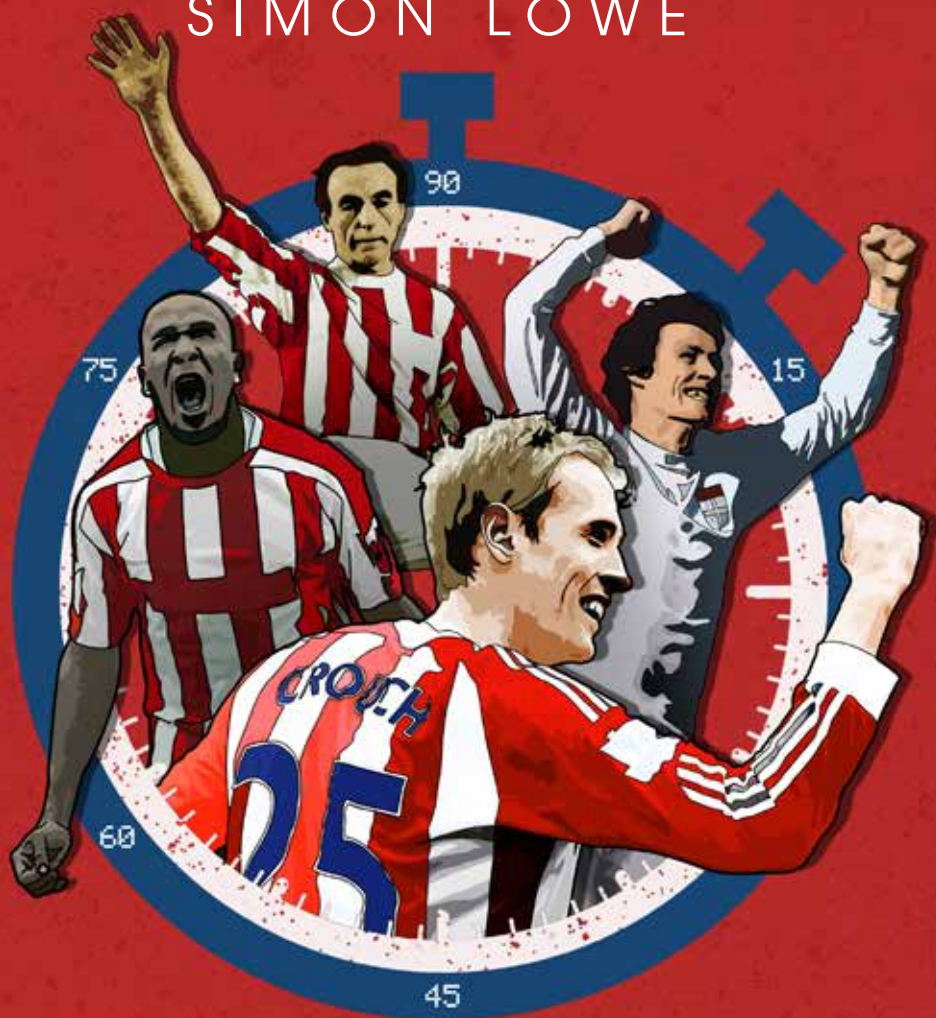


SIMON LOWE



STOKE CITY
MINUTE
BY MINUTE

Covering More Than 500 Goals, Penalties,
Red Cards and Other Intriguing Facts

Foreword by Terry Conroy

STOKE CITY
MINUTE
BY MINUTE

Covering More Than 500 Goals,
Penalties, Red Cards and
Other Intriguing Facts

SIMON LOWE



Contents

Acknowledgements	13
Introduction	16
Foreword	18

Stoke City Minute by Minute

Prematch	22
13 Seconds.	23
19 Seconds.	24
24 Seconds.	25
35 Seconds.	26
52 Seconds.	27
1 Minute	28
2 Minutes	30
3 Minutes	33
4 Minutes	36
5 Minutes	40
6 Minutes	43
7 Minutes	44
8 Minutes	46
9 Minutes	48
10 Minutes	50
11 Minutes	53
12 Minutes	56
13 Minutes	59

14 Minutes	61
15 Minutes	63
16 Minutes	66
17 Minutes	68
18 Minutes	70
19 Minutes	73
20 Minutes	76
21 Minutes	79
22 Minutes	81
23 Minutes	84
24 Minutes	85
25 Minutes	87
26 Minutes	88
27 Minutes	90
28 Minutes	92
29 Minutes	95
30 Minutes	97
31 Minutes	100
32 Minutes	102
33 Minutes	105
34 Minutes	107
35 Minutes	110
36 Minutes	113
37 Minutes	115
38 Minutes	117
39 Minutes	120
40 Minutes	121

