

# U'S REVIEW

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE OF COLCHESTER UNITED FC



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inside:

## LEAGUE LEADS THE WAY

Kevin Watson on the U's sole focus

## TESTING THORPEY

Striker Tony up next in Off The Wall

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# INSIDE...

## Welcome back to Layer Road for the U's latest league game, when they play host to Swindon Town.

We welcome Jamie Cureton back to north Essex after his successful loan spell earlier in the season.

Finally, congratulations must go to the youth team after their midweek win against Gillingham, which sends them to a national final in the Youth Alliance League Cup.

In today's issue:-



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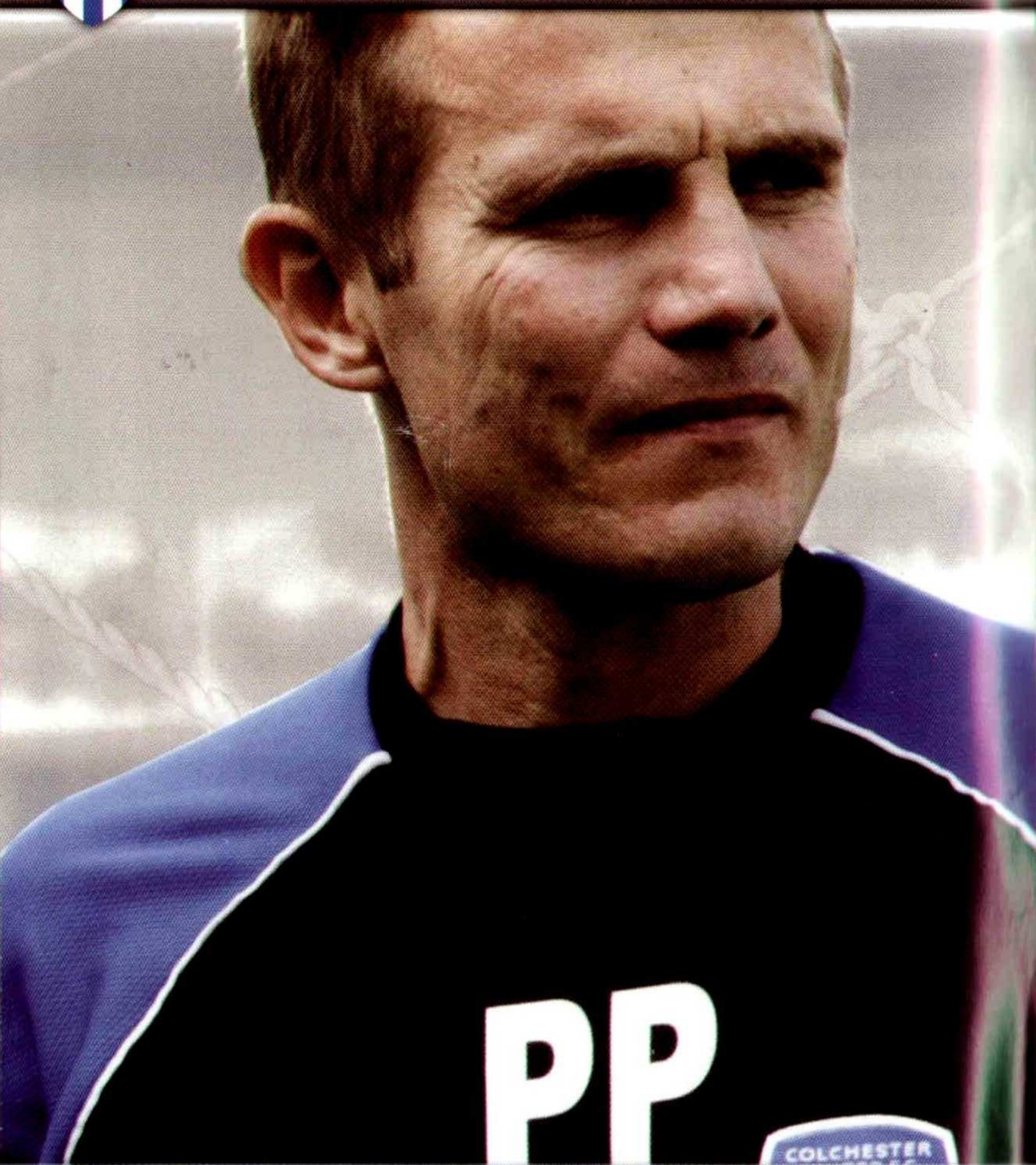




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## PHIL PARKINSON

**Good afternoon and welcome back here to Layer Road for our latest league game against Swindon Town.**

Obviously, on Tuesday we were disappointed to miss out on a trip to Cardiff in the LDV Vans Trophy final, but we can now firmly say there are no other distractions and we must focus all of our energy on the remaining eleven league games.

The positive side of Tuesday's game against Swansea was certainly the first half performance. The way that we played during that first spell was close to being back to how we have played for much of the season.

We got off to a great start in the second half with Neil Danns' goal. It was a much needed breakthrough for us in respect of the rest of the season as well as the evening's game.

It took Danns to fourteen for the season – he, along with Chris Iwelumo,

has had a barren spell of late in front of goal but that happens to even the best of goalscorers and it is your total at the end of the season that matters the most and I'm confident that, come May, the pair of them will be right up there amongst the upper reaches of the divisional top scorers list.

### *Freshen*

We have been trying to freshen things up a bit in the squad this week and, as I write these notes, one of those deals is close to completion. We have decided to let Sam Stockley go to Blackpool on loan. He has been an excellent servant to us, but I knew that the next time I left him out, i.e. Tuesday, I would have to be fair to him with regard to his contract being up in the summer and look to move him on.

Blackpool had expressed an interest in Sam and I feel it is a good opportunity for him to play some first team football.

Alongside that deal, Blackpool boss Simon Grayson and myself agreed to do a

swap deal with strikers Gareth Williams and Scott Vernon. Scott is a player of huge potential, who has scored goals at a very young age for Oldham and had a very successful loan spell with Blackpool.

Since joining them on a permanent basis, he will perhaps feel that things haven't gone so well for him, but I feel that he can come here and make an impact for us in the last eleven games of the season.

Congratulations to the youth team for winning their League Cup Southern Final on Wednesday. It was a strong, committed performance and they thoroughly deserved their victory.

I appreciated the support on Tuesday night and I think the supporters remained as positive as possible and if you can do that between now and the end of the season you know you will have done your part.

Best wishes,





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## RECENTLY AT LAYER ROAD



■ Neil Danns - suspension let-off

**With the season now underway, we will once again bring you up to date with recent events at Colchester United in our Recently At Layer Road page.**

The official website – with all its associated products! – continues to be the best place to keep on track with the goings on at the U's, so stay tuned for up to the minute information from your favourite football club.

In this afternoon's matchday magazine, we reflect on the events of the last week or so...

21.03.06

Having helped their sides to victories in midweek, Robbie King and Mark Cousins help their loan clubs to positive results again.

Whilst the senior side are in action up at Oldham, Robbie helps Hereford United come from two goals down against Conference leaders Accrington Stanley to earn a 2-2 draw at Edgar Street.

And Mark guides Enfield Town to a victory over the U's local neighbours Wivenhoe Town. Although he is unable to keep a clean sheet on this occasion, the young U's goalkeeper is beaten only once – by an own goal – as Town record a 2-1 win and maintain their promotion push.

14.03.06

Despite two bookings in his last two games, U's midfielder Neil Danns will not have to serve a suspension.

The yellow card at Oldham on Saturday took Danns to five for the season and he made it six when he also got carded in the LDV Vans game against Swansea on Tuesday night.

However, due to the FA rulings, he will not be banned.

Players are only suspended for five bookings if those cards accrue between the first day of the season and the final day of February.

After that time, players are warned as to their future conduct and Danns has received that letter this week.

Should the U's midfielder, or any other player, tally up ten bookings between now and the end of the season, then they will serve a suspension.

15.03.06

Tickets for the U's upcoming away games against Doncaster Rovers and Nottingham Forest are now available from the Ticket Office.

Phil Parkinson's players travel to Doncaster next Tuesday to face a side harbouring ambitions of a top six spot.

Tickets are available to buy in advance

from the Ticket Office at the following prices:-

**Adults** £18  
**Senior** £12  
**Junior** £12  
**Student** £12

Then, on April 8th the U's travel to Nottingham Forest for a much awaited game against another play-off chaser. Tickets for this game are cheaper to buy in advance with prices as follows:-

**Adult** £23 (£25 matchday)  
**Senior** £18 (£20 matchday)  
**Ambulant Disabled** £18 (£20 matchday)  
**Students** £10  
**U18s** £10  
**U12s** £5

Sandwiched between those two away games will be the match at Scunthorpe - the U's will not be selling tickets for the match at Glanford Park.

To book your place for these - and any upcoming home games - call 0871 226 2161.

17.03.06

Richard Garcia is sent for a scan on his injured knee. The Aussie picked up the problem in the first leg of the game against Swansea ten days ago and will journey up the A14 on Monday to discuss the latest on his injury.

### LAYER ROAD DIARY

21.03.06

U's captain Karl Duguid turns 28 with his birthday next Tuesday. He will hope to celebrate his birthday with a victory, as the U's travel to Doncaster Rovers in the re-arranged league game.

25.03.06

The U's travel to Scunthorpe for another away game as they look to keep their promotion story on track.

31.03.06

Youth team defender Aaron Best turns 17 as he celebrates his birthday.



**MATCH****ACTION****NO NEAR YET SO FAR****GERKEN****BALDWIN CHILVERS BROWN WHITE****DANNS HALFORD WATSON YEATES****DUGUID TWELUMO****KNIGHT AMUNDEN****ROBINSON MARTINEZ TATE BRITTON****RICKETTS MONK LOWE O'LEARY****GOOSEY****U'S SUBSTITUTES:** Williams for White 61.

Guy for Yeates 89

**SWANS SUBSTITUTES:** Trundle for Knight 66, Forbes for Lowe 78, Way for Robinson 89**CLOCKWATCH:**

**66-68** Kristian O'Leary fires in an Andy Robinson pass that Dean Gerken does well to block, with the U's defence blocking Leon Knight's follow up.

Following a scramble from a corner, Greg Halford lays the ball back to Chris Iwelumo, but he fires over the bar with a whole host of bodies standing in the way of goal.

Neil Danns curls in an effort from the right hand apex of the box, but Willy Gueret does well to collect comfortably.

Two fantastic switch passes from Mark Yeates and Neil Danns nearly get Chris Iwelumo in on goal, but a great last ditch tackle by Garry Monk saves the day.

The U's finally get the goal their efforts deserve when Neil Danns bursts clear and hits a shot that pops up over Willy Gueret and into the back of the Swansea net.

The Swans move back in front on aggregate when Sam Ricketts' cross is stepped over by Leon Knight, allowing Leon Britton to ghost in and smash the ball home.

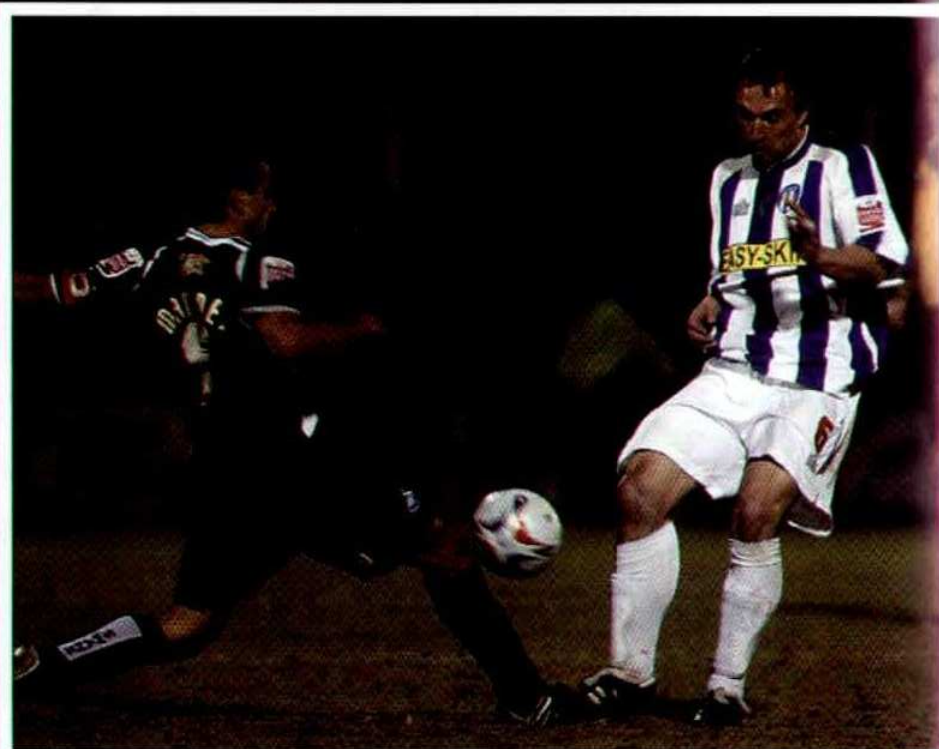
The visitors' advantage is extended when a deflected cross eventually settles in the box for Leon Knight to spin and hit a shot which takes a further deflection as it beats Dean Gerken.

Greg Halford is left with his head in his hands as a cross from the left is nodded towards goal by the U's man, only for it to pop back off the post.

**TURNING POINT:** Leon Britton's instant response to Neil Danns' goal. The U's did not have any time to build on their advantage and, when Leon Knight added another, the tie was taken away from the U's.

**MAN OF THE MATCH:** Neil Danns

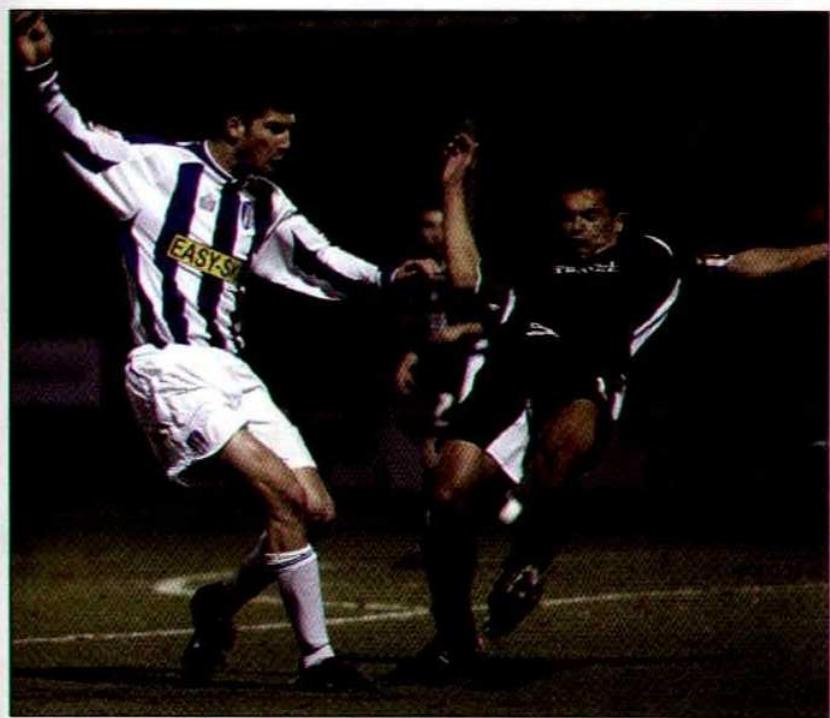
■ Neil Danns surges into the box



■ Kevin Watson battles for the ball in midfield



## U'S 1 SWANSEA CITY 2



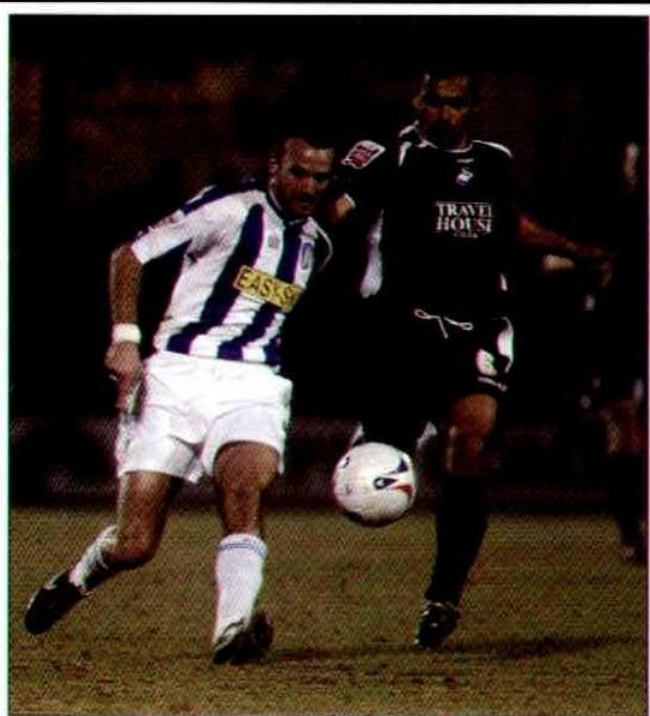
■ Pat Baldwin shoots for goal



■ Mark Yeates skips past his man



■ Celebration time as Neil Danns puts the U's 1-0 up

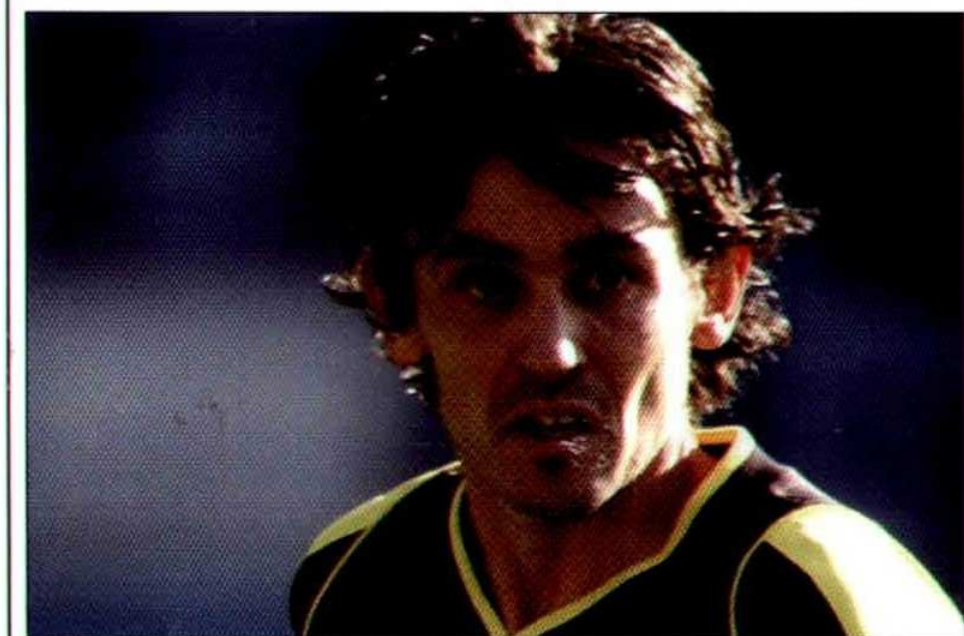


■ Karl Duguid in determined mood





## OUR VISITORS... SWINDON TOWN



■ Gareth Whalley - confident of survival

**With ten games remaining of the current campaign, most teams know what their goals are as the 2005/6 season comes to a close.**

And, whether it be dreams of earning promotion to the Championship, consolidation in mid-table or escaping relegation, the pressure begins to step up a level as the final quarter of the campaign gets underway.

All of a sudden, games begin to run out and there are fewer opportunities to collect much needed points to achieve the required targets.

For this afternoon's visitors Swindon, the hope for the remainder of the season is to finally haul themselves clear of the bottom four and retain their League One status for another season.

Although they rose as high as sixteenth in February, the Robins have nine games left to jump above that much feared dotted line, having slipped back into the bottom four once again at the start of March.

That drop down the table came on the back of a losing streak that included a 7-1 thumping at Nottingham Forest and a 3-2 defeat at the hands of fellow strugglers Rotherham United, but Iffy Onuora's side steadied the ship last Saturday as they

travelled to Yeovil and picked up a point in a 0-0 draw at Huish Park.

"I felt we did enough to win the game," he insisted, after Jamie Cureton had hit the post late on.

"We were the better side except at the start of each half, when Yeovil had some good spells.

"But I was relieved to keen a clean sheet after three successive defeats - this can put us in good heart."

### Productive

Curo has enjoyed a more positive time at the County Ground having returned back to his parent club following a productive loan spell with the U's.

He has scored five in his last nine games, but on the last three occasions in which he has struck, those goals have garnered just three points as the ball has hit the back of the net too frequently for Onuora's liking.

That said, Swindon still have plenty to play for. Although coming into today's game in 22nd place in the table, there are six teams within three points of the Wiltshire based side and the picture can change very quickly with one or two crucial victories.

And midfielder Gareth Whalley, who made his first appearance since before Christmas

in the game against Yeovil last weekend, believes his side can still haul themselves clear of the drop.

He told the Swindon Advertiser: "After a performance like that there's belief and we needed that to help us kick on for the remaining games.

"If we play like we did here and keep that self belief we can go and get a result anywhere.

"Having seen most teams in this division, I don't think there's a great deal of difference between the top and the bottom still. We have nothing to fear going to any club in the division."

### Robins' Last Ten Seasons

1995/96.....	Division Two	.....1st (P)
1996/97.....	Division One	.....19th
1997/98.....	Division One	.....18th
1998/99.....	Division One	.....17th
1999/00.....	Division One	.....24th (R)
2000/01.....	Division Two	.....20th
2001/02.....	Division Two	.....13th
2002/03.....	Division Two	.....10th
2003/04.....	Division Two	.....5th
2004/05.....	League One	.....12th

### Last time at Layer Road

04.09.04 U's 0 Swindon 1

The U's get off to a poor start when Sam Parkin stoops down six yards out to direct his header past Aidan Davison in the home goal. The Layer Road side attempt to get back into the match, but are unable to find a way past Rhys Evans.

### Last time at the County Ground

26.12.05 Swindon 1 U's 0

A closely fought affair sees the in form U's fall to a rare defeat, following a sequence of eight straight wins and a draw at Swansea. The visitors appear to be heading for another share of the spoils, until a cross from the left is powered home by the head of Rory Fallon.

### Robins' Last Five League results

14.02.05	W1-0 v Gillingham
18.02.05	L2-3 v Rotherham
25.02.06	L1-7 at Nottingham Forest
07.03.06	L1-2 v Tranmere Rovers
11.03.06	D0-0 at Yeovil Town





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RHYS EVANS



JACK SMITH



ANDY GURNEY



SEAN O'HANLON



STEVE JENKINS



ANDY NICHOLAS



GARETH WHALLEY



MICHAEL POOK



AARON BROWN



LEE PEACOCK



JAMIE CURETON

## ROBINS' LAST XI

11/03/06 – D0-0 v Yeovil Town

**RHYS EVANS** Having started out at Chelsea – representing England U21s during his time at Stamford Bridge – Rhys joined Swindon in 2003 to give first choice keeper Bart Griemink more competition for the number one shirt. Since then Evans has been a regular between the posts for Town and has turned in many match saving performances.

**SEAN O'HANLON** After impressing during an eight-game loan spell last season, Liverpool-born Sean signed in March 2004 on a permanent basis from Everton. He was a rock in the centre of defence towards the end of the 2003-04 season and is surely one of Town's brightest prospects. A composed customer, O'Hanlon has captained the side on a number of occasions.

**ANDY GURNEY** 'Gurns' rejoined Swindon on a permanent basis in January 2005 after failing to pin down a regular place in the Swansea's starting line-up. A versatile player, he can operate anywhere along the backline or in centre of midfield and likes a shot on goal and is not afraid to have a go from any distance. Andy lists his other clubs as Torquay United, Bristol Rovers and Reading.

**STEVE JENKINS** Capped by Wales on 16 occasions, Steve was signed at the end of November 2004 and has provided added

experience to the Town backline. After beginning his career at Swansea, he has also been with Huddersfield, Birmingham, Cardiff, Notts County and Peterborough.

**JACK SMITH** Signed from Watford in the summer of 2005, Due to the departure of Paul Robinson to West Bromwich Albion he was thrust into the first-team spotlight at Watford and coped admirably, registering two goals, but eventually found his first team opportunities limited and opted to make the switch to the County Ground.

**GARETH WHALLEY** Originally a trainee at Crewe, Gareth made over 200 first-team appearances for them before signing for Bradford City in July 1998 for £600,000. Gareth was a regular during their two-season spell in the top flight, before joining Cardiff. He left the Bluebirds in September 2004 and joined Wigan, where he made nine appearances for The Latics in the march to promotion to the Premiership. Signed for Swindon Town in July 2005 from the Latics on a free transfer.

