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# OVERTIME

## SPORTS MAGAZINE

**PNE: THE NEXT  
GENERATION**

THE PRESTON YOUTHS  
LOOKING FOR LEAGUE AND  
CUP SUCCESS... AGAIN

**ENGLAND'S WORLD  
CUP RUN**

HOW ENGLAND'S  
CRICKET OLDIES ARE  
GOLDIES

**PLUS NON-LEAGUE  
FOCUS**

HYDE UNITED'S  
PROMOTION  
CHASING CLASH

**DERBY DAY IS BACK**

**CITY LOOK FOR DERBY DAY DELIGHT  
TO KEEP UP WSL TITLE PURSUIT**



# WELCOME

OVERTIME SPORTS MAGAZINE

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## EDITOR'S NOTES

Hello and welcome to the third and final edition of Overtime. Thank you for reading and going on this journey with us. It has been great fun for the team to go out and get stories as well as finding the stars and unsung heroes of the North West.

In this final edition we look at the North West basketball star who is setting his sights on the NBA, as well as looking ahead to the Manchester and Merseyside derbies taking place this weekend. We have an exclusive with the 61-year-old who played in a Cricket World Cup final and also talk all things programmes.

Keeping with the theme of our previous editions, we have interviews from the people of the North West that are keeping the ball rolling in the world of sports - and in turn keeping us in a job.

We hope we grabbed your attention throughout our time together and we hope we brought you closer to sports than ever.

As editor, I hope we have managed to introduce you to a number of different activities and we hope we have inspired you to take that leap and try something new.

After you have finished reading this magazine, head over to our website where you can find more of our exciting stories and any articles that you might have missed in the previous issue.

Thank you for reading our magazine, we hope you have enjoyed the ride.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Max Peberdy".

Max Peberdy  
Editor

FIND OUR WEBSITE BY SCANNING  
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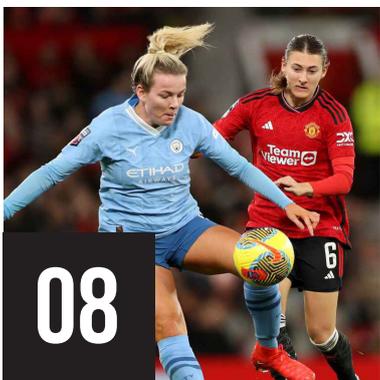
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# YOUNG LILYWHITES AIMING FOR LEAGUE AND CUP DOUBLE... AGAIN

## THE NORTH END YOUNGSTERS WITH HISTORY ON THE CARDS

DOUBLE: PNE'S YOUNGSTERS ARE ON COURSE FOR A SECOND LEAGUE AND CUP DOUBLE IN THREE SEASONS

BY JEFFERSON HALL-NOLAN

The league and cup double – it's one of English football's greatest achievements.

Only eight teams have completed the feat and half of those reign from the North West.

It was Liverpool in '86, Manchester United did it three times in the nineties and Pep Guardiola's Manchester City have done it twice in the last five seasons.

Before all of those came the Invincibles, Preston North End.

The Lilywhites took 18 wins from 22 games on the way to winning the first ever edition of the Football League in 1889 and paired that with an FA Cup Final victory over Wolverhampton Wanderers for a double at the first time of asking.

Fast forward to the year

2022 and PNE's U19s have completed an EFL Youth Alliance League double following a 4-1 demolition of Luton Town at Kenilworth Road. Now they're on course to do it again.

North End are five points clear at the top of the North West division of the Youth Alliance with five games left to play and face a northern final against Grimsby Town on Saturday.

The reward is a national final against Portsmouth and professional development phase coach Andy Fensome is on for a second success in just three seasons.

The under-19s manager was in the dugout at Luton on that night in April 2022 and will be looking to emulate that success but the 55-year-old says the job isn't done yet for this year's Deepdale crop.

"We're not doing too bad

at the minute," Fensome said. "We're top of the league and obviously we're through to the Northern section of the Youth Alliance Cup so we're going quite well.

"I think it's more important for the players to get the credit because they've got themselves through the group stages, then into the quarter-finals and then the semi-final.

"To get through all that and then into the northern final is obviously a great achievement and there's a carrot at the end of that now where there's a national final.

"It is a different set of



## "WE'VE NOT ACHIEVED ANYTHING YET"

FENSOME ON LILYWHITES'  
DOUBLE CHANCES

lads from last time but they had a very impressive FA Youth Cup run last season, and then to get through to the Youth Alliance Cup final the year after is a good achievement.

"To be top at this stage of the season is something that, again, they should be proud of, but we've not actually achieved anything yet.

"We keep passing that on to the players, that the season's still to go, we've still got a lot of things to play for, and every game that's left is massively important."

The cup final in the capital was Preston's first on the national stage as an

academy and Fensome says those occasions of playing in professional stadiums only helps the development of his young players.

He added: "We obviously went away, played at Luton under the lights and it was a really good game so that was really exciting.

"The players obviously enjoyed the experience, and then to win it at the end of the day was such a fantastic moment.

"We had players like Kian Best (pictured below) in that team and he's now in the England set up so competitions like this and game's like that are massive for the players.

"It's invaluable really because you can't replicate that stadium experience on the training grounds that we usually play on.

