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Nationwide League Division Two VS Swindon Town SATURDAY 28th DECEMBER 2002 KICK OFF - 3.00pm £2.00

INSIDE TODAY CONNECTIONS

Geoff Lea looks at the history between today's teams

SWINDON TOWN

A close look at today's oppositing

2002 **REVIE**

The Latic Matchday Magazine continues it's look at the past twelve months

JE 1/6

This week, the arrival of the Duke

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WIGAN ATHLETIC V SWINDON TOWN





DIFECTORS

Chairman: David Whelan Chief Executive: Brenda Spencer Brian Ashcroft Philip Williams John Winstanley President: Stanley Jackson

CLUBOFFICIALS

Manager: Paul Jewell Assistant Manager: Chris Hutchings First Team Coach: David Lowe Physiotherapist: Alex Cribley Chief Scout: David Hamilton Physiotherapist Assistant: Kevin Kewn Kit Manager: Joe Newton/Fred Sephton Assistant Secretary: Stuart Hayton Marketing Manager: John Fillingham Corporate Sales & Hospitality: Till Gregory Media Manager: Chris Ammonds JJB Stadium Safety Officer: Ray Johnston **Community Officer: Bill Collier JJB Groundsman:** Ian Forshaw Chief Sports Medical Officer: Dr Ansar Zaman Club Doctor: Dr Mike Ashworth

HONOURS

Third Division Champions: 1996-97 Autowindscreen Shield Winners: 1998-99 Freight Rover Trophy Winners: 1984-85 Promoted To Third Division: 1981-82 Elected To Football League: 1978 Football League Best Season 4th Division Two: 1985-86, 1986-87, 1999-00 Football League Cup Best Season 5th Round Quarter Final: 2002-03 FA Cup Best Season 6th Round: 1986-87 **Record Football League Appearances:** Kevin Langley 317 1981-86 and 1990-94 **Record Football League Goalscorer:** David Lowe 66 1982-87 and 1995-99 **Record Football League Scorer in a season:** Graeme Jones 31 1996-97 Most Capped Player: Roy Carroll 9 Northern Ireland Record Transfer Fee Paid: \$1.200,000 to Bristol Rovers for Nathan Ellington. Record Attendance: Springfield Park 27, 526 v Hereford United FA Cup 12 December 1953 JJB Stadium: 15, 593 v Preston North End Division Two 04 April 2000



CAPTAIN CALLING JASON DE VOS8

KIDS STUFF JJ'S EXTRA12-13 With Miranda and Wartyn.

2

MATCH ACTION FROM BOUNDARY PARK . .24-25 Oldham 0 - 2 Latics



SECOND GLANCE COMPETITION ROUND UP . .40-41



TODAY'S TEAMS

WIGAN ATHLETIC MATCHDAY MAGAZINE



Editor: Geoff Lea Designed by Nick Flack at Colourplan Design & Print Club Photographers: Brian Sherratt and Paul Simpson . Action Photography: EMPICS, Editorial Contributions: Chris Ammonds, Dave Seddon, Martyn Ode, Matt McCann, Kath Rimmer & John Sherriff.

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Swindon Town are our visitors to the JJB Stadium this afternoon and are the only side in the Division that we have yet to meet.

A quirk of the fixtures however means that we shall soon meet again as we visit the County Ground at the end of next month.

I would like to welcome everyone who has travelled up from Wiltshire to the game today. Long gone are the days of local derby matches at this time of year.

I hope you all enjoyed the festivities over the Christmas and are now preparing for more celebrations as we welcome in the New Year. The players and staff at the Club do not enjoy much of a Christmas break with the matches coming thick and fast at this time of year. People often talk about a winter break, but at the end of the day we all love to attend football matches at this time of year if only to get out the house and away from the chocolates and the old films!

Jason Jarrett must sit out the game this afternoon as he picked up his fifth caution of the season at Oldham a fortnight ago. It is only a one game ban and so he will be cligible for the New Years day clash with Notts County,

The Notis County game is also a 3pm kick off so there will be plenty of time to nurse the morning hangovers and I am sure that most people will be glad of some fresh air in the afternoon. Next Saturday we of course make the trip down the M6 to Stoke for the FA Cup third round. The match is all ticket for Latics supporters with tickets now on general sale from the ticket office. So we approach the final game of the year 2002. For all Latics supporters it has certainly been a productive year on the field. A great finish to last season that saw the team start to gel together and then an even better start to this season that hopefully we can continue right through until next

Our best ever run in the Worthington Cup and our best home crowd since 1970 have also meant that 2002 has been a great year to be a Latics fan. On behalf of the Chairman, Board of Directors, Management, Players and staff I would like to thank you for your support in 2002 and wish you all a very Happy New Year





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May



FROM THE MANAGER

Paul Jewell

Good afternoon and welcome to the first of two home games in four days either side of New Year at the JJB Stadium.

May I take this opportunity to say that I hope you all had a very merry Christmas and also to wish every one of you a happy and prosperous New Year. I write these notes the day after our Worthington Cup exit at the hands of Blackburn Rovers and I therefore hope you're reading this having seen us put in good performances against Huddersfield and Port Vale.

Today's visitors Swindon will provide us with yet more stiff opposition and as I've said on many occasions, there really are no easy games in this Division. There have been a number of 'coupon busters' already this season and on any given day any team in this Division can beat any other. That is why you have to treat every single game in exactly the same manner and only focus on the very next game that you have to play. If you start thinking ahead you'll come unstuck, so it is up to us to continue to concentrate the way we have been, as on the whole we can have few complaints about the commitment and desire the players have shown this season.

Looking back at the match against Blackburn Rovers – obviously we are disappointed to lose as it is never enjoyable whatever the circumstances or opposition. However, I think you'll all acknowledge that we came up against an outfit of the highest quality and therefore there was certainly no disgrace in our defeat. Having said that, I was a little disappointed with the way we stood off them in the first half but I was then pleased with the way we went about our business after the break. Until they scored their second goal with ten minutes remaining we were well in the match and I thought we gave them a real game after half time. We made a few chances over the 90 minutes – Jason De Vos's early header, Gary Teale's shot and Neil Roberts' glance at the near post – but on the night, in the end, it was not to be.

Though we would have loved to have reached the Semi's, I'm sure you'll agree that we certainly had an exciting adventure in this year's Worthington Cup and I'm sure we all have some great memories when we look back at the five games we played. The players deserve an enormous amount of credit for the way they have performed so far this season and it is now up to us all to continue this form in our League campaign.

On another note, wasn't it fantastic to see another huge crowd inside the JJB for the Rovers match? Once again I'd like to thank you all on behalf of the club for your continued fantastic support. Nights like that really show the potential we have here and hopefully we can all pull together to reach a level where that sort of attendance becomes the norm. Please keep up your good work and get behind us again this afternoon – you have an important part to play and we really appreciate you efforts.

All the best,

Paul.







JAB

This afternoon sees us entertain Swindon Town at the JJB, in what is sure to be a competitive contest for both teams.

Swindon will be looking to climb the table, while we are keen to continue the form which has seen pick up points so far this season.

To look back a little bit. I'd like to thank you for your tremendous support in the Worthington Cup guarter final defeat to Blackburn. I don't think we were overawed by the occasion, rather we were beaten by a better side on the day. Nevertheless, I felt we gave a good account of purselves, and against lesser opposition the chances we had in the second half may have found the back of the net. It was a good vard stick for us to measure ourselves against, and it was encouraging to see that we were able to compete with them over 90 minutes.

> I trust that you have all had an enjoyable time over Christmas, and that Santa was good to you all. Hopefully he has one more gift stashed away for us, that being three points in this afternoon's game!

Enjoy the match! Jason



ONE TO ONE



Mike Flynn

Chirstmas is a busy period at the best of times but for midfielder Mike it has been a bit more hectic as he moves into his new house.

