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THE MAG is published by Notts County Football Club and edited by Terry Bowles. Designed and produced by Christian James Design & Marketing Ltd., Nottingham. Colour repro' and films - Wordcrafts. Paper supplied by Benjamin Gough. Printed by The Sherwood Press.

FRONT COVER
PAUL COX... striving hard to maintain his consistency.



MEADOW LANE NEWS

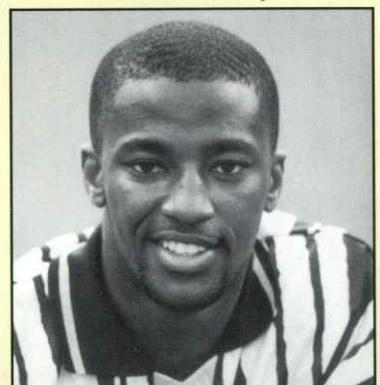
PROUD RECORD

IT was a new experience last week for Michael Johnson when he was sent off in the early stages of our Cup clash with Sutton United - and one he never wants to repeat.

As he explained: "I've never been sent off before at any level of the game, nor have I been suspended. In fact, I've never been close to it.

"That's a good record for a central defender and I was proud of it. But now I've got a black mark against me and I'm very upset about it."

He added: "I honestly feel that



MICHAEL JOHNSON

I didn't deserve to be sent off but the video cameras didn't capture my part in the incident so I have no alternative but to accept my punishment."

That is an automatic three-match ban, which will cause Michael to miss the League game at Bristol City, The Anglo-Italian Cup trip to Southend and the FA Cup tie against West Ham.

For the record, Michael was booked on just two occasions last season and has also been cautioned twice this term - the last one coming against Derby

County on August 31st."

NOT ALL-TICKET

OUR fourth round FA Cup tie against West Ham will take place at Meadow Lane on Saturday January 29 and it has been decided not to make it an all-ticket affair.

You will, of course, still be able to reserve your place in advance and tickets went on sale today. Season-ticket holders have until next Friday to claim their regular seats.

It's an "All Pay" match and while adult seat prices will increase to £12, all other prices - juvenile and senior citizen seats and standing - remain as normal.

ON OUR TRAVELS

OUR run of four successive home games comes to an end today and next on the schedule are trips to Bristol City next Saturday and to Southend the following Wednesday (7.45pm).

In both cases, there is ample standing room available and it is not necessary to purchase tickets in advance.

There are no seats for visiting supporters at Ashton Gate and standing admission costs £6.50, with no reductions.

At Roots Hall, admission to the East Stand seats costs £10 and to the terraces £7.50, with no reductions.

REPLAY DATE

THE youth team will be looking to make further progress along the cup trail on Wednesday when they take on Leicester City at Grove Farm (11am).

It finished goalless when the two sides met almost two

MEADOW LANE NEWS

months ago in the third round of the Purity League Cup and please note that the replay will take place on Wednesday - not Tuesday as initially planned.

RICHARD SIGNS ON

WE'RE delighted to say that Richard Newton, the free-scoring striker in our under-14 team, today joins our ranks of Associate Schoolboys.

As you may be aware, Richard has the opportunity to broaden his experience of life and football this summer by spending three months in Minnesota on a football scholarship.

Before that comes around though, we're hoping the talented young pupil of Stapleford's George Spencer School will help the Magpies Youth Club to grab a taste of glory.

He scored six times in the 7-1 win against Princes Park of Hendon in the first leg of the All-England Final of the Nike Premier Cup.

The second leg takes place at Hendon on January 23rd and if the lads complete the job, they will go to Amsterdam at



Whitsun to compete in the Nike European Cup.

The winners of that competition go to the United States this summer to represent Europe at the Nike World Cup.

BACK TO BASICS

AT least there was one familiar face waiting to greet Colin Foster when he reported for duty at Meadow Lane this week because he went to school with Tony Agana.

In fact, they were in the same class at Kemnal Manor in Sidcup and played for the same school

GENEROUS TREVOR

COLIN FOSTER is no stranger to these parts, of course, because he had a three-year spell with Forest but the big defender was quickly made to feel at home again when he returned to the city this week.

And Trevor Day, the proprietor of Collis Self Drive at Colwick and Imperial Garage at Netherfield, can claim his share of the credit for that.

Trevor has loaned Colin a car for the duration of his spell on loan from West Ham. He is pictured handing it over - and we would like to record our grateful thanks for his support.

team and although they haven't had much contact in the meantime, it provided a nice little trip down Memory Lane.

"Even in those days he was a big, strapping centre half and I was a tricky left-winger," recalled Tony.

"we had a terrific team which used to win most competitions at that level and Colin and I also played together in the North West Kent Schools side."

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MORE EXCITEMENT IS ON THE WAY

THEY SAY a week is a long time in football so I suppose I have to view it as a considerable achievement that I've survived to celebrate my first anniversary in management.

And I just hope that it's the first of many I reach at Meadow Lane because despite what some people seem to think, I've got a lot of ambitions still to fulfil.

I've been concerned recently at the way articles have been presented in the local press and it seems I have cause to because I've been told that I stand accused of negative thinking in the eyes of some supporters.

I can understand why you are feeling that way but I would point out that you shouldn't always believe what you read in newspapers - especially the headlines.

Certain articles have been very misleading and I would just like to make it abundantly clear that I have my heart set on taking Notts County into the Premier League.

Ironically, I would have had to hold my hands up if supporters had accused me of lacking ambition this time last year.

But one thing that I have developed since taking over from Neil Warnock last January has been a burning desire to prove that I have what it takes to produce a successful team.

I'm realistic enough to know that at a time when

we are about to build a new Main Stand for the first time this century and are severely handicapped by long-term injury problems, our immediate ambitions are limited.

But I happen to think that we have done well to overcome adversity this season and over the past few weeks in particular, the players deserve enormous credit for the hard work they have put in.

I said a couple of weeks ago, at the start of our run of four successive home games, that it would have a major influence on our season if we could win the lot.

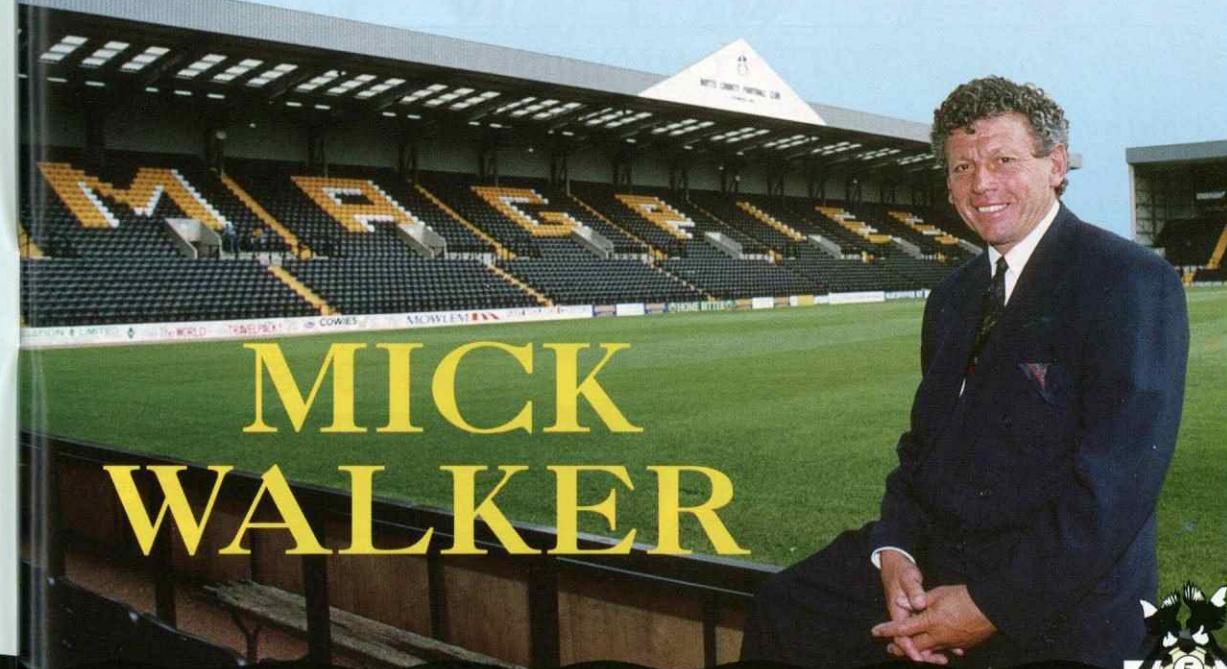
Well, we have managed to clear three hurdles and if we can also come out on top against Luton this afternoon, it will leave us in an interesting situation.

