

25 JULY 2018, KO 7PM
PROACT STADIUM

TESTIMONIAL EZINE

tommy lee 373

CHESTERFIELD FC VS WIGAN ATHLETIC
XI

The first CFC
eZine, EVER!

Inside this souvenir issue find:

Squad lists

A recap of Tommy's career

A message from Tommy himself

Upcoming events

LEGEND

Celebrating 10 seasons as a Spireite

373 first team appearances for Chesterfield FC

Two League Two championships

One JPT Final winners medal

One JPT runners-up medal

Three player of the year awards

Twice in the PFA Select XI

15th in the all-time club appearance list



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Hi everyone,

A huge welcome to my Testimonial match against Wigan Athletic and a huge thanks to Paul Cook for offering to bring a strong side without a moment's hesitation. Really Cooky couldn't have been more helpful in ensuring the game "got off the ground" - there's always some juggling to do but it's mission accomplished as we offer, hopefully, an ideal preparation for Wigan's visit to Ibrox this coming weekend.

I'm sure that the match will bring back some fantastic memories for everyone; of course we all hope Sam Morsy and Gary Roberts have managed to make it, not just because you'll all remember what fantastic players they both were and still are but because the three of us remain very good friends. The bond that turned the 2010/11 and 2013/14 sides into Champions is still as strong today between the players and I can almost sense a similar feeling developing at the moment with Martin Allen and what he is setting out to build at the Proact.

We hope - whether you are reading this on-line programme on your phone at the match or maybe on your computer on the other side of the globe - that you enjoy the facility to be able to browse through the squads to identify the players on show and enjoy some brief but quality copy.

You may not be aware but this is quite ground-breaking stuff - the first ever on-line programme produced for a Chesterfield FC fixture. Expect it to become more common from this season onwards now that the EFL have allowed clubs to decide for themselves whether or not to produce a programme; it remains mandatory in the National League.

Back to football.....expect to see me play some part in tonight's game. The injuries that sadly forced me to retire will not stop me participating, however briefly that may be. I'm determined to play because I want to appear one last time on the Proact pitch but, more importantly, as a way of saying "Thanks" to YOU the supporters for your unswerving support; it's never wavered.

had some dark days, while injured, but your support and kind words kept me going. Sadly it just wasn't to be!

A few weeks ago we sold out the lounge at the Proact for a great evening with some of my best friends in football, some comedy and music added to the event. The evening was a lovely way for me to say a low-key goodbye to family, friends and supporters; it was a night I'll never forget.

Tonight will be different. I'll add (unofficially at least) to my total of 373 appearances for Chesterfield FC, the club that will always be in my heart. The club's fortunes have suffered recently but trust me, things will improve. The loyalty of the fan base is second-to-none and that support will be repaid.

Tonight will be emotional. Cooky will send a side out aiming to win...and I wouldn't have it any other way....whatever the scoreline, I'm the winner for having experienced ten years with such a great set of players, staff and supporters. Hope you enjoy tonight as much as I intend to !

Tommy

Squad lists.



Shwan Jalal	1
Bradley Barry	2
Jerome Binnom-Williams	3
Sam Wedgbury	4
Will Evans	5
Laurence Maguire	6
Charlie Carter	7
Curtis Weston	8
Gozie Ugwu	10
Zavon Hines	11
Michael Nelson	12
Ian Statham	13
Robbie Weir	15
Joe Rowley	16
Ify Ofoegbu	17
Charlie Wakefield	18
Bradley Nicholson	19
George Smith	29
Joe Anyon	21
Drew Talbot	25
Tommy Lee	373



23	Jamie Jones
37	Dan Lavercombe
40	Owen Evans
14	Alex Bruce
21	Terell Thomas
22	Cheyenne Dunkley
33	Dan Burn
2	Nathan Byrne
5	Sam Morsy
6	Max Power
7	Jamie Walker
15	Jordan Flores
16	Shaun MacDonald
17	Michael Jacobs
18	Gary Roberts
19	Josh Laurent
25	Nick Powell
35	Luke Burgess
36	Chris Merrie
8	James Vaughan
9	Will Grigg
10	Devante Cole
11	Gavin Massey
27	Ryan Colclough
39	Callum Lang

