In conversation with
Chris Waddle
FROM TOW LAW TO MARSEILLE

Chris Waddle tells us about his favourite and not so favourite cars.

Chris Waddle is a true favourite of the Gallowgate fans. Not only was he a hugely successful player for Newcastle Utd, he also represented that increasingly rare breed of players to come through from local non-league football... and having a 'proper job'... to becoming a top footballer.

Chris started his working life mixing seasoning to go into sausages. He joined Tow Law Town in 1978, but in July 1980 signed for Newcastle Utd and went from playing alongside his amateur teammates, to being in the same changing room as Kevin Keegan. The transfer fee was £1000. Over the next five years he played 170 games and scored 46 goals. His time at Newcastle also coincided with his call-up to the England U21s and eventually to the full England squad where he won a terrific 62 full England caps.

In 1985 he moved to Tottenham Hotspur for £590,000. He went on to make 138 appearance for Spurs and scored 33 goals. He even made it onto Top of the Pops singing Diamond Lights alongside Glenn Hoddle.

1989 saw Chris move abroad. He was one of the first English players to try his luck on the continent. He joined Marseille for £4.5m which was the third highest fee ever paid for a footballer. His time in France was a huge success. Marseille won the French league on three occasions and reached the European Cup final in 1991.

1990 saw one of the occasions that England fans...and Chris...will never forget. In the World Cup semi final against West Germany he hit the post in extra time when the score was 1-1 and then in the penalty shoot he fired the ball over the crossbar. England were out and Germany went through to the final, beating Argentina 1-nil. Chris wasn't the only England player who failed to score from the penalty spot that day....Stuart Pearce had his penalty saved.

1992 saw Chris return to England with Sheffield Wednesday and over the course of the next 3 years he racked-up 109 games.

But, injuries were starting to take their toll. At the age of 36 he left Wednesday and had spells with Falkirk, Bradford City, Sunderland, Burnley and Torquay before drifting into non-league football which was where he started.

Chris is now a regular voice on BBC 5 Live football coverage acting as a pundit.

And during all of that time, Chris has enjoyed a sizeable selection of different cars.

What is the first car you can remember?

Vauxhall Viva.

What was the first car you owned?

It was a Ford Capri Mk1. I paid £100 for it and I thought it was the bee's knees. It was blue, although that definitely wasn't the original colour because you could tell that it had been hand painted. It was a bit of a nightmare actually. You could take the key out of the ignition and it would just keep on running. The only way to stop the engine was to put the car into gear, put one foot on the brake and the other on the clutch, and then stall it. Front seat passengers tended to be nervous because when going round roundabouts, the door used to fly open. I was in the Newcastle Utd first team as well.

What did you drive when you were at Newcastle Utd?

I eventually got rid of the Capri and bought a Triumph 1500. The clutch went after 3 weeks so I got rid of it and bought a Morris Marina. It was painted in a horrible mustard colour....no wonder it was cheap.

After that I got a pay rise at Newcastle and decided to splash out and bought my first brand new car. It was a Ford XR2 and I thought it was brilliant. In my final season, I got my first sponsored car. It was a Ford XR3i.....not just an ordinary XR3i though, it was a bright white cabriolet.

Did you ever get a sponsored car at Spurs?

I went up in the world. After a series of Fords at Newcastle, my first sponsored car at Spurs was a 3 series BMW. After that I got a Peugeot 205 GTI which was a fantastic car....really quick. I loved it.

Smart car or a mobile skip?

I'm going to be clever here. I'm going to say smart car.....because my wife has a Smart car. I love it....great for nipping around town.

What's your favourite road trip?

I cover a lot of football games so tend to spend most of my time on motorways but none spring to mind as being memorable. Get to the ground, do the game, go home.

Steady Eddy or a bit of a speedster?

I have to admit that in my younger days I was a bit of a speedster. In Marseille this wasn't a problem. I must have got at least 30 speeding tickets but never paid a single one. All of the police were Marseille fans so they just asked me to sign the ticket and then they'd keep it as a souvenir. Result.

Worst accident you've been involved in?

I was going to watch a match at Leicester City. I was in a BMW 318 on a dual carriageway when a Mini Metro shot across from the other lane and hit me on the side near the front wheel. It flipped my car onto its side. I remember getting out and sitting on the grass bank waiting for the medics. I was lucky... just a few bumps and bruises, it was a drunk woman who hit me. I hate drink driving.

What have been your favourite cars?

I've had Jags, BMWs etc., but the best was my first Audi A8. It's a top car

Worst Car?

My Ford Capri. Bless it

And finally....your dream car?

It has to be the latest Audi A8