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## INSIDE

A-Z with Keith Hill  
Action from Wycombe

Saturday 10th February 2007

Coca-Cola Football League Two

**Rochdale v Swindon Town**

Kick off 3.00pm



# Rochdale v Swindon Town

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2007



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## WELCOME TO TONIGHT'S MATCH SPONSORS



With many people choosing to give their finances a spring clean, Rochdale AFC have gone finance-mad with both of tonight's sponsors offering excellent advice that could save/make money and reorganise your finances so that your money goes further. We are delighted to welcome both the Nestor Partnership and Acorn Independent Financial Management to Spotland tonight and hope that both parties enjoy their evening with us.

**ACORN INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**  
Acorn Independent Financial Management is an experienced Financial Services company with advisers who cover the whole of the North West. Based in Blackburn, Acorn are totally independent and are able to offer independent and impartial advice on most financial planning matters. Being free from ties this enables Acorn to search the whole market place for the best product to suit your objectives and needs. The business has grown by reputation and recommendation. We work with many Solicitors/ Accountants and Estate Agents. We also supply independent financial advice to Chorley Building Societies members. Acorn are directly authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Fans will be able to use this service to help them review their finances with an initial no obligation review so there is nothing to lose by trying out our review service.

### THE NESTOR PARTNERSHIP

Nestor Partnership is a specialist financial advice firm created by a group of highly experienced financial services professionals. It offers a superior Independent Financial Advice proposition for Individual and Corporate Clients, also incorporating bespoke services for professionals such as accountants, solicitors and barristers. Collectively, the partners have over 65 years experience to develop a comprehensive range of specialist Independent Financial Advice Services. You can find more information about the Nestor Partnership on page 7 of the matchday programme. The postponement of the original fixture versus Swindon Town has worked out quite well for The Nestor Partnership. One of the Nestor Team, Rob Cawley has made his son very happy by sponsoring tonight's match as young Callum is ten years old today. Callum Cawley is a member of Dale Dragons and came to his first match when he was just three years old. He is, like most of us, keen to see goals and therefore thinks Keith Hill and Flicker are great! His favourite players (unsurprisingly!) were Grant Holt, then Ricky Lambert and now Chris Dagnall. Callum enjoys watching goals but prefers to prevent them when playing for Whitworth Juniors when he lines up at centre-half. Everyone at Rochdale AFC would like to wish Callum a very Happy 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

### MANAGER'S NOTES

First of all I would like to welcome everyone to Spotland for tonight's game with Swindon Town.

We are beginning to get the respect of teams coming to play us now and it is a respect that is fully deserved. Teams know the tempo we try to create and they are now planning to stop us doing that.

On Saturday against Lincoln City everyone witnessed we are capable of scoring at any time during the game. After the first goal we could have sat back and defended out the last few minutes but we went out to get another and we did.

There was probably a call for the players to run the ball into the corners, but I cannot stop being thirsty to win and they wanted to win comfortably, it's a credit to the lads.

We have come a long way in such a short space of time and it is good to see teams coming to Spotland trying to stop us rather than coming here on the offensive.

For me the biggest risk of all is not taking the risk. We have seven games left and we will be giving everything we have to win those seven games.

Swindon are a very good side and they have a lot of very good players, but it is just two teams up against each other and irrespective of league position I would fully back us against anyone.

We have no fear and there is nothing to fear and the lads totally believe in that. They are fully capable of playing football to the standard we expect and there is no pressure on them at all.

I'm looking forward to the game and so are the players so get behind them tonight and let's keep things going in the right direction.

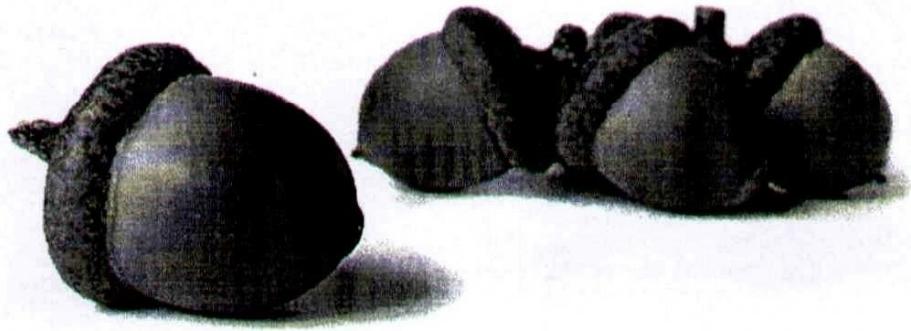
Up The Dale!

Keith

### TONIGHT'S MASCOT

This evening's mascot is Emily Gorton from Whitworth. Emily is ten years old and attends Tonacliffe Primary School. Her favourite players are Matthew Gilkes, Alan Goodall and Adam Rundle. We hope that you enjoy your evening with us Emily!

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# In Today's Programme...



## PAGES 4 & 5

Keith Hill - news from the manager

## PAGES 9-11

Swindon Town in profile

## PAGES 14 & 15

A-Z with Keith Hill

## PAGE 18

Action from Wycombe

## PAGE 22

Book Reviews with Mark Hodgkinson

## PAGE 26

Five Years Ago - Mad as Hatters!

## PAGE 38

On This Day in 1996 - Programme Cock-Up

## PAGES 42 & 43

Travellers Tales - Wycombe

## PAGE 46

Swindon Memories

## PAGE 54

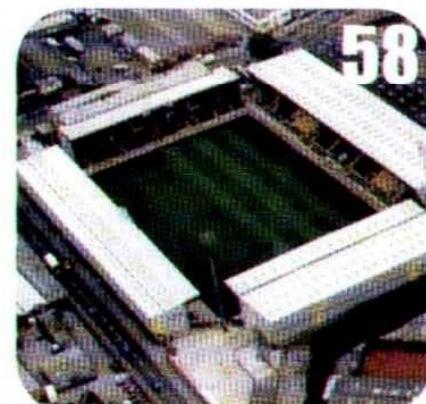
Interview with John Doolan

## PAGE 57

Dale Supporters Trust - Latest News

## PAGE 58

Dale on the Road - Notts County



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**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR**  
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**I**'D like to start my notes this week by thanking you all for your tremendous support since I took over as manager of the club.

Not only have I received a plethora of letters since my appointment, but your support for each and every game has been magnificent and I cannot thank you enough for this.

I can't emphasise how important your vocal support is to those players out there on a Saturday afternoon. It has been a bit rough at times this season and you have quite rightly voiced your concerns about this, but now you are 100% behind the lads again and that feeds the players with energy and enthusiasm. It also frees them from anxiety and fear and allows them to express themselves in the right way; they can be creative and do their jobs because they know they have your support.

Looking back to last weekend we have to be pleased with the 1-1 draw at Walsall, despite conceding late on. We went there with the full intention to win the game and I believe the manner of our performance suggested that. We created a tempo that realistically only teams at the top can match and we were just unlucky to concede so late on.

Despite this you have to give real credit to the players for a resolute performance against a side that are quite rightly top of the league. They weren't intimidated or frightened by the prospect of going to Walsall and although they'll feel hard done by with the goal in the last minute, they should be proud, as I told them after the final whistle.

The trip to the Midlands followed the excellent 5-0 win over MK Dons in our last home game and we have to be pleased with four points from the last couple of matches. We are now looking at catching Bury, the next team above us in the league and taking their place in the table. We are certainly starting to look up the league once again now and I am acutely aware of just how important it is to bridge the points' gap with our local rivals.

We were bitterly disappointed to lose Kelvin Etuhu during the game against Walsall through

# *"At Walsall we created a tempo that realistically only teams at the top can match and we were just unlucky to concede so late on"*

injury and it looks likely to be a serious one. As I write these notes I am not yet fully aware as to the extent of the injury, but no matter what the outcome Kelvin has been a big hit at our club and I hope he's enjoyed being here as much as we've enjoyed watching him play.

I'd like to welcome everyone from Swindon Town to Spotland and I expect it to be another tough game for us today. Swindon are fighting for one of the automatic promotion positions, like MK Dons and Walsall, and they will be looking to bounce back from defeat last Saturday. Obviously they beat us earlier in the season,

but we'll be looking for revenge today and it has all the ingredients of being an exciting encounter.

The fighting spirit we have in the camp is probably the best it has been and it's important to keep that going. Performances of late have been very good and with confidence in the camp high, it means we go into every game at present knowing we can win. This can only be a good thing and come the final whistle today our visitors will know they have been in a tough encounter.

During the course of last week the club was able to announce the signatures of both Nathan Stanton and Gary Jones on extended contracts. It goes without saying that both these players are vital to the welfare of the team and I was delighted that they agreed to extend their stays with us.

As a football club we cannot afford to lose our best players or give other clubs the chance to steal them and players such as Gary and Nathan are essential signings in the short-term or long-term. They form part of the spine of our team, are leaders on and off the pitch and going forward they both have a big part to play at our football club.

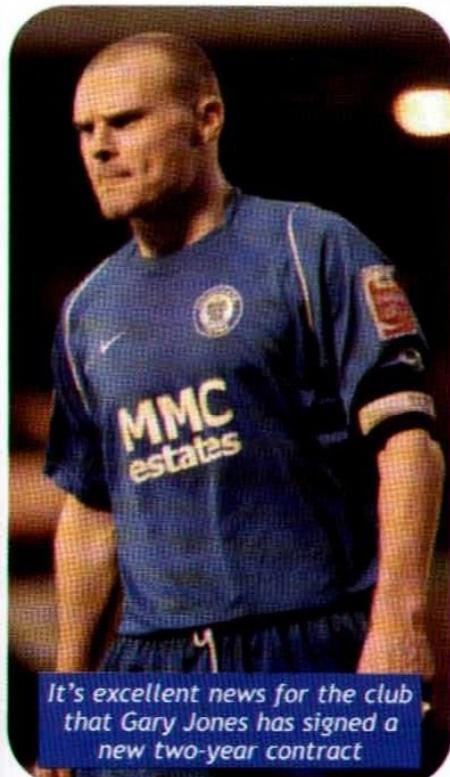
Up The Dale!

Keith

*It's excellent news for the club that Gary Jones has signed a new two-year contract*



*I was very disappointed to lose Kelvin Etuhu to injury last Saturday*



*It's excellent news for the club that Gary Jones has signed a new two-year contract*

## **TODAY'S OTHER FIXTURES**



### **COCA-COLA FOOTBALL LEAGUE TWO**

Barnet v Accrington S.  
Chester C. v Hereford U.  
Darlington v Boston U.  
Grimsby T. v Bristol R.  
Hartlepool U. v Walsall  
Lincoln C. v Torquay U.  
MK Dons v Macclesfield T.  
Peterborough U. v Wrexham  
Shrewsbury T. v Bury  
Stockport Co. v Mansfield T.  
Wycombe W. v Notts Co.

## FANS FORUM

The club are delighted to announce that they will be holding another highly-popular Fans Forum this coming Monday evening, 12th February.

The event will take place in the Horners Lounge at Spotland, starting at 7.30pm.

On the panel will be the Dale management team of Keith Hill and David Flitcroft, Chairman Chris Dunphy and General Manager Colin Garlick.

Supporters Trust members will be admitted free of charge, with admission costing £3 for non-members.

## REARRANGED FIXTURE

Rochdale's away game at Shrewsbury, which was postponed last month, has been rearranged for Tuesday 27th March, kick-off 7.45pm.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We have received an interesting letter from Swindon fan Shaun Butler. This is what he had to say:

*I started supporting Swindon when my dad, Rex Butler, took me on Stratton Banks in the late-60s, early-70s. We regularly got crowds upwards of 14,000 to matches then and it became part of the fabric of my week. Hopefully the population of Swindon will again take 'The Town' football club to their heart and give the new manager Paul Sturrock their backing.*

*During the trouble-ridden 80s, I went to Rochdale for a Fourth Division match against Town and fell in love with Spotland's pie and mushy peas (with gravy) and Dale's homely, but dedicated existence on lowly gates. I've followed Rochdale ever since, travelling to home games initially and now mainly Dale away in between Swindon home games.*

*Hopefully Dale and Town can push on up the league and lift these magnificent supporters to a higher footballing stage.*

*I still have the programme from Dale v Swindon in September 1982 if anyone is interested. The names Micky French, Dave Thompson, Peter Farrell, Jimmy Allen, Russell Lewis, Paul Rideout (16-years old and who I went to school*

*with), Andy Rowland and Leigh Barnard stand out.*

*Yours sincerely*

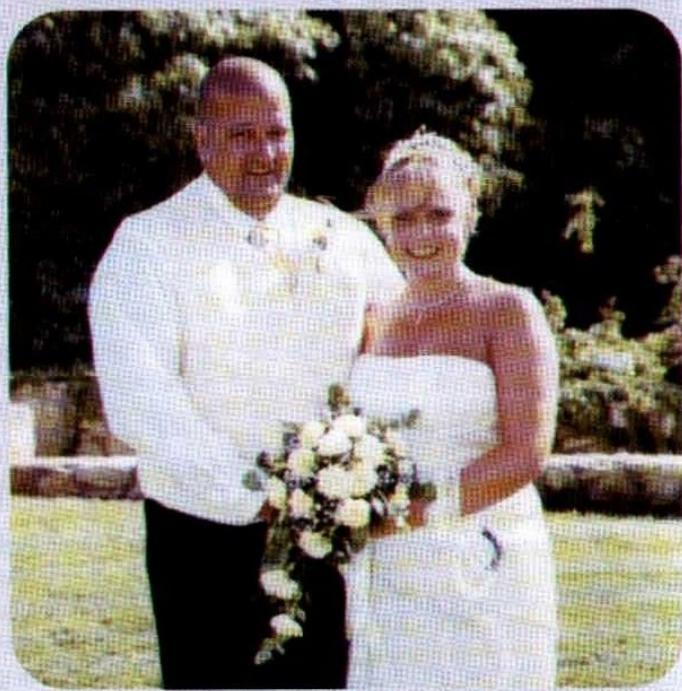
*Shaun Butler*

## DALE FANS GETTING MARRIED!

This photograph has been with us for some time now and we've eventually got round to including it in the programme.

It shows loyal Dale fans Chris Mawson and Joanne Whiteley on their wedding day in Cyprus last July.

Many Dale fans will recognise Joanne as one of our matchday Golden Gamble ticket sellers, while Chris is a Goldbond agent.



Belated congratulations come from all at *The Voice of Spotland*.

## BOSTON TEA PARTY

Yes, we know we've used that headline many times before, but it's a good one!

Anyway, Dale's 4-0 win over Boston at the end of December

## THE VOICE OF SPOTLAND

Editor: Mark Wilbraham

Contributors: Richard Wild, Stuart Ashworth, Keith Hicks, David Chaffey, Mark Sweetmore, Jarrod Flett, Dale

Supporters Trust, Mike Dolan (SMAC), Scrutator

Photography: Daniel Youngs (DY Sporting Photos)

E-mail: rochdale\_programme@hotmail.com

The views expressed in *The Voice of Spotland* are not necessarily those of the Editor or the club.



surpassed our 3-0 success at York Street back in September as our best result against the Pilgrims.

In addition, it was our first 4-0 home win since December 2002 when high-flying Hartlepool were taken to the cleaners by Paul Simpson's Rochdale side.

Just for the record, our last ten 4-0 home wins are as follows:

Dec 2006 v Boston U.  
Dec 2002 v Hartlepool U.  
Apr 1998 v Scarborough  
Aug 1995 v Hartlepool U.  
Aug 1990 v Scarborough (Rumbelows Cup)  
Aug 1990 v Aldershot  
Oct 1969 v Tranmere R.  
Mar 1969 v Colchester U.  
Apr 1966 v Stockport Co.  
Mar 1966 v Barrow

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The website was launched in the summer of 2004 by Dale supporter Dean Holden and has grown in popularity amongst sports fans ever since, with over 250,000 visits to the site a month.

Dean now lives in Wiltshire, but has been a Dale supporter for over 15 years. He is joined today by family and friends from both Rochdale and Swindon.

## MATCH SPONSOR

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Collectively, the Partners have over 65 years financial services experience and have used this experience to develop a comprehensive range of specialist Independent Financial Advice services. The aim of the Partnership is to provide advice, support and the highest level of service to clients. Two of the Nestor team, Tony Doidge and Rob Cawley are here today and can be contacted on 01706 299745.

Joining the Nestor team today will be Dale Legend, 'Super Striker' Stevie Taylor.

For the benefit of younger Dale fans, Steve was a forward described as a 'stocky, bulldog type player'. Most of his goals were scored in and around the six-yard box and indeed many were scored from the penalty spot which, by Steve's own admission, were just blasts down the middle. Having said that, he achieved the much coveted Golden Boot award in 1986 with 31 goals for the season.

Nestor are delighted to welcome Steve back to the club today.

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Fox R&A Sports are delighted to be the official perimeter contractor to the Football Association, the FA Premier League and more than thirty Premiership, Championship and Football League clubs, as well as most Rugby League and Rugby Union clubs.

## MATCH REFEREE

Rob Lewis

Today's referee is Shropshire official Rob Lewis. He is in his first full season on the referees' list, although he did officiate at several lower league games last term as part of a new refereeing initiative. The first of those games was here at Spotland in October when Dale defeated Rushden & Diamonds, while Rob also refereed our home match against Darlington towards the end of the campaign.

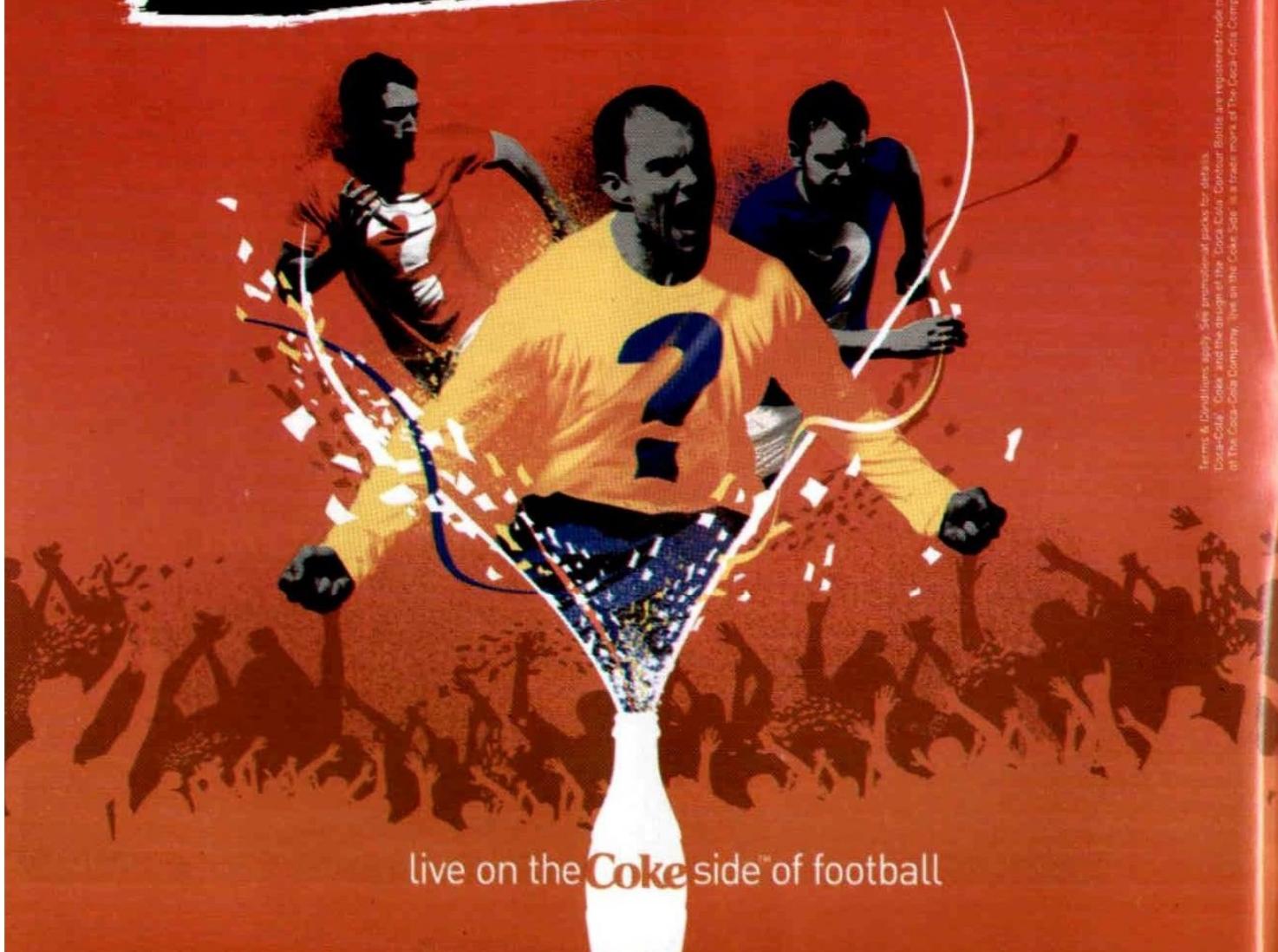
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## A FAMILIAR face came back to haunt Swindon Town last Saturday, ending their unbeaten league start to 2007.