From the League point of view, we will be poised to break into the top ten and with the Anglo-Italian Cup semi-finals to come, plus an attractive FA Cup tie with West Ham, there's plenty more excitement on the way.

All I'm really bothered about at the moment, though, is maintaining our good run against Luton and I'll be disappointed if I don't have cause to celebrate my anniversary in style.

In closing, I would just like to belatedly welcome Colin Foster to Meadow Lane and as you will be aware, he has wasted no time in making his presence felt.

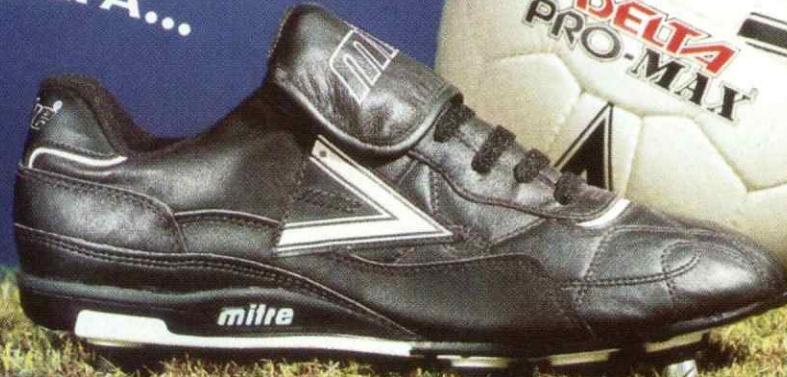
I thought he was outstanding against Birmingham on Tuesday. His commanding display served to underline how much we have missed Dean Yates and Dave Robinson this season and I'm sure you agree with me that it's good to have him on board.



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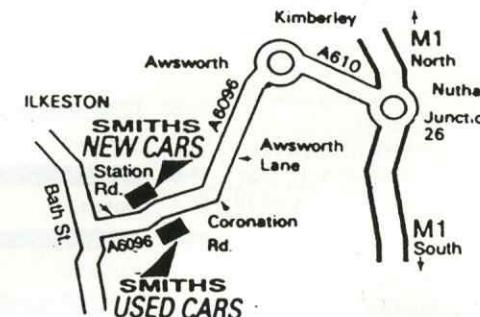


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FROM THE BOOTROOM

I DID suggest in last Saturday's column that I had the feeling we would all be glad to get the Cup tie against Sutton out of the way and that was certainly the case.

Like Birmingham, Stoke and Barnsley, the other clubs paired with non-league opposition, we didn't find it easy.

And although it was always likely that non-leaguers would raise their game for what really amounted to their Cup Final, I wonder why it is that all four League sides didn't really do themselves justice.

We were determined not to be complacent about things and that was reflected in the start we made with two goals in the opening 10 minutes.

But you don't need me to tell you that it wasn't maintained and although losing Michael Johnson was a considerable blow, we didn't ought to have caused you so much anxiety.

Incidentally, it's not my place to comment on the sending off but having recently watched the Panthers take on Sheffield Steelers... the incident wouldn't even have got a mention had it been at the ice Stadium!

Unfortunately, "Johnno" will now have to miss our fourth round tie against West Ham while he serves his suspension and that will probably mean we will be without both central defenders.

At the time of writing, it's still not clear whether West Ham will allow Colin Foster to play but as he said, he can't imagine they will want to run

the risk of him scoring the goal which knocks them out of the Cup.

One way or another, it will be very strange for him during the build-up to the match and although his knowledge of the West Ham players will be very useful, he will presumably be open to offers as a double-agent!

Away from the Cup, Colin has an important job to do for us over the next month and I'm sure his experience and aerial ability will be a big asset.

Dave Robinson showed in his two appearances against Stoke and Oxford how important it is to have a commanding figure at the centre of your defence and with so many defenders currently on the injured list, we were pleased to discover that help was on the way.

We have to be delighted with the Cup draw - not least because we are at home again - and it will give us chance to revert to filling the "Sutton United" role, which is the one we prefer.

It hasn't very often happened in my time at Meadow Lane that we have gone into a match as red hot favourites to win, as we were against Sutton, but we will be the underdogs again when we meet West Ham.

That's something to look forward to but before then, we have a

BY PHIL TURNER

couple of important League matches and an Anglo-Italian Cup trip to Southend to worry about.

• And finally... a few of the lads were really sweating this week when right out of the blue, the boss ordered a mass weigh-in. Presumably the object of the exercise was to find out who had the extra piece of Christmas pud!

To the best of my knowledge, no fines were handed out but there was some good news to report because Tommy Gallagher has now made it to 4st 2lb.

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THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO SEPARATE FACT FROM FICTION...

THERE'S an old saying that you cannot please all of the people all of the time - and I can vouch for the fact that it's absolutely true.

No matter how hard you try, it seems you just cannot win although I still find it hard to believe that we actually managed to make an enemy last week entirely as a result of being generous.

It has always been the case with all football clubs that season-tickets apply to League matches only. When it comes to cup ties, everyone has to pay.

That means everyone - including Family Magpie members aged 10-and-under - who have been admitted free of charge to League games this season, simply because the chairman is anxious to encourage our young supporters.

Having said that, we did make an exception to the rule earlier in the season when the Italian sides came to Meadow Lane in the Anglo-Italian Cup.

We knew there wouldn't be big crowds and under the circumstances, announced that we wouldn't charge the young Family Magpies.

It worked very well and as we received numerous letters of thanks the following week, I suggested to the chairman that maybe we should follow the same line for the FA Cup tie against Sutton.

There was no pressure on us to do so and had we announced that admission charges would be as per normal for cup ties, I doubt very much whether anyone would have complained.

Nevertheless, I felt it would be a nice gesture and the chairman readily agreed with my proposal. As a result, around 400 young members of the Family Magpies were admitted free last Saturday.

O.K., so it cost the club a few bob in lost revenue but it was a nice little public relations exercise and everyone was happy.

Not so, unfortunately, it was a decision which did not please



NEAL HOOK

On the RECORD

Mr Ludwig from Bingham, who decided he would go to the evening Post and complain because his daughter, who is a juvenile season-ticket holder, didn't qualify for free admission.

When we investigated further, it transpired that Mr Ludwig had, in fact, not purchased a juvenile season-ticket but a Family season-ticket which cost, with his Lifeline discount, £308.75 for two adults and one child.

That represents a saving over the season of £243.50, compared to paying at the turnstiles to attend every League game.

If you take it a stage further and divide the cost of the season-ticket by 23 (home matches), it works out at £13.42 per match for three people.

If Mr Ludwig had two adult season-tickets, with Lifeline discount, it would average out at £12.38 per match - which means his child is admitted to each League game for £1.04.

The irony is that what Mr Ludwig has succeeded in doing is exposing a bit of a loophole in our pricing arrangements because the chairman - understandably - now wants to know how we can afford to give such a substantial saving on that type of Family Ticket!

Mr Ludwig, who says he is a dedicated fan and Lifeline member for many years also, apparently, says he will not be coming to Meadow Lane in the future.

That's sad, and I hope he changes his mind, but we can't help but think that if we had announced that all Family Magpies aged 10 and under would be charged at the juvenile rate to watch last week's Cup tie, then none of this would have happened.

I was less than happy with the way the article was handled in the Nottingham Evening Post - especially about the fact that having spent a considerable length of time explaining our side of the story to their reporter, that simply didn't come across.

What did amuse me, though, is that in the article it simply referred to Family Magpies. Yet, whenever the scheme is winning awards or there is something pleasant to say, it's always called by its full title... the Evening Post Family Magpies!

Now, I'm not knocking our friends at the "Post" who fully back the scheme, I'm just illustrating how little the "reporter" knew, or wanted to know of the background to the Evening Post Family Magpies.



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FOSTER LENTS A HELPING HEAD!



COLIN FOSTER readily admits that he still has big regrets about allowing an invitation to come back to Nottingham slip through his grasp 14 months ago.

