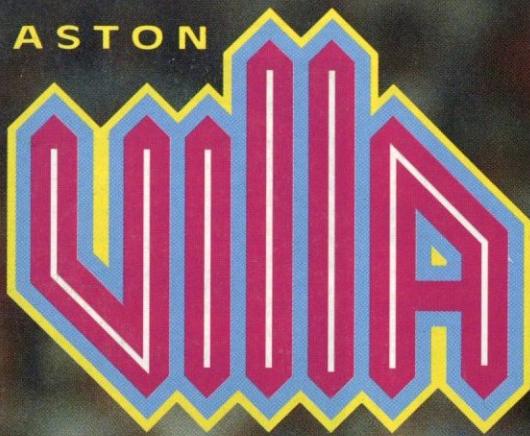


ASTON

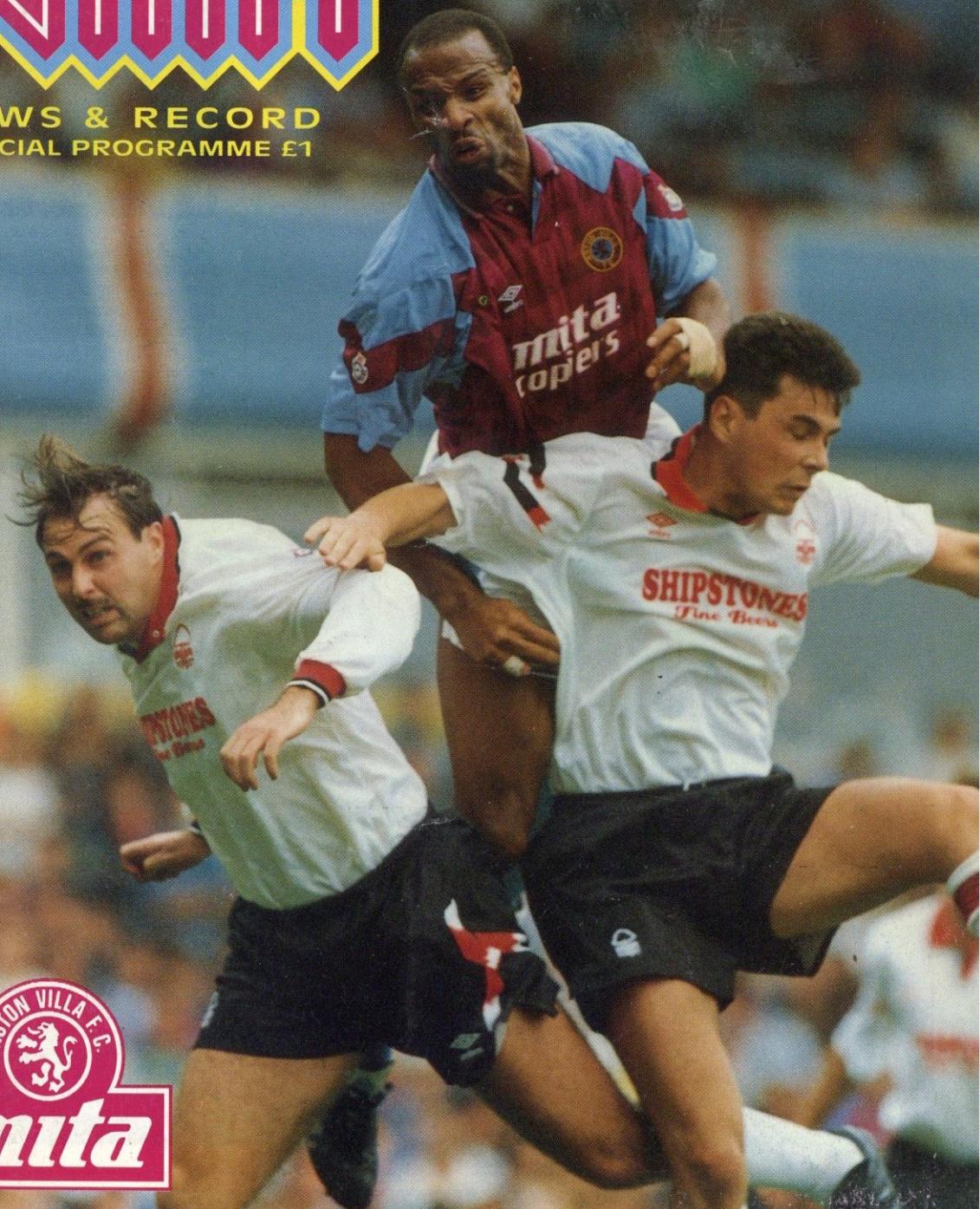


BARCLAYS

Saturday 5th October 1991  
Barclays League Division One

ASTON VILLA V LUTON TOWN

NEWS & RECORD  
OFFICIAL PROGRAMME £1



## • RON ATKINSON •

# We must become more clinical with our finishing

I don't have to explain to supporters why today's fixture is an important and a difficult one for us.

People do tell me that Luton Town have a decent track record at Villa Park, including a win here last season, so we have to put an end to that straightaway. First of all we will ignore their League position because our own is none too healthy just now, and concentrate not only on striking our highest level of form but in putting our chances away.

The up-and-down nature of our progress so far is just not good enough. We have barely been able to string two successive decent results together and much of the time when we have played well we have still not got the result that was there for the taking.

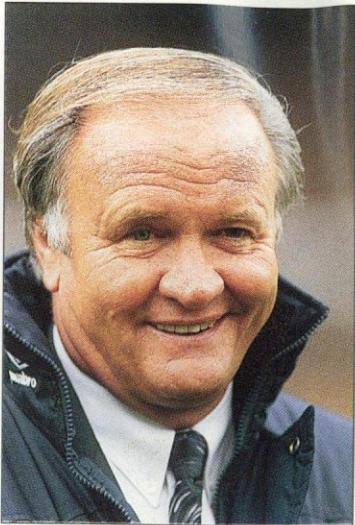
Just to look back on the three matches since my last programme notes says it all.

Two weeks ago we beat Forest very well at Villa Park and then we did what we had to do in earning a draw at Grimsby in the Rumbelows Cup first leg yet followed up with our worst 45 minutes of the season in the first half at Coventry last weekend.

The fact that we had probably our best 45 minutes in the second half was not much of a consolation because we missed all the many chances we created.

If you were to ask me WHY we were so poor in the first half at Coventry it would be hard to provide an answer but I am not going to fall into the trap of blaming injuries and the absence of certain players.

That is a part of football for every club... including Liverpool!... and you have to have the squad to cope with it. Achieving consistency of performance is absolutely



essential with or without injuries and suspensions and that is where all our efforts must be aimed.

**Having said all that let's not run away with the idea that our team deserves only criticism.**

This is not the case at all, though I am the first to come down hard when we fall below acceptable standards.

To be fair it was a very effective, battling performance at Blundell Park which sets us up with an excellent chance in Wednesday's second leg at Villa Park. Also I am sure everyone who saw it enjoyed our victory over Forest when much of our approach play was entertaining to watch and we rattled in some of our openings, too.

At Coventry, once we had shaken ourselves out of that terrible first half our general play was of a high quality. We have to admit that the goal that beat us was a little bit special though in my view we should have prevented it.

What we really MUST do now is to become more clinical with our finishing and far less prone to lose our attacking rhythm.

It will all come together, I'm sure of that but at times it can be frustrating, to say the least, when a good performance is followed by one that is not so good.

Supporters are entitled to expect the best. That's precisely what we want. And you can be sure that every possible effort is being made to provide it.

## A BATTLE OF WITS

Cyrille Regis is relishing the prospect of doing battle today with the former team-mate he rates one of the best defenders in the English game.

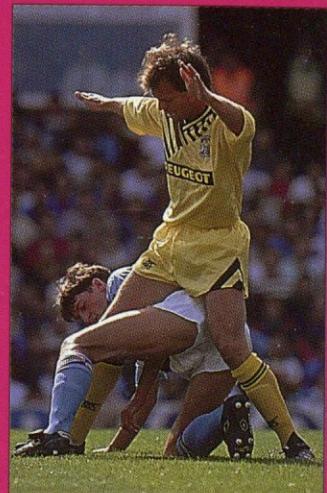
Luton centre-back Trevor Peake (right) spent eight years at Coventry City - the last seven of them in tandem with Regis - before his £100,000 move to Kenilworth Road.

Thirty-three-year-old Regis said: "We are good friends and it will be strange trying to put one over Trevor after being team-mates at Highfield Road for so many years.

"It will be a battle of wits more than anything because we both know each other's game inside out - and that's what will make the contest a little bit more exciting.

"Those who have played with him, including myself, rate him extremely highly although generally I think he has been under-rated over the years as a player.

"Perhaps he would have received more recognition had he been at a



more glamorous club but he came into the professional game rather late and developed into one of the best readers of the game I have played with. I have tremendous respect for him."

## • SCENE SETTER •

# Now it's time for peace

All League clubs will be hoping to adopt three Ps as their motto as the complicated negotiations over the FAs blueprint for football reach a successful conclusion.

PEACE... PROGRESS... PROSPERITY... are the intended outcome of the drawn-out re-shaping of the game's top-level administration and format.

\* Where there have been arguments and disputes over the division of power, football now needs peace.

\* Where there has been a slowness to accept change for the better, sensible forward planning should be on the agenda.

\* Where there has been economical problems and threats of bankruptcy and closures, the game needs to see its clubs not only survive but to thrive.

Anyone regularly watching football in general this season will be conscious of exciting things happening.

The First Division is no longer a two-club monopoly as other contenders jostle for places among the early leaders.

Last Saturday night's League table revealed Manchester United sitting on

top with a handy six points lead after only ten games while Leeds, Sheffield Wednesday, Chelsea and Coventry were among the top six.

Early days yet, of course, and still time for Liverpool to come back and engage in another head-to-head with Arsenal for the title but it certainly looks a little less likely than in the past.

Foreign imports are now making a terrific impact on Division One, and not only those from the more fashionable soccer nations.

Villa's own Dwight Yorke, from little Trinidad and Tobago, has been a revelation at times while painful memories linger about a certain young man with an unpronounceable name from that footballing outpost of Zimbabwe!

Today's visitors, Luton Town, were themselves well-served last season by an exciting, imported striker Lars Elstrup but during the summer he returned to his Danish club, Odense.

Also missing from manager David

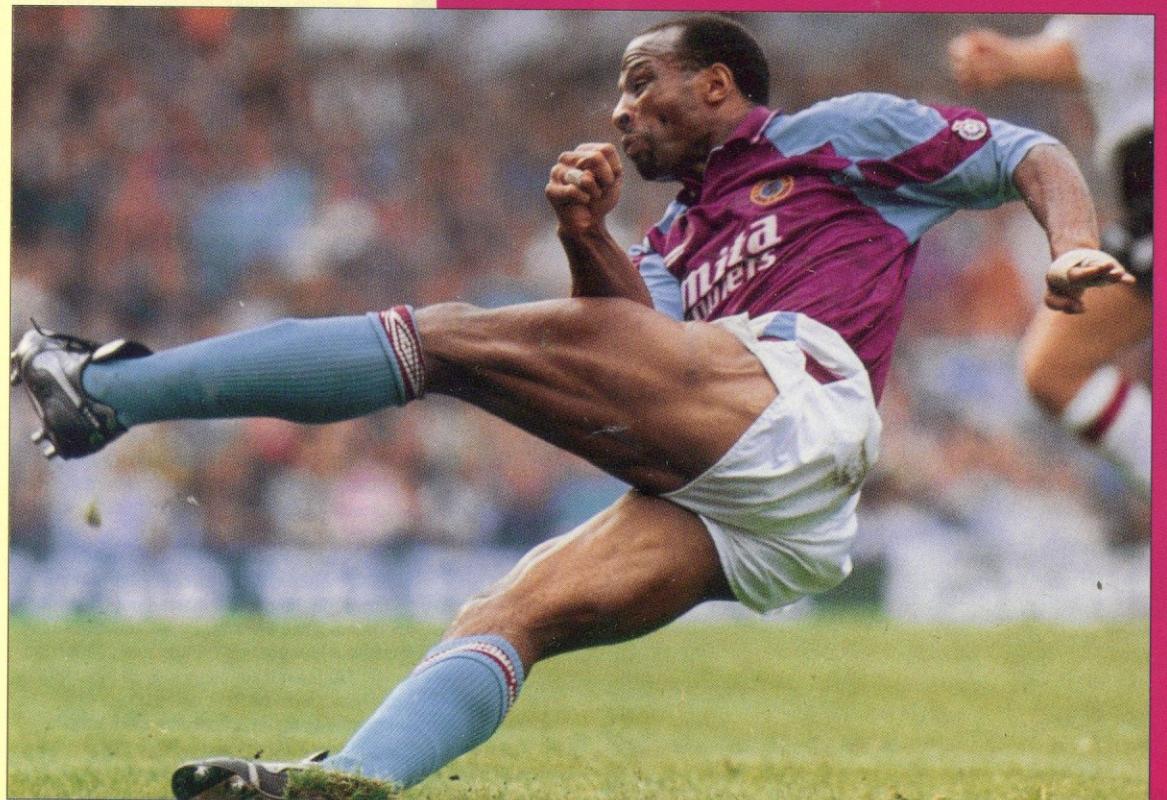
Pleat's line-up is their fine winger, Kingsley Black, now a member of the 'million' club with Nottingham Forest.