Hartlepool striker Andy Monkhouse, who left the County Ground for the North-East last month, headed the game's only goal four minutes into the second half to inflict Town's first league defeat since they went down 2-1 at Macclesfield on 23rd December.

The loss also ended an unbeaten home run stretching back to the first weekend in November when Hereford won 2-1 at the County Ground.

Nevertheless, our visitors are still well-placed for an immediate return to League One, standing in second place at kick-off today.

Although Walsall's injury-time leveller against Dale last weekend meant Swindon now trail the leaders by four points, the Robins hold a two-point advantage over MK Dons, who occupy the first play-off slot.

Town have enjoyed a very consistent season, despite having the pressure of being the bookies title favourites hanging over them.

They have also maintained their assault on promotion in spite of the managerial upheaval that saw Dennis Wise and Gus Poyet execute a clause in their contracts to join Championship side Leeds United in October.

The directors didn't hang around when Wise and Poyet departed for Elland Road and very quickly installed Paul Sturrock in the County Ground hot seat, the former Scottish international becoming available after his dismissal by Sheffield Wednesday.

Mr Sturrock was naturally disappointed by last Saturday's events, but decided to take a philosophical view on where it left his team's season.

"We created chances, but didn't score; that's the end of the story," he said. "All good runs must come to an end and I'm sure we will lose a few more games before the season is out.

"We have to get back on the training ground and knuckle down. We need to move on and make sure we are ready for Rochdale."



## Robins Squad Check

**GOALKEEPER** **Phil Smith** has held down his place in the starting eleven since making his league debut in mid-October. The 27-year old arrived at the County Ground from Crawley last summer having played for Margate earlier in his career.

Smith got his chance in the first team when 6' 7" **Peter Brezovan** suffered an injury in the home game with Grimsby in October. The giant Czech, who saved two penalties on his Town debut, is likely to be out of action until the closing stages of the season.

Third-choice custodian **Jon Stewart** joined our visitors in the summer of 2005, but has only been on the bench on a couple of occasions.

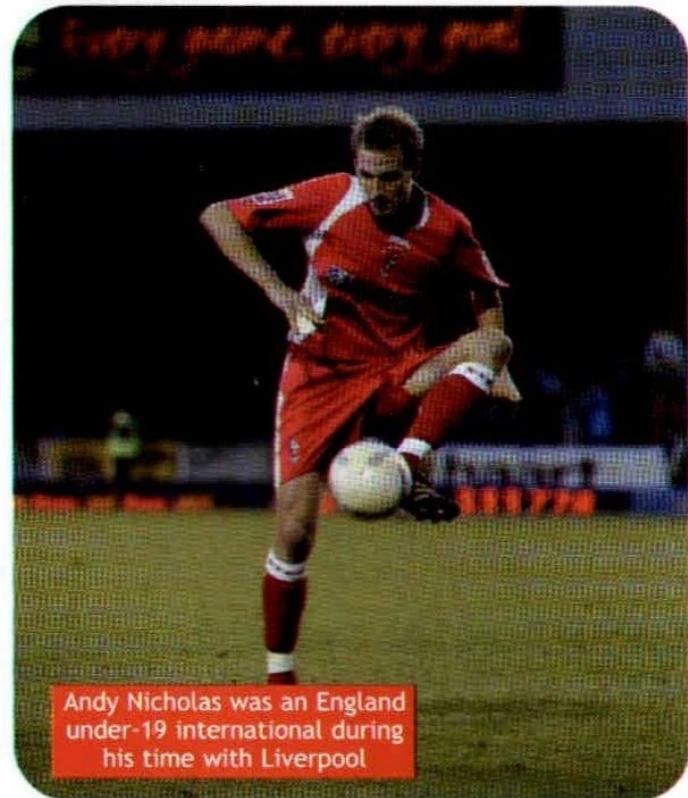
The full-back slots were occupied by **Jack Smith** and **Andy Nicholas** against Hartlepool last weekend.

Smith has been a regular in the Robins' side since moving from Watford in July 2005. Aged 23, he opened his scoring account for the club with a penalty against MK Dons in September.

Nicholas is one of Swindon's longest-serving players, having joined them from Liverpool in July 2003. Also aged 23, he has now clocked-up over 100 league games for the club, although he did have a loan spell with Chester at the end of the 2004/05 campaign.

**Ady Williams** and **Jerel Ifil** are likely to feature in central defence this afternoon.

Team captain Williams has a wealth of experience from over 500 club appearances and 13 caps for Wales.



Andy Nicholas was an England under-19 international during his time with Liverpool

The 35-year old started out with Reading in the late-1980s for what was the first of four separate career spells with the Royals. He left them for Wolves in July 1996, but returned on loan to the Madejski Stadium twice in the next four years, before making the move permanent in the summer of 2000.

In November 2004 Williams linked-up with Coventry, before joining Swindon last August.

Ifil is in his third full season with our visitors after three successful loan spells in Wiltshire. Aged 24, he began his career as a trainee at Watford.

**Jamie Vincent** is an experienced left-back who arrived at the County Ground in August. The 31-year old can name the likes of Crystal Palace, Portsmouth and Derby amongst his former employers in a career in which he has fetched over £1.3 million in transfer fees.

Paul Sturrock's defensive options are completed by **Patrick Noubissie**, a French right-back who was signed on transfer deadline day after impressing the manager during a trial spell.

**Michael Pook** and **Ricky Shakes** have been regulars in Town's midfield in recent weeks.

20-year old Pook is in his second season as a professional after progressing through the ranks at the County Ground, while Shakes (22) joined our visitors from Bolton in July 2005 in the deal which also saw Dale's Charlie Comyn-Platt move to Wiltshire.

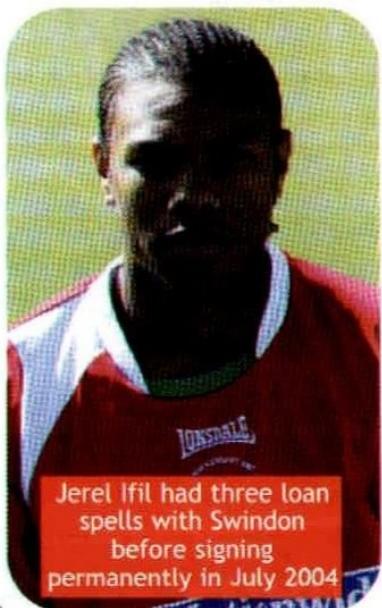
**Sofiene Zaaboub** and **Michael Timlin** were also in midfield action against Hartlepool last Saturday.

Zaaboub was Paul Sturrock's first signing for the Robins in November, making his debut against Carlisle in the FA Cup. Previously on trial at Sheffield Wednesday, his previous clubs include French outfit St Etienne.

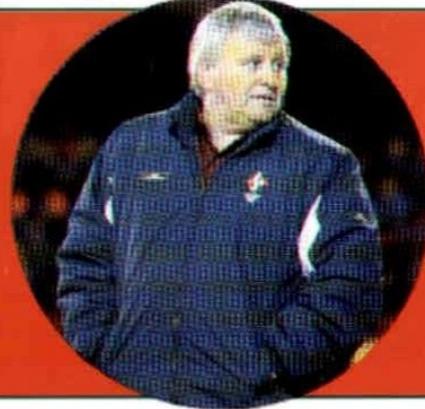
Timlin is on loan at the County Ground from Fulham. A former Republic of Ireland under-21 international, he also went out on loan to Scunthorpe and Doncaster last season.

Former Millwall player **Curtis Weston** became the youngest-ever FA Cup finalist when he appeared as a substitute against Manchester United in 2004, replacing Dennis Wise, who signed him for Swindon last summer.

He was on the bench last weekend, as was **Aaron Brown**, a



Jerel Ifil had three loan spells with Swindon before signing permanently in July 2004



## Manager... Paul Sturrock

**Born:** Ellon (Aberdeenshire), 10th October 1956

**Playing Career:** (1974-1994) Dundee U.

**Playing Statistics:** 576 apps, 171 goals

**Managerial Experience:** St. Johnstone, Dundee U., Plymouth A., Southampton, Sheffield Wed., Swindon T.

**Appointed Robins' Manager:** November 2006

**Did you know?** Paul played for Dundee United in the 1987 UEFA Cup Final, which they lost on aggregate to Barcelona

26-year old who played over 190 times for Bristol City earlier in his career before several loan spells with basement division clubs.

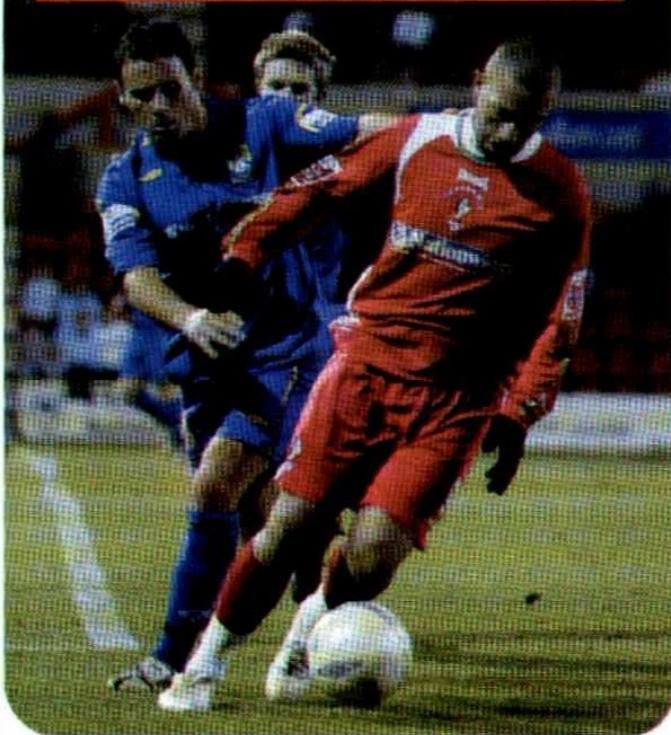
**Paul Evans** missed one of Swindon's two penalties against Dale in August, some nine years after he had put one past Lance Key for his first club, Shrewsbury Town. Now aged 32, the ex-Welsh international left Gay Meadow in March 1999 and has since enjoyed spells with the likes of Brentford, Bradford and Nottingham Forest.

One-time Crewe trainee **Gareth Whalley** has struggled with injury since moving to Wiltshire from Wigan in July 2005, while 18-year old **Ben Wells** is still waiting for his first senior start after progressing from the Robins' Centre of Excellence.

Another player still waiting to start a game for our visitors is former Dale striker **Blair Sturrock**. The 25-year old has come off the bench to score twice for Town in the last three games, adding to the six goals he hit for Dale last season.

The son of Swindon's manager, Blair has also played league football for Plymouth and Kidderminster.

Christian Roberts made his Football League debut against Dale for Cardiff in September 1997

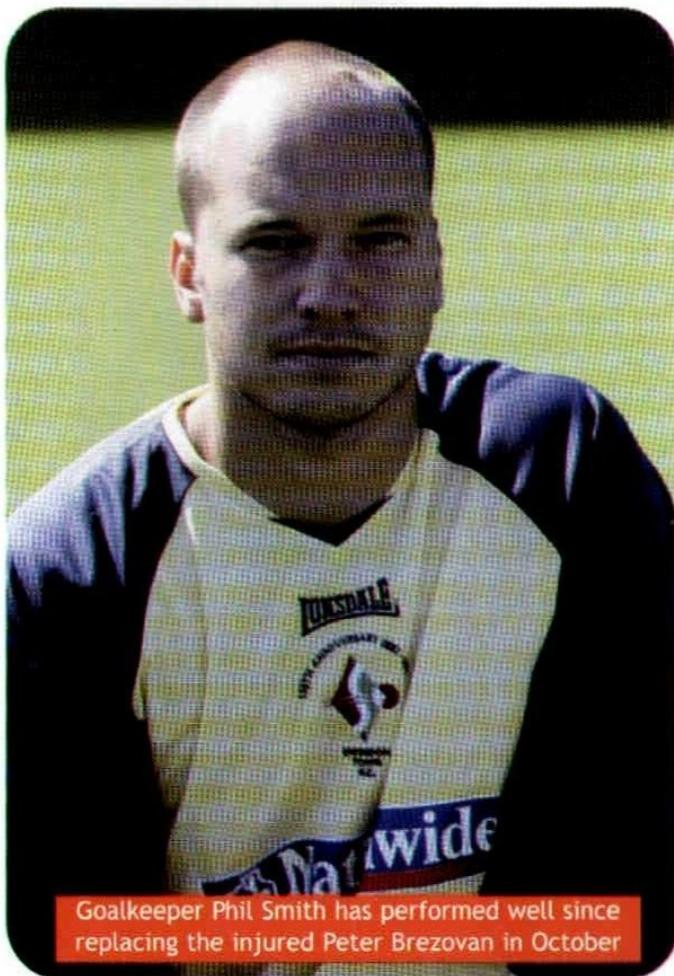


The experienced duo of **Christian Roberts** and **Lee Peacock** have held the fort up front for most of the season.

Roberts, the first penalty culprit against Dale six months ago, was a £50,000 signing from Bristol City in March 2004. Aged 27, he began his career with home town club Cardiff, before linking-up with Exeter.

Peacock has hit 111 league goals since starting out at Carlisle in 1995. The 30-year old then played under Steve Parkin at Mansfield, before spells with Manchester City, Bristol City and Sheffield Wednesday.

17-year old **Lukas Jutkiewicz** was a junior with Southampton before joining Swindon's Centre of Excellence, while **Andy Caton**, the son of the late Manchester City defender Tommy Caton, has mainly been used as a substitute since joining the Robins from non-league football in June 2004.



Goalkeeper Phil Smith has performed well since replacing the injured Peter Brezovan in October



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## ROCHDALE manager Keith Hill takes us on an alphabetical journey through his life and his career ...

**AMBITIONS** ... *What are yours for the immediate future and in the long-term?* Just to be the best coach I could possibly be; not just for me, but for those I'm coaching. Long term? I don't make plans, I never have. I don't plan on where I go on holiday or what I'm doing next Saturday night. I am a spur of the moment person, so I couldn't tell you long term.

**BOOTS** ... *What boots do you wear?* I wear Nike Legends because Eric Cantona wore them. He was a legend in my eyes and if they were good enough for him then they are good enough for me.

**COMEDIAN** ... *Who is your favourite comedian?* David Flitcroft - the guy is a laugh-a-minute. He's high tempo, upbeat and he just fills the place with energy. He makes

you laugh and it's always a happy place when he's around.

**DREAM** ... *What is your footballing dream?* My dream was always to be a Premiership footballer, but sadly I never quite made it. I never had the opportunity to get there and that is why I'm so determined to succeed as a coach.

**EXPERIENCE** ... *What is the best feeling you've felt on the field during your career?* I won promotion a couple of times, but never had that feeling of euphoria on the pitch when it was actually confirmed. I seemed to always miss out on those games. Perhaps the best feeling is scoring a goal because they were always unexpected coming from a defender. They always give you that rush and that is the best feeling you can have.

**FRICITION** ... *Who is the most annoying opponent you have ever faced?* Leo Fortune-West. We always had battles from our first game against each other when I was at Plymouth and he was at Gillingham. He broke my nose on that first occasion with a flying elbow and ever since then we had battles; annoying battles, banter battles, aggressive battles, you name it, we had them.

**GOAL** ... *What is the best goal you have ever scored in your career?* The best goal I scored was for Rochdale against Macclesfield Town at Spotland in September 1997. We won 2-0 and I scored a 25-yard volley with my red boots on. It was from a knock-down by Mark Leonard and it hit the back of the net before the goalkeeper moved.

**HOLIDAY** ... *Where was your last holiday?* I spent the summer on holiday in America with one of my daughters because my other daughter was sitting her exams and she stayed at home with her mum. We went to see my Dad in New Jersey for three weeks.

**IDOL** ... *Who is your footballing idol?* I have two if that is okay. Eric Cantona, who I mentioned earlier, and Roy Keane. Everything creative and skill-wise Cantona did, Keane backed it up with tenacity and aggression. If you had two players of that ilk in your side then you couldn't fail.

**JOKER** ... *Who is the joker in the changing room?* John Doolan. He always gets me with a one-liner when I switch off and he finds it particularly funny.

**KIT** ... *What's the best kit you have ever worn?* Has to be the Asics stuff at Blackburn. It was the first season they were sponsors and they threw everything at us in terms of kit.

**LOWEST MOMENT** ... *What has been the lowest moment of your career so far?* Without doubt the day we didn't get that result at Plymouth (above right) on the final day of season 2000/01. It really hit me hard; the very heart of a very good squad was ripped out that day and that hurt like hell.





**MUSIC ...** *What type of music are you into?* I like every kind of music, it plays a big part in my life. Every weekend myself and my wife spend much of our free time listening to music and we are always getting the latest albums, right through to the more obscure bands.

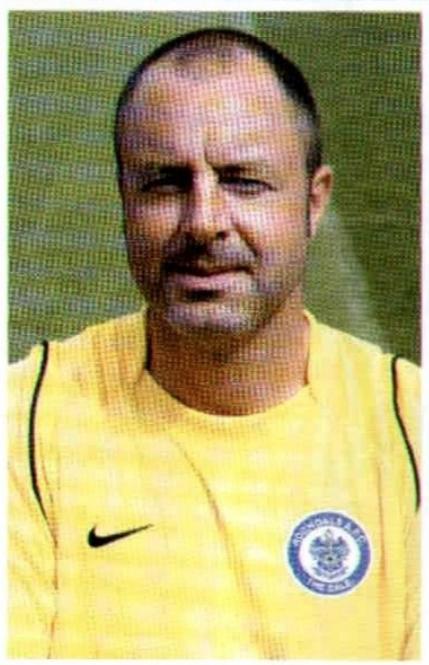
**NUMPTY ...** *Who is the least intelligent player you have played with?* Academically, Mark Monington (pictured), without a doubt, but not in a footballing sense.



**OWN GOAL ...** *When did you last score an own goal and who was it against?* I have scored many, but I remember when I was at Plymouth I had been left out of the side by Neil Warnock for three or four games. Things weren't going too well and he said he was going to put me back in the team.

I was confident we were going to win so I went to the bookies at a time when you could bet and asked him how much for us to win 3-1. He gave me 11/1 so I put £10 on it.

We did win 3-1, but I scored an own goal and the next day when I went to pick my winnings up the bookie wasn't happy! He knew me and knew I'd scored the own goal and at first he refused to pay me, but with a smile on his face he did hand



over the money.

**PROFESSION ...** *What would you be if you weren't a footballer?* I don't know what I'd have done, but whatever it would have been I'd have put 100% into it. I never do things without putting 100% in; it's not worth doing if that is the case.

**QUALITIES ...** *What are your best individual qualities?* Loyalty is perhaps something I'd put in that category. I have a small group of friends who I'm very loyal to and of course my family. I have always been a family person; I'm very loyal to them and they are very loyal to me.

**REFEREE ...** *Who is the best referee you have ever had?* Never remember them.

**STADIUM ...** *What is the best stadium you have played at?* Elland Road (pictured) in front a packed house against Leeds United. I was 19-years old and captain of Blackburn and we came away with a 1-1 draw. It was a result we fully deserved and I was representing Blackburn as captain and shaking hands with Gordon Strachan, who was one of my heroes.

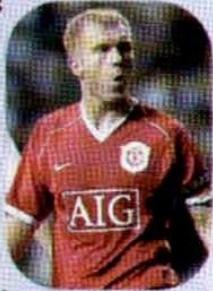


**TEAM ...** *Which team did you support as a child?* My dad gave me a football he'd won in a pub raffle that had all the Manchester United signatures and from that moment I was a United fan. I loved them from that day and I love the way they play. Sadly we didn't have a lot of money when we were growing up and I ended up using the ball on the streets. It would have been worth a fortune now.

**UNLIKELY ...** *Who is the most unlikely player in our team to score an overhead kick?* Jack the Kitman!

**VEHICLE ...** *What vehicle do you drive?* Because my wife and children enjoy horses, we have a box to ferry them to events, so we have a Cherokee Jeep.

**WORLD'S BEST PLAYER ...** *Who do you think is the best player in the world?* Paul Scholes (pictured) for me. I love him even though he is a couple of years past his best. He is no big time Charlie; he's down-to-earth and his football over the years has been superb. He never gives the ball away and his intelligence on the pitch is second to none.



**XCELLENCE ...** *Who is the best player you have played against?* I did play against Paul Stewart when he was with Spurs and England and I was at Blackburn. We had a mammoth cup tie that went into extra-time and my remit was to man mark him throughout the game. Wherever he went I went for two hours and after the game he shook my hand, kissed me and said "You might as well follow me into the changing room!"

**YOBs ...** *Who are the most intimidating fans you've played in front of?* West Ham fans, without a doubt. I was a sub for Blackburn and when I was sent out to warm up on the sidelines I knew I was going to get dog's abuse. I was called every name you could think of; they described what they were going to do to me and my wife.

It was very tough because when you are playing you don't actually hear them, but when you are stretching on one spot there is little you can do but take it.

**ZERO TOLERANCE ...** *What pet hates do you have?* Laziness is something I really cannot stand, there is no excuse for it.

