

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE OF STOKE CITY FOOTBALL CLUB

# CITY SCENE

**Britannia**

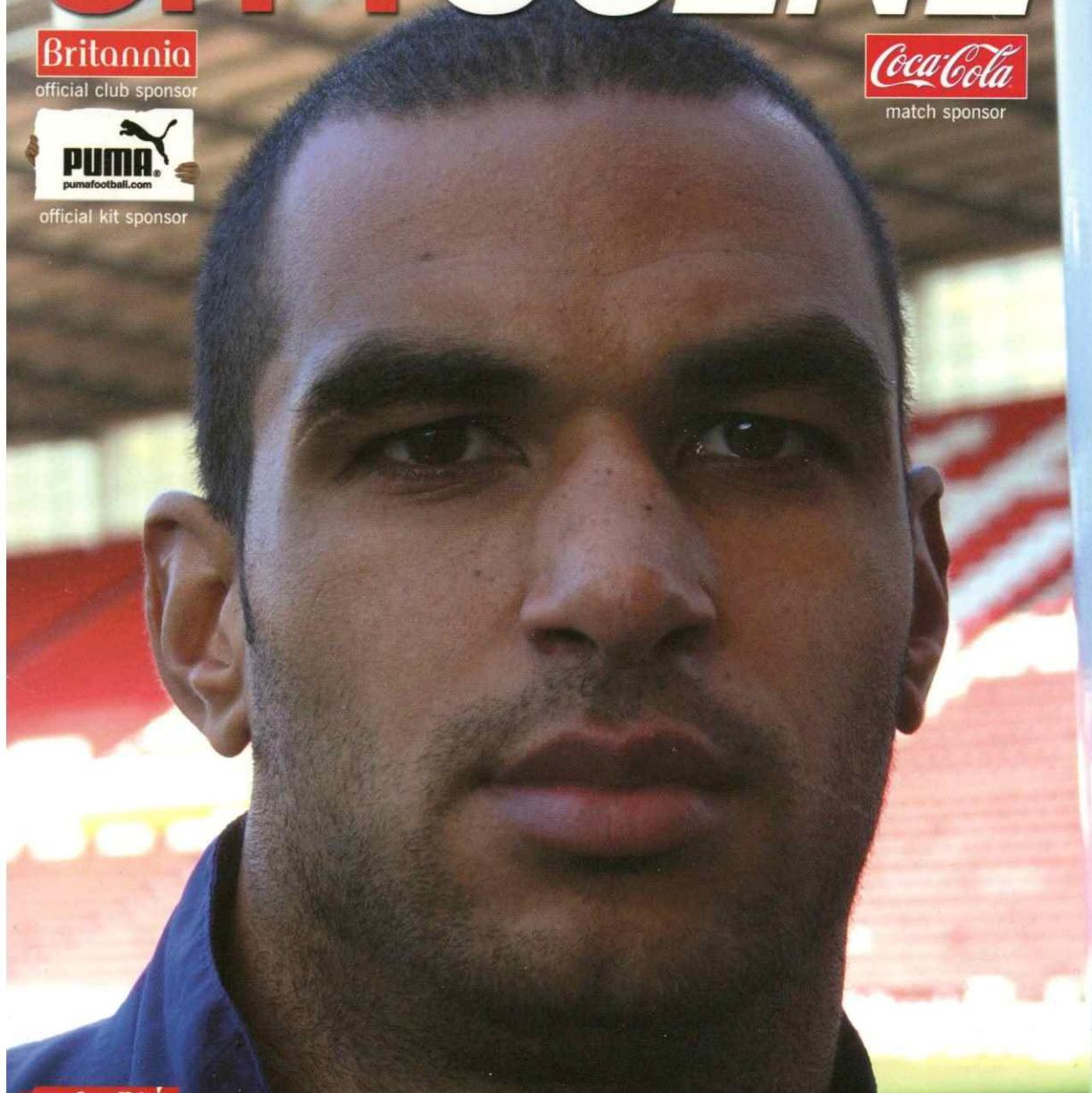
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**STOKE CITY**  
VERSUS  
**LUTON TOWN**

SATURDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2007 KICK-OFF 3.00PM

£3.00



# Stoke City FC

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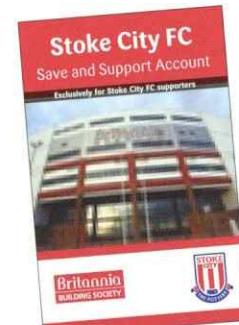
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Talk to **Britannia branch staff**

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Telephone calls may be recorded and/or monitored.

# Britannia

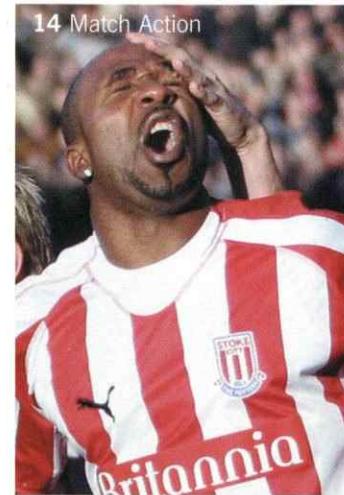
## BUILDING SOCIETY

Britannia Building Society, Britannia House  
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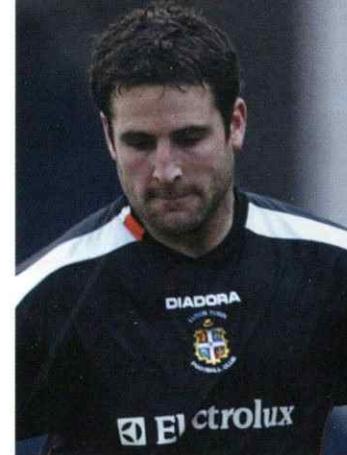
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7821/07/2005

STOKE CITY v LUTON TOWN



28 CrossTalk



Welcome to another edition of CITYSCENE on what could be a crucial match in the Potters' push for promotion.

No win in three for Tony Pulis' side has seen City slip out of the playoff places – but all is not lost just yet.

With your support, the Potters can reverse their recent fortunes and claw their way back up the league, starting with (hopefully) three points against Luton Town this afternoon.

As always, we have an action packed issue of the magazine for you to enjoy, with an in-depth interview with City new boy Jonathan Fortune.

The Charlton defender talks about his last minute move to the Potteries, as well as his aims for the rest of the season at the Britannia Stadium.

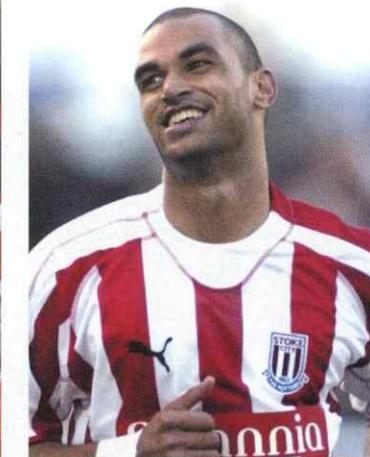
We caught up with 70's legend Jackie Marsh in our Cult Hero feature, while we have a special article with Terry Conroy in 'Match of my Life'.

Don't forget the match against Barnsley next week is now on Monday (kick off 7.45pm) – see you then!

Nick Clowes,

Editor

16 Cover Star



64 Match of my Life



CITYSCENE



## CONTENTS

- 4 Manager
- 7 Transfer News
- 8 City Diary
- 10 Britannia Newsdesk
- 14 Match Action vs Southend
- 16 Cover Star
- 22 Visitors Intro
- 23 Visitors Manager
- 24 Visitors pen pics
- 28 CrossTalk
- 34 Programme Picks
- 37 Bob James
- 38 Centre Poster
- 42 Football in the Community
- 45 Kidzone
- 46 Match Action v Birmingham
- 48 Cult Heroes
- 54 Terry Conroy
- 57 Martin Spinks
- 58 Nigel Johnson
- 62 Commercial
- 64 Match of my Life
- 69 Reserves
- 70 On The Road
- 71 Box Office
- 72 Stats
- 74 Final Word
- 76 Teams and Officials



## Tony Pulis

### Manager's Notes

***"We have to accept that teams will pay us more respect by sitting deep and getting plenty of bodies behind the ball here at the Britannia."***

**A warm welcome to everyone for another crucial leg in our pursuit of the top six.**

We all know results could have been a lot better in recent weeks. But I maintain we haven't played that badly and certainly no-one has outplayed us.

Unfortunately, we've shot ourselves in the foot in front of our own goal at crucial moments, while we haven't quite had that rub of the green everyone needs in front of the opposition goal.

The lads and myself have had a bit of a chat this week and we're all focussed on chasing the same goal.

I have to say the mood amongst the players has been very positive and they all agree we can and deserve to do better than we have in recent weeks.

We've spoken about moving the ball quicker and getting it wider - to create more space and to provide more ammunition for the forwards.

The lads all agree that a new striker is one area of the team we could strengthen for the final push.

But it's not easy persuading Premiership managers to release their better fringe players at this time of the season.

We'll keep chipping away at that one, rest assured, but in the meantime the present players are both determined and capable of pushing things on.

The boys certainly have plenty of confidence in their own ability - and rightly so - because we now have the squad (bar Doobs) that did so well for us before Christmas.



Carl Hoelkens finds his way blocked by two Southend players

We have to accept that teams will pay us more respect than previously, perhaps, by sitting deep and getting plenty of bodies behind the ball here at the Britannia.

Well, we've just got to be good enough to overcome those problems and take it as a compliment of sorts.

I'm hoping those loan lads returning back to the club will now be that bit fitter and sharper after a game or two under their belts and a couple of weeks of hard training.

But teams sitting deep against us means not only the lads, but also you our fans, will need a lot of patience.

I can only say you've been magnificent for us this season -

home and away - and I'm sure you'll give the lads just the backing they need over this crucial period for us. Finally, a warm welcome to Mike Newell and everyone associated with Luton Town.

Mike will have his players revved up for this one after a two-week break. I've got the utmost admiration for what he's done at Luton, particularly his ability to get great prices for the many players he's sold.

I hope his chairman appreciates what he's done for that football club. *Please give the lads your best, Tony.*



## Who's Who

**Chairman:** Peter Coates

**President:** Gordon Banks

**Vice President:** Alex Humphreys

### Directors:

Keith Humphreys, Phil Rawlins

**Chief Executive:** Tony Scholes

**Manager:** Tony Pulis

**Assistant Manager:** David Kemp

**Director of Football:** John Rudge

**First Team Coaches:** Mark O'Connor, Sam Ellis

**Fitness Coach:** John McKeown

**Physiotherapist:** Dave Watson

**Academy U9/U16 Assistant Director:** Ronnie Sinclair

**Kit Manager:** Winnie Hudson

**Retail Manager:** Wayne Cowen

**Financial Controller:**  
Ian Bailey

**Stadium and Safety Manager:**  
John Alcock

**Commercial Manager:** John Booth

**Community Programme Manager:**  
Adrian Hurst

## Club Honours

**Division Two Champions:**  
1932/33, 1962/63, 1992/93

**Division Two Runners-Up:**  
1921/22

**Division Three (North) Champions:**  
1926/27

**Football League Cup Winners:**  
1971/72

**Football League Cup Runners-Up:**  
1963/64

**Autoglass Trophy Winners:**  
1991/92

**Auto Windscreens Shield Winners:**  
1999/2000

# Captain's Column

with Danny Higginbotham

Good afternoon everyone and I'd like to start my very first column by saying how pleased and privileged I am to be captain of this football club.

This is a big club and a big honour. I've captained Derby and Southampton on odd occasions in the past, but this is the first time I've been asked to take the armband full-time.

It really does mean a lot to me personally, particularly as I haven't been here at Stoke that long.

I don't think the captaincy will change me or my approach to the game on the field because I'll still shout and encourage as much as I ever did.

I think the job affects you more off the field because of the extra duties like sorting out tickets for the lads, arranging personal appearances, making sure shirts are signed and all that kind of thing.

I suppose I am the link or the communication between different people and I'm the one generally chasing round after the other lads.

I think it's one of those jobs that will take up more time to start with until it becomes routine.

Sadly, taking over from Doobs hasn't seen results improve as we've drawn at home to Southend and then lost at Birmingham last Sunday.

It's been really frustrating for all of us to see the club slip down the league a bit after dropping those points.

But we are still very much within touching distance of the chasing pack and there's no way the players, management or anyone at the club is chucking in the towel.

There are so many points still to play for and we just need to get back on the kind of run we had earlier in the season.

I think we could also do with that rub of the green everyone needs to turn tight games in victories.

Jonathan Fortune has come in to replace Doobs and I've got to say he's settled in really well alongside me in central defence.

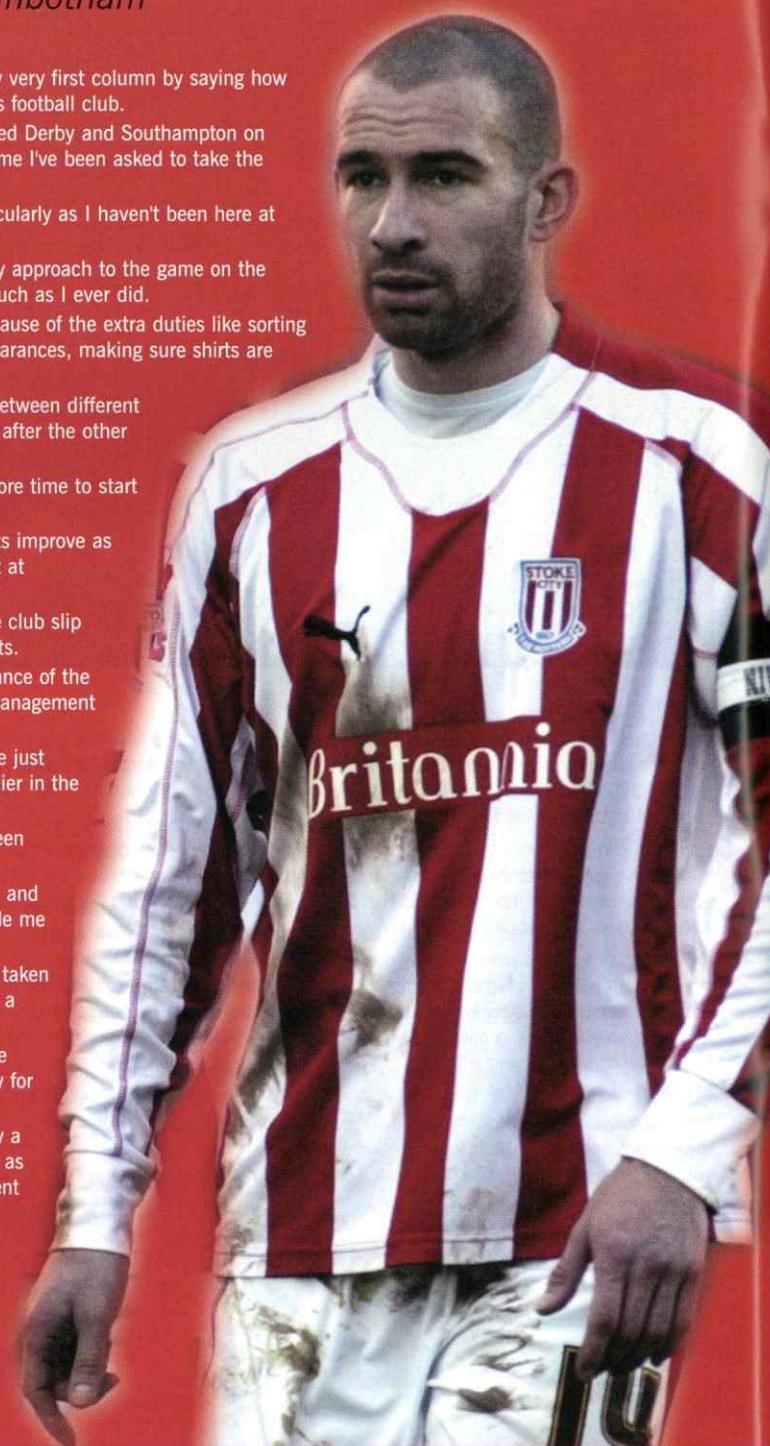
Doobs had been outstanding, but Jonathan has taken on the mantle and even came close to grabbing a late equaliser at Birmingham last Sunday.

We are getting to that stage of the season where just about every team has something big to play for and Luton are certainly no different.

People will look at their recent results and fancy a home win automatically, but we know it's never as easy as that and they've picked up some excellent results away from home this season.

As ever, your support will be invaluable this afternoon and so I urge you to get behind the lads once again.

Danny



## Vote for the League's Top 50 players

**What do Phil Jagielka, Lee Trundle and Karl Hawley have in common?**

All were winners at the inaugural Football League Awards in 2006. And now's your chance to influence who follows in their footsteps. Vote for the best player from your own team or the player from another team who's most impressed you this season and you could win VIP tickets to the gala awards night and the chance to rub shoulders with the stars.

### Vote now at: [FourFourTwo.com](http://FourFourTwo.com)

**PLUS!**  
Nominate the  
Fan of the Year at  
[FourFourTwo.com](http://FourFourTwo.com)



# CITYDIARY

**FEBRUARY**
**2**
**FRIDAY**
**IRISH EYES ARE SMILING**

Martin Paterson and Matthew Hazley have been selected for the latest Northern Ireland U21 squad.

Paterson who is enjoying a successful loan spell with Grimsby Town receives his first international call up, while Hazley retains his place in Roy Millar's squad.

The match is on Tuesday 6 February at the Oval (Glentoran). ([www.stokecityfc.com](http://www.stokecityfc.com))

**FEBRUARY**
**3**
**SATURDAY**
**FORTUNE BIDS TO CASH IN**

Stoke City's new loan signing Jonathan Fortune hopes to fill the void left in defence by the departure of his friend Michael Duberry.

The 26-year-old centre-back, who has joined City until the end of the season, is eager for first-team action after struggling for opportunities at Premiership Charlton.

City clinched the deal an hour before Wednesday's midnight transfer deadline - the same day that Duberry signed for Reading for a reported £800,000.

Fortune admits he would prefer to be lining up alongside his pal, but he is now focused on helping City maintain their impressive defensive record.

He said: "I know Doobs quite well from when he was at Chelsea and we were both in London, and it's a shame I didn't get the chance to play here with him. (*The Sentinel*)

**MISSING CHANCES - TONY**

Tony Pulis has demanded his players become more ruthless in front of goal after missing chances cost the Potters dearly against Southend.

Freddy Eastwood's late goal robbed City of all three points and Pulis admits they can't afford to keep missing golden opportunities.

He says: "We have got to have a more clinical cutting edge in the final third, we created so many chances today but again we failed to put them away.

"We played some smashing football but we need to become more ruthless in front of goal." ([www.stokecityfc.com](http://www.stokecityfc.com))

**STOKE SET TO STRIKE**
**FEBRUARY**
**5**
**MONDAY**

Tony Pulis is awaiting the all-clear to sign a goalscoring striker to re-ignite Stoke City's stuttering promotion push.

Pulis said the un-named target is waiting for his club to agree to the move.

"We have someone in mind," he revealed, "and I think the player would like to come.

But it's got to be all right for his club first.

"We can control games for long periods, but we are just missing that cutting edge sometimes."

His comments were apt after Stoke leaked a late equaliser to toss two points away in Saturday's 1-1 draw with Southend.

The game attracted the Britannia's highest gate of the season after Stoke teamed up with The Sentinel to slash admission prices to just £5.

"We're absolutely gutted by the equaliser," said Pulis, "and especially disappointed not to get the win in front of such a big crowd and great atmosphere. The performance, especially in the second half, was good.

"We had enough opportunities around the final third to score the second that would have won the game.

"But it was either not the finish or the final pass we needed. I can't fault the players, though. They worked their socks off." (*The Sentinel*)

**INTERNATIONAL HAT TRICK**

City youngster Adam Vass earned his second cap on Tuesday night as Hungary went down 2-1 against Cyprus.

The 18-year-old became City's youngest ever international three months ago when he starred in his country's win over Canada, and followed that up with another impressive 90 minutes against the Cypriots.

Elsewhere, Martin Paterson and Matthew Hazley both featured for the Northern Ireland U21's during their heavy 4-0 defeat to Wales at the Oval. ([www.stokecityfc.com](http://www.stokecityfc.com))

**TIME TO SHINE**

City coach Sam Ellis believes the Potters can secure maximum points at Birmingham - despite losing three key players.

Lee Hendrie, Salif Diao and Darel Russell have all been ruled out ahead of Sunday's clash through suspension but Ellis is adamant the players coming in can resurrect City's promotion push.

"We have a very good squad of players here and I know whoever the manager picks for the game will do their utmost to get us the three points we want.

"I don't know what the team will be but what I do know is, everyone will be going there and giving their all for the club." ([www.stokecityfc.com](http://www.stokecityfc.com))

**BOOKING WAS NOT PLANNED**

Tony Pulis has dismissed any suggestion that Lee Hendrie deliberately dodged tomorrow's clash at Birmingham by picking up his suspension. Hendrie has endured plenty of run-ins with Birmingham players and fans during his Aston Villa days.

But Pulis insists the 29-year-old midfielder was relishing, not cowering, from the prospect of running the gauntlet at St Andrew's this weekend. (*The Sentinel*)

**STOKE CITY v LUTON TOWN**

Keep abreast of all the news from the Britannia Stadium by visiting the official Stoke City website [www.stokecityfc.com](http://www.stokecityfc.com)


**FEBRUARY**
**11**
**SUNDAY**
**GOAL DROUGHT**

City boss Tony Pulis was left frustrated by the Potters' finishing as Birmingham stole all three points at St Andrews.

Pulis was left scratching his head as City missed a host of gilt-edged chances after the break before Gary McSheffrey popped up with the winner 20 minutes from time.

And the City manager insists the lack of goals, just one in the last three games, is beginning to worry him.

"I keep saying this every week," he said, "but overall we have done well defending, we just need to get someone to score the goals.

"We have created good chances again, we just haven't taken them and that's frustrating.

"We are disproportionately disappointed to get beaten because it is a soft goal to concede but they only had a couple of chances all game.

"I'll just have to keep knocking on manager's doors to see if we can get another striker in as soon as possible." ([www.stokecityfc.com](http://www.stokecityfc.com))

**EUSTACE IN PLAY ME PLEA**

John Eustace today issued a heartfelt plea to Potters boss Tony Pulis: "Please let me play for my Stoke future."

Eustace is praying for another crack at securing a regular midfield slot between now and when his current contract

expires in the summer.

The injury-ravaged midfielder started and completed his first Stoke match for three years on Sunday in the 1-0 defeat Championship at Birmingham.

And now he says: "I want a contract at the end of the season and I now need to be playing.

"I haven't missed a day's training since pre-season and I've worked hard to get fit, but you only get 100 per cent fit by playing regularly. I need to show people I can play games, as simple as that.

"I want to stay at this club because I love this club. There's also unfinished business here and I want to repay the fans for staying behind me all the way.

"I heard their support for me at Birmingham and it was much appreciated. It was a big game for me because it was not only a comeback match, but also at my hometown club." (*The Sentinel*)

**NO PROGRESS IN GOALS BID**

Stoke City manager Tony Pulis admits he has made no progress in his bid to bring in a new striker. Pulis is eyeing three un-named Premiership players for possible loan deals to boost goal-shy City's faltering promotion bid - they

have scored just twice in their last four Championship games.

But after seeing City's reserves also fail to hit the target during a goalless Pontin's League draw with their Port Vale counterparts, Pulis vowed not to be pressured into bringing players in.

He explained: "Nothing's happened at the moment, but that's often the way it goes.

"We've been making a lot of effort to bring players in, so I don't see it as a frustration.

"We are looking at the same three players as earlier in the week, but we have to wait for their clubs for it to be right for them.

"They are not our players, so obviously we cannot decide what happens to them.

"I don't feel pressured about bringing a striker in because I don't take too much notice of what is being said. We just have to get on with what we have to get on with and see what happens.

"We can't buy anyone at the moment because it is outside the window, so we are just looking for clubs to help us out with strikers." (*The Sentinel*)


**15th Feb Montell Jordan**

**23rd Feb Wired Micky Slim & Will Bailey**
**1st March Hott2Dedd Connoisseur** **Featuring DJ EZ**
**31st March Kate Lawler**
**5th April DJ Luck & MC Neat**

Plus Many more to be confirmed

**Mondays Student Night** **DJ Ben Strip**
**Friday Night Funky House** **DJ Zander**
**Saturday Nights**

Corona Ministry of Sound : DJ of the year

**DJ Wilson**

10 FOUNDRY STREET

**SUPPORTERS CLUB DIARY**



WITH NIC MANSFIELD

**SUPPORTERS CONTACT**

All supporters now have a new contact at Stoke City Football Club – Della Birchall has been given the responsibility of acting as a contact.

Anyone wishing to contact Della with supporter-related matters can do so by e-mailing her on [della.birchall@stokecityfc.com](mailto:della.birchall@stokecityfc.com) or by telephone on 01782 592218.

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

We are looking to arrange further events involving both players and management before the end of the season and as always full details will be published when available.



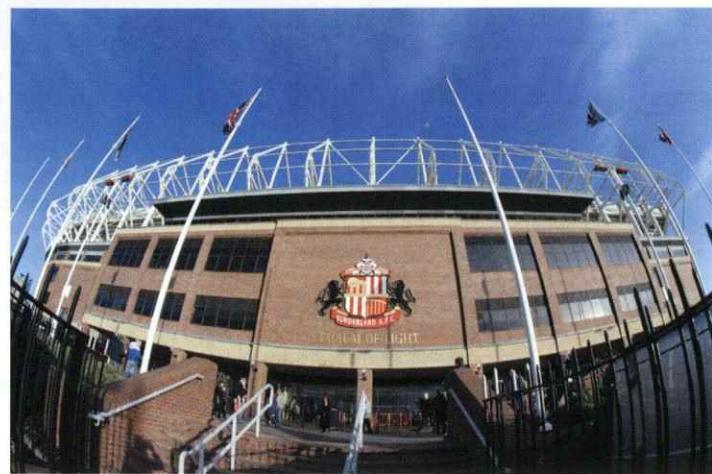
One event already in the pipeline is our traditional end of season Spring Programme Fair. This is due to be held in Delilah's Bar, with a provisional date of 20th May. Full details later.

**CLUB CONTACT**

Contact the Supporters Club by writing to The Secretary, 11, Westland Street, Penkhull, Stoke on Trent. ST4 7HE.

You can also phone (24-hour answerphone) or fax 01782 744674.

Or e-mail [stokecitysupporters@lycos.co.uk](mailto:stokecitysupporters@lycos.co.uk)



**MACKEM MOVE**

City's visit to Sunderland has been moved after being selected for live Sky TV coverage.

The Potters will now travel to the Stadium of Light for an 8pm kick off on Tuesday 13th March, not the previously advertised time of 7-45pm.

The next game at the Britannia Stadium, the visit of Simon Davey's Barnsley, has also been moved to accommodate Sky cameras.

The Yorkshiremen arrive in the Potteries next Monday 26 February (7.45pm) Meanwhile, City's match with QPR at Loftus Road on the final day of the season is now a 1pm kick off.

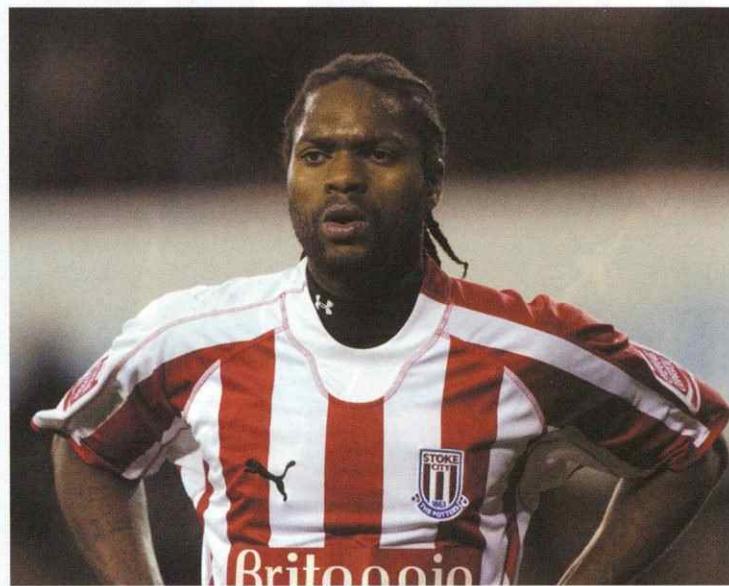
**BUY A PLAYER**

City may have missed out on the £250,000 jackpot last week, but they are still plenty of cash prizes left to boost Tony Pulis' transfer fund in the Coca Cola 'Buy a Player' promotion..

The £250K was won by Hull City but there's still £10M transfer kitty on offer between now and the end of April, and with one in every two packs guaranteed to win, there are still plenty of chances to add to boss Pulis' kitty for next season.

All you need to do is buy a promotional bottle or multi-pack of Coca-Cola or Coke Zero to be in with a chance of winning a prize for the Potters' transfer fund. Prizes range from 50p all the way up to £100,000 while winners of the £100k prizes will also win a personal cash prize of £10k!

What are you waiting for? Simply text in the unique code found on promotional bottles or multi-packs to 80094 or enter it at [www.coca-cola.co.uk/football](http://www.coca-cola.co.uk/football) now!



**PLAYER SPONSORSHIP**

Would you like to enjoy a meal for two in the Waddington Suite, a stadium tour, a champagne reception and be presented with a signed shirt by one of our new players?

If so please contact Hazel Bailey on 01782 592215 or e-mail [hazel.bailey@stokecityfc.com](mailto:hazel.bailey@stokecityfc.com) to find out more.

Players available for you to sponsor are:-

**Jonathan Fortune** **Gabriel Zakuani**

**Salif Diao (pictured)** **Dominic Matteo**

**Lee Martin** **Liam Lawrence**

**Rory Delap** **Russell Hoult**

Don't miss out, ring 01782 592215 today.

**SHOP SALE**

Still feeling the winter cold this February?

Well let the Stoke City club shop warm you up this afternoon.

Today's matchday offer in the shop is on padded jackets – but remember, the special prices are a one-off and will only be available today.

The Jackets will all be just £5, reduced from £44.99 so don't miss out on this fantastic offer.

**TOM PEDLEY**

Tom Pedley of Tattonhall, Cheshire died on 24th January 2007 at the age of 88. He was a dedicated Stoke City supporter from the days before Stanley Matthews in the early 1930's and was a season ticket holder for over 40 years in the Boothen End at the Victoria Ground and in the McEwan Stand at the Britannia Stadium.

Deepest condolences from everyone at Stoke City Football Club are extended to Tom's wife Marie, son Michael and their families.

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

Stoke City Football Club welcomes you to the Britannia Stadium and hopes you enjoy your visit.

In the interests of public safety the club requests your co-operation by adhering to the following rules and regulations:

- \* Supporters are not allowed beyond the perimeter wall unless directed to do so in an emergency.

- \* Supporters must not participate in any racist behaviour including abuse, chanting or harassment.

- \* Supporters should not use foul or abusive language.

- \* Supporters should greet and interact with opposing supporters in a positive manner.

- \* Supporters are requested to inform a steward or police officer if they see, hear or suspect trouble or anti-social behaviour. The confidential True Supporters hotline number is (01785) 238595.

Stoke City Football Club is a family club and we would request that you behave as you would expect other to behave towards you and your family. Thank You for your co-operation.

**NO SMOKING!**

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

The No Smoking areas are:

**The Streetwise Family Stand** – seating areas and concourse

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

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

**The Waddington Suite** – All areas including balcony and seats

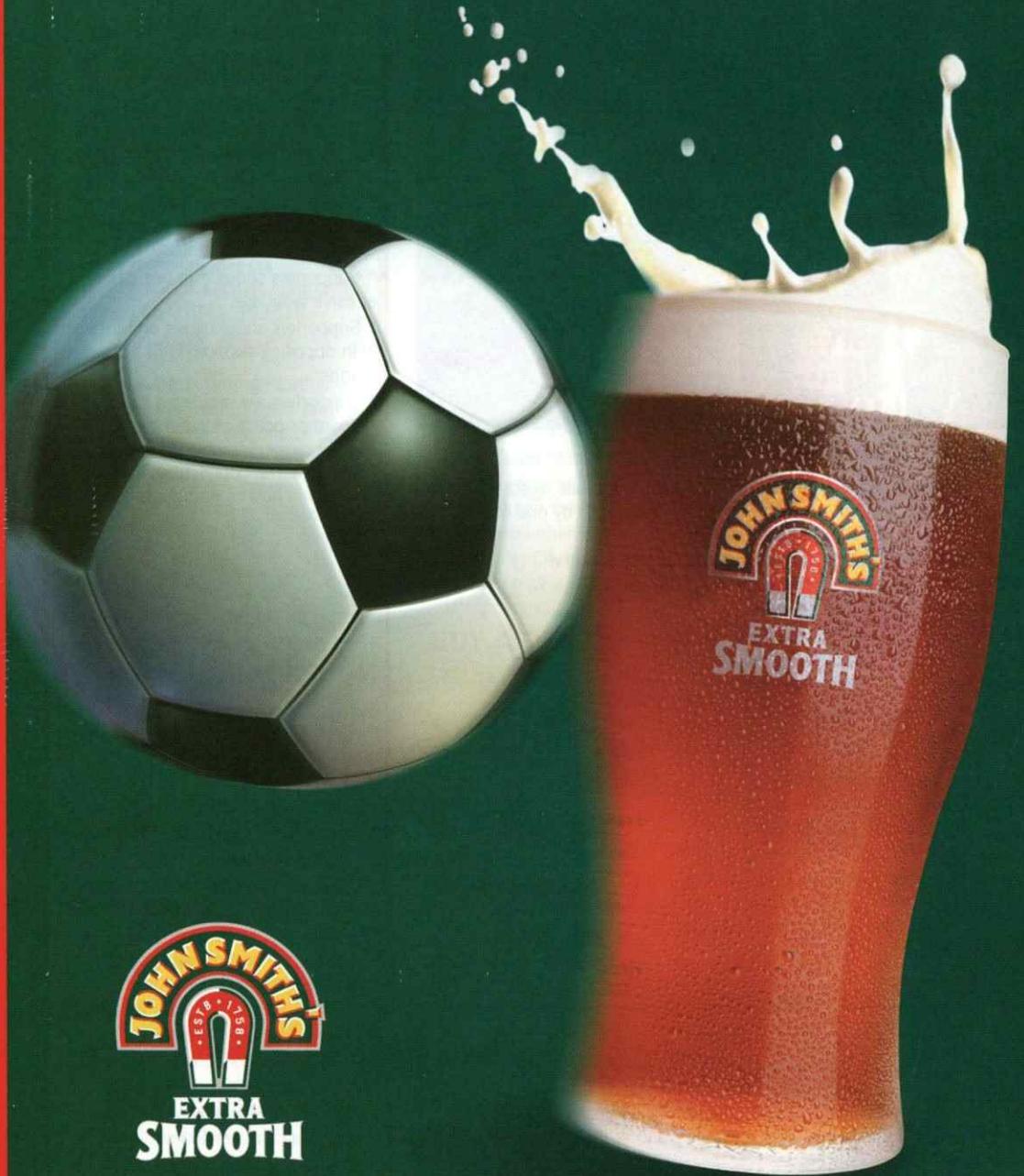
**The Internationals Suite** – All areas

**The Executive Suites** – Balconies.

Smoking IS allowed in the Boothen End seating and concourse.

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

# 'AVE IT!



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



## easier to pick up, harder to put down!



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Sentinel Sunday

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SUNDAY

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Opening Times: Mon - Thurs: 9pm - 2am / Fri - Sat: 8pm - 4am  
Strictly over 18's. ROAR. We reserve the right to amend this offer

Coca Cola Championship 31/46

Britannia Stadium Saturday February 3 2007

# Stoke City 1

# Southend Utd 1

Ricardo Fuller's 8th goal of the season was not enough as Southend rescued a point late on at the Britannia Stadium.

The Jamaican international opened the scoring just after the half hour mark, but Freddy Eastwood's goal with five minutes remaining gave the Shrimpers a share of the points. Southend began brightly at the Britannia Stadium and Eastwood fired an early warning with a spin and shot just wide of the post from 25 yards after three minutes.

City's first opening was created by Lee Hendrie, but Fuller hit the side-netting after running onto the midfielder's pass.

But Fuller eventually gave the Potters the lead with a clinical finish in the 31st minute.

Making his debut after joining on loan from Charlton, Jonathan Fortune lobbed forward, Sidibe flicked on and Fuller raced behind the defence and lashed the ball into the roof of the net.

Sidibe could have added a second but thrashed wide after Hendrie's initial effort was blocked.

After the break, Hendrie dragged an effort just wide after more good play from Fuller, before Ritchie Foran headed wide from Simon Francis' cross.

Fuller continued to carry City's greatest threat and saw a drive deflected over by Foran in the 68th minute.

But just as the game looked beyond the visitors, Eastwood tapped home from six yards out to steal a point.



## MATCH STATS



## POSSESSION:

48% 52%

## SHOTS ON TARGET:

7 7

## SHOTS OFF TARGET:

4 6

## CORNERS:

3 4

## FOULS CONCEDED:

20 16

Goal: Stoke: Fuller (31). Southend United: Eastwood (86).

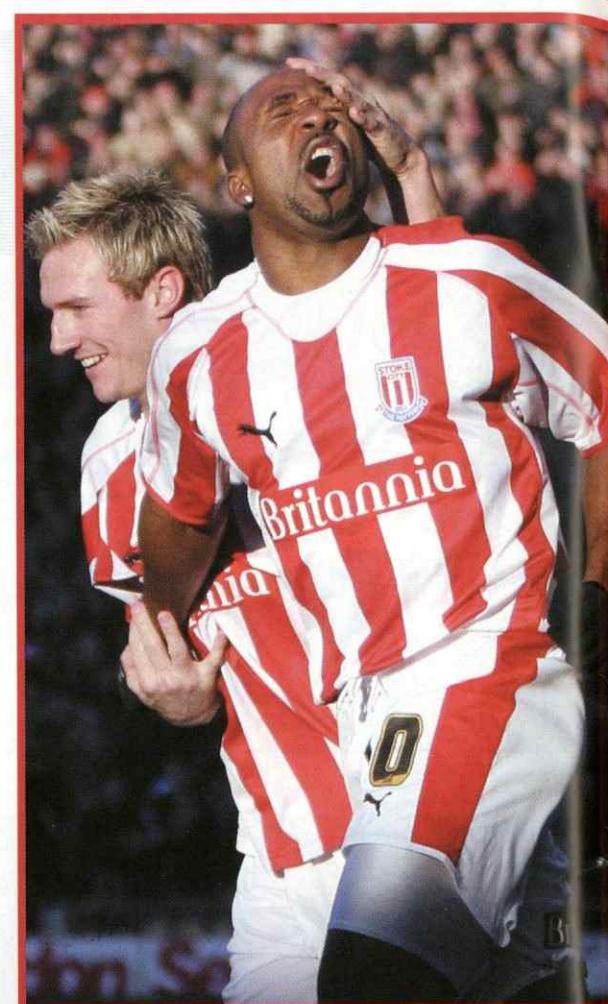
Attendance: 23,017

Referee: Anthony Taylor



Subs: Wilkinson (Griffin 46).  
Not Used: Eustace, Pericard, Martin, Hout.

Subs: Foran (Hammett 21).  
Harold (Bradbury 80).  
Not Used: Hooper, Moussa, Welch.



## CoverStar



# Jonathan Fortune

**Jonathan Fortune's arrival at the Britannia Stadium came about just hours after Michael Duberry's surprise deadline day departure to Reading.**

The former City captain moved on to pastures new while Jonathan was swiftly moved in as his direct replacement.

But it isn't just anyone he is replacing, it's his old friend.

Jonathan and Michael have known each other since crossing paths in their younger days. And City's latest recruit admits filling his old pals' boots could be a difficult act to follow.

"I know Michael from our days in

London a while ago when he was at Chelsea," says Jonathan.

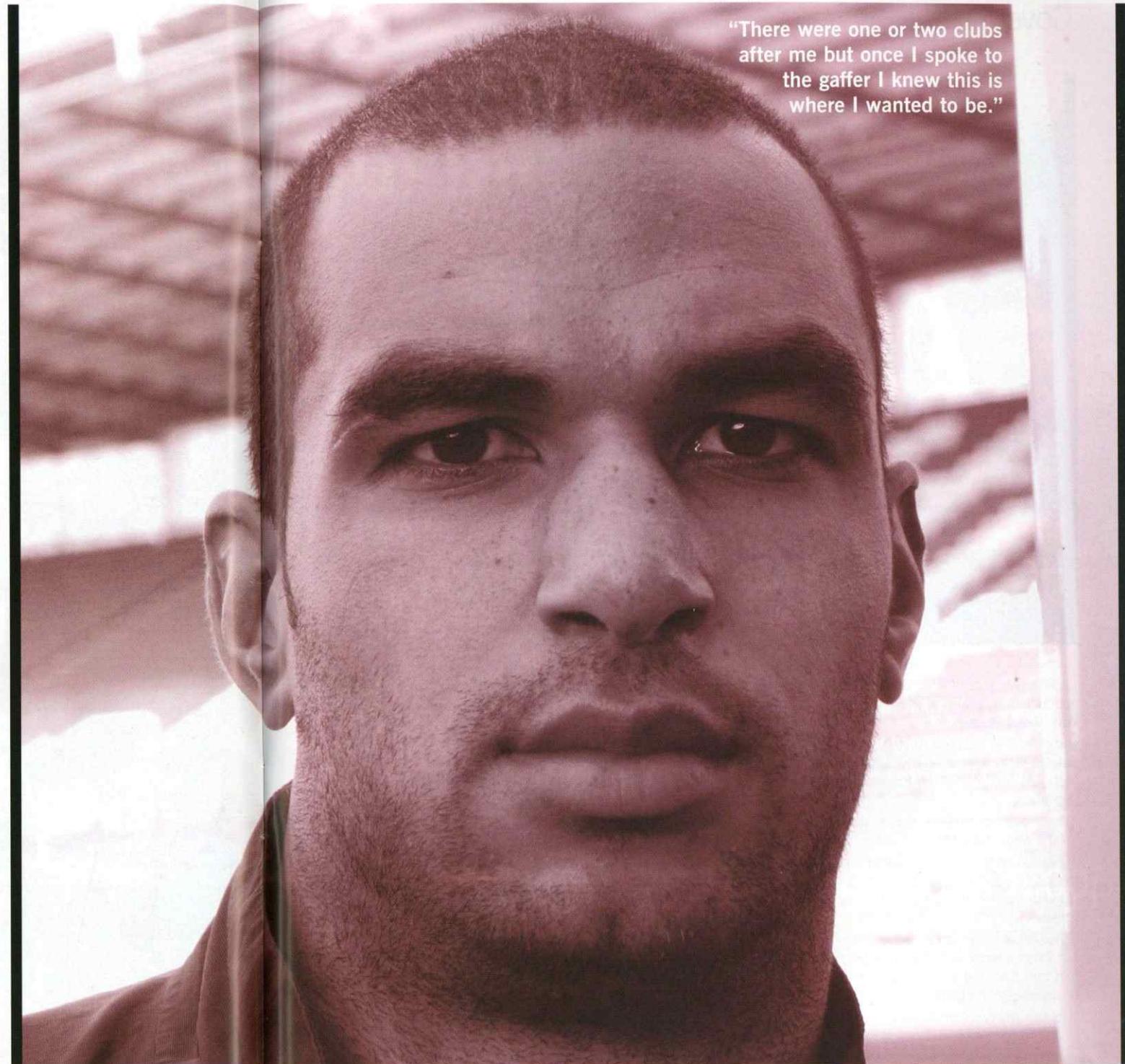
"I would have loved to have played alongside him - not replaced him - but he has got a good move for himself so I wish him well.

"It's a big shirt to fill and a big presence in the dressing room to take over, but I am up for the challenge.

"I haven't spoken to him since he left. I think I will leave it for a few weeks because he will give me some stick now I have replaced him.

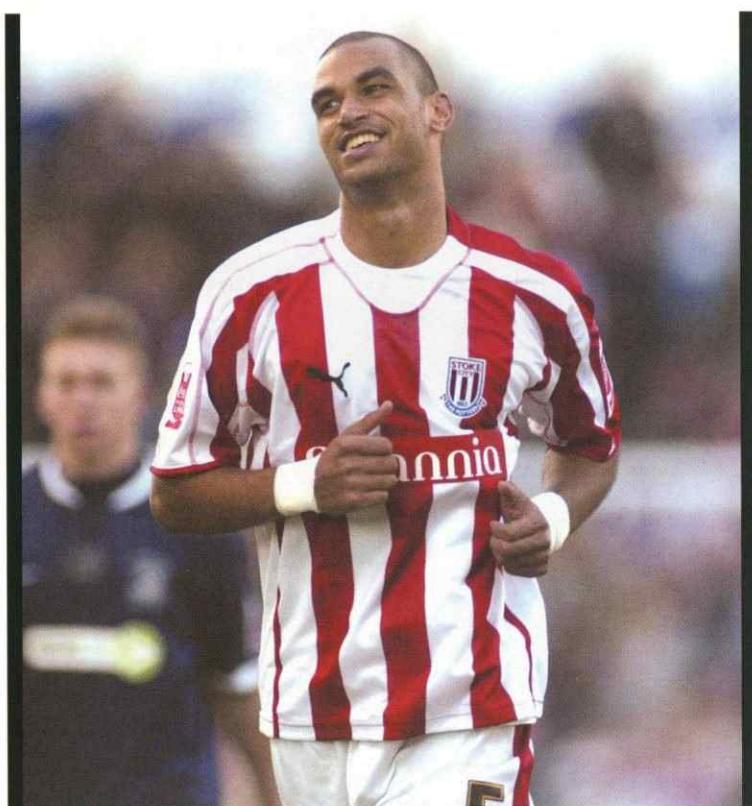
Despite the 26-year old being desperate for the move to City, an eleventh hour change of heart from

Continues [page 18](#)



**"There were one or two clubs after me but once I spoke to the gaffer I knew this is where I wanted to be."**

CoverStar



Charlton manager Alan Pardew nearly scuppered his hopes of moving away from Valley Parade.

But the move was resurrected and he subsequently signed on the dotted line with just one hour of the transfer window remaining.

"The move was on one minute and then off the next," he adds.

"Charlton were playing at Bolton on the eve of the window closing and I travelled up with them thinking I would be joining Stoke.

"Then all of a sudden it was called off, but I had a word with Alan (Pardew) and told him I wanted to go because I was desperate for the games.

"He saw my point and eventually agreed to let me go, Stoke sent coach Mark

O'Connor to the game and we finalised everything there."

The deal for the Islington-born defender brought an end to a hectic month of transfer activity for Tony Pulis, and Jonathan admits it was the hard work and ambition of his new manager which persuaded him to move to the Britannia Stadium.

Says Jonathan: "I was aware of the clubs interest in me for a while and there were also one or two other clubs who had enquired.

"But it was Tony's hopes for the future and the fact that he made me feel really wanted that made my mind up.

"He wants this club in the Premiership and when he said that to me I had no hesitation.

Continues [page 21](#)

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## CoverStar

"He also chased me for a long time and made me feel wanted and that is something I haven't felt for a long time. "There were one or two clubs after me but once I spoke to the gaffer I knew this is where I wanted to be."

After progressing through the youth ranks in south-east London, Jonathan has gone on to make over 100 appearances in the Premiership for the Addicks, and says he hopes to add some more experience to the clubs push for promotion.

"Obviously I came here because I wanted games but the most important thing for the club is to get them in the top division.

"I haven't come here to sit around and mess about I want to push this club on. "I feel that we definitely have a good shot at reaching the play-offs and I'm very excited about it.

"I have gained quite a bit of knowledge from playing in the Premiership and hopefully I can take that on the pitch with me and play my part."

Moving nearly 200 miles away from home could be considered a daunting challenge but City's new defender says it has been made a lot easier thanks to the help of his new team mates.

"All the players are great they have made me feel really welcome," smiles Jonathan.

"I have settled in well and I feel like I have been here a while, all of the lads have a good laugh and I enjoy being part of it.

"Danny Higginbotham has been a big help, I have played alongside him twice now and he is a good lad to play with, hopefully our understanding will continue to develop over the next few weeks."

Jonathan arrived at the Britannia Stadium tagged as a classy but solid centre half and both of his performances over the past two weeks justify this billing.

But he is adamant there is still a lot more of him for the fans to see.

"My first two games have gone ok," he admits. "I feel I have done pretty well but I felt my legs a bit after the Southend game, but I know I will get back to how I feel I can play in a few weeks."

"The fans haven't seen the best of me yet, I have more to offer and like I say in time that will show."

"The two results have been disappointing but we feel we can bounce straight back from them against Luton and get back on track."

The talented defender has been hotel bound since his arrival, but his home sickness has been eased by the close proximity of a close family member currently plying their trade in the north of the city.

"I think I have spent my time in about four or five different hotels since I arrived here.

"But my cousin Clayton Fortune plays for Port Vale so I have spent a lot of time recently at his house and knocking about with him so that has been good."

"We have a bit of banter now because of the rivalry and stuff but it's all good fun."

Making over 100 appearances in the Premier League is no mean feat, however finding regular football this season has been difficult and has left him scratching his head regarding his future.

But the on loan defender says he just wants to show everyone what he is capable of and will sit down with his parent club during the summer.

"I don't know what will happen at the end of the season, I am still contracted to Charlton so it will be up to them."

"We will see what the future holds, but my immediate future is here and I just want to help the club and show everyone what I can do."

• *Mark Mothershaw*

# Visitors

## Luton Town



Luton's habit of making a flying start to their season was again in full swing this campaign - but a disastrous last three months has seen their fortunes reversed.

Eleven points from the opening six games saw the Hatters sitting in the top six, however they hit a torrid spell in October and November and lost eight games on the bounce.

Their season has stuttered ever since and they currently find themselves hovering precariously above the drop zone.

But if anyone can help them retain their status as a Championship club, then manager Mike Newell is the man to do it.

The outspoken Luton boss is a folk hero at Kenilworth Road after masterminding back to back promotions during an extremely successful last four years, and he will be determined to get the club back on track starting today.

The players picked up vital Championship experience on their way to a 10th place finish last season and they will need to find that feel good factor, which was evident during the last campaign, if they are to pull away from the bottom six.

The task of following up last season's impressive top half place with something even better this season was made more difficult by the summer sales of star striker Steve Howard to Derby and key midfielder Kevin Nicholls to Leeds.

And add the fact that influential winger Carlos Edwards moved to Sunderland in the January transfer, it's not difficult to see why they have struggled.

Those departures, together with last season's sale of Curtis Davies to West Brom, meant a £5m windfall, while outlay has been modest in comparison with £125,000 going on Rushden's David Bell over a year ago and £500,000 for Hartlepool's top scorer Adam Boyd last July.

But with the likes of Boyd, Sam Parkin, Warren Feeney and new £250,000 signing Drew Talbot, there could yet be enough goals in the squad to steer them away from trouble.

Parkin (pictured), a summer buy from Ipswich Town has a

proven goal scoring pedigree after scoring nearly 80 goals in three seasons with Swindon Town, however he has found life a little more difficult in the Championship but he could still be a saving grace over the final few months of the season.

Boyd is another player to have struggled in the second tier of English football following an extremely successful spell in the lower leagues, just one goal has been his return so far and Newell will be expecting a lot more from the 24-year old.

Fans favourite Matthew Spring returned home in January following spells with Leeds and Watford, and his experience could be invaluable if the Hatters are to retain their spot in this division.

Richard Langley, Ahmet Brkovic and the on-loan Fulham midfielder Bjorn Runstrom all add quality and bite to the team and Newell could call on them as he aims to pick up a much needed three points this afternoon.

Markus Heikkinen and Russell Perrett form the heart of the defence, with the highly rated duo of Kevin Foley and Sol Davis taking up the role as full backs.

Heikkinen is a Swedish international and his signing was a real coup for the club after beating off several higher league clubs to his signature.

Former Middlesbrough keeper Marlon Beresford has been between the sticks for today's visitors over the past few weeks and will be hoping for a clean sheet today.

Games between City and Luton down the years have thrown up plenty of drama - perhaps most famously the 4-4 draw at the old Victoria Ground in the early 1980's.

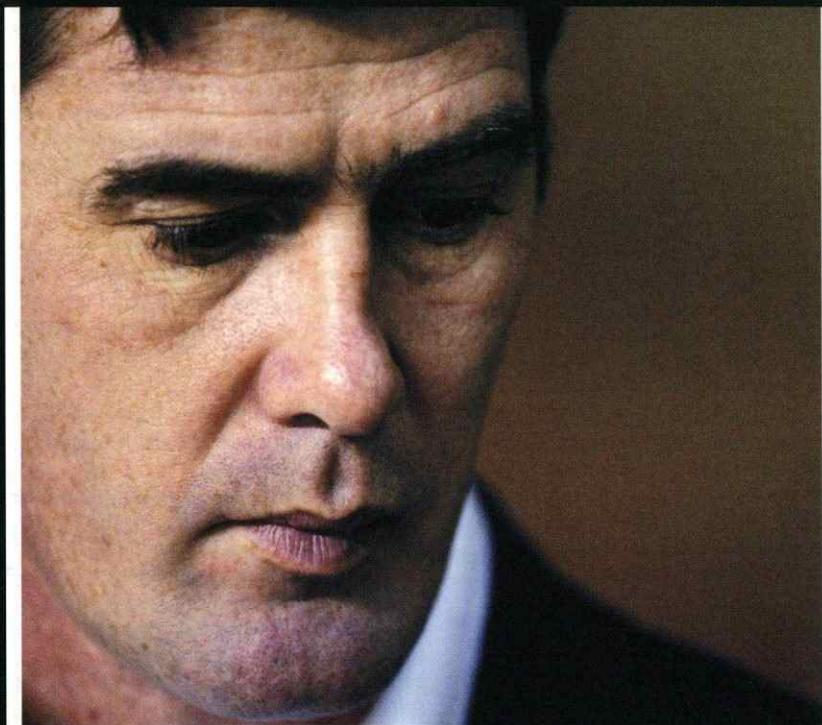
But last season's two meetings were spicy enough with City nicking it at home thanks to that late Brammer strike and then repeating the dose on Town soil last December when Chris Coyne's bizarre injury-time own goal clinched a 3-2 win.

Earlier this season the Potters came away from Kenilworth Road with a point thanks to strikes from Peter Sweeney and Luke Chadwick.

*Mark Mothershaw*

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17TH 2007

STOKE CITY v LUTON TOWN



As football managers go Mike Newell is arguably one of the most controversial.

He has spoken out publicly about transfer bungs, female officials and criticised the influence of foreign players - however he is still regarded as one of the most talented young managers in the game.

But, before turning to management, Mike had a prolonged playing career, spanning thirteen different clubs, and made over 500 appearances, scoring near on 100 goals.

Mike enjoyed spells with Crewe Alexandra, Luton and Everton but it was at Ewood Park with Blackburn Rovers where he made the biggest impression, picking up a Premiership winners medal in 1995 as well as scoring the fastest-ever Champions League hat trick against Rosenborg a year later.

After retiring from the playing side in 2001, his management career began two years later at Hartlepool United.

But despite clinging on to an automatic promotion spot, Mike was eventually dismissed for almost squandering a 16 point lead.

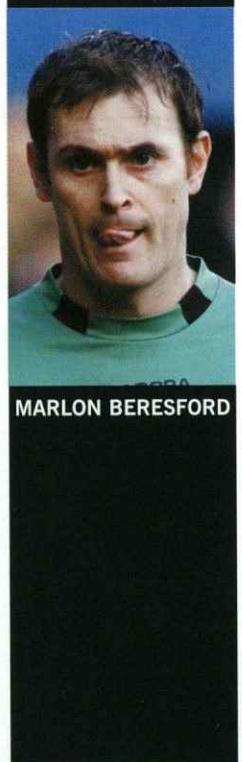
He was handed the Luton Town job soon after and led the club from relegation candidates to table toppers in two seasons.

Last season, as a promoted club in the Championship, Luton were expected to be involved in a relegation battle, but this was not the case as Newell led them to 10th in the table.

His record did not go unnoticed as he was linked with managerial jobs at Leicester City, Derby County and Ipswich Town, but spurned the opportunities to stay at Kenilworth Road.

This season Mike has been in the spotlight for a number of different public outbursts, but despite being threatened with the sack, he has held on to the job and will be looking to guide them to Championship safety.





MARLON BERESFORD

**MARLON BERESFORD***Position: Goalkeeper**Squad Number: 1**Date of Birth: 02/09/69**Previous Clubs: Sheff Wed, Bury (loan), Northampton (loan), Crewe (loan), Northampton (loan), Burnley, Middlesbrough, Sheff Wed (loan), Wolves (loan), Burnley (loan), York City, Burnley, Bradford City, Luton, Barnsley.*

Veteran keeper Marlon had the most successful period of his career at Burnley in the 90's, where he made over 300 appearances for the Clarets.

He began his career at Sheffield Wednesday though, and despite never playing a game for the Owls, he did have numerous loan spells at lower league clubs.

Following nearly five years at Turf Moor, he made the move to Middlesbrough in 1998 but was used largely as an understudy goalkeeper.

His quest for first team action saw him go out on loan numerous times again before leaving Boro for York City in the summer 2002.

Beresford continued to have short spells at other clubs before signing for Luton in the summer of 2004 after impressing in a previous loan spell. He has made over 120 appearances for the Hatters.

**KEVIN FOLEY***Position: Defender**Squad Number: 2**Date of Birth: 01/11/84**Previous Clubs: None*

Born and bred in Luton, Kevin made his league debut for the club in April 2003, coming on as a substitute in the 2-2 draw with Bristol City.

His first league goal came in the following season's 2-0 win against City's local rivals Port Vale. Kevin also has international experience after featuring for the Republic of Ireland Under-21 and "B" squads.

A regular for Luton Town, Kevin can also play on the right of midfield.

**SOL DAVIS***Position: Defender**Squad Number: 3**Date of Birth: 04/09/79**Previous Clubs: Swindon Town*

Sol began his career as a trainee at Swindon Town and quickly made his mark in the first team.

When his contract expired in the summer of 2002 though, Sol was tempted into a move to Luton Town by then boss Joe Kinnear.



KEVIN FOLEY

The tough tackling left back proved a successful acquisition for the Hatters and was awarded the Players' Player of the Year award at the end of the 2004/5 season.

In October of last year, Davis suffered a stroke on the way to Town's game with Ipswich. He lost feeling on the left side of his body and his speech was also impaired, but Davis has since made a return to action and has regained his place in the side.

**CHRIS COYNE***Position: Defender**Squad Number: 4**Date of Birth: 28/12/78**Previous Clubs: Perth SC, West Ham, Southend (loan), Brentford (loan), Dundee*

Aussie defender Chris began his footballing career in his homeland with Perth Soccer Club.

Harry Redknapp forked out £150,000 to take the centre half to Upton Park after he caught his eye in the 1994 Youth World Cup, but Coyne only managed one appearance for the club in a four year spell.

He did complete successful loan spells elsewhere though and did enough to persuade Dundee to sign him on a free in the summer of 2000.

Following 30 appearances for the SPL outfit, a £50,000 move to Kenilworth Road followed in 2001. Since then, he's made over 210 appearances for the Hatters and was named in the PFA Team of the Season at the end of Town's championship season of 2005.

**RUSSELL PERRETT***Position: Defender**Squad Number: 5**Date of Birth: 18/06/73**Previous Clubs: Portsmouth, Cardiff City*

Defender Russell made his first ever league appearance for Portsmouth in a 1-0 home defeat to Norwich back in 1996.

After over 80 appearances on the South Coast, he made the move to Cardiff City, he stayed for only two seasons.

Since arriving at Luton in 2001, he's gone on to make over 100 appearances for the Hatters.

**MATTHEW SPRING***Position: Midfield**Squad Number: 7**Date of Birth: 17/11/79**Previous Clubs: Luton, Leeds, Watford, Luton*

Matthew's career has gone full circle after recently returning to the club where it all started.

He joined Luton as a schoolboy and made his debut for the club aged only 17.

He clocked up 100 appearances at only 20 and had made over 280 before leaving the club on a free transfer for Leeds in the summer of 2004.

After an unsuccessful season at Elland Road, he signed for Watford in a deal worth £150,000 and was promoted in his first season with the club.

His appearances were limited for the Hornets this season though and jumped at the opportunity to move back home.

**STEVE ROBINSON***Position: Midfield**Squad Number: 8**Date of Birth: 10/12/74**Previous Clubs: Tottenham, Leyton Orient (loan), Bournemouth, Preston, Bristol City (loan)*

Northern Irish international midfielder who began his footballing life as a trainee at Spurs but has made the majority of his appearances at Bournemouth, following a free transfer in October 1994.

He scored over 60 goals for the Cherries and earned himself a big money move to Preston. Due to limited opportunities he moved on again after only 2 years in Lancashire, completing a £50,000 move to Luton in 2002.

He's moved over 160 appearances for Town scoring over 10 goals.

**BJÖRN RUNSTRÖM***Position: Striker**Squad Number: 9**Date of Birth: 03/11/84**Previous Clubs: Bologna, Chievo, Fiorentina, Hammarby IF, Fulham*

Swedish hitman Björn signed from Fulham on the final day of the January transfer Window.

He grew up playing for Enskede and Hammarby at youth level before signing for Bologna. He only ever made the bench for the Serie A club, before moving on to Chievo and then to Fiorentina.

He returned to Hammarby in 2004 where he scored 18 goals in 57 games before earning a £700,000 move to England last summer.

Featuring only twice for the Cottagers, Runström joined Luton in the hope more regular games.

**WARREN FEENEY***Position: Striker**Squad Number: 10**Date of Birth: 17/01/81**Previous Clubs: Leeds, Bournemouth (loan), Bournemouth, Stockport*

Another Northern Irish international in the ranks at Kenilworth Road, Warren began his career at Leeds United.

He was soon loan out to Bournemouth to gain experience but the move became permanent in the summer of 2001.

Scoring 37 goals for the Cherries in two spells was enough for Stockport to pay £45,000 for his services.

His record there was almost a goal every other game and before his first season there at ended, Luton came in acquired him for £150,000.

He has scored twice for his country, one against Azerbaijan and one against Portugal.

**DEAN MORGAN***Position: Midfielder**Squad Number: 11**Date of Birth: 03/10/83**Previous Clubs: Reading, Colchester*

Dean became an instant favourite with Luton fans after his 90th minute winner in the 3-2 victory over Southampton in August 2005.

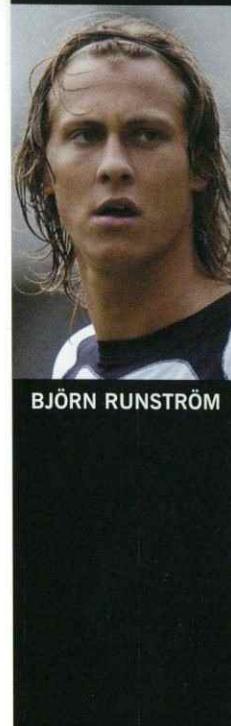
Morgan moved to Kenilworth Stadium from Reading in July 2005 after seeing his opportunities limited at the Madejski Stadium.

The former Colchester striker scored three league goals in 13 starting appearances for the Royals. Morgan, who once had a trial with the Hatters earlier in his career, came through the ranks at Colchester where he scored six goals in 25 appearances, including a 35-yard screamer against Cardiff City at Ninian Park.

**STEPHEN O'LEARY***Position: Midfielder**Squad Number: 15**Date of Birth: 02/02/85**Previous Clubs: Tranmere (loan)*

Stephen is a skilful midfielder who spent most of last season on-loan with Tranmere Rovers.

Brian Little, the boss of the League One club at the time of O'Leary's arrival, became an instant fan of the central midfielder and went on to become a regular in the side, scoring three goals in 22 appearances.



BJÖRN RUNSTRÖM



DEAN MORGAN



RICHARD LANGLEY



AHMET BRKOVIC

He joined Luton as a 13-year-old, when he was spotted playing for Barnet Schools and he was awarded a Scholarship in the summer of 2001 along with Kevin Foley.

Luton had fought off competition from top London clubs for his signature and during his time with the Hatters he has also been a regular at schoolboy level for the Republic of Ireland.

#### LEWIS EMANUEL

*Position: Defender*

*Squad Number: 16*

*Date of Birth: 04/10/83*

*Previous Clubs: Bradford City*

Lewis arrived at Kenilworth Road in the summer of 2006 after deciding to leave his home town club Bradford City, the place where the defender started his career.

The 24-year old is a pacy full-back but can also play on the left side of midfield, a position where he started on his league debut for the club. Lewis made over 150 appearances for Bradford in six-years at the club.

Lewis has proved a valuable signing and has gone on to make 28 appearances for the Hatters, scoring one goal.

#### RICHARD LANGLEY

*Position: Midfielder*

*Squad Number: 17*

*Date of Birth: 27/12/79*

*Previous Clubs: Cardiff City, QPR*

Richard signed for Luton Town in July 2006 after being released by former club QPR.

A hard working midfielder, Richard started his career at Loftus Road after progressing through their youth ranks and went on to make nearly 150 appearances for the club. He became a firm favourite at QPR and in the 2002/03 season, Langley enjoyed a magical season, scoring ten goals from midfield, including a hat-trick in a 3-1 win over Blackpool in March 2003.

It was his form that year which prompted Cardiff to splash out £200,000 for the midfielder and which led to him gaining international caps for Jamaica.

At the start of the 2003/04 season, Langley scored for Jamaica in international friendlies against Cuba and Paraguay and went on to score six goals for his new club that season. Unfortunately, Langley couldn't repeat that form for Cardiff in the following season and was transferred back to QPR in August 2005. Last season, Langley made 34 appearances for QPR, scoring three goals.

#### AHMET BRKOVIC

*Position: Midfield*

*Squad Number: 18*

*Date of Birth: 23/09/74*

*Previous Clubs: Leyton Orient*

Ahmet is a tidy and hard working member of the squad who had an inspirational season during the club's championship success in League One, scoring 16 goals from midfield. Believing a move would be good for his career, he refused new terms at Leyton Orient in the summer of 2001, to join Luton on a Bosman free transfer - Orient had signed him on a free from HNK Dubrovnik in the autumn of 1999.

The Croatian is more suited to a right midfield role but is equally comfortable playing on the left, a position he has filled many times this season.

#### SAM PARKIN

*Position: Striker*

*Squad Number: 19*

*Date of Birth: 14/03/81*

*Previous Clubs: Chelsea, Swindon Town, Millwall (loan), Wycombe (loan), Oldham (loan), Ipswich Town, Northampton (loan)*

Ex-Chelsea trainee Sam is a forward with a prolific goal scoring record, and chose Kenilworth Road as the place to further his career in August 2006.

After signing for League One side Swindon Town in August 2002, Parkin set the Football League world alight, scoring 67 league goals in 120 appearances.

Naturally, his goal scoring talents captured the attention of the bigger clubs, and Parkin signed for Ipswich Town in the summer of 2005 for £550,000 - unfortunately, a broken ankle forced him to miss much of the 2005/06 season, although he still managed to score five goals in 17 Championship appearances.

After fees were agreed with both Preston and Luton, 25-year-old Parkin had a straight choice of two Championship clubs, but signed a three-year deal at Kenilworth Road, costing the club £340,000.

#### ADAM BOYD

*Position: Striker*

*Squad Number: 20*

*Date of Birth: 25/05/82*

*Previous Clubs: Hartlepool, Boston (loan), Boston*

Luton splashed out £500,000 on striker Adam from Hartlepool United in July 2006, signing him to a three-year contract.

Adam is a skilful striker who scored 60 goals in six years at the Victoria Ground - Hatters boss Newell knows plenty about the striker having worked with Adam when he was the manager of Hartlepool earlier in his career. His most prolific campaign for Hartlepool was in the 2004/05 season when his 29 goals helped the club reach the League One play-off final however a limited number of chances have hampered his hopes of immediate success at Kenilworth Road.

#### MARKUS HEIKKINEN

*Position: Defender*

*Squad Number: 26*

*Date of Birth: 13/10/78*

*Previous Clubs: Portsmouth, Aberdeen*

Mike Newell pulled off a real coup with the signing of Aberdeen central defender Markus. Although born in Sweden, Markus is a Finnish international and in 2005 he partnered Liverpool's Sami Hyppia during their World Cup qualifying win over Macedonia.

Markus has made an impressive start to his stay at Kenilworth Road since being called as a late replacement for Chris Coyne who was injured in the warm-up in the club's opening Championship win over Crystal Palace last season.

#### DREW TALBOT

*Position: Striker*

*Squad Number: 30*

*Date of Birth: 19/07/86*

*Previous Clubs: Barnsley, Sheffield Wednesday*

Drew signed for Luton Town in a £250,000 deal in January 2007 from Sheffield Wednesday as Hatters boss Newell looked to strengthen his options in attack.

Originally on the books of Barnsley, he drifted out of football after injury but came back with Wednesday's academy in the 03/04 season. Often coming off the substitutes bench he scored goals in Wednesday's 2004/05 promotion season including one at Cardiff in the League One play off final against Huddersfield.

After his impressive first full season at Hillsborough, he was not to play again until September 2006, where he made a substitute appearance against Derby County in a 2-1 home defeat.

During the January 2007 transfer window, Talbot signed a loan-contract with League One promotion-chasers Scunthorpe United before signing at Kenilworth Road



MARKUS HEIKKINEN



#### LUTON TOWN ROLL CALL 2006/07

No	Name	Pos	DOB	Apps (LTFC)	Gls	Apps (06/07)	Gls
1	Marlon Beresford	GK	02/09/69	124	0	23	0
2	Kevin Foley	D	01/11/84	154	5	30	0
3	Sol Davis	D	04/09/79	179	2	24	0
4	Chris Coyne	D	28/12/78	219	13	14	0
5	Russell Perrett	D	18/06/73	107	9	12	1
6	Paul Underwood	M	16/08/73	72	5	0	0
7	Matthew Spring	M	17/11/79	289	30	2	0
8	Steve Robinson	M	10/12/74	166	11	31	0
9	Bjorn Runstrom	F	03/01/84	1	0	1	0
10	Warren Feeney	F	17/01/81	78	11	27	4
11	Dean Morgan	M	03/10/83	72	11	34	5
15	Stephen O'Leary	M	02/02/85	33	2	6	0
16	Lewis Emanuel	M	14/10/83	28	1	28	1
17	Richard Langley	M	27/12/79	22	1	22	1
18	Ahmet Brkovic	M	23/09/74	216	38	22	3
19	Sam Parkin	F	14/03/81	8	1	8	1
20	Adam Boyd	F	25/05/82	21	2	21	2
21	Keith Keane	D	20/11/86	58	3	10	1
22	Danny Stevens	M	26/11/86	1	0	1	0
25	Leon Barnett	D	30/11/85	59	2	32	2
26	Markus Heikkinen	D	13/10/78	64	3	24	1
28	David Bell	M	21/01/84	34	2	25	2
29	Calvin Andrew	F	19/12/86	12	1	0	0
30	Drew Talbot	F	19/07/86	3	0	3	0
32	Ed Asafu-Adjaye	D	22/12/88	0	0	0	0
33	Dean Brill	GK	02/12/85	16	0	4	0
34	Zac Barrett	GK	25/06/88	0	0	0	0

Hatters' defender and captain  
CHRIS COYNE in conversation  
with Dave Coxon

## << CrossTalk >>



**Right Chris, let's go back to your move into the English game – you joined West Ham from Perth, how did that come about?**

It was through an agent getting in contact with West Ham. I was away at the Youth World Cup in South America, and it just progressed from there. I was asked to come over for a couple of weeks and I must have done alright with my trial because I was then asked to sign for three years at West Ham.

**It must have been quite a decision for a young lad to move to the other side of the World; did it take much to convince you?**

Obviously I sat down and spoke with my parents about it and ironed out the pros and cons, but to be fair it was something I'd always wanted to do since I was a kid, to come over and play in Europe. At the time the Australian league wasn't that strong and I just saw it as a step in the right direction if I wanted to have a professional football career.

**You made quite an impact at Upton Park and you were part of the youth team which reached the FA Youth Cup Final, what do you remember of that time?**

It was a fantastic time; we also won the South East Counties League a couple of times, which was quite a strong league. It was a good time, obviously West Ham have always prided themselves on youth development and that side of the game, so it was exciting times. Most of the players are playing at a decent level now and have stayed in the game, which I think is testament to the Academy they have there.

**You had two loan spells, at Brentford and Southend, how much of a culture shock was it for you to go there with all the trimmings that West Ham held?**

Initially it was a culture shock, but once you get into the dressing room and you're in that footballing environment, but it's just about the football on Saturday that matters.

**You don't seem to be afraid of travelling, you then left Upton Park and it was off to Scotland and Dundee.**

Once you've travelled 10,000 kilometres another couple of hundred isn't going to hurt! I thought it was the right thing to do at the time, and I thoroughly enjoyed my time up there. But when you're that far away from home it doesn't really matter if it's ten minutes away or ten hours.

**You had one season up there and then it was back south to Kenilworth Road, what do you remember of that move?**

## STOKE CITY v LUTON TOWN

I was very pleased it happened because once I'd sat down and spoke with Joe Kinnear and Mick Harford, they sold the club to me pretty much, and what they told me has come true. They said they were going places and when I signed we were in the Third Division, so they were true to their word and they started to take Luton where they thought they should belong and they're now in the Championship, so it's turned out to be the right decision for me.

**You've been at Kenilworth Road for five and a half years now, and obviously you've had some great times along the way there.**

Yes, in the first year I was there we managed promotion into League One, and then we were fortunate enough to get promoted into the Championship, and that was a fantastic time.

**You were also named in the PFA League One side in 2004/2005, which was a great achievement.**

Yes, it was a tremendous honour, something I didn't expect, and then when you do get the honour you're in there with five of your team mates as well. It was a great honour, not only for me but for my team mates after the performances they put in throughout the season.

**Talking of proud moments, you must have been proud when you were made captain.**

Yes. It's something you don't think much of at the time, but it is a privilege to be given that honour and it's something I do cherish. It's just unfortunate I've missed so much of it through injury.

**I haven't seen a lot of Luton this season, but what I have seen you seem to be playing some decent football, particularly the rout you did on Leeds, so I'm a bit surprised to find you at the wrong end of the table.**

Yes, to be honest we thought we'd be top six pushing for promotion this year with the squad that we've got, but unfortunately when you're missing seven, eight, nine players constantly throughout the year, players who would probably have played week in week out, it's hard and the manager hasn't got that continuity of selection every week. But it's one of those things you have to accept and I think the position we find ourselves in now, it's one of six or seven in such a tight spot to get out of the relegation zone. It's not a position we expected to find ourselves in, but we know with the squad that we've got and the football we do play, then we'll play out way out of it.

**I guess the message to the Luton fans is that you'll be fighting tooth and nail to make sure you'll be in this division next season.**

Yes, of course. Because we are such a close knit group and we get on so well away from football

as well as on the pitch, I think that's going to stand us in good stead because we all will fight to the death for each other. In successful times it's worked for us, so hopefully it'll happen while we're at the wrong end of the table.

**You touched on your injury there; you've been out for a few weeks with a knee injury, what's the latest on that?**

It's good news. I had an operation in the summer and then came back from that and was unfortunate to pick up an injury on the same knee, but fortunately that had nothing to do with the previous injury so it was just a matter of a couple of weeks out rather than a couple of months.

**You've obviously got relatives and friends in Australia; do you get much chance to travel back?**

I try and get back as often as possible. Every end of season I go back because my family are over there and I tend to go over every May or June for a few weeks. I recharge my batteries and catch up with friends and family.

**What hobbies do you have outside of the game, Chris?**

I don't mind a bit of golf.

**On then to music, do you have a favourite band or artist?**

I listen to absolutely everything, to be honest with you; None of this girly pop music, but apart from that, I just like listening to anything.

**Let's move onto the game then, how do you see it going?**

Well, it's hard to say, I watched the game on TV on Sunday and I was impressed. I thought they probably deserved something out of it, but at the same time I think we're playing quite well at the moment without getting results, so now we've taken a point away from home at Leicester, we'll be looking to push on. The Britannia's a difficult place to go to, but at this time of the season it doesn't really matter where we go, we've got to get a result so we'll be looking to do well, whether it's a performance or whether it's a result, either way.

**Do you have any memories of games you've played in against Stoke?**

No, I haven't actually, because I was injured last year when we played Stoke. That was when my knee problems started.

**Finally Chris, neck on the line or sit on the fence, what's the score going to be?**

I think it will be 2-1 to Luton!





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# Stat Pack



## MANAGERIAL RECORDS

Tony Pulis

Played 32 Won 13 Drawn 10 Lost 9  
For 40 Against 27  
Av Pts/game 1.53  
Biggest Win(s) Stoke 5 Norwich 0  
(28/10/2006), Biggest Loss(es)  
Colchester 3 Stoke 0 (16/12/2006).

Mike Newell

Played 169 Won 71 Drawn 44 Lost 54  
For 260 Against 233  
Av Pts/game 1.52  
Biggest Win(s) Luton 5 Bristol City 0  
(05/03/2005), Biggest Loss(es) Ipswich  
5 Luton 0 (29/10/2006).

