

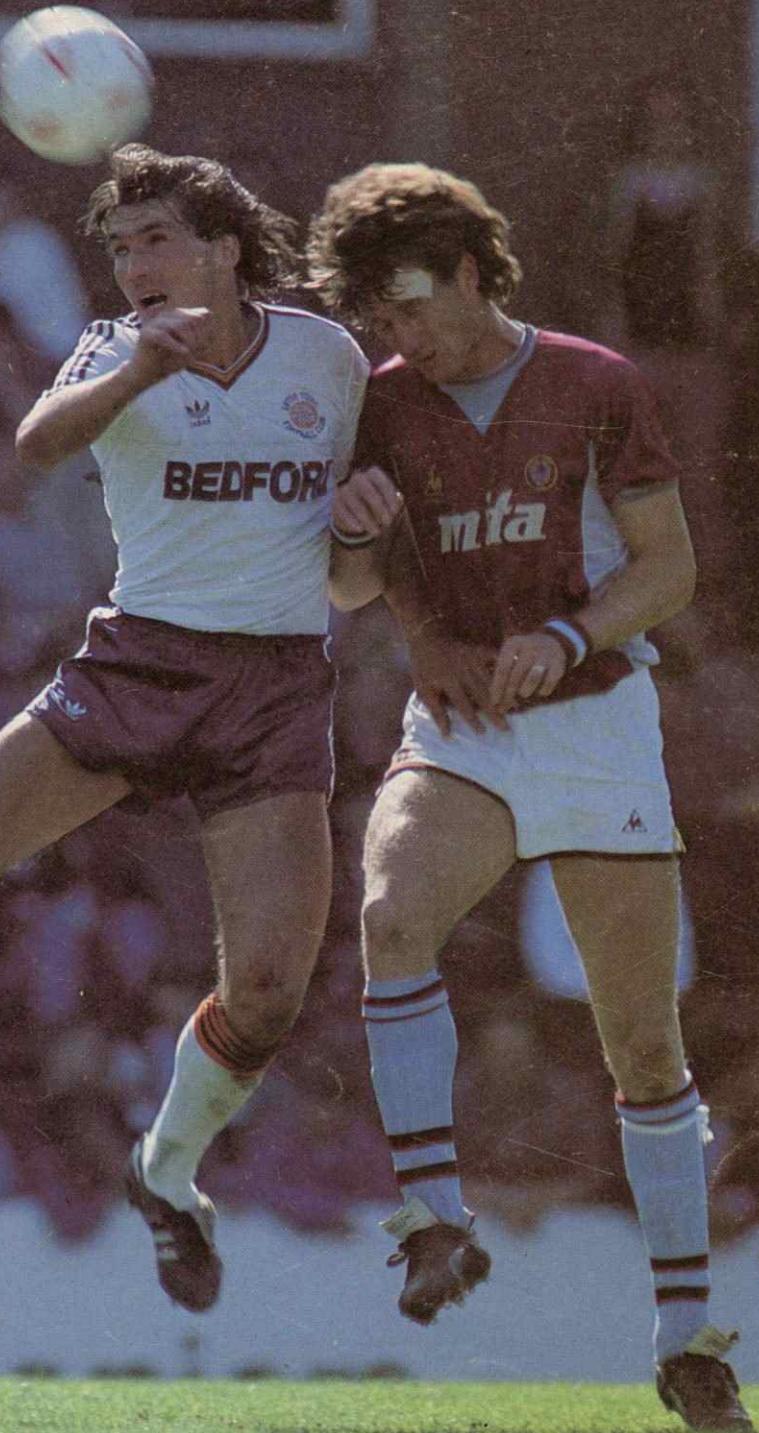
ASTON VILLA



NEWS & RECORD OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 50p



ASTON VILLA
versus
LUTON TOWN
CANON LEAGUE
DIVISION ONE
SATURDAY
31st AUGUST 1985





It was 'Many Happy Returns' for Gary Shaw when he scored his first goal at Villa Park for two years in the 2-2 draw with Liverpool. Now he's gunning for more as he forges a new strike partnership with Andy Gray.



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European Cup Winners: 1981-82

European Super Cup Winners: 1982-83

League Champions: 1893-94, 1895-96, 1896-97,
1898-99, 1899-1900, 1909-10, 1980-81. Runners-up:
1888-89, 1902-03, 1907-08, 1910-11, 1912-13,
1913-14, 1930-31, 1932-33

Division Two Champions: 1937-38, 1959-60.

Runners-up: 1974-75

Division Three Champions: 1971-72

FA Cup winners: 1887, 1895, 1897, 1905, 1913,
1920, 1957. Runners-up: 1892, 1924

League Cup winners: 1961, 1975, 1977.

Runners-up: 1963, 1971

FA Youth Cup winners: 1972, 1980

**ASTON VILLA
NEWS & RECORD**

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Aston Villa FC plc

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GRAHAM TURNER



The defeat by Queens Park Rangers last Saturday was particularly disappointing following such a good performance only a few days earlier against Liverpool.

It was a game in which we showed our lack of experience. When things were going wrong, we were not able to put them right.

Jim Smith probably hit the nail on the head when he said that we didn't play with the passion which was evident when he watched us against Liverpool.

Well, we got the passion back at Southampton on Tuesday and came away with a well deserved point. Looking at the side in the second-half, when we had lost Andy Gray, it struck me that it must have been one of the youngest the club has had.

We changed things around, bringing in Steve Hodge for his debut and leaving out Gary Shaw. That was no criticism of Gary. We are quite pleased and he is pleased with the progress he has made, but three games in eight days was a lot of football for someone coming back after a bad injury and we felt he needed a breather at this stage.

Unfortunately, our injury jinx continues. Andy Gray twisted his ankle and at the time of writing, we are not sure whether he will be available today, although if there is any chance at all, Andy will be out there.

The other injured players are making progress. There's a chance of Gary Williams and Colin Gibson being ready today, but we may have to wait a little longer for Allan Evans. His knee problem is the worst of the injuries.

I'd like to formally welcome Steve Hodge to Villa Park. We were delighted when his transfer went through last Saturday. It ended a long wait, something like seven months since we first tried to sign him, and in the end, it went through very smoothly.

We are still looking for players to strengthen our squad and one or two things could be moving



within the next 10 days or so.'

Today, we welcome Luton Town to Villa Park. They were here only last May when we came home from winning 4-0 at Sunderland only to lose 1-0 to David Pleat's side on the Bank Holiday Monday.

During the summer, they installed an artificial playing surface at Kenilworth Road. Talking with David, he tells me he is very happy with the surface, which, unlike the one at QPR, has more of a rubber base.

Finally, a word about Gordon Cowans: we were all terribly sorry to hear of his broken leg. It's a tragedy for the lad, although we understand that the break is not a bad one.

When players leave this club, they go with our best wishes and we always take a keen interest in their progress. And while last weekend was sad for Gordon, we were pleased to see that Paul Rideout scored his first goal for Bari.



When did football become wireless?



copy that!

Right back in 1923, the BBC first discussed soccer on the air.

Four years later, the 2 million wireless licence holders could have heard the first football commentary.



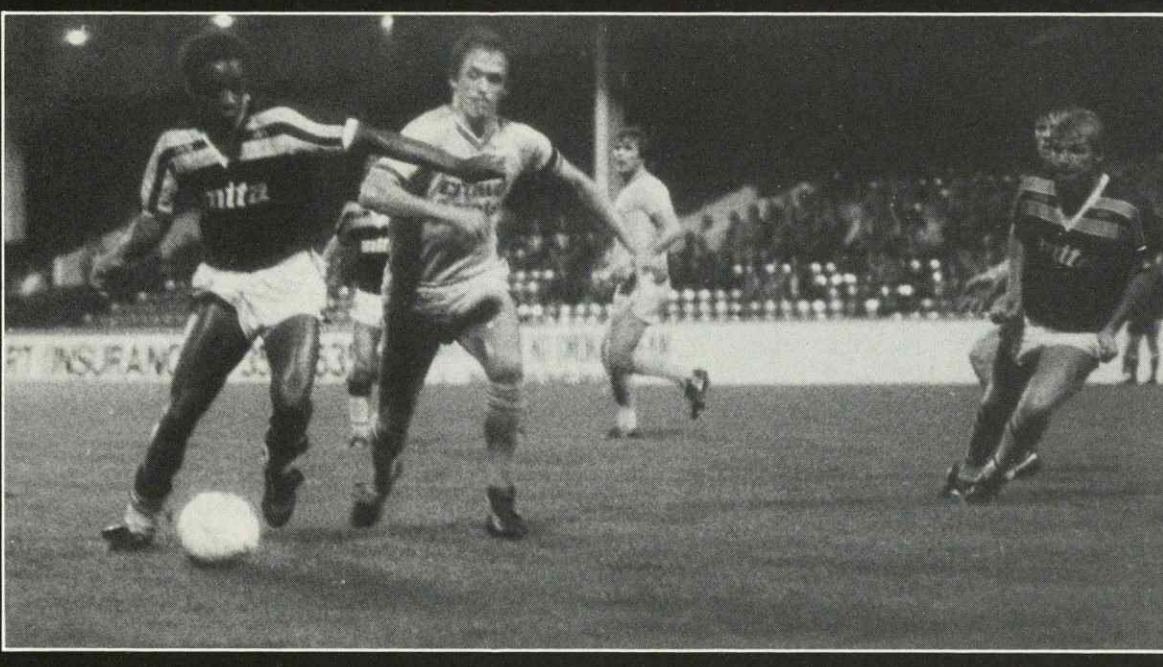
the perfect match

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TWO IN A ROW



Mark Walters scored his first goal of the season when he put Villa 2-1 ahead against Liverpool 10 days ago. The goal (pictured below) looked a winner until Liverpool snatched a point with a late equaliser. Walters was on the mark again last Saturday (above) with what looked to be a point earner against QPR. However, the London side came back with another goal in the last minute to go home with all three. Pictures by Terry Weir.