**MICHAEL POOK** An energetic 'box-to-box' midfielder, Michael signed a professional contract ahead of the 2005/6 season and was a consistent performer for the youth team and reserves last term. He has been a common face in the first team starting eleven so far this season.

**AARON BROWN** Former Bristol City winger who has done the tour of West

Country clubs, having also played for Exeter City, Torquay United and Cheltenham Town before signing for Town this season. He will hope that his move to Swindon – for whom he has played 19 times this season – will give him regular action.

**ANDY NICHOLAS** 'Nicho' joined Town in the close season of 2003 following his decision to leave Liverpool. He was a regular in the U19s side at Anfield and won many plaudits with his performances at left back, which prompted Andy King to snap up the youngster.

**LEE PEACOCK** Lee is a familiar face for the U's defenders, having also faced them during his time with Bristol City and Sheffield Wednesday. He joined Swindon during the January transfer window after falling out of favour with the Owls and made an immediate impression as he scored on his debut. He has gone for over £1m in transfer fees during his career, including big moves to Manchester City and Bristol.

**JAMIE CURETON** A player who needs no introduction to Colchester United fans, following his highly successful loan spell with the U's earlier in the campaign. Having joined Town from QPR, things got off to a shaky start for the nippy forward but his season was rejuvenated by a temporary move to Layer Road, where he scored seven goals. Since returning to the County Ground, he has scored a further five times.





## THE REST OF THE SQUAD...

NAME	NATIONALITY	POSITION	D.O.B.	PREVIOUS CLUBS	CLUB APPS (GOALS)
Nicky Nicolau	English	Defender	12.10.83	Arsenal, Southend U	6 (0)
Jerel Ifil	English	Defender	27.06.82	Watford, Huddersfield T	106 (0)
Trevor Benjamin	English	Striker	08.02.79	Cambridge U, Leicester C, Crystal P, Norwich City, West Brom, Gillingham, Rushden & D, Brighton, & HA, Northampton T, Coventry C, Peterborough U, Watford	3 (1)
Stefani Miglioranza	American	Midfielder	20.09.77	Portsmouth	132 (9)
Ricky Shakes	English	Midfielder	25.01.85	Bolton W, Bristol R, Bury	34 (1)
Matty Bulman	English	Goalkeeper	14.10.86	From trainee	1 (0)
Kyle Lapham	English	Defender		From trainee	2 (0)
Charlie Comyn-Platt	English	Defender	02.10.85	Bolton W, Wycombe W	19 (2)
Christian Roberts	Welsh	Striker	22.10.79	Cardiff C, Hereford U, Exeter C, Bristol C	46 (8)
Paul Smith	English	Midfielder	18.09.71	Southend U, Brentford, Gillingham, Walsall	7 (0)
Ben Wells	English	Midfielder		From trainee	4 (0)
David Stroud	English	Midfielder		From trainee	3 (0)
Ashan Holgate	English	Striker		From trainee	10 (0)
Albert Jarrett	English	Midfielder	23.10.84	MK Dons, Brighton & HA, Stevenage B	6 (0)

## FROM THE OTHER SIDE

### What do you think Swindon's chances are of avoiding the drop?

After watching our game on Saturday at Yeovil, I would say that we have a good chance of staying up particularly if Gareth Whalley stays in midfield following his superb display after being out of the team for a long time.

### What have been the main problems that have put Town in this predicament?

We struggled to find any momentum at the start of the season after losing Sam Parkin at the end of the previous campaign and seem to have been on the back foot since.

The other problem is a lack of goals from our midfield with far too much reliance on Rory Fallon scoring – before Christmas, it seemed that if he didn't score, then no-one would score for us. Jamie Cureton's return eased some of those concerns although Fallon ultimately left us to join Swansea.

### Which players have shone despite the disappointment so far?

No surprise for Col U fans - Jamie Cureton has shone as has Lee Peacock who has worked fantastically hard with little return. Charlie Comyn-Platt also made a real impact before his injury, as did Paul Smith who added much needed strength and aggression in midfield before he too got



■ The County Ground - home of Swindon Town

injured. Incidentally Smith and Comyn-Platt's injuries coincided with the start of our recent three match losing spell but we hope that one or both will be back for the visit to Layer Road.

### How much have Swindon benefited from Jamie Cureton's spell with Colchester?

Swindon benefited massively from Jamie's spell at Colchester because he looked low on confidence before his loan spell at Layer Road. However Jamie's goals playing for Colchester definitely helped his confidence

and he returned looking much keener to get on the scoresheet for Swindon - so thank you, Phil Parkinson!

### What do you expect from the U's and what do you think Saturday's result will be?

I am predicting a 3-1 win for Swindon with Jamie Cureton scoring two and Lee Peacock getting just reward for his hard work with a goal for us as well.

● Adrian Smith is the matchday reporter for the official Swindon Town website.





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## OPPOSING VIEW

**With seven goals in ten games for the U's in a two-month loan period at the end of last year, Jamie Cureton made himself a firm favourite with the Layer Road crowd and hopes were high that the nippy forward may turn his temporary spell into a permanent one.**

However, with his side ensconced in a relegation battle, Swindon boss Iffy Onuora understandably took Jamie back to the County Ground at the end of that loan spell to see if his prolific run could continue for the West Country side.

Five goals in twelve outings since his return suggests that the former Reading hitman has kept his good form and he will be one to watch as Swindon visit Layer Road for today's match.

Jamie spoke to U's Review and revealed that he is happy that he is hitting the net and told us about Swindon's fortunes since he returned.

He said: "Of course it is pleasing that I have managed to keep a good scoring run going and I hope that I have a decent total come the end of the season. There was pressure on me to score when I came back because I hadn't scored many before I went out on loan.

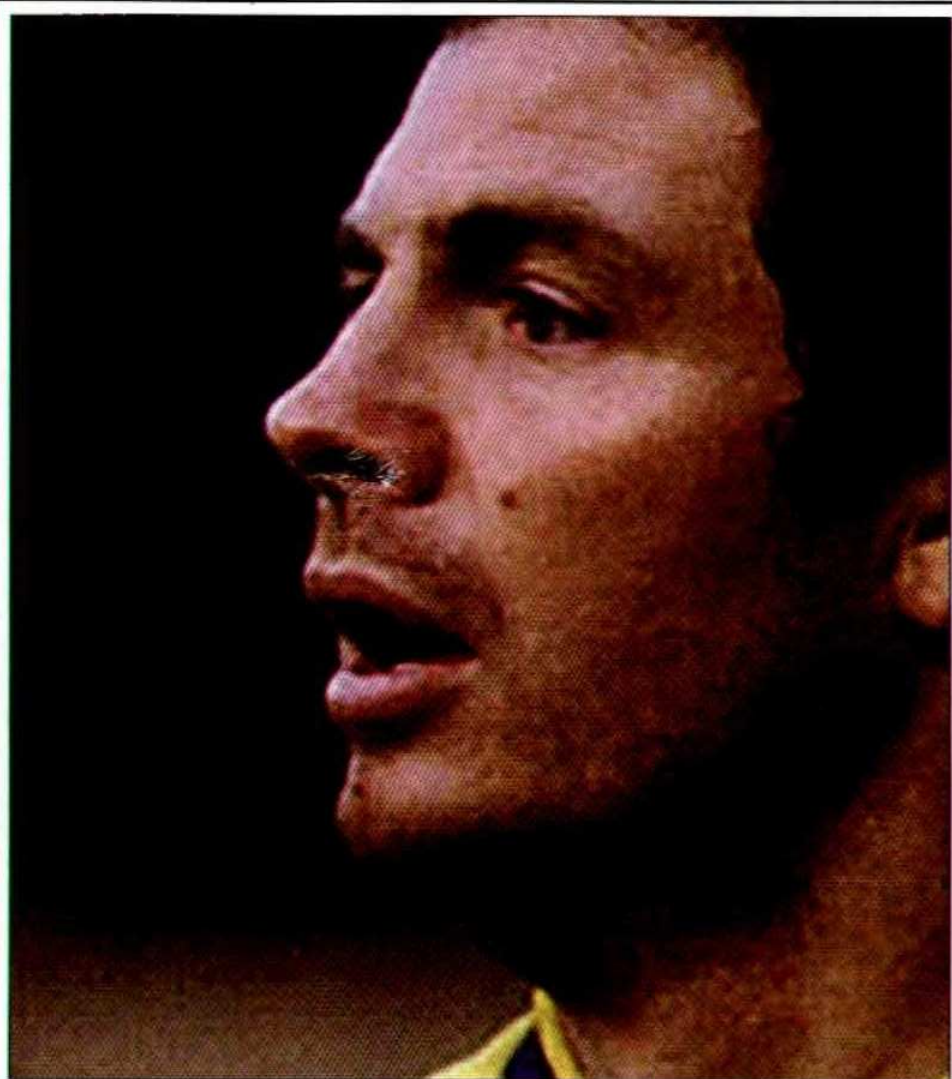
### Good results

"The first six to eight weeks I was back, we picked up some good results with some good performances but we have slipped back a bit over the last few games. I can't put my finger on why, but we haven't really played as well as we can do. In some of the games though, it was a case of us just getting beaten by a better team on the day."

Jamie was on loan but was not allowed to play when the two teams met in December and admitted that he thinks it will be strange coming to Layer Road to play against his former teammates.

Having enjoyed his time with the U's, the prolific forward is eager for Phil Parkinson's side to go on and get promoted, but he stressed he will be doing all he can to help Swindon get a result to pull them out of the relegation places.

"It will be strange coming back to Layer Road to play Colchester so soon after playing for them but I have to be professional and have a job to do for Swindon," he insisted.



■ Jamie Cureton - looking forward to Layer Road return

"It will be great to meet up with all the lads again because I had a good couple of months there. It kick started my season and after Saturday I hope they go on a good run and get the promotion Phil and the lads deserve."

As for Swindon's situation near the bottom of the table, Jamie realises they need a run of their own to escape relegation but knows it is well within their grasp, with only three points separating eight teams.

He pointed out: "It is very tight at the bottom and it is important that we don't let the teams above us get away from us. We

need to go on a good run of games now where we pick up wins and draws if we are to stay in this League. This will be our second away game in a row and if we can get a result, it will give us confidence going into our home games.

"I won't even think about my future until the end of the season because I am concentrating on the games we have left. I am sure I won't be the only player discussing things with the manager at the end of the season. The manager will also be assessing things and will want to see which players he wants at the club next season, whichever league we are in."



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# STATS ANALYSIS

**U's Media Manager Matt Hudson takes a look at the statistics for this afternoon's game against Swindon Town...**

That the U's opened the scoring against Swansea at the time they did on Tuesday night should not have come as a surprise to those of you who take a close look at the statistics.

In turn, the fact that the U's conceded the double blow from the two Leons, Knight and Britton, when they did should perhaps have been more of an eyebrow raiser.

During the course of the season, the fifteen minutes after half time has certainly been one of the U's more productive periods and, in the league is the second best fifteen minutes as far as scoring goals is concerned.

Conversely, in their 35 league games so far this season, the U's have conceded just twice in the immediate quarter of an hour after the interval, so the timing of Swansea's goals was a little unusual.

Despite the defeat, Parky's men have at least lifted one weight off their shoulders in the LDV Vans game in midweek. Neil Danns' goal may have had a little bit of fortune in how it hit the back of the net, but it was the U's first goal by one of our own players in twelve hours and one minute of play.

## Costly

That doesn't necessarily tell the whole story – in that lengthy goal free spell, the U's had three goals disallowed (including what proved to be a costly one against Swansea in the first leg at the Liberty Stadium for Chris Iwelumo) and hit the woodwork an amazing four times in five games.

They will be hoping to notch their first win in nine games this afternoon when they take on Swindon, who currently find themselves in the division's bottom four.

Parky's side will be hoping for a reversal of fortunes from the game at the County Ground back in December. Amidst a flurry of wins, there was a disappointing defeat down in Wiltshire, so hopefully this time around there will be a warmly welcomed win after the run of reverses over the past few weeks.

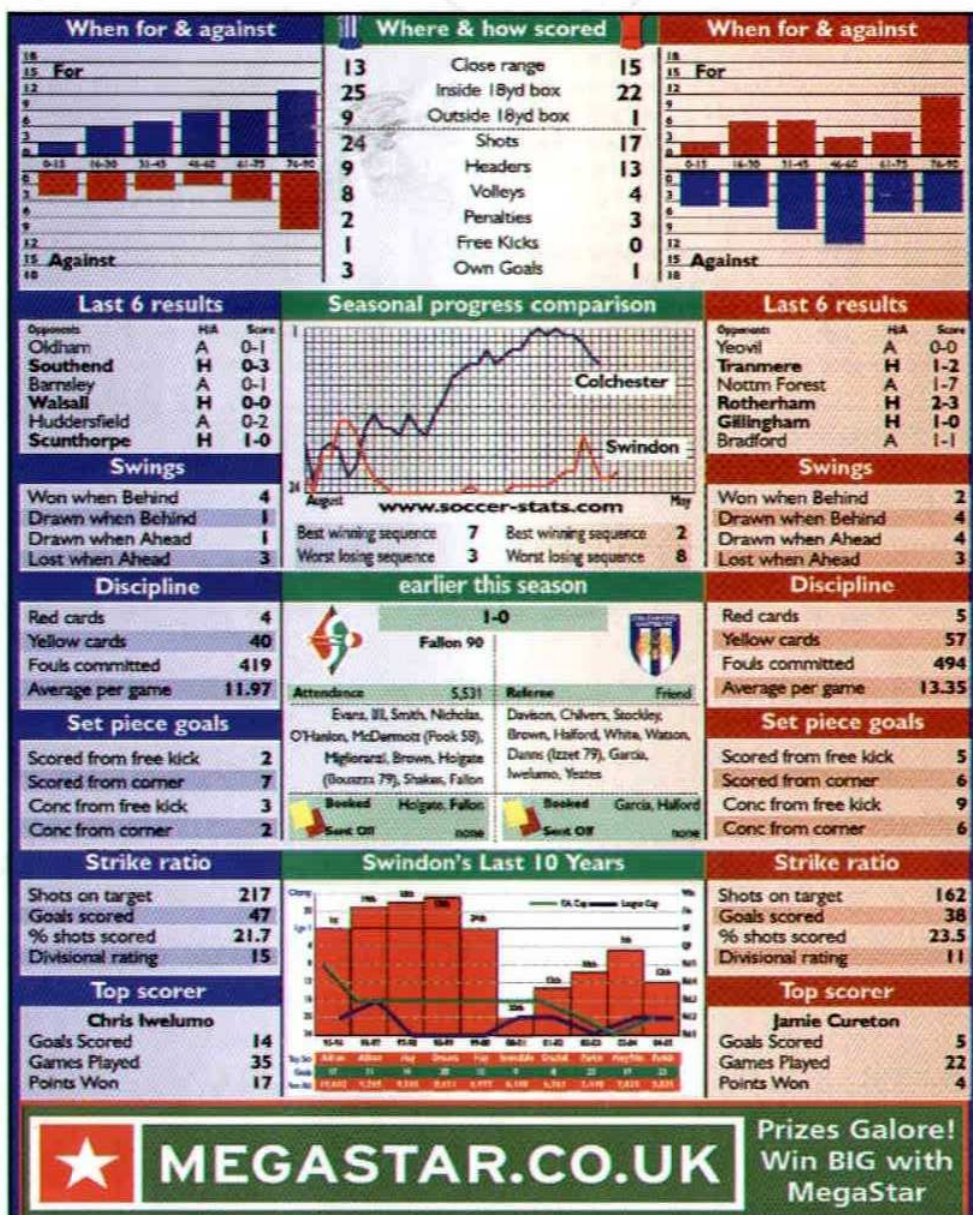
Swindon had looked like they were about to pull clear of the bottom four, but only one win in their last six games has put them back into the danger zone. They arrested that slide with a 0-0 draw at Yeovil next week, but the U's will be hoping that they can find similar paths to goal as Nottingham Forest and Rotherham who hit ten past Swindon in their two games.

Having earlier mentioned the U's security in defence either side of half time, they will have to be aware of Swindon's threat in that particular half hour. The Robins have

enjoyed their best periods goal wise during that time.

And they will have to beware of a man who is very familiar to them. Jamie Cureton, despite spending three months with the U's, comes to Layer Road as their current top scorer and the Colchester back line will be well aware of what Curo has to offer.

Three points this afternoon will go a long way to getting the U's back on track – fingers crossed!







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Currently lying second in the league, they have a championship decider coming up against Hambro Girls from Rochford, and a win will see Club Captain Karla Dallard lifting the championship trophy.

The girls have played 21 games and won 19 with 158 goals this season to their credit, with Stephanie Rowarth being top scorer so far.

Good luck to everyone associated with the club and I hope you enjoy today's game.

Finally, a special welcome today at Layer Road to my son Oliver and friend Louis Grisedale.

Keep up your fantastic support today, Up the U's,

**Chris Firminger**



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## SIX OF THE BEST

**Football historian LEIGH EDWARDS selects six Swindon Town 'Classic Campaigns' from 60 post-war seasons.**

### 1962/63

Swindon Town won promotion to the Second Division for the first time in 1962/63. Bert Head's young side won just one of their first six games, then top scorer Ernie Hunt netted a hat-trick in a 5-1 victory over Brighton. Cliff Jackson scored three times in a 4-3 win at Millwall and Jack Smith did likewise in a 5-0 victory over QPR as Swindon overcame the 'Big Freeze' to maintain their promotion challenge. They hammered Colchester 6-1 and clinched promotion with a 1-0 win at home to Shrewsbury. Keith Morgan and John Trollope were ever-present, while other stars included Mike Summerbee and Bobby Woodruff.

### 1968/69

Don Rogers starred as Swindon Town achieved an epic League Cup and promotion 'double' in 1968/69. Early pace-setters in the Third Division, they lost 1-0 at home to Watford in the title 'decider' watched by 28,898 and finished runners-up on goal average. Swindon defeated Torquay 2-1, Bradford City 4-3, Blackburn 1-0, Coventry 3-0, Derby 1-0 and Burnley 3-2 in the League Cup before beating Arsenal 3-1 after extra-time in the Wembley final: Peter Downsborough, Rod Thomas, John Trollope, Joe Butler, Frank Burrows, Stan Harland, Don Heath, Roger Smart, John Smith (Willie Penman), Peter Noble, Don Rogers.

### 1985/86

Swindon Town stormed to the Fourth Division title with a record 102 points in 1985/86. Lou Macari's side made a poor start in the League but defeated Sunderland and Sheffield Wednesday en route to the Milk Cup fourth round. Kenny Allen arrived from Torquay and Dave Bamber from Portsmouth as Swindon soared to the top of the table with 14 wins in 16 matches. They set a club record of 13 consecutive home victories with a 3-1 win over Burnley and clinched the title with a 1-1 draw at Mansfield. Charlie Henry and Colin Gordon scored 35 goals between them, while skipper Colin Calderwood was ever-present.

### 1989/90

Swindon Town won the 1989/90 Second Division play-off final but were denied top-flight status after an illegal payments scandal. Swindon had qualified for the play-offs the previous season and Ossie Ardiles replaced Lou Macari as manager. They soared into the promotion frame with seven wins in nine games including a 6-0 victory over Stoke and signed David Kerslake from QPR in November. Alan McLoughlin, Duncan Shearer and Steve White starred as Swindon maintained their challenge with just one defeat in 13 matches and finished in fourth position. They defeated Sunderland 1-0 in the play-off final at Wembley.

### 1992/93

Player-manager Glenn Hoddle was a key figure in Swindon Town's 1992/93 First Division play-off final success. Swindon were early pace-setters and new signing Craig Maskell grabbed a hat-trick in a 4-1 win over Cambridge United. They went second after a 5-1 demolition of Notts

County, then overcame a lean spell with Ross MacLaren's return inspiring a run of seven victories in nine games. Dave Mitchell netted three times in a 6-4 win at Birmingham and Swindon qualified for the play-offs in fifth position. They defeated Tranmere 5-4 on aggregate, then gained a thrilling 4-3 win over Leicester in the Wembley final.

### 1995/96

Swindon Town stormed to the Second Division title under player-boss Steve McMahon in 1995/96. They had plummeted from the Premiership to Second Division and newcomers included Wayne Allison, Steve Finney and Mark Seagraves. Swindon were early leaders, winning seven of their first nine games, and Kevin Horlock netted a hat-trick in a 4-1 victory at Bristol Rovers. They remained in pole position and took Southampton to an FA Cup fifth round replay. Ian Culverhouse and Mark Robinson were ever-present, while leading scorer Wayne Allison and Shaun Taylor also starred as they won the title by nine points.



■ Colin Calderwood and Marco Gabbiadini battle it out at Wembley in 1990





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## QUESTION KARL...

**In a change of format this season, club captain Karl Duguid will be answering YOUR questions on life at Layer Road as the season unfolds...**

### **What were your feelings about Tuesday night?**

*Tony Rodgers*

Very disappointed not to get through, really. We felt that in the first half, we'd gone about things the right way and done enough to get something out of the game. We were pleased to have stopped them scoring in the first half whilst creating plenty ourselves and when we got the goal, we felt we could go on and win the game.

Then they score their two goals and it's disappointing, because you know you've let them back in it but, even though it was a tough ask, the lads kept going right until the end.

Despite the defeat, the first half tempo and performance overall was decent and it was something we can take out of the match.

### **How did you find it playing up front?**

*Sam Stowell*

Quite enjoyable to be honest! I've obviously played there in the past, so it wasn't a role that was new to me and I enjoyed being back up there against Swansea. It was a game where I was involved in plenty of the play and I had some opportunities, so it was not too bad a night in that respect.

### **How do you lift the lads after Tuesday's defeat?**

*Jason Graham*

I don't think you need to, to be honest, because you only have to look at the league table and that gives you something positive to focus on. We all know what needs doing between now and the end of the season and we are all up for it.

There were plenty of positives to take out of Tuesday night's game and, if we can perform like we did in the first half of that match, we've got a real chance.

### **Other teams have done us a favour in dropping points, but do you think it's time for us to step it up?**

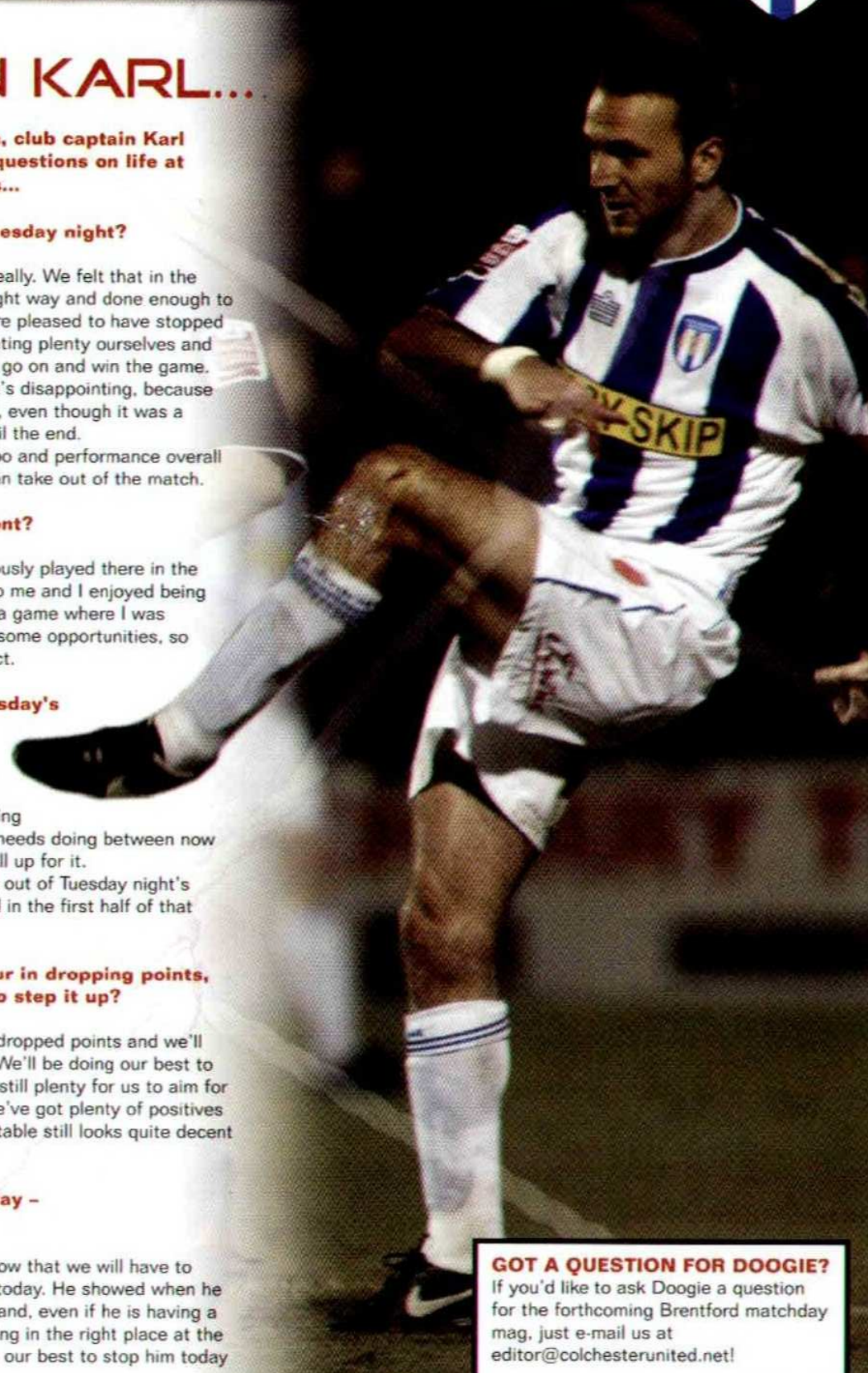
*Dave Latham*

It has helped us that other teams have dropped points and we'll take any favours going in that respect! We'll be doing our best to collect our own points because there is still plenty for us to aim for in the next few weeks. We know that we've got plenty of positives to be working with and that the league table still looks quite decent for us.