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# Pubs supporting THE DALE



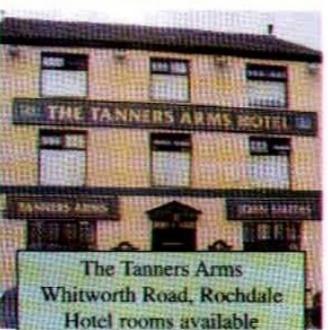
The Healey Hotel  
Shawclough Road, Shawclough  
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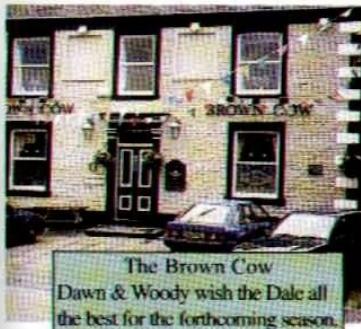
Dog & Partridge, 520,  
Bury Road, Bamford.  
Tel: 01706 648073



Hare & Hounds, Bury Road,  
Bamford, Good Food All Day



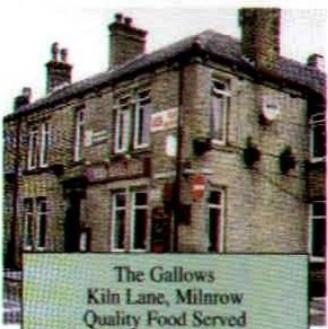
The Tanners Arms  
Whitworth Road, Rochdale  
Hotel rooms available



The Brown Cow  
Dawn & Woody wish the Dale all  
the best for the forthcoming season.



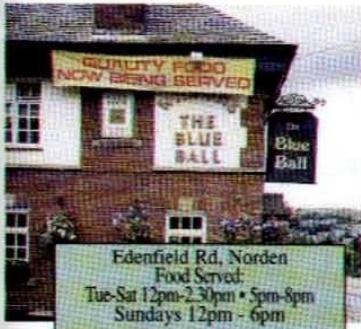
Sun Hotel, Featherstall Road,  
Littleborough, Tel: 01706 378957  
Rooms available at competitive rates



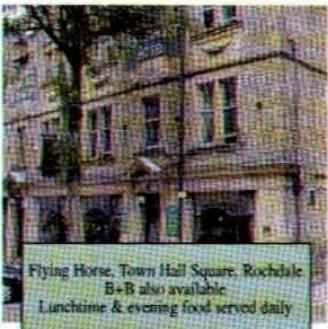
The Gallows  
Kiln Lane, Milnrow  
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Ian, Christine & Team welcome  
you to The Harrows, Bolton  
Road, Sudden. Food Served  
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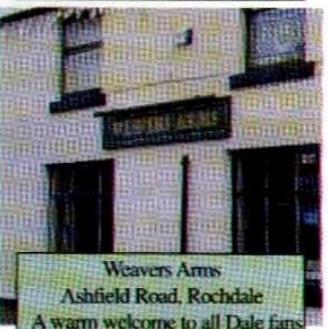
Edenfield Rd, Norden  
Food Served:  
Tue-Sat 12pm-2.30pm • 5pm-8pm  
Sundays 12pm - 6pm



Flying Horse, Town Hall Square, Rochdale  
B+B also available  
Lunchtime & evening food served daily



The Reed - Town Centre pub,  
excellent home cooked food



Weavers Arms  
Ashfield Road, Rochdale  
A warm welcome to all Dale fans



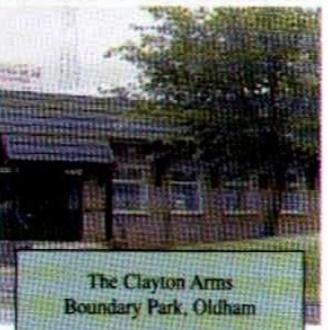
The Baum, Toad Lane,  
Rochdale. Food served 7 days a  
week. Tel: 01706 352186



High Sheriff - Halifax Road,  
Rochdale. Friendly local pub.  
Tel: 01706 645752



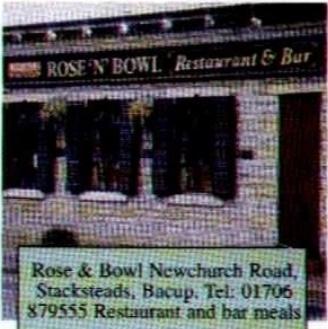
THE FOX INN - Milnrow Road  
Quality food available all day  
Tel: 01706 642753



The Clayton Arms  
Boundary Park, Oldham



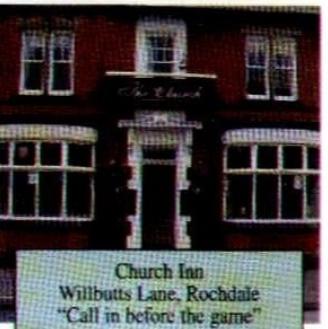
Horse & Farrier, Norden  
Enjoy good home cooked food



Rose & Bowl Newchurch Road,  
Stacksteads, Bacup. Tel: 01706  
879555 Restaurant and bar meals

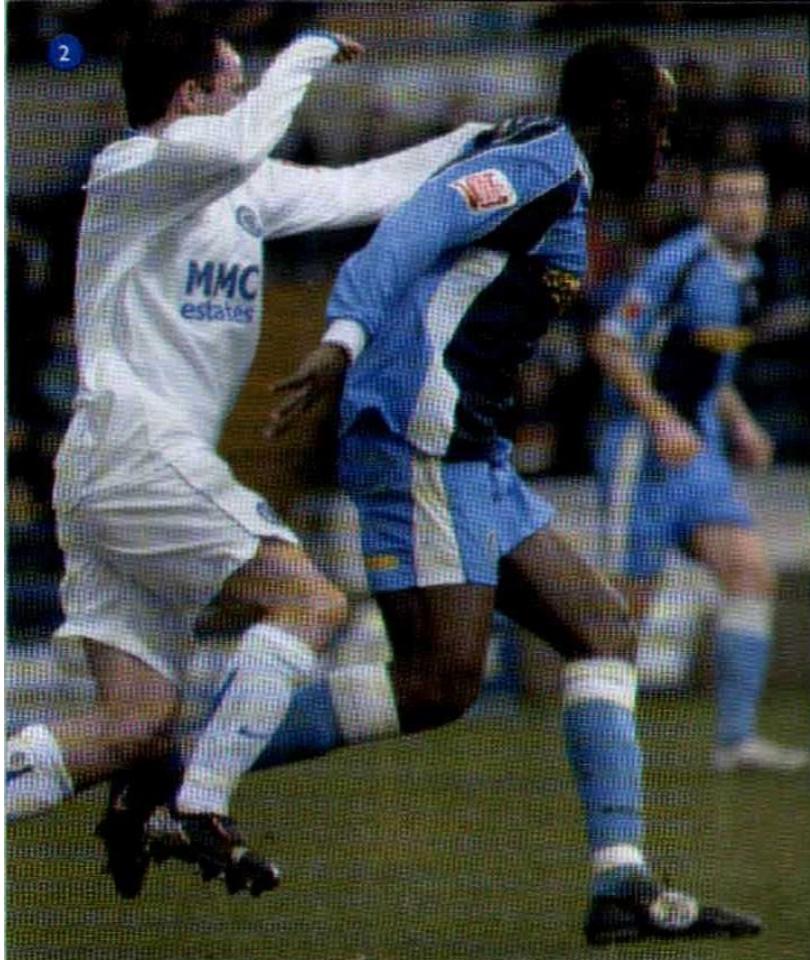


The Merry Monk  
College Road, Rochdale  
Joe & Anne wish Dale all the best  
this season



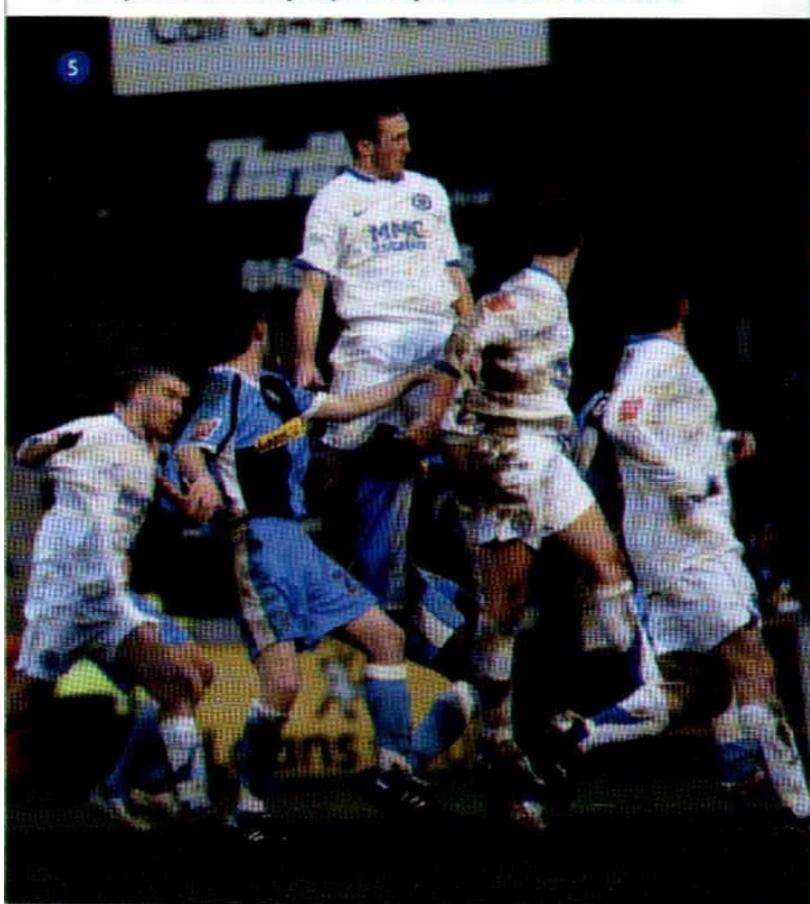
Church Inn  
Willbuts Lane, Rochdale  
"Call in before the game"

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## Action from Wycombe

- 1 - Gary Brown heads clear from Chris Palmer
- 2 - Chris Dagnall tussles for the ball with Palmer
- 3 - Lee Crooks gets up well to beat Tommy Mooney to the ball
- 4 - Glenn Murray shows good control in the first half
- 5 - Rory McArdle out-jumps everyone at this Dale corner





# Football In The Community

WELCOME everybody for yet another hard game against our opponents from down south.

I've no doubt that we will provide a testing game for these high fliers, but I hope all three points will be in the pot for the Dale.

## FOOTBALL LEAGUE UNDER-13s GIRLS CUP

At half-time during the last home match against Milton Keynes Dons we held a presentation for the Rochdale AFC preliminary rounds.

As you are probably aware, St Cuthbert's High School emerged as winners and competed last Thursday at Stockport County in the Regional Finals (obviously these notes were written prior to deadline, so I will give you the latest update in the next programme notes).



Prizes were given out by Joe Thompson and Clive Moyo-Modise. St Cuthbert's High School won a trophy, five footballs and a ball bag, plus certificates for the players.

Springhill High School, as runners-up, received certificates (right).

It was fitting that Joe presented awards to St Cuthbert's as he is an ex-pupil of the school and his proud sports teacher, Joanne Holt, was on hand to witness this.

Results for the Rochdale final preliminary round:

Whitworth 1 Springhill 1  
St Cuthbert's 4 Balderstone 0  
Whitworth 2 St Cuthbert's 4  
Balderstone 1 Springhill High 4  
Balderstone 0 Whitworth 3  
Springhill 0 St Cuthbert's 1

### Final Positions

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Cuthbert's	3	3	0	0	9	2	9
Springhill	3	1	1	1	5	3	4
Whitworth	3	1	1	1	6	5	4
Balderstone	3	0	0	3	1	11	1

### HALF-TERM COACHING COURSES

As I reported in the last notes, this popular activity is with us again next week, with various courses being held throughout the borough.

Anybody wishing to take advantage of the coaching and five-a-sides should contact me as soon as possible.

For these courses, we are giving out the popular MEGZ Cards and have also introduced a brand new venture with NFA Skills. Everybody will be put through some simple drills with awards presented at various levels.

#### Venues

Rochdale AFC 5-a-side Complex - Sandy Lane, Rochdale  
Littleborough Community School - Calderbrook Road, Littleborough  
St Mary's Primary School - Wood Street, Middleton, Manchester  
Siddal Moor Sports College - Newhouse Road, Heywood

#### Times and prices

Full day 10.00am - 3.00pm/Half day 10.00am - 12.30pm

3 Day Full Course: £28.50  
4 Day Full Course: £33.50  
5 Day Full Course: £38.50

Half Days: £18.50  
Half Days: £23.50  
Half Days: £28.50

#### Offers

NFA Soccer Skills - individual testing with certificate and badge presented

Free MEGZ CARDS - add to your own collection

Certificate of attendance, with skills report for all attenders

McDonald's Awards in each age group - Skills/Star player/Personality/Most improved

Free ticket for a Rochdale AFC home match

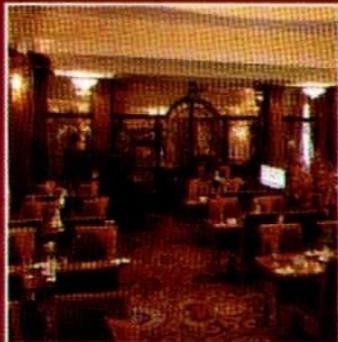
Promising players recommended to the club's Centre of Excellence

See you all soon

Hicksy

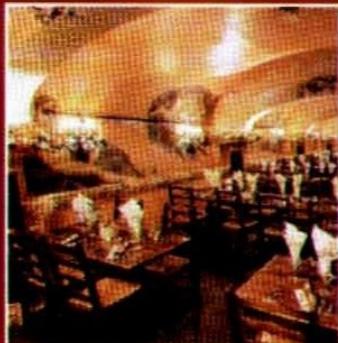


# PROUD TO BE THE OFFICIAL HOTEL OF ROCHDALE AFC



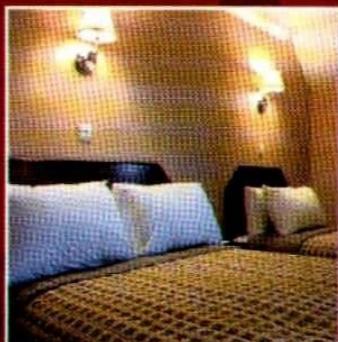
## *The Royal Toby Restaurant*

The magazine Lancashire Life were quoted as saying 'the locals obviously love it'. This doesn't surprise us because we work diligently to offer consistency at all times. The staff will be friendly, polite and knowledgeable at all times. The menus are constantly updated by the General Manager who takes a personal pride in selecting only the finest ingredients.



## *Fallen Angels*

Dine on cuisine that has been diligently selected from across the continent and choose from a wine list that is overflowing with eloquence. Our opulent restaurant, themed around the 14th Century Italian renaissance period, provides the perfect backdrop for our highly trained and motivated staff to ensure you enjoy your evening with us and leave you endeared towards our restaurant for many years to follow.



## *Bedrooms*

Our spacious en-suite bedrooms are designed with flair, style and luxury.

Our Superior Bedrooms feature a four poster bed, large screen TV, ample desk top space and have lavish interiors which make for a beautiful bridal suite.



## *Conferences & Banqueting*

Our numerous conference facilities offer a choice of both modern and traditional styles to cater for all. Whether for interviews, training seminars or presentations our dedicated team of conference organisers are on hand to ensure your meeting is successful, well organised and enjoyable.



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# PICTURE

## Framing

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Promoting independence and self belief amongst women



### THE Dale and literary endeavour go together wonderfully, as author Mark Hodgkinson discusses...

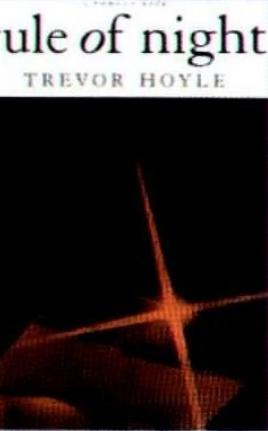
Happiness and success don't make for great stories. No, it's failure and misery we want. Nothing warms the heart more than the thought that someone else has had it worse.

Presumably this must be why Rochdale AFC has had, proportional to its fan base, more books dedicated to it than any other club. Bring it on say the poets and the authors: the defeats, the humiliation, hope under onslaught. Then season it with drizzle, mist, overcoats and gravy.

It all began in triumphant grittiness back in 1974 with *Rule of Night*. Trevor Hoyle made his protagonist, Kenny Seddon, a Dale fan and had him flitting around the town up to no good, and worse. The prose is so rich and vivid that the pages soon appear to smell of fag smoke and mustiness and a time you're glad to have escaped from. It is as well observed as any of the northern writers that preceded it - Hines, Sillitoe, Braine etc - and more authentic than those that followed on, the likes of Irvine Welsh and John King. Yes, that good and forged in Rochdale.

I read *Rule of Night* as a teenager living in the town and it (I might as well admit this...) changed my life. I understood for the first time that where I lived and the club I supported was valid, that it meant something. There was poetry here, in the muck and toil, and if Hoyle could spin gold from it, I was bloody-minded enough to believe I could too.

Derick Allsop was next up with *Kicking in the Wind*. The book was fundamentally a journalistic assignment, with Allsop spending a season with the club, relating its on and off-field travails. Since he obviously focused on the club's personnel of the time, it means the book has dated but still stands as a fine snapshot of life at a lower league football club.



Ex-director Richard Bott proffered his Dale-tinged memoirs in *Three Curries and a Shish Kebab*. Boasting a cover of singular gruesomeness, inside we found a breezy account of Bott's press box frolics. The antithesis of Hoyle's prose, it was a light and frothy and anecdote overload. The clue is in the title.

My first book on Dale was *Life Sentence*, a collection of pieces from a weekly column I contributed to *The Times*. I spent a season with Dale but, unlike Allsop, I was asked only to reflect on what I felt as a fan looking in at the club. My new book, *Believe in the Sign*, is a 'sort-of-memoir.' I have covered the years 1974 to 1982 but tried to contextualise the club's fortunes with my own life and the life of the town. I write about the coming of supermarkets, Ashfield Valley flats, the abduction and murder of Lesley Molseed, the textile industry closing down and our eccentric town artist, Michael Dames.

We might not win as often as most teams but, hey, we've got more books than you.

**"Three curries and a shish kebab"**

...and other spicy tales from a sports writer's notebook  
By RICHARD BOTT



FOREWORD By ALEX FERGUSON C.B.E.

LIFE SENTENCE



MARK HODGKINSON



Mark Hodgkinson in *Believe in the Sign*

*Rule of Night* by Trevor Hoyle (Futura, 1975 and Pomona, 2004)

*Kicking in the Wind*, Derick Allsop (Headline, 1996)

*Three Curries and a Shish Kebab* by Richard Bott (Empire Publications, 1998)

*Life Sentence* by Mark Hodgkinson (Parrs Wood Press, 2001)

*Believe in the Sign* by Mark Hodgkinson (Pomona, 2007) - available via the Club Shop for £9.99 or from [www.pomona.uk.co.uk](http://www.pomona.uk.co.uk)

Rochdale supporters David Chaffey and Carl Cavanah give their views on five players with Robins' connections ...



Swindon supporter Nigel Bennett gives his views on five players with Dale connections ...

**DAVID COLE** - As you will read elsewhere in today's programme, Cole was in the last Swindon team to play at Spotland 21 years ago, partnering Colin Calderwood in the centre of their defence. He had played all of his career in the south-west, with the likes of Swansea and Torquay also figuring on his CV, so his move north to Dale in the summer of 1989 was somewhat surprising. Fans were divided on his ability, as good performances were interspersed with stinkers, but all-in-all he enjoyed a reasonable Dale career. He lived near to Fothergill & Harvey's factory in Littleborough when he was with the club and struck a goal sponsorship deal with a group of Dale fans who paid him something like £5 per goal. Fortunately Coley only cost them £35 in his two seasons at Spotland!



**MICKEY FRENCH** - I had only read French's name in the *Rochdale Observer* as he was playing for Dale in the season I started watching, 1982/83. I thought it was rather an exotic name for a Dale player, although I was familiar with it from perusing Rothman's Football Yearbook. French was with Aldershot for a while and they were the first team alphabetically, so their pages were often looked at first. He was one of two Dale players sent-off in a fiery FA Cup tie at Altrincham, but his greatest moment in a Dale shirt came in March 1983 in Jimmy Greenhoff's first game as manager. Dale won 4-1, French scored a hat-trick and was then released two months later.



**SIMON GIBSON** - The kindest description I can give Gibson is that he was a bit of a 'clod-hopper'! I haven't got a clue if that's spelt right, but it means he was a clogger, a typical 1980s lower-league centre-half.



Vic Halom brought him in from Preston, paying £5,000 for his services. He was going to be understudy to John Bramhall and Keith Hicks, but when Hicks suffered an injury on the opening day, Gibson got his chance. However, he soon became injured as well and left Spotland later in the season having made just five inauspicious league appearances for the club.



**ALAN McLOUGHLIN** - Dale signed Alan in December 2001 as we looked to cement our promotion credentials. He got off to a poor start and didn't look a good signing, but a superb performance at Halifax (the one with the last minute Paddy goal) became the turning point. From then until the end of the season he was very impressive, but it was short lived, though, as John Hollins released him to the surprise of a few Dale fans. He signed for Forest Green after leaving Spotland.



**ALAN REEVES** - My favourite Dale defender of all time. Absolutely immense. We signed him from Chester City in 1991 and he stayed at Dale until September 1994. During that time Reeves became an absolute hero to Dale fans for his consistently superb performances, to the point where we knew he'd be heading for a bigger club and better opportunities. Sure enough, in 1994, the offer came in and he left Spotland for Selhurst Park to join Premiership Wimbledon for £300,000. It was weird having to collect his sticker for my collection, especially as I was aged 36 at the time!



**DAVID COLE** - Cole joined the Robins from Swansea in February 1985 and made a total of 79 appearances, scoring three goals. He played 44 times during the 1985/86 championship campaign, before moving onto Torquay United in January 1987 following a loan spell in Devon.

**MICKEY FRENCH** - A former England youth international, French joined us from Brentford in February 1977, made a grand total of 11 appearances, before leaving for Doncaster Rovers in July 1978. He scored his only goal in the final game of the 1976/77 season against Portsmouth.

**SIMON GIBSON** - Gibson came from Chelsea in October 1983 and made his league debut against Colchester that month. A man mountain, he made 37 appearances, netting five times, from the back, but the following season he played just four times before leaving for Preston. He made his final appearance in an FA Cup tie at Dagenham, where he allegedly upset manager Lou Macari with the energy he put into bursting all the balloons that were on the pitch!

**ALAN McLOUGHLIN** - McLoughlin rose to fame during his time at Swindon. Although initially loaned to Torquay, he returned to play an important part in a number of campaigns, including scoring the only goal in the famous victory over Sunderland in the Division One play-off final at Wembley. This should have seen Swindon promoted to the top flight for the very first time, but a subsequent demotion prevented this from happening.

Alan left the club for Southampton for around £1million after making 106 appearances and scoring 19 goals.

**ALAN REEVES** - Reeves became something of a cult hero at the County Ground, with cries of "Reeeeeees" echoing across the terraces. A whole-hearted and committed player who played 208 games for Swindon, more than any other club during his long career, as well as scoring 12 goals, including one which was the winner at Ashton Gate against local rivals Bristol City. As his playing days drew to a close, he moved into management, spending time at Swindon with the youth team, then as assistant to the first team manager.



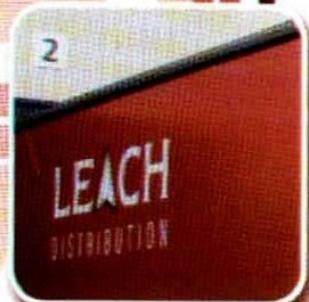
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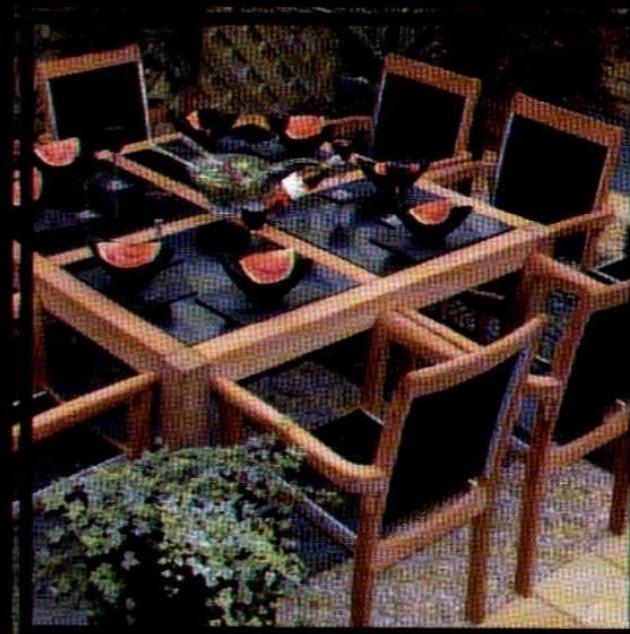
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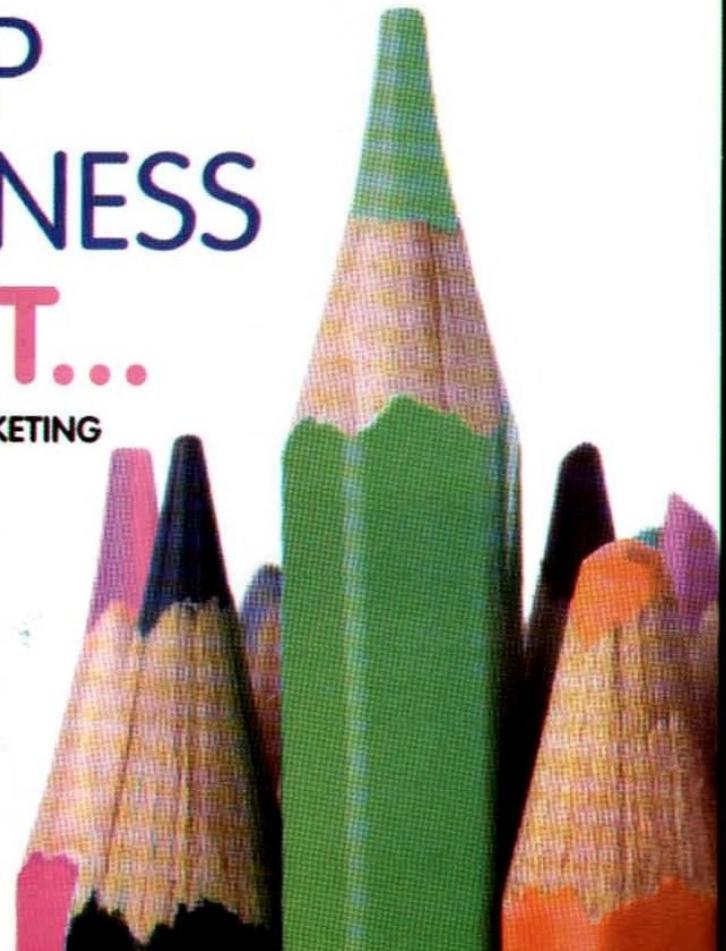
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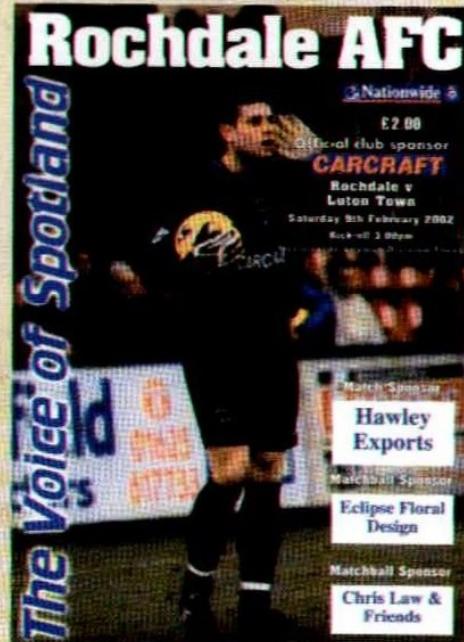
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### February 2002



#### Mad as Hatters

Rochdale 1, Luton Town 0  
Division Three

Rochdale completed a fine league double over fellow promotion-chasers Luton, although they were seriously indebted to on-loan goalkeeper Steve Banks for winning them the points. Banks made save after save to keep the Hatters out, allowing Dale to move within two points of their victims.

Although Banks' performance was outstanding, it was actually Patrick McCourt who scored the game's only goal. Just 12 minutes had been played when he cut in from the left and shot for goal, with the ball looping up off Dave Bayliss to completely wrong-foot goalkeeper Carl Emberson.

It wasn't a good day for Bayliss. Just two months after leaving Spotland, he played the game like a bear with a sore head and it was no surprise when his clattering tackle on Wayne Evans brought a red card from referee Matt Messias.

Nine other players were booked by the Premiership official who struggled to keep a lid on an encounter that always threatened to boil over.

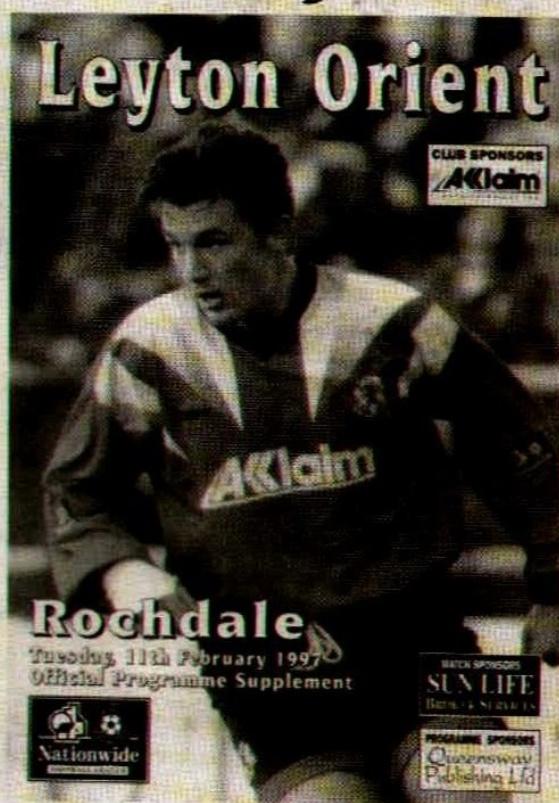
**Dale:** Banks, Evans, Doughty, Griffiths, Jobson, Flitcroft, Oliver, McCourt, Jones (McLoughlin), Townson, McEvilly (Durkan)

**Attendance:** 4,306

**Referee:** MD Messias (York)

Swindon dropped to 14th in Division Two after a 3-0 defeat at Cardiff.

### February 1997



#### Stand up lads! The time is now

Leyton Orient 2, Rochdale 1  
Division Three

Dale threw away the lead and extended their winless run to five games after a poor display at Brisbane Road. The worry was that with bottom club Brighton starting to pick up points, Dale would end up being dragged into a relegation battle.

However, things were looking up when Dale took a 33rd minute lead. Keith Hill headed a corner across goal, Alan Johnson struck the ball against a post and Robbie Painter managed to bundle in the rebound.

Unfortunately the lead lasted only two minutes. Orient's Joe Baker got free down the right and his cross was headed home by the unmarked Alex Inglethorpe.

Dale's heads dropped and it was no surprise when the O's netted a second after 54 minutes. Baker was again allowed to cross from the right and this time Steve Castle was given the freedom of Brisbane Road to score.

**Dale:** Gray, Fensome, Dowell (Thompson), Johnson, Hill, Farrell (Formby), Russell (Gouck), Deary, Painter, Whitehall, Thackeray

**Attendance:** 2,406

**Referee:** NS Barry (Scunthorpe)

# February 1987

## PENALTY HEARTACHE

Rochdale 0,  
Middlesbrough 0  
(Middlesbrough  
won 4-3 on pens)  
Freight Rover Trophy

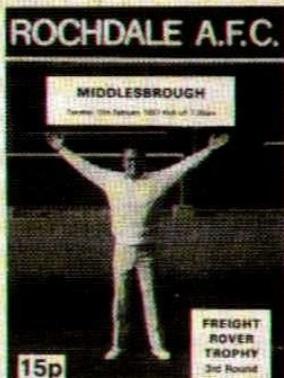
There couldn't have been two greater extremes ahead of this Freight Rover Trophy tie at Spotland.

Middlesbrough were top of Division Three and heading for promotion, while Dale were bottom of the Fourth Division and looking Conference-bound.

However, there was little to choose between the sides and it was no surprise that penalties were required to settle the contest.

Dale led 2-1 after two penalties each, but the Brian Stanton missed and Colin Cooper scored to make it 2-2.

Robbie Wakenshaw saw his kick saved by Stephen Pears and when Bernie Slaven converted,



Boro held the upper hand.

John Bramhall then netted for Dale, but Gary Hamilton's success from the next spot-kick won the tie for the visitors.

**Dale:** Welch, Johnson (Conning), Grant, Seasman, Bramhall, Smart, Stanton, Parlane, Young, Reid, Wakenshaw

**Attendance:** 2,615

**Referee:** NJ Ashley (Nantwich)

Swindon chalked-up a 4-2 Freight Rover home win over Hereford thanks to goals from Jimmy Quinn, Peter Coyne, Steve White and Dave Bamber.

# February 1977

## JENKINS BLASTS THROUGH THE MEDIOCRITY

Rochdale 2, Aldershot 1  
Division Four

Dale played their fifth game without defeat, although it had to be said they were rather fortunate to do so.

Aldershot missed chance after chance in the first half and only had Jack Howarth's 29th minute hook shot to show for their efforts.

# February 1977

## Four-goal Dale bounce back to form

Rochdale 4, Halifax Town 1  
Division Four

Dale ended a run of three consecutive defeats with a hard-working home display against the Shaymen. Although Dale's performance couldn't be classed as sparkling, they battled hard enough to see off their struggling visitors.

All this came after calamitous defending handed Town an eighth minute lead. Future Dale player Bobby Hoy scampered down the left and drew all the Dale defence out of position. His weak cross somehow found a totally unmarked Mickey Bullock, who had the simplest of tasks to score.

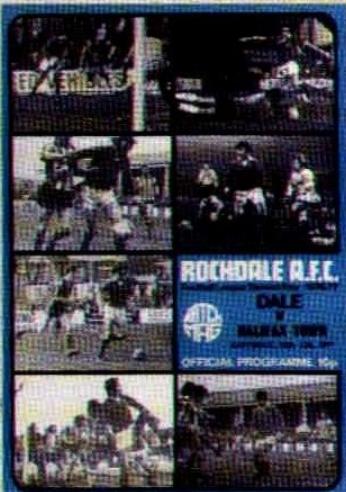
Dale had to wait until the 28th minute for the equaliser - Bill Summerscales heading home from a corner - but this goal spurred them on to take a 40th minute lead when Bob Mountford reacted quickest as Tony Whelan's shot came back off the post.

15 minutes from time Dave Helliwell forced the ball over the line in a goalmouth scramble and in the 83rd minute Gary Cooper's rising 20-yard shot completed the rout.

**Dale:** Poole, Hallows, O'Loughlin, Bannon, Summerscales, Boslem, Melledew, Helliwell, Mountford, Cooper, Whelan

**Attendance:** 2,255  
**Referee:** GC Kew (Middlesbrough)

Swindon had Steve Aizlewood, Trevor Anderson and Ray McHale (pen) on target in a 3-0 Third Division win at home to Chesterfield.



# February 1967

Dale made the visitors pay for their attacking failures when Reg Jenkins equalised on 65 minutes after Laurie Calloway had quickly taken a free-kick.

Four minutes later Melledew's intended pass for Jenkins was handled by Ron Davies and Jenkins converted the resulting penalty.

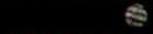
**Dale:** Williamson, Connor (Calder), Calloway, Melledew, Smith, Taylor, Daubney, Holden, Jenkins, Stephenson, Storl  
**Attendance:** 2,494

**Referee:** DNH Payne (Sheffield)

Swindon were beaten 1-0 at Doncaster in a Third Division fixture.

ROCHDALE

ASSOCIATION



FOOTBALL CLUB



FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION 4  
ROCHDALE v ALDERSHOT  
SATURDAY 11th FEBRUARY 1977  
KICK-OFF 3.00 p.m.

### ROCHDALE'S season may have seen a change in fortune, but for one Dale player the campaign has far from improved.

It has been very tough for defender Mark Jackson, who has struggled with more than his fair share of injury problems this term. But 'Jacko', who has made just seven appearances this season, hopes the end of his injuries are in sight.

"It has been one of those seasons that all footballers don't want to have," he told us earlier this week. "I've had more than enough problems, despite going through the summer and pre-season training feeling great and looking forward to the new campaign. I really thought this season was going to be a good one for me.

"Unfortunately I have picked up problem after



problem and that proved to be the story just the other week when I'd just got back to full fitness after my foot injury. I was back in full-time training and even managed to get a few reserve games under my belt and then I went and tore my cartilage.

"I seem to have picked up one injury after another; every footballer has a season they would rather forget and it looks like this season I'm having mine."

For Jackson the very thought of sat watching a game is bad enough, but day after day in the gym or resting at home has him climbing the walls.

"When you are a footballer you just want to play and I'm no different, I hate being sidelined. Going to the gym every day is nothing like training with the rest of the lads, while watching from the stands is even worse.

"But I will stay focussed, stay strong and keep working away to get myself back.

"I have had the operation now and with keyhole surgery I should be back training with the first team in around five weeks."

When the battle to regain fitness ends, the 29-year old will begin fighting a war on two fronts, with a place in the starting eleven first on the agenda.

"The lads are doing well at the moment and I know it is going to be a challenge to get back in the side, but I'm certainly up for that challenge. I challenge myself all the time, but what the future holds for me I'm not sure."

That future is the second fight Jackson has on his hands with the summer bringing the end of the defender's contract. Players have to play and with the season coming to a close Jackson knows time is running out.

"I'm under no illusions as to what the future holds for me because the problems I have had have kept me out of the side and I've slipped down the pecking order. I'm out of contract in the summer and not playing at the moment, but I've spoken to the manager and he said to just keep focused on getting fit and for now that's all I'm doing.

"Hopefully I'll get the chance to put my case across before the end of the season."

## League Two Table 2006/07

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Walsall	31	11	4	1	28	7	7	6	2	20	13	28	64
<b>SWINDON</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>60</b>
Hartlepool	31	9	3	3	18	8	8	4	4	21	16	15	58
MK Dons	31	9	2	4	26	18	9	2	5	27	22	13	58
Lincoln City	31	9	3	3	28	16	8	2	6	28	24	16	56
Stockport	31	10	2	3	28	13	5	3	8	16	21	10	50
Wycombe	31	7	7	1	19	9	7	1	8	15	17	8	50
Notts County	31	6	4	6	21	18	6	5	4	22	20	5	45
Bristol Rovers	30	9	3	4	19	11	3	4	7	11	19	0	43
Darlington	31	6	4	5	19	18	5	5	6	19	21	-1	42
Chester	30	5	4	6	16	18	6	4	5	16	13	1	41
Hereford	31	7	4	5	18	15	4	4	7	15	24	-6	41
Barnet	30	7	3	4	22	21	3	6	7	16	24	-7	39
Peterborough	31	5	3	7	27	29	6	3	7	11	16	-7	39
Shrewsbury	28	5	5	3	23	14	4	6	5	19	17	11	38
Mansfield	30	7	4	4	27	18	3	4	8	16	24	1	38
Bury	31	4	5	7	20	23	6	2	7	18	19	-4	37
<b>ROCHDALE</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>32</b>
Grimsby	31	6	2	7	17	24	3	3	10	15	29	-21	32
Boston Utd	31	6	4	6	21	24	2	3	10	16	33	-20	31
Accrington Stanley	30	5	4	6	26	24	2	5	8	19	30	-9	30
Macclesfield	31	4	5	7	25	28	3	4	8	11	20	-12	30
Wrexham	30	6	5	5	17	15	1	4	9	11	33	-20	30
Torquay	31	3	6	7	13	17	2	4	9	14	31	-21	25

## Appearances Chart

Player	06/07		06/07		Dale career		Overall career	
	League Apps	Goals	Cup Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals
Barker*	11(1)	-	2(2)	1	16	1	16	1
Boardman*	3(1)	-	2(1)	-	31	1	31	1
Brown	10(5)	-	3(1)	-	37	-	37	-
Christie*	4(1)	-	1	-	20	2	273	67
Clarke*	5(7)	1	-	-	12	1	324	51
Coleman*	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Cooksey*	10(9)	-	4(1)	-	100	8	141	14
Crooks	16(3)	-	3	-	22	-	254	5
Dagnall	26(1)	9	5	1	53	13	97	20
Doolan	27	3	4	2	49	5	515	35
Etuhu*	3(1)	2	-	-	4	2	4	2
Gilks	30	-	5	-	181	-	181	-
Goodall	30	2	4	-	115	7	115	7
Goodhind*	-	-	-	-	12	-	254	5
Jackson	7(2)	-	1(1)	-	23	-	224	5
Jones	24(1)	3	4	-	309	44	378	46
Lambert*	3	-	-	-	68	28	230	57
Le Fondre	2	2	-	-	2	2	69	21
McArdle	12	-	1	-	33	1	35	1
Mocquet*	6(1)	1	-	-	7	1	7	1
Moyo-Modise	1(18)	1	2(1)	-	31	1	31	1
Murray	14(2)	4	2	-	18	4	87	13
Perkins	(2)	-	-	-	2	-	2	-
Prendergast	2	1	-	-	2	1	40	1
Ramsden	18(2)	3	2	-	37	4	113	4
Reid	(2)	-	-	-	2	-	12	-
Rundle	7(6)	1	3	1	16	2	140	14
Sako*	14(3)	3	1(2)	-	20	3	48	6
Sharp*	12	1	2	-	14	1	167	5
Stanton	28	-	4	-	32	-	308	1
Thompson	1(7)	-	-	-	9	-	9	-
Warburton	4	-	(1)	-	5	-	5	-

\* No longer with the club. / Up to and including Walsall (a) 3/2/07

## League Two Statistics 2006/07

**Best Home Win**  
7-1, Lincoln C. v Rochdale, 21/10/06

**Best Away Win**  
6-0, Grimsby T. at Boston U., 3/2/07

**Highest Aggregate**  
8 goals  
3-5, Peterborough U. v Hartlepool U., 23/9/06  
7-1, Lincoln C. v Rochdale, 21/10/06

**Leading Scorers (all competitions)**  
21 goals - Jermaine Easter (Wycombe W.)  
20 goals - Izale McLeod (MK Dons)  
18 goals - Andy Bishop (Bury)  
16 goals - Richard Barker (Hartlepool U.)  
16 goals - Jamie Forrester (Lincoln C.)  
16 goals - Richard Walker (Bristol R.)

**Highest Attendances**  
10,010, Swindon T. v Bristol R., 16/12/06  
8,878, Swindon T. v Wycombe W., 26/12/06  
8,405, Peterborough U. v Lincoln C., 23/12/06

**Lowest Attendance**  
1,234, Accrington S. v Mansfield T., 16/1/07  
1,384, Accrington S. v MK Dons, 9/12/06  
1,461, Barnet v Boston U., 12/9/06

## League Two Attendances 2006/07

	HIGHEST	LOWEST	AVERAGE
Accrington	3225	1234	2217
Barnet	2958	1461	2194
Boston	4327	1664	2245
Bristol R	6475	4327	5158
Bury	4466	1775	2474
Chester	4206	1527	2701
Darlington	4571	2825	3610
Grimsby	5012	3012	4027
Hartlepool	7458	3659	4517
Hereford	5201	2309	3371
Lincoln	6820	3913	5280
Macclesfield	2869	1472	2087
Mansfield	6182	2197	3458
MK Dons	7140	4564	5849
Notts Co	7019	3010	4662
Peterborough	8405	3193	4500
Rochdale	4499	1982	2713
Shrewsbury	6593	3502	4499
Stockport	6575	4089	5026
Swindon	10010	5628	7093
Torquay	4029	1588	2569
Walsall	8345	4070	5602
Wrexham	5257	3401	4095
Wycombe	6090	3885	4800



	OPPONENTS	RES	PTS	POS	ATT	AWAY			
<b>2006 August</b>									
Sat 5	WALSALL	L 0-1	-	20	3218	978	Gilks	Ramsden	Goodall
Tue 8	Torquay United	L 0-1	-	20	3039	156	Gilks	Ramsden	Cooksey
Sat 12	Swindon Town	L 0-1	-	23	6771	253	Gilks	Ramsden	Goodall
Sat 19	NOTTS COUNTY	L 0-1	-	23	2321	485	Gilks	Ramsden	Cooksey
Tue 22	Doncaster Rovers (CC)	L 2-3	-	-	3690	163	Gilks	Ramsden	Goodall
Sat 26	Accrington Stanley	D 1-1	1	23	3045	930	Gilks	Ramsden	Goodall
<b>September</b>									
Sat 2	HEREFORD UNITED	D 1-1	2	22	2146	300	Gilks	Ramsden	Goodall
Sat 9	Bristol Rovers	D 0-0	3	23	4689	175	Gilks	Ramsden	Crooks
Tue 12	GRIMSBY TOWN	W 1-0	6	20	1997	221	Gilks	Jackson	Goodall
Sat 16	WYCOMBE WANDERERS	L 0-2	6	22	2313	192	Gilks	Jackson	Crooks
Sat 23	Boston United	W 3-0	9	20	1709	166	Gilks	Jackson	Goodall
Wed 27	Wrexham	W 2-1	12	16	3577	261	Gilks	Jackson	Crooks
Sat 30	SHREWSBURY TOWN	D 1-1	13	16	2942	632	Gilks	Brown	Goodall
<b>October</b>									
Fri 6	Darlington	W 5-0	16	11	3752	326	Gilks	Brown	GOODALL
Sat 14	CHESTER CITY	D 0-0	17	12	3149	704	Gilks	Ramsden	Crooks
Tue 17	Wrexham (JPT1)	D 1-1 (W 5-3 on pens)	-	-	1209	79	Gilks	Ramsden	Goodall
Sat 21	Lincoln City	L 1-7	17	18	5194	276	Gilks	Ramsden	GOODALL
Sat 28	STOCKPORT COUNTY	L 1-3	17	20	3709	1471	Gilks	Jackson	Crooks
Tue 31	CREWE ALEXANDRA (JPT2)	D 1-1 (L 0-2 on pens)	-	-	1148	148	Gilks	Brown	Goodall
<b>November</b>									
Sat 4	BURY	L 1-3	17	21	4499	1749	Gilks	Brown	Goodall
Sat 11	HARTLEPOOL UNITED (FAC1)	D 1-1	-	-	2098	371	Gilks	Brown	Jackson
Sat 18	Barnet	L 2-3	17	21	1972	259	Gilks	Jackson	Goodall
Mon 20	Hartlepool United (FAC1R)	D 0-0 (L 2-4 on pens)	-	-	2788	370	Gilks	Brown	Goodall
Sat 25	MANSFIELD TOWN	W 2-0	20	20	2378	373	Gilks	Brown	Goodall
<b>December</b>									
Tue 5	Macclesfield Town	L 0-1	20	21	1472	379	Gilks	Brown	Goodall
Sat 9	PETERBOROUGH UNITED	L 0-1	20	21	1982	282	Gilks	Brown	Mocquet
Fri 15	Hartlepool United	L 0-1	20	22	3659	103	Gilks	Ramsden	Goodall
Sat 23	Milton Keynes Dons	L 1-2	20	22	5459	tbc	Gilks	Ramsden	Warburton
Tue 26	WREXHAM	D 2-2	21	22	2837	753	Gilks	Ramsden	Goodall
Sat 30	BOSTON UNITED	W 4-0	24	20	2159	99	Gilks	Ramsden	Goodall
<b>2007 January</b>									
Mon 1	Grimsby Town	W 4-0	27	19	4302	246	Gilks	RAMSDEN	Goodall
Sat 6	Wycombe Wanderers	D 1-1	28	19	4067	217	Gilks	Ramsden	Mocquet
Sat 13	BRISTOL ROVERS	L 0-1	28	20	2547	230	Gilks	Ramsden	Goodall
Sat 27	MILTON KEYNES DONS	W 5-0	31	18	2493	246	Gilks	RAMSDEN	Goodall
<b>February</b>									
Sat 3	Walsall	D 1-1	32	18	5046	525	Gilks	Ramsden	Goodall
Sat 10	SWINDON TOWN	H 3.00							Etuhu
Sat 17	Notts County	A 3.00							
Tue 20	TORQUAY UNITED	H 7.45							
Sat 24	Hereford United	A 3.00							
<b>March</b>									
Sat 3	ACCRINGTON STANLEY	H 3.00							
Sat 10	DARLINGTON	H 3.00							
Fri 16	Chester City	A 7.45							
Sat 24	Stockport County	A 3.00							
Tue 27	Shrewsbury Town	A 7.45							
Sat 31	LINCOLN CITY	H 3.00							
<b>April</b>									
Sat 7	Bury	A 3.00							
Mon 9	BARNET	H 3.00							
Sat 14	Mansfield Town	A 3.00							
Sat 21	MACCLESFIELD TOWN	H 3.00							
Sat 28	HARTLEPOOL UNITED	H 3.00							
<b>May</b>									
Sat 5	Peterborough United	A 3.00							



Coca-Cola LEAGUE 2

CARLING CUP

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JOHNSTONES  
PRINT  
TROPHY

Stanton	Boardman	Clarke*	Doolan	Christie*	Lambert	Rundle*	Brown*	Dagnall*	Moyo-Modise*	Crooks	Edge
Stanton	Crooks	Clarke*	Doolan	Christie	Lambert*	Dagnall	Rundle*	Brown*	Boardman	Moyo-Modise	Edge
Stanton	Boardman	Crooks	Doolan*	Christie	Dagnall	Rundle*	Clarke*	Thompson*	Brown+	Warburton	Edge
Stanton	Crooks	Brown	Doolan	Christie*	Dagnall*	Rundle*	Moyo-Modise*	Thompson*	Clarke*	Boardman	Edge
Stanton	Boardman	Crooks	DOOLAN	Christie*	Dagnall	RUNDLE*	Brown*	Moyo-Modise*	Thompson	Warburton	Rigby
Stanton	Jackson	Crooks	Doolan	Lambert*	DAGNALL	Clarke*	Christie*	Moyo-Modise*	Rundle	Boardman	Sako
Stanton	Sharp	Crooks	Doolan	Barker	Sako	Dagnall*	Moyo-Modise*	JONES*	Clarke	Boardman	Rundle
Stanton*	Sharp	Jones	Doolan	Barker	Sako*	Dagnall	Jackson*	Cooksey*	Moyo-Modise	Clarke	Rundle
Stanton	Sharp	Jones	Doolan	Barker*	SAKO	Dagnall*	Moyo-Modise*	Cooksey*	Brown	Clarke	Rundle
Stanton	Sharp	Jones	Doolan	Barker	Sako	Dagnall*	Moyo-Modise*	Cooksey*	Ramsden	Clarke	Rundle
Stanton	Sharp	Jones	DOOLAN	Barker*	Sako	DAGNALL2*	Moyo-Modise*	Ramsden*	Cooksey*	Clarke	Rundle
Stanton	Sharp	Jones	Doolan*	Barker*	Sako	DAGNALL2	Moyo-Modise*	Cooksey*	Clarke	Ramsden	Boardman
Stanton*	SHARP	Jones	Doolan	Barker	Sako*	Dagnall*	Cooksey*	Boardman*	Moyo-Modise	Clarke	Ramsden
Stanton	Sharp	Jones	Doolan	Barker	SAKO 2*	DAGNALL*	Cooksey*	MOYO-MODISE*	Clarke	Boardman	Ramsden
Stanton	Sharp	Jones	Cooksey	Barker*	Sako*	Dagnall	Moyo-Modise*	Clarke*	Boardman	Rundle	Thompson
Boardman	Sharp	Jones	Doolan	Barker	Moyo-Modise*	DAGNALL	Cooksey*	Sako*	Rundle	Thompson	Coleman
Stanton	Sharp*	Jones	Doolan	Murray	Sako*	Dagnall*	Barker*	Clarke*	Moyo-Modise*	Boardman	Cooksey
Stanton	Sharp*	JONES	Doolan	Murray	Sako	Dagnall*	Moyo-Modise*	Clarke*	Ramsden	Rundle	Boardman
Stanton	Crooks	Jones	Doolan*	BARKER	Moyo-Modise	Dagnall	Jackson*	Sako	Rundle	Boardman	Ramsden
Jackson	Boardman	Jones	Clarke*	Murray	Barker*	DAGNALL*	Moyo-Modise*	Sako*	Rundle*	Ramsden	Rigby
Stanton	Sharp	Jones	DOOLAN	Murray*	Dagnall	Rundle	Barker*	Sako*	Ramsden	McArdle	Rigby
Stanton	Sharp	Jones	CLARKE*	MURRAY*	Sako	Dagnall	Cooksey*	Rundle*	Ramsden	McArdle	Rigby
Stanton	McArdle	Jones	Dagnall	Murray*	Sako*	Rundle*	Barker*	Boardman*	Warburton*	Ramsden	Rigby
Stanton	McArdle	Jones	DOOLAN	Murray*	DAGNALL	Cooksey	Sako*	Clarke*	Ramsden	Crooks	Rundle
Stanton	McArdle	Jones	Doolan	Sako*	Dagnall	Cooksey	Murray*	Moyo-Modise*	Ramsden	Clarke	Crooks
Stanton	McArdle	Jones	Doolan	Murray*	Dagnall	Warburton*	Sako*	Rundle*	Moyo-Modise	Crooks	Barker
Stanton	McArdle	Jones	DOOLAN	MURRAY	Dagnall	Thompson*	Murray*	Moyo-Modise*	Dagnall	Brown	Boardman
Stanton	McArdle	JONES	Doolan*	MURRAY	DAGNALL	Moyo-Modise*	Moyo-Modise*	Dagnall	Brown	Crooks	Rigby
Stanton	McArdle	Jones	Doolan	MURRAY	DAGNALL	Rundle*	Mocquet*	Thompson*	Brown	Crooks	Rigby
Stanton	McArdle	JONES	Doolan*	MURRAY	DAGNALL	Rundle*	Crooks*	Thompson*	Brown*	Warburton	Rigby
Stanton*	McArdle	Jones	Doolan	MURRAY	Dagnall	RUNDLE*	Crooks*	Brown*	Thompson*	Cooksey	Rigby
Crooks*	McArdle	Jones	Doolan	MURRAY	Dagnall	Rundle*	Jackson*	ETUHU*	Thompson*	Cooksey	Rigby
Stanton	McArdle	Jones	Doolan*	MURRAY	Dagnall	Rundle*	Crooks*	Thompson*	Cooksey*	Brown	Rigby
Stanton	McArdle	Jones	Doolan	MURRAY	LE FONDRE 2	P'GAST*	Perkins*	Reid*	Rundle*	Crooks	Rigby
Stanton	McArdle	Jones	Doolan	Murray	Le Fondre*	P'gast*	Rundle*	Perkins*	Reid*	Crooks	Edge

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# WHAT THE Papers Said



## No home comforts for sloppy Town

**Grimsby Town 0 Rochdale 4**

A miserable Christmas turned into an unhappy New Year for the Mariners as they were embarrassingly routed at home by a team hovering just above the League Two drop zone.

Bad marking, lack of concentration and individual errors all played a part in the Rochdale goals with, ironically, ex-Mariner Simon Ramsden grabbing, or being gifted, two of them.

At first it looked as though Town were candidates for a fourth home win on the trot when they opened brightly and peppered the Dale goal.

But the Mariners were soon made to pay for their missed chances when they failed to clear classy Frenchman William Mocquet's free-kick and the loose ball fell to Ramsden, who was given time to miss-hit a left foot

shot into the top corner. Town shot themselves in the foot by conceding a second on the stroke of half-time.

A poor corner was conceded on the right and, with Town asleep, Dale took a quick one to Doolan. Unchallenged, he was able to clip the ball to the far post where Murray, again unchallenged, rose to head home.

Dale sealed the game on 66 minutes when Town's left side was again exposed as Mocquet crossed and Rundle had time and space to hammer past Barnes.

When it looked as if it couldn't get any worse, it did just seven minutes later.

A corner was played harmlessly to the near post where Peter Till, thinking it was going into the side-netting, let it go.

It didn't. Instead the ball dropped into the goalmouth where Ramsden was able to force home.

Source: *Grimsby Telegraph*

## Dale hit back to deny Blues victory

**Wycombe Wanderers 1 Rochdale 1**

Jermaine Easter scored his 18th goal of the season, but it wasn't enough to give the Blues victory as Rochdale hit back with ten minutes left.

Easter gave Wanderers the lead from close range on 51 minutes after good work on the left from Kevin Betsy.

He should have doubled the lead, but fired straight at Dale's Matt Gilks and he was made to pay by Kelvin Etuhu.

The on-loan Manchester City youngster (pictured) broke down the right and his cross wrong-footed Batista who

parried the ball into his net.

But Batista made amends before later denying Gary Jones and Chris Dagnall to ensure Wycombe did not lose all three points.

Source: *Bucks Free Press*





## TODAY'S topic matter is borne out of frustration at the events of last Saturday at Walsall.

Regular football travellers will empathise 100% with today's article, whilst the authorities who care to glance over its content will invariably scratch their heads and wonder what all the fuss is about.

The situation arose last Saturday when Walsall decided to house the travelling Dale contingent in a small side section of the Bescot Stadium, whilst leaving the traditional large away end completely vacant.

The section allocated to us had around 600 seats in it and despite Rochdale having a good hardcore of 300 away fans, they chose to use this cramped end bit of the stand to accommodate us. Fair enough on the face of it.

But, Rochdale had just beaten MK Dons 5-0. We have also had a couple of 4-0 results recently as our bid to beat the drop gathers momentum following a change of management. And, given that Walsall haven't hosted Dale since 1995, there will be a lot of Dale fans who have yet to 'tick' that ground.

You would therefore presume that our hardcore following might double in these circumstances, which would render this 600 seat corner too small to cope.

It is a little known fact amongst football supporters that the capacity of any seated area falls by ten per cent if that area is sold on an 'Unreserved Seating' basis. Therefore the legal capacity of this corner would have been nearer 500 if my guesstimates are correct.

Walsall had the chance on Friday to decide to open the big end instead. There is an equation Scrutator likes to use when estimating the size of an away following. Multiply the number of people who are travelling on the supporters coaches by 4.5 and you will never be far off the number of total fans who travel.

It is possible the Walsall officials were given duff information by Rochdale officials on the estimation of numbers travelling. It is wrong, however, to rely on such officials, who are probably not footballing folk, to provide such data.

Most galling of all, though, are the motives used by Walsall when choosing to squeeze us all into this tiny corner.

All football clubs do it, including the two at Spotland today. Clubs can only charge away fans the same as home fans for 'comparable accommodation'. This means that away fans often find themselves shunted into an end corner of a main (or side) stand and are then charged top price equivalent for covered side view seats, even though, in Walsall's case, the view is appalling, with posts obstructing the view, not to mention 500 fans straining to catch a glimpse of the action when play ventured down the far end.

Therefore, Walsall happily charged us all an extra £2 for the dubious privilege of being cramped into this corner, without a seat and also without a good view. The club prostituted itself to the pound sign instead of upholding the basic rights of the common football fan. And they then had the gall to equalise in the third minute of stoppage time! The footballing Gods must have been having a Sabbath Day last Saturday!

Swindon also moved Rochdale onto the side earlier this season, but they ensured sufficient space was granted to our small following that day. And, we also had a better view perched up high, compared to the open bucket seats strapped onto the shallow terrace behind the goal.

Rochdale, too, give the best stand at Spotland to the visitors. It's not because we like visitors, it's because visitors have to pay main stand prices

to get in. Indeed, we were one of the first clubs to do it I think.

Stockport also have a fan rotation thing going on, although they used their rotation in reverse with us. Last season we were put on the open end instead of the side as Jim Gannon didn't want 500 travelling Daleys to whip up a good atmosphere in the Edgeley Park pop side. Gannon was using his loaf to help Stockport's home advantage count.

This is why I continue to find it bizarre that Rochdale don't do likewise. Not only do we give opposition fans the best stand, we give them the best seats in this stand on the halfway line. These fans should be 'netted' into an end block near the Sandy Lane or WMG Stand so that players don't run out to the sights and sounds of 400 travelling supporters.

No doubt our powers that be can hide behind red tape and a handbook of rules and regs, but if Spotland is going to stop being the orchard where schoolboys can lean over and pinch apples, we are going to have to be a bit more hostile. If that means putting Swindon fans, for example, in the corner and charging them full whack for it, then do it.

Walsall taught me (yet again) that it's dog eat dog out there and little old Dale should start standing up for ourselves with a bit more grit and commonsense, even if it ultimately means adopting the moral lower ground. If the moral lower ground can help put a few points on the board, then it has to be done!

**"Walsall happily charged us all an extra £2 for the dubious privilege of being cramped into this corner, without a seat and also without a good view."**



**Rochdale Youth 3**

**Blackpool Youth 0**

**Lancashire FA Youth Cup**

On a fresh evening at Spotland, a couple of hundred supporters watched Rochdale's youth team go through to the next round of the Lancashire FA Youth Cup.

The young lads enjoyed the opportunity to play on the first team pitch and showed the promise that they undoubtedly have.

Setting up with a 4-2-3-1 formation, the Dale youngsters set off exactly like the first team did against MK Dons just 48 hours earlier and went straight onto the attack.

With just a minute on the clock, a corner from Joe Thompson on the right was met by a looping header from Kristian Bowden (pictured) which evaded the attempted block on the line by the



Blackpool defence.

Dale continued to boss the game and their persistence was rewarded again with another set-piece goal on 10 minutes, this time from the left flank.

Paul Derrick floated over a cross which Thompson headed onto the post. Nathan Woods (pictured) followed the ball in and stuck it over the line to make it 2-0.



Dale were the dominant force throughout the game and after 70 minutes Kyle Buckley (pictured) produced a moment of brilliance to net the third.



He intercepted a pass on the edge of the Blackpool box and delightfully chipped the ball over the despairing goalkeeper to effectively end the game as a contest.

After the game manager Chris Willcock was pleased with the performance of the lads, saying: "This was

### Reserves Team Fixtures & Results

Wed 16th Aug	TRANMERE R.	H	0-1
Wed 23rd Aug	Carlisle U.	A	2-3
Wed 30th Aug	MANCHESTER C.	H	5-1
Wed 20th Sep	BURY	H	1-2
Wed 4th Oct	Preston N.E.	A	2-0
Wed 18th Oct	OLDHAM ATH.	H	0-6
Wed 15th Nov	ACCRINGTON S.	H	4-3
Wed 13th Dec	Manchester C.	A	1-1
Wed 10th Jan	Tranmere R.	A	0-1
Wed 17th Jan	Wrexham	A	3-1
Wed 24th Jan	CARLISLE U.	H	P-P
Wed 31st Jan	Blackpool	A	1-2
Wed 7th Feb	PRESTON N.E.	H	7pm
Wed 14th Feb	Bury	A	7pm
Tue 27th Feb	Chester C.	A	2pm
Wed 7th Mar	BLACKPOOL	H	7pm
Tue 20th Mar	Oldham Ath.	A	7pm
Wed 4th Apr	WREXHAM	H	7pm
Wed 11th Apr	Accrington S.	A	7pm
Wed 25th Apr	CHESTER C.	H	7pm

All home fixtures played at Rossendale United

We can't be beat, Pete!



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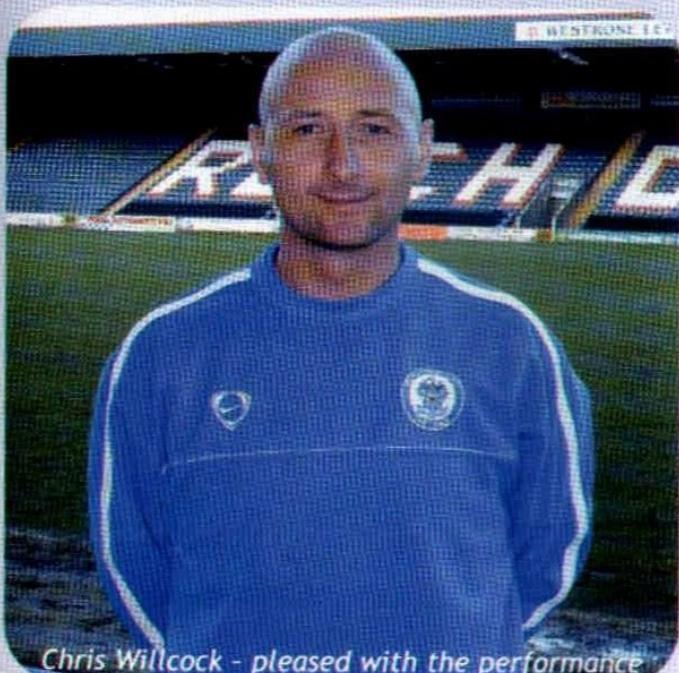
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a very accomplished performance where the lads bossed the game from start to finish.



Chris Willcock - pleased with the performance.

"It was great to see them adapt to the different formation; most players are brought up on just 4-4-2, but here we need to show the players different styles so they can adapt to the modern game."

"A special mention must go to Otis Williams who led the line superbly."

**Youth Team Fixtures & Results**

Sat 12th Aug	Wrexham	A	0-1
Sat 19th Aug	MACCLESFIELD T.	H	2-2
Sat 2nd Sep	Chester C.	A	0-2
Sat 9th Sep	PORT VALE	H	2-1
Sat 23rd Sep	Blackpool	A	1-0
Sat 30th Sep	CARLISLE U.	H	1-1
Sat 7th Oct	ROTHERHAM U. (Cup)	H	2-1
Sat 14th Oct	Burnley	A	1-4
Sat 21st Oct	Accrington S.	A	8-1
Sat 28th Oct	Wigan Ath.	A	0-0
Sat 4th Nov	Oldham Ath.	A	2-4
Sat 11th Nov	Chester C. (Cup)	A	2-3
Sat 18th Nov	PRESTON N.E.	H	3-3
Sat 2nd Dec	BURY	H	0-2
Sat 9th Dec	WIGAN ATH.	H	0-3
Sat 16th Dec	ACCRINGTON S.	H	2-1
Sat 13th Jan	OLDHAM ATH.	H	P-P
Sat 20th Jan	Bury	A	2-3
Sat 10th Feb	BLACKPOOL	H	11am
Sat 17th Feb	Carlisle U.	A	11am
Sat 3rd Mar	BURNLEY	H	11am
Sat 17th Mar	Tranmere R.	A	11am
Sat 24th Mar	Preston N.E.	A	11am
Sat 31st Mar	SHREWSBURY T.	H	11am
Sat 7th Apr	Walsall	A	11am
Sat 14th Apr	STOCKPORT CO.	H	11am

All home fixtures played at Bowlee



"We are working hard to enhance the development of the youth team players by using the exact same preparation as the first team do. This will obviously help as the lads eventually move into the first team squad and the step up will not be as daunting."

"It was very pleasing to see the fans turn out to support the future of the club," continued Chris. "I just hope that we can get as many supporters down for the semi-final against Preston North End."

Dale's game against Preston will herald the return to Spotland of Jamie Hoyland, who is the Head of Youth Development at Deepdale, with the possibility of Paul Simpson also being in attendance.

*The youth team are next in action on Saturday 17th February when they travel to Carlisle, kick-off 11am.*

*Their next home game is against Burnley on Saturday 3rd March.*

*The reserves' next game is on Wednesday 14th February when they travel to Bury, kick-off 7pm.*



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# Rochdale 0, Scarborough 2

Doc's Page



At Macclesfield, having gone 2-0 with only about 20 minutes to go I was disappointed not to take all three points. After giving the manager a hard time, I was asked to stand down from the committee and they explained, after we were caught napping, who for me meant what the manager had made an excellent point. There was no reason to stand down as he had done what he was asked to do.

There was a lot of criticism in the paper, but in that the manager deserved the points, not the manager's assistant. I think it's only right that the manager should be given the benefit of the doubt and treated enough to represent the club. I have no problem with that.

In the few days of events I have managed to mention the temporary services of Kevin Pilkington, Stuart, Peake, Whitehall, Valentine, Butler, Thompson, Moulden (Thompsonstone), Stuart, Whitehall, Peake and Andy Toman. I have not mentioned the manager, but I have not mentioned him either. He is not mentioned in the paper, and he is not mentioned in the programme.

There were a lot of accusations in the paper, but in that the manager deserved the points, not the manager's assistant. I think it's only right that the manager should be given the benefit of the doubt and treated enough to represent the club. I have no problem with that.

Those of you that have won our last 10 away games, I hope you are not disappointed. Steve Walmsley's decision to cancel the match was understandable, but he has failed to do his best here and I have a very educated guess that he will not be here next year.

On the 27th January, when we were due to play Torquay, we had to postpone the game. Andy Toman and Craig Midgley scored a hat-trick in the 4-1 win over Peterborough. We have had some very good results this season, but I would like to welcome Ray McMillan back as Manager, players and supporters and officials to support him.

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ROCHDALE v SCARBOROUGH  
Wednesday 10th February 1996 Kick-off 20.30 hrs  
Official Programme price 30p

Sign your name  
Date  
"Doc"

Poor weather meant this was only Dale's second home game in the space of two months.

Both home Christmas fixtures had fallen foul of snow and ice, while the scheduled game against Torquay on 27th January was called off when a heavy Friday teatime snowfall brought the town to a standstill.

And I should know - I was stuck on St Mary's Gate for almost two hours!!

These postponements had cost the club lost revenue, although they came early enough to stop the pies being delivered, so at least they weren't wasted!

However, the match programmes had been printed and delivered, so money would be lost there as sales would be much lower when the games were eventually played.

Bearing this in mind, Commercial Manager Steve Walmsley made a bizarre decision in the days running up to the Scarborough match.

Rochdale had again been hit by snow and a postponement seemed very likely. Walmsley decided that he didn't want to waste any more money, so he cancelled the printing of the match programmes.

This was a massive gamble and one which backfired, which was mightily funny for all those who weren't keen on Mr W.

The weather became much milder on Thursday night and into Friday, so much so that the snow on the pitch all melted away and left the surface underneath perfectly playable. Match on!

However, the club had to produce something, so a four-page A5 booklet was hastily prepared, featuring manager's notes, profiles of the Scarborough squad and their 'Star Visitor' Andy Ritchie, together with the teams and match officials.

It was a total embarrassment and led to Dale being fined by the Football League as the club has a contractual obligation to produce something featuring all associate sponsors. In addition, I imagine Walmsley was inundated with complaints from those companies who had paid for adverts

in the programme.

Unfortunately, Walmsley's actions were symptomatic of what had happened at the club since we were drawn to play Liverpool in the FA Cup.

The team's form was awful, crowds had dropped alarmingly and now we couldn't even produce a proper match programme!

In view of all this it was no surprise that the team suffered yet another defeat in front of their lowest gate of the season.



Made a controversial programme decision  
11 years ago

Andy Toman and Craig Midgley scored in a four-minute spell early in the second half to seal Boro's third away win of the campaign and leave Dale fans looking anxiously towards the foot of the table rather than the top.

**Rochdale:** Pilkington, Russell, Price (Martin), Deary, Valentine, Butler, Thompson, Moulden (Thompsonstone), Stuart, Whitehall, Peake

**Scarborough:** Ironside, Knowles, Lucas, Toman, Hicks, Rockett, Midgley, Charles, Treble, Page, Magee

**Attendance:** 1,662

**Referee:** SW Mathieson (Stockport)

## Also on 10th February...

1542 - Queen Catherine Howard of England was confined to the Tower of London to be executed three days later

1840 - Queen Victoria married Prince Albert

1949 - The play 'Death of a Salesman' premiered in New York City

### Born on this day ...

Future Prime Minister Harold Macmillan (1894), German author Bertolt Brecht (1898), American musician Larry Adler (1914), footballer Danny Blanchflower (1926), American actor Robert Wagner (pictured - 1930), swimmer Mark Spitz (1950), golfer Greg Norman (1955) and Everton striker Andy Johnson (1981).



"When they met, it was moider!"

### Died on this day ...

British surgeon Joseph Lister (1912) and playwright Arthur Miller (2005).



*A look at five figures from our opponents' history...*



## GLENN HODDLE

The former England boss started his managerial career at the County Ground in 1991, but only stayed for two years before being appointed gaffer at Chelsea. During these two years he narrowly avoided a play-off spot in his first full season, before going one better a year later and actually tasting promotion via the play-offs. This promotion ensured the club enjoyed Premiership football, albeit for only 12 months. Hoddle remained registered as a player throughout his stay with the Robins, making a total of 64 appearances. In his heyday - he was 34 when he started playing for Swindon - he was a naturally-gifted midfield player who made 53 appearances for England and most people will agree that he was one of those players that fans would pay good money to watch.

## OSSIE ARDILES

The Argentinean is another former Swindon boss with roots at White Hart Lane and Hoddle actually replaced him in 1991 when he left to takeover at Newcastle United. Life at Swindon started in 1989 and in his first season with the club he led them to play-off final glory at Wembley, beating Sunderland. However, financial irregularities led to the Robins being demoted and such was the strain on the club, Ardiles only remained for another seven months before moving to the North-East. Despite this, the blend of football seen during his reign endeared him to the locals and he will always be fondly remembered in Wiltshire.



## ALAN McLOUGHLIN

There aren't many players who can say they've donned the red of Swindon and the blue of Rochdale, but McLoughlin can. A former Manchester United junior, 'Macca' forged his career in the game at Swindon in the late-80s as an attacking midfielder, which prompted Southampton to pay £1 million for him in 1990. He then moved along the south coast to Portsmouth in 1992 and once again established himself as a goal-getter of some repute. By the time he arrived at Spotland in 2001 he was 34, but he was still a good player and was instrumental in us reaching the play-offs that season. He made 20 appearances for Dale, before moving back south to sign for Forest Green Rovers.

## PAUL BODIN

I was always weary of the marauding left-back as his haircut and dubious moustache gave me the impression he was stuck in the 70s; he was what you'd call a modern-day Paul Calf. Anyway, enough of his appearance and we'll move onto his abilities on the football field, which is of course the reason you're reading this article in the first place. Signed in 1988 from Newport County for £15,000, Bodin made 119 appearances in three years before a £500,000 move to Crystal Palace. Within less than a year he was back at the County Ground, for less than half the price that took him away in the first place I might add, and this time he remained for four years making over 150 appearances in the process. In his two spells with Swindon Bodin notched up 40 goals, including the winner from the penalty spot in the play-off final win.



## CHRIS KAMARA

The Sky Sports' pundit had two spells with the Robins early in his career. His first spell commenced in the late-70s when the club paid £14,000 for him from Portsmouth and he made 147 appearances before moving back to Fratton Park in the summer of 1981. After a brief spell with Pompey he was sold to Brentford, but then rejoined Swindon in 1985. Initially he struggled to cement his place in the team and this wasn't helped the following season when he was suspended by the club having broken a Shrewsbury player's jaw after the final whistle. After refusing a new contract, Kamara later signed for Stoke, before finishing his playing days with Leeds United, Luton Town, Sheffield United and Bradford City.

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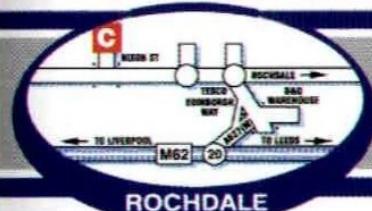
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Saturday 6th January 2007

League Two

## WYCOMBE WANDERERS 1 ROCHDALE 1

On the back of a rare away win at Grimsby, under the new rules of the car, Razzle kept the front passenger seat for the second away game running. Also, not to upset the Karma, Young Liam made a second outing on the bounce. He is becoming a really lucky mascot for our car; some may say that it is superstitious clap trap, but we don't care. If it makes travelling to away matches as enjoyable as Grimsby, Liam's mum must get used to losing her son every other Saturday during the football season.

### IN THE CAR

A ten-thirty start and after a quick head count, we squeezed in to the car.

The members of the car were quite chipper after the recent results and although it was Wycombe, the car thought there was a chance we could get something from the match. Razzle stated that for the first time in a long time we didn't know what to expect, but as he has been watching football since the days of laced balls and knee length shorts, he wouldn't have been surprised if we'd lose 4-0 after the last two results!

As we left Rochdale it began to rain and basically never stopped all day. It rained to such an extent that Razzle was considering ringing up Wycombe to check whether it was still on!

To cheer us up from the miserable weather was a good standard of banter. Dingle was going to put on one of his world famous losing bets, until he found that his Sun newspaper was half the paper it should have been; all the football and betting section had been removed! He was cursing all the way to Buckinghamshire.

Liam chipped in with a rather condescending remark to The Captain, who was pulling him up about his grammar on a text he was sending to his mother. "You're a proper teacher, aren't you?" There is something funny about a 12-year old making fun of The Captain who is nigh on twenty years his senior. (And more - Ed)

### IN THE PUB

As we drove down the hill to a roundabout, Razzle proclaimed with masses of confidence: "I know where the pub is. I've had a drink in it before. I definitely know where it is!"

He carried on saying this as we passed said pub on the roundabout. "Do you mean that one over there?" The Captain asked.

"Where?" queried Razzle.

"Behind us. We've just passed it. WAKE UP!"

With the rain momentarily ceasing, we decided to park up near the Hourglass pub. This is a tidy little pub, with pool tables and a quiz machine which we took advantage of; myself being the pool champion, and The Captain pillaging the Countdown quiz.



Never last to the bar ... unlike someone we could mention!

Dingle managed to avoid a round once again, which lead to Razzle coming out with an old gag. "What's the difference between Dingle and a coconut? You can get a drink out of a coconut".

After a while, everyone decided to crowd round the quiz machine, which led to Razzle showing his age and dinosaur-like knowledge when it comes to music.

A question said: 'Which group was Phil Lynott the lead singer of?'

Now I'd wager that the vast majority of people reading this page will know the answer was Thin Lizzy, even without a list of options.

However, Razzle was gobsmacked. "Who? Never heard of them. Are they anything to do with the Queen?"



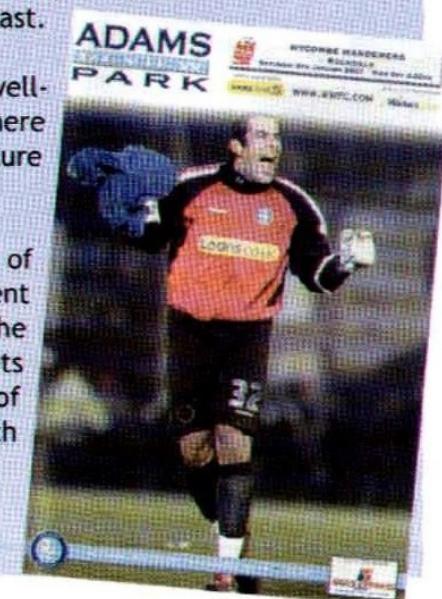
## PROGRAMME

Wycombe's programme has the same distinctive look and feel about it every season and this year's offering keeps up the trend.

Printed on high quality paper, 'Adams Park Review' is fairly packed with a variety of articles covering the Chairboys as they are now, together with some interesting articles on their past.

Dale coverage is well-researched and there is a lengthy feature on Chris Dagnall.

There are plenty of pictures from recent matches and the reader never gets the impression of page-filling, which is always a bonus.





Razzle later asked who The Beatles were and confessed he had never heard of the Rolling Stones, Madness, Take That and Status Quo.

He has heard of Enya though!

On leaving the pub, the heavens had opened again and we were beginning to regret parking so far from the ground. Not only from above, but passing cars were making Dingle's day even worse by driving through strategically placed puddles.



## IN THE GROUND

Wetter than a fish's wet bits, we entered the ground!

Adams Park is a tidy little ground and the view from the away end is particularly good. Our away support was surprisingly large considering our league position and gave good backing to the team.

As is the rule at football grounds, no standing is permitted in seated areas, even if you're on the back row obstructing the view of a sign! One steward was particularly vigilant, although he did show his human side with a big smile to chants of "THERE'S ONLY ONE MORGAN FREEMAN!" Surprisingly, those chants started in Russian!

The game was of a good standard considering the atrocious conditions. The first half was an even affair, with keepers from both sides having a couple of important saves to make.

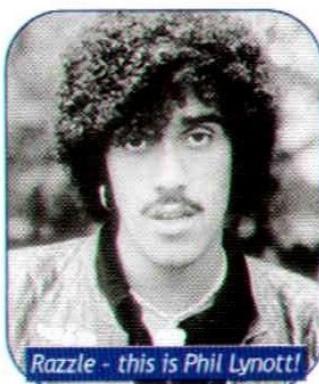
Half-time came with our new assistant manager walking round to obviously report to the manager on his thoughts about the first half. "Bury Reject" was the rather witty chant from the Dale following.

The Captain commented on how quick the service was at the snack bar, but I thought he was being his usual sardonic, pessimistic self. "No, it really was very good," he replied. "Probably the best in the division".

Things really are looking up when The Captain says something positive about the level of service he's just received.

The second half began with Wycombe having the better of the exchanges and a defensive lapse by Ramsden let in their dangerous frontline for the first goal of the match.

The game turned for Dale when the manager brought on Etuhu and Thompson on both wings. Our new signing from Man City



Razzle - this is Phil Lynott!

## WHAT DID WE LEARN?

1. Mocquet who? Bring on Etuhu
2. We can match the best in the league - we couldn't earlier in the season
3. We don't want bare chests at football
4. Razzle is getting his jokes off Ken Dodd
5. Strip-o-grams must be going down in standard

was very quick, but had the advantage of being quite robust too, so he was difficult to knock off the ball. Wycombe had obviously taken their foot off the pedal and Dale deservedly equalised from the wing wizard via Wycombe's annoying keeper.

The last ten minutes saw Dale take the game to the home side and how we didn't add to the scoreline is baffling. Jones' drive was well-saved, Dagnall missed from three yards and hit the bar from 20, via a slight touch from the keeper.

On the flip side of that, Wycombe could have snatched it too as Gilks made his third one-on-one save of the match. A good advert for League Two football in the end.

Also noted was the fan who, for the second away game running, removed his shirt after our goal went in. For me this is bizarre behaviour and I have never seen the significance of showing the world your chest if your team's playing well!

## AFTER THE GAME

Once we had finally got back to the car, we all decided that even though we could have won, the point gained was a good one, as we would have taken a draw beforehand. We repeated again it was refreshing to see the team play in such an attack-minded way and hoped that it would continue. The point was made that at the moment we would fancy our chances against any team, mainly because we are creating so many chances.

Man-of-the-Match was given to Gilks as he had kept us in the game with his one-on-one saves, but there could have been many winners, including the new signing.

With the rain continuing to fall, it was a happy car that zipped back to Lancashire.

As we neared Rochdale, a call came through asking the car to make a diversion to a local golf club, where my brother works. Myself and Razzle entered the golf club via the kitchen door, did what we had to do and then continued on our merry way.

Minutes later another call came through to the car. "The girls in the kitchen thought you were the strip-o-grams for the party in the club," said my brother, laughing haughtily down the phone.

The Captain, Dingle and Liam laughed too. Not at the thought of us being strip-o-grams, but at the thought of someone actually thinking we were strip-o-grams!!

As always gentlemen it was a pleasure!



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# Rochdale Observer

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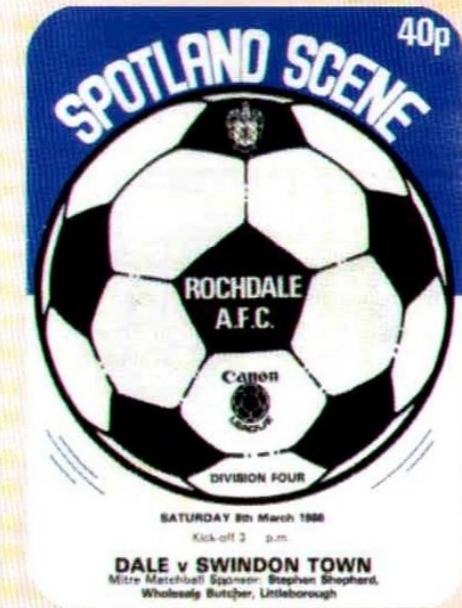


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AS with MK Dons' visit to Spotland a fortnight ago, Swindon's rare sojourn to this part of Lancashire gives us an excuse to take a walk down Memory Lane.



