

*Official Souvenir
Matchday Magazine*
Farewell to Ayresome

ISSUE 29

PRICE £3

*Middlesbrough
Luton Town*



*Sunday 30th April 1995
Kick Off 2.55pm*



PROGRAMME OF THE
YEAR - DIVISION ONE

A DAY TO REMEMBER

WEEKS of planning by the club will ensure Boro's last ever league game at Ayresome Park will be an occasion to remember.

While the real action gets under way at five to three with kick-off of the crucial promotion match against Luton Town, activities will get underway as early as 1pm.

The Teesside Pipe Band will get the on-the-pitch entertainment underway at about 1pm, and young fans will have plenty of opportunity to join in the fun.

Young supporters will have the chance to get their faces painted in Boro's red and white colours, while Roary and his helpers will be handing out free sweets and balloons.

Another big feature of the day will be a giant-sized piece of rock, sporting through its centre the words 'Ayresome Park, 1903-95'. Small replica bars of the mega-rock will be handed out to young fans.

Tyne-Tees Television cameras will be on hand to film a once-in-a-lifetime occasion shortly after 2pm when Boro legends of the last 60 years take to the pitch for an emotional farewell to Ayresome



● FORMER Boro and England winger Ralph Birkett: now 82, but returns to Ayresome today.

Park.

The ex-players will be introduced to the crowd before taking a lap of honour around the pitch and gathering around the centre spot.

Local singer Suzannah Clarke will then lead the chorus in an emotional rendition of 'You'll Never Walk Alone' and one or two other songs for which it is hoped the fans will join in.

It is hoped that the fans in a capacity crowd will create a tremendous atmosphere before Robbo's boys take to the pitch for this historic and crucial game.

Roll Call

The former stars who will be attending today's game include:

Malcolm Allison
Mike Angus
Bob Appleby
David Armstrong
Billy Ashcroft
Harry Bell
Stephen Bell
Ray Bilcliff
Ralph Birkett
Tom Blenkinsopp
Stuart Boam
Mark Burke
Terry Cochrane
John Craggs
Billy Day
Mickey Fenton
Gary Gill
Dean Glover
George Hardwick
Graeme Hedley
John Hickton
David Hodgson
Eddie Holliday
Billy Horner
Arthur Horsfield
Gordon Jones
Brian Laws
Willie Maddren
Wilf Mannion
Alex McCrae
Derek McLean
Eric McMordie
Mick McNeil
David Mills
Tony Mowbray
John Neal
Bryan Orritt
Heine Otto
Alan Peacock
Brian Phillips
Jim Platt
Mark Proctor
Dicky Robinson
Colin Ross
Harold Shepherson
Bernie Slaven
Johnny Spuhler
Archie Stephens
Derek Stonehouse
Rolando Ugolini
Geoff Walker
Charlie Wayman
Willie Whigham
Ray Yeoman

Fans cherish Ayresome memories

Research by John & Lee

TODAY will be a very emotional occasion for Boro fans, as they make their final visit to Ayresome Park.

For many supporters, following the Boro is not just about 90 minutes of football but a full match-day routine that they have followed for years.

So what will Boro fans really miss about Ayresome Park when the club has departed to the new stadium on the banks of the River Tees?

Asked for his view, local lad C. Ritchie admitted: "Most of all, I'll miss my traditional walk from my local pub to good old Ayresome Park."

For C. Townsend of Norton, the one thing he will miss most is "standing in my usual spot in the Holgate corner where I have stood since I was a youngster".

A big concern for D. Aithwaite of Thornaby is "losing my secret car parking space near Ayresome", while Grangetown's Anthony Matthews will miss his pre-match pint in the Yellow Rose!



● We'll miss Ayresome ever more, say Boro fans.

The general consensus of opinion on what will be missed most, however, is the atmosphere of the famous old ground.

The feelings of many were summed up by J. Hughes of Thornaby who said: "There's something special about Ayresome Park. I can't really explain it but I'll never forget it."

● If you have special memories of Ayresome, then jot them down and send them to: the Programme Editor, Middlesbrough Football Club, Ayresome Park, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, TS1 4PB.

THE Boro recently helped to kick off National Foster Care Week in Cleveland.

Assistant manager Viv Anderson and Bolivian striker Jaime Moreno showed their support for the scheme to find more foster carers in the county where social services have to consider almost 50 youngsters to fill each vacancy as they arise in family homes.

A hotline telephone number has been opened on which volunteers can contact social workers during office hours. The number is 463755.





Boro Roll Call

Player/birthplace/ Birthdate

Player/birthplace/ Birthdate	Previous Clubs	1994-1995		Boro		Career	
		Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals
VIV ANDERSON Nottingham 29.8.56	Notts Forest, Arsenal, Man Utd, Sheff. Wed, Barnsley	2	-	2	-	594	37
MICHAEL BARRON Chester-le-Street 22-12-74		3	-	2	-	173	19
CLAYTON BLACKMORE Neath 23.9.64	Manchester United	29	2	29	2	215	21
NEIL COX Scunthorpe 8.10.71	Scunthorpe, Aston Villa	38	1	38	1	66	6
JAN AAGE FJORTOFT Aalesund 10.1.67	Lillestrom, Rapid Vienna, Swindon Town	42	17	6	2	78	29
CURTIS FLEMING Manchester 08.10.68	St. Patricks	10	10	10	-	15	11
UWE FUCHS Kaiserslautern 23.7.66	Hamburg, Stuttgart Kickers, F-Cologne, F-Dusseldorf, Cologne, Kaiserslautern	15	9	15	9	158	9
JOHN HENDRIE Lennoxtown 24.10.63	Coventry, Hereford (loan), Bradford, Newcastle, Leeds	37	13	177	42	438	99
CRAIG HIGNETT Whiston 12.01.70	Liverpool, Crewe Alexandra	4	38	11	88	25	
GRAHAM KAVANAGH Dublin 02.12.73	Darlington (loan)	26	8	76	18	197	59
CRAIG LIDDLE Chester-le-Street 21.10.71	Aston Villa, Blyth Spartans	7	-	30	2	33	21
ALAN MOORE Dublin 25.11.74		3	-	13	1	13	1
JAIME MORENO Bolivia 19.1.74	FC Blooming	36	4	2	2	78	15
CHRIS MORRIS Newquay 24.12.63	Sheffield Wed	4	2	13	3	13	3
ROBBIE MUSTOE Oxford 28.08.68	Celtic	14	1	13	1	14	1
PAUL NORTON 15.10.75	Oxford United	6	1	54	1	291	10
KEITH O'HALLORAN Dublin 10.11.75		27	3	14	1	83	3
NIGEL PEARSON Nottingham 21.8.63		6	1	159	12	250	22
JAMIE POLLACK Stockton 14.12.74				7	7	62	9
BRYAN ROBSON Wilton Gilbert 11.1.57				45	-		
PHILIP STAMP Middlesbrough 12.12.75							
MARK TAYLOR Saltburn 8.11.74							
ANDY TODD Derby 21.9.74							
STEVE VICKERS Bp Auckland 13.10.67							
PHIL WHELAN Stockport 7.8.72							
DEREK WHYTE Glasgow 31.08.68							
PAUL WILKINSON Louth 30.10.64							
TOMMY WRIGHT Fife 10.01.66							

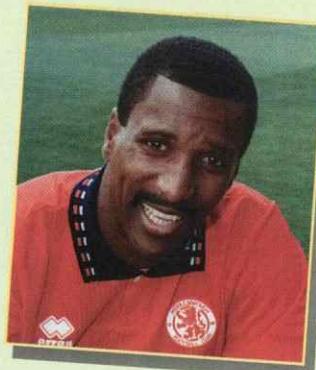
Key to information: top-line = League games; bottom line cup and play off games. Figures refer to English and Scottish Leagues only

Player/birthplace/ Birthdate

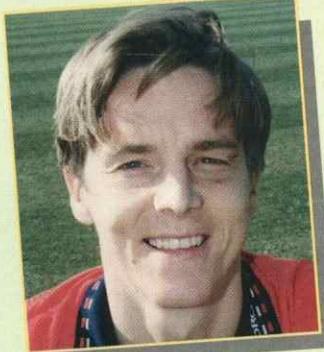
Player/birthplace/ Birthdate	Previous Clubs	1994-1995		Boro		Career	
		Apps	Goals conceded	Apps	Goals conceded	Apps	Goals conceded
ALAN MILLER Epping 29.3.70	Arsenal, Plymouth (loan), WBA (loan), Birmingham (loan)	39	30	39	30	78	76
STEPHEN PEARS Brandon 22.01.62		5	4	5	4	7	9
BEN ROBERTS Bishop Auckland 22.6.75	Manchester United	3	3	339	363	343	366
		3	88	92	89	89	93
		1	3	1	3	1	3

Other 1994-95 appearances (all cup): Wesley Byrne 1; Alan White 1; Paul Richardson 1.

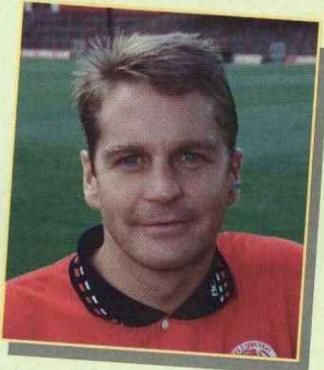
*Figures correct to 29.4.95



● Viv Anderson: second game for Boro last Saturday.



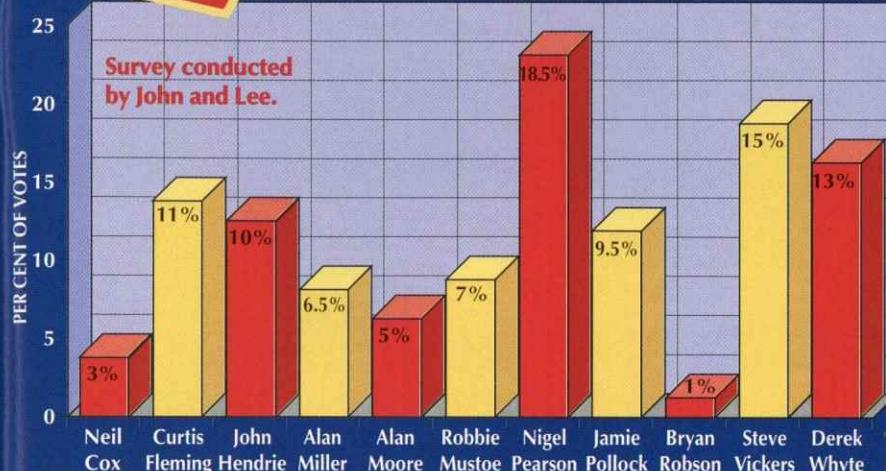
● Jan Fjortoft: 27 goals this season.



● John Hendrie: can he end long wait for 100th goal?



BORO'S PLAYER OF THE SEASON, 1994-95



Nigel's the fans' choice

■ CAPTAIN Fantastic! That's what the fans think of Boro skipper Nigel Pearson who won our survey to vote for the club's Player of the Season.

■ In a special poll conducted among almost 500 supporters outside Ayresome Park before a recent home game, the towering defender was the clear winner as Boro's top player.

■ Pearson won 18.5 per cent of all votes cast in the survey, pushing central defensive partner Steve Vickers (15 per cent) into the runner-up spot.

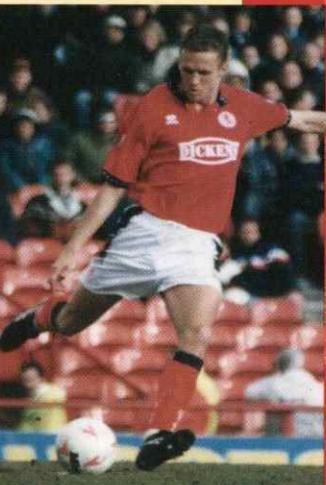
■ It is testimony to the team's superb defensive displays this season that the top four places went to defenders, with Pearson

and Vickers followed closely by centre-back turned left-back Derek Whyte and injury-hit right-back turned left-back Curtis Fleming.

■ A total of 13 per cent of those asked picked Whyte as their winner, while Fleming was just two per cent adrift.

■ Pearson's success goes hand-in-hand with his Player-of-the-Season award as voted by the local press, for which he received the David Graham Memorial Trophy before Boro's home game against Sheffield United.

■ The former Sheffield Wednesday defender was also runner-up in the Supporters Club player of the year award.

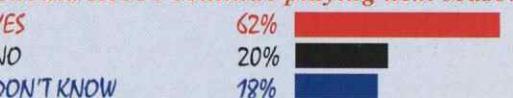


● SUPER Steve: Vickers was runner-up.

KEEP ON PLAYING, ROBBO!

DON'T retire yet, Robbo - we need you too much! So said the majority of fans when asked if the Boro boss should continue playing next season. Here's the full result from another of the club's special surveys outside Ayresome Park...

Should Robbo continue playing next season?



Love is in the Ayre

by ADRIAN BEVINGTON

SHEER RELIEF. That was the feeling for football fanatic Graham Milburn when he heard the news that Boro had switched their Ayresome Park farewell to a Sunday.

That's because at one point it looked as though alarm bells would accompany wedding bells as he walked down the aisle with fiance Gail in Nunthorpe yesterday.

For the 26-year-old season ticket holder found himself in something of a quandry on what was to be the happiest day of his life. His beloved Boro were due to make their final bow at their Ayresome Park ground on the same day!

Fiance Gail Walton, 23, was particularly concerned with the situation, particularly as many of the guests, best man included, are also season ticket holders.

She admitted: "I had visions of Graham and his friends getting up at the reception, leaving their meals and disappearing to the match."

The double date caused Graham a lot of soul-searching, and he says: "I couldn't believe it when I realised there was a clash. Any game would have been bad enough but the final match made it awful."

He continued: "Obviously the wedding had to take priority, especially as we had already put it back from the original date, so it was such great news that the game was put back to Sunday."

Gail, who's father Tony is a local referee, has attended some Boro matches but doesn't claim to be much of a fan.

But, by Graham's admission, she has shown a



● LOVE match: Graham and Gail Milburn will attend today's game after their wedding yesterday.

remarkable amount of understanding to his fanatical needs. "At first, there was quite a panic. My mum even wrote to Tyne Tees Television's Roger Tames asking if the game could be switched to a "live" Sunday game but he couldn't give any guarantees.

"I'd even decided to allow everyone to organise a mini-bus from the reception to Ayresome Park. The decision to switch the date shows there is maybe more power to mum's elbow than we realised."

So at the wedding reception yesterday it was a case of "A toast for the bride and groom - and the Boro, too!"

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THEY SAID IT ON BORO LIVewire

"It's been brilliant to come back into the side, I've really enjoyed it. The noise at the Sheffield United match was absolutely outstanding. It's great that we're getting crowds of over 23,000..." - the recalled Graham Kavanagh.

"I had a typical defender's shot as sometimes the ball would end up in the back of the net and other times it would be in the back of the stand. But if you don't buy a ticket you can't win the lottery..." - former Boro right-back John Crags.

"Barnsley is a hard place to come to but we went and got a hard-earned point. Other teams are dropping points and we're feeling very confident. I'm sure the Luton game will be one to look forward to..." - Boro star Jamie Pollock on the Barnsley result.



BORO LIVewire

...is the only official information service on Middlesbrough Football Club - and the only service that helps to fund future signings and our new stadium.

Updated daily, the service gives fans a choice of information including team news, ticket and travel information, news on Roary for young fans and all the latest offers from the club shop.

Over the next week, Boro fans have a chance to hear exclusive interviews with the following Ayresome stars:

- Monday - Robbo's views on the big game.
- Tuesday - Jan Fjortoft.
- Wednesday - Neil Cox.
- Thursday - Steve Vickers.
- Friday - John Hendrie.
- Saturday - Bryan Robson.
- Sunday - Prenton Park action as it happens.

And don't forget that interviews will be carried throughout the summer!

