

CRYSTAL PALACE

FOOTBALL CLUB



Programme
Update



TDK
OFFICIAL
CLUB SPONSOR


ENDSLEIGH
INSURANCE
LEAGUE

CRYSTAL PALACE
v
LUTON TOWN
Tuesday, 19th March 1996
Kick Off 7.45pm

Tonight's match
sponsor:
**DERWENT
MARKETING**

RESULTS UPDATE

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION

Monday 11th March

MILLWALL 3

CRYSTAL PALACE 1

(Half Time 1-1)

Palace: Bruce, Burton, Cyrus, Quinn, Gale, Vincent, Cox, Launders, Veart, McKenzie, Rodger.

Substitutes: Mullins (for Gale), Enqvist (for Veart), Ginty (for Rodger).

Scorer: Veart.

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Tuesday 12th March

CRYSTAL PALACE 2
TRANMERE ROVERS 1

(Half Time 1-1)

Palace: Martyn, Edworthy, Gordon, Roberts, Tuttle, Hopkin, Pitcher, Houghton, Freedman, Ndaah, Andersen.

Substitutes: Veart (for Ndaah), Dyer (for Freedman), Rodger (for Pitcher).

Scorers: Ndaah, Hopkin.

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Saturday 16th March

GRIMSBY TOWN 0
CRYSTAL PALACE 2

(Half Time 0-1)

Palace: Martyn, Edworthy, Gordon, Roberts, Tuttle, Hopkin, Pitcher, Rodger, Freedman, Ndaah, Andersen.

Substitutes: Veart (for Freedman), Dyer (not used), Vincent (not used)

Scorers: Ndaah, Tuttle.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE

Saturday 16th March

CRYSTAL PALACE 2
WIMBLEDON 0

(Half Time 2-0)

Palace: Bruce, Kennedy, Metcalfe, Collins, Hibbert, Mullins, Folan, Graham, Martin, Morrison, Wolsey.

Substitutes: Small-King (for Folan), Stevens (for Morrison), Kadi (not used).

Scorers: Martin, Morrison.

SURREY SENIOR CUP

Semi-Final replay

Saturday 16th March

WOKING 4

CRYSTAL PALACE 1

(Half Time 1-1)

Palace: J. Westall, S. Coppell, Cyrus, Quinn, B. Sparrow, Garland, Cox, Launders, Stevens, Dillon, Ginty.

Substitutes: Small-King (for Garland), Morrison (for Stevens), Kadi (for Launders).

Scorer: Stevens.

Selhurst Scene...

WITH MANAGER
DAVE BASSETT



Firstly tonight I would like to refer back to that game against Tranmere Rovers here at Selhurst a week ago. I was obviously delighted with the result and the three points and Hoppy's great goal at the end certainly made for a marvellous finish.

However, one cannot overlook the first half performance where we came second all round the park. We never won any individual battles and, whilst Tranmere failed to cause us any great problems as far as goalscoring opportunities were concerned, they did have the majority of the possession. Their equalising goal highlighted perfectly our poor organisation when we were trying to mark three of their players with just two of our own men. Myself and Ray Lewington pointed out one or two things to the players at half time and we did start to improve in the second period. Again though in that final forty-five minutes we failed to create as many goalscoring situations as I would have liked to have seen and we were certainly guilty of over elaborating in our play. We should certainly have allowed the ball to have done more of the work instead of using the players.

Last Saturday we made the long trip up to Blundell Park for the game against Grimsby Town and I must say I was delighted with what was a good result for us. Grimsby was always going to be a difficult one, because in my opinion and despite them being at the wrong end of the league, they are a good side. We had to go there and battle hard for the victory as they were up for the game having been beaten 5-0 in the reverse fixture recently. The first half was very even with equal goal opportunities for both sides and we did well to go one up through a great strike from George Ndaah. We went at Grimsby from the off in the second period and I was slightly concerned that in the first ten minutes after the break we had not converted one of four or five golden chances to go 2-0 up. We did keep plugging away which emphasised our character and at the end of the day the victory was reasonably conclusive.

Finally I would like to welcome Luton Town and their supporters here tonight. I trust we will at last get this much postponed game under way and that we will enjoy a good evening's entertainment.

Dave

Fixture Focus

Wednesday, 20th March

Reserves v Swindon

Kick Off 7.00pm
at Dulwich Hamlet

Monday, 23rd March

1st XI v Portsmouth

Kick Off 3.00pm
at Selhurst Park

Youth X1 v Brentford

Kick Off 11.00am
at Osterley

Monday, 25th March

Reserves v Tottenham

Kick Off 7.30pm
at St. Albans

Selhurst Scene...

WITH MANAGER
DAVE BASSETT

1st Dec 16	Stoke City	W	2	1	12,908	16
3 Dec 23	West Bromwich Albion	W	3	2	13,103	16
Mon Jan 1	Portsmouth	W	3	2	12,926	15
1st Jan 13	Ipswich Town	D	1	1	14,401	1
1st Jan 13	Barsley	D	1	1	6,620	15
1st Jan 13	Charlton Athletic	D	0	0	13,560	16
1st Jan 13	Sheffield United	D	0	0	15,883	15
1st Jan 13	Watford	W	4	0	13,930	1
1st Jan 13	Tranmere Rovers	W	3	2	5,253	8
1st Jan 13	Huddersfield Town	L	0	3	13,041	11
1st Jan 13	Birmingham City	W	3	2	13,415	8
1st Jan 13	Luton Town	D	0	0	8,663	9
1st Jan 13	Grimsby Town	W	5	0	12,623	5
1st Jan 13	West Bromwich Albion	W	1	0	19,254	5
1st Jan 13	Tranmere Rovers	W	2	1	13,183	3
1st Jan 13	Grimsby Town	W	2	0	5,059	3
1st Mar 19	Luton Town					
1st Mar 19	Portsmouth					
1st Mar 19	Millwall					
1st Mar 19	Port Vale					
1st Mar 19	Leicester City					
1st Mar 19	Reading					
1st Mar 19	Southend United					
1st Mar 19	Wolverhampton Wanderers					
1st Mar 19	Derby County					
1st Mar 19	Norwich City					

First Division Table 95/96

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	P
Sunderland	36	10	5	2	25	8	8	7	4	23	18	66
Derby	37	11	1	36	17	1	5	7	5	20	24	65
PALACE	36	7	7	3	28	18	8	6	5	24	23	58
Charlton	35	7	7	3	24	19	7	7	4	25	20	56
Stoke City	35	9	6	3	25	12	5	6	21	24	54	
Huddersfield	35	11	4	3	32	17	3	7	7	15	23	53
Ipswich	34	9	4	4	37	25	4	7	6	26	26	50
Leicester	36	5	7	5	22	23	4	4	9	17	26	49
Southend	36	9	6	4	24	19	4	4	9	17	21	48
Barnsley	35	8	6	2	26	21	4	6	9	21	32	48
Birmingham	35	8	6	4	26	19	4	5	8	20	27	47
Millwall	37	6	7	8	18	20	6	5	7	17	27	47
Norwich	36	5	8	5	20	19	6	4	8	28	25	45
Wolves	36	6	7	5	26	22	5	5	8	20	26	45
Portsmouth	36	8	5	5	32	25	3	6	9	23	32	44
Tranmere	35	6	6	5	29	22	5	5	8	18	21	44
Grimsby	35	6	9	4	21	20	4	3	9	18	30	42
West Brom	35	8	5	6	27	24	3	2	11	17	33	40
Oldham	34	7	6	5	29	19	2	6	8	15	21	39
Sheff Utd	37	6	5	7	22	23	3	7	9	19	28	39
Port Vale	32	5	4	6	19	21	4	8	5	19	22	39
Reading	34	6	5	6	20	22	2	10	5	17	22	39
Luton	34	6	5	7	24	25	3	5	8	7	20	37
Watford	35	4	6	6	20	19	2	8	9	19	32	32

(up to and including 18/3/96)

TICKETS AND TRAVEL....

Endsleigh League Division One

CRYSTAL PALACE v PORTSMOUTH

Saturday 23rd March 1996

Kick Off 3.00pm

and

CRYSTAL PALACE v PORT VALE

Tuesday 2nd April 1996

Kick Off 3.00pm

and

CRYSTAL PALACE v LEICESTER CITY

Saturday 6th April 1996

Kick Off 3.00pm

Ticket prices: Main stand - (Stanley Stephenson, Players and Glaziers lounges) adults £18, senior citizens £12 and under 16's £3. Family enclosures (blocks A & J) adults £10, senior citizens £5 and under 16's £3. **Arthur Wait stand** - adults £14, senior citizens £10 and under 16's £3. **Whitehorse Lane stand** - adults £12 and under 16's £3. **Holmesdale Road stand** - Upper tier and upper tier gallery adults £14 (concessions of £10 for senior citizens are ONLY available if purchased before the day of the game) and under 16's £3. Lower tier adults £10, senior citizens £5 and under 16's £3.

Please note that match day tickets for the Holmesdale Road stand upper tier and gallery are only available to season ticket holders' guests in that area.

Endsleigh League Division One

MILLWALL v CRYSTAL PALACE

Saturday 30th March 1996

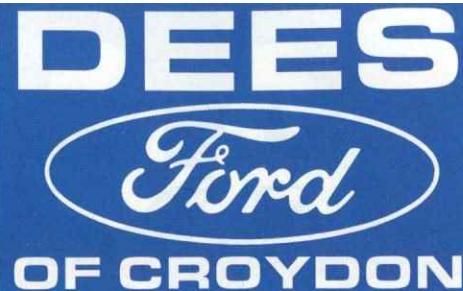
Kick Off 3.00pm

Ticket prices: This match is ALL TICKET and tickets will be priced £12 for adults and £6 for senior citizens and under 16's (These are now on general sale with an allocation of four per person). The programme price is £1.70 and the club telephone number is 0171 232 1222.

Coaches: Depart Holmesdale Road at 12.30pm and the fare; adults £5, senior citizens and under 16's £4 and guests of members £7.

Train: There is no special train to Millwall.

Going by car... As supporters will be travelling from various directions, the following route is only a suggestion for the benefit of those using the M25. Leave the M25 at junction 2 (signposted London A2). Keep left where the road divides (signposted London SE A2) onto the A2 dual carriageway. Exit the A2 after 10 miles (signposted Central London A2 then Blackheath, Greenwich). At the roundabout turn left onto the A2 Shooters Hill. Keep on the A2 through parkland (Black Heath), over a roundabout and down Blackheath Hill, following signs to Central London A2, Deptford for nearly 2 miles. At the lights/crossroads at the bottom of the hill (signposted Deptford, New Cross) go straight on. At the next lights go straight on and then shortly afterwards turn right at the filter lights (signposted Rotherhithe Tunnel, Tower Bridge) into Deptford Church Street. Go straight over the roundabout and then left at the junction/lights after 0.3 miles (signposted Bermondsey, Rotherhithe Tunnel, Tower Bridge) into Evelyn Road. After just over half a mile, pass the Marmara Restaurant and Blackhorse Road on the left hand side, take the next left (before the Shell Garage, signposted Millwall stadium) into Grinstead Road. Follow the road round under the railway bridge and stadium parking is signposted off the mini roundabout after 0.4 miles which costs £1.50. **Traffic tuning tip:** For all the latest traffic news tune into Capital Gold on 1548 AM or GLR on 94.9 FM. **Endsleigh League Division One** **READING v CRYSTAL PALACE** **Monday 8th April 1996** **Kick Off 3.00pm** **Ticket prices:** This match is ALL TICKET. For the terracing it will cost £8 with no concessions (allocation of 4 per person). There are also a very limited number of seats available to Palace fans costing £10 for adults and £6 for senior citizens and under 16's. Tickets for both the terracing and seats will be on sale from Saturday (23rd March). The seat tickets are available to season ticket holders only. (ONE ticket per person).



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IMPERIAL WAY, PURLEY WAY, CROYDON

A view from the TOP

With Technical Director Steve Coppell...

A Merry Christmas to everyone. I hope you all enjoyed your Christmas Day and that you are looking forward to your Boxing Day football this afternoon. It does give us all an opportunity to get out of the house, get some fresh air into our lungs, and shout for the team.

Christmas is always a time when you think about the people who have helped you during the year. This season we have a great number of people who have put in a tremendous amount of work at a time when the club is going through a huge transitional period. With the large number of alterations which were imposed upon us in the wake of relegation, we have had a vast number of changes in playing staff and also the management set up. I am sure that a lot of Crystal Palace fans will be disappointed with the League position. However, I do feel that they will have seen enough evidence in the performance of some of the players who we have brought in to know that, given time, patience, and with the necessary diligent hard work, the future is bright for this club.

PATIENCE IS VITAL

Nothing that is worthwhile is achieved quickly or easily and we have seen in the past that, given patience, players develop and grow and repay the faith that has been put into them. I am sure that we shall notice that, with the average age of the team reducing very rapidly over a short period of time, there are bound to be a certain amount of problems.

I would emphasise that over recent weeks and months there has been enough evidence from the new signings to indicate that the good times are not too far away. I thank you all for your support and your patience in the first half of the season. It has been a major disappointment to everyone here that our best performances have been away from home, whereas at Selhurst in front of our own home fans we have been unable to provide top class entertainment.

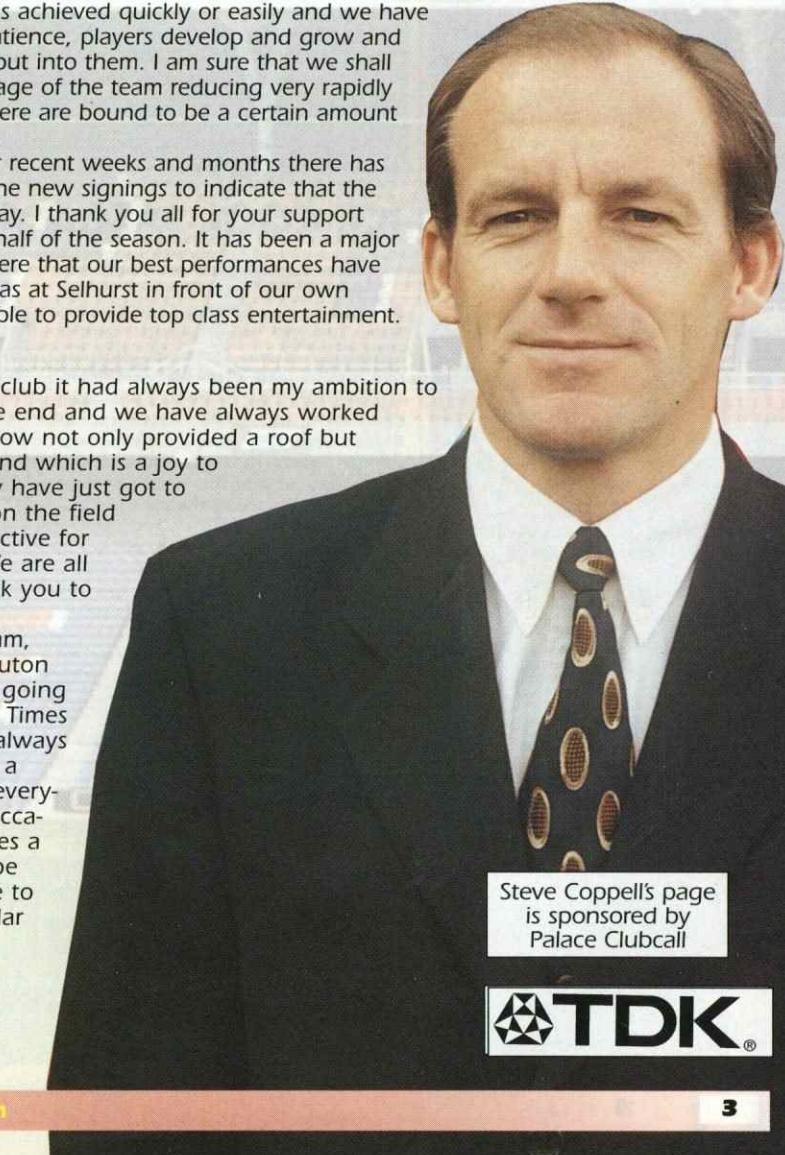
WORKING HARD

From when I was first at the club it had always been my ambition to put a roof on the Holmesdale end and we have always worked towards that aim. We have now not only provided a roof but also the magnificent new stand which is a joy to watch football from. We now have just got to make sure that the product on the field becomes first class and attractive for the sake of the spectators. We are all working hard and I would ask you to please stick with us.