It's hard to believe that it's just short of 21 years since the Robins last appeared on this ground.

Saturday 8th March 1986 was the date when manager Lou Macari brought his league leaders to Spotland on the back of six consecutive wins.

The last five of those wins had all been away from home, with Swindon also managing to keep five clean sheets.

It's fair to say they really were in their best form of the campaign.

In stark contrast, Dale had won just



once in their last 12 league and cup matches - and that victory had come way back on New Year's Day.

If ever there was an away banker, this was it, but had the final score reflected the way the game panned out, Dale would have been comfortable winners.

As the old saying goes, 'At least Dick Turpin wore a mask', although on this occasion he was wearing all red with white pinstripes!

The Robins were outplayed from the first minute to the 77th minute, in which time Dale took the lead, looked likely to add to it every time they went forward and never looked in danger at the other end.

But then, cruelly, when Peter Coyne made a rare foray into the area he was felled by Keith Hicks and Colin Gordon converted from the spot.

This goal gave the visitors new life - many would say it gave them *some* life - and two minutes later Charlie Henry beat the offside trap before lobbing goalkeeper Dave Redfern, who had stayed on his line.

These strikes cancelled out Dale's 56th minute opener from Ronnie Moore.



Swindon had Chris Kamara in their midfield in this game



Colin Calderwood was in the Robins' defence when they last visited Spotland



Ronnie Moore scored Dale's last goal against Swindon 21 years ago

It was a great move which led to the goal, with Ian McMahon and Steve Taylor doing brilliantly to create the opening for Moore.

His shot hit the knees of goalkeeper Kenny Allen, but rebounded into the net - the first goal Swindon had conceded in 594 minutes of football away from the County Ground.

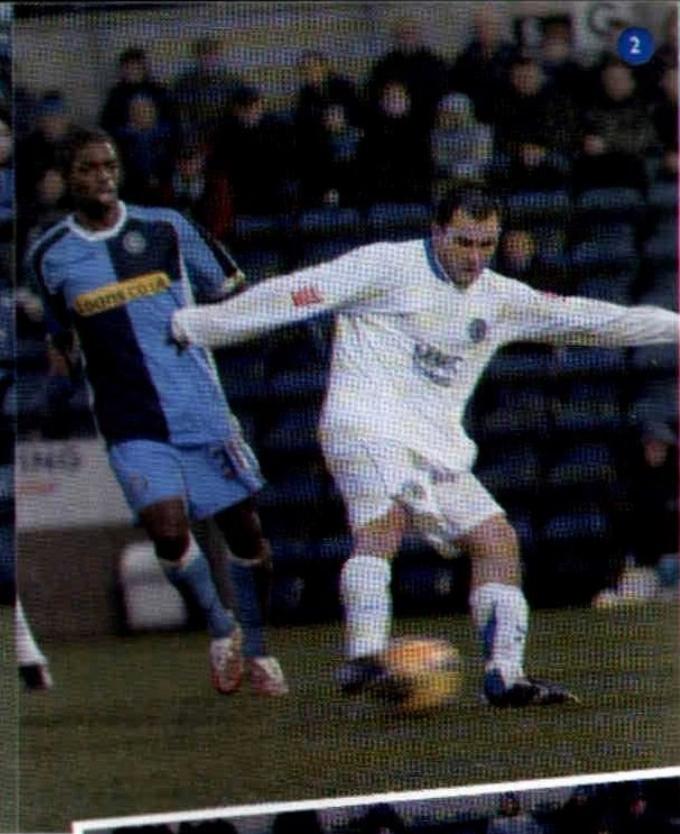
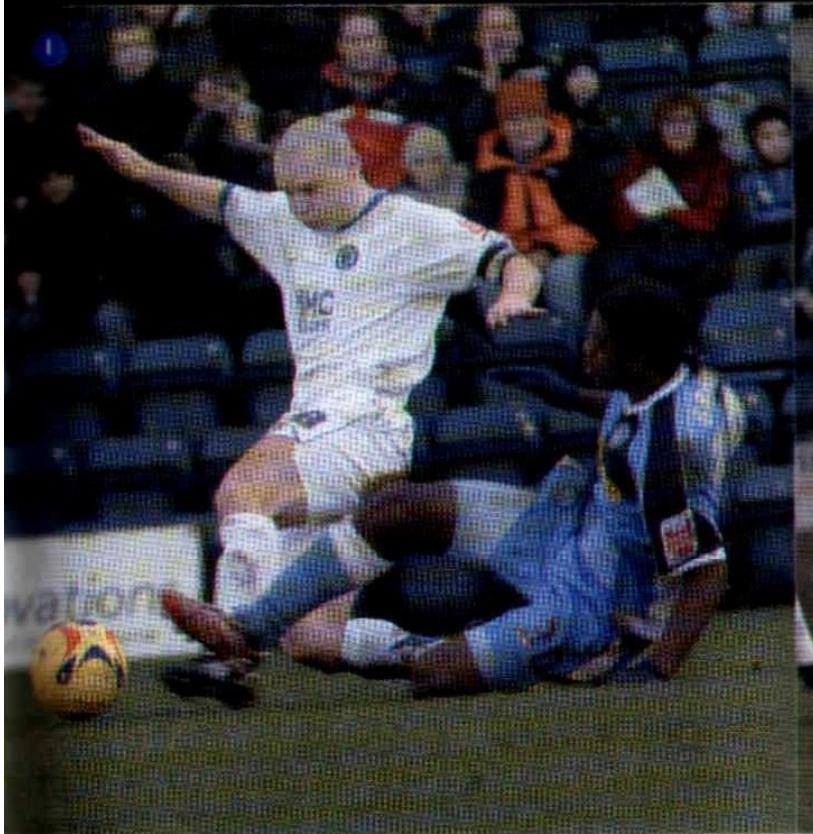
The match details from that afternoon are:

**Dale:** Dave Redfern, Ian Johnson, Dave Grant, Ian McMahon, Joe Cooke, Keith Hicks, Ronnie Hildersley (Frank Gamble), Steve Taylor, Ronnie Moore, Paul Heaton, David Mossman  
**Swindon T.:** Kenny Allen, Chris Ramsey, Paul Roberts, Leigh Barnard, David Cole, Colin Calderwood, Dave Hockaday, Chris Kamara, Colin Gordon, Peter Coyne, Charlie Henry

**Referee:** Terry Holbrook (Wolverhampton)  
**Attendance:** 1,989

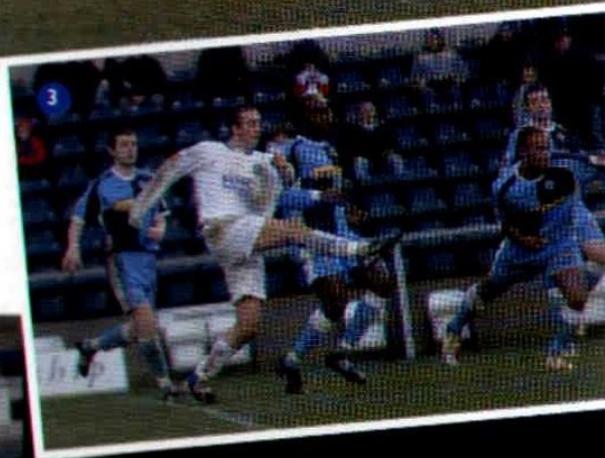
Swindon's excellent form continued after their good fortune at Spotland and they remained unbeaten for the rest of the season.

They went on to clinch the Fourth Division title with 102 points - a record for Division Four and one which is yet to be bettered in the basement league.



## Action from Wycombe

- 1 - Gary Jones and Anthony Grant get stuck in
- 2 - Chris Dagnall goes for goal in the first half
- 3 - Glenn Murray's shot brought a wonderful save out of the 'keeper
- 4 - Stephen O'Halloran reaches the ball before Chris Dagnall
- 5 - Glenn Murray finds himself crowded out
- 6 - Chris Dagnall's late header just missed the target



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THE Football League was celebrating its 50th season and as part of the celebrations, Dale played two Jubilee games against Halifax before the real action commenced.

We lost 4-1 at the Shay, but won on aggregate after a 5-1 victory at Spotland. However, this didn't set the tone for the new season as the first three league games were lost, including a 7-1 thrashing at Rotherham, Dale's worst ever opening day result.

Some respite came in the form of home draws with Doncaster and York, only for the return with Rovers to finish in a 5-0 defeat and the trip to Wrexham also ending pointless.

With Dale next to bottom of the table, it was no surprise when manager Sam Jennings stepped down, although ill health had also contributed to his departure.

Extrovert captain Ted Goodier was appointed as acting manager and his impact was immediate as Dale hammered Gateshead 5-2 at Spotland.

They were beaten at Hartlepools a week later, but responded with another fine home performance to blitz Darlington 6-1.

These results set a trend as Dale won their next three home games as well (New Brighton 2-0, Chester 5-2 and Hull 4-0) only for the intervening away fixtures to all end in losses.

Late November brought the now customary first round FA Cup exit, although the 7-3 defeat at the Shay was a totally unexpected result, if not outcome.

Nevertheless, that was Dale's eighth consecutive away reverse, but they ended that sequence in style with a 5-0 win at Accrington in early December.

Dale's impressive home run had also come to an end by this time when Stockport recorded a narrow single goal victory at Spotland.

However, Dale bounced back in their next home match with a 2-1 win over runaway leaders Barnsley, only for Rotherham to make it a bad start to the festive season when they were 1-0 victors at Spotland on Christmas Eve.

The Boxing Day trip to Southport brought a 4-1 defeat, but Dale gained substantial revenge 24 hours later when the Sandgrounders went down 5-0 at Spotland.

New Year's Eve saw Dale win 2-1 at Oldham, their first

ever league victory at Boundary Park and then a fortnight later they chalked up a most remarkable 7-0 triumph at York, the club's biggest away win in the Football League.

This result persuaded a higher than average crowd to turn up at Spotland for Wrexham's visit the following Saturday when, not surprisingly, the teams drew 0-0!

However, the next six games produced 31 goals, with Dale netting 17 of them. Unfortunately they only won one of those matches - a 2-1 success at Darlington - while losing three, including high-scoring home defeats to Hartlepools (3-4) and Halifax (4-5).

Jimmy Wynn hit five goals in those two games as he continued his exploits of the previous two campaigns. He actually went on to score 30 goals in all competitions, making him the third-highest scorer in the division.

Jennings' contract as Dale manager ended in March, when Goodier signed on for a further two years at the helm.

This permanency prompted an upturn in form, especially at Spotland, where Dale won consecutive games against Lincoln (4-0), Crewe (5-0) and Accrington (4-1).

Unfortunately away form was still poor and the 2-1 win at Stockport in early April was Dale's only victory in their last seven fixtures on the road.

The season ended as it had began - with a heavy defeat - and the 5-1 loss at Carlisle meant Dale finished in 15th place on 39 points, their highest tally in nine years.

Around this time war clouds were gathering, although football clubs carried on regardless through the summer.

Third Division clubs (North & South) were even proposing a four-up, four-down system with Division Two, but more sinister world events began to dominate everyone's minds.

## WORLD NEWS

Orson Welles parodied HG Wells' science fiction classic *War of the Worlds* on North American radio, fooling many listeners into thinking it was real!

Anti-Jewish violence swept through Germany, with the Nazis confiscating all businesses and properties owned by Jews

General Franco became Spanish head of state, a position he held for 36 years

# 1938/39

## Rochdale AFC was formed in May 1907

**This two season series chronicles 100 years of football at Spotland**

ROCHDALE manager Ted Goodier made many changes to his squad over the summer, putting together a group of players that certainly impressed an eminent publication.

*The Topical Times Sporting Annual* predicted that Dale would be the season's surprise packet, saying 'They are powerful and constructive at wing half and goalful in front'.

That prophecy didn't ring true when Dale lost 2-0 in the season's opener at Doncaster, although they recovered to record consecutive 1-0 home wins over Wrexham and York.

However, at 11 o'clock in the morning following the York game, the Prime Minister announced that war was declared as from 5pm that afternoon.

Professional football was suspended with immediate effect and compulsory military service for all men aged 18-41 came into operation, but, after several weeks of inactivity (the 'phony war'), the football authorities organised regional leagues to fill the void.

Dale were placed in the North West Division where they began with defeats to Barrow and Southport, before thrashing Accrington 5-1 at Spotland.

They then lost to the likes of Bolton and Burnley over the next month, but with matches only taking place on Saturdays and regular postponements an unavoidable feature, the season became rather disjointed.

Indeed, after beating Oldham 3-0 at Boundary Park two days before Christmas, Dale played only eight more games by the end of March, drawing three and losing five.

They eventually won their first game of 1940 when Carlisle were defeated 2-1 at Brunton Park on 6th April, but the remaining five fixtures brought only one victory as Dale stuttered to a ninth-place finish out of 12 clubs.

The War League Cup, which took place in April and May, before the league campaign had even ended, saw Dale enjoy their best form of the season.

They progressed through ties with Accrington and Bury to face Everton, but sadly the run ended here with a 7-5 aggregate defeat.

As the league season came to an end in early June, the Battle of Britain was taking place, although the attitude of the public was that Saturday afternoon football was good for morale and still had a place in society.

1940/41

The regional competitions were extended for the new season and Dale found themselves in the North Regional League.

They opened with a 3-1 home defeat by Manchester United and then lost three of the next four matches, including a 7-3 hammering at Bury.

The bad start ended when Preston were beaten 2-1 at Spotland in early October and although North End went on to lift the title at the end of the season, the return fixture at Deepdale on 9th November was watched by just 300 spectators.

Dale went down 5-0 that afternoon, but recovered to win their next six games, the most remarkable of which came when Southport were trounced 10-0 at Spotland at the end of November.

1941 began with a double-header against Manchester City, the two games also doubling up as Lancashire Cup meetings.

Alas, Dale were thrashed 9-1 at Maine Road and then 6-1 at Spotland a week later, with City's Jimmy Currie scoring five in each game.

Dale bounced back to score five in each of their next two outings, before suffering the club's worst ever result when they slumped 11-0 at Huddersfield.

That hammering knocked confidence so much that Dale won only one of their last seven games to finish 30th out of 36 clubs in a division where goal average decided final positions.

However, fixtures were so irregular and teams had played such different amounts of games (Burnley 35 compared to Bolton 16), that any sort of stature attached to this league was tenuous to say the least.

### WORLD NEWS

Winston Churchill replaced Neville Chamberlain as British Prime Minister

Former Russian leader Leon Trotsky was assassinated

Irish novelist James Joyce died, age 59

**1939/40 & 1940/41**



## CENTENARY GALA DINNER

David Esser, Wayne Evans, Reg Jenkins, Paul Hallows, Stan Milburn and Steve Whitehall are amongst the first names to confirm their attendance at the Centenary Gala Dinner on Monday 14th May at Rochdale Town Hall. This once in a lifetime event will see a raft of Dale legends gather 100 years to the day that the club was formed, with several of them agreeing to give speeches talking about their time at Spotland.

Other former players to have received an invitation include the likes of Steve Taylor, Lyndon Simmonds, Billy Rudd, Grant Holt, John Bramhall, Ted Burgin, David Thompson and Graham Smith, amongst many others.

The attendance of all these former greats means tickets for the event are limited and will be sold on a first come, first served basis. Individual tickets cost £60 each, with a table of eight costing £400. Every person attending will also receive a memento of the evening and this is just another reason why every Dale supporter will want to ensure they don't miss it.

Tickets are available now from the Club Shop, but with only a 300 capacity they are set to sell-out very quickly. So don't delay, book yours today.

## WOW SHOW TOPS 800

Ticket sales for the extremely popular WOW Show hosted by Radio Manchester's Jimmy Wagg and Eamonn O'Neill has exceeded all expectations despite the show still being three months away.



Due to refurbishment at the Gracie Fields Theatre, the venue has changed this year to the Tameside Hippodrome. With Buzz Hawkins and The Bradshaws returning to top the bill, tickets have flown out of the door at a rate never witnessed before and at the time of going to press, over 800 tickets had been sold. With a capacity of 1,266, it shouldn't

## COPPERPOT PROMOTION

To celebrate the club's centenary throughout 2007, the Copperpot Restaurant on Sandbrook Park are donating a percentage of each meal had by Dale supporters back to the club. To help us take advantage of this superb offer, simply take this matchday programme to the restaurant and show it them upon arrival and help the club financially by doing so.

be long before the SOLD OUT signs go up.

All monies raised from the event go directly to the club and such is the level of sales, it goes without saying that this year will break all previous records. Tickets cost £10 each and are available from the Hippodrome Box Office on 0870 602 1175.

The club would like to place on record its thanks to Jimmy and Eamonn for putting on the event and in the process helping the club raise a substantial amount of money.

## CORPORATE HOSPITALITY

Supporters wishing to experience a different side of the club may like to partake in a bit of corporate hospitality prior to a game of your choice. For just £35 adults (£25 season-ticket holders) or £25 concessions (£15 season-ticket holders) you can enjoy a superb three-course meal in the Horners Lounge, receive a complimentary programme and watch the after-match presentations to sponsors and their Man-of-the-Match.

To book your place, contact Simone Freeman on 0870 822 1969 or e-mail [richardw@rochdaleafc.co.uk](mailto:richardw@rochdaleafc.co.uk).

## GOLDEN GAMBLE

Recent winners of the half-time draw include:

Mr D Ashby, Sandringham Close, Towcester  
£340 v Bristol Rovers  
D Hassall, Wellfield Place, Rochdale  
£355 v MK Dons

## TRAVEL CLUB NEWS

The recent upturn in the fortunes of the team has seen demand for places on the coaches to away games increase. This has led to a couple of difficult decisions for club staff as to whether we lay on additional coaches. To help ensure the correct decision is made we'd urge all fans to book as soon as possible if they intend to travel with the OTC.

Bookings can be made in person in the Club Shop or via telephone on 0870 822 1969.

## GOLDBOND ROUNDS

We currently have existing rounds in the Hollins and Rawtenstall areas it is looking to fill. If you can help at all give Peter a ring in the Club Shop.



To add your name and message to this page, contact the Commercial Department on 0870 822 1969, or e-mail [richardw@rochdaleafc.co.uk](mailto:richardw@rochdaleafc.co.uk)

Jed Topping, Bury	50p	Terry Moore <i>For the exiles</i>	50p	£3100
Anne & Mike Howarth, Lancaster	£1	Pete Gooder	50p	£3000
The Kindon Family <i>Good luck for season 2006/07</i>	50p	Nigel MacDonald, Rochdale	50p	£2900
The Grumpies	£1	Bill Dawson <i>We'remugsandweknowweare</i>	50p	£2800
Ken Fletcher	50p	Richard Bott <i>Every goal counts</i>	£1	£2700
The Maher family, Marland	£1	Steve Derbyshire, Bamford	50p	£2600
Chris and Ginny Newton <i>All the best to the lads</i>	£1	Francis Collins, Rochdale	50p	£2500
The Faragher Boys <i>Goin up, Goin up, Goin up</i>	£1	Rochdale AFC Supporters Trust	£1	£2400
Pete + Pat Oliver Preston <i>Go for the ton!</i>	£2	David and Steven Crossley <i>One day it will happen, trust us</i>	£1	£2300
Mavis Shellard	50p	South Manchester and Cheshire Dale supporters <i>SMAC your goals in, make us pay</i>	£1	£2200
Dave, Caroline and Mike	50p	Phil Evans and Ian Tweedale	£1	£2100
Ant and Em, Derby <i>Abramovich would come to Dale if he tried our pies!</i>	25p	Graham Morris <i>Score when you can</i>	£1	£2000
Joshua and Jacques <i>This could be our year, take 32</i>	50p	Swindon Dale <i>Up da Dale</i>	50p	£1900
Nick Grenier <i>Up the Dale - Good Luck from the IOM</i>	£1	Mark Wagstaffe <i>Good luck from foreign shores</i>	£1	£1800
Sean Smythe per Gary Jones goal <i>Come on Gary!</i>	£10	Nick Johnson per league position <i>Up The Dale</i>	£2.50	£1700
Francis Finnigan <i>Let's hope it's this year we shock the world - Up the Dale!</i>	50p	Marc Berry	£1	£1600
Sylvia & Harold Barton	50p	Steve Bagley	50p	£1500
John Murray <i>Up the Dale!</i>	50p	Val Bagley	50p	£1400
Mel, Frank and Graham	£1.50	Jo Wild	£1	£1300
Frank Duffy and family	£1	Rod Brierley	£1	£1200
Geoff Cheetham <i>Let's make it a year to remember!</i>	£1	James Hampson	50p	£1100
Judith Quick <i>Good luck Dale from an exile in Berkshire</i>	50p	Dean and Sophie, Wilts <i>Come on The Dale!</i>	50p	£1000
The Cleggies <i>Who scored then?</i>	50p	Jarle Gunstead, Norway	50p	£900
Andy & Wendy Babington	£1	Jon & Nigel Hudson <i>Up The Dale!</i>	50p	£800
Gareth Davies, Burnley	50p	Dave & Barbara, London	£1	£700
		In memory of Martine	50p	£600
		Sean Smythe per Chris Dagnall goal	£5	£500
				£400
				£300
				£200
				£100

2003/04 Goal Sponsors raised £1710

2004/05 Goal Sponsors raised £2275

2005/06 Goal Sponsors raised £2520





**JOHN DOOLAN** felt as though he had a point to prove to the Rochdale faithful this season so *The Voice of Spotland* asked him if he felt he'd achieved his goal yet.

"I'd like to think so, but I'm not so naive as to say that's it, I can stop working hard now as my job here is done; far from it. I said in the summer I wanted to try and prove a few people wrong and I think my performances this year have helped me to achieve this. I certainly think my relationship with the fans is much better now and I've got to say I really enjoy it here."

Such has been Doolan's influence on the team this season that exclusive news we have obtained about a clause in his contract meaning an extension into 2008 will be met with great enthusiasm. The clause has been activated because the 33-year old has played a certain number of games and he admits he can't wait to sign it.

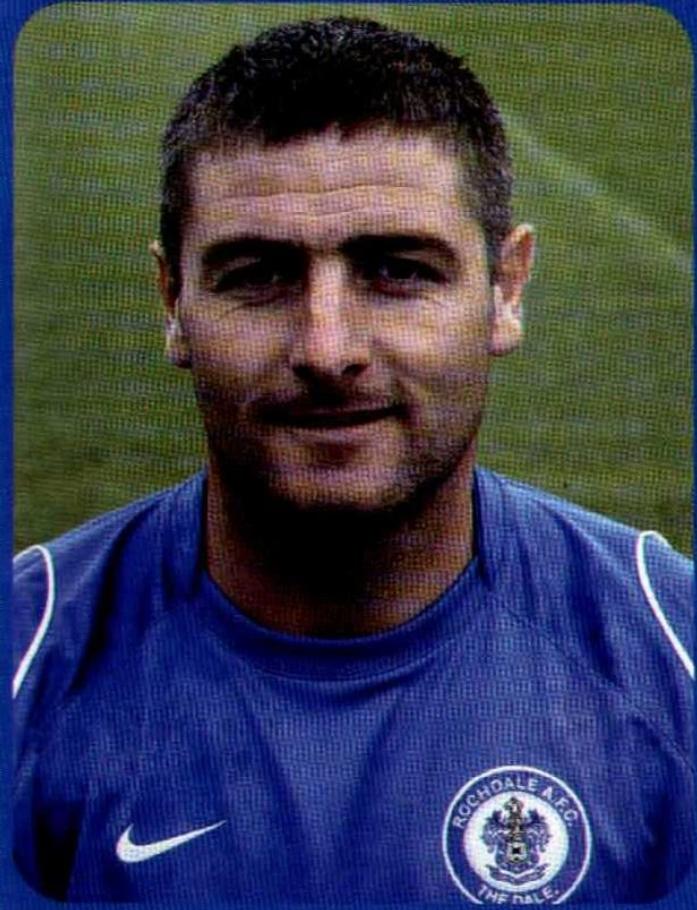
"I haven't said anything to the gaffer or the Chairman yet because they've had enough to think about recently. As I've said, I'm delighted with the way things have gone personally this season and when the time is right we'll all sit down and get it sorted. It's all in the contract I signed last January so nobody has anything to worry about, so for now we'll just carry on trying to climb the table."

"Looking ahead what it does mean is that the gaffer is starting to tie down some of the lads who will form part of the spine of his team next season and that is really important. I think he has a few other names in mind as well, but with me, Jonah, Rory and Nathan - plus the likes of Daggers and Glenn Murray in attack - we have a good nucleus already which I'm sure we'll add to in the summer."

"Between now and the end of the season we must look to try and build for next term without ever taking our eye off the league this year of course. We all know we need to improve our home record and this is our main goal before May. Four home victories isn't good enough, but we've been playing some good stuff of late at Spotland and Swindon will come here today knowing they will be in for a hard game. We are full of confidence after the result against MK Dons and it will be a good game to watch, that's for sure."

With over 500 senior games to his name now, Doolan is undoubtedly the senior professional on the club's books. Whilst the statistics may show this, you'd never have guessed it from his performance here two weeks ago, but what exactly does the man himself see as his role within the team?

"I've formed a decent partnership with Jonah in the middle of the park, but as you say my experience in the league means I need to offer help and advice to those around me as well. Personally I still think I've a lot left in this old tank of mine, but I'm always trying to speak to the younger lads whenever possible and I think it works well. We have a relatively young side here now, but if we can mix this with the odd older head like mine then it's a good blend."



"As for the MK Dons game, I actually didn't make that many surging runs forward; all I did whenever I crossed the halfway line was to make sure it counted. It's always nice to lay on a few goals for the other lads, but I just hope they remember whose cross it was that put it on a plate for them! Somehow though I don't think they will."

The popular Scouser has played in every game since new boss Keith Hill took charge of team affairs. His appointment has seen an upturn in the team's fortunes of late, but what would Doolan say the reason behind this is?

"I think it's because Keith is very thorough. No matter who we are playing no stone is ever left unturned and every aspect of the game is planned for. He's got a good appreciation of what the lads want and what he wants as the boss and this creates a good balance. His training is all geared towards the match that weekend and we've a really good atmosphere amongst us."

"In the dressing room last Saturday we were all really gutted to only come away with a point at the league leaders, which is a sign of how far we've come. Although it felt like a defeat it was a really good point in reality and we shouldn't forget that."



## John Doolan

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Born Liverpool, 7/5/74

Dale Debut v Mansfield Town (a),  
21/1/06

Dale Appearances/Goals 49/5

**Doolan Fact** John made his 500th professional appearance when Dale played at Lincoln in October. It wasn't a happy day - we lost 7-1!



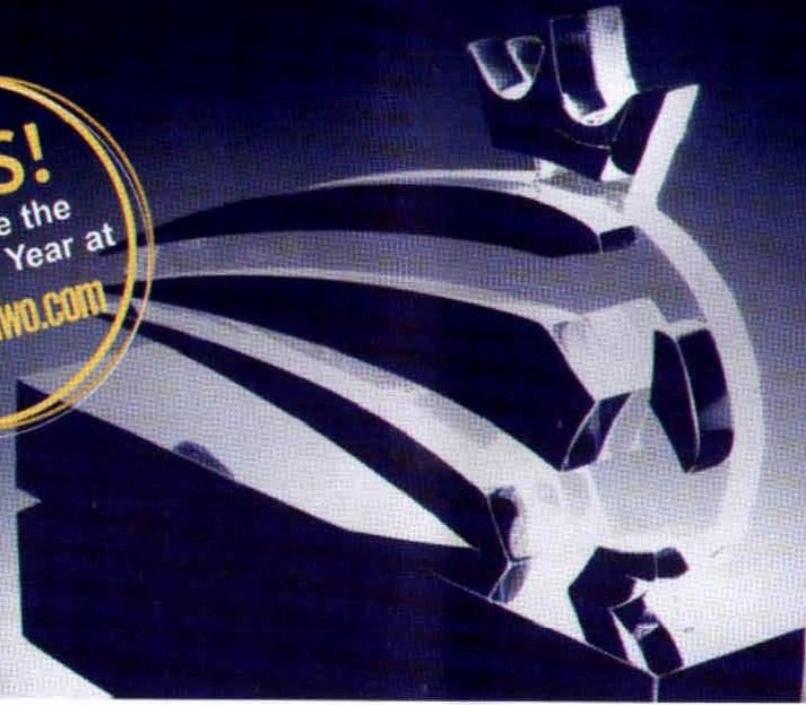
# Vote for the League's Top 50 players

What do Phil Jagielka, Lee Trundle and Karl Hawley have in common?

All were winners at the inaugural Football League Awards in 2006. And now's your chance to influence who follows in their footsteps. Vote for the best player from your own team or the player from another team who's most impressed you this season and you could win VIP tickets to the gala awards night and the chance to rub shoulders with the stars.

## Vote now at: [FourFourTwo.com](http://FourFourTwo.com)

**PLUS!**  
Nominate the  
Fan of the Year at  
[FourFourTwo.com](http://FourFourTwo.com)



OFFICIAL AWARD SPONSORS



## IT'S AGM TIME!

Each year, the Dale Trust board is required by its rules to call an Annual General Meeting, where the actions of the last financial year (1st July 2005 to 30th June 2006) are laid before adult (voting) members to discuss and vote upon. As usual, there was a reasonable turn out on a bitterly cold evening. Members were happy with the way the Trust is moving and for those unable to attend, we include brief extracts from the reports given. Other news from the event, such as the make up of the current board has been reported in the *Rochdale Observer*, but here we go into greater detail.

### CHAIRMAN

Firstly, the Chairman's report. Scott Goulding gave the members a review of the year, summarising the Trust's activities and finished off by saying: "Having met up and spoken with other club's Trusts at various events, we should be very appreciative of what we have here at Rochdale. Some of the things other fans have had to do to ensure their clubs survival are frightening. We as fans, however, shouldn't be complacent. We need to do all we can to ensure our Rochdale is safe and secure for many years to come. Building a solid Supporters Trust that is ready and able to act should the need arise is crucial. But it's not all negative - if we can help by doing something towards the quest for promotion/survival then we will. How the Trust grows and prospers is down to you."

### SECRETARY

Scott announced that as the then Company Secretary Warren Brierley unfortunately had to resign due to work commitments, the newly-appointed Secretary would be May Bishop, who many of you will remember from her work in the days of the old Supporters Club. Warren was able to return for the evening and gave us a report of activities that took place on his watch. He said: "In many ways 2005/06 has been the most successful season for the Supporters Trust and the hard work of the Trust board, other volunteers and the support of the fans is beginning to show that an established Trust working in co-operation with the club and community can have a positive effect. This has certainly been the case in 2005/06.

"I think the way that all Trusts judge their

success is in a healthy membership base and in this respect Rochdale Supporters Trust has continued to succeed with its membership passing over the 400 mark. I would urge for all fans that haven't renewed or joined for 2006/07 to do so.

"On the field the continuing story was postponements and the lack of real investment in the playing surface meant that the club suffered the burden of games being called off. It was obvious to all that something had to be done to address the situation and together with the Hornets Nest Egg, the Trust launched an appeal to raise a substantial donation towards the cost of the repairs. Over £6000 was raised by the two sets of fans and showed what you can achieve by working together.

"As a result, the stadium company has decided that both of the Supporters bodies can have a representative to sit on the Stadium Company Board. While this is a non-voting position it does mean that fans can have a positive input into future decisions regarding the Stadium and ensure that all parties act in the interests of both clubs. The Supporters Trust will elect its representative tonight."

Later in the evening this election took place and as has been announced elsewhere, Ian Bailey won the ballot.

### TREASURER

Then, the money. Treasurer Steve Ashworth presented a fully audited set of accounts (copies are available for members at the Trust table in Studds). He revealed: "The main reasons as to why we've had such a good surplus on our activities are our third 'Curry on up the Dale' night, which made a profit of almost £2,000, and the calendar we published for 2006, which made a profit £1100. The two grants we won during the last financial year have helped us to promote the club amongst the youngsters of the town and we must thank United Co-op and Awards For All for their assistance, totalling more than £8,000 in these projects.

"As mentioned in the notes at the beginning of the accounts, members have approved substantial expenditure towards benefiting the club this year. In two-and-a-half years, we've been able to do a great deal towards supporting the club, purchasing a stake in it on behalf of supporters, and fulfilling our aims within the wider Rochdale community. We've a good pot of 'rainy day' money should, heavens forbid, the need arise to assist in any crisis at the club and enough working capital to keep us ticking over and investing in other projects such as another Curry Night to keep us solvent.

"Overall, the Trust's finances are in a healthy position."

The accounts were moved, seconded passed as acceptable on a unanimous vote and are now with the Financial Services Authority for their inspection and approval.

The evening also involved the prize draw following on from the Pitch Appeal. Dale Trust were pleased to welcome Hornets Nest Egg Chairman Jim Stringer along. Jim and his colleagues have made a great contribution towards making sure the hallowed turf is now more fit for purpose than it had been for years.

Dale players Clive Moyo-Modise and Lloyd Rigby turned up to make the draw, under the watchful eyes of both Chairmen. Lynn Heath of Whitworth won the holiday prize. The laptop computer was won by the regulars who travel to Dale matches on the official club coaches! They made a contribution from profits made on brew money etc over the season. We are informed that this group have very kindly donated the prize back to the Trust to be auctioned for Trust funds at a later date.



All told, a successful evening, but the democratic process doesn't stop there! The Trust Board can always be contacted in Studds on match days and at [info@daletrust.org.uk](mailto:info@daletrust.org.uk) to hear members' views and answer (if we can!) your queries. We all have day jobs and the like to keep us occupied, so please be patient if we are a bit slow getting back to you during the week!

**Saturday 17th February 2007****3.00pm**

# Notts County

Dale will be hoping it's case of Lucky 13 next Saturday as our 12 previous league visits to Meadow Lane have brought precisely no wins! We also lost there in an FA Cup tie in 1996! On the plus side, we have drawn more games at Meadow Lane than we have lost!

**OUR LAST VISIT**

Our last visit to Meadow Lane was back in April when we drew 1-1 thanks to a late Rickie Lambert penalty. Notts County had gone 1-0 up about 10 minutes earlier as Dale looked to keep their heads above the relegation zone.

**THIS SEASON**

I for one had Notts County down to be one of the relegated teams this season, but they've proven me very wrong and are in fact one place outside the play-offs. They've been a bit inconsistent according to a fan of theirs I know, but overall it's been a good season.

Last Saturday they battered high flyers Lincoln City 3-1 at home, which followed a 5-2 thrashing of Torquay a couple of weeks ago. They also enjoyed a good Carling Cup run which saw them beat Premiership side Middlesbrough and Championship side Southampton, before being knocked out in round four by Wycombe Wanderers.

**THE GROUND**

Although the ground comprises four separate stands, it is very smart looking.

Both sides are single-tiered stands, the larger of which is the Derek Pavis (Main) Stand, named after the former Chairman who oversaw the ground's redevelopment.

Away fans are housed in the large Kop End, containing 5,400 seats. Again this is a newish stand, with excellent facilities.

The other end is the smaller, covered Family Stand. This has one sizeable solitary supporting pillar, which may affect your view as it is situated right at the front of the stand in the middle. This stand also has a small electric scoreboard on its roof.

**How to get there**

Take the M62 eastbound, then the M1 southbound, exiting at junction 26. Follow the A610 to Nottingham and when you come to the traffic lights at the roundabout take the third exit.

Continue through two sets of traffic lights and at the next roundabout go straight on (the Gateway Hotel is on your left). Go through a further five traffic lights and at the main junction (Trade Kitchens on your right) turn right onto the main ring road and follow the signs for football traffic.

Once you go past Nottingham Forest's ground on your left, carry on over Lady Bay Bridge and turn left at the bottom onto Meadow Lane. Carry straight on and the ground is in front of you.

**Pre-match**

Last time I was there we had to trek all the way into town to find a decent pub as the one nearest the ground, the Trent Navigation, was absolutely horrendous. We went in, ordered our drinks, drank half of them, looked at each other and just headed for the door. I'd avoid it if I were you.

The pub we found was excellent, if a little pricey, but if you go left when you get to the main entrance to the ground, head over the bridge and onto the main road, the Casa Bar is a few hundred yards on your left.

**PRICES**

The prices for this game are: Adults £16, Senior Citizens £10, Students/Young Adults £9 and Under-16s £5, although I'm not entirely sure what classes as a young adult, so you'd be best checking at the turnstile.

Notts County's matchday programme costs £2.50.

**WHAT IS NOTTINGHAM FAMOUS FOR?**

The obvious answer is, of course, Sherwood Forest, where Robin Hood used to roam. Allegedly.

Nottingham also has the three oldest pubs in Britain, those being Ye Olde Trip To Jerusalem, The Bell and The Salutation, although I'm not sure in what order.

Nottingham is also the home of one of the most famous football clubs in England, Nottingham Forest. I'm sure any County fan will hate me saying that, but it's true and under the leadership of the late, great Brian Clough they won the European Cup (Champions League as it is now known) twice in consecutive years in the late 1970s. They are also who we sold arguably our best ever player to, Grant Holt!

Some famous people from Nottingham include William Booth, who founded the Salvation Army, Harold Shipman, the serial killer, DH Lawrence, the author, Janet Duvitski, who played Jane in Waiting for God, Hollywood star Donald Pleasance, Richard Beckinsale, who played Lennie Godber in the excellent Porridge, Su Pollard, from Hi-De-Hi, Matthew Thorne, from the Catherine Tate Show, Dale Winton, the wooden looking National Lottery presenter, Torvill and Dean, the ice skaters, former Chancellor Kenneth Clarke and footballers Andy Cole, Jermaine Pennant, Jermaine Jenas, Chris Sutton, Steve Hodge and our very own legend, Nathan Stanton.

Have I missed anyone out?

**OTHER INFORMATION**

Telephone: (0115) 9529000

Website: [www.nottscountycfc.co.uk](http://www.nottscountycfc.co.uk)

Local Radio: BBC Radio Nottingham 95.5 & 103.8FM, 96 Trent FM and Heart 106FM

Local Newspaper: Nottingham Evening Post  
[www.thisisnottingham.co.uk](http://www.thisisnottingham.co.uk)

## Dale Travel Club

Departure Time: 11.00am

Cost: Adults £15, Under 16s £12

Bookings can be made in the Club Shop or by ringing (0870) 822 1969



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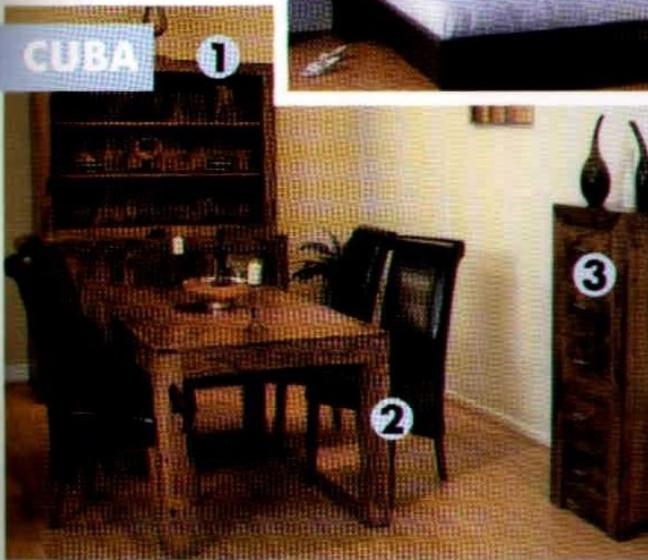
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Coffee Trunk  
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6.  
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7.  
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Was £299  
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# Squad Check

## Rochdale AFC

MANAGER: KEITH HILL  
COLOURS: BLUE & WHITE

- 1 MATTHEW GILKS (GK)
- 2 SIMON RAMSDEN
- 3 MARK JACKSON
- 5 JOHN DOOLAN
- 8 GARY JONES
- 9 CHRIS DAGNALL
- 10 ADAM LE FONDRE
- 11 ADAM RUNDLE
- 12 ALAN GOODALL
- 13 LLOYD RIGBY (GK)
- 14 GARY BROWN
- 15 JOE THOMPSON
- 16 DAVID PERKINS
- 17 GLENN MURRAY
- 18 NATHAN STANTON
- 19 LEE CROOKS
- 20 CLIVE MOYO-MODISE
- 21 CHARLIE COMYN-PLATT
- 23 RORY McARDLE
- 24 CALLUM WARBURTON
- 26 REUBEN REID
- 27 RORY PRENDERGAST
- 29 LEWIS EDGE (GK)

## Swindon Town

MANAGER: PAUL STURROCK  
COLOURS: RED & WHITE

- 1 PETER BREZOVAR (GK)
- 2 JACK SMITH
- 3 JAMIE VINCENT
- 4 SOFIENE ZAABOUB
- 5 JEREL IFIL
- 6 ADY WILLIAMS
- 7 GARETH WHALLEY
- 8 AARON BROWN
- 9 CHRISTIAN ROBERTS
- 10 LEE PEACOCK
- 12 RICKY SHAKES
- 13 JON STEWART (GK)
- 15 ANDY NICHOLAS
- 16 PATRICK NOUBISSIE
- 18 PAUL EVANS
- 19 MICHAEL POOK
- 21 LUKAS JUTKIEWICZ
- 22 BLAIR STURROCK
- 23 CURTIS WESTON
- 25 PHIL SMITH (GK)
- 27 BEN WELLS
- 28 ANDY CATON
- 34 MICHAEL TIMLIN



### MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee - Mr RL Lewis (Shropshire)

Assistant Referees - Mr PT Kettlewell (Lancs) Mr JR Tyas (Yorks)

Fourth Official - Mr A Haines (Tyne & Wear)