However, as more and more guidelines look favourable goals, have been in excellent supply so far this season, a most healthy sign which leads to possible further attendance increases.

Two weeks back there was an almost freakish total of 46 recorded in Division One, an average of better than four a game.

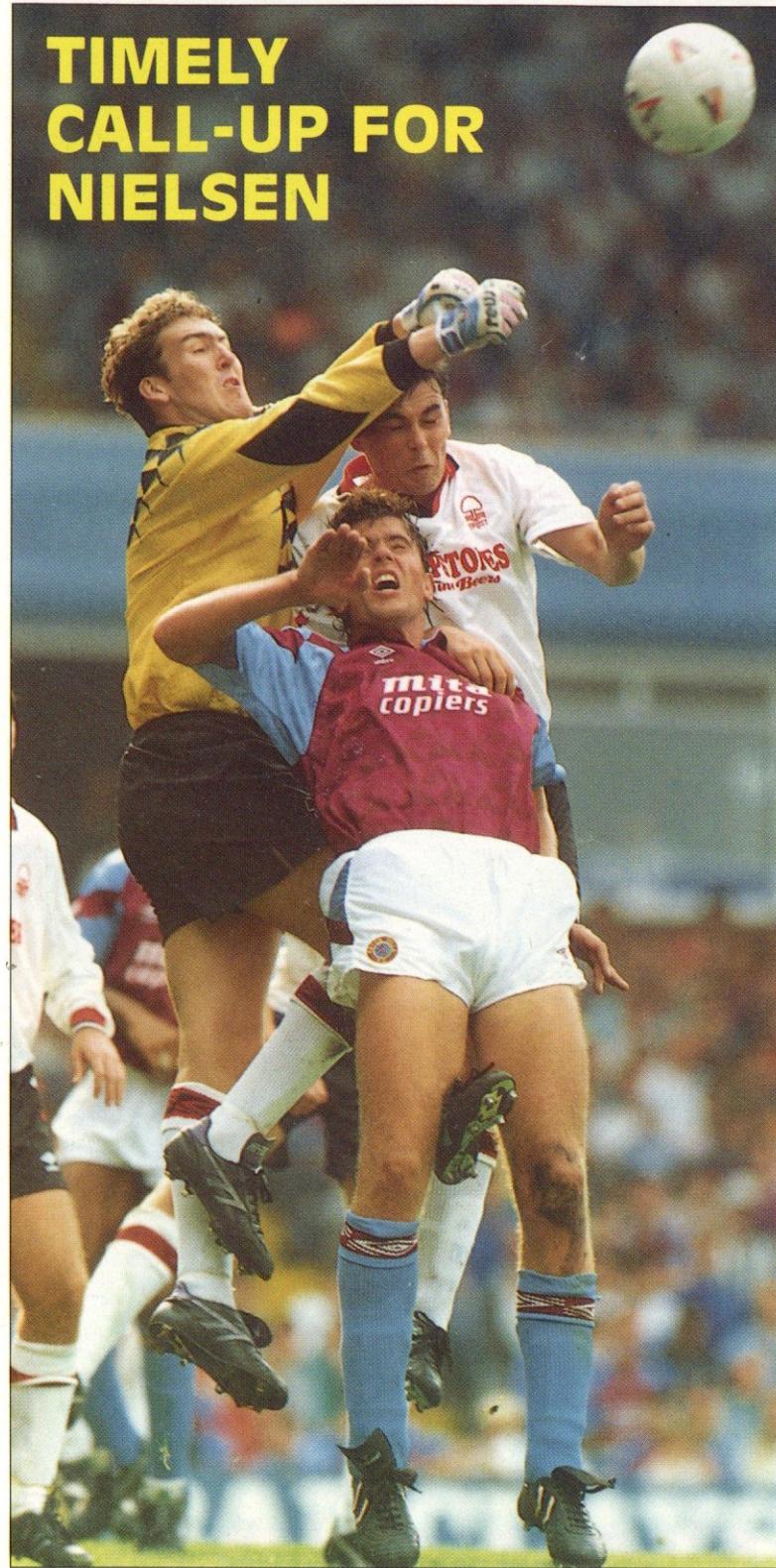
So, for the sport as a whole, the signs are good, especially since common sense has prevailed in safeguarding the promotion-relegation principle which offers a lifeline to smaller clubs to try their hand among the elite.

Many wrongly feared that promotion to the top would disappear with the arrival of the FA Premier League but, as pointed out by Villa chairman Doug Ellis in our issue for the Arsenal visit, this was never going to be the case.



CATCH UP WITH RON ATKINSON AND THE PLAYERS ON ASTON VILLA CLUBCALL - 0898 12 11 48

## TIMELY CALL-UP FOR NIELSEN



VILLA'S Danish central defender Kent Nielsen will continue his international career in next week's crunch European Championship match in Austria - but only by the skin of his teeth.

Nielsen's first senior outing of the season for Villa in the home triumph against Nottingham Forest could not have been better timed from his point of view.

Nielsen admitted: "I had a word with the Danish manager and I have been told if I am not playing regular first team football I cannot expect to be picked for the national team.

"So I was really pleased to be back in against Forest for I am sure if I hadn't played in that game I would not have been selected for the Austrian match.

"I was surprised to be back in the team but I was suited for the role of following Nigel Clough around because I am used to staying tight with forwards.

"I was operating as a sort of half centre-half, half midfield role and I enjoyed it even though I was tired at the end. I am not used to running around so much!

"It was hard stepping up for the first time because I hadn't played in many matches even at reserve team level because I had been involved with the first team as substitute. But it was a very important match for me because I showed to myself that I can still play and do a job at First Division level."

Nielsen's hopes, however, of trying to cement down a regular senior place had to be shelved - at least for the time being - after the Forest game.

He was in action for Denmark against the Faroe Islands on the night of the Rumbelows Cup tie at Grimsby and the second leg with the Mariners is on the night of the Austrian clash.

"I know that if the lads who come in against Grimsby play well that the gaffer might not change the team but that's football."

Regarding the Faroe Islands clash, Nielsen said: "We won 4-0 and controlled the game from the beginning after scoring two goals in the first seven minutes.

"With the full-backs pushing up we basically played with only two defenders - myself as the centre-half and a sweeper. They played with only one forward but he had a lot of space to work in so you had to stay alert.

"They battled hard and the conditions were quite difficult because half-way through the game it started pouring with rain but the important thing was the result and a few goals.

"At least it keeps us in with a chance and we now have to win our last two matches against Austria and Northern Ireland. That at least will put some pressure on the leaders Yugoslavia to get some kind of result from their last game in Austria."

## UNWANTED RECORD

SHAUN TEALE vowed to put his record-breaking own goal behind him - and has set his sights on inflicting some damage at the other end of the pitch.

Teale's over-hit lob against Nottingham Forest after just 12 seconds gave him the dubious distinction of scoring the quickest ever own goal in the First Division.

It was the first own goal the #350,000 summer signing from Bournemouth had scored at any level including his lengthy spell on the non-league circuit during his career.

Teale said: "Obviously I would rather not have it as a record but these things happen in football and you just have to get on with the game."

"I knew Nigel Clough was trying to cut the way back to Spinkie off so I had to lift it over him but I caught the ball a bit too firm and it sailed over Nigel.

"I was pleased that we came back well after that. I thought we played well - from about the first minute onwards! - battled hard and got in more tackles than in any

other game this season. Like the gaffer said, we wore them down.

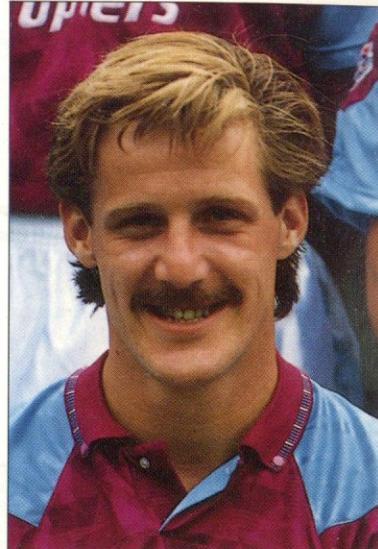
"I went in the players bar after the match and certain things were said jokingly. You accept you are going to get a little bit of stick even if it is playful.

"It was the first own goal I have scored at any standard of the game - and I suppose I couldn't have picked a better place with the spotlight on everything!

"But there was no question of me avoiding the television that evening in case the goal was shown again. You just have to keep your head up and get on with the next game."

Teale added: "I am due a couple of goals at the other end. I scored five last season for Bournemouth and should have got a lot more. I certainly had a lot of chances.

"I have had a few decent half chances already with Villa and once I get one I will probably get a few. I tend to score my goals in spells. I will get three in a month and then go three months without getting anywhere near the target. That's what happened last year.



"There is a bit of friendly rivalry between the defenders and Steve (Staunton) is the only one who has scored so far. Mind you he spends more time up the pitch than the rest of us!"

## McGRATH PRAISE FOR KUBICKI

POLISH full-back Dariusz Kubicki came in for praise from fellow defender Paul McGrath for the way he has smoothly slotted into the English game and way of life after his move from Legia Warsaw.

McGrath said: "He's been brilliant for us and has done a great job. He had a lot to follow after Chris Price had been in the full-back role for so long but he has slotted in no problem at all.

"People should remember it is not just the style of football Dariusz has had to get used to but settling into a different environment in a foreign country. We first met up with him in Germany and he is a smashing fellow."

Twenty-eight-year-old Kubicki, who made his debut at Southampton, said: "All football in Europe is now tough but the English is the hardest of the lot and can be very physical at times.

"I did not know all that much about the game over here although I played in the European Cup Winners Cup semi-final against Manchester United at Old Trafford last season.

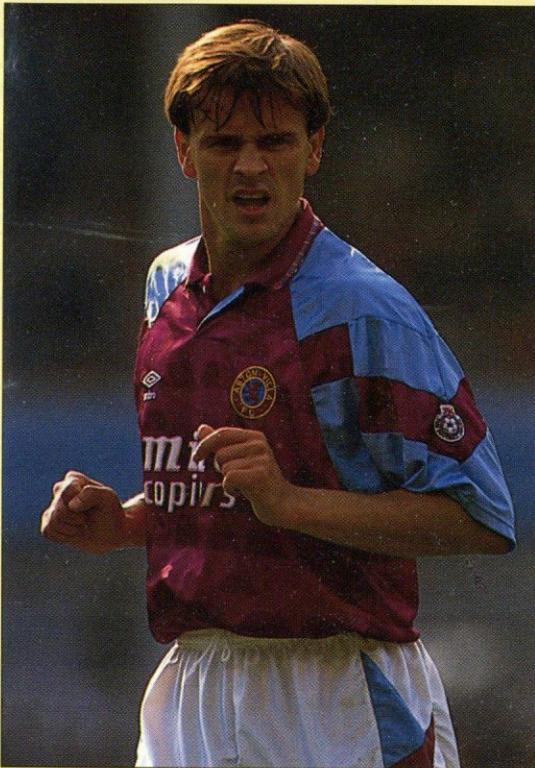
"We only see the goals from England on Polish television and the occasional international but I have not found it difficult to adjust."

Kubicki, already with more than 40 full caps to his name, said: "One of the biggest differences in England is that there are no so-called easy matches.

"In Poland there are maybe only four good teams generally scrapping it out for honours unlike over here where everyone is difficult to beat.

"But the training is not so hard over here as in Poland - but that is because there are so many more mid-week games fought out in England.

"In Poland you just play on Saturdays and the training is very hard and physical. But then after all Legia are an army team."





The shortest football game on record was between the Glengashie Fly Fishing Club and the Dockside Mudskipper Anglers. A dispute arose just seconds into the match because neither side could agree on the size of the goal. A 'sudden death' playoff saw the Mudskippers win 3 shoals to 2 but the ref. had already got away.

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## • NEWS & RECORD •

### TEMPORARY TRANSFERS

The club have been involved in two 'loan' deals in recent weeks. Ian Ormondroyd has linked up with Derby for three months and former Swindon midfielder Alan McLoughlin has joined Villa from Southampton.

Ormondroyd made his mark for the Rams by scoring in last Saturday's 2-2 draw at Newcastle in only his second game.

McLoughlin was this week named in the Republic of Ireland squad, alongside Steve Staunton and Paul McGrath, for the visit to Poland in the European Championships. Look out for an interview with him in next Wednesday's programme for the visit of Grimsby.

### LEEDS GAME FOR TV?

The fixture with Leeds at Villa Park on Saturday November 23 has been short-listed for possible live coverage by ITV.

If selected it will be switched the Sunday and Villa has to be notified of this a minimum of four weeks in advance.

'The Match' series kicks off tomorrow afternoon with Liverpool's visit to unbeaten Manchester United.

### BABY BOOM...

New arrivals continue at Villa Park... to Nigel Spink and Sarah, a bouncing baby boy Joseph Patrick, born in the small hours of September 15.

### AZTEC FOR ENGLAND?

Villa's ladies team, the Aztecs, have had one of their members selected for England under-21 trials.

Well done Nicky Edwards, and here's to your first cap.

### SEE THE FIREWORKS AT VILLA PARK

This year's Panini Fireworks Spectacular will be held at Villa Park on Friday November 1st.

Reserved seat tickets are on sale now, price £2.50 for adults and £1.50 for juniors and O.A.P.s.

The display has been staged for a number of years now and gets more and more popular as word spreads. It is an excellent night of family entertainment - why not come along and see for yourself!

The gates open at 6.15pm and the display starts at 7.30pm.



### FOR THE RECORD

Wednesday 18th September 1991

BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

CHELSEA 2 ASTON VILLA 0

Scorers: Jones (22), Townsend (57).

Chelsea: Beasant, Clarke, Boyd, Jones, Elliott, Monkou, Le Saux, Townsend, Dixon, Allon (sub: Dickens, 75), Wise. Sub (not used): Wilson.

Villa: Spink, Kubicki, Staunton, Teale, McGrath, Richardson, Yorke, Olney, Regis (sub: Penrice, 80), Cowans (sub: Nielsen, 64), Mortimer.

Referee: B. Hill (Kettering).

Bookings: None.

Attendance: 17,182.

League positions before/after: Villa 18/18, Chelsea 11/3.

Friday 20th September 1991

A Villa under-20s XI beat their Blues

counterparts 2-1 in a friendly 'derby' at Bodymoor Heath.

Saturday 21st September 1991

BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

ASTON VILLA 3 NOTTINGHAM FOREST 1

Scorers: Villa - Blake (49), Richardson (62), Yorke (63). Forest - Teale (og 12 secs).

Villa: Spink, Kubicki, Staunton, Teale, McGrath, Richardson, Yorke, Olney (sub: Penrice, 67), Regis (sub: Mortimer, 83), Nielsen, Blake.

Forest: Crossley, Charles, Williams, Chettle, Tiler, Keane, Crosby, Gemmill (sub: Parker, 45), Clough (sub: Laws, 57), Sheringham, Black.

Referee: K. Breen (Liverpool).

Bookings: Blake, Nielsen (Villa), Chettle, Crosby (Forest).

Attendance: 28,506.

Shaun Teale records the fastest own goal in the history of the First Division.

Monday 23rd September 1991

Stuart Gray moves to Southampton in a £200,000 deal after almost four years with the club.

The reserves are held to a goalless draw by Coventry at Villa Park

Wednesday 25th September 1991

RUMBLELOWS LEAGUE CUP 2nd ROUND 1st LEG

GRIMSBY TOWN 0 ASTON VILLA 0

Grimsby: Sherwood, McDermott, Agnew (sub: Smith, 21), Futcher, Lever, Cunningham, Childs, Gilbert, Jones (sub: Rees, 79), Dobbin, Woods.

Villa: Spink, Kubicki, Staunton, Teale, McGrath, Richardson, Yorke, Blake, Regis, Cowans, Mortimer. Subs (not used): Olney, Mountfield.

Referee: DT Phillips (Barnsley).

Bookings: Blake, Mortimer (Villa).

Attendance: 13,835.

Kent Nielsen is 'away' with Denmark, playing in their 4-0 win against the Faroe Islands in Landskrona, Sweden.

Saturday 28th September 1991

BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

COVENTRY CITY 1 ASTON VILLA 0

Scorer: Ndlovu (41).

Coventry: Grzicovic, Burrows, Edwards (sub: Emerson, 83), Billing, Pearce, Atherton, McGrath, Glyn, Furlong, Gallacher, Ndlovu. Sub (not used): Booty.

Villa: Spink, Kubicki, Staunton, Teale, McGrath, Richardson, Yorke, Nielsen, Regis, Penrice, Mortimer (sub: Cowans, 77). Sub (not used): Olney.

Referee: P. Alcock (Redhill, Surrey).

Bookings: Burrows, Billing (Coventry).

Attendance: 17,851.

League positions before/after: Villa 17/16, Coventry 8/6.

Republic of Ireland midfielder Alan McLoughlin joins Villa on loan from Southampton.

The youth team beat Mansfield Town 3-0 at Bodymoor Heath in the Purity Youth League. Boden, Scimeca and Fenton are the scorers.

LUTON TOWN re-opened a page from a successful past with the appointment of David Pleat as manager for their tenth consecutive season in the First Division.

He was in charge when the Hatters won the Second Division Championship in 1982 and moved back into the top flight for only the third time in their history.

In just over eight years, he brought the club up from the lower reaches of Division Two and established them in the top half of Division One before departing for Tottenham in the summer of 1986.

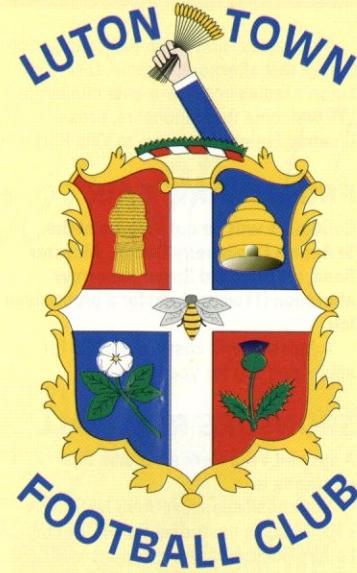
The stage was then set for further progress. John Moore took Luton to a highest-ever seventh place in his only season as manager and Ray Harford landed the Littlewoods Cup on one of three visits to Wembley.

The last two years were much tougher. Mr Harford was replaced by Jim Ryan in January 1990 and the new manager successfully fought two relegation battles. Luton stayed up by defeating Derby in the final fixture of each season.

While the Hatters' fortunes rose and then dipped, Mr Pleat took Spurs to an FA Cup Final in a 17-month stay at White Hart Lane and spent three years in his native East Midlands with Leicester City.

He left Filbert Street in January and returned to Kenilworth Road in June. Happily, Luton were still in the First Division but only after surviving a worrying decline in form in the second half of the season.

Ninth in the table after beating Villa in November, they began to slide after starting the New Year with four successive defeats. It's from there that we take up their diary for 1991...



## • DIARY •

### JANUARY

- 1 Welsh midfielder Mark Pemberton, 20, is given a debut in a 2-0 defeat at Wimbledon.
- 2 Another young Welsh prospect, Ceri Hughes, is to miss the rest of the season following knee surgery.
- 5 Danish striker Lars Elstrup stays among the leading First Division scorers with two goals in an FA Cup win at Sheffield United.
- 11 Paul Holsgrove, son of former Wolves

defender John Holsgrove, is signed from Wokingham Town for £25,000.

30 After a 1-1 draw at Kenilworth Road, the Hatters are bundled out of the FA Cup in a 5-0 replay defeat at West Ham.

### FEBRUARY

- 2 Former Coventry defender Graham Rodger returns after a 15-month injury lay-off, but a last-minute goal from QPR's Les Ferdinand inflicts a fourth successive League defeat.

5 Pemberton makes a rapid climb into international football by playing for Wales 'B' against England... Clubmate Jason Rees is also in the Welsh side.

23 Luton are Liverpool's first opponents since Kenny Dalglish's resignation and there's a shock for the champions when their half-time lead is wiped out by goals from Kingsley Black and Iain Dowie (2).

### MARCH

- 2 Dowie scores again in another home win, this time against Nottingham Forest.
- 9 Pemberton strikes a spectacular first League goal in a 2-1 win at Villa Park... A season's double over Villa leaves the Hatters feeling more comfortable in 13th place.
- 20 Dowie is sold to West Ham for £480,000 only two years after leaving non-League Hendon for £30,000... Earlier in the season, the Hammers paid £600,000 for full back Tim Brecker.
- 23 Defeat at Old Trafford puts the Hatters only one place above the relegation line.
- 27 Winger Richard Cooke, a £140,000 signing from Bournemouth two years ago, returns to Dean Court on a free transfer.



### APRIL

- 1 No reward from a fine performance against Tottenham... A penalty by John Dreyer rebounds from the crossbar.

6 The Hatters go 3-1 up after 23 minutes in an extraordinary game at Chelsea, but the home side recover to take a point despite a sending-off for Graeme Le Saux.

20 The relegation issue boils up when Sunderland win at Kenilworth Road and move to within a point of Luton.

### MAY

- 4 It's all square at the bottom as Luton lose at Everton and Sunderland draw at home to Arsenal.

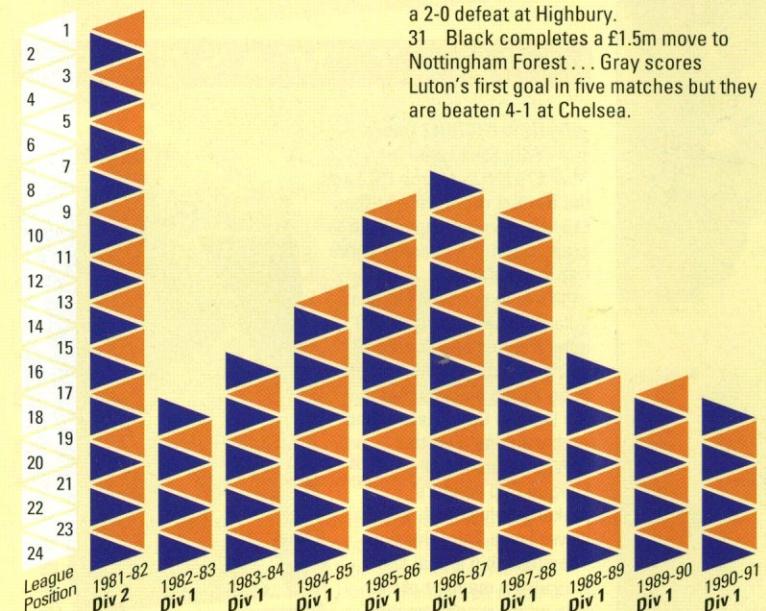
10 A six-year ban on visiting supporters at Kenilworth Road is to be lifted next season, when Luton will also be back on grass after digging up their plastic pitch in the summer.

11 Former Hatters striker Mick Harford concedes an own goal to set his old club on the road to survival with a 2-1 win against already-dommed Derby County.

13 Jim Ryan departs after 16 months as manager.

### JUNE

- 7 David Pleat is appointed manager for a second time... On signing a three-year contract, he says: "Obviously I have a feeling for Luton, but this is a new challenge and a new job..." Former Lincoln and Derby manager Colin Murphy is to be Mr Pleat's assistant.



## • LUTON'S TEN YEAR LEAGUE RECORD •

### JULY

- 26 Elstrup gets his wish to return to Denmark at the end of his contract... He goes back to Odense for a fee believed to be in the region of £250,000.

31 Sheffield Wednesday are unsuccessful with a bid of over £1m for Black.

### AUGUST

- 8 Luton are disappointed at the breakdown of transfer talks for Manchester City striker Clive Allen.

11 Steve Williams, released on a free transfer in May, has joined Exeter City.

14 Luton intend to reduce wear-and-tear on their new grass pitch by playing home reserve games at Dunstable for the first half of the season.

15 Spurs striker Philip Gray is signed for £275,000.

17 Brian Stein, re-signed from French club Caen, plays his first game for Luton in three years... Gray makes his debut as substitute in a goalless draw at West Ham.

21 After reversing fixtures with Coventry to delay the first game on the new grass surface, Luton go down 5-0 on a trip to Highfield Road.

23 Trevor Peake, a member of the winning Coventry side two days ago, is set to join Luton for £100,000.

24 The Hatters maintain their good record against Liverpool with a 0-0 draw... They have lost only one of the last six home matches with the Anfield side.

27 Peake is drafted in for the first time in a 2-0 defeat at Highbury.

31 Black completes a £1.5m move to Nottingham Forest... Gray scores Luton's first goal in five matches but they are beaten 4-1 at Chelsea.



*Mick Harford, who rejoined Luton from Derby this season, scored twice in the last five minutes of his latest Hatters' debut.*

### SEPTEMBER

- 4 Lee Glover, signed on loan from Forest, plays against Southampton and Luton register a first win with goals from Gray and Richard Harvey.

7 Holsgrove makes his full debut in a 3-0 defeat at Wimbledon.

9 Midfielder Steve Thompson arrives from Bolton for £180,000.

11 Pemberton wins his first full cap in Wales' outstanding victory over Brazil.

12 Luton pay £325,000 to bring Harford back to Kenilworth Road from Derby... Hughes, out for nine months, is given the all-clear to resume training.

13 Defender Julian James goes to Bradford on a month's loan.

14 Harford makes a dramatic return with two goals in the last five minutes to beat Oldham.

16 Striker Sean Farrell joins Northampton on a month's loan.

17 QPR inflict Luton's first home defeat of the season.

20 Under a £200,000 sponsorship deal, the Hatters will wear USA on their shirts... standing for Universal Salvage Auctions!

21 Paul Telfer, 19, is unlucky that his full debut coincides with a 5-0 defeat by leaders Manchester United at Old Trafford.

25 Birmingham twice take the lead in the Rumbelows Cup but Gray and substitute Kurt Nogan level the tie for the second leg at St Andrews on 8th October.

28 Gray scores his fourth of the season only for Notts County to snatch a point with a disputed penalty... Hughes reappears as substitute.

## LUTON ROLL CALL

| Player/<br>Birthplace/Birthdate                         | Previous Clubs  | 1991-92 Lge/Cups<br>Apps Gls |
|---|---|------------------------------|
| <b>DAVE BEAUMONT</b><br>Edinburgh, 10.12.63             | Dundee United   | 7(1) -                       |
| <b>ALEC CHAMBERLAIN</b><br>March, 20.6.64               | Ipswich, Colchester, Everton                                  | 12 -                         |
| <b>JOHN DREYER</b><br>Alnwick, 11.6.63                  | Wallingford, Oxford United                                    | 12 -                         |
| <b>SEAN FARRELL</b><br>Watford, 28.2.69                 |   | 3(1) -                       |
| <b>PHILIP GRAY</b><br>Belfast, 2.10.68                  | Tottenham Hotspur   | 7(2) 4                       |
| <b>MICK HARFORD</b><br>Sunderland, 12.2.59              | Lincoln, Newcastle, Bristol City,<br>Birmingham, Luton, Derby | 4 2                          |
| <b>RICHARD HARVEY</b><br>Letchworth, 17.4.69            |   | 5 1                          |
| <b>PAUL HOLSGROVE</b><br>Wellington, 26.8.69            | Aldershot, Wokingham Town                                     | 1 -                          |
| <b>MARVIN JOHNSON</b><br>Wembley, 29.10.68              |   | -                            |
| <b>CERI HUGHES</b><br>Pontypridd, 26.2.71               |   | -1(1) -                      |
| <b>MATTHEW JACKSON</b><br>Leeds, 19.10.71               |   | 7(2) -                       |
| <b>JULIAN JAMES</b><br>Tring, 22.3.70                   |   | -                            |
| <b>DARRON McDONOUGH</b><br>Oldham                       | Oldham  | 9 -                          |
| <b>KURT NOGAN</b><br>Cardiff, 9.9.70                    |   | 1(7) 1                       |
| <b>TREVOR PEAKE</b><br>Nuneaton, 10.2.57                | Nuneaton Borough,<br>Lincoln, Coventry City                   | 7 -                          |
| <b>MARK PEMBREIGE</b><br>Merthyr, 29.11.70              |   | 12 -                         |
| <b>ANDY PETTERSON</b><br>Fremantle (Australia), 26.9.69 |   | -                            |
| <b>DAVID PREECE</b><br>Bridgnorth, 28.5.63              | Walsall   | 12 -                         |
| <b>JASON REES</b><br>Pontypridd, 22.12.69               |   | -                            |
| <b>GRAHAM RODGER</b><br>Glasgow, 1.4.67                 | Wolves, Coventry  | 10(1) -                      |
| <b>DARREN SALTON</b><br>Edinburgh, 16.3.72              |   | -1(1) -                      |
| <b>BRIAN STEIN</b><br>Cape Town, 19.10.57               | Edgware Town, Luton Town<br>Caen                              | 10 -                         |
| <b>PAUL TELFER</b><br>Edinburgh, 21.10.71               |   | 3(3) -                       |
| <b>STEVE THOMPSON</b><br>Oldham, 2.11.64                | Bolton Wanderers  | 5 -                          |

**ALSO PLAYED:** Kingsley Black to Nottingham Forest) 4 apps:  
Lee Glover (on loan from Nottingham Forest) 1 app.

Figures for Barclays League & Rumbelows League Cup.  
(Up to and including Saturday 28th September)

## RESULTS SO FAR

| Barclays League |   |               |     |        |             |  |
|-----------------|---|---------------|-----|--------|-------------|--|
| Date            | V | Opponents     | Res | Att    | Scorers     |  |
| Aug 17          | A | West Ham Utd  | 0-0 | 25,079 |             |  |
| Aug 21          | A | Coventry City | 0-5 | 10,084 |             |  |
| Aug 24          | H | Liverpool     | 0-0 | 11,132 |             |  |
| Aug 27          | A | Arsenal       | 0-2 | 25,898 |             |  |
| Aug 31          | A | Chelsea       | 1-4 | 17,457 | Gray        |  |
| Sep 4           | H | Southampton   | 2-1 | 8,055  | Gray Harvey |  |
| Sep 7           | A | Wimbledon     | 0-3 | 3,231  |             |  |
| Sep 14          | H | Oldham Ath.   | 2-1 | 9,005  | Harford 2   |  |
| Sep 17          | H | Q.P.R.        | 0-1 | 9,985  |             |  |
| Sep 21          | A | Manchester U. | 0-5 | 46,491 |             |  |
| Sep 28          | H | Notts County  | 1-1 | 7,629  | Gray        |  |

| Rumbelows League Cup |   |               |     |       |            |  |
|----------------------|---|---------------|-----|-------|------------|--|
| Date                 | V | Opponents     | Res | Att   | Scorers    |  |
| Sep 25               | H | Birmingham C. | 2-2 | 6,315 | Gray Nogan |  |

## MATCH FACTS

Our full League record against the Hatters is:

| P            | Home      |          |          | Away     |           |           |          |          |           |           |
|--------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
|              | W         | D        | L        | F        | A         | W         | D        | L        | F         | A         |
| Division One | 24        | 8        | 1        | 3        | 21        | 11        | 1        | 2        | 9         | 18        |
| Division Two | 6         | 1        | 0        | 2        | 4         | 4         | 0        | 1        | 2         | 4         |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>30</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>25</b> | <b>15</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>22</b> |

**Biggest home win:** 4-1, 6th September 1937

4-1, 8th September 1982

**Biggest away win:** 1-0, 14th October 1989

1-3, 27th April 1957

**Heaviest home defeat:** 0-3, 18th January 1958

30,667, 6th September 1937

**Highest home attendance:** 29,372, 1st September 1937

10,524, 31st August 1985

**Lowest home attendance:** 7,696, 8th December 1984

**No Villa player has scored a league hat-trick against Luton.**

Several players have, however, scored two in a game:  
Frankie Broome and Charlie Phillips scored two each in the 4-1  
Villa Park win in 1937-38; Gerry Hitchens did likewise in a 3-1 home  
win in 1958-59; Gordon Cowans netted two penalties against the  
Hatters here in 1982-83 and Paul Kerr hit both Villa goals in 1986-87.

**League meetings in the last ten seasons** (Villa score given first)

|            |                                 |
|------------|---------------------------------|
| Villa Park | Kenilworth Rd                   |
| 1981-82    | <i>Luton in Second Division</i> |
| 1982-83    | 4-1 (18,823)                    |
| 1983-84    | 0-0 (18,656)                    |
| 1984-85    | 0-1 (14,130)                    |
| 1985-86    | 3-1 (10,524)                    |
| 1986-87    | 2-1 (13,122)                    |
| 1987-88    | <i>Villa in Division Two</i>    |
| 1988-89    | 2-1 (15,640)                    |
| 1989-90    | 2-0 (22,505)                    |
| 1990-91    | 1-2 (20,587)                    |

**Players who have played for both clubs:**

James Adam, Paul Elliott, Jake Findlay, Steve Foster, David Geddis (on loan at Luton), Alfred Gittings, Leslie Jones, Chris Nicholl, Bruce and Neil Riach and George Stephenson.

**CHRIS NICHOLL** joined Villa from Luton for £75,000 in March 1972 and the Hatters received a further £15,000 after he helped Villa to promotion from Division Three two months later.

In five successful years at Villa Park he made over 250 appearances and scored 20 goals, including a memorable 'long-range blockbuster' in the League Cup Final second replay against Everton.

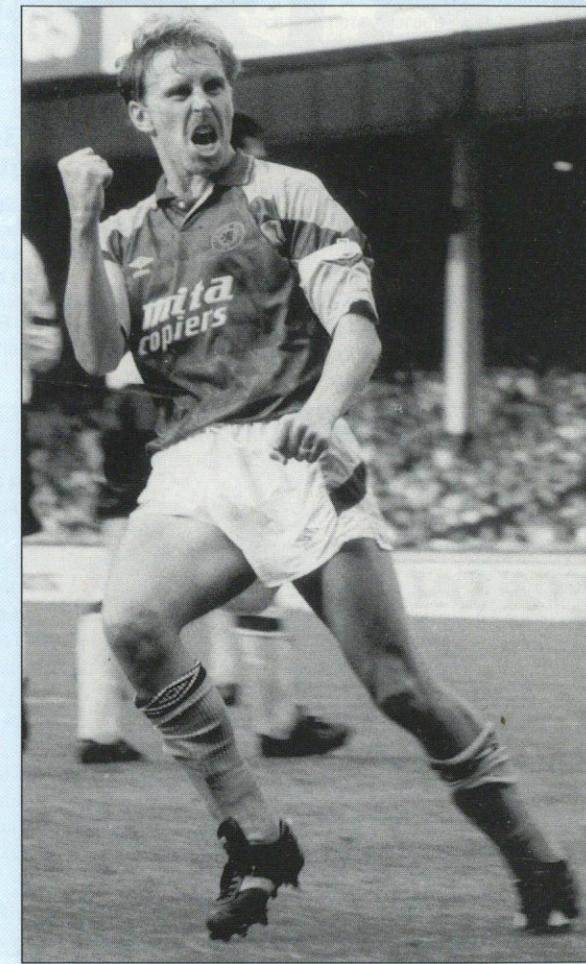
Nicholl picked two League Cup winners' tankards whilst with Villa, as well as a Third Division championship medal and was also a member of the side which won promotion to the First Division in 1975.

Nicholl moved on to Southampton for £90,000 in 1977 and after a spell as player/assistant manager at Grimsby he returned to The Dell to become manager from 1985 until this year.



