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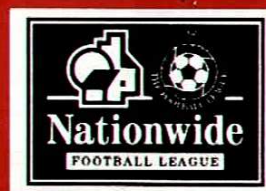


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Season 1997/98 Issue No. 16



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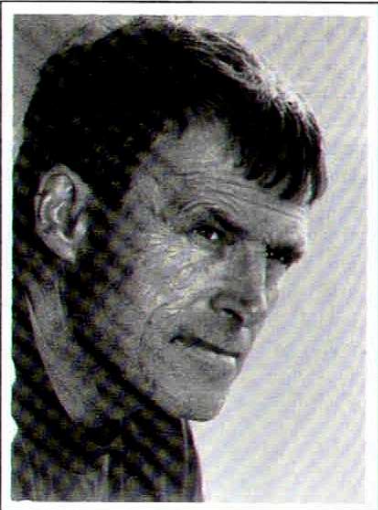
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# Dario Writes



Four points out of six over the Christmas period means we have enjoyed a good Christmas!

Both games were as difficult as the games normally are, but we do appear to be making fewer mistakes than even in the game against Stoke.

Manchester City put us under some pressure, but we created some good chances against them. Overall, in the two games against them I think we deserve at least to be even with them. That in itself is a decent achievement.

I keep likening Bury to ourselves. Similar size club with similar resources. Over the

last few months their results have been slightly better than ours. We have played them four times this season without winning one. All the games have been close in terms of results. The last one was no exception, though we could have been dead and buried in the first 20 minutes and then we should have scored again after our equaliser.

Birmingham City were more impressed with their performance than we were. I thought they edged the game, but still needed us to concede two really poor goals in order to gain victory. Of course that is all part of the game and as I've said before, I thought they probably deserved their victory and good luck to them. In my opinion, my team didn't look too far behind them in terms of ability and I think we have more scope for improvement than many of the teams around us.

We were pleased to welcome back Dave Walton last weekend, especially as Mark Foran was cup-tied. Ashley Westwood could also be available today and we could welcome back Gareth Whalley. Steve Anthrobus is nearly there, so we really only have long term 'patients', John Pemberton, Steve Macauley and Chris Lightfoot unavailable.

We have agreed to Mark Gayle's request to leave on a free transfer, though he will be here until he finds another club. He has suffered a few injuries this season, otherwise he probably would have found a

decent club already. After Jason, we have Ademole Bankole (George) and now Neil Cutler, who is back after a three month loan spell with Leek Town in the Conference.

Just before I started writing these notes on Thursday, I spent a few minutes watching the 'Waterhogs' (like sit-on mowers) soaking up the water off the plastic sheeting covering the pitch and squirting with some force into the stands. The exercise should mean the pitch is playable but you could be sitting up to your waists in water!!

Having Sky TV here justifies the expense, though when we build our new stand we will incorporate a cover system of our own. Sky's presence also creates a little extra atmosphere to the game, though I don't think any of our games have lacked that this season.

I hope 1998 will be as good a year as 1997. I don't expect to be going to Wembley, but getting clear of the relegation zone and looking forward to next season in Division One would give me almost as much pleasure. I'm sure you feel the same.

Whilst thanking you for your support, I would also like to thank all of you who have taken the trouble to write or speak to me about the M.B.E. honour.

*Dario Gradi*

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In the event of an emergency, Club Stewards/Police, will put into operation set procedures and direct spectators accordingly. Spectators are asked to comply with these instructions. Please remain calm and observe the directions given to you.

Please remember the Club Stewards are here to assist you and we hope that you have an enjoyable visit, in a safe environment at the Stadium.

Cliff Simpson - Stadium Manager

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Crewe Alexandra Official Programme Programme Editor: Harold Finch

Views expressed by individual contributors are not necessarily those of the Football Club





## MAN OF THE MATCH AWARDS



For our home tie with Sunderland on 20th December, we were delighted to welcome **ETERNIT CLAY TILES** as main Match Sponsors.

Eternit Clay Tiles is a local company based at Madeley Heath, Crewe. Managing Director David Graham is also an Executive Season Ticket holder and avid Crewe fan, and is pictured above presenting Marcus Bignot with his man of the match award, a bottle of champagne. Many thanks David and Happy New Year.

Once again Marcus Bignot was adjudged Man of the Match for his contribution to the game against Manchester City on 26th December. **NWF AGRICULTURE** were our Match Sponsors, and pictured right presenting the award is Stewart Harvey. Many thanks for all the support, and best wishes for 1998.

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# Claire News



## MATCH BALL SPONSOR



**ScS Upholstery Specialists** were one of our match ball sponsors for the Sunderland fixture played on 20th December. Ian Turpin has been involved with the club as a sponsor for the last two years and we look forward to continuing support from **ScS Upholstery Specialists**, based at the Grand Junction Retail Park in Crewe.

A word of thanks also goes to the **Alsager Butchers** for the match ball sponsorship and also **The Cheshire Cheese, Shavington**.

## CLUB SHOP NEWS

Happy New Year to all our supporters.

For the new year, the club shop will have all adult away shirts at a reduced rate of £25, Centre of Excellence sweatshirts for £10 and fleece shorts for a special price of £9.50.

We also have in stock new Crewe Alex scarves and new Adidas hats, perfect for keeping warm whilst watching the Alex.

For all our supporters that actually play football themselves, we have the perfect training gear to keep the winter chills out: Stadium jackets, shorts, fleece pants, drill pants and Adidas rain jackets in red and blue, which are perfect for training and keeping the rain out.

The club shop also stocks all videos of our games for this season and videos from the goals of the season and our memorable day at Wembley against Brentford.

Please remember that official merchandise is only stocked in the club shop and several high street stores. Support your club and only buy official merchandise.

## Match Mascots

### SAM BROWN

Sam is nearly six years old, lives in Shavington and attends Shavington County Primary School.

He enjoys swimming and football, with his favourite players being Ryan Giggs and Mark Rivers.

Any spare time that Sam has, he helps his grandad in the family business, the Raleigh Cycle Centre of Crewe, J.E. Williams & Son.



### CHRISTOPHER REGAN

To say that Christopher was pleased to find out that he had won the competition to be mascot would be an understatement; he was delighted.

He had been planning his eighth birthday for this year (in August) after he had been mascot for his seventh, for which he had a great time. So to be mascot again is something special for him, he will love leading the teams out with Shaun for today's match.

Christopher now plays for a team himself, Sandbach Ramblers Under 8's in the Diamond Soccer League.

Although his team have yet to win, he has scored a few goals and is enjoying playing.

## STOP-PRESS

**19th January: CREWE ALEXANDRA versus MANCHESTER CITY**  
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# A Personal View

## BY HAROLD FINCH

On the last occasion that the Sky Television cameras were at Gresty Road it was a fixture against Preston North End and on that occasion Crewe won the game 1-0 thanks to a 41st minute strike from Dele Adebola. Whether history will be able to repeat itself in this afternoon's game against Swindon Town we will have to wait and see.

On the subject of games, it is often quite easy to recall specific results against individual teams but not quite so easy when it comes to being able to quote who the opposition were on a particular date. An easy test on this aspect can be found in the following question - name the opposition for Crewe Alexandra in the first game they played in 1997?

Very often, the first game of any year is a Third Round F.A. Cup tie, assuming of course that your team has survived to that stage, but in 1997 that was not the case. For both the Crewe side and supporters alike it involved possibly the longest trip that they were required to undertake, it was down to Home Park, Plymouth for a league fixture there. January 11th was the date of the first game of 1997 and Crewe lost 1-0. Weather conditions were so poor that unless you happened to be right behind the goal that Plymouth were attacking then you had little or no chance to see the ball go into the net. By the time that goal was scored the mist was so bad that it was difficult to see from one side of the pitch to the other.

The New Years Honours List for 1998 made very interesting reading, particularly for Crewe Alexandra supporters. One of those who will receive the M.B.E. is our manager, Dario Gradi - having had the pleasure of being in regular contact with him ever since he arrived to take over at Gresty Road, it is an honour well deserved. What he has done for Crewe Alexandra in particular and football in general is well known - long may he continue to be in charge of our affairs.

Another of those honoured, this time with a Knighthood, is Tom Finney, now to be known as Sir Tom Finney. As one of the older generation, I had the pleasure of seeing him during his time in the England team and when the time came for him to 'hang up his boots', the game lost a great player. Here again, I have been able to meet him when he was down at Gresty Road with his home town team, Preston North End, the easiest way I can describe him is just to say that in my opinion, he is one of nature's gentlemen.

Back now to the playing side and, at the time of writing, there is still an element of doubt as to whether Christian Gross at Tottenham will be able to get a work permit for fitness coach, Fritz Schmidt, the man he wants to have alongside him at White Hart Lane. The

delay in this particular area has aroused more than a little speculation as to whether Gross would in fact go back to Switzerland should that permission be denied by the Department of Education and Employment. Now that Jurgen Klinsmann has returned to Spurs until the end of the current season, there has even been speculation as to whether he could in fact take over the managerial responsibilities there.

Liverpool, who had been trying to get a work permit for Brad Friedl for several weeks, did at last succeed, but so far he has only been on the bench. In view of the clause that players have to play in a certain percentage of games in order that their permit can be renewed, unless he does break into the side very quickly, then he will not be able to get that required percentage to allow him to continue to remain over here.

