

Hertfordshire on Sunday, June 20, 2004

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4-4-2 shoot to the top of the charts

PLAYING the 4-4-2 formation has landed a lawyer at the top of the charts with a song supporting England's Euro 2004 footballers.

Last month *Hertfordshire on Sunday* reported how local lads Neil Murray and Jimi McCafferty had become part of the band 4-4-2 made up of artists from BURBS (British Underground Rock Bands) to record the football anthem 'Come on England' to the tune of Dexy's Midnight Runners hit 'Come on Eileen'.

Last Sunday when defeat was snatched from the jaws of victory for the England team as the French scored two goals in injury time, 4-4-2 entered the UK charts at number two.

Neil, 48, learned to play guitar at Letchworth Folk Club and lived in the town for 15 years before moving to London.

He is the long-time lead singer of pop band The Hampions, a mainstay of BURBS, an organisation of bands established by musician Barry Ratcliffe which puts out albums and organises concerts.



When not behind the microphone he is a financial lawyer in the City of London and calls the record's success 'a triumph for every guy who's ever stood in front of the mirror playing air guitar'.

In the wake of Thursday's 3-0 defeat of Switzerland, the disc is expected to sell even better and could be earmarked for the number one slot when the BBC chart is announced at 7pm tonight.

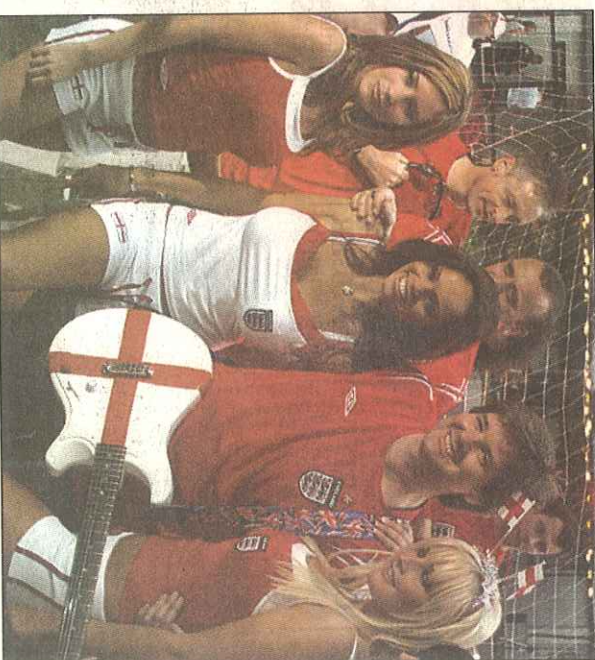
Neil added: "We hoped it would do well but we never expected anything like this, it has been absolutely amazing. If we get to number one and England gets to the final we're going to tell the record company we should be sent to Portugal to provide the half time entertainment."

Scotsman Jimi, 36, who lives in Letchworth with his two daughters told *HoS* he is happy

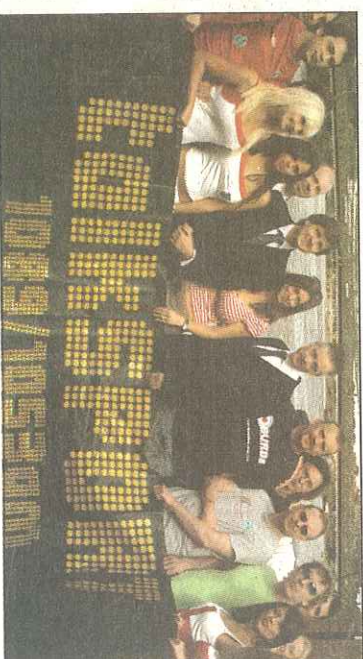
to support England, particularly as Scotland are not in the tournament.

'Come on England' was launched on June 7 with a big party, attended by presenters and page three girls, at radio station talkSPORT and the band, which includes six other musicians, has made a video featuring them.

The players also appeared on Top of the Pops on the BBC on Friday evening.



Shooting for the top: Neil Murray and Jimi McCafferty performing the song (above and left) with the six other members of 4-4-2 and at the launch of the record at talkSPORT (below)



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