

The Leicester City First Team Matchday Hospitality Experience
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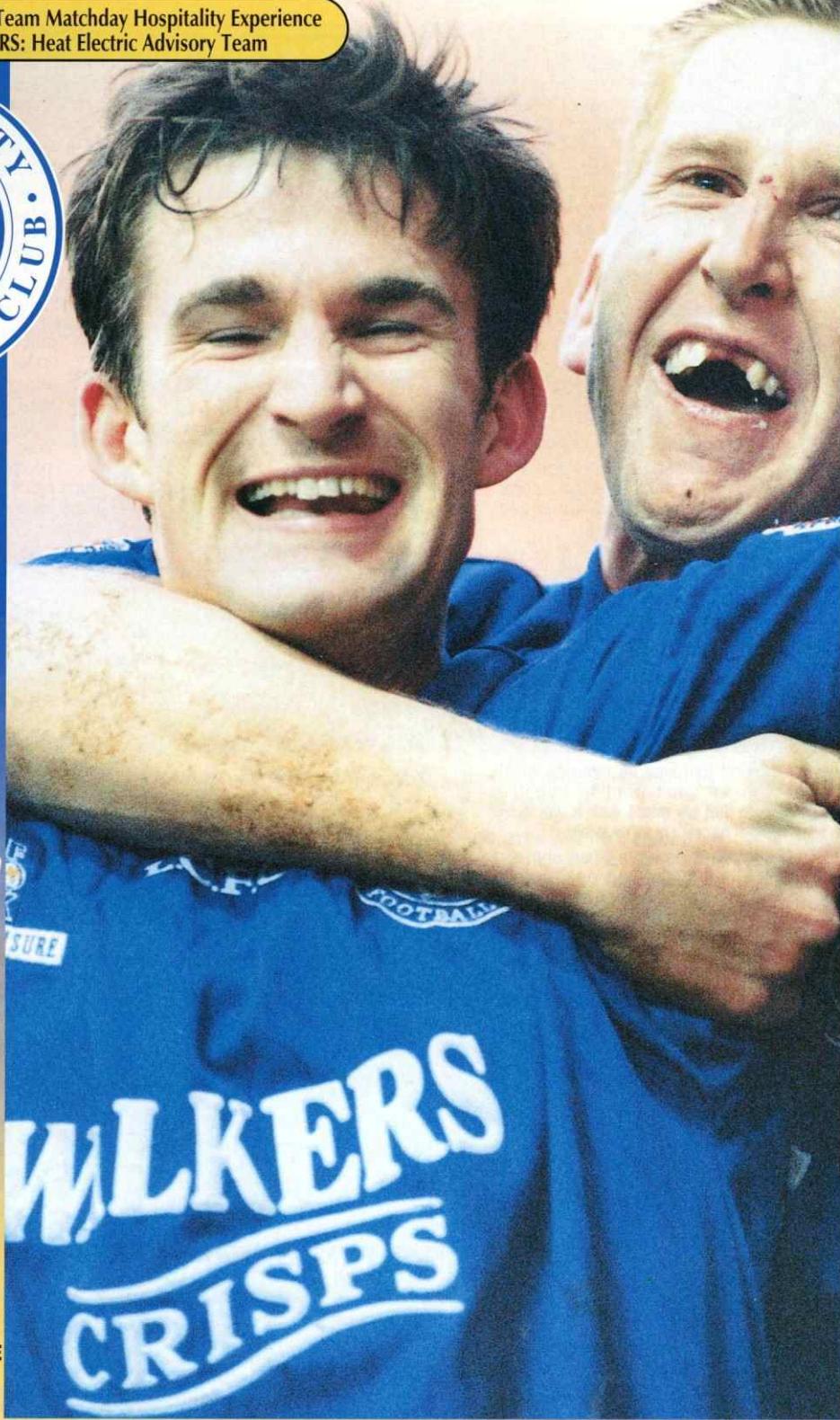
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LEICESTER CITY  LUTON TOWN

THE OFFICIAL MATCH-DAY MAGAZINE OF LEICESTER CITY F.C.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 12, 1994 • KICK OFF 3PM • PRICE £1.50



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At our last home game we beat Charlton to move to the top of the First Division. Four weeks on and defeats later we now find ourselves in pot.

It is important that we keep a sense of objective about the whole situation. Palace and Nottingham Forest are probably two of our toughest away games this season.

The mail I have received over the week is critical not only of our performance at the City Ground but also of our display at Selhurst Park.

That has arisen as a direct result of the Forest game but I feel it is unfair to attach blame to the match.

They played them in a particular way and can consider ourselves fortunate not to have collected a point. The team I thought we defended reasonably well.

I think you can expect us to go out and play open and attacking football all the way away from home ... as we found to our cost at Forest.

Approach to the Palace game, though, is perhaps a matter to the tactics we have to adopt in future away games.

Take a closer look at the Forest match we played a very open, entertaining and exciting policy ... and were two goals down at half-time.

Second half was 45 minutes which, though we don't want to forget, is the sort of thing that we would wish to get out of stem as quickly as possible.

A few of us have been champing at the bit this week to get back into competitive match action. That was evident in the performance of our reserves in the 3-1 Pontins League victory over Chester United on Wednesday night.

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In the manager's Chair

with Brian Little

"It was evident all of the players felt that a good display would enable them to stake a claim for a first team call-up for this afternoon."

It was evident all of the players felt that a good display would enable them to stake a claim for a first team call-up for this afternoon.

Their aggression and competitiveness is something for which I will be looking from the players who are in today's side. Every now and again you get a little reminder when something happens which makes you sit back and think.

As a result of the Palace and Forest games, it has been struck home to me that we have not won an away game since October, ironically against today's opponents Luton Town.

We are two points off second place and an automatic promotion spot. That equates to one away win. Suddenly, we are in a position where we need only one good result to be in a situation where most people would probably be pretty happy.

That is why we have to look at different tactics away from home in an attempt to be more solid and that's why it's fair to say Tuesday's trip to Portsmouth has weighed in my thoughts for a considerable while this week.

Although, of course, Luton is first and foremost in our preparations. A look at their recent results shows them to be the form team of the division.

They arrive here on the back of some great League form and two marvellous performances against Newcastle United in the FA Cup.

A 2-0 win at Kenilworth Road was excellent in itself but the draw at St James Park was every bit as good. We know to our cost how difficult it can be to perform in Newcastle when they gave us a very torrid time at the end of last season.

Luton have several Leicester connections in their

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• CITY GROUND DISAPPOINTMENT: City defender Mike Whitlow finds his progress blocked by three Nottingham Forest opponents at the City Ground last week.

ranks and they will obviously be wanting to do well at their former club.

It's always nice to welcome back ex-City people to Filbert Street but come 3pm we will be going flat out to make it very difficult for them.

We are under no illusions about the importance of today's game and the need for three points to ensure we stay firmly in the promotion picture.

I went on record before the start of the month to say how important February could prove to our plans. We have five matches to play between now and the end of the month and that is a lot of football.

After our recent setbacks we need to start collecting points and consolidating and strengthening our position in the top six.

Much has been said and written in the wake of the Forest defeat and we have to accept there are many things that can deeply disappoint you not only in football but in all organisations and businesses.

Let us remember that this season we have hardly been out of the top six because of the results we have produced consistently over six months.

Football is a game of highs and lows and we must all accept that there will be a bad performance now and again which is bitterly disappointing. Football would not be half the game that it is without those intense changes in emotion.

I did not enjoy the Forest game and I will never enjoy those sort of games. But what is important is the character we show as a result of the performance and how we respond in future matches.

It's very easy for me to count up those intense disappointments during my two-and-a-half years at the club.

I would rather it be like that than have a whole batch of them and have to worry about the threat of staying off relegation.

Myself and the players are as determined as anyone to get it right and everybody needs to be of the same conviction.

Today is an important day for us. We need all our supporters to get behind the players from the very beginning and pull together collectively to obtain the three points.

We are as close to promotion this season as we have been in the previous two campaigns. Let us not forget that despite our recent two defeats.

And finally may I extend a warm welcome to our Leicester City First Team Matchday Hospitality Experience guests this afternoon who are Heat Electric Advisory Team (H.E.A.T.).

FRONT COVER CAPTION: It's double delight for City duo Simon Grayson and Iwan Roberts.



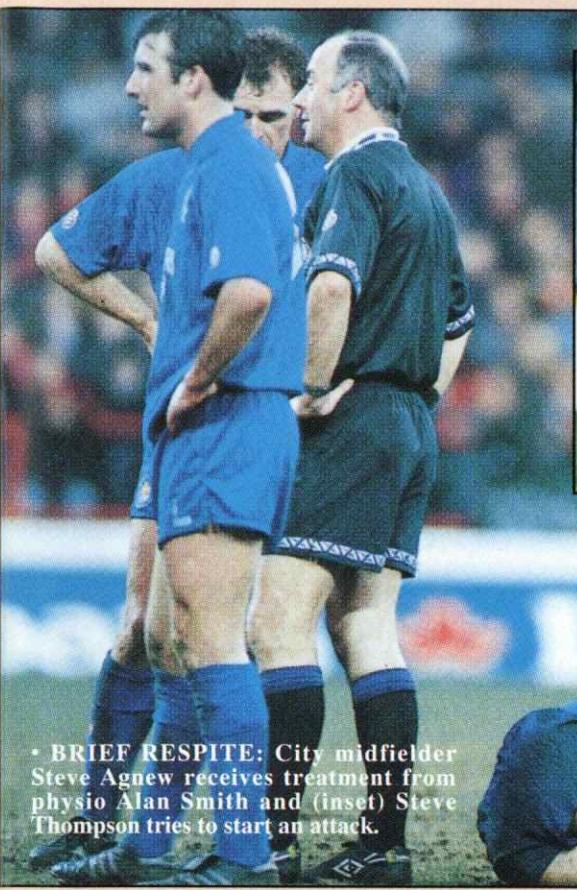
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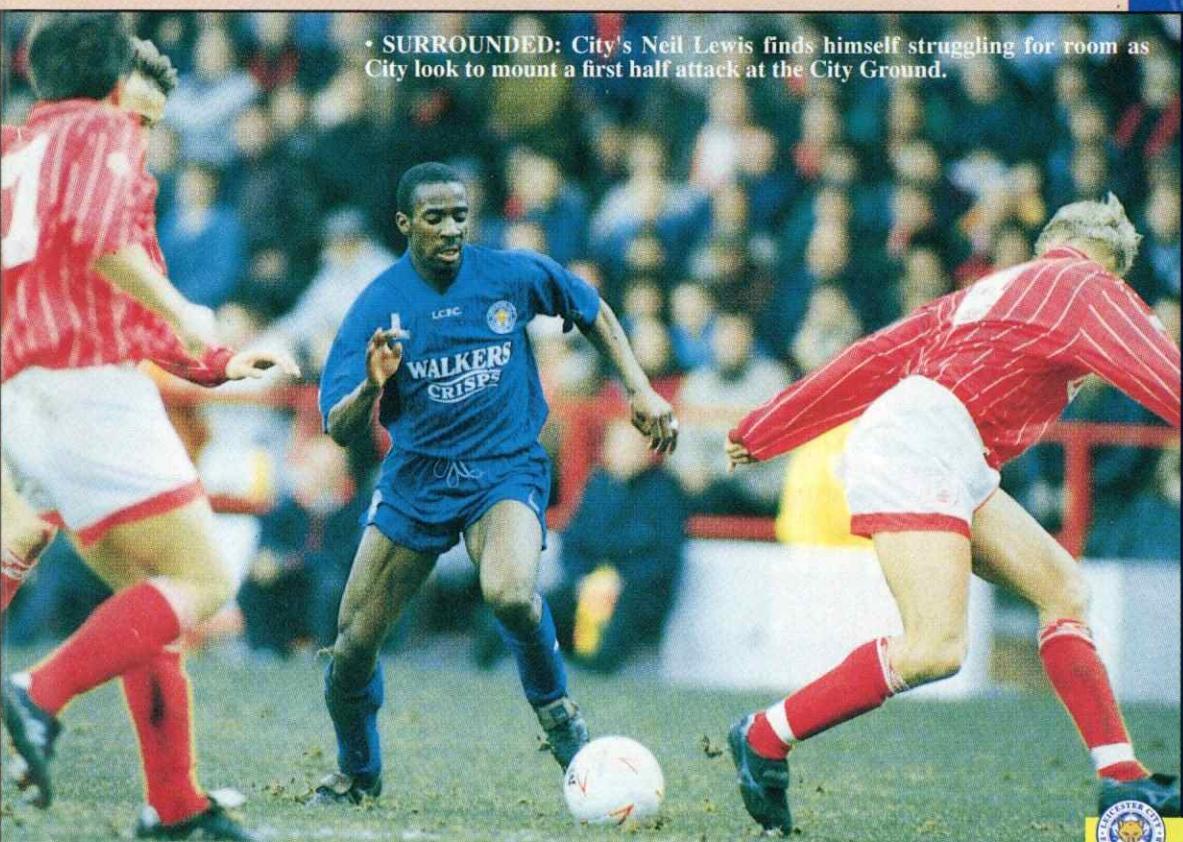
ASH-ON-INT: City striker Iwan Roberts and former and captain Stuart Pearce come face to face. Pearce since issued a public apology to Roberts.



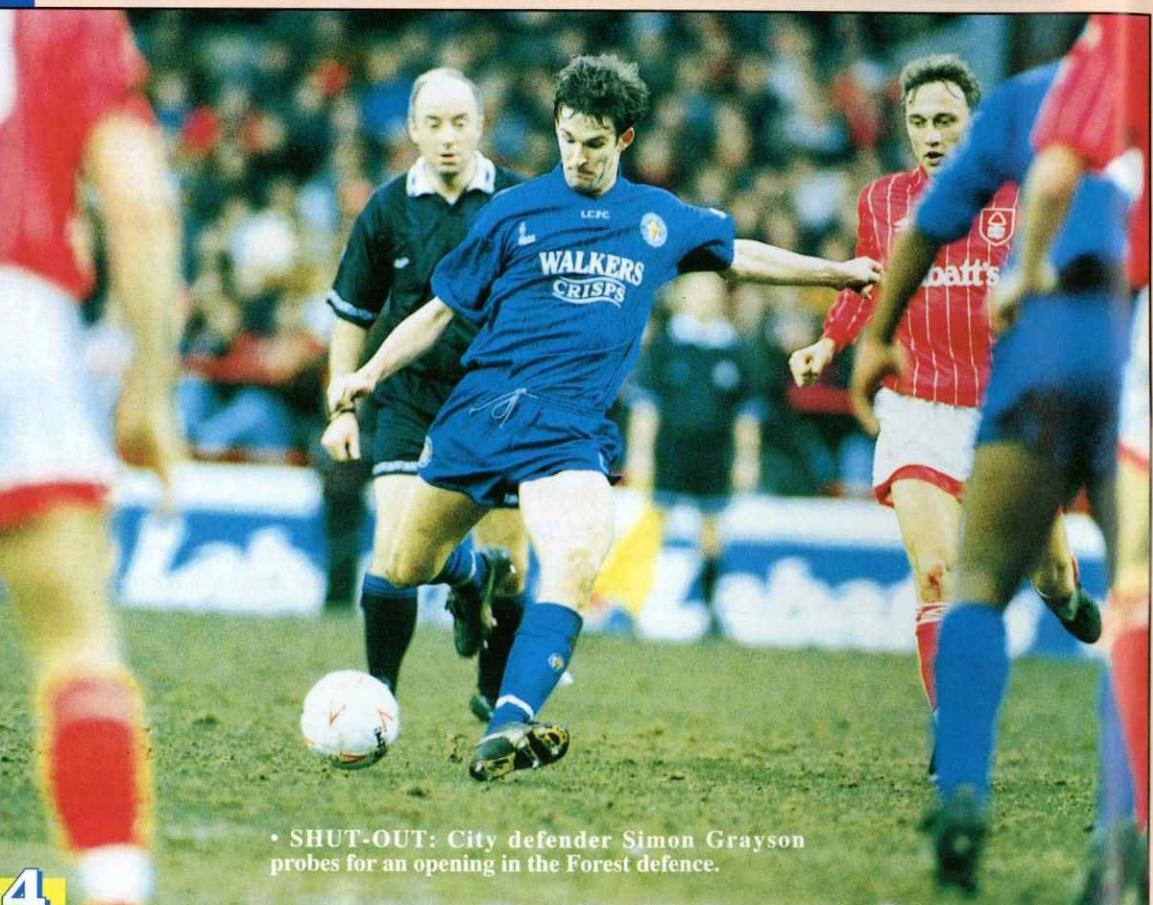
NORWEGIAN CRUNCH: Iwan Roberts is caught in the middle as Norwegian internationals Alf Inge Haaland (right) and Lors Bohenian move in.



BRIEF RESPITE: City midfielder Steve Agnew receives treatment from physio Alan Smith and (inset) Steve Thompson tries to start an attack.



SURROUNDED: City's Neil Lewis finds himself struggling for room as City look to mount a first half attack at the City Ground.



SHUT-OUT: City defender Simon Grayson probes for an opening in the Forest defence.

Chairman Martin George has hailed City's new Family Night Football scheme as a major step forward for the future of the club. cord four-figure crowds have been attracted for re-launched Pontins Division One fixtures, led in association with the Leicester Mercury, Filbert Street.

He said Mr George: "It's a marvellous concept and the response from the Leicestershire public has been outstanding.

Anyone who has attended recent FNF nights will know that we have created a fantastic atmosphere which everyone can enjoy themselves.

They are demonstrating that football and Leicester City has a tremendous amount to offer the community.

The enjoyment on peoples' faces is there for all to see and hopefully a large proportion of these young people will go on to become fully-fledged supporters.

Young people are the lifeblood of any football club and our future looks very bright on the basis of these kind of responses."

It was launched alongside the new Fox Club under 16s as part of City's new community programme.

Average attendances for reserve games before Christmas were a paltry few hundred. But in the FNF clash against Sheffield Wednesday a new Pontins League record of 2,160 was set.

Fourteen days later the record was smashed for a visit of Liverpool when 6,892 filled the new Carling Stand complex.



• **PACKED HOUSE:** It was a busy Carling Stand for the visit of Liverpool reserves with almost 7,000 watching the game.

City manager Brian Little has also been delighted with the response from City's new-found reserve support.

He said: "The atmosphere the fans create makes a big difference to the players out on the pitch. It gives them a big lift.

"It's fantastic to see so many people inside Filbert Street for these matches and long may it continue."

City's next FNF Pontins League game is against Bolton at Filbert Street on Monday (k/o 7pm) when Bart Simpson, a steel band, face painting and hunting competitions are just some of the attractions.

“Young people are the lifeblood of any football club and our future looks very bright on the basis of these kind of responses.”

Martin George

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At the City NEWS DESK

THIS afternoon's match marks the second of our three voucher games which will be used to establish ticket priority should we reach a third successive Wembley play-off final.

The system is being operated for three games - the visit of Charlton last month, today and our match with Barnsley at Filbert Street on Saturday March 19.

Supporters using the Standing Enclosures SK1 2 and 3 should retain their special voucher while fans who are not season ticket holders or members should keep their match seat ticket.

First priority would then go to holders of three vouchers or tickets, then to those with two and finally to those with one. So, please, keep your vouchers or tickets in a safe place.



CITY fan Paul Gibson was treated to a VIP day out at one of our recent Filbert Street matches.

Paul (19), of Sileby, broke his neck in a serious motorbike accident, and when we heard the news we invited him on a behind-the-scenes tour and a chance to meet the players.

He was presented with a signed pennant and helped cheer City to a 2-1 victory over Charlton.

Paul is pictured above with (left to right) Gary Coatsworth, public relations officer Alan Birchenall, Steve Walsh and Richard Smith.



CARL Muggleton paid a quick return visit to Filbert Street after his £150,000 move to Glasgow Celtic.

Muggleton was a spectator at our victory over Charlton and helped present a cheque to our latest Blue Army bonanza winner Mr Allan Stafford (above) at half time. Mr Stafford won £1,353.75.

YOUR MATCH-DAY MAGAZINE TEAM

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Club Illustrator: Russ Carvell
Club Photographers: Leicester News Service (Raymonds)

Printers: William Caple & Company Ltd, Leicester
Repro: Holly Media Services

The official match-day magazine of Leicester City Football Club



CITY midfielder David Oldfield landed the Cable Seven Player of the Month award for December. He's pictured left receiving his award from Filbert Focus presenter Anne Newbery.

Filbert Focus is broadcast weekly on Fridays, Saturdays and Mondays at 7pm and 10pm and contains interviews with manager Brian Little and the players.

David is our star profile in this week's edition on pages 23-26.

Now we wouldn't want to ban you from the press box, would we Andy?

Inside Talk with Paul Mace



Iwan Roberts has had his fair share of problems with own goals. Most notably, he was forced to return the matchball after his third strike against West Bromwich Albion was adjudged to be an og. But he almost contributed to his own downfall after the late headed winner against Charlton. "It wasn't going in until it hit a divot," the Welsh international admitted. I'm not too sure how he would have felt if it went on the scoresheet as: divot, own goal.



DENNIS the Menace caught more than he bargained for when he was the debut guest of Filbert Fox for our FNF clash with Sheffield Wednesday reserves.

A bit of a show-off, Dennis was demonstrating his goalkeeping skills when he fended a particularly fierce shot.

The end result was a four-hour trip to the casualty unit of the Leicester Royal Infirmary and a splint for a broken thumb.



YOUNG City fan Mark Fisher certainly has a way of dealing with the media.

Mark, pictured above with fellow toothless tearaways Colin Gibson and Iwan Roberts, won national acclaim for being fitted with a Leicester City brace.

Asked by journalists what his friends thought of the dental appliance, Mark coolly replied: "They want me to smash in their front teeth so they can have one as well."

If any children are reading this column, please do not try this at home.



SIMON Grayson is hardly one of the most prolific scorers for City.

His delightful curler against Charlton was only his second since his £50,000 arrival from Leeds United. And he bristled with indignation at suggestions that it was anything other than intentional.

"If David Speedie's saying his goal against Sunderland was meant, then I'm claiming this one too," he said.



BEING bombarded by paper aeroplanes has become something of an occupational hazard in the Carling Stand at our FNF reserve games.

Our mischievous Fox Club members are invariably the culprits but against Liverpool I spotted Leicester Sound FM sports reporter Andy Pate getting in on the act with a more aerodynamically-designed programme sheet.

Now we wouldn't want to ban you from the press box, would we Andy?

Let's believe in ourselves - that's the message we've got to get across to everybody in the club.

So, we've lost two successive games - and one of them 4-0 to our main rivals - but let's not get carried away by all this gloom and doom.

We're in fifth spot and just one win off the automatic promotion places. That's only closer than at any stage during season's campaign.

Admit we've been on top of the table so far only to fail to capitalise. But how many clubs have been in exactly the same situation?

A sign of the competitiveness of the division is that no club has been able to take the scuff of the neck and dominate.

Just too if any team will be able to do between now and the end of the season. We have to accept that it is going to be extremely difficult to put together a run of seven or eight straight wins.

It doesn't make it any less disappointing that having gone to the top of the table after our win against Charlton we should fail to capitalise.

couldn't have picked two tougher away fixtures upon which to build a lead. Against Crystal Palace we were a little unfortunate to concede a late goal.

We could have no complaints about the size of the defeat at the City ground. It's probably as well as we have played this season.

We were very poor and got what we deserved. Earlier this season it was our supporters' desire to gloat over Forest fans after their poor start.

Now from first hand experience over the past week the Forest fans have been playing a role reversal. But that's the sort of thing which makes football such a great sport.

Defeats against teams who are among our strongest promotion rivals don't make us a bad team all of a sudden.

We've put in an awful lot of hard work over the last six months to get where we are now. And it's only no use listening to all the publicity and throwing in the towel.

At any of the top teams and they have all had spells when they have looked anything but promotion material. Think back to Forest's disappointing start to the season.

We have to pull together and believe in our own ability. We are not a bad team. We played badly at Forest and were beaten for it. The onus is on us to show what we can do.



Captain's Comment

with Gary Mills

The return of David Speedie will play a big part in that. David gives us another dimension to our play and we have certainly missed him over the two games.

His experience and competitiveness rubs off on the team and we are delighted to welcome him back this afternoon.

Congratulations too to strike partner Iwan Roberts on scoring upon his return to the Welsh international squad in the 2-1 victory over Scotland B.

After the promotion battles with Palace and Forest, Luton might appear an easier game. It's nothing of the sort.

They're the form team of the division with several great results and quite a few of their players will

be no strangers to Filbert Street.

I can remember Des Linton, Scott Oakes, Tony Thorpe and Paul Williams all in their early days at the club a few seasons ago.

Our home form has been good and, after a break of four weeks, it is important we take maximum points this afternoon.

Particularly when you consider we have another two away games in the next seven days. We're off to Portsmouth on Tuesday and West Bromwich Albion next Saturday.

And it's no secret that we need to improve upon our away form. You have to go back to Luton on October 30 to find our last three away points and that's not good enough.

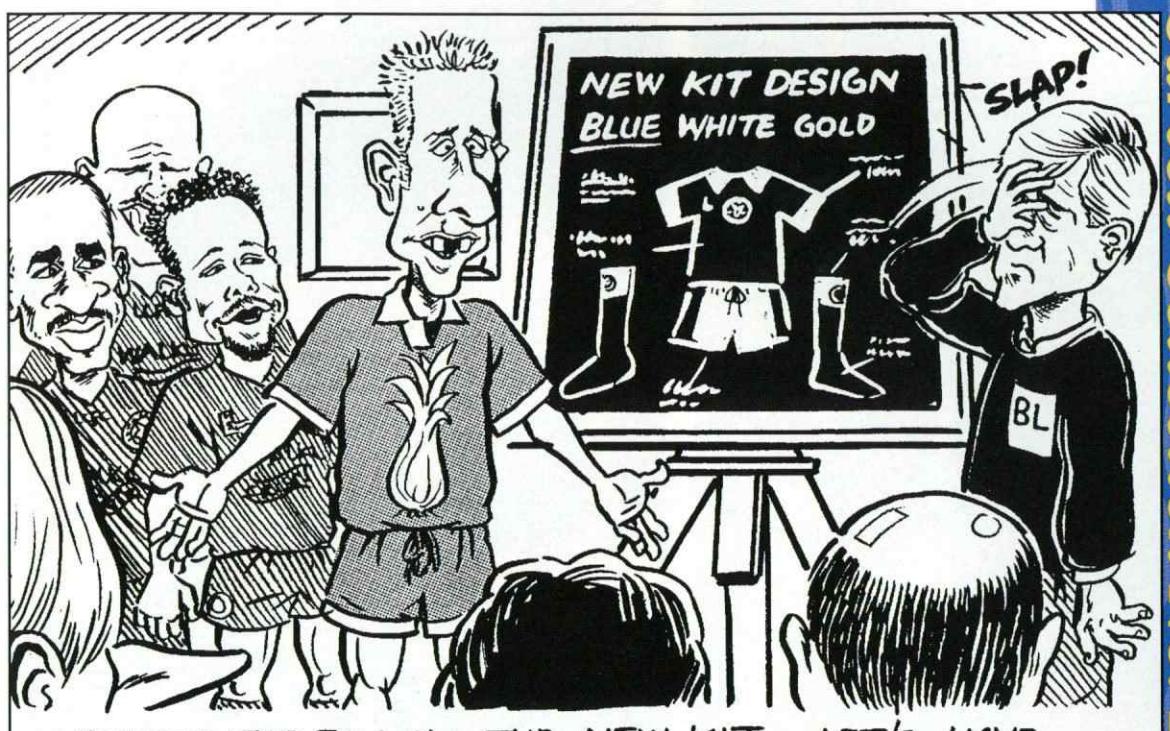
Despite everything, though, the spirit among all the players is still good. The self belief is there and I'm sure there will be many more twists and turns in the promotion race before the final game.

You only have to look at our reserves to see how quickly it can all change around. The players have been talking in training about the tremendous atmosphere you generated at our Family Night Football match with Manchester United on Wednesday night.

A crowd of just under 15,000 is a truly fantastic figure and I know it helps bring out the best in the lads as two goals from Ian Ormondroyd proved in our 3-1 win over the Pontins League leaders.

And finally may I extend a warm welcome on behalf of all the players to our Mitre Matchball Experience guests this afternoon who are the Leicester Mercury.

“Despite everything, though, the spirit among all the players is still good. The self belief is there and I’m sure there will be many more twists and turns in the promotion race before the final game.”



• CLIMBING HIGH: Iwan Roberts climbs above fellow Welsh international Eric Young.



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• HIGH-FLYER: David Oldfield shows off his kick-boxing style to win this midfield clash.



• CLOSED OUT: David Lowe, in his first League start of the season, is beaten in the race to the ball by Crystal Palace keeper Nigel Martyn.

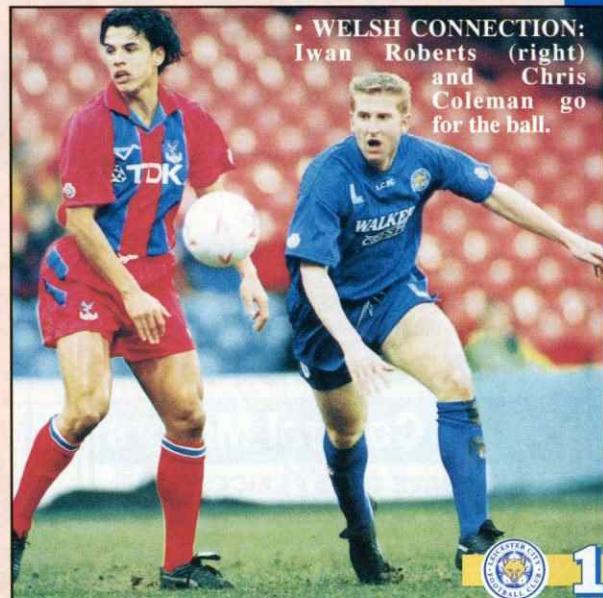


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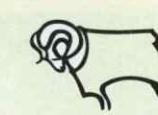
Steve Thompson is congratulated after putting City in front with an eighth minute free kick strike.



• WELSH CONNECTION: Iwan Roberts (right) and Chris Coleman go for the ball.



11



at Nevin (right) is delighted to have set up Tranmere's Coca Cola semi-final date with Villa, a clash that isseyside's best hope for footballers this season!

once mighty Liverpool and ton out of both cup competitions, it's the "other"seyside club who have battled to the two-legged semi-final a 2-0 win over Nottm. Forest.

er Everton favourite Nevin Tranmere and their fans first for me these days but I this whole area loves its ball and is desperate to have something after all the cups pool and Everton have won.

is not meant in a nasty way. re certainly not looking down oses at them, though it is nice the focus of attention. I know Liverpool and Everton fans a soft spot for us.

shall be the underdogs against but this result could transform our season. Our confidence has been low, now we want to get our promotion bid going again."

, though, could not stop Rovers slipping to a 2-0 defeat at Bristol last Saturday.



New Birmingham boss Barry Fry has rushed out and bought TEN players after lashing out at the squad he inherited at St. Andrews.

Fry has splashed out well over £1 million of owner David Sullivan's money and scarcely a day seems to have gone by without a new signing at City.

Fry revealed: "I really do think we're being taken for a ride. Some of the players got my predecessor Terry Cooper out of a job - well they're not going to do that to me.

"They're earning good money and should put in an honest days work. If I paid a tenner to watch every game and some geezer doesn't even run about, I wouldn't be happy."

Fry, though, was far from happy with his side's goalless draw with Peterborough last weekend.

Sunderland boss Mick Buxton believes young striker Craig Russell is heading for the top - even though he might not realise it.

The pacy 19-year-old scored his first-ever League goal against Millwall last month to earn a glowing tribute from Buxton.

"I don't think he realises just what he's got yet. He's quick and strong and needs to exploit that. He's made of the right stuff and a good kid."

Top Watford striker Paul Furlong admits he expects to get booted all over the big every time he sets foot on it.

Furlong helped the Hornets get the better of Derby in an impressive 2-1 Baseball Ground win.

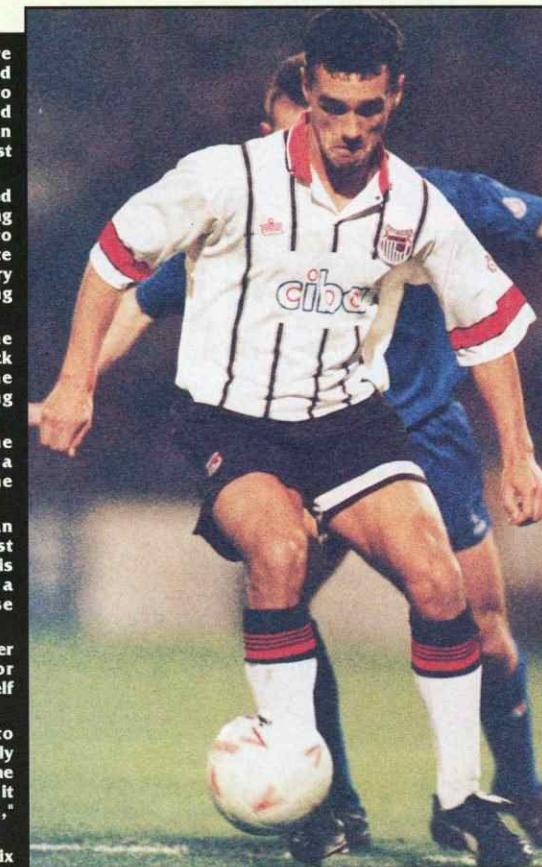
The 25-year-old striker, who forms a deadly partnership with Bruce Dyer, said: "That was a very physical game but that's what Bruce and I expect.

"We reckon on being given a good kicking but we regard it as a compliment if defenders use strong-arm tactics. If they have got physical we know we are doing our job."

Jason Brissett has finally started to fulfil his promise with Peterborough - after being ordered to move home!

The 19-year-old former Arsenal trainee snatched the dramatic equaliser that earned Posh a draw against mighty spurs in the FA Cup last month then played a starring role in a win against West Brom.

Brissett used to commute from London until the club put a block on him. He explained: "I kept missing my train and nearly got the boot. The club told me to move up to Peterborough and that's what I've done."



Grimsby striker Clive Mendonca signalled his return to goalscoring ways and helped City's promotion cause at The Valley last weekend.

Hot-shot Mendonca ended a goal drought stretching back to November to notch up a 66th minute winner in a 1-0 victory over promotion-chasing Charlton.

It was his 14th of the season to move him back into the top 10 of the division's leading goalscorers.

He said: "I started the season well and it was a nice feeling to find the back of the net again."

Mariners boss Alan Buckley was honest enough to admit that his side were more than a little fortunate to ease their relegation worries.

"We've played a lot better than that and lost or drawn so luck evens itself out over the season.

"We didn't go there to defend but you can only attack when you've got the ball and Charlton kept it for most of the match," said Buckley.

Victory lifted Grimsby six points clear of the relegation positions.

• MENDONCA: Notched up 14 goals.

West Brom's loan striker Graham Fenton certainly enjoyed scoring a cracking individual goal against the "old enemy" last weekend. Only in his eyes it's Sunderland that's the enemy, not any of Albion's Midlands rivals.

The Villa striker, at the end of a month on loan at the Hawthorns, is a Newcastle fanatic.

He explained: "I played for the same boys team that produced Alan Shearer and Andy Sinton and I grew up with Steve Watson and Robbie Elliott who are both now in the Newcastle first team."

"I used to love going to watch Newcastle play - especially when Gazza was in the team. That made scoring against Sunderland all the more special."

Fenton now has two goals to his credit in just five League appearances with Albion - the only outings of his career - and has helped Keth Burkinshaw's team notch up an important three-game unbeaten run.

Darren Sheridan, younger brother of Irish international John, has made his League debut... at the ripe old age of 26. Barnsley boss Viv Anderson signed Sheridan junior from non-League Winsford in the summer and explained: "He's responded well since we signed him."

The following First Division players were involved in transfers during January:

Brett Angell (Southend to Everton), David Barnes (Sheffield United to Watford), Steve Claridge (Cambridge to Birmingham), Simon Coleman (Derby to Sheff. Wed.), Gerry Creaney (Celtic to Portsmouth), Paul Edwards (Wolves to West Brom), Darren Ferguson (Man Utd. to Wolves), Paul Harding (Notts Co to Birmingham), Steve Livingstone (Chelsea to Grimsby), Chris Marsden (Huddersfield to Wolves), Steve McGavin (Colchester to Birmingham), Liam O'Brien (Newcastle to Tranmere), Gary Parkinson (Bolton to Burnley), Tony Phillips (Peterborough to Burnley), Jamie Robinson (Barnsley to Carlisle), Peter Shearer (Bournemouth to Birmingham), Lee Sinnott (Palace to Bradford).



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Wolves' promotion cause was dealt a major blow with news that leading striker Steve Bull is set to miss the rest of the season. Bull underwent surgery on damaged knee ligaments after a stormy clash with Derby and has been told he faces a 10-week lay-off after injury. It's a cruel blow for manager Graham Turner (left) who has been told there is little money for him to spend in the search for a replacement. Instead, he will be pinning his hopes on former City striker David Kelly who's so far contributed 11 goals to the campaign. It was left to Paul Blades to earn the Molineux club a 1-1 draw in a Midlands derby at Stoke last weekend.



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GOALSCORER'S DELIGHT

Iwan Roberts and Simon Grayson were the goal heroes as City edged out promotion rivals Charlton Athletic at Filbert Street.

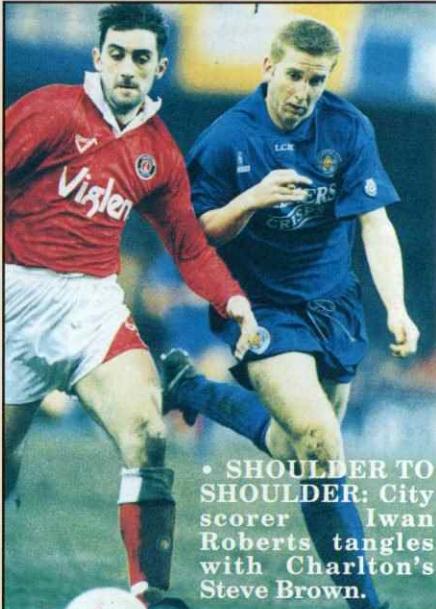
Roberts steered home City's winner in the 89th minute for a 2-1 victory and is seen, left, being congratulated by team-mate Steve Agnew.

Simon Grayson (right) had earlier put City in front with only his second goal for the club since his £50,000 arrival from Leeds United.

Stuart Balmer set up a grandstand finish with an 80th minute equaliser for the Addicks.

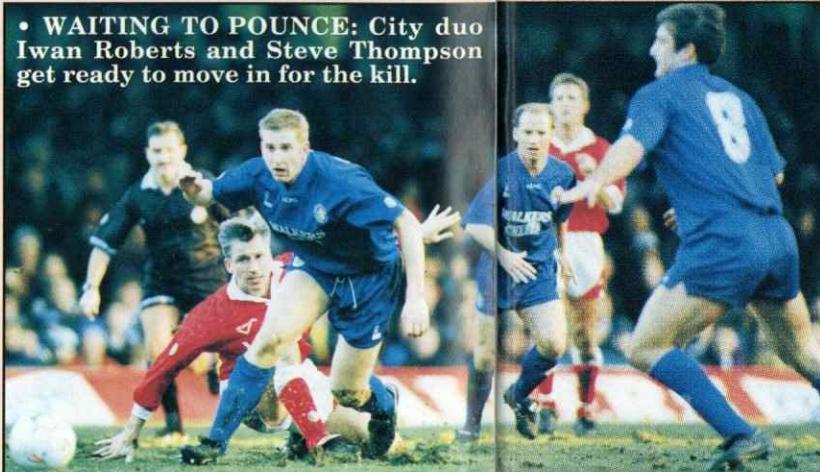


• **MY BALL:** City defender Mike Whitlow and Charlton's Kim Grant grapple with each other for the ball.

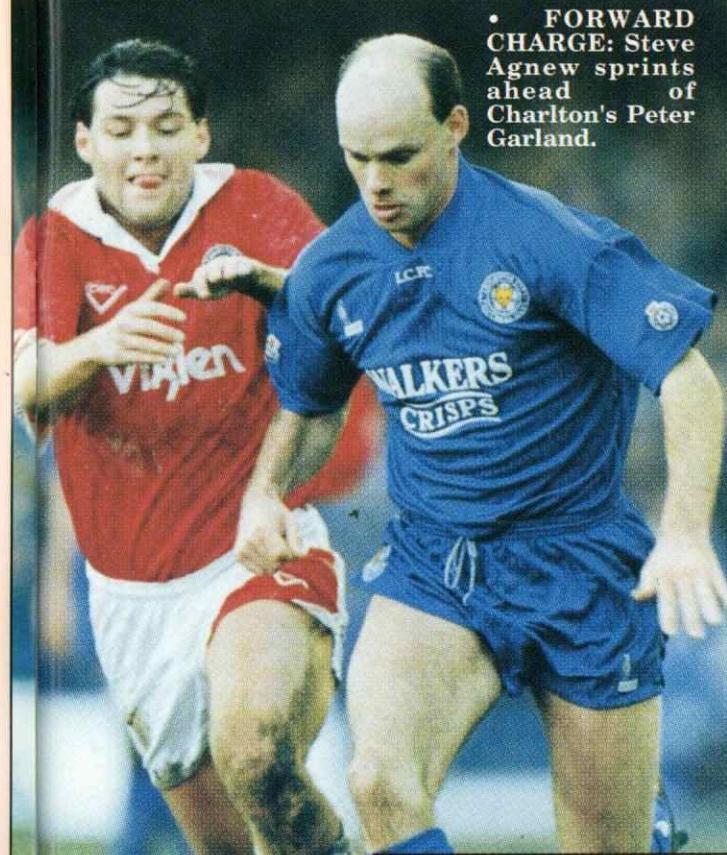


• **SHOULDER TO SHOULDER:** City scorer Iwan Roberts tangles with Charlton's Steve Brown.

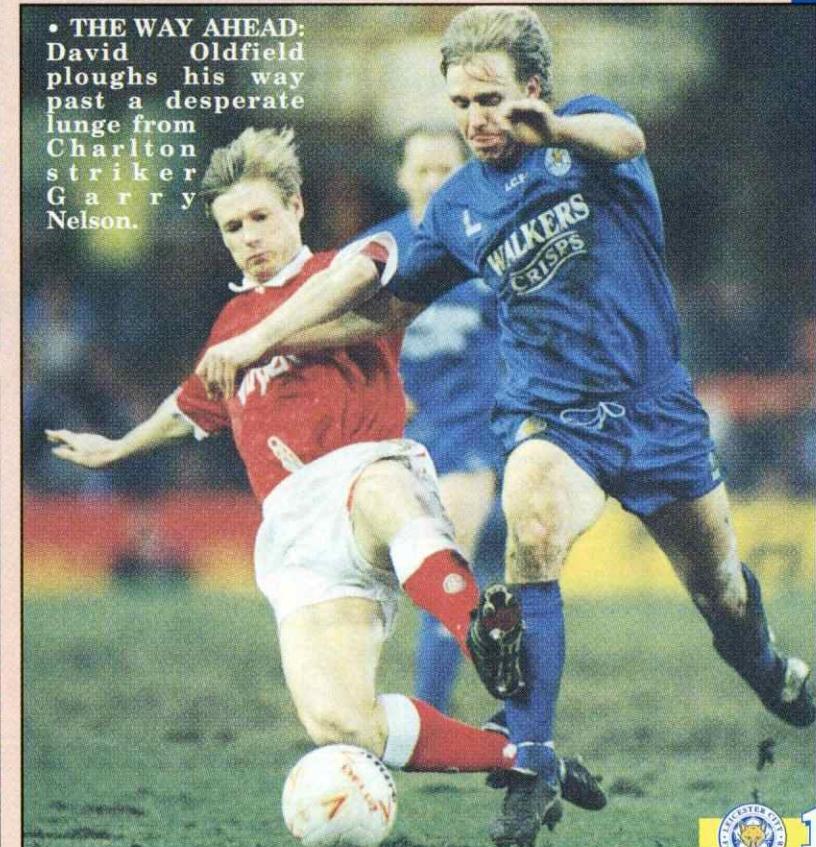
• **WAITING TO POUNCE:** City duo Iwan Roberts and Steve Thompson get ready to move in for the kill.



• **FORWARD CHARGE:** Steve Agnew sprints ahead of Charlton's Peter Garland.



• **THE WAY AHEAD:** David Oldfield ploughs his way past a desperate lunge from Charlton striker Garry Nelson.



TOP OF THE TABLE

Endsleigh Insurance League Division One
January 17, 1994

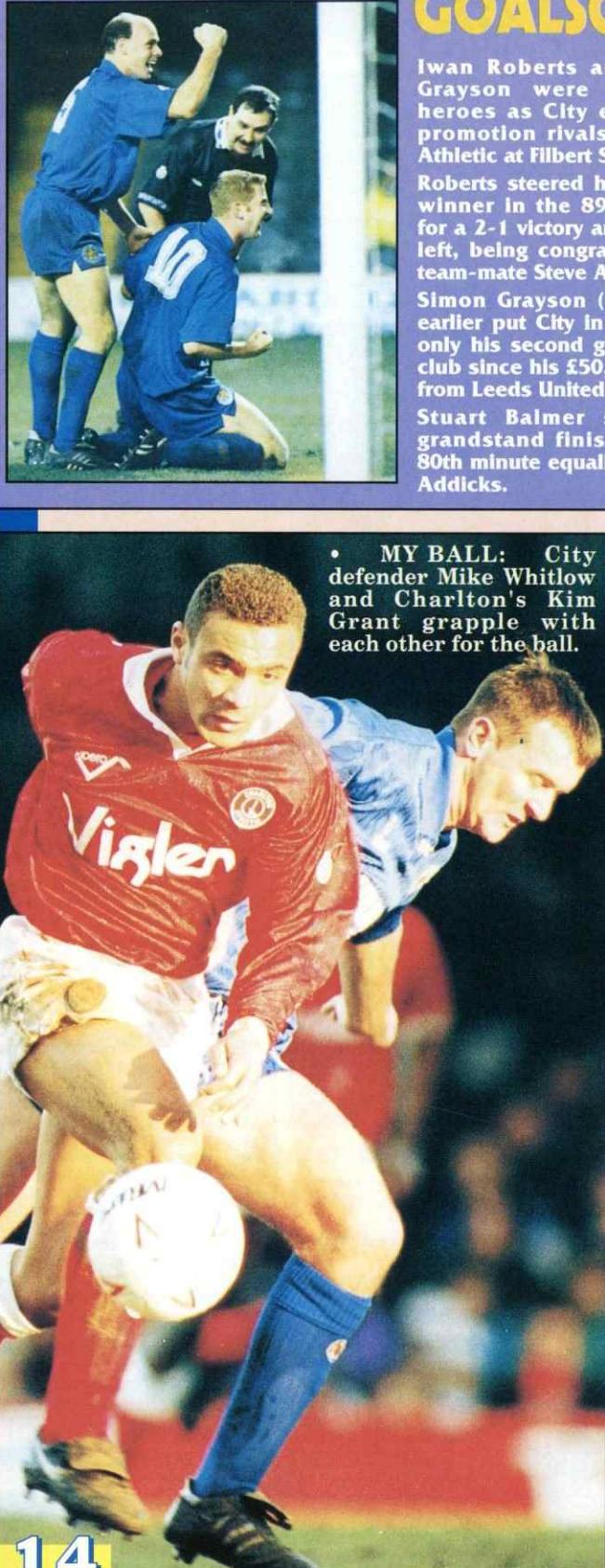
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
Leicester City	26	9	4	1	34	18	4	3	5	12	12	46	(46)
Crystal Pal.	25	8	2	1	21	8	6	2	6	22	21	46	(43)
Millwall	26	9	4	1	24	10	4	3	5	13	18	46	(37)
Tranmere R.	27	9	2	3	27	15	4	4	5	11	16	45	(38)
Charlton A.	26	9	2	2	21	7	4	4	5	12	17	45	(33)
Nottingham Forest	25	5	5	2	18	14	7	2	4	13	16	43	(41)
Derby County	25	10	0	2	29	15	3	3	7	12	22	42	(41)
Wolves	26	7	6	1	24	12	3	5	4	17	15	41	(41)
Stoke City	26	9	0	3	20	12	3	5	6	16	26	41	(36)

IT was the day City moved to the top of the Endsleigh League First Division.

Victory over Charlton enabled Brian Little's team to leapfrog Crystal Palace, Charlton and Tranmere to move into first place.

It was the second time City topped the table after a brief spell at the helm in November and enabled the Midlands to break the London stranglehold of Palace and Charlton.

But as we move into the middle of February the promotion race is as fiercely contested as ever and it would be a brave man to predict the top positions in May.



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FILBERT STREET



Endsleigh Insurance League Division One
LEICESTER CITY v TRANMERE ROVERS
Wednesday February 23, 1994 (ko 7.45pm)



Left, Steve Walsh and Mike Whitlow are in the thick of the action at Prenton Park earlier this season and, below, goalkeeper Eric Nixon has been in fine form for the Wirral club.



John King's Tranmere have again proved one of the surprise front-runners for honours.

After missing out in the play-off semi finals last season to Swindon, they've again featured strongly in the top six despite suffering a sticky spell at the start of 1994.

They are also through to the semi finals of the Coca Cola Cup where they're involved in a two-legged affair with Aston Villa.

John Aldridge's goals have proved invaluable with former Everton winger Pat Nevin also playing a crucial role.

In the Prenton Park clash earlier this season, Rovers edged home 1-0 to take the points.

Another battle-royale looks likely in this one as the battle for promotion continues to heat up by the game.

Endsleigh Insurance League Division One
LEICESTER CITY v MIDDLESBROUGH
Saturday February 26 (ko 3pm)



PONTINS LEAGUE ACTION

CITY RES v BOLTON RES
Monday February 14 (ko 7pm)

POINTS are crucial for City in the battle to avoid relegation from the top flight of the Pontins League.

With four teams going down, the scramble is really on and City are looking to take advantage of a busy February programme after seven weeks of inactivity.

Bolton have been traditionally able to field an experienced reserves side and another bumper four-figure FNF attendance seems assured.

It's the second home game in the space of four days for City with more crucial League points at stake in a busy February schedule which will see them play six matches.

Relegated from the Premiership last season, Middlesbrough have found the going tougher than expected.

After a strong start to the campaign, Lennie Lawrence's men have struggled in mid-table. Ex-City man Tommy Wright has missed games through injury, while leading scorer John Hendrie is now only just making his return.

City, though, will need to watch out for striker Paul Wilkinson who has shown he can score goals at the highest level.

City's Steve Walsh will need no reminder of the previous encounter between the clubs at Ayresome Park - City went down 2-0 and Walsh was stretchered off with ruptured cruciate ligaments in his knee.

TICKET

OUR home games with Tranmere and Middlesbrough are NOT all-ticket but we would strongly advise the pre-booking of seats in the Carling Stand.

Tickets are available as follows:

Carling Stand Centre -
Members: £12.00(adults), £6.00(juveniles);
Guests - £13.00(adults), £6.50(juveniles).

Carling Stand Wing -
Members: £10.00(adults), £5.00(juveniles);
Guests: £11.00(adults), £5.50(juveniles).

Family Club:
£8.00(adults), £4.00(juveniles)
Members Enclosure: £8.00;
South Stand:
£10.00(adults), £5.00(juveniles)

INFO

CITY CLUBCALL 0891 12 11 85

CITY TICKET AND PRIZELINE 0891 12 10 28

Calls cost 36p per min cheap rate and 48p at all other times

They said it on

City

CLUBCALL



• FIRST WITH THE NEWS: Steve Walsh delivers his after-match verdict to Clubcall.

• If David Speedie is claiming his chip as deliberate then I'm doing exactly the same.

Simon Grayson, after his spectacular strike in the 2-1 win over Charlton.

• To play for my country is a great honour and I was delighted to get the call-up. The lads joke about it only being Wales but it means a great deal to me.

Iwan Roberts, after winning his Welsh B international call-up against Scotland.

• The battle for promotion places will go right to the wire this season and, personally, I still think a team is going to come out of nowhere with a late run.

Steve Agnew, assessing the First Division promotion race.

• It was a great night and it was a delight to see so many families in attendance.

Brian Little, describing the FNF Pontins League crowd of 6,892 for the visit of Liverpool reserves.

COMPETITION TIME

SEE City bid to step up their promotion bid at the expense of Middlesbrough on Saturday February 26 ... absolutely FREE.

We've got a pair of executive Carling Stand tickets worth £26 as the first prize in our latest City Prizeline competition.

Simply ring our prizeline number of 0891 12 10 28, answer a simple question and leave your name and address.

The competition starts from 10am on Monday and the winners will be drawn on Thursday February 24.

LIVE COMMENTARIES

Struggling to make the trip to Portsmouth on Tuesday night. Don't worry, you can stay on the ball with live 90 minutes commentary from Fratton Park on City Clubcall.

We'll also have the first reaction from manager Brian Little and the players after the game.

It's a busy month for City ... and we'll be at every game.

Live commentaries and post match reactions:

15 Portsmouth v City (7.45pm)
19 West Bromwich Albion v City (3pm)
23 City v Tranmere (7.45pm)

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David PLEAT goes ONE on ONE with Ian Whittell (The Sun)

The problems of managing a club like Luton Town might have some managers reaching for the anti-depressants. Not David Pleat.

The former Leicester boss has a simpler solution when the pressures of keeping Town in the First Division get on top of him.

Pleat explains: "I don't let our problems get me down or worry me, I just get in my car at the end of the day and pretend I'm manager of Manchester United!"

"Come to think of it, I'm getting more and more like Alex Ferguson. I don't smile a lot these days."

The Luton boss should be smiling. Town's impressive fourth round cup draw at Newcastle and a 3-0 win over Oxford last Saturday made it nine games unbeaten – a run that has improved the club's survival chances immensely.

But still the former City and Tottenham manager has to contend with the frustrations of working within a limited budget.

Pleat says: "We live a little bit week to week at our place whereas I'd like to live year to year. I can tell you we'll be in good shape for this Saturday but next week, who knows?"

"The important thing is everyone at this club works hard and we're still in Division One. We're in there with Sunderland, Leicester, Forest, Wolves, Birmingham – clubs with far greater tradition, resources and crowd potential."

"We're in there and we're also producing as many good young players as any club in the country – young players that we have to sell on to the vultures."

Town's recent improvement is all the more impressive when you consider the way those 'vultures' have picked away at the club and the way in which Pleat has had to throw unproven youngsters in at the deep end in recent months.

He explains: "The worst thing is we have had to get rid of players left, right and centre and we've made a fortune in the transfer market."

"I think we've sold for about £5.5 million in the last two-and-a-half years which I would imagine puts us way out ahead of most clubs in the division. At the same time we've spent £1 million."

"The pleasing thing is the way the youngsters have coped with their chance. It's been a harsh introduction and they've had to go in a bit sooner than we would have liked but they're just beginning to emerge now."

• **PLEAT:** Working hard to ensure Luton's First Division survival.

The latest teenager on Pleat's production line is Tony Thorpe, the youngster whose tremendous goal earned that cup draw at Newcastle last month.

Thorpe is one of four ex-Leicester men at Kenilworth Road, along with Scott Oakes, Des Linton and Paul Williams.

And City are a club that have never been far from Pleat's thoughts since he was a youngster growing up in Nottingham.

"Looking back on my time at the club it was a difficult situation for financial reasons but I still look back on it with fondness. They are nice people at the club and one of the few teams in the First Division that can capitalise on promotion and be guaranteed big crowds to go with it."

He says: "Leicester fans talk about Weller, Kember, Birchenall, Worthington as the golden period in the club's history. But for a boy going to Filbert Street, the mid-50s were a marvellous era with players like Froggatt, Rowley, Hines and Hogg."

"Looking back on my time at the club it was a difficult situation for financial reasons but I still look back on it with fondness. They are nice people at the club and one of the few teams in the First Division that can capitalise on promotion and be guaranteed big crowds to go with it."

"I really felt for Brian Little when they missed promotion in the last couple of seasons but I still think they have a good chance of doing it this year."



20 facts you didn't know about

When Kerry Dixon scored three times against Stoke in November, he became the first Luton player to register a hat-trick since Lars Elstrup, who scored all the goals in Luton's 3-1 League victory at Norwich in September 1990.

Elstrup was also the last Luton man to score three in a cup tie in the 7-2 home win over Mansfield in the League Cup in October 1989.

We have to trace back to February 1988 to find the Hatters' previous hat-trickster. Mark Stein got three in the 7-4 win over Oxford in Division One.

The club record is never likely to be beaten – Joe Payne scored 10 times against Bristol Rovers in a Third Division (South) game in 1936. This is also a record for any League match in England.

Payne cornered another club record when he scored 58 goals in 1936/37 – 55 in the League, plus three in the FA Cup.

Luton's record aggregate scorer was Gordon Turner, who scored 265 in all competitions – 243 League, 18 FA Cup and 4 League Cup.

That record is in no danger at the moment. The highest scorer currently on Luton's books is David Preece who has scored 19 times.

Luton's appearance record is held by Bob Morton who played 495 League games, 48 FA Cup ties and seven League Cup ties to make a grand total of 550.

Luton's most-capped player was Mal Donaghy, who won 58 caps for Northern Ireland.

The oldest player to appear in Luton's first-team was Dally Duncan who was 39 years and 11 days old when he played his final game in 1948.

The Hatters were the first club to drop all the way from the First to the Fourth Division and, later, regain their place at the top.

Kenilworth Road's record attendance was 30,069 for an FA Cup tie against Blackpool in 1959.

Luton's largest league crowd this season is 9,788 for the visit of Nottingham Forest in August.

Luton's record League victory was a 12-0 success over Bristol Rovers in the Third Division (South) in April 1936.

But the Hatters went three better when they crushed Great Yarmouth 15-0 in the FA Cup in 1914.

Their record defeat is 0-9 to Small Heath (now Birmingham) in the Second Division in 1898.

David Pleat, who returned to Kenilworth Road in June 1991, became the first man ever to manage Luton twice. He was previously in charge between 1978 and 1986.

After Mr Pleat left in 1986, Luton employed three managers in five years – John Moore, Ray Harford and Jimmy Ryan.

The highest transfer fee paid by Luton was £850,000 to Odense for Lars Elstrup in 1989.

The biggest fee received by Luton was £1.5 million when Kingsley Black moved to Nottingham Forest in 1991.

LUTON TOWN

Hatters revival eases worries

Luton have been fast pulling away from the First Division's relegation zone with some vastly-improved performances.

After a disastrous start when they lost four of their opening five games, manager David Pleat was close to despair.

"The problem is that most of our players are either too young, or too old," he shrugged at one point. But, with no cash available for new signings, Mr Pleat has brought the best out of his existing squad.

The turning point came when one of his veterans, former England striker Kerry Dixon, found a touch of his old form with a hat-trick in an exhilarating 6-2 home victory over Stoke City towards the end of November.

Coming into this game, the Hatters can look back on an unbeaten run of seven League matches with considerable progress also made in the FA Cup. Last weekend they continued their goal run with a 3-0 victory over Oxford.

Following a 1-0 home win over Southend in round three, Luton produced one of their best displays of the season when drawing 1-1 away to one of the Premiership's most charismatic sides, Newcastle United.

This time it was the turn of one of Mr Pleat's fledglings to come up trumps. Tony Thorpe gave them the lead at St James Park in his first full game in the senior side.

Luton were denied outright victory when Peter Beardsley drove home a hotly-disputed penalty to set up a Kenilworth Road replay earlier this week. The prize for the winners is a fifth round trip to Second Division Cardiff.

Following the return to Arsenal of on-loan forward Paul Dickov, Dixon has been partnered in attack by ex-City player Scott Oakes, who has also played in midfield.

LUTON TOWN 10 YEAR RECORD											
Season	Div	P	For	Ag.	Pts	Posn.	FAC	LC	Eur	Misc	Avg. Att.
1983/84	1	42	53	66	51	16th	3	2	-	-	11,938
1984/85	1	42	57	61	54	13th	SF	4	-	-	10,816
1985/86	1	42	61	44	66	9th	QF	3	-	-	11,062
1986/87	1	42	47	45	66	7th	4	*	-	-	10,256
1987/88	1	40	57	58	53	9th	SF	WIN	-	Fin	8,038
1988/89	1	38	42	52	41	16th	3	Fin	-	3	9,504
1989/90	1	38	43	57	43	17th	3	3	-	2	9,886
1990/91	1	38	42	61	37	18th	4	2	-	SoSF	10,325
1991/92	1	42	38	71	42	20th	3	2	-	2	9,715
1992/93	1	46	48	62	51	20th	4	2	-	Pr	8,212

*expelled from competition due to artificial pitch



• HARPER: Established in midfield.



• PEAKE: Central defensive stalwart and club captain.



Back Row (left to right) : 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 (captain), David Pleat (manager), David Preece, Martin Williams, Richard Harvey.

Scott Houghton, John Hartson and Jamie Campbell are others who have played up front.

Paul Telfer, David Preece, Alan Harper and Ceri Hughes have been holding the midfield positions with Thorpe being brought in for his full debut in the Cup tie at Newcastle. Jason Rees and Geoff Auger have also played in midfield.

Trevor Peake and John Dreyer are firmly established in the central defensive positions though there have been changes in both full-back spots.

In recent weeks these have been filled by Des Linton – one of several former Leicester players in the Luton squad – and Julian James. James, in fact, switched flanks following an injury to Marvin Johnson.

Juegen Sommer has taken over as first choice in goal this season with Andy Petterson sitting in as substitute goalkeeper.

Though early away form was quite disastrous, the Hatters are now a different side when travelling and come to Filbert Street unbeaten in their last five away League and Cup games.

They have won away League matches at Oxford (1-0) and Notts County (2-1) and drawn at Middlesbrough (0-0), Birmingham (1-1), Watford (2-2), Peterborough (0-0) and W.B.A. (1-1).

The Hatters were beaten in League games at Portsmouth (0-1), Tranmere (1-4), Derby (1-2), Sunderland (0-2), Crystal Palace (2-3), Southend (1-2) and Charlton (0-1).

Luton also went down at Cambridge (0-1) in the Coca Cola Cup and Watford (1-2) in the Anglo-Italian Cup.

HATTERS' ROLL CALL

Player	Previous Clubs	Int'l caps	League & Cup Appearances
GOALKEEPERS			
Juergen Sommer	Brighton*, Torquay*	30	..
Andy Petterson	Swindon*, Ipswich*	(1)	-
DEFENDERS			
Des Linton	Leicester	19(1)	-
Trevor Peake	Lincoln, Coventry	30	-
John Dreyer	Oxford, Torquay*, Fulham*	27	1
Julian James	Preston*	13(4)	1
Marvin Johnson	Leicester	18	-
MIDFIELDERS			
Paul Telfer	Leicester	27(1)	5
David Preece	Walsall	15	2
Alan Harper	Liverpool, Everton, Sheffield Wed., Manchester City, Everton	23	1
Ceri Hughes	Wales (1)	28	4
Tony Thorpe	1(1)	1	-
Jason Rees	Wales (1), Wales "B"(1)	8(1)	-
Geoff Auger	(Canadian club football)	3	1
FORWARDS			
Kerry Dixon	Reading, Chelsea, Southampton	19(1)	7
Scott Oakes	Leicester	22(4)	4
Martin Williams	Leicester	5(8)	1
Scott Houghton	Tottenham, Ipswich*, Cambridge*, Gillingham*, Charlton*	7(7)	1
Jamie Campbell	5(9)	-	
John Hartson	10(8)	3	
ALSO PLAYED:			
Ian Benjamin (now with Brentford)	4(1)	1	
Paul Dickov (on loan from Arsenal)	8(7)	1	
Mitchell Thomas (on loan from West Ham)	8	-	

* denotes played on loan

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David Oldfield has his eyes firmly set on a place in the FA Carling Premiership this summer... although it might so easily have been a World Cup ticket to America.

Australian Football Association officials issued a call to City's dual national 18 months ago to attend a European soccer camp in preparation for their qualification assault.

But the 25-year-old had no alternative but to turn down the request because he had already been capped at England under 21 level.

The Aussies, without Oldfield, came within 90 minutes of an historic appearance in America 94 only to fall at the final hurdle in a sudden death play-off clash with former world champs Argentina.

But the City midfielder, who spent the first five years of his life in Perth, has no regrets about missing out on a dream Stateside trip.

"Australia were organising a special training camp for European-based players in readiness for their World Cup plans," he recalls.

"They contacted Leicester only to be informed that I had already played for England at under 21 level. The manager told me about the call and explained the situation.

"There were quite a few Australian players in Europe and a few went on to appear at international level. Swindon's David Mitchell flew back to Australia for the first game with Argentina, for instance.

"When I was a Luton player and was called up for the England Under 21s it was a decision I didn't make lightly.

"I knew exactly what I was doing and, in hindsight, I still don't have any regrets about the way the situation has turned out.

"I was only five years old when my family returned to England and all my football has been played over here.

"When people ask me whether I'm Australian or English it's a difficult question to answer. I'm a dual passport holder and I was as disappointed when Australia missed out as I was when England failed to qualify for the World Cup finals.

"I'm more of an Australian when it comes to cricket although that's largely to bat for the other side against the rest of the lads when it comes to the Ashes."

Oldfield's Australian experiences are limited to regular summer visits Down Under to relax away from the pressure-cooker environment of an English football league season.

But although his dress-sense and musical tastes portray a character of one of City's most laid-back characters, appearances can be deceptive.

"People say I'm laid back but that doesn't mean I'm not competitive and don't like losing. It hurt me like it hurt everyone else in the way that we lost 4-0 at Nottingham Forest last Sunday," he said.

"There are a lot of pressures on a footballer and it is nice to be able

The City



Collection

Number 15: David Oldfield

to get away from it all. I'm not a 9 to 5 type of person but that's possibly because of the way I've grown up as a professional footballer.

"I would like to use my spare time a little more wisely. I've not ruled out a return to college to get some qualifications and I still love to travel.

"I'm not perhaps a sort of person who eats, sleeps and breathes football but that doesn't mean I'm any less competitive or determined to succeed."

Oldfield's professional ambition is simple and unequivocal: Promotion to the Premiership.

The top flight was where his career started with today's visitors Luton Town under current Hatters boss David Pleat.

After graduating through schoolboy and apprentice ranks, he made his debut as a

raw 18-year-old in a 4-0 defeat by Newcastle United. International honours followed as did a move to Maine Road where Oldfield is still remembered with fond affection for sinking Manchester City's old enemy United

"City had been promoted and I scored twice as we beat Manchester United 5-1. It was their biggest victory over them for years and they still talk about it today," recalls Oldfield, who netted the consolation strike at Maine Road in City's 4-1 FA Cup exit earlier this season.

"That was in my days as a striker. Now I look upon myself as a midfielder and that's where I prefer to play.

"There's a lot more work involved but I'm in the game more often and I like to think it's been reasonably successful."

He's now one of City's longest-serving players with over 170 appearances yet this has proved to be an unusual campaign for him.

After lining up at Wembley, Oldfield found himself out of the team after failing to agree new terms in the summer.

He's still on a week-to-week basis but is desperate to help City achieve Premier Division status.

"It was a frustrating start to the season but I was grateful to get my chance and now my sights are set on returning to the Premier Division.

"It's disappointing that we have not been able to work matters out but that's not affected my desire to do well here."

"Personally, I don't think any of the issues will be settled until the last game of the season. It's tighter than ever before and even after our last two defeats we're still in with a much better chance of automatic promotion than last season."

Oldfield too will be pleased to meet up with his old Luton colleagues this afternoon. It's a club he remembers with fond affection.

"Luton was a great club at which to start my career. They were very friendly, people had a lot of time for me and John Moore had a great influence on my development," he said.

"When people ask me whether I'm Australian or English it's a difficult question to answer. I'm a dual passport holder and I was as disappointed when Australia missed out as I was when England failed to qualify for the World Cup finals."

23



DAVID
DE LUCA

Centre
Spot

Name: David Charles Oldfield.
Date/Place: May 30, 1968 / Perth, alia.

Al Status: Single.
Ent residence: Nottinghamshire.
Names: Aussie.

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e's no one in the world I admire more
disabled people.

Ent
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ring up, my football idol was: Kenny
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ol.

Ent
best football advice anyone ever
me: Work hard and enjoy the game.

Ent
worst football advice anyone ever
me: Thankfully, I've not had too much.

Ent
otball fantasy is to: Win promotion.

Ent
word that best describes my playing
: Strong-running.

Ent
est friends in football are:
efully, a few.

Ent
rite ground: Anfield.

Ent
best player I've ever faced:
of them.

Ent
time of my career: Playing and not being injured.

Worst time of my career: Not playing and being injured.

What I like most about football is: Winning.

What I least like about football is: Losing.

If I could pick one person to build a team around it would be: Denis Bergkamp (Inter Milan).

If I had to pay to watch a sportsman it would be: Michael Jordan.

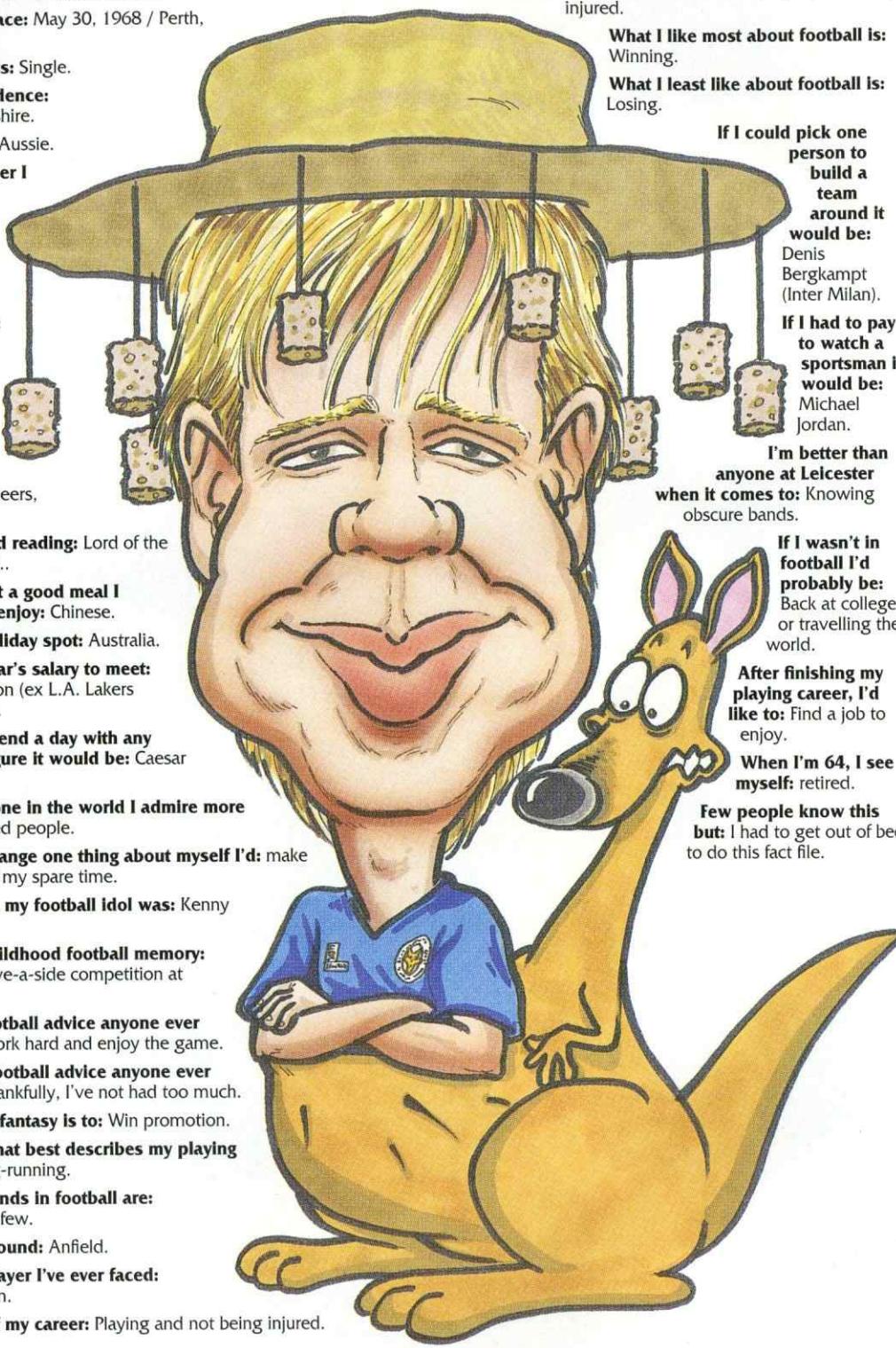
I'm better than anyone at Leicester when it comes to: Knowing obscure bands.

If I wasn't in football I'd probably be: Back at college or travelling the world.

After finishing my playing career, I'd like to: Find a job to enjoy.

When I'm 64, I see myself: retired.

Few people know this but: I had to get out of bed to do this fact file.



He played for both clubs



MIKE NEWELL

Liverpool-born Mike first tasted League action with Crewe Alexandra in 1983, before accepting a free transfer to Wigan Athletic a month later.

Under manager Bryan Hamilton, Newell blossomed into a striker of immense promise and enjoyed scoring at Wembley in the club's Freight Rover Triumph over Brentford in 1985.

By January 1986, Luton manager David Pleat had seen enough to part with a sizeable fee to take the likable scouser in 1986-87 as the Hatters finished the season in seventh place in the top flight. Highlight of the season was a hat-trick against his home town club in a 4-1 victory in October 1986.

In September 1987, former boss Hamilton, then in charge at Filbert Street, parted with a club record fee of £350,000 to capture Newell's signature.

He became an instant favourite, playing alongside Mighty Finn Jari Rantinen and scored in each of his first two outings.

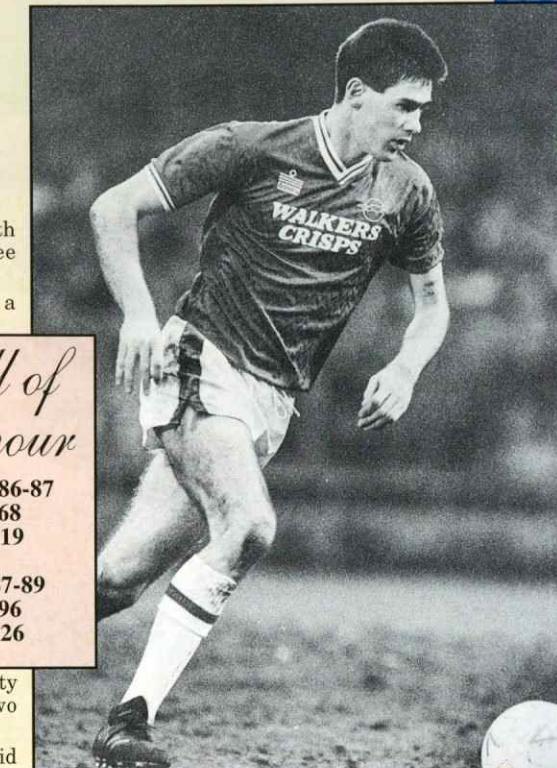
Ironically, three months later, another former boss, David Pleat, took over the managerial reins at Filbert Street, but Mike still figured prominently in the plans.

He occasionally let his fiery temperament get the better of him and did earn two red cards during his sojourn. He also collected the club captaincy and finished as top scorer in 1988-89.

Thus, it was a disappointment on the terraces when a player-plus-cash deal took him to Goodison Park in June 1989, with Wayne Clarke making the opposite move. The clubs valued the deal at £850,000 though various newspapers quoted over £1 million, and Mike looked worth every penny as he proceeded to add England B honours to his under-21 caps.

In November 1991 another large cheque took him to Ewood Park, where his most famous goal to date was the penalty that denied City in the play-off final at Wembley later that season.

He continues to prosper at Blackburn as an invaluable member of the squad that is poised to challenge for major honours again this season.



NEWELL: Crashed home 26 goals in 96 appearances for City in the late eighties.

Photo: Neville Chadwick Photography

NEWS FROM THE SUPPORTERS CLUBS

LEICESTER

CLUB OFFICE:

The club office at 51 Burnmoor Street will be open on matchdays from 1pm to 2.40pm (6pm to 7.30pm evening games) and on Tuesday & Thursday evenings, 7pm to 8pm, throughout the season for membership, coach bookings and general enquiries.

LEICESTER FOXES FC:

The Foxes have continued to dominate Division One of the Alliance League beating Starry Knight 2-0, with goals from Chris Smith and Steve Holley. They followed this with a hard fought 3-1 victory over Avonside, with Neil Wheatley, Holley and David Halford getting the goals. These two victories put the Foxes 11 points clear of their nearest challengers North Kilworth who have three matches in hand.

HINCKLEY

All members should note that bookings and payments should be made in advance at Burnmoor Street, the Black Horse or Angela's home for Earl Shilton members.

Bookings will be taken only on Friday evenings prior to the game by contacting Margaret on 0203 348484 or Angela on 0455 848514.

LOUGHBOROUGH

TRAVEL: Travel has been arranged for away matches. All departures are from Fennel Street, Loughborough. Contact Tony Kershaw on Loughborough 267642 if you wish to travel.

The coach to West Bromwich Albion departs at 4.30pm and the price is £6 (£3 for travel club members).

The Loughborough supporters club branch football team are looking to arrange friendlies. Interested teams should contact Tony on the above no.

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Remembered: City v Luton Town

★ Founded in 1885, Luton Town were elected to Division Two in place of Burton Wanderers in 1897.

★ They remained in the Football League for only three seasons, before failing to gain re-election along with Loughborough in 1900. Blackpool and Stockport County were the clubs elected in their stead.

★ During those three years Luton did not register a victory over Fosse, drawing three times at Filbert Street but losing twice at home, including a spectacular 6-1 reverse at Dunstable Road in January 1899, when Tommy Galbreath scored twice for Fosse.

★ The Hatters played in the United League and were later members of the Southern League that became founder members of Division Three of the Football League in 1920.

★ Luton remained at that level until capturing the championship in 1937. However, it was not until City tasted relegation that hostilities were resumed, immediately after World War Two.

★ City generally enjoyed the better of those post-war clashes, particularly at Filbert Street, but the most spectacular action came when the clubs were paired in the FA Cup for the first time in 1949.

★ A topsy turvy tie at Kenilworth Road ended 5-5 after extra time. Peter Small was one of the Hatters' marksmen, but individual honours belonged to City's Jack Lee, who scored four, including a last second equaliser.

★ The replay produced another goal glut, with City eventually winning 5-3, thanks to a brace apiece for Jack Lee and Mal Griffiths.

★ A year or so later, Peter Small made the move to Filbert Street for the not inconsiderable fee of £6,000. He subsequently scored against his former club to clinch a 2-1 home win in February 1954, on his way to collecting a Second Division championship medal.

★ The clubs were again paired in the FA Cup in January 1956. An Arthur Rowley hat-trick set up a 4-0 win for City at Kenilworth Road.

★ Easter 1958 saw City's biggest home win against the Hatters. A 4-1 scoreline was marked by another brace from the "Gunner".

★ 1958-59 saw Luton twice hit four goals past City's Dave McLaren at Kenilworth Road. Allan Brown produced an FA Cup hat-trick in January and was again on the mark a month later in the League fixture. Scorelines of 4-1 and 4-3 resulted.

★ The two clubs drifted apart during the 1960's as Luton slid down the League and then climbed back, so it was not until 1970 that we became regular adversaries once more.

★ Easter 1971 proved another red letter day for city as a virtuoso performance from Rodney Fern set up a 3-1 win at Kenilworth Road. So impressed were the Luton management that they subsequently signed Fern for the Hatters.

★ Another dose of spectacular cup action arrived at Kenilworth Road in February 1974. Two goals from Steve Earle and one apiece from Frank Worthington and Keith Weller, the latter a superb individual effort, eased City to a 4-0 win in what had looked to be a tricky tie.

★ The following season, Weller netted another stunning goal at Kenilworth Road. This time though it was a 40-yard own goal as the Hatters romped to a 3-0 win.

★ It was as recently as September 1979 that Luton first won here at Filbert Street. So much did they enjoy the feeling that they proceeded to win on three successive visits. These are still the only four times that the Hatters have taken maximum points from our citadel.

★ They did, however, manage three draws on their next three visits, so last season's opening day victory, secured by courtesy of strikes from Steve Walsh and Mike Whitlow, was our first on home soil since March 1979.

3 YEARS AGO

Now, ice and arctic conditions reduce the programme to only four Football League games, the worst list of postponements since New Years Day 1979. The Football League announce that they are to sound out referees over becoming professional. Diego Maradona faces drug allegations. The Association of Chief Police Officers state that the FA have agreed in principle to at least eight days notice for rearranged fixtures, thus paving the way for the introduction of penalty shoot outs in the FA Cup. South Yorkshire Police admit they blundered at Rotherham where exit gates remained closed as over 2000 Stoke fans tried to leave. Neither City nor Luton survive the freeze up.

6 YEARS AGO

Nottingham Forest refuse to allow Brian Clough to become part-time manager of Wales. Clough is shocked and considers resignation. Tottenham sign Paul Walsh from Liverpool for £500,000. Ian Ferguson moves from St Mirren to Rangers for £850,000, a Scottish record. After beating Oxford 7-4 in the league the previous week, Luton have to settle for a 1-1 draw in the Littlewoods Cup semi-final against the U's, with Brian Stein on target. The following weekend, brother Mark scores but the Hatters go down 2-1 to Arsenal. A division below, City overcome Leeds 3-2 at Filbert Street thanks to a brace from Gary McAllister and another from Nicky Cross.

9 YEARS AGO

Ryan Hamilton is sacked as a manager of Tranmere Rogers. Snow and ice again wipe out most of the League and cup programme, including Fifth Round ties for both Luton and Leicester. Forest jet off to war-torn Iraq in search of match practice. League clubs reject a £17 million package from BBC and ITV and a television blackout looks imminent. The quarter-final draw for the FA Cup pairs Luton and City at Kenilworth Road if they both win through. Subsequently, the Hatters dispose of local rivals Watford at the third attempt, but City crash 2-0 to Third Division Millwall to set up the infamous tie and riot that led to the ban on away fans and talk of membership schemes throughout the game.

England rugby union captain Will Carling and Newcastle United football manager Kevin Keegan headline a list of big names to appear in Leicester City's new multi-million pound Carling Stand complex.

Carling, fresh from skippering England to a Calcutta Cup victory over Scotland last Saturday, will speak at a business luncheon on Wednesday March 9 about the importance of motivation in sport and management. Ticket price is £23.50 which includes a three-course lunch.

And Newcastle boss Keegan will be the principal speaker at the club's first Sportsmen's Dinner to be hosted in the new development



MARKETING

Matters

Barrie Pierpoint
Director of Marketing

on Thursday April 21. Tickets are priced £37.50.

We hope the calibre of these sportsmen demonstrates the quality of events we are determined to bring to Leicester.

In the coming months we hope to announce more major names from the sporting world to our new facilities.

A grand banquet will mark the official opening of the new stand on March 22 which will feature a series of sporting celebrities and a five course dinner. Tickets are now available at a price of £39.50.

There will be a live band and plenty of entertainment for what promises to be a

great night to officially launch the complex.

A wide range of other business seminars and charity dinners have already been booked when the stand opens for business in March.

The response from companies both regionally and nationally has been very encouraging and we are already well on the way to becoming one of the premier business facilities in the Midlands.

For companies interested in taking a closer look at our facilities we will be holding a series of open days on March 1 and 2.

If your company is interested in attending any of the above events or preview days then please contact Kay Burford on Leicester 854000.

Among other major events being lined up is a major conference on the future of British football stadiums titled Grounds for Optimism which will be held on March 24.

WE extend a warm welcome to today's match sponsors H.E.A.T. - The Heat Electric Advisory Team, and in particular, East Midlands Electricity and all of their invited guests.

HEAT is a nationwide organisation with a membership of specially selected electricians and plumbers. They are all trained experts, who are fully qualified to give advice and to install economic electric heating, water heating systems and showers.

There are HEAT advisors/installers in your area. To find out where to reach them simply telephone 0533 574171 and ask for the trade sales adviser.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our old friends and Fox Club partners the Leicester Mercury who are our Mitre Matchball experience guests this afternoon. We hope they and their guests enjoy the game.

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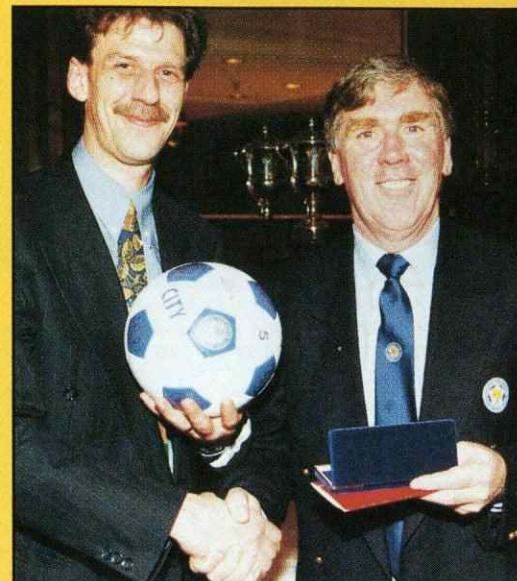
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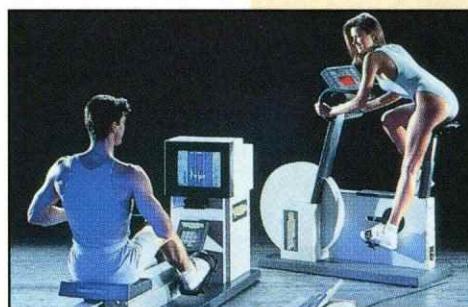


• MATCH SPONSOR: City chairman Martin George (right) makes an after-match presentation to Tony Mayfield of Central Motors, our West Bromwich Albion match sponsors.



• ON THE BALL: City defender Simon Grayson (right) presents the match-ball to Mr Billson representing Cristal Glass and Glazing, our West Bromwich Albion Mitre Matchball Experience guests.

Premier League fitness facilities



Leicester City will be joining Italian giants AC Milan and Dutch aces Ajax when it comes to purpose-built fitness centres.

The new Fox Fitness Studio will be modelled on the facilities in Milan and Amsterdam which are currently the envy of the Italian and Dutch football leagues.

A £250,000 contract for the supply of state-of-the-art fitness systems has been awarded to leading European company Technogym.

When completed, the centre will boast a computer-networked fitness studio, sauna, steam facilities, and relaxation lounge.

The fitness studio will cater for the reformed couch potato through to the elite athlete with a full range of cardio vascular and analysis equipment.

The club will also offer the region's leading sports injury clinic in association with leading specialists. Planned services include chiropractor, physiotherapist, osteopath, dietitian and beautician.

A full programme of opening dates and membership details will be announced shortly.



• PITCH PRESENTATION: City captain Gary Mills presents a pennant to Andy Bottrill, managing director of Admiral Cleaning Services who were our Charlton Athletic First Team Hospitality Experience guests.



• HANDING OVER: City striker David Speedie hands over the matchball to guests of our Charlton Mitre Matchball Experience sponsors Midland Fox.



THE FOX CLUB

in partnership with the Leicester Mercury



• Sunderland mascot Karis Cooper with David Oldfield.

• West Brom mascot Kieron Ford with David Speedie.

• Charlton mascot Martin Lord with David Speedie.

SH STROKES: Get in the picture at Filbert Street matches. Friendly face in our Fox Leisure store is going a real treat with our Fox Club members - photograph from the Pontins League with Liverpool shows below.



Football's biggest fan supports every team

PHOTOGRAPH: STUART CLARKE

THE FOOTBALL TRUST is every team's No. 1 supporter and is doing all it can to help your club meet the bill for necessary ground redevelopment work in line with the Taylor Report.

The Trust receives over £36m every year to award to clubs at all levels to improve safety and comfort. Virtually all of it comes from the pools companies, Littlewoods, Vernons and Zetters.



THE FOOTBALL TRUST
Helping the game

Walkden House, 10 Melton Street, London NW1 2EJ

Up and down the country, clubs are building new grounds, stands, seating and roofing. All depend on the support of THE FOOTBALL TRUST.



Family Night Football is fast proving one of the success stories of the season ... thanks to you.

League clubs throughout the country have been contacting us for information about our new community programmes.

And we're delighted to tell them that it's you who have made our FNF games, staged in partnership with the Leicester Mercury, such a resounding success.

Filbert's guests Dennis the Menace and Captain Scarlet both enjoyed themselves tremendously against Sheffield Wednesday and Liverpool respectively.

The Creator steel band proved a smash hit too and our Pontins Family holiday competitions have certainly caused plenty of interest at half time.

It's great too to see so many Fox Club members with their painted faces. The emphasis is firmly on family fun.

FNF are the sort of busy nights at which you can really work up an appetite. As well as our refreshment kiosks, you can book a special-priced meal in our Captain's Restaurant. For more details contact Kay Burford on Leicester 854000. If you have any ideas about how you can make our FNF nights even better, then please write to Richard Hughes at the Fox Club, Filbert Street, Leicester LE2 7FL.

And don't forget to tell all your friends about FNF. We're also arranging special school trips, so why not tell your teacher and have a real party at Filbert Street.

Yo, dudes, make sure you join Bart Simpson at Filbert Street on Monday for our FNF Pontins League game with Bolton Wanderers.

After the fantastic crowds for Sheffield Wednesday, Liverpool and Manchester United, the stage is set for another thrilling, action-packed, fun night.

We've got all the usual pre-match and half-time entertainment and now it's Bart's turn to receive his City call-up from the nation's number one football mascot Filbert Fox.

We don't know about Bart's class-mates but there's a large party coming from Rushey Mead School so we hope they have a great evening out compliments of the Leicester City Football Club and Leicester Mercury.

What a fantastic atmosphere there's been at our previous FNF games. All you Fox Clubs have been making some serious noise. More of the same on Monday, please. Doors open at 6.15am, the entertainment begins at 6.30pm and the football kicks off at 7pm.

And, because of the tremendous demand, we're opening up the Double Decker stand as well as the Carling Stand.

Our Team 1316 ball persons on Monday are: Michael Goddard (12), Adrian Paine (13), Caroline Warrington (16), Lee Rawlinson (13), Ben Smythe (14), Ian McConnell (15), Sarah Kenna (13), Amy Bailliss (13) and Kaeten Misty (13).

Membership of the Fox Club has now surged through the 1,000 mark and is still rising rapidly - all this within the first six weeks of the official launch.

Remember, our Filbert Tots is for the under fives, the Filbert Fox Club caters for the 5-12s and Team 1316 is for 13s to 16s.

Each club member gets their customised membership folder packed with official merchandise and discount offers. Plus, of course, you get into all our FNF matches absolutely free.

The cost is just £12 and, if you've not signed up already, you can get your application form from Filbert Street.

TODAY'S MASCOT

IAN Burchell is able to celebrate his 10th birthday in the best possible way ... he's our mascot for this afternoon's game with Luton.

Ian, of Enderby, was 10 yesterday and will be lining up in the centre circle this afternoon with the rival captains.

Good luck too to Daniel Wright (7), of Groby, who will be our mascot for the FNF game with Bolton on Monday.



WE'RE on our way to Wembley
And this time every Fox Club member is going to be a winner.

We've lined up a mega Fox Club outing to Wembley stadium on Sunday February 27.

You'll go behind-the-scenes at our national stadium into the dressing rooms and up the famous Wembley steps to the Royal Box.

Cost is £10 for members and £11 for parents or guardians. Coach departs LCFC 9am, arrive back in Leicester at 4.30pm (don't forget to bring a packed lunch).

Cheques payable to LCFC. Enclose name, address, telephone number and membership number.

Coaching CORNER

with Neville Hamilton



Our 1994 schools coaching courses are now in full swing with no fewer than 10 schools and 700 youngsters on the programme. Myself and the coaching team stage one morning or afternoon session at a Leicestershire school for a period of between four and six weeks.

They're proving extremely popular and we're looking to expand the scheme in the coming months.

The current top 10 primary schools are: Bridge, Merrick, Wyvern, Whitehall, Mowmacre, Belgrave, Knighton, Mayflower and Thurnby Lodge.

If any schools are interested in joining the programme, please contact me on Leicester 547268.

I'm also pleased to announce the details for our popular Easter soccer camps.

The first course will be held at South Wigston High School from March 28-31 inclusive and the second course will be at King Edward VII School, Melton Mowbray from April 5-8. Prices will be confirmed shortly.

A goalkeeping course will also be staged although a venue has still to be arranged. If you are interested in any of the courses contact me on Leicester 547268.

We're also planning to introduce regular monthly coaching clinics for Fox Club members. Details to be announced soon.

And finally we've just completed a month's course with Birkett House school for children with special needs.

This was an extremely rewarding venture and it was nice to see the progress the youngsters made over the four weeks.

FILBERT FOX

BY RUSS CARVELL



England have a manager again – or at least a coach! It seemed as though the Football Association out to compete on soap-opera terms with bours or Coronation Street as they dragged out appointment of a new team supremo following im Taylor's resignation.

ainly produced miles of column space in the media o little TV time with the various titbits of ews of Jimmy Armfield and Graham Kelly spiced – or should it be sweetened – Jan Sugar's recommendations of the man d virtually sacked!

od knock-about stuff which has been made ble by the final hardly surprising appointment of Venables, generally accepted as the best coach e position.

ring Terry as I do – he was a 17-year-old Chelsea regular first-er when I joined the Stamford Bridge staff in 1961 – I am sure he d have loved to have made the odd comment on the selection eures, but, for once, prudence took precedence over his natural ence. We're all getting older, Terry, and perhaps some wisdom does e with the advancing years!

usly, and it is serious for all of us in England who play, work in or ort our national game, I think Terry has every chance of making the best of the opportunity given him and getting the very best out of the rs available to him. And no-one could do more than that.

as always been a very confident leader, and indeed only left idford Bridge for White Hart Lane when his growing personality began riously clash with manager Tommy Docherty, who also tended to he was always right!

was at the hub of that great young Chelsea side of the early '60s, think it is fair to say that the team never functioned quite so well as a after he left us, even though he was replaced by perhaps a greater idualist in Charlie Cooke.

ys a thinker in the game, and a sharp East Ender to boot, he forged iendship with George Graham in those Chelsea years, and I can still

From the



General Secretary's

Chair

With Alan Bennett

remember a dressing room debate at Villa Park just prior to an FA Cup semi-final with Sheffield Wednesday in his last season at the Bridge.

I don't think anyone would have argued with the view that Chelsea that year were a better footballing side than the long-ball and hard tackling Wednesday, but our hopes of Wembley took a decided turn for the worse when the Chelsea party inspected a Villa Park pitch that could easily have passed for an Irish peat bog. There really seemed no way anyone could play passing football on that pitch.

What to do? One view was to abandon the style that had taken Chelsea to that stage, but Terry took the lead by insisting that Wednesday would be bound to be better than Chelsea at what would be the Sheffield side's normal game, while Chelsea's only chance was to try to play football and hope that it would still overcome.

As it happens, any chance of that disappeared with an injury to George Graham after about ten minutes that reduced him to a hobble, but I still think Terry was right. Better to try to do what you know you can do well than to attempt a game that would be foreign to the team, and I think he will take that maxim into his England planning.

Good luck, old pal – we all have a real interest in your success as there is no doubt a winning England team is reflected by more interest in the game at club level with increased sponsorship potential and attendances. Perhaps by co-incidence, the Football Association this month unveiled their plans for ticket allocations for the 1996 European Championships Finals for which England qualify automatically as the host nation.

By then we hope Terry will have honed an England team capable of going all the way, and the FA's plan for ticket opportunities to be given first to the Premier and Football League Club season ticket holders, followed by their registered members, is a welcome sign that the FA are at least trying to give the true supporters of the game first crack at tickets that may in two years time seem like gold-dust.

The first details are carried on page 47 on this programme, and as further information is received from Lancaster Gate it will be carried in future issues.

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WEST BROMWICH ALBION v LEICESTER CITY

Endsleigh Insurance League Division One The Hawthorns Saturday February 19 (ko 3pm)

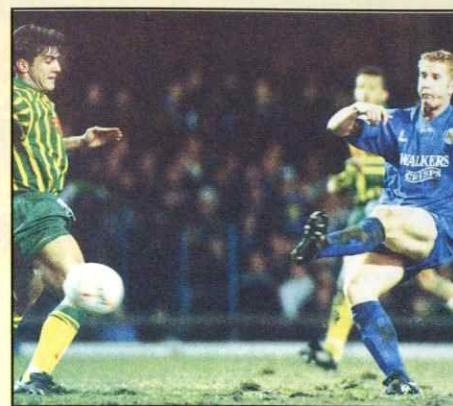
Life's been far from easy for West Bromwich Albion since promotion from Division Two last season.

Having lost manager Ossie Ardiles to Spurs, Keith Burkinshaw stepped into the hot-seat but after a steady start Albion are now fighting a battle for survival.

A 4-2 defeat at Filbert Street on a rain-soaked night last month heightened their relegation worries.

But attendances have been good with an average of around 17,000. With City expected to take a full 2,500 to the West Midlands, it promises to be a great atmosphere.

With trips to Birmingham City and Wolves, it will be City's first visit to the West Midlands this season. And manager Brian Little is determined that it should be a productive one.



• City striker Iwan Roberts strikes home one of his two goals in the 4-2 win over Albion at Filbert Street.

TRAVEL

ROAD

Join Motorway M69 to junction 1. In 7.2 miles follow signs Birmingham, The North West to join M6 to junction 8. Follow signs The South West to join M5 to junction 1. Leave Motorway (signs Birmingham) to join A41. WEST BROMWICH ALBION F.C. (on right).

Total mileage: 50.5 miles

RAIL

InterCity have provided us with the following timetables.

OUTWARD

Depart Leicester 12.40pm, arrive Birmingham New Street 1.34pm. Depart Birmingham New Street 2.08pm, arrive Smethwick Rf St. 2.14pm

RETURN

Depart Smethwick Rf St 5.35pm, arrive Birmingham New Street 5.41pm. Depart Birmingham New Street 6.01pm, arrive Leicester 6.49pm. Ground is approximately 20 minutes walk from Rolfe St. station.

RETURN FARES: Adult £6.80, Child (under 16's) £3.40, Railcard discount £4.50.

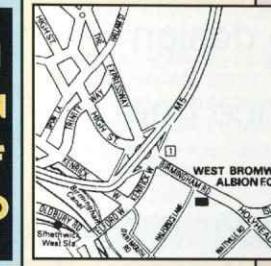
PORTRUSH v CITY

TICKET
This match is all-ticket for City. A limited number of tickets were still available at the time of going to press and, if still unsold, are now on general sale. Full details will be announced on the PA system and scoreboard today. Seats are priced at £10, standing tickets are priced at £7. Please do not travel to the Hawthorns without a ticket.

INFO

This game is NOT all-ticket. Holders of seating tickets for the original game on January 3 are reminded their tickets are still valid and these should be produced at the appropriate turnstiles.

Supporters wishing to stand should pay through the turnstiles. Price £9.



PORTRUSH v LEICESTER CITY

Endsleigh Insurance League Division One
Fratton Park – Tuesday February 15 (ko 7.45pm)

A WATERLOGGED pitch forced the postponement of this game on January 3 but it will be all systems go on Tuesday night.

After a slow start, Portsmouth have steadily improved under manager Jim Smith this season and produced some useful cup results on the way.

Pompey held the Premiership top two Manchester United and Blackburn on their home grounds before exiting the Coca Cola and FA Cups in replays.

It will be the first meeting between the clubs since City's two-legged play-off semi final victory over Portsmouth last season.

And it's bound to be another passionately-contested game with City having no fewer than 12 League points to contest before the end of the month.



• Portsmouth midfielder Alan McLoughlin.

TRAVEL

ROAD

Join Motorway M1 (South) to junction 6a. Follow signs Heathrow to join M25 to Junction 10. Leave Motorway (signs Guildford) to join A3.

JUNCTION FOR GUILDFORD: Follow signs Guildford A3.

HINDHEAD: Follow signs Petersfield A3.

JUNCTION FOR PETERSFIELD: In 7.7 miles forward join Motorway A3(M). In 5.6 miles keep forward to leave motorway & join A27. 1.5 miles farther branch left (signs Southsea) & at roundabout take 1st exit A2030.

In 3 miles at roundabout take 2nd exit into Alverstoke road unclass. Shortly turn left. In 0.2 mile turn right into Carisbrooke Road. PORTSMOUTH F.C. (on right). Total mileage: 167.6



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36

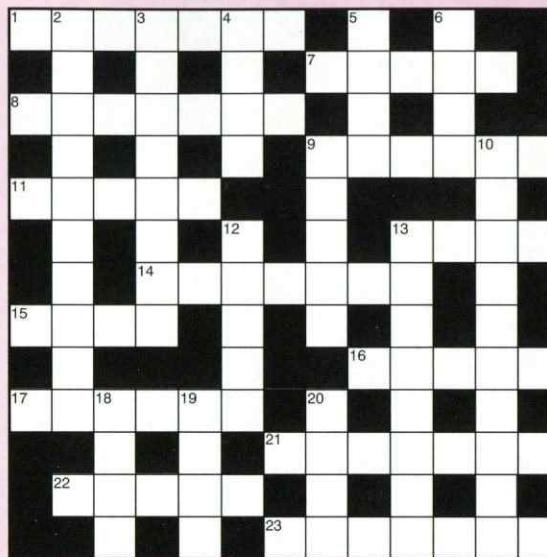
Blue Army BRAIN BENDERS

Quiz TIME

ACROSS

- England's most capped player past and present (7)
- Club nickname of Stirling Albion (5)
- Mick Jones once managed this Town side (7)
- One way of taking a free-kick (6)
- Drunk, mean and tense defence (5)
- Willie, former Coventry City and Scotland player of the seventies (4)
- Spanish league team (7)
- Mr - - - Flashman (4)
- The referee has used the whistle (5)
- Forename of Swedish forward who joined Arsenal from Cremonese (6)
- Tom Finney OBE, can be linked to this End (7)
- Colour, once always associated with the match officials (5)
- Portuguese League team (7)
- Former name of Oxford United (10)
- Jim, former Manchester United goalkeeper (8)
- European Footballer of the Year 1961 - - - Sivori (4)
- Brazilian who played in two winning World Cup Finals (4)
- Not playing away (4)
- England's Alan Shearer made his against France at Wembley February 1992 (5)
- English goalkeeper in the Premier league (5,5)
- On match days they are there to be kicked (5)
- Between 1963-79 Alan Ross made 466 appearances for this United side (8)
- Home of the Saints (4)
- Pat former Arsenal and Eire player (4)
- Section of the pitch (4)

CITY CROSSWORD N° 18



Answers to puzzles are on page 45



Fill in the circle, in a clockwise direction. The shaded spaces indicate the last letter of one answer, and the first of the next. When the circle has been completed, the shaded letters will form an anagram of the surname of a former Leicester player. Can you name him?

- Diego Maradona's former Italian club (6).
- Northern Ireland international striker (4,5).
- He moved from Port Vale to Wimbledon in 1991 (5).
- Spanish club with which
- Adrian Heath spent some time (7).
- Former Leeds and Scotland hotshot (7).
- Liverpool defender (7).
- Enthusiastic Wolves midfielder (4).

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• RODRIGUES: Scored three times in his 40 appearances in the campaign.

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The quality of entertainment was reflected in the size of the crowds drawn to Filbert Street. Though our early challenge for the Championship petered out, the exciting football played attracted average attendances of 25,000 for most of the campaign.

Having finished in a creditable seventh position in the First Division the previous season, manager Matt Gillies did not feel it necessary to make any major signings during the summer.

However, during the course of this season, he introduced the young David Nish, now youth development officer at the club, to the senior side. David went on to play for England at full and under-23 levels after gaining youth honours.

The accent was very much upon attack with Derek Dougan and Jackie Sinclair quickly getting among the goals. We scored at least once in each of our opening 14 League and Cup ties though Dougan's two on the opening day did not prevent us going down 2-3 at Liverpool.

Our opening home game, against West Ham, set the scene for the season. Sinclair got a hat-trick as we came out of a thriller with a 5-4 win.

Dougan contributed two goals to our 3-0 success over Blackpool in our next game at Filbert Street then, following a 1-1 draw away to leaders Sheffield Wednesday, the Foxes were settling down among the Championship chasers.

It was Dougan's turn to bag a hat-trick as we crushed Aston Villa 5-0 here towards the end of September and that took us into fourth place, just two points behind the new leaders Chelsea.

That was the first of three consecutive wins but we came down to earth when losing 2-5 at Burnley in mid-October. Yet we



• THE MASTER AND HIS PUPIL: Right, Gordon Banks was to leave Filbert Street after winning a World Cup medal and, above, it fell to Peter Shilton to don the goalkeeping gloves.

Pictures: Neville Chadwick Photography

extracted full revenge when crushing Burnley 5-1 at Filbert Street less than a month later.

We dropped just one point in our opening seven games at Filbert Street but our home record went when Manchester United beat us 2-1 at the end of November.

Our second-biggest crowd, 39,014, of the season was enthralled by the magic of George Best, Bobby Charlton and Denis Law at their peak. Law and Best scored United's goals.

As United, Liverpool, Nottingham Forest and Stoke pulled away at the top of the table, we dropped out of the mainstream in the Championship chase – but the accent remained very much upon attack.

Though we were at the wrong end of a Ron Davies' hat-trick at Southampton, we came back from 2-4 to draw 4-4 with goals from Tom Sweenie (2), Dave Gibson and Bobby Roberts.

Manchester United took over at the top in March and we found them at their scintillating best when we travelled to Old Trafford. David Herd, Charlton, Josh Aston, Law and David Sadler all scored as we went down 2-5. Sinclair got both our goals.

April was a disastrous month as we failed to win in five attempts but we ended on a high note with two victories at Filbert Street.

Nick Sharkey netted twice in a 4-2 win over relegation-troubled Newcastle and the season closed with a 3-2 win over Chelsea, with Sharkey again scoring twice.

Nick had been signed from Sunderland in October but was unable to get into the side until the end of the season. Though he played only three games, he scored four times as we finished in eighth place.

In spite of our good showing in the League, we met with limited success in the knockout competitions. Third Division Reading and Fourth Division Lincoln were both hit for five in early rounds of the League Cup but our interest in that competition came to an end as we went down 2-4 away to Third Division Q.P.R. who were to shock everyone by winning the Wembley final.

Though we took a second-minute lead through Sweenie in the third round of the FA Cup at Manchester City and held the advantage for more than an hour, the home side hit back to win 2-1.

APPEARANCES

Banks, G. 36; Cross, G. 41; Dougan, D. 31; Dougan, M. 2; Gibson, D. 40; Goodfellow, J. 29; McDermer, B. 1(1); Matthews, P. 8(2); Nish, D. 18; Norman, R. 42; Roberts, B. 42; Rodrigues, P. 40; Sharkey, N. 3; Shilton, P. 4; Sinclair, J. 41; Sjoberg, J. 28; Stringfellow, M. 42; Sweenie, T. 11; Tewley, A. -(1); Timson, D. 2; Woollett, A. 1(1)

GOALSCORERS

Sinclair 21, Dougan (D) 16, Stringfellow 10, Roberts 7, Gibson 6, Goodfellow 5, Sharkey 4, Rodrigues 3, Sweenie 2, Cross 1, Nish 1, opponents 2.

FORM GUIDE AT A GLANCE

DIVISION ONE

	H	A
Arsenal	2-1	4-2
Aston Villa	5-0	1-0
Blackpool	3-0	1-1
Burnley	5-1	2-5
Chelsea	3-2	2-2
Everton	2-2	0-2
Fulham	0-2	2-4
Leeds	0-0	1-3
Liverpool	2-1	2-3
Man. City	2-1	3-1
Man. Utd.	1-2	2-5
Newcastle	4-2	0-1
Nottm Forest	3-0	0-1
Sheffield Utd	2-2	1-0
Sheffield Wed.	0-1	1-1
Southampton	1-1	4-4
Stoke City	4-2	1-3
Sunderland	1-2	3-2
Tottenham	0-1	0-2
W.B.A.	2-1	0-1
West Ham	5-4	1-0

FA CUP

Rd. 3 – Man City (a) 1-2

LEAGUE CUP

Rd. 2 – Reading (h) 5-0

Rd. 3 – Lincoln (h) 5-0

Rd. 4 – Q.P.R. (a) 2-4



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Until a few weeks ago my idea of fantasy football would have been to play alongside 10 Michelle Pfeifers and be given permission to join them in the bath afterwards.

Not any more, although it's still a pretty good idea. Yes, Fantasy Football fever is sweeping the country. There's even a television programme devoted to it on Friday nights on BBC 2.

And guess who's been auditioning for it? Yes, the Birch makes his television return. A film crew made the trip up from London earlier this week to film myself and Gordon Banks.

I can't think why they would want Gordon on the show but eventually they arrived at Chez Birch. There I was, rehearsing my 15 page script. Practising my elocution for all the stories I've never ever told before (are there any, Ed).

And what do they want me to do. Say my name. And that was it. However, this did take 10 attempts before I was able to deliver 'Hello, I'm Alan Birchenall' without breaking into fits of laughter.

A regular feature of the programme is that us old-timers also play a musical instrument. One of my old Chelsea mates Ian Hutchinson was seen banging a tambourine the other week.

For the Birch, only the best is good enough; a guitar. Ever an improviser, I went upstairs to don the seventies clobber.

One of my best mates is Dave Bartram, lead singer with Showaddywaddy. So, I got out the gear. Out came the blue suede shoes, fluorescent socks, tight trousers and a full length red suede jacket with black velvet collar and cuffs.

For good measure, I unravelled an old shoe lace, picked up a ref's whistle and made up a makeshift medallion.

Did I look the part or what? The camera crew fell about laughing. The only problem was that the guitar was right-handed and I'm a left-handed player.

So keep an eye out for the oldest swinger in town. And remember, don't blink or you'll miss it.

□ □ □

Seems like an awful long time since the Birch put pen to paper. Charlton, wasn't it? Good old Iwan Roberts was extremely honest after the game.

He admitted that his last minute winner was going wide until it hit a divot and, you might say, took a turn for the better.

Our luck ran out at Crystal Palace when we conceded a late winner. But we did have two weeks to re-charge the batteries.

Unfortunately, although the batteries were fully charged we didn't hook them up to the engine very well for the trip to



SILVER BIRCH

with Alan Birchenall

A. Birchenall scored the City winner.

This was a fact picked up upon by Central commentator Alan Parry and in a pre-game interview I performed. I did happen to mention that I thought it was about to be broken. How wrong can you be?

Mind, I have to take issue with the Mercury about their flashback article to the game. They spoke of Keith Weller's first goal and how the Birch scored the winner with a deflected second.

It upset me because as everyone well knows the Birch never scored with a deflection. They all flew into the top corners unaided.

□ □ □

Another of my old mates I bumped into was none other than David Pleat who brings his Luton Town side here this afternoon.

David gave me a few more Pleat pearls of wisdom although I'm not too sure that the Birch was able to understand them all.

I won't bore you with the story about how David took me to Luton not for my footballing skills but for my ability to improve dressing room spirit... (no, please don't, Ed).

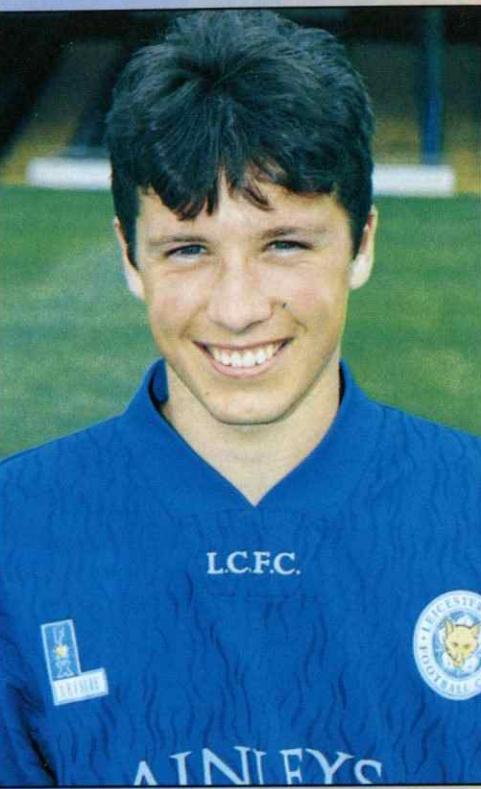
But I will issue a warm welcome back to Filbert Street to several ex-City players. Most notably Scott Oakes who's been finding the back of the net recently.

He scored a fabulous goal against Derby, while ex-City man Tony Thorpe has also been doing well, along with Des Linton.

Have a safe journey home, preferably one without three points under your belts, lads.

And don't forget, everyone, to set the video for a guitar solo from the Birch that really will have you in football fantasyland.

"Out came
the blue suede shoes,
fluorescent socks, tight
trousers and a full length red
suede jacket with black velvet
collar and cuffs. For good
measure, I unravelled an old
shoe lace, picked up a ref's
whistle and made
up a makeshift
medallion."



THE YOUNG Ones

Name: Ryland Morgans

Date of birth: September 16, 1976

Age: 17

Birthplace: Dagenham (East London)

Position: Midfield

When were you first spotted by City:
On trial as a 16-year-old schoolboy

What clubs/schools have you played for:

West End AFC, Boys Club of Swansea, Olchja School, Southampton Schoolboys, Hereford Schoolboys

What have been the best moments of your career so far:

Playing for Welsh YMCA, Boys Clubs of Wales, Welsh International U-16's squad in Scotland & Ireland, signing YT forms at Filbert Street

Hobbies: Relaxing, drawing

Favourite players: Glenn Hoddle, Paul Gascoigne, Ryan Giggs, Lee Clark

City Ainleys youth team are through to their first cup final of the season.

Tony McAndrew's young braves booked a Midland Purity Youth League Cup final showdown with Coventry City after a 1-0 semi final victory over Shrewsbury.

The final has handed City a revenge mission against the Sky Blues who knocked us out of the FA Youth Cup 2-1 earlier this season.

A date has still to be fixed for the game which will be played at Highfield Road.

McAndrew said: "It's a great confidence-booster for the lads. Many thought their chance of playing at a League ground again had gone for this season.

"Now I can take a closer look at them in a bigger environment and there's a great chance of a winner's medal as well.

"I didn't feel we did ourselves justice against Coventry in the FA Youth Cup and this game gives us a chance to put the record straight."

City had to work hard for their cup final appearance with their quarter final and semi final matches played in the space of four days.

After an extra time replay victory over Notts County 2-1, thanks to goals from Craig Hallam and Neil Maisey, City brushed aside Shrewsbury 1-0 courtesy of a Nicki Finney winner.

In League action, though, McAndrew is looking for a marked improvement in results.

City have slipped into the bottom half of the table after a disappointing 2-0 defeat at the hands of Walsall.

"It's no use performing only in the cup competitions. We've got to put all thoughts of the final to the back of our minds," said McAndrew.

As a dress rehearsal for the cup final, City entertain Coventry in Midland Purity Youth League action at the Belvoir Drive training ground next Saturday (ko 10.45). Admission is free.

Focus on YOUTH

with
Tony McAndrew and Kevin MacDonald

MIDLAND PURITY YOUTH LEAGUE

Date	v	Score	Scorer(s)
Aug 7	Shrewsbury	3-2	Finney, Hings, Hallam
Aug 13	Stoke City	1-2	Finney
Aug 21	Walsall	3-1	Hings, Bedder, Murphy
Aug 28	West Brom	2-2	Murphy, Maisey
Sep 4	Aston Villa	1-1	og.
Sep 11	Birmingham	0-1	
Sep 18	Port Vale (LC1)	4-0	Murphy 2, Davey, McMahon
Sep 25	Derby County	0-2	
Sep 29	Northampton (MCP)	4-3	Heskey 2, Finney, Maisey
Oct 2	Grimsby	1-0	Hings
Oct 9	Wolves	3-3	Murphy 2, Finney
Oct 16	Mansfield (LC2)	3-1	Davey, McMahon, Hallam
Oct 23	Mansfield Town	2-3	Murphy, Hallam
Oct 30	Aston Villa	1-4	Quincey
Nov 1	Aston Villa (MC1)	1-2	Hings
Nov 6	Northampton	1-2	Murphy
Nov 13	Notts County	2-1	Murphy, Heskey
Nov 15	Northampton (FA1)	3-1	Hallam, Murphy, Finney
Nov 20	Notts County (LC3)	0-0	
Nov 27	Peterborough	2-1	Bedder, Hallam
Nov 30	Coventry (FA2)	1-2	Heskey
Dec 3	Lincoln City	1-1	Murphy
Dec 11	Port Vale	3-2	McMahon 2, Murphy
Dec 18	Port Vale	4-2	McMahon 3, Heskey
Jan 8	Shrewsbury	0-2	
Jan 19	Notts County (LC3R)	2-1	Hallam, Maisey
Jan 22	Shrewsbury Tn. (LCSF)	1-0	Finney
Jan 29	Walsall	0-2	
Feb 12	Birmingham		
Feb 19	Coventry		
Feb 26	Derby		
Mar 5	Grimsby		
Mar 12	Notts Forest		
Mar 19	Wolves		
Mar 26	Lincoln City		
Apr 2	Mansfield		
Apr 9	Northampton		
Apr 16	Notts County		
Apr 23	Notts Forest		
Apr 30	Peterborough		
May 7	Coventry		
	TBA Stoke City		
	TBA West Brom		

Home games are in bold

APPEARANCES AND GOALS

	Apps	Goals		Apps	Goals
Clay	20	—	Stewart	0+1	—
Halford	27	—	Linton	7	—
Aston	26	—	Johnson	1+1	—
James	16+3	—	Campbell	1+1	—
Hings	15+5	4	Oram	3+1	—
Davey	10+3	2	Heskey	7+5	5
Warner	26	—	Wilson	2+2	—
McMahon	25	7	King	1	—
Finney	25+2	5	Wenlock	1	—
Maisey	13+7	3	Davis	1	—
Hallam	21+3	6	Hope	1	—
Chivers	3+7	—	Quincey	4+2	1
Bedder	23+2	2	Dear	1	—
Murphy	20+1	12	Bott	1	—
Morgans	6+5	1	Neil	0+1	—
Poole	0+2	—	Close	0+1	—
			Livingstone	2	—

ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1. Shilton, 7. Binos, 8. Halifax, 9. Direct, 11. Tight, 13. Carr, 14. Osasuma, 15. Stan, 16. Blown, 17. Anders, 21. Preston, 22. Black, 23. Parens.
DOWN: 2. Headington, 3. Leighton, 4. Omar, 5. Didi, 6. Ruddock, 7. Keen.
ANAGRAM: Lineker.

CROSSWORD

Home, 9. Debut, 10. Chris Woods, 12. Balls, 13. Carlisle, 18. Dell, 19. Rice, 20. Area.

MAGIC CIRCLE

1. Napoli, 2. Iain Dowie, 3. Earle, 4. Español, 5. Lorimer, 6. Ruddock, 7. Keen.
ANAGRAM: Lineker.

D:REAM ON VOL 1

AINLEYS

D:REAM ON 1

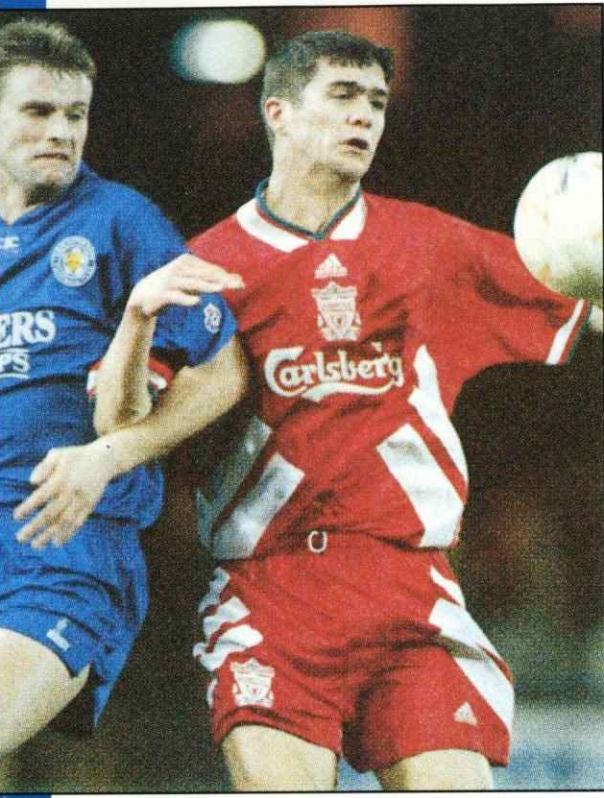
ALBUM OUT NOW

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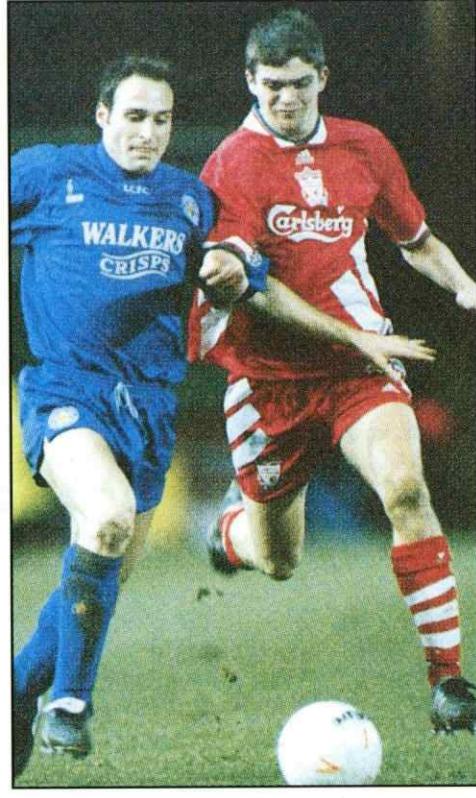
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CLOCKTOWER LEICESTER



• ARM-LOCK: City striker Phil Gee is halted by the long arm of the Liverpool back line.



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Lining up in **RESERVE**

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and John Gregory

The result of the season was matched by the crowd of the season as City re-wrote the Pontins League record books and ripped up the form guide last Wednesday night.

City became only the second team to beat Division One leaders Manchester United reserves with a stunning 3-1 victory to haul themselves out of the relegation zone.

And it was all watched by a new record crowd of 14,419 who forced club officials to open up the entire ground such was the unprecedented demand.

Ian Ormondroyd led the City rout with two goals helped by a spectacular effort from second year YT player Sam McMahon which opened up a three-goal lead inside the opening 30 minutes.

Ex-Scottish international Brian McClair set up Dion Dublin for United's sole response a minute before the break but the issue was never in any real doubt. It was the perfect victory for City who had slipped into the bottom four relegation positions after a 3-1 defeat at the hands of Liverpool.

First team coach John Gregory said: "It was a great performance, a great result and a great crowd.

"We were in desperate need of three points and to get them against Manchester United is a boost for everyone at the club.

"There are very few points separating a lot of teams in the table but we knew we had to start winning matches to pull ourselves clear.

"This is a basis upon which we can build and with eight of our remaining 14 matches at home we need to capitalise on the crowds we are drawing.

"Our problem has been that we have lost too many matches - 10 out of 21 - and we have paid the price.

"With the crowds we have been enjoying for Family Night Football we are particularly keen to ensure we stay up.

"It's good to play the likes of Manchester United and Liverpool at Filbert Street and we want to see them here again next season.

"If we continue the form we showed last Wednesday then we have a tremendous chance of doing that."



• HOT PURSUIT: Phil Gee chases after a Sheffield Wednesday defender in the 2-1 Filbert Street win.



• IRISH EYES: Republic of Ireland duo Brian Carey and Ronnie Whelan.

Home games are in bold

PONTIN'S CENTRAL LEAGUE Fixtures 1993-94

Date	v	Score	Scorer(s)
Aug 19	Derby	3-1	Ormondroyd, Davison, Haughton
Aug 25	N. Forest	3-0	Davison, Oldfield, Ormondroyd
Sep 2	Blackburn	0-3	
Sep 6	Bolton	1-2	Oldfield
Sep 13	Man Utd	3-4	Trotter (2), Davison
Sep 20	Sheffield Utd	1-1	Gee
Sep 28	Notts County	1-1	Eustace
Oct 7	Sheffield Wed	1-3	Gee
Oct 11	Sunderland	1-1	Coatsworth
Oct 19	Liverpool	0-1	
Oct 25	Newcastle	2-2	Lowe, Gee
Nov 3	York City	2-1	Lowe (2)
Nov 10	Aston Villa	1-3	Haughton
Nov 16	Everton	1-3	Eustace
Nov 22	Wolves	0-1	
Nov 29	Coventry	3-1	Gee, Blyth, Oldfield
Jan 13	Sunderland	0-1	
Jan 17	Sheff. Wed.	2-1	Gee, Lowe
Jan 31	Liverpool	1-3	Joachim
Feb 9	Man Utd	3-1	Ormondroyd (2), McMahon
Feb 14	Bolton		
Feb 24	Leeds		
Feb 28	Blackburn		
Mar 8	Coventry		
Mar 17	Sheffield		
Mar 21	Notts County		
Apr 13	York		
Apr 18	Aston Villa		
Apr 27	Wolves		
May 2	Everton		
May 11	Derby		
TBA	Newcastle (a)		
TBA	Leeds (h)		
TBA	Nottm Forest (h)		



• IN BALANCE: Neil Lewis holds off the attentions of a Sheffield Wednesday defender.

MATCH FACTS	
Sunderland Res 1	Leicester City Res 0
City: Ward, Coatsworth, Crane, Eustace, Carey, Thompson, Haughton, Gee, Lowe, Lewis, Philpott. Subs: McAndrews, Evans	
Leicester City Res 2	Sheffield Wednesday Res 1
City: Ward, Coatsworth, Crane, Carey, Eustace, Lewis, Thompson, Gee, Lowe, Ormondroyd, Philpott. Subs: McMahon, Evans. Goals: Gee, Lowe	
Leicester City Res 1	Liverpool Res 3
City: Ward, Coatsworth, Crane, Eustace, Lewis, Thompson, Gee, Agnew, Ormondroyd, Philpott. Subs: Thompson, McMahon. Goals: Joachim	
Leicester City Res 3	Manchester United Res 1
City: Ward, Eustace, Lewis, Coatsworth, Carey, Gibson, McMahon, Gee, Lowe, Ormondroyd, Philpott. Subs: Warner, Murphy. Goals: Ormondroyd (2), McMahon	

APPEARANCES AND GOALS

	Apps	Goals		Apps	Goals
Poole	11	—	Carey	9	—
Grayson	3	—	Mills	3	—
Lewis	15	—	Agnew	2	—
Coatsworth	18	1	Joachim	2	1
Willis	4	—	Speedie	0+1	—
Gee	19	5	Hill	1+1	—
Haughton	8+6	2	Lowe	11	4
Davison	6	3	Blyth	5+4	1
Ormondroyd	6	4	Eustace	15	2
Oldfield	6	3	McMahon	3+4	1
Gibson	11	—	Murphy	2+1	—
Trotter	11	2	Warner	0+3	—
J. Thompson	6+8	—	Evans	1+5	—
Ward	6	—	MacDonald	1	—
Smith	6	—	Finney	0+1	—
Philpott	14	—	Gregory	0+2	—
Whitlow	1	—	Muggleton	3	—
James	2	—	Crane	6+1	—
Walsh	1	—	McAndrew	0+1	—

STATISTICS 1993-94

LEAGUE APPEARANCES AND GOALS

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE													
	HOME				AWAY				Pts	Gls			
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Gls
Stal Palace	28	10	3	1	27	12	6	2	6	22	21	53	149
Carlton Athletic	28	10	2	3	23	9	4	4	5	12	17	48	135
Welling Forest	27	6	6	2	22	14	7	2	4	23	16	47	145
Walsall	28	9	4	1	24	10	4	4	6	15	22	47	139
CESTER CITY	28	9	4	1	34	18	4	3	7	13	18	46	147
Tranmere Rovers	29	9	2	3	27	15	4	4	7	12	28	45	139
Leeds County	28	10	0	3	30	17	3	4	8	14	25	43	144
Wolverhampton Wdrs.	28	7	6	1	24	12	3	7	4	18	16	43	142
Sheffield City	28	9	2	3	22	14	3	5	6	16	26	43	138
Ilton Wdrs.	29	7	5	2	24	15	4	4	7	15	18	42	139
Stol City	29	7	4	4	19	15	4	4	6	13	18	41	132
Southend United	29	7	3	5	25	19	5	1	8	19	23	40	144
Portsmouth	28	6	5	3	17	12	3	6	5	14	22	38	131
Leedsbrough	27	6	5	3	22	11	3	5	5	16	19	37	138
Walsall County	28	9	1	3	24	15	2	3	10	14	32	37	138
Wolverhampton Wd	28	9	1	4	21	13	2	3	9	9	23	37	130
Leeds Town	27	8	0	5	23	14	2	5	7	12	20	35	135
Wimborne Town	28	3	9	1	16	10	4	4	7	18	22	34	134
Watford	29	6	4	4	26	23	2	3	10	17	34	31	143
West Bromwich A.	29	6	3	3	27	20	1	3	10	14	27	30	141
Wolverhampton City	29	6	6	4	17	17	1	2	10	12	26	29	129
Wimborne	28	3	3	8	13	21	4	4	6	21	24	28	134
Leeds United	29	5	3	6	19	23	1	5	9	13	30	26	132
Leedsbrough Utd.	27	4	6	4	15	12	1	3	9	9	22	24	124

(Statistics up to and including February 11)

APPEARANCES & GOALS

Current Season		City		Career		Current Season		City		Career	
App	Gls	App	Gls	App	Gls	App	Gls	App	Gls	App	Gls
Agnew	29	2	40	3		Mills	19+3	-	222+6	17(5p)	
Agnew	13+4	-	13+4	-		Oldfield	22+3	7(1p)	174+22	30(1p)	
Coatsworth	6+2	-	18+4	2		Ormondroyd	18+1	3	59+11	8	
Charlton	0+1	-	26+5	9		Philpott	9+7	-	40+7	3	
Coates	0+1	-	0+1	-		Poole	8	-	83	-	
Dee	2+6	2	31+15	10		Roberts	12	7	12	7	
Leedsbrough	8+1	-	55+8	4		Smith	4+6	-	91+14	2	
Waterson	28+1	1	61+13	2		Speedie	30	12	30	12	
Will	31	1	100	1		Thompson	32	8(6p)	125+4	25(9p)	
Wulf	-	-	14	-		Walsh	9	5	287+1	46	
James	2+1	1	88+25	11		Ward	26	-	26	-	
Joachim	20+6	6	50+8	20		Whitlow	25	3	63+2	4	
Lewis	15	-	17+5	-		Willis	3	-	15+2	-	
Lowe	3+4	-	32+12	12		own goals	2				

*Davison now with Sheffield United

FIRST DIVISION ATTENDANCES & SCORERS

Aggregate			Average			Leading League Scorers		
Barnsley	112,090	8,006	Redfearn	10	Payton	4		
Birmingham	229,124	14,320	Peschisoldo	9	Saville	5	Shuttle	4
Bolton	147,624	10,545	McGinn	13	Coyle	5	Thompson	5
Bristol City	146,702	9,780	Allison	11	Baird	5	Tinnion	5
Charlton	115,136	7,676	Nelson	9	Leaburn	5	Chapple	4
Crystal Palace	191,956	13,711	Armstrong	15	Salako	7		
Derby	201,755	15,520	Gabbiaudi	11	Pembroke	8	Kitson	7
Grimsby	77,778	5,983	Mendonca	11	Groves	6		
Leicester	217,727	15,552	Speedie	11	Roberts	7	Thompson	7
Luton	98,229	7,556	Dixon	7	Oakes	5		
Middlesbrough	150,543	10,753	Hendrie	8	Moore	8	Wilkinson	7
Millwall	131,177	9,370	Rae	11	Goodman	7	Kennedy	4
Notm Forest	321,787	22,985	Collymore	13	Gemmell	6	Glover	5
Notts County	101,364	7,797	McSweeney	8	Drapier	7	Lund	6
Oxford	86,048	6,146	Cusack	5	Magilton	5		
Peterborough	97,255	6,947	Adcock	7	Philliskirk	4		
Portsmouth	168,987	12,071	Durnin	6	Walsh	5		
Southend	95,867	6,391	Otto	10	Jones	7	Angel	6
Stoke City	230,032	16,431	Stein	8	Orylsson	6	Regis	6
Sunderland	242,475	17,320	Phil Gray	7	Goodman	7	Smith (A)	6
Tranmere	113,074	8,077	Aldridge	8	Nevin	7		
Watford	108,653	7,761	Furlong	14	Porter	7	Dyer	6
W.B.A.	253,872	16,925	Taylor	12	Hunt	10		
Wolves	282,177	20,156	Bull	13	Kelly	9		

(Up to and including February 11)



Home games are in bold

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1996

Leicester City F.C. have received from the Football Association an allocation of application forms to enable supporters to apply for tickets for the European Championships finals in England in June 1996.

Grounds to be used are Wembley Stadium, Old Trafford, Villa Park, Anfield and, for the qualifying round only, Hillsborough, The City Ground, Nottingham, Elland Road and St. James Park, Newcastle.

The Football Association have asked clubs to nominate a priority period for their season ticket holders, followed by members, to obtain application forms for the tickets, which will be sold on either an individual basis or on blocks of matches.

Payment for tickets is required either on application or by direct debit over a period of six months. Ticket prices range from £15 (the cheapest seats at the early round matches) to £130 for the best seats at the Final. Final seats may only be applied for by applicants who have applied for tickets for the earlier rounds.

We have therefore set the period from now to 19th March as a priority period during which we will supply SEASON TICKET HOLDERS only with application forms. Following 19th March, a further period will be defined for priority to members.

Season ticket holders requiring application forms should obtain them from the ticket office. Season tickets must be produced at the time of calling, or if requested by post, stand, row and seat numbers should be quoted.

Fuller details will be published in future matchday magazines as they are received from the Football Association.

PORTSMOUTH v LEICESTER CITY

City fans who purchased seat tickets for the original game on January 3 and cannot make Tuesday's game have until Monday 7pm to return their tickets to the ticket office and claim a refund.

TETLEY BITTER

TODAY'S REFEREE

WORKS manager Paul Harrison takes charge of our game this afternoon. Married with three sons, Mr Harrison began refereeing 20 years ago in the Lancashire Amateur League. He graduated on to the League list in 1986 via the Cheshire and North West Counties leagues. Mr Harrison serves on several referees associations in the North West and lists golf and music as his main hobbies.

T. J. Pollard
P. J. Robinson
Reserve official: K. B. Rye

MATCHBALL SPONSOR



OTHER DIVISION ONE MATCHES

Barnsley v Stoke City
Derby County v Bolton Wdrs
Grimsby Town v Crystal Palace
Millwall v Birmingham City
Notts County v Nottm Forest
Oxford Utd v Charlton Athletic
Peterborough v Middlesbrough
Sunderland v Bristol City
Watford v West Bromwich Albion
Wolves v Southend United

LEICESTER CITY



Manager:
Brian Little



LUTON TOWN



Manager:
David Pleat

		Ladbrokes First Scorer Odds		
1	Kevin Poole		Juergen Sommer	13
2	Simon Grayson	40-1	Des Linton	19
3	Mike Whitlow	28-1	Trevor Peake	5
4	Gary Mills	20-1	John Dreyer	6
5	Steve Agnew	14-1	Julian James	4
6	Colin Hill	50-1	Paul Telfer	7
7	David Oldfield	12-1	Alan Harper	27
8	Steve Thompson	8-1	David Preece	10
9	David Speedie	5-1	Tony Thorpe	15
10	Iwan Roberts	5-1	John Hartson	14
11	Neil Lewis	28-1	Scott Oakes	8
12				
14				
GK				



WALKING IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY.