

BLUES NEWS



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Today's Match

BIRMINGHAM CITY

v

LUTON TOWN

SATURDAY

25th SEPTEMBER 1993.

KICK-OFF 3.00 p.m.

I hope that you enjoyed the game against Villa on Tuesday evening. After having at least an equal share of the play, we fell behind to a sloppy goal and this proved to be the killer punch as far as we were concerned.

Overall I think that we did ourselves proud and it is now a fact that Birmingham City are a club that will never give up!

I was proud of the team on Tuesday, even though the result went against us, however, there is still another game, and we are not going to go to Villa Park thinking that its all over, and if the lads can nick an early goal then it could be anybody's game.

HEAR TERRY COOPER ON THE VOICE OF THE BLUES' 0891 12 11 88



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FOOTBALL CLUB**

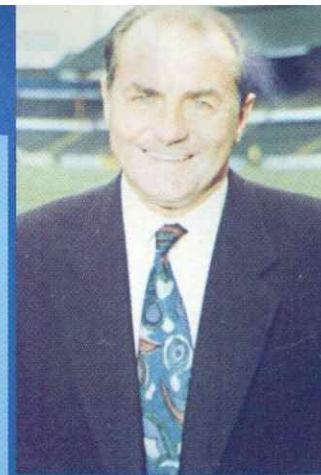
St. Andrews Ground,
Birmingham B9 4NH

TERRY COOPER

Unfortunately John Frain was the one who had the responsibility to convert the spot kick against Bosnich, but unfortunately luck wasn't with him as the ball was struck with the side of his boot.

Credit has to be given to John because there aren't many that would have fancied taking the kick. But to be fair, John stepped forward stating that he was willing to have a go.

To many other players the miss would not have mattered that much, but to John (a native Brummie himself), it must have been agony to see the keeper push it away.



If we get a penalty at Villa Park and John is willing to take responsibility again then I won't hesitate to give him the job, as he has been a tremendous servant to the club and doesn't deserve to be criticised by certain supporters who can't show any sympathy with the lad.

We will be looking forward to playing the second leg at Villa Park soon so if you have a

CHAIRMAN:
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Karren Brady

DIRECTORS:
Terry Cooper
Alan Jones
David Sullivan.

CLUB SECRETARY:
Alan Jones

TEAM MANAGER:
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ticket get right behind us from the start and we will see what we can do for you.

Today we welcome the players, officials and supporters from Luton Town in what for both of us is a very important game particularly as we have struggled in the last couple of matches to find form in front of goal.

Luton will be another well organised team that we play this season and it will certainly be a very difficult game for us in a division that should not be taken lightly.

Three points today should help us climb the league and will put us in a good frame of mind to travel to Middlesbrough and Sunderland in the next couple of weeks.

One final note. I was pleased on Tuesday night that there wasn't any crowd trouble and that you all behaved yourselves.

From everyone at the club,
thank you.

Enjoy the game.

Supporters Charter

BIRMINGHAM CITY F.C.'s aim is to be recognised throughout the land as a club which welcomes football supporters from any club to a friendly atmosphere and a safe environment. Blues supporters must help us if we are to achieve this aim:

1. Arrive at the stadium sober and at least 30 minutes before kick-off.
2. Show respect for our visitors and their players at all times.
3. Applaud good play and goals by both teams.
4. Allow free kicks and penalties to be taken without distraction.
5. Do not use foul and abusive language or behave in a manner likely to cause offence especially to our visitors, ladies or children.
6. Respect the decisions of the referee and linesmen - they have a difficult job.
7. Accept both victory and defeat gracefully.
8. Leave the stadium in a quiet and orderly fashion.

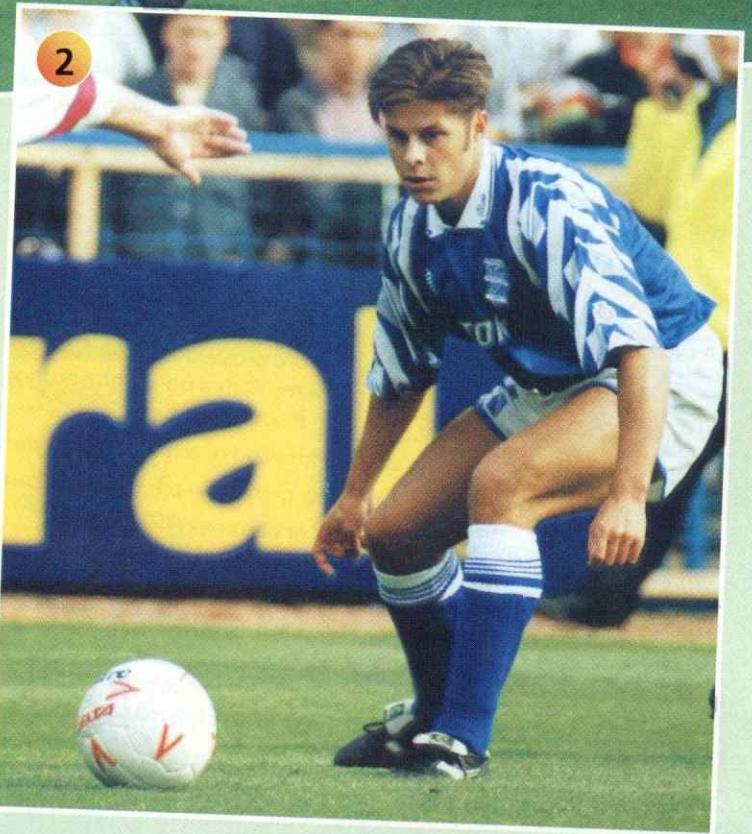
The following breaches of our ground regulations are also a **CRIMINAL OFFENCE** and will result in a police prosecution and ejection from the ground.

- a) The throwing of any article onto the pitch.
- b) Running onto the playing area at any time.
- c) Racial or obscene chanting.

By observing this charter you can help **YOUR** stewards to maintain an environment in which **YOUR** enjoyment at matches at St. Andrew's will be improved and **YOU WILL BE A CREDIT TO BIRMINGHAM CITY F.C.**

in on the **ACTION**

v. Grimsby



1. **Louie Donowa** leaves the full back as he try's to add a second goal for Blues

2. **Scott Hiley** keeps a close eye on the ball as Grimsby launch a hopeful attack.



3. **What's going on boys?**
George Parris shows his disbelief as Blues can't find a way past the 'Mariners' defence.



4. **Ted McMinn** can't hide his disappointment after his late effort just failed to hit the target.

1 TERRACE TALK....

DON'T FORGET
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A MESSAGE FROM DAVID, KARREN AND TERRY

We would like to thank you all for your exemplary behaviour during our Coca-Cola Cup match last Tuesday.