A welcome today to the team, directors and supporters of Luton Town. They are another side going through an awkward period. Times of management change are always difficult for clubs. Sometimes a manager leaving galvanises everyone together and on other occasions the same situation leaves a team without direction. I hope that, after today, Luton come to terms with their own particular problem and I for one wish them well.

Steve.

Did the Palace Clubcall on



Steve Coppell's page
is sponsored by
Palace Clubcall



Newsdesk

Club Directory

CRYSTAL PALACE FC



Chairman:
R G Noades

Directors:
R.E. Anderson
B. Coleman OBE
A S C De Souza
S.R. Ebbs MS FRCS
S Hume-Kendall
M E Lee
D.A. Miller
P.L. Morley CBE JP
V E Murphy
C L Noades
P H N Norman

Technical Director
Steve Coppell

First Team Coaches:
Ray Lewington &
Peter Nicholas

Youth Team Coaching
and Development:
Brian Sparrow

Reserve Team Manager:
Steve Kember

Physiotherapist:
Peter McClean

Company Secretary:
Doug Miller

Club Secretary:
Mike Hurst

CRYSTAL PALACE
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SELHURST PARK
STADIUM
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0181-768 6000

Rearranged fixture

Would supporters please note that Tranmere Rovers at home will now be played on Tuesday 16th January with a 7.45pm kick off.

PALACE 'STOKE UP' BEATS THE COLD

It was a cold day at the Victoria Ground which saw Jason Cundy make his Palace debut and Gareth Taylor score his first senior goal for the club. Stoke were the form side but from the start it was Palace who impressed their hardy travelling fans with some inspired play.

With Jason Cundy looking as if he was an established member of the team and Marc Edworthy also doing a fine job in defence, it was Dougie Freedman with his seventh goal of the season who put the Eagles ahead on twenty four minutes when his close range shot gave Mark Prudhoe no chance. Just before half time Nigel Martyn made a superb save from a Mike Sheron headed effort that seemed destined for the net.

MAJESTIC

Thirteen minutes after the restart Gareth Taylor had a goal disallowed for offside but the big striker did open his account nine minutes later, when he rose both bravely and majestically above Prudhoe to head home a Marc Edworthy cross.

Palace then never looked in danger until seven minutes from time when Sheron hit a magnificent volley into the net for a consolation goal. Ray Houghton quickly settled his team down and holding on for the win seemed less difficult than in recent weeks. It was indeed a workmanlike performance from every member of the team and just how referee Kevin Breen had seen fit to book six players in what was nothing more than a keenly contested ninety minutes, was a mystery to everybody except himself.

To single out any player as 'man of the match' would have been unfair to his ten colleagues and this ninety minute effort was surely a sign of things to come.



Gareth Taylor
- first goal for
the club

ICE COOL JASON ARRIVES

Jason Cundy made the short trip from White Hart Lane to Palace just twenty four hours before the team left for their match against Stoke City. It was fortunate that the one month loan deal was completed in time for that game as, with the departure of Chris Coleman to Blackburn and the unfortunate Gareth Davies struck down with flu, coach Ray Lewington was certainly facing a mini crisis in the centre of his defence.

Speaking after that debut at Stoke Jason told us: "I really enjoyed the game. It certainly is a lot different to playing in the reserves, which is about all that I have done for the last two and a half years. I was very pleased because I had only had a day to get to know the lads but we seemed to have a good system and it worked."

The management at Palace are now hoping that the ex England under-21 man can continue to make an impression and that hopefully the end result will be a permanent move from 'White Hart' to 'Whitehorse'.



Ice Cool Cundy

restricted due to injury.

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Eclipse FM

To keep up to date with all that is happening at Selhurst Park, tune into Eclipse FM. The station broadcasts on Channel 57 of the Cable Television network. Every Thursday evening between 8.00pm and 8.30pm Julia

Roberts and Terry Byfield presents

THE PALACE PROGRAMME

Along with all the latest news from Crystal Palace, they will have player interviews, competitions and your chance to join in on the phone lines.

BOXING DAY TAKES TOP BILLING

Among all the changes that have occurred in and to the game of football, one of the few constants has been the continuing high popularity of the sport on Boxing Day.

In the early years of the Football League most working people would only have had Christmas Day and Boxing Day as their midwinter holiday and virtually everyone, except perhaps school teachers, would have been back at work first thing in the morning on December 27th. Not surprisingly, for football fans the festive season matches had a special interest from the start, and for many years the major Leagues 'paired' the two fixtures - a practice which added considerable piquancy to them and which continued long after the system of playing home and away games against the same opponents on consecutive Saturdays had been abandoned. Thus, Palace's last season of matches played in this style was 1923-24 but our Christmas Day and Boxing Day fixtures remained 'paired' right up till our last Christmas Day game in 1957, against Brentford.

Indeed, even after matches on Christmas Day ceased to be provided, the Boxing Day game was 'paired' with another holiday match for ten more years: in 1967 Palace played Portsmouth at Selhurst Park on Boxing Day then at Fratton Park four days later with both games finishing 2-2.

BEST OF THE SEASON?

It is easy to see why Boxing Day games were highly attractive to supporters in the last century and in the early decades of this one, but, perhaps surprisingly, this popularity persists to this day. A home game on Boxing Day is much prized among the clubs for it is known that - bad weather apart - attendances will be well up on the season's average and sometimes the crowd at the Boxing Day match will prove to be the highest of the entire term.

KIND WORDS . . .

The editorial staff and outside contributors of the Palace Programme were delighted to see the accolade that the publication had received in the December edition of the prestigious 'Programme Monthly' magazine.

In the 'Analysis 96' section the following entry appears:

CRYSTAL PALACE - 48 large pages, £1.50, full colour, 14 advert pages. Palace have retained the standards they set in the Premiership and their supporters are rewarded this season with an outstanding First Division programme. Packed with club features and information, and a good deal to read. Design is a little less frenetic than before and has improved as a result - quite an outstanding programme for a club out of the top league, and one with more than a touch of individualism and identity. No editor credited, printed by Newman Thomson of Brighton.

Palace Publications manager Pete King said: "This write up will certainly please James Coome and all of our part time contributors. After relegation we set out to produce a product as good as or even better than last season, whilst still retaining the £1.50 price. This write up is proof that, thanks to everybody concerned, we have achieved our objective. We now await the challenge of producing an even better Premiership programme and the sooner that day comes the better."



He played for both clubs - PETER NICHOLAS

Peter Nicholas, now Palace's coach and formerly highly successful as our youth team manager, began his playing career with the Eagles and was a magnificent, driving, defensive midfield player whose wholehearted commitment endeared him to every Palace fan. He was in our youth team which won then retained the Youth Cup in 1977 and 1978, then of our 2nd Division championship side of 1978-79 and the one which did so well in the early months of 1979-80 in the top flight.



Peter Nicholas

Peter played 60 League games for Arsenal in the early '80's but came back to Selhurst Park to play for Steve Coppell in 1983 and 1984, taking his Palace appearances to a total of 199 with 16 goals for us. Midway through 1984-85 Peter joined Luton and starred in over a hundred League matches for the Hatters. His subsequent career embraced Aberdeen, Chelsea and Watford, but Palace fans have always held Peter in great affection as well as respect, and were delighted at his elevation to first team coach last summer after leading our juniors to the SE Counties divisional title last season.

NOTE: Full career details and statistics for Peter Nicholas and every other Palace player from 1960 will appear with pictures, personal details and a suitable biography in 'Palace - Player by Player since 1960' by club historian and honorary chaplain Rev Nigel Sands, which is due for publication next summer. Full details and generous subscriber offer on the blue-white leaflets at the box office and club shops, or you can phone the Rev on 01488-608-244.

JUVENILES £3 A GAME

For all future Crystal Palace League matches until further notice:

JUVENILE ADMISSION WILL BE JUST £3 IN CERTAIN AREAS OF THE GROUND.

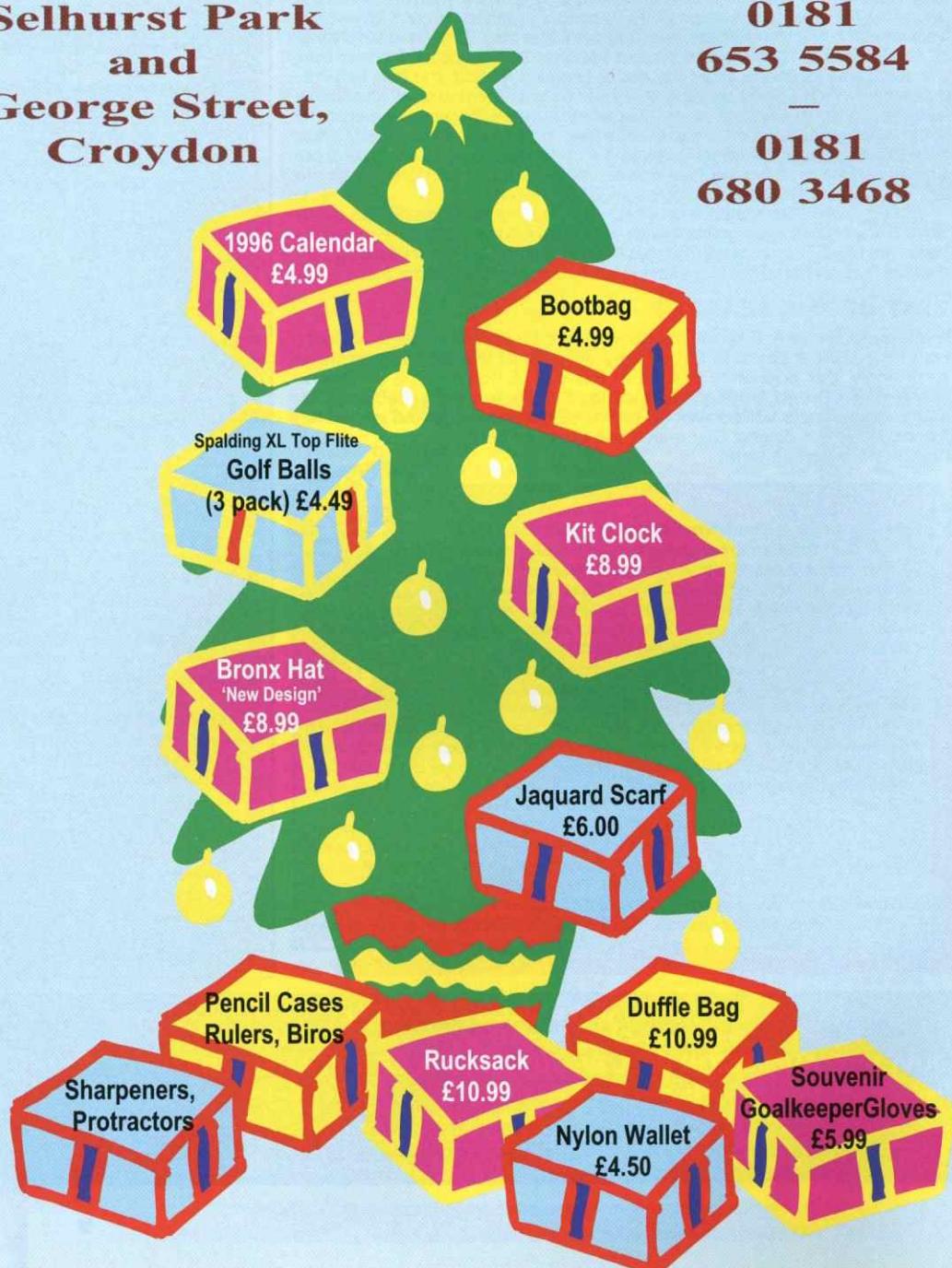
These specific areas are the Holmesdale Road stand lower tier and the A and J blocks (family enclosures) of the main stand.

These tickets may be purchased in advance or on the day of the match.

Juveniles **DO NOT** have to be club members to take advantage of this concession!

The Club Shops wish
A Very Happy New Year
to all their customers

**Selhurst Park
and
George Street,
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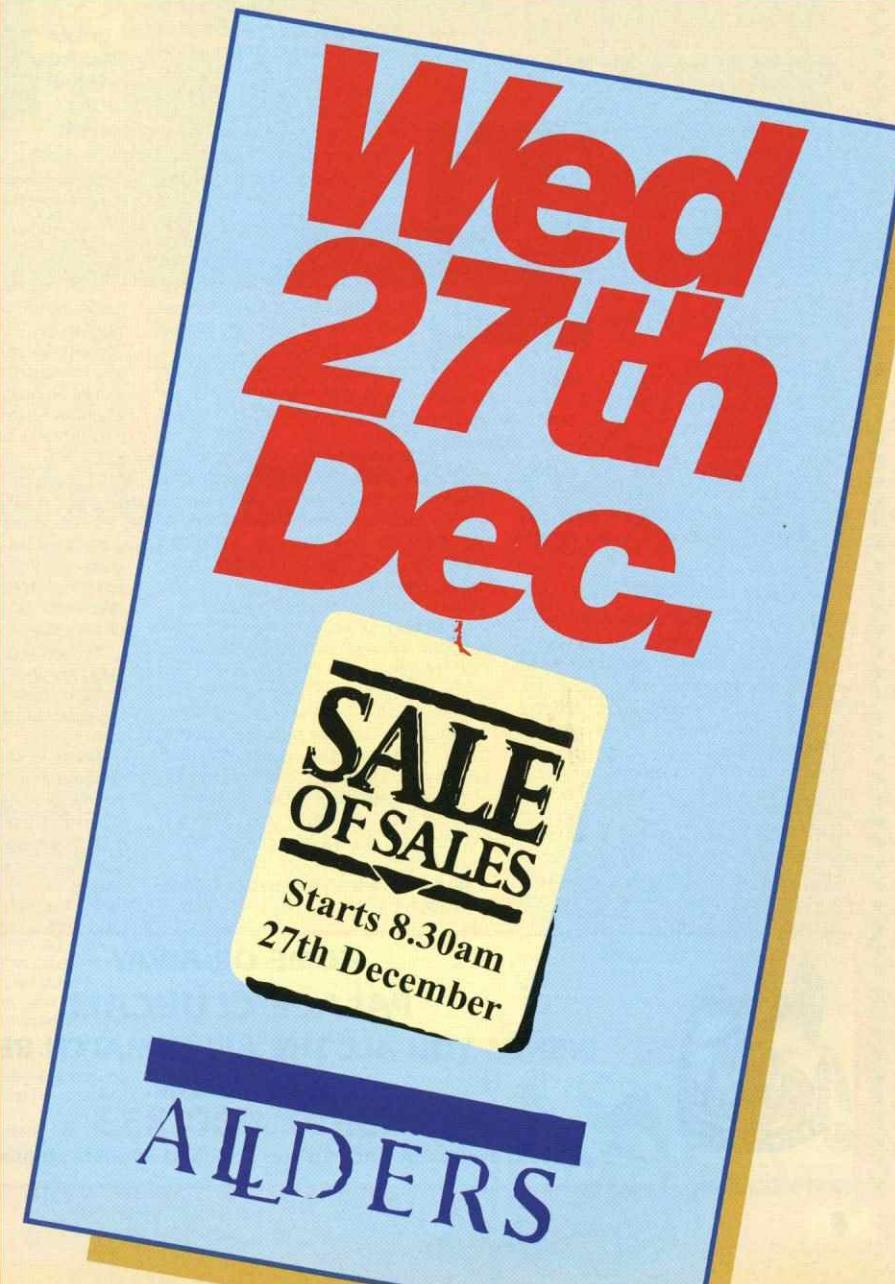
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*A very Prosperous New Year to all of our
Golden Eagles Club members from the Staff,
Players & Directors of Crystal Palace Football Club.*



WELCOME TO

LUTON TOWN

by Tony Pullein

For today's Boxing Day fixture we are pleased to welcome Luton Town to Selhurst Park, and trust that we will witness an entertaining game.

WESTLEY LEAVES

The big news surrounding the Hatters over the past week has been the departure of manager Terry Westley after just five months in charge. The former youth team boss left by mutual consent following his side's 4-0 thrashing at Portsmouth - leaving Luton firmly rooted to the bottom of the table. At the time of going to press no replacement was named, however, chairman David Kohler was hoping to have someone in place in time for last Saturday's game at home to Huddersfield.

Prior to leaving Westley said: "I was given a great opportunity here but it didn't work out. I believe in my short time as manager though I brought in some fine players including Steve Davis, Darren Patterson and Ian Feuer. I am sure the team can pick themselves up and avoid relegation."

EXPERIMENTING

Terry Westley, who took over from David Pleat in July of this year, had been experimenting widely in his search for a winning combination, calling upon no fewer than 29 players, although the team in recent weeks had taken on a more settled look.