BORO LIVewire
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Calls cost 39p/min cheap & 49p/min standard

● Boro's chief groundsman David Rigg cuts a piece of the Ayresome turf which is now up for grabs.



Ayresome turf for sale

BORO fans will soon be able to take home their own piece of Ayresome when the club takes up the famous pitch.

For just £50, supporters can buy a six feet by six feet piece of Ayresome turf - and lay it in on their own garden lawn to remind them forever of Boro's home of 92 years.

Already many fans have snapped up pieces of the turf as a momento, while others have joined forces and plan to split the large pieces into smaller parts.

Comedian and Boro fan Bob Mortimer is even planning to erect his own mini-stadium around his chunk of Ayresome pitch when it is taken up later this year.

A special draw is also planned for all those who place orders, with the winner picking up the famous centre-spot.

"This is a great opportunity for Boro fans to relive their memories of Ayresome Park for years to come," said commercial manager Graham Fordy.

If you would like to take home a piece of the hallowed turf - once adorned by no less than Wilf Mannion, Brian Clough, Graeme Souness and Bernie Slaven - then contact commercial department at Ayresome Park on 812592.

Roary's round: Boro's friendly mascot prepares with Alan Miller and Neil Cox for the club's celebrity golf challenge on Thursday May 11 at Wilton Golf Club. All funds for the event will go towards a children's accident and emergency unit at Middlesbrough General Hospital. To take part or take an advert in the souvenir programme, contact Fiona Bell or Katie Allen on (01642) 819659.





Action Special...

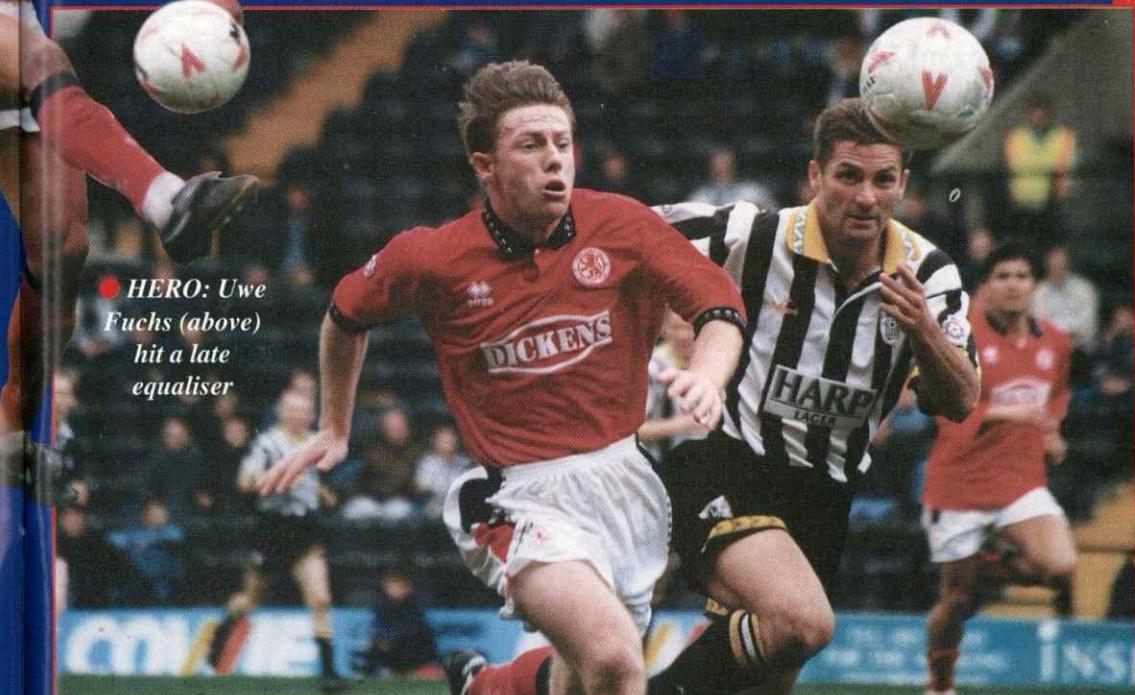


● COME and get it: three County defenders surround Jaime Moreno

● HURRY Hendrie: defenders keep an eye on the Boro striker



● TAKE that! Jamie Pollock blasts the ball goalwards



● HERO: Uwe Fuchs (above) hit a late equaliser

● THE race is on: Craig Hignett chases after the ball





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BORO'S reserves left themselves with a mountain to climb in their chase for promotion when they lost 3-2 at Port Vale last week.

In a game played on a pitch left in a terrible condition after a long season, Boro fell 2-0 behind on 20 minutes but fought their way back into the game.

Reserve team coach Gordon McQueen admitted after the game: "We really needed to win all of our remaining games to have a chance of promotion so it's out of our hands now."

A Boro side that again included fit-again Curtis Fleming along with £300,000 centre back Phil Whelan struggled in the early part of the game and fell two goals behind.

However, Jaime Moreno put Boro back in the game from the penalty spot on the half hour and McQueen's boys went in search of the equaliser.

Instead, Boro lost a freak goal on half-time when the ball hit a divet and bounced over the head of goalkeeper Steve Pears to give Vale a 3-1 lead.

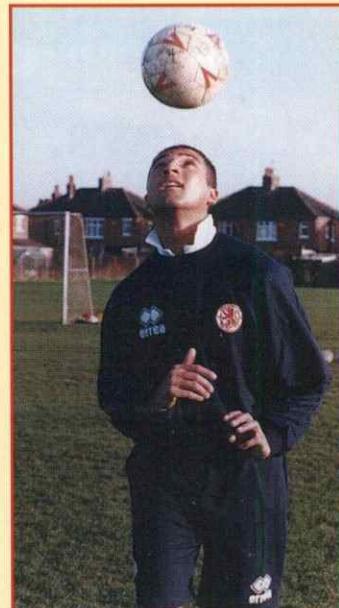
The Ayresome boys kept their shape well in the second half and pulled a goal back with 20 minutes left when striker Chris Freestone netted his seventh reserve team goal of the season.

They then piled forward in search of an equaliser but missed several gilt-edged chances, failing to capitalise on their superiority.

Boro are left with three Pontins League games to play, all at Ayresome Park, with the first tomorrow (Monday) on May 1 with a 7pm kick-off.

Members of the Roary Club can gain free entry to all reserve team games, while the friendly lion is often at the games to greet fans on their arrival.

The RESERVES in Action



Chris Freestone: on target.



Jaime Moreno: on target

PONTINS LEAGUE RESULTS & FIXTURES 1994-95

Date	Venue	Opposition	Score	Boro scorers
Aug 17	H	Bradford City	1-2	Kavanagh
Aug 24	A	Burnley	2-0	Kavanagh (2)
Sep 7	A	Huddersfield Town	3-1	Stamp (2), Hignett
Sept 14	H	Preston	2-2	Norton, OG
Sept 21	H	Sheffield Wednesday	0-3	Norton, Kavanagh
Sept 26	A	Newcastle United	0-3	
Oct 4	A	Grimsby Town	2-1	OG, O'Halloran
Oct 12	H	Port Vale	3-1	Stamp, Kavanagh, Norton (pen)
Oct 20	H	Blackpool	0-0	
Oct 25	A	Manchester City	1-3	O'Halloran
Nov 9	A	Barnsley	1-1	McGargle (2),
Nov 17	A	Oldham Athletic	3-3	
Richardson				
Nov 23	H	York City	6-1	Pearson, Kavanagh (2), Wright (2), Liddle
Nov 30	A	Blackpool	1-4	Freestone
Dec 8	A	Bradford City	7-0	Wright (3), Freestone (2), Blackmore, Kavanagh
Dec 14	H	Burnley	2-0	Wright, McGargle
Jan 9	A	Leicester City	2-1	Kavanagh, Stamp
Jan 16	A	Birmingham City	3-1	Freestone (2), Stamp
Feb 1	A	Barnsley	2-3	Moreno, Fuchs
Feb 8	H	Oldham Athletic	1-2	Moreno
Feb 23	H	Manchester City	1-0	Kavanagh (pen)
Mar 1	A	Sheffield Wednesday	1-1	Hignett
Mar 8	A	Mansfield	4-2	Hendrie (2), Hignett (2)
Mar 15	H	Newcastle United	0-0	Hignett, OG, Kavanagh (2)
Mar 22	A	Preston	4-5	Kavanagh (3), Hignett, McGargle
Mar 29	H	Huddersfield Town	5-0	Wright, Freestone, McGargle, Cosgrove
Apr 5	A	Hull City	4-0	Stamp
Apr 12	H	Mansfield Town	3-0	Moreno (pen), Freestone
Apr 19	H	Leicester City	1-0	McGargle (2), Freestone
Apr 25	A	Port Vale	2-3	Stamp
May 1	H	Hull City	2-3	Moreno (pen), Freestone
May 3	H	Grimsby Town	Kick off: 7pm	Kick off: 7pm
May 8	H	Birmingham City	Kick off: 7pm	Kick off: 7pm

Evening Gazette



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Sports

IT is fitting, on this historic occasion, to look back upon the career of Stephen Pears, the club's longest serving player.

Pears has been in the background this season, after battling to overcome an injury, but over the past decade he has been a model of consistency.

Three years ago former Manchester City and England goalkeeper Joe Corrigan, in his role of specialist coach, rated Stephen one of the top five goalkeepers in the country.

Life at Ayresome Park has never been dull for the former Durham District Schoolboys' player. He has shared in promotion glory, relegation agony, and the most traumatic time in the club's history.

Stephen was among the players locked out of the ground by the Official Receiver in the summer of 1986, when the club crashed with £1.8 million debts.

The players faced an uncertain future as they wandered around like football gypsies to train on local non-league grounds.

Pears was in distinguished company. The following have all figured in seven-figure transfer deals...Gary Pallister (£2.3 million), Tony Mowbray (£1m), Alan Kernaghan (£1.6m), Stuart Ripley (£1.3m), Peter Beagrie (£1.3m) and

YOU BORO

Pears warns the starry-eyed youngsters there is no easy way to the top.

"Many people believe football is a glamour job. It is not, though I appreciate people will find that hard to understand," he says.

"People only see players on match days. They don't see the training slog through the week. Talent is not enough. Without dedication, youngsters have no chance."

BELIEVE IT!

SPORTSWRITER Ray Robertson covered the Boro beat for *The Northern Echo* for more than 30 years. Here he continues his series on Ayresome personalities...

Colin Cooper (£1.7m).

While these players moved to fresh surroundings, Pears has stayed at Ayresome Park. His loyalty has been rewarded with a Testimonial, though - for various reasons - a match has not yet been arranged.

Stephen joined Manchester United as a youngster and benefited from the knowledge of former Old Trafford goalkeeper Harry Gregg. "He virtually taught me everything I know," he explains.

Pears had only a brief flirtation with first team football at Old Trafford. So he jumped at a loan deal with Middlesbrough and, later, an £80,000 move.

Malcolm Allison signed Stephen on loan and Willie Maddren clinched the permanent transfer in one of the quickest deals on record.

Maddren interrupted the holiday of United manager Ron Atkinson in Marbella. When Big Ron rang back from a call box, Maddren offered £75,000. "Call it £80,000 and you've got a deal," replied Atkinson.

Out of 400-plus first team games for Middlesbrough, Pears ranks his loan debut, against Cardiff City, his best ever display. I go along with that view. Pears was absolutely magnificent in



● Stephen Pears: arguably, Boro's greatest ever goalkeeper.

a 2-0 win.

Luton Town manager David Pleat will recall another Pears' blinder. Pleat was with Leicester City when Stephen denied on-loan Arsenal striker Kevin Campbell a first half hat-trick.

Pleat said in tribute: "Middlesbrough should buy Pears a video of the match for Christmas."

It was a remarkable comeback for Pears after a hernia operation, illness, and the death of his father.

England manager Graham Taylor chose him for a 'B' friendly international against Czechoslovakia in 1992. "He has kept goal exceptionally well for two or three years and it would be unwise not to look at him," he said.

Unfortunately, Pears missed his international call-up through injury.

I hope you have a bumper testimonial match turn-out, Stephen. You deserve it.

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● Graeme Souness: set up opener for Alan Foggon.

Boro end season on High-field

BORO'S 1974-75 home programme ended with a 1-0 home win over Liverpool on April 19, 1975 with Alan Foggon scoring the winner.

Defender Willie Maddren, tipped by many for a full England cap, received the Player of the Year trophy before the game.

Two days later Boro flew to Norway to play Brann FC of Bergen in a friendly - goals from John Hickton, Malcolm Smith and Alan Foggon gave us a 3-1 win.

The next day came an announcement that four players were to be freed by the club. Northern Ireland international Eric McMordie and Jimmy Cochrane, both with first team experience, and reserve players Ian Greener and Alan McFall were all released.

Boro's final game was at Highfield Road against Gordon Milne's Coventry City. Boro went ahead from



a corner kick on 41 minutes, when Graeme Souness returned the ball into the goalmouth for Alan Foggon to head past 'keeper Neil Ramsbottom.

Twenty minutes into the second half Boro's last goal of the season was scored by John Hickton, who had, coincidentally, scored our first goal of the campaign at Birmingham City.

Alan Foggon broke away and pushed the ball back to Bobby Murdoch, who centred to the far post for Hickton to head home. Stoke City drew 0-0 at Burnley ending any hopes we had of qualifying for European football the following season.

Heine shoots down Seagulls

A CONTROVERSIAL goal by Heine Otto and a second half winner from David Currie left Brighton boss Chris Cattlin fuming in his post-match press conference.

Cattlin, whose side were enjoying an 11-match unbeaten run before the game in April 1985, was particularly detrimental in his comments about the match officials. The furore surrounded a sixth minute strike from Dutch midfielder Otto who tried a long distance shot which caught Seagulls keeper Graham Moseley offguard.

He stepped back over the line but insisted that he had held the ball well in front of him. An eagle-eyed linesman



flagged that the ball had crossed the line and referee Norman Glover awarded Boro the goal.

Hans Kraay equalised for the visitors

four minutes before the break but further drama was to unfold in first half injury time when the same linesman spotted Eric Young's foul on David Currie.

After consultation with the referee, Boro were awarded a penalty. Currie, who had missed the last Boro spot kick refused to take the kick so Brian Laws stepped up but Moseley saved.

Striker Currie scored our second half winner, his 11th goal of the season, to give us only our third win in 18 games.



Bernie and Baird save Boro

A COMBINED two-goal blast from strikers Bernie Slaven and Ian Baird saved Boro at the death from a second successive relegation five years ago.

Boro destroyed North East rival Newcastle United 4-1 on the final day of the 1989-90 season, enabling Colin Todd's side to leapfrog over Bournemouth and deny the Geordies the chance of automatic promotion into the bargain!



● Bernie Slaven: 32 goals

Boro started the match in a relegation position and knew they were relying on victory while, at the same time, hoping that Bournemouth would slip up against Leeds.

A crowd of 18,484 turned out for the nail-biting climax to the season and witnessed a game that was to go down in the history books as one of the best remembered of recent times.

Having won only one of their previous nine games, Boro were expected to struggle against a United side, unbeaten in nine games and boasting the goals scoring prowess of Mick Quinn and Mark McGhee.

Boro got the breakthrough they needed on the hour when Slaven turned in Paul Kerr's cross with the help of the right hand post. And six minutes later, John Anderson's poor back pass let Slaven through again and he squared the ball for Baird to tap in an easy goal.

But United were back in it when Kevin Brock's header was deflected into his own net by youngster Owen McGee and Boro fans feared the worst.

Instead, Boro found an extra gear and Baird struck a superb goal to make it 3-1 and then in the last minute, Mark Proctor's shot hit a post and Slaven was on hand to net his 32nd goal of a prolific season that had seen him win his first caps for the Republic of Ireland.

The win was enough to keep Boro up - and United down - because Leeds had won 1-0 at Dean Court to condemn Bournemouth to relegation to Division Three.