## MANAGER HEAD TO HEAD RECORD

Played ..3 Tony Pulis .....0 Mike Newell.....1  
Draws ..2 Goals 4 Goals 5

Player with the most...

shots  
Mamady  
Sidibe 58

shots on target

Mamady  
Sidibe 30

shots off target

Mamady  
Sidibe 28

assists

Lee  
Hendrie 8

crosses

Lee  
Hendrie 38

fouls

Mamady  
Sidibe 56

free-kicks-won

Darel  
Russell 55

Player with the most...

shots  
Rowan  
Vine 70

shots on target

Rowan  
Vine 35

shots off target

Rowan  
Vine 35

assists

Steve  
Robinson 4

crosses

Carlos  
Edwards 70

fouls

Rowan  
Vine 55

free-kicks-won

Leon  
Barnett 42

## GAMES SINCE

4 a win 3  
3 a home win 1  
2 an away win 13

0 a defeat 1  
5 a home defeat 0  
0 an away defeat 1

1 a score draw 0

2 a no score draw 7

0 conceding a goal 0  
1 scoring a goal 0

3 conceding > 1 2  
5 scoring > 1 5

2 keeping a clean sheet 3

0 failing to score 1  
7 back to back wins 24

25 back to back defeats 1  
1 gaining a point 0

0 losing a point 0  
7 win by > one 10

3 loss by > one 2

## SHARP SHOOTERS

Stoke	CCFC Cup	Tot	Luton	CCFC Cup	Tot	
Ricardo Fuller	7	1	8	Dean Morgan	4	1
Mamady Sidibe	6	0	6	Warren Feeney	2	2
Danny Higginbotham	5	0	5	Ahmet Brkovic	3	0

## TEAM HEAD TO HEAD RECORD

Played ....37 Stoke wins .....16 Luton wins .....9  
Draws ....12 Goals 57 (1.5 per game) Goals 53 (1.4 per game)  
0-0's .....8 Times failed to score 10 Times failed to score 13

Biggest League win at Stoke for each team:

04/11/1995 Stoke 5-0 Luton  
08/04/1985 Stoke 0-4 Luton

## Record Against Top Half of Table

W	D	L	RANK	W	D	L	RANK
5	4	5	9	3	5	9	18

## Record Against Bottom Half of Table

W	D	L	RANK	W	D	L	RANK
8	6	4	7	5	3	6	21

## Record When Scoring First

W	D	L	RANK	W	D	L	RANK
12	6	2	8	7	2	2	20

## Record When Conceding First

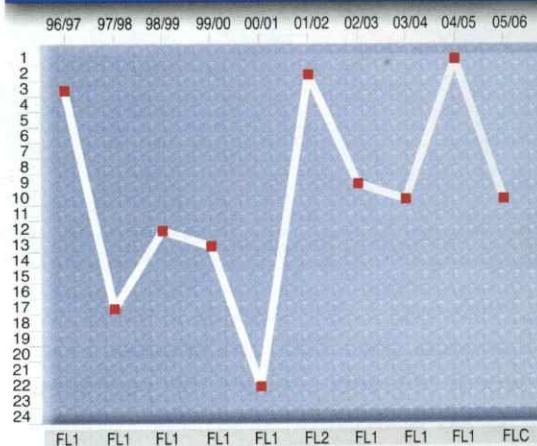
W	D	L	RANK	W	D	L	RANK
1	1	7	20	1	3	13	18

## Match Scores

Wins: 1-0[6], 2-0[2], 2-1[1], 3-0[1],  
3-1[1], 4-0[1], 5-0[1], Losses: 0-1[4],  
0-2[1], 0-3[1], 1-2[2], 2-3[1],  
0-0[3], 1-1[5], 2-2[2]

Wins: 1-0[1], 2-0[2], 2-1[2], 3-1[1],  
3-2[1], 5-1[1], Losses: 0-1[3], 0-2[3],  
0-3[1], 0-5[1], 1-2[2], 1-4[2], 2-3[3],  
Draws: 0-0[3], 1-1[2], 2-2[3]

## LUTON - TEN SEASON RECORD



\*up to and including 11/02/2007



The Football League's Fans of the Future initiative is aiming to attract the next generation of supporters to watch live football at their local club  
Find out more at [www.football-league.co.uk](http://www.football-league.co.uk)



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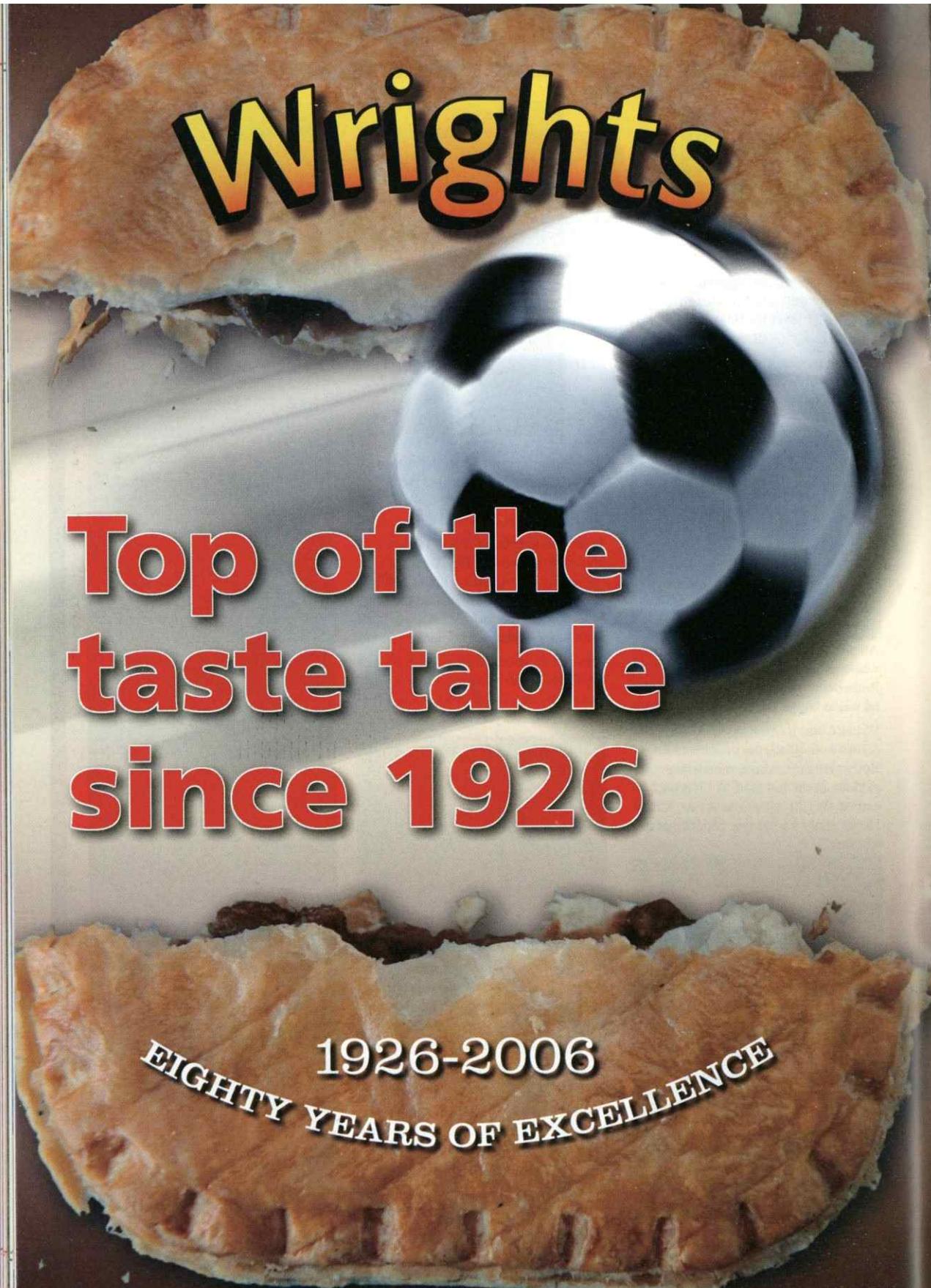
\*Not only will you be getting the best mobile phone deal around but when you sign up to one of these great deals you will receive £40 in vouchers. What's more, introduce a relative or friend and receive another \*\*£40 (£20 voucher and £20 paid directly into your bank account) per person that signs up. Example: to obtain a free season ticket at say £240 - sign up plus introduce five people and you will receive £40 + £200 worth of vouchers/cash to redeem at your club. The person introduced will not receive any vouchers on purchase but will qualify should they subsequently introduce a friend via the official SCFC website or telephone number as above. (Vouchers will be dispatched by Positive Promotions within 60 days from date of purchase. Offers exclude pay as you go.) ALL QUESTIONS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO POSITIVE PROMOTIONS 06 LTD 0800 881 8426.



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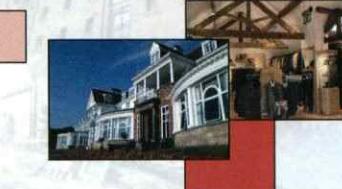
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# COMMUNITY PROGRAMME



with Adrian Hurst



Welcome to the Britannia Stadium this afternoon for what will be another crucial game against our friends from Luton Town.

In the Southend issue of CityScene, the community page looked at the role we play in giving teachers in local schools 'non contact' time, by coaching children during school hours.

This week, we have a slightly different take on that. What actually happens in the football in the community department outside of schools hours...

## AFTER SCHOOLS COACHING CLUBS

These clubs see Community coaches deliver a set of challenging disciplines usually over a half term period.

Sessions are designed to give baseline knowledge of football, but with a large emphasis on children enjoying themselves.

The normal six week programme sees a focus on the following skills:

- Passing & Control
- Running with the ball
- Heading
- Turning
- Dribbling
- Shooting

For further information regarding the after school coaching clubs, please contact the Football in the Community team on 01782 592252.

## WELCOME

A massive 'Football in the Community' welcome to our visitors from Churnet View Holiday Club and Leek High School who have taken part in a matchday coaching session today with the Community Programme.

## SPONSORED PENALTY SHOOTOUTS

As a fundraiser for both the school and the Community programme, we will often organise a sponsored penalty shootout. This enables us to generate funds to provide much needed materials for the school and for our part will provide valuable funding enabling us to provide and deliver additional activities to the community.

The children are encouraged to persuade close family and friends to sponsor their five penalties.

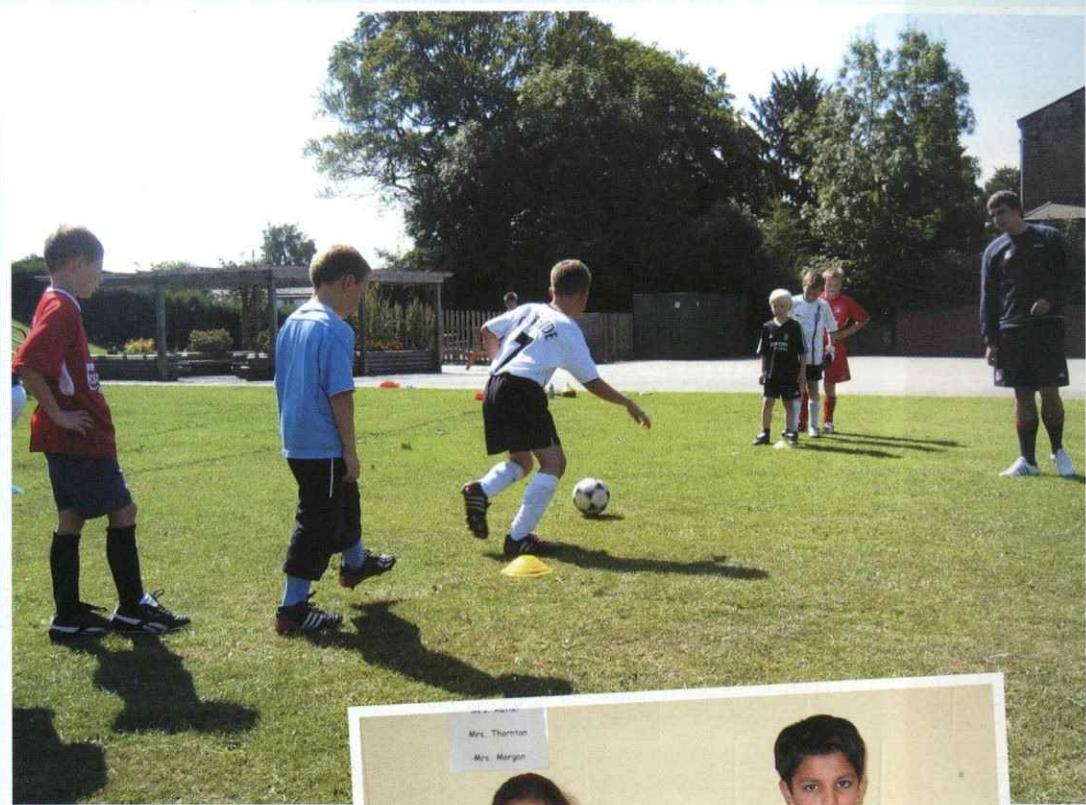
In return for collecting the sponsors, the young people can win a range of gifts and prizes that are then given out in assembly to everybody who have took part. Prizes include autographed balls, match tickets, and one autographed shirt per school.

For further information regarding the Sponsored Penalty Shootouts clubs please contact the Football in the Community team on 01782 592252.

## SOCER SCHOOLS

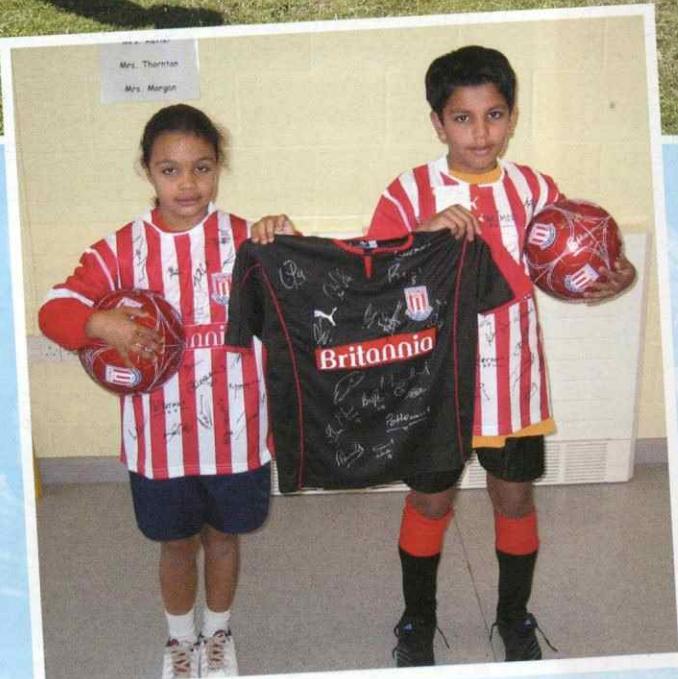
Details on the Easter Holidays Soccer Schools will appear here in the next issue of Community news.

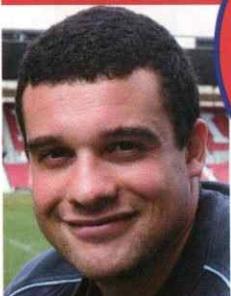
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
to Jonathan Burton  
aged 9 from Newcastle,  
Benjamin Davies aged 8  
from Trentham Lakes, Kerri-  
Ann Bates aged 15 from  
Weymouth,  
to Joseph Lowndes from  
Mow Cop and finally to  
Phillip and Antonia Cooke  
from Trent Vale.



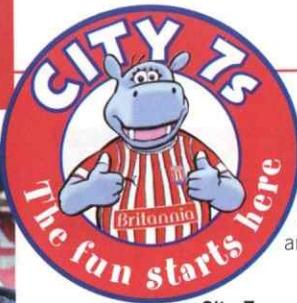
## PICTURE GALLERY

Our Football in the Community team are always on hand to teach the youngsters the basics of football. Pictured are some of the young people taking part in a couple of exercise routines as well as some of the lucky winners in one of the sponsored penalty shootouts we regularly organise.





with Dave Edwards



### Welcome to City 7s - the exciting and exclusive young City Supporters Club.

If you celebrate your seventh birthday between September 1 2006 and August 31 2007 then you can join!

#### City 7s members enjoy the following benefits:

- A Stoke City home shirt
- Two match tickets (one Junior, one Adult) for any home Championship fixture
- A £5 voucher from Britannia Building Society to open a Stoke City Junior Saver account
- A voucher for a free coaching day with City's Community programme
- Four vouchers for £1 kids match tickets
- A 10 per cent discount voucher for the Stoke City club shops

It costs just £10 to register and become a City 7 and you can join either individually or through your school. Call me on (01782) 592267 for more details.

City 7s was a great success after its launch last season. Nearly 400 youngsters came to the special birthday presentation evenings we held here at the Britannia Stadium and they were able to meet their favourite first-team stars while collecting their membership goodies.



#### SCHOOLS BENEFITS

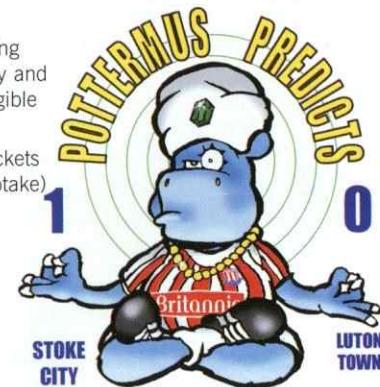
Schools who sign up to City 7s enjoy a close working relationship with City and Britannia Building Society and some great benefits. Based upon the number of eligible children who register, these are:

- VIP Matchday - a full stadium tour and match tickets for each registered pupil and a guest (25% of uptake)
- Playing For Success - a session in the Britannia Stadium classroom for all registered pupils (50% of pupils)
- Player Visit - have a member of the City squad visit your school for a question-and-answer session (75% of pupils)

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[www.stokecityfc.com](http://www.stokecityfc.com)


## KidZone KidZone KidZone KidZone

### HOME MASCOTS

#### Do you want to lead City out at the Britannia Stadium?

Well, you can. We require Matchday Mascots aged between five and 13 for all our home league and cup games. Our Mascot package is a real treat for a child and two adults and includes:

- A full child's Stoke City strip
- A full stadium tour including a visit to the dressing room area
- A full hospitality package including a meal in the Tony Waddington Suite
- The chance to take to the pitch with your favourite players in the pre-match warm-up
- The chance to meet the Man-of-the-Match after the game
- Your picture in the official City Matchday Magazine
- A photograph of you as a mascot, presented on the day

This fantastic package is the ideal gift for any fan and is available for just £299. For more details ring (01782) 592204.



### QUIZ TIME • CHAMPIONSHIP QUIZ

How much have you been paying attention to the January transfer window? Well, it's time to test your knowledge of everything that went on in the football world last month (Answers at foot of page)



- 1 Which East Midland's side are currently top of the Championship?
- 2 Where do today's visitors Luton play their home games?
- 3 Which teams' nickname is the 'Black Cats'?
- 4 Which London team do City play on the final day of the season?
- 5 Home Park is the home of which Championship side?
- 6 Which Cardiff City striker is currently joint top scorer this season with 18 goals?
- 7 City signed 'keeper Russell Hoults from which Championship club?
- 8 Blackpool were beaten by which Championship club in the FA Cup this week?
- 9 How many Championship clubs are left in the FA Cup this weekend?
- 10 Which Championship side won the league two years ago?

#### How Did You Rate?

10 pts: Outstanding! There is nothing you don't know about the transfer window!

9 pts: Very, very good effort indeed. You are NEARLY a footy know-all.

7-8pts: Your knowledge is good but you need to brush up on the smaller details.

5-6 pts: Decent effort for a tough quiz, but you are only mid-table.

Less than 5 pts: Hmm, a little bit of brushing up to do!

## THE ADVENTURES OF POTTERMUS

AFTER SEEING THE NEW WEMBLEY POTTERMUS DECIDED TO DO A FEW HOME IMPROVEMENTS...



Quiz Answers: 1. Derby County, 2. Kenilworth Road, 3. Sunderland, 4. QPR, 5. Plymouth Argyle, 6. Michael Chopra, 7. West Brom, 8. Norwich City, 9. Six, 10. Sunderland.



**HARRY THORNTON**  
D.O.B. 15/02/2000  
School ALSAGER  
HIGHFIELDS PRIMARY  
Favourite players  
LEE HENDRIE,  
ANDY GRIFFIN, SALIF DIAO,  
LIAM LAWRENCE

Hobbies  
PLAYING FOOTBALL,  
DRAWING, TEACHING LITTLE  
BROTHER CHARLEY TO PLAY  
FOOTBALL  
Ambition  
TO PLAY FOR STOKE CITY  
AND ENGLAND



**KEITH MOORE**  
D.O.B. 1/6/1993  
School LEALANDS HIGH  
Favourite players  
SOL DAVIS,  
CARLOS EDWARDS  
Hobbies  
FOOTBALL, CRICKET,  
PLAYSTATION  
Ambition  
TO BE A FOOTBALLER

Coca Cola Championship  
St Andrews Sunday February 11 2007

## Birmingham 1 Stoke City 0

John Eustace's first City league start for two years couldn't prevent the Potters slipping to defeat at St Andrews in front of Sky TV cameras.

Gary McSheffrey's 71st minute header earned the home side all three points and left the Potters without a win in three games.

Despite the absence of Lee Hendrie, Salif Diao and Darel Russell the visitors started brightly and went close twice inside the opening 15 minutes when Ricardo Fuller and Lee Martin saw their efforts saved by Colin Doyle.

The Blues thought they had taken the lead in the 35th minute but former Cardiff star Jerome had his neat finish ruled out for a dubious offside. Nicklas Bendtner almost put Birmingham ahead five minutes later but his shot was tremendously palmed over the bar by Steve Simonsen. City's Jamaican international Fuller again went close after being set free by John Eustace, but after rounding the keeper on the touchline, his shot was blocked by the outstretched leg of Mat Sadler.

The Potters started the second half brightly and a clever run down the wing from Martin resulted in Dominic Matteo curling a 20 yard effort just over the bar.

Martin should have put City ahead mid way through the second half, after nicking the ball off Damien Johnson he burst through on goal but shot straight at the legs of Birmingham 'keeper Doyle.

The home side made the Potters pay for Martin's missed chance and took the lead within five minutes.

Bendtner drove in a rasping cross which McSheffrey exquisitely headed home from 8 yards, leaving Simonsen helpless.

MATCH STATS	
POSSESSION:	
55%	45%
SHOTS ON TARGET:	
5	6
SHOTS OFF TARGET:	
3	6
CORNERS:	
4	5
FOULS CONCEDED:	
15	14

Goal: Birmingham: McSheffrey (71)

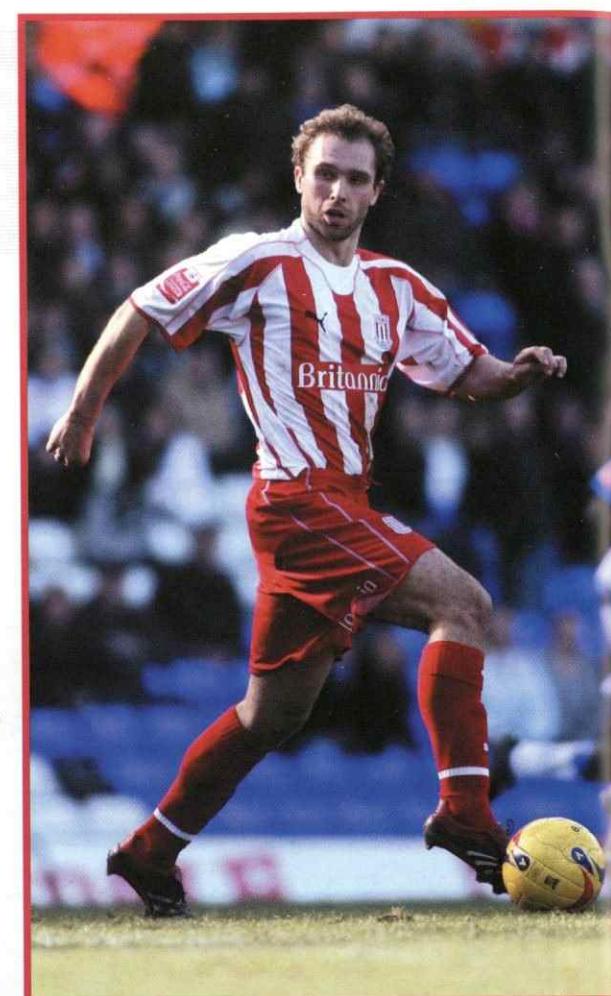
Attendance: 15,854

Referee: Jon Moss

Sadler	McSheffrey	Lawrence	Hoekens
Jaidi	Muamba	Jerome	Fuller
Doyle		Eustace	Fortune
Taylor	Clemence	Bendtner	Simonsen
N'Gotty	Johnson	Sidibe	Matteo
		Martin	Higginbotham
		Griffin	

Subs: Vine (Jerome 59),  
Larsson (Clemence 59).  
Not Used: Maik Taylor (GK), Campbell, Danns.

Subs: Rooney (Martin 74),  
Harper (Sidibe 87).  
Not Used: Zakuani, Wilkinson, Dickinson.



# CULT-HERO - JACKIE MARSH



Jackie is second left in the League Cup winning side

**City 'Cult Hero' Jackie Marsh saw his footballing career take him onto the World stage.**

Spells in Bulowa (Hong Kong), Los Angeles (USA) and of course Stoke-On-Trent enabled him to showcase his talents at every corner of the globe, and his time in America saw him teamed up with arguably the best British player of all time.

The player in question was George Best.

The legendary former Northern Ireland international sadly passed away in 2005, and Jackie says his spell across the Atlantic Ocean was a memory he will cherish forever.

"When I left Stoke I went to Hong Kong for a bit, but probably the best thing I did was when I joined Los Angeles Aztecs in '76'.

"Stoke terminated my contract for three months during the summer and I went over to the States where I played with 'Besty'.

"He was a great bloke irrespective of what the press and papers described him as, and he was a very sincere gentleman.

"I always thought of him as a really nice man who was very sociable, I had a really great time over there and it was good seeing the different lifestyle.

"We had some really good times over there, and George made everything so much easier. He was there to talk to and always had a laugh with you which was good."

A born-and-bred Potter, Jackie was one of a crop of local youngsters who came through the ranks in the 1960's.

He joined City upon leaving school, turning professional in June 1965, after an apprenticeship during which he had the responsibility of cleaning the boots of a certain Stanley Matthews. And admits he never wanted to be anywhere else.

"Stoke was the only place I wanted to be, all I dreamt about as a kid was playing for the club," says Jackie.

"Stoke was my boyhood team, I can remember going down and watching from the Boothen end in the late 1950s.

"Then I signed as a Schoolboy in 1963, served two years and was handed my first professional contract in '65.

"It was an absolute dream come true, to get the chance to play for the club you love is a brilliant

feeling and something I will obviously never ever forget."

A chance to play on the turf of the old Wembley Stadium for the club you support is what dreams are made of and Jackie's dream turned into reality in 1972.

After being part of the squad which ousted West Ham in the semi-finals, a place in the final beckoned and it was as Jackie describes an 'unbelievable experience'.

"It wasn't even in my wildest dreams to play at Wembley with the club I love," says Jackie.

"But to do it in front of all of those Stokies, it didn't seem real it was like a pipe dream.

"The fans had been starved of success for a long time, so to win something for them was absolutely unbelievable.

"There were over 40,000 of them there that day and they drowned out the Chelsea supporters.

"When we scored the entire stadium just erupted and it was a sea of red and white, even in the Chelsea end there were Stoke scarves flying around."

Locally bred players were ripe in the 60's and 70's - and City were no exception.

Tony Waddington mustered a squad together with a large contingent of Stoke-On-Trent based youngsters, and Jackie admits the League Cup win meant as much to them as it did to the fans.

He says: "I was a local lad and so were all of the other defenders, Mike Pejic, Denis Smith and Alan Bloor so we were just as happy as the fans because we were all fans ourselves.

"In those days, lots of players played for the club where they had been

brought up, and it made football more passionate. They wore the clubs' crest with pride."

Following a distinguished career which saw the former City full back make 424 appearances for the club, he eventually hung up his boots in 1984 after finishing playing with Northwich Victoria.

position to push for the Premiership, according to Jackie, and he says the job current manager Tony Pulis has done is nothing short of remarkable. The club find themselves four points off the play-off pack ahead of this afternoons clash with Luton Town and he says Pulis is the man to lead the players to the promised land.



Jackie (far right) as he is today

Jackie decided against a coaching career and tested himself working within marketing and sales, but nowadays the 58 year-old is a family man and spends his time watching the club he loves from the Waddington Suite, and admits it is something he thoroughly enjoys.

"I'm a family guy now," smiles Jackie.

"I look after my grandkids, I have five of them so they take up a lot of my time, but I enjoy it.

"I also watch all the home games with Terry Conroy. I have a meal there and watch the match with some great company."

City have never been in a better

"I think Tony has done a fantastic job this season, a lot of people were skeptical when he first arrived but the players he has got in have given the club a genuine chance.

"The form has dipped a little bit over the last few weeks but they can bounce back and get back on track.

"The Championship is so unpredictable and I believe anyone can be up there, but I don't think Stoke will have many better chances of getting promotion than they have this season.

"Tony has the ability to get the best out of players and I genuinely believe that he can take the club all the way."

• Mark Mothershaw



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STOKE CITY v SOUTHEND UNITED

# Lottery News

with Mark Cartlidge

## HALF TIME DRAW RAFFLE

Are you a lucky winner still looking for a prize?

Winning tickets from the previous match (Southend) are:  
**1st Prize 2110, 2nd Prize 2461, 3rd Prize 1393.**

## SPECIAL NOTE FOR AWAY TRAVELLING SUPPORTERS

The draw numbers and prizes are available from the lottery office on the day of the match and around the stadium.

Tickets are also available in Delilah's Bar with our match day 'Play Your Cards' game show.

## WANTED: POT OF GOLD AGENTS

All new and existing collectors enjoy the game from our very own Sky Box. Put your name forward or become a collector and enjoy the benefits.

New rounds are being developed. Ring 592288 or e-mail [lottery@stokecityfc.com](mailto:lottery@stokecityfc.com) for an informal chat with Mark or Tony and you will not be disappointed. If you have not experienced Sky Box viewing then make that call. No selling only cash collection.

Make yourself a winner and enjoy the game.

## POTTERS FOUNDATION

The latest Foundation winner, Kate Syer, in the Pot of Gold weekly lottery collected a cheque for a **£1000** from our foundation representative Dave Evison. With regular prize winners, share the success and apply for membership in our private members club.



## PRIVATE MEMBERS CLUB

The benefits are the best kept secret in the club and with even more on offer, indulge in the rewards by ringing Dave on 07900 404644 for the latest update.

Dave has been given FREE TICKETS for the lucky applicants and with improvements in cash prizes, Hospitality and the number of prizes, an offer not to be missed.

If you prefer to e-mail me at [pottersfoundation@stokecityfc.com](mailto:pottersfoundation@stokecityfc.com) I will contact you and send details of the exclusive club.

Will existing members not in receipt of the Christmas newsletter please e-mail for your copy.

*Ring Dave today and watch a match of your choice for FREE!*

*What could be better?*

CITYSCENE

5

# Pot of Gold Lottery

Latest Pot of Gold Winners:

Week 37, February 9, 2007

**£1000** - S Hewitt (Sandyford)

**£500** - L Ford (Bradwell)

**£50 x 5** - R Sherwin (Hanford), Mrs Preston (Stoke), J Whale (Bradwell), S Woolridge (Meir), R Bailey (Bentilee).

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Nik Naks Newsagents

Adderley Green Store

Village Tavern

The Ashwood

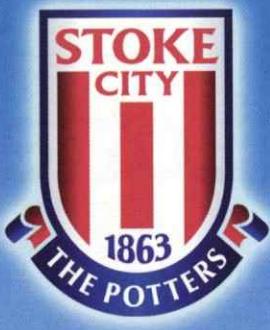
The Sea Lion Pub

The Vine Inn

Regency Funeral Services

[www.stokecityfc.com](http://www.stokecityfc.com)

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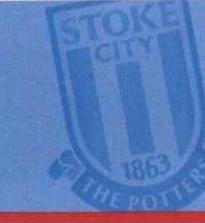
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FRANCHISE OWNED AND OPERATED UNDER LICENCE



# Terry Conroy

*Straight Talk*



# COSTLY DECISIONS, LUCKY ARSENAL, AND AVOIDING THE DROP

The headlines last weekend revolved around the Arsenal v Wigan game. I'm sure most of you watched in despair as poor old Wigan lost the game in the last 15 minutes.

However, the story of the match was that with Wigan 1-0 in the lead and looking comfortable, Heskey was fouled in the Arsenal penalty area and the referee Phil Dowd waved play on. It looked a stonewall penalty and it was not given.

In this instance I feel the referee's assistant or linesman, as we used to call him, was in a perfect position to make a decision. That's what he is there for, yet he was of no help to the referee.

Knowing how 'lucky' Arsenal always seem to get the breaks, you could put your life savings on them getting an equaliser. When it came, again the linesman on the opposite side this time, didn't make the proper call. The Arsenal player was offside when he crossed the ball and the goal should not have counted. Again, the referee was let down by his assistant.

The winning goal was controversial, to say the least. Skoko, who was on loan here last season, was off the pitch getting treatment. The assistant was ready to let him resume, but the

referee let Arsenal take a free kick and Wigan were a man short. You know the rest, Arsenal scored and that victory could seal fourth place in the League and entrance to the Champion's League. The pot of gold, should they be reasonably successful, will amount to about £30 million. However, whichever way you look at it, Wigan were robbed or mugged, whatever expression suits.

Paul Jewell will have to face the FA to explain his after the match comments. Now come the end of season, Wigan will be sweating that those points lost at the Emirates Stadium won't cost them their Premiership status. Big bucks lost, whatever way you look at it.

The 64,000 dollar question is, are the officials accountable for their performances last weekend? It's okay demoting them for a couple of games in the lower Leagues, but that's not punishment.

As we all know, there is a fine line between winning and losing. Sometimes, that applies to managers' jobs. Injuries, lack of money, dwindling crowds, conspire against managers. Sometimes it's beyond their control. Just look at West Ham.



Technology will eventually be introduced into our game. It has to come. There's too much at stake nowadays. I'm not saying it will apply to everything, but contentious decisions such as penalties given or not given. If the referee is in doubt and even though they won't admit it, they give decisions on the spur of the moment, which later they regret. They would welcome help of some description. The time element would just take a few seconds.

As in Rugby, the fans would welcome it too. The law of averages work and over the season teams will find that the system is a fair one. Look at the fear that's now gripping Charlton and West Ham. A new owner comes into West Ham and cannot wait to get rid of the manager. Alan Curbishley comes in and performances are no better. What does that suggest? Last season, with the same players, they qualified for Europe and were minutes away from the glory of winning the Cup. Desire, hunger, call it what you like, is no longer there. Contracts were improved for the players and rightly so. But the job doesn't work like that. The rot has now set in and I cannot see how West Ham will avoid the drop.

As I have said earlier, circumstances can conspire against the manager and this looks a classic case of just turning up for the money. No matter how good a manager you are, if the

players aren't willing to put the effort in week in week out, then I'm afraid there are only casualties in the end. Expect a huge clear out at Upton Park come the end of the season.

Charlton have got rid of two managers in quick succession and after all the years of consolidation in the Premiership, now look doomed to return to the much more competitive Championship division. A relegation battle does age you, as we all know, and I'm not talking about the managers.

Finally, a simple introduction again for referees is the control of time. No fan ever agrees with the amount of added on time. If your team is winning by a single goal, then the dreaded board goes up with four maybe five minutes extra. We all wonder where that's come from, don't we? Now if you're losing, then a one minute or two goes up, and you're flabbergasted. Surely there were more stoppages than that.

Now here's something simple. Every time there's a stoppage, stop the watch. The referee will be guided by an official in the stand with an earpiece. Play resumes, clock resumes. Ninety minutes are up and there's no dissent from anybody. Too complicated? It works perfectly well in Rugby. Then again, our legislators seem loathe to change anything.

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STOKE CITY v LUTON TOWN

MANAGERS are more protective about the identity of their starting 11 before a game than anything else.

The issue well and truly hit the national headlines with Dennis Wise's startling revelations of alleged shenanigans at Elland Road.



One of his players, claimed Wise (pictured), leaked the LEEDS UNITED line-up before last weekend's 2-1 defeat by Crystal Palace.

Dario Gradi subsequently came out to insist such information frequently seeps out - particularly from aggrieved players dropped from the side themselves.

And you can imagine an omitted player bumping into someone he knows from the opposition and being asked if he's involved that day.

"Nah," comes the instinctive reply, "he's chucked me and gone for X, Y and Z across midfield instead."

Does that constitute deliberate leaking to undermine your own team, or is it just loose talk an hour before kick-off?

Such leakages are far easier in the age of the mobile phone, of course, when such conversations can take place earlier in the week, verbally or by text.

More serious, however, is the aggrieved player with malice aforethought, after deciding to deliberately stick the knife into a manager having the temerity to drop him.

For him the motive is not only

vengeance, but the chance to offer the opposition an advantage, however small, to bring about the kind of result that might just lead to his own recall.

This is clearly the more serious offence and one that would make an interesting tribunal test case were a player ever to be caught and sacked for footballing treason.

Closer to home and on a less serious scale, meanwhile, we've recently come across the issue of supporters apparently watching STOKE training sessions on the eve of matches and then posting the starting 11 on the internet.

Tony Pulis was made aware of such practices after the Preston fixture when his team, not the result, was the issue because he made six changes that no-one could have predicted.

Fans have hit back by asking how on earth Paul Simpson could possibly have been made aware of one single posting on a fans' message board.

Nobody is presumably claiming that the PRESTON manager spends Friday nights glued to his PC monitor.

But it would be quite easy for a Preston fan to trespass onto a Stoke site, as seems to happen when teams are about to play each other, then post back an alleged 11 on his own message board.

This gets picked up by someone close to Preston and/or their manager and so a trail develops.

As some have argued, there are so many alleged starting line-ups floating around cyberspace so why should he take notice of one in particular?

The point about the 'leaked' line-up at Preston was that it was so different to the norm - how often does any manager make six personnel and positional changes - that it was bound to catch someone's attention and trigger that possible trail back to Preston.

All a bit John le Carre? Maybe, but football managers are a paranoid bunch - and usually with pretty good reason!



**MARTIN SPINKS**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP**  
**SCENE**



**"It would be quite easy for an opposition fan to trespass onto a Stoke site, as seems to happen when teams are about to play each other, then post back an alleged 11 on his own message board."**



# Nigel Johnson

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

**The Sir Stanley Matthews Foundation wishes to thank everyone who helped to make Sir Stan's Day on the 1st February an outstanding success.**

Tommy Docherty was the Guest at the dinner and he enthralled his audience of over 270. He had a fund of memories and he could have kept going for much more than the interesting 45 minutes. The evening raised around £8,000.

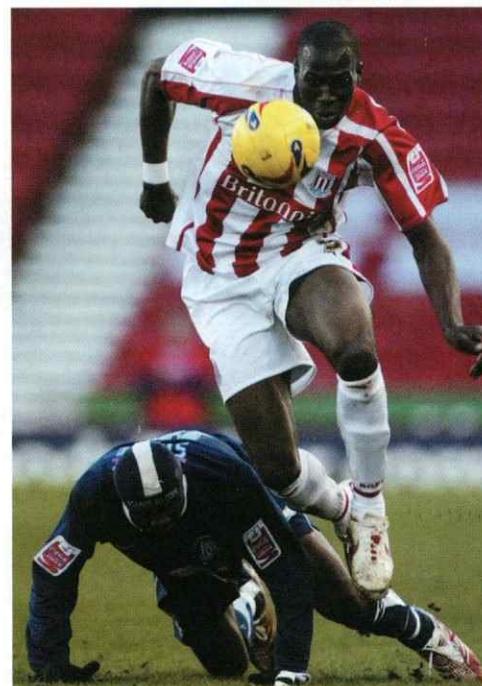
The lapel badges have also been very successful. School children and business personnel have been wearing them with pride and around £6,000 has been collected so far.

These badges will continue to be available over the coming months. Next year, the Foundation Committee is considering another lapel badge but with a different design.

By doing this the badges will become collectors' items. It is being considered that local school children will be asked to vote for the most acceptable design for 2008.

The money raised by the Foundation is used to help youngsters to develop their sporting disciplines. So far over 800 youngsters have been supported. The school children have been coached by students from Stoke on Trent College who have been funded by the Foundation. All the equipment has been donated by the Foundation.

However, this is an expensive venture and we are very grateful for any financial support. Barclays Bank plc, The Sentinel and Stoke City Football Club have been most generous to the Foundation. Let us hope that the legacy of Sir Stanley Matthews lives on for decades to come.



Today, the Potters entertain Luton Town and they must begin a winning streak if they are to mount a play-off position challenge.

In recent games they have created chances but have spurned them. A goalscoring striker is a vital cog to place in the wheel of Stoke's future fortunes. It will be a pity if a season which promised excitement to the end peters out in a whimper.

**BBC RADIO STOKE 94.6 & 104.1FM & DAB Digital Radio**

# HEAD 2 HEAD

## Who is the King of the City tipsters?

Defender Marlon Broomes proves that experience always prosters over youth after blowing young 'keeper Robert Duggan out of the water!

Marlon, currently sitting on the sidelines with a troublesome knee injury, amassed a mammoth 20 points a fortnight ago, highlighting his credentials to take the title.

Nineteen-year-old Robert picked up just eight points, correctly predicting wins for Derby, Leeds, Wolves and West Brom.

But Marlon correctly Colchester's 1-0 victory over high-flying Preston and Crystal Palace's 0-0 draw at Sunderland to take the plaudits.

### FIRST ROUND RESULTS:

**DERBY:** Rob Duggan 13, Hannes Sigurdsson 10, Danny Higginbotham 9  
**BIRMINGHAM:** Andy Wilkinson 18, Carl Dickinson 15, Adam Rooney 4  
**DARLINGTON:** Darel Russell 16, Anthony Pulis 9, Lewis Buxton 4  
**PLYMOUTH:** Kevin Harper 13, Marlon Broomes 9, Carl Hoeckens 6  
**BURNLEY:** Steve Simonsen 19, John Eustace 4\*, Peter Sweeney 4

**PRESTON:** Rob Garrett 8\*, Matt Hazley 8, Martin Paterson 4  
**SUNDERLAND:** Clint Hill 14, Michael Duberry 5, Rory Delap 2  
**NORWICH:** Sean Robinson 11\*, Mamady Sidibe 11, Sammy Bangoura 7  
**WEST BROM:** Ricardo Fuller 17, Keith Thomas 12, Vincent Pericard 6  
**CARDIFF:** Adam Vass 9, Dave Brammer 8, Liam Lawrence 6.  
 \*won on crowd tie-break

### SECOND ROUND TIES:

**Darel Russell 17** Dave Brammer 16  
**Ricardo Fuller 23** Mamady Sidibe 11  
**Carl Dickinson 16** Andy Wilkinson 15  
**Marlon Broomes 20** Rob Duggan 8

## SECOND ROUND

*This week, young gun Adam Vass takes on City's new skipper Danny Higginbotham for a spot in the final eight...*



VS

	Vass	Higginbotham
<b>FA Cup:</b>		
Middlesbrough v West Brom	1-1	1-2
Plymouth v Derby	0-1	0-1
Watford v Ipswich	2-0	2-0
Preston v Man City	2-2	1-1
<b>Championship:</b>		
Cardiff v Leeds	1-0	2-0*
Crystal Palace v Birmingham	1-2	1-1
Leicester v Coventry	0-0	1-0
Southampton v Barnsley	2-0	2-0
Sunderland v Southend	2-1	2-1
Wolverhampton v Burnley	1-0	1-1
Crowd	16,000	13,000



\*Players get double points for playing their joker.

Five points for a correct score, two points for a correct outcome (home win, away win, draw). In the event of a points tie the best attendance guess will win. Ten group winners go through to round two, along with six highest-scoring runners-up.



# Stat Pack 2006/07

## SHARP SHOOTERS

Player	Team	Lge	Cup	Ttl
Grzegorz Rasiak	Southampton	17	2	19
Michael Chopra	Cardiff	18	0	18
Diomansy Kamara	West Brom	17	1	18
Robert Earnshaw	Norwich	17	0	17
Gary McSheffrey	Birmingham	13	3	16
Jamie Cureton	Colchester	14	1	15
Chris Iwelumo	Colchester	15	0	15
Freddy Eastwood	Southend	9	5	14
Steve Howard	Derby	13	1	14

## WHERE TO SEE GOALS (By Ground)

Ground	Home Team	M	Gls	GMt
The Hawthorns	West Brom	16	52	3.25
Hillsborough	Sheff Wed	16	51	3.19
Layer Road Ground	Colchester	16	50	3.12
Roots Hall	Southend	16	48	3.00
Portman Road	Ipswich	16	47	2.94
Kenilworth Stadium	Luton	15	43	2.87
Loftus Road Stadium	QPR	16	44	2.75
St Andrews	Birmingham	15	41	2.73
The KC Stadium	Hull	16	42	2.62
Home Park	Plymouth	16	42	2.62
Elland Road	Leeds	16	42	2.62
Carrow Road	Norwich	16	41	2.56
Turf Moor	Burnley	15	38	2.53
Oakwell Stadium	Barnsley	16	40	2.50
Molineux Stadium	Wolves	16	39	2.44
Deepdale	Preston	16	38	2.38
Ninian Park	Cardiff	16	37	2.31
Selhurst Park	Crystal Pal	16	37	2.31
Ricoh Arena	Coventry	16	36	2.25
The Walkers Stadium	Leicester	15	33	2.20
Pride Park Stadium	Derby	16	33	2.06
St Marys Stadium	Southampton	16	32	2.00
Britannia Stadium	Stoke	16	32	2.00
Stadium of Light	Sunderland	16	32	2.00

## TEAM LEADERS

Team with the most..  
shots on target 239 Southampton. shots off target 230 Southampton. corners 239 Plymouth. hit woodwork 13 West Brom. offsides 127 West Brom. fouls 520 Hull. yellow cards 73 West Brom. red cards 6 Burnley.

## PLAYER POWER

Player with the most..  
Shots 109 Robert Earnshaw (Norwich). Shots on target 58 Robert Earnshaw (Norwich). Shots off target 55 Michael Chopra (Cardiff). Assists 13 Gary McSheffrey (Birmingham). Crosses 156 Darren Huckerby (Norwich). Offsides 59 Jamie Cureton (Colchester). Fouls 106 Steve Howard (Derby). Free-kicks won 70 Patrick Kisnorbo (Leicester).



## GOAL COUNTER 970

### RIGHT FOOT 508 goals

52.4%

### LEFT FOOT 238 goals

24.5%

### HEADERS 200 goals

20.6%

Own goals 22 (2.3%), Other body part 2 (0.2%)

## QUICK-FIRE GOALS

From the start of a match

D Kamara (West Brom vs Coventry) 0:28

By a substitute after coming on

Wayne Andrews (Coventry vs Barnsley) 0:47

## DISCIPLINARY



3.0 cards per match

## QUICK-FIRE CARDS

From the start of a match

Dexter Blackstock (QPR vs Southend) 0:15

By a substitute after coming on

Andrew Surman (Southampton vs Ipswich) 1:30

## SUB TOTALS

Subs used ..... 1877

Offsides ..... 2484

Corners ..... 4243

Shots Off Target ..... 4189

## BEAT THE TRAFFIC

Total number of goals you would have missed by leaving every match ten minutes early

1 | 5 | 1

\*up to and including 11/02/2007



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AWAY  
Mr. P. Wimhurst

### 3 MARLON BROOMES

HOME  
Hendre Mynoch  
Touring Caravan &  
Camping Park,  
Barmouth

### 4 JOHN EUSTACE

HOME  
Swedish Stokies

### 5 JONATHAN FORTUNE

HOME  
AWAY

### 6 CLINT HILL

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### 10 RICARDO FULLER

HOME  
Phillip & James  
Brookes

### 11 KEVIN HARPER

HOME  
David & Susan Harper

### 12 PETER SWEENEY

HOME  
SCOTT AND  
ANNEMARIE KERR

### 14 DANNY HIGGINBOTHAM

HOME  
Ben & Nigel Hackney  
AWAY  
Jeff Lea

### 15 VINCENT PERICARD

HOME  
John, Janet, Harry &  
Lauren Pickford

### 16 LEE HENDRIE

HOME  
MATT BUCKLEY  
AWAY  
JOHN LAWSON

### 17 DAREL RUSSELL

HOME  
LAUREN TALBOT  
AWAY  
JESSICA MILLS

### 18 SALIF DIAO

HOME  
MAC HILL

### 19 DOMINIC MATTEO

HOME  
AWAY

### 20 ANDY GRIFFIN

HOME  
DAWN HOLMES, SHIZUKO  
NORWEGIAN FOREST CATS  
AWAY  
Mrs JUNE FORRESTER

### 21 LEE MARTIN

HOME  
AWAY

### 22 LEWIS BUXTON

HOME  
JW INSURANCE  
BROKERS

### 23 LIAM LAWRENCE

HOME  
AWAY

### 24 RORY DELAP

HOME  
AWAY

### 25 RUSSELL HOULT

HOME  
AWAY

### 26 ANTHONY PULIS

HOME  
Mr. & Mrs. Roger  
Davis

### 27 GABRIEL ZAKUANI

HOME  
AWAY

### 28 ANDY WILKINSON

HOME  
Stoke City Southern  
Supporters Club

### 30 MARTIN PATERSON

HOME  
BGC GAS

### 31 CARL DICKINSON

HOME  
Knyppesley & Biddulph  
Supporters Club

### 33 ROB DUGGAN

HOME  
H. BROWN & SON

### 34 ADAM ROONEY

HOME  
FABPADS  
AWAY

### TONY PULIS

HOME  
Mark, Chris & Nathan  
Tomkinson,  
MDT Transport  
hazel.bailey@stokecityfc.com

# Commercial News

with John Booth

Contact the Commercial Team on 01782 592211 or email [matchday@stokecityfc.com](mailto:matchday@stokecityfc.com)



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## WELCOME

A very warm welcome to Stephen Kirk and his colleagues from **COCA-COLA** Midlands, our main match sponsors for this afternoon's Championship fixture against Luton Town. Stephen and his colleagues have travelled from Coventry to be with us this afternoon and we would like to thank them for their support. Coca-Cola are currently running an impressive Buy a Player for your Club campaign, so please give them your support this afternoon.

Our associate sponsors this afternoon are **RCA/Fox Advertising**, suppliers of the impressive revolving perimeter advertising boards around the pitch. Many thanks to Richard Carpenter and his guests for your sponsorship and continued support of Stoke City.

## NOT LONG LEFT!

It's hard to believe that after today there are only six home games left to the end of the season, and the Waddington Suite sponsored by Seddon is proving to be a very popular venue for the run-in to what we hope will be a successful promotion charge to the Premiership.

The games versus Southampton on Saturday 10th March, Leicester City on Saturday 31st March and Colchester United, our final home game of the season on Saturday 28th April, are attracting a high level of interest and there is now limited availability in our prestigious match day restaurant for those fixtures.

To avoid disappointment and reserve your places in the Waddington Suite, or if you simply wish to find out more about the super match day packages we offer, please telephone our friendly commercial team on 01782 592211.

## BARNESLEY BUFFET

Our fixture against Barnsley will be shown live on Sky TV on Monday 26th February, kick off 7.45 pm, and we are offering you the opportunity to dine in the Waddington Suite sponsored by Seddon for just £40 + vat.

We will be serving a sumptuous hot and cold buffet, which has received glowing reports from our fixture against Millwall earlier in the season.

Telephone our commercial team on 01782 592211 to find out more.



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## PRESENTATIONS vs SOUTHEND UTD



Andy Hough of Hough Engineering (Matchball sponsor) receives a matchday memento from Terry Conroy.



City skipper Danny Higginbotham is pictured with Sentinel sports editor Keith Wales.

## BOX CLEVER

Looking for that extra special day out here at the Britannia? Why not book an Executive Box for eight for your family & friends or business colleagues or customers?

The facilities and food are top class and with boxes available from just £350 + vat, they offer really good value for money.

Again call 01782 592211 to book...

## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Many of you will have received a commemorative tankard for Christmas celebrating the 1972 cup winning side. You should also have received details of the special gala dinner we are holding to celebrate 35 years since that famous win.



The dinner, which is 'black tie', will be held in the Waddington Suite sponsored by Seddon on Friday, March 9th. Terry Conroy has been in touch with the players involved in that famous win and as we write at least eight of that team will be in attendance on the night.

Places are limited. Tickets cost £70 +vat and should be ordered directly from Terry Conroy on 01782 592211

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Patrons of the club will know that we have two superbly fitted  
air conditioned and separate entertainment rooms.

# Match of my Life

Saturday 10 March sees the publication of a new book 'Match of My Life' in which sixteen Stoke legends relive their finest moments in a Potters shirt. Here, in an excerpt from the book, our very own TERRY CONROY relives that magical moment in March 1972 when he helped Stoke win the League Cup in their first ever Wembley final.

**THERE** was a new scoreboard at Wembley and I was looking up at it. But there seemed to be some mistake. It had my name on it, 'Conroy 4'.

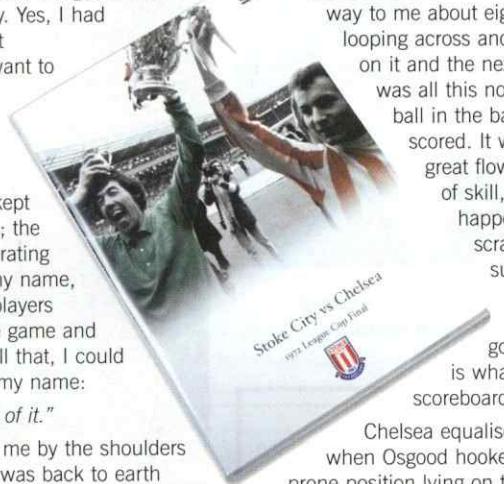
I was dazed and confused by this eventuality and was constantly drawn to the words on the scoreboard. It was uncanny. I kept looking round to find the referee as I was sure he was going to disallow the goal, the goal I had just scored at Wembley. Yes, I had scored in a cup final at WEMBLEY!!! I didn't want to wake up.

It was as if the world had focussed in on me and I stood still while everything else kept on swirling around me; the noise of the fans celebrating wildly, some singing my name, the movement of the players continuing on with the game and then, in the midst of all that, I could hear someone calling my name:

"Terry, Terry. Snap out of it."

Jackie Marsh grabbed me by the shoulders and shook me hard. I was back to earth again.

There's no room for passengers in a Wembley final and I soon realised I couldn't glory in the moment until we'd actually done the job we'd come to Wembley to do and win the first trophy in Stoke City's long and illustrious history.



Wembley was packed with Stoke fans. It was a wonderful sight. I remember that as we walked up that long tunnel at the old Wembley we could hear the buzz of the crowd growing louder and louder like an enormous swarm of bees.

My goal came early on. It was strange because it was a nothing build up. A long throw came in and somehow the ball found its way to me about eight yards out. It came looping across and I just put my head on it and the next thing I knew there was all this noise and I saw the ball in the back of the net. I'd scored. It wasn't contrived by a great flowing move, or a piece of skill, it just sort of happened in a very scrappy way. But I suppose in cup finals it doesn't matter who scores or how they go in. All that matters is what's on that scoreboard.

Chelsea equalised just on half-time when Osgood hooked the ball in from a prone position lying on the ground when we should have cleared the ball and we trudged into the dressing rooms when we should have been skipping in with a 1-0 lead. I still maintain that Chelsea were the better side on the day and they created more chances, but it was a real end-to-end game all through the

second half. It was up and down for ninety minutes, two attacking teams. There was no lull, no period of stalemate. I didn't feel we played as well and as fluently as we could. But defensively we were superb.

The winning goal came when Peter Dobing knocked a ball 40 yards across to me. I just had it in my mind to attack the blue jersey in front of me and I got by David Webb on the left wing and crossed to the back post where I knew where John would be, he was always at the far post. Ritchie nodded it down to Greenhoff, who was about 12 yards out. Jimmy volleyed it towards goal, but Peter Bonetti pulled off a wonderful save, diving to his right. But he couldn't hold on to the ball and it bounced out to where two Stoke players, Eastham and Dobing were waiting to stick it in the net. George won that particular race to prod the ball home. 2-1 Stoke.

There wasn't long to go then and we knew Chelsea would press us back, but actually the only real chance they had was one we created for them. I remember being right in line with Micky Bernard when he hit this pass back to Gordon Banks. Now in those days keepers could pick the ball up from backpasses, not like today, so Micky thought he was playing a safe pass, but it was short. Just outside the area the Chelsea forward Colin Garland latched on to the ball and was bearing down on goal, but then out of nowhere came Gordon Banks to put in the most ferocious challenge and send the ball to safety. That was a colossal save. It really was. I really sensed then that with the form Banksy was in Chelsea weren't going to score.

My over-riding emotion at the end of the game wasn't so much that we'd won, more that I was so glad I didn't have to run any more. That Wembley pitch sapped the strength right out of your legs and it had been a very quick game and we'd all galloped a few miles. I just sat down. That was my first reaction. Just to sit down because I was drained, both physically and mentally.

We didn't get medals, we got tankards for some reason. And then Peter Dobing picked the cup up as captain and we toured it round the ground. That part of the day went very quickly and is something of a daze to be honest and I remember more about the dressing room afterwards. Of course singing 'We'll Be With You in the bath' lives with me to this day because it was caught on film. I haven't watched that at all I can tell you, but my girls often take the mickey about it as my voice is so high-pitched and I had the mutton chop sideboards.

Then it was back to the Russell Hotel and the party began.

\* Order your copy at the club shop now priced at just £16.99.





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alternatively you can pick up a leaflet in the club shop  
or visit [www.stokecityfc.com](http://www.stokecityfc.com)

STOKE CITY v LUTON TOWN

# Reserve News

## BIRMINGHAM 3 STOKE CITY 0

City's reserves suffered a heavy defeat in their Pontin's League clash with Birmingham City at Damson Parkway.

James McPike, Neil Danns and a Sean Robinson own goal compiled a miserable night for the second string and left them without a win in three games.

Keeper Russell Hoult made his debut for the Potters and was called upon early in the match to deny Julian Gray after John Eustace had lost possession in midfield.

But City couldn't hold off a strong Blues side for long and they took the lead after 14 minutes. Matthew Birley's cross finding the head of James McPike, who beat Hoult.

John Eustace then lost possession to Mehdi Nafti, the Birmingham midfielder finding Gray free in the area, but his weak shot was easily saved by Hoult.

Neil Danns doubled the lead after 34 minutes when his low drive was deflected past Hoult. City started the second half much brighter and were unfortunate when Adam Rooney's shot was cleared off the line by Patrick Kavanagh.

But the Blues ended all hope of a Potters fightback in the 78th minute.

Sean Robinson attempted to clear a cross, but only succeeded in diverting the ball past Hoult's despairing dive.

*Team: Hoult, McGaw, Dickinson, Eustace, Robinson, Owens, Phillips, Thorley, Rooney, Pointon, Watson. Subs not used: McCormick, Duggan, Doyle, Parsons, Ho.*

## STOKE CITY 0 PORT VALE 0

City's second string battled out for a point with rivals Port Vale at the Lyme Valley Stadium. Rooney went closest to breaking the deadlock for the Potters while Rob Duggan produced an outstanding save to earn City a point.

City started the brighter of the two sides and nearly went ahead after only two minutes, Nathan McDonald whipped in an inviting centre and Rooney was first to react but his goalward header was blocked on the line.

Noel Blake's side rallied and long range efforts from Rooney and Ryan Shotton were comfortably saved by veteran Paul Musselwhite.

Rooney then turned provider for City playing an inch perfect through ball for Jamie Pointon, but his shot was blocked by the outstretched leg of Robin Hulbert.

Vale almost took the lead on the hour mark when former Plymouth striker Lowndes tried his luck from 20-yards, but his curling effort dipped just over Duggan's upright. Minutes later Rooney should have put the Potters ahead, McDonald fired in a dangerous ball across the Vale 6 yard box but the Ireland U21 international powered his header just over.

Andy Porter's side nearly grabbed the local bragging rights in the last ten minutes but City keeper Duggan reacted tremendously to flick away Walker's point blank header.

*Team: Duggan, Parsons, Wedderburn, Shotton (Doyle 73), Dickinson (Watson 65), McDonald, Thorley, Robinson, McGaw, Rooney (Brunt 65), Pointon. Subs not used: Ryan, Phillips.*

## APPEARANCES / (SUB) / GOALS SUMMARY 2006/07

	Apps(Sub)	Gls	Sweeney	5	-	Owens	2	-
Hazley	12	1	Parsons	5	-	Brunt	1+3s	-
Duggan	12	-	Thorley	4	-	McDonald	1+1s	-
Robinson	10+3s	-	Vass	3+1s	1	Hoult	1	-
Rooney	10+2s	4	Thomas	3+1s	-	Baidek	1	-
Paterson	9	7	McGaw	3+1s	-	Broomes	1	-
Pulis	9	2	Pointon	3+1s	-	Cisse	1	-
Dickinson	9	-	Brammer	3	-	Ho	1	-
Garrett	8+3s	2	Buxton	3	-	Page	1	-
Bangoura	8	2	Wedderburn	3	-	Ryan	1	-
Whitley	7	-	Grocott	2+5s	-	St. L-Hamilton	1	-
Wilkinson	7	-	Doyle	2+3s	-	Sigurdsson	1	-
Shotton	7	-	Curley	2+2s	-	Stevens	1	-
Eustace	6	-	Mullan	2+2s	-	Ford	+1s	-
Watson	5+2s	-	Phillips	2+1s	-	Keys	+1s	-
Harper	5	1	McCormick	2	1	(Includes Staffs Senior Cup)		

CITYSCENE



<b>Aug</b>	
Tue 15	Sheff Wed . . . L 1-2
<b>Wed 23</b>	<b>Walsall . . . D 0-0</b>
Mon 28	Shrewsbury . . . W 4-1
<b>Sep</b>	
<b>Wed 6</b>	<b>Barnsley . . . W 3-1</b>
Wed 27	Port Vale . . . D 0-0
<b>Oct</b>	
<b>Wed 04</b>	<b>Birmingham . . L 0-1</b>
<b>Tue 10</b>	<b>Huddersfield . . D 0-0</b>
Wed 18	Nottm For . . . W 1-0
<b>Nov</b>	
Wed 01	Hednesford . . . W 4-1
<b>Wed 08</b>	<b>Leeds Utd . . . W 2-1</b>
Mon 13	West Brom . . . L 1-3
<b>Wed 22</b>	<b>Bradford C . . W 3-1</b>
<b>Dec</b>	
Wed 06	Barnsley . . . D 2-2
<b>Jan</b>	
<b>Wed 10</b>	<b>Sheff Wed . . D 1-1</b>
Tue 23	Walsall . . . 2pm
Tue 30	Chasetown . . . L 1-2
<b>Feb</b>	
Mon 05	Birmingham . . . L 0-3
<b>Wed 14</b>	<b>Port Vale . . . D 0-0</b>
<b>Wed 28</b>	<b>Shrewsbury . . . 2pm</b>
<b>Mar</b>	
Wed 07	Huddersfield . . . 2pm
<b>Wed 21</b>	<b>Nottm For . . . 7pm</b>
Wed 04	Leeds Utd . . . tbc
<b>Apr</b>	
<b>Wed 11</b>	<b>West Brom . . . 7pm</b>
Tue 24	Bradford C . . . 7pm
All 7pm ko home games will be played at the Britannia Stadium	
All 2pm ko home games will be played at the Lyme Valley Stadium	

Pride Park



## DERBY COUNTY

**Wednesday 21st February, kick-off 7-45pm.**

### THE GROUND

Opened in July 1997 by The Queen, Pride Park replaced the old Baseball Ground as home to the Rams. The ground was built on a derelict former industrial site to the East of Derby that was once also a military training ground. Fully enclosed, Pride Park has an all-seated capacity of 33,597. Originally of similar design to Middlesbrough's Riverside Stadium with a two tier main stand and horseshoe configuration joining the other three stands, Derby's then status in the Premier League resulted in extra capacity being installed by filling in the gaps between the main stand and the three remaining sides. Visitors are seated in the South Stand (Cawarden Construction Stand).

### ONES TO WATCH

The pre-season signing of centre-forward Steve Howard (*pictured*) has proved a master stroke for Derby manager Billy Davies. The former Preston boss made his first move into the transfer market to capture the 30 year old ex Luton, Northampton and Hartlepool striker for a £1 million fee and the Durham born Howard has more than repaid his fee with vital goals, often the only goal and often scored late in games, to net the points as The Rams surged to the top of the Championship.



Supporting Howard is another of those young but very talented Arsenal loanees. Arturo Lupoli joined The Gunners in the Summer of 2004 from Italian club Parma and soon established himself as a prolific scorer at reserve level. On loan at Pride Park this season, this nineteen year old has contributed ten goals in Championship, League Cup and F.A. Cup.

Joining Derby in the January transfer window on a free from Crystal Palace, former Preston and Manchester City striker Jonathan Macken brings a wealth of experience and an impressive goal tally, particularly at this level with Preston.

### GAME TO REMEMBER

Back to the halcyon days of the Waddington era and Stoke travelled to the old Baseball Ground for a Division One game against Derby in February 1973. The Rams were current Champions and had already been thrashed 4-0 at the Victoria Ground just two months earlier. The Potters were to complete a memorable double with a 3-0 victory before a crowd of 22,106. John Mahoney, Jimmy Robertson and Jimmy Greenhoff were City's scorers and the team that day: Farmer, Marsh, Pejic, Mahoney, Bloor, Skeels, Robertson, Greenhoff, Ritchie, Eastham, Conroy.

### YOUR ROUTE

From the Britannia take the A50 Eastbound to leave at the junction with A6 towards Derby. Follow the Alvaston by-pass (take 1st exit at first roundabout onto Shardlow Road) then left at next roundabout into London Road. Turn right to Pride Park Stadium & Away Supporters parking at Wilmorton College. Ample parking available with a 15 minute walk to the stadium. DISTANCE – 36 miles

**TRAIN** – Derby mainline station is 15 minutes walk from Pride Park – use the footbridge from the station directly into Pride Park. Check train availability and times for this evening fixture.

On the Road

## BOXOFFICE



**TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS TEL: 01782 592204**

### Coca-Cola Championship

**v DERBY COUNTY (Away)**

**Wednesday 21st February 2007 ko 7.45pm**

Our initial allocation is 2,000 tickets

Admission for Stoke City supporters is STRICTLY BY TICKET ONLY

There will be a limited guest list for this fixture

Tickets are priced at £27 for adults, £14 over 60 and £10 under 17.

Disabled and personal assistant tickets are available from Derby by contacting Keith Marson on 01332 667531 priced £15 per pair

Any remaining tickets are now on general sale to supporters in possession of a Stoke City Away Card and produce it at point of sale.



### Coca-Cola Championship

**v BARNESLEY (Home)**

**Monday 26th February 2007 ko 7.45 pm**

Standard ticket prices apply and TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE



### Coca-Cola Championship

**v PLYMOUTH ARGYLE (Away)**

**Saturday 3rd March 2007 ko 3.00pm**

Our initial allocation is 1,122 tickets

Admission for Stoke City supporters is STRICTLY BY TICKET ONLY

There will be a limited guest list for this fixture

Tickets are priced at £22 for adults, £15 over 65 & students and £6 under 16. Disabled and personal assistant tickets are available from Plymouth by calling 0845 3387232.

Premier/Legends members may purchase one ticket from Monday 19th Feb. Season ticket holders may purchase one ticket from Tuesday 20th Feb. Potters Club/Pot of Gold members may purchase one ticket from Wednesday 21st Feb. Any remaining tickets will go on general sale from Thursday 22nd Feb to supporters in possession of a Stoke City Away Card and produce it at point of sale.



## SCFC OFFICIAL AWAY TRAVEL

**DERBY – COACHES DEPART AT 5.30pm PROMPT**      **PLYMOUTH – COACHES DEP AT 8am PROMPT**

PREM/LEG MEMBER	£9	PREM/LEG MEMBER	£19
S/T HOLDER & POTTERS CLUB	£10	S/T HOLDER & POTTERS CLUB	£20
JUNIOR/OAP	£9	JUNIOR/OAP	£19
NON MEMBER	£12	NON MEMBER	£22

**TO BOOK TELEPHONE 01782 592204**

## MATCH PRICES 2006/07

**John Smith's Stand Upper Tier**  
**Blocks 1-4/7-9 (Premier Members)**

Adult ..... £21

Under17/Senior Citizen ..... £12/£13

Under 11 ..... £9

**John Smith's Stand Upper Tier**  
**Blocks 1-4/7-9 (Non-Members)**

Adult (inc £4 Membership Fee) ..... £25

Senior Citizen (inc £4 Membership Fee) ..... £17

Under 17 ..... £12

Under 11 ..... £9

**John Smith's Stand Lower Tier**  
**Blocks 10-13/15-18**

Adult ..... £20

Under 17/Senior Citizen ..... £12

Under 11 ..... £9

### Boothen End (Block 19)

**Turnstile Entry Reserved Seating**

Adult ..... £19

Concessions ..... £12

**Boothen End Blocks 20-25**  
**(Advance Purchase)**

Adult ..... £19

Under 17/Senior Citizen ..... £12

Under 11 ..... £9

**Boothen End Blocks 20-25**  
**(Matchday Purchase)**

Adult ..... £19

Under 17/Senior Citizen ..... £12

Under 11 ..... £9

### Sentinel Stand Blocks 26-31

Adult ..... £19

Under 17/Senior Citizen ..... £12

Under 11 ..... £9

### Streetwise Family Area

**Blocks 32-34 (Single Ticket Purchase)**

Adult ..... £19

Senior Citizen ..... £12

Under 17 ..... £10

Under 11 ..... £5

### Disabled Matchday Prices

Adult ..... £14

Senior Citizen ..... £9

Under 17 ..... £9

Under 11 ..... £7

Personal Assistant is Free

**TICKETS FOR ALL AWAY GAMES WILL ONLY BE SOLD TO SUPPORTERS WHO HAVE A VALID STOKE CITY AWAY CARD AND PRODUCE IT AT POINT OF SALE**

**ADMISSION TO THE SOUTH CAR PARK IS STRICTLY BY TICKET ONLY**

## MatchStats

Home games in red. City score in blue.

key  
Player in starting XI  
Substitute  
Sub on (inc. min) <60  
Subbed (inc. min) 60>  
Yellow Card  
Red Card  
Goals scored 1

SIMONSEN	HOEFFKENS	BROOMES	EUSTACE	DUBERRY/FORTUN	HILL	BANGOURA	BRAMMER	SIDIBE	FULLER	HARPER	SWEENEY	HIGGINBOTHAM	PERICARD	HENDRIE	RUSSELL	DAO	MATTEO	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19

**CITYSCENE**

COLA CHAMPIONSHIP 2006/07

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
ly	32	19	6	7	42	30	12	63
	33	17	8	8	6	38	22	59
ingham	30	17	6	7	49	30	19	57
on	32	16	8	8	47	33	14	56
nton	32	14	11	7	49	35	14	53
iff City	32	14	11	7	45	34	11	53
erland	32	16	5	11	45	34	11	53
chester	33	15	6	12	54	37	17	51
es	32	14	8	10	34	34	0	50
<b>le City</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>49</b>
outh	32	10	13	9	42	43	-1	43
ce	32	11	9	12	39	37	2	42
of Wed	32	11	8	13	44	48	-4	41
ley	31	10	9	12	34	34	0	39
ich	32	11	6	15	40	44	-4	39
try	32	11	5	16	32	42	-10	38
ester	31	9	10	12	32	39	-7	37
wich	30	10	7	13	37	47	-10	37
	32	9	6	17	38	53	-15	33
<b>City</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>-12</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Town</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>-14</b>	<b>32</b>
lesley	32	9	5	18	33	53	-20	32
hend	32	7	10	15	32	48	-16	31
s Utd	31	9	3	19	34	56	-22	30

**PLAYER APPS (+SUB)/GOALS 2006/07**

	LEAGUE		LC		FAC	
	APP	GLS	APP	GLS	APP	GLS
1 SIMONSEN	32	-	1	-	2	-
2 HOEFKENS	28 (3)	-	-	-	2	-
3 BROOMES	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 EUSTACE	1 (2)	-	(1)	-	1	-
5 DUBERRY	29	-	1	-	2	-
5 FORTUNE	2	-	-	-	-	-
6 HILL	15 (3)	2	1	-	1	-
7 BANGOURA	1 (3)	-	-	-	-	-
8 BRAMMER	11 (11)	-	-	-	(1)	-
9 SIDIBE	30	6	1	-	2	-
10 FULLER	17 (3)	7	-	-	(1)	1
10 SIGURDSSON	(2)	-	(1)	-	-	-
11 HARPER	(3)	-	1	-	-	-
12 SWEENEY	10 (3)	1	1	-	1	-
14 HIGGINBOTHAM	30	5	-	-	2	-
15 PERICARD	16 (7)	2	1	1	1	-
16 HENDRIE	18	3	-	-	-	-
17 RUSSELL	31	4	1	-	1	-
18 DIAO	18	-	-	-	1 (1)	-
19 CHADWICK	13 (2)	3	-	-	-	-
19 MATTEO	3	-	-	-	-	1
20 GRIFFIN	22	2	-	-	-	-
21 MARTIN	2	-	-	-	-	1
22 BUXTON	1	-	-	-	-	-
23 LAWRENCE	14	3	-	-	-	-
24 DELAP	2	-	-	-	-	-
26 PULIS	(1)	-	1	-	-	-
27 BERGER	1 (5)	-	-	-	-	-
27 ZAKUANI	-	-	-	-	-	-
28 WILKINSON	2 (2)	-	-	-	(1)	-
29 WHITLEY	(3)	-	1	-	-	-
30 PATERSON	(6)	1	(1)	-	-	-
31 DICKINSON	2 (4)	-	1	-	-	-
33 DUGGAN	-	-	-	-	-	-
34 ROONEY	(6)	-	-	-	(2)	-
35 GARRETT	-	-	-	-	-	-
36 HAZLEY	-	-	-	-	-	-
37 THOMAS	-	-	-	-	-	-
OWN GOALS	-	1	-	-	-	1

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### Club Directory

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**Official Website:**  
[www.stokecityfc.com](http://www.stokecityfc.com)  
**Telephone:** (01782) 592222  
(Main Switchboard)  
e-mail: [info@stokecityfc.com](mailto:info@stokecityfc.com)

#### Ticket Office

Tel: (01782) 592204  
Fax: (01782) 592201  
**Ticket Information Line:**  
(01782) 592200

#### Hospitality, Sales & Marketing

Tel: (01782) 592211  
Fax: (01782) 592210  
e-mail: [matchday@stokecityfc.com](mailto:matchday@stokecityfc.com)

#### Media and Communications

Tel: (01782) 592123/592260  
**Britannia Stadium Superstore**  
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Fax: (01782) 592243  
e-mail: [scfcshop@stokecityfc.com](mailto:scfcshop@stokecityfc.com)

**The Stoke City Shop**  
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Fax: (01782) 286667

#### Football in the Community

Tel: (01782) 592252  
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e-mail: [community@stokecityfc.com](mailto:community@stokecityfc.com)

#### Safety and Maintenance

Tel: (01782) 592271

#### Conference and Banqueting

Tel: 01782 592234  
Fax: (01782) 592232

#### Accounts

Tel: (01782) 592266  
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#### Lotteries

Tel: (01782) 592288  
e-mail: [lottery@stokecityfc.com](mailto:lottery@stokecityfc.com)

#### Academy

Tel: (01782) 592101  
Fax: (01782) 592201

[www.stokecityfc.com](http://www.stokecityfc.com)

# The Final Word

from Chief Executive Tony Scholes



Fund raising for the Academy is one of the Club's top priorities, and the Potters Foundation was set up last year to do just that. It has already raised a significant amount for the Academy, but we still need more members.

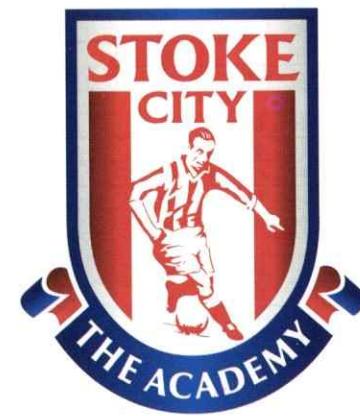
We are holding a 'Potters Foundation Evening' on March 6th here at the Britannia Stadium. Peter Coates, Tony Pulis and I will be on hand to answer questions and tell you about developments at the club, and in particular the Academy.

The evening kicks-off at 7.30pm with a 'welcome' glass of wine and whilst you may well receive a written invitation, if not, you can reserve a place by calling the lottery office.

Membership of the Potters Foundation is limited, and members receive a number of prizes and benefits including, weekly cash prizes in the pot of gold lottery, a half yearly loyalty cash prizes of £2,000 and of course a massive annual jackpot prize of £10,000. Members also receive a host of other benefits and discounts.

I think the Foundation is great value for money just in terms of the benefits members receive. On top of that, you will be helping the club's future as well. Weekly membership works out at less than £2.50 a week.

Whilst football is always our main activity, I am pleased to announce the 'Passion Event' that will be held here at the Britannia Stadium in June. This will be the largest Christian Rock Concert in the UK this year, and has been organised through the 'Passion Event' company who are based here in Stoke.



It again demonstrates the community value of the Britannia Stadium and we are pleased they chose us. I do know they looked at other local venues and finally decided on this one. The event takes place on Saturday June 9th. It is a great family event and everyone is welcome. Ticket details can be found at [www.passionevent.org](http://www.passionevent.org)

Visitors are expected from all over the country and it is proof once more that we have one of the top venues in the region.

Finally, I would like to mention Eddie Harrison who has joined SCFC in a newly created role of Football Administrator. He will be responsible for all football administration, including first team and the Academy as well as liaison with the Football Authorities. Eddie, who lives in Alsager has a wealth of football experience behind him.

*Enjoy the game  
Tony*

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### STOKE CITY



- 1 Steve SIMONSEN
- 2 Carl HOEFKENS
- 3 Marlon BROOMES
- 4 John EUSTACE
- 5 Jonathan FORTUNE
- 6 Clint HILL
- 7 Sambegou BANGOURA
- 9 Mamady SIDIBE
- 10 Ricardo FULLER
- 11 Kevin HARPER
- 12 Peter SWEENEY
- 14 Danny HIGGINBOTHAM
- 15 Vincent PERICARD
- 16 Lee HENDRIE
- 17 Darel RUSSELL
- 18 Salif DIAO
- 19 Dominic MATTEO
- 20 Andy GRIFFIN
- 21 Lee MARTIN
- 22 Lewis BUXTON
- 23 Liam LAWRENCE
- 24 Rory DELAP
- 25 Russell HOULT
- 26 Anthony PULIS JR
- 27 Gabriel ZAKUANI
- 28 Andy WILKINSON
- 30 Martin PATERSON
- 31 Carl DICKINSON
- 32 Adam VASS
- 33 Robert DUGGAN
- 34 Adam ROONEY
- 35 Robert GARRETT
- 36 Matthew HAZLEY
- 37 Keith THOMAS



### LUTON TOWN

- 1 Marlon BERESFORD
- 2 Kevin FOLEY
- 3 Sol DAVIS
- 4 Chris COYNE
- 5 Russell PERRETT
- 6 Paul UNDERWOOD
- 7 Matthew SPRING
- 8 Steve ROBINSON
- 9 Bjorn RUNSTROM
- 10 Warren FEENEY
- 11 Dean MORGAN
- 15 Stephen O'LEARY
- 16 Lewis EMANUEL
- 17 Richard LANGLEY
- 18 Ahmet BRKOVIC
- 19 Sam PARKIN
- 20 Adam BOYD
- 21 Keith KEANE
- 22 Danny STEVENS
- 25 Leon BARNETT
- 26 Markus HEIKKINEN
- 28 David BELL
- 29 Calvin ANDREW
- 30 Drew TALBOT
- 32 Ed ASAFAU-ADJAYE
- 33 Dean BRILL
- 34 Zac BARRETT



## MATCH OFFICIALS



Referee Mr. TREVOR M KETTLE (Rutland)

### Assistant Referees

Mr. P GRAHAM and Mr. P J KEANE

### Fourth Official Mr. A C NEWELL

## TODAY'S MATCHES



Cardiff City v Leeds Utd

Crystal Palace v Birmingham

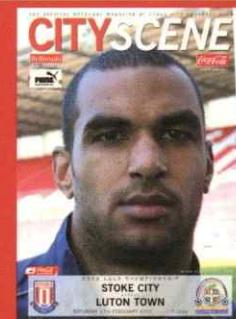
Leicester City v Coventry City

Southampton v Barnsley

Sunderland v Southend Utd

Wolves v Burnley

## MATCHDAY MAGAZINE



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