41 Minutes	122
42 Minutes	125
43 Minutes	128
44 Minutes	131
45 Minutes	136
45+1 Minute	139
Half-time	140
46 Minutes	141
47 Minutes	142
48 Minutes	144
49 Minutes	145
50 Minutes	148
51 Minutes	152
52 Minutes	154
53 Minutes	156
54 Minutes	158
55 Minutes	160
56 Minutes	163
57 Minutes	165
58 Minutes	166
59 Minutes	168
60 Minutes	169
61 Minutes	171
62 Minutes	173
63 Minutes	176
64 Minutes	178

65 Minutes	180
66 Minutes	183
67 Minutes	186
68 Minutes	188
69 Minutes	190
70 Minutes	193
71 Minutes	195
72 Minutes	197
73 Minutes	200
74 Minutes	203
75 Minutes	205
76 Minutes	209
77 Minutes	211
78 Minutes	213
79 Minutes	217
80 Minutes	219
81 Minutes	223
82 Minutes	226
83 Minutes	229
84 Minutes	231
85 Minutes	234
86 Minutes	238
87 Minutes	242
88 Minutes	246
89 Minutes	250
90 Minutes	253
90+1 Minute	259

90+2 Minutes	261
90+3 Minutes	265
90+4 Minutes	268
90+5 Minutes	270
90+6 Minutes	273
90+7 Minutes	274

Extra time first half

94 Minutes	275
95 Minutes	276
102 Minutes	277
104 Minutes	278

Extra time second half

107 Minutes	279
114 Minutes	280
115 Minutes	281
117 Minutes	282
120 Minutes	283

Post-match	284
----------------------	-----

Stoke City Minute by Minute

The clock is ticking ...

Prematch

The bell goes in the changing rooms. In the stadium, the background current pop-chart ditty fades through into the ominous, brooding, glowering introduction of the guitar chords of Eminem's Oscar-winning 'Lose Yourself'. Fans around the ground get to their feet in anticipation, jiggling gently from foot to foot in time with the music, and also from the cold, often bitter wind that swirls about even in summer months. A minute or so later the stadium announcer Steve Buxton screams in an ever-rising voice: 'Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome to the Bet365 Stadium the visitors [whoever they are] and your mighty, MIGHTY POTTERSSSSSSS!!!!!!'

The opening chords to the Stoke City FC club anthem 'We'll Be With You', written by *Neighbours* theme-tune penners Tony Hatch and Jackie Trent, sung by the victorious 1972 League Cup squad, strike. Fans sing along: 'We'll be with you, be with you, be with you, every step along the way!', as the players emerge from the tunnel, mascots in hand, led by the match officials, who collect the ball off a little podium positioned by the corner flag (at least in the Premier League years ...).

As the players line up for photos in front of the main two-tier stand, the music segues into Tom Jones's 'Delilah', a song adopted and adapted by supporters, as legend has it, one day in Derby when the police asked them to stop singing lewd songs in a pub and the (in)famous fan known as 'TJ' (Anton Booth) broke into his favourite tune, which then was sung throughout the ensuing match and forever after.

The players shake hands along the lines and break to warm up, with the Potters taking the half of the pitch in front of the Boothen End, where fans are packed into the red and white seats, rising to greet their heroes with a tumult of noise, clapping and scarf or flag waving. The fever rises ...

Game on!

13 seconds

2 November 2013

As wind billows around the Britannia Stadium, Southampton kick off in the Premier League, but their early pass forward is intercepted by Erik Pieters, who knocks the ball back safely to goalkeeper Asmir Begović. The Bosnian international thwacks the ball downfield and a gust of wind propels it towards Artur Boruc's goal. It lands on the D of the Saints' penalty area, where it seems to take on supernatural powers and careers crazily over Boruc's head, bouncing once more before ending in the top corner of the Boothend net. No one really knows how to celebrate. They are too busy being incredulous. It is a record-breaking goal in many senses: the first goal of Begović's career, the longest goal ever scored in recorded professional football at 92 metres (before being beaten by Newport's Tom King in January 2021 with a distance of 96 metres) and the quickest goal in Premier League history at just 13 seconds. Remarkably, it also makes Begović the season's joint leading scorer for Stoke, for a week at least.

19 seconds

6 December 2014

In yet another eventful edition of Potters fans' favourite Premier League grudge match against Arsenal, Stoke take the lead when a Steven Nzonzi cross is missed at the near post inexplicably, by Calum Chambers, who will later see red for two bookable offences to complete a miserable personal day. The ball ricochets off Héctor Bellerín and Mame Diouf, wrong-footing Gunners keeper Damián Martínez, and falls perfectly for Peter Crouch, right in front of goal, to just roll into the back of the Boothern End net with a gentle side-foot with his right peg. The chants of '1-0 to the rugby team' ring around the Britannia as Arsène Wenger pretends he didn't see that.

24 seconds

13 May 2000

Stoke get off to a tremendous start in the Second Division play-off semi-final first leg against Gillingham at the Britannia Stadium. Despite the Gills taking the kick-off and sticking an aimless long ball out of play in the Potters' left-back position, the throw is worked forward to Kyle Lightbourne, tight on the left touchline ten yards inside Gillingham's half. The beanpole striker hugs the line to beat one man then cuts inside to leave another grasping thin air. He then squares the ball to the on-loan Arnar Gunnlaugsson, just outside the penalty area, and the Icelandic international hammers a left-footed drive into the top-left corner from 18 yards to send the home support ballistic.

35 seconds

11 November 1989

In City's first game since the sacking of manager Mick Mills following the 0-6 thrashing at Swindon the previous weekend, caretaker manager Alan Ball restores attackers Vince Hilaire, Gary Hackett and Wayne Biggins to the starting line-up, as well as veteran centre-half George Berry, and is rewarded with an opening half hour of verve and ambition. Right from the off, City pile forward and midfielder Carl Beeston drives into the penalty area, exchanges passes with Dave Bamber and prods in past the onrushing John Keeley in the Brighton goal. The Ball era has started well.

52 seconds

1 January 1987

Stoke begin the new year perfectly, scoring within a minute of the kick-off of the Second Division game against Shrewsbury at the Victoria Ground. In front of the biggest home crowd of the season, 19,382, Carl Saunders starts and finishes a move, which also involves Phil Heath, Nicky Morgan and Brian Talbot. The 1-0 victory, on a rain-sodden pitch, is City's seventh in eight games in a golden patch around Christmas, with a goal aggregate of 24-6 over the run, which takes them from 20th position to fifth after this latest win.

1

26 December 1950

Having defeated Arsenal at Highbury the day before, Christmas Day, Stoke clinch a well-deserved double over the Gunners thanks to a goal by young striker Roy Brown. His right-foot shot proves too hot for new keeper Ted Platt, replacing the unfortunate George Swindin from the previous game, and the ball squirms into the net. Although that is the end of the scoring for the day, Brown's involvement switches to the other end of the pitch on 15 minutes, as Stoke keeper Dennis Herod picks up an injury which means he cannot continue in goal and Brown pulls on the jersey to tend nets instead. With no substitutes available, Herod plays 75 minutes on the right wing, smiting the bar with one tremendous shot. City survive a late Arsenal surge, even though wingers Malkin and Ormston also hobble around for the last few minutes of a tense encounter.

17 December 1960

Right-back Bill Asprey roams forward to pounce on a mishit clearance and fire in a right-footed shot from the edge of the penalty area, which struggling Plymouth's goalkeeper Geoff Barnsley saves. But the rebound goes straight back out to Asprey, who lashes home gleefully. The goal sets Stoke on their way to a club-record 9-0 win. Within two minutes, Plymouth's George Fincham has inadvertently bundled the ball into his own net in front of an unforgiving Boothend to put Stoke two up. Neil Dougall's Argyle capitulate from that awful start.

15 April 1963

In a dramatic first minute of a vital game against promotion rivals Sunderland, Stoke are awarded a penalty by referee Mr J. Thacker, when Dennis Viollet is felled in the act of prodding home a loose ball. Viollet picks himself up to slot the penalty home in front of a jubilant Boothend. More than 42,000 are jammed inside the

1 MINUTE

Victoria Ground just three days after City drew 0-0 at Roker Park in front of over 62,000. With a home 1-0 victory over Cardiff thanks to a Violet goal on the Saturday in between also having over 30,000 inside the Vic, a total of 135,000 fans watch City in those four days, as the team pick up five points on their way to promotion.