The unbeaten run compiled by Manchester United came to an end when they recently visited Highfield Road to take on Coventry City. Although they did come back from being a goal down to being 2-1 in front, a late rally by the home side eventually saw Coventry win 3-2, the scorer of that winning goal being Darren Huckerby, who had both played and scored for Millwall during his spell on loan there last season. Perhaps we should not have been too surprised to see Coventry upset the odds. Remember last season when they were fighting for survival? They had to go to Anfield, and what happened, once more, against the odds, they produced a result, they won 2-1, a late goal from Dion Dublin clinching the valuable points.

Every week, a great deal of space is devoted by the newspapers to the players from a wide variety of countries who come over to England to join clubs, mostly in the Premier League. It is therefore a much rarer event to read of a player going from this country overseas. The most recent player to move in the opposite direction is Karel Poborsky, who went from Manchester United to join Benfica. He has been unable to command a regular place in the United line-up and has now moved to a new club to get regular first team football.

I make it a regular habit, or whatever other term you could use, to see all the programmes issued by the various league clubs, Scottish programmes, and also a wide variety from the non league scene, every season. At one time, the non league scene provided a great range of issues at prices much less than those issued in the leagues. Nowadays the position has changed a great deal and there are many, particularly in the Vauxhall Conference, where the cover price is identical to some of those within the league structure.

Naturally, there are many things which catch the eye. It may be the odd photograph, particularly when it shows a former Crewe player; it may be a particular comment about some topic or other, or something much more obscure. Have you ever really read that particular column which depicts all the club officials listed at a club? As our own readers are well aware, that is a practice that is not done in our own issue nowadays.

Within those lists there are a whole variety of duties listed: Groundsmen, Safety Officers, Football in the Community, Coaches, whether for fitness or otherwise. So far, I have failed to find Dietician listed, although it is a well known fact that at some clubs, that specialist advice is sought or given. Norwich City, with Delia Smith now prominent in that field being a prime example. The most intriguing that I have come across within the Football League is that of "Proof Reader" - it does not specify whether it applies only to the matchday programme or whether it is something that applies to all the printed word that emanates from that particular club. It may be something that other clubs could take on board!

Firsts - these are becoming the order of the day, particularly in respect of games undertaken by Crewe Alexandra this season. The next game which comes under this title will be the away fixture with West Bromwich Albion at The Hawthorns. It will be the first league meeting between the sides and the first time that the senior side will have been there. A few years ago our Youth team played there, but with it being on a Saturday morning and with the first team at home on the same day, many, including myself, had to miss it.

Crewe fans were well in evidence at the away fixture at Bury on the 28th December, the precise figure being very close to the 1,000 mark. The team have been very well supported wherever they have been and can make themselves heard just as they did when Dele scored that equalising goal at Gigg Lane.

One would expect that in the Premier League, there would be no such thing as a power breakdown when a game takes place in the evening, but in fact there have been three games where play has had to be abandoned so far this season. The first of these came at Derby County, to be followed by another at West Ham United and the most recent being at Crystal Palace, where the game between Wimbledon and Arsenal was taking place. No doubt there will be some high level discussions to avoid if at all possible any recurrence.

And finally, had you realised that Crewe Alexandra had already had a manager who had been awarded the M.B.E. - the person concerned being Arfon Griffiths, who had received his honour while still with Wrexham.

HAROLD FINCH



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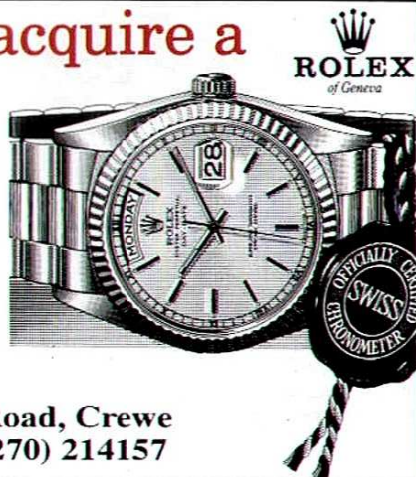
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# THE PERECS PAGE

with  
Graham McGarry

**BBC RADIO STOKE -  
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First of all, on behalf of everyone connected with the local media in South Cheshire, may we offer our congratulations to Dario Gradi (M.B.E.) for his deserved recognition in the New Years Honours List.

One point interesting to come out of the first weekend of those in football being honoured, were F.A. Cup exits for all the main recipients. Sir Tom Finney (Preston) beaten by Stockport, Mark Hughes (Chelsea) beaten by Manchester United, and we need no reminding of what happened at Gresty Road eight days ago.

Seriously though, Dario's award is a fine achievement for him personally and for a club at this level whose resources are limited due to the current size of the stadium.

But the Alex Chairman John Bowler told the *Alexandra Special*: "It's a great honour for everyone connected with the club, and that's how I see Dario taking it. All those who know him know that football is his life, and it would be hard to associate him with anything else. The one great strength

he has is to come back from setbacks and in football that is a real quality."



**JOHN BOWLER**

The second longest serving manager, John Rudge at Port Vale, who himself would be another manager worthy of recognition also paid tribute to Dario. He said: "He's achieved a miracle at the Alex, I remember

when he came to the club what it was like then and what they've got now. Not only has he brought them up from the old Fourth Division, their training ground facilities are outstanding. Well done Dario."

The recent Alex quiz that hopefully kept you busy over the holiday period created plenty of interest amongst you, the supporters, and I'm delighted to announce that Adam Copnall of Sandbach was the outright winner. I'll be contacting him shortly to invite him as my match day guest.

Welcome this afternoon to our visitors, Swindon Town, who of course were the opponents on that history making opening day of the new First Division season for Crewe. While today's result may be hard to predict, one thing that can be guaranteed today is that the weather conditions won't be anything like the two teams had to contend with at the County Ground in August; one remembers temperatures in the 90s.

Finally, a warm welcome to the Sky TV team who are here this afternoon to cover the game. It's their first visit of the season. Hopefully a former BBC Radio colleague of mine, Rob Hawthorne and his match summariser Alan Brazil will continue their winning partnership at Gresty Road. Just a reminder that their last appearance here saw the Alex beat Preston.

Enjoy the game,

GRAHAM



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**Alex in Action**







*After 30 years reporting on North Staffordshire sport for The Sentinel, including six years covering Crewe's rise from the Third Division to the First, PETER HEWITT has retired. But he is maintaining his links at Gresty Road with a regular column of news and views on the Alex scene.*

CHRIS LIGHTFOOT has stayed cheerful as a nagging ankle problem has kept him on the sidelines since early September. But he is hoping the New Year will bring him a change of luck.

Lightfoot has had problems with his right ankle for two years. He says: "I needed an operation when I was at Wigan which seemed to clear it up.

I kept getting the odd twinge, but I seemed to have put it all behind me last summer when I trained well. Steve Macauley's ankle problems meant that there was an opening for me and I was ready for the chance."

He began the season partnering Ashley Westwood, but then he twisted the suspect ankle and Crewe's local specialist sent him to another specialist at Oswestry where a second operation was considered to be the best cure.

Chris says: "The surgeon took some 'debris' out and shaved a bone.. It has felt fine since and it is just a matter of strengthening my ankle again.

I need a few reserve games now to get back to full match fitness before I am ready for the next challenge of getting my place back."

Since Lightfoot got to know the new Reaseheath injuries clinic quite well, Crewe have brought in Dave Walton and Mark Foran, while Lee Unsworth has also moved into the jinxed central defensive places.

If the pattern continues, Lightfoot will be ready to return when some of his rivals are forced out. Not that he is wishing ill on his colleagues, but the injury blows to the defensive set have become something of a joke.

Chris admits: "It was a body blow when I was hurt again for I had just forced my way back into the side through Macca's absence and I felt I was playing well.

Now I am probably some way down the pecking order. But the way things have gone this season there always seems to be an opening for a defender. There are seven of us competing for two places, but that is when everyone is fit which never seems to happen.

But I am not a one position defender. I can adapt to any change of system that the boss makes. So you can never take anything for granted. I just have to get myself fully fit and take it from there."

Fran Tierney is also looking to 1998 to give his career a kick start after his increasing weight last summer prompted Dario Gradi to send him to

soccer's version of Weight Watchers.

At his best Tierney should be forging a regular spot in the attacking system. The 22-year-old Merseysider admits: "I was eating the wrong food and putting on weight.

It was my own fault and I knew I had to get weight off if I was to get through 90 minutes at First Division level."

Crewe's remedy has been to send him to a Manchester University fitness expert, who has helped Olympic athlete Butch Reynolds in the past.

Tierney said: "The specially designed programme is aimed at getting you fitter and faster, but without outdoor running."

It is based around a treadmill and then a day of special exercises. My weight has come off and I feel fitter for the course.

I am sorry I let myself go, but I complete the course in another week's time and I feel great again."

Fran came close to joining Liverpool in the summer of 1995, but has put his anguish in the past and just wants to play a part in the First Division cause.

He accepts it is a hard division for everyone, but just wants the chance to prove himself again.

The F.A. Cup story is a tale of highs and lows. Take Swindon's case when they were humbled in the West Country gales by Stevenage.

Manager Paul Fairclough used psychology to get his squad in the right shape. He said: "I told the lads they were probably meeting Swindon at the right time for they had lost six of their last eight games."

Now his team can plan for a fourth round date with Kenny Dalglish and Newcastle's 'Toon Army' while Steve McMahon looks to lift his troops to provide a backlash at Gresty Road today.

McMahon admitted he sensed the timing was set for an upset. He said: "We never seemed to learn about the conditions. Our keeper had trouble kicking even with the wind in the first half, yet after the break when we faced the gale we kept knocking the ball back to him from the halfway line."

Former Peterborough striker Giuliano Grazioli, who played against Crewe last season, joined Stevenage last month for what his manager described as "three packets of crisps and a Mars Bar."

After scoring the winner he cracked: "If the Italian manager wants me I live not too far away from Stansted Airport to fly out."

Birmingham manager Trevor Francis has been on a knife edge this season, but he felt his expensively assembled team is getting its act together after ensuring Crewe's exit at the first attempt.

He said: "We are in a good seam at present when we do not look like getting beaten. I did not think there was any doubt about the result once we had gone into the lead."

Perhaps when he goes over the match video he might have second thoughts. If Dele had managed to keep down a last gasp header there would have been a replay.

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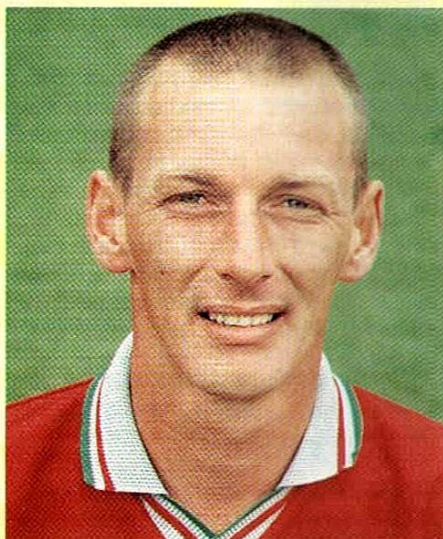






## Welcome to SWINDON TOWN

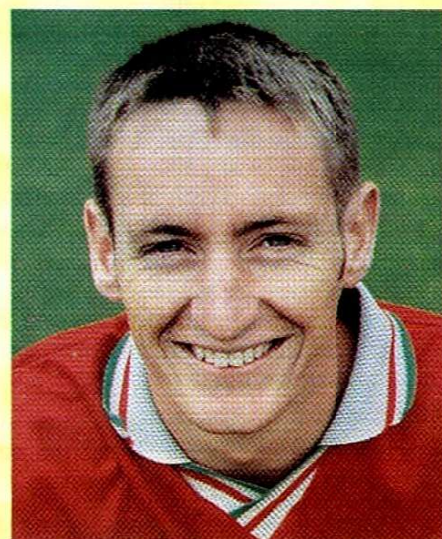
It was in November 1994 that **STEVE McMAHON** was appointed as Manager of Swindon Town F.C. In his first season in charge he took his side to the Championship of the Second Division. During his previous playing career he had collected almost all the honours available to him for both club and country. He began his career with Everton and after playing 100 games for them then moved to Aston Villa for a fee of £175,000. From there he went back to Merseyside to join Liverpool for £375,000 and he collected both league and cup winners medals during his time at Anfield. He also won 17 Full International caps for England and was in the 1990 World Cup squad. At Christmas 1991 he moved from Liverpool to Manchester City for a fee of £900,000 and continued to perform at the top level before moving down to Swindon.



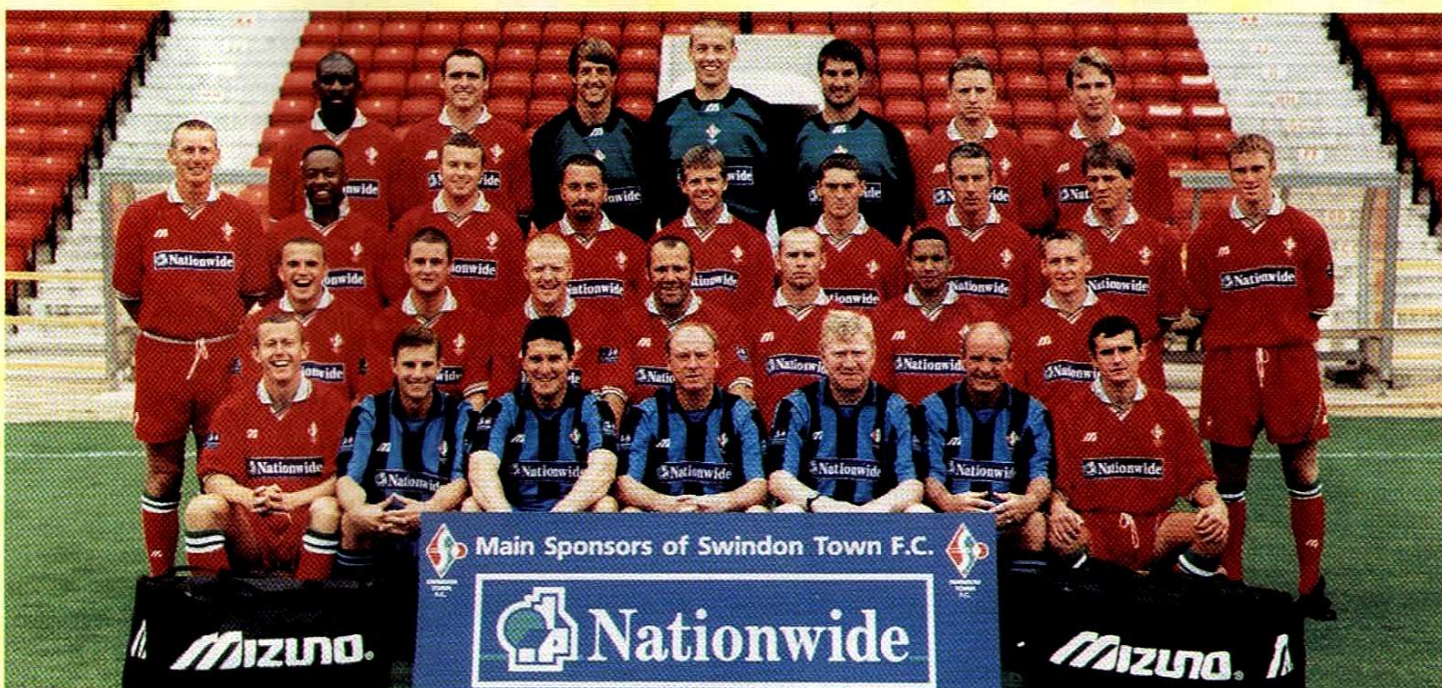
### A Most Experienced International Defender and an Attacker of Promise

During last summer **ALAN McDONALD** (left) moved from Queens Park Rangers to Swindon Town in a two year deal. All his previous time in football had been with QPR. A very talented defender who has been capped on 53 occasions for Northern Ireland and has also captained his country. Was born in Belfast.

**STEVE COWE** (right). He came down to Swindon Town firstly on loan from Aston Villa but was quickly made a permanent signing. Although not a tall player, he has a great deal of pace and is also skilful. Scored 7 times last season.



## Swindon Town Football Club - Season 1997/98



**Back Row** (left to right): Wayne Allison (left club), Mark Seagraves, Fraser Digby, Steve Mildenhall, Frank Talia, Steve Finney, Kevin Watson. **Middle Row**: Alan McDonald, Mark Walters, Craig Taylor, Gary Elkins, Mark Robinson, Scott Leitch, Ian Culverhouse, Frederic Darras, Alex Finlayson. **2nd Front Row**: Lee Collins, Peter Holcroft, Phil King, Darren Bullock, Wayne O'Sullivan (left club), Ty Gooden, Steve Cowe. **Front Row**: Jason Drysdale, Jonathan Trigg (Physiotherapist), Ross McLaren (Reserve Team Coach), Steve McMahon (Team Manager), Mike Walsh (1st Team Coach), Les O'Neill (Chief Scout), Alex Smith.



# Welcome to Swindon Town

The last four league results for Swindon Town have seen them slip down from 6th place in the league table, and a play off position, down to 9th gaining just one point from the 12 that were available. However there are many games still to go and they will bounce back, of that there can be little doubt.

Crewe were the first visitors to the County Ground on the 9th August, and, as has been the pattern, they failed to win there, the home side running out 2-0 winners. The goals came from Finney and Allison, one of that pair of scorers will be unable to add to his total in this televised game this afternoon for Wayne Allison moved to Huddersfield Town.

Ipswich Town became the first team to defeat Swindon in the league, that came on the 2nd September with Ipswich winning 2-1 at Portman Road, on the 28th December they conceded the double to them with Ipswich winning 2-0 down at the County Ground.

One of their league results which seemed right out of character was the 6-0 defeat at the hands of Manchester City, their heaviest defeat of the season. That reverse obviously had some effect for in their next game they defeated Port Vale 4-2. In that game Chris Hay scored his first hat trick for the club, and that has also been the only one registered by a Swindon player to date. The spell continued with a 3-0 win over Bury.

Away victories for Swindon this season have been at Reading 1-0, at Stoke City 2-1, and also at Portsmouth 1-0. It was back on the 31st October that they registered their last away win, since then they have lost 4-2 at Stockport, 3-0 at Charlton, and also 3-0 at Nottingham Forest.

It will be the first game this season where Crewe will have appeared live before the cameras of SKY TV, this is not the case for our visitors as Swindon have already featured during the present season.

A player who finished his own playing career in the league with Crewe, Colin Prohett had also served with Swindon Town for a period of four years. During that spell Colin had to take over the mantle of deputy keeper due to injury to the starting custodian. This happened on two different occasions but the irony was that in each case it had been against his own former club Sheffield Wednesday.

Just like Crewe, Swindon have not had any success in cup competitions this season. In the Coca Cola Cup they had lost 2-0 at home to Watford and although they did manage to hold the Vicarage Road outfit to a 1-1 draw in the second leg, they went out on aggregate 3-1.

Only last weekend, their run in the F.A. Cup this season was to be just one game, they went down 2-1 at home to the Vauxhall Conference side Stevenage.

In terms of attendances the best so far down at Swindon is the 15,228 who were there for the Middlesbrough game, it will be interesting to see whether that total will be beaten before the end of the season.

At Swindon in the capacity of first team coach is **MIKE WALSH**, he took up this position in October 1996. In his playing career he had been with Everton, Manchester City and also Blackpool and in addition had been Manager of Bury for five years. Capped on four occasions by the Republic of Ireland. Was delighted to join up with former colleague Steve McMahon.

...

The longest serving player on the Swindon staff is keeper **FRASER DIGBY** and he was

awarded a testimonial game at the beginning of the current season. Had been an apprentice with Manchester United and came down to Swindon firstly on loan and then on a permanent basis for a fee of £325,000. Has been capped at Under 21 level by England.

Other keepers on the staff are Australian born **FRANK TALIA** who came down to Swindon from Blackburn Rovers in August 1992. He had been on loan to Swindon before he made it a permanent move in November 1996. Has found it difficult to establish himself as a regular first choice keeper. Just

one during the current campaign has **STEVE MILDENHALL** taken over the No. 1 spot, this was in the game against Portsmouth. He is a young keeper who has come through the YTS. He was born in Swindon.

**IAN CULVERHOUSE.** He began his career with Spurs but then moved to Norwich City where he served them with distinction for a total of nine seasons. A defender with a wealth of first team football and when moving to Swindon in December 1994 his transfer fee of £250,000 was set by a league tribunal.

**MARK ROBINSON.** Born in Rochdale, it was with West Bromwich Albion that his entry into league football came. From there he made the short journey to Barnsley and it was during his time at Oakwell that Newcastle United came in for him and they paid a fee of £450,000 to secure his services. Injury while at Newcastle United caused him to lose his first team place and it was at that time, July 1994 that Swindon moved in for him, the fee then being a record fee of £600,000. Although primarily a full back he can also play in the centre of the defence when required.

**LEE COLLINS.** Born at Bellshill in Scotland. He was forced to miss the majority of the 96/97 Season through injury but the club had faith in him and he signed a two year extension to his contract. Lee likes to play in one of the midfield positions in the side, has a great determination to establish a regular spot in the team.

**CRAIG TAYLOR.** He is the younger brother of former Swindon Town favourite Shaun. He had been spotted in non league football playing with Dorchester Town and was invited to Swindon for a trial. He impressed the club during that trial period and it was in April 1997 that he signed a three year contract for a fee of £25,000. He is considered to have the potential to be an even better player than his older brother.

**MARK WALTERS.** On his day he is one of the most talented wingers around. His career has seen him playing at top level with Aston Villa, Glasgow Rangers and then Liverpool before he was sidelined by a serious knee injury. It was during the Summer of 1997 that he joined Swindon on a free transfer. Swindon are convinced that once he is fully fit he will be causing many problems for opposing defences.

**KEVIN WATSON.** He is a young player who came through the junior ranks at Tottenham and had only made 12 first team



appearances for them before Terry Venables allowed him to go out on loan to Bristol City and then Barnet. He was allowed to move to Swindon on a free transfer. Has so far failed to score during the current season.

**CHRIS HAY.** He had been signed from Celtic just before the opening of the 97/98 Season and it was against Crewe that he made his debut for Swindon on the 9th August. He moved for a fee of £300,000 and has proved to be an excellent front man and although he has had to miss games through suspension and injury he is easily the top scorer for the team. Has a fine turn of speed.

**GEORGE NDAH.** He joined the club from Crystal Palace in November for a fee of £500,000 and it was against Middlesbrough that he made his Swindon debut. Although losing that game he did score the Swindon goal and has played in all the games since then. Played against Crewe when he was with Palace in their Youth side.

**TY GOODEN.** Has been an ever present in the Swindon Town line-up this season. This has been a great boost for him as he had to miss a lot of the 96/97 Season through injuries. He had been with Wycombe Wanderers and after being released by them he was invited for trials and at the end of them was taken on a permanent basis.

**SCOTT LEITCH.** Most of his football had been played in Scotland, with Motherwell, Dunfermline Athletic and Hearts. Another player to have had a successful loan period at the club before being taken on a permanent arrangement. The club consider that they got him for a bargain price, the fee being just £15,000. Plays either in a midfield role or in the defence.

**STEVE FINNEY.** He had come on a free transfer from Manchester City and following that move had scored a total of 16 goals for the club. He had suffered a broken ankle but has made a complete recovery from that injury and has already been amongst the goals this season.

**GARY ELKINS.** He had played for Fulham as a youngster before moving to Wimbledon in August 1990 for a fee of £20,000. During his time at Wimbledon he developed a reputation of being a hard tackling defender. He went off to make over 100 first team appearances for the Dons before joining Swindon Town in September 1996 for a fee of £100,000.

**BRIAN BORROWS.** It was only in November 1997 that this long serving member of the Coventry City staff was allowed to move on a free transfer and was given an 18 month contract by the club. He very quickly settled into the first team squad after his arrival.

**JASON DRYSDALE.** He is another former Newcastle United player to have moved down to Swindon. The fee for his transfer being £340,000. Since his arrival he has had more than his fair share of injuries but keeps coming back. Was also a Youth player when with Watford.

# TEAM CHECK

## CREWE ALEXANDRA

Red Shirts, White Trim, Red Shorts

Manager: **Dario Gradi** M.B.E.

TEAM	Changes	Goal Time
1 JASON KEARTON		
2 MARCUS BIGNOT		
3 SHAUN SMITH		
4 LEE UNSWORTH		
5 DAVE WALTON		
6 PHIL CHARNOCK		
7 MARK RIVERS		
8 PAUL HOLSGROVE		
9 DELE ADEBOLA		
10 SETH JOHNSON		
11 COLIN LITTLE		
12		
13		
14		

## SWINDON TOWN

Royal Blue Shirts & Shorts

Manager: **Steve McMahon**

TEAM	Changes	Goal Time
1 FRASER DIGBY		
2 IAN CULVERHOUSE		
3 MARK ROBINSON		
4 LEE COLLINS		
5 ALAN McDONALD		
6 CRAIG TAYLOR		
7 MARK WALTERS		
8 KEVIN WATSON		
9 CHRIS HAY		
10 GEORGE NDAH		
11 TY GOODEN		
12		
13		
14		

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EQUIPMENT

### Officials

Referee: **A.R. LEAKE** (Darwen)

Assistant Referees:

**A.S. Hogg** (Red & Yellow Flag)

**D.P. Morrison** (Yellow Flag)

Reserve Official: **S.C. Whitehurst**

### Meet the Referee

**Anthony Leake** has been involved with refereeing since 1983. Came through the various leagues and went on the National List of Referees in 1995. Enjoys Cross County Running, Reading and Music





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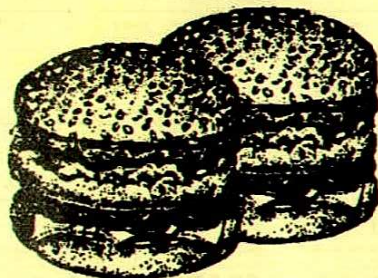


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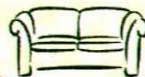


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# In the Crowd

## YOU CAN'T DO THAT TO ME...I'M A SLEEPING GIANT

The latest in a series of ignorant and arrogant comments by supporters of so-called 'big teams' has been made, in print, by Bryan Brett esq., of the Manchester Evening News (a Manchester City supporter). He wrote in his column that:

*"The whole, unacceptable situation overwhelmed me an hour after police officer Trevor Jones blew the final whistle. Standing on Crewe's main, old-fashioned and modest wooden stand as the lights went out, one by one, in the media area, it was as depressing a place as any Blue, in his most nightmarish moments, could experience. What is this all about? I asked myself. How can multi-million pound Manchester City come to Gresty Road and lose to a side that goes down on its knees to find a few thousand to pick up the odd player from the bargain basement?"*

The fact is, as anyone who went to that match will testify, that in the first half the Alex footballled them to death and in the second half, when they came out with some badly needed fire in their bellies, we defended well. We hoofed the ball clear when it was necessary and played it out of defence when we could. On the whole, an excellent performance in which it would be hard to pick out any player for serious criticism.

Add to that the fact that many people to whom I have spoken agree that Manchester City were the poorest side we have seen at Gresty Road this season.

But as I have said above, this is just the latest in a series of such comments. It started when we played Middlesbrough off the park early on in the season and were unlucky not to have won comfortably. Bryan Robson apparently said after the game that it was the most

boring game he had ever seen and that we were lucky to get away with a draw. In fact his side were distinctly mediocre, for all its value, whilst the Alex played good quality, pass-and-move football.

The comments kept coming. Karren Brady, that well known expert on football, and Chief Executive of Birmingham City Football Club, was reported to have said that if her boys couldn't beat Crewe they didn't deserve to be in the First Division. At least the manager, Trevor 'the extremely successful manager' Francis, had the decency to admit that he and his players had failed to pay us the respect we were due and that he had neglected to run the rule over us before the game. Call me naïve, but I thought that it was standard practice to have a look at the opposition before a game. Apparently it is not. Very few managers actually do, except for **major** games.

