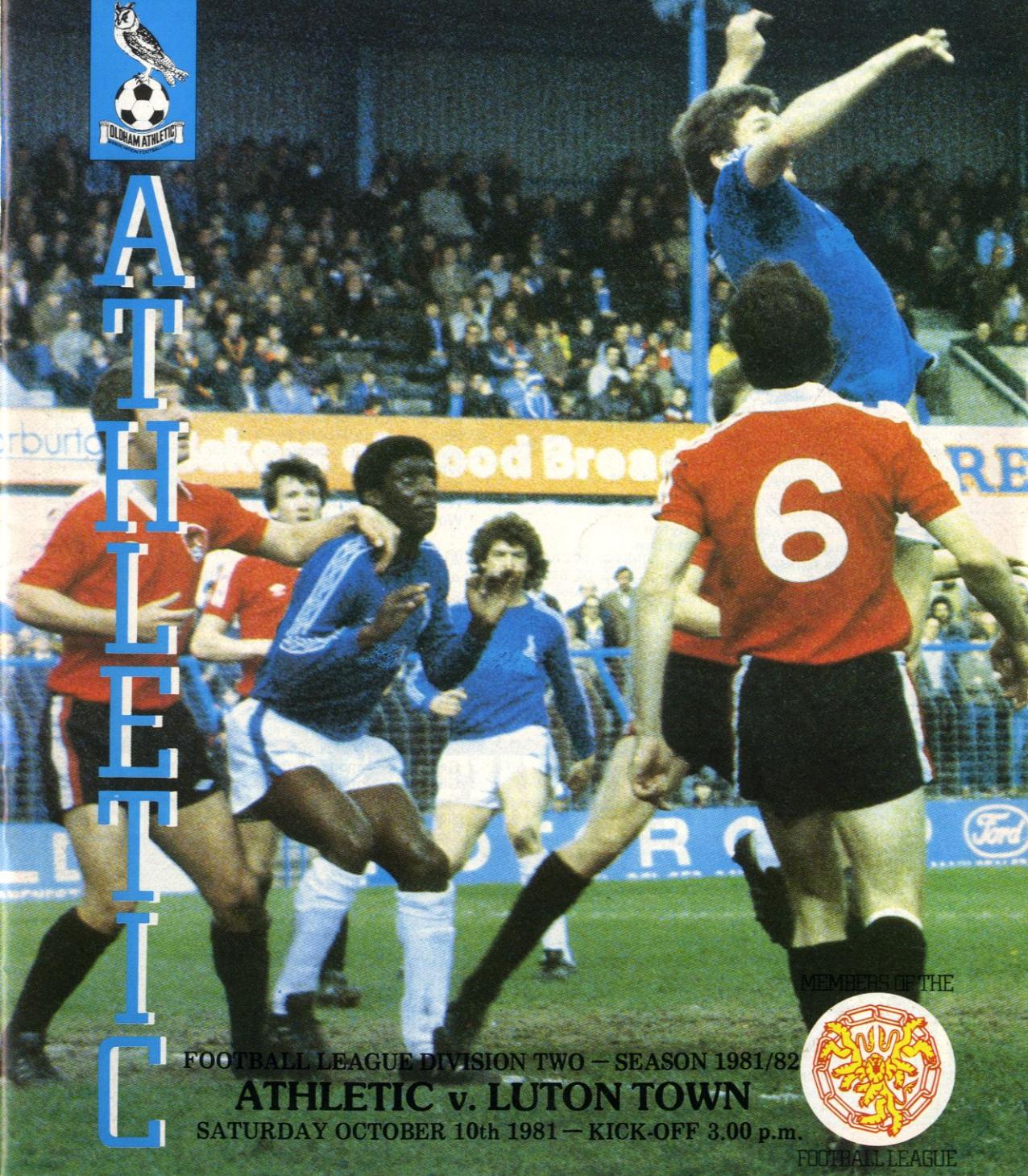


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on the ball with Jimmy



Welcome once again to Boundary Park for this afternoon's match when we welcome Luton Town as our visitors. Like ourselves Luton have made a very good start to the season and I am sure we can all look forward to an exciting game of football.

Last Saturday's trip to Norwich was yet another very pleasing game in which we thoroughly deserved our haul of three points. A lot of people had marked the Norwich game as the one when the bubble would burst, but once again the players proved them wrong in the only way they can, on the field, and Darren McDonough and Paul Heaton came up with the goods to score a goal a piece to round off a fine team performance.

I would also like to pay tribute on behalf of the players and the club to the many supporters who made the long trip with us, their support was absolutely fantastic making themselves heard well above the near 14,000 crowd that went to the match and not only did they lend their support so enthusiastically, but they behaved perfectly as well, all in all I feel proud to say that Oldham Athletic were a credit to English football both on and off the field.

My main hope now is that the players and the club are rewarded by a dramatic increase in the numbers of spectators coming to Boundary

Park. Surely there can be nothing worse for a player than to have to perform to crowds of less than five thousand in a stadium which will hold 30,000.

I have had a lot of people asking me recently what our plans are for the

future and what do I think our position will be at the end of the season. Obviously, our immediate ambition is to reach the First Division, but at this stage our only forward planning is for the next match we have to play. At the time of writing these notes which is prior to the Newport game in the League Cup our only thoughts are how we are going to overcome them here at Boundary Park to give us a good enough chance of getting into the third round draw, and I trust by the time these notes are read we will have achieved that aim, with the prospect of a comfortable 2nd leg at Newport on October 27th.

With only a handful of games played it is far too early to start any kind of speculation, all we have to do is to take each game as it comes and to make sure we do our best to come away with all three points on each occasion.

Finally, my views on the new points system have not changed, I feel that already we have seen too many teams try to hold on to their three points when they go one up. However, I have no objection to the team continuing to pick up three points a match and trust it will continue to the end of the season.

Looking forward to seeing you all again on October 31st when we welcome Newcastle United to Boundary Park.

OLDHAM ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CLUB BOUNDARY PARK · OLDHAM

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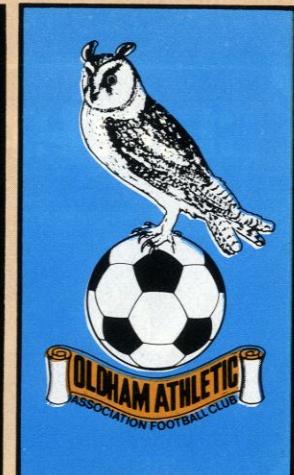
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Latics Action

Photographs by courtesy of the Oldham Evening Chronicle

Saturday October 3rd 1981
NORWICH CITY v ATHLETIC



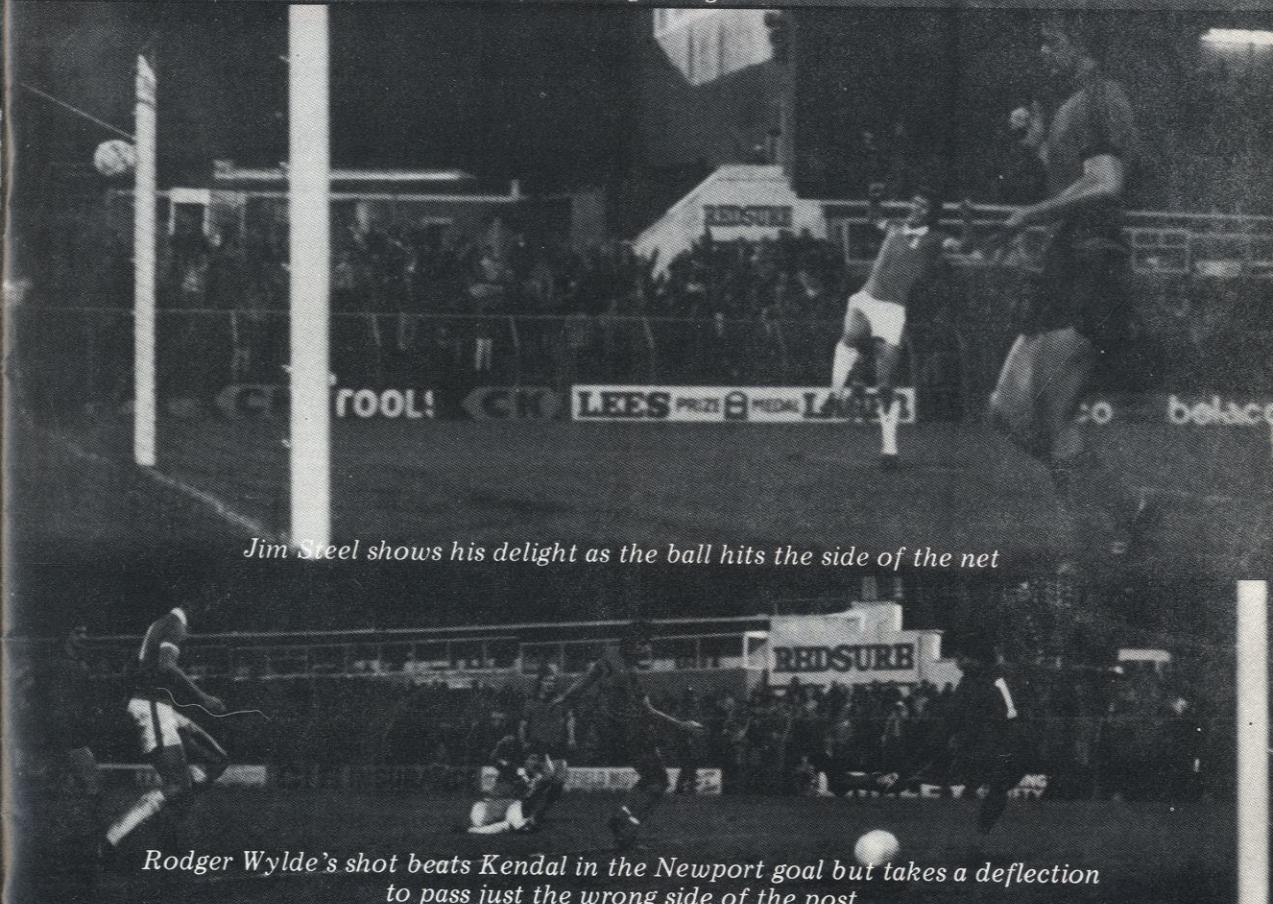
Darren McDonough climbs high to head Athletics opening goal



Paul Heaton wraps it up with a fine goal to make the final score 2-1 to Athletic



Roger Palmer rounds the Newport keeper before slotting the ball in the net from a tight angle



Jim Steel shows his delight as the ball hits the side of the net

Rodger Wylde's shot beats Kendal in the Newport goal but takes a deflection to pass just the wrong side of the post

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Down Memory Lane...

extracts from
"The Team from a Town of Chimneys"
compiled by Stewart Beckett



Season 1935/36 - 3rd Division North
December 25th & 26th 1935

13 GOALS FOR TRANMERE
ATHLETIC'S RECORD DEFEAT, BUT
HOME POINTS WON ON CHRISTMAS
DAY!

Christmas Day: Athletic 4, Tranmere 1
Boxing Day: Tranmere 13, Athletic 4

Athletic completed their 1935 Christmas holiday programme in a manner that will not readily be forgotten. In two matches against Tranmere Rovers an amazing 22 goals were scored. On Christmas Day Athletic completed an excellent performance in defeating the Rovers at Boundary Park by 4-1, and everything looked rosy for the return fixture 24 hours later. What a rude awakening lay in store, records were broken as Athletic crashed 13-4 with the Rovers centre forward 'Bunny' Bell, a young shipping clerk from Liverpool, crashing home nine goals, and missing a penalty to boot! Prenton Park rang to the shouts of 'We want Bell', as the Rovers player was chaired off the field at the whistle by exhilarated Tranmere supporters. When Athletic's centre-half Brunsell left the field for 15 minutes suffering from a broken nose the scoreline read 1-0. In that period Rovers added 5 goals. Brunsell was instructed when re-entering the arena with his face heavily bandaged, to avoid using his head, about the first thing he did was head goal!

The goals came as follows: 2 mins-Urson; 7 mins-Bell; 11 mins-MacDonald; 14 mins-Woodward; 16 mins-Bell; 19 mins-Bell; 35 mins-Bell; 38 mins-Brunskill (Ath); 40 mins-Bell; 46 mins-Bell; 50 mins-Woodward; 63 mins-Davis (Ath); 68 mins-Bell; 69 mins-Walsh (Ath); 71 mins-Walsh (Ath); 87 mins-Bell; 89 mins-Bell.

A Tranmere director suggested the run of the game would have been best underlined by a 17-10 scoreline, for in addition to Bell's penalty miss, a number of 'sitters' went begging, while there was some excellent goalkeeping at both ends. In all, Athletic were to be commended on their sporting attitude whilst suffering such a defeat.

