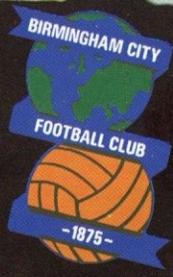


Volume No. 20,
Saturday 9th,
January 1993.
PRICE £1.20



BLUES News

INSIDE *Today's Issue*



**RETURN FOR GOS
AFTER FOUR
MONTHS ON THE
SIDELINES**

PLUS

- PREVIEW OF TODAY'S MATCH - BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION 1 - BLUES V LUTON TOWN - KICK-OFF 3.00P.M.
- CANADIAN IMPORT PAUL PESCHISOLDO IN THE SPOTLIGHT
- HEAD GROUNDSMAN BRIAN HARRIS EXPLAINS WHY MONEY ISN'T ALWAYS THE ANSWER
- PLAN YOUR TRIPS TO SWINDON TOWN AND WOLVES



The Official Birmingham City Matchday Magazine
Sponsored by Birmingham Car Auctions 1986 Ltd

Ed - START



Welcome back to St. Andrews and to the 'first' Blues News of 1993.

What a nightmare time it is for us programme editors!

Two weeks before Christmas and I had three programmes to prepare - issues for matches against Watford, Sunderland and Peterborough all had to be completed by Christmas Eve to fit in with printers deadlines. It was a slog but we did it. Too many times I've been to matches over the Christmas period and been sold a programme that has obviously been thrown together at the last minute. I wanted to maintain the standard of our programme as much as possible.

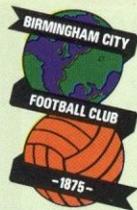
On Wednesday 23rd December the Sunderland programmes arrived. On Thursday 31st December the Peterborough programmes arrived.

I'm keeping my fingers firmly crossed that the Luton match goes ahead as scheduled!

The disappointing element of course is that we simply can't afford to 'scrap' the original programmes and start again. So for our next home match, against Peterborough, we'll be selling the original programme, hopefully with an insert to bring a few things up to date.

In the meantime, don't forget that you can buy your back issues of Blues News from the Club shop, along with programmes from Blues away matches. And to keep your programmes tidy, our Blues News binders are proving very popular so get one today!

David



BIRMINGHAM CITY FOOTBALL CLUB PLC

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T. COOPER, B. H. SLATER

Team Manager

TERRY COOPER

General Manager/Chief Scout

BILL COLDWELL

Who's Who at St ANDREWS?

Secretary

ALAN JONES, B.A., M.B.A.

Reserve Team Coach

BRIAN CASWELL

Youth Team Coach

TONY TAYLOR

Physiotherapist

PAUL HEATH

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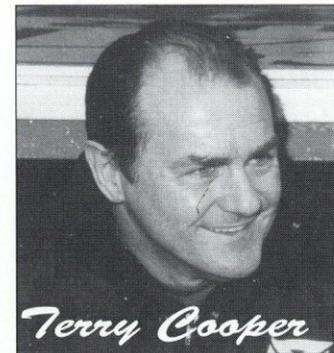
DEREK CLYDESDALE

Honorary Medical Officer

DR D.N. WATSON M.B. Ch.B.

The view expressed in the magazine are not necessarily those of the Football Club unless stated

"Team spirit and morale are so important, and those are things we are not short of here despite our current position"



Terry Cooper

Welcome back to St. Andrews for our first match since December 19th. I hope that you all enjoyed your Christmas and New Year break.

It's been a difficult time at the club. Our training, and our physical and mental energies are centred around the fixture list and we build up our activity with a focal point at the end of it. When that point is taken away not once, but three times in succession, it can be very difficult to motivate yourself and others again.

That's why team spirit and morale are so important, and those are things that we're not short of here despite our current position.

But there was another reason why we were sorry that the matches were postponed, and that is that against Watford we had started to look more positive and more aggressive. Isn't it amazing what a difference a goal makes. There we were at home to Watford, after clawing our way

"The Watford result gave us something to build on and both physically and mentally gave us a springboard to bounce back"

importantly, we kept on battling away and we were rewarded.

In that respect, we were helped enormously by the fans. There weren't all that many of them, but they were noisy and encouraged us right to the end.

I believe that at the end of the season we may look back on that result and see it as a most important one. Because it gave us something to build on, and both physically and mentally and gave us a springboard to bounce back.

Now after three weeks we have a chance today to start the climb up the table. We have some tricky games coming up, and with our re-arranged matches against Swindon and Peterborough, we are going to have a busy January. But this will be a good time to put a run together, and with six games coming up in the next 23 days, we have 18 valuable points to fight for.

A Happy New Year to you all

Terry

On Reflection

patiently back into a game which we never looked like losing, and suddenly we were behind and playing catch-up again. Then, out of the blue came an unstoppable shot from John Frain and the place was alive.

After the performance against Lucchese, I was beginning to worry that we were a side without any bottle, because I really expected the lads to give their best in that game, because of what was potentially at stake, a place in the English final with Wembley one step away.

You can be sure that words were said, and against Watford we showed a lot more effort. We weren't devastating, and at times we lacked that little bit of luck that we needed which is frustrating, but most

Blues *in* ACTION

Blues penultimate game in the Anglo-Italian Cup saw them draw 1-1 in a frustrating match against Ascoli



Ascoli's Pascucci ensures that Louie Donowa won't get on the end of Paul Tait's header



TAIT again breaking into the Italians penalty area

Versus

ASCOLI



Two second half efforts from **IAN RODGERSON** failed to hit the target in a game of few chances.



That was THE YEAR

1983

by Tony Matthews

Blues struggled throughout the 1982-83 season and during the first half of the following campaign.

It was rather gloomy around St. Andrews a decade ago and the average gates at home games had fallen dramatically - from 28,000 in 1977 to around 16,000 by 1983.

Out on the park results were hit and miss; several players were being called into action and indeed in season 1982-83 thirty were utilised by manager Ron Saunders as Blues eventually finished 17th in Division One.

They never really got going until it was far too late!

Up until the turn of the year (21 games played in the League) Blues in fact managed to win just four, including a 3-0 home success over arch rivals Aston Villa on 27th December when almost 44,000 fans packed into St. Andrews.

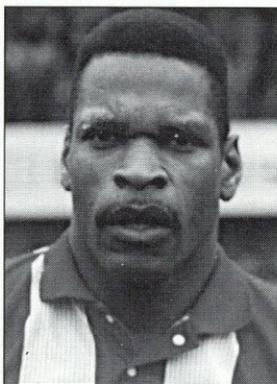
Exit had been suffered at the hands of Burnley in the League Cup (in November) and in January Blues crashed out of the F.A. Cup, beaten 1-0 by Crystal Palace.

Back in the League they continued to struggle and gained only three more victories in fifteen starts up to mid-April. But then it all started to happen - much too late - and five wins were strung together in six matches as relegation was avoided right at the death. Yes, it was certainly the great Houdini Act all over again for battling Blues!

Noel Blake was the most consistent performer (37 League games) while Mick Ferguson top-scored with 8 goals.

It was not a season to remember and when the 1983-84 campaign got underway everyone associated with Blues confidently expected much better things after that final flourish of '82-83.

But alas, it was not to be and bang - Blues went down into Division Two!



Noel Blake

SOCCER HONOURS (1983)

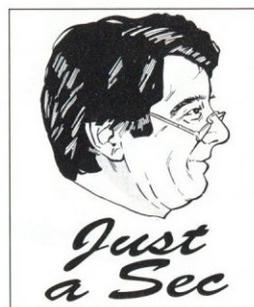
- Football League Champions - Liverpool
- Second Division champions - Queen's Park Rangers
- Third Division champions - Portsmouth
- Fourth Division champions - Wimbledon
- F.A. Cup winners - Manchester United
- Football League (Milk) Cup winners - Liverpool
- Scottish League champions - Rangers
- Scottish F.A. Cup winners - Rangers
- Scottish Skol Cup winners - Hibernian
- European Cup winners - SV Hamburg
- European Cup Winners Cup winners - Aberdeen
- UEFA Cup winners - RSC Anderlecht
- World Club Champions - Porto Alegria (Brazil)

THE SPORTING WORLD (1983)

- ◆ World Heavyweight Boxing champion - Leon Spinks
- ◆ W.B.C. Champion - Larry Homes
- ◆ British Heavyweight champion - David Pearce
- ◆ County Cricket champions - Essex
- ◆ Sunday League champions - Yorkshire
- ◆ World Professional Darts champion - Keith Deller
- ◆ British Open Golf champion - Tom Watson (USA)
- ◆ U.S. Open champion - Larry Nelson
- ◆ Derby winner (Epsom) - Morston
- ◆ Grand National winner - Corbiere
- ◆ World Motor Racing champion - Nelson Piquet
- ◆ British Grand Prix winner - Alain Prost
- ◆ World Professional Snooker champion - Steve Davis
- ◆ World Speedway champion - Erhard Muller
- ◆ Wimbledon Mens Singles champion - J. McEnroe

AROUND THE WORLD IN '83

- First compact discs produced in Britain (March 2nd)
- 100,000 CND protesters join hands to form chain from Greenham Coomon to Burghfield Ordnance factory (April 1st).
- The Conservative returned to office at general Election (June 9th)
- Sally Ride became first American woman in space (June 24th)
- Radio Caroline resumed broadcasting in channel (Aug. 18th)
- Neil Kinnock elected leader of Labour Party (Oct. 2nd)
- First Cruise Missiles delivered to Greenham Common Air Base (Nov. 14th)
- Top films included Octopussy (007), Psycho II, Staying Alive and Zelig
- Deaths: Karen Carpenter, Billy Fury, John Le Mesurier and Jack Dempsey
- Top U.K. chart busters: Every Breath You Take (Police), Billie Jean (Michael Jackson)



TICKET INFORMATION

Tuesday 12th January 1993
Barclays League Division 1
SWINDON v BIRMINGHAM CITY
Kick-off 7.45p.m.

Tickets bought for original match are valid. THIS IS AN ALL-TICKET MATCH. No seats remaining, Terrace tickets on sale now, Price £3.