As he says, he "dilly-dallied" about whether or not to return to Nottingham Forest - and learned a hard lesson from that.

So, when word got through that we wanted to bring him to Meadow Lane to help us through our injury-crisis, this time the big defender didn't need a second invitation to move north.

"I should have signed for Forest," he said. "I made a mistake which I've regretted ever since and although the circumstances are different now, I'm really pleased to be back in Nottingham."

The 29-year-old former Orient player had three successful years as Des Walker's partner at the City Ground - "the best period of my Career" - and inevitably, the memories came flooding back when he arrived in Nottingham on Sunday Evening.

"I've been away for four years but it didn't feel like it," he said. "I travelled up on the train and as soon as I came out of the Midland Station... it was as if I had never been away.

"To be honest, I would have been a bit dubious had the offer to go on loan been somewhere different. But as soon as Billy Bonds told me it was Notts County, I had no hesitation in agreeing to come."

Although Colin played for the Hammers in their opening six games of the season, a heel injury kept him out for five weeks and by the time he was fit to return, Bonds had re-built his team.

He added: "since David Burrows, Mike Marsh and Lee Chapman arrived, they haven't looked back and although I'm not happy about being stuck in the Reserves, I don't have any room for complaint.

"The prospect of being able to play first-team football again was very appealing and I'm relishing the challenge.

"Mick Walker has told me he needs someone to win the ball in the air and I can do that. I'm aware of all the injury problems and at this stage, it's purely a temporary arrangement which suits everyone concerned.

"But you never know what tomorrow might bring in this business and if things go well throughout the month, I might be around for longer. I would certainly consider it if the chance arose.

Colin made an outstanding start to his County career in Tuesday's win against Birmingham and he added: "Although I haven't played much first-team football, there's nothing wrong with my fitness because they really work you hard at Upton Park when you're not in the team.

"They make the Reserves do a lot of running - and I mean really heavy running - every Friday and Saturday morning and that's one good reason why I'm glad to be away from the place!

"In fact, I had a lay-in last Saturday morning after the manager organised my move to Notts County and I cannot tell you how much I enjoyed it."

Before travelling north on Sunday, Colin watched the Cup draw on television - and he predicted that we would be paired with the Hammers.

He explained: "football's full of incredible coincidences and I just had a feeling it would work out that way. I'd love to play in that game but somehow, I can't imagine they'll want to run the risk of me scoring the goal that knocks them out of the Cup!"

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PRESS BOX VIEW

BY RADIO NOTTINGHAM'S COLIN SLATER

THERE'S GOOD REASON today for raking over the ashes of what happened at the end of that hugely significant 1958-59 season.

Notts, for whom it was a season of shame, were relegated for a second successive year... this time to the basement of the Fourth Division.

Forest, reaching a pinnacle under veteran manager Billy Walker, carried off the FA Cup at Wembley by beating Luton Town 2-1.

It's arguable, but I believe that the gap in the fortunes of the two Nottingham clubs swung decisively Forest's way at that time - and I don't simply recall a moment of history painful to all County fans because Luton are today's Meadow Lane visitors.

The reason is the more worthy one that today's special guest is Gerry Carver, who played for Notts at that period in a position we used to call left half-back - and whose commitment, polish and determination meant that he carries little responsibility for the decline at that time.

A native of Worcestershire, he was spotted by a Notts scout while playing for Aston Boys in the Birmingham District League. Tempted to Meadow Lane he made his debut, at inside right, against Oldham Athletic in September, 1953 - when County were well established in the Second Division (we now call it the First).

It wasn't long before he had switched positions, claiming the number six jersey. His tackling was

fierce and his shrewd use of the ball, with his favoured left foot, little short of brilliant.

Notts were, happily, destined to spend only one season in the Fourth Division (though returned to it later) and Carver would surely have played in more than 31 of 46 League matches but for a run of injuries.

The 1961-62 season was the proud occasion of County's Centenary. The oldest Football League club was, of course, the first to reach this landmark. It found County re-established in the Third Division and, with club captain Bob Forrest fading from the scene, Carver took over as skipper.

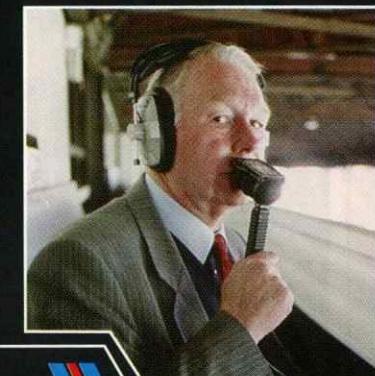
Perhaps the proudest moment came on 2 May, 1962 when he led out Notts at Meadow Lane against a representative FA eleven in a match specially organised to celebrate the Centenary. Despite a goal from the still-developing Tony Hateley, Notts lost 3-1 to the classier team.

But, as I remember, Carver looked comfortable playing against current internationals. He had poise on the ball and that vital quality in a midfield player, vision.

Carver followed up his 40 appearances in 1960-61 with another 41 in the Centenary season - Mr Consistency himself.

Then came another season of gloom. At the end of 1962-63 Notts were again relegated to the Fourth Division and the loss of Gerry's services, because of injury, in all but 13 matches was a big reason for the slump. Notts needed him at a peak of form and fitness in order to mount another promotion drive to the Third Division in 1963-64 but an abdominal problem, which necessitated an operation, sidelined him for half the season.

Gerry married a Nottingham girl, ran a hairdressing business in Radford and he also worked at a young offender's institution. I saw him fairly recently, looking as dapper as ever, but today's chat on Radio Nottingham will be the first time we've talked football together for a long time and will stir a lot of good memories.



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Those were the days...

TREVOR CHRISTIE is still hitting the headlines with his goalscoring achievements... having added another piece to what is probably a unique collection.

The amiable Geordie spearheads non-league Hucknall Town's pursuit of honours these days, making them the seventh club for which he has performed in the East Midlands throughout a most productive playing career.

The first five were, of course, all at professional level as Trevor enjoyed his most successful spell at Meadow Lane and also 'did the rounds' with Leicester City, Nottingham Forest, Derby County and Mansfield Town.

Since finishing at Mansfield, the 34-year-old striker has chosen to bow out of the game "gracefully", playing for Kettering Town and now Hucknall.

"It is quite a collection, but I don't think there will be too many more now," said Trevor, who is enjoying his new life away from the professional game.

"Of the local professional clubs, Gary Mills is pretty close to completing the full set as well. He's just got Mansfield to go, although I don't think he'll be worrying about that the way things are going for him at Leicester.

"Someone mentioned to me sometime ago that it was probably unique, and I can't imagine that there can have been too many others who have played for all the local

clubs. I'm just making sure I am out on my own now by topping up that collection with a few non-league clubs."

Trevor, who combines his non-league commitments with working in the electrical wholesale business, can now devote more time to his family as a result.

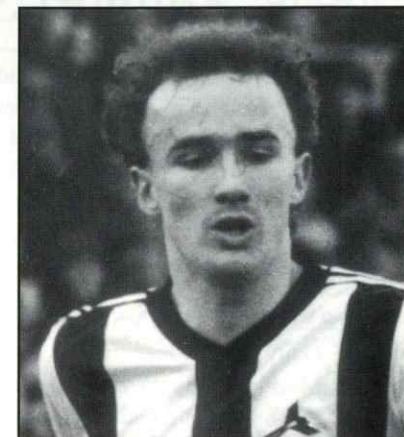
"I've just had my most enjoyable Christmas for almost 20 years, because I've not been away playing football most of the time, and I've not had to worry too much about what I eat or drink at certain times," he explained.

"Having a normal family life was a major reason why I decided not to stay in football in some capacity. I wanted to make a break and find work that meant I could spend far more time at home with the wife and kids.

"Indeed, I didn't play for six months after I left Kettering because I couldn't really commit myself to anything while I was selling advertising for the Mansfield Recorder, despite having an offer from Hucknall.

"But once I changed my job, that opened the way for me to play again and I'm glad that I've had the opportunity just to gracefully scale down my playing career."

Trevor lines up alongside another of our former players, Paul Smalley in the Hucknall side, as well as Mark Smalley, who began his career at Nottingham Forest.



TREVOR CHRISTIE... toured the East Midlands.

"We won promotion to the Northern Counties and so we have done well to adjust to that step up this term and after a bad start we're in mid-table now," he said.

"We've reached the quarter finals of the cup competitions that we're in, so things are going pretty well and the goals are still going in for me."

Trevor has been lined up as a special guest when another of his former clubs Leicester City are the visitors to Meadow Lane at the backend of March.

But he has admitted: "I'd probably be best accommodated in the visitors enclosure if the truth be known. I took my eldest son Jon to a Leicester City match when we were down there visiting my wife's family recently, and he's become a big fan of their ever since."

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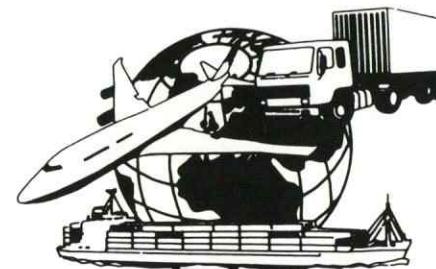
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Dear Editor,

I would like to thank Notts County Football Club for their involvement and work in and for the community, particularly for those in need of this support.

For the third year in succession when they were approached in regard to helping people on very low income and in residential care, their response was simply magnificent.

Not only have they given tickets free of charge to help people who would not otherwise see a football match, their commitment and genuine support to all members of our community is a credit to all at this fine club.

Particular thanks to Mr Alan Young, the Football in the Community Officer at the club.

As I know from first hand experience, County is a caring club and one worthy of the fullest and widest possible praise. Therefore, I have sent a letter in similar terms to the Football Post.

With the very best wishes to all at the club.

Pete Richards
Mapperley
Nottingham

Dear Editor,

Notts County's home record reads: P17 W13 D1 L3 (up to and including Sutton United game). Quite impressive isn't it!

So why do we struggle to fill 6,000 seats?

The reason, I believe, is the way we play the game. As soon as Notts score the attitude of the players changes, into one of "hanging onto" a lead rather than increasing it.

Timewasting and back passes will not attract anyone apart from the loyal few.

Our away performances this season have, on the whole, probably deserved better results.

But, on the other hand, some of our home performances have definitely not deserved such a good record, and some of the football played has not even deserved a 6,000 attendance.

Come on Notts, don't hide behind the results. The fans are ready to come along, but only when you deserve them.

All the best for 94.

County Road
Season-Ticket Holder

Dear Editor,

A glance at the First Division table shows that our home form in terms of points collected is comparable with all the teams in the top four places.

Had our away tally been just that little bit better at this stage, with say another two wins under our belt, then we would be very handily placed for a promotion push.

IN YOUR OPINION

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

This is the page YOU write. We want to hear YOUR views on events concerning the club (excluding comments on team selection) and football in general. Write in now, keeping your letters brief to enable as many views as possible to be included.

SEND TO: IN YOUR OPINION, MAGPIE MAGAZINE, NOTTS COUNTY F.C., MEADOW LANE, NOTTINGHAM, NG2 3HJ.

As it is, many of us can reflect on the points thrown away on our travels, which should have been in the "bag"!

But, if we can recreate our run-in of the last campaign, and play the type of football we witnessed against the likes of Tranmere and Sunderland, then who knows where that might lead to.

And, let's not forget, our injury-crisis then was actually worse than it is now!

Rob Andrews,
Colwick
Nottingham

PS: Good luck to the lads.

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THE New Year simply could not have got off to a better start for Paul Sherlock and his girlfriend Michelle Clay.

For Paul found himself called up for first team duty for the very first time in our second League game of 1994 - and his No.1 fan was delighted.

Paul was on the bench for the Bank Holiday Monday win over Southend United at Meadow Lane and although he didn't get a slice of the action Michelle said: "I was very proud of him."

She added: "I think he has worked very hard this season and it was nice to see him get his reward.

"I know he was only a substitute and he would be the first to acknowledge that he still has a long way to go. But it's a start and hopefully he can build on that and become a regular at first team level."

Paul and Michelle, who works for Nottingham

City Council, have known each other for more than two years and have been 'going steady' for almost a year. And in that time, Michelle has become an ardent football fan.

"Before I met Paul, I never used to take much of an interest in the game," she revealed.

"I occasionally went to watch my younger brother Gerard play for his school team but that was about all. I would never have dreamed of going to a League game.

"Now I'm a regular visitor to Meadow Lane and I really enjoy it - although I'm told that I can be quite difficult to sit next to at times because of all the noise I make."

We invited Michelle to reveal a few hidden secrets about "Her Man" and here's what she said:

WE FIRST MET WHEN... we were both doing a B-TECH Business Studies course at Clarendon College. Paul invited himself back to my house one day to copy my course work.

MY FIRST IMPRESSION OF ROBBIE WAS... that he was good looking but quite shy. I was wrong with the latter.

HIS BEST FEATURE IS... his bottom!

HIS WORST HABIT IS... he doesn't have many bad habits but there is one irritating little trait - which is best kept between ourselves.

'OUR SONG' IS... to be honest, we don't really have one.

OUR FAVOURITE RESTAURANT IS... once again, we don't have a particular favourite but Paul likes anywhere that serves steak and chips.

WHAT WE HAVE IN COMMON IS... that we both like to listen to the same kind of music (Mariah Carey, Whitney Houston etc.) and enjoy socialising and having a good time.

HIS REACTION TO DEFEAT IS... that he never really shows much emotion. I always have to ask him what happened in games.

THE HOUSEHOLD CHORE HE LIKES THE LEAST IS...

I don't think he knows what a 'chore' is, although he is very good at helping his mother do the shopping on a Friday evening.

I WAS REALLY EMBARRASSED WHEN... he took me to meet his family in Southport, introduced me and then left me to it. I didn't know where to put myself.

WHEN HE GETS BEHIND THE WHEEL OF A CAR... he's very good really but I can't really comment as I'm not a driver myself.

I THINK HIS DRESS SENSE... is spot-on. He always looks okay to me.



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TRANSFERS DURING DECEMBER

Transfers concluded during the month of December, involving Football League clubs are detailed below. Fees cannot be included as these are considered private and confidential under Football League regulations.

Ian Bennett - Peterborough to Birmingham
Ian Bogle - Millwall to Leyton Orient
Adrian Boothroyd - Hearts to Mansfield
Ken Charlery - Watford to Peterborough
Gary Cooper - Peterborough to Birmingham
Tony Dobson - Blackburn to Portsmouth
David Flicroft - Preston to Chester
Lee Fowler - Preston to Doncaster
Chris Fry - Hereford to Colchester
Mark Gayle - Walsall to Crewe
Marvin Harriott - Barnsley to Bristol City
Damian Henderson - Scarboro' to Scunthorpe
Ronnie Jepson - Exeter to Huddersfield
Lenny Johnrose - Hartlepool to Bury
Kenny Lowe - Stoke City to Birmingham
Andrew Marriott - Forest to Wrexham
Neil Masters - Bournemouth to Wolves
Sean McCarthy - Bradford to Oldham
Robert Mitchell - Oxford to Barnet
Robbie Painter - Burnley to Darlington
Warren Patmore - Millwall to Northampton
Graham Potter - Birmingham to Stoke City
Andy Reece - Bristol Rovers to Hereford
John Ryan - Rochdale to Bury
Neil Tolson - Oldham to Bradford
James Toman - Scunthorpe to Scarborough
Steve Vickers - Tranmere to Middlesbrough
David Walton - Sheffield United to Shrewsbury
Roger Willis - Watford to Birmingham
Jason White - Scunthorpe to Scarborough



ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE MANAGERS OF THE MONTH

Alan Smith of Crystal Palace is the Endsleigh Insurance League First Division Manager of the month for December. Smith guided his side to the top of the table, with the Eagles' six outings earning them thirteen points to boost their promotion push.

Plymouth Argyle boss Peter Shilton takes his first managerial award, gaining the Second Division nomination for December. Argyle climbed to second in the division on the back of a 100% League record for the month, as well as progressing to the Third Round of the FA Cup.

Having lost last season's Play-Off Final on penalties, Crewe Alexandra have bounced back in style, going top of the Third Division and earning

Dario Gradi the Manager of the Month Award. Crewe won all three of their Endsleigh Insurance League games and made progress in both the FA

Cup and Autoglass Trophy. The official Endsleigh Insurance League Manager of the Month awards are made throughout the campaign to recognise the top managers in Divisions One, Two and Three of the League. All Manager of the Month winners will receive a jeroboam of champagne at a forthcoming home game.

CENTRAL TV LIVE!

Sunday 16th January - 3 pm
Leicester City v Charlton

Sunday January 23rd - 3 pm
Nottingham Forest v Wolves

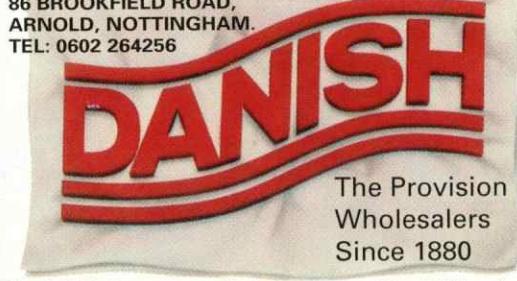
SEVEN FIGURE TURNOUT

More than a million fans watched games in the Endsleigh League over the festive period, despite twenty four matches being postponed due to the inclement weather conditions. In addition, highest gates of the season were recorded in all three divisions, with the average crowd in the First climbing to just under 14,700. Details for the period 26th December to 4th January shown here.

	AGGREGATE	GAMES	AVERAGE
DIVISION ONE	646,453	44	14,692
DIVISION TWO	269,243	37	7,277
DIVISION THREE	130,947	32	4,092
TOTAL	1,046,643	113	9,262

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profitable for some of the staff. Back in 1989, for example, Lifeline member Alison Holt won £1000 two weeks running. By the way, if you're looking to earn a little extra cash on matchdays by working in the Meadow Club, give Dave Burton a call on 863235.

We've been receiving quite a few enquiries recently about the "losers draw" on our instant lottery tickets, and I thought it might be helpful if I told you how it works again.

If you purchase a ticket and don't win one of the instant cash prizes, all you have to do is fill in your name and address on the back of the ticket, then return it to the point of purchase or our Lottery Office. Upon receipt the ticket will be automatically entered into our "losers draw" for £100 each Friday on Radio Nottingham, until the lottery's closing date.

John Simons did the honours for our Christmas Lottery, with the winners being...

...draw 1 - Lisa Barnett, Deerleap Drive, Arnold.
...draw 2 - Mr B Shaw, Mays

JOAN BURTON from Sneinton had good cause to be delighted when Tommy Gallagher did the honours, and drew her winning ticket number 4017 in the Matchday 50/50 draw last Saturday.

Joan, who works in the Meadow Club on matchdays, said that her £642.50 prize would contribute nicely towards a holiday abroad.

Working in the Meadow Club, incidentally, is proving to be very

Avenue, Carlton.
...draw 3 - D Horvath, Bramcote Street, Radford.
...draw 4 - P Attridge, Ockerby Street, Bulwell.

Congratulations also to W L Bramley of Park Crescent, Wollaton and P E Dessaur of Landmere Lane, Ruddington who each won £500 on the Christmas Lottery.

With a top prize of £1000 it's not surprising that our new 50p instant ticket is being well received. If you would like to help with our sales efforts, then please call in at our office or give us a call on 864718. We will be pleased to hear from you, and to advise you on all the benefits your support will enjoy.



BY LES BRADD

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COMMERCIAL NOTICEBOARD

BY ELAINE HOWES

WHAT A SURPRISE

IF YOU were at the match last Saturday when we played Sutton in the FA Cup, you may have noticed Elizabeth Cousins (pictured here) receiving a very pleasant surprise for her 50th birthday.



We can do the same for someone you know, in the form of a "Surprise Package".

For £75 we can offer you a scoreboard announcement, Steve Chantry our on the pitch "Mr Mike" will bring along "Mr Magpie" to present a bouquet of flowers and a cake, and of course, our photographer will capture a picture of your special day.

However, it is to be an exclusive occasion, so it will only be possible to make one presentation per match. Interested? then let me know ASAP if you want to book a match.

PROGRAMME PAGE SOUVENIR PRESENTATION

WE now have a *unique* way to make your appearance or rather participation in one of our matchday programmes an everlasting memory. For instance, if your company has taken and advert in the "MAG" or your relative has appeared in a picture or as a mascot, then we can now enlarge that page in full colour and frame it for you for just £50. It really is a unique gift and as a supporter, a lifelong memory.

STOP PRESS...CELEBRITY GOLF DAY...MONDAY 11th JULY 1994...MAKE A NOTE OF DATE...DETAILS SHORTLY.



Commercial Manager Elaine Howes (left), and assistant Helen Marsh.

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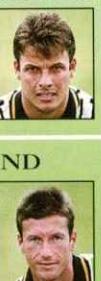
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REMARKABLE RECORD

RECENTLY, I received a letter which I found to be quite remarkable. It concerned an elderly gentleman by the name of Dennis Bradford from Blidworth. He is 74 years old, a lifelong Magpies fan, and continues to be a season-ticket holder.

Dennis travels to Meadow Lane from his home in Blidworth regularly and on night matches, he doesn't arrive home until midnight. So, what's remarkable about that, I hear you say!

Well, apparently, Dennis hasn't missed a home game at Meadow Lane for 70 years. To me, that really is quite a remarkable achievement. and, indeed, it must surely be not only a record for Notts County - but for any club!

Unless, of course, you know of someone who can top that. If you do, then please let me know.

GOAL SPONSORSHIP

For a number of years the supporters Club have successfully run a "Goal Sponsorship" fundraising scheme which, basically, is the fans opportunity to

GOTCHA!



circled in the photo' above? If you are, you have won a ticket for our next home League match. All you have to do is bring along this programme to our main office reception, and claim your ticket. You can do this between 9.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday.

FANSCENE

BY PETER DENNIS

sponsor the number of goals scored during the season. It's really quite simple to participate. All you have to do is to fill in a form, decide both the type and amount of your sponsorship and then at the end of the season when the goals have been tallied, submit the total amount of your sponsorship. No amount is too small - goals can be sponsored from as little as a few pence.

So far this season, 35 League goals and 56 in all competitions have been scored. Prior to today's game Gary Lund (12), Mark Draper (11) and Gary McSwegan (10) lead the scoring in all competitions. Twelve different players have scored so far, and there's been 1 own-goal in our favour.

You can choose to sponsor all goals, League goals, home goals, away goals, an individual player's goals.... indeed, the choice is yours, you might even wish to sponsor penalties scored or conceded!

If you are interested, pop into the Supporters Club Kiosk on any matchday, write to me at Meadow Lane, or telephone me on 269550 and I'll send you a form.

Our "Goal Sponsorship" scheme helps us to purchase much needed equipment for the Magpies, such as medical appliances for treatment of injuries.

AWAY TRAVEL

Malcolm Shearstone has asked me to remind you to book early to avoid disappointment when we travel away. Lately, a growing number have been leaving it until the last minute, or even turning up on match day expecting to find empty seats on the coaches. Sadly, this has resulted in a number of fans being disappointed because all seats have been filled.

Please remember, Malcolm has to pre-book coaches in advance and it's not viable to book one just in case it's needed! So, do please make life a just that little bit easier for him and, indeed, yourself - by booking a seat in good time.



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Supporters' Challenge

ENDSLEIGH OFFER YOU A CHANCE TO PLAY AT WEMBLEY

Yes this really is your chance to play at Wembley! Sounds incredible?

Well, The Football League and the major supporters' organisations have joined forces, and with the backing of Endsleigh Insurance, have come up with a unique opportunity - the dream of playing on the hallowed turf of Wembley Stadium becoming a reality for supporters of Endsleigh Insurance League clubs!

Earlier this season The Football League, the Football Supporters' Association and the National Federation of Football Supporters' Clubs launched 'Football League 2000' - a new initiative aimed at bringing the clubs and supporters closer together. The Endsleigh Insurance League Supporters' Challenge is an important element in that campaign.

Applications are invited from all male* supporters over the age of seventeen (as at 1/1/94) to participate in the biggest and most ambitious competition of its kind ever staged in this country. The Endsleigh Insurance League Supporters' Challenge will be a six-a-side competition with supporters' teams representing all seventy Endsleigh Insurance League clubs. To select each squad, a completely random draw supervised by the supporters' organisations will be made from the applications received in respect of each club. Squad members will then be invited for trials, with the final selection likely to be made by each club's Community Officer.



immediately prior to the Endsleigh Insurance League Play-Offs during Spring Bank Holiday Weekend - the 28th, 29th & 30th May 1994.

Can you rise to the Challenge? If so, complete the application form now and join in the Endsleigh Insurance League Supporters' Challenge.

Full copies of the competition rules can be obtained from The Football League. Further copies of the application form are available from your club.

* FA Rule 37 prevents mixed football over the age of 11.



**THE ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE
SUPPORTERS' CHALLENGE APPLICATION FORM**

Please return completed application forms to be received by 31st January 1994 to:

**COMMUNITY AFFAIRS DEPT.
THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE,
LYTHAM ST ANNES,
LANCASHIRE FY8 1JG.**

No acknowledgement will be made but please tick this box if you do not wish to receive details of other offers from The Football League

Name: Date of Birth:

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**SOUTHEND UNITED
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Anglo-Italian Cup Semi-Final
Wednesday 26th January 1994

Kick-off 7.30 pm

Supporters Club Travel

Coaches depart from Meadow Lane at 2.30 pm

Fare

Adult Members £8.50

Junior Members £6.50

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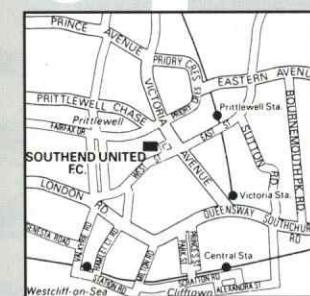
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Ticket Information

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ALADDIN

FIRSTLY may I apologise to any of our members who have tried to use cinema vouchers, over the Christmas holidays, to see Aladdin. I did not find out until a few days before Christmas that they would not be honoured for that particular film until after 7th January and by then it was too late to let anyone know.

The Odeon cinema are very generous to our members and therefore I'm sure you will agree with me that they are entitled to make these exceptions now and again. All I can say is that if any of you were saving your vouchers to see this film over the Christmas period and were disappointed and have found that your voucher has now 'expired' please return your out of date voucher and I will replace you with a new one.

FAMILY MAGPIES EASTER FOOTBALL FUN BREAK

We will be holding the first of our Family Magpie Football Fun Breaks, since last summer, for three days commencing 29th March.

Each of the three days will commence at 10.00am finishing at 2.30pm with a half-hour lunch break. Boys and girls from the age of 6-16 years will be made welcome on the course which will be held at the Five-a-Side courts at Meadow Lane.

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Daytime.....
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BY ANNETTE CHANTREY

The course which is organised and run by a qualified F.A. coach has a limited number of places so be sure to book early. The cost is £19.00 per member and £23.00 for non-members.

Pick up your booking form today from the Family Room or call me on Nottm. 861155.

BEHIND THE SCENES WEMBLEY TOUR

It's great to see that so many of you have shown an interest in the 'Behind the

BOOKING FORM

MEMBERS

Adults @ £10.50 each = £ :
Juniors @ £ 9.00 each = £ :
Senior Citizens @ £ 9.00 each = £ :

NON MEMBERS

Adults @ £11.50 each = £ :
Juniors @ £10.00 each = £ :
Senior Citizens @ £10.00 each = £ :
Under 5 years @ £ 5.00 each = £ :

I enclose cas/cheque
(payable to 'JUNIOR MAGPIES') for: £ :
.....

Scenes' tour of Wembley Stadium as it really is a great day out for all the family. We have only 50 places available and therefore can I ask those of you who are wishing to go, to please reserve your place as soon as possible. You will find a booking form on this page but should you not wish to cut the 'Mag' please pick up a booking form from the Family Room or write the details on a separate sheet of paper.

Our visit is scheduled for Wednesday 16th February departing from Meadow Lane at 9.00am and arriving back at approximately 6.00pm.

CHILD MINDING

On cold matchday afternoons many of the younger members get cold and restless and don't always want to sit in the stand for the full ninety minutes, so why don't you bring them down to the Family Room where Michelle and Lisa will keep them entertained in the warm, allowing you the freedom to watch the game in peace. A small charge is made for each child which is payable direct to Michelle or Lisa. Please note that payment should be made when leaving the children and not when collecting them.

JEWSONS AWARD

Most of you should, by now, have received your voting slip for the Jewsons Family Awards. I do hope that we can count on your vote this year as in the long run you are the ones to benefit from any success we have with the awards. Not only does the Club stand a chance of benefiting but you as a voter can win as Jewsons are giving away £7,500 worth of prizes in a draw in which all the voters are entered. The prizes vary from a £5,000 Crosby Dream Kitchen to Puma Leisure wear and a VIP trip to the Coca-Cola Cup Final. Please give us your vote and good luck - hope you're a winner too.



NOW AND AGAIN, we get some very nice letters from people with whom we've worked, but to see one of those letters published in the Football Post last Saturday (8th) was a great thrill for all of us involved with the Community Programme.

Seeing the headline "County a caring club" and the content of his letter, gave a big big boost to all of us and we would like to say a big "thank you" to Pete Richards for his very generous praise of our efforts. (see also "Opinion" page 19)

Now that 1994 is firmly underway our "programme" continues to expand, with the "new schools initiative", birthdays, ground tours, match visits, player visits, charity work etc... etc... filling up our diary rapidly. We enjoy our work in "our community" and if you would like to know how we can help you... simply get in touch with us on 0602 863656.

Pictured below is yours truly with some of 'our gang', together with "Big Bob" Catlin and Michael Galloway at a recent presentation ceremony at Southwark Primary School in Basford. And we welcome them to Meadow Lane this afternoon as our guests.



PS... Did you enjoy our rendition of "Happy Birthday" last Saturday when we played Sutton United in the Cup? We performed the honours for Elizabeth Cousins' 50th birthday and we are now taking bookings for similar celebrations at our remaining home matches.

BY ALAN YOUNG

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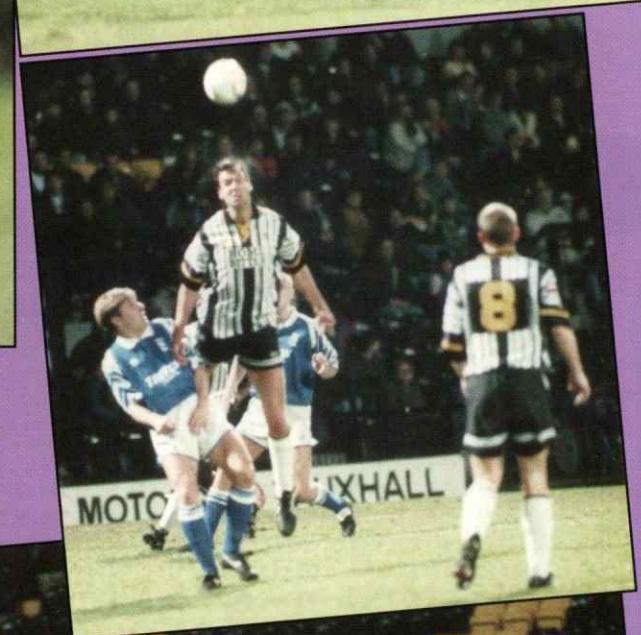
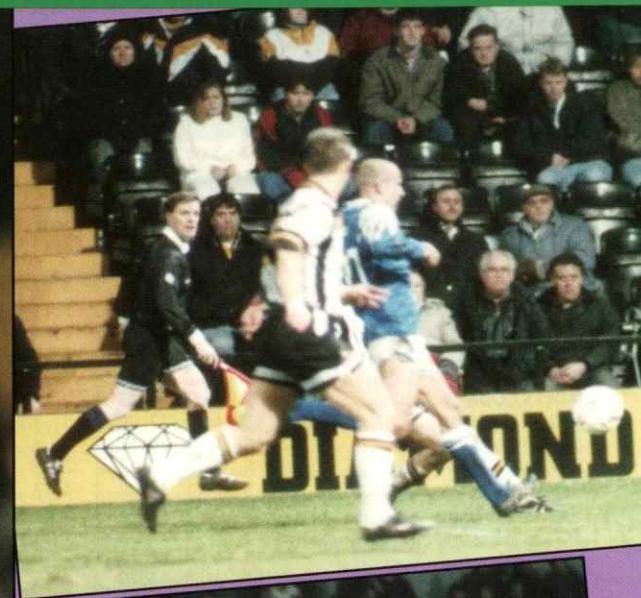
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ACTIONSCENE



Tuesday 11th January 1994
NOTTS COUNTY 2
BIRMINGHAM CITY 1

ABOVE: Manager MICK WALKER
celebrates another hard fought
home win, our third on the trot.