"We were lucky two years ago to play at Luton and obviously last year with the FA Youth Cup games, we played at Deepdale a fair few times and we got to experience other stadiums.

"It is important that they experience those things and this year there's the chance to make history again.

"The winners go on to the national final, and again, that will hopefully be played at a stadium. The carrot for the players is, look, you've reached the final, but there's something at the end of this if you go and win the game.

"That's what we keep emphasising really to the lads this year and hopefully it'll pay off."

With decisions over professional contracts

pending in academies up and down the country, the youth team manager wants his side to give themselves the best chance of a career together.

"What we say to the players is the better you do as a team, although we're looking at you as individuals as well, the more people you get watching you. The scouts come to watch, management come to watch.

"Not just our management, but other managers come to watch. It's a chance to put yourself in the shop window."

"Last year's team, I think it was eight young players got professional deals out of it and that's ultimately what the players are striving for.

"They're striving to become young professionals, to make a career in the game, whether it is here or whether it's at another football club.

"We want them to be at Preston North End - that's the first and foremost. If it's not here, then it's this time of the year where we say there's a lot of people out there that are looking for players - put yourselves on show.

"Us as coaches, we're just as pleased for those players that go on and make debuts elsewhere so we just want the lads to show themselves in the best possible light - starting this Saturday."

Preston face the Mariners at Springfields with kick off at 11.30am on Saturday, March 23.



BY JEFFERSON HALL-NOLAN

To celebrate the Football League's Youth Development Week, here at Overtime we've taken a look at five England stars who started their careers in the EFL.

The first name on Gareth Southgate's team sheet for the Three Lions' Euro 2024 opener against Serbia will be skipper Harry Kane.

The hitman spent the entirety of his career on the books of Tottenham Hotspur before joining Bayern Munich in the summer, but Kane also endured four loan spells in the Football League.

He featured for Leyton Orient and Millwall in the early days of his career and also played for Norwich City prior to his breakout campaign with Spurs.

Perhaps the most notable of the lot is Birmingham City youth Jude Bellingham.

The midfielder made his debut for the Blues aged 16 and played 41 games in the 2019/20 season - catching the attention of German side Borussia Dortmund.

Bellingham made a stunning move to Spanish giants Real Madrid in the summer and has scored 20 goals in 31 games.

AC Milan's Fikayo

## FIVE OF THE EFL'S GRADUATES SET TO REPRESENT THE THREE LIONS AT EURO 2024

Tomori spent time with Brighton and Hull City on loan from Chelsea but really caught the eye at Derby County in 2019.

He was introduced at Stamford Bridge under Frank Lampard but now features for the Rossoneri.

The Under-20 World Cup winner won the Serie A title in 2022 and has gained five senior caps for Southgate's men.

Closer to home, Manchester City star Jack Grealish made his senior debut on loan at Notts County and scored five goals for the Magpies in 2014.

The 28-year-old was also part of the Villa team that secured Championship play-off success in 2019 before securing a European treble with City last summer.

Grealish made his Three Lions debut in 2020 after switching allegiances from the Republic of Ireland.

Another City star, Kyle Walker spent four loan spells in the EFL - most notably with boyhood club Sheffield United.

The full back has gone on to secure 16 major honors for the Citizens including the Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League last term while also collecting 81 caps for England.





## HYDE UTD OUT FOR REVENGE

BY GEORGE PATTEN

Greater Manchester's Hyde United, who are third in the Northern Premier League will play host to second place, Warrington Rylands on Saturday.

The game will take place on Non-League Day, a day that celebrates semi-professional and grassroots football in England.

Star forward Jack Redshaw (pictured above, centre) is looking to extract revenge, after a controversial defeat earlier in the season.

"It's absolutely massive, we went there, and we lost 1-0," he said.

"Whether it crossed the line or not we'll never know.

"They've had a really good season, and we know

what to expect from them, it'll be a battle but hopefully we can go out there and take the three points."

Redshaw, 33, is confident that the Hyde fans will turn up in numbers at the weekend.

"I'm sure there will be a great support there on Saturday," said Redshaw.

"We usually get pretty good numbers at Hyde, but with it being Non-League Day, hopefully a few more can turn up.

Redshaw, who came through Manchester City's academy, had spells at Morecambe and Blackpool, before turning to non-league and joining Hyde at the beginning of last season.

It's this year however, that the Salford-born forward has rediscovered his goalscoring form.

"I've got 16 in the league, 18 in all competitions," he said.

"I've been playing on the left pretty much all season, I'm not an out and out striker like I used to be.

"To get 18 goals from a wide position, it's been a really good season for me personally.

Redshaw has enjoyed a successful career in non-league and thinks players shouldn't be afraid to drop down to get game time.

"It didn't work out at Rochdale (Redshaw's first professional club), and I'd only ever wanted to play professionally," he said.

"I joined Altrincham, who were only in the Conference North at the time, but I think it's probably the most I've enjoyed my football to be honest.

"You get a lot of players

in the Football League that aren't getting any minutes, just sat there doing nothing.

"If they could filter down into non-league and play regularly, then I'm sure they'd enjoy themselves and probably bounce straight back up.