SIDELINES



ANOTHER GRAND WINNER WITH VILLA

• Colin Gibson's absence through injury from the team for the home game with QPR meant that he was on hand to help on the promotions side of the club.

Here he is seen handing over a cheque for £1,000, the top prize in the club's popular lottery scheme, to Mr & Mrs Smith and their son.

The Smiths are among our regular contributors who purchase the 25p rub-off tickets when our agent calls on a door-to-door basis.

The rub-off lottery is still soccer's most successful form of fund-raiser having served club's well now for the past decade.

Anyone interested in becoming an agent should contact Gerald Harris (pictured making the award with Gibson) at the Lottery Office, Villa Park, during normal office hours . . . or drop a line for the details by post.

Villa's Reserves were off to a splendid start to their Central League fixtures with a 2-1 win over Manchester United at Old Trafford last Saturday. Here they are seen about to leave for that match accompanied by Eric Houghton (extreme right) and coach Bill Shorthouse.

The six players kneeling at the front are all 16-year-olds, an indication of the youthful nature of Villa's Reserve set-up.



DON'T THANK US!

• Super fan Dave Huxtable from Askern near Doncaster in Yorkshire has dropped a line to tell us how much he likes Villa News and Record and for the pleasure we have given him as a roving fan.

Dave departs at 9 am on Saturday mornings to watch Villa play and arrives home 12½ hours later at 9.45 pm.

That's when we're at home, a distance covered of 220 miles. But Dave takes in the away games, too. And though some of them are nearer home for him others, in the south, are twice as far.

Apart from Villa in general and the programme Dave's favourites are Allan Evans, Paul Birch and Tony Dorigo.

We thank him for his thanks but they really should go the other way: to Doncaster and back. Every match.

ANYONE FROM SALISBURY?

• Another travelling fan Roger Hicks from Salisbury watches Villa as often as possible but wonders if there is anyone else from down his way with whom he could link up.

Anyone seeking a travelling companion from down Wiltshire way should contact Roger at 2 Gramshaw Road, Salisbury, Wilts.

FORTY YEARS ON

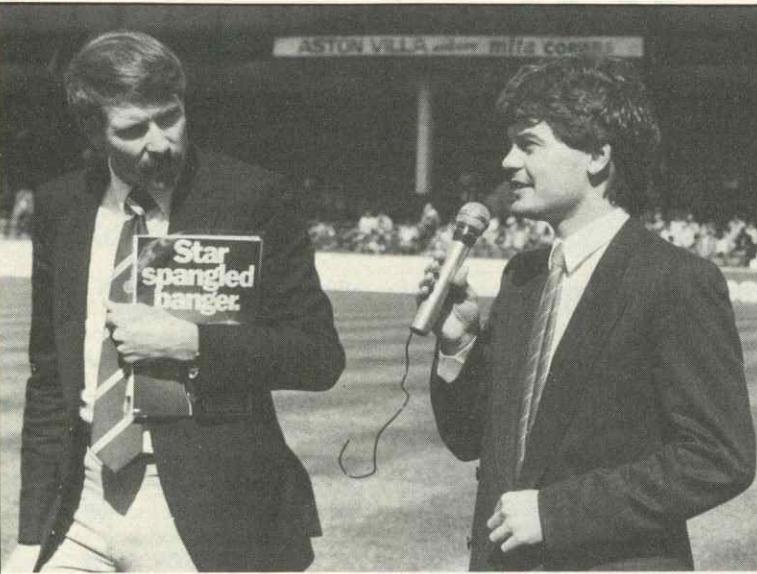
• Recent publicity to the 40th anniversary of World War II prompts the thought that the current season completes 40 since the resumption of football proper after hostilities.

Many middle-aged fans will remember the first post-War League game at Villa Park when a young man named Wilf Mannion gave Middlesbrough a 1-0 victory.

By our estimation there have been 824 League games at Villa Park since the Second World War and that includes two seasons in Division Three.

It's too much to hope that any individual has seen them all. Or is it?

One thing is for sure. If there is such a long-serving fan he (or she) won't be from the ranks of the Villa Cubs!



CHOOSE A CAPTION AND WIN TICKETS

Steve Hodges says his first 'hello' to Aston Villa fans as he is interviewed on the pitch by commercial manager Tony Stephens immediately after signing for £400,000 last Saturday. Tony offers Steve the microphone and an old fashioned look in this on-the-field informal chat shortly before the kick-off against QPR. What on earth is Steve saying? And, more to the point, what is Tony thinking with that quizzical expression? We'll give two free match tickets to the best entry in our 'Choose a Caption' feature. Entries please to: Choose a Caption, Aston Villa News & Record, Villa Park. And remember . . . this interview was BEFORE the QPR match!

ENOUGH'S ENOUGH

• What a thrill to see Gary Shaw officially mark his come-back after two years of injury problems with that opening goal against Liverpool in the first home match of the season.

A few days earlier he had given a couple of reporters at Bodmoor Heath a very good reason for believing that his fitness nightmare is now over.

'I've had four knee operations,' he said. 'I decided I didn't want a fifth.'

CANS OF KIDOLOGY

• In the age of the look-alike you can never be sure if you're seeing the real thing or a clever carbon copy. So no wonder a few folks have been fooled during the current government drink ban at football grounds.

Any uninitiated snooper might just have been kidded into believing at the Liverpool game — and perhaps again today — that around Villa Park the ban was being breached.

Look-alike lager tins in the executive boxes. Carbon copy crates of wine being carried around by catering staff.

Have these folks not HEARD about the ban?

Truth is that merely looking like the real thing is not quite the same for someone who enjoys his (or her) tipple. Where booze is concerned it's the taste that counts. And the after effects.

Those look-alike cans and bottles to be seen in the executive boxes and elsewhere were just that . . . alcohol-free versions of the real thing.

What was actually going down the thirsty throats instead of wine, whisky and beer were little more than soft drinks in disguise. The make-believe boozers seemed to enjoy it, too. That's the spirit.

We say 'little more' because the makers claim that there is less than one per cent alcohol in their 'impostor' brew. About 0.8 per cent we understand. And you can't get arrested for that.

Not unless you pretend to be drunk . . .

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Gola League	6-10	£34.99

LESS 10%

* With every purchase of replica playing kit you will receive a free gift while stocks last.

MIND GAMES



FAMILY SOCCER QUIZ

Here's another chance to test your brains with a mind teaser in our family soccer quiz which has proved a popular feature already. Entries to Mind Game, Aston Villa News & Record, Villa Park. There are two free match tickets for the first correct entry opened.

My first is in gate but not in post
My second is in more and also in most
My third is in scarf but not in tie
My fourth is in flag and also in fly
My fifth is in some but not in none
My whole is essential for the game to be won

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TICKET INFORMATION

With the announcement last week that due to increased costs the price of admission to certain areas of the ground has been increased by 50p, there are now substantial savings for Season Ticket Holders. For example, with admission to the Holte End being £3, a Standing Season Ticket costing £40 means in effect that the holder is paying for less than two-thirds of the matches in a season, and is also admitted to every Central League fixture free of charge. In the event of any all-ticket Cup-ties or FA Cup semi-final ties, Season Ticket Holders are given priority.

The table below sets out the incredible savings that can now be achieved:

	Matchday Admission		Season Tickets		Saving for Season Ticket Holders	
	Adults	Juveniles	Adults	Juveniles	Adults	Juveniles
Trinity Road						
Doors	D	6.50	3.25	96.00	48.00	40.50
	B,E,G	5.50	2.75	80.00	40.00	35.50
	A,H	5.00	2.50	72.00	36.00	33.00
Witton Lane						
Doors	N,P	5.50	2.75	80.00	40.00	35.50
	M	5.00	2.50	72.00	36.00	33.00
Family Enclosure						
Door	F	4.00*	2.00*	64.00	32.00	20.00
Holte End Terrace						
Doors	K,L	3.00	1.50*	40.00	24.00	23.00
'No increase'						

Juveniles — must be under 16 years of age on 1st September 1985 to qualify for reduced price tickets. Half-price seat tickets can be purchased for the Trinity Road and Witton Lane Stands no later than three hours prior to kick-off, and for the Family Enclosure at any time up to kick-off provided they are Family Enclosure Club Members.

Senior Citizens — may purchase half-price Season Tickets in Door M (Witton Lane Stand) and Door A (Trinity Road Stand) and for the Family Enclosure. Half-price admission on matchdays is restricted to the Juvenile entrance at the Holte End and the Family Enclosure, provided they are Family Enclosure Club Members.

Unemployed — may purchase one half-price seat ticket from the Ticket Office no later than three hours prior to kick-off. When making application a valid UB40 card must be presented.

Family Enclosure — admission is restricted to Season Ticket Holders and Family Enclosure Club Members. For an annual membership fee of £2 members receive a membership card and welcome pack which contains a book of vouchers, the relevant voucher being presented each time a match ticket is purchased. Juvenile members automatically become Associate Members of the Villa Cubs.

North Stand and Witton End Terrace — restricted solely to visiting supporters.

IN RESERVE



A very young Central League team — average age only 18 — made a tremendous start to the season by beating last season's runners-up, Manchester United, 2-1 at Old Trafford last Saturday.

Goalkeeper Kevin Poole and striker Paul Kerr were the only players out of their teens in a side which included three first-year apprentices and five members of last year's youth squad.

Coach Bill Shorthouse was pleasantly surprised by the way the youngsters handled what is normally one of the most difficult fixtures of the season.

'As you'd expect, there were little things they did wrong, but they played well and worked extremely hard,' he said. 'I asked them afterwards how they felt and they all replied, "shattered!"'

'That's how it should be. They can be proud that they gave everything they had. They battled for everything and earned their reward. They were entitled to be chuffed afterwards.'

United were probably a little down on last season's strength. For example, when we went to Old Trafford last term, Frank Stapleton and Alan Brazil were in their side.

But they put out a side of professionals, including two or three young players of first team experience and their two summer signings, £275,000 goalkeeper Chris Turner and former England winger Peter Barnes.

The Villa lads went ahead but United equalised before we grabbed a winner in the second half. 'The goals were very good,' added Bill. 'For the first, the ball was played down the left side of the box, where Peter Howell pulled it back and then hit a right-foot cross-shot inside the far post.'

'Paul Kerr got the second, picking up the ball on the right, then turning inside and evading two or three tackles before striking a



cross-shot round the 'keeper with his left foot.'

United inevitably had spells of pressure, but the young defence coped and Poole played well, making some good saves, and generally handling the ball with confidence.

'It must have been the youngest side we've had for a long time in the Central League,' said Bill. 'We can only be encouraged by the way the lads performed.'

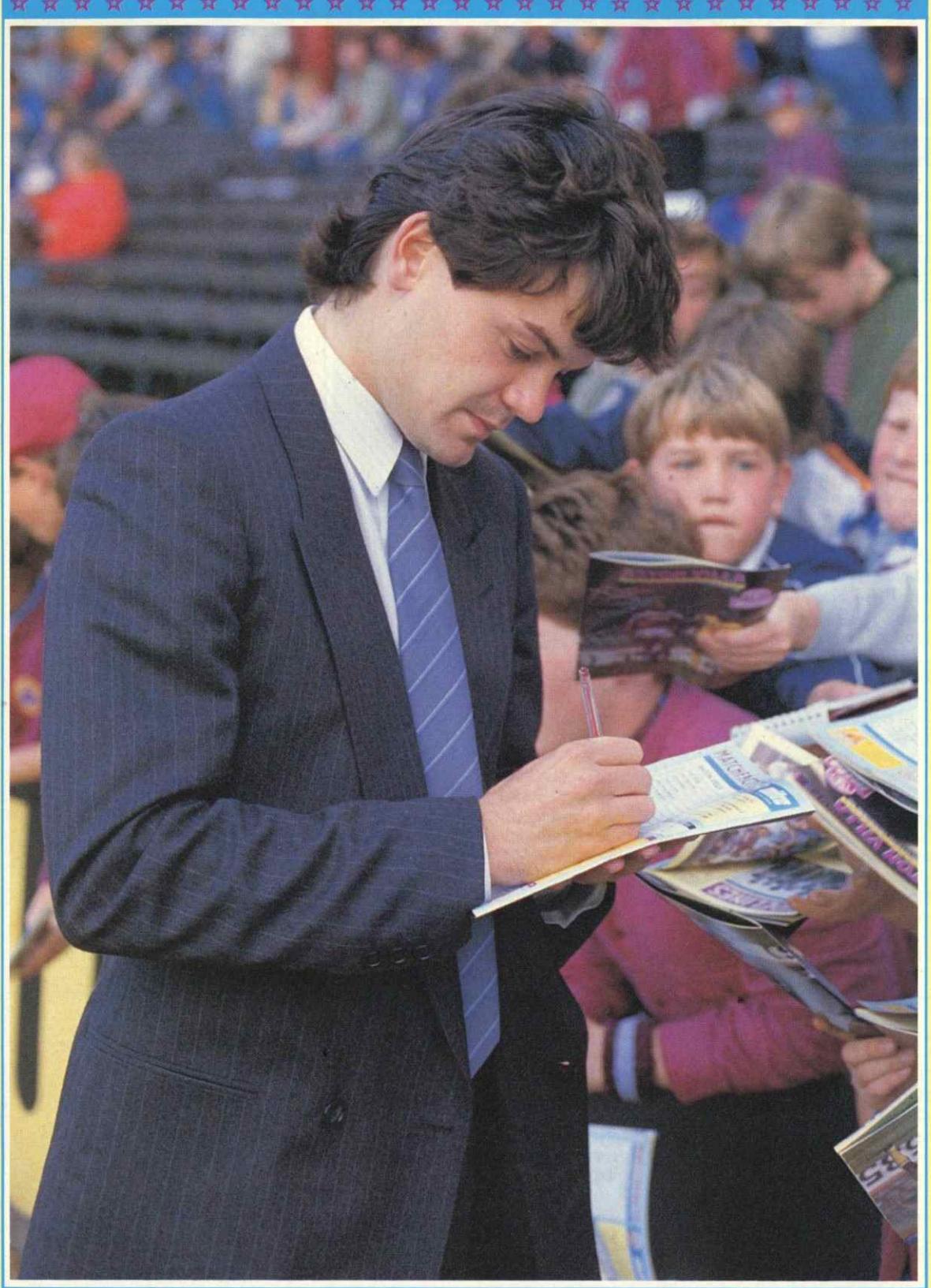
'It certainly wasn't a question of snatching two goals and hanging on grimly. We played some good football and might have got one or two more goals.'

'Bernie Gallacher forced a brilliant save from Turner, Mark Burke had a good effort and Paul Kerr had a good chance.'

The injury position at first-team level meant that a side of similar strength played in the midweek match at home to the champions, Liverpool. See our next programme for a report of that game.

RESERVE FIXTURES 1985-86

Date	V	Opposition	F A
Aug 24	A	Manchester United	2 - 1
Aug 28	H	Liverpool	
Sept 5	H	Leeds United	
Sept 11	A	Hull City	
Sept 18	H	Blackburn Rovers	
Sept 25	A	Barnsley	
Oct 2	H	Nottingham Forest	
Oct 9	A	Newcastle United	
Oct 16	H	Everton	
Oct 23	A	Sheffield United	
Oct 29	A	Derby County	
Nov 6	H	Sheffield Wednesday	
Nov 12	A	Manchester City	
Nov 20	H	Wigan Athletic	
Nov 27	A	Huddersfield Town	
Dec 2	A	Leicester City	
Dec 11	H	West Bromwich Albion	
Dec 17	A	Leeds United	
Jan 15	H	Manchester United	
Jan 22	H	Hull City	
Jan 28	A	Liverpool	
Feb 4	A	Everton	
Feb 12	H	Sheffield United	
Feb 19	A	Blackburn Rovers	
Feb 26	H	Barnsley	
Mar 5	A	Nottingham Forest	
Mar 12	H	Newcastle United	
Mar 18	A	Sheffield Wednesday	
Mar 26	H	Derby County	
April 2	H	Manchester City	
April 8	A	Wigan Athletic	
April 16	H	Huddersfield Town	
April 23	H	Leicester City	
April 30	A	West Bromwich Albion	
Midweek Home game kick-off 7 pm			
Saturday Home games kick-off at 2 pm			
Saturday			
24th August 1985			
Central League			
MANCHESTER UNITED RES 1			
ASTON VILLA RES 2			
Scorers: Howell, Kerr.			
Villa: Poole, Bates, Gallacher, Ritchie, Hellin, Forman, Spark, Palin, Kerr, Howell, Burke.			
Sub: Clipston.			



INTERVIEW

Villa Park was empty. The crowd had gone home with the disappointment of defeat. But Steve Hodge was not a bit perturbed as he surveyed his new home last Saturday evening.

'I knew this was a big club — that's why I agreed to sign — but only now do I realise how big it is,' said the £400,000 newcomer from Nottingham Forest.

'Forest are a big club, too, but this is a different world. Villa have won the major honours in recent years and I want to be part of a new team which wins a trophy or two.'