### **Jamie Cureton's back in town today – can we stop him?**

*Mark Jackson*

We know that he is a danger and we know that we will have to keep an eye on him from start to finish today. He showed when he was with us what a quality striker he is and, even if he is having a quiet game, he still has the knack of being in the right place at the right time to grab a goal. We'll be doing our best to stop him today and hopefully collect the right result.



### **GOT A QUESTION FOR DOOGIE?**

If you'd like to ask Doogie a question for the forthcoming Brentford matchday mag, just e-mail us at [editor@colchesterunited.net](mailto:editor@colchesterunited.net)!



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# BARSIDE NINJA

## More answers than questions

Usually I hate losing, as people who know me will testify, and in the aftermath of Tuesday night I was fairly gutted but on reflection I'm not too bothered about the result. Actually change that. I hate losing, full stop. But I'm over it and its time to move on. We now have one thing to focus on and it happens to be the most important of them all. Promotion.

When I saw the teams milling about before kick off, roving an eye over the Swansea squad I wondered to myself if some of them had been loaned from Colchester's number one visitor attraction - Gnome Magic. Typical then that two of them would score against us. I felt Dannsy had his best game for a long time and he wasn't the only one. At the same time, all the best for the final, but hopefully Swansea's league form will suffer because of the distraction of the trip to Cardiff.

It would be easy to ask the question - where did it all go wrong? Has it? I am the mostest eternalist optimist type person, but I would quite happily stand there and admit that we have been operating below the levels which have seen us go on two fantastic runs to catapult us to the top of the league. But if you put the Chelski game to one side and consider we have had to play the team top, third, fourth, fifth (twice) and seventh in the league (with four of these games being away) that's one hell of a tricky set of games.

Upon further inspection, if the truth be told we probably only deserved to lose one of them. How many goals have been disallowed that should have stood, how many times had we hit the woodwork? I would be far more concerned if we were not creating the chances, but we are. It's just time to start putting them away. With Skippy out suffering with hamstring trouble it may be time for Parky to delve into the loan market to inject a bit of pace to the forward line.

### Encouraging

We are not quite there but the signs are most definitely encouraging and now is the time when the lads need us fans the most. Big Chris looked more sprightly upfront despite his knee trouble, and Doogie filled in well in a withdrawn/supporting striker role.

When we got the ball on the deck we really caused Swansea more than a few problems, but when you see Dannsy run the length of the pitch with the ball, burst through into the box at lightening speed, get blocked off by three defenders and understandably tumble to the ground into the advertising boards only to be booked for his troubles, you kind know its not going to be your night.

Frankly, it didn't surprise me to find out that the referee and linesman in front of the main stand both sit down all day watching Ivor the Engine, listening to the latest cd from the Bridgend Male Choir, cooking new leek pie recipes, repairing the holes in their rain macs and rubbing dubbin into their walking boots.



■ Chris Iwelumo - looked sprightly

I await my invitation to Lancaster Gate to explain my comments in due course.

Alongside a vastly improved performance, there was some additional good news to come out of Tuesday night as Oldham lost, allowing us to maintain the points buffer that holds us in our play-off place with us collecting some three games in hand now.

There has been talk amongst fans and the media that our season is in danger of imploding. I don't understand it. Surely at the start of the season, we could only dream about the position that we find ourselves in. Tuesday's performance should give the players and us the fans so much confidence, not to mention the goal.

If you were there at the Forest game, you will realise that anything can happen. There is still so much to play for...





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# ELEVEN GAME SEASON

**For fifty minutes of Tuesday night's LDV Vans Area Final against Swansea, the dream was back on.**

A patient first half performance, with the U's well on top against their Welsh opponents, had been rewarded by Neil Danns' fourteenth goal of the season and the tie was back on level terms.

However, just as the Layer Road faithful began thinking about the journey down the M4 and the Millennium Stadium the Swans hit back via the two Leons, Britton and Knight.

For midfielder Kevin Watson, the goals came as a 'kick in the teeth' and he was in reflective mood when we spoke to him after the game on Tuesday night.

"We deserved to be one up on the back of our first half performance and they were on the back foot at that point," he told U's Review.

"Then we've let them back into the tie and, to be perfectly honest, when they score those two goals, it really was an uphill challenge, and we weren't good enough to break them down.

"Once we had the goal, you

expect to kick on but we've made errors along the way for them to score their goals and it was a kick in the teeth. I can't remember too much about how the goals came about, but you shouldn't be conceding two at home.

"From that point, it was pretty much over then and as much as we huffed and puffed and had some chances, it was going to take a hell of a lot to get back into the game."

## Positives

Despite the missed opportunity of a final against Carlisle, there were some positives to take out of the game. Neil Danns looked back to his sparkling best in his new found position on the wing, whilst the overall pattern of play in the first half was one of a Colchester side beginning to find their feet after the recent dip in form.

Indeed, the direction of play was pretty much solely towards Willy Gueret's goal during the first forty five minutes and, although disappointed to have exited the competition at this late stage, Kevin was determined to pick up on those positive points.

He added: "The first half was as good as we've been for a long, long time and it seemed like we were back to where we were when we were on our good run earlier on in the year.

"Hopefully, the result isn't going to take too much out of us. It was a hard game, and we put a lot into it, but we weren't good enough on the night.

"Now though, we've got no distractions - no FA Cup, no League Cup, no LDV. We're in one thing, the main thing, and that's the league."

The U's come into this

afternoon's game four points off second and still ahead of Oldham after the Latics' midweek defeat to Rotherham.

With the two games in hand that the U's possess over the rest of the sides around them in the division, the hope is that one or two positive results will soon cement a position in the top six and once again allow us to turn the focus towards catching the two sides currently occupying the automatic promotion spots.

"We're still in a great position but teams aren't going to keep doing us favours. It's up to us and, at the moment, our destiny is still in our own hands," Kevin admitted.

"We've got to start picking up results and do what we were doing well before, which we did in the first half against Swansea.

"Most importantly, we've got to make sure we don't get too downhearted as there is still a hell of a long way to go."

Kevin comes up against one of his former sides this afternoon in Swindon and knows that the match against the relegation threatened Robins in some ways presents an opportunity to begin again and take on a new part to the season.

There remain 33 points available for the U's to claim and a win today will go a long way to kick starting a campaign which still promises plenty.

He stressed: "It is an eleven game season for us now and we have to try and pick up as many points as we can and see where that takes us. We're still in a great position - other teams have got to play each other and several are having a wobble. As much as it pains me to say it, only Southend have been picking up results consistently.

"We've been on a poor run, no two ways about it, but we're still in a fantastic position. Although you'd rather have the points in the bag, we've got two games in hand and it's down to us. We've only got ourselves to blame now if we throw it away, it's as simple as that.

"I said to someone last week that we needed a goal to go in off someone's backside and we got that against Swansea. Now we have to take that as a positive step and kick on against Swindon."



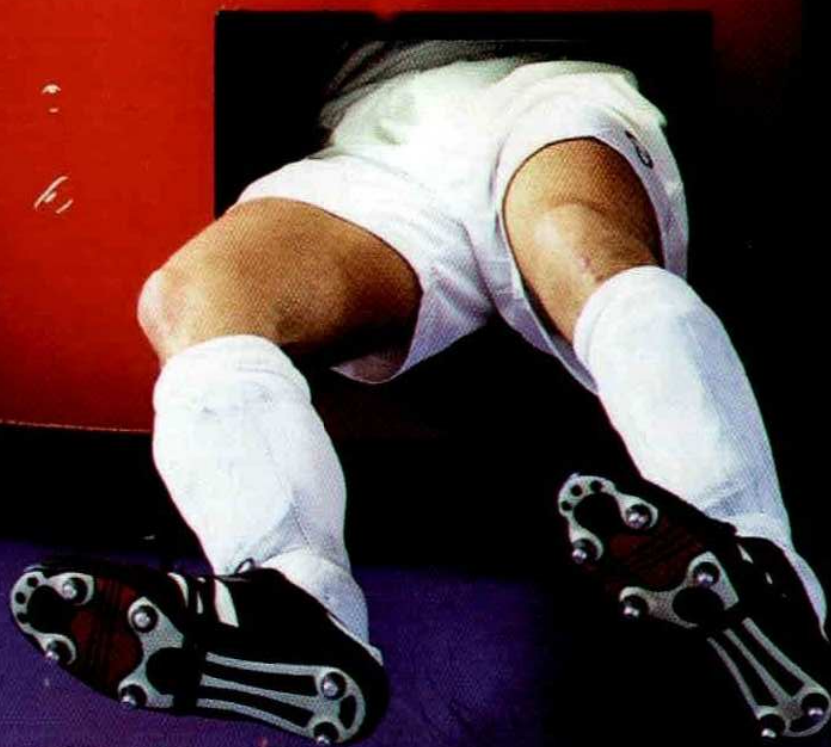


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## U'S VIEWS

**With the U's continuing to chase promotion from League One, we will continue to ask U's supporters to come up with more of their views for the U's media department.**

In this week's letters page, we have news of the U's management team enjoying a slap up meal and the fans' views on recent games.

Over the rest of this season, we will again be looking for regular letter writers to contribute to this page and discuss the hot topics of the moment.

So, if you want to see your name in the award winning matchday magazine in the next few months, you can contact us at [editor@colchesterunited.net](mailto:editor@colchesterunited.net) or by writing to us at the following address:-

U's Views,  
Media Department,  
Colchester United Football Club,  
Layer Road, Colchester,  
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### TASTY TREAT

U's boss Phil Parkinson and physio Stuart Ayles were treated to lunch recently by fan and budding chef Helen Sparkes.

Helen has previously been the winner of Dolmio's "Best mum in the kitchen" award

and is now hoping to turn her hobby into a reality by becoming a cookery journalist or presenter in the coming months.

And she took the opportunity to show off her abilities to the manager and physio of her favourite football team.

She told U's Review: "I've had a deep passion for all types of food and cooking for well over 20 years now.

"It started when I enrolled at the Colchester Institute on a two year Hotel management and catering course. By the end of my time there, I had earned seven City and Guilds certificates.

"I have worked in various restaurants and bistros since my college days and am not sure which I would consider more tiring, the long split shifts, sometimes not finishing until one in the morning, or now being a very busy mum to five-year-old twin girls!"

Helen has also launched her own website, [www.helenjaysrecipepage.com](http://www.helenjaysrecipepage.com) and has asked U's supporters to take a look at the website and give their views on what's on offer.

The search continues for the person who could give her her big break in the cookery game and she added: "I would like to thank Colchester United for their support in helping me to achieve my ambition."

### FOOTBALL FOCUS

Well, the cups are out of the way, so we know what's at stake now.

The players have eleven games in which they can write themselves into the club's history books by becoming the first set of U's footballers to be playing in the top two divisions.

We appear to be coming out the other side of our blip, so fingers crossed that this afternoon's game against Swindon is the start of another, massively important winning run.

Steve Garvey



■ Helen Sparkes serves up lunch for Parky and Stuart Ayles

### TODAY'S MASCOTS...

Name:  
Steven Gamble  
Age: 12  
From: Colchester  
Hobbies:  
Football & music  
Favourite  
U's player:  
Neil Danns  
Favourite  
other team:  
Manchester Utd



■ Steven Gamble

Name:  
Gabriel Vargas  
Age: Seven  
From: Colchester  
Hobbies: Football,  
swimming & piano  
Favourite  
U's player:  
Chris Iwelumo  
Favourite  
other team:  
Chelsea and  
Wigan



■ Gabriel Vargas

Name:  
Dale Milgate  
Age: 11  
From: Felixstowe  
Hobbies: Football,  
guitar & drums  
Favourite  
U's player:  
Neil Danns  
Favourite  
other team:  
Liverpool



■ Dale Milgate

Name:  
Scott Masters  
Age: Nine  
From: Witham  
Hobbies: Football,  
cricket, drawing &  
Playstation  
Favourite  
U's player:  
Richard Garcia  
Favourite  
other team: Chelsea

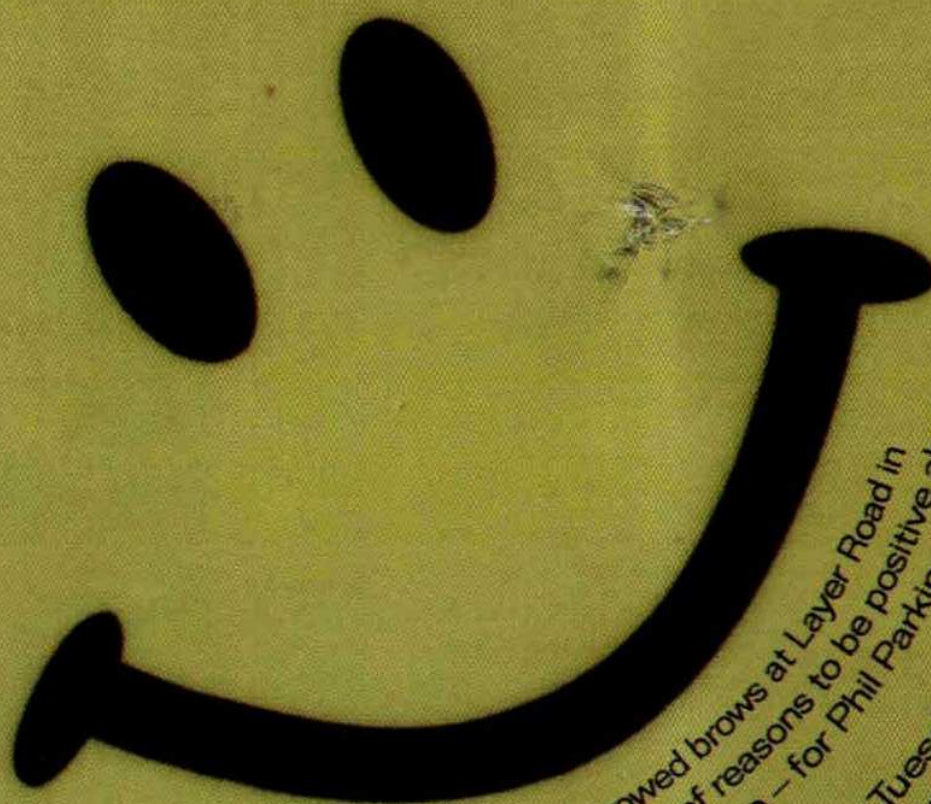


■ Scott Masters





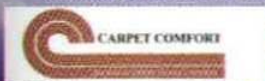
# Smile!



There may have been a few furrowed brows at Layer Road in recent weeks, but there are plenty of reasons to be positive about how things have gone – and can still go – for Phil Parkinson and his players this season.

So, if you're still feeling a bit gloomy after Tuesday night's LDV Vans exit to Swansea and need some reassurance as the U's look to get their promotion chase back on track this afternoon, look on the bright side of life and reflect on the nine fantastic moments we've already had during the course of 2005/6 and the big one that remains very much on the cards over the next few weeks.





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### 1 EMERGENCE OF YOUNG TALENT

As far back as the Bristol City game in August, the signs were that a promising crop of youngsters were emerging from the Layer Road youth ranks.

Dean Gerken and Greg Halford were already first team regulars ahead of 2005/6, but John White, George Elokobi and Garry Richards have all matured into genuine contenders for first team places. White in particular has had an exceptional season and is a very strong bet for Young Player of the Year when the awards are handed out in two months time.

Best of all, the likes of Mark Cousins, Robbie King and Jamie Guy have all done well during loan spells in mens' football and will be pushing for places before the end of 2006.

### 2 LAST MINUTE WINNERS

Whilst Oldham may have walked away with the points after Richard Butcher lashed home a 93rd minute winner last Saturday, the U's fans have enjoyed their fair share of dramatic and excitement-inducing victories over the course of the past six months.

Rotherham, Blackpool and Yeovil have all suffered from Colchester sucker punches late in the game but the best of the bunch was the home match against Nottingham Forest, which will live long in the memory.

Two points appeared to have been dropped when Nathan Tyson stole in for an equaliser on 90 minutes, but the resilient U's went straight down the other end to score two more and send the home fans into raptures.

### 3 ON CLOUD NINE AGAINST LEAMINGTON

In some ways, it was the result that sparked off the U's surge into the upper reaches of the table, but the Leamington result will live on beyond 2005/6 thanks to the U's equalling the club record victory.

When it took 30-odd minutes for the home side to break the deadlock, there was little to indicate the goal fest to come. Yet, with the visitors' resistance broken, the U's opened the floodgates and matched that result against Bradford all those years ago.

### 4 WIN, WIN AND WIN AGAIN!

Although it has been a little while since the U's last victory, we of course have enjoyed some memorable triumphs along the way since the start of the season.

As well as equalling the club's record victory, Phil Parkinson's players not only equalled the record winning streak once,

but did it a second time before eventually beating it with ten in a row.

In the 69 years since the club had been formed, the U's had only ever won eight in a row once and when they drew at Swansea to miss out on nine in a row, it seemed like that record would continue to stand.

However, the U's went again and won ten matches on the bounce, including two excellent FA Cup victories. The sequence of 20 wins in 22 games is one that will probably never be beaten.

### 5 BIG CHRIS AND DANNY'S GOALS

It has been some 25 years since a Colchester United player broke 20 goals for a season and, although he has endured a frustrating time of late, Chris Iwelumo still stands a real chance of joining Tony Adcock in the Twenty Goals club before the end of the current campaign.

Chris has been the big striker that the U's have been crying out for over the years and his efforts in leading the line will go down as a big part of the current campaign. Presently on 16 goals, the big man needs just four more to reach that much vaunted total.

He has been ably supported from midfield by Neil Danns, who has now struck a personal best fourteen this season, including a streak of seven in six games at the turn of the year.

### 6 BEATING TWO CHAMPIONSHIP CLUBS

With promotion still a possibility, the U's would go into a first season in the top two divisions full of confidence, given their experiences against Championship opposition this season.

Having lost to Sheffield United in the FA Cup two years ago, the revenge mission this time around went exactly to plan as they bounced back from falling behind to go on and record a memorable 2-1 win over Neil Warnock's Premiership bound Blades.

However, it got even better in the next round as Derby County were put to the sword at Layer Road. An electric atmosphere saw the U's see off the Rams with a feisty display and put Colchester United well and truly on the map.

### 7 STICKING TOGETHER

With the team doing so well in the FA Cup as well as the league, it was no surprise that the players started to gain some attention from elsewhere.

The January transfer window was always going to be one that had the U's fans

chewing their nails nervously with the young talent we have in our squad, but when those highly rated individuals entered the first month of 2006 in such red hot form, then the worries grew still further.

The four weeks were an arduous process as rumour followed rumour, but, when midnight passed on January 31st, the squad had been kept together for our promotion chase.

### 8 STADIUM PROGRESS

It has been a lengthy process, but things seem to be starting to fall into place on the town's Community Stadium.

The progress on the pitch has no doubt helped affairs, but the efforts off it – both by the Council, the club and the Sports Trust, as well as the Stadium Action Group – have pushed it closer to fruition than ever before.

Undoubtedly, there is still much to do, but the chances are that 2006 could be a momentous year off the pitch for Colchester United and the town itself.

### 9 CHELSEA

Ultimately the result didn't go the U's way, but for nine glorious minutes Parky's troops were in the lead against the Premiership champions and one of Europe's top sides.

Even more remarkably, for all but eleven minutes of the game, the U's were level with Jose Mourinho's star studded squad and looking likely to bring Lampard and co back to Layer Road.

What made the day, though, was the sensational backing of the fans. 6,292 U's fans made it an afternoon to remember as the whole club did themselves proud in front of an international audience.

### 10 PROMOTION?

Still possible and still do-able.

Eleven games, starting this afternoon, stand between Colchester United and the chance of football in the top two divisions for the first time in their history.

Despite the recent dip in form, the U's remain very much in touch with the top two spots and the home game against Brentford could well turn out to be a promotion decider.

With heart, spirit and determination, elevation into the Championship remains on the cards and it promises to be an exciting conclusion to the season.

Promotion, above all else, would prove to be the best of all of these memorable moments!



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# LOOKING BACK...

## EAST ANGLIAN

DAILY TIMES

### 5 YEARS AGO...

**Joe Keith produced another man of the match display as the U's bounced back from a goal down to beat visiting Brentford 3-1 on Friday night, March 16, 2001.**

The towering Lloyd Owusu headed the Bees in front after only nine minutes, but Brentford were simply over-run during the final hour.

Keith netted the equaliser before the break. The former West Ham trainee is relishing his new role on the left wing, rather than his previous more defensive job at left-back. Keith is still on the transfer list at his own request.

Colchester took complete control in the second-half, and goals from Mick Stockwell and Karl Duguid completed the comeback. It was Duguid's first goal of the year.

Steve Whitton's men are in lower mid table in Division Two, as are Brentford. Rotherham are setting the pace at the top.



■ Joe Keith - match-winning performance

### 10 YEARS AGO...

**U's midfielder Steve Ball was not happy to be told that he would be released at the end of March, 1996, especially as it gives him little time or desire to find a new club.**

Ball, who had been on a month-to-month contract at Layer Road since last summer, felt let down by the management and the board.

He said: "I feel very bitter about the whole thing. I am angry and very disappointed. Colchester is my home club and I have been here for four years now."

Meanwhile, Steve Wignall's men secured a goalless draw at old Division Three strugglers Scarborough on Saturday, March 16, 1996. The U's extended their unbeaten run to five games, but they are still two points adrift of the play-off zone.



■ Steve Ball - upset

### 20 YEARS AGO...

**The U's lean spell in March, 1986, continued with a couple of other indifferent performances and results in the Fourth Division.**

United were beaten 2-1 at home by Crewe, despite a goal by Tony English, on March 25. Just three days later and the U's were held to a 1-1 draw by Swindon, again at Layer Road. Once again, English was the lone marksman.

That made it just one victory in 11 games for the U's.





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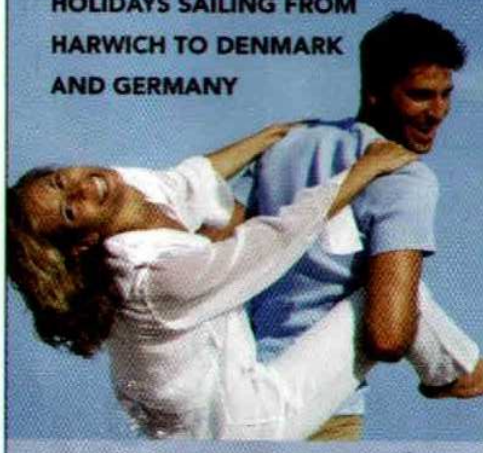
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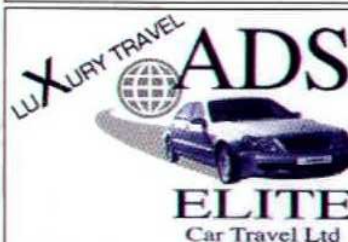
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## (HIT THE) NET (A)GAIN

### CUFC messageboard regular Carbondioxide continues optimistic opining.

Join him and the other 'boarders' via the U's website: [www.cu-fc.com](http://www.cu-fc.com) and share your views.

I hate to say I told you so. Actually, I don't. I'm a smug so-and-so at the best of times, so when I'm right (which is most of the time) I love to crow about it as much as the next man. And the next at the moment is Geoffrey Boycott (I'm listening to England losing on Five Live) and we all know he's his own biggest fan.

Anyway, I was right. I said by the time you read my last column it could be five straight defeats, but (and this is a rarity) I'm not so smug about being right this time. I'm going to try and avoid mentioning the game against Swansea for fear of having a similar curse on our hopes of reaching The Millennium Stadium.

The cause of our problems is as clear as the nose on Doogy's face. We're not scoring goals. When we were on our rampaging little run, after trouncing Leamington, we were scoring two or three goals at a canter, looking like we could get five or six, if only the opposition would deem themselves worthy of the effort.

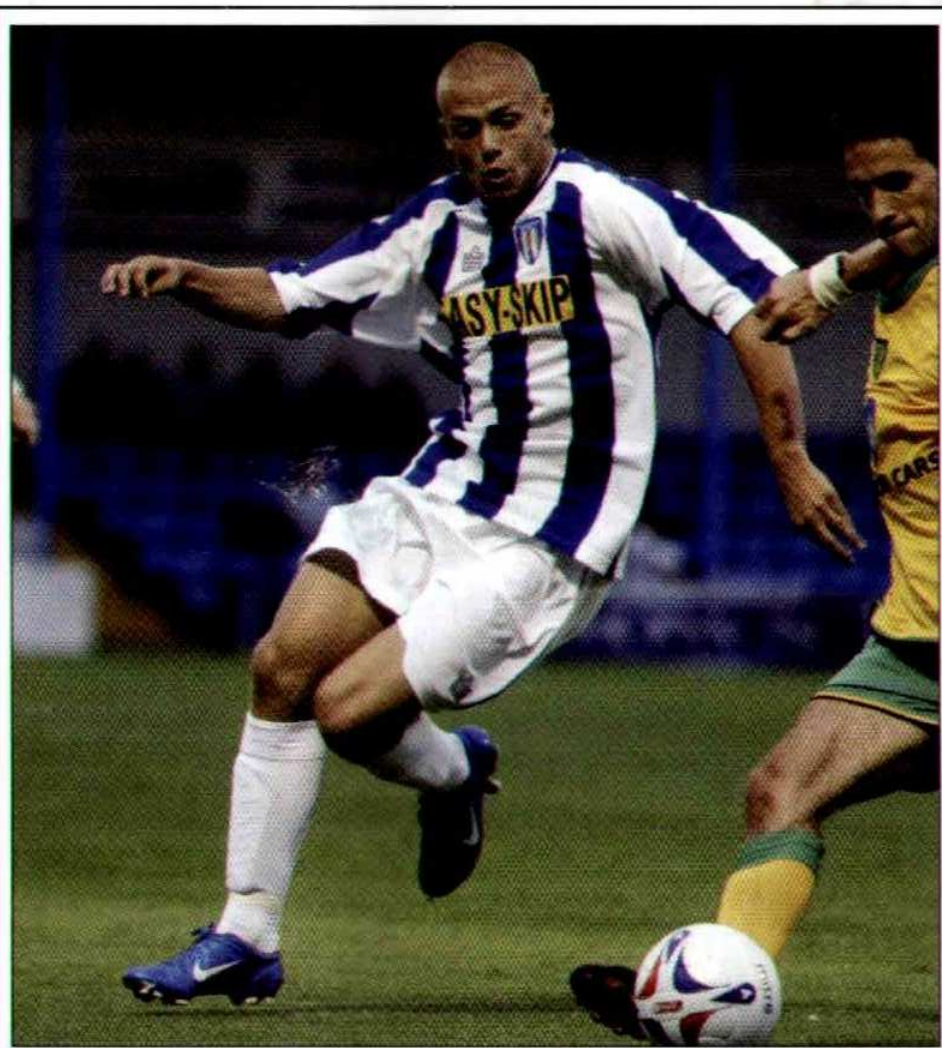
Now, we couldn't hit the proverbial cow's backside from two paces.

A few message-boarders are muttering about giving Jamie Guy a go, especially after he netted a scorcher for Cambridge United recently. Personally I think it's a lot to ask of a still very young man: "No pressure Jamie, but the goals have dried up. Any chance you could remedy the situation on your lonesome? Just we need our promotion dreams saving, that's all. Like I said, no pressure."

#### Keep the faith

As for me, I tend towards the more Bon Jovi approach: Keep the Faith (those of you who said 'Slippery When Wet' see me afterwards). It's not as if we're playing terribly and getting trounced (the game that shall not be named, aside).

We're creating chances, hitting the woodwork, getting unlucky refereeing decisions (Iwelumo's "goal" against Swansea; Kem's red-card recently), conceding rather than scoring late goals



■ Jamie Guy - calls for his inclusion

and generally not getting that elusive rub-of-the-green.

Remind you of anything? How about September/October 2005?

Just six months ago we were playing well and losing or drawing. Lacking confidence, lacking composure in front of goal and struggling for points.

Back then we got lucky and we had a morale boosting win. We shaded Yeovil in a close game and then racked up a rugby score against Leamington. I bet Parky would be tempted to invite them back for a friendly if the fixture list weren't already so busy!

Of our remaining 11 League games, five

are against teams in the bottom half of the table.

If we can spark another little run, towards the end of the season, this little hiccup will soon be forgotten.

Confidence breeds goals, which bring confidence. Vicious little circle isn't it?

As ever our cheers and support can only help. You know what to do.







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## FOOTBALL FIRSTS... MARK COUSINS

### My first team...

...was Baddow Spartaks, who I joined when I was eight years old. Like most keepers, I started off playing out on the pitch and ended one season as top scorer! I switched to playing in goal when I was eleven – our regular keeper hadn't turned up, so I was chosen to go in goal. I didn't like it at first but my dad encouraged me to stick it out and I gradually got used to playing there. We didn't win much, we were pretty much a middle of the league side.

### My first mentor...

...was Ray Potter, who used to be a goalkeeper for West Brom during the 1960s. He ran a goalkeeping school in the area, and I attended it from the age of twelve. It was Ray who got me my trial at Fulham and, although he was a very old school coach, he toughened me up and made me into a much better goalkeeper.

### My first boots...

...were a pair of Adidas, nothing too special. I was never really allowed a top of the range pair of boots, because my parents said that I was growing too quick and always needing new pairs. I wore them all the time and, being a pro even at an early age, cleaned them all the time as well!

### My first League game...

...I haven't played for the first team yet, but my first game at reserve team level was actually for Barnet. The gaffer knows Martin Allen, who was Barnet boss at the time, and they were desperate for a keeper. We played Southend and I think I was given man of the match for my performance, which wasn't a bad way to start.

### My first penalty save...

...I have only saved one penalty in a competitive action and that was for Whitton United when I was on work experience there. The lads on my side knew that the guy that was going to take the penalty didn't have the best record and it wasn't the best effort to be honest. He hit it low to my right and I turned it around the post. We lost 2-1 but it kept us in the game.

### My first roommate...

...was John White when we played Walsall last season. It was the first time I had travelled for any first team game and hadn't spent much time with the senior players, so it was good to room with John, as we had been in the youth team together. Unfortunately, there's no gossip on him because he really is Mr Clean!



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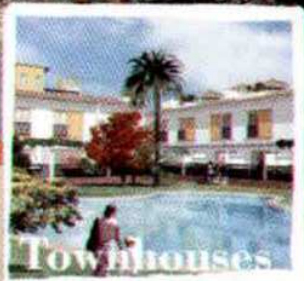
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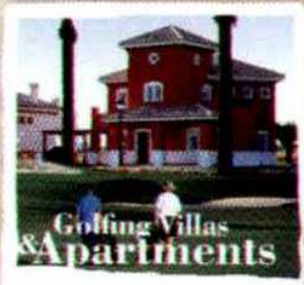
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# STUART AYLES

**First of all, an update on Richard Garcia. He had a scan on his knee yesterday, of which we are awaiting the results.**

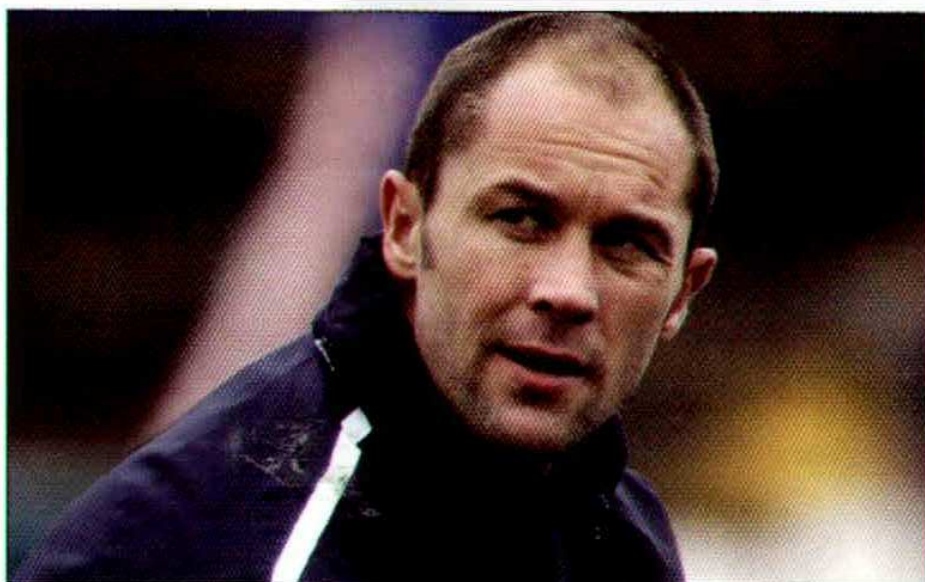
He will be going up to see a specialist in Cambridge on Monday with the results of the scan.

Unfortunately, I cannot tell you too much more at this stage, but we will obviously keep you posted via the website and in my next set of notes.

Marino Keith, meanwhile, has come through the first week of his new rehab programme very well and he has spent a week in the gym performing his eccentric exercises for his Achilles and progressively harder work on the exercise bike.

It started very light on Monday and, by yesterday, he was working extremely hard on the bike. Next week, his programme involves going back into the pool and rekindling his love affair with the water. It's back out with the snorkel and flippers for Marino! Again, we will keep you posted as to his progress, but so far so good.

At this stage of the season, it becomes very difficult physically and mentally for the players as the demands of the season start to take their toll. As we have had successful cup runs in both the FA Cup and the LDV Vans, we have already played a season's worth of matches.



■ Marino Keith - back in the pool!

It is now about fine tuning and resting the players to get the best out of everybody between now and the end of the season. This week, I sat down with the manager and the coaching staff and discussed how we prepare for the last eleven games of this season.

We have been planning football training,

gym based weights and fitness runs for the whole squad inbetween games, making sure we allow plenty of rest and recovery time in the process.

This may not be as easy as it sounds, because different players have different requirements as some players will have played more games than others and those not regularly involved need to keep their fitness levels up so when called upon, they can slot in to the team seamlessly.

This can be likened to spinning plates where at the moment, we just need to keep them spinning and some plates wobble quicker than others!

Also, it is important that we get the players' nutrition and hydration strategy right - as a club, we believe that this is very important and try to address the complete needs and requirements of every individual regarding these important factors.

This covers everything from nutritional supplements before training to correct food after training and nutritional support before and after matches.

With everything we do, we don't like to take chances and we feel that as a management team we like to cover every base to give ourselves the best possible chance of getting the results we need to finish the season successfully.

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## ONE WORLD

**"We are very pleased we have continuity with the manager and hopefully the others on the backroom staff. It means we can plan with authority knowing we have the people in place."**

"Martin has had a lot of problems to deal with over the last two years and I think he has learned a lot."

"For example we had injuries this season, which meant we were down to a sixteen man squad after three games this season."

"He has done a good job and if we can get those extra six points we will be happy with survival in this league this season."

"With his own squad and players next season we expect to be in the play-offs."

*Port Vale chairman Bill Bingham is delighted to have secured Martin Doyle's return*

**"In the first half, I thought we were worried about losing the game, which affected the way they played. In the second half, we dominated the play."**

"Set-plays were always going to be a problem. There was always going to be a mismatch between one of our 5ft 10in fellas marking a 6ft 3in, so we knew

that was going to be a problem from the start and I think the only header over the bar in the second half again was from a set-play. You can't grow people inches."

"We always knew if they were going to score that would probably be their most likely avenue."

"We switched to a three and you put one less man in the back line and we play more football. Stick an extra man back there and make it four but you just play flat. We just thought we were losing the game so we needed to step up the pace and we just thought going to a three would make us play, pass the ball and get Stephen Cooke, Steven Foley and people free, which to be fair, it worked."

"It's always difficult when a side comes here and everybody is fighting for their lives. They make it really difficult for you and we haven't got the option of just throwing the ball in with no height in the side so we have to manipulate the ball and be clever and, credit to them, they did that in the second half. We created one or two openings but their goalkeeper did what he's paid to do and kept us out."

*Goalmouth hero Sean O'Driscoll uses the 1-0 home defeat to Bradford last week*



■ Sam Aiston - praised

**"I am delighted for Sam. I was particularly pleased with his first goal because he got in around the back of their defence, which is something we want Sam to do a little bit more often."**

"He is often in the wider areas when the ball comes into the box so it was a good goal from his point of view. His second goal was a great strike."

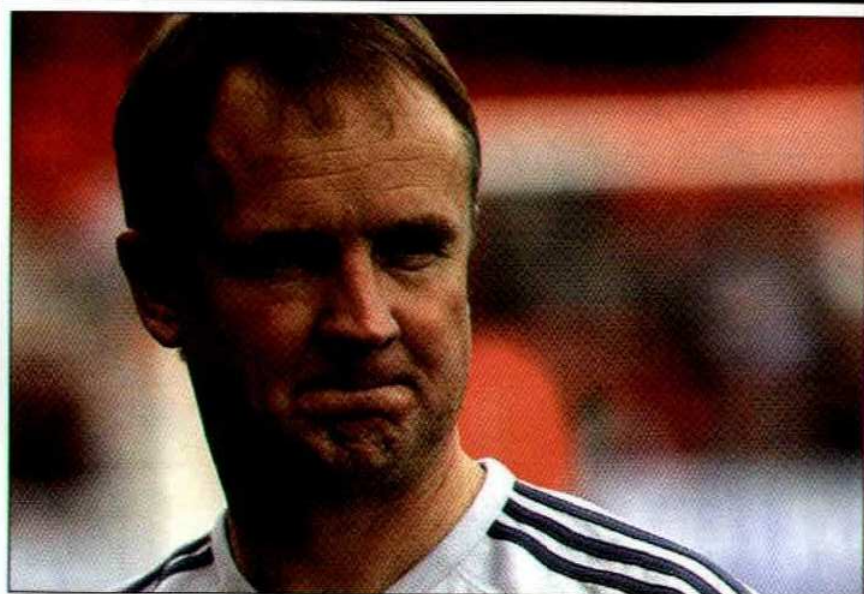
"Sam has done very well for us in the last week. It's been very important to have players from different positions in the team scoring some goals."

"We had Paul Hall here who scored a lot of goals last season and is scoring a lot for Chesterfield."

"If Sam can do things like that more regularly he'll be looked upon as a very good player for us."

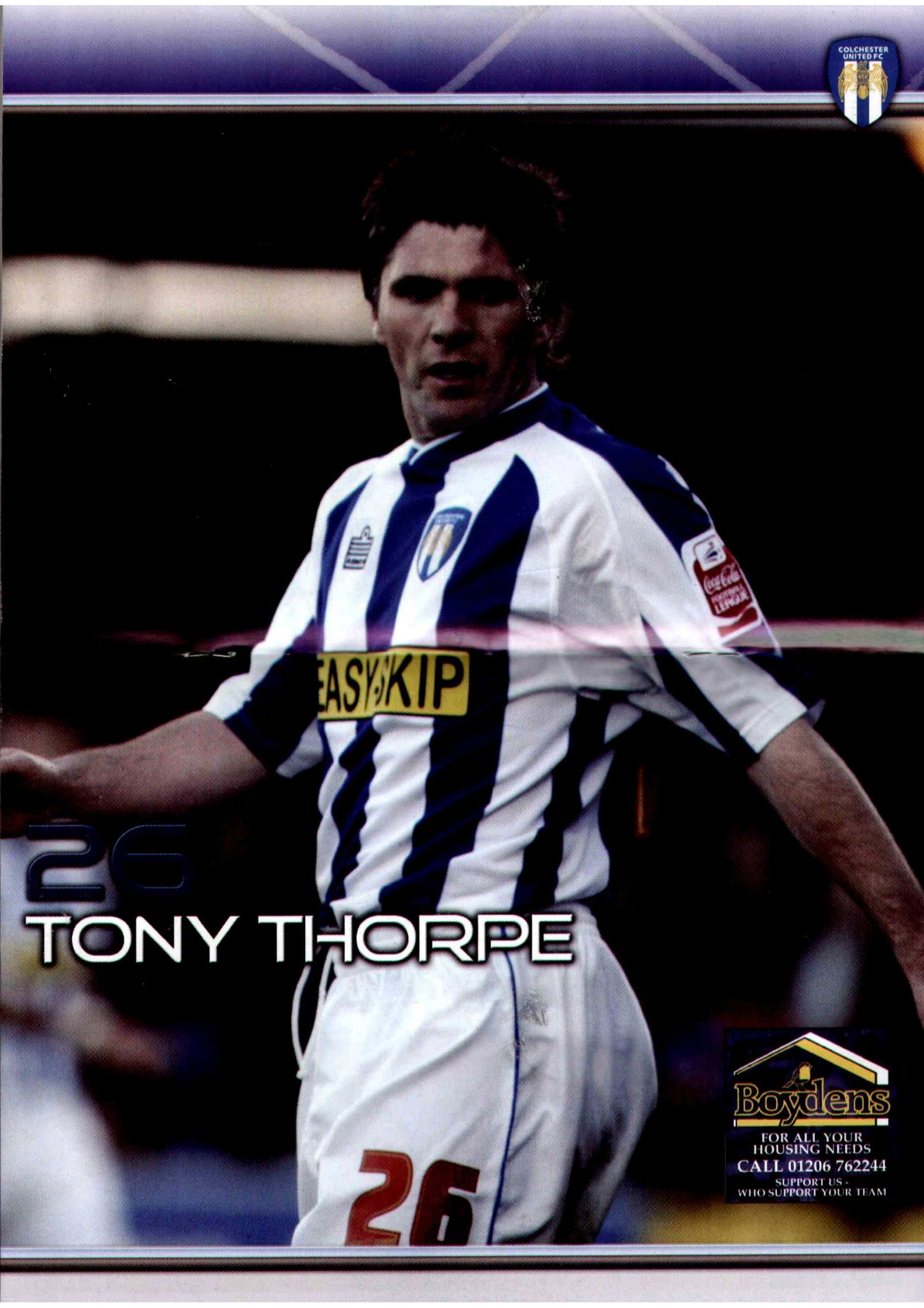
"He does other things very well and his attitude is fantastic. Sometimes his final ball is not what we would like it to be but you can't knock Sam. He is a really wholehearted player."

*Brian Little is full of praise for Tranmere winger Sam Aiston after his goals in the 2-1 win over Chesham*



■ Sean O'Driscoll - disappointed with reverse





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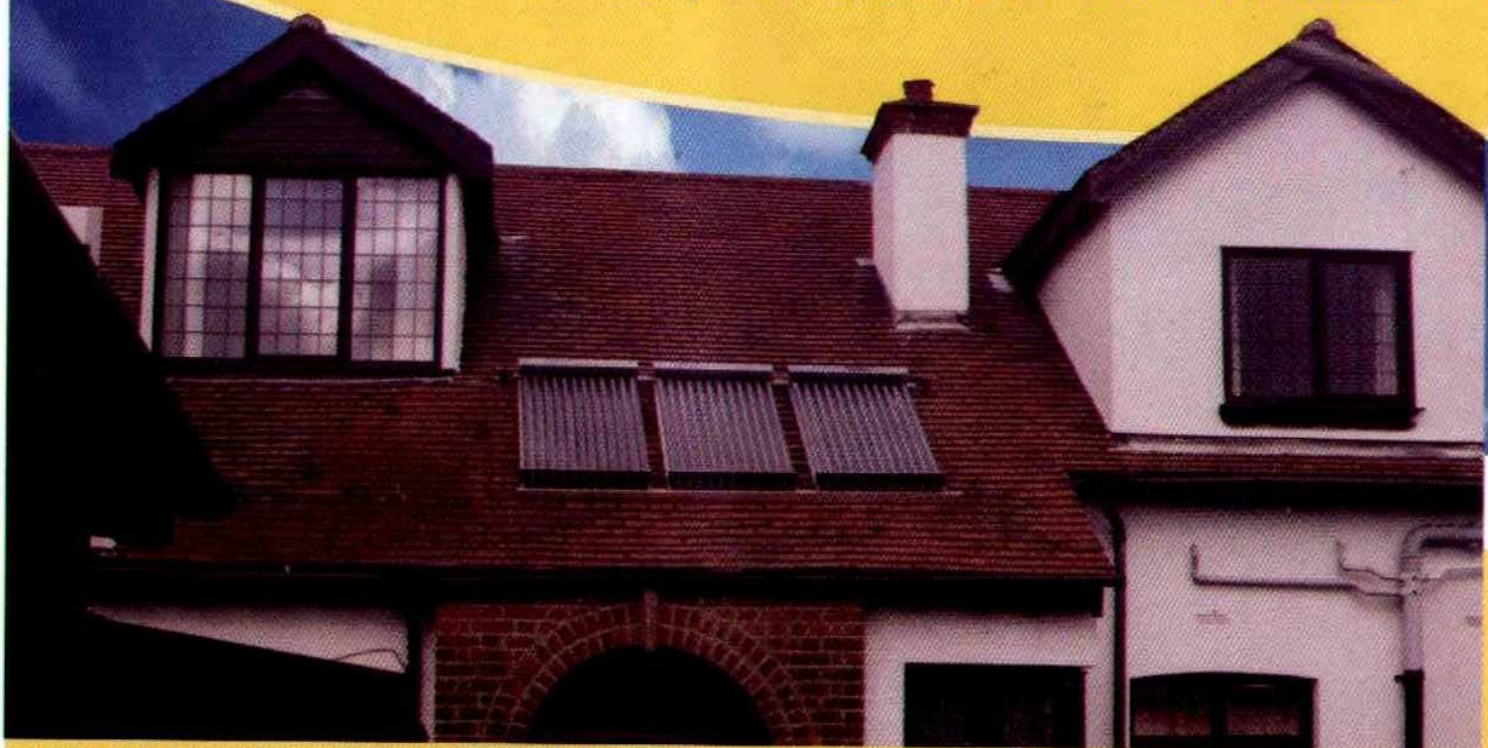
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## U18s



Joe Dunne

In my notes for the Southend game, I mentioned that we had progressed to the Area Final of the Youth Alliance Cup against Gillingham.

We played this fixture on Wednesday afternoon at the Garrison and I am pleased to inform you that we won the game and will face either Tranmere Rovers or Preston North End in the national final.

The game was played in difficult conditions, with the wind not making its mind up which way it wanted to blow, and this made for some misplaced clearances. There were a lot of decisions that weren't given as expected for both sides and these were hotly contested. That was only to be expected because we had two sets of young players that were desperate to win an important game of football.

*Chances*

The first half was an open affair with both teams having chances to score and luckily it was us who drew first blood, thanks to a goal from Anthony Wordsworth. Tom Webb beat the offside trap and his low cross from the right side was met by Anthony, who side footed it home. Gillingham had a good chance just after this but Mark Cousins

made a great save to turn away their centre forward's header.

During half time, I decided to be more direct and try and get the ball forward a little bit quicker than we had been doing. We did this well and scored from a corner within six minutes of the restart. It was a set piece that we had worked on before the match and it was great to see it come off. In previous games, we haven't really laid down and died to score from set pieces but we did that this time and Craig Hughes bundled the ball in.

Gillingham then had a lot more of the ball and pushed us back so I had to change things a bit. We went a touch more defensive and tried to shut the game out as we had that two-goal cushion. Gillingham did then have a few chances in the last period to get back in the game, including the late goal they got, but we held on. It could have cost us but at the time it was the correct thing for us to do and the fact that we won the match probably justified the decision.

*Pleasing*

During that final spell, we had three schoolboys on the pitch, all of who came on as second half substitutes. Medi Elito, Jamie Petts and Nathan Speed were the lads involved and they will all be in the youth system for the next two years with me. The fact that we had three schoolboys playing was very pleasing, especially considering Gillingham had four or five third years in their side. These three young lads can be proud of getting contracts and being involved in this match but the real hard work starts now.

The other Area Final between Tranmere and Preston will not be played until early April, which means the final might not be until late April/early May.

This could prove difficult with the manager making decisions on our second years in the next couple of weeks. I may have to use more youngsters but I have done this a lot this season anyway. We have taken a few beatings as the season has gone on but I am proud of the way they have handled the pressure and they fully deserve this final.