Officials

This evening we're honoured to welcome two of the game's great officials, former Premier League & FIFA listed referee Mark Halsey, who was in charge of 280 games in the top-flight, which is 277 more times than he refereed Chesterfield! His record in the middle for The Spireites is appalling! Chesterfield lost 2-0 at Bournemouth during a freak heatwave on Valentine's Day 1998 and in December 1999, Colchester triumphed 1-0. A year later he sent off Marcus Ebdon in a 3-2 defeat at Southend United! Mark took a break from refereeing when he had to overcome cancer in his throat, but he was back less than a year later and he carried on for a further three years before retiring in 2013 when he moved into TV punditry.

In 2002 he was fourth official at the FA Cup Final (Arsenal 2 Chelsea 0 in Cardiff), a match which saw Chesterfield's very own Glenn Turner run the line. Like Mark, Glenn has specially come out of

retirement due to his admiration of Tommy Lee. Glenn officiated in the 2004 Euros in Portugal, the 2005 World Club Championship in Japan, the 2006 World Cup in Germany (we'll not mention the Poll for three yellows) and he was a regular participant in the Champions League until he hung up his flag a few years ago.

"THIS EVENING WE'RE HONOURED TO WELCOME TWO OF THE GAME'S GREAT OFFICIALS"

Rob Rees (Assistant Referee) and Jamie O'Connor, two up and coming Chesterfield officials, complete the line up.

Mascots:
Freddie Lee
Charlie Lee
Ryan Andrews
Harry Pickering



TOMMY LEE, A SPIREITE GREAT

By Stuart Basson

More than a few Chesterfield fans will have had their introduction to Tommy Lee via Jeff Stelling, and "Soccer Saturday." We'd have had it on the telly at home on a typically idle FA Cup third round day in January 2007, and we'd have heard that, having pulled it back to 2-1 by half time, Macclesfield had had their keeper sent off at Chelsea in the 48th minute by Lee Mason which, even in those days, meant that you hadn't had to have done very much wrong. 4,080 of us saw him for the first time in the flesh the following season.

"TOMMY LINED UP AGAINST SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY AT THE REC ON JULY 29 2008..."



Four wins in August and September had put Chesterfield dangerously high up the league, and when Macclesfield came to The Rec in October we were second, having just come back from a 4-0 win at Wrexham. An adventurous Macc side twice came back from a goal down to go away with a share of the spoils. Beaten twice on the day, Tommy's performance didn't stick in the Spireite consciousness, but Rochdale saw something they liked later that season, recruiting him for their tilt at the League Two play-offs.

With Tommy in the side, Keith Hill's men made it to the Wembley final, losing out 3-2 to Stockport County. The departure of Barry Roche in the summer of 2008 left quite a hole between our sticks. Scott Flinders was drafted in from Crystal Palace for a couple of pre-season friendlies but didn't catch the eye, so Tommy lined up against Sheffield Wednesday at The Rec on July 29, alongside left-back Alan Goodall.

Both were offered terms on the strength of good performances. It was rare for one of our pre-season trialists to amount to anything, much less two, although that game's third trialist, a Germ Belgium named Akwasi Oduro, fitted the usual Spireite trialist profile by coming on for the last twenty minutes before disappearing out of the front door with an uncertain "We'll be in touch" from the manager.

Tommy made his Chesterfield debut against Barnet at an Underhill ground bathed in an August downpour. A quiet 18 minutes of fairly relaxed-looking stuff from both sides was abruptly halted when Tommy allowed a hoofed free kick from around halfway to sail over his head and into the net. "How could we sign this guy, and let that Ghanaian bloke go?" asked disbelieving fans.

A Jack Lester brace helped Chesterfield to come home with a 3-1 win that day, and Tommy made important late saves to keep the score like that, redeeming himself for his earlier gift. The season's second game saw Bury come under the new management of Alan Knill, once Richardson's assistant. Insider knowledge helped them do a comprehensive job on us that day, but Tommy carried an unfair share of the blame for a 3-1 defeat, being replaced by the on-loan Trevor Carson.

