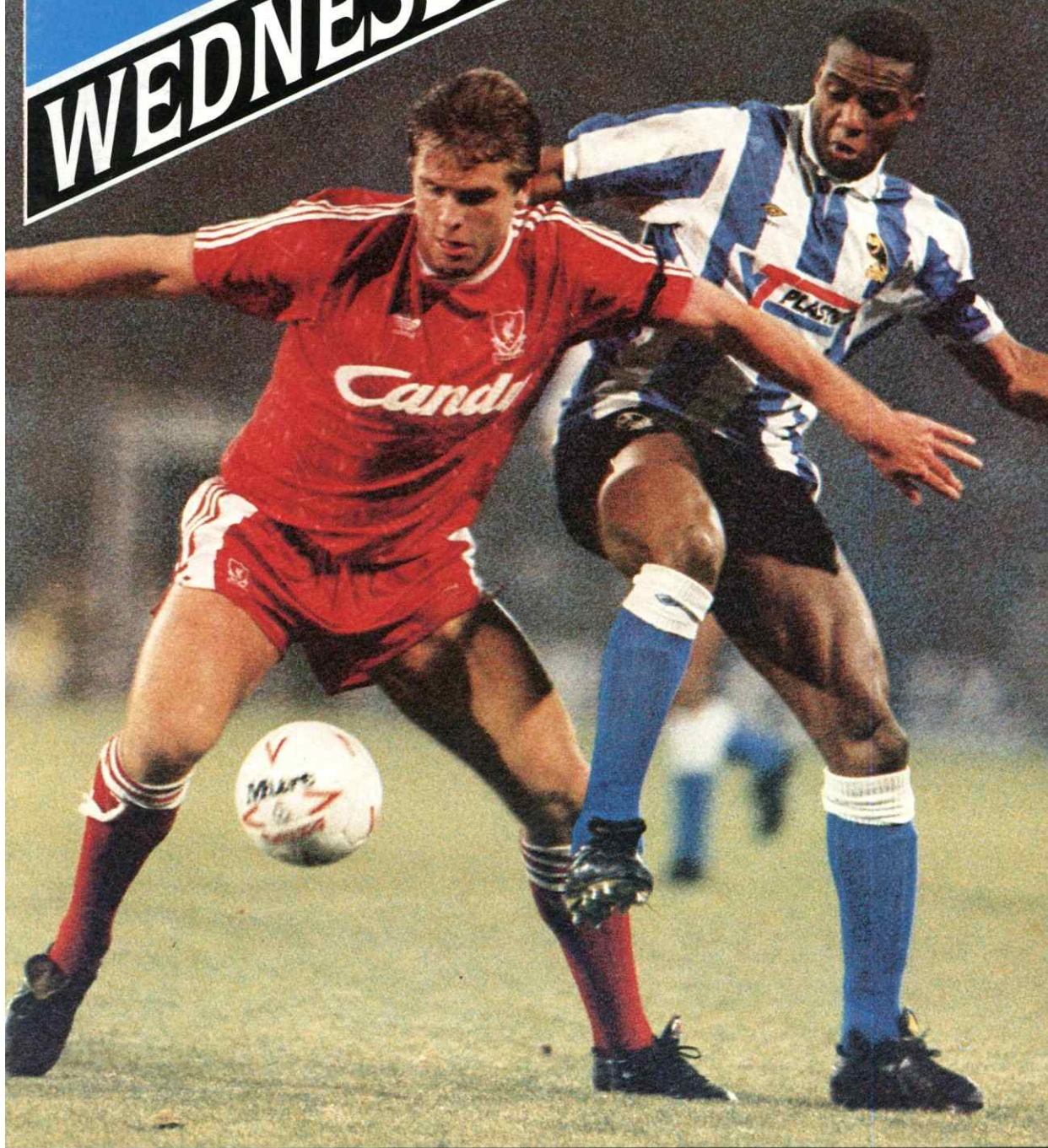


SHEFFIELD

WEDNESDAY



BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Saturday, 9th December, 1989, kick-off 3.00 p.m.

v **LUTON TOWN**

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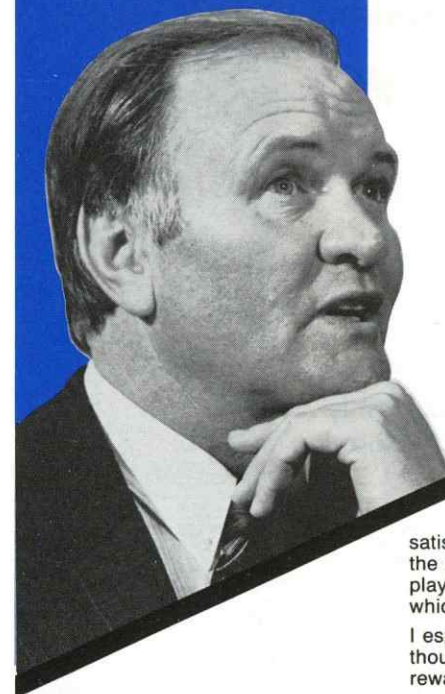
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If I was disappointed with the result at Norwich, I was nevertheless pleased with our performance. We lost to a harsh penalty decision and an own-goal, and what with losing Craig Shakespeare after 20 minutes just when we were at a peak, it doesn't seem unreasonable to suggest that, on the day, we weren't exactly blessed with good fortune.

The consolation is that we again played well and produced the kind of quality which I'm sure will bring us more rewards than regrets in the coming months.

In fact, we've been playing well and much closer to our full potential for some weeks, and I don't think we've looked back since we started November with that win at Forest. November proved a crucial month during which we began to get it right, and, if we had to wait longer than I'd hoped to climb off the foot of the table, when we finally did it, we did so with a touch of style.

That win over Liverpool in our last home game was certainly memorable. To beat the best in the country, and to do it with a quality performance, was a tremendous psychological tonic, and moving up the table at last made it a double bonus.

It was an excellent all-round show in which everybody made an important contribution, and it was one of those occasions when it seemed a bit unfair to single out individuals.

Yet, I admit, I was delighted with those quality goals from Dalian Atkinson and David Hirst. Dalian sealed the points with a superb solo effort which was all the more

satisfying in that, just hours before the game, he seemed certain not to play because of a stomach upset which had kept him out of training.

I especially enjoyed David's goal, though, because it is always rewarding to see a move we've practised in training executed with such aplomb in the heat of a game — and especially in a game against the likes of Liverpool.

As you know, David scored another beauty at Norwich, and, considering the lean start he made to the season, we're all delighted to see him back to his best, his patience and persistence being rewarded with him getting back among the goals.

A number of factors have contributed to our recent improvement, but the biggest single factor has been John Sheridan's arrival. At last we've got a "proper player" in midfield, and John's got the respect of everybody in the team because they know he has the ability to make things happen, and it's good to see how well everybody is responding.

Another positive development this week was getting Roland Nilsson's work permit through nice and early, so, hopefully, we shall be able to give him his First Division debut fairly promptly. I have said that quality is the key to our long-term success, and I don't think there's any doubt that Roland will add to our all-round quality. I'm sure our supporters will give our new Swedish international a warm welcome to Hillsborough.

Things are looking much better, but we still have a lot of ground to make up, and it's especially important that we keep getting some good results at home. Today's game against Luton and next week's date with Q.P.R. offer us the opportunity to make some progress at the expense of teams immediately above us, and, if we can do that, we can begin to think in terms of looking for higher goals to aim at in the New Year.

Cover Picture: Dalian Atkinson catches Liverpool's Jan Molby in possession.



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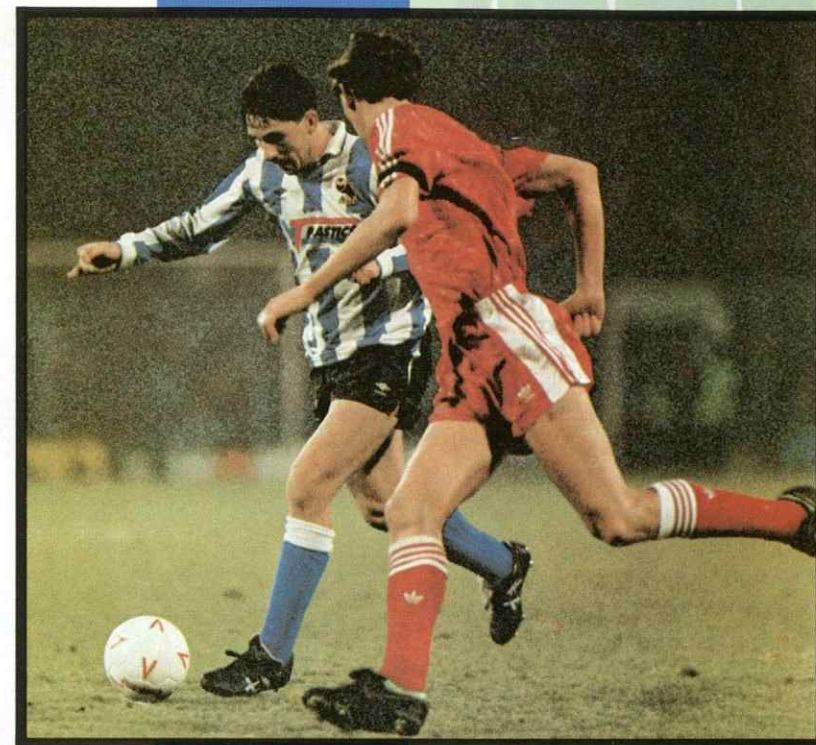
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David Hirst is confronted by Liverpool's Gary Gillespie.

FOR THE RECORD

BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Wednesday, 29th November, 1989

WEDNESDAY 2 LIVERPOOL 0

Wednesday moved off the bottom of the First Division for the first time this season, by beating the team at the top in a memorable display.

It was a night of other memories too as the biggest attendance of the season stood for a minute's silence to remember those who lost their lives at Hillsborough last April, and as a further mark of respect both

teams lined up on the edge of the Leppings Lane penalty area facing the terracing where Chris Turner and Alan Hansen had each laid wreaths.

The start had been delayed to accommodate late arrivals but once the match got under way it soon became clear that Wednesday were not going to let leaders Liverpool dictate matters. The Reds began well with Ian Rush just wide and bringing a save from Kevin Pressman but in reply David Hirst and Dalian Atkinson each went close a couple of times to keep the home fans on their feet.

With a solid looking defence (including Phil King in the multi-occupied right-back slot) and a lively midfield, the Owls were more than a match for the visitors and

deservedly went in front ten minutes after the restart. Atkinson linked with Craig Shakespeare on the left, Carlton Palmer chased down the wing and from his excellent low cross Hirst got in before anyone else to plant his shot into the Kop net.

Bruce Grobbelaar denied Hirst a second with a sensational close range save and later saved well from Atkinson as Liverpool were caught in disarray. But Atkinson, despite suffering from a bug, kept on looking for a goal and was rewarded with the game into injury time. Taking a pass from Peter Shirliff out on the right touchline, he evaded three tackles as he brought the ball inside and finished with a wickedly swerving shot from the edge of the box that left Grobbelaar flatfooted.

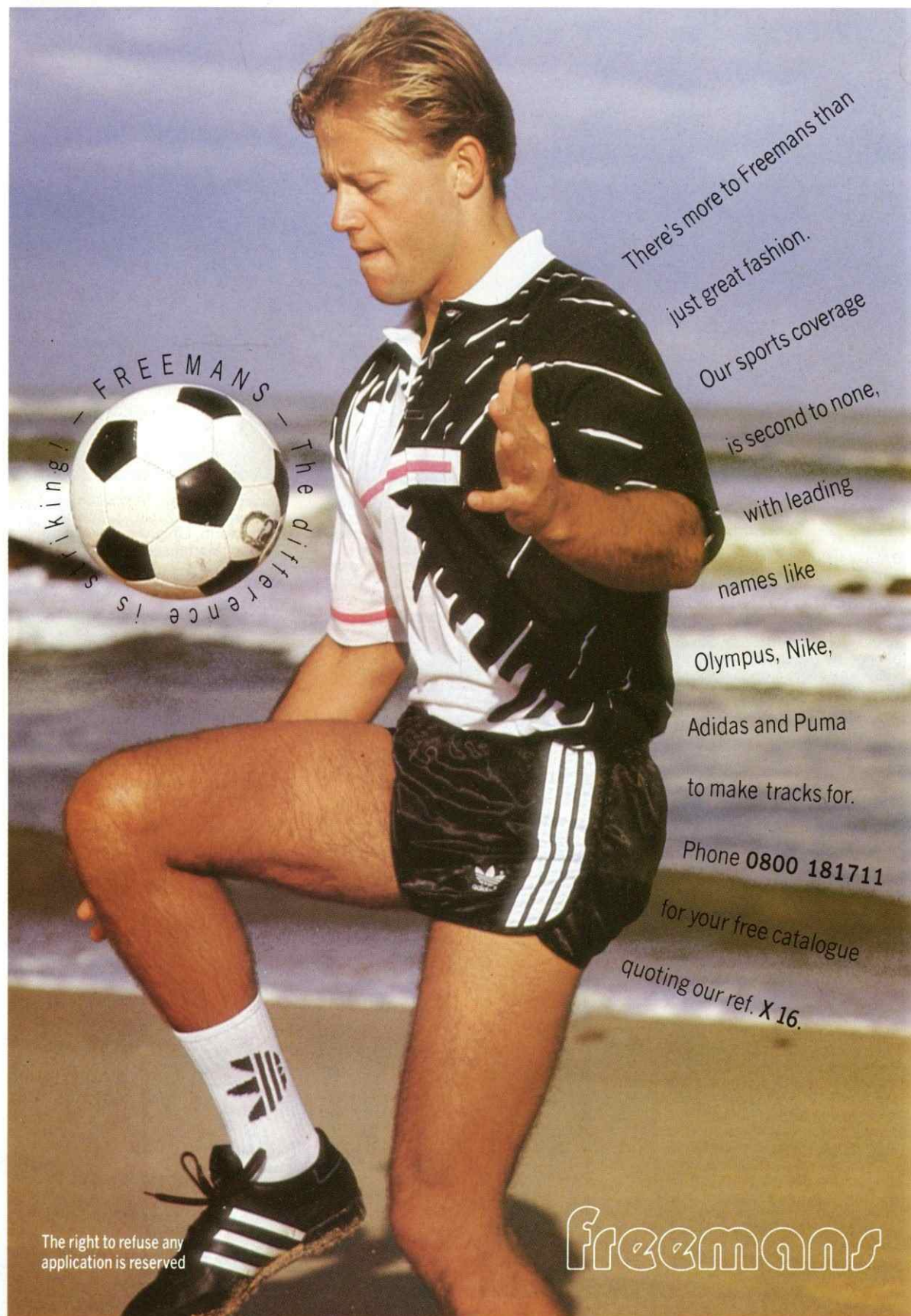
The win was Wednesday's first over Liverpool at Hillsborough since 1964.