Redshaw is confident ahead of Saturday's game and he expects a big performance from himself and the rest of the group.

"It'll be a really close game, I reckon one goal will win it," he said.

"I'm going to say it'll be 2-1 Hyde, Jack Redshaw getting the winner."

The fans at Ewen Fields will certainly be hoping that prediction is true come 5pm on Saturday afternoon as the Tigers look to jump up to second in the Northern Premier League.

# PROGRAMMES: A DYING TRADITION

BY JEFFERSON HALL-NOLAN

Football. Through the turnstiles, a pint before the game, finding your 'usual spot' and picking up a programme.

All are essential parts of the matchday routine for football's traditionalists but one could soon disappear from those Saturday afternoon rituals.

Matchday magazines have started to fade out in the North West and one of the Football League's oldest clubs, Accrington Stanley have already opted to publish an online alternative.

Collector Chris Tuck has travelled up and down the country picking up programmes from every ground and he feels the next generation of football fans will be missing out on a great tradition.

"It will be a big miss," Tuck said. "You go to the football with your dad or your grandad and you build up memories and those programmes remind you of that."

"I could go in the shed, pick up a programme and straight away it takes me

back to some cup final in Cardiff or a game when the car broke down on the way up to Norwich, and the programme reminds you of that.

"It was just always part of it, at the football people say a pie and a pint, or a programme for me, so we'd always get one.

"I guess to be honest I didn't really appreciate it because it was just part of it. It was only when they started going online when I realized but before that it was: hang on, why would you do that?"

The 49-year-old now lives in Southampton but travelled across the North West following his hobby.

With the disappearance of matchday programmes seemingly inevitable, Tuck felt there were numerous factors responsible.

He added: "The problem in the football league is that they charge four pounds for it which puts people off and if they're not selling, they'll stop making them.

"I've got my first one from Plymouth v Swindon framed in my little shed and that was only 35p.



After a week of the heaviest snowfall Old Trafford look on an Alpine look for the 4th Round Cup Tie

## PROGRAMMES: ONE OF FOOTBALL'S OLDEST TRADITIONS IS UNDER THREAT

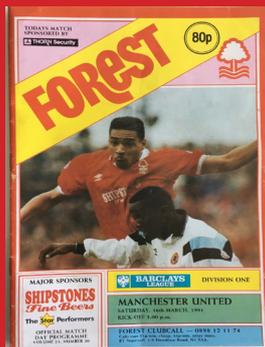
"I've got a few mates who don't bother buying now because they're just so big and chunky and four pounds is the price of a pint, whereas in the old days that price never touched the sides."

"Obviously people do access their information online these days, so I can see why they've started putting online versions out because it's niche now and they sell less.

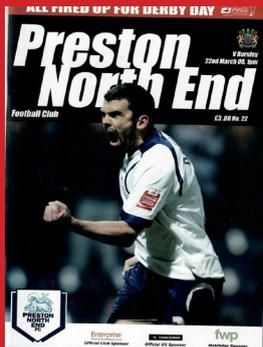
"Covid was used as an excuse to stop them for a while but they still sold white newspapers the whole way through so that didn't help the cause because it was just a way to save money.

"If they do make a loss, then I can understand them doing things differently but for me a programme is an intrinsic part of the game – it played a big part in my growing up."

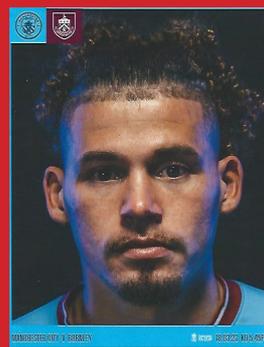
# THIS WEEK IN FOOTBALL PROGRAMMES



16/03/1991  
N FOREST 1-1 MAN UTD  
DIVISION ONE  
SCORERS:  
BLACKMORE, WILSON



22/03/2008  
PNE 2-1 BURNLEY  
CHAMPIONSHIP  
SCORERS:  
PRISKIN, BROWN,  
O'CONNOR



18/03/2023  
MAN CITY 6-0 BURNLEY  
FA CUP  
SCORERS:  
HAALAND X3, ALVAREZ  
X2, PALMER



**DERBY: MANCHESTER CITY AND MANCHESTER UNITED GO HEAD-TO-HEAD THIS WEEKEND**

BY HARRY WHITFIELD

The Manchester derby and the Merseyside derby take place this weekend in the Women's Super League.

The Etihad Stadium is set for a third meeting between the Manchester sides this season with the Citizens coming out on top in both of the previous matches.

Andy Slater (pictured below, right), a member of the Manchester United Women Supporters Club, believes the team's recent form shows they are unlikely to come out on top in the derby.

He said: "With the quality of the players we've got, I would be confident but with the form that we've been displaying, I'm not particularly confident at all.

"From following United men through the 90s and the 2000s, it feels strange to

not go into games thinking that we could win, but it would be a shock if we did.

"We'll still get behind the team and I think they can still pull out a performance that is capable of winning the game."

Slater, editor of the Man United fanzine, the 'Barmy Article', does not think previous results in the derby matter when it comes to this weekend's match.

"I think in a derby, regardless of what past results have been, there's always a lot on the line as well as the points or the progression in a cup.

