



The Official Matchday Magazine  
of Oldham Athletic Football Club

Vs Swindon Town  
Saturday 5th February 2005  
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**INSIDE:**  
**MAGIC MOMENTS WITH PAUL BERNARD**  
Paul still remembers the visit of Sheffield Wednesday  
as if it was yesterday!

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## 10Q4 STEVE MILDENHALL

STEVE SELECTS 10 QUESTIONS FROM 100 AND  
GIVES HIS CANDID ANSWERS

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FA Premier League Founder Members 1992-93 1st Division Runners-up 1914-15 2nd Division Champions 1990-91 2nd division Runners-up 1909-10 3rd Division Champions 1952-53, 1973-74 4th Division Runners-up 1962-63 FA Cup Semi-finalists 1913-14, 1989-90, 1993-94 League Cup Finalists 1989-90 Ford Sporting League Winners 1970-71

**BLUE PRIDE MAGAZINE**

**Editor** Gordon Lawton **Contributors** Fred Austin, Mark Bolton, David Broadbent, Tony Bugby, Leigh Edwards, Matthew James, Gordon Lawton, Carl Marsden, Wayne Hurst, Michael Yarwood, Gary Foster.  
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Oldham Athletic Football Club operate a customer charter which is available on request from the Boundary Park Ticket Office or can be read on the official club website www.oldhamathletic.co.uk



# The Life of

**Good afternoon and welcome to Andy King, his board of directors, players and supporters.**

The first thing I have to say is thank you very much for your support last Sunday for our FA Cup tie against Bolton. What a fantastic turn-out! My players did me and the club proud and so did you by really getting behind the lads and urging us on in our efforts to score a goal.

I am sorry we could not do that for you because your support certainly deserved another crack at a Premiership side. We had one or two opportunities but it wasn't to be. But our young players were excellent and, hopefully, it will stand them in good stead for the rest of the campaign..

It is important now that we all stick together and try to have a good three months and end the season in style. We also have the excitement of an area final of the LDV Trophy with two legs against Wrexham. That gives the club a great opportunity



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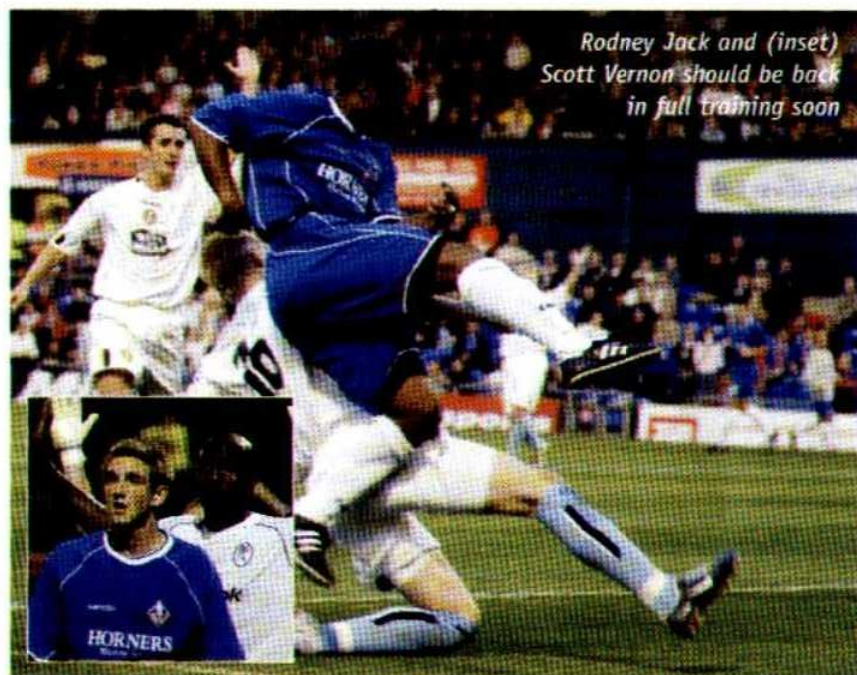
**"IT S NOT JUST A GAME - IT S LIFE"...AND WE RE HERE TO STAY**

# Brian

of going all the way to Cardiff's superb Millennium Stadium. Including this afternoon's game we have 18 matches left and our aim must be to win as many as we can and finish as high as possible. It has not been an easy season by any stretch of the imagination but we will keep striving to make the team better. We are back to the normality of league football after an excellent run in the FA Cup and sometimes getting your focus back can be a problem. It is vital we fully concentrate on the job in hand.

This afternoon is the last game for Lee Croft before he returns to Manchester City.

We wish him well and I would also like to thank Kevin Keegan for letting us have him. But



Rodney Jack and (inset) Scott Vernon should be back in full training soon

as one player finishes another one is beginning and Kenny Cooper, who we have taken on loan from Manchester United, starts his first game for the club. We also wish him well.

We know we will have a hard game this afternoon against a Swindon side that was in the play-offs last season, but we want to get back to winning ways, especially here at Boundary Park. Injuries have not helped my selection but the players out on the pitch will be doing their utmost to take all three points. Just staying on the injury front, Scott Vernon, Rodney Jack and Dean Holden should all be back in full training fairly soon. So let's hope that from now until the end of the season we have a little more luck than we have had so far to give us more competition for places which always helps to

keep players on their toes. Three players, Neil Kilkenny, Mark Hughes and Lee Croft, will be on international duty on Tuesday night when we travel to Blackpool for a game that was re-arranged due to our FA Cup commitments.

While it is, of course, always an honour to play for your country I must admit that I am disappointed in the powers that be. All three players are on loan and not our regulars which means we can't have the fixture put back to another date. We are left with a depleted squad for a very important league game and perhaps this rule can be looked at again. But let's hope we are in for a good game this afternoon and we send everybody home happy.

Keep smiling,  
BRIAN



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We might not have got the result we wanted against my old club Bolton on Sunday, but the lads who were out in the middle really did us proud.



## The Inside Track

They were hanging on at the end but we just couldn't come up with the killer instinct that would have given us another crack in a replay.

I thought that was the least we deserved but the performance was another confidence booster. We played two Premiership teams last month and both knew they had been in a game. But we still have a lot to look forward to with a two-legged LDV area final against Wrexham and some very important league games.

That's what we have to concentrate on most of all, starting with this afternoon's visit of Swindon. Our aim now is to finish the season a high and that means getting as far up the table as possible.

We aren't looking over our shoulders at the bottom four any more but we still can't afford any slip-ups and we still need to make up some leeway.

The FA cup has shown we can be a hard side to beat but the real key now will be consistency.

If we can get a winning run together who knows where we might finish. We might not make it to the play-offs but we want to see how close we can get. This afternoon will be Lee Croft's final game and we all wish him well as he goes back to Manchester City and hope he is playing Premiership football before the season is over.

Although he has been part of the England set-up as a youth player, not many people outside City knew a great deal about him.

They know a lot more now.

It just shows how important it is that young players from Premiership clubs get experience at league level.

Lee has been consistent since he arrived at Boundary Park, scoring some vital goals and assisting in others and we all wish him well.

He got a lot of stick in the Press for his tackle on Nicky Hunt in the Bolton game but he knows him as a friend and after the game his only thought was to find out how he was.

Lee is the first to admit he is not the best tackler at the club but he is

not the type who would deliberately go out and try to hurt an opponent.

He was an exciting, old-fashioned winger and the fans really took to him because of his appetite and work-rate. He will be looking to say farewell on so let's hope he really turns it on against Swindon.

As well as Lee, we will also be missing two more loan players at Blackpool on Tuesday night with Neil Kilkenny and Mark Hughes on international duty.

But Matty Appleby, Mark Bonner and Danny Boshell have been waiting in the wings and it will be a great chance for them to impress the gaffer.

You have to take your chance when it comes in football and try to keep out players who have come in and taken their place.

They are all good players and will be looking to stay in the side.

On a personal note, I am hoping to be back in full training soon and then I will be fighting to get my place back.

Your support over a really hectic period and has been a big plus in our recent success.

Keep up the good work.

Cheers,  
DEANO.



### ELLE OF A GOOD TIME

Supermodel Elle Macpherson the newly appointed UK ambassador to UNICEF made a surprise visit to the Royal Oldham Hospital the other week and left with Latics momentos for her two children Cy and Flynn following her surprise visit.

Val Finigan from the Royal Oldham Hospital commented "We wanted to give Elle something to remember her trip to Oldham by-and it doesn't come much more memorable than Chaddy the Owl"

Pictured are Marian Carroll, director of nursing for Pennine Acute Trust, Val Finigan, Elle Macpherson with her Chaddy toys and Steven Price.



### NEW DATE AND KICK-OFF CHANGE

The club has now fixed a new date for the visit of Brentford to Boundary Park in a Coca Cola league one fixture, the game will now take place on Tuesday 15th March 2005, kick-off 7.45pm.

In addition there has been a change to the kick-off time for the away fixture at Walsall on 26th March 2005, the kick-off will now be at 1pm instead of 3pm. The change is due to the World Cup Qualifying game England versus Northern Ireland kicking off at 3pm and Walsall would like to give supporters the chance to watch both games.

### DID YOU STRIKE IT LUCKY?

Latics strike-it-lucky paid out over £1000 in prizes at the last two home games, £206 was the first prize when Tranmere Rovers were the visitors to Boundary Park and ticket number 22913 won Lia Pogliacomi the cash, and yes it was Les Poglicomi's wife!

The second prize of Streetwise vouchers to the value of £100 was won by ticket number 24306 and went unclaimed.

For the visit of Bolton Wanderers in the FA Cup, Patrick McGuinness from the hit television show Max and Paddy performed the draw and ticket number 27059 won Eileen Taylor of Royton £805.

Once again the second prize of Streetwise vouchers to the value of £100 went unclaimed, the winning ticket number was 27189. If you have either of the second prize tickets then call in to the Latics shop to claim your prize.



### BEHARALL JOINS CARLISLE UTD

David Beharall has agreed terms with Carlisle United for the next 18 months and will join Marc Tierney Latics young defender who is currently on loan at Brunton Park.

David agreed to a settlement of his contract here at Boundary Park and joins Carlisle United as a free agent.

**THE MAN OF THE MATCH  
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## LDV PRICES ANNOUNCED



The Northern Area Final of the LDV Vans trophy will be over two legs, Wrexham are Latics opponents and the first leg will take place here at Boundary Park on Tuesday 15th February 2005, kick-off 7.45pm. All areas of the stadium will be open for this fixture and admission prices

for this game will be as per normal Coca Cola league match prices, £18 Adults, £9 Concessions. The return leg at Wrexham's Racecourse ground will take place on Tuesday 8th March 2005, kick-off 7.45pm. Admission prices at Wrexham are also as per normal Coca Cola league match prices, £16 Adults, £11 Concessions, for both games admission is by payment at the turnstiles on the night.

## LATICS WORD SPREADS TO CHINA

Steve Holt is in China at the moment giving local children English language lessons and during the course of his duties he has introduced the children to Oldham Athletic.

Steve told the youngsters of the great cup exploits of the past and of the glory days in the Premier League.

The children were captivated with tales of Andy Ritchie, Roger Palmer and Frankie Bunn and are pictured with an Oldham Chronicle 'We have joined Brian's Blue Army' poster.

If you have a Latics related story then let us know, just send in your photograph to the club along with your story and you might find yourself in Blue Pride.



## CROATIA LOVES LATICS?

This picture was taken at the Bolton Wanderers FA Cup game, but we are at a loss as to it's meaning. If you know the story behind this flag please get in touch, we would love to know that there was a Latics supporters club in Croatia, and if there is ..let's communicate!



## BOUNDARY PARK JUNIORS HONOUR ANTHONY

The family and teammates of the late Anthony Hughes have made a lasting memorial to Anthony by placing a wooden bench on Clayton playing fields in Anthony's memory.

Anthony was tragically killed in December 2003 and was a member of Boundary Park Juniors U18's football team and Anthony's friends and relations wanted a permanent memorial related to his favourite pastime, football.

Pictured you can see the Boundary Park Juniors team sat on Anthony's memorial bench on Clayton Playing fields.



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# Future First.



**SATURDAY 29TH JANUARY 2005**

**OLDHAM ATHLETIC UNDER 18'S 2 v PORT VALE UNDER 18'S 0**

Scorers: M Wolfenden (1), M Barlow (1)



Wolfenden (left) and Barlow both on the scoresheet

Another excellent team performance from Latics boys especially after having a man sent off after 15 minutes. Port Vale were a very big, strong and organised team who have only lost one game this season

Another clean sheet for the defence and a very good solid team performance. The team

has looked very positive for the last 6 games getting an understanding of each other. This is the fourth consecutive clean sheet in the Youth Alliance, which is very pleasing.

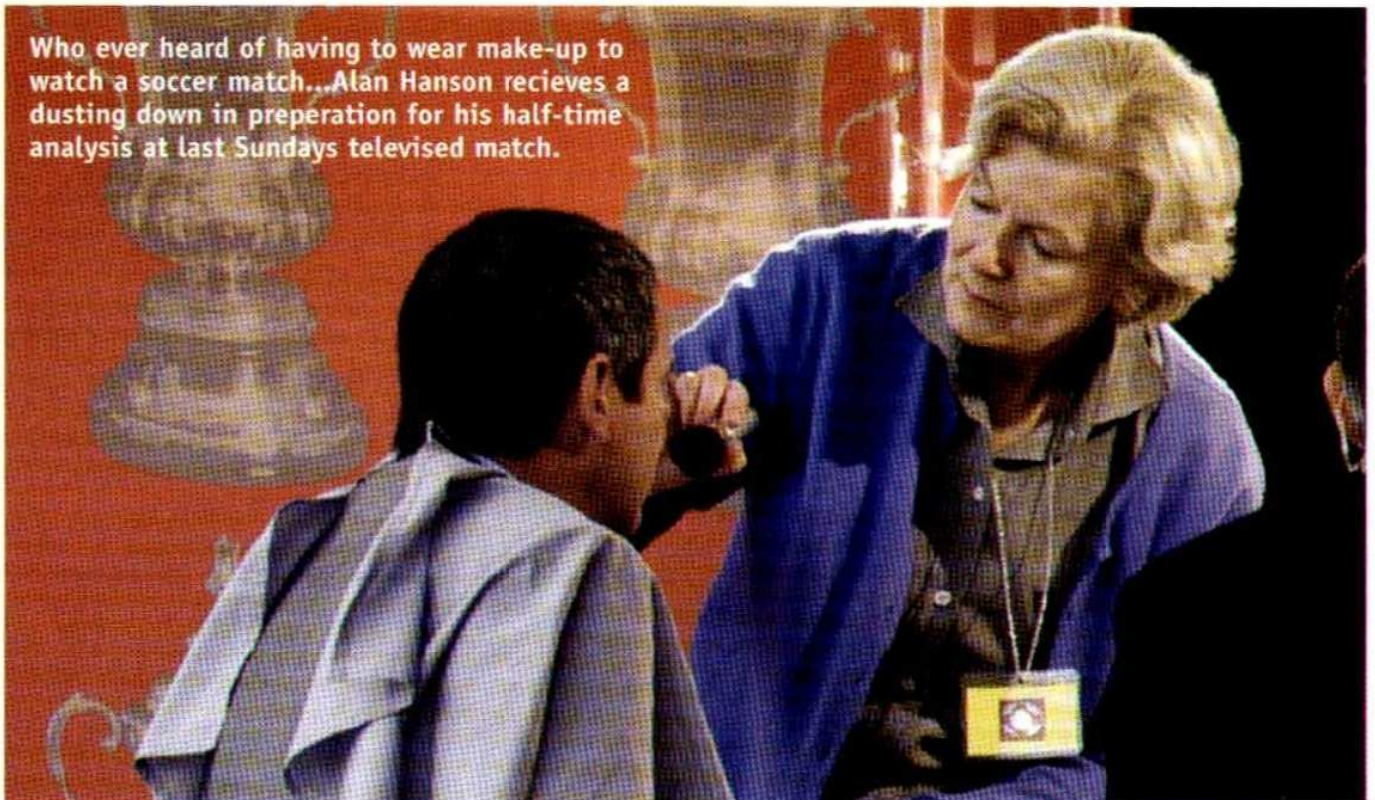
Our next opponent in the Youth Alliance Cup Quarter Finals will be Grimsby Town who we will play here at the Chapel Road training ground on Sat 12th March 2005 with a 12 noon kick-off. The other Quarter Final is between Burnley & Doncaster Rovers.

FEBRUARY				
Sat	5	H	BURNLEY	9.30am
Sat	12		MERIT 1	
Sat	19		MERIT 2	
Sat	26		MERIT 3	
MARCH				
Sat	5		MERIT 4	
Sat	12	H	GRIMSBY	YA CUP 4
Sat	19		MERIT 5	
Sat	26		MERIT 6	
APRIL				
Sat	2		MERIT 7	
Sat	9		MERIT 8	
Sat	16		FREE DATE	
Sat	23		MERIT 9	

Latics took on Burnley this morning to decide the boys league position and which section of the Merit Division Latics will play in.

Until the final league positions are decided a complete fixture list can not be issued and although the table of fixtures looks a little vague this is how it will span out.

Who ever heard of having to wear make-up to watch a soccer match... Alan Hanson receives a dusting down in preparation for his half-time analysis at last Sundays televised match.



Latics involvement in this seasons FA Cup tournament came to an abrupt but unfortunate end at the hands of local rivals Bolton Wanderers. After bundling Manchester City out of the tournament in the last round Latics were looking to repeat the performance against the trotters.



## REPORT Latics 0 - Bolton Wanderers 1

The game started brightly with both sides pushing forward looking for the breakthrough, unfortunately Bolton took their early chance when Ricardo Vaz Te latched on to Ricardo Gardner's cross to head past Les Pogliacomi's left hand in to the bottom corner of the net, in truth Les will have been disappointed not to have kept out the Portuguese strikers effort.