FACTS:

Goals: Hirst 55 mins., Atkinson 90 mins.

Teams: Wednesday — Pressman, Worthington, King, Palmer, Shirliff, Pearson, Bennett, Sheridan, Hirst, Atkinson, Shakespeare. Unused subs: Whitton, Harper.

Liverpool — Grobbelaar, Gillespie, Staunton, Ablett, Whelan, Molby, Beardsley, Houghton, Rush, Barnes (sub Burrows 71 mins.), McMahon. Unused sub: Marsh. Attendance: 32,732.



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LUTON TOWN

Luton have been holding a place in the middle of the First Division largely due to their home performances. The Hatters have not won away from home in the league since last December, since when they have completed 17 away First Division matches without a win.

This season they have collected away points from drawn games at Q.P.R. (0-0), Millwall (1-1) and Crystal Palace (1-1) but they were

beaten at Tottenham (1-2), Coventry (0-1), Manchester City (1-3) and Southampton (3-6).

They did win away to Third Division Mansfield (4-3) in the second round of the Littlewoods Cup and, by later winning the return by 7-2 at Kenilworth Road, they had a comfortable passage into the third round.

But they were then well beaten at Everton (0-3).

That result came as a bitter disappointment as Luton have reached the final for the past two seasons. In 1988 they pulled off a fine 3-2 victory over Arsenal at Wembley to win the club's first major trophy.

Last season they were beaten 1-3 by Nottingham Forest at Wembley.

Two days after conceding those six goals at Southampton, Luton crashed 1-4 at Crystal Palace in the second round of the Zenith Data Systems Cup. In the previous round they had won at Oxford (3-2).

One of the reasons why Luton have been conceding a few goals of late is that manager Ray Harford has had both of his regular central defenders — Dave Beaumont and Darren McDonough — out of action through injury.

Left-back John Dreyer moved across to the middle of the back four with Marvin Johnson being called up to partner him. Richard Harvey was recalled at left-back.

Goalkeeper Alec Chamberlain and right-back Tim Breacker had ever-present records up to the end of November.

In midfield Danny Wilson, Mick Kennedy and Kingsley Black have now become well established but Steve Williams and David Preece have each taken turns to fill the fourth midfield position.

England striker Mick Harford has missed the entire season so far with injury. At first Roy Wegerle and Lars Elstrup occupied the striking positions but both went through barren periods and each has taken his turn on the substitute's bench as Iain Dowie has been given a run in the side.

It is just over seven years since Luton returned to the First Division and this has proved to be the most successful period in their history, particularly as far as cup football is concerned.

The Hatters appeared in the semi-finals of the F.A. Cup in 1985 and 1988.

Though in 100 years Luton had only once previously appeared at Wembley — for the 1959 F.A. Cup Final — in 1988 they played at the national stadium on three occasions!



They qualified for the Football League Centenary weekend tournament and they battled their way to the final of the Simod Cup, only to be surprisingly beaten 1-4 by Reading.

But Luton returned to Wembley in triumph to defeat Arsenal 3-2 in the Littlewoods Cup Final.

They reached the final again a year later but, as mentioned, they were beaten by Nottingham Forest.

The club was formed in 1885 and was initially elected to the Second Division of the Football League in 1897. They lost their place three years later but returned to the league fold as founder members of the Third Division (South) in 1920.

They remained at that level until winning promotion to the Second Division in 1937 and it was in 1955 that they first tasted life in Division One. In 1959 they were beaten by Nottingham Forest in the F.A. Cup Final.

That marked the start of a dramatic decline. Relegated from the First Division in 1960, Luton were a Fourth Division club five years later.

When they returned to Division One in 1974 Luton became the first club ever to drop from the First to the Fourth Division and then regain their place at the top.

Sadly, they survived for only one season but in 1982 they won promotion again and the Hatters have remained proud members of the First Division ever since.

● **The oldest player to appear in Luton's first-team was Dally Duncan who was 39 years and 11 days of age when he played his final game in 1948.**

ALEC CHAMBERLAIN (Goalkeeper)
Alec was signed from Everton for £150,000 last season and took over in the Luton goal towards the end of the campaign. He was a reserve player at Ipswich but soon stepped into league soccer with Colchester after a transfer in 1982. Everton signed him for £75,000 in 1987 as cover but, after a loan spell with Tranmere last season, he moved on to Kenilworth Road.

TIM BREACKER (Defender)
Tim is a former Luton apprentice who got his league chance in 1984. Within a couple of years, he was in the England under-21 side, winning two caps. Tim won a Littlewoods Cup winners' tankard in 1988 and a runners-up award in the same final last season.

● **Luton, who have played in three Wembley Cup finals over the past two seasons, had previously been to Wembley only once during their entire history — when losing the 1959 F.A. Cup Final.**

● **The Luton record is never likely to be beaten — Joe Payne scored 10 times against Bristol Rovers in a Third Division (South) game in 1936.**

JOHN DREYER (Defender)
John was an apprentice with Oxford but played league soccer for both Torquay and Fulham, whilst on loan, during the 1985/86 season before getting his chance in the Oxford side the following season. Luton signed him for £140,000 in 1988.

MARVIN JOHNSON (Defender)
Marvin is a former Luton apprentice who broke into the first-team for a few games in 1987/88. Last season he enjoyed a lengthy run at centre-back.

STEVE WILLIAMS (Midfield)
Steve made his name here with Southampton and he played for England on six occasions during his eight seasons with the Saints. Arsenal signed him for £550,000 in 1984 and he moved on to Luton for £300,000 in 1988. In addition to his full caps, Steve also played for England at under-21 and "B" levels.

● **Payne cornered another club record when he scored 58 goals in 1936/37 — 55 in the league, plus three in the F.A. Cup.**

DANNY WILSON (Midfield)
Danny played league football for Bury and Chesterfield before joining Nottingham Forest in a £100,000 deal in 1983. He spent a loan period with Scunthorpe, then made a full transfer to Brighton in 1984. Whilst with the Seagulls, Danny was introduced to the N.Ireland side. He is now a regular for his country, with 16 caps. Luton signed him in 1987 and he scored at Wembley in their victory over Arsenal when in the 1988 Littlewoods Cup Final.

DAVID PREECE (Midfield)
David made his league debut for Wallsall in 1981, winning a regular place two years later. Luton invested £150,000 when signing him in 1984 and he later played in two Littlewoods Cup finals for the Hatters. Last season he was capped three times by England "B".

● **Luton's record aggregate scorer was Gordon Turner, who scored 265 in all competitions —**

MICK KENNEDY (Midfield)
Mick joined the Hatters a few days before the start of this season in an exchange deal. He broke into league soccer with Halifax in 1978, moving on to Huddersfield two years later. Middlesbrough signed him for £200,000 in 1982 but, two years later, he became a Portsmouth player. Bradford City signed him for £250,000 in 1987 but last season he moved on to Leicester, where he remained until his latest move. Mick has played for the Republic of Ireland on two occasions.

RICHARD HARVEY (Defender)
Richard is a former England youth international. He made his league debut in 1986 and will be pressing for a more regular first-team place this season.

RICHARD COOKE (Midfield)
Though he played only occasionally in Tottenham's first-team, Richard played for England at youth and under-21 levels. He really made his name, though, after moving to Bournemouth in 1986 and, it was after he had starred in the Cherries' exciting F.A. Cup run last season that Luton secured his transfer for £140,000.

