



With Nicky Law, **Darren Carr** formed a powerful partnership at the centre of Chesterfield's defence as the club successfully negotiated the 1995 Division Four play-offs. Tall and uncompromising, with power and timing in the tackle, a section of supporters nicknamed him "Meat," perhaps with a wink at the Vegetarian movement's slogan, "Meat is Murder."

Darren began as a Bristol Rovers trainee but moved to Newport County

and Sheffield United before becoming a Dario Gradi player at Crewe. He completed 104 League matches for the Alex, before his tribunal fixed £30,000 transfer to Chesterfield in July 1993.

Darren missed all but two games of the '95-6 season through injury. In his only league match of that season, at Swindon, he was sent off after giving away a throw in and was assaulted by a supporter as he attempted to leave the field. He spent fourteen months nursing knee injuries and came back to competitive, first-team football in November, '96. His 'Hard man' crew-cut was replaced by a fine mop of hair, and he now bore an uncanny resemblance to Les Hunter. He played as if he hadn't been away, his dominance and sure approach returning immediately. He had tough competition for a place, though; Mark Williams was the lynch-pin of the defence by now, and Sean Dyche had used Darren's absence to mature into an excellent ball-playing centre-half.

John Duncan tried three centre-halves for a time, but this had a generally unsettling effect on the team, so Darren was used principally as cover as Duncan rested players between F.A. Cup ties in Chesterfield's run to the semi-finals. Uncertain as to his future, Darren delayed signing a contract during the summer of '97 until Sean Dyche left for Bristol City. He duly started off as a first-choice first-teamer but soon lost his place through injury. Darren's '97-8 season thus mirrored his '96-7, with a late recall to the team as injuries cleared up. Having signed only a two-month contract in the summer of '98, Darren moved to Gillingham on the day before the new season started, and scored an own-goal on his debut. He appeared briefly in the Gills' memorable Wembley play-off against Manchester City before moving on to Brighton and then non-league football. Darren has settled in the Bristol area and works in the property development business.

For Chesterfield: 84 + 2 Football League appearances, 4 goals.

Career: 282 + 26 Football League appearances, 12 goals.