We cannot thank you enough because as you are aware any disturbance, no matter how small, could have resulted in a fine for the club of upto £50,000, not forgetting a three matches played behind closed doors?

We are sure you will agree the match was very enjoyable, played in good spirit with the football a credit to both teams.

Well done to you all - a credit to the club
DAVID, KARREN, TERRY.

....BLUES CHAT

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FROM THE Past...

**11th November 1978
Birmingham City 5
Manchester United 1
Attendance : 23,550**

This was the Blues' first win of the 1978-79 season and they achieved it with style and flourish that made a mockery of their previous record. It is not very often that Manchester United concede five goals in a game, but they crumbled under the Blues' hammer in this First Division match at St. Andrew's.

Indeed, prior to this confrontation, United had not been hit for five league goals for six years. The Blues, meanwhile, had not scored a nap-hand since hammering Leicester City 6-2 at Filbert Street in December 1976.

Birmingham were struggling. They were bottom of the table, with three points out of 26, and had lost eight of their last nine matches. Earlier in this season Southampton had won 5-2 at St. Andrew's. Manager Jim Smith had utilised 22 players in the first three months of the campaign, recruiting Argentinian World Cup star, Alberto Tarantini, and Walsall striker Alan Buckley, for £175,000. Six players have been tried at right-back and Smith had attempted to establish a regular midfield division by perming any three from ten players.

Birmingham started well but it was United who took a 13th-minute lead. Malcolm Page was caught in possession by Lou Macari, the ball broke free and Joe Jordan waltzed around Neil Freeman to score with ease.

Ten minutes later, Kevin Dillon netted the first of three goals in the space of 15 minutes which swung the game the Blues' way. Don Givens put the ball inside for Dillon to run forward and hammer a fierce right-footed shot past Paddy Roche. In the 32nd minute, Buckley made it 2-1, leaping at the far post to nod home Givens' looping header following Tarantini's long free-kick.

Then, a determined challenge on Brian Greenhoff by the rampaging Givens set-up Buckley, whose chip went just under the crossbar to send the Blues in at the interval 3-1 ahead.

Givens, who had a sparkling match, got on the score-sheet in the 51st minute, rounding off a movement involving Tony Towers, Mark Dennis and Jimmy Calderwood by heading powerfully past Roche. Another header by Givens in the last minute gave Calderwood the chance to drill in number five.

Three United players were booked - Jordan, Greenhoff and Stewart Houston - all for fouls. And Birmingham's Steve Fox was cautioned for dissent. Tarantini escaped punishment following a heavy tackle on Jimmy Greenhoff which resulted in the United player being carried off.

What a night it was....it really was such a night....that's what we've been missing while Blues have been out of the big time.

Last Tuesday's local Coca-Cola Cup derby with Aston Villa really was a taste of what it would be like back in the top flight. It was a great game....without doubt Blues didn't deserve to lose, as I'm sure even the most biased claret and blue nose would admit. But I did leave St. Andrews feeling proud of the team not only their passion, work-rate and aggression, but also because they played with a fair amount of skill and ability.

It's a measure of how far Blues have come under Terry Cooper, Karren Brady and David Sullivan. Don't get me wrong, there's still a long way to go, but at least there's light at the end of the tunnel, and this time it's not a train coming the other way!

Terry Cooper's beliefs also impress me. He won't sacrifice his footballing principles for anything. He believes the game should be played as it was meant to be in control and passing style. 'T.C.' would rather quit or get the sack than play the Wimbledon way. That is to his credit.

Keith Burkinshaw at the Albion also plays the same way. Ossie Ardiles at Spurs is another; Ron Atkinson at Villa, yet another, as the list grows. And that can only be good for the game.

I just hope David Sullivan was impressed with the atmosphere and the crowd, because he must be questioning his investment in the club when you consider the disappointing attendance, although I realise that it's expensive when you have four home games in a row.

But now David Sullivan and Karren Brady can see that their is real potential when the club reaches the Premier League. So hopefully they will be happy in the knowledge that they did choose the right club to buy.

With a new stand to build and more players needed, they need help now....especially from the 'stay away fans'. If the gates improve, then maybe we'll be in the Premiership soon rather than later.

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**GUEST
"Comment"**



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JUNIOR BLUES

THE HEALTHY LIVING PROGRAMME - FITNESS IS FUN

This is the message that the Healthy Living Programme takes into schools and youth clubs across the Birmingham area every week. Recently we have visited Great Barr Primary, Ladypool Primary, Tintesfield Primary School and Hunters Hill School in Bromsgrove.

The programme aims to help young people to understand that REGULAR physical activity is an essential part of a healthy lifestyle. In each school that we visit we organise a 'fun' football coaching session for boys and girls to show them that exercise doesn't hurt and can be very enjoyable. If you think that we can help your school or youth club please then please contact me at the club on - 021 - 766 - 5206.



Enjoy today's game

Shaun Edwards

Community Welfare Officer

JUNIOR BLUES...

Good afternoon to you at this our fourth home game on the trot.

I wish a warm welcome to our visitors from Luton Town - The Junior Hatters and their parents. I hope you enjoy your day with us. We will again be entertaining all our supporters with a game at half-time (weather permitting).

Well, with the formalities over, my notes now to refer to our game on Tuesday against Aston Villa. I would just like to say well done to all the players for an excellent performance and to let you know that we will be behind you at Villa Park - we never let you down.

To John Frain - our President, bad luck



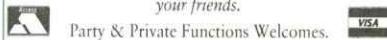
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It costs £7.00 for the season. For more details, please telephone me, **Tony Greenaway** on 472 - 4700.

SUPPORTERS CLUB...

In recent weeks I've had enquiries from people in various areas of the country, from Exeter to Manchester, about Supporters Club branches and travelling companions to come to St. Andrew's or the away games.

What I'd like to do therefore is compile a list of fans names addresses and telephone numbers, to see if you would set up branches throughout the country.

Anyone who's interested, could they please write to me Linda Goodman at St. Andrew's advising details and whether they have transport available.

I would remind members who haven't renewed, that their membership has now lapsed and they will be charged a visitors fee of £1 to gain entrance in future.

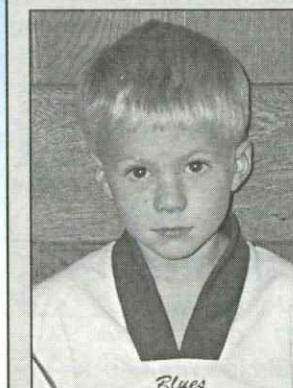
So RENEW NOW!

We still require many new members so come on you true Blue-noses, sign up and join. Application forms available from Lottery Office, Club Offices or Supporters Club. You can even phone 773 5088 (evenings) for more details.

