



# Dream Team

Watched by a cult audience of 800,000 on a Sunday night on Sky One, Dream Team is now in its 7th series. The football based soap follows the fortunes of Harchester United who play in purple and white and their colourful players and staff working in the Dragon's Lair Stadium.

The soap is popular with people in the game with on screen cameos by the likes of Dwight Yorke, Andy Cole, Ron Atkinson and John Barnes. Its fan base includes Premiership star Patrick Vieira and boxing World Champion Lenox Lewis.

Although available on satellite television in the UK, it is shown via terrestrial television in Ireland where it is as popular as Coronation Street and EastEnders.

The Harchester replica kit is the second biggest selling shirt in Ireland behind Celtic, with Fletcher 11 being its most popular choice.

It has recently been sold to Fox TV and has higher viewing figures than The Simpsons and is a favourite abroad with British Servicemen in such places as Cyprus.

The show's football scenes are filmed at Millwall's New Den, with other sets at Leyton Orient's training ground and Three Mills Studio, both in East London.

Many of the players in Harchester United's squad are ex-footballers with only principal cast members being actual actors. However, all actors are required to undertake a second audition to test their football skills before being offered parts in the show.

Off screen, the team are big supporters of various charities and play on average half a dozen matches a year. They are big supporters of ChildLine in Ireland where they have raised £240,000 in three years.

## Canvey Connections

Dream Team has featured a number of Canvey present and past players, including Ashley Harrison, Danny Potter, Peter Smith and Junior McDougald.