TOP RIGHT: Substitute GARY
McSWEGAN is about to latch onto
Andy Legg's through ball and power
us into a 2-0 lead with a super strike.

CENTRE: He came... we saw... he
conquered... we won... thanks in no
small measure to the impressive
debut and aerial command of COLIN
FOSTER!

BOTTOM RIGHT: Birmingham
'keeper Ian Bennett dives, but he
can't prevent PAUL DEVLIN'S strike
into the top corner of the net.

Photographs by Steve Harris, Photography Student
South Nottinghamshire College



Endsleigh Insurance League

DIVISION ONE

	HOME				AWAY				P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D												
CRYSTAL PALACE	24	8	2	1	21	8	6	2	5	22	19	46								
TRANMERE ROVERS	26	9	2	2	26	13	4	4	5	11	16	45								
CHARLTON	25	9	2	2	21	7	4	4	4	11	15	45								
LEICESTER CITY	25	8	4	1	32	17	4	3	5	12	12	43								
MILLWALL	25	8	4	1	23	10	4	3	5	13	18	43								
SOUTHEND UNITED	26	7	3	3	24	14	5	1	7	18	21	40								
NOTTINGHAM FOREST	24	5	5	2	18	14	6	2	4	21	15	40								
STOKE CITY	25	9	0	3	20	12	3	4	6	16	26	40								
DERBY COUNTY	24	9	0	2	28	15	3	3	7	12	22	39								
WOLVES	25	6	6	1	22	12	3	5	4	17	15	38								
PORTSMOUTH	25	6	4	2	17	10	3	6	4	14	21	37								
BRISTOL CITY	26	6	4	3	17	13	4	3	6	12	17	37								
BOLTON WANDERERS	26	5	5	2	19	13	4	4	6	15	17	36								
NOTTS COUNTY	25	9	1	2	23	13	1	2	10	12	32	33								
MIDDLESBROUGH	24	5	4	3	17	8	3	5	4	15	17	33								
SUNDERLAND	25	8	1	4	19	12	2	2	8	8	21	33								
BIRMINGHAM	26	6	4	4	17	17	1	2	9	10	20	27								
GRIMSBY	24	3	7	1	14	8	2	4	7	15	21	26								
LUTON TOWN	24	6	0	5	18	13	1	5	7	10	19	26								
WEST BROMWICH ALBION	25	5	5	3	25	19	1	2	9	12	23	25								
WATFORD	25	5	4	4	21	21	1	2	9	13	29	24								
BARNESLEY	25	3	2	8	12	20	3	4	5	17	22	24								
OXFORD UNITED	26	4	3	6	17	22	1	4	8	12	26	22								
PETERBOROUGH UNITED	23	3	6	4	13	12	0	2	8	5	19	17								

FOR THE RECORD

LEAGUE AND CUP RECORD

	SEASON'S TALLY				MAGPIE'S TALLY				APPS	SUB	GLS	ASSTS	APPS	SUB	GLS	APPS	SUB	GLS	
	P	W	D	L	P	W	D	L											
TONY AGANA	15	2	4	4	55	(9)	8												
BOB CATLIN	2	-	-	-	5		-												
STEVE CHERRY	34	-	-	-	269		-												
PAUL COX	15	3	1	1	36	(3)	3												
PAUL DEVLIN	35	1	7	7	66	(6)	10												
MEINDERT DIJKSTRA	12	1	1	1	24	(1)	1												
MARK DRAPER	33	11	6	6	225	(19)	43												
COLIN FOSTER	1	-	-	-	1		-												
TOMMY GALLAGHER	15	-	-	-	15		-												
SHAUN GOATER	1	-	-	1	1		-												
MICHAEL JOHNSON	30	-	-	1	77		-												
PHIL KING	8	-	-	1	8		-												
ANDREW LEGG	18	1	3	6	18	(1)	3												
GARY LUND	32	3	12	7	230	(30)	66												
GARY MCSWEGAN	19	6	10	7	19	(6)	10												
ROB MATTHEWS	3	4	-	3	10	(11)	5												
SHAWN MURPHY	-	-	-	-	4	(6)	1												
CHARLIE PALMER	6	-	-	-	195	(4)	8												
ALAN PARIS	-	-	-	-	50	(2)	1												
DAVID REEVES	2	4	-	-	10	(5)	2												
DAVE ROBINSON	3	1	-	-	5		2												
PAUL SHERLOCK	1	-	-	-	1		-												
CHRIS SHORT	8	1	-	1	81	(13)	3												
MICHAEL SIMPSON	6	4	1	1	6	(4)	1												
STEVE SLAWSON	6	1	-	3	20	(29)	5												
DAVID SMITH	-	-	-	-	41		8												
DEAN THOMAS	9	3	-	-	156	(8)	8												
PHIL TURNER	30	1	3	4	197	(17)	19												
ROBBIE TURNER	-	-	-	-	8	(1)	1												
RICHARD WALKER	28	1	-	-	41	(1)	4												
ANDY WILLIAMS	3	1	-	-	36	(7)	2												
KEVIN WILSON	20	2	-	1	54	(11)	2												
DEAN YATES	-	-	-	-	363	(1)	37												
OWN GOALS	1																		

YOUR TEAM ON 0891 88 86 84...

FIRST TEAM FIXTURES 1993 - 94

Date	v	Opponents	F - A	Att	CHERRY	WILSON	JOHNSON	P. TURNER*	COX	WALKER	DEVLIN	DRAPER	MCSWEGAN	REEVES	LEGG	WILLIAMS/LUND/CATLIN
Aug 14	H	Middlesbrough	2 - 3	9,392												
Aug 17	H	Hull CCC1(1)	2 - 0	3,003	CATLIN											
Aug 21	A	Peterborough	1 - 1	6,890	CATLIN											
Aug 24	A	Hull CCC1(2)	1 - 3	2,222	CHERRY											
Aug 28	H	Sunderland	1 - 0	9,166	CHERRY											
Aug 31	H	Derby County AIC	3 - 2	3,276	CHERRY											
Sep 4	A	Tranmere Rovers	1 - 3	6,317	CHERRY											
Sep 11	H	West Bromwich Albion	1 - 0	9,870	CHERRY											
Sep 15	A	Nottingham Forest AIC	1 - 1	7,347	CHERRY											
Sep 18	A	Watford	1 - 3	6,959	CHERRY											
Sep 22	A	Newcastle Utd CCC2(1)	1 - 4	25,887	CHERRY											
Sep 25	H	Derby County	4 - 1	11,005	CHERRY</td											

LUTON TOWN

YOU WOULD hardly describe our recent encounters with Luton Town as classics... and yet they have been notable for some interesting landmarks in our history.

One of them is of particular significance because our manager Mick Walker and assistant Russell Slade are currently celebrating their first anniversary in charge.

And by a remarkable coincidence, it was on a visit to Luton that the pair took control for the first time following the departures of Neil Warnock and Mick Jones.

Another recent game against the Hatters was noteworthy for two reasons, as we said goodbye to two cherished possessions... life among the big boys and Meadow Lane as we've known it for so many years.

When Rob Matthews struck twice to finish off our disappointing 1991-92 campaign on a happier note with a 2-1 victory over Luton, the bulldozers had already moved in to clear the

way for a remarkable transformation of our ground as three sides were rebuilt in the space of 17 weeks.

Our relegation fate had already been sealed by then as we dropped out of the top flight after one season, but the outcome gave our opponents a kick in the teeth.

Luton were clinging to the hope that they could perform another Houdini act, having avoided the relegation trapdoor in dramatic fashion in each of the two seasons prior to that, but on this occasion there was no escape.

DOWNTURN SPIN

With several influential players departing, Luton found themselves in a similar position to ourselves, as they wages a grim battle to halt the slide.

Indeed, had it not been for the fact that Brentford and Cambridge United were beaten on what was a nail-biting final day of last season, they could have been sucked into a second successive relegation.

The enormous sense of relief which we felt after beating Sunderland was shared by Luton then as they finished two points clear of the drop.

The comparisons with ourselves don't end there though, because David Pleat's side have found the going tough at times this season and are too close to the First Division's relegation zone for their own comfort.

The Hatters made a particularly dismal start to the season, losing seven times in nine games to plummet into trouble, while also making early exits from both the Coca-Cola and The Anglo-Italian Cup.

A remarkable 5-0 victory over fellow strugglers Barnsley stopped the rot, and set Luton on a run of three home victories in four matches. That promising sequence

included their 1-0 victory over ourselves in mid-October, while local rivals Oxford United were their other victims.

TRAVEL SICKNESS

A major reason for Luton's struggle was their grim away form as they lost nine times in 11 trips, picking up draws at Middlesbrough and Birmingham.

But they have found something of a cure for that bout of travel sickness, earning creditable draws at Watford, Peterborough and West Brom recently.

Former England B international David Preece played a significant part in that upturn in fortunes on their travels, and his experience is a vital component of what is essentially a very young side assembled by Pleat.

Preece, a £150,000 capture from Walsall, has been at Kenilworth Road for almost 10 years now and has figured in two League Cup Finals in that time.

Another Wembley winner on whom Luton rely heavily these days is defender Trevor Peake, a member of Coventry City's triumphant FA Cup side in 1987.

While former England striker Kerry Dixon is the other player



FIRST TEAM SQUAD 1993-94

Scott Oakes has won similar recognition with England.

Other youngsters who are being tipped for bright futures include Greg Riach, the son of former Scottish international and Derby County midfielder Bruce, Ceri Hughes, John Hartson, Jamie Campbell and Jason Rees.

The departure of Alec Chamberlain to Sunderland last summer has opened the way for Luton's two foreign goalkeepers to battle it out for a regular first team place.

And American Juergen Sommer has seized the opportunity with some impressive displays, even though Australian Andy Petterson stepped in when Chamberlain was sidelined for a lengthy spell last season.

Sommer, who joined the Hatters straight from Indiana University in 1991, has a big incentive to create a big impression in the hope that he can force his way into the international reckoning for next summer.

While Millwall 'keeper Kasey Keller is the American number one for the World Cup Finals on home soil, there is still some doubt as to who will act as cover for him, and Sommer could possibly come into the

BACK ROW (L/R): Tony Thorpe, Jamie Campbell, Juergen Sommer, Andy Petterson, Des Linton, Paul Telfer.

MIDDLE ROW: John Moore (first team coach), Andy McDade (Physio), Scott Oakes, Ceri Hughes, Marvin Johnson, David Greene, John Dreyer, Julian James, Terry Westley (youth team coach), Wayne Turner (reserve team coach).

FRONT ROW: Jason Rees, Ian Benjamin (now Brentford), Trevor Peake, David Pleat (manager), David Preece, Martin Williams, Richard Harvey.

picture.

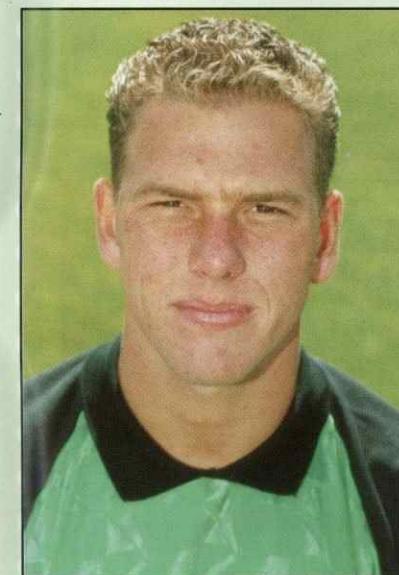
Another foreigner who has settled in well is Canadian international Geoff Auger, who joined Luton last September after a spell with Ipswich Town, and he scored on his debut against Crystal Palace two months later.

FAMILIAR FACE

Pleck is, of course, no stranger to these parts, although that has nothing to do with his name being linked with the manager's post here at



TREVOR PEAKE



JUERGEN SOMMER



DAVID PLEAT

leadow Lane in the past.

As well as being Nottingham born and bred, he began his playing days at Forest, where he made a handful of first team appearances before moving on to Luton.

Consequently, Pleat is in his third spell with Luton, and his second as manager, after lifting them into the First Division in his first stint from 1978-86.

That success led to him getting the Tottenham job and he took them to the 1987 FA Cup Final where, ironically enough, they were beaten by Jackie's Coventry.

Seven months after the disappointment of that Wembley setback, Pleat was relieved of his duties at Spurs, making way for the arrival of Terry Venables.

He was promptly given the task of reviving Leicester City's flagging fortunes after they had dropped out of the old First Division, but in little more than three years, he was unable to achieve that aim.

That paved the way for Pleat's return to Luton in the summer of 1991, although it began on a disappointing note with their relegation from the top flight.

PAST MEETINGS

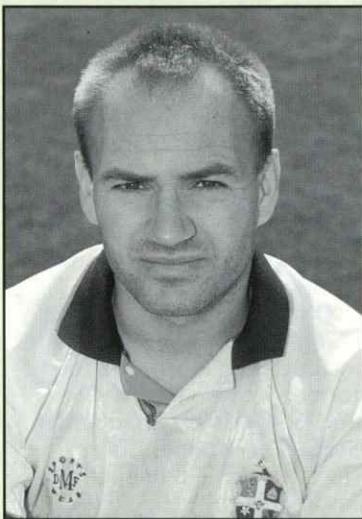
Goals have been a scarce commodity in our recent meetings with Luton Town.

Indeed, we have failed to score a single goal in the last

three encounters with the Bedfordshire club over the past season and a half.

The first game of Mick Walker's reign produced a goalless stalemate at Kenilworth Road almost 12 months to this day, while both sides had also drawn a blank at Meadow Lane earlier in the season.

There was, however, a goal scored when we travelled down



DAVID PREECE

the M1 to meet Luton last October, but we were on the receiving end as striker Paul Dickov, who was on loan from Arsenal, hit the winner.

Recollections of that encounter will provide us with an added incentive, because it was one of our most disappointing displays of the season.

DID YOU KNOW?

A 'PAYNE' FOR ROVERS

Joe Payne left poor Bristol Rovers smarting with the most remarkable goalscoring performance in the history of the Football League in 1936.

The Luton striker, who won one England cap, scored a record 10 goals in one game as Rovers were hammered 12-0 in a Division Three South fixture, and that remains the club's record win in a League outing.

It's hardly surprising then that Payne created another goalscoring record during his spell at Kenilworth Road, although the distinction of scoring the most goals in one season came in the following campaign.

He struck 55 times in that season to help Luton with promotion to the Second Division.

TIGHT FISTED

Luton Town managed to equal a notable club record last season, despite having to wage a grim battle to avoid relegation from the First Division.

The Hatters went seven matches without conceding a single goal in the early stages of 1993 to match a record which had been set 70 years earlier.

Indeed, one of those games where they gave nothing away was our goalless draw at Luton.

RECORD DEALS

David Pleat would no doubt welcome with open arms the sort of money which Luton Town frequently dealt with in the transfer market only a few years ago.

Their record incoming transfer remains the £850,000 arrival of Danish international striker Lars Elstrup from Odense at the beginning of the 1989-90 season.

Two years later, Nottingham Forest broke Luton's record for an outgoing deal.

They paid £1.5 million to acquire the services of Northern Ireland international winger Kingsley Black, exceeding the £1 million fee Luton received from Queen's Park Rangers for Roy Wegerle in 1989.

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PHOTOGRAPH: STUART CLARKE
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THE TEAMS

OUR MASCOT



17-year-old Caroline Cooper from Austrey in Warwickshire, leads the Magpies out this afternoon. Caroline attends King Edwards College in Nuneaton and lists her hobbies as football, rugby and skiing. She likes Soul and Reggae music, and Italian food, but dislikes racism and supporters who moan! Her favourite players are Charlie Palmer and Mark Draper.



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10. Andy Legg
11. Rob Matthews

Sub Sub Sub

LUTON TOWN

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19. Des Linton
5. Trevor Peake
6. John Dreyer
30. Mitchell Thomas
7. Paul Telfer
27. Alan Harper
10. David Preece
12. Ceri Hughes
22. Kerry Dixon
14. John Hartson

Sub Sub Sub

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MR R E McGregor, Immingham (Red & Yellow)

Standby Official: Mr Ian Storer, Long Eaton

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