**ACTION**

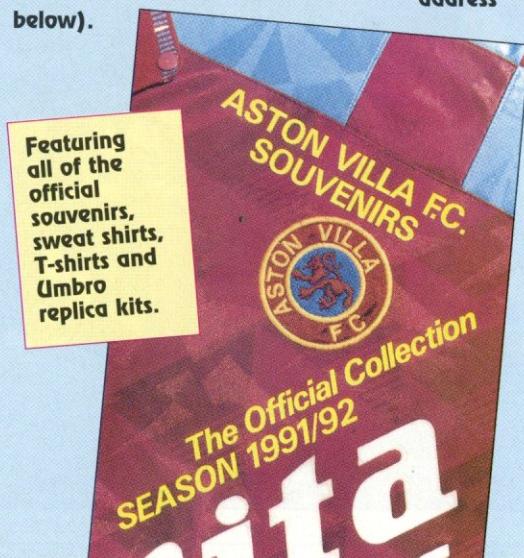
Mark Blake celebrated his return to the first team with the equalising goal against Nottingham Forest a fortnight ago, beating Mark Crossley in a one-on-one situation (top) after being put through by Dwight Yorke. Kevin Richardson made it 2-1 (centre picture) before saluting the Holte End (right) and a superb goal from Yorke (see centre pages) rounded off a fine team performance. Above: Ian Olney tries his luck with an overhead kick which brought a save from 'keeper Crossley.



VILLA KIT BY UMBRO - ON SALE NOW

## SOUVENIR SHOP NEWS

The new 1991-92 Souvenir Catalogue is now available from the club shop and kiosks around the ground or by post (send an S.A.E to the address below).



Aston Villa Sports & Leisure Shop,  
Villa Park, Trinity Road, Birmingham B6 6HE.  
Tel. 021 327 2800. Credit Card Hot-line 021 327 5963.

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## ASTON VILLA OFFICIAL TRAVEL CLUB

### Hibernian v Aston Villa (Alan Sneddon Testimonial)

Monday 14th October 1991. Fare £18.00

Depart Leisure Centre 9.00am Including afternoon in Edinburgh  
Non-members more than welcome at no extra cost.

### Everton v Aston Villa

Saturday 19th October 1991

Fare £8.00 (non-members £8.50). Depart Leisure Centre 11.00am

### Everton v Aston Villa

followed by a trip to the Blackpool Illuminations

Saturday 19th October 1991. Fare £12.00.

Depart Leisure Centre 11.00am.

Leave Blackpool at 12.00 midnight

### Coventry City v Aston Villa (Zenith Data Systems Cup)

Wednesday 23rd October 1991

Fare £6.00 (non-members £6.50). Depart Leisure Centre 5.45pm.  
Picking up at 6.00pm on Colmore Row, opposite the Grand Hotel  
(please state when booking).

## • ONE TO ELEVEN •

1. Who was Luton's manager before Jim Ryan?
2. With which club does former Villa and Luton defender Steve Foster now play his football?
3. Which former Villa player scored in each of his first two games for his new club recently, against Sheffield United and Norwich?
4. In which city do Benfica play their home games?
5. Who scored Villa's first League goal of the season?
6. Who plays their home games at Underhill?
7. In which competition did Luton beat Liverpool in the final last season?
8. Name the two brothers who joined Villa from the Hatters in a joint transfer deal.
9. Who is the manager of Hereford United?
10. Which teams will contest the Skol Cup final in Glasgow later this month?
11. Who scored a late equaliser in an FA Cup semi-final at Villa Park to deny Luton a place in the final?

Answers on page 22.

## • FANATICS •

### No. 6 JAMES HEAVY

Until 1980 James was a regular season ticket holder along with his brother Martin and mom Yvonne, but his job entailed him moving to Longford in Southern Ireland.

He still manages to get to Villa Park as often as he possibly can but being a managing director of a small engineering firm he doesn't find himself with too much spare time on his hands. When he's not at work James has two young children, Shane and Grace, constantly requiring his attention. "However," he says, "I'm still a Villa fanatic in every sense of the word. Just ask the wife!"

This feature offers supporters the chance to be featured in the matchday programme. All you have to do is write to 'Fanatics' c/o The Commercial Department, Aston Villa FC, Villa Park, Birmingham B6 6HE, answering the questions printed here and enclosing a photograph of yourself. There's still a chance to make the programme this season, but hurry!

## • OFF THE PARK •

### A LETTER TO THE CHAIRMAN

Dr Mr Ellis,

As a lifelong Aston Villa supporter, may I take this opportunity of applauding you on your initiative and vision shown in your plans to further improve the Villa Park stadium, by way of the new proposed Witton Lane Stand.

However, it would appear that the three local Councillors of Aston intend to canvass the support of all members of the City Planning Department to reject your proposals for same, because of the objections of a minority of the local residents.

The three Councillors would appear to put political interests before that of the City of Birmingham as a whole in achieving at least one football stadium that could continue to host, not only prestigious national, but also international events.

Isn't it time the majority of Villa

I'm sitting in the main stand of one of the country's finest stadiums. As always there's a large crowd here, many of whom have come to see the home side's new £2.5m signing in action.

The stand opposite me is all-seated but supporters are standing behind both goals. One of these stands has recently had a roof built over it.

Home supporters have had plenty to cheer in recent years and are expecting more this time round.

Where am I? Answer on page 22.

Brummies spoke out and along with me, wrote to the City of Birmingham Planning Department, Baskerville House, Broad Street, Birmingham, supporting your plans to retain a 40,000 capacity crowd.

I would be pleased if you would consider placing the contents of this letter within a forthcoming matchday programme.

Yours sincerely,  
A VILLA BRUMMIE.

### Mr. BILL HINKS

Long-distance fan Keith Clarke of Herne Bay is keen to make contact with another Villa supporter Bill Hinks, formerly of Evesham, Hythe and Moseley. Bill's son, Martin, is also a Villa fan.

Mr Clarke wrote: "Bill was a season ticket holder at one time but we lost contact when I moved. If any contact is made perhaps he would ring me on 0227-374126 as I am likely to be moving back to the Midlands."

"I am travelling to most of Villa's matches and would hope Bill is still as avid as ever.

"I first stood at Villa Park in 1942 v Stoke City. We won 4-0 if I remember correctly. The Stoke side was star-studded in those days."



The opportunity of having a picture taken with one of the club's legends was one not to be missed and Derrick (he's the one on the right) has kindly loaned us his snapshot for reproduction here.

Derrick's new book 'Aston Villa - a Portrait in Old Picture Postcards' is due in at the souvenir shop this month, price £5.95.

## FAMILY CLUB NEWS

Recent Family Club prize winners are, S. DeGuay and Richard Bell in the raffle and R Chinn in Guess The Crowd.

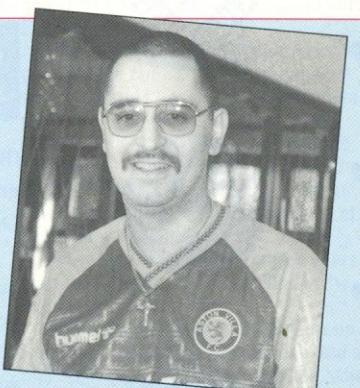
One of the prizewinners against Crystal Palace was not rewarded - please see Glyn in the Panini Room.

There was a Family Club visitor for the Spurs game who has played in Bari... and NO, it wasn't David Platt.

John Hodgson, of Kingston, Ontario, told members he had played at the Italian ground during the war.

John arrived in England the day before the Spurs game and his first port of call was Villa Park.

A cousin of the legendary ex-Liverpool manager, Bob Paisley, John wanted to see as many famous grounds as possible while he was here.



**Favourite away ground:** The Hawthorns.

**How would you like to see football grounds improved?** Less drift to all-seater stadiums. Some people stand even when they're in seats. Anyway there's more atmosphere when standing.

**Favourite newspaper for football:** Today.

**What are your opinions of football coverage on TV?** Too much Liverpool, Man United, Spurs and Arsenal. I'd like to see more 2nd, 3rd and 4th Division football.

**Favourite feature in the Villa programme:**

I used to enjoy 'In Search of the Lions'.

**How could the programme be improved?** More fan participation with items like this.

**Your all-time Villa side:** Jimmy Rimmer,

John Gidman, Charlie Aitken, Chris Nicholl, Bruce Rioch, Alex Cropley, Paul McGrath, Tony Daley, Dennis Mortimer, Brian Little and Andy Gray.



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• CENTRE SPOT •

## DWIGHT YORKE

A farewell conversation with David Platt before his departure to Bari has helped work the oracle for Villa's exciting teenage prospect Dwight Yorke.

And now Yorke, with the security of a new four year contract and a confidence-boosting wonder goal against Forest under his belt, can look forward to the prospect of an exciting First Division career.

Nineteen-year-old Yorke said: "When Ron Atkinson came in and brought so many new signings a few of us were wondering what was in stall.

"I had one year left of my contract and wondered if I had a future at Villa - whether or not I figured in the new manager's plans. But then just before Platt left he had a word with me about my future and said it all revolved around how much I wanted to play and win.

"Like it had been with him it was all down to how I felt in my heart, whether I wanted to settle for being second best or aim for the top.

"I gave this a lot of thought and decided he was right. I buckled down and worked harder than ever on my game and in training to try and impress the manager. Even during my holidays I was doing some work to stay in shape - rather than just relaxing.

"Things went well pre-season and the gaffer must have recognised or thought that I had got some potential and I was delighted with the new contract.

"Perhaps it helped me that the gaffer likes players who express themselves with a bit of flair - but that doesn't mean you can be sloppy or not take a pride in what you are doing.

"I played in the first couple of games before being substitute for a couple of matches and was then left out altogether of the next two - but that sort of thing can do you a world of good.

"It means you know you have got to produce the goods when the opportunity arises. If you do that there's a good chance of holding onto your place."

"The goal against Nottingham Forest was what I needed at that stage because I was lacking a bit in confidence. It is one of the best I have scored and now perhaps some of the things I have been doing in training will be seen in the First Division.

"There are a lot of things in practice that have been coming off but I have not been reproducing them in action - and that was down to lack of confidence."

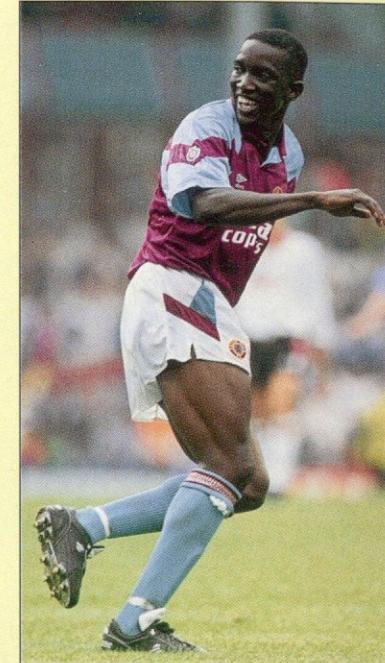
Yorke added: "I think my game has developed a lot over the past 12 months and I know know what the First Division is about. The experienced lads like Platty and Gordon Cowans taught me what to expect, little things like not to let your head drop if things aren't going well.

"I still need to improve my goal output and learn to think quicker. You have to work out what you are going to do before the ball gets to you and I must sharpen up that aspect of things."

Yorke also believes that there is scope in the same team for himself and the currently injured Tony Daley.

"A lot of people think I am competing purely with Tony Daley - but I am competing with everyone in the team.

"I don't care two hoots what number I have got on my back - even if it was the goalkeeper's jersey I would be delighted!



- but playing alongside Tony can only add to my confidence. I think we can play in the same team.

"Contrary to what some would say we are different types of players. I have not got the electrifying pace of Tony who is more of an individual player who can turn a game in one flash. I tend to fit in more in with the team and other players."

Meanwhile Yorke had an unsuccessful time when he played for Trinidad and Tobago in the World Youth Cup in Portugal - but still regarded it as an important part of his footballing education.

"We didn't play too well and got battered, lost all three games to Russia, Egypt and Austria and never even scored a goal. I found it hard after a long season in England.

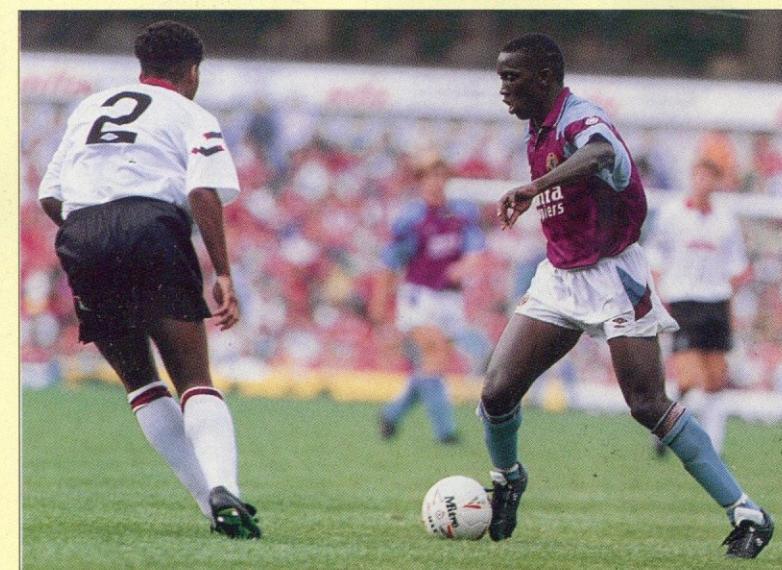
"But it was still a great experience and gave me the opportunity to see against other countries how much I would have to develop to become a top class player.

"It is difficult adjusting back into the Trinidad style of play after playing in the English football where the pace is that much quicker and I had a go at some of the players for not doing that.

"Now I am hoping that in three years time I will be playing for Trinidad in the main World Cup in America.

"We have a difficult qualifying group of Honduras, Costa Rica and Mexico and only one team goes through as America, who are normally in our group, automatically qualify as host nation.

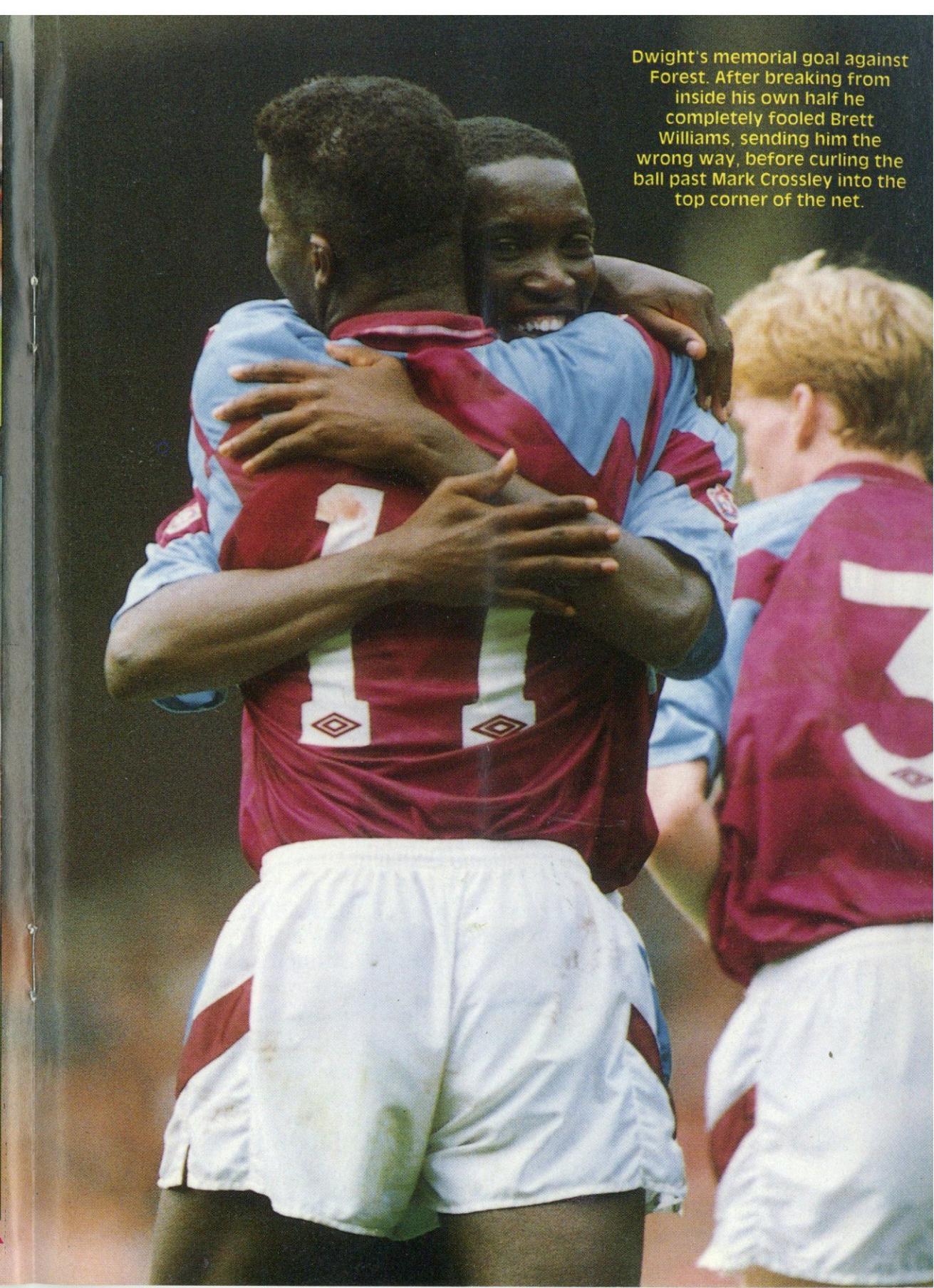
"But we defeated Costa Rica in the qualifying rounds of the last World Cup even though they went through to the finals and have beaten Mexico several times over the years."



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•CENTRE SPOT•

# DWIGHT YORKE



Dwight's memorial goal against Forest. After breaking from inside his own half he completely fooled Brett Williams, sending him the wrong way, before curling the ball past Mark Crossley into the top corner of the net.



# BILLY WRIGHT OFFERED £80,000, BUT THE DOC WENT TO A HUNDRED

DICK TAYLOR was with his Villa players in the Hillsborough dressing room before a First Division fixture on August 31 1966 when he was handed a message to ring Southampton FC 'urgently'.

When he did so it was Tommy Docherty, then manager of Chelsea who were playing at The Dell, who came to the 'phone.

The Doc's 'urgent' request was typically blunt. "I'll give you £100,000 for Tony Hateley," he said.

Twenty-five years on that hardly sounds a dramatic bid. But in reality, with the inflation of a quarter of a century added, it was similar in principle, if not in quantity, to Bari offering £5M for David Platt.

In short: TOO MUCH CASH TO TURN DOWN.

"Billy Wright was Arsenal manager at the time," recalls Dick, a Witton-based sports outfitter and regular supplier of



Former Villa boss Dick Taylor now runs a sports shop around the corner from Villa Park.

**Manager Ron Atkinson's frequently-voiced aim, backed by an ambitious board, is to establish the club as regular participants in European competition. But how different it was twenty-five years ago, when manager DICK TAYLOR was forced to sell his most valuable playing asset as relegation threatened. Here he reminisces on the events of 1966-67 with Dennis Shaw.**

goods to Aston Villa FC from his business a few hundred yards away.

"Billy was on to me every week offering £80,000 and I had kept it from the board because I didn't want to sell."

You could understand why! In the previous season, when Villa struggled to the precarious safety of 16th place in Division One, the father of Mark Hateley had scored 27 goals in 39 games.

Without his goals Villa would have gone down. Once he was forced to sell him, to

stave off threatening bankruptcy, then the Second Division would become inevitable.

He knew that, unlike the Platt fee, any or most of the money for a Hateley sale, would have gone to clear a worrying overdraft. Taylor couldn't win: keep the player and see the club drift further into debt or sell the player and go down.

"I kept the offer to myself for quite a while," Taylor confesses. But obviously the Doc's interest could not be subdued indefinitely.

Hateley's last game for Villa was a 0-0 draw against Sheffield United at Villa Park on October 22, 1966 having scored 86 goals in 127 appearances since signing from Notts County for £22,500 in August 1963.

THE HATELEY SALE WAS A TURNING POINT IN THE CLUB'S HISTORY.

Villa did get relegated, club finances improved only marginally and, after Tommy Cummings had unsuccessfully taken over from Dick Taylor as manager, came the historic club revolution of 1968.

In came Doug Ellis as chairman and, coincidentally, Tommy Docherty as manager, and the long, hazardous road back, via more upheavals, was underway.

## MERCER'S NUMBER TWO

Taylor had arrived at Villa Park as the late Joe Mercer's No.2, eventually succeeding him when ill-health undermined dear old Joe's efficiency.

"I used to tell Joe that if he were on a desert island with six nude ladies he wouldn't want to know them unless they could talk football," Taylor chuckles.

"Sometimes Joe would ring me and say:



Tony Hateley scored 86 goals in less than three years at Villa Park.

'We must get a break from football. Let's go and have a round of golf.'

"Joe would pick me up, we would arrive on the first tee and he would say: 'you know I think we're going to have to drop so-and-so this week.'

Like so many football folk bitten by the claret-and-blue bug Dick has never lost his affinity with the club.

Based near the ground he can be seen regularly at Villa Park delivering goods and chatting about anything and everything to do with football.

His affiliation goes back to December 1958 when the friendly Black Countryman arrived from Sheffield United with Mercer as the management team which followed Eric Houghton.

## "I'LL GET YOU THE NEXT ENGLAND MANAGER!"

Part of his playing days were spent at Scunthorpe accumulating 220 appearances up to 1954. The local football writer was a namesake of his, named Tommy.

Tommy had a son named Graham who used to go with his dad to the games as a schoolboy, increasingly obsessed with football.

Graham became a bit of a fan of Dick's and a close family friendship was forged, a friendship which still exists today and which has had a most beneficial side-effect for Aston Villa FC.

This is revealed in Graham Taylor's

recently-published book\* in which the England team manager writes: "Because I was with my dad and the players knew him well I was often there as a little lad while they stood in groups talking about the match.

"One of those players was a smashing guy named Dick Taylor...

"Strange how comparatively small things in your life - maybe a casual acquaintance - can assume great significance in later years.

"Dick Taylor was kind enough in 1987 to play an important part in my leaving Watford to join Aston Villa, by suggesting my name to the club with whom he has always maintained an association. It was just the right time for me to make a change.

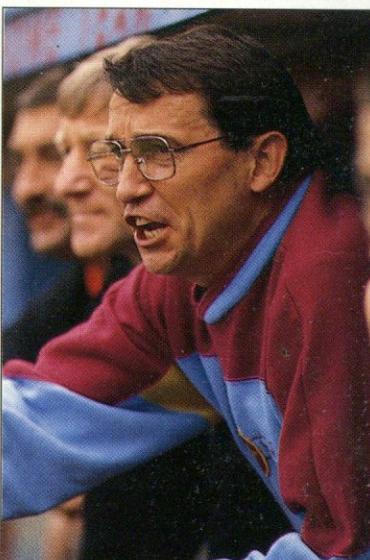
"Dick obviously remembered my enthusiasm for the game from the days when I was becoming steeped in the sight of football, the sounds of football and even the special smell of football virtually since I started school."

Confirming Graham's anecdote, Dick recalls: "I knew Graham was becoming discontented at Watford and that Villa needed someone like him so I confided in the chairman that I could 'get him the next England manager'.

"And that's how it worked out."

For 33 years Dick Taylor has truly been a loyal servant of Aston Villa FC. And though, in hugely difficult circumstances, he was unable as manager to keep them out of Division Two he can rest contented that in later years he was instrumental in the arrival of a man who led the club to promotion, Championship runners-up and a place back in Europe.

\* Graham Taylor: *When England Called*. The Pipkin Press. £7.95.



Graham Taylor - family friend.



# RELAX WITH VILLA

**G**et fit... play games... relax... wind-down... start again: the routine never ends for footballers and other professional sportsfolk.

And, in the enlightened world of the 1990s, the recovery part of the circle is just as important as the preparation. For that reason Ron Atkinson has arranged regular visits for his squad to the Springs Hydro Health hotel at Packington, near Ashby-de-La-Zouch in Leicestershire, just a short hop along the M42.

"I started using the facilities there when I was at Sheffield," explains the Villa boss. "They are absolutely ideal for what we need."

So ideal, in fact, that they were a valuable part of Wednesday's schedule when they beat Manchester United in the Rumbelows Cup Final.

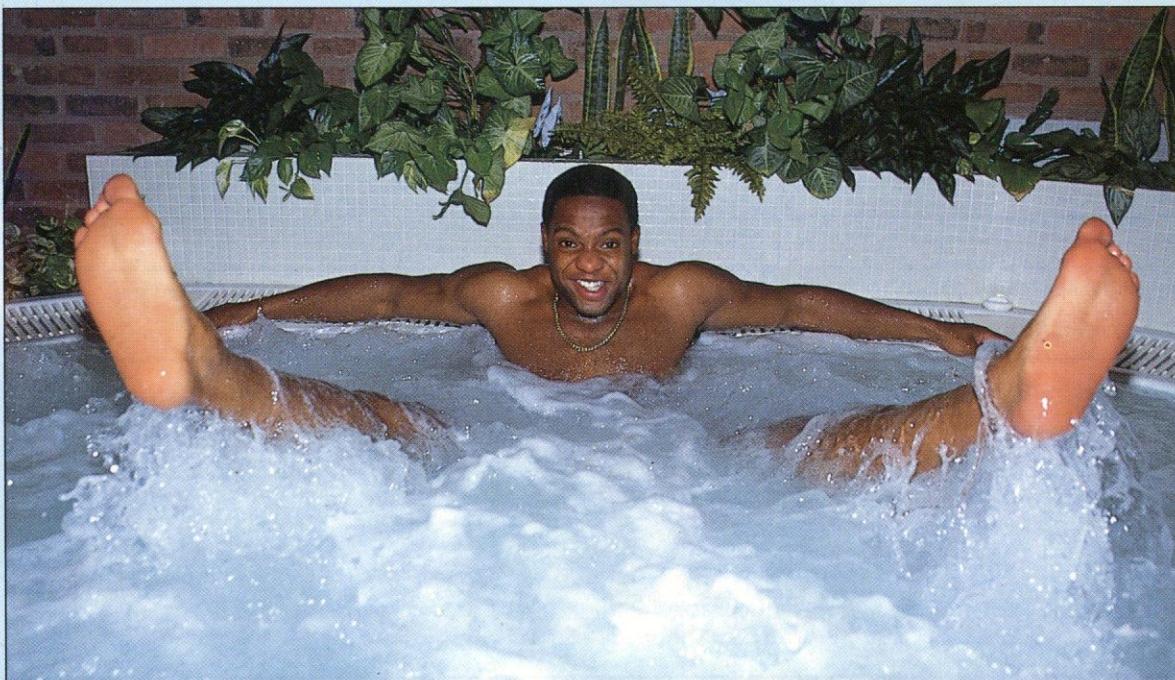
"There are the usual sauna and swimming facilities but also hydro massage and just about everything else that you could possibly want for players to relax and recover from their exertions."

Villa have gone there this season straight after some mid-week games where it has been especially important to get the fine tuning back to its peak for the following Saturday.

"I know from experience that the lads get real benefit from a visit there," added the manager.

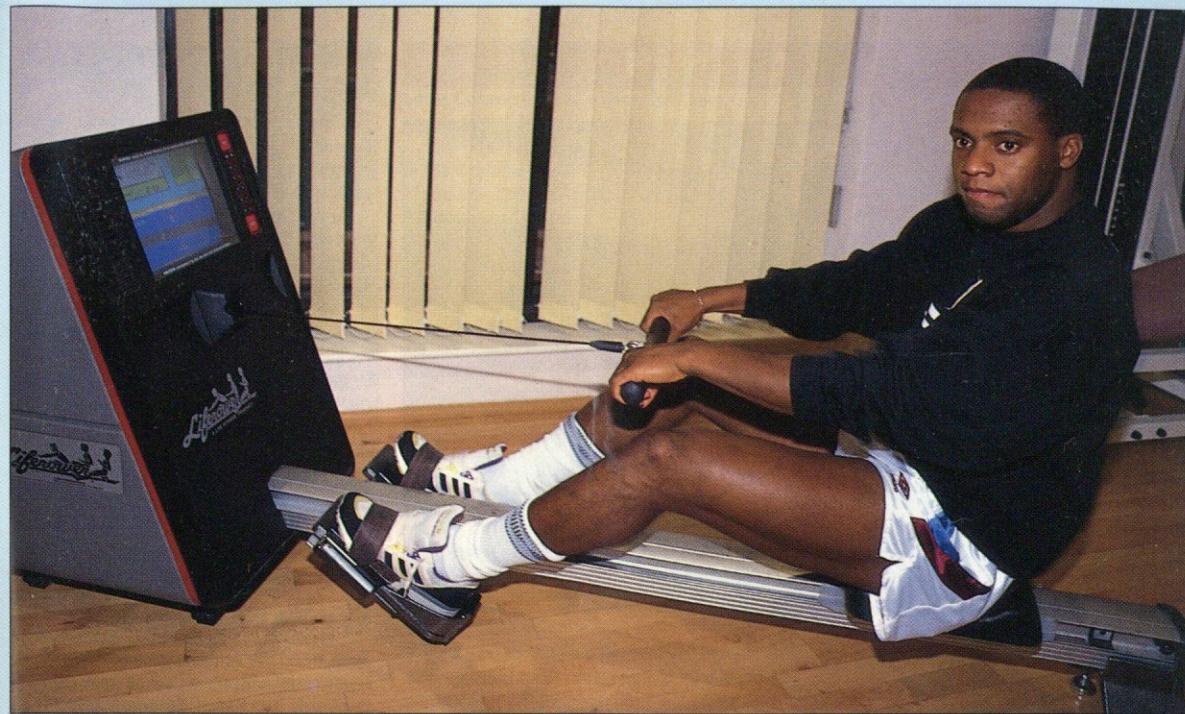
"I have seen lots of top people there taking advantage of the facilities. I believe golfers such as Nick Faldo and Ronan Rafferty have been there and also the boxer Frank Bruno."

*Our pictures show Dalian Atkinson making the most of Springs' facilities as part of his bid to regain full fitness.*



▲▲▲▲ ROVER GROUP - VEHICLE SUPPLIERS TO ASTON VILLA ▲▲▲▲

24 NEWS & RECORD



▲▲▲▲ THROWING OF ANY OBJECTS IS AGAINST THE LAW ▲▲▲▲

NEWS & RECORD 25



### CREATURE COMFORTS?

Car park onlookers before the match with Nottingham Forest were intrigued by the vehicle and its roof rack 'intruder' in secretary Steve Stride's space.

Had Steve brought his dog to work with him? Was there an animal escaped from the nearest zoo? Were we being invaded from outer space?

No, no and no again... The 'creature' being 'delivered' to Villa Park in novel fashion was an otter and the event was to draw attention to the Urban Wildlife Trust.

Mr. Otter had a couple of wildlife mates with him, namely messrs Fox and Badger who were not slow in putting themselves around the ground, as the other picture (below) shows.



### MARRIAGE PROPOSAL UP IN LIGHTS

The club's electronic scoreboard appears to be replacing, for some supporters, the old down-on-one-knee principle of marriage proposals.

At the Spurs game up went the message "Alison will you marry me? Love Andy" and then, near the end of the game came the reply "Alison says 'yes'".

Electronic romance has arrived at Villa Park with a spark for all to see. At the Forest game came the message "Rachel Wilford will you marry me? Mark Bartup." Once again back came the message: "Rachel says 'yes'."

The messages were all part of a free service for supporters. Anyone who has a birthday wish or any other acceptable message should contact the club.

The picture of Alison and Andy (right) is courtesy of the Evening Mail.

### STEWARDS NEEDED

John Hood the club's security officer requires a limited number of General Stewards and Safety Stewards but applicants must be prepared to undertake the mandatory training course.

The next of these will be held towards the end of October. Those requiring application forms should contact John Hood at Villa Park.

### NAME THAT TUNE...

...and club DJ Dave Poulton did so in one.

Keith Davies of Hall Green wanted to know all about the disc which greets the players when they come out.

"Simple" said Dave. It's Young Lions by Karimu and he purchased it from Andy Cash Records and Tapes, Kingsbury Road, Erdington, telephone 021-384-1424.



one of the Holimarine sites.

These are at St.Martin's Holiday Park, Looe, Cornwall, Land's Cove, Brixham, and Torbay Sands, Paignton.

The offer is open to season ticket holders, shareholders, Family Club Members, Lottery Agents, Travellers Club members and so on.

For information on this or any other Holimarine breaks, ring 0902-8808000

### YOUNG AZTECS ON PARADE

Villa Aztecs, that's the women's section, are now playing in the new National League (Division One North), having lost an entertaining first game 3-1 against Davies Argyle in Nottingham.

The Aztecs are booming along with the growth of the women's game and during last summer spread their numbers from two teams to five, namely three seniors an under-16 and an under-13.

Two of the junior teams, pictured here, played each other in a 30-minute friendly at Villa Park before the Spurs game and the seniors will play Luton Town Ladies as a warm-up to this afternoon's game.

If you look at the picture below you might be tempted to ask what Graeme Souness was doing refereeing a friendly game between two sets of girls.

The answer is that the man-in-the-middle was, in fact, Souness look-alike, Steve Groves.

"Everything is going with a swing for the Aztecs," said their organiser Mary Hull. "Our numbers have grown considerably but we can always take new members.

"We are thrilled to be part of the new National League set-up."

### • THIS WEEK

#### TWENTY YEARS AGO

Tuesday September 28th, 1971 ... Andy Lochhead and 'Chico' Hamilton score two each as Villa win 4-0 at Barnsley.

Saturday October 2nd, 1971 ... A crowd of over 20,000 at Eastville see Villa win their second away game within five days thanks to a Willie Anderson goal 15 minutes from time.

#### FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

Saturday September 25th, 1976 ... Ray Graydon puts Villa ahead against Leicester with a 13th minute penalty and Andy Gray adds number two with eight minutes left. The gate at Villa Park is 36,652.

Saturday October 2nd, 1976 ... Another midland 'derby' (remember them?), as a 29,652 crowd witness Stoke's single goal win over Villa at The Victoria Ground. Terry Conroy is the home side's marksman in the 39th minute.

#### TEN YEARS AGO

Wednesday September 30th, 1981 ... Villa travel to Iceland to complete the demolition of Valur. Leading 5-0 from the first leg Gary Shaw scores both goals in Reykjavik to ensure a comfortable passage into the second round of the European Cup.

Saturday October 3rd, 1981 ... Shaw is on the mark again, in a 1-1 draw at Leeds.



### WEEK-END BREAK SUPER BARGAIN

How's this for the cheapest, good quality week-end break ever on offer?

Aston Villa, in conjunction with HOLIMARINE, have designed a package for the week-end of Saturday October 12 when First Division fixtures offer prior to the European Championship qualifiers.

The three-day break costs only £6.50 for four people sharing accommodation at



**PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE FIXTURES 1991-92**

|      |    |                      |                      |     |
|------|----|----------------------|----------------------|-----|
| Aug  | 17 | H                    | Manchester United    | 0-0 |
| Sept | 29 | H                    | Sheffield Wednesday  | 2-1 |
| 14   | 7  | A                    | Newcastle United     | 1-2 |
| 23   | 14 | H                    | Sheffield United     | 0-2 |
| Oct  | 23 | H                    | Coventry City        | 0-0 |
| 5    | 5  | A                    | Liverpool            | 1-0 |
| 10   | 10 | H                    | Manchester City      | 1-0 |
| 19   | 19 | H                    | Everton              | 1-0 |
| 22   | A  | Rotherham United     | 0-0                  |     |
| Nov  | 2  | H                    | West Bromwich Albion | 1-0 |
| 5    | 5  | A                    | Bradford City        | 0-0 |
| 9    | H  | Liverpool            | 0-0                  |     |
| 13   | A  | Bolton Wanderers     | 0-0                  |     |
| 20   | A  | Blackburn Rovers     | 0-0                  |     |
| 25   | H  | Leeds United         | 0-0                  |     |
| Dec  | 4  | A                    | Sunderland           | 0-0 |
| 9    | H  | Barnsley             | 0-0                  |     |
| 18   | A  | Nottingham Forest    | 0-0                  |     |
| Jan  | 14 | A                    | Sheffield Wednesday  | 0-0 |
| 20   | H  | Nottingham Forest    | 0-0                  |     |
| Feb  | 1  | A                    | Everton              | 0-0 |
| 3    | H  | Rotherham United     | 0-0                  |     |
| 10   | H  | Blackburn Rovers     | 0-0                  |     |
| 19   | A  | Leeds United         | 0-0                  |     |
| 29   | H  | Sunderland           | 0-0                  |     |
| Mar  | 4  | A                    | Barnsley             | 0-0 |
| 9    | A  | West Bromwich Albion | 0-0                  |     |
| 16   | H  | Bolton Wanderers     | 0-0                  |     |
| 24   | A  | Sheffield United     | 0-0                  |     |
| Apr  | 4  | H                    | Newcastle United     | 0-0 |
| 7    | A  | Coventry City        | 0-0                  |     |
| 13   | H  | Bradford City        | 0-0                  |     |
| 28   | A  | Manchester City      | 0-0                  |     |
| TBA  |    | A                    | Manchester United    | 0-0 |

