

Millwall Sports Therapists Take A Cup Final Breather

With just under a week to go Millwall Sports Therapists and Society of Sports Therapists members Gerry Docherty and Steve Hard took some well earned time out from the frenetic Cardiff build up to attend the conference 'From Pain to Performance 2004' at the Heathrow Marriott Hotel, London on Saturday 15th May.

The Millenium Stadium Cup Final against Manchester United will mark the end of a dream season for the two Society members, a season that has seen the fist division club achieve remarkable success. For Doherty, the former Raith Rovers Sports Therapist there is, however, just a slight tinge of disappointment. He said: 'It's an absolute dream come true to be in the Cup Final against Manchester United but I think we are also all disappointed not to be in the play-offs.'

Docherty joined the club in the late 90's after several years at Raith Rovers with Jimmy Nichol, the manager who took him to Millwall. He is also unique in that he was the first therapist to complete the Diploma in Sports Therapy course after The Society of Sports Therapists was formed.

Gerry first worked with Steve, a graduate from London Metropolitan University (formerly the University of North London) in 1999. Hard was fortunate to get a placement at Millwall as part of his Sports Therapy Degree course. He graduated in 2000 and impressed sufficiently for Doherty to invite him back on a full time basis.

Hard commented: ' I was on the second year intake of the Sports Therapy degree course at the University and was fortunate to have some very good teachers, namely Iain Littlejohn, former Sunderland Sports Therapist Steve Smelt and Society Chairman Professor Graham Smith.' Quite a line up!

The lead in to the final has been far from smooth for the London side and Docherty and Hard have been kept busy in the treatment room. Docherty commented: 'We have had quite a run

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of injuries and lost three players before the semi-final.' But the medical team has had great support from the club, not least from their inspirational player manager Dennis Wise.

Docherty said: 'I worked with Dennis as a player and he was totally dedicated and has always treated the medical team with great respect. When injured he always worked hard and was very professional in his approach. He has carried this on into management and all the players have great respect for him. I feel he will go on to even greater things.'

We wish Gerry and Steve all the best for a brilliant day and hope that you are not kept too busy. Who knows it could turn into yet another piece of FA Cup giant-killing folklore. Whatever happens lads, The Society of Sports Therapists is extremely proud of your achievements.



FA Cup Finalists and Society members Steve Hard and Gerry Docherty



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