With goals at a premium, many changes took place in attack. Dwight Marshall and Bontcho Guentchev opened the season in the forward positions but young Stuart Douglas, a product of the club's youth policy, was drafted in for his League debut last month

against Oldham. The 17 year old striker, who scored in that match, slotted in alongside Vidar Riseth who was signed from Norwegian club Kongsvinger for £100,000 in October. Douglas was called upon due to Dwight Marshall going down with a virus and, like Palace's Leon McKenzie in his first game, won the 'Man of the Match' award. Terry Westley's reaction to his first match was echoed by everyone in the ground: "A marvellous debut capped by a tremendous goal. He made us all proud and with continued hard work he may well have a future in the game."

Marshall, the former Plymouth player, was top scorer with six goals prior to last Saturday's match at home to Huddersfield. Guentchev, a

Bulgarian international signed from Ipswich in the summer, had scored twice - both from penalties. Today we are likely to see Marshall partnered either by Tony Thorpe or John Taylor. Gavin Johnson, another signing from Ipswich, has also played in attack.

The midfield has recently been comprised of Paul McLaren, Gary Waddock, Ceri Hughes and Scott Oakes but Graham Alexander, David Oldfield and Johnny Vilstrup have also played here.

Vilstrup is a Dane who was signed from Lyngby for £175,000 in September.

Darren Patterson, a recent signing from Palace, has taken over from the injured Trevor Peake at right-back whilst Richard Harvey, who has also played in midfield, is likely to be seen in the left-back spot.

Dwight Marshall - Luton's top scorer



Steve Davis has filled one of the central defensive positions for much of the season. Marvin Johnson has switched from left-back to play in the centre of defence.

With goalkeeper Juergen Sommer being transferred to QPR, Ian Feuer was signed on loan from West Ham in September. When he was recalled by the Hammers this month, Kelvin Davis played in goal. West Ham later agreed to allow Feuer to join the Hatters on a permanent basis in exchange for £585,000.

A DIFFICULT SEASON

It became evident from an early stage that Luton would face a difficult season. With only one win from their opening nine League games, the Hatters found themselves at the bottom of the table.

By winning two of their next four matches, they lifted themselves off the bottom but, as the holiday games approached, they had dropped to bottom again.

Home form has been a particular disappointment. Luton defeated relegation rivals Portsmouth 3-1 at Kenilworth Road and later achieved a 3-2 victory over Tranmere. Those were their only victories in 13 home League and Cup games.



Vidar Riseth - signed from Norwegian side Kongsvinger



BACK ROW - I to r: Ben Chinery, Danny Power, Gary Simpson, Fred Barber, Paul McLaren, Rob Matthews (now with York City), Gavin Johnson, David Greene, Steve Davis, Kelvin Davis, John Taylor, Trevor Peake, Julian James.

MIDDLE ROW: I to r: Chris Green (director), Cliff Bassett (director), Clive Goodyear (physio), Paul Lowe (youth development officer), Richard Harvey, Aaron Skelton, David Oldfield, Mitchell Thomas, Des Linton, Marvin Johnson, Bontcho Guentchev, Matthew Woolgar (no longer with club), Wayne Turner (reserve team coach), John Moore (youth team coach), Les Shannon (scouting co-ordinator), Nigel Terry (director).

FRONT ROW: I to r: Jamie Woodsford, Gary Waddock, Tony Thorpe, Ceri Hughes, Mick McGiven (assistant manager), David Kohler (chairman), Terry Westley (no longer with the club), Scott Oakes, Nathan Jones, Graham Alexander, Dwight Marshall.

Yet the Hatters have won away games in the First Division at Southend (1-0) and Ipswich (1-0). They drew at Grimsby (0-0), Wolves (0-0) and Watford (1-1) but were beaten at Reading (1-3), Millwall (0-1), Tranmere

(0-1), Stoke (0-5), Barnsley (0-1) and Portsmouth (0-4).

They also lost away to Second Division Bournemouth (1-2) in the Coca-Cola Cup so, having only drawn 1-1 at home, they took an early exit

from the competition which they won in 87/88 thanks to a 3-2 win over Arsenal.

Luton lost their opening three games in the Anglo-Italian Cup - at home to Perugia (1-4), away to Genoa (0-4) and Cesena (1-2). However, they managed a 5-0 win over Ancona a couple of weeks ago when they fielded a strong team.

THREAT OF RELEGATION

Since losing their place in the old First Division (now the Premiership) in 1992, Luton have lived constantly with the threat of further relegation.

In 1993 they scrambled clear by two points and went similarly close 12 months later.

Last season they looked fairly safe, although they put themselves under some pressure by losing their final four matches. They finished in 10th place, 10 points clear of danger. However, at one stage of the season in October/November the Hatters moved into a play-off position, when they put an excellent run together of 6 wins in 9 games which included a 5-1 win over Middlesbrough - the club who later won the championship. Unfortunately after crashing 3-6 at home to Sheffield United on 3rd December, David Pleat's side never regained that superb form.

TWENTY FACTS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT LUTON

1. Kerry Dixon was the last Luton player to score a hat-trick - in a 6-2 victory over Stoke in November 1993.
2. The previous Luton man to score three times had been Lars Elstrup, who scored all the goals in Luton's 3-1 League victory at Norwich in September 1990.
3. Elstrup was also the last Luton player to score three times in a cup tie, doing so in their 7-2 home win over Mansfield in the League Cup in October 1989.
4. The club record is never likely to be beaten - Joe Payne scored 10 times against Bristol Rovers in a Third Division (South) game in 1936. That is also a record for any League match in England.
5. Payne cornered another club record when he scored 58 goals in 1936/37 - 55 in the League, plus 3 in the FA Cup.
6. Luton's record aggregate scorer was Gordon Turner, who scored 265 in all competitions - 243 League, 18 FA Cup and 4 League Cup.
7. That record is in absolutely no danger at the moment. The highest scorer currently on Luton's books is Scott Oakes, who registered his 25th League goal against Wolves a couple of weeks ago.
8. Luton's appearance record is held by Bob Morton who played 495 League games, 48 FA Cup ties and 7 League Cup ties to make a grand total of 550.
9. Luton's most capped player was Mal Donaghy, who won 58 caps for Northern Ireland.
10. The oldest player to appear in Luton's first team was Dally Duncan, who was 39 years and 11 days of age when he played his final game in 1948.
11. The Hatters were the first club to drop all the way from the First to the Fourth Division and, later, regain their place at the top.
12. Kenilworth Road's record attendance was 30,069 for an FA Cup tie against Blackpool in 1959.
13. Luton's largest crowd so far this season is 8,142 for the visit of W.B.A. in October.
14. Luton's record League victory was a 12-0 success over Bristol Rovers in the Third Division (South) in April 1936.
15. But the Hatters had done even better than that when they crushed Great Yarmouth by 15-0 in the FA Cup in 1914.
16. Their record defeat was by 0-9 to Small Heath (now Birmingham) in the Second Division in 1898.
17. David Pleat, who returned to Kenilworth Road in June 1991, became the first man ever to manage Luton on a second occasion. He was previously in charge between 1978 and 1986.
18. After Mr Pleat left in 1986, Luton employed three managers in five years - John Moore, Ray Harford and Jimmy Ryan.
19. The highest transfer fee paid by Luton was £850,000 to Odense for Lars Elstrup in 1989.
20. The biggest fee received by Luton was £2.5 million when John Hartson moved to Arsenal last season.



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LUTON TOWN'S TEN YEAR RECORD

Season	Div.	P	For	Ag.	Pts.	Posn.	FAC	LC	Avg. Att.
1985/86	1	42	61	44	66	9th	QF	3	11,062
1986/87	1	42	47	45	66	7th	4	+	10,256
1987/88	1	40	57	58	53	9th	SF	WIN	8,038
1988/89	1	38	42	52	41	16th	3	FIN	9,504
1989/90	1	38	43	57	43	17th	3	3	9,886
1990/91	1	38	42	61	37	18th	4	2	10,325
1991/92	1	42	38	71	42	20th	3	2	9,715
1992/93	1	46	48	62	51	20th	4	2	8,212
1993/94	1	46	56	60	53	20th	SF	1	7,878
1994/95	1	46	61	64	58	16th	4	1	7,350

+ - expelled from the competition due to an artificial pitch.

ROLL CALL 1995-96

NAME	DOB	PREVIOUS CLUB	APPS.	GOALS
Graham Alexander	10/10/71	Scunthorpe United	16(1)	-
Kelvin Davis	29/9/76	-	5	-
Steve Davis	30/10/68	Burnley	18	2
Stuart Douglas	9/4/78	-	1(3)	1
Ian Feuer	20/5/71	West Ham Utd	15	-
Bontcho Guentchev	7/7/64	Ipswich Town	8(6)	2
Richard Harvey	17/4/69	-	22	1
Ceri Hughes	26/2/71	-	16	1
Julian James	22/3/70	-	10(3)	-
Gavin Johnson	10/10/70	Ipswich Town	5(1)	-
Marvin Johnson	29/10/68	-	20	-
Des Linton	5/9/71	Leicester City	5(1)	-
Dwight Marshall	3/10/65	Plymouth Argyle	20	6
Paul McLaren	17/11/76	-	8	1
Scott Oakes	5/8/72	Leicester City	11	1
David Oldfield	30/5/68	Leicester City	11(4)	1
Darren Patterson	15/10/69	Crystal Palace	3(1)	-
Trevor Peake	10/2/57	Coventry City	14(3)	-
Vidar Riset	21/4/72	Kongsvinger	5(1)	-
Juergen Sommer	27/2/64	(now at QPR)	2	-
John Taylor	24/10/64	Bradford City	6(4)	-
Mitchell Thomas	2/10/64	West Ham United	1(2)	-
Tony Thorpe	10/4/74	-	3(7)	1
Johnny Vilstrop	27/2/69	Lyngby	6	-
Gary Waddock	17/3/62	Bristol Rovers	10(4)	-
Jamie Woodsford	9/11/76	-	1(2)	-

(up to and including 22nd Dec 1995)

*The last time we met
at Selhurst Park:*

Tuesday 2nd November 1993
Football League, Division One

CRYSTAL PALACE 3

(Young 12, Shaw 26,
Whyte 36)

LUTON TOWN 2

(Aunger 2, Hughes 16)

Attendance: 10,295

PALACE: Martyn, Humphrey,

Coleman, Southgate, Young, Thorn

(sub: Salako), Shaw, Rodger,

Armstrong, Whyte, Gordon.

LUTON: Sommer, Johnson,

Peake, Dreyer, Telfer, Oakes

(sub: Dickov), Hughes, Linton

(sub: Campbell), Dixon, Harper,

Aunger.



LEAGUE RESULTS 95/96

OPPOSITION	H/A	SCORE	SCORERS
Norwich City	H	L 1-3	Guentchev
Southend United	A	W 1-0	Marshall
Leicester City	H	D 1-1	Hughes
Grimsby Town	A	D 0-0	-
Derby County	H	L 1-2	Marshall
Reading	A	L 1-3	Marshall
Millwall	A	L 0-1	-
Sunderland	H	L 0-2	-
Wolves	A	D 0-0	-
Portsmouth	H	W 3-1	Davis S., Marshall, Guentchev
Tranmere Rovers	A	L 0-1	-
West Bromwich Albion	H	L 1-2	Harvey
Ipswich Town	A	W 1-0	Oldfield
Charlton Athletic	H	L 0-1	-
Stoke City	A	L 0-5	-
Oldham Athletic	H	D 1-1	Douglas
Birmingham City	H	D 0-0	-
Watford	A	D 1-1	Davis S.
Barnsley	A	L 0-1	-
Tranmere Rovers	H	W 3-2	Marshall 2, McLaren
Wolves	H	L 2-3	Oakes, Marshall
Portsmouth	A	L 0-4	-
Huddersfield	H	(Match played on Saturday 23rd Dec)	-

Visiting Star Player

TREVOR PEAKE

38 year old centre half who will shortly begin his 17th year in the professional game. Trevor started out with his local non-league side, Nuneaton Borough, before joining Lincoln City in 1979. He stayed with the Imps for a further four years, totalling 171 League appearances and scoring 7 times.



His consistent form led to a move into the old First Division with Coventry City, for whom he enjoyed 8 successful seasons. Whilst at Highfield Road, Trevor shared in some of the Sky Blues' greatest triumphs - winning an FA Cup winners' medal in 1987, courtesy of Coventry's fine 3-2 victory over Tottenham Hotspur.

Trevor joined Luton in a £100,000 deal in August 1991, and quickly established himself as a firm favourite with the Kenilworth Road faithful with his committed displays. Luton's club captain, Trevor's passion for the game is unrelenting; recently completing his 200th appearance for the club.

In fact, the 1994/95 campaign saw Trevor maintain an ever present record throughout the season for the first time in his career, and he was duly rewarded with the Luton Town supporters' club 'Player of the Year' award. He signed a new one year deal with the Hatters during the summer, and has formed a steady central defensive partnership with Marvin Johnson during the current campaign.

Visiting PLAYERS TO VIEW

KELVIN DAVIS (Goalkeeper) - Highly-rated England under-21 international goalkeeper. Kelvin began the current campaign in goal but lost his place to Juergen Sommer. However, Sommer's departure to QPR led to Kelvin reclaiming the no.1 spot for a further three games, before losing out again to the on loan Ian Feuer. 19 year old Kelvin is a former England youth international, and signed a new four year contract in June 1995.

fortable in any position in defence, but formed a reliable central defensive formation with Trevor Peake during the 1994/95 campaign, and they have continued that partnership this year.

DARREN PATTERSON (Defender) - Signed for Luton Town from Crystal Palace in August 1995 for £150,000, but suffered with achilles tendon trouble which kept him out of the first months of the season. A full Northern Ireland international, Darren began his career with Wigan Athletic and moved to Selhurst Park in 1992. He struggled to establish himself initially but came to prominence last season, appearing regularly in the right-back position. Darren played in Palace's FA Cup semi-final matches against Manchester United in April of this year.

IAN FEUER (Goalkeeper) - After spending the first few months of this season on loan from West Ham United, the move was finally made permanent a couple of weeks ago when he joined for £585,000. Born in Las Vegas, he joined the Hammers from Los Angeles Salsa during the 1993/94 season. However, his league debut was in fact for Peterborough whilst he was on loan last season. An extremely agile goalkeeper, he failed to dislodge West Ham's first choice keeper, Luke Miklosko.

RICHARD HARVEY (Defender) - Luton's only ever present in the League so far this season, Richard has battled back determinedly after a horrific cruciate knee ligament injury disrupted two years of his career. He returned to the Luton side for the home game against Watford in March of this year - his first appearance at Kenilworth Road for three years - and was a regular at left-back until the end of the season. With luck, Richard will soon complete his 150th League appearance in a Hatters' shirt.

JULIAN JAMES (Defender) - Julian recently made his 200th League appearance in a Luton shirt, having joined the club as a trainee in July 1986. 25 year old Julian had a rude awakening on his first team debut, being sent off in a League Cup tie at Leeds. A versatile performer, the former England under-21 international is equally at home at right or left-back, but with the re-emergence of Richard Harvey he has now made the right-sided position his own. Popular with the fans, Julian was voted 'Player of the Year' by the Luton supporters' club last season.

MARVIN JOHNSON (Defender) - Now in his 10th season with the Kenilworth Road club having signed as a trainee. Marvin was an ever present last term and was rewarded for his efforts with the players' 'Player of the Year' trophy. Wembley born, Marvin is equally com-

fortable in any position in defence, but formed a reliable central defensive formation with Trevor Peake during the 1994/95 campaign, and they have continued that partnership this year.

GRAHAM ALEXANDER (Midfielder) - Signed from Scunthorpe United for a £100,000 fee during the summer, Graham was Terry Westley's first signing as Luton manager. A Luton target for nigh on two seasons, Graham has been a regular in the Hatters' side so far this term, fully justifying the Kenilworth Road club's outlay. Born in Coventry, he joined Scunthorpe as a trainee.

SCOTT OAKES (Midfielder) - One of the most highly-rated players outside of the Premiership, Scott first came to prominence during Luton's spectacular 1994 FA Cup run to the semi-finals - hitting a hat-trick in the 6th round win over West Ham United. The former England under-21 international was signed from Leicester City in a player exchange transfer in October 1991, and further committed himself to the Hatters by signing a new contract. A hamstring injury kept Scott out of the first two months of the season, but he returned for the game at Tranmere.

DWIGHT MARSHALL (Forward) - Pacey striker signed from Plymouth Argyle in a £150,000 deal during the summer of 1994. Although he was plagued by shin troubles in the latter half of last season, Dwight managed to finish as the Hatters' leading scorer with 13 goals. Jamaica born, he started out with non-league side Grays Athletic. Dwight in fact enjoyed a trial period with Crystal Palace towards the end of the 1989/90 season, before being snapped up by the Pilgrims, for whom he was a consistent scorer.

