

# SAINTS

SOUTHAMPTON FOOTBALL CLUB

Official Matchday Programme 2005 / 2006 Season



Southampton  
v Luton Town

Sunday 11th December 2005

Kick-off 1.30pm

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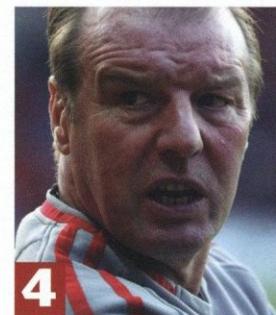
# SAINTS

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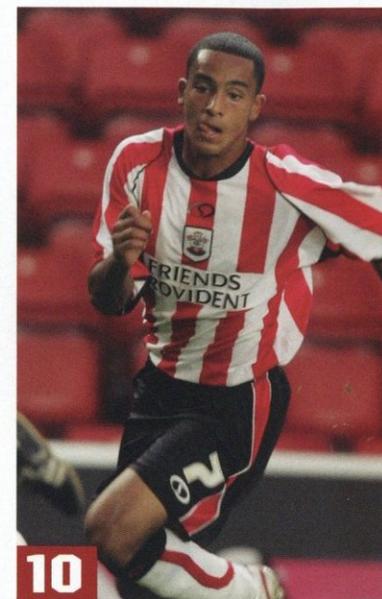


SUNDAY 11th DECEMBER 2005



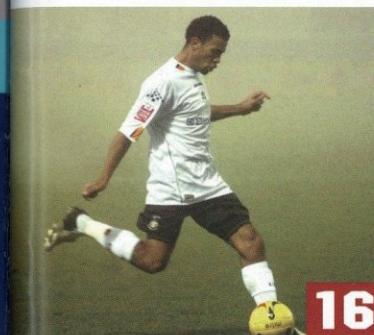
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**Welcome Message**  
from Dave Bassett.



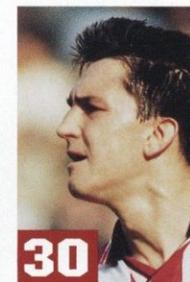
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# A WARM WELCOME TO LUTON TOWN



DAVE BASSETT

**After all the ups and downs of the past few days it's important we stick together now and get a result in today's match against Luton. As you know, I'm in charge for this one and then the chairman will say what he wants next week and we'll take it from there.**

Just to let you know what happened before the Burnley game, I didn't really know whether Harry Redknapp would be coming in or not until the chairman rang me on Friday and asked me to take over. Just the sort of thing you need when you're in the process of moving house!

I didn't really think Harry would go back to Portsmouth after what happened there before, but I started to feel something was afoot as the week wore on. But if he tells you he tells you, and that wasn't the case. He kept his own counsel, though there was just a hint on Thursday that he wouldn't be around.

This week I got the staff together and told them what I wanted. As for the Burnley match, I thought we were in a position to win the game but suffered from the same old malaise - the finishing was not of the required standard.

And we should have stopped Burnley's equaliser, too. We've been through the video and sorted it out, but I'm not going to criticise a defence which has conceded only 19 goals all season. Sheffield United have let in two more than that, but they've scored 19 more, so we can all see the problem. There's no killer instinct.

I want this job on a permanent basis. I like the club, I like the South and I still think we can get back into contention. My honest opinion is that the top two would have to slip up very badly now to miss out on promotion and I don't think they will, but if we keep our heads down we can still make the play-offs.

When I took over at Crystal Palace we were 17th but finished third and lost to Leicester in the play-off final - and Iain Dowie did even better. But you've got to be looking at 70-plus goals a

season, which is why we've been working on attacking play this week. The young players have potential, but sometimes they need just a bit more time, you know?

Luton are a decent side who are on a roll. They can play with freedom because they've already achieved good things so we must match them for effort and running. It's a hard game but we can win it.

You've been excellent in every game since I arrived here. Now let's get a victory on the board at The Friends Provident St. Mary's Stadium and see where we all stand next week. ■■

**THE YOUNG PLAYERS HAVE POTENTIAL, BUT SOMETIMES THEY NEED JUST A BIT MORE TIME.**

# LOWE DOWN

Welcome to the players, officials and supporters of Luton for this afternoon's game when we will be looking to avenge a narrow defeat in our first away game of the campaign.

We go into this game with Dave Bassett and Dennis Wise in temporary charge once more following the sudden departure of Harry Redknapp back to Portsmouth. That took us all by surprise and it was not something that was part of the plans.

At the start of the season we had a long discussion with Harry to discuss the way forward. The meeting was all minuted so there were no surprises and he signed up to the plans to take us back up having taken us down last season.

There was a clear understanding that if he took us back up then there would be a long-term job for him; if he did not then the situation would be reviewed.

The situation with Clive Woodward was debated and Harry had no problems with it; if he had done then Clive would not have come in.

We discussed funds – but actually brought in more players than we agreed in this meeting which was all documented. It was his team and he had full control.

Harry brought in Tomasz Hajto because he preferred him to Darren Purse and he felt Clinton Morrison was over-priced and he was not entirely sure about him.

We gave him our full support and I feel let down by what has happened now. But we cannot dwell on that. The priority is to sort ourselves out and not worry about what is happening down the road.

We have held a board meeting and we will now hold a thorough search for the right replacement and we will consider all options before making a decision in our own time. We will not be rushed into it because we have to make sure we get it right. But I would like to thank Dave Bassett and Dennis Wise for stepping into the breach at very short notice.

They have made it clear they want the job and will be among the main contenders for what is an attractive post.

We have always sought a long-term appointment but for a variety of reasons this has so far eluded us, although that is not uncommon in football.

But whoever we appoint will have to put Southampton Football Club at the top of their agenda. There are no favourites right now; we are considering all options.

I accept the fans are frustrated because they want the same as all of us. And if they feel frustrated it is better they take it out on me rather than the team. But it is not helpful to have the club ripping itself apart when we are trying to win matches.

I have huge regard for our supporters who have been superb and I hope they will all get right behind the players today for what is a vital match.

Finally I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for your support, enjoy the game. ■■

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**CEDAR**

● RUPERT LOWE

# QUASHIES CORNER

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○ NIGEL QUASHIE

**Obviously everyone is talking about the same thing at the moment but, as players, we simply have to get on with the job in hand and make sure we get a win against Luton today.**

The simple truth is that Harry Redknapp has left the football club and, no matter what anyone else may say, what's gone on is between him and the chairman. I didn't speak to Harry about it before he left and I haven't spoken to him since. I'm disappointed with the way things have turned out but I've been with a few clubs in my time and I've learned not to be too surprised by anything that happens.

The vital thing now is for everyone at the club to give Dave Bassett and Dennis Wise their total support. Stability is more important now than ever before if we're to get back on track for a promotion place, which is still within reach.

If you ask about my own position, all I would say to you is that I could have gone back into the Premiership during the summer because there were offers, but I wanted to go back up with Southampton. There will always be speculation in the press and I can't do anything about that but I enjoy my football here and I still feel exactly the same way about the club. Having said that, I'd like to think there'll be a few players coming in when the transfer window opens. It's very important if we're to make progress.



I'm suspended at the moment and haven't been able to train because of these spasms in my back. But Richard the chiropractor has been brilliant and the physios have been taking their time with me, so I should be back training with the lads next week, ready to return against Watford on Boxing Day.

As I say, we've got to be professional and get on with things. I thought the lads started off well against Burnley last week and their attitude was first-class, considering everything that was going on in the background. In the end we had to settle for a point, as so often this season, but there's still time to get back into the play-off places.

Luton have done well following their promotion and beat us in the last minute at their place, so we've a score to settle. They also beat Palace last week, so no one thinks today will be easy. But we've started a new chapter now and it's vital that you get behind us right from the start. This club can still get back where it belongs.

**Enjoy the match. ■■**

# NEXT AT HOME



BY KEVIN PALMER

Take yourself back to the start of October and all the flowers seemed to be blooming in the Sheffield United garden.

Riding high at the top of the Championship, Neil Warnock's side were the runaway leaders of the league and seemed destined to reclaim a place in the Premiership, but this game has a habit of biting back in dramatically rapid fashion.

A hat-trick of disappointing results were compounded by Portsmouth's determination to appoint Warnock as their new manager and in a matter of days, the Blades' season was plunged into turmoil. "It has been a tough few weeks, but we have to get back on track and focus on what could still be a great season for us," states Sheffield United and Ireland keeper, Paddy Kenny.

"The start we had was incredible and everyone expected there would be a dip at some point, so let's keep things in perspective. The situation with the manager made it more difficult, but when you look at the table, we have plenty of reasons to be optimistic. The quality in this squad is obvious for everyone to see and promotion is still our target."

Kenny has proved to be a resolute final line of defence for a Sheffield United side who have established their Bramall Lane home as a fortress in the first few months of the season. They have also proved to be a formidable force on the road and Kenny believes they should retain the faith in their abilities.

"After the first couple of months, none of us expected to be in the position where we had so much confusion around the club," he adds. "Still, we have a great base to work from and when I look at our squad and compare it to others in the league, there is no reason why we should have any negative thoughts. Move this forward a few months and we could be talking about Premiership football, which is what we all want."

Paddy Kenny and high flying Sheffield United are on the guest list at The Friends Provident St Mary's Stadium on December 28th - don't miss it. ■■■

## SAINTS HAVE RELEASED DETAILS OF THEIR HALF SEASON TICKET OFFER.

Fans can guarantee their seats for the all-important Coca-Cola Championship run-in and save up to £25 on normal matchday prices. The half season tickets will also enable holders to claim the Early Bird discount for next season - and reserve their places for the 2006-07 campaign. That could be a real bonus if Saints do go back to the Premiership. Recent results seem to make a play-off place the most likely route back to the top flight. And if Saints do go into the sudden-death lottery, then tickets will be at a premium especially if they reach the final.

And season ticket holders will have priority for any big extra games whether it be play-offs or FA Cup ties. The tickets have gone on sale in the run-up to the festive season, making them ideal Christmas presents. They cost £274 in the centre stands or in the wings and behind the goals they are £252 for adults, £186 for teens and seniors and £124 for juniors. The family enclosure costs £234 for adults, £174 for teens and seniors and £114 for juniors. It is £329 for a pair. The half season ticket takes effect from the December 28 to start with the big clash against leaders Sheffield United. However it will NOT include the re-arranged fixture with Crystal Palace which comes under the first half of the season even though it has been rearranged for January 25.

## UPCOMING GAMES

### NORWICH V SAINTS

Saturday December 17,  
kick-off 3pm (Saints in red)

Saints have received 1,333 tickets priced £25 for adults, £18 for teens and those aged 60 and over and £11 for those aged 12 and under. There are also 11 Wheelchair/Enabler pairs and 13 Ambulant/Enabler pairs. Tickets for Wheelchair users, and Ambulant Disabled are the same as above, the enabler is free of charge. One ticket is issued for a pair. Tickets are now on sale to season ticket holders and members and on general sale tomorrow. Travel is also available at £19 per person, and the coaches leave at 8.30am. Contact **087 0220 0150** to book or for more details.

### WATFORD V SAINTS

Monday December 26,  
kick-off 12.00pm (Saints in red)

Saints have received 2000 tickets priced £22 for adults and £12 for those aged over 65 or under 19. There are also five pairs of wheelchair/enabler tickets at £10 for the pair. Tickets are now on sale to season ticket holders and members and on general sale tomorrow. Tickets will be available on the day from Watford. Prices will increase by £3.00 per ticket. Travel is also available at £11 per person, and the coaches leave at 9am. Contact **087 0220 0150** to book or for more details.

### SAINTS V SHEFFIELD U

Wednesday December 28,  
kick-off 7.45pm

Tickets for this gold game are now on sale to members and available to season ticket holders tomorrow and on general sale on December 19. Book online at [www.saintsfc.co.uk](http://www.saintsfc.co.uk)

### CARDIFF V SAINTS

Saturday December 31,  
kick-off 1.00pm (Saints in red)

Saints have received 1856 tickets which includes 3 wheelchair/enabler pairs. Tickets are now on sale to season ticket holders and available to members from tomorrow and on general sale from December 19. Season ticket holders and members can buy two tickets each.

**Ticket prices are as follows:**

**Seats** Adult - £20  
Under 19 and over 60 - £14

**Terrace** Adult - £18  
Under 19 and over 60 - £13

**Wheelchair users** Adult - £16  
Under 19 and over 60 - £8

**Enabler** - FOC

### SAINTS V BRIGHTON

Monday January 2,  
kick-off 3.00pm

Tickets for this gold game are now on sale to members and available to season ticket holders tomorrow and on restricted general sale to fans already on the data base on December 19. Book online at [www.saintsfc.co.uk](http://www.saintsfc.co.uk)

### SAINTS V MK DONS

Saturday January 7,  
kick-off 3.00pm FA Cup Third Round

Tickets go on sale to season ticket holders from tomorrow (own seat only), to members and season ticket holders from Monday 19th December. General sale from Tuesday 27th December. Sadly, it will not be possible for season ticket holders to claim their own seat via the internet. It is hoped that this is a temporary issue.

**Ticket prices are:** Adults £15  
Teens/Seniors £10 Juniors £1  
Adult season ticket holders booking their own seat in the first week will be charged the reduced rate of £13.

## CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

**Ticket Office**

(The Friends Provident St Mary's Stadium)

Friday 23rd December - open until midday

Saturday 24th December - closed

Christmas Day - closed

Boxing Day - closed

Tuesday 27th - open as normal

(match the following day)

**Ticket Office** (internet sales)

Open every day - 24/7

Book online at [www.saintsfc.co.uk](http://www.saintsfc.co.uk)

**Ticket Office** (telephone sales)

To be confirmed - but likely to be:

Friday 23rd December - open 8.30am - 7pm

Saturday 24th - open until midday

Christmas Day - closed

Boxing Day - closed

Tuesday 27th - as normal

## SALES SCHEDULE

FIXTURE	DATE	MEMBER	STH	GENERAL SALE	PRICE BAND
WOLVES	6/8/05	18-Jul	25-Jul	01-Aug	Gold
NORWICH CITY	20/8/05	25-Jul	01-Aug	08-Aug	Gold
CREWE	27/8/05	01-Aug	08-Aug	15-Aug	Silver
QPR	10/9/05	15-Aug	22-Aug	30-Aug	Gold
PLYMOUTH	24/9/05	30-Aug	05-Sep	12-Sep	Silver
READING	28/9/05	05-Sep	12-Sep	19-Sep	Gold
HULL CITY	15/10/05	19-Sep	26-Sep	03-Oct	Silver
STOKE CITY	29/10/05	03-Oct	10-Oct	17-Oct	Silver
CRYSTAL PALACE	2/11/05	03-Oct	10-Oct	17-Oct	Gold
LEEDS UNITED	19/11/05	24-Oct	31-Oct	07-Nov	Gold
BURNLEY	3/12/05	07-Nov	14-Nov	21-Nov	Silver
LUTON	10/12/05	07-Nov	14-Nov	21-Nov	Silver
SHEFFIELD UTD	28/12/05	05-Dec	12-Dec	19-Dec	Gold
BRIGHTON	2/1/06	05-Dec	12-Dec	19-Dec	Gold
IPSWICH	21/1/06	19-Dec	02-Jan	09-Jan	Gold
DERBY COUNTY	4/2/06	09-Jan	16-Jan	23-Jan	Gold
PRESTON	15/2/06	16-Jan	23-Jan	30-Jan	Gold
SHEFFIELD WED	25/2/06	30-Jun	06-Feb	13-Feb	Silver
COVENTRY	4/3/06	06-Feb	13-Feb	20-Feb	Gold
WATFORD	18/3/06	20-Feb	27-Feb	06-Mar	Silver
CARDIFF CITY	1/4/06	06-Mar	13-Mar	20-Mar	Silver
MILLWALL	17/4/06	20-Mar	27-Mar	03-Apr	Gold
LEICESTER CITY	30/4/06	03-Apr	10-Apr	17-Apr	Gold

## MATCHDAY PRICES 2005/06

	Kingsland & Itchen Stands		Northam / Chapel Stands	Family Enclosure Team Saints (Members Only)
	Centre	Wings		
<b>GOLD GAMES</b>				
Adult	£28.00	£26.00	£26.00	£24.00
Child	£28.00	£13.00	£13.00	£12.00
Teen	£28.00	£19.00	£19.00	£18.00
Senior Citizen A&C	£28.00	£19.00	£19.00	£18.00
	-	-	-	£31.00
<b>SILVER GAMES</b>				
Adult	£25.00	£22.00	£22.00	£21.00
Child	£25.00	£10.00	£10.00	£9.00
Teen	£25.00	£17.00	£17.00	£15.00
Senior Citizen A&C	£25.00	£17.00	£17.00	£15.00
	-	-	-	£27.00

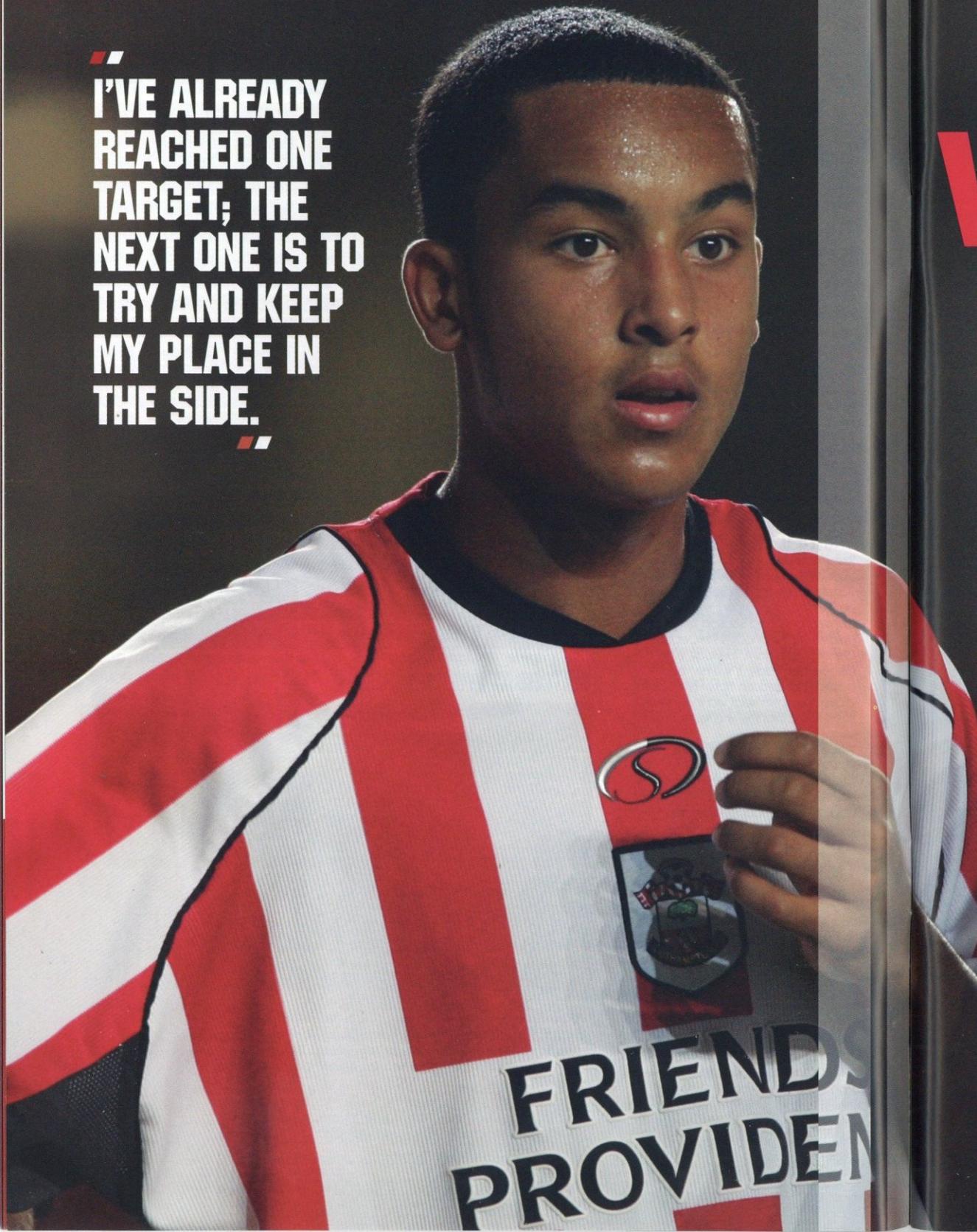
Gold matches will be played against the following:

Brighton, Coventry, Crystal Palace, Derby, Ipswich, Leicester, Leeds, Millwall, Norwich, Preston North End, Queens Park Rangers, Reading, Sheffield United and Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Silver matches will be played against the following:

Burnley, Cardiff, Crewe, Hull, Luton, Plymouth, Sheffield Wednesday, Stoke and Watford.

**I'VE ALREADY REACHED ONE TARGET; THE NEXT ONE IS TO TRY AND KEEP MY PLACE IN THE SIDE.**



# THEO WALCOTT

BOB BRUNSKELL



**Theo Walcott will be a young man in a hurry the minute the referee blows time on today's game with Luton Town.**

Southampton's bright new star will beat a fast track to the BBC Television Centre in West London for their annual Sports Personality of the Year showpiece.

Just three months after making his Saints debut, 16-year-old Walcott, remarkably, has made it into the top three nominations for the Young Sports Personality of the Year.

It's a measure of the rapid strides Walcott has already taken to launch what promises to be an explosive career in the game.

He became the youngest player ever to play for Saints when he stepped out as a substitute aged 16 years 143 days in the opening game against Wolves and after a run of scoring three games on the bounce (against Leeds, Millwall and Stoke) is now a regular in the starting line up.

"I set myself the target of 15 games and three goals for

this season," says the kid from Newbury. "I've already reached one target; the next one is to try and keep my place in the side."

Walcott is still trying to come to terms with the impact he's already made. "I've sat and watched the BBC's Sports Personality show so many times with my mum and dad, never dreaming that one day I would be on it!

"And certainly not so soon," he says with a boyish, disbelieving grin.

Blessed with blinding pace, good control and an eye for goal, Walcott laid the foundation of this remarkable season playing a leading role in the club academy side's hugely impressive bid for a league and cup double in 2004/2005.

They won their southern under-19 group but missed out in the play-offs, then even more disappointing came the heartbreak of an extra-time defeat to Ipswich Town in the final of the FA Youth Cup. ▶

THEO WALCOTT

Saints had most of the play and created most of the chances until out of the blue came a late bolt from the Tractor Boys to cost them the chance of a first ever win in the competition.

"We had a terrific side and were the better team on the night," recalls Walcott, "but we didn't take our chances and paid for it. Nevertheless, I learned an awful lot from last season – things that helped set me up for this campaign."

Walcott is a natural athlete. Back home in Newbury, he was the school champion for 100 and 200 metres and ran at district and Berkshire county level in the 100m where he clocked an impressive personal best of 11.5 seconds.

He joined the Saints Academy when he was 11 and by the time he was 14, played in the under-17 side.

He comes from a sporting family. His dad played for the RAF, his mum plays tennis, his sister plays netball and hockey, but Walcott grew up supporting Liverpool.

All that changed when he joined the Southampton FC Academy. There has already been much speculation linking Chelsea with the Saints super kid, but Walcott, who will sign pro forms for Saints on his 17th birthday in March, says:



"Although I'm flattered by all the speculation, I want to play in the Premiership for Saints.

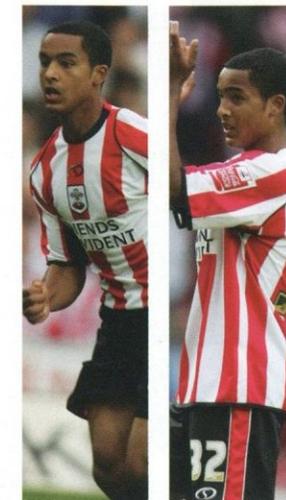
"The set-up here is really very good and they have looked after me so well since I first joined the academy."

The youngster is thrilled by the hero worship that is already pouring down from the terraces. "People now recognise me in town and come up to say hello. It's fantastic to get that kind of treatment at my age. Quite unbelievable, really."

In his first games for Saints he was as a wide player, but Walcott prefers a central striking role. "I can find more space playing up front," he says, adding: "I'm learning with every game I play.

"The more I play, the more confident I get. There's often more chance for me to score in away games when we try to catch teams on the break and I'm working particularly hard on finishing in training."

Walcott rates his performance against Stoke as his best so far. "It meant a lot to score for the first time at The Friends Provident St. Mary's Stadium and it would



have been two if the ref had given us an early advantage."

He's already come in for some heavy treatment from raw-boned centre-halves but shrugs it off. "It's all part and parcel of learning the ropes. Right now I'm just enjoying playing every game."

Walcott has his own little competition going with Nathan Dyer who played alongside him in last year's youth team. Dyer's out on loan with Burnley and has scored two goals.

"We're in touch a lot and it will be interesting to see who finishes with the most goals," he smiles.

One thing Saints can rest assured of. There'll be many more from Walcott. He's only just begun!

And it's reassuring to hear the Berkshire boy admit: "I really feel I belong in Southampton, now." ■■

# SAINTS CONNECTIONS

LEIGH EDWARDS

**LEAGUE RECORD AGAINST LUTON TOWN**

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Home	27	13	6	8	50	44
Away	28	8	9	11	46	59
Total	55	21	15	19	96	103

Goals by Kevin Nicholls, Ahmet Brikovic and Dean Morgan gave Luton Town a 3-2 Championship victory at home to Southampton on 9th August 2005. Alan Shearer and Iain Dowie scored to give Saints a 2-1 win on Luton's last League visit on 21st March 1992. The Hatters' last League victory at Southampton was 2-1 on 1st September 1990 with two goals from Lars Elstrup.

**CUP FINALIST**

Former Luton Town midfielder Paul Telfer played for Southampton in the 2003 FA Cup final. Signing professional at Kenilworth Road in November 1988, he starred as Luton reached the FA Cup semi-finals in 1993-94 and was ever-present in 1994-95, moving to Coventry City for £1,500,000 in July 1995. The Scotland international followed Gordon Strachan to Southampton in November 2001 and his solitary goal in 128 Premiership games came in Saints' 3-1 victory at home to Newcastle United six months later, reuniting with Strachan at Celtic in July 2005.

**WELSH INTERNATIONAL**

Ex-Luton Town defender Alan Neilson gained the last of his five Welsh caps whilst at Southampton. Moving to The Dell from Newcastle United for £500,000 in June 1995, he made 55 Premiership appearances for Saints before being sold to Fulham for £250,000 in November 1997. He joined Luton from Grimsby Town in February 2002 and helped them win promotion in 2001-02 and 2004-05, scoring once in 57 League outings for today's opponents. The likes of Richard Dryden and Paul Hughes have also played for both clubs in recent times.

**PROMOTION PLAY-OFFS**

Former Southampton central defender Steve Davis featured prominently as Luton Town qualified for the Second Division play-offs in 1996-97. Signing professional at The Dell in July 1987, he made his League debut in Saints' 4-1 victory at home to Norwich City in February 1990 and played six First Division games before being sold to Burnley for £60,000 in August 1991. He joined Luton for £750,000 in July 1995 and scored 21 times in 138 League outings for today's opponents prior to rejoining Burnley for £800,000 in December 1998.

**ENGLAND INTERNATIONAL**

Former Luton Town midfielder Steve Williams was capped six times by England while at Southampton. Signing professional at The Dell in July 1976, he starred as Saints won promotion in 1977-78 and were League Cup finalists in 1979. He also skipped Southampton to League Championship runners-up in 1983-84 and netted 18 goals in 279 League games before being sold to Arsenal for £525,000 in December 1984. Moving to Luton for £300,000 in July 1988, he scored once in 40 First Division outings prior to reuniting with Alan Ball at Exeter City in August 1991.

**LEADING MARKSMAN**

Ex-Luton Town centre-forward Ron Davies was Southampton's leading marksman in three successive seasons. Moving to Kenilworth Road from Chester for £10,000 in October 1962, he was Luton's top scorer in 1962-63 and netted 21 goals in 32 League games for today's opponents before being sold to Norwich City for £35,000 in September 1963. He joined Saints for £55,000 in August 1966 and was capped 23 times by Wales while at The Dell, scoring 134 goals in 240 First Division outings before moving to Portsmouth for £45,000 in April 1973.

**PROMOTION WINNER**

Former Luton Town central defender Chris Nicholl was a key figure in Southampton's 1977-78 promotion success. Moving to Kenilworth Road from Halifax Town for £30,000 in August 1969, he starred in Luton's 1969-70 promotion campaign and netted six goals in 97 League games before being sold to Aston Villa for £90,000 in March 1972. The Northern Ireland international joined Saints for £80,000 in June 1977 and was a League Cup finalist in 1979, scoring eight times in 228 League outings prior to joining Grimsby Town in August 1983. He managed Saints between August 1985 and June 1991.

**IRISH INTERNATIONAL**

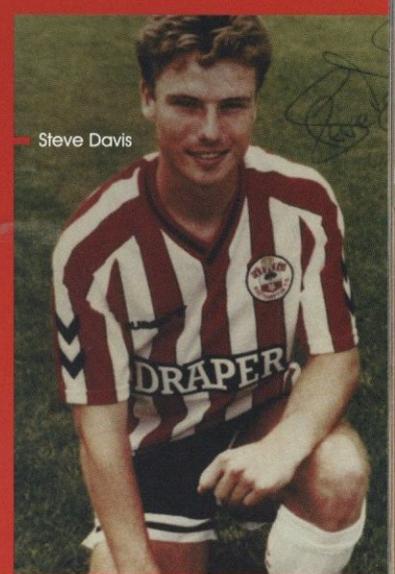
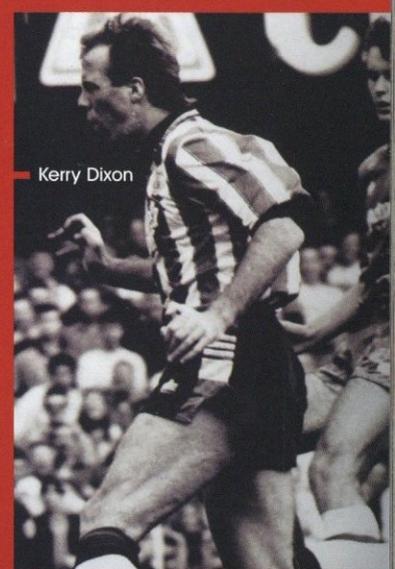
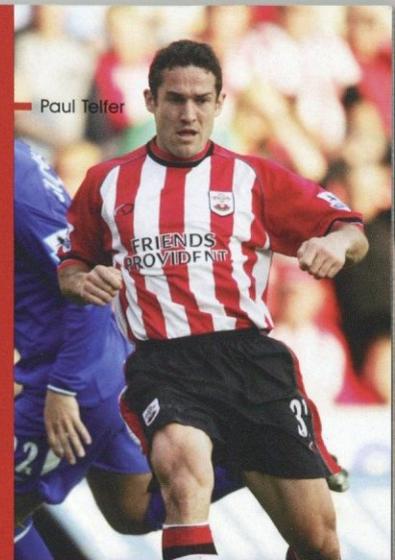
Northern Ireland international striker Iain Dowie was capped whilst at both Luton Town and Southampton. Moving to Kenilworth Road from Hendon for £30,000 in December 1988, he netted 15 goals in 66 First Division games for Luton before being sold to West Ham for £480,000 in March 1991. He joined Southampton for £500,000 in August 1991 and featured prominently as Saints were Zenith Data Systems Cup finalists in 1992, scoring 30 times in 122 League outings while at The Dell prior to joining Crystal Palace for £400,000 in January 1995.

**CUP HERO**

Former Southampton striker Kerry Dixon was an experienced figure as Luton Town reached the FA Cup semi-finals in 1993-94. Moving to The Dell from Chelsea for £575,000 in July 1992, the England international scored twice in nine Premier League games for Saints prior to joining Luton in February 1993. He was leading marksman in 1993-94 and netted 19 goals in 75 First Division outings for today's visitors before moving to Millwall in March 1995. Ex-Luton winger Bill Henderson featured prominently as Saints were FA Cup semi-finalists in 1924-25 and 1926-27.

**IN SAFE KEEPING**

One-time Southampton goalkeeper Sandy Davie starred in Luton Town's 1969-70 promotion success. Moving to Kenilworth Road from Dundee United in September 1968, he also featured in Luton's 1968-69 promotion near-miss and played 58 League games prior to joining Southampton in May 1970. His solitary First Division appearance was in Saints' 5-1 defeat at Manchester United nine months later and he rejoined Dundee United in May 1972. The likes of Billy Boyd, Walter Fairgrieve, Tommy Hare, Les Harfield, Alex McDonald, Forbes Phillipson-Masters and Doug Rowe also played for both clubs.



LUTON TOWN

# FOCUS ON LUTON TOWN FC



KEVIN PALMER

When Luton Town picked up a stunning victory against Crystal Palace on the opening day of the Coca-Cola Championship campaign, most observers put it down as an early season fluke.

The League One champions of 2005 were viewed as a novelty who would soon assume their rightful position well outside the upper echelons of this league, yet Mike Newell's men have proved that they are much more than a flash in the Championship pan. Still major contenders in the promotion race as we approach the half way point in the campaign, no one is treating them as no-hopers now.

Combining a tireless work ethic with an underrated level of skill and astute tactical acumen from the dug-out, the Hatters have proved to be a match for the best in this league and wins against the Saints, Leicester, Hull, Preston and Norwich are proof that they have earned the right to be respected as live contenders for a place in the Premiership next season.

"We have dominated sides who have been in this league for a long time and others who were mixing it in the Premiership last season, so there is no-one for us to fear out there," says Newell. "We need to keep all our top players fully fit to have a chance, but as long as we do that, we are a match for anyone in the Championship."

The true test of a team's credentials comes when they lose a few games and Luton have proved they have what it takes to bounce back from a run that could have floored Newell's side. Four straight defeats at the start of November saw many a cynic suggest their bubble had burst, but they have since bounced back with some impressive performances and their home win against Crystal Palace a couple of weeks back brought this reaction from Newell.

"It was a bad run, but no one at this club was unduly worried," he continues. "We have already shown what we are capable of at this level and the only complaint I have had in a few games is our inability to finish sides off. The chances are being created and there needs to be a more ruthless streak in us at times."

Luton seem to thrive on the challenge of playing the major names in this league, so a trip to The Friends Provident St. Mary's Stadium shouldn't hold any fears for them.

"People have been telling us for a long time that we would be found out in this league, but the lads have kept their form up over an extended period and who knows where it can take us," states Newell. "We have done well against

the Southamptons and Palaces in this league, so we go into every game feeling confident."

All is looking rosy on the field, yet the same cannot be said of Luton's never ending off-field concern. Kenilworth Road may be their spiritual home, though the creaking old stadium has long outlived its suitability for the modern game and the club's desperation to find a new base has become even more pressing as they threaten to make a return to the top league in the land.

"We could be getting crowds in excess of 15,000 every week, but to do that, someone needs to get a move on with regards to the new stadium," adds Newell, who was frustrated as plans to build a ground at junction 10 of the M1 came to nothing last month. "No one has spoken to me about the long-term plans and that's very frustrating."

The club's hierarchy have dismissed the suggestion that Luton will end up sharing the Milton Keynes Dons new stadium, yet the wise money must still be on such a conclusion.

Whatever, by the time they finally end their stay at Kenilworth Road, Luton Town will be hoping they can call themselves a top flight club once again. ■■

THE HATTERS  
HAVE PROVED  
TO BE A MATCH  
FOR THE BEST  
IN THIS LEAGUE.



Chris Coyne

LUTON TOWN

# LITTLE FEENEY'S GIANT CONTRIBUTION

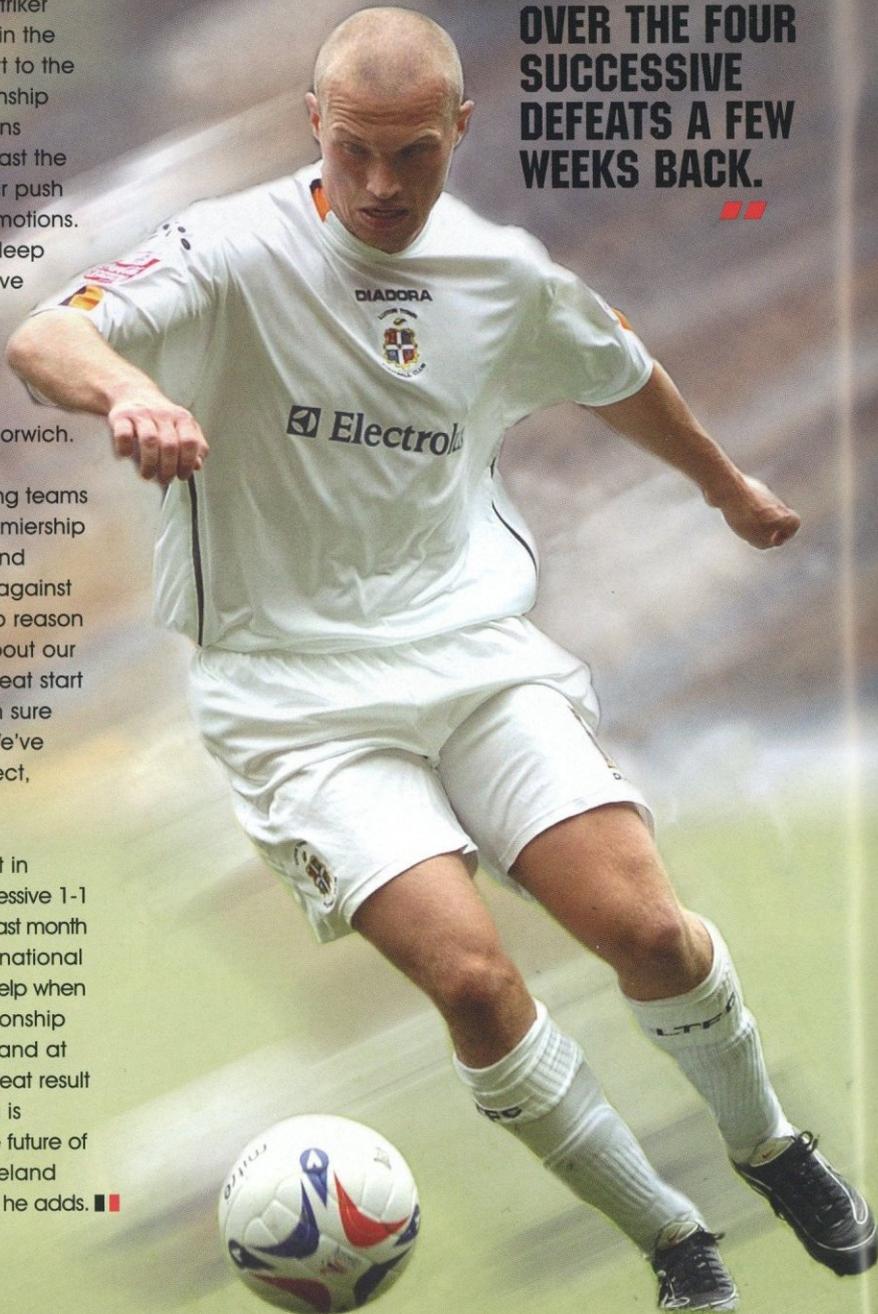
Warren Feeney believes Luton's recent dip in form is behind them as they aim to complete a league double over Southampton this afternoon.

The Northern Ireland striker has been a key man in the Hatters impressive start to the Coca-Cola Championship campaign and remains convinced they can last the pace and sustain their push for back-to-back promotions.

"None of us lost any sleep over the four successive defeats a few weeks back," he says of the reverses against Coventry, Sheffield United, Burnley and Norwich.

"We have been playing teams who were playing Premiership football last season and competing very well against them, so there was no reason to worry too much about our form. We've had a great start to the season and I'm sure we can carry it on. We've won everyone's respect, that's for sure."

Feeney was on target in Northern Ireland's impressive 1-1 draw against Portugal last month and believes his international experience can only help when he returns to Championship action. "Beating England at Windsor Park was a great result for us and everything is looking positive for the future of football in Northern Ireland again, which is great," he adds. ■■



**NONE OF US LOST ANY SLEEP OVER THE FOUR SUCCESSIVE DEFEATS A FEW WEEKS BACK.**



Mike Newell - Manager

# THE TEAM



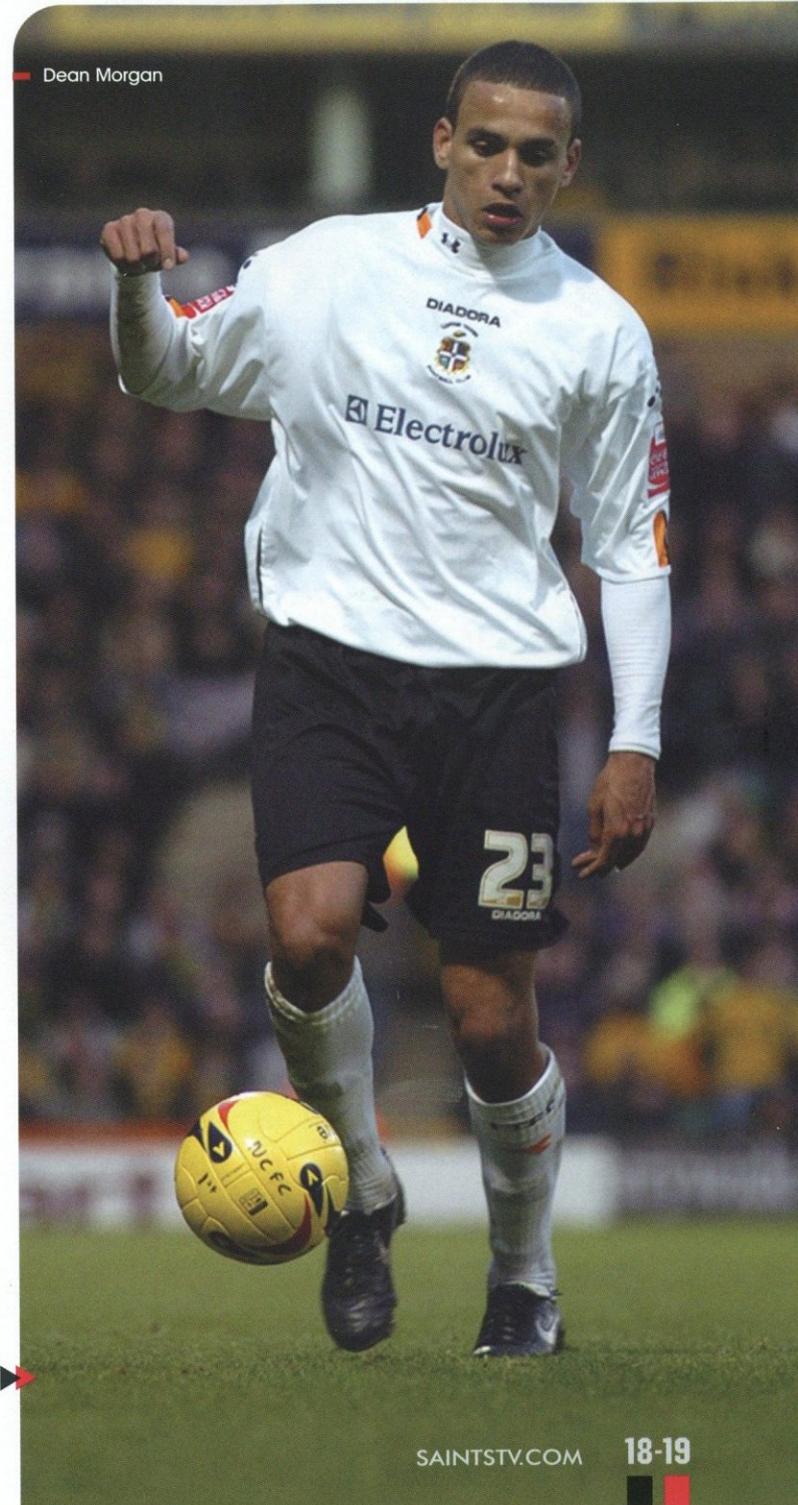
While any promoted side starts the new season with hope and ambitions burning brightly, few make an impact to compare with that of Luton Town.

Carrying the momentum of a championship triumph into the first few weeks of a new season is one thing, but maintaining that form is never quite so easy, so as Mike Newell's men square up to the Saints once again, it is to their credit that they have reached the half way point in the campaign still dreaming of Premiership football in 2006.

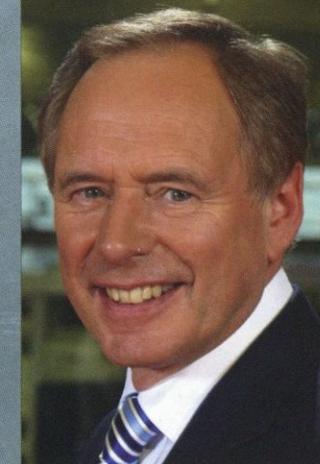
Any success in this game needs to be built on solid foundations and that's certainly the case when it comes to the first choice between the sticks for today's visitors. Marlon Beresford has over 400 league appearances to his credit in a well travelled career that has taken in spells at Burnley and Middlesbrough, not to mention a host of loan moves.

*Luton's defensive wall was marshalled superbly by the highly gifted Curtis Davis until his £3m move to West Bromwich Albion back in August, yet his move has not destabilised the backline as much as some might have suspected.*

Unsung heroes aplenty are scattered across the back four, with former Rushden and



Dean Morgan



## THE MIDFIELD IS DOMINATED BY THE PRESENCE OF LUTON'S TEARAWAY LEADER, THE PASSIONATE KEVIN NICHOLLS.

Diamonds defender Paul Underwood a model of consistency on the left hand side. Finnish international, Markus Heikkinen, has been winning big praise from boss Newell for his performances of late, while Australian Chris Coyne has slotted perfectly into the Luton set-up since his move from Dundee back in September 2001. That leaves Kevin Foley, a young Irishman who may just be the most promising young full-back currently playing in this league.

The midfield is dominated by the presence of Luton's tearaway leader, the passionate Kevin Nicholls. This team work as hard for each other as any you will see and Nicholls provides the impetus for that fire by leading his side with a brand of tough tackling and precision passing that makes him a key man in the side.

Northern Ireland international Steve Robinson has defied medics by beating a host of injuries to return to the top of his game and Saints fans need

little reminding of the threat posed by Dean Morgan, with his stunning late goal enough to secure Luton a 3-2 win against Southampton in the second game of the season.

Former Sheffield Wednesday trainee Peter Holmes always does a steady job and in Trinidad and Tobago star Carlos Edwards, the Hatters have a player bound for next summer's World Cup finals. Ahmet Brkovic is also in the midfield mix and he can be a real box of tricks when on top of his game.

Up front, Luton look to the prolific Steve Howard to fire the goals, yet Rowan Vine has been their hit-man in form of late. His strikes against Crewe and Crystal Palace at the back end of last month helped Luton to emerge from a slump and the former Portsmouth man may be one to watch today.

The athletic Enoch Showumni is capable of real inspiration in the attacking third and he may be battling it out for a spot in the starting line-up with Northern Ireland forward Warren Feeney. ■ ■

Talk to any Luton Town diehard these days and one hot topic is rarely far from the tips of their tongues – the ongoing battle to find a new home to take the club into a new era.

## NICK OWEN

So it's no surprise that Luton Town fanatic and TV presenter Nick Owen is more passionate than most when this subject is raised. "This stadium just has to happen as quickly as possible," says the respected broadcaster who fronts BBC's Midlands Today show. "The team are doing great things on the pitch once again, but we have to find a new home.

"There has been talk about us moving to a site at junction 10 of the M1 for a long time, but it seems to have fallen through and now we are starting from scratch. There is literally no point in us carrying on as a football club unless we find a new stadium because we cannot move forward with our current set-up."

Owen's hostility to the suggestion of sharing the Milton Keynes Dons new stadium a few miles up the road from their Luton base seems to be shared by most Hatters followers. "I would be against that," he states. "The whole manner in which the MK Dons has been 'created' doesn't sit well with me and if Luton went and moved in with them, it would be giving

them a seal of approval in some way.

"It's much more complicated than money as we need to find the right site and then get the building process under way. At this moment, we have nothing in place so it is a good few years down the road at the very least.

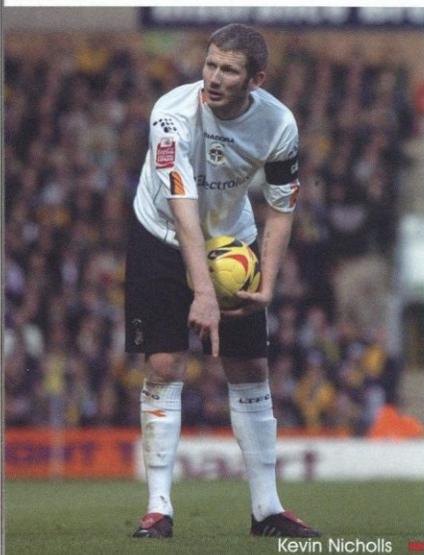
"The frustrating part is that they have great scope to make Luton into a big club. We've got a major international airport on our doorstep, so having a hotel attached to a new ground could provide great additional revenue. Hopefully something can happen on the stadium front in the very near future."

That this debate has been rumbling on for well over a decade infuriates Luton supporters, yet they are consoling themselves with a revival on the field which is threatening to put them back in the big time. The idea of Manchester United and Chelsea coming to little Kenilworth Road next season seems fanciful to some, but Owen suggests the idea is not as wild as it may seem.

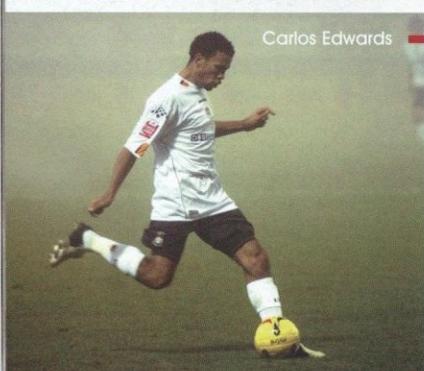
"I don't think it's unrealistic to think about promotion this season," he states. "When you look at the sides we have beaten this season, it's clear that we are a match for the best in this league. We have victories against Southampton, Norwich and Crystal Palace to our credit and we have deserved to beat those sides. This is not some kind of fluke we have had for the last few months.

*"To be honest, I'm not totally surprised we are doing so well this season. Mike Newell has this team playing some good football and we are a tough team to beat. We are not killing off teams as well as we should do, but that may come."*

Owen is convinced the Hatters can come to Southampton and pull off another good result today. "I missed the game against the Saints at Kenilworth Road, but it sounded like a real cracker," he adds of his side's 3-2 win back in August. "We tend to raise ourselves against the big name sides in the league, so I'm expecting a good performance in this game." ■ ■



Kevin Nicholls



Carlos Edwards



Enoch Showumni



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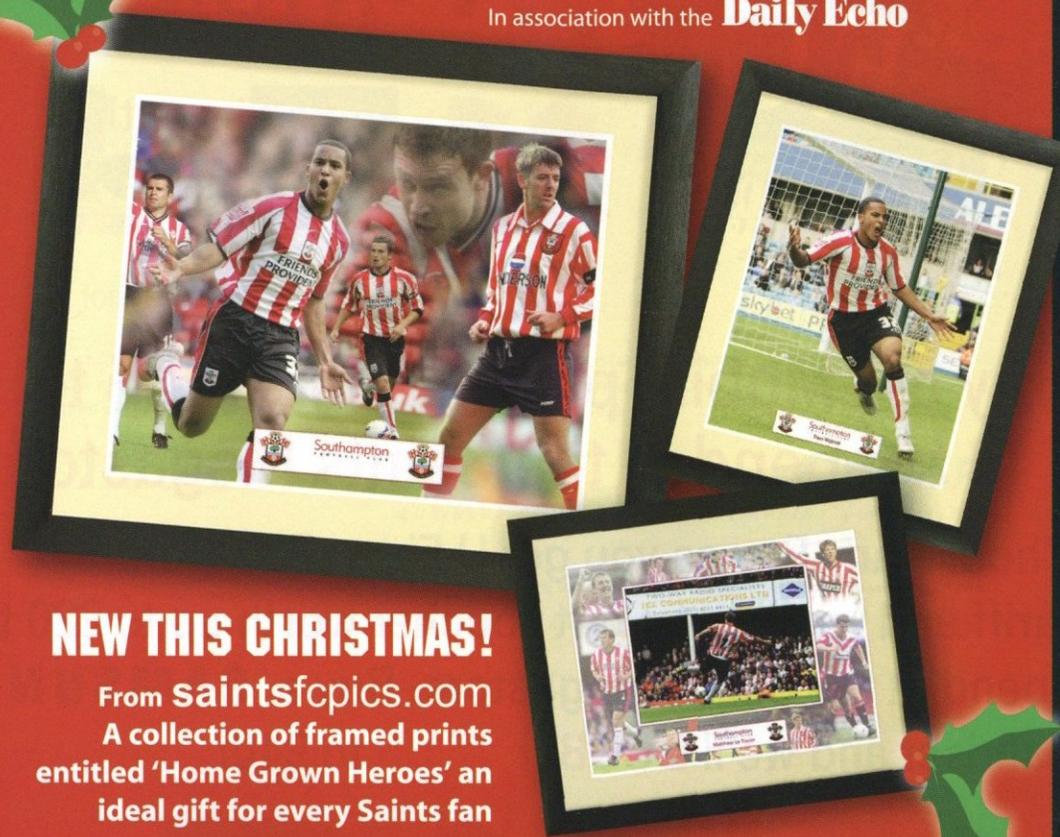
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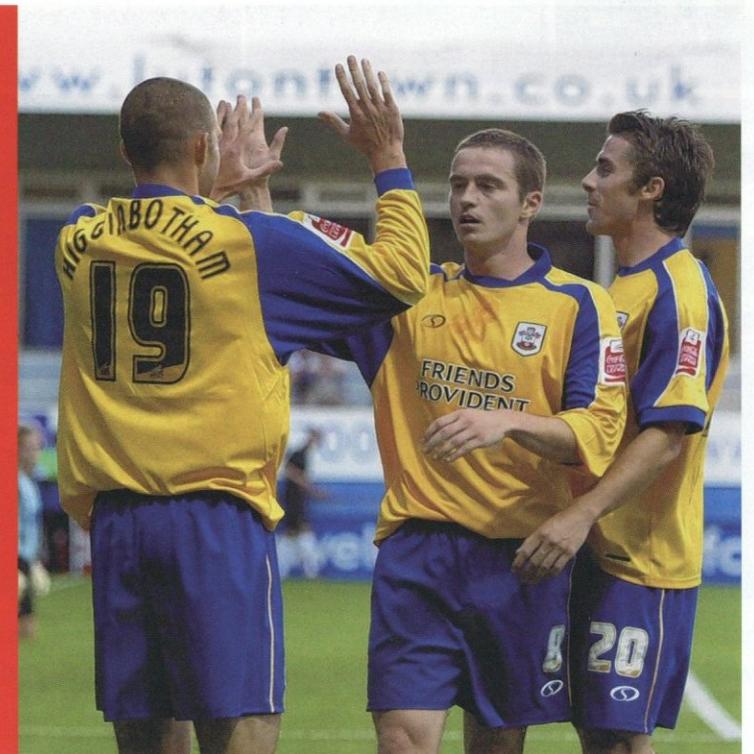
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**Daily Echo**



# SOUTHAMPTON SAINTS



Is the glass half-empty or is it half-full? That would seem to be the central question in defining Southampton Saints season to date.

A record so far this season of played 14, lost 10, goals against 49 and in 10th place out of 12 in the FA Women's Premier League Southern Division would seem to indicate that the glass is emptying fast.

However, is that really the case? The summer and pre-season were a nightmare for the side. The existing management left along with a whole host of senior players. There were even questions over the team's continued existence until a rescue package was put together by the football club and Southampton Saints WFC which secured the future of the side off the field.

But what was left to rescue on it? Well, the only way was up and slowly things began to take shape. Symon Pickett, Head Coach of Totton College's Football Academy came in as manager with, alongside him, new coach Dave Hazelgrove with immediate results as the season opened with a 2-1 victory away at AFC Wimbledon.

However, with a squad comprising a mixture of last year's side plus a mixture of fringe players, reserves, and new signings still settling, life was never going to be easy and this was proved emphatically in the two derby losses, 0-3 and 0-6, to Pompey.

However, further victories, including a 5-4 and 2-1 double over Brighton, and a 3-1 home win over Langford proved the ability of the side to compete at Premier League level.

"The first job was to set a realistic goal for the season, and that had to be survival in the FA Premier League," explained Pickett "We felt that a point a game would ensure that".

So back to the table then, 13 games played and 12 points achieved, basically on target then?

"Exactly," continued Pickett, "I'm not looking at individual results and games, because we were always going to get beaten as this is a tough, tough division. It's the bigger picture that is important. In fact, I believe now that a total of 18 points will ensure Premier League football for us next season."

So a closer inspection would seem to indicate that the glass in very much actually half-full!

And the even better news is that things are looking even brighter for the immediate future. With a new squad being formed from the old, and additions being made to further strengthen it, things are moving in the right direction, and there is an air of certainty and confidence amongst the players themselves. ■■

*Southampton Saints beat Slough 3-1 in the Women's FA Cup last week and have been handed a mighty tough draw away to Fulham on January 8.*

WOMENS PREMIER TABLE

	P	W	L	D	F	A	GD	Pts
Watford LFC	14	9	1	4	38	14	24	31
Portsmouth LFC	12	8	2	2	36	19	17	26
Cardiff City LFC	11	8	1	2	25	8	17	26
Bristol City WFC	13	7	5	1	28	22	6	22
Millwall Lionesses LFC	13	6	4	3	28	22	6	21
West Ham United LFC	15	6	6	3	25	22	3	21
Reading Royals LFC	14	5	8	1	25	28	-3	16
AFC Wimbledon LFC	11	4	6	1	20	22	-2	13
Crystal Palace LFC	11	4	7	0	18	27	-9	12
Southampton Saints WFC	14	4	10	0	19	49	-30	12
Langford LFC	13	3	8	2	20	35	-15	11
Brighton & Hove Albion	11	2	8	1	20	34	-14	7



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# RESERVES COACH HITS BACK

GRAHAM HILEY

Stewart Henderson has hit back at reports that he is supposed to have blocked Simon Clifford and Clive Woodward from the dressing room.

The Saints Reserve team coach came under fire in the national press this week with Clifford claiming that they had not been given access to the dug-out or the changing room at second string games and they were just people sitting in the stands rather than assistant coaches.

Clifford recently left the club complaining he was unhappy that fun had been poked at his newspaper claims that he could turn Scotland into one of the top three teams in the world.

And Henderson has clarified the position saying: "At no time did I stop Simon or Clive from entering the dressing room or from sitting in the dug-out. That is absolute rubbish.

"They often watched the game from the stands simply because of restrictions on space. With five substitutes, a physio, goalkeeping coach David Coles and myself in the dug-out there often was not room at Staplewood or at many away grounds.

"Simon made great play of working with the Academy youngsters but he did not attend a single youth game while he was here."

Woodward added: "I am extremely disappointed by Simon's recent comments.

"I brought him in and the club gave him a chance to work in the professional game. It did not work out for him - and these things often happen in sport.

"But after having full access to everything that went on here, it is totally unacceptable for him now to be talking in detail about it when he is no longer involved.

"And I feel personally let down at what he has said about a club which gave him a big opportunity." ■■



## RESERVE TABLE SOUTH

		Home					Away					GD	Pts
		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F		
1 Arsenal	12	3	3	0	17	11	5	0	1	14	5	+15	27
2 Spurs	11	3	1	2	11	4	4	1	0	10	2	+15	23
3 Charlton	13	4	1	2	12	9	3	1	2	11	9	+5	23
4 Fulham	11	4	1	1	11	6	2	1	2	5	6	+4	20
5 Chelsea	12	4	1	2	11	7	1	3	1	7	5	+6	19
6 West Ham	11	3	1	2	14	6	2	2	1	9	7	+10	18
7 Ipswich Town	12	5	0	2	21	11	1	0	4	7	16	+1	18
8 Southampton	12	2	1	3	7	6	3	1	2	11	11	+1	17
9 Crystal Palace	13	2	0	2	11	5	3	2	4	11	17	0	17
10 Coventry City	11	4	0	2	8	4	1	1	3	2	10	-4	16
11 Watford	12	2	0	3	5	8	2	0	5	5	18	-16	12
12 Leicester City	13	1	3	2	6	11	1	1	5	4	16	-17	10
13 Norwich City	12	2	2	2	5	4	0	1	5	0	10	-9	9
14 Portsmouth	13	2	0	4	9	12	1	0	6	8	16	-11	9



"But it is simply not true to say they were banished or that they were not allowed in the dressing room. Both Clive and Simon would come in before games and at half-time to watch and observe. They did not say anything or have an input, they were there to look and listen.

# IPSWICH RESERVES 1 SAINTS RESERVES 2

TIM ORME

Saints Under 18s gained a small measure of revenge for last season's FA Youth Cup Final defeat as they won 2-1 at Ipswich.

Things started badly for Georges Prost's team as they went a goal down after 10 minutes when a well-struck shot was deflected past Andrew McNeil. But in a competitive game Prost's side levelled before the break when Adam Lallana turned home Josh Dutton-Black's shot.

On 70 minutes, 17-year-old Cedric Besaya, a new arrival at the Academy from French amateur side Breigny was replaced by Feliciano Condesso and the Portuguese striker's impact was instant. With his first touch he headed home Dutton-Black's cross - his second assist of the match - for what proved to be the winner.

After the match Prost said he was delighted with his side as he explained: "We played very well and it was a good team performance.

"We defended well as a unit and one or two of our players such as Jake Thomson and Gareth Bale who have made a couple of appearances for the Reserves recently have obviously benefited from the experience.

"It was good for Cedric to make a first appearance as well. We only received international clearance for him on Friday and he hasn't played competitive football for a couple of months so he came off with a bit of cramp.

"But his fitness will improve and he has a lot of potential. He is tall, he has good technique and he has a good spirit and I am looking forward to working with him."

**Team:** McNeil, Thomson, Bale, Lancashire, Richards, Mulvany, James, Toti, Lallana, Dutton-Black, Baseya (Condesso).

**Saints Under 16s notched their fourth consecutive win with a 2-1 victory at Ipswich.**

Kayne McLaggon opened the scoring for the visitors when he seized on a loose ball on the edge of the area and smacked it into the top corner from 25 yards.

The Tractor Boys equalised 10 minutes into the second half but five minutes from time Saints broke forward to secure the victory.

Jamie White made an excellent run down the left, beating two players before picking out his team-mate Jamie Hatch in the centre. Hatch had found space in the box after bursting forward from midfield with an excellent run and kept his composure to finish the move.

Coach Kevin Braybrook was full of praise for his team as he smiled: "By comparison to a lot of teams at this level we are quite a young side but the boys have been excellent.

"They are working hard and they are brave in possession and they are also showing the things that you cannot really coach.

"As a group they have got a great attitude and we have picked up a couple of results recently with goals in the last few minutes of games and that tells you a lot about the character of this side."

**Team:** Trialist, Gatcum (Harris 60), Brown, Byrne, Read, MacKay, Mason (Osbourne Ricketts 55), Hatch, Jones (Doble 55), White, McLaggon.

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## ORCHARD HOMES SAINTS ACADEMY UNDER 18 GROUP A

Sat Aug 20	West Bromwich Albion	5-3	Inter
Sat Aug 27	Sheffield Wednesday	6-2	Inter
Sat Sep 3	Aston Villa	4-0	Inter
Sat Sep 10	Birmingham City	6-0	Inter
Sat Sep 17	Bristol City	4-1	Inter
Sat Sep 24	Crystal Palace	2-1	
Sat Oct 1	Charlton Athletic	4-2	
Sat Oct 8	Chelsea	3-0	
Sat Oct 15	Fulham	1-1	
Sat Oct 22	West Ham United	0-1	
Sat Nov 5	Norwich City	1-1	
Sat Nov 12	Arsenal	2-1	
Sat Nov 19	Millwall	1-1	
Sat Dec 3	Ipswich Town	2-1	
Sat Dec 10	Crystal Palace	H	
Sat Dec 17	(3rd Rd)		
Tue Dec 20	Wrexham (FAYC)	A	
Sat Jan 7	Chelsea	A	
Sat Jan 14	Fulham	H	
Sat Jan 21	West Ham United (4th Rd)	A	
Sat Feb 4	Norwich City (5th Rd)	H	
Sat Feb 11	Arsenal	H	
Sat Feb 18	Millwall (6th Rd)	A	
Sat Feb 25	Ipswich Town	H	
Sat Mar 4	Charlton Athletic	A	
Sat Mar 11	Cardiff City	H	Inter & SF1
Sat Mar 18	Milton Keynes Dons	A	Inter
Sat Mar 25		SF2	
Sat Apr 1	Reading	H	Inter
Sat Apr 8	Tottenham Hotspur	A	Inter
Sat Apr 22	Coventry City	H	Inter
Sat May 6	Semi Final		
Thurs May 11	Final		

## ORCHARD HOMES SAINTS ACADEMY UNDER 16 GROUP A

Sat Sep 3	Aston Villa	1-0	Inter
Sat Sep 10	Birmingham City	5-0	Inter
Sat Sep 17	Bristol City	2-1	Inter
Sat Sep 24	Crystal Palace	4-4	
Sat Oct 1	Charlton Athletic	1-3	
Sat Oct 8	Chelsea	0-2	
Sat Oct 15	Fulham	0-2	
Sat Oct 22	West Ham United	0-4	
Sat Nov 5	Norwich City	1-0	
Sat Nov 12	Arsenal	3-2	
Sat Nov 19	Millwall	3-2	
Sat Dec 3	Ipswich Town	2-1	
Sat Dec 10	Crystal Palace	A	
Sat Dec 17	(3rd Rd)		
Sat Jan 7	Chelsea	H	
Sat Jan 14	Fulham	A	
Sat Jan 21	West Ham United (4th Rd)	H	
Sat Feb 4	Norwich City (5th Rd)	A	
Sat Feb 11	Arsenal	A	
Sat Feb 18	Millwall (6th Rd)	H	
Sat Feb 25	Ipswich Town	A	
Sat Mar 4	Charlton Athletic	H	
Sat Mar 11	Cardiff City	A	Inter & SF1
Sat Mar 18	Milton Keynes Dons	H	Inter
Sat Mar 25		SF2	
Sat Apr 1	Reading	A	Inter
Sat Apr 8	Tottenham Hotspur	H	Inter
Sat Apr 22	Coventry City	A	Inter
Sat May 6	Semi Final		
Thurs May 11	Final		

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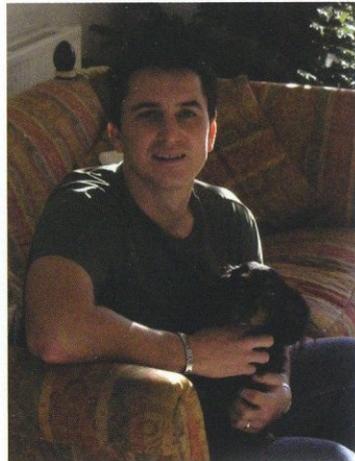


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RICHARD DRYDEN

Mark Lawrenson once said he'd appear naked on television if Richard Dryden, having moved from Bristol City to Southampton, was in the first-team at the end of the season.



# RICHARD DRYDEN

IAN CARNABY

Quite a few viewers monitored the situation and contacted HTV West when the no-nonsense defender duly played against Aston Villa on 11 May, 1997. A family audience was spared the sight of Lawrenson as his Liverpool team-mates knew and loved him. It had all been a joke, he said.

"I was getting booed at City", Dryden told me this week. "Lawrenson said that every time he came to watch us I played poorly. Even my dad, who was a labourer, was getting plenty of stick". Given that the Ashton Gate club were in the old Second Division at the time, a move to the Premiership seemed a remote contingency.

But Terry Cooper had arrived at The Dell to assist Graeme Souness and knew Dryden well from his time at Exeter and Birmingham City. Among

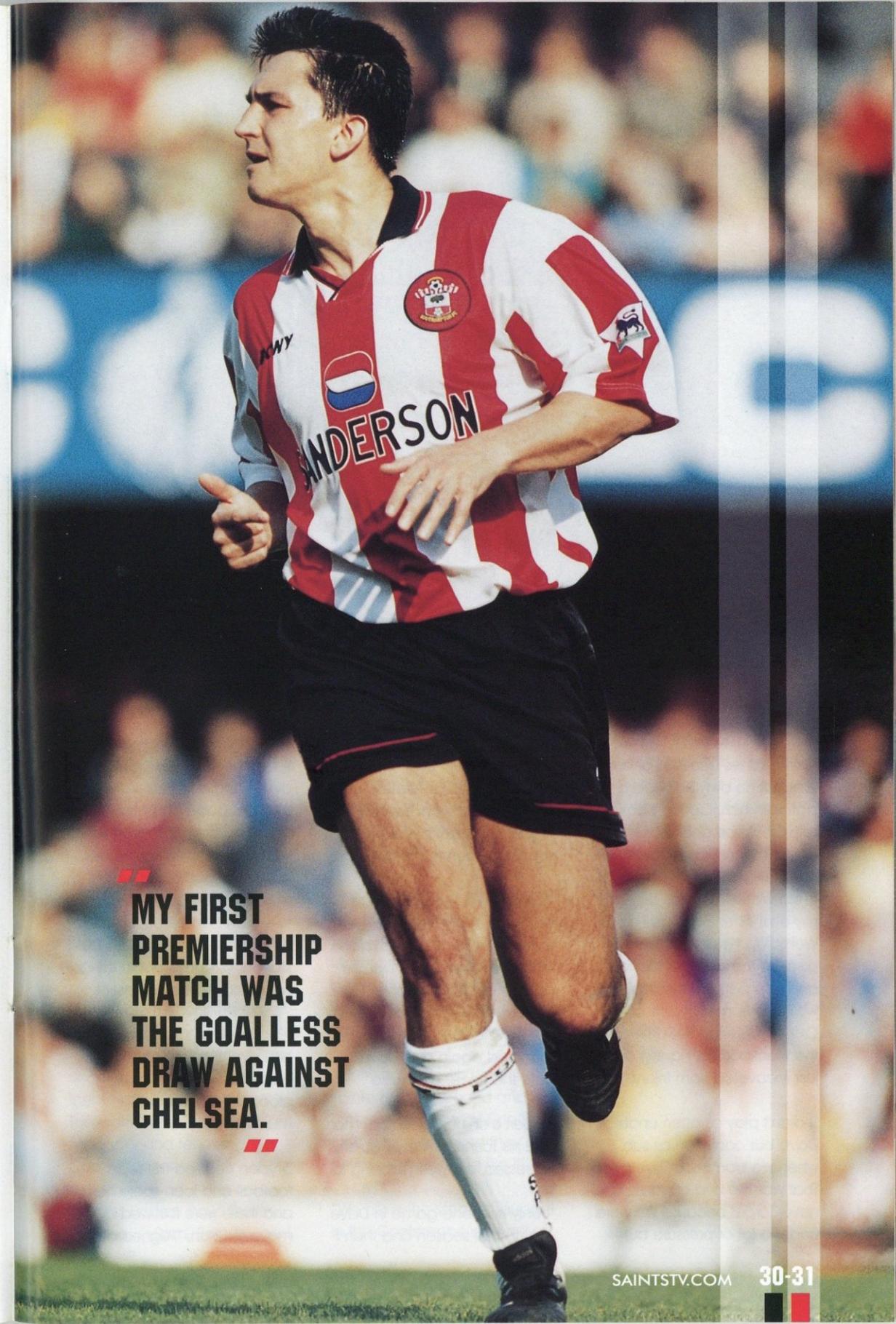
his other strengths, Cooper was always very canny when it came to identifying players - especially from the lower leagues - who could do a job in certain situations. Dryden played 28 times that first season and took just about everyone by surprise.

"Yes, it was all down to Terry", he said. "When I was still at Bristol City, Dundee United wanted me and I played two pre-season games for them. But then I got the call and joined Saints in Cork, and two or three weeks after that I signed for £150,000. My first Premiership match was the goalless draw against Chelsea - it was Gianluca Vialli's first match as well - and I was up against Mark Hughes. I went in a bit hard and he was moaning about it so I said 'Oh, sorry'. I couldn't really believe I was out there. I asked my wife Lindsay if she'd seen it and

she said she was too nervous to watch!"

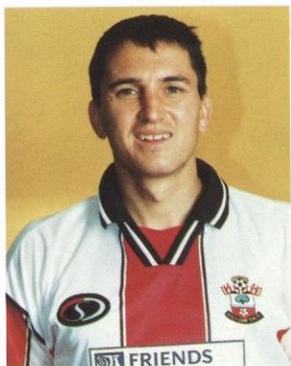
These days, Dryden lives in Nottingham and assists Cooper's son Mark at Tamworth, who've knocked Bournemouth and Hartlepool out of the FA Cup and now face Stoke City, one of his former clubs, in the 3rd Round. He was also with today's opponents for just over a year following his departure from Southampton in 2001.

"That first season was unbelievable", he said. "Graeme Souness may not have known much about me, but he certainly bought very well in other areas. Claus arrived, of course, and there was a spell when Eyal Berkovic was on fire. He knew how to play Egil Ostenstad in and made him look very good. I'll never forget the 6-3 win over Manchester United and Matt Le Tissier's wonderful chip.



**MY FIRST PREMIERSHIP MATCH WAS THE GOALLESS DRAW AGAINST CHELSEA.**

RICHARD DRYDEN



The funny thing about that game, you know, was that United had just been hammered by Newcastle and we were fearing a backlash!

"It didn't really come across that Souness wanted to go. Maybe he needed more money for players and it wasn't there, I don't know. I was sad when he went because I thought he was a great manager. And despite what people say about him, he only lost his temper a couple of times.

"Dave Jones came in and brought his own backroom staff with him. Coming down with Stockport and knocking us out of the Coca-Cola Cup the previous season had a lot to do with it. That was definitely my best chance of getting to Wembley. I'd scored three goals in the previous rounds and was particularly pleased with one from 20 yards at Oxford. Unfortunately I missed the Stockport tie, having only just recovered from injury.

"I didn't play as often under Dave but came on as sub when we won 3-2 at Liverpool. That was the kind of game you never forget because we were under a lot of pressure but I

**A MOMENT RICHARD DRYDEN CAN ONLY HAVE DREAMED ABOUT... EGIL OSTENSTAD PUTS MANCHESTER UNITED TO THE SWORD IN THE NEVER-TO-BE-FORGOTTEN 6-3 WIN AT THE DELL.**



thought I'd lighten the mood, so I called out: 'Don't worry, Trigger's here!' as I trotted past Doddsy. I've always been either Trigger or Wurzel because of my West Country connections.

"The following year we were always in trouble and I remember I was on the radio when we came from behind against Leicester to give ourselves a chance of staying up. We made it but then struggled again and Dave paid the price, of course".

Dryden is an honest football man and his forthright views, quietly expressed, are worth listening to.

"I only had one game in Dave Jones' final season and then I

was on crutches for most of the time when Glenn Hoddle took over. I had a serious knee injury and lost pace and mobility. The standard in the Premiership had risen and I'd have been out of my depth. But while I was injured I had the chance to watch Hoddle coach, and he is simply world class. If he'd stayed, or come back, things would have been different.

"People were a bit hard on him over the Tottenham business. Spurs are in his blood, and you can't do much about that".

Dryden needed first-team football and loan spells here and there were followed by the move to Luton. "I signed during

the week Joe Kinnear came in", he recalled. "Now there was a man who spoke his mind! We were bottom but staged quite a recovery before falling away again and dropping into Division 4. Then Joe had a big clear-out before bringing in a lot of new players and we romped to promotion, though I was sub more often than I played".

There were further stints at Scarborough and Worksop Town before he took over the under-12s at Notts County and then moved on again to Tamworth, becoming assistant manager and renewing the Cooper connection.

He and Lindsay have three children - Sam, Bethany and

Charlie. Sam, the eldest at nine, is a huge Saints fan and was distraught following the events on the final day last season. Even so, there are compensations.

"Yes, I've stayed in close touch with Matt Le Tissier, who gave Sam his Lego Masters 'Magic Moments' trophy and also got a signed shirt for him when Tamworth came down to play Bournemouth", Dryden said.

"Matty trained with us at the Saints' training ground and that was quite an eye-opener for the lads because they'd never seen anything like it!

"We have the smallest budget in the Conference and only a

couple of the teams, including ourselves, are part-time. But when everyone is fit we're all right and Stoke will know they've been in a game".

Maybe Mark Lawrenson did Dryden a favour all those years ago. "Well, when you hear something like that, you either go under or it makes you stronger", he smiled.

He looks pretty strong from here. ■■



# BETTING ODDS

KEVIN McMAHON

The panto season really is in full swing now. And there is meant to be a rather good show at The Mayflower too! A lame crack perhaps but it is a struggle to find the right words to sum up the latest course of events that have overtaken us here. All very depressing but the majority of our team of pundits are keeping the faith and opting for the Saints win this afternoon. Let's hope they are right as besides giving the proverbial finger to Mr Redknapp it could help raise some much needed funds for our local charities.

Our in-house bookmakers Ladbrokes are generously donating £200 every home game this season and this will be evenly split between each winning tipster's designated charity. If no one calls the final score correctly, the money is simply carried forward to the next match here at The Friends Provident St Mary's Stadium. That's the case this week and after none of the gang were on the money in the games against Leeds and Burnley, we have a double rollover of £600 in the kitty.

So just how are the bookies calling it this afternoon? Neutral punters across the land will think the odds compilers have been rather generous in offering 11-5 for the draw. After all, six of the 10 Coca-Cola Championship games played here so far have finished all-square so you could even claim that yet another stalemate should be a touch of odds-on. However, Luton have yet to draw any of their 11 away league fixtures so far and haven't even looked like doing so in recent weeks so, for once, we should discount the draw.

Apart from the travelling fans, we can't see too many people taking advantage of the 5-2 quoted for the away win. While it cannot be denied that Mike Newell's team have performed admirably to be fifth in the table at this time of the season, the wheels have come royally off their wagon in their last five fixtures away from Kenilworth Road. All five have been lost with 15 goals conceded and just one scored. Excuses can be made for the defeats at Reading and Sheffield United but losing to Crewe, Coventry and Norwich must be of great concern to their supporters.

This leaves us with the 10-11 on offer for a Saints win and, more through Luton's shortcomings on their travels than any great performances from Saints in recent weeks, it is the price

that makes most appeal. Hopefully the departure of Redknapp from our club will restore some of the obvious lack of spirit we've witnessed and, if that's the case, we should be celebrating three points and bashing the bookies at around 3-20.

We've already mentioned that The Hatters are struggling to score away from home at the moment (they have only hit nine all season) and this should encourage any correct score punters to back a Saints win to nil. The only question is how many are we capable of scoring? The Luton defence has leaked an average of three goals a game in their last five away defeats but Saints still lack that killer touch. Most of us would be happy with a 2-0 victory and Ladbrokes offer an acceptable 7-1 on that.

This correspondent was in a bit of a state last week after backing Matt Oakley to score the opener in the belief that he would take any penalties. Industrial language was used when Danny Higginbotham stepped up but at least Higgy scored so we'll forgive him that one. Today, the money is going on Brett Ormerod to score an overdue opener.

**COME ON YOU REDS ■■**

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Ladbrokes' **FIRST SCORER** Odds

SAINTS	
<b>Goalkeepers</b>	
01 Antti Niemi	-
13 Paul Smith	-
28 Alan Blayney	-
<b>Defenders</b>	
05 Claus Lundekvam	-
06 Darren Powell	20-1
07 Tomasz Hajto	28-1
11 Michael Svensson	-
16 Martin Cranie	50-1
19 Danny Higginbotham	16-1
22 Darren Kenton	50-1
<b>Midfielders</b>	
03 Kamil Kosowski	12-1
04 Dennis Wise	-
08 Matthew Oakley	16-1
10 Neil McCann	12-1
12 Nigel Quashie	-
18 Rory Delap	16-1
20 David Prutton	11-1
23 Yoann Folly	22-1
31 Djamel Belmadi	11-1
<b>Forwards</b>	
09 Brett Ormerod	5-1
14 Ricardo Fuller	5-1
15 Kenwyne Jones	5-1
17 Marian Pahars	5-1
24 Dexter Blackstock	-
27 Leon Best	-
32 Theo Walcott	4-1
LUTON TOWN	
<b>Goalkeepers</b>	
01 Marlon Beresford	-
33 Dean Brill	-
47 Rob Beckwith	-
<b>Defenders</b>	
02 Kevin Foley	33-1
03 Sol Davis	50-1
04 Chris Coyne	40-1
05 Russell Perrett	40-1
06 Paul Underwood	40-1
26 Markus Heikkinen	28-1
45 Leon Barnett	20-1
<b>Midfielders</b>	
07 Carlos Edwards	20-1
08 Kevin Nicholls	18-1
11 Steve Robinson	25-1
15 Steven O'Leary	-
17 Paul Hughes	-
18 Ahmet Brkovic	9-1
21 Keith Keane	28-1
22 Danny Stevens	-
23 Dean Morgan	9-1
27 Peter Holmes	20-1
<b>Forwards</b>	
09 Rowan Vine	7-1
10 Warren Feeney	8-1
16 Enoch Showunmi	8-1
19 Steve Howard	7-1
29 Calvin Andrew	-

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE THE FANS' REPRESENTATIVE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEXT CHARITY TIPPING CHALLENGE PLEASE EMAIL GHILEY@SAINTSFC.CO.UK

# CHARITY TIPPING CHALLENGE PREDICTIONS



**MATT LE TISSIER**

Supporting Wessex Cancer Trust

Luton have surprised a few people this season and although results have dipped of late, they will be tough to beat – but I think we can nick it.

**SAINTS TO WIN 2-1**



**GRAHAM HILEY**

Supporting Rose Road Association

After all the managerial upheaval it is time to get right behind the team and start turning draws into victories.

**SAINTS TO WIN 1-0**



**KEVIN McMAHON**

Supporting The Cinnamon Trust for Pets

We could have been looking at another draw but Luton's poor away record of late convinces me that Saints will finally deliver a winning performance.

**SAINTS TO WIN 2-0**



**DAVE KING**

Supporting Hampshire Autistic Society

Saints really do need the three points today but I just can't see past another draw.

**SAINTS TO DRAW 1-1**



**JIMMY CASE**

Supporting St James' Shelter for the homeless

We should have won at Kenilworth Road and were unlucky to lose to a last-minute goal. I fancy we will put that right today.

**SAINTS TO WIN 2-0**



**ROBIN HUTCHISON**

Supporting Countess Mountbatten Hospice

Although we've made Saints the favourites for this match, the recent unrest will not help the team and it could be a disappointing day.

**SAINTS TO WIN 1-0**



**TONY HUSBAND**

Supporting NSPCC

Luton have made a good impression since their return to The Championship and this promises to be a tight affair. However, Saints can win and cheer up the fans after a terrible, chaotic week.

**SAINTS TO WIN 1-0**



**JOHN GILBERT**

Supporting The Ted Bates' Trust

We've got to keep our chins up and I am going for the boys to win, and win well this afternoon.

**SAINTS TO WIN 3-0**

**LADBROKES' CORRECT SCORE ODDS**

Saints 1-0:	6-1	Luton 1-0:	8-1	Draw 0-0:	8-1
Saints 2-0:	7-1	Luton 2-0:	16-1	Draw 1-1:	11-2
Saints 2-1:	7-1	Luton 2-1:	12-1	Draw 2-2:	14-1
Saints 3-0:	12-1	Luton 3-0:	40-1	Draw 3-3:	50-1
Saints 3-1:	12-1	Luton 3-1:	28-1		

# ACTION REPLAY



GRAHAM HILEY

**WOLVES 0**  
**SAINTS 0**

SATURDAY 26th NOVEMBER 2005

**The tribute to George Best produced an unusual twist – a minute of applause followed by 90 minutes of silence!**

There was little of real note for fans to cheer on a cold day as the two draw specialists of the division almost inevitably cancelled each other out.

Saints, as usual, had the better of the first half with Brett Ormerod having two one-on-ones. The first saw him try to square for Walcott who just failed to reach it and the second saw him therefore

spurn the pass in favour of a shot which Postma saved.

Ormerod also put a free glancing header into the arms of the keeper and the livewire striker just failed to capitalise as Postma parried a Kamil Kosowski long-range shot.

But there were chances with Wolves too. Colin Cameron had a strong shout for a penalty

**WOLVES:**

Postma, Edwards, Lescott, Naylor, Anderton (Seol 62), Cameron, (Clarke 70) Huddlestone, Kennedy, Ganea (Olofinjana 70), Ndah, Gyepes.

**Subs:** Ross, Oakes.

**SAINTS:**

Niemi, Delap, Kenton, Powell, Higginbotham, Belmadi (Fuller 78), Folly, Oakley, Kosowski (McCann 67), Ormerod, Walcott (Jones 90).

**Subs:** Hajto, Smith.

**Referee:** Paul Taylor  
**Attendance:** 24,628

from a double-team mugging by Darren Kenton and Antti Niemi while Leon Clarke smacked a powerful volley against the bar.

Niemi made a superb reflex save from a George Ndah header as well as from two Tom Huddlestone long-range drives as the game reached a conclusion which had long seemed inevitable. ■■



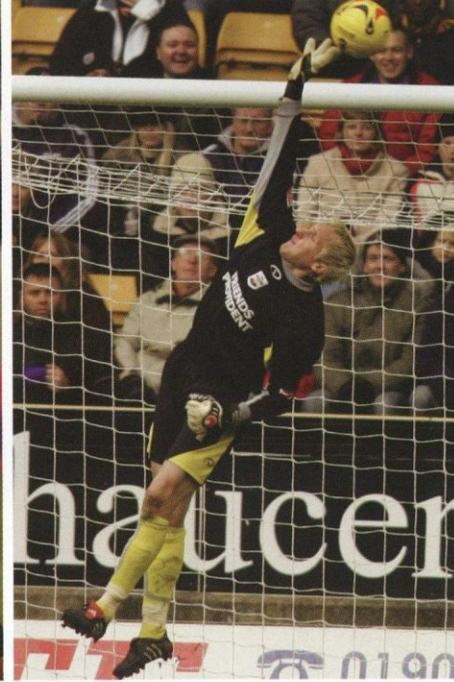
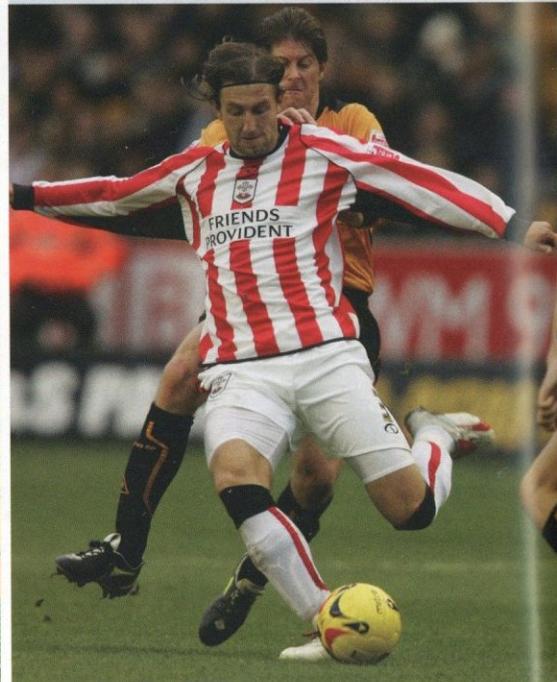
**THEO THREAT:** A Theo Walcott attempt on goal is stopped by a last gasp tackle from Gabor Gyepes.

**MATT ATTACK:** Matt Oakley gets past the flailing Darren Anderton.

**KOSOWSKI CORKER:** Kamil Kosowski races between two Wolves defenders and fires a powerful shot towards goal.

**TIP TOP:** Antti Niemi tips a shot over the bar.

**KENTON CLEARANCE:** Darren Kenton is closed down by George Ndah but beats the challenge.





# SOUTHAMPTON FOOTBALL CLUB

wish all our supporters  
a very Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year.



ALL IS REVEALED  
THE SECRET SANTA IS  
**DANNY  
HIGGINBOTHAM**

# ACTION REPLAY



GRAHAM HILEY

## SAINTS 1 BURNLEY 1

SATURDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2005

**It was a case of a new managerial team but same old problems as Saints were held to their 13th draw of the season.**

With Dave Bassett and Dennis Wise taking over at very short notice from the departing Harry Redknapp, all eyes were on the dug-out – which was just as well since there was little of note happening on the pitch!

What action there was saw Saints dominate but it was the same old story as they failed to turn possession into goals after a bright start. Brett Ormerod turned sharply and whipped a shot just

wide while Kamil Kosowski and Djamel Belmadi both had shots well saved.

Saints took the lead on 32 minutes when Rory Delap was bundled over by Micah Hyde and Danny Higginbotham scored the resulting penalty.

That looked likely to be enough against a Burnley side who rarely threatened until they levelled out of the blue on 65 minutes.

**SAINTS:**

Niemi, Delap, Powell, Kenton, Higginbotham, Belmadi (N McCann 73), Oakley, Prutton, Kosowski, Ormerod (Fuller 65), Walcott (Jones 65).

**Subs:** Cranie, Smith.

**BURNLEY:**

Jensen, Harley, Lowe, Sinclair, Elliott, Hyde, G O'Connor, J O'Connor, Akinbiyi, Spicer (Noel-Williams 60), Branch.

**Subs:** Karbassiyoon, C McCann, Courtney, Grant (gk).

**Referee:** Brian Curson (Leics)

**Attendance:** 21,592

Graham Branch got free on the left and whipped in a perfect cross for the unmarked Ade Akinbiyi to head past Niemi's attempt to claw out on the line.

Saints pressed hard but again missed the leadership and power of Nigel Quashie as they struggled to find a second break-through against a well-drilled defence. ■■



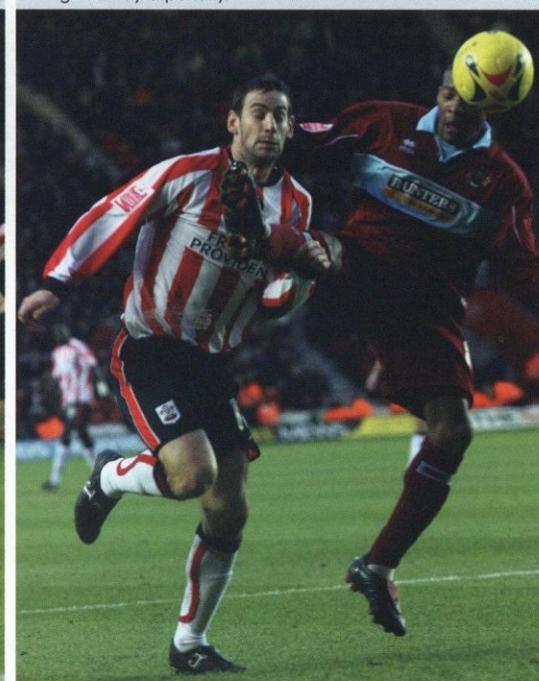
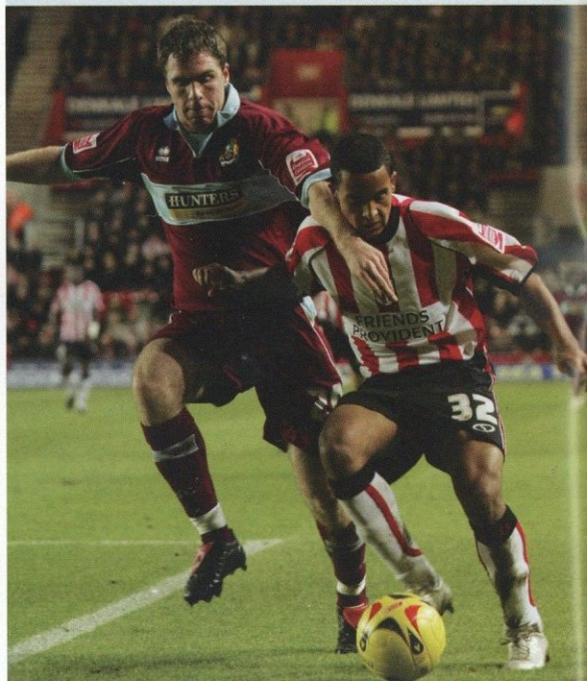
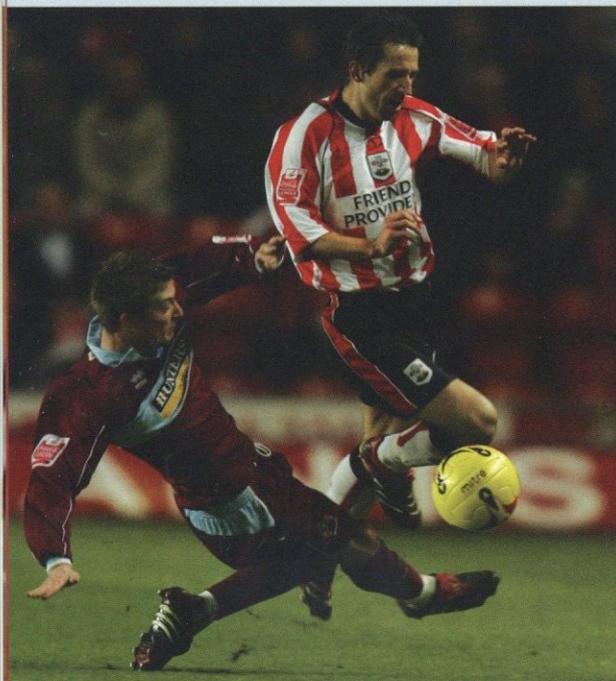
**PENALTY KICK:** Danny Higginbotham slams home the penalty.

**NIMBLE NEIL:** Neil McCann evades Wade Elliott's challenge.

**HIGHS AND LOWES:** Theo Walcott tries to get past Keith Lowe.

**ACTION MAN:** David Prutton in the thick of the action on his return.

**NO HYDEING PLACE:** Micah Hyde fouls Rory Delap to give away a penalty.



# MARIAN PAHARS



JOHN HUGHES

**Marian Pahars, who recently returned after a three-year injury nightmare, knows exactly what tops his wish-list in the run-up to his seventh Christmas and New Year in England.**

"What I want more than anything is to stay injury-free," declares the 29-year-old Latvian international striker. "That is what I ask for, the chance of a clear run to prove to myself and the Southampton fans that I can play well over a sustained stretch and score goals again.

"For most of this season I trained without a problem and playing for the Reserves built up my fitness and sharpened my game. I came on as a substitute three times before making my first start in 19 months."

But after celebrating with a headed goal at home to Leeds three weeks ago he limped off with a knee injury.

The fleet-footed frontman, who also operates on the left of midfield, is looking forward to the festive season, though celebrations will be restricted by Saints' gruelling holiday programme of four matches in eight days, starting with the Boxing Day trip to Watford.

Pahars will spend what free time there is at home in

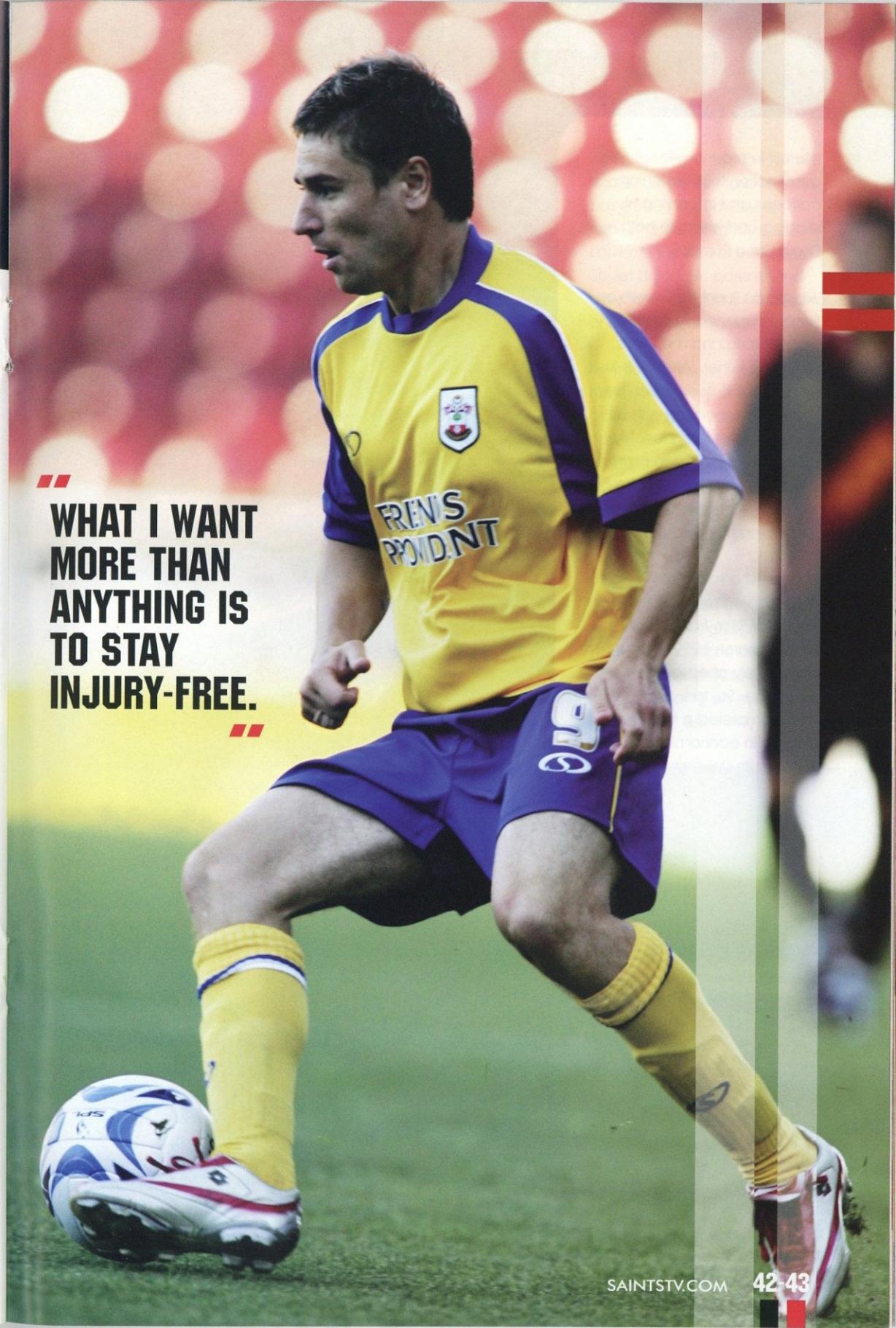
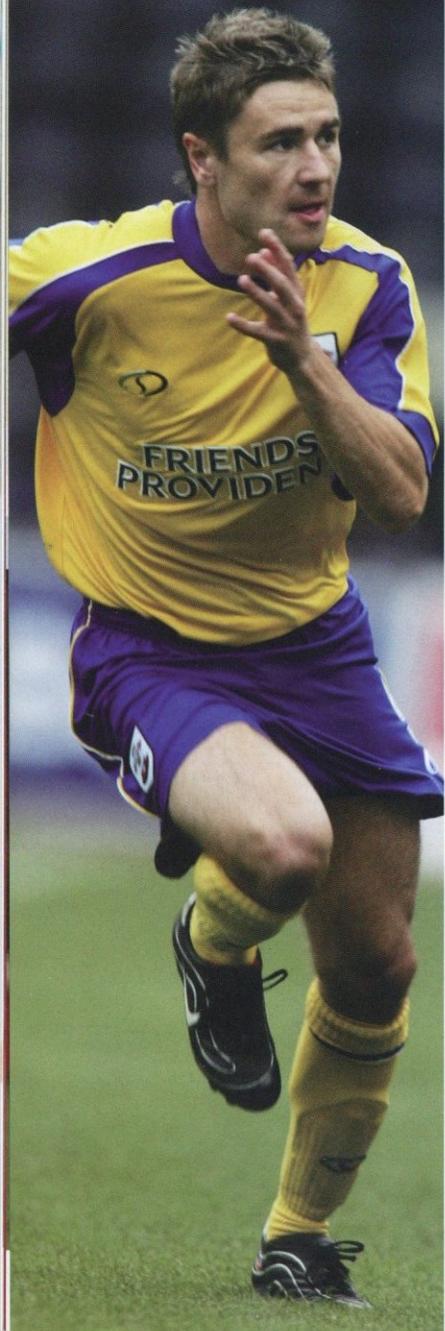
Southampton with his father Vasilij who is flying in from Riga, the stylish Latvian capital. Travelling in the opposite direction will be the player's wife Victoria and their six-year-old son Marat to visit the rest of the family.

"Of course people in Latvia enjoy Christmas, but New Year is when the real celebrations start," he laughs. "That is definitely the more important time and the nightlife in Riga is amazing. Anyway, dad and I will be OK together over here when I am free. We will open some presents, eat goose, speak to the family in Riga and watch TV programmes, especially the Russian ones. I have a dish to pick up Russian television."

Father and son have always been close, Pahars senior whetting his boy's appetite for football at an early age as the two of them kicked a ball around on the beach or in the street.

Marian would love young Marat to follow in his famous footsteps, but so far the bilingual little boy shows more

**WHAT I WANT MORE THAN ANYTHING IS TO STAY INJURY-FREE.**



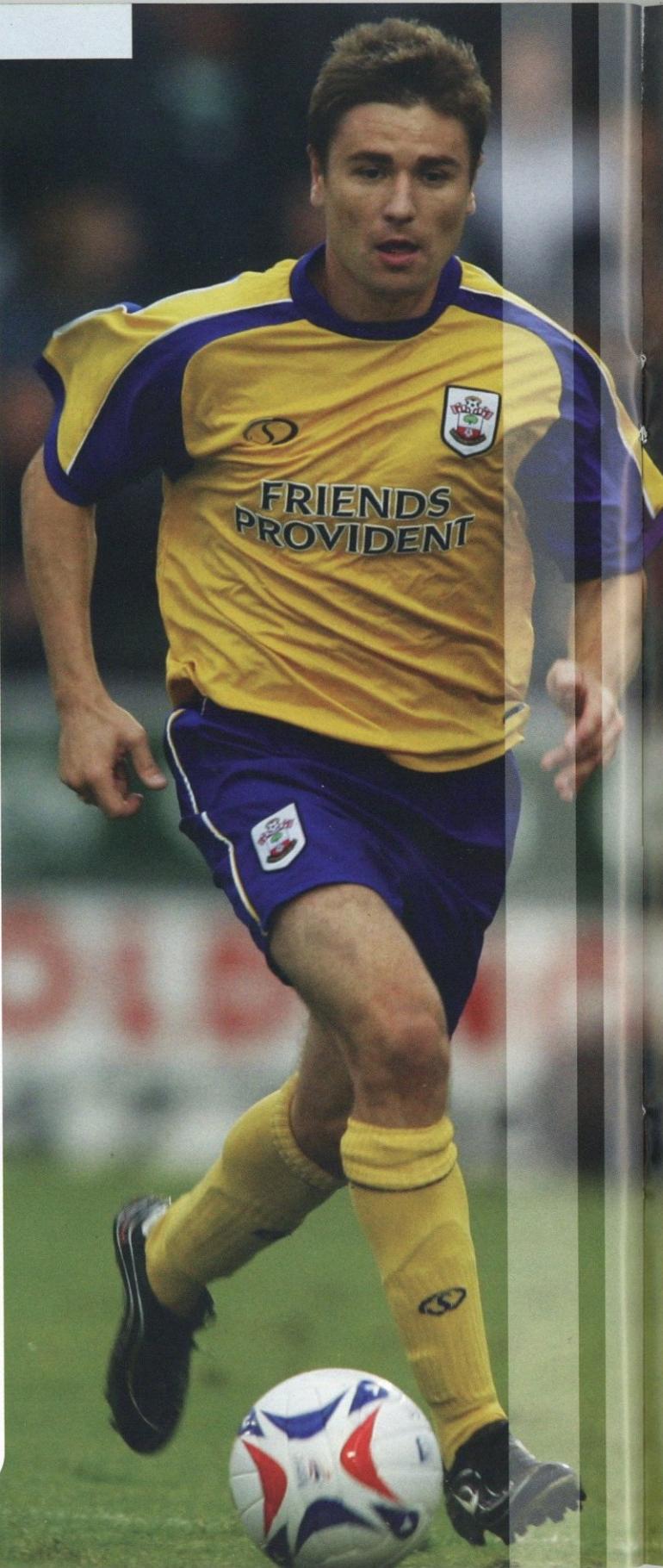
interest in playing with construction toys, watching cartoons and improving his reading and writing in both English and Russian.

"He speaks fluent English with an English accent and is better than Victoria and me," says his proud father. "And he is just as good at Russian which he learns from speaking with us and watching television. My missus is not that keen on him becoming a footballer, she wants him to study and do something clever!"

Pahars, who spoke not a word of English when he joined Saints for £1m from Skonto Riga in March 1999, is now completely at ease with the language. So, too, is his wife who completed a Masters Degree in economics at Portsmouth University.

"My first three months in England were terrible," he recalls with a chuckle. "I spoke no English and just wanted to go home to Latvia and enjoy my life again. But now I am very happy here. You know, I once thought the English were a bit arrogant and very different to what I was used to, but now we have plenty of English friends. We are all quite similar, really!"

Certainly, Pahars has a lot of catching up to do on the football field. His club and international careers stalled after he rattled up 16 goals in 36 starts for Saints in the 2001-2



season, giving him an impressive total of 41 from 107 for the club.

But in the next three campaigns he managed just 13 starts and three goals and missed the entire run to the 2003 FA Cup Final and the big day itself as a series of injuries, which resulted in three ankle operations and groin surgery, took a heavy toll. Last season was a complete write-off, but he finally returned to first-team action seven weeks into the current campaign.

"Yes, that was a really tough time which left me very depressed and at a low ebb," he admits. "But now I take the attitude that anything that happens in life is meant to be. Perhaps God gives you with one hand and takes with the other. Who knows? But I do know that I am very fortunate to be a professional footballer."

The first Latvian to play the game for a living in this country has put his international career on hold for the time being after winning 68 caps and scoring 16 goals. He will return only when he feels capable of doing himself justice.

A natural goalscorer and deadly around the penalty-area, he claims that only a handful of his 45 goals have been scored from outside the box. But then, with obvious pleasure, he recalls a dazzling solo goal at Old Trafford after cheekily nutmegging Manchester

United's Jaap Stam 40 yards out and, in the following fixture, driving in a left-foot 30-yarder at home to Derby. Both matches were in his first full season and both finished 3-3.

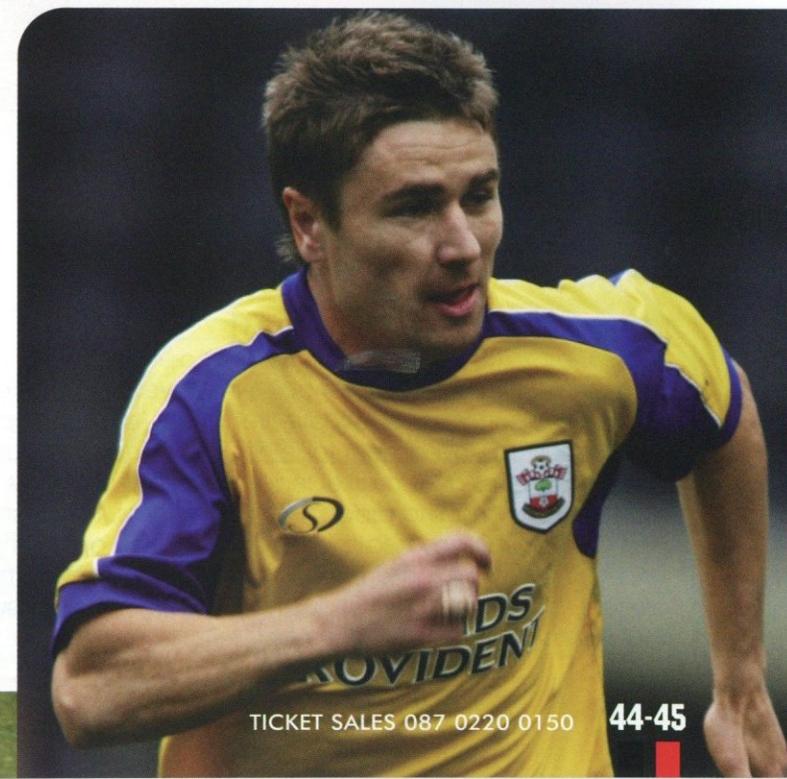
Before that Pahars had endeared himself instantly to the Saints crowd by coming off the bench to score on his home debut. He bettered that soon afterwards by scoring both goals, a left-foot shot from 15 yards followed by a diving near-post header inches off the ground, as Saints secured safety from relegation with a 2-0 win over Everton at The Dell in a tense climax to the 1998-99 season.

Two seasons ago he had the crowd on their feet by curling in a sumptuous shot in a 3-0 home win over Portsmouth.

Amid the highs and lows of his years in England, Marian Pahars has stayed in constant touch with his close-knit family back in Latvia, once part of the former Soviet Union. His parents and parents-in-law often make the two-and-a-half hour flight to England.

He intends to keep a home in this country long after his playing days are over, but is now building a three-storey house on the Balkan Sea coast. Riga, population one million and his "favourite city in the whole world," is just 20 minutes away.

"The house will be great when it's finished, though right now it's just the foundations and one or two walls," he smiles. "But my mum is keeping an eye on everything.!" ■■



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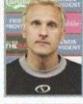
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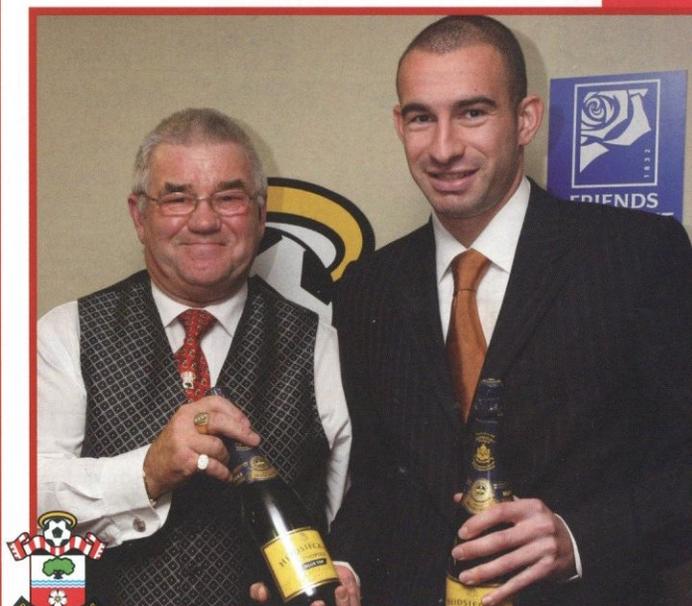
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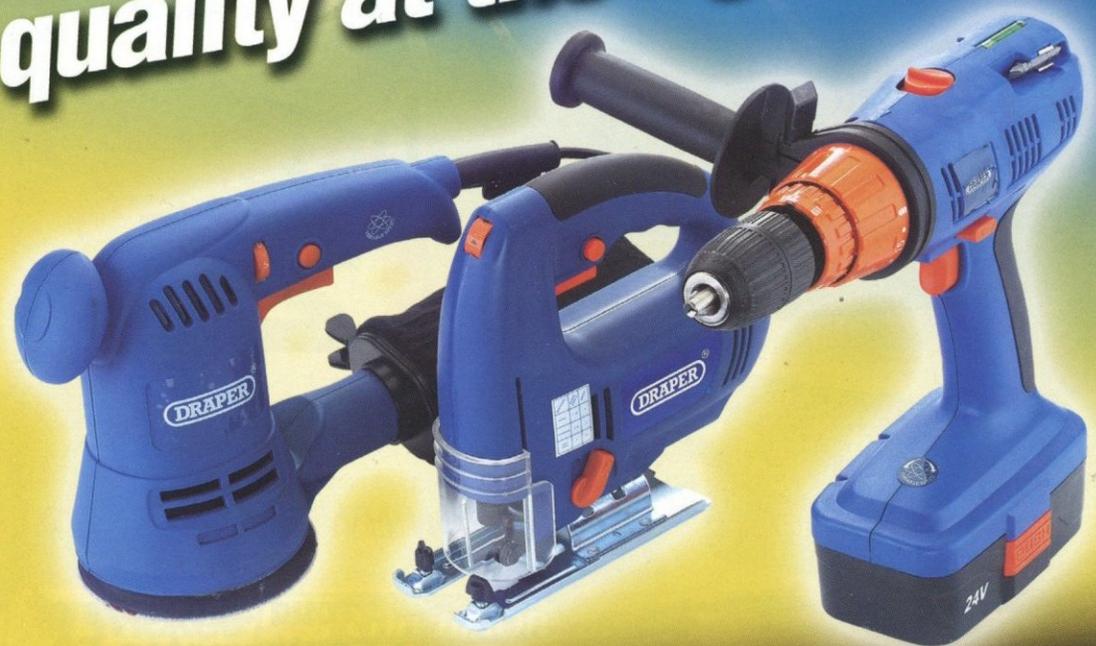
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# LESSONS FROM LUTON

DAVID BULL

I MUST HAVE watched the Saints play Luton more often away than at home. I first went to Kenilworth Road as a neutral, though – since when my sporadic visits have highlighted, for me, changes in the make-up of Britain, whether of our road network or our population.

My test run – along tortuous suburban A-roads from Camberley, on a 500cc Norton – was in November 1957. Unlike my early teens in Salisbury, I could seldom find a schoolmate who'd come to The Dell. Which meant I watched many a top game in London. We invariably took the train but, now offered a pillion ride, I accepted and nominated Saints v Brentford. No chance! My mate insisted on First Division. And it was his bike.

Which is how I came to watch Luton beat Nottingham Forest 3-1. All I remember of the game is Forest's exciting outside left, Stuart Imlach, the subject of a recent prize-winning biography.

Two seasons later, Luton were relegated from Division I, while Saints won Division III – the converse, then, of what happened in May 2005. And during that 1959-60 season, the M1 had opened. So in September 1961, I made my first motorway journey to watch the two sides in Division II. A George O'Brien hat-trick helped Saints win 4-1.

By the time of my next visit – the Fourth Round FA Cup-tie in January 1995 – the demographics of Britain had diversified. This was reflected, as we parked up near the ground, in the ethnic mix all around us – of native shops and Asian shops; of native dress and Asian dress, much of it Muslim.

Which is why I wondered what kind of police presence might await us in Luton at the start of this season.

We'd been told the football authorities and the police were worried, in the aftermath of the London bombings, lest football grounds become a theatre for anti-Muslim abuse.

Yet there was hardly a police officer to be seen.

The authorities had evidently decided that Southampton fans would not be minded to disturb the congenial multi-cultural neighbourhood around Kenilworth Road. Too right! – *racism just ain't Saintly*.

Although the M1 was positively heaving compared with my introduction to it, we'd allowed for it to be a whole lot busier. Which is why I had time, on arrival, for a stroll in the park.

An odd sight awaited me. The Ashes series had just been squared at 1-1, yet there was not a cricket bat to be seen – just three games of football. One consisted of four very young Asians, two boys and two girls – bend it like who was it?

The rest of that August evening had its moments: an exciting, old-fashioned football match in Luton's compact, cordially-stewarded stadium; then cruising home along a motorway network much extended since 1961.

But the lasting food for thought had come from the park: might British Asians be taking up football more than we've been assured they would; and might the game keep doing more to unite than to divide? ■■



**George O'Brien,**

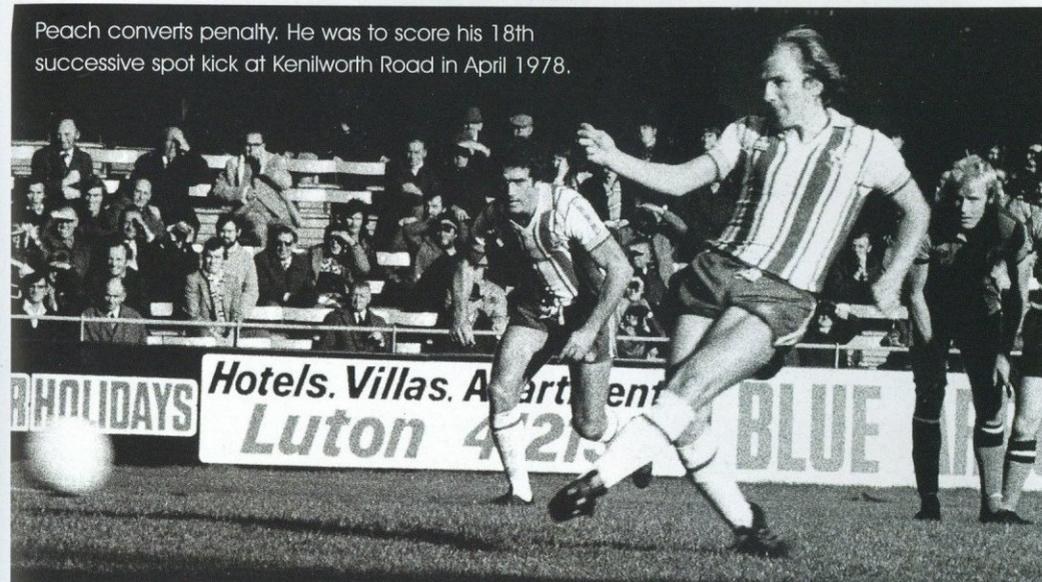
whose hat-trick capped my first motorway journey.



# WITH LUTON TOWN

DAVE JUSON &amp; GARY CHALK

Rivals since 1894. Over the past three centuries the Hatters and the Saints have played 87 Southern and Football League games, of which Saints have won 41, drawn 19 and lost 27.



Peach converts penalty. He was to score his 18th successive spot kick at Kenilworth Road in April 1978.

Affairs are somewhat tighter when the Football League statistics are isolated: 21 Saints' wins to 19, with Luton leading the scoring with 102 goals to 94; thanks to a couple of thunderous home results: 7-0 in October 1986 and 6-1 in January '89.

Saints' best league win over Luton remains a 6-0 thrashing at The Dell in 1908, although many here today will recall, with delight, the 6-0 FA Cup victory in 1995 – discussed by David Bull on the facing page.

Unfortunately Luton do not feature in Chris Newman's new book 'Saints ... the Glory Games' (on sale in all good Saints Megastores), or its predecessor Match of the Millennium (ditto), which makes it awkward to sneak

in a contextual plug – Sorry Chris, it's nothing personal.

Saints' most critical games with Luton took place during '77-78. A Ron Fitcher header ended Saints' run of 22 games undefeated at The Dell on December 12th, and did nothing for Saintly aspirations of upward mobility.

The return was on April 22nd. Kenilworth Road is not the most Saints' friendly of venues, but it was given a Dellesque atmosphere on the day: 10,000 of the 14,302 crowd, that witnessed a 'grim and gruelling afternoon's football', were, according to the Echo's Peter East, Southampton supporters.

Ted MacDougall opened the scoring for Saints after 52 minutes with a diving far post header,

from a 'looping' Alan Ball free-kick. Fourteen minutes on and it was 1-1, thanks to Ricky Hill.

Then, 87 minutes gone, drama: Ball was brought down while trying to dribble through a thicket of desperate defenders. David Peach was soon shaping for an attempt at his 18th consecutive penalty goal for Southampton, and, 'for a full-half minute which seemed like half a season ... fans held their breath', reported East: then, as Milijja Aleksic 'beat the air so did a thousand red and white scarves behind the Kenilworth Road goal.' 1-2!

Saints had moved to the top of Division II – requiring one point from two games to return to the First Division. ■■

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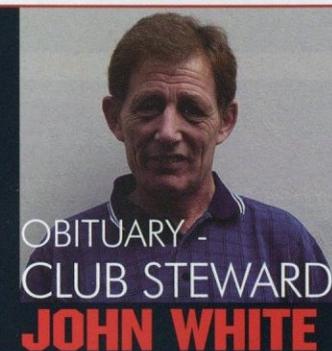


OBITUARY -  
A TRUE SAINT  
**PETER SWIFT**  
BY CAMERON HEALY

Peter Swift was an avid Saints fan, and will be known to home and away supporters alike having been a season ticket holder at The Dell and The Friends Provident St Mary's Stadium for decades. Peter died suddenly at home on December 1 at the age of just 52.

Pete was a well known local footballer too – a nippy left winger by all accounts, in the John Sydenham mould, and he was a fighter, many will know that Pete recently battled with and overcame cancer and went on to run the London Marathon this year (a creditable 5:17:05) to raise money for Cancer Charities and prove that even the "Big C" couldn't stop him.

Pete's two loves were Saints and his family, he was a fantastic father, and his four children, Rachael, Carli, Lewis and Charlie are a credit to him. In his wife Cathy he found his soul mate, and she was the perfect foil for his sense of fun. ■■



OBITUARY -  
CLUB STEWARD  
**JOHN WHITE**

The Saints team will be wearing black armbands today in memory of club steward John White who died recently aged just 56.

The move is at the players' own request as they all knew and liked the hospitality steward who lost a brave fight against cancer.

He worked for the club for more than 20 years as steward, a turnstile operator and in reception at both The Dell and The Friends Provident St. Mary's Stadium.

He was a popular figure who will be sadly missed by the club and his many friends and family. ■■

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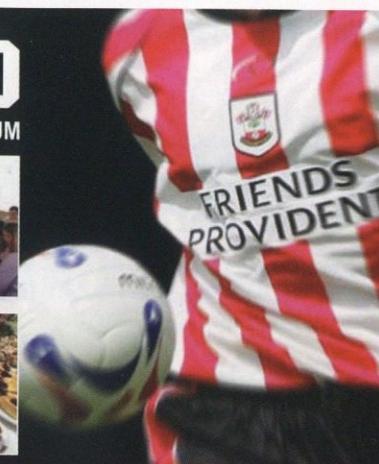
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**SAINTS IN THE COMMUNITY**

Your Football in the Community Sponsors are:



# COMMUNITY COACHES GAIN FA QUALIFICATIONS

14 Saints in the Community coaches recently completed their FA Level 2 coaching qualification. The exclusive course operated by Hampshire FA to accommodate the large number of Saints coaches proved a great success, with all Saints coaches achieving the qualification.

The course underlines the Saints in the Community commitment to raise the standards of grass roots coaching through encouraging staff to develop their ability, and deliver a professional coaching programme in and around the Hampshire and Dorset regions.

Saints in the Community employ over 80 coaches and deliver a wide range of activities from School Sessions and Holiday Courses, to After School Clubs and Team Coaching. Saints hope to operate a Level 2 course in association with Hants FA each year, to ensure future coaches benefit from the opportunity.



Pictured are the Saints coaches and Hants FA coaching staff after another long day!

# CHRISTMAS DROP & SHOP COMMUNITY COURSES

Venue	Dates	Time	Age	Cost	Closing Date	Course Code
Tournament Special: Noadswood School, Hythe	Mon 19 Dec	9am - 12noon	5 - 8 yrs	£10.00	Thursday 15th Dec	05DE-01
Tournament Special: Noadswood School, Hythe	Mon 19 Dec	1pm - 4pm	9 - 12 yrs	£10.00	Thursday 15th Dec	05DE-02
Tournament Special: Noadswood School, Hythe	Tues 20 Dec	9am - 12noon	5 - 8 yrs	£10.00	Thursday 15th Dec	05DE-03
Tournament Special: Noadswood School, Hythe	Tues 20 Dec	1pm - 4pm	9 - 12 yrs	£10.00	Thursday 15th Dec	05DE-04
Tournament Special: Testwood School, Totton	Mon 19 Dec	9am - 12noon	5 - 8 yrs	£10.00	Thursday 15th Dec	05DE-05
Tournament Special: Testwood School, Totton	Mon 19 Dec	1pm - 4pm	9 - 12 yrs	£10.00	Thursday 15th Dec	05DE-06
Tournament Special: Testwood School, Totton	Tues 20 Dec	9am - 12noon	5 - 8 yrs	£10.00	Thursday 15th Dec	05DE-07
Tournament Special: Testwood School, Totton	Tues 20 Dec	1pm - 4pm	9 - 12 yrs	£10.00	Thursday 15th Dec	05DE-08
Drop & Shop: Winton School, Andover	Sat 17 Dec	10am - 4pm	5 - 14 yrs	£17.00 non members £15.30 Jnr mem	Thursday 15th Dec	05DE-09
Drop & Shop: Clere School, Newbury	Sat 17 Dec	10am - 4pm	5 - 14 yrs	£17.00 non members £15.30 Jnr mem	Thursday 15th Dec	05DE-10
Drop & Shop: Wildern School, Hedge E.	Tues 20 Dec	10am - 3pm	5 - 14 yrs	£12.50 non members £10.00 mem	Thursday 15th Dec	05DE-15
Guernsey Beau Sejour Leisure Centre, Guernsey	Wed 21 Dec - Thurs 22 Dec	10am - 3pm	10 - 15 yrs	£38.00	Wednesday 7th Dec	05GU-20

For all those parents who would like to get in some last minute Christmas shopping Saints in the Community are offering our ever popular Xmas Shop & Drop Courses:

The courses are aimed at both girls and boys from 5 years upwards, and range from tournament specials to improving basic skills and co ordination. The courses also offer children the chance to get active, meet new friends as well as learning the importance of team work and developing self confidence.

## TOURNAMENT SPECIALS

For all those budding footballers who've practiced their skills, now's the time to put the practice into action:-

- Register individually
- You will be divided into teams according to age group
- Organised on a league basis, with points gained from each game.
- Tournament will operate for three hours with each team playing a minimum of 10 matches.
- Individual and team prizes, including Saints merchandise and trophies!

To register your interest contact Saints in the Community on **087 0220 0170** or go to the Community page on [www.saintsfc.co.uk](http://www.saintsfc.co.uk) to download an application form.

All children must pre book by completing an application form. Registration on the day will not be permitted.



SAINTS IN THE COMMUNITY



# SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot the six differences in the Santa cover picture below?



## PRE-MATCH BALL SKILLS

Today's pre-match ball skills are being performed from 1.45pm to 2.15pm along the Kingsland stand by the Saint's Girls Centre of Excellence under 10's.



ANSWERS: 1. Santa has a red nose 2. He has a red bauble on the end of his hat 3. A Saints logo has appeared on his hat 4. He has grown his beard 5. The white fluff on his jacket has gone 6. His buckle has filled in.

## HA TODAYS CHRISTMAS JOKES

Q: What do elves learn in school?

A: The elf-abet.

Q: What is the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet?

A: The Christmas alphabet has no L (Noel).

Q: What Christmas Carol is a favorite of parents?

A: Silent Night.



Denkale Junior Saints Sponsors



ODEON



Corporate Sponsors

# JUNIOR SAINTS

## SAINTS MASCOT



Today's Junior Saints Mascot is 7-year-old Sam Tan from Southampton. Sam attends Meon Cross School and enjoys Football, Tennis, Swimming and Golf. His favourite Saints player is Nigel Quashie.



## T-MOBILE MASCOT

Today's T-Mobile mascot is 9-year-old Kimberley Maguire from Biggleswade in Bedfordshire. Kimberley attends Holmesmead Middle School and enjoys playing musical instruments.

Her favourite Saints players are Danny Higginbotham, Chris Baird and Brett Ormerod.

## BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations and best wishes to the following Junior Saints Members who have had a birthday since our last home match against Burnley on Saturday 3rd December. We hope you have all had super birthdays.

<b>Sunday 4th December</b>	<b>Thursday 8th December</b>	Callum Cross 10
Jasmine Conn-Smith 3		Thomas Woodhouse 10
Jake Willis 9	Kayleigh Russell 4	
Harrison Button 11	Frederick Davies 6	<b>Sunday 11th December</b>
Jamie Hughes 12	George Poynter 6	Morgan Croft 6
Andrew Metzelaar 12	Harry Bascombe 8	Jake Watson 6
Freddie Smithers 12	Callum Cookson 8	Ben Caffyn 8
	Greg De Nitto 8	Charles Burgess 8
<b>Monday 5th December</b>	Kieron Glide 8	James Timberlake 10
Jack Woodhouse 5	Joshua Bartlett 9	Matthew Wells 10
Oliver Dennett 7	Liam Foreman 10	Ellis White 11
Charlie Laing 10	Rory Jutton 10	Sophie Lewis 12
Charlotte Hathaway 11	Matthew Haines 12	
Rebekah Warne 11		
Carla Minter 12		

### Friday 9th December

Matthew Driver 5

### Tuesday 6th December

Ben Beckley 7

Thomas Hardy 7

Jake Joint 7

Nicholas Canes 8

Jemima Holt 8

Kieran Holland 9

Bradley Ledger 11

Matthew Knight 9

Joseph Lunn 9

Conor Lunn 9

Jake Lunn 9

Jess Richards 9

### Saturday 10th December

Rian Edmond 6

Lewis Shepherd 6

Daniel Narracott 8

Jack Oades 8

Max Tigwell 8

Ryan Beal 10

## BALL ASSISTANTS

Today's Ball Assistants are representatives of The Saints Girls Centre of Excellence under 16's



# AWAY GUIDE TO VICARAGE ROAD



**By Car:**

Leave the M1 at Junction 5 and take the A4008 into Watford. As you come into the town centre, you should see the ground ahead of you.

**Parking:**

You'll struggle to find any parking in the immediate area of the ground, but there are plenty of town centre car parks, which are within a 10-minute walk. There are also some private car parks located in the various industrial estates, some within a five-minute walk from the ground.

**By Train:**

Watford Junction is the main station in Watford, but it is about a 20-minute walk from the ground. Head to the town centre and then follow the crowd from there.

**Pubs:**

There are plenty of pubs in and around the town centre, including a large Wetherspoons, "Moon Under Water". Avoid the Red Lion near the ground and you shouldn't go far wrong.

**The Stadium Itself:**

Vicarage Road is a bit of a mix of the old and the new. Most of the ground is relatively new, with both ends and one side having been redeveloped in the last 15 years. The one stand which lets the appearance of the ground down is the main stand, which is a very old rickety affair, with a third of it completely out in the open.

Up to 4500 away fans can be accommodated in the Vicarage Road Stand at one end. 2500 Saints fans made the trip there last season to see a capitulation in the Carling Cup. Let's hope it's a happier trip home this time!

Adrian Boothroyd



**SAINTS TRAVEL CLUB**

The Travel Club are running their usual fleet of coaches, priced at £11. These depart the stadium at 9am with a pick-up at Eastleigh, Winchester and Fleet. Telephone 087 0220 0150 for more details or to book your seat.



# STANDING IN SEATED AREAS

Minister for Sport Richard Caborn has made it clear that it is now unlikely that any government review of standing in seated areas at football grounds will take place in the foreseeable future.

This means that despite what any individual club or supporter might feel, the current legislation is very clear. Persistent standing in seated areas is in breach of the Ground Regulations which are required under the Safety Certificate that allows the Club to operate The Friends Provident St Mary's Stadium.

Ground Regulation 9 states **"Nobody may stand in any seating area whilst play is in progress. Persistent standing in seated areas whilst play is in progress is strictly forbidden and may result in ejection from the Ground."**

Ground Regulations, including Regulation 9 are posted by each turnstile and season ticket holders have made an undertaking to observe this and all other ground regulations.

The reasons for the outlawing of standing in seated areas are clear:

- **It is not safe and can lead to a "domino" effect as seat backs provide insufficient support to prevent fans toppling forward.**
- **It interferes with the enjoyment of other fans who may want to sit down during the game.**

The Club recognises that supporters may stand at exciting times of the match but that at all other times, supporters should sit.

The legislation is very clear and with the Minister for Sport's statement, so is the view of the regulatory authorities. In the

same way that individual drivers cannot opt out of speed restrictions because they do not agree with them, individual fans cannot opt out of legislation (such as that on standing) which relates to football stadia because they believe that legislation to be a departure from tradition.

The authorities have also made it clear that this legislation has now been in place for several years and that supporters have had ample time to adjust their behaviour.

Please observe the Ground Regulations and comply with stewards' requests. We all have a duty to keep the Friends Provident St Mary's Stadium operating within the current legal requirements. ■■

VERBAL ABUSE?  
AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR?  
RACISM? SMOKING?  
Don't let others spoil  
your enjoyment

LET YOUR  
THUMB POINT  
THE FINGER

TEXT: 0778 148 1885 NOW

AND WE'LL GET ON THE CASE!

NORMAL TEXT CHARGES APPLY. TEXTS ARE TREATED WITH DISCRETION

## EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Important announcements will be notified to spectators by means of the public address system.

- The announcement will be preceded by a loud warning signal.
- Listen carefully to the announcement and be ready to respond in a calm and controlled manner.
- Stewards and/or police officers will assist by directing spectators to the nearest safe exit where necessary.
- Please remain calm and keep gangways and exits clear.

We would ask you to bear the following in mind:

- The use of foul and abusive language (including racial abuse) can intimidate other supporters and is in breach of Ground Regulation 7.
- Smoking is not permitted in the seating area.
- It helps the club to be a good neighbour if you leave the Stadium and surrounding area quietly after the match. ■■



72 Clubs. The 'Coca-Cola' Football League. The Real League.

# THE SAINT

107.8FM  
**THE SAINT**  
DAB & ONLINE at the heart of Southampton

TIM MANNIS -  
STATION DIRECTOR

This is the last match before Christmas and in our days at the Dell it would have been a likely day for issuing cup vouchers.

In pre-membership days there was a need to try to make sure that the most loyal fans were the most likely to get tickets for FA Cup matches so vouchers were handed out at a match sometime before Christmas.

Any December fixture was a favourite as it was considered that the slightly less than totally committed fans might be tempted/ persuaded/ forced to go Christmas shopping.

As I remember it the biggest problem was often remembering in what special place the voucher had been

put when it was actually needed the following March.

Had **The Saint** been around in those days we probably would have given away vouchers on the breakfast show. As it is we are running a promotion through December called *Cack or Crackers* where you can win some super prizes including Bon Jovi tickets, match tickets and a half season ticket to see the Saints.

To win you just need to listen out for the *Cack or Crackers Alarm*. When you hear it call the studio on **023 8020 6406**

and if we put your call on air you'll get to pull a cracker which may contain cack or a great Christmas present.

On behalf of everyone at **The Saint** may I wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Finally don't forget to text your choice of today's Man of the Match. One person who texts will win two tickets to Saints v Sheffield United on Wednesday 28th December and we'll announce the winner during "The Third Half" with Jimmy Case between 3.30 and 4.30pm this afternoon. ■■



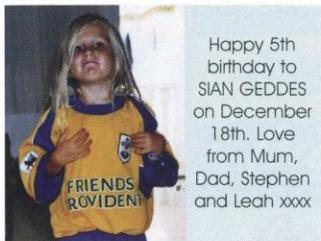
Every Saints match live with Jimmy Case and Will Cope.  
Call Jimmy Case on The Third Half after the match.

Call the studio on: **023 8020 6406**

or text on: **0778 148 1078\***

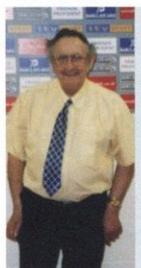
Email on: **thesaint@saintsfc.co.uk**

\*Texts charged at your standard rate



Happy 5th birthday to SIAN GEDDES on December 18th. Love from Mum, Dad, Stephen and Leah xxxx

Happy 60th birthday to Lady Basset (Mags) for the 12th December from everyone who knows you from SFC. Have a nice day. Xxx



John Badger celebrating 60 years supporting Saints 1945-2005. Have a great day. Lots of love from Gary, Carole, Leon, Tanya, Reece, Nick, Angie and great grand children Shannon, Joshua and Kyra

To my dearest brother Matt, sorry your arm is in plaster for your birthday but you can fly the red and white for your Saints with your arm!! Love Molly xx



Happy 60th birthday to Mick O'Connor, lifelong Saints Fan. Love from Susan, Nicola, Ian, Deborah, Wayne, Brady, Sophie, Chloe, Mitchell and Alex xxxxx

Happy Birthday Tom R, season ticket holder in the Kingsland and stalwart for Winchester JFC U12s. With love from Mum, Dad and Adam.



Happy Birthday to Ash Young who was nine years old last weekend from Mum, Dad, Jack, Tone, Jen, John Beth and Mike XXXX

Happy 50th Birthday Nigel Lewis Lots of Love from Danielle xx

Best wishes to Carole Newell who celebrated her birthday on the 30th November. Love from Dave, Gavin, Angela, Bethan, Caroline and Nigel



Happy Birthday to Northam Jill. Hoping all your birthday wishes come true (which'll mean Benali will play today!) Love Jenny & Chip the Sainty Dog!

Happy 6th birthday to Stuart Nineham on the 10th December, lots of love from Mummy, Nanny, Grandad and Uncle Matt xxx Come on you Saints!!



A very happy 60th birthday to Mike Allen. A loyal Saints fan and a brilliant Dad! Lots of love from Charlotte x

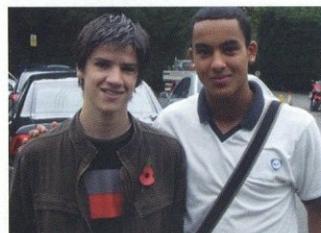
Happy Birthday on 8 December to Helen Elshaw from Chris, Mum, Dad, Rebecca, Sarah, Alice, Phil and a very special kiss from Lewis.

## HERE ARE THIS WEEK'S DEDICATIONS, PLEASE KEEP SENDING THEM IN TO US

Send your dedications to: Saints Programme, Cedar, Royal Crescent Road, Southampton SO14 3FS or email: [sfc@cedar.uk.com](mailto:sfc@cedar.uk.com)  
Keep them to a maximum of 30 words, photographs welcome (please send with a SAE for return). Your messages should arrive no later than 10 days before a game otherwise we may not be able to fit them in. However we will print as many as space allows and cannot reply to any individually.



To my big brother, Paul Rickman, happy 40th birthday on December 19th. You may be older, but you're always a Saint. Love your little sis, Tina, and all your family



Happy 17th Birthday JAMES SMITH From Gav, Russ and Jav Keep the dreams alive!



Ben R. M. Wood pictured with our hero Theo. Born 11/12/1988, 17-years-old today! Happy Birthday sweetheart, all our love forever, Diane & Gary XXX P.S. the Saints will win for you today we hope!! Come on you reds!

Gracie and William Jones would like to welcome their Grandad and Grandma to their first trip to The Friends Provident St. Marys Stadium. Come on Saints. xxxxxxxx

# SVENSSON OUT OF ACTION

GRAHAM HILEY

Michael Svensson has had further knee surgery and will be out of action until well into the New Year.

The commanding centre-back will be on crutches for two months after going under the knife late on Monday.

It is a huge blow for Saints who are not putting any kind of time scale on his projected return but will review his progress over the next few weeks.

Svensson has only just battled back to fitness after 18 months out with articular cartilage damage which forced him to miss Euro 2004.

He made a strong return adding poise and power to the heart of the defence but the effort has taken its toll. He has been struggling since the away game at Hull and has missed the last two matches.

When the problem failed to ease with rest and treatment, he saw a specialist who advised surgery.

Saints physio Jim Joyce said: "Michael cannot put full weight on the knee for two months but he will be reviewed before then to see how quickly he can return."

Svensson had resumed a strong partnership with Claus Lundekvam who is recovering well from groin surgery which was done while he was sidelined by two fractured ribs.

He is now able to cycle and has an outside chance for the away game at Norwich although the Boxing Day visit to Watford looks a more realistic target.

Yoann Folly has reported a thigh strain which kept him out against Burnley while Dennis Wise is now back training following a thigh problem.

Marian Pahars is almost over his medial ligament injury but is still touch and go for today's game.

Darren Kenton has had a minor ankle strain but is now back in training while Jason St Juste has had an injection in a hip injury and will be out for a fortnight. ■■





■ Gold games ■ Silver games

■	Sat Aug 6	Wolverhampton Wanderers	H	5.15pm	24,061	-	0-0	Niemi	Hajto	Lundekvam	Powell
■	Tue Aug 9	Luton Town	A	7.45pm	9,447	-	2-3	Niemi	Hajto	Delap	Powell
■	Sat Aug 13	Sheffield Wednesday	A	3.00pm	26,688	10	1-0	Niemi	Hajto	Lundekvam	Powell
■	Sat Aug 20	Norwich City	H	3.00pm	23,498	8	1-0	Niemi	Hajto	Lundekvam	Powell
■	Mon Aug 22	Southend United (CC1)	A	8.00pm	6,358	-	3-0	Smith	Cranie	Mills	Hajto
■	Sat Aug 27	Crewe Alexandra	H	3.00pm	22,792	5	2-0	Niemi	Hajto	Lundekvam	Powell
■	Mon Aug 29	Coventry City	A	8.00pm	19,121	5	1-1	Niemi	Hajto	Lundekvam	Powell
■	Sat Sep 10	Queens Park Rangers	H	3.00pm	25,744	5	1-1	Niemi	Hajto	Lundekvam	Powell
■	Tue Sep 13	Ipswich Town	A	7.45pm	22,997	5	2-2	Niemi	Hajto	Lundekvam	Powell
■	Sun Sep 18	Derby County	A	4.00pm	22,348	6	2-2	Niemi	Hajto	Lundekvam	Powell
■	Tue Sep 20	Mansfield Town (CC 2)	A	7.45pm	3,739	-	0-1	Smith	Cranie	Kenton	Mills
■	Sat Sep 24	Plymouth Argyle	H	3.00pm	26,331	7	0-0	Niemi	Hajto	Lundekvam	Powell
■	Wed Sep 28	Reading	H	7.45pm	24,946	7	0-0	Niemi	Hajto	Lundekvam	Powell
■	Sat Oct 1	Preston North End	A	3.00pm	15,273	8	1-1	Niemi	Hajto	Svensson	Powell
■	Sat Oct 15	Hull City	H	3.00pm	23,810	8	1-1	Niemi	Hajto	Lundekvam	Svensson
■	Tue Oct 18	Leeds United	A	7.45pm	18,881	10	1-2	Niemi	Hajto	Lundekvam	Cranie
■	Sat Oct 22	Millwall	A	3.00pm	10,759	9	2-0	Niemi	Cranie	Lundekvam	Svensson
■	Sat Oct 29	Stoke City	H	3.00pm	24,095	7	2-0	Niemi	Delap	Lundekvam	Svensson
■	Sat Nov 5	Leicester City	A	3.00pm	21,318	6	0-0	Niemi	Delap	Lundekvam	Svensson
■	Sat Nov 19	Leeds United	H	3.00pm	30,173	10	3-4	Niemi	Delap	Lundekvam	Svensson
■	Tue Nov 22	Hull City	A	7.45pm	18,061	12	1-1	Niemi	Delap	Powell	Svensson
■	Sat Nov 26	Wolverhampton Wanderers	A	12.30pm	24,628	12	0-0	Niemi	Delap	Powell	Kenton
■	Sat Dec 3	Burnley	H	3.00pm	21,592	12	1-1	Niemi	Delap	Powell	Kenton
■	Sun Dec 11	Luton Town	H	1.30pm							
■	Sat Dec 17	Norwich City	A	3.00pm							
■	Mon Dec 26	Watford	A	12 Noon							
■	Wed Dec 28	Sheffield United	H	7.45pm							
■	Sat Dec 31	Cardiff City	A	1.00pm							
■	Mon Jan 2	Brighton and Hove Albion	H	3.00pm							
■	Sat Jan 7	Milton Keynes Dons FAC 3	H	3.00pm							
■	Sat Jan 14	Queens Park Rangers	A	3.00pm							
■	Sat Jan 21	Ipswich Town	H	3.00pm							
■	Wed Jan 25	Crystal Palace	H	7.45pm							
■	Sat Jan 28	F.A. Cup 4									
■	Tue Jan 31	Plymouth Argyle	A	7.45pm							
■	Sat Feb 4	Derby County	H	3.00pm							
■	Fri Feb 10	Reading	A	7.45pm							
■	Wed Feb 15	Preston North End	H	7.45pm							
■	Sat Feb 18	Burnley (FA Cup 5)	A	3.00pm							
■	Sat Feb 25	Sheffield Wednesday	H	3.00pm							
■	Sat Mar 4	Coventry City	H	3.00pm							
■	Sat Mar 11	Crewe Alexandra	A	3.00pm							
■	Sat Mar 18	Watford	H	3.00pm							
■	Wed Mar 22	F.A. Cup 6									
■	Sat Mar 25	Sheffield United	A	3.00pm							
■	Sat Apr 1	Cardiff City	H	3.00pm							
■	Sat Apr 8	Brighton and Hove Albion	A	3.00pm							
■	Sat Apr 15	Stoke City	A	3.00pm							
■	Mon Apr 17	Millwall	H	3.00pm							
■	Sat Apr 22	Crystal Palace (FA Cup SF)	A	3.00pm							
■	Sun Apr 30	Leicester City	H	tbc							
■	Sat May 6	Play Off SF (1)									
■	Wed May 10	Play Off SF (2)									
■	Sat May 13	F.A. Cup Final									
■	Sun May 21	Championship Play Off Final									

Saints' FA Youth Cup third round tie against Wrexham will be played on Tuesday 20th December 2005, kick off 7pm at the Racecourse Ground. Prices will be £5 for adults and £3 concessions as Saints aim to go one better than last season when they lost the FA Youth Cup final in the last minute of extra-time at Ipswich.

The game will be decided on the night with extra time and penalties if necessary.

Saints Reserves will now face Norwich Reserves at Staplewood on Tuesday February 7, kick-off 7pm. Saints should have been hosting Fulham in a Reserve team fixture that night and that game has now been swapped with the Norwich one and will be played at Staplewood on Tuesday (December) 13, kick-off 7pm.

Admission is free but children must be accompanied by an adult and the club reserve the right of admission. There is very limited parking at Staplewood, first come first served. Fans are not permitted to park in the lane outside.

Higginbotham	Belmadi	Oakley	Quashie	Prufton	Fuller	Jones	Wise	Walcott	Delap	Cranie	Smith
Higginbotham	Wise	Oakley	Quashie	Prufton	Fuller	Jones	Walcott	Blackstock	Belmadi	Cranie	Smith
Higginbotham	Belmadi	Oakley	Quashie	Prufton	Blackstock	Jones	Walcott	Delap	Cranie	Dyer	Smith
Higginbotham	Prufton	Oakley	Quashie	Belmadi	Fuller	Jones	Cranie	Walcott	Blackstock	Wise	Smith
Higginbotham	Prufton	Delap	Folly	Dyer	Jones	Blackstock	Wise	Ormerod	Fuller	Walcott	Blayney
Higginbotham	Prufton	Oakley	Quashie	Belmadi	Fuller	Jones	Ormerod	Dyer	Cranie	Wise	Smith
Higginbotham	Prufton	Oakley	Quashie	Belmadi	Fuller	Jones	Ormerod	Dyer	Cranie	Wise	Smith
Higginbotham	Prufton	Oakley	Quashie	Belmadi	Fuller	Jones	Ormerod	Dyer	Cranie	Wise	Smith
Higginbotham	Kosowski	Oakley	Quashie	Wise	Fuller	Ormerod	Walcott	Blackstock	Delap	McCann	Smith
Higginbotham	Kosowski	Oakley	Quashie	Wise	Fuller	Ormerod	Jones	Delap	McCann	Cranie	Smith
Higginbotham	Baird	McCann	Delap	Folly	Dyer	Blackstock	Jones	Walcott	McGoldrick	Tejera	Gillett
Higginbotham	Kosowski	Oakley	Quashie	Wise	Fuller	Ormerod	Walcott	Jones	Cranie	Delap	Smith
Higginbotham	Kosowski	Oakley	Quashie	Wise	Fuller	Jones	Pahars	Ormerod	Cranie	Delap	Smith
Higginbotham	Kosowski	Oakley	Quashie	Wise	Fuller	Ormerod	Pahars	Jones	Cranie	Delap	Smith
Higginbotham	Kosowski	Oakley	Quashie	Belmadi	Fuller	Ormerod	Walcott	Blackstock	Cranie	Delap	Smith
Higginbotham	McCann	Oakley	Quashie	Belmadi	Fuller	Walcott	Kosowski	Jones	Delap	Ormerod	Smith
Higginbotham	McCann	Oakley	Quashie	Belmadi	Fuller	Walcott	Jones	Kosowski	Wise	Delap	Smith
Higginbotham	McCann	Wise	Quashie	Belmadi	Fuller	Walcott	Jones	Powell	Kosowski	Folly	Smith
Higginbotham	McCann	Oakley	Quashie	Belmadi	Fuller	Walcott	Pahars	Kosowski	Powell	Wise	Smith
Higginbotham	Wise	Oakley	Quashie	2 Pahars	Ormerod	Walcott	McCann	Fuller	Hajto	Belmadi	Smith
Higginbotham	Kosowski	Oakley	Quashie	Belmadi	Ormerod	Walcott	Hajto	Fuller	McCann	Jones	Smith
Higginbotham	Kosowski	Oakley	Folly	Belmadi	Ormerod	Walcott	McCann	Fuller	Jones	Jones	Smith
Higginbotham	Kosowski	Oakley	Prufton	Belmadi	Ormerod	Walcott	Fuller	Jones	McCann	Cranie	Smith

**COCA-COLA CHAMPIONSHIP LEAGUE TABLE**

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
01	Reading	22	16	5	1	41	11	30	53
02	Sheffield United	22	15	4	3	43	21	22	49
03	Leeds United	21	11	6	4	28	19	9	39
04	Watford	22	10	8	4	37	26	11	38
05	Luton Town	22	10	4	8	33	31	2	34
06	Preston North End	22	7	11	4	26	20	6	32
07	Burnley	22	9	5	8	31	26	5	32
08	Crystal Palace	20	9	4	7	32	23	9	31
09	Wolves	22	7	10	5	27	19	8	31
10	Cardiff City	22	8	7	7	32	26	6	31
11	Stoke City	22	10	1	11	26	30	-4	31
12	Southampton	21	5	13	3	24	19	5	28
13	Queens Park Rangers	22	7	7	8	25	31	-6	28
14	Derby County	22	5	10	7	29	32	-3	25
15	Ipswich Town	22	6	7	9	24	34	-10	25
16	Leicester City	21	5	9	7	23	25	-2	24
17	Hull City	22	5	8	9	20	25	-5	23
18	Norwich City	22	6	5	11	21	29	-8	23
19	Coventry City	22	4	10	8	27	34	-7	22
20	Plymouth Argyle	21	4	8	9	17	28	-11	20
21	Sheffield Wednesday	22	4	8	10	17	28	-11	20
22	Brighton	22	2	13	7	21	30	-9	19
23	Crewe Alexandra	22	4	7	11	23	43	-20	19
24	Millwall	22	3	8	11	17	34	-17	17

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# APPEARANCES & GOALS 2005-06

Player Name	Appearances this season			Saints Career Total	Goals this Season			Saints Career Goals Total
	L	FAC	CC		L	FAC	CC	
Chris Baird	-	-	1	4(5)	-	-	-	-
Djamel Belmadi	14	-	-	14	2	-	-	2
Leon Best	-	-	-	2(3)	-	-	-	-
Dexter Blackstock	1(5)	-	2	10(8)	-	-	1	6
Alan Blayney	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-
Martin Cranie	2(2)	-	2	8(2)	-	-	-	-
Rory Delap	7(4)	-	2	130(17)	-	-	-	7
Nathan Dyer	(1)	-	2	2(1)	-	-	1	1
Yoann Folly	1	-	2	13(3)	-	-	-	-
Ricardo Fuller	16(4)	-	-	16(4)	3	-	-	3
Leandre Griffit	-	-	-	2(6)	-	-	-	2
Tomasz Hajto	14(2)	-	1	15(2)	-	-	-	-
Danny Higginbotham	21	-	1	79(10)	2	-	-	3
Kenwyne Jones	7(8)	-	2	11(9)	2	-	-	2
Darren Kenton	2	-	1	17(4)	-	-	-	-
Kamil Kosowski	9(4)	-	-	9(4)	1	-	-	1
Claus Lundekvam	16	-	-	349(10)	-	-	-	1
Neil McCann	4(4)	-	1	22(25)	-	-	-	1
David McGoldrick	-	-	(1)	(1)	-	-	-	-
Matthew Mills	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-
Antti Niemi	21	-	-	119	-	-	-	-
Matthew Oakley	20	-	-	271(28)	2	-	-	20
Brett Ormerod	10(3)	-	(1)	70(39)	1	-	1	19
Marian Pahars	1(3)	-	-	121(29)	1	-	-	45
Darren Powell	15	-	-	15	1	-	-	1
David Puffton	8	-	1	66(13)	-	-	-	3
Nigel Quashie	19	-	-	32	4	-	-	5
Paul Smith	-	-	2	11(1)	-	-	-	-
Michael Svensson	7	-	-	81(1)	-	-	-	6
Theo Walcott	8(7)	-	(1)	8(8)	3	-	-	3
Dennis Wise	8(3)	-	(1)	8(4)	1	-	-	1



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# SAINTS

V LUTON TOWN

SUNDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2005 KICK OFF 1.30PM

## Today's Match Officials

Referee  
L.W. Probert

### Assistant Referees

- B. Malone
- A.D. Sainsbury

Fourth Official  
J. Singh

## Forthcoming Matches

Away - Norwich City  
Saturday 17th December 2005  
Kick-off 3.00pm

Away - Watford  
Monday 26th December 2005  
Kick-off 12 noon

Home - Sheffield United  
Wednesday 28th December 2005  
Kick-off 7.45pm

Away - Cardiff City  
Saturday 31st December 2005  
Kick-off 1.00pm



### Cover Shot

Who is Saints Secret Santa? Find out in the centre pages of your matchday programme.

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**Daily Echo**  
TEAM SHEET



### GOALKEEPERS

- 01 Antti Niemi
- 13 Paul Smith
- 28 Alan Blayney

### DEFENDERS

- 05 Claus Lundekvam
- 06 Darren Powell
- 07 Tomasz Hajto
- 11 Michael Svensson
- 16 Martin Cranie
- 19 Danny Higginbotham
- 22 Darren Kenton

### MIDFIELDERS

- 03 Kamil Kosowski
- 04 Dennis Wise
- 08 Matthew Oakley
- 10 Neil McCann
- 12 Nigel Quashie
- 18 Rory Delap
- 20 David Prutton
- 23 Yoann Folly
- 31 Djamel Belmadi

### FORWARDS

- 09 Brett Ormerod
- 14 Ricardo Fuller
- 15 Kenwyne Jones
- 17 Marian Pahars
- 24 Dexter Blackstock
- 27 Leon Best
- 32 Theo Walcott

### GOALKEEPERS

- 01 Marlon Beresford
- 33 Dean Brill
- 47 Rob Beckwith

### DEFENDERS

- 02 Kevin Foley
- 03 Sol Davis
- 04 Chris Coyne
- 05 Russell Perrett
- 06 Paul Underwood
- 26 Markus Heikkinen
- 45 Leon Barnett

### MIDFIELDERS

- 07 Carlos Edwards
- 08 Kevin Nicholls
- 11 Steve Robinson
- 15 Steven O'Leary
- 17 Paul Hughes
- 18 Ahmet Brkovic
- 21 Keith Keane
- 22 Danny Stevens
- 23 Dean Morgan
- 27 Peter Holmes

### FORWARDS

- 09 Rowan Vine
- 10 Warren Feeney
- 16 Enoch Showunmi
- 19 Steve Howard
- 29 Calvin Andrew

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