Sunday 17th January 1993
Barclays League Division 1
WOLVES v BIRMINGHAM CITY
Kick-off 2.55p.m.

Match to be shown live on Central T.V.

THIS IS AN ALL-TICKET MATCH. 2,500 terrace tickets, no seats. Available to Season Ticket holders, True Blue Club members and Blues Society members until **9th January 1993**, and on general sale on **Monday 11th January 1993.**

Friday 22nd January 1993
Barclays League Division 1
BIRMINGHAM CITY v PETERBOROUGH UNITED
Kick-off 8.00p.m.

Normal admission details and prices apply - tickets bought for the original date of 2nd January are valid.

Wednesday 27th January 1993
Barclays League Division 1
SOUTHEND UTD v BIRMINGHAM CITY
Kick-off 7.45p.m.

THIS IS NOT AN ALL-TICKET MATCH. BUT, IN ORDER TO STAND ON THE TERRACE YOU MUST TAKE WITH YOU YOUR BLUES SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP CARD OR SEASON TICKET.

Otherwise, seats are available.
 Terrace **£7**, seats **£10**

Saturday 30th Jan 1993
Barclays League Div. 1
BIRMINGHAM CITY v
CAMBRIDGE UNITED
Kick-off 3.00p.m.

Normal prices and admission details apply

YOUR LAST CHANCE TO BUY OUR SPECIAL PRICE SEASON TICKETS!

After today's match, you can buy a Season Ticket at these final prices:

	ADULT	JNR/OAP
MAIN ST.	£100	£50
PADDOCKS	£80	£50
FAMILY ST.	£80	£40
TERRACE	£65	£40

YOUR FOOTBALL CLUB NEEDS YOU!

Birmingham City need male & female Stadium Stewards, & Turnstile Operators. Application forms can be obtained from the Club reception at the Main Office. Alternatively, call Safety Officer David Pyke.

Applicants should be aged between 18-55 years, fit, active and robust, and of good character. They should be prepared to attend at least 70% of First Team home matches.

FULL TRAINING WILL BE GIVEN.

TRUE BLUE CLUB

THANK YOU!!



Thanks to our members,
the True Blue Club bank account now has a deposit of

£50,000

And that at the end of only our first year!!

We now have over **1,000 members** who pay every week, and when we make our draw for **£5,000 on January 14th**, we will have paid out **£37,200 in prizes**, and with the new prize fund this will rise to **£44,000** next year.

We have of course spent some money in our first year - we bought **Darran Rowbotham** and **Jason Beckford**. These players were bought 'in advance' back in January 1992 because of the support given to the True Blue Club.

**WE ARE ALIVE AND KICKING, & RAISING MONEY FOR TERRY COOPER.
THANK YOU TO ALL OUR MEMBERS, & A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL.**

***** STOP PRESS - TRUE BLUE CLUB MEMBERS BUY PAUL PESCHISOLIDO! - FULL DETAILS AND PICTURES SOON!*****

**TRUE BLUE 2 -
RETURN OF THE KARAOKE**

The event will now take place on **THURSDAY, 14TH JANUARY**,
in the **TREVOR FRANCIS SUITE**. Kick-off at 7.30p.m.

- GRUB ● QUIZ
- DISCO AND KARAOKE

PLUS THE DRAW FOR



£5,000!

**TICKETS ONLY £5.00, AVAILABLE FROM SIMON.
EACH MEMBER MAY BRING A GUEST.**

**Terrace
ALK...**

For the benefit of supporters who have been unable to keep up with all the tremendous excitement at St. Andrews, I begin with a quick resume of recent events.

- (1) Match off
- (2) Notice of Extraordinary General Meeting
- (3) Blues slump to bottom of Division 1
- (4) Match off
- (5) 'D' Day for £5,000 Good Faith Bond
- (6) Match off.

**ANYONE STILL AWAKE?
I very much doubt it.**

Older supporters will remember when PLAYERS made headlines, when we celebrated victories and mourned defeats, when alternate Saturday afternoons were spent at St. Andrews, not the modern-day four in four months. Directors were anonymous figures and the term 'Receiver' was reserved for readers of the Financial Times. Football was for us supporters, it wasn't governed by the demands of T.V.; police were present to maintain law and order, not make it; and with one or two notable exceptions, Blues spent the winter months fighting relegation. Isn't it amazing how good those days now seem as the club stumbles through one of the most depressing stages in it's history.

We can't even play matches now, and NO, I'm NOT knocking the club, just stating facts. I know that everyone at St. Andrews is just as frustrated as us supporters, but we're in such a state of limbo that we can't spend a few bob ensuring the games go ahead. So we spent the holiday listening to W.M. or B.R.M.B., cheering Coventry and Bristol Rovers and cursing Arsenal, whilst in reality, all we really wanted was to go to St. Andrews, show that Blues are still very much alive and capable of climbing the table.

Like it or not, we start 1993 bottom of Division 1 with the triumphs of the previous two seasons now just a distant memory. Our return to Division One has turned out to be a nightmare, but now's the time to stop feeling sorry for ourselves and for the players to respond to the challenge, play to their true capabilities and climb the table. The odds are heavily stacked against us, but let's come out fighting and show we mean business. New owners, and how quickly they need to be appointed, can't transform the club overnight, but they can draw on the tremendous amount of goodwill that exists, and with the right leadership at the top, progress can be made. Undoubtedly, Terry Cooper has the ability to transform events on the field, but he desperately needs to be allowed to compete in the transfer-market. But once and for all, let's stop all this back-biting - it helps no one.

Tuor Crigman

Calling all Blues Fans

Ever Wanted to Support the Blues Financially, but found normal Sponsorship Prices out of reach?

Blues Sponsor a Goal Scheme.

- 👉 Help the Blues for as little as 25p per Goal.
- 👉 See your name in the new Blues News Weekly Magazine on a regular basis.
- 👉 Enter our Prediction Competition.
- 👉 Join your fellow Sponsors at an End-of Season Buffet and Prize Raffle.
- 👉 Be Presented with a Certificate signed by the Manager and Players.

All you have to do is collect a form from the Club Offices, and return it to Mark Bowler or David Teague. We'll invoice you at the beginning of December and the beginning of May. No payment cards, no callers, no Worries.

THANKS TO OUR GOAL SPONSORS SO FAR!

COLIN FULLER, P. J. COWEN, DEBRA CURTIS, COLIN ASTLE, GARY MAY, GARY LOXTON, ALEX PATTERSON, MICHAEL MALONE, GARY TURNER, ROBERT COATES, PHIL GARDNER, COKEY, NEVILLE HAMILTON

Sponsor a GOAL



PAUL NICHOLLS

FAROE ISLES 1, AUSTRIA 0.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1990

USA 1, ENGLAND 0.

WORLD CUP FINALS 1950

WEST GERMANY 1 ALGERIA 2

WORLD CUP FINALS 1982

Arbroath 36, Bon Accord 0.

SCOTTISH CUP 1885

ARGENTINA...0 CAMEROON...1

WORLD CUP FINALS 1990

BANGOR 2 - NAPOLI 0

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS CUP 1963

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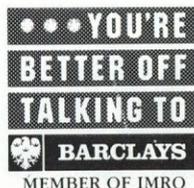
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Flash BACK

5 YEARS AGO - January 1988

Blues won 3-0 at Gillingham in the Third Round of the F.A. Cup. Over 9,000 packed into the Priestfield Stadium (4,000 of them Brummie fans) to watch Colin Greenall (og), Tommy Williams and Ian Handysides net the vital goals which gave Blues an away trip to Barnsley in the next round (won 2-0). Luton travelled north to Hartlepool and in front of a 6,056 gate progressed into the next round with a narrow 2-1 victory. Jimmy Weir and Darren McDonough scored their goals, both in the second-half.

10 YEARS AGO - January 1983

Blues were again involved in F.A. Cup action - this time at nearby Walsall in Round 3. A crowd of 12,697 turned up in chilling weather to witness the 0-0 draw. In the replay, three days later, Walsall were knocked out 1-0 with Kevin Summerhill, who had been recalled from a loan spell with the Saddlers, netting the victory goal in front of a 14,774 crowd. Luton met Peterborough at home and watched by over 11,000 fans they won 3-0 with goals from Brian Horton (pen), Ricky Hill and Paul Walsh.

20 YEARS AGO - January 1973

No joy this time for Blues who crashed out of the F.A. Cup beaten 2-0 at Swindon before a 17,373 crowd. This defeat - the first of the New Year - in fact stretched Blues no-win run to six games following a disappointing December when they suffered three losses in the First Division including a 4-0 drubbing at Leeds and a 4-3 reverse at Liverpool. Luton, playing in Division 2, were held to a 1-1 draw at home by Leyton Orient. Johnny Aston, the former Manchester United winger, scored for the 'Hatters' and the crowd was 8,344.

25 YEARS AGO - January 1968

Blues suffered two League defeats in the space of a week, losing 2-1 at Ipswich and 3-1 at home to Carlisle United. Over 16,600 fans saw the game at Portman Road and there were 21,686 present for the Carlisle clash which saw Blues suffer only their second home defeat of this Division Two season. Luton Town, in the lower reaches of the 4th Division lost 2-1 at Hartlepool in front of 3,000 shivering supporters at The Victoria Ground.

Captain's LOG

Here we go again, it must be winter!

It has been a very frustrating period since our last match against Watford, with three consecutive matches called off. Frustrating because we had just got the bit between our teeth and were looking forward to getting on with the job after the Watford game.

After six consecutive defeats, the game against Watford was looked upon as a very important one, and to be fair, after going behind twice, we battled well and gave 100% for the whole ninety minutes. The lads seemed hungry and had that extra determination, which really showed that if we want to do it we can.

Unfortunately we are still being our own worst enemies, and Watford's second goal in particular was a sloppy one. But scoring so late on has given us a boost and we are looking forward to getting back into action this afternoon, against a

Luton side who have also struggled a bit this season, and who, like a few clubs in the First Division, have a better record away from home.

On a lighter note, I did make a few New Year's resolutions: Personally, I need to start scoring some goals - I'm certainly due one, and once the first arrives I think that they will keep coming. For the team, I'd like to think that we can put together a good run, and with over half the season still to go, we can mount a challenge for the play-offs.

Last and not least, to look after my family and all my bubbling fans out there. Happy New Year!

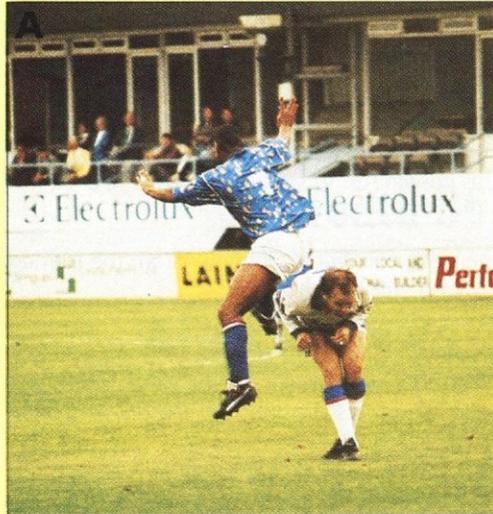
John



Kiddies CORNER

Well after our two postponed matches, here's a repeat of part two of our easy to enter 'Win a T.V.' competition.

You'll come across these questions again when we finally play Sunderland but never mind about that. Remember that the prize is a Portable Colour T.V. so have a go! In the programme against Watford we gave you five posers to sort out the answers to - now here are 5 more. Keep the answers safe - the final part of the quiz will be in the programme against Cambridge United on January 30th.



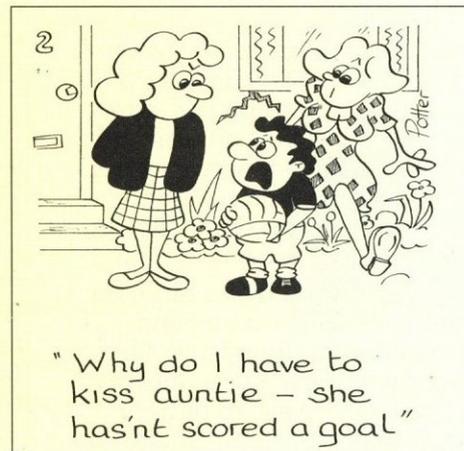
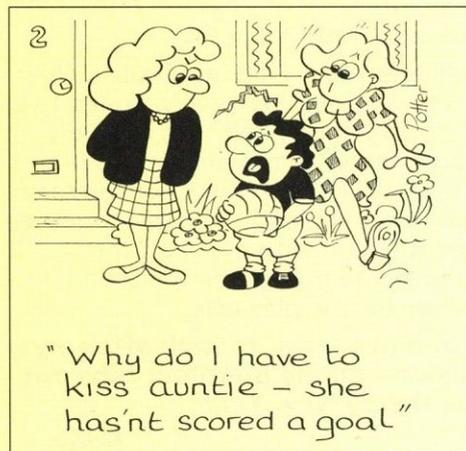
6. Who is this Blues player playing leap-frog at Luton Town? (Picture A)

7. Who was the last Blues player to score two goals in a game?
8. Where did Blues finish in their Anglo-Italian Cup group? (International stage)
9. Look at Picture B. What happened next?
10. What is Mark Sale's nickname at the club?

Remember - final part of the quiz in Blues v Cambridge

O.K. now relax with a Spot the difference.

There are ten differences between the pictures below - can you find them all?



Good afternoon to you all and a belated Happy New Year.

Today we entertain the juniors from Luton Town who will have been training with us at the Birmingham Sports Centre and dependant on the weather there will possibly be a game at half-time.

New members:



Over the past few weeks we have had two of the youngest Junior Blues members.

Firstly, **Miss Sophie Elizabeth Heaviside** who was just 2 days old when her Great Uncle, Rick Coleman joined her into Junior Blues. The second, pictured, is Master **Jamie Addison** who was born on 29th December

weighing in at 10lbs and his Grandad Mr Reilly joined him into Junior Blues at, wait for it, 18 hours old. Our best wishes go to both sets of parents.

Away trips...

Swindon - would all those people who paid their deposit come and see Ian for a refund.

Wolves - there will not be a Junior Blues trip to this game.

Notts County - This will be the next away trip for Junior Blues with football in the morning and then the game. Details at a later date.

Clubnight

I would like to hold another Clubnight soon, but need some input from yourselves. Let me know what you would like to do, skittles or what?

The picture below is from our home game against Brentford.



Junior BLUES

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Community BLUES

EMERGENCY AID COURSES

During the coming year the Community Department will be organising several courses which deal with the injuries side of football.

The first level is the Emergency Aid Course, followed by the Basic Injuries Course, then onto the Intermediate level.

The Emergency Aid courses begin in January and the details are as follows:

- DATES:** Mondays 11th Jan, 1st & 15th Feb, 1993
- TIMES:** 6.00p.m. - 9.00p.m. (each course of 3 hours duration)
- VENUE:** Trevor Francis Suite, St. Andrews.
- COST:** £5.00

This course concentrates on Resuscitation/Life-Saving Skills, and as with all these courses, it is invaluable to anyone involved with running a football team. These courses will be staffed by representatives from St. John Ambulance and a certificate will be issued at the end of the course.

Regarding later Basic Treatment of Injuries & Intermediate courses, details will appear on this page some time in January.

For details of the Emergency Aid courses, contact me on the **Community number - 021 766 6180**.

SATURDAY MORNING COACHING

Starting in the new year, we'll be running regular pre-match coaching sessions.

We'll be using a couple of venues in the Chelmsley Wood area, and at one - **Simon Digby School** - there'll be a coaching session open to everyone who turns up, together with a coaching session with the local team who've booked through our 'Matchday Package' scheme.

At the other venue, **Smithswood School**, we'll be linking-in with their existing range of activities which take place on a Saturday morning.

At both sessions the cost of the open coaching will be **£1.50**, and there'll also be the chance to purchase 2 tickets for the afternoon match (1 adult/1 child). The cost of coaching + 2 tickets will be just **£8.00**

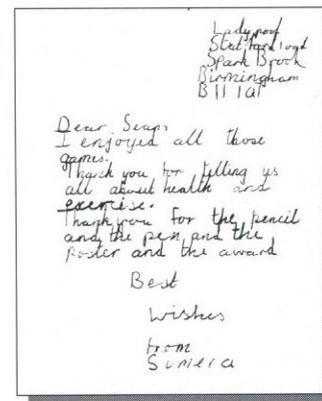
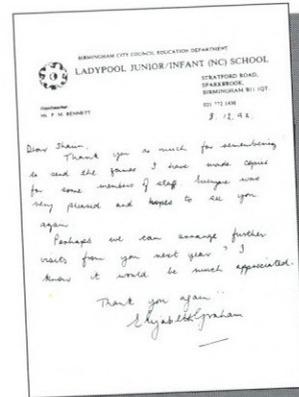
..... *Derek Clydesdale*



BIRTHDAY TREATS...

MARK ALLSOP and **KRISTIAN KELSALL** our birthday treat guests for the Watford match.

The Healthy Living Programme.



The best advert for the 'Healthy Living Programme' is from the people who have taken part:

If your school/organisation would like to join this band of contented people, please contact the 'Healthy Living Hotline' on

021 766 5206.

Happy New Year!!

Shaun Edwards



**Community
BLUES**



Helping the most important people in football

Football is much more than a game of 90 minutes. Every day clubs throughout Britain are providing recreational and sporting opportunities for their local communities.

Much of this has been achieved with the help of the Football Trust. As part of its commitment to Football, The Trust has granted £4M to set up the National Football and Community Development Scheme.

Bringing club and community together, Trust-backed initiatives have provided a variety of local amenities, including:

- Artificial pitches for local teams
- Coaching for youngsters
- Support for women's football
- Facilities for people with disabilities

The Football Trust is helping the game at all levels.



THE FOOTBALL TRUST
Helping the game

MORE VISITORS FACTS

BLUES v. LUTON -

There have been 45 previous League matches involving the two teams and at present this is Blues' record against the 'Hatters' from Kenilworth Road

Venue	P	W	D	L	F	A
Home	22	12	6	4	46	32
Away	23	11	6	6	31	28
Totals	45	23	12	10	77	60

So Blues have by far the better set of statistics at the minute and will be aiming to continue their good form against the 'Hatters' this afternoon. Earlier this season the teams drew 1-1 at Luton and the last time the 'Hatters' played here at St. Andrews - in April 1986 in the First Division - they beat Blues 2-0 in front of a near 9,000 crowd.

DID YOU KNOW?

- In 1891 the Luton Town players were paid half-a-crown (13p) a week with sixpence (3p) extra for away games.
- Luton are proud of their nickname 'The Hatters'. In fact, ash trays designed as miniature straw hats were made for use in the club's Boardroom.
- In their earliest days all Luton Town players used to wear blue and pink caps. Unfortunately this didn't help when heading the ball for it never seemed to go in the right direction!
- Luton Town (and indeed their challengers Nottingham Forest) fielded the same team in every round (including the Final) of the 1958-59 F.A. Cup competition: it was Baynham; McNally, Hawkes; Groves, Sid Owen (ex-Blues), Pacey; Bingham, Brown, Morton, Cummins and Gregory.

FORM BOOK...

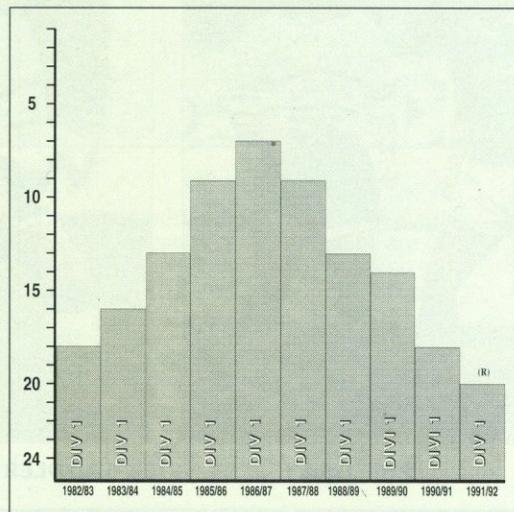
After reaching a peak in the mid-eighties on the back of a series of excellent seasons on their home 'soil', and after flirting with relegation for four seasons, Luton finally dropped into the 'second' division at the end of last season, due mainly to an away record comprising no wins and five draws from their twenty-one matches. This season, though, it's been their performances at home that have been the reason for their current position of 20th, and at present they are just 1 point ahead of Blues, having played two games more. For Luton failed to pick up their only home win until November 29th, despite having won three and drawn four games away from Kenilworth Road.

The last ten league matches

28/12	West Ham United	(A)	2-2
19/12	Sunderland	(H)	0-0
12/12	Wolverhampton W	(A)	2-1
5/12	Bristol Rovers	(A)	0-2
29/11	Watford	(H)	2-0
21/11	Millwall	(H)	1-1
14/11	Oxford United	(A)	0-4
7/11	Grimsby Town	(H)	1-4
3/11	Cambridge United	(A)	3-3
31/10	Southend United	(H)	2-2

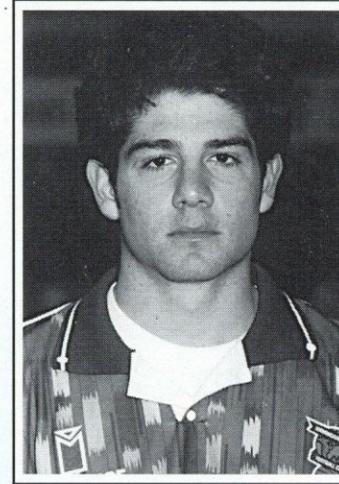
In the Coca-Cola Cup, Luton made an early exit at the hands of Plymouth Argyle in the 2nd round.

The last ten seasons:



In the SPOTLIGHT

PAUL PESCHISOLIDO



"So far it's gone really well. Obviously I miss my family and friends in Canada, because they are a long way away. But I've settled in at the club and have now got a place to live with Paul Fenwick, and things are looking bright for me."

This week Blues News spotlights the only current International at the Club, Paul Peschisolido. Since joining Blues life has been pretty hectic for the 21 year old, who has 6 caps for Canada. Not that he sees it that way. "The lifestyle here is incredibly different. It's so laid back here and everyone is so relaxed. In Canada everything has to be done yesterday!

Being involved with the Canadian national team has however put a lot of pressure on my training time with Blues, and has led to a lot of travelling in my short time here. I have had to travel to Vancouver, Toronto and Bermuda over the last couple of months, but with that behind me I can now concentrate on my training, and push for a regular place in the first team. Maybe if I can get a run of luck and steer clear of injuries I can hold a place."

There wasn't much luck about Paul's opening goal for Blues, against Watford, a goal which Paul was obviously delighted with. And he believes that goal

was just the first instalment in paying back the faith shown in him, especially by Youth Team Coach Tony Taylor. "I'm grateful to Tony, who called me up in Canada and asked if I fancied a trial. Both myself and Paul Fenwick played under Tony when he was coach at Toronto Blizzard. I jumped at the opportunity because I felt it would give me a chance to play football at a higher level.

The down side is that I am a long way from home, and obviously I miss my family and friends in Canada. It was particularly disappointing for me because my mom and dad came over from Canada to watch the three games over Christmas and of course we didn't play at all. But it is a great thrill to play in England where the quality is much higher, and the game receives much greater coverage in the media. Although there is a National League in Canada, football is not regarded as a national sport, and there is very little coverage.

Whilst ice hockey is Paul's favourite sport (handy in recent weather conditions) he has represented Canada at both Under-16 and Under-19 levels as well as the full squad. Then at 19 Paul was picked first in the 'Draft Picks' - by which the professional clubs choose players coming out of the college system.

Paul has started just one game so far, but has made an impression in his five substitute appearances, particularly against Watford when many felt he turned the game. "I was very disappointed that we didn't pick up the three points against Watford. But once we can find the win, the confidence will return. On a personal level, my sole aim is just to break into the team, and then to earn the respect of the manager, the players and the fans."

Fact File on:

PAUL PESCHISOLIDO

BORN:
Scarborough,
Ontario, 25th May 1971

PREVIOUS CLUBS:
Toronto Blizzard

HONOURS
Six International caps for
Canada

**APPEARANCES
FOR BLUES:**

6

Goals:

1

**HIGHLIGHT OF
CAREER:**

Being given the chance to
play football in England

**BIGGEST
DISAPPOINTMENT:**

Not qualifying for the
Barcelona Olympics with
the Canadian Olympic
Soccer team.

INTERESTS:

I enjoy all sports, and
listening to music,
especially Nirvana,
Red Hot Chili Peppers,
Pearl Jam

NICKNAME AT CLUB:

Pesch



BLUES
News

Autograph

.....

Supporters Club News...

TRAVEL...

Anyone who hasn't claimed their Swindon Town refund, please do so immediately at the Club shop, during weekdays.

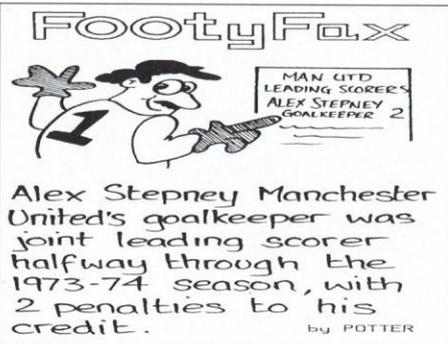
WOLVERHAMPTON -

Sunday 17th January
Depart 1.15p.m.
Cost £3.50 - NO reduction for St. Andrews suite members
Please book by Thursday 14th January

SOUTHEND UNITED -

Wednesday 27th January
Depart 2.15p.m.
Cost £9 St. Andrews suite members, £10 Travel club members
Please book by Monday 25th January

Footy Fax



MAN UTD LEADING SCORERS
ALEX STEFNEY GOALKEEPER 2

Alex Stefney Manchester United's goalkeeper was joint leading scorer halfway through the 1973-74 season, with 2 penalties to his credit.

by POTTER

ANSWERS - from page 740

1. Letter box higher
2. Necklace missing on lady on left
3. Leaf longer between boy & lady, left
4. Line shorter on curtain
5. Boy's tongue missing
6. Auntie's ear missing
7. Diamond missing on auntie's dress
8. Hole missing in auntie's shoe
9. Line missing under auntie's shoe
10. Lady on left's 'bottom' missing

With the season now well underway for the reserve side, we asked coach Brian Caswell to look back over the last four months, and ahead to 1993.



BRIAN CASWELL -
Still available for selection

"We didn't really know what to expect when we launched the Football Combination Division 2. Now with 15 games gone we have some idea of the standard of side we are facing.

After an indifferent start, we've started to settle down quite nicely into the League, and at the time of going to press are third in the table, with an undefeated run of 12 games in all competitions behind us. We are more solid at the back now, and the forward line has started scoring regularly - although it has to be said that there are a lot of goals being scored in this league.

The biggest problems have the amount of travelling required, and the difficulty in maintaining any kind of a settled team.

With most of our matches in the West Country, we are obviously finding it a nuisance having to travel to Exeter and Torquay, Plymouth and Swansea. The one benefit of this is that spending a lot of time travelling together is good for team spirit, and we have an excellent spirit in the squad and try to enjoy our trips as much as possible.

We have now used 45 players in our matches this season, so it is obviously a problem

In the WINGS

Football Com. Division 2

Aug	18th	A.F.C. Bournemouth	(A)	1-4
	26th	Bristol Rovers	(H)	2-3
Sep	1st	Torquay United	(A)	4-3
	9th	Cheltenham Town	(H)	1-1
	16th	Plymouth Argyle	(A)	1-2
	22nd	Torquay United	(H)	3-0
	30th	Bristol Rovers	(A)	2-7
Oct	7th	A.F.C. Bournemouth	(H)	1-0
	14th	Cheltenham Town	(A)	1-1
	21st	Plymouth Argyle	(H)	2-2
	28th	Cardiff City	(H)	1-0
Nov	11th	Plymouth Argyle	(A)	4-2
	18th	Exeter City	(H)	5-1
	24th	Cardiff City	(A)	3-3
Dec	9th	Torquay United	(A)	2-0
Jan	6th	Yeovil Town	(A)	P-P
	20th	Exeter City	(H)	
	27th	Yeovil	(A)	

Staffordshire Senior Cup

Oct	13th	Stafford Rangers	(A)	2-1
-----	------	------------------	-----	-----

Football Combination Cup

Nov	3rd	Cheltenham Town	(A)	6-0
-----	-----	-----------------	-----	-----

Birmingham Senior Cup

Nov	7th	Kings Heath	(H)	4-0
Jan	12th	Atherstone	(7.30)	(A)

MIDLAND PURITY LEAGUE

Aug	15th	Aston Villa	(A)	1-5
	22nd	Wolves	(H)	4-0
	28th	Coventry City	(H)	2-1
Sep	5th	Derby County	(A)	3-1
	12th	Grimsby Town	(H)	6-0
	19th	Leicester City	(A)	1-1
Oct	3rd	Mansfield Town	(A)	1-1
	10th	Northampton Town	(H)	7-0
	17th	Notts County	(A)	4-0
	30th	Peterborough Utd	(A)	1-1
Nov	7th	Grimsby Town	(A)	3-0
	14th	Port Vale	(H)	1-0
Dec	12th	Nottingham Forest	(A)	1-4
Jan	9th	Aston Villa	(H)	
	16th	Wolves	(A)	
	23rd	Lincoln City	(H)	

Southern Junior Floodlit Cup

Rd 1	Sep 14th	Reading	(H)	3-1
Rd 2	Nov 9th	Fulham	(H)	2-0
Rd 3	Jan 11th	Arsenal	(7.00)	(A)

Midland Youth Cup

Rd 1	Oct 12th	Stoke City	(A)	3-0
Rd 2	Nov 28th	Coventry C	(A)	1-2

Midland Purity League Cup

Rd 1	Oct 24th	Aston Villa	(A)	3-1
------	----------	-------------	-----	-----

F.A. Youth Cup

Rd 2	Dec 14th	Wolves	(H)	4-4
Rd 3	Dec 17th	Wolves	(A)	1-4

retaining any kind of a settled side. But the important thing is to adjust the players we do use to the methods laid down by the manager so that they are able to fit in to the First team when required. That's not to say that we don't have our own style and are unable to adapt to the conditions and opponents when necessary; but the secret of a good squad is to have players who are comfortable in the knowledge that if they are called into the first team, they know the style of football they will be asked to play. For example, we use the same set pieces in both squads.

For 1993, I just hope that we can carry on our good form and try to enjoy playing football.

My ambition is of course to collect as many points as possible, and with no automatic promotion to Division 1 of the Combination, we can only try to win the second division and then see what happens.

At least in the Combination we have the promise of playing top sides to look forward to.

Brian Caswell

NEVILLE OVENDEN FOOTBALL COMBINATION DIVISION 2 LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swansea City	14	11	3	0	43	15	36
Bristol Rovers	14	8	4	2	35	21	28
Birmingham	15	7	4	4	33	29	25
AFC B'mouth	15	6	3	6	30	26	21
Plymouth	17	5	4	8	40	40	19
Exeter City	13	6	1	6	28	29	19
Yeovil Town	13	5	2	6	28	36	17
Cheltenham T	12	2	6	4	20	28	12
Cardiff City	13	2	4	7	19	29	10
Torquay Utd	14	2	1	11	13	37	7

Blues Youth side's Southern Junior Floodlit Cup tie at Arsenal was postponed last Monday, and will now take place this coming Monday, 11th January at Highbury, with a 7.00p.m. kick-off. And the Reserves Birmingham Senior Cup tie at Atherstone is scheduled for this coming Tuesday, kick-off 7.30p.m.

BLUES YOUTH TEAM IS SPONSORED BY HALEY-ROE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

We'll support you EVERMORE

DON'T FORGET TO KEEP TABS ON WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST. ANDREWS BY RINGING THE BREW XI BLUESLINE ON

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THIS IS THE NEW OFFICIAL INFORMATION LINE NUMBER, GIVING YOU ALL THE UP-TO-DATE NEWS AND VIEWS FROM ST. ANDREWS.

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If you do pay the phone bills, please get the permission of the person who does before you phone.

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*Thanks to Kevin Hallam for his
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Hello everybody,

Welcome back to St. Andrews
after our recent lengthy break.

Despite the enormous efforts of the
groundsmen working throughout Christmas
and New Year the weather unfortunately beat us
all and we were all enormously disappointed at
having to miss our Christmas fixtures.

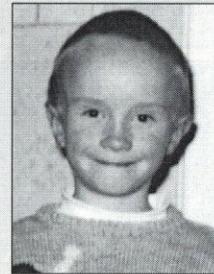
COMMERCIAL NEWSFLASH

The Commercial Department has been going great guns throughout the
season and we are proud to boast a great upsurge in sponsorship and
advertising.

At present we are fortunate enough to have a very few packages left to sell for the
remainder of the season, however, should you be interested in taking out some form of
sponsorship, there is no problem in adjusting packages to suit your needs.
In the meantime if you would like to come up to the Club to have a look at the
facilities, please give us a call. You are more than welcome.
We look forward to hearing from you soon, meanwhile we hope you all have a happy
and prosperous New Year.

Joan & Mark

TODAY'S MASCOTS



**JOHN
SPURRIER**

is 7 years old and
goes to Princethorpe
Road Junior School,
Weoley Castle.
John likes football
and swimming and is
a member of the
Junior Blues.



**JONATHAN
SMITH**

will be 10 years old on the
15th January (**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY JOHN**). He goes
to Monkspath Junior &
Infant School. Jonathan is a
cub scout at the 7th Shirley
Pack and is a member of
Leafield Football Club.
He loves all sports but his
favourites are football and
WWF Wrestling.
His favourite players are
Paul Peschisolido & John
Frain.



**ASHLEY
WILLIAMS**

is the Luton mascot
today and he is here with
his family as guests of the
club. Ashley is 6 years old
and goes to Hillborough
Infant School.
His hobbies include
sketching, painting,
logo-technic,
skate-boarding
and football.
Ashley's favourite player
is former Blues and Luton
striker Mick Harford.

**HAVE A
SUPER DAY!**

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call Mark on 021-772-
0101 ext.24
TRITON

Collectors CORNER

with Tony Matthews

Collectors Corner this week looks at the 1992-93 First Division League programmes - and what a wide variety of publications there are.

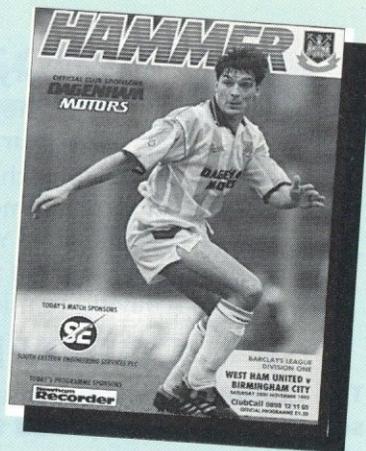
Some are certainly good value for money but one or two leave a lot to be desired and surely fans who collect the latter are not too pleased!

Not passing comment on Blues' programme, I feel that West Ham United, Leicester City, Derby County, Tranmere Rovers, Newcastle United and Sunderland, along with perhaps Luton Town and Wolves, produce worthy issues, with West Ham and Leicester the best so far. But that's my opinion!

Fans certainly deserve value for money with £1.00 the lowest price you have to pay nowadays - and some clubs are simply not doing the business, cramming their programmes full of adverts.

Pictures too tend to dominate certain publications. Okay, it's nice to see a few photos here and there - if THEY are of good quality.

One or two interesting articles also make programmes worthwhile buying but sadly a few clubs fail to see this and seem to concentrate on the general flow-of-mill routine of putting a matchday magazine together, missing out vital parts which can



make or break the actual overall presentation of the finished item.

I've been collecting programme for a good many years and I have seen good ones, bad ones, silly ones and unique ones, but the First Division batch of '92-93 are not half as good as they were two or three years ago, despite the price of most going up.



DARREN ROGER'S
KIT IS SPONSORED BY
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BLUES News

NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

Congratulations to Brentford's Phil Holder, First Division Manager of the Month for December. Brentford were unbeaten during the month, with three wins and two draws from their five League matches (they were lucky to play five times!) They also won through to the Semi-Final stage of the Anglo-Italian Cup.

The first phase of redevelopment plans which could ultimately see a 25,000 all-seater ground is due to begin at Watford's Vicarage Road stadium in the summer. The work, if given planning permission, will include the roofing and seating of the Vicarage Road end, one of the few remaining uncovered "home" terraces.

When Blues visit Wolves next weekend in our local derby, spare a thought for Tranmere Rovers fans. Their 'local' derby is against Barnsley, some 70 miles away - and Wolves is their second closest club!

There was a mixed bag of results for the 22 First Division clubs earmarked to compete in the F.A. Cup last weekend. Nine clubs had their matches postponed, and of the remaining 13, only 5 are definitely through to the Fourth Round. Best result of the round for our clubs was Wolves 4-1 win at Watford; Grimsby won 2-0 at Brentford and West Ham by the same score at West Bromwich; whilst there were home wins for Derby over Stockport and Newcastle against Port Vale.

Four sides drew their matches: Tranmere finished without John Aldridge but drew 2-2 at Oldham, whilst Bristol Rovers earned an excellent 1-1 draw at Aston Villa. Another excellent draw was that earned by Charlton at Leeds, whilst Oxford must replay Swansea. Definitely out of the competition along with Brentford and Watford are Portsmouth, beaten 1-0 at Brighton, and Swindon Town who lost 3-0 at Queens Park Rangers.

Fourth Round draw involving First Division sides:

Leicester City or Barnsley v West Ham United; Cambridge United or Sheffield Wednesday v Notts County or Sunderland; Northampton Town or Rotherham United v Newcastle United; Arsenal v Leeds United or Charlton Athletic; Luton Town or Bristol City v Derby County; Oldham Athletic or Tranmere Rovers v Ipswich Town or Plymouth Argyle; Swansea City or Oxford United v Grimsby Town; Aston Villa or Bristol Rovers v Wimbledon or Everton; Gillingham or Huddersfield Town v Southend United or Millwall; Wolves v Bolton Wanderers or Liverpool

STATISTICS UPDATE....

Average Barclays League Division 1 attendances continue to rise steadily, and the average is now 10,206 spectators per game an increase of 4.1% over last season. 2,653,669 fans have now watched Division 1 football, over the 260 games played.

Highest gate: 30,137 Newcastle United v Tranmere Rovers

Lowest gate: 3,219 Southend United v Notts County

Best average 28,977 Newcastle United **Lowest average:** 4,439 Southend United



Division 1 - Leading scorers

(to 5/1/93)	BL	CC	FA	AI	Tot
G. Whittingham (Portsmouth)	24	2	-	3	29
J. Aldridge (Tranmere Rvs)	18	2	1	2	23
C. Maskell (Swindon Town)	18	1	-	1	20
G. Blissett (Brentford)	13	4	-	2	19
C. Allen (West Ham United)	13	-	1	3	17
G. Peacock (Newcastle United)	11	2	2	2	17
P. Kitson (Derby County)	11	2	-	3	16
P. Furlong (Watford)	11	3	-	-	14
D. Kelly (Newcastle United)	11	2	-	1	14
T. Morley (West Ham United)	13	-	-	1	14
T. Adcock (Peterborough Utd)	10	2	1	-	13
S. Bull (Wolves)	9	1	1	1	12
S. Cole (Bristol City)	7	4	-	1	12
P. Simpson (Derby County)	9	2	-	1	12
W. Biggins (Barnsley)	9	2	-	-	11
S. Durnin (Oxford United)	11	-	-	-	11

HALF-TIME SCOREBOARD

- A** Brentford v Leicester City
- B** Bristol City v Newcastle United
- C** Charlton Athletic v Tranmere Rovers
- D** Grimsby Town v Bristol Rovers
- E** Notts County v Millwall
- F** Oxford United v Swindon Town
- G** Peterborough United v Barnsley
- H** Portsmouth v Southend United
- I** Sunderland v Cambridge United
- J** Watford v Wolverhampton Wanderers
- K** West Bromwich Albion v Bolton Wanderers
- L** Bury v Walsall

Playing tomorrow

Derby County v West Ham United

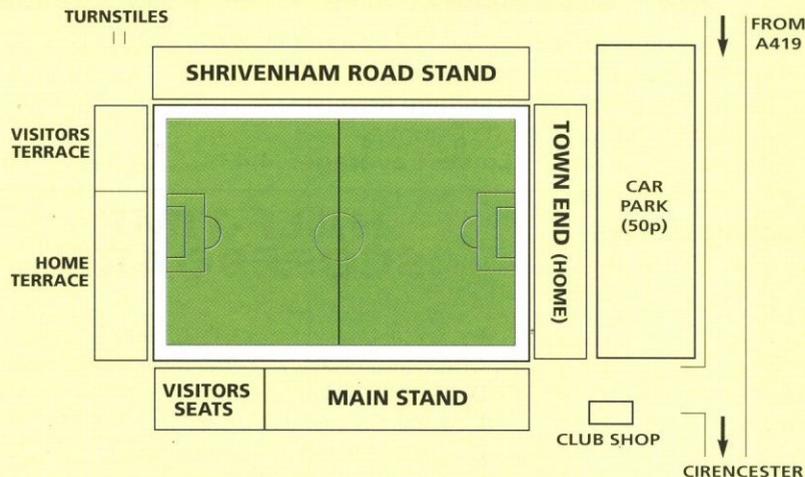
SWINDON TOWN

Tuesday 12th January 1993
Kick-off 7.45p.m.



The County Ground was already Swindon Town's fourth home when they moved there in 1895, originally playing on the site where the cricket pitch now stands. But following early success, they moved away from the cricket pitch to establish a separate enclosure beyond the boundary. By 1911 there were terraces and a full length grandstand. In 1920 Swindon joined the League, and covered the Shrivenham Road side opposite the Main Stand in 1932.

Six years later they covered the Town End terrace, leaving only the opposite terrace uncovered, as it still is today. During the Second World War the County Ground was used as a prisoner-of-war camp, with huts erected on the pitch. In 1951, the first 'floodlights' were installed, a set of eight lamps behind each goal, but by 1960 the present lights were installed. A new stand for the Shrivenham Road side was bought in 1958, and the original main stand was replaced in 1971. Seats have now been erected in front of the Main Stand where there was just a brick wall originally. (Indeed these seats have been installed since I visited the ground in the summer). Overall a nice ground, already moving towards being an all-seater stadium, and ideal for the Jehovahs Witness conference taking place when I visited!



NO SEATS AVAILABLE ON DAY OF MATCH

How to get there - by road

Not a bad journey to Swindon really.

You can of course stay on the Motorway all the way, by joining the M4 at Bristol, but the A417/A419 route detailed below is quite easy and much shorter. Leave Birmingham to join the M5 whichever way is easiest for you, then stay on the M5 until you reach Junction 11 (49 miles from St. Andrews via J3). Join the A40 towards Gloucester, and in 7 miles follow the signs to Cirencester, the A417.



this one is a beauty, comprising at least six small roundabouts rolled into one. (Add an extra 15 minutes onto your journey time!) Bear right, and follow the sign to Cirencester (A4289), and the ground is then just 400 yards up on the right.

Total distance from St. Andrews is approximately 86 miles.

How to get there - by rail

No can do, sorry!

Unless you can find a way, stay clear of the railways. Usual old story, I'm afraid. Everything is O.K. until about 10 o'clock when the B.R. curfew comes into effect.

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS

Sunday 17th January 1993
Kick-off 2.55p.m.

If you're lucky enough to have got hold of a ticket for the match against Wolves, here are the details of how to get there just in case you don't know.

By road - the ground is situated on Waterloo Road, which is off the North-West side of the Wolverhampton Ring Road. Car Parking is in the North Bank Car Park, or in the Asda Car Par, or street parking. The visitors turnstiles are at the South Bank, which is the opposite end to the Car Parks. There are no seats.

By rail - plenty of trains from Birmingham New Street, e.g. dep. 12.20 arr. 12.41; dep. 13.18 arr. 13.39; dep. 13.35 arr. 13.51; dep. 13.52 arr. 14.16.

On arrival go to the end of Railway Drive, Cross over through Victoria Square into Lichfield St., then turn right through Princes Square into Stafford Street. Turn left onto the ring road and the ground is on your right.

Returning - choose from the 17.03 (arr. 17.22); 17.25 (17.45); the 17.37 (17.56); or many more later trains.

The cheapest day return ticket is £3.05 adults, £1.20 children.

Please note: The above details are meant as a guide only. Birmingham City cannot be held responsible for errors and omissions.



What's the CONNECTION?

BLUES... LUTON TOWN

England internationals **Sid Owen**, **Mick Harford** and **Bobby Thomson** (who were all featured in issue No.6 of Blues News magazine), are three of only a handful of players who have served with both clubs down the years.



Among the others we have current Bolton Wanderers manager **Bruce Rioch** (pictured left), was on loan to St. Andrews from Derby County in 1978 having started his career with Luton back in the 1960's, and also served with Aston Villa, Everton, Sheffield United and Torquay as well as Seattle Sounders in the NASL. After retiring he took up management, first with Torquay and later at Middlesbrough and Millwall before taking over at Burnden Park last year following the departure of Phil Neal (to Coventry City).

Another player to wear the respective of Blue and white of Blues and Luton was 1930's star **Joe Loughran**. A wing-half he joined Blues from Dudley College in May 1935 and scored twice in 34 games whilst at St. Andrews. He left for Luton Town in July 1937 and later served with Burnley (73 appearances), Southend United (from 1949) and Newhaven before retiring to gain employment as the organiser of physical education for East Sussex schools.

David Geddis, an F.A.Cup winner in 1978, had two loan spells with Luton Town - first from Ipswich in February 1977 and then from Villa in December 1982. He later he scored 21 goals in 57 games for Blues (December 1984 to February 1987). David also assisted Barnsley, Brentford, Shrewsbury, Swindon Town and Darlington.

And over 90 years ago **Jimmy Inglis**, an fast-raiding, enthusiastic all-purpose outside-right, turned out for both clubs. A Scot from Kirkland, he scored 28 goals in 62 games for Blues between September 1896 and August 1899 and then served Luton for a couple of years before returning to his native homeland north of the border.

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TUESDAY 8TH DECEMBER 1992 Anglo-Italian Cup BIRMINGHAM CITY 1 ASCOLI 1

BLUES: Sealey, Clarkson, Potter, Fenwick, Frain, Matthewson, Rodgerson, Tait, Speedie, Sale (Donowa), Sturridge

ASCOLI: Bizzarri, Mancini, Pergolizzi, Cacciatori, Pascucci, Cavliere, Menolascina (Benetti), Troglio, Bierhoff, Cioffi (Zaini), D'Ainzara

REFEREE: Mr M. Nicchi Linesmen: P.D. Harding, J. Hilditch

SCORERS: Blues - Sturridge Ascoli - D'Ainzara

ATTENDANCE: 3,963

What the papers said

"Against a side reduced to ten men in the 41st minute when Rosario Pergolizzi was sent-off for punching Paul Tait, Blues should have done better. They played it around well enough in front of Ascoli's defence but when it came to the nitty-gritty, their shooting boots had been left off. Four Italian clubs are keeping tabs on Tait, and it's easy to see why as he was excellent from start to finish."

Colin Tattum, Evening Mail

"Birmingham City's tenuous link with Wembley looked a little more threadbare last night after their failure to break down the ten men of Ascoli for 50 minutes in a typically fractious Anglo-Italian Cup tie at St. Andrews. Blues had several chances to capitalise but they lacked the flair or thrust to make their numerical superiority count when it mattered."

Michael Ward, Birmingham Post

SATURDAY 12TH DECEMBER 1992 Barclays League Division 1 DERBY COUNTY 3 BIRMINGHAM CITY 1

BLUES: Sealey, Clarkson, Potter, Fenwick (Peschisolido), Frain, (Sturridge), Matthewson, Rodgerson, Gayle, Speedie, Tait, Rennie

DERBY: Sutton, Kavanagh, Forsyth, Short, Coleman, Pembridge, Johnson, Kuhl, Kitson, Gabbiadini, Williams subs: Simpson, Comyn

REFEREE: Mr. B. Hill Linesmen: J.B. Goulding, M.J. Mountain

SCORERS: Blues - Speedie Derby - Johnson, Kitson, Williams

ATTENDANCE: 16,662 Blues contingent: 1,991

What the papers said

"Birmingham City have built their own version of the Giant Slalom this winter. It's called the Big Relegation Slide and Terry Cooper's team are hurtling down at breakneck speed. Three months ago, Blues were on a run and reaching out for the summit. But it was all a cruel illusion and a sixth consecutive defeat left them perilously near the bottom of this slippery slope. The scenario at Derby County was depressingly familiar."

Michael Ward, Birmingham Post

"Blues find themselves in the bottom three for the first time after yet again showing they are the great pretenders. Playing in spasms doesn't mean a jot in this league, as they found to their cost. Another dereliction of defensive duty and crash, bang, wallop - the game was lost. Strangely, they are playing better now than they did during their fine start to the season when they won the opening four games."

Colin Tattum, Evening Mail

"On-loan striker David Speedie did little to improve his popularity rating at the Baseball Ground. But he still has the sort of talentary First Division club would welcome."

Ian Whittell, The Sun

PROGRAMME REVIEW...

PRICE: £1.20

SIZE: 170mm x 240mm

PAGES: 32 In colour: 24

HOME EDITORIAL: 14.75

VISITORS: 3.5

GENERAL EDITORIAL: .5

PICTURES: 3

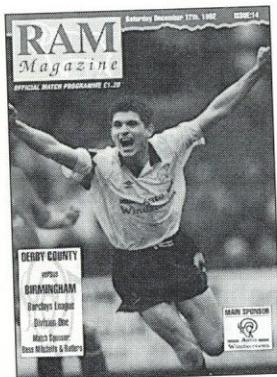
INTERNAL ADVERTISING: 1

EXTERNAL ADVERTISING: 7.5

FOOTBALL LEAGUE ADVERTS: 1.75

Comment: Another professional-looking and colourful programme. There is an excellent section on the visitors but little else for the non-home fan. Clever use of colour gives the programme a 'magazine' look, a la Shoot. Despite their awful home form, Derby have still averaged 14,269 in all competitions this season and this programme is produced with the confidence that the fans will turn up to buy it. The articles are varied and interesting and there's not much wrong with it really.

Blues news value for money rating: 7.5



WEDNESDAY 16TH DECEMBER 1992 - ANGLO-ITALIAN CUP LUCCHESI 3 BIRMINGHAM CITY 0

BLUES: Sealey, Clarkson, Potter, Rennie, Hicks, Matthewson, Rodgerson, Gayle, Rowbotham, Tait, Peschisolido
LUCCHESI: Mancini, Baldini, Ansladi, Carri, Monaco, Baraldi, Russo, Bianchi, Paci (Rastelli), Dolcetti (Di Stefano), Bettarini

REFEREE: Mr K. Morton Linesmen: Appointed by Italian League

SCORERS: Lucchese - Bettarini, Paci, Rastelli (Pen) **ATTENDANCE:** 139

What the papers said

"Birmingham City's League form finally caught up with them as they bowed out of the Anglo-Italian Cup in inglorious fashion. A shoddy performance was made worse by the almost obligatory sending-off, with John Gayle the red-card recipient, for violent conduct. Blues were left ragged by the sharper Italians."

Special Correspondent, Birmingham Post

"Manager Terry Cooper wondered if his side had the 'will to win' and warned that he was going to put his threat of booting out players into action. He said: 'I can't fathom it. You would have thought they would have been wound up for this one, but it was embarrassing.'"

Colin Tattum, Evening Mail

HOW THEY FINISHED - THE FINAL TABLES

* Brentford meet Derby at home in the week beginning 25 January, with the away leg the following week

GROUP A								GROUP B							
English Section	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	English Section	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BRENTFORD	4	4	0	0	7	2	12	DERBY COUNTY	4	3	0	1	10	3	9
Portsmouth	4	3	0	1	6	5	9	Tranmere Rovers	4	2	1	1	4	3	7
Birmingham City	4	2	1	1	4	5	7	West Ham United	4	2	1	1	3	2	7
Newcastle United	4	0	2	2	3	7	2	Bristol City	4	0	1	3	6	10	1
Italian Section								Italian Section							
BARI	4	2	0	2	7	3	6	CREMONESE	4	3	1	0	9	4	10
Lucchese	4	1	1	2	5	4	4	Pisa	4	1	1	2	4	7	4
Ascoli	4	1	1	2	4	6	4	Reggiana	4	1	1	2	2	6	4
Cesena	4	0	1	3	3	7	1	Cosenza	4	1	0	3	3	6	3

SATURDAY 19TH DECEMBER 1992 - BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION 1 BIRMINGHAM CITY 2 WATFORD 2

BLUES: Sealey, Clarkson, Potter, Rennie (Rogers), Hicks, Matthewson, Rodgerson, Gayle, Speedie, Tait (Peschisolido), Frain
WATFORD: Suckling, Putney, Drysdale, Dublin, Alford, Willis, Hessesenthaler, Nogan, Furlong, Charlery, Lavin subs Bazeley, Porter

REFEREE: Mr. D.B. Allison Linesmen: R.M. Davis, A.C. Howells **SCORERS:** Blues - Peschisolido, Frain Watford - Furlong (2)
ATTENDANCE: 7,182 Watford contingent: 555

What the papers said

"John Frain salvaged a precious point in Blues' bid to get clear of the relegation zone. With two minutes left the midfielder tried his luck with a long range shot that didn't appear to be going anywhere. But the ball swerved in the air and deceived Watford goalkeeper Perry Suckling to send a depressed home crowd into raptures"

Barry Churchill, Sunday Mercury

"Peschisolido's darting runs inspired his team mates and two minutes from the end John Frain blasted a superb 25-yard equaliser. The Blues, pinned solidly into the relegation pack, were given a rare treat at the end - a standing ovation from fans who have not seen a win for seven games."

Peter Gorman, News of the World

"With Birmingham struggling to make any impression up front because of a lack of service from midfield, manager Terry Cooper sent on Peschisolido. And he scored with a stunning left-foot finish in the second half to stoke Birmingham up for a storming comeback."

Neil Hallam, Sunday Express

"A pre-match rocket from manager Terry Cooper paved the way for Birmingham to claim their first League point in seven games. And John Frain's rocket of a different type two minutes from time secured the draw but equal praise should be afforded 21-year old substitute Paul Peschisolido."

Nick Reed, Mail on Sunday

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Quiz TIME

compiled by William Walker

- 1 Who are the current World Club Champions?
- 2 Who won last year's Fourth Division Championship?
- 3 Before penalty shoot-outs what method was used to decide a stalemate situation in a European tie?
- 4 Birmingham finished second bottom of the 1988-89 Second Division - but who finished last?
- 5 Which team did Manchester United defeat in the 1968 European Cup Semi-Final?
- 6 Who did Denmark replace in the finals of the European Championship last summer?
- 7 Which club's former managers include John Hart, Ron Saunders and Billy McNeill?
- 8 Which former Nottingham Forest player won a European Championship medal in 1988?
- 9 Which English football club's ground is nearest to the sea?
- 10 Which 1970's Leeds and England striker was nicknamed 'Sniffer'?
- 11 Who is England's third highest goalscorer of all time?
- 12 Geographically - who are Manchester United's closest European opponents of all time?
- 13 Which current Premier League boss began his management career at East Stirlingshire FC?
- 14 Which team saved themselves from relegation with a 3-2 win at Derby on the last day of the 1989-90 season?
- 15 Who was Holland's goalkeeper in the 1974 and 1978 World Cup Finals?
- 16 Which Premier League star wrote the book entitled 'More Than a Match'?
- 17 Which striker had five 'goals' stolen in this year's F.A. Cup?
- 18 Against which club did Aldershot play their last Football League match?
- 19 Who did Malcolm Allison replace as Bristol Rovers manager?
- 20 True or false - the goalposts must be painted white?

ANSWERS 1. Sao Paulo 2. Burnley 3. A toss of a coin 4. Luton Town 5. Real Madrid 6. Yugoslavia 7. Manchester City 8. Hans van Breukelen 9. Blackpool 10. Allan Clarke 11. Jimmy Greaves 12. Wrexham 13. Alex Ferguson 14. Luton Town 15. Jan Jongbloed 16. Lee Chapman 17. Tony Phillis/kirk 18. Cardiff City 19. Dennis Rofe 20. False

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Cambridge Utd	News Of The World
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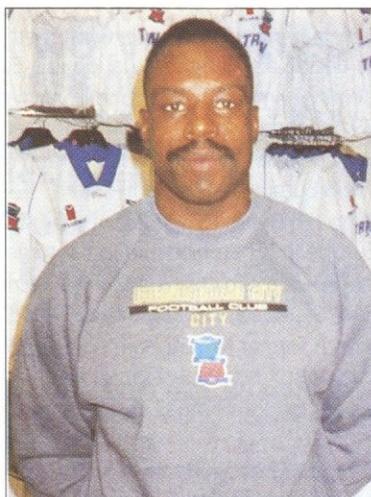
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Thanks for your help
MARK HULME

GROUND'S FOR COMPLAINT?



In response to certain comments made on local radio regarding the playing surface following last Saturday's postponement of the match against Peterborough United, Blues News spoke to Head Groundsman Brian Harris about the difficulties faced over the past couple of weeks.

Brian spent hours after the Watford game replacing divots and rolling the pitch in preparation for the Sunderland game. But despite the smoothness of the surface, the extreme temperatures in the week before Christmas made the game an inevitable casualty.

What then happened between December 26th and January 2nd? Could the soil, which had been so severely hardened by several nights of remorseless frost, recover in time for the Peterborough match? "Quite simply, no. Whatever the condition of the surface, if the ground underneath is rock solid, then it is too dangerous to play. But on top of that a new layer of frost made the surface dangerous also.

It's so easy to look out of your window on a Saturday morning, see your 15ft garden is green, and so assume that the match will go ahead. But every patch of land is subject to different conditions, and of particular importance at St. Andrews is the height of the Kop stand, the

shadow of which can cover over 50% of the pitch. For example, last Thursday, two days before the Peterborough match, the temperature of the ground in front of the main stand was 4o C. On the 'Kop' side of the penalty area, it was just 1o C."

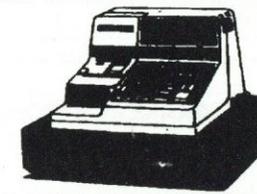
So could anything have been done? And is spending vast sums of money the answer? "Not necessarily. West Bromwich Albion did spend a lot of money on hiring equipment to get their pitch playable, but their game against Chester was almost cancelled due to fog! Ipswich have invested many thousands of pounds on a cover - but their match was the first casualty last weekend! Bigger clubs than Birmingham lost matches last Saturday. And fans must appreciate that in the current situation, there is simply no money available to invest. However, we have been kindly approached by Warwickshire C.C.C. and I am going to have a look at their covers to see if they are appropriate for us to borrow."

Of primary concern in all the decisions made of this nature is the safety of the players. Whilst 'Sunday morning' players might say 'Oh never mind the weather, let's have a game', professional footballers have their livelihood to think about.

And remember - if even only a small part of the ground is dangerous, the game cannot go ahead.

And finally - Walsall played and lost 1-3 on a pitch which both managers later agreed was unplayable. What would the radio callers have said if Blues match had gone ahead and the side had lost? May we suggest 'Humph the match should never have been played in the first place.'!?

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DATE	OPPONENTS	ATT.	RES	PTS	POS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	
AUG																			
16	NOTTS COUNTY	10,614	1-0	3	8	Gosney	Clarkson	Frain	Rennie	Rogers	Mardon	DONOWA	Tait	Sale	Gleghorn	Sturridge*	Peer	Rodgerson*	
18	Exeter C.-C.C. Cup 1 (1) *	3,030	0-0	-	-	Gosney	Clarkson	Frain	Rennie	Rogers	Mardon	DONOWA	Tait	Sale*	Gleghorn	Sturridge	Peer	Rodgerson*	
22	Cambridge United	5,015	3-0	6	5	Gosney	Clarkson	Frain	RENNIE (2)*	Rogers	Mardon	DONOWA	Tait	Sale	Gleghorn	Sturridge	Rodgerson	Hicks*	
25	EXETER C.-C.C. CUP 1 (2) *	5,715	1-4	-	-	Gosney	Clarkson	Frain	Peer*	Rogers	Mardon	DONOWA	Tait	SALE	Gleghorn	Rodgerson	Hicks	Rowbotham*	
30	GRIMSBY TOWN	6,807	2-1	9	5	Gosney	Clarkson	Frain	Cooper	Rogers	Mardon	DONOWA	Tait	Sale*	GLEGHORN	Sturridge	Hicks	Rowbotham*	
SEP																			
1	SOUTHEND UNITED	8,324	2-0	12	3	Gosney	Clarkson	Frain	Cooper	Rogers	Matthewson	Donowa	TAIT	Sale	Gleghorn	BECKFORD	Hicks	Rowbotham	
5	Portsmouth	12,152	0-4	12	4	Gosney	Clarkson*	Frain	Cooper	Rogers	Matthewson	Donowa	TAIT	Sale	Gleghorn	Beckford	Mardon	Rowbotham	
12	Millwall	8,581	0-0	13	4	Gosney	Clarkson	Frain	Hicks	Rogers	Matthewson	Donowa	TAIT	Sale	Gleghorn	Rowbotham	Cooper	Rowbotham	
15	Sunderland. A.I. Cup	5,871	1-0	-	-	Gosney	Clarkson	Frain	Hicks	Rogers	Matthewson	Donowa	TAIT	SALE	Gleghorn	Rowbotham	Cooper	Sturridge	
19	Luton Town	8,481	1-1	14	4	Gosney	Clarkson	Frain	Hicks	Rogers	Matthewson	Donowa	TAIT	Sale	Gleghorn	ROWBOTHAM*	Cooper	Sturridge*	
27	WOLVERHAMPTON W.	14,391	0-4	14	6	Gosney*	Clarkson	Frain	Peer*	Rogers	Matthewson	Donowa	TAIT	Sturridge	Gleghorn	Rowbotham	Sale*	Rodgerson*	
29	CAMBRIDGE. A.I. Cup	3,102	3-3	-	-	Thomas	Clarkson	FRAIN	Matthewson	Rogers	Hicks	Rodgerson	TAIT	Donowa	GLEGHORN	Sturridge	SALE	Rodgerson*	
OCT																			
3	Oxford United	7,096	0-0	15	8	Sealey	Clarkson	Frain	Matthewson	Rogers	Hicks	Rodgerson	Tait	Donowa*	Gleghorn	Rowbotham	Rennie	Sale*	
10	LEICESTER CITY	14,443	0-2	15	8	Sealey	Clarkson	Frain	Matthewson	Rogers	Hicks	Rodgerson	Tait*	Rowbotham*	Gleghorn	Donowa	Sale*	Rennie*	
17	Tranmere Rovers	7,901	0-4	15	12	Sealey	Holmes	Frain	Matthewson	Rogers	Hicks	Rodgerson	Rennie	Donowa	Gleghorn	Rowbotham*	Gayle*	Peer	
24	BRISTOL ROVERS	9,876	2-1	18	11	Sealey	Holmes	FRAIN (P)	Rennie	Hicks	MATTHEWSON	Rodgerson	Gayle	Donowa	Speedie	Rowbotham	Peer	Clarkson	
NOV																			
1	Charlton Athletic	4,445	0-0	19	10	Sealey	Holmes	Potter	Rennie	Hicks	Matthewson	Rodgerson	Sturridge*	Speedie	Rowbotham	Donowa	Cooper*	Clarkson	
4	NEWCASTLE UNITED	14,376	2-3	19	14	Sealey	Holmes	Frain	Rennie*	Hicks	Matthewson	Rodgerson	Tait	Speedie	Sturridge	POTTER	Rowbotham*	Donowa	
7	Bristol City	10,008	0-3	19	17	Sealey	Clarkson	Frain	Hicks	Hicks	Matthewson	Rodgerson	TAIT	Speedie	Sturridge	Rowbotham	Potter*	Cooper	
11	BARI (A.I. Cup)	4,970	1-0	-	-	Sealey	Tait*	Potter	Rogers	Frain	Matthewson	Rodgerson	Gayle	Speedie	Sturridge	COOPER	Donowa*	Rogers*	
14	Reading (FA Cup 1)	7,667	0-1	-	-	Thomas	Holmes	Potter*	Cooper	Hicks	Matthewson	Rodgerson	Gayle	Frain	Sturridge	Sturridge	Rogers*	Peschisolido	
21	Barnsley	5,603	0-1	19	18	Sealey	Holmes	Potter	Hicks*	Hicks*	Matthewson	Rodgerson	Gayle	Speedie	Sturridge	Frain	Peschisolido	Rogers*	
28	West Ham United	15,004	1-3	19	19	Sealey	Holmes*	Potter	Tait	Rogers	Matthewson	RODGERSON	Gayle	Speedie	Sturridge	Donowa	Peschisolido	Peschisolido	
DEC																			
2	Cesena (A.I. Cup)	2,090	2-1	-	-	Thomas	Clarkson	Potter	Tait	FRAIN	Rogers	Rowbotham*	Gayle	STURRIDGE	Sale	Rodgerson	Peer*	-	
5	BRENTFORD	8,582	1-3	19	20	Sealey	Peer	Potter	Ferwick	FRAIN	Rogers	Rodgerson	Tait	Speedie	Donowa	Sturridge*	Sale*	Foy	
8	ASCOLI (A.I. Cup)	3,963	1-1	-	-	Sealey	Clarkson	Potter	Ferwick*	Frain	Matthewson	Rodgerson	Gayle	Speedie	STURRIDGE	Sturridge*	Donowa*	-	
12	Derby County	16,662	1-3	19	22	Sealey	Clarkson	Potter	Frain	Hicks	Matthewson	Rodgerson	Gayle	Speedie	Tait	Rennie	Sturridge	Peschisolido*	
16	Lucchese (A.I. Cup)	139	0-3	-	-	Sealey	Clarkson	Potter	Rennie	Hicks	Matthewson	Rodgerson	Gayle	Rowbotham	Tait*	Peschisolido*	Sturridge	Rogers	
19	WATFORD	7,182	2-2	20	20	Sealey	Clarkson	Potter	Rennie	Hicks	Matthewson	Rodgerson	Gayle	Speedie	Tait*	FRAIN	PESCHISOLIDO	Rogers	
JAN																			
9	LUTON TOWN																		
12	Swindon Town																		
17	Wolverhampton Wndrs																		
22	PETERBOROUGH UTD																		
27	Southend United																		
30	CAMBRIDGE UNITED																		
FEB																			
6	Notts County																		
9	MILLWALL																		
13	PORTSMOUTH																		
20	Grimbsy Town																		
27	Leicester City																		
MAR																			
6	OXFORD UTD																		
9	Peterborough United																		
13	BRISTOL CITY																		
20	Brentford																		
23	BARNESLEY																		
27	Newcastle United																		
APR																			
3	WEST HAM UNITED																		
6	DERBY COUNTY																		
10	Sunderland																		
12	SWINDON TOWN																		
17	Watford																		
24	TRANMERE ROVERS																		
MAY																			
1	Bristol Rovers (A)																		
8	CHARLTON ATHLETIC T.B.A SUNDERLAND																		

BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

(as at 5th January)

	Home					Away						
	P	W	D	L	F A W	P	W	D	L	F A W	Pts	
Newcastle U.	23	9	2	1	25	7	8	0	3	20	14	53
Tranmere	22	9	4	0	31	9	3	1	5	11	17	41
West Ham	23	6	2	2	23	10	5	4	4	20	15	39
Millwall	23	8	3	0	26	8	2	6	4	9	12	39
Portsmouth	23	8	1	1	22	3	2	6	5	20	25	37
Leicester	24	5	5	2	22	15	3	5	4	12	13	34
Wolves	24	5	5	2	22	15	3	5	4	12	13	34
Derby	23	3	0	7	17	20	7	3	3	23	13	33
Swindon	21	7	2	2	24	15	2	4	4	16	21	33
Brentford	23	6	3	4	21	15	3	3	4	14	12	33
Charlton	24	5	6	2	16	10	3	3	5	11	13	32
Grimbsy	23	5	3	3	18	16	4	1	7	16	16	31
Peterboro'	20	2	6	4	16	18	6	1	1	15	8	31
Watford	24	4	5	3	17	17	3	4	5	15	20	30
Barnsley	23	6	2	4	14	9	3	1	7	15	18	30
Oxford U.	22	4	6	2	20	12	2	5	3	14	15	29
Sunderland	22	5	2	4	15	13	3	2	6	7	18	28
Bristol City	23	5	4	3	17	16	2	2	7	11	28	27
Bristol R.	24	4	1	7	18	26	2	3	7	14	27	22
Luton	22	1	5	4	12	21	3	4	5	13	22	21
Southend	23	3	3	4	12	11	2	3	8	12	22	21
Cambridge	23	4	2	5	13	17	0	6	6	10	25	20
Notts County	23	2	5	4	9	14	2	3	7	14	28	20
Birmingham	20	4	1	4	12	16	1	4	6	6	19	20

FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES & GOALS

	League		Cup		Total	
	App	Goals	App	Goals	App	Goals
Jason Beckford	3	1	-	-	3	1
Mark Cooper	3(3)	-	2	1	5(3)	1
Ian Clarkson	13(1)	-	7	-	20(1)	-
Louie Donowa	16(1)	2	4(2)	-	20(3)	2
Paul Fenwick	2	-	1	-	3	-



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