



Welcome from the Dream Team - Harchester United

ANDY ANSAH Harchester United coach

It is with great pleasure that I bring with me Harchester United, the Purple Dragons to the Gay Meadow, a ground that I scored a memorable goal on when I was a professional player with the likes of Southend United & Peterborough United before my television career started.

Although we appear on Sky One's Dream Team, we also do play real football matches. We have

played to sellout crowds in Ireland and through out England and we feel privileged to play at Shrewsbury Town here today in aid of a very special cause. We are grateful to our supporters of Harchester United who follow us around and sincerely hope that they support this worth while charity event

I first met Shakey in London when he was attending a meal in aid of Tony Adams' Sporting Chance Clinic.

We got on straight from the off and I was taken with his enthusiasm and morale after suffering his illness which inspired me and the rest of the cast to help out and offer to play this football match in aid of the Keep Your Eye On The Ball charity.

We are not taking this game lightly! We are so far undefeated and treat every match as the most important we have played and today's encounter is no exception. We have travelled up to Shrewsbury and stayed overnight and have all been training hard!!

Filming for our 6th series finished some weeks ago, however, all the talk on set and in the dressing rooms has been about coming to Shrewsbury Town. In the series we have faced Ajax this season and have had some tough ties against our Premiership rivals and appeared in an FA Cup Final, but the real thrill has been looking forward to playing 90 minutes at Gay Meadow.

We will relish playing on a pitch where the crowd are so close to us and won't be intimidated on being in the same dressing room that Everton came out of and lost the FA Cup this season.

Although all the players on show appear playing for Harchester United are actors in their own right, they also have to undertake a second batch of auditions to check out their football skills.

I know of Shrewsbury's ex-players of John McGinlay and Bernard McNally who have International experience, however we have an international of our own Dhafer L'Abidine who plays the character of Marcel Sabatier. Before joining Dream Team, Dhafer played internationally for Tunisia.

As you may know, I am Harchester United's assistant manager on Dream Team and football consultant to the show, and today as their real manager replacing Alan Rothman who was unable to attend. I look forward to facing the old boys of Shrewsbury Town FC. I'm sure many of the players will appear in supporters own Shrewsbury Town Dream Team and the day will be an enjoyable one.

We must remember the reason why we are here today and I appeal to everyone to spread the message about the Keep Your Eye On The Ball campaign.

Keep your eye on Sky One for our next series next season and keep your eye on us here today!

May the purple dragons be glorious in another victory!

Andy Ansah