""HOW COULD WE SIGN THIS GUY, AND LET THAT GHANAIAN BLOKE GO?""

Carson played 18 league games but began to suffer a loss of form for some time before his last game, a 2-4 home defeat to Macclesfield that saw Martin Gritton score his way onto Chesterfield's radar.



Tommy returned at Droylsden, in the famous "lights out" win, and kept his place as Carson was recalled by his parent club. With Tommy in goal and growing in assurance, the team climbed from 14th to as high as 7th. Penalty saves in the 76th minutes of two consecutive homes games against Bournemouth and Exeter earned wins and cemented the crowd's respect. His bravery and aerial ability were noted features, but the strongest part of his game was a positional sense that usually saw breaking forwards forced out too wide to be able to trouble him with a narrow-angled shot. The following season saw Tommy rather unfairly demoted to number two again, when new Manager John Sheridan preferred his goalie coach Mark Crossley for the opening

" HIS BRAVERY AND AERIAL ABILITY WERE NOTED FEATURES, BUT THE STRONGEST PART OF HIS GAME WAS A POSITIONAL SENSE"



game at Torquay, but a lacklustre performance saw Tommy return for the next match and keep his place until Crossley was given a three-game run over the Christmas period.

Back in the side, Tommy conceded just six times in eleven games as the side pushed, unsuccessfully, for the play-offs.

Barnet visited the B2Net Stadium for its first-ever Football League game on August 7th 2010 and might have spoilt the celebrations had Tommy not made a fine, diving save from Mark Byrne with the game just seven minutes old. The next league game saw Tommy save the first penalty taken by an opponent at the new ground, although he may have been helped by a referee that seemed to insist that Hereford's Valentine, the penalty-taker, commence his run-up from the edge of the "D." Tommy finished that season ever-present, with a League Two Championship medal and a place cemented into the affections of the fans.

Tommy's run of 77 consecutive league match appearances came to an end the following season when a thigh strain picked up in the 83rd minute of a 1-0 win over Bury kept him out of the side and allowed Greg Fleming, that season's deputy, to be promoted. Fleming had a torrid time behind a team that had not been properly strengthened after promotion and was on its way back down. That season's highlight was the Johnstone's Paint Trophy win at Wembley.

A remarkable, instinctive save from a deflected Lee Holmes shot on 29 minutes was vital in preventing Swindon taking the lead at a time when they were at their strongest. Another 14 league games were missed in 2012-13, Paul Cook's first season at the helm. Despite this, another run of five goals conceded in 11 games indicated that Tommy was enjoying some of the best form of his career, and it was thought to be no coincidence that, in Richard O'Donnell, there was a deputy who was worth a place in a league two side on his own merits.

Another League Two championship medal came Tommy's way in 2013-14 and again, Tommy's ability at keeping out penalty kicks was a feature of his game. Either side of a penalty shoot-out win against Oldham in the JPT, in which two opponents' penalties were saved, Tommy stopped one from Barry Corr in an FA Cup defeat to Southend, and stopped another from Reuben Reid against Plymouth, after Matty Brown had become the first player ever to be sent off after scoring on his Football League debut.

Tommy's 20 clean sheets in that ever-present championship season was beaten only by one keeper in another, when Chris Marples remained unbeaten 21 times in 1984-5. Tommy was ever-present again in the league in 2014-15, missing only the season's last game, the second leg of the play-off game at Preston, with an ankle injury picked up at the end of the first leg. Earlier that season Tommy became the first Chesterfield keeper to be sent off since Mark Goldring at Millmoor in 1991-2 when Sheffield United's Ryan Flynn collapsed under his challenge on the edge of the penalty area, but the card was later rescinded.



Paul Cook's departure brought the swift dismantling of his side, and there were strong rumours from both clubs' fans surrounding Tommy's departure to Portsmouth, to reunite with his old boss. Happily, for Chesterfield, there was no substance to them, and Tommy stayed to enjoy another ever-present season. He shouldn't have reached that milestone, though: what started in a long-forgotten game as a bit of a niggle in his shoulder persisted. Rather than rest it, he played in two games of no real consequence at the end of the 2015-16 season and made the injury much worse. The whole of 2016-17 was missed with a struggle to properly diagnose and treat the shoulder injury, and Tommy's attempted comeback last season proved sadly unsustainable, the damage being too great to heal to the extent necessary to permit him to throw himself down onto the joint for a living.

