



Richard Shaw

TESTIMONIAL YEAR 2006



OFFICIAL SOUVENIR BROCHURE & PROGRAMME



COVENTRY CITY FC v GLASGOW CELTIC FC



And Richard Shaw

Both Celebrating

10 YEARS

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Acknowledgments

A testimonial year is a highlight for any footballer lucky enough to receive one. This brochure/programme will be a lasting tribute to Richard and a momento with which to remember his career. Thank you to all those people who have made this possible particularly those who have advertised in this brochure..

Additional thanks go to GH Mann for his personal donation.

To assist Richard in his testimonial year Compass have kindly donated 50% of the hospitality catering income to Richard's Fund. Compass send Richard all their very best wishes.

The Richard Shaw testimonial committee would like to thank Compass for their generous contribution.



ENJOYED MY TIME...



Richard Shaw

Coventry City 1995-Present

*“I’ve played in some **great** games, under some **fantastic** managers and with some **cracking** players”*

It's difficult to believe that I've spent 10 years at Coventry City Football Club.

During a decade here, I've experienced a rollercoaster of emotions with lots of highs and a few lows, but I can say with my hand on my heart that I've thoroughly enjoyed my time at the club. It has flown by.

I've had some memorable times with the Sky Blues. I've played in some great games, under some fantastic managers and with some

cracking players. Our time at Highfield Road, particularly in the Premiership, will always hold a special place in my heart, but I'm also pleased I have experienced the Ricoh



Arena, which is a great new home for the Club. After a couple of turbulent years at Coventry City, I think it's clear that we once again seem to be heading in the right direction.

I can't help feeling a little emotional about being awarded a testimonial year and the support everyone has given me towards it. I'd like to thank Gordon Strachan and his Celtic side for providing us with the opposition tonight and I can't thank Gordon enough for his help with my testimonial game. During his time here, he played a huge part in my career and everything I learnt from him was invaluable. I'm pleased to say I can now count him as a friend and it will feel a little strange to have Gordon, Garry Pendry and Jim Blyth in the opposition dugout tonight.

We also welcome back Dion Dublin, John Hartson and Paul Telfer to Coventry City and I hope all three receive the reception they deserve. They are fantastic professionals who gave their all for the Sky Blues, although I'll be hoping to get the better of them tonight... like I did so many times in training!

It's important to thank Micky Adams ahead of this match, as he has also played an integral part in ensuring the game goes ahead. I'd like to express my gratitude to Micky for allowing Coventry City to play tonight at a critical time of the season, as well as for his continued support throughout the time I have worked with him.



ENJOYED MY TIME...

AT COVENTRY FOOTBALL CLUB



Richard Shaw

Coventry City 1995-Present

*“There’s no doubt I couldn’t have come this far **without my three girls**”*

We couldn't hold this game if it wasn't for the fans and I've been overwhelmed by the messages of support I have received ahead of the Celtic match. I'd like to thank each and every person who has turned up tonight to support me but I wouldn't expect anything else from Coventry City supporters, who have been tremendous since the moment I arrived at the Club.

I'd like to thank everyone at Coventry City Football Club who has supported me in my testimonial game – from the Board to all of the staff who have agreed to work for free tonight – and reiterate that I couldn't have done this without their help, along with the

support of Arena Coventry Limited, who kindly donated the venue. I've worked with some great people over the years, from the Ricoh Arena to Highfield Road to the Club's Ryton Training Ground and every single person has played their own unique part in my story.

I would also like to extend my thanks to my testimonial committee, who have worked so hard to ensure that everything goes to plan this evening. In particular, I'd like to express my gratitude to my Chairman Tony Finch, along with David Shortland, Gary Hoffman, Tony (Banger) Walsh, Richard Keys, Phil Morrison, John Isaacs and Debbie Muller. I would also like to thank Karen Jones for all her hard work in producing this testimonial brochure.

Finally, I'd like to thank the most important people in my life – my family. My wife Paula, along with my daughters Rowena and Verity, have been tirelessly supportive, even though I have spent much of my time travelling between my home in Surrey and Coventry. There's no doubt I couldn't have come this far without my three girls.

Enjoy the game,

Shawtsy



RICHARD'S CAREER AT CRYSTAL PALACE FC



“There are not too many players in modern football like Richard Shaw. A legend at two football clubs, the career of the veteran defender is an example to many aspiring young professionals.”

Richard was a product of the youth development programme at Crystal Palace during the 1980s. Under the stewardship of then youth team mentor Alan Smith, Shaw quickly developed into a top-class defender. As early as 1986, Richard won the first accolade of his career – Palace’s ‘Young Player of the Year.’



The defender soon became a key member of the Crystal Palace squad and firmly immersed himself into Steve Coppell’s starting eleven. Shaw

was instrumental in orchestrating the rise of Crystal Palace in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Alongside the likes of Ian Wright, the centre-back helped ‘The Eagles’ secure promotion to the top-flight in 1989.

Although Richard endured a tough first season in Division One, the season ended on a personal high for the young defender with an FA Cup Final showdown against Manchester United in 1990. Shaw was a prominent figure in the game but there was disappointment for Palace when, after going ahead, Manchester United snatched a late equaliser and forced Palace to a replay. Subsequently, United lifted the Cup but the match propelled Crystal Palace into footballing limelight.

The following season can be described as Richard’s best season in a Palace shirt. The Park Royal-born defender only missed two matches in the entire campaign and became the youngest Palace player to complete 100 appearances for the club. It’s no coincidence that Shaw’s best season for Palace was the Club’s best campaign to date.