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The Curse of Ayresome



THE curse has struck again. After missing out on backing Robbie Mustoe at 20-1 because I arrived too late, I predicted in this column in the Derby County magazine that Nigel Pearson was due a goal.

I had my £1 on him for the next two matches, but was late for the third, the Stoke City game, and decided not to miss the kick-off.

Up steps big Nige to hammer home at 25-1. Never mind, it's only money.

But this afternoon's got to belong to Jamie Pollock. Don't say I didn't warn you...

with Mike McGahey



● SAY cheese: that's the message from Jan the Man.

This, I promise you, is true. But don't believe the rumour that Robbo has been spotted on a North Sea ferry going scouting...

● SAY cheese. You'll have to if you want to interview Jan Fjortoft!

He's such a lover of brown goat's cheese he insists any journalists coming from his homeland to interview him bring some with them.

"I can't imagine breakfast without it," he says. The Norwegian delicacy, which I'm told tastes like a cross between our cheese and fudge, was apparently not available anywhere in Swindon.

But we can exclusively reveal it has been found on sale in several Teesside supermarkets. Which may be another good reason Super Jan was glad to sign for Boro...

● LINDY Delapenha was sorry to have to miss Boro's historic game today because of work commitments.

But the former Ayresome striker, now working for the Jamaican Broadcasting Corporation, has been following the club's progress with the new stadium.

"It's in Acklam, isn't it?" he asked. Not quite as accurate as those famous penalties, Lindy.



● FJORTOFT United: Boro star Jan enjoys the island life.

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE DIVISION ONE TABLE

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	For	Agm	Pt
1	BORO	44	14	4	4	39	18	8	8	6	25	20	64	38	78
2	BOLTON	43	16	5	1	42	12	5	7	9	21	27	63	39	75
3	TRANMERE	43	17	2	2	49	20	5	6	11	15	30	64	50	74
4	WOLVES	43	15	4	3	38	17	6	6	9	37	42	75	59	73
5	READING	44	11	7	4	31	19	10	3	9	22	22	53	41	73
6	BARNSTABLE	43	14	5	2	39	17	5	6	11	20	30	59	47	68
7	DERBY COUNTY	44	12	6	4	43	21	6	6	10	21	26	64	47	66
8	SHEFF UTD	44	11	9	2	38	20	5	8	9	32	32	70	52	65
9	GRIMSBY	44	12	6	4	36	19	5	7	10	25	34	61	53	64
10	WATFORD	43	12	6	3	29	16	5	7	10	19	28	48	44	64
11	MILLWALL	44	11	7	4	35	21	5	6	11	21	34	56	55	61
12	LUTON	44	8	6	8	33	27	7	7	8	25	32	58	59	58
13	CHARLTON	43	11	5	6	32	24	5	5	11	24	37	56	61	58
14	OLDHAM	43	11	7	4	31	20	4	4	13	23	37	54	57	56
15	PORT VALE	43	11	4	7	29	23	4	7	10	24	35	53	58	56
16	SOUTHEND	44	12	2	8	30	24	4	6	12	19	47	49	71	56
17	STOKE CITY	43	9	6	6	25	16	5	8	9	16	30	41	46	56
18	PORTSMOUTH	44	9	7	6	30	27	5	5	12	20	35	50	62	54
19	WEST BROM	44	12	3	7	28	23	3	6	13	16	31	44	54	54
20	SUNDERLAND	44	5	11	6	20	20	7	5	10	18	22	38	42	52
21	SWINDON	43	8	6	7	25	25	3	4	14	25	45	50	70	44
22	BRISTOL CITY	44	8	8	6	25	26	3	3	16	14	33	39	59	44
23	BURNLEY	43	7	6	8	31	29	3	5	14	12	40	43	69	41
24	NOTTS COUNTY	43	6	8	8	25	28	2	4	15	18	34	43	62	36

Correct to 28/4/95.

Supporters Club Notes

So here we are, finally - the end of Ayresome has arrived. Whatever the result on the pitch, emotions are bound to be running high as Boro fans bid farewell to the old ground.

There will be many who have watched football here for perhaps 50 years or more, and seeing this last game will end a very large era in their lives.

Perhaps most of all, it will be the thousands of Holgate End regulars who will treasure their last 90 minutes here at Ayresome, standing to watch a game for one last time.

If you shed a tear or two this afternoon, don't be ashamed. There will be many others reaching for their hankies!

We don't just want tears and sadness today, though. Let's make it a celebration of Middlesbrough F. C., a glorious wall of noise and song.

Ayresome may not have been kind to us in terms of success but it's still our home and we, as Boro fans, should give it the best of send-offs.

An important item of news is that our Player of the Season Award, voted for by our members, deservedly goes to DEREK WHYTE. There will be an awards evening at Inn of the Park on Friday May 12 at 7.30pm, which will also double as a Steve Pears testimonial evening. Tickets available from committee members or on the door if any remain.

Finally, our next meeting is this Tuesday, May 2, at 7.15pm in the 100 Club at Ayresome.

Simon Bolton

Supporters Club Secretary

THE toughest part is yet to come. That's the message from youth team coach David Geddis to four talented youngsters awarded professional contracts by Boro.

Salif Bagayoko, Paul Richardson and Ross Skingsley were all awarded one-year contracts by the club after completing their training schemes, while midfielder Mark Summerbell was given a two-year contract.

But Geddis warned: "They will be making a big mistake if they feel a professional contract means they have made it. Now, more than ever, they must learn the skills of their trade in a very short space of time."

The four teenagers had played a major role in the youth team's challenge for a second consecutive Northern Intermediate League title which ultimately ended in failure.

Boro failed to win any of their final five games of a long season, ending in a goalless draw at York City, leaving Newcastle as favourites to clinch the championship.

"It's amazing just how many ups and downs can occur in the learning process of young players," reflected Geddis. "It was a disappointing end for the lads after having had their noses in front for so long.

"But, as I've said before, this level of football is about producing good young players, it's not about winning championships."

An experienced youth team drew at York in their final game. For much of the game Boro struggled to create chances and 17-year-old goalkeeper Ben Cole came to the rescue several times as the home side's direct style enabled York to hit back.

Returning to the four given professional contracts by the club, Geddis added: "Things can change so quickly for young footballers, so I hope the lads look carefully at the way several players signed on last summer have since been released by the club.

"They must look to mature and find the commitment that a professional needs. They must be aiming to gain a regular reserve team spot in a very large and competitive squad."

David Geddis gives his run-down on the four new professionals:

Mark Summerbell: "He has many qualities - he can pass, knit the game together and control the game to a certain extent. He has put on a stone in weight and gained five inches in height in just two years to give him much needed strength."

Salif Bagayoko: "Salif has a very strong character which he has used to find the commitment needed to be a professional player. He has learned to combine his continental flair and technical ability with the English game."

Ross Skingsley: "Ross has undoubtedly skills and the ability to entertain, but the biggest question has always been his lack of height and weight. He has worked hard to overcome his weaknesses and has scored goals and had some outstanding displays."

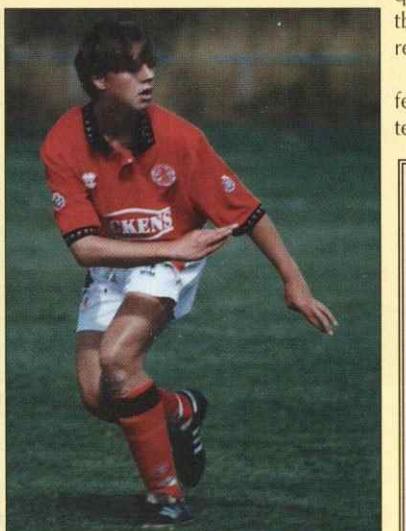
Paul Richardson: "It's fair to say that Paul earned his contract on his performance for the first half of the season when he showed great technical ability as a target man and scored some special goals. Sadly, he didn't keep that going after January but we believe he can return to his best form after the close season."

● **QUALITIES:** Mark Summerbell.

Boro's YOUTH of today

NORTHERN INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE RESULTS AND FIXTURES 1994-95

1994				
Aug 6	A	Rotherham United	2-2	Bedward (2)
Aug 20	H	Scunthorpe	1-0	Skingsley
Aug 27	A	Hartlepool Utd	2-0	Mills, Norton
Sep 3	H	Sheffield Wednesday (Cup)	5-4	Richardson (2), Norton (2 pens), O'Halloran
Sep 10	A	Doncaster	3-1	Mills, Agiads, Richardson
Sep 17	H	Sunderland	2-1	Richardson, Bagayoko
Sep 24	A	Sheffield Wednesday	4-3	Bagayoko, Richardson, Ward, McKinlay
Oct 1	A	Newcastle Utd (Cup)	1-1	Skingsley
Oct 8	A	Chesterfield	1-3	Richardson
Oct 15	H	Leeds United	2-2	Richardson, McGargle
Oct 22	A	Hull City	3-1	Cummins, Rich son, Agiads
Oct 29	H	Newcastle (NIL Cup)	3-5	McGargle (2), Richardson, Ward
Nov 5	A	Bradford City	2-2	Mills, Skingsley
Nov 12	H	Barnsley	1-0	Richardson
Nov 26	H	Sheffield United	3-1	Skingsley (2), Bagayoko, Mills, Bagayoko, Summerbell, Skingsley
Nov 29	A	Oldham Athletic (FAYC)	4-3	McGargle (2), Norton (2)
Dec 3	H	Rotherham United	1-1	Agiads
Dec 10	H	York City	4-2	McGargle (2), Mills, Richardson, Norton
Dec 17	H	Scunthorpe United	4-2	Richardson, Mills
Dec 20	A	Coventry (FAYC)	2-2	Bagayoko, Skingsley
1995				
Jan 7	H	Doncaster Rovers	3-2	Mills, Skingsley, Norton
Jan 11	H	Coventry (FAYC)	2-6	Bagayoko, Clarke
Jan 14	A	Sunderland	1-3	Bagayoko
Jan 18	A	Newcastle	1-5	Bagayoko
Feb 4	H	Chesterfield	6-0	Richardson (2), Cummins, McGargle, Norton, Riggall
Feb 18	H	Hull City	4-2	Richardson
Feb 21	H	Hartlepool	3-1	Bagayoko (2)
Feb 25	A	Darlington	2-1	Richardson (2)
Mar 4	H	Bradford City	2-3	Norton
Mar 11	A	Barnsley	1-3	Agiads
Mar 18	H	Newcastle Utd	1-0	Skingsley (2)
Mar 23	H	Sheffield Wed	2-0	Mowbray
Mar 25	A	Sheffield United	0-2	Norton
Apr 1	H	Huddersfield Town	1-1	Richardson
Apr 5	A	Huddersfield Town	1-2	McGargle
Apr 8	A	Leeds United	3-3	Richardson, White, McGargle
Apr 15	A	York City	0-0	



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COMMERCIAL *UpDate*

TODAY is the last official Endsleigh League game to be played at Ayresome. All the quotations have been used and I don't think there is any more one can say.

The emotions and atmosphere in the stadium today will say it all.

It is a delight to welcome our sponsors today, all of whom have played their part since the club was re-born in 1986.

Our Match Sponsors are ICI, and, as with the stadium closure, there is not much more to be said about ICI and their commitment to the Boro.

Bill Perfitt and his guests will, I am sure, have an excellent day and will find time to reflect on how important ICI's involvement with the club has been.

No doubt they will also dream of future success. With the continued support of ICI and all of our current sponsors, who knows what the future might hold. I look forward to welcoming Bill and his future guests to the new stadium.

Our last Man of the Match Sponsors are The University of Teesside. No doubt every member of the Boro team will be trying to leave a lasting impression on this, the last game, so their task could be a difficult one.

We look forward to working together in the future to develop the image of Teesside.

Our programme sponsors today are Lionweld Kennedy Ltd who have supplied steel flooring, handrailing and ancillary products to industry since 1910. More recently the company has extended its range to include non-metal products and highway fencing, and has become involved in erecting its products on industrial sites.

All the company's products are made in Cleveland and, like the Boro, the company intends to become a major player in Europe and will be spending £2 million on improving its already impressive facilities over the next two years.

Our Match Ball Sponsors, Nuclear Electric, complete their collection today. Let's hope this last Match Ball goes into the right net enough times to clinch automatic promotion. Many thanks, Nuclear Electric. See you next season!

Graham Fordy
Commercial Manager



• Nuclear Electric have sponsored all our Match Balls for the 1994/95 season, and Mr John Jones (far left) and his guests are pictured here receiving one of the Match Balls from Chris Morris and Curtis Fleming.

Our last game of this season will be at Tranmere on Sunday May 7 next week. The Travel Club coaches will leave Ayresome Park at 10.30am and The Swan at Billingham at 10.15am. The price is £11 for adults and £9 for children. Bookings will be taken in the Club Shop on production of your Travel Club Membership Card and your Match ticket. Please do not try to book the coach without your Match ticket, and please book early to avoid disappointment. Memberships can be obtained from the Club Shop by bringing in two passport size photographs and filling out an application form. Membership is free if you are a season ticket holder or £1 otherwise.

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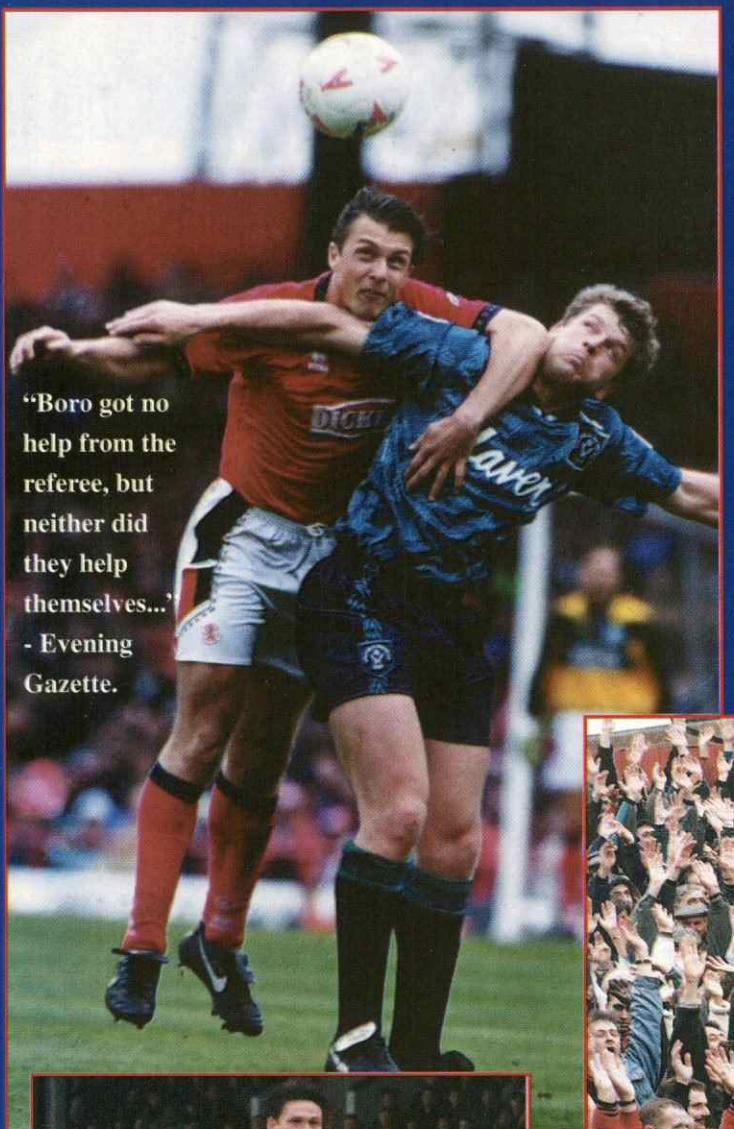
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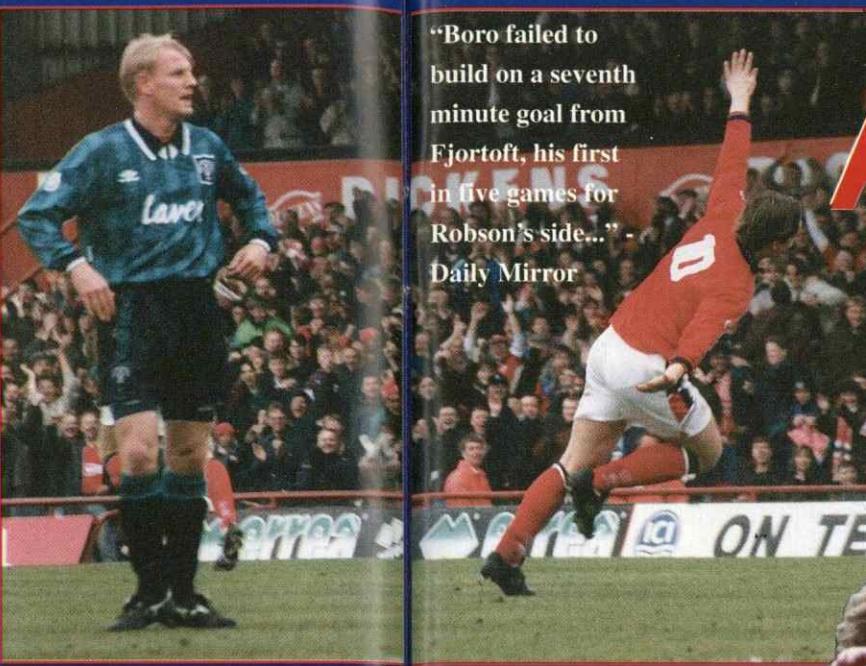


• Photographed on the famous Ayresome Park pitch are the staff of Renault Trucks North East who sponsored our game with Stoke City at the beginning of the month.