Tranmere: Gray, Platt, Fairhurst, McLaren, Newton, Spencer, Eden, McDonald, Bell, Woodward, Urson.

Athletic: Caunce, Seymour, Talbot, Williamson, Brunsell, Schofield, Jones, Davis, Walsh, Leedham, Buckley.

Attendance: 12,000 / Receipts: £609.

Tranmere Rovers finished the 1935/36 season in 3rd place in the 3rd Division (North) on 55 points. Athletic were in 7th position on 45 points.

THE TEAM
FROM
A TOWN OF
CHIMNEYS

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ASTON VILLA
v
OLDHAM ATHLETIC
F.A. Cup Semi-Final played at
Blackburn · March 1913

If any supporter holds anything relating to the above match (programme or photos etc., please contact the writer c/o Club Offices or by telephoning (061) 834 8532

Chronicle of Oldham Athletic Association Football Club
compiled & produced by Stewart Beckett

FROM THE BOARDROOM

H. WILDE, Chairman



The new Sportshall and extension to the Boundary Club is due to be completed early in November. This will give additional opportunity for all age groups to participate in indoor sport or view from the considerable spectators gallery. We hope to start the five a side football league competition sponsored by J.W. Lees & Co. (Brewers) Limited as soon as possible in November, with matches on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Sunday mornings and afternoon. Teams will compete in four divisions until May next year, when the finals will take place for the overall championship.

We have also had many approaches from Badminton clubs and Netball clubs and these will be accommodated on a "First come, first served basis". All interested clubs should write or contact initially, the Football Club Secretary, Mr. Tom Finn, prior to the new Manager of the Sportshall taking up his appointment on November 1st. We have now appointed the Sportshall Manager, who will have complete control over the whole complex. The successful applicant is Mr. J.A. Moon, who has had considerable experience in promotional leisure work with particular reference to catering and banqueting for all sporting activities, both indoor and outdoor, including national and international golf competitions.

On November 17th, the first Trade Exhibition will take place in the Sportshall covering all manner of trades from Wine & Spirits, Vending Machines and catering supplies, which will be of particular interest to the Licensing Trade generally. Applications for tickets from trade retailers only should be made to Mr. Tom Finn, the Club Secretary as soon as possible. Meals will be available during the whole day in the Boundary Club which will give ticket holders the opportunity of a leisurely viewing of the Exhibition without suffering the pangs of hunger.

An opportunity will be given to the public to view the complex early in November prior to the official opening.

H. WILDE

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Welcome to Boundary Park

We welcome this afternoon top of the table Luton Town together with Manager David Pleat, who is one of Soccers thinkers and a fully qualified FA Coach. David Pleat has quietly won an enviable reputation in football in his first job as Manager of a League side.

To many people Luton were taking a big risk when they promoted him to the Manager's office in the spring of 1978. He inherited a team on the slide, and it took him two years to complete an upheaval in the playing staff.

Luton were near to relegation at times, but he persevered and is now acknowledged as the inspiration for a side determined to play attractive and entertaining football. They have been on the fringe of the Second Division promotion battle for the past two seasons and no-one in Luton is keener than Mr. Pleat on seeing the club back in the top flight.

His loyalty to Luton stretches back to the mid-sixties. After playing for England at youth level, he joined Luton from Nottingham Forest and played on the wing for them for three seasons.

A back injury finished his playing career but he stayed in the game as coach and learned the hard business of management on a limited budget as boss of Nuneaton. He rejoined Luton, as reserve team coach in 1975 and succeeded Harry Haslam as Manager three years later.

JAKE FINDLAY — A goalkeeper who had languished in the reserves at Aston Villa for nine years, Findlay's huge hands grasped the chance immediately when David Pleat offered him the green jersey at Luton. And the mystery now so far as Luton supporters are concerned, is why Jock Stein has not taken Pleat's advice to give big Jake a Scottish International cap. Luton paid their highest-ever fee for a goalkeeper when they parted with £100,000 for Findlay in November 1979.

BRIAN HORTON — Luton abandoned their normal policy when they paid a modest fee to Brighton for Horton's signature — he was the first Division player manager David Pleat had signed in three years as boss. The midfielder was immediately appointed club captain at Luton. He had also been skipper at Brighton in their run from the Third Division to the First. He joined Luton with a well-earned reputation for consistency — he made more than 200 appearances for each of his previous clubs, Brighton and Port Vale.

KIRK STEPHENS — David Pleat took a chance with an unknown player from non-league soccer when he went back to his old club Nuneaton to recruit their young right-back. Stephens rapidly switched to full-time soccer, forced his way into Luton's Second Division side in a matter of weeks and is now in his third season as a regular

MAL DONAGHY — One of David Pleat's first deals snatched inexperienced defender Donaghy from Larne, Northern Ireland in the summer of 1978. Now, at 21, he has proved to be a snip at £20,000. He settled into Second Division soccer without fuss, and is happy playing in any back four position or in midfield, and his promotion to the Northern Ireland International team surprised no-one at Luton.

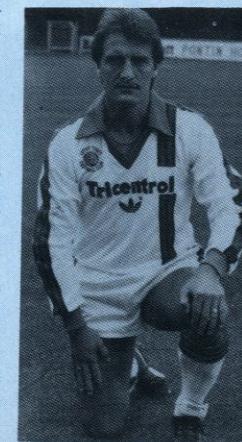
WAYNE TURNER — A place in Luton's League squad was just reward last season for a player who has been brought up through schools and youth football at Kenilworth Road. A local boy who can play in defence or midfield, he is one of several young players coming through to challenge established names for places in the Second Division side.

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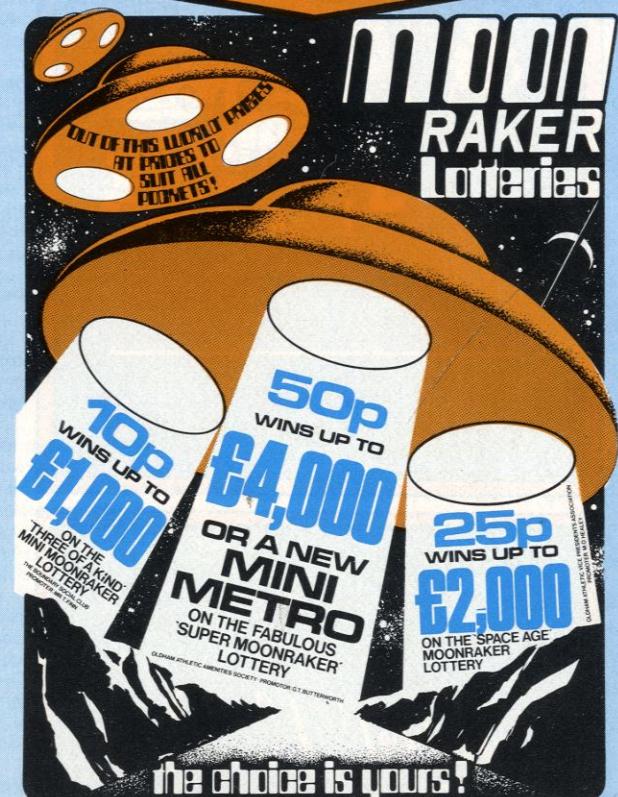
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PASQUALE FUCCILLO — Son of Italian parents living in Bedford, midfielder Fuccillo has had to work harder than most to make the grade. He made rapid progress through Luton's junior teams and made his League debut in 1976 when he was 19. Tragedy halted his career twice: he broke his leg in a match at Brighton in December 1978, started a comeback, then broke it again in a practice game. It took more than a year to regain fitness the second time, but he proved conclusively last season that his injury worries were over. He has a knack of breaking forward to score, and marked his second comeback with a goal in his first match back in the Second Division.



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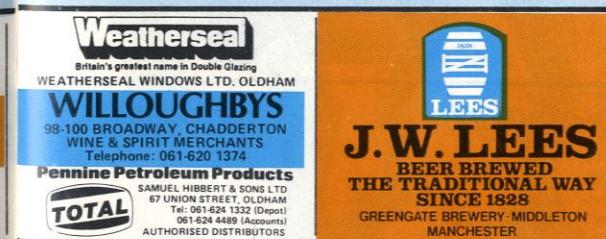
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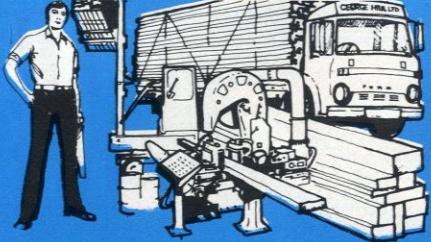
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Profile...



GED KEEGAN

Athletics most improved player during last season was without any doubt Ged Keegan. And his efforts throughout the season were justly rewarded when he shared the "Player of the Year" awards with Kenny Clements.

Ged has certainly continued where he left off last season, with the added responsibility now of being club captain, a job he has taken on well after the departure of John Hurst at the end of last season.

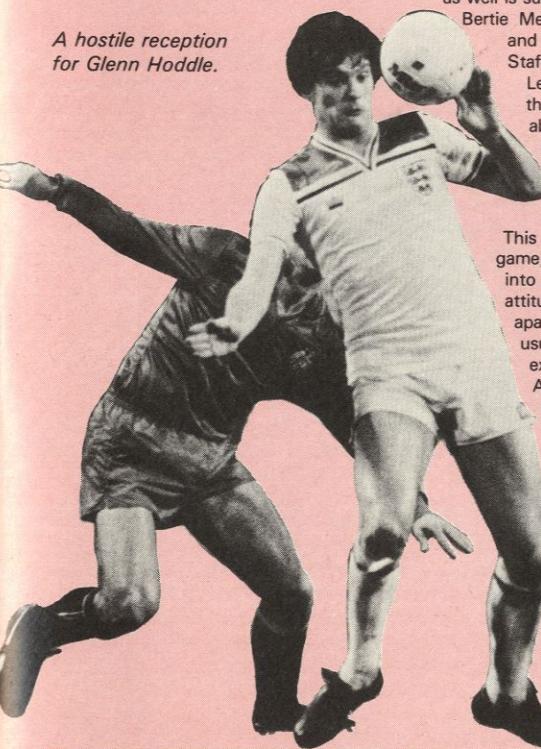
Ged came to the club from Manchester City in February 1979 for a £25,000 fee and I'm sure everyone at Boundary Park will agree, that represents tremendous value for money.



Autograph:



A hostile reception for Glenn Hoddle.



LOVE OR MONEY?

As the shock waves surrounding England's World Cup disgrace at the hands of little Norway, reverberated throughout the game, FA chairman Bert Millichip summed up what many have come to consider a fact... that money is the root of all football evil.

Certainly there is no doubt that in this age of massive dole queues, the public have lost patience and sympathy with the players, as witness the hostile reception meted out to Ray Clemence and Glenn Hoddle as they stepped out onto the Molineux turf prior to their League game with Wolves.

The fans gave vent to their indignation, understandably they had felt cheated by players who seemingly were earning too much too easily. It is not that people begrudge the stars big cash rewards, it is simply that they expect to see something in return, and if it is not forthcoming then the high financial return becomes an obvious target.

There is no doubt that our standards have fallen, otherwise how could our national team be justifiably beaten by the part timers of Norway! Our technique has always been in question when examined in the context of the world game, but to be out fought and out run as well is surely the last straw.

Bertie Mee, the former Arsenal manager and now secretary of the Executive Staffs Association — which includes League club managers — suggests that players are too concerned about; "What's in it for me?" than getting on with the job of playing to their utmost ability.

DISEASE

This is a sad comment on the game, although if we care to put it into context it will be seen that this attitude only reflects the general apathy in the country at large. As usual our football problems are an extension of the nations problems. And if we are honest, the question is not just confined to international football, it is a general disease. Only seven days after that Norwegian humiliation Arsenal travelled to Greece and with a young and inexperienced side, gained a creditable 2-0 win over Panathinaikos in the UEFA Cup.

A night for celebration! On the surface yes, but beneath the facade manager Terry Neill was beset by internal problems. Defender Willie Young was

pushing for a transfer although still under contract and right back John Devine was contemplating a transfer request because he had been dropped from the team.

There was also unrest from England international Brian Talbot who made it clear he was upset at being moved from the middle of midfield to the right. An outburst that prompted this reply from manager Neill:

"He has scored more goals this season than in the whole of last season and will score a bagful if he does what he's told."

SAINTS

Such reactions from players can do little to win them public sympathy or enhance the reputation of the professional player in general. However it would be grossly incorrect to brand all players with the same brush and although the distasteful and often selfish conflicts attract maximum publicity, adding fuel to the critics elbow, there are many more players around who have a genuine love and appreciation for the game they are so fortunate to be able to earn their livelihood from.

People like Floyde Streete, a young West Indian who has made it with Cambridge United, and says; "I have played in midfield, up front and at centrehalf. As long as I get a game I will play anywhere because playing gives me enjoyment. I just love it and will do anything to get in the team."

And such sentiments are not the exclusive rights of footballs lesser known saints. Take Middlesbrough's England Under-21 striker David Hodgson. Rumour was rife last season about him joining a more glamourous side and yet there was nothing further from his mind: "I have never asked for a transfer and never will," is his indignant response. "I believe a contract should be honoured and if I have signed one then that is it until it expires. Even if they dropped me it would make no difference, my contract runs to the end of this season and that is all there is to say on the matter."

Hodgson had it rough as a youngster and he appreciates the rewards the game now brings him. And there is far more to it than just the tangible returns as he explains: "People talk about the money, but I love the game. I never think about cash or bonuses or anything like that, I go out to enjoy myself and enjoy the game."

For players like Hodgson and Streete participation is the highest reward, love the motivation. For those with more materialistic ideals cynicism is the name of the game... conflict the result. All that football can do is ensure that greed is kept in check, that rewards are fully justified.

WINGERS CAN BRING BACK THE THRILLS CLAIMS

Peter Barnes

It is ironical that when the chips were down in Oslo, Ron Greenwood should send on Peter Barnes in order to try and salvage something from the wreckage. Barnes a flamboyant and delicate artist is the winger Greenwood sacrificed for the sake of a more defensive minded player just before the European Championship Finals in the summer of 1980.

It is a cruel indictment on our current soccer strategy that since that time and despite some desperate performances not to mention results, Peter Barnes has been unable to re-establish himself as a first choice member of the international side. The plain truth being that defensive qualities and hard running are preferred to inspirational genius.

But no matter how disappointed he might feel, Peter still clings to his beliefs that there is a place in the modern game for out and out flank men.

"I think wingers are good for the game," he says with conviction. "When Ron Greenwood first took charge of the England team he played with two wide wingers and I think we were an entertaining side to watch. The boss wanted us to attack and I believe we showed enough promise to warrant us being kept together for two or three years.

"The trouble is the game has changed so much, even in the past three years. Managers now expect forwards to act as defenders even more so than they did in the past. It is because there is so much pressure on them not to lose and as a result the emphasis is on not giving goals away.

BORN

"It is a pity because the game needs opening out, we should play attacking football and give the public value for their money.

"There are very few players, and I do not just mean wingers, who are good on the ball, whereas years ago every team had ball players in their side. But as I say players who can run with the ball and do things with it are in very short supply in the modern game.

"I think it is all down to the way we develop our young players. You see I don't believe footballers are made I think really talented players are born with their assets, and as there is no reason why there should be less talented players born now than in the past the obvious conclusion must be that we are not handling the merchandise correctly when we get it. As I say gifted players are born and then develop their skills as kids in the parks. But you don't see many thirty-a-side games going on these days and that was as good a breeding ground as any.

"Playing football is an instinctive habit . . . You either want to be a defender or you want to be a forward. For my part I have always wanted to be a forward because I have always wanted to hold the ball and take people on, and I have never lost the thrill and feeling of excitement I experience when doing just that.

"Unfortunately today we do not have many players who want to commit themselves. Youngsters today seem to shun the responsibility of taking opponents

on. They want to pass the ball rather than do it themselves. They don't want to hold the ball like Glenn Hoddle or Graham Rix. . . players who are good on the ball and can take defenders out of the game with a little flash of magic.

SHORT SUPPLY

"I know it can be difficult especially at school when youngsters with a bit of ability are shouted at for trying to express themselves in this fashion, but they should never let taunts of 'greedy' or anything else upset them. The player who is accused of being greedy is always the one who is trying to do something different and more difficult . . . The player who picks the ball up and takes the easy way out with a square pass every time will never get shouted at . . . but then he never does anything different, he is predictable and unimaginative an artisan more than an artist.

"Those type of players are ten a penny. They keep it simple and play it safe with passes back or square. They make few mistakes and create even less but it is an attitude that prevails at the moment. It is sad and it must be changed or else English football will die.

"Wingers can bring back those thrilling times. We are good for the game and if you look at three of the most enterprising teams in the League last season you will notice that they all employed wingers. There was Tony Morley at Aston Villa, and they won the Championship. John Robertson at Nottingham Forest and myself at West Brom.

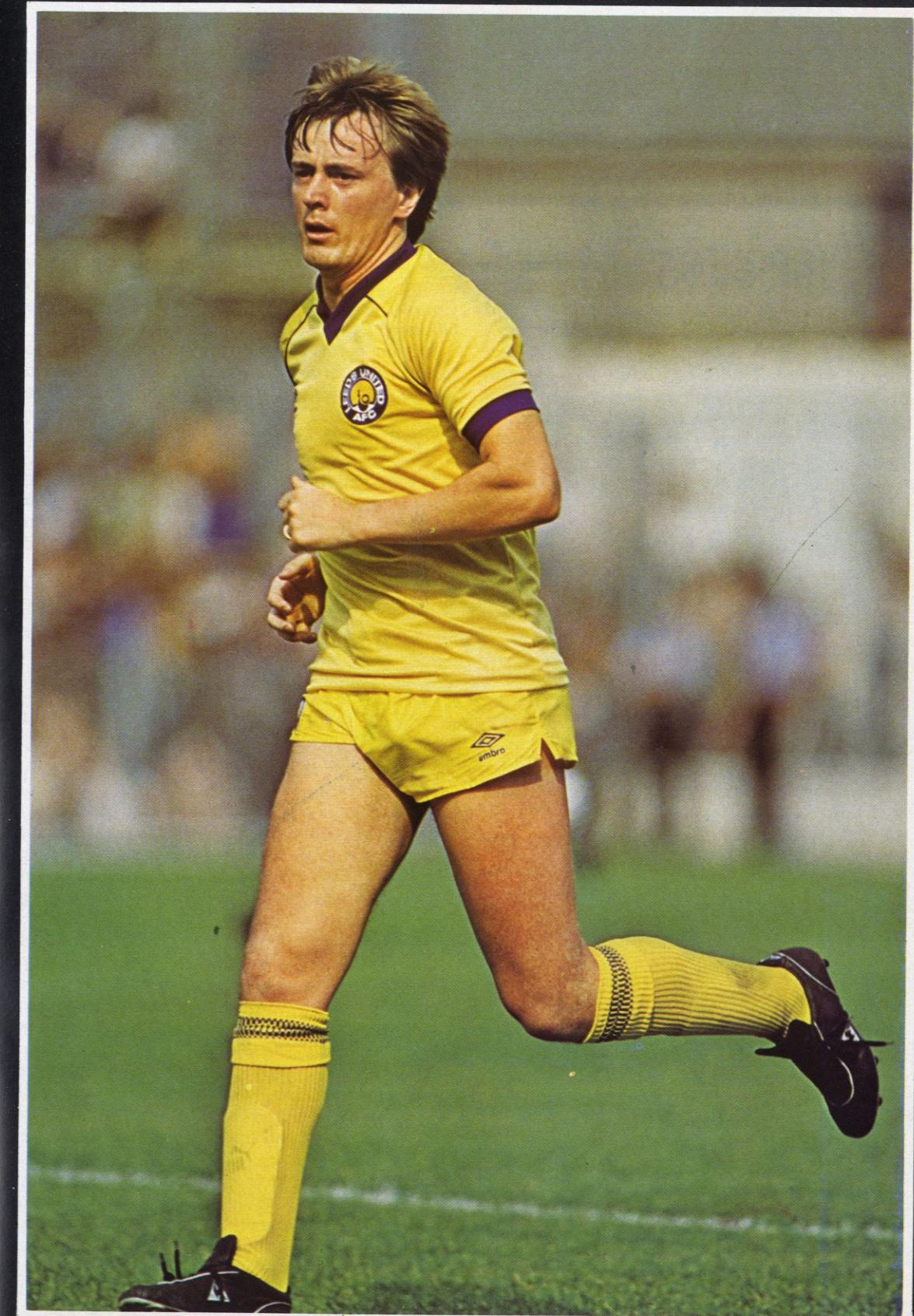
"But there aren't many of us around you know. I was talking to one of the greatest exponents of the art, Stanley Matthews, about a year ago and he told me that in his day it was considered a specialised position just like goalkeeping. And I agree that it is a specialised role because when you are out wide you see the game from a different angle.

"Under the present climate however kids are encouraged to be defenders or midfield players, the thinking is that attacks down the flanks can always be carried out by other players pushing forward into the space. That is true they can, but the quality is missing, they are not specialists in the art and the final cross is usually played from a deeper angle rather than the line and therefore is not such a telling ball.

"I mentioned before that kids have it drummed into them at schoolboy level that they must not hold onto the ball. The doctrine is that the ball is much easier to pass, it will move quicker if you pass it rather than keep it, hold it and take people on. Now such skills are a dying art in this country, it is very sad.

"Take a look at the Brazilians. They are so good on the ball and have so much confidence in their own ability. Even the defenders are happy on the ball and need only one touch to control it. But the English game is so quick and physically demanding over nine months of the year that we do not have time to work on skills.

"Skill is sacrificed for the sake of work rate and defensive duties, but now it is surely time to put the emphasis back on inventive play."



Famous Clubs

When Essex millionaire Anton Johnson went out and bought himself Rotherham United Football Club a couple of years ago, eyebrows were well and truly raised... What could a southerner want with a club whose history and image was far from glamourous and unlikely to change?

Even the clubs origin is shrouded in mystery. It is clear that in 1884 a junior club called Thornhill United was formed and played on the Red House Ground, but there are also records relating to a team called Rotherham F.C., who participated with the Sheffield Association as early as 1870, playing their games on the cricket ground.

But then Mr. Johnson is not concerned about the past, he is only interested in the future and making Rotherham United one of the big names of English football.

It can be done as Ipswich Town have proved, although in Rotherham's case the background is slightly different, the Millers having lived in the shadow of their two great Sheffield rivals, Wednesday and United for so long.

And yet they are beginning to show progress, sitting two divisions above Sheffield United at the commencement of this season, which in this highly partisan football territory is irrevocable evidence of the clubs revival.

But back to those early days and football at the grass roots level in the Sheffield and



Ronnie Moore — 23 goals last season.

Hallamshire leagues. Thornhill United acquitted themselves well and by 1905 it was decided to aim for bigger things, bearing in mind that Rotherham Town had played in Division Two of the Football League between 1893 and 1896, so why not try and emulate them one day.

Accordingly the club was given a new image. The name was changed to Rotherham County and they applied for election to the Midland League.

Within a few years they proved to be the best side around, winning the Midland League Championship on four consecutive occasions, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, while at the same time sweeping the board clean in all the local County cups and competitions.

It was not surprising then that the next step was to apply for Football League status, and in 1919, with twenty-eight votes, Rotherham County became one of four clubs elected to make up the extended Second Division.

Winning was not so easy in this higher grade of football and after four seasons relegation stared them in the face and it was down to Division 3 (N) together with Wolverhampton Wanderers.

After so many years of glory it was difficult to accept failure and the rot continued over the following two seasons, culminating in the clubs need to seek re-election in 1925.

NEAR MISS

The clubs officials recognised the need to review their situation and it was decided to amalgamate with the old Rotherham Town F.C. and call the new institution Rotherham United.

However very little altered on the field of play with only moderate results being achieved and in 1934 the club once more found itself in the vulnerable position of seeking re-election to the games premiere competitor.

Indeed Millers fans did not really have anything to shout about until after the war when upon the resumption of competitive football Rotherham began to make headway. Three times they finished second; to Doncaster in 1946-47, Lincoln the following season and Hull City in 1948-49, but with only the winners of the split third divisions gaining promotion their efforts went unrewarded.

Although favourites to make the jump next time out, Rotherham finished disappointingly in sixth position but by the end of the 1950-51

Rotherham United



season all that disillusionment melted into the euphoria of success which accompanied them into Division Two. With 71 points, Rotherham had clinched the Third Division (N) Championship in sensational style.

And even better was to follow. After finishing fifth in 1954, Rotherham were only goal average away from making it into the First Division in 1955 when Birmingham City, Luton Town and Rotherham were locked together on 54 points after completing the League programme.

WRONG MEDICINE

The Millers with 94 goals for, were two better than Birmingham, but at the back they had conceded 64 and that was enough to make them third best.

Rotherham carried on in the Second Division until 1968 when it was down to the Third Division. Ironically the steel town had experienced one of its most erratic phases just prior to this latest set back, when the Board appointed Tommy Docherty to take charge in December 1967.

Millmoor moved Docherty to remark: "Here money and the next contract are not the most important things in life." But Rotherham's year of Docherty — proved a very costly and eventful period with massive incentives offered to the players and many other expenses a club of their standing was not equipped to undertake.

By November 1968 Docherty had walked out of the Yorkshire side to take over at QPR. The suddenness of the resignation shocked the whole town who still remember Docherty's reign with a degree of nostalgia. Alas by the end of that season they were relegated.

The downward trend continued into the Fourth Division where they arrived in 1973, but within two seasons Rotherham were on the march again hauling themselves back into the Third Division in 1975 and last season clinching the Third Division title above Barnsley and Charlton Athletic.

Ian Porterfield was the guiding light in this new revolution, that was until he stepped down the road to Bramall Lane last summer. Now Anton Johnson has engaged Emlyn Hughes — a charming personality whose bubbling enthusiasm is contagious — to carry on the good work and hopefully achieve what the club so narrowly missed in 1955... promotion to the First Division.



Emlyn Hughes enjoying life as the boss...

ROTHERHAM ROLL OF HONOUR

Third Division Champions... 1980-81
Third Division (N) Champions 1950-51

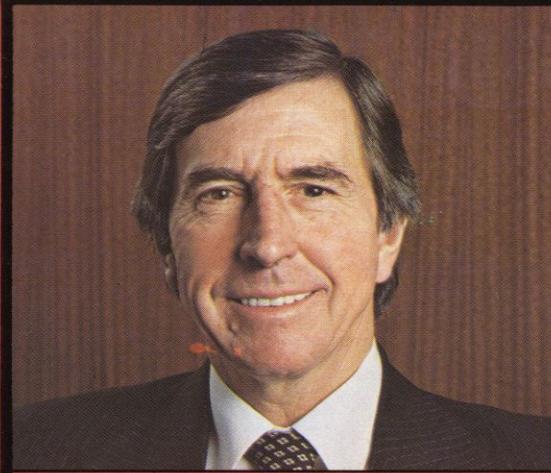
Managers Since the War

Reg Freeman, Andy Smailes, Tom Johnston, Danny Williams, Jack Mansell, Tommy Docherty, Jimmy McAnearney, Jimmy McGuigan, Ian Porterfield and Emlyn Hughes.

Year formed — 1884
Turned Professional — 1905
Previous names: 1884, Thornhill United; 1905, Rotherham County; 1925, Rotherham United.

Top League Scorers

(last five seasons)	
1976-77	Alan Crawford..... 23
1977-78	Richard Finney..... 13
1978-79	Trevor Phillips..... 14
1979-80	Richard Finney..... 11
1980-81	Ronnie Moore..... 23



Ted Croker

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION will have taken a positive step towards reshaping the whole management structure of Football League clubs if as expected, their members approve an FA Council resolution to permit one paid director per club, at the Extraordinary Meeting on November 19th.

Such a vote will of course reverse the decision taken at the FA's Annual meeting last May when members voted 281 to 159 in favour of the change, but failed to achieve the three-quarter majority required.

According to Ted Croker, the Association's Secretary, "there was obviously some mis-understanding at that meeting," and he maintains: "I don't think the true feelings of the League clubs' was made clear. It is now seen that League clubs' definitely want this and by tradition unless there is some very special reason why the Council should go against it — the views of those clubs; which are domestic to them almost — are taken note of very carefully."

It is not uncommon for clubs to get the wrong end of the stick when voting on crucial issues — history is full of similar happenings — and in this case the proposal undoubtedly failed to gain adequate support because of woolly thinking and inadequate research into the pros and cons.

Many smaller clubs just simply failed to see how it could benefit them or the game in general, others were against the principle for fear of losing their tradition... football has always been run by unpaid directors and maybe they felt their positions would be threatened. Others questioned whether the position of a paid managing director would attract the wrong sort of people into the sport, people concerned more with the rewards than a love for the game.

Suffice to say that the existing system does not guarantee immunity from such men and while the majority of directors associate themselves with the clubs for the right reasons there are those who join the band wagon on a personal ego trip.

It is not quite clear why professional directors have been frowned upon but it was probably a seemingly insatiable desire for more and more money by the professional player which prompted the FA in 1885 — when professionalism was legalised — to stipulate that:

No professional shall be allowed to serve on any Association committee or represent his own or any other club at any meeting of the Football Association.

This restrictive clause was later made more comprehensive, not because it was felt that players were more greedy than other folk but to keep the two facets of the game apart and ensure that players conformed to their undertaking as a footballer.

By 1903 it was realised that clubs' might benefit from the experience of former players, so the rule was amended by an addition:

When any person gives notice in writing to the secretary of this Association that he has ceased playing football, the Council may, if they think fit, exempt such a person from the operation of this rule.

Thus the first step forward was taken. A paid player could upon hanging up his boots take his place as a director or committee-man of a club, and so impart his knowledge to the game.

REVOLUTION

There followed a more significant change in 1949 when at the FA annual general meeting the Association agreed that, by its Rule 37,

COLIN BENSON LOOKS AT THE IMPLICATIONS OF

PAID DIRECTORS

the Council may exempt a professional player from any restriction, providing he gives written confirmation that he has ceased playing.

Since then many famous players have given invaluable service to clubs as members of the board, but as the game has developed clubs have suddenly mushroomed into big business, with turnovers counted in millions rather than hundreds. And with this expansion it has become increasingly apparent that the traditional part-time amateur administration that has remained the backbone of the sport for so long, is now outdated and ill equipped to handle commercial enterprises of that proportion.

That is why it is time to change... time to bring football into line with commerce, time to run football clubs on strict business principles, employing professional acumen instead of well meaning intentions.

One man elated by the development now under review is Fulham chairman Ernie Clay who enthuses: "If we get a paid director with the necessary qualifications then you will see an end to the ridiculous things that are happening in the game today. You have heard the rumours about managers getting this and that and some directors doing this and that. Well such things will not be allowed if there is a fellow who is a professional M.D. in charge.

"The sooner we can capitalise at clubs properly and get directors in who are prepared to invest their own money, the better it will be. The days have gone when the director turns up at 2.45 p.m., on a Saturday and leaves at 5.20 because the traffic is a little thinner. It's not an ego trip anymore, directors must put money into clubs... it is a serious business that is going down the nick."

I think Mr. Clay has been a little too caustic, ignoring the long hours and selfless work put in by many of his colleagues throughout

the four divisions, but what a professional director can do is orchestrate that effort and direct it into more purposeful channels.

Ted Croker describes the proposed legislation as "revolutionary" adding: "It is the first time clubs would be permitted to have paid directors and although it is limited to one director, as to whether that will be the forerunner of a future extension of the opportunity I don't know..."

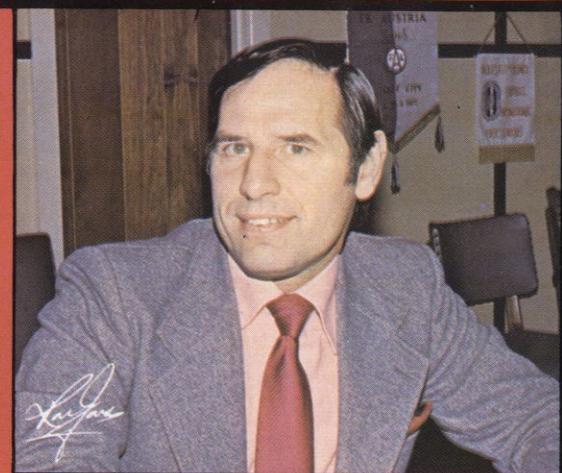
CARDIFF FIRST

That is certainly an interesting point. I must admit I find the whole concept absolutely absorbing and what is more envisage that the introduction of paid directors will have a far reaching and profound effect on the future of League football.

One major implication could be the eventual eclipse of the all powerful club manager. The trend in football management has been to place much of the control of the business in his hands and this will undoubtedly change at the clubs' where managing directors are employed. The manager in effect will be responsible only for playing matters and will accordingly gradually take on the mantle of his peers on the continent, becoming more the coach than the manager. In other words he will fulfill the job he is trained to do.

Such a deployment of labour has already been hinted at by Ron Jones, who by courtesy of the Welsh FA who have approved the principle, became the first paid director in British football when he was appointed Managing Director by Cardiff City, on September 22nd.

Ron chairs a management committee responsible for both the football and Rugby League clubs based at Ninian Park and explains that his promotion from General Manager to MD means that he will



Ron Jones — Britains first...

become much more involved on the footballing side.

Says the 46 year old former Q.P.R. secretary: "I was not involved before with transfer fees, players salaries and bonuses etc., that was the responsibility of the chairman and team manager. Now I shall work with the team manager to ensure that the best interests of the club are maintained.

"The formulating of contracts and setting of transfer fees will be under my jurisdiction and I shall also be exerting some influence on what happens on the playing side if I consider what transpires with the team is not in the best interests of the club.

"I would say my position is almost the same as the chairman had before, the difference being that the chairman is part-time and I am a full-time professional."

Ron Jones is qualified in business efficiency, time and motion study, productivity and personnel management and yet he believes that a prospective football club MD also needs a sporting background to enable him to overcome the inevitable resentment that will arise, from managers and secretaries.

As captain of Britain's Athletics team at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico, he has a good pedigree and says his management of Cardiff City will be "aggressive and dynamic and at the end of the day it will be dynamic management that will win."

STABILITY

He exclaims: "If you compare football administration with that in industry it is a joke! We have got to change, not only because of the financial implications but in order to regain credibility as a company.

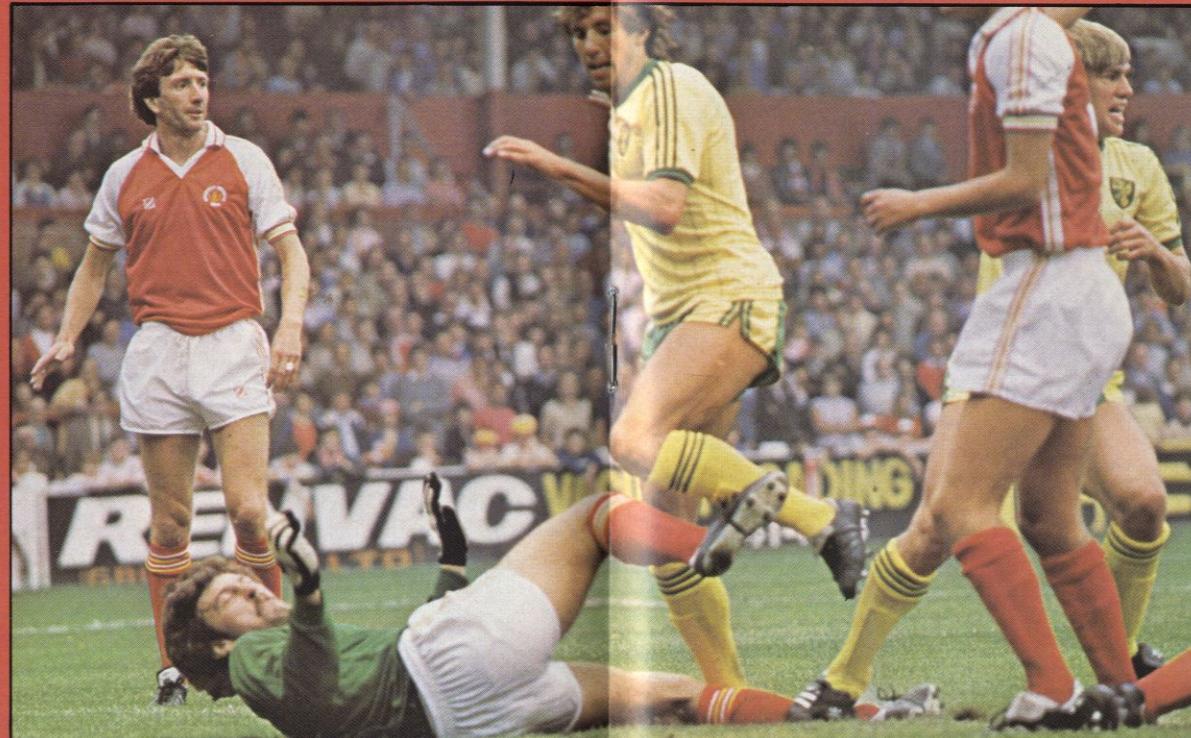
"We intend to administrate in football almost by default. We do not create, and this is the theme right the way through. Take commercial managers, they do an essential job but at most clubs they are just fund raisers, they have no managerial influence, no say as to where the money goes.

