

Luton Town Issue



Official Magazine

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# the ram

No.24 April 2007

**MARCO  
GOALO**  
Gabbiadini  
interview

**BILLY  
DAVIES**  
Manager's words

**KIDZ  
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Page for  
young fans

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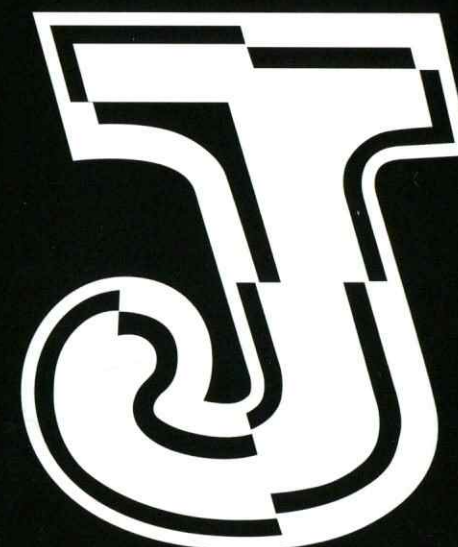
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## The gaffer

**G**ood evening and welcome back to Pride Park Stadium for our penultimate home game of the season, another important one that is sure to be a tough test.

I'd like to begin by congratulating my players, staff and everyone at Derby County for all the hard work they've put in achieving a place in the play-offs at the very least. I'd also like to recognise the backing you, the fans, have given us along the way.

There are still three matches to go, it's all still very much to play for and we will continue to pick up as many points as we can as the aim remains the same as it always has been - to finish as high up the table as possible.

When you consider what this club has been through in recent times, on and off the pitch, I believe it's nothing short of remarkable that we find ourselves in the position we are in.

A lot has happened since my last magazine notes and it's very difficult to encompass it all into a few words - in fact there are no words that could possibly describe some of what has gone on.

Our appeal against the retrospective punishment dished out to Darren Moore following the Leicester away fixture failed and it's a huge blow to be without the services of one of our player of the year candidates for the remainder of the season.

We've recalled Lewin Nyatanga from his loan at Barnsley to provide cover but the courage of Marc Edworthy also needs a mention here - he has played at the heart of defence recently and taken a few knocks in the heat of battle that have done nothing to improve his looks!

Our appeal against Stephen Bywater's sending off at Ipswich was successful and the FA decided he had been wrongfully dismissed. He is now available to play tonight.

In the chaos that surrounded that incident - one which I said at the time, and still maintain, could have been easily diffused by yellow cards simply being shown to Bywater and Alex Bruce - I was also sent to the stands.

I am still bemused as to exactly why. Yes I went onto the pitch, but so did several members of the coaching staff from both teams. I wanted to calm a couple of my players down and urge the referee to keep showing common sense in the situation.

It's the third time I've been "sent off" and of course journalists were keen to pick up on that after the game. However it seemed to be conveniently forgotten that I have already been completely cleared of doing anything at the Burnley game and have appealed against the Southend charge.

In between all of this there was actually some football, which is what we all want to see. We picked up a good point at Leicester, which is always a tough place to go, thanks to Craig Fagan's first goal for the club.

We then showed great character to come from behind against Coventry at Pride Park, Matt Oakley's back-flick one of the more unusual goals we'll probably all ever see but they all count.

That was on Easter Monday and on the Saturday we travelled to Portman Road. This time captain Matt scored a more orthodox goal in the tenth minute, and what a volley it was too from 25 yards as we started the game in great fashion.

The incidents I've already mentioned will be what the game will be remembered for and they, in my opinion, spoilt the game at a crucial stage when we were leading 1-0.

As you would expect in the second half Ipswich came at us and Francis Jeffers' goal with 20 minutes to go levelled the scores. A late penalty gave the home side the points despite all our effort and hard work.

I'd like to welcome Kevin Blackwell, his staff, players and the Hatters supporters to Pride Park tonight.

I can't fault the effort, desire and professionalism of my players in what they have achieved this season. Now it's time for the final push and I'm sure you'll play your part by roaring on the Rams too.

# Billy Davies

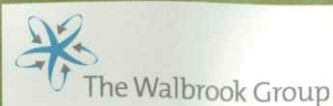
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7

Your shout

## In off **The Post**



Write to us at: *The Ram*, Derby County, Pride Park, Derby DE24 8XL or email the editor at [chris.kershaw@dcfc.co.uk](mailto:chris.kershaw@dcfc.co.uk). The

author of our star letter in each edition wins a two-month membership to the JJB Fitness Club – including a free fitness assessment, access to a fitness instructor and unlimited access to the swimming pool, steam room and jacuzzi area. Today's star letter writer is Roddy Maclean, Edinburgh.

### Scottish Pride

I have renewed my seat for next season and hope to disprove the theory that only people who are Derby born and bred have a real passion for the club.

Here I am pictured in my kilt ahead of the Rams' home game against Coventry on Easter Monday.

I have had a season ticket since 2001/02, travel from my native Scotland to all home games and attend as many away games as possible. Weeks ago I booked easyjet for a return day-trip to Gatwick for the Crystal Palace away game on 29 April.

So why Derby County? Although I have always lived in Scotland, it seemed to be traditional for Scottish schoolboys to pick an English team to follow when they were about ten.

At that time, in the late 60s, early 70s, Derby were, of course, doing very well, so you could say I was a bit of a glory hunter!

My finances, job and education meant I was never really able to watch Derby, particularly as I concentrated on my Scottish team, Raith Rovers, for many

years. However, I always watched out for reports about Derby and vowed to get to see them one day.

At the end of 2001 I finished studying with the Open University, which meant that I got back evenings and weekends that I had sacrificed to concentrate on my degree. As a reward to myself for finishing the course, I bought a half-season ticket for our last season in the Premiership, intending it only to be a one-off.

But I was hooked. I've renewed my season ticket every year since then, only missing games at Pride Park when I've been out of the UK.

Some people understand, but some don't. My line manager Daniel Kleinberg falls into the former category, perhaps because he supports Celtic and Liverpool!

Roddy Maclean, Edinburgh



### Ram Ray remembered

Ray Dring, a senior officer in the Derbyshire Fire Service who recently died in very tragic circumstances, had long been a huge fan of Derby County Football Club.

He watched them as a boy, and bought his first season ticket to the Baseball Ground while still in his early teens. Over the years he went to many away matches, and long remembered an away game at Preston, probably in the old Second Division, when he spent almost the whole day cowering from pouring rain. And, of course in this exciting season, he was at Birmingham and Barnsley.

At Pride Park he sat behind the goal in the North Stand with his son Daniel and two friends. Ray would drive with Dan from their home in Darley Dale, picking up the two friends on the way. He parked in Chaddesden, and they walked across the footbridge over the A52 to the stadium.

At the game Ray was a very vocal supporter, and is already being missed by his many friends among the fans around them. The loss of Ray is a heavy one for a great many people, but the hearts of all Derby supporters will go out to Janet and Daniel, who are bearing their ordeal with great courage and dignity.

Alun Thomas

## Inside Pride Park



### adidas sign for Rams

Derby County will team up for the 2007/08 season with adidas, the world's leading sports brand.

The Rams have entered into a five-year agreement with adidas to supply team and staff kit and branded merchandise, including replica kit, for sale through shopDCFC and online at the official website.

"We are absolutely delighted," said Derby County managing director Mike Horton. "adidas is a brand renowned for quality and that will appeal to our fans. This is a tremendous opportunity for the club and adidas to work together and today's announcement marks the start of what should be a long and rewarding relationship between the two companies."

It is anticipated that next season's Rams replica strip, made by adidas, will be available at shopDCFC from August 2007.

### Man mountain

Defender Darren Moore will join a team of intrepid fundraisers on a challenge of a lifetime soon - a trek across the Sinai Desert.

The giant centre-half is a brave performer on the pitch and he'll need heaps of courage for his latest mission too as it culminates in an ascent of Mount Sinai itself.

The aim of the trip is to raise awareness of, and funds for, the charity Faith and Football, which supports a number of national and international projects.

For more information or to make a donation please visit [www.faithandfootball.org.uk](http://www.faithandfootball.org.uk)



## Where are they now? Marco Gabbiadini

**“D**o you know who that bloke in the marigolds reminds me of... Marco Gabbiadini!”

Okay, so it's a made-up quote, but it's something close to the reaction of fans of the striker's former clubs when they check into the sumptuous Bishops Hotel in York.

Marco and wife Deborah are proprietors of the award-winning Victorian villa and while the marigolds reference is Deborah's joke, unwary guests are likely to see a man who banged in 68 goals for the Rams in 200 starts busy around the place.

“We get Derby and Sunderland fans as guests who don't realise we run the hotel and their reactions can be quite bizarre,” says Marco. “At first there are a lot of double takes because they recognise my face but can't quite place me in a different context. Of course there are others who book especially because they know it's our place and that's great.”

While the likes of Paul Simpson, a close mate from Derby County's promotion-winning side of 11 years ago, have continued their careers into football management, Marco has turned his back on the game – for the time being.

“Simmo went out and got all his coaching badges, but being a manager or coach is a full-on commitment,” he says. “The main reason I've chosen to do something different is my family.”

“There's no job like being a professional footballer and I was lucky enough to have played the game for 20 years. It's a great way to earn a living. Coaching and managing simply can't compare with playing. Although it's the same industry, football management is a proper job which demands time and commitment.”

“Playing is different. You get plenty of time with your family and the only downside is having to move around. That's why, when my playing days were over, I decided I didn't want to be nomadic any more.”

“We needed to do something of course because I wasn't able to live off my time as a player, so we chose the hotel trade. To start with, I thought we had created a monster,



Marco in typical rampaging action for the Rams

but we stuck with it, did well, employed staff and live off-site now, which makes life more pleasant.”

So is the Gabbiadini Hotel empire set to go global? Marco laughs. “We do look at it sometimes and feel we could run a bigger place for the same amount of effort, but we both value family life and won't do anything rash until the kids are more independent.”

The family are daughters Amelia, Evangelina and Liliana and son Jules. And it's Jules, top scorer with York City's U17s this season, who is dragging Marco back into football.

“He's at York's Centre of Excellence but happily, although he's a striker, he's not going to be directly compared with me,” says Marco, “because he's taller with a nice touch. I was more raw power!”

Watching Jules play for a club managed by another ex-Ram, Billy McEwan, takes Marco back to his time at the same club as a kid.

Born in Nottingham – his Italian-born dad worked on the National Grid and was based in Derby for a time – Marco grew up in York and, despite his football prowess, was urged

by his parents to work hard at school.

“I never did any of the Academy stuff,” he says. “As a kid I went to Notts County on and off in the holidays when Jimmy Sirrell was there and then Middlesbrough every now and again, but I didn't live for football.”

“I did fairly well academically and went to grammar school in York. I stayed on to do A-levels but things started to get a bit difficult when I had to get out of lessons to play for York Reserves. Eventually I became the last ever professionally contracted apprentice when I signed for York in 1985.”

A promising goals record in his first 50 starts for York saw Marco selected for England U18s – the powers-that-be at the FA were keen they got to this dually qualified striker before the Italians!

But it was at Sunderland that this headline-writers' dream player (“Marco Goalol!”) burst onto the scene. Still only 19 he followed for £80,000 when York City boss Denis Smith was appointed to the hot seat at Roker Park.

“Sunderland were at their lowest ebb when I went there,” says Marco. “They'd just been relegated into the old Third Division, but I teamed up with Eric Gates, who was a veteran by then but still a great player, and



## Steve Bloomer's Watchin'

**R**oar on the Rams ahead of kick-off against Luton Town. Once again, here are the words, so there's no excuse!

### Verse one

Our history's full of legends  
And football played on high.

Raich Carter, Peter Doherty,  
You should have seen them fly.

Now we all just love football  
But will we lift the crown?  
The noise goes up,  
The Rams come out  
On to the hallowed ground.

### Away chorus

The Rams are a-coming,  
We're out there to win,  
Playing like fury,  
They won't let 'em in.  
Home sides be wary  
Of our heart and our soul.  
We're searching for glory  
And victory is our goal.

### Verse two

The Rams just play football  
That makes our hearts so proud  
McFarland and Hector  
Were names to thrill the crowd.

And if you love or hate us  
Just wait until we score:  
The ball goes in,  
The stands light up  
And how the mighty roar.

### Home chorus

Steve Bloomer's watchin',  
Helping them fight.  
Guiding our heroes  
In the black and the white.  
All teams who come here,  
There's nowhere to hide.  
Everyone is frightened of  
that Derby Pride.

we managed to get promoted in my first year. My time at Sunderland and Derby were definitely my best years.”

The goals flowed over the next four seasons as Marco helped Sunderland into the top flight and earned England U21 and England B honours before being transferred to Crystal Palace for a club record £1.8-million in October 1991.

Just three months later, after enduring a miserable time at Selhurst Park, Marco was rescued by the Rams for £1-million as Arthur Cox began to spend Lionel Pickering's huge investment in the club.

“If Derby hadn't come in for me I probably would have stayed,” he says. “I think I scored five goals in 15 appearances for Palace, which wasn't bad, but I had a nagging knee injury which meant I was never 100% fit there. So it didn't work out, but I was impressed by Derby's ambition and happy to make the switch.”

Don't mention the play-offs to Marco. At Sunderland he lost in the final to Swindon Town, though the Black Cats eventually benefited from the Wiltshire club's disqualification, and in his first season at Derby there was disappointment in the two-legged semi against Blackburn.

“We were 2-0 up in the Ewood Park leg and ended up losing 4-2 and were winning the home leg 2-0 when Kevin Moran somehow shouldered a winner for Blackburn,” he says. “It was a nightmare.”

“Two seasons later we went to the play-off final at Wembley and lost to Leicester when we should have won. I think John Harkes missed one from about a yard out that day.”

“Even when I went to Darlington at the end of my career I lost in the play-off final... so please don't invite me to the game if Derby get involved this time around!”

Player of the Year in his second season with the Rams, Marco eventually enjoyed promotion to the Premiership in 1995/96, but can't explain why a side put together on a shoe-string through Jim Smith's wily wheeler-dealing succeeded where previous seasons' multi-million pound spending had failed.

“Jim came in and although the playing staff didn't change dramatically there were some important additions,” says Marco. “Vanders (Robin Van Der Laan) came in as captain and the likes of Gary Rowett, a youngster who was perceived as a make-weight in Craig Short's

transfer to Everton, turned out to be a top player.

“Igor arrived in November and then of course there was Steve McClaren, an unknown quantity at the time, who was a great coach for the players. Whatever anyone says about Steve now as the boss of the England team, I enjoyed what we did on the training ground. Although people thought of Jim as being old school, he embraced the new techniques and let Steve run with his scientific approach to football.”

“My favourite game was the pre-Christmas fixture at the Baseball Ground against Sunderland. We needed to win to go top at their expense and because Vanders was out injured Jim asked me to captain the side. I scored, we won, went top and it was one of those fantastic atmospheres at the Baseball Ground.”

Sunderland and the Rams are vying for outright promotion again this time around and Marco would love to see both of his former clubs go up automatically.

“I think Sunderland will probably finish on top,



just like they did in 1996, because of the momentum they have at this stage,” he says. “Everyone else seems to be throwing in strange results when they should be winning, but I would love to see the Rams succeed.”

At that, the proprietor of York's Bishops Hotel ([www.bishopshotel.co.uk](http://www.bishopshotel.co.uk)) has work to do. “We have a nice life,” he muses, “but if I'm honest I am starting to miss the football. Having played the game non-stop all those years I've enjoyed the break from that level of commitment, but watching Jules is getting me going again.”

“He's a bright boy so we try to encourage him with his schoolwork, just like my parents did with me, but if he can crack it, well... I'd love him to do it because being a footballer is every kid's dream job.”

I tell Marco I'll slip his hotel's website address into the article for the benefit of curious Rams fans.

He thanks me, adding: “Oh, and don't use the line about me wearing marigolds will you..?”

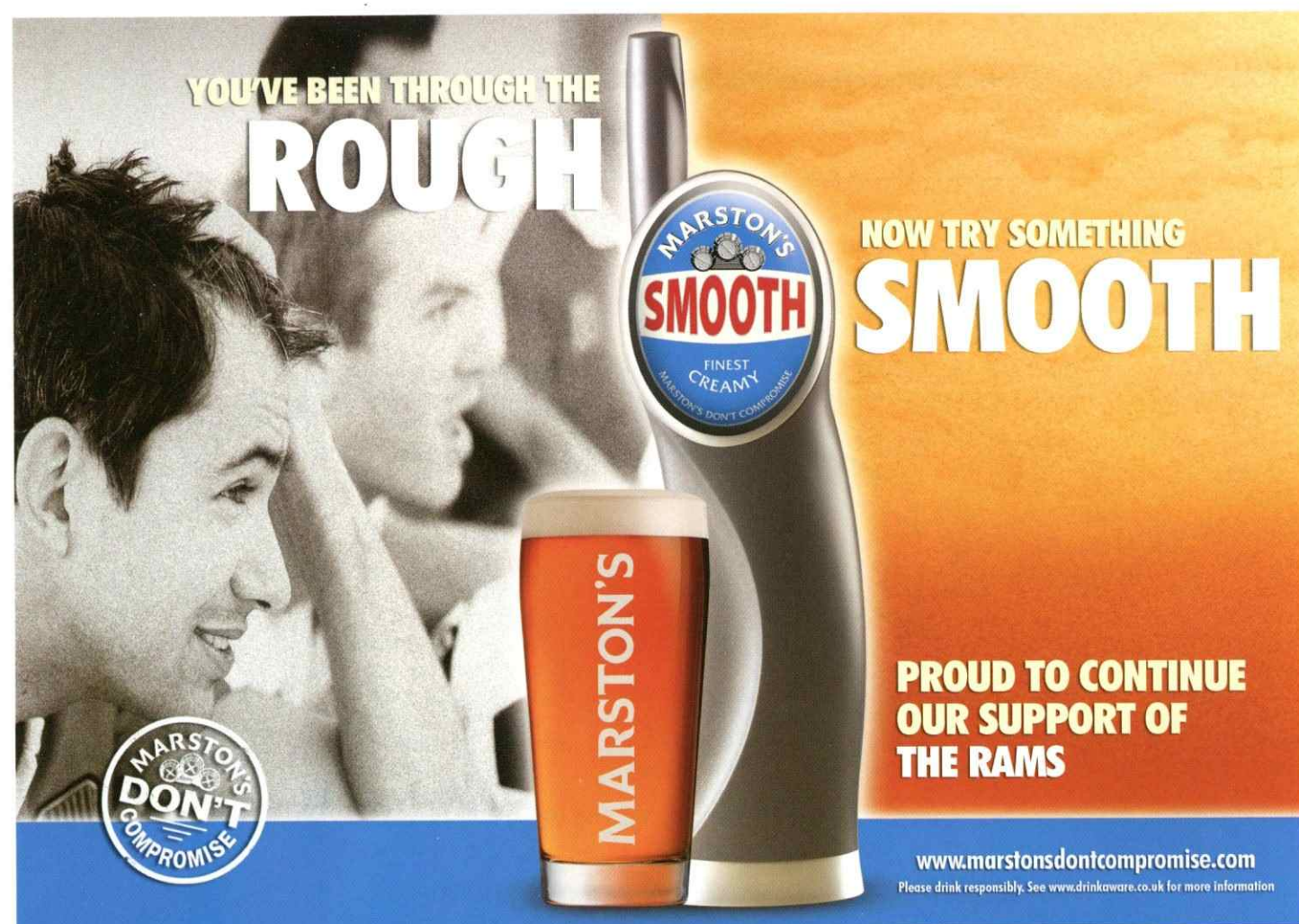
*“We get Derby and Sunderland fans as guests who don't realise we run the hotel and their reactions can be quite bizarre...”*

# Marco Gabbiadini

Talks to Jim Fearn



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Ted McMinn says

**W**hat a week it has been for Stephen Bywater! Football can be eventful at times.

The big keeper has been one of our top performers this season and it's great news that the FA has ruled that he was wrongfully dismissed at Ipswich last weekend.

He now faces a second charge of improper conduct but at least he can play against Luton and that's tremendous because he must have been feeling extremely low on the team coach back from Suffolk.

What that incident between Stephen and Ipswich's Alex Bruce emphasises is that players and referees are under so much pressure these days.

Refs are scrutinised by official observers and TV cameras, probably to the extent where they let the rulebook prevail when common sense would be a better option. It's a tough job, no question about that.

I preferred the relationship players had with refs in my playing days when you could swear at the man in black and he would swear back at you!

As for the authorities, are they trying to make football a non-contact sport? It is part of a centre-half's game to do the sort of thing Darren Moore was charged with and banned for at Leicester. Big Darren and the striker were both on the move and, as he turned, the defender blocked the forward. It happens. And, by the way, defenders get plenty of knocks from strikers too! That's the game.

But people make a big deal of these challenges, TV plays them back in slow motion and the authorities see fit to act, even if, as in Darren's case, it is several days after the event.

My favourite ref was a guy called Roger

Milford, who had great respect among the players and famously officiated at the 1991 FA Cup Final between Forest and Spurs when he booked a pumped-up Paul Gascoigne for scything down Gary Charles as Gazza - who had to be carried off with a serious knee injury - lay writhing on the pitch.

Milford was the best I've known for controlling a game by talking to players. But players can't talk to refs these days and neither, apparently, can managers - at least not until half an hour after the final whistle. In my opinion refs aren't helped by all the rules and regulations they have to comply with. But would you want to be one, when a bad decision can potentially cost a team chasing promotion to the Premiership around £30-million? That's pressure.

**PS... D**espite the disappointment of last Saturday's game at Ipswich, I still think we're on for automatic promotion.

Birmingham's run-in is tough, but their last game against Preston worries me a bit. What's Paul Simpson's strategy going into that game if his side are already in the Play-Offs? That's a big question.

**S**o who was the most frightening opponent in my time as a player? Stuart Pearce. No question.

Psycho even used to send back messages to me with Mark Wright from England squads, informing me in no uncertain terms that he was going to flatten me next time out.

And he always did - in the first five minutes! Even as the ref was booking him, Psycho would be leaning over me telling me he was going to do it again!

When he ran onto the pitch you knew by his expression that he meant business.

In those days Arthur Cox used to play with two wingers - usually me on the right and Gary Micklewhite on the left, though we did swap from time to time.

But I'll tell you something, when Stuart Pearce was playing left-back for Forest, it wasn't unusual to see Gary and me both trying to play on the left wing at the same time!

# The Tin Man

**O**n the subject of discipline, or lack of it, I've no room to talk. Let me make it clear that a bit of chat between opposing players is commonplace in the game, but it's what you say and how you react that is important.

Defenders could say whatever they wanted about me and I didn't care, but if they started to have a go at my family, it was a different matter. Those were my rules.

I sort of bent them a bit in a Rams V Forest game when I called Nigel Clough "Daddy's boy" and Nigel made it clear he wanted to continue the conversation after the final whistle.

Forest at that time were managed by Clough senior and, as I recall, it was such a highly-charged game that Arthur Cox substituted me for my own safety! Anyway, true to his word, Nigel found me in the players' tunnel at the end of the game (I think I was hiding behind Mark Wright!) and there were a few

handbags, but then Brian stepped in and dragged us both into the Forest dressing room. He asked us both to explain ourselves. I said I'd called Nigel "Daddy's boy" and, with the ref watching over us, the great man simply said "Okay. Now shake hands." And that was that.

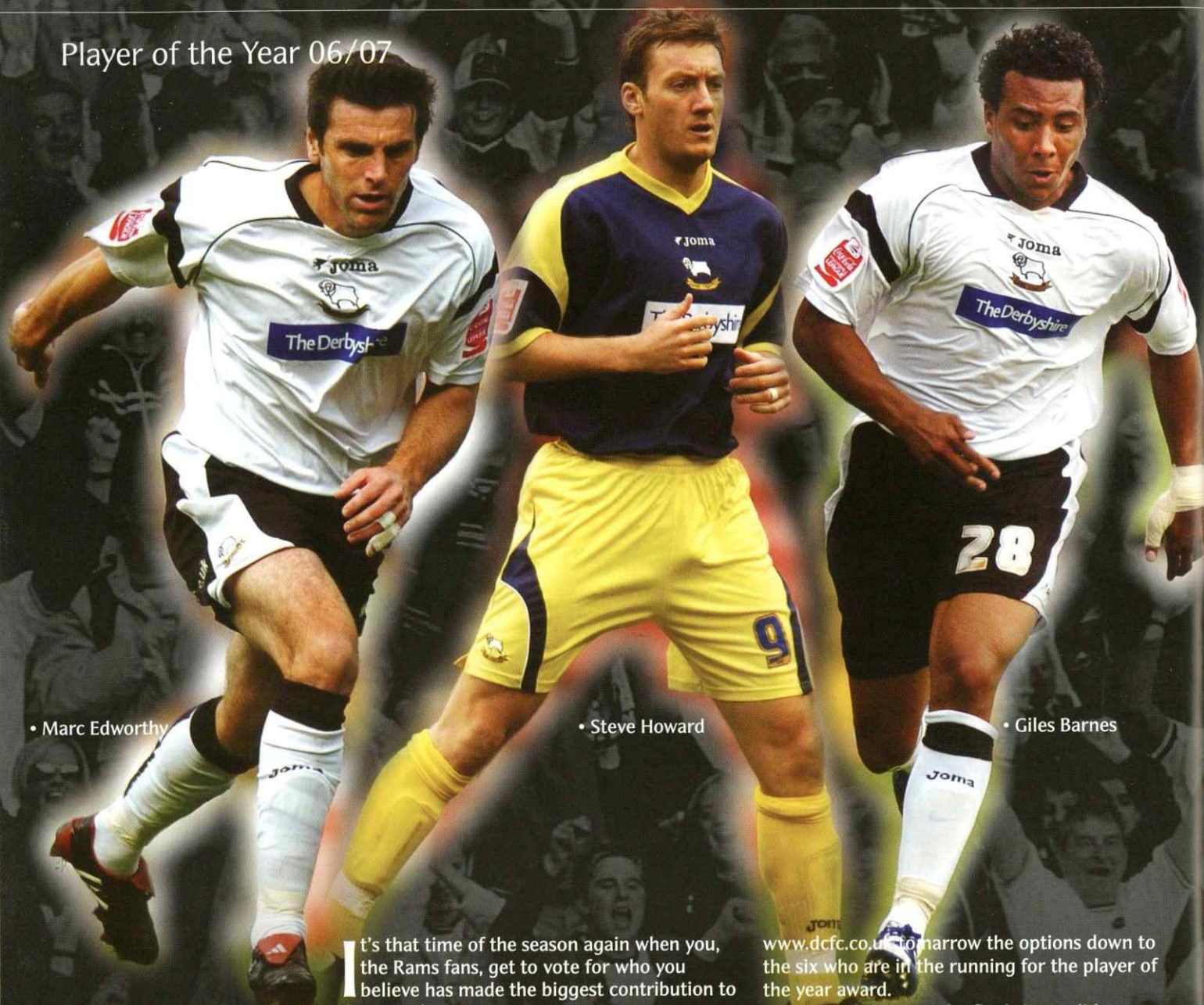
Another close shave came when I played for a short time in Australia. I arrived in Oz with a big reputation but in one particular game a 7ft defender - an Aboriginal lad - kicked lumped out of me from the first whistle. I gave him a few verbals, but he didn't react... until I made reference to his breath smelling of something unpleasant, and he suddenly cracked.

I could see in his eyes he intended to kill me and so I ran for my life as this giant chased me off the pitch and around the car park. I think I got sent off that game for leaving the field of play without permission!

100% UNOFFICIAL. VIEWS EXPRESSED IN TED'S COLUMN ARE NOWT TO DO WITH DCFC.



Player of the Year 06/07



• Marc Edworthy

• Steve Howard

• Giles Barnes

It's that time of the season again when you, the Rams fans, get to vote for who you believe has made the biggest contribution to the 2006/07 cause.

There's no denying that whatever happens between now and the end of the campaign it's been a hugely successful season for Derby County.

The teamwork and determined spirit has been there for all to see as the club as a whole

www.dcfcc.co.uk to narrow the options down to the six who are in the running for the player of the year award.

Here we bring you the final six candidates, nominated by over 2,000 supporters on-line.

One lucky fan who votes for the eventual winner will not only win a shirt signed by that player but will also join Rams boss Billy Davies on the Pride Park pitch ahead of the last game of the season against Leeds (Sunday 6 May) to help present the trophy to the player of the year.

To play your part in the final decision, fill in the form opposite (photocopies are accepted) with details of you think is a worthy winner of a prize formerly picked up by the legendary likes of Mark Wright, Mart Poom, Archie Gemmill, Charlie George, Kevin Hector, Dave Mackay and many more great names.

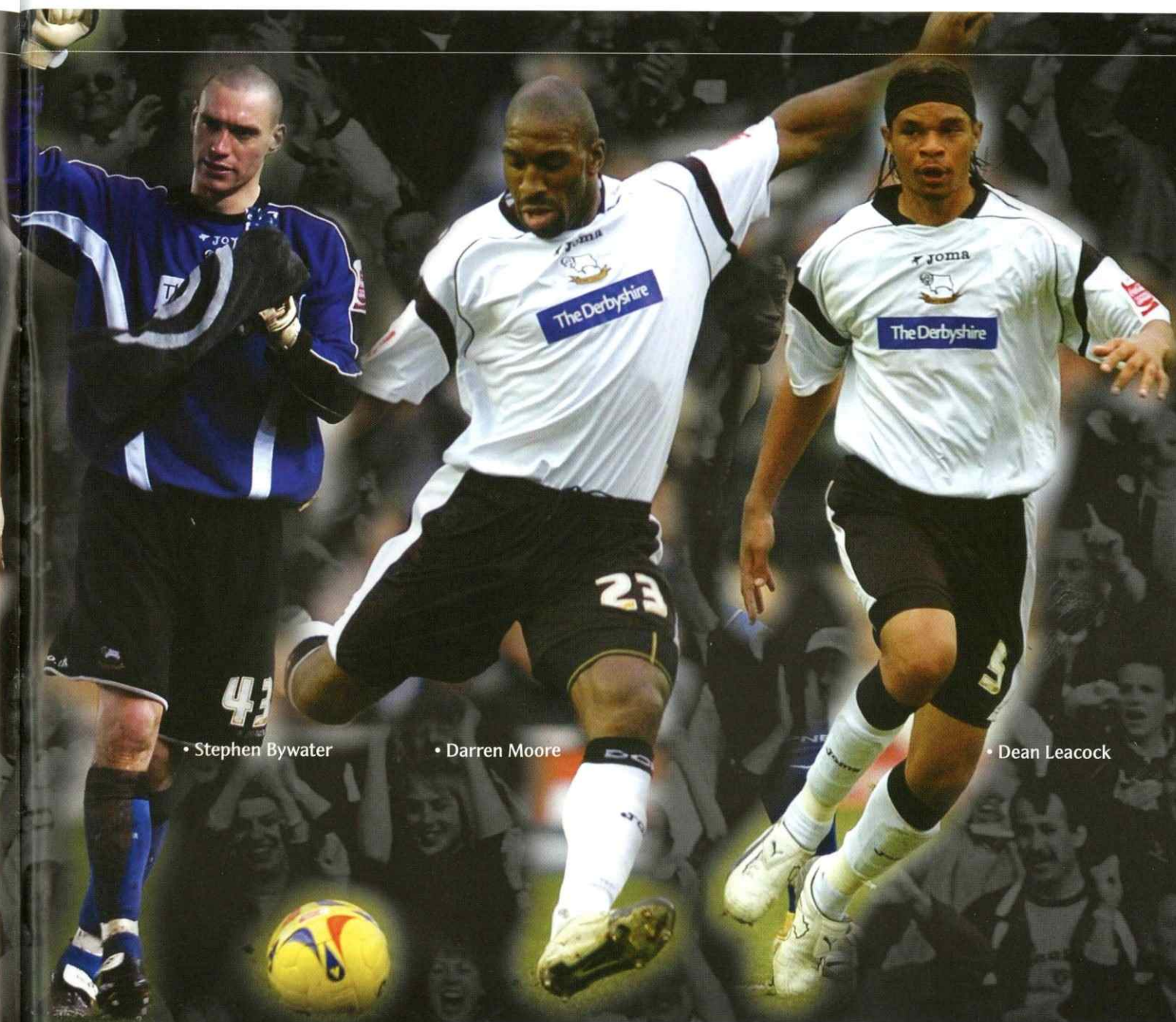
Please also give us the reason for your choice and send your completed form to: Player of the Year 06/07, Press Office, Derby County Football Club, Pride Park Stadium, Derby, DE24 8XL by 5pm on Friday 27 April 2007.

## Cast your vote

has pulled together and produced a season that will live long in the memory.

But which player do you believe has done enough to land the prestigious Jack Stamps Trophy?

For the last few weeks we've been holding a web vote on our official website



• Stephen Bywater

• Darren Moore

• Dean Leacock

## THE SIX IN THE MIX

- Stephen Bywater
- Dean Leacock
- Steve Howard
- Darren Moore
- Marc Edworthy
- Giles Barnes

### Player of the Year 06/07 Voting Form

Name.....

Address.....

Age .....

Daytime telephone number .....

Email address .....

I have chosen .....

Because .....

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# PLAY-OFFS

WITHOUT THE  
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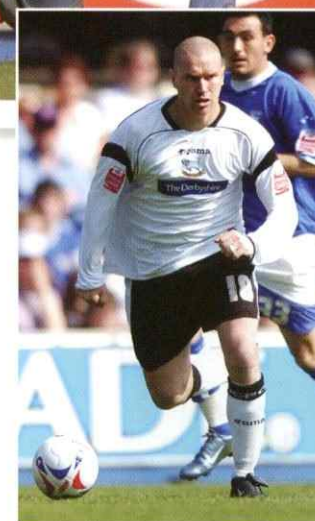
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15

## Rams action



**A** Matt Oakley wonder strike scorched the Rams into an early lead but the game won't be remembered by most for what was a true goal of the season contender.

Oakley latched onto Steve Howard's flick in the tenth minute to bullet home a volley from 25 yards past Shane Supple, who was beaten at full stretch.

The opening spell had seen free-flowing football but all changed just before the half-hour mark when an innocuous looking coming together between Stephen Bywater and Alex Bruce following an Ipswich corner resulted in them both being sent off.

There was a further bust-up as the pair made their way off the pitch and as calmness was being restored Derby boss Billy Davies was also sent to the stands for encroaching onto the pitch at a time when the players were taking a water break.

In the second half the Rams defended deep and Ipswich capitalised. Francis Jeffers got in behind on 69 and slotted through the legs of Grant and Danny Haynes won a penalty which he converted himself a minute from time to earn a 2-1 home win.

**Rams:** Bywater, Mears, Edworthy, Leacock, McEveley, Oakley, S Johnson (Bisgaard 46), Jones, Barnes (Teale 84), Howard, Fagan (Grant 31). Unused subs: Camara, Pearson.

**Ipswich:** Supple, Wilnis, Bruce, De Vos, Wright, Peters, Garvan (O'Callaghan 46), Williams, Roberts (Harding 32), Jeffers (Haynes 79), Walters. Unused subs: Lee, Miller.

Venue: Portman Road

Date: 14 April 07

Attendance: 24,319

All Derby County action shots in The Ram are kindly provided by the Derby Evening Telegraph. To order pictures log on to [www.thisisderbyshire.co.uk](http://www.thisisderbyshire.co.uk)/photosales or call 01332 595632.



## The opponents



## Luton Town

**E**ight points from a possible 51 in 2007 has seen the Hatters from Luton slump to the foot of the Championship.

A turbulent season on and off the field has left last season's surprise package needing to claw back a five point deficit with only three matches remaining.

It was a different story this time last campaign, as then manager Mike Newell had guided the team - on the back of promotion from League One - to ninth place in their first Championship season.

To emulate that feat was always going to be tough, especially considering the summer sales of inspirational captain Kevin Nicholls to Leeds and talismanic Steve Howard.

Newell's job became even more difficult with the January sales of Carlos Edwards and Rowan Vine to the Rams' respective promotion rivals Sunderland and Birmingham.

By mid-March Newell was removed from his position, with the Berkshire club falling into the bottom three after key defeats against relegation rivals Leeds and Hull.

Ten days later Luton had a new man at the helm as former Leeds manager Kevin Blackwell joined his boyhood club proclaiming: "It's very rare that you ever get the chance to manage your hometown club.

"It seems strange, as a boy I stood on the Oak Road Stand and you could hear the crowd noise from where we used to live. So it's a dream to come back and manage your club, and it's a challenge I will relish."

His immediate concern will be to save the club from the trapdoor, but having penned a four-year deal he has longterm vision and is looking for a response from his players to prove they want to be part of it (see right).

Luton's progress throughout the season has been severely hindered by injuries.

Within two months of the Championship season starting, Steve Howard's replacement, Sam Parkin, was under the surgeon's knife. The former Swindon and Chelsea trainee was ruled out for the season to recuperate from an operation on a persistent ankle problem he had picked up at last club Ipswich.

One player who will not relish the thought of seeing an operating theatre again is ex-Rushden and Diamonds man Paul Underwood. The defender has been absent for more than a year after contracting a serious infection whilst undergoing a routine operation on a broken arm. However Underwood is now pushing for a first

team place after playing in the reserves.

Full-back Sol Davis' season has missed large portions of the season through injury and suspension. The former Swindon man suffered a life threatening stroke but was back in the fold within two months. He has recently been sidelined with a calf injury.

Likely to miss the rest of the season are attacker Dean Morgan and midfielder Ahmet Brkovic with ankle and facial injuries respectively.

Also absent from recent clashes have been the experienced pairing of former Burnley and Middlesbrough keeper Marlon Beresford and ex-Portsmouth and Cardiff central defender Russell Perrett. These absences have left the club reliant on the youth system at Kenilworth Road.