**MIDLAND PURITY YOUTH LEAGUE FIXTURES 1991-92**

|      |                |                     |                      |     |
|------|----------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----|
| Aug  | 17             | H                   | Birmingham City      | 4-2 |
| 24   | A              | Coventry City       | 3-1                  |     |
| 31   | H              | Derby County        | 2-1                  |     |
| Sept | 7              | A                   | Grimsby Town         | 1-0 |
| 11   | H              | Portsmouth (SJFC 1) | 4-2                  |     |
| 14   | H              | Leicester City      | 1-0                  |     |
| 28   | H              | Mansfield Town      | 3-0                  |     |
| Oct  | 5              | A                   | Northampton Town     | 0-0 |
| 12   | H              | Notts County        | 0-0                  |     |
| 19   | A              | Nottingham Forest   | 0-0                  |     |
| 26   | H              | Peterborough United | 0-0                  |     |
| Nov  | 2              | A                   | Port Vale            | 0-0 |
| 9    | A              | Leicester City      | 0-0                  |     |
| 16   | H              | Shrewsbury Town     | 0-0                  |     |
| 23   | A              | Stoke City          | 0-0                  |     |
| 30   | H              | Walsall             | 0-0                  |     |
| Dec  | 7              | A                   | West Bromwich Albion | 0-0 |
| 14   | H              | Wolves (LC 2)       | 0-0                  |     |
| 28   | H              | Wolves              | 0-0                  |     |
| Jan  | 4              | A                   | Wolves               | 0-0 |
| 11   | A              | Birmingham City     | 0-0                  |     |
| 18   | H              | Coventry City       | 0-0                  |     |
| 25   | League Cup 3   |                     |                      |     |
| Feb  | 1              | A                   | Derby County         | 0-0 |
| 8    | H              | Grimsby Town        | 0-0                  |     |
| 15   | H              | Lincoln City        | 0-0                  |     |
| 22   | A              | Mansfield Town      | 0-0                  |     |
| 29   | H              | Northampton Town    | 0-0                  |     |
| Mar  | 7              | A                   | Notts County         | 0-0 |
| 14   | League Cup S/F |                     |                      |     |
| 21   | H              | Nottingham Forest   | 0-0                  |     |
| 28   | A              | Peterborough United | 0-0                  |     |
| Apr  | 4              | H                   | Port Vale            | 0-0 |
| 11   | A              | Shrewsbury Town     | 0-0                  |     |
| 18   | H              | Stoke City          | 0-0                  |     |
| 25   | A              | Walsall             | 0-0                  |     |
| May  | 2              | H                   | West Bromwich Albion | 0-0 |
| TBA  | A              | Lincoln City        | 0-0                  |     |

KEY: LC = League Cup;  
SJFC = Southern Junior Floodlight Cup

**RESERVE & YOUTH**

**PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE**

**Legislation governing clubs' access to schoolboy footballers has altered in recent times and more changes are probably in pipeline. In this article, our Director of Youth, DAVE RICHARDSON, outlines his views on the changes, how they affect the choice put before parents and how Aston Villa are preparing for the future.**

**W**E have got under way with our under-15s and under-16s in friendly games against other clubs. This was the result of a joint initiative by the Football League and the English Schools FA which allows associate schoolboys to play in such matches.

We are also going to have an under-14 side and we've got that mapped out ready for when we can start.

All this means that there will be a 100% increase in our footballing activities compared with what we did only four years ago when we had the first team, reserves and youth team.

In addition to that, the vibes are that we may be allowed eventually to have under-12s and under-13s representing the club.

To be ready for this, we are extending our Bodmoor Heath training ground. We are getting an all-weather pitch up there so the whole complex is not only going to be orientated to our first team but to our youth programme as well.

We are going to be one of the first clubs in the country to have a separate youth department built into our training ground. The buildings will be attached but there will be dressing rooms which are primarily for our youth players as opposed to the first team.

The reason we are doing is that we are trying to be ahead of the race in what's going to happen in the next five or ten years. Our staffing and organisation are such that we have got that on board now.

The feeling in professional football, from the developers of young players, is that we would like to have more contact with our young players. Until quite recently, the legislation did not allow us to have this.

But there has been progress. Boys of nine years of age can now legitimately come into football to attend a Centre of Excellence for training and coaching. I'm not saying we've got loads of nine-year-olds, but we can have access to boys of high quality.

We can let our supporters know that we have groups of selected boys training and coaching with the club who go through from under-11s all the way to under-16s.

Dave Richardson

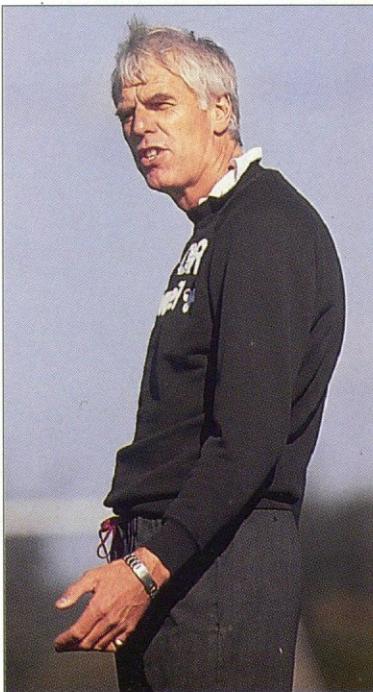
**STARTING POINT**

The younger boys begin at Centres of Excellence which are run by most League clubs. The rules and regulations for these Centres are in place and it's important that parents should understand exactly what boys can do and what they can't do.

There is an explanation on the form which they sign but still we get problems with people misunderstanding what goes on.

Basically, a young boy can only attend one Centre. When he goes to that particular Centre, he has four weeks in which they assess him. After that period, they have to say whether they want him to continue.

If they say 'yes' and the boy wishes to stay there, he signs a Centre of Excellence form which binds him to that club for a season. He's entitled then to come along one night a week for the coaching and training that the Centre offers. He can't play in competitive matches at the moment, but this is the next stage clubs



are looking for, in that they will be allowed to involve the boys against other clubs in games of a sensible nature, i.e. small-sided games, eight versus eight.

At the end of a year, the club has to indicate to the boy if they wish him to continue for his next year so he knows where he stands. If he doesn't wish to sign, he can go to another club. That's his prerogative.

**SECOND STAGE**

That goes on until he is 14 when he moves into the next category, which is the associate schoolboy stage. That ties him to the club until he leaves school at 16 or 18. It's important that parents really understand that the schoolboy form, as it stands at the moment, is loaded in favour of the club rather than the boy.

They have got to make their own judgment as to whether a particular club is offering the right facilities, in terms of coaching, equipment, back-up and education. If it's done correctly, there's no doubt in my mind that it's good for a boy to be identified with the club of his choice.

Some boys do start looking around clubs, which they are entitled to do, but my advice is not to look at too many because I think that leads to confusion.

The important thing is to get them settled into a situation whereby they are comfortable and they are happy. If that is Aston Villa or whichever club, then if everything is handled correctly, they are going to mature and improve.

But if they keep flitting round like a butterfly, dropping in here and there, they are never really going to get any continuity in their training.

My advice to parents and young boys is to make a decision on whether he wants to leave home. If he doesn't want to go away, that's it - you don't need to look any further. But if he doesn't mind leaving home and he has a club looking at him from a distance, that's something him and his parents have got to understand, and if they want to go down that road, then so be it.

*IN OUR NEXT PROGRAMME, Dave Richardson will continue his article with thoughts on boys who may not shine at school but develop at a later age.*

**Fixture Change**

Next week's home Pontin's League match with Manchester City will now be played on Thursday (kick-off 7.00 p.m.) at Villa Park. It was originally scheduled for Monday evening.

**UNBEATEN JUNIORS**

The youth team maintained their 100 per cent start in the Purity League with a 3-0 win against Mansfield Town. Graham Fenton scored his fifth goal in seven league and cup games.

The reserves shared a goalless draw with Coventry City at Villa Park but their next match against Manchester United at Old Trafford was postponed last Saturday because of heavy rain.

**MATCH DETAILS**

*Monday 23rd September 1991*

Pontin's League

**ASTON VILLA 0 COVENTRY CITY 0**

Villa: Sealey, Price, Small, Gage (sub: Cox 70), Mountfield, Duffy, Callaghan, Penrice, Carruthers, L.Williams (sub: Jones 85), Frogatt.

*Saturday 28th September 1991*

Midland Purity Youth League

**ASTON VILLA 3 MANSFIELD TOWN 0**

Scorers: Boden, Scimeca, Fenton. Team: Oakes, G.Williams, Boden, Scimeca, Hedigan, Browne, Pitcher, Hodgson (sub: D.Pearce 60), Fenton, Goodwin, Davis. Sub (not used): Peachey.

**YOUTH APPEARANCES 1991-92**

|                   | League Apps | League Gls | Cups Apps | Cups Gls |
|-------------------|-------------|------------|-----------|----------|
| Christopher Boden | 6           | 1          | 1         | 1        |
| Paul Browne       | 6           | -          | 1         | -        |
| Steven Cowe       | (2)         | -          | (1)       | -        |
| Neil Davis        | 6           | 3          | 1         | -        |
| Graham Fenton     | 6           | 4          | 1         | 1        |
| Craig Goodwin     | 5           | 1          | 1         | -        |
| Darren Hedigan    | 6           | -          | 1         | -        |
| Shaun Hodgson     | 6           | 2          | 1         | 2        |
| Matthew McCallum  | (3)         | -          | -         | -        |
| Philip McNamara   | 3(1)        | -          | 1         | -        |
| Michael Oakes     | 6           | -          | 1         | -        |
| Wayne Peachey     | 1           | -          | -         | -        |
| Dennis Pearce     | (1)         | -          | -         | -        |
| Steven Pitcher    | 6           | 1          | 1         | -        |
| Mark Pugh         | 2           | -          | -         | -        |
| Riccardo Scimeca  | 6           | 1          | 1         | -        |
| Graeme Williams   | 1           | -          | -         | -        |
| Own Goal          | -           | 1          | -         | -        |

*(Up to and including Saturday 28th September)*



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**COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER** Ron Wylie

**CLUB HONOURS**

European Cup Winners: 1981-82

European Super Cup Winners: 1982-83

Football League Champions: 1893-94, 1895-96, 1896-97, 1898-99, 1899-1900, 1909-10, 1980-81.

Runners-up: 1888-89, 1902-03, 1907-08, 1910-11, 1912-13, 1913-14, 1930-31, 1932-33, 1989-90.

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

Runners-up: 1974-75, 1987-88

Division Three Champions: 1971-72

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

League Cup Winners: 1961, 1975, 1977

Runners-up: 1963, 1971

FA Youth Cup Winners: 1972, 1980.

**ASTON VILLA NEWS & RECORD**

• TEAM •



• CHECK •

REFeree

Mr P. Don (Middlesex).

LINESMEN

Mr G.T. Pearson (Red Trim)  
Mr L.L. Watson (Yellow Trim)

STANDBY OFFICIAL

Mr J. Kendall

VILLA STRIP BY UMBRO

ASTON VILLA 4 - 0 LUTON TOWN

Nigel SPINK 1 Alec CHAMBERLAIN

Dariusz KUBICKI 2 Matthew JACKSON

Steve STAUNTON 3 John DREYER

Shaun TEALE 4 Paul TELFER

Paul MCGRATH 5 Graham RODGER

Kevin RICHARDSON 6 Dave BEAUMONT

Dwight YORKE 7 David PREECE

Kent NIELSEN 8 Philip GRAY

Cyrille REGIS 9 Mick HARFORD

Gary PENRICE 10 Mark PEMBRIDGE

Paul MORTIMER 11 Steve THOMPSON

Sub

Sub

SCORECHECK

Arsenal v Chelsea  
Everton v Tottenham  
Leeds United v Sheffield United  
Oldham Ath. v Southampton  
QPR v Nottingham Forest  
Sheffield Wed. v Crystal Palace  
West Ham v Coventry City  
Wimbledon v Norwich City

Wolves v Barnsley  
Shrewsbury v Birmingham City  
Walsall v Barnet

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VILLA VOUCHER 06