Yet wasn't he just a shade worried by what he saw against Queens Park Rangers? By everyone's admission, it was a bad day for the team and there were no complaints when the Londoners went home with the points.

Steve, though, was aware of the problems. 'There's no need to panic,' he said. 'It was a very young team we had out there and if the lads had held on for 1-1, perhaps people would have been quite happy. Queens Park Rangers are no mugs; we always had trouble with them at Forest.'

Having scored on his last appearance at Villa Park for Forest — the scoreline is rather too painful to mention! — the new midfield man would like nothing more than a debut goal today. Goals are his adrenalin.

So, what sort of player can Villa fans expect to see? 'Essentially,' says Steve, 'I'm a runner. Not like a headless chicken, but I do like to get forward, timing my runs for knock-downs and through balls.'

'I like to weigh in with goals because I feel it's important for teams to get them from midfield. Look at the winning sides, and you'll see people getting goals from all positions. Everton were the perfect example last season.'

In the last three seasons, Steve scored 37 and his overall career average is around one for every four games.

'I try to keep Bryan Robson as a guide,' he says. 'He's someone near the top, a player who has to be respected for what he is, and if I am scoring as well as him, then I know I am doing well.'

'I'm not the kind of player who can sit and hold in midfield. I like to get forward and try to cause a bit of havoc.'

The thought that he could be switching his talents to Villa Park has been around for some time. 'It had been mentioned so often in the papers that I sensed it would eventually come off. In fact, I fancied I might have been here at the start of the season because of the number of midfield players at Forest.'

But it wasn't until Thursday morning of last week that he got the green light. 'Brian Clough called me in at about 10.30 am and more or less gave me permission to talk with Villa. I met Mr Turner the next day and got my father, Brian, to come along because I felt I needed an older person's advice.'

'I more or less made up my mind on the Friday evening, but everything had happened so quickly that I felt I should be fair to my family and sleep on it, although there was no doubt in my mind.'

At 22, coming 23 in October, he believes the timing was right. 'I've got nothing against Forest, but there comes a time when you need a new challenge. It was a wrench to leave, but eight years is probably long enough with one club.'

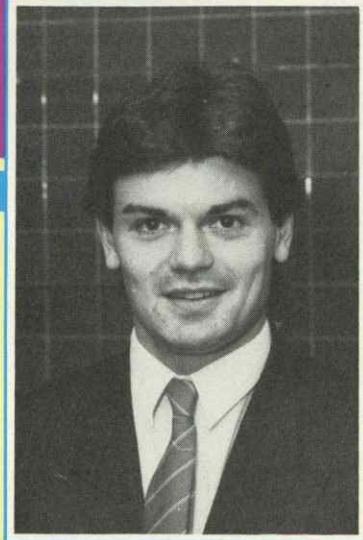
'Having said that, I couldn't have had a better start than with Brian Clough. He's a stickler for discipline, and that's a good thing. Most players who leave there are good ambassadors for the club.'

'Going there as a young lad, you learn quickly. Probably, I went there in awe of the manager. He soon puts you in order and he helped me a heck of a lot.'

Steve was born at Gedling, a village some seven or eight miles from Nottingham, and grew up as a Forest supporter, partly because his parents watched the club long before he joined the staff.

From 12 to 15, he played for South Notts Schools and that was where the scouts spotted his potential. He had trials with eight League clubs but decided that it was better to stay close to home, especially as there was such a good set-up at Forest.

When he signed schoolboy forms, they were at the top of the Second Division. When he became an apprentice they were winning the European Cup. 'I remember cleaning the boots of players



like Peter Shilton and Archie Gemmill; that was like a dream come true for a young Forest fan.'

His own progress was not dramatic. Indeed, he began to wonder when other youngsters appeared before him. He was 19 when debut day arrived in the last game of the 1981-82 season at Ipswich.

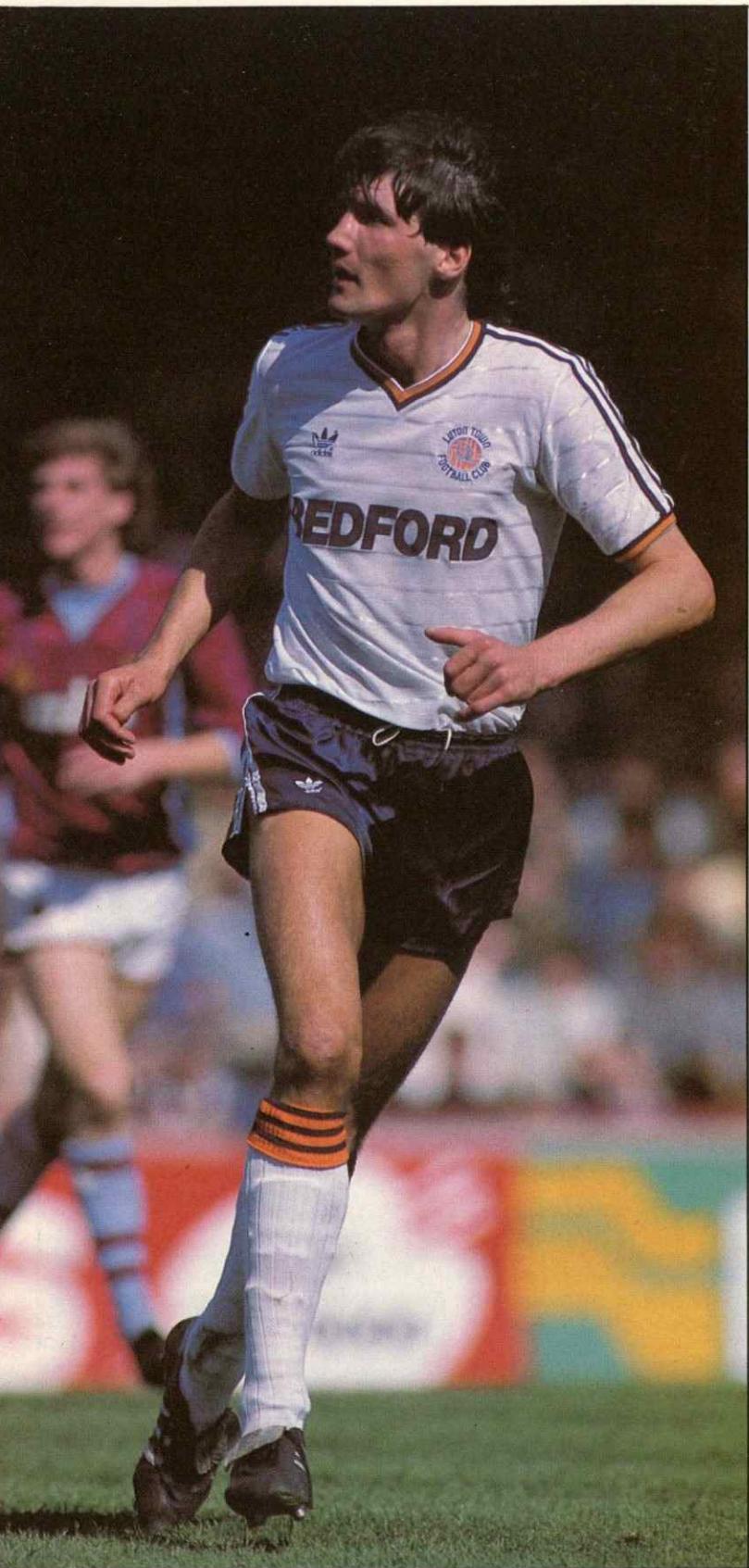
'It's a match I won't forget,' he says. 'Fortunately, it was on TV and I've got a tape which I can always watch. It was Peter Davenport's fourth game and he scored a hat-trick. For myself, I was never out of the team afterwards.'

Events moved quickly in the following season. He was in the England Under-21 side, as a substitute against Greece, after only 10 League games. During his international career at Intermediate level, he played with Steve McMahon, Colin Gibson and Mark Walters, reaching a highlight when helping England win the European Under-21 Championship in 1984.

'That was a good side,' he says. 'Players like Gary Stevens, Gary Bailey, Mark Hateley, Dave Watson and Paul Bracewell have all gone on to full caps. That is my ambition, of course. And felt I was getting in the running at the end of last season.'

'They named five players on stand-by for Finland and Mexico, and I was among them. In fact, if Norman Whiteside hadn't scored in the Cup Final and there had been a replay, I would have gone to Finland.'

By bringing his England aims to Villa Park, he has surely issued a firm vote of confidence in his new club. Steve Hodge and Villa could be good for each other.



Mick Harford is overdue for a change of luck. And he's sure that Luton Town can provide a long-delayed taste of the good life.

After nearly eight years in League football — and four transfers amounting to £700,000 — the 26-year-old striker is anxious to unload his tag as an expert in relegation matters.

If he has one wish for 1985-86, it is a comfortable League placing for Luton and a relaxation of the pressures that have followed him since he made his debut for Lincoln City in 1977.

The form of his five clubs had never equated with this own ability as a target man who was mentioned as an England candidate when he was with Birmingham and again last season when Luton reached the FA Cup semi-final.

Lincoln were relegated in his second season. Next, he had a disappointing but brief spell with Newcastle before joining Bristol City as they crashed towards the Fourth Division in a time of financial crisis.

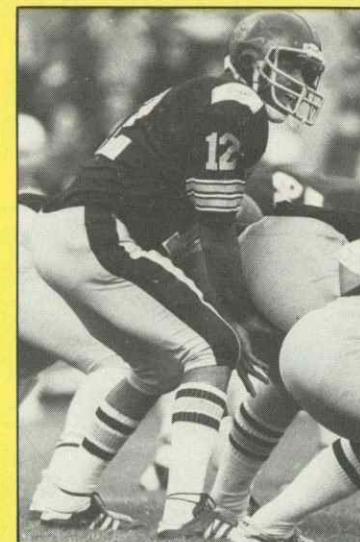
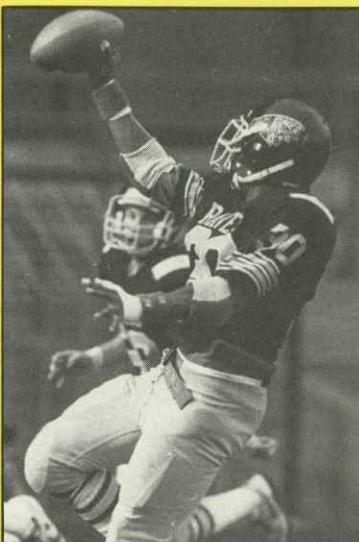
Harford's transfer to Birmingham in March 1982 was unusual because of the cash troubles at Ashton Gate. He was given a free move back to Newcastle, who then pocketed the £110,000 fee from Blues to cancel the Bristol club's debt to them.

Blues' interest in Harford was actually stimulated by an FA Cup-tie involving Villa only two months earlier. Ron Saunders, who had moved to St Andrews in the meantime, recalled the big man's strength in the air and selected him as the striker to boost his side's struggle against relegation.

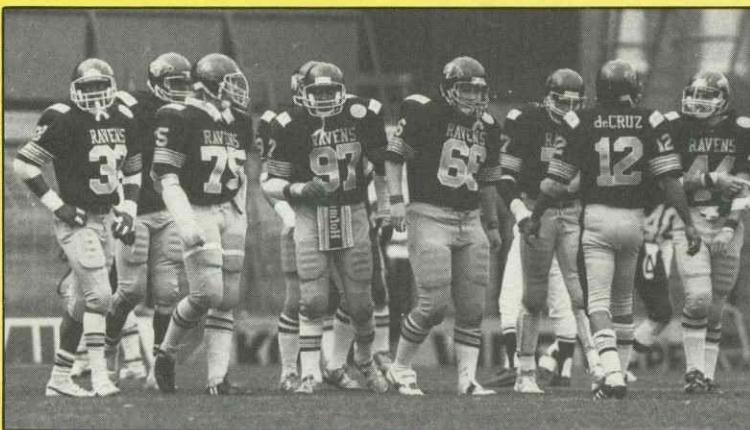
Harford scored nine goals in 12 games, including the vital winner in the last match at Coventry, and did much the same a year later when his three goals in the last four games enabled Blues to stay up. But a third successive escape was too much to expect.

Harford was in the Second Division last December when Luton boss David Pleat hired his services. Once again, relegation was the over-riding spectre but 13 goals in 13 League games between 2nd March and 11th May — the day Luton officially became safe — cleared up any doubts about his Division One future.

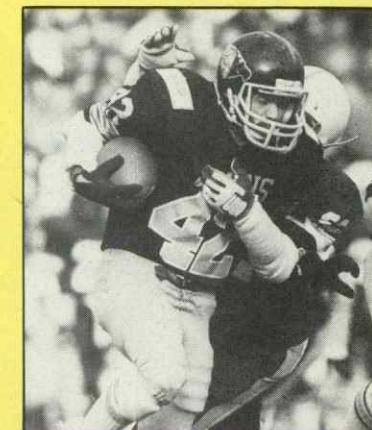
His aggressive leadership and natural flair in front of goal transformed Luton to the point where no-one would anticipate another relegation struggle this season.



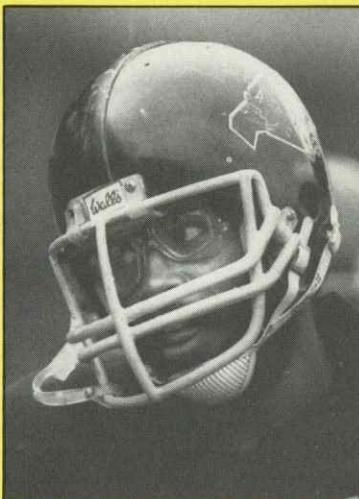
A touch down... and a touch up.



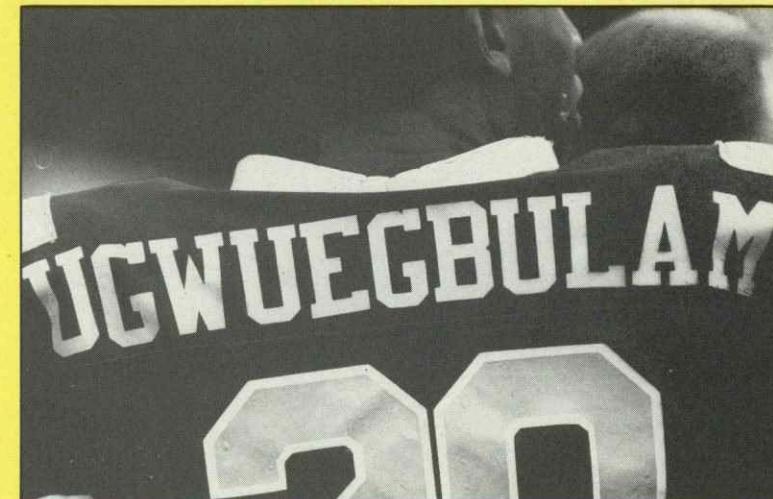
A flock of Ravens, winners of the first Summerbowl.



Watch out! It's the best with five fingers.



A safety grill to save his face. Or maybe just his glasses.



This guy needs his wide shoulders... just for his name. Is it a Luton Town player or a village in Wales?

SUMMERBOWL '85

- Transatlantic razamatazz arrived at Villa Park in full force on Bank Holiday Monday with the final of Summerbowl '85. Grid-iron football, American-style, attracted a crowd of nearly 8,000 for the match between the two London sides, Streatham and the Ravens. It was family fun all the way with cheer leaders, marching bands and a demonstration of the football code that has attracted millions of viewers in recent times on channel four. Villa's policy of using Villa Park as a multi-purpose stadium paid off impressively on a day when otherwise it would have been closed.

LUTON TOWN



Luton's Gary Parker in action with Colin Gibson during last season's fixture at Villa Park.

Luton Town are celebrating their Centenary with a fourth successive season in the First Division — possibly because they were beaten by Everton in the FA Cup semi-final at Villa Park last April.

The suggestion came from their engagingly frank manager, David Pleat, when he summarised the events of last season.

Writing in the Hatters' last programme of the campaign, he observed: 'It may just be that the pain of that defeat in the semi-final was the medicine we were prescribed in order to get to work with the task in the League.'

Luton probably left Birmingham that night in total despair. Not only had they seen a Wembley dream destroyed in unlucky circumstances but they were in the bottom three in the League, with 35 points and 10 games to be played.

Mr Pleat was as depressed as anyone but he had to put aside his personal feelings. He told everyone that he wanted to watch the Cup Final, knowing that Luton were still in the First Division.

The response of the players was exactly what he requested. In six games in 21 days after the semi-final setback, they won four times and drew one, a tally of 13 points that virtually ensured their safety after Brian Stein had scored the only goal against Villa on 6th May.

Mr Pleat still refused to accept that Luton were definitely secure until they had beaten Leicester 4-0 at home on the following Saturday. However, in the end, the escape was far less dramatic than two years earlier when a 1-0 win at Maine Road in the last fixture put Manchester City down and kept Luton up.

Maybe it was a sense of injustice at losing to Everton that fired up Luton for the final lap. But that remains hypothetical. What is not in doubt is that the side gained its stimulus from an injection of cash following Boardroom changes which saw the appointment of David Evans as Chairman.

Luton spent the better part of £500,000 in buying Steve Foster from Villa, David Preece from Walsall, Mick Harford from Birmingham, and Peter Nicholas from Crystal Palace.

Their contribution was priceless. Foster was especially valuable in replacing the injured Paul Elliott, Preece and Nicholas revitalised the midfield, and Harford scored 15

goals in only 22 League appearances.

Mr Pleat acknowledged the significance of the transfer dealing in his seasonal review. He said: 'In November, we had real problems, but they were recognised by our directors and the consequence of their support was the injection of spirit and determination by new individuals.'

Equally important was the development of younger players. Tim Breacker and Mitchell Thomas, both 20, claimed the full-back positions (Thomas was in an England Under-21 squad in May), while Nigerian-born striker Emeka Nwajiobi was never on the losing side in the matches in which he scored his nine League goals.

Having built what promises to be a good base for the future, Luton have not rushed into major staff changes during the summer, although there was one major innovation when they placed an order for an artificial pitch at Kenilworth Road.

Four players moved on during the break. Former Villa 'keeper Jake Findlay and long-serving winger David Moss were released on 'frees' to Swindon Town, Birmingham-born midfield man Frankie Bunn went to Hull City for £40,000, and utility player Wayne Turner joined Coventry for £75,000.

Despite the departures, Luton's squad will be effectively strengthened provided three players have overcome serious in-

juries. Ashley Grimes, signed from Coventry in the 1984 close season, played only nine League games before he was sidelined with a sciatic nerve problem. That was also the extent of the service received from Elliott before the England Under-21 centre-half broke his leg in a Milk Cup-tie against Leicester.

The third victim was Welsh Under-21 goalkeeper Andy Dibble. He was still a teenager when he went into the First Division last August immediately after a £125,000 move from Cardiff but never appeared again after tearing knee ligaments against Manchester United at Old Trafford in November.

Because of injuries and transfers, Luton used no fewer than 26 players last term. Now the blend looks much more settled and it would be a surprise if they were to fall into trouble this season.

Mr Pleat, now in his eighth year in charge, has deservedly earned a high reputation which was recognised internally by his appointment to the Board of Directors earlier this year.

His judgment in the transfer market enabled Luton to return a profit of £511,000 in 1983-84, thanks largely to the reported fee of £700,000 received from Liverpool for England striker Paul Walsh.

They certainly know how to cut their cloth at Kenilworth Road, maintaining First Division football on gates of around 11,000 but never sacrificing their commitment to an entertaining style of play.

LUTON TOWN ROLL CALL

Player	Birthplace	Previous Clubs	Full Internationals	Date Signed
Tim Breacker	Bicester	—	—	*July '81
Ray Daniel	Luton	—	—	*June '81
Andrew Dibble	Cwmbran	Cardiff	—	July '84
Mal Donaghy	Belfast	Larne	Northern Ireland	June '78
Paul Elliott	Lewisham	Charlton	—	Mar '83
Steve Foster	Portsmouth	Portsmouth, Brighton, Aston Villa	England	Nov '84
Ashley Grimes	Dublin	Bohemians, Manchester United, Coventry	Eire	Aug '84
Mick Harford	Sunderland	Lincoln, Newcastle, Bristol City, Birmingham	—	Dec '84
Ricky Hill	Paddington	—	England	*Nov '75
Rob Johnson	Bedford	—	—	*June '78
Peter Nicholas	Newport	Crystal Palace, Arsenal, Crystal Palace	Wales	Jan '85
Stacey North	Luton	—	—	*June '81
Emeka Nwajiobi	Nigeria	Dulwich Hamlet	—	Dec '83
Garry Parker	Oxford	—	—	*June '82
Dave Preece	Bridgnorth	Walsall	—	Dec '84
Les Sealey	Bethnal Green	Coventry	—	Aug '83
Brian Stein	Cape Town	Edgware	England	Oct '77
Mark Stein	Cape Town	—	—	*July '83
Mitchell Thomas	Luton	—	—	*Sept '81

* Date registered as an apprentice.

FAMILY FOCUS

• Night One . . . Take One . . . nice one, fans! Anyone who saw BBC Breakfast time last week when the focus was on Aston Villa's Family Enclosure will know that our new section got off to a real flyer.

We couldn't have asked for a better send-off had we stage-managed the whole thing. Which we didn't. Well, not entirely! When Mums and Dads, sons and daughters arrived for the first home game of the season, against Liverpool, there to greet them were Emlyn Hughes and the BBC cameras. Who could have asked for more? And, as events transpired, what a contrast the night in the enclosure proved to be compared to the last time Liverpool played

away from home. We won't remind you what happened. But the match was in Brussels. This time soccer produced all of the good things and none of the bad.

A superbly entertaining 2-2 draw, with Villa leading twice and then needing a marvellous save by Nigel Spink from an Ian Rush penalty in the last couple of minutes to save what would have been an unjust defeat.

The crowd were perfectly well behaved, the two sets of supporters got behind their teams, everyone enjoyed themselves and football was the outright winner.

And as a wonderful example of how the ordinary supporters can and DO get on together, there seated in a section of our



• Now there's a familiar face . . . ex-Liverpool skipper Emlyn Hughes prepares for a touchline interview with SAFE organiser John Maiden. Emlyn was at Villa Park for the Family Enclosure feature which appeared on BBC Breakfast Time.

SIGN PLEASE . . . each match a member of the first team squad will visit the Family Enclosure to meet fans and sign autographs. Collect yours each game in this panel — and there could be a prize for a full set at the end of the season.

enclosure for Villa fans were families of Liverpool supporters, by special invitation to enjoy the game side by side with ours. Another bonus in the special section was that skipper Allan Evans, injured at Old Trafford and out of the side, was the first of the players to pop along for autographs and a chat.

Each match will see at least one player visit the enclosure and a special space is reserved on this page for autograph hunters. These will develop into a special collection, one per match. And there could be a prize on offer at the end of the season for one fan who gets them all.

There was a lovely unprompted moment when Emlyn spotted a Villa family seated next to a Liverpool family and went over for a chat.

He asked the Villa Dad what he thought of it all and was told: 'I haven't been to a football match for years but my son asked me to bring him and because of the Family Section I decided to give it a try.'

'We're having a great time so you can be sure we'll be here again.' Well said, Dad. That's the spirit we're trying to encourage. Fans can be assured that the questionnaire they filled in on arrival will be analysed to help us discover what is wanted most by the folks who use the area. We're already looking for letters to help our Family Enclosure organiser Dave Wallis set up a: 'Dave'll-Fix-It' scheme and we're running raffles and giving goodies away from time to time.

On Wednesday night we were joined by SAFE organiser John Maiden who distributed hats and flags left over from the Freight Rover Trophy last season. That's just for starters. We have around a thousand members of our family scheme just now but we are looking to treble that and we appreciate it will take time. All we ask is that you tell your neighbours and friends that the Family Enclosure truly does restore the old feeling to football where folks fraternise rather than fight.

Remember it costs just £2 to join and that includes the little packet of goodies that go with it. The whole object is to get together to help our great national game out of the problems that have almost crippled it. That HAS to be worthwhile.

YOUTH REPORT

No fewer than seven schoolboys appeared for the youth team in an eventful 3-2 victory over Coventry City in the Midland Intermediate League last Saturday.

Many of the players who began the campaign in the third team stepped up into the Reserves at Old Trafford, leaving only the goalkeeper Dale Belford from last season's side.

Coach Brian Little drafted himself into emergency service — not, as Villa fans remember him, as a striker but as a defensive sweeper! 'We decided that it would be a useful place to use a bit of experience,' he said. 'If anything, we went there looking to hold on for a 0-0 draw, but as things went, the lads were tremendous.'

Brian figured in the decisive incident which clinched the points for Villa. Peter Clarke converted a penalty but it was disallowed because a Villa player was standing in the area. The second kick was saved but ordered to be retaken because the 'keeper moved early.

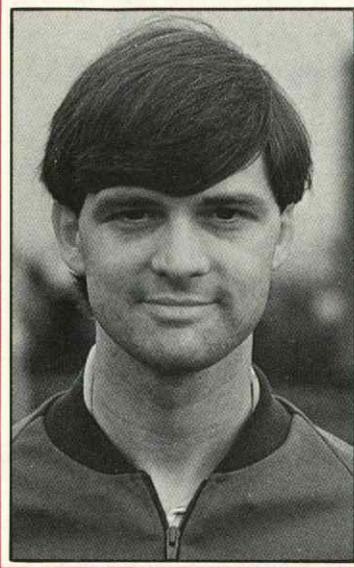
'That's when I came in,' says Brian. 'None of the lads wanted to take the third one, so it was down to me. I have to admit the 'keeper saved my shot but I managed to stick in the rebound!'

Apart from the schoolboys and the coach, the team was made up by three apprentices, Julian Bowen, Peter Clarke and Ian Denoon. 'Clarke was outstanding at centre-half,' commented Brian Little. 'He's a big, strong lad who plays to his strengths, getting stuck in and winning the ball in the air.'

The schoolboys came from far and wide: local lads Robert Green, Darren Roberts and Carl Morris; Tommy Callaghan from Scotland; Ian Olney from Bristol; Tommy Byrne and Philip Byrne, two Irish lads who are not related but who have both won schoolboy international honours.

'The lads did really well,' says Brian. 'Coventry played more or less their full youth side, yet we were two up before they scored just on half-time.'

'The first goal came from an incident we've been waiting for — the 'keeper



MIDLAND INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE FIXTURES 1985-86

Aug 17	H	Chesterfield	3 - 2
Aug 24	A	Coventry City	
Aug 31	H	Derby County	
Sept 7	A	Leicester City	
Sept 14	A	Notts County	
Sept 21	H	Port Vale	
Sept 28	H	West Bromwich Albion	
Oct 5	A	Walsall	
Oct 12	H	Mansfield Town	
Oct 19	A	Stoke City	
Oct 26	H	Wolves	
Nov 2	A	Nott'm Forest	
Nov 9	H	Shrewsbury Town	
Nov 16	H	Walsall (LC)	
Nov 23	H	Wolves (LC)	
Nov 30	A	Shrewsbury Town (LC)	
Dec 7	A	West Brom. Albion (LC)	
Dec 14	A	Chesterfield	
Dec 21	H	Coventry City	
Jan 4	A	Derby County	
Jan 11	H	Leicester City	
Jan 18	H	Stoke City (LC)	
Jan 25	A	Coventry City (LC)	
Feb 1	A	West Bromwich Albion	
Feb 8	H	Nott'm Forest	
Feb 15	A	Shrewsbury Town	
Feb 22	H	Walsall	
Mar 1	H	Stoke City	
Mar 8	A	Port Vale	
Mar 15	A	Mansfield Town	
Mar 22	A	Wolves	
April 5	H	Notts County	

Home matches played at Bodymoor Heath. Kick-off 11 am

MID. INTER APPEARANCES 84-85

	A	G	A	G
Bates	4(1)	—	Hutchings	25 10
Belford	27	—	Kerr	2 5
Birch	2	—	Little	2(2) 2
Bradley	8	—	McKenzie	12 —
Burke	6(1)	1	Mitchell	8 1
Campion	1	—	Norton	5 2
Curbishley	2	—	Obi	9 4
Daley	11(3)	2	O'Connell	1 —
Denoon	1	1	Palin	8 —
Docherty	1	—	Poole	4 —
English	20(3)	1	Rideout	1 5
Forman	25(1)	8	Ritchie	22(1) 3
Gallacher	19	3	Robinson	25 2
Glover	6	2	Shaw	6 1
Grainger	19(2)	1	Smith	1 —
Greenhalgh	7	3	Spink	2 —
Hellin	23	—	Vacanti	22(2) —
Howell	26(3)	14	Own Goals	2

Substitute appearances in brackets

Saturday
24th August 1985
 Midland Intermediate League
COVENTRY CITY 2
ASTON VILLA 3
Scorers:
 Olney, Byrne T., Little.
Villa: Belford, Callaghan, Bowen, Little, Clarke, Byrne T. (sub: Morris), Green, Byrne P., Roberts, Denoon, Olney.

Welcome back to the Canon League.



This is the third season of the Canon League — Canon's sponsorship of the Football League Championship.

Canon's outstanding success in the high technology industries of cameras and business equipment has enabled them to support our national game with over £3 million.

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In the 1984/85 Canon League season, the beautiful trophies pictured above — specially created by Garrard, the Crown Jewellers — were won by Everton, Oxford United, Bradford City and Chesterfield. This season, all 92 clubs will again compete for these most prestigious trophies in the toughest football competition in the world — the Canon League.

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Official Camera
& Business Machines
of The Football League

• Malcolm Beard is able to cite a recent example of how he likes to see Aston Villa perform as a result of his efforts as first-team coach.

'The display against Liverpool is the sort of thing we're looking for,' said the Midlander who moved from St Andrew's to Villa Park as a player and then repeated the move on the backroom side.

Malcolm was actually chief scout when he moved to Villa under Tony Barton but Graham Turner transferred him to the coaching side, effectively as his assistant.

Beard, Bill Shorthouse and Brian Little form the full-time coaching set-up with Tony Ford providing specialist physical fitness back-up on a part-time basis.

'I'm a great believer in the theory that senior squad players ought to have the basics by the time they reach that level,' he says.

'Consequently I feel that my role is to help and encourage them to express themselves and bring out their own playing strengths within the framework of the general team playing policy.

'We saw this sort of thing happening against Liverpool where, even from my seat in the dug-out, it was obviously an entertaining game one could sit and enjoy.

'Frankly it is a viewing position where you tend to see only a jumble of legs with no general pattern but even so I felt it was the kind of game the supporters want.'

'We in the game must work hard at bringing out individuals with skills because the crowd appreciated characters who stand out.'

'I have very firm views about what coaching is about at senior level. If players need to be taught the game and the basic skills they shouldn't be in the first team squad.'

'My job is to help them to bring out their skills for the benefit of the team.'

Beard has many examples to show how individuals have blossomed in the last year or so to improve their own chances of promotion to the first team and inspire improved performances from those in possession.

'Kevin Poole has shown that Nigel Spink dare not slip up and the likes of Dean Glover, Darren Bradley, David Norton and Tony Daley have also proved themselves when they have had their respective chances.'

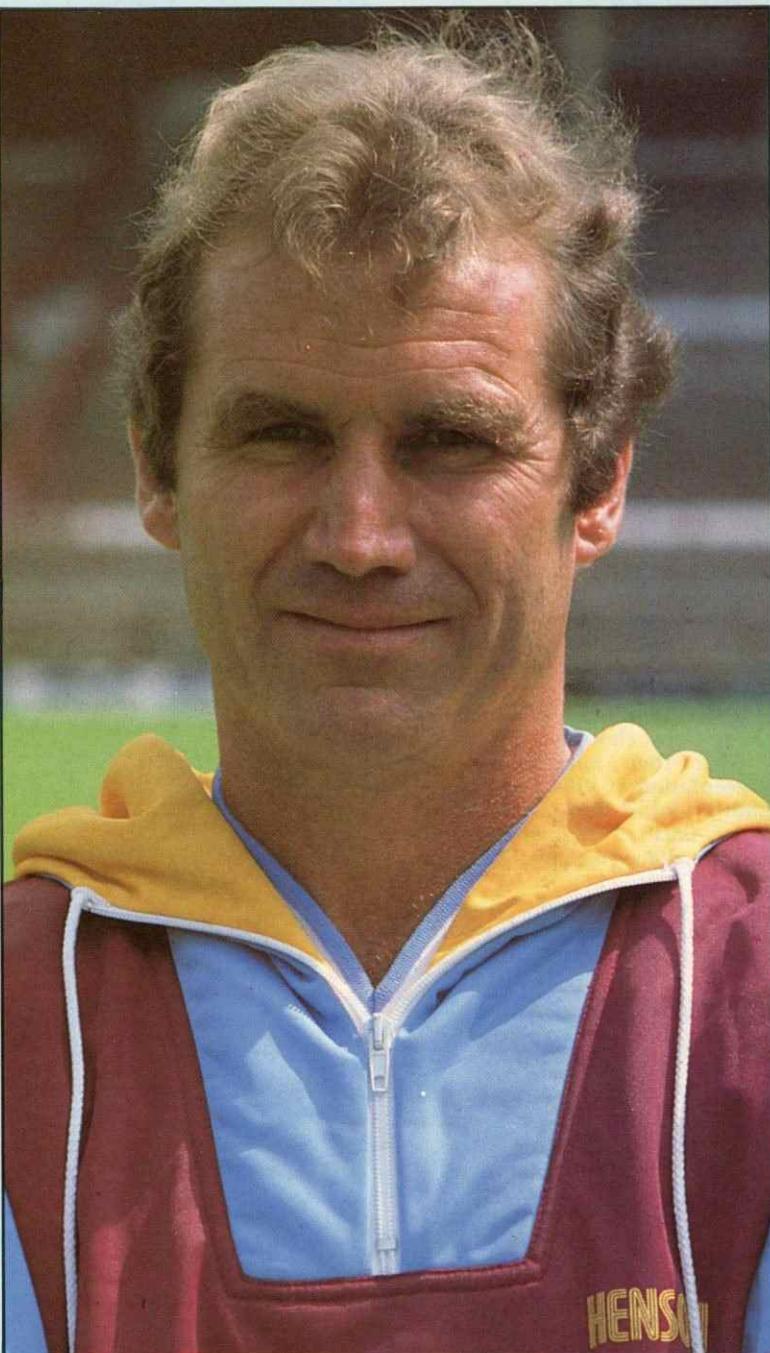
'Tony Dorigo has improved enormously and Brendan Ormsby had an exceptional season last year. Also Mark Walters is beginning to blossom in his own right.'

'My attitude to it is that if you can constantly get the individuals to improve themselves in this way the team as a whole must benefit.'

'Gary Shaw will get his old form back, too, but he still has a lot to do and needs time. As for Andy Gray he is a big asset on and off the field.'

'He is alive in everything he does and wants to do well all the time.'

CLUB CALL



SIDELINES

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

• A Letter arrived at Villa Park recently from a Cub Pack with some good news. Or is it bad?

Many supporters will recall the St Augustine 42nd Cub Pack who wrote to our sponsors Mita for a little bit of help last season.

St Augustine's, heads held high (or maybe low) claimed to be the world's worst soccer team having never won a match and never even lost in single figures.

Who could resist such a tale of woe? Certainly not Mita the company with a heart. They presented St Augustine's with a Villa strip out there on the pitch.

And those Wolf Cubs were so excited they tore open their parcels and donned the claret and blue gear there and then. And apparently the experience changed their lives.

Now we've received a picture of them all decked out smartly in the famous colours and looking proud as punch.