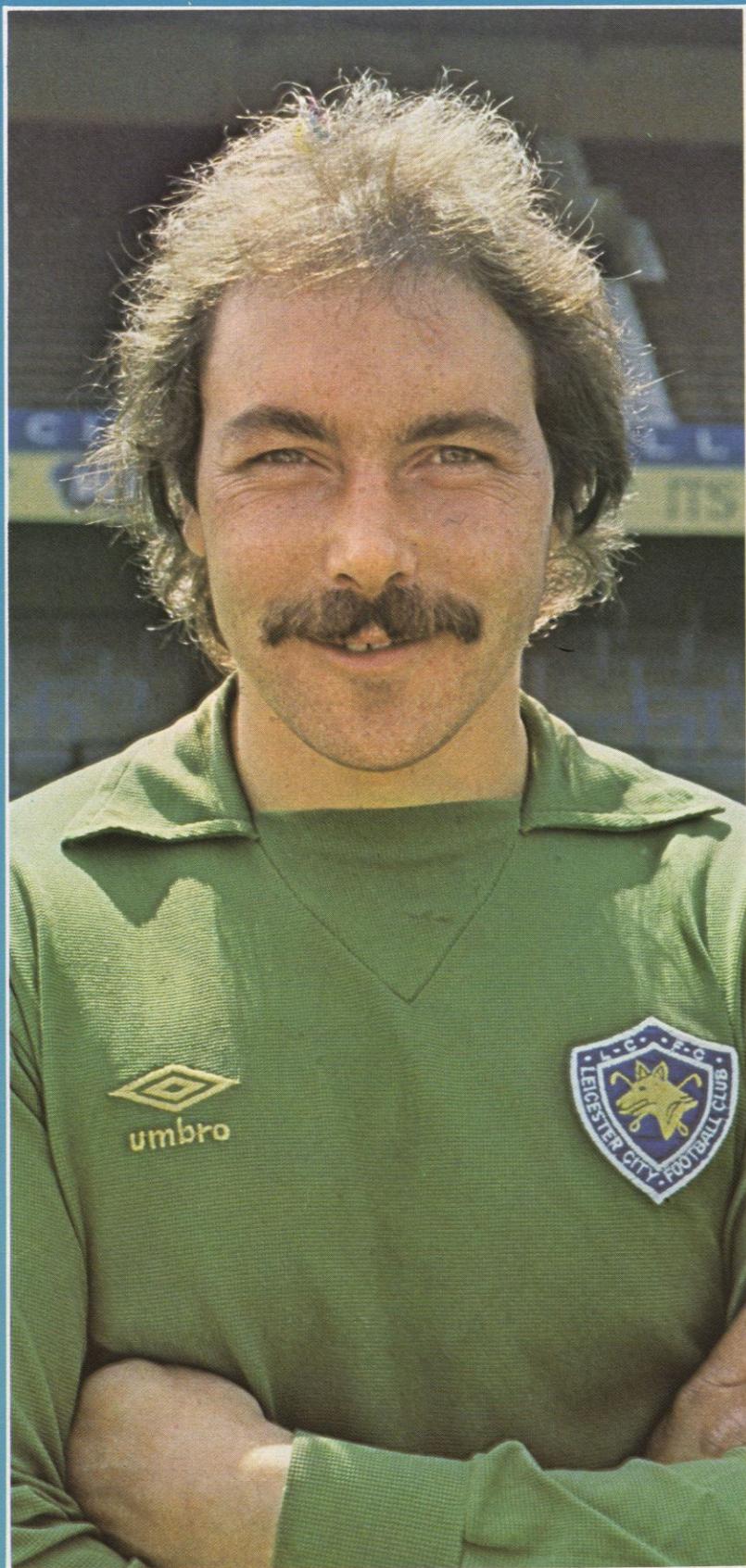
"And when it comes to recruiting staff football clubs are totally naive. If you had a vacancy in industry you would interview and vet ten or more candidates, that's not the case in this game. And yet for some of our staff we pay out enormous sums of money... under those circumstances we should know everything about that individual."

Mr. Jones believes emphatically that the new rule is a major step forward for soccer. He accepts that clubs like Manchester United and Liverpool might not need to employ a managing director because of their support and the practically full-time participation of their chairmen. But for the rest it is a necessity if they are to survive the crumbling economic situation we are experiencing.

To me it seems a logical answer to soccer's escalating predicament, to establish someone at the head who can take cognizance of all around him and then convert that knowledge into practical solutions. The current vogue of football management is old fashioned and archaic... to the detriment of the clubs themselves.

Of course there is still a fistful of imponderables to come. Yet providing clubs institute the scheme correctly, and that means engaging top managerial material and not using the position to reward long serving directors or managers they wish to boot upstairs — it should provide the kind of stability needed by any business venture that is to prove successful. "Abuse it and they could find themselves in the Fourth Division" warns Ron Jones... and you know he has a point there.





STAR TALK

MARK WALLINGTON

Football at the highest level is currently under the hammer from all quarters. Failure on the international front, plus falling gates has led to the inevitable pessimistic view that the game is doomed unless clubs provide brighter attacking football with more goals to attract the fans.

As a goalkeeper, whose job it is to prevent those goals, I do not subscribe to the theory that goals are the complete answer to soccer's ills. I agree absolutely that supporters come to see their team score, but there is far more to the game than just that final product and I maintain that people can be entertained by football without goals.

Only the other week I had this self same argument with a chap who insisted that he would much rather see a 4-3 scoring line in a game than a 1-0 result. Well it obviously sounds a better game but as you well know, a high score does not necessarily guarantee quality and you can see games which finish 0-0 and yet have been tremendously exciting.

The fans want to see goals all right! But I am sure that the majority of them also appreciate quality defensive play and they want to see their team perform well and professionally.

Good teams are built up on solid foundations. They are built around four key players who form the backbone of the side. They have a good goalkeeper, a commanding central defender, an influential midfield general and a striker to lead them up front.

Those are the four basic ingredients needed for a successful combination, and the building starts from the back... I think there is only Brazil and maybe the old Hungarian team who have proved that theory wrong in the past thirty years.

You must have a good defence it is essential. And sound defences do not mean dour negative football. They need not detract from the entertainment value of a game at all, in fact they can contribute to the thrills.

There is nothing like a centrehalf getting up to make a crucial challenge in the penalty area... that is as good value as watching a centreforward head firmly towards goal. To me a defender really powering the ball away and looking a class player is great, it is drama in its most invigorating form and I believe the fans appreciate these qualities as well.

It has been levelled at us that forwards are not shooting as often these days, probably because defences are so efficient. I disagree. I would think it is more the accuracy of the shooting which is at fault than the volume. Although it is funny, if you look at the scores this season they seem to reflect a better goal return. I have certainly been surprised by the number of four goal scorelines there have been... Whether it is anything to do with the new points structure I do not know, but the trend has been evident through all the divisions.

WORLD CUP '82 THE ROAD TO SPAIN



Colin Benson continues his revue of the qualifying groups in which Commonwealth countries seem well set to make soccer history by joining the final 24 nations who will make up the largest World Cup Final tournament ever.

North and Central America (CONCACAF)

Northern Zone —

Results: Canada 1, Mexico 1, — USA 0, Canada 0 — Canada 2, USA 1 — Mexico 5, USA 1 — Mexico 1, Canada 1 — USA 2, Mexico 1.

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Canada	4	1	3	0	4	3	5
Mexico	4	1	2	1	8	5	4
USA	4	1	1	2	4	8	3

America had high hopes of topping this group following their successful European tour last year in which they just narrowly lost 1-0 to England's "B" team. However they managed just one point from their opening three games and so step aside to let Canada and Mexico battle it out in the CONCACAF play-off tournament. Both these teams have the potential to qualify for Spain and if they do it will be a first Final series for Canada.

Central Zone

Results: Panama 0, Guatemala 2 — Panama 0, Honduras 2 — Panama 1, Costa Rica 1 — Panama 1, El Salvador 3 — Costa Rica 2, Honduras 3 — El Salvador 4, Panama 1 — Guatemala 0, Costa Rica 0, — Honduras 2, El Salvador 0 — Honduras 0, Guatemala 0 — El Salvador 2, Costa Rica 0 — (result awarded because Costa Rica refused to play in El Salvador) — Costa Rica 2, Panama 0 — Guatemala 0, El Salvador 0 — Guatemala 5, Panama 0 — Honduras, 1, Costa Rica 1 — El Salvador 2, Honduras 1 — Costa Rica 0, Guatemala 3 — Guatemala 0, Honduras 1 — Costa Rica 0, El Salvador 0 — Honduras 5, Panama 0 — El Salvador 1, Guatemala 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Honduras	8	5	2	1	15	5	12
El Salvador	8	5	2	1	12	5	12
Guatemala	8	3	3	2	10	2	9
Costa Rica	8	1	4	3	6	10	6
Panama	8	0	1	7	3	24	1

Honduras and El Salvador reached the play-offs having each lost only one of their eight fixtures. Politics intervened in this group when Costa Rica refused to play in El Salvador but the award of the points to El Salvador made no significant difference to the final table.

Caribbean Zone

Results: Group A: Cuba 3, Surinam 0 — Surinam 0, Cuba 0 — Guyana 0, Surinam 1 — Surinam 4; Guyana 0 — Cuba 1, Guyana 0 — Guyana 0, Cuba 3.

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cuba	4	3	1	1	7	0	7
Surinam	4	2	1	1	5	3	5
Guyana	4	0	0	4	0	9	0

Cuba and Haiti qualified for the play-offs and Haiti will be one of the firm favourites. They reached the Finals in West Germany in 1974 and gave Italy a nasty fright in that tournament before eventually losing 3-1.

ASIA and OCEANIA

Group 1

Results: New Zealand 3, Australia 3 — Fiji 0, New Zealand 4 — Taiwan 0, N. Zealand 0 — Indonesia 0, N. Zealand 2 — Australia 0, N. Zealand 2 — Australia 2, Indonesia 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New Zealand	8	6	2	0	31	3	14
Australia	8	4	2	2	22	9	10
Indonesia	8	2	2	4	5	14	6
Taiwan	8	1	3	4	5	8	5
Fiji	8	1	3	4	6	35	5

New Zealand shattered Australia's World Cup aspirations (2-0

away and 3-3 at home) and swept aside the challenge of the remaining contenders to finish with an astonishing record-breaking World Cup result — a 13-0 thrashing of Fiji and so clinch the group. The Kiwi success has fired the public's imagination back home and they must now be considered as serious contenders for a trip to Spain.

Group 2

Results: — All matches played in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Iraq 1, Qatar 0 — Syria 0, Bahrain 1 — Iraq 0, Saudi Arabia 1 — Bahrain 0, Qatar 3 — Syria 0, S. Arabia 2 — Iraq 2, Bahrain 0 — Syria 1, Qatar 2 — Bahrain 0, S. Arabia 1 — Iraq 2, Syria 1 — Qatar 0, S. Arabia 1.

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
S. Arabia	4	4	0	0	5	0	8
Iraq	4	3	0	1	5	2	6
Qatar	4	2	0	2	5	3	4
Bahrain	4	1	0	3	1	6	2
Syria	4	0	0	4	2	7	0

Saudi Arabia certainly made home advantage count, winning all four games without conceding a single goal — and yet scoring only five times themselves!

Group 3

Results — All matches played in Kuwait. Malaysia 1, S. Korea 2 — Kuwait 6, Thailand 0 — Thailand 1, S. Korea 5 — Kuwait 4, Malaysia 0 — Thailand 2, Malaysia 2 — Kuwait 2, S. Korea 0.

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kuwait	3	3	0	0	12	0	6
S. Korea	3	2	0	1	7	4	4
Malaysia	3	0	1	2	3	8	1
Thailand	3	0	1	2	3	13	1

This group was fought out between Kuwait and South Korea with the home side again making full use of their environment to clinch the series in the final game with a 2-0 win over South Korea. Even so Kuwait's return of 12 goals for and none against in three games was impressive.

Group 4

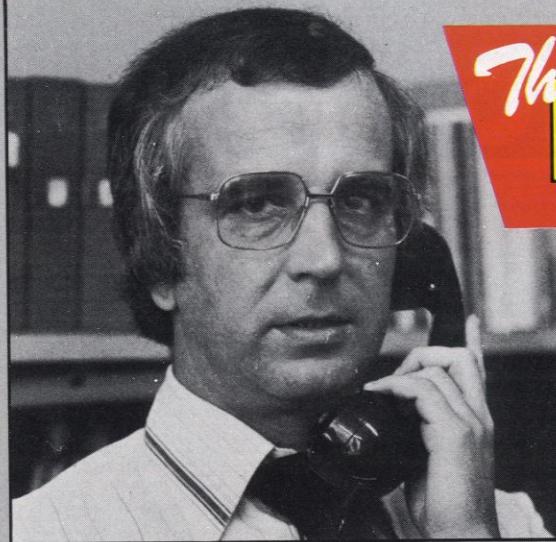
Results — All matches played in Hong Kong. 1st rnd: Hong Kong 0 China 1 — Singapore 0, Japan 1 — N. Korea 3, Macao 0 — Hong Kong 1, Singapore 1 — China 3, Macao 0 — N. Korea 1, Singapore 0 — China 1, Japan 0 — Japan 3, Macao 0 — N. Korea 2, Hong Kong 2. Semi-Finals: N. Korea 1, Japan 0 (after extra time) — China 0, Hong Kong 0, (aet — China 5-4 pens). Final: China 4, N. Korea 2 (aet).

China thus became the first team to qualify for the Asia/Oceania play-offs.

China romped through to the semi-final of this group without conceding a goal, beating Hong Kong 1-0, Macao 3-0 and Japan 1-0. They met Hong Kong again in the semi-final and there was no score after extra-time, but China won through 5-4 on penalties. The final against North Korea was also a close game with extra time needed before China emerged as the first team to qualify for the Asia-Oceania play-offs.

The CONCACAF group is now whittled down to six teams; Canada, Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador, Cuba and Haiti from which two will qualify for the Finals in Spain. Canada would seem to have a great chance with their strongest challenge coming from Mexico and Haiti.

New Zealand's battling part-timers meanwhile have to take on Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and China in the play-offs of the Asia Oceania groups. Only one team makes it to Spain from this group and the Kiwis greatest threat is posed by China, a nation quickly emerging in the international arena.



The PAUL PARISH page

A Personal Occupation For Jimmy Frizzell

IT'S not easy being Oldham Athletic. Manchester, and the giants at City and United lie, literally, just around the corner.

The mighty motorways that circumnavigate Manchester's centre can sweep you from the old mill town of Oldham to Maine Road or Old Trafford in a ridiculously short time. Such attractions on your own doorstep you can do without.

But Oldham Athletic survive — and have survived since they first introduced professional Kenny Clements



football to the town at the tail end of the 19th century. They have learned to live in the shadows of their illustrious neighbours and under the shrewd Scottish management of Jimmy Frizzell have become an established Second Division side.

Frizzell has been at the club for 21 years — ever since Oldham paid Greenock Morton £3,500 for his inside forward services in 1960.

Ten years later he was manager — after a four month period as the caretaker boss at Boundary Park.

He is one of soccer's humorists. As down to earth as Oldham itself. But in the world of long knives and soccer management Frizzell has proved to be a survivor.

Only Bobby Robson of Ipswich has been in office longer in the Football League. It speaks volumes for Frizzell . . . and the club.

Recently I saw some beautiful quotes attributed to Frizzell that are worth repeating in a football world where humour is generally an also-ran.

"When I was given the job", he says, "Oldham were probably the only club in the Football League who wanted me to be their manager.

"In the early days I did my share of everything. I even helped to paint the place."

And he adds, with a touch of pride: "We can now afford people to help out. But, to me, it is still a very personal occupation."

Frizzell has every right to be proud. Oldham were desperately close to being down and out when the management job was offered to him.

His immediate task was to ensure that Oldham escaped the ignominy of applying for re-election. That achieved, he set about building the club into something a bit extra.

Twelve months later Oldham were celebrating their promotion to the Third Division and an era of success began. In 1974 The Latics won promotion again as Third Division champions, and they have stayed in Division Two since.

Clearly it hasn't been easy. By virtue of their geographical location Oldham will inevitably find it hard to compete with their mighty neighbours. It might be argued, with some logic, that it takes a good manager to achieve that kind of record.

With average gates last season of less than 10,000 Oldham are not blessed with the

enormous money to spend on the transfer market. Frizzell, and men like him, really have to manage.

They must decide who, and when to sell. They must decide who are the players available who can produce the results . . . and not cost too much!

Leading strikers Alan Young (to Leicester) and Simon Stainrod (to Queens Park Rangers) have been notable departures in recent seasons.

To replace them Oldham have had to shop carefully around the transfer market and also institute a highly promising youth scheme. That, in itself, isn't easy with the super-efficient scouting systems being adopted by the top First Division sides in the area.

Take a look at Oldham's current playing staff and there is a subtle mixture of home produced talent and good bargain buys.

Former Manchester City defender Kenny Clements, at £200,000 is the Oldham record buy and there does seem a certain affinity between Boundary Park and former Maine Road players.

Paul Fitcher joined for £150,000, Ged Keegan, an industrious midfield player, moved in for £25,000, Roger Palmer cost £70,000 — all from Manchester City.

Powerful striker Roger Wylde came from Sheffield Wednesday for £75,000 and goalkeeper Peter McDonnell decided to emerge from Ray Clemence's shadow in an £18,000 move from Liverpool.

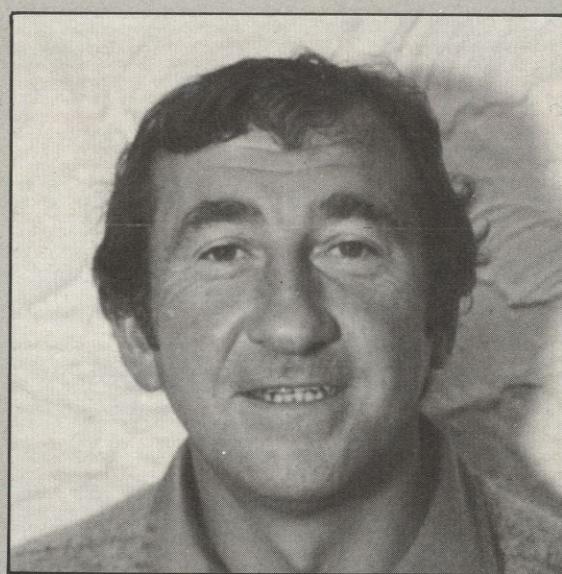
For little more than £half million Frizzell has brought together the nucleus of his side.

A look at the rest of the squad shows the strides that Oldham have taken towards youth development and a tight scouting system.

Gary Hoolickin, Mark Cooper, Darren McDonough, Paul Heaton, Paul Atkinson, Jim Steel, Martin Nuttall, John Ryan . . . and the list goes on. These are the Oldham youngsters upon whom the future operations must depend.

They can either bring success as a team or become valuable assets in the transfer market. Survival for the Oldhams of this mercenary world depend upon it.

The Manchester City connection goes deeper, in fact, than the playing staff. Bill Taylor, the



Jimmy Frizzell

assistant team manager and chief coach at Boundary Park is another to have arrived from Maine Road.

Taylor is respected as one of England's leading coaches . . . even though he is a Scot! Under Don Revie and now Ron Greenwood, Taylor has been a key figure in England's international set up for a number of years.

Teams like Oldham, in the Manchester area, Orient, in London, Walsall, in Birmingham, and Tranmere on Merseyside, are always faced with problems.

But it's as well to remember that there would be no Football League without them. Despite the hiccups on the international front the Football League remains envied throughout the world and sides like Oldham are the forgotten members of the organisation.

Back in 1915 Oldham finished runners-up in the Football League First Division. In the current economic climate it is going to be increasingly difficult for them ever to emulate that sort of achievement. But Notts County proved last year what can be achieved and Jimmy Frizzell and his men wouldn't mind following in their footsteps.

**READ WHAT
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...the Stars

junior Q&A

If you have read this issue of 'Centrespot' then the following questions should be quite easy to answer.

1. Who did Arsenal beat 2-0 in the first round of the UEFA Cup?
2. Which two Commonwealth countries have qualified for the play-offs of the Concacaf and Asia Oceania groups in the World Cup?
3. Who was Rotherham's leading League scorer last season?
4. Name Leicester City's goalkeeper?
5. Who is the assistant team manager at Oldham?
6. Which League clubs has Peter Barnes played for?
7. New Zealand set up a World Cup scoring record. What was the score and who did they defeat?
8. What is the nickname of Rotherham United?
9. Jimmy Frizzell joined Oldham from which club?
10. Bertie Mee managed which club?

Match the Face

The jumbled pictures make up the faces of two First Division Stars, one a defender the other a forward. Who are they?

1. Panathinaikos, 2. Canada and New Zealand, 3. Ronnie Moore, 4. Mark Wallington, 5. Bill Taylor, 6. Man. City, 7. Leeds Utd, 8. Fiji, 9. The Mersey Millers, 10. Arsenal.
 NAME THE STARS — Alan Sunders and Cyril Regis
 MATCH THE FACE — Billy Bonds & Dennis Tuerat

JUNIOR QUIZ ANSWERS

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FUN SPOT



SECOND DIVISION ROUND-UP

with Alan Hardy

World Cup qualifier against Scotland, they are Mal Donaghy (Luton); Tom Finney (Cambridge); Gerry McElhinney (Bolton); Gerry Armstrong (Watford) and Monty Brotherton (Blackburn).

Q.P.R.'s artificial pitch was the subject of some criticism again last week when the T.V. cameras paid their first visit to Loftus Road for their game against Blackburn. The problems to be seen were that players found it difficult to keep their feet when turning suddenly and the high bounce of the ball when it was played long down the middle. Obviously visiting teams to Loftus Road must certainly adjust their game to the conditions very quickly so as not to fall to Q.P.R.'s unoubted skills.

Neighbours Bolton have Trevor Hebborn on a month's loan from Southampton with the possibility of a permanent move if he impresses manager George Mulhall.

Shock of the day last Saturday was the 3-0 home defeat of 2nd Division leaders Sheffield Wednesday, by bottom club Wrexham and this on the day when Wednesday's Manager Jack Charlton was declared the 2nd Division Manager of the month for September, what a way to celebrate. But there could not have been any finer win than Athletic's excellent 2-1 result at third placed Norwich City and that's taking into account Newcastle's 4-0 success at Cardiff, (Imri Varadi scoring a hat-trick) and Luton's 3-0 win at Orient, a result that puts today's visitors at the top of the League table. Luton have won all their 4 away games so far this season so today's game against Athletic who are the only unbeaten team in the League has the hallmark of a classic.

Whilst on the subject of goals — I was, wasn't I? Athletic's Roger Palmer still heads the 2nd Division list of goalscorers with 6 goals along with Ross Jack who scored from the penalty spot against Athletic for Norwich last Saturday.

1958/59

V. York (Saturday)	8,400
V. Coventry (Tuesday)	6,921
V. Aldershot (Saturday)	6,587
V. Exeter (Monday)	5,139
V. Walsall (Saturday)	6,129
Total Attendances	33,176
Average Attendance	6,635

1959/60

V. Bradford (Saturday)	9,100
V. Crystal Pal. (Monday)	8,224
V. Exeter (Saturday)	9,720
V. Hartlepool (Tuesday)	5,697
V. Carlisle (Saturday)	5,956
Total Attendances	38,697
Average Attendance	7,739

1981/82

V. Cardiff (Saturday)	4,374
V. Shrewsbury (Saturday)	3,994
V. Bolton (Tuesday)	4,779
V. Q.P.R. (Tuesday)	6,421
V. Cambridge (Saturday)	4,548
Total Attendances	24,116
Average Attendance	4,823

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Around and about Boundary Park



with
ELTON
WELSBY



Granada Television

Inevitably since the tragic death of Bill Shankly, stories about the great man are being told wherever football people get together.

Tommy Docherty, who succeeded Shanks as Preston's wing half in 1948, told me about Lou Macari's first meeting with Bill, who wanted to sign the little Scot from Celtic.

The two of them were driving through Liverpool, somewhere near the city centre, but unable to pinpoint their exact location because of thick fog. Shanks took the time to 'brainwash' Macari.

Half an hour later totally lost, Lou was told he would be joining the greatest club in the world which had the best players, the best pitch and of course the best supporters. Shanks always talked of supporters

and believed no-one could ever resist the temptation of playing in front of the Kop for Liverpool.

"They're unique", he growled, "with a tremendous sense of humour". At that moment he wound his window down, leaned out and asked a passer-by where they were. Back came the reply, in a deep Scouse accent: "Liverpool". And he walked off. Shanks turned to Macari and said: "What did I tell you, the greatest comedians in the world?"

Shanks was a terrible driver, something which Emlyn Hughes was quick to appreciate, "I had only just signed for Liverpool from Blackpool" said Emlyn, "the boss and I were driving along and within five minutes we had had a crash and been stopped by the police! The crash was only a minor thing, but Shanks blamed the other driver, saying it was his fault. Needless to say, it wasn't".

Then he got stopped by a policeman for having a broken light. He immediately went onto the offensive. "Do you know who this is?", said Shanks pointing to me. "No", said the policeman. That was really too much for Shanks, who couldn't believe that this bloke was unable to recognise the "future captain of England", as he put it. That put him in a bad mood for the rest of the day. It was far more serious than getting his car damaged.

I first met Shanks twelve years ago, when, as a junior reporter for the Liverpool Weekly News, I was assigned to do a feature at Anfield. I

met up with Bill at Melwood, the club's training ground. It was a nervewracking experience, of which he was well aware. "Do you drive a motor car, son?", "No, I replied". "Then come with me". And off we went to Anfield for a day that I shall never forget.

Some years later I was in Belgium commentating for Merseyside's Radio City on the second stage of the U.E.F.A. Cup Final between Liverpool and Bruges and Liverpool, who were leading 3-2 from the first leg at Anfield, Bruges scored to level the score on aggregate. Shanks talked for about three minutes on every aspect of the goal. Shortly afterwards Kevin Keegan equalised from a free kick. Naturally Shanks was delighted and judging by past experience I worked out he would be talking about the goal for about five minutes, in which time I would be able to have a drink and a breather. I passed him the mike. "Game over", he declared and handed the mike back. A mouthful of Coke went down the wrong way and I nearly choked. He was right, of course. Liverpool proceeded to close the game down and in the end coasted to an overall victory.

On the way out of the ground he spoke to two Liverpool fans who had no money for the journey back to Merseyside. They seemed genuine enough, so Shanks promptly dipped into his pocket and handed them fifty pounds. He was no ordinary man.

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HATTERS JOIN HAMMERS AS AWARD WINNERS £1,000 PEP FOR BRISTOL ROVERS AND BRADFORD CITY

Luton Town finally emerged from the pack as the winners of the Pepsi II Award for August/September. As Manager, John Pleat, commented: "After the launch of Pepsi Golden Goals, I told my players to aim for EVERY monthly award — and they've made the right start".

John Lyall, Manager of West Ham, who pipped Ipswich for the first Pepsi I Award, said: "The money is being awarded for the right reason — goals. Goals mean brighter football and more supporters".

The closest finish came in Pepsi III where Bristol Rovers edged Newport out of the top spot by just one point. The £1,000 award will be a welcome pep for Terry Cooper's team.

Despite Blackpool's storming 7-goal finish to the month, Bradford City won the Pepsi IV Award by a clear six points. And their golden striker, Bob Campbell is on target not only for the end-of-season £1,000 divisional goalscorer's award, but also

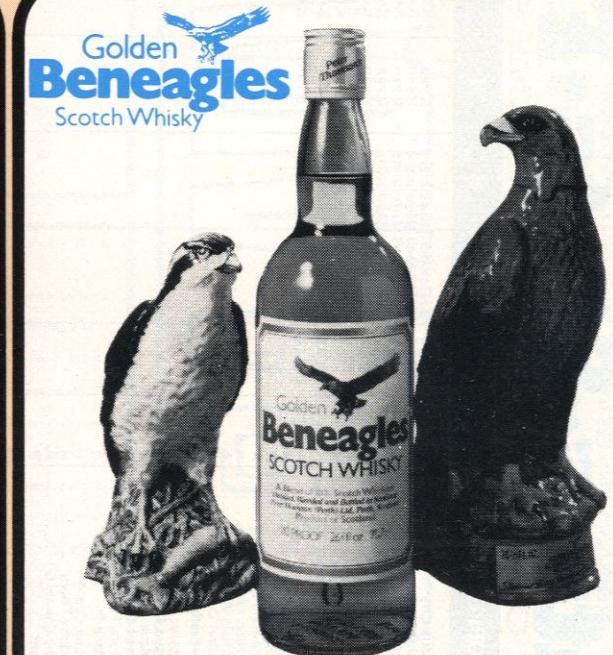
for the £5,000 bonus to any player who scores 35 League goals or more in the season. Manager Roy McFarland considered Pepsi Golden Goals to be "a great idea and a superb incentive for teams in the lower divisions who usually miss out on awards".

DIVISION II

Team	P	H	A	Bns	Total
Luton T.	7	9	12	6	27
Q.P.R.	7	5	10	6	21
Derby C.	7	7	8	6	21
Norwich C.	7	4	14	3	21
Barnsley	7	8	4	6	18
Cardiff C.	6	2	12	3	17
Watford	7	2	12	3	17
Sheff. Wed.	7	4	10	3	17
Blackburn	7	3	10	3	16
Leicester C.	7	3	12	0	15
Chelsea	7	7	8	0	15
Shrewsbury	7	6	4	3	13
Grimsby T.	7	5	8	0	13
OLDHAM	6	7	6	0	13
Cambridge	7	6	2	3	11
Rotherham	7	8	0	3	11
Charlton A.	6	4	4	0	8
Bolton W.	7	2	4	0	6
Newcastle	7	4	2	0	6
Orient	7	1	4	0	5
Crystal P.	7	5	0	0	5
Wrexham	6	4	0	0	4

MOONRAKER'S FIRST £4,000 DRAW WILL GO OFF WITH A BANG

The Big Night is fast approaching, the night when we hold our first draw for a BRAND NEW MINI METRO or £4,000 in cash, the first prize in our 50p Super Moonraker Lottery. The night is fixed for November 4th and to coincide with the draw we are having a Giant Bonfire and Fireworks display on the car park at the rear of the Ford Stand, with roasting Ox, potato pie, tea, coffee and for the over 18's a bar. There will also be music and Athletic players will be there. The bonfire will be lit at 7.30 p.m., tickets are available from the souvenir shop price £1 adults, 50p children. All moonraker lottery agents are entitled to claim two free tickets for admission and refreshments for this memorable night. There is sure to be a big demand for these tickets so don't leave it too late — buy yours now.



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Latics-Stats-Facts & Figures

DATE	OPPONENTS	RESULT	ATT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Aug. 29	Cardiff City	H D2-2	4374	McDonnell	Sinclair+	Ryan	Keegan	CLEMENTS	Futcher	Wylde	Atkinson	Steel	PALMER	McDonough	Heaton
Sept. 1	Bolton Wanderers FLC 1	A L1-2	5156	McDonnell	Hoolickin	Ryan	Keegan	McDonough	Futcher	Wylde	Atkinson	Steel	PALMER	Heaton	Nuttall
Sept. 5	Watford	A D1-1	9018	McDonnell	Hoolickin	Ryan	Keegan	Clements	Futcher	Wylde+	Atkinson	Steel	PALMER	Heaton	McDonough
Sept. 12	Shrewsbury Town	H D1-1	3994	McDonnell	Hoolickin	Ryan	Keegan	Clements	Futcher	Heaton+	Atkinson	Steel	PALMER	McDonough	Nuttall
Sept. 15	Bolton Wanderers FLC 1 (2L)	H W4-2	4779	McDonnell	Hoolickin	Ryan	Keegan	Clements	Futcher	WYLDE	Atkinson	Steel	PALMER	McDonough	HEATON
Sept. 19	Bolton Wanderers	A W2-0	7222	McDonnell	Hoolickin	Ryan	Keegan	Clements	Futcher	HEATON	Atkinson	Steel	PALMER	McDonough	Nuttall
Sept. 22	Queens Park Rangers	H W2-0	6421	McDonnell	Hoolickin	Ryan	Keegan	Clements	Futcher	Heaton	Atkinson	Steel	PALMER	McDonough	Nuttall
Sept. 26	Cambridge United	H W2-0	4548	McDonnell	Sinclair	Ryan	Keegan	Hoolickin	Futcher	WYLDE	Atkinson	Steel	PALMER	McDonough	Nuttall
Oct. 3	Norwich City	A W2-1	13610	McDonnell	Sinclair	Ryan	Keegan	Futcher	Wylde	HEATON	Atkinson	Steel	PALMER	McDonough	Atkinson
Oct. 6	Newport County FLC 2 (1L)	H													
Oct. 10	Luton Town	A													
Oct. 17	Rotherham United	A													
Oct. 20	Charlton Athletic	A													
Oct. 24	Sheffield Wednesday	A													
Oct. 27	Newport County FLC 2 (2L)	A													
Oct. 31	Newcastle United	H													
Nov. 7	Barnsley	A													
Nov. 11	League Cup 3	H													
Nov. 14	Chelsea	H													
Nov. 21	Crystal Palace (1)	H													
Nov. 24	Queens Park Rangers	A													
Nov. 28	Wrexham	A													
Dec. 2	League Cup 4	H													
Dec. 5	Grimsby Town	H													
Dec. 12	Derby County (2)	A													
Dec. 19	Orient	H													
Dec. 26	Blackburn Rovers	A													
Dec. 28	Leicester City	H													
1982															
Jan. 2	F.A. Cup 3														
Jan. 9	Watford	H													
Jan. 13	League Cup 5														
Jan. 16	Cardiff City	A													
Jan. 23	F.A. Cup 4														
Jan. 30	Bolton Wanderers	H													
Feb. 3	League Cup SF 1														
Feb. 6	Shrewsbury Town	A													
Feb. 10	League Cup SF 2														
Feb. 13	Norwich City (5)	H													
Feb. 20	Cambridge United														
Feb. 27	Luton Town	A													
Mar. 6	Rotherham United (6)	H													
Mar. 13	Sheffield W. (LCF)	H													
Mar. 20	Newcastle United	A													
Mar. 27	Barnsley	H													
April 3	Chelsea (SF)	A													
April 9	Blackburn Rovers	H													
April 12	Leicester City	A													
April 13	Crystal Palace	A													
April 17	Wrexham	H													
May 1	Grimsby Town	A													
May 4	Charlton Athletic	H													
May 8	Derby County	H													
May 15	Orient	A													
May 22	F.A. Cup Final	A													

HOME FIXTURES IN CAPITALS • Latics score first • Name in CAPITALS — Scorer • 'Figure — No. of Goals • + Denotes substituted player • *Own Goal

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION 2

DIVISION TWO

(Up to and including 3rd October 1981)

	Home	Away	Home	Away	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Luton	8	2	0	2	9	7	4	0	0	9	3	18				
Sheffield W.	8	2	1	1	4	4	3	0	1	5	1	16				
Watford	8	2	1	1	5	4	3	0	1	6	5	16				
OLDHAM	7	2	2	0	7	3	2	1	0	5	2	15				
Chelsea	8	2	1	1	7	6	2	0	2	4	3	13				
Grimsby	8	1	2	5	6	3	0	1	6	4	13					
Norwich	8	2	1	1	5	4	2	0	2	7	9	13				
Shrewsbury	8	3	0	1	8	4	1	1	2	2	7	13				
Q.P.R.	8	3	0	1	7	2	1	0	3	5	8	12				
Newcastle	8	3	0	1	4	1	1	0	3	5	6	12				
Leicester	8	2	1	1	4	3	1	2	1	6	6	12				
Blackburn	8	2	0	2	3	3	2	0	2	5	6	12				
Barnsley	8	3	0	1	8	1	0	1	3	3	7	10				
Crystal P.	8	3	0	1	5	2	0	1	3	1	4	10				
Rotherham	8	3	1	0	8	2	0	0	4	1	8	10				
Charlton	7	3	0	0	6	1	0	1	3	2	8	10				
Derby Co.	8	2	0	2	7	6	1	1	2	5	8	10				
Cambridge	8	3	0	1	7	3	0	0	4	1	6	9				
Wrexham	7	1	0	3	4	7	1	1	1	3	1	7				
Cardiff	7	0	0	3	2	9	2	1	1	6	5	7				
Bolton	8	1	0	3	3	6	1	0	3	2	7	6				
Orient	8	0	1	3	1	7	1	0	3	2	5	4				

LEAGUE APPEARANCES AND GOALSCORERS 1981-82

Name	League Appearances	League Goals Scored
Atkinson P.G.	5+1 (sub)	
Clements K.H.	5	1
Futcher P.	7	
Heaton P.J.	6+1 (sub)	3
Hoolickin G.J.	6	
Keegan G.A.	7	
McDonnell P.A.	7	
McDonough D.K.	6+1 (sub)	1
Nuttall M.	4 (sub)	
Palmer R.N.	7	4
Ryan J.B.	7	
Sinclair N.J.T.	3	
Steel W.J.	7	2
Wylde R.	4	1

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE 1

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE SEASON 1980/81				
DIVISION 1				
Oldham Athletic Res.	32	27	1	4 99 28 55
Tranmere Res.	32	22	6	4 83 37 50
Everton A.	32	18	6	10 58 47 38
Wrexham Res.	32	13	5	12 45 37
Manchester United A	32	16	5	11 68 55 57
Chester A	32	14	5	13 51 52 33
Carlisle United Res.	32	10	13	9 48 51 33
Liverpool A	32	13	6	13 65 48 32
Rochdale Res.	32	11	9	12 36 44 31
Altrincham Res.	32	12	7	13 43 52 31
Stockport A	32	11	8	13 53 59 30
Port Vale Res.	32	10	6	16 66 66 26
Bolton A	32	9	5	15 40 52 26
Crewe Alex. A	32	10	5	17 37 80 25
Barrow Res.	32			



BOUNDARY PARK

MATCH TICKET NEWS

Tickets for the Rotherham United away fixture on the 17th October, kick-off 3.00 p.m. will be on sale after today's game. Price £3.20 each. Also on sale are tickets for the away fixture at Sheffield Wednesday on 24th October, kick-off 3.00 p.m. Price £3.20 OAP/Juv. £2.30.

For further information on Office opening times and availability of tickets, please ring 061-624 4972 (24 Hour Service).

FOOTBALL AT BOUNDARY PARK

Tuesday October 13th 1981
ATHLETIC YTH. v WIGAN A. YTH.

Lancashire Youth Cup
Kick-off 7.00 p.m.

Saturday October 24th 1981
ATHLETIC RES. v WIGAN A. RES.
Lancashire League Division One
Kick-off 2.30 p.m.

Saturday October 31st 1981
ATHLETIC v NEWCASTLE UTD.

Football League Division Two
Kick-off 3.00 p.m.
Saturday November 7th 1981
ATHLETIC RES. v ALTRINCHAM RES.
Lancashire League Division One
Kick-off 2.30 p.m.

200 CLUB NEWS

The draw for October's 200 Club Lucky Winners will now take place in the Boundary Club on Wednesday



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INFORMATION DESK

October 14th and not before to-day's game as previously advertised.

Membership is full at the moment but we are taking names on a waiting list and if you wish to be included when vacancies come available please contact Neil Holmes on 061-624 4972.

BOUNDARY CLUB

Apart from the new Sports Hall there will also be a new Lounge and Restaurant facilities at the Boundary Club. Making the club second to none in terms of what we are able to offer. Full details of the new facilities will be announced shortly. In the meantime any enquiries should be made to 061-624 8958 (Secretary), or 061-624 8110 (Office).

JUNIOR LATICS NEWS

Due to the excellent response we had to our last Junior Latics Club Competition we have decided to give prizes to two winners.

And the first two lucky winners out of the Junior Latics post bag were: Gareth Phillips, 42 Carr House Road, Springhead, Oldham, and Carol Sinkinson, 48 Wiltshire Road, Chadderton, who will each receive a super Latics T-Shirt.

TRAVELLING RAC BY ROAD RAC

Here is your specially prepared route to our away game at Charlton

on October 20th.
Leave Oldham on the A62 to Manchester junction with A5103 (Princess Road/Parkway) (7 miles). A5103 and M56 to Bowdon, junction with A556 (20 miles).

(Alternative routes but longer: via M62/M63 to Princess Parkway/M56 or M62 to Croft (Warrington) junction with M6).

A556 (follow 'M6' signs) to intersection 19, M6 at Tabley (23 miles). M6 south then M1 to intersection 2, Five Ways Corner, Hendon, North Junction with A1/A41 (197 miles).

A1 (follow 'A1 City' signs) to A406, North Circular Road (198 miles).

A406 left to Woodford junction with A104 and right with A104/A114/A116 to East Ham junction with A124 (Barking Road) (214 miles).

A124 via Canning Town to Poplar (Blackwell Tunnel) crossing Thames via Tunnel into A206, Woolwich Road (218 miles).

A206 (keep left leaving Tunnel) to Charlton (221 miles).

Charlton Athletic football ground (The Valley) is in Floyd Road, 3rd on your right along the A206 after turning left from Tunnel Avenue at the Fire Station.

As we have no home match before our away match to Sheffield Wednesday, here is your specially prepared R.A.C. route.

Leave Oldham on the A627/A6018 via Ashton-u-Lyne and Stalybridge to Hadfield junction A57 (10 miles) A57 (The Snake) via Glossop to

Sheffield (Owlerton) (35 miles).

Sheffield Wednesday F.A.C. ground (Hillsborough) is at Owlerton. Approaching Sheffield on the A57 fork left with the A6101 (Rivelin Valley Road) to the A616 then left again towards Huddersfield and Barnsley. The ground is on your right.

TRAVEL CLUB NOTICEBOARD

Bookings are now well underway for our next two away games to Rotherham next week and Sheffield Wednesday the week after. Anyone wishing to travel should book as early as possible to avoid disappointment.

All bookings to be made in the Latics shop in Sheepfoot Lane, which is open Monday-Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturday October 17th 1981
Football League Division Two
ROOTHERHAM U. v ATHLETIC
Departing Boundary Park 1.00 p.m.

Fare: Members £1.85
Non-members £2.05

Saturday October 24th 1981
Football League Division Two
SHEFFIELD W. v ATHLETIC
Departing Boundary Park 1.00 p.m.

Fare: Members £1.85
Non-members £2.05

LATICS SHOP

Don't forget a visit the Latics Shop situated in Sheepfoot Lane. For all your Latics souvenirs, scarves, hats and bits and pieces.

The shop is open all through the year Monday to Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and if you're a true Latics supporter you'll find it well worth a visit.

RADIO LATICS



with

PEBBLES

The first of a new season of Latics Road Shows, held at the Westwood Conservative Club, went very well. And I hope everyone enjoyed themselves. If you did, you are very welcome at the next, see this page next match for details.

Thanks to the Conservative Club Staff, Steve, Pauline and Committee, for laying everything on, also to the competitors in the quiz, and yard of ale competition "Great".

We still need venues for the Road Show, in the New Year, so if any Landlord, Club Secretary or Charity organisers would like to use this 'FREE' service write to Pebbles at the Commercial Office, Boundary Park, and I will call and see you.

So from me for now,

Enjoy the match, Pebbles.

SUPPORTERS CLUB

Membership for the Supporters Club is still open and anyone wishing to join can pick up a membership form from the Latics Shop. The membership fee being only £2.00. Immediate benefits include concessions on away travel.

EXECUTIVE TRAVEL

Bookings are now being taken for the following Executive Travel Trips. Saturday, October 17th, Rotherham Fare £10 to include one set meal stop.

Wednesday, November 18th, Wembley

ENGLAND v HUNGARY

World Cup qualifying match. Fare £14 to include one buffet meal. Match tickets available at extra cost.

Tuesday, November 24th, Q.P.R.

Fare £15 to include two buffet meals.

Saturday, November 28th, Wrexham Fare £10 to include one set meal stop.

Saturday, December 12th, Derby
Fare £10 to include one set meal stop.

Saturday, February 6th, Shrewsbury
Fare £10 to include one set meal stop.

Saturday, March 20th, Newcastle
Fare £13 to include two buffet meals.

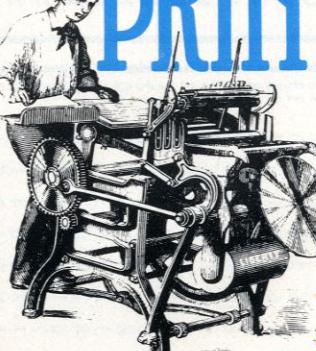
Saturday, April 3rd, Chelsea
Fare £15 to include two buffet meals.

Monday, April 12th, Leicester
Fare £13 to include two buffet meals.

Saturday, May 1st, Grimsby
Fare £13 to include one set meal stop.

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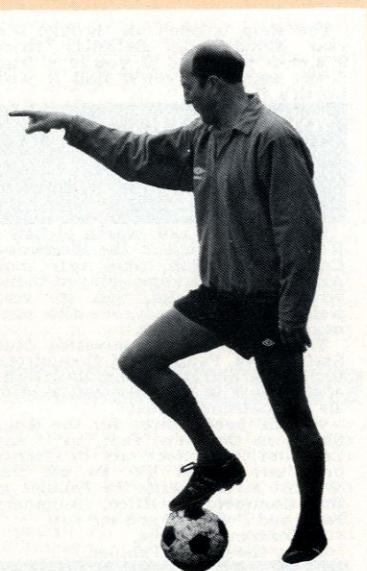
RESERVES and 'A' TEAM NEWS

Last Saturday saw both the Reserves and the 'B' Team in action at Boundary Park, the Reserves taking on, Barrow Reserves and the 'B' Team taking on Blackburn.

The Reserves played extremely well and during a 20 minute spell of the first half just before half-time played some of the best football I have seen them play all season.

Andy Birchenough opened our account with a splendid effort which he rifled into the back of the net from a corner kick giving the Barrow keeper no chance. He then wiped out the good work he had done by making a bad mistake to let in Barrow for an equaliser which Goram in goal could do nothing to prevent. The Reserves kept their cool and continued to play good football and Steve Edwards was rewarded with two goals for sheer persistence in following up the ball.

Apart from the three goals Athletic showed their superiority by bombarding the Barrow goals with some really great shots and at this stage I would like to praise the Barrow keeper who pulled off some



with Billy Urmson

unbelievable saves to keep his side in the match. The final score was Athletic 3 Barrow 1.

Athletic's team was: Goram, Birchenough, Edwards, Cooper, McMahon, Millington, Humphries, Dowie, Nuttall, Eagan, Bowden. Subs: Brand and Mitchell.

Earlier in the day the 'B' team had taken on Blackburn. Athletic's team was: Pennington, Batty, Jackson, Brunton, Jefferson, Ford, Butterworth, McConville, Brand, Mitchell, Anderson. Subs: McDonald, Mallinson.

After a terrible start when they went 1-0 down after just 20 seconds the 'B' team fought back to a tremendous 4-1 victory over Blackburn with David Brand scoring a hat-trick and Doug Anderson scoring the other goal. Lee Mitchell also had the ball in the back of the net but his fine effort was disallowed.

All in all a good weekend for the Club with all three teams winning well.

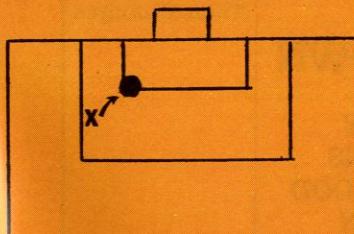
Coaching Corner

by Graeme Hollinshead

ATTACKING HEADING (2)

Attackers coming in at the far post to head for goal should always be in a position where they can run to meet the ball. By moving forwards to meet the ball it will be easier for the player to jump and head the ball.

The diagram below shows that the attackers should come into the far post area from a wide position inside the penalty area.



By such positioning, the defender marking him is unlikely to be drawn so far out from the central area in front of goal and if the cross is a good one to the far post, the

FAR POST HEADERS

defender will then find himself having to run backwards in order to reach the ball.

It is difficult to head the ball whilst running backwards and he will obviously be at a disadvantage against the forward who will be running forwards square to the ball for a powerful header.

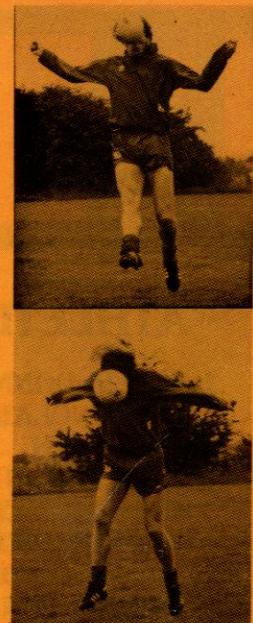
The attacker should watch the ball all the time and never turn his back on the goalkeeper or any defender who may challenge him in the air. Having got to the ball, the attacker must decide whether to head for goal preferably inside the opposite post or whether to head down for another forward to shoot.

In the photographs opposite, Jim Steele has come into the box and has got up well to head the ball at the far post area.

In the second illustration he has got over the ball and is heading through the top half of it to ensure that it will hit the target.

When coming in for far post headers it is important to time your run to head the ball at the highest point you can and aim always to be first to the ball.

BUT remember once having done that a good firm header, using the forehead is vital to beat the goalkeeper.



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JOHN [REDACTED] RYAN		BOB ISAACS		I. IRELAND	
GARY HOOLICKIN		BOB ISAACS			
NICK SINCLAIR		BOB ISAACS			
STEVE EDWARDS	T. LACEY D. WHITTINGTON				
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TEAM CHECK



ATHLETIC

1. Peter McDONNELL
2. Nick SINCLAIR
3. John RYAN
4. Ged KEEGAN
5. Gary HOOLICKIN
6. Paul FUTCHER
7. Rodger WYLDE
8. Paul HEATON
9. Jim STEEL
10. Roger PALMER
11. Darren McDONOUGH
12. T.B.A.

Team Changes

LUTON TOWN

1. Jake FINDLAY
2. Kirk STEPHENS
3. Mark AIZLEWOOD
4. Brian HORTON
5. Mike SAXBY
6. Mal DONAGHY
7. Ricky HILL
8. Brian STEIN
9. Steve WHITE
10. Pasquale FUCCILLO
11. David MOSS
12. Raddy ANTIC

Team Changes

Referee: P.J. RICHARDSON (Lincoln)

Linesmen: E. HART (Preston) Red Flag
P. HINDLE (Blackburn) Yellow Flag

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Referee

PETER J. RICHARDSON (Lincoln): Started refereeing in the Lincolnshire League then graduated via Midland Counties and North Midlands Leagues to the Football League list. Was linesman for a U.E.F.A. Cup match in Italy in 1974, also the 1973/74 Texaco Cup Final, and a European Cup game in 1980. A married man, he is a Works Director. He plays golf and is Secretary of his local golf club.

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