● **Mick Harford, with 80 goals in all competitions by the end of last season, is the highest scorer on the club's books at the moment.**

ROY WEGERLE (Forward)
Roy was signed from Chelsea for £75,000 in 1988 and last season he was the Hatters top scorer with 12 goals. Roy had scored six times this season before the weekend. He was playing for Tampa Bay Rowdies when he was recommended to Chelsea but, at Stamford Bridge, he was limited to about a couple of dozen league appearances over two years.

LARS ELSTRUP (Forward)
Lars was signed from Odense for £650,000, with striker Raphael Meade also going as part of the deal, in August. He scored five times in his first two Littlewoods Cup games for the Hatters but he didn't get off the mark in the First Division until scoring in the 1-1 draw at Millwall just over a week ago. Lars has been capped by Denmark on 12 occasions.

● **Luton's appearances record is held by Bob Morton who played 495 leagues games, 48 F.A. Cup ties and seven League Cup ties to make a grand total of 550.**

KINGSLEY BLACK (forward)
Kingsley made a remarkable impact after being introduced to the Luton side two seasons ago. He starred in their Littlewoods Cup win at Wembley and, within weeks, was in the N. Ireland side. He now has seven full international caps.

IAIN DOWIE (Forward)
Iain was happy playing in non-league soccer with St Albans, Hertford, Cheshunt and Hendon until Luton invited him to join them for £30,000 in December 1988. He had scored 80 goals in 2½ seasons with Hendon. Iain celebrated his Luton debut with a goal against Crystal Palace in a Simod Cup tie last season.

● **The Hatters were the first club to drop all the way from the First to the Fourth Division and, later, regain their place at the top.**

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CCTV is only one of The Football Trust's many initiatives. Each year it receives over £9.5 million from the Spotting-the-Ball competition run by Littlewoods, Vernons and Zettlers and spends it on projects that benefit all levels of the game throughout the United Kingdom.

NEWS & COMMENTS

DAVID AND DALIAN, DYNAMIC DOUBLE!

David Hirst and Dalian Atkinson have become the talk of Sheffield Wednesday supporters and have drawn admiration from the First Division for their impressive recent exploits.

David Hirst slides the ball past Bruce Grobbelaar for our first goal v Liverpool.



Between them, they scored all the goals against Liverpool and Norwich, and every one was a cracker.

First, there was David's opener against Liverpool. Dalian was at the beginning of the move, Craig Shakespeare played a pass down the left touchline to Carlton Palmer, and Carlton's cross was swept past Grobbelaar by David.

Then of course in injury time, Dalian netted his solo special, cutting inside from the right before striking his left-foot shot into the bottom corner.

At Norwich, Dalian supplied David, who shaped to shoot with his left foot but then switched to the right and chipped neatly over the keeper.

You would be hard pressed to find better goals than those three — interesting too that Dalian's left foot is not his strongest, and his partner tends not to favour the right!

Dalian said after the Liverpool game: "I usually hit them with my right. I think everybody expected me to pass it. I just went for goal."

Both strikers have been enjoying their play recently. Dalian said of his partnership with David: "It's working well. We have a good understanding and we are playing better together."

STEVE SENDS OUT GOAL REMINDER

Steve Whitton, the striker once linked with a possible move to Barnsley, issued a reminder that he remains a valued member of the first-team squad, with his splendidly taken goal against Crystal Palace.

He went on as a substitute and helped the Owls gain a 2-2 draw,

slotting home a nice goal after Dalian Atkinson had laid off Lawrie Madden's forward ball.

David Hirst's late penalty in the same match showed he can keep a cool head when under pressure.

He has in fact taken over from Steve as the club's penalty-taker. Unusually, the job has passed from Steve without his having had a chance to score from the spot.

He took the job after Mel Sterland left last season.

David accepted it in the Littlewoods Cup tie at Derby on October, when Steve was not playing that night. Then when that penalty came in the Palace match, with Steve on as a sub, David grabbed the responsibility.

Talking of penalties, wasn't Keven Pressman close to making a brilliant save from Andy Townsend's kick at Norwich last week? He managed to get a hand to the shot, but just failed to keep it out of the bottom corner.

GOTHENBURG'S GLAD TIDINGS FOR OWLS

Pre-Christmas glad tidings came to Hillsborough appropriately from Scandinavia with the news that Swedish international right-back Roland Nilsson is joining the Owls in a £375,000 deal with IFK Gothenburg.

It ended speculation that Wednesday might lose out in the race for Roland, whose pedigree suggests that he will be a first-class signing at a reasonable price.

Roland had two excellent games against John Barnes in Sweden's World Cup qualifiers against England.

So it was no doubt with a great deal of interest that he watched Liverpool's match at Hillsborough last week. Barnes, as it happens, was kept pretty quiet.

The England winger was this time up against Phil King, who did not do so bad for a left-back playing at right-back!

Phil was the seventh man to play in this position this season, and he kept the role at Norwich, where he was unfortunate enough to score the sort of own goal that most defenders will net at some time in their career.

OWLS v CHELSEA LIVE ON I.T.V.

Wednesday's recent play is worthy of a live T.V. showing, so let's hope the lads can keep it up when they face Chelsea next month.

The game has been chosen by I.T.V. for screening, so it has been switched from Saturday, 13 January, to Sunday 14 January.

It will make a change from the usual fare of Liverpool, Arsenal and Manchester United.

WILF STAYS AT BRAMALL LANE

Everyone at Hillsborough will wish Wilf Rostron all the best now that he has joined Sheffield United on a free transfer, after his two months on loan at Bramall Lane.



Ironically, he missed out on the two clubs' big night in the Zenith Data Systems Cup. Technically, he was a Wednesday player at the time, having just returned from his loan spell, and before his extended stay at the Lane was sorted out.

BORO TRIP NEXT IN ZENITH CUP

Wednesday will play Middlesbrough away in the Northern quarter-finals of the Zenith Data Systems Cup, on Wednesday, 20 December.

This follows the Owls' 3-2 win against Sheffield United in the second round. Both the Northern and the Southern areas will have their own finals, with the winners of these meeting at Wembley in the big final in 25 March.

OWLS OUT FOR REVENGE TODAY

Wednesday will today be hoping to avenge their 2-0 defeat at Luton in the second match of the season.

But Luton's Danny Wilson and David Preece will no doubt be hoping to go out with a bang, for after today they start suspensions for being sent off in their team's Zenith Cup tie against Crystal Palace.

Palace, who recently drew at Hillsborough, beat Luton 4-1, but of course that is no safe guide to today's game.

PONTIN'S LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

Aug. 23	W	Bolton Wanderers	1-1
31	Th	Preston North End	1-0
Sept. 5	Tu	Wolverhampton W.	0-0
11	M	Mansfield Town	5-0
21	Th	Sunderland	0-2
27	W	Scunthorpe United	2-3
Oct. 4	W	Stoke City	0-2
10	Tu	Wigan Athletic	5-0
18	W	Barnsley	2-0
25	W	York City	3-0
Nov. 8	W	Blackpool	4-0
14	Th	Rotherham United	0-1
20	M	Middlesbrough	1-0
30	Th	West Bromwich A.	4-0
Dec. 5	Tu	Burnley	1-2
12	Tu	Grimsby Town	
20	W	Port Vale	
Jan. 2	Tu	Preston North End	
10	W	Bolton Wanderers	
16	Tu	Mansfield Town	
24	W	Wolverhampton W.	
31	W	Sunderland	
Feb. 6	Tu	Scunthorpe United	
14	W	Wigan Athletic	
20	Tu	Stoke City	
28	W	West Bromwich Albion	
Mar. 13	Tu	Middlesbrough	
21	W	Barnsley	
27	Tu	York City	
April 3	Tu	Burnley	
11	W	Grimsby Town	
17	Tu	Port Vale	
25	W	Blackpool	
May 1	Tu	Rotherham United	


Home kick-offs 7.00 p.m.

N. INTERMEDIATE

Aug. 12	S	Newcastle United	4-3
16	W	Hull City (Prelim Cup)	1-3
19	S	Doncaster Rovers	3-2
26	S	Sheffield United	4-0
Sept. 2	S	Huddersfield Town	2-5
16	S	Hartlepool United	0-3
23	S	Grimsby Town	8-5
30	S	Scarborough	4-0
Oct. 7	S	York City	1-2
14	S	Halifax Town	1-0
21	S	Sunderland	3-1
28	S	Middlesbrough	6-2
Nov. 4	S	Hull City	1-4
18	S	Barnsley	3-3
25	S	Scunthorpe United	1-2
Dec. 2	S	Leeds United	1-3
9	S	Sheffield United (YC)	5-1
16	S	Bradford City	
30	S	Halifax Town	
Jan. 6	S	Newcastle United	
13	S	Doncaster Rovers	
20	S	Sheffield United	
27	S	Huddersfield Town	
Feb. 3	S	Hartlepool United	
10	S	Grimsby Town	
17	S	Scarborough	
24	S	York City	
Mar. 3	S	Rotherham United	
10	S	Sunderland	
17	S	Middlesbrough	
24	S	Hull City	
31	S	Barnsley	
April 7	S	Scunthorpe United	
14	S	Leeds United	
	S	Bradford City	
	S	Rotherham United	

Kick-off at 11.00 a.m. unless stated and all Northern Intermediate League Home games are played at Middlewood Road Training Ground.

TRAVEL WITH FINNAIR AND WOODCOCK TRAVEL



YOUNG OWLS

U-9 FOOTBALL

The next U-9 session will be on Tuesday, 2nd January, 2.30-4.00 p.m. in the Sports Hall. Boys aged 7 and over but who were under 9 on 1.9.89 are welcome to attend including non-members.

Boys showing ability will be considered for next season's U-10 Young Owls team.

We regret however that there are no spectator facilities.

DISCO

The Young Owls New Year disco will take place at STARS (next to skating ring, Queens Road) on Wednesday 3rd January 1990, 7.00 p.m.-9.00 p.m. Tickets now on sale are 50p members and 80p guests.

AN IDEA FOR CHRISTMAS?

All boys and girls aged 15 or under can join the Young Owls Club. Membership costs are £4 (or £2 for renewals). Two passport sized photographs are required which

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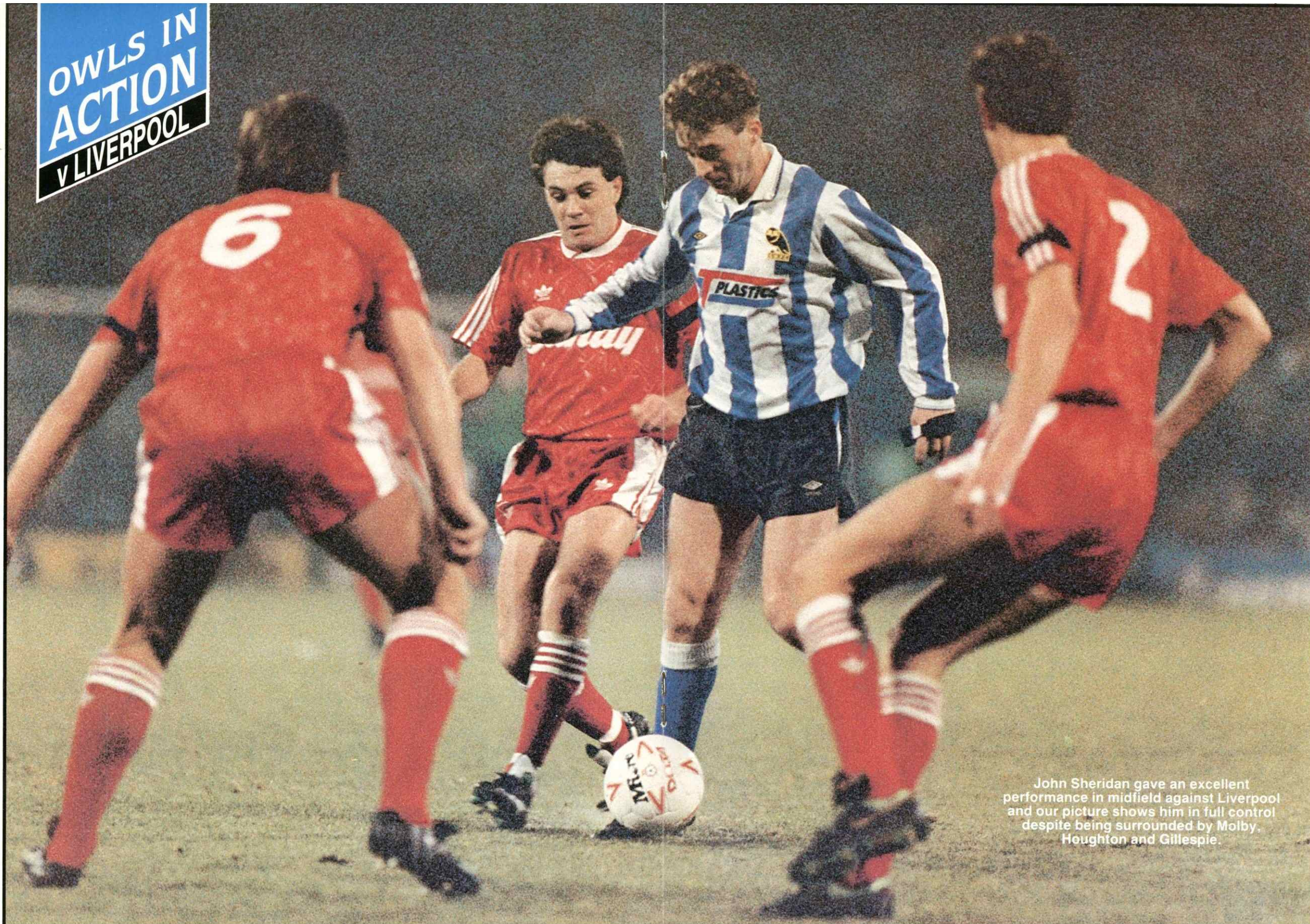
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v LIVERPOOL



