

SUNDERLAND A.F.C. FORMED 1879



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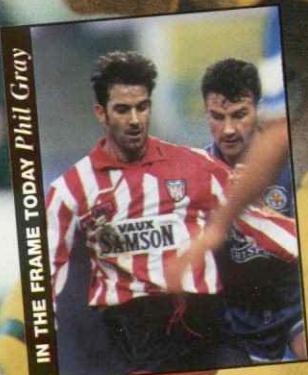
Roker Review

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

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ROKER PARK, SUNDERLAND, ENGLAND.

IN THE FRAME TODAY Phil Gray



TODAY'S MATCH
SPONSOR



**Sunderland AFC
v Luton Town**

Saturday 24th February 1996



The Management

Reid Writes

A word from the Manager...

I was absolutely delighted with the result on Tuesday, by no means our best performance, but we have played a lot better before and got nothing for it.

I am very pleased with the way the players dug in, in sometimes difficult conditions and the attitude of the players has been first class. They defended well under pressure and I must give a special mention to Shay Given and Craig Russell as they did very well.

I don't think Ipswich will be too aggrieved as in the first game at Portman Road we were the better team.

On the injury front we should have Steve Agnew, Martin Scott and Martin Smith back in contention shortly.

Once again, thank you for the magnificent support we had in bitterly cold conditions. We're hoping to see you today and let's hope for a further three points.



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Brace's Bit

...and the Assistant Manager



Obviously after the 2-2 draw at Portsmouth last Saturday it was important that we kept a clean sheet in the midweek victory over Ipswich.

Tuesday's performance was clearly not one of our better ones but we have played much better and got nothing out of games. Things tend to even themselves out over the course of a season and thankfully it was our turn to benefit from good fortune. Having said that we played Ipswich

off the park at Portman Road only to lose so they can't have too many complaints and to be fair they accepted their fate with good grace.

Overall I felt the three points were a reward for a hardworking all round team performance. The points keep us in the hunt at the right end of the table - there is a long way to go and points in the bag are vital.

This afternoon we welcome Luton who have been in good form since Lennie Lawrence took over. In fact we've had quite a run of meeting sides on a good run and we know that Luton will be difficult to overcome this afternoon. However with the required application combined with good passing and movement we have what it takes to collect the points and complete a satisfactory week.

Chairman's

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FOR THE LATEST NEWS - CLUBCALL 0891 12 11 40

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CLUB HONOURS

League Champions: 1892, 1893, 1895, 1902, 1913, 1936

Runners-Up: 1894, 1898, 1901, 1923, 1935

Division 2 Champions: 1976

Division 2 Runners-Up: 1964, 1966

Division 3 Champions: 1988

FA Cup Winners: 1937, 1973

FA Cup Finalists: 1913, 1992

League Cup Runners-Up: 1985

European Cup Winners Cup Competition: 1974

Kit Parade

	Sam Aiston Courtina Beefeaters		Andy Melville University of Sunderland		Dariusz Kubicki C.M. Tiles - Boldon
	Steve Agnew Superior Plating		Alec Chamberlain Moor-Dale		John Mullin SAFCSA London Branch
	Brett Angell R.A.F.		Martin Gray Norwich Union Creditor		Richard Ord Alexander Plumbing
	Gordon Armstrong Linden House		Michael Gray Paul Gerry		Peter Reid Superior Plating
	Brian Atkinson Sunderland City Tec		Phil Gray Ashley Timber		Craig Russell The Regal Stadium
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	Michael Bridges Washington Components		John Kay Mrs Wight		Martin Scott Superior Plating
	Stephen Brodie Jonathon May		David Kelly Greg Tye		Martin Smith City Electrical Factors

Sunderland youth team coach Ricky Sbragia remembers the first time he met Peter Reid. "It was a little bit frightening," he revealed.

But, for once, it wasn't former England man Reid's snarling tackles that were the cause of concern.

"We were on the same FA coaching course at Lilleshall a few years ago," explained Sbragia.

"There were a few big name players, including Peter, on the course and it was a bit daunting telling them they were wrong about the game."

But Sbragia's style must have rubbed off on the former Everton star - because he was offered a job when Reid arrived at Sunderland last April!

"The gaffer and Paul Bracewell sat me down in the summer and had a chat about the way they wanted things doing at the club," said Sbragia.

"Basically the same thing is taught from first team level right through to junior level - get the ball down and pass it."

"It's our aim to instill how to handle the ball and get players through into the reserves and first team as soon as possible."

Sbragia has seen three of Roker's starlets make it into Reid's squad this season - Sam Aiston, Michael Bridges and Darren Holloway.

"The whole coaching staff should get the praise for the kids coming through because we're all working collectively at the club," he said.

"The gaffer, Brace, Bobby Saxton and Pop Robson all work with the kids which really helps them."

Sbragia, who made more than 300 league appearances for Birmingham, Walsall, Blackpool and York, was forced to quit football ten years ago with a back injury.

He was handed the chance to step into a kids' coaching role at Bootham Crescent by former Sunderland boss Denis Smith.

Scare Tactics!

Sunderland youth coach RICKY SBRAGIA talks about the first time he met Peter Reid

Ricky moulded one of the top youth set ups in the country at York before being headhunted by Sunderland.

"It was a hard step to make from being a footballer to being a watcher," he said. "It got very frustrating at times."

"The thing I noticed about moving to Roker Park is that the job is very different to that at York."

"There's much more pressure to win games here because you can get more than 300 people watching youth team matches on a Saturday and they want results."

"But although it's always good to win, the way you play is much more important at this level. Youngsters need to learn how to use the ball."

Sbragia added: "At York I was getting good kids from the villages around Yorkshire without any major competition from other clubs."

"But here you not only have the clubs in the area but also other clubs who have set up scouting networks."

Sbragia points to Manchester United, who knocked Sunderland out of this year's FA Youth Cup, as the standard bearers in kids' football.

"They've won the Youth Cup three or four times in the last five years and that's where you should set your stall."

"United's work rate, use of the ball

"Pop was involved with the youth set up at Old Trafford and he's brought some good ideas to the club."

"But the advantage United have over others is that it's the best club in the country, so inevitably kids are attracted."

SEVEN of the current York City first team came out of Ricky's youth set-up at Bootham Crescent.

But the 39-year-old admits that life as a youth team coach is not always a bed of roses.

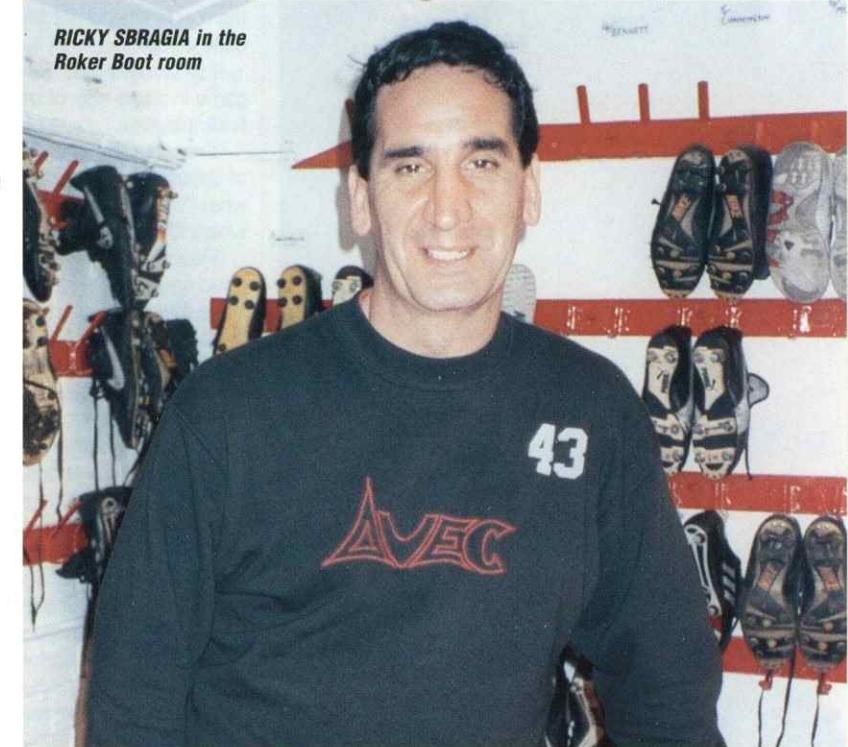
"The hardest part is telling kids that they're not going to make it," he explained.

"Even though most of the lads have a gut feeling whether they're going to have a future in the game they're still devastated

when you break the news."

"Some of them have been at the club for seven or eight years - you even know their parents."

"As much as you try and help them it's a horrible thing to do. But it's part of the job."





KEVIN BALL picks up a few coaching tips from Peter Reid

Sunderland skipper Kevin Ball has set his sights on a coaching career once he decides to hang up his boots.

The versatile 31-year-old is determined to stay in the game when the time finally arrives to call it a day.

And he has already had a little practice by helping to coach his son Luke's school side - Woodlea Primary in Fencehouses.

The eight-year-old, however, is definitely not a chip off the old block. He's a budding right winger and he could teach his dad a thing or two about scoring!

"He scored a hat-trick in a five-a-side tournament recently and has an eye for goal," confessed dad Kevin.

"I help out with coaching his school team side when I get the chance and quite enjoy it.

"I would definitely like to stay in the game in some way or other once I finish playing.

"I've often thought about a change of direction in my career, but football is what I've been brought up on and it's where all my knowledge is.

"People have said to me I'd be a good salesman or radio presenter, but I love the day-to-day involvement in football and I think I'd miss it too much."

Ball is back in business in the heart of Sunderland's engine room after a difficult time with injury last month.

"The season was going fairly well for me up until December, when I hit a sticky spell with suspension and injury," he said.

"But things are back on track now and hopefully I can help Sunderland towards promotion this season."

The tough-tackling former Portsmouth defender is relishing his new role this season as Roker's demolition man in midfield.

A new Ball Game?

By Nick Alexander

"I would still call myself a defender, but it has been really enjoyable playing in the middle," he explained.

"The manager gave me a specific stopping job when I moved forward from defence earlier in the season.

"It took a couple of games to adjust to the new position, but it's been OK since.

"You see things from a different perspective in midfield because you're not facing the play all the time.

"When you play in different positions it helps to widen your knowledge of the game and improves your whole game in general."

Ball added: "Although my first job is to stop the opposition, I do get a chance to go forward more and I'm disappointed not to have scored this season.

"I've got myself into good positions five or six times but finishing has let me down."

If you don't see Ball's name at the top of the scoring charts this season there's one list you will see him head - the top tackler.

"I love tackling - it's the side of the game I really enjoy," he said.

"When you're putting in a lot of tackles in a game it's bound to lead to a few bookings, I don't think I've ever been malicious.

"I think some referees are far too fussy now. The worst thing is when they try and become the stars of the game - that should be left to the players."

Ball, in his sixth season at Roker Park, admits that being handed the Sunderland captaincy four years ago was a massive thrill.

"Malcolm Crosby asked me if I wanted the job when Paul Bracewell left to go to Newcastle after the Cup final," said Ball, who was also skipper at Fratton Park.

"I had to go away and think about it for a while because it's a massive responsibility being captain of a big club like Sunderland.

"But I enjoyed the job at Portsmouth and decided to accept it here and I've never looked back. It has been a real honour for me."

Ball added: "Being captain is not just a case of tossing the coin up before a game - there's a lot of work off the pitch.



KEVIN BALL isn't thinking of hanging up his boots just yet!

"With smaller clubs in the south of England football is more of a leisure activity, but it's a way of life in the north east."

"People here get involved with the football club and it's up to me as the captain to help Sunderland keep their good reputation in the community."

"The job is not something you can take lightly and, with respect to other clubs, Sunderland means a lot more to the city than most clubs."

Ball, who lives near Chester-le-Street with his wife Sharon, Luke, and daughter Natasha, 3, is aiming to join football's 'OAP club' before he retires.

"If you can steer clear from injury it's quite possible to keep playing into your late thirties," he said.

"I've got two years on my Sunderland contract after this season and I want to carry on playing after that - wherever it may be."

"As long as I'm doing myself justice on the pitch then I'll carry on playing, whether it is professional or non-League football."



Cooking in the Kit Room

ROB MASON recalls the anniversary of a visit by Luton when our Kit Manager John Cooke was the main ingredient

Luton Town's 1-0 defeat at Roker 16 years ago this weekend holds special memories for our kit man John Cooke.

In only his second game John hit the winner against The Hatters before the Match of the Day cameras to help us upwards in what proved to be a

successful promotion campaign.

"What a thrill it was when the ball hit the net. I'm not very big but I was walking tall after that

marvellous moment. I was so pleased that my Dad was there to see it. I'll never forget that goal, never ever." he told Roker Review at the time.

Looking back on it this weekend he recalled: "It was really foggy and I just kept hoping that the match wouldn't be abandoned."

Pop Robson was playing alongside John that day and the pair of them were in action again on Match of the Day later that year when we lost 2-4 at home to Liverpool. John's memories of that match are not so pleasant: "They showed it on Sky UK Gold a few weeks ago and the boss slaughtered me saying he only saw me at the kick off and when I was substituted!"

As with Michael Bridges now, Cooke began as a 17 year old striker with a healthy scoring record to his name with the youth team. Nowadays John is responsible for the playing kit and boots having been brought back to the club by Ian Atkins when the current Northampton boss was assistant manager during Terry Butcher's reign. Atkins and Cooke had been on the playing staff together in the early eighties.

John had joined us from Barrhill Boys Club in Lancashire in December 1978 as a midfielder and despite his lack of height was converted into a striker by George Herd whose own playing stature of 5'8" and 11 stone was almost identical to Cooke's.

John's debut came against Bristol Rovers in November 1979 a fortnight after he'd been an unused sub at Swansea. He made another couple of appearances that season and went on

to play 42 league games for the club plus a further 13 as sub, scoring four times. He won England

Youth Caps in October 1981 playing in the World Youth Cup in Australia against Egypt, Qatar and Romania, scoring against the Egyptians who were defeated 4-2 with Neil Webb claiming a hat trick.

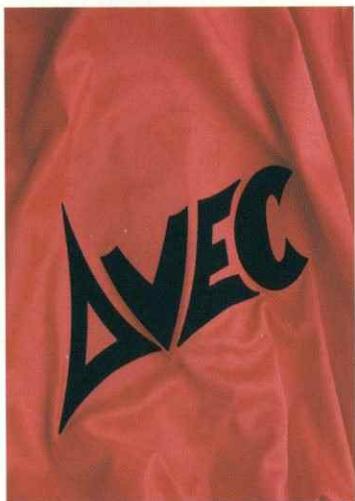
Following our relegation Cooke moved to Sheffield Wednesday in May 1985 where he teamed up with coach Peter Eustace who'd coached at Roker when John made his debut. Howard Wilkinson never gave him his league bow for the Owls though and he moved to Carlisle with whom he'd had a spell on loan while with us.

After 13 goals in 112 league games for the Cumbrians, Salford born Cooke moved nearer home territory in 1988 by signing for Stockport where he played alongside Brett Angell as well as former Rokerites Barry Siddall and Roger Wylde. John scored seven times in 58 league appearances for County before joining Chris McMenemy at Chesterfield where he met up with Paul Lemon (and played alongside Warren Hawke while Warren was on loan from us).

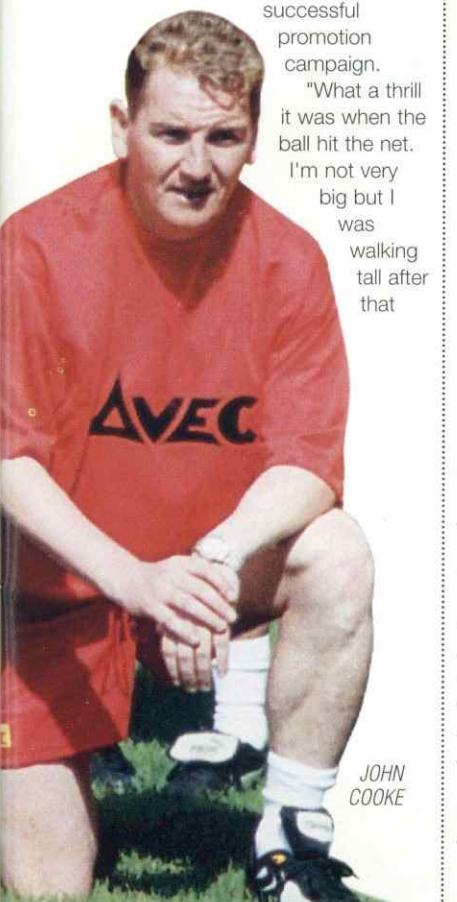
Eight goals in 53 league games gave John a career total of 32 goals in 278 appearances in the league ending at Rotherham in May 1992 in a game where The Millers won promotion.

Still only 33, John has since operated in non League football representing Gateshead and Spennymoor. Up to the end of last season he combined playing with his responsibilities at Roker but now he is full time at the club travelling away with the first team.

He takes charge of all playing kit and footwear for all three of the club's teams: "I think there is more leeway for Premier League clubs in terms of colour clashes. In last Monday's abandoned cup game between Forest and Spurs they both wore white shorts, while we changed to white shorts to avoid a clash with Wolves at Molineux and last Saturday wore white socks at Portsmouth. That is up to me, I try to cover every eventuality".



SPORTS AND LEISUREWEAR AVEC STYLE



JOHN COOKE

Captain's Column ON THE BALL

Words of Wisdom from the Captain, Kevin Ball.

Last Tuesday's game with Ipswich proved to be a severe case of *deja vu* in reverse as a couple of their lads pointed out to me after about 20 minutes.

They had a lot of chances early doors as we had had at their place but they didn't take them and at the end of the day we got the result that we wanted. There have been plenty of times this season where we've dominated games and not got our just rewards so we were long overdue an occasion such as Tuesday where it was the opposition who didn't capitalise on their opportunities. We improved as the game went on and worked hard for the points to strengthen our position in the table.

Our visit to my old club last weekend was one of these occasions when we had to settle for a single point after controlling the game for long periods. We got off to a great start with a good move that led to the opening goal which Aggers bagged with a terrific finish.

"Craig's penalty miss shouldn't detract from his performance as I thought he had an excellent game at Fratton Park"



Before they got back into it we had the penalty which Craig missed. He was fully confident about taking it and while some people may think that a two step run up is not the best, I've seen him slot them away regularly in training. Indeed one of the world's best penalty

takers, Italy's Beppe Signori, adopts this style. You may have seen him hit the winner in the Rome derby in this style on Channel Four during the week.

Nonetheless Craig's miss shouldn't detract from his performance as I thought he had an excellent game at Fratton Park and he duly got his reward by hitting the winner against Ipswich.

However, when we fell behind late in the game last Saturday it was a sickener. There were no thoughts of conceding defeat though and we did well to fight back for a point. The big man did the trick with a tremendous header that gave Allan Knight no chance.

Both sets of fans observed the minutes silence for Bob Paisley impeccably and I'd like to thank them for that. We had a good following at Fratton despite the distance involved and a good turnout on Tuesday night despite the terrible weather. As always your support is greatly appreciated both home and away.

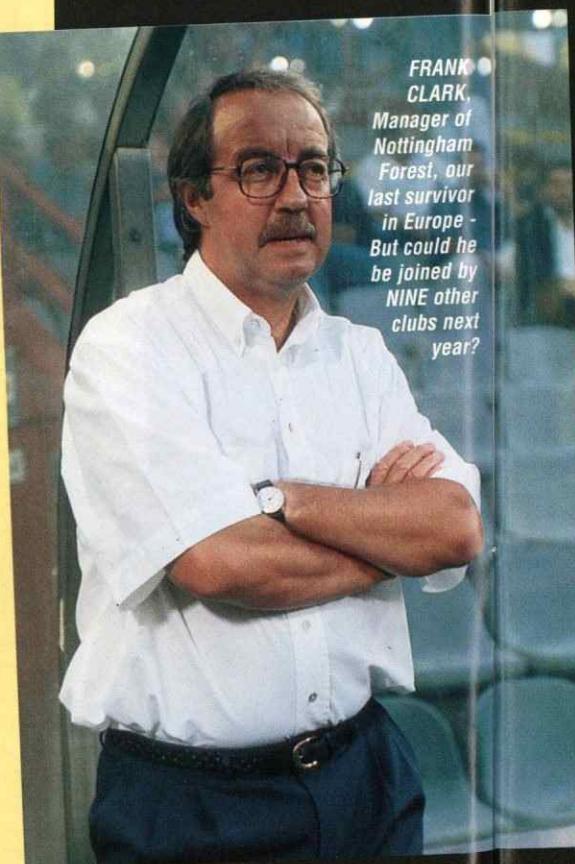
We'll need your backing again this afternoon. In welcoming Luton we recognise that they've been going well and will present us with a tough challenge but we'll be going all out to claim the three points.

POOR SOPS' CHARTER

Remember those tear jerker awards evenings for Sunday league clubs when there had to be enough trophies to ensure nobody went home empty handed?

Sweet little plaques would be awarded not only to the leading scorer, but 'the outstanding defender' 'the visionary playmaker', and so it seemed, 'the best corner kicker'.

At the end of the night some sad individual would have to carry off the 'Clubman of the Year' trophy, given annually to the poor sop who turned up week after week, and only got on to the pitch ten minutes after the start when it was all too obvious, nobody but nobody was going to magically appear.



FRANK CLARK,
Manager of
Nottingham
Forest, our
last survivor
in Europe -
But could he
be joined by
NINE other
clubs next
year?

Harry Barrett is

Talking Football

The views expressed in this column are not necessarily those of Sunderland AFC.

Needless to say he would never receive a pass.

UEFA seemed to have taken a leaf out of your average Sunday League awards presentation. Everyone's a winner baby, that's for sure.

The European Cup is no longer for Champions, but basically any club capable of pulling in 40,000 at the turnstiles. Extra places will be available in the Cup Winners Cup to those teams with the most successful records in domestic knock out competitions.

It is anticipated 112 clubs will compete in the UEFA Cup next season. At this rate tenth spot in the Premiership should be good enough to gain entry to that European stage.

Of course, we all know it is an attempt to stop the big European clubs breaking away to form their own league. But the expansion surely devalues the status of well established competitions.

A bit of honesty would not go amiss. A European Super League is inevitable, and UEFA should now plan for its introduction, set the criteria for entry, presumably based on say 40,000 seater stadium, average gates of 30,000, and a top five domestic league ranking for three consecutive seasons. Then we could move to a midweek Super League of perhaps a dozen teams.

And the wooden spoonists could collect a 'Clubmen of Europe' award.

IRISH STEW

Shame about the Irish. After being everyone's favourite international side, the Republic now seem to have pressed the self destruct button.

The little bit of tension that surrounded Jack Charlton's departure seems small beer compared to the problems at their Football Association Headquarters in recent weeks.

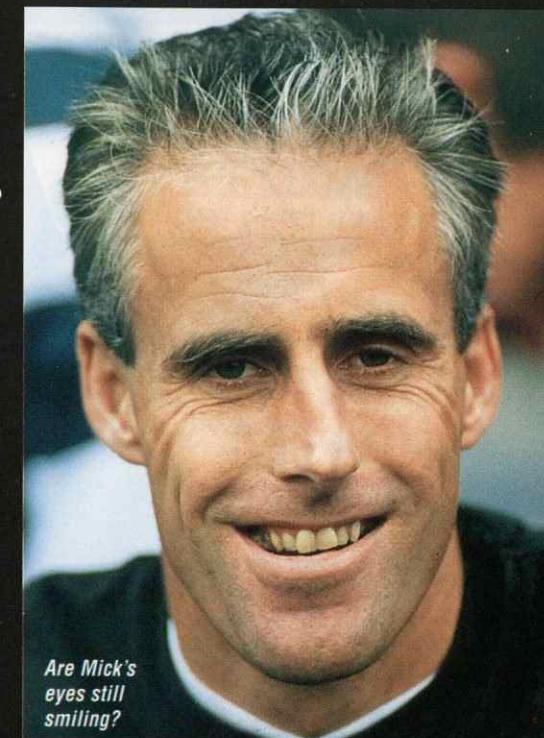
Firstly new team boss Mick McCarthy was refused the option of bringing his former assistant Ian Evans to the international scene, as his number two. Then the Chief

Executive, Sean Connolly resigned, following disagreements with Chairman Louis Kilcoyne. There is as yet no successor to Maurice Setter as Under 21 manager, who is also seeking compensation for unfair dismissal.

Not the best preparation for a World Cup Qualifying Tournament.

BORO TO BOUNCE BACK?

Tense game at Coventry this afternoon, where Middlesbrough seek to avoid setting a new club record of nine straight defeats.



Are Mick's eyes still smiling?

All of a sudden Bryan Robson's crown is becoming tarnished and the media boys are sniffing a story - successor to Terry Venables perhaps?

But 'Boro have achieved too much in two years to let it slip. Good players like Walsh, Vickers, Pollock, Hignett, Barmby and Hendrie do not become mediocre overnight.

Okay Juninho will be missing for a fortnight, but what price the Teessiders have returned to winning ways by the time he is back in a Celinet shirt, along with his mate Branco?

Indeed what price a 'Boro win at Highfield Road?



