfect start with an early goal. Steve Howard however, continuing his rich vein of form for Luton from the end of last season (5 goals in the last 5 games), levelled and Kevin Foley, a player who has come through the Luton ranks, struck what turned out to be the winner midway through the second half.

FIRM

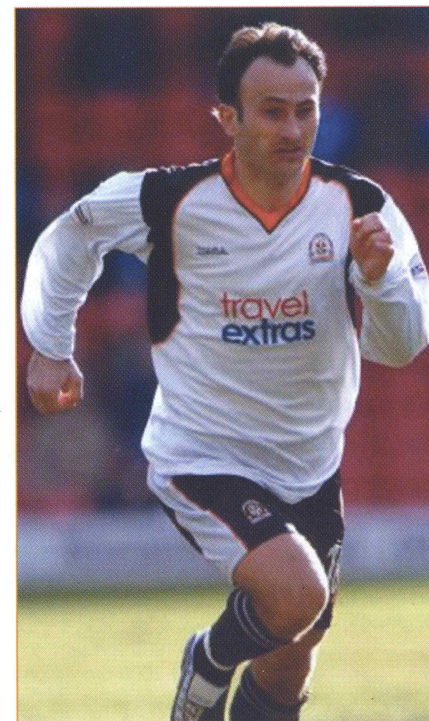
The other three home games have seen the Town defence hold firm and this has been sufficient to generate nine points with a trio of 1-0 wins. The first of these wins came against Torquay United, another Steve Howard goal midway through the first 45 minutes being the only activity for the scoreboard operator to register.

Next up were another coastal-based team, previous employers of our very own Warren Feeney, Bournemouth, who were in town on August Bank Holiday Monday. The game appeared to be meandering towards a goalless conclusion until Kevin Nicholls breached the Cherries defence on the 81 minute mark and, last Saturday, another solitary second half strike was sufficient to beat surprise package Chesterfield. On-loan Rowan Vine was the man on target to maintain Luton's 100% start to the season on home soil. Vine had already hit the woodwork in the first half, his shot from the right of the area coming back off the inside of a post. Chesterfield struggled to gain a foothold in the match early on with few problems being posed by the Spireites front two of veteran Wayne Allison and Tcham N'Toya. A couple of penalty appeals for Luton were waved away and older County fans might be surprised to hear of the good form shown by former Hatter Carl Muggleton. Goalless therefore at half time, it appeared that the Derbyshire side might return home with at least a point but Luton were not to be denied and after 49 minutes Vine was rewarded for his perseverance, the 21-year-old latching on to a Chris Coyne pass to fire home past the advancing Muggleton. The afternoon ended somewhat acrimoniously as Chesterfield saw defender Steve Blatherwick dismissed for a professional foul and before the final whistle he was joined in the early bath by colleague and former County man Shane Nicholson, back at Chesterfield following his departure from Tranmere Rovers.

CHEER

On their travels the Luton faithful have had plenty to cheer about winning their first three away games and scoring ten goals in the process. Their first away trip saw a visit to Swindon Town and the Hatters shaded an entertaining clash by a 3-2 margin. A Kevin Nicholls penalty and an opposition own goal as against one from Sam Parkin for their hosts saw Luton turn around at half time with a 2-1

Ahmet Brkovic provides a real goalscoring threat from midfield



advantage. Steve Howard soon gave them a two goal cushion and despite Town reducing the deficit courtesy of Reeves, Luton held on to take all three points. This result was positively tame compared to their next away foray at Oakwell which ended up with a 4-3 final scoreline in Luton's favour. Boulding had given Barnsley an early lead, but by half time it was 3-1 for Luton thanks to goals from Howard, Vine and Ahmet Brkovic. When Steve Robinson hit a fourth for Luton on the 66 minute mark it left the Tykes a mountain to climb and they were unable to

reach the summit despite pulling two goals back thanks to McPhail (72) and a second Boulding goal on the final whistle.

SWALLOW

Their third straight away victory came at County's one swallow in this currently fallow summer – Blackpool. Ex-County targetman Scott Taylor gave the Seasiders a fourth minute lead which they retained until half time. Their defensive frailties were, however, cruelly exposed in the second half when two goals from Brkovic and one from Howard ensured maximum points once again for Luton. The only blemish on an otherwise perfect start to the season came in their trip to Hillsborough which ended goalless, the woodwork saving Luton when Lee Peacock volleyed against the left upright for Wednesday. Boss Mike Newell being realistic about the outcome saying that "We'll take that. We knew the run wasn't going to last forever. We were always going to lose points somewhere. The important thing was that it didn't end with a defeat."

Luton's promotion aspirations will not be hindered by the distractions of a lengthy Carling Cup campaign as they exited the competition at the first hurdle going down to a surprise defeat away at Boston United. An own goal and a Nicholls penalty was matched by goals from Pitt and Lee for their hosts as the match entered the last minute of the regulation 90 minutes. Before full time, however, Showumni had netted for Town and Thompson had scored for Boston, thereby sending the match into extra time. Thompson was on target again for Boston after 94 minutes sending his team through 4-3.

This season's scorers (all competitions)

Howard 5, Brkovic, Nicholls 3, Vine, OG 2, Foley, Robinson, Showumni 1.



Our home league & cup record against The Hatters is:

League
FA Cup
League Cup
Play-Offs
Associate Members Cup

Home League Statistics

First Meeting	2-1, Sat Aug 28 1937, Div 2
Last Meeting	1-2, Sat Aug 16, 2003, Div 2
Last Win	2-0, Fri Nov 29 1968, Div 3
Last Draw	1-1, Tue Oct 15 1996, Div 2
Last Defeat	2-1, Sat Aug 28 1937, Div 2
Biggest Win	4-1, Fri Dec 10 1965, Div 4
Biggest Defeat	2-3, Sat Oct 5 2002, Div 2
Biggest Attendance	19,077, Sat Aug 28 1937, Div 2
Lowest Attendance	3,922, Sat Jan 31 1970, Div 3

P	W	D	L	F	A
8	4	2	2	14	9
2	1	0	1	5	3
Never Met					
Never Met					
Never Met					

TownDreamTeam

Football historian Leigh Edwards selects a post-war Luton Town 'Dream Team' with the help of several Luton supporters and club officials.

RON BAYNHAM

England international goalkeeper who was a key figure as Luton Town were FA Cup finalists in 1959. He impressed with Worcester City before moving to Kenilworth Road in November 1951 and contested a first-team slot with fellow England keeper Bernard Streten as Luton gained top-flight status for the first time in 1954-55. Missing just one match in both 1955-56 and 1957-58, he was capped three times and also represented the Football League. He made 388 League appearances for the Hatters until injury ended his career in May 1965 and subsequently worked as an interior decorator in Bedfordshire.

KIRK STEPHENS

Attacking right-back who was ever-present in Luton Town's 1981-82 Second Division title triumph. Initially with Nuneaton Borough, he helped them finish Southern League runners-up in 1974-75 and followed David Pleat to

Kenilworth Road in June 1978. He was voted Luton's 'Player of the Year' in 1978-79 and 1983-84, scoring twice in 227 League games for the Hatters before moving to Coventry City in exchange for Ashley Grimes in August 1984. Later rejoining Nuneaton as player-manager after a knee injury ended his top-flight career; he also had a spell at Barnet and worked for his father's building firm.

MITCHELL THOMAS

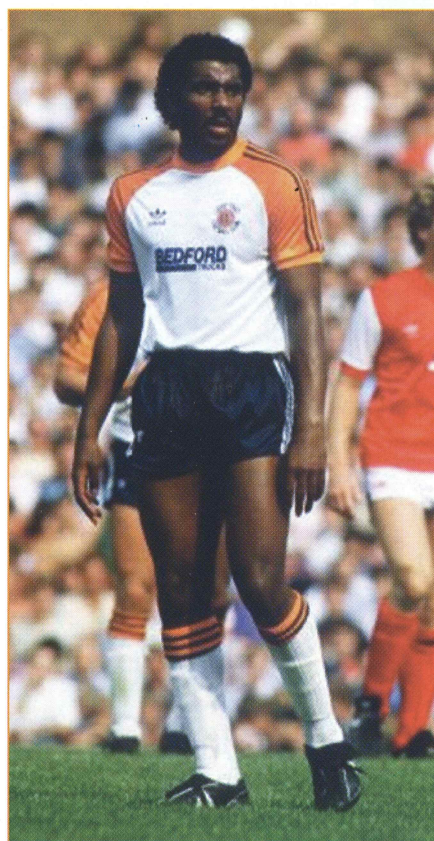
Versatile England U-21 international left-back who had two spells at Luton Town. Born locally, he signed professional at Kenilworth Road in August 1982 and starred as Luton reached the FA Cup semi-finals in 1984-85. He followed David Pleat to Tottenham Hotspur for £275,000 in July 1986 and featured in the 1987 FA Cup final, moving to West Ham for £525,000 in August 1991. Returning to Luton in November 1993, he netted six goals in 292 League games overall for the Hatters prior to joining Burnley in July 1999 and was an experienced figure in their 1999-2000 promotion success.

BRUCE RIOCH

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

SYD OWEN

Long-serving England international centre-half who skippered Luton Town in the 1959 FA Cup final. Signing professional for Birmingham City in October 1945, he moved to Luton in June 1947 and starred in their 1951-52 FA Cup run, 1952-53 promotion near-miss and 1954-55 promotion success. He was 'Footballer of the Year' in 1958-59 and netted three goals in 388 League games before becoming Luton's manager for a year in May 1959. Subsequently Leeds United's chief coach under Don Revie until October 1975, he then coached at Birmingham, Hull City and Manchester United. He died in August 1998.



Ricky Hill scored more than 50 goals for Luton



MAL DONAGHY

Northern Ireland international central defender who gained a club record 58 caps while at Luton Town. He moved to Kenilworth Road from Larne in June 1978 and was ever-present as Luton won the Second Division title in 1981-82 and were FA Cup semi-finalists in 1984-85. Voted 'Player of the Year' in 1985-86, he was an FA Cup semi-finalist again in 1987-88 and starred in that season's Littlewoods Cup final triumph. He netted 16 goals in 410 League games for the Hatters prior to joining Manchester United for £650,000 in October 1988, and then returned on loan before moving to Chelsea in August 1992.

RICKY HILL

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

Paul Walsh was capped by England whilst at Kenilworth Road



BRIAN STEIN

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

MICK HARFORD

England international striker who played for Luton Town in consecutive Littlewoods Cup finals including the 1988 Wembley triumph. Signing professional for Lincoln City in July 1977, he had spells with Newcastle United, Bristol City and Birmingham City prior to joining Luton in December 1984. He starred as the Hatters were FA Cup semi-finalists in 1984-85 and 1987-88, moving to Derby County in January 1990 and returning to Luton in September 1991. Joining Chelsea in August 1992, he then played for Sunderland, Coventry City and Wimbledon. He is now back at Luton as first-team coach.

MALCOLM MACDONALD

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

PAUL WALSH

England international striker who was capped five times while at Luton Town. Signing professional for Charlton Athletic in October 1979, he starred in their 1980-81 promotion success and moved to Luton in July 1982. He was 'Player of the Year' in 1982-83 and leading marksman in 1983-84, netting 24 goals in 80 First Division games for the Hatters prior to joining Liverpool in May 1984. Helping to win the League Championship in 1985-86, he joined Tottenham Hotspur in February 1988 and was an FA Cup winner in 1991. He later played for Portsmouth and Manchester City until injury ended his career.

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CommunityCounty

Good afternoon and welcome back to Edgeley Park for the visit of high-flying pacesetters, Luton Town, lets hope that the real Hatters from Stockport have all the points come 4.45pm!



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Parfett's

BALLBOYS/GIRLS

We are joined today by players representing, Signal Athletic Under 13's 'A' Team. They are as follows:- Ryan Dryburgh, Scott Leigh, Joshua Granite, Jake Tilley, Martin Platt, Joshua Deaville, Matthew Hughes, Dion Ward, Chris Brown, James Duggan, Sam Waterhouse, Dan Booth, Luke Latham, Reece Lynch, the boys are here at Edgeley Park along with their Secretary, Julie Higgins. Enjoy the Edgeley Park Experience boys.

SOCCERSCHOOL SCARE!

We have now finalised details of our next Holiday Soccer Course, as follows:-
Venue: Stockport School, Mile End, Stockport
Date: Monday 25th to Friday 29th October 2004
Time: 10am to 12Noon (6/7 year olds)
10am to 3pm (8/16 year olds)

Cost	Daily	Pre-Booked	On the Day
6/7's	£7.00	£20.00	£25.00
8/16's	£10.00	£35.00	£40.00

Ref: FITC 68

Deadline: Friday 22nd October 2004, 5pm
Contact No: 0161-286-8888 ext 262
Application forms have now been sent out to all contacts on our Database, Forms are available from Reception here at Edgeley Park, or from the lovely Lisa in the Club Shop.
The week consists of:-
Structured Coaching Sessions
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World Cup Style Tournament
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NEW OPPORTUNITIES FUND

Also taking place during the next School Holidays, is our 'Out of School Childcare' programme.
Venue: St. Ambrose Primary, Adswood
Date: Monday 25th to Friday 29th October 2004
Time: 9am to 5pm
Cost: £40.00
Ref: NOF 20
Open to: Boys & Girls aged between 8-12
Contact: Mark Frankland 0161 286 8888 ext 263
The course is open to pupils who attend St. Ambrose Primary (Adswood), Adswood Primary, Bridge Hall Primary (Adswood), Ladybridge Primary (Cheadle Hulme), Cheadle Heath Primary, St. George's Primary (Heaviley), Cale Green Primary, Larkhill Primary (Edgeley), St. Matthew's Primary (Edgeley), Our Lady's Primary (Edgeley) and Alexandra Park Junior (Edgeley).
Application forms will be distributed at all schools via a school assembly over the next fortnight.

FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY GUESTS

Over the last two weeks we have been promoting a Ticket Initiative for today's fixture. Forms were distributed to 95% of all Stockport Schools, with a healthy interest shown. A big thank you to all those attending today as part of the ticket drive, we hope you enjoy the game and look forward to seeing you back at Edgeley Park for the visit of Swindon Town.

FITC SPONSORS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank in advance, all our Football in the Community Sponsors, for the help and support for our project, during the 2004/05 season - Adidas (UK), Kellogg's Frosties, Parfett's Cash & Carry, Ryland Honda (Stockport), Football Foundation, New Opportunities Fund, Stockport County FC, The FA, without the help and support of all of these agencies, we would not have the successful scheme we have here today, thanks to you all.

AND FINALLY...

That's all for now folks, enjoy the game, get right behind Sammy, Mark and the team vocally this afternoon, see you all at Hull City next Saturday. Have a safe journey home.

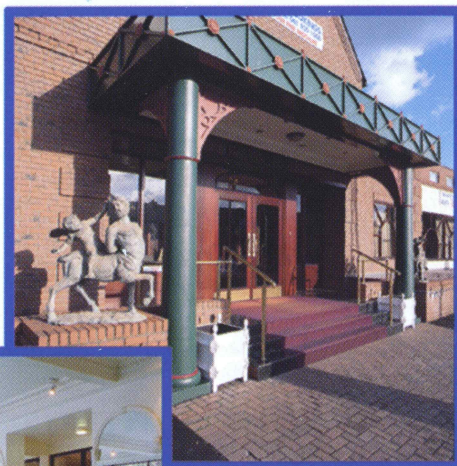
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Mike Smith
Football in the Community Officer

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LensCaptain

My first reaction when I saw that Everton's Tim Cahill had been sent off for shirt-lifting (that is, excessive celebrations resulting in him raising part of his shirt above head level) was that the referee was an idiot, and a kill-joy to boot.

How ridiculous, crowd the press, fans and managers, that a player is sent-off for reacting to football's raison d'être i.e. the goal. After all, that is what Tim Cahill is paid to do – score goals. Well, yes he is, and very well he is paid for it. In fact, he is paid in one week more than most people in the ground today will trouser in a year. And that is part of the reason why, the more I thought about it, the more my sympathies started to lie with the referee. So, on the one hand, we have a ludicrous new rule dreamt up by some Zurich pen-pusher who has probably never played a game in his life, still less actually scored a goal. It is a rule fitting for today's football, where all emotion and individuality is subservient to the power of money, the sponsor and the brand. On the other hand, we have Tim Cahill, a professional footballer (note the word "professional", it's important, it implies that playing football is Mr Cahill's sole or main revenue stream) in whose dressing room there is a poster telling him that the removal or partial removal of his shirt after a goal will result in a caution. Despite this warning – which is basically like you or I receiving a memo telling us that the removal of our trousers during working hours in the office will result in us being summarily suspended from work – Tim Cahill, having already received a caution earlier in the game, scored a goal and wheeled away with his shirt being raised so as to cover his face. On yet another hand, we have the referee who thinks that this FIFA ruling is ridiculous, but who knows that up in the stands there is a referee's assessor who can get him chucked off the Premiership list if he should lurch uncontrollably towards common sense and turns a blind eye. Where does this all leave us? Well, apparently it leaves us with three hands, but aside from this it leads us to the conclusion that the referee had no option but to send the player off, and that the

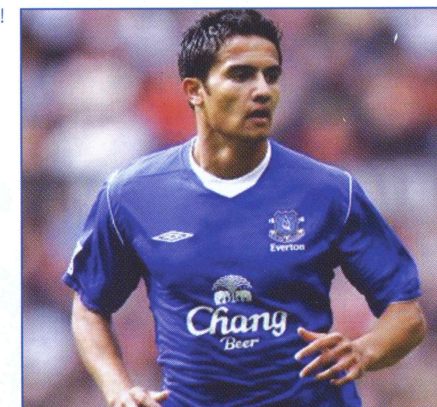
highly-paid professional athlete who should know all the rules and regulations of the sport which provides his income, gave the referee no alternative but to brandish the yellow card, followed quickly by the red. I know that if I was on £20,000 a week plus win bonus, I would think twice before embarking on an act that a) looks rubbish anyway b) jeopardises my chances of playing again after my suspension has been served and c) forced my team-mates to play nearly a third of the match with ten men. And yet, despite the fact that the problem was clearly self-inflicted, it was the ref who copped for all the flack. Which just goes to show what a thankless job being a ref actually is. I have, through no fault of my own, been coerced into being a referee's assistant ("running the line" as they used to call it) on two occasions. The first occasion was a schools match in which I was participating, in my customary role as loyal, but useless, substitute. (Actually, that is not quite correct...as a substitute I was excellent, cajoling, encouraging, playing hit the bar on an adjacent pitch, pretending to do a proper warm-up etc. It was only when I entered the fray that I became useless.) The actual linesperson had failed to show up and I was pressed into action because, I presume, I just look like an honest upstanding citizen. I called all the offsides and throw-ins as I saw them...and got the dog's-own abuse from my own teammates who thought I should be awarding every decision to them, and from the opposition players who maintained that I was.

The second occasion was a schools match many years later, at which I was a spectator as my nephew did an exceptional job between the (adult-sized) sticks. Again, I tried to call the shots as I saw them and got a volley of lively and colourful invective from both sets of parents. And also from one 10-year-old fullback who called me a "pooh-faced durr-brain" when I decided that he was playing practically the entire opposition team inside. Which he was.

And so ended – at least I hope so, as the next time I receive the call I intend to hide behind a corner flag until someone else is collared – my career as a football official. And I can tell you that I would not do the job on a professional basis if you gave me a gold pig. If you haven't done the job yourself, you can only imagine the panic that comes when you have to make a contentious decision, and yet you have only a fraction of a second to come to the right conclusion (unless, of course, you are refereeing an Arsenal match, in which case you make a decision and then change it because the Arsenal players told you to.)

I'm not going to patronise you by telling you not to have a go at the ref. You will shout at him this afternoon, possibly even calling upon him to produce his birth certificate at some stage, and I will be doing the same thing in the heat of the moment. But spare a thought for the honest black-shirted arbiter for whose blood you are baying. He really is doing his best, and even though you think you could do better, you really, really couldn't.

Steve Southart – Club Photographer



Keep your shirt on, Tim!

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The latest news from our Supporters' Clubs

I won't dwell on recent events on the field as everything seems to have already been said in the press, message boards & websites. What I will say is that it doesn't help to direct abuse at the management and players of Stockport County whilst they attempt to get things right on the pitch. There were a minority of fans at Bristol City last week who decided to vent their anger towards the players at the end of the game, which we don't need. Let's just keep any criticism away from the ground and give Sammy and the lads your full support as they need it now more than ever.

Today we entertain the Hatters from the South, Luton Town, who are currently top of the Division and unbeaten. Not an ideal game to go into in the current circumstances but whether County are facing a table topping side, or a relegation threatened side, all matches are important and we must all pull together – that's the players and the fans – to put a line under this poor run of results and kick-start the season.

SUPPORTERS CLUB AGM

Before today's game the Supporters Club will be holding their AGM in the Supporters Club Bar. The Supporters Club has now been in existence for over 3 years and getting stronger every season. As you are probably aware the Supporters Club doesn't run by itself. Since its formation, a small band of dedicated people have

put their own time, effort and money into the cause to make the Supporters Club a success. Our tireless Chairman, Irwin Collins must work night and day in order to keep things running smoothly. Treasurer, Matthew Standing has done an excellent job looking after the money and balancing the books. And Ian Dooley, our Press Officer, makes sure the local papers get to know about our news and events. Thanks go to all these people along with the rest of the committee and helpers and may the success continue.

EXILED HATTERS

Are you an exiled Stockport County supporter? Are Stockport County your adopted team or do you have links with Stockport? What's the craziest thing or biggest sacrifice you have made whilst supporting Stockport County?

The Supporters Club would like to hear from the many exiled County supporters living throughout the UK and, indeed, around the globe. Please e-mail us a brief description about your life supporting County to exiledhatters@hotmail.com and we'll arrange to get in touch with you for further information. We will then be looking to feature an 'exiled Fan' each month on the scsclist, Newsletter, Matchday Programme and stockportcounty.com.



Hatters Independent
Supporters Club
www.hisc-online.co.uk

I was going to comment on recent performances but having witnessed Torquay I missed Bristol City (so can't really comment) but did witness Alsager Town in the Cheshire Senior Cup. Those two games since the last notes leave me not wanting to comment on games as they were effectively no contests so instead we'll try some tips for the supporters and players to help

FANS WANT PLAYERS TO SUCCEED

County players need to remember that when you go out on the pitch the fans want you to succeed. There may be a minority in the crowd who enjoy suffering and like to see the player's suffer too but most of us don't. So, your last thought before heading out should be to relax. It's a well know fact that relaxation improves your performance in sport. Obviously you shouldn't be too relaxed, you need to remember the job that the management have asked you to do, particularly if it concerns marking an attacker – but equally you shouldn't be afraid to try things. You also should not forget that you didn't end up in professional football by being an also ran. You must have stood out as a quality

Jimmy Melia 1986 ...
things have been an awful
lot worse, you know!



player for a number of years and now you have the chance to show the County fans you merit a place in their side before you go on to better (although County fans will generally regard that as an impossibility) or worse things in the game.

FANS NEED TO RELAX

It used to be the case amongst County fans that apart from the determined obsession some of them have with giving verbal abuse to some individual player, we appreciated players who tried something. Admittedly, we have suffered over the last 6 or 7 seasons. Firstly there were five years of a club that aimed for one place above relegation until they failed to make the mark in spectacular fashion. Then there were two years of the false belief at the club that life would be easy again when we had dipped a division.

Obviously this stress has taken its toll, but those of you who were around in the 70's and early 80's must remember things used to be much worse. In those days we had no expectations to cause frustration; we used to celebrate when County finished in the top 20 in the bottom division. The success of the 1990's has made some of us forget how bad things we did suffer from the Jimmy Melia months.

So please remember what it used to be like. If a player tries something and it doesn't come off applaud him for the effort, and if you can't do that have a moan to your mate sat alongside you. The managers and players consistently say the fans can affect the result as well. At times I doubt it but if they believe it why not help them out.

COUNTY YEARBOOK

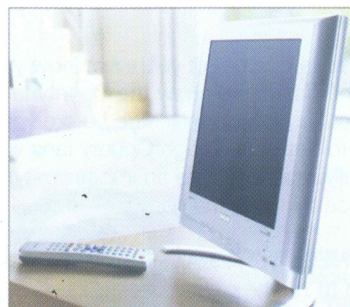
Right, after all that psycho-babble back to HISC matters. I'm told we are down to the last couple of dozen copies of this season's County yearbook. We have put some more copies in the club shop so call in to buy our copy if you've not managed to get hold of one yet.



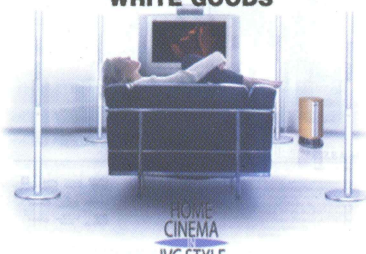
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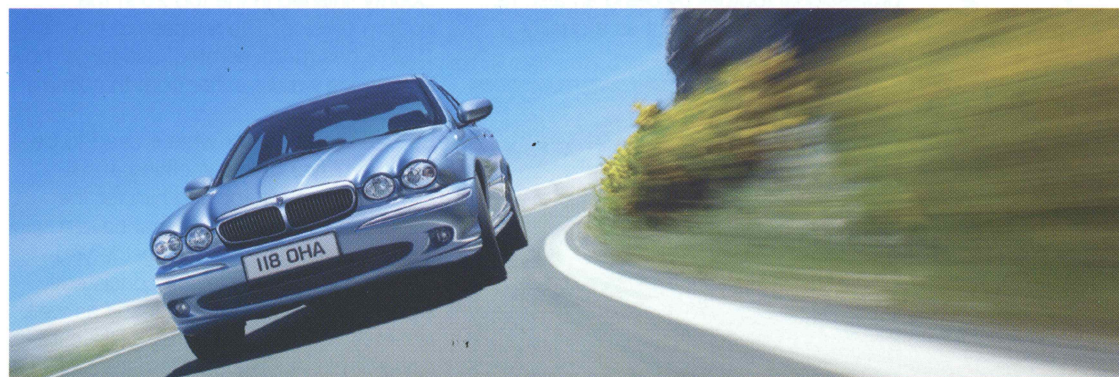
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LeagueOneStats

Highest attendance
26,264 Sheffield Wednesday
v Huddersfield Town, 21.8.04

Lowest attendance
3,015 Milton Keynes Dons
v Torquay United, 30.8.04

Highest scoring home win
5-0 Bristol City v Stockport County
11.9.04

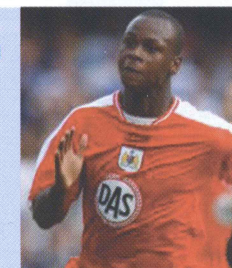
Highest scoring away win
4-0 Stockport County v Blackpool,
14.8.04

Penalty Scorers
2 Taylor (Tranmere Rovers)
1 Eleven players
Total successful penalties
13 (Home team 6, Away team 7)



League One Hotshots 2004/05 Season

	Lge	Cup	Total
Lita (Bristol City)	6	1	7
Windass (Bradford City)	5	1	6
Abbott (Huddersfield)	5	0	5
Brooker (Port Vale)	5	0	5
Elliott (Hull City)	5	0	5
Fryatt (Walsall)	5	0	5
Fragan (Colchester Utd)	4	1	5
N'Toya (Chesterfield)	5	0	5



Attendances 2004-05

	Highest	Avg	Avg03/04	Lge top scorer
Barnsley	13,175	10,571	9,620	3 players with 2
Blackpool	6,713	6,280	6,326	Taylor 3
Bournemouth	6,918	8,280	6,913	Hayter 4
Bradford City	10,444	8,002	11,377	Windass 5
Brentford	5,682	5,259	5,542	4 players with 2
Bristol City	14,275	12,193	12,879	Lita 6
Chesterfield	5,150	4,592	4,338	N'Toya 5
Colchester United	3,868	3,693	3,536	Fegan 4
Doncaster Rovers	7,082	6,584	6,939	McIndoe 3
Hartlepool	6,032	5,167	5,419	Boyd 3
Huddersfield Town	13,542	11,246	10,528	Abbott 5
Hull City	17,569	16,739	16,847	Elliott 5
Luton Town	7,532	7,059	6,337	Howard 5
Milton Keynes Dons	4,720	3,825	4,751	3 players with 2
Oldham Athletic	6,143	5,667	6,566	Johnson 3
Peterborough United	5,390	4,657	5,274	Platt 2
Port Vale	6,736	5,753	5,810	Brooker 5
Sheffield Wednesday	26,264	23,185	22,336	MacLean 3
County	7,473	6,671	5,315	Beckett 4
Swindon Town	5,286	5,622	7,839	Hendersen, Parkin 4
Torquay United	5,095	4,057	3,460	Gritton 3
Tranmere Rovers	9,506	8,640	7,606	Jackson, Taylor 2
Walsall	8,225	6,660	7,853	Fryatt 5
Wrexham	5,099	4,510	4,440	Sam 3

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JonKeighren

I've got one of the best jobs in the world, which allows me to follow the team I love all over the country and get paid for it.

But interviewing Sammy McIlroy in the aftermath of Saturday's 5-0 thrashing at Bristol City was one of the lowest points of my professional career. Watching another human being suffer as much as Sammy did on Saturday evening was a hugely unpleasant experience. And the following day, seeing his quotes twisted and distorted by the national press didn't make the situation any better. Headlines such as: "McIlroy refuses to quit" do nothing to help.

The post-match interview is a horrendous job when a team is struggling and, as I've grown to admire and respect Sammy and Mark Lillis, the job has become even harder. But, as a supporter, I believe it is right for all of us to stand firmly behind the manager and trust him to steer us through our current crisis. During a remarkably frank and honest exchange after the game Sammy was big enough to admit to me: "This is the hardest situation I've ever been in, including my time with Northern Ireland. But we'll battle on through this -

I'm going to get it right."

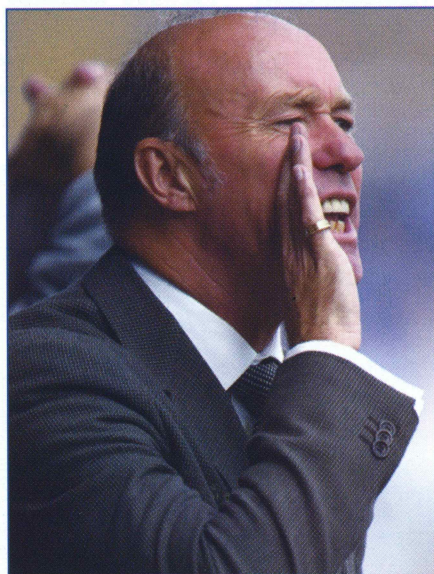
We have witnessed at first hand what can happen when managers are changed hastily, and it's Sammy Mac who has been left to pick up the pieces at Edgeley Park following six seasons of neglect. Successive inexperienced managers have been put in the hotseat and given a brief of achieving success on smaller and smaller budgets.

Sammy will have spent all week analysing Saturday's events at Ashton Gate, but there is no doubt in my mind that the vast majority of supporters would have picked exactly the same starting eleven as Sammy did. Goodwin back in the team, Beckett alongside Feeney, Jackman in the side, Hardiker at the back - on paper, it looked solid. But once those players cross the white line, there is very little a manager can do to influence their performance and the harsh reality is that too many players let him down on the day. Comparisons with Sale Sharks are unhelpful as the two sports are totally different and Cheshire Sports are entitled to do whatever they like with the oval ball merchants. However, Sammy has identified a serious weakness in his side, at the heart of his defence, and must be allowed to rectify it. Some would argue it is a situation of his own making, but that argument is irrelevant whilst we are struggling at the wrong end of the table.

Ashley Williams has been a revelation since coming into the side last season, but the pressure on his young shoulders is ridiculous. The same applies to Lee Mair who is a newcomer to English football, whilst John Hardiker is still only 21. Sammy won't say it publicly, but he needs a big commanding centre half who can be a leader to the rest of the team (Mike Flynn, circa 1997!). Throwing money at a problem is rarely the right solution, but in this instance a certain level of investment is vital if County are to give themselves a fighting chance of climbing up the table.

So the plea to Cheshire Sport is simple - on this occasion, Back the Mac and let's turn this around. Don't believe rumours that Sammy has lost the dressing room - nothing could be further from the truth - but a dependable experienced campaigner in the side could make all the difference to the mood at Edgeley Park, and Brian Kennedy has the power to make it happen.

Imagine FM



Sammy is experiencing his toughest time in football

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SimonSmedley

It has been a difficult couple of weeks hasn't it?

I think I'd prefer not to mention last weekend's performance at Ashton Gate, it was grim, but, as Sammy says I think everyone has got to stick together in situations like the one County are in right now.

It is still early days of course, and I, like many, many of the County faithful, still believe that County can turn their fortunes around sooner rather than later. The quality is there in the squad, quite clearly, but I think the confidence factor is missing at present, especially among some of the younger lads. Wouldn't a decent performance (and a result) today be a great way for the lads and Sammy to answer certain critics? There's no doubt that Luton are really flying at the moment, but maybe County can catch them a little bit off guard if they're coming to EP expecting to take back an easy three points. The lads didn't really 'stand up and be counted' at Bristol last week following the disappointment of the Torquay game, but they've got another great chance to do that today in front of their own passionate and dedicated fans.

Let's try and turn the volume up a bit today and give the boys an extra push from the stands. Don't forget it's not that long ago since County were

at Kenilworth Road towards the end of last season and it was only a controversial late goal that handed Mike Newell's side a point.

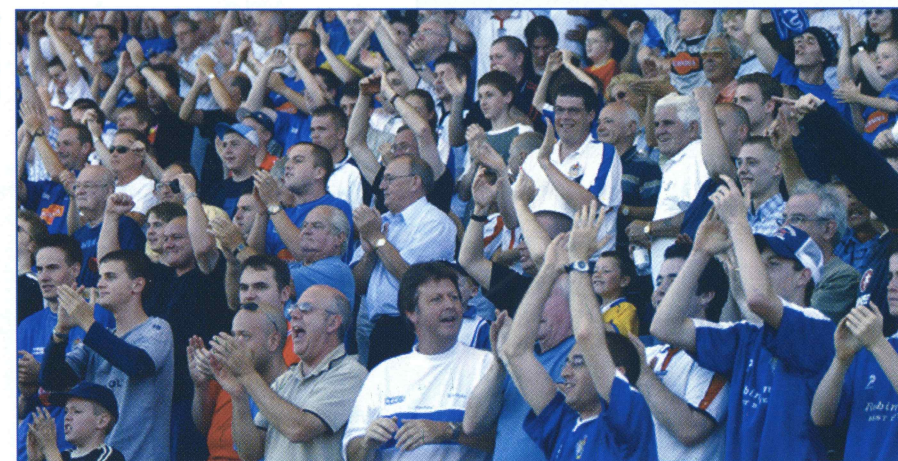
These notes were penned on a Wednesday morning after drooling somewhat over Barcelona's performance at Jim Goodwin's old home, Celtic Park, on Tuesday night.

I do enjoy watching Champions League football, and despite this year's competition being in the very early stages, that was a delightful game in Glasgow. It must be great for Frank Rijkaard to be able to get people like Deco, Ronaldinho and the inimitable Larsson in your side, and they turned on the style all right.

Celtic had their moments I thought, but undoubtedly the better side won on the night and already Barca look like they could be a real force this season. Chelsea were awesome in Paris weren't they? But Arsenal, they do seem prone to freezing when expectancy gets a little bit too high at Highbury. They'll get through their group I'm sure, but they had to survive a scare or two against PSV.

Keep the faith and 'Back the Mac' today!
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fixtures and results for the 2004/05 season



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player stats 04/05

	League		Cup		County League Career	
	Apps	Gls	Apps	Gls	Apps	Gls
Danny Adams	8	-	1	-	20	-
Stuart Barlow	0(5)	-	0	-	15(20)	8
Luke Beckett	6	4	1	1	70(5)	42
Marc Bridge-Wilkinson	5(1)	-	1	-	5(1)	-
Michael Byrne	0	-	0	-	1	1
Lee Cartwright	7	1	1	-	21(1)	1
Neil Cutler	5	-	1	-	5	-
Jon Daly	1(2)	-	1	-	56(24)	11
Warren Feeney	8	3	0	-	8	3
Derek Geary	8	-	1	-	8	-
Jim Goodwin	2(3)	-	1	-	53(19)	7
Danny Griffin	0	-	0	-	15	1
John Hardiker	4	-	1	-	72(6)	3
Danny Jackman	3(2)	1	1	-	30(2)	3
Rickie Lambert	8	-	0	-	69(8)	14
Fraser McLachlan	0	-	0	-	43(10)	4
Lee Mair	4(1)	-	0	-	4(1)	-
Owen Morrison	0(1)	-	0(1)	-	11(12)	1
Martin Pemberton	0	-	0	-	20(6)	-
Mark Robertson	7	-	0	-	16(3)	1
James Spencer	3	-	0	-	20(1)	-
Andrew Welsh	1(4)	-	0(1)	-	41(26)	3
Ashley Williams	8	-	1	-	18	-
Chris Williams	0	-	0(1)	-	5(17)	3

Coca-Cola Football League One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Luton	8	7	1	0	15	7	22	8
Colchester	8	5	0	3	17	10	15	7
Hull	8	5	0	3	12	10	15	2
Chesterfield	8	4	2	2	11	8	14	3
Huddersfield	8	4	1	3	13	8	13	5
Port Vale	8	4	1	3	14	12	13	-2
Wrexham	7	4	1	2	9	7	13	2
Doncaster	8	4	1	3	12	12	13	0
Brentford	8	4	1	3	14	16	13	-2
Tranmere	7	3	3	1	8	5	12	3
Swindon	8	4	0	4	13	11	12	2
Sheff Wed	8	3	3	2	11	12	12	-1
Bristol City	8	3	2	3	15	11	11	4
Peterborough	8	3	2	3	9	7	11	2
Hartlepool	8	3	2	3	11	12	11	-1
Oldham	7	3	1	3	15	13	10	2
Bradford	8	3	1	4	9	10	10	-1
Walsall	8	2	4	2	15	17	10	-2
Bournemouth	8	2	2	4	10	12	8	-2
Barnsley	8	1	4	3	11	13	7	-2
Torquay	8	1	3	4	7	12	6	-5
MK Dons	8	1	2	5	8	15	5	-7
Stockport	8	1	1	6	9	18	4	-9
Blackpool	7	0	2	5	4	14	2	-10

date	opponents	res	att	vis	pos	ref
August						
Sat 7	Huddersfield Town	H	2-3	7473	2607	16 T Parkes
Tue 10	Colchester United	A	2-3	3346	224	22 C Penton
Sat 14	Blackpool	A	4-0	6334	1320	15 N Miller
Sat 21	Bradford City	H	0-1	5338	1055	19 A Bates
Tue 24	Sheffield Utd CC1	A	1-4	5399	542	- A Hall
Sat 28	Brentford	A	0-3	4643	405	20 L Probert
Mon 30	Tranmere Rovers	H	1-1	5502	1178	21 L Mason
September						
Sat 4	Torquay United	H	0-2	4372	152	23 J Ross
Sat 11	Bristol City	A	0-5	10811	308	23 A Penn
Sat 18	Luton Town	H				
Sat 25	Hull City	A				
Tue 28	Bury LDV1	H				
October						
Sat 2	Swindon Town	H				
Fri 8	Bournemouth	A				
Sat 16	Peterborough United	H				
Wed 20	Chesterfield	A				
Sat 23	Port Vale	A				
Sat 30	Oldham Athletic	H				
November						
Sat 6	Sheffield Wednesday	H				
Sat 20	Doncaster Rovers	A				
Sat 27	Walsall	H				
December						
Tue 7	Wrexham	A				
Sat 11	Hartlepool United	A				
Sat 18	MK Dons	H				
Sun 26	Bristol City	H				
Tue 28	Barnsley	A				
January						
Sat 1	Torquay United	A				
Mon 3	Hull City	H				
Sat 8	Bournemouth	H				
Sat 15	Luton Town	A				
Sat 22	Barnsley	H				
Sat 29	Swindon Town	A				
February						
Sat 5	Peterborough United	A				
Sat 12	Port Vale	H				
Sat 19	Oldham Athletic	A				
Tue 22	Chesterfield	H				
Sat 26	Hartlepool United	H				
March						
Sat 5	MK Dons	A				
Sat 12	Colchester United	H				
Sat 19	Huddersfield Town	A				
Sat 26	Blackpool	H				
Mon 28	Bradford City	A				
April						
Sat 2	Brentford	H				
Fri 8	Tranmere Rovers	A				
Sat 16	Doncaster Rovers	H				
Sat 23	Sheffield Wednesday	A				
Sat 30	Wrexham	H				
May						
Sat 7	Walsall	A				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

Cutler	Geary	AWilliams	Mair	Adams	Cartwright	Lambert	Robertson	BWilkinson	Feeney1	Beckett1	Jackman3	Barlow10	Hardiker	Welsh	Goodwin
Cutler	Geary	AWilliams	Mair	Adams	Cartwright1	Lambert	Robertson	BWilkinson	Feeney	Beckett1	Welsh9	Goodwin8	Barlow7	Jackman	Hardiker
Cutler	Geary	AWilliams	Hardiker	Adams	Cartwright	Lambert	Robertson	Jackman1	Feeney1	Beckett2	Goodwin8	Welsh9	Barlow10	BWilkinson	Daly
Cutler	Geary	AWilliams	Hardiker	Adams	Cartwright	Lambert	Robertson	Jackman	Feeney	Beckett	BWilkinson8	Welsh9	Daly10	Goodwin	Barlow
Cutler	Geary	AWilliams	Hardiker	Adams	Cartwright	BWilkinson	Goodwin	Jackman	Daly	Beckett	Welsh7	Morrison9	CWilliams11	Mair	Spencer
Cutler	Geary	AWilliams	Hardiker	Adams	Cartwright	Goodwin	Robertson	BWilkinson	Feeney	Lambert	Mair4	Welsh9	Daly8	CWilliams	Jackman
Spencer	Geary	AWilliams	Mair	Adams	BWilkinson	Lambert	Robertson	Welsh	Feeney1	Beckett	Barlow9	Goodwin8	Cartwright	Daly	Hardiker
Spencer	Geary	AWilliams	Mair	Adams	Cartwright	Lambert	Robertson	BWilkinson	Feeney	Daly	Jackman5	Morrison8	Barlow11	Goodwin	Hardiker
Spencer	Geary	AWilliams	Hardiker	Adams	Cartwright	Lambert	Goodwin	Jackman	Feeney	Beckett	BWilkinson	Morrison	Mair	Barlow	LeFondre



John Hardiker wins a race with Robins' striker Leroy Lita at Ashton Gate last Saturday

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CountyKids

This afternoon we welcome our friends from the Junior Hatters who have made the trip up the motorway as our guests.

This morning we have played football down at Power League then lunch and onto today's game. We hope you have enjoyed your visit and have a safe journey home.

Last Saturday we made the journey to Bristol to be guests of Bristol Juniors. The day started with the M6 being shut southbound and progressively got worse as the afternoon went on. It certainly seems a long journey back after a defeat like that.

Last Sunday we held our regular monthly meeting here at Edgeley Park. Unfortunately after Saturday's performance the players could not attend as they were training at Timperley. Still, those members that came along enjoyed their morning and football.

That's all for this week.

Enjoy the match and hopefully by 10 to 5, three much needed points.

Ian Butterworth
County Juniors

AWAY TRAVEL

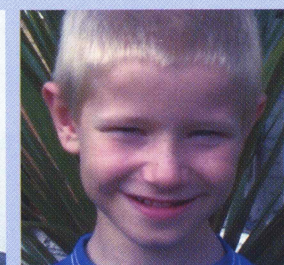
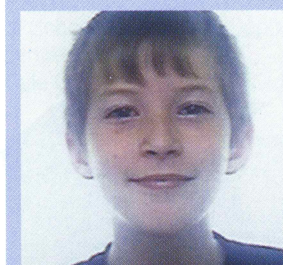
PLEASE NOTE – Our coach to Hull City next week is now fully booked with a waiting list.

Our next trip will be on Wednesday 20th October for the trip over the Pennines to Chesterfield. We are now taking bookings for this coach so please contact either Brenda on 0161 487 2766 or myself on 0161 456 7606 to book your seats.

Further travel arranged to:

Port Vale	Saturday October 23
Doncaster	Saturday November 20
Wrexham	Tuesday December 7

This
afternoon's
mascots



We are delighted to offer a very special EP welcome to our three mascots this afternoon.

Thomas Wesley (left), who attends Chapel-en-le-Frith High School, plays football for Chapel Town Juniors. The 11-year-old also enjoys swimming and playing on his Play Station 2. Luke Beckett, Andy Welsh and Jim Goodwin are his favourite County players.

Luke Beckett is also **Tom Vinden's** (centre) favourite player. Tom, who attends South

Failsworth Primary School, is a keen badminton player and trains with Lancashire Under-11s. The 8-year-old also enjoys football, swimming, cycling and computer games.

William Main (right), 7, is our youngest mascot today. He attends Banks Lane Juniors and lists football, motor racing, aircrafts and visiting castles amongst his hobbies. Like the other two boys William tells us that Saint Luke is his favourite player, closely followed by Lee Cartwright.



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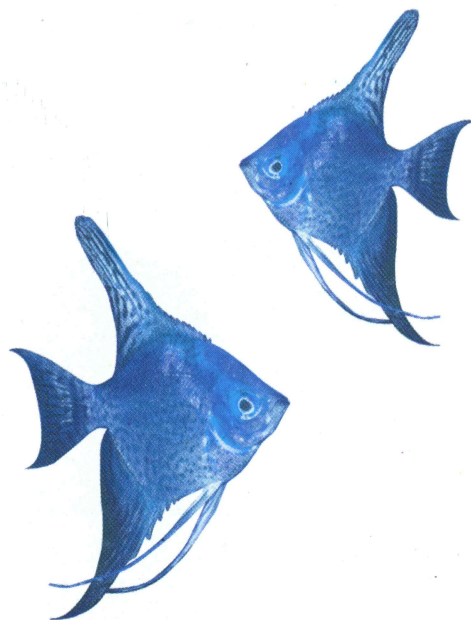
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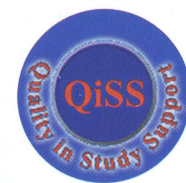
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StudyCentre

After receiving a prestigious government kite mark for quality in Study Support at Established level in July, September sees the Study Centre entering another exciting phase, in its development as a field leader in Study Support.



A number of Stockport Schools will be using the centre for 'innovative' daytime projects, offering students the opportunity to use 'state of the art' video editing facilities to create their own DVD / mini movies.

The centre offers a relaxed non-school environment highly conducive to learning. Priestnall High Schools Media Studies department used the centres facilities and staff expertise to create mini movies, which were submitted for GCSE coursework. They achieved a record number of passes and A* grades.

The following Primary and Secondary schools also begin a 10 Week block of Out of School hours Study Support at the centre this week:
Cale Green, St Georges, St Elisabeth's,

Springwood, Hazel Grove, Offerton High School, Reddish Vale Technology College and Stockport School.

Keep reading future accounts to find out the exciting activities covered by the youngsters.

If you are interested in your school taking up a ten week block of 'Out of school' hours Study Support or you are interested in the daytime projects at the Study Centre please contact me on:
0161-477-2959 Or via email at stockportstudy@email.com for further information on the Study Centre click onto www.stockportcountystudycentre.org.uk

Gary Richards

Study Centre Manager

Priestnall High School have really benefited from the fantastic facilities here at the Study Centre.



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SquareEyes

Steve Southart's off the wall TV review

If ever you needed evidence of what a race of "eccentrics" (for "eccentrics" read "loonies") the British are, then you should look no further than the crowd that turned up to "The Last Night Of The Proms", which was televised by the BBC last Saturday night. I like a good stirring classical tune as much as the next man, even though I can only identify it as "the one from that advert with the people in it". And, as the Last Night of the Proms is full of stirring tunes, (yes I know a lot of them are viewed as politically incorrect, glorifying Britain's imperialist past as they do, but even God Save The Queen has a verse in it about subduing the rebellious Scots), you've got to enter into the spirit of it really and not take it or yourself too seriously.

And not taking yourself too seriously seemed to be the theme of the night for the masses of "professional" promenaders who probably queued for weeks in the freezing rain for the chance to stand at the front bobbing up and down as the orchestra belted out "A Life On The Ocean Wave" or some such masterwork glorifying in a time when Britannia ruled the seas. Some of the ruddy-faced chinless-wonders (sorry, I meant to say "revellers") who were present were obviously just there to quaff as much drink as possible and have as good a time as possible until they keeled over unconscious


as the last strains of HMS Pinafore faded away. But some people were obviously taking things a little bit too seriously – as some people are always prone to do at mass-participation events such as this. (Who knows, you might have got a season-ticket obliging you to sit next to one for the next twenty years, you lucky person.)

At the Proms, and the concurrent outdoor events in far-flung corners of the UK labelled as "Proms In The Park" (but might just as accurately have been called "Plebs In The Provinces") there is a certain type of person who goes a little bit too far. At the outdoor events, they are clearly identifiable by their subtle markings and twenty-foot tall gazebo. They carry an array of fine foods and chilled wines, which they enjoy on their "La-Z-Boy" electrical recliners powered from the generators, which they just happen to have packed as well. If you are very lucky, you will find yourself just behind them as the orchestra strikes up, which is your own fault really as they pitched their tents up a full 48 hours before the concert was due to begin.

In the Albert Hall itself, the professional promenader will be identifiable by being clothed head to foot in the Union Flag, right down to the socks and the revolving bow-tie. They will know all the words, they will sing all the words loudly, and they will know all the little traditional quirks like bringing out a row of handkerchiefs for everyone around them when a sad piece is played. You suspect that they may have been to every Promenade Concert for the past 30 years, and may even reside full time in the Albert Hall. They love singing about having an Empire and stifling rebellions and how Britain is best at just about everything apart from sport. Most of all, they are oblivious to the fact that everyone around them in that great auditorium, and indeed the millions watching at home are not, as they hope, saying "what an outrageous and truly splendid fellow – see his Union Jack hair!" Because we are actually saying "What a prat." Perhaps next year's event could be used to get all such people into the same confined space, and then a humane cull could be arranged. Just a thought.



The British Promenaders are an eccentric bunch



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SteveBellis

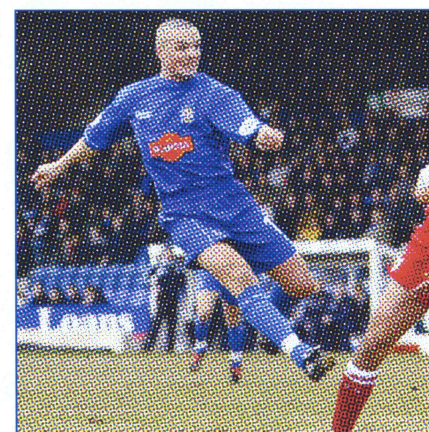
Familiar Faces, Prawn Rendang and Big games!

I am sure I have said it before but I will say it again anyway. Supporting Stockport County was never meant to be easy. If it is 'easy' you want then get yourselves down to Highbury or that place near the Trafford Centre because here at County we don't do 'easy'.

We certainly haven't had the start that we would have hoped for and there is no-one more disappointed than Sammy McIlroy but football really is a funny old game, not hilarious at times, but just funny.

We were at a similar stage last season when County wins were about as frequent as lottery wins for us Hatters fans but then we faced Bristol at home. They were riding high at the top of the table and every County fan that turned up that day arrived expecting the worst. The result, a one nil win for County and an unbeaten run that nearly lasted until the end of the season. Today we face Luton and the situation is rather similar, with the obvious difference being that we have more than three quarters of the season left. The fans were also fantastic against Bristol on that Saturday afternoon last season and we need the same today. County supporters are always at their best in cases of extreme adversity and today should be no exception. So let's get

Jim's goal against Bristol last March sparked our great end-of-season unbeaten run



behind the boys from the off and bring the smiles back to Edgeley, you really can make a difference.

Speaking of teams having indifferent starts to the season what about our poor neighbours down the road. I happened to be in a pub in Heaton Moor last Wednesday, killing some time while my eldest daughter attended her gymnastics class, when the pub started to fill up with red shirts for the Champions league game. I had just settled down for a cool pint of cask ale (or should that be cak ale) with our lotteries supremo Matty when a very familiar face plonked himself down next to us.

It took me a few minutes to work out who he was and then it came to me. It was that Jason bloke off the last Big Brother programme. He was actually a very pleasant chap and I didn't mention that I (I mean my Mrs) voted for the she-man who went on to win.

I must confess that I didn't make the game at Bristol City (phew!) as I was given a list of domestic chores that should be completed by the time Rochdale are in the Championship. I couldn't face listening to commentary so I restricted myself to watching the results come in on Sky.

I was suicidal by the time the four changed to five next to the word Bristol so there was only one thing for it... a Chinese. (I had a curry the previous evening and didn't want to appear greedy). There is only one place in Stockport that you can go for a quality Chinese takeaway and that is the Mayflower in Davenport. They are the only Chinese take away in the town to have won the Borough's award for Hygiene and their range and quality of dishes is beyond compare, hence the lengthy wait at peak times.

They have introduced a number of Malaysian dishes and being an adventurous sort I have given most of them a try. I must make mention of the prawn rendang, a truly awesome dish that is a cross between a Chinese and a curry, making it absolutely perfect. Give it a try!

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Peter Fox saves from Jim Gannon with Chris Beaumont looking on

Flashback

Continuing our occasional trips down Memory Lane we today turn the clock back 12 years to our first-ever trip to Wembley. More than 17,000 Hatters fans travelled to the Twin Towers in May 1992 for the Autoglass Trophy Final against fierce rivals Stoke City.

But, despite turning the famous old stadium into a cauldron of noise, the magnificent fans returned home disappointed when Mark Stein scored the only goal of the game for the Potters. Video evidence later showed that the linesman failed to flag Wayne Biggins offside when Stein netted his 68th-minute winner. County also had a perfectly good goal disallowed when Peter Fox, under pressure from Paul Wheeler, allowed Darren's Knowles cross to drop into the back of the net – the referee, incorrectly, ruled that Wheeler had fouled the Stoke 'keeper.

Apart from County's first appearance at Wembley in their, then, 109-year history the game also had two further milestones. Danny Bergara became the first South American to lead an English team out at Wembley and Andy Thorpe – a substitute for David Frain – made his 555th, and final, County appearance – a fitting place to end his glorious EP career.

County Neil Edwards; Darren Knowles, Lee Todd, David Frain (Andy Thorpe), Tony Barras, Bill Williams, Jim Gannon, Peter Ward, Kevin Francis, Chris Beaumont, Paul Wheeler (Paul R Williams)
Attendance 48,339.



EndofanEra

Stockport County today announced that after a career of 14 years with the club, Marketing Manager Steve Bellis has resigned his post in order to pursue his career as an independent sports marketing consultant, specialising in the Chinese marketplace.

This does not mean that he will be leaving Stockport County completely however, as the club will continue to work with Steve as their agent in China, building on the excellent profile and commercial success they have already enjoyed there in recent years.

Commenting on his decision to leave, Steve said: "This is the hardest decision I have had to make in my life. However an opportunity has come my way to set up my own business with significant financial backing and I simply could not refuse the opportunity to test myself at the forefront of the world's fastest developing sports market. The decision was made easier however when, in discussions with County Chief Executive Niels de Vos, he asked me to continue representing County in China. I am delighted that the club still wish me to do this and will remain dedicated to ensuring the club continue to benefit from their connections in the Far East for many years to come."

He added: "I would like to thank Brian Kennedy and Niels de Vos for the consistent backing they

have given me this past year and hope that they feel rewarded with the commercial gains I have brought to the club in that time – I am confident that their faith in me will continue to pay off for the club in the future. I would also like to thank all the loyal supporters and corporate supporters of County who have become friends as well as business colleagues over the past decade, without whom the club would at times have struggled to make ends meet. I very much hope that you will all continue to support the club in the future, as I believe strongly that under Cheshire Sport, Stockport County really is looking forward to better times around the corner."

Chief Executive Niels de Vos commented: "It is a blow to lose Steve but I respect the fact that the opportunity he has been given is the opportunity of a lifetime for him. I am sure everyone connected with County will want to join me in wishing him every success in his new venture."

Steve Bellis will still represent County in China



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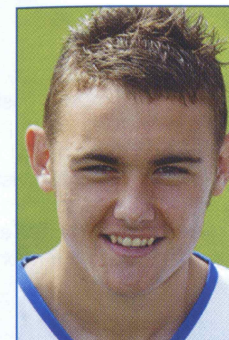
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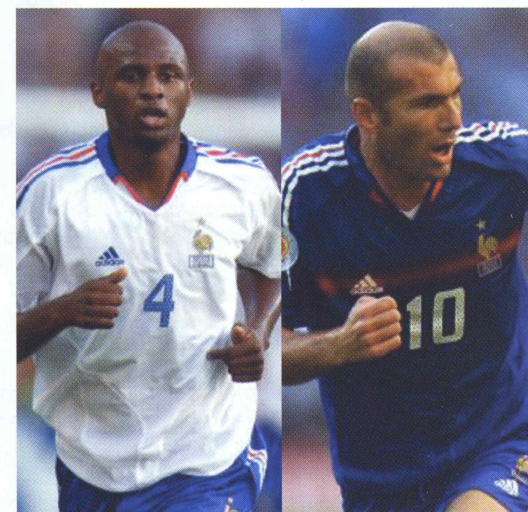


Name
Michael Bowler
Date of Birth
September 8th 1987
Hometown
Glossop
Nickname
Buster
Position
Centre midfield
Strengths
Tackling, heading
Weaknesses
Positional play

Club supported as a kid
Manchester City
Heroes
Patrick Vieira, Zinedine Zidane

Biggest joker at County
James Wonfor
Best tunes
Usher
Best films
Scarface, Carlito's Way

Hobbies
Golf, football
In 5 years I'll be...
A professional footballer



Heroes

Patrick Vieira

Zinedine Zidane

On This Day in History

261 days into 2004, 104 days until 2005, 98 days until Christmas Day

And exactly 11 years since a memorable 2-1 victory over bitter rivals Burnley kept County in a Division Two automatic promotion place.

On paper the game was a home banker; County had maximum points from three games at EP, Burnley had lost all three away from Turf Moor.

It was the Claret's, though, who took the lead on 27 minutes when a dreadful mix up between Neil Edwards and Micky Wallace allowed John Francis to walk the ball into an empty net.

Roared on by most of the 5,122 crowd the Hatters, according to the Stockport Express, "stormed forward in the second half with Edwards a lonely spectator."

A goal had to come and when it did it was a beauty. Darren Ryan ran across field before crossing the ball to Andy Preece who gave Marlon Beresford no chance.

And, with the minutes ticking away, Ryan turned match-winner when, with Burnley

watching County's big men at the far post, he nipped in to nod Peter Ward's cross past Beresford at the front stick.

The victory extended County's record to just one Edgeley Park defeat in 33 games, a sequence they would extend to 37 before a shock 2-0 reversal against Bristol Rovers on November 20th, 1993.

September 18th, 1993 saw Luton Town secure a fine point following a 0-0 draw at Middlesbrough in the (old) First Division. September 18th 1965 was also the date of our record 7-1 away win at Bradford City and, in 1937, a 1-0 victory over Manchester United here at Edgeley Park.

In the week before the United game the Stockport Express reported: "Accommodation will be taxed to its utmost capacity and fans are advised to be on the ground in good time as the gates are expected to be closed before the start of the game."

It was good advice. The match report in the Stockport Advertiser included this paragraph: "There were about 25,000 supporters but although the ground was by no means full the gates had to be closed well before kick off."

The game itself was settled by a goal 18 minutes into the second half. Bernard Oxley's shot hit a Reds' defender and bounced to Joe Mantle who scored from the rebound. Edgeley Park erupted.

And the win was no more than the Hatters deserved as the Advertiser described: "After the goal the Reds had to fight desperately to keep the score down. Even the most rabid supporter of United could not deny County the rights to the points."

The victory extended County's home record against the Heathens, as they were known in Stockport, to seven wins from nine games. The first game of that 1937-38 season actually saw Luton Town visit Edgeley Park for the battle of the champions - Division Three (North) v Division Three (South).

And those Town fans here today might be interested to learn that their predecessors

Division Two September 18 1993

Team	PL	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
1 Hull City	8	6	1	1	18	13	19
2 Stockport County	8	6	1	1	16	8	19
3 Reading	8	6	0	2	21	11	18
4 Bournemouth	7	4	2	1	10	6	14
5 Plymouth Argyle	8	4	1	3	17	13	13
6 Blackpool	8	4	1	3	13	12	13
7 York City	8	4	1	3	10	10	13
8 Swansea City	8	4	1	3	9	7	13
9 Burnley	8	4	0	4	16	11	12
10 Rotherham United	8	3	3	2	14	13	12

turned up in good numbers 67 years ago. The Stockport Express reported: "There was a good contingent from Bedfordshire; a somewhat noisy group on the stand side attired in straw head gear armed with rattles and making their presence felt before kick off."

And the Straw Plaiters were given something to really cheer when Dawes fired them in front after just 12 minutes.

But James Smailes equalised before half time and (Express), "inspired by this success and the roars of the crowd County now attacked almost incessantly."

And the pressure paid off with just five minutes remaining when Oxley scored a quite brilliant goal to secure a 2-1 win.

County's results on September 18

Season	Opponents	Competition	Venue	Score
2001-02	Sheffield United	Division One	H	1-2
1999-00	Port Vale	Division One	H	1-0
1993-94	Burnley	Division Two	H	2-1
1983-84	Northampton Town	Division Four	A	0-0
1982-83	Tranmere Rovers	Division Four	A	1-1
1981-82	Peterborough United	Division Four	H	3-0
1974-75	Torquay United	Division Four	A	2-2
1970-71	Southport	Division Four	A	0-1
1965-66	Bradford City	Division Four	A	7-1
1962-63	Brentford	Division Four	A	1-2
1961-62	Millwall	Division Four	A	3-1
1954-55	Rochdale	Division Three North	H	1-4
1950-51	Gateshead	Division Three North	A	0-2
1948-49	Carlisle United	Division Three North	A	1-2
1937-38	Manchester United	Division Two	H	1-0
1926-27	Durham City	Division Three North	H	4-0
1920-21	Clapton Orient	Division Two	A	0-5
1909-10	Leeds City	Division Two	H	0-0

thefacts

1879 Blackpool's famous illuminations were switched on for the first time.

1981 France abolished execution by guillotine.

2000 It was revealed that the last decade had been the warmest for a thousand years.

Sport

1989 Barnsley boss Allan Clarke was fined £3,000 by the FA after making unfair comments about Leeds player Vinnie Jones to a newspaper.

1991 **Diego Maradona** was given a 14 month

suspended jail sentence for drug offences in Italy.

1994 Warwickshire became the first side to win the Cricket County Championship, the Benson and Hedges Cup and the Sunday League title in one season.

2000 Pakistan beat Great Britain's hockey team in the Olympics 8-1. It matched the previous worst ever defeat for Great Britain in 1964 when Australia won 7-0.

2003 Sussex won the Cricket County Championship for the first time since it began 113 years previously.



thefacts

Top Of The Pops On This Day

1964 You Really Got Me - Kinks

1969 Bad Moon Rising - Creedence Clearwater Revival

1974 Kung Fu Fighting - Carl Douglas

1979 **Cars** - Gary Numan

1984 I Just Called To Say I Love You - Stevie Wonder

1989 Ride On Time - Black Box

1994 Saturday Night - Whigfield

1995 Boombastic - Shaggy

1996 Ready Or Not - Fugees

1997 Candle In The Wind - Elton John

1998 Millennium - Robbie Williams

1999 We're Going To Ibiza - Vengaboys

2000 Lady - Modjo

2001 Hey Baby - DJ Otzi

2002 The Tide Is High - Atomic Kitten

2003 Where Is The Love - Black Eyed Peas

Birthdays Today

1709 Writer Samuel Johnson

1949 Footballer Peter Shilton

1949 Former Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam

1953 TV columnist Garry Bushell

1958 Footballer John Aldridge

1961 Actor James Gandolfini

1962 Singer Joanne Catherall

1966 Musician Nigel Clarke

1970 Cricketer Darren Gough

1971 Cyclist Lance Armstrong

1974 Footballer Sol Campbell

Died On This Day

1964 Irish dramatist Sean O'Casey

1970 Musician Jimi Hendrix

1994 Tennis player Vitas Gerulaitis

1998 Singer Charlie Foxx



Andy Preece scored against Burnley on this day in 1993



UpClose&Personal

One of the plusses from our disappointing start to the season has been the form of Warren Feeny following his summer switch from Bournemouth.

Here's what the Northern Ireland striker had to say about his first club Leeds United, his country and all things Stockport County.

What's it like watching the likes of Harry Kewell and Alan Smith end up where they are now? Do you think it could have been you?

There are a lot of other players who I played with that can't find any work at all at the moment. At the end of the day I'm just happy where I am. I still keep in contact with the lads from Leeds and I try and catch as many games with them as I can. They are still good mates and I don't envy them at all.

How did you end up at Leeds?

I just got spotted from across the water. They asked me to come over on trial and I ended up signing a four-year deal.

Did you know that Paul Hart, your youth coach at Leeds, played for County?

I didn't. He was a really tough coach, though, and he played a major part when we won the FA Youth Cup.

Did you come close to playing for Leeds?

I was in the first team squad twice for games against Leicester and Man United but I was playing with a hernia problem for three months and it came to the stage where I couldn't carry on. I just had to stop playing and get the operation done.

Have you come close to scoring for Northern Ireland?

I've played against Spain, Cyprus and Liechtenstein and I've had a couple of chances. Against Spain I was just stood around star-struck, though, and swapped shirts at the end of the game with Fernando Hierro.

Lawrie Sanchez was at Ashton Gate on Saturday. Has he been in touch with you?

Lawrie has got his own ideas and he hasn't spoken to me. I'm more interested in doing well for County, though, and at the minute we all need to dig in ourselves and get us back up where we belong.

Did you watch Wales v Northern Ireland last week?

Yes. I thought the lads did very well, and the fans were brilliant. They did superb to dig in when they went down to nine men and showed a lot of spirit and passion and got a great result.

Do you talk about England and Ireland in the County dressing room?

There's probably more Irish lads than English! The banter is great in the dressing room and we all have a good laugh together.

Will you wear a green shirt at training if Ireland beat England?

(Laughs loudly). We'll just have to wait and see!

Did your superb goal at Radcliffe Borough in pre-season give you confidence?

All goals give you confidence, it doesn't really matter how well they go in. I'm happy with the start to the season I've had although I've hit the bar twice which means I could have been sitting on five goals. I can't complain at the minute, it's always good to get off to a good start, but if we can get the team winning that's more important.

What was it like scoring on your debut in front of the Cheadle End?

I got a superb reception. As soon as the ball came in I knew there was always going to be one winner. I knew I could get my head on it and I couldn't have got off to a better start. Unfortunately we conceded two late goals.

We took 1,500 to Blackpool, and you saw them down at Bournemouth last season as well. What do you make of the County fans?

They're extremely passionate. They wear their heart on the sleeve. We all wanted to get off to a good start but we haven't performed at the minute so we can expect a bit of grief as I used to give to my local team when they were playing badly back home. At the end of the day the County fans want the team to do well – we must all dig in.

A lot of people have said that you're too similar to Luke Beckett. Have you proved them wrong?

Luke's record stands for itself. He's scored goals for fun throughout his career and he still does. I think if we get the ball in the box we'll definitely score goals and I think we've showed that already.

What did you make of your £45,000 transfer fee?

I think Bournemouth wanted £150,000; I was hoping they got £15,000! It's all done and dusted now, though, and I've just got to concentrate on playing well for County.

What are your career highlights so far?

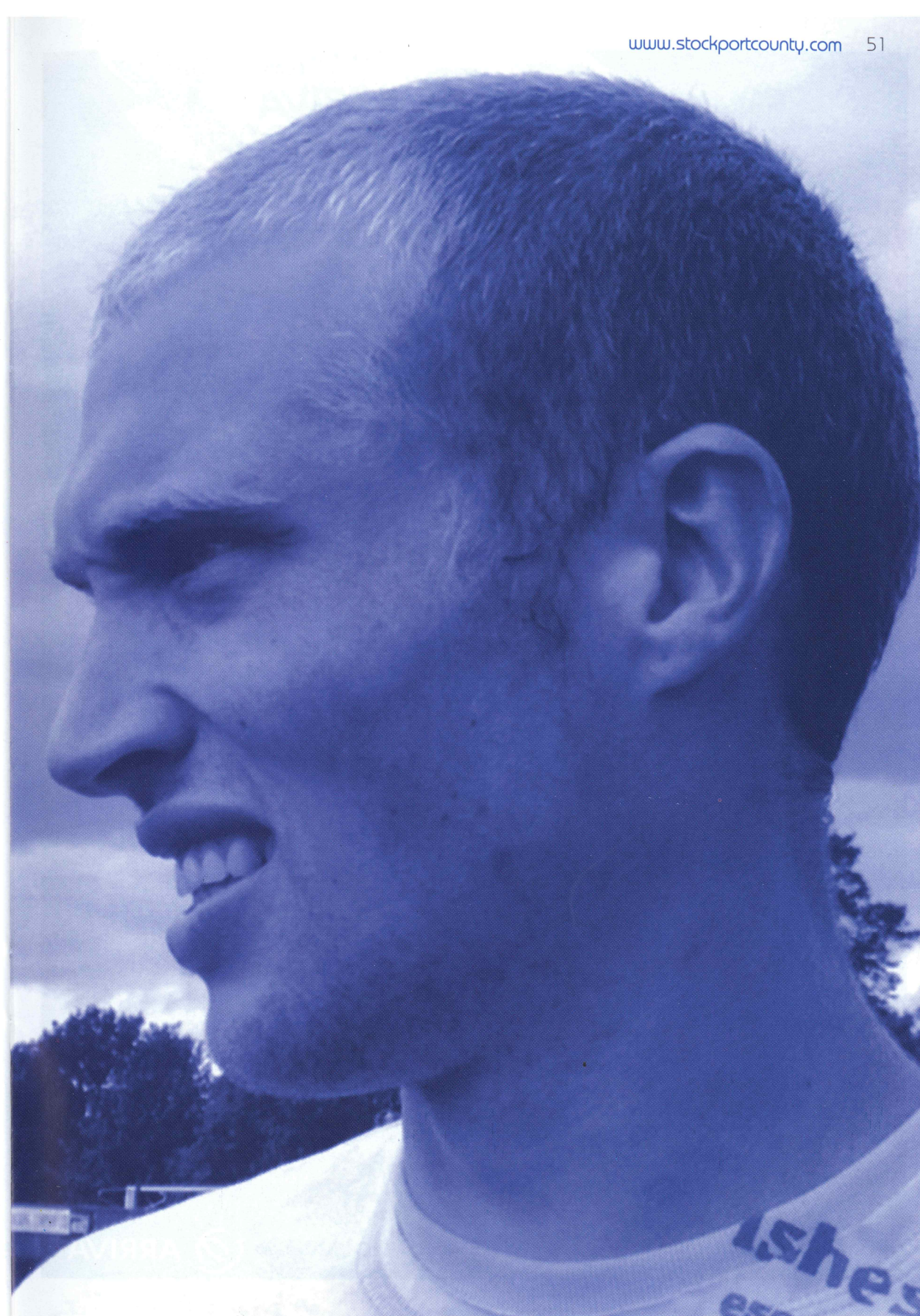
Representing Northern Ireland and moving up here probably. I had a good time at Bournemouth but I thought it was time to move on and, as I say, I'm up here and I want to do really well for County.

Who's the best player you've played with?

Probably Harry Kewell. I've known him since playing in the reserves at Leeds so I'll stick by him.

What's your target for the season?

I'd like to hit 15 goals or over, although it's more important for the team to do well rather than me thinking about personal targets.



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A look at some of the companies involved in this afternoon's game

Chris Murphy and Dot Harvey present James Spencer with a bottle of champagne for his man-of-the-match performance against Torquay United in our last home game.



MATCH SPONSOR

We are delighted to offer a very special Edgeley welcome to Parfett's Cash & Carry, our match sponsors this afternoon.

The Stockport-based company is a family-owned and run business selling food, drink and tobacco goods to independent retailers and caterers.

Established by Alan Parfett in 1980, the business has grown over the past 24 years to now encompass five large and successful depots with a sixth due to be launched later this year. The depots are all within a two-hour travelling time from the Head Office in Stockport. Apart from the Stockport depot, the others are located in Aintree, Anfield, Somercotes near Derby, Halifax, and the newest depot to the estate will be in Sheffield.

Alan Parfett retired as Managing Director in 1989, leaving the day-to-day operational running of the business to his sons Steve and Robert Parfett.

From their humble beginnings in 1980, the company has grown from a single small warehouse in Reddish with 15 staff to an employer of over 140 at the Stockport depot, located next to Junction 1 of the M60, and over 400 staff across the five depots. With the new state-of-the-art depot scheduled to open later this year, this figure will rise

LDV Vans Trophy Round One



County take on Bury in the LDV Vans Trophy 1st Round on Tuesday September 28 and you can take advantage of our special, one-off hospitality package!

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ASSOCIATE MATCH SPONSOR

We are also delighted to welcome Chris Harper and his guests as Associate Match Sponsors.

Chris, who gets married on October 8th to Louise, his girlfriend of 3 years, is here at EP as part of his stag weekend, which took in the delights of Birmingham last night, and, with the party moving on to Bredbury Hall this evening, it promises to be a good weekend!

A life long Luton Town fan Chris's earliest footballing memories are of the Hatters triumphing in the 1988 Littlewoods Cup and seeing Brian Stein score the winner. He cites Luton's first team coach Mick Harford as his footballing hero, which reflects the cultured way that Chris has always played his football!

MATCHBALL SPONSOR

Our good friends, The Site Supply Company, have sponsored the Matchball this afternoon.

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LastTimeatEP

Nationwide League Division Two

Saturday August 16, 2003

County 1 (Jones)

Luton Town

2 (Neilson, Howard))

County Colgan, Goodwin, Clare, Jones, Hardiker, Morrison, Lambert, McLachlan (Collins 64), Ellison (Welsh 52), Barlow, Wilbraham (Daly 45)

Unused subs Spencer, Challinor

Booked Ellison

Luton Beckwith, Foley, Coyne, Boyce, Hillier (Brkovic 57), Nicholls, Hughes, Neilson, Pitt, Thorpe, Howard

Unused subs Brill, Crowe, Davis, Bayliss

Booked Foley

Attendance 4,566

Visitors 646

Referee Phil Joslin (Newark)

THE VERDICT

A controversial goal from Steve Howard sent County crashing to defeat in last season's opening game at Edgeley Park.

The big striker was at least five yards offside when he collected a long ball forward but the flag stayed down and he went on to round Nick Colgan and roll the ball

into the empty net to double his side's advantage. The opening goal came on 33 minutes when Alan Neilson got the faintest of touches on Kevin Nicholls' free kick from the left and beat Colgan inside his left-hand post.

After Howard's goal on 56 minutes Luton seemed in control of the game but the introduction of former Fulham midfielder Wayne Collins sparked County in to life.

And they pulled one back when Jones met Goodwin's cross to beat Beckwith with a well-placed header on 72 minutes.

Daly was just off target with a long-range volley and Beckwith saved from Collins and then Welsh as County pressed hard for an equaliser.

And, 11 minutes from time the Blues were denied a penalty when Emerson Boyce appeared to handle Goodwin's cross.

Luton hung on, though, to record their second-successive victory at Edgeley Park.



Rob Jones climbs above the Luton defence to register his first Football League in our opening home game of last season

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CountyReserves

County Reserves crashed out of the UniBond Cheshire Senior Cup on Tuesday night following a 4-0 defeat at Alsager Town.

A detailed report will appear in the next match programme.

ROCHDALE 2 COUNTY 2

The reserves drew their third game of the season at Rossendale United against Rochdale on September 8.

The Hatters got off to the perfect start scoring after only two minutes when Martin Pemberton released Mat Bailey who drew keeper James Mann and laid the ball to Adam Le Fondre to score from six yards.

Rochdale then started to control the game and Matthew Williams fired past the back post. The equaliser came after 14 minutes when Gary Brown crossed to Kevin Townson in the area who found Nick Allen in space to fire home from close range.

County got back into the game with Danny Campbell releasing Le Fondre to fire past the back post. At the other end Neil Cutler pushed a dipping 45-yard Eoin Doherty effort out for a corner. Le Fondre then made a good run forward and flicked the ball over Nick Allen but 'Dale keeper Mann made a brave save at Le Fondre's feet.

Rochdale took the lead on 20 minutes when Brown sent Townson through into the area to prod the ball past the advancing Cutler. Shortly afterwards Phil Reilly blocked a goalbound effort from Williams.

Townson broke into the area again after 28 minutes, this time following a fine pass from Brown, and was brought down by Alex Lord. Townson took the spot kick, which was well saved by Cutler. A minute later Scott Best replaced Alex Lord. Best was soon in the action releasing Bailey and his 30-yard effort forced an excellent save from Mann.

County continued to press and Pemberton sent Le Fondre into the area and he held the ball up to release Danny Campbell who fired over from close range.

The equaliser came 7 minutes before the break when Kevin Gibbins brought Le Fondre down in the box after Damien Allen sent him clear. Le Fondre picked himself up and blasted the spot kick to the keeper's right. Shortly afterwards Bailey set up another chance for Le Fondre but his shot was blocked by Brown.

Then, just before the half time whistle, Mann punched a Bailey cross off Le Fondre's head.

At the start of the second half Le Fondre turned onto an Allen cross and hit the bar from 12 yards; unfortunately Campbell fired the rebound over. At the other end Cutler pushed a Townson effort away to safety. County responded with a shot from Pemberton that was punched away by Mann.

On the hour mark Adam Oakes replaced Danny Newby and shortly afterwards Bailey saw a header from an Oakes' cross saved by Mann. Rochdale made a change after 68 minutes with Chris Ballard replacing Matthew Williams.

Adam Le Fondre scored twice for the reserves against Rochdale.



County continued to create chances and Bailey saw an effort from Pemberton's cross saved by Mann. The busy 'Dale keeper then stopped a Le Fondre shot from the edge of the area after the striker had been put through by Bailey. After 73 minutes Paul Douglas replaced Bailey. And Douglas was soon in the action when he raced onto a through ball from Campbell but Mann turned his shot around the post.

On 79 minutes Gibbins received a yellow card for bringing down Campbell as he released Douglas. Rochdale then had a couple of chances to regain the lead with Danny Meadowcroft blocking a Patrick McCourt effort and Townson blasting over from 15 yards. County's push for a winner in the closing stages saw Mann touch a Le Fondre cross off Pemberton's head, and then Le Fondre combined with Campbell to send Douglas through but his shot went beyond the far post.

Rochdale Mann, Brown, Doherty, Gibbins, McDonagh, Allen, Baldry, Kitchen, Townson, Williams (Ballard 68), McCourt

Unused subs Hartley, Kay, Keigher, Murray

County Cutler, Brownhill, Reilly, Allen, Meadowcroft, Lord (Best 29), Campbell, Pemberton, Bailey (Douglas 73), Le Fondre, Newby (Oakes 60)

Unused subs McEwen, Hadfield

The reserves are next in action on October 6 when Wrexham are visitors to Lambeth Grove for a 7.00pm start.

FIXTURES 2004-05

Wed Aug 18	Carlisle United	A	1-1
Wed Sept 1	Chester City	H	2-2
Wed Sept 8	Rochdale	A	2-2
Tue Sept 14	Alsager Town*	H	0-4
Wed Oct 6	Wrexham	H	7pm
Wed Oct 13	Blackpool	A	2pm
Wed Oct 27	Manchester United	H	7pm
Tue Nov 9	Oldham Athletic	A	2pm
Wed Nov 24	Shrewsbury Town	A	7pm
Wed Dec 1	Macclesfield Town	A	2pm
Wed Dec 8	Bury	H	7pm
Wed Dec 15	Wrexham	A	7pm
Wed Jan 12	Burnley	A	7pm
Mon Jan 24	Manchester United	A	7pm
Wed Feb 2	Blackpool	H	7pm
Wed Feb 9	Shrewsbury Town	A	2pm
Wed Feb 16	Oldham Athletic	H	7pm
Wed Mar 2	Bury	A	2pm
Wed Mar 9	Macclesfield Town	H	7pm
Wed Mar 30	Carlisle United	H	7pm
Wed Apr 13	Chester City	A	7pm
Wed Apr 27	Rochdale	H	7pm

Home games played at Woodley Sports FC
 * Cheshire Senior Cup 'played at Alsager'

Pontin's Holidays League Division One West 2004-05

	PLD	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Manchester United	4	4	0	0	14	5	+9	12
Bury	4	2	2	0	7	3	+4	8
Oldham Athletic	4	2	1	1	6	4	+2	7
Wrexham	4	2	0	2	5	7	-2	6
Chester City	3	1	1	1	3	3	0	4
Blackpool	3	1	1	1	2	2	0	4
Rochdale	4	1	1	2	9	10	-1	4
Macclesfield Town	3	1	1	1	2	3	-1	4
County	3	0	3	0	5	5	0	3
Carlisle United	3	0	2	1	2	3	-1	2
Burnley	3	0	1	2	1	5	-4	1
Shrewsbury Town	4	0	1	3	3	9	-6	1

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County Youth

The Under-18s beat Rochdale 6-0 on September 4 at Timperley with all the goals coming from Paul Douglas.

The first came after 5 minutes when Adam Oakes miskicked James Callery's cross and Douglas blasted home the loose ball from 6 yards. His second came on 19 minutes when Callery crossed first time after Oakes found him on the right for Douglas to flick in at the near post. Three minutes later keeper Tony Tompos dropped Oakes' free kick and Douglas nipped in to lift the ball over him. The fourth came after 39 minutes with a glancing header from another Oakes free kick.

Just before the half time whistle County keeper Sam McEwen made an excellent save to keep out a Nick Allen effort.

The fifth goal came nine minutes into the second half when Oakes and Joe Yoffe combined to send Douglas through to blast home from 25 yards. The sixth came on the hour mark with Douglas blasting home from the edge of the area after being put clear again by the Yoffe/Oakes combination.

In the closing stages Tompos made a reaction save after a 30-yard Oakes effort took a deflection off Kevin Keigher.

County McEwen, Brownhill, Kay (Crank), Hadfield (Bowler), McAllister, Raynes, Callery, Woolcott, Douglas, Yoffe (Jordan), Oakes.

Unused subs Duncan, Best

COUNTY 1 BURNLEY 0

Last Saturday, September 11, the Under-18s won their second game of the season with a 1-0 Timperley victory over Burnley. The only goal of the game came after eleven minutes when Joe Yoffe turned home a cross from James Callery.

Jamie Kay



County McEwen, Brownhill, Kay, Hadfield (Pearson), Raynes, Best, Callery, Woolcott (McAllister), Douglas, Yoffe (Jordan), Oakes.

Unused subs Duncan, Henry

The Under-18s are at home to Bury next Saturday September 25 and then travel to Bury in the League Cup the following week, October 2, with both games kicking off at 11.00am.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

This week's youngster in the spotlight is second year youth trainee Jamie Kay. Jamie is from Bredbury and was born on December 12, 1986. He joined Liverpool aged 9 and our Centre of Excellence at 14. Jamie is a full back who represented Greater Manchester Schoolboys and captained Stockport Schoolboys. Jamie made his debut for the Under-19s against Doncaster Rovers on April 16, 2003, whilst he was still at school. He has gone on to make four Under-19 appearances, four Under-18 appearances and 19 Under-17 appearances, scoring one goal. Jamie can also act as an emergency goalkeeper, which he did for the Under-17s at Oldham Athletic last season.

NW CONFERENCE - U18s

Sat Aug 14	Blackpool	H	2-3
Sat Aug 21	Oldham Athletic	A	2-2
Sat Sept 4	Rochdale	H	6-0
Sat Sept 11	Burnley	H	1-0
Sat Sept 18	Wigan Athletic	A	
Sat Sept 25	Bury	H	
Sat Oct 2	Bury (LC 1)	A	
Sat Oct 9	Tranmere Rovers	A	
Sat Oct 16	Carlisle United	A	
Sat Oct 23	Preston North End	H	
Sat Oct 30	Burnley	A	
Sat Nov 6	Wigan Athletic	H	
Sat Nov 13	Bury	A	
Sat Nov 20	Tranmere Rovers	H	
Sat Nov 27	Cup (2)		
Sat Dec 4	Carlisle United	H	
Sat Dec 11	Preston North End	A	
Sat Dec 18	Blackpool	A	
Sat Jan 15	Oldham Athletic	H	
Sat Jan 22	Rochdale	A	
Sat Jan 29	Cup (3)		

FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE NORTH WEST CONFERENCE

	PLD	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Tranmere	4	3	0	1	11	7	+4	9
Oldham Ath	4	2	2	0	13	5	+8	8
County	4	2	1	1	11	5	+6	7
Blackpool	3	2	0	1	5	5	0	6
Carlisle United	3	1	1	1	8	5	+3	4
Burnley	3	1	1	1	2	2	0	4
Preston NE	4	1	1	2	5	6	-1	4
Wigan Ath	3	1	1	1	4	6	-2	4
Bury	4	1	1	2	6	10	-4	4
Rochdale	4	0	0	4	0	14	-14	0

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hope & friendship and above all 'a place for living'"

CountyLadies

Other than a narrow defeat for the first team our Girls enjoyed a great weekend with some impressive victories.

COUNTY 0 ASTON VILLA 1

County were on top for much of the first half but came up against a Villa goalkeeper particularly dominant on corners and free kicks. And, when she was beaten, by Nat Smith's angled drive the ball bounced to safety off a post. The second half continued in much the same way. Webb's 58th-minute header was cleared off the line and Jones shot just over minutes later. Villa gradually forced their way into the game and Emma Jenks came to here side's rescuer with three fine saves as the Midlanders pressed for the breakthrough. And the pressure paid off four minutes from time when they grabbed what proved to be the winner with a well-struck shot from the angle of the penalty area. So, defeat for County, but a very encouraging performance that deserved a better result.

MACCLESFIELD SILKS 3 COUNTY BLUES 8

The Blues started brightly against an experienced Macclesfield side and took an early lead when Kirsty Allen capitalised on a defensive error to smash the ball into the roof of the net. Macc drew level, despite some brave goalkeeping

The Girls produced a brilliant performance to beat Macclesfield 8-3



from Clare Purvis, before two quick goals, from Louisa Brahimi and Kate Needham, put County firmly in command.

To their credit Macclesfield hit back to level the scores, one of the goals coming from the penalty spot.

However, just before half time County restored their lead when man-of-the-match Nicci Connor sent Amy Berriman clear to finish calmly. After an even 15 minutes after the break the Blues took the game by the scruff of the neck. Brahimi completed her hat trick with two more goals with Berriman and Connor adding the others. Young 'keeper Purvis deserves a special mention for a brilliant save just before the end when she palmed a strong shot around the post.

GOALS GALORE FOR YOUNG HATTERS

The Under 14's made a great start in their first 11-a-side game played at their new home pitch on Green Lane, Hazel Grove when they ended the game as 14 - 0 winners over Urmston Meadowside. Megan Apsley (5) Celeste Gardner (4), Lauren Cooke (2), Gail Pennington (2) and Sally Webster (1) were the scorers while Celeste Gardner was also voted MOTM.

The Under 13's also had their first taste of home and away fixtures when they played Poynton Girls in their new 9-a-side league. They also made a terrific start with a 14 - 1 victory. The goals came from Sophie Williams (4), Jemma Pratt (3), Tash Bentley (2), Sarah Bushell (1), Cheryl Burns (1), Zoe Costello (1) and an o.g.

Over at Houghton Green the U12's beat Hyde United 10 - 0 with goals from Laura Wilde (5), Paige Clarke (3) Tیره Vallance and Nicole Pratt. MOTM was Tیره Vallance.

The Under 11's were winning 2-1 at half time but unfortunately, due to injury, they had to play with only 6 players in the second half and they ended their game against Denton Town losing 6-2. Claire Lee and Abbie Carrington scored the goals and Abby Cooke was MOTM.

Phoebe Nield scored the only goal in the U10's excellent 1-0 win over Heyside Devils - a great start for the new squad.



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TopHatters

His name is Derek Kevan and from Luton he did come was a song that used to ring out of the old Cheadle End in the 1960s.

The former England striker is one of only thirteen players to have played for both clubs since 1946 but, amazingly, we can still pick a side using players playing in their correct positions. How many players do you remember from the following team selected by Geoff Thomas and Ian Watts?

DAVID LAWSON Joined County from Luton in March 1979. The former Everton goalkeeper played in our epic League Cup victory against First Division Sunderland at Roker Park in 1980.

PETRI HELIN Luton brought the Finn from FC Jokerit in November 2000. He moved to EP on a Bosman free 8 months later. In September 2001, along with County teammates Jarkko Wiss and Shefki Kuqi, he was capped by Finland in the same game – a 5-1 victory over Greece.

STEVE SHERLOCK The former Manchester City apprentice made just 2 appearances for Luton yet provided County with magnificent service following his free transfer at the start of the 1979-80 season. Although a deadly penalty taker he had to play second fiddle to Tommy Sword – our all-time record scorer from 12-yards.

JOHN RYAN Ryan was a firm favourite during his time at

Petri Hellin, (left), Jarkko Wiss and Shefki Kuqi were all capped by Finland in the 5-1 victory over Greece in September 2001



County / Luton
Player records in italics



	David Lawson SC: 106 apps, 0 gls LT: 5 apps, 0 gls	
Petri Helin SC: 16 apps, 0 gls LT: 27 apps, 1 gl		Matt Woods SC: 85 apps, 2 gls LT: 34 apps, 0 gls
Graham Jones SC: 35 apps, 2 gls LT: 39 apps, 0 gls		Steve Sherlock SC: 245 apps, 7 gls LT: 2 apps, 0 gls
Rob Matthews SC: 42 apps, 4 gls LT: 12 apps, 0 gls	John Ryan SC: 2 apps, 0 gls LT: 266 apps, 10 gls	Chris Allen SC: 17 apps, 0 gls LT: 17 apps, 1 gl
Steve Taylor SC: 26 apps, 8 gls LT: 20 apps, 1 gl	Derek Kevan SC: 40 apps, 10 gls LT: 11 apps, 4 gls	Keith Allen SC: 49 apps, 15 gls LT: 137 apps, 36 gls

Kenilworth Road before joining Norwich in August 1976. Spells in America, Sheffield United and Manchester City preceded a move to Edgeley Park in August 1983. His one start in County blue came in a 6-2 defeat at Reading.

MATT WOODS Woods was 34 when he joined County from Luton in the summer of 1966 yet, by the end of the season, he was proudly holding aloft the Fourth Division Championship trophy – the last County skipper to lift silverware. Went on to manage County as well.

GRAHAM JONES Served Torquay and Luton before his move to Edgeley Park in July 1983. Scored the only goal of the game against Hartlepool in January 1984.

ROB MATTHEWS Gary Megson paid Bury £120,000 to bring the winger to EP in November 1998. Injuries blighted his time in Stockport and, after loan spells at Blackpool and Halifax he joined Hull City. Earlier in his career he was an £80,000 Luton capture from Notts County.

DEREK KEVAN The former West Bromwich striker joined County in March 1967 from Luton in a deal that saw Keith Allen move in the opposite direction. 15 games later (3 goals) he was picking up a Fourth Division title gong.

STEVE TAYLOR The much-travelled striker spent just 6 months at Kenilworth Road. He joined County from Wigan Athletic in March 1984. In all he served no fewer than 11 clubs, scoring 157 goals.

KEITH ALLEN The Isle of Wight-born striker joined County's GO GO GO revolution from Grimsby in June 1965. Never really accepted by the Edgeley faithful he moved to Luton in March 1967 with Derek Kevan making the opposite journey. Enjoyed his best career spell at Kenilworth Road.

CHRIS ALLEN Allen burst onto the scene with Oxford where his exciting performances on the wing earned him a £500,000 move to Notts Forest. After loan spells with Luton and Cardiff he joined County from Port Vale in October 1999. Played in our never-to-be-forgotten victory at Manchester City two months later.

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Over Land&Sea

County fans will be looking forward to next Saturday's trip to Hull City as it means another new ground to visit – the magnificent multi-million pound Kingston Communications Stadium.

The Tigers have enjoyed an impressive start to their League One campaign following promotion from the old Division Three last season and Sammy McIlroy's men will be in for an extremely tough time when they make the trip to Humberstone next weekend. Hopefully the fact that Hull have changed grounds won't affect our recent good record as we enjoyed quite a bit of success at the club's old Boothferry Park ground. We haven't lost on our last six trips to Hull and our last reversal there was way back in January 1983. However, Hatters fans certainly won't like being reminded of that result – Hull City 7 County 0!

LAST GAME

League Cup 1st Round 2nd Leg
Tuesday August 18, 1998

Hull City 0

County 0

AET – 2-2 on aggregate. Hull win on away goals.

Tigers Wilson, Edwards, Greaves, Hocking, Whitworth, Hawes, Morley (Mann 95), McGinty, Brown (Ellington 109), D'Auria, Peacock (Hateley 75)

Unused subs Baker, Linton

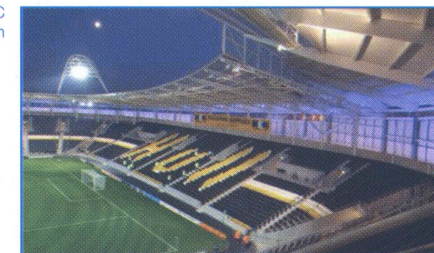
County Nash, Dinning, Woodthorpe, Cook, Flynn, Gannon, Alsaker (Cooper 46), Byrne, Angell (Wilbraham 97), Moore, Branch (Travis 91)

Unused subs Gray, Phillips

Attendance 3,480

Referee D Laws (Whitley Bay)

Hull City's impressive KC Stadium



DIRECTIONS

Approach Hull from the M62 which leads onto the A63. Continue on the A63 under the Humber Bridge. The road continues into the A63 Clive Sullivan Way, continue along this and turn off onto the slip road just before the fly-over, signposted 'Local Traffic/Infirmary' and for KC Stadium. Take the second exit at the roundabout into Rawling Way. At the traffic lights turn left onto A1105 Anlaby Road. Continue over the fly-over and at the foot of it, turn right into Walton Street. The car park is located just over halfway down past the Sports Arena.

TRAINS

Stockport station is still undergoing engineering work so there are trains leaving Manchester Piccadilly at 10.30am, 11.30am and 12.30pm which arrive in Hull at 12.33pm, 1.36pm and 2.33pm respectively. For the return journey, trains leave Hull at 5.18pm and 6.37pm which arrive in Manchester Piccadilly at 7.24pm and 8.50pm respectively although the 6.37pm train also requires a change in Leeds.

A Cheap Day Return costs £25.80.

TICKETS

County fans will be able to purchase their tickets, for the North Stand, from Edgeley Park up until Friday September 24 at a cost of £16 (Adults) and £9 (Concessions).

If they are bought at the KC Stadium on the day of the game then prices are £17 (Adults) and £10 (Concessions).

COACHES

Stockport County Supporters Club coaches will be leaving Edgeley Park at 12noon, priced £12 with the usual £1 reduction for members. Please telephone Paul Wilkinson in the ticket office on 0161 286 2700 between 10.00am and 4.00pm to make your booking. The Fingerpost Travel Club will be leaving at 11.30am, priced £11. Please contact Lou Spalding on 07970 549194 to book your seats.



League
FA Cup
League Cup
Play-Offs
Associate Members Cup

P	W	D	L	F	A
34	7	9	18	35	72
3	2	0	1	3	2
2	0	1	1	1	4
Never Met					
Never Met					

Our Away
League &
Cup Record
Against The
Tigers Is

Away League Statistics

First Meeting	0-3, Sat Nov 11 1905, Div 2
Last Meeting	1-1, Sat Oct 21 1995, Div 2
Last Win	1-0, Sat Nov 27 1993, Div 2
Last Draw	1-1, Sat Oct 21 1995, Div 2
Last Defeat	0-7, Sat Jan 29 1983, Div 4
Biggest Win	3-0, Sat Mar 29 1947, Div 3N
Biggest Defeat	0-7, Sat Jan 29 1983, Div 4
Biggest Attendance	38,192, Sat Apr 30 1949, Div 3N
Lowest Attendance	3,496, Sat Oct 21 1995, Div 2

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Match Review

Coca-Cola League One
Saturday September 11 2004
Bristol City 5
County 0

Bristol City Phillips, Smith, Coles, Butler, Hill (Fortune 82), Murray, Doherty, Tinnion (Orr 76), Wilkshire, Lita, Roberts (Heffernan 76)
Unused subs Miller, Gillespie
Goals Tinnion 11, Roberts 24, Lita 31, 81, Heffernan 79
Booked Orr

County Spencer, Geary, Hardiker, A Williams, Adams, Cartwright, Goodwin, Lambert, Jackman, Beckett, Feeney
Unused subs Bridge-Wilkinson, Morrison, Mair, Barlow, Le Fondre

Attendance 10,811
Visitors 308
Referee Andy Penn (West Midlands)

Tinnion

"People will say Stockport were poor, but you still have to do a professional job. We talked about things on the training ground and there was a collective determination to build on the two previous wins. The lads did that in style and there were some great performances."

McIlroy

"There is no way I'm going to quit. We'll battle on through this. This is the hardest situation I've ever been in in my life, including my time with Northern Ireland. But I'm not going to quit, I'm going to get it right. We have to stick together and work hard on the training field. Having said that we've trained hard coming into this game with Bristol City – and some of the things that happened out there today you would not see in Sunday League football."



Lee Cartwright clashes with Bristol's Luke Wilkshire at Ashton Gate last Saturday

Stockport County

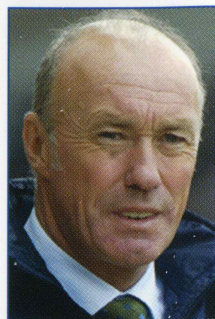
- 1 ☐ Neil Cutler
- 2 ☐ John Hardiker
- 3 ☐ Danny Adams
- 4 ☐ Mark Robertson
- 5 ☐ Ashley Williams
- 6 ☐ Danny Griffin
- 7 ☐ Lee Cartwright
- 9 ☐ Luke Beckett
- 10 ☐ Rickie Lambert
- 11 ☐ Andy Welsh
- 12 ☐ Jim Goodwin
- 13 ☐ James Spencer
- 14 ☐ Marc Bridge-Wilkinson
- 15 ☐ Owen Morrison
- 16 ☐ Jon Daly
- 17 ☐ Warren Feeney
- 19 ☐ Lee Mair
- 21 ☐ Stuart Barlow
- 23 ☐ Danny Jackman
- 25 ☐ Derek Geary
- 26 ☐ Alex Lord
- 27 ☐ Aaron Lescott
- 28 ☐ Martin Pemberton
- 29 ☐ Adam Le Fondre
- 30 ☐ Damien Allen
- 31 ☐ Danny Meadowcroft
- 32 ☐ Ben Coppinger
- 33 ☐ Phil Reilly
- 35 ☐ Mat Bailey

Luton Town

- 1 ☐ Marlon Beresford
- 2 ☐ Kevin Foley
- 3 ☐ Alan Neilson
- 5 ☐ Russell Perrett
- 6 ☐ Paul Underwood
- 7 ☐ Paul Hughes
- 8 ☐ Kevin Nicholls
- 9 ☐ Rowan Vine
- 11 ☐ Steve Robinson
- 12 ☐ Chris Coyne
- 14 ☐ Michael Leary
- 15 ☐ Stephen O'Leary
- 16 ☐ Enoch Showunmi
- 17 ☐ Lee Mansell
- 18 ☐ Ahmet Brkovic
- 19 ☐ Steve Howard
- 20 ☐ Curtis Davies
- 21 ☐ Keith Keane
- 22 ☐ David Bayliss
- 23 ☐ Ian Hillier
- 24 ☐ Sol Davis
- 25 ☐ Dino Seremet
- 26 ☐ Matthew Blinkhorn
- 27 ☐ Peter Holmes
- 29 ☐ Calvin Andrew
- 33 ☐ Dean Brill
- 36 ☐ David Deeney
- 45 ☐ Leon Barnett
- 46 ☐ Max Howell
- 47 ☐ Rob Beckwith



cover Marc Bridge-Wilkinson



ComeAgain



LDV Vans Trophy Round One

County v Bury

Tuesday, September 28th, 2004, Kick Off 7.45pm

Discounted tickets now on sale

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