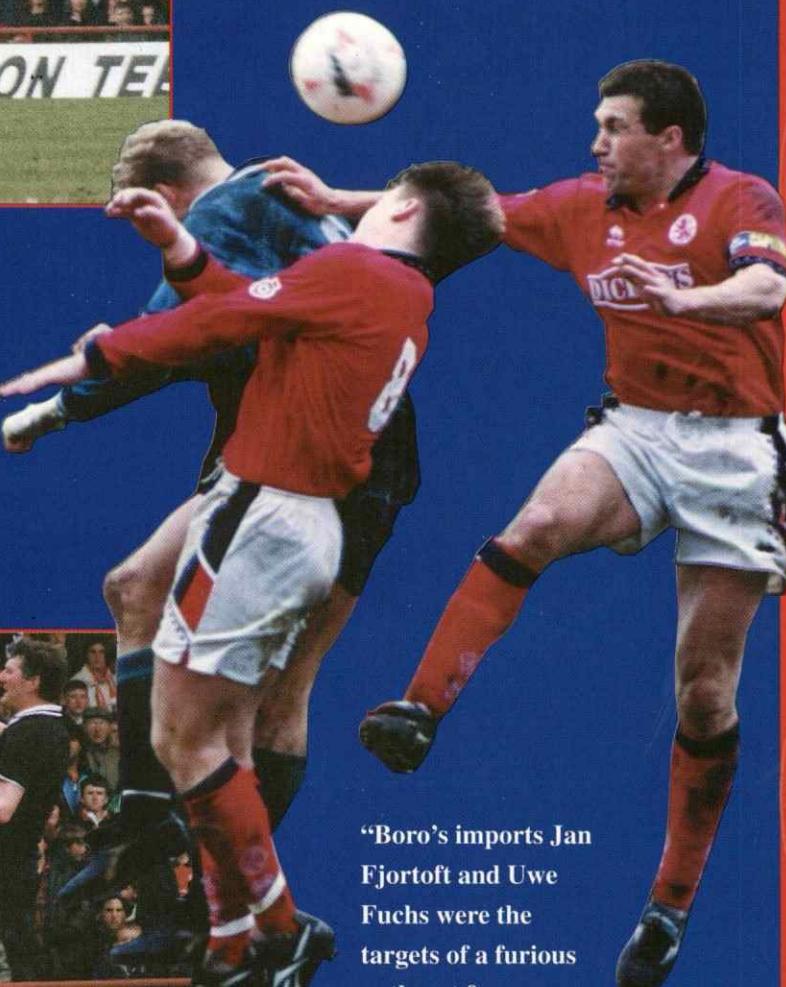
Ayresome Action



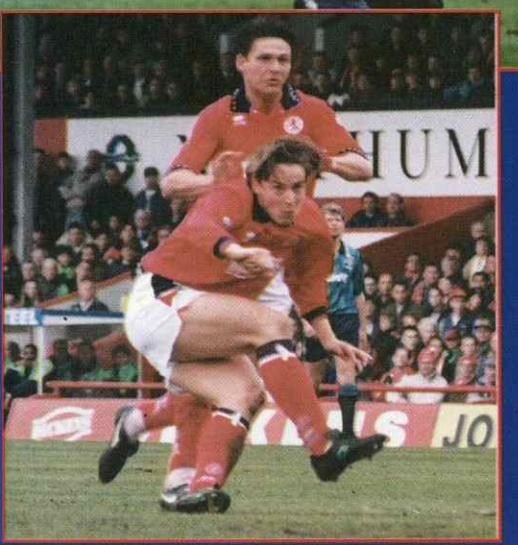
"Boro got no help from the referee, but neither did they help themselves..."
- Evening Gazette.



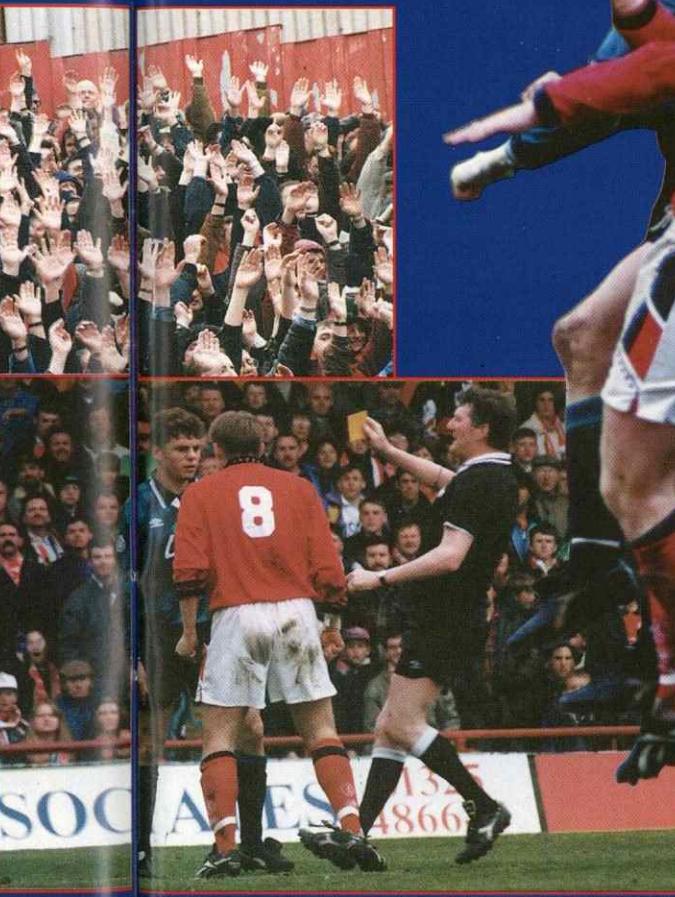
"Boro failed to build on a seventh minute goal from Fjortoft, his first in five games for Robson's side..." - Daily Mirror



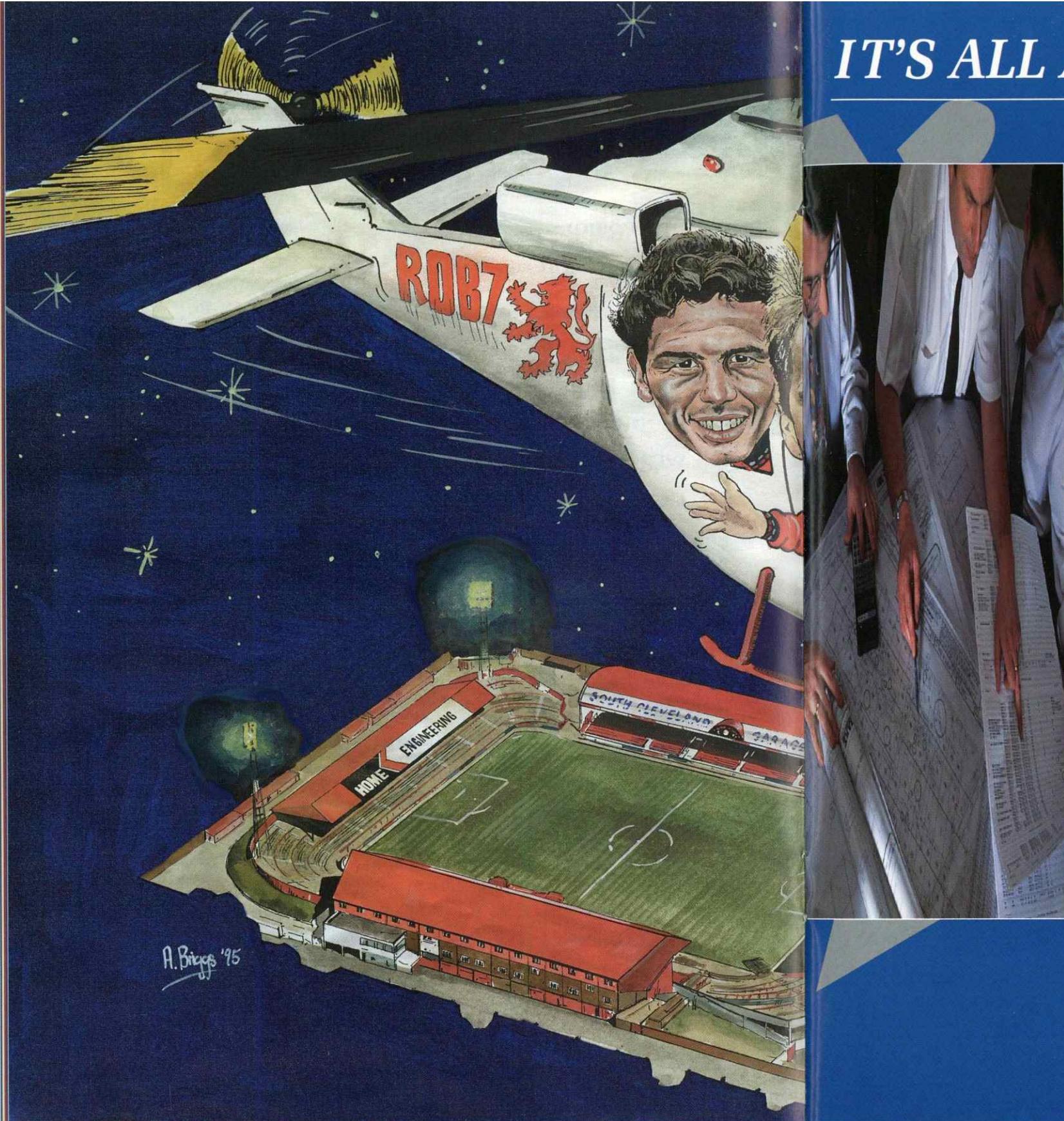
"Boro's imports Jan Fjortoft and Uwe Fuchs were the targets of a furious outburst from Sheffield United boss Dave Bassett..." - Today.



"Middlesbrough's frayed nerves proved costly at Ayresome Park, where their German striker Uwe Fuchs was sent off..." - Daily Telegraph.



IT'S ALL ABOUT TEAMWORK



When Lionweld Kennedy first started out in 1910, Middlesbrough Football Club was already 34 years old and playing in the then 1st Division.

Since those early days both Lionweld Kennedy, and the Boro, have come a long way, and we now have an annual turnover of more than £20 million pounds. Our areas of operation have grown to include the design and fabrication of metal and non metal flooring, stair-treads and hand railing systems, structural fabrication, highway safety fencing and cable support systems. We count among our customers many of the world's major corporations, United Kingdom and foreign governments and now Middlesbrough Football Club.



Middlesbrough Football Club 1994/5 season

The Construction Engineering Division of Lionweld Kennedy has been appointed to carry out the design, fabrication and installation of the stairways and ballustrading for the fabulous new stadium which is rapidly taking shape on the riverside. It is particularly satisfying to be associated with the new stadium as of course many of our employees and customers are keen Boro fans!

Teamwork plays an important role within Lionweld Kennedy. Before a project is completed it will pass through many departments each with its own area of responsibility. Teamwork extends to the way we work with our customers. We work hard to understand their needs and development plans so we may focus our experience and expertise on their project to ensure that we achieve an efficient and cost-effective solution.





Lionweld Kennedy is one of five engineering businesses which together form Vector Industries. The Group is backed by well established financial institutions committed to investing for operational improvement and strategic growth. This strength will ensure that Lionweld Kennedy's impressive rate of progress continues unchecked, providing many new opportunities for its business and its customers.



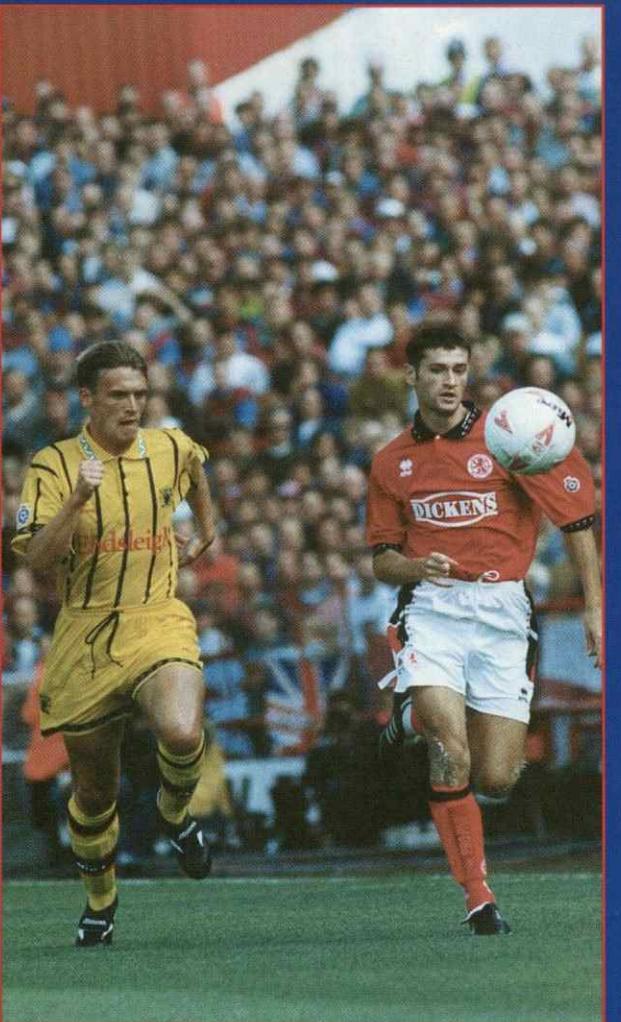
Bramley and Wellesley

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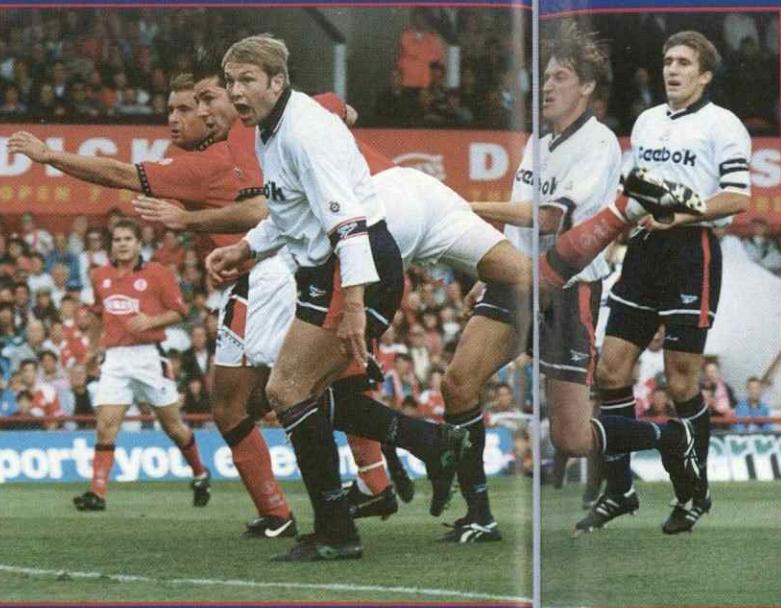


The Season in Pictures

Evening Gazette, Sports Photo Agency,
Sport & Politics in Focus.