There was that headline on the front page of the Green 'Un. Whilst I enjoyed the thought that the Stoke City supporters felt humiliated by the fact that the Alex had whupped them, the headline betrayed a patronising and arrogant attitude towards us. It is the sort of headline you would have expected if they had been beaten by a local lads'n' dads team, not by a fellow first division team.

The next stupid comment was one uttered by that master of the art of football management, Bryan Robson. After going down to Manchester City a few weeks back, he was quoted as opining that Manchester City would dispose of the Alex with ease.

All of these comments have one thing in common, apart that is from the arrogance and condescension with which they are loaded, and that is that they are based on an outdated

view of who and what Crewe Alexandra Football Club is. It seems to have escaped their attention that since Dario Gradi MBE took over in June, 1983, the club has sold some sixteen players to First Division and premiership clubs. Most, if not all, made their professional debut with the Alex and they were all either brought out of obscurity or trained and coached from childhood by the Gradi youth development machine.

We are in the First Division because we are a good side capable of defending a place in that division. We are no longer the side that spent many seasons in the seventies and early eighties applying for re-election. On our day we are a class side that is capable of giving even the best a run for their money.

The problem, as I have already said, is one of perception and expectation. All the clubs from which these asinine statements have come are 'big clubs' who take the view that because they are 'big clubs' they have a divine right to do well. Because we are a 'small club', we have no right to beat them. We must bow and scrape every time we meet them. They expect that because they have rich benefactors they must do well. Jack Walker will attest to the fact that this just doesn't work. In fact, Deloitte and Touche, and their August 1996 'Annual Review of Football Finance' pointed to Everton, Wolves and Newcastle as examples of clubs which had tried to buy success and we all know where they are now relative to where they were three years ago. In the same position and situation, I believe (not won anything and not likely to).

Nobody in football has any divine right to be anywhere. It has to be worked for and deserved. Even the 'Great Manchester United' will have to continue to look to their laurels if they are to maintain their dominance of the English game. Liverpool didn't and they are still trying to recover the ground they lost as a result. We are where we are on merit and we have done nothing to deserve the contempt of people like Mistress Peschisolido (nee Brady) or Master Robson. Indeed, for their attitudes they deserve nothing but contempt from us.

MARCO

## The Seventeen Commandments Part V

As might appear to most of us to be logical, with rule Vee being concerned with the role of the referee, rule Vee One is concerned with the responsibilities of the Referee's Assistants. The linesman's primary duties (I insist on using the old term because it is easier and quicker to type) are flagging for throw-ins, goal kicks, off-sides and substitutions and bringing the referee's attention to incursions that he has not seen. This might suggest to the more irreverent amongst you that most linesmen do not do their job properly. Let's face it, how many times have you seen something happen behind the referee's back and waited for the linesman to frantically wave his flag to stop the game and watched the incursion go unpunished? More times than there are grains of sand in the desert. More times than there are stars in the skies or fish in the seas. And that's just during a single ninety minute game.

What did surprise me was the second part of this rule. If a linesman, in the opinion of the referee, is bringing too many incursions to his attention and is, as a result, getting on the referee's nerves, the ref can have him removed and bring on the fourth official. Now there's encouragement to the linesmen to do their job properly. Not! How many linesmen are going to risk the possibility that the referee will report them to the proper authorities and thereby endanger any chances that they may have of promotion? A rather unsettling thought. One would hope that anyone who goes into the refereeing game would be the type of person who is prepared to put himself on the line to stand up for 'truth, justice and the American way' and so strive to be impeccably honest in all his decisions. But then who's going to stand up for these worthy ideals when it could put their promotion in the bin? Of course they all are.

Other than that, there's really not a great deal to this one. Short, and some might say, sweet. Don't miss the next thrilling instalment of this

thrilling series. Part Vee One next.

## VI - The Assistant Referees Duties

Two assistant referees are appointed whose duties, subject to the decision of the referee, are to indicate:

- when the whole of the ball has passed out of the field of play.
- which side is entitled to a corner kick, goal kick or throw-in.
- when a player may be penalised for being in an offside position.
- when a substitution is requested.
- when misconduct or any other incident has occurred out of the view of the referee.

## Assistance

The assistant referees also assist the referee to control the match in accordance with the Laws of the Game. In the event of undue interference or improper conduct, the referee will relieve an assistant referee of his duties and make a report to the appropriate authorities.



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Cricket Team



## MARCUS BIGNOT

**Home Kit:**  
a. Angela & Arthur Carter  
c. Craig and Allan

**Away Kit:**



## SETH JOHNSON

**Home Kit:**  
a. Richard King and  
Anna Mason, London

**Away Kit:**  
Full Kit - Envirocare



## DELE ADEBOLA

**Home Kit:**  
a. Mr. Jones & all his cronies  
b. Love Betty  
c. London Alex

**Away Kit:**  
Full Kit - Brenda - Concorde  
Trophies - Your No. 1 Fan



## STEVE ANTHROBUS

**Home Kit:**  
Full Kit - Crewe Alex  
Supporters Coaches

**Away Kit:**



## MARK RIVERS

**Home Kit:**  
b. Simon Wood  
c. & e. Batigol

**Away Kit:**



## JAMIE MORALEE

**Home Kit:**  
Full Kit -  
Sandbach Travelling Alex

**Away Kit:**



## KEVIN STREET

**Home Kit:**  
a. Aston-Juxta-Mondrum  
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## DAVE WALTON

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a. In memory of  
Christopher Mark Whiston

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P. Jones	Meridian Land Surveys (T. Ward) P. Williams, Chemist (Mr. I. Scaiffe)
21/10/97 IPSWICH TOWN	
	Nestlé BSL Ltd.
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8/11/97 OXFORD UNITED	
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NWF	The Wheatsheaf, Onneley, Omega Music NW Post Office Recreation Assn.

MATCH	BALL
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11/1/98 SWINDON TOWN	
Rowlinson Packaging	Rob Hales, RNH Farm & Dairy Equipment
31/1/98 NORWICH CITY	
GB Sports Scene	Alvaston Hall Hotel (Warner Holidays)
14/2/98 PORTSMOUTH	
Mr. Maurice Mogg	In Memory of T. Nichols Toad Innovations
17/2/98 BIRMINGHAM CITY	
Phil Grocott	Nestlé
28/2/98 READING	
Phil Grocott	
7/3/98 NOTTINGHAM FOREST	
Nestlé / CostCutter	Holland's Pies
21/3/98 CHARLTON ATHLETIC	
Rolls Royce Motors	Mr. Ken Rose
4/4/98 SHEFFIELD UNITED	
Nestlé / Spar	
13/4/98 STOKE CITY	
CHK Engineering	Valebrook Motors, Omega Music
25/4/98 BRADFORD CITY	
Rolls Royce	Crewe+Alsager Faculty Athletic Union B.U.S.A/Halifax





## FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY



One of our new initiatives for 1998 is a regular comprehensive coaching night on Tuesday evenings at The Vagrants Sports Club. For those of you who are not familiar with this venue, it is opposite the Horseshoe Pub on the Newcastle Road, Willaston. I would like to pass on our thanks to groundsman Dave Long for making this facility available to us.

The coaching runs from 7 - 9 p.m. each Tuesday, and there are separate sessions for both boys and girls. They also have the option of attending for one hour or both hours. Either way, if an eight-week block is paid for in advance this will merit a 25% reduction off the overall price. Further information can be obtained on our usual telephone number, 216682, or by calling in person at the Football in the Community Office.



As you might remember from reading these pages, on 13th December we took some of the younger supporters to Festival Park in Hanley, where they enjoyed a few games of ten-pin bowling alongside their counterparts from Stoke. This was organised with the kind assistance of Andy Morgan and his staff at the Stoke City Community Office.

After lunch it was on to the Britannia Stadium to watch the match, where this photograph was taken sometime prior to kick-off. Grr-esty, myself and Andrea are pictured in front of the Crewe youngsters. As you can imagine, a great day was had by all! My thanks to Debbie, Mark and Danny for all their help.

It's still not too late for primary schools to enter this year's Panini Six-a-Side Cup. As usual, this features certificates for all competitors, and prizes for the local winners, who go on to the next stage. More details of this will be given in due course, but at the time of going to press we have had nineteen entries, which still leaves room for a few more. This year we have managed to spread our 'net' a little wider, having received entries from schools such as Davenham, Winsford High Street and Hermitage (Holmes Chapel) as well as the more local ones.

You can find out more on 216682, but entries need to be in quickly as the closing date is next Friday.



## JUNIOR ALEX NEWS

Good afternoon everyone.

Last Wednesday we held the table football competition in the Alexandra Suite. The event was successful and good fun was had by all.

Competition questions:

1. Name three Crewe Alex players who now play for Premier League teams.
2. Who did Crewe play against in the opening league game of the season?
3. Which award has Dario Gradi just received?

Competition forms are available from me in the Junior Reds Room.

Enjoy the match,

DEBBIE

## Trust us to help the game

The Football Trust has been providing support for the game at every level throughout the UK for over 22 years. Its present priority task is to help League clubs to complete the implementation of the Taylor Report recommendations.

Thanks to the Government and to the Football Association, the FA Premier League and the English Sports Council, a major new funding package to secure the future of the Trust has been put in place.

These funds will be in addition to income derived from the football pools companies Littlewoods, Vernons and Zetters, and will enable the Trust to complete its Taylor task, carry on its essential safety work and continue to grant aid football at every level. The Government's commitment to the Trust has the support of everyone who cares about our national game.



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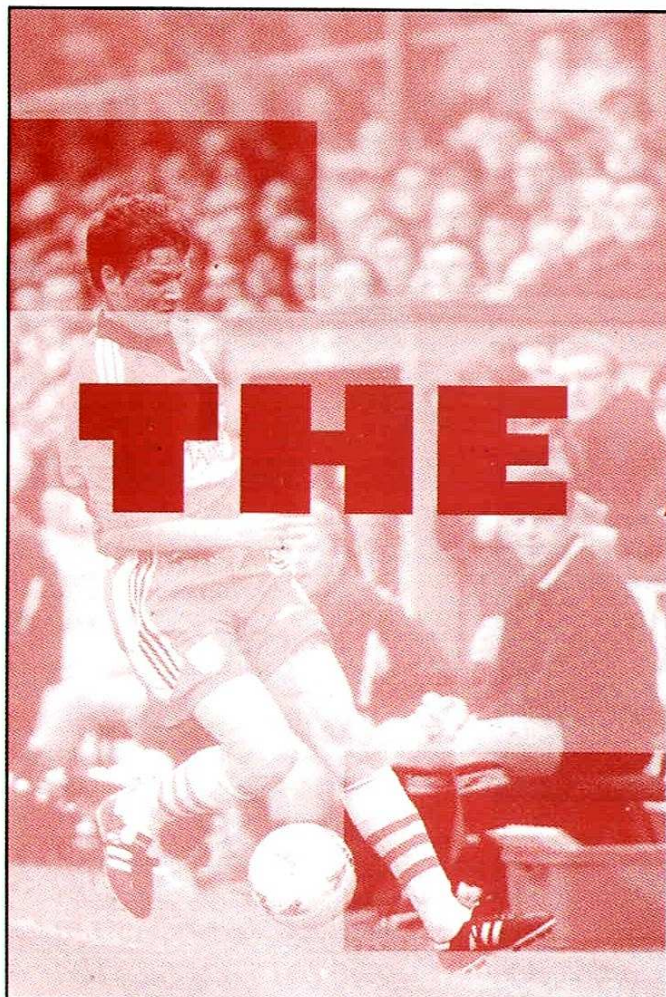


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Every night in the Sentinel

and every Saturday  
in the Green 'Un





# TICKET OFFICE NEWS



with JANE

I thought I would detail some information which you will find useful when booking your tickets.

The Ticket office is open Monday to Friday 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. and on match days from 9.00 a.m. until kick-off and for half an hour after the match.

Telephone bookings by credit card: These can be posted to the card holder's address or held for collection at the ticket office. Credit cards must be shown at the time of collection.

A £1.00 administration charge applies to credit card bookings placed over the telephone.

Postal Bookings: Please enclose cheque, postal order or credit card details along with a stamped addressed envelope if you wish the tickets to be returned to you. Please also give a daytime telephone number as there may be a need to contact you regarding your booking.

Cheques should be made payable to CREWE ALEXANDRA FC.

Please note that it is not our usual policy to give refunds on sold tickets (unless a match is rescheduled, sold out etc.), however we will gladly exchange tickets to another match.

Reservations: Reserved tickets will be held for 4

working days or until 1 hour before kick off, whichever is the soonest. Tickets unpaid for at this time may be placed back on sale.

## SEASON TICKET HOLDERS

**Extra Seats** - Please appreciate that we are not able to offer extra tickets to season ticket holders until the match goes on open sale. However, we will try to do our best, when extra tickets are booked, to seat them as close as possible to your season seat, or if requested, to move your seat to a position where a number of seats can be booked together.

**Unused Season seats:** If you are unable to use your season ticket for any game, we may be able to give you £ 5.00 refund, but only if the game is a sell out.

**For all other matches (i.e. Cup games etc):** For other matches, where your season ticket is available for purchase until the match goes on open sale, we cannot issue any tickets without the season ticket number and your seat details. The season tickets must be produced when booking seats in person at the Ticket Office and when pre-paid tickets are collected.

**Lost Season Tickets:** A charge of £5.00 will apply when a replacement is ordered.

## TICKET SALES TO CLUB MEMBERS:

Tickets are now on sale for every home match until the end of the season to club members only.

**Booking:** We will ask to see your membership card when tickets are booked in person and membership numbers must be quoted when tickets are booked by telephone or post.

**Membership Discount:** The £1.00 discount only applies to tickets paid for up to one week before the match.

All usual booking regulations apply.

**Ticket Office telephone number: 01270 252610**

**Fax number: 01270 216320**

NATIONWIDE BUILDING SOCIETY

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For Youth Football Teams

Branded shirts Nos 1-14

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KICK OFF  
YOUR  
DAY!!**





# YOUTH NEWS AND VIEWS

Compiled by MALCOLM HUGHES

We were all disappointed to see the F.A. Youth Cup match against Manchester City postponed last Tuesday. The boys have all been working hard in preparation at The Vagrants sports ground at Willaston. These preparations have been put on hold as the boys prepared for their return to Lancashire League action against Manchester United yesterday. This match will have been their first match since the beginning of December.

We hope to have the chance to stage the match next Monday 19th January - Kick off 7.30 p.m.. The draw took place this week for the next round and puts the winners of our game up against either Tottenham Hotspur or Luton Town at home.

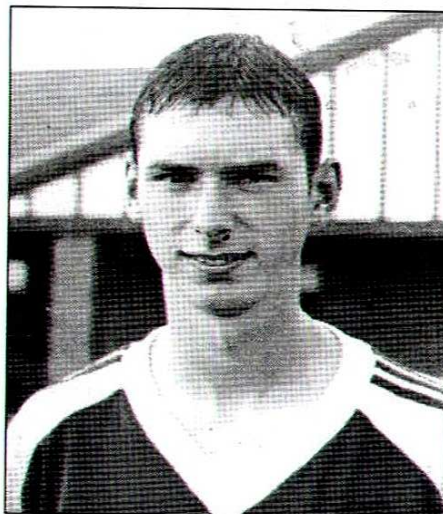
I have been asked many times where most of the current squad originates from and what positions they play. Of the current youth squad both Mark Beeston and Paul Arrowsmith have been fighting both injury and illness in the early parts of the season. Thankfully both players are now near fitness and will be hoping for a clear run from injuries in '98. We have had David Wright featuring in the first team at Norwich earlier in the season.

Kevin Welsby (Goalkeeper) Shrewsbury  
Andrew Jones (Defender/Midfield) Dudley  
Carl Laurie (Defender) Crewe  
Mark Beeston (Defender) Crewe  
Paul Arrowsmith (Defender) Birkenhead  
Richard Walker (Defender) Stafford  
Colin Webster (Defender) Runcorn  
Chris Brown (Midfielder) Milton Keynes  
Stephen Houlth (Midfielder) Rhyl  
David Wright (Defender/Midfield) Warrington  
Stephen Foster (Defender) Warrington  
John Grant (Forward) Manchester  
Gareth Chadwick (Forward) Warrington  
Robert Hulse (Forward) Crewe  
Chris Allen (Forward) Wrexham  
Sam Hill (Forward) Macclesfield  
Chris McCready (Defender/Midfield) Wirral  
Gary Lunt (Defender/Midfield) Runcorn

Finally may I welcome our latest members of the Associate Schoolboy group in Dean Ashton (Holmes Chapel), Mark Johnson (Northwich) and Craig Malbon who comes from here in Crewe. We will of course introduce you to each of them over the coming months.



Mark Beeston  
Back in training



Paul Arrowsmith  
- Back after illness

## Lancashire League Fixtures - SEASON 1997/98

### Division One

Aug.	16 Sat	Marine Reserves	A 4-0
	23 Sat	Manchester Utd 'A'	H 1-3
	30 Sat	Oldham Athletic 'A'	A 0-2
Sep.	6 Sat	Blackburn Rovers 'A'	H post.
	13 Sat	Blackburn Rovers 'A'	A 1-3
	20 Sat	Bolton W. 'A'	H 8-0
	27 Sat	Burnley 'A'	A 2-1
Oct.	10 Fri	Morecambe Res.	A 1-3
	18 Sat	Wrexham 'A'	H 5-6
	25 Sat	Bury 'A'	H 2-1
Nov	1 Sat	Tranmere Rovers 'A'	A 3-1
	15 Sat	Manchester City 'A'	A 2-1
	22 Sat	Marine Res.	H 7-1
	29 Sat	Everton 'A'	A Post
Dec	6 Sat	Oldham Athletic 'A'	H 3-0
	13 Sat	Liverpool 'A'	H 0-1
	20 Sat	Preston N.E. 'A'	H 2-1
Jan	10 Sat	Stoke City 'A'	H
	17 Sat	Burnley 'A'	H
	31 Sat	Tranmere Rovers 'A'	H
Feb	7 Sat	Bury 'A'	A
	21 Sat	Stoke City 'A'	A
Mar	7 Sat	Everton 'A'	H
	14 Sat	Manchester City 'A'	H
	28 Sat	Wrexham 'A'	A
Apr	4 Sat	Bolton W. 'A'	A
	11 Sat	Liverpool 'A'	A
	18 Sat	Morecambe Res.	H
	25 Sat	Manchester United 'A'	A
May	2 Sat	Preston N.E. 'A'	A

### DIVISION TWO

Aug	16 Sat	Bury 'B'	H 1-0
	19 Tue	Tranmere 'B'	H 1-2
	23 Sat	Manchester United 'B'	H 0-2
	30 Sat	Everton 'A'	A 2-3
Sep	6 Sat	Morecambe 'A'	H post
	13 Sat	Carlisle United 'B'	H 4-1
	15 w/c	Stockport County 'A'	A 5-2
	20 Sat	Manchester City 'B'	H 3-1
	27 Sat	Manchester City 'B'	A 0-3
Oct	11 Sat	Blackburn Rovers 'B'	H 0-2
	25 Sat	Bury 'B'	A 5-2
Nov	1 Sat	Rochdale 'A'	H 1-1
	7 Fri	Tranmere Rov. 'B'	A 2-2
	15 Sat	Wigan Athletic 'A'	H 3-0
	22 Sat	Chester City 'A'	A 3-6
	29 Sat	Everton 'B'	H Post
Dec	6 Sat	Blackpool 'A'	A 1-3
	13 Sat	Oldham Athletic 'B'	H Post
	20 Sat	Wrexham 'B'	H 2-1
Jan	10 Sat	Manchester United 'B'	A
	17 Sat	Morecambe 'A'	A
	24 Sat	Carlisle United 'B'	A
	31 Sat	Blackpool 'A'	H
Feb	7 Sat	Liverpool 'B'	H
	14 Sat	Marine Youth	A
	21 Sat	Wigan Athletic 'A'	A
	28 Sat	Burnley 'B'	A
Mar	7 Sat	Marine Youth	H
	14 Sat	Wrexham 'B'	A
	21 Sat	Oldham Athletic 'B'	A
	28 Sat	Liverpool 'B'	A
Apr	4 Sat	Stockport County 'A'	H
	11 Sat	Chester City 'A'	H
	18 Sat	Burnley 'B'	H
	25 Sat	Blackburn Rovers 'B'	A
May	2 Sat	Rochdale 'A'	A

## STOP-PRESS

19th January:

**CREWE ALEXANDRA versus MANCHESTER CITY**  
**F.A. Youth Cup, sponsored by The Times**

Pre-match meals are available at a special rate of £20 per person, this includes a four-course meal, match ticket, tea/coffee at half-time and full use of the bar facilities in the CHK Executive Suite

**Please contact Alison or Claire on 213014 or 252610 to  
reserve your place, A.S.A.P.**



# Crewe Alexandra Disabled Supporters Club

Sponsored by

 **NatWest**

**The Crewe Alexandra Disabled Supporters Club**  
welcomes

**The Swindon Town Disabled Supporters Club**

Gerry Potter formed The Swindon Town Disabled Supporters' Group at the end of the 1996/97 Season. The STD SG became officially recognised by Swindon Town Football club and was gradually expanding until sadly, Gerry passed away in August.

Towards the end of last year, Tony Bedford reorganised the STD SG and the group had their first annual general meeting in December. The group has now over 20 members and is looking towards joining The National Association of Disabled Football Supporters.

From all of us at the CADSC, we hope you have an enjoyable day here at Gresty Road.

**In memory of Gerry Potter**

**Disabled meeting will be  
on Thursday, 5th February  
at 7.30 p.m. in the Alex Club**

**Saturday 17th January  
v W.B.A. - League**

*Ground Name:* The Hawthorns

*Capacity:* 25,329

*Disabled Area:* There are spaces available for away fans in The West Midlands Travel Community Stand.

*Commentaries:* There are 12 spaces available in total.

*Prices:* Disabled free - Helpers £13.00.

*Toilets:* There are disabled toilets in The West Midlands Travel Community Stand.

*Undercover:* The area is at pitch level and is not undercover. Mac's may be available!

*Parking:* There is no specific parking at the club. Parking may be available on The Hawthorns Railway Station Car Park or The Hawthorns Pub Car Park.

**For further information, contact:**

W.B.A. Football Club -  
Diane Aston 0121 525 8888.

The W.B.A. Disabled Supporters Club  
Kevin Candon: 0121 359 6863.

**Tuesday 27th January  
v Port Vale - League**

*Ground Name:* Vale Park

*Capacity:* 22,359

*Disabled Area:* There are 72 spaces in The Main Road End of The Lorne Street terrace. Unfortunately 68 of the spaces are taken up by season ticket holders. The remaining 4 spaces are for either away fans or non-season ticket holders.

*Commentaries:* There are commentaries available at the same charge as the disabled area.

*Prices:* Disabled £6.00 - Helpers £10.00.

*Toilets:* There are toilets available in the disabled area.

*Undercover:* Yes

*Parking:* Disabled parking available in the main car park.

*Comment:* Due to the very limited number of spaces available, pre-booking is recommended as soon as possible.

**For further information, contact:**

Port Vale Football Club  
Main number 0178 814134



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# GRR-ESTY'S PRIDE

in association with



Nestlé



Send all your jokes, letters and ideas to:  
**Grr-esty and Claire, Crewe Alexandra F.C., Gresty Road, Crewe. CW2 6EB**

*Hi Kids. this is our first league home match of 1998 and let's hope it is a good one. Grr-esty and myself would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who sent Christmas cards and presents. It was lovely. Well done once again to Christopher Regan, the young lad who won our competition to be Grr-esty's mascot of the day. I would like to welcome all the children who have travelled here today from Swindon. Hope your visit here is an enjoyable one and have a safe journey home.*

CLAIRE XX

## GUESS THE RESULT

Crewe Alex..... Swindon Town.....

## HALF TIME TEASERS

Unscramble the following to reveal the names of five fruits

1. plepa
2. rngeao
3. apeppneil
4. aaabnn
5. awwapp

## Joke of the Match

Q What do skeletons eat their food off?

A BONE CHINA PLATES

Well done Claire Price for today's joke. Your certificate and Nestlé pack is on its way to you. Claire is aged 7 and lives in Crewe.

## BIRTHDAY MESSAGES

Happy 6th Birthday James Potter on December 12th, love from Mum, Dad and sister Rachel.

Happy Birthday Paul Richards from Auntie Pauline and Uncle Steve

Grr-esty and Claire would like to wish everyone who is celebrating this week a very happy birthday.

## Grr-esty's new friend

Meet my new friend Thomas Clarke, he is 8 years of age and goes to St. Mary School that is in Dane Bank Avenue, he sits in the Ringways Stand with his dad and his best player is Marcus Bignot, and got to meet him not so long ago thanks to Andrea Beaton (Grr-esty's new member of the team) which he enjoyed.

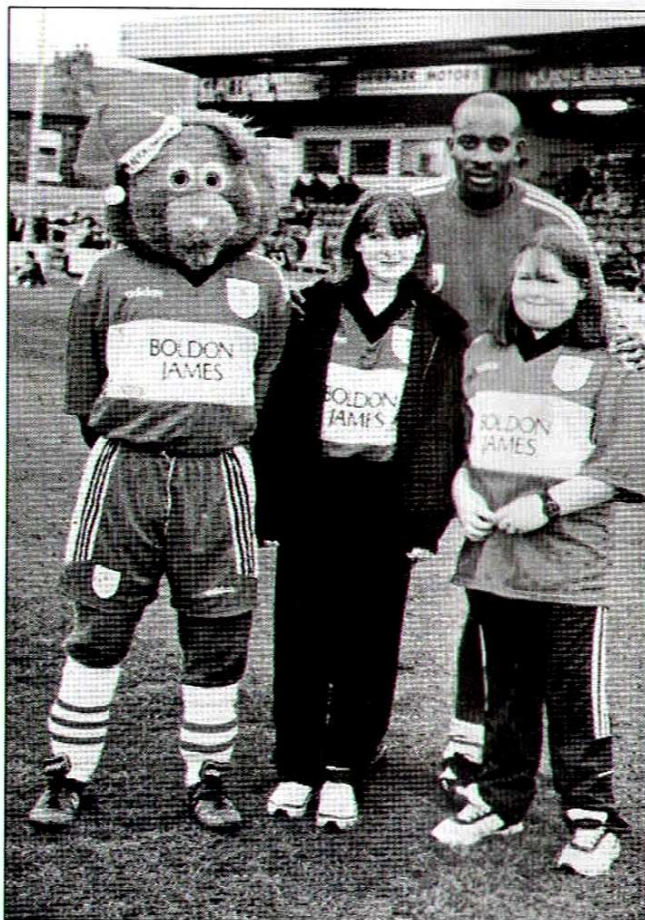
## Grr-esty writes

Thank you Andrea for helping me meet my new friend, did you enjoy meeting Marcus, Thomas, he is a good player and a good friend, see you soon

Keep Writing  
Grr-esty the Lion

## Welcome to my pride

Meet two young ladies who have become new members of my pride, young Becky Shaw and her sister, they are two young Crewe Alex fans, they sit in the Ringways Stand and their best player of Dele, Becky was the first mascot to run out with me when I joined Crewe Alex, Becky is the one in the middle seen here with Dele and her sister and myself



**GRRRESTY!!**

## Grr-esty's Messages

Let me say a big thank you to the two young ladies who help me a lot, that is Claire with out your hard work this page would not be too good, so if you see Claire give her a tap on the back and say "WELL DONE". The other is the new member of my team Andrea Beaton, Andrea went to Stoke City with me, just enjoy yourself and welcome to the pride.

Thank you to Mummy Grr-esty for keeping me looking smart all year round you do a great job.

Thank you to all that support what I do, you are all stars....you know who you are...?

Keep Writing  
Grr-esty the Lion

Friends Come, Friends go....I will still be waiting here, to a friend from a Gemma Edwards dad's birthday today, he is 37.





# FIXTURES 1997/98

F.A. Att.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Sat Aug 9	Swindon Town	A	0-2	8334	Kearton	Unsworth+	Smith	Westwood	Lightfoot	Pemberton+	Rivers	Rivers	Charnock	Little+
Sat Aug 16	Bury (C.C.C. 11)	H	2-3	2618	Kearton	Unsworth	Smith	Westwood	Lightfoot	Pemberton+	Rivers	Rivers	Charnock	Little+
Sat Aug 23	West Bromwich Albion	H	2-3	5234	Kearton	Unsworth	Smith	Westwood	Lightfoot	Pemberton+	Rivers	Rivers	Charnock	Little+
Sat Aug 30	Norwich City	A	2-0	1821	Kearton	Rivers+	Smith	Westwood	Lightfoot	Charnock	Whalley	Whalley	Charnock	Little+
Tue Sep 6	Bury (C.C.C. 17)	A	3-3*	3296	Bankole	Rivers+	Smith	Westwood	Lightfoot	Charnock	Whalley	Whalley	Charnock	Little+
Tue Sep 13	Bury	H	1-2	4447	Kearton	Bignot	Smith	Westwood	Watts	Charnock	Rivers	Rivers	Charnock	Little+
Sat Sep 20	Parsmouth	A	3-2	9505	Kearton	Bignot	Smith	Unsworth	Watts	Charnock	Little+	Little+	Charnock	Little+
Tue Sep 27	Port Vale	H	0-1	5519	Kearton	Bignot	Smith	Unsworth	Watts	Charnock	Little+	Little+	Charnock	Little+
Sat Oct 4	Queens Park Rangers	H	2-3	5348	Kearton	Bignot	Smith	Unsworth	Watts	Charnock	Little+	Little+	Charnock	Little+
Sat Oct 11	Tranmere Rovers	H	2-1	4845	Kearton	Bignot	Smith	Unsworth	Watts	Charnock	Little+	Little+	Charnock	Little+
Sat Oct 18	Birmingham City	A	1-0	16548	Kearton	Bignot	Smith	Unsworth	Watts	Charnock	Little+	Little+	Charnock	Little+
Sat Oct 25	Reading	A	3-3	6685	Kearton	Bignot	Smith	Unsworth	Watts	Charnock	Little+	Little+	Charnock	Little+
Sat Oct 31	Middlesbrough	H	0-1	5759	Kearton	Bignot	Smith	Unsworth	Watts	Charnock	Little+	Little+	Charnock	Little+
Tue Nov 7	Ipswich Town	A	0-0	4730	Kearton	Bignot	Smith	Unsworth	Watts	Charnock	Little+	Little+	Charnock	Little+
Sat Nov 14	Bradford City	A	0-1	15333	Kearton	Bignot	Smith	Unsworth	Watts	Charnock	Little+	Little+	Charnock	Little+
Sat Nov 21	Manchester City	A	0-1	27384	Kearton	Bignot	Smith	Unsworth	Watts	Charnock	Little+	Little+	Charnock	Little+
Sat Nov 28	Nottingham Forest	A	1-3	18248	Kearton	Bignot	Smith	Unsworth	Watts	Charnock	Little+	Little+	Charnock	Little+
Sat Dec 5	Wolverhampton	H	2-5	4861	Kearton	Bignot	Smith	Unsworth	Watts	Charnock	Little+	Little+	Charnock	Little+
Sat Dec 12	Oxford United	H	2-1	4524	Kearton	Bignot	Smith	Unsworth	Watts	Charnock	Little+	Little+	Charnock	Little+
Sat Dec 19	Charlton Athletic	A	2-3	14091	Kearton	Bignot	Smith	Unsworth	Watts	Charnock	Little+	Little+	Charnock	Little+
Sat Dec 26	Stockport County	A	0-1	5231	Kearton	Bignot	Smith	Unsworth	Watts	Charnock	Little+	Little+	Charnock	Little+
Sat Dec 31	Sheffield United	A	0-1	16973	Kearton	Bignot	Smith	Unsworth	Watts	Charnock	Little+	Little+	Charnock	Little+
Sat Jan 7	Huddersfield Town	H	2-5	4861	Kearton	Bignot	Smith	Unsworth	Watts	Charnock	Little+	Little+	Charnock	Little+
Sat Jan 14	Stoke City	A	2-0	14623	Kearton	Bignot	Smith	Unsworth	Watts	Charnock	Little+	Little+	Charnock	Little+
Sat Jan 21	Manchester City	A	0-3	5404	Kearton	Bignot	Smith	Unsworth	Watts	Charnock	Little+	Little+	Charnock	Little+
Sat Jan 28	Bury	A	1-0	5759	Kearton	Bignot	Smith	Unsworth	Watts	Charnock	Little+	Little+	Charnock	Little+
Sat Feb 4	Birmingham C. (FAC 3)	H	1-2	4661	Kearton	Bignot	Smith	Unsworth	Watts	Charnock	Little+	Little+	Charnock	Little+

League fixtures are the copyright of the Football League Ltd. and are not to be reproduced without permission. Home fixtures in Bold. Crewe Alexandra score first. Name in Bold = Scorer. Figure = Number of goals.

## HERE NEXT

The next league fixture to take place at Gresty Road will enable the Crewe supporters to welcome yet another new team here for the first time. That side will be Norwich City, a club who were founded in 1902 and joined the Football League back in 1920.

They were one of the teams who were in the original Third Division, to be followed one year later by the Third Divisions North and South. During their long history, they have played

## Another first for the record books

Not only was the F.A. Cup tie between Crewe Alexandra and Birmingham City the first such meeting between the clubs, but also the first time that a total of 5 substitutes were named. Although this is a regular practice in Premier League games, this year's third round games in the F.A. Cup allowed clubs to nominate 5 substitutes, of which 3 could be used.

## Dario reaches another milestone

This afternoon's game against Swindon town sees manager Dario Gradi in charge of Crewe Alexandra for the 800th time since his arrival in the summer of 1983. The total is made up of: 658 league, 130 cup ties and 12 play-off games.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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(Additional Substitutes: 15, Tierney, 16, Lunt)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesbrough	25	15	6	4	43	20	51
Nottingham	25	15	6	4	43	20	51
Sheff. Utd	25	12	10	3	40	25	46
Charlton	24	13	5	7	36	34	44
Sunderland	24	12	7	5	38	22	43
Wolves	25	12	6	7	32	26	42
West Brom	25	12	6	7	32	26	42
Stockport	25	11	5	9	43	35	38
Swindon	25	11	5	9	43	35	38
Birmingham	25	11	5	9	43	35	38
Bradford	25	9	10	7	23	25	34
Nottingham	25	9	10	7	23	25	34
QPR	25	8	7	10	30	40	31
Ipswich	24	7	9	18	29	26	30
Stoke	25	7	8	10	27	33	29
Reading	25	7	8	10	24	37	29
Oxford Utd.	25	7	8	10	24	37	29
Port Vale	25	7	8	10	24	37	29
Crewe	25	7	8	10	24	37	29
Man. City	25	6	6	13	28	31	24
Tranmere	24	6	6	13	28	31	24
Huddersfield	25	6	6	13	25	39	24
Bury	25	4	12	9	23	33	24
Portsmouth	24	6	5	13	29	39	23

## APPEARANCES - SEASON 1997/98

	League	C.C.	F.A.	Total
Adelphi	13	1	1	14
Antibus	22	1	1	23
Bankole	22	1	1	23
Bignot	23	2	1	26
Collins	0+1	0+1	0+2	3
Foran	3	0	0	3
Garvey	1+5	0+2	1+7	8
Holgrove	7	0	1	8
Lightfoot	3+1	2	5+1	9
Johnson	18+1	2	21+1	21
Kearon	25	1	1	27
Little	10+2	2	11+2	23
Lunt	20+4	2	22+4	26
Moralee	3+4	1+1	2	6
Pemberton	1	1	2	4
Pope	2+2	0+1	2+3	5
Rivers	22+1	2	25+1	27
Smith P.	0+4	0	0+4	4
Smith S.	25	2	1	28
Street	8+7	1	20+2	26
Unsworth	18+2	1	1	19
Walton	7	1	8	15
Watts	5	2	17+1	22
Westwood	15+1	2	1	18
Whalley	2	1	0+1	3
Wright	0+1	0	0+1	1

## GOALSCORERS - Season 1997/98

	League	C.C.	F.A.	Total
Adelphi	7	0	0	7
Smith S.	4	2	1	6
Rivers	4	1	1	6
Antibus	3	0	0	3
Little	3	0	0	3
Lunt	1	1	0	2
Street	2	0	0	2
Westwood	2	0	0	2
Charnock	1	0	0	1
Holgrove	1	0	0	1
Opponents	1	0	0	1
Total	28	5	1	34

## SUPPORTERS' ASSOCIATION NOTES

The committee of the Supporters' Association would like to thank all those who supported their Christmas Raffle, those who donated the prizes, those who sold tickets and also our ticket sponsors.



Picture Collection No. 15

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HOLSGROVE**