VIDAR RISETH (Forward) - Signed from Norwegian side Kongsvinger in October, for a fee which could rise to £175,000 depending on appearances. Vidar made his debut as a second half substitute in the recent home defeat against Charlton Athletic. He has yet to score for the Hatters.

DAVID OLDFIELD (Forward) - Experienced player who is equally comfortable in either midfield or attack, David was signed from Leicester City for £150,000 in July. Born in Perth, Australia, he began his Football League career with the Hatters, making his debut in May 1988, and went on to play 29 games for the club scoring 4 times. David joined Manchester City in a £600,000 deal in March 1989, and helped the Maine Road club to promotion to the old Division One, before moving on to Leicester and then back to Luton.



Gary Waddock

GARY WADDOCK (Midfielder) - Veteran midfielder with a wealth of Football League experience, Gary was signed from Bristol Rovers on a free transfer after a three month loan spell with Luton. He has recently completed 50 League appearances for the Kenilworth Road club. Gary started his career with QPR where he played over 200 games - including the 1982 FA Cup final and replay against Tottenham Hotspur. He enjoyed a spell in Belgium with Charleroi whilst recovering from a serious knee injury, before returning to England with Millwall. He played in the Palace v Millwall 4-3 thriller of October 1989 - one of the most memorable games ever seen at Selhurst Park.

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The Skipper's View

with Ray Houghton

appointment to see us lose to the Dutch. We had looked so good in our group prior to the summer and many thought we were flying along into those finals. The big let down was only picking up one point out of nine during our summer matches and that is really what destroyed us. The atmos-

and for that you cannot blame him. I would like to wish him and his family all the very best for the future.

As one door closes another one opens and we saw the arrival of Jason Cundy from Spurs on loan. Jason has had a bad time at Tottenham recently and he came straight in against Stoke. I thought he was outstanding in that game. He is a lively lad and he certainly gets everyone going in the dressing room before a game which, I must admit, is something that we are not really used to at Palace where we have not really got many 'talkers'.

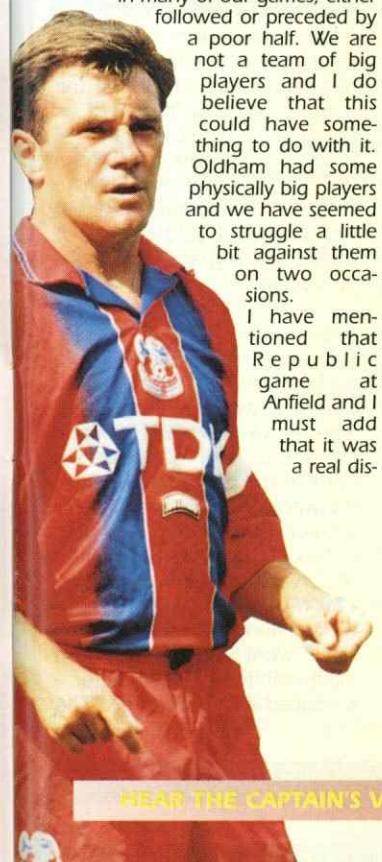
It was not just Jason who did well at Stoke - it was a good all round performance and we certainly were in command of the game from the start. We never really looked in danger and this was against a team who had won four games on the roll. Just a word also about Nigel Martyn. It is very difficult for a goalkeeper to keep his concentration on a cold day when you are having a quiet game with little to do. All the more credit to him for his excellent save just before half time, which denied Stoke any chance of going into the break with added confidence. Well done also to Gareth Taylor who got off the mark in that game with a fine headed effort.

It was sad to see another managerial casualty this time at Luton. It is always difficult at the bottom of the table. Ex Eagle Darren Patterson is now with the Hatters and it will be nice to see him again today. We must however be at our best to win as form counts for nothing in this division.

My best wishes to you all for the festive season.

RAY

**'With the younger
players coming through
for the Republic, it is
going to be very
difficult for players like
myself to get selected'**



**Best Wishes to
Chris and his
family**

HEAR THE CAPTAIN'S VIEWS EVERY WEEK ON CLUBCALL 0891 400 333

Holmesdale Standpoint

by Paul Romain

I'm still clutching my 66-1 betting slip hopefully! Last week's superb victory at Stoke, against a side who had been rapidly flying up the table, may have heralded yet another of the oft-predicted turning of corners. I have to write before our trip to play West Brom on Saturday, so by now Ladbrokes could be breathing easier (especially as WBA had just lost nine games on the trot - seasoned Palace followers know what fate usually befalls us on these occasions)!

However, regardless of the result at the Hawthorns there are several reasons to be cautiously optimistic for the second half of the season. Most of the malcontents have now been farmed out - including Whinger of the Year. I notice Chris Coleman started life at Blackburn on the substitutes' bench - I'm amazed he didn't put in a transfer request! I have to admit to being wrong about the merits of keeping unhappy players at the club against their will. Although, with one exception, nobody could quibble about the professional attitude of those wanting a move, we have clearly suffered from the lack of total, unequivocal commitment to the cause. Perhaps more importantly



Chris Coleman - started his Blackburn career on the substitutes' bench

though, the delay in finalising our squad for the long-term has prevented worthy aspirants such as Gareth Davies and Jamie Vincent from staking a claim to a regular place sooner. The potential in the current crop of younger players can't be in doubt. The danger in the current climate is that clubs can ill afford 'wasted' seasons whilst rebuilding takes place. Luckily for us, the desperate lack of quality in the First Division this year still offers a glimmer of hope that we could slip into a play-off slot. Without checking the record books I'd hazard a guess that we were actually further behind, with more games played, in the 88/89 season and still ended up gaining promotion. Reason to be cheerful part two relates to the lean mean goalscoring

machine that Palace are becoming! Last week I did a quick double take when I caught sight of a Palace player in the goalscoring charts - a goal at Stoke helping Doug Freedman into the list of top scorers for the first time (albeit assisted by three at Third Division level). Meanwhile, Gareth Taylor is now also on the goalscoring chart, having



Doug Freedman - now among the division's top scorers

finally achieved the basic requirement of entry! Gareth has taken more than his fair share of stick on behalf of an underperforming team and yet his first goal came from about the first decent cross he's received. A few more like that one and we could be talking about opening the proverbial floodgates!

Being the festive season, I've had to write today's article well before the holiday period, meaning that I have no idea whether we have had a happy Christmas, nor whether we have all the players we started the week with, nor am I able to provide my usually sparkling collection of up to the minute observations. The good news - for me - is that you're probably too hung over to notice! (I don't want any letters from indignant teetotallers either - it's called artistic licence). The

usual noon kick-off, presumably because the Police still don't believe we're capable of behaving ourselves in the afternoon, will no doubt produce the now traditional glum atmosphere as people avoid disturbing the remnants of yesterday's excesses by too much jumping up and down. No doubt the players will help out by restricting any entertainment likely to encourage such reckless behaviour to a minimum. (They have, after all, been getting plenty of practice). It seems a long time ago that Boxing Day was looked forward to for traditional derby fixtures of great excitement, when even the less committed members of the extended family could be dragged along to the game as long as a healthily packed hip flask was in tow as well. Sadly, over the years, first the hip flask, then the traditional derby fixtures became victims of the nanny state - nowadays you're lucky if you can even get to the game in time - never mind enjoy it when you get there! Luckily for us we've enjoyed a friendly relationship with the fixture computer in recent seasons, with Selhurst Park the furthest I can remember travelling on Boxing Day for some time. At least a certain amount of sanity has returned this year for the fans who do have to travel, with Luton's supporters

presumably having a relatively simple trip. I particularly remember the Sunderland supporters having to miss Christmas Day to get down here one year in a triumph for perverseness over common sense. As for the traditional derby games, some big fixtures such as Torquay against Exeter and Hartlepool against Scarborough have been restored this season. Whether or not the Football League would allow us to renew rivalry with Brighton is liable to be irrelevant for some time to come though! A couple of weeks ago I had the misfortune to come across the hapless Seagulls on Sky, during a game in which it became

stands at Palace recently, between those die-hards who insist that Brighton remain Palace Enemy Number 1, despite the fact that they're totally useless, and those for whom recent events make Man Utd more relevant rivals - and at least they're up to playing us every now and then. No such problems at the Goldstone Ground where most of the crowd shots showed people who are barely old enough to remember the last time they saw a Palace fan - and yet they still knew a few old favourites to sing! Sadly on the evidence of the performance against Fulham, no world beaters themselves, they're not going to have anything to tell their grandchildren about. The days of Palace v Brighton are over.

And finally, congratulations to the Premiership clubs for cutting off their noses to spite their faces. Not that it will affect us but a UEFA Cup place has gone down the plughole due to the antics of Spurs and Wimbledon

in the Inter-Toto Cup in the summer - not to mention those clubs that couldn't be bothered at all. Incidentally, Bordeaux also took part in this 'mickey mouse', waste of time tournament and now have advanced to the quarter finals of the UEFA Cup. Still, English football always knows best doesn't it?



Are the Palace versus Brighton days now over?

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Eagles

Day by Day

FRI 1st DEC



Dave Bassett is linked with Crystal Palace

There is more local press speculation concerning possible managerial moves for Steve Coppell and Dave Bassett as the Palace squad train for the weekend game against Sunderland. It is announced that Dean Gordon and Chris Coleman will undergo late fitness tests at Roker Park before Sunday's match.

SAT 2nd DEC

The Palace youth side get back to winning ways with a victory against Brighton at Sussex University. Coach Brian Sparrow is delighted with the result and the performance which is sealed with a goal from Danny Wales. The first team train in the morning and an eighteen man playing squad leave for Sunderland after lunch. In Division One Millwall somewhat surprisingly lose at home to Watford.

SUN 3rd DEC

Three hundred Eagles' fans make the long trek to the north east for the game against Sunderland. Palace are without Chris Coleman, who is ruled out through an ankle injury, and there is torrential rain during the game at Roker Park. Palace go down by the odd goal - a first half penalty scored by Martin Scott. However, Ray Lewington's team impress in the second half and are unlucky to come away without even a point. The win for Peter Reid's side means they are the first club to complete the 'double' over Palace this season.

MON 4th DEC

Ray Houghton is named in the Republic of Ireland squad for their crucial Euro '96 play-off match against Holland at Anfield - the winners of which will qualify for the prestigious tournament. In South Africa the second test results in a fortunate draw for England, with Mike Atherton saving the day with an eleven hour innings of 185 not out. With forecasts of severe

weather the pitch is completely covered at Selhurst Park, whilst at Mitcham arrangements are put in hand for indoor training should the necessity arise. In the new style FA Cup draw Palace are paired with Port Vale at home in the 3rd round. The only previous time Palace have met Vale in the cup was back in 1947 when they won 2-1. The tie of the round is the all-Premiership clash between Chelsea and Newcastle.

TUE 5th DEC



Physio Peter McClean is busy at the training ground

The first team are back in training after the game at Sunderland, with several players receiving treatment for knocks from physio Peter McClean. Charlton beat Millwall 2-0 on a slippery surface at the New Den as the first snow of the winter hits the London area. The Palace Clubcall service puts its 'Weatherwatch' into operation as the Wednesday reserve fixture at Champion Hill stadium appears to be in danger.

WED 6th DEC

More overnight snow and a bad weather forecast for the evening sees the reserve match at home to Queens Park Rangers called off. Another casualty is the annual handicapped children's Christmas party, which is due to be held in Crystal's banqueting suite. This event is put back for a week as trifles and jellies go to waste. Scandinavian trialist Leif Andersson returns to Norway after making several appearances for the reserve team. The club do not confirm whether they still have an interest in the player. Mark McGhee sensationally walks out on Leicester City, with speculation mounting that he is set to take over the vacant manager's position at Wolves.

THUR 7th DEC

The freeze continues and the first team take a day off from training. At Selhurst Park the management and several players attend a lunch held for

the club's sponsors. The reserve team are forced to train indoors at the National Sports Centre and further freezing temperatures are forecast for Friday.

FRI 8th DEC

The weather relents slightly but not enough to save tomorrow's youth game against Barnet at Mitcham. That game is called off before lunch but things are looking good at Selhurst Park where the entire complex is virtually clear of snow. The local papers tip a full League debut for Leon McKenzie against Oldham and, whilst the nationals continue to speculate about an Aston Villa interest in Chris Coleman, the club announce that they have agreed terms of £3M for the transfer of the player to Coventry. Coleman himself states that he wants the weekend to think things over and declares himself fit for the home game against Oldham.

SAT 9th DEC



Dougie Freedman - scores at home to Oldham

The covers are removed and the game against the Latics goes ahead. Despite going two up by half time through Davies, with his first for the club, and Freedman, the Eagles throw the game away by conceding two second half goals from identical set pieces. Peter Nicholas expresses his disapproval of the second half performance with a hard hitting interview on Clubcall. The division's results continue to show no real pattern as Millwall are thrashed 6-0 at Sunderland - their fourth consecutive defeat.

SUN 10th DEC

Triple jump champion Jonathan Edwards wins the BBC 'Sports Personality of the Year' award as Frank Bruno is the runner-up. The victorious European Ryder Cup golf team take the team trophy. Back in the Endsleigh League, Wolves win 3-2 at Luton for their first victory in seven games. The Sunday papers continue to speculate about the final destination of unsettled Chris Coleman.



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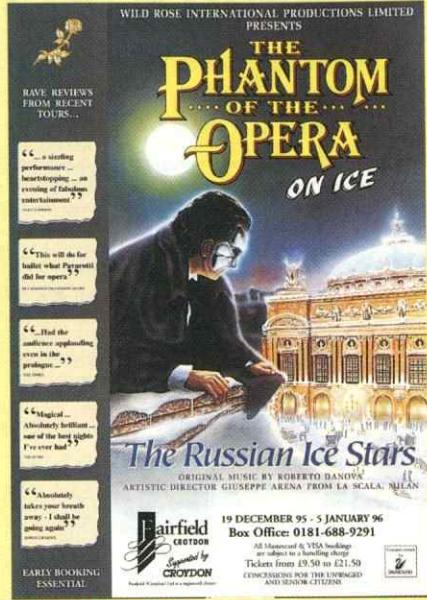
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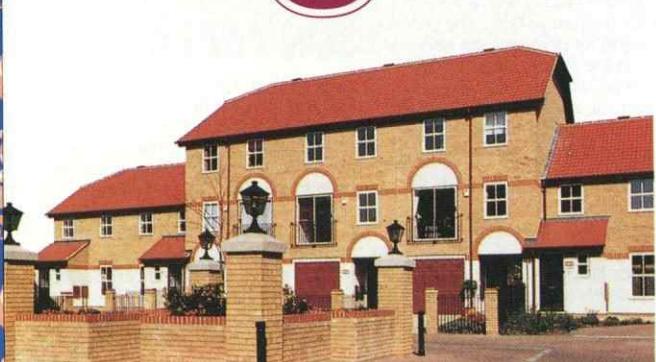
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Endsleigh League Division One
CRYSTAL PALACE v
GRIMSBY TOWN

Saturday 30th December 1995
Kick Off 3.00pm



and
CRYSTAL PALACE v
IPSWICH TOWN

Saturday 13th January 1996
Kick Off 3.00pm



and
CRYSTAL PALACE v
TRANMERE ROVERS

Tuesday 16th January 1996
Kick Off 7.45pm



Ticket prices: Main stand - (Stanley Stephenson, Players and Glaziers lounges) adults £18, senior citizens and under 16's £12. Family enclosures (blocks A & J) adults £10, senior citizens £5 and under 16's £3.

Arthur Wait stand - adults £14, senior citizens and under 16's £10. **Whitehorse Lane stand** - £12 (no concessions). **Holmesdale Road stand** - Upper tier and upper tier gallery adults £14 (concessions of £10 for senior citizens and under 16's are ONLY available if purchased before the day of the game). Lower tier adults £10, senior citizens £5 and under 16's £3.

Family enclosures (blocks A & J) adults £10, senior citizens and under 16's £5. **Arthur Wait stand** - Adults £12, senior citizens and under 16's £8. **Whitehorse Lane stand** - adults £10, senior citizens and under 16's £5*. **Holmesdale Road stand (upper tier)** - adults £12, senior citizens and under 16's £8*. **Holmesdale Road stand (lower tier)** - adults £10, senior citizens and under 16's £5.

* Please note that match day tickets for the Holmesdale Road stand upper tier and gallery are only available to season ticket holders in that area.

Endsleigh League Division One
PORTSMOUTH v
CRYSTAL PALACE

Monday 1st January 1996
Kick Off 3.00pm



Ticket prices: For the terracing it's £8 (no concessions) and pay on the day. Seats will cost; adults £13 and senior citizens and under 16's £9. To obtain the concessionary price of £9, these tickets must be purchased from the Palace box office prior to the day of the game. The club telephone number is: 01705 731 204. The programme price is £1.50.

Coaches: Depart Holmesdale Road at 11.30am. The fare; adults £10, senior citizens and under 16's £8 and guests of members £12.

Train: There is no special train to Portsmouth.

Going by car... Take the M1 and leave at

You can Fax direct to the box office on 0181 653 4708. General ticket and travel information is available 24 hours a day on the PALACE TICKETLINE which can be dialled into on 0891 400 334, but please note that these calls are charged at 49p/min. peak and 39p/min. at all other times.

CALL THE PALACE TICKETLINE ON 0891 400 334 FOR THE LATEST TRAVEL NEWS

HERE & THERE

FORTHCOMING GAMES WITH TRAVEL INFORMATION

Going by car... Take the A3 and then the A3 (M) until reaching the A27. Exit the A27 after about 0.7 mile (signposted Southsea A2030). At the roundabout turn left (signposted Milton, Eastney and Southsea) onto the A2030. Continue on this road for approximately 3 miles to the roundabout and the ground. There is street parking but watch for restrictions.

Traffic tuning tip: For all the latest traffic news tune into BBC Radio Solent on 96.1 FM or Ocean FM on 96.7/97.5.

FA Challenge Cup, 3rd Round
CRYSTAL PALACE v
PORT VALE

Saturday 6th January 1996
Kick Off 3.00pm



Ticket prices: Main stand (Stanley Stephenson, Players and Glaziers lounges) adults £15, senior citizens and under 16's £10.

Family enclosures (blocks A & J) adults £10, senior citizens and under 16's £5. **Arthur Wait stand** - Adults £12, senior citizens and under 16's £8. **Whitehorse Lane stand** - adults £10, senior citizens and under 16's £5*. **Holmesdale Road stand (upper tier)** - adults £12, senior citizens and under 16's £8*. **Holmesdale Road stand (lower tier)** - adults £10, senior citizens and under 16's £5.

* Please note that U16 and OAP prices in the Whitehorse Lane and the Holmesdale Road upper tier are only applicable to existing U16 and OAP season ticket holders in these areas. Season ticket holders' seats will only be held until 30th December.

Endsleigh League Division One
BARNESLEY v
CRYSTAL PALACE

Saturday 20th January 1996
Kick Off 3.00pm



Ticket prices: Seats will cost £12 with no concessions. These will hopefully be on sale from the Palace box office from the home game against Grimsby. Club telephone number: 01226 295353. The programme price is £1.40.

Coach: Departs Holmesdale Road at 8.30am. The fare; adults £16, senior citizens and under 16's £13 and guests of members £18.

Train: There is no special train to

junction 36 following signs to Barnsley (South) on to the A61 Sheffield Road. Then take the 1st exit at the Birdwell roundabout. Carry straight on, following signs for the Town Centre and the football ground for approximately 4 miles to the roundabout. Take the 3rd exit (signposted Town Centre A61, Wakefield and the football ground) into Harborough Hill road. After 0.6 miles, at the bottom of the hill, go right around the roundabout (signposted Sheffield and Pontefract) back up Harborough Hill road on the opposite side of the dual carriageway. Turn left after approximately 0.4 miles (signposted Sheffield, Pontefract) into Pontefract road. The visitors' parking is signposted off this road. For the ground, go straight on for 0.5 miles, taking the 5th turning on the left into Grove Street.

Traffic tuning tip: For all the latest traffic news tune into BBC Radio Sheffield on 104.1 FM or Radio Hallam on 102.9 FM.

REARRANGED FIXTURE....

Please note that Tranmere Rovers at home will now be played on Tuesday 16th January at 7.45pm.

Discounted match day admission prices for Golden Eagles and Palace club members are only available from the ticket office up to 5pm on the day before the match.
NO REDUCTIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE DAY OF THE MATCH.

IMPORTANT BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

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or **0181 771 8841**
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Tickets ordered by credit card on either of these two numbers may be collected from the Main Box Office up until three hours prior to kick off. After this time these pre ordered tickets must be collected from the 'Tickets for Collection' portakabin in the executive car park.

CRYSTAL PALACE ACTION



Action from our recent League matches against Oldham and Stoke City....



CRYSTAL PALACE 2
(Davies 9, Freedman 31)

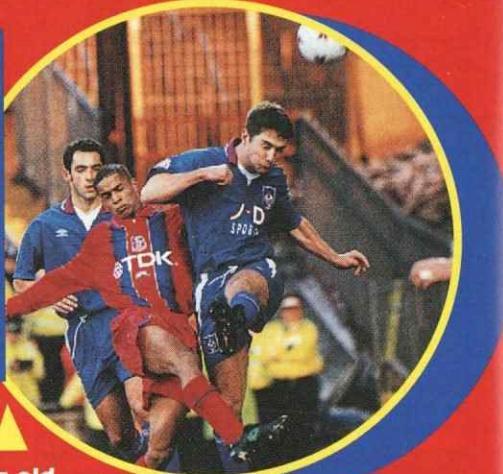
OLDHAM ATHLETIC 2
(Vonk 61, Redmond 70)

Saturday 9th December 1995

Attendance: 14,108

PALACE: Martyn, Edworthy, Gordon, Roberts, Coleman, Hopkin (Dyer), Pitcher, Davies, Freedman, Taylor (Boere), McKenzie.

OLDHAM: Gerrard, Snodin, Makin, Redmond, Vonk (Hallworth), Fleming (Hughes), Halle, Rickers, Beckford (Beresford), Barlow, Brennan.



17 year old striker Leon McKenzie, who was starting his first League match, tries to get his effort in on goal.



GOAL!
Welsh under-21 international Gareth Davies powers in his first goal for the club to give Palace an early lead.

GOAL! Dougie Freedman once again gets his name on the scoresheet by turning in Leon McKenzie's superbly weighted through ball to make it 2-0.



Chris Coleman in the thick of the action in what turned out to be his last game for Palace prior to his transfer to Blackburn Rovers.



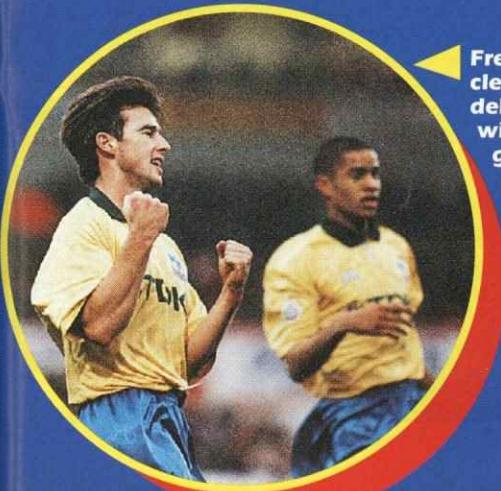
Freedman salutes the jubilant Palace crowd after netting his 6th goal of the season following his £800,000 move from Barnet.



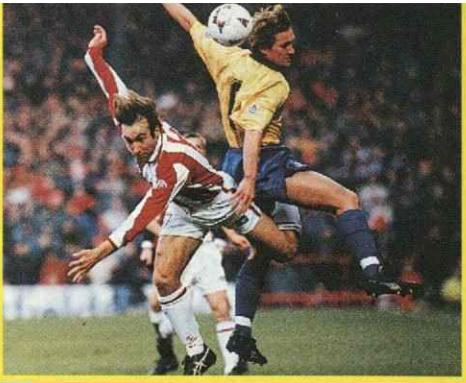
Leon McKenzie, who had another industrious match, keeps his eye firmly fixed on the ball as his marker looks on.



Dougie Freedman punishes Stoke for errors in defence with his 7th goal of the season.



Freedman clearly delighted with his goal at the Victoria Ground.



Jamie Vincent, who returned to the start line-up due to an injury to David Hopkin, is a high flying winner.



DEES
OF CROYDON

Photos by Neil Everitt



STOKE CITY 1

(Sheron 87)

CRYSTAL PALACE 2

(Freedman 24, Taylor 68)

Saturday 16th December 1995

Attendance: 12,090

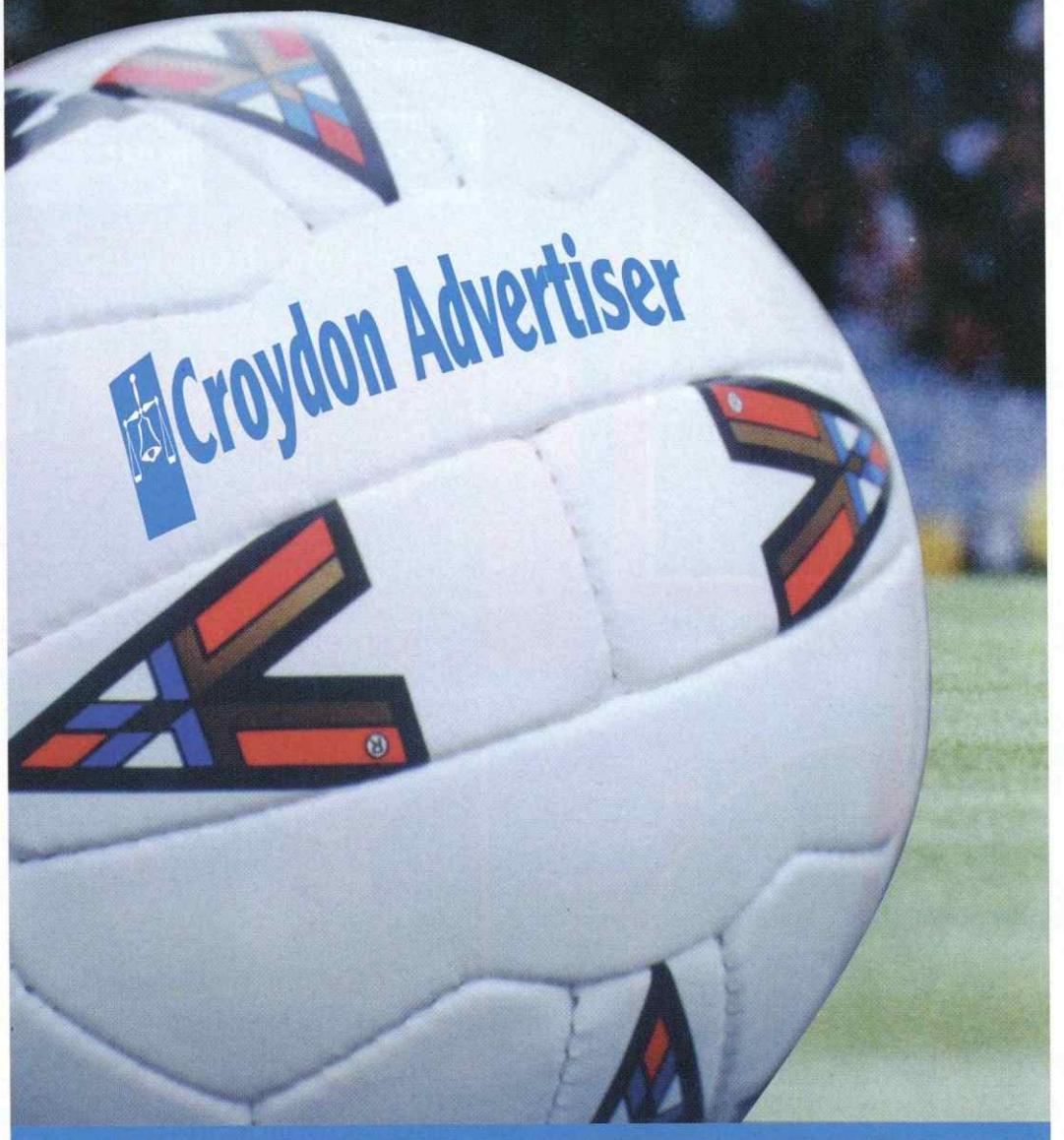
STOKE: Prudhoe, Clarkson, Sandford, Sigurdsson, Cranson, Potter, Keen (Peschisolido), Wallace, Sheron, Sturridge, Gleghorn.

PALACE: Martyn, Edworthy, Gordon, Roberts, Cundy, Vincent, Pitcher, Houghton, Freedman, Taylor (Boere), McKenzie (Dyer).



HE'S DONE IT! Gareth Taylor relishes his proud moment of scoring his first goal for Palace at the end of the match.

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by Ian King

PALACE Flashback TO BOXING DAY

1972

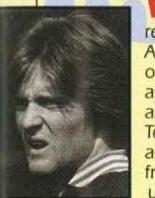
Ten days after the enthralling 5-0 home win over Manchester United, Palace faced Southampton in the next game at Selhurst Park hoping to increase their advantage over the other teams at the bottom of the Division One table.

Southampton provided just the kind of defence that Palace and the fleet-footed Don Rogers were looking for - square and looking to play the offside game, but it was from a corner in the nineteenth minute that the home team took the lead. Rogers took the corner and from a blocked shot by Charlie Cooke, John Craven slotted in the rebound. Just before the break Rogers showed the fans what to expect in the second half as he broke clear of the Saints' defence but the keeper foiled him with a brilliant save. The goal of the game came after seventy minutes as Alan Whittle released a ball to the edge of the penalty area and Rogers, beating the onrushing goal-keeper to it, managed to score from the narrowest of angles. In the final minute Rogers scored Palace's third in copycat fashion.

PALACE: J Jackson, Payne, A Taylor, Philip, Bell, Blyth, Hughes, Craven, Whittle, Cooke, Rogers.
Sub: Pinkney for Craven.

Luton were also at home to Sheffield Wednesday in a Division Two game but were unable to provide much cheer for their fans in a goalless encounter.

1980



David Fry - conceded two goals against Arsenal

With Malcolm Allison recently installed as **Palace's** third manager of the season, the Eagles welcomed visitors Arsenal, who included full-back Kenny Sansom on his first return to Selhurst Park since leaving in August.

Allison had already encouraged his players to a 4-1 win over Norwich but Arsenal would no doubt be more of a test, especially as Palace had already begun to offload players cheaply to Queens Park Rangers. It also appeared that Arsenal were going to offload some balls into the Palace net as they took a tenth minute lead and should have been at least four up by the break, but Palace had managed to conjure up an equaliser from Tony Sealy. The second half continued with the Gunners bearing down on David Fry, scoring again early on and having a good enough goal disallowed twenty minutes from time. However, with ten minutes left a shot from Clive Allen was blocked by Hollins and the ball fell to Sealy again, who fired home a low drive for an unexpected second equaliser and Palace held on. Four weeks later Palace had a new chairman in Ron Noades, Allison left after fifty-five days in charge, and Palace were rock bottom of Division 1.

PALACE: Fry, P Hinshelwood, Boyle, Nicholas, Cannon, Gilbert, Murphy, Francis, Allen, Sealy, Hilaire. Sub: Smillie for Hilaire.

Again **Luton** were also playing at Kenilworth Road in Division Two with Chelsea as their opponents. Their best League crowd of the season saw Brian Stein claim two second half goals to win the points.

1986

In the mid-eighties Brighton usually provided the opposition fare at holiday times and so it was in this mid-table Division Two clash here in South London. The first half was instantly forgettable - littered with stoppages by a fussy referee who, during the game, took seven names and later sent off a Brighton player for a second bookable offence.

An injury to Brian Sparrow forced manager Steve Coppell to reshuffle the pack at half-time bringing on Ian Wright, back following a suspension, and moving Tony Finnigan into defence. Before Brighton had a chance to test the new formation, Palace took the lead when Alan Irvine steered home a Phil Barber cross. Then, midway through the second period, Wright set up a heading chance which Phil Barber buried into the net. One of the highlights of the game was the duel between Mark Bright and a certain Seagulls' centre-half, Eric Young, which Bright, although conceding some inches, won most of the ball.

PALACE: Wood, Stebbing, Sparrow, K Taylor, Nebbeling, Cannon, Irvine, Finnigan, Bright, Gray, Barber. Sub: Wright for Sparrow.

Luton were having a successful season in Division One but on this Boxing Day they suffered one of only two home League defeats, as they lost 0-2 to local rivals Watford.



Ian Wright - back from suspension

1991



Marco Gabbiadini - scored in the 1-1 draw with Wimbledon

This was the first Boxing Day game that Palace had played as the 'away' team at Selhurst Park when we faced Wimbledon in Division One. Once again local pride came before an attractive game of football in a match littered with free-kicks and a second half that contained eight minutes of injury time. The Dons were hoping for a 'record' crowd of 20,000 (depends whether you count the F.A. Cup replay against Leeds in 1975) but in the end only 15,000 turned up and the others did not miss much. Stories of unrest in the Eagles' camp were still rife following Wright's departure although his replacement, Marco Gabbiadini, scored early in the second half to put Palace ahead but Warren Barton squared it for the Dons after seventy minutes.

PALACE: Martyn, Southgate, Sinnott, Gray, Mortimer, Humphrey, Rodger, Osborn, Bright, Gabbiadini, McGoldrick. Sub: Whyte for Mortimer.

Bottom of the table, also in Division One, **Luton** managed a bit of a surprise in the home game against Arsenal as Mick Harford scored the only goal for the Hatters' fourth League win of the season.

Star shot



Photo: Associated
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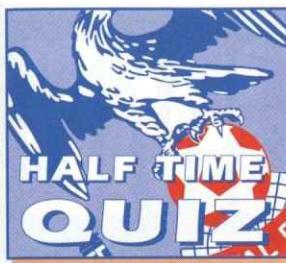
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YULETIDE CHALLENGE

A quiz by "Little Willy"

Good afternoon (unless you're looking at this before today's game!). I trust you all had an enjoyable Christmas Day and are ready to support the lads to provide a late present for us. For a change today's quiz stays 75% away from football, but all questions have Christmas as the theme. Good luck.

FIVE QUESTIONS - RECENT PALACE YULETIDES

- Which former Palace player managed our visitors on Boxing Day last season?
- On 27th December 1993, Palace won 3-1 at Oxford. Who scored two of the goals?
- On Boxing Day 1992 Palace played Wimbledon at home or 'away'?
- Who were Palace's long distance opponents on Boxing Day 1990?
- On Boxing Day 1989 Palace played Chelsea. Who is the only Palace player from that game likely to appear today?



Santa Claus -
See question
fifteen

FIVE QUESTIONS - YULETIDE SONG LYRICS

Name the Christmas record with these lyrics

- "But say a prayer for the other ones, at Christmas time it's hard, but when you're having fun, there's a world outside your window, a world of dread and fear."
- "When the snowman brings the snow, well he might just like to know he's put a great big smile on somebody's face."
- "Are you waiting for the family to arrive, are you sure you've got the room to spare inside, does your granny always tell you that the old songs are the best."
- "Oh my love we've had our share of tears, oh my friend we've had our hopes and fears, oh my friends it's been a long hard year."
- "A ray of hope flickers in the sky, a tiny star lights up way up high, all across the land dawns a brand new morn."

FIVE QUESTIONS - YULETIDE TRUE OR FALSE

- Turkeys originated in Mexico.
- Reindeers' noses appear red at 10 degrees centigrade.
- Effigies of Santa Claus were burnt by French clergy as recently as the 1950's.
- It is illegal to play rugby or football on Christmas Day.
- Santa's traditional uniform was designed for an advertising campaign.

FIVE QUESTIONS - YULETIDE NUMBERS

(The following numbers or statistics refer to some aspect of Christmas. Exactly what?)

- To do with television - 13,620,000.
- To do with travel - 5,500 as opposed to 13,000 on a normal working day.
- To do with food - 87% of families.
- To do with greetings - 62,824.
- To do with property - 7 out of 10.

WHO AM I?

- I was born in December 1967.
- My football career started with non-league Bromsgrove Rovers.
- After just 4 appearances for Palace, I joined my hometown club on loan in March 1993 and then again in February 1994.
- The move was made permanent when I left Palace for £40,000 in August 1994.
- I am now starring in midfield and scored in my new club's 8-4 FA Cup 2nd round replay victory a couple of weeks ago.

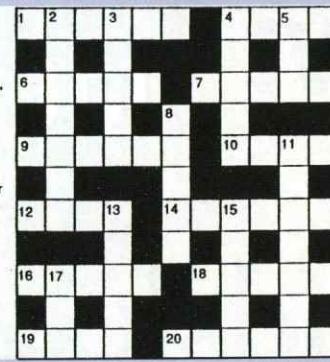
SOCCROSSWORD

2/94

by AL

ACROSS

- Head of centre follows it (1,5)
- Bottom club will when out of matches (4)
- Send player wrong way - then collapse? (5)
- They make you cross and ruin game (5)
- Ref might after bad tackle (3,3)
- It's free for foul and after side, pal (4)
- Is big one in Africa? (4)
- Call on Doncaster has Spurs home (6)
- Bottom with these points (5)
- Pile up points in church? (5)
- Record goal-scorer who could score for toffee (4)
- Stop fouling while Ed sits around (6)
- New laces he has in "14" (7)
- Down Upton Park? Has to admit it (3,2)
- When minnows beat giants it's electric (5)
- Line-up without east for losers points (3)
- Old Englishman hits corner of bar (5)
- What boss does with team (7)
- Pele's first name (5)
- Eleven--a- side means changes (5)
- You need a good one for opportunities (3)



DOWN

- New laces he has in "14" (7)
- Down Upton Park? Has to admit it (3,2)
- When minnows beat giants it's electric (5)
- Line-up without east for losers points (3)
- Old Englishman hits corner of bar (5)
- What boss does with team (7)
- Pele's first name (5)
- Eleven--a- side means changes (5)
- You need a good one for opportunities (3)

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Answers for both the quiz and crossword can be found on page 47.

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Endsleigh



Press cuts ...

EAGLES SURRENDER TWO GOAL LEAD



Endsleigh League, Division One
Saturday, 9th December 1995

PALACE 2
OLDHAM 2



The home game against Oldham Athletic at Selhurst Park showed Crystal Palace at their best and their worst. In a first half which enthralled the small but enthusiastic pre Christmas crowd, they built up a two goal lead and went into the second period threatening to overwhelm the visitors. However, in an amazing turnaround it was the Eagles who were hanging onto the game by their fingertips when the final whistle sounded.

Ray Lewington's badly kept secret ploy of playing three men up front was confirmed an hour before the kick off, when it was officially announced that young Leon McKenzie would be brought in to increase the strike power.

It took the impressive Eagles just 33 minutes to establish a two goal lead - the first of which came from a superb Gareth Davies header as he thundered in on the far post in front of the almost full Holmesdale Road stand. It was the young Welshman's first goal for the club and afterwards Lewington paid him the compliment of admitting that he was perhaps the only player in the team capable of attacking that type of cross so strongly. The second came from the livewire Dougie Freedman as he received a superbly placed pass from Leon McKenzie and his low drive gave Paul Gerrard in the Oldham goal no chance. Nigel Martyn played his part in the generally one-sided first half when he saved a well hit volley from Paul Rickers, but that was perhaps the only occasion in the first period that the home custodian had been troubled in any way.

WILTING CHALLENGE

Early in the second half Palace had further chances through both Dougie Freedman and Leon McKenzie, but it was not long before the Eagles' hold on the game wilted dramatically. For long periods the visitors had possession of the ball and Palace seemed at a complete loss as to how to take it off them. From only their second corner of the game after 63 minutes Michel Vranken rose totally unchallenged to head the ball into the net. Nigel Martyn was furious with his defence and the big keeper was totally distraught when nine minutes later, in an almost carbon copy situation, Steve Redmond headed home the equaliser from a Mark Brennan corner. Palace sent on Bruce Dyer and Jeroen Boere in an effort to regain both the lead and their dignity but by now the makeshift Oldham side, who due to a third injury had brought on substitute goalkeeper Jon Hallworth in an outfield position, were playing well above themselves and cheered on by a small but vociferous bunch of their Lancastrian supporters situated in the Arthur Wait stand.

After the game the whole of the Palace management team were scathing in their criticism of the way a two goal lead had been wasted.

News of the World

COLEMAN'S ON THE BOOS

C PALACE 2 OLDHAM 2
By Tony Rand

CHRIS COLEMAN got stick from the fans — and boss Ray Lewington — on his farewell to Selhurst Park.

Coleman was booed at every touch on his Palace swansong.

And then furious Lewington blasted the rest of a dithering back line — and allowing Oldham back from two down.

Lewington roared: "Unbelievable! I bet Oldham can't believe their luck! We ended up treading water. If we

keep doing this we will be in serious trouble."

Coleman, the £2.5 million-rated Welsh international decides today whether to team up with another South London exile Richard Shaw at Coventry, or be tempted by moneybags Blackburn. But this was a tale of two

simple and increased their lead when a good touch from McKenzie allowed Freedman room to shoot high into the net for his sixth goal for the club. The Eagles reappeared for the second half thinking they were home and dry. But a double substitution Sharp worked a treat. Soon after, two pinpoint corners from Brennan saw the Latics a point.



Two-two boo-hoo for Lew

By GEOFF DUFFIELD
Crystal P 2 Oldham 2

★ PALACE coach Ray Lewington moaned: "A 2-2 scoreline makes me cry," after the Eagles threw away a good lead to allow Oldham back for a point.

"You had to be here to see it," said Lewington. "We don't perform consistently and we lack experience, and at the end of the day we threw it away."

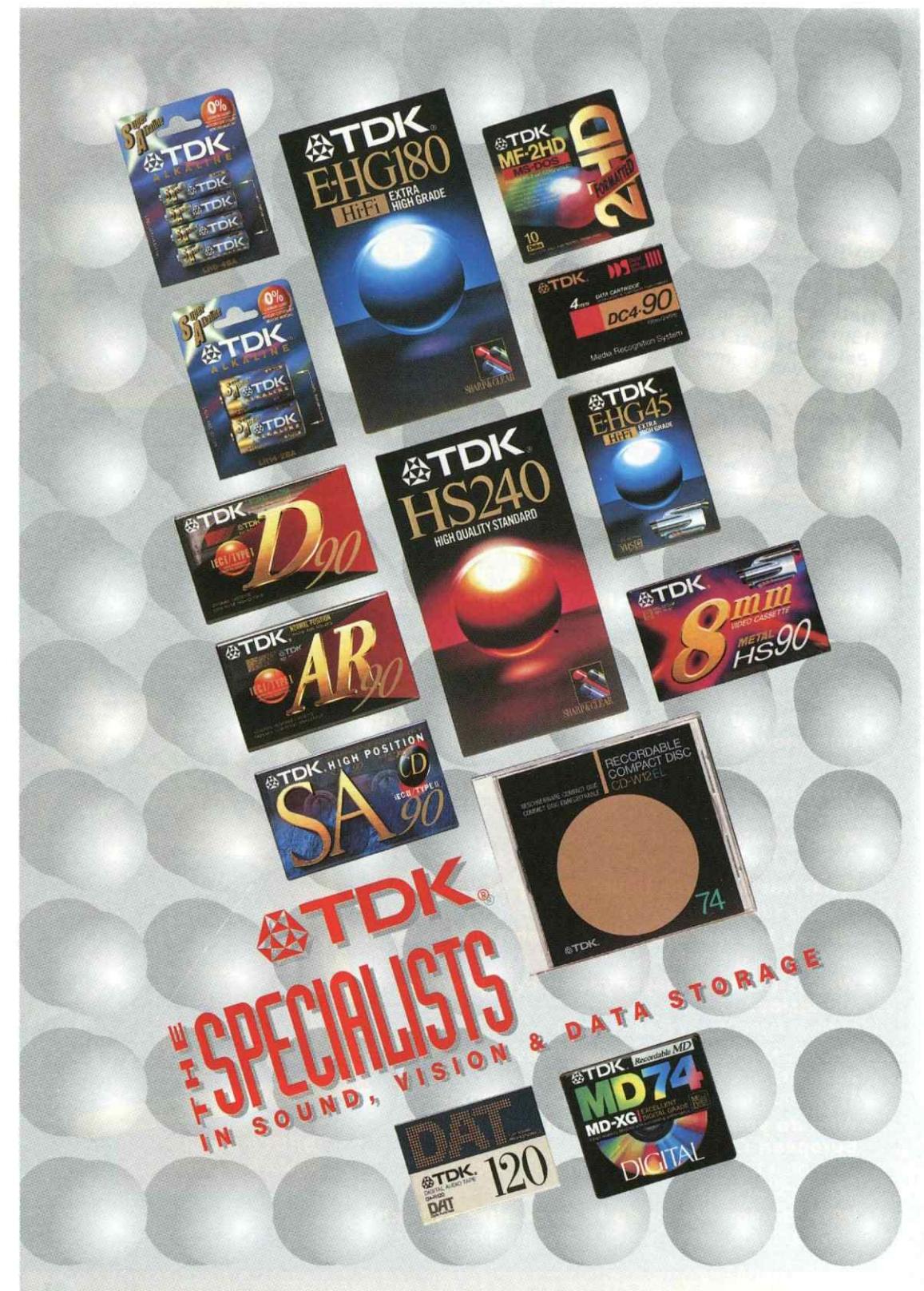
Lewington, who confirmed Coleman had probably played his last game for Palace en route to the Premiership, added: "We were two up and cruising. Then the back four dropped off, no pressure. We should never concede two set pieces but I had a feeling at half time they were going to do it."

★ Palace started off so brightly after central defender Davies put them one up with his first goal for the club. He outran a static defence to head home from a superb cross from Hopkins on the left.

Palace continued to play it sweet and simple and increased their lead when a good touch from McKenzie allowed Freedman room to shoot high into the net for his sixth goal for the club.

The Eagles reappeared for the second half thinking they were home and dry. But a double substitution Sharp worked a treat. Soon after, two pinpoint corners from Brennan saw the Latics a point.

The People



Forward view

by Joe Hare

GRIMSBY NEXT AT SELHURST

Most seasons, the task of having to complete an entire preview column solely on a forthcoming match with Grimsby would be a daunting prospect. Mention the fact that they reside in Cleethorpes not Grimsby, ramble on a bit about Gary Croft being one of the best and most versatile players in the Endsleigh League, suggest that they're too good to go down but can you honestly see Grimsby in the Premiership, and that's about it. However, in 1995/96 Grimsby also means joint second place in the League table, attractive football under an eager young manager, and most importantly it means Ivano Bonnelli.

ITALIAN ACQUISITION

Until his arrival at Blundell Park, Anglo-Italian exchanges had generally been disastrous. Out of the recent batch of exports, only David Platt really made it in Serie A, and the excitement surrounding the supposedly ground breaking move by Andrea Silenzi to Nottingham Forest has been dampened somewhat by a small snag that Silenzi can't get in the team. As for the Anglo-Italian Cup, even before Birmingham and Ancona started consigning each other to hospital beds and then exchanging insults, it was fair to say that the competition hadn't exactly caught the public's imagination. Restoring good relations between the two countries is therefore a sizeable undertaking for any one man, but, by all accounts, Bonnelli is no ordinary man. He makes goals, he scores them, he says he loves living in Cleethorpes

and he is an all-round superhero. He has transformed the image of Grimsby as a football team, making them seem glamorous and even exotic. It doesn't seem quite so strange that they might grace the Premiership next season although if that did happen, survival would surely be impossible for a club currently getting gates of around five and a half thousand.

THE MARINERS' SECOND TOUGH TEST

For both Grimsby and Palace the game may well be something of a watershed. If the Eagles don't gain maxi-

Brian Laws'
Grimsby are
next up at
Selhurst
Park



mum points from the last two home games of 1995 (against Grimsby on Saturday and today versus Luton), then even the play-offs will surely be a forlorn aim. For the Mariners, the trip here will be their second tricky away game in four days because today they face the League leaders, Sunderland. Two positive results and manager Brian Laws will have good cause to think his team can stay near the summit of the division - two defeats - would surely herald a decline towards last season's final position of twelfth.

Looking ahead to 1996, if Palace are to make the type of late charge that brought promotion in 1989, then it would seem that the first eight weeks of the year will be particularly crucial. Over that period Palace will face nine teams, none of which

are currently higher than ninth in the League table. Even if the Eagles are not in a position to challenge themselves, the final two matches of the season may have a considerable bearing upon who does make the Premiership - the last day of the campaign features a visit from Norwich, and the week before that Palace travel to Derby. This division continues to fascinate through its unpredictability, but it seems that a clearer picture is emerging. Norwich, Derby and Sunderland have all begun to purr into a higher gear, whilst teams like Barnsley, West Brom and maybe even Millwall seem to have been red herrings. Just don't forget the Bonnelli factor.



Grimsby Town's Away Form '95/96

Millwall	L 1-2
Derby	D 1-1
Wolves	L 1-4
Reading	W 2-0
Southend	L 0-1
Charlton	W 1-0
Birmingham	L 1-3
Ipswich	D 2-2
Sheff Utd	W 2-1
Tranmere	W 1-0
Norwich	D 2-2

NEXT HOME GAME

PALACE
v
GRIMSBY

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 30TH
3.00PM

Around & About with Stephen Williamson



I trust you all had an enjoyable Christmas Day, and can further enjoy today's match. Doubtless there are a few dubious sweaters amongst the crowd, but more importantly new items of Palace apparel seeing the light of day for the first time!

I am sure you will realise that printing schedules around this time mean that this article is being prepared well in advance. However, with four programmes to come in a little over two weeks starting next Saturday, there will be ample opportunity to catch up with events.

To begin with today I am going to climb on to my soap box - this prompted by Chris Coleman's face staring down at me from the December page of the 1995 calendar. Anyone who was at the Oldham match would have witnessed a hostile reaction to what turned out to be the defender's last game for Palace. This got me thinking just what a very hard bunch of taskmasters the Palace faithful are. I am not necessarily making any criticism - if just half of the 'quotes' attributed to Mr Coleman this season were true, then I have to ask why he was in the first team anyway. But, more importantly, did the cries of 'Judas' and jeering contribute to Palace 'giving away' two points - I believe they did. Earlier this season (and it's still happening) my co-contributor, Paul Romain, highlighted the treatment of Gareth Taylor, and I would repeat that mocking, jeering and comments like 'don't spoil your hair' are hardly likely to instill confidence! In recent seasons Ian Wright has come in for much derisive jeering, prompted mainly by his own stupidity - apparently mocking fans at Highbury. The problem is that he usually responded by scoring against us! We did have a lot to thank Ian for and it is a shame it was spoilt. More recently I couldn't help noticing the almost complete lack of any 'thanks' to Eric Young when he turned out for Wolves. Being more positive, the opposite has been true of some - notably the cheers for John Burridge when he 'warmed up' for Manchester City last season.

In Division One last season Middlesbrough were being chased by Wolves - a situation that would continue for virtually the rest of the campaign. Bolton and Tranmere filled top five positions whilst only Reading had yet to make their bid for glory, which they did at the expense of Barnsley. At the base of the division, three of the four teams would end up being relegated. Another bottom section team, West Bromwich Albion, would escape and Swindon, at this time

seventh from bottom (surely not ominous again!), would be sucked down too.

One further point about the even nature (or mediocrity) of this season's Division One table, is that it is only in our league that the leading team is falling short of the 'required aim' of the two-points-a-game average that usually wins the championship. As I write Sunderland are three points off this 'target' figure, whilst in every other division that average is to be found. Newcastle are five points over after 17 games, Swindon are three points over after nineteen and Chester one over eighteen. In Scotland only Dunfermline in Division One are not ahead of the two point average - they are exactly meeting it. In non-league circles the same is true for Macclesfield, Enfield, Bamber Bridge and Rushden who all exceed the two-point-per-game quota to lead their respective divisions, and if you require more proof the same applies for the top teams in Germany, France, Spain, Portugal, Holland and Italy.

This time last year, Middlesbrough, the eventual champions of Division One, had six points more than Sunderland have now. Perhaps somewhat strangely Notts County who finished bottom, had the same number of points that Luton and Sheffield United had when this article was written.

The fixtures on Boxing Day will herald for almost every team in Division One the start of the second half of the season, and the final 23 games will make or break a few hearts. It is true to say that the eventual champions will not require 92 points to win the title in this division, but the bottom four teams are all behind the one-point-per-game average definitely needed to give a sporting chance of avoiding the drop. Too many teams, Palace included, are only just ahead of that average. 46 points wasn't enough for Swindon or Burnley last season and we all know that the relative comparison (42 points/42 games) in last season's Premiership was exceeded by both Palace and Norwich who made the drop!

So that completes a rather different article from the norm under this heading. Saturday's should take on a more familiar feel with the FA Cup replays and another round of League fixtures taking place between the time of writing and the next deadline. See you then.



A lack of 'thanks' to Eric Young

all know what happened to them. Equally, of the bottom six, which at this time did not include Palace, four managed to escape relegation. Palace had 21 points from 19 games and, at the time of writing, we were two points better off this season, but had played a game more. Somewhat ominously we were seventh from the bottom then and are (or were) now.

In Division One last season Middlesbrough were being chased by Wolves - a situation that would continue for virtually the rest of the campaign. Bolton and Tranmere filled top five positions whilst only Reading had

Junior Eagles & community matters

by Janet Clark



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IN THE COMMUNITY PROJECT

FORMARK

The youth team are all round stars...

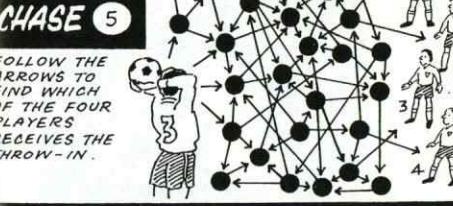
The Palace youth team have not only been setting the South East Counties alight this season, they've also starred in the latest hit BBC TV children's drama 'The Queen's Nose'. The story is adapted from the novel of the same name by Dick King-Smith and is about the adventures of 'Harmony', a twelve year old tomboy who is given a fifty piece puzzle with magical qualities giving her ten wishes that will come true.



The youth team's acting debut was screened on BBC1 the week before Christmas.

★★★ DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS ★★★

Terry Austin	Jessica Cochrane	Ben Girling	B Jiles	Stuart Seurre
Glenn Barber	A Colhoun	Thomas Girling	Joseph Ions	Neil Sharpe
Ryan Baker	Lewis Cooke	Kirsti Green	Jackie Jackson	Carl Skinner
Daniel Barnett	Martin Coverdale	Paul Handley	Adam Kensem	Ben Smith
A Bell	Joseph Coombs	Victoria Hartwell	Kerel King	Mark Smith
Victoria Bertram	B Cryer	P Harvey	James Lambdon	William Stanghon
Ciaran Blackmore	Ian Cumming	Laura Harrison	Miss F MacMillan	Simon Tanner
Steve Causley	Hannah Davidson	Carl Heath	Joel Markham	Matthew Tassell
Victoria Chaplin	Tracy Draper	Adam Hepburn	Ben Matthews	Rebecca Taylor
Phillip Clark	D Dyer	Paul Hepburn	James McCoy	George Touliou
Richard Clark	Wayne Dyson	Terrance Hinde	Nicholas Meadows	Christopher Tull
Ricky Clark	James Ford	David Holgate	Timothy Menary	Simon Waghorn
Daniel Clayton	Phillip Gator	Daniel Hunt	Simon Naish	Dean Walker



Belated November
Birthday Greetings to:
Stephen Carter

WIN WIN WIN

Two Endsleigh League T-Shirts, signed by the Palace squad, are up for grabs in our latest Junior Eagles' competition. By following the arrows simply find which player receives the throw-in. Send your answer to Janet Clark, Junior Eagles Club, CPFC, Selhurst Park, London, SE25 6PU. The first two correct entries drawn out will be the winners. Closing date for entries is Friday 12th January at 12 noon.

CALL PALACE CLUBCALL ON 0891 400 333 FOR THE LATEST CLUB NEWS

Today's Mascots

Today we are delighted to have three mascots to lead out the teams for this Boxing Day fixture, and sincerely hope that Father Christmas delivered all the presents they wanted yesterday!



Kirsty Boyle

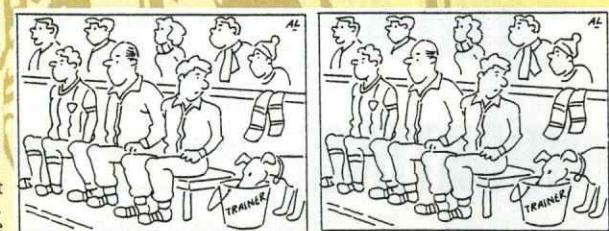
Kirsty Boyle, who is ten years of age, attends Poverest primary school. In her spare time she enjoys playing the keyboard as well as drawing. Kirsty is particularly looking forward to meeting goalkeeper Nigel Martyn, whom she names as her favourite player.

Our second mascot today is seven year old **Scott Murrell**, who is also a big fan of Nigel Martyn. Scott attends Ysgol Llwynycreos school in Wales and his main interest is playing computer games.

Leading out the Luton side is **Joe Oddy** who is aged 9. Joe hails from Balham and goes to Sellincourt junior school. His hobbies include football, swimming and cricket. Joe, who attends games with his dad, names his favourite Hatters' player as Scott Oakes.

We hope that all three mascots have a wonderful day with us and that they are rewarded with an entertaining match.

Spot the Difference



Can you spot the 10 differences between the two pictures?

Solution can be found on page 47

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The Regular Army is an equal opportunities employer under the terms of the Race Relations Act 1976 and welcomes applicants from the ethnic minorities.

US and THEM...

by Ian King



A CHRISTMAS CRACKER

The only time that Palace and Luton have previously met on Boxing Day occurred in 1977 when both clubs were in the same division as now - the old Division Two. Following our return to this League, having gained promotion in a nerve-wracking finish the previous May, the Palace side was now in a transitional period with younger players from the successful youth team being introduced. However, this was no excuse for a defence that was definitely suffering from a surfeit of Christmas fare in the first half.

Luton took the lead after nineteen minutes from a free-kick but Barry Silkman managed to equalise four minutes later, only for Palace's hopes to be dashed again when a suspiciously looking offside Phil Boersma was allowed to carry on and score. The home defence then presented another gift to the visitors as Brian Stein strode through to make a goal for Ron Fletcher. Even after the break Jim Cannon had to clear off the line when Stein had rounded Tony Burns. Palace though then decided to rally with Barry Silkman as the main prompter, stretching the Hatters' defence wider and wider. Silkman scored his second and with the visitors beginning to buckle under the pressure, just as it seemed they would hang on for a victory, up stepped full-back Kenny Sansom to fire home his first goal for Palace to send the fans home happy after this six goal thriller.

NEVER A GOALLESS GAME

There have been about fifty matches between us and not one of them has been goalless, which must be a record of some sort and probably as a result some high scores have been attained. Palace have twice been on the end of six goal thrashings at Kenilworth Road, but one of our biggest cup victories came in a third round FA Cup replay at Selhurst Park on 16th January 1929, when Luton had seven goals put past them without reply.

HAT (TER) TRICK HEROES

Luton also have the distinction (along with Newport County) of conceding the most number of hat-tricks to Palace players, which currently stands at five. Harry Havelock started it off with three in the away League game on 10th November 1928 but still ended up on the losing side. However, he put this right by scoring another three in the cup game mentioned above. Quite naturally Palace's all-time top scorer, Peter Simpson, features and his two League hat-tricks, both at Selhurst Park, were only five games apart.

They came towards the end of one season on 21st April 1930 and then soon after the start of the next on 6th September. Lastly Mark Bright helped himself to three of the four goals the Eagles scored in a Simod Cup tie here on 10th January 1989, when former Palace hero Iain Dowie gave Luton the lead only for Bright to complete his hat-trick in seventeen minutes. Mention of Peter Simpson also prompts me to record that he is easily the highest Palace marksman against the Hatters with thirteen goals to his credit.

A FOOT IN BOTH DAWES!

Albert Dawes signed for Crystal Palace from Northampton Town just before Christmas 1933 and immediately endeared himself to the fans, as he took over the goalscoring mantle from the indisposed Peter Simpson for most of that season. He followed this up in the next campaign by being the leading scorer with nineteen, which included five out of six in one game. Then, after Simpson's departure, he notched thirty-eight League goals in the 1935/36 season - missing only one game and that was because he was selected for the England international squad but not chosen on the day. When promotion hopefuls Luton were looking for a forward to boost their goalscoring tally, it came as a shock for Palace fans that Albert was their man. He left us in December 1936 and gained a Division Three South championship medal with them.

By then his brother Fred was playing at full-back for the Palace and many fans believed Albert was only 'loaned' to Luton, where he scored eighteen goals, as he was back at Selhurst Park fifteen months later in February 1938. Even during the troubled war-time years Albert was a great servant to Palace, appearing in virtually every outfield position in that time. A measure of his contribution to the club over the ten year span until his final game in April 1946, is that he scored over 150 goals in nearly 300 games before and during the war.

Barry Silkman -
scored twice
against Luton in
1977

Mark Bright -
netted a hat-trick
in seventeen
minutes



Albert Dawes -
played for both
Palace and Luton

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Newsdesk Newsdesk



FESTIVE FOOTBALL ON T.V.

Tuesday 26th December

- Blackburn v Man City (8.00pm)

Wednesday 27th December

- Man Utd v Newcastle (6.00pm)

Monday 1st January

- Bolton v Leeds (8.00pm)

Monday 1st January

- Middlesbrough v Aston Villa (6.00pm)

Tuesday 2nd January

- Q.P.R. v Chelsea (8.00pm)

Wednesday 3rd January

- Celtic v Rangers (8.00pm)

All of the above games are on Sky Sports.

(There are no live Endsleigh League matches on ITV over the festive period)

APOLOGIES

We would like to apologise to our readers that the league tables in this current issue are not as up-to-date as usual. Due to print deadlines, we were unable to include last Saturday's matches. We will however be back to 'normal' for the programme against Grimsby.

They said it on Clubcall...

"I was disappointed that when Richard Shaw went to Coventry it seemed as if another player had left and I was just being ignored. However, although I am a little unhappy with the fee, the chairman has been honest with me and told me I can now go and talk to other clubs."

Chris Coleman tells Clubcall subscribers of his meeting with Ron Noades.

"They have a passionate crowd behind them and it will be a difficult game in difficult conditions."

Ray Lewington almost expecting the torrential rain and alien surroundings at Roker Park before he even boarded the coach.

"In conditions like that you have to concen-

GARETH MAKES IT THREE....

When Gareth Davies joined Palace from Hereford in the close season, he had no false ideas that things would be easy. Speaking at the club's open day he stated that it would take a while to adjust to the pace of the First Division, despite having played almost a hundred League games for Hereford at the lower level.

Gareth went into Steve Kember's successful reserve side and rapidly became a favourite with the second string fans at Champion Hill stadium.

He played in twelve of their first thirteen fixtures and was on the losing side just once - against West Ham when Jeroen Boere, now a Palace player, sank Kember's men with a second half goal. Ray Lewington was also impressed by the young Welshman's performances, and gave him the chance of first team football when he included him in the side to face Wolves at Selhurst Park in late November. Gareth took to the first team like a duck to water but, having said that, the young central defender is the first to admit that he has plenty to learn.

He scored the third League goal of his

career with the opener against Oldham at Selhurst and of this strike Ray Lewington paid him the compliment of saying: "We haven't attacked the ball like that this season and I believe that Gareth was the only player who could have scored that goal on current form. What is now required is to have players follow his lead."

The Welsh selectors obviously feel the same way about Gareth as we do at Selhurst, as he has already been capped at under-21 level and it can only be a matter of time before that coveted 'full' cap comes along.



Gareth Davies

TAYLOOOOOOOOR....

You could hear the commentators in the press box shout the name of Gareth Taylor long and loud when he finally scored his first goal for the first team at the Victoria Ground ten days ago.

It was coincidence that, as was the case with another new player Dougie Freedman some twelve weeks previously, the first goal of his Palace career had come against Stoke City. And, although Gareth's first twelve League appearances for the Eagles failed to produce a goal for the big West Country striker, supporters and the media have been quick to realise his potential. He has struck up a good partnership with Dougie Freedman and also combined well with new find Leon McKenzie. At international level also Wales have been quick to promote him from under-21 to full level and, playing out of position, Gareth showed up well in the difficult 1-1 draw in Albania recently.

With the problem of scoring that first goal now overcome, fans are looking to Gareth to supply some of the goals which could see the team move up that Endsleigh Division One table. Let us hope that some of them are forthcoming in this busy Christmas period.



Gareth Taylor scored his first goal for Palace at Stoke

COLEMAN DEPARTS AFTER LENGTHY PALACE CAREER

When Chris Coleman departed for Blackburn Rovers for £2,825,000 a fortnight ago, it ended a four and a half year association with the club. First team coach Ray Lewington said of the departure: "Obviously I'm disappointed to lose a very good player, however the situation we found ourselves in this year had to be resolved in one way or another."

There has just been too many players who have been wanting to go, and I think probably the sooner we clear the ranks the better for everyone. It will weaken the team with him going but, having said that, who we put in will want to be here and play for Crystal Palace."

Signing from Swansea City in July 1991, Chris had to wait until the end of October of that year before he made his Palace League debut, which came from the substitutes' bench against Chelsea at Selhurst Park. That game resulted in a 0-0 draw and it is interesting to note that of the thirteen players on duty that day, the departure of Chris Coleman means that only Nigel Martyn is still with the club. Gareth Southgate, Lee Sinnott, Andy Gray, Eric Young, Andy Thorn, Paul Mortimer, Geoff Thomas, Mark Bright, Marco Gabbiadini, Eddie McGoldrick and John Humphrey have all since gone their separate ways.

Chris strangely enough ended that first season as a makeshift striker, a situation that he stated openly that he did not enjoy, but his four League goals helped the Eagles to mid-table respectability. The following campaign saw Coleman make a handful of appearances in forward positions, but it was not until the Christmas period that he again established himself as a first team regular, this time in his more favoured role as the central defensive partner to Eric Young. The season ended in heartbreak when relegation to Division One meant that the Eagles became one of the first teams to lose a Premier League place.

The Young and Coleman combination was to be a major factor in regaining Premiership status when, in 1993/94, only forty-six League goals were conceded. It was one of the highlights of Chris' career when he picked up that First Division championship medal. It was also a season that had rubber-stamped him as a regular feature of the Welsh national side.

Yet again it was a case of 'change partners' when, last season, Coleman and Shaw impressed in the centre of defence. The blow of relegation was caused more by the lack of ability to score than the deficiencies at the back. Chris was one of a group of players who then decided that their future was not with Crystal Palace. Many would disagree with that train of thought and it could well have been that without the mass exodus of playing staff, Coppel, Lewington and Nicholas could have immediately put the club on the path to promotion.

As it is rebuilding is taking time and, although everybody is sad to see the departure of Coleman, his future career will be followed with interest by the many friends that he has made at Selhurst Park over the last few years.



Chris Coleman

FROM THE TREATMENT TABLE

with Peter McClean

The only recent injury of any note that we have suffered was that ankle problem sustained by David Hopkin against Oldham at Selhurst Park. Although at the time of writing David was doubtful for the game at West Bromwich, he should be fit to resume over the Christmas period.

This season we have been reasonably lucky with the small number of injuries that we have had to contend with. In pre-season the lads became very fit and flexible and this has had a lot to do with that good situation as far as the treatment table has been concerned. Both Jeroen Boere and Tony Gale suffered quite bad injuries in training but they are thankfully now recovered and are nearing full match fitness. I would like to pay tribute to the YTS trainees

who this year have been superb in their dedication to fitness. Because of this dedication we have had hardly any problems with them and this is certainly a superb state of affairs. The fact that we have gone into Christmas with as few injuries as we have augers well for the New Year, which is the make or break time for Crystal Palace.

I trust that you are all having a very enjoyable festive season.
Peter.



David Hopkin - troubled by an ankle injury

Crystal Palace v Luton Town

Previous meetings



LEAGUE GAMES

Season	Home	Away	Div	Home	W	D	L	For-Agst
1920-21	W 2-1	D 2-2	3	Home 22	12	8	2	51 - 29
1925-26	W 3-0	L 2-3	3(S)	Away 22	4	6	12	27 - 46
1926-27	D 1-1	L 0-1	3(S)	Totals 44	16	14	14	78 - 75
1927-28	W 3-2	L 1-6	3(S)					
1928-29	W 3-0	L 3-5	3(S)					
1929-30	W 4-1	D 2-2	3(S)					
1930-31	W 5-1	W 2-1	3(S)					
1931-32	D 1-1	L 0-3	3(S)					
1932-33	W 3-0	D 1-1	3(S)					
1933-34	D 2-2	L 1-2	3(S)					
1934-35	W 2-1	D 2-2	3(S)					
1935-36	W 5-1	L 0-6	3(S)					
1936-37	L 0-4	L 2-5	3(S)					
1963-64	D 1-1	W 4-0	3					
1973-74	L 1-2	L 1-2	2					
1977-78	D 3-3	L 0-1	2					
1978-79	W 3-1	W 1-0	2					
1981-82	D 3-3	L 0-1	2					
1989-90	D 1-1	L 0-1	1					
1990-91	W 1-0	D 1-1	1					
1991-92	D 1-1	D 1-1	1					
1993-94	W 3-2	W 1-0	1					

CUP GAMES

Season	Home	Away	Cup Round	P	W	D	L	For-Agst
1905-06	W 1-0	—	FA 4(O)					
1928-29	W 7-0	D 0-0	FA 3					
1971-72	W 2-0	—	FL 2					
1985-86	L 1-2	—	FA 3					
1988-89	W 4-1	—	FM 3					
1989-90	W 4-1	—	FM 2					
1990-91	W 3-1	—	FM 4					
1993-94	W 6-1	—	22-5					
			Cup Games Summary	P	W	D	L	For-Agst
				8	6	1	1	22-5

OVERALL MEETINGS

	P	W	D	L	For-Agst
Home	29	18	8	3	73 - 34
Away	23	4	7	12	27 - 46
Totals	53	22	15	15	100 - 80

John McBride Association of Football Statistics

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THE
THOMSON
LOCAL

Endsleigh Encounters

by Terry Byfield

Apart from how close this division is at the moment, the main talking point amongst the footballing public recently has been the managerial merry-go-round, as the push for the Premiership continues. In the past couple of weeks Norwich, Wolves, Sheffield United and our visitors today, Luton Town, have all parted company with their managers.

Today's Boxing Day fixtures sees a busy schedule for all clubs, but the pressure will undoubtedly be on the teams who have appointed new management, as supporters look for a quick change in fortune.

The most recent departure was Luton's Terry Westley after just five months in charge. At the time of going to press a replacement hadn't yet been named, although Mike Walker and Lennie Lawrence appeared to be the front-runners for the vacant position. Prior to last Saturday's matches the Hatters were rooted at the bottom of the table, with only one win in nine games and had the unfortunate distinction of being the lowest scorers in the division. Their defensive record is also cause for concern - conceding 34 goals. To try and halt this unwanted record, Luton have signed American goalkeeper Ian Feuer from West Ham for £585,000. Palace meanwhile, who had an excellent win at the in form Stoke ten days ago, will be hoping to build upon their recent run of just one defeat in six games. Dougie Freedman has now made his way into the top positions of the scoring chart, whilst Gareth Taylor finally got off the mark in that game at the Potteries.

Leicester are involved in one of the earlier kick-offs today against Ipswich Town. Mark McGhee left Filbert Street under a cloud as he walked out to Molineux. The Foxes have managed to achieve better results away from home, but their visitors today have only won two on their travels and will be looking to Alex Mathie to continue his excellent start to the season in front of goal. Better news on the defensive front for the East Anglian side is that keeper Craig Forrest has been given the all clear to continue playing after a worrying kidney complaint. Leicester came back from two down to beat Norwich in their last televised match and with a division that is so tight, it only takes a couple of victories to put you in the promotion frame as that win over the Canaries showed with them moving into third place.

Wolves, who entertain Millwall, were unable to give Mark McGhee a winning start in his first match in charge, as the improving Port Vale came away with maximum points. However, McGhee stated after the game that he feels his

new side can still achieve a play-off place. Millwall, after looking certainties for promotion, have had a disastrous run of five consecutive defeats, slipping to ninth in the table.

Sheffield United, who are now managed by ex Everton boss Howard Kendall, face Birmingham City. The Blades have conceded an amazing 40 goals this term and still occupy a relegation place. Barry Fry's side have faltered of late but are still within easy reach of a chance of



Palace's
Dougie
Freedman -
seven
League
goals so
far this
season.

promotion. Backed by massive support, this could prove to be a key factor in their quest for a return to the top flight for the first time since 1985/86.

At Oakwell Barnsley are at home to Stoke City. Lou Macari's side has made an excellent start to the season - Palace ending their eight match unbeaten run. The Tykes have struggled of late, collecting just 6 points from their previous 7 matches.

Two teams desperate for points meet at Vicarage Road, where Watford entertain Reading. Glenn Roeder has recently been linked with signing ex Palace man Mark Bright from Sheffield Wednesday, although he would have to sell first to raise the cash. The Hornets have not won for nine games and will be hoping to change things soon before it may become too late.

In form Charlton take on Terry Fenwick's Portsmouth. Fenwick has been threatened with the sack if Pompey are relegated, however he is set to be given £5 million for new players by a reported takeover consortium. The Valiants have crept up the table with four wins in six games and are currently lying fourth.

Huddersfield take on second-placed Derby County who have won six of their last seven. Young striker Dean Sturridge has been linking well with Marco Gabbiadini and is the Rams' top scorer with 10 in the League and Cup. The Terriers meanwhile are up in fifth, so on paper this should be a close match.

Norwich City are at home to Southend United. These two clubs have already met earlier in the season in a 1-1 draw at Roots Hall. The Shrimpers are unbeaten in six matches whilst Norwich

have lost two of their last three.

Two teams currently having contrasting fortunes at the moment meet at Vale Park, when John Rudge's side take on West Bromwich Albion. Vale, although still 21st, have won their last three games - this after just one win all season! The Hawthorns are having a dreadful run, losing their previous nine matches which is their worst sequence of results for ten years.

Peter Reid's Sunderland meet Grimsby in a clash of two of the early promotion contenders. The Mariners, who were last in the top division way back in 1948, are looking to new signing Ivano Bonetti to give them some hope of achieving that goal with Brian Laws stating: "We can turn anyone over on our day and Ivano has lifted the club beyond our wildest dreams."

Finally today Tranmere are at home to Oldham Athletic. John King's team has suffered a similar fate to that of Millwall, losing their last four games after starting the season so promisingly whilst the Latics have registered just one victory in their previous five fixtures.

TODAY'S OTHER FIRST DIVISION FIXTURES

Barnsley v Stoke City (12.00)
Charlton v Portsmouth (12.00)
Huddersfield v Derby
Leicester v Ipswich (11.30)
Norwich v Southend
Port Vale v West Brom (12.00)
Sheff Utd v Birmingham (12.00)
Sunderland v Grimsby
Tranmere v Oldham
Watford v Reading (11.30)
Wolves v Millwall

TODAY'S PREMIERSHIP FIXTURES

Arsenal v QPR (12.00)
Aston Villa v Liverpool
Blackburn v Man City (8.00)
Chelsea v Wimbledon (12.00)
Everton v Middlesbrough
Nottm Forest v Sheff Wed
Southampton v Tottenham (12.00)
West Ham v Coventry (12.00)

PLAYING WEDNESDAY

Bolton v Leeds (8.00)
Man Utd v Newcastle (6.00)
(Matches kick off at 3.00pm unless otherwise stated)

1st Division to view

Endsleigh Insurance League statistics 1995/96

CLUBS

RESULT SEQUENCES

LEAGUE POSITIONS

(Home results in bold type)

LAST 12 RESULTS											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
BARNESLEY	D	L	D	L	W	D	W	D	L	L	
BIRMINGHAM	W	W	W	D	W	D	L	D	L	W	
CHARLTON	D	D	W	D	L	W	D	W	L	W	
CRYSTAL PALACE	L	W	L	L	W	D	L	D	W		
DERBY	W	D	W	L	W	W	D	W	W		
GRIMSBY	W	D	L	W	D	W	W	L	D	D	
HUDDERSFIELD	L	D	D	W	D	D	W	L	W	W	
IPSWICH	L	D	L	W	D	L	D	W	D		
LEICESTER	D	D	W	L	W	L	D	D	L	W	
LUTON	L	L	W	L	D	D	L	W	L		
MILLWALL	D	W	W	D	D	L	L	L	L	L	
NORWICH	D	W	D	D	L	W	W	L	D	L	
OLDHAM	D	D	W	D	D	D	L	L	D	W	
PORT VALE	W	L	D	L	D	L	D	W	W	W	
PORTSMOUTH	D	L	W	L	D	D	L	W	W	W	
READING	L	W	L	W	L	D	W	L	D	D	
SHEFFIELD U	L	L	L	W	L	D	L	D	L	D	
SOUTHEND	L	W	D	L	D	D	W	W	D	D	
STOKE	D	W	L	W	D	W	W	W	L	W	
SUNDERLAND	D	W	D	D	W	D	L	W	W	D	
TRANMERE	L	W	D	W	W	L	W	W	L	L	
WATFORD	L	D	D	L	D	L	W	L	W	W	
WEST BROM	W	W	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	
WOLVES	W	L	D	W	L	L	L	D	W	L	

(Up to and including 18/12/95)

Goals SCORED (Best/worst per division)

Division	BEST				WORST			
	Team	Gls.	Pld.	Ave.	Team	Gls.	Pld.	Ave.
Premier	Newcastle	37	18	2.06	Man C	10	18	0.56
First	Ipswich	37	22	1.68	Luton	17	22	0.77
Second	Crewe	40	20	2.00	Brentford	16	20	0.80
Third	Preston	43	20	2.15	Hull	17	20	0.85

(Up to and including 18/12/95)

Goals CONCEDED (Best/worst per division)

Division	BEST				WORST			
	Team	Gls.	Pld.	Ave.	Team	Gls.	Pld.	Ave.
Premier	Arsenal	12	18	0.67	Coventry	40	18	2.22
First	Middlesbro	16	21	0.76	Sheffield U	40	22	1.82
Second	Sunderland	15	20	0.75	Swindon	35	21	1.67
Three	Gillingham	7	19	0.37	Torquay	41	20	2.05

(Up to and including 18/12/95)

THE FIRST DIVISION AT A GLANCE 95/96

HOME	AWAY																					
	BARNESLEY	0-5	0-2	2-0	1-1	2-2	1-0	2-2	1-1	0-0	2-2	3-1	2-1	1-1	0-0	2-2	2-0	1-1	1-1	2-1	1-0	1-0
BARNESLEY																						
BIRMINGHAM																						
CHARLTON	1-1	3-1																				
C. PALACE	4-3	1-1	0-0																			
DERBY	4-1	2-0																				
GRIMSBY	3-1	1-2																				
HUDDERSFIELD	3-0	4-2																				
IPSWICH		1-5	1-0	2-2																		
LEICESTER	2-2	1-1	2-3																			
LUTON		0-0	1-1	1-2																		
MILLWALL	0-1	0-2	0-1	2-1	0-0	2-1	1-0															
NORWICH	3-1	1-0	2-2	2-1	0-1	0-0	2-1	2-1														
OLDHAM	4-0	3-1	3-0	1-1	0-2	2-2	1-1	2-2	1-1	0-1	0-0	2-3	1-1	2-2	1-2	2-1	0-0	1-1	1-1	1-1	1-1	1-2
PORT VALE	1-2	1-2	2-2	1-1	0-1	4-0	0-1	2-1	0-1	0-0	0-2	3-2	1-1	2-3	0-1	1-0	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-1	2-2
PORTSMOUTH	0-1	2-0	0-2	3-1	1-4	3-1	1-2	2-2	1-1	4-1	0-0	2-4	3-3	0-2	0-1	1-1	0-2	4-2	0-1	2-1	3-1	0-1
READING	0-0	0-1	3-2	0-2	3-1	1-4	3-1	1-2	2-2	4-1	0-0	2-4	3-3	0-2	0-1	1-1	0-2	4-2	0-1	2-1	3-1	0-1
SHEFF UTD	2-0	2-3	0-2	1-2	0-2	2-1	3-1	2-1	4-1	0-0	2-4	3-3	0-2	0-1	1-1	0-2	4-2	0-1	2-1	3-1	0-1	2-1
SOUTHEND	3-1	1-1	1-0	0-0	2-1	0-1	5-0	1-0	1-1	0-1	0-1	3-0	2-0	1-0	1-1	0-1	2-3	2-2	2-2	2-2	2-2	2-1
STOKE																						
SUNDERLAND	2-1	1-0																				
TRANMERE		0-0		5-1	0-1	3-1																
WATFORD	2-3	1-1	0-0																			
WEST BROM	1-0	1-0				1-2	0-0	2-3		1-4		2-1	2-0	3-1	0-1	0-1	1-0	0-1	1-1			
WOLVES						3-0	4-1	2-2		0-0		0-2	1-3	0-1	1-0	1-4	1-0	1-1				

Up to and including 18th December 1995

Fixture Focus

Wednesday 27th, December 1995

Avon Insurance Combination
Crystal Palace v Bristol City
Kick off 7.00pm, at Dulwich Hamlet

Saturday 30th December 1995
Endsleigh League Division One
Crystal Palace v Grimsby Town
Kick off 3.00pm, at Selhurst Park

SE Counties League Div 2
Crystal Palace v Luton Town
Kick off 11.00am, at Mitcham



TOP SEQUENCES 1995/96

Wins: 4 Birmingham, Grimsby, Leicester, Norwich, Stoke
Unbeaten: 11 Sunderland
Defeats: 9* West Bromwich
Without a win: 9 Watford
Without a draw: 15* West Bromwich
Highest home score: 6 Sunderland
Highest away score: 5 Birmingham, Charlton
Highest scoring game: 7 C. Palace 4 Barnsley 3
(*current sequence)

(Up to and including 18/12/95)

LEADING FIRST DIVISION SCORERS

(League only)

Aