



# The Cestrefeldian

Newspaper Of The Year 1989  
SUMMER 1989 20p.

## SCHOOL SCOOPS NEWSPAPER PRIZE

by William Towle and  
Chris Ryley

picture by the  
DERBYSHIRE TIMES.

As you well know, as you can see the Cestrefeldian is a great newspaper (if not a modest one!). But how great it was on a national scale was unknown until several weeks ago. Our predecessors, led by editor Carl Westwood and sub editor Ian Borman entered a special competition in the Daily Telegraph to find Britain's best school newspapers. And (much to Mr. Prices delight!) they won!

They beat all the other sixth form newspapers outright and guess who are the lucky people to read this blessed scroll. Yes! You lot out there, our readership.

The prize for the competition was one thousand pounds and an opportunity to actually write a page in the Daily Telegraph itself.

Five of the newspaper staff travelled down the M1 to London to the



Telegraph offices where they were to write their piece on pastimes, attitudes and hobbies of young people in Chesterfield. They had no say in what they could write about. Questionnaires had been filled in before hand by people at the school.

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We interviewed the ex-editor Carl Westwood. I asked him where the one thousand pounds will go,

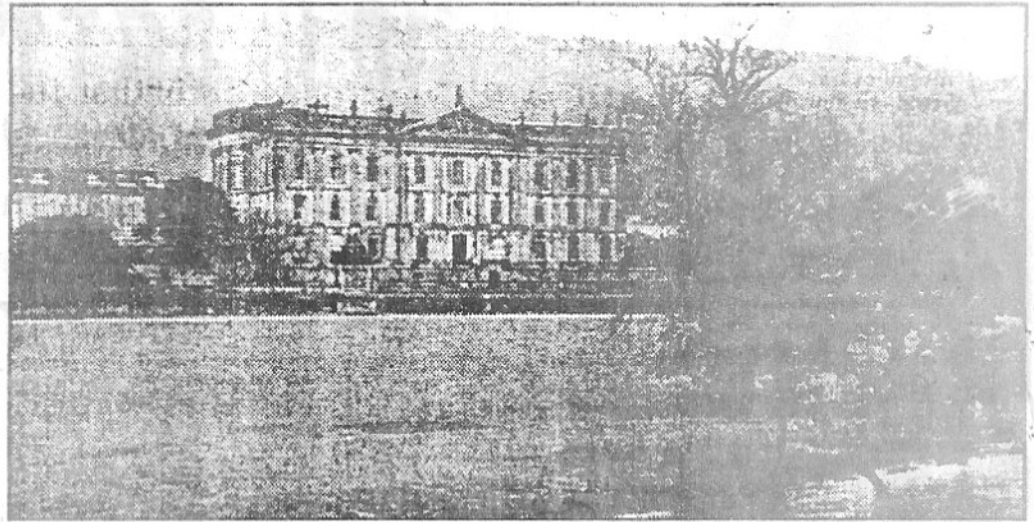
"Two hundred pounds of it will go to the newspaper staff, that's fifteen pounds each. The other eight hundred pounds will go towards a new computer system for the school."

The article gained the newspaper and the school lots of publicity. The Chesterfield Gazette and the Derbyshire Times took the story up as did Radio Four, Radio Sheffield and Sheffield Hospital Radio.

After the article was written at the Telegraph the prize winners went to the Thistle, a four star hotel for a meal. They then went to a night club(!) for celebration drinks. They then returned to the hotel, ordered room service and went straight to bed(!!!!!!!!!).

"A good time was had by all."

extracts from the  
DAILY TELEGRAPH.



Best of British: countryside such as Derbyshire's wins the youth vote (Chatsworth, above)

# Give us the green fields of home!

**T**ODAY'S young people are industrious, affluent and respectful of tradition; they do not sleep around and find smoking and drugs abhorrent. Those they admire are pop stars, actors and sportsmen — politicians do not rank high in their sights.

These are the findings of a survey of 250 sixth-formers conducted last week at two north Derbyshire schools — Chesterfield School for boys, and St Helena's School for girls.

Perhaps the most intriguing response came when they were asked to say what they most like about Britain, and a clear majority favoured the countryside. Evidently, in the heart of England, in the late 20th century, William Blake's image of a "green and pleasant land" still epitomises the best of British — despite the weather being voted our worst feature.

Elsewhere on the international stage, the best and worst of America are characterised by images of Disney fantasy and violence on the streets. In the Soviet Union, for all President Gorbachev being voted the best hope for the future, dark notions of oppressive Communism linger.

But back to more immediate interests. On the quality of education, student opinion is firm. Almost all consider their sixth-form to be either "good" or at least "average". Views polarise on the subject of co-education — 74 per cent of girls favoured their present single-sex school, whereas 80 per cent of boys would prefer to attend co-ed. Surprise, surprise!

By the Cestrefeldian team for girls and vicars for boys coming a poor second.

Reading is still a significant leisure activity, with four boys in ten getting through three or more books a month — significantly more than the one in four girls who do.

The survey shows a decisive reaction against smoking and drugs. Boys showed a tendency to smoke more, though nearly three-quarters said they did not smoke at all. Girls were even more emphatic — all but 10 per cent said they did not smoke.

The drug culture is not flourishing in Chesterfield, where less than seven per cent of all sixth-formers claim to have taken hard drugs, although double that number say they have been offered them.

Under-age alcohol consumption is more restrained than is popularly conceived. Over a third of these 16 to 18 year olds say they do not drink at all. Most say that in an average week they might drink between one and ten units. Heavy drinking, over ten units a week, is more common among boys (20 per cent) than girls (3 per cent).

**T**HE majority of young Cestrefeldians (from the Roman name for Chesterfield) revealed a penchant for traditional values. When asked which one person had influenced them the most, 72 per cent of boys and 36 per cent of girls put parents and family above God, friends and various others. Relatives are overwhelmingly the most respected figures in their lives, with police

Religion is considered "important" by 44 per cent of girls and 25 per cent of boys, although 59 per cent and 36 per cent respectively say they believed in God. These figures struck some of our elders as disappointingly low, though they are higher than some of us anticipated.

However, like all surveys, this one throws up paradoxes. Although the profile of the young Cestrefeldian is seemingly conservative, with almost one quarter seeing themselves as "conformist", slightly more describe themselves as "rebellious".

But Conservative with a large C they certainly are! In a very secure Labour constituency, both sexes state a preference for the Tories over all opposition parties, though Mrs Thatcher's image, in a now familiar paradox, is, for many, seen as the worst in politics.

We telephoned Mr Tony Benn, MP for Chesterfield, to ask why he thought Labour should fair so badly in our survey, but he was particularly unhelpful. He said: "I can't explain the attitudes of your students, can I? If The Daily Telegraph has offered you a page, then I expect that's because they heard of the views of your students." Sorry to disappoint you Mr Benn — the survey was done after we'd been chosen to come to London!  
□ Reporting team: Ian Borman, Paul Hughes, Wil Robinson, Richard Webster, Carl Westwood.



# The rebel sings out



WENDY JAMES, singer with rock newcomers Transvision Vamp, pictured left, is the girl on the minds of Chesterfield's teenage males. The survey shows her to be twice as popular as Morrissey and Clint Eastwood, all three being way ahead of other potential icons among 16 to 18 year olds.

When we told Miss James of this by telephone on Friday, she suggested that her physical attributes could be the primary factor. However, she was concerned that people are judging her on face value: "I hope the public realise that there is a lot more to say than there is to look at."

The music of Transvision Vamp is loud and rebellious — Baby I Don't Care is climbing the charts. Miss James said that this side of the music is attractive to the young, which ties in with the results of our survey. One of the most common descriptions Chesterfield sixth-formers called themselves was rebels.

She said: "I see myself as a role model for the girls of today. When I was young, I could look at Chrissie Hynde. It was very important to me."

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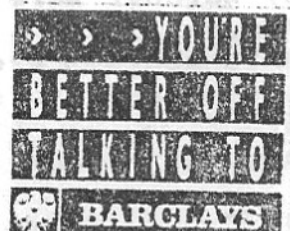
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## NEW STAFF

by William Towle and  
Chris Ryley

With four members of staff leaving at Christmas, followed by the departure of Mr. Sedgewick new members of staff have arrived in school. We spoke to two of them, Mr. Sheppard and, firstly, Mrs. Oswald.

Mrs. Oswald has arrived here to teach English but where did she teach before coming to Chesterfield School?

"I taught at a large comprehensive school in Bradford, then Mortimer Wilson and lastly, Manor. Then I became a mother and a housewife for nine years, during which time I did home tuition."

How does she compare single-sex with mixed schools?

"Well, this is a male oriented school and there is a shortage of women on the staff. I prefer mixed schools; you can have a more balanced discussion there."

Are punishments any harsher here?

"No, the punishments aren't particularly harsher here."

Do you think you

will enjoy teaching at Chesterfield School?

"Yes, I quite enjoy it now I'm getting used to it. It's different from mixed nine to eleven year olds. They're all big boys instead, but I'm settled now."

Mr. Sheppard has arrived to teach Physical Education. Before coming here he worked in the United States.

"I taught English soccer to professionals in Orlando. I flew back on April 14th. I have also worked with children from the age of four in Florida."

Do you think you will enjoy teaching here?

"Well yes; it's pleasant but I'm only a supply teacher."

Is there more school bullying here than in America?

"In America there is very little discipline. I think that the British education system is better than the Americans, hence my two sons come here."

And, on bullies themselves, he

commented that he didn't think that there was more bullying in single-sex schools, but;

"There will always be a small element of children, irrespective of the type of school, that will express their opinion by bullying."

We wish the new members of staff all the best for their future at Chesterfield School.

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# SMOKE FREE ZONES?

by Alfred Crofts

Johnathan Frith, the sixth former with more impact than sixty cigarettes a day, recently produced a petition which you may have seen in school. It called for a total ban of smoking on buses. I asked Johnathan why he drew up the petition.

"It was originally my sisters idea. She says there are never any free seats in the non-smoking area, so she has to go with all the smoke. Her friends think that smoking on buses should be banned."

He says that smoke even comes downstairs, causing clothes to become smelly, and cancer. The majority are non-smokers so they should have the right against the minority. He expects over two thousand signatures.

Mr. Burnley, himself a non-smoker said;

"I've not signed the petition, because I don't travel on buses." He goes on to say, "The smokers won't be too bothered as Chesterfield Transport only do short routes anyway." For the non-smokers it would be, "purely beneficial."

Mr. Bowman, another non-smoker commented;

"I don't think it will acheive anything. You have to convince people what is wrong by knocking on doors and writing to MP's." He goes on to say; "Smoking should be banned on public transport." But how will it affect Mr. Bowman? "It won't effect me at all because I don't use buses and I don't smoke."

# SPEECH DAY

by Richard Haslam

The previously postponed event finally took place during the afternoon of March 22nd. Mr. Price began the proceedings by talking about the past school year. If this speech was anything to go by then we are rubbing shoulders with Eton! During the speech comments were passed between Mr. Price and the guest speaker, former Derbyshire and England cricketer, Mr. Geoff Miller. I think the audience laughed out of duty. The prizes were awarded to many

different categories and presented by Mr. Miller.

It was Mr. Miller who had chance to speak, again swoping jokes(!) with the Headmaster. In my opinion his speech was a ray of sun upon a rapidly darkening sky. He described the way in which he entered the sporting world telling amusing tales.

Finally it was Mr. D. Chinn (Chairman of Governors) who spoke. He gave the final summing up speech to end the day.

The Headmasters prize for good 'A' levels went to J. Botham and J. Wylie.

The Old Cestrefeldians award for best academic record was received by C. Barber, D. Calow, and S. Briddon.

Good GCSE awards were given to G. Rees, M. Lewis, J. Rigby, S. Simpson, and finally G. Lynch.

M. Holliday won the the prize for best athlete and the Chess Trophy was awarded to A. Gillibrand.

# "..TEACHING WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA!"

## -MR. SEDGWICK WAVES GOODBYE.

by Robert McSherry

Easter saw the departure of Mr. Sedgwick from his post in Chesterfield School. He kindly agreed to speak to The Cestrefeldian about the past and future.

After teaching here for six-and-a-half years what made Mr. Sedgwick decide it was time to leave?

"You've got to look at two things, promotion and experience, which means teaching at two or three schools."

He has become Head of the Department at Henry Fanshawe Secondary school which takes fourth to six formers, and is mixed.

"I've now got the pleasure of teaching girls to come, which is going to be dubious!"

Has he enjoyed the last six years?

"Tremendously!"

A most memorable moment perhaps?

"Many, although seeing Mr. Spencer score a volley for the staff team stands out!"

He told me that he found it most rewarding when the first team reached

the quarter-final of the English Schools FA Cup, back in the 85-86 season.

Is there anything he would like to forget?

"The mere fact that you're dealing with adolescents throws up many problems. I hope I have dealt with them positively, although I'm not always right and I've not always

succeeded."

Is it true that Mr. Sedgwick was once on the books at Blackburn Rovers?

"Yes. I was offered apprenticeship terms, junior pro-terms and then full pro-terms."

He comments that with his ability and speed he would have played in the third division getting paid very little. Not wanting to sound demeaning he did not like the idea of spending all day and everyday with the type of player from that division. He wanted something more rewarding...

"..teaching would be a good idea!"

He found it difficult to suggest what he would like us to remember him by.

"I just hope I've been able to encourage and develop the abilities of lots of people."

Will he keep giving out press-ups?

"Of course!"

We wish Mr. Sedgwick all the best for his future career.



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Overdue homework will never be the same again! A new scheme has been introduced that will hopefully deter pupils from handing their homework in late. Everyday that it is overdue a fine has to be paid. So far two teachers have begun using the scheme.

Fourth year pupil Paul Reddish approached Mr. A.G. Williams with the problem of overdue homework. Mr. Williams did not agree that detentions were the answer but the pupils should discipline

## FINE IDEA

by Richard Haslam

themselves. A contract was drawn-up for the class pupils to sign if they desired. Everybody did. The scheme was born.

Since then Mr. Burniey has also begun using the scheme;

"I had troubles because some pupils were not paying their fine. It became to much of a hassle chasing

people for their money". he commented about his fifth year set. The scheme soon came to an end there but still goes on with his fourth years.

The pupils have the responsibility of running the scheme and at the end of the school year the money collected is to be given to a local charity.

In my opinion the scheme is definitely a good idea but the co-operation of the pupils is essential. Will other teachers soon be following the example?



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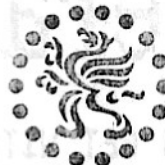
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# R.P.G.

by Ananyo  
Bhattacharya

Hmm.. role playing games, yes I know what they are but do you? How do they work and most importantly, are they fun?

The most simple type of RPG is the solo gamebook. These are so simple even our Editor could play one.. with difficulty. Solo gamebooks include the popular Fighting Fantasy series, and Choose Your Own Adventure. In the sixth FF gamebook, Deathtrap Dungeon, you must first roll your characteristics (skill, stamina and luck). There then follows the background information which describes the adventure to follow. Simple? Anything but. One of your first battles is with a group of Orcs(!).

You fight the battles by throwing a series of dice, both for yourself and attacker. Eventually a victor will be found. If you die it means you should start again, or cheat! Solo gamebooks are great fun, even if you do not like reading.

Fighting Fantasy are by far the most popular solo games, and they have been printed in many languages, even Chinese!

Group Role-playing games need several different characters and a Gamesmaster. The GM controls the other characters, like monsters. RPG's include Warhammer, Rune Quest, Tunnels and Trolls, and the grandfather of them all, Dungeons and Dragons. There are also some humorous RPG's, Toon for example in which you play a cartoon character.

I have been playing RPG's for five years now so why not give them a try yourself, I am sure you will like it.

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## GREAT HUCKLOW

by Martin Wong

Do you remember school trips? I do! Aee that hustle and bustle on the coaches, kids doing obscenities through the back window, and eating your packed lunch at ten in the morning. I remember it well!

Hands up all those that went to Great Hucklow in the third year. OK, most of you, but keep your hands up if you learnt anything!

Last years trip was just as unorganised as ever. We arrived at Hucklow at 1pm when we were scheduled to arrive at 10.30 am! The beds were unforgiving, but you do not mind after a fifteen mile hike across the Peak District.

The food (I think!) was of the baked bean and sausage variety, but you will eat anything after a seven mile treasure hunt. If you enjoy being chased by a bull, treading in cow-pats and reading maps then the orienteering is for you. You can also drown your sorrows at Rother Valley whilst canoeing in the lake in an 80mph "breeze". Sleeping is a rare experience which should be taken at every opportunity.

Overall, Great Hucklow is an experience not to be missed (in more ways than one!), but do not try sleeping in the canoe!


Have you ever been on a school trip where everything has not gone as it should? If so The Cestrefeldian would like to here from you! Get in touch with me, that's Martin Wong from 4KRC, and tell me all about it.

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# "ITS ABOUT FIFTEEN FOOT...."

## - EDWINA CURRIE REVEALS ALL.

by Robert McSherry



Mrs. Edwina Currie, Member of Parliament for South Derbyshire, sometimes controversial but one of the most well-known politicians in Britain. I spoke to her three days after the Hillsborough Disaster. What feelings did she think could be done? "I'm very sad about the whole matter. We must see more seating in stadiums and an end to mob rule. We must never let it happen again. Identity cards would help improve things."

Edwina was talking to me from her office in the Houses of Parliament in London, which she shares with Derby North M.P. Greg Knight.

"It's about fifteen foot by nine foot, the size of a small bedroom. There's two desks, two chairs, an armchair, filing cabinet, book case, a fridge, boxes, and typewriters."

Not exactly luxury. "It's pretty awful for everybody."

Do the aspects of the job overlook the bad conditions?

"Certainly. I have a unique job of the country. It can be a bit embarrassing, but also very flattering."

At the age of nineteen Mrs. Currie wanted to become a scientist.

"I wanted to go to my bit of the country."

Recently Derby has seen many new entertainment attractions open. There are now two multi-screen cinemas and a bowling alley. Plans for a drive in McDonalds have been given the go ahead, and maybe a drive in cinema. Why can't Chesterfield have a variety like this? In Derby Mrs. Currie

thinks things have improved greatly, although in the cinemas she would like to see a larger band of languages in the films shown. She believes that there is, "commercial demand."

How long do you intend to remain as a politician?

"As long as they want me I will stay."

I thank Mrs. Currie for taking her time to let me ask her these few questions.

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# BLUE BOOKS

by Chris Ryley

All pupils below the sixth form are asked to write down homework set in their diaries and to have it signed every week by parent and teacher, at least that is the theory!

Many pupils find the diaries useful, with others they are lost within several weeks, if not days. If you fail to have your diary signed by a parent then some teachers will take action, others never look at them at all. Is this situation fair?

The teachers should

have a united method of using the diaries, but as commented, everybody likes to be different:

Miss. Roberts said, "I sign them when I look at them."(!) Mr. Poulton suggests that as a parent himself he likes to see the work his child is doing.

Mr. Yorke also believes that the diaries are useful.

The general feeling amongst pupils is that they want homework diaries to be supplied but not to have the trouble

of having them signed.

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# THOMPSON ON Racism

His views exposed!



I was brought up in an orphanage, I did not realise I was coloured until I came out. I encountered racism for the first time.

It took a long, long time for me to come to terms with it. I was suppressed and felt inferior throughout my teenage years.

Racism made me more confident in the way I stood up for myself. It required sport and media attention and generally having people coming up to me for my autograph. You develop self confidence and you don't put yourself down.

Racism didn't affect my career, it affected my life. I felt an inferior person, but in some ways it enhanced my rugby career.

The problem was psychological and also nationalism. I can't understand the national front but I can understand intrusion of foreigners, and that people who come into the country don't conform into the culture of the country.

Racism will never be stopped but it has been diluted to a certain extent. Look at what is happening in South

Africa. Look at America and Martin Luther King. Things are much better but its not eliminated.

For me, sport helped. When you are successful, an international, one gets acclaim and attention. I was asked to write articles covering Cumbrian sport. When they were actually published it gave me confidence in myself that I had ability beyond a labouring man and secondly I was able to multiply my earnings and finally coming into the world of education, getting O levels and A levels and graduating, having a teaching diploma which I paid for myself.

World travel has helped me, mixing with different cultures and being invited by people here, there and everywhere has gained me social confidence and so I say to myself 'Why should people be prejudiced? Why should anyone treat me with contempt?' I feel that I am a worthwhile human being after what I have achieved and the way I live. This has given me confidence and if someone is racist towards me I ask myself why there must be something

wrong with that person because I myself try to do my best in life. I am generous, kind, helpful and I try to do my best in life especially in the teaching profession. It gives a wonderful opportunity to help people that were like myself.

I can afford to live in a residential area and it helps a lot where it is quite pleasant. I have no animosity about the colour of my skin.

I can appreciate when people are poor, and suffer from racism. Many people find it very difficult to deal with good manners and occasionally I have been called a 'black bastard' on the rugby field out of sheer impulsiveness. Most people apologise afterwards, its a matter of trying to integrate and being diplomatic.

On reflection my life is virtually free of any racism.

Our thanks to Mr. Thompson for his valuable time and opinions.



# FREE RANGE OVEN READY PENGUINS? - MR. GRIMSHAW BATTY ON BIRDS + DESIGN A LOGO COMPETITION!!

by Steve Chapman

How many people do you know with a free range penguin farm? Mr. Grimshaw had the idea for the farm years ago. Situated at Linacre reservoir, the name for the business is 'Linacre Penguins'.

The farm is a supplier of penguins to top stores such as Marks and Spencer and Sainsburys. Some are 'Oven ready' and some are frozen. You're probably thinking that you don't quite believe the story but to tell you the truth even I was unsure.

As well as penguins Mr. Grimshaw is interested in bird watching, this may seem strange from a man who breeds oven ready penguins but could anything surprise us about Mr. Grimshaw? How about a television? An everyday domestic appliance, some of us can't live without one. Mr. Grimshaw does not even own one. (!!!) He does not feel the need for one, but he said he may have to give in and buy one for his daughter.

Now for the chance of a lifetime competition, in

conjunction with 'Linacre Penguins'.

All you have to do is design a logo for 'Linacre Penguins'. If you win you will have your logo splashed all over the company vans and lorries so when you're walking down the road with a pal and you see a 'Linacre Penguins' van storm past you can scream,

"Look! I created that!!" and then you can do somersaults in the middle of the street and get knocked down by a 'Linacre Penguins' van going the other way. If you win you will also receive five pounds in cash. So get your entries in by September twentieth to Martin Wong or Robert McSherry.

Your entries will be judged by the Cestrefeldian staff and Mr. Grimshaw himself. The editors decision is final.

## "WATCH ME GO"

Derby County have had their best season for over a decade, finishing fifth in the first division. In that time they have spent two years in the third division.

Recently Derby came to Saltergate to play a friendly against Chesterfield. They won three-nil. After the match I spoke to Mike Forsyth and asked him how he thought the season went.

"It was quite pleasing really. We lost points at home and we could have finished in the top two. Quite an improvement on last year."

What are you doing in the close-season?

"We're going to Spain for a week."

Are you looking forward to next season?

"Definitely!"

Kevin Francis, Derbys discovery from non-league football, comments; "Watch me go next season!"

Good-luck to Kevin and all the team for the new season.

# "I WANT TO BE A MALE MODEL!"

## -BOB BLOOMER SPEAKS HIS MIND

Interview by Martin Wong



Bob Bloomer passes the credit to his managerial team.

double over Sheff. Utd. had to be the highlight of my career. I've got a handful of friends in Sheffield and I got some stick over that, but I'm well proud! Incidentally, I scored the first goal in our meeting at Bramall Lane."

Should the managerial team take credit?

"Yeah! all credit to Paul Hart, Chris McMenemy and Dave Rushbury, they've given the team a big lift as a whole. I suppose the magic wears off after a while but they just give you a swift kick up the bum and

your kicking again. Yeah! they really raise the morale."

But has Paul Hart arrived too late? Will Chesterfield stay up?

"Yeah! I've got to say that anyway but if we continue this kind of form we'll stay up. Actually if Paul Hart had come in and we had thirty points instead of eight then I think we'd be thinking of promotion now instead of avoiding relegation. I think that if we stay up, then next season we will be thinking of promotion if we can shape up on our disappointing away form."

Bob was full of self confidence and rightly so, not many twenty two year olds can boast over one hundred league appearances with many goals to his credit. Yes I would say Bloomer has a very bright future, but what is he going to do when his footballing career is over?

"I've got no idea really. It could end anytime couldn't it, but I've never really thought about it as I am still

Bob Bloomer, probably the most consistent player the Spireites have seen last season. His hard work as utility man has seen him promoted to vice captain and his self confidence has landed him the job as penalty taker.

"I suppose I'm getting more used to it now", he muses in his own unique way. "Yeah! I'm very proud. We had a few problems with penalty taking, we missed a few when Kev Randall was in charge and when Paul Hart came and asked who the penalty taker was I nominated myself. You have to be confident. No nonsense attitude. Of course you feel daft when you miss one but that's just part of the job."

There is no doubt that Bloomer has played a large part in Chesterfield's revival. It started on new years day when Chesterfield beat Sheff. Utd. three-one (they later did the double over them, beating them at home two-one).

"Yeah! Doing that

<<<<cont. from  
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very young. I suppose physiotherapy. I got asked this question before for a club call interview and I said I wanted to be a male model (!!). I play tennis and cricket in the summer and I play a lot of golf on my days off, yeah golf's my main interest at the moment."

You may have guessed that Bob talked to me before the poor end of season results that saw Chesterfield get relegated, but I am sure they will bounce back next season.

Our thanks to Bob for the interview and to all at Chesterfield Football Club that made me feel welcome.

David Gower, the Englishman with more than one-hundred test matches behind him, spoke to me recently while playing a championship match at Queens Park.

David had just regained his captaincy job. I asked him how he felt about it?

"Obviously I'm quite pleased. I hadn't really envisaged it. It came about after a change in management. I knew

## "SUCCESS IS HARD EARNED" -DAVID GOWER ON THE TESTS

by Robert McSherry

there was a chance after speculation. If it happened it would be good news."

What was the cricket like at the schools that you went to?

"I went to Kings College, Canterbury. It was very good. I spent three or four summers in the First Eleven, as captain."

David went on to say that the game of cricket must not die out in schools. He is keen to see the game survive.

You play a great amount of cricket. What do you most enjoy about it?

"Several factors. Of course it's more fun when winning. There's a lot of good things to be had. In my case being involved internationally for ten years has been great fun."

How do you think England will do against Australia?

"I'm thinking positively. Even before the sides have lined up nothing is given away. Success is hard earned."

Is Queens Park a nice ground to play at?

"It's in a lovely setting and has a fairly sporting wicket. It's definitely more pleasant than Derby."

Should there be more four-day games introduced into the County Championship?

"I'm certainly in favour of four-day cricket but we don't play on four-day wickets. I would rather play proper cricket. There's a value in mixing three and four-day cricket. Limited over cricket becomes less meaningful. We play too much of it."

In your opinion, do you think southern counties get more attention than further north?

"A little bit. Certain counties have become unfashionable when picking the England squad, but the truth of the matter is that with the new set-up of selectors it is fair to say that everyone is looked at."

When the time comes to put your bat down for the last time what would you like to do?

"I honestly don't know. I would like to maintain contact with the game, maybe radio or television."