* That's me all over, I don't do anything simple. Moving into a new house just before Christmas. More disruption but hopefully in the next couple of weeks, I should be settled" A bubbly character at the best of times, Mike achieved his ambition in becoming a professional footballer when Paul Jewell signed him from non-league football in the close season.

^a It's been a dream, It was only six weeks ago that I was playing for Barry Town. No disrespect to the League of Wales, but in the short time I have been here we have played, West Bromwich Albion, Fulham, Manchester City and lately Blackburn Rovers. To be on the same pitch as Andy Cole and Dwight Yorke, it has been a fantastic time. ^a The management and players have been great helping me. I have had a bit of stick from the players but I give as good as I get. It keeps them on their toes. The team spirit is brilliant.

"Although the players have made it easy for me, the step-up to being a professional football is hard. Even in training, you have to be on your game every day and at your best in every match. Maybe in non-league you could have a bad day but not now."

With the New Year fast approaching. Mike hopes that 2003 will see the club gain promotion with him scoring a few more goals.

* It is always nice to score and I will take as many as I can get. They say if you are going to score then do it in front of the cameras, and I did that at Blackpool. Fingers crossed that we achieve our aim of promotion. We have to keep the hard work going with good habits. I want to impress so much, pushing myself to get better and for myself the end product will be getting into the side on a regular basis. * There are a lot of good players at this club. They are all pushing each other. As the gaffer says if somebody comes out of the team, then there is always someone eager to come in. It has been hard for me to get a place but I have to be patient and keep going"

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Welcome to the JJB for today's match and a Happy Christmas to you all.

This will be The Latics' last match of 2002, I think you'll agree this year has been a fantastic one for all Latics fans.

Was Father Christmas kind to you? I know he was in my house, my daughters Jessica and Laura had a fantastic time. To be honest, Laura, who is only 16 months old, had more enjoyment with the cardboard boxes than the toys me and her mummy had bought her. I was that excited for Christmas morning that I was up at 3.00am, and I could swear that I saw Santa flying over Ashton in his Latics top! Don't forget the next Junior Latics Party Night will be on the 13th of January. This will be held in the WEST STAND of the IIB which is on the second floor. All you have to do is to go to the main reception and a committee member will show you where to go. The theme for the night will be T.V. Programmes. This is where we will be playing

games from the world of T.V. like "Play Your Cards Right", "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire", "15 to 1" and many more. We start at 7.15 till 9.15pm. As well as our Members Draw we will be drawing out names for the Mascot Draw.

MISS IT MISS OUT!!

I'm off now and do you know what, I won't see any – of you till next year!! What do you mean YES!!!!

Martyn Ode, Chairman of J.L.



Victoria Neacy

Victoria is 9 years old...

She goes to St Aidans Primary School.

She likes McDonalds and Sunny Delight and watching Saved by the bell.

Her Favourite Film is Grease and Loves going on holiday to Cornwall.

Her ambition is to be either a Hairdresser or a Midwife.

Her Favourite Player is Neil Roberts.





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A goal in each half from Nathan Ellington and 'captain fantastic' Jason De Vos earned Latics a fabulous win at Boundary Park against promotion rivals Oldham Athletic on a cold and blustery afternoon in Lancashire.

Ellington fired home on 36 after fine work from Scott Green and Neil Roberts and then on the hour mark De Vos headed home a Green corner to double Latics advantage. And though Oldham huffed and puffed, John Filan remained untroubled through-out and the sending off of former Latic Darren Sheridan more or less ended any hopes the home side had of a comeback.

A great day for the 2000 or so Wiganers who made the trip along the M62 and a thoroughly deserved win for Paul Jewell's men who moved three points clear at the top of Nationwide League Division Two.



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News and views from ¹⁹ the victory away at Boundary Park

PAUL JEWELL

It was a good result and while it was a nity gritty performance early on, we got better as the game went on.

Hot off the

I thought we controlled the game from start to finish, and to come to Oldham with your keeper not having to make a save is credit to everyone.

People have said Oldham were missing one or two key players but we were, without Liddell, McCulloch and McMillan. This win puts us eight points clear of them and that's important because they will be in the final shake-up.

atom they constant the area

EveningNews

WIGAN stretched their unbeaten run to 15 games in an afternoon of drama against fellow highflyers at rainlashed Boundary Park.

They struck in each half to move eight points clear of the home side who played the last twenty-five minutes with ten men. Former Wigan favourite, Darren Sheridan, was the player to walk following a yellow card.

A Scott Green free kick was chested down in the box by Neil Roberts and in form striker Nathan Ellington fired in his 16th goal of the season and his fifth in three games.Oldham hadn't even had a shot on target when Wigan grabbed a second goal. Green was again the set piece provider, this time with a corner, and Canadian ace. Jason De Vos climbed high to head home his third goal of the campaign

EW FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE lain Dowie

We never looked like opening Wigan up- it was a close, keenly contested game. There was not much in the game. Wigan scored from two set pieces and the first goal game from an innecessary free-kick It was poor defending for both goals.

WIGAN EVENING POST

A trip to the bookmakers would have been in order before this visit to Boundary Park

John Filan to keep a clean sheet was worth a tenner of anyone's money and who in their right mind would have bet against Nathan Ellington continuing his scoring streak?

It would have taken a brave punter to place such a spread bet but congratulations if someone did - they'll be rolling in it by now. John Filan kept his fifth clean sheet in the league, equalling John Brown's club record from the 1978/79 season. The Duke took his tally to five in

three games - and 16 for the season with a splendidly taken effort.





Christmas came early for Wigan as they were gifted two goals and three points on a plate. With the attacking quality that Paul Jewell has, Oldham should have known they 'd be in for a tough afternoon.

Ian Dowie made two mistakes going into the six pointer. He surprisingly changed his formation and he forgor to tell his rearranged back-four to pick up Nathan Ellington and Jason De Vos.

抗胃

The home side's defence was like a Sunday league pub team as they allowed the Duke and skipper to do the damage.

ETERATION THEFT A

PLAYERS VIEW

It was a great result for us as it was a real six-pointer. It was a typical derby, roll up your sleeves and get in with it. Nathan took his goal well. My goal was another set piece that we work on. Greeny put a fantasic ball in, 1 had to make sure that 1 got there and put a good head on it.

Swindon Town

Unbeaten in their last four away league matches, manager Andy King admitted disappointment after a last minute penalty at Plymouth denied them all three points in a 1-1 draw. Labelling the decision as "outrageous" he was furious at the way his side had been deprived of victory.

"It was not a penalty. But what can you do. We can't replay the game again. As for the match, both teams were aggressive with the three up front. I thought they had more guile and we had more pace and threat.

"There is no doubt we deserved to win it. We battled them, were positive and created the better chances. But I couldn't ask any more of them. They were fantastic for me."

Celebrating his return following a one-match ban with the goal, skipper Andy Gurney earned praise from his manager.

"We all know what Andy Gurney can do in those situations. It was a tremendous free- kick, particularly as I felt their keeper had had a good game and is a shot stopper."

The draw at Home Park followed on from excellent away wins at both Huddersfield Town and Wycombe Wanderers in November, leading scorer netting the winner in the last minute to secure a 3-2 victory, while the same scoreline was achieved at Huddersfield with Parkin again netting a late goal.

With the transfer embargo now lifted on the club following the Neil Ruddock saga lifted, Andy King was hopeful of bringing in some new faces on loan into his small squad ahead of the busy Christmas period. The former Liverpool player's contract has now been paid up, enabling the club to go into the transfer market. However he was expecting a Scrooge-like response from other managers in the build-up to Christmas as he looks to bolster a squad hit by the loss of midfielder Johnnie Jackson who has returned to Spurs following his loan spell.

"Christmas is coming and people are not going to let people go out on loan. Not with a programme of five

a club and find players available, particularly players of the stature I want to strengthen my squad."