"Against your local rivals you always want to win, whether it's revenge for a previous game or to assert domination if you've won previously.

"I don't think the previous losses change the mentali-

ty of the fans necessarily.

"I think the pride that comes in a derby is there regardless of what previous results were.

"It would sting to get beat a third time, but it's for general pride and just getting one over on the neighbours."

Back in November, the Red Devils lost 3-1 in the derby at Old Trafford despite taking the lead thanks to a Katie Zelem penalty.

The two sides met again in the FA Women's League Cup with City coming out on top for the second time this season.

With six games remaining, United do not have a lot left to play for in the league as they are six points off Arsenal for the last UEFA Women's Champions League spot.

Slater himself cannot see how they

can catch Arsenal for third, as he said: "I think Arsenal are capable of dropping the points that we need them to do.

"But I don't think we've got the performances to do it this season. The way we've approached it has been very inconsistent.

"There have been flashes of brilliance. There have been good spells earlier in the season but we've been far too inconsistent.

"I think it would be a shock if we picked up the points to catch Arsenal."

Meanwhile on the blue side of Manchester, they are level on points with Chelsea Women at the top of the league with six games of the Women's Super League season to play.

The Citizens are on a run of 10 successive WSL victories after they defeated Brighton and Hove Albion 4-1.



City last won the league in 2016 and they still have to face Man United, Liverpool and fellow title rivals Arsenal in their remaining fixtures.

Semi-professional footballer and Man City Women fan, Izzy Gigg (pictured right), believes winning the derby is vital for Man City's season.

She said: "With the end of the season coming up, every game is a must win and winning a derby helps to boost team



morale and confidence, which they need to help push for the title.

"Manchester derbies are massive. It's a game that everyone tunes into really because no matter if or how it affects the league it's still a massive game.

"Both teams always show up no matter previous form so it's always a great game to watch no matter how nervous it makes me."

"I'd like to think we are the favourites going into it but I never

want to be too confident as anything can happen on derby day, but I do feel like we'll win."

The men's side are also in a close title fight as they are a point off Arsenal and Liverpool with 10 games to go.

Gigg believes both sides have a chance at title success: "I'd like to think both teams are capable of winning it and it would be brilliant if they both did," she said.

"Both are just in awkward situations where it's not really in their hands and they are waiting for another team to slip up."

## WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE TABLE

	P	GD	PTS
01 CHELSEA	16	34	40
02 MAN CITY	16	32	40
03 ARSENAL	16	17	34
04 MAN UTD	16	15	28
05 LIVERPOOL	16	04	28
06 TOTTENHAM	16	-7	22
07 ASTON VILLA	16	-11	19
08 LEICESTER	16	-10	16
09 EVERTON	16	-15	14
10 BRIGHTON	16	-16	14
11 WEST HAM	16	-16	12
12 BRISTOL CITY	16	-27	6



# TOFFEES LOOK TO KEEP UP DERBY DAY DOMINANCE

BY HARRY WHITFIELD

Liverpool will head to Goodison Park this Sunday looking to put an end to their rivals success against them in the Women's Super League.

They have had a better season than Everton, beating them in the League Cup and picking up twice as many points as they have this season.

Matt Beard's side are fifth in the WSL table, with a slim chance of qualifying for Europe but The Toffees are just eight points above the relegation zone.

Despite this, Everton

have enjoyed more success in the Merseyside derby with three successive wins at Anfield.

The Reds have only won one of their last seven meetings against Everton.

Earlier on in the season, The Blues beat Liverpool 1-0 after their captain Megan Finnigan scored from a header to seal the three points.

Finnigan thinks her side can get another result at home to their Merseyside rivals.

"Form goes out of the window," she told BBC Sport.

"The last few times we've

played, they've come into it in good form and we've been in bad form - and it's always worked out well for us.

"We know from previous experiences how to turn it on. While results haven't gone our way this season, I do genuinely believe we're in a good place.

"That might sound silly if people are just looking at the table but if you watch our games, I think we're a really good team.

"I look at Liverpool being fifth in the table and it kills me because we are so much better than our league position suggests."

## DID YOU KNOW?

Manchester City left-back, Alex Greenwood has played for all four of the North West's Women's Super League clubs.

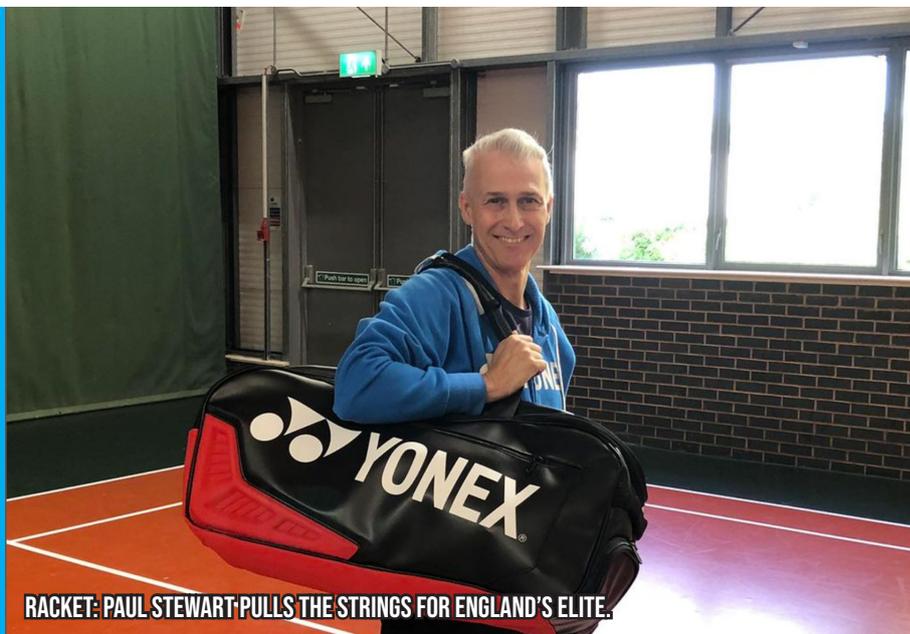
The England international spent four years at Everton before joining Liverpool in 2016.

Two years with the Reds followed before joining Manchester United where she won the Women's Championship in 2019.

Greenwood joined City from French giants Lyon in 2020 and has gone on to win both the FA Cup and WSL Cup with the club as well as achieving Euro 2022 glory with England.



# 'I DIDN'T THINK I'D PLAY AGAIN'



RACKET: PAUL STEWART PULLS THE STRINGS FOR ENGLAND'S ELITE.

BY MAX MCCARTHY

Paul Stewart's badminton journey got turned on its head when he suffered two car accidents within a year.

Stewart, at the age of 25, was left with over a year's worth of physiotherapy after the accidents.

After 13 years of playing the game Stewart was left with the tough decision of whether to continue playing.

He is now running a Bad-

minton coaching school in the Cheshire and Manchester area, with the aim of developing the best young British talent.

The professional coach talked about the cross roads he was at after the injury:

"It took me two to three months before I could go back to work. However it took eight months before I could get back on the court.

"I slept on the floor for months as it was the only

place where I could feel comfortable.

"I had a lot of physio and I didn't think I'd play again."

Stewart explained how the crash affected his future in the game:

"My car was hit from behind while being stationary twice in the space of a year.

"The second crash, the recoil from the impact pushed my radio cassette out of the front of the car

"The whiplash I suffered affected me for months, as

well as the injuries that I suffered to my lower back and neck.

"I was sleeping on the floor for three months, I couldn't even bring my legs up to my chest."

Stewart however didn't want to leave the game he loved so decided to take up the coaching route:

"When my back improved, I applied to become a basic level coach. It took some time to progress in coaching back in those days, but I stuck with it."

# 'IT'S THINGS LIKE THIS THAT T

BY GEORGE PATTEN

A thrilling game of FA Cup football, goals flying in at both ends, 'the magic of the cup is back'. Those should've been the only talking points following Manchester United's 4-3 victory over rivals Liverpool last Saturday. Instead, the mocking of the 97 fans who died at Hillsborough back in 1989 was what many remembered from the day.

Chants such as 'murderers' and 'always the victims' could allegedly be heard at times during the game, from which two fans have now been arrested.

One particular fan is set to be banned for life following his gestures and chants during the game.

This wasn't an isolated event as similar incidents have taken place multiple times this season already.

Peter Scarfe, 55, set up the Hillsborough Survivors

Support Alliance (HSA) back in 2019, an organisation that helps survivors and those affected by the incident, access therapy.

Scarfe himself was a survivor that day in 1989 and works as a volunteer to help others going through the same troubles that he has in the past.

He was shocked by last Saturday's incident.

"The tragedy chants at Manchester United's Stretford End were absolutely

horrendous," said Scarfe.

"He's not a kid. He's not someone that wouldn't have been born and wouldn't know about Hillsborough, he was around, and he should know better."

Scarfe and the organisation have worked tirelessly to develop a successful therapy programme that targets the complex PTSD that some Hillsborough survivors suffer from.

Work that can be quickly undone when incidents like

The badminton veteran went on to detail some of the early success he had as a coach:

“The first nine or 10 kids I worked with all went on to senior county, one of them went on to play for England.

“I coached her (Katie Litherland) from nine, at 18 she was double National Champion, went onto play for England and got to rank 22 in the world.”

Stewart expressed his love for coaching when asked whether it was comparable to playing the game:

“Yes, the beauty about coaching is someone is coming to you with a challenge, issue, problem or whatever.

“The look on their face when you solve that problem and they develop, is a great feeling.

“You see a player you’ve had from nine years old and the development they’ve had over the years to become National Champion, representing England.

“That’s a fantastic feeling and I wouldn’t change that for the world.”

Stewart went on to talk about the other side of his work within the sport, being a professional racket stringer for England’s elite players.

“I’m a world class stringer, I have strung rackets for Olympic champions, world champions.

“Stringing is vital, when you hit a shuttle the thing that hits the shuttle is the string, so the players want consistency.

“They want to pick a racket up and it feels the same as the previous one.”

The Warrington located coach emphasised how much he enjoys helping the players:

“I find it therapeutic, I have about 12 rackets to do a day.

“I can normally do about three and a half badminton rackets in an hour.

“Which is good going, as to be part of the main sponsor Yonex’s team of stringers you have to be



able to do two and a half?”

Stewart who travelled down to Birmingham last week for the Yonex All England Badminton Championships, explained what his week was like:

“I really enjoyed it, I didn’t get to see as many games as I would have liked because I was working, but the whole event was really good.

“Although I had my coaching head on for a player I was helping, the majority of the week I was on the stringing machines, making rackets.

Stewart hopes to continue his coaching journey

over the next year as well as helping the professionals with all the gear they need to compete:

“This year I want to be doing a lot more day camps and there is potential at the moment to be hooking up with places in Malaysia.

“Earlier this year, I was involved in stringing tennis rackets for Dunlop, so continuing to branch out within stringing is something I am keen to do.

“Next month I should be going to Inverness in Scotland to do some coaching and I’ve been asked to work with a couple of kids on the Isle of Mole.”

# ‘TRIGGER SUICIDE’

undone when incidents like last Sunday’s occur.

“The anguish it causes is horrific, we had a torrid time supporting people and being there to help people get through it,” he said.

“They (the fans chanting) don’t realise the damage it actually causes.

“We’ve lost too many people to suicide, it’s things like this that trigger people.

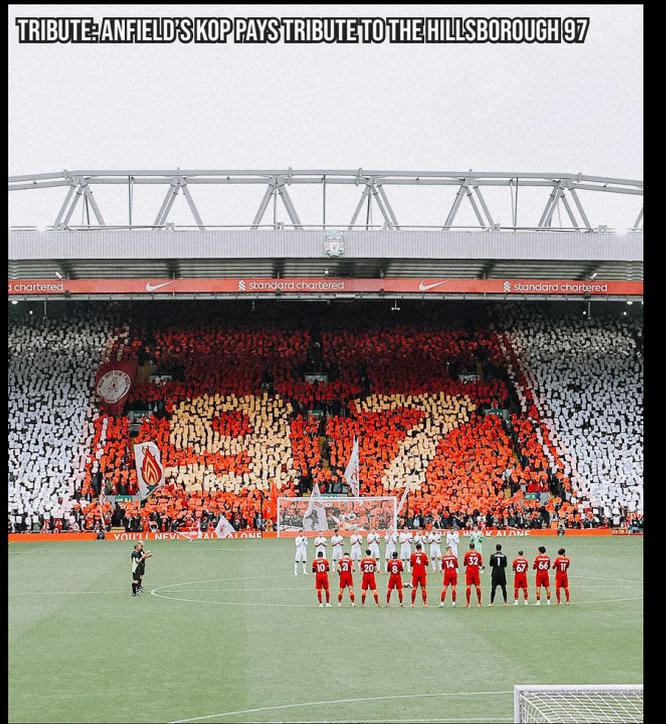
The event reminded Scarfe of an incident at last season’s FA Cup Final,

where a fan wore a shirt which read ‘97 not enough’.

“A quote like that sends out the message that he wanted us to die too, 97 of us wasn’t enough as far as he’s concerned,” said Scarfe.

Manchester United and Liverpool will face off again in less than three weeks’ time, where Scarfe and the rest of the footballing world hope these chants won’t reappear.

That game could also decide the title on April 7.





# OLD BUT GOLD: ENGLAND'S CRICKET SUPERSTARS

**HOWZAT: ENGLAND'S OVER-60S REACHED THE WORLD CUP FINAL IN AUSTRALIA**

BY JAMES SADLER

England's senior cricket side have recently returned from a gruelling five match test series in India, which resulted in a heavy 4-1 defeat for Brendon McCullum's men, but one English team fared a whole lot better in South Asia.

England Over 60s took part in the Over 60s World Cup across February and March, making light work of the tricky, Asian conditions as they breezed through to the final, before they were beaten by the old enemy Australia.

In the England squad was Littleborough CC legend Phil Deakin, who momentarily switched his accountancy job in Rochdale for the luxury life of five-star hotels, sub-continental sunshine, and the honour of representing his country in a world cup final.

A left-arm spin bowler and lower-order batsman, the 61-year-old scored 17 runs in the final as England

scored 214 in Chennai, which was knocked off by the Aussies with eight wickets to spare.

Despite not bringing back the World Cup crown, Deakin believes the feeling won't be topped for a very long time:

"It's disappointing to lose but it's really good to represent your country, you can't beat it, you think you're never going to get the opportunity to do it," said Littleborough's former long-standing first-team captain.

"We won very comfortably in all the matches but in the final we totally underperformed."

Deakin performed well throughout the tournament, as he took five wickets bowling in the sweltering Chennai sunshine, where temperatures reached 35 degrees, which he found a challenge.

"We're old men so it was tough, I've never drank as much water as I did over there.

"The amount of water

we drank over there was unbelievable, which you've got to do.

"Every time you have an opportunity to take a break when you're fielding you have to just drink water and keep hydrated."

Deakin wasn't the only Littleborough representative in the England camp as Chris Dearden, a teammate of Deakin for over 40 years, played for England at the event and was 12th man in the final.

The duo were roommates together throughout the World Cup and back on home soil, Littleborough chairman Neil Barnes is proud of the pair representing the club at the top level.

"It's fantastic. I see these two guys plying their trade domestically week after

week and they still have so much to offer," said the 61-year-old.

"It always puts a smile on my face when I see how many wickets Phil continues to take year on year and he's always amongst the top wicket takers in the club.

"It's always good to have England level cricketers around at the club and Phil, as he was last year, will once again be an integral part of our cricket playing environment"

Deakin has represented Littleborough since he was 15-years-old back in 1978, when he shared the same pitch as West Indies legend 'Big Bird' Joel Garner and batting at number eight, Littleborough won the game with the then junior at the crease.



**REPRESENTING: DEAKIN AND DEARDEN WERE PART OF THE O-60S SQUAD**

# “THEY’D ALL LIKE TO BE DOING WHAT WE’RE DOING SO YOU FEEL PRIVILEGED”

DEAKIN ON REPRESENTING ENGLAND

After dedicating most of their lives to the club, Dearden and Deakin will always be remembered for their international efforts, with their signed shirts put up on display in the clubs’ trophy room.

“We’ve had a few lads who’ve become pro footballers, they’re up on the wall and then me and Chris are up on the wall with our England stuff which will be there for a long time so that’s quite nice,” said Deakin.

“The cricket club is very proud of Phil and Chris, not only because of what they have achieved more recently but also because of the length of time they have played cricket here at Littleborough, since they were both junior cricketers themselves,” chairman Barnes added.

The process to play for the England Over 60s team is a tough one, with over 3,000 members up and down the country playing Over 60s cricket.

With thousands of eyes on the team both in Littleborough’s home of Rochdale and all over the UK, Deakin was blown away by the level of support he’s received back home:

“All these 3,000 county guys are all watching us on the live streams, and we get loads of support.

“Obviously, they’d all like to be doing what we’re doing so you feel privileged because there are loads of lads I know who would love to be doing what I’m doing.”

All games throughout the tournament were shown live on YouTube for free for those back home brave enough to tackle the five-and-a-half hour time difference between Chennai and the UK.

Back in Lancashire, there was no shortage of support from Littleborough members cheering on the squad.

“Although the games did start early in the morning a large number of our members have told me that they followed the boys throughout the tournament,” said Barnes.

“Phil and Chris are well respected members of our club and so have been welcomed home by many members, individually.”

There are on-going talks of Littleborough hosting a test match between Deakin and Dearden’s Over 60s team and Pakistan in the summer, with plans also in place for the England squad to tour Australia later in the year.

Whether it be India, Australia or Greater Manchester, the Over 60s have definitely still got it and have no issue showing that.



## MANCHESTER’S HOT-SHOTS FOR THIS SUMMER’S HUNDRED

BY JAMES SADLER

Manchester Originals completed the signing of world number one T20 batter Beth Mooney as both the men’s and women’s teams acquired a number of signings for the upcoming Hundred at the 2024 draft on Wednesday.

The men’s team completed the signings of Zimbabwe all-rounder Sikandar Raza, Afghani seamer Fazalhaq Farooqi and 19-year-old left arm fast bowler Josh Hull.

In the women’s draft, the Originals also completed the signings of all-rounder Sophie Molineux, England’s Lauren Filer, batter Eve Jones and Phoebe Graham.

The Hundred returns for a fourth year in July, where the men’s team will be looking to build on a defeat in the final last year, while the women’s team are looking to better their seventh place finish.

How will the Originals’ new recruits look to shake up the competition?

The men’s standout signing is Zimbabwe T20 captain Raza who is set to make his English cricket debut this

summer, also signing for Northamptonshire in the Blast.

The 37-year-old was the Originals’ first pick of the draft and will supply a mountain of experience which could help guide the North West franchise to glory.

In 79 international T20s, Raza averages 25.85 and has scored 1,836 runs - including 13 half-centuries with the bat and he’s a dab hand with the ball too.

The Pakistani-born veteran is a right-arm off spinner who has taken 58 wickets at an average of 22.05, with career best figures of 4-8 on the international stage.

The statement signing for the women is Beth Mooney who is the world’s best in the T20 batting rankings.

The four-time Australian World Cup winner represented the Southern Brave in the 2022 Hundred and hit 97 on debut, breaking the record for the highest score by a woman at the time.

Also a wicketkeeper, she averages 41.25 after 95 internationals with a high score of 117\* against England and will surely be a huge boost for the Originals.

# CHESHIRE'S RELUCTANT NBA HOPEFUL

DUNK: CHESHIRE'S ALEX TEW IS AIMING FOR THE NBA

BY GEORGE PATTEN

From Nantwich to Utah. Alex Tew has made the unlikely journey to the brink of basketball stardom.

The 4791 mile journey has seen many twists and turns, doubts, change of plans and everything in between for Tew.

The 22-year-old had dreams of playing Premier League football alongside the likes of Bukayo Saka and Declan Rice at his beloved Arsenal, but is now just one step from the big time in the NBA.

That final step is by no means a small one, but one that Tew believes he can make.

"It's definitely realistic," said Tew.

"Division one is a high level. I think that any Division One player is capable of playing in the NBA, it's just about putting yourself out there and trying to stand out.

"There's only a certain number of players that can make it to the NBA."

Tew plays as a centre for

Weber State University in the NCAA Division One, the highest level of basketball before reaching the pinnacle of the NBA.

While Weber State is what's known as a 'mid-major', a University that doesn't see a high number of its players graduate to the NBA, that isn't putting Tew off at all.

"One of my team-mates right now, Dillon Jones, I'm 95% sure that he'll be drafted (to the NBA) in the first round this year," said Tew.

"There have been famous basketball players like Damian Lillard who have been here as well."

Lillard, a Weber State graduate, is an eight-time NBA All Star, and was named as one of the 75 best players of all time.

Aware of the challenge, Tew has a contingency plan in case he doesn't quite make it to the NBA.

"The more realistic goal is playing somewhere in Europe, somewhere like Spain, France or Germany," he said.

"There's a different style of basketball back home,

and I think it suits me a bit more as well."

Basketball hasn't always been the goal for Tew, who originally preferred the pitch to the court.

"I was your typical English kid," he said.

"I just wanted to play professional footy, play in the Premier league like most kids do.

"I'm an Arsenal fan, I was just obsessed with football.

"It wasn't until I was about 17, that I started taking basketball seriously, and I knew that this is what I wanted to do."

The switch to basketball was one that Tew had some hesitancy towards, but his parents helped convince him to make the jump.

"I'd say most of the resistance came from myself," said Tew.

"When I received the scholarship back at home, I didn't actually want to come.

"Being away from home, away from my family. Is it something I really want to

do? I definitely questioned myself.

"My parents were like 'Hey, you're not the smartest guy, but you're a good basketball player. What else are you going to do with your life?'"

Tew was eventually convinced and made the move to California for a year, before being offered a scholarship at Weber State.

The 22-year-old finished his third season with the Weber State 'Wildcats', and had his best year to date.

"I ended up making the All Conference Defensive team, which was a major accolade for me this year," said Tew.

"We started off the year really well, getting a few big wins against St Marys who were ranked top 25 at the time, and against Yale.

"Towards the end of the season we started to fade out a little bit and ended up finishing fourth in the conference."

Tew and Weber State had a chance at redemption in the post-season Conference tournament, which didn't go quite to plan.

"We ended up losing in the first round to the team that actually won the tournament," he said.

"It ended up being a bit of a disappointing year, it was a little bit sad to be honest."

Tew will now take a number of exams, alongside training, before he heads back home to Cheshire for a two month break.

Enough time to recharge before one big push next season, to see if he can reach the NBA.



# FROM POLICING TO RUNNING LANCASHIRE

CROSS-COUNTRY: STEVE BROADBENT (RIGHT) DROPPED POLICE DUTIES TO TAKE ON LONG DISTANCE RUNNING

BY MAX PEBERDY

Steve Broadbent, 64, is a retired police constable and is currently a volunteer at the Lancashire force as a Special Constable.

He was a police officer in the North West for over 30 years and retired from the Lancashire Constabulary on 31 December 2007.

However, he took over the role as secretary of the Northern Police Cross Country League in 1991 and is still doing it now.

In his time as secretary of the running club he has been proud of the love it has received from the police force in the North West.

"It is both competitive but also just a bit of fun. Being in the police force is a tough and crueling job so it can be refreshing for many in the police.

"It can be a good escape and allow them to have some fun and have a laugh.

"There's a bunch of different activities and it isn't just running, such as walking and playing some football."

Due to the popularity of the league and many people getting involved, he has been able to increase the number of events that occur, as they went from only having eight races a few years ago to now being able to do 11 or 12 fixtures.

He said in each fixture they can get a range from 40 racers to 80 racers and the majority will be police officers but sometimes they do include a few guests.

Most of the people that take part in the races are police officers who usually work on the weekends. Therefore, it was important for the league to make the races take place on Wednesdays as it is the only day they are available.

Since being secretary at the Lancashire Constabulary Athletics section in 1992 he has been involved in many sports posts encouraging sports for the police and is a secretary at three police sporting groups.

He was on the committee team of the Police Sport UK Athletics section from 2006 to 2013.

Steve said despite how much fun he's having in his role, he knows that there will come a time where he needs to step down.

"I have been secretary for the Northern Police Cross Country League now for 30 years and at some point I'll have to give it up but at the moment I'm still enjoying it and at the end of each season we give away prizes for the runners."

Looking back at his career, he spoke about his bravery award he won in 1995.

He said: "The reason for the award is for stopping a man who was attacking people with an axe.

"Luckily for me it was right in front of me so I was able to stop the man before it got any worse."

After this Steve moved away from the 'front line' and began to work behind the scenes, training the new police officers.

But during his time as a coronary officer he was involved in

the Morecambe Bay Cockling tragedy (in which 30 Chinese cockle pickers were at Morecambe Bay and 23 ended up drowning).

"This was difficult as it was my job to identify the bodies and only a couple weeks ago, it was the 20th anniversary of the tragedy."

He was most proud of the work he had done in 1986 in which over a six month period he was responsible for a high volume of arrests for serious crimes.

Steve spoke about why he got into the police.

He said: "The police force was something that I always wanted to do, I was always watching police shows and dramas.

"One show in particular I remember was Z Cars

(mobile uniformed police show which was based on the Kirby area) and after watching shows like

this it was my mum that persuaded me to join the police force."



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