Athletic could have been awarded a penalty kick when Neil Kilkenny was brought down just inside the penalty area but referee Matt Messias waved play on....if this was a premiership game a spot kick would most certainly have been the result. John Eyre was the next Latics

player to have the opportunity to equalise but he somehow scuffed his shot well wide of the target.

Lee Croft was having a terrific game running all over the park and on two occasions his perfect crosses were headed wide of the target by Danny Hall and then Mark Hughes.

### HALF TIME

#### LATICS 0 BOLTON WANDERERS 1

The second period saw the division one side push the Trotters all the way; in fact it was difficult to separate the Premiership side from the Coca Cola league outfit.

Latics with Croft prompting and pushing the boys in blue forward would surely score soon,

but it was Bolton who nearly took a two-goal lead thankfully Pogliacomi saved from Kevin Davies with his legs.

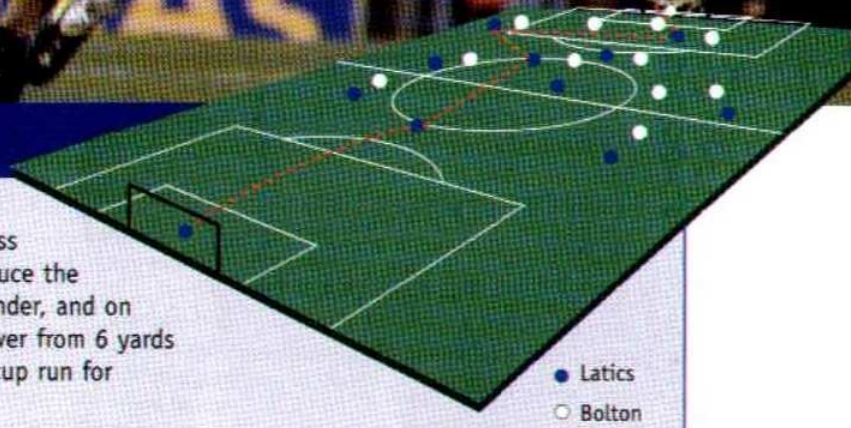
In the 54th minute a misjudged tackle from Croft resulted in Nicky Hunt having to leave the field on a stretcher, it was nothing more than that, a misjudged tackle and all the paper talk that followed was unjust.

Latics kept up the pressure and Croft and David Eyres peppered the Bolton goalkeeper with cross after cross but to no avail. Latics manager Brian Talbot threw on American forward Kenny Cooper for his debut and shortly after Jaaskelainen saved brilliantly from Danny Hall. With the game drifting away



### Move of the Match

Latics tried and tried to break down the Trotters defence and when David Eyres collected Kilkenny's pass on the left and floated in a delicious cross to Alex Bruce the equaliser would surely come. Bruce however is a defender, and on this occasion it showed, Bruce hit his volley with power from 6 yards out but it looped over the bar come post and Latics cup run for another year was over.



and the clock ticking down Latics threw the kitchen sink at the visitors and Eyres placed an inch perfect cross on to the foot of Alex Bruce some six yards out, Bruce somehow screwed his shot come volley wide. There was time for one last effort from Adam Griffin but his 20-yard effort swerved wide and the game was up for Latics.

#### VERDICT

It was hard to tell which team was from the Premiership in this clash, Bolton had the poise were as Latics had all the energy.

Athletic can be proud of their efforts in the cups this season and the boys in blue deserved their standing ovation at the final whistle.

#### REF WATCH

It was the select band of officials who again officiated in this game; Mr Messias was calm and collected and had a fair game.

Latics had a good shout for a penalty turned down, if it had been a red shirt at Old Trafford could the same have been said?

MARKS 7/10

#### MAN OF THE MATCH

Lee Croft was darting all over the pitch and took on any defender who countered him.

The young City 'loanee' was outstanding in everything he did. Latics will miss this young man after this afternoon's final game for him at Boundary Park, but he can return to the blue side of Manchester in the full knowledge that he is welcome to come back to Boundary Park at any time.

## Swindon Town "Dream Team"

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

**FRASER DIGBY:** England U-21 goalkeeper who was a key figure in Swindon Town's 1992-93 First Division play-off final triumph. He also featured in their 1986-87 promotion success, 1994-95 Coca-Cola Cup run and 1995-96 Second Division title triumph. Awarded a testimonial in July 1997, he played 417 League games for Swindon before joining Crystal Palace in August 1998, then played for Barry Town.

**ROD THOMAS:** Welsh international right-back who was capped 30 times while at Swindon Town. A key figure in their 1968-69 promotion and League Cup 'double' success, he also starred in Swindon's 1970 Anglo-Italian Cup final triumph and netted five goals in 296 League games prior to joining Derby County in November 1973. He later played for Cardiff, Newport and Gloucester before becoming a publican.

**JOHN TROLLOPE:** Long-serving left-back who holds Swindon Town's appearance record. He was ever-present in seven consecutive seasons including the 1962-63 promotion success and featured in Swindon's 1968-69 promotion and League Cup triumph as well as their 1970 Anglo-Italian Cup final win. Scoring 21 goals in 770 League games, he later managed Swindon between November 1980 and March 1983.



**GLENN HODDLE:** Former Spurs and England midfielder who was player-manager as Swindon Town reached the Premiership in 1992-93. He was capped 53 times and moved from Monaco to Swindon as player-boss in August 1991. Scoring once in 64 League games, he left to take charge of Chelsea after the 1992-93 play-off final triumph and has since managed England, Southampton, Spurs and now Wolves.

**COLIN CALDERWOOD:** Central defender who was capped 36 times by Scotland after leaving Swindon Town. He starred as they won the Fourth Division title in 1985-86, promotion in 1986-87 and the 1992-93 First Division play-off final. Scoring 20 times in 330 League games for Swindon, he moved to Spurs in July 1993 and then played for Aston Villa and Nottingham Forest. He now manages Northampton Town.

**SHAUN TAYLOR:** Central defender who was ever-present alongside Colin Calderwood as Swindon Town reached the Premiership in 1992-93. He was the sole ever-present player in Swindon's 1993-94 Premiership campaign and also featured in the 1995-96 Second Division title triumph. He netted 30 goals in 212 League games before moving to Bristol City in September 1996 where he is development coach.

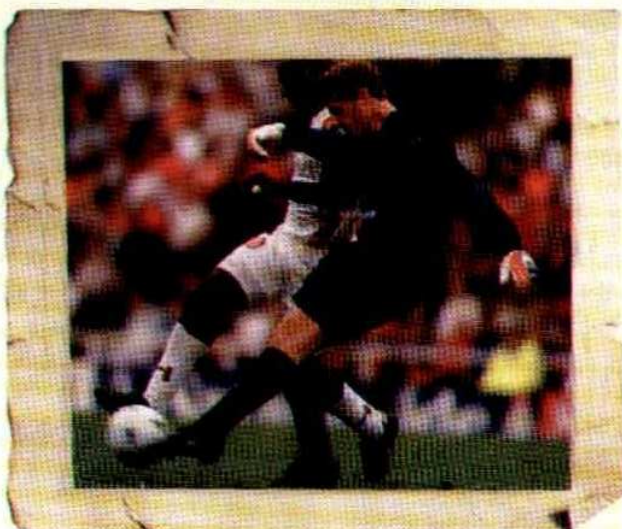
**MIKE SUMMERBEE:** Brilliant winger who was capped eight times by England after leaving Swindon Town. An important figure in their 1962-63 promotion success, he netted 39 goals in 218 League games for Swindon prior to joining Manchester City in August 1965. Subsequently with Burnley, Blackpool and Stockport County, he is now a successful businessman and his son Nicky also starred for Swindon Town.

**ERNIE HUNT:** England U-23 international striker who was Swindon Town's leading marksman in four successive seasons including their 1962-63 promotion triumph. Born locally, he netted 82 goals in 214 League games for Swindon prior to joining Wolves in September 1965. He later played for Everton, Coventry, Doncaster and Bristol City, then ran the Full Pitcher pub in Ledbury and was a window cleaner.

**PAUL RIDEOUT:** England U-21 international striker who was Swindon Town's leading goalscorer in two consecutive seasons. Swindon's youngest League player at 16 years 107 days against Hull in November 1980, he netted 38 goals in 95 League games before joining Aston Villa in June 1983. He later played for Bari, Southampton, Swindon on loan, Notts County, Glasgow Rangers, Everton and Tranmere Rovers.

**PETER NOBLE:** Versatile favourite who was ever-present in Swindon Town's 1968-69 promotion and League Cup 'double' triumph. He scored twice in their 1970 Anglo-Italian Cup final success and netted 62 goals in 216 League outings prior to joining Burnley in June 1973. An FA Cup semi-finalist in 1973-74, he was twice ever-present and then played for Blackpool. He has since run a sportswear business in Burnley.

**DON ROGERS:** England U-23 winger who scored twice in Swindon Town's 1969 League Cup final success. He featured in their 1962-63 and 1968-69 promotion campaigns and also helped to win the Anglo-Italian Cup in 1970. Reuniting with Bert Head at Crystal Palace in November 1972, he moved via QPR back to Swindon in March 1976 and netted 148 goals in 412 League games. He now runs a sports shop.

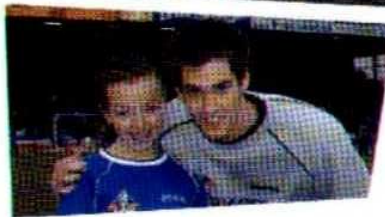


# BOUNDARY BLUES

Hi Boundary Blues members, Hope you all enjoyed the Bolton match last Sunday and that you agree that our lads were brilliant and very unlucky with the result! Well done lads you did us proud. Today we welcome our friends from Swindon, lets hope we can bag another three points and climb up the table.

### TODAY'S MASCOT

James Neild is today's Boundary Blues mascot. James attends Counthill school and is 11 years old. His hobbies include football and his favourite player is Les Pogliacomi. Hope you enjoy your day James.



### KEEP UP THE NOISE!

Well done to everyone for shouting and singing for the team at the Bolton Game-we need you to carry on again today, it really makes a difference, the team tell us they CAN hear you! C'MON YOU BLUES!

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Lee Monkton, Matthew Ware, Adam Carter, Michelle Gordon, Kieran Mitton, Matthew Wheelton, Samuel Taylor, Aiden Roydes, Thomas Butterworth, Lucy Bolton, Andrew Pearce, Jason McLean, Aiden Smyth, Nathan Mayall, Nathan Mills, Adam Goulden, Adam Bradbury, Larrissa Webb, Scott Anderson, Jahnathan Hardy, Niall Collins, Amy Whitehead, Simon Heyes, Liam Taylor, Adam Robertson, Matthew Babic, Thomas Neild, Daniel Berry, Alex Hutchinson, Dannielle Feeley, David Buckley, Andrew Duffy, Thomas Taylor, Michael Farrimond, Happy Birthday to all of you from the Boundary Blues.

### BOLTON MASCOTS

Lauren Dale was our Boundary Blues Mascot against Bolton, She had a great day and here she is with her favourite player Danny Hall. Also as you know there were another ten mascots, they were Jack Atherton, Thomas Siwka, Lauren Hurst, Nathan Mayall, Joel Fisher, Jordan Charlesworth, Joshua Whitaker, George Booth, Lauren Dale, Ryan Diggle and Elliott Crossley.

### BLACKPOOL MATCH

As you all know the match against Blackpool was rearranged for next Tuesday (8th February) at 7.45pm. And we are unable to run our BB trip as it is a school night. We are giving tickets (for those who wish to go) to our regular trip members and parents. If you come into the BB lounge we will give the tickets to you.

### HUDDERSFIELD TRIP

Our next trip is to Huddersfield on 26th February (Eyresy's birthday) we will be sending you details and booking forms shortly.

### BELLBOYS/GIRLS

Thank you to our ballboys on Sunday, We were proud of you all, a good advert for O AFC on the TV. -Well done!

### MASCOT TROPHIES

Thanks to Graham from Gee Dee Trophies for our mascot trophies, much appreciated Graham.



# CHADDY'S GANG

### MESSAGE FROM CHADDY

Hi gang have you all got over the disappointing result last week, I know I haven't but football must go on. Did you my see my mascot friends on the pitch? we had a great time entertaining you at half time and afterwards we had a bit of a party back at my nest. I did ask Alan Shearer, Alan Hanson and Gary Linaker to join us but they said they were sorry they had lots of autographs to sign, did any of you get them? Well like I said football must go on and today we entertain Swindon so come on give the boys all your support and cheer them on as loud as you can, have a great day!  
love Chaddy the owl

### BIRTHDAYS

Once again we come to the start of a new month and lots of new birthday mentions, Happy birthday to Holly Hughes, Jack Dowd, Travis Lord, James Gregory, Leon Wakefeild, Matthew Deakin, Tom Challinor look out for your birthday cards they should be with you very soon.

### COLOURING COMPETITION

Today at half time you can see the boys and girls who won the colouring competition we ran before Christmas on the pitch at half time. Give them all a big cheer as they take part in the penalty shoot out.



***I'm better  
with me  
left foot***



***for those  
who love life***

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# OLDHAM ATHLETIC Supporters Association



First a couple of reminders. We are still keen to receive questionnaire responses from anybody that is yet to return theirs, and 2005 membership subscriptions are now overdue. We are lucky to be blessed with a club whose board is very receptive to the thoughts and suggestions of its fans, and the association is only too happy to convey these. But it is much better that we convey the consensus views of a large proportion of fans than those of just a small minority. Consequently we need more members and urge as many of you as possible to join at the earliest opportunity and help us to better help you. Anybody that read these notes at the Bolton game will also be aware that we are presently working on numerous new and improved membership privileges and upcoming functions that should make membership a more useful and enjoyable prospect this year than ever before. And priced at just £1 this year, we feel membership represents excellent value. We hope that many of you have already taken full advantage of this, but those that haven't, we encourage as many of you as possible to get down to the **club shop** as soon as possible to join. We hope to have confirmation of fuller details and dates etc concerning the said membership privileges and functions in time to appear here at the next home game, but in the meantime it would be great to see you at our next monthly quiz, this Monday (7th February), sponsors lounge at 8pm.



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## A Voice From The Trust

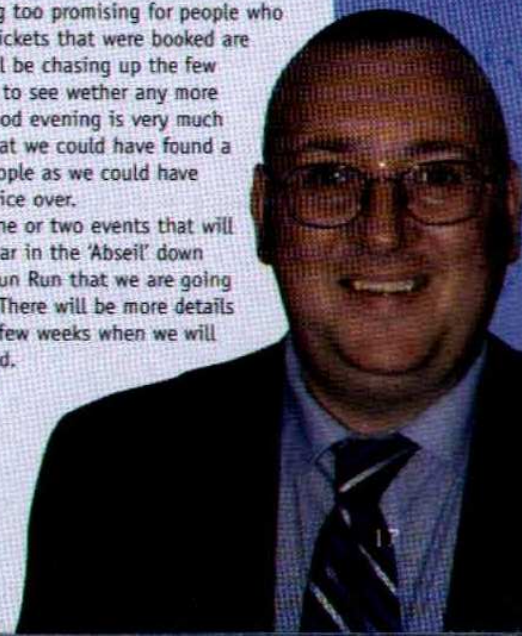
Hello and welcome back to Boundary Park for today's game against Swindon Town.

I hope that everyone has recovered after our cup exit last Sunday at the hands of Bolton Wanderers. I must admit to feeling quite down for a couple of days at the start of the week as I felt that we were good enough on the day to have taken something from the game and then when watching it again on TV I saw nothing to make me change the way that I felt. Who knows what could have happened had we had someone who knows were the goal is (Scott Vernon / Chris Killen) fit enough to play and the chances that we did have had not fallen to defenders (Danny Hall / Alex Bruce).

I took some consolation in two things. The first being that I got to speak to Sam Allardyce after the game and he was so relieved that they had managed to get through and he admitted that we had deserved at least a draw from the game. He was full of praise for the performance that we had put up! The second was the stick that I received from my workmates. They went on at me as if they had beaten Brazil in the World Cup Final, not a mid table League One side around fifty league positions below them. I soon managed to turn things around when I reminded them of this fact and told them that it was them that looked like the lower league side. They didn't really have much argument after that! Anyway on to today's game where hopefully we can get moving back up the League after us dropping down a couple of places owing to our cup run. We visited Swindon back in October (the visiting numbers were down due to the pricing policy at the County Ground keeping quite a few of our regular supporters away

- Robin(s) seems quite an appropriate nickname with what they charge!!) where we were defeated 1-0 in what was an improved performance from the previous 2 games (Brentford away Lost 2-0 & Blackpool home lost 2-1) but was still the third loss on the run. Christian Roberts scored on his debut for the Swindon. Today looks like being Lee Crofts last appearance for us after his successful loan spell (due to him missing next Tuesdays game at Blackpool because of Internationals) and I would like to thank him for what he has done for us whilst here on loan and wish him all the best for the future and just to say that if he feels like refusing a contract at City I am sure that we will make him welcome at Boundary Park where he can get more than Reserve Team football. Thanks again Lee. Hopefully see you soon!! The money has started to roll in for the "David Eyres Celebration Dinner" where it is not looking too promising for people who are on the waiting list as all tickets that were booked are indeed being taken up. We will be chasing up the few people that have not yet paid to see whether any more tickets become available. A good evening is very much anticipated and how I wish that we could have found a venue that held a lot more people as we could have sold out this event at least twice over. We have started to organise one or two events that will be taking place later in the year in the 'Abseil' down the Civic Centre and the 10k Fun Run that we are going to resurrect after many years. There will be more details of these events over the next few weeks when we will have more information on hand. Keep The Faith. See you soon!

