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THE MAGPIES' OFFICIAL
MATCHDAY MAGAZINE

**NOTTS
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**v
SWINDON
TOWN**

The FA CUP

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2004/05
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The buzz is back - and Cup win will make it even better

When you consider the number of teams taking part in the FA Cup - right through from the preliminary round in August - it's an amazing coincidence that we're faced with the prospect of a third round meeting with Middlesbrough for the second successive year. And although the old adage about lightning not striking twice might still come into the equation, it certainly won't be through lack of trying if we fail to earn a money-spinning tie at Meadow Lane next month. It's important not to get carried away with the situation because we still have a massive rebuilding job to do - on and off the pitch - but there's evidence to suggest that all the hard work is starting to pay off.

As you can read elsewhere in this programme, business is booming with our conference & banqueting facilities, the restaurant and the Club Shop.

These are crucial areas of activity within the club and it's absolutely essential we make them work in a way which significantly boosts the level of income they provide. Couple that with the special atmosphere which was generated on Big Thank You Day and we genuinely think we are entitled to claim that the buzz is back at Meadow Lane.

The buzz-level is certain to be increased still further if things go according to plan tonight because there's nothing quite like a run in the FA Cup to get the pulse racing.

There's a big job to be done by players and supporters

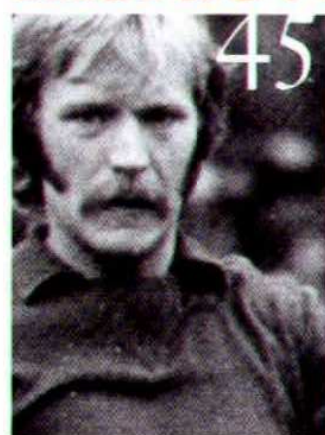
alike if we are to overcome Swindon and set up the glamour tie against Middlesbrough. But the lads will give it their best shot and as they showed at the County Ground, all things are possible.

There must have been a temptation for many of you to stay at home in the warm tonight and follow our progress on television and we are very grateful to you for turning out.

It's with that in mind that we have given out £10 vouchers to spend in the Club Shop - which effectively means that some of you will be watching the game for nothing.

It wasn't possible to reduce admission prices but the vouchers are another way of saying thanks for your continued commitment to the cause.

inside...



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IAN RICHARDSON

Disappointed - but let's take it out on Swindon

"Under the circumstances, we needed someone to take responsibility for giving everyone a lift against Wycombe but it never looked like anyone would get on the ball and do something with it."

There isn't a day that goes by without me learning many more lessons in the art of management and I certainly added plenty to my education at the weekend.

Although I tried hard to add to the squad following our disappointing defeat at Grimsby, when it came to the crunch we had just one recognised senior defender available to face Wycombe.

John Gaunt and I worked until late in the night on Friday, trying to formulate our plans. Bearing in mind that we had five regulars missing through injury and suspension it was no easy matter - and then it became six on Saturday morning when Kelvin Wilson was clearly not well enough to play.

Despite all our problems, I have to say that I was very disappointed with the way we performed against Wycombe. The performance was 'flat' compared to other games we've played at home while I've been in charge and something told me it was not going to be our day.

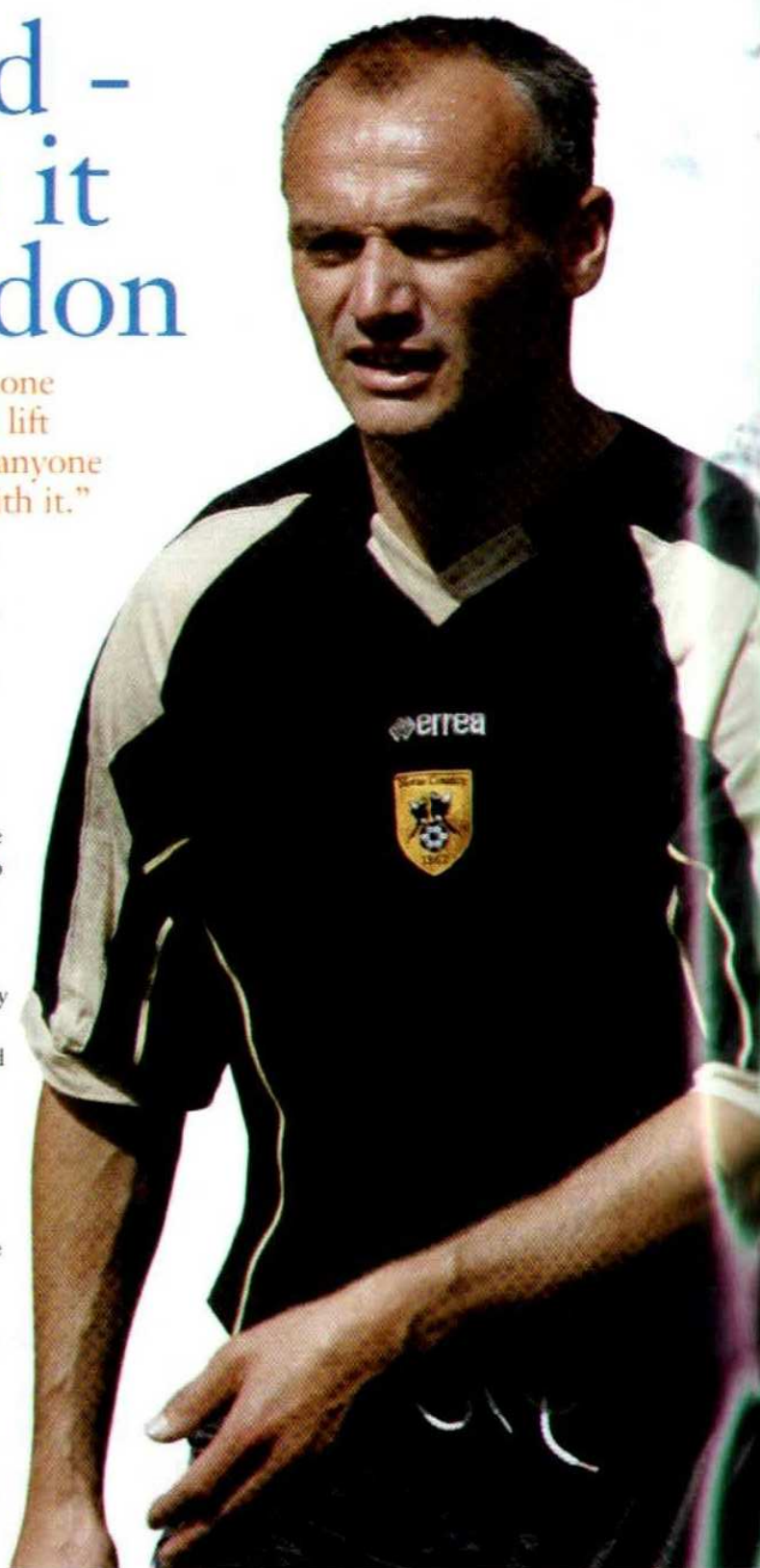
I was asked afterwards if I

thought the result was down to us thinking about the Cup replay. I don't know about that but I certainly didn't think we had our minds right before the start.

When the players arrived at Meadow Lane and realised we would have to completely change the back three, I got the impression they felt we were up against it and would be beaten.

Under the circumstances, we needed someone to rise to the challenge and take responsibility for giving everyone a lift - colleagues and crowd alike. Instead of that, it never looked like anyone would get on the ball and do something with it and that was what upset me most. Quite apart from the performances, I'm very disappointed we have no points to show from our last two matches... but maybe we can take our frustrations out on Swindon.

Fingers crossed, we will have something more like our real team on duty tonight. In fact, you could say that the spine of the team will be restored because Paul Bolland and



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progress report

Saul Deeney

"Presumably a lot of people took it for granted that Wayne Henderson would be straight back in the team when he rejoined us from Aston Villa but I have to say they got it wrong.

"Had Saul Deeney not been suffering from tonsillitis he would have kept goal for us at Grimsby last week because there was absolutely no justification for leaving him out.

"He had only let in three goals in the previous five matches, had performed very creditably in the Cup game at Swindon and has improved noticeably with the experience of holding down a regular first-team place.

"Obviously we had to sign a goalkeeper when Steve Mildenhall moved on and I was delighted Villa let us have Wayne again because I rate him very highly.

"But I also rate Saul very highly and I've made it clear to both of them that it's the man in form who will play.

"It's an excellent situation from my point of view because there is genuine competition for the goalkeeper's spot and I sincerely hope Saul doesn't see it as a snub that Wayne is back.

"Saul has a big future in the game if he wants it badly enough... the ball is in his court."



Gavin Gordon are available again after suspension and I'm hoping Julien Baudet will have recovered from his calf injury. Sometimes you don't fully appreciate a player's qualities until they are not there and we have really missed Bolland in the past three matches. He works so hard for the team and wins so much of the ball in mid-field that we are bound to be stronger for having him back.

Although it needed an injury-time equaliser from Stefan Oakes to earn our replay against Swindon, I was actually disappointed that we didn't win the game because I thought we created the better chances. I certainly thought that our performance on the day warranted a second chance and I see absolutely no reason why we need to doubt our ability to finish the job tonight.

The financial situation at Meadow Lane has been well documented. Everyone knows how crucial it is for us to bring in extra cash and it will undoubtedly be a major boost if we can beat Swindon. Aside from the prize money we would get for reaching the third round, it's logical to assume that Middlesbrough would bring around 5,000 fans with them and that would guarantee

another massive pay day. But after the events of last week, my main concern is that we go about our work tonight with a lot more life and determination... and carry it on when we get to Swansea on Saturday. On behalf of everyone at Meadow Lane I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and please let's meet up again here on Boxing Day.



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Thanks, Stefan

It's amazing at times what an impact one kick can have.

Stefan Oakes' stoppage-time equaliser in the first meeting with Swindon forced us all to change our plans for tonight and while Sky's involvement has presented both clubs with an unexpected cash windfall, not everyone is delighted about it.

Top of the list of people who come into that category must be Peter Byrne, as he made clear in an email sent to our media manager Mark Stevenson.

Peter placed a bet on 18 teams to win on second round Cup day and with a minute to go at the County Ground, he was 100 per cent correct. Stef's strike cost him the little matter of £9,000 and he wrote: "I attach a copy of my bet and would be grateful if you would pass it on to Mr Oakes - with my thanks!"



Paragon packs 'em in

We would like to say a massive 'thank you' tonight to our Club Sponsor, Paragon Interiors Group, who has helped to ensure there's extra support in the stands for us this evening. The Midlands' leading work-place design and fit-out company has swelled the gate by paying for more than 300 local families.

Paragon managing director Alan Hardy said: "The FA Cup is a very special competition and so provides an ideal oppor-

tunity for families to come to Meadow Lane to experience its unique atmosphere.

"It's a big game for Notts with a potentially massive pay day awaiting in the next round with a home draw against Middlesbrough.

"As it's also the Magpies' first ever home appearance live on Sky, we wanted to ensure there was a good crowd in the stadium to create a decent atmosphere to spur the players on to victory."

Record shop sales

Everyone who came through the turnstiles tonight has received a voucher to spend in our Club Shop and we urge you to make good use of it because some exciting new lines have recently been introduced.

For example, we've just taken delivery of the full range of our black Errea training kit, along with signed photos and footballs plus our new Notts County 2005 calendar - all of which make

ideal gifts for Christmas. Commercial, retail and catering manager Charlotte Moore said: "Business has been soaring lately and the introduction of credit card sales over the internet, added to the Christmas rush, has seen us achieve record weekly takings which are treble the usual amount." To buy online visit www.nottscountyfc.co.uk and click on the 'Shopping' link.

behind the scenes



John Dye Ticket Office Manager

John has worked in a number of positions at Meadow Lane in the past four years and now has the roles of ticket office manager, disabled liaison officer and deputy safety officer.

He began as a steward before moving up through the ranks to help stadium control officer Bob Davy monitor the ground on matchdays for safety and also ensures our disabled fans are being looked after. In the ticket office, John organises bookings for the home and away fans and is in close contact with the opposition for our away trips to check prices and availability.

He said: "I've been a Magpies fan since before I was born. When my mum was pregnant with me, my parents supported County from the corner of the old Jimmy Sirrel Stand."



Our big thank you

We hope you all enjoyed the special line-up of events that were organised at Meadow Lane on Saturday as part of The Big Thank You.

The day would not have been possible without the help and backing of a number of our loyal suppliers and friends and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their much-appreciated contributions.

"A lot of people pulled together to help make the event a success by donating time, money or goods to our cause and we are extremely grateful for all their continued support," said commercial, retail and catering manager Charlotte Moore.

Those who helped were: Sue Fells, Mr and Mrs Hickton of Highfields, Coca Cola, Hardys & Hansons, Mars, Skoda, Chairman of our Supporters' Club Iris Smith, David Tye, Lesley Youdell, Lyn Bowley and the Supporters' Trust.



Angels tumble in

Stand by for some spectacular half-time entertainment because Nottingham's famous gymnastic display team, 'The Dako Flying Angels', will be here to entertain us.

Based as part of the Oliver Hind Club in nearby Sneinton, the team formed more than 30 years ago at a different youth club in Dakeyne

Street - hence the name 'Dako'.

Primarily a vaulting and trampet display team, many of the members can also tumble and do floor gymnastics.

The Angels represent the city in this country and abroad and perform at around 50 displays a year at events including fetes, summer galas and fairs.

They have taken the award for the Best British Vaulting Display Team for the past two years and have now taken the title four times in total. Incidentally, they won't be fazed by appearing live on Sky tonight because they have featured on BBC TV's Blue Peter on a number of occasions.

Afternoon kick-offs

Our Christmas schedule is as hectic as ever with four games in nine days and it may be helpful to your holiday planning to know that all of them - at home to Northampton and Rochdale and away to Scunthorpe and Cheltenham - kick off at 3pm.

Outlining the future

Director Roy Parker and chief executive Patrick Nelson were the special guests at the recent meeting of the Supporters' Club and they outlined their vision for the future - with particular emphasis on improving and publicising the facilities at Meadow Lane.

Said Supporters' Club chairman Iris Smith: "It was good to see Patrick at the meeting and his talk has certainly shown where the club wants to go and what needs to be done."

"We've done plenty of work already at the ground with painting and decorating and would be very happy to help in the future."

"Every bit of revenue helps so it's important for all supporters to spread the message that Meadow Lane is the perfect venue for a birthday party or wedding reception."



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Food for thought

If you're faced with the prospect of slaving over a hot stove at Christmas then why not treat yourself and let our highly trained chefs take the strain on Boxing Day.

You'll need to move fast though because word is spreading like wildfire about the great value offered in our Executive Restaurant on matchdays. Said commercial, hospitality and catering manager Charlotte Moore: "All 170 places were sold for the visit of Wycombe on Saturday and we're expecting another full house for the festive clash with Northampton.

"A good percentage has already been sold for Boxing Day so anyone interested in coming along needs to book sooner rather than later to avoid disappointment."

The price of £24.95 plus VAT includes a three course carvery meal, a seat in the sponsors' area of the Derek Pavis Stand, car-parking and a match programme.

"Numbers have been steadily increasing because once people have tried the package we know that invariably they will come back," added Charlotte.

For more information and bookings for Boxing Day or the game against Rochdale on January 3 call 0115 952 9000.



Thanks, Brenda

There was an extra special treat for the woman who puts the 'tea' into team at Meadow Lane as she celebrated a special landmark birthday.

Ground catering manager Brenda Ackroyd has been in charge of serving up hot drinks to the fans at our first and reserve team home matches for the past 12 years.

And when she reached her 70th birthday we couldn't allow her big day to pass without marking it so club secretary Tony Cuthbert presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

Bucket collection for Wrexham

The Supporters' Trust are carrying out a bucket collection tonight in aid of Wrexham.

Said Trust Board member David Hindley: "Anyone who endured the dark times of our own Administration will empathise with the plight of Wrexham, who have reported debts of £2.5 million with £900,000 owed to the Inland Revenue.

"Their Chairman has made public his plans to redevelop the Racecourse Ground for housing and the Inland Revenue, who are becoming increasingly impatient with the plight of football clubs, want to petition for the winding up of Wrexham."

In the same way that Notts County Trust worked tirelessly to help save us, the Wrexham Supporters' Trust are striving to ensure their club's survival and we ask you to support their cause with a donation tonight.

Vice Presidents 2004-05

We would like to acknowledge the support of the following people:

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Numbers up for Charlotte

Our commercial, hospitality and retail manager Charlotte Moore is delighted to announce she has a bulging address book following her hugely successful 'Charlotte wants your number' campaign. The scheme was designed to collect the details of our fans who are supporters but don't have season tickets, in an effort to improve communication with them.

Said Charlotte: "We had forms on reception as well as a team of girls going around the ground at the Cambridge United game col-

lecting details and as a result we 'captured' more than 400 people. "Their information is currently being sorted before we add it to our database and though we've made a great start, the campaign is not over yet.

"Forms are still available on reception and we plan to have another assault on collecting more data at a future home game."

Those who passed over their particulars will be kept informed of all our special offers and events.

Reserves rescheduled

Fans who follow the fortunes of our Reserves will be aware they were scheduled to play at Darlington this afternoon. But tonight's FA Cup replay meant that match had to be rearranged for Wednesday February 9 at the New Stadium with a 2pm kick-off. Another recent postponement for the Reserves came on November 24 when the away fixture with Grimsby was called off as it clashed with our game in the FA Youth Cup. A new date for that game is still to be confirmed but we will update you as soon as a decision can be made.

Leading the way

Two youngsters hoping to inspire us to FA Cup success this evening are our mascots, Daniel Upson and Matt Hardy.

Daniel, from Hucknall, is celebrating his 10th birthday and will be hoping his favourite player, Chris Palmer, can deliver one of his special strikes this evening.

A pupil at Whyburn Primary School, in his spare time he enjoys playing on his computer as well as being a big fan and keen player with his sights set on becoming a professional

goalkeeper.

Matt is the nephew of Alan Hardy, the managing director of our official club sponsor Paragon Interiors and has travelled from Leeds to lead us out this evening. A keen Saturday morning footballer for Dragon Football Club, the 14-year-old defender likes to make life hell for strikers but is a big admirer of England's Michael Owen. He attends Abbey Grange High School and also enjoys playing his electric guitar, surfing the net and cooking Indian food.



Daniel Upson



Matt Hardy



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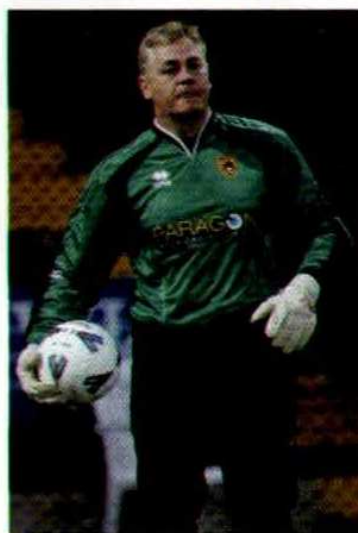


Big turnout for Big Thank You

Shame about the result but everything else went according to plan on Big Thank You Day as we attracted our biggest crowd of the season so far and the programme of special events certainly added to the occasion.

Santa Claus was a big hit with the youngsters and it brought back memories for older fans to see Steve Cherry back between the posts, when he returned to face half-time penalties from people picked from the crowd.

Our thanks go to all the many people who played their part in organising the day.



Check it out... John Cotton receives his cheque from Lifeline co-ordinator Lynn Lawson, watched by Steve Scoffham, Gavin Gordon and Mike Edwards.

What are mates for?

John Cotton had double cause to celebrate two weeks ago when he won the first prize in our Lifeline Gala Night of £10,000. The lifelong Magpies fan had turned 77 a few days earlier and immediately promised to split the prize with two of his friends

who, like him, joined the scheme when it first began in 1986.

He said: "We always meet up on Sundays to talk about Notts and when Lifeline was introduced we thought it made more sense to buy three memberships rather than one and split whatever winnings came our way.

"That's definitely the biggest prize I've ever won and I really haven't decided what I'm going to do with my share of the money. A holiday would probably go down nicely."

John has been a Magpies fan ever since he arrived in Nottingham in 1939 as one of the

Second World War railway children and rates Eddie Gannon, who played for the club from 1946 to 1948 and made 118 appearances, as his favourite player.

He added: "I've seen many great players at Meadow Lane over the years, including the likes of Tommy Lawton, but Eddie always sticks in my mind. He was a left-half and he never seemed to go into a tackle without emerging with the ball. "Let's hope Ian Richardson and the boys show that kind of determination for the Cup replay tonight because it would be great to see a really big team back at Meadow Lane."



ON REFLECTION



Backs to the wall... Glynn Hurst and David Pipe combine to clear against Wycombe.

Saturday December 4 Youth Alliance League Notts County 0 Chesterfield 3

Notts County: Dryden, Thacker, Taylor, Chilaka, Hannigan, Craven, Frost, Rhodes, Nurse, Sneath (Sherlock 50), Morgan (Szondi 65).

There was no repeat of the entertaining 4-4 draw of our previous clash with the Spireites as Chesterfield's greater experience eventually overpowered us.

They did, however, need the help of a dubious penalty to get them on their way. We held out for the first half-hour but the visitors took the lead when an offside flag was not raised.

Their striker raced into the box and although Tom Hannigan and Sam Craven recov-

ered their positions, the attacker fell under little challenge and then dispatched the spot kick.

Chasing the game in the second half, a rare mistake led to the second Chesterfield goal, when he missed a punch from a cross and they reacted first to score.

Another dangerous cross led to the third strike late on, when a centre to the back post found the attacker in space with plenty of time to finish.

Neville Hamilton's Verdict

"When we travelled up to play Chesterfield back in October they showed their attacking strength to recover from being 4-1 down and get a 4-4 draw. I was there a couple of years ago and knew they had some good third year players and so it proved at Meadow Lane.

"They can be a bit hot and cold but their wide men were definitely on form, particularly their left winger who kept on cutting in and causing problems.

"They forced us back and we didn't make much of an impression going forward but the lads were committed throughout and didn't let their heads drop.

"It wasn't a particularly good performance but Chesterfield looked a decent team and the young players did themselves credit again.

"Sam Craven and Stef Frost have shown some real promise and I'm looking to introduce more first years into the team after Christmas. The results may not look good on paper but the future is bright for the club."

Hamilton's Star Man

Stef Frost - "making an impact despite his age."

Tuesday December 7 Coca Cola League 2 Grimsby Town 3

(Bull 9, Parkinson 48, Whittle 80)

Notts County 2

(Oakes 17, Gordon 71)

Attendance: 4,030

Grimsby: Williams, Forbes, Crowe, Whittle, McDermott, Gordon, Pinault, Fleming, Parkinson, Bull (Sestanovich 77), Cramb (Reddy 77). Subs: Coldicott, Jones, Hockless. Notts County: Henderson, Pipe (Scully 59), Whitlow, Oakes, Gill, Baudet, Gordon, Palmer, Williams (Hurst 65), Wilson, McFaul (O'Grady 86). Subs: Petterson, Kuduzovich.

Poor defending was the main cause of our fourth straight away defeat in the League as we twice came from behind to equalise in a highly-entertaining contest but eventually left



Matthew Gill... pushes forward against Wycombe.

Blundell Park empty-handed. It looked like normal service had been resumed for Wayne Henderson when he marked his return from Aston Villa with spectacular early save but the young 'keeper was badly let down two minutes later. Julien Baudet's mistake handed Ronnie Bull his first goal for Grimsby but we recovered from that early setback in spirited fashion as Stefan Oakes equalised with a blistering drive from 40 yards and Oakes and Baudet were both denied by goalline clearances. It was Russell Slade's side that finished the half the strongest, however, and although we survived a series of near-misses, it was no more than the Mariners deserved when they regained their lead three minutes after the break. Andy Parkinson, still the same slippery customer he was during his loan spell with us last season, got the goal with

the help of a deflection - but again we managed to find an equaliser. Gavin Gordon got it - his fifth goal of the season - in a scramble following a corner and our travelling faithful were celebrating again moments later when substitute Glynn Hurst planted the ball in the net. Hurst was ruled offside, however, and instead of celebrating we were left frustrated as Grimsby snatched the points with a poor goal from our viewpoint. A free kick was needlessly conceded on the touchline and when Thomas Pinault swung the ball into the middle, skipper Justin Whittle was allowed to score with a free header.

Ian Richardson's Verdict

"It was our worst display since I took charge. We didn't defend as a team and the players know that I'm very

disappointed in them.

"To be honest we could have been dead and buried by half time. They created loads of chances but we managed to get away with it and having got back to 2-2, we should have got something from the game.

"But instead of sticking the ball in the corners and making sure we hung onto a point, we made a mess of things defensively again and got what we deserved.

"I'm really annoyed about it. Our defending was unacceptable and although the players will have Wednesday off because they'll be late home, I've told them not to make plans for Thursday. There's a lot of work to do."

Richardson's Star Man

David Pipe - "I was disappointed he had to go off injured because he was having another fine game."

pie eyed

Grimsby 3 Notts County 2

By Richard Stanton

Driving on the M180 to be greeted with a vista of oil refineries and chemical works, all that was missing was a 'welcome to the British seaside' sign.

It's like a different country up there because they are absolutely obsessed with fish. All the advertising hoardings are 'fish-based' and even the supporters' trust motto is 'in cod we trust'.

About 15 minutes in, a local trawler chugged out of the docks and sadly it was not the only thing that was at sea that night. In an otherwise encouraging performance, our defending was comical at times. Then again, it was the first time in living memory it wasn't blowing a gale at Blundell Park so maybe that explains why Julien Baudet expected his back-pass to be wind assisted!

The night will forever be remembered for Stefan Oakes' shot - probably the cleanest strike I've ever seen. There was a typical fisherman's debate about just how long it was but TV replays at half-time confirmed I was justified with my claims of 35 yards.

Having missed out on fish and chips before kick-off I was determined to get a fix afterwards but chose the worst chippie in Cleethorpes. And my evening was complete as I was forced to hand over 15p for three plastic forks.



ON REFLECTION



Chris O'Grady... races through on goal against Wycombe.

Saturday December 1
Coca Cola League 2
Notts County 0
Wycombe
Wanderers 1
(Stonebridge 42)
Attendance: 6,529

Notts County: Henderson, Pipe, Whitlow, Oakes, Gill, Hurst, Scully, Palmer, Williams, McFaul (Friars 45), O'Grady (Kudozovic 73). Subs: Deency, Harrad, McIntyre.
Wycombe: Talia, Ryan, Johnson, Williamson, Senda, Tyson (Guppy 55), Stonebridge, Faulconbridge, Silk, Craig, Cooke (Bloomfield 68). Subs: Williams, Dixon, Nethercott.

Injuries, suspensions and illness left us with just one recognised senior defender -

and it ruined the "Big 'Thank You' party.

The biggest crowd of the season turned up to see us try and extend our winning Meadow Lane run to five matches but we failed to do ourselves justice as Wycombe again proved to be our bogey side.

We now haven't beaten them in our last 10 meetings and although we had the better first half chances, we never looked like getting back into the game once Wycombe scored.

Chris Palmer fired wide after an enterprising run from his own half, on-loan Chris O'Grady had an effort cleared off the line by Roger Johnson and Frank Talia made a superb save to deny Matt Williams after the

former Manchester United youngster had twisted and turned inside the box.

At that stage our makeshift line-up, with David Pipe in the centre of the defence and Shane McFaul operating alongside him, were making a decent fist of the considerable challenge.

But once Stonebridge struck just before the break - a mis-hit shot from Stephen Cooke deflected conveniently into his path - there was no way back.

Wycombe struggled to kill us off as Craig Faulconbridge and Matt Bloomfield both missed good chances and Mike Whitlow headed against his own post but in the end, one goal was enough to give John Gorman his first win.

Ian Richardson's Verdict

"John Gaunt and I were up until late in the night, trying to figure out a team, and I think we got our selection right.

"Under the circumstances I thought the lads at the back did really well but what disappointed me was that we didn't create anything like enough in midfield.

"We got sucked into playing Wycombe's way of playing. They were hitting it long and picking up the second balls and we didn't have enough about us to counter that and start imposing ourselves."

Richardson's Star Man

David Pipe - "played centre back for the first time and did really well. Worked his socks off too!"



Saturday December 11
Youth Alliance League
**Chester 4
Notts County 2**
(Szondi, Clarke)

Notts County: Dryden, R.Austin, Hannigan, Craven, Taylor (Molloy 87), Morgan, Rhodes, Chilaka, Szondi, Sneath (Clarke 45), Sherlock (Frost 70). Subs: M.Austin.

Injuries to the first team squad for the Wycombe game led to the call-up of all the third year scholars, including Kris Nurse and Eddie McIntyre, on the morning of the trip to Chester.

That left Neville Hamilton with a team that included three 15-year-olds in the starting XI and only four substitutes, all Under-16s themselves.

The scratch side performed well under the circumstances, conceding an unfortunate own goal when full back Rob

Austin's last-ditch tackle from a dangerous cross rebounded into the net.

We went 2-0 down before half-time but fought back after the break with two excellent goals.

The first saw Chibuzor Chilaka beat two men out wide and cross for Seb Szondi to smash home and our equaliser was even better, as a cleverly worked free kick allowed Travis Morgan to set up a stunning volley from Ewan Clarke.

But our bad luck struck again when Austin slid in for a tackle in the box only to see the ball hit his hand for a penalty and we conceded a fourth late on when youngster Tom Hannigan was outmuscled for a headed goal.

Neville Hamilton's Verdict

"It's another loss but I was much happier with what I saw from the lads compared to our previous match against Chesterfield. Every-

one came out with credit in this one.

"The youngsters keep on standing up and putting in strong performances but they understandably struggle against the bigger opponents.

"Two of the goals were unlucky and we scored the best goals of the match. For 30 minutes in the second half we were well on top, passing the ball well and keeping possession to bring the scores level.

"Chris Rhodes put in his best work for a good few matches, getting control of the ball and passing it well, Chilaka was back on his game and our wingers were first rate.

"Morgan is a quiet lad who needs an arm around his shoulder sometimes but he should take confidence from this, as he ran with the ball better than he's done all season and also got back to make tackles, while Szondi put in a similar shift and deserved his goal."

Hamilton's Star Man

Travis Morgan and Seb Szondi - "I can't split between the two wingers. They were both terrific defensively and going forward."

Pontins Holiday League Fixtures 2004/05

| | | | |
|----------|--------------|-----|-----|
| 18.08.04 | Lincoln | (H) | 0-5 |
| 08.09.04 | Doncaster | (H) | 0-2 |
| 15.09.04 | Scunthorpe | (A) | 1-2 |
| 06.10.04 | Darlington | (H) | 2-0 |
| 13.10.04 | Boston | (H) | 5-3 |
| 10.11.04 | Huddersfield | (H) | 0-5 |
| 24.11.04 | Grimsby | (A) | P-P |
| 12.01.05 | Scunthorpe | (H) | |
| 17.01.05 | York | (A) | |
| 26.01.05 | Halifax | (H) | |
| 09.02.05 | Darlington | (A) | |
| 16.02.05 | Boston | (A) | |
| 02.03.05 | Huddersfield | (A) | |
| 09.03.05 | Grimsby | (H) | |
| 16.03.05 | Halifax | (A) | |
| 30.03.05 | Lincoln | (A) | |
| 13.04.05 | York | (H) | |
| 27.04.05 | Doncaster | (A) | |

Youth Alliance League Fixtures 2004/05

| | | | |
|----------|-------------------|-----|-----|
| 07.08.04 | Macclesfield | (A) | 1-2 |
| 04.09.04 | Port Vale | (A) | 0-2 |
| 11.09.04 | Mansfield | (A) | 0-3 |
| 18.09.04 | Shrewsbury | (H) | 0-0 |
| 25.09.04 | Rotherham | (A) | 3-2 |
| 02.10.04 | Grimsby (YA Cup) | (A) | 1-2 |
| 04.10.04 | Tamworth (MY Cup) | (A) | 2-0 |
| 09.10.04 | Wrexham | (H) | 2-4 |
| 16.10.04 | Chesterfield | (A) | 4-4 |
| 23.10.04 | Chester | (H) | P-P |
| 30.10.04 | Mansfield | (H) | 1-2 |
| 06.11.04 | Shrewsbury | (A) | 3-3 |
| 09.11.04 | Belper (FAY Cup) | (A) | 3-2 |
| 13.11.04 | Rotherham | (H) | 2-4 |
| 20.11.04 | Wrexham | (A) | P-P |
| 24.11.04 | Hull (FAY Cup) | (A) | 1-3 |
| 04.12.04 | Chesterfield | (H) | 0-3 |
| 11.12.04 | Chester | (A) | 2-4 |
| 15.01.05 | Macclesfield | (H) | |
| 22.01.05 | Port Vale | (H) | |



Matty Williams... tries to battle his way through against Wycombe.



TODAY'S VISITORS

Pies provide bigger mental test than Boro'



By Jon Ritson
Swindon Evening Advertiser

Forget Middlesbrough, Swindon boss Andy King sees tonight's match as the main test of his players' mental approach to business.

On paper - sadly not where games are won and lost - Town have the better players but that isn't always enough in the FA Cup.

If the 'real' Swindon Town take to the field tonight, they should prove too strong for the Magpies but inconsistency has so far thwarted attempts to cement a top six place in League One.

Impressive victories against the likes of Hull City (4-2) and Sheffield Wednesday (3-2) have been mixed in with a 1-0 defeat against Chesterfield, a 3-2 reverse to Walsall and a 2-1 setback last week at home to Huddersfield.

Points have also been squandered in draws against those threatened with relegation. A 3-0 lead at Stockport was thrown away and Town ended up with just a point from a 3-

3 draw, while a 3-1 interval lead against Torquay wasn't enough, as this game also ended 3-3.

Swindon's home form has been impressive though. Few visiting teams have had a happy afternoon in Wiltshire although Town haven't been quite so impressive on their travels.

Recent matches have seen a switch from 4-4-2 to 3-5-2 and it seems to have helped tighten things up at the back. Youngsters Sean O'Hanlon and Jerel Ifil are proving a formidable barrier for opposing forwards with the former being touted for England Under 21 honours.

Sammy Igoe and Brian Howard can create a bit of magic from midfield and 'super' Sam Parkin is on the goal trail again this year. With Tommy Mooney having departed for Oxford in the summer, Christian Roberts is Parkin's regular strike partner this season.



Front row (left to right): Lloyd Opara (no longer at club), Steve Book, Sam Parkin, Jerel Ifil, Sean O'Hanlon, David Duke, Andy Gurney (now at Swindon), Steve Robinson, Sammy Igoe, Stefan Mijiliorani, Andy Gurney (now at Swindon)

"On paper, Town have the better players but that isn't always enough in the FA Cup."

The Welshman, signed from Bristol City in October, adds extra pace to the attack although he was halted in his tracks a couple of weeks ago by a car crash. Thankfully he has now recovered and should be fit enough to cause Notts some problems.

The crash was doubly upsetting for Roberts as it came on the day Town entertained his former club Bristol City in the southern area quarter-final of the LDV Vans Trophy.

A Parkin goal gave Town victory over their bitter rivals from Ashton Gate and they travel to Southend in the New Year for the semi-final, just a couple of steps from the Millennium Stadium.

They would have been in Cardiff at the end of last season but a last-gasp goal in the play-off semi-final at Brighton robbed them of the day out their season's efforts deserved.

So what of tonight and the rewards on offer?

SWINDON TOWN



Evans, Rory Fallon
Reeves, Matt Heywood, Adi Viveash (now at Aldershot), Andy Nicholas
City), Dick Mackey (physio), Andy King (manager), Mike Walsh (assistant manager), Matt Hewlett, Brian Howard, Grant Smith

The manager, although adamant that promotion rather than cup glory is his priority, admits the prospect of a full house against Middlesbrough is an exciting challenge. However, he is warning against anyone from Wiltshire taking victory tonight for granted.

He said: "It would give the players a chance to test themselves against Premiership opposition and would give me a little challenge as a manager against Steve McClaren.

"But the bigger test is their mental approach to Notts County."

Club captain Matt Hewlett added: "The incentive for both teams is there for all to see. There are a lot of positives for the winner of this match.

"It would be great for the players, the fans and in terms of revenue for the club. I'm sure it would be a terrific occasion for everybody - but we're not there just yet."

past meetings

Tonight's challenge is to try and do what Tommy Lawton, Jackie Sewell & Co failed to achieve on the last occasion we met up with Swindon Town in the FA Cup.

Although we were operating in Division Three (South) at that time, huge crowds were the norm - not just at Meadow Lane but wherever we played. For example, 53,000 packed into St Andrew's to see us cause an upset by beating Birmingham City 2-0 in the third round and there were more than 27,000 spectators at the County Ground when we faced up to Swindon.

It was Swindon who came out on top, thanks to a solitary goal, and that avenged our 2-1 win from

the previous year when Sewell was among the second round scorers at Meadow Lane.

Since then, our paths have crossed just once in the cup competitions and that was in October 1962, when Jeff Astle scored twice as we triumphed 5-0 in the third round.

In more recent times, Swindon have had much the better of our League meetings. In fact, we've taken just one point from our last five clashes and the last time we beat them was in December 2001, when Gary Brazil was in charge. We won 3-1 at Meadow Lane with goals from Darren Caskey, Marcel Cas and James Quinn, who was on loan from West Brom at the time.

fact file



Formed: 1881

Nickname:

The Robins

Home:

County Ground

Capacity: 14,540

Record attendance:

32,000 v Arsenal, FA Cup

Third Round, 15 January 1972

League position

2003-04:

5th Division 2

Best League

performance:

22nd Premier League,

1993-94

Colours:

Home: red shirts, white

shorts, red stockings

Away: blue shirts and

shorts with white trim,

blue stockings

Record transfer

fee paid:

£800,000

to West Ham for Joey

Beauchamp, 1994

Record transfer

fee received:

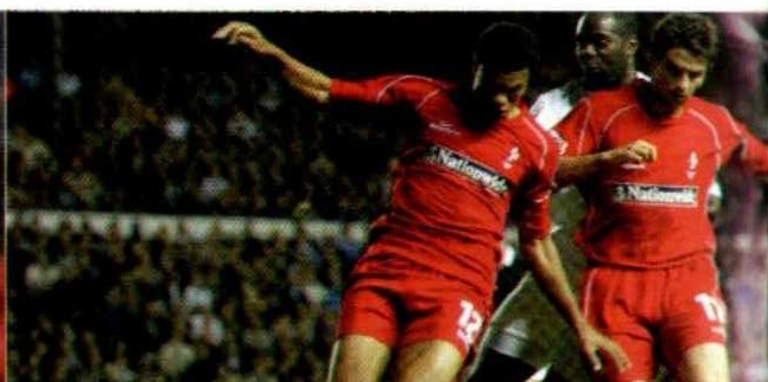
£1,500,000

from Manchester City for

Kevin Horlock, 1997



TODAY'S VISITORS



From left: Rhys Evans, Sean O'Hanlon and Jerel Ifil.

Rhys Evans Goalkeeper Born 27.01.82 Swindon

Promising shot stopper with a commanding presence who began at Chelsea but never made a first team appearance. He had loan spells at Bristol Rovers, QPR and Leyton Orient and represented England at all levels up to Under-21 before being released from Stamford Bridge last summer. Andy King signed him to give then first choice 'keeper Bart Griemink more competition. He quickly became the regular between the posts for his home town club and has turned in many match-saving performances.

Steve Book Goalkeeper Born 07.07.69 Bournemouth

Signed at the start of August from Cheltenham Town as a replacement for Bart Griemink, who left to join Southend United. An agile 'keeper, Book was part of Cheltenham Town's meteoric rise to the Football League and made more than 200 appearances for the Whaddon Road side after signing from Forest Green Rovers in 1997.

Steve Jenkins Defender Born 16.07.72 Merthyr Tydfil

The experienced defender joined on a free from Peterborough in November after a month's loan at the County Ground. The full back has a wealth of experience, having played for Swansea, Huddersfield, Birmingham, Cardiff and turned out 17 times for us last season - most of them as captain - before joining the Posh in January.

Luke Garrard Defender Born 22.09.85 Barnet

Released from Tottenham Hotspur as a scholar, he moved swiftly through the youth set-up to make his debut in April 2003. Has captained the youth team and Under-19s on a number of occasions and is an influential figure, operating at right back or in the heart of defence. Appeared as a substitute in our second round draw last weekend.

Alan Reeves Defender Born 19.11.67 Birkenhead

The veteran player-coach joined from Wimbledon in

1998 and also includes Norwich, Gillingham, Chester and Rochdale on his CV. An uncompromising and committed presence at the back who is closing on 500 career appearances and is always available when called upon. Now has more of a backroom role and uses his bags of experience to marshal the reserves.

Sean O'Hanlon Defender Born 02.01.83 Southport

After impressing during an eight-game loan spell last season, O'Hanlon signed from Everton on a permanent basis in March. Having come through the youth ranks at Goodison Park, he left Merseyside in search of first team football and became a rock in the centre of defence. One of Town's brightest prospects who has been inspirational again this term and has also taken the captain's armband.

Andrew Nicholas Defender Born 10.10.83 Liverpool

A regular member of Liverpool's Under-19 title-winning team who won plaudits with his consistent performances at left back, resulting in a flattering comparison to Sami Hyypia.

Signed at the start of last season and has made the left back slot his own at the County Ground with his good height, terrific pace and a huge throw - one of the longest in the division.

Matthew Heywood Defender Born 26.08.79 Chatham

One of the first names on the Swindon team sheet since moving from Burnley during the 2000-01 season. Strong in the tackle and good in the air, he is proving to be a great asset, with Town's defensive record improving dramatically following his arrival. May not have scored as many goals as he would have liked but can still be effective as an extra body in the box for set pieces.

Jerel Ifil Defender Born 27.06.82 London

The powerful defender had three loan spells with Town before signing from Watford this summer. Became a fans' favourite during his brief stays in Wiltshire and having finally signed on the dotted line, has established himself alongside Sean O'Hanlon as the first choice pairing of central defenders.

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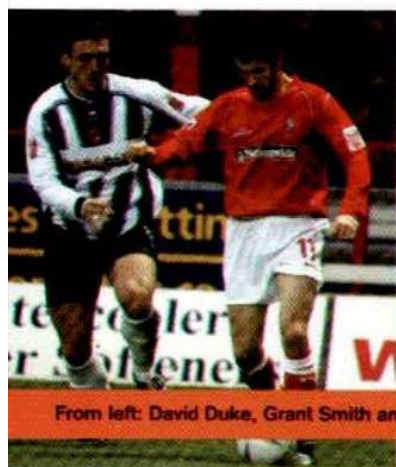
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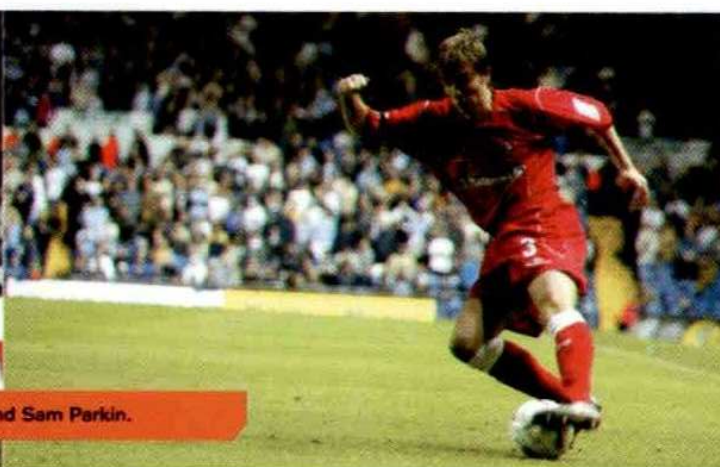




TODAY'S VISITORS



From left: David Duke, Grant Smith and Sam Parkin.



Steve Robinson Midfielder Born 17.10.75 Nottingham

Tonight's game will have special significance for him because he's a lifelong Notts County fan who had a season ticket in the old County Road Stand as a youngster. These days he's a tough-tackling and energetic midfield terrier who signed for Swindon from Birmingham City for £50,000 in February 2001. Came through the ranks at the Blues but has been dogged by injuries throughout his career - failing a medical when he seemed destined to join Sheffield United. A real workhorse who recovered from a broken leg in January to reclaim his place in pre-season.

David Duke Midfielder Born 07.12.78 Inverness

In his fifth season with Swindon after arriving on a free transfer from Sunderland. A regular on the left of midfield whose consistent crossing offers plenty of chances for Sam Parkin. A hard worker who has become more effective at beating players to increase his goalscoring threat and has chipped in with two strikes so far this season.

Matthew Hewlett Midfielder Born 25.02.76 Bristol

A talented midfielder who was called into the England Under 21 squad while at Bristol City, where he made 127 appearances. Was tipped for the top but injuries held him back and he moved to Swindon on a Bosman in 2000. Last term he was virtually ever-present and captained the side in the absence of the suspended Andy Gurney. The engine room at the heart of the team with a good range of passing, he scored against us at the County Ground last season.

Sammy Igoe Midfielder Born 30.09.75 Staines

An attacking midfielder who's always full of running and chips in with important goals. Crowd favourite since joining in the summer of 2003 from Reading, where he fell out of favour with Alan Pardew. Spent seven seasons at Portsmouth where he made 160 appearances before joining the Royals in a £100,000 deal. Brought a fresh enthusiasm to the Swindon side with his quick feet, skills and turn of pace.

Grant Smith Midfielder Born 05.05.80 Irvine

A left-sided player who is comfortable in midfield or at full back. Began at Reading but after a loan spell at Halifax, moved to Sheffield United where he also failed to make an impact. Joined Swindon on the recommendation of Neil Warnock and made seven appearances last season, including a start in the Play-off semi-final second leg at Brighton. Began this season in the starting line-up before being relegated to the bench and came on last week to score against Huddersfield.

Brian Howard Midfielder Born 23.01.83 Winchester

Learned his trade with the Southampton youth team and despite a late move from Chelsea, decided to join Swindon in 2003. The flying winger has England youth caps to his name and has become a key member of the Robins' XI. Moved into central midfield this season to add more creativity and has hit the back of the net five times so far.

Stefani Miglioranza Midfielder Born 20.09.77 Pacos de Caldas, Brazil

A product of the American College system who played for Major League Soccer team Chicago Fire before joining Everton on trial. From there he joined Portsmouth and appeared 35 times for Pompey before moving to the County Ground in 2002-03. Brazilian-born but with an Italian passport, the versatile central midfielder can fill in at the back when necessary. The heart of the side, he's a classy player who always looks calm and collected, with a powerful strike from long range but is currently sidelined with an adductor injury.

Michael Pook Midfielder Born 24.06.86 Swindon

A promising homegrown midfielder who has progressed through the youth system, making his debut in the LDV Vans Trophy last season and adding two more appearances this year.

SWINDON TOWN



Rory Fallon
Striker
Born 20.03.82
Gisborne

A big and powerful front-man who made the right impression with Andy King while with Barnsley, where he came through the youth ranks. Signed last season and had just begun to cement his place in the Swindon side when he suffered a stress fracture of his foot in February. The summer departure of Tommy Mooney to Oxford has led to more opportunities for the former England youth striker who will be looking to link up with Sam Parkin.

Andy Caton
Striker
Born 03.12.87
Oxford

A powerful striker who joined as a first year scholar in the summer after spending some time with GLS Hellenic Premier Division side North Leigh last season where he was a prolific scorer. Scored from the bench on debut at the start of the season against Wrexham.

Christian Roberts
Striker
Born 22.10.79
Cardiff

The Welshman joined Swindon in October in a £50,000 switch from local rivals Bristol City. An aggressive runner with pace to burn in the Swindon frontline. Started at his hometown club but made his reputation with Exeter where he scored 11 goals in 37 league games in the 2001-02 season.

Sam Parkin
Striker
Born 14.03.81
Roehampton

The jewel in Swindon's crown who joined from Chelsea in 2002 after establishing his reputation as a lethal finisher on loan to Millwall, Wycombe, Oldham and Northampton. Young and very promising forward who netted 25 times in his first season with the Robins, finishing third in the Division's scoring charts. Maintained his standards last term and is the club's leading marksman again this season. Strong on the ball and devastating in the box.

dream team

Football historian Leigh Edwards selects a post-war Swindon Town 'Dream Team' with the help of supporters and club officials.

Fraser Digby

England U-21 goalkeeper who starred in the 1992-93 First Division play-off final triumph, making 417 League appearances.

Rod Thomas

Welsh international right-back who was a key figure in the 1968-69 promotion and League Cup 'double' success.

John Trollope

Long-serving left-back who was ever-present in seven consecutive seasons and netted 21 goals in a club record 770 League games.

Glenn Hoddle

Former England international midfielder who was player-manager as Swindon reached the Premiership in 1992-93.

Colin Calderwood

Central defender who starred in Swindon's rise under Lou Macari and was subsequently capped 36 times by Scotland.

Shaun Taylor

Influential central defender who was ever-present alongside Calderwood as Swindon reached the Premiership in 1992-93.

Mike Summerbee

Brilliant winger who starred in the 1962-63 promotion success and was later capped eight times by England.

Ernie Hunt

England U-23 striker who was leading marksman for four consecutive seasons including their 1962-63 promotion triumph.

Paul Rideout

England Under-21 striker who was leading scorer in two consecutive seasons, netting 38 goals in 95 League games.

Peter Noble

Versatile favourite who was an important figure in the 1968-69 promotion and League Cup 'double' triumph.

Don Rogers

England Under-23 winger who scored twice in Swindon's 1969 League Cup final success, netting 148 goals in 412 League outings.



Rory Fallon

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COCA-COLA LEAGUE 2

Darlington boss Dave Hodgson has a big job on his hands this week and will need to have the gift of the gab to pull it off. Top of his list is to convince striker Alun Armstrong to extend his stay at the New Stadium.

The former Middlesbrough and Ipswich hit man has been one of the finds of the season and was on target again at the weekend against Leyton Orient to make it eight in 12 games for the Quakers.

But his contract is up next week and other clubs are believed to have been tracking the 29-year-old, who scored one of his goals against us.

Said Hodgson: "There are other clubs who can pay more money but we are heading in the right direction."

The prize for the most unlikely managerial appointment of the season must surely go to Oxford United after they installed former Argentinian international Ramon Diaz in the hot seat.

It could well be a master stroke as the 45-year-old, who played for his national team alongside Diego Maradona in the 1982 World Cup, led them to victory over Cambridge in his first game in charge.

Diaz has agreed a six month deal at the Kassam Stadium after previously leading the famous River Plate club to five titles.

He said: "England was the only country I wanted to work in. The aim is to get Oxford out of trouble."

It will need the wheels to come off in a major way for Scunthorpe to miss out on promo-

tion after beating nearest rivals Swansea on Saturday.

Yeovil jumped into second spot - but they are seven points adrift of the Iron.

Brian Laws' men were good value for their 1-0 win, which could have been more as the evergreen Peter Beagrie missed a penalty and twice hit the woodwork.

Laws was naturally delighted and was forced to admit it could well turn out to be a significant result.

"This could be a major turning point in our season," he said. "Depending on the result there was going to be either a two point or eight point gap from us to Swansea and I know which I'd prefer."

League 2's loan arrangers have been busy this week as clubs bolster their squads for the busy Christmas programme. Shrewsbury Town manager Gary Peters brought in two new faces in as many days with the capture of centre back Liam Burns and midfielder Neil Ashton.

Burns, a former Port Vale player, moves to Gay Meadow on non-contract terms after leaving League 2 rivals Bristol Rovers, while Ashton signed on loan from Tranmere for the rest of the season.

Macclesfield have strengthened their back-line by signing Boston's out-of-favour 29-year-old Greg Strong on loan for a month.

And new Kidderminster boss Stuart Watkiss has signed Lincoln defender Simon Weaver and Doncaster striker Chris Beardsley on free transfers and given them contracts until the end of the season.

League 2 round up

Will Armstrong take 'one small step' from Darlington?



Darlington boss Dave Hodgson.

This weekend's fixtures



| | | |
|--------|---------------------------------|--------|
| LLWDWL | Grimsby v Oxford | LLWLW |
| LLDWDW | Southend v Chester | DLLWLD |
| WDLWWL | Boston v Darlington | DLLWWW |
| LLWLLL | Cambridge v Bury | WWWLWL |
| WLWLDL | Cheltenham v Kidderminster | LLLLLW |
| LWWLWL | Leyton Orient v Yeovil | DWLWWW |
| LWLLWD | Macclesfield v Northampton | DWLWDW |
| WWWWWL | Rochdale v Bristol Rovers | LLLWWD |
| WLLLLD | Rushden & Diamonds v Scunthorpe | WWWWWL |
| LLWLLD | Shrewsbury v Mansfield | LDLWLD |
| WWLLDW | Wycombe v Lincoln | WLWWLD |



GAME ON

Notts County appearances 2004-5 season

| | League Apps | G | Cups Apps | G | Total Apps | G |
|--------------------|----------------|---|--------------|---|---------------|----|
| Saul Deeney | 9(1) | - | 4 | - | 13(1) | - |
| David Pipe | 16(2) | 1 | 5 | - | 21(2) | 1 |
| Ian Richardson | 10 | - | 2 | 2 | 12 | 2 |
| Mike Edwards | 8(1) | - | 2 | - | 10(1) | - |
| Mike Whitlow | 14(2) | - | 4 | - | 18(2) | - |
| Stefan Oakes | 9 | 1 | 2(1) | 1 | 11(1) | 2 |
| Matthew Gill | 14(5) | - | 4(1) | - | 18(6) | - |
| Julien Baudet | 18 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 22 | 3 |
| Gavin Gordon | 13(3) | 4 | 2(1) | 1 | 15(4) | 5 |
| Glynn Hurst | 17(2) | 9 | 4 | 1 | 21(2) | 10 |
| Tony Scully | 13(4) | 2 | 2(3) | - | 15(7) | 2 |
| Chris Palmer | 10 | 3 | 2 | - | 12 | 3 |
| Paul Bolland | 19 | 1 | 3 | - | 22 | 1 |
| Matt Williams | 6(4) | 1 | 2(1) | - | 8(5) | 1 |
| Steve Scoffham | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Rob Ullathorne | 16(1) | - | 2 | 1 | 18(1) | 1 |
| Shaun Harrad | -(3) | - | - | - | -(3) | - |
| Emmet Friars | -(3) | - | 1 | - | 1(3) | - |
| Kelvin Wilson | 12(5) | - | 4(1) | 1 | 16(6) | 1 |
| Craig Pead | 4(1) | - | 1 | - | 5(1) | - |
| Wayne Henderson | 11 | - | 1 | - | 12 | - |
| Shane McFaul | 5(3) | - | 2 | - | 7(3) | - |
| Eddie McIntyre | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Steve Mildenhall | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Fahrudin Kuduzovic | -(3) | - | - | - | -(3) | - |
| Marvin Robinson | 1(1) | - | - | - | 1(1) | - |
| Youssef Sofiane | 2(2) | - | 1 | 1 | 3(2) | 1 |
| Chris O'Grady | 3(6) | - | 1(1) | - | 4(7) | - |

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League 2 table



| | P | W | D | L | F | A | W | D | L | F | A | PTS |
|--------------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Scunthorpe | 21 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 22 | 9 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 15 | 10 | 44 |
| Yeovil | 21 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 26 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 37 |
| Swansea | 21 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 12 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 11 | 36 |
| Macclesfield | 21 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 14 | 10 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 11 | 12 | 34 |
| Darlington | 21 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 14 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 13 | 9 | 33 |
| Southend | 21 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 17 | 10 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 15 | 20 | 32 |
| Leyton Orient | 21 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 16 | 13 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 15 | 16 | 32 |
| Lincoln | 21 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 19 | 17 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 12 | 8 | 31 |
| Northampton | 21 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 16 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 11 | 15 | 31 |
| Wycombe | 21 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 13 | 11 | 31 |
| Rochdale | 21 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 13 | 13 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 12 | 14 | 30 |
| Bury | 21 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 15 | 10 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 15 | 16 | 29 |
| Boston | 21 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 16 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 11 | 15 | 29 |
| Bristol Rovers | 21 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 16 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 11 | 29 |
| Cheltenham | 21 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 29 |
| Grimsby | 21 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 17 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 15 | 27 |
| Mansfield | 21 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 16 | 10 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 12 | 25 |
| Oxford | 21 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 11 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 17 | 25 |
| Chester | 21 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 10 | 15 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 10 | 16 | 24 |
| Notts County | 21 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 12 | 12 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 12 | 16 | 23 |
| Rushden & Diamonds | 21 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 10 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 12 | 22 |
| Shrewsbury | 21 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 11 | 10 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 19 | 19 |
| Cambridge | 21 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 11 | 0 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 15 | 16 |
| Kidderminster | 21 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 15 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 22 | 15 |



| | | |
|--------------------|----|--------------------------|
| Saul Deeney | 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| David Pipe | 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ian Richardson | 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mike Edwards | 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mike Whitlow | 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Stefan Oakes | 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Matthew Gill | 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Julien Baudet | 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Gavin Gordon | 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Glynn Hurst | 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tony Scully | 11 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Chris Palmer | 12 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Paul Bolland | 14 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Matt Williams | 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Steve Scoffham | 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rob Ullathorne | 17 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Shaun Harrad | 18 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Emmet Friars | 19 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kelvin Wilson | 20 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wayne Henderson | 22 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Shane McFaul | 23 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Eddie McIntyre | 24 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fahrudin Kuduzovic | 25 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Andy Petterson | 26 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Chris O'Grady | 29 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Today's referee:

Brian Curson, Leicestershire

Assistant referees:

David Benton, South Yorkshire (red & yellow flag)

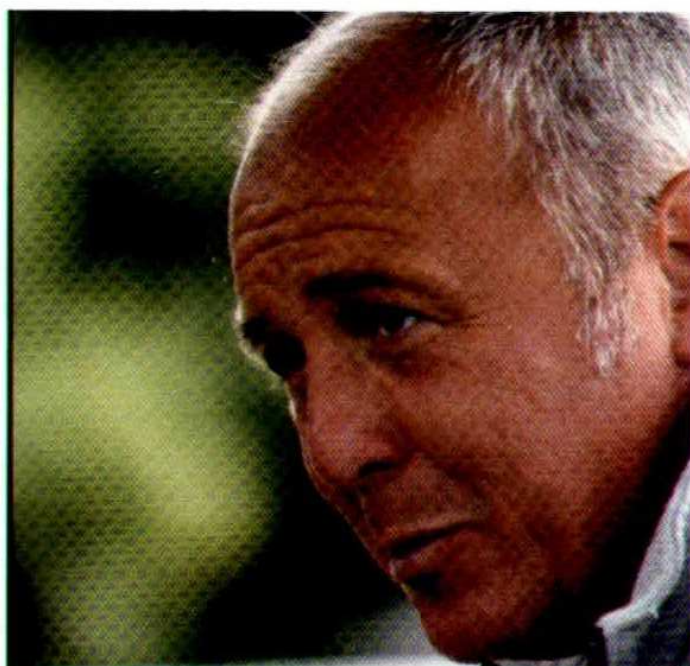
& Jon Moss, West Yorkshire (yellow flag)

Fourth official:

Tony Bates, Staffordshire



- ☐ 1 Rhys Evans
- ☐ 2 Sean O'Hanlon
- ☐ 3 Grant Smith
- ☐ 4 Matthew Hewlett
- ☐ 6 Steve Jenkins
- ☐ 7 Sammy Igoe
- ☐ 8 Rory Fallon
- ☐ 9 Sam Parkin
- ☐ 10 Stefani Miglioranzi
- ☐ 11 David Duke
- ☐ 12 Jerel Ifil
- ☐ 13 Matthew Bulman
- ☐ 14 Christian Roberts
- ☐ 15 Andrew Nicholas
- ☐ 16 Steve Robinson
- ☐ 17 Brian Howard
- ☐ 18 Alan Reeves
- ☐ 19 Matthew Heywood
- ☐ 20 Steve Book
- ☐ 22 Michael Pook
- ☐ 23 Luke Garrard
- ☐ 24 Andy Caton
- ☐ 25 Ben Wells



the boss Andy King

Has had a chance to get his feet under the managerial desk this time - unlike his first spell at the County Ground which lasted for just 37 days.

King was handed control when Colin Todd left to join Derby in 2000 but a change of chairman soon saw him ousted and replaced by Roy Evans. By December 2001, he was back at the helm and since then, there's been a steady improvement in Swindon's fortunes.

The Luton-born boss got the go-ahead last season to make new signings and assembled a

hard working side with a mixture of youth and experience.

He guided them into the play-off semi-finals - they were beaten on penalties by Brighton - and is hoping to go one better this time around.

As a player, King started out with Luton and also served Everton (twice), QPR, West Brom, Wolves and Aldershot.

Result:

Attendance:

Swindon form check 2004-05

| | | | | |
|----------|--------------|-----|-----|-----------------------------|
| 11.12.04 | Doncaster | (H) | 1-1 | Parkin |
| 08.12.04 | Huddersfield | (H) | 1-2 | Smith |
| 04.12.04 | Notts County | (H) | 1-1 | O'Hanlon |
| 30.11.04 | Bristol City | (H) | 1-0 | Parkin |
| 27.11.04 | Chesterfield | (A) | 0-1 | |
| 20.11.04 | Hull | (H) | 4-2 | Parkin 2, O'Hanlon, Roberts |



GAME ON

League 2 fixtures 2004/05



| | | | | | |
|----------|--------------------------|-----|-----|--------|------------------------|
| 07.08.04 | Chester | (H) | 1-1 | 6,423 | Baudet pen |
| 10.08.04 | Kidderminster | (A) | 0-0 | 2,927 | |
| 14.08.04 | Bristol Rovers | (A) | 1-2 | 8,225 | Hurst |
| 21.08.04 | Yeovil | (H) | 1-2 | 5,024 | Gordon |
| 25.08.04 | Bradford (CC1) | (A) | 2-1 | 3,517 | Richardson, Ullathorne |
| 28.08.04 | Lincoln | (A) | 2-1 | 5,173 | Scully 2 |
| 30.08.04 | Oxford | (H) | 0-1 | 5,288 | |
| 04.09.04 | Cheltenham | (H) | 0-0 | 4,302 | |
| 11.09.04 | Northampton | (A) | 0-0 | 5,471 | |
| 18.09.04 | Southend | (H) | 1-2 | 4,487 | Hurst |
| 21.09.04 | West Ham (CC2) | (A) | 2-3 | 11,111 | Wilson, Richardson |
| 25.09.04 | Rochdale | (A) | 3-0 | 2,370 | Hurst 3 |
| 28.09.04 | Wrexham (LDV1) | (H) | 2-3 | 1,359 | Sofiane, Hurst |
| 02.10.04 | Leyton Orient | (H) | 1-2 | 5,141 | Baudet pen |
| 10.10.04 | Macclesfield | (A) | 2-1 | 2,456 | Hurst 2 |
| 16.10.04 | Mansfield | (A) | 1-3 | 7,882 | Gordon |
| 19.10.04 | Darlington | (H) | 1-1 | 3,620 | Hurst |
| 23.10.04 | Boston | (H) | 2-1 | 5,434 | Gordon, Palmer |
| 30.10.04 | Rushden & Diamonds | (A) | 1-5 | 3,504 | Pipe |
| 06.11.04 | Shrewsbury | (H) | 3-0 | 5,745 | Bolland, Hurst, Palmer |
| 13.11.04 | Woking (FACup 1) | (H) | 2-0 | 4,700 | Baudet pen, Gordon |
| 20.11.04 | Bury | (A) | 0-1 | 2,938 | |
| 27.11.04 | Cambridge | (H) | 2-1 | 5,080 | Williams, Palmer |
| 04.12.04 | Swindon (FACup 2) | (A) | 1-1 | 5,768 | Oakes |
| 07.12.04 | Grimsby | (A) | 2-3 | 4,030 | Oakes, Gordon |
| 11.12.04 | Wycombe | (H) | 0-1 | 6,529 | |
| 15.12.04 | Swindon (FACup 2 replay) | (H) | | | |
| 18.12.04 | Swansea | (A) | | | |
| 26.12.04 | Northampton | (H) | | | |
| 28.12.04 | Scunthorpe | (A) | | | |
| 01.01.05 | Cheltenham | (A) | | | |
| 03.01.05 | Rochdale | (H) | | | |
| 08.01.05 | Macclesfield (FACup 3) | (H) | | | |
| 15.01.05 | Southend | (A) | | | |
| 22.01.05 | Scunthorpe | (H) | | | |
| 29.01.05 | Leyton Orient (FACup 4) | (A) | | | |
| 05.02.05 | Mansfield | (H) | | | |
| 12.02.05 | Darlington | (A) | | | |
| 19.02.05 | Rushden & D (FACup 5) | (H) | | | |
| 23.02.05 | Boston | (A) | | | |
| 26.02.05 | Wycombe | (A) | | | |
| 05.03.05 | Swansea | (H) | | | |
| 12.03.05 | Kidderminster (FACup 6) | (H) | | | |
| 19.03.05 | Chester | (A) | | | |
| 26.03.05 | Bristol Rovers | (H) | | | |
| 29.03.05 | Yeovil | (A) | | | |
| 02.04.05 | Lincoln | (H) | | | |
| 09.04.05 | Oxford | (A) | | | |
| 16.04.05 | Grimsby | (H) | | | |
| 23.04.05 | Shrewsbury | (A) | | | |
| 30.04.05 | Bury | (H) | | | |
| 07.05.05 | Cambridge | (A) | | | |

League 2 top scorers

| | | |
|--------------|----------------|----|
| Phil Jevons | Yeovil | 13 |
| Paul Hayes | Scunthorpe | 13 |
| Lee Steele | Leyton Orient | 11 |
| Junior Agogo | Bristol Rovers | 10 |
| Dave Nugent | Bury | 10 |
| Jon Parkin | Macclesfield | 10 |

Meanwhile... in Switzerland

Basel have been the team to beat for the last three seasons, claiming the title twice and finishing runner-up in the other.

They already have a seven point lead on FC Thun at the halfway point of the season and show no signs of having been weakened by the loss of star playmaker Hakan Yakin to Stuttgart in the summer. They failed to qualify for the

Champions League but despite losing at home to Hearts in Group A of the UEFA Cup are still in position to go through to the next round.

Young Boys Bern finished second last season but while veteran striker Stephane Chapuisat continues to come up with the goals, their defence has been shaky and they will struggle to finish in the Champions League places.

Swiss Super League (top of table)



| | Played | Won | Drawn | Lost | F | A | Pts |
|-----------------|--------|-----|-------|------|----|----|-----|
| Basel | 18 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 36 | 20 | 35 |
| FC Thun 1898 | 18 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 26 | 18 | 28 |
| Neuchatel Xamax | 18 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 26 | 22 | 28 |
| FC Zurich | 18 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 26 | 25 | 25 |
| Young Boys Bern | 18 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 31 | 29 | 24 |
| FC Aarau | 18 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 26 | 26 | 23 |
| Servette | 18 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 24 | 28 | 23 |



Leyton Orient's Lee Steele

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COMING SOON

Date: Saturday December 18
Opposition: Swansea City
Venue: Vetch Field



The Vetch Field fortress finally showed signs of weakness as Swansea were beaten 3-1 by Bury in their last home appearance. It was their first defeat on home soil since the opening day of the season and in between they collected a remarkable 22 points out of a possible 24.

But the Swans' poor disciplinary record caught up with them after two men were sent off at Shrewsbury, contributing to a 2-0 loss, and that meant five players were suspended for the Bury clash.

Our last League trip to Swansea was back in February 2001, when an early Michael Brough goal - his first for the club - was enough to earn us a 1-0 win and help the Swans on their way down to Division Three.

Ticket prices:

Pay on the gate at Vetch Field, with seats costing £11 for adults and £6 for concessions.

Supporters' Club travel:

Coach departs Meadow Lane at 9am. Tickets are £12 for adult members, £11 for concession members and £14 for non-members. They are on sale before and after matches in the

Supporters' Club office or you can reserve your place on weekdays at the General Office.

By road:

South on M1, M42 and M5 past Worcester. At junction 8 take the M50 (signs to South Wales) then the A40 to Newport. Follow the M4 to junction 42, then follow the coast on the A483. Join the A4067 (signposts to The Mumbles) and the ground is on your right.

Car parking:

The County Hall has a dedicated away fans car park which is well signposted.

By rail:

The station is ten minutes walk from the ground.

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AND THEN



Date: Sunday December 26
Opposition: Northampton Town
Venue: Meadow Lane



Northampton are one of a group of clubs hovering around the play-offs and will be looking to improve on last season's performance, when they lost in the semi-finals on penalties at Mansfield.

Manager Colin Calderwood - who had a spell at Meadow Lane on loan as a player before he retired - arrived at Sixfields last October as their fifth manager in four years, with the Cobblers a lowly 18th, but quickly had them rising up

the table before falling just short at the final hurdle. It's their away form that has been holding them back this season with five losses from 10 matches on their travels. Our last meeting at Meadow Lane was in October 2002 and ended in a 2-1 win, with Mark Stallard and Paul Hefernan on the mark in our first victory at home that season.

We rode our luck in our visit to Sixfields back in September but Wayne Henderson and the woodwork made sure we came away with a point.

Ticket prices:

Derek Pavis Stand: £18 adults, £11 senior citizens, £9

unemployed, students and young adults (16-18 years), £4 juniors (under-16 years).

Jimmy Sirrel Stand: £16 adults, £10 senior citizens, £9 unemployed, students and young adults, £4 juniors. **Family Stand:** £13 adults, £9 senior citizens, £9 unemployed, students and young adults, £4 juniors. It is not necessary for adults, senior citizens and juniors to purchase a ticket unless you want a specific seat. These categories can pay cash at the turnstiles but the unemployed, students and young adults must provide evidence of their circumstances at the Ticket Office.



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Back from the brink

Interview: Paul Fearn / Photograph: John Sumpter

There's a phrase that's often bandied around in this game that sits perfectly on the shoulders of certain members of every team.

And 'he's an honest footballer' is a saying that could have been invented for David Pipe. Put simply, you know exactly what you are going to get with Pipe. That's because he gives everything whenever he pulls on the black and white shirt. It's an admirable attitude and one that impressed former boss Gary Mills enough to force the 21-year-old's name to the head of his wanted list last season.

It also won Pipe an almost instant place in the affections of the Notts faithful, who have never been shy to back a whole-hearted 'trier'.

A measure of his popularity became clear last season from the number of Pipe fans bearing his name across their shoulders on replica shirts - a tribute that didn't go unnoticed by the youngster. "I had a similar thing with the Coventry fans," he says. "I think supporters tend to take to players like me who get stuck in and to see people in the crowd, particularly young kids, wandering around with your name on their back gives you a real buzz."

He first met Mills at Highfield Road, where the young winger worked his way through the youth system and played more than 20 games in their 2002-03 Division One campaign.

But he'd actually visited a number of other Premiership clubs as a 15-year-old and, realising the importance of getting the choice right, he showed remarkable maturity in making his decision.

"It was a case of getting a good feeling for your surroundings as well as the team because it was a big move for me," he explains.

"I was 15 and about to leave my parents so it was crucial I was happy with the place where I was going to live.

"I spent time at Everton, Manchester City, Tottenham and Southampton before settling on Coventry, which seemed perfect because all the young lads were in together and it was only two-

and-a-half hours from home.

"It was a similar thing with Nottingham. I liked the place straight away, moved here five months ago and now I love it here."

But football can be a fickle game and Pipe's performances as the outstanding player in a team that was relegated were soon forgotten when the new season started poorly.

Suddenly, Pipe's world was in danger of falling apart. His below-par start to the current campaign resulted in him being dropped to the bench and he was left struggling to work out why his form had dipped.

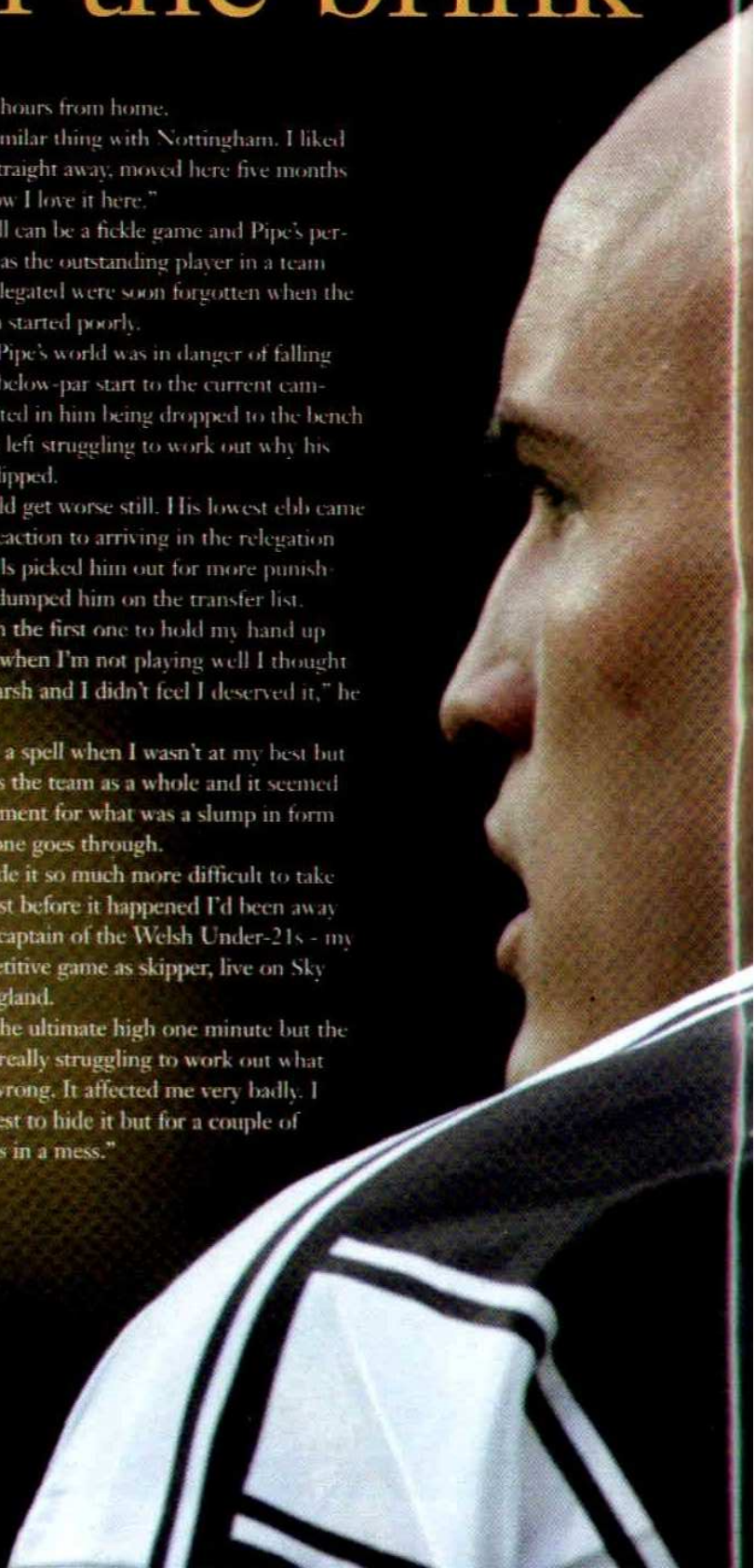
But it would get worse still. His lowest ebb came when, in reaction to arriving in the relegation places, Mills picked him out for more punishment and dumped him on the transfer list.

"While I'm the first one to hold my hand up and admit when I'm not playing well I thought that was harsh and I didn't feel I deserved it," he added.

"Yes, I had a spell when I wasn't at my best but neither was the team as a whole and it seemed harsh treatment for what was a slump in form that everyone goes through.

"What made it so much more difficult to take was that just before it happened I'd been away playing as captain of the Welsh Under-21s - my first competitive game as skipper, live on Sky against England.

"I was on the ultimate high one minute but the next I was really struggling to work out what had gone wrong. It affected me very badly. I tried my best to hide it but for a couple of weeks I was in a mess."



DAVID PIPE



"Being transfer listed affected me very badly. I tried my best to hide it but for a couple of weeks I was in a mess."

Pipe admits that harsh decisions have to be made in football and thinks Mills, who he still regards as a friend, must have believed the move was in the best interests of the team. "I knew Gary well because he'd been in charge of the Reserves for a year when I was at Coventry and in a way I respect the decision because things had to change. He only did what he thought would improve things," he adds. "But I've since used it to my advantage and feel I've been much more like my true self in recent weeks."

It's no mere coincidence that the beginning of Pipe's recovery began when Ian Richardson was appointed caretaker-manager - and immediately removed his name from 'the list'.

"It was a great boost for me and came at a time when I needed it because without

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| PenDB | PenDB | Pen Wh | GVouch |
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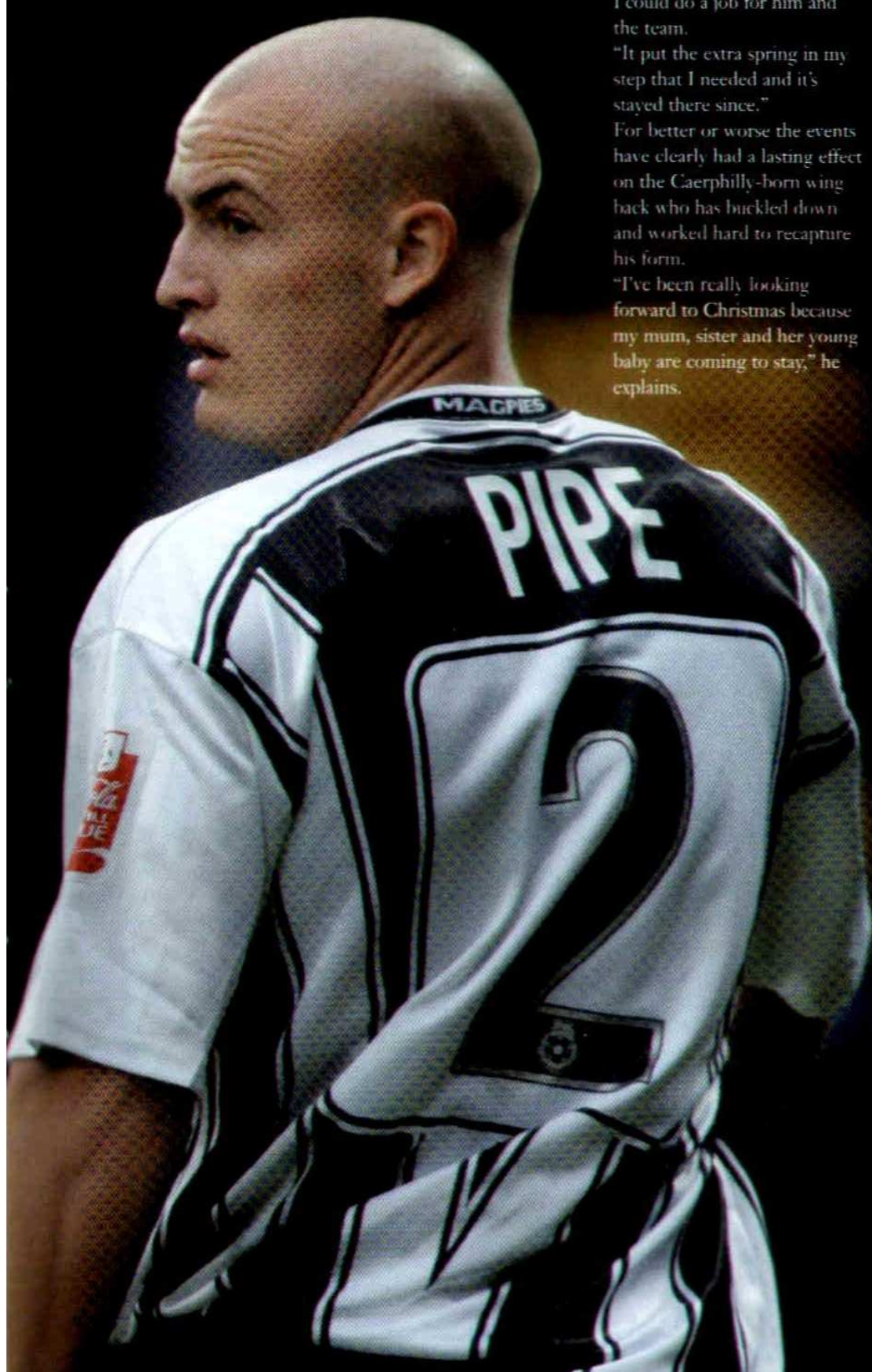
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IN DEPTH



saying it directly. Rico had told me he backed me and believed I could do a job for him and the team.

"It put the extra spring in my step that I needed and it's stayed there since."

For better or worse the events have clearly had a lasting effect on the Caerphilly-born wing back who has buckled down and worked hard to recapture his form.

"I've been really looking forward to Christmas because my mum, sister and her young baby are coming to stay," he explains.

"I've not been going home much at all recently because I've wanted to stay in Nottingham and get things sorted out so it'll be really nice to see them."

But as well as catching up with his family, there's some serious business on the pitch to deal with and that suits him fine.

"I'm really enjoying playing wing back because having been a winger for most of my life I love having the opportunity to get forward," adds Pipe.

"Playing on the right of a flat four, you can make runs but you always feel a bit restricted by your defensive duties.

"But as a wing back you have to get forward and I love that challenge especially if the other team are playing the same formation because it's one on one, so if I can win that battle I know I'll have a good game."

So, for the moment, he's happy where he is and content to let Kelvin Wilson take the role on the right side of defence.

"I had no problem when he took my place because at the time he was playing better than me and deserved his chance," he adds.

"I went away and did my best to get back into the team. It worked out well for both of us in the end - which is great because we're good mates off the field.

"Kelvin likes to hang around and scrounge lifts from me because he's still not managed to pass his test yet."

David Pipe's home, away and training kit is sponsored by Hillside Medical Supplies and his ties & laces by Hannah Etherington. If you would like to sponsor a player please see page 35.

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Aw Andy & Ruth Semper
Tr Ashley Bathrooms
T&L Ashley Bathrooms



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Hm Melissa Wilmott
Aw
Tr Dominic Fells
T&L Max Etherington



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Tr Stephen & Carole Newton
T&L Stephen & Carole Newton



Paul Bolland

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Tr David Richmond
T&L Tim Hearson



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Tr Trillium UK
T&L Callum & Aidan Beech



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Aw
Tr
T&L Jamie Edwards



Chris Palmer

Hm Bryan Simpson
Tr Margaret & Stuart Cunliffe Alexander
T&L Alex Matthews



Emmet Friars

Hm
Aw
Tr IMEO Interiors
T&L Daniel Keen



Kelvin Wilson

Hm 'The Pie'
Aw
Tr Ady Richards & Linda Mayes
T&L Michael Townend



Shane McFaul

Hm Bryan Simpson
Tr Ray, Jean, Lyndsey & Lauren Webster
T&L Martyn Hearson



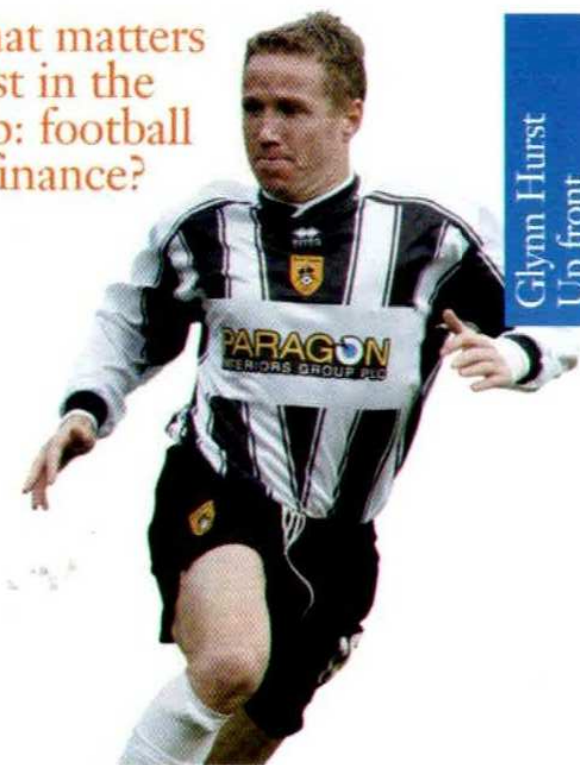
Eddie McIntyre

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Aw
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T&L Callum & Aidan Beech



THE BIG QUESTION

What matters most in the Cup: football or finance?



Glynn Hurst
Up front

It's a fine balance nowadays whatever competition you're in. You have to get the finances right in order to actually have a football club, as we know all too well. Tonight's game is massively important to us and Swindon, who have also had their troubles.

Should Yeading be allowed to switch their third round tie with Newcastle to St James Park? I think so. It's a once in a lifetime opportunity for them. The players will never come closer to stepping onto the pitch up there with the likes of Alan Shearer and Patrick Kluivert. And financially, a full house at St James would give a non-League side like Yeading the cash to survive for 10 or 20 years.

What's the biggest cup tie you've been involved in? I would say the semi-final of the Tennent's Scottish Cup back in 2000 in my second season with Ayr United. We played Rangers at Hampden in front of 40,000 people. It was an amazing day for the atmosphere and the buzz of playing in such a big stadium but unfortunately we were well beaten.

Is the FA Cup a distraction from our League campaign?

No, it's a positive thing. It keeps the squad focused and builds up competition for places. We all want to be in the team for the big games and if we prove we want to win tonight more than Swindon, we'll have a big day to look forward to in January.

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THE BIG QUESTION



From our point of view you would have to say finance. Let's face it, it would be fantastic to go to Cardiff and win some silverware but clubs in our position are never going to get there. We have to look at the competition as the chance to get a big draw, bring in some cash and have a great day out.

On that basis, would you agree to letting Yeading switch their home tie to Newcastle? No. If a team is drawn at home they should play at home, unless it's ruled to be unsafe to do so. **Financially, how important was Stefan Oakes' equaliser at Swindon?** It's the most important goal of our season so far. The £75,000 we're getting from Sky for the replay is a



Malcolm Shearstone
Derek Pavis Stand

massive bonus and when you think we got £150,000 for our trip to Chelsea last year in the Carling Cup, a third round tie with Middlesbrough would be huge.

Rico's been promised some of the Cup cash for players - where should he spend it?

We look good going forward but our defence has been shaky at times. We need more cover at the back.

Well, the more rounds you get through the more money you get. But you get remembered for long cup runs - not collecting the cash.

So you want home ties to help you get through? When you're at home you've got your supporters behind you. I know Yeading wanted to switch their game with Newcastle to St James' Park but it's not in the spirit of the competition. If they can hold on for a draw, they will be in the money and they've got more chance of that at QPR's ground than up north.

How do you rate our chances tonight? It's going to be a tight game. I can see it going to extra time but hopefully if we get behind the team we can get



Martin Brown
Family Stand

the win before penalties. **What's the biggest Cup tie you've seen here?** I've been watching County since 1972 so I've seen a few of the big teams. We had Leeds and Arsenal in consecutive third round ties in the 70s, Everton in the sixth round in 1984 and we also played Spurs in the quarter finals in 1991. It would be great to see Middlesbrough here in January.

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Countdown under way for Trust prize draw

Website: nottscotrust.org.uk
Email: enquiry@nottscotrust.org.uk

A year ago we asked supporters to "get involved" and help to save Notts County by selling tickets for our Trust raffle and you responded magnificently, helping to raise around £32,000 towards the target we had to reach.

A few steps further down the road, we achieved what many perceived to be an impossible task. But the doubters should never have underestimated the commitment, loyalty and sheer determination of Notts County supporters' when it came to the salvation of our club.

We did what we had to do then and as a result the Trust acquired a 30.2 per cent shareholding in our club on behalf of its members. That's some achievement.

One year on, we need to continue our fundraising efforts so that we can continue to invest in the club. We may not be in a 'life-threatening' situation this time around, but we do still need your help - and the Trust's raffle is a key element in our efforts.

Please get involved. Support the Trust's efforts and you could even win the fantastic first prize.

How many people do you know who hold the dream to visit places like Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia and the Great Barrier Reef?

For many, it's simply out of their reach. But now, a £1 ticket could turn that dream into reality.

How can I sell as many tickets as possible?

Ask family and friends to help. They don't have to be supporters. Explain why we need their help and why we need to raise the funds. Anyway, wouldn't most people you know want to be in with the chance of winning the holiday of a lifetime?

Who can sell raffle tickets?

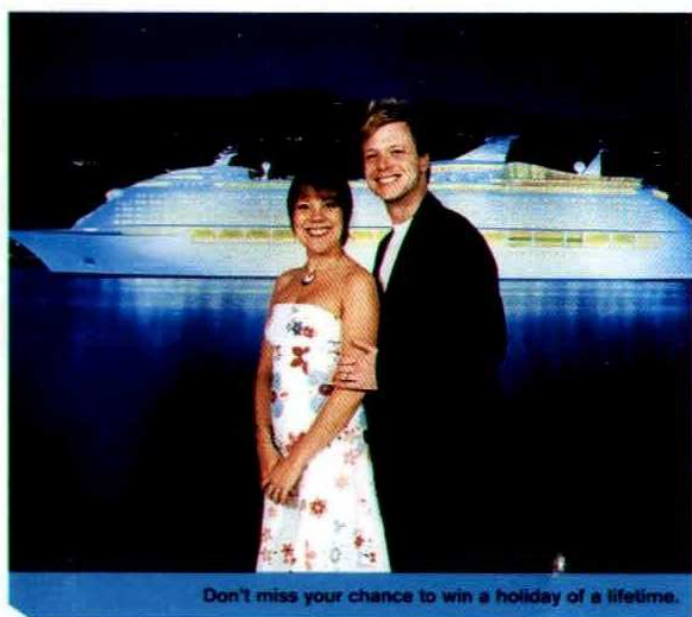
Anyone over the age of 16 can sell tickets.

What do I need to put on the ticket stubs?

Every ticket sold needs to have the contact details of the purchaser filled in on the ticket stub. This will enable us to contact the winners when the draw is made on December 26, 2004.

What could you win?

The 1st Prize is the holiday of a lifetime for two people - a total of 18 nights on the other side of the world, including two



Don't miss your chance to win a holiday of a lifetime.

nights in Hong Kong, seven nights in Sydney, seven nights in Cairns (for Barrier Reef) and two nights in Singapore.

2nd Prize is a Sony Digital Camera and 3rd Prize is two Notts County Vice Presidents' Season Tickets.

Winners will be notified by telephone and the details published in the match programme and on the Trust's website. Remember, any ticket stub returned without a name and contact details cannot be entered into the draw.

When I have sold my tickets what do I need to do?

Simply return the stubs and money in the following ways:

In person to a Trust representative in the Club Shop at Meadow Lane before and after the game on match days. Alternatively, contact the Trust to find details of your nearest collection/delivery point.

You can also send the ticket stubs and payment by post to: Notts County Supporters' Trust, Meadow Lane, Nottingham NG2 3HJ

For further advice or information please contact the Trust at enquiry@nottscotrust.org.uk or ring 07968 161682.

The prize draw will take place at half-time during the Magpies' clash against Northampton Town at Meadow Lane on Boxing Day.

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FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY



Achieving objectives with the ground-breaking Schools FC project

'Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat'... but not our top notch team of coaches because they are still working flat out in local primary schools, delivering our ground-breaking Schools FC programme. This innovative approach to physical education in schools is nearing the end of the first year of activities and we are delighted with the impact the scheme is making. Recent evaluation by the

City of Nottingham Education Department was extremely positive and we will be producing a detailed report in the New Year, outlining the aims and objectives of the scheme and how they are being achieved.

In this issue of the match-day magazine, we have opted to include a number of pictures relating to the Schools FC project. No amount of words could tell the story as well as they do.

Club support for Community scheme

We have in recent times recorded our thanks to many people within the Football Club whose backing has enabled us to develop even more positive links with the people of Nottingham.

That in turn drives us on to create new and exciting initiatives under our banner of 'Doing good for people, doing good for football'.

As another major step

forward in strengthening the link between the Football Club and Football in the Community, club director Steve Thompson is poised to become a member of our Board of Trustees.

Steve will formally take up his role with us in January and we are looking forward to working with him and utilising his many talents.



The art of the glancing header performed here by this local lad resplendent in the famous black and white stripes.

By Graham Moran

Senior Manager, Notts County Football in the Community



Making the clinical trial connection

Capital One



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FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY



Heading for the top of the class

"Over 'ere son, on me head."
Community officer Michael Holtham shows three enthusiastic youngsters how to head a ball as part of the Schools FC project.

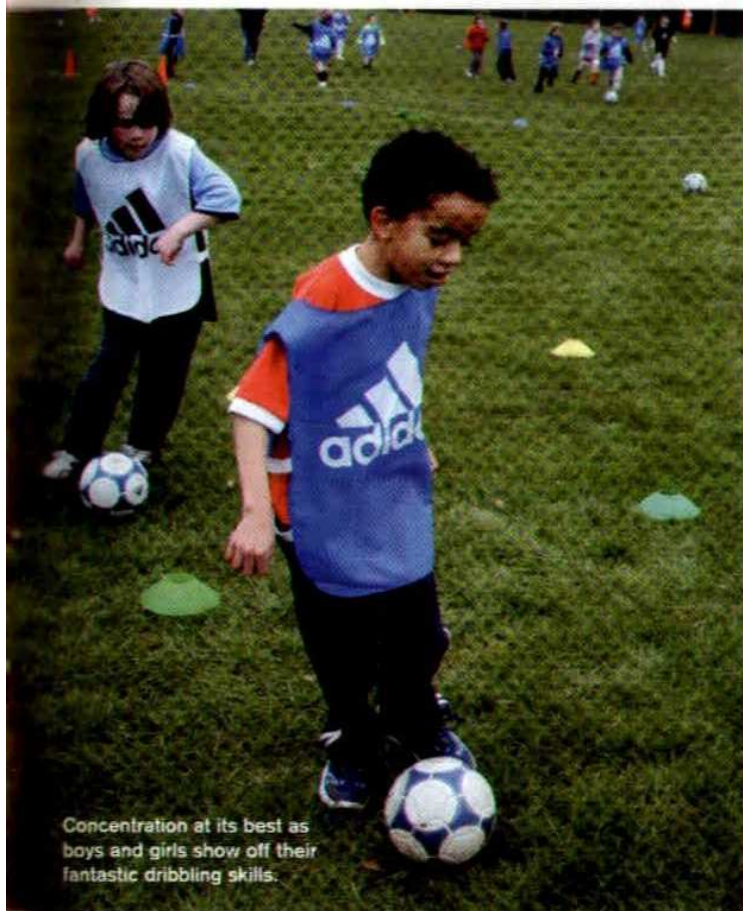


Notts County Ladies flying high

We are delighted to report that our senior ladies team have already clinched promotion - and we're still a fortnight away from Christmas. Having proved too good for the Notts Ladies League in their very first season together, they will be moving up to a higher level next season when they compete in the Unison League. The ladies confirmed their status as champions-elect by

winning their most recent League game against Sherwin Ladies by 20-0. And that conclusive scoreline was achieved without the services of Football in the Community's very own Emma Trent, who was moving from her flat into a house. It has been suggested by some people that we must be paying her too much but I prefer not to comment.

Concentration at its best as boys and girls show off their fantastic dribbling skills.



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COLIN SLATER



Eric McManus 1978-79

"Eric stepped in for the last three fateful matches as Notts pressed for promotion to the Second Division."

BBC Radio Nottingham's Colin Slater is now in his 46th year of covering our fortunes and throughout the course of this season, he'll be remembering some of the stars who carried off the Notts County 'Player of the Year' trophy.

The late 60s and early 70s was a period when Coventry City had a whole series of headline-hitting goalkeepers.

Bill Glazier, ex-Crystal Palace and an Under-23 England international, was one of the best in the business. David Icke, himself destined to become a media celebrity and later to capture enormous media attention for non-footballing reasons (remember?) was his number two.

Eric McManus came third in the pecking order, his chances severely restricted as a result. But Notts chief scout Andy Beattie saw something special in him and Eric arrived at Meadow Lane for the beginning of the 1972-73 campaign, a vacancy having been created by Barry Watling's move to Hartlepool United.

Barry had been displaced by Roy Brown and it was now a battle for first choice goalkeeper between him and the newcomer.

Roy was the one to dislodge in that first 1972-73 season and his sheer consistency meant that Eric did not make his Notts debut until an isolated appearance in a 1-0 defeat at

Bristol Rovers in early November.

Then, when Roy was injured in a brilliant one-man show to achieve a 1-1 draw at Brentford on Good Friday, Eric stepped in for the last three fateful matches as Notts pressed for promotion to the Second Division.

The man from Linabidy in Northern Ireland was there on that memorable last day when Notts, needing to win to finish second, did so: 28 April 1973, Notts 4, Tranmere 1. So Eric tasted his share of the glory.

The following season changed in Eric's favour, partly on account of Roy's further injury problems. In the first season back in the Second Division, Eric made 34 appearances but it remained a scrap between them the year after that when the role was shared virtually on a 50-50 basis.

Eric really established himself in 1975-76. Notts enjoyed a fine season, finishing fifth in the Second Division and the campaign set alight by a truly great run in the League Cup. It was the year of the memorable 1-0 win at Leeds United,



Photograph: Nottingham Evening Post

followed by the dismissal of Everton, which was almost as sensational as the victory at Elland Road.

So to St James's Park in round five to take on the might of Newcastle United. They were awarded a throw-in, taken by Malcolm McDonald, who launched the ball into the penalty area where Eric turned it into his own net for the only goal of the tie.

In moving dressing room scenes afterwards he was quite inconsolable, blaming himself for Notts going out of the competition.

Three seasons later he never

missed a match and supporters rewarded his consistency over a long period with the 'Player of the Year' award for 1978-79.

It was a kind of going-away present. The following season Raddy Avramovic stepped on to the scene - and into the goalkeeping berth. Eric had made 251 League and Cup appearances before moving to Stoke, then Lincoln, Bradford, Middlesbrough, Peterborough and, finally, Tranmere. He was later youth team coach at Walsall and, more recently, goalkeeping coach at Derby County.



FINAL WHISTLE



Sky commentator Martin Tyler.

Pies in the Sky

A little piece of history is being made at Meadow Lane tonight because this is the first occasion we've had a home fixture shown live on Sky TV.

We have appeared three times in the past - a 1-0 FA Cup win against York City in 1995, a 7-1 defeat in the Worthington Cup at Manchester City in 1998 and a 2-1 success in the second round of the FA Cup at Gravesend last season. But although the Sky cameras were here two years ago when we staged an international schoolboy tournament featuring England, Brazil, Portugal and the USA, this is the first time they've been to see us in action.

Hopefully we can put on a show which impresses football fans around the country - and maybe it will be a good omen that Neil Warnock has been booked to offer his expert opinion from the Sky studio. Warnock will always be remembered with affection for steering us into the top

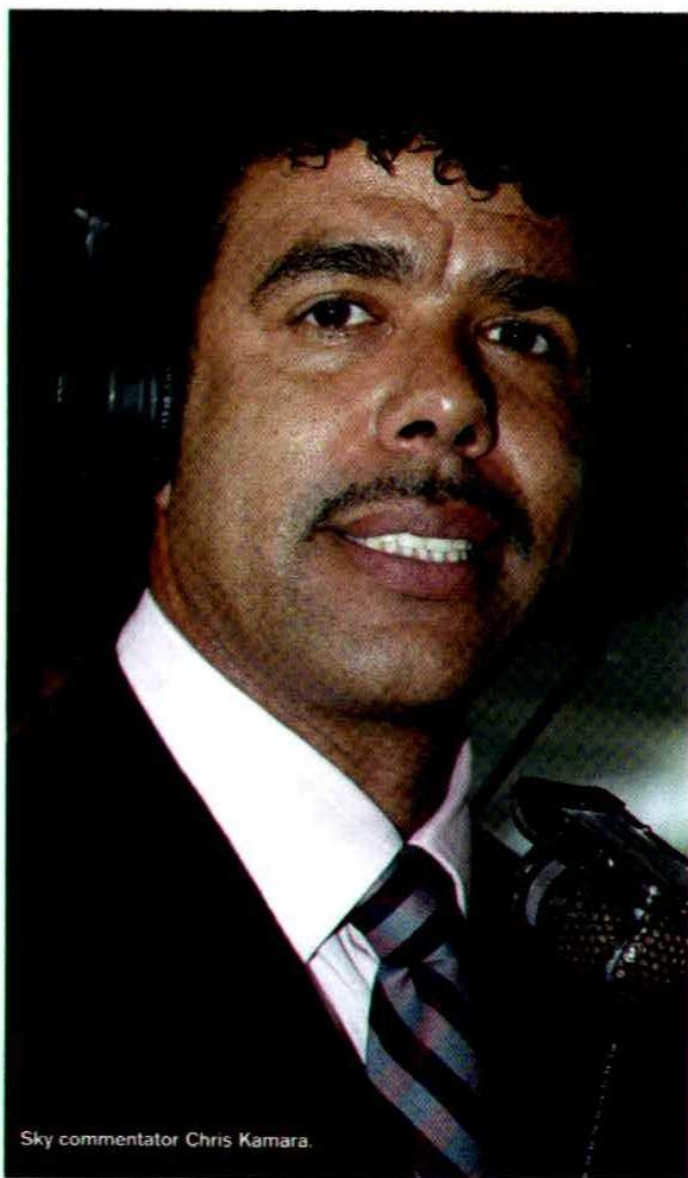
flight with two Wembley play-off triumphs in successive seasons. Nothing seemed beyond him at that time - and we can do with some of that 'magic' to help us on the way tonight.

What County fan will ever forget the two epic FA Cup ties against Manchester City and Tottenham which were featured on BBC when Warnock led us to the sixth round in 1991?

Great days indeed - and we live in hope that it won't be too long before the TV cameras again start to visit us on a regular basis.

Martin Tyler and Chris Kamara will be in the commentary box, supported by reporter Greg Whelan, and we sincerely hope they enjoy their visit.

Incidentally, Sky will have three trucks and 4kms of cable at Meadow Lane tonight, transferring the pictures gathered by eight cameras into living rooms around the country.



Sky commentator Chris Kamara.

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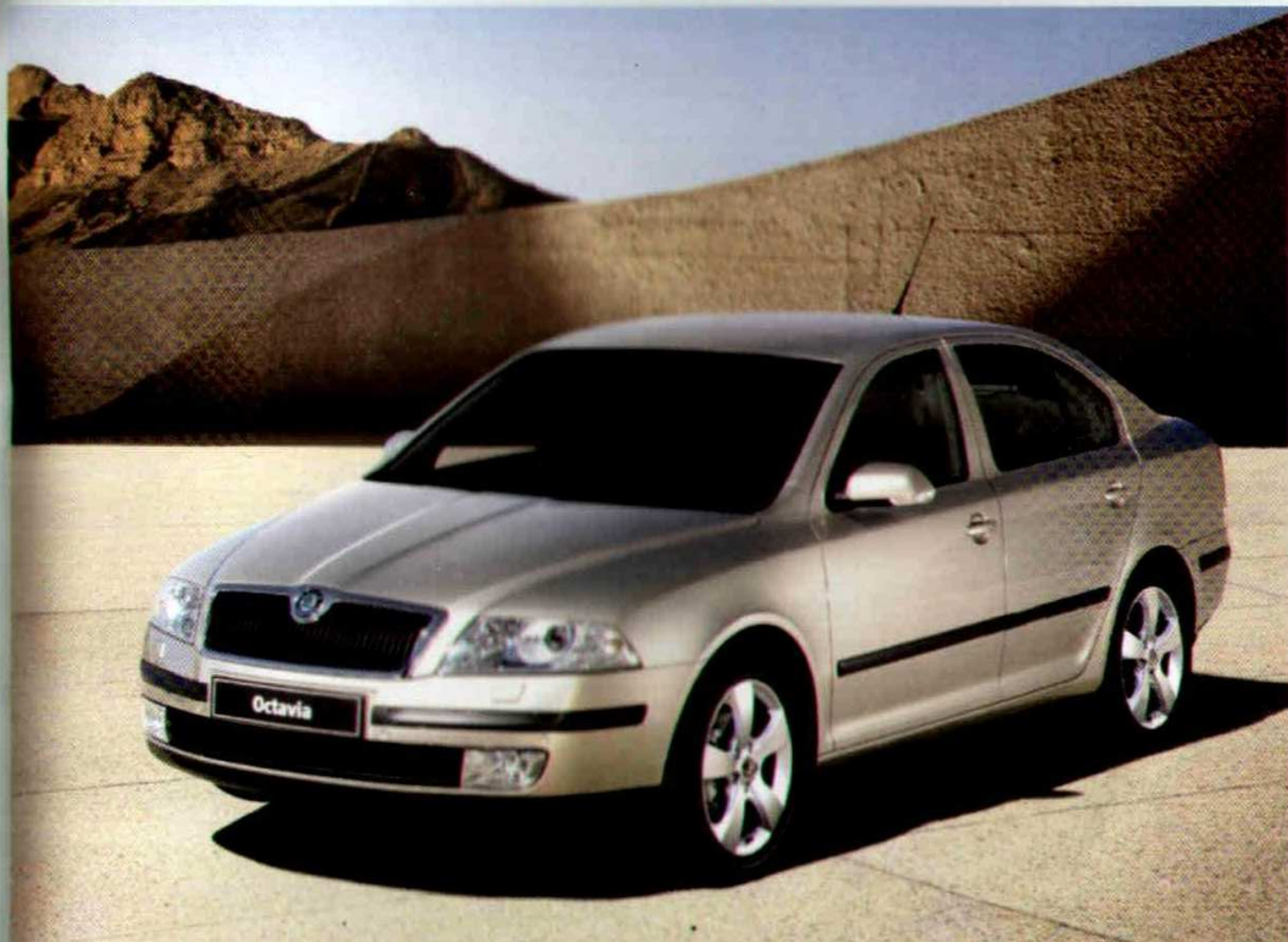
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