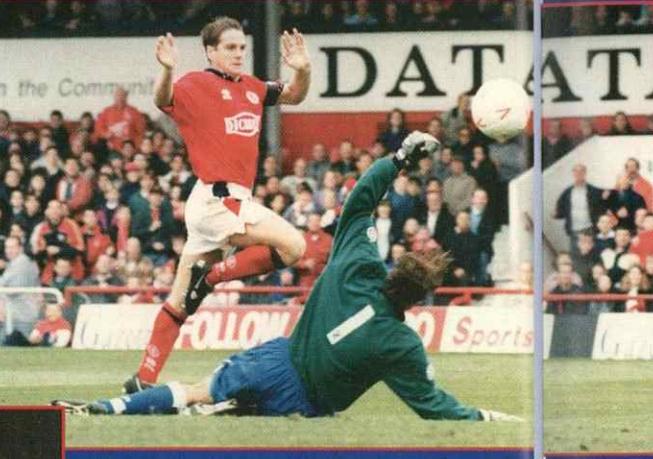
August 13 - Boro 2 Burnley 0



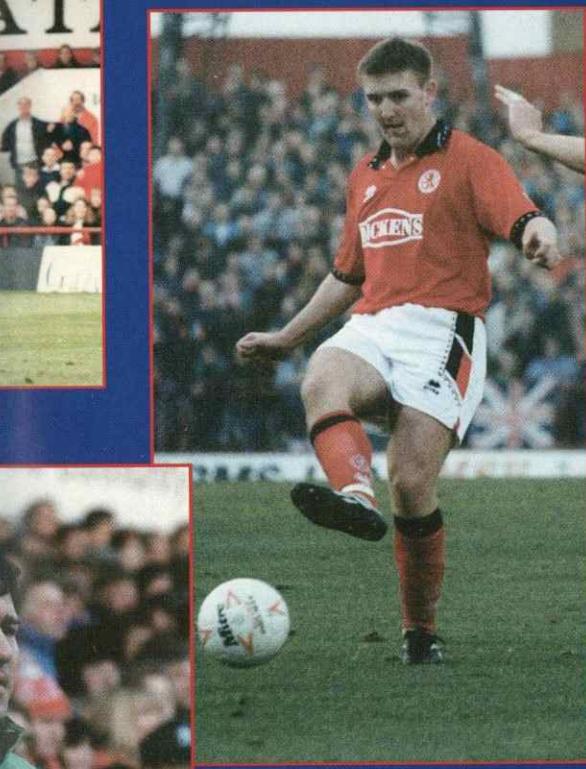
August 27 - Boro 1 Bolton 0



October 8 - Boro 0 Tranmere 1



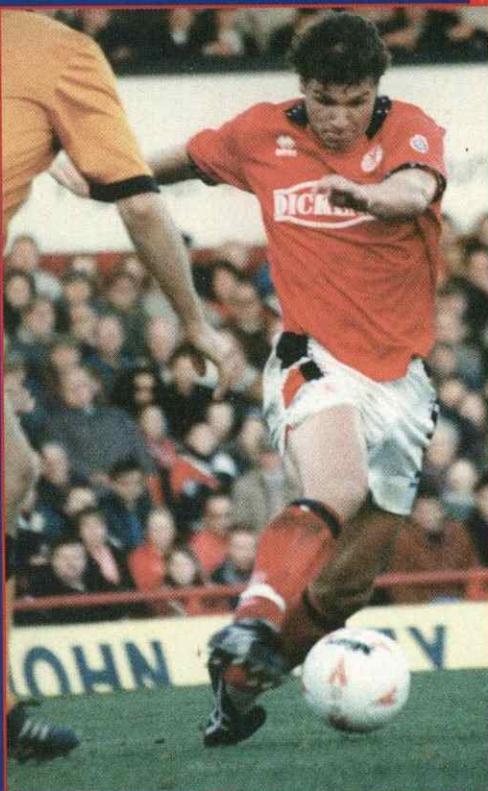
October 1 - Boro 3 Millwall 0



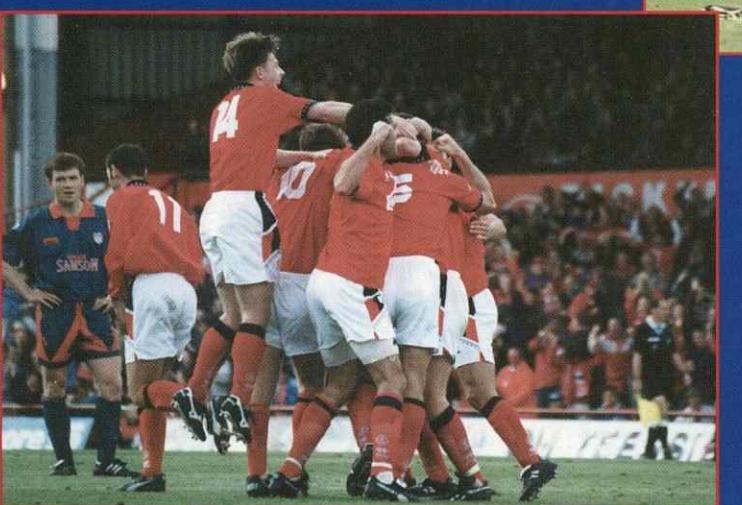
October 29 - Boro 3 Swindon 1



October 15 -
Luton 5 Boro 1



November 20 - Boro 1 Wolves 0

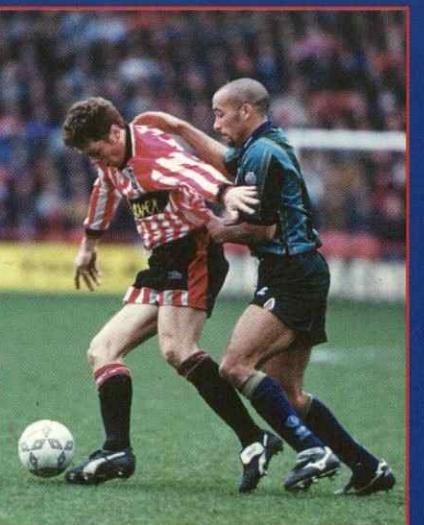


September 11 - Boro 2 Sunderland 2

The Season in Pictures



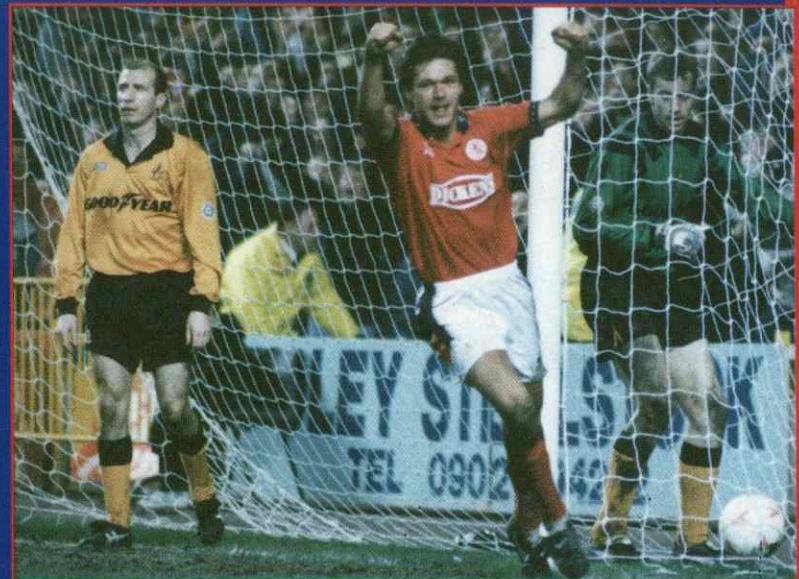
December 1 - Boro 4 Portsmouth 0



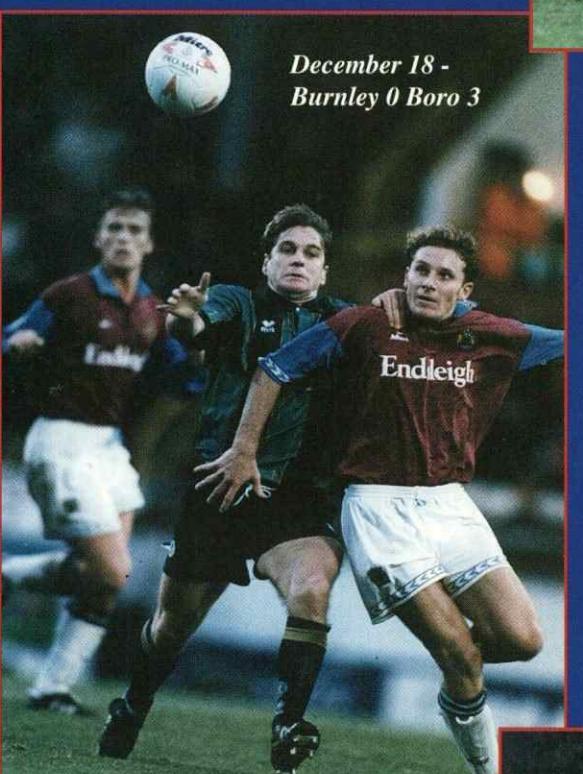
December 18 - Burnley 0 Boro 3



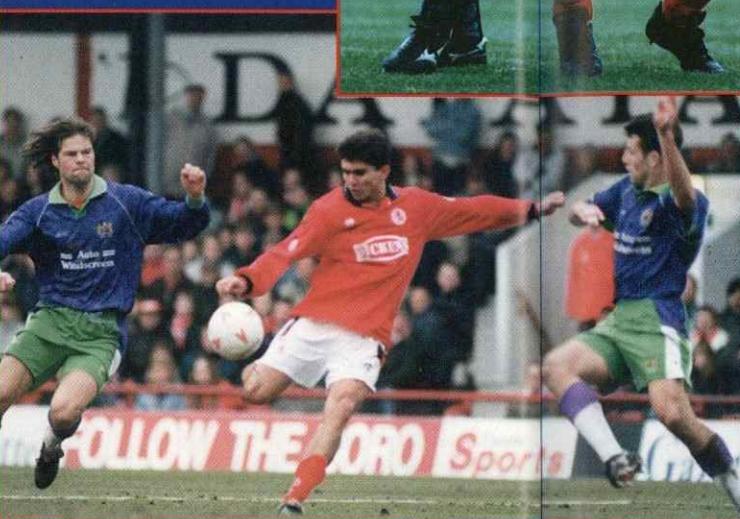
January 15 - Swindon 2 Boro 1



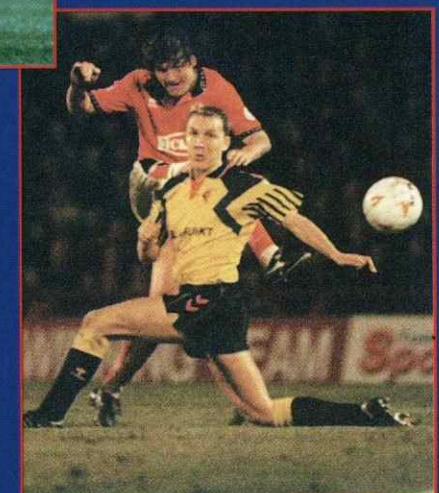
February 21 - Wolves 0 Boro 2



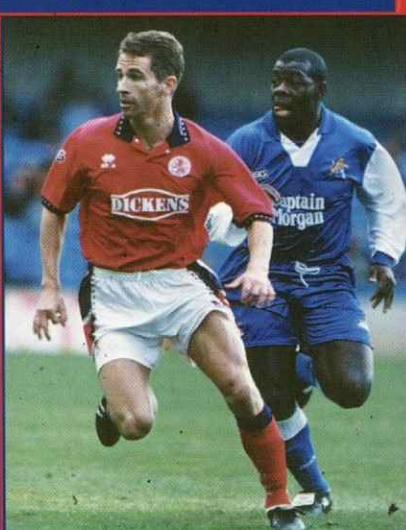
December 26 - Sheffield 1 Boro 1



March - Boro 3 Bristol City 0



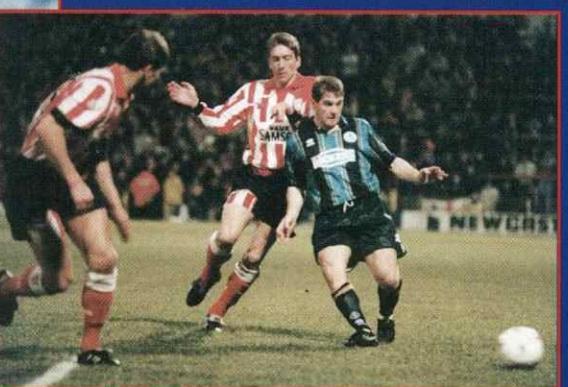
March 7 - Boro 2 Watford 0



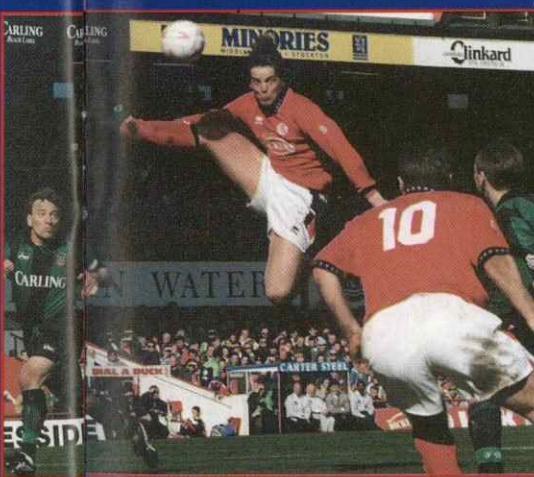
February 26 - Millwall 0 Boro 0



March 11 - Bolton 1 Boro 0



March 21 - Sunderland 0 Boro 1



March 26 - Boro 3 Port Vale 0





● HERO: Tony Mowbray.

ONE of Boro's greatest ever ambassadors admits he will have a lump in his throat as he says a last goodbye to Ayresome Park.

■ Centre-half Tony Mowbray, a Boro star for over a decade and now a Celtic player, says it is the Holgate and its supporters that he will miss most of all.

■ Says 'Mogga': "It's sad that there'll no longer be the Holgate end because it has been an integral part of the town of Middlesbrough for so long, very similar to The Kop at Liverpool.

■ "I recall, as a young boy, standing on the Holgate with my dad, and over the years I like to think I built up a good rapport with the fans there. I'll never forget feeling a special affinity with the Holgate during so many big games."



● HERO: John Hickton.

THE HOLGATE and its wonderful supporters. That will be John Hickton's greatest memory of Ayresome Park.

■ The scorer of almost 200 goals during a glorious Boro career, Big John recalls: "I used to score a lot of goals in front of the Holgate, and I'll never forget them chanting my name

■ "The big crowds of 40,000 were really special and the supporters were always very kind to me. I've been back a few times over the years and have always received an excellent reception."

■ And the great striker added: "The last match will bring a great deal of sadness to many Boro fans but I know they'll have some tremendous memories to hang on to."



BORO heroes of the past and present will wave a final farewell to Ayresome Park today in a celebration of 92 years of football at the famous old ground.

Supporters will have one final chance to display their appreciation of players who have entertained them over generations.

Superstars of different eras will stand shoulder-to-shoulder on the hallowed turf of Ayresome in what is certain to be an emotional farewell to the ground before the move to the new stadium next season.

The club invited many former players and managers to join in the festivities today in recognition of their service to Boro and to help make the day an

FORMER manager John Neal has followed the Boro's fortunes ever since his term in charge about 15 years ago - and he would love to see the players of today emulate his side and play in the top flight.

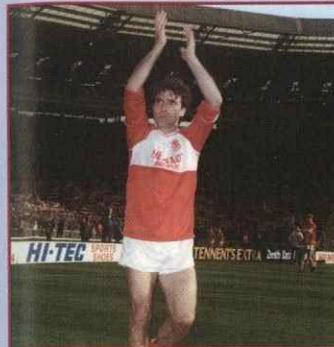
Recalls the likeable Neal: "I had four marvellous years at Middlesbrough. It was brilliant to manage an established First Division side that could compete with the Arsenals and Liverpools of this world.

"We had some tremendous crowds at Ayresome Park, peaking at 37,000 in 1981."

And John takes particular pride in the players in his side, such as Craig Johnston, David Armstrong, Mark Proctor, John Craggs, Tony McAndrew, Ian Bailey, David Hodgson and Bosco Jankovic.

HEROES RETURN

Boro stars return to Ayresome for last time



● HERO: Bernie Slaven.

IKE many other former Boro stars, Bernie Slaven will cherish memories of the Holgate more than any other part of Ayresome Park.

■ Says the great goalscorer: "No matter how the team were doing, the Holgate always looked full - whether the crowd was 10,000 or 20,000.

■ "Leaving the ground will be a particularly sad occasion for me as Boro play their final

game at Ayresome Park. After all, I spent the majority of my career with Middlesbrough and I love the ground."

■ And the fans' hero insists: "I wouldn't have missed today's game for the world. It will be a tremendous occasion."



● HERO: Gordon Jones.

Boam (1970s) and Tony Mowbray (1980s).

Great goalscorers that would be the envy of any team will also line up, among them Mickey Fenton, Bernie Slaven, John Hickton, Alan Peacock and Charlie Wayman.

And the Boro crowd are sure to give a huge round of applause to great entertainers like Wilf Mannion, David Armstrong, Heine Otto, Billy Day and Terry Cochrane.

The rapport of years gone by will doubtless return between the Holgate End fans and heroes such as David Hodgson, Dean Glover, Jim Platt, Rolando Ugolini, Stuart Boam and Johnny Spuhler.

There may even be the odd tear from some of the former stars as they make their last ever visit to Ayresome Park, scene of so many of their greatest moments.



● HERO: Rolando Ugolini.

IT'S my life! So says famous goalkeeper Rolando Ugolini of the Boro, four decades after he stopped playing at Ayresome Park.

■ A veteran of over 300 games in a Boro shirt, Ugolini says: "As a player, I thought of nothing else but the club. It was great to be associated with the ground."

■ "Ayresome Park always had a terrific atmosphere and I'll never forget one old stager who used to shout all the players' names.

■ "One particular memory that stands out was my first game against Blackpool. We were a goal ahead with about five minutes to go when Blackpool won a corner."

■ "Stanley Matthews and I both rushed for the ball behind the goal and I got there first and walked away. Stan turned to me and said: 'If that's what you call sport, then I'd rather not bother.'

■ "I was so humbled, and I apologised to Stan straight after the game."

ALTHOUGH he is unable to make it to today's farewell party, Lindy Delapenha says he will be at Ayresome in spirit.

The little striker with the thunderbolt shot has recently retired from his job with the Jamaican Broadcasting Company, though he still hosts a morning show.

"Although I've not been back to Middlesbrough for 25 years, it still holds many great memories for me. After all, I even met my wife there!"

"Good luck to all of the fans and my old friends, I hope everyone has a great day. See you in the new stadium."

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EXCLUSIVELY YOURS

JOHN O'ROURKE

- "Give us a goal, John O'Rourke," is one of the best loved anthems ever heard on the Holgate, and the memory of it still sends a tingle down the spine of the former Sixties Boro striker.
- An early Stan Anderson signing, he arrived as a youngster from Luton in 1966, and netted 30 goals as Boro stormed to promotion from Division Three in 1967, including the famous hat-trick against Oxford in the final game of that season.
- Spurred on by his ambition, he moved on to Ipswich Town, Coventry, QPR and Bournemouth before finally retiring from the game after a spell in South Africa in the mid-70s without ever reaching his real goal - a full England cap!
- Still renowned among Boro fans and synonymous with that Sixties side, John now runs a newsagents on the South Coast, near Bournemouth where he spoke to ADRIAN BEVINGTON...

John, it must be nice to hear that your name lives on in Teesside?

Yes, marvellous, as are the memories of my career with Middlesbrough. They were most certainly the happiest of my playing days. Looking back, it was just my drive and ambition to get to the top immediately that took me away from Ayresome.

What do you mean by that?

Well, first of all I was on a mission to prove my former Chelsea manager Tommy Docherty wrong for releasing me from Stamford Bridge to Chelsea, and although Middlesbrough had a fine team, I didn't think they had the finances and the players lacked the drive to get to the top in the way I wanted to. So I moved on to Ipswich, who despite being in the same division as Boro showed a determined outlook to reach the top, and I think I was proved correct, looking back. It was nearly seven years before Boro reached the top division.

What was the problem with Tommy Docherty?

I'd been with Tommy at Arsenal and Chelsea, and he released me to Luton Town. Tommy was a loveable rogue who has probably mellowed with his years, but what he and a lot of managers don't seem to realise is that they are playing with people's lives and careers. They don't realise what they are doing to people - basically a personality clash can end a career.

O'Rourke's All-time Boro team

The promotion team of 1966/67, the team that beat Oxford that memorable season, let's hope today's game can provide the fans here with memories to match those from all those years ago.

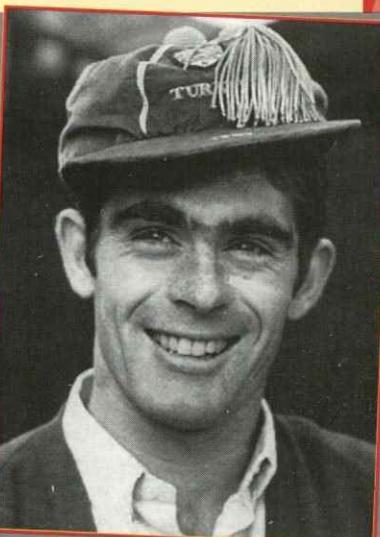
So have you returned to Ayresome since moving

Dave Chadwick on the wing was a marvellous crosser yet only weighed about seven stone wringing wet.

You picked up your only England under-23 cap while with Boro, and left soon after. Was there a problem with Stan Anderson?

Well, something did happen that set the ball rolling. It was following a 3-0 defeat. I didn't think I'd played any worse than anyone else, I'd missed a few chances but at least I was there to miss them, but Stan dropped me the following week. When I questioned him he said: "If I'd picked the side 10 minutes after the game, you'd have been in, but after a week I've decided to drop you. You have set yourself your own standards, and you must keep aiming to reach them."

I was young and didn't like it, so when the offer from Bill McGarry at Ipswich came along I accepted it.



John O'Rourke: Ayresome days were the best of his life.

to Ipswich?

I've only been back once to play in Gordon Jones' testimonial game over 20 years ago, but regrettably never to play in a "competitive match", although I did face Boro in a 2-2 draw at Loftus Road while I was with QPR.

You say your goal was an England cap. Was it a major blow not to achieve it?

Obviously a disappointment, after all I'd got the under-21 cap while with Boro and even played in European football during my first season with Coventry. But considering the competition for the forward positions, it was understandable though I had managed opportunist goals for whoever I had played for.



"CAN YOU HELP"



Boro are set to launch a new armchair Bingo Ticket. If you can sell the tickets to your friends, neighbours and workmates you will be doing yourself and Middlesbrough Football Club a BIG favour. All profit after expenses will be donated to the Club towards building our new stadium.

THE BENEFITS TO TICKET SALES PEOPLE ARE:

- 10% commission on all tickets sold
- 10% bonus for selling winning tickets over £10
- Qualification for complimentary match tickets for League games at Ayresome Park (one Holgate ticket for selling 100 Bingo tickets every week)
- Free membership of the Travel Club
- 10% discount on production of your agents cards for purchases from the Club Shop - excluding sale items (cash sales only)
- Full support from the club's Lottery sales team - all tickets delivered to agents' homes and shops and all cash collected. All you have to do is sell the tickets.
- The backing of the North East's largest lottery organisation.

If you would REALLY like to support the Boro, then simply contact the Lottery Office, Middlesbrough Football Club, Ayresome Park, Warwick Street, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, TS1 4PB or telephone (0642) 850584 and we will arrange for one of our Sales Representatives to call at a convenient time.

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86

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AWESOME Ayresome

Boro fan, magazine contributor and Red Roar columnist Mike McGahey ends our series for the season...but there's more to follow next year...

I CAN still see it now when I close my eyes. The greenest green I've ever seen.

I stood at the top of the steps in the North Terrace, a wide-eyed seven-year-old startled at the beauty of my first fix.

It wasn't my Ayresome debut, just my first night match. The combination of the crisp floodlighting on the flattest, lushest, most perfectly and lovingly tendered grass in the whole world was overpowering. There's no doubt about it, for me, that was it.

The understanding, the bonding, the love of the game itself were all yet to come. But I was hooked.

I can't remember the opponents or the result, just the greenness. At the end I began the walk homewards, my innocence a thing of the recent past. The unique smell of Ayresome Park smoke filled my nostrils and the strains of the music that would infuriate me after a defeat for years to come whisked me away from the field of dreams.

Mastered

A couple of years past by and the names could be rolled off the tongue with ease, though times tables were still beyond me. I was at that in-between stage in my football development. I still hadn't mastered the offside rule, but I knew what I thought of Billy Ashcroft.

My sister had taken me into the Boys' End for cup victories over Coventry and Everton, but here we were for the Bolton game in the fifth round, locked out. She turned to take me home, but saw the look on my face and decided to give it just one more try.

We ended up in the Bolton end, with our flask. We won, of course, and I first learned the value of diplomacy, when it's just not clever to jump up and down. At the end of the game, as the ground emptied, a Boro fan who got found out got his jaw



● THE green, green grass of home: Mike McGahey's home with a great view.

broken for his trouble.

But que sera sera, Boro were Wembley bound. In the next round against Orient I sat on my dad's shoulders in the family enclosure behind the goal as I learned another lesson in life.

I roved for years, the East End, Boys' End, occasional visits to the South and North Stands, until I finally admitted it was time to grow up and settle down.

I got myself a little place on The Holgate, nothing to write home about, but big enough for me and close to my friends.

The rent went up from time to time, but it was my place, somewhere I could call home. Neighbours came and went - it's funny, some of them I never even asked their names.



● GREEN scene:
Mike McGahey.

RED ROAR

The official magazine of
Middlesbrough Football Club

ISSUE 5

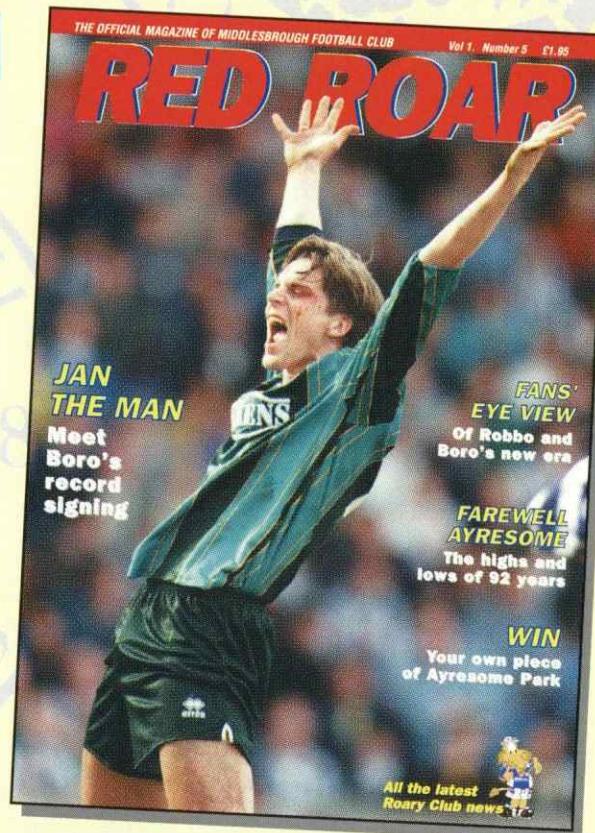
JAN FJORTOFT

Meet Jan the Man
and follow the
diary of his signing

WIN:

Your very own piece of
Ayresome's hallowed turf

FAREWELL AYRESOME:
A nostalgic look back
at 92 years of Boro history



Don't miss Issue 5 of Red Roar . . .
available at selected newsagents and the
club shop now.

ONLY £1.95



LOCAL musical talent Suzannah Clarke, who hails from Normanby in Middlesbrough, is a nationally recognised soprano and has also been a Boro supporter all her life.

Suzannah, 26, is a graduate of the prestigious Royal Northern School of Music and has performed extensively throughout the UK and Europe.

To mark the occasion of Boro's final league match at Ayresome Park, Suzannah, who is being accompanied by Trevor Harrison, will briefly perform for the capacity crowd prior to the start of today's match.

The outfit that Suzannah will wear has been especially made using Boro's colours, just for the occasion.

In order that all supporters can warm up their singing voices prior to this vital match, we are printing the complete words to 'You'll Never Walk Alone' on this page. Let's raise the roof and let everyone know that Middlesbrough Football Club is a force to be reckoned with!

'You'll Never Walk Alone'.

• Suzannah Clarke



"You'll Never Walk Alone"

WHEN YOU WALK THROUGH A STORM
KEEP YOUR CHIN UP HIGH,
AND DON'T BE AFRAID OF THE DARK.
AT THE END OF THE STORM IS A GOLDEN SKY
AND THE SWEET SILVER SONG OF A LARK.

WALK ON THROUGH THE WIND,
WALK ON THROUGH THE RAIN,
THO' YOUR DREAMS BE TOSSED AND BLOWN,

WALK ON, WALK ON, WITH HOPE IN YOUR HEART
AND YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE,
YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE!

WALK ON, WALK ON, WITH HOPE IN YOUR HEART
AND YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE,
YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE!

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The Changing Face of the Boro

COUNTLESS changes have taken place since Ayresome Park first became home to the Boro.

And undoubtedly one of the biggest changes has been the transformation over the past 92 years of the monotone Key Card to the glossy Matchday Magazine.

Although programmes were produced for early games at Ayresome, they were flimsy black and white affairs. The Key Card from the 1926-27 promotion season comprised eight pages, usually featuring a head and shoulders shot of a Boro star. Two-and-a-half of those pages were reserved for advertising.