Dave Hudson  
Trust Oldham



I've been watching Latics since 1987, mostly from the Chaddy End where I'm a season ticket holder. I was born up the hill from the ground but grew up in Dundee, and came back to Manchester labouring under the misapprehension that I'm actually Scottish. After coming back south I needed an English team and it said "Boundary Park" on my birth certificate so that was that. Like every Latics fan obvious highlights have been the cup runs and the championship season. Obvious lows were the cup runs ending, and threat of the club closing 18 months ago, which led to me getting involved with the Supporters Trust. Rather than a traditional "best 11", some of the players I've selected would not keep some of our legends out of a greatest ever team, but I've based my selections on more than playing ability. But who cares, it's my team. These are the guys that I associate with particular personal memories of watching Latics over the last 20 years or so.



Andy Goram

**1- Andy Goram**

After growing up in Dundee, was ecstatic when we had a full international playing for us. He's about as Scottish as I am, which made it even better.

**2- Dennis Irwin**

Loved watching him play, a class act. It was he scoring more than the others in the All-stars game that brought back the most memories for some reason.

**3 - Neil Pointon**

For those few minutes at Wembley in '94

**4 - John Sheridan**

For his contribution last year in keeping us up, Murray was amazing, but in the early part of the year Shez was the one who got us playing. Played through pain, couldn't run, and still the best passer of the ball

**5- Will Haining**

If I were playing against Latics, I would hate to have Will marking me, you aint getting past him. Totally committed, and a natural leader. Became a cult hero with my friends and family after his performances a couple of years ago with his head bandaged up.



Neil Pointon

And he's another Scot. Only person ever to call me Harry Potter.

**6- Alex Bruce**

It was only after the game against Tranmere that I realised somehow, I've never managed to see one of our penalty shootouts in the flesh. Tuesday night was great - thanks Alex

**7- Neil Kilkenny**

Met him at our Christmas dinner, and aside from the performances he's putting in on the pitch, he's a good laugh and a genuinely nice guy. My wife thinks he's a "sweetheart" which is the real reason he's been selected.

**8- Paul Bernard**

I played against Paul a couple of times for my primary school and against Juno Utd in Cheadle. I say played, more got shown up by him. It's his goal against Wednesday in "that game" that sticks in my mind as a result. Oh and the fact that he's Scottish helps

**9 - Colin Garwood**

I never saw Colin play, but bear with me. When I was 2 days old my mum tells me that she could hear the crowd from the maternity wing and I was screaming along. In that match we beat Bolton 2-0 and Colin scored the first, so I dubiously claim that this is my first match. When I lived in Bolton in the mid 90's I used this to claim bragging rights down the pub with my mates who were Wanderers fans.

**10 - Scott Vernon**

For not freaking out when faced with the prospect of receiving a man of the match award from my 11 month old daughter Charlotte after her first game against Brentford last season.

**11- Tommy Wright**

Scored twice against Huddersfield on my first ever "proper" visit to Boundary Park in January 1987 and so instantly became a favourite.

**12- Les Pogliacomì**

My Australian niece was amazed that we had an Aussie playing for us. We arranged for him to sign a programme and send it to her in Perth. She was overjoyed, top bloke.

**13- Matt O' Halloran**

Just for the goal he scored in injury time against Rushden last year. Sat in the ground after the final whistle for ages wondering if that was the last winner I'd ever see at BP

**14- David Eyres**

A quality quality player, and one who cares about our club as much as any fan.

**15- Frank Bunn**

Haven't seen the team score 6 on very many occasions, but for 1 player to get 6 of the 7 we scored that night was incredible. It was a real shame that we never saw him at his best after that season

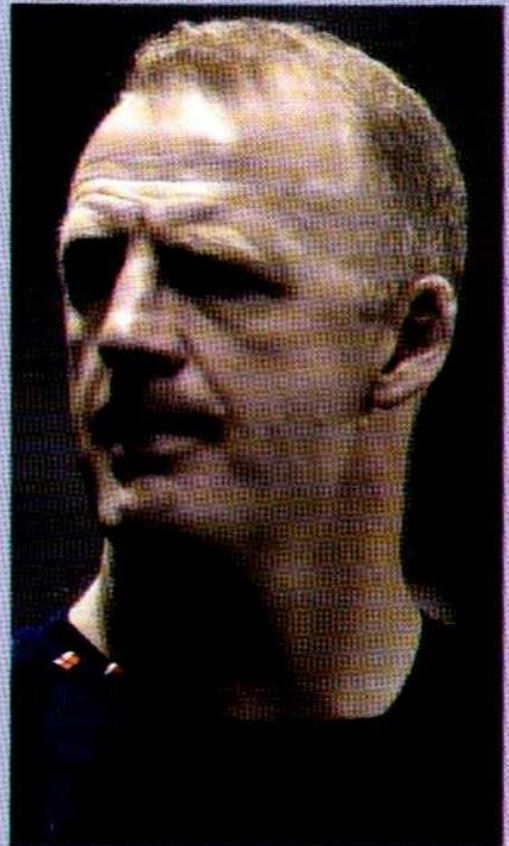
**16- Earl Barrett**

Earl was a fantastic defender, the reason I've added him is for the goal against Liverpool on our return to the top flight. The first goal scored that season in the division.

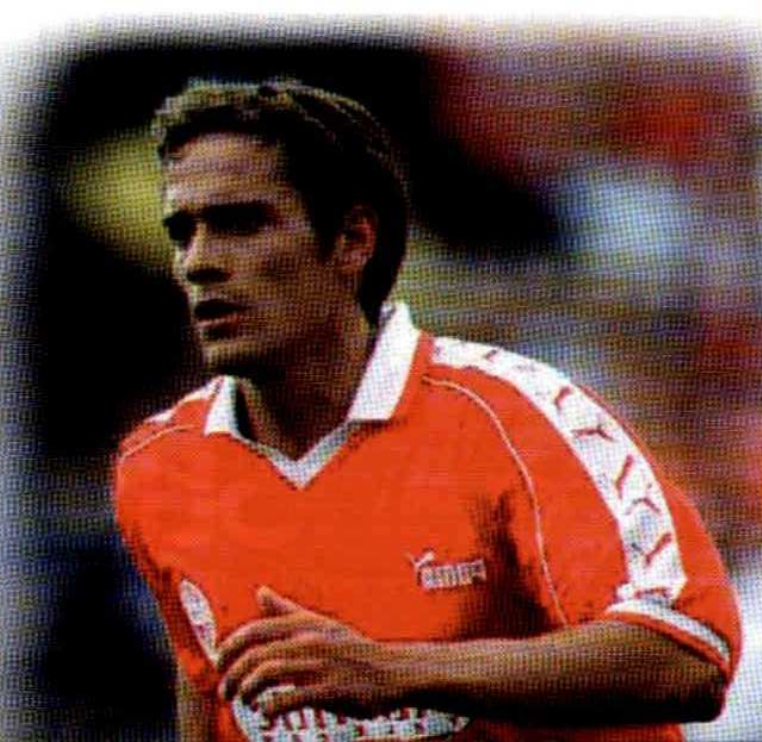
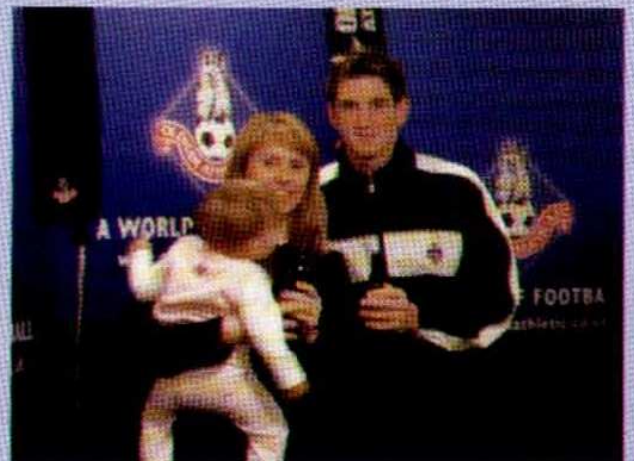


**Manager : Iain Dowie**

Despite all the thrills and glories of the Royle Years I would have Dowie at the helm. Like big Joe he could spot the potential of unknown players and turn them into stars. His unorthodox training methods bonded and inspired the team. Where would be now if the play-off squad of 2002/03 had stayed together... Thanks Mr Moore!!



**James Todd's wife and child present Scott Vernon with star player award**



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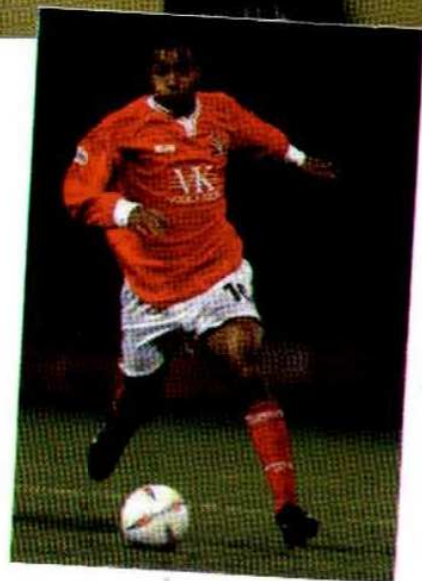
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# Kevin Betsy ON THE SPOT

Stand-in striker Kevin Betsy is aiming for a double-figure finish to the season.



The 26-year-old is already half-way to his tally with five goals including, a brace in the recent away game against Peterborough.

Betsy was switched from his more favoured wide right position to lead the line and help out in an injury crisis. His versatility has been invaluable and he insisted: "I will play anywhere where the gaffer asks me to.

"Obviously I would prefer to be in a settled position because it is so much easier to be consistent.

"Playing in a number of positions can upset your rhythm and although I would prefer to be out on the right, I have been enjoying myself.

"The important thing is that I am in the first team and that is what football is all about."

Betsy began his career at non-league Woking before moving to Fulham for £150,000.

It was on to Barnsley for £200,000 and he finished top scorer, but it wasn't enough.

He found himself out of a job in a massive clear-out.

Boss Brian Talbot had been chasing the player for five years and finally got his man for nothing.

He made an explosive debut scoring against Hartlepool where, ironically, he had previously been on loan.

Betsy was being chased by other clubs but has never regretted moving to Boundary Park.

He said: "I love it here and I am looking to win a new contract when my current deal is up at the end of the season.

"The club has a great

youth set-up and players who have come through are capable of playing at a higher level.

"I know it is a big ask, but I still believe we have a chance of making the play-offs.

"We have shown how well we can play in games against Manchester City and Bolton and the fans showed just how passionate they can be.

"They really get behind the players and it would be brilliant for them if we could bring a bit of success to the club, especially in the LDV Trophy competition."

In the meantime, Betsy will continue to play his leading role.

He added: "You have to adapt as a front man because you are playing with your back to goal. You also have to be more physical because there are always plenty of bodies about.

"I am more used to running at defenders, that's my best asset.

I will continue do my best, that's all you can do.

"Versatility can either be a hindrance or a help, but I will play wherever the gaffer wants me to, he knows best and I respect him

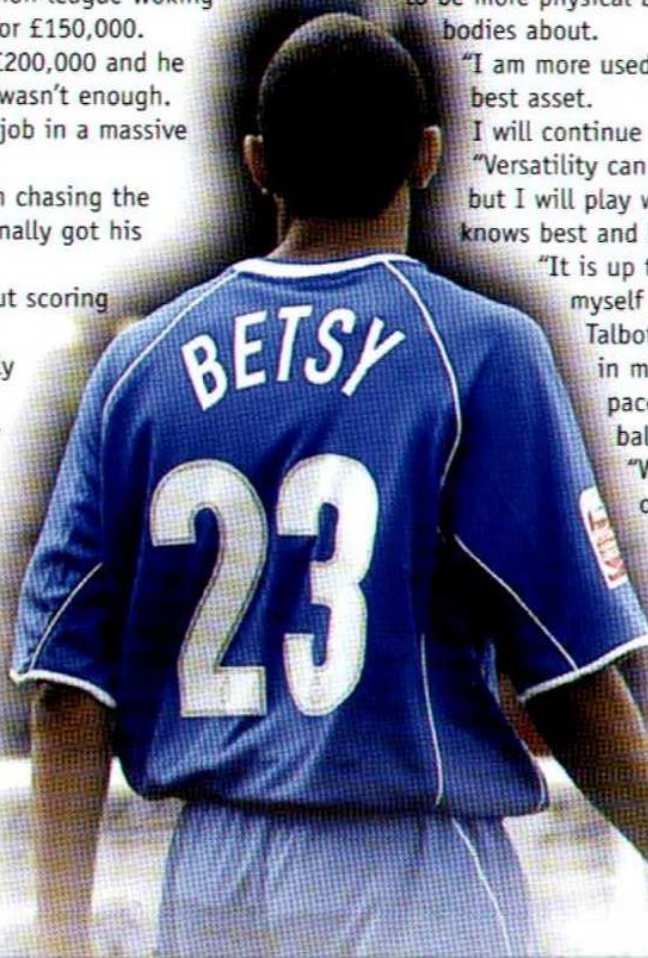
"It is up to me to get on with it and do myself justice."

Talbot said: "I have not seen Kevin play in many games up front but he has pace and is good at running with the ball.

"Whether he can score enough goals only time will tell.

"He took both well against Peterborough, you have to be in the right position and we are looking for consistency from him.

"Kevin came in during our hour of need and has done well."



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# Danny Hall...

**Valiant Latics may have finally bowed out of the FA Cup, but Danny Hall believes the charge to round four could have a lasting impact.**

Danny says the victory over Manchester City, followed by last Sunday's fine showing against Bolton, can accelerate the progress of the club. The potential at Boundary Park was already clear, but it has now been viewed by a nationwide audience who took the giantkillers to their hearts. Defensive strength was perhaps the most impressive aspect of Athletic's run. And Danny, who helped his side concede just one goal in six hours of cup football, is looking to build on that experience. He said: "If the cup is a distraction, it is the kind of distraction everybody loves to have. "Doing well against two Premiership sides is bound to be good for confidence, so hopefully we can take our cup form into the league consistently. "The lads were disappointed to lose against Bolton, especially because we deserved a bit more, but nobody felt too down about the result. "We always knew the FA Cup was a bonus and a luxury. The league is what really matters to everybody here and we still have the ambition of chasing a play-

off place. "One of the things the FA Cup did was show how good we can be if we perform somewhere near our best. "That's something to take forward for the rest of the season because we acquitted ourselves very well against some top players. "Bolton had to face a lot of pressure, and they hardly got out of their own half for the last 20 minutes. "We pinned them back and threw everything at them, but the bit of luck we had against Manchester City was missing on Sunday." Latics came desperately close to equalising in the second half when Danny appeared to force a brilliant save from Bolton keeper Jussi Jaaskelainen. In fact, during that frantic goalmouth scramble, there was hardly any contact from the 21-year-old. Danny revealed: "On TV it looks as though I had a shot, but the ball must have been heading in that direction already. "If I had got hold properly, it would have flown into the roof of the net and I doubt the keeper would have had any chance at all. "Although we had one or two close calls,

it was one of those days when Bolton defended well and managed to keep us out. "But they didn't create all that much of their own, which is something we can be pleased with as a defence and a team. "It was my job to mark Bruno N'Gotty, who is big and broad, but it seemed as though all the Bolton lads had the same kind of build. "We had to re-organise our marking after Will Haining went off injured, and it usually involved bringing John Eyre or Kevin Betsy back to help. But between us all we didn't allow Bolton many chances." Hall will be tested by Swindon at Boundary Park this afternoon, and he is hoping Latics can launch another move up the table. He added: "Swindon are usually quite a big side who are good on setpieces and, without playing route-one, they like to get the ball forward quickly. "We will need another strong performance to get past them, but our form since New Year has been encouraging . . . and we want to improve it again."

**Danny Hall on Bolton's Kevin Davies in FA Cup action**



# Player Talk...

**On-loan striker Kenny Cooper may be from the United States but, ironically, he still knows a little bit about Oldham Athletic. That's all down to his dad, Kenny Senior, who was also a professional footballer ... just down the road at Blackburn Rovers!**

While young Kenny's job is to score goals his father was a goalkeeper who left these shores for a career in American football.

Cooper was born in Baltimore, Maryland, and was brought up on a daily diet of football.

He started playing at the age of four and moved with the family to Dallas, Texas, when he was thirteen.

Cooper later joined the local Dallas Mustangs and figured in the famed Dallas Cup.

His progress was outstanding and he teamed up with McDonald's All American team, which recruited the best young players from all over the States.

Then, out of the blue, he got a telephone call asking him if he was interested in a move to mighty Manchester United.

Interested? The starry-eyed teenager couldn't wait to get across the pond! After all, they were his boyhood heroes and he never lost the chance to watch them on television. Cooper had already been lined up for top Portuguese side Benfica but the lure of walking into the world famous Theatre of Dreams was too good to turn down.

He revealed: "The phone call came as a surprise but I knew straight away what I had to do.

"My dad was a fan and I had grown up supporting United. It was a dream come true."

Cooper packed his bags and flew over for a two-week trial and impressed enough to be offered a three-year contract.

The 20-year-old is now half way

through the deal and has switched to Boundary Park to take the next step in his soccer education.

Cooper has joined the Latics for a month initially with the possibility of it being extended.

In his first season at Old Trafford he scored 15 goals in the reserve side and has just recently returned from a five-month spell in Portugal playing for Academia..

When Oldham boss Brian Talbot moved in for the player he sat down with United's coaches and Sir Alex Ferguson. Cooper, who had given up a university place to fulfil his dream of making it in the professional game, said: "They all agreed that now was the right time to move and get a taste of league football.

"I feel I am ready and these are exciting times for me.

"I just want to do my best and help Oldham all I can. My ambition is to get into the side and play regular first team football.

"I know what to expect and I am ready for it.

"I knew a little bit about Oldham. When my father was coaching in America they came over to play in a friendly."

Cooper, who is 6' 3", turned down two other clubs to make the short switch to Boundary Park.

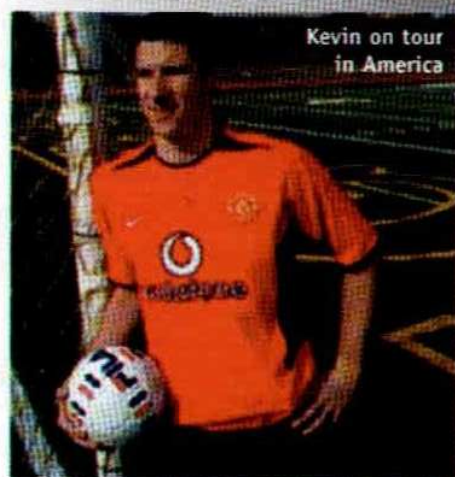
"I wanted to stay close to Manchester and Oldham have also been doing very well recently.

"Brian Talbot is a very respected manager and I am looking forward to working with him.

"I know he can help me improve my



Kevin scores at Old Trafford



Kevin on tour in America

game and I will be doing everything to try to help him." Cooper, who has trained with United's first team squad, made his Latics debut in Sunday's FA Cup defeat by Bolton, coming on as a second half substitute.

He said: "The boys here had done fantastic to get that far and there is also the area final of the LDV coming up as well as important league games. There is a lot to look forward to and I want to be part of it..

"Football in England is very passionate and I know I am going to enjoy the experience of playing at this level.

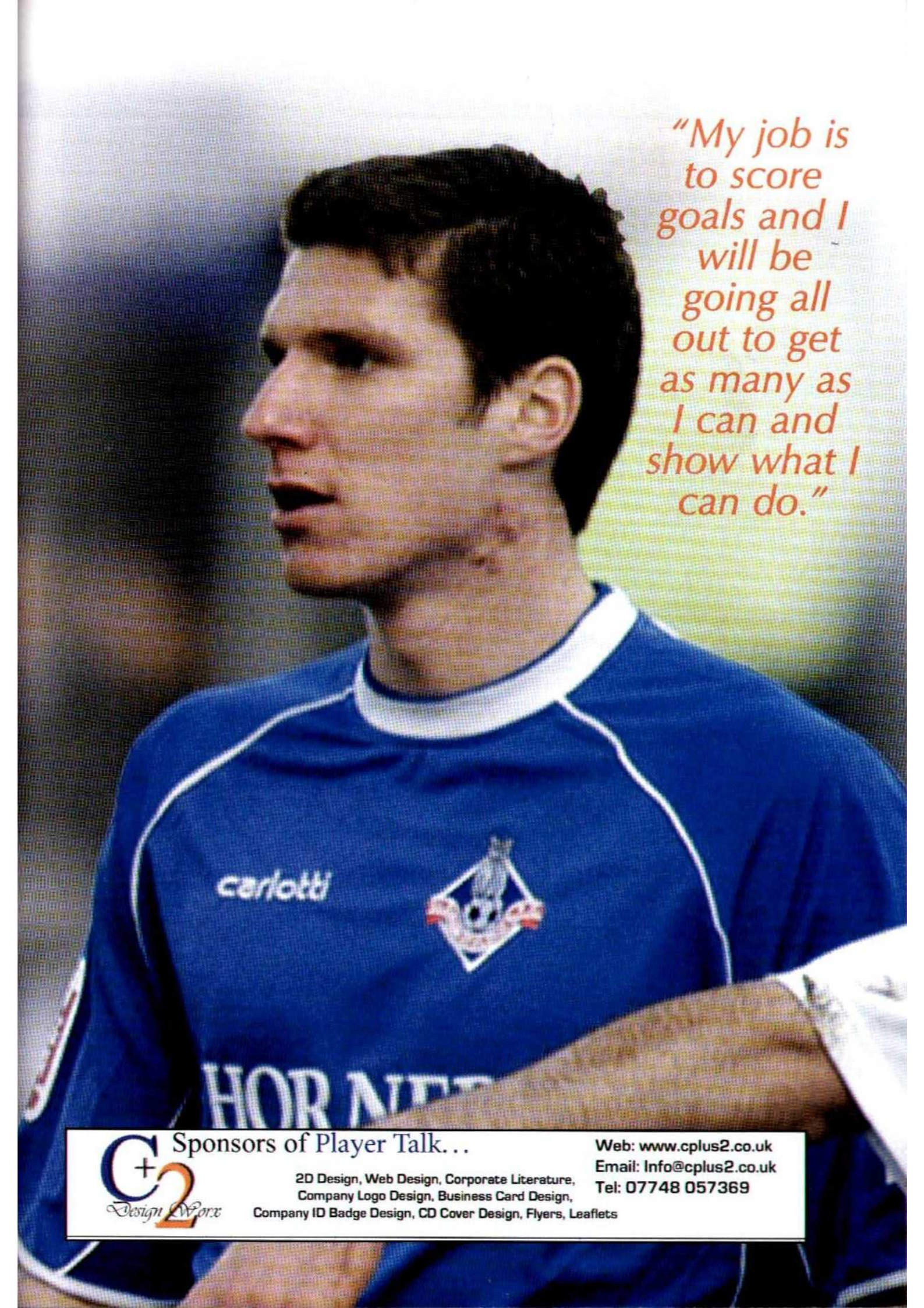
"My job is to score goals and I will be going all out to get as many as I can and show what I can do."

Talbot, who has watched Cooper in reserve team action, said: "Kenny is young, keen and hungry.

"He must have potential otherwise United would not have brought him over.

"This is a chance for him and, hopefully, he will show us what he has got."



A young man with dark hair, wearing a blue football kit with white trim, is shown in profile, looking towards the left. The kit features the 'carlotti' brand name and a club crest. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

*"My job is to score goals and I will be going all out to get as many as I can and show what I can do."*



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## 10 years against Swindon Town...

**1994/95** - Swindon, despite being relegated from Division One, reached the semi-finals of the Coca Cola Cup eventually losing to Bolton. The Robins took four points from Latics in the campaign which followed the loss of their Premiership status. Gunnar Halle scored in a 1-1 draw at Boundary Park while Andy Ritchie was on target in the 3-1 defeat at the County Ground.

**1995/96** - There was plenty to cheer as Swindon were promoted as Second Division champions and they also reached the fifth round of the FA Cup where they lost 2-0 having held the Saints 1-1 at home.

**1996/97** - The Robins narrowly avoided immediate demotion while Latics' luck runs out as they go down after finishing second bottom. Wayne Allison scored the only goal of the game for Swindon at the County Ground early in the season while Latics gained revenge in March with a 5-1 victory, Stuart Barlow scoring his second hat trick of the season.

**2000/01** - The two teams renew acquaintances after more than three and a half years. Craig Dudley scored the only



goal of the game and is then sent off at Boundary Park in October while five months later Latics lost 3-0 in the return, a vital victory as the Robins only avoided relegation by one place and one point.

**2001/02** - The two teams finish mid-table, but Latics took maximum points with 2-0 victories both home and away. John Sheridan and Stuart Balmer scored

away while John Eyre bagged a brace in the return.

**2002/03** - A Latics league double for the second successive season. Lee Duxbury scored and Julian Baudet was sent off in the 1-0 win at the County Ground in October as Latics equalled a club record by registering an eighth straight victory. And the return at Boundary Park was also special as Latics' 4-0 victory clinched their place in the play offs with three matches remaining.

**2003/04** - Swindon pulled off a surprise 1-0 win at Boundary Park having been reduced to 10 men after only 12 minutes following Matt Heywood's dismissal. Former Latics loan player Sam Parkin was the visitors' matchwinner. But revenge was sweet in the return with Latics winning 2-1 in Wiltshire. Swindon qualified for the play offs after finishing fifth, but lost to Brighton in the semi finals on penalties after it ended 2-2 on aggregate.

**2004/05** - Christian Roberts scored the only goal of the game as Swindon took the points from their first meeting of the current campaign.

## OUR 10-YEAR RECORD

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Home	6	4	1	1	13	3	13
Away	7	3	0	4	6	9	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>22</b>

The two teams also met in the fourth round of the FA Cup in February 1996 when Martin Ling's goal earned Swindon a 1-0 victory in the tie which was played at the third time of asking after two attempts in January failed.

### LAST TIME HERE

**Nationwide League, Division Two**  
**Saturday November 15th, 2003**  
 Latics 0, Swindon 1 (Parkin)

**Attendance:** 5,282

**Latics:** Pogliacomi, D Hall (O'Halloran), Haining, Beharall, Holden, Clegg (Roca), Boshell (Wolfenden), Eyre, Cooksey, Vernon, Zola.

**Subs (not used):** Westwood, Tierney.

**Swindon:** Evans, Gurney, Heywood, Iffill, Robinson (Reeves), Duke, Lewis, Miglioranzi, Hewlett, Mooney, Parkin (Fallon).

**Subs (not used):** Griemink, Nicholas, Howard.

**Referee:** Mr M Cowburn (Lancs).

\* Sam Parkin and Steve Mildenhall provide current links between the two clubs. Swindon striker Parkin spent a loan spell with Latics from Chelsea in 2000/01 while goalkeeper Mildenhall kicked off his career with his hometown team before arriving at Boundary Park via Notts County.

\* Swindon's central defender Alan Reeves is the twin of David, the Chesterfield striker who was with Latics in 2001/02.

\* In the last 10-years Swindon have experienced two relegations, both

from what is now the Coca Cola Championship and savoured one promotion from Coca Cola League One as it is now labelled.

\* Three former international footballers have managed both Latics and Swindon in the last 10 years - Steve McMahon and Colin Todd (both England) and Jimmy Quinn (Northern Ireland) are the County Ground threesome while Graeme Sharp (Scotland), Iain Dowie (Northern Ireland) and Brian Talbot (England) are Latics' trio.

\* Latics pulled off victories at Swindon in three successive seasons between 2001/04.

\* Swindon's victory at Boundary Park last season ended a run of fourth successive league victories for Latics.

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VISITING 'THE ROBINS'



SWINDON  
TOWN

## CLUB DIRECTORY

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CAPACITY	14,800
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NICKNAME	The Robins

# INCONSISTENCY IS KING

ANDY King has been feeling the heat of late with Swindon Town's stuttering form hitting their play-off hopes hard, writes the Advertiser's Carl Marsden. The board of directors at the County Ground had to publicly quash rumours that ex-Nottingham Forest caretaker boss Mick Harford was set to take over the hotseat this week after a disappointing spell. The Robins were hoping to at least repeat last season's fifth-place finish and started the campaign with a flourish, winning four league games in a row in August. But in recent months they have toiled to string results together and have only managed back-to-back victories once since then. Last week's shambolic 2-0

## LDV exit leaves Swindon hoping for play-off spot

LDV Southern semi-final defeat at Southend United was the second time they have lost to lower-league opponents this term and again highlighted their lack of consistency. A concerted play-off push - dogged so far by the conceding of sloppy goals and a lack of concentration - is the only thing that can save the season now for this Jekyll and Hyde side: though it is not beyond them. Swindon now lie in 11th place, boosted by last Saturday's 3-0 home win over Stockport County which brought huge relief to their under-fire manager. "I was hoping for the first

goal to go in but at the same time I was dreading it going in at the other end as we have given some silly goals away recently," he told BBC Sport. "It has put us five points off the play-offs. Now we need to take this result and go on a run that will get us where we want to be." King has hardly been helped by the Robins' latest financial crisis which saw them potentially facing up a winding-up petition at the High Court this week before a last-gasp reprieve. The club has been making annual losses of £750,000 since 2002 and only managed to secure their immediate future when they found the funds to

settle a debt owed to Customs and Excise before the February 2 deadline. Sir Seton Willis, the club's major shareholder and benefactor was again their white knight, striking an agreement with Town's development partner St Mowden to provide a £750,000 loan to cover the amount. The deal ensures the club can meet its financial obligations for the remainder of the season, but director Bob Holt warned they are not out of the woods yet. "Basically the position is simple," he said. "Having reduced expenditure to a minimum, more income is the only solution."

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# VISITING SWINDON TOWN



## THE SQUAD

### GOALKEEPERS APPS

1	Rhys Evans	30
20	Steve Book	0
2	Sean O'Hanlon	26

### DEFENDERS APPS

6	Steve Jenkins	11
12	Jerel Ifil	23
15	Andrew Nicholas	6(7)
18	Alan Reeves	6(1)
19	Matthew Heywood	12(4)
3	Grant Smith	7(7)
4	Matthew Hewlett	21(1)

### MIDFIELDERS APPS

7	Sammy Igoe	27
10	Stefani Miglioranzi	8(2)
11	David Duke	28(1)
16	Steve Robinson	11(6)
17	Brian Howard	26(2)
21	Lee Holmes	8
22	Michael Pook	0(1)
23	Luke Garrard	6(1)
24	Andy Caton	0(3)

### STRIKERS APPS

5	Jamie Slabber	1(2)
8	Rory Fallon	8(15)
9	Sam Parkin	27
13	Lloyd Opara	0
14	Christian Roberts	12

### GOALSCORERS GOALS

9	Sam Parkin	14
17	Brian Howard	6
3	Grant Smith	5
7	Sammy Igoe	4
8	Rory Fallon	4
14	Christian Roberts	4
2	Sean O'Hanlon	4
11	David Duke	2

### THE SEASON SO FAR...

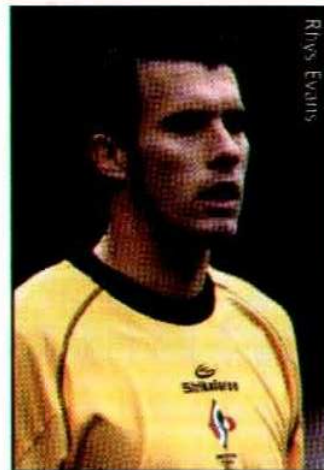
Biggest H win 3-0 V Stockprt  
 Biggest A win 0-2 V P'boro  
 Biggest H defeat 0-3 V Colchstr  
 Biggest A defeat 2-0 V Shf Wed

## GOALKEEPERS

SWINDON-born stopper **Rhys Evans** remains the club's first-choice goalkeeper after establishing himself last term. Handed his chance soon after signing from Chelsea in summer 2003, he quickly impressed and finished third in the club's 'Player of the Year' awards.

The 23-year-old 6ft 1in 'keeper had been surprisingly released from his Stamford Bridge contract despite impressing in loan spells at Bristol Rovers, QPR and Leyton Orient.

His excellent shot-stopping and command of his area had also won him an England U21 cap against Serbia in 2003. Reserve 'keeper **Steve Book** signed last summer after finding his opportunities limited at Cheltenham Town. The experienced 35-year-old had previously played a key part in the Whaddon Road club's rise to Football League status and made over 200 appearances after signing from Forest Green Rovers in 1997.



Rhys Evans

## DEFENDERS



SOUTHPORT-born right-back **Sean O'Hanlon** signed for £150,000 after a successful spell on-loan last season from Everton. Domineering in the air, the 22-year-old can also play in central defence and is rated by Andy King as this league's best defender. Ex-Welsh international **Steve Jenkins**, 32, is an experienced centre-back who joined after his release from Peterborough United last summer. A former Swansea City trainee, Huddersfield Town paid £275,000 for him in 1995 and he subsequently went on to play for Cardiff City and Notts County. Strong and pacy central defender **Jerel Ifil** was a Watford youth product. The 22-year-old started just ten league games at Vicarage Road and was loaned out to Huddersfield and then Swindon three times before making a permanent switch for an undisclosed fee last August.

**Matthew Heywood**, 25, is a dependable rock at the heart of the backline. The 6ft 2in defender signed after being released by Burnley in 2001 and has been a virtual ever-present under Andy King, making over 150 league starts despite persistent knee problems.

**Alan Reeves**, twin brother of former Latics striker David, has a new dual coaching/playing role and remains a useful squad member. The determined 37-year-old has now made over 400 league appearances, serving Gillingham, Chester, Rochdale and Wimbledon with distinction before joining Swindon in 1998.

Versatile Scot **David Duke**, 26, signed from Sunderland in 2000 without having played for the Black Cat's first-team. Although right-footed, he can play on either flank and after earning a new contract has switched from midfield to left back this term.

Young left-back **Andrew Nicholas** had a good first season at the County Ground after signing from Liverpool. The 21-year-old is a tall and pacy player with an excellent long throw whose progress was checked by knee surgery last summer.

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# SWINDON TOWN VISITING

MUCH travelled Scottish midfielder **Grant Smith** is a man in form, having netted four goals in the past five league games. Smith has forced his way back into Andy King's plans after he had spent most of his time on the bench following his move from SPL outfit Livingston in July 2003. A talented and versatile left-footed player, he has also operated in a variety of other positions, including wing-back and striker. Although still only 24 years old, Swindon are already Smith's eighth club since he started



Lee Holmes

out as a Wycombe Wanderers trainee in August 1998. He joined Reading the following year before switching to Hearts six months later. Brief stints with Clydebank, Sheffield United and Livingston followed and he also played for Halifax Town and Plymouth Argyle on loan.

## MIDFIELDERS

**LEE Holmes** is in his second month on-loan from Derby County. The 17-year-old flying winger became the youngest scorer in Rams' history last season and was a first-team squad regular who also won England U19 honours.

Diminutive **Sammy Igoe**, 29, started out at Portsmouth, making 100 league starts before joining Reading for £100,000. He signed for Swindon in summer 2003 and his creativity and range of passing quickly established him in the starting line-up.

Tenacious midfielder **Steve Robinson** was a £50,000 capture from Birmingham City in 2001. A key figure in the engine room with his tough-tackling, the 29-year-old is now approaching 150 appearances for the Robins.

Former England U21 cap **Matthew Hewlett**, 28, was tipped for the top as a Bristol City youngster before injuries hit. A tireless midfield presence with a quality range of passing, he was appointed skipper last term after signing in summer 2000.

Ex-Southampton trainee **Brian Howard**, 22, had a promising first season after signing in summer 2003 and has been a virtual ever-present this term. Left-footed and dangerous at set-pieces, he is currently Swindon's second top goalscorer with six strikes.

Injury-dogged Brazilian **Stefani Miglioranza** is a product of the American College system who spent three years with Portsmouth. The 27-year-old joined Swindon after impressing in a trial and is now contracted until summer 2006.

## ATTACKERS

**JAMIE SLABBER**, 20, is on-loan at the County Ground until the end of the season from Tottenham Hotspur and readily admits he is playing for a contract. The talented 6ft 2in Enfield-born striker was handed his Spurs debut in March 2003 in a 3-2 home defeat against Liverpool, just two months after his 17th birthday. And despite playing just 11 minutes as a second-half substitute, it was his nod-down that created the chance for fellow striker Teddy Sheringham to score a second goal. Slabber came to prominence during the 2001/2 season when he netted over 20 times becoming the U17s leading scorer and making an impact playing above his age group for the U19s side. He suffered a foot injury at the start of the 2003/4 season and upon return was loaned to Danish club AB Copenhagen in March last year. A dislocated shoulder then dogged him in the early months of the



current campaign and when he was back in top condition he was loaned to Swindon on New Year's Eve. Slabber bagged his first goals for the club with a brace in the recent 3-3 reserve team draw with Cheltenham and is now hoping for a chance to prove his worth alongside Sam Parkin before his contract expires in June. "There's always people watching the games", he told swindonfc.co.uk. "Who knows what you might be offered? Swindon offered me something I'd be glad."

NEW Zealand-born **Rory Fallon** signed from Barnsley in November 2003 for £60,000 after making several impressive performances against Swindon.

The 22-year-old started out as a Barnsley trainee in 1999 and was just breaking into the first-team at Oakwell when a foot stress fracture pushed him back down the pecking order.

After a short settling in period at the County Ground, during which his appearances were restricted to the substitutes' bench, Fallon went on to play an important part - scoring seven goals as Swindon made a late surge for the 2003/4 play-offs.

Standing at 6ft 2in tall, he is a bustling centre-forward who also has a good touch on the floor but has only netted four times so far this season.

Former Welsh U21 international **Christian Roberts**, 24, marked his debut by scoring his first goal for his new club in their 1-0 defeat of Latics last October.

After joining hometown club Cardiff City as a trainee in 1997, he made just six starts for the Bluebirds before joining Exeter City on a free in July 2000.

A tally of 18 goals in 67 Grecians' appearances prompted a switch to Bristol City but his first-team opportunities were limited at Ashton Gate, prompting Andy King to snap him up.

A pacy and direct front man, he is currently sidelined after hernia surgery and won't be rushed back into action despite Town's obvious shortage of strikers.



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# VISITING SWINDON TOWN



## HOTSHOT

## Sam Parkin

EX-LATICS loan star Sam Parkin is once again Swindon's leading scorer with 14 goals in all competitions so far this term.

The 23-year-old former Chelsea trainee has a terrific record at this level, hitting 23 goals last term to add to his tally of 26 in season 2002/3.

Hull City made a cheeky £250,000 bid for the player last summer but the move never

materialised. Parkin had just signed a new extended contract at the County Ground and elected to not even speak with the Tigers.

A former England schoolboy international, he signed apprentice forms at Stamford Bridge in 1998 and had loan spells with Millwall, Wycombe Wanderers, Oldham and Northampton Town.

Parkin netted three times in three starts and four substitute appearances under Andy Ritchie but the Latics were unable to retain his services.

A lethal finisher who also holds the ball up well, Parkin has maintained his prolific streak this term despite the lack of a regular strike partner since the departure of Tommy Mooney to Oxford United last summer.

## MEET THE GAFFER

## Andy King

ANDY KING is in his second spell in charge at the County Ground after his tenure was briefly interrupted by Roy Evans' stint in the hotseat in 2001.

As a player, he made his name as an energetic midfielder who joined hometown club Luton Town in 1974.

Everton then snapped him up for £35,000 in 1976 and he made 150 appearances for the Toffees, scoring 38 goals in four seasons before joining Queens Park Rangers.

One season at Loftus Road was followed by a brief spell with West Bromwich Albion before he returned to Goodison Park in 1982.

King made a further 43 appearances for Everton, adding 11 goals, before moving abroad.

Dutch outfit Camburr signed him before he

returned to England to finish his playing days with spells at Wolves, Luton and Aldershot Town.

In 1993 the departure of George Foster at Division Three outfit Mansfield Town gave King his first managerial opportunity and he oversaw a mid-table finish in his first season.

The following term he steered the Stags to sixth-place only to be beaten in the play-off semi-finals by buoyant Chesterfield.

And King was subsequently dismissed after a disappointing campaign saw them finish 19th in 1995/6.

He then went to work for former Everton team-mate Peter Reid as a Sunderland scout before Colin Todd appointed him as assistant at Swindon in summer 2000.

In November that year, Todd took up the chance to become Jim Smith's assistant at Derby County and King stepped into the breach.

Struggling Town beat off the threat of relegation with victory over Peterborough in their penultimate game, but King found himself replaced in June by former Liverpool boss Evans.

New owners had arrived at the club but there was little improvement and when Evans soon quit, King - who was taking legal action over his dismissal - was reinstated in December 2001.

He had his best season to date last term when Swindon finished fifth in the Second Division after an 11-match unbeaten run, only to be defeated by Bristol City in the play-off semi-finals.



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# A week's a long time at Boundary Park



## January 22

Latics come up against their recent departure, Mark Arber, in a league game at Peterborough United. And the match begins superbly as Kevin Betsy opens the scoring with a close range goal on seven minutes.

Veteran Andy Legg equalises for Posh but is sent off before half-time for kicking out at Neil Kilkenny.

Latics take advantage with a second strike for Betsy and collect three deserved points away from home.

## January 24

After agreeing terms to have his contract terminated, Dave Beharall leaves Boundary Park.

## January 25

Latics reach their first ever regional final in the LDV Vans Trophy after overcoming Tranmere Rovers. A nail-biting match is settled on penalties after Paul Hall scores for the Wirral side, David Eyres equalises with a stunning goal from long distance and the sides remain locked together through extra time.

Latics hold their nerve from the spot as John Eyre, Will Haining, Kevin Betsy, Neil Kilkenny and Alex Bruce are all successful with their kicks, while Les Pogliacomi saves one effort from Tranmere.

It will be Wrexham over two legs in the northern final after the Red Dragons win 2-1 away at Hereford.

## January 26

The LDV Vans Trophy win has come at a cost, with Latics picking up another injury. Scott Vernon, who limped out against Tranmere during the first half, is confirmed as suffering from a thigh strain. With Chris Killen and Rodney Jack also out of action, manager Brian Talbot scours the country for replacement strikers.

Meanwhile, Latics receive four international call-ups: Mark Hughes and Alex Bruce are in the Northern Ireland under-21 squad, while Lee Croft and Neil Kilkenny have been picked for England under-20s.

It appears all four will miss the league trip to Blackpool on February 8th.

Latics reserves get back to winning ways thanks to a 4-0 victory over

Chester. Wes Wilkinson scores twice, Danny Boshell slots in a penalty and Matty Barlow completes the rout.

## January 28

The search for a new striker pays off as Latics recruit Kenny Cooper from Manchester United. A 6ft 3in youngster who was born in Baltimore, USA, Cooper arrives on a one-month loan and goes into the squad to face Bolton in the FA Cup.

There is more transfer activity as Alex Bruce moves from Blackburn to Birmingham, but he will remain on loan at Boundary Park.

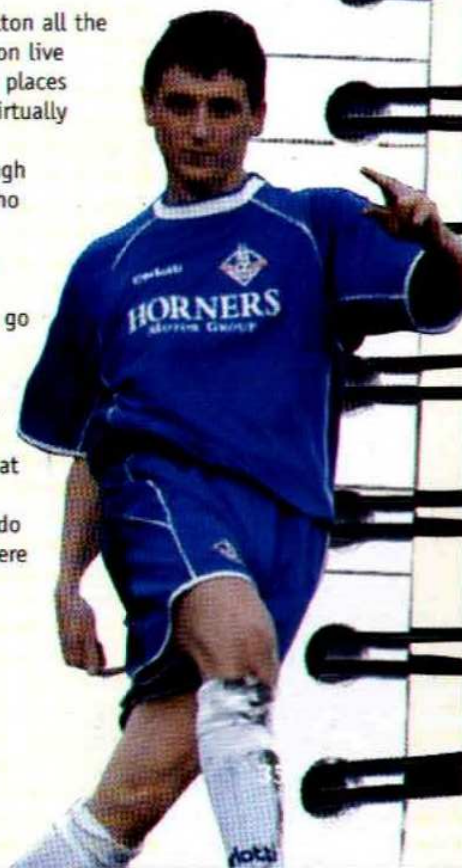
## January 30

FA Cup day dawns, and Latics push Bolton all the way in a gripping fourth round match on live television. Despite Wanderers being 51 places higher up the league ladder, there is virtually nothing between the sides

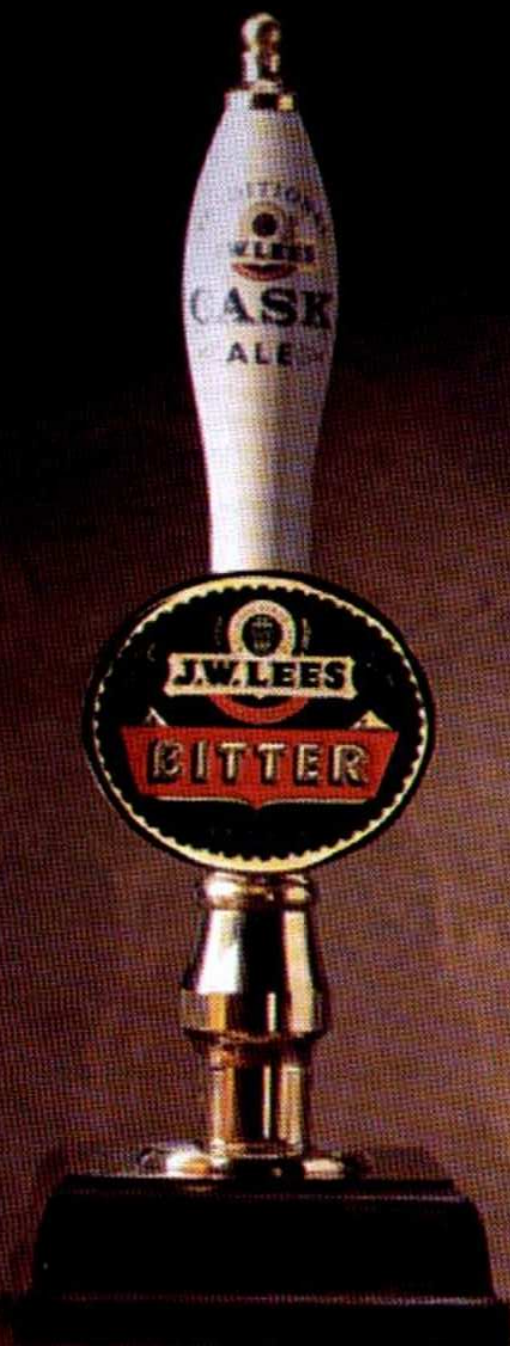
The Premiership team score early through Portuguese teenager Ricardo Vaz Te, who completes a move involving Senegal's Khalilou Fadiga and Jamaica's Ricardo Gardner.

But the underdogs battle superbly and go agonisingly close through Danny Hall and Alex Bruce. The two managers are united in their praise of gallant Latics, with Brian Talbot saying: "I could not have asked for any more. We deserved at least a draw."

Sam Allardyce added: "I hope Oldham do well for the rest of the season. They were magnificent."



# JOHN WILLIE TO HIS MATES



ten questions for...

# Steve Mildenhall

Today will be special for Steve Mildenhall as Latics prepare to play Swindon Town, the 26-year-old goalkeeper's former club and home-town team.

Steve was signed recently as cover for Les Pogliacomi so is unlikely to venture further than the substitutes' bench.

It was at the County Ground where Steve kicked off his career before a £150,000 transfer to Notts County in 2001.

Here Steve selects 10 questions at random from a list of 100 which gives us an insight into his life, both on and off the field.

**13 - What is your most memorable moment in football?** It was without doubt scoring a goal in only my second game for Notts County in a Worthington Cup tie against Mansfield. I took a free kick from half way inside my own half and it bounced once and over the head of their keeper Kevin Pilkington. It was our fourth goal and turned out to be important as we won 4-3. And it also appeared on 'What Happened Next' a few weeks later on 'A Question of Sport.'

**26 - What was your first pet, and what was its name?** A goldfish named Peter when I was about eight years of age. But I didn't have him long as he committed suicide by jumping out of his tank. At the moment I have a black labrador called Millie who I have had for the past two-and-a-half years.

**100 - Have you ever watched a women's football match?** I watched some of the women's World Cup on television and can remember seeing the United States play. They are one of the best teams in the world and I can remember being impressed by the standard.

**80 - Who is the biggest joker you have met in football?** Without doubt it has to be Darren Caskey who was a team mate at Notts County. He was always playing practical jokes and was renowned for his banter. He would

throw trainers in the bin and if you had a bad shirt he would hang it in the showers so it would get soaking wet. Alan Reeves at Swindon was also a joker and taking the mickey.

**70 - Which team did you support as a boy and who was your favourite player?** Liverpool was, and still is, my team. As I was a goalkeeper I idolised Bruce Grobbelaar and I also liked John Barnes. My father supported Liverpool in the glory days of the 1970s and 80s and I was brought up watching the likes of Steve McManaman, John Barnes and Ian Rush. We have plenty of banter because David Eyres is an Evertonian while Mark Bonner and I are Reds.

**55 - Who is the most famous person you have ever met?** When I was a schoolboy I used to go to Aston Villa for a time and I met Peter Schmeichel, another keeper I idolised, in the players' lounge after Manchester United had played there. And I remember thinking how lucky I was to have met him.

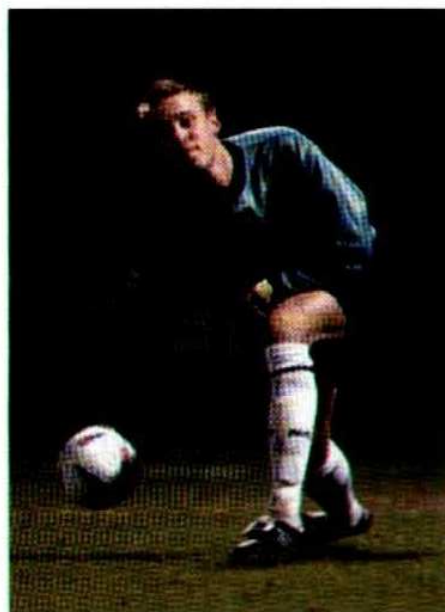
**1 - There's a fire in your home. Apart from your immediate family, what would you save and why?** It would be my television because I am addicted to it. I am terrible for watching it and my girlfriend Karen is always having a go saying I don't do enough around the house. And the trouble is there are so many channels that there is always something to watch. I like a variety including sports and music.

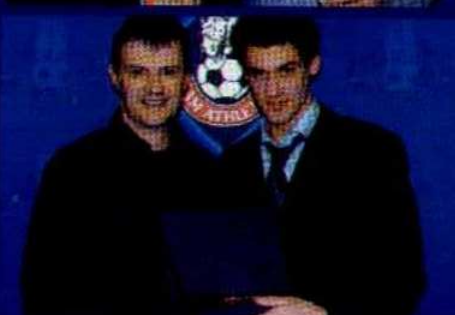
**28 - Who do you room with on away trips, and what is his worst habit?** I share with Les Pogliacomi - we keepers stick together. We have only done so once and he didn't have any bad habits. When I was at Swindon I roomed with keeper Frank Talia who snored the house down. You could hit him with a pillow and he wouldn't wake up. There was

another keeper whose fatulence was terrible. I daren't say who he was because if he found out he would kill me!

**30 - What is your all-time favourite song?** My taste in music is very diverse and I love Irish which probably comes from the time I have spent there. My mother's family are from County Galway and we visited them every year. The song I like best of all is an Irish one called 'Fields of Athenri.'

**99 - What was the last book you read?** 'D Day' by Stephen E Ambrose which is a historical book about the landings. I am interested in reading about the Second World War and my mind boggles that something of that scale happened and so many lost their lives. It is hard to comprehend what people sacrificed.

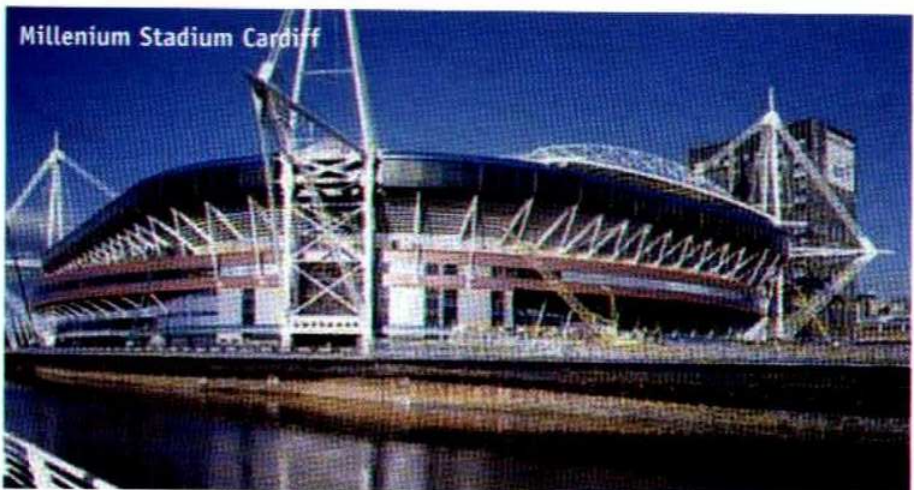




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**I know everyone is probably feeling a little bit down at the moment but never mind - I get the feeling our season is just about to begin.**



OK, that might sound a bit daft but I firmly believe it. For example, if we beat Swindon today then I think we will be starting to look up the table rather than down. Then there's the LDV Final. Assuming we beat Wrexham over two legs then it will be a memorable day out not only for the team but also all of the fans. To date I have asked a number of our supporters as to how many do they think we would take and most of them have said between 15,000 and 20,000. To be honest that would be brilliant news for the club and would represent a fantastic springboard for bigger and better things. How many do you think we would take?

Assuming we do beat Wrexham, I would urge supporters to keep their eyes peeled on the website, local press and Blue Pride as I will inevitably ensure these carry all of the information required regarding tickets, hospitality and transport.

Believe it or not I am also starting to think about the end of the season. Not wanting it to be over of course but we are starting to plan some events.

Firstly there's the end of season awards dinner. We have provisionally booked in

Friday 13th May at the Pennine Way Hotel. Dates and details are still to be confirmed but once again it promises to be a truly fantastic event that will surely celebrate our superb year. For all those supporters that came to the event last year, I am sure you will agree it was a cracking night that gave you the opportunity to relive the season and watch some of the highlights. Once again the format will be pretty similar but who knows there may be one or two surprises in there.

However, to get the ball rolling, I am currently looking for suggestions as to what awards can be included. Of course we will have the usual ones including Players Player, Fans Player, Goal of the Season, Young Player and True Blue, but I am looking to supporters to suggest some alternative ones (serious ones only please!).

Also to keep you posted, I know a lot of fans have asked me for the fans player to be presented at the last home game. Rest assured this will happen at the Bradford fixture.

Speaking of the end of the season we are also planning a couple of events that both individuals and businesses can get





involved in. Firstly there's the Fan Fixture. Last year we ran a truly superb event in which supporters bid to take part in the fans fixture. Eventually we had 22 winning bids and had an entertaining game at Boundary Park. Once again keep your eyes peeled for more information.

Then we have got the return of the corporate football tournament. A lot of businesses have been asking me to bring this back and allow businesses to take part in a six a side tournament on Boundary Park. Due to the number of requests I will try and repeat this event. Details are still being confirmed but if you would like your team to be part of this event - (£600 per team) then simply drop me a line here at the club.

Despite our fantastic season so far including the number of televised games and great cup runs, the club is still urging supporters to back any initiatives we are running. By supporting the initiatives you will be indirectly financially supporting your club and of course put us on a good financial footing for the future. And to be honest we have a number of different ways in which you can not only support the club but also get a great deal in the bargain, which could in turn save you or your business some money.

I have listed below some of the areas that are either available or coming up.

1, If you are a business that supports Latics then why not try Laticsoffice. Laticsoffice is our very own joint venture with Zenith office. Collectively we have combined to bring you the best prices in stationery. There is no obligation, but if you get chance why

not undertake a comparative with the prices you currently pay? You can either contact Latics office on 0845 838 0070 or visit the website at [www.laticsoffice.com](http://www.laticsoffice.com). As I have said there is no obligation so the least it will cost you is 5 mins of your time.



2, Coming soon in fact in the next couple of weeks you will see more and more information on this - will be the new Latics Holiday Club. We have tied up with national brand Thomas

Cook to give our supporters a truly fantastic offer on booking your forthcoming holidays. All I can say at this stage is that if you are thinking of booking a holiday - hold on for a couple more weeks as there could be some real bargains to be had.

## ENDSLEIGH

Independent insurance for career people

3, Also coming soon it a partnership with Endsleigh. This is still in its early stages but once again supporters and Businesses are set to benefit. We will be very soon launching a new part to our website that will allow you or your business to simply click through and get a great quote.

4, Latics Mobile Phone recycling scheme - All we want is your old mobile phones. All we would ask is that if you are considering throwing away you old phone then simply pop down to the



club and place it in the green recycle bin at the ground. In doing so you will not only be getting rid of your old rubbish but also helping the Club as we can receive everything from .50p to £50 for recycling them.

Finally I was asked at the Bolton game by hundreds of kids - where were the player cards? Sadly we were unable to give them out at the game due to safety issues. Because of their popularity, and by giving them out at that game, we may have caused a mini crisis in being stampeded so sadly we had to pull back on that one. But don't despair, as we will be giving out some cards today.

See you on the terraces.  
Sean



**PS!!!**

**THE PLAYER CARDS ARE BACK  
SO DON'T FORGET TO ASK IF YOU WANT ONE.**

THINKING TOMORROW TODAY



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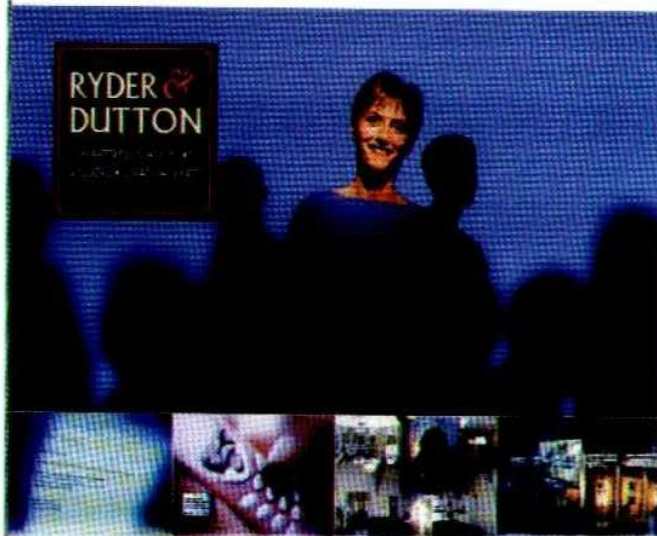
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# My Route To Boundary Park

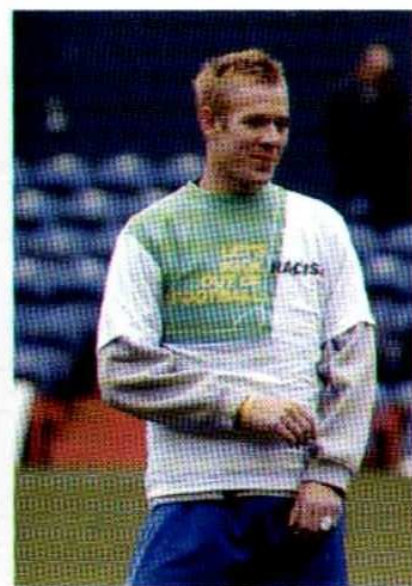
Captain Dean Holden was a frustrated spectator last weekend when Latics tackled his former club Bolton Wanderers in the fourth round of the FA Cup.

The 25-year-old defender ruptured ankle ligaments in a freak accident when the studs of his boots became caught in the turf at Colchester last month. And after being forced to watch the third-round victory against Manchester City Dean, who was brought up in Swinton, was again on the sidelines for what would have been his 'Match of the Day.' But Dean has had some cheer as the injury is nowhere near as serious as was feared and he should soon be back in action.

**1984** - Dean is an early starter beginning playing at the age of five for Deans Sports, the team with whom Ryan Giggs kicked off his career. His is coached between the ages of five and 13 by Fred Whittle.

**1992** - Impressive displays - in those days Dean played in the centre of midfield as opposed to defence - alert league clubs and he gets an invite to train with Bolton Wanderers on Tuesday evenings and play matches on Sunday mornings.

**1993/94** - Dean helps Salford Boys win the Greater Manchester schools league and cup double. And there is further success as Salford are losing finalists in a tournament in California where the Irish winners had Leeds United's David Healey in their line



up. Salford also win a competition in the Isle of Man. And there is a call up to play for Greater Manchester schools with Wes Brown, now of Manchester United and England, a team mate.

**1993** - Wanderers sign up Dean on schoolboy forms at the age of 14 as he continues to make excellent progress .

**1996** - Dean clears another hurdle as he joins the playing staff permanently as a YTS in the days before Wanderers had an Academy.

**1997** - And the next step is achieved as Dean signs his first professional contract.

**NOVEMBER 1999** - Dean makes his League debut at Fulham where Wanderers draw 1-1. He comes on a substitute in midfield with the brief to man mark Lee Clark. He pays tribute to Wanderers' Dean Crombie, a major influence in the early part of his career at the Reebok.

**DECEMBER 1999** - A first start in the quarter finals of the Worthington Cup at home to Wimbledon who are beaten 2-1. Dean, playing right back, has the daunting task of marking Marcus Gayle.

**JANUARY 2000** - Another big match for Dean, this time in the semi-finals of the Worthington Cup where Wanderers lose their second leg 3-0 at Tranmere and are knocked out 4-0 on aggregate. But there is better luck in the FA Cup where Dean helps Wanderers win 3-1 at Cambridge to reach the quarter finals.

**FEBRUARY 2000** - Wanderers beat Charlton 1-0 to reach the semi finals of the FA Cup and Dean helps keep a defensive clean sheet.

**MARCH 2000** - There is heartbreak for Dean as his leg is broken by a two-footed challenge by Sheffield United's Lee Sandford one week before the FA Cup semi against Aston Villa.

**MAY 2001** - How ironic that Dean's comeback is against Sheffield United and he scores a 94th minute equaliser in a 2-2 draw.

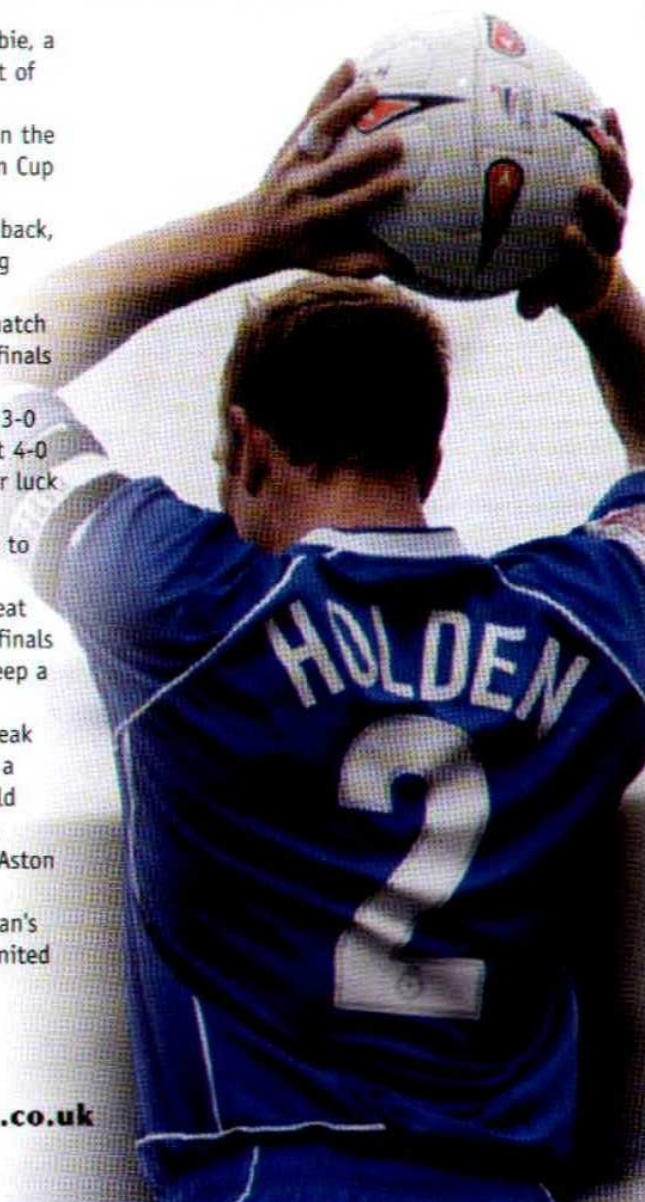
**2001** - Dean, only just back from his broken leg, spends the summer in Iceland with FC Valur to keep sharp after his lengthy absence.

**OCTOBER 2001** - Wanderers are now in the Premiership and Dean's first-team opportunities are limited so he joins Latics on loan making his debut in a 1-0 home defeat inflicted by Bristol City.

**MAY 2002** - What develops into a season-long loan ends with Dean signing permanently for Latics on his release by Wanderers.

**AUGUST 2004** - Dean is afforded his biggest honour in football as Brian Talbot appoints him Latics' captain.

**JUNE 2005** - Dean's three-year contract expires, but he hopes before then to have agreed a new deal to remain at Boundary Park.



# Magic Moments

*Latics were assured of promotion back to the top flight after an absence of 68 years, but were determined to go up in style as Second Division champions.*

It was hardly the time to throw in an untried 18-year-old, but Joe Royle did just that when he handed a first-team debut to Paul Bernard in the next-to-last match against Middlesbrough.

The midfielder retained his starting spot for the title decider against Sheffield Wednesday and played a starring role in that never-to-be-forgotten match when Latics overturned a two-goal deficit in the final half and snatched a dramatic injury-time winner through Neil Redfearn's 93rd minute penalty.

Bernard can still remember that incredible May afternoon as though it was yesterday, though it is nearly 15 years ago.

He said: "It was a complete surprise when I was told an hour before the Middlesbrough match I was being given my first-team debut.

"I was not expecting to get a sniff at such an important stage of the season with so much riding on those two matches.

"I know promotion was sewn up, but with the team aiming to finish as champions I never imagined for one moment I would get a game.

"It meant a lot to me that Joe Royle had such belief in me to put me in the side at such a vital time, and that gave me enormous confidence.

"We beat Middlesbrough 2-0 and I

was named man of the match which was a great honour on my debut.

"I still have the bottle of champagne unopened. My late father put a special sticker on it to commemorate the achievement and I will keep it for ever.

"If I thought things couldn't get any better I was mistaken because that was nothing compared to what happened against Sheffield Wednesday.

"It was a hot, sunny day and the atmosphere was amazing for an 18-year-old to be involved in such a important game so early in my career.

"After an hour we were 2-0 down and destined not to finish the season as champions. For the boys who had played the whole season it must have been awful as they were aware what it meant.

"I knew the implications, but for the others it must have been preying heavily on their minds.

"We managed to pull a goal back through Ian Marshall and we suddenly realised the game was far from over because our team was always capable of scoring goals.

"I then remember the ball breaking to me on the edge of the penalty area and swinging at it. It took a deflection and wrong footed the keeper at the near post.

"As the ball hit the net, the crowd

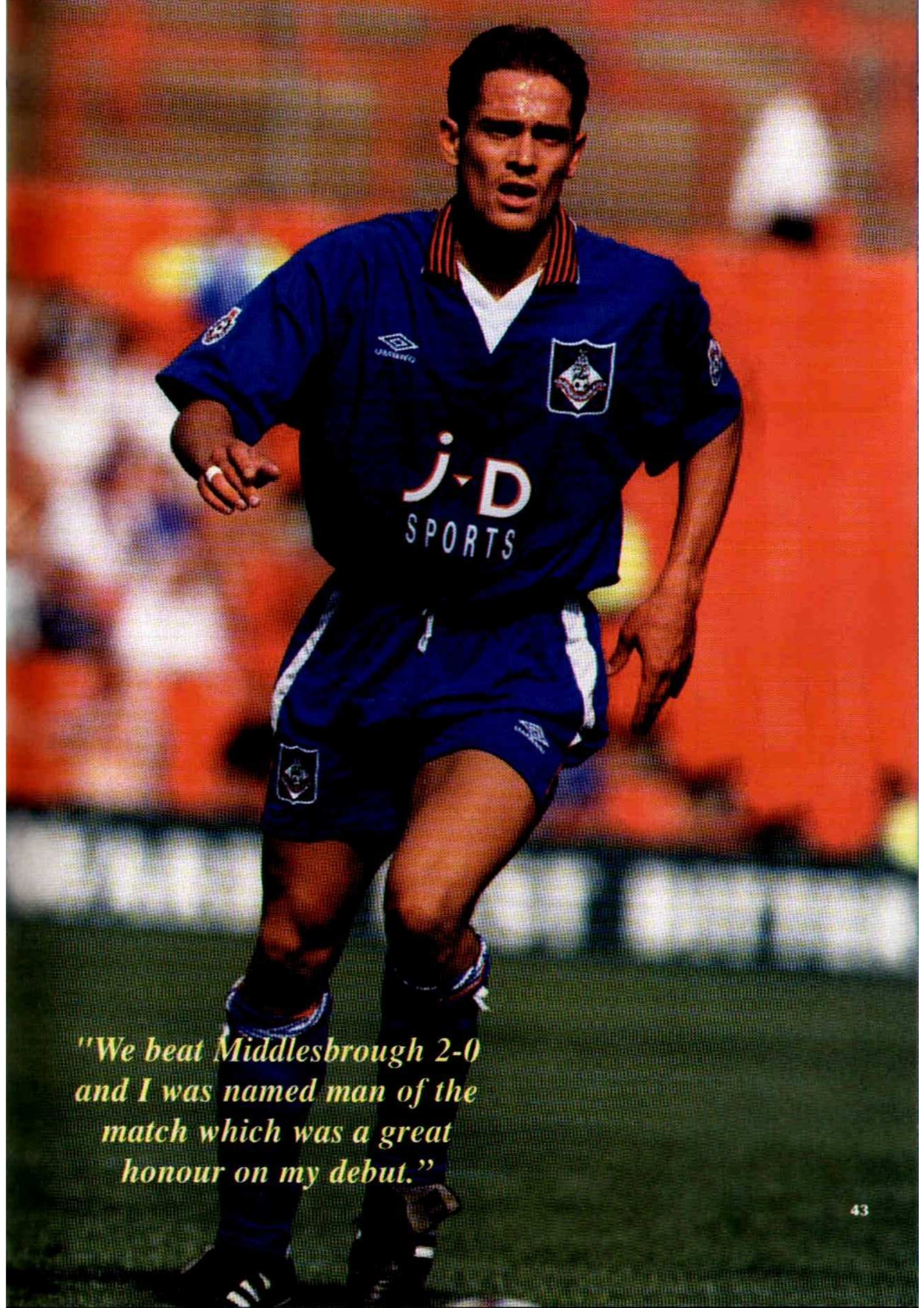
erupted and I remember running to the crowd and being surrounded as fans invade the pitch and trying to fight my way out. It was incredible and I still have the video and watch it.

"The last 10 minutes were incredible culminating in us winning a 93rd minute penalty. We had an appeal for handball turned down not long after that with time running out only Andy Barlow poked the ball forward and went over a Wednesday player's leg in the box. (John Sheridan's) "Neil Redfearn didn't miss many penalties and he held his nerve to put that one away with the last kick of the match and there was another invasion when the final whistle sounded.

"It was a tremendous day for me being so young and it is still very vivid and special My mind often wanders back to that afternoon.

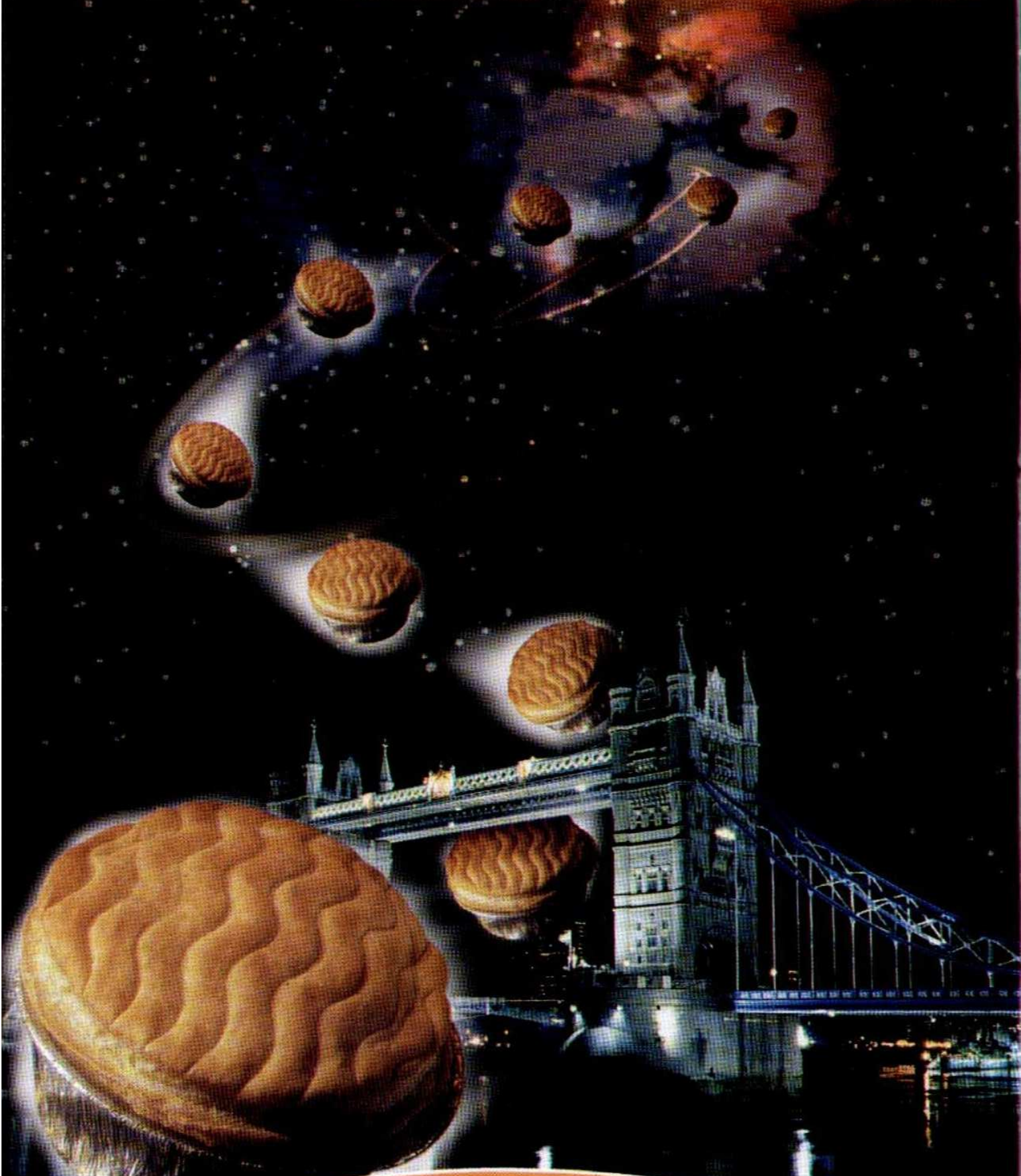
"It was a special time to be involved with Latics as the previous season when I was a trainee we reached the final of the Littlewoods Cup and semi final of the FA Cup.

"I was at Wembley to watch the Nottingham Forest match and I remember thinking will I get a chance to play in this great side? "It was an incredible start to my career and something which can never be changed or taken away from me, and I enjoyed every second of it."



*"We beat Middlesbrough 2-0 and I was named man of the match which was a great honour on my debut."*

**It's a taste invasion!**



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# Talking Point

**Football League clubs will suffer from restrictions on their transfer activity after League chiefs accepted defeat in a battle with FIFA. In extreme cases, the new regulations could send clubs out of business by preventing them from selling players.**

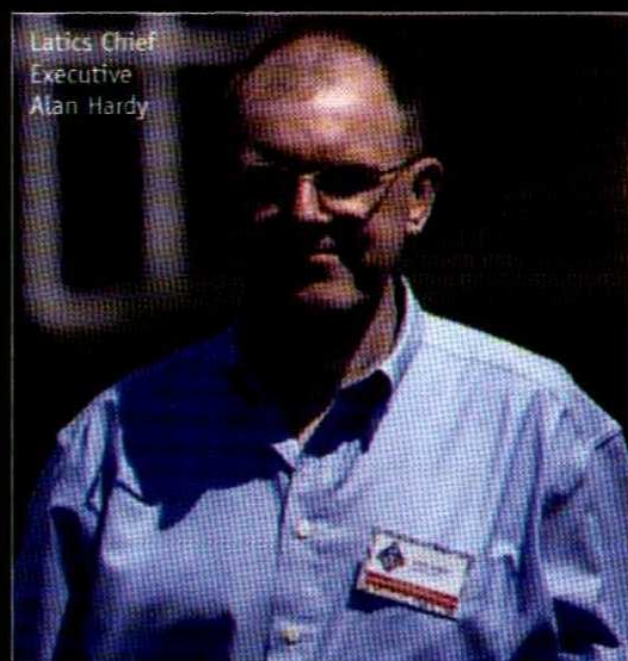
The League's 72 clubs will join Premiership clubs in operating under transfer window restrictions from this summer onwards. FIFA has ordered all English League clubs to abide by its ruling, meaning transfers will only be allowed in the summer and during January each year. The Football League had been considering legal action in an effort to allow Championship, League 1 and League 2 clubs to deal with each other throughout the year, but League chairman Sir Brian Mawhinney last week admitted defeat in a letter to all member clubs.

The 72 will come into line with the Barclays Premiership, where similar restrictions have been in place since the start of the 2001-2 season. Andy Williamson, the Football League's director of operations, told the Press Association: "There's not going to be any further extended period of flexibility. This is the third season where the Premier League have applied transfer windows, where we've had an exemption. That will not apply any more."

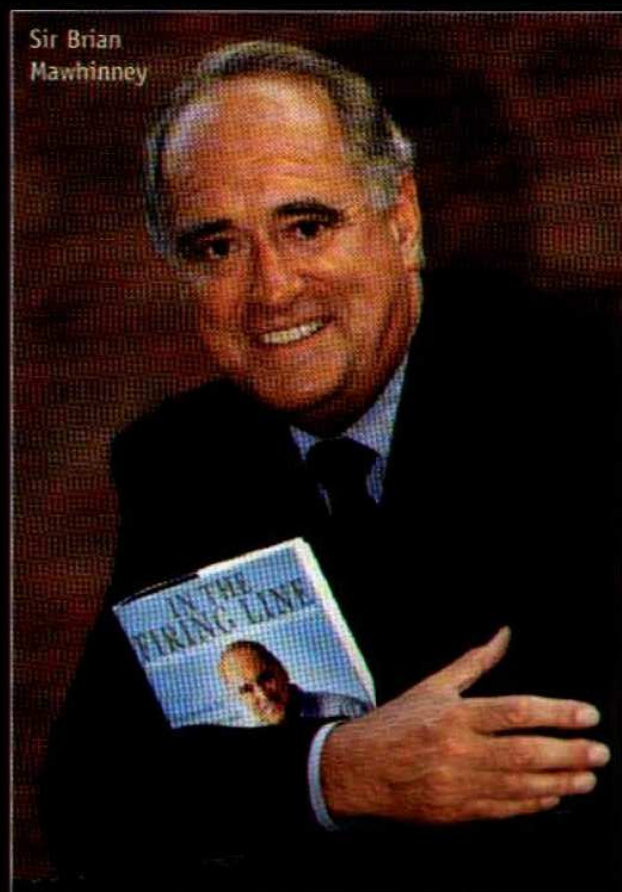
Latics chief executive Alan Hardy told the Manchester Evening News in September: "Like most

Football League clubs, we don't feel that there's any need to implement this within the lower divisions. The current system has worked well, with clubs given the flexibility to trade up and down with Premiership clubs. But many are still operating practically hand-to-mouth with minimum squad sizes and to deny them opportunities to sell players or bring some in on loan would have massive implications."

Bristol Rovers director Kevin Spencer told the club's official website: "This is bad news for clubs in the lower divisions. Having to trade only in transfer windows will have a massively negative impact on cashflow for clubs like Bristol Rovers. The kind of steps that clubs like ourselves took last season, by signing so many players on the old transfer deadline day in order to avoid relegation, will no longer be possible."

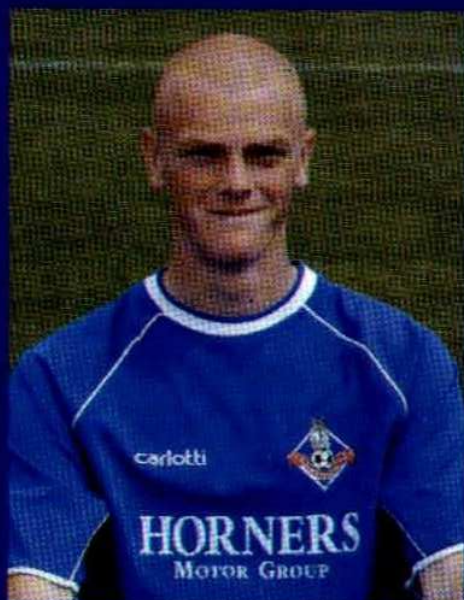


Latics Chief  
Executive  
Alan Hardy



Sir Brian  
Mawhinney

Latics reserves hit back from a goal down to beat Wrexham in the Pontins Holiday League this week. Danny Boshell, for the third game running, Chris Hall and Jason Taylor all got on the scoresheet in what became a comfortable success at Boundary Park.



Jason Taylor



Chris Hall

The promotion chasing reserves got off to a terrible start when Wrexham took the lead on five minutes after a mistake by Steve Mildenhall. The ex Swindon and Notts County goalkeeper kicked a clearance to Marc Williams 25 yards out, and Williams was free to advance and shoot low into the corner. Midfield man Ashley Winn went close to cancelling out the opener when he shot just over the bar from long range, while Chris Taylor sent a good chance off target.

Matty Barlow then headed at the keeper, but Latics equalised with their next attack, which was expertly worked down the right flank. Barlow began it with a run and pass to Hall, who showed awareness to play a low ball inside to Boshell.

Boshell was unmarked 10 yards out and made no mistake with a first time shot inside the goalkeeper's left-hand post. Latics played some good possession football, though Wrexham briefly raised a threat as Williams gave Mildenhall an easy save.

The home side nearly went in front through busy midfielder Boshell, whose half-volley was smothered by the diving Michael Jones. The dominant spell did not pay off, however, and Wrexham went closest to another strike before half-time when Hector Sam volleyed wide.

Sam also failed with an attempted lob before Latics man Barlow saw his goal ruled out for a dubious offside. The game began to fade, but Chris Taylor brought it back to life by drilling a 25-yard shot which Jones clawed uncertainly round the post. And a substitution by John Sheridan paid quick dividends for Latics, with new arrival Matty Wolfenden setting up the second goal.

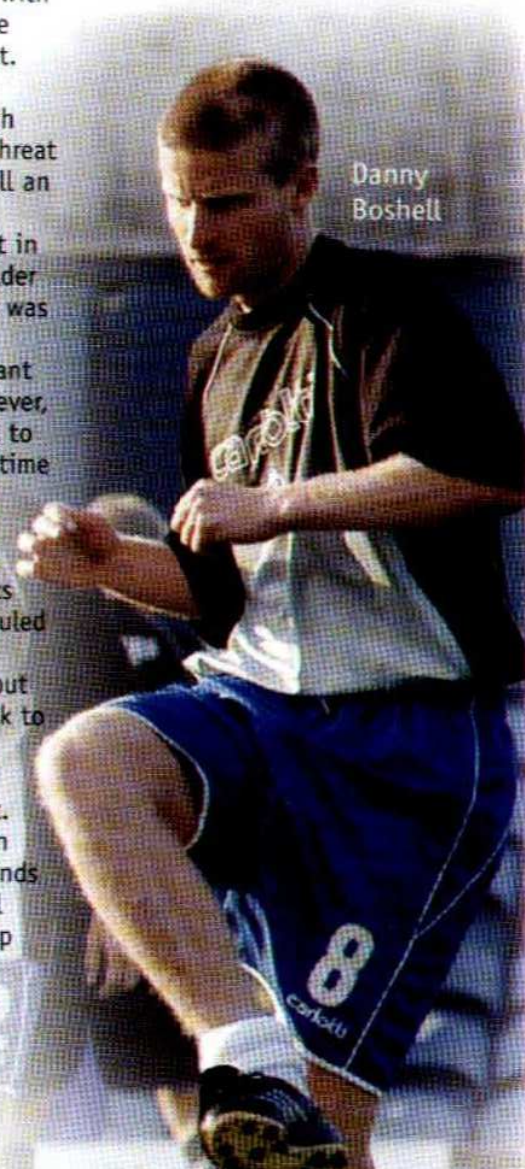
Wolfenden beat his man in the penalty area and pulled back a pass for Hall, who coolly steered past Jones from eight yards.

The next Latics strike was superbly taken and, coming on 82 minutes, it also made sure all three points would stay at Boundary Park.

There looked no prospect of a goal for Jason Taylor when he took possession 20 yards out, but the 18-year-old threaded a pinpoint shot into the bottom corner.

And Latics almost made it 4-1 in stoppage time as Wolfenden was denied by a desperate goalline clearance.

**Latics:** Mildenhall, Chris Taylor, Eardley, Jason Taylor, Booth, Appleby, Winn, Boshell, Chris Hall, Barlow, Bonner.  
**Subs:** Wolfenden, Treacy, Baguley, Jacobs.



Danny Boshell

## SWEET FA (THE CUP THAT IS!)

# National Round Up

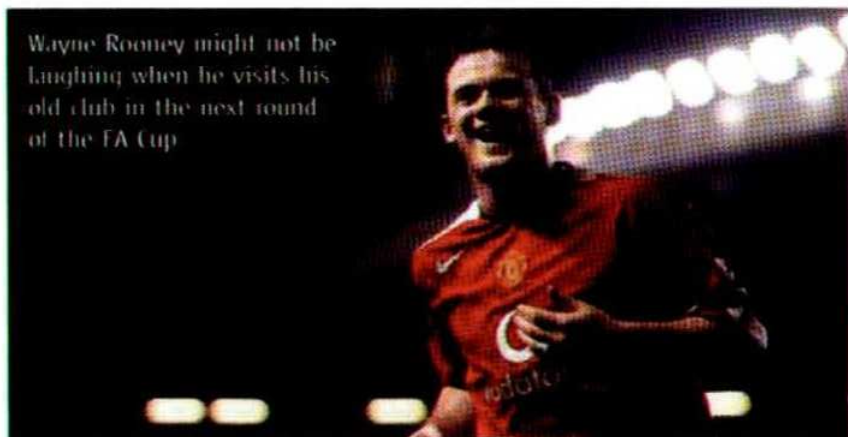
The expected weekend of exciting cup-ties and surprising cup shocks seems a far away memory now. All the hype last weekend turned out to be just that. However there were still a few exciting games to be found and the draw for the next round has not disappointed. High flying Everton welcome back Wayne 'isn't he handsome' Rooney for the first time since his big money move to Manchester United. It should be a good test of Everton's credentials as they aim for a Champions League spot. Everton qualified for the 5th round with a simple 3-0 win over Sunderland, who now can fully concentrate on chasing automatic promotion from the Championship. Should they fail they could well meet Derby County in the play-offs as the Midlands club continued their fine run of form last weekend drawing at home to Fulham. Collins John scored the visitors equaliser with his first touch after coming on to cancel out Marcus Tudgay's opener. However Fulham still have not lost this

year so Derby will need to prove their Premiership dreams can come true with a win at Craven Cottage. Another team unbeaten in 2005 are Bolton Wanderers, who the victors of the Derby/Fulham tie will play in the next round.

Two teams working hard on the last day of the transfer window were West Bromwich Albion and Tottenham Hotspur. The Baggies signed 19 year old Burnley winger Richard Chaplow for £1.5 million and Spurs added to their British contingent with the signing of Under-21 international defender Michael Dawson from

**Matthew Tipton looking towards the play-offs**

Wayne Rooney might not be laughing when he visits his old club in the next round of the FA Cup



Nottingham Forest as well as Irish international Andy Reid from the same club. The two have been long-term targets of Spurs and despite Forest agreeing a fee with Southampton for 22 year old Reid he preferred a move to a bigger club. They join numerous Brits at Spurs including highly rated Michael Carrick, Michael Brown, Jermaine Defoe, Johnny Jackson, Ledley King, Paul Robinson, Anthony Gardener, Callum Davenport, Dean Marney and Simon Davis. Should they win the replay they would take on, amazingly, Nottingham Forest in the next round. They have been called two of the most exciting young players in the country but couldn't help an under performing Forest side this season and they have left their team deep in relegation mire at the City Ground.

However the tie of the next round is definitely Newcastle at home to Chelsea. The squabbling Geordies will have to be on top form to get a positive result against the Blues and don't need the internal strife that has dogged them for so long. Chelsea do not seem to have bad press for such matters and are now heading for an unprecedented quadruple (however if you ask me Juventus will win the Champions League). Freddy 'I love football not money' Shepherd has blamed Sir Bobby Robson for Craig Bellamy's recent bad behaviour, however he regularly gave Newcastle European football and challenged for trophies, Graeme Souness has yet to prove he deserved to fill Robson's shoes. Now Bellamy has joined Celtic on loan (he didn't want to go 'down a level' to Birmingham, nothing to do with the fact I could

score a few in the Scottish Premier I'm sure) Souness has to try and bring some inner peace to the Newcastle ranks or Alan Shearer won't be celebrating his retirement with a trophy at the end of the season.

Last weekend also saw some League 2 action and local sides Macclesfield and Rochdale both have realistic chances of making the play-offs this season and if one of them gets promoted a Latics old boy could be making a return, Matthew Tipton in the case of Macclesfield and a certain Ernest Cooksey for Rochdale. Last weekend though Swansea continued their run of good form with a 3-0 win, which included a 16th goal of the season for hot shot Lee Trundle and with Yeovil in FA Cup action against Charlton it gave Scunthorpe the chance to close the gap at the top, but they were overtaken in second by Swansea after drawing 1-1 with Boston United. The top three of Yeovil, Swansea and Scunthorpe now have 56, 55 and 53 points respectively. 4th placed Southend United have 49 and Macclesfield are in 5th one point behind.



**Ernest Cooksey fighting for promotion to League 1**

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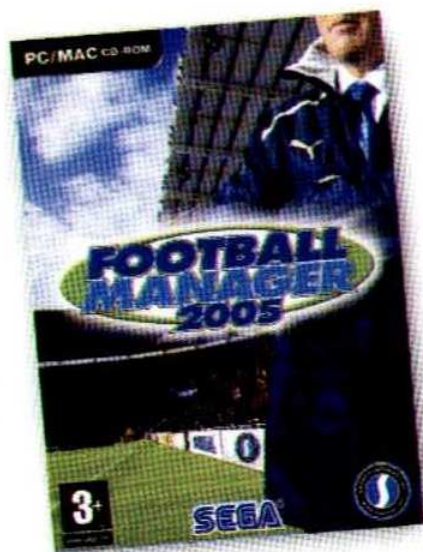
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# wwwwebwatch

Welcome back to Boundary Park for another important League fixture, this time against 11th placed Swindon Town. We hope Andy King's Robins enjoy their stay in Oldham - although not too much!

The Web and New Media operation at Boundary Park continues to go from strength to strength and we kick off with an excellent offer:



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Sega Football Manager 2005 was recently voted Number One in the PC games chart and offers any budding Arsene Wenger the chance to lead their team to glory. Recent reports suggest that Wenger himself has bought a copy!

It's retailing at £29.99 in the shops but we want to give it to you absolutely free. To get your hands on this leading PC game and all that World has to offer just sign-up today. Go to [www.oldhamathletic.co.uk](http://www.oldhamathletic.co.uk) when you get home.

## Man City DVD

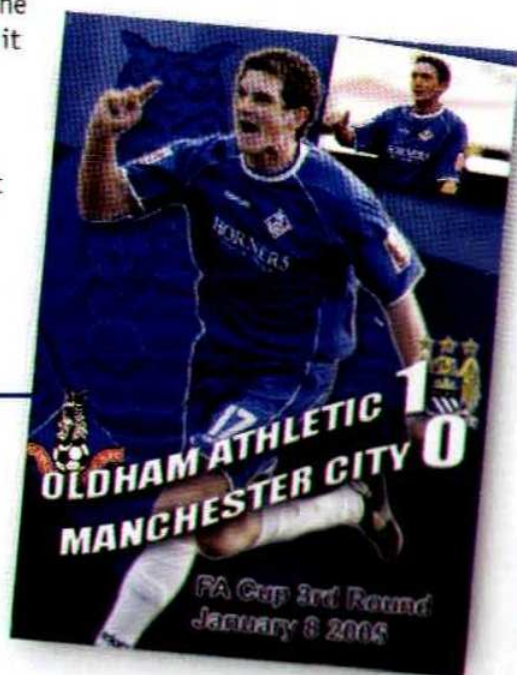
Unless you've been living in a cave for the last couple of weeks, you'll know that Latics beat Man City on Saturday 8th January.

It was a memorable day at a packed Boundary Park, a Scott Vernon strike sending City crashing out of the FA Cup and Latics into Round 4.

Now you can relive that day time and again, as the Commercial Department has released a commemorative DVD of the event.

With 90 minutes of nail-biting footage with commentary, slo-mos and graphics plus interviews with heroes Pogliacomini and Vernon, this really is a must for every Latics fan.

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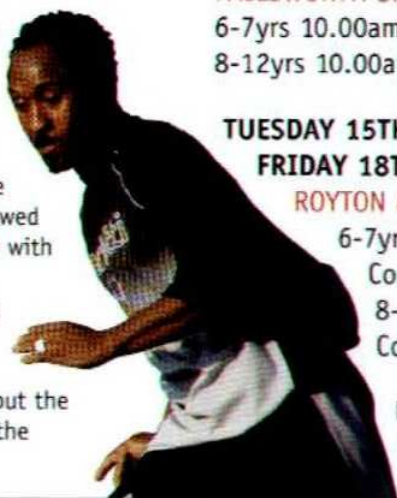


## Latics Players To Visit Schools

This popular activity is currently underway on a regular weekly basis with schools in the Oldham area.

Whilst the players visit the school, a member of the Community team give a talk on issues such as lifestyle trends and healthy eating. Another important issue which is addressed is that of playing on railway lines and in conjunction with Network Rail the dangers are spelt out graphically. This is followed by a question and answer session with the players.

Last week Rodney Jack (pictured) was in the spotlight as he visited St John school in Failsworth other schools throughout the area will be receiving visits over the coming weeks.



**FEBRUARY HALF TERM SOCCER SCHOOLS**  
**MONDAY 14TH FEBRUARY TO**  
**THURSDAY 17TH FEBRUARY**

**FAILSWORTH SPORTS CENTRE**

6-7yrs 10.00am-12.30pm : Cost £18

8-12yrs 10.00am-3.00pm : Cost 32

**TUESDAY 15TH FEBRUARY TO**  
**FRIDAY 18TH FEBRUARY**

**ROYTON & CROMPTON SCHOOL**

6-7yrs 10.00am-12.30pm :

Cost £18

8-12yrs 10.00am-3.00pm :

Cost £36

Packed lunch required on full day courses.

*Kellogg's* **FROSTIES**  
EARN YOUR STRIPES



## Oldham Young Disabled Sport Achiever of the Year Awards 2005

Oldham hosted its annual Young Disabled Sport Achiever of the Year Awards on Friday 28th January 2005. Young people with pan disabilities from across Oldham Borough came together during the ceremony to celebrate their achievements in sport over the past 12 months.

The presentation ceremony was hosted in partnership with Oldham Sport and Recreation Development and Oldham Disability Sport Group, a voluntary group which works to provide sporting opportunities for people with disabilities, and recognised the commitment and determination of the youngsters within sport.

40 young people were nominated for awards in two categories; Young Sports Achiever of the Year presented to someone who has shown great determination and achieved a personal goal, and Young Sports Performer of the Year presented to someone who has excelled and achieved a high level of performance in their sport.

Aimee Speight and Ryan Morley took the awards in the Sports Achiever category and Craig Taylor took the prize in the Sports Performer category. Craig attends Marland Fold School and in the last 12 months his sporting abilities have gone from strength to strength. He was part of the athletics team that took silver in the Greater Manchester Youth Games and has also had an exceptional year in football. He is part of the Oldham Athletic Juniors Football Team (which is run as a partnership

between Oldham Athletic and Oldham, Sport and Recreation Development) and where his skill was recognised when he was selected for the Greater Manchester Centre of Excellence at Manchester United's Cliff Training Ground. He has recently been invited to attend England U17's MLD squad training. Craig will now go forward to represent Oldham at the Greater Manchester Sports Awards in March. Presentations were made to the nominees and winners by Steve Daley, Captain of England's Partially Sighted Football Team which took part in last December's Partially Sighted World Championships at Manchester's Sport City. For further information on disability sport in Oldham please contact Emma Jenks on 0161-911-3684.

Craig Taylor, winner of Sports Performer of the Year receiving his award from Steve Daley, Captain of the England Partially Sighted Football Team.



# WIN PRIZES-HELP YOUR CLUB



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**All donations go to Oldham Athletic AFC**

For each mobile phone donated, 'your club' will receive between 50p and £50 (depending on phone type and condition) Please get prior permission of the owner.

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**Oldham Athletic AFC Club Shop**  
**and Royle Bar**

**"Include your name and number with the mobile you are donating, to have a chance at winning regular prizes such as VIP tickets for two to a home match, signed shirts and signed footballs"**



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# CHADDY CHIRPS



Oh well, there is always next season. And at least we still have the LDV final to look forward to, then hopefully a trip to the Millennium stadium. I am sure in the back of all your minds that you knew we were the underdogs, so you were expecting an upsetting day. But I feel that on another day we would have absolutely hammered Bolton and got through to the next round ourselves. Nothing seemed to quash that feeling of having my heart ripped out when the referee blew the final whistle. To say I was gutted was an understatement, and just to add insult to injury, I went home and watched the whole thing again as I had recorded it. My eyesight is not what it used to be, and I find it difficult to see what is happening down at the Rochdale road end of the ground, so I get to see all the game in the comfort of my cosy nest.

I must say, watching it on the telly was a real eye opener. Our lads really played their socks off, they were first to every ball, and there to pick up any scraps. I am sure you all agree that Neil Kilkenny did not have his best game, but everyone has a bad day now and again, and I am sure that he will be back to his best form today. I felt sorry for Crofty for the stick he has been given over the tackle on Hunt. To me, it looked like he just missed out on getting the ball by less than a second, and there was certainly no intent to cause an injury. And of all the people in the world to slate him on live telly, it had to be Mr Perfect Alan Shearer. He is a fine one to talk about dirty tackles, the only reason he gets away with most of them is because referees show him too much respect. Talking of MoTD guests, don't even get me started on Alan Hanson. He has shown us what he knows about football in the past, and it could be written on the back of a stamp. Not only did they have two has beens talking drivel about our club, but they had the audacity to have Mark Owen telling us facts about Oldham, Ha! Did nobody point out that this guy is a Man United fan, and he is never seen in the town, let alone near BP. Why did they not use an Oldhamer who people see all the time, who loves the club, and is well respected, like me (oh, just realised I said respected), OK what about Paul Scholes? He was there with his son to cheer on the lads. Then again they could have got our latest signing who they will be announcing next week, Frankie Bunn, a young and upcoming new star according to the BBC news team.

Hope you liked our penalty shootout at half time on


Sunday. My mate City Gent was gutted (literally) that you gave him loads of stick. I thought that Moonchester would bottle it and not turn up, but fair play to the lad, he showed guts (not as much as City Gent) to come out on the pitch, and he took the abuse quite well. Was it just me, or did you all notice that Lofty the Lion from Bolton was a right miserable so and so? He did not want to join in with anything, and sulked when I saved his penalty on the second occasion. Talking of saving penalties, I did not realise who the guy was who took one at me; apparently it was Paddy from Max and Paddy. First of all he missed, then when it came back out he hit it again (How dare you). Hey! Am I a great keeper or what? Maybe not. If you enjoyed seeing all the mascots, why not come and see us all again tomorrow at the Printworks in Manchester. We are having a pancake race for comic relief, and Moony and Fred the Red will be there, the race starts at 3:00pm I think, so get there early. Hopefully I will win as this will be my first race against other mascots. Don't put any money on me though as my hamstring is very sore at the moment, so I hope it holds out for the race, but it will definitely be ok for the mascot races at Lingfield park and Huntingdon later this year which I am really looking forward to.

As for other appearances, I had arranged to go to Chadderton town hall this morning to meet all the kids down there, so if you came along, I hope you had a good time. Also I know a lot of you came to see me at Asda in Chadderton last week whilst I was there with the Chronicle, and I had a great day, so thank you to everyone who arranged it. Over the next few months I am going to be extremely busy attending birthday parties and functions, but I will not say where just in case it spoils it for a little (or big) Chaddy fan. But to make sure you are not disappointed, ask your mum or dad to invite me along to your party, all you have to do is ask in the Latics shop. I would love to come around and meet you all. Talking of meeting my little mates, we are getting a load of them on the pitch at half time today to have a penalty shootout, so make sure you all make their day extra special by cheering them on when they score, but don't scare them, it might be a bit frightening on that pitch, it is for me.

Hope you have a great day, cheer on the lads, and keep the faith.

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# Travel&Tickets

## Blackpool v Oldham Athletic

Tuesday 8th February 2005, Kick-Off 7.45pm, Bloomfield Road, Blackpool



Oh we do like to be beside the seaside: Not on a Tuesday Night in February we don't!

Still we have to go some time, so Tuesday night it is. The Tangerines ran out 2-1 winners here at Boundary Park back in October so we owe them one...but it's International week and we could lose a few players, still, we have a fairly decent track record at Bloomfield Road and we have run back into a bit of form again.

### DIRECTIONS

Take the M62 through Death Valley and head for Bolton M61, stay on the M61 to join the M6 and head North to junction 32 and follow signs for Blackpool M55.

Take the M55 to its end and follow signs for seafront car parks signposted Main car Parks.

The stadium is on your right opposite the town's main car parking area; expect to pay £1 to park.

### FOOD AND WATER

This being February expect nothing to be open other than pubs and the odd chip shop and the facilities are not the best for visiting supporters at Bloomfield Road. If you can take your own food, sandwiches etc, you will be proved to be the wise one!

And remember this is February so wrap up warm, the wind

comes off the sea and by heck it can get cold.

### TICKETS AND ADMISSION

All pay on the night, Adult Seats £14, Senior Citizens £11, U16's £7, the seats are un-covered so take a coat with a hood on if rain is forecast.

### LATICS TRAVEL CLUB

Latics travel club will be running coaches to Bloomfield Road, the coaches will depart Boundary Park at 5.45pm and each seat costs £8.50p. Official coaches can only be used by travel club members, membership is free of charge all you need is two passport size photographs to join. Contact the Latics shop for further details.



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# Head...

## ...on down to Horners



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HOW THEY LINE UP

OLDHAM ATHLETIC

SWINDON TOWN

		PLAYED	SCORED
	1 LES POGLIACOMI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	2 DEAN HOLDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	3 ADAM GRIFFIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	4 MARK BONNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	5 WILL HAINING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	7 MATTY APPLEBY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	8 DANNY BOSHELL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	9 RODNEY JACK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	10 JOHN EYRE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	11 JERMAINE JOHNSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	12 CHRIS KILLEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	13 STEVE MILDENHALL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	14 ALEX BRUCE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	15 DANNY HALL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	16 KENNY COOPER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	17 SCOTT VERNON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	18 WES WILKINSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	19 MARC TIERNEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	20 DAVE BEHARALL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	21 DANNY FORDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	22 LEE CROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	23 KEVIN BETSY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	24 MARK HUGHES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	25 NEIL KILKENNY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	27 CHARLIE TREACY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	28 DAVID EYRES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	32 KELVIN LOMAX	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	33 MATTY BARLOW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	34 CHRIS HALL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	35 MATTY WOLFENDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	40 SPIRIT OF OLDHAM		

		PLAYED	SCORED	
1	RHYS EVANS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2	SEAN O'HANLON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3	GRANT SMITH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4	MATTHEW HEWLETT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5	JAMIE SLABBER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6	STEVE JENKINS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8	RORY FALLON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9	SAM PARKIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10	STEFANI MIGLIORANZI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11	DAVID DUKE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12	JEREL IFIL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13	MATTY BULMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14	CHRIS ROBERTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15	ANDREW NICHOLAS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
16	STEVE ROBINSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
17	BRIAN HOWARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
18	ALAN REEVES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
19	MATTHEW HEYWOOD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
20	STEVE BOOK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
21	LEE HOLMES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
22	MICHEAL POOK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
23	LUKE GARRARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
24	ANDY CATON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
25	BEN WELLS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	



Lee Croft bursts past Riccardo Gardner in last Sunday's FA Cup 4th Round game.

NEXT ON THE PARK

PONTIN'S HOLIDAYS LEAGUE  
 WEDS 9TH FEBRUARY 2005  
 LATICS RES V CARLISLE UNITED RES  
 KICK-OFF 2PM



COCA COLA LEAGUE 1  
 SATURDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 2005  
 LATICS V STOCKPORT COUNTY  
 KICK-OFF 3PM



Emergency Procedure

Boundary Park is equipped with an emergency alert system (Loud High Pitch Two Tone Signal).  
 Please pay attention if you should hear this signal and follow any instructions given.  
 A test of the system is carried out 20 minutes before kick-off at every home game.  
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