> One player that will miss this afternoon's clash is David Duke (deft) who collected a one match ban starting today following his fifth yellow card of the season at Home Park this month.

BART GIEMINK has been an ever present this

GOALKEEPERS

A superb shot-stopper

season making the keepers jersey his own. Recruited from Peterborough United in the summer of 2000, the giant Dutch keeper is approaching a century of league starts for the robins former under 21 international, his first club in this country was Birmingham City. Having impressed at Reserve level, CRAIG FARR made his debut from the subs bench in the LDV Vans Trophy victory over Southend United.

DEFENDERS

Vationve

Club captain at the County ground, ANDY GURNEY is an integral part of the team with his ability to contribute vital goals. A Bosman style signing from Reading, he has featured in a number of positions since his arrival in July 2001. On target in the F A Cup win against Huddersfield Town and again a week later in the league victory scoring from the penalty spot. Returned after suspension to score in the 1-1 away

> draw at Plymouth Argyle. An experienced centraldefender with over 350 league games under his belt, ALAN REEVES is now in his fifth season with the club. Having signed a new one-year contract in the summer, the former Rochdale and Wimbledon

& Nationw

player has now completed 150 league games for the Robins.

A tough and uncompromising central-defender MATTY HEYWOOD has been an ever present this season. A former trainee with Burnley, he arrived at the County ground on a free-transfer in January 2001. Was voted player of the season last year.

After impressing on a non-contract basis, GARETH EDDS early season performances were rewarded with a one-year contract. A versatile performer, who has featured at fullback, the Australian is a former Nottingham Forest trainee released by the club at the end of last season.

Now in his fourth season with the club, ADAM WILLIS is a former Coventry City trainee. Not a regular in the side, the central-defender when called upon always gives a solid performance.

MIDFIELD

A composed steady performer on the left, MATT HEWLETT (right) made over a century of league appearances before his move in July 2000. Capped by England at youth level during his time at Ashton Gate, he has been a regular in the side since his free transfer move. Recruited from Portsmouth at the start of the season, STEFAN MIGLIORANZI is a Brazilian born American with an Italian passport. Spotted playing university football in the USA, he netted his first goal for the club in the 6-1 LDV Vans Trophy win over Southend United. A predominately right-sided hard-working player, STEVE ROBINSON cost the club £50,000 following his move from Birmingham City in February 2001. His never say die attitude has made him a crowd favourite at the County ground. Making his debut as a substitute in the F A Cup defeat was DAVID BRAMPTON. The 17-year-old is a product of the youth training i IWide scheme.

STEVE ROBINSON

FORWARDS

Top scorer this season including a hat-trick on the opening day of the new season, SAM PARKIN is the subject of this afternoon's one to watch. Now in his second season at the County ground, ERIC SABIN netted the winner in the 2-1 win over Mansfield Town in October. Signed from French Second Division side Wasquehal, his

electrifying pace and ability to run at defenders saw him net five goals last season.

Joint top scorer last season, DANNY INVINCIBLE (right) has shown his versatility by also playing in midfield. Recommended to the club by the West Ham United manager Harry Redknapp, his tally in his first season saw him become a crowd favourite. Netted a brace in the 4-2 away win at Chesterfield in August. Capped by England at youth level, local born DAVID YOUNG has risen through the ranks to the fringe of the first team. A slightly- build player who netted his first goal last season. in the home win over Blackpool.

ERIC SABIN

N: ionn

2

Nationwic

Watch out for... Sam Parkin

Born -Height -Weight Date of birth - Roehampton 6"2" 13.00 14 March 1981

Having arrived at the County ground in the summer after months of speculation, centreforward Sam couldn't have wished for a better start to his new club. Having joined from Chelsea, the former England schoolboy international netted a hat-trick on his debut on the opening day of the season in the 3-1 home win over Barnsley.

A powerful runner with strength in the air, his displays have seen him become a huge crowd favourite, which has seen him net thirteen goals to date.

Whilst happy to have reached double figures well before Christmas, he admits he could have had even more.

" I think if chances that went begging and I could have been right up there at the top of the scoring charts."

Having seen his future hindered at Stanford Bridge by a glut of international stars, the leading scorer bears no grudges about being allowed to leave the Premiership club and highlights the role of Andy King in helping me. " The manager told me coming to Swindon and playing part of an attacking three would lead to chances. That's certainly the case, the boss has been proved right and all credit to him. I suppose it's nice that Chelsea will see me performing well. I will always temember my time at Chelsea, but I am a Swindon player now."

Having played last season for Northampton Town whilst on loan, Sam knows all about this division having enjoyed similar loan deals with Oldham Athletic and Wycombe Wanderers. His return to Adams Park last month saw him grab a last minute winner, netting twice in a 3-2 win and then followed that up in the next away match with a late goal in the 3-2 win at Huddersfield Town.

windon Town

Meet the **MANAGER**

ANDY KING

Appointed just over a year ago for his second spell in charge. Andy King made his name as a player as a lively midfielder having joined his hometown club Luton Town in 1974. His next stop was Eventon, the club with which most people associate him, who he signed for in 1976 for £35,000. He made 150 appearances for The Toffees, scoring impressive 38 goals in four seasons at Goodison Park before joining QPR. One season with the London club was followed by spells with Wolves, Dutch side Cambuur, Luton again and Aldershot. His first managerial appointment was at Mansfield Town in 1993 following George Foster's departure, steering them to a midtable finish in his first season at the helm. The following season saw The Stags in with a chance of promotion back to the Second Division, having finished in 6th place in the table, but they were beaten in the play-off semi-finals by John Duncan's Chesterfield. Following his departure from Field Mill, Andy spent some time out of management but was still involved in the game Working with former Everton team-mate Peter Reid at Premiership club Sunderland as a scout, Colin Todd took him to Swindon Town as his assistant manager in the summer of 2000. When Todd got the call from Jim Smith to he his assistant at Derby County, King was given the opportunity to impress Chairman Terry Brady, and after four games in charge he was given the job full-time, on November 6. 2000.

The Robins struggled to keep themselves out of the relegation zone for most of the season but a win over Peterborough in the penultimate game of their league campaign ensured their Second Division survival. The great escape act was not enough to ensure Andy King's survival however. Despite his efforts in keeping The Robins up, former Liverpool boss Roy Evans replaced him at the County Ground in June 2001.

But he was not gone for long. Evans left the club before the end of the year, after new owners arrived at the County Ground, and Andy King - who had taken legal action against Swindon with regard to his dismissal was reinstated as manager last Christmas.





Aspull Juniors

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Currently providing football for around 160 children from U6's to U14's competing in the Central Lancs, Mid Lancs Colts, Leigh and District and Bolton/Bury Junior Football Leagues.

Already the club has achieved numerous honours in the last 5 years.

The club is proud to have an association with Wigan Athletic and has provided many players for its School of Excellence.

A great feather in the cap for the club is that they have just had a former player named in the England Schoolboys squad.

DEVELOPMENT

This season for the development of the Club, Aspull Juniors have formed an open age team -Aspull JFC - who when applied to the Wigan Amateur League was placed in the second division. Unbeaten this season and situated at the top, and the only Wigan side in the last 16 of the Lancashire Shield, a great achievement to date. The team consists of experienced players and local youth, naming but one, Anthony Rudd, who has contributed 40 goals to the total of around 80 scored so far this season. Manager Terry Gaskell is delighted with the start but reiterated "It's a team game and players 1-6 all contribute to the goals and results."

The Club has just held a Child Protection Course which means that all Managers, Coaches and Committee members are now in possession of a certificate and a Child Protection Officer will soon be nominated.

This will enable the club to apply for the F.A. Charter Standard of Development which will raise the profile of our Club.





Jason De Vos

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Celebrations as Latics Captain JDV secures victory at Boundary Park in a great 2-0 win over Oldham

Photograph by Paul Simpson paulsimpsonphotography@hotmail.com

GREEN



All the news from behind the scenes at the JJB

LIVE ON THE BIG SCREEN

JOHN SMITHS SUPPORTERS LOUNGE -SOUTH STAND

BRISTOL CITY V WIGAN ATHLETIC FRIDAY, 10TH JANUARY, 2003 KICK OFF 7.45PM

-

DOORS OPEN 6.00PM BAR FACILITES - HOT SNACKS AVAILABLE

DON'T MISS THE ACTION - TOP OF THE TABLE CLASH!

ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY AVAILABLE FROM THE JJB STADIUM TICKET OFFICE & MAIN RECEPTION



CONGRATULATIONS... Happy Birthday to Diane Byron... Lots of love from Dad and Shirley and Anthony. Enjoy the match from everyone at Wigan Athletic.

Special Birthday wishes to one of our Corporate Guests Today. Happy Birthday BILL FULSTER.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY KEN COYLE LOVE FROM EILEEN, STEPHEN, JUDITH, HEATHER, TOM, DAVID, VIKKI & JAMES

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ALAN WOLSTENHOLME

HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY JOHN COOK

HAPPY 65TH BIRTHDAY ROBIN HARSTON

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LINDSAY TAYLOR

CONGRATULATIONS FROM ALL AT WIGAN ATHLETIC.



TICKET NEWS FA CUP 3rd ROUND STOKE CITY V WIGAN ATHLETIC

SATURDAY 4TH JANUARY 2003 KICK-OFF 3:00PM PLEASE NOTE THIS FIXTURE IS ALL TICKET!!

Sales will commence from Monday 16th December 2002 to Season ticket holders upon production of a 2002/2003 season ticket. Any remaining tickets will go on general sale from Saturday 28th December 2002. Credit Card Hotlinc: 08451 473 227. Match ticket prices are as follows:

South Stand

Adults	£17.00
Under 17 yrs	\$10.00
Over 65 yrs	£10.00
Under 11 yrs	£9.00



TICKET OFFICE CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS: Wigan Athletic v Swindon Town Saturday 28th December 10am 3.30pm CLOSED Sunday 29th December Monday 30th December 9am 5pm Tuesday 31st December 9am 5pm 2003

10am

9am

9am

Wigan Athletic v Notts County Wednesday 1st January

Thursday 2nd January Friday 3rd January

3.30pm

5pm

5pm

CAR PARKING FA CUP 3rd ROUND STOKE CITY V WIGAN ATHLETIC SATURDAY 4TH JANUARY 2003

KICK-OFF 3:00PM

Car Park tickets will be available from Monday 16th December 2002, priced at £5.00 each. Please note there is only a limited amount of tickets available.

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CONNECTIONS

Latics & Robins

With Geott Lea

In a season that was to see us play the Robins four times, our feature match is our first ever meeting at Springfield Park in the 1986/87 season.

The famous Springfield Park wind machine, which contributed to the ruination of so many promising encounters over the years, was for once on our side in this contest.

It resulted in us claiming victory in the second "six pointer" following on the heels of the Notts County clash and proved the slip-ups against Bristol Rovers and Chesterfield were temporary.

While the victory didn't move us up the table, it did bring us closer to the moving pack with a game in hand.

Having won their last seven matches and unbeaten for an impressive ten, this was a important win as we outfought the Robins. If not fluent football to keep the most critical of fans happy, the match contained enough thrills and spills.

It started in spectacular fashion with three goals in six minutes and while the goal stream obviously dried up, the excitement carried on throughout the match. Bobby Campbell got the first, a superb header from a Paul Cook corner, but the joy was short-lived as just sixty-seconds later Dave Bamber equalised from close range.

Three minutes later David Lowe who was celebrating winning the £1,000 Blue Chip first prize draw was hauled down in the penalty area and Alex Cribley rammed home the penalty.

Both teams could have added to their tally throughout the first-half as Nigel Adkins and Tim Flowers both made superb saves.

But two minutes into the second-half, the Robins were level for a second time when substitute Bryan Wade curled in a cross-cum shot that totally deceived Adkins.

For a time that looked likely to be it but then the wind intervened.

It caught a clearance kick from the on loan Flowers and took it straight to the feet of Paul Cook. Cook controlled it well and sprinted towards goal before planting a shot past the stunned Flowers.

FEATURE MATCH FACTS Saturday 28th March 1987 Barclays Football League D ligan Athletic (2) 3 ague Division Three Campbell 3, Crible 0k 64 2000

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LAST HOME LEAGUE MEETING

Nationwide League Division Two Saturday 1st December 2001 Wigan Athletic (0) 1 - Liddell 70 Swindon Town (0) 0

ubs not used - Tynan, Nolan, Roberts, Mitchell Swindon Town

Gurney ,Willis ,Heywood ,Mark Robinson (Paul Edwards ,76) ,Steve Robinson ,Hewlett ,Carlisle ,Duke ,Invincibile (Davis ,83) ,Sabin (Hale ,61) Subs not used McKinney, McAreavey, Attendance - 5,635

Referee Trevor Parkes - Birmingham

HAPPY HUNTING GROUND

Scott Green has an impressive scoring record at the County ground. On each of the last two visits, Scott has found the back of the net.

PLAYED FOR BOTH CLUBS

Alan McLoughlin is only one of three players to have played for both clubs. The midfielder was recruited by John Benson in December 1999 but only made a handful of appearances before his release. During his time with Swindon, he made just over a century of league appearances before a £1 million move to Portsmouth December 1990. Loan signing Andy Mutch arrived at Springfield Park from Swindon Town in August 1985 making just seven appearances before his return, just one on his debut at Preston North End. A striker Peter Thorne spent two months with, March 1994 from Blackburn Rovers, return Park before his sale to Swindon Town in six months later.

PLAY-OFFS

The play-offs were introduced in 1986/87 to settle the promotion and relegation issues between divisions and to assist in the reduction of the First Division from twenty-two to twenty over two seasons.

Both ourselves and Swindon were involved in that first play-off which saw the Robins finish third and us fourth. After leading 2-0 inside the first fifteen minutes with goals from Chris Thompson and David Lowe, suicidal defending allowed Swindon to score three goals in the last eighteen minutes. In the return leg, we hit the woodwork but not the net and went out after a goalless draw.

LATICS DEBUTS

Burnal

Bobby Campbell made it a scoring debut following his move from Bradford City netting in the game at the County ground in October 1986. Sadly Bobby was to end up on the losing side as Swindon ran out 3-1 victors.

Lee McCulloch and Steve McMillan both made their Latics debuts in the 0-0 draw against the Robins in the match at the IJB Stadium in March 2000, That match was also the first in temporary charge for Colin Greenall following the departure of Bruce Rioch.

Coming through the ranks.

Reserve & Youth Round up



There was disappointment for David Lowe's Reserve Team in their last game before Christmas when they slipped to a 1-0 defeat against Macclesfield Town on Wednesday 11th December at the Robin Park Arena. Lowe named a young side all in all, though Ian Breckin and Ged Brannan did provide some first

team experience as Paul Jewell looked to top up

their match fitness with some extra competitive action. Breckin came in and captained the side alongside Keiran Charnock at the heart of the Latics defence while Brannan slotted in in central midfield next to first year pro Paul Santus.

In a match where chances where at a premium it was Latics who started the brighter and the visitors were twice thankful to the woodwork in the opening 20 minutes. Centre half Charnock was particularly unlucky when his volley from 12 yards rebounded back off the underside of the bar before bouncing up and then being cleared to safety. Though Latics continued to press they failed to really test Matt Higgins in the visiting goal though it must be said that at the other end Ryan Yeomans was enjoying a quiet afternoon to.

David Moore had a couple of half chances as the game progressed into the second half but with little goal-mouth action at either end the game looked destined for a goalless draw

However, just as it seemed it was to be a point a piece, a fine through ball played in Macc striker Neil Robinson and as he ran clear of the Latics rearguard he made no mistake, clinically firing beyond Yeomans to earn his side all three points. And with only a couple of minutes remaining the game was up, Latics left with little time to mount a fight-back and therefore forced to suffer an unfortunate defeat. Lowe's men now down to fifth in Avon Insurance League Division One West, though they do have a game in hand on three of the four teams above them.

Latics:

Yeomans, Jones, Foulkes, Breckin (c), Charnock, Brannan, Thompson, Santus, Porter, Moore, Pendlebury.

Subs:

Roberts J, Lynch, Edwards, Dixon, Traynor.

Latics Reserves' next fixture is on Wednesday 11th January when they entertain Blackpool at Robin Park in a 2pm kick off.



David Lee's youth team "Destroyed" Blackpool in a 5-0 win.

YOUTH TEAM

Meanwhile there is more good news regarding David Lee's youth team who moved up to second place in the Youth Alliance North West Conference after a fabulous 5-0 win at Blackpool on Saturday 7th Decmber.

David Moore was the hero for Lee's lads netting a memorable hat-trick, while Kevin Lee and Chris Porter got the other goals as Latics destroyed 'Pool' in the second half having led 1-0 at the interval.

Latics:

Yeomans, Owens, Charnock, Edwards (Foulkes), Lee, Lynch (Santus), Roberts, Traynor (Dixon), Moore, Porter, Pendlebury (Vicira) Subs not used:

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WISH FM

That was the year that was...

2002 was a terrific year for Wigan Athletic. Only 8 losses in the calendar year, some cracking victories and a tremendous cup run. Add to the mix that it's likely (as 1 write these notes) that we are going to finish the year on top of the table. So in a rather predictable programme piece 1 thought I'd dish out my awards for 2002.

BEST GAME - Wigan Athletic Vs Cardiff City Feb 16th 2002 (Last season).

They really are a team that we love to beat and how we beat them. Four set pieces, four headers and four goals. Simplicity itself but a brilliant performance and a score line to warm the heart. Made even sweeter by the fact that their fans bought an Argentinian flag (ahead of the World Cup) but had to fold it up before the end of the game due to embarrassment.

BEST GOAL - Andy Liddell Vs Notts County at Meadow Lane Sat August 24th. This was a tricky one to choose on this season alone (never mind last) but Lidds' 1st against Notts County edges it. I can barely do it justice by writing about it but here goes. Nathan Ellington steamed forward, fed Lidds who drifted across the face of the box before spotting their keeper off his line and executing the most delightful chip finish. I don't remember how Lidds celebrated the goal but I do remember our press officer Chris Ammonds losing his cool, throwing his arms in the air, and then bagging his chest in shear pride. I had to remind Chris that he didn't actually score the goal himself, although to hear him talk about it you'd think he had.

FAVOURITE RESULT - Latics 1 Manchester City 0 - November 5th 2002. My media colleague Dave Seddon summed up this game perfectly with the opening line of his match report the day after: HOW SWEET WAS THAT, proclaimed Dave in the Evening Post and it was spot on. Three and a half years we had waited for the chance to right the wrongs of THAT playoff senii final and Neil Roberts' goal was worth the wait. Great atmosphere, great occasion and a great result. I imagine it II be talked about for decades to come.

BEST AWAY GROUND VISITED - Meadow Lane, Notts County. Now I can assure you that choosing County is in NO WAY influenced by the fact we play them this afternoon. The press box at Meadow Lane is superb. Comfy seats, a great

view and lots of space for equipment. Also on a personal level it's the closest ground to my home Gity of Leicester, which means I get to visit home in the process. We visited Meadow Lane 3 times in 2002 and Latics won all three games. On the second visit of 2002 it was a beautiful sunny day and we made the misake of saying "This will be first season we come to Meadow Lane and it's not chucking it down". Just weeks later we were back in the LDV Vans, and yes, it was raining cats, dogs and any other household pet you'd choose to mention.

WORST AWAY GROUND VISITED -

Chesterfield!! Twice in 2002 and that was twice times too many.

WORST QUESTION ASKED - ME to John Filan last season. The actual game escapes me (it could have been Oldham at home) but our Aussic keeper had played a blinder and we interviewed him in the after match press conference.

Distracted by some other goings on in the press room (no, not a tray of pies going past before you ask) I got flustered and asked: "IS SHOT STOPPING AN IMPORTANT PART OF YOUR GAME?!!" John replied in his typically laid back manner: "Yeah mate, I'm a goalkeeper"!! A clanger that I've not been allowed to forget in a hurry!

COMEDY MOMENT OF 2002 - Paul Jewell falling over jost in front of the dug-out -Stockport at home this season! The manager will probably have me for including this but it was a classic moment. Paul is a master at taking the mickey and making me look like a complete clown during our interviews and this was a tremendous few seconds of comedy for me. I have to say the manager took it with his usual good grace and desperately searched for someone to blame!

BEST DRIVING MOMENT AT AN AWAY GAME - Plymouth away in October. Sir Geoff Lea (clubcall, programme contributor

and all round good egg) shares the driving on all away trips and at Plymouth away Sir Geoff excelled himself.

This category could also be titled FASTEST EVER APPROACH TO A SPEED BUMP. We must have been going 40mph as we went into orbit and the steward on the car park at Plymouth looked horrified as we eventually landed back on planet earth. Sir Geoff's response to the incident was also a classic moment of 2002¹ The stunned silence of the car broken by Geoff exclaiming: "What's that doing there??" Stopping plonkers doing 40mph in a car park I imagine.

BEST TRAINING GROUND MOMENT

Neil Barker's BARBIE pen. Mr Barker (Manchester Evening News) is always merciless in his slating of the rest of us in the Latics press corp but we usually struggle to lay a finger on him.But earlier this season Neil dropped an almighty clanger by writing his notes (while interviewing Paul Jewell) with a BARBIE pen (yes that's right, a fully grown adult with a pen with a picture of Barbie on it!! Paul, being the forgiving character that he is, ripped into Neil with some tremendous mickey taking and left us all in fits laughter.

BEST (or should I say WORST) GOAL

CELEBRATION - two contenders, Mike Flynn against Blackpool and Scott Green against Hereford! Everyone involved with Latics was delighted for 'Flynny' to get a goal and even more delighted when

he couldn't get his top off to celebrate. The coaching staff and the rest of the players have given him enough stick about the incident and needless to say removing his shirt having scored a goal is a much practiced move down at the training ground now. It may have been his first Football League goal, but the celebration Tm afraid was definitely League of Wales. As for Scott Green, a builliant effort for those of us who watch The Office'on BBC 2! On spanking home the winner against Hereford in the FA Cup 1st round, Greeny proceeded to copy 'David Brent's' superb dance to raise money for comic relief. Appreciated by 'us men' in the press box and the winner of celebration of the season.

And to finish, a word for the good people of Wigan Athletic FC! It's been a privilege to cover this club in 2002 and let's just hope we finish the job in 2003. For the office staff at Latics thanks for putting up with my constant interruptions during the season when I just popped in during the week to eat all your chocolates. And to our illustrious press officer Mr Chris Ammonds (nickname Stig) and Stuart Hayton, who have spent the majority of 2002 badgering me for programme notes! I'd like to say my New Years resolution will be to hand my programme notes in on time and be more reliable. But lets face it lads, nowis going to change. Enjoy the game and get behind the lads.


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ALLE PALAT

All the news from around the second division with Geoff Lea

TINNION TO BRING DOWN THE CURTAIN OF HIS CAREER AT ASHTON GATE

Bristol City midfielder Brian Tinnion has announced that he will end his career at Ashton Gate, whether the club offer him a new deal or not. The 34-year-old has been with the Robins for ten years, but his current contract expires at the end of the season and he has yet to hear from the club about a new deal. "My current contract expires at the end of the season and I am looking no further than that at the moment.But I have already decided that I won't move to another club. If I don't sign a new contract at Ashton Gate that will be the end as far as playing is concerned My future as a player is not really down to me so I am not looking too far into the future, although I would certainly like to go into coaching and management one day."

CORAZZIN STAYING AT BOUNDARY PARK

Oldham Athletic's Canadian striker Carlo Corazzin has postponed knee surgery and a trip home to try and case the Latics injury worries. The news that prolific Dutch frontman Clyde Wijnhard has been diagnosed with a career threatening knee injury coupled with Clint Hill's broken leg, has left manager lain Dowie desperately short of experienced players. So the Canadian international has agreed to put his operation back until the New Year while Dowie attempts to find more cover for his forwards.

Carlo Corazzin

With the club in desperate financial trouble Dowie may struggle to find a replacement of the quality of Wijnhard.

HEANEY ENDS PLAYING DAYS

Plymouth Argyle winger Neil Heancy has been forced to retire from professional football due to a longstanding knee injury.

The 31-year-old former Dundee United, Darlington, Manchester City and Southampton wideman has been out since March and has called it a day after surgery failed to solve the problem.

MAC ATTACK

Steve McMahon has warned four players still to sign new contracts at Bloomfield Road that they will struggle to find a better club. Blackpool's form has slumped in recent weeks and following their ninth league defeat of the season at struggling Mansfield before Christmas, the Seasiders boss has told Danny Coid, Richie Wellens, Martin Bullock and John Hills to "knuckle down". He said: "They all think that because their contracts are up they're going to get massive wages and big new contracts somewhere else. But they won't."

POSH DUO IN DEMAND

Peterborough United have confirmed they turned down offers for captain Andy Edwards and winger Adam Newton. Third Division Oxford United wanted to take Edwards on loan with a view to a permanent deal, while Wimbledon made a bid for Newton, "With the club supposedly near to being sold, I think it would be wrong to transfer any players until the new owners come in and decide what plan they have got to take the club forward," Peterborough manager Barry Fry told the club website. Edwards has been at Peterborough since 1996, while Newton joined the club from West Ham in the summer.

VALE AXE GREW

Port Vale's assistant-manager Mark Grew has been made redundant by administrators running the troubled Staffordshire club.



Grew has been laid-off as part of a cost-cutting package which the administrators said was needed to save the club.

Seven members of staff have also been made redundant, although chief scout Ray Williams is the only other one of manager Brian Horton's footballing backroom staff to have gone.

A former loan player here at Wigan, the former keeper ended a long association with the Vale Park club. Youth-team coach and ex-Vale striker Martin Foyle will now assist Horton in running first-team affairs. Williams, another former Vale player, ends a near 30-year association with the club.





Vale are reportedly £2.4m in debt and losing around £500,000 a year and the Inland Revenue and Custom and Excise are owed £600,000. The Professional Footballers' Association have given the administrators a loan of £34,000 to help the club on a short-term basis.

Vale are now in the hands of Ian Rose and Bob Young from accountants Poppleton and Appleby after the application to go into administration was accepted by the High Court in Birmingham just before Christmas.

REEVES BACK WITH SPIREITES

David Reeves has signed a contract with his old club Chesterfield until the end of the season, with an option for an extra 12 months.

The veteran striker left the Spireites to sign for Oldham on a free transfer last January following a successful loan.

But he returned to Chesterfield on loan in August, making 16 league appearances and scoring once before the deal ended last month.

GRADI STILL KEEN ON WHITE

Crewe manager Dario Gradi has admitted that he is still interested in signing Mansfield Town's Andy White, despite the striker returning to Field Mill after his loan spell at Gresty Road. The 21-year-old made two substitute appearances for the Railwaymen earlier in the season, after being sent to Crewe by former Stags boss Stuart Watkiss in order to gain experience. White obviously did enough to

impress Gradi during that time, but the situation has been complicated by the fact . that new Mansfield manager Keith Curle has decided to give him a chance in the first team.

Nationwide Antionwide

		Pid	W	D	L	F	A	Pts,	GD
1	Wigan Athletic	21	14	5	2	36	13	47	23
2	Bristol City	21	14	2	5	45	25	44	20
3	Cardiff City	21	13	4	á	35	17	43	18
4	Oldham Athletic	21	11	6	4	34	16	39	18
5	Crewe Alexandra	21	11	5	5	32	18	38	14
6	Brentford	21	9	5	7	27	24	32	3
7	Queen's Park Rangers	21	8	6	7	28	25	30	3
8	Luton Town	21	8	6	7	31	29	30	2
9	Chesterfield	21	9	3	9	18	23	30	-5
10	Tranmere Rovers	21	9	3	9	26	33	30	-7
11	Blackpool	21	8	á	9	25	32	28	-7
12	Plymouth Argyle	21	6	8	7	28	29	26	-1
13	Wycombe Wanderers	21	7	5	9	29	31	26	-2
14	Port Vale	21	7	5	9	26	33	26	-7
15	Colchester United	21	6	7	8	22	27	25	-5
16	Northampton Town	21	7	4	10	21	29	25	-8
17	Stockport County	21	7	3	11	26	31	24	-5
18	Swindon Town	21	6	6	9	25	31	24	-6
19	Barnsley	21	6	6	9	24	33	24	-9
20	Notts County	21	4	10	7	30	31	22	-1
21	Peterborough United	21	5	6	10	26	30	21	-4
22	Huddersfield Town	21	5	6	10	17	25	21	-8
23	Cheltenham Town	21	5	6	10	20	29	21	-9
24	Mansfield Town	21	5	3	13	36	53	18	-17

Table last updated due to print deadlines on 19/12/02

Today's Matches

Barnsley v Port Vale Blackpool v Colchester United Brentford v Mansfield Town Chesterfield v Cheltenham Town Peterborough United v Northampton Town Plymouth Argyle v Notts County Stockport County v Bristol City Transnere Rovers v Queens Park Rangers Wycombe Wanderers v Luton Town.

(First in rejent)

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FOOTBALL IN THE



Good afternoon and welcome once again to the JJB Stadium.

Today I thought I'd take the opportunity to introduce to you a couple of members of our FITC team. First up is Rowan Draper who joined us in May.



I'll let Rowan take up the story.



"I joined up with Latics in May

with the support and

Community Staff, I recently passed my NVQ 2

for Sport & Recreation,

Coaching, Teaching and

Instruction. With the

further experience

gained from

assistance of the

2002 as a trainee coach and

assisting the goalkeeping coach at the Wigan Athletic Centre of Excellence, I now look forward to progressing my career in coaching, hopefully with Latics Football in the Community."

And next up today is Gary Pilling who has now been with us for over 2 years: "After joining E.I.T.C., over two years



ago, I am now Assistant Community Officer to Bill based at Christopher Park. After qualifying as a coach it becomes very important to continue to develop in that role with additional training and courses and to learn how to carry on the great work that F.I.T.C. has done over the years and with the help and support of Bill and the Community hopefully I'll be able to do that. The particular aspects I like are meeting new people every single day and acting as an ambassador for the Club because we are not just looking for the Players of tomorrow, but also the Fans of tomorrow. This makes our school coaching sessions doubly important as are the Soccer Schools we run throughout the year. Finally I'd just like to extend seasons' greetings to all our friends, all the schools and the thousands of kids who have made 2002 unforgettable! Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year." 43

Gary is a quality coach who has been very ill for a while this year. We are very pleased that Gary is now in rehabilitation from the illness and should make a full recovery in the near future and go on to other coaching qualifications.

Well that's about it for today from me but obviously I'll be back in 'The Latic' for the game against Notts County on New Years day. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone !!

All the best,

Bill.

A great year to be Blue...

Chris Ammonds looks back at the past year.

Today we continue our look back at the past year at the JJB Stadium, picking up the story from Monday 25th March, just a few days ahead of the transfer deadline and an exciting week for everyone involved with Wigan Athletic.

March 25th - 31st

An exciting week for all Wigan Athletic fans as news of two new signings broke at the JJB Stadium. On Tuesday 26th the club confirmed that they had completed the signing of midfielder Jason Jarrett from Second Division rivals Bury for a fee of £75,000. The 22-year-old signed a three year deal at the JJB Stadium and his new manager Paul Jewell spoke of his delight shortly after completing the transfer.

We've been looking at Jason for some time and are thrilled we've managed to agree a deal to bring him here. He's a box to box player and a good athlete who we feel has bags of potential."

The following morning came a different type of news as it was revealed that midfielder Tony Dinning had been allowed to move to Stoke City on loan until the end of the season. This eventually led to Dinning being an influential figure as the Potters won the play-off final in Cardiff but thankfully a permanent deal was never completed and now Dinning is playing a starring role in Latics promotion push this season.

Just a day later and one of the biggest domestic transfers went through with Latics at the heart of it. Nathan 'The Duke' Ellington joined Wigan Athletic for a club record fee of £1.2 million from Bristol Rovers. The highly rated 20-year-old had been a long-term target of Latics boss Paul Jewell and he was delighted to finally get his man. "We're very excited to bring Nathan to the JJB Stadium. We've been very impressed with him and his record speaks for itself. I am looking to improve the side going forward and see Nathan as an important addition to the squad."

Unfortunately, Ellington had his Latics debut delayed for a week and was only a spectator when Latics travelled to Vale Park on the last Saturday in March.

A disappointing game saw Latics slump to a 1-0 defeat but the debut performance of Jarrett gave Latics a real lift for the future.

April

April began with Latics enterraining Peterborough at the JJB Stadium and Andy Liddell's 16th and 17th goals of the season helped the home side to all three points. Though Dave Farrell netted a consolation for Posh, Latics held on comfortably to pick up three valuable home points.

Five days later came the long awaited debut of 'The Duke' as Latics travelled to Saltergate to take on Chesterfield. Andy Liddell gave Latics an early lead and though Scott Green was sent off in conceding the penalty from which the Spireites equalised, it was Ellington's day and in the 23rd minute he turned just outside the box to fire home quite brilliantly to win the game for his new side. Latics boss Paul Jewell spoke to the press after the game and acknowledged that it had been a tough battle but also added that he was delighted with his two strikers.

"With ten men for so long there's no way I can say anything negative about our lads. They worked their socks off from start to finish and in the first half played some good stuff.

"It was nice to see Andy Liddell on the score sheet again and Nathan showed what he's all about. He had no right to shoot from there really but it was a great finish. It was nice to see one of our strikers score from inside the six yard box for the first goal too."

A week later Ellington made it two goals in two games as he netted on his home debut at the JIB Stadium in Latics 3-0 win over Northampton Town. The Duke' therefore became only the second Latics player ever, to score on both his home and away League debus -Graeme Jones being the other. Jason De Vos and Scort Green netted the home sides other goals on a day that turned out to be Arjan De Zeeuw's last game at the JJB Stadium.

Latics last game of 2001-2002 presented them with the long trip to Layer Road to take on Colchester. Paul Mitchell had been rewarded for his fine form with a new two year contract ahead of the game and though Latics fell two behind at the interval the new spirit within the club helped the visitors earn a share of the spoils. A brace from half time sub Neil Roberts hauled Latics level and made sure that the season ended with an excellent draw rather than a disappointing defeat.

Latics eventual finishing position of tenth in Division Two was not too bad considering the troubled start they encountered and there was plenty for Latics fans to feel positive about when you considered Jewell's side's form in the post Christmas period.

And with the season over, Latics announced those players who were being released and this saw lan Kilford, Pat McGibbon, Ian Nolan, Paul Dalglish, Ian Johnson, Ben Kay and Derek Stillie all depart the JJB Stadium and begin their search for a new club elsewhere.

Summer 2002

The main topics of conversation during the summer months were would Arjan De Zeeuw sign a new contract at the JJB and also, who would Paul Jewell bring in over the summer ahead of the new season?

News about the first of these questions arrived early in June and it was not the news that Latics fans had hoped for. However, although 'Arry' chose to move on to pastures new, all at Wigan Athletic wished him all the best with his move to Portsmouth and thanked him for his sterling service at the JJB Stadium. A club spokesman said:

"It goes without saying that we're disappointed to lose a player of Arjan's calibre and someone who has performed consistently well for us. We offered him what we felt was an excellent contract as we look to launch a promotion challenge next season, but unfortunately, Portsmouth can offer a level of football that at the present time we cannot. With this in mind 'Arry' has

Jason Jarrett

Paul Jewell.

A three year deal

from Bury in March

delighted Manager

Enter The Duke! After a delayed debut Nathan Ellington signalled his arrival against Chesterfield with a tremendous finish.

made no secret of his desire to play at a higher level again before hanging up his boots.

The fact that De Zeeuw took longer than expected to decide where his future lay shows how difficult a choice he had and Latics fans 'Arry Day', surely played a major part in this.

"The reception that the fans gave 'Arry' during the last few weeks of the season certainly made his decision even more difficult and also showed him the esteem in which he was held at the JJB. I'm sure everyone at the club would like to thank 'Arry' for his contribution during his three seasons in a Latics shirt and wish him all the best with his move to Portsmouth."

A couple of weeks later came news of latics first new signing ahead of the new season. Young Welshman Mike Flynn made a £15,000 move from Barry Town to Wigan Athletic and shortly after completing the deal, Flynn told wiganathletic.tv of his hopes for the future.

"I can only learn from the better players here and hopefully I can teach them a thing or two as well. Paul Jewell's got a lot of experience so I'm looking to learn from him too. People have told me that Wigan have underachieved over the past few years and you only have to look around the place to see that that's true. You look around and this place is definitely made for Division One, if not the Premiership in a couple of years time."

And in a busy few days at the IIB, the club then announced that all time leading goal scorer David Lowe was returning to the club as first team coach and before following this up by announcing that they had completed the signing of Chesterfield central defender and captain Ian Breckin for \$150,000.

Breckin spoke of his excitement shortly after completing the deal at his new home ground:

"Everybody's made me really welcome here and obviously the facilities are superb so I can't wait to get started now. A couple of weeks ago I heard that there was some interest from Wigan and then I came over for talks at the end of last week. Obviously, I wanted to get something sorted as quickly as possible and luckily enough we've managed to get it sorted and I'm very happy."

August

After a pre-season campaign that saw Latics travel to Holland for a couple of matches before starting a series of home friendlies, Paul Jewell's side travelled to Whaddon Road, Cheltenham for their first Nationwide League game having lost only one game in their build up to the new Division Two season

And this confidence was reflected in their opening performance, as early goals from Andy Liddell and Lee McCulloch gave Latics a two goal lead that they held onto comfortably for the rest of the game. Manager Jewell was pleased to start the season with a win although he knew his side could improve in many areas.

"There were certain things I wasn't happy with, but we had the effort, work rate and spirit, and

could have scored seven or eight goals. We defended well and stuck at it, and promotion and championships are all about winning nitty-gritty games.

"As well as I want us to play, it is nice to come away and scrap and fight for a victory."

Latics followed this win with three more to complete there best ever start to a Football League season. Two goals from Nathan Ellington and a second half winner from captain Jason De Vos saw off brave Mansfield at the JJB, before late goals against Bristol City from Scott Green and Lee McCulloch made it three wins out of three. And then just a week later, two truly fabulous goals from Andy Liddell helped

Latics win 2-0 at Meadow Lane against Notts County to keep his side clear at the top of Division Two.

However, just as things appeared to be going swimmingly at the JJB, Latics suffered back-to-back defeats to drop Paul Jewell's side down to third. An unfortunate defeat at home to Port Vale was followed in the home win against by a disappointing performance at Colchester as Latics Mansfield Town. lost to single goal from Layer Road youngster Dean Morgan.

No reason to panic for anyone at the JJB yet though but manager Paul Jewell knew that his players must keep their standards high if they were to realise their ambitions of promotion to Division One.

"I think we are a better side on paper than we were on the pitch today. We didn't have enough quality to break them down. We had some great situations but we didn't make the most of them, and that's the main reason as to why I am so disappointed - the lack of quality."

"Their goal came from our attack when we lost the ball too cheaply. We couldn't even pass the ball ten yards at times and we looked like a pub team. I didn't think we had that many great chances. For all the possession we had, we couldn't open them up. We have to be more nitty gritty and get on top of the opposition and have the stomach for a fight."

> Well that's it for now but make sure you get the next issue of 'The Latic' as we look back at the past four months as a Wigan Athletic fan, as Paul Jewell's side continued their impressive start to their League season and also embarked on the start of their memorable Worthington Cup run.

Lee McCulloch

Scorer of the second goal in the opening game of the season, Lee continued this fine form until picking up an injury during training.

Jason De Vos Latics Canadian defender took on the captaincy this season and scored the winner





Who'd be a footballer at Christmas?

This is our third game in a week and we still have Notts County to visit the JJB Stadium in four days time.

Would you treat a racehorse the way you treat a professional footballer? If you did you would soon have the RSPCA knocking on the stadium door and this is the time when the clubs with the bigger squads of players will feel the benefits of the rush of games.

Hopefully, we are going into this game still top of the Second Division (Christmas deadlines mean these notes were written the morning after the Blackburn game) and if we can emerge from the hectic period injury free – and defeat free – then 2003 that might a very enjoyable year indeed for the boys in blue. Just one more point – almost 17,000 for the Blackburn game. Fantastic or what?

Stoke City FA Cup tie.

Don't forget, because of the difficulties fans might experience getting to the Britannia Stadium by car (there is limited car parking around the ground and virtually none at all in the surrounding areas) Latics Supporters Club have agreed that coaches going to Stoke on January 4 will be available to nonmembers.

Normally, WASTC coaches are for members only, but in this instance it might be difficult for supporters to get to the ground by car and, as there will be many hundreds of fans wishing to see the game, WASTC feels this is the right decision to take. Prices for non-members are £2 across the board on top of the members' price. That means Adults nonmembers £10 (£8 member) Concessions: £8 (£6) Parent & Child: £14 (£12). Coaches can be booked at the Supporters Club in the South stand before any home game or at Mayfair Travel on Wigan Lane.

Breakfast at The Anvil

Fancy travelling to Stoke for the FA Cup tie after munching your way through a full English breakfast? Well now you can.

The Anvil pub in Dorning Street is putting on a special breakfast for WASTC members travelling to the Cup tie on January 4 at the bargain price of £2.50.

Numbers for this event are limited to the first 30 on a first come, first served basis and applies only to WASTC members travelling on our coaches to the game. Please note, everyone will still have to make their way to the SoccerDome to pick up the coaches for the 1pm departure after the breakfast. Coaches WILL NOT pick up at the Anvil. The breakfast is at 10.30 and anyone interested can book their places when they book their coach tickets for Stoke. This offer only applies to those people booking for the Stoke trip at the Supporters Club. It does not apply to those fans booking through Mayfair Travel.

WASTC CONTACT DETAILS

Address:W.A.S.T.C., P O Box 160, Wigan D.O., WN6 7FN e-mail:wastc@hotmail.com Telephone:01942 737886 (THIS IS NOT A COACH BOOKING LINE) website:www.wastc.com

COACH BOOKINGS



BOOKINGS BEING TAKEN IN THE SUPPORTERS BAR RECEPTION (SOUTH STAND) or VIA MAYFAIR TRAVEL ON WIGAN LANE (01942 829988)

PLEASE BOOK FOR ANY GAMES AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT.

Next on the par



Notts County

Wednesday 1st January 03 NEW YEARS DAY Nationwide League Division Two Kick-off 3.00pm

With an away fixture this afternoon at Plymouth Argyle, Magpies boss Bill Dearden took time before the Christmas period to hit out at his side's chaotic holiday programme which will see County travel over a thousand miles over the festive period. Dearden has called on the league to review its fixture policy and wants more local derbies at holiday times

Dearden branded County's festive programme unfair on players and supporters.

"Why we don't have more local derbies at holiday times is beyond me. For us to have to play down at Plymouth three days after Christmas is ridiculous. It's time the league took action on this issue because it's getting out of hand. Lugging down to Plymouth makes no sense whatsoever, and the people I feel sorry for are the fans."

Having seen his side win their first league match in ten attempts with a 3-0 home victory over Queens Park Rangers a fortnight ago, Dearden has challenged his side to turn that victory into the turning point of the season.

Having only avoided relegation on the final Saturday of last season, County again find themselves at the wrong end of the table with the worst home record in the division. On their travels, away wins have been completed at both Crewe Alexandra and Cheltenham Town, strikers Danny Allsopp and Mark Stallard both netting twice in the 4-1 victory over the Robins back in August. Allsopp was on target in the win over QPR to take his tally for the season while netting his first for the season was ever-present defender Nicky Fenton.

Off the field, the club have revealed they are in negotiations over a proposed deferral of player wages. The club recently held talks with the Professional Footballers Association over ways in which they can reduce the crippling wage bill at Meadow Lane. In the same manner as their East Midlands rivals Leicester City and Derby County, the Magpies are hoping to reach an agreement with players to either defer or agree to a cut in a percentage of their wages. The magpies are currently losing around £120,000 a month with debt to creditors of between £5.5 and £6 million.

This will be our third meeting this season following a 2-0 win in the league match at Meadow Lane back in August with Andy Liddell netting both goals. Two months later, a brace from Gary Teale secured a 3-2 victory in the LDV Vans Trophy.







	League Div 2		FA Cup		Leaș Cup		Total	
Player	Арр	Goal	Арр	Goal	Арр	Goal	Арр	Goal
John Filan	21		2		5		28	
Paul Mitchell	5(5)		(1)		1(2)		8(7)	
Steve McMillan	16(1	0			4		19(1)	
Matt Jackson	20	1	2		5		28	1
Jason De Vos	21	3	1		5		26	3
lan Breckin	4(1)		1				6(1)	
Andy Liddell	13(2	.)9			2		16(2)	9
Neil Roberts	10(3	03	2		4(1)	1	16(4)	á
Nathan Ellington	21	9	2	2	5	5	27(1)	14
Lee Ashcroft					(1)	12	(1)	
Lee McCulloch	15	3			2		17	3
Mike Flynn	3(10)1	(2)	1	(3)		5(14)	2
Stewart Kerr								
Scott Green	14(2)2	2		3(1)		20(5)	3
Tony Dinning	17	4	2		3	0	22	4
Ged Brannan	6						7	
Jason Jarrett	18(3)	2		5	1	25(4)	2
Nicky Eaden	12		2		4		18	
Gary Teals	6(8)		(1)		2(1)	1	10(11)	
Peter Kennedy	8		1		3		13	
Leighton Baines	2		2		1(1)		5(2)	
Kieran Charnock								
lan Pendlebury								
Paul Santus								
Ryan Yeomans								
Dave Beasant			(1)				1(1)	



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2: .*	Nathan Ellington
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Referee:Mr C. Wilkes Assistants:Mr P. CanadineMr D. Morrison

4th Official:Mr T. Leake

Swindon Town

•	Bart Griemark
4	Gareth Edds
	Matthew Hewlett
	Adam Willis
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	Keith O'Halloran
	Sam Parkin
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1.	David Duke
2.	Juan Cobian
4.	Eric Sabin
5.	Darren Dykes
7.	Danny Invincible
8.	Craig Farr
9.	Matthew Heywood
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