There is a twist in the tail of those Cubs, though.

After their special day and presentation at Villa Park playing affairs took a turn for the better. They finished half-way up the League and even won a Five-a-side Cup.

So now they're not the worst team in the world. They've sort of lost their title!



TONY MEETS TOBY

• Defender Tony Dorigo (or Down-Under Dorigo as we saw him named recently) was out and about recently on special appearance duty to present the Sportsco Soccer School award.

Player of the Week at Streetly Comprehensive School was Toby Arrowsmith. Tony was more than happy to hand over the award to young Toby.

Not so happy with the colour of the shirt though, we understand!



MISSING PEN

• Steve Hodge was a welcome visitor to the Family Enclosure before the QPR game and was naturally a prime target for autograph hunters.

However, when every book, programme and slip of paper had been dutifully signed there remained a problem. Commercial manager Tony Stephens' gold Mita pen had not been returned in the flurry of activity.

'I'm sure the pen was passed around and ended up with someone who did not know to whom it belonged. The pen has great sentimental value to me and I would hate to lose it,' said Tony.

'I'm hoping that it will be returned once whoever has it is aware that it belongs to me,' he added.

WBA v ASTON VILLA The Hawthorns Wednesday 4th September 1985 Kick-off 7.30 pm

This match is NOT all ticket. Standing supporters should use the turnstiles at entrance 'P' which are clearly signed — Admission £3, no reduction for Juveniles. Seating tickets priced £5 for the Rainbow Stand are now available from the Ticket Office. We advise all supporters to purchase seat tickets prior to the match. However, in the event of any seat tickets remaining unsold, they will be placed on the turnstiles at Block 'A' on the evening of the match.

BIRMINGHAM CITY

v ASTON VILLA St Andrews Saturday 7th September 1985 Kick-off 3 pm

This match is NOT all ticket. Standing supporters should use the turnstiles situated in Tilton Road — Adults £3, Juveniles £2. Seating tickets priced £6 for the Main Stand are now available from the Ticket Office.

LOOKING BACK

5 YEARS AGO

Gary Shaw's third goal of the season, midway through the second half, was sufficient to give us full points against Coventry City at Villa Park.

Brian Stein gave Luton an early lead in their Second Division game at Newcastle but goals from Terry Hibbitt and Frans Koenen in the last half hour turned the match Newcastle's way.

Ipswich took over at the top of the First Division following a fine 4-0 home win over Everton but Nottingham Forest ran up the best win in the top Division when crushing bottom club Stoke City by 5-0.

Kerry Dixon was among the scorers in Reading's 4-1 home win over Swindon in Division Three. It was his second goal in League soccer. Now five years later, with more than 120 goals behind him, he is an England international.

The Friday night game between Northampton and Southend had to be abandoned at half-time, with the score 0-0, when the floodlights failed.

10 YEARS AGO

A 68th minute goal from Ray Graydon gave us another 1-0 victory over Coventry watched by a crowd of more than 41,000 at Villa Park.

Luton ran up a 3-0 home win over Chelsea in Division Two. Peter Anderson, Steve Buckley (penalty) and Ron Fletcher were the Hatters' scorers.

Peter Noble scored a First Division hat-trick for Burnley in their 4-1 home win over Middlesbrough.

Dennis Tueart converted two penalties in Manchester City's 4-0 win over Newcastle. Joe Royle also scored twice.

A crowd of almost 20,000 turned up to see the two Nottingham sides at the City Ground. A last minute goal from Les Bradd gave County a shock 1-0 victory over Forest.

An own goal by Alan Dodd gave Manchester United a 1-0 win at Stoke and enabled them to leapfrog over West Ham to take top place in the First Division.

15 YEARS AGO

Villa went a goal down in the Third Division match at Swansea, when conceding a penalty in the closing moments of the first half. Billy Screen converted the spot-kick. But Ian Hamilton equalised and Pat McMahon scored a winner to maintain our 100 per cent away record.

Luton were trailing to a Geoff Vowden goal at Birmingham when they were awarded a penalty nine minutes from the end. Malcolm Macdonald put it away with his usual accuracy to earn the Hatters a point.

Two Allan Clark goals, plus one from Mick Jones, gave Leeds a 3-0 interval advantage at Burnley. There were no goals after the break.

John Hollins, who took over as Chelsea's manager this season, scored their opening goal in a 2-1 victory over Arsenal.

Leeds were the only 100 per cent team in the Football League and they had opened out a two-point lead over Manchester City for whom Colin Bell's fourth minute goal gave them victory at Everton.

The Second Division match between Swindon and Sunderland was held up when one of the goalposts snapped!

Joao Havelange, of Brazil, announced that he would be putting his name forward for election as FIFA president, to oppose Sir Stanley Rous, in 1974.

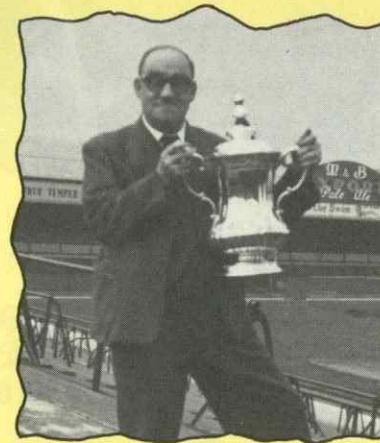
COMMUNITY WORK

• A trio of Villa players, Darren Bradley, David Norton and Lee Palin, performed a useful service at the Sports and Leisure Centre recently.

They combined to look after 35 visually handicapped youngsters and to put them through some football coaching culminating in matches in which they captained one team each.

Now Social Services helper Mr Vawda has written in to thank Darren, Dave and Lee for a session which the youngsters found most helpful.

Like so many handicapped folk the visitors to the Leisure Centre made light of their problems and joined in with great enthusiasm. The Villa lads were delighted to help.



MYSTERY PICTURE

• This mystery picture has been sent in by Mr R. Linscombe of Exeter who would like to know who the person is holding the FA Cup and what exactly was the occasion.

No one on the staff can provide the answer so we're handing over to the Aston Villa sleuths, probably those from the older generation. Any clues?



City of Birmingham

SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Miss Adrienne Jones
Director of Social Services
Assessment & Rehabilitation Unit
for the Visually Handicapped,
79/81 Duchess Road,
Edgbaston,
Birmingham, B16 8JD.
Telephone: 021-455 0045

your ref
our ref RCV/PCT
date 16th August 1985

T. Stephens, Esq.,
Commercial Manager
Aston Villa Football Club PLC
Villa Park
Birmingham B6 6HE

Dear Tony,

Summer Activity Scheme for Visually Handicapped Youngsters

Just a note to thank you and your staff and the Villa players for arranging the session at the Leisure Centre. All of the youngsters who participated in that exciting hour said how much they enjoyed it. I would be extremely pleased if you would let the Players know how much their time and effort was appreciated.

I would personally like to say how much this activity added to the success of the week.

Many, many thanks.

Yours sincerely,

R.C. Vawda
Senior Assistant
Rehabilitation & Social Work
for the Visually Handicapped.

Q4f..

MATCHFACTS



ASTON VILLA

1	NIGEL SPINK
2	DAVID NORTON
3	TONY DORIGO
4	DEAN GLOVER
5	BRENDAN ORMSBY
6	COLIN GIBSON
7	PAUL BIRCH
8	MARK WALTERS
9	ANDY GRAY
10	STEVE HODGE
11	TONY DALEY
12	

LUTON TOWN

1	ANDREW DIBBLE
2	TIM BREACKER
3	MICHAEL THOMAS
4	PETER NICHOLAS
5	PAUL ELLIOTT
6	MAL DONAGHY
7	GARRY PARKER
8	BRIAN STEIN
9	MICK HARFORD
10	EMEKA NWAJOIBI
11	DAVID PREECE
12	



3 3



VILLA VOUCHERS
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Villa v Luton Town
31st August 1985



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Red Flag Linesman: Mr P. JONES
Yellow Flag Linesman: Mr M. PEARSON

SCORECHECK

CANON LEAGUE

DIVISION ONE

Arsenal v Leicester

Chelsea v WBA

Everton v Birmingham

Ipwich v Southampton

Man City v Tottenham

Newcastle v QPR

Not'tm Forest v Man United

Oxford v Sheffield Wed

Watford v Coventry

West Ham v Liverpool

DIVISION THREE

Blackpool v Swansea

Bristol Rovers v Derby

Gillingham v Bolton

Wigan v Brentford

DIVISION FOUR

Aldershot v Burnley

Wrexham v Crewe

CANON LEAGUE

DIVISION TWO

Barnsley v Fulham

Blackburn v Carlisle

C. Palace v Huddersfield

Grimsby v Wimbledon

Leeds v Charlton

Middlesbrough v Brighton

Oldham v Hull

Portsmouth v Norwich

Sheffield Utd v Shrewsbury



MATCH MASCOT

Today's Match Mascot is seven-year-old Daniel Oldacres of Nuneaton, a pupil at Our Lady of the Angels School.

Young Daniel's hobbies are all sports . . . with soccer his speciality.

