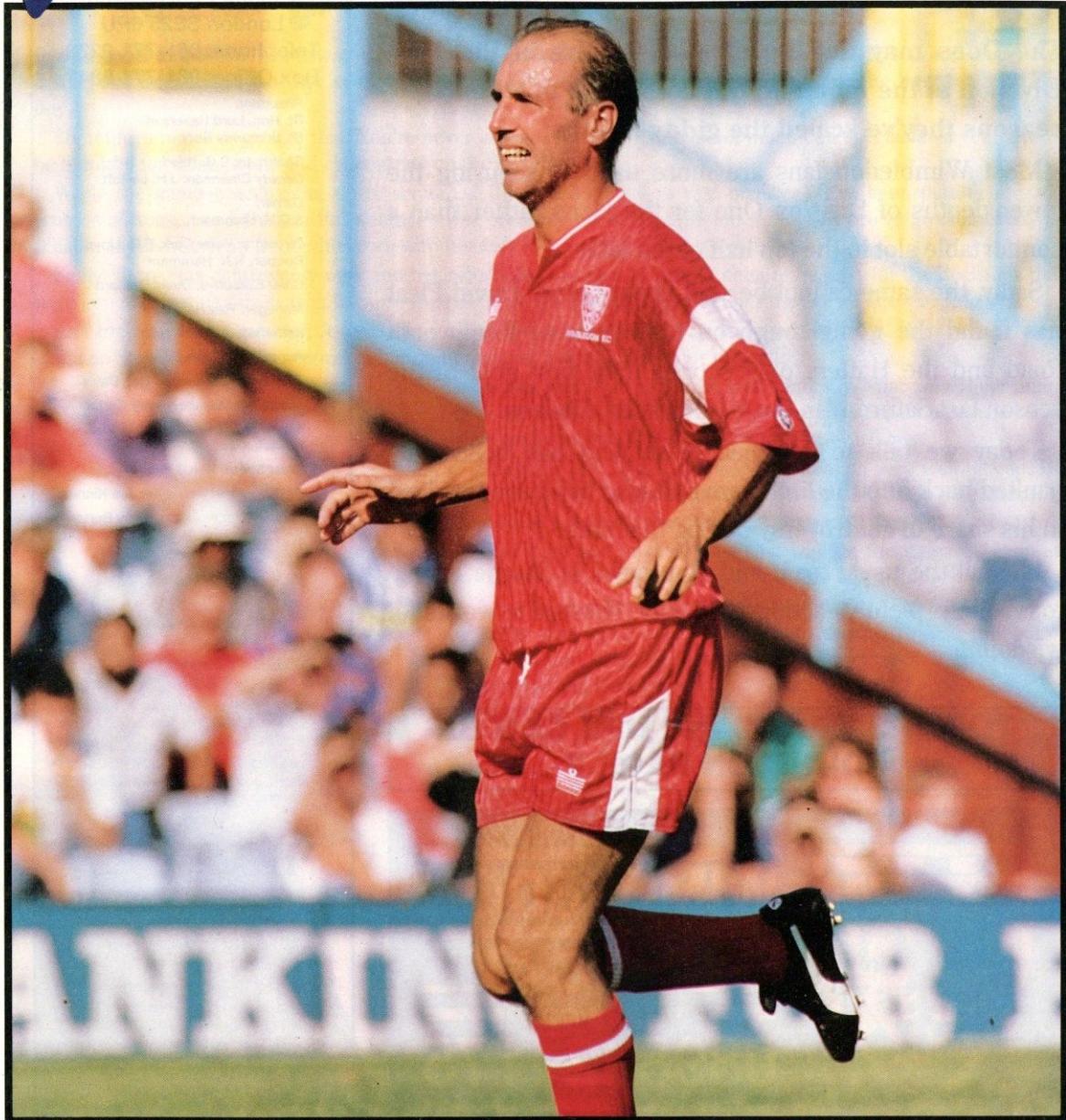


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kick off

The Dons may not be hot pace-setters in the First Division at the moment, but compared to recent seasons they've scaled the giddy heights.

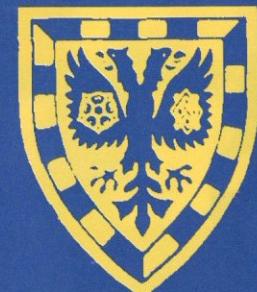
Most Wimbledon fans are more used to scouring the lower depths of Division One for the Dons rather than a comfortable slot in the top half of the table.

Sadly, the same cannot be said about Luton. David Pleat has found the going tough on his return to Kenilworth Road and the Hatters only scored their first goal of the season last Saturday in the 4-1 defeat by Chelsea.

Today we talk to Vaughan Ryan who has been catapulted back into the first team and who has been involved in his share of controversy during that time.

Plus all the usual team and club news in 'Home Front,' top colour picture action and Ray Harford's words of wisdom.

TODAY'S TEAM LINE UPS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 7



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Fourth Division Champions	1983
Promoted to Third Division	1983
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Ray Harford

It was good to get our first away win of the season under our belts up at Coventry. You could never say it was our best display of the season, but it was functional and I thought we were the best team on the day.

Sometimes matches go like that. You're never at your best, the game is not much of a spectacle so you have to be thankful for three points and concentrate on the next match.

While the game wasn't quite up to scratch, I thought our goal as real quality. We've been putting in good crosses all season and Carlton Fairweather's was probably the best of the lot. And when you've got somebody as reliable as Alan Cork up front who score with headers like that, then you're laughing.

Sadly, there was controversy over another refereeing decision. I haven't been unhappy with the decisions that have gone against us this season because the refs have been following guidelines that we all knew about.

And the referee at Coventry, Roger Dilkes, again interpreted the laws as laid down by FIFA. Hans Segers' challenge on Stewart Robson was purely a committed player going honestly for the ball.

People will look at the incident and say what was Hans doing near the centre-circle? But he's a sweeper keeper, he's paid to be alert wherever the ball is, not just in his 18-yard box.

I thought Mr. Dilkes handled the situation very well indeed. He knew there was no malicious intent, Hans didn't stop a goal-scoring opportunity so there was no call for the red card.

That's the sort of refereeing that will get the game back on an even keel and everybody will know where they stand.

Away from referees and rule interpretation, I'm quietly pleased with the start we've made. Normally by now we're near the foot of the table and drag ourselves out of trouble with a good run in November and December.

Hopefully we can still get that sort of consistency going again, but instead of pushing us up to mid-table it will see us climb towards the top of the table.

I'm sure David Pleat would welcome a run of consistency at the moment. Luton have been struggling for the first five or six matches and David hasn't quite been able to get the balance right.

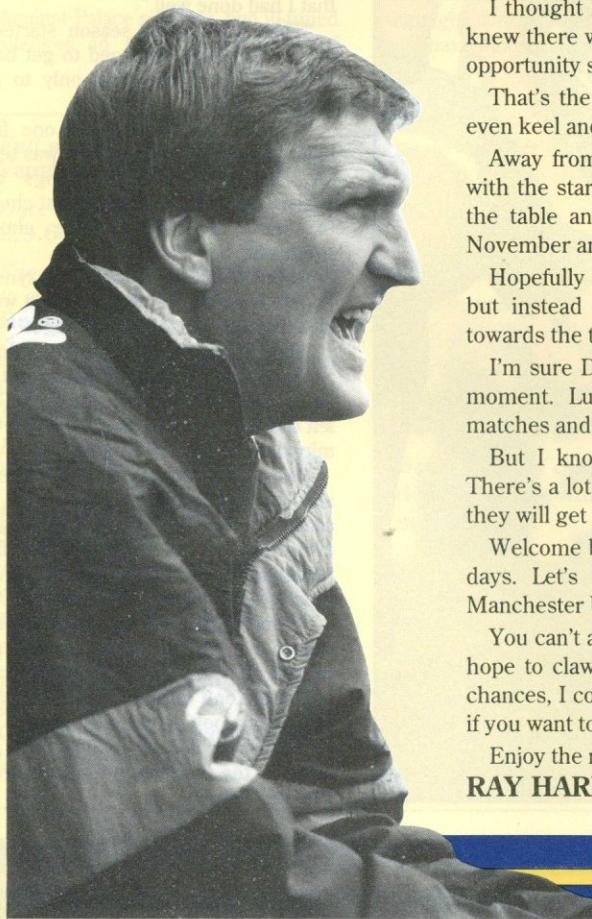
But I know David and I know a lot of the players at Luton. There's a lot of quality there and I'm sure if it's harnessed properly they will get themselves out of trouble.

Welcome back to Selhurst Park for our second game here in five days. Let's hope we can produce a better result than against Manchester United on Tuesday.

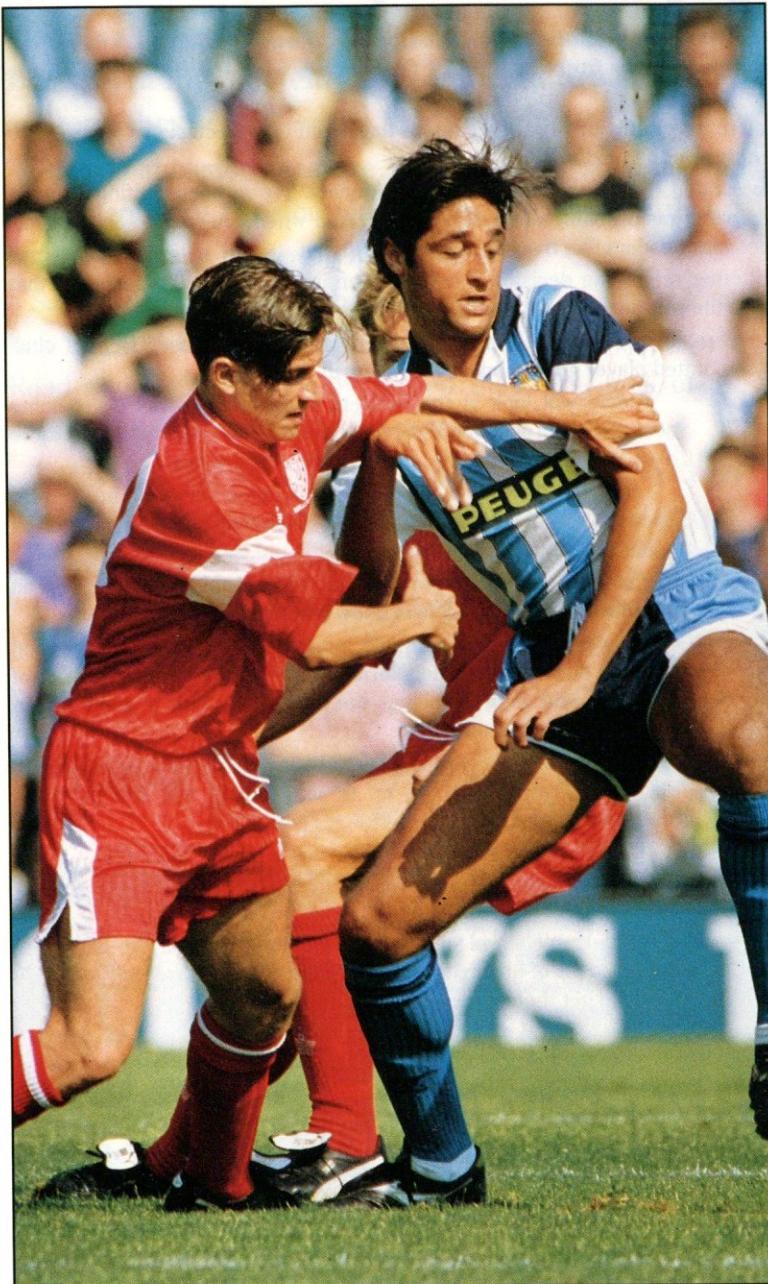
You can't afford to give sides like United a two-goal start and then hope to claw your way back into games. We wasted far too many chances, I counted at least six or seven that could have gone in, but if you want to be successful you have to take chances.

Enjoy the match.

RAY HARFORD



player profile



Back in the groove!

A Year ago Vaughan Ryan thought the only way to further his career was a move away from Wimbledon. Twelve months later the gritty midfielder is back in the first team and is not going to give up his place without a fight.

Ryan said, "I seriously considered asking for a move a couple of times last season, I was that down. It seemed I'd gone from top of the heap to nowhere in less than a year through no fault of my own."

"The season before last was great, I'd played regularly all season and felt that I had done well."

"Then before last season started I got a bad injury, managed to get back into first team reckoning only to get another injury."

"I ended up playing just one first team game last season which was terrible. It's amazing how things can change for you, I went from first choice to fourth or fifth choice almost overnight."

"John Scales, Detzi Kruszynski, Lawrie Sanchez and Robbie Earle were all ahead of me a few months ago."

"But then Keith Curle left, John Scales dropped back and Sanch got an injury and Detzi was out of favour. That left the door open for me and I'm determined not to let it shut again."

Ryan sat down during the summer and thought long and hard about his career. "I realised that I had to give everything to get back into the first team, and the first thing was to get my fitness absolutely right."

"What with all the injuries last season, I think I was only about 90 per cent fit all year. Then I went on a tour of Hong Kong during the summer and came back looking like a Buddha!"

"So I cancelled my holiday and got down to the toughest pre-season work I've ever done."

VAUGHAN RYAN

Ryan is just the latest Wimbledon player to pay tribute to Jenny Archer, the athletics coach who has worked wonders on the fitness front.

He said, "Jenny has been brilliant, she's improved my whole fitness by 200 per cent. It's hard work but I can tell just over the first few games that there's been a massive improvement in my stamina. Part of my job is getting around the park well and she's helped me do that probably better than at any time in my career."

Ryan's whole-hearted attitude towards the game has always marked him down as one of the most combative Wimbledon players, but unfortunately it's also got him into trouble this season.

Against Palace recently, two ill-timed challenges on Andy Gray and Geoff

Thomas earned him his first senior red card, a fact that hurt Ryan.

"I was gutted because basically I got hammered because of one referee's inconsistency. Those two fouls were about the only ones I committed all night but because they happened one after another and the referee was looking to give somebody another red card."

"It's a joke really because I committed two fouls and got sent off against Palace but against Coventry I committed three fouls and only got a talking to."

"That's the sort of wall you're up against. We watched an official FIFA video during the summer on the new regulations. It was in three different languages and it looks as though we must have watched the French version!"

"It really just comes down to the individual ref. Against Palace he was looking to his yellow and red cards for everything, but at Coventry, the guy knew how to handle a game properly, when to get tough and when to just have a quiet word".

"But until every ref thinks along the same lines, either all or nothing, nobody will know where they stand."

Fortunately for Ryan, his punishment will only be a one-match suspension, but even that cuts deep.

"It's really annoying because I've felt I've done well so far this season, but the suspension is going to break up that consistency."

"It also gives somebody else to get their hands on the midfield place for a match, but I'm determined not to give it up easily."

Full name
Vaughan William Ryan

Date and place of birth
2.9.68

Favourite sport other than football to watch
Horse racing

Favourite sport other than football to play
Water Polo

Favourite past player
Liam Brady

Favourite present player
Stuart Pearce

Best match you've seen and why
Oldham v Man Utd in 90/91 FA Cup semi-final for the excitement

Best match you've played in and why
Charity Shield v Liverpool for the occasion

Favourite other sporting personality
Frankie Dettori

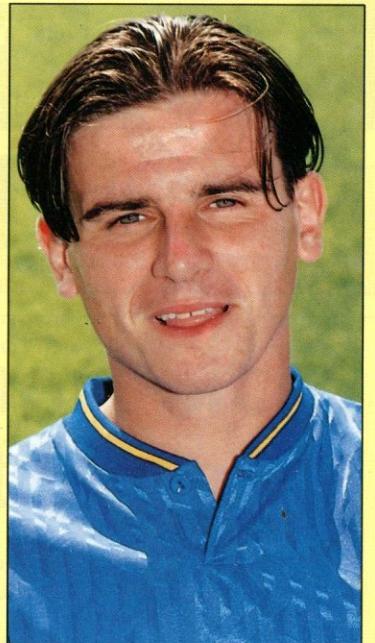
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3	Terry PHELAN
4	Warren BARTON
5	John SCALES
6	Scott FITZGERALD
7	Andy CLARKE
8	Robbie EARLE
9	Alan CORK
10	Vaughan RYAN
11	Carlton FAIRWEATHER
12	
14	

REFEREE
A. BENNETT
(Sheffield)



LUTON TOWN

Colours: White and Black

Alec CHAMBERLAIN	1
David BAUMONT	2
John DREYER	3
Darren McDONOUGH	4
Graham RODGER	5
Trevor PEAKE	6
Philip GRAY	7
David PREECE	8
Brian STEIN	9
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SWEATSHOP



Luton Town



ALEX CHAMBERLAIN (*Goal-keeper*) Alec was signed from Everton for £150,000 in July 1988 and took over in the Luton goal towards the end of the following season. 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, he moved on to Kenilworth Road.

DAVE BEAUMONT (*Defender*) Dave, who was signed from Dundee United for £150,000 in January 1989, was unlucky with injuries in his early days with the Hatters. But he won a place at centre-back last season and opened the current campaign at right-back. He joined the Dundee club from school and worked his way into their first-team in 1984.

TREVOR PEAKE (*Defender*) Trevor was signed from Coventry for £100,000 last month and immediately installed as team captain. A former England semi-professional international, with two caps, he joined Lincoln from non-League Nuneaton in 1979 for £15,000. He missed only a handful of games over the next four years before transferring to Coventry, for £100,000, in 1983. With Coventry, he won an FA Cup winners medal in 1987.

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 and he has been an ever-



today's visitors

present member of their side for the past two seasons.

GRAHAM RODGER (*Defender*)

Graham completed his apprenticeship with Wolves but got only one outing in their League eleven. After moving to Coventry in 1985 he played four times for the England under-21s and won an FA Cup winners medal. Luton signed him during the summer of 1989.

RICHARD HARVEY (*Defender*)

Richard is a former England youth international. He made his League debut in 1986 and for the past two seasons he has been a fairly regular member of the side.

MATTHEW JACKSON

(*Defender / Midfield*) Julian joined the club as a trainee and he was introduced to First Division football four seasons ago. Julian is an England under-21 international.

DARREN McDONOUGH

(*Midfield*) Darren completed his apprenticeship with Oldham and played over 200 first-team games for the Latics prior to his £85,000 transfer to Luton in 1986. He was a member of the Hatters' side that played in the 1989 Littlewoods Cup final.

MARK PEMBRIDGE (*Midfield*)

Mack is a former Luton trainee who made his senior debut against West Ham in the Zenith Cup last December. He later won a regular place and played for Wales at "B" and under-21 levels.

DAVID FREECE (*Midfield*)

David made his League debut for Walsall 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. David has been capped three times by England "B."

KINGSLEY BLACK (*Midfield*)

Kingsley made a remarkable

impact after being introduced to the Luton side four seasons ago. He starred in their Littlewoods Cup win over Arsenal at Wembley and, within weeks, was in the N. Ireland side. He now has 15 full international caps. Two seasons ago he was joint-top scorer with 12 goals. He netted nine times last term.

BRAIN STEIN (*Forward*)

Brain returned to Luton this summer after spending the past three seasons in France. A Luton discovery, he was introduced to the Hatters' League side in 1977 and was their leading scorer on two occasions, form that won him an England cap. Brian scored two of the Wembley goals when Luton beat Arsenal in the Littlewoods Cup final of 1988 and that proved to be his last game

for the club for the time being. He was transferred to SM Caen, then played for Annecy before returning to Kenilworth Road.

SEAN FARRELL (*Forward*)

Sean completed his apprenticeship with the Hatters but made his League debut whilst on loan to Colchester during 1987/88. He made his first appearance in the first Division for Luton two seasons ago.

PHIL GRAY (*Forward*)

Phil was signed from Tottenham for £275,000 shortly before the start of the season. He developed in the junior teams at White Hart Lane and made his First Division debut in 1987. Two seasons ago he went to Barnsley on loan.

Luton Town have escaped relegation in each of the past three seasons only by winning their final game and new manager David Pleat, who returned for his second spell in charge this summer, is under no illusions as to the size of the task before him.

With both of last season's chief goalscorers now having left the club - following the departure of John Dowie to West Ham in March, 19-goal Lars Elstrup returned to Odense during the summer - early signs suggest that Mr. Pleat will be basing his survival plans around his defence.

After Luton had drawn their opening game of the new season by 0-0 at West Ham, Mr. Pleat remarked: "I was pleased with the way we defended. A clean sheet means more to me now than when I started in management."

That was, in fact, the first time Luton had not conceded a goal in 46 away games dating back to September 1989!

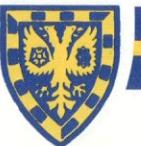
Scarcely had the euphoria of that occasion disappeared, though than Luton found themselves crashing 0-5 at Coventry four days later.

It was then that Mr. Pleat decided to sign Coventry centre-back Trevor Peake for £100,000. That deal was not completed in time for the new man to play in the next match at home to Liverpool. Nevertheless, the Luton defence looked good again as it held the Reds to 0-0.

Peake made his debut in the away game at Arsenal, which Luton lost 0-0.

But, if things were looking a little better in defence, the fact remained that Luton did not score a solitary goal themselves in their opening four games. So Mr. Pleat may yet feel it necessary to search for new blood here.

He did try to sign former England striker Clive Allen from Manchester City shortly before the start of the season but that deal fell through. But he did clinch a deal that took striker Brian Stein back for his second spell with the club. And Spurs' forward Phil Gray was signed for £275,000 shortly before the start of the season.



home front

RED CARD RASH

The Dons have been involved in their fair share on controversy again early in the season and with three players sent off already this season, head the table in disciplinary points.

But much has been made about the inconsistency of referees in enforcing the new FIFA regulations.

John Fashanu misses today's match after being sent off for an ill-timed challenge on Ludek Miklosko which left the West Ham keeper with a bruise but no more.

Yet an Aston Villa player apparently knocked two of Barry Horn's teeth out with a punch in a match against Southampton and didn't even glimpse a red card.

And in the same game, Tim Flowers caught the ball outside his area. Technically that is a red card offence, but the referee felt it was an 'instinctive reaction.'

Well wasn't Terry Phelan handball against Palace instinctive? Whereas Flowers and Southampton remained unpunished, Phelo was given his marching orders and Andy Gray scored from the penalty spot.

Nobody is saying that referees will be perfect everytime, but the sooner they are allowed to make their own decisions and recognise

shades of gray without being controlled by FIFA's iron strictures, the sooner a lot more people will be happy.

PHELO REQUEST

Terry Phelan has handed in a transfer request, claiming that he and his family cannot settle properly in London.

But boss Ray Harford is hoping that he can convince Terry not to leave the Dons.

Harford said, "As a former player I can sympathise with Terry because having an unsettled domestic situation is probably the worse thing in the world.

"But I have recommended to the board that we don't sell Terry. He's an exceptional player who has been outstanding so far this season and would be a huge loss if he left.

"If we're looking to build something special at Wimbledon, we can't afford to let players of Terry's calibre leave."

HATTER OFF

Luton arrive at Selhurst Park today with an unenviable start to the season hanging round their necks. And the Dons will be looking to inflict a touch more misery today.

The Hatters were one of only three teams that Wimbledon did the double over last season. A 2-0 win at

Plough Lane and a 1-0 victory at Kenilworth Road clinched that achievement with John Fashanu being on the score-sheet twice over the two games.

Luton might just be breathing a sigh of relief that Fash is not on the prowl this afternoon.

The Hatters have lost the services of both Lars Elstrup and Kingsley Black. Black was a player that certainly interested Ray Harford and he had a £1.2 million bid turned down in the summer, but Luton could not resist an extra £300,000 that Brian Clough offered and Black joined Forest.

By the way, QPR and Everton were the other two sides to feel the wrath of the Dons twice last season!

BIRTHDAYS

A belated birthday greeting to Vaughan Ryan who was 23 last Monday and early greetings to both Carlton Fairweather who is 30 on September 22 and John Fashanu who will be 29 on September 18.

POSH STOP

The Dons have been drawn against Peterborough in the second round of the League Cup.

CARRY ON, SEGERS

People are always complaining that there are no characters left in Football. But Wimbledon fans have known for the last three years that they have one of the top entertainers in the camp, in Hans Segers.

Now his antics are receiving a much wider audience. Not only is Hans one of the top stoppers around at the moment, he also knows how to have a laugh.

"For instance, his celebrations after setting up John Fashanu for the second goal against West Ham were something to see.

Hopping around one leg near the centre-circle, fists pumping Curtly Ambrose-style, Segers made Roger Milla's corner-flag samba look tame.

Then against Palace, seconds from the end he raced forward to compete for a corner in the Palace box. His actions may have been borne out of desperation, but they were still a major talking point and kept the fans entertained and that

certainly does not go amiss at the moment.

WELCOME RETURN?

It will not have escaped Wimbledon fans notice that a certain Vincent Jones Esquire has returned to the capital after a two year sojourn in the wilds of Yorkshire.

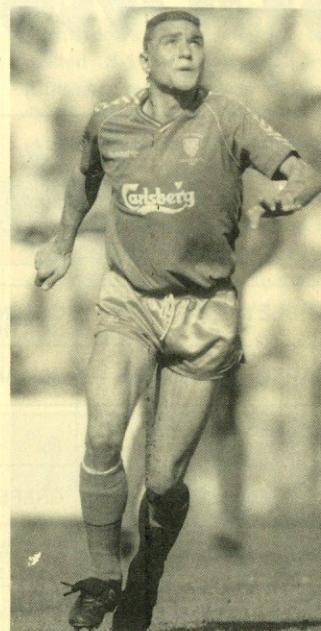
And no sooner had Vinnie let the ink dry on his Chelsea contract than he was in trouble.

Claiming that he want Chelsea to be 'hated' in the same way as the Dons 'Crazy Gang' were, he managed to alienate Crystal Palace by saying they were 'horrible bastards' who 'stamped' on everybody.

A day later came a hasty retraction and claims that Mr Jones had been misquoted by the gentlemen of the press.

But he added fuel to fire by saying that Chelsea had plenty of players 'who could look after themselves in a tunnel.'

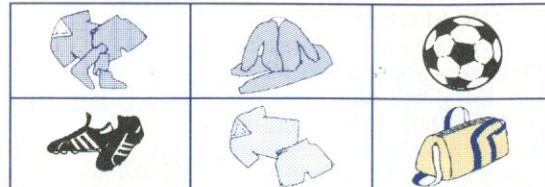
Some things in life don't change should be all the more colourful for the return of Vincent.



No hands, Hans! Hans Segers interprets the new FA regulations...



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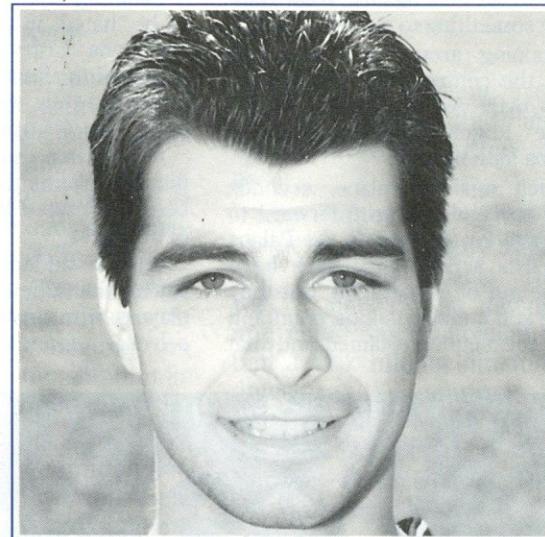
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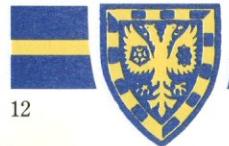
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Scott Fitzgerald who made his 1st Division debut earlier in the season has his kit sponsored by Thorn Associates.

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ALLEN, STEVE	NELSONS HOMEOPATHY



flashback

5 YEARS AGO

For all their marvellous cup fighting tradition, Wimbledon have always been susceptible to a bit of giant-killing themselves. That was no different five years ago, than it is today.

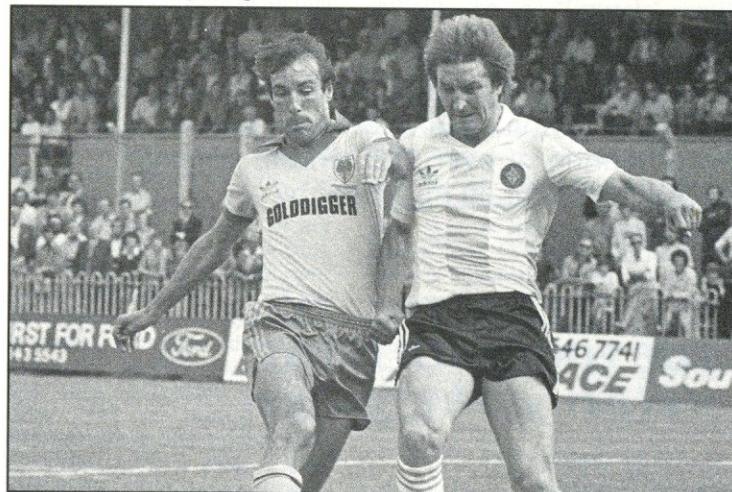
Freshly promoted to Division One and having held top spot for a week above the glory names, the Dons were expected to deal easily with Cambridge United in the League Cup.

The first leg at Cambridge was a battle from the start and Harry Bassett's boys were quite happy to come away with a 1-1 draw, happy in the knowledge that Plough Lane would see them through.

But poor league form was to translate into equally bad cup form. A 1-0 defeat at Newcastle did not bode too well and the Dons were held to a 2-2 draw with Cambridge and were promptly booted out of the competition on the away goals rule.

Another draw at home to Southampton and a 3-1 defeat by Liverpool at Plough Lane gave Wimbledon a taste of just how tough life in the top flight could be and it took some harsh words from Bassett to open some eyes in SW19.

Corkie with 'Hair' Ten years ago.



10 YEARS AGO

The league Cup was still proving a thorn in Wimbedon's side. They were ousted 3-1 on aggregate by Aldershot over two legs and by September 15 they didn't have a point to their name. Defeats in the league against Doncaster, Fulham and Walsall only added to the misery and it wasn't until the Dons grabbed a draw at Bristol Rovers that the faithful had something - albeit flimsy - to cheer about

15 YEARS AGO

Wimbledon 5 Arsenal 0. A scoreline to send the average Dons fan into ecstacy! Unfortunately it was only a friendly match but it set the tone for a solid run in both the Southern League and the SL Cup. A 2-1 win at home to Chelmsford City was followed by a 2-0 extra time cup victory over Romford and a similar victory at Burton Albion in the league.

DAY OF YORE

The 1934/35 season was the first real glory year for the Dons. They reached the final of the Amateur Cup for the first time and also won the Isthmian League. In the final they faced mighty Bishops Auckland and held the Geordies to a 0-0 draw at Ayresome Park. The replay was at Stamford Bridge and although Doc Doden gave the Dons a third minute lead, Auckland hit back with two goals to lift the trophy.



odds and sods...

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In his efforts to maintain a high standard of Professional Football outside the Football League, Neville Ovenden of Ovenden Papers Ltd. has entered into a further Sponsorship deal with the Football Combination, which for the next three years will be called, The Neville Ovenden Football Combination.

He explained his reasons by saying, he wanted to give all up and coming young Footballers, the opportunity of playing with and against some of the countries top professionals and allow supporters to see these players at a reasonable cost. He continued, in these days of multi-million pound transfers etc. it is essential for all Football League clubs to have the opportunity of playing their Reserve Teams, in a full-time Professional Competition, such as the Football Combination.

Having been Chairman of a Football League Club himself for a number of years, he realises the importance of bringing young players through to the Football League, from within the clubs own resources, which he hopes his efforts will achieve.

SPONSORS NEEDED FOR A MARATHON DARTS EVENT

The Prince of Wales Public House in Garratt Lane just around the corner from the Old Plough Lane Ground are holding a Marathon Darts Event from the 12th - 21st of September.

A team of 8 will be attempting to break the world record and get into the Guinness Book of Records. Anyone wishing to support this worthwhile event nip round to the Prince of Wales and give support. All proceeds will go to local charities.

For further information ring
Malcolm Dorman.

"The Supporters Club is always trying to encourage new supporters to join us. The following letter was sent to all existing members a fortnight ago and is reproduced in this programme for the benefit of all non-members who would not have received a copy. It gives an idea of what we try to achieve and of some of the benefits of being a member. Please join us TODAY."

WIMBLEDON FOOTBALL
SUPPORTERS CLUB
C/O SELHURST PARK, SE25

Dear Members,

We are writing to you to keep up to date with some recent events and to remind you of some forthcoming ones. You will all be aware that Wimbledon will be playing their home games at Selhurst Park this season. As a result of this move, some supporters have formed a pressure group called "Supporters Against Merger" or S.A.M. for short. Over the past month, members of your committee have had several meetings with S.A.M. during which both groups have put forward their points of view. From these meetings it has emerged that we both have the same basic aims, that is to see Wimbledon Football Club return to play in the London Borough of Merton (though not necessarily at the much loved Plough Lane) and the prevention of any possible merger between Wimbledon and Crystal Palace.

S.A.M.'s main criticism of the committee has been over the lack of communication by us to you, the members. We accept that we could have done more and apologise for not having done so. In our defence I must say that despite asking for supporters views on several occasions through the local press we received just four letters on the subject. Bearing in mind that it costs in excess of £300 to contact all our members we decided, possibly wrongly, that we would reply individually to these letters rather than to the membership as a whole. I hope this, our second letter goes some way

towards correcting the fault and preventing the same criticism being levelled at your committee again.

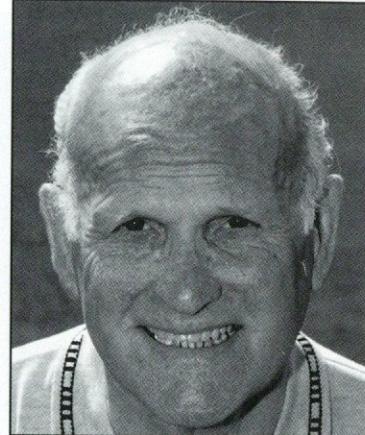
On a more positive note members of the committees executive went to the Houses Of Parliament to meet Dr Goodson-Wickes, MP for Wimbledon to discuss the various issues affecting the supporters and the football club. The meeting was very constructive with both parties giving an undertaking to keep the other informed.

Can I take this opportunity to remind members that it is now time to renew your membership. The usual benefits of membership apply such as reduced travel to all away games insurance cover and priority on applications for tickets (remember the Cup Final). In addition to these, we can for the first time in recent years offer exclusively to supporters club members the use of a bar, this will initially be a "Crystals" until approximately November when the total refurbishment of the "Glaziers" bar is completed.

Finally I would like to mention a forthcoming event for your diary, that is the Supporters Club Annual General Meeting which takes place on Monday September 23rd at 8pm in either the Dons bar or Nelsons nightclub at Plough Lane. In the past this has been a poorly attended meeting, but as this is a very important time in our history I would urge as many of you as possible to attend so that the committee that serves you can get a fuller understanding of your fears and wishes.

PETER TILBROOK
VICE-CHAIRMAN

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Official Sports Drink of
WIMBLEDON FOOTBALL CLUB



Ron Suart

RON SUART - SEVEN CLUBS IN 52 YEARS - IS BARCLAYS BANK SERVICE TO FOOTBALL 1991 AWARD WINNER

Ron Suart, of Blackpool, Blackburn Rovers, Wigan Athletic, Scunthorpe United, Chelsea, Portsmouth and now Wimbledon - a man of seven clubs during his 52 years in the game - was named last night by the members of F.L.E.S.A. (the Football League Executive Staffs Association) at their annual dinner in London for the Barclays Bank Service to Football Award.

Ron, the 14th winner of this prestigious award, received a Barclays cheque for £1,000 and was also present with the inscribed silver rose bowl by Mr Barry James, a corporate director of Barclays Bank.

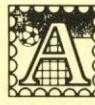
Ron started in football as a player with Blackpool in 1939. He moved to Blackburn Rovers in 1949 before joining Wigan Athletic as player-manager in 1955. His first full managerial post was at Scunthorpe United in 1956; and he returned to Blackpool as manager in 1958.

He was at Stamford Bridge from 1967 to 1983 in various roles for Chelsea including assistant manager and general manager for five years. He then became chief scout for Portsmouth until 1987 when he moved on to Wimbledon in the same capacity.

Footnote : For the past three years Ron was runner-up for this award.



The Football Trust has been created to help football at all levels and especially to meet the requirements of Lord Justice Taylor's Final Report.



Annual income is expected to exceed £32 Million - £20 Million as a result of the reduction in Pool Betting Duty and the continuing contribution of over £12 Million annually from the Spotting-the-Ball competition organised by Littlewoods, Vernons & Zetters.



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Down the lane

MILLERS TALE OF AGONY



Paul Miller has not kicked a football in over a year. Say it quickly and the sheer significance of that statement is easily lost.

But consider it for even a minute and the implications are awful. A young man in the prime of his career with at least another 10 seasons ahead of him is cut down by a vicious injury.

Injury is something every professional footballer dreads but lives with. Except it is difficult to come to terms with if the light at the end of the tunnel is more than 12 months away.

For Miller there has been no respite. He ripped his cruciate ligament in the right knee on the first day of last season. It was a freak injury. Turning for a ball played over his shoulder, the young striker's boot stuck in the Plough Lane turf and the knee sickeningly turned on itself.

From that day forward, every week has been a battle for 'Windy' not only to regain his fitness but also to keep his morale intact in the face of the worst crisis a footballer can face.

But suddenly, there is daylight ahead for him, as he explained, "It's been hard work but I'll be back in light training soon. I've done some jogging and general stuff but I think in a month or so I could be running on it.

"Then the next step is to try and start kicking a ball again. It's going to be strange because I haven't even thought about that for over a year.

"I don't want to tempt fate, but by October or November I should be getting back into it, although a lot still depends on how I do in the first weeks."

At least Miller has a fine role model. Clive Goodyear experienced exactly the same agony and battled through 18 months on the sidelines to break back into the Wimbledon first team.

Unfortunately Goodyear could not stake a permanent claim in front of Terry Phelan but his will-power won him a transfer to Brentford and his career is back on an even keel.

Miller said, "Clive has been a bit of an inspiration. He was always encouraging me, he'd been through everything I was going through and told me what to expect.

"I hope that I can recover as well as he has done. It took him a long time, but all I want to do is get back and play football again."

There have been times when Miller has suffered the dark depression of doubts. Fears that he may never play again have always reared their heads, but fortunately the healing process is almost complete.

That's a far cry from probably the most famous sufferer of torn cruciate ligaments, Paul

Gascoigne. Miller has more than a few words of sympathy for Gazza. "I felt for him because I know what he's been through. Obviously he's getting the best medical attention money can buy, because there is so much resting on his future.

"But he's talking of being back by

Christmas and that's incredible if his injury was a full rupture.

"He's probably slogging his guts out but he might have to be a bit more patient. The injury takes a long, long time to heal and it could be some time before he's back again."



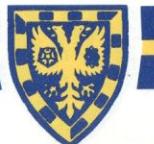
Paul Miller gets some help from Steve Allen as John Fashanu looks on anxiously

SPECIAL TRAIN SOUTH LONDON LINES

WIMBLEDON FOOTBALL CLUB AT SELHURST PARK
SATURDAYS 1991/1992

		PRICES
		CHEAP DAY RETURN
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17.19 dep	SUTTON	
17.22 dep	WEST SUTTON	
17.27 dep	SUTTON COMMON	
17.29 dep	ST. HELIER	
17.30 dep	MORDEN SOUTH	
17.32 dep	SOUTH MERTON	
17.34 dep	WIMBLEDON CHASE	
17.37 dep	WIMBLEDON	
17.39 dep	HAYDONS ROAD	
17.41 dep	TOOTING	

Every Saturday that the Dons are at home in their new abode a **SPECIAL TRAIN** will run from the stations named above. Leave your car at Plough Lane or near to your local station. Buy a programme on board and enjoy yourself.



Wimbledon Ladies

Wimbledon Ladies kick off their first season on the Premier Division of the National League on home to Notts Rangers next Sunday.

The team are looking forward to playing their home games at the Lane, as last season's skipper, Terry Springett, explained.

"It's not one of the best stadiums, but it's certainly one of the best pitches."

"We've played at Derby, Manchester United and Wembley before, but it's brilliant to be at Wimbledon."

"I'll make all sorts of difference to us. At Merton Risley after a game we always had to sweep the dressing rooms and man the bar - here there will be someone to do that for us."

A number of the first team will have picked up pre-season match practice when they play for England against the Soviet Union this weekend at Brighton and Southampton.

In fact most of the team have a wealth of international experience as well as being in practically every Women's Cup Final during the 80's.

But they're totally in the dark about their first opponents, Notts Rangers, who have been playing in the Northern League: "They're somewhat of an unknown quality," admitted Terry.

Tactics will not be finalised accordingly until the last minute and many players will have been asked to play in their positions only a few days before.



Mandy O'Callaghan



Dorrette Wilson

NATIONAL LEAGUE FIXTURES 1991-92

Sep	15	NOTTS RANGERS	(H)
	29	KNOWSLEY UNITED	(A)
Oct	6	RED STAR SOUTHAMPTON	(H)
	13	MILLWALL LIONESSES	(A)
	20	MAIDSTONE TIGRESSES	(A)
Nov	3	DONCASTER BELLES	(H)
	10	IPSWICH TOWN	(A)
	24	NOTTS RANGERS	(A)
Dec	8	KNOWSLEY UNITED	(H)
	15	RED STAR SOUTHAMPTON	(A)
	22	MILLWALL LIONESSES	(H)
Jan	12	MAIDSTONE TIGRESSES	(H)
Feb	9	DONCASTER BELLES	(A)
	16	IPSWICH TOWN	(H)

All Wimbledon Ladies matches k.o. at 3pm on Sunday afternoons and are played at Plough Lane.

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FIRST SCENE

LEEDS COULD SURPRISE THEM ALL

by Tony Pullein

In spite of this season's increase in goals, it was not until last Saturday that anyone managed to score a hat-trick in the First Division. And it came from a player who had never before scored more than once in a game.

Charlie Palmer netted his first for Sheffield Wednesday at home to Q.P.R. after only six minutes and he completed his hat-trick before the interval. In eight previous seasons in League soccer with Watford, Derby, Hull, Notts County and Wednesday, Palmer had scored only nine goals.

John Sheridan increased Wednesday's lead before Dennis Bailey scored a consolation for Rangers. That made Bailey, signed from Birmingham in the close-season, Q.P.R.'s top scorers with two goals but they were still awaiting their first win under new manager Gerry Francis.

Bryan Robson yet again came to Manchester United's rescue with a vital goal, his effort three minutes from the end of their home game with Leeds giving them a 1-1 draw and saving their unbeaten record. It was Robson's second goal of the season - twice as many as he achieved during the whole of the last season when he was so troubled by injuries.

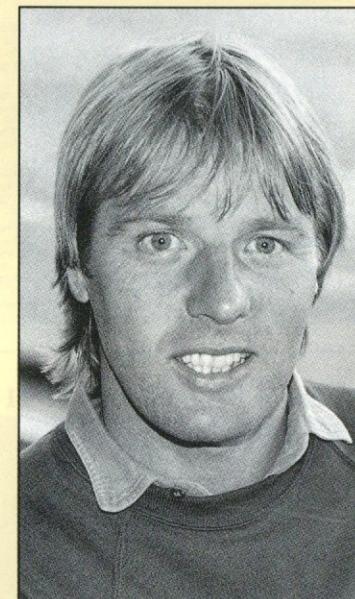
Though Robson's international career seems almost certain to be over, United manager Alex Ferguson confirmed that he still has a major role to play at Old Trafford. "At 34 he is still a credit to the game," said Mr Ferguson. "He has this great determination to succeed and all of us derive inspiration from him."

United's Denmark international goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel finally blotted his Old Trafford copybook when he misjudged a cross which enabled Lee Chapman to put Leeds in front in the seventh minute. It was the first goal Schmeichel has conceded in five games with his new club.

With Arsenal, the reigning Champions, and Liverpool both faltering in the early weeks, Manchester United had emerged as favourites to win the Championship. Yet no one should discount Leeds.

The Peacocks made a triumphant return to the First Division last season, following an eight-year absence, and until a late stage they were in contention for the League Championship. They ultimately finished fourth and also reached the semi-finals of the Rumbelows League Cup and the Zenith Data Systems Cup.

In his quest for even greater success this season, manager Howard Wilkinson invested more



Dave Bassett will be trying to allay United fans' fear

than £4-million in new players during the summer!

A large portion of that cash (£1.7-million) was spent on the Southampton twins Rod and Ray Wallace. £1.3-million was paid to Chelsea for England left-back Tony Dorigo whilst another current England player - midfielder Steve Hodge - commanded a £750,000 fee when he arrived from Nottingham Forest.

A further £275,000 was used to acquire the services of two young Sheffield Wednesday defenders, Jon Newsome and David Wetherall.

It is strange, however, that for all that goal power up front - Lee Chapman was the First Division's top scorer with 31 goals in all competitions last season whilst Wallace scored 19 times for Southampton - the only goal to come from a recognised striker in Leeds' opening four games was that Chapman effort at Old Trafford.

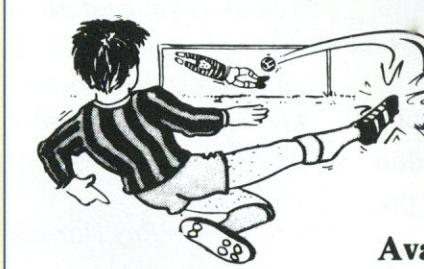
Joint-top scorers were midfield men Gordon Strachan and Gary Speed who each scored twice in an amazing 4-0 win at Southampton a few days earlier.

Sheffield United fans are fearful that they are watching an "action-replay" of last season. A year ago the Blades were only one short of an all-time First Division record when they failed to win any of their opening 16 games.

They suffered their third successive defeat here at Selhurst Park against Crystal Palace (1-2) last Saturday and by then they had collected only two points from five games. That left them in precisely the same position as they were at a similar stage last term.

Last season, though, they suddenly came to life and in one golden spell they won seven games in succession. But can they be expected to repeat that performance?

Luton, who come to Selhurst Park this afternoon, were in exactly the same position as the Blades. There was some consolation from the fact that the Hatters scored their first goal of the season at Chelsea last weekend. It came from Phil Gray, their summer signing from Spurs. But Luton went down 1-4 at Stamford Bridge and had conceded 11 goals in five games.



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Reserve and youth round-up

South East Counties
League Division Two
Saturday, August 31st 1991
v OXFORD UNITED
LOST 2-1

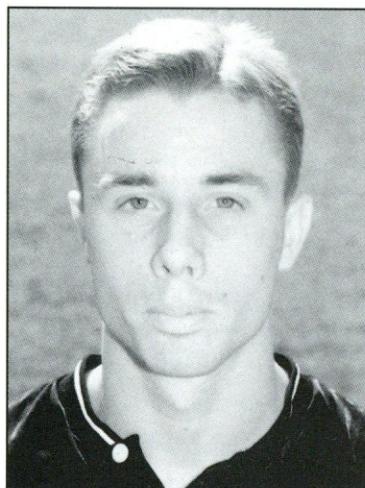
Team: Bullen, Alexander, Marchant, Jennings, Laker, Rootes, Taylor, Fear, Riss, Allen, Payne. Subs: Moseley (6), Swift (10)

It was clear all was not going to go according to plan when the team coach failed to show. Thankfully the clubs mini bus was on hand and the youth squad made it to Oxford with half an hour to spare before kick off.

Never the less the team played very well until the final third of the field "when we lacked the final quality finishing needed to make our superiority count." Said youth team manager Terry Burton.

Oxford had two shots on goal which unfortunately for Wimbledon both counted.

Leighton Allen pulled one back from the spot after Grant Payne had been brought down in the area by the Oxford goalkeeper.



Chris Perry who in his first year as a professional is looking solid at the back four of the reserves.

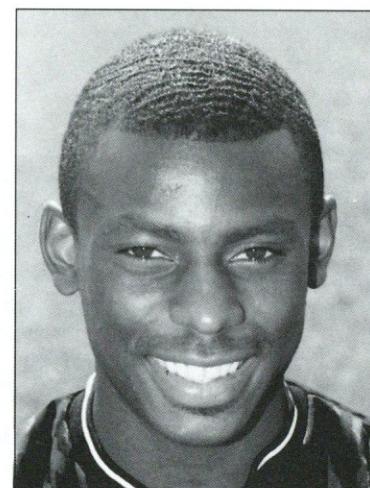
Neville Ovenden
Combination
Tuesday, September 3rd
1991
v WATFORD
LOST 1-0

Team: Sullivan, Perry, Skinner, McCarthy, McAllister, Blackwell, Castledine, Dobbs, Bennett, Gibson, McGee. Subs: Jennings, Fear, not used.

Another case of the Dons having all the play, creating most of the chances and still failing to come away with the points.

Watford were gifted a goal when Dean Blackwell playing his first competitive game of the season brought down Alan Devonshire in the box. The nearest Wimbledon came to finding the net was when the Watford keeper made a good save from a Paul McGee shot from Mickey Bennett's cross.

"A disappointing evening from our point of view other than the fact that it was a good workout for the two players back from injury, Blackwell and Gibson," said manager for the night Terry Burton.



Mickey Bennett who is fighting his way back to full fitness.

GOLDEN GOALS

GOLDEN GOALS
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WHICH IS SITUATED BEHIND
THE MEMBERS STAND
NEAR TO THE
PLAYERS LOUNGE

NEVILLE OVENDEN
FOOTBALL COMBINATION
FIXTURES '91-'92

			4-4
WED. AUG. 14	IPSWICH		4-4
WED. AUG. 21	QPR		2-1
TUE. SEP. 3	WATFORD		0-1
WED. SEP. 11	SWINDON	A	
SAT. SEP. 14	TOTTENHAM	H	
WED. SEP. 25	BRIGHTON	H	
WED. OCT. 2	READING	H	
SAT. OCT. 5	SOUTHAMPTON	A	
SAT. OCT. 12	FULHAM	H	
WED. OCT. 16	WATFORD	H	
TUE. OCT. 22	READING	A	
SAT. OCT. 26	C. PALACE	H	
WED. NOV. 6	SOUTHAMPTON	H	
SAT. NOV. 9	PORTSMOUTH	H	
WED. NOV. 13	IPSWICH	H	
TUE. NOV. 19	QPR	A	
MON. NOV. 25	LUTON TOWN	A	
WED. DEC. 4	OXFORD UNITED	A	
SAT. DEC. 7	BRIGHTON	A	
TUE. DEC. 10	WEST HAM UNITED	A	
WED. DEC. 18	MILLWALL	H	
MON. DEC. 30	CRYSTAL PALACE	A	

OVENDEN PAPERS
FOOTBALL COMBINATION
LEAGUE TABLE SEASON 1991/92

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
CHELSEA	3	2	1	0	10	2	7
ARSENAL	3	2	0	1	7	3	6
TOTTENHAM HOT.	3	2	0	1	7	3	6
SOUTHAMPTON	3	2	0	1	5	4	6
FULHAM	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
BRIGHTON & HOVE	4	2	0	2	7	10	6
IPSWICH TOWN	2	1	1	0	7	4	4
WIMBLEDON	2	1	1	0	6	5	4
SWINDON TOWN	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
OXFORD UTD.	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
PORTSMOUTH	2	1	0	1	7	4	3
NORWICH CITY	2	1	0	1	5	2	3
QPR	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
WATFORD	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
LUTON TOWN	2	1	0	1	2	4	3
MILLWALL	3	0	2	1	4	7	2
CRYSTAL PALACE	2	0	1	1	2	6	1
WEST HAM UNT.	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
READING	2	0	0	2	1	7	0
CHARLTON ATH.	3	0	0	3	2	10	0

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES
LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
BRENTFORD	3	3	-	-	6	0	6
CRYSTAL PALACE	2	2	-	-	8	2	4
OXFORD UTD.	3	2	-	1	7	3	4
MAIDSTONE UTD	3	2	-	1	10	7	4
BRISTOL CITY	3	2	-	1	2	3	4
READING	3	1	1	1	9	5	3
WIMBLEDON	3	1	1	1	5	3	3
BRIGHTON & HOVE	2	1	-	1	2	1	2
ALDERSHOT	3	1	-	2	3	3	2
BRISTOL ROVERS	3	1	-	2	8	12	2
TOTTENHAM HOT.	3	1	-	2	7	11	2
SWINDON TOWN	3	1	-	2	2	6	2
LUTON TOWN	3	1	-	2	4	9	2
SOUTHAMPTON	2	-	1	1	1	4	1
BOURNEMOUTH	3	-	1	2	2	7	1
NORWICH CITY	3	-	1	2	2	7	1

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES
LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

SAT. AUG. 17	SOUTHAMPTON						1-1
SAT. AUG. 24	BOURNEMOUTH						3-0
SAT. AUG. 31	OXFORD UNITED						1-2
SAT. SEP. 7	READING						H
SAT. SEP. 14	MAIDSTONE						A
TUE. SEP. 17	BRISTOL CITY						H
	(SOUTHERN JUNIOR FLOODLIT CUP)						
SAT. SEP. 21	PORTSMOUTH						A
	(LEAGUE CUP 1ST ROUND)						
SAT. SEP. 28	CRYSTAL PALACE						H
SAT. OCT. 5	BRIGHTON						H
SAT. OCT. 12	ALDERSHOT						H
SAT. OCT. 26	LEAGUE CUP 2ND RND						
SAT. NOV. 2	SWINDON TOWN						A
SAT. NOV. 9	BRISTOL ROVERS						H
SAT. NOV. 16	BRISTOL CITY						A
SAT. NOV. 23	BRENTFORD						H
SAT. NOV. 30	LEAGUE CUP 3RD RND						
SAT. DEC. 7	LUTON TOWN						A
SAT. DEC. 14	TOTTENHAM						H
SAT. DEC. 21	SOUTHAMPTON						H
SAT. JAN. 4	BOURNEMOUTH						H
SAT. JAN. 11	OXFORD UNITED						H
SAT. JAN. 18	READING						A
SAT. JAN. 25	MAIDSTONE						H
SAT. FEB. 1	CRYSTAL PALACE						A
SAT. FEB. 8	BRIGHTON						A
SAT. FEB. 15	ALDERSHOT						A
SAT. FEB. 29	SWINDON						H
SAT. MAR. 7	BRISTOL ROVERS						A
SAT. MAR. 14	BRISTOL CITY						H
SAT. MAR. 21	BRENTFORD						A
SAT. MAR. 28	LUTON TOWN						H
SAT. APR. 4	TOTTENHAM						A



coming soon

Last April in the programme for the FA Cup replay against Aston Villa, we featured the talents of second-year apprentice, Neal Ardley.

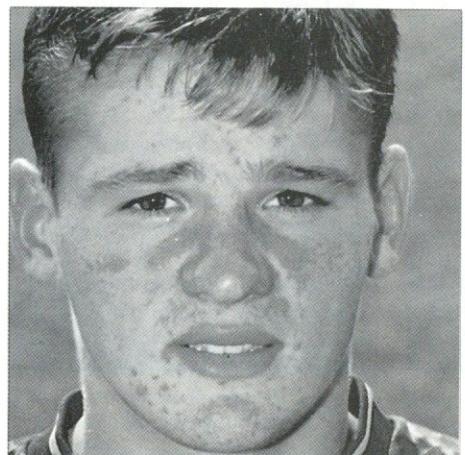
Exactly six months later the fair-haired midfielder made his first team debut on the hallowed Villa Park turf.

'I found out the night before I had a chance as sub, but at the pre-match meal Ray named the team and I was shocked to find I was actually starting.'

'I was really nervous in the first half and the crowd was a bit intimidating. But in the second half I saw a lot more of the ball and started to enjoy the game,' he explained.

This season Neal has been travelling with the first team squad, soaking up the First Division atmosphere week in, week out, waiting for another chance to impress.

His biggest asset is his ability to play anywhere on the right. Last season at right back in a sweeper system, Neal was pushed up with a licence to roam the wing, netting a



NEAL ARDLEY

dozen goals in the process.

Now in two games for Joe Kinnear's reserves, he's been right back in a traditional back four - a role he doesn't relish: 'I'm not a natural defender, I prefer to be up front where I can get crosses in. But the experience will not do me any harm.'

Neal has signed a two-year contract with the Dons, a sure indication from the top that he's got what it takes.

With considerably less pressure on him than the other four new pros who have a one-year contract, Neal knows it's up to him to make the most of it.

'I'm aiming to have a really good season in the reserves, though I'm not too happy with my form at the moment.'

'But with the way it's going in the first team with the sendings-offs etc they will have to be giving players like myself an opportunity. If I get the chance I'll snap it up, though I'm happy just to be involved.'

These words turned out to be very prophetic as Neal came on for the last 20 mins as sub. last Tuesday.

'It's an easier life style being a pro - you don't have all those jobs to do, but the training and matches are much, much harder.'

'I'm doing a special weights programme to improve my strength, fitness plus sprinting.'

'That's the big difference, the pace of the game and the physical aspect. If you're not fit you don't stand a



The Professionals

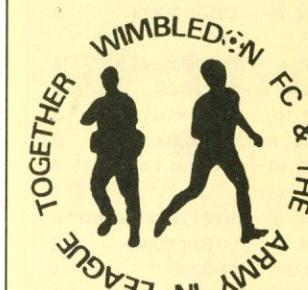
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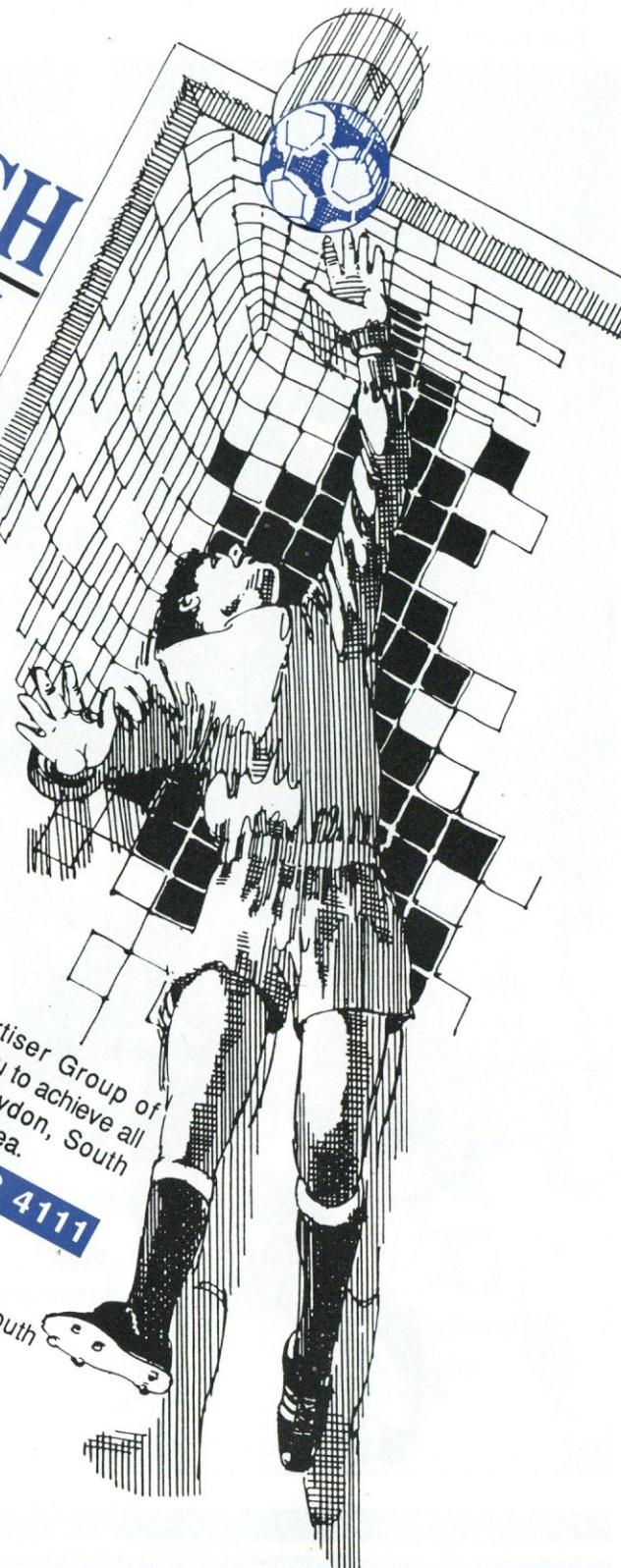
A Career with a goal

We are in the phone book under 'Army'

Geoff Thomas watches as Andy Thorn lends weight to Palace No. 4 to beat Carlton Fairweather to a cross



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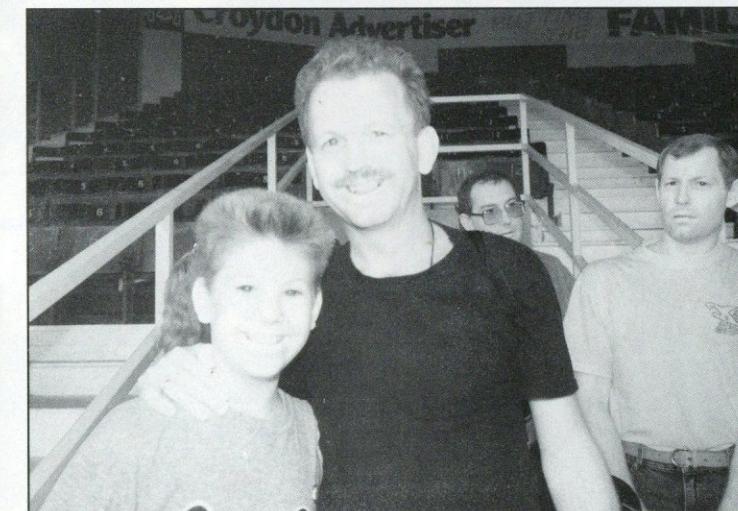
family features



▲ True Blues



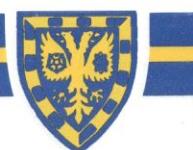
▲ And we even let the
opposition in !



◀ All the way from Holland
Rdel Mijnsbergen and
Family.

MATCH MASCOT

Ben Hunt today's mascot was chosen at random from our Season Ticket register. Ben a Dons fanatic goes to the Beverley School in Worcester Park and lists his hobbies as Football, Swimming and Cycling. His favourite player is Hans Segers and he is looking forward to meeting Hans today.



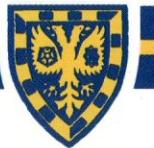
action

Below: Robbie Earle scores Wimbledon's second goal against Crystal Palace



Above: Alan Cork scores Wimbledon's goal against Coventry

Below: More action from Coventry as Scott Fitzgerald and Warren Barton keep the pressure on.



fixtures 91-92

BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Season 91/92

	Home					Away					Pts	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	
Man. United	6	2	1	0	4	1	2	1	0	3	1	14
Chelsea	6	1	2	0	8	5	2	0	1	4	4	11
Liverpool	5	3	0	0	6	2	0	1	1	1	2	10
Man City	5	2	0	0	5	3	1	1	1	2	2	10
Notts County	6	2	0	1	3	5	1	1	1	4	4	10
Leeds United	5	1	2	0	4	3	1	1	0	5	1	9
Notts Forest	5	2	0	1	6	5	1	0	1	4	1	9
Tottenham H.	4	0	0	1	1	3	3	0	0	7	3	9
Arsenal	6	2	1	0	5	2	0	1	2	4	8	8
Coventry	6	2	0	2	8	3	0	1	1	2	3	7
Sheffield Wed.	5	2	0	1	8	5	0	1	1	2	3	7
Wimbledon	5	1	0	1	3	2	1	1	1	5	5	7
Norwich City	6	0	2	1	2	3	1	2	0	5	3	7
Oldham Ath.	6	2	1	0	7	3	0	0	3	2	6	7
Aston Villa	5	1	0	1	3	2	1	1	1	5	6	7
Crystal Palace	3	2	0	0	5	3	0	0	1	2	3	6
Everton	6	1	2	0	4	2	0	0	3	3	7	5
West Ham Utd.	5	1	1	1	3	3	0	1	1	1	3	5
Southampton	5	0	1	2	3	8	1	0	1	2	1	4
Sheffield Utd.	6	0	1	2	1	4	0	1	2	4	7	2
QPR	5	0	1	1	1	3	0	1	2	2	6	2
Luton	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	11	2

APPEARANCES/GOALS SCORED

Totals - Season 1991/92

Player	League		Cup		
	App.	Gls.	App.	Gls.	
ARDLEY	-(1)	-	-	-	
BARTON	5	-	-	-	
CLARKE	2(3)	-	-	-	
CORK	3(2)	1	-	-	
EARLE	4	3	-	-	
ELKINS	1(2)	-	-	-	
FAIRWEATHER	5	-	-	-	
FASHANU	5	4	-	-	
FITZGERALD	5	-	-	-	
JOSEPH	5	-	-	-	
NEWHOUSE	-(1)	-	-	-	
PHELAN	5	-	-	-	
RYAN	5	-	-	-	
SCALES	5	-	-	-	
SEGERS	5	-	-	-	

Date	Opponents	Result	Attendance	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14
Sat Aug 17	Chelsea	A 2-0	22,000	Segers	Joseph	Phelan	Barton	Scales	Fitzgerald	Clarke	Earle ¹	Fashanu ¹	Ryan	Fairweather	Elkins	Cork (6)
Tues Aug 20	Sheffield Wednesday	H P		Segers	Joseph	Phelan	Barton	Scales	Fitzgerald	Clarke	Earle ¹	Fashanu ¹	Ryan	Fairweather	Cork (7)	Elkins (11)
Sat Aug 24	West Ham United	H 2-0	10,081	Segers	Joseph	Phelan	Barton	Scales	Fitzgerald	Cork ¹	Earle ¹	Fashanu ¹	Ryan	Fairweather	Clarke (9)	Elkins (6)
Tues Aug 27	Crystal Palace	A 2-3	16,346	Segers	Joseph	Phelan	Barton	Scales	Fitzgerald	Elkins	Earle	Fashanu ¹	Ryan	Fairweather	Leeds (6)	Newhouse(4)
Sat Aug 31	Coventry City	A 1-0	9,469	Segers	Joseph	Phelan	Barton	Scales	Fitzgerald	Elkins	Earle	Fashanu ¹	Ryan	Fairweather	Clarke(8)	Ardley(6)
Tues Sep 3	Manchester United	H 1-2	13,824	Segers	Joseph	Phelan	Barton	Scales	Fitzgerald	Elkins	Earle	Fashanu ¹	Ryan	Fairweather	Elkins	Cork (6)
Sat Sep 7	Luton Town	H														
Sat Sep 14	Nottingham Forest	A														
Wed Sep 18	Southampton	A														
Sat Sep 21	Tottenham Hotspur	H														
Sat Sep 28	Sheffield United	A														
Sat Oct 5	Norwich City	H														
Sat Oct 19	Queen's Park Rangers	H														
Sat Oct 26	Aston Villa	A														
Sat Nov 7	Leeds United	H														
Sat Nov 16	Everton	A														
Sa Nov 23	Liverpool	H														
Sat Nov 30	Manchester City	A														
Sat Dec 7	Oldham Athletic	H														
Sa Dec 14	Notts County	A														
Sat Dec 21	Sheffield Wednesday	A														
Thu Dec 26	Crystal Palace	H														
Sat Dec 28	Coventry City	H														
Wed Jan 1	Arsenal	A														
Sat Jan 11	West Ham United	A														
Sat Jan 18	Chelsea	H														
Sat Feb 1	Queen's Park Rangers	A														
Sat Feb 8	Aston Villa	H														
Sat Feb 15	Liverpool	A														
Sat Feb 22	Manchester City	H														
Sat Feb 29	Oldham Athletic	A														
Sat Mar 7	Notts County	H														
Tues Mar 10	Everton	H														
Sat Mar 14	Leeds United	A														
Sat Mar 21	Manchester United	A														
Sat Mar 28	Arsenal	H														
Sat Apr 4	Luton Town	A														
Sat Apr 11	Nottingham Forest	H														
Sat Apr 18	Tottenham Hotspur	A														
Mon Apr 20	Southampton	H														
Sat Apr 25	Norwich City	A														
Sat May 2	Sheffield United	H														
FA CUP																
Jan 4	Third Round															
Jan 25	Fourth Round															
Feb 15	Fifth Round															
Mar 7	Sixth Round															
Apr 11	Semi-Final															
May 9	FA Cup Final															
RUMBLELOWS LEAGUE CUP																
Sep 24	Peterborough (2R-1L)	H														
Oct 8	Peterborough (2R-2L)	A														
Oct 30	Round 3															
Dec 4	Round 4															
Jan 8	Round 5															
Feb 12	Semi-Final (1st Leg)															
Mar 4	Semi-Final (2nd Leg)															
Apr 12	Final															

On Sale September 21

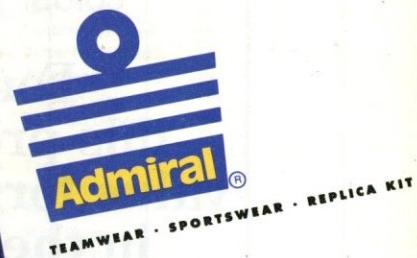
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