After 4 home games we are now on our travels for the next couple of weeks, for the long journeys to the North East. Travel on the Official Executive Coaches, and help us provide funds to develop St. Andrew's.

TODAY'S MASCOTS

TODAY'S MASCOTS ARE PAUL NEWTON AND SCOTT NICHOLLS.



Paul lives in Bewdley, Worcs. He is 5 years old and his hobbies include swimming, football, running and drawing. His favourite players are



Scott also from Worcester is 4 years old and he also likes football, swimming and drawing.

Coaches depart from outside the Club Shop on Cattell Road, and for these matches we will be stopping at the Woodlands Motel for refreshments, where a snack meal can be purchased for a reasonable price.

See page 35 for coach details for away games.

BLUES A-Z

DOWNS, Gregory

POSITION : Left-back

APPEARANCES : 23 GOALS : ONE

BORN : Nottingham, 13 December, 1958

Made his League debut on the left-wing whilst on loan to Torquay but was successfully converted into a fine overlapping left-back, steady under pressure whose crosses were both precise and well struck. Was Norwich's free kick expert. Struggled at Coventry to win over the fans and joined Blues initially as a replacement for Ian Atkins as sweeper but eventually gained a first team slot in his accustomed role as left-back.

DUCKHOUSE, Edward

POSITION : Full-back/centre half

APPEARANCES : 137 GOALS : 4

BORN : Shelfield, Walsall, 9 April, 1918

DIED : Walsall, 1980

Centre-half Ted Duckhouse had the misfortune to break a leg in extra-time of the

Blues' 1946 FA Cup semi-final replay against Derby County. The scores were level and he was sorely missed as Birmingham went on to lose 4-0. Duckhouse, born in Shelfield, near Walsall, on 9 April 1918, was the kingpin of the defence, standing 6ft 1in tall and weighing over 13 stones.

He played for St. Marks School, Walsall, then Shelfield FC, Streetly Works, Walsall Wood and Cannock Chase Colliery before a season as an amateur with West Brom.

Originally a centre-forward, he joined Birmingham as a professional in August 1938 and made his league debut against Charlton Athletic shortly after the start of that season.

He played occasionally for the Blues during the war and won a League South medal in 1945-46. In 1947-48, Birmingham won the Second Division title and Duckhouse was an outstanding member of their defence which conceded only 24 goals in 42 matches. In August 1950 he was transferred to Northampton Town, adding 68 league appearances to his tally before joining Rushden Town in 1952. He retired in 1955 and died in 1980, aged 62.

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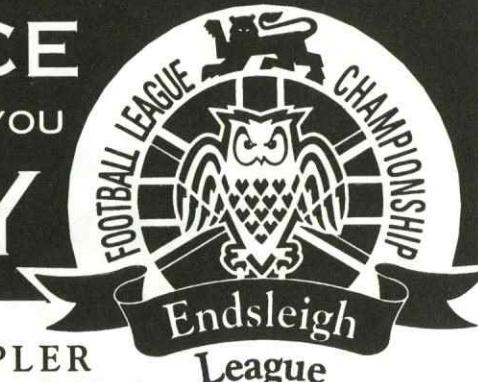
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Test Yourself

- Q1)** Which Premier League side play at Boundary Park?
- Q2)** Who sponsors Second Division Blackpool?
- Q3)** From which club did Nottingham Forest sign International goalkeeper Tommy Wright this week?
- Q4)** Which rule have Italian Serie 'C' clubs adopted for the first time this season?
- Q5)** Who is the manager at Hull City?
- Q6)** Before today's games in the Football League, which club in the Second Division are yet to score a point?
- Q7)** How many goals were scored in the Coca-Cola Cup this week?
- Q8)** Which game is featured on tomorrow's Sunday Match Live?
- Q9)** Name the home ground of Third Division club Gillingham.
- Q10)** What team did David Pleat manage before Luton Town?

Answers in the next home programme.

Answers from the last league programme:

1. Liverpool 2. Queen Of The South 3. Nottingham Forest and Birmingham 4. Rangers and Dundee United (£4 million)
5. Thomas Cook 6. Recreation Ground 7. McCarthy (Bradford) 8. Brian Horton 9. Liverpool 10. G. McCabe (Sheffield)

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BLUES WELCOME LUTON TOWN

Luton Town - the Hatters from Kenilworth Road - are our welcome visitors to St. Andrews this afternoon for this Endsleigh Insurance Division One fixture.

If you glance at the League table on the 'stats' page you will note that Luton are nearly bottom of the Division - and are without an away win so far this term.

Yes, they have started the season off rather disappointingly, to say the least, although last Saturday they battled hard and long to earn a point at Middlesbrough (0-0).

● MANAGER ●



DAVID PLEAT

It was at Kenilworth Road that David made a name for himself both as a player and manager. He began his playing career at Nottingham Forest but had only half-a-dozen games before joining Luton in 1964. Three years later he moved to Shrewsbury and later served with Exeter and Peterborough, retiring in 1971. In 1974 he returned to Luton as reserve team coach and after a spell in charge of Nuneaton Borough he took over a manager at Kenilworth Road in 1978. Eight years later he went to Spurs; then to Leicester City and returned again to Luton for his third major spell in June 1991.

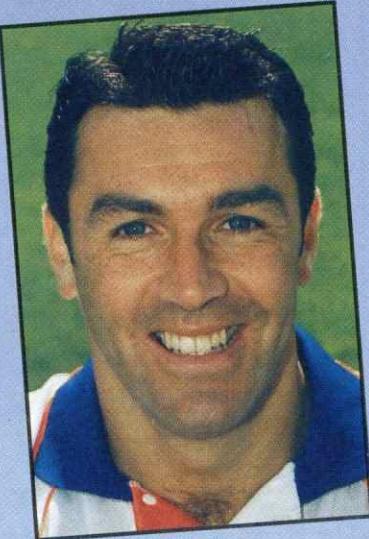
Manager David Pleat was forced to sell one of his better players back in August - midfield/attacker Phil Gray to Sunderland (Alex Chamberlain, the goalkeeper, went with him). But most of the other players who performed last term are still with the club, and, to a certain extent, have done the best they can.

However, the results have gone completely against Luton (their only League success to date was a 2-1 home win over neighbours Watford). Now they have to pick themselves up and buckle down to the business of earning precious points in an effort to haul them away from the bottom area.

In 1992-93 Luton finished just two points clear of relegation (claiming a total of 51 points). They drew 21 matches (out of 46). Only 10 were won and they lost 15. Indeed, they had to settle for one point in thirteen games at Kenilworth Road, losing four in front of their own fans. This sort of form didn't please manager Pleat one iota, and he has clearly emphasized that this time round he wants a vast improvement in performances at Kenilworth Road, as well as on opponents' soil where Luton collected 20 points out of 69 last term.

Checking through the club's numbered squad, we find that there is a good sprinkling of youth and experience with defenders Trevor Peake, aged 36, and John Dreyer (30), midfielder David Preece (30) and strikers Kerry Dixon (32) and recent capture Alan Harper (32) the oldest in the pack.

The two goalkeepers are both foreigners. Juergen Sommer (24) was born in New York, stands 6ft. 5ins tall, weighs over 16 stone, and joined Luton in 1991 from Indiana University; while Andy Pettersen (who celebrates his 24th birthday tomorrow) comes from Freemantle in Australia. He is 6ft. 2ins. weighs almost 13 stone and spent some time with Swindon and Ipswich before making his debut for Luton on the opening day of last season.



John Dreyer

Dreyer, ex-Oxford United who cost £140,000 in 1988 and was Luton's scorer here last season, and Peake, signed from Coventry City for £100,000 in 1991, are accompanied at the back by Julian James (aged 23) who has England U/21 caps to his credit; Richard Harvey (24) a former England Youth international; Marvin Johnson (also 24) who is the fans' favourite player, and youngsters David Greene (19), Richard Philp (18) and 18 year-old Greg Riach (son of Bruce) who came from Millwall.

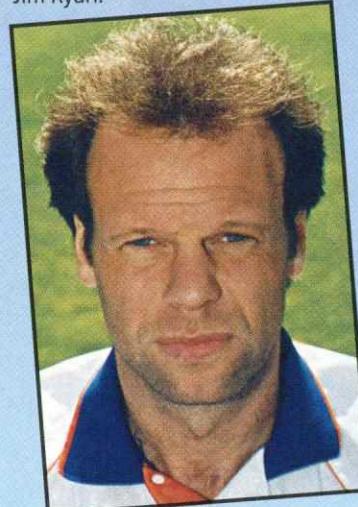
Midfield graftor Preece was secured from Walsall for £150,000 in 1984. He has been capped by England at U/21 and 'B' team levels and played over 130 games for the 'Saddlers.'

Experienced 'Scouser' Alan Harper has certainly been around a bit, having served in the past with Liverpool, Everton (two spells), Sheffield Wednesday and Manchester City, although he failed to get a game at Anfield. He can play in midfield or in defence and joined Luton last week on a month's contract after leaving Goodison Park second time round.



Back Row (l-r): Tony Thorpe, Jamie Campbell, Juergen Sommer, Andy Pettersen, Des Linton, Paul Telfer
Middle Row (l-r): John Moore (First Team Coach), Andy McDade (Physio), Scott Oakes, Ceri Hughes, Marvin Johnson, David Green, John Dreyer, Julian James, Terry Westley (Youth Team Coach), Wayne Turner (Reserve Team Coach)
Front Row (l-r): Jason Rees, Ian Benjamin, Trevor Peake (Capt.), David Pleat (Manager), David Preece, Martin Williams, Richard Harvey

Jason Rees (23) owner of a Welsh U/21 cap, Ceri Hughes, 22, who has represented Wales at three different levels and Scotsman Paul Telfer (21) who has also earned an U/21 call-up, assist Preece in centre-field, along with two 18 year-olds, Aaron Skelton from Welwyn Garden City and Neil Ryan, a local lad and son of the former Luton player and manager, Jim Ryan.



Trevor Peake

Kerry Dixon, the former England international striker, has scored over 200 goals in a career which has seen him play for Reading (1980-84), Chelsea, Southampton and Luton Town, whom he joined earlier this season.

Scott Oakes (21) came from Leicester City in October 1991 and had a successful time with the England U/21's in Toulon in June.

Jamie Campbell (20) is a former trainee at the club, likewise John Hartson (18) while Justin Gentle (also 18) was signed from Borehamwood.

Tony Thorpe (18) came from Leicester City, so too did Martin Williams who has also spent some time in Finland.

Scott Houghton (22 next month) joined Luton soon after the start of this season on a performance-related transfer from Tottenham. He started at Kenilworth Road (as an associated schoolboy) but in the end he joined Spurs on a Y.T.S. A pupil at the F.A.'s School of Excellence, he also served with Ipswich Town, Gillingham and Charlton Athletic during his time at White Hart Lane.

● FACTS -n- FIGURES ●

- Luton were formed in 1885 (when local sides Wanderers and Excelsior got together).
- Turned professional in 1891 and entered Football League 1897.
- Won Third Division (S) in 1938; the 4th Division in 1968; the Second Division championship in 1982 and the Milk Cup in 1988.
- Record win - 12-0 v. Bristol Rovers (h) Div.3 S. April, 1936
- Record attendance - 30,069 v. Blackpool, F.A. Cup, 1959
- Most appearances for club - 550 by Bob Morton (1948-64)
- Most goals for club - 265 by Gordon Turner (1949-64)
- Highest scoring League season - 1936-37 (Div. 3 S) 103 goals
- Most points gained - 88 (3 pts win) in '81-82, 66 (2pts) '67-68
- Most capped player - Mal Donaghy (Northern Ireland) 58 caps



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PLAYED FOR BOTH

- Mick Harford, now with Coventry City, is one of three full internationals to have served with both Blues and Luton Town. The other two are Bruce Rioch, the present Bolton manager and former centre-half of the 1940's and '50's, Syd Owen, who later managed the Hatters (in season 1959-60). Harford, in fact, was transferred from St. Andrew's to Kenilworth Road in December 1984 for a fee of £250,000 - a record at the time for Luton Town.
- Another player still around who has been at St. Andrew's and Kenilworth Road, is striker David Geddis, who gained an F.A. Cup winners medal fifteen years ago with Ipswich Town.



Joe Payne

PAST MEETINGS

Today is the 47th League game between the two clubs, and at the minute Blues' record in the competition against the Hatters is quite impressive:

Last season's clash here at St. Andrew's finished: Blues 2 Luton 1.

A crowd of 9,601 saw the action and the respective scorers were all named John - Frain with a penalty on 13 minutes after Johnson had handled and Gayle (87 minutes) for Blues, while in between those strikes, Dreyer equalised for Luton on the half-hour mark.

Blues and Luton first met in the League way back in season 1897-98 (Division 2). Blues, in fact, did the double - winning 4-2 at home (in February) and 2-1 at Luton.

Luton's first win over Blues didn't come until September 1953 when they won a Second Division match 2-0 at Kenilworth Road.

Blues whipped Luton 9-0 in a one-sided Second Division match at Muntz Street in November 1898. This is Blues' best-ever League win over the Hatters - while at the same time it is Luton's heaviest defeat at competitive league level.

MORE VISITORS FACTS...

DID YOU KNOW?

- In season 1935-36 Luton manager Edwin Liddell made a daring team change which at the time confused the supporters! He chose to switch hard-tackling wing-half Joe Payne to centre-forward for a home game against Bristol Rovers on 13th April. The Luton chairman took time out to go and wish Joe all the very best and said to him: "Don't stop when you've scored three." "Okay" replied Joe, who added "If you like, I'll go and add another three just to make sure!" Well, Joe bettered that. He scored 10 goals as Rovers were hammered 12-0 by Luton - their best-ever victory in League.
- Payne (pictured left) scored a total of 55 League goals the following season (1936-37) when the Hatters weighed in with a grand total of 103 in the Football League Division 3 (South). He also netted three times in the F.A. Cup.
- Twenty two years earlier Luton had crushed luckless Great Yarmouth 15-0 in an F.A. Cup 2nd qualifying round tie.
- Luton Town were managerless when they reached the 1959 F.A. Cup Final.
- Luton Town's team in season 1946-47 included player-manager Dally Duncan and player-coach Frank Soo (ex-Stoke City). But neither was boss on the field! The side was actually skippered by centre-half Horace Gager who later moved to Nottingham Forest.
- Luton Town played an F.A. Cup semi-final replay at St. Andrews back in 1959 against Norwich City. They won through to Wembley only to lose in the Final 2-1 to Nottingham Forest.
- Neil McBain, who played a League game for New Brighton at the age of 51 (in 1947) was manager of Luton Town in the last season before World War Two (1938-39). He also played for both Everton and Liverpool in the 1930's as a wing-half.
- Charlton's great goalkeeper Sam Bartram was boss at Kenilworth Road from 1960 to 1962 and he was followed by another 'keeper, Jack Crompton, ex-Manchester United.
- Mike O'Hara is the youngest ever player to step out for Luton in a League game. He was just 16 years 32 days old when he made his debut in goal on 1st October 1960 against Stoke City (away). It was the happiest of occasions as Luton lost 3-0. He played in just one more League game for Luton but later had 30 outings for Swindon Town.

Venue	P	W	D	L	F	A
Home	23	13	6	4	48	33
Away	23	11	6	6	31	28
Totals	46	24	12	10	79	61

BLUES STAR

JOHN FRAIN

'At the moment I couldn't be much happier. I'm the captain of the club carrying the name of the city.'

John FRAIN took over the captaincy last season after a series of injuries to several players.

'I didn't think that I would have the job for good however. And I'm certainly not the loudest person on the park!'

Off the field George Parris is the club captain and he does most of the organising.

The team spirit is absolutely superb at the moment. I think this is down to the fact that we all mix socially now.

The lads all go out together when there is a function etc. and we all have a good time and enjoy ourselves'.

John supported Blues as a boy, and has shown his loyalty to the club over the past ELEVEN years.

I started at Blues as a schoolboy at the age of 14 and progressed through the different stages of trying to become a professional.

I was first spotted when playing for a rep side, whilst I was playing football in the Birmingham Boys League.

Norman Bodell and Keith Bradley (chief scout and youth team manager at the time) spotted me and I have never looked back since.

I made my debut for the first team at the age of seventeen.

The game was against Newcastle at St. James' Park. Unfortunately we came away



losers, by four goals to one. A game in which Peter Beardsley grabbed a couple of goals and Paul Gascoigne was sent off!

I have seen many changes at the club since then, most of them in the last six months, but I firmly believe that Birmingham City are doing everything they can to become the 'Premier Team In Brum', for the first time in a long while.

I have seen many managers and coaches come and go from the club, but I can honestly say now, that the present gaffer has provided the supporters on 'The Kop' with the best Blues side since the Latchford, Francis and Hatton era.

Everyone associated with the club is starting to buzz, and I'm sure that it will only be a matter of time before Blues are back in the big time.

• THE FACTS •

NAME : John William FRAIN

AGE : 25

HEIGHT : 5' 9"

WEIGHT : 11stones 10lbs ish!

PREVIOUS CLUBS : None

FAVOURITE FOOD : Indian & Chinese

HOBBIES : Golf, reading and listening to music

MUSIC : U2 and Talk Talk

JOHN FRAIN



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JOHN FRAIN Talks Back...



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I've got a couple of games to comment on this week.
So I'll start with the game that was played last Saturday.

Grimsby came to St. Andrew's as a side that aren't usually recognised as one of the better sides in the division. However, they soon showed why they are so difficult to beat.

For the first fifteen minutes we controlled the game.
Chances were created and we should have converted more than we actually did.

As a side we began to miss several opportunities and Grimsby came more into the game. We allowed them a lot of space in most of the positions on the park.

Unfortunately we slipped up and Dave Gilbert nipped in to level the scores at a critical stage.

Many comments were passed about the foul committed on Louie Donowa, but we have to get on with the game in those situations and we paid the price for not being alert to the dangers of teams counter-attacking us, when an attacking move breaks down.

In the second half we didn't give them as much space and overall should have won the game. If we are going to make a serious impact on this division then we have to make sure of the three points, or promotion will be a long way off at the end of the season.

On Tuesday I thought that we battled well and did ourselves proud. I would like to forget the game simply because of the penalty miss.

Thanks to everyone who got behind me after I had failed to convert our best chance of the game.

Both Richard Dryden and Chris Whyte had excellent games.

Villa had a full strength side out and we have definitely proved that we aren't that far behind Villa on the playing side.

There is still the second leg to be played and we are still in with a chance at Villa Park. We will just have to wait and see.

Today's game is more important though and we must focus on the league if we are going to realise our potential.

Enjoy the game



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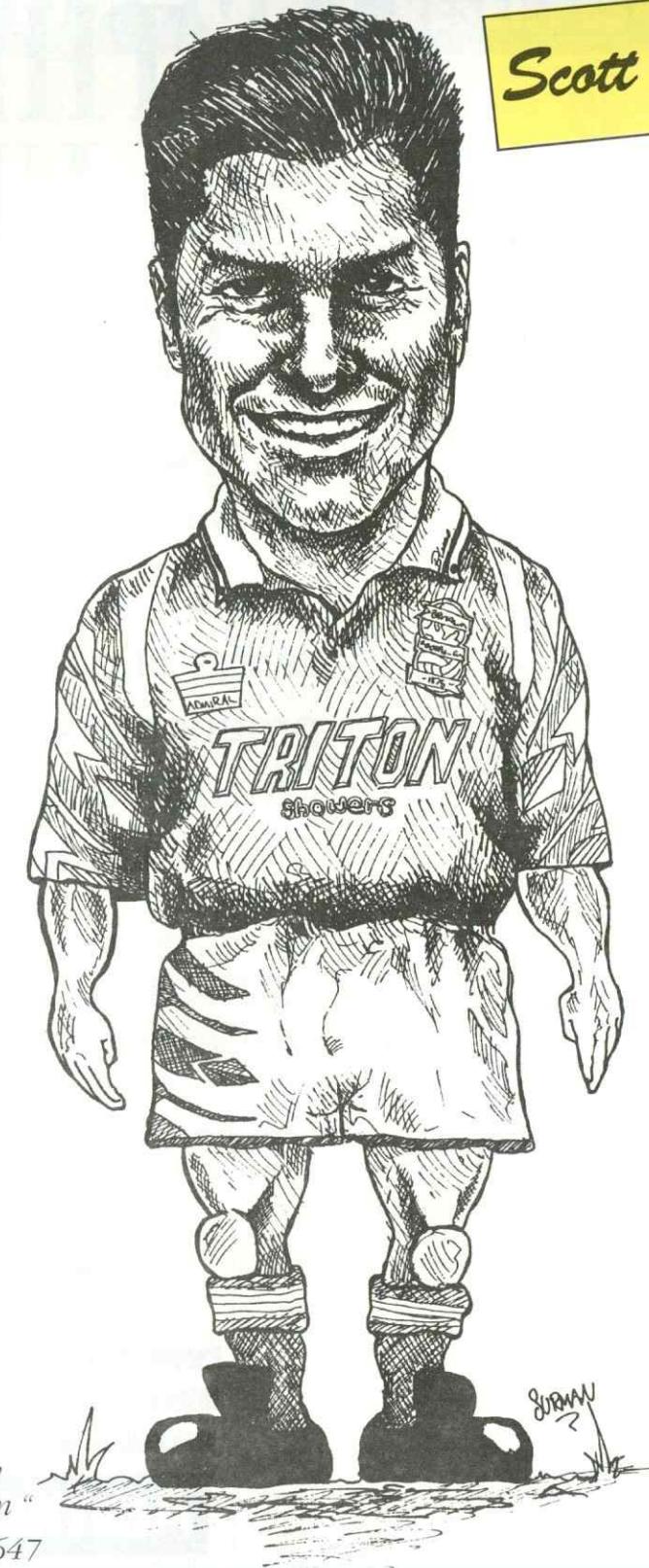
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Midland Purity League Cup NORTHAMPTON TOWN 2 BIRMINGHAM CITY 4

BLUES : Weston, Hiles, Hughes, Prince, Challinor, Bass, Lucas, Round, Black, Thomas*, Webb subs Hickman*, Bloxham*

A good result for Blues sees them progress to the next stage of the Midland Purity League Cup.

The conditions in which the game was played were superb and Blues got off to a good start when Simon Prince struck home a free kick from twenty five yards which sailed into the top left-hand corner of the net giving the keeper no chance.

Second and third goals were added when Jason Thomas and John Bass both fired in goals, in quick succession before half-time.

After half-time Northmpton started to come back into the game and pulled the score back to 3-2 with a well worked goal and a disputed penalty.

This wasn't the end of the scoring however, and Simon Black was credited with a goal after a Northampton defender put through his own goal with a minute remaining.

MIDLAND PURITY YOUTH LEAGUE - SEASON 1993-94

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Derby County	7	5	1	1	22	16	16
Notts County	5	5	0	0	15	2	15
Stoke	6	4	1	1	17	8	13
Birmingham	6	4	1	1	13	6	13
Mansfield	6	4	0	2	8	6	12
Forrest	5	3	1	1	9	6	10
Leicester	6	2	2	2	10	9	8
W.B.A.	6	2	2	2	8	11	8
Northampton	4	2	1	1	7	3	7
Coventry City	5	2	0	3	14	16	6
Peterborough	5	2	0	3	7	11	6
Grimsby	5	1	2	2	7	9	5
Aston Villa	6	1	2	3	11	14	5
Walsall	7	1	2	4	8	13	5
Port Vale	4	1	1	2	5	10	4
Lincon	6	1	1	4	8	18	4
Wolves	4	0	1	3	3	8	1
Shrewsbury	6	0	0	6	4	14	0

RESERVE TEAM FIXTURES 1993-94

18TH	AUGUST	(A) A.F.C. BOURNEMOUTH	0-2
25TH		(H) CARDIFF CITY	2-0
1ST	SEPTEMBER	(A) PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	1-0
8TH		(A) CARDIFF CITY	1-2
14TH		(H) HEREFORD UNITED	
29TH		(A) CARDIFF CITY	
6TH	OCTOBER	(A) HEREFORD UNITED	
12TH		(H) CHELTENHAM TOWN	
19TH		(H) YEOVIL TOWN	
27TH	NOVEMBER	(A) SWANSEA CITY	
10TH		(A) TORQUAY UNITED	
17TH		(A) HEREFORD UNITED	
23RD		(H) SWANSEA CITY	
1ST	DECEMBER	(A) CHELTENHAM TOWN	
7TH		(H) SWANSEA CITY	
15TH		(A) YEOVIL TOWN	
21ST		(H) EXETER CITY	
4TH	JANUARY	(H) PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	
11TH		(H) A.F.C. BOURNEMOUTH	
19TH		(A) EXETER CITY	
25TH		(H) CARDIFF CITY	
1ST	FEBRUARY	(H) CHELTENHAM TOWN	
8TH		(H) TORQUAY UNITED	
16TH		(A) SWANSEA CITY	
23RD		(A) CHELTENHAM TOWN	
1ST	MARCH	(H) HEREFORD UNITED	

YOUTH TEAM FIXTURES 1993-94

7TH	AUGUST	(A) ASTON VILLA	0-3
14TH		(H) WOLVES	1-1
21ST		(H) COVENTRY CITY	4-1
28TH		(A) DERBY COUNTY	2-3
4TH	SEPTEMBER	(H) GRIMSBY TOWN	2-1
11TH		(A) LEICESTER CITY	1-0
18TH		(A) NORTHAMPTON L CUP R1	
25TH		(A) MANSFIELD TOWN	
2ND	OCTOBER	(H) NORTHAMPTON TOWN	
9TH		(A) NOTTS COUNTY	
16TH		(A) GRIMSBY L CUP R2	
23RD		(A) PETERBOROUGH UTD	
30TH		(A) GRIMSBY TOWN	
6TH	NOVEMBER	(H) PORT VALE	
13TH		(A) SHREWSBURY TOWN	
20TH		(H) P' BOROUGH OR DERBY	
27TH		(A) WALSLA	
4TH	DECEMBER	(H) NOTTINGHAM FOREST	
11TH		(H) W.B.A.	
18TH		(A) W.B.A.	
8TH	JANUARY	(H) ASTON VILLA	
15TH		(H) WOLVES	
22ND		(A) LEAGUE CUP SEMI-FINAL	
29TH		(A) COVENTRY CITY	
5TH	FEBRUARY	(A) DERBY COUNTY	
12TH		(H) LEICESTER CITY	
19TH		(H) LINCOLN CITY	
26TH		(H) MANSFIELD TOWN	
5TH	MARCH	(A) NORTHAMPTON TOWN	
12TH		(H) STOKE CITY	
19TH		(H) NOTTS COUNTY	
26TH		(A) NOTTINGHAM FOREST	
2ND	APRIL	(H) PETERBOROUGH UTD	
9TH		(A) PORT VALE	
16TH		(H) SHREWSBURY TOWN	
23RD		(A) STOKE CITY	
30TH		(H) WALSLA	
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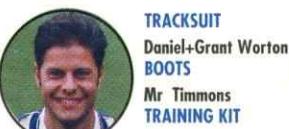


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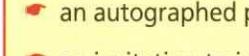
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HEADLINES

BLUES 1 - GRIMSBY 1 - August 18th 1993

SO GRIM FOR BLUES AFTER FLYING START

BLUES ; Miller, Hiley, Frain, Parris, Whyte, Dryden, Donowa, Shutt, Saville, Peschisolido (McMinn), Smith subs. Mardon, Steadman (GK)

GRIMSBY ; Crichton, McDermott, Croft, Agnew, Handysides, Dobbin, Watson, Gilbert, Daws, Jemson, Groves subs. Shakespeare, Childs.

SCORERS ; Blues ; Donowa (1)
Grimsby ; Gilbert (39)

ATTENDANCE : 11,302
GRIMSBY CONTINGENT : 327

BLUES, despite the tonic of a first-minute goal from Louie Donowa, were frustrated by Grimsby and saw two points slip away.

Donowa struck after just 58 seconds but Blues missed the chances to kill off Grimsby in the fashion which swamped Derby a fortnight ago.

After the many chances went begging Grimsby came into their own and could so easily have come away from St. Andrew's with all the points.

Donowa gave Blues a dream start when he turned in a Carl Shutt cross via an Andy Saville flick.

Blues were given a visible boost by that whirlwind opening and Shutt volleyed just wide as the fans sensed a rout was on the cards.

But Grimsby served an early warning after 11 minutes when Kevin Miller's save from Peter Handyside prevented an equaliser.

Canadian Paul Peschisolido, who had a quiet game was eventually substituted, missed a golden opportunity.

He charged through into the heart of the area and could only muster a weak shot which was

easily grabbed by goalkeeper Paul Crichton.

From then on, Grimsby toyed with Blues and controlled the midfield although Saville had a header disallowed for a push.

They equalised six minutes before the break after a fast counter-attack which left Dave Gilbert as the man over on the left.

He steadied himself before firing low past Miller. Blues complained that a handball by John McDermott, combined with a heavy challenge on Donowa, should have earned a foul just before Grimsby's successful break.

But the referee saw nothing untoward and, in truth, the only thing wrong was Blues' iffy performance.

In a second half of little incident, Crichton denied Saville with a fine stretching save to palm away his header.

And substitute Ted McMinn went close with a half volley which flashed past the with seven minutes to go.

If Blues had gained what would have been only their second home win it would have been harsh on bright and inventive Grimsby.

David Davenport
(Sunday Mercury)

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Last weekend Bob Taylor of West Bromwich Albion scored the 100th League goal of his career to give his side the lead over Crystal Palace at The Hawthorns. But it all went wrong for the Baggies after the break as the 'Eagles' swooped in to claim four goals themselves and so leap frog over both Tranmere Rovers and Charlton Athletic to go to the top of the Division.

Mark Stein (Stoke City) is the Division's leading scorer at the minute with 12 goals, including two cracking efforts in the 'Potters' excellent 2-1 Coca-Cola Cup win over Manchester United.

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LEADING GOALSCORERS -Division One

Scorer	Team	EIL	CCC	FA	AIC	Total
Stein	Stoke City	6	4	-	1	11
Armstrong	Crystal Palace	7	-	-	1	8
Hendrie	Middlesbrough	5	1	-	2	8
Mendonca	Grimsby Town	4	2	-	1	7
Donovan	West Bromwich A.	3	3	-	-	6
Goodman	Sunderland	1	3	-	2	6
McGinlay	Bolton Wanderers	4	1	-	1	6
Angell	Southend Utd	4	1	-	-	5
Bull	Wolves	4	-	-	1	5
Coyle	Bolton Wanderers	1	1	-	3	5
Lund	Notts County	2	1	-	2	5
Peschisolido	Birmingham City	4	1	-	-	5
Draper	Notts County	4	1	-	-	5
Speedie	Leicester City	4	1	-	-	5
Walsh	Leicester City	4	1	-	-	5

HALF-TIME SCORE BOARD

(Kick-off times are 7.45p.m. unless stated)

A	Barnsley v Leicester City	J	WBA v Middlesbrough
B	Grimsby Town v Wolves	K	Oldham Athletic v Aston Villa
C	Notts County v Derby County	L	Manchester United v Swindon Town
D	Peterborough United v Millwall	M	Chelsea v Liverpool
E	Portsmouth v Bristol City	N	Coventry City v Leeds United
F	Stoke City v Southend United	O	Blackburn v Sheffield Wednesday
G	Tranmere Rovers v Oxford United	P	Everton v Norwich City
H	Watford v Sunderland	R	Darlington v Walsall

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BEAU BRUMMIE COMES TO LIFE

Remember World Cup Willie? And then, of course, there is Ronald McDonald, Filbert Fox and many other examples of mascots becoming larger than life and representing their organisation.

Well Beau Brummie has been at the Blues for many years and we now want to bring him to life! If there is anyone out there who is capable or knows someone who is capable, of designing and creating a costume which we can put someone in (as long as it's not me) we would love to hear from them.

If you are able to bring Beau Brummie to life he will be used as the team's mascot on matchdays and will represent us at public events, fetes, carnivals, and most importantly with our childrens and community activites.

JIMMY GREAVES JOINS GEORGE BEST AND RODNEY MARSH AT THE BLUES!

This week our first Grand Sportsman's Dinner with George Best and Rodney Marsh take place but, quick being no slouch in the transfer market, we have not been hanging around and have now signed Jimmy Greaves for our next Sportsman's Dinner.

Greavie caused a bit of a splash recently when he turned up in our Sponsor's Lounge on "matchday to a roaring chorus of 'Greavie, Greavie'.

Our Jimmy Greaves' Christmas Special will be held on Thursday 25th November at the Birmingham Metropole Hotel. Tickets, including a full meal will be £30 each and a sell out is expected. If you would like to reserve your place now, please telephone the Commercial Department On 021-753 2107.

off the FIELD

JOIN THE PLAYERS

Towards the end of the season the players will be inviting their kit sponsors to join them for a private buffet evening which will undoubtedly be a hugh success.

