

THE ALEX

THE OFFICIAL MATCH PROGRAMME OF CREWE ALEXANDRA £2.50

vs LUTON TOWN

Saturday, 15th October 2005

Kick-Off 3.00pm

LET'S
KICK RACISM
OUT OF
FOOTBALL



ANTI RACISM

LET'S KICK RACISM OUT OF
FOOTBALL

TOM POPE

IT'S LIKE A DREAM COME
TRUE

EDDIE JOHNSON

WE DON'T DESERVE TO BE
BOTTOM

FOZ

'I WOULD HAVE LIKE TO
HAVE PLAYED ALONGSIDE

THE KAISER'

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Third and promoted 1988/89
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League Cup 3rd Round: 1975, 1976, 1979, 1993, 1999, 2000, 2002
Welsh Cup Winners: 1936, 1937
FA Youth Cup Semi Finalists: 2003/04

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MATCHDAY BRIEFING



CREWE ALEXANDRA

The International break has allowed Crewe's injured few to make sufficient progress. Fullback Anthony Tonkin has recovered from a tight thigh muscle and he is available for selection again. Also keeping their fingers crossed in the hope of a recall are young forwards Michael Higdon and Luke Varney who returned to training following minor injuries. Adie Moses has resumed running again following his calf injury sustained against Sheffield United but this afternoon's game is well too early for him. Mark Rivers has recovered from a slight knee injury to be in available for selection but Ross Turnbull is still ruled out with a knee injury. The boss will assess the fitness of those involved in Internationals last week with the likes of Steve Jones, David Vaughan, Gary Roberts and Billy Jones all acquiring minutes on the pitch at some stage.

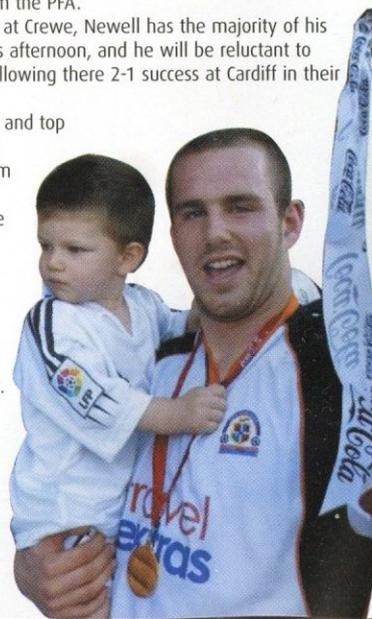


Last five Games - D L D L L

Luke Varney

LUTON TOWN

Mike Newell side arrive in South Cheshire full of confidence after a fine start to the season. They are currently third in the table and in their captain Kevin Nicholls have the Championship player-of-the-month for September. His team mate Warren Feeney also picked up the equivalent award from the PFA. Like his former boss here at Crewe, Newell has the majority of his squad to choose from this afternoon, and he will be reluctant to change a winning side following their 2-1 success at Cardiff in their last outing. That would mean Feeney and top marksman Steve Howard continuing their good form upfront and playmaker Ahmet Brkovic pulling the strings from midfield. Summer signing Rowan Vine is recovering well from a back injury and recently made his comeback for the reserves against Brighton.



Last Five Games- W L D W W

Rowan Vine



Crewe Looking To End Barren Run This Afternoon

This afternoon we welcome Luton Town to the Alexandra Stadium hoping to end a run of 11 league games without a victory. Everyone understands what a difficult league this is and we have endured some especially difficult fixtures against the likes of Wolves, Southampton, Sheffield United, Ipswich and Reading.

In fact, all our defeats thus far have been against clubs expected to be competing for the promotion places at the end of the season. That is not to say we haven't been well beaten either because we could well have obtained something from the trips to Portman Road and the Madejski Stadium. We haven't had too much luck after creating numerous chances in both games and then seeing our slight mistakes punished by quality players.

Despite not winning a match since the opening day of the season, the players have responded superbly well and their character and spirit has to be complimented. After Wolves' deadly duo Kenny Miller and Carl Cort showed us the ruthless streak of Championship football they again picked themselves up, dusted themselves off and imposed themselves superbly on Ipswich.

If chances had been taken and our defending a little bit tighter in the second half, make no mistake about Ipswich would have been taken to the cleaners. It could have been 3-0 to us at half-time

and we still forced some great saves from Lewis Price in the second period as well. If we can play as well as we did in Suffolk on a consistent basis then things will change for us sooner rather than later.

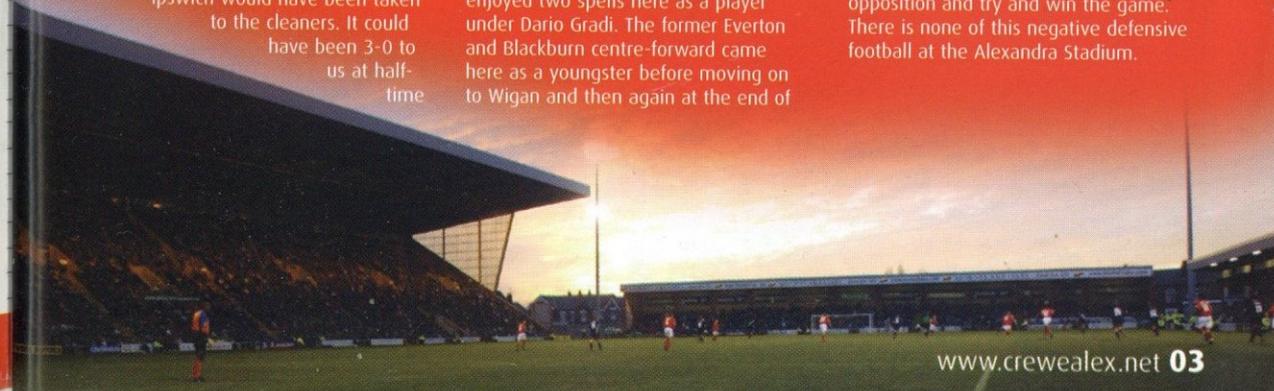
Under Mike Newell, Luton Town have developed that winning habit and are currently third in the league. People may be surprised by the start they have made to life back in the Championship, but everyone at Crewe Alexandra knows what a fine side Newell has assembled at the club. We played them during our promotion season when we strangely both won at each other grounds and the nucleus of their title winning side have been given a chance to show that they can make the transition at this higher level. No-one here will be underestimating Luton Town, that is for sure and we expect another difficult encounter this afternoon.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Mike and his family. Mike is a former Crewe Alexandra player, who enjoyed two spells here as a player under Dario Gradi. The former Everton and Blackburn centre-forward came here as a youngster before moving on to Wigan and then again at the end of

his playing career in 1999 when he helped the club avoid relegation that season.

Of course, the International break saw us enjoy a free weekend and it was tremendous to see Billy Jones and Gary Roberts play such a prominent role for Martin Hunter's England Under-19 side and then David Vaughan and Steve Jones play for the senior squads of Wales and Northern Ireland. By all reports David Vaughan ran Ryan Giggs a close second for the man-of-the-match award in Cardiff on Wednesday evening. We congratulate all of them on what is a fantastic achievement and we hope that their progress at International level continues.

With those players away on International duty it does affect Dario Gradi's planning for today's game and I'm sure a man of his experience will see how his quartet of International stars are condition wise. One thing is for sure when it comes to Crewe Alexandra, we will always look to attack the opposition and try and win the game. There is none of this negative defensive football at the Alexandra Stadium.



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NEWS ROUND-UP

Crewe Secure The Services Of The Pope



Crewe Alexandra would like to give a warm welcome to youngster Tom Pope, who recently penned an 18-month contract with the club after impressing on trial. The Alex tied up the deal for the 19-year-old forward following his promising performance in a reserve match at Preston North End and his overall contribution in training.

The former Biddulph Victoria youngster had thought his opportunity of making the grade in the Football League had passed him by after Crewe Alexandra had originally released him in his early teens, but his determination to make it in the game has seen him presented with another opportunity to make a living out of the game he clearly adores.

With Crewe Alexandra always interested in promising players from non-league and the lower leagues, it was no great surprise that Neil Baker encouraged Dario Gradi to give Pope a chance at this level. We are always up for a gamble and hopefully it will pay off like it has with the likes of Steve Jones, Luke Varney, Colin Little and Justin Cochrane. As Dario says a player like Tom is one for the future and who knows maybe in the future, it will be him and fellow youngster Mat Bailey leading the forward line?

Dario said: We have taken a bit of a gamble with Tom or as the chairman would say a calculated risk. We are not looking for him to be anywhere near the first team for at least a season because we have bought him here because of his potential. He is one for the future.

"We need to do some work with him physically but he has a decent frame on him already. We will have him here for a month and then look to loan him out to a higher level if possible.

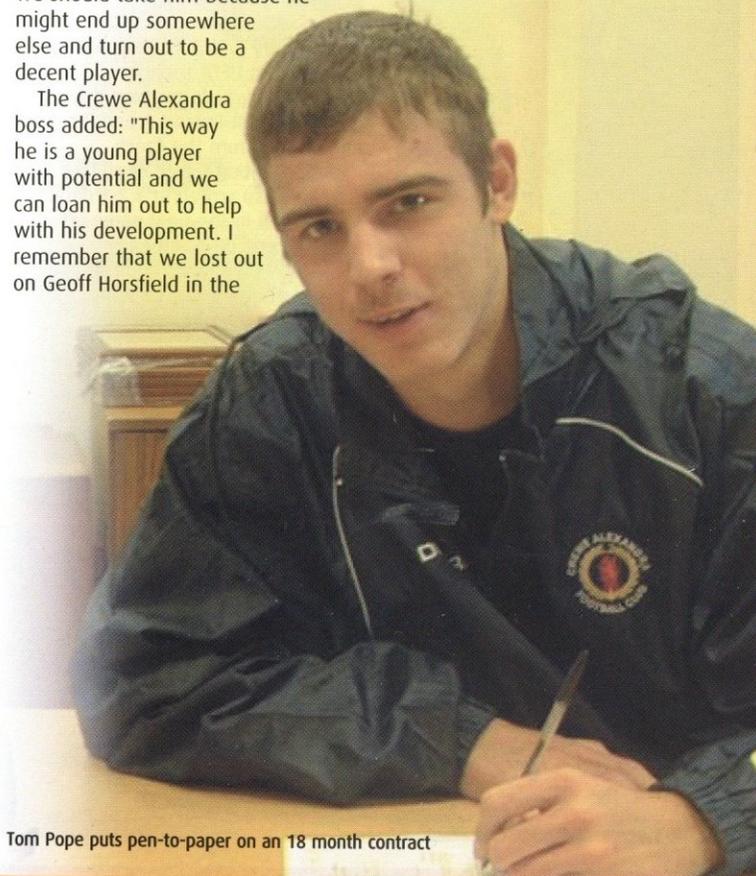
"He was recommended to us and came here on trial and impressed us with his ability and attitude to the training. He has always scored goals and was ready to move away from Biddulph.

"We discussed it on the coach back from Ipswich and decided that we should take him because he might end up somewhere else and turn out to be a decent player.

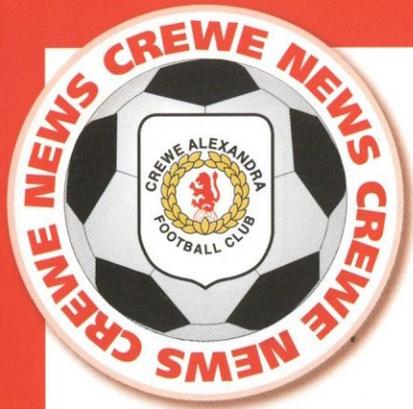
The Crewe Alexandra boss added: "This way he is a young player with potential and we can loan him out to help with his development. I remember that we lost out on Geoff Horsfield in the

past and made a mistake with him when I went to watch him at Halifax. That is what comes with experience and the aim is not to make the same mistake."

It goes without saying that we wish Tom every success during his time with us at the Alexandra Stadium.



Tom Pope puts pen-to-paper on an 18 month contract



ALEX QUARTET STAR IN INTERNATIONAL WEEK



When Crewe Alexandra are not involved in domestic matters it is always nice to see our International players testing themselves on the biggest stage of all.

Although often regarded as a club manager's nightmare (Dario is certainly no different on that one!) we do take great pride in seeing the likes of David Vaughan (Wales), Steve Jones (Northern Ireland) Billy Jones and Gary Roberts (England Under-19) representing their countries and by all accounts performing admirably.

Both Gary and Billy have been in Poland in an UEFA friendly tournament which involved three games against Poland A and B sides and visitors from the Czech Republic. Roberts, captained the side and also scored in a 2-1 defeat to Poland B in the final game after he had come on as an early substitute. Billy Jones appeared in the opening two games at right

back and in the words of coach Martin Hunter was 'outstanding.'

David Vaughan started Wales' final World Cup qualifier against Azerbaijan in Cardiff where John Toshack's side won 2-0. The Crewe midfielder was a constant menace to the opposition winning an early free-kick from Vugar Guliyev from which Ryan Giggs stylishly converted. Vaughan was given the nod after previously been used as a late substitute in a 3-2 win over Northern Ireland in Belfast.

Steve Jones was also a late sub in that thriller at Windsor Park and he received a further 20 minutes as a replacement for David Healy, as Ireland lost their final game 2-0 in Vienna. We would like to congratulate all our International players on their success and as usual we will keep our fingers crossed that they return to South Cheshire in one piece!

BELL MOVES ON LOAN TO BURTON



Lee Bell has joined Conference side Burton Albion on a month's loan in a quest to secure some first team football.

Bell, who made 17 appearances last season has struggled to impose himself this time around following the emergence of youngsters Billy Jones and Gary Roberts in midfield roles.

Bell, 22, who endured a miserable time on loan at Shrewsbury Town and returned to Crewe Alexandra only a month into a year-long loan there helped Nigel Clough's side to a

3-1 win over Stevenage last weekend and they entertain Hereford this afternoon. That fixture has the extra spice of Bell facing fellow Crewe team-mate Mat Bailey, who has also moved to a non-league in order to gain experience.

Meanwhile, Neil Baker's reserve side were outstanding at Derby in the week. They romped to an impressive 5-1 win at Derby's training ground with Mark Rivers, Luke Rodgers, Ben Rix, Juan Ugarte and new signing Tom Pope all on target.

CREWE CAST AN EYE OVER TONY GRANT

The former Everton and Manchester City midfielder Tony Grant has been a welcome addition to the training sessions at the club's Reaseheath complex. The Liverpool-born midfielder has found it difficult to find another club after leaving Burnley in the summer and like many players in his position, he has had to keep himself fit by training with a professional club.

As a long-term friend of our Academy coach Terry McPhillips, Grant asked if it was possible to train with Crewe Alexandra to keep in condition and maybe impress the watching coaches. Grant has always been a talented individual having emerged on the scene as a Liverpool schoolboy with the likes of Robbie Fowler and former Crewe favourites Dele Adebola and Francis Tierney. After progressing through the ranks at Goodison Park, the skilful midfielder went on to make nearly 80 appearances for his hometown club before eventually moving on to

Manchester City in a £450,000 deal in 1999. In between he enjoyed loan spells with Swindon and Tranmere Rovers. During his time at Maine Road, he went on to make a further 25 first-team appearances under Joe Royle before completing a £250,000 switch to Burnley in 2001.

During his time at Turf Moor, Grant established himself as a first-team regular, making over 150 appearances and chipping in with a few goals. One of those rare strikes came against Crewe Alexandra last season during a 1-1 draw at Gresty Road. So when a player of that experience and credentials comes available on the free market, a club the size of Crewe is bound

to keep a keen eye on his situation. Desperate to return to the game, Grant could yet secure a contract at Crewe Alexandra after impressing in a mid-week away victory over Derby. The reserves won 5-1 with goals from Luke Rodgers, Ben Rix, Juan Ugarte, Mark Rivers and new signing Tom Pope.

Although at the time of writing Dario has committed to nothing he did say: "Tony has been training with us for a few weeks now and is a super footballer. It is good to have players of his quality and experience training with us, but it is a question of whenever he will make a difference to our midfield. "We already know that he can play at this level and that he is composed in his play and would keep the ball for us, but this club has been based on developing our own young players, so we will have to wait and see what happens with Tony."



CHESHIRE SENIOR CUP DATE SET

Crewe Alexandra will take on Altricham in the second round of the Cheshire Senior Cup in a repeat of last season's final at Witton Albion. The Alex lost 2-0 that night and will be looking to progress further in the competition as to give our fringe players more competitive football and more of chance to impress in their attempts to break into Dario Gradi's highly-competitive sixteen man squad.

The match will be played at the Alexandra Stadium on Wednesday 16th November with the kick-off time at 7.45pm. It is pay on the gate with prices set by the Cheshire FA at £5 for adults and £1 for juniors and OAP's.

Hopefully the tie could see the return of former favourite Colin Little to Gresty Road some two and half years after he originally left us for Macclesfield Town. Super Col as he was fondly named was suspended for last season's Cheshire Senior Cup Final!



Davies Left Disillusioned By Board's Objectives At Preston

Preston North End boss Billy Davies has vented his anger towards the club's board after their indifferent start to the new season.

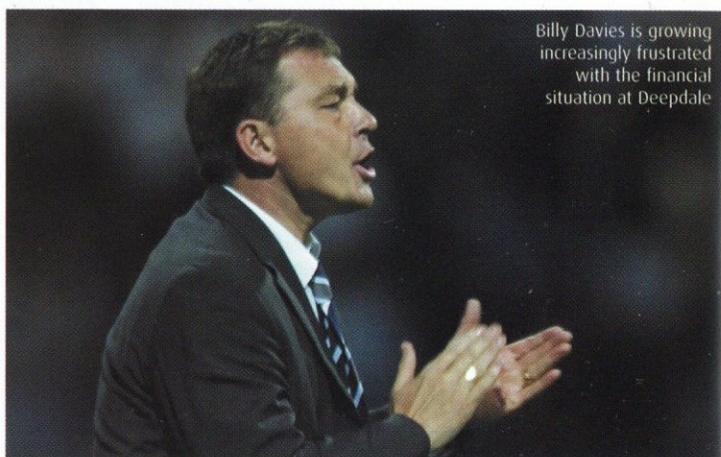
After narrowly losing to West Ham in the play-off final at the end of the last campaign, the highly-rated Davies was promised more funds to strength his squad for another assault on promotion, but after seeing striker Richard Cresswell leave the club for Leeds United and David Nugent suffering from a mystery illness it is quite evident that they could be short on numbers this season.

Reports in the media suggest that the club are now losing around £5,000 a week and that Davies could yet be forced to sell more of his priced assets to ease the financial pressure building at Deepdale. Davies, who was constantly linked with the vacant job at Derby County during the summer until he committed his future to North End, is unhappy at what he believes to be a 'movement of objectives' by the Preston board.

The former Motherwell boss stated: "In the summer I laid my position on the line and it was my understanding that we would be trying to improve on last season, that we would be looking to fill the gaps and go the one stage further.

"Therefore, I'm very disappointed because the board's objectives have altered since the summer. There is not doubt about it."

Meanwhile, Cresswell has unfortunately been sidelined for three months after suffering a ruptured knee ligament against Derby County.



Billy Davies is growing increasingly frustrated with the financial situation at Deepdale

Brighton have been quick to quash rumours that the Argentine pairing of Ossie Ardiles and Diego Maradona were planning a takeover of the club! The former World Cup winners were allegedly interested in investing in English football and the Championship club were a considered option, only for Brighton's chief executive Martin Perry to dismiss the growing rumour doing the rounds in the media but declaring that neither men have ever contacted the club.

Plymouth Argyle legend Paul Wotton recently enjoyed a testimonial match against Anderlecht. The influential midfield has dedicated the past 10 years of his career to the Pilgrims and has led the seaside club to two promotions. Therefore, a crowd of just 4,141 was a little bit disappointing to say the least. Champions League entrants Anderlecht fought back from two goals down to draw the game at Home Park.

Wigan boss Paul Jewell will not allow any of his first team squad to leave on loan at the moment. The Latics have made a fantastic start to life in the Premiership and Jewell has blocked approaches for the likes of Emerson Thome, former Crewe defender David Wright and Alan Mahon.

One man who could be moving in the January transfer window is Wolverhampton Wanderers prolific marksman Kenny Miller. The Scottish International has been on the transfer list for over 12 months now and his form in the Coca-Cola Championship and on the International stage has alerted interest from the likes of Glasgow Rangers and Hearts. It is believed that the striker would relish a return to his homeland with Wolverhampton Wanderers expecting at least £2 million for his services.

Eriksson Deserves The Chance To Lead Nation Into The World Cup

The International week saw England progress through to next summer's World Cup in Germany. The nation expected nothing less from Sven Goran Eriksson and his immensely talented squad as let's face it we were in one of the easier European groups. Despite that minor blip in Belfast, England virtually cruised qualification and managed it with a game against Poland to spare once an impressive Dutch win was confirmed over in the Czech Republic.

Earlier in the day at Old Trafford, England emerged victorious following a dour 1-0 win over Austria. It proved tougher than the critics expected, especially when David Beckham harshly became the first England captain ever to be sent-off. The Real Madrid midfielder also holds the unwanted record of being the only man in history to be sent-off twice for his country, his previous dismissal coming in that ill-fated World Cup match with Argentina in 1998 where his public image took a hammering mainly thanks to our 'heroic' exit on penalties. Typical England followed by a typical media overreaction.

This time around though, Beckham was dealt with harshly by Spanish referee Luis Medina Cantalejo who booked him twice in the space of a few minutes for apparent fouls on Andreas Ibertsberger. Hopefully, like in 1998 Beckham will learn a valuable lesson that there are players who will sadly go to any lengths to see a fellow professional sent-off.

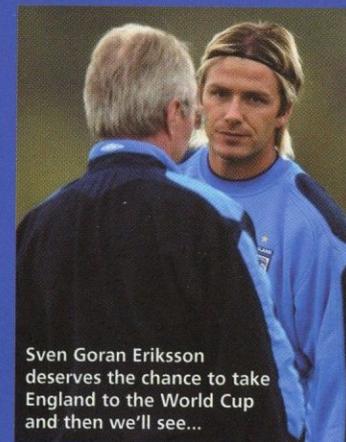
Despite going down to ten men in a pressure situation, England were still overly criticised for only winning by a single goal against a country determined to remain as negative as possible to avoid an embarrassing defeat.

At times we had to dig in and had a slight escape when an opportunist effort from Roland Linz hit the crossbar. It certainly wasn't pleasing on the eye, but the first part of our World Cup mission was to qualify and that has now been accomplished.

It may not have been overly

entertaining or stylish but we are in the World Cup Finals and that is all that matters. No-one really remembers the qualifying matches unless like in 1974, 1978 or most recently 1994, England had no presence at the tournament.

Now Sven Goran Eriksson and his staff have eight months to prepare for the finals and if we can get some momentum behind the team then who knows what might happen.



Sven Goran Eriksson deserves the chance to take England to the World Cup and then we'll see...

In 2002 Brazil scraped through after a disastrous Copa America tournament and then a disappointing World Cup qualifying campaign, but they went on to lift the trophy for a record fifth time in Japan. The critics' favourites such as Argentina and France failed to get out of the group stages, whilst the likes of South Korea and Senegal grabbed the limelight.

Truly anything can happen in a World Cup and England seriously possess as good a chance as anyone, especially as we will be more accustomed to the conditions. No more excuses about the weather please, or the fact that our players play too many matches or the state of the pitch. Let's hope that we can go over there with fresh impetus to advance to the later stages of the tournament and that our talented group of players can realise their potential. This is what they have been working towards ever since Eriksson took over from Glenn Hoddle. Sven still may just get it right and then where would his detractors go? Probably jump on the celebration bandwagon with a bottle of champagne in hand that's where!

With a touch of good fortune with injuries and decisions, we have the ability to challenge the likes of Brazil, Argentina, Italy and Holland for the trophy. Being Swedish, Eriksson may not have the same passion for his adopted country that someone like Bobby Robson or a Stuart Pearce will have, but over the next eight months he may just mould a team capable of winning the World Cup.

Needless to say it is up to him to get the best out of the world-class performers such as Beckham, Steven Gerrard, Wayne Rooney, Ashley Cole and John Terry but he has achieved that before when beating Germany, Argentina and Denmark, so let's give him his chance and see where we stand after next summer's World Cup. If he hasn't done the business then I'm sure the Football Association will have a re-think and we'll start all over again for the European Championships in 2008.

THE ALEX IN ACTION

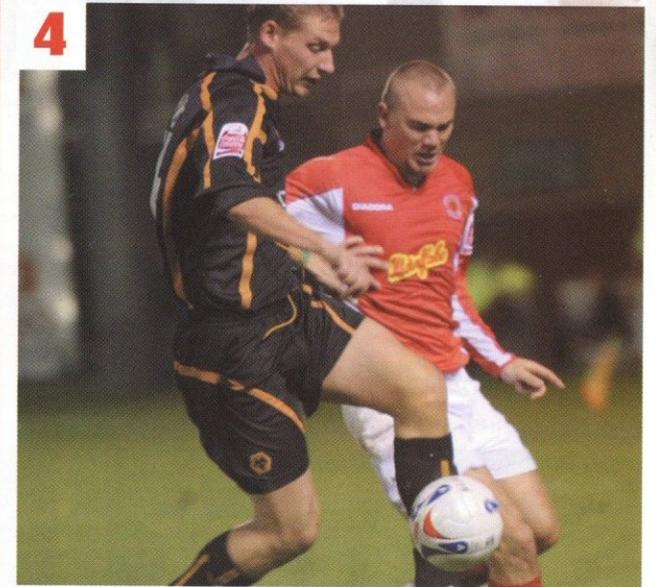
versus WOLVES

COCA-COLA CHAMPIONSHIP
DATE: 29TH SEPTEMBER 2005
ATTENDANCE: 7,471

CREWE ALEXANDRA 0

WOLVES 4

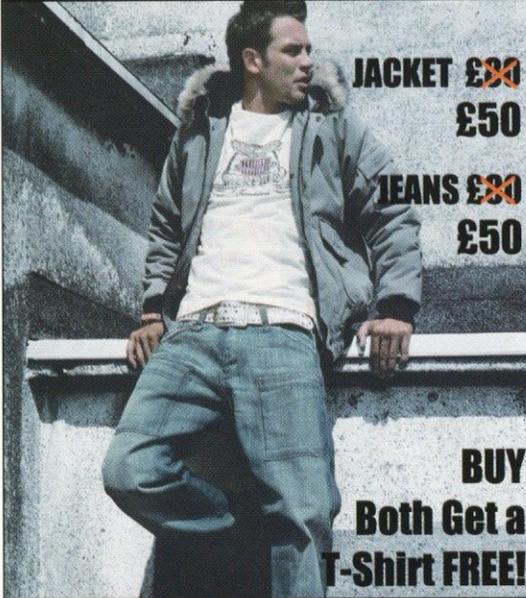
CORT 13, 36
MILLER 27,34



1. Rohan Ricketts keeps a watchful eye on David Vaughan
2. Steve Jones had Crewe's best chances in the first ten minutes
3. Luke Rodgers made his Alex debut as a second half substitute
4. Eddie Johnson chases down the Hungarian Gabor Gyepes
5. Late sub Pavol Suhaj puts Rob Edwards under pressure

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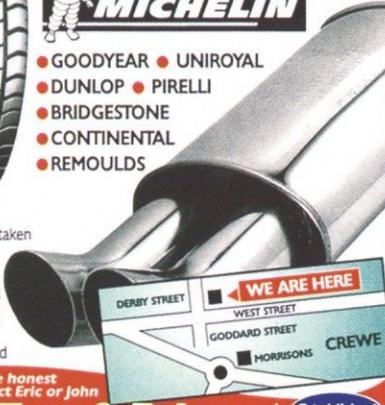
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THEY SAID WHAT?

"It'll probably be Monday before I calm down. We were one-up at the interval and it could've been more. Then I expected my defenders to defend with brains. Instead we gave away two silly goals."

- Dario Gradi was rightly annoyed after seeing our first half lead slip-away at Ipswich

"Credit to Crewe. They came here and played extremely well in the first half. It is always difficult to judge them because they really are capable of beating anyone on their day. We couldn't get near them in the first half and Lunt and Vaughan were causing us all sorts of problems."

- Ipswich boss Joe Royle was a relieved man to see his side come from a goal down to beat us at Portman Road.

"We were thinking what do we have to do to win a game after Ipswich. We have gone there in recent seasons and been hammered. This time we gave them a hiding

and tore them apart in the first half. It is no exaggeration to say that both our forwards could have had a hat-trick."

- Neil Baker was equally frustrated by our narrow 2-1 defeat to the Tractor Boys.

"It doesn't make too much difference to us when players do go away on International duty because we train just the same. The only benefit is that you have a break from playing and it gives everyone a chance to overcome some niggling injuries."

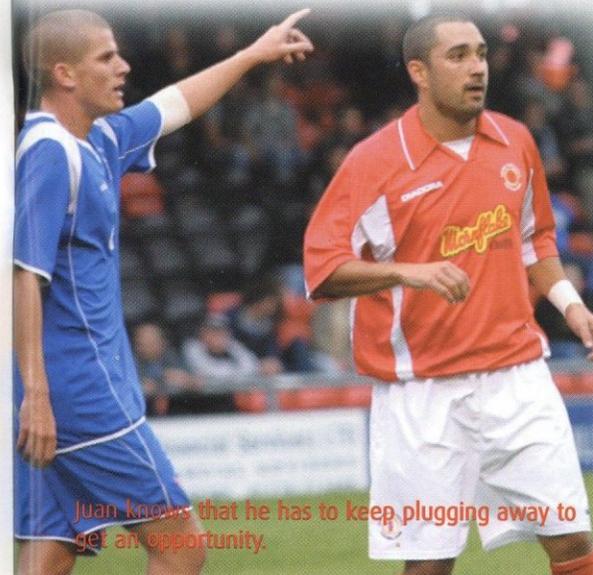
- Eddie Johnson explains that nothing much changes in International week

"I have been here for just over a month now and have really enjoyed it. I don't mind where I watch my football and that is what makes it so enjoyable as a job. One night you could watching Internationals play for Manchester United reserves and the next you could be travelling to some non-league club to watch them in front of ten people."

- Chief Scout Glyn Chamberlain has settled nicely into the role as our search for new players continues.

"It hasn't worked out for me at Crewe at the moment and of course I'm disappointed. I know that if I get a chance I will score goals, so the only thing I can do is train very hard and be ready for when I get another chance."

Juan Ugarte has been left frustrated by his lack of first-team opportunities.



Juan knows that he has to keep plugging away to get an opportunity.



PLAYER INTERVIEW...
EDDIE JOHNSON

'The Lads Haven't Got What Our Performances Deserve'



Dario Gradi observed this week that Eddie Johnson is improving every day he is working with us and that he fully expects the on-loan Manchester United youngster to be adding goals to his all-round performances very soon. Although disappointed by his own goal return thus far, no-one can fault his work ethic or desire to do well for the club he originally left as a 14 year-old.

The youngster works his socks off for the cause and has received one or more batterings from opposition defences. It hasn't gone unnoticed by the Alex faithful, who have warmed to the hardworking 20-year-old.

Of course, like all the forwards at the club, Johnson has been in-and-out of the side. A niggling hamstring injury sustained just after he had scored his first goal for the club at Plymouth halted his momentum slightly, but his recent form has seen him partner Steve Jones up front in more of a straight forward 4-4-2 formation. Johnson though doesn't really mind who his striking partner is, as long as his name appears on the manager's team sheet.

"I don't think it matters who your strike partner is really because every one of them is a good player and brings there own individual attributes to the team. We train together all the time anyway, so we know what our strengths and weakness are and we try to take that on the pitch with us", says Eddie.

"Whoever the manager selects we know that we are going to create chances and it is up to us to put teams to bed more because we haven't being playing that badly.

We may be bottom of the league, but I seriously don't think that our play reflects that. The lads have been unfortunate in matches and everyone feels we deserve more points than we have so far.

"At Ipswich we played exceptionally well in the first half and could have been 3-0 or even 4-0 up at the break. We just need to put the game beyond teams and people can look at it and blame whoever for that but it is a team game and we all in it together.

Johnson would be the first to admit that he could have scored more than the one goal he has so far this season. He missed a couple of chances at Portman Road during our last outing but he keeps plugging away and is sure the goals will come sooner rather than later.

"I have been disappointed with my finishing this season and I know I need to improve on that and help the team to pick up some more points. We have been unlucky in a lot of games, and all the lads felt we deserved something from the trips to Reading and Ipswich.

"Hopefully, we can start to pick up a few wins and get some more points on the board to take us up the league table. The table is awfully close and putting a little run together would see

us up into mid-table. Hopefully, we can start something against Luton, because although it will be another difficult game it is important to get something from your home matches.

Eddie added: "I've seen Luton on Sky this season and they are a very good side. It will be a difficult game but people expect them not to be only because they have come up from the league below but football isn't like that."

Johnson has only signed until the end of December and he has not yet spoken to Dario Gradi about extending the deal until the end of the season, but it appears something he would be interested in if the offer was there.

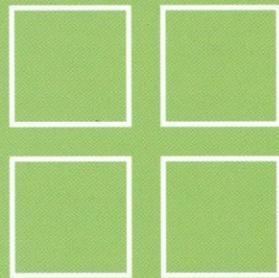
"I haven't spoken to Dario about extending my stay here because it is still a couple of months off yet. I'm sure we will have a chat nearer the time but I would be interested in staying here until the end of the season," admits Eddie.

"I've enjoyed it so far and my affection for the club has never diminished. I knew what this club was about when I came here on loan and I just want to do the best I can to help the club move up the league table."



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TODAY'S OPPOSITION

Newell Has Hatters Firing On All Cylinders



What a tremendous job Mike Newell is doing at Luton Town. The former Everton and Blackburn centre forward, who enjoyed two brief spells at Crewe Alexandra during his illustrious playing career, has last season's League One Champions firing on all cylinders at the higher level.

Luton have been the surprise package of the Coca-Cola Championship this season and have basically carried their form from last season into this one. As often happens those clubs who have been used to winning football matches continue to do so during their first season at a higher level.

Only Chelsea can claim to have had a better record in all four divisions than Newell's Luton after they lost just six league games last season to finish just two points shy of one hundred. Their nearest rivals Hull City finished a comfortable 12 points behind the champions.

Since arriving at the club in June 2003, Mike Newell has resorted that winning mentality at the club and his side play an attractive style of play that has already seen the likes of Crystal Palace, Leicester City, Hull City and Cardiff City beaten on their own patch this season. Combined with fine home victories against Southampton, Millwall and Preston North End you can soon see why they are looking at the top six rather than the bottom six.

Of course, it is still relatively early days and the modest Newell is never one to get carried away. After a recent narrow 2-1 win at Ninian Park, the Luton manager demanded more from his players and admitted that although obviously delighted with three more points, the overall performance left a lot to be desired. Newell understands how quickly things can alter in football and what a difficult division this is.

Needless to say, Luton Town will come here with a lot of confidence following their encouraging start to the season and will be completely different from the side that Crewe Alexandra comfortably defeated 4-0 at Kenilworth Road on our way to promotion just over two years ago. Their previous manager Joe Kinnear did not survive too much after that home defeat and the arrival of Newell that summer has rejuvenated a club that were

in the top-flight just 13 years ago.

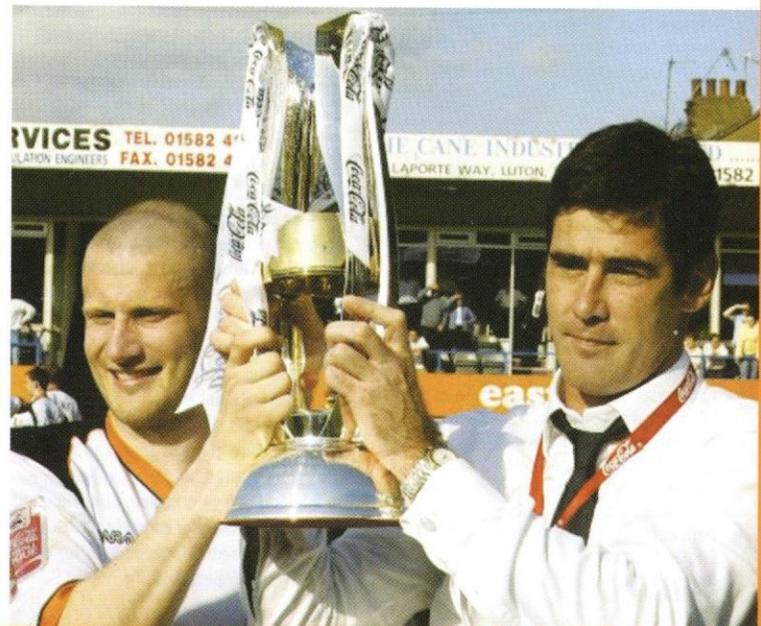
After a nine-year absence from playing at this level, their momentum and habit of winning matches could yet see them involved in the play-off shake up at the end of the season and that would be a fantastic achievement. Their form is based around the attacking trio of Ahmet Brkovic, Kevin Nicholls and that dominating centre-forward Steve Howard. Rowan Vine and Carlos Edwards also joined the club in the summer to strengthen Newell's options and their squad also possesses Northern Ireland International Warren Feeney and the former Reading striker Dean Morgan.

At the back, the club have coped admirably so far following the sale of the highly rated Curtis Davies to West Brom. The young centre-back moved to the Hawthorns for £3 million and many thought that Luton's fine start to the new campaign would crumble. That hasn't

been the case and the suggestion is disrespectful to the ones who remain at the club like Sol Davis, Chris Coyne, the Finn Markus Heikkinen and Russell Perrett – all solid defenders in their own right.

The most important aspect of the Luton team is their overwhelming team spirit and the high tempo they use to unsettle the opposition. They look for Howard's prowess in the air and the creative Nicholls and Brkovic provide the necessary craft and cleverness. They are also incredibly difficult to break down and Newell has them well organised and fit for the challenge.

Crewe Alexandra can expect another difficult afternoon in the Championship and there will be many in the Stadium this afternoon, who won't forget that the last time Luton played in south Cheshire they left with a 1-0 win thanks to a winning goal from Howard back in October 2002.





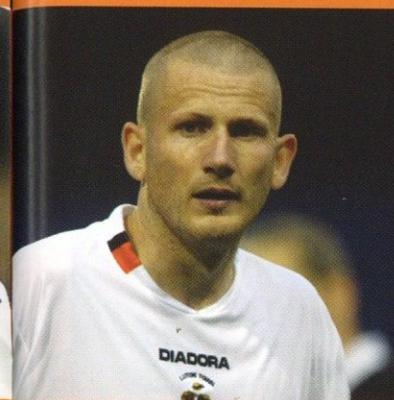
MARLON BERESFORD



CHRIS COYNE



PAUL UNDERWOOD



KEVIN NICHOLLS



AHMET BRKOVIC



STEVE HOWARD

TODAY'S OPPOSITION



LUTON

MARLON BERESFORD GOALKEEPER

Date of Birth: 02/09/69
Career League Apps: 413 (3)
Previous Clubs: Sheffield Wednesday, Bury, Northampton, Crewe, Burnley, Middlesbrough, Wolves, York, Bradford and Barnsley.

The vastly experienced keeper arrived at Luton in the summer of 2004 and has recently surpassed 50 appearances for the first team. The Lincoln-born stopper has now played for 13 clubs and made close to 500 first class appearances in all competitions. Marlon spent a brief spell on loan at Crewe Alexandra back in 1991. He made appearances under Dario Gradi after struggling to make an impact at his first club Sheffield Wednesday.

CHRIS COYNE DEFENDER

Date of Birth: 28/12/78
Career League Apps: 179 (13)
Career League Goals: 11
Previous Clubs: West Ham, Brentford, Southend, Dundee

The Australian defender joined Luton for £50,000 from SPL side Dundee in 2001. He had began his career as a trainee at West Ham but was restricted to just one substitute appearance before enjoying loan spells at Brentford and Southend. He moved to Scotland on a permanent basis in 2000 and made 28 appearances at Dens Park before completing the move back to England. Has now amassed over 150 league appearances for the Hatters.

SOL DAVIS DEFENDER

Date of Birth: 04/09/79
Career League Apps: 216 (22)
Career League Goals: 2
Previous Club: Swindon

The Cheltenham born defender made over 100 appearances for his only other club Swindon Town before moving to Kenilworth Road in 2002 for the bargain transfer fee of £60,000. An inspirational leader at the back, he was an integral part of Luton Town's promotion last season where he played in 45 league games, scoring in victories over Wrexham and Bristol City.

MARKUS HEIKKINEN DEFENDER

Date of Birth: 13/10/78
Career League Apps: 76 (4)
Career League Goals: 2
Previous Clubs: HJK Helsinki, Portsmouth, Aberdeen

The Finnish International joined the club in the summer on a free transfer from Aberdeen. He has established himself in Mike Newell's side this season following the departure of Curtis Davies to West Brom. He started his career in his homeland before enjoying a brief spell at Portsmouth. He later moved up to Scotland where he made 79 appearances for the club in all competitions.

PAUL UNDERWOOD DEFENDER

Date of Birth: 16/08/73
Career League Apps: 226 (3)
Career League Goals: 21
Previous Clubs: Enfield, Rushden

The Wimbledon-born defender has spent the majority of his career in the non-league having enjoyed spells at Enfield and Rushden and Diamonds. He joined Luton in the Football League on a free transfer in March 2004 after seven years at Enfield.

CARLOS EDWARDS MIDFIELDER

Date of Birth: 24/10/78
Career League Apps: 150 (25)
Career League Goals: 23
Previous Clubs: Defence Force, Wrexham

The Trinidad and Tobago International joined the club on a Bosman free transfer in the summer. Having joined Wrexham for £125,000 from Defence Force, he made his name at the Welsh club by scoring 23 league goals in 144 starts from midfield.

KEVIN NICHOLLS MIDFIELDER

Date of Birth: 2/1/79
Career League Apps: 181 (18)
Career League Goals: 30
Previous Clubs: Charlton, Brighton, Wigan

Nicholls is the clubs influential captain who led the club to the League One title last season. He joined the club for just £25,000 from Wigan back in the summer of 2001 and he has already amassed over 150 league appearances for the club, scoring 28 goals. That tally includes the goals he has already scored this season against Southampton, Leicester and Wolves. Named as the Coca-Cola Championship player of the month for September.

PETER HOLMES MIDFIELDER

Date of Birth: 18/11/80
Career League Apps: 49 (32)
Career League Goals: 10
Previous Clubs: Sheffield Wednesday

The Bishop Auckland born midfielder

AHMET BRKOVIC MIDFIELDER

Date of Birth: 23/09/74
Career League Apps: 180 (32)
Career League Goals: 31
Previous Clubs: HNK Dubrovnik, Leyton Orient

The Croatian midfielder is Luton's playmaker but he can also chip in with his fair share of goals as well. He opened his account for this season against Crystal Palace on the opening day of the season and he has added to that with important strikes against Leicester and Preston. Having established himself at his hometown club HNK Dubrovnik, he moved to this country in October 1999 to join Leyton Orient. After making over 70 appearances in the lower league he moved on to Luton in 2001 on a Bosman free transfer.

KEITH KEANE MIDFIELDER

Date of Birth: 20/11/86
Career League Apps: 25 (9)
Career League Goals: 1
Previous Clubs: None

The Irish midfielder has progressed through the ranks at the club and has now made 25 starts, scoring his only league goal thus far against Bristol City last season. Keith has made four appearances this season but his only start came against Leyton Orient in the Carling Cup.

DEAN MORGAN FORWARD

Date of Birth: 3/10/83
Career League Apps: 46 (67)

joined the club from Sheffield Wednesday in the summer of 2000 and he has to wait patiently for a chance at first-team level. The attack minded player has scored 10 league goals in just 49 starts, which included the winner against Cardiff in the club's last outing.

Career League Goals: 12
Previous Clubs: Colchester, Reading

The former Reading forward joined Luton Town in the summer on a free transfer having spent time previously with Colchester United. Born in Enfield, the young striker has repaid Mike Newell's faith in him by scoring three goals in ten starts so far this season. Dean scored the 90th minute winner against Southampton and the equaliser against Cardiff in their last league encounter.

WARREN FEENEY FORWARD

Date of Birth: 17/01/81
Career League Apps: 127 (30)
Career League Goals: 53
Previous Clubs: Leeds, Bournemouth, Stockport

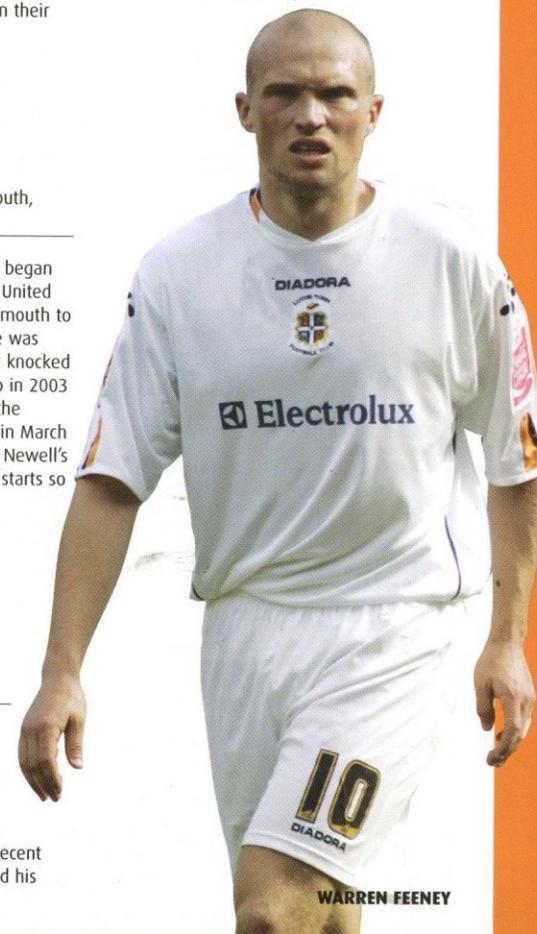
The Northern Ireland International began his career as a trainee with Leeds United but needed to move on to Bournemouth to gain regular first team football. He was part of the Bournemouth side that knocked Crewe Alexandra out of the FA Cup in 2003 before moving on to Stockport in the summer of 2004. He joined Luton in March 2005 for £150,000 and has repaid Newell's investment by scoring twice in 13 starts so far in his Hatters career.

STEVE HOWARD FORWARD

Date of Birth: 10/05/76
Career League Apps: 366 (44)
Career League Goals: 131
Previous Clubs: Tow Law Town, Hartlepool, Northampton Town

The Durham born forward is regarded as one of the best target men in the division and he has already scored five times this season, which included a brace against Sheffield Wednesday in a recent televised encounter. Howard started his

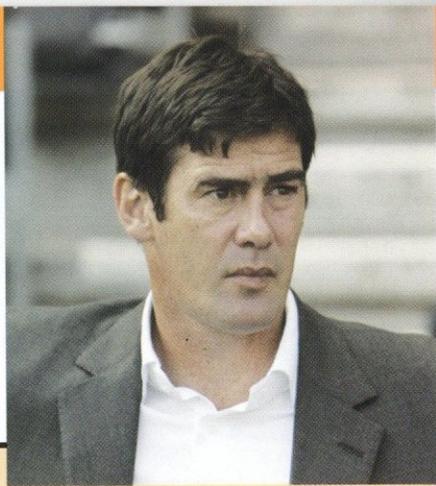
career with Tow Law Town before breaking into the Football League with Hartlepool and Northampton. He joined Luton in March 2001 for £50,000 and has become a firm favourite at Kenilworth Road after scoring 93 goals in all competitions thus far. That commendable total included 22 goals last term as the Hatters stormed to the League One Championship. Blotted his copybook though with a red card earlier in the season at Stoke City.



WARREN FEENEY



The Lowdown on... LUTON



>> The Man In Charge...MIKE NEWELL

Mike Newell was appointed Luton Town's 26th manager in the summer of 2003 after spending just under six months at his first club Hartlepool. His record as Hatters boss is outstanding having lost just 28 games in the 121 matches he has been in charge of thus far in his managerial career. Having led the club to the League One title last season, Newell is again inspiring some great football out of Kenilworth Road.

As a player, Newell was an accomplished centre-forward who enjoyed two brief spells at Crewe Alexandra. He originally arrived at Gresty Road in 1983 after being released by his hometown club Liverpool and later returned

towards the end of his career in 1999. In between those spells, he served a host of clubs with goals including spells at Luton, Wigan, Leicester, Everton and Birmingham. He also won a Premier League medal as part of the Blackburn squad who pipped Manchester United on the final day of the 1994/1995 season. Mike also played for West Ham, Bradford and had a spell in Scotland with Aberdeen. He finished his career at Blackpool in 2001 after joining on a free transfer from Doncaster Rovers. Overall he scored 120 league goals in 462 games - but he strangely never found the net for the Alex.

>> He Used To Play For Them...BRIAN STEIN

Another part of Luton's recent success is their first team coach Brian Stein. As a former player for the club, the one-cap wonder was a goal scoring legend. Having arrived from South Africa as a youngster, Stein made an impact in non-league football with Sudbury Court and Edgware Town before David Pleat took him to Kenilworth Road where he was regarded as the natural successor to Bob Hatton.

Stein was the leading goalscorer in the early 80's as the Hatters won the old Second Division and his solitary

England appearance duly arrived in 1984 against France. During the club's most successful seasons, Stein formed a feared partnership with Mick Hartford and helped the club lift the League Cup in 1988 when his two goals in the Wembley showdown saw Arsenal beaten 3-2 in dramatic fashion. Rather surprisingly that proved to be his last appearance for the club, as he was transferred to Caen in France soon after. After a further spell with Accy he returned to Luton in 1991 once his mentor Pleat had been reinstated as manager.



>> 60 Seconds History...

- Formed in 1885 at a meeting at Luton Town Hall after the amalgamation of the Wanderers and Excelsior clubs.
- Turned professional in 1890 and became a fairly successful Southern League club.
- Moved into their Kenilworth Road ground in 1905.
- Following the Great War formed part of the new Division Three.
- In 1936 they finished runner-ups to Coventry but only one club promoted.
- That was achieved the following season though mainly thanks to the goals of Joe Payne.
- Payne scored an incredible 55 goals during that season including 10 against Bristol Rovers on his debut as Luton's centre-forward!
- The Second War breaks out with Luton on the verge of securing a top-flight place!
- When football resumed Luton were lucky to escape relegation in 1951
- Manager Dally Duncan put his faith in his youth players and Luton were finally promoted in 1955.
- Three years later they finished 8th in the old First Division. It remains a club record.
- Reached the FA Cup Final in 1959 for the first and only time but eventually lose 2-1 to Nottingham Forest.
- A year later with Syd Owen now in charge they finished bottom of the league!
- Sam Bartram took over the Luton hot-seat but he left in 1962 by 'mutual consent'
- Jack Crompton took over but left after a week on medical advice!
- Bill Harvey took over but the club were relegated back to Division Three by 1963.
- By 1965 they were in Division Four as George Martin took over.
- A time of turmoil for the club as crowds slump to around 3,000.
- Allan Brown took over in 1966 and was there when they lost 8-1 to Lincoln City!
- Brown steadily turned things round though. Promoted as Champions in 1968.
- But Brown was sacked after applying for the vacant Leicester job a year later.
- Alec Stock took on the reigns and guided the club to promotion in 1970.
- Malcolm McDonald had arrived at the club from Fulham for £17,500 but was later sold to Newcastle as backers went bust.
- With financial problems gripping the club, Stock resigned and Harry Haslam took over in 1972.
- Haslam guided the club to promotion from Division Two in 1974 but he left for Sheffield United four years later.
- David Pleat arrived and he secured top-flight status in 1982.
- His Maine Road jig occurred a year later after the club narrowly escaped relegation.
- The likes of Hill, Stein, Preece, Foster and Hartford formed their greatest ever side.
- In 1984 they reached the FA Cup semi-final but lost to eventual winners Everton.
- An artificial pitch was installed in 1985 but league success boosted the image of the Town.
- Pleat leaves for Spurs in 1986 and the likes of John Moore, Ray Hartford and Jim Ryan all enjoy spells in charge.
- Hartford's Luton win the 1988 Littlewoods Cup with a 3-2 win over Arsenal.
- They reach the League Cup final the following season but lose 3-1 to old foes Forest.
- David Pleat returns to the club in 1991 but after 10 year in the top-flight they are relegated in 1992. Dropping again in 1993.
- An FA Cup semi-final appearance at Wembley against Chelsea comes in 1994 but ends in defeat.
- Pleat leaves again in 1995 and it is up to Lennie Lawrence to stabilize the club after the club are relegated again.
- A play-off defeat to Crewe in 1997 summed up a miserable time for the club.
- Years of mere survival, going into receivership and mediocre football is ended by the appointment of Mike Newell.
- The former Hatter inspires the club to the League One title in 2004 and now they have an eye on a play-off spot again!



Joe Payne

April 24th 1988 is a date that will always be fondly remembered by supporters of Luton Town Football Club. It was that glorious day at Wembley when Luton finally got their hands on a major trophy with that unforgettable, dramatic victory over the then holders of the League Cup trophy Arsenal.

It was the club's first major final since suffering a 2-1 loss in the FA Cup final of 1959 when goals from Roy Dwight (the uncle of Elton John) and Tommy Wilson saw the famous old trophy head to Nottingham. Despite Dwight breaking his leg early on following a challenge with Brendan McNally (there were no recognised substitutes in those days), Forest held on for victory, although David Pacey did pull one back from a corner.

It was the sadly passed away Ray Hartford who inspired Luton Town to their most famous victory some 29 years later and his first task was to make the difficult decision regarding his goalkeeper. In the end it was the reserve Andy Dibble who eventually got the nod over the legendary Les Sealey and what an impact Dibble would have beneath the Twin Towers.

George Graham's team were clear favourites after defeating Liverpool in the previous final and finishing sixth in the old First Division. A year later, they were crowned Champions with a dramatic victory of their own in a title decider at Anfield.

Despite their underdog tag, Luton who would later finish ninth in the top-flight remained confident of an upset having held the Gunners to a 1-1 earlier in the season and only narrowly losing 2-1 at Highbury. With 35,000 Luton supporters inside the National Stadium, they unsettled Arsenal from their rhythm early on and took a surprise lead on 14 minutes following some rather poor defending from Arsenal.

In trying to curtail the aerial threat of Mick Hartford, three Arsenal players went to meet a long ball into their box but Tony Adams did not get sufficient distance on his clearance and Mal Donaghy helped the ball back into the penalty area. With the



covering Gus Caesar completely switching himself off, Brian Stein stole in at the far post to guide home his shot past John Lukic. As usual, the Arsenal arms went up and were waved around pleading offside but this time to no avail.

Luton held on to their narrow advantage until the last quarter of the match before tired limbs and the introduction of substitute Martin Hayes for the ineffective Perry Groves inspired an Arsenal revival. Hayes scrambled home an equaliser on 71 minutes before Alan Smith sent a shot through the despairing legs of Dibble just three minutes later. Arsenal then struck the bar and post before being awarded a penalty in the 81st minute when Donaghy felled David Rocastle.

Nigel Winterburn, who was playing in his more natural right back position in those days struck his penalty well enough and it looked destined to end Luton's hopes of lifting the trophy, only for Dibble to somehow get literally his fingertips to it to divert it wide.

Winterburn's strike had been that good that from his position on the edge of the Luton box, Alan Smith had already started celebrating. Dibble's miraculously save quickly dispelled that premature gloating from the Arsenal players and inspired one of the finals' greatest ever comebacks.

Two minutes later and Luton were level. Winterburn, who had been greatly affected by his missed penalty just moments before was caught in possession by Kingsley Black inside the Arsenal box and after the Stein brothers had forced a fine save from the unlucky Lukic, Danny Wilson headed into an empty net after the older of the Stein's had reacted quickest to the loose rebound.

Sensing that Arsenal were edgy, Luton were not finished though and continued to press forward looking to avoid extra-time. There was barely 14 seconds on the Wembley clock when substitute Ashley Grimes whipped over an inviting cross and with Brian Stein again stealing a yard on the luckless Winterburn, he was able to place the ball perfectly out of Lukic's reach.

There was barely time for Arsenal to complete the kick-off before the whistle was blown and Luton Town finally had something to show off in their cabinet. Captain Steve Foster (minus his trademark headband) walked up the famous 39 steps to lift the Littlewoods Cup by its silver base one handed. How cool was Fozzy? And for a time how good were that Luton Town side?

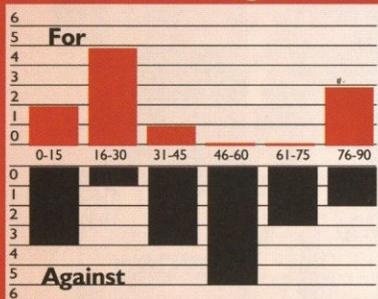
AWAY FEATURE

DIBBLE SAVES AT WEMBLEY
TO FINALLY BRING A MAJOR
TROPHY TO LUTON.

Crewe v. Luton Town



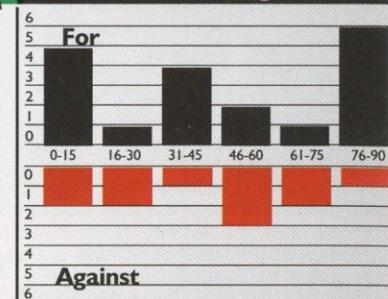
When for & against



Where & how scored

3	Close range	7
4	Inside 18yd box	7
4	Outside 18yd box	5
6	Shots	10
4	Headers	5
0	Volleys	3
0	Penalties	1
1	Free Kicks	0
0	Own Goals	0

When for & against



Last 6 results

Opponents	H/A	Score
Ipswich	A	1-2
Wolves	H	0-4
Watford	H	0-0
Reading	A	0-1
Plymouth	A	1-1
Derby	H	1-1

Swings

Won when Behind	0
Drawn when Behind	1
Drawn when Ahead	5
Lost when Ahead	1

Discipline

Fouls committed	116
Average per game	9.67
Yellow cards	11
Red cards	0

Set piece goals

Scored from free kick	3
Conc from free kick	3
Scored from corner	1
Conc from corner	3

Strike ratio

Shots on target	53
Goals scored	11
% shots scored	20.8
Divisional rating	13

Top scorer

Mark Rivers	
Goals Scored	3
Games Played	10
Points Won	3

Seasonal progress comparison



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

Last meeting at Gresty Road 29/10/02

0-1
Howard 85
Attendance: 6,030
Referee: Bates
Booked: none
Sent Off: none

Last 6 results

Opponents	H/A	Score
Cardiff	A	2-1
Preston	H	3-0
Sheff Wed	H	2-2
Hull	A	1-0
QPR	A	0-1
Wolves	H	1-1

Swings

Won when Behind	2
Drawn when Behind	2
Drawn when Ahead	1
Lost when Ahead	1

Discipline

Fouls committed	167
Average per game	13.92
Yellow cards	15
Red cards	1

Set piece goals

Scored from free kick	5
Conc from free kick	1
Scored from corner	0
Conc from corner	3

Luton's Last 10 Years



Strike ratio

Shots on target	80
Goals scored	19
% shots scored	23.8
Divisional rating	8

Top scorer

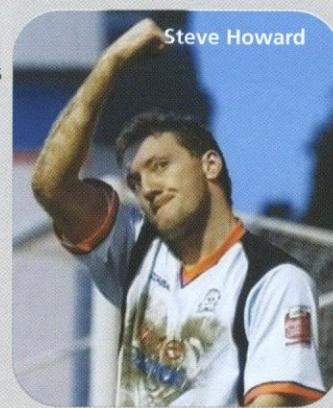
Steve Howard	
Goals Scored	5
Games Played	10
Points Won	5

HEAD to HEAD

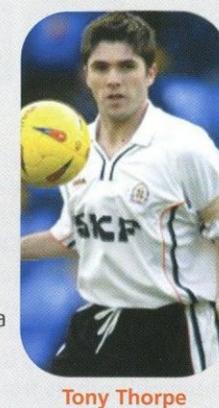


At Alexandra Stadium Crewe Won 6, Drawn 1, Lost 1
Overall Crewe Won 7, Drawn 3, Lost 8

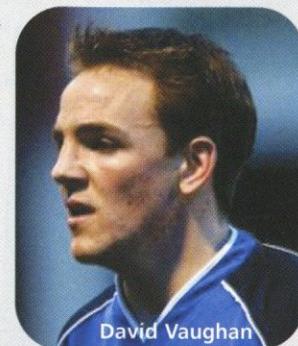
» The last time these two clubs met at the Alexandra Stadium, it was the visitors who emerged victorious in October 2002 thanks to Steve Howard's winner five minutes from time.



» Crewe's play-off success was even more remarkable when you consider the fact that Luton thumped us 6-0 at Kenilworth Road in the league fixture. They were simply awesome that afternoon with Tony Thorpe hitting a hat-trick. David Oldfield, Graham Alexander and Paul Showler all found a way past Jason Kearton on that occasion.



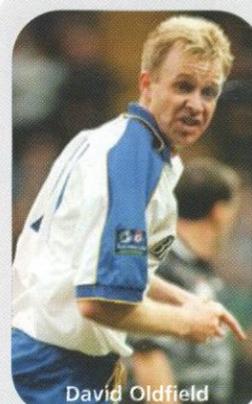
» In the return fixture five months later a ruthless looking Crewe inflicted a 4-0 defeat on the Hatters. Inspired by the two-goal Dean Ashton and the inspirational David Vaughan, Crewe produced one of their performances of the season and were eventually promoted as runners-up to Wigan in League One.



» Luton Town manager Mike Newell has played twice under Dario Gradi. He made three appearances in 1983 before signing for Wigan and returned to the club in 1999 to help the club escape relegation. Mike made a further four appearances for the club but made only one start away at Wolves in March.



» Crewe Alexandra most famous encounters with Luton occurred in the 1997 play-off semi-finals. Despite Luton finishing in third spot and Crewe only scrapping sixth place, it was the Alex who emerged to the final thanks to a 4-3 aggregate win. Crewe won the home tie 2-1 thanks to goals from Mark Rivers and Colin Little. In the return, goals from Shaun Smith and Little saw us reach Wembley where a 1-0 win over Brentford saw us promoted to the Championship for the first time ever.



» Former Luton striker David Oldfield had a fantastic goalscoring record against the Alex. He scored all his club's goals in that 1997 play-off showdown, as well as helping himself to another one in that 6-0 hammering of the Railwaymen in December 1996.

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Club Connections



LEIGH EDWARDS

Steve Howard's late strike gave Luton Town a 1-0 Second Division victory on their last League visit to Gresty Road on 29th October 2002. Crewe Alexandra triumphed 4-0 in the return fixture on 22nd March 2003 with two goals by Dean Ashton plus others from David Vaughan and Rodney Jack, regaining First Division status at the first attempt. Crewe's last League win at home to Luton was 2-0 on 29th January 1969 with goals from Keith Stott and Alan Tarbuck.

NIGERIAN ACE

Nigerian international central defender Efe Sodje has played for both Luton Town and Crewe Alexandra. Moving to Kenilworth Road from Macclesfield Town in August 1999, he briefly partnered former Crewe loanee Julian Watts in Luton's defence and made nine Second Division appearances prior to joining Colchester United in March 2000. He joined Crewe four months later and was an influential figure as Dario Gradi's side took Everton to an FA Cup fifth round

replay in 2001-02, netting three goals in 98 League games before moving to Huddersfield Town in August 2003.

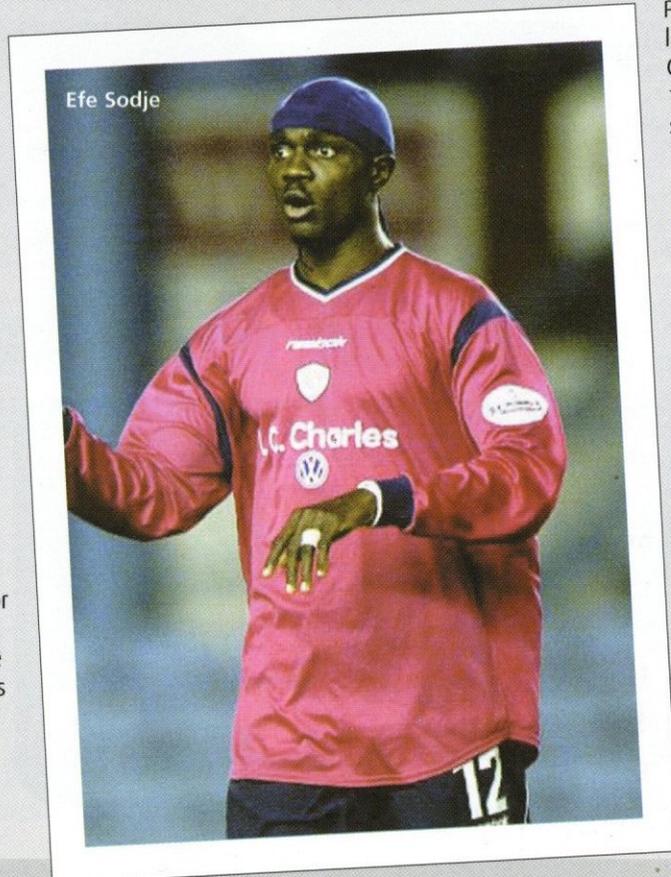
LOAN SPELL

Former Crewe Alexandra midfielder Kevin Street had a loan spell at Luton Town during the 2001-02 campaign. Signing professional at Gresty Road in July

1996, he scored on his League debut to clinch Crewe's 2-1 victory at home to Tranmere Rovers in September 1997 and joined Luton on loan in November 2001. He was injured in his first full appearance for the Hatters in a 4-1 defeat at Macclesfield and netted nine times in 115 League outings for Crewe before moving to Northwich Victoria in July 2002. Luton midfielder Paul Hughes had a loan spell at Crewe during the 1999-2000 season.

LEADING MARKSMAN

One-time Crewe Alexandra striker Ron Futcher was Luton Town's leading marksman in two consecutive seasons. Moving to Kenilworth Road from Chester in a joint deal with his twin brother Paul in June 1974, he gained top-flight experience with Luton



Efe Sodje

and netted 40 goals in 120 League games before following Paul to Manchester City in August 1978. He joined Crewe from Burnley in July 1991 and helped the Alex to qualify for the Fourth Division play-offs in 1991-92, scoring four times in 21 League outings prior to joining Boston United in July 1992.

EVER-PRESENT

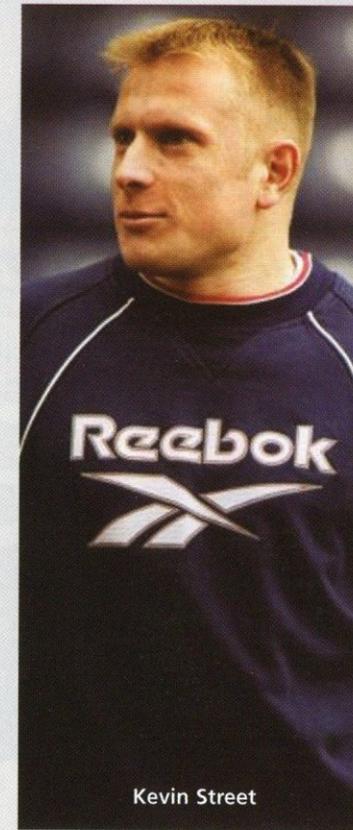
Former Crewe Alexandra striker Mike Newell was ever-present and top scorer for Luton Town in 1986-87. Moving to Gresty Road from Liverpool in September 1983, he made three consecutive Fourth Division appearances for Crewe prior to joining Wigan Athletic a month later. The England U-21 international joined Luton for £100,000 in January 1986 and netted 18 goals in 63 First Division games before moving to Leicester City for a record £350,000 in September 1987. He briefly rejoined Crewe from Aberdeen in March 1999 and has been Luton's manager since June 2003.

MUCH-TRAVELLED

Much-travelled midfielder Barry Silkman played for both Luton Town and Crewe Alexandra during his career. Moving to Luton on loan from Plymouth Argyle in February 1979, he helped them to clinch a 2-1 win at home to Blackburn Rovers on his debut and made two further Second Division appearances while at Kenilworth Road. He joined Crewe on a non-contract basis from Southend United in September 1986 and helped to secure that month's 1-1 draw against Swansea City, then featured as substitute in the 1-1 draw at Cardiff City a week later.

CUP HERO

One-time Luton Town inside-



Kevin Street

forward Billy Stark scored as Crewe Alexandra triumphed 2-1 at Chelsea in the 1960-61 FA Cup third round. Moving to Gresty Road from Glasgow Rangers in August 1960, he netted 13 goals in 39 Fourth Division games for Crewe prior to joining Carlisle United for £3,000 in December 1961. He joined Luton from Colchester United in exchange for Ted Phillips in September 1965 and briefly partnered John O'Rourke in their attack, scoring four times in ten League outings for today's opponents before moving to Chesterfield in July 1966.

TOP HATTERS

Former Crewe Alexandra winger Tony Pounder played top-flight football with Luton Town. Moving to Kenilworth Road from Atlas Sports in December 1955, he

made his First Division debut in Luton's 1-0 win at home to Portsmouth four months later and played two further League games the following season prior to joining Coventry City in June 1957. He joined Crewe in December 1957 and created numerous goalscoring chances for Bert Llewellyn, netting six goals in 29 Fourth Division outings while at Gresty Road before moving to Yeovil Town in July 1959.

WING WIZARD

Winger Jim Mackey played for both Luton Town and Crewe Alexandra during the inter-war era. Moving to Kenilworth Road from Lincoln City in July 1924, he contested a first-team slot with Syd Hoar and Billy Thirlaway and his solitary goal in ten Third Division (South) games came in Luton's 2-1 defeat at Brighton six months later. He joined Crewe on a free transfer in July 1925 and scored four times in 35 Third Division (North) outings while at Gresty Road before moving to Football League new-boys Torquay United in June 1927.

RELEGATION BATTLE

Crewe Alexandra's former loanee central defender Julian Watts featured in Luton Town's 2000-01 relegation battle. Moving to Crewe on loan from Leicester City in August 1997, he featured in wins over Portsmouth and Tranmere, making five consecutive First Division appearances while at Gresty Road. He joined Luton on a free transfer from Bristol City in August 1999 and netted eight goals in 73 League outings for today's visitors before moving to Australian side Northern Spirit in July 2001. The likes of Gerry Jones and Ian Rutherford have also played for both clubs.

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HAROLD FINCH

A PERSONAL VIEW...

Busy Vaughan Gets His Reward

Looking at the Championship league table and the positions of the teams, it clearly shows that our start to the season has seen us in opposition to teams at present occupying the top five positions. There is no guarantee that the order will be the same at the end but what it does show is the strength of this particular league.

At half-time at Portman Road there was a thought that an away win could be possible. Having seen all our previous games there, we caused more problems for the home team than in any previous visit. Unfortunately, we were unable to hold that narrow half time lead, a great disappointment.

Today's visitors Luton Town come here for the ninth time to fulfil a league fixture and it was only in our promotion season of 2002/03 that they won for the very first time by a 1-0 margin. Revenge was duly gained later in the season when we won 4-0 at Kenilworth Road.

could never justify the high wages they would be demanding.

The squad selected by Sven Goran Eriksson for the final two World Cup qualifiers was not decimated by injuries as so often happens. Prior to the Austrian game, one of the main points of discussion was who would be occupying the centre-half roles. Sol Campbell became the choice leaving Rio Ferdinand on the bench. A hamstring injury to Campbell caused a switch becoming necessary in the second half which in itself which now eased the selection issue for the Poland game.

When arriving in Ipswich we had failed to score in our three previous league games but after a period of 368 minutes that lean spell ended when David Vaughan scored from a free kick. A quick glance at our record there shows that on each of our six visits we have always scored at least one goal.

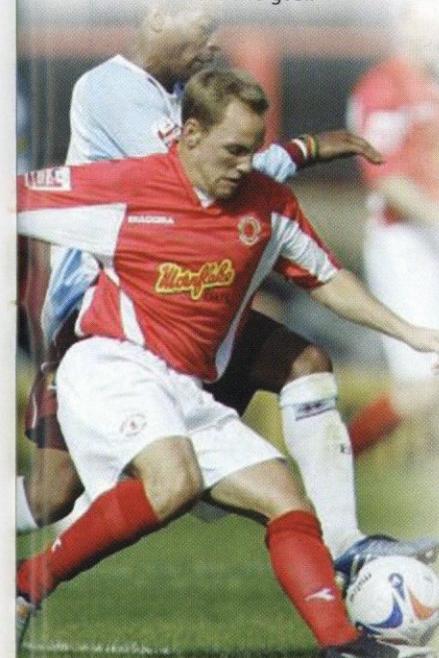
Many football supporters had anticipated that Wigan would have been finding life very hard in the Premier League but so far they have proved them wrong. Sunderland, Everton and Bolton have all been beaten in recent games. One of those victims Sunderland have also been able to break the long spell without a win in the Premiership. The team having a very lean time at present is Everton, they started out with high hopes of a run in Europe, but this was ended quickly.

A red card following the two yellows in succession shown to David Beckham appeared to be harsh. The puzzle was, where was the yellow card, which should have been shown to the Austrian player for his accentuated diving exhibition? There was relief from the tension of whether would qualify for the finals when Holland won their game in the Czech Republic.

Remember Ian Jeffs and Matthew Platt, two of the young players who teamed up with IBV, the Icelandic side. Last week I received a press cutting of their game against Fylkir on 17th September. Fylkir won 1-0 but Platt had a goal disallowed and he also was given top marks for his performance in the game along with Jeffs. What is very apparent when looking at Icelandic squads is the fact that there are very few overseas players with their clubs. Should any millionaire ever take over any of their leading clubs it would be interesting to see whether there would be an influx of other nationalities. I doubt it, the main reason being that attendances

Northern Ireland Vs Wales turned out to be a five goal thriller it finally being decided by Ryan Giggs goal from a free kick. Late in the game local interest was rewarded when both David Vaughan and Steve Jones came on to join in the action.

Neither was able to get on to the scoring charts but nevertheless how often do Crewe supporters have the opportunity to seeing two of their players in direct opposition at full international level?



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There are many ways in which you can help Crewe Alexandra financially throughout the season. From signing up to the club's exclusive SMS text messaging service to booking your holiday or weekends away with Thomas Cook, your support is always greatly appreciated.

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Since its launch in 2002 Crewe Alex World has brought the very best interviews, features, commentary and match action to hundreds of Crewe supporters all over the globe. Crewe Alex World is the club's very own Internet TV Station, which brings you exclusive Alex related content direct to your PC for less than the cost of a daily newspaper.

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subscribe to the Match Live only service, which means you can enjoy our Match Live Console, with Exclusive Internet commentary from all our first team games for just £19.99 for 12 months. Visit our Official Website www.crewealex.net to join Crewe Alex World.

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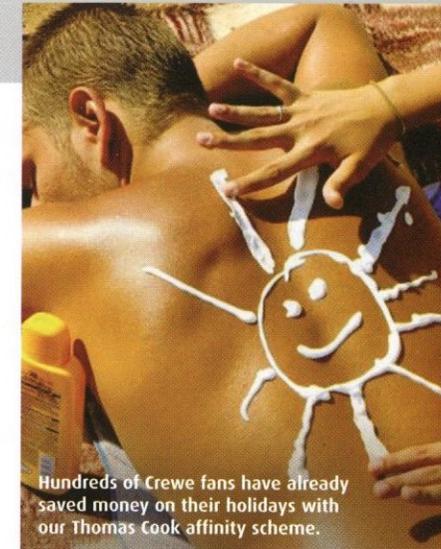
Supporters in the know this closed season subscribed to the club's exclusive SMS text messaging service. Make no mistake about it they were the first to know about our new signings and the ones that rejected new deals, because the information comes straight from the club. More and more of you are joining our news service because not only do you find out all the breaking news before anyone else, but it is also the only SMS service that benefits the club financially. Why would you want to sign up with anyone else? Simply text Club Crewe news to 88442. We only work with the facts.

BETTING – OPEN AN ACCOUNT

Betting via the official web-site remains one of the best avenues for generating funds for the Football Club. More and more of you are opening a betting account at www.thealex.bet.co.uk because you know that every time you place a bet with us you are making a contribution to Crewe Alexandra. We have some great on-line odds available now.

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If you book your ideal holiday with our friends at Thomas Cook and declare your allegiance to Crewe Alexandra they will give you a discount on whatever you book through them! Why not call into your local Thomas Cook branch today and speak to the experienced travel consultants, who will be delighted to offer their expertise and guidance in making your summer holiday choice a



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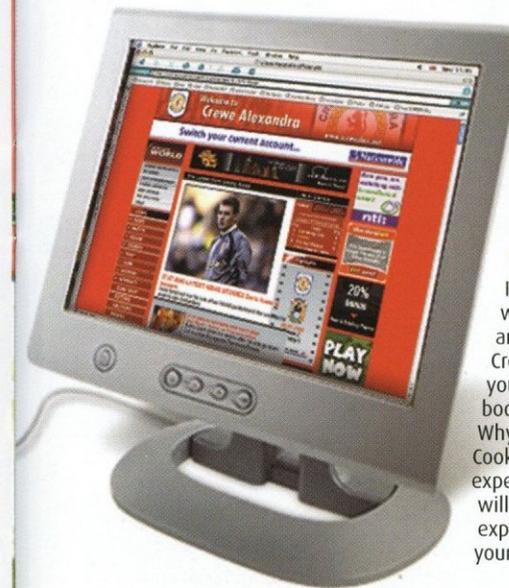
The club are striving to open as many new Academy Accounts as possible this season because the more you save with our friends at The Cheshire Building Society, the more revenue you can generate for the future production of young players at Crewe Alexandra.

You can open a new Academy Account at your local Cheshire Branch and we would like to thank all those supporters, who have already opened an account in 2005 and are continuing to invest in our both our futures.

We would encourage any avid Crewe supporter to call into their local Cheshire branch and open an Academy Account or visit www.thecheshire.co.uk. Our own Academy Account Advisors Gemma and Sandra would be pleased to help you. Please contact 01270 214418 for more details.

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ALISON BOWLER

Marketing Matters

Warm Welcome Back To The Alexandra Stadium.

It seems a while ago now that we were travelling back from Ipswich following a disappointing defeat to Ipswich Town. It was only a major disappointment to us because the players did so well at Portman Road and didn't get their just reward. I'm sure all of you who travelled down to Suffolk would agree that we certainly deserved something from the match. We outplayed one of the major sides in this division off the pitch in the first half and could well have established more of a cushion than David Vaughan's

second goal of the season gave us. They should have been out of sight and their staff admitted as much afterwards.

Therefore, we can take great confidence from that performance into this afternoon's clash with high-flying Luton. Mike Newell has installed that winning mentality and confidence into his team and those of us at this level know that they are a dangerous side. Just because they have come up from League One doesn't mean they are going to be easy

pickings for anyone, let alone someone like us who are currently at the bottom of the league.

What we do need is your support. The lads really appreciate the atmosphere you create and you would be amazed what a lift it really gives them. Let's think positively and really give the players a tremendous backing all afternoon and hopefully we will get something from another tough game.

MATCHBALL SPONSORS

Our thanks to Hall Smith Whittingham, Brunner Mond and South Cheshire Private Hospital for their continued support of Crewe Alexandra Football Club. They are pictured receiving their signed matchball from Academy graduates Billy Jones, David Vaughan and Gary Roberts before our last home match against Wolverhampton Wanderers. Although it turned out to be a strange evening at Gresty Road with Wolves romping to a 4-0 half-time lead we still hope you had an enjoyable evening with us.



Air Products – Understanding Our Main Stand Sponsors



What we do at Air Products can sound a bit....strange and 'out of this world'. So we thought we would tell you in a bit more detail, every week, about the 'stuff' we help produce. So, let's start with hydrogen. How much do you know about it? That it's the main component of the air? You are right! So what's so special about it? We bet you wonder.... Another fact you might know - hydrogen is the first element on the periodic table and is the lightest of all gases, 14 times lighter than air. If hydrogen was spilled it would rise straight into the atmosphere without polluting either the ground or air.

Now the fun stuff! What do we do with hydrogen? Air Products makes hydrogen in large production plants across the world and supplies it to a variety of users. Hydrogen is used in refineries to make low sulphur fuels, it's used by chemical firms to make fertilisers and it is an important part of the manufacture of glass and electronics equipment. It's even used in the production of margarine! And...we put space shuttles into space by supplying NASA with hydrogen, and we have done for the last 40 years!

The most recent things we use hydrogen for is cars. The cost of petrol is increasing by the day and some experts predict that we will run out of it within the next 50 to 75 years. So what are we going to do about it? Car manufacturers across the world are already developing vehicles that can run on hydrogen and Air Products is supplying the 'fuel' (ie the hydrogen) to keep them going. Already we have built 30 stations across the world. These fuelling stations of the future look the same as the ones we use now - but with a big

difference - it is hydrogen and not petrol that is put into the tank. And the engine is replaced by a 'fuel cell' that powers the car. These 'hydrogen fuel cell' vehicles look and drive the same as normal cars but the emissions from the car won't damage to the environment, not one bit. The only emission it creates, is water - which can even be drunk out of the exhaust pipe it's that pure.

You might soon live in a house fuelled by hydrogen, and come to watch the Crewe Alex game in your brand new hydrogen-fuelled car!



MAN-OF-THE-MATCH –

Despite our 4-0 defeat to Glenn Hoddle's Wolves, David Vaughan was voted as our most outstanding performer. Our Welsh International was impressive up against a strong and stubborn Wolves rearguard and was rightly named as our Man-of-the-Match by our sponsors Whitby Morrison.

Playing Out Of Your Skin – Why The Fight Against Racism Needs To Continue

If you seriously think that racism is dead in football then you may have to re-consider your ideas. Granted things have dramatically improved since the ugly days of the 70s and 80s and those days of mindless hooliganism, mainly because of the marvellous work conducted by anti-racism schemes such as the 'Let's Kick It Out' or 'Show Racism The Red Card' campaigns.

They and many others have campaigned diligently over the last few years to make genuine football supporters realise that racist abuse and racist chanting remains a criminal offence and is unacceptable in sporting arenas around the world. We don't have to tolerate being subjected to it or even in the presence of it, so if you do hear any form of racism then please contact the nearest steward or police officer on duty.

Racism is most certainly less overt these days but that doesn't mean it has been completely banished from the terraces. It still rears its ugly head every once in awhile, which evidently reflects that the campaigns needed to enhance awareness still need a presence within our stadiums. All 92 football clubs are doing just that this week during the national anti-racism campaign.

At the Alexandra Stadium you will see the players warming up in anti-racism t-shirts and you could get your hands on a 'Let's Kick It

Out' badge, wrist band or a sticker as a handy reminder that racism will not be tolerated at any level. Saying that just because we are doing that today doesn't mean that things should ever change when the presence is not as obvious.

Zero tolerance to racism should remain the overwhelming attitude throughout the whole of your everyday life and not just because for one week of the year, football embraces the campaign with tremendous vigour and purpose.

I'm sure many of you were shocked by the events in Spain last season when black England players Ashley Cole and Shaun Wright Phillips were subjected to 'monkey chants' in the Bernabeu Stadium in Madrid. More of you would have been even more alarmed by the comments made by the Spanish national coach Luis Argones when referring to Frenchman Thierry Henry, as he disgustingly tried to inspire Antonio Reyes out on the training pitch.

Thankfully, his vile comments were caught on camera and there is no doubt Argones was extremely fortunate to remain in his privileged position following a public outcry. I'm pretty certain that if it had been Sven Goran Eriksson referring to Henry in a similar vein, he would have been dismissed by the Football Association or been forced to resign following a public outcry.

Pig-headed officials in Spain gave Argones the benefit of the doubt, while FIFA handed out a measly fine to both him and those bunch of idiotic Spanish fans, who tormented our players. To be honest, a fine totalling no more than £5,000 was rather appalling and FIFA should have handed out a stiffer penalty to those involved to act as a deterrent for future offenders. It frankly wasn't good enough.

Thankfully, in the age of the all-seater stadium, equipped with CCTV cameras and organised ticket arrangements, offenders are often

trapped by their own stupidity because they basically have no place to hide anymore. Blatant expression of racial hatred has been suppressed due to the modern era, but the fight within the game does continue because ethnic minorities still find it difficult to attend matches or harder still to make the grade in the professional game.

Honestly managers won't really care if a talented footballer comes from Pluto or Peru, as long as he can make a difference to his team, but it is evident that youngsters from ethnic backgrounds are still not breaking through into top-flight football. The prejudice is occurring even before they leave primary school let alone when they are old enough to challenge for a place in one of the country's main Academies.

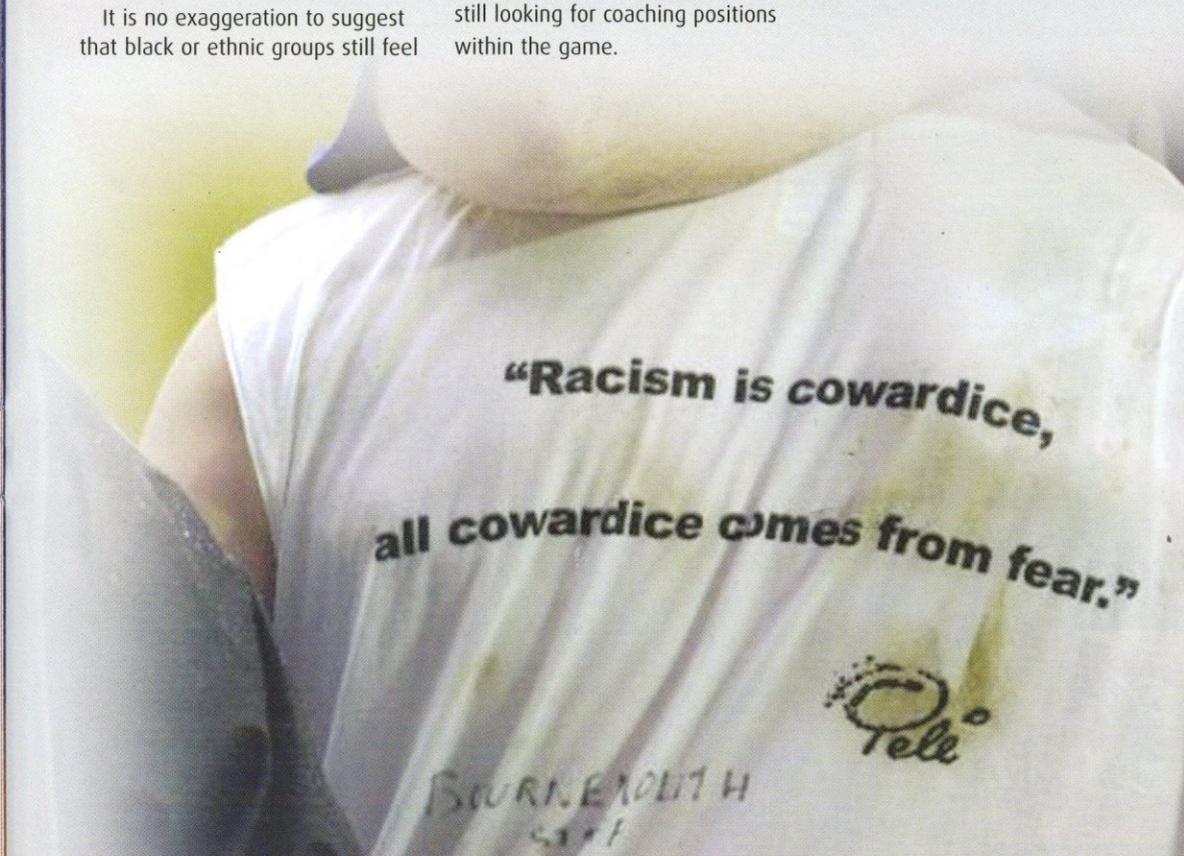
It is no exaggeration to suggest that black or ethnic groups still feel

intimidated or uncomfortable when attending live matches or actually playing the game themselves. That is the sad reality and only through education and proven success can that perception alter for the good of the game.

Football does have a habit of remaining stuck in its ways and is slow to change. That may go some way to explain why it took until 1979 for Viv Anderson to become the first black player to play for England, or why there are hardly any current professionals who are Asian. Even now you would be hard pushed to name a black manager currently working in the top two leagues of the British game. That remains a statistic that needs improving upon because there are a host of qualified and experienced former black players, still looking for coaching positions within the game.

Hopefully, the progress we have made when it comes to appreciating the talents of black footballers can stretch to management and others having key positions within football clubs. People need to be judged on their ability and qualifications rather than the colour of their skin.

We need to go above the views of the bigots and bring people together – which to some remains the main attraction of football as a spectator sport. At the end of the day, it really should be a case of having no white, black or ethnic minority players but just good or bad players. I'm afraid that day remains a long way off and that is why Crewe Alexandra remains totally behind the Kick Racism Out Campaign. There is still much work to be done.





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FL Championship stats

2005/06 season

Attendance records & cautions

Club	Aggregate	Highest	Lowest	Average	Yellow	Red
Brighton	38,752	6,676	6,132	6,459	19	0
Burnley	67,767	12,243	10,431	11,295	17	2
Cardiff	71,489	15,231	9,196	11,915	21	0
Coventry	103,401	23,000	16,978	20,680	24	2
Crewe	42,247	8,006	5,958	7,041	11	0
Crystal Palace	110,918	21,166	17,291	18,486	23	0
Derby	141,341	25,292	21,840	23,557	22	2
Hull	117,678	22,201	18,648	19,613	12	2
Ipswich	146,407	29,184	22,551	24,401	14	3
Leeds	102,860	21,626	18,353	20,572	16	1
Leicester	127,508	22,618	20,148	21,251	26	1
Luton	54,099	10,248	7,815	9,017	15	1
Millwall	52,809	10,322	7,674	8,802	18	3
Norwich	176,889	27,470	23,981	25,270	17	1
Plymouth	75,314	14,279	10,460	12,552	23	0
Preston	83,597	17,139	12,453	13,933	24	2
QPR	69,275	15,523	12,131	13,855	21	3
Reading	102,386	22,068	14,027	17,064	13	0
Sheff Utd	119,844	22,192	17,739	19,974	19	0
Sheff Wed	131,762	29,986	22,446	26,352	11	1
Southampton	145,372	26,331	20,792	24,229	24	2
Stoke	96,634	18,744	12,240	16,106	18	3
Watford	86,502	16,802	12,152	14,417	22	1
Wolves	139,874	24,745	21,747	23,312	15	0

Attendances & cards are ordered alphabetically

Championship form table

Club	W	D	L	For	Agt	Pts	GI Diff	Sequence
Sheff Utd	5	0	1	11	5	15	6	WWWWWL
Reading	4	2	0	8	4	14	4	DWWWWDW
Norwich	4	0	2	9	5	12	4	WLWLWWW
Cardiff	3	2	1	9	5	11	4	DWWWDWL
Luton	3	2	1	9	5	11	4	DLDWVWW
Palace	3	1	2	9	5	10	4	WWLLDWW
Burnley	2	2	1	8	5	9	3	DDLDDWW
Millwall	2	2	1	7	6	9	1	LWWDDDD
Wolves	2	2	2	9	5	8	4	DLDWWL
Watford	2	2	2	8	7	8	1	WWLDLDD
Leeds	2	2	2	7	7	8	0	DWLWLDW
Luton	2	2	2	6	7	8	-1	LDWLWLD
QPR	2	2	2	4	6	8	-2	LDWDLW
Plymouth	2	1	3	6	9	7	-3	LWLWLDLW
Sheff Wed	2	1	3	6	9	7	-3	LDLWLDLW
Ipswich	2	1	3	6	9	7	-3	LDLWLDLW
Southampton	0	6	0	6	6	6	0	DDDDDD
Leicester	1	3	2	4	4	6	0	WLDLDD
Coventry	1	3	2	9	10	6	-1	DDDLWL
Preston	1	3	2	4	7	6	-3	WDLDD
Stoke	2	0	4	4	11	6	-7	LWWLLL
Brighton	0	4	2	7	10	4	-3	DLDDDL
Derby	0	4	2	7	10	4	-3	DLDDDL
Hull	1	1	4	4	7	4	-3	LLWLDL
Crewe	0	3	3	3	9	3	-6	DDLDDL

Ordered by points gained over last 6 games. Most recent result to right of sequence.

Championship top scorers

Scorer	Club	Lge	CC	FA	Tot	Gms	Ave
Carl Cort	Wolves	9	0	0	9	12	0.75
Cameron Jerome	Cardiff	7	1	0	8	12	0.67
Steven Kabba	Sheff Utd	7	0	0	7	11	0.64
Ade Akinbiyi	Burnley	5	2	0	7	14	0.50
Andy Johnson	Palace	6	0	0	6	7	0.86
Rob Hulse	Leeds	6	0	0	6	9	0.67
Marlon King	Watford	6	0	0	6	9	0.67
Ashley Young	Watford	5	1	0	6	13	0.46
Leroy Lita	Reading	5	1	0	6	14	0.43
Garreth O'Connor	Burnley	5	0	0	5	11	0.45
Steve Howard	Luton	5	0	0	5	11	0.45
Dean Ashton	Norwich	4	1	0	5	12	0.42
Kenny Miller	Wolves	3	2	0	5	12	0.42
Dele Adebola	Coventry	5	0	0	5	13	0.38
Mark De Vries	Leicester	3	2	0	5	14	0.36

Championship records

Highest Attendance	29,986	Sheff Wed v Leeds
Lowest Attendance	5,958	Crewe v Derby
Average Gate	17,055		
Aggregate Attendance	2,404,725		
Biggest Home Win	Reading 5-0 Millwall		
Biggest Away Win	Ipswich 0-4 Preston, Crewe 0-4 Wolves		
Biggest Aggregate Score	Burnley 3-3 Cardiff, Leeds 3-3 Brighton, Leicester 4-2 Stoke, Plymouth 3-3 Watford		
Total Games	142		
Home Wins	55 (39%)		
Away Wins	39 (27%)		
Draws	48 (34%)		
1-1 Draws	20 (14%)		
0-0 Draws	17 (12%)		
Total Cards	Yellow 452.....	Red 30

Football League Championship fixtures and results grid

Home	Away	Brighton	Burnley	Cardiff	Coventry	Crewe	Crystal Palace	Derby	Hull	Ipswich	Leeds	Leicester	Luton	Millwall	Norwich	Plymouth	Preston	QPR	Reading	Sheff Utd	Sheff Wed	Southampton	Stoke	Watford	Wolves
Brighton		31.1	15.10	2-2	2-2	20.11	26.11	16.12	29.10	14.1	11.2	25.3	31.12	1-3	2-0	11.3	26.12	0-2	0-1	17.4	8.4	30.4	18.2	1.11	
Burnley		1-1		3-3	4-0	26.11	17.4	2-2	28.10	3-0	15.10	19.11	30.4	1.11	25.3	4.2	21.1	8.4	4.3	1-2	31.12	18.2	26.12	17.12	14.2
Cardiff		22.11	14.1		6.11	22.10	1-0	17.12	18.2	26.11	2-1	1-0	1-2	31.1	22.4	26.12	18.10	25.3	8.4	15.4	4.3	31.12	11.2	1-3	2-2
Coventry		4.2	25.2	30.4		28.12	15.10	21.1	0-2	19.11	18.3	17.4	29.10	10.12	26.11	3.12	1.4	3-0	1-1	11.3	15.2	1-1	2.11	3-1	2-1
Crewe		25.2	2-1	17.4	25.3		29.10	1-1	26.12	14.2	1.11	2-2	15.10	30.4	10.12	21.1	3.12	31.12	4.2	1-3	8.4	11.3	19.11	0-0	0-4
Crystal Palace		18.10	22.10	4.2	22.11	15.4		28.12	2-0	18.3	4.3	2.1	1-2	3.12	25.2	1-0	1-1	14.2	21.1	5.11	2-0	22.4	2-0	1.4	10.12
Derby		1-1	11.3	2-1	1-1	14.1	25.3		17.4	2.11	11.2	1-1	26.12	8.4	3.12	25.2	10.12	29.10	31.12	1.2	30.4	2-2	15.10	1-2	18.11
Hull		2-0	15.4	3.12	31.1	18.3	14.1	22.10		28.12	1.4	1-1	0-1	1-1	11.2	11.3	22.4	0-0	18.10	3.1	10.12	22.11	0-1	5.11	25.2
Ipswich		15.4	11.2	1-0	18.10	2-1	26.12	22.4	25.3		31.1	25.2	31.12	11.3	0-1	5.11	0-4	10.12	22.11	14.1	2-1	2-2	8.4	22.10	3.12
Leeds		3-3	22.11	10.12	26.12	22.4	tba	3-1	31.12	0-2		3.12	25.2	2-1	11.3	8.4	5.11	4.2	15.4	22.10	21.1	18.10	25.3	14.2	2-0
Leicester		0-0	18.10	21.1	22.10	17.12	8.4	14.2	4.3	0-0	18.2		0-2	26.12	31.12	22.4	15.4	1-2	25.3	26.11	2-0	5.11	4-2	22.11	4.2
Luton		28.12	5.11	14.2	15.4	22.11	26.11	18.3	4.2	1.4	0-0	11.3		2-1	18.10	22.10	3-0	21.1	18.2	22.4	2-2	3-2	17.12	2.1	1-1
Millwall		1.4	22.4	0-0	0-0	5.11	18.2	2.1	14.2	1-2	26.11	18.3	4.3		22.11	15.4	1-2	1-1	17.12	18.10	4.2	22.10	0-1	28.12	21.1
Norwich		14.2	28.12	1-1	1-1	1-1	1-1	18.2	2-1	5.2	0-1	1.4	19.11	15.10		2-0	2.1	17.4	0-1	18.3	29.10	17.12	4.3	21.1	30.4
Plymouth		4.3	1-0	18.3	18.2	1-1	17.12	0-2		30.4	2.1	1.11	17.4	30.10		14.1	28.12	19.11	26.11	11.2	15.10	31.1	2-1	3-3	1.4
Preston		0-0	0-0	19.11	31.12	18.2	31.1	1-1	1.11	4.3	30.4	29.10	11.2	14.1	8.4	25.3		15.10	0-3	17.12	26.12	1-1	0-1	26.11	17.4
QPR		18.3	2.1	28.12	17.12	1.4	1-3	15.4	26.11	2-1	0-1	31.1	1-0	11.2	22.10	18.10	22.11		5.11	2-1	0-0	14.1	18.2	22.4	4.3
Reading		10.12	2-1	2.1	1.4	1-0	3-2	1.4	19.11	15.10	29.10	28.12	3.12	5-0	31.1	1-2	25.2	30.4		2-1	1.11	11.2	17.4	11.3	18.3
Sheff Utd		21.1	10.12	29.10	2-1	4.3	30.4	2-1	8.4	2-0	17.4	4-1	1.11	19.11	26.12	2-0	2-1	25.2	14.2		3.12	25.3	31.12	4.2	15.10
Sheff Wed		22.10	1.4	tba	3-2	2.1	11.2	5.11	1-1	17.12	1-0	14.1	31.1	1-2	15.4	22.11	18.3	11.3	22.4	18.2		0-1	26.11	18.10	28.12
Southampton		2.1	3.12	1.4	4.3	2-0	2-1	4.2	15.10	21.1	19.11	30.4	10.12	17.4	1-0	0-0	15.2	1-1	0-0	28.12	25.2		29.10	18.3	0-0
Stoke		5.11	18.3	0-3	22.4	18.10	11.3	22.11	21.1	2.1	28.12	10.12	2-1	25.2	3-1	14.2	4.2	3.12	22.10	1.4	0-0	15.4		0-3	1-3
Watford		3.12	3-1	25.2	11.2	31.1	31.12	4.3	30.4	17.4	0-0	15.10	9.4	25.3	2-1	10.12	1-2	1.11	0-0	2-3	19.11	26.12	14.1		29.10
Wolves		22.4	0-1	11.3	8.4	11.2	2-1	18.10	1-0	18.2	17.12	0-0	14.1	1-2	5.11	31.12	22.10	3-1	26.12	22.11	25.3	26.11	31.1	15.4	

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WHY NOT COME AND SEE CHELSEA LEGEND PETER OSGOOD



You are invited to the Alexandra Stadium on Friday 28th October for what will be a highly entertaining evening to help raise money for a great cause. Former Chelsea and England legend Peter Osgood will be the guest speaker for the evening and renowned comedian and entertainer Lee Wilson will also provide some sterling entertainment as well!

Doors will open at 7.30pm for 8.00pm.

Peter Osgood was the King of Stamford Bridge during the 1970's, helping the club to FA Cup success in 1970 with that famous replay victory over Leeds United at Old Trafford.

Ossie also helped Chelsea to European success a year later with victory over Real Madrid in the European Cup Winners Cup. Osgood was also part of the Southampton side that surprised everyone with a 1-0 win over Manchester United in the 1976 FA Cup Final.

The only surprising thing was that the maverick forward was only capped four times by England.

Tickets are priced at just £28 and will include a three-course meal in the club's Signals Lounge. All proceeds will go to the St. Luke's Cheshire Hospice and Macmillan Leighton Hospital Appeal, so if you are interested in attending such a great event please contact Phil Clare on 07940 589 517 for tickets and more information.

MATCH-DAY MEALS

Why not add to your matchday experience by enjoying a meal before one of our Championship matches?

It is the perfect way for you to entertain guests before the action starts and costs just £35 for season ticket holders for a three-course meal and then half-time refreshments in the club's executive suite. It offers great value for money. If you are not a season ticket then you can enjoy the same for just £50. That deal includes your price of your match ticket so what are you waiting for, call Alison Bowler now 01270 213014 ext 113 for more details of availability. Unfortunately, there is nothing available for the visit of Stoke City and Leeds United in November.

PART-TIME STAFF NEEDED ON SATURDAY'S

The Football Club has some part-time work available for reliable and hardworking candidates for a Saturday. Please call on 01270 213014 ext 113 for more details.

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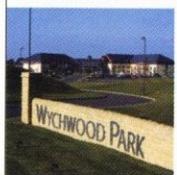
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STEPHEN FOSTER

Quick Fire Round

>> **Been Away This Summer?**

Yes, I managed to get a short break away towards the end of our summer break.

>> **Who is your toughest player you have faced during your career so far?**

On paper it would have to be the likes of Michael Owen, Wayne Rooney and Nicolas Anelka, but when I first broke into the team Mike Sheron caused me all sorts of problems

>> **What has been your favourite game in a Crewe shirt?**

I really enjoyed the game against Bolton Wanderers back in 2001 where we won 2-1 thanks to Rob Hulse's goal. It had a bit of everything, including a great atmosphere and we managed to beat a good team chasing promotion.

>> **Who do you usually room with when you go away?**

Kenny Lunt

>> **Which player past or present would you most have liked to have played alongside?**

I'd have to say Franz Beckenbauer

>> **Favourite stadium you have played at?**

I was fortunate enough to play at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin when I was younger and it was quite an experience.

>> **Can you remember the first ever football match you attended?**

It was a Manchester United against a Belgian team called Pesci Munchas

>> **Who is the most famous person you have ever met?**

I once bumped into John Cleese

>> **Who is your best mate in Football?**

I have got a lot of very good friends at this club and wouldn't want to single anyone out

>> **What boots do you wear?**

I tend to change them quite often

>> **Do you have any superstitions on a match day?**

I used to have quite a lot actually but I have got rid of all of them now

>> **Who did you support as a child and who was your favourite player?**

As a child I was a Manchester United fan. My favourite players were Gary Pallister and Eric Cantona

>> **If you had to go to a fancy dress party who or what would you go as?**

I went down a storm a few years ago as Ali G a few years back so maybe him

>> **Can you cook?**

Yes, I'm not too bad

>> **What was the last CD you bought?**

James Blunt

>> **What was the last film you saw on DVD or at the Cinema?**

I saw 'Hostage' with Bruce Willis the other day

>> **Favourite other sport?**

I enjoy golf when I get the chance to play

>> **What drives you crazy?**

Bad Insurance adverts

>> **Who do you think will win the World Cup?**

Brazil



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 Cardiff City F.C.	 Crystal Palace F.C.	 Southampton F.C.	The 'Coca-Cola' Football League. The Real League.

HAROLD FINCH

RECOLLECTIONS - BY COURTESY OF THE WRITTEN WORD

Saturday 29th January 1966 saw Crewe Alexandra involved in a game, when a most unusual incident meant that play had to be stopped for a while to enable emergency repairs to be made to the crossbar at Oakwell, home of Barnsley Football Club. As Willie Mailey explained to a press representative at the end of the game: "I flicked the bar over the top and the back of my hand caught the crossbar. As soon as I heard the noise behind me, I knew only one thing could have happened."

Crewe had taken the lead as early as the 12th minute when Ian Sandiford caught their defence lacking in concentration as he was allowed to head the ball into the net. The Alex had a lot of stern defending to do, but the local report ended in the following terms: 'There was little Barnsley will want to remember from this game. They were bang on top until Crewe scored, then they fell to pieces completely.'

The Monday edition of the sun newspaper carried an excellent photograph of the broken crossbar with seven of the Crewe side looking on. The paper invited entries from readers to imagine what a Crewe defender looking on in disbelief may have been saying to the others.

Publicity afforded to smaller clubs when against teams from a higher division often provide an interesting insight into a club and additionally the articles will contain a different style of photograph.

Match photographs will usually be of action from the game but the preview papers will find something different to portray. In the Manchester Evening News of 21st January 1967 it contained a photo of manager Ernie Tagg handing over a ticket for the tie at Bolton to Mr. Harry Green of Manor Way.

There was another of Eric Barnes and Peter Cowans carrying a sign displaying one word 'Danger'. That sign had been in place highlighting a hole in the stand following the collapse of a barrier

when Crewe had scored against Darlington in round two.

Crewe had been hoping to win the tie to even things up, for in their only previous meeting back in 1895 they

Thursday 14th August 1980 saw the Crewe Chronicle devote four of its pages to Crewe Alexandra. Ken Evans, their chief photographer providing the group photo. Editorial copy was provided by the late Roy Greer, and, as always make excellent reading for any football fan.

Bruce Grobbelaar had been our keeper in 1979/80 season and was then replaced by Ken Mulhearn and the club also bought Colin Proppett back to Gresty Road. Having had to survive an application for re-election in the summer of 1980, manager Tony Waddington had a very clear message for everyone when he said: "We have to get cracking from the start of the season. It has to be a season of genuine progress, we must learn our reprieve and our efforts on the field, justify the confidence that has been shown to us. We owe it the people who supported us by voting us back and we owe it our own followers."

Compared to the present day, our disciplinary record for 1979/80 shows that we had two players sent off. John McMahon and Dennis Nelson while Peter Coyne was red carded when leaving the field at Walsall. There were also 49 bookings spread between 17 different players. Crewe did not have to apply for re-election but there was to be a shock. Tony Waddington was dismissed in the summer of 1981 by the club, to be succeeded by Arfon Griffiths.



A Francis Lee penalty dumped Crewe out at Bolton.

lost 4-0. In the event, they were to lose by virtue of a Francis Lee penalty. Ernie Tagg had said prior to the game, "The Cup is a great leveller. I know there will be a few surprises in this round - why shouldn't we be one of them?"

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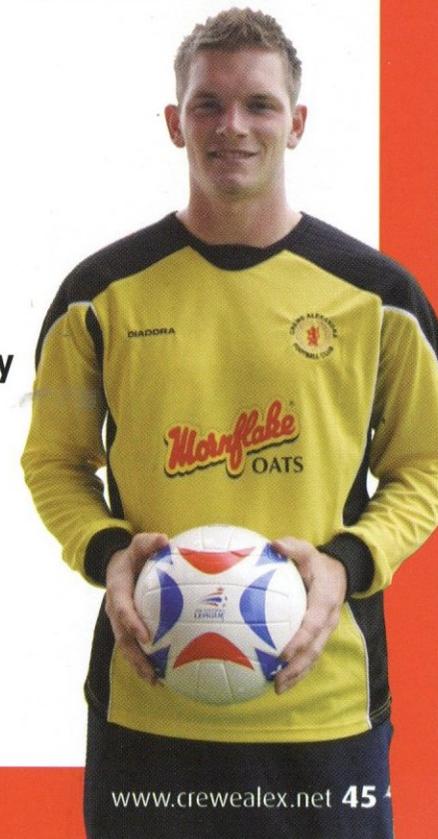
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BBC Radio Stoke's Sports Editor Graham McGarry Writes... Why It's Better To Stick With The Right Man For The Job



The calls for the manager to be sacked is by far the easiest decision any chairman, chief executive, or head of the F.A can make when the performances and results are not acceptable to the fans.

So it came as no surprise when I attended this weeks Crewe ASI 'meet the manger night' that our own messiah Dario Gradi's position was up for discussion right from the beginning of what turned out to be an interesting evening.

Every football fan is entitled to their opinion, and having found it hard to win in the championship for nearly twelve months one can understand the frustrations the Alex fans have.

But lets all be realistic this is Crewe Alexandra competing in the Championship, financially sound, terrific facilities, young players with bags of potential, and all this achieved on an average crowd of no more than 7,000.

So well done to chairman John Bowler on his no nonsense answer to the first and only question of the night on the manager's position.

"Dario is the best man for Crewe Alexandra Football Club and will always be while I reign as the chairman".

As you would expect the two main guests on the top table never ducked any of the issues raised by the supporters, and I'm sure at today's game many of you will still be talking about some of the very interesting topics, which came up.

If you want to have more of a say why not CALL JOHN ACRES after 5pm tonight for BBC RADIO STOKE'S PRAISE AND GRUMBLE (01782 208008).

Now another big talking point at the moment in football is England's World Cup qualification.

But with 237 days to go until the finals the head coach Sven Goran Eriksson is still coming in for loads of criticism and there is still plenty who would like to see a new man in charge even before the team heads off to Germany.

Sven though will be leading the nation and now his, final selection of the squad is going to be severely scrutinised by every football fan in the country.

Should Danny Murphy be included, what formation will Sven play, who are the best two central defenders, and who should he play up front.

Perhaps with so many unanswered questions its no wonder the public are calling for a change at the top. It's at times like these the countries leading bookmakers come to the fore, as they can't wait for judgement in June as they have already made the odds and compiled a shortlist on who should be the next England manager.

Steve McLaren has been installed as the 6-4 favourite to take over.

Then its 3-1 Alan Curbishley
8-1 Martin O'Neil, Sam Allardyce
10-1 Steve Bruce
25-1 Jose Mourinho
50-1 Alex Ferguson.

Nice to see Dario Gradi's not quoted, he is staying here in South Cheshire.

Enjoy today's game, and lets hope the boys can pick up a welcome 3 points,



Crewe Alexandra would not be in the Championship if it wasn't for Dario. That's for sure!

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BBC RADIO STOKE

Steve Jones - Deserving Of A Change Of Fortune

Steve Jones needs a goal. He certainly deserves one too if his most recent performances at Reading and Ipswich Town and at home to Wolverhampton Wanderers are anything to go by. In each of those matches, he tormented the opposition defences and forced a number of saves from their respective goalkeepers. Our Northern Ireland International could quite easily have scored a hat-trick at Portman Road but was foiled on more than one occasion by Welsh International Lewis Price.

It was a disappointing afternoon in Suffolk mainly because we had played so well in the first period and deserved something from a game we ended up losing 2-1 thanks to two fine finishes from Darren Currie and Nicky Forster. Football is a cruel old sport and the journey homes can be a miserable affair, but Jonah's personal situation puts that instantly into perspective.

In the build up to the trip to Ipswich, his courageous baby son Milo had been rushed to hospital once more, which only increased the worry for Steve, his wife and supportive family members. It has been a horrible year for them all and needless to say that everyone at the Football Club wishes the family well.

Therefore, with that unthinkable experience to deal with, Steve's individual performance at Portman Road was even more remarkable. Dario Gradi had considered giving summer signing Luke Rodgers his first start for the club after his substitute performance four days earlier had given the Alexandra Stadium a gigantic lift following a bizarre first-half against an impressive Wolves side.

Despite enduring inadequate sleep in the build up to the Ipswich game, Jones somehow kept himself going and was according to the manager in Friday's final training session one of the sharpest members of the squad. It was enough to see him retain his place and the release of playing football again saw him produce arguably his best performance of the season.

Steve said: "It wasn't the greatest build up going into the Ipswich game, but I wanted to play because football is a great

release for me. It gives me something to concentrate on and at the end of the day it is my livelihood and I want to do the best I can for the club.

"You have to remain as professional as you can and although I didn't score I think I played reasonably well and felt sharp again. I could have scored three or four goals but it isn't quite going for me at the moment.

"I'm just looking for that little bit of luck that will change my fortunes. The chances are still there and I'm still getting into the positions, so that is still encouraging but we haven't had too much luck in recent matches.

"We played really well at Reading and were unlucky to lose there and then I had a couple of chances early on against Wolves which could have changed that game. The lads were down after the Ipswich game because we had played so well and ended up with nothing."

Anyone viewing the Championship table would claim that lowly Crewe are again at the bottom with the spirit and confidence draining out of the club. That observation couldn't be further from the truth. Although, the players know that this division is awfully difficult for a club of our size to compete in they can still raise

their game to play a side like Ipswich off the pitch.

Joe Royle's side were roundly/unfairly booed off at the interval and their people were complimentary about the way we played at the final whistle. Even though two moments of quality finally saw us defeated, we didn't look like a side struggling at the bottom of the table and I think the fans that made the trip to Suffolk appreciated that.

Jones tends to agree: "The free kick from Currie was a sucker punch because we were in control of the game and giving them all sorts of problem at the back. They changed things around a little at the break to be fair to them that helped them improve but we were not a million miles away from them.

"The camaraderie between the lads is still very strong because we are all focused on doing well for Crewe Alexandra. We want to achieve great things for this club and hopefully that will come in the not too distant future.

"It is difficult because we go to places like Southampton and Ipswich and they have 25,000 there and then we go back to Gresty Road and we have six or seven thousand. It is difficult to compete financially when that is the gap, so that is why we have to rely on the Academy and looking in the lower leagues for players.

"The lads will continue to do their best for the cause and I'm sure things will change for us and we can go on a little run of not being beaten like we were early in the season. It is Luton up next and we will desperately looking to get that second win of the season."

Although the majority of the squad had a little break, it has been non-stop for Jones and his fellow International traveller David Vaughan. They were on opposite sides towards the end of the recent World Cup qualifier in Belfast when Vaughan got one over his club team-mate with the Welsh winning a thrilling game 3-2. Jones who got eight minutes of that match then flew out to Austria for their final group match.

"To get some more minutes for Ireland was a bonus but like all players I would like to start more games, admits Jonah.

"We had a great civic reception to reward us for the win over England which was nice. All the lads were buzzing. It was a great achievement to beat England and after not scoring or winning for a while it has been good to have a decent qualifying campaign. Now it is important to build on that."

In some ways, Crewe's early season form mirrors that of Northern Ireland when things were not going for them. It is always fascinating to see how quickly things can alter in football. If you would have asked anyone if Ireland would have beaten England after that first meeting at Old Trafford they would have laughed out loud. The Irish had the last laugh and everyone at Crewe feels the same way, as the critics begin to tip us for the drop once again. There is still a lot of football to be played yet.





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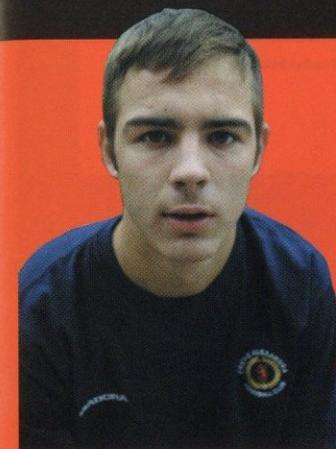
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PLAYER INTERVIEW... TOM POPE

'It's Been Unbelievable'

The Tom Pope story shows that even though young promising players are sometimes overlooked or released by clubs they can sometimes force their way back into the Football League. That has certainly been the case with the 19-year-old centre-forward, who left Crewe Alexandra as a thirteen year old after seeing his aspirations ironically blocked by a young Eddie Johnson and another lad called James Clarke.

Tom was informed that he wouldn't be guaranteed a regular place in the Crewe Alexandra Under-14's, so decided to play his football elsewhere. Now many teenage footballers would have seen that as the perfect excuse to lose focus and be distracted by the temptations that come with being a normal teenager. How many people do you know blame the discovery of females or beer as the reasons why they never made it as a professional footballer?

In fairness to young Tom he never fell out of love with the game and kept plugging away. His goals for Biddulph Victoria in the Midland Alliance kept his name in the papers and with clubs like Crewe Alexandra dependent on the lower leagues and non-league there is always that chance that you can be discovered or in Tom's case rediscovered. After impressing on trial and then again in a reserve outing against Preston, the modest Pope was offered an 18-month contract that he was delighted to sign at the start of the month.

"I never really thought that it would happen for me, so of course I was delighted to sign professionally for Crewe. I had belief in my own ability and received great encouragement from my friends, family and the coaches at Biddulph," says Tom.

"When some players are released or find it hard they drift out of the game but I was always mentally strong and having worked for a living, I chose football as the best option. I have dug in and I can't really believe that the move has happened.

"All I want to do now is work on my fitness and then maybe go out on loan for a while to see if I can do the business there. Then a year down the line we will see where I am heading."

Pope spent two weeks on trial with us before playing in a 2-0 victory over Notts County and produced enough for the club to take a gamble on the towering 19-year-old. On the coach back from Ipswich, that serial non-league raider Neil Baker convinced Dario to take a chance on him and he has already repaid some of that faith with his first goal in a reserve outing at Derby.

"Tom has come here and not looked out of place," says Neil. "There are some players in non-league that have the ability to bridge the gap and we are hoping that Tom will be another one.

"We have a record of finding players in the lower leagues and giving them a chance. Players such as

Luke Varney, who have come from the same league as Tom is a good example of someone who has shown that it can be done. We also have the likes of Steve Jones, Justin Cochrane and Anthony Tonkin here who have come out of non-league football.

He added: "Tom has a good temperament. He is decent with both feet and can take a goal. He is not bad in the air and we have something to work with. He has a chance."

Tom admits that joining Crewe is like a dream come true and he has been impressed with the facilities at the club and the coaching he will receive during his spell with the club. In time maybe we may have another potential first-team striker on our hands.

"I will give it my all and see where that gets me. Crewe has a reputation for bringing on young players from the Academy or finding them in the lower leagues and hopefully I can also make the step up.

"There are some great players here and the facilities are unbelievable so I see no reason why I can't improve my fitness and my game. I'm looking forward to it."



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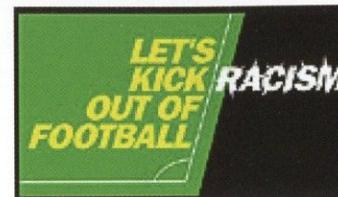


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Anti-Racism Week Of Action

Crewe Alexandra Football Club fully supports the anti-racism stance that the 'Let's Kick It Out campaign' have so superbly highlighted over the last decade. This year, the campaign has selected the 13th - 25th October as the national anti-racism week of action and our Coca-Cola Championship meeting with Luton Town is our matchday to continue to spread the very important message to football supporters across the country.

Racism has absolutely no part to play in our national sport or indeed in our everyday lives. We do not want to hear it at the Alexandra Stadium and continue to do everything in our power to make sure that our faithful supporters do not have their matchday experience ruined by idiots because that is exactly what those people are, when they target foreign, black or Asian players or other supporters.

All 92 clubs are again involved in the anti-racism campaign and through the dedicated work of the Let's Kick It Out campaigners the situation has greatly improved.

But the fight is not over yet with high-profile incidents still rather sadly being reported throughout football.

The week of action is now rightly a prominent fixture in the football calendar and all clubs within their community schemes have hosted events to educate future generations to make a stand against racism within the beautiful game. Last season more than 600 events took place during the week of action, which included an anti-racism matchday for all 92 professional clubs in England and Wales.

Of course, Crewe Alexandra supporters have an impeccable record both at home and away matches but we would encourage any supporter who is witness to any racist comments or chants to report it immediately to the nearest steward or police officer. Racist abuse does not belong in football and if you hear it please report it. Alternatively you can report any instances by calling freephone 0800 169 9414.

For more details on the fantastic work that the Kick It Out campaigners undertake please visit their official web-site at www.kickitout.org



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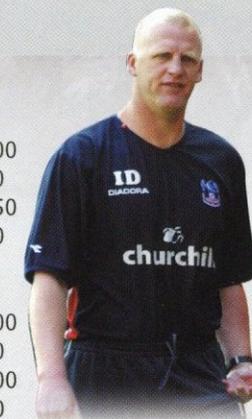
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Coca-Cola Championship
29 October 2005
The Alexandra Stadium
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NEXT UP

Stoke City



OFF TO THE BRITANNIA STADIUM?

I'm sure with the meeting with our near neighbours Stoke City being our first since April there will be a few of you will be attending the match on Tuesday evening. Remember it is pay on the gate at the Britannia Stadium and will cost you £19 if you are an adult, £12 concessions or £9 if you are under 11. The Alex will be looking to avenge a 1-0 defeat there last season and a 2-0 defeat at home later on in the season that hurt even more!

HEAD TO HEAD

Stoke City enjoyed completing a league double over us last season because over recent seasons, the Potters have not performed particularly well in derby matches, either against us or their even closer neighbours Port Vale. In fact last season's success at the Britannia Stadium was their first three points over us since March 1991 when we lost 1-0 in the old Division Three. Every Crewe supporter fondly remembers our first ever win at Stoke's new stadium during our debut season in the Championship. A goal in each half from Shaun Smith and Colin Little gave us a priceless victory in December 1997. Saying that a repeat of our 6-4 win over the Potters during an FA Cup in 1886 wouldn't go amiss either!

OUR MOST RECENT VICTORY

Stoke had the better of us last season but the previous year, we secured the bragging rights with a 1-1 draw at the Britannia Stadium followed up with a hard-fought 2-0 win here at Gresty Road. We should have had six points instead of four as well, because the on-loan Andrew Barrowman (remember him?) should have scored a dramatic winner just seconds after Chris Greenacre had turned in an equaliser. Ed de Goey made the save with his legs to deny us another derby day win. In the return though, Kenny Lunt was the hero on the night, scoring once and forcing defender Marcus Hall into an own goal. Stoke had their chances though, with Ade Akinbiyi hitting the woodwork on two occasions in a Tuesday night thriller.

RECENT FORM

Stoke City have made a strange start to the season. On one hand they look like real play-off contenders having defeated the likes of

Luton, Norwich, Hull City and Preston. Only for them to endure defeats to Cardiff, Plymouth, Leicester and Wolves. That goes to suggest that the Potters can expect a mid-table finish due to their inconsistent results. It will certainly be interesting to see how they fair against a Crewe Alexandra desperate for their first win on the road this season despite promising performances at Reading and Ipswich.

THE BOSS

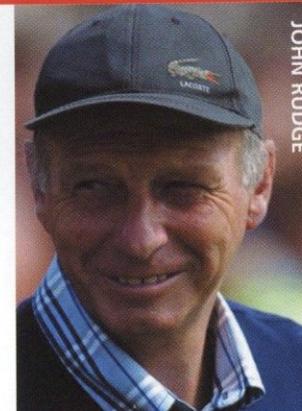
Former Tony Pulis finally left the club under a bit of a cloud in the summer. Following one hell of a hullabaloo over extending his contract, the former Gillingham boss was dismissed after falling out with board members over his foreign transfer policy. Basically, he didn't want to play them, so they sent for Johan Boskamp instead and to be fair to the former Dutch International he has altered the way they play their football. It is more attractive on the eye with players encouraged to pass the ball a lot shorter, sharper and quicker than under Pulis, who relied on the industry of the now sold Akinbiyi and Gifton-Noel Williams to grind out results.

ONE TO WATCH

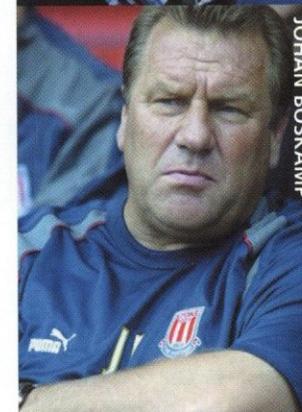
With Stoke now relying on their midfield players having to pass the ball more than all eyes will be on the transformation of Dave Brammer. By all accounts the former Crewe captain has been outstanding this season and a lot of Stoke's play goes through him in the middle of the park. At the back they remain extremely strong with Steve Simonsen regarded as one of the best keepers outside of the Premiership and Michael Duberry one of the most experienced centre-halves having spent time with Chelsea and Leeds in the top flight. On loan striker Paul Gallagher has also hit the headlines with winning goals against Hull City and Preston in recent weeks.

FOOT IN BOTH CAMPS.

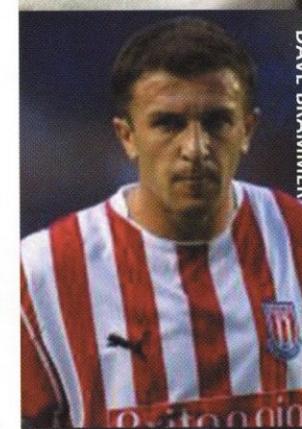
Dave Brammer is the obvious choice having spent three seasons with us and helping the club to promotion in 2003. If selected I'm sure he will receive his fair share of grief again from the travelling Alex supporters like he did last season. He took it all in good faith and remains a keen follower of our fortunes whenever Stoke are not playing.



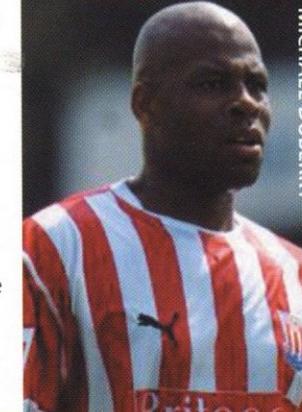
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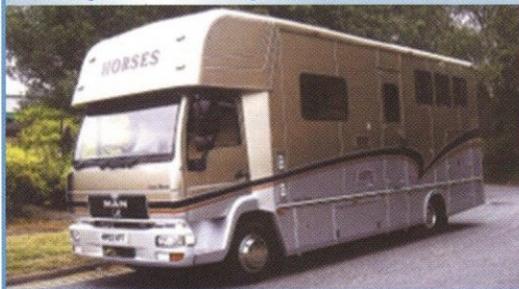
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Crewe Alexandra Supporters' initiative

Any Questions?

On Tuesday the 11th of October, Crewe ASI held a David Dimbleby type 'Question Time' evening at the Alexandra Suite and invited John Bowler, Alison Bowler, Dario Gradi and Cliff Simpson to take their places at the top table.

Some 120 curious Alexandrians turned up to hear what the great and the good of Crewe Alexandra Football Club had to say. The evening started off with a bang when David Coleman (our Presidentissimo) asked John Bowler why, with the Alex at the bottom of the table and only three wins in thirty-four games, he hadn't done what any other club chairman in professional football would have done and sacked Dario. With the harsh financial and economic realities of life at Gresty Road explained in some considerable detail, JB reiterated that Dario was the right and only man for the job.

A lively debate ensued in which tactics, players, ambitions and objectives, finances, wages, standing and the Football Licensing Authority and more players were discussed with an encouraging degree of frankness.

There was, as they say, a free and frank exchange of ideas and all washed down with a few drinks as well.

I'll be seeing you ...

... through the police cameras today. Cliff Simpson has kindly invited me to spend Saturday with his legionaries. In an attempt to allow us to see the problems associated with stadium management from Cliff's perspective, I shall be meeting the Football Licensing Authority inspector who is here today, attending the stewards' briefing before the game and spending the game in the police control room. I really have no idea what to expect and am approaching the day with a completely open mind. I am looking forward, it has to be said, to talking to the FLA inspector and clearing up things like what he thinks constitutes 'persistent standing' and what he demands from the supporters, police and stewards. I would stress here that my role in this is as a member of Crewe Alexandra Supporters' initiative and, therefore, as a representative of the Alex supporters. I want to be able not only to explain where

supporters 'stand' vis-à-vis the police and the stewards but also to explain why and to be able to do so in some detail. I shall report back in a couple of weeks' time although not necessarily on this page - I might need a good deal more room.

For hors d'oeuvres ...

Jon Colclough has organised a 'friendly' warm-up match between an 'Oatcake Message Board Select XI' and a 'Crewealex.co.uk Message Board Elite XI' (hopefully including a few members of Motley Crewe) for the 19th of November before the game against Stoke City. The game will take place on the Barony and will kick off at about half past ten. We would urge those of you who can to go along and lend your vocal support to our valiant cause. Let us send them homewards to think again.

What's the story?

For those of you who should like to know more about Crewe ASI, who we are, what we think we're doing and why, you can find the answers to most, if not all, of your questions in our recently completed 'Crewe ASI Information Pack - a Comprehensive Guide to the Crewe ASI'. It includes such stuff as names and contact details of the managing committee members, our constitution, what we think we've achieved so far and what we should like to achieve in the not too distant future. You can get a copy, in electronic format (PDF), by e-mailing us at info@creweasi.co.uk. Otherwise, the Alex club shop has a copy on display and you can always ask to see the Info Pack in the Alex Suite before home games.

Your CASi needs you!

If you would like any information about Crewe ASI or would like to join up and play a part then contact one of the group members by any of the following routes: write to Crewe ASI, PO Box 402, Crewe CW1 3ZS, e-mail info@creweasi.co.uk, visit the website www.creweasi.co.uk or text or call 07913 638591.



Crewe Alexandra Under-18's 2 Stoke City Under-18's 2

Crewe Alexandra's Under-18's were held to their fourth draw of the season as local rivals Stoke City produced a late fight back to earn a 2-2 draw at Reaseheath.

With an incredible ten players missing through injury, Academy Manager Steve Holland only had 13 fit players to choose from and nominated just two of his five substitutes due to the lack of numbers.

The Alex were without the likes of Adam Dugdale, Michael O'Connor, Shaun Miller, Michael Oates, Adam Warlow, Grant Carson and Nick Farquharson, but were able to welcome back Welsh Under-19 International Christopher Flynn to the midfield, whilst first year scholar Gareth Evans started up front alongside Nicky Maynard and Amari Morgan Smith.

After a goalless first half where defences were on top, the Alex broke the deadlock just after the break, when the lively Triston Hamilton-Hendricks bagged his second goal in as many games to make it 1-0.

It was soon 2-0 as top scorer Nicky Maynard netted his fourth goal of the

season after his initial shot had been blocked, to put the young Railwaymen firmly in control of the game.

However the visitors began a second half revival and soon reduced the deficit thanks to a strike from Tom Lovatt before the Potters grabbed an equaliser when Josh Wilson made it 2-2.

TEAM: Owain fon Williams, Cavell Coo, Nathaniel Kerr, Lewis Callaghan, Alastair Brown, Triston Hamilton-Hendricks, Christopher Flynn, Mark Carrington, Nicky Maynard, Amari Morgan Smith, Gareth Evans.

SUBS: Anthony Marshall, John Dillon

STEVE HOLLAND'S VERDICT

Academy Director Steve Holland was a little disappointed his side didn't manage to hold onto their lead in the 'mini derby' against the Potters having looked to be in control of the game at 2-0 up in the second half.



Manchester City Under 18's 3 Crewe Alexandra Under-18's 4

Although the first team had a blank weekend on Saturday due to the International fixtures, the Alex's Under-18 side made the trip to Manchester City in the FA Premier Academy League.

Steve Holland's side remained crippled by injuries, the Academy Manager was again only able to name a squad of 13 players for the trip, leaving him with just two substitutes for the clash with a

traditionally strong City side.

But despite the injury problems, Holland's young side produced a heroic display against the Premiership opposition to run out 4-3 winners and secure their second victory of the season.

The only change to the side that drew with Stoke the previous weekend saw Anthony Marshall replace Triston Hamilton-Hendricks, and the Northwich based second year scholar certainly made the most of

"We normally beat Stoke, but they've done well recently. Noel Blake (their Academy Manager) has got them very well organised and tactically aware, and they caused us some problems last season.

"But after this game Noel came up to me and said 'we have got out of jail there' and I totally agreed with him.

"It's probably the most we have dominated a game this season and we could have been two or three goals up by half-time. We didn't manage to do that but early in the second half Triston scored a really well taken goal and then Nicky scored a good goalscorers effort.

"At 2-0 we were looking comfortable and I was really looking to see if we could add to that tally.

"We didn't sit back and settle for what we'd got, but Stoke got a goal back through a defensive mistake and then equalised with five minutes to go from a corner.

"So I was very pleased with the performance, but bitterly disappointed not to have won the game because when you play that well and are that far ahead of your opponents you really do want to be winning."

his opportunity. Having not featured regularly in the starting line up this season, the 18-year-old forward reacted superbly when given his chance by Holland, to score twice against the Sky Blues.

Once again Nicky Maynard was also amongst the goals, as the Winsford based forward netted his fifth and sixth of the season, to guide the Alex to a hard fought victory to condemn the hosts to their third straight defeat.

Having lost their opening two games of the season against Arsenal and Bristol City, the Alex are now unbeaten in the past six matches and will hope to extend that run further today when they entertain West Bromwich Albion.

Team: Owain fon Williams, Alastair Brown, Lewis Callaghan, Nathaniel Kerr, Cavell Coo, Nicky Maynard, Christopher Flynn, Mark Carrington, Anthony Marshall, Amari Morgan-Smith, Gareth Evans

Subs: Lee Mannion, John Dillon

STEVE HOLLAND'S VERDICT

Steve was delighted to have emerged from the trip to Manchester with a victory, from a close game, which could have



gone either way, and felt attacking wise it was his sides best display of the season..

"You don't win there easily that is without a doubt.

"It was a game we could have lost, but having said that we scored four goals and Nicky Maynard hit the post and Gareth Evans hit the crossbar so that's six really good efforts on goal without even including one or two or other good chances we created.

"It's taken a bit of time to adapt to the 4-3-3 in an attacking sense and we haven't scored that many goals so far this season, but that was the best we have looked at that end of the field.

"But everybody contributed and it was a particularly good performance all round. You don't win at City with passengers."

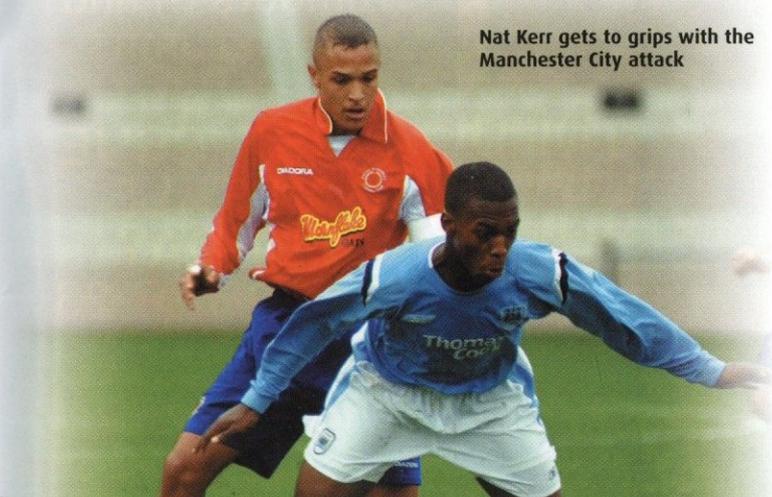
Steve reserved special praise for forward Anthony Marshall, who bagged a brace on a rare start for the Under-18's.

"He's not had many opportunities this year, and I have said to him that I haven't been particularly impressed with him in training.

"I told him he needed to do a bit better in the game in order to play in the next game. Well he did (do well) and so he will."



Young Welsh International Chris Flynn sprays a pass in the Manchester rain.



Nat Kerr gets to grips with the Manchester City attack

UNDER 18'S FIXTURES

Date	Opposition	H/A	F-A
Sat 6th Aug 05			
Tues 9th Aug 05			
Sat 13th Aug 05			
Sat 20th Aug 05	Arsenal	A	0-2
Wed 24th Aug 05			
Sat 27th Aug 05	Bristol City	H	0-3
Mon 29th Aug 05			
Sat 3rd Sept 05	Huddersfield	A	1-1
Sat 10th Sept 05	Derby C	H	1-1
Tues 13th Sept 05			
Sat 17th Sept 05	Barnsley	A	4-1
Wed 21st Sept 05			
Sat 24th Sept 05	Bolton	A	0-0
Tues 27th Sept 05			
Sat 1st Oct 05	Stoke City	H	2-2
Sat 8th Oct 05	Man City	A	4-3
Sat 15th Oct 05	West Brom	H	
Tues 18th Oct 05			
Sat 22nd Oct 05	Liverpool	A	
Wed 26th Oct 05			
Sat 29th Oct 05			
Tues 1st Nov 05			
Sat 5th Nov 05	Man Utd	H	
Sat 12th Nov 05	Wolves	A	
Sat 19th Nov 05	Blackburn	H	
Tues 22nd Nov 05			
Sat 26th Nov 05			
Wed 30th Nov 05			
Sat 3rd Dec 05	Everton	A	
Sat 10th Dec 05	Bolton	H	
Sat 17th Dec 05			
Wed 21st Dec 05			
Mon 26th Dec 05			
Wed 28th Dec 05			
Sat 31st Dec 05			
Mon 2nd Jan 06			
Sat 7th Jan 06	Man City	H	
Sat 14th Jan 06	West Brom	A	
Sat 21st Jan 06	Liverpool	H	
Sat 28th Jan 06			
Tues 31st Jan 06			
Sat 4th Feb 06	Man Utd	A	
Sat 11th Feb 06	Wolves	H	
Tues 14 Feb 06			
Sat 18th Feb 06	Blackburn	A	
Sat 25th Feb 06	Everton	H	
Sat 4th March 06	Stoke C	A	
Sat 11th March 06	Sunderland	H	
Sat 18th March 06	Sheffield U	A	
Sat 25th March 06			
Sat 1st April 06	Nottingham F	H	
Sat 8th April 06	Newcastle U	A	
Sat 15th April 06			
Mon 17th April 06			
Sat 22nd April 06	Middlesbrough	H	
Sun 30th April 06			

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Bowled Over!

I was at the opening of the Lakeside Superbowl Arena at the Phoenix Leisure Park in Crewe and I must say a big thanks to Peter Edcombe for allowing me and a few of the lads to go down for the afternoon. It is a great venue and I will bring you some photographs of the visit in the next matchday programme.

Our friends at the Lakeside Superbowl are now taking bookings for Christmas and birthday parties. So if you are interested please call 01270 251111 for more details. Or alternatively please email crewe@lakesidesuperbowl.co.uk

Match Mascots

CREWE ALEXANDRA MASCOTS

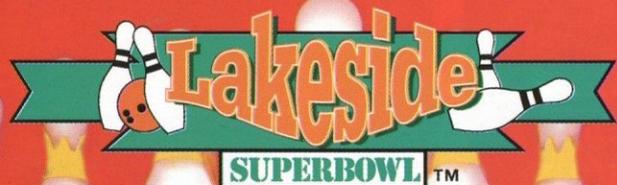
Name: Sam Walton
Age: 10
School: Highfields CPS, Nantwich
Hobbies: Football, keyboard, cricket and swimming
Favourite player: David Vaughan
Predicted Score: 2-1 to the Alex



Name: Mary Turley
Age: 8 (will be 9 on Monday)
School: Shavington Primary School
Hobbies: Supporting the Alex, playing football for Crewe and Nantwich girls
Favourite Players: David Vaughan and Jonah

Show Us Your Colours

If you have any great photo's of you supporting the new Crewe Alexandra home or away strip then please send them into us either by post: Crewe Alexandra Football Club, Gresty Road, Crewe, CW2 6EB or via email to Gresty@crewealex.net and we will publish the best ones in the programme. So, if you have any shots of you on a beach somewhere or wearing your Alex strip with pride in various famous locations then we would love to hear from you. Also if you would like to have any messages or birthday wishes printed then be sure to whizz them to us.



OPENING 15TH OCTOBER 2005

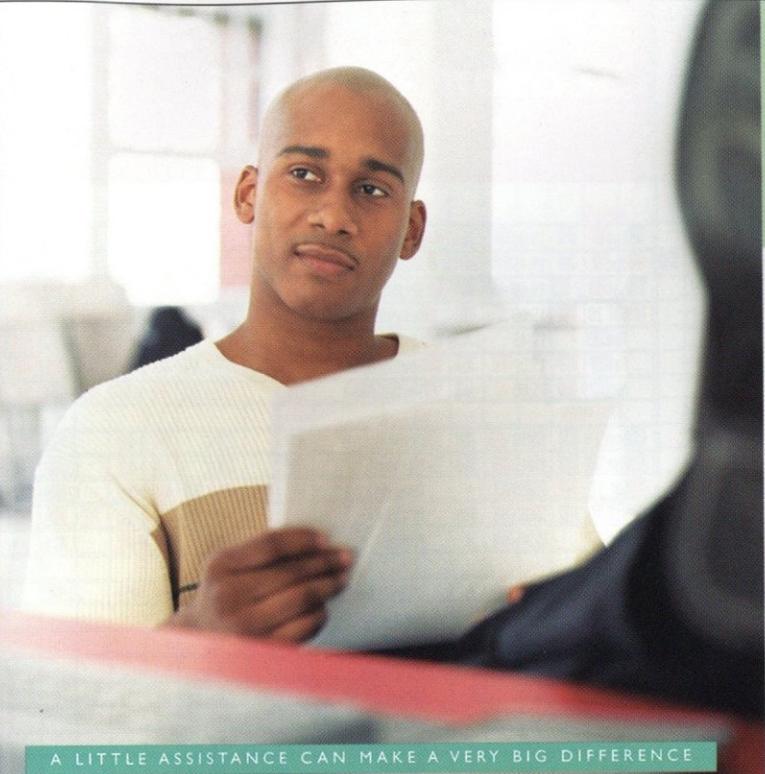
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Half Time	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Full Time	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

CREWE SCORERS

LUTON SCORERS

ATTENDANCE

MAN OF THE MATCH

CREWE

pid	sq no.	player	goals
1		Ben WILLIAMS	
2		Darren MOSS	
3		Anthony TONKIN	
4		Billy JONES	
5		Adie MOSES	
6		Steve FOSTER	
7		Kenny LUNT	
8		Justin COCHRANE	
9		Steve JONES	
10		Juan UGARTE	
11		David VAUGHAN	
12		Lee BELL	
13		Stuart TOMLINSON	
14		Ben RIX	
15		Luke VARNEY	
16		Richard WALKER	
17		Mark RIVERS	
18		Chris McCREADY	
19		Michael HIGDON	
20		Eddie JOHNSON	
21		Gary ROBERTS	
22		Paul BIGNOT	
23		Rob LLOYD	
24		Mathew BAILEY	
25		Mark ROBERTS	
26		Alex MORRIS	
27		Kyle WILSON	
28		Michael O'CONNOR	
30		Nicky MAYNARD	
31		Pavol SUHAJ	
32		Luke RODGERS	
33		Ross TURNBULL	
34		Richard SUTTON	
35		Tom POPE	

LUTON

pid	sq no.	player	goals
1		Marlon Beresford	
2		Kevin Foley	
3		Sol Davis	
4		Chris Coyne	
5		Russell Perrett	
6		Paul Underwood	
7		Carlos Edwards	
8		Kevin Nicholls	
9		Rowan Vine	
10		Warren Feeney	
11		Steve Robinson	
15		Steven O'Leary	
16		Enoch Showunmi	
17		Paul Hughes	
18		Ahmet Brkovic	
19		Steve Howard	
21		Keith Keane	
22		Danny Stevens	
23		Dean Morgan	
25		Dino Seremet	
26		Markus Heikkinen	
27		Peter Holmes	
29		Calvin Andrew	
33		Dean Brill	
45		Leon Barnett	
47		Rob Beckwith	

**FOR ALL THE LATEST NEWS,
REVIEWS, INTERVIEWS AND TICKET INFORMATION
VISIT www.crewealex.net**



NEXT AWAY GAME

STOKE CITY v CREWE

Coca Cola Championship

Tuesday 18th October 2005 Kick Off 7.45pm