Leading the way are Republic of Ireland trio and youth products, full-back Kevin Foley, central midfielder Stephen O'Leary and right midfielder Keith Keane.

Austrian youngster Besian Idrizaj and striker Calvin Andrews have both received recent first team call-ups.

Goalkeeping youngster Dean Brill has been between the stick in Beresford's absence whilst Zac Barrett has been understudy. All these inclusions breed great confidence for fellow youngsters Danny Stevens, Shaun Ross and Ed Asafu Adjaye.

Making up the younger contingent in the squad is central defender Leon Barnett and January signing striker Drew Talbot, from Sheffield Wednesday.

Amongst the inexperience and changes Luton have a core of senior pros. In the back-line Blackwell can call upon captain Chris Coyne, former Aberdeen central defender Markus Heikkinen and summer signing from Bradford, left-back Lewis Emanuel.

In the midfield battle the Hatters have ex-Bournemouth man Steve Robinson, former QPR and Cardiff winger Richard Langley and David Bell - formerly of Rushden.

One player who Blackwell knows well is former Leeds central midfielder Matthew Spring (pictured). The ex-Luton product joined the Yorkshire outfit in 2004, whilst under the stewardship of Blackwell, before heading to Luton's local rivals Watford ahead of their 2005/06 promotion campaign. In January he re-joined Luton on a two-and-a-half year deal.

Up front the Hatters have former Hartlepool striker Adam Boyd as their main outlet.



## Kevin Blackwell

By Matt Reeder

**T**he similarities between Rams boss Billy Davies and Luton's new chief Kevin Blackwell's footballing education since leaving their first managerial roles are uncanny.

In 2001 when Davies left his post at Motherwell, he set out on journey across continents to experience all walks of footballing cultures, and having been dismissed by Leeds - after only eight games into the current season - Blackwell took a similar expedition.

"I went to the World Club champions, Sao Paulo, also Inter Milan and Lyon. I felt it was a nice time to get out and pick other people's brains, see how they work and how they handle the pressure. It gave me confidence to know that I'm not a million miles away with the things we've been doing at the clubs I've been at as a coach and as a manager."

With that confidence Blackwell has taken on the task of bringing the glory days back to Luton and has also thrown down the gauntlet to his team.

"I haven't come here for the short term. It's the longer picture; Luton can go as far as they want to go. You look at the likes of Reading and Wigan, and they show you that a well-run club with a new stadium fires the imagination of the players and the supporters.

### Hatters' recent form

Plymouth Argyle	(H)	14 Apr 07	L 1-2
Queens Park Rangers	(A)	09 Apr 07	L 2-3
Southampton	(H)	07 Apr 07	L 0-2
Burnley	(A)	31 Mar 07	D 0-0
Ipswich Town	(H)	17 Mar 07	L 0-2
Hull City	(H)	13 Feb 07	L 0-2

### Rams' record v Hatters

	P	W	D	L	F	A
H	17	7	7	3	25	14
A	18	5	2	11	18	27
T	35	12	9	14	43	41



"If you aim for the highest star possible and you don't quite catch it you'll still end up with some quality on the way. I want to find out who wants to stay here and be part of the future and who should go.

"As far as I'm concerned, every player has got a clean slate here and they've got to prove - not just to me but to the fans as well - why they are worthy of being at Luton Town Football Club.

"The ball is certainly in their court."

### Rams' last six v Hatters

18-11-06	Hatters 0	Rams 2 (Stead, Howard)
18-03-06	Hatters 1 (Howard)	Rams 0
26-12-05	Rams 1 (Idiakez)	Hatters 1 (Brkovic)
21-02-96	Rams 1 (D. Powell)	Hatters 1 (Marshall)
02-09-95	Hatters 1 (Marshall)	Rams 2 (Sturridge 2)
11-12-94	Hatters 0	Rams 0





## The opponents



▲ **October 9 1993 Rams 2 Hatters 1**  
Jason Kavanagh replaced the injured Gary Charles for the Rams who took the lead in 17 minutes, following a mistake by American goalkeeper Sommer. He fumbled a centre from Simpson, for Kitson to score with a simple header. The rest of the first half belonged to the Rams, but they could not extend their lead, being too elaborate at times. Oakes forced a good save by Taylor from a free kick, the goalkeeper then quick to smother Hartson from another cross by Oakes. The Rams ended Luton's best spell in the game by scoring a second goal in 72 minutes. Kitson's diagonal cross from the left saw Johnson (pictured) burst through a static defence to beat

Sommer with ease. The Rams conceded a goal in the last minute, after Hughes beat Kavanagh with ease, his cross headed home by Martin Williams. The 100% Baseball Ground record was preserved and for manager Roy McFarland it was the third home win in seven days since his appointment.  
**DERBY COUNTY:** Taylor; Kavanagh, Forsyth, Pembroke, Short, Wassall, Harkes, Johnson (T), Kitson, Gabbiadini, Simpson, Subs. Hayward, Coleman.  
**LUTON TOWN:** Sommer; Linton, Johnson (M), Oakes (Williams 73), Peake, Dreyer, Telfer, Hughes, Hartson, Dickov, Harper (Campbell 77). Other sub. Petterson.  
**Referee:** Mr J.A. Kirkby **Attendance:** 15,885

**AUGUST 23 1961 Rams 2 Hatters 0**

Ray Young produced a majestic performance as he dominated in the air and on the ground. Ian Hall grew in stature as the game progressed. The Hatters started well with four corners in the first 10 minutes, but Baynham was soon in action saving from a Hall header and shots from distance by Barrowcliffe and Young. The first goal came in 37 minutes following a clearance by McNally which hit Swallow. He lobbed the full back and shot with Baynham struggling across his goal. The goalkeeper could not hold the ball and Curry applied the finishing touch. Three minutes after the interval Baynham could not hold a fierce drive by Swallow and Hutchinson was on hand to score. The Rams went close with Baynham tipping over a header from Hutchinson, and with a backward dive stopping a back pass from McNally.  
**DERBY COUNTY:** Oxford; Barrowcliffe, Conwell; Parry, Young, Davies, Roby, Hall, Curry, Hutchinson, Swallow.  
**LUTON TOWN:** Baynham; McNally, Bramwell; Morton, Cope, Groves, Walden, Turner, Lornie, Ashworth, Fleming.  
**Referee:** Mr. F. Cowan **Attendance:** 18,705

**AUGUST 15 1987 Rams 1 Hatters 0**

Mick Harford lasted barely five minutes. Having already caught Hindmarch with an elbow, his challenge on Sage was late, and he was sent off. The Rams put the Hatters under pressure and they were rewarded with a goal in 17 minutes. Sealey saved well when Gregory prodded Gee's low centre, and beat away a header from Gee. Callaghan won a corner off Breacker and took the kick. Gregory's header was blocked by Sealey, only for Gregory to crash home the loose ball. Shilton did not have a save to make, his

only moment of anxiety coming when a cross from Wilson was headed over from under the bar by Sage. The Rams controlled midfield, with Williams outstanding. For the Rams, it was only their fourth winning start in 21 seasons.

**DERBY COUNTY:** Shilton; Sage, Forsyth, Williams, Hindmarch, MacLaren, Micklewhite, Gee, Davison, Gregory, Callaghan. Subs. Blades, Lillis.  
**LUTON TOWN:** Sealey; Breacker, Grimes, Hill, Foster, Donaghy, Wilson (D), Stein (B), Harford, Wilson (R) (Newell 29), Preece (McDonough 73).  
**Referee:** Mr. G. Courtney **Attendance:** 17,204

**NOVEMBER 3 1990 Rams 2 Hatters 1**

Nigel Callaghan was starting his second month on loan and Gee came in for his first game of the season. Chamberlain saved a Ramage volley and Wright headed just wide of goal, before a corner from Callaghan was played in by Wright and Forsyth's shot was blocked on the line by Preece's elbow. Saunders scored from the penalty to give the Rams a 32nd minute lead. Saunders crashed a shot against the bar in 48 minutes, but within a minute the scores were level. Elstrup crossed from the right for Black to smash his shot past Shilton. A corner from Micklewhite was cleared to the edge of the area for Callaghan to beat Chamberlain with a superb shot to regain then lead for the Rams in 65 minutes.  
**DERBY COUNTY:** Shilton; Sage, Cross, Williams (G), Wright, Forsyth, Micklewhite, Saunders, Gee, Ramage, Callaghan. Subs. Pickering, Francis.  
**LUTON TOWN:** Chamberlain; Johnson, Harvey, Williams (S), Beaumont, Dreyer, Elstrup, Preece, Dowie (Nogan 71), Hughes (McDonough 77), Black.  
**Referee:** Mr. A.N. Buksh **Attendance:** 15,008

At a glance  
**Hatters**

**MARLON BERESFORD** Goalkeeper  
BORN Lincoln, 2 Sep 1969

**KEVIN FOLEY** Full-back  
BORN Luton, 1 Nov 1984

**SOL DAVIS** Left-back  
BORN Cheltenham, 4 Sep 1979

**CHRIS COYNE** Central defender  
BORN Brisbane, 28 Dec 1978

**RUSSELL PERRETT** Defender  
BORN Barton-on-Sea, 18 Jun 1973

**PAUL UNDERWOOD** Defender  
BORN Wimbledon, 16 Aug 1973

**MATTHEW SPRING** Midfielder  
BORN Harlow, 17 Nov 1979

**STEVE ROBINSON** Midfielder  
BORN Lisburn, 10 Dec 1974

**BJORN RUNSTROM** Striker  
BORN Stockholm, 3 Jan 1984

**DEAN MORGAN** Midfielder  
BORN Enfield, 3 Oct 1983

**STEPHEN O'LEARY** Midfielder  
BORN London, 2 Feb 1985

**LEWIS EMANUEL** Left-back  
BORN Bradford, 14 Oct 1983

**RICHARD LANGLEY** Midfielder  
BORN London, 27 Dec 1979

**AHMET BRKOVIC** Right midfielder  
BORN Dubrovnik, 23 Sep 1974

**SAM PARKIN** Striker  
BORN Roehampton, 14 Mar 1981

**ADAM BOYD** Striker  
BORN Hartlepool, 25 May 1982

**KEITH KEANE** Right midfielder  
BORN Luton, 20 Nov 1986

**LEON BARNETT** Central defender  
BORN Luton, 30 Nov 1985

**MARKUS HEIKKINEN** Defender  
BORN Katrineholm, 13 Oct 1978

**DAVID BELL** Midfielder  
BORN Kettering, 21 Jan 1984

**DREW TALBOT** Striker  
BORN Barnsley, 19 Jul 1986

**DEAN BRILL** Goalkeeper  
BORN Luton, 2 Dec 1985

## Featured player

## Lee Grant

Talks to Chris Kershaw

**G**oalkeeper Lee Grant has barely featured for the Rams this season yet football is a funny old game and he could yet prove to be a key player between now and the end of the campaign.

Grant, whose eight years with Derby make him one of the club's longest serving players, has had to be patient and wait for his chance - and events at Portman Road last weekend may have given him exactly that.

The 24-year-old former England Under-21 international was ready and raring to go when called upon to come on around the half-hour mark at Ipswich following Stephen Bywater's sending off.

Although an appeal against a ban that may have followed that red card was successful an improper conduct charge against Bywater

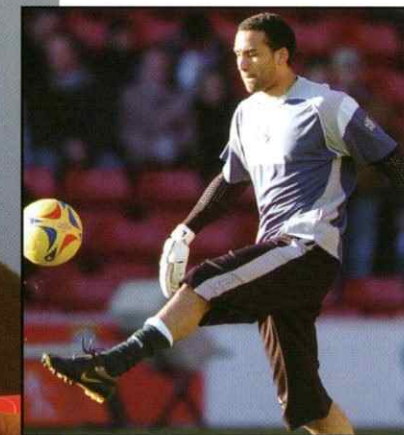
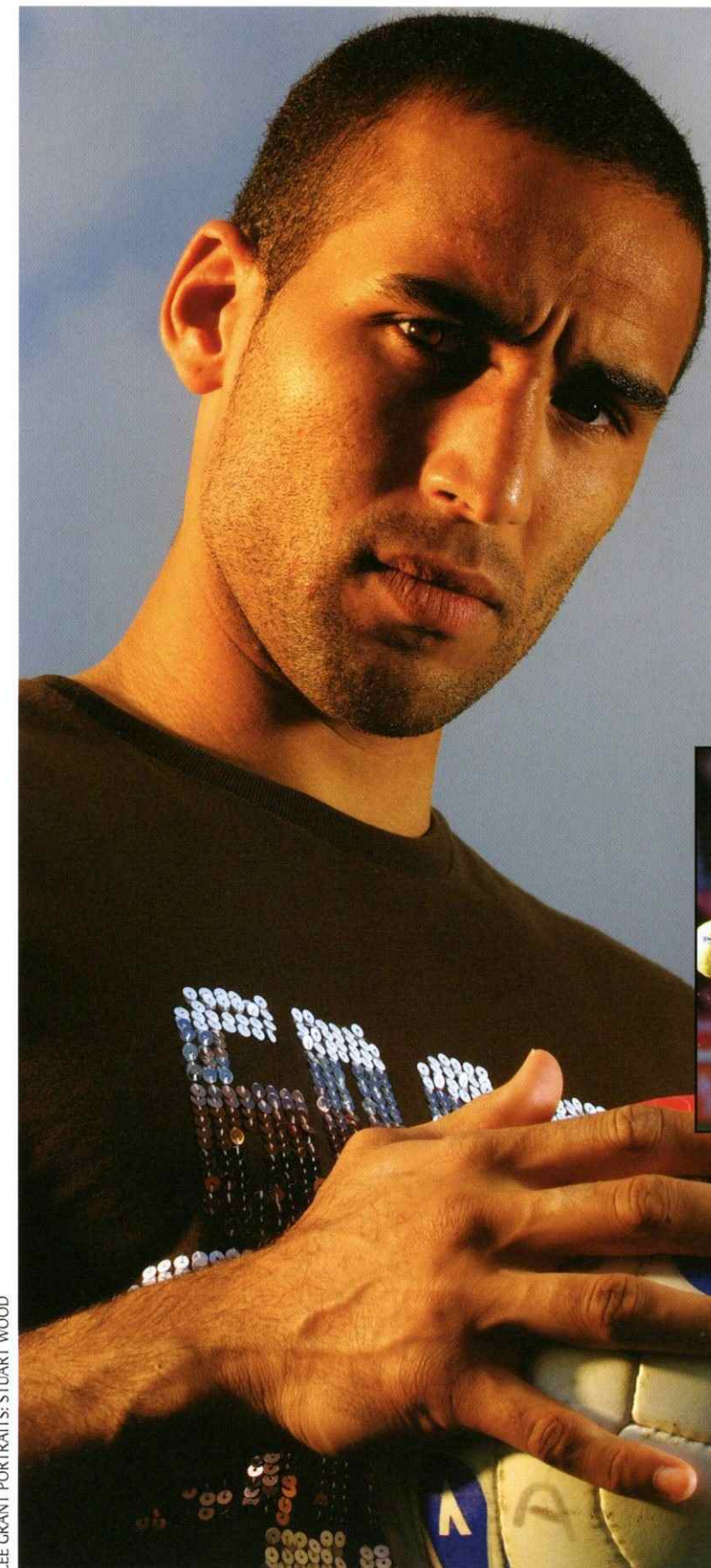
could lead to a punishment, meaning the stage may be set for Grant to be a Rams hero in the vital closing games of 2006/07.

Hemel Hempstead-born Lee explains: "Any footballer, in any position, just wants to play games so it's fair to say that the word frustrating could be used to describe my season.

"But I always had the belief that I would get my chance again. I had a run in the side in September/October and felt I did nothing to let anyone down and have worked hard every day in training to keep doing the right things and keep pushing my claims.

"I've been going through all the possible scenarios in my head as to how and when I may be involved again so that I was 100 per cent ready whether I was needed at a minute's notice or didn't get my opportunity until coming

LEE GRANT PORTRAITS: STUART WOOD





Poster in association with



therm

Lee Grant



■ From page 19

on for the last five minutes of the last game of the season against Leeds.

"Of course you want that chance to come sooner rather than later and when the shout came from the manager to get ready once Stephen had been sent off I was ready. There was a lot going on in the stadium around me but I was fully focused on the task in hand."

Lee is a fiercely determined individual, but a smashing lad too. He talks in friendly, hushed tones but his words have a steely edge - he's a player with plenty of self belief.

Those qualities could easily have eroded over the course of a campaign that hasn't gone to plan in terms of appearances. But there's a big factor that has helped keep Grant calm and given him a different outlook on life - fatherhood.

Lee and his fiancée Helen are proud parents to a little boy called True, who is 18 months old, and it's a life changing experience that the happy couple are loving, as he describes.

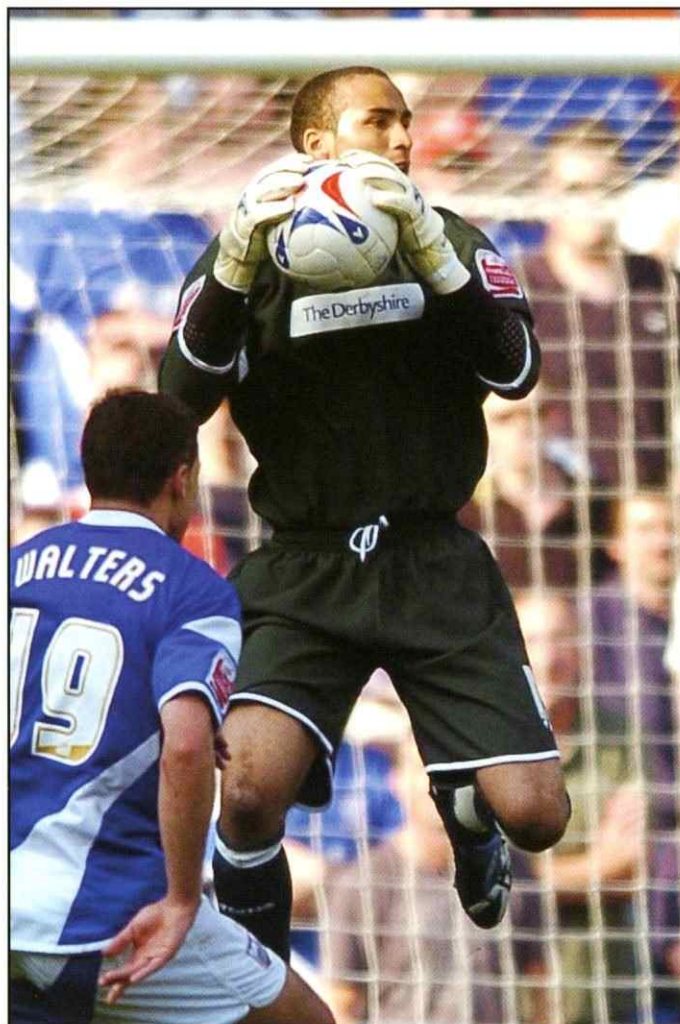
"Fatherhood is amazing. Helen and I have always wanted to have a family and having True around makes everything feel so complete. He's a lovely little boy and he helps give me a wonderful perspective on life - an extra bonus is that he sleeps right through every night too!

"That helps a lot when you've got to get into training every morning but to be honest I'm blessed not only to have True but to have Helen too because she's a great mum and together we are a strong family unit.

"It definitely helps to have a focus away from football and in many ways it shows how far I've come not only as a footballer but as a person too since I arrived in Derby as a fresh-faced 16-year-old.

"Derby is the place in which the boy became a man. All of my adult life has been spent in the city, I have Helen and lots of friends here and now I have a son who was born here. It's been quite a journey in many ways."

Whatever happens between now and



the end of the campaign in terms of individual achievements, Lee is confident the Rams can still make the grade and be promoted automatically from the Championship into the Premier League.

He explains: "Everybody is still extremely confident and there is still plenty to play for. The city has been buzzing this season and it's important that everyone around the club all pull together for the final push.

"As players we have everything at our disposal - and that means pushing as hard as we can for the Premiership, something we all feel we can achieve.

"Whether it's good training sessions, stats or video sessions or group or individual chats with the manager or

*A major factor in me keeping going through all the ups and downs has been the tremendous support I've always had from the fans, my friends and family and Helen's family too*

coaching staff it's all there for us. There are no excuses as far as the players are concerned - we have the tools to go out there and do our jobs."

Granty has racked up nearly 80 appearances during his time as a Ram and is certainly proud of every minute he's been a Derby County player.

How much longer he'll be around is down to all parties concerned, as Lee is out of contract in the summer.

He finishes: "We'll see what happens. All I've ever tried to do, as I've said, is work as hard as possible and go about my job as professionally as possible and the rest tends to take care of itself in football.

"At the end of the day you can only ever be in the team if the manager picks you - all I can do is work to put myself in a prime position for that to happen.

"I've loved every minute of my time at Derby County and have not only experienced Premiership football but also relegation and play-offs too.

Then there was my debut as a 19-year-old against Nottingham Forest, which was a big game too.

"All of that has served to make me stronger as a person and a player and, if called upon, I'm ready to do a job for the Rams at any stage between now and the end of the season.

"A major factor in me keeping going through all the ups and downs has been the tremendous support I've always had from the fans, my friends and family and Helen's family too.

"I'd like to thank them all very much for that, it really is appreciated.

## A level playing field

**D**erby County pledged its support for the Level Playing Field disability awareness campaign at the recent home game against Coventry City.

The campaign aims to help disabled people get involved in sport by enjoying the beautiful game.

Clubs were asked to consider a half-time activity over the Easter period to help improve disability awareness and resonate with all supporters.

The six participants who had a great time taking part in our half-time penalty shoot-out were all disabled Young Rams/season ticket holders.

They were Tony Briggs (13), Ben Green (6), Dieon Richie (9), Paul Sankey (15), Matthew Oakley (16) and Darren Brady (16).



A warm welcome to our Young Rams mascots tonight, who are ten-year-olds Dominic Hulland and Liam Wood. Hello also to our visiting mascot, seven-year-old Daisy Abraham (right). We hope you all enjoy the game.



### Tonight's Young Rams mascots

*kidz @ derc*

### William's idols

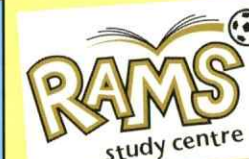


**Y**oung William McMurtrie may only be six but he's already a huge Rams fan, as this picture shows.

The avid Derby supporter, who lives near Northampton, penned the great drawing of his two favourite players - Stephen Bywater and Giles Barnes.

William's mum Alison says: "William is a season ticket holder and is Rams mad! He would be thrilled to see his picture in the official matchday magazine."

R	G	N	C	S	T	A	D	I	U	M	F	O	U	L
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## WORD UP!

Can you find the 14 football-related words hidden in this grid?

CORNERPOSTS	GOAL	MATCH	REFEREE
DERBYCOUNTY	GOALPOST	PITCH	STADIUM
FOOTBALL	GRASS	PLAYERS	
FOUL	KIT	RAMS	

Circle your answers and send the completed wordsearch (photocopies are accepted) with your name, age and telephone number to Wordsearch, The Ram, Derby County Football Club, Derby, DE24 8XL. You could win yourself a signed Derby ball like Imran Gupta, 14, from Ilkeston did in the recent Coventry magazine. Thanks to ten-year-old Ashleigh from Reigate Primary School, a recent visitors to the Rams Study Centre, for creating this wonderful wordsearch.



# £2.00 OFF RAMS DVD

It's been a fantastic campaign for the Rams and whatever happens between now and the final kick it's one every Derby fan will no doubt want to keep for posterity.

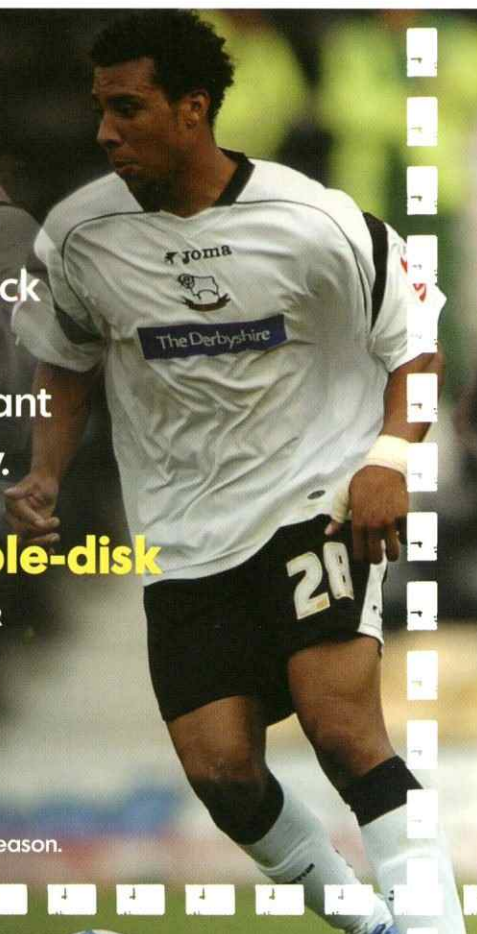
## Save money on end of season double-disk

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**End of Season DVD Offer, Press Office, Derby County Football Club, Pride Park Stadium, Derby DE24 8XL.**

The DVD will be posted out approximately two weeks after the last game of the season.