If you would like to join Pesch, Sav and the rest of the lads all you need to do is look at page 28 of todays programme and select a player and either his tracksuit, boots or training kit and give us call. For just £85 you will receive your invitation, an autographed photo of your player and your name will be displayed in each matchday programme throughout the season.

There are also just one or two lads who have yet to have a main sponsor - amazingly enough this includes Louie Donowa!

Perhaps a few of you would like to get together and form a sindicate to take up a main sponsorship for just £400 + VAT. Again, each matchday programme will acknowledge your sponsorship, you will receive two tickets to the Players Evening and be presented with the actual playing shirt of your sponsored player.

Not all of us can play for the team but we certainly can support it!

Birmingham City F.C. would like to thank the following Executive Box Holders and Members for their support for the 1993-94 Season.

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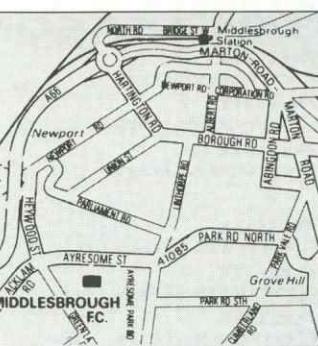


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Keep right on to the End of the Road...

TICKET INFORMATION FOR FORTHCOMING MATCHES

This season the Blues will be running its own coaches to all away games. Bookings can be made in person, by post or by telephone on 021 - 766 - 8274 Available from the Promotions Office above the Club Shop in Cattell Road
DON'T TRAVEL WITH THE COMPETITION - TRAVEL WITH THE BLUES



MIDDLESBROUGH v BIRMINGHAM CITY

Saturday 2nd October Kick Off 3.00p.m.

MIDDLESBROUGH WILL BE SENDING 452 SEAT TICKETS AT £11 EACH.

There will also be room for 1800 terrace supporters at a cost of £8. - these supporters will be able to pay in at Ayresome Park on the day.

TRAVELING TO MIDDLESBROUGH:

DEPART : 9.15a.m. **COST :** Supporters Club Members £11 Non-members £12

On match daysbook in the St. Andrew's lounge from 12 o'clock. During the week you can book at the Lottery Office above the club shop in Cattell Road (office hours).

ASTON VILLA v BIRMINGHAM CITY

Wednesday 6th October Kick Off 7.45p.m.

Tickets went on sale to season ticket holders and True Blue Club members on Wednesday 22nd September.



SUNDERLAND v BIRMINGHAM CITY

Saturday 9th October Kick Off 3.00p.m.

THERE ARE NO SEATS AVAILABLE AT ROKER PARK.

The only accomodation for Blues supporters is a section of standing behind the goal, for which you will pay £8 on entry to the ground.

There are no tickets available in advance.

Call 021 - 766 - 8274 to reserve your ticket NOW!

TRAVELING TO SUNDERLAND:

DEPART : 9.15a.m. **COST :** Supporters Club Members £11 Non-members £12

CONTACT TICKET OFFICE FOR MORE DETAILS ON - 021-766-5743

BUY YOUR 1993/94 SEASON TICKET NOW!

BLUES HAVE SLASHED POUNDS OFF THEIR SEASON TICKETS FOR THIS SEASON.
THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO HELP YOURSELF AND TO HELP TERRY COOPER TO STRENGTHEN HIS CURRENT SQUAD.

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT THE TICKET OFFICE ON 021 - 766 - 5743.

(These reductions are available after tonight's game.)

SEASON TICKET PRICES 1993/94 SEASON

TERRACE (Spion Kop)	£113.00	Adult
	£ 73.00	Concession
MAIN STAND	£179.00	Adult
	£ 89.00	Concession
PADDOCK	£146.00	Adult
	£ 81.50	Concession
FAMILY STAND		
NON MEMBER	£162.00	Adult
	£ 81.50	Concession
MEMBER	£146.00	Adult
	£ 65.00	Concession
JUNIOR BLUES	£113.00	Adult
	£ 49.00	Concession

I enclose payment of £..... OR I authorise you to debit my Mastercard/Visa account with the amount of £.....
in respect of 1993-94 Season Ticket (s).

Account No Expiry date

(An administration fee of £5 per ticket is chargeable for Credit Card sales)

My personal details are as follows
(TO BE COMPLETED IN BLOCK CAPITALS)

SURNAME: FORENAMES:

ADDRESS POST CODE

TELEPHONE (daytime) (evening)

DATE of BIRTH (if applying for junior or senior citizen rate)

JUNIORS SHOULD BE UNDER 16 and SENIOR CITIZENS OVER 65
on 15th August 1993 (proof of age will be required).

I wish to apply for TERRACE - SPION KOP
..... MAIN STAND 'B'
..... MAIN STAND 'C'
..... MAIN STAND 'D'
..... PADDOCK 'F'
..... PADDOCK 'K'
..... FAMILY STAND

I accept all conditions of issue:
Signed Date

CASH RECEIPT

Received from
The Sum of £
in respect of 1993-94 Season Ticket(s)



FOUL AND ABUSIVE LANGUAGE.

WE WRITE TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION to the SUPPORTERS CHARTER ITEM, 5, ESPECIALLY FOUL AND ABUSIVE LANGUAGE!

We have in separate articles conveyed our appreciation to you for the level of behaviour set by FANS at the recent Coca-Cola Cup game.

HOWEVER, CONCERN HAS BEEN EXPRESSED TO THE CLUB FROM INDIVIDUALS AT THE LEVEL OF FOUL AND ABUSIVE LANGUAGE FROM CERTAIN QUARTERS OF THE GROUND.

Please may we ask you to refrain from such language.

Banter between supporters can be expressed with good humour and thunderous support in respectable language which in the long term will surely help us gain more support rather than less.

Thank you



KAREN'S CORNER

If you would like to be put on Birmingham City's mailing list free of charge then why not send your name and address into me.

Karen Brady
(Mailings)
Birmingham City Football Club
St. Andrew's Ground
Birmingham B9 4NH

The service is free of charge and it will enable you to get information on a regular basis about what is happening at the club.

For those of you who are not aware, the membership scheme has been abolished, so for any league game in the future you can come along with your friends and pay at the turnstile.

If there are any ALL TICKET games in the future then you will be told well in advance so that you can purchase your ticket.

May I wish Paul and Jane the best of luck on their wedding day.
Best wishes also come from Lee and Lynn.

BIRMINGHAM CITY

V

Blue Shirts / White Shorts
Blue Socks

LUTON TOWN

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White Socks

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DAVE SMITH
PAUL TAIT
TED MCMINN
RICHARD STEADMAN

1	13
2	7
3	3
4	5
15	6
5	18
28	12
9	10
12	27
18	8
11	14
8	4
10	26
13	1

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In Opposition

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Scott Oakes



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