Joe Dunne

U18s FIXTURES  
2005/2006

Aug 13	Northampton Town	D1-1
<b>Aug 20</b>	<b>Wycombe Wanderers</b>	<b>L2-3</b>
Aug 27	In Service	
<b>Sep 10</b>	<b>Leyton Orient</b>	<b>L0-3</b>
Sep 17	Rushden & Diamonds	D0-0
<b>Sep 24</b>	<b>Oxford United</b>	<b>W3-1</b>
Oct 1	Cambridge United*	D1-1
<b>Oct 8</b>	<b>Luton Town</b>	<b>W4-0</b>
Oct 15	Gillingham	W1-0
Oct 22	Cirencester*	D0-0
<b>Oct 29</b>	<b>Rushden &amp; Diamonds*</b>	<b>W2-1</b>
Nov 5	Cheltenham Town*	W5-1
Nov 10	Beaconsfield SYCOB*	W5-1
<b>Nov 19</b>	<b>Portsmouth</b>	<b>W4-0</b>
Nov 26	Southend United	D0-0
Nov 30	Barking & East Ham Utd*	W3-2
Dec 3	Brighton & Hove Albion	L1-4
Dec 14	Crystal Palace*	L2-3
<b>Dec 10</b>	<b>Brentford</b>	<b>W3-0</b>
<b>Dec 17</b>	<b>Cambridge United</b>	<b>P-P</b>
Jan 7	Queens Park Rangers	L0-1
Jan 14	Luton Town	W3-1
<b>Jan 21</b>	<b>Gillingham</b>	<b>L0-3</b>
<b>Jan 28</b>	<b>Southend United</b>	<b>L1-2</b>
Feb 4	Portsmouth	L0-2
<b>Feb 11</b>	<b>Leyton Orient*</b>	<b>W2-0</b>
<b>Feb 18</b>	<b>Brighton &amp; Hove Albion</b>	<b>W1-0</b>
Feb 25	Brentford	D1-1
Mar 4	Cambridge United	P-P
<b>Mar 11</b>	<b>Queens Park Rangers</b>	<b>(H)</b>
<b>Mar 15</b>	<b>Gillingham*</b>	<b>W2-1</b>
<b>Mar 18</b>	<b>Northampton Town</b>	<b>(H)</b>
Mar 25	Wycombe Wanderers	(A)
Apr 8	Leyton Orient	(A)
<b>Apr 15</b>	<b>Rushden &amp; Diamonds</b>	<b>(H)</b>
May 6	In Service	

■ \* Indicates Cup Game

■ All home games to be played at the Colchester Garrison 'B' Ground.

■ Games kick-off at 11.00am

■ Home games in **bold blue**

## South East Conference

	Pd	W	D	L	F	A	Gd	Pt
Brighton & HA	16	11	4	1	40	11	+2937	
Rushden & Diamonds	15	10	3	2	35	16	+1933	
Queens Park Rangers	17	9	3	5	37	28	+930	
Wycombe Wanderers	16	7	4	5	24	21	+325	
Brentford	18	7	3	8	31	43	-1224	
Gillingham	14	6	3	5	24	17	+721	
<b>COLCHESTER UTD</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>-221</b>	
Northampton Town	16	6	2	8	22	27	-520	
Leyton Orient	16	5	4	7	23	26	-319	
Luton Town	18	6	1	11	22	29	-719	
Southend United	17	4	6	7	15	30	-1518	
Portsmouth	19	3	4	12	17	40	-2313	





## U16s

**Unlike my last set of notes when I had no games to report to you, this week I have two matches to bring you up to date with.**

We travelled to QPR last Saturday but I will start by talking about the home game against Rushden and Diamonds a couple of weeks ago now.

We began the match with four trialists that had either been with us for a few weeks or had impressed Joe at a recent exit trial. Two of them were from Millwall, one from Ipswich and the other lad was from Charlton. All of them had their strengths and weaknesses but there was one of them, Fabian Quinten that impressed Joe the most.

He is a forward in the mould of Darius Vassell, he loves to run at defenders and is blessed with a great deal of natural pace. We have offered him a youth team contract for the next two seasons and are waiting for him to come back to us. We obviously hope that he will join us here at Layer Road because we feel he will be a very useful addition to the squad.

Against Rushden I was very pleased with the performance considering we had those trialists that hadn't played together before and we had also been without a game for three weeks prior to this one. The break actually seemed to do us more good than harm.

Last Saturday we travelled to QPR and put in one of our best performances of the season, gaining a well-deserved 2-1 win.

What made the performance, and the subsequent result, even more satisfying was the fact that we only had one substitute at the beginning of the game. On top of us missing players through illness and injury, Jimmy Pirie pulled out during the warm-up before the match.

Paddy Brothers and Ryan Amass got injured in the game but battled on, Paddy

being replaced late on and Ryan seeing out the match. Our solitary sub, Arthur Collins is an U14s and did well in the short time he was on the pitch.

A lad that I must mention, for his attitude the whole season not just his performance against QPR, is our defender Danny Scott. He hasn't played every match this season, being behind Nathan Speed in the pecking order at times, but has shown 100% commitment and application. He had an extremely good game against a strong QPR side.

One of the hardest jobs I have as a coach is telling boys that they won't be taken on at the club for the next season.

That was what I had to tell our U16s keeper Tom Ross last week. He has been involved in all our games this season but Joe and I feel that he isn't quite up to the standard required for league level youth football. He has done extremely well coming from Sunday League football with no specialist keeper training and we wish him all the best for the future.

Two players that we have given youth team contracts to recently must be congratulated for the work that has got them to where they are at now. Nathan Speed and Jamie Wright will be joining Joe Dunne's youth team next season and both of them have already shown that they can compete at that level in the games they have been involved in.

Nathan has been with us for four seasons now and is an attacking full back who has good pace and delivery. Jamie is the only Colchester boy to be offered a contract and his name might be familiar to some of our older supporters. Jamie's father, Steve was a defender for the U's and Jamie's grandfather was the U's legend, Peter Wright.

I wish both these lads, and all the others that have earned their youth team

contracts, the best of luck but warn them that they are still a long way from being professional footballers. Congratulations to them for getting on the first rung of the ladder but there must be no slacking off now if they are to progress in football and fulfil their dreams.

**Adrian Webster**

## U16s FIXTURES 2005/2006

<b>Sep 3</b>	<b>Oxford United</b>	W5-3
Sep 10	Wycombe Wanderers	W3-0
<b>Sep 17</b>	<b>Northampton Town</b>	L1-2
Oct 1	Cambridge United	D3-3
<b>Oct 8</b>	<b>Luton Town</b>	W4-1
<b>Oct 15</b>	<b>Rushden &amp; Diamonds</b>	W5-4
<b>Oct 22</b>	<b>Gillingham</b>	W4-1
Oct 29	Queens Park Rangers	TBC
Nov 5	Oxford United	L2-6
<b>Nov 12</b>	<b>Wycombe Wanderers</b>	L2-3
Nov 19	Leyton Orient	W3-1
<b>Nov 26</b>	<b>Cambridge United</b>	<b>P-P</b>
Dec 3	Luton Town	P-P
Dec 10	Rushden & Diamonds	W6-0
<b>Jan 14</b>	<b>Southend United</b>	L2-3
<b>Jan 21</b>	<b>Oxford United</b>	D1-1
Feb 4	Northampton Town	W3-1
Feb 11	Cambridge United	W3-1
<b>Feb 18</b>	<b>Luton Town</b>	<b>(H)</b>
<b>Mar 4</b>	<b>Rushden &amp; Diamonds</b>	W2-1
Mar 11	Queens Park Rangers	(A)
Mar 18	Gillingham	TBC
Mar 25	Wycombe Wanderers	(A)
Apr 1	Southend United	(A)
Apr 8	Northampton Town	(A)

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- Games kick-off at 11.00am
- Home games in **bold blue**

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## CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE



■ Adrian Webster

Last Sunday saw us take on QPR in four matches, with just Jody Brown's U11s being without a fixture. The two older groups, the U12s and the U13s/14s, went to London to play their matches so it was the U9s and U10s at the Uni this time round.

Jody came along to watch both matches and get some different ideas off the relevant coaches. I always advise our coaches to look at other ideas that they can use with their own groups in the future.

### *Impressed*

In the time that Jody and I watched the U9s, he told me he was very impressed with the way our youngest group played. They had a bad start, going 2-0 down, but rallied later in the game to come back and win 3-2.

The fight we saw in the boys was very encouraging and it will stand them in good stead when things don't go well in future games.

The other game ended in a 2-1 defeat for

the U10s but I was told it was completely against the run of play and the lads were unlucky to lose it.

Joe Dunne was also at the games to take a look at the younger element in the Centre and get a picture of the progress these boys are making.

Over in West London, Brian Swift and his U12s put in a great performance in beating their opponents 4-0.

Brian told me he was really pleased with how the game had gone and some quality goals were scored.

Danny King's U13s/14s came up against a strong, physical QPR side in their game but weren't intimidated and came away with a creditable 2-2 draw.

The London sides do tend to have these strong players in them and it is nice to know that we can mix it even at these age groups.

Overall then, the past two weekends have been very positive in the Centre, with the performances, in the main, bringing the teams the results they deserve.

**Like the U16s, the Centre has had fixtures against Rushden and Diamonds and Queens Park Rangers since our last notes.**

It's always nice to catch up with Geoff Harrop when we play Rushden, but he's a busy man now that he is assisting Barry Hunter with first team affairs.

Two of our teams travelled over to Northamptonshire while the U9s, U10s and U13/14s played up at the University. I took the opportunity to have a good look at the U9s and U13/14s.

I was very impressed with the way the U9s played, despite them going down to a narrow defeat.

The U13s/14s had lost the previous meeting between the sides but put in an excellent performance to gain a well-deserved victory.

## CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

Date	Opposition	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13/14
Sun 19th Mar	Gillingham	A	H	A	H	A
Sun 26th Mar	Wycombe Wdrs	A	H	A	A	H
Sun 2nd Apr	Southend United	-	A	H	A	H
Sun 9th Mar	Northampton Town	A	A	H	H	A

# OF THE U'S XCELLENCE

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**MATCH****ACTION**

# YOUNG ONES MAKE FINAL



■ Darren O'Connor finds himself surrounded

## CLOCKWATCH

Tom Webb gets in behind the Gills defence to cross for Anthony Wordsworth to side foot home to give the young U's the lead.

Gillingham break and Mark Cousins dives full length to palm away a centre forward's powerful header.

The Gillingham keeper comes out for a cross but only pushes it to Craig Hughes, who cleverly hooks it goalwards, only to see it trickle narrowly wide.

A corner into the Gillingham box isn't dealt with and Craig Hughes rams in the U's second and decisive goal.

A cross from the right is met by a Gillingham forward and his header finds the net to give the visitors hope.

The final whistle goes and it is joy for Joe Dunne's boys as they make the national final of the Youth Alliance Cup.

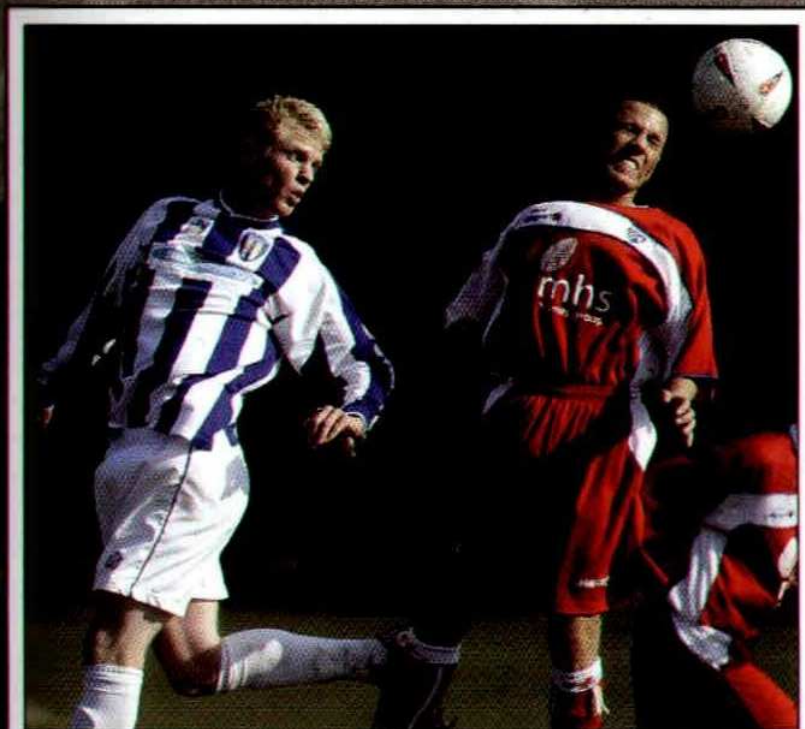
**TURNING POINT:** The second goal for the U's just after half time that gave them the breathing space they needed to go on and win the match.



■ Aarun Best skips past this challenge



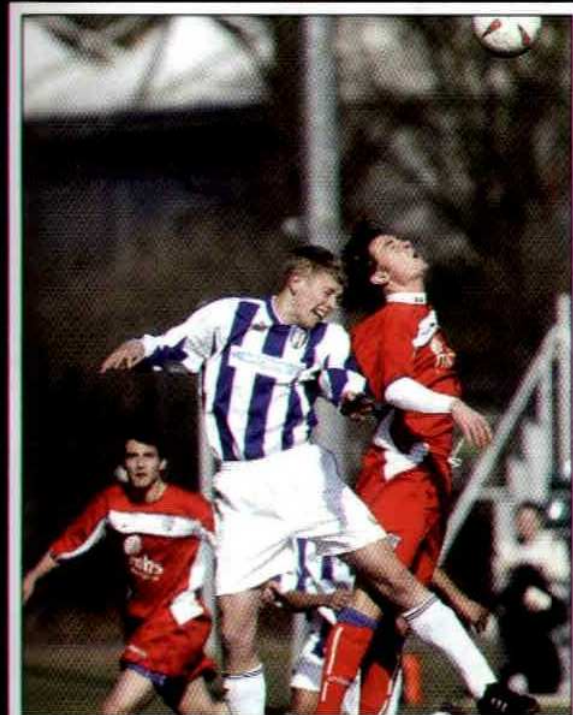
## U'S 2 GILLINGHAM 1



■ Craig Hughes competes in the air



■ Tom Webb races for the ball



■ Tom Devaux goes up for a header



■ Matt Paine closes in





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## CUP JOY FOR U'S YOUTH

Youth Alliance Cup Southern Area Final

### COLCHESTER UNITED 2 GILLINGHAM 1

There may be a Cup winner in Colchester after all as the juniors managed to achieve what the seniors failed to do the night before, and that was to reach a Cup Final with a fine win over Gillingham.

After the U's grabbed an early lead, it was not really until the last few minutes that the visitors really threatened to get back into the match. The game got off at a lively start on a warm and sunny afternoon at the Garrison B ground, and the Gills had the early chances.

However, with just over thirteen minutes on the clock, the home side grabbed the all important first goal. Tom Webb did well on the right to get in the cross, which Anthony Wordsworth converted from close range.

The Gills looked to get back quickly and were close again, Craig Stone's precise ball in behind the full back found Charlie Glyde, but Matt Paine was in with a great block away for a corner. Colchester then started to put the passes together, Steve Opoka did really well to bring the ball down, but his effort was put wide. A high boot by Anthony Wordsworth saw the home side penalised but the free kick by Craig Stone was over the bar.

A lost cause chased, nearly got the visitors an equaliser. Frannie Collin strong running reached the ball out on the right touchline to rescue it, a great deep cross in, was met by the head of Charlie Glyde, but he was denied by a superb save from Mark Cousins, and the home side scrambled it away.

A home free kick then saw the Gills keeper make a horrendous mistake charging out to catch, he totally misjudged it, merely knocking the ball skywards, setting up the chance for Craig Hughes, who half volleyed wide.

As the half time break approached there was a concerted spell of home play in and around the Gills box. However with the seconds ticking away, the visitors had two more chances of their own, a cross to the far post, saw the player coming in, but he failed to connect with the head, and then a deep ball in, was headed back across goal, but the effort was cleared from the danger area by the Colchester defence.

Half time arrived with the U's holding a



■ It's hair-raising stuff for Stephen Opoka

slender lead, and still hopes were high of cup glory.

Tom Webb then went so close, running at the defender who was backing off, he then curled the shot over the keeper, a goal looked on, but the Gills' man arched back, to just about reach it and tip the attempt over the bar.

#### Prelude

However this was merely a prelude to the second goal. Anthony Wordsworth looking to play the resulting corner short, saw the first man moving to him was marked as he ran across, but Tom Webb coming in short behind was the receiver.

He curled it over left footed, the keeper miraculously saved the first headed attempt, the follow-up was blocked, but the U's were not to be denied as Craig Hughes put the ball into the net and he ran towards the corner flag to celebrate with his joyous team mates.

With a two goal cushion, the home side were able to relax a bit more now, and could start to dream about a final place.

The away team really needed to up their game and that they did for a while, but Matt Paine was superb again in defence, as the U's back line held firm.

Dave Wareham was starting to find the space as the away team had to push further forward and it took some timely work to

halt his progress on several occasions. A clever turn saw him looking as if he was getting away, but Frankie Chappell made a crucial tackle.

Then just as the supporters thought the game was up, the Gills grabbed a late lifeline. A cross from the right, saw the players queuing up, and a header was guided in by Andy Pugh with two minutes left.

From looking in control, the nerves were there for Colchester, Matt Paine made a vital block as Ashley Dumas drove the ball in, and with the ball was sent down the right touchline, the Gills keeper was hurriedly out to clear into touch, as Medi Elito chased forward.

A late substitution in added time saw Nathan Speed on as a replacement, but the U's hung to reach their glory tie, with the Northern winners of Tranmere and Preston.

**U's:** Mark Cousins, Charlie Moxom, Matt Paine, Tom Devaux, Aaron Best, Tom Webb, Darren O'Connor, Anthony Wordsworth, Dave Wareham, Craig Hughes, Steve Opoka

**Used subs:** Jamie Petts, Medi Elito, Nathan Speed

**Unused subs:** Antony Hughes, Richard Harris

Brian Waller



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### Great Offer for all of March!

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## PLANNING FRUSTRATION

There was surprise news over another delay to the town's new Community Stadium project on Wednesday - but it appears that the problem could be resolved as soon as this Monday.

Contrary to a statement released in February, it was revealed in midweek that the North Essex Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust had not signed off the Land Owners' Agreement and that, without that signature, the outline planning permission for the 10,000 all-seater facility could not be granted.

U's chairman Peter Heard admitted his frustration at the latest delay to the planning process, but it is hoped that the problem will be resolved this week once further discussions have been concluded.

"Colchester United are dismayed that yet again there is a further delay due to the Land Owners' Agreement, which still appears not to have been agreed between the parties, something over which the football club has no control.

"In consequence, Colchester Borough Council are unable to issue the outline planning consent at this time - the Trust now say they will sign next week, but the latest delay continues to put pressure on the August 2007 deadline.

"The football club directors are most disappointed of this continuing delay."

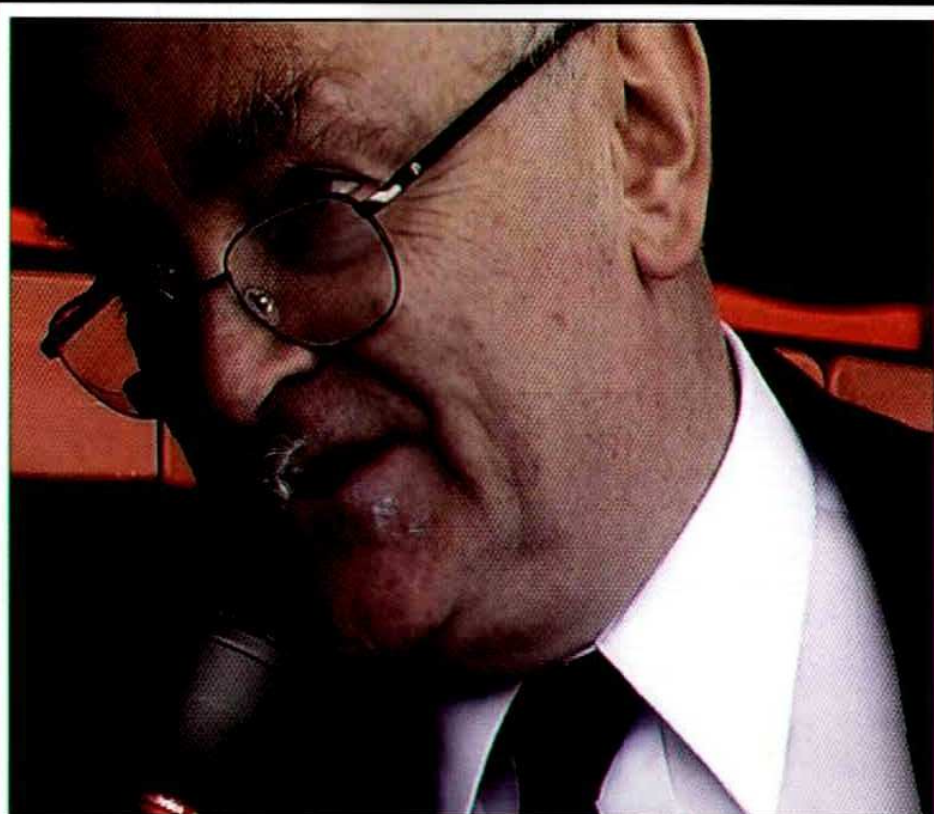
The problem came to light at the latest meeting of the Colchester 2020 Partnership, where lead partner Dave Murthwaite questioned why the signature had not yet been received from the Mental Health Partnership.

He told a packed audience at the town's Mercury Theatre: "The North Essex Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust has still not signed the agreement and we feel that is a real issue for us.

"Every day that goes on without being signed, that jeopardises the two million, if we don't get that two million, I don't think we have got a project."

He said he believed the trust would still sign, but said it was vital it was done now.

Speaking to the EADT after the 2020 briefing he said there were still land issues that had not been resolved.



■ Peter Heard - frustrated by latest delay

"Every day we have been contacting people to try to get it moving, but it is dragging on and the longer it does, the more in jeopardy the £2 million from the Football Foundation is.

"I think the issue is around the amount of land they are going to put into the deal, I don't think they have decided and agreed whether that is going to be what the existing agreement says or whether it will be expanded.

"As far as I am concerned, however, every other partner involved in this has done all that they need to do to get outline planning permission sorted which will give the Football Foundation enough to properly allocate the money.

"It is frustrating, they are really keen to do it, but it may be that they are not fully aware of how critical timing is around this sort of funding."

A spokesman for the North Essex Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust stressed they wanted to sign sooner rather than later:

"We understand Mr Murthwaite's desire to see the development of the Severalls site begin and we are fully committed to ensuring the process is completed promptly.

"The site is owned by three organisations. We are working with Colchester Borough Council, English Partnerships and all of the parties' solicitors to finalise legal details.

"We are expecting to join all of the parties in signing the legal agreement on Monday 20 March."

John Jowers, leader of the borough council, said: "This was a bombshell and I am disappointed not to have heard from them before now.

"I am reassured that they are now saying the 20th March, I can live with that, but I will believe it when I see it.

"Without this we cannot go ahead and there would be massive implications as it is much more than just the stadium that depends on it, this is one of the biggest projects in East Anglia at the moment."





## WELCOME CHRIS

We welcome today our good friends from CJ Firminger Building and Landscaping.

Chris and his company have been involved with the U's for many years and he stepped up his commitment to the club in the summer when he took on the sponsorship of our very popular Family Enclosure for the 2005/6 campaign.

The ardent U's fan, who is based in Battlesbridge, near South Woodham Ferrers, has been a fan for some nineteen years and came up with a fantastic scheme as part of his sponsorship over the past nine months.

During the course of the season, Chris has dished out forty tickets per game to boys' football clubs from around the county, as well as local schools and organisations, allowing them to get a taste of life at Layer Road for free!

It has proven to be a highly popular idea and Chris' scheme is now fully subscribed for the rest of the current campaign.

When he is not attending games at Layer Road, Chris' company keeps him busy with a whole range of projects currently on the go. Included in the work that he does is:

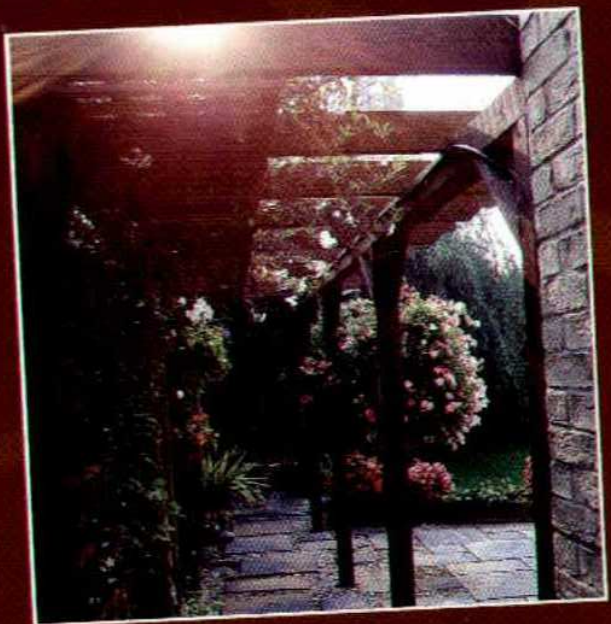
### **BUILDING: DESIGN & BUILD - QUALITY INSTALLATIONS**

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We hope that Chris and his party enjoy this afternoon's game at Layer Road.







## SPORTSMAN'S DINNER

The tales of our match against the Premiership champions will live on for years, but U's supporters will be given another chance to relive the 3-2 win over Don Revie's side on April 12th when the club hold their next Sportsman's Dinner.

Our guest speaker for that evening will be the hard tackling, no nonsense Leeds midfielder Norman Hunter, who will regale those in attendance with stories of his playing career – as well as his views, no doubt, on that fateful afternoon at Layer Road!

As well as Norman, we will have a fantastic comedian on the night to warm everyone up and there will be a fantastic auction of sporting memorabilia for you to get your hands on.

What's more, you'll also be able to enjoy a fine three course meal and the bar facilities that are on offer!

The night takes place at Stoke By Nayland Golf & Country club and tickets are priced at £45 or £425 for a table of ten.

For more details, call Jason or Julie on 01206 715306.

## LAST TIME OUT...

Pictured below are our Match Sponsors from Tuesday's night's game with Swansea City. They were Falcon and their party is pictured on the pitch before the game receiving a memento of their evening with us.

Pictured bottom are our Matchball Sponsors against Swansea City, Tolway. They are also pictured on the pitch before the game, receiving a signed ball.

We hope you all had a great evening.





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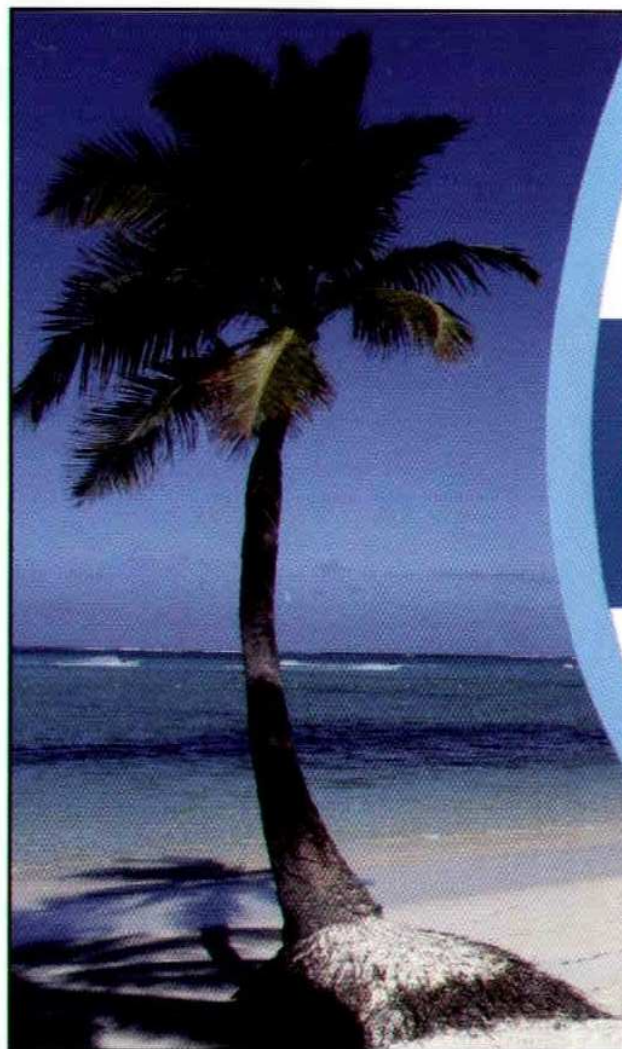
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# RACE FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP

With the last quarter of the season now upon us and the U's firmly in line for at least a play-off place, we will be bringing you details of the remaining games for all the contenders at the business end of the table.

And with six out of the top eight teams already into their last ten games of the season, looking at other results at five o'clock every Saturday afternoon will become a necessity for all the supporters involved.

In the last few home games of the season, we will bring you an up to date analysis of the remaining games for all the clubs in the top eight, while all eight are capable of promotion.

In this first look at the run-ins, we take in the teams from Southend United at the top of the table down to Chesterfield in eighth place.

## Glaring

The first glaring observation we have spotted is that there are three teams in the bottom eight that have to play five of the top eight.

Blackpool, Hartlepool and today's visitors Swindon will be fighting for points themselves so can influence things at both ends however their results go.

As everyone will tell you, there are no easy games at any stage of the season but this is probably truer at this stage.

We will, for analytical purposes only, assume that each game's difficulty will be judged on the opposition's league place, i.e. The higher they are, the harder the game will be.

With this in mind, Barnsley, Swansea and Chesterfield look to have the hardest games left on paper as they all have to play four of the other teams in the top eight. The other five clubs only meet the top eight teams twice so does this give them an advantage?

Maybe not because we all know that football is never played on paper and footballers aren't machines.

A lot can change in the next two weeks so we will be bringing you all the latest on the 'Race for the Championship' when Brentford visit Layer Road on April 1st.

Exciting? No kidding!

## SOUTHEND UNITED

MK Dons	A
Hartlepool United	H
AFC Bournemouth	A
Blackpool	H
Gillingham	H
Barnsley	A
Doncaster Rovers	H
Swansea City	A
Bristol City	H

## BRENTFORD

Swansea City	A
Gillingham	A
Doncaster Rovers	H
MK Dons	A
U's	A
Bradford City	H
Rotherham United	A
Blackpool	H
Swindon Town	A
Hartlepool United	H
AFC Bournemouth	A

## HUDDERSFIELD TOWN

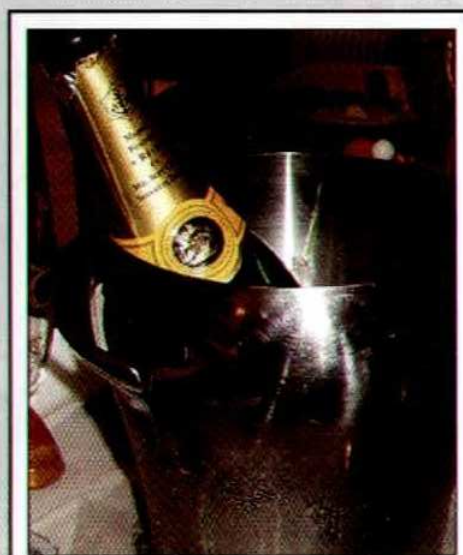
Rotherham United	H
Port Vale	A
Barnsley	H
Gillingham	A
AFC Bournemouth	A
Chesterfield	H
Walsall	A
Yeovil Town	H
Swindon Town	A

## SWANSEA CITY

Brentford	H
Gillingham	A
Swindon Town	H
Port Vale	A
Blackpool	A
Rotherham United	H
Oldham Athletic	A
Southend United	H
Chesterfield	A

## BARNSLEY

Hartlepool United	A
Bournemouth	H
Huddersfield Town	A
Chesterfield	H
Oldham Athletic	A
Southend United	H
Blackpool	A
Bradford City	H
Walsall	A



Who will be celebrating on 6th May?

## THE U'S

Swindon Town	H
Doncaster Rovers	A
Scunthorpe United	A
Brentford	H
Nottingham Forest	A
Hartlepool United	H
Chesterfield	A
Tranmere Rovers	H
AFC Bournemouth	A
Rotherham United	H
Yeovil Town	A

## OLDHAM ATHLETIC

Bradford City	A
Blackpool	H
Hartlepool United	A
MK Dons	H
Barnsley	H
Bristol City	A
Swansea City	H
Doncaster Rovers	A
Scunthorpe United	H

## CHESTERFIELD

Scunthorpe United	H
Swansea City	A
Nottingham Forest	H
Barnsley	A
U's	H
Huddersfield Town	A
MK Dons	H
Port Vale	A
Swansea City	H





# Evening Gazette

Tuesday March 6th, 1956

## FREE-KICK TRICKED SWINDON COLCHESTER UNITED 5 SWINDON TOWN 0

**A SURPRISE free-kick move, which Benny Fenton used at times when he captained Charlton, on Saturday produced one of the smartest goals seen at Layer Road this season.**

No sooner had he slipped the ball forward into the penalty area than Bob Dale came racing from behind him at full speed to slam it into the net.

This piece of strategy worked like a charm. Fenton's pass was beautifully judged and the Swindon defence were taken completely by surprise as Dale ran on to it. Fast, open football, with Fenton and Dale exploiting to the full the speed of Grice and Wright on the wings and Plant giving his third three-goal display of the season, enabled the U's to register their biggest win this League campaign.

They also put their 'goals for' total ahead of those scored against them. Plant has now boosted his personal bag of goals for the League side to 15, although he was playing for the reserves in the early part of the season.

McCurley, who heads the United's goalscorers with 22, did not have a good match against Hudson, Swindon's big centre-half. No player, however, can be on top form all the time and the United centre-forward has led the attack in dashing style this season.

Dale's goal - his second in successive matches - came in the 20th minute and was only one of three that resulted from free-kicks. The first was in the 12th minute and on this occasion Plant scored with a hook shot after Fenton had slipped the ball forward.

Left-back Fisher is not likely to forget his first goal for the Colchester club - or the crowd his reaction to it. Taking a free-kick from about 35 yards range just before half-time, he obviously had no thoughts of putting himself on the scoresheet. But goalkeeper Sam Burton lost sight of the ball for a split second as Plant went down to try to head it.

The inside-left missed and when Burton dived he was nowhere near enough to prevent the ball entering the net. Fisher was so amazed that he turned his back on the goal, got down on his knees and paid homage to the soccer gods.

Although Swindon were well and truly licked in this match - sweet revenge for the 3-1 defeat at the County Ground earlier in the season - they showed some neat approach play. The Town also tried hard to beat a United defence which forced

them to shoot from outside the penalty area and Percy Ames made two saves which rank with the best seen at Layer Road this season.

In the 40th minute he leapt across the goal to bring off a great one-handed save from Andy Micklewright. And in the 50th minute he clutched cleanly, in the middle of a dive, a fast shot from Bob Edwards.

But the hardest shot of the match came in the 33rd minute when Fenton hit the ball on the half-volley and it crashed against the near post. This was a full blooded effort which Burton never saw and which made the spectators shout with surprise at its speed and power.

Miss of the match arrived in the 24th minute when Edwards, Swindon's inside-left, was clean through with only Ames to beat. The goalkeeper advanced to try and narrow the angle and Edwards drove the ball just wide of the far post.

Grice and Fox were injured in a collision in the first half and had to go off with facial injuries. Both resumed, Grice with stitches in a gashed cheek. But his play certainly did not suffer and time and again he left Fox floundering hopelessly by speed and feinting.

Goals just had to come from the right-winger's pulled back crosses. Right-back George Hunt made the mistake of delaying clearing in front of goal in the 84th minute and Plant pounced on the ball to score. Two minutes from the end he added number five from a Dale through pass.

Both Fenton and Dale were outstanding in this match. Not only were they strong in defence, but they were quick to back up their colleagues in front with a good service of the ball. This wing-half strength, plus the speed of Grice and Wright on the wings, opened up the Swindon defence.

The United's attack plan worked to perfection with Plant increasingly in the goal-getting picture and he is seizing his chances smartly.

**U's:** Percy Ames, Johnny Harrison, George Fisher, Benny Fenton, Reg Stewart, Bob Dale, Mike Grice, Sammy McLeod, Kevin McCurley, Ken Plant, Peter Wright.

**Swindon Town:** Burton, Hunt, Fox, Cross, Hudson, McShane, Gibson, Micklewright, Owen, Edwards, Brennan

Attendance: 6,836

Arthur Wood





■ Benny Fenton - free-kick trickery



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# THE BATTLE OF ESSEX - ROUND 20



**Chris IWELUMO**

Which side currently sits top of the Six Nations rugby table?

France ✓

Which former dictator died aged 64 this week?

Don't know X

Name the Essex cricketer who scored a fifty and a century in his debut test against India?

Alistair Cooke ✓

Frenchman Paul Le Guen has been appointed as manager of which British football club?

Rangers ✓

Which best selling book has been in the press over the past couple of weeks, over accusations that the storyline was stolen from another author?

The Da Vinci Code ✓

Which country has the Queen recently visited?

Australia ✓

Name the Wallace and Gromit film that won an Oscar in the recent ceremony in America?

Curse of the Wererabbit ✓

Which member of Pink Floyd is currently top of the album charts?

David Gilmour ✓

Which German are Chelsea reported to be aiming to sign?

Michael Ballack ✓

Who is the new leader of the Liberal Democrats?

Menzies Campbell ✓

CHRIS'S SCORE: 9/10

In our latest Battle of Essex, it's the battle of the 6ft plus strikers as Chris Iwelumo takes on Lee Bradbury. The duo came head to head at Layer Road not so long ago, so can Chris get one over on his Southend opponent this time around?



So Big Chris wins with a big result – it's now ten apiece as the end of the inaugural Battle of Essex quiz approaches!



**Lee BRADBURY**

Which side currently sits top of the Six Nations rugby table?

France ✓

Which former dictator died aged 64 this week?

Slobodan Milosevic ✓

Name the Essex cricketer who scored a fifty and a century in his debut test against India?

Alistair Cooke ✓

Frenchman Paul Le Guen has been appointed as manager of which British football club?

Rangers ✓

Which best selling book has been in the press over the past couple of weeks, over accusations that the storyline was stolen from another author?

The Da Vinci Code ✓

Which country has the Queen recently visited?

Australia ✓

Name the Wallace and Gromit film that won an Oscar in the recent ceremony in America?

Curse of the Wererabbit ✓

Which member of Pink Floyd is currently top of the album charts?

Don't know X

Which German are Chelsea reported to be aiming to sign?

Michael Ballack ✓

Who is the new leader of the Liberal Democrats?

Not sure X

LEE'S SCORE: 8/10

Correct answers: 1. France, 2. Slobodan Milosovic, 3. Alistair Cooke, 4. Rangers, 5. The Da Vinci Code, 6. Australia, 7. Curse of the Wererabbit, 8. David Gilmour, 9. Michael Ballack, 10. Menzies Campbell.



Colchester Coggeshall Writton on the Naze Chacton M  
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Saffron Walden Harlow BILLERICAY Chelmsford Cog  
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## PITCH BATTLE

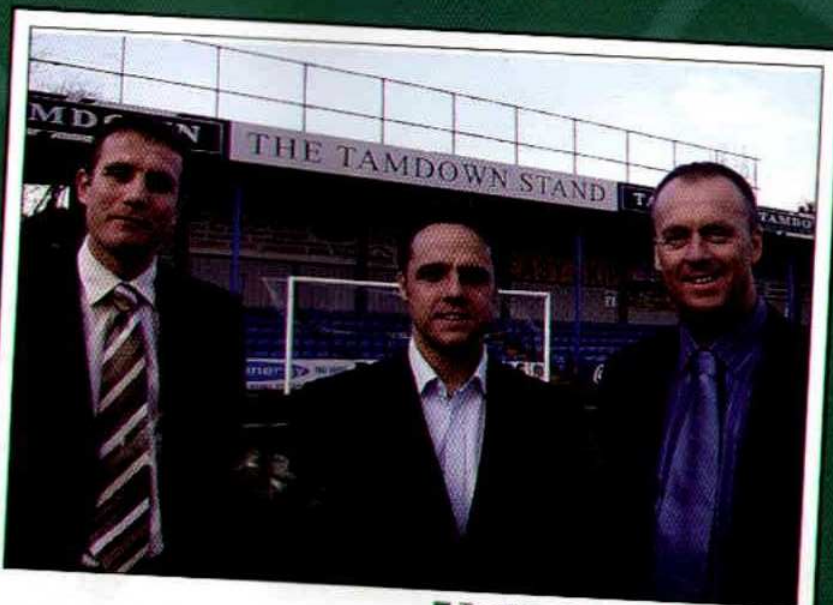
The match against Southend United may not have panned out as the U's would have hoped, but for three groups who back the Layer Road club, getting the game played was a result in itself.

Frosty weather conditions in the week leading up to the big Essex derby had put question marks over the fixture taking place, but the Army, Tamdown and Millets all came together to ensure that things got underway as normal at 3pm.

The Army's 7 Para RHA were kind enough to lend the U's some covers for the susceptible areas of the Layer Road pitch and their sheets were joined by some frost protective covers provided by the U's good friends from Tamdown.

And the two sets of protective covers were all kept in place thanks to the donation of over a hundred tent pegs from the camping equipment firm Millets.

"It just goes to show what you can achieve when everyone comes together, our grateful thanks go to Mike Bray of Tamdown, 7 Para and of course holding it all together Gareth from Millets in the High Street," the U's Sales and Marketing manager Jason Berry said.

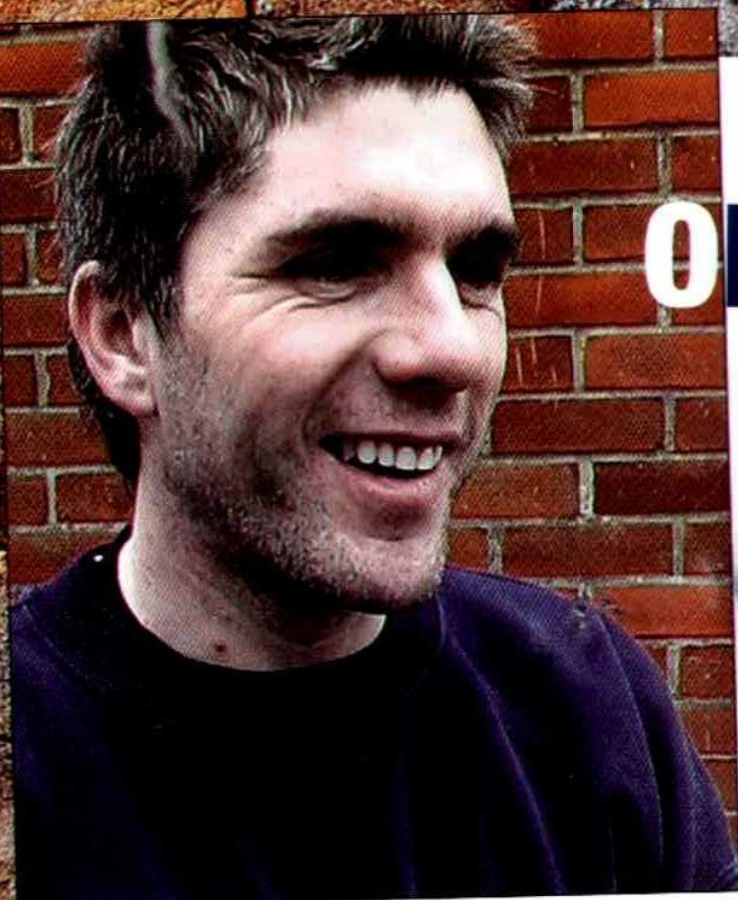


Tamdown came up trumps again



The pitch covers go down





# OFF THE WALL

*Given the choice, which member of the large cat family would you be?*

A lion because they're king of the jungle.

*Have you ever been to Thorpe Park?*

No, I haven't but I've heard it's decent.

*Who did you support as a wee boy?*

Celtic.

*Has anyone in the squad admitted to liking 'Chico Time'?*  
I'm sure at least one

of them does but no-one's admitted it!

*If you could be any Tony, who would you be?*

Tony Curtis.

*What would you be if you weren't a footballer?*

In trouble, I reckon!

*Have you tried the new Pizza Express Diavolo pizza?*

No not yet...is it good?

*Which multi-roundabout is easier to navigate-the one near Swindon's ground or the one on your way to the University here in Colchester?*

After driving around the one in Swindon, all roundabouts are easy. Even the one here.

*Jaffa Cakes - Biscuit or cake?*  
Cake.

*What is the point of those giant chocolate buttons?*

The fact that they are miles bigger than the normal ones, obviously!

*What is your favourite letter of the alphabet?*

What sort of question's that? A!

*Pints, Shorts or cocktails?*  
Pints.

*Speedos or Shorts?*  
Shorts.

*What car do you drive?*  
BMW - when my wife lets me.

*Would you like an Audi 'TT'?*  
Yeah course. A TT for TT!

*As a garden trend, is decking out of fashion?*

No, it's still cutting edge. We've got it in our garden.

*Conservatories - sunroom, playroom or just somewhere nice for flies?*  
Nice place for flies.

*What has been your most useless Christmas present and who got it for you?*  
No useless ones, but someone bought me a football when I was little, wrapped it up and asked me to guess what it was.

*Has anyone come up with a better nickname than 'Thorpey'?*  
No need, 'Thorpey' is the best one.

## NEXT UP!

Next up in our Off The Wall quiz is Brian Owen. If you've got a question for our walking football encyclopaedia e-mail us at [editor@colchesterunited.net](mailto:editor@colchesterunited.net)!

**Every matchday magazine has interviews. And nine times out of ten, they're pretty similar. So this season, we're going to take a break from the norm by asking you to ask the players something different, something quirky and something that will make your fellow fans laugh.**

Next up is U's ex-Robin Tony Thorpe on theme parks, roundabouts and garden decking...

*If you were the last Rolo in the pack, who would you give yourself to?*  
My wife, of course!

*Are you related to the 'Thorpedo' Ian Thorpe?*  
Not that I know of.

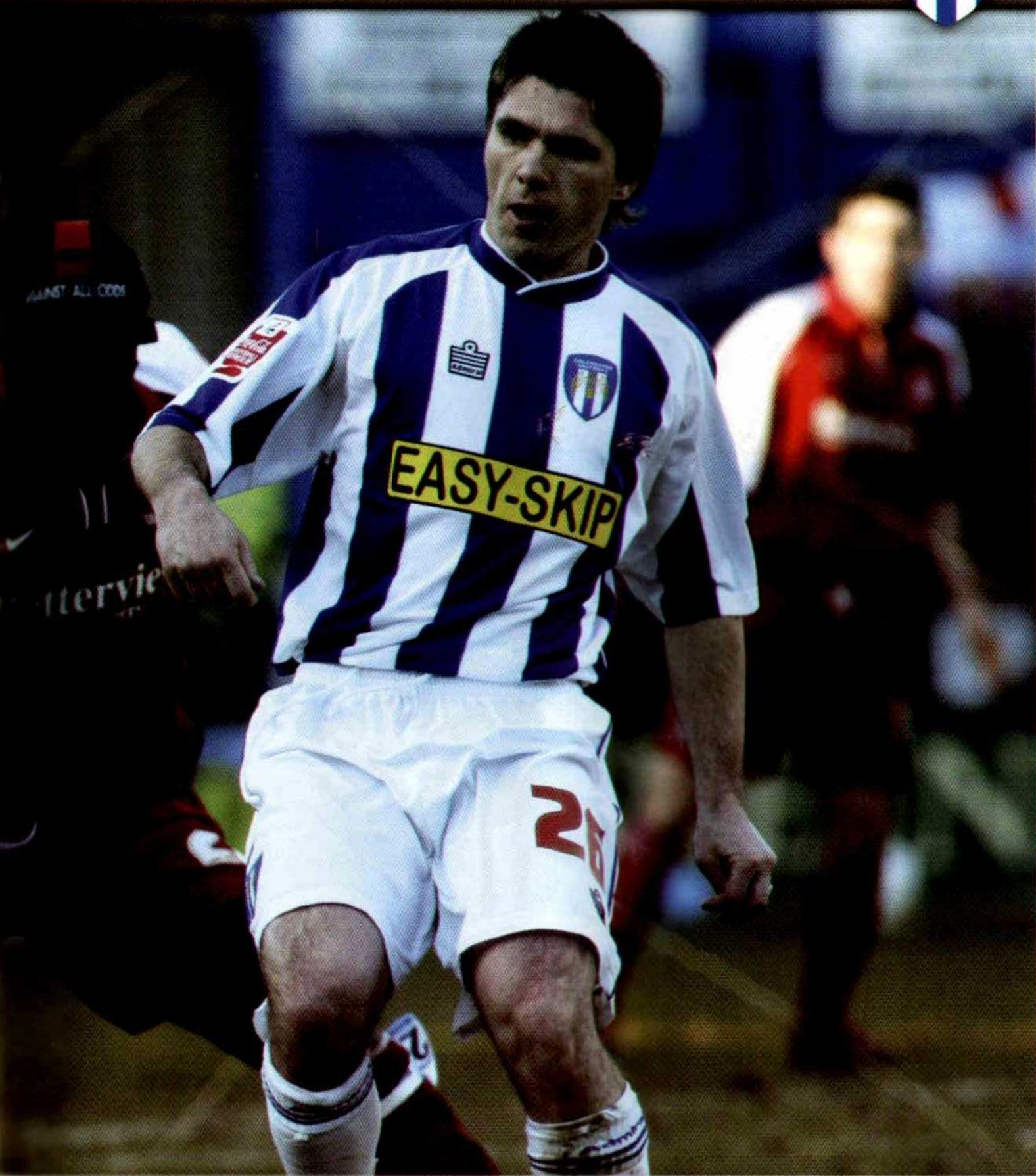
*Did you think the Australian Shepard Dog deserved to win Crufts?*  
Sorry, but I couldn't care less.



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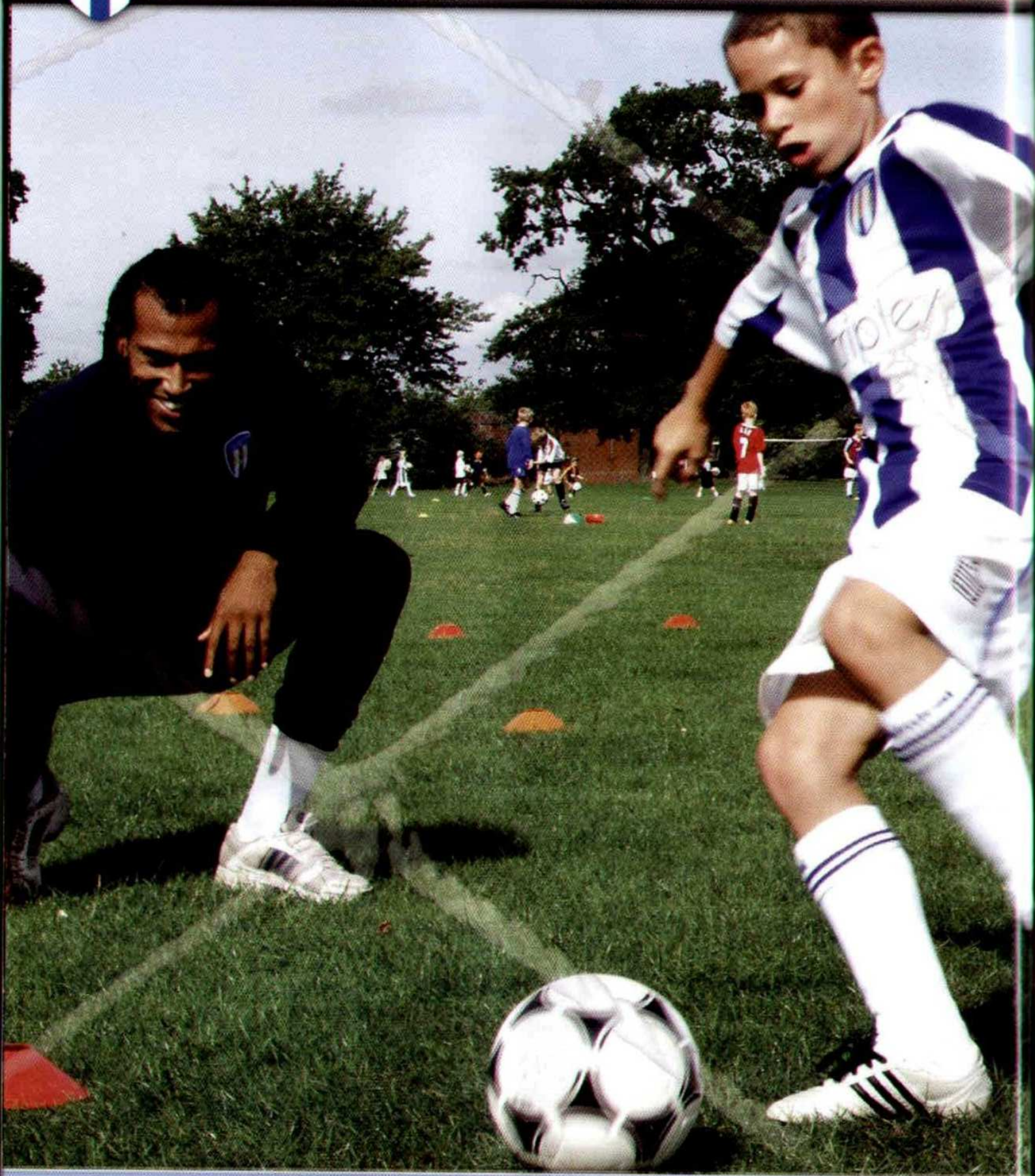




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# COLCHESTER UTD COMMUNITY SPORTS TRUST

## It is now under a week until the U's Community Sports Trust hold their Easter Holiday Soccer Camps.

Held at a host of venues around the local area, the Soccer Camps are set to be hugely popular once again, with hundreds of kids from the local area set to descend on the Trust's coaches, who will provide a range of fantastic activities.

Whether you're a toddler or a twelve-year-old, there's something for everybody with courses ranging from two to five days during the Easter break. And, best of all, there's a brand new venue for our courses this time around.

Our new facility at Shrub End Playing Fields will be used for the first time, giving the Trust a venue within an Aidan Davison sized kick away from the Layer Road stadium.

As well as Shrub End, there will be courses held at Highwoods, Harwich, Clacton, Halstead, Braintree and Danbury – and there will be the opportunity to try out your skills on a range of surfaces from indoor facilities to grass and astroturf!

The full list of venues are as follows:-

**Highwood Sports Centre,**  
Brinkley Lane, Colchester  
**Harwich Sports Centre,**  
Hall Lane, Harwich  
**Clacton Leisure Centre,**  
Vista Road, Clacton-on-Sea  
**Halstead Leisure Centre,**  
Colne Road, Halstead  
**Shrub End Playing Fields,**  
Boadicea Way, Colchester  
**Danbury Sports Centre,**  
Dawson Field, Danbury

All of our courses are FA Charter Standard and there will be a whole range of football fun, from Henry and Rooney challenges to Champions League 5-a-side matches, all of which are delivered by our highly qualified CUCST staff.

There will also be the chance to be one of the first Little Layer Road Legends, with our soccer camp held especially for 4-7 year

olds at the home of the promotion chasing U's.

And it won't just be the boys that are having fun during the Easter break, with a Girls Only Fun Soccer Camp being held at the Shrub End Playing Fields. Two days of football fun, full of exciting drills and challenges, will be on offer to the fairer sex as the U's Ladies keep their eyes open for their own stars of the future.

The week of fantastic soccer camps will be capped by a visit of Colchester United's heroes, fresh from their recent exploits at Stamford Bridge and promotion push in the league. It's a great chance for the kids to get the autographs of the players making history for the U's!

For more details on our Soccer Camps and to get hold of a booking form, call 01206 572378 or visit the Trust's website at [www.cucst.org.uk](http://www.cucst.org.uk).

### A SPECIAL GUEST

The U's Sports Trust are delighted to welcome a very special guest along to this afternoon's game against Swindon Town. 12-year-old Karl Boswick, who attends the local Thomas Lord Audley School and Language College, is the guest of Colchester United today as a reward for his good progress and efforts over the past few months.

Thomas completed his Merit Chart at

school and will get to see one of his favourite teams – the other is Liverpool – in action this afternoon.

He is predicting a U's win today and will be hoping that his favourite player, Chris Iwelumo, hits the back of the net.

### NEWS ON THE SHRUB END FACILITY

On Saturday April 29th, the U's Community Sports Trust and Colchester Borough Council will launch the Shrub End Community and Sports Project.

The centre will officially be opened by the Mayor of Colchester, Councillor Terry Sutton and the launch will include a range of exciting activities, including coaching demonstrations on the state of the art synthetic turf pitch.

A highlight of the day will be the inaugural Mayor's charity five-a-side tournament for 32 adult teams. An entrance fee of £80 per team will be charged for squads of eight players with all proceeds being donated to the Mayor's charities.

We would like to invite Colchester businesses of all sizes to participate in what will be a truly wonderful and friendly sporting event (running from 9.30am to 12.30pm ahead of the U's game against Rotherham).

For further information and to book your place, please contact Denise McLaughlin on 01206 572378.



Join in the fun at one of our Easter Soccer Camps!





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*Karl*  
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**PAUL OLORENSHAW**  
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**TIM, DAVID, PAV & MARK**

*Wayne*  
**BROWN**



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## U'S LADIES

**SOUTH EAST COMBINATION RESERVE LEAGUE  
LEYTON ORIENT RES 1  
COLCHESTER UNITED RES 1**

Colchester United reserves played their first away fixture of the calendar year at Leyton Orient and came away with a point and mixed feelings.

Having been totally dominant in the first 40 minutes of this fixture, the U's found themselves hanging on at the end to preserve a point.

The opening period saw the U's start well with Katrina Duncan-Marshalleck enjoying good possession and from it, supplying a string of excellent crosses that deserved more than the indecisive finishing they were met by.

On ten minutes Emma Dunmore was released by Abi Saxon and escaped her marker before the home 'keeper raced out to deny her. Five minutes later Jamie Newstead clipped the ball into the net only for her effort to be ruled offside.

Shortly after, Carmen Joyce timed her run perfectly to get on the end of a Kelly Taylor cross but couldn't find a finish. Duncan-Marshalleck herself went close with a cross cum shot moments later.

### *Bright*

It really was one way traffic with the U's very bright and lively.

On the half hour Colchester achieved the break through their approach play undoubtedly deserved when Emma Dunmore added to her season's tally with a piece of improvised control and composed slot home. This goal was to be the only successful conversion from eleven well crafted and very presentable first half chances.

However, the lead didn't last long and on 40 minutes, the game turned. From an innocuous looking Orient free kick, the U's were guilty of ball watching and poor communication, which led to the home side equalising with their only attempt at goal of the half. This strike was massively against the run of play and seemed to act as a hammer blow to the U's and a real tonic to Orient.

Buoyed by the gift of a goal at end of the first half the second period saw Orient in the ascendancy. Assisted by a strengthening wind, Orient came to life as

an attacking force. In the face of this, Krista Hultquist, returning from injury, held the back four together wonderfully, winning headers and making trade mark tackles.

Jamie Newstead added some stability to the defensive line. Zalda Guernari called on her experience to calmly clear from her own goal line on the hour and Louise Murphy made a truly outstanding save palming a low drive around the post not long after.

All of the fluency present in the U's first half evaporated as they visibly tired on the heavy pitch surface.

Individual battles previously won were now lost and possession of the ball became

a rare event. As the referee blew for full time, the U's were relieved to hear the final whistle.

Over the two 45 minutes a point a piece was a fair distribution of the spoils but had the Colchester converted their first half chances their approach play warranted – it would and arguably should, have been an even better outcome.

*Team:* Louise Murphy, Natasha West, Zalda Guernari, Krista Hultquist, Charlotte Smith, Jamie Newstead, Kelly Taylor, Emma Dunmore, Abigail Saxon, Katrina Duncan-Marshalleck, Emma Smith, Debbie Aylward, Carman Joyce



■ Jamie Newstead - added stability





# JOURNO'S JURY

**Over the course of the season, we will be talking to journalists from around the country as Colchester United begin their assault on League One and the 8,000-odd miles that lay ahead in 2005/6.**

So, having seen the U's in action, what did they make of our own favourite team? How did we compare to the other teams that they had faced in the season so far? Were the U's unstoppable or did they catch the opposition on a bad day?

We'll be doing our best to talk to as many journalists as possible for their views on Phil Parkinson's side – and of course be giving OUR perspective throughout the rest of U's Review.

In this afternoon's edition, we talk to Tony Bugby of the Oldham Chronicle who gives us his views on the U's performance against Oldham Athletic...

## What did you make of the U's performance on the day?

They were very compact, well organised and, to be honest, very unlucky to come away with a defeat. In the first half, they were on top and should have had a couple of goals but it was one of those days where things just didn't go for them. They could have easily been two up at the break – Danns' miss in particular was a good chance – and then it would have been a very different game.

## Was that a typical Oldham performance of late?

Yes, definitely. They are not playing particularly well, but have a habit of scrapping it out and picking up 1-0 victories. They played Tranmere in their previous home game and it was a similar story to last Saturday, with a late goal sealing a 1-0 win. The ability to grind out wins is the thing that will get you up into the top spots.

Improving their defence has been the key – they have kept five clean sheets in a row and they had previously been giving goals away for fun. Injured players have come back from injury and Lee Grant, the keeper on loan from Derby, has been excellent since he has been here, only letting in one goal in the six games that he has played.

## Did the game pan out as you had expected it to?

Yes, it was always going to be a very tight match. Ronnie Moore said before the game that, with so much at stake, it was going to be a cagey game and so it proved with a lot riding on it. With two good defences, chances were always going to be at a premium and he was thankful for a late goal that boosted their play-off hopes.

## Which Colchester player impressed you the most?

In the first half, I would say Neil Danns. He was particularly lively and put himself about with good effect. Overall, though, I would say Liam Chilvers impressed me the most, he was commanding at the back and formed a very good partnership at centre half with Wayne Brown.

## As things stand, do you think the two teams will be turning out in the play-offs?

There is a very good chance of that with the way things are going. Latics are seventh and closing the gap and we have a chance, because it looks like a few of the teams – including Swansea and Huddersfield – are having a bit of a wobble at the moment. It will be six from seven I think now and it is a question of who holds their nerve in the coming weeks.

**ATHLETIC 1 COLCHESTER 0**

**ATHLETIC 1**  
Grant, Davies, Hanson, Brennan, O'Shea, Chapman, Hughes, Jones, Williams, Foster, C. Hall, G. Hall, S. Hall, C. Hall, D. Hall, E. Hall, F. Hall, G. Hall, H. Hall, I. Hall, J. Hall, K. Hall, L. Hall, M. Hall, N. Hall, O. Hall, P. Hall, Q. Hall, R. Hall, S. Hall, T. Hall, U. Hall, V. Hall, W. Hall, X. Hall, Y. Hall, Z. Hall.

**COLCHESTER 0**  
Davison, Stockley, Chilvers, Brown, Dupud, Halford, Danns, Watson, Innes, Taylor, G. Hall, S. Hall, C. Hall, D. Hall, E. Hall, F. Hall, G. Hall, H. Hall, I. Hall, J. Hall, K. Hall, L. Hall, M. Hall, N. Hall, O. Hall, P. Hall, Q. Hall, R. Hall, S. Hall, T. Hall, U. Hall, V. Hall, W. Hall, X. Hall, Y. Hall, Z. Hall.

**the goals**  
ATHLETIC: Bacon (90)  
COLCHESTER: None

**shots/headers on target**  
ATHLETIC: 6  
COLCHESTER: 2

**shots/headers off target**  
ATHLETIC: 5  
COLCHESTER: 4

**corners**  
ATHLETIC: 6  
COLCHESTER: 6

**the cards**  
ATHLETIC: Wallard (22 foul), C. Hall (90 foul)  
COLCHESTER: Danns (25 foul), Innes (35 foul), Bisset (67 foul), Dupud (86 foul)

**referee**  
W. D. Drysdale

**the attendance**  
1,871

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**by MICHAEL YARWOOD at Boundary**

**PICTURES by VINCENT BARR**

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keeps up momentum in push for promotion

# Timely strike for shut-out kings



**READING FIGHT** A FA defence went back to Taylor's challenge, with the former of a challenge by Colchester United's goalkeepers.

**AERIAL ACTION** Colchester United's Taylor attempts to head the ball away from Athletic's defender.



**CLIMBING HIGH** Gary Birtles powers in a header at the Colchester goal.

for a penalty when Wayne Brown jumped at Dutcher as he was ready to shoot.

Wellens was next to go close, while Yates blasted over following a clever pirouette to eight yards out.

Colchester's running from deep was proving difficult to contain, and they almost made it count before the half-hour.

## SWAPPED

Noel Dearn swapped places with Chris Twelvington, lashed his volley against the woodwork with keeper Lee Grant a helpless bystander.

Colchester also demanded a penalty when Paul Roberts kicked Greg Halford in the face.

It was accidental but, as Halford is fit, and was jumping at the time, their claims of a high boot were pretty much justified.

Back down the other end, however, Gary Harrison headed straight at the keeper from a right-wing Wellens corner.

It was a game of such narrow margins that every chance was potentially crucial, and Athletic were again frustrated when Dutcher miscued from 20 yards.

Wellens went close from a longer distance but, seconds later, he was clattered by Izet in what became a turning point for the match.

Home fans sensed a grand finale when Izet was sent off, although there was a moment of concern.

when Colchester's Tony Thorpe saved Grant's first save.

Colchester's top priority was now clear - they were aiming to run down the clock - and George Skokoli took it to extremes with his fanatical over-reaction to Chris Hart's fair challenge.

## DEAFENING

The match took a new and promising twist for Athletic deep into the second half when Birtles, from great range, deafening calls for him to shoot.

He didn't. First he kept his cool, then he slipped past two defenders and finally he hammered an unstoppable shot into the roof of Colchester's net.

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## C.U.S.A.

**Good afternoon U's fans and welcome back to Layer Road for the visit of Swindon Town.**

Our Boxing Day blip at the County Ground was right slap bang in the middle of the excellent unbeaten run. Not very Christmassy of them was it?

But since then, our visitors have struggled and now find themselves stuck in the relegation zone.

The U's must be watchful of these desperate clubs, but I suppose that we should remember that we have been in that position before. Not now though. And, with the LDV out of the way, the U's now know what they need to do over the remaining eleven games. We're in a good position at 6th, let's not forget that, and let's hope that the return to winning ways starts today.

Against Oldham and Swansea in the last week, we've been about 80% there. With a packed midfield and the returning Sam Stockley, the U's were good value for a point at Oldham before their late winner and you could tell that they were gutted at the final whistle.

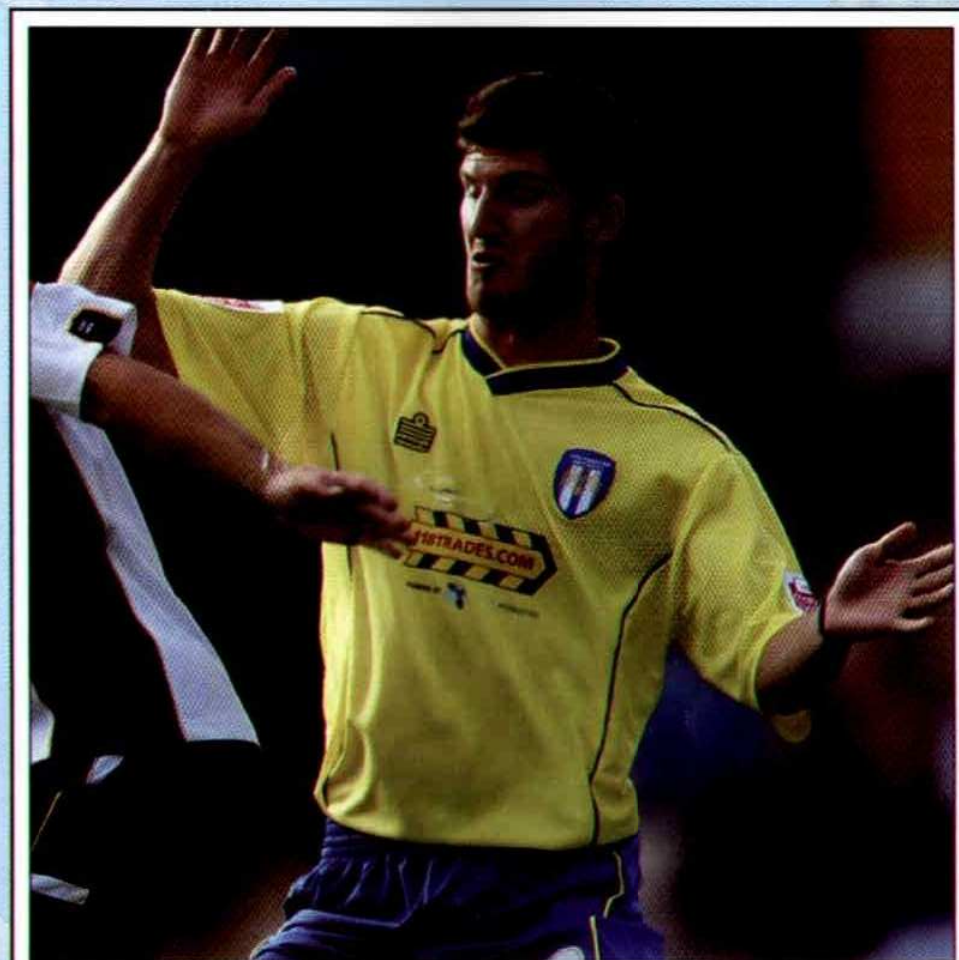
Had Dannsy found the back of the net rather than the crossbar, then I suspect that it would have been a different story.

Good to see that former U's man Guy Branston hasn't lost any of his old tricks! Pity that the ref fell for them every time!

### *Experimented*

On Tuesday, I had a strong feeling that the U's could easily overcome Swansea and win the trip to the Millennium Stadium. Parky experimented in various positions, with Karl Duguid as centre forward, 'Rio' at right back and Neil Danns trading positions with Greg Halford. It was a much improved performance all round as our beloved U's at last found their creativity but not quite their cutting edge.

It's not only the U's that are tackling a busy run in of fixtures. The CUSA FC start



■ Pat Baldwin - right back role

their remaining eight league games tomorrow against El Gigante. Currently unbeaten in the league, they've got an excellent chance of something special this season. It's a 10.30am kick off at Shrub End if you're free to come and support. Good luck lads!

Finally, it's birthday time and so congratulations to Pete Turner for next

week and Happy 18th to Ben Westlake for last Tuesday. Thanks for the cake Ben!

Let's stick together and I'd appeal to the fans to really get behind the lads today. We've had a great season - let's finish the job!

Up the U's.

**Jon Burns**  
www.cusa.co.uk

## CUSA AWAY TRAVEL DETAILS

**Tuesday March 21st**

**DONCASTER ROVERS**

Coaches leave Layer Road at 1.30pm

- Adult members £21
- Concession members £19

**Saturday March 25th**

**SCUNTHORPE UNITED**

Coaches leave Layer Road at 8.30am

- Adult members £24
- Concession members £22

**Saturday April 8th**

**NOTTINGHAM FOREST**

Coaches leave Layer Road at 9.00am

- Adult members £18
- Concession members £16



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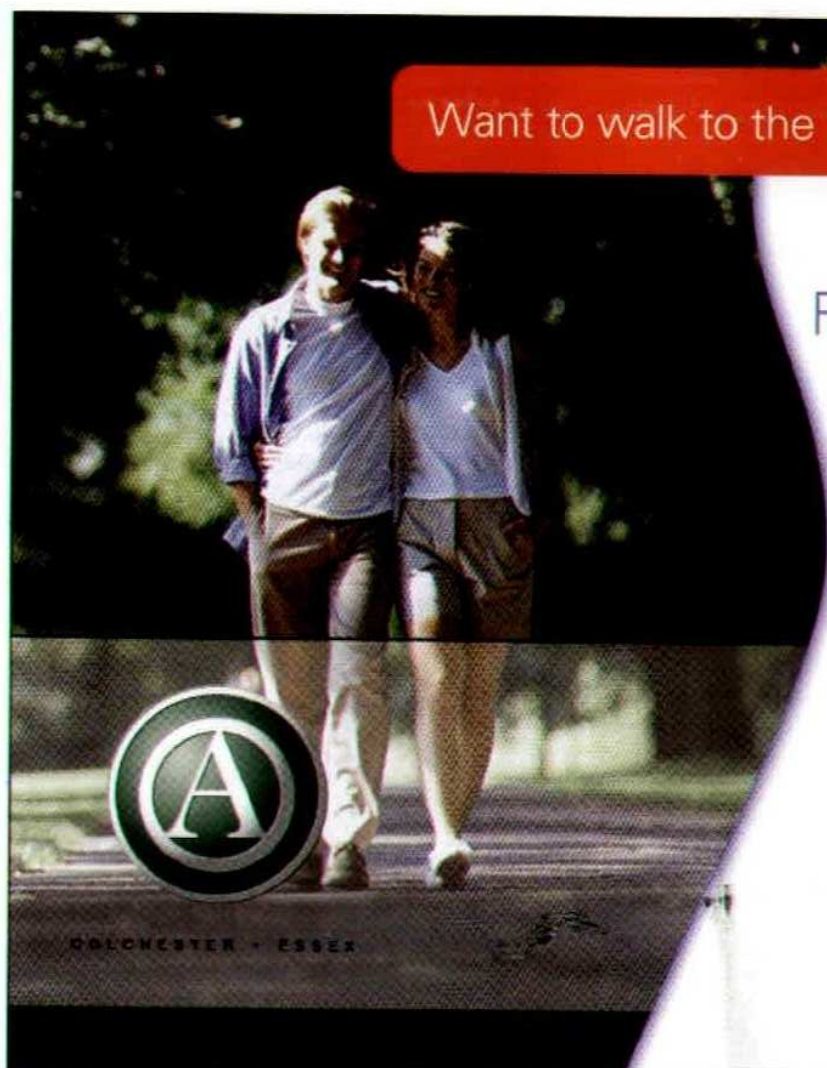
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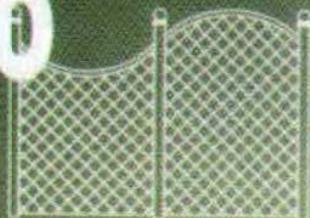
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# HOW TO GET TO... SCUNTHORPE UNITED

**Ground Name:** Glanford Park  
**Capacity:** 9,183  
**Address:** Doncaster Rd,  
Scunthorpe, DN15 8TD  
**Main Telephone No:** 01724-848-077

## WHAT IS THE GROUND LIKE?

The club left the Old Show Ground and moved to the new Glanford Park in August 1988. It is somewhat box like in appearance with all four stands being an equal height. The ground is totally enclosed with all four corners having been filled (with advertising hoardings).