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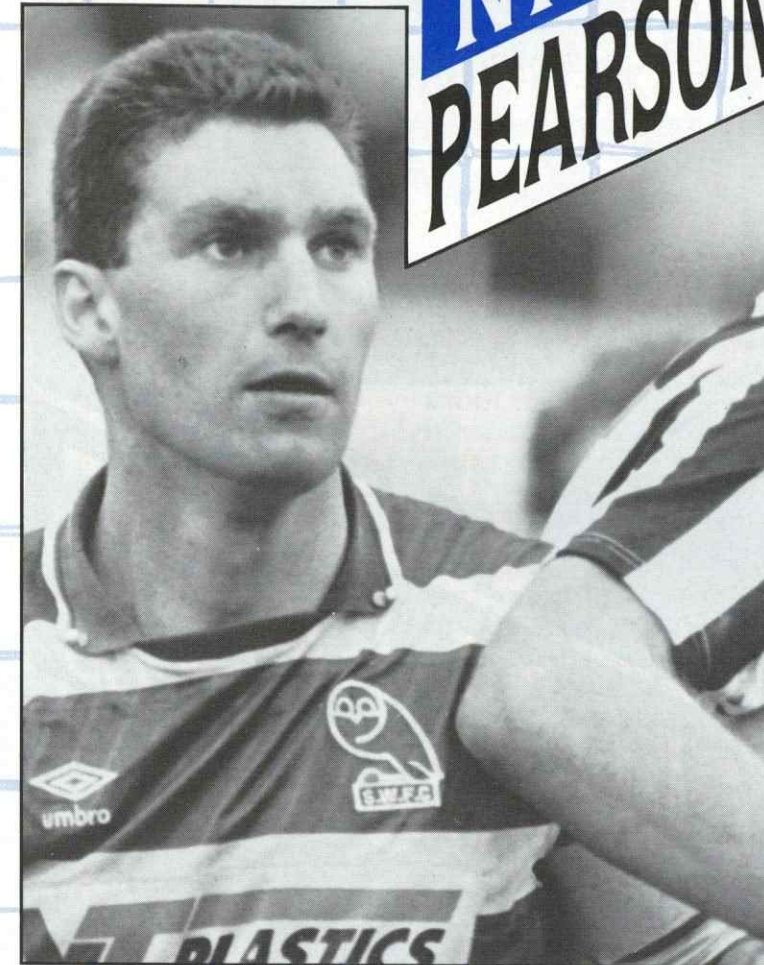
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HAND IN HAND WITH THE N.H.S.

Since compiling my last programme notes, we have played three games — drawn one, won one and lost one. Although the results have varied, we have carried on playing reasonably good football.



NIGEL PEARSON

We have kept up a reasonable standard of football throughout the recent games. Now we've got two home games and it's a good chance to make some progress as both sides, Luton and Q.P.R. are just above us in the table.

We are still playing well, and the signs are good. We've got to take maximum points from the next two matches, because they're six-pointers really. Obviously, Luton and Q.P.R. will have a similar view of the importance of the games, which means that they will be difficult ones.

Upheaval like that recently seen at Loftus Road can work for or against the opposition — it's what we do that matters, in both matches.

At Luton at the beginning of the season, we had the upper hand in the first 45 minutes and created a few chances. We gave away a penalty just before half-time, which changed the course of the game. At 1-0 you've always got a chance but then they got a second in the second half so it was then an uphill struggle.

Our strikers, David Hirst and Dalian Atkinson, have a good partnership going. They are creating chances when they get the ball, which is good for us. Hopefully during the course of a game they will be able to convert one or two, as they have been doing. That's the difference between now and earlier in the season. Then, we didn't look like creating chances.

It's nice for me to back at centre-half, which is certainly my best position. The competition here is now very good, that can be a good thing for the club, and bring out the best of us as a threesome.

The Crystal Palace draw was disappointing in that we were hoping to carry on in the same vein as against Sheffield United, but it blew up in our faces and we didn't really put together a satisfactory performance, though we rallied extremely well in the last 20 minutes, which showed a great deal of character.

Then the result against Liverpool was absolutely fantastic as most people won't have given us a realistic chance of beating them, but we thoroughly deserved all three points. We were the better side on the night. People obviously speculated about Liverpool's feelings on returning to

Hillsborough. Maybe that did have something to do with it, I don't know, but if it did then we took advantage of it. It was all about how we played — and we showed the right commitment and spirit.

This took us into the game at Norwich, where we started extremely well but lost to a dubious penalty and an own goal. It's not a nice feeling when the winner turns out to be an own goal, so you have to feel for Phil King, but we still had enough of the game in the second half to have got back into the game. We had a lot of possession without creating too many chances.

Nigel Pearson

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A brilliant save by Bruce Grobbelaar prevents another goal from David Hirst.

David Hirst's rich potential can possibly be gauged best by the goals he could have scored rather than those he has put away.

A record of one every three or four games, though respectable for a 22-year-old in the First Division, is not yet the measure of a genuine marksman.

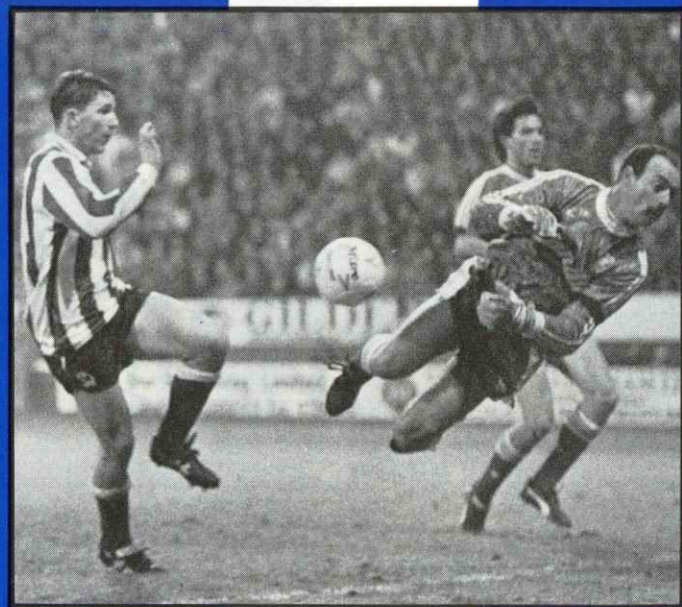
But he has suffered from astonishing bouts of bad luck and erratic finishing in almost equal measure.

Perhaps the two have tended to cancel out during Hirst's enigmatic Hillsborough career, which is now into its fourth and most tantalising season.

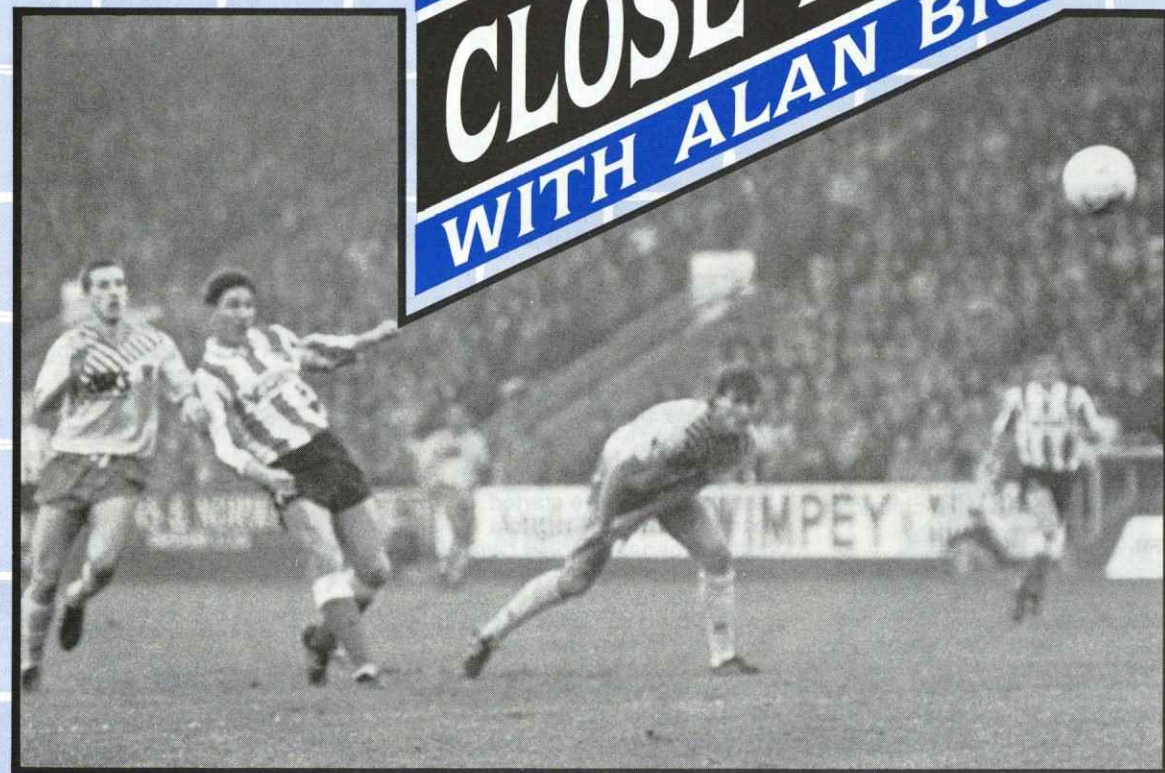
But he must have taken up an awful lot of good positions and fans treated to a selection of stunning goals have instantly forgiven equally spectacular misses.

There is something about him, too, that seems to draw excellence from goalkeepers. Just remember Bob Bolder's startling save before David grabbed his first league goal of the season against Charlton plus Nigel Martyn's heroics for Crystal Palace until the former Barnsley striker finally beat him with a last minute penalty equaliser.

David Hirst steers the ball into the Norwich net.



**AT
CLOSE RANGE
WITH ALAN BIGGS**



And then there was that world class save from Liverpool's Bruce Grobbelaar.

All good reasons why Ron Atkinson has kept faith in Hirst's ability and why the Wednesday manager has been rewarded for allowing the player his longest ever run in the First Division.

In fact, it is the only time since he arrived at Hillsborough that David has truly been given his head.

"I'm grateful for that," he says, mindful that for all but two matches on the bench this season Atkinson kept him in the team even when he simply could not find a goal — anywhere.

"Fortunately for me, but not the team, nobody else was scoring, either. But things got so bad that I couldn't even score in training.

"I was close to despair and it was a case of just trying to keep my head up. You've got to get goals because that is the only way a striker proves himself."

Hirst finally scored his first of the season — at the 13th attempt — with a penalty at Derby in the Littlewoods Cup and followed up with his brace against Charlton to end a First Division famine stretching back to last April.

He is no raw youngster now but fans and team mates alike were unrestrained in their delight that David was off and running.

"I feel that I've been playing my best football since I came to the club," he adds, quick to hand credit to the catalyst qualities of new man John Sheridan.

"John has given me more belief in myself. When players pass to your feet, as he does, it's a sign that they believe in you.

"If the ball keeps going past me then I start to wonder if other players have got confidence in me."

Certainly, Hirst has become the receiver-in-chief now that he is no longer chasing lost causes.

There are clear signs, too, that he and strike partner Dalian Atkinson — players who might once have seemed precariously similar in style — have managed to define separate roles.

"It was very difficult for both of us at first," David admits. "Dalian's a flier and prefers the ball played behind defenders whereas I'm playing more as a target man and feeling better for it."

Another reason for the split, he says, is that "Dalian is faster than me."

And that makes him very fast indeed! There surely cannot be a pacier pair in the league and even some of the greyhounds down the road at Owlerton Stadium might not fancy a contest.

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Saturday, 16th December, 1989

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MIDDLESBROUGH (Away)

Wednesday, 20th December, 1989

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LIVERPOOL (Away)

Tuesday, 26th December, 1989

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SOUTHAMPTON (Away)

Saturday, 30th December, 1989

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MANCHESTER CITY (Home)

Monday, 1st January, 1990.

Normal match day prices.

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ZENITH DATA SYSTEMS CUP

MIDDLESBROUGH

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LIVERPOOL

Tuesday, 26th December, 1989

Fare: £4.50/£3.50 Young Owls. Depart 11.30 a.m., back approx. 7.30 p.m. Book by 7.00 p.m. Thursday, 21st December to guarantee a coach ticket.

SOUTHAMPTON

Saturday, 30th December, 1989

Fare: £8.50/£7.50 Young Owls. Depart 9.15 a.m. back approx. 8.45 p.m. Book by 7.00 p.m. Thursday, 28th to guarantee a coach ticket.

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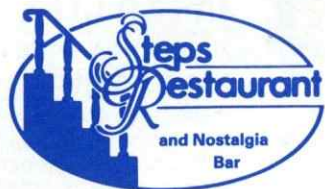
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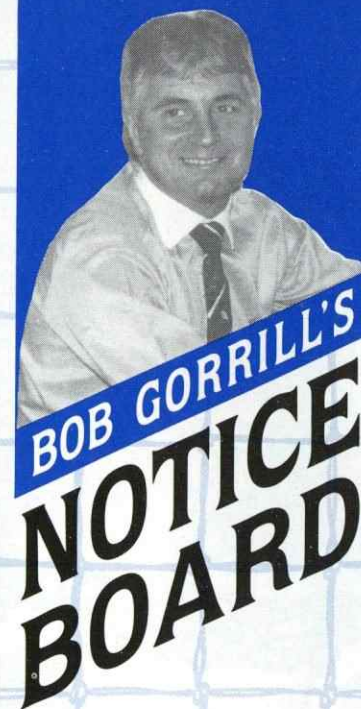
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CHECK YOUR PROGRAMME

It might be worth your while to have a close look at your copy of the match programme v Liverpool. If it says 'You've won a Microwave' across the bottom of the 'Notice Board' page get in contact with Bob Gorrill to collect a prize which has not yet been claimed.



TODAY'S MASCOT

Our mascot today is Nicky Rushforth, aged 8. He attends Todwick Junior School his only hobby is football and his favourite player is Dalian Atkinson.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Mr John Simmonds of match sponsors Lohja Finlux Ltd had the difficult task of naming a 'Man of the Match' v Liverpool and Dalian Atkinson won his vote.

CLUBCALL COMPETITION

In conjunction with Clubcall (0898 121186) the club is promoting a competition. All you have to do is phone the number and listen to the football question asked this week by David Hirst. Send your answer on a card to Bob Gorrill at the ground to arrive by Friday morning. The winning card will be drawn out by David and the winner will receive a signed football and photograph.

FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY

Today we would like to welcome children, parents and staff from Greengate Lane Junior and Infant School.

The reason we decided to pick Greengate Junior and Infant School is because we have been involved in previous activities with them. Their willingness to get involved and their behaviour has been tremendous. This is partly due to Miss Margaret Griffin the Headteacher and her staff.

During this week The Football in the Community Scheme has taken a football session accompanied by David Hirst from Sheffield Wednesday F.C.

Because Greengate Lane is situated on the outskirts of the city it is quite easy to forget or neglect them, however because of the nature and behaviour of the children they are not easy to forget.

Let's hope today's school day is as successful as the last one against Crystal Palace and a great day is had by all.

CHARLIE WILLIAMSON

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

In the event of an important Police or Safety message being made it will be preceded by a tone on the Public Address System.

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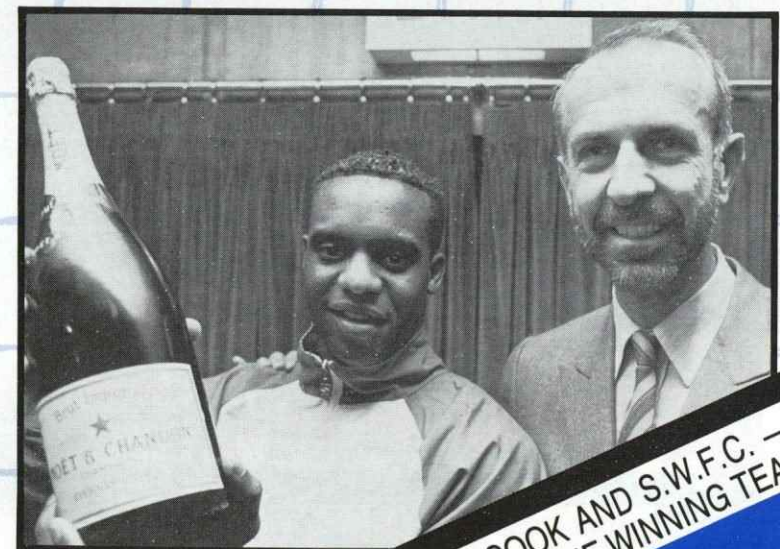
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**OWLS IN
ACTION**
v CRYSTAL PALACE

Two of the games goalscorers
in action as David Hirst
challenges Palace defender
Jeff Hopkins (left) and it's
Hopkins again this time
making a hefty clearance from
Carlton Palmer.



EXPERIENCE COUNTS

Against Scunthorpe United Juniors at home the young Owls fielded a team consisting entirely of YTS boys and players eligible to play in the forthcoming F.A. Youth Cup tie. The sight of their colleagues and young professionals being put through a typical training session on a nearby pitch no doubt made them realise how fortunate they were to be playing. Regrettably the disappointing end result nullified the early promise.

Little was seen of the Owls youngsters as an attacking force and in the 17th minute Paul Burton tackled the strong Scunthorpe Number 9 in the penalty area bringing the striker down but the referee surprisingly allowed the play to continue. Then, although Wednesday had started to have a better share of the play, they fell behind in the 28th minute to a bad defensive goal. As they cleared another Scunthorpe attack the ball was picked up by the visitors Number 8 midfielder some 30 yards out and he ran on to lob the ball over Brent Gillings, who had perhaps strayed a yard or so too far.

There followed a good run by Burton and a clever volley from Nicky Robinson before the Scunthorpe defence almost paid the penalty for slack play across their own area which allowed Leroy Chambers in but he was pulled back by the shirt and Richard Holmshaw's free-kick was headed wide. This miss turned out costly because a minute before the interval a long ball through the centre of the home defence which saw little challenge was collected by the Scunthorpe striker who lobbed the ball over Gillings into the net from the edge of the penalty area.

The visitors 2-0 lead was well deserved — a reward for most of the first half pressure which Wednesday failed to relieve by either winning a corner or forcing the Scunthorpe goalkeeper into too much action. However, within two minutes of the restart the Owls did win their first corner of the game but they could only earn another corner from which Downing eventually shot wide.

Certainly Wednesday began to enter into the game now for longer periods and with both Dunn and Jones causing pressure down the left but it was the central strikers who created the next real danger. On 69 minutes Chambers flicked the ball through to Robinson on the half-way line and he progressed to the edge of the visitors penalty area when he was tripped by the centre-half who was booked for this indiscretion, but the free-kick brought no reward. However another good Jones, Dunn left-wing move brought the first of two corners and from the second corner, Mark Smith, fully 30 yards out crashed a great shot against the Scunthorpe crossbar.

RESERVE & JUNIOR REVIEW

BY KEITH HOWARD & JASON DICKINSON

It was now almost all Wednesday in the latter stages with Gillings largely unemployed in the Owls goal and with Scunthorpe happy to sit on their lead and defend. Five minutes from time the Owls scored a consolation goal as some reward for their late pressure. A great run by Mark Dickinson into the right corner of the pitch earned a free-kick and Ryan Jones's well flighted centre was headed in by a Scunthorpe defender to reduce the arrears.

Although Robinson played a very imaginative through ball for Chambers to run on to in the last minute the Owls just failed to retrieve the situation against a stronger team who had included a few young professionals in their side.

ANOTHER CONVINCING PONTINS WIN

Wednesday Reserves completed four consecutive home wins with a comprehensive victory over a decidedly poor West Brom team. The Owls lined up with Dean Barrick at left back and ex-Owls Colin West played up front for the visitors. Wednesday attacked from the start and after Johnson had shot wide they took the lead after only four minutes when an accurate right wing cross from Kevin Haigh saw David Lycett rise above the defence to powerfully head home. Next a strong run from Gregory ended with a low shot easily taken by 'keeper Bradshaw. Then in quick succession West Brom. players Dobbins and Bennett were both booked after late challenges on Taylor and Johnson respectively. Wednesday then had a lucky escape as the defence was caught square and Thomas toe-

poked the ball over. A superb run by Hyde took him past three defenders and into the area before his shot was saved low down by Bradshaw. Immediately afterwards Johnson's cross was headed wide by Haigh and minutes later Haigh whipped in a low cross which Johnson just failed to get the decisive touch to. Wednesday could not be denied and with three minutes of the half remaining they went further ahead with a superbly worked goal. Gregory supplied Lycett who held off two defenders before a delightful ball put David Johnson clean through and he made no mistake with a fierce shot past the unprotected 'keeper. Half-time came with Wednesday in command without ever having been tested.

Wednesday stepped up a gear immediately after the interval and after a 20 yard effort from Cam went wide Lycett was almost in as Bradshaw fumbled a back pass. After 54 minutes it was 3-0 with a goal brilliantly created by young winger Haigh. After turning two defenders inside out on the edge of the box he crossed to the far post where Mark Taylor's header just crossed the line after having hit the underside of the crossbar. On the hour it was almost four as Lycett shot wide after receiving a long ball from Knight. After Barham's fierce right wing shot had gone close for the visitors the home side completed the scoring after 66 minutes with their fourth strike. A 20 yard effort from Tony Gregory was only parried by Bradshaw and after he had blocked an effort by Lycett, Johnson drilled the ball home from a narrow angle.

It was a confident display by Wednesday with Lycett, Haigh and Gregory prominent in a one side game.

Kevin Haigh... in good form against Albion.



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WEDNESDAY

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- 2 NIGEL WORTHINGTON
- 3 PHIL KING
- 4 CARLTON PALMER
- 5 PETER SHIRTLIFF
- 6 NIGEL PEARSON
- 7 DAVE BENNETT
- 8 JOHN SHERIDAN
- 9 DAVID HIRST
- 10 DALIAN ATKINSON
- 11 CRAIG SHAKESPEARE
- 12
- 14

- 1 ALEC CHAMBERLAIN
- 2 TIM BREAKER
- 3 RICHARD HARVEY
- 4 DANNY WILSON
- 5 MARVIN JOHNSON
- 6 JOHN DREYER
- 7 STEVE WILLIAMS
- 8 ROY WEGERLE
- 9 IAIN DOWIE
- 10 MICK KENNEDY
- 11 KINGSLEY BLACK
- 12
- 14

Referee:

R. A. Hart

Linesmen

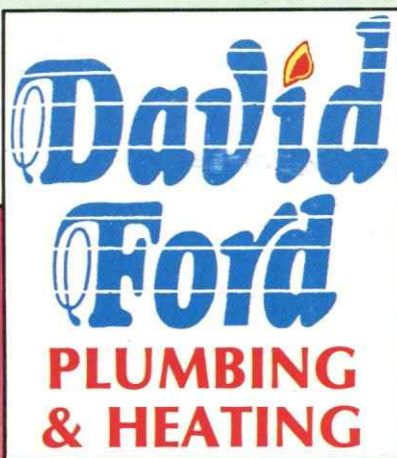
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