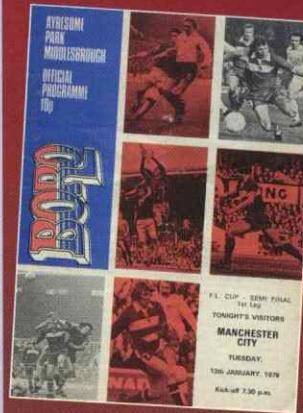
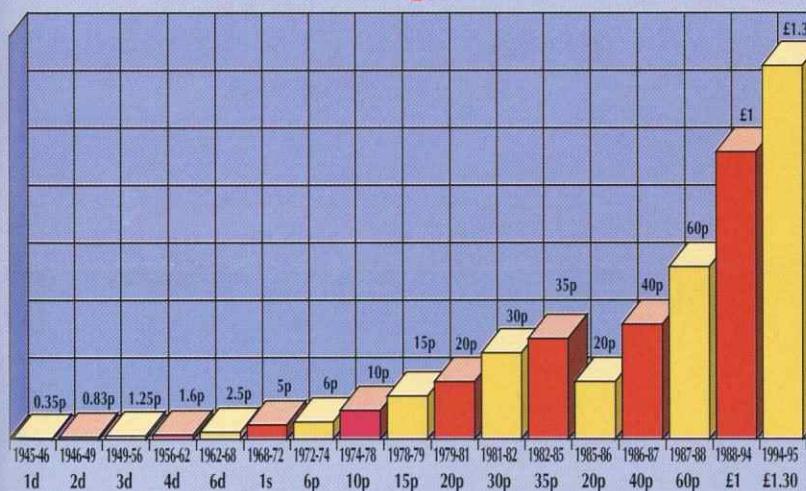
Gradually, the Key Card was transformed into the Official Programme but, by 1968-69, was more than ever dominated by advertisements with only a general football article, Club Notes, a single action photograph and results and fixtures to catch the reader's eye.

Only in the early Seventies did the programme begin to offer details, in the form of pen-pictures, on the visiting team, though even in the 1974-75 season it was still normal to have just one action photograph among the 20 page offering.

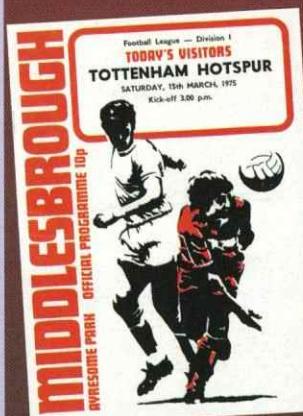
Colour photographs first began to appear in the late 1970s, though when the club's fortunes waned over the next decade only the cover was reserved for such glossiness - and that usually the same photograph for every match!

Since 1989, dramatic improvements have been introduced to the point where this season the Official Matchday Magazine won the Programme of the Year award for the First Division.

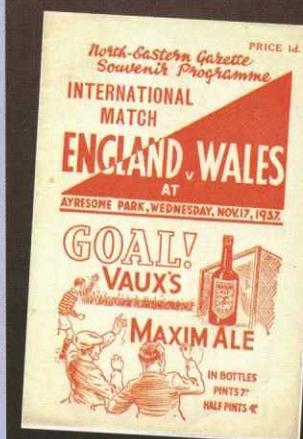
Post-War Programme Prices



● The souvenir programme for Boro's League Cup semi-final against Manchester City in 1976.



● How the Boro programme looked in 1975 when Spurs were visitors.



● The last England international at Ayresome Park in 1937 was marked by this programme.

The Ayresome Story 1903 - 1995

Club historian Harry Glasper, author of 'Middlesbrough - a Complete Record, 1876-1903', tells the story of Boro's famous old ground...

MIDDLESBROUGH'S first home as a Football League club was the Linthorpe Road Ground situated on the grounds of Middlesbrough Cricket Club.

In 1899, the cricket club was situated opposite the Empire Hotel (now the Hog's Head) in Linthorpe Road, in what is now the Kwiksave car park.

At the initial Annual General Meetings at the turn of the century the board of directors reported healthy working profits to the shareholders and it was felt that

the ambitious club should seek a ground more in keeping with the club's growing Football League status.

International star Arthur Fitzsimmons won 25 Republic of Ireland caps while with Boro in the 1950s. Only Mannion won more caps at Ayresome Park.

In January 1901 much of the Ayresome Grange Estate, which contained part of Middlesbrough Ironopolis' old Paradise Ground, was drained with the intention of moving to the new venue some time in 1904.

Part of the new land was to be used as a training pitch and also as a playing surface for the reserve side. The pitch intended for Football League games was carefully rolled flat and grassed in readiness for the



England versus Ireland official programme at Ayresome Park in 1905.



International star Arthur Fitzsimmons won 25 Republic of Ireland caps while with Boro in the 1950s. Only Mannion won more caps at Ayresome Park.



Thomas Gibson-Poole, Boro chairman between 1906 and 1910, makes a speech to Ayresome locals in a rare photograph.



Ayresome Park as it was in the 1930's.



Speedy winger: Geoff Walker was an Ayresome star from 1946 to 1954.



Tom Blenkinsopp: played in defence alongside George Hardwick.

club's projected move in 1904.

After careful consideration the name of the new ground was decided upon as Ayresome Park because the ground was situated in the Ayresome electoral ward of the town.

The architect of Ayresome Park was Archibald Leitch of Glasgow, who had successfully built many similar football stadia throughout the length and breadth of Britain.

The cost of the ground was £10,436.16. The cost to erect a new North Stand and its fittings was an estimated £1,521 and the total expenditure, approaching £12,000 would prove to be a costly venture for the club for almost a decade.

In January 1903 First Division Boro's board of directors failed to extend the tenancy of the Linthorpe Road Ground from the owners of the Middlesbrough Estate for another year and the intended move to Ayresome Park was hastily brought forward to coincide with the start of the 1903/04 season.

Fortunately, the club's opening fixture of the season was away to Sheffield Wednesday, which gave the workmen another week's grace to get Ayresome Park ready for League football.

However, the board had pre-arranged an attractive friendly against Glasgow Celtic at Ayresome Park on September 7, to defray part of the cost of the new ground.

New boy Willie White scored the



Spubler: Johnny Spubler was a top forward for a decade.



An early cigarette card of Scottish international Andy Wilson who signed for Boro in 1914



Top stopper: Rolando Ugolini kept goal for Boro for a decade.

Wilfie, the Golden Boy

SIMPLY the greatest of them all. Wilf Mannion was the Golden Boy in the golden era of English football, the perfect all-round player.

Born at South Bank in 1918, Mannion went on to embody the pride of all Teesside with his bewitching style. In a career interrupted by war, he scored more than a century of goals for Boro in 368 League and cup appearances.

Old men still talk like enchanted children when they recall the genius with which Mannion lit up their Saturday afternoons. Deceptively slight, Mannion was a wonderful header of the ball and displayed remarkable poise and balance.

He signed for Boro in 1936 and by the outbreak of hostilities was firmly established in one of the club's greatest ever sides. In the last full season before the league was suspended, the young Mannion scored 14 goals in a forward line that often included Micky Fenton and George Cammell.

No wonder Ayresome Park was one of the most feared grounds in the country. Mannion hit four goals in a 9-2 victory over Blackpool and another hat-trick as Portsmouth were crushed 8-2.

Mannion's career resumed after the war and he won 26 England caps, many alongside Boro teammate George Hardwick, before signing for Hull in 1954.

Boro had been at Ayresome for just seven years when this photograph was taken of the 1910-11 line-up.





● Alf Common: first ever £1,000 footballer.

A Common transfer - but it caused shockwaves!

THE transfer of Alf Common from Sunderland to Boro in February 1905 was so controversial that it sparked a transfer fee limit.

Boro had been at their new Ayresome Park ground less than two years when they paid out an enormous £1,000 for the striker's services.

The club were denounced for trying to buy their way out of trouble, but when his penalty at Sheffield United brought Boro's first away victory in two years, the fans were not complaining.

Common was an aggressive, 13-stone forward with a deceptive turn of pace who scored 65 goals in 178 Boro games.

He was capped by England before being fined £10 and stripped of the Boro captaincy in 1907 for 'drunkenness and violent behaviour'.

In 1910, he was transferred to Woolwich Arsenal for one tenth of Boro's huge investment.

AYRESOME firsts

1st Boro scorer:	Joe Cassidy, v Sunderland, Sep 1903.
1st win:	3-1 v Small Heath, Sep 1903.
1st sending off:	Jimmy Watson, v Preston, Jan 1909.
1st substitute:	Bryan Orritt (for Bob Appleby), v Charlton, Sep 1965.

half mile up Linthorpe Road to be painstakingly reassembled at the new ground. Almost like David and Goliath the two vastly contrasting stands silently kept each other company for another 32 years.

Having finished a respectable 10th in Division One in their first Ayresome season, and reached the FA Cup quarter-final, they struggled the following season and made Alf Common the first 'four-figure footballer'.

The following season England legend Steve Bloomer joined and

first ever goal at Ayresome Park with Middlesbrough beating Celtic 1-0 before an inquisitive 7,000 crowd. Boro played that afternoon in its new club colours of red shirts and white shorts with red socks (the club had previously played in white shirts and black shorts).

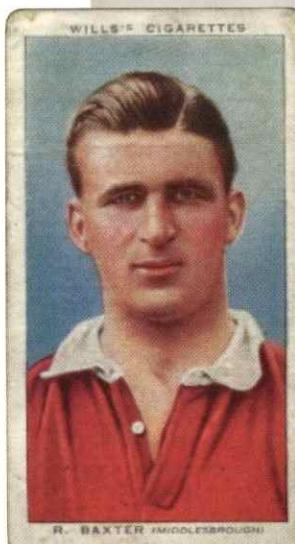
Five days later on September 12 1903 James Clifton Robinson, managing director and chief engineer of the Electric Tram Company, officially opened the gates at the front of the club with a huge golden key.

Neighbours and rivals Sunderland won

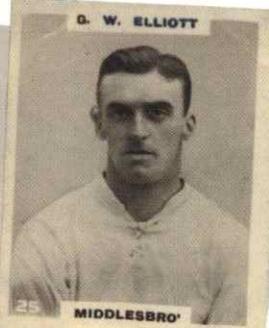
the game 3-2 before a huge crowd, estimated at 30,000. Boro's scorers that day were Cassidy and Brown. The ground had a capacity of 33,000 but part of the main North Stand was partitioned off from the public, for the workmen were still frantically working behind the scenes to complete the project.

Opposite the sparkling, brand new North Stand, which ran the full length of the pitch, was the diminutive 50-feet long old slated stand that had been the main stand at the Linthorpe Road Ground for nearly 20 years.

The stand itself had been carefully disassembled, nail by nail, plank by plank and transported the



● Captain courageous: Scotland international defender Bobby Baxter on a pre-war cigarette card.



● Goalscorer legend George Elliott, an England star who once scored 11 goals in one reserve team game at Ayresome.

helped Boro finish sixth in 1908.

Immediately before the 'Great War' stars like Tim Williamson, George Elliott and Jackie Carr inspired Boro to third spot.

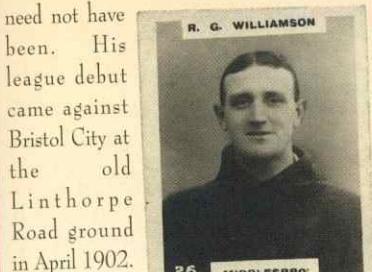
During the Great War (1914-1918) League football was suspended with only a few clubs playing infrequent regional football in the period. Like the majority of clubs, Middlesbrough wound down and most of its players enlisted and went to fight for King and country.

Ayresome Park itself was requisitioned by the Army and used as an assembly and training centre for the troops.

Despite two relegations in the 1920s, Ayresome fans now had such heroes as George Camsell, Billy Burrell, Billy Pease and Bobby Baxter.

The club announced on June 15, 1936 that Dorman, Long and Co. would erect the new South Stand which was to be 250 feet long, 58 feet deep and 25 feet above ground level and a roof was to be put over the West End terracing.

The new Stand, which would accommodate 9,000 fans, was built to replace the faithful "little slated roof" stand which had been brought to Ayresome Park from the old Linthorpe Road Ground in 1903. The work on the new South Stand took a full year and was completed in 1937, officially opening with the visit of Stoke City on September 4.

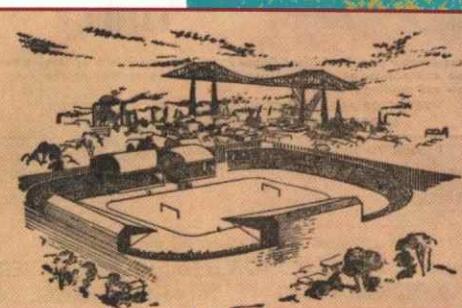


● Tim Williamson: most appearances.

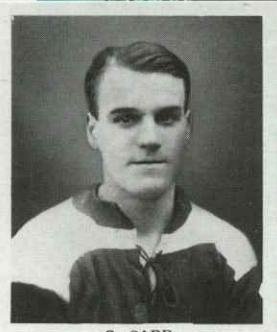
Tim was capped seven times for England, his debut against Ireland in the first full international to be played at Ayresome Park in 1905.

He was only prevented from adding further to his caps by the brilliance of England's Sam Hardy.

Williamson retired after the 1922-23 season and died in 1943. The only player to have come close to his record since the war is Gordon Jones, with 528 appearances for Boro.



● This superb sketch appeared on the front cover of the Boro programme in the immediate post-war years.

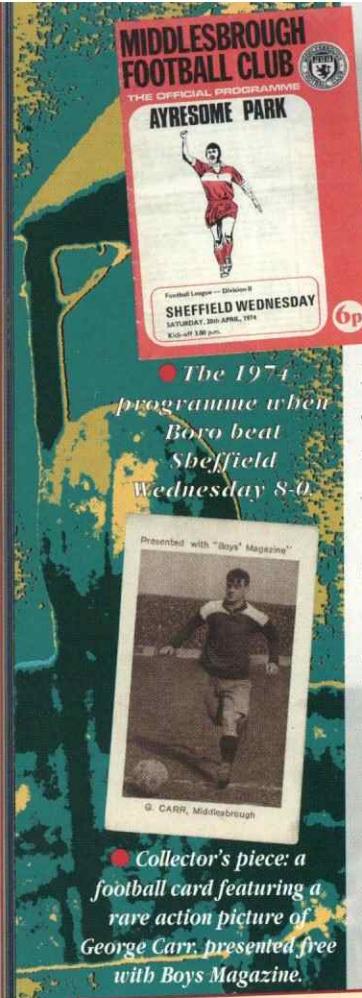


● George Carr, one of four Carr brothers to play League football.

THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

Just seven players made more than 200 league appearances at Ayresome Park. They were:

1. Tim Williamson	271
2. Jackie Carr	229
3. Gordon Jones	224
4. George Camsell	217
5. Jim Platt	205
6. John Hickton	204
7. John Craggs	201



● The 1974 programme when Boro beat Sheffield Wednesday 8-0



● Collector's piece: a football card featuring a rare action picture of George Carr, presented free with Boys Magazine.

Boro's true goals king

THE greatest Boro striker of them all, George Camsell's career record of 345 goals in 453 League and FA Cup appearances is truly outstanding.

From his record in internationals, he could also have been one of England's finest as well - if he had only been given the chance more often.

A tally of 18 goals in just nine games should surely have been enough to bring greater recognition.

Camsell's Ayresome career got off to a slow start after signing from Durham City as an outside left for £600 in 1925. A move to Barnsley almost followed before Camsell switched to centre forward, with explosive results.

The team had picked up only one point from the first four games of the 1926-27 season when Camsell was drafted in as centre forward.

His haul of 59 goals that season has only once been bettered, Dixie Dean's 60 goals for Everton the following year.

He went on to be Boro's top scorer for 10 successive seasons (1927-36), narrowly outshooting, in 1935-36, 22-goal winger Ralph Birkett, one of our special guests at Ayresome Park today.



● George Camsell: goalscoring super star.

As war enveloped Europe the government decided that, for public morale, it would be beneficial to continue football on a regional basis. Middlesbrough played during the Second World War but the new South Stand, however, was closed from 1939 to September 1945.

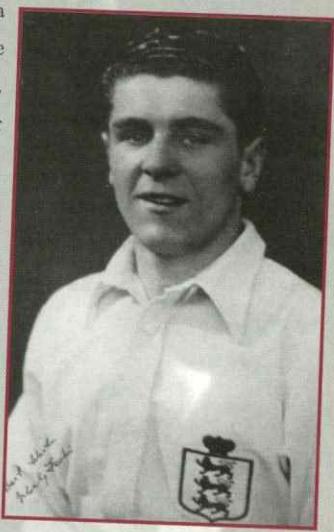
The immediate post-war period saw record crowds flood into British football grounds and Middlesbrough was no exception to this. It was on December 29, 1949 that Middlesbrough's record ground attendance of 53,802 was set at Ayresome Park, the opposition was Newcastle United and Boro won 1-0, with McKennan the scorer.

In 1954 a new roof on the South Stand coincided with the club's relegation to Division Two after a quarter of a century of First Division football. New floodlights, costing £20,119, were installed in the summer of 1957 and a series of floodlit friendlies were played during the season to defray the cost of the floodlights, some of the games attracting crowds well in excess of 30,000.

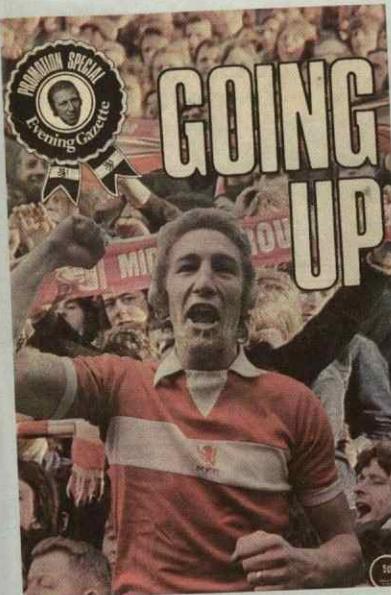
The next great name to excite the fans was goalscoring star Brian Clough, whose strike partnership with Alan Peacock should have brought a return to the top flight, especially with Eddie Holliday, Billy Day, Bill Harris and Mick McNeil in support.

On August 11, 1964 the club announced that Ayresome Park had been chosen as one of the two North-East World Cup venues in July, 1966, after Newcastle United had been forced to pull out following problems with Newcastle City Council.

The Government allocated a grant of £49,200 towards the overall cost of



● England hero: forward Micky Fenton netted 162 league goals for Boro.



● Up the Boro: an Evening Gazette special issue to celebrate promotion in 1974.

£125,000 with the club receiving a £30,500 loan repayable over five years for the remainder. The pitch was to be lengthened by one yard to 115 yards (in fact, the current dimensions are 115 yards by 75 yards) to fall in line with World Cup requirements.

Middlesbrough was allocated three matches - USSR v. North Korea, Chile v. North Korea and Italy v. North Korea in the Group Four games.

In May 1966 the East End was covered for the three World Cup games and 4,000 seats were installed in the "Bob

End" reducing the ground capacity to some 42,000 but, by then, the club had been relegated to Division Three.

Alas, the extra capacity was not needed, though the USSR's opening 3-0 win over North Korea did attract 22,568 fans, a bigger crowd than had seen any Boro game in the previous year. Almost

19,000 locals witnessed one of the biggest World Cup shocks of all-time when Pak Doo Ik hit the Koreans' winner in a 1-0 success over Italy.

The crowds began to flock back to Ayresome as Boro won immediate promotion back to the Second Division, with 39,683 filling the ground for the last day win over Oxford - an attendance that has never been bettered for a league game since. However, the crowds had faded to a post-war low of just 10,000 in Stan Anderson's final season in charge.

THE MANAGERS

from Robson to Robson

A total of 23 managers have been in the Ayresome hot seat, not to mention a number of caretaker managers. Listed below are some of the more famous names...

John Robson (1899-1905)
Tom McIntosh (1911-19)
Herbert Bamlett (1923-27)
Peter McWilliam (1927-34)
Wilf Gillow (1934-44)
David Jack (1944-52)
Bob Dennison (1954-63)
Stan Anderson (1966-73)
Jack Charlton (1973-77)
John Neal (1977-81)
Willie Maddren (1984-86)
Bruce Rioch (1986-90)
Lennie Lawrence (1991-94)
Bryan Robson (1994-95)



● CAPPED captain: George Hardwick.



● A caricature of Harry Bell on a cigarette card from the 1940s.

Gentleman George, the classy captain

WITH his tough-tackling style and film star looks, George Hardwick was one of the best known faces in the game when football resumed after the World War II.

Captain of club and country, the classy left-back - nicknamed Gentleman George - remains today one of the fans' favourite ever stars.

Capped 31 times by England, though many of his appearances were during the war, he usually accompanied Boro teammate Wilf Mannion on his international sojourns.

Hardwick was skipper of a star-studded Boro side that regularly attracted Ayresome crowds of around 40,000. Among the big names of the era were Mannion, Alex McCrae, Micky Fenton, Johnny Spuhler and Harry Bell.

He left Boro in 1950 to join Oldham as player-manager, and later coached the US Seventh Army, PSV Eindhoven, the Dutch FA, Sunderland and Boro juniors.

The Promotion Years

If Robbo's boys achieve promotion this season, over half of Boro's seven promotions at Ayresome Park will have occurred in an amazing decade of ups and downs.

Despite the club's long history, the club has never prospered in the cup competitions or won a league title so promotion seasons are the most fondly remembered.

The club was first promoted, to the old First Division, in 1902, a year before the move to Ayresome Park.

A 22-year stay in the top flight ended in 1924 but it took just two years for Boro to bounce back under the management of Herbert Bamlett.

George Camsell propelled Boro to the championship, his 59 league goals the inspiration behind many big wins.

Incredibly, however, relegation came at the end of their first year back in the top flight but Boro - by then under Peter McWilliam's leadership - bounced back for another championship success.

After many years in the top flight, a slide began that hit a low when the club was relegated to the Third Division for the first time in its history in 1966, but the goals of O'Rourke, Hickton and Horsfield powered them back up at the first attempt.

Under Jack Charlton seven years later, the club clinched a long awaited return to the top flight in record-breaking style, thanks to an outstanding defensive record.

Put perhaps the promotions that were most satisfying to Boro fans were the successive elevations of 1987 and 1988 when the club went from the Third to First division in two years with Bruce Rioch at the helm.

Slaven, Pears, Mowbray, Pallister and Ripley were the stars of those campaigns but the club again lost its way until Lennie Lawrence guided them back to the top in 1992 when the likes of Wilkinson and Hendrie had joined many of the old-timers.

Who knows? In years to come the fans may talk about the inspired promotion displays of Steve Vickers, Uwe Fuchs, Alan Moore and Jamie Pollock...

TOP FIVE AYRESOME CROWDS

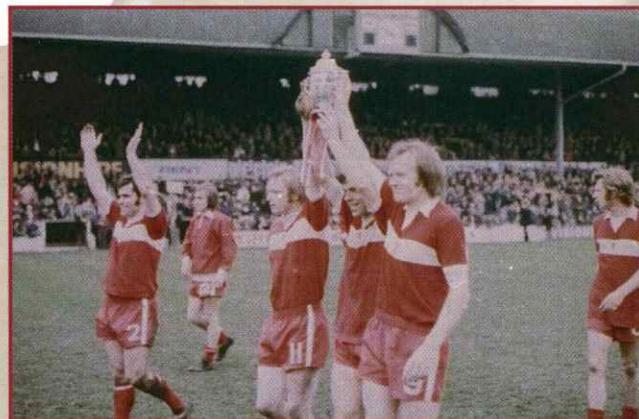
53,802 v Newcastle	Division One	Dec '49
53,025 v Burnley	FA Cup	Mar '47
52,764 v Sunderland	Division One	Oct '50
51,612 v Bolton	FA Cup	Feb '46
51,080 v Sunderland	FA Cup	Jan '39



● Champions: George Camsell was among the stars of Boro's 1926-27 Second Division promotion team.

The club continued to prosper with regular crowds of over 20,000 throughout an eight year stay in the top flight, but bad times quickly worsened in the early to mid-1980s, culminating in an average crowd of fractionally over 5,000 during the 1984-85 campaign. When the fans did not return the following season, and with Boro relegated to the Third Division for only the second time in their history, the club looked to be finished.

With the club heavily in debt and in its final death throes the ground was padlocked by the Official Receiver's agent on August 1, 1986. It looked as though Ayresome Park would not



● Champions again: Jack Charlton's stars celebrate on the Ayresome pitch after winning the Second Division title in 1974.

stage any more Football League games.

Ayresome's top games

Since its opening in 1903, Ayresome Park has played host to many top games - including top internationals.

Perhaps the most famous game was North Korea's shock 1-0 World Cup success over Italy in the 1966 World Cup tournament when Boro were a Third Division club.

Two years later, a crowd of over 34,000 packed out Ayresome as a Football League side - including the likes of Hurst, Hunt, Moore and Peters - defeated the Scottish League 2-0.

Previously, three England games had been played at Ayresome Park. The first, a 1-1 draw against Ireland in 1905, saw Boro goalkeeper Tim Williamson scored an unfortunate own goal, while George Elliott was in the England forward line surprisingly beaten 3-0 by the Irish in 1914.

The final England game at Ayresome in 1937 saw the great Stanley Matthews net one of the goals in a 2-1 victory over Wales watched by more than 30,000 supporters.

Nine years earlier, an England trial game saw Boro stars Jackie Carr and George Camsell opposing each other as the first choice team beat 'the rest' 8-3, thanks to five goals from Dixie Dean.

The biggest ever Ayresome attendance for a non-Boro game occurred in 1950 when Wilf Mannion inspired the Football League to a 3-1 success over the Scottish League. The crowd that day was almost 40,000.



● February 1914.

Thankfully, at the last moment a consortium saved the club from extinction but the opening home game of the 1986/87 season

against Port Vale was played at the Victoria Ground, Hartlepool.

The chief groundsmen at Ayresome Park have been Charlie Flintoff, Wilf Atkinson and the current groundsman David Rigg. Under the supervision of the late Wilf Atkinson, who served the club for more than 30 years, the playing surface received and deserved many accolades from visiting teams and officials and was for many years rated the best playing surface in the country, second only to Wembley.

"Rotting girders" in the North Stand were reported in the summer of 1993

which must have hastily preempted the club's decision to look for pastures new and here we are, less than two years later, about to leave the "Old Lady of Middlesbrough", our beloved Ayresome Park.

What will become of it in the months to come is not yet clear but there can be little doubt that going to watch the Boro will never be quite the same again.



● OH yes! Boro players celebrate in the Ayresome dressing room after clinching promotion from Division Three in 1987.



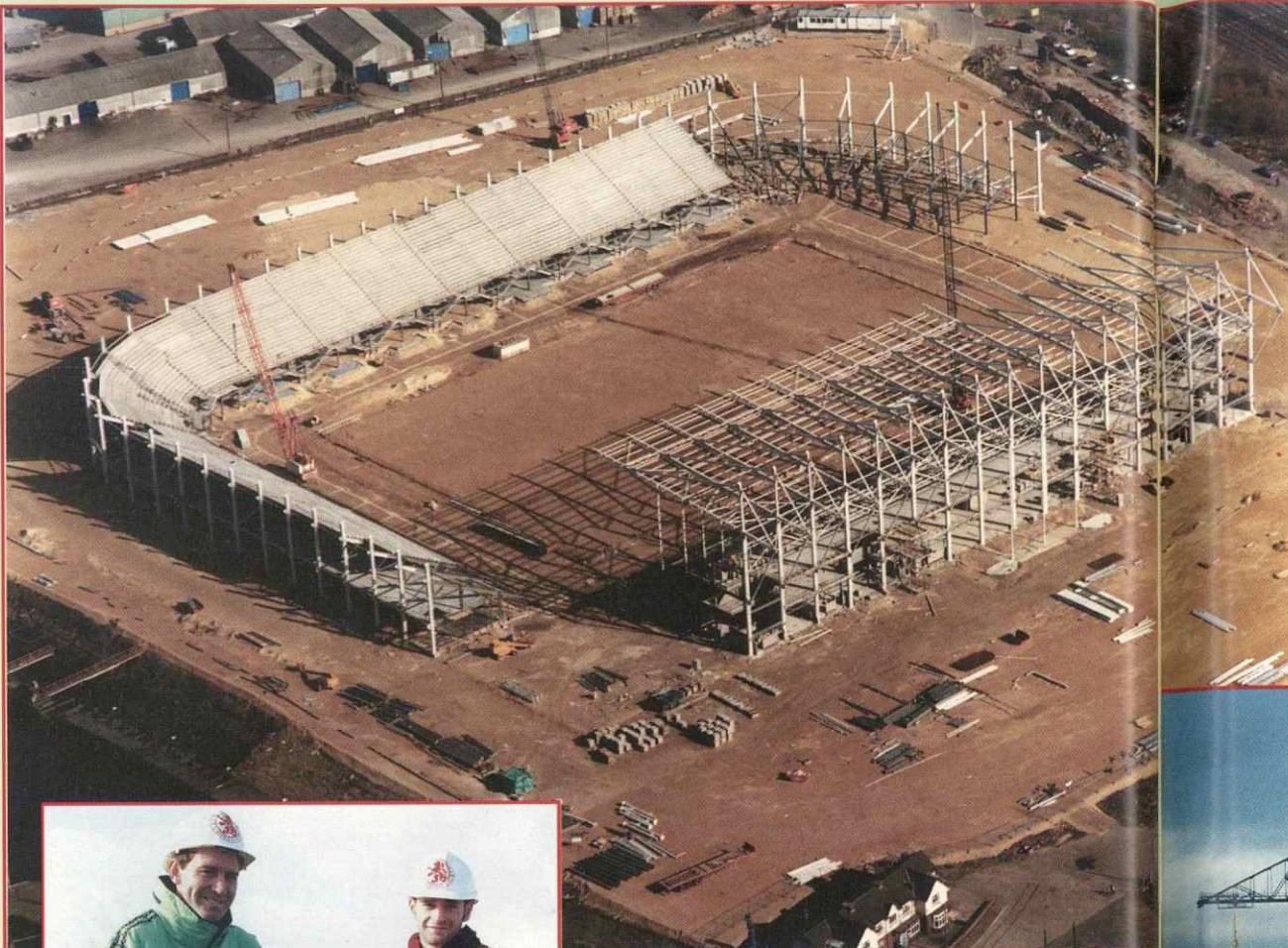
● The programme from Boro's lone Wembley appearance against Chelsea in the Youth Cup in 1990.

● The headline says it all in this front cover picture from the Evening Gazette after another promotion success.

TOP AYRESOME SCORERS

Only four players in Boro's long history scored more than 100 league goals at Ayresome Park:

George Camsell	188
Brian Clough	122
John Hickton	103
George Elliott	101



● **THE day it all began:** Robbo digs in with Jamie Pollock and Alan Moore.

● **THEATRE of dreams:** Steve Gill took this fantastic photograph of the new stadium from an aeroplane.

● **END of an era (right):** it's time to say farewell to Ayresome.



● **Right:** a first ever picture from the players' tunnel, looking out on to the pitch.



● **Above:** this exclusive shot from the Main Stand provides a great view of the stadium where Boro will play their football for generations to come.

● **Left:** how the stadium site looked just six short months ago.





Middlesbrough v Luton Town

Alan Miller	Kelvin Davis
Neil Cox	Des Linton
Derek Whyte	Marvin Johnson
Steve Vickers	Gary Waddock
Nigel Pearson	Richard Harvey
Clayton Blackmore	Trevor Peake
Graham Kavanagh	Paul Telfer
Jamie Pollock	Scott Oakes
Jan-Aage Fjortoft	John Taylor
John Hendrie	David Preece
Alan Moore	Dwight Marshall
Uwe Fuchs	David Green
Chris Morris	Tony Thorpe
Steve Pears	Martyn Margetson
Bryan Robson	
Jaime Moreno	
Curtis Fleming	
Referee: Paul Vanes (Warley)	
Linesmen: Mr C Bassindale of Doncaster (red trim) Mr C Gordon of North Shields (yellow trim)	

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