The home end is terracing, whilst the other three sides of the ground are all seated. The main downside is the many supporting pillars to impede your view.

## WHERE WILL THE U'S FANS BE SITTING?

Away fans are housed in the Caparo Merchant Bar Stand (aka the South Stand) at one end. This is all seated and can house 1,650 supporters. If demand requires it, then extra seats can be made available in the south corner of the West Stand.

## FANCY A PRE-MATCH PINT?

There is one pub right at the entrance to the ground called The Old Farmhouse. This pub welcomes all fans but no colours are allowed. There is another pub near the ground called the Berkeley, a favourite haunt for away supporters.

To find this pub, go past the ground (or park there first) and follow the main road towards Scunthorpe and it is on the left hand corner of the first roundabout you reach.

## HOW TO GET THERE BY CAR:

The ground is on the outskirts of Scunthorpe, making it easy to find from the motorway. Leave the M180 at Junction 3 and take the M181 for Scunthorpe. At the end of this motorway, you will see the ground on your right.

Turn right at the first roundabout onto the A18 and right again into the large car park at the ground.

## HOW TO GET THERE BY TRAIN:

Scunthorpe station is over two miles away from the ground. Therefore a taxi is



■ Glanford Park

probably the easiest way to reach the stadium.

However, if you have time on your hands and are feeling fit. Turn left out of the station and head towards the crossroads (facing a church) and turn right into Oswald Road, going past a set of traffic lights and the Honest Lawyer and Blue Bell pubs. At the next traffic lights turn left into Doncaster Road (where there a number of fast food outlets).

Then just go straight down this road and you will eventually reach Glanford Park on your left.

Otherwise catch the number 341 bus from the bottom of Doncaster Road (outside the Atlantis Chippy) down to the ground (fare £1).

## TICKET PRICES:

Adults £17 (£16) Concessions £10 (£9)

## IRON FACTFILE

Last five games: DLDWW

Last five home games: DLWLD

League position: 12th

## RECENT NEWS:

With top striker Billy Sharp out of action for six weeks, Scunthorpe boss Brian Laws has been delighted to see his side's midfielders hitting the back of the net.

"Everyone is contributing again, which is fantastic," said the Iron boss.

"Earlier in the season we had lots of players scoring goals, but that situation, before the Gillingham game, had dried up.

"Everybody has to play a part because there is an extra burden. But the players are focused and know exactly what I expect of them."





# STATS AND FACTS 2005/2006

## COCA-COLA FOOTBALL LEAGUE ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Gd	Pt
Southend United	37	10	6	2	31	13	10	4	5	29	20	27	70
Brentford	35	10	5	4	32	19	8	5	3	25	18	20	64
Huddersfield Town	37	11	6	2	33	20	5	7	6	27	29	11	61
Swansea City	37	9	8	2	36	17	6	7	5	29	26	22	60
Barnsley	37	11	7	1	34	16	5	5	8	18	21	15	60
<b>COLCHESTER UNITED</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>59</b>
Oldham Athletic	37	11	2	5	26	16	5	6	8	20	31	-1	56
Chesterfield	37	6	6	6	26	24	7	6	6	28	29	1	51
Doncaster Rovers	36	8	5	5	24	16	6	3	9	20	27	1	50
Nottm Forest	37	11	4	4	33	13	2	6	10	18	31	7	49
Tranmere Rovers	37	6	8	4	28	22	5	6	8	14	16	4	47
Scunthorpe United	37	7	6	6	32	29	5	5	8	25	33	-5	47
Port Vale	36	7	3	8	20	21	6	5	7	17	21	-5	47
Bristol City	37	8	6	5	27	19	4	4	10	19	35	-8	46
Bradford City	36	4	8	5	18	17	6	7	6	19	19	1	45
Bournemouth	36	6	8	4	19	14	4	4	10	20	30	-5	42
Hartlepool United	36	5	7	6	21	23	5	5	8	13	20	-9	42
Yeovil Town	36	6	6	6	18	18	5	3	10	21	32	-11	42
Blackpool	36	6	6	6	25	23	3	8	7	20	29	-7	41
Gillingham	36	9	4	5	23	17	1	7	10	10	29	-13	41
Rotherham United	37	5	6	7	23	22	4	7	8	17	27	-9	40
Walsall	35	7	5	4	22	20	2	7	10	17	32	-13	39
<b>SWINDON TOWN</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>-17</b>	<b>38</b>
MK Dons	35	6	8	4	22	18	1	5	11	11	33	-18	34

## FORTHCOMING LEAGUE ONE FIXTURES

### TODAY

Blackpool v Port Vale  
 AFC Bournemouth v Yeovil Town  
 Bradford City v Oldham Athletic  
 Bristol City v Gillingham  
 Chesterfield v Scunthorpe United  
 Colchester United v Swindon Town  
 Doncaster Rovers v Nottingham Forest  
 Hartlepool United v Barnsley  
 Huddersfield Town v Rotherham United  
 Milton Keynes Dons v Southend United

### TUESDAY 21ST MARCH 2006

Bradford City v Blackpool  
 Doncaster Rovers v Colchester United  
 Gillingham v Brentford  
 Walsall v Yeovil Town

### SATURDAY 25TH MARCH 2006

Barnsley v Bournemouth  
 Brentford v Doncaster Rovers  
 Gillingham v Swansea City  
 Nottingham Forest v Milton Keynes Dons  
 Oldham Athletic v Blackpool  
 Port Vale v Huddersfield Town  
 Rotherham United v Bristol City  
 Scunthorpe United v Colchester United  
 Southend United v Hartlepool United  
 Swindon Town v Chesterfield  
 Walsall v Bradford City  
 Yeovil Town v Tranmere Rovers

DATE	OPPOSITION	COMP	RES	ATT (AWAY)	Pts
Sat 6 Aug	Gillingham	FL1	L1-2	7,293 (725)	15
Tue 9 Aug	Swansea City	FL1	L1-2	2,950 (334)	23
Sat 13 Aug	Barnsley	FL1	W1-0	2,721 (347)	18
Sat 20 Aug	MK Dons	FL1	D1-1	4,423 (351)	18
Wed 24 Aug	Cardiff City	LC1	L0-2	1,904 (162)	-
Sat 27 Aug	Oldham Athletic	FL1	D0-0	2,742 (276)	18
Mon 29 Aug	Southend United	FL1	L1-3	7,344 (1,066)	22
<b>September</b>					
Sat 3 Sep	Bristol City	FL1	D0-0	10,180 (137)	20
Sat 10 Sep	Doncaster Rovers	FL1	W3-2	2,721 (428)	15
Sat 17 Sep	Port Vale	FL1	W1-0	5,166 (142)	13
Sat 24 Sep	Huddersfield Town	FL1	D1-1	3,415 (646)	15
Tue 27 Sep	Bradford City	FL1	D1-1	6,891 (99)	15
<b>October</b>					
Sat 1 Oct	Chesterfield	FL1	L1-2	3,414 (155)	16
Sun 9 Oct	Blackpool	FL1	W2-1	4,793 (186)	13
Sat 15 Oct	AFC Bournemouth	FL1	L0-1	3,120 (317)	15
Sat 22 Oct	Tranmere Rovers	FL1	D0-0	6,612 (150)	16
Sat 29 Oct	Yeovil Town	FL1	W3-2	3,409 (104)	13
<b>November</b>					
Sat 5 Nov	Leamington	FAC1	W9-1	3,513 (1,022)	-
Sat 12 Nov	Rotherham United	FL1	W2-1	3,715 (195)	11
Sat 19 Nov	Blackpool	FL1	W3-2	3,031 (223)	8
Wed 23 Nov	Northampton Town	LDV2	W3-2	1,719 (92)	-
Sat 26 Nov	Gillingham	FL1	W5-0	3,801 (660)	7
<b>December</b>					
Sat 3 Dec	Shrewsbury Town	FAC2	W2-1	3,695 (538)	-
Tue 6 Dec	Hartlepool United	FL1	W1-0	3,375 (73)	6
Sat 10 Dec	Swansea City	FL1	D1-1	13,230 (215)	6
Sat 17 Dec	MK Dons	FL1	W2-0	3,400 (139)	4
Tue 20 Dec	MK Dons	LDV3	W2-1	2,649 (260)	-
Mon 26 Dec	Swindon Town	FL1	L0-1	5,531 (325)	6
Sat 31 Dec	Brentford	FL1	W2-0	6,397 (420)	4
<b>January</b>					
Mon 2 Jan	Nottingham Forest	FL1	W3-1	5,767 (1,049)	4
Sat 7 Jan	Sheffield United	FAC3	W2-1	11,820 (1,841)	-
Sat 14 Jan	Walsall	FL1	W2-0	5,464 (190)	4
Tue 17 Jan	Bristol City	FL1	W3-2	4,022 (215)	2
Sat 21 Jan	Port Vale	FL1	W2-1	4,316 (165)	1
Tue 24 Jan	Cheltenham Town	LDVASF	W1-0	2,243 (211)	-
Sat 28 Jan	Derby County	FAC4	W3-1	5,933 (1,214)	-
<b>February</b>					
Sat 4 Feb	Bradford City	FL1	W3-1	4,503 (300)	1
Tue 7 Feb	Scunthorpe United	FL1	W1-0	4,416 (112)	1
Sat 11 Feb	Huddersfield Town	FL1	L0-2	13,515 (355)	2
Tue 14 Feb	Walsall	FL1	D0-0	3,810 (126)	2
Sun 19 Feb	Chelsea	FAC5	L1-3	41,810 (6,292)	-
Sat 25 Feb	Barnsley	FL1	L0-1	9,411 (153)	3
<b>March</b>					
Sat 4 Mar	Southend United	FL1	L0-3	5,920 (1,263)	5
Sat 7 Mar	Swansea City	LDVAF1	L0-1	7,285 (117)	-
Sat 11 Mar	Oldham Athletic	FL1	L0-1	5,822 (129)	6
Tue 14 Mar	Swansea City	LDVAF2	L1-2	3,236 (305)	-
Sat 18 Mar	Swindon Town	FL1	-	-	-
Tue 21 Mar	Doncaster Rovers	FL1	-	-	-
Sat 25 Mar	Scunthorpe United	FL1	-	-	-
<b>April</b>					
Sat 1 Apr	Brentford	FL1	-	-	-
Sat 8 Apr	Nottingham Forest	FL1	-	-	-
Tue 11 Apr	Hartlepool United	FL1	-	-	-
Sat 15 Apr	Chesterfield	FL1	-	-	-
Mon 17 Apr	Tranmere Rovers	FL1	-	-	-
Sat 22 Apr	AFC Bournemouth	FL1	-	-	-
Sat 29 Apr	Rotherham United	FL1	-	-	-
<b>May</b>					
Sat 6 May	Yeovil Town	FL1	-	-	-



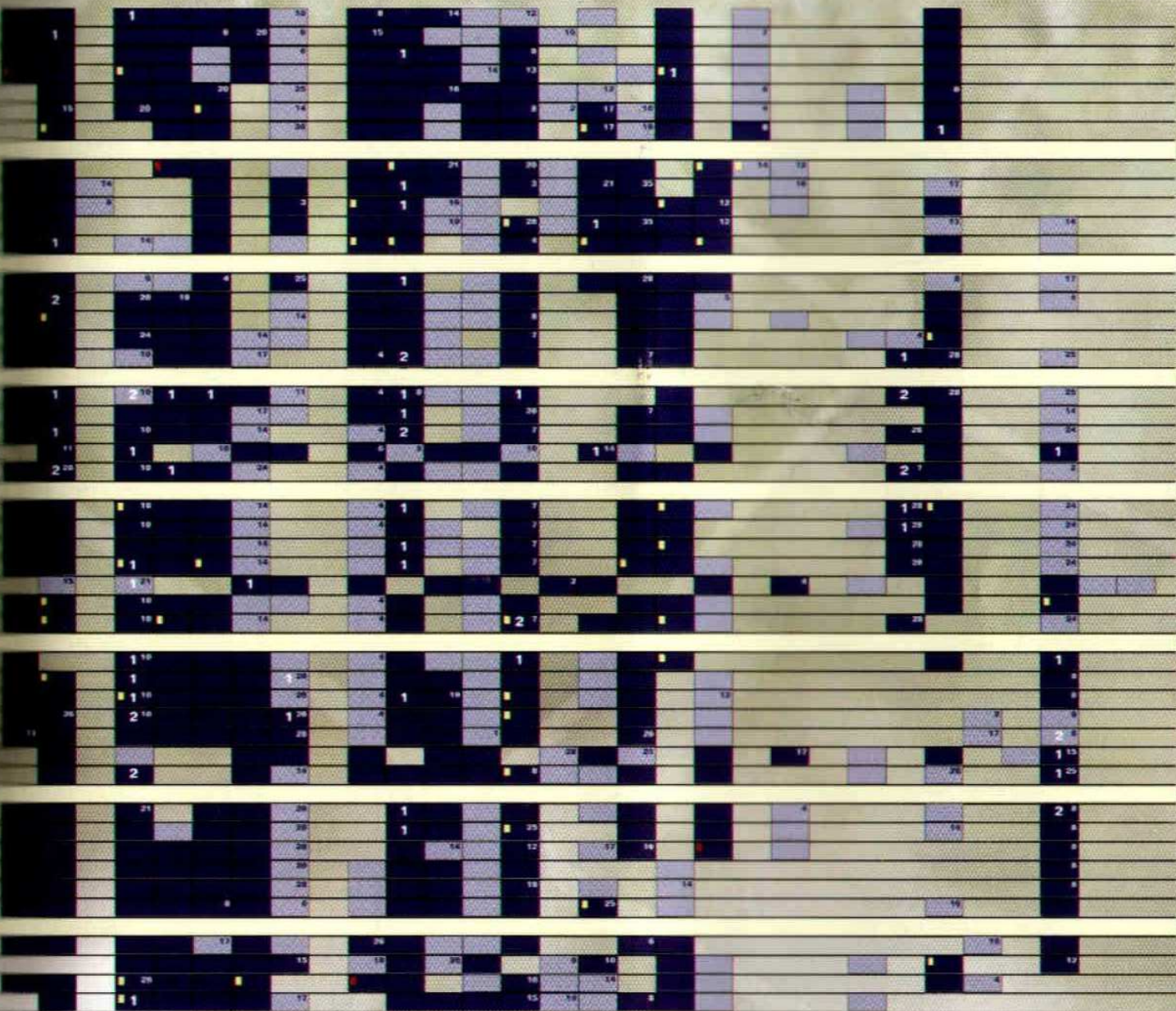


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COLCHESTER UNITED FC



1 Adam BAKER	2 Greg HALFORD	3 Stephen HUNT	4 Neil DANNS	5 Wayne BROWN	6 Kevin WATSON	7 Karl DUGUID	8 Gareth WILLIAMS	9 Marino KEITH	10 Kern IZZET	11 Chris IWELUMO	12 Pat BALDWIN	13 Dean DERKEN	14 Mark YEATES	15 Jamie GUY	16 George ELOKABI	17 John WHITE	18 Liam CHILVERS	19 Garry RICHARDS	20 Dean HOWELL	21 Robbie KING	22 Russell POND	23 Mark COUSINS	24 Jamie CURETON	25 Sam STOCKLEY	26 Tony THORPE	27 Craig HUGHES	28 Richard GARCIA	29 David WAREHAM	30 Matt PAINE
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HEAR THE LADS TALK AHEAD OF THE U'S HOME GAMES ON SGR COLCHESTER EVERY OTHER FRIDAY. FOR MORE DETAILS, VISIT [www.sgrcolchester.co.uk!](http://www.sgrcolchester.co.uk!)





## NEXT UP - BRENTFORD

**After this afternoon's game against a side attempting to scramble clear of the drop zone, the U's next home match comes against a team harbouring the same hopes of promotion as Phil Parkinson's side.**

Currently occupying one of the two automatic promotion spots that the sides currently in the top six are all chasing, Brentford come to town for a fixture which could go a long way to deciding who finishes in the top two spots come the final game of the season in May.

The Bees currently sit four points ahead of the U's and are the only other side level on games with Phil Parkinson's men, following their own exploits in the FA Cup – Martin Allen's men bowing out of the competition a day before the Layer Road side as they fell to a 3-1 defeat against Charlton.

Whilst many of the sides in the top six have experienced a wobble in form of late, Brentford have begun to strike a rich vein of form, winning five of their last seven league games either side of that cup trip to The Valley.

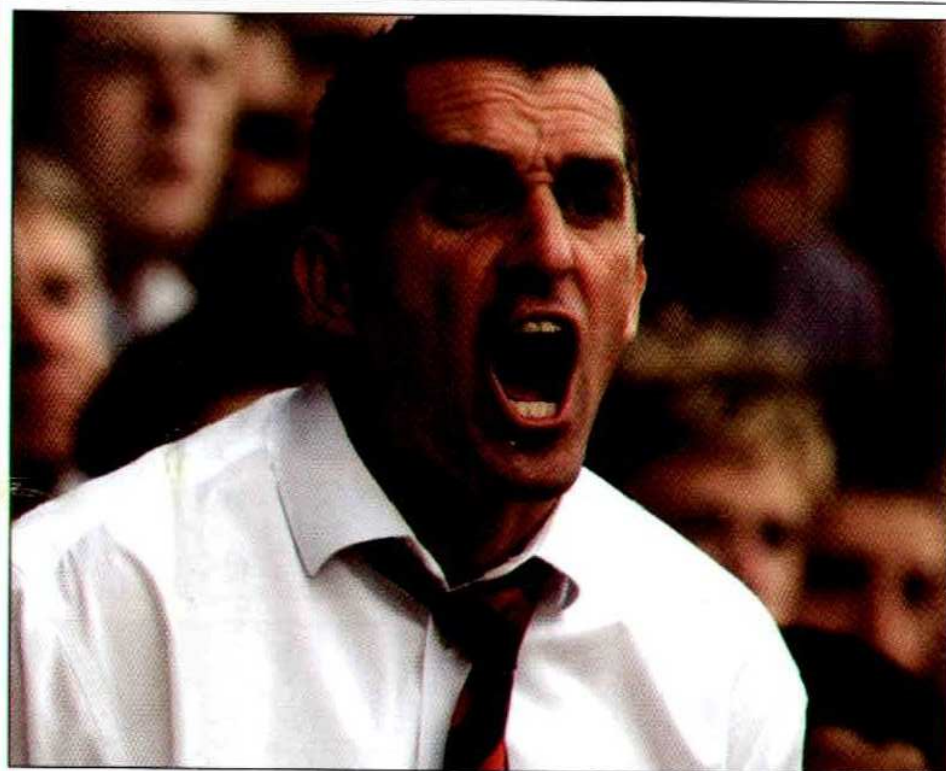
Indeed, since the U's recorded a memorable 2-0 win at Griffin Park on New Year's Eve, the Bees have lost just twice since the turn of the year, with Southend and Port Vale collecting all three points against Allen's troops.

That run was capped last week by an excellent victory at fellow promotion chasers Barnsley, with Lloyd Owusu grabbing a double to come out on top at Griffin Park.

Allen was chuffed for his striker: "I am pleased for Lloyd. He has been making a fantastic contribution to the whole team throughout the season. He hasn't got the goals he may have liked, but that finish when he went through on goal and chipped it past the keeper was the quality of Ruud Van Nistelrooy.

"It was brilliant – it was a great finish. The first half was as good as I have seen him. He was a real handful. He has been like that away from home nearly all the time. Today he was more selfish. He and Isaiah in the first half were superb.

"It was a good performance and another good day at Griffin Park on and off the field. The supporters were brilliant and they loved it. The players loved it as well."



■ Martin Allen - cautious

Despite their good run of form, Allen is suitably cautious about his side's chances of staying in the key positions in the league over the next few weeks.

He told the club's official website: "There are still eleven games to go. A lot can happen in eleven games so it's no good getting carried away."

### Important

"The important issues are to keep working hard on the training pitch and improving the performances as we go along. There is no time to rest either and sitting back in your armchair dreaming."

And Allen remained true to his word on Tuesday, as he bolstered his squad ahead of Thursday's upcoming deadline for loan signings. With Kevin O'Connor out injured, he swooped for Bristol City's Jamie Smith to shore up the right hand side of the Bees' defence.

The Bees boss will be hoping that his side can continue their momentum in the coming weeks and will have no doubt taken interest in the U's game in midweek, with both

Swansea and Phil Parkinson's side on the agenda in Brentford's run in to the end of the season.

### STOP PRESS!

Tickets for this game are on sale now and by buying in advance, you can earn yourself a Match Credit. Check [www.cu-fc.com](http://www.cu-fc.com) for more details and book your tickets by calling 0871 226 2161!

### CAN'T MAKE THE GAME?

If you're unable to make the game, then why not sign up for our official SMS service? Text CLUB COLC to 88442 now and we'll keep you bang up to date with all the news from the match!

### FANCY THE U'S FOR PROMOTION?

Despite the recent dip in form, the U's are 8/1 for the title. For this and plenty of other great bets, visit [www.layerbet.co.uk](http://www.layerbet.co.uk)



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# THE SQUADS

LINING UP AT LAYER ROAD TODAY...

## COLCHESTER UNITED

Manager: Phil Parkinson  
Colours: Blue & White



From...	Pld	Sub	Goal		
1 Aidan <b>DAVISON</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Greg <b>HALFORD</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Stephen <b>HUNT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Neil <b>DANNS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 Wayne <b>BROWN</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 Kevin <b>WATSON</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 Karl <b>DUGUID</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 Gareth <b>WILLIAMS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 Marino <b>KEITH</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10 Kem <b>IZZET</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11 Chris <b>IWELUMO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12 Pat <b>BALDWIN</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13 Dean <b>GERKEN</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14 Mark <b>YEATES</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15 Jamie <b>GUY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16 George <b>ELOKOBI</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17 John <b>WHITE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18 Liam <b>CHILVERS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19 Garry <b>RICHARDS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21 Robbie <b>KING</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22 Russell <b>POND</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23 Mark <b>COUSINS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25 Sam <b>STOCKLEY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26 Tony <b>THORPE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
27 Craig <b>HUGHES</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28 Richard <b>GARCIA</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
29 David <b>WAREHAM</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
30 Matt <b>PAINE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## SWINDON TOWN

Manager: Iffy Onuora  
Colours: Red & White



From...	Pld	Sub	Goal		
1 Rhys <b>EVANS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Sean <b>O'HANLON</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Jack <b>SMITH</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Nicky <b>NICOLAU</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 Jerel <b>IFIL</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 Steve <b>JENKINS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 Gareth <b>WHALLEY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 Trevor <b>BENJAMIN</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 Lee <b>PEACOCK</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10 Stefan <b>MIGLIORANZI</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11 Jamie <b>CURETON</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12 Ricky <b>SHAKES</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13 Matthew <b>BULMAN</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15 Andrew <b>NICHOLAS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16 Kyle <b>LAPHAM</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17 Charlie <b>COMYN-PLATT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18 Christian <b>ROBERTS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19 Michael <b>POOK</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20 Paul <b>SMITH</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21 Ben <b>WELLS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22 Andy <b>CATON</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25 Albert <b>JARRETT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
27 Andy <b>GURNEY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
29 David <b>STROUD</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
30 Ashan <b>HOLGATE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
32 Aaron <b>BROWN</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### NEXT HERE...

#### v BRENTFORD

Coca-Cola Football League One  
Saturday April 1st 2006  
Kick-Off 3.00pm



### NEXT AWAY...

#### v DONCASTER ROVERS

Coca-Cola Football League One  
Tuesday March 21st 2006  
Kick-Off 7.45pm **COVERAGE BY BBC ESSEX**



### MATCH OFFICIALS

**Referee:** Mr G. Sutton (Lincs)  
**Assistant:** Mr F. Graham (Kent)  
**Assistant:** Mr M. McPherson (Cambs)  
**Fourth Official:** Mr. P. Barnes (Cambs)



# Evening Gazette