



Stoke City

versus **LUTON TOWN**



Saturday August 20th 2005 Kick Off 3.00pm

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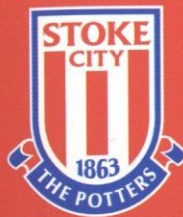
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Stoke City FC

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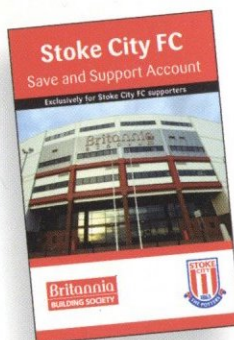
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Telephone calls may be recorded and/or monitored.

Britannia

BUILDING SOCIETY

Britannia Building Society, Britannia House
Leek, Staffordshire Moorlands ST13 5RG

Britannia undertakes to comply with The Banking Code, copies of this Code are available on request.
Britannia Building Society is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority

7821/07/2005

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CONTENTS

4 The Bos

The views of Johan Boskamp

6 Newsdesk

All the latest from the Britannia

12 Match Action

Our Championship openers

16 Terry Conroy

Spending Power

18 Visitors

Introducing The Hatters

24 Memory Lane

with Bob James

26 Cross Talk

Luton skipper Kevin Nicholls

33 Pottermus Pullout

Young fan's very own section

38 Personally Speaking

Karl Henry

42 Academy

Potters Youth

44 Reserves

Rotherham match report

46 A Word With...

Steve Simonsen

50 The Big Interview

John Halls

56 Commercial News

with John Booth

60 Nigel Johnson

BBC Radio Stoke reporter

61 Martin Spinks

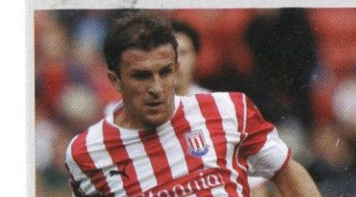
Championship Scene

64 Fixtures 2005/06

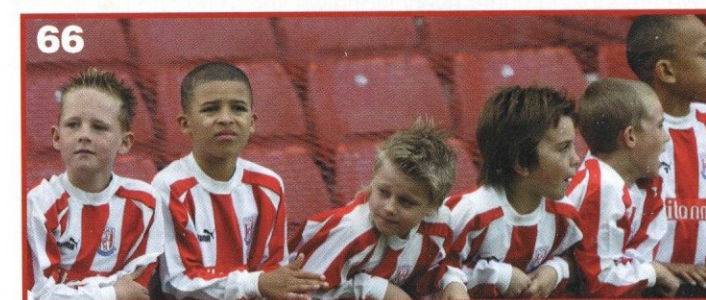
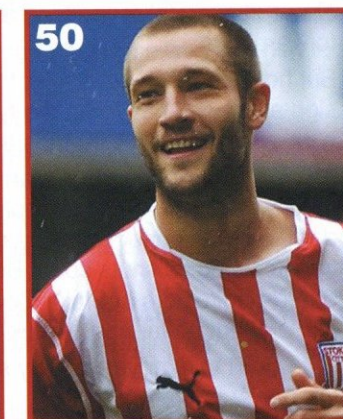
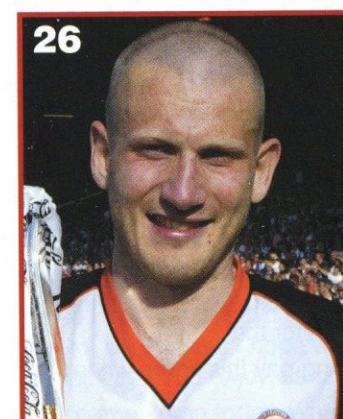
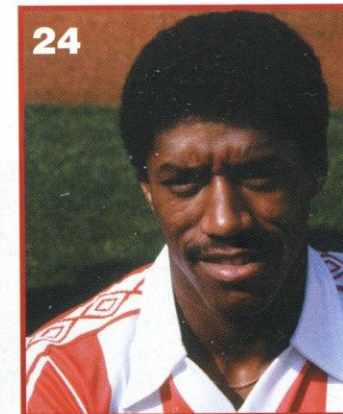
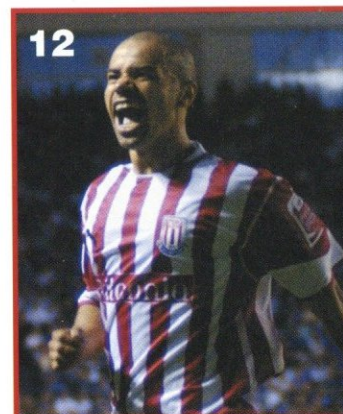
All the teams, all the dates

66 Final Word

With the Chief Executive



On the Cover: Dave Brammer



potters versus luton town

**CLUB HONOURS****Division Two**

Champions:

1932-33, 1962-63, 1992-93

Runners Up: 1921-22

Division 2: Promoted (3rd place) 1978-79

Play-Off Winners: 2001-02

Division Three North

Champions: 1926-27

Football League Cup

Winners: 1971-72

Runners Up: 1963-64

Autoglass Trophy

Winner: 1991-92

AutoWindscreen Shield

Winners: 1999-2000

FA Cup

Semi-Finalists: 1898-99, 1970-71, 1971-72

CLUB DIRECTORY**Chairman:** Gunnar Thor Gislason**President:** Gordon Banks**Vice President:** Alex Humphreys**Vice Chairman:** Stefan Geir Thorisson**Directors:** Asgier Sigurvinsson, Philip Rawlins, Peter Coates and Keith Humphreys**Chief Executive:** Tony Scholes**Manager:** Johan Boskamp**Assistant Manager:** Jan De Koning**Director of Football:** John Rudge**Academy Administration Director:**
Gordon Bennett**Academy Manager/U18 Coach:**
Noel Blake**Academy U 9/16 Assistant Director:**
Ronnie Sinclair**Physiotherapist:** Dave Watson**Retail Manager:** Wayne Cowen**Financial Controller:** Ian Bailey**Club Secretary:** Diane Richardson**Stadium & Safety Manager:** John Alcock**Commercial Manager:** John Booth**Ticket Office Manager:** Richard Potts**Media & Public Relations Manager:**
Ian Bayley

TheBos

Johan Boskamp



It's been another busy week driving here and flying there trying to land the strikers we still need for Stoke City.

Myself, Jan de Koning and John Rudge have been out and about desperately searching for the players we need for our forward line.

But however keen we are for these new signings, we will not just sign anyone. It has to be the type of player who fits in with the way we want to do things on the field here at Stoke City.

And we will not pay more than we think we should, however much we desire a particular player. Clubs may think they can demand silly money because of our needs and because the transfer window shuts soon. But we don't waste money. The board of directors at Stoke City have said 'yes' to everything I ask of them so far and I thank them for that.

But I don't take advantage by saying pay this figure when I know the player is not worth it.

We are looking under every stone we see to try and get the players we need, in this country and abroad. I drive south on Monday to watch games in England, then on Tuesday I fly again to Europe. The stewardesses say "hello again, here is your usual seat."

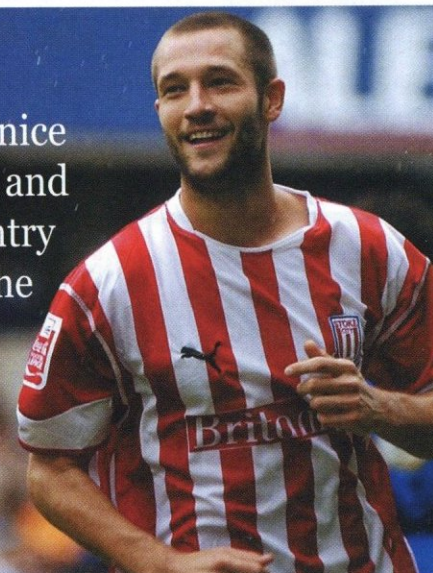
I wish I could spend more time in Stoke and more time on the training field with my players, but it's impossible for the moment.

I was delighted with our result at Millwall, but I actually think we played better football against Sheffield Wednesday and Leicester.

“

A first win is nice at a new club and in a new country and I thank the players and supporters at Millwall.

”



A first win is nice at a new club and in a new country and I thank the players and supporters at Millwall.

John Halls scored again, what's the matter with him? I now say to him he must score 15 this season on this form!

I also tell him to sign a new contract because we want him to stay here at Stoke City.

I also give the same message to Dave Brammer and Darel Russell. I didn't know these people before I came to Stoke, but now I do and I like what I see from them.

They have the right skill, but also the right workrate, and I again thank all the players for their efforts since I last wrote this column.

I also hope you like what you see from us. We do not always win, of course, but I hope we always try to play the right football that you enjoy watching.

I welcome Luton today. What a fantastic start for them after promotion, but I hope it ends this afternoon.

Finally, I welcome our new fitness coach from Belgium Francois DeJonghe, a man who has worked with me for 16 years, all over the world.

Plezier in de wedstryd,

Johan

CLUB CONTACTS**Ticket Office**

Tel: 01782 592200

Fax: 01782 592201

24hr Credit Card Ticket Bookings:

Tel: 08705 133221

(Service charge applicable)

Ticket Information Line:

Tel: 0891 332940

(Calls cost 50p per minute)

Hospitality, Sales & Marketing:

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Fax: 01782 592210

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Britannia Stadium Superstore:

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Fax: 01782 592243

Football in the Community:

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Fax: 01782 592254

Accounts:

Tel: 01782 592266

Fax: 01782 592221

Safety & Maintenance:

Tel: 01782 592271

Fax: 01782 592220

Lotteries:

Tel: 01782 592288

Clubcall:

Tel: 09068 12 10 40

(Calls cost 60p per minute)

Official Website:

www.stokecityfc.com

MATCHDAY MAGAZINE**Editorial**

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Last season, in the Plymouth Argyle programme, we brought you news of a Very Far Flung Stokie, Beth Obera, from Cagayan De Oro City in the southern Philippines, and her fiancée David Manning, who lives slightly nearer, in Penkhull!

Beth is now a proud and ardent Stokie, and David keeps her in touch with all



the news from the Britannia Stadium via 'phone, fax and e-mail.

David and Beth are pictured wearing their Stoke City shirts, and it just goes to show, no matter how big the distance, that Stoke City Football Club knows no boundaries when it comes to bringing people together!



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Christmas is Coming!

Oh, yes it is! It may only be August and summer may still be in full swing but at the Britannia Stadium plans are already in full swing to make the Christmas party season a memorable one.

Why not join us at one of our fabulous Christmas Cabaret Nights? It's a unique combination of great food and great entertainment by tribute acts imitating the likes of Abba, Kylie Minogue, Elvis, the Blues Brothers, and the Rat Pack (Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis jr).

Or perhaps you would prefer one of our Christmas Disco Nights? Enjoy a three-course meal and then dance the night away with our resident DJ in the luxurious surroundings of the Tony Waddington suite.

For more information, or to make a provisional booking, please contact our sales co-ordinators on 01782 592233, or e-mail julie.keeling@stokecityfc.com



Many Stoke supporters will have noticed a very impressive van parked on the North car park, and owner Andrew Duncan has very kindly sent in details of his pride and joy.

"It's a 1998 American Dodge Dayvan with a 4litre V6 engine and drinks fuel like water," says Andrew. "It was airbrush painted over three weeks and as well as the colourful exterior, the interior is just a sea of red and white."

Season ticket holder Andrew, who makes the long journey from Dundee for every home game, bought his van just before the start of last season, and it contains many home comforts, including a double bed, so if he gets tired, he just pulls over, closes the blinds and sleeps for a few hours!

"Some people," says Andrew, "might call me a glory hunter, as I started supporting Stoke in 1972. My Dad was serving in the army at the time, so we didn't get to stay in one place for very long. On one occasion we were traveling from Tidworth to Perthshire and our car broke down in Stoke, so we had to stay in Stoke for the weekend until the car was fixed. My Dad noticed that Stoke were playing at home so on the Saturday afternoon we went to watch my first ever match. The car was still not fixed by Wednesday and Stoke were at home again so we went to watch them. My Dad bought me a Stoke top before we left for Perthshire and through thick and thin, highs and lows, I have never regretted my decision to support Stoke."

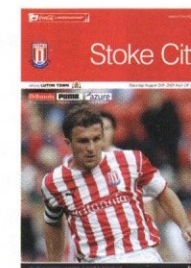
Have a look at the van on the North car park; you won't fail to be impressed.



Are You Far Flung?

The City Matchday Magazine may have a completely new look, but we are continuing with some of our favourite features, not least of which is our Far Flung Stokies.

Remember, if you are a long-distance City fan, or you know of someone who



is, why not drop us a line and we will feature you on these pages?

If you can send us a picture, even better! Please contact Hazel Bailey in the Marketing department at the Britannia Stadium with details, or indeed any other items of news you would like to see in the Magazine.

EVERYTHING TO PLAY FOR IN THE COCA-COLA FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

The Football League launched the 'Everything To Play For' campaign at the beginning of the season to highlight the strengths of its flagship division, The Coca-Cola Championship.

The Director of The Championship, Stewart Regan, explains the thinking behind the campaign and the important messages it delivers.

It would make a good quiz question. Name the four divisions from around Europe with bigger attendances than Italy's Serie A. I'm sure you can get the first three with a little help – The Premiership, La Liga and the Bundesliga. But how about the fourth?

The Coca-Cola Championship. Surprised?

2. TOP FIVE SECOND TIER DIVISIONS IN EUROPE BY AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

	5,000	10,000	15,000	20,000
17,591				
THE CHAMPIONSHIP				
13,561				
BUNDESLIGA 2 (GERMANY)				
7,555				
SEGUNDA (SPAIN)				
6,883				
SERIE B (ITALY)				
6,704				
LIGUE 2 (FRANCE)				

Over 9.8million fans went to Championship games last season, making it the fourth highest attended division in Europe. That is just one of the impressive statistics that Director of The Championship, Stewart Regan believes will

surprise a lot of people, and he is aiming to ensure everyone knows what The Championship has to offer.

"We are trying to build the profile of The Championship and develop its position as the pinnacle of The Football League and one of the major league competitions in Europe," he explains.

"The first step was renaming the division for the beginning of the 2004/05 season, which gave The Championship a distinct identity. In renaming its top division The League has reclaimed an important part of its heritage.

"We had a great first season and the 'Everything To Play For' campaign is the next part of the process. I think the title sums up our division perfectly.

"Whether you're a fan, a player, a director or a sponsor, you enter the season knowing there's everything to play for. With 20 games to go last season, all 24 teams still had hopes of promotion, Play-Off qualification or survival, while on the last day the fate of nine clubs depended on those crucial final results. That makes for an incredibly exciting and competitive division and that's what we are trying to emphasise."

For those clubs involved in the Play-Offs, there is certainly everything to play for, with a 'prize' of over £35million awaiting the winners of The Championship Play-Off Final, which is described in the 2005 Deloitte Annual Review of Football Finance as 'the richest game on earth'.



Sky High

Our Coca-Cola Championship fixture against Preston at Deepdale has been switched from Saturday, September 17 (3pm) to Friday, September 16 (7.45pm) and will be the first time this season the Potters will feature live on Sky Sports.



Bank On This

Don't forget, our attractive Bank Holiday Monday home fixture against Norwich at the Britannia Stadium on August 29 has been moved from a 3pm kick-off to a 7.45pm kick-off. The match, however, is NOT being shown live on TV.



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Supporters Club Diary

The Supporters Club Annual General Meeting is to take place on Monday 5th September (7.30 for 7.45pm) in Delilahs Bar at the Britannia Stadium. We are pleased to announce that John Halls has agreed to continue as our Club President and has provisionally agreed to come along on the evening. Hopefully John will be willing to take part in a 'question & answer' session.

All Supporters Club members are welcome to attend but must produce membership cards to gain entry.

Meanwhile, our first ever 'Meet the Referee' evening with local official Mr. John Hilditch is pencilled in for the event is Monday 26th September with Delilahs Bar being the anticipated venue. Full and final details will be published when available.

Supporters Club Benefits

As your Supporters Club we urge you to join up and help to create as big an influence as possible on the Football Club. As part of this season's membership package we are including the following:

- A 'members only' exclusive quality enamel badge
- The usual plastic credit-card style membership card which is the passport to FREE or reduced price admission to all Supporters Club events
- A 5% discount at the Britannia Stadium Souvenir Shop and the Hanley Store

- FREE entry into a monthly members draw with a price of a £25 gift voucher redeemable at the Britannia Stadium Shop and Hanley Store
- FREE entry into a draw, the prize for which is a 2006-07 season ticket to the value £250, for any supporter who joins the Supporters Club prior to 31 December 2005
- Representation to Stoke City Football Club, and at national level through the 'Football Supporters Federation' to the Government, Football and Police Authorities.
- A possibility of being chosen to present the 'Supporters Club Player of the Season' trophy prior to our final home game.
- Entitlement to attend our AGM – due early September 2005

Simply fill in an application form, (available by contacting 01782 744674) send to;

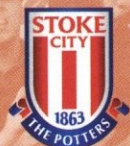
**11, Westland Street, Penkhull,
Stoke-on-Trent ST4 7HE**

with a £5.00 cheque or postal order and your Supporters Club package will be sent to you as soon as possible.

Don't forget that as a special benefit, any supporter who joins the Supporters Club prior to 31st December 2005 will be entered into a draw, the prize for which is a season ticket (for the 2006-07 Season) to the value of £250.

There's never been a better time to join up!

Nick Mansfield, Supporters Club Secretary



STOKE CITY IN MALAWI!



Pictured proudly wearing their Stoke City strip are the boys of Chisomo Children's Club in Malawi.

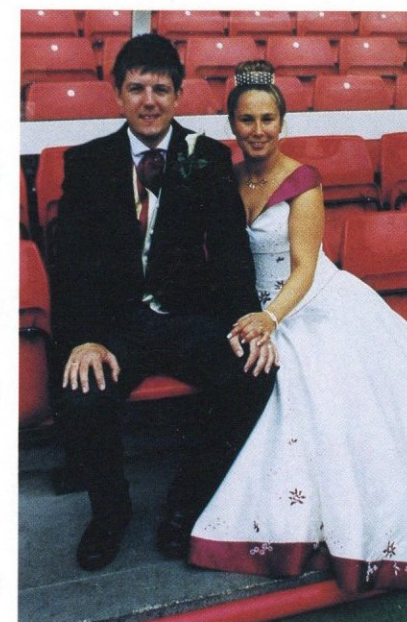
The strip was donated by our very own Stoke City Academy, and education officer Phil Clarke was delighted to receive the picture and an e-mail in gratitude of the club's donation. Hopefully the team will enjoy many successful results playing in the red and white of Stoke City.

STOKIES UNITED!

The photograph shows the wedding of Nikki Kassell (ex assistant catering manager at the Brit) and Chris Bennion (ex bar staff of Delilah's) who were married at Milton Parish Church on the 23rd July. The reception was held in the Tony Waddington Suite (where else?).

Chris first asked Nikki out on date during a Stoke City game at Deepdale in 2002, and as he puts it, "I proposed at half time the following year when I had nothing else to do, and again we were at Preston."

What is it with Preston and these two? And what's going to happen this year at Preston?!!



NO SMOKING!

Supporters are reminded there is a NO SMOKING policy in force in certain areas of the Britannia Stadium this season.

The No Smoking areas are:

The Streetwise Family Stand – seating areas and concourse

The Sentinel Stand – seating areas only, smoking allowed in concourse

The John Smith's Stands Upper and Lower Tiers – seating areas only, smoking allowed in concourse.

The Waddington Suite –

All areas including balcony and seats

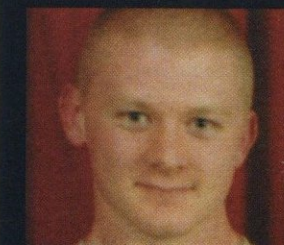
The Internationals Suite – All areas

The Executive Suites – Balconies.

Smoking IS allowed in the Booth End seating and concourse.

Thank You for your understanding and co-operation in this matter. The Smoking ban will be rigidly enforced in the areas stipulated.

IN MEMORY OF BEN BURTON



Players and staff of Stoke City Football Club would like to express their deepest condolences to the family and friends of Ben Burton, who was recently lost to his family whilst doing what he loved...riding his motorcycle in Wales.

Ben, who was born in December, 1984, was a massive Stoke fan from a very early age, and was once the club mascot when he met Sir Stanley Matthews.

He lived in Shrewsbury from about the age of 6, but never stopped supporting Stoke, even though all his mates ribbed him.

Ben was not a glory-hunter supporting one of the big name teams; he just supported his home town club through thick and thin.

He was always looking for fun and a laugh, and according to Dad Mike, 'this got him into trouble many times.'

All who came into contact with him will miss Ben, and his spirit will continue to live on within their thoughts.

Rest in Peace, Ben.

CPS AND ACPO CRACK DOWN ON FOOTBALL HOOLIGANS

Football hooligans who cause trouble in or around grounds in the coming season have been warned they risk losing their passports.

CPS prosecutors and the police have agreed to operate a presumption in favour of prosecuting troublemakers rather than cautioning so that prosecutors can apply for a Football Banning Order. This prevents those subject to the Order attending a domestic football ground or travelling out of the country any time the England or Wales team is playing abroad.

David Swift, ACPO lead on football related matters and Deputy Chief Constable of Staffordshire Police said:

"Part of the English policing strategy for the World Cup is to maximise the number of bans against those individuals who represent the greatest risk to violence and disorder and as such we welcome the approach to be followed by the CPS.

"There are currently 900 individuals who are being targeted by 29 dedicated policing operations across the

country. Those officers will be seeking direction from the CPS on the evidence they have collected and the positive approach to prosecution should increase convictions and bans. Most importantly it will help reduce the likelihood of violence by the English in Germany."

Every police force and CPS area will adopt the same protocol to prosecute offenders around domestic matches this season rather than issue cautions or fixed penalty notices. The prosecutions will allow banning orders to be added which include passport confiscations.

This protocol, signed last week between the CPS and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), will be backed up by closer working practices with a plan being phased in to give police direct access to prosecutors who can then give immediate charging decisions. The policy has been welcomed by the Football Association.

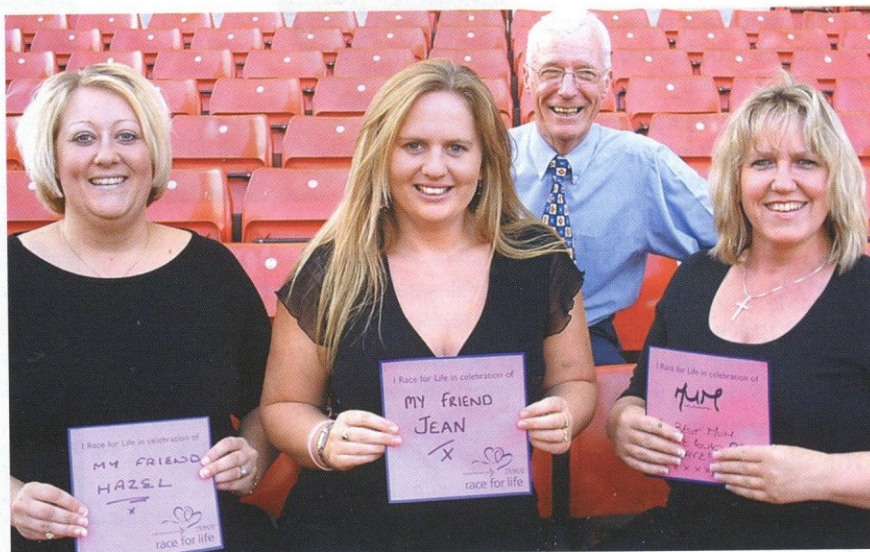
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They Raced For Life!

Three of Stoke City's more energetic administration staff enjoyed a welcome sit down in the John Smith's Lower Tier at the end of their exertions in the name of charity.

They recently raised over £300 for cancer research by taking part in the Race For Life.

The trio were unable to take part on official Race day, so instead Erin Kendrick and Nicola Worsdale, from the accounts department, and commercial executive Heather Deakin did their own thing and paced three miles up and down Stanley Matthews Way.



Keeping a close eye on proceedings – and measuring the distance to make sure everyone did their full whack! – was John Nutt, from the club's Lottery department.

We Raced For Life – Nicola Worsdale, left, Erin Kendrick and Heather Deakin, watched by 'Judge' John Nutt.

"Be a king for the day!"

Treat yourself to top class Matchday Hospitality*

Contact the Commercial Team on 01782 592216, or email commercial@stokecityfc.com

* Season ticket holders will receive a pro-rata refund if they upgrade their ticket to hospitality for a particular match



Service with a smile

LEICESTER CITY 4

Mark De Vries 14, David Connolly 65, 81, 90

STOKE CITY 2

Marlon Broomes 63, John Halls 89

9/8/05 Coca-Cola Championship

There were goals galore at the Walker's Stadium as Leicester and City served up an early-season feast of entertaining football.

Mark De Vries' 14th minute goal gave the home side the edge, but the game's major turning point came in the second-half when Potters' midfielder Junior was dismissed following an off-the-ball incident with Joey Gudjonsson.

Even so, ten-man City immediately drew level when Marlon Broomes scored his first goal for the club, only for David Connolly to restore home advantage within two minutes with the first of his hat-trick of strikes.

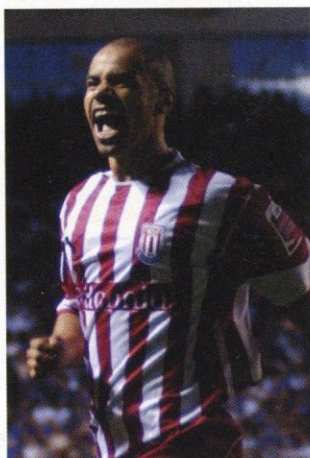
End-to-end thrills continued and Leicester looked to have the match won when Connolly struck again nine minutes from time, only for John Halls to spark off home jitters when he netted with a minute to go.

The edge-of-the seat drama continued right to the end when, with boss Johan Boskamp urging his players forward in search of an equaliser, Connolly grabbed his third.

Card Watch:

Yellow: McCarthy, De Vries (Leicester); Simonsen (Stoke)

Red: Junior (Stoke)



Marlon Broomes scores a spectacular goal and (left) celebrates

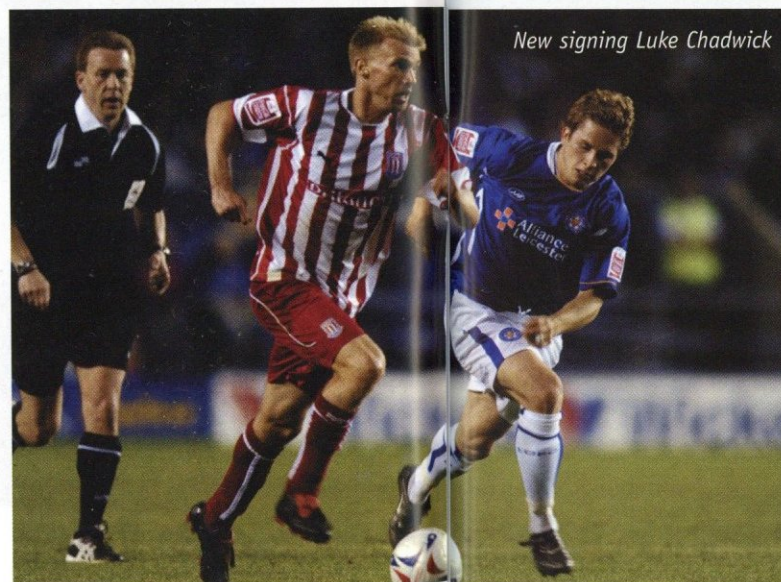
Teams

LEICESTER CITY: Douglas, Maybury, Johansson, McCarthy, Gilbert, Sylla (Hammond 71), Gudjonsson, Williams, Wilcox, Connolly, De Vries. Subs (not used): Stearman, Wright, Henderson, Gerbrand.

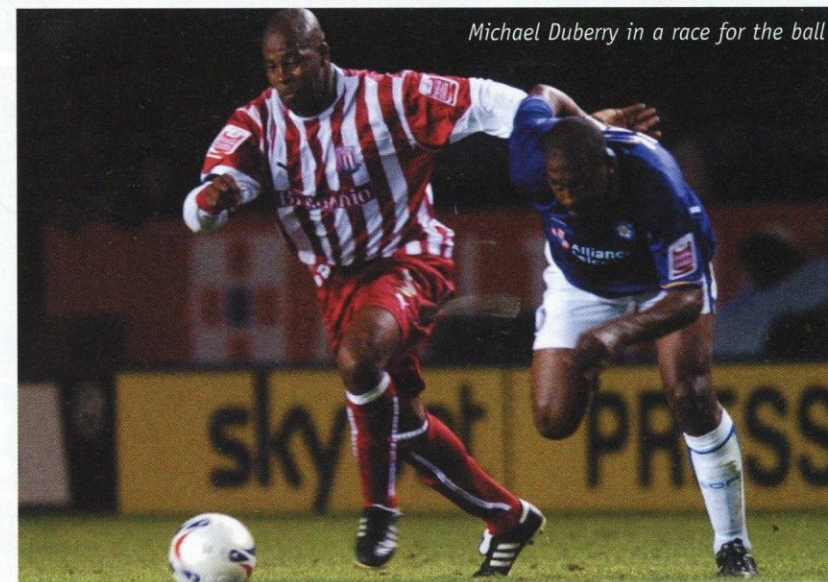
POTTERS: Simonsen, Halls, Hoefkens, Duberry, Broomes, Chadwick, Junior, Brammer, Kolar, Russell (Dyer 40), Sidibe. Subs (not used) Taggart, Henry, Buxton, De Goey.

greens
HEALTH & FITNESS

Where fitness comes naturally



New signing Luke Chadwick



Michael Duberry in a race for the ball

MILLWALL 0**STOKE CITY 1**

John Halls 38

13/8/05 Coca-Cola Championship

Two teams looking for their first win of the season went into this clash at the New Den – and afterwards there was only one.

City clinched an inaugural Championship victory for manager Johan Boskamp courtesy of John Halls' 38th minute goal, his second in two games.

It was enough to separate the sides and leave the Lions licking their wounds at the foot of the table.

There were other chances, although the match never matched the drama of City's trip to Leicester's Walker's Stadium four days earlier.

Barry Hayles nearly gave Millwall a first-minute lead and Bruce Dyer had an effort disallowed for offside.

Martin Kolar and Luke Chadwick brought the best out of home `keeper Andy Marshall in the second-half, and there was late pressure to be weathered, with Steve Simonsen keeping out Jody Morris and Bob Peeters before Karl Henry cleared Mark Phillips' header off the line.

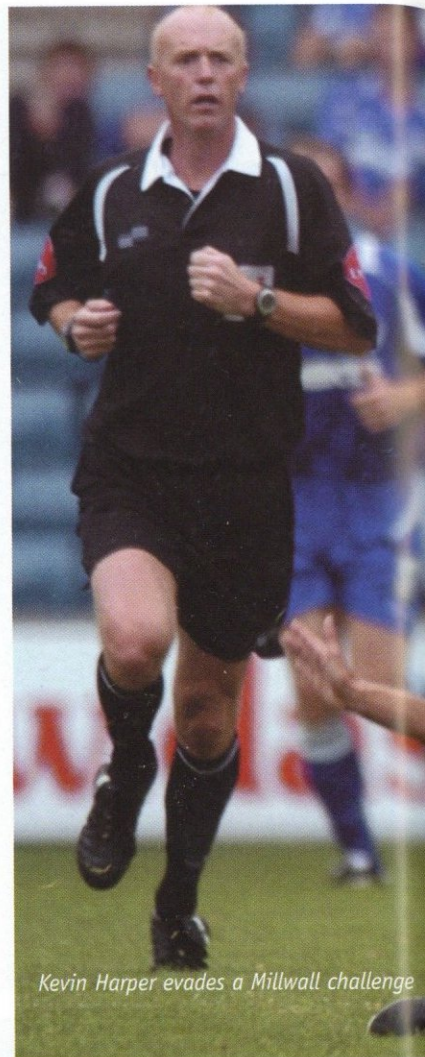
Card Watch:

● Morris (Millwall); Broomes, Dyer (Stoke)

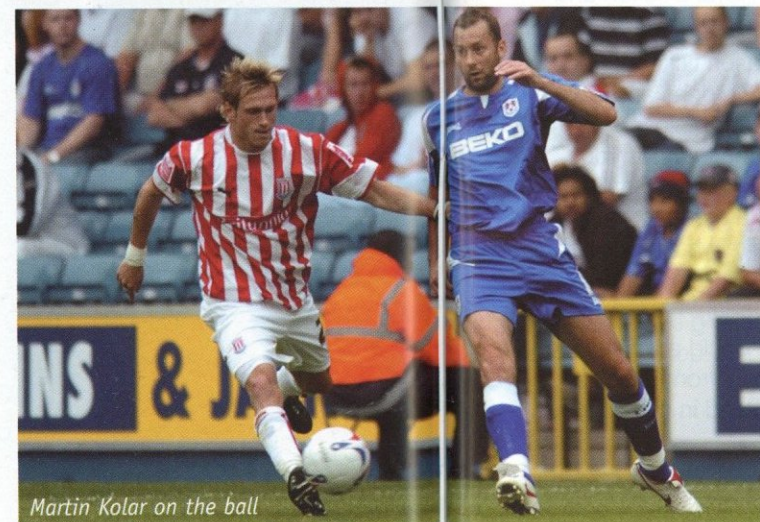
**Teams**

MILLWALL: Marshall, Lawrence, Vincent, Elliott (Peeters 56), Phillips, Dunne, Livermore, Hutchison (Igoe 84), Simpson (Fangueiro 43), Morris, Hayles. Subs (not used) Robinson, May.

POTTERS: Simonsen, Halls, Hoefkens, Duberry, Broomes, Chadwick, Henry, Brammer, Kolar, Dyer (Harper 78), Sidibe. Subs (not used) Taggart, Gudjonsson, Buxton, De Goey.



Kevin Harper evades a Millwall challenge



Martin Kolar on the ball



Mamady Sidibe on a run

Straight talking with...

Terry Conroy



SPENDING POWER

I suppose it's a bit late for me to give you my predictions for this season's championship. But it's better late than never!

Now our division hasn't got the teams at the top that most expected.

We are all aware of the spending power available to the relegated sides from the Premiership. Crystal Palace, Norwich City and Southampton receive something in the region of £8m for the privilege of being relegated. I know that they have players on much higher earnings than Championship clubs, but it's still a nice little earner. What would we do with that type of money? We could afford Michael Owen's transfer fee, but I think we would struggle to pay him £60,000 per week, tax-free. But would he be interested in joining Stoke?

Suppose you are the manager and you sit down to sell him the benefits of playing for Stoke.

Firstly, it's close to home – his family live near Chester – that's

only a helicopter ride away. (He probably has one, anyway). Secondly, he would be at home here, no language problem. Then the playing side. He would guarantee us at least 40 goals a season. That's nearly as many as we scored last year.

He could choose any number shirt he wished. If he wanted the famous No.7, he would have a hard act to follow. Sir Stan gave that shirt number worldwide prominence. I'm sure this would be a major factor in enticing Owen here.

Imagine the link between the two. A former 'Stokie' who will always be remembered the World over, no matter what century we live in, and a modern day hero who lives his life in the same manner as the great man. What a combination they would have made had they played in the same team.

The only alteration Stan would make to his game would be, when he got to the bye-line, to pick Owen out and play a slide-rule pass along the ground. It would be no good to use his aerial power, (he hasn't got any).

When Stan played with Tommy Lawton, Nat Lofthouse and Nobby Steele, he used to hang the ball in the air with the lace facing the opposite way. Therefore, no damage was done. That's real skill!

I suppose you could say the only difference between them was...the salary. Most players in those days got £12 per week in the season, £8 per week off-season. But Stan was special; he got 12 quid (per week) all year round.

I'm sure Michael doesn't even know what his bonuses are. Would our bonus system appeal to him? What incentives could we offer him? I don't think he would go for shares in Royal Doulton and Shelton Steel Works, do you?

Now a season ticket at Trentham Gardens and Alton Towers would be lovely for starters. I mean, have you been to Trentham Gardens lately? It's a credit to North Staffordshire what's happening there. Even the monkeys are singing 'Delilah.'

Finally, he could always ask another No.7 from the past how he settled in the Potteries.

"The only alteration Stan would make to his game would be, when he got to the bye-line, to pick Owen out and play a slide-rule pass along the ground. It would be no good to use his aerial power, (he hasn't got any)."

Michael Owen - coming home?



His name will come to me soon.

He would be told of the warmth and affection of the people from North Staffordshire, and not forgetting South Cheshire. How could we forget them, for they have suffered just as much over the last 100 years.

I'm trying to remember that No. 7. I think he joined Stoke two years after the great man retired. He could play right wing, left wing, centre forward, midfield; a general all-rounder really. He scored with both feet and I'm sure he scored a goal with his head in a very important game, against Chelsea, I think? His name will come to me soon, just a minute; my alarm clock has gone off. Now what was I dreaming about.

P.S. That No. 7's name was Con... something.

Next week I will give you my teams for the top.

Newly-promoted Luton Town arrive at the Britannia Stadium as the surprise early season pacesetters after a remarkable start to life in the Championship.

Few predicted the Hatters would be sitting pretty at the top of the table after three games - especially considering they began with a 'baptism of fire' against relegated Premiership duo Crystal Palace and Southampton, plus promotion fancied Leeds United. But a stunning 2-1 opening-day victory at Selhurst Park, combined with a dramatic 3-2 win against the Saints and a hard-fought goalless draw with Leeds at Kenilworth Road sees Mike Newell's side lead the way. Adjusting to the demands of the Championship has thus far been no problem for Luton, crowned champions of League One in emphatic fashion last season after romping to a huge tally of ninety-six points and losing fewer games than any other Coca-Cola Football League side.

And while it's unlikely(?) the Hatters will occupy a similar position in nine months' time, their efforts so far suggest they will be more than capable of holding their own this season.

Therefore, they will be in buoyant mood as they visit the Potteries hoping to keep an unbeaten start intact.

Under the shrewd guidance of ex-Blackburn Rovers striker Newell, they have a manager who has the chance to enhance his own credentials at a higher level after being linked with the Ewood Park hot seat before Mark Hughes took over the reigns almost a year ago.

Since succeeding Joe Kinnear in 2003, Newell has built a force to be reckoned with in the Championship, consisting of a tight defence and attacking threats throughout the side, many of whom starred during last season's successful exploits.

Powerful striker Steve Howard will prove a constant threat to the City backline with his strength and aerial presence. The former Northampton goalgetter has really found his feet under Newell, and after finishing last season as the club's top scorer with 22 goals, Howard turned down approaches from both Nottingham Forest and Burnley to sign a new deal at Kenilworth Road.

Creative midfielder Ahmet Brkovic makes things tick in midfield in

tandem with industrious skipper Kevin Nicholls, former Bournemouth ace Steve Robinson and summer signing from Reading Dean Morgan, whilst the Hatters have conceded that they will struggle to keep promising young defender Curtis Weston beyond the August 31st transfer deadline should expected Premiership suitors come knocking.

The last time Luton visited the Britannia Stadium was back in 2001 in the old Second Division, where a Nicky Mohan effort midway through the first-half only proved scant consolation as the Potters slipped to a disappointing 3-1 defeat.

However, City did emerge as 2-1 winners a season earlier, as substitute Kyle Lightbourne ensured victory with a late strike after Town's Matthew Spring had cancelled out Paul Connor's first-half opener.

Potters fans will also fondly remember an emphatic 5-0 victory over Luton in the 1995/96 season where Simon Sturridge notched a brace.

City have also shaded matters overall, claiming 14 victories, with 12 draws and losing out to the Hatters on 10 occasions.

Chris Alcock

Luton the up!

LUTON TOWN FC ROLL CALL 2005/06

No	Name	Pos	DoB	Apps	Gl	Country							
1	Marlon Beresford	GK	02/09/69	42	0	England	16	Enoch Showunmi	F	21/04/82	64	12	Nigeria
2	Kevin Foley	M	01/11/84	77	3	England	17	Paul Hughes	M	19/04/76	79	6	England
3	Sol Davies	D	04/09/79	115	2	England	18	Ahmet Brkovic	M	23/09/74	134	22	Croatia
4	Chris Coyne	D	20/12/78	155	11	Australia	19	Steve Howard	F	10/05/76	172	82	England
5	Russell Perrett	D	18/06/73	78	8	England	20	Curtis Davies	D	15/03/85	53	1	England
6	Paul Underwood	D	16/08/73	41	4	England	21	Keith Keane	D	20/11/86	32	1	Eire
7	Carlos Edwards	M	24/10/78	1	0	Trin&Tob	23	Dean Morgan	F	03/11/83	3	1	England
8	Kevin Nicholls	M	02/01/79	146	27	England	25	Dino Seremet	GK	16/08/80	7	0	Slovenia
9	Rowan Vine	F	21/09/82	45	9	England	26	Markus Heikkinen	D	13/10/78	3	0	Finland
10	Warren Feeney	F	17/01/81	9	0	N Ireland	27	Peter Holmes	M	18/11/80	78	9	England
11	Steve Robinson	M	10/12/74	97	7	N Ireland	29	Calvin Andrew	F	19/12/86	8	0	England
14	Michael Leary	M	17/04/83	22	2	England	33	Rob Beckwith	GK	12/09/84	17	0	England
15	Stephen O'Leary	M	02/02/85	22	2	Eire	45	Leon Barnett	D	30/11/85	0	0	England
							47	Dean Brill	GK	02/12/85	8	0	England

Midfielder Ahmet Brkovic

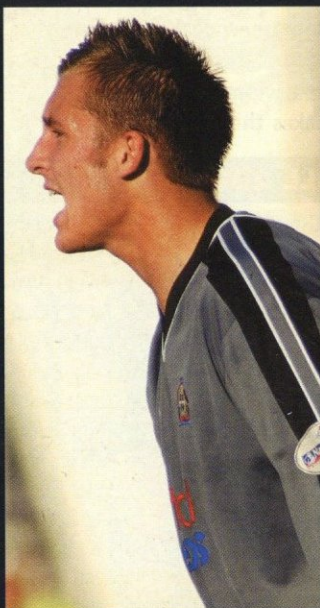
The Croatia midfielder is a tidy and hard working member of the squad who agreed a new one-year contract in the summer to extend his stay at Kenilworth Road into a fourth season. Believing a move would be good for his career, he refused new terms at Leyton Orient in the summer of 2001 to join Luton Town on a Bosman free transfer – Orient had signed him on a free from HNK Dubrovnik in the autumn of 1999, and he made 69 appearances for them, scoring eight goals, and it was this form that led the Hatters into making a bid for his services. He was bitterly disappointed when Orient failed in the play-offs to win promotion to the Second Division, and decided he might have a better chance if he joined the Hatters. He was right, playing a valuable role, mainly on the right flank, to help Luton return to the Championship at the first attempt, and his goal tally from midfield was more than instrumental in his club's return to the higher league.

At Kenilworth Road Brkovic played 132 league games before last season and scored just one goal, but it's really interesting that in the past season he made the most appearances since his arrival in England – 42, plus he scored 15 goals last term and those goals helped Luton earn their promotion from League One to the Championship.

**Goalkeeper Dean Brill**

Luton Town rounded off a great first week of their return to the Championship with impressive wins over newly relegated Crystal Palace and Southampton, and a well earned point against Leeds United at home last Saturday to take them to the top of the division, and it was down to some fine shot-stopping from young 'keeper Dean Brill, who is fast becoming a firm favourite with the Kenilworth Road faithful.

An ever-present so far this season in place of the injured Marlon Beresford, Brill fully intends to make it difficult for the vastly experienced Beresford to return to the side. Luton born Brill is a young player of whom big things are expected. A former pupil of Lea

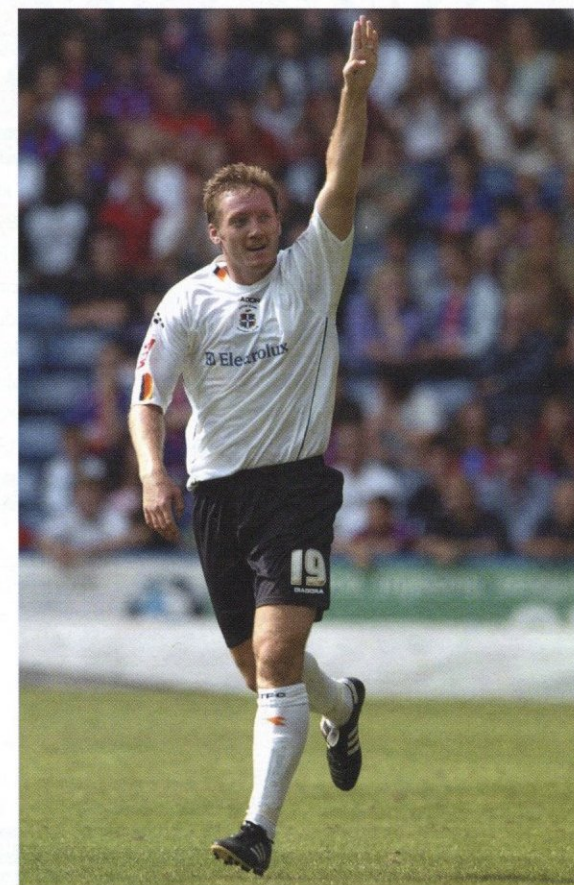


Manor High School, Brill joined his hometown club at the age of nine and has progressed through the Centre of Excellence, representing Luton Schools and Bedfordshire County Schools at a variety of age groups. He kept a clean sheet in his Under-19 debut as a 15-year-old in April 2001 and his impressive displays alerted the attention of several bigger clubs, but Luton fought off the competition to secure his signature. A tall, commanding goalkeeper standing at six foot three, Brill is a great organiser whose voice will always be heard throughout a game. His handling and concentration are exceptional, and he is very highly regarded by members of the coaching staff at the club.

Striker Steve Howard

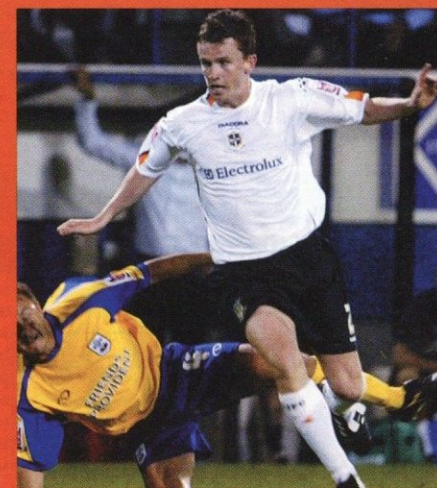
Rarely can £50,000 have been better spent in football than the fee Luton paid Northampton Town on deadline day in March 2001 to prise the striker away from the Cobblers. He played over 67 games for Northampton, where he impressed the home fans with his non-stop running and commitment. He has been the Hatters leading marksman for the last four seasons and is a huge favourite at Kenilworth Road – he was the fans player of the year in 2002, and the players' player of the year 12 months later. Howard had cost Northampton a then record fee of £120,000 when they recruited him from Hartlepool two years previously. They grudgingly accepted a third of their asking price for a player who would have left for nothing soon afterwards under the Bosman ruling.

Howard exploded into action in his first full season with Luton, and his 24 goals made him the Third Division's top league marksman as Luton won promotion. By the end of last season he had moved up to seventh in Luton Town's list of leading post-war goalscorers, averaging a goal every two games for the Hatters last season, and he is hoping to continue his fine record in an endeavour to help Luton retain their place in the Championship this term.

**Defender Kevin Foley**

The emergence of Kevin Foley was one of the success stories of last season for Luton, during the course of the campaign he went from the Hatters youth team to the Republic of Ireland Under-21's. Each time he has comfortably adjusted himself to the level of football and great things are expected of this cultured footballer.

He has been brought through the junior ranks at Kenilworth Road and in pre-season games last year he was thrown into the first-team because of injuries to other defenders. He settled in rapidly and was soon competing on merit for a regular place in the side. He played 38 games for the Hatters promotion push and has proved



himself to be a more than capable defender.

So impressive was his form that he was called into the Republic of Ireland Under-21 squad, but unfortunately, injury forced him to miss his international debut. Kevin joined the club as a nine-year-old, when they didn't play matches, 'just friendlies, and mainly training, and I've just carried on from there. I was delighted to progress into the first team,' he says, 'and I want to do as well as I can with Luton and see where that takes me.'

Manager Mike Newell was delighted that Foley signed a new contract last season and sees that he has a great future in the game, both at club and international level.

This season			Seasonal progress comparison			This season		
Opponents	H/A	Score				Opponents	H/A	Score
Millwall	A	1-0				Leeds	H	0-0
Leicester	A	2-4				Southampton	H	3-2
Sheff Wed	H	0-0				Palace	A	2-1

Swings

Won when Behind	0	Won when Behind	1
Drawn when Behind	0	Drawn when Behind	0
Drawn when Ahead	0	Drawn when Ahead	0
Lost when Ahead	0	Lost when Ahead	0

Best winning sequence 0 Best winning sequence 2
Worst losing sequence 0 Worst losing sequence 0

Set piece goals		Set piece goals		Set piece goals	
Scored from free kick	0	Clarke, Dorigo (Thordarson), Gunnarsson (Risom), Hansson, Kavanagh, Kippe, Mohan, Muggleton, O'Connor, Thorne, Cooke (Dadason)	Abbey, George (Fotiadis), Helin, Johnson, Locke, McLaren, Spring, Taylor, Thompson (Karlsen), Watts, Whitbread	Scored from free kick	0
Conc from free kick	1			Conc from free kick	0
Scored from corner	1			Scored from corner	0
Conc from corner	0	<div> <div>Booked</div> <div>Sent Off</div> </div> Gunnarsson, O'Connor, Thorne none	<div> <div>Booked</div> <div>Sent Off</div> </div> McLaren, Spring none	Conc from corner	0

Is it the Premiership or Division 1...? Or is it the Championship...? And what's Division 2 now...?
The leagues have changed again...check out how your team were doing the last time it happened...

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Attendances & cards are ordered alphabetically							
Championship top scorers							
Scorer	Club	Lge	CC	FA	Tot	Gms	Ave
David Connolly	Leicester	4	0	0	4	3	1.33
Ade Alkinbiyi	Burnley	3	0	0	3	3	1.00
Leroy Lita	Reading	3	0	0	3	3	1.00
Marlon King	Watford	3	0	0	3	3	1.00
Dean Hammond	Brighton	2	0	0	2	3	0.67
Andy Johnson	Palace	2	0	0	2	3	0.67
David Healy	Leeds	2	0	0	2	3	0.67
Ahmet Brkovic	Luton	2	0	0	2	3	0.67
Dean Ashton	Norwich	2	0	0	2	3	0.67
Micky Evans	Plymouth	2	0	0	2	3	0.67
David Nugent	Preston	2	0	0	2	3	0.67
Glen Little	Reading	2	0	0	2	3	0.67
Steven Kabbba	Sheff Utd	2	0	0	2	3	0.67
Kenwyne Jones	Southampton	2	0	0	2	3	0.67
John Halls	Stoke	2	0	0	2	3	0.67
Ashley Young	Watford	2	0	0	2	3	0.67
Darius Henderson	Watford	2	0	0	2	3	0.67

2005/06 season								
Championship form table								
Club	W	D	L	For	Agt	Pts	GI Diff	Sequence
Luton	2	1	0	5	3	7	2	WWD
QPR	2	1	0	4	2	7	2	DWW
Wolves	2	1	0	3	1	7	2	DWW
Reading	2	0	1	6	2	6	4	LWW
Sheff Utd	2	0	1	7	4	6	3	WWL
Derby	1	2	0	4	2	5	2	DDW
Crewe	1	2	0	5	4	5	1	WDD
Watford	1	1	1	7	6	4	1	LDW
Leeds	1	1	1	3	3	4	0	WLD
Southampton	1	1	1	3	3	4	0	DLW
Ipswich	1	1	1	2	2	4	0	WLD
Leicester	1	1	1	5	6	4	-1	LWD
Plymouth	1	1	1	5	6	4	-1	WDL
Stoke	1	1	1	3	4	4	-1	DLW
Preston	1	1	1	3	5	4	-2	WDL
Burnley	1	0	2	6	4	3	2	LLW
Norwich	0	3	0	3	3	3	0	DDD
Cardiff	1	0	2	3	5	3	-2	LWL
Hull	0	2	1	1	2	2	-1	DDL
Sheff Wed	0	2	1	1	2	2	-1	DDL
Brighton	0	2	1	3	5	2	-2	DLD
Coventry	0	2	1	1	5	2	-4	DDL
Palace	0	1	2	3	5	1	-2	LLD
Millwall	0	1	2	1	3	1	-2	LDL

Championship records

Highest Attendance	29,910.....	Sheff Wed v Hull
Lowest Attendance	6,132.....	Brighton v Crewe
Average Gate	17,093	
Aggregate Attendance	615,349	
Biggest Home Win	Burnley 4-0 Coventry	
Biggest Away Win	Preston 0-3 Reading	
Biggest Aggregate Score	Leicester 4-2 Stoke, Plymouth 3-3 Watford	
Total Games	36	
Home Wins	12 (33%)	
Away Wins	10 (28%)	
Draws	14 (39%)	
1-1 Draws	6 (17%)	
0-0 Draws	6 (17%)	
Total Cards	Yellow 110.....	Red 5

Football League Championship fixtures and results grid

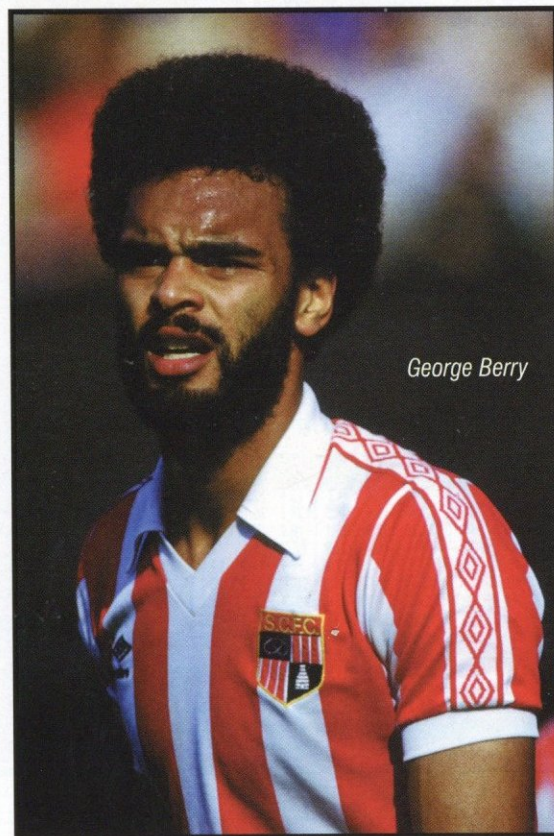
TOTAL RECALL

Bob James looks back on a fiery and memorable clash between City and today's visitors from the early 1980's.

One of the best games of football EVER seen at City's old Victoria Ground involved Luton Town and it took place 23 years ago in the old First Division.

The final score of 4-4 would have been remarkable enough in itself, but behind the glut of goals lay drama aplenty.

After avoiding relegation in the last match of the previous season by beating West Brom, City had started the new campaign in an attacking vein, bolstered by the summer arrivals of Mark Chamberlain and Mickey Thomas, while the



George Berry

defence had been strengthened by the signing of George Berry from manager Richie Barker's previous club, Wolves.

Ex-Port Vale winger Chamberlain, one of the few players to make the journey from Burslem to Stoke, was a revelation.

In his first game he ran rings round Kenny Sansom to help City beat Arsenal, and then did the same to another England full-back, Mick Mills, later to become City's manager, as City took the points at Portman Road.

The following week, in September 1982, promoted Luton, under David Pleat, came to the Victoria Ground. City were challenging the top of the table, while the visitors, like City, had started the season with a clear attacking intent. With players like Paul Walsh, later to play for England as well as Liverpool and Spurs, Brian Stein (brother of Mark), they had accomplished strikers in front of a creative midfield.

The crowd arrived expecting goals and they were not disappointed. City went into the lead through a George Berry header, but a terrific twenty-five yard strike from Walsh equalised for the Hatters. Another piece of magic from Chamberlain, by now hailed as the "New Matthews", set up Berry for a second.

If that was not drama enough, the game then erupted when Potters 'keeper Peter Fox was sent off for handling outside the area when he rushed out to try to thwart Walsh.

Fox actually clearly tried to keep his hands away from the ball, which was slotted into the net by Walsh, but the referee disallowed the goal, gave a free-kick to Luton and sent Fox off, thereby satisfying neither side.

Paul Bracewell went in goal, but after Stein equalised, was switched back to midfield with Derek Parkin taking over between the posts.

The move paid dividends when Bracewell put City in front, almost inevitably from a Chamberlain cross.

The lead didn't last long and the visitors took full advantage of their extra man to take a 4-3 lead through Stein and Mal Donaghy.

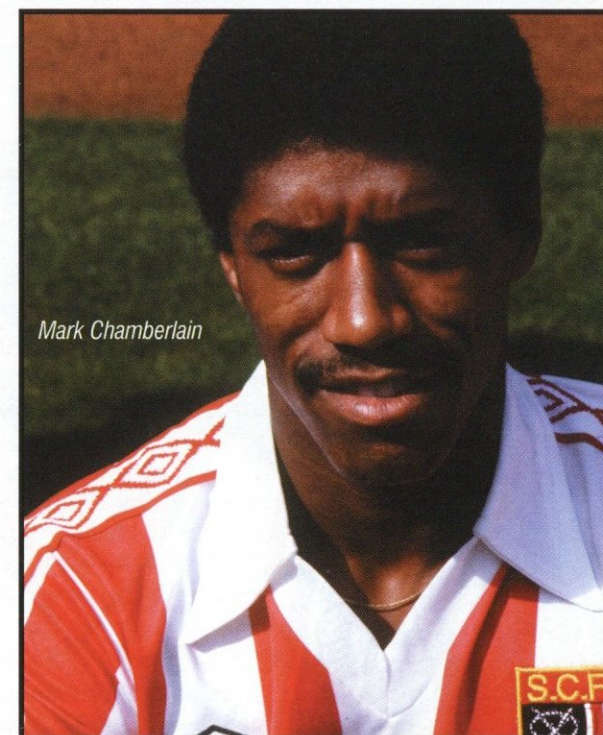
It looked all over for City but, against the odds, Brendan O'Callaghan made it 4-4 with a shot from the edge of the penalty area.

There were about five minutes left but there was still more excitement to come when Luton were awarded a penalty in the last minute.

It was David Moss against Parkin the stand-in. The smart money had to be on Moss, but he rolled his spot-kick against the post before the ball was cleared amidst scenes of wild rejoicing from behind the Boothend End net.

What a match it had been, a great advert for the spirit and skill of both sides.

If today's game is half as good, we shall have had more than our money's worth!



Mark Chamberlain



Brian Stein (right) celebrating Luton's League Cup win in 1988

CrossTalk



Luton Town skipper KEVIN NICHOLLS in conversation with Hazel Bailey

You had a successful season last term, what was the mood like at Kenilworth Road when you were promoted?

It was fantastic. We'd won the division, which we'd set out to do, and obviously, winning it as comfortably as we did was very pleasing and it was a party atmosphere.

It must have been a proud moment for you as captain when you did gain promotion, was that one of the proudest moments of your career?

Definitely in my footballing career, yes. That was the second time I'd been promoted with Luton, we came second in Division Three and were promoted. I was captain then, and I'm captain of a Championship side now. It's something that I'll always look back on and have proud memories of.

What are your thoughts on your start to this new campaign, after you have beaten two newly relegated Premiership sides? Are you surprised at your success so far?

Not in an arrogant way, or to be bigheaded, not surprised so much that we've won, but we have kept our squad together and added a few players, and we're on a roll, obviously, being champions. The

place is rocking, we've come up as champions and there is so much confidence in the team. We've got a young squad, and we just nicely gel together, and I think that's showed in the last three games. Last Saturday we played well against Leeds, who four years ago were in the Champions League!

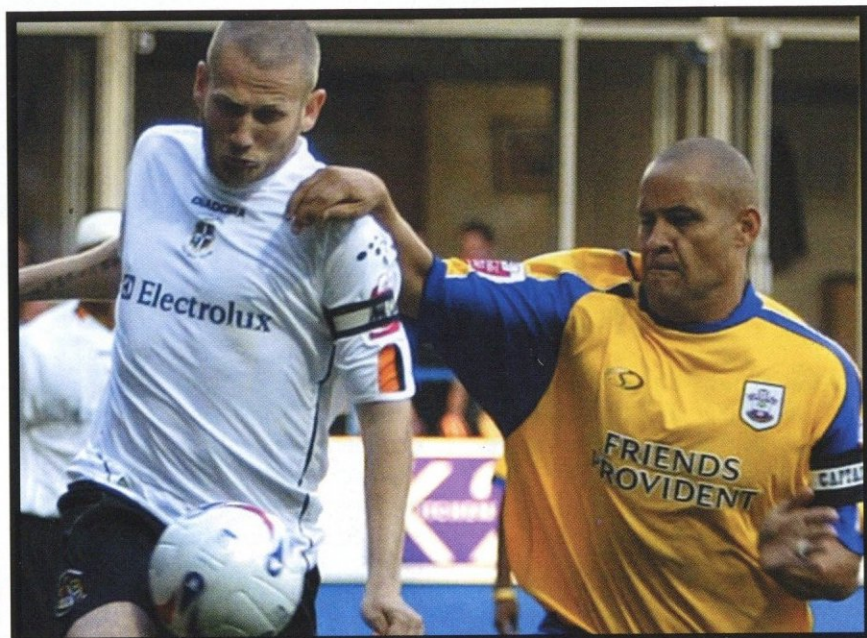
Are expectations high at Kenilworth Road this season?

I don't see why not. We're in the Championship; we deserve to be there, and we're going to do as well as we can, and so far we've done very well. But we all know we're only three games into the season and this is only the second week of the season, so no one's getting carried away.

How different do you think the standard of football is at this level, compared to the level you were playing last season?

I don't think there is a massive gap. We've played the likes of Crystal Palace and Southampton already, but we've got to play some other sides that are going to be tough games. This is a hard league to get out of because everyone's fighting to get to the Premiership, that's everyone's goal, to be in the Premiership, the best league in the World. It's going to be tough, but at the moment we're going in the right

Continues over



Captain's collide!
Competing for the
ball with Saints
Nigel Quashie

direction. We're not finding it easy, it's a challenge, but we're taking up that challenge and we're doing well at it.

Here at Stoke City we've welcomed a lot of new players this season, do you know much about the Stoke team at the moment?

To be fair, I was at Wigan about four years ago, and I know that there was always a big rivalry between Wigan and Stoke, so I probably knew more about Stoke then than I do now. I knew quite a few of the players last year at Stoke, but you seem to have got rid of them all! I knew Gifton Noel-Williams, Ade Akinbiyi. I know Steve Simonsen; I've played with him and Gifton at England Youth level. I know of Dave Brammer, I think he's a very talented midfielder, so it will be good to play up against him. I believe you've got a centre forward from Gillingham, Mamady

Sidibe. It will be interesting, because a lot of Luton players haven't played at this level before, and we're going to put ourselves up against the players who have played there on a regular basis, you know, the likes of Stoke and Leeds. And also Norwich, who have come down, they've been a Championship side for a few years, and hopefully, we can sustain our Championship position for a long time, if we don't get promoted.

Have you personally played against Stoke in the past?

I have done, yes, when I was at Wigan. To be fair, when Wigan played Stoke, I thought the atmosphere was amazing. It was something really special, and I think the Stoke fans, when I've been to games at the Britannia Stadium, know how to support their team. It's always a nice place to come and play football.

What about today's game, are you looking forward to it, how to you see it going?

Well, obviously, we want to win the game, and we're going to be looking to win the game. At the moment the table shows Luton are top of the league, but that doesn't mean anything over just three games with forty three to go, so we won't get carried away with that, although it's nice for the Luton fans, and instills a bit of confidence. But we know what's coming, this is our second away game of the season and it's going to be a tough game, but I'd like to wish Stoke all the very best, after today's game, of course! We're looking to win it but we know it's going to be tough. Stoke have been at Championship level for a few years now, and like I said, they've got good home support, so it will be tough, but it's a game that we're looking forward to.

What do you think about the bookies predictions that Luton Town will go straight back down again?

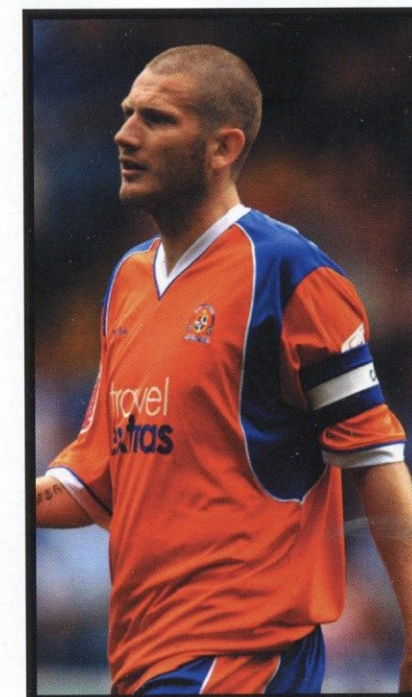
To be fair, let the people who make these predictions get on with it! They didn't give us any chance last season in the league that we were in. They said that we were going to struggle. We'd just come out of administration, and look what we did as a group, players and management, we won promotion by twelve points, so that's the way to shut them up. And to be fair, they always seem to be talking about the so-called 'big sides' in the league, or the so-called sides that have the biggest bank balances, and I'm afraid it doesn't always work like that.

Which team do you think will surprise the Championship this season?

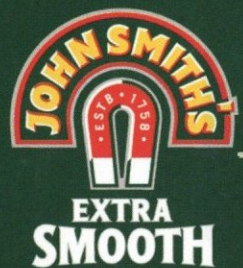
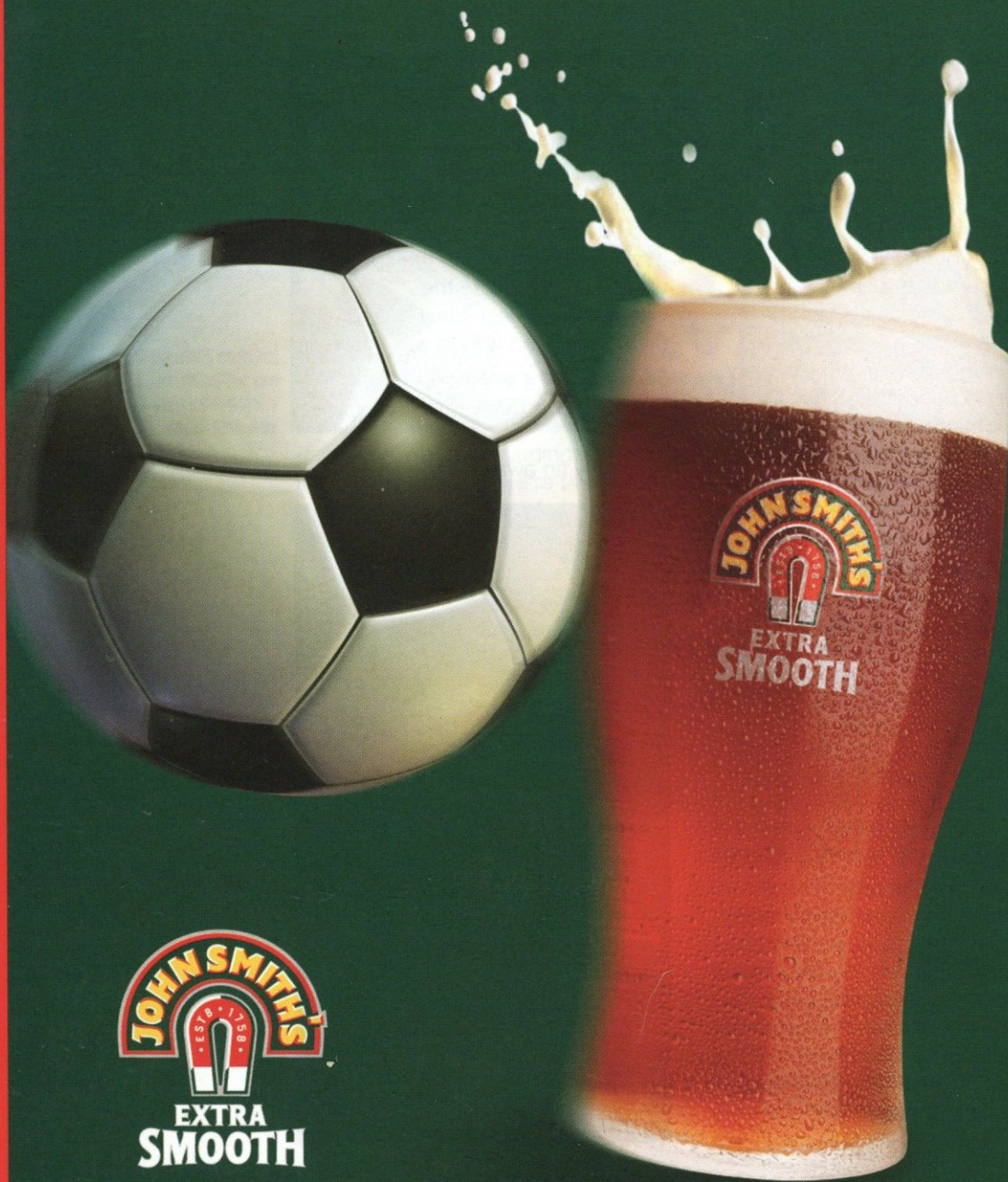
I think they've been surprised already – by us! I wouldn't say that people disrespected us, but I don't think they gave us a chance, people like the pundits. But we've stood up and been counted and know that we're a good outfit and the Gaffer knows what he wants and we know what he wants from us, and we'll all stick together. It's all about team effort at Luton Town Football Club, it's a squad game and the squad won us promotion to the Championship last season, and I think this squad will do well this year.

So, Kevin, it's prediction time, what do you think the scoreline will be?

Hopefully an away win!



'AVE IT!



JOHN SMITH'S EXTRA SMOOTH - OFFICIAL SUPPORTER OF STOKE CITY FC

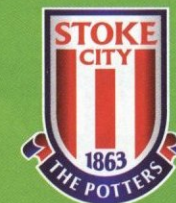


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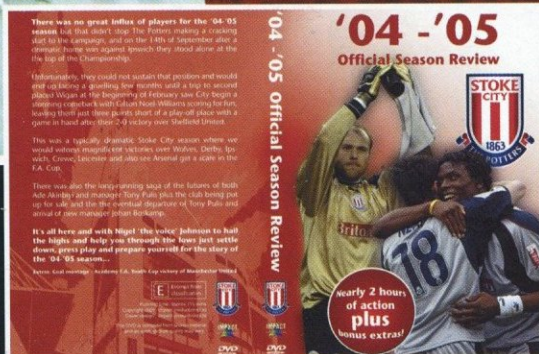
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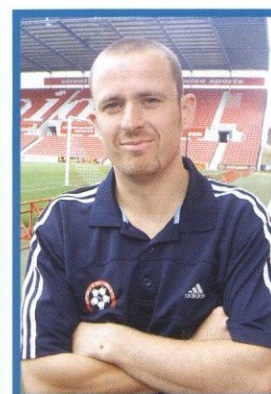
PUMA Home Kit and the 2004/05 season review

Available from the Britannia Stadium Superstore and The Store, Hanley



KIDS ZONE

Stoke City vs Luton Town



A big warm welcome once again from everyone at Football in the Community.

This afternoon the Stoke City Girls Centre of Excellence provide our half-time entertainment.

I am delighted to tell you the Girls will be playing in the Central Warwickshire League this season, along with eight other Centre of Excellence teams from within the region. We'll keep you up to date with their season as it progresses but please give them a big hand this afternoon and offer them plenty of encouragement for the campaign ahead!

Summer Soccer Schools

There are only two weeks of the summer holiday left so if you've not been to one of our Summer Soccer Schools then you don't know what you are missing!

For further information please contact the Community hotline on 01782 592252.

Summer Soccer School Dates

5 Day Courses

Monday 22nd August -
Friday 26th August 2005

Britannia Stadium

Stafford Power League Soccer Centre
Cheadle Barnfields Primary School
Penkhull Cheadle High School
Uttoxeter Willows Primary School
Windsor Park

4 Day Courses

Tuesday 30th August -
Friday 2nd September 2005

Leek Birchall Playing Fields
Trentham Ash Green Primary School
Clayton Clayton High School
Rugeley Churchfields Junior School
Biddulph Mill Hayes Sports Ground



Potterman, with Community coaches Leanne Clark, Lisa Pearce, Mark McKendrick and Ashley Ellis with youngsters at the recent Sponsored Penalty Shootout held at Edensor Primary School.



Community coach Harry Jones puts youngsters through their paces at our recent Summer Soccer School at the Marsh Primary, Wolstanton.



Pottermus

Hi kids!

Welcome to another great day out at the Britannia Stadium. I hope you all enjoyed the last home game against Sheffield Wednesday - I thought the team played well despite being reduced to ten men and drawing 0-0!

I'm hoping there'll be a big crowd today's because we've got a special ticket promotion offering Adult tickets for £10 and Concessions for £5! Having a big crowd creates a great atmosphere, and the extra support for the players can make a big difference on the pitch. You could say that the crowd acts as a twelfth player!

I'll be looking out for all of you who are watching today's game from the Streetwise Sports Family Area. I always try to visit the Family Area before kick-off to meet as many of you as I can, and Pottermus likes to come with me to make sure I behave myself!

From now on a couple of the Stoke City players will also visit the Family Area every matchday before kick-off for autographs and photographs. Just make sure you arrive on time to meet them!

And there's plenty of other things to keep you busy before the game, with face-painting, our own Family Area DJ, and loads of competitions and chances to win Stoke City prizes. Congratulations to Korben Incomdawab who was the winner of our crossword competition versus Sheffield Wednesday. Korben won a signed picture of Darel Russell. Today's competition is a Stoke City Quiz, and if you get all the questions right then you could win a signed picture of your favourite player. Good luck!



Pottermus

HOME MASCOTS

Do you want to lead the City side out at the Britannia Stadium next season?

Well you can, as the Club require matchday mascots aged between 5-13 for all home league and cup games.

Our new mascot package will treat a child and two adults to the full matchday experience at the Britannia Stadium. The package includes:

- a full Stoke City strip for the child
- a full Stadium Tour, including a visit to the Dressing Room area
- experience a full hospitality package, with dinner in the Tony Waddington Suite
- the chance to take to the pitch with your favourite players in the pre-match build-up
- the chance to meet the Man of the Match after the game
- your picture in the matchday programme
- a photograph of you as a mascot presented to you on the day

This fantastic package is the ideal gift for any fan and is available for just £299!

For more details ring 01782 592204 or 01782 592267.

Today's Mascots

Name: William Lovatt

Date of Birth: 7/12/00

School: St Werburgs, Clayton

Hobbies: Football, Swimming

Favourite Player:

Mamady Sidibe

Ambition: To be successful

Name: Macaulay Thompson

Date of Birth: 8/08/99

School: Greatwood School

Hobbies: Football

Favourite Player:

Darel Russell

GAMES CITY

CRACK THE CODE

Use the code below to reveal the names of six Stoke City players:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M
26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14

N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

17 12 19 13 19 26 15 15 8

24 15 18 13 7 19 18 15 15

14 26 9 7 18 13 16 12 15 26 9

16 26 9 15 19 22 13 9 2

7 12 23 23 2 20 6 23 17 12 13 8 8 12 13

20 22 9 9 2 7 26 20 20 26 9 7

CROSSWORD

Have a go at completing the football crossword below. Some letters have been filled in to help you out!

- S _ _ _ _ _
- _ _ _ T _ _ _ _
- _ O _ _
- K _ _ _ _ _
- _ E _ _ _ _
- C _ _ _
- _ _ I _ _ _ _
- _ T _ _ _ _
- _ _ _ Y _ _

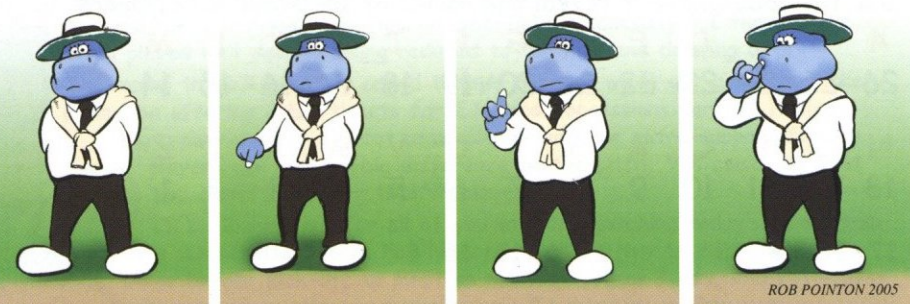
CLUES

- Stoke City play at the Britannia
- The name of the Stoke City club mascot
- You need this to win
- The start of the game
- A spot-kick
- This may be yellow or red in colour and is held up when a foul is committed
- The referee blows this to start the game
- Players wear these on their feet
- There are eleven of these in a team



The Adventures of Pottermus

POTTERMUS WAS A RUBBISH CRICKET UMPIRE...



JOIN JUNIOR POTTERS

For those of you who would like to become a member of our junior supporters club, the Junior Potters, you can join now and enjoy some great benefits!

The Junior Potters membership package for the 2005/2006 Season offers young supporters a great package, including:

- A membership card
- A Junior Potters membership certificate
- A membership gift
- A membership pin-badge
- The chance to meet the Stoke City players at an annual 'Meet the Players' event
- Junior Potters matchday activities
- Entry into a draw to win the prize of being a matchday mascot at the Britannia Stadium, worth £299! (for a limited number of games only)
- Entry into a draw to be selected as a matchday mascot for away games
- Ball boy/girl opportunities
- Organised coach travel and tickets for away games, so our young supporters can follow the Stoke City team on their travels away from home
- £2 Discount on Stoke City match tickets and no booking-fee for telephone bookings (home league games only)
- Priority ticket booking after season-ticket holders for high profile fixtures
- 5% Discount in Club Shop

For more information telephone
01782 592204 or 01782 592267.

Membership forms are now
available from the Ticket Office.

**POTTERMUS
PREDICTS**

Stoke City 3
Luton Town 2



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Personally Speaking...

...Karl Henry, stylish midfielder and England under-20 international, reveals his innermost thoughts to Mark Bowering

It's weird to think I'm now the longest serving player at the club. It just shows the change and turnaround that's occurred here. There's been a lot of players coming in, going out, and to be honest I don't even think about it and I don't think it'll effect my game. I've been here since I was eleven and I just want to play consistently in the side.

My strengths are in midfield and I feel that's where I can make a real impact. I've always played in midfield from the age of ten and that's where I want to play. I see myself playing in the centre but I have been used several times at right-back. I'm quite happy to play at the back if needed. I want to play as many games as I can, whatever the position.

Carl Asaba is the most underrated player at the club.

He's found chances limited recently, but when played in his preferred position he is a great, great player. He has great ability, physical strength and is superb at finishing chances.



The game I'm looking forward to most this season is Wolves away in January.



I'm a Wolverhampton lad, so it's a special fixture for me and my family. Glenn Hoddle's doing well at Molineux and they'll definitely be one of the teams to watch this season.

Our hardest game this season will be against Leeds United at Elland Road next March. When we played them last season it was a very tough game, the atmosphere was intense and we felt like they just battered us. I expect a similar game this time around.



I'm excited about the World Cup next summer in Germany. I'll watch as many matches as I can and after seeing Brazil in the Confederations Cup a few months ago I think they'll do well and may win the tournament (again!).

I'm going to tip Arsenal to win the Premiership.

Wolves will pip us (just!) to the Championship title, Nottingham Forest will clinch League One and in League Two I fancy Northampton Town. Real Madrid will be the team to watch in the Champions League, Chelsea will regain the Carling Cup and West Ham United will net the FA Cup.



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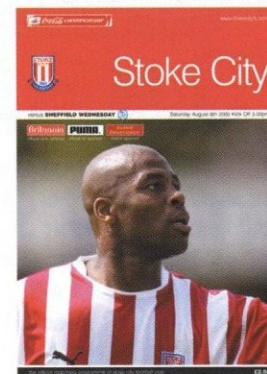
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Only in...



Grass Roots

After last season enjoying their most successful campaign in the FA Premier Academy League since the club secured Academy status in 1999, our Youth team commenced their bid to do even better this time around with a challenging opening home game against Tottenham Hotspur at the Michelin Sports Ground this morning.

Our youngsters' rapidly-improving reputation led to invitations from Dave Richardson, the Premier League's Head of Youth, to provide the opposition to the Mexican and Gambian national under-17 squads and the Hertha Berlin youth team during their recent stays at Keele University as guests of the Premier League.

Academy Manager and Youth Coach, Noel Blake, has been generally pleased with his squad's pre-season preparations, not only in these prestige games but also in the physically tougher games against other opponents.

Here is a summary of the youth team's friendly matches:

Sat 16 July **v Mexico** U17 at Keele, lost 0-1.

Thu 21 July **v Wolves** U20 at Compton Road, lost 0-3.

Sat 23 July **v Burnley** U18 at Michelin, won 4-1 (scorers: Sean Robinson, Geoff McGaw, Dinas Augusto and Jarred Stevens).

Mon 25 July **v Leek Town** at Harrison Park, lost 1-3 (scorer: Keith Thomas)

Sat 30 July **v Coventry** U18 at Michelin, lost 1-2 (scorer: Dinas Augusto).

Tue 2 August **v Hertha Berlin** U18 at Keele, drew 0-0.

Wed 3 August **v Cirencester** U18, at Michelin, lost 1-4 (scorer: a trialist).

Mon 15 August **v Gambia** U17 at Keele, lost 2-3 (scorers: Liam Page and a trialist).

Regular Youth team supporters are advised that ALL Saturday morning home FA Premier Academy League U18 games will be played at the Michelin Sports Ground this season.

After a number of seasons of mainly using Newcastle Town's Lyme Valley Stadium these games will now be staged at the Michelin, but the Academy will still be using Newcastle Town for a series of additional schoolboy evening floodlit games.

The first of these is a friendly against the touring

European Football Institute under-16 team from Adelaide, South Australia on Wednesday 28 September (ko 7pm).

Then follows Academy games against Liverpool under-15's on Wednesday 5th October and against Everton under-15's on Tuesday 11th October (both ko 7pm).

The European Football Institute is the Australian football academy from which we recruited new scholarship player Hayden Doyle at the end of June.

Running an Academy is a massive – and expensive – task. This season Noel's heavy workload will be shared by an unchanged backstage full-time staff comprising:

Assistant Academy Manager (U9/U16) Ronnie Sinclair, Physiotherapist Ed Silk, Recruitment Officer Phil Swift, Education & Welfare Officer Phil Clarke and Admin. Manager Gordon Bennett, plus a part-time Academy Secretary, Melissa Tunstall.

Ex-Stoke stars Mike Pejic and Ian Cranson, who between them look after our Under14/16 groups, head up our list of fourteen part-time coaches:

U14's - Phil Walton; U13's - Paul Myatt and Walter Fenton; U12's - Andy Holmes and Wayne Roach; U11's - Ian Challinor, Steve Vaughan, Trevor Brissett and Chris Swift; U9's Mark Cox and Eddie Preece; Goalkeepers - Andy Kimber.

They are supported by eleven part-time physios: Julie Shufflebotham, Dave Looms, Chris Banks, Ian Foulkes, Sheena McKenna, Melanie Duggan, Georgina Small, Katy McDonnell, Felicity Lichfield, Sarah Whitfield and Joanne Dempster.

All these personnel play vital roles as the season swings into action. For the Academy will usually be fielding two teams every Saturday and seven every Sunday, as well as providing three coaching sessions per week for the schoolboys aged 12 and older, and two coaching sessions per week for the younger boys, with back-up physio clinics three evenings per week.

• *Congratulations to three of our Academy scholarship players upon their respective Irish international call-ups – goalkeeper Robert Duggan's been on a two-day training camp in Dublin with the Republic's U19 squad this week; midfielder Robert Garrett went with the Northern Irish U19's for an international in Austria last Tuesday; whilst another midfielder, Geoff McGaw, travels home for two U17 games against Turkey, at Dungannon on Tuesday evening, and at Newry on Thursday afternoon.*

STOKE CITY ACADEMY PLAYER PROFILE

Name *Robert Garrett*

Age *17*

Position *Midfield*

Place of Birth *Belfast*

Club Supported *Glasgow Rangers*



The fledgling career of Academy midfielder **Robert Garrett**, who joined us from prominent Belfast junior club, St. Andrews just over a year ago, has already enjoyed several early boosts this season.

In July the never-say-die 17-year-old was involved with the first team squad in several pre-season friendlies – and was included in the party for their trip to Germany.

Then last week, Robert, a regular in the Northern Ireland U17 squad last season, was promoted to their U19 squad for the first time for a friendly international against Austria at Gussing on Tuesday afternoon.

"Being with the first team was one of the best experiences of my life," recalls Robert, with typical enthusiasm. "It's a chance to show the manager what you can do."

"It's also great to represent my country, and especially to be called-up for the next age-group," he adds.

With his mop of ginger hair and busy style of play, it's no wonder Robert is frequently described by many youth team supporters as a second James O'Connor – and it's a comparison he hopes first team followers may be making in the not-too-distant future.

FA ACADEMY UNDER-18 LEAGUE FIXTURES

Sat Aug 20	Tottenham Hotspur	.....H
Sat Aug 27	Reading	.....A
Sat Sep 3	Sheffield United	.....A
Sat Sep 10	Nottingham Forest	.....H
Sat Sep 17	Newcastle United	.....A
Sat Sep 24	Liverpool	.....H
Sat Oct 1	Crewe Alexandra	.....A
Sat Oct 8	Wolves	.....H
Sat Oct 15	Blackburn Rovers	.....A
Sat Oct 22	West Brom Albion	.....A
Sat Nov 5	Bolton Wanderers	.....H
Sat Nov 12	Manchester City	.....A
Sat Nov 19	Everton	.....H
Sat Dec 3	Manchester United	.....H
Sat Dec 10	Liverpool	.....A
Sat Jan 7	Wolves	.....A
Sat Jan 14	Blackburn Rovers	.....H
Sat Jan 21	West Brom Albion	.....H
Sat Feb 4	Bolton Wanderers	.....A
Sat Feb 11	Manchester City	.....H
Sat Feb 18	Everton	.....A
Sat Feb 25	Manchester United	.....A
Sat Mar 4	Crewe Alexandra	.....H
Sat Mar 11	Middlesbrough	.....H
Sat Mar 18	Huddersfield Town	.....A
Sat Apr 1	Derby County	.....H
Sat Apr 8	Barnsley	.....A
Sat Apr 22	Sunderland	.....H



Grass Roots

STOKE CITY 1 ROTHERHAM UNITED 0

Andy Wilkinson capped a typically tireless performance with the late winner in a tight opening game in the restructured Pontins League One Central at the Britannia Stadium on Wednesday evening.

One of our best performers throughout, Academy product Andy headed home, from close range, a well-flighted left wing corner taken by talented Hungarian flanker Norbert Zsivoczky five minutes from time.

New assistant manager Jan De Koning was in charge of a side comprising a mixture of senior professionals, Academy players and two trialists, Tony Grant (ex-Everton, Manchester City and Burnley) and Leroy Williams (ex-Walsall).

Our teenage Irish 'keeper Robert Duggan made several smart saves early in the match, whilst our best first-half effort, a shot from lively local lad Martin Paterson, was cleared off the line.

Lewis Buxton rattled the Rotherham crossbar with a long-range drive and Paterson went close with a header from the rebound before Wilkinson popped up to settle the result.

LEAGUE ONE CENTRAL FIXTURES 2005/06

Wed Aug 17	Rotherham	W 1-0
Wed Aug 24	Walsall	A
Wed Sep 7	Sheff Utd	H
Wed Sep 21	Nottm Forest	A
Tue Oct 4	Sheff Wed (ko 2pm)	A
Wed Oct 26	Huddersfield	H
Wed Nov 9	Barnsley (ko 2pm)	A
Wed Nov 16	Bradford City (ko 2pm)	H
Wed Nov 30	Oldham Athletic (ko 2pm)	H
Tue Dec 13	Rotherham (ko 2pm)	A
Wed Jan 11	Sheff Utd (ko 2pm)	A
Wed Jan 25	Nottm Forest (ko 2pm)	H
Wed Feb 8	Oldham Ath (ko 2pm)	A
Wed Feb 22	Walsall (ko 2pm)	H
Wed Mar 8	Sheff Wed (ko 2pm)	H
Wed Mar 29	Huddersfield	A
Wed Apr 5	Barnsley	H
Wed Apr 19	Bradford City	A

League Cup

All Wednesday: Aug 31, Oct 12, Dec 7, Feb 1 (QF), Mar 22 (SF)
Tuesday May 9 (F)

Play-offs

Wednesday Apr 26 (SF), Tuesday May 2 (Final)

All kick-offs 7pm unless stated.

RESERVES APPS/SUBS/GOALS

	Apps	Sub	Goals
Lewis Buxton	1	-	-
Robert Duggan	1	-	-
Bruce Dyer	1	-	-
Tong Grant	1	-	-
Thordur Gudjonsson	1	-	-
Kevin Harper	1	-	-
Danny Hughes	1	-	-
Martin Paterson	1	-	-
John Quigley	1	-	-
Andy Wilkinson	1	-	1
Norbert Zsivoczky	1	-	-
Leroy Williams	-	1	-
Josh Wilson	-	1	-



Martin Paterson surrounded by Rotherham defenders, but not necessarily tightly-marked!

Line-Up: Robert Duggan, Lewis Buxton, John Quigley, Tony Grant, Danny Hughes, Andy Wilkinson, Thordur Gudjonsson, Kevin Harper, Bruce Dyer (Leroy Williams), Martin Paterson, Norbert Zsivoczky (Josh Wilson).

Unused substitutes: Chris Sanna, Adam Vass, Sean Robinson.



a word with... Steve Simonsen

Steve Simonsen may have a new-look defence in front of him this season but he's confident of a familiar outcome – clean sheets.

The Potters had the meanest back-line in the Coca-Cola Championship last term, amassing no fewer than twenty shut-outs.

The influx of new players, not to mention a new manager, over the summer lead to many fearing an uncertain start to the campaign. But, if performances and results in the opening week are a sign of things to come then the club is in safe hands – quite literally.

Johan Boskamp's defensive rearguard has already racked-up two clean from the first three outings, against Millwall and Sheffield Wednesday, leaving the City `keeper to suggest it's going to be business as usual at the Britannia Stadium.

"We've started well defensively, apart from the Leicester City game, but I think that was a freak result. Our performances in the other two games show we haven't lost anything defensively," he says.

"We have a very tight defence, we work well together and that's the basis of our team yet again.

"There's different personnel here, but we've hit the ground running and played well.

"There's always a bit of apprehension when there's upheaval because you never know how different players are going to fit into the side. Fortunately, we seem to have gelled quite well, look solid and, fingers crossed, we can take that forward. The players have made my job easier and taken the pressure of me and I see no reason why our defence can't be tighter now than it was last season."

Summer recruits Marlon Broomes and Carl Hoefkens have wasted no time in slotting straight into the new-look defence, which, to the surprise of many, has also contributed all three City goals scored so far this season.

Adds Steve: "At the back we have the kind of mix the manager is looking for. He's looking for attacking defenders, wants us to play good football and wants us to score goals - that includes

the lads at the back.

"Marlon and John Halls have both scored and it's completely different from last season where we were mainly based on defence and just picking up the odd goal."

City's No 1 has enjoyed a whirlwind fourteen months at the club since arriving from Everton, firmly establishing himself as a first-team regular and a crowd favourite.

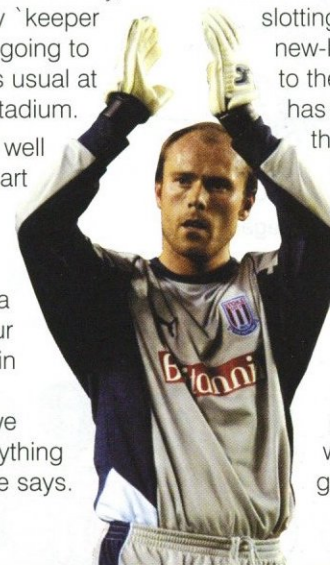
His success, coupled with the ethos of the new manager, convinced him to pen a new, improved, deal last month.

"The manager came in and looked at the squad and thankfully for me decided he wanted me as number one and I'm really pleased to be doing that job. I had a chat with Johan before I signed my new deal and he was asking my opinion on certain things, which had a bearing on me extending my contract here.

"The manager is really pleased to have two strong goalkeepers at his disposal in me and Ed De Goey and he knows he can rely on either of us to go out and do a really good job.

"It's a weight off his mind and he knows the position is fairly safe."

Mark Bowering





THERE'S 'EVERYTHING TO PLAY FOR' THIS SEASON

Following an impressive debut from The Coca-Cola Championship, we are looking forward to developing its position as the pinnacle of The Football League.

Last season, more fans went to watch Coca-Cola Championship games than attended Serie A matches and as one of Europe's major league competitions, The Championship has a great story to tell.

We aim to tell it this season through a campaign called **'Everything To Play For'**. The focus of the campaign will be on communicating what we see as The Championship's key strengths, such as:

- **ATTENDANCES:** The Coca-Cola Championship is the fourth best attended league in Europe
- **COMPETITIVENESS:** On the final day of the 2004-05 season, 9 of the 24 teams were battling for either automatic promotion, a Play-Off place or trying to avoid relegation
- **COMMUNITY:** 55% of fans live within a 10 mile radius of The Championship club they support

• **HOME GROWN:** 40% of players in the England U21 and 41% of players in the Wales U21 squad during the 2004/05 season came from Championship clubs

• **HISTORY:** The title 'Football League Championship' dates back to 1888 and The Championship name was brought back to reclaim its heritage

• **VALUE:** The Deloitte Annual Review of Football Finance described The Championship Play-Off Final as 'the richest game on earth'

We hope that shows why we believe there is **'Everything To Play For'** in The Coca-Cola Championship.

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In Depth With...

John Halls

Dean Ashton, Andrew Johnson, David Connolly...and John Halls.

Yes, John Halls. City's young and accomplished star is right up there with the best of the Coca-Cola Championship sharpshooters in the early-season goalscoring stakes.

A late strike in the 4-2 defeat at Leicester and the winner at Millwall last Saturday may not have (yet) made him a name for Championship defences to fear, but it is nevertheless a startling statistic when you consider they were his first goals five years and 75 games into his professional career.

“

“My goals have given me more confidence and I'll be looking to shoot more now when possible.

”

No sooner had the first come along than the second arrived straight after and there's no one more amazed than John himself.

“It's been a very, very, surprising start to the season for me,” he admits.

“The goals have been a long time coming, especially while I've been here at Stoke, and it's very nice to get off the mark, finally. I wasn't expecting it but I think I've just been in the right place at the right time.

“They're like buses, you wait for ages for one then two come along!”

Manager Johan Boskamp has used the opening three fixtures to introduce his attack-orientated tactics, which has coincided with the former England Youth International's purple patch in front of goal.

With the adaptable defender/midfielder now one of many players given greater scope to get forward, John feels he – and the team – will reap the rewards from the new style of play.

He explains: “I feel Johan is encouraging us to play better football and he wants the team to get forward as much as possible, so it may be my goals are linked with the way we're playing.

“Marlon Broomes has bagged himself a goal as well so it's nice to see the defenders helping out, as they should. We're attacking on both sides from the back and it's showing in early performances. It's all working well so far.

“We've played some neat football, created chances and the lads are delighted with the way we played. Johan's happy as well and the feedback we've got from him so far has been really encouraging.

“My goals have given me more confidence and I'll be looking to shoot more now when possible.

“If I can add more to my tally throughout the season it would be nice, but I'm also happy to leave it to the other lads to score the goals.

“More goals will be a bonus but the main thing is to keep playing well, win more games and carry on being solid at the back.”

And, that's exactly what's happened as City's reputation for being strong defensively has been further enhanced by two clean sheets in the first three games of the new campaign.

Sandwiched in-between the shut-outs was defeat at the hands of Leicester, but John isn't fazed by the early setback at the Walkers Stadium, instead opting to highlight the impact the new signings have made on morale at the club.

"It's always nice to keep clean sheets and get them under our belts and it's a real confidence boost for our backline.

"We've won, lost and drawn so obviously our results are a little jagged but I think we can be proud of the way we've played, especially in the first two games when we coped for long periods with ten men.



"We've got our first three points with the win at Millwall, which was a good start, and hopefully we can keep the ball rolling over the coming weeks.

"The lads the gaffer has brought in are great players, they've settled in well and it shows how good they are that they have settled in so quickly. The dressing room's as good as ever and we're all gelling and things can only get better."

John's flexibility, and willingness, to play in both defence and midfield has already caught the eye of the new manager.

Previous chief Tony Pulis handed the former Arsenal trainee his first role in midfield, although the 23-year-old is unsure which position suits him, and his game, the most.

"I don't really know where I'm most effective.

"I enjoy playing right-back and I enjoy being used in the midfield. At the moment right-back is doing me fine so I'm pleased to be playing there. But, I make no secret of how much I enjoy going forward.

"We've got a lot of players at the club who can play in midfield and it's a real fight for places at the moment. If the gaffer wants me to play at the back, or in midfield, I'm sure I can do a good job either way."

For many, supporters and media pundits alike, John is regarded as City's player to watch this season, which seems almost inevitably after learning his trade at such a high-profile club as Arsenal.

Media and public attention, though, is not something that intimidates the composed youngster, who's more concerned with returning to full fitness after a back injury plagued him last term.

"It's not something I've noticed to be honest.

"You get friends telling you this and that has been written about you in the media, but I still need to prove all the time what I can do. It's nice to hear positive things but I need to do the business on the pitch. People are always aware of where you've come from and if you've come from a team such as Arsenal, Chelsea or Manchester United I suppose they expect a little bit more from you.

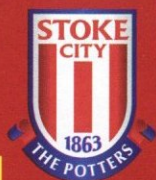
"I've come here and done well in my first season, the fans have taken a liking to me and I think it's just a case of me improving and getting stronger now. I don't feel under any pressure to perform and I'm going out every week and enjoying my football and long may it continue.

"I still need to get myself 100% fit and strong though, and that's what I'm striving to do at the moment."

Mark Bowering



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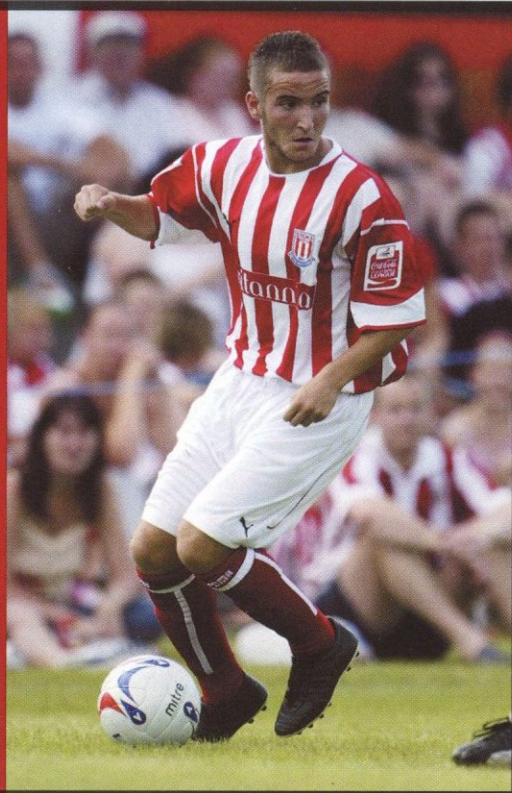
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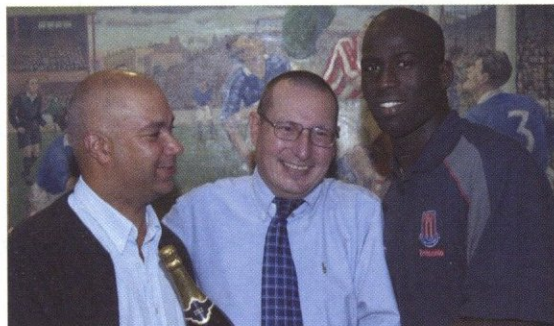
TODAY'S GAME

As for today's game, thanks to Stuart Farrell and his team from Azure, who are today's Match Sponsors. Azure are the resident caterers here at the Britannia and they do a fantastic job. Also thanks to Gary Randall from today's Matchball Sponsors, GMR Plumbing & Heating for their continued support.

SPONSOR PICS



Match sponsors Anton Insurance and Match ball sponsors Fluid Plus, pictured before the Sheffield Wednesday game.



Man of the match v Sheffield Wednesday Mamady Sidibe, pictured with Anton Insurance Services.



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As well as the £1,000 weekly jackpot, there are also prizes of £500, £200, £100 and up to 30 consolation prizes of £10.

As well as supporting Stoke City, you are also helping many local good causes including the University Hospital of North Staffordshire, it's Special Baby Care Unit, the National Fire Services Benevolent Fund, and the Douglas Macmillan Hospice.

Joining City Pot of Gold couldn't be easier - simply fill in the application form available from our Lottery Office at the Britannia Stadium with your name and address, and indicate your preferred method of payment.

You can pay either by bank standing order, by cash at your local newsagent, pub or social club, or we can arrange for an agent to call at your home each week. Playing the game is simple, there are no coupons to fill in and you don't even have to check your numbers. All winners are notified automatically.

The draw takes place every Friday and the winning numbers are posted on the official club website - www.stokecityfc.com

Be part of your local lottery with more money and more local winners!

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COCA-COLA CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON 2005/06

Date	Opponent	Category
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Sat Sep 10	Watford	B
Sat Sep 24	Wolves	A*
Tue Sep 27	Cardiff City	B
Tue Oct 18	Crewe Alexandra	A*
Sat Oct 22	Reading	B
Sat Nov 5	Brighton & Hove Albion	B
Tue Nov 22	Derby County	A
Sat Dec 3	Queens Park Rangers	B
Sat Dec 10	Leicester City	A
Wed Dec 28	Leeds United	A*
Mon Jan 2	Ipswich Town	B
Sat Jan 21	Hull City	A
Sat Feb 4	Preston North End	A
Tue Feb 14	Plymouth Argyle	B
Sat Feb 25	Millwall	B
Sat Mar 11	Crystal Palace	B
Sat Mar 18	Burnley	B
Sat Apr 1	Sheffield United	A
Sat Apr 15	Southampton	A*
Sat Apr 22	Coventry City	A

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Please note - fixtures are subject to change without prior notice, but are correct at the time of printing.



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BBC RADIO

Nigel Johnson

the voice behind BBC Radio Stoke Sports coverage
presents his regular column



Who would have put money on John Halls finding the back of the net twice in the first three games of this season?

It begs the question as to why? Is it lack of firepower upfront or a more liberated role for City's full-backs because the only other Stoke goal so far has been netted by left-back Marlon Broomes!

After the Millwall game I suggested to John Halls that if he wasn't careful he would be gaining a reputation of being a goal-getting machine. He saw the funny side to that comment but did emphasise he was enjoying his football and was prepared to talk about an extension to his contract.

“while it's undoubtedly refreshing to see the red-and-white stripes swarming towards the opposition goal, it's essential that the defensive barriers are not neglected.”

Manager Johan Boskamp has said he wants to play open, attractive, attacking football. This will provide plenty of entertainment for the fans and will entice the waverers, perhaps, to return to the Britannia Stadium. However, while it's undoubtedly refreshing to see the red-and-white stripes swarming towards the opposition goal, it's essential that the defensive barriers are not neglected.

Years ago, Manchester United were often vulnerable at the back but they knew that, if



they conceded a few goals, George Best (above), Denis Law and Bobby Charlton were more than capable of wiping out the deficit...and adding more. The Potters haven't got that capability at the moment so the manager has been travelling over to the continent again in his attempt to bring in extra players, particularly strikers.

The City squad is thin and four additional players will help to give the manager the extra options he needs.

But what of the season so far? Three games gone and a win, draw and loss have covered the spectrum. What will come next?

Early league leaders and freshly-promoted Luton Town are today's visitors. If Boskamp's boys continue their forward surges, the Hatters will need to be equipped with the tin variety...

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Championship Scene

with Martin Spinks, The Sentinel

It was a great scoring weekend for ex-City favourites last Saturday - thanks to a quick blast of Bob Marley.

Kenwyne Jones was treated to a few bars from the reggae legend during Southampton's half-time break at Sheffield Wednesday.

And Harry Redknapp's attempt to Stir It Up certainly worked as Jones, a Stoke loanee last season, led the Exodus from the dressing-room to steer the Saints to their first win of the season.

Slavedriver Redknapp revealed after: "I thought Jones was excellent, but he took a knock on the ankle and we had to patch him up to get him back out there for the second-half.

"We played some Bob Marley reggae music and he was fine. That lad is so laid back it's not true."

Jones had already netted his first of the season on the ground where he was such a big hit on loan last term before later joining Stoke.

Turf Moor witnessed not one but two former Stoke favourites scoring after Wayne Thomas and Ade Akinbiyi (2) both netted, while Gifton Noel-Williams should have completed the hat-trick instead of blasting over a first-half penalty.

But Claret's boss Steve Cotterill was seemingly more concerned with the tailor's bill picked up by



Promotion bound? Glenn Hoddle's Wolves

teenager Chris McCann after his 11th-hour promotion to the first-team squad.

"When I told Chris on Friday we were wearing suits," Cotterill chuckled, "his face went white. He didn't have one so we sent him off into town and he came back with one for £75. It was a lot of money for him so I've told him we'll pay for it."

Ipswich 'keeper Shane Supple was another unknown teenager giving a Savile Row performance after being thrown on for injured number one Lewis Price at Leicester.

And he didn't mind the 'autograph' his one-time hero Dion Dublin left during one collision at The Walker's.

"I used to follow Villa and really looked up to Dion," Supple

explained. "I got a smack from him in the second-half, but it's a bruise I won't forget."

Glenn Hoddle has certainly found his calling at Molineux - according to one of his oldest and most loyal friends in the game.

Peter Taylor saw his Hull side go down 1-0 at Wolves and then declared: "Providing they are OK with injuries, nothing can stop them.

"I know how much promotion would mean to Glenn and Wolves will improve every match thanks to him.

"Everybody knows I am a big admirer and pal, and for me he is still the tops. He was great in charge of England and now Glenn and Wolves make the perfect match."

Box Office

with Richard Potts and Lee Jones



Carling Cup First Round

v MANSFIELD TOWN (Away)

Tuesday, 23rd August 2005, kick off 7.45pm

Admission for Stoke Supporters is STRICTLY BY TICKET ONLY.
We have 1800 tickets priced £12 Adults and £6 Concessions.

All Coca-Cola Championship

v CRYSTAL PALACE (Away)

Saturday, 27th August 2005, kick off 3pm

Admission for Stoke City supporters is STRICTLY BY TICKET ONLY.
We have 2352 seats priced £25 Adults and £15 Concessions.

Tickets are now on general sale for Mansfield Town and Crystal Palace.

v NORWICH CITY (Home)

Monday, 29th August, 2005, kick off 7.45pm

Standard ticket prices apply and TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE.

v WATFORD (Home)

Saturday, 10th September, 2005, kick off 3pm

Standard ticket prices apply and TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE.

v HULL CITY (Away)

Tuesday, 13th September, 2005, kick off 7.45pm

Admission for Stoke City supporters is STRICTLY BY TICKET ONLY.
We have 2527 seats priced £21 Adults and £12 Concessions, including students.

v PRESTON NORTH END (Away)

Friday, 16th September, 2005, Kick off 7.45pm

Admission for Stoke City supporters is STRICTLY TICKET ONLY.
We have 3500 tickets priced £18 Adults, £12 Senior Citizens, Young Adults/Students £6.50 Under 16, Under 8's are free.

Ticket sales for Hull City and Preston North End

Premier/Legend members may purchase one ticket from 9am on Monday 29th August, 2005
Season ticket holders may purchase one ticket from Monday, 29th August, 2005 after the
Norwich game. Potters Club members may purchase one ticket from Tuesday, 30th August, 2005
Any remaining tickets will go on general sale from Thursday, 1st September, 2005

v WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (Home)

Saturday, 24th September, 2005, kick off 3pm

This fixture has been designated as a Premium Game.
Boothend tickets are priced £21 Adults, £13 Concessions.
Tickets are now on sale.

v CARDIFF CITY (Home)

Tuesday, 27th September, 2005, kick off 7.45pm

Standard ticket prices apply and TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE.

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OntheRoad

next stops...Mansfield and Palace



MANSFIELD TOWN

Tuesday 23rd August, 2005, kick off 7.45pm

THE GROUND

Field Mill is now an all-seated stadium with a capacity of 9,500. Both ends of the ground were redeveloped in 2000 and visiting fans are seated in the North Stand with 1,800 tickets available for this fixture. Access is via Cinderella Walk leading from the Portland Industrial Park. The club overcame pre-season problems with the Local Authority Safety Certificate when capacity was reduced to below 6,000 for the friendly versus Sheffield Wednesday.

ONE TO WATCH

A familiar name to Stoke fans – **Richie Barker** is a much travelled striker who spent some time at Macclesfield before moving on to Rotherham and then Mansfield last term, scoring 10 goals during the season. Stags boss Carlton Palmer will be hoping the 30-year old centre forward can get amongst the goals again this year.

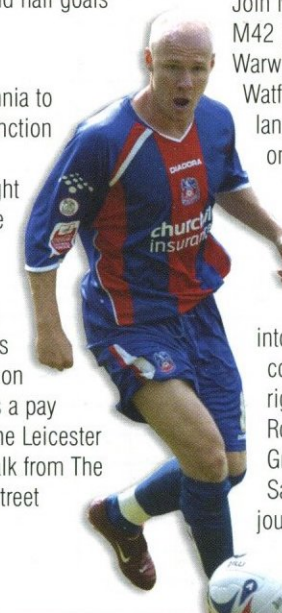
GAME TO REMEMBER

Very few encounters between the clubs – the first League meeting took place on the opening day of the 1977/78 season. Following relegation from Division One, Stoke faced up to life in Division Two with George Eastham in charge – and promptly lost to the newly promoted Stags before a crowd of 14,077. Alec Lindsay got the Potters goal from the spot after Garth Crooks was tripped in the box, but it was not enough – two second half goals securing the points for Mansfield.

YOUR ROUTE

Take the A50 Eastbound from the Britannia to join the M1 Southbound. Exit M1 at Junction 21 and follow signs for Leicester City Centre via A5460. After 3 miles turn right onto Upperton Road, go over the bridge and take the first right down Western Boulevard. Stadium is on your right. There is no stadium parking for visiting fans on match-days but limited space is available at Saffron Lane Sports Centre on a first come, first served basis. There is a pay NCP car-park in Welford Road beside the Leicester Tigers Rugby Ground – five minutes walk from The Walkers Stadium – otherwise look for street parking.

DISTANCE – 56 Miles



CRYSTAL PALACE

Saturday, 27th August 2005, kick off 3pm

THE GROUND

Selhurst Park has an all-seated capacity of 26,500. The two-tier Holmesdale Road Stand behind the goal was the last major development at the ground, completed in 1995. Visiting fans sit at one end of the Arthur Wait Stand – seats on former terracing inevitably mean shallow steps and poor views and Palace is no exception.

ONE TO WATCH

Relegated from the Premiership last term after one season at the top level, the Eagles have managed to retain the services of prolific goal-scorer **Andy Johnson** (pictured). The former Birmingham man netted over 20 goals in the Premier League with performances that earned him an England shirt and a second successive Player of the Year award. His 28 Championship goals the previous season virtually ensured promotion for the Eagles.

GAME TO REMEMBER

In the 1995/96 season the Potters visited Selhurst Park for an Endsleigh League Division One fixture. Lou Macari's team gained a 1-1 draw before a crowd of 14,613 on a ground not renowned for good fortune for the Potters. Martin Carruthers netted after 36 minutes past home 'keeper Nigel Martyn.

YOUR ROUTE

Join M6 Southbound (use Toll Road if M6 congested) then M42 leaving at Junction 3A to join M40 (S/P London, Warwick, Stratford). Continue on M40 to J1A, (S/P Watford, Heathrow Airport, Rickmansworth) into right hand lane (S/P Heathrow) to join M25. Continue to J7 to exit onto M23 (S/P Croydon). Keep left on to M23 – then merges into A23 London Road towards Croydon. At Purley bear left on A23 at junction with A235. Continue straight on at roundabouts and junctions with A232 & A236 as you pass Croydon. A23 bears left at Thornton Heath – go straight over into Brigstock Road (B266) – just after Barclays bank on corner. Thornton Heath Station on your left – then bear right onto High Street. At mini-roundabout (Whitehorse Road/Grange Road) turn left into Whitehorse Lane. Ground on your right. Find street parking or Sainsbury's Car Park. Allow plenty of time for your journey – Bank Holiday Saturday on the roads.

DISTANCE – 194 Miles

The Final Word...

...from Chief Executive Tony Scholes



Before the onset of satellite television and wall-to-wall media coverage of football, we used to have to wait three games before a League table was produced. I guess the view was that it took three games for a true picture to start emerging.

If that's the case then our visitors today must be both delighted and looking forward to the rest of the campaign. They are to be congratulated on their start to the season, with victories already over two of the clubs relegated from the Premiership last season.

In contrast to the Premiership the Championship is about watching attractive local football live. I will continue to push this hard and encourage youngsters in the Stoke-on-Trent area to come and support their local team, in preference to one of the glory teams from the Premiership. We will do what we can in terms of initiatives to encourage people to come and support the club and today of course is part of our strategy with reduced price admission.

For those of you who are new today or are not regular visitors here, may I extend a warm welcome from the whole club and urge you to add your voice to the support of the wonderful crowd we get here week-in week-out. A football club is only as successful as its support and I would ask all of you to be vocal in your support of the team both here at the ground and also away from the ground by encouraging your friends, relatives and neighbours to come along and join us at the Britannia.

Of course the start of a season also brings with it different interpretations and levels of emphasis on certain incidents from referees. We ourselves appear to have fallen foul of one of these with the sending-off of Gerry Taggart in the first game against Sheffield Wednesday.

Clearly, and it has been shown on the first day of the Premiership in the sending off of Jermaine Jenas, referees have been asked to stamp down on any perceived dangerous play. As ever, and understandably, referees can be a little over-zealous in their interpretation of new initiatives.

Thankfully, we were able to rescind Gerry Taggart's red card, although unfortunately we still had to perform for over 75 minutes against Wednesday with 10 men. Who knows what the outcome would have been had we been able to play the full 90 with eleven?

But, refereeing decisions and incidents like this are part and parcel of football and over the course of the season we all accept that they do tend to level themselves out.

Johan Boskamp and the players were delighted with the backing they got in the first home game. All we can ask is that you continue to give the team that level of support for the rest of the season, starting this afternoon.

Enjoy the game.

Young fans at the Britannia supporting their local team



Saturday August 20th 2005

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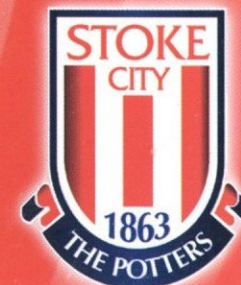
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- ☐ 2 Kevin FOLEY
- ☐ 3 Sol DAVIES
- ☐ 4 Chris COYNE
- ☐ 5 Russell PERRETT
- ☐ 6 Paul UNDERWOOD
- ☐ 7 Carlos EDWARDS
- ☐ 8 Kevin NICHOLLS
- ☐ 9 Rowan VINE
- ☐ 10 Warren FEENEY
- ☐ 11 Steve ROBINSON
- ☐ 14 Michael LEARY
- ☐ 15 Stephen O'LEARY
- ☐ 16 Enoch SHOWUNMI
- ☐ 17 Paul HUGHES
- ☐ 18 Ahmet BRKOVIC
- ☐ 19 Steve HOWARD
- ☐ 20 Curtis DAVIES
- ☐ 21 Keith KEANE
- ☐ 23 Dean MORGAN
- ☐ 25 Dino SEREMET
- ☐ 26 Markus HEIKKINEN
- ☐ 27 Peter HOLMES
- ☐ 29 Calvin ANDREW
- ☐ 33 Rob BECKWITH
- ☐ 45 Leon BARNETT
- ☐ 47 Dean BRILL

MATCH OFFICIALS**REFEREE**

Andy D'urso

ASSISTANT REFEREE

GT Stott

ASSISTANT REFEREE FOURTH OFFICIAL

Miss A Rayner

R J Steans

other **fixtures**
CHAMPIONSHIP

- Coventry City v Queens Park Rangers
- Crewe Alexandra v Leicester City
- Crystal Palace v Plymouth Argyle
- Derby County v Cardiff City
- Hull City v Brighton
- Ipswich Town v Sheffield Wednesday
- Leeds United v Wolves
- Reading v Millwall
- Sheffield United v Preston North End
- Southampton v Norwich City
- Watford v Burnley

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NEXT UP AT THE BRITANNIA
 Monday August 29th
 2005, Kick Off 7.45pm

**STOKE CITY v
NORWICH CITY**