## THE BIG FREEZE!

Derby County have decided to reward fans' loyalty by freezing the price of a subscription to the official club magazine, The Ram. In 2007/08 supporters can have a copy of the mag from every home game (league and cup) posted direct to their home for as little as £60. What's more, if you're a season ticket holder there's a £5 discount on what is already a great price, meaning you'll pay only £55.

To subscribe simply fill in the information below and send a cheque or postal order

(made payable to Derby County Football Club) for the relevant amount to The Ram Subscriptions, Press Office, Derby County Football Club, Pride Park Stadium, Derby DE24 8XL with your full name, postal address, contact telephone number and customer number (if a season ticket holder).

You can subscribe by calling **0870 444 1884** instead if you wish to pay by debit card (please note credit cards cannot be accepted).

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UK season ticket holder    £55 ☐ Europe    £90 ☐

UK non-season ticket holder    £60 ☐ Rest of the World    £100 ☐



## Rams action



**Venue:** Pride Park  
**Date:** 9 April 07  
**Attendance:** 29,940

**C**aptain Matt Oakley's equaliser on 79 minutes pushed the resolute Rams another point closer to possibly clinching a place in the Premiership with this 1-1 draw.

Visitors Coventry, sniffing a scalp against the side top of the Championship, had taken the lead six minutes earlier when Leon McKenzie capitalised on Tyrone Mears' slip to sidestep Stephen Bywater and hammer home.

But Billy Davies' side are nothing if not determined. A bloody Marc Edworthy, who had earlier taken a bang to the nose, summed up the spirit by battling manfully as a centre-half replacement for the poorly Dean Leacock.

Earlier Steve Howard and Arturo Lupoli had chances and Darren Moore's sublime header was kept out by Andy Marshall, before Oakley showed how nimble he was to stretch out a right leg and hook into the net following Howard's cushioned header.

**Rams:** Bywater, Mears, Edworthy, Moore, McEveley, Fagan (Bisgaard 70), Oakley (S Johnson 90), Jones, Barnes, Lupoli (Currie 77), Howard. Unused subs: Grant, Camara.  
**Coventry:** Marshall, Hall, Page, Ward, Hughes, Doyle, Kyle (Adebola 82), McKenzie (Mifsud 77), Osbourne, Tabb, Virgo. Unused subs: Steele, Cameron, Turner.



# Rising Star

Jermaine Johnson talks to Gareth Davis

**L**eaving London at the age of 16 to move north for a switch to Derby County might seem like a daunting prospect for most youngsters.

Jermaine Johnson, however, can't wait to settle in to his new surroundings.

Jermaine is a dyed-in-the-wool Londoner - he grew up in the South London suburb of Balham, near Clapham, and has an accent native to the area.

He could be forgiven for being a little apprehensive about heading away from his roots at an early age - but instead there's a young man itching to get going.

"Moving away from my family is one of the sacrifices but I'll adapt, and I'm always willing to put in the hard work," he says, before pointing out of the window towards one of the training pitches at Moor Farm and adding: "That's my home, on the pitch - once I'm on there everything is fine."

"It's going to be different as Derby is very quiet compared to London, so it will be strange to adapt at first but I should love it here."

"I've had a few chances to go into the city centre and I like what I see - it's a developing, up-and-coming place. Derby is the place to be."

Jermaine was released by Chelsea earlier this season but has impressed enough to be taken on for a two-year scholarship to begin next season at the Rams Academy.

A number of other clubs were interested in the centre-half but he had no hesitation about joining Derby.

Academy manager Kevin Thelwell sent him a DVD to sell the club to him

and he liked what he saw so came up for a trial.

Jermaine's thoughts on the set-up at Moor Farm go as far as "top-class" and he knew straight away that a move to Derby was the right one for him.

Many youngsters filter out of the game when released at 16 but there was no way Jermaine would let that happen.

"At first it was heart-breaking," he said of being told that Chelsea weren't going to keep him on.

"I thought I had a very good chance of getting a deal but all coaches have their opinions."

"I thought to myself 'how am I going to move on from here, who's going to want me?'"

"It's hard because at the age of 16 you're thinking that at every club everyone has their favourites, clubs already know who is going to get a scholarship."

"I had trials at Watford, Southampton and Fulham, but before I made any decisions Derby came in and I liked it a lot more here."

"The facilities here are top-class, the staff are great, Kev has introduced me to all the boys who have all welcomed me and it feels like I've known them for a long time."

Spending time at Chelsea meant Jermaine was, from time to time, in the presence of one of the game's great characters - the out-spoken boss Jose Mourinho.

He has had the pleasure of Mourinho's company, and has also had the privilege of looking up to and working with skipper John Terry.

Terry, in particular, is a great role



model for any aspiring centre-half to try and emulate.

"I've met Jose once," Jermaine laughs. "He's a funny character! He's a cool guy, has a big ego but he's great - just the way he is around the training ground, he's superb."

"JT is top-class too. He's trained with us younger lads and he gives us advice, he is the perfect guy to look up to."

"For me personally the advice was about positioning, maybe relaxing on the ball, and I'll remember that. If I can do half of what he has done I'll be happy."

Jermaine has got lofty ambitions but every footballer his age should do, otherwise there's no point them getting involved in the game.

He knows that a lot of hard work lies ahead but his ultimate goal is to be playing in the Champions League by the age of 27.

That doesn't come from any form of inflated self-opinion; it just comes from the ambition and hunger to achieve as

much as possible.

"Over the next couple of years I want to be playing as much as possible, in the reserves if there's a reserve team," he says.

"Hopefully then the first-team manager will see me and like what he sees. I'm itching for that chance to move up a step."

Surprisingly, Jermaine doesn't support any of his local teams in London - instead, he's a Manchester United follower.

That comes from his dad, who suggested he watch them as a youngster, and he was taken in by some of the dazzling football on show from the likes of Ryan Giggs and Paul Scholes.

But there's affection for Chelsea having spent four years at the club, so how does he see the run-in to the end of the season for both clubs?

United and Chelsea will meet in the FA Cup final, the Premiership race is between them, and they could contest the Champions League final too.

"There's only one winner for the

Premiership and the Cup - United!" he says defiantly.

"I've got my doubts about the Champions League though; I reckon Liverpool could win that again."



*"The facilities here are top-class, the staff are great, Kev has introduced me to all the boys who have all welcomed me and it feels like I've known them for a long time"*



## Derby and proud of it!

**W**hat exactly is it that makes Ellen MacArthur so special? It was her record-breaking solo sail around the world that shot her to global recognition, but since, to the general masses, she has become just as famous for simply being Ellen MacArthur, suggesting that it is what she represents, just as much as what she has achieved, that has created a legend worthy of an audience with the Queen as well as a place in Time Magazine's top 100 "heroes and icons" of 2005.

At only 30, MacArthur has in her a bit of what we all want. She represents a victory of man against the elements; a waifish, 5ft 6in woman taking on and thrashing everything nature could throw at her.

She represents the oldest and purest sporting tradition - triumph over all the odds; the Rocky Balboa of the high seas.

She is an inspiration for not just women in sport, but for anyone wanting to achieve.

What she has done for the sport of sailing is immeasurable and, friends say, her humble nature and desperate-to-please attitude puts her poles apart from the all too familiar image of modern day detached sportsmen living in a parallel world to those who idolise them and pay their wages.

That becomes obvious by the first thing we discuss. She rates her finest



children suffering from cancer or leukaemia. They are taken on sailing trips which MacArthur joins when she can, meeting with others in similar situations and, she said, even for a short time, forgetting the situation they are in. "Their courage and humility is truly

she has long since been located in the Isle of Wight, from where she plotted her amazing journey.

Seven years ago, no-one outside the sailing world had heard of her, although she was making all within sit up and take notice with some remarkable performances. Then, in 2001, she shot to national prominence after coming second in the Vendée Globe solo round the world race on her boat Kingfisher. Four years later, on the 75-ft trimaran B&Q, her world changed forever with the round-the-world record breaker.

Her profile has also helped, she said, move the sport away from its elitist and minority tagging, though much is also down to modern methods of communication.

Where once sailors would be out of touch for months, these days a daily blog is almost obligatory.

She said: "It's not all about me, I think that the success of the British sailing Olympians, who won more medals than any other sport, have helped to improve the image of sailing and move away from the public perception that it is a minority and somewhat elitist sport.

outstanding," she said.

Hailing from Whatstandwell, MacArthur is making a rare trip home to land-locked Derbyshire to be at the game tonight to be recognised as one of the region's iconic figures. That one of the world's greatest ever sailors should come from a place further from the sea than anywhere in the country remains an amusing quirk, but

# Ellen MacArthur

Talks to Nick Britten of The Daily Telegraph

achievement not doing something that no-one on this planet has ever done - sailing round the world faster than 71 days, 14 hours, 18 minutes and 33 seconds, an accomplishment which catapulted her into the lexicon of the sporting gods.

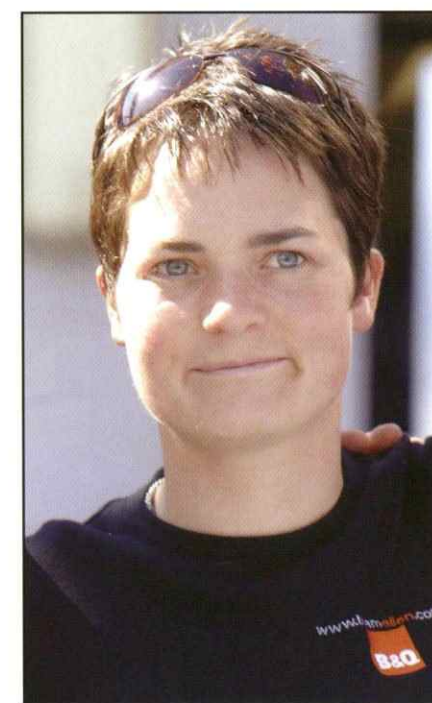
It is the success of the Ellen MacArthur Trust, set up three years ago to help

"I was at the RYA Dinghy Show at Alexandra Palace recently and the sheer number of young visitors continues to show that sailing is becoming accessible to more and more people. Sailing is a massive participation sport but is not always a spectator friendly sport.

"But these days with the latest technology available now we can communicate from the remotest regions on the oceans and people can really share in our endeavours, which is great as it opens up a whole new dimension.

"During my solo round the world record the number of hits to the website increased each day as people logged on to see the latest video, read the latest email from me, watch the tracking graphics and so on. This technology means the public can live each moment and they love that."

It can be argued it has also inspired others to feats of death-defying endeavour. In the last few months alone we have seen a schoolboy sail solo across



*It's not all about me, I think that the success of the British sailing Olympians, who won more medals than any other sport, have helped to improve the image of sailing and move away from the public perception that it is a minority and somewhat elitist sport*

the Atlantic and a retired couple brave the treacherous Eastern Seaboard waterways in America in a narrow boat.

And try arguing with MacArthur that due to a lack of competition sailing isn't really a sport, she throws the dictionary at you. She said: "For the whole 71 days, 14 hours, 18 minutes, 33 seconds that I was racing around the world, I was competing, competing against a clock that showed the previous fastest time (set by French sailor Francis Joyon).

"He may not have been racing on the same course as me but in many ways this made it harder as you are racing against an imaginary competitor who on some stages of the course you know had better weather conditions than you, so at times it was doubly hard. I had a constant reminder that we were racing against the relentless countdown of that clock.

"If you take the dictionary definition of sport as 'an athletic activity requiring skill or physical prowess', I think that would cover my round the world record."

Having sailed an estimated 250,000 miles (approximately 11 times around the world) she is now keen on saving it and is fanatical about living a greener way of life. Everyone in her company has been ordered to think about carbon footprints and recycling. She also thought about becoming a vet before going into sailing, and such is her passion for environmental sustainability than maybe a career in politics beckons.

With more competitions in the pipeline - Dame Ellen is currently spending more time in teams these days - she is in no hurry to give up life on water, yet her feet remain planted firmly on dry land.

"I don't feel like a heroine. Essentially I am just someone who has been lucky enough to pursue their passion and I hope that I can use my recognition to make a positive difference to the world," she said.

That, she already has.



## Harry the Ram

**T**he Derby and Proud of It page is certainly an apt one on which to talk about one of our longest-serving fans.

This week saw the anniversary of Harry Gill's 75th year cheering on his beloved side - his first Rams match was against Aston Villa on 16 April 1932, a game Derby won 3-1.

Now 81 years young, Harry still passionately cheers on his team and is urging Billy Davies and the lads on to the Premiership.

Harry has been married to wife Joyce (with whom he can be seen pictured) for 55 years and the couple have two children, Janet and Brenda, and two grandchildren, Kathryn and James.

His favourite past players are Steve Bloomer, Roy McFarland, Kevin Hector and Igor Stimac and his current idols are Darren Moore, Stephen Pearson, Steve Howard and Seth Johnson.

In short Harry likes a no-nonsense player who gets stuck in and he won't be alone in keeping his fingers crossed for full-blooded commitment from all of the players between now and the end of the season.

Commenting on Harry's wonderful support, Rams boss Billy Davies said: "It's fantastic to hear that Harry's passion for his club is still burning strong after 75 years.

"I'd like to personally thank him for his loyalty and commitment to Derby County. I'm sure he and all the other Rams fans will be right behind the team between now and the end of the season."

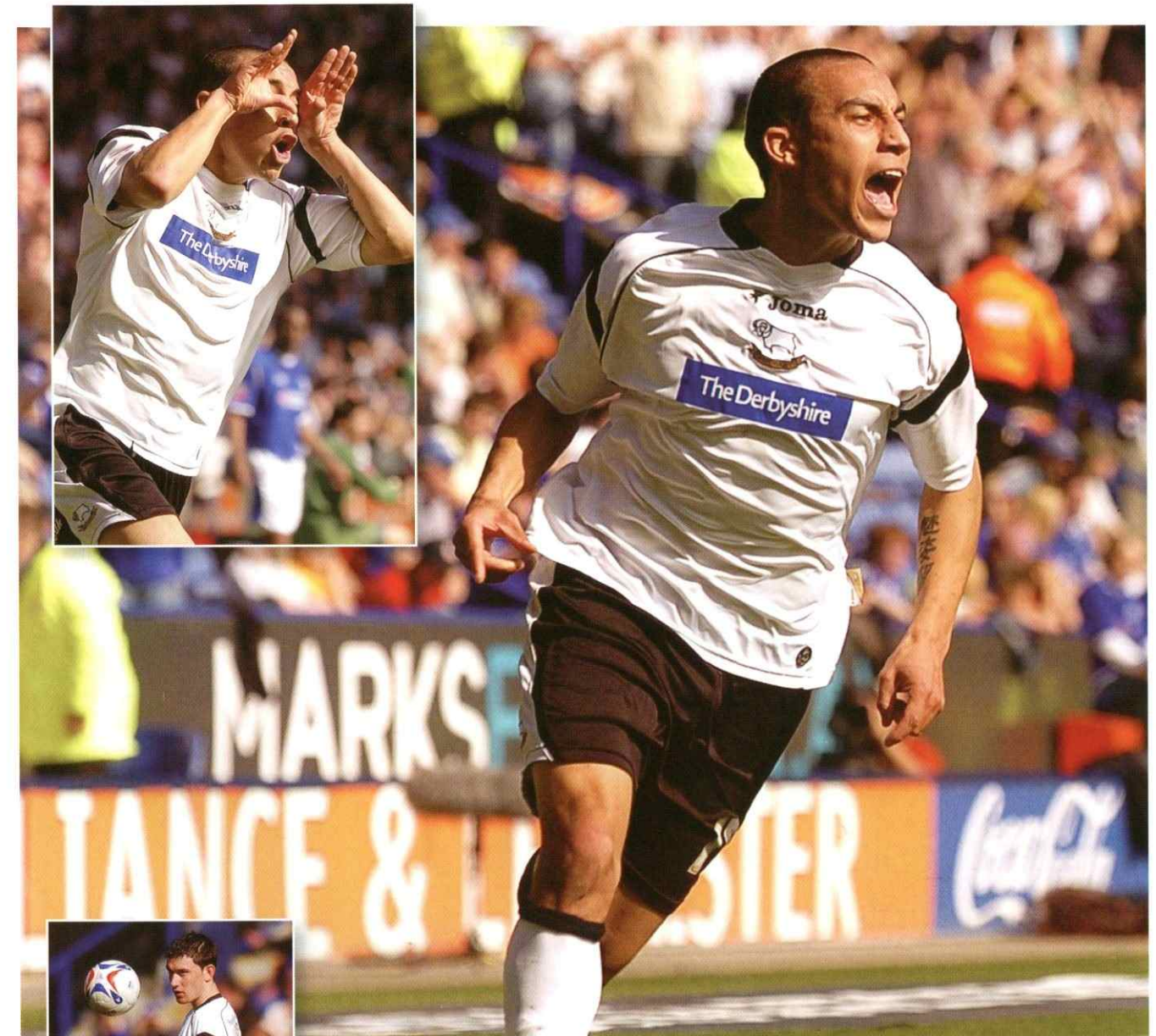


Poster in association with



Make a weekend of it: [www.ramsweekends.co.uk](http://www.ramsweekends.co.uk)

## Rams action



**C**raig Fagan scored his first Derby County goal to put the visitors in front at the Walkers Stadium but a lack of concentration in the second half allowed the Foxes in to steal a point in a 1-1 draw.

Striker Fagan's confidence was boosted by his lovely finish on 23 minutes, a curler with the inside of his boot round a stranded Paul Henderson after Giles Barnes had produced a clever defence-splitting pass.

It was no more than the Rams deserved as they were much better than their East Midlands rivals in the first 45 minutes, but after the break it was a different story as sloppiness let the hosts back in. Sub Matt Fryatt levelled with a left-footer on 68.

How there were no more goals is anyone's guess, particularly as Derby dominated the last 15. Fagan saw a close-range effort saved by Henderson and sub Arturo Lupoli flashed an effort over the bar.

**Rams:** Bywater, Mears, Moore, Leacock, McEveley, Barnes, Oakley, Jones (Bisgaard 74), Fagan, Macken (Teale 59), Currie (Lupoli 81). **Unused subs:** Grant, Edworthy. **Leicester:** Henderson, Stearman, Kenton, Kisnorbo, Maybury, Hughes (Yeates 65), Jarrett, Tiatto, Porter, Hume, Hammond (Fryatt 56). **Unused subs:** Logan, Johansson, Horsfield.

**Venue:** Walkers Stadium  
**Date:** 6 April 07  
**Attendance:** 24,704



## Sponsors

a warm welcome to...

### Match



We welcome Mr Bill Legg and guests. All at Derby County send their very best wishes to Bill's brother Carl who unfortunately can't be at tonight's game.

### Man of the Match



We welcome Mr Darren Marsh and guests from Document Network Services Ltd.

### Kit



We welcome Sportwise Marketing and guests.

### Mitre Matchball



We welcome Assa Training and Learning, part of the Carter and Carter PLC.

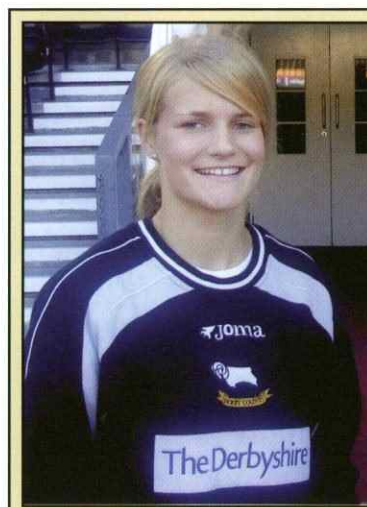
### Associate Matchball



We welcome Mr Ian Winfield and guests.



Many thanks to all of our sponsors for the recent home game against Coventry City. Here a representative of Coca-Cola Enterprises can be seen receiving a souvenir of her day at Pride Park Stadium from man of the match Matt Oakley, watched by Derby County chairman Peter Gadsby.



### Derby County Ladies

A warm welcome goes to Derby County Ladies, who are special guests of the Rams at tonight's game versus Luton Town.

Before the match members of the two senior and six junior squads will parade around the Pride Park pitch.

Derby County Ladies have in excess of 110 players across all age groups and their teams are regular trophy winners. Examples of individual success include England U-17 caps for Cara Newton (pictured) and the experience of an England training camp for Farrah Walker.

Derby County Ladies would like to take this opportunity to thank The Derbyshire, Flint Bishop and Barnett and Buildbase for their kind and continuing sponsorship.

We know you are familiar with instant replays, live action footage and multiple camera angles

So are we

The safer we are, the more secure we feel. CCTV technology can be used in both internal and external environments to watch over and protect people and property. To find out how ADT can protect you and your property, call **0800 010 999** and quote (TRAM7) or visit [www.adt.co.uk](http://www.adt.co.uk)



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## Events guide

# Derby Digest

Your one-stop guide to Pride Park life and all that's going on at Derby County. For more details or to book your place/tickets call 0870 444 1884. Check out [www.dcfc.co.uk](http://www.dcfc.co.uk) for regular updates on Pride Park events. To add your Derby County event to this digest write to:

The Ram, Derby County FC, Pride Park, Derby DE24 8XL

## shopDCFC bargains

All Joma training wear **50% off** (while stocks last),

plus away shirts reduced to £20 adults and £15 children.



SUNDAY 17 JUNE 2007

## Fathers Day Lunch

Three-course carvery with commemorative photo for dad. £19.95 per person, call the Events team on 01332 667532 to book your place or for further information.

## Murder Mystery

On 29 September 2007 Pride Park Stadium hosts a murder mystery dinner 'Casey's NightClub' which costs just £29.95 per person. Strictly no under-18s. It's 1928 and the prohibiting era. Be part of 'The Mob' at Casey Nightclub, New York, where gang warfare is rife. Who would want to murder the infamous and revered gangland boss Hal Capone?! Watch out for Shoot-outs and confrontation. Admission is by ticket only. Call 0870 444 1884 to book.

SUNDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2007

## Autumn Wedding Fayre

10am-4pm.

Over 60 exhibitors and two fashion shows. Free entry.



## Exclusive club for young fans

Young Rams membership for the 2007/08 season is now available by calling Derby County on 0870 444 1884, and then pressing option one.

Existing members will be receiving details very shortly for them to renew. Any current members simply requiring information should call 01332 648438.

Membership for the 2007/08 season will include a £5 gift voucher for shopDCFC, a Rams goodie bag and beach ball, Rammie's top 10 goals of 2006 season DVD, membership card and birthday card. Cost of membership for Season ticket holders will be £10 (platinum membership) and £20 for non season ticket holders (gold membership).

Once again during the 2007/08 season our gold members will be able to access an adult and child ticket for Derby County home league games for an amazing £20 (subject to availability).

## Christmas Parties 2007

Bookings are now being taken for Christmas party nights. Prices from £30 per person. We have a variety of nights available.

Call now to avoid disappointment on 01332 667532.



# Just the Ticket

**v Crystal Palace**  
Coca-Cola Championship  
Sunday 29 April 07  
**Selhurst Park**  
Kick-off 1.30pm



Tickets are priced £30 adults and £18 juniors (15 and under) and seniors (60 and over). Tickets are on general sale. Rams on Tour members will have their ticket(s) sent automatically by post. RoadRider departs 7.45am, priced £16.

**v Leeds United**  
Coca-Cola Championship  
Sunday 6 May 07  
**Pride Park Stadium**  
Kick-off 1pm  
Tickets for this game are now COMPLETELY SOLD OUT.



This is a message for all supporters at the Leeds United fixture on Sunday 6 May. At the end of the game the players will go to the dressing rooms and will then come out and do a lap of honour providing NO supporters are on the pitch. Please show your appreciation by NOT entering onto the playing area.

To order tickets call 0870 444 1884 or log on to [www.shopdcfc.co.uk](http://www.shopdcfc.co.uk).  
More in-depth information, ticket prices and seating categories can be found at [www.dcfc.co.uk](http://www.dcfc.co.uk)  
Evening Telegraph Young Rams can buy an adult + child ticket at any home league game for just £20.  
Call 0870 444 1884 to join from just £10.



**For full 07/08  
season ticket  
details text dcfc  
ticket and your  
email address to  
62299**

## Championship League Table 06/07



Name	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Sunderland	43	25	7	11	67	42	25	82
Birmingham	43	24	8	11	62	39	23	80
<b>Derby County</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>78</b>
Preston	43	21	8	14	63	50	13	71
WBA	43	20	10	13	71	52	19	70
Wolves	43	20	10	13	51	52	-1	70
Stoke City	43	18	14	11	57	38	19	68
Southampton	43	18	12	13	71	52	19	66
Colchester	43	19	9	15	66	50	16	66
Sheffield Wed	43	18	11	14	65	61	4	65
Cardiff City	43	17	13	13	56	48	8	64
Crystal Palace	43	16	11	16	55	49	6	59
Plymouth	43	14	16	13	57	60	-3	58
Ipswich Town	43	17	6	20	59	56	3	57
Norwich City	43	16	8	19	53	66	-13	56
Burnley	43	14	12	17	46	42	4	54
Coventry City	43	15	8	20	44	58	-14	53
QPR	43	13	10	20	52	65	-13	49
Leicester City	43	11	14	18	46	60	-14	47
Barnsley	43	14	5	24	51	77	-26	47
Hull City	43	12	9	22	48	64	-16	45
Leeds United	43	13	6	24	45	68	-23	45
Southend	43	10	12	21	44	71	-27	42
Luton Town	43	9	10	24	50	74	-24	37

## Roll Call 2006/07

	League		FA Cup		C Cup		06-07 total		Rams total	
	app	gls	app	gls	app	gls	app	gls	app	gls
Lee Camp	2	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	95(1)	0
Marc Edworthy	36	0	1	0	1	0	38	0	69(1)	0
Mo Camara	19	0	3	0	2	0	24	0	24	0
Jay McEveley	12	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	12	0
Tyrone Mears	7(4)	0	1	0	0	0	8(4)	0	8(4)	0
Adam Bolder	9(4)	0	0	0	2	0	11(4)	0	121(60)	11
Dean Leacock	33(2)	0	1	0	0	0	34(2)	0	34(2)	0
Michael Johnson	22(7)	1	2(1)	0	1	1	25(8)	2	136(10)	5
Tommy Smith	4(1)	1	0	0	1	0	5(1)	1	97(2)	21
David Jones	25(1)	6	2	0	0	0	27(1)	6	27(1)	6
Morten Bisgaard	16(15)	2	2(1)	0	1	0	19(16)	2	81(29)	10
Steve Howard	40	16	3	0	2	1	45	17	45	17
Craig Fagan	11(3)	1	1	0	0	0	12(3)	1	12(3)	1
Jon Stead	15(2)	3	0	0	0	0	15(2)	3	15(2)	3
Paul Peschisolidi	2(11)	3	0(2)	1	1(1)	0	3(14)	4	44(57)	24
Jon Macken	4(3)	0	0(1)	0	0	0	4(4)	0	4(4)	0
Lee Grant	6(1)	0	0	0	1	0	7(1)	0	74(5)	0
Richard Jackson	3(2)	0	1	0	1	0	5(2)	0	107(20)	0
Ryan Smith	5(10)	0	1(2)	0	1(1)	0	7(13)	0	7(13)	0
Arturo Lupoli	18(14)	7	2	3	0(2)	1	20(16)	11	20(16)	11
Paul Boertien	10(1)	0	0	0	0	0	10(1)	0	101(27)	2
Seth Johnson	20(6)	1	2	0	0(1)	0	22(7)	1	129(13)	6
Darren Currie	2(2)	0	0	0	0	0	2(2)	0	2(2)	0
Lee Holmes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29(23)	2
Bob Malcolm	6(3)	0	2	0	1	0	9(3)	0	9(3)	0
Matt Oakley	34(1)	6	1	0	1	0	36(1)	6	36(1)	6
Darren Moore	28(7)	2	3	0	1	1	32(7)	3	46(7)	4
Stephen Pearson	5(2)	0	1	0	0	0	6(2)	0	6(2)	0
Gary Teale	9(5)	1	0	0	0	0	9(5)	1	9(5)	1
Inigo Idiakez	4(1)	0	0	0	0(1)	0	4(2)	0	93(3)	22
Giles Barnes	29(8)	8	1(2)	0	2	0	32(10)	8	47(15)	9
Lionel Ainsworth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0(2)	0
Lewin Nyatanga	2(2)	0	0	0	2	0	4(2)	0	30(3)	1
James Meredith	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tom Cumberworth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Steven Cann	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stephen Bywater	35	0	3	0	0	0	38	0	38	0

## Pride Park Emergency Procedure

In the event of an emergency at Pride Park you will hear a police message over the public address system providing information and directions to spectators. We ask all spectators to remain where they are and to listen very carefully to the message. If it affects your area please comply to instructions immediately. Stewards, police officers and officials will direct you to safe areas which may be through exit doors/gates or around the perimeter track. Please respond quickly but calmly to ensure a safe evacuation of the stadium.

Key to statistics		P	Scored from Penalty
Full blue block denotes player appearance		OFF	Player sent off
Full green block denotes goalkeeper appearance		†	Opponents own goal
Half blue block & number denotes sub appearance & player replaced			
Substitute not used			
1	Goals scored		

Date	Fixture	Result	Att	Pos
August				
Sun 6	H Southampton	2-2	21,939	10
Tue 8	A Stoke City	0-2	20,013	17
Sat 12	H Hull City	2-1	15,621	15
Sat 19	H Norwich City	0-0	22,196	17
Tue 22	A Stockport (C Cup 1)	1-0	3,394	17
Sat 26	A Colchester	3-4	4,574	19
September				
Sat 9	H Sunderland	1-2	26,502	23
Tue 12	A Wolves	1-0	21,546	15
Sat 16	H Preston	1-1	22,220	17
Wed 20	A Doncaster (C Cup 2)	3-3	5,598	17
Sat 23	A Sheffield Wed	2-1	23,659	13
Sat 30	H Southend	3-0	22,395	10
October				
Sun 15	A Plymouth	1-3	13,622	12
Tue 17	A QPR	0-1	10,882	8
Sat 21	H Birmingham	0-1	25,673	11
Sat 28	A Cardiff City	2-2	17,371	13
November				
Wed 1	H Barnsley	2-1	21,295	12
Sat 4	H WBA	2-1	25,344	8
Sat 11	A Coventry City	2-1	19,701	5
Sat 18	A Luton Town	2-0	9,708	5
Sat 25	H Leicester City	1-0	28,315	4
Wed 29	H Ipswich Town	2-1	22,606	4
December				
Sat 2	A WBA	0-1	20,494	4
Sat 9	A Leeds United	1-0	20,087	2
Sat 16	H Crystal Palace	1-0	23,875	2
Sat 23	A Burnley	0-0	12,825	3
Tue 26	H Wolves	0-2	31,920	3
Sat 30	H Plymouth	1-0	25,775	3
January				
Mon 1	A Preston	2-1	19,204	2
Sat 6	H Wrexham (FAC 3)	3-1	15,609	2
Sat 13	H Sheffield Wed	1-0	28,936	2
Sat 20	A Southend	1-0	10,745	1
Sat 27	H Bristol Rovers (FAC 4)	1-0	25,033	1
Tue 30	H Burnley	1-0	23,122	1
February				
Sat 3	A Southampton	1-0	27,656	1
Sat 10	H Hull City	2-2	18,026	1
Sat 17	A Plymouth (FAC 5)	0-2	24,897	1
Wed 21	H Stoke City	0-2	24,897	1
Sat 24	A Sunderland	1-2	36,049	2
March				
Fri 2	H Colchester	5-1†	26,704	2
Tue 6	A Norwich City	2-1	23,462	1
Fri 9	A Birmingham	0-1	20,962	2
Tue 13	H QPR	1-1	27,567	2
Sat 17	H Cardiff City	3-1	27,689	1
Sat 31	A Burnley	2-1	17,059	1
April				
Fri 6	A Leicester City	1-1	24,704	1
Mon 9	H Coventry City	1-1	29,940	2
Sat 14	A Ipswich Town	1-2	24,319	
Fri 20	H Luton Town			
Sun 29	A Crystal Palace			
May				
Sun 6	H Leeds United			

2006/07  
**Statistics**



# Old Moore's Anorak

David Moore writes



If ever there was a time for all of us to keep our nerve this is it. Last Saturday may have been the worst day of the season for Derby supporters with the setback at Ipswich and our main rivals picking up maximum points but everything could change again this weekend as Sunderland and Birmingham take on stiff opposition away from home.

First things first though and tonight's match against bottom of the table Luton. One thing is certain, it won't be easy.

What Billy's men need after everything seemingly going against them recently is non-stop support from us, the fans. Nothing less than 90 minutes of encouragement and maybe a bit of patience too.

Disappointing as it was to surrender top spot to Sunderland, remember what happened after the 1995/6 promotion season when we finished in second place behind the Wearsiders after leading the division for so long.

Derby went on to enjoy six seasons in the Premiership (well, most of them were enjoyable) and Sunderland were relegated after one year in the top flight.

There is still time to regain top spot but I'm sure most of us would be only too happy to gain automatic promotion as runners-up if Roy Keane's men don't have a last minute wobble and Birmingham drop points.

In the meantime Billy Davies has urged us all to enjoy our push for the Premiership but if you are anything like me you are probably finding it easier said than done. Every game is so tense, every result so vital that many of us are finishing up in a state of nervous exhaustion and at times it seems that our edginess and anxiety, particularly at home games, transmits itself to the players which is the last thing they need.

Billy (pictured right) is

correct though, we really should be making the most of the incredible turnaround we've seen this season.

It's a long time since choosing a player of the season has been so difficult.

We are spoilt for choice with six strong candidates nominated and others who could well have come close if they had made the list. Last year Tommy

Smith picked up the coveted award and a year earlier it was Inigo Idiakez's turn.

Before them Youl Mawene came out on top following on from Giorgi Kinkladze (one of the more controversial choices) and Danny Higginbotham with Chris Riggott the winner in 2001 and the superb Mart Poom at the turn of the millennium.

Seven totally different players but with one thing in common - they all moved on to pastures new shortly afterwards for various reasons.



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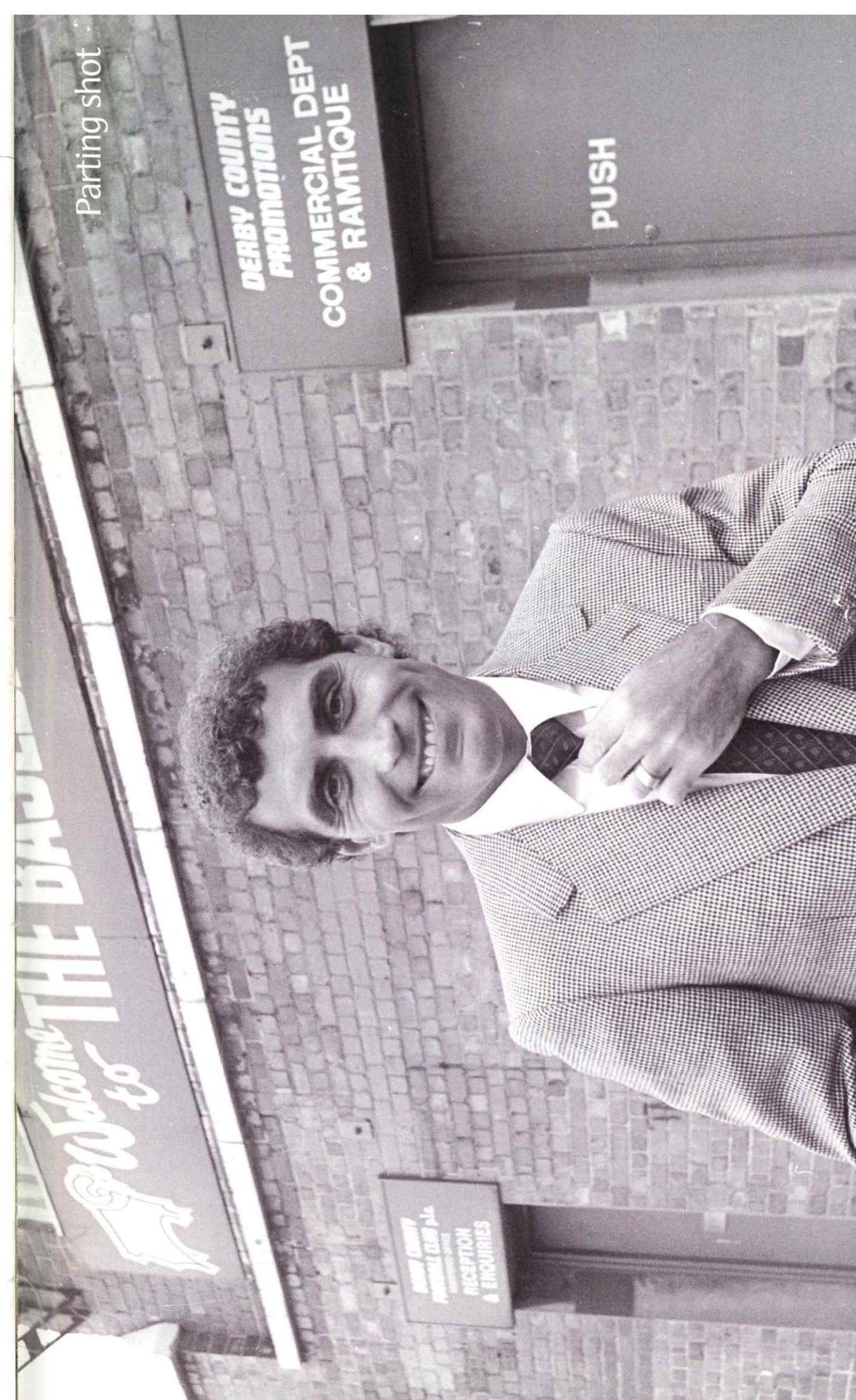
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THE BASEBALL GROUND, DERBY, JULY 1987  
Peter Shilton, England's Number One, joins the Rams. The signing of probably the best goalkeeper in the world at the time appeared to signal the ambitious intent of new chairman Robert Maxwell.

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Come on you Rams!

Chris Kershaw, Editor.

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