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Wed 16 Aug	ASTON VILLA	H 7pm	4-2	Howey, Mullin, Atkinson, Bennett
Thur 24 Aug	Blackpool	A 7pm	0-0	
Mon 4 Sep	Leicester City	A 7pm	1-3	McGiven
Wed 13 Sep	MIDDLESBROUGH	H 7pm	0-2	
Wed 27 Sep	Huddersfield Town	A 7pm	4-2	Howey, Aiston, Russell, Angell
Thu 5 Oct	PRESTON NE	H 7pm	3-0	Howey, Russell, Brodie
Wed 11 Oct	Hull City	A 7pm	4-2	Angell (3), Aiston
Wed 18 Oct	COVENTRY CITY	H 7pm	3-0	Angell, Mullin, Russell
Wed 25 Oct	Burnley	A 7pm	1-2	Angell
Tue 31 Oct	BARNESLEY	H 7pm	1-1	Aiston
Mon 6 Nov	Manfield Town	A 7pm	1-1	Mullin
Tue 15 Nov	BRADFORD CITY	H 7pm	3-2	Mullin, Agnew, Brodie
Thu 23 Nov	MANCHESTER CITY	H 7pm	5-2	Angell (2), Provan (2), Mullin
Tue 28 Nov	Rotherham United	A 7pm	2-2	Brodie, Armstrong
Wed 6 Dec	Barnsley	A 7pm	1-2	Russell
Wed 13 Dec	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	H 7pm	0-1	
Sat 20 Dec	YORK CITY	H 7pm	2-1	Kelly, Bridges
Wed 3 Jan	Port Vale	A 7pm	1-1	Howey
Tue 9 Jan	Grimsby Town	A 7pm	1-1	Mullin (pen)
Wed 17 Jan	BLACKPOOL	H 7pm	2-1	Mullin (2)
Wed 24 Jan	Aston Villa	A 7pm	1-0	Angell
Wed 31 Jan	LEICESTER CITY	H 7pm	2-0	Bridges, Kay
Thur 15 Feb	GRIMSBY TOWN	H 7pm	2-1	Bridges, Mullin
Wed 21 Feb	Bradford City	A 7pm		
Tue 5 Mar	MANSFIELD TOWN	H 7pm		
Wed 13 Mar	PORT VALE	H 7pm		
Wed 20 Mar	York City	A 7pm		
Wed 27 Mar	Preston NE	A 7pm		
Wed 3 Apr	Manchester City	A 7pm		
Wed 10 Apr	HULL CITY	H 7pm		
Wed 17 Apr	BURNLEY	H 7pm		
Tue 23 Apr	Coventry City	A 7pm		
Wed 1 May	ROTHERHAM UNITED	H 7pm		
TBA	Middlesbrough	A		

Northern Intermediate League

Mon 7 Aug	York City	A 12noon	1-2	Aiston
Sat 12 Aug	DARLINGTON	H 11am	2-2	Bridges (2)
Sat 19 Aug	Bradford City	A 12noon	4-0	Holloway, Mawson (3)
Sat 26 Aug	BARNESLEY	H 12noon	3-0	Aiston, Mawson (2)
Sat 2 Sep	DARLINGTON NILC	H 11am	3-1	Grant (2), Lloyd (pen)
Sat 9 Sep	MIDDLESBROUGH	H 11am	1-2	Thirwell
Sat 16 Sep	Rotherham United	A 12noon	1-1	Bridges
Sat 23 Sep	LEEDS UNITED	H 12noon	4-2	Bridges (2), Beavers, Mawson
Sat 30 Sep	Hartlepool United	A 11am	3-2	Bridges (3)
Sat 10 Oct	SHEFFIELD WED NILC2	H 12noon	2-0	Bridges, Grant (pen)
Sat 14 Oct	Doncaster Rovers	A 12noon	4-0	Hockingsbottom, Grant (2), Beavers
Mon 23 Oct	SHEFFIELD UNITED	H 12noon	3-0	Richardson, Pickering, Mawson
Sat 28 Oct	SHEFFIELD WED	H 12noon	2-1	Beavers, Bridges
Sat 11 Nov	CHESTERFIELD	H 12noon	10-0	Bridges (5), Grant (3), Mawson, Hall
Tues 21 Nov	CREWE (FAYC 2)	H 7pm	4-0	Beavers
Sat 25 Nov	Darlington	A 11am	0-1	Bridges, Knight, Beavers (2)
Sat 2 Dec	BRADFORD CITY	H 12noon	2-1	
Sat 9 Dec	Barnsley	A 12noon	1-4	Mawson, Sommerville
Sat 16 Dec	NEWCASTLE NIC s-1	H 11am	1-1	Thirwell
Sat 6 Jan	Leeds United	A 12noon	2-1	Bridges
Wed 10 Jan	MAN UTD (FAYC 3)	H 7pm	1-4	Provan
Sat 13 Jan	HARTLEPOOL UNITED	H 11am	3-2	Bridges
Sat 20 Jan	Huddersfield Town	A 11.30am	0-2	Pickering, Sommerville, Bridges
Sat 17 Feb	HULL CITY	H 12noon	6-1	Beavers (3), Pickering, Grant, Aiston
Sat 24 Feb	Chesterfield	A 12noon		
Sat 2 Mar	Newcastle United	A 11am		
Sat 9 Mar	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	H 11.30am		
Sat 23 Mar	YORK CITY	H 12noon		
Sat 6 Apr	Hull City	A 12noon		
TBA	Newcastle NILC s-1 rep	A		
TBA	NEWCASTLE UNITED	H		
TBA	Middlesbrough	A		
TBA	ROTHERHAM UNITED	H		
TBA	Sheffield United	A		
TBA	DONCASTER ROVERS	H		
TBA	Sheffield Wed	A		

The Lads waiting

In the Wings

RESERVES and YOUTH with
Mick Ferguson, Ricky Sbragia and Pop Robson

SUNDERLAND YOUTHS 6 HULL CITY YOUTHS 1

Northern Intermediate League
Saturday 17th February

Missing Michael Bridges elevated to the first team squad, the youth team returned to action for the first time in a month. A hat trick from Paul Beavers helped the lads to a 6-1 win over a side who had previously only conceded 19 goals in 17 games, but with better finishing we could have at least matched the double figure rout of Chesterfield.

"We seemed to recapture our rhythm in this game. We played well but they were a bit suicidal at the back. We controlled the game well but became sloppy after establishing a 4-0 lead. It

was important that we scored a few as we haven't scored many in recent games. We created a lot of chances, Grantly had a couple of great ones".

Backed by a strong wind we applied early pressure and took the lead in the 5th minute when Tigers' keeper Gavin Powell fumbled Stephen Pickering's low cross and Beavers poached the opener from close range.

Twenty minutes later Pickering added a second with a splendid volley, capitalising on Gregg Knight's near post flick on from Gary Lloyd's corner.

Knight was showing plenty of composure in central defence and hit a succession of superb long passes out of defence. From one of these Sam Aiston extended our lead when put clean through ten minutes before the break.

Two minutes later Irishman Steve Grant hit home a spectacular volley from fully 35 yards after receiving from Beavers who intercepted Powell's goal kick. With better luck Grant could have had more goals but his strike took his tally to nine in 18 games for the youths.

However, it was Beavers who stepped into goal machine Bridges' boots by



PAUL BEAVERS

registering his first hat trick for the club to give him nine goals from nine starts (plus 11 as sub). He banished any thoughts that the visitors would stage a recovery once they had the wind at their backs by stretching our lead to 5-0 with a brave volley four minutes after the re-start. Beavers completed his hat trick on the hour with an angled header from Elliott Dickman's deep centre.

Ricky Sbragia took the opportunity to give more first years a chance and sent John Sommerville on



SAM AISTON

for Aiston and gave centre half Liam Barnes his debut as a replacement for the excellent Knight.

Hull substitute David Chambers scored a late consolation for the disappointing visitors who included two first teamers in left back Gavin Gordon and striker Lee Pridmore.

"With Michael being away with the first team I had my chance and I was determined to take it. I tried my best and felt that the header to complete the hat trick was my best goal. It's given me a big boost - it was a shock at first but now that it's sunk in I'm really pleased".

PONTINS LEAGUE - Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	21	14	4	3	46	23	46
Derby	23	12	5	6	41	31	41
Liverpool	23	12	3	8	43	30	39
Stoke City	22	11	5	6	42	32	38
Everton	21	10	4	7	31	23	34
Tranmere	21	10	3	8	48	41	33
Sheff Wed	22	8	7	7	41	37	31
Leeds Utd	19	9	3	7	23	19	30
Oldham Ath	22	8	6	8	33	35	30
Birmingham	21	9	2	10	40	46	29
Notts Co	20	7	5	8	29	32	26
Newcastle	22	7	5	10	34	39	26
Sheff Utd	22	6	8	7	27	35	26
Blackburn	22	6	7	9	34	35	25
Bolton	22	6	7	9	29	36	25
Wolves	20	6	4	10	28	32	22
West Brom	20	1	3	16	18	57	6

PONTINS LEAGUE - Division Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesbrough	22	16	3	3	59	17	51
Huddersfield	21	11	6	4	20	20	39
Sunderland	22	11	6	5	42	27	39
Coventry	22	12	3	7	47	33	39
Preston	21	10	6	5	30	26	36
Port Vale	22	9	7	6	45	29	34
Leicester	22	8	10	4	45	30	34
Burnley	24	9	6	9	50	52	33
Aston Villa	18	8	7	3	35	23	31
Blackpool	21	9	4	8	32	24	31
Grimsby	20	8	6	6	40	34	30
Man City	19	7	6	6	21	21	27
Barnsley	22	7	5	10	35	42	26
Bradford	21	8	2	11	38	47	26
York City	23	5	5	13	22	49	20
Rotherham	23	4	6	13	22	45	18
Mansfield	21	2	5	14	23	62	11
Hull City	22	1	3	18	6	51	6

PONTINS LEAGUE - Division Three

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carlisle	19	11	6	2	32	10	39
Bury	21	12	2	7	40	27	38
Wrexham	19	12	1	6	53	28	37
Stockport	19	11	3	5	41	28	36
Wigan	17	9	5	3	36	21	32
Olsen	1	0					
Ord	1	0					
Parker	1	0					
Pickering	10	2	0				
Preece	4	0					
Provan	1	1	2				
Russell	4	1	4				
Scott	1	0					
M Smith	7	0					
S Smith	4	0					
Thirwell	0	1	0				

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Physio Report

With STEVE SMELT

There were one or two knocks following the Ipswich game but I'm hoping to have several players available again by today.

TERRY COOKE

Terry suffered a blow to his thigh but it didn't seem too bad immediately after the match so hopefully he'll be okay.

STEVE AGNEW

Steve is making good progress after missing our game in midweek. Hopefully he'll have been able to return to training on Thursday or Friday.

MARTIN SCOTT

Martin had an infiltration into his inflamed tendon on Tuesday and as with Steve Agnew I was hoping to have him back in training by the end of the week.

MARTIN SMITH

Martin has made a remarkable recovery having missed only four and a half weeks since his operation. He is now back in training.

DAVID KELLY & JOHN PROVAN

Are both making good progress.

<b

Followers of Luton at today's game will have been surprised by our omission of their ex striker Phil Gray at Portsmouth last Saturday.

Twenty goals in his final season for The Hatters made him a hot property when he swapped Kennilworth Road for Roker in the summer of 1993 and despite his current lack of goals he remains a player of high quality.

His all round play and commitment have been what you would expect of a player of international class but unfortunately Tippy has hit the kind of barren run that all forwards experience at some stage of their careers.

Coincidentally, it was Fratton Park last season that Phil's former striker partner Don Goodman was left out of our line up after a similarly fruitless run in front of goals. As we know to our cost Don has now rediscovered his goal

Phil Gray

yielded just a dozen goals. Recently he has been denied, sometimes by defenders closing him down as he tried to make sure he hit the target, and sometimes by outstanding goalkeeping.

Tranmere's Danny Coyne flung himself at a vintage volley of Tippy's last month while Derby's Russell Hoult pulled off what is undoubtedly the save of the season so far to keep out Phil's bullet header at The Baseball Ground.

However, Phil's standards are so high that despite not hitting the net as

sight of goal in our cup replay last month and perhaps an indication of Phil's ability to grace the big stage is that in cup ties he regularly registered on the scoresheet. Tippy is also building himself a fine reputation as a goalscorer in international football.

NORTHERN IRELAND

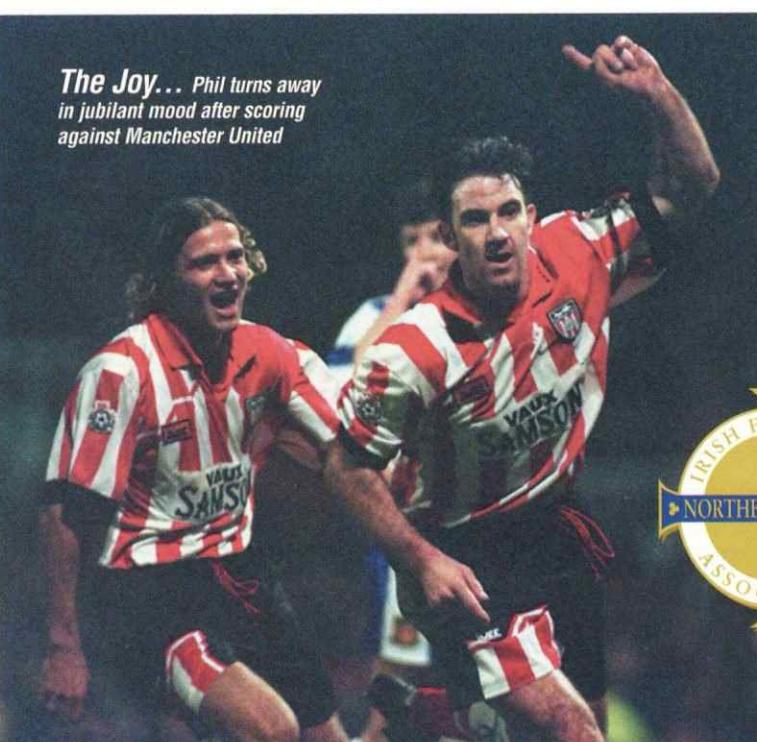
Goals in his last two internationals against Liechtenstein and Austria in the Autumn took Phil's international tally to five from 16 appearances for his country.

As well as scoring he had a hand in the other three goals as Brian Hamilton's men destroyed Liechtenstein, while as partner to West Ham's Iain Dowie he helped the Irish to their first five goal haul since 1991 when they beat Austria 5-3 in November.

With a dozen caps to his name since moving to Wearside, Phil is now the third most capped Northern Ireland international in our history although he has a long way to go to equal Martin Harvey or Billy Bingham.

Northern Ireland finished sixth in their six team qualifying group for Euro '96 but obtained the same number of points as runners up Eire so there is cause for optimism as they look forward to their World Cup qualifying programme.

They are in a tough group with Germany, Portugal, Ukraine, Albania and Armenia with only the top team certain to go through, although the runners up are given an opportunity to progress. The Irish are sure to see Phil as a key man in their campaign and having featured in seven of their World Cup qualifiers last time round he knows what to expect from a demanding schedule.



The Joy... Phil turns away in jubilant mood after scoring against Manchester United

touch and Phil is experienced enough to realise that sooner or later the goals will start to go in for him again.

His appearance as sub at Pompey was Phil's 46th league game since the start of 1995 and that run has as yet

often as he would like recently he remains our leading scorer, as he has been in his two full seasons at the club.

Peter Schmeichel's giant frame wasn't able to stop him when he got a

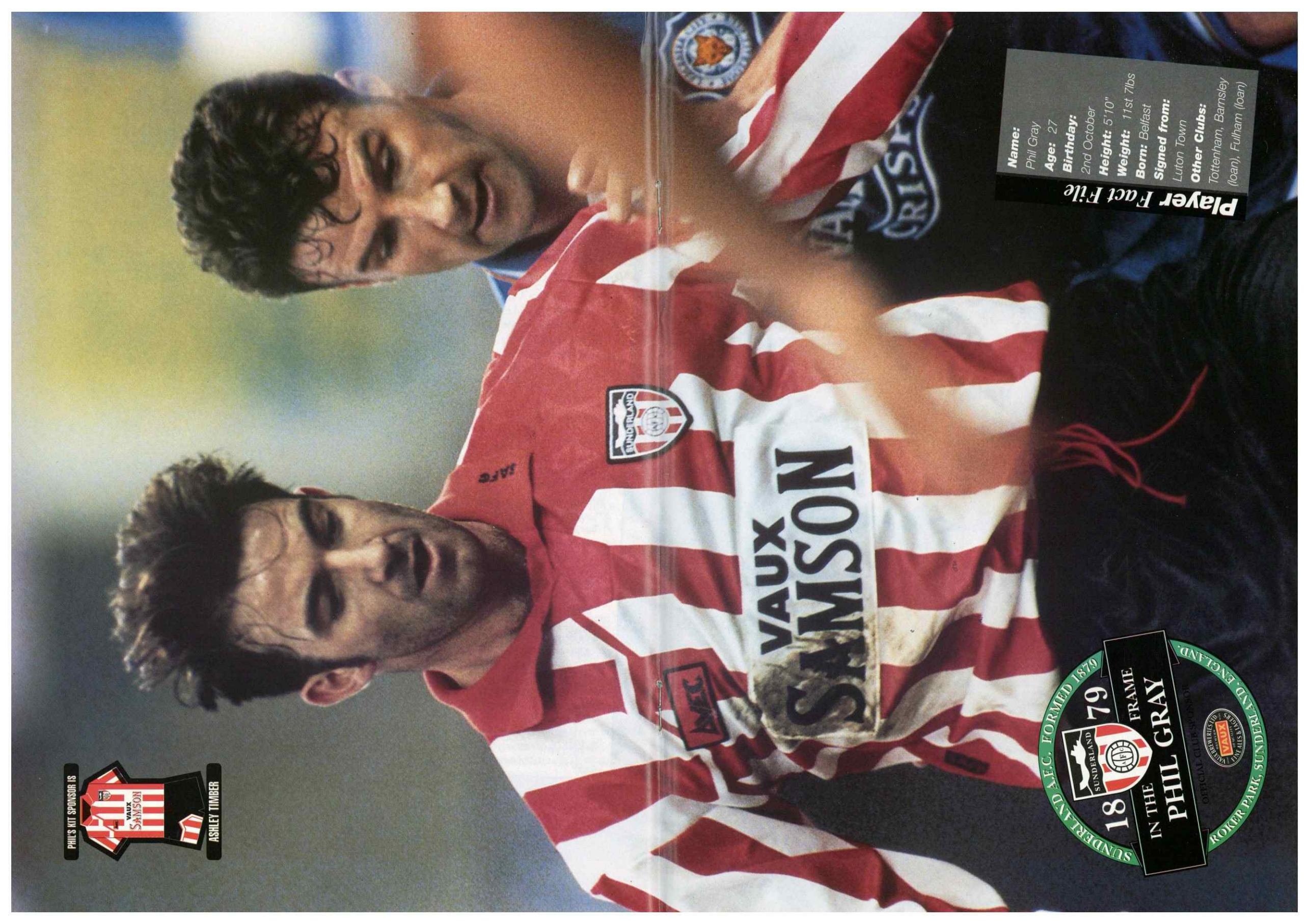


The Pain...

Phil's face shows his frustrations in front of goal

Put it to the player

1. FAMILY
Son James.
2. WHAT WAS THE LAST CD YOU BOUGHT?
Paul Weller.
3. WHAT WAS THE LAST FILM YOU WENT TO SEE?
Pocahontas.
4. WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE TV PROGRAMME?
All sports programmes.
5. WHICH TV PROGRAMME DO YOU TRY AND AVOID?
Question Time.
6. WHAT CAR DO YOU DRIVE AND WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT IT?
Nissan Primera SRi - very comfortable drive.
7. WHAT IS YOUR DREAM CAR?
Porsche 911 turbo convertible.
8. FAVOURITE ENTERTAINMENT?
My son James.
9. IF YOU COULD CHANGE ANYTHING ABOUT YOURSELF, WHAT WOULD IT BE?
My height.
10. FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT?
Bangor - Northern Ireland.



PHIL'S KIT SPONSOR IS

Player Fact File	
Name:	Phil Gray
Age:	27
Birthday:	2nd October
Height:	5'10"
Weight:	11st 7lbs
Born:	Belfast
Signed from:	Luton Town
Other Clubs:	Tottenham, Barnsley (loan), Fulham (loan)



SATURDAY 17TH
FEBRUARY

The day began well with the youth team hammering Hull City to the tune of 6-1.

Paul Beavers first hat trick for the club did the main damage with Sam Aiston, Stephen Pickering and Steve Grant also getting on the scoresheet.

Gareth Hall returned from suspension and slotted in at left back as injury ruled out Martin Scott for the first time since August as we visited Portsmouth.

Kevin Ball returned to his former club and celebrated with his 300th starting league appearance while Steve Agnew was restored to the starting line up after starring for the reserves in midweek. Phil Gray had to be content with a place on the bench.

It was Agnew who ended our 304 minute goal drought with an eighth minute strike to register our first away league goal of 1996. Buoyed up by taking an early lead, The Lads assumed control and looked threatening when attacking.

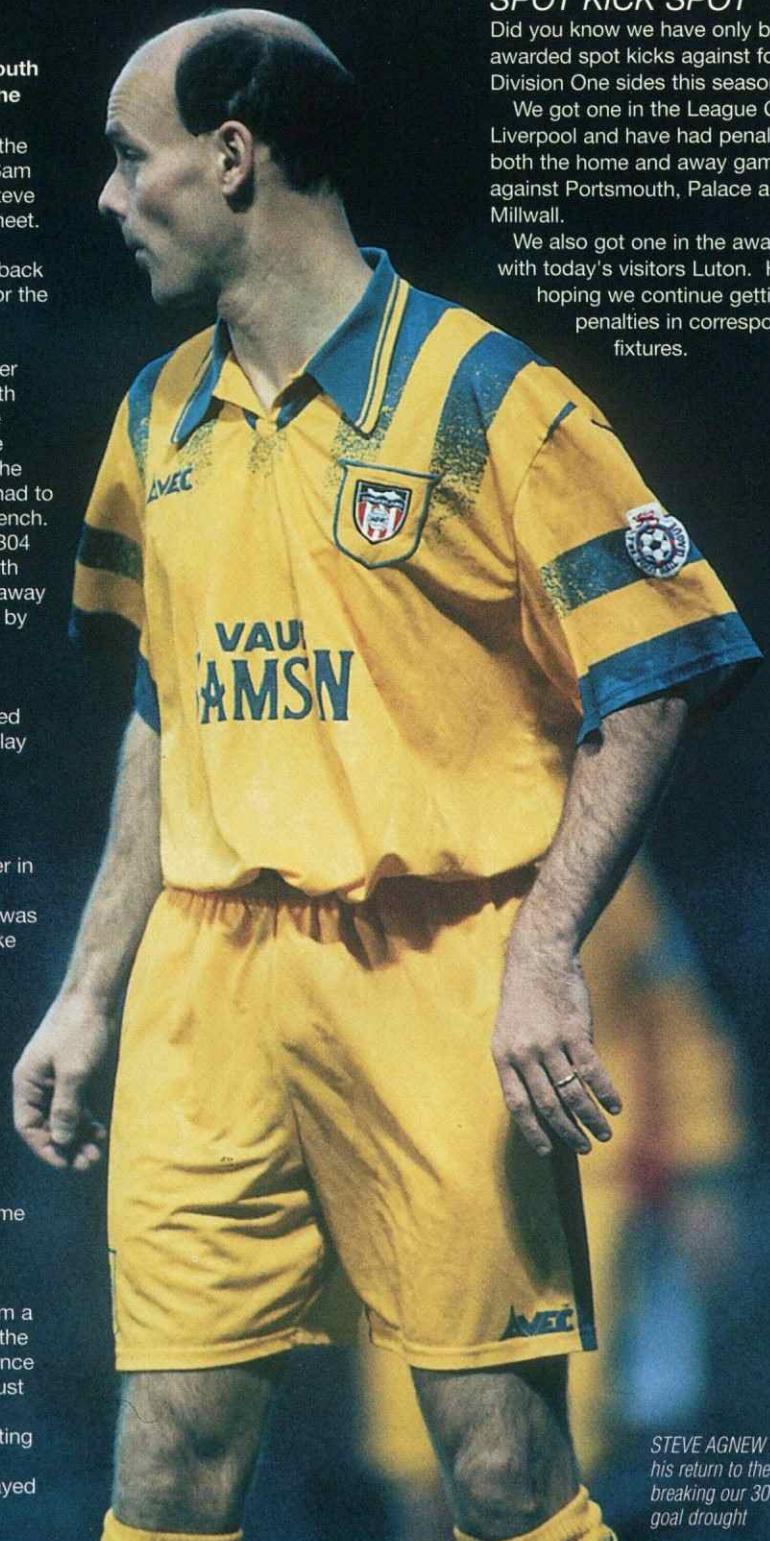
The dangerous Paul Hall levelled the scoreline against the run of play after 32 minutes but a mere two minutes later we were given the chance to restore our lead.

Pompey had been handed a controversial late penalty at Roker in September when Russell was adjudged to be the culprit and it was Russ who stepped forward to take the penalty after he had been brought down. Alan Knight was the first keeper to save a penalty against us this season and he repeated the feat to deny Russell.

That miss looked doubly costly when Carl Griffiths scored a soft late goal for the home side.

In the final minute of a four game stint at centre back covering for suspensions, Lee Howey moved forward to score a spectacular equalizer with a bullet header from a corner. The strike was probably the most fierce header we've seen since Howey's rocket that beat 'Boro just over two years ago.

It was Lee's first goal since hitting the winner from a corner at West Brom on the last occasion he played 90 minutes as a striker.



SPOT KICK SPOT

Did you know we have only been awarded spot kicks against four Division One sides this season?

We got one in the League Cup at Liverpool and have had penalties in both the home and away games against Portsmouth, Palace and Millwall.

We also got one in the away match with today's visitors Luton. Here's hoping we continue getting penalties in corresponding fixtures.

ROKER REVIEW HEADS FOR THE BIG TIME

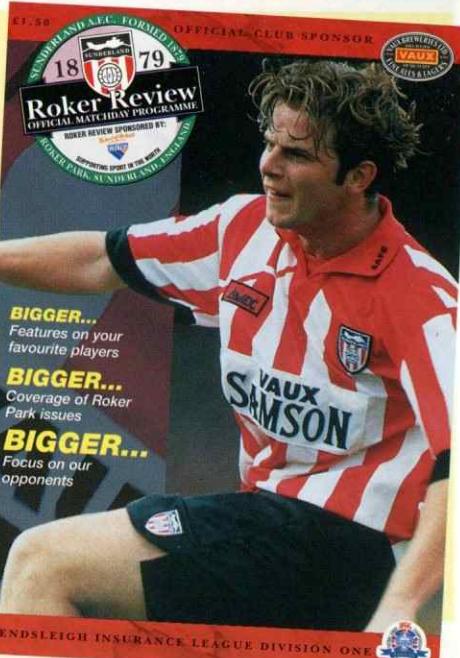
Sunderland AFC is heading for the **BIG** time... and so is the Roker Review.

As from next issue - against Derby County in two weeks time - and for the rest of the season the official club matchday magazine is being promoted to 48 colour packed pages, making our programme one of the **BIGGEST** in the League. Every issue will be crammed with news of The Lads, including:

- **BIGGER** features on your favourite players.
- **BIGGER** coverage of Roker Park issues.
- **BIGGER** focus on our opponents.

Yet the cover price will not be going up by a single penny, making the Roker Review excellent value for money!

We're sure that all Sunderland fans will love this supreme publication, so make sure you get your copy... and tell your mates to buy one too!



**MARCH MADNESS SALE
NOW ON IN ALL CLUB SHOPS**

Roker Classified

• Happy 7th birthday to **LAURA McGRAY** from Brandon, love from Mam, Dad, sister Helen and all the family

• **MICHAEL HUGGINS** happy 13th birthday Michael, love from Mam, Dad, Christopher and Maggie

• Happy birthday to **GORDON WILLIAMS** who is 12 today. Gordon is a Season Ticket holder in the Clockstand Paddock.

DO YOU WANT TO RUN AT WEMBLEY STADIUM?

The Brent 10K Road Race on Sunday 3rd March is giving you the unique opportunity to start and finish a race at Wembley Stadium. You will run along Olympic Way towards the famous Twin Towers and finish in front of the Royal Box. Organised as part of the fund raising effort to finance our team for the next Olympic Games in Atlanta. Medals awarded to all runners who finish the race. Quality prizes for the first 3 in each age group. For more details and an entry form please write to:

**John Hambleton,
British Olympic Appeal Brent,
Wembley Police Station,
603 Harrow Road, Wembley,
Middlesex, HA0 2HH
Tel: (0181) 733 4052**

Meet the Mascots



Sunderland AFC would like to give a big welcome to today's mascots who are Liam Watson and Rebecca Dunn. Liam is 6 years old and lives in Houghton le Spring. His hobbies include swimming and football. Rebecca (aged 4) is from Glebe Village in Washington. In her spare time she participates in Irish Dancing and loves dressing up.



THE PREMIER COLA Family Supporter of the Year Award

The club is seeking nominations for the Premier Cola Dedicated Family Award and the prize of a trophy and a cheque for £250.

For the winners to be selected we have to receive nominations from our fans recommending a particular family of supporters and an account of their collective dedication to the club.

It can be a family group who travel long (or even short) distances to watch every match, a family with several members who carry out voluntary services for the club, or maybe a family with a very large number of dedicated supporters.

Anyone who knows of a family worthy of consideration should send in their recommendation, complete with reasons, to the Commercial Department.

Once selected the family, or representatives of the family, will receive their award on the pitch at a forthcoming home match.

**NOMINATE A FAMILY TODAY
AND SEND IT TO THE CLUB
COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT.**

THE RED AND WHITES ARE BACK IN THE PINK



DON'T MISS THE SPORTS ECHO!
On sale every weekend



Football wins with Littlewoods and the Football Trust every Saturday

Littlewoods Pools pay out millions to winners every week and together with Littlewoods Spot the Ball put over £30 million back into football every year through the Football Trust.

Football also receives £8 million a year for the use of fixtures on coupons and Littlewoods, the game's biggest benefactor, is the first sponsor of the FA Cup.

The Football Trust is helping the game at all levels. Clubs are building new grounds, stands, seating and roofing.

The support of the Football Trust and the success of Littlewoods is vital for football's future. When you enter Littlewoods new easy to enter coupon, offering the best odds of a jackpot win, you are helping the Football Trust to assist your Club to develop its facilities, comfort and safety.



LITTLEWOODS
£MILLIONS MUST BE WON EVERY WEEK



COMPETITION!

Roker Review is exclusively giving you the chance to meet your favourite first team player. All you have to do is guess which player is behind the silhouette below and you could win our first prize of an autographed football, which will be presented to you on the pitch before a home game by the player of your choice.

First out of the hat on Monday 8th April will be invited to the Stoke City game on Saturday 20th April where the presentation will take place. To make it easier for you we have also included five clues.

First prize includes:

- ★ The chance to meet your favourite first team player
- ★ A football autographed by the first team players
- ★ 2 Main Stand tickets
- ★ 2 Executive Lounge Passes
- ★ Photographs of the day

WHO AM I?

1. I am 19 years old
2. My birthday is on 21st November
3. I am 6'2" tall
4. I was signed from Newcastle
5. My Kit Sponsor is Courtina Beefeaters

Send your entries to:

WHO AM I?

Roker Review,
Sunderland AFC
Roker,
Sunderland
SR6 9SW



(Please state
on your entry
which player
you would
like to meet)

Metro Radio

News and comment from the North East's top sports station with **CHARLES HARRISON**

I know it's becoming an old story but really Sunderland should have had promotion virtually sewn up by now. The only thing wrong with our trip to Portsmouth a week ago was the fact that two points were dropped.

That wasn't a 'one off'. So many times this season we've come away from games frustrated by the fact that the opposition has been outplayed but there's only one point to show for it.

Most teams come to Roker to settle for a draw but that wasn't Peter Reid's intention at Fratton Park as for the first time ever Sunderland

finished the game with three striking substitutes on the bench.

I was delighted for Lee Howey who scored that dramatic equaliser. Probably not as much as his Dad Norman though. The Howey parents have given Lee and Steve tremendous support and they must



be enormously proud of what the boys have achieved.

I don't think that young Michael Bridges will be without parental support either. His mother and father, Pat and Joe, made the long haul to Portsmouth and even though he only got on for a few minutes I'm sure he appreciated them being there.

Don't expect to hear Michael being interviewed on Metro for a while. Peter Reid gives us free access to players, but quite understandably he wants to shield the 17 year old from media attention for a while.

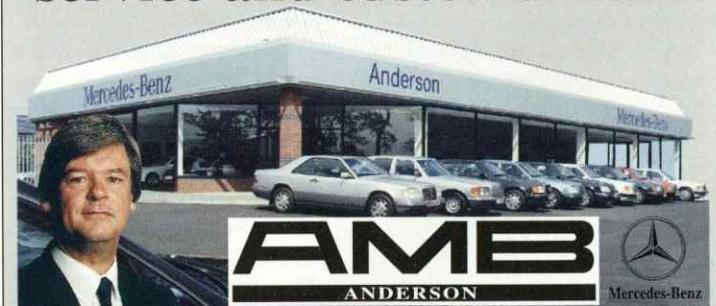
Finally on behalf of my colleague Eric Gates I would like to thank those fans who have written in appreciating his style of commentary. Eric is doing a superb job for Metro, he is excellent company but if ever you encounter us on an away trip do NOT play cards with him.

REMEMBER THE ONLY PLACE TO RECEIVE A FULL 90 MINUTE MATCH COMMENTARY OF ALL SUNDERLAND GAMES IS ON

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MARTIN BRAMMER

I have been a supporter for well over 20 years (through thin and thin as the joke goes).

By constructive criticism and encouragement I believe the RLG can help guide Sunderland AFC towards the right policies and the fairest solutions to the problems that exist in hauling this great club into a new era of footballing success.

This can only be achieved by the group forthrightly expressing the concerns of all fans on the full range of topics. To do this we need the input of as many people as possible who want to see success and an improvement in how the club manages its affairs.

For the past couple of seasons I have carried out consultancy work for the FA Premier League on supporters' panels. Fans at those clubs would dearly love to have liaison groups of their own and this convinces me that, despite the well documented teething troubles, the potential to improve the lot of Sunderland supporters is much too valuable to throw away just because there is a bit of flack flying around.

My own medium term aim is to help oversee the move to the new stadium and the setting up of an improved membership scheme, from which I would like to see the group move to a more democratic set up.

Despite what you may have read, the RLG is not a forum for crawling or fawning. Ask anyone who knows me, and that includes founding RLG members Tom Lynn and Martin McFadden, I don't believe you would hear them using those words about my character.

I give my time to represent the views of all fans in an honest, trustworthy manner. If you would like to let me know your views I currently sit in the Fulwell Wing of the Main Stand in seat C18.



Meet the Gang!

Towards the end of last year a number of supporters approached Sunderland AFC with a view to setting up a regular forum for the exchange of ideas and information for the benefit of both the club and fans alike.

From these discussions the Roker Liaison Group was born. The group covers a broad cross section of dedicated fans from different areas and backgrounds, covering many interests and shades of opinion.

ANN HOWE

I have supported the club longer than I care to remember.

My main aim on the RLG is to get the voice of the ordinary supporter heard and try and make sure the club doesn't repeat the wrongs of previous years with regards to ticket allocation, distribution etc.

If you have any views that you wish to pass on to the board of directors I currently sit in Clockstand seat F135.

JUDITH HOOD

Supporters representative on the Roker Safety Advisory Group.

The Club and Supporters need to be united. "We know the club need to make money, but not at the expense of pricing supporters out of the game, whether it be season tickets, admission prices or merchandising.

The ordinary supporter who has weathered the ups and downs over the years needs to know that they are still wanted and at a price they can afford, especially our young fans as they are our future."

The Liaison Groups stressed to the club at Christmas the need to reduce the season ticket *pro rata* - hey presto KEY PLAN. We aim to

The RLG aims to fight hard for the rights and views of all Sunderland Supporters. The Liaison Group will not, on its own, turn Sunderland into Premiership Champions, but it can, given time, make a contribution to improving the life of all Sunderland supporters.

If you would like a more personal meeting or discussion read on for where the group sit or stand around the ground.

achieve and please.

I currently sit in the Clockstand row F135.

AUDREY BAILLIE

I am over 21 and am employed by Littlewoods Home Shopping and have been involved with the Supporters Association for many years.

I accepted an invitation to join the RLG because I saw this as a wonderful chance to create a long overdue link between the board and the people who are the life blood of the club.

The group are in a unique position of being able to represent the supporters face to face with the club's directors.

If you want me to put your view to them let me know. I sit in the family enclosure of the Main Stand row E46.

BRIAN LENG

I was born 48 years ago in Castletown and have been a supporter for more than 40 years missing only 8 home games during that period.

I have a strong interest in the history of the club and contribute

regularly to the matchday programme and club fanzines on this subject. In particular, I am looking forward to being involved in the formation of a Football Museum within the new stadium complex.

I sit in row O seat 95 if you wish to air your views on the club with me.

GARY STEVENS

The RLG was spawned from disaster. On April 15th 1989 at Hillsborough, Sheffield, 96 football supporters lost their lives to the game they loved.

I joined the Football Supporters Association not long after, because the main aim of that organisation was the representation for football supporters on the executive bodies which run football and to provide a structure through which the views of football supporters could be channelled and articulated.

April 15th 1989 was a watershed, football fans should now be treated as paying customers with a basic decent standard of comfort. It is hoped that the RLG, although still in its infancy will express the views of all Sunderland supporters in the years to come, helping the custodians of OUR club make the right decisions on our behalf.

Despite what you may have read in the local press, I am not a Newcastle supporting regular at Old Trafford, Manchester, I am indeed a committed Sunderland supporter of over 30 years.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of supporting Sunderland AFC then please feel free to contact me at the PO Box address or in person. I sit in the Main Stand Family Enclosure Roker Wing with my wife and son in seat 60 row C.

GEORGE FORSTER

I am currently in my 30th year on the governing committee of SAFCSA and accepted an invitation to sit on the RLG to represent the views of senior citizens.

My main concerns are the high price of seating and the fact that senior citizens could be priced out of the game they have been loyal to all of their lives.

The game now is a different one that I first enjoyed but after all these years supporting the club I don't want to be driven away in the name of profit. Family enclosure Main Stand row H seat 38.

DAVE CASSIE

I have followed Sunderland home and away since 1963. My grandfather followed Sunderland home and away from North Northumberland in the 1930's - dedication runs in the family.

I am secretary and transport organiser for the Durham Branch of SAFCSA. I am a social worker by background but now manage my own company working with some of the most dangerous young offenders in the country.

I bring a wealth of supporting experience to the RLG which hopefully will benefit all supporters in the future. Please feel free to discuss any aspect of the club with me. I sit in seat 100 row L of the Main Stand.

RICHIE PORTERHOUSE

I have been a lifelong Fulwell ender and now stand at the front to the left of the goal with my daughter Dionne and nephew Neil.

Having been one of the first, if not the first club to initiate a group actually meeting with board members to represent fan's views, I accepted the invitation to be part of the group

as I saw it as a unique way to express the fan's viewpoint.

JOHN PARTRIDGE

I have followed Sunderland for as long as I can remember and have watched them from all areas of Roker Park since 1962.

My first away match without parental accompaniment was a 5th round replay at Leeds in 1967, aged 13.

Based upon a constructive forum which promoted a frank exchange of views, I regard the RLG as a unique opportunity through which fans may voice their concerns, aspirations and ideas directly to the club's officials. Still in its infancy, with members committed to representing the interests of supporters, it has established a valuable machinery for the long term future.

As a group we rely on the input from fans to enable us to effectively represent all Sunderland supporters and I urge everyone with the club at heart to avail themselves of the facility should they wish to raise an issue with the club. All contributions forwarded will be raised and a reply forwarded.

If you have any suggestions about how the club can improve its service to Roker fans, or ways in which the Liaison Group can work more effectively on behalf of supporters, please contact us, either on the Roker Rover on a match day or via the PO Box number which is:

**Sunderland AFC
PO Box 165
Sunderland
SR6 9YZ**

The Hatters were due to visit table toppers Derby in midweek. Two months ago defeat would probably have stared Luton in the face, but a seven game unbeaten league sequence suggests Luton are made of sterner stuff these days.

An amazing transformation in Luton's fortunes came with the appointment of Lennie Lawrence as manager just before Christmas. He has steered them away from the division's lowest rung, and last Saturday's narrow 1-0 win over Millwall put Luton 19th in the League charts.

Mind you the Lions fixture was not great entertainment. The victory was dredged out because of some stout defensive work and a disputed penalty award near the finish when Dwight Marshall was adjudged to have been brought down inside the area. Millwall defenders protested, but Tony Thorpe cleanly converted the spot kick.

Not surprisingly Mr Lawrence was named January Manager of the Month, though the award would hardly have been given had it taken into account the 7-1 FA Cup third round defeat at Grimsby. But revenge was sweet a month later when the Mariners were beaten at Kenilworth Road.

A season of struggle then for Luton, who were also ousted from the League Cup at the first hurdle by Bournemouth. But 1996 looks more promising and a respectable mid table position now looks on the cards.

THE SQUAD

Combined midfielder and Welsh international Ceri Hughes was sent off for a second bookable offence last Saturday, and may miss today's game. Also likely to be sidelined because of injury are Scott

Oakes who has a back problem and defender Marvin Johnson, out for a few games with hamstring trouble.

The good news for Luton fans is that Dwight Marshall has fully recovered from a knee injury and utility man Julian James is available after suspension.

Since his arrival, manager Lawrence has restored a flat back four with Steve Davis and Darren Patterson playing as pivots. Patterson, a Northern Ireland international was signed from Crystal Palace for £200,000 last August, and his consistent performing has resulted in Trevor Peake, 39 two weeks ago, concentrating more and more on coaching duties.

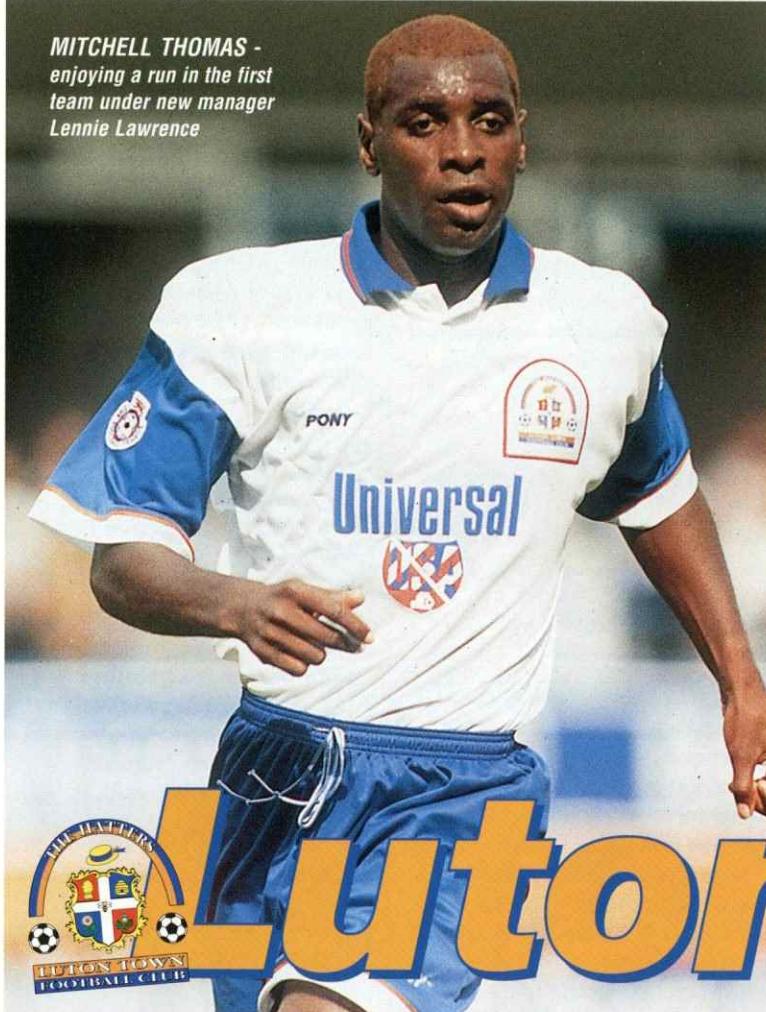
Mitchell Thomas, in his second spell at Kenilworth Road was recalled to first team duty by the new manager, and his partner at full back could be Julian James, a former England Under 21 cap. Young Paul McLaren who made his debut in October may also figure in the rearguard, while Richard Harvey, who can also perform in midfield, should get a place on the bench.

Keeper Ian Feuer, understudy to Ludek Miklosko at West Ham, was brought to Luton just before Christmas, for a fee that could total almost £600,000 depending on appearances. Born in Las Vegas he has experience of Belgian football. His arrival caused young Kevin Davis to become second choice, and Fennyhill born Fred Barber to consider a change of clubs.

Summer signing Graham Alexander from Scunthorpe has been growing in stature during the recent unbeaten run, and he is likely to be joined in midfield by Gary Waddock, Tony Thorpe and possibly David Oldfield. Thorpe, along with Scott Oakes, and squad player Des Linton, came from Leicester after he returned to Kenilworth Road from Filbert Street in 1992.

Australian Oldfield also has Leicester connections, and is now enjoying a second spell with the Hatters. He started his career at Luton, played for England under 21's and then teamed up with Man City in a £600,000 deal. A period with Leicester followed, and then the return to

Luton Town



THE BOSS LENNIE LAWRENCE

Took over from Terry Westley in December, won the Manager of the Month Award in January, and could well be in the frame for a repeat this month.

Though Lennie's playing career was strictly non League, his managerial qualities stand close examination. After periods as assistant manager with both Plymouth and Lincoln he was promoted from coach at Charlton to the vacant post in 1982. With no money, and no home ground, Lennie guided them there for four years.

Taking over at 'Boro in 1992 promotion to the Premiership was gained at the first attempt, but immediate relegation and an absence of investment saw his departure for Bradford City in 1994. Surprisingly allowed to leave Valley Parade in November, Luton can hardly believe their good fortune.

RECENT MANAGERS

Ray Harford	1987 - 1989
Jim Ryan	1989 - 1991
David Pleat	1991 - 1995
Terry Westley	1995
Lennie Lawrence	1995 -

Kenilworth Road in July 1995.

Bontcho Guentchev should make the starting line up, and after a couple of substitute appearances Dwight Marshall could be in the opening eleven after recovering from injury. An exciting flair player, Marshall came in to the pro game late being spotted at Grays Athletic by Plymouth.

Forward John Taylor, a £200,000 buy from Bradford City on deadline day last March, has been struggling to overcome a bad back injury.

Two of Luton's squad are out on loan. Defender David Greene is with Colchester while midfielder Gavin Johnson moved to Wigan.

KEY DEFENDER STEVE DAVIS

Hexham born, Steve cost Luton £750,000 last July when he was signed from Burnley. A stalwart in The Lancastrians defence, Steve captained Burnley to a couple of promotions, but

could not prevent their relegation last term. He began his career with Southampton, making a handful of top flight appearances before moving to Turf Moor for £60,000 in August 1991.

Still only 27 this resolute defender has been attracting Premiership scouts with some assured performances.

KEY MIDFIELDER GARY WADDOCK

A serious knee injury ten years ago almost ended Gary's career, and it says much for his courage and commitment that the former Eire international, 34 next month, is still holding down a regular First Division midfield berth.

He joined Luton in December 1994 on a 'free' from Bristol Rovers after a three month loan spell. He signed a new contract last summer, and is the hub of the Hatters' midfield.

He started his career at QPR, for whom he made over 200 appearances including the 1982 FA Cup Final against Spurs. Then the injury problems started, and after a spell in Belgium Gary proved his



BONTCHO
GUENTCHEV

figure in Lennie Lawrence's future plans, and that should be good news for his international hopes.

worth with Millwall, QPR again, Swindon and Bristol Rovers.

KEY FORWARD BONTCHO GUENTCHEV

Has been called up by Bulgaria for their friendly with England next month, and the 31 year old now feels he could make the

European Championship Finals.

Though he played a couple of games in the 1994 World Cup Finals when Bulgaria reached the semis, his career seemed to be winding down after being released by Ipswich during the summer. In three years at Portman Road following his move from Sporting Lisbon, Bontcho managed just six league goals.

But he has already equalled that total with Luton, despite missing several games through injury. He seems to

Memory Lane

HATTERS RETRO

Luton were the first southern based club to pay its players, and in 1897 became the second outfit from that area of the country to join the Football League.

But that initial flirtation lasted just three seasons, and it was back to the Southern League until 1920 when they were founder members of Division Three.

Climbing out of the Southern Section in 1937, Luton have since operated in the top two Divisions. Apart, that is, from the period 1963-1970. Indeed they dropped in to Division Four in 1965 and slumped to an all time low two seasons later when they finished 17th in the basement Division.

But by the mid 1980's they were back in Division One, and during that decade their performances on the pitch surpassed all the expectations fans could reasonably expect, given the club's resource base.

BEST PATCH

In the mid 1980's Luton were one of the most attractive in the country.



Under the guidance of David Pleat they won the old Second Division Championship in 1982, and after a couple of seasons consolidating, emerged as a team of quality.

Striker Mick Harford, who later had a brief spell at Roker, joined Luton in December 1984. Sixteen goals in 22 appearances from the new striker saw Luton finish comfortably in mid table, and reach the FA Cup semi finals, only to be beaten by Everton.

Twelve months later the Merseysiders again halted Luton's Wembley journey by beating the Hatters in a sixth round replay. However, Luton finished ninth in the top flight, and in 1987 they improved that ranking by two places.

But 1987/88 was the season to remember. Ninth spot was achieved in the League but by March the possibility of three Wembley finals looked a fair bet. Eventual FA Cup winners Wimbledon ended that dream by winning the semi final 2-1 at White Hart Lane. Nonetheless Luton were not to be denied the Twin Towers.

At the end of April, Arsenal were beaten 3-2 in one of the most exciting

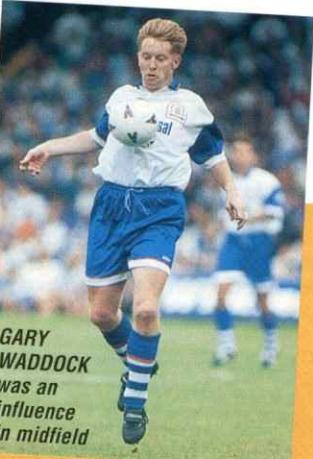
League Cup Finals ever. However, a month earlier the Hatters failed in what seemed a much easier final. In the last stage of the Associate Members Competition, then sponsored by Simod, they were surprisingly beaten 4-1 by Reading due to be relegated from the then Division Two.

HATTERS HEROES

Defender Mal Donaghy, midfielder Ricky Hill, and forward Brian Stein were the mainstays of that 1980's marvellous team.

Each of that trio made in excess of 400 league appearances for the club. Of an earlier vintage Joe Payne deserves mention. He scored ten goals against Bristol Rovers in April 1936, and in the next season netted 58 league and cup goals.

Gordon Turner was a shooting star



GARY WADDOCK
was an
influence
in midfield

to clinch a winner for the visitors. Taylor had opened the scoring on ten minutes and for most of the first period Luton were in control. Their tidy approach play and solid rearguard typified the David Pleat approach to soccer.

But a half time pep talk from Peter Reid had an effect. Brian Atkinson and Martin Smith in particular looked livelier, while Kubicki and Scott started to link with midfield to good advantage.

On the hour Phil Gray levelled. Then Sunderland seemed to run out of steam. Luton gradually gained the

upper hand, and the final whistle was welcomed with relief.

On the last Saturday of 1994 Sunderland played poorly in a 0-3 defeat at Kenilworth Road. Two down after half an hour the goals coming from Scott Oakes, The Lads were outplayed in all departments.

of the 1950's who helped Luton into Division One for the first time. Other notables of that period were England keeper Ron Bayham, skipper Syd Owen, who led the side to a 1959 FA Cup Final, and half back Bob Morton who played first team football for 16 seasons.

John Mullin's first goal for Sunderland sealed our tenth league victory at Kenilworth Road in 22 attempts last September. Thus The Lads could be on target to complete their fourth double over Luton. The others came in 62/63, 78/79 and 90/91.

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Roker Park	21	11	7	3	37	16
Kenilworth Road	22	10	2	10	37	49
TOTALS	43	21	9	13	74	65

Amazingly 21 of those 49 goals conceded at Kenilworth Road came in the first three fixtures played in Bedfordshire by Sunderland sides. Luton won 8-2 in November 1955, hit six on the opening day of the 56/57 season, and banged in seven in February 1958. In goal for The Lads on all three occasions was Willie Fraser, a £5,000 purchase from Airdrie.

Three Rokermen have scored four league goals against Luton. Charlie 'Cannonball' Fleming achieved his total in the 1950's, Ian Lawther's were netted in season 60/61 and included a home hat trick while Nick Pickering was on target during the early 1980's.

Last Luton success on Wearside was in September 1973, Barry Butlin scoring the only goal. The Hatters finished second to 'Boro in Division Two that season, thus gaining promotion to Division One. But on the final day of the season, Sunderland were party poopers at Kenilworth Road winning 4-3 with goals from Hughes, Halom, Porterfield and Towers.



ON THE HATTERS' PAY ROLL

NAME, AGE BIRTHPLACE	HEIGHT POSITION	CAREER LEAGUE RECORD DATE JOINED HATTERS
GRAHAM ALEXANDER, 24 Coventry	5'10" Midfield	Scunthorpe, Hatters 1995
BEN CHENERY, 19 Ipswich	6'0" Defender	Hatters from school
KELVIN DAVIS, 19 Bedford	6'1" Keeper	Hatters from school, Torquay (L)
STEVE DAVIS, 27 Hexham	6'2" Defender	Southampton, Burnley (L), Notts Co (L), Burnley, Hatters 1995
STUART DOUGLAS, 17 London	Forward	Hatters from school
TONY FEUER, 24 Las Vegas	6'7" Keeper	Los Angeles, West Ham, Peterborough (L), Luton 1995
BONTCHO GVENTCHOV, 31 Bulgaria	5'10" Forward	Sporting Lisbon, Ipswich, Luton 1995
RICHARD HARVEY, 26 Letchworth	5'10" Defender	Hatters from School, Blackpool (L)
CERI HUGHES, 25 Pontypridd	5'10" Midfield	Hatters from school
JULIAN JAMES, 25 Tring	5'10" Midfield	Hatters from school
MARVIN JOHNSON, 27 Wembley	6'0" Defender	Hatters from school
DES LINTON, 24 Birmingham	6'1" Defender	Leicester, Hatters 1991
PAUL MCLAREN, 19 Wycombe	6'0" Defender	Hatters from school
DWIGHT MARSHALL, 30 Jamaica	5'7" Forward	Grays, Plymouth, Boro (L), Hatters 1994
SCOTT OAKES, 23 Leicester	5'11" Forward	Leicester, Hatters 1991
DAVID OLDFIELD, 27 Perth, Australia	6'0" Midfield	Luton, Man City, Leicester, Millwall (L), Hatters 1995
DARREN PATTERSON, 26 Belfast	6'2" Defender	WBA, Wigan, C Palace, Hatters 1995
TREVOR PEAKE, 39 Nuneaton	6'0" Defender	Nuneaton, Lincoln, Coventry, Hatters 1991
VIDAR RISSETH, 23 Levanger	Midfield	Kongsvinger, Hatters 1995
JOHN TAYLOR, 31 Norwich	6'3" Forward	Colchester, Cambridge, Bristol R, Bradford C, Hatters 1995
MICHAEL THOMAS, 31 Luton	6'2" Defender	Luton, Spurs, West Ham, Luton 1994
TONY THORPE, 21 Leicester	5'9" Forward	Leicester, Hatters 1992
JOHNNY VILSTRUP, 26 Copenhagen	Midfield	Lyngby, Hatters 1995
GARY WADDOCK, 33 Alperton	5'10" Midfield	QPR, Charlton, Millwall, QPR, Swindon (L), Bristol R, Hatters 1994
JAMIE WOODSFORD, 19 Ipswich	5'9" Forward	Hatters from school

HATTERS IN THE NINETIES

Season	Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Pos	Leading Scorer	Average Gate	Cup FLC	Comps
1994/95	New One	46	15	13	18	61	64	58	16	Marshall 11	7,353	Four	One
1993/94	New One	46	14	11	21	56	60	53	20	Dixon 9	7,875	Four	One
1992/93	New One	46	10	21	15	48	62	51	20	Gray 19	8,212	Four	Two
1991/92	Old One	42	10	12	20	38	71	42	20R	Harford 12	9,715	Three	Two
1990/91	Old One	38	10	7	21	42	61	37	18	Estrup 15	10,274	Four	Two

HATTERS' RECENT LEAGUE RESULTS

13/8	Norwich	h	1-3	11/11	Oldham	h	1-1
19/8	Southend	a	1-0	18/11	Birmingham	h	0-0
26/8	Leicester	h	1-1	21/11	Watford	a	1-1
29/8	Grimsby	a	0-0	25/11	Barnsley	a	0-1
2/9	Derby	h	1-2	2/12	Tranmere	h	3-2
9/9	Reading	a	1-3	19/12	Wolves	h	2-3
13/9	Millwall	a	0-1	16/12	Portsmouth	a	0-4
16/9	Sunderland	h	0-2	23/12	Huddersfield	h	2-2
23/9	Wolves	a	0-0	13/1	Southend	h	3-1
30/9	Portsmouth	h	3-1	20/1	Norwich	a	1-0
7/10	Tranmere	a	0-1	31/1	Sheffield U	h	1-0
14/10	WBA	h	1-2	3/2	Leicester	a	1-1
22/10	Ipswich	a	1-0	10/2	Grimbsy	h	3-2
29/10	Charlton	h	0-1	17/2	Millwall	h	1-0
4/11	Stoke C	a	0-5				

LEAGUE GOAL SCORERS:

Marshall 8, Guentchev 6, Oakes, Thorpe 3, Davis, Oldfield 2, Douglas, Harvey, Hughes, McLaren, Alexander 1

Roker Records

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE DIVISION ONE 1995-96

	HOME						AWAY					
	PL	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
DERBY COUNTY	31	9	6	1	29	12	6	5	4	20	21	56
CHARLTON	30	6	7	2	22	16	7	5	3	22	16	51
SUNDERLAND	30	8	5	2	21	8	4	7	4	13	17	48
HUDDERSFIELD	30	9	4	3	28	17	3	6	5	12	17	46
STOKE CITY	29	7	5	3	20	11	5	4	5	21	23	45
LEICESTER CITY	30	4	6	4	20	20	7	5	4	26	22	44
BARNESLEY	30	7	5	2	20	17	4	6	6	20	27	44
SOUTHEND UTD	30	9	4	3	22	15	3	4	7	13	22	44
CRYSTAL PALACE	29	3	7	3	17	15	7	5	4	22	20	42
MILLWALL	32	4	6	6	15	18	6	5	5	16	22	41
IPSWICH	29	8	4	3	32	21	2	6	6	18	21	40
PORTSMOUTH	32	7	5	4	30	22	3	5	8	20	28	40
BIRMINGHAM	29	6	6	2	22	16	4	4	7	16	22	40
NORWICH CITY	31	5	6	5	19	18	5	3	7	23	22	39
GRIMSBY TOWN	30	5	9	2	18	14	4	3	7	17	23	39
TRANMERE	30	6	4	5	27	20	3	5	7	13	17	36
LUTON TOWN	30	6	4	6	23	23	3	5	6	7	18	36
WOLVES	30	5	6	5	23	21	3	5	6	17	21	35
OLDHAM ATH.	28	6	5	3	23	13	2	6	6	14	18	35
READING	29	6	3	5	19	18	1	9	5	14	20	33
WEST BROMWICH	30	6	3	6	19	18	3	2	10	17	32	32
PORT VALE	29	3	4	6	16	20	4	7	5	18	21	32
SHEFFIELD UTD.	32	5	4	7	21	23	2	6	8	18	27	31
WATFORD	28	3	5	5	16	15	2	5	8	14	25	25

FIRST TEAM STATISTICS 1995-96

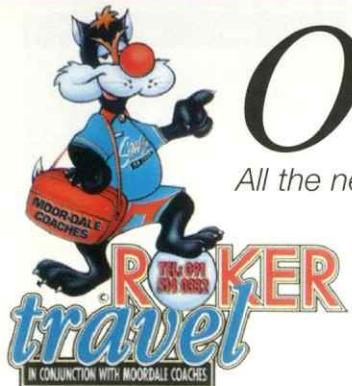
PLAYER	DIV ONE	FA CUP	CC CUP	CARDS	TOTAL APPS/GLS
	APPS/GLS	APPS/GLS	APPS/GLS	YELLOW/RED	
Agnew	11+3	2	1+1	1	1 0 2 0 13+4 3
Aiston	4+7	0	0 0	0+1 0	0 0 0 0 4+8 0
Angell	2	0	0 0	1 1	0 0 0 0 3 1
Armstrong	0+1	0	0 0	0+1 0	1 0 0 0 0+2 0
Atkinson	5+2	0	0 0	0 3	0 1 0 0 8+2 0
Ball	20+1	0	1 0	4 0	0 6 1 25+1 0
Bracewell	23	0	2 0	4 0	0 0 0 0 29 0
Bridges	0+2	0	0 0	0 0	0 0 0 0 0+2 0
Chamberlain	23	0	2 0	4 0	0 0 0 0 29 0
Cooke	5	0	0 0	0 0	0 0 0 0 5 0
Given	7	0	0 0	0 0	0 0 0 0 7 0
P Gray	26+2	7	2 1	4 0	0 4 0 32+2 8
M D Gray	4+3	0	0+1 0	1+1 0	2 0 5+5 0
M Gray	30	2	2 0	4 0	5 0 36 2
Hall	6+1	0	0 0	0 0	0 0 1 6+1 0
Howey	11+7	3	0+2 0	0 1	2 2 0 12+9 5
Kelly	9+1	2	1 0	1 0	0 1 0 11+1 2
Kubicki	30	0	2 0	4 0	0 0 0 0 36 0
Melville	26	3	2 0	2+1 0	6 0 30+1 3
Mullin	5+5	1	0 0	1 0	0 0 0 6+6 1
Ord	25+1	1	2 0	3 0	0 6 0 30+1 1
Russell	21+6	7	2 1	1+3 0	1 0 24+9 8
Scott	27	4(3P)	2 0	3 0	3 0 32 4
M Smith	10+10	2	1+1 0	2+2 0	0 0 1 13+13 2
Stewart	1+1	0	0 0	0 0	0 0 0 1+1 0

*Yellow and Red cards listed apply only to those received in first team games.

When a player is shown a red card after receiving two yellows, only the red is added to this list.

Up to February 23rd 1996

DATE	OPPONENTS	F-A	ATT	POS	GK	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	SUB	SUB	SUB	
Aug 12	LEICESTER CITY	H	1-2	18,593	-	Chamberlain	Kubicki	Scott	Bracewell	Ball	Ord	Gray(M)	Agnew ¹ Δ	Smith	Gray(P)	Angell ^Δ	Russell(11)	Armstrong(8)X	Howey
Aug 15	Preston NE CCC 1(1)	A	1-1	6,323	-	Chamberlain	Kubicki	Scott	Bracewell	Ball	Ord	Gray(M)	Agnew ^Δ	Smith ^Δ	Gray(P)	Angell ¹	Russell(9)	Armstrong(8)	Howey
Aug 19	Norwich City	A	0-0	16,700	21	Chamberlain	Kubicki	Gray(MD)	Bracewell	Ball	Ord ^X	Gray(M)	Atkinson	Smith ^Δ	Gray(P)	Angell ^Δ	Russell(9)	Howey(11)	Melville
Aug 23	PRESTON NE CCC 1(2)	H	3-2	7,407	-	Chamberlain	Kubicki	Gray(MD)	Bracewell	Ball	Ord ^Δ	Gray(M) ^Δ	Atkinson	Howey ²	Gray(P) ^X	Russell	Mullin	Smith(7)	Melville(6)
Aug 26	WOLVERHAMPTON WDRS.	H	2-0	16,816	12	Chamberlain	Kubicki	Scott	Bracewell	Ball	Melville ¹	Gray(M)	Atkinson ^X	Howey	Gray(P) ¹ X	Russell	Mullin(D10)	Smith(11)	Gray(MD)
Aug 30	Port Vale (7.45)	A	1-1	7,693	14	Chamberlain	Kubicki	Scott	Bracewell	Ball	Melville ^X	Gray(M) ^Δ	Atkinson ^Δ	Howey	Gray(P) ¹	Russell	Stewart(D8)	Smith(7)	Gray(MD)
Sept 2	Ipswich Town	A	0-3	12,390	J17	Chamberlain	Kubicki	Scott	Bracewell	Ball	Melville	Gray(M) ^Δ	Stewart ^Δ	Howey ^X	Smith	Russell ^Δ	Ord(8)	Aiston(10)	Mullin(11)
Sept 9	SOUTHEND UNITED	H	1-0	13,805	15	Chamberlain	Kubicki	Scott	Bracewell	Ball ^S	Melville	Gray(M) ^Δ	Ord	Howey ^Δ	Gray(P)	Russell ¹	Atkinson	Smith(7)	Aiston(13)
Sept 12	PORTSMOUTH (7.45)	H	1-1	12,282	15	Chamberlain	Kubicki	Scott	Bracewell	Ball	Melville ¹	Gray(M)	Ord	Mullin	Gray(P) ^Δ	Russell ^Δ	Gray(MD)	Smith	Aiston(11)
Sept 16	Luton Town	A	2-0	6,955	9	Chamberlain	Kubicki	Scott	Bracewell	Ball ^X	Melville	Gray(M)	Ord	Mullin ¹ Δ	Gray(P) ¹	Russell ^Δ	Smith(11)	Howey(9)	Aiston(12)
Sept 20	Liverpool CCC 2 (1) (7.45)	A	0-2	25,579	-	Chamberlain	Kubicki	Scott ^X	Bracewell	Ball ^Δ	Melville ^X	Gray(M)	Ord	Mullin	Gray(P) ^Δ	Atkinson ^Δ	Smith(5)	Gray(MD)(11)	Russell(10)
Sept 23	Millwall	A	2-1	8,691	7	Chamberlain	Kubicki	Scott ^{1P}	Bracewell	Kelly(D)	Melville ^X	Gray(M) ^X	Ord	Mullin ^Δ	Gray(P)	Atkinson	Smith(9) ¹	Russell	Howey
Sept 30	READING	H	2-2	17,503	6	Chamberlain	Kubicki	Scott	Bracewell	Kelly	Melville ¹	Gray(M)	Ord ^Δ	Mullin ^Δ	Gray(P)	Atkinson ^Δ	Smith(9)	Russell(11)	Ball(8)
Oct 4	LIVERPOOL CCC 2 (2) (7.45)	H	0-1	20,560	-	Chamberlain	Kubicki	Scott	Bracewell	Kelly	Melville ^X	Gray(M) ^Δ	Ball	Smith [§]	Gray(P)	Atkinson ^Δ	Russell(7)	Aiston(11)	Howey
Oct 7	Crystal Palace	A	1-0	13,754	3	Chamberlain	Kubicki	Scott	Bracewell	Kelly ¹	Melville	Smith ^Δ	Ball ^X	Gray(P) ^X	Gray(M)	Russell(7)	Atkinson	Howey	
Oct 14	WATFORD	H	1-1	17,970	4	Chamberlain	Kubicki	Scott ¹	Bracewell	Ball ^X	Melville	Gray(M)	Ord	Mullin ^Δ	Gray(P)	Smith ^Δ	Howey	Aiston(11)	Russell(9)
Oct 21	Huddersfield Town	A	1-1	16,054	5	Chamberlain	Kubicki	Scott	Bracewell	Ball ^Δ	Melville	Gray(M) ^X	Kelly ^Δ	Ord ^X	Gray(P) ¹	Aiston ^Δ	Agnew(5)	Howey(8)	Russell(11)
Oct 28	BARSLEY	H	2-1	17,024	4	Chamberlain	Kubicki	Scott	Bracewell	Ball ^X	Melville	Gray(M)	Ord	Russell ¹ Δ	Gray(P)	Aiston ^Δ	Agnew(11)	Armstrong	Howey(9) ¹
Nov 5	Charlton Athletic	A	1-1	11,626	4	Chamberlain	Kubicki	Scott	Bracewell	Ball ^X	Melville	Gray(M) ¹	Ord	Kelly	Gray(P)	Russell ^Δ	Agnew	Aiston(11)	Howey
Nov 18	SHEFFIELD UNITED	H	2-0	16,640	4	Chamberlain	Kubicki	Scott	Bracewell	Ball	Melville	Gray(M)	Ord ^X	Kelly	Gray(P) ^{2X}	Russell ^Δ	Smith(11)	Howey	Aiston
Nov 22	Stoke City	A	0-1	11,754	7	Chamberlain	Kubicki	Scott	Bracewell ^Δ	Ball	Melville	Gray(M)	Ord	Kelly ^Δ	Gray(P)	Russell ^Δ	Smith(4)	Howey(8) ^X	Aiston(11)
Nov 25	West Bromwich Albion	A	1-0	15,931	4	Chamberlain	Kubicki	Scott	Agnew	Ball ^X	Melville ^X	Gray(M)	Ord ^X	Howey ¹	Gray(P)	Aiston ^Δ	Russell	Mullin	Smith(11)
Dec 3	CRYSTAL PALACE	H	1-0	12,777	2	Chamberlain	Kubicki	Scott ^{1P}	Agnew ^X	Ball	Melville	Gray(M)	Ord	Howey ^Δ	Kelly ^Δ	Smith ^Δ	Gray(P)(9)	Holloway	Atkinson(11)
Dec 9	MILLWALL	H	6-0	18,951	1	Chamberlain	Kubicki	Scott ^{1P}	Agnew	Gray(MD) ^X	Melville	Gray(M)	Ord	Russell ⁴	Gray(P) ¹	Smith	Mullin	Howey	Armstrong
Dec 16	Reading	A	1-1	9,431	1	Chamberlain	Kubicki	Scott	Agnew	Gray(MD)	Melville	Gray(M)	Ord	Russell	Gray(P)	Smith ¹	Armstrong	Howey	Kelly</td



On the road

All the news you need to follow The Lads up and down the country.

SOUTHEND UNITED V SAFC

Endsleigh League Division One, Tuesday 27th February 1996, Kick off - 7.45 pm
THIS MATCH IS NOT ALL TICKET

Admittance is by payment at the turnstiles on the day.
Price: £10.00 (no concessions) - If a junior ticket is required these must be obtained in advance from the Ticket Office, Roker Park, price: £5

TRAVEL CLUB

There will be no coaches travelling to the Southend match. By road: Use A127 S.P. Southend, and then at roundabout take 3rd exit into Victoria Avenue for Southend United.
Nearest Railway Station: Southend Central
Programme Price: £1.50

GRIMSBY TOWN V SAFC

Endsleigh League Division One, Sunday 3rd March 1996, Kick off - 3.00 pm
The above match, scheduled for Saturday 2nd

March has now changed and will be played on Sunday 3rd March. This change is due to the game being televised live on Yorkshire and Tyne Tees Television.

THIS MATCH IS ALL TICKET FOR SUNDERLAND SUPPORTERS

There will be no tickets available for sale on the day of the match.

Tickets will be going on general sale on Monday 26th February (subject to availability)

Price: £12.00 (no concessions)

TRAVEL CLUB

Departure Times

Newcastle: 10.00 am

Sunderland: 10.30 am

Price: £11.00

By road: Use motorway M18 then A180 (S.P. Grimsby) then follow signs to Cleethorpes A1098.

Nearest Railway Station: Cleethorpes, Grimsby

Programme Price: £1.20

SAFC V DERBY COUNTY

Endsleigh League Division One, Saturday 9th March 1996, Kick off - 3.00 pm
THIS MATCH IS ALL TICKET

There will be no tickets available for sale on the day of the match.

Tickets for this match are available on general sale today and will remain so up to and including Friday 8th March.

CALL FREE NOW FOR TICKET INFORMATION

As part of the Club's policy of improving communication links with supporters it has introduced a new Talking Pages service, which will enable all supporters to call **free** for ticket information from anywhere in the country, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The Talking Pages line is the first of a number of new initiatives and services that the Club will introduce for supporters this year, in response to supporters comments.

To use Talking Pages: Simply dial **0800 600 900** and ask for Sunderland AFC. An operator will then ask if you require ticket information for forthcoming matches. The information will be updated each week as new ticket information becomes available.

*If you have any comments in relation to this service or suggestions for any other club services, please call **LESLEY COATES** on: (0191) 514 0332*

AA Sunderland AFC would like to thank the AA for their superb help and contribution of travel information

Sunderland NET For further ticket information use our **NEW** Internet service. The address is <http://www.sunderland-afc.com>



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Community

THE REFUGE SIX-A-SIDE SCHOOLS TOURNAMENT

Sunderland AFC Football in the Community Scheme would like to wish Richard Avenue Primary School the best of luck when they take part in the North Eastern Final of the Refuge Six-a-Side Cup.

As you may be aware Richard Avenue reached the final by winning the Sunderland Area Final at the Northumbria Centre Washington on Thursday 1st February. They will now represent Sunderland AFC in the North Eastern Final held at Southlands Leisure Centre, Middlesbrough on Friday 1st March.

They will play against teams from all over the north east such as Newcastle United, Middlesbrough, Leeds United, Huddersfield, Darlington and many more. The finals will be in the form of two leagues where the winner and runners up of each group will play in a further final group, the winners of the North Eastern Final will go on to represent the North East at the Northern Regional Finals.

The winner of the Northern Region will go on to represent the North in the Grand Final prior to the Auto Windspeed Shield match at Wembley Stadium. I am sure that along with ourselves you will be offering Richard Avenue Primary School your support next Friday.



GOALKEEPERS COURSE

The Football in the Community Scheme would like to express our thanks to all of the children who attended our Goalkeeping Course at Biddick School last Sunday. Everyone had a great time and hopefully will have a better understanding about the art of goalkeeping.

Because of the success of the course we will be running specialised courses throughout the summer term at various venues along with our soccer courses. We also hope to run goalkeeping course throughout the summer holidays.

Details of the coaching programme will follow in the next few weeks.

ROKER 50/50 LOTTERY

Congratulations to Mr Colin Barraclough who won the jackpot of £1,332 at the Port Vale game. The winning numbers were:

1st 4235 2nd 2083 3rd 0713

Charlie Flemming presents Mr Colin Barraclough with his cheque for £1332



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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Johnny Watters

Few people, if any, have given Sunderland greater service than former Roker

Park physiotherapist Johnny Watters, who spent no less than 26 years with the club.

However, perhaps what many people are not aware of is that Johnny was an accomplished player himself in his younger days, and appeared regularly for Celtic whilst studying physiotherapy as a full time student at University.

Indeed, he enjoyed the rare distinction of playing before the biggest league attendance in Britain, a staggering 118,567 at Ibrox in January 1939. Johnny's playing career was effectively ended by the war during which he spent six years in the Navy as a sick berth Petty Officer in the HMS Warspite, the famous battleship which was involved in the D-Day landings.

It was in 1956, having worked in hospitals in Glasgow and Sheffield, that

Johnny returned to football, accepting the post of physiotherapist with Sunderland.

There followed a marvellous career that stretched for more than two decades during which he worked with some of the finest players in British football. In particular Johnny recalls: "Len Shakleton - what a brilliant player, he could do most things with a football bar making it talk. And Jim Baxter - a player with fantastic natural ability and that devastating left foot". And the greatest of them all? "It has to be Charlie Hurley", he says without hesitation. "He was a giant of a man in every sense of the word - for more than ten years he was Sunderland".

There were also those players whose careers were finished by injury and, in particular, Johnny remembers the anguish felt by everyone connected with the club when Brian Clough sustained the knee injury against Bury in 1962 that was to end his playing career.

He recalls "He had a torn cruciate ligament and, although he had powerful knees, I think I knew that evening that he would never recover. He tried so hard, co-operated to the hilt for more than a

year, but, deep down, I think he knew". Of the nine managers he worked for at Roker, Johnny has no hesitation in naming Alan Brown as his favourite: "He was a brilliant manager who led by example and as a coach, he was years ahead of his time. You only have to count the number of his players who went on to become successful managers and coaches to realise the massive contribution he made to the game".

Throughout his career with Sunderland Johnny was considered to be a leading authority in his field and it is perhaps indicative of his standing in the game that his closest friends included the likes of Jock Stein, Matt Busby and Bill Shankly.

Johnny now lives in quiet retirement in Fulwell and for those people who worked with him closely, he will be remembered as a great character whose skill and knowledge was matched only by his loyalty and marvellous sense of humour.

See Johnny today at half time when he draws the winning numbers for the 50/50 lottery.

by Brian Leng

The Total Football Brand..



Mitre

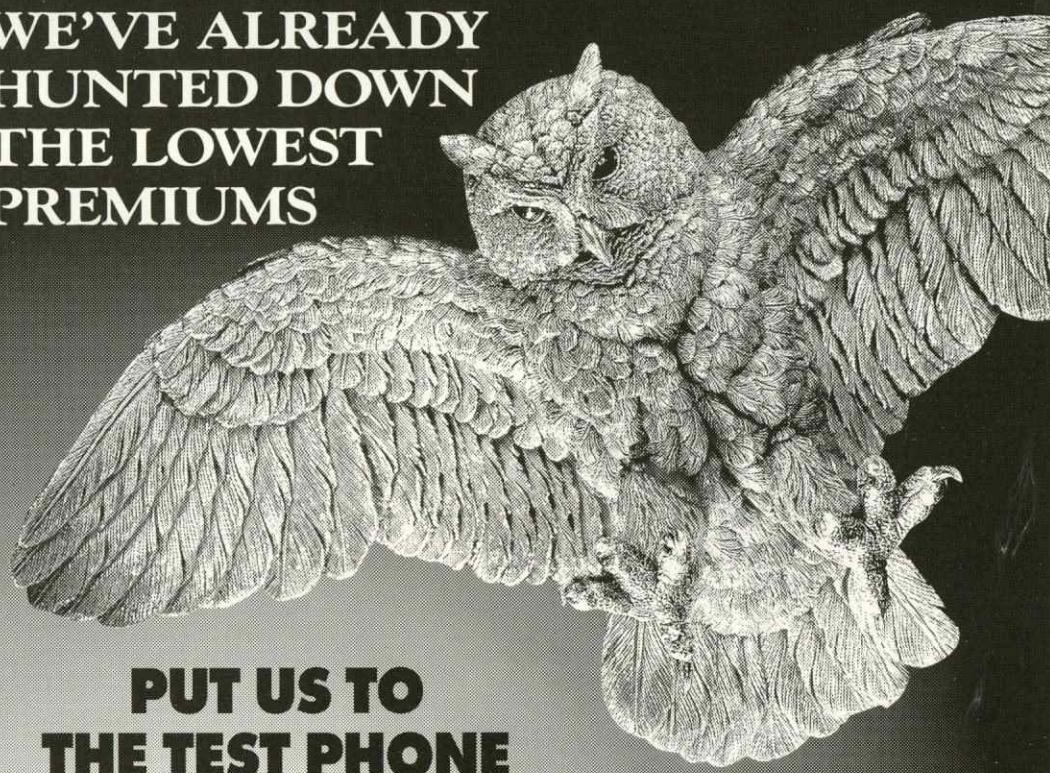
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Endsleigh



On Matchday

Squad Check

Sunderland v Luton Town

to be chosen from

ALEC CHAMBERLAIN	IAN FEUER
DARIUSZ KUBICKI	JULIAN JAMES
MARTIN SCOTT	MITCHELL THOMAS
ANDY MELVILLE	GARY WADDOCK
RICHARD ORD	STEVE DAVIS
KEVIN BALL	DARREN PATTERSON
PAUL BRACEWELL	BONTCHO GUENTCHEV
STEVE AGNEW	CERI HUGHES
GARETH HALL	JOHN TAYLOR
MARTIN GRAY	GRAHAM ALEXANDER
BRIAN ATKINSON	TONY THORPE
MICHAEL GRAY	DAVID OLDFIELD
MARTIN SMITH	RICHARD HARVEY
PHIL GRAY	DWIGHT MARSHALL
CRAIG RUSSELL	
MICHAEL BRIDGES	
LEE HOWEY	
JOHN MULLIN	
SAM ASTON	
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Endsleigh League **DIVISION ONE**

NEXT HOME MATCH

v DERBY COUNTY
Saturday 9th March 1996
Kick off 3.00pm

Ladbrokes

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VAUX BREWERIES

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ScoreCheck

HALF TIME SCORES

- A MANCHESTER CITY v NEWCASTLE
- B DERBY COUNTY v PORTSMOUTH
- C HUDDERSFIELD v CRYSTAL PALACE
- D MILLWALL v NORWICH CITY
- E OLDHAM v CHARLTON
- F READING v LEICESTER
- G SHEFFIELD UTD v BARNESLEY
- H TRANMERE v STOKE CITY
- J WATFORD v IPSWICH TOWN
- K WOLVES v SOUTHEND
- L COVENTRY v MIDDLESBROUGH
- M BLACKBURN v LIVERPOOL
- N WIMBLEDON v ASTON VILLA
- P COLCHESTER v DARLINGTON
- R HARTLEPOOL v LEYTON ORIENT

The Officials

REFEREE: Mr S W Mathieson (Stockport)
Mr Mathieson is a joiner and is married with a young daughter. A league referee since 1994, he took charge of Peter Reid's first match as Sunderland manager and was last here for the visit of Reading in September.

LINESMEN

Mr K Powell from Hartlepool
Mr M G Robinson from Darlington

4TH OFFICIAL

Mr J Wilson



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