" TOMMY'S ATTEMPTED COMEBACK LAST SEASON PROVED SADLY UNSUSTAINABLE"



While Tommy's loss was not even a contributing factor to the calamity that befell Chesterfield in his absence, it is safe to say that the club missed him enormously: Cameron Dawson and Aaron Ramsdale are bound for good careers but watching the other five of his seven replacements over the last two seasons has left this spectator feeling rather spoilt by having watched Tommy in his prime. Where does Tommy stand in comparison to the best of Chesterfield's goalkeepers?

Appearance-wise, he is second behind Ron Powell, who first pulled on a green Chesterfield jersey in 1952 and didn't take it off, figuratively-speaking, until being injured in the car crash that killed Ralph Hunt in 1964. At the time of injuring his shoulder in 2016 Tommy was about 150 games behind Powell's total of 471 and would have needed another four relatively injury-free seasons to have claimed Powell's mantle.

He would have been around 35 years old at the time of breaking Powell's record, so age would not have been a barrier. Despite having to give up playing before reaching this milestone, Tommy has set many benchmarks by which future keepers will be judged. His total of 328 appearances is some 78 more than the great Ray Middleton, regarded by many older fans as our finest keeper ever.

He has been everpresent in four of his ten seasons on our books, a figure bettered only by Powell and Middleton, with five each. His 95 clean sheets were achieved at a better rate per game than Powell's 113 or Middleton's 72; of significant keepers in the last 50 years, only John Turner, Alan Stevenson and Billy Mercer can better this. While Tommy stands 17th in the list of Chesterfield keepers in terms of their "goals conceded per game" figures, context is given to this by the fact that, of all those above him, none played half the games for us that Tommy has.

Most of the others had one or two good seasons before being snapped up by bigger clubs and avoided any seasons of marked decline, whereas Tommy has played in a relegated side; Tommy has also played most of his Chesterfield career in teams managed by John Sheridan and Paul Cook, whose philosophies lean towards the marvellously gungho idea that we might happily concede three goals a game, so long as we scored four.

Will we ever see his like again? Well, when you're watching Mark Goldring get sent off at Millmoor it probably seems that no-one would ever step forward to challenge Ron Powell's record, but Tommy came along and did just that, so we shouldn't say "Never." Yet games played, clean sheets and so on are all just figures in a column; what is harder to assess is a player's impact on his club as a character.

Tommy has been remarkable, in this respect. In an age where players have the freedom to move at their contract's end for an extra fiver a week somewhere else, Tommy stayed to serve Chesterfield FC for ten seasons. He bought completely into the idea of a club as a family, being committed to the idea of engagement with supporters and the club's wider community (If you subscribe to his social media feeds and see the obvious strength of his own family bonds, then you know where he gets this from.) Strong family ties (Tommy with his Dad & brothers, above) have influenced Tommy's character in such a way that he has been nothing but a positive, decent man to have around the club. While Chesterfield will always find someone else to stand between the sticks, replacing such an honest, professional and well-liked individual will be a devilishly hard task.



Tommy Lee's Testimonial Golf Day will take place on Wednesday 19 September at Dore and Totley Golf Club. It will be a great opportunity to play golf and socialise with Tommy and other footballers. More info on the footballers likely to participate later.

Price: £40 per person in teams of 4 which includes bacon sandwich and coffee to start the day, course fees and a superb hot sandwich and chips back at the club house.

At the moment just note the date or if you would like to register your interest and secure a place (we expect a sell-out) please drop us a note via

www.tltestimonial.com

**"TOMMY LEE'S
TESTIMONIAL GOLF DAY
WILL TAKE PLACE ON
WEDNESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER
AT DORE AND TOTLEY GOLF
CLUB."**



Don't miss the opening two League fixtures of the season at the Proact

Vanarama National League

Tuesday 7 August v Aldershot Town ko
7.45pm

Vanarama National League

Saturday 11 August v Braintree Town ko
3pm

Tommy and friends

A couple of hours after England had seen off Sweden to reach the World Cup Semi-Finals, 230 people gathered at The Proact Stadium to pack the SBK Computers Spires Restaurant, many already well refreshed as a result of the antics of former Chesterfield schoolboy Harry Maguire and ex-Alfreton Town keeper Jordan Pickford, to enjoy a packed evening of entertainment including comedian Roland Gent, himself a Spireites fan and local singer Craig Boden. Between those two great entertainers, five former colleagues of Tommy's, Gregor Robertson, Aaron Downes, Ritchie Humphreys, Mark Allott and Phil Picken spoke comically and courteously about their time together and their respect for the 10-season Spireite. Plenty of stories were shared and fun had, whilst £1300 was also raised for Ashgate Hospice Care, whose annual Sparkle Night Walk took place that night with around 2500 fund raisers walking for the cause. With Tommy's family in attendance, it was a great night out for them as well as they were able to witness, first hand, the clear love the Chesterfield supporters have for the former goalkeeper, a love shown many times with regular impromptu 'He's got long hair, but we don't care' chants!

The feedback from attendees was extremely positive for the night that was painstakingly put together by the Testimonial Committee, in particular Howard Borrell with Phil Tooley acting as Master of Ceremonies. Thanks to all that donated raffle prizes and auction items and particular, those that bought raffle tickets and bid for the auction items.



TestimoniALE 373

Tommy's always liked a beer, but for those of us who are more in to real ale, it's somewhat galling when all the pictures of him celebrating with a beverage seem to be mass-produced imitation lagers of the type that no respecting ale liker would touch. He admitted to being a Lager Boy, so those of us on the Testimonial Committee who like a proper drink decided we'd have to get him drinking a man's drink now he's a retired athlete.

Off popped the Committee Chairman to Brampton Brewery to see managing director and head brewer Chris Radford, a proper Spireite and a proper brewer. Brampton recently celebrated ten years in business and some of their beers such as Golden Bud and Brampton Mild have become popular across the country and many awards have found their way into frames and pride of place on the brewery walls.



'Can you do a beer for us?' was the simple question to which Chris answered; 'Of course,' so we started talking about what style we fancied, light & hoppy and a session beer strength were our requirements and we liked the name TestimoniALE. Chris asked if there were any relevant numbers, so the response was that Tommy had appeared in 373 first team matches for Chesterfield, so it was suggested that the brew would be 3.73% ABV (alcohol by volume).

We left Chris to it and a little while later he said he'd developed a brew that matched our specifications and more; it used expensive but top-quality Simcoe hops from USA, Brampton's first use of such raw materials, and the way the beer was clarified didn't use any animal products (isinglass is generally used, that's a fish product) so it also became the brewery's first officially registered vegan beer.

TOMMY LEE 373 TESTIMONIAL

The timing of the first brew was a couple of weeks before the massive Rail Ale Beer Festival at Barrow Hill in May, so we agreed that it would be great to launch

it to the thousands of visitors that go there but the formal launch came a week earlier when around 50 guests packed out the brewery to sample the new brew and enjoy a chat with Tommy, who served everyone's beer. We had a quiz, Tommy's Mum Kath spoke about her boy, supporter Mark Kelly presented Tommy with a hand-engraved CFC Legend Tankard and two barrels of the brand- new beer were supped!

Then, at the end of June, the brew was bottled, so Tommy popped down to the brewery one Saturday lunchtime and fans filtered in at a pace to buy up the bottles and chat with the man himself and by the end of the three-hour session, all but a handful of bottles had been purchased with dozens of them signed and serious volumes of selfies taken.

Brampton's pubs close to the brewery, The Rose & Crown and The Tramway Tavern, have frequently sold the beer and their regulars love it; even Tommy likes it, if he doesn't he's a great actor because he's knocked plenty back, so keep an eye out for this very

special, very tasty beer at your real ale local. Chris and his team have developed a fine beer that has proved to be a wonderful addition to their portfolio and we'd love to think that the brew may go on for a long time as everyone I've spoken to who's tried it loves it! It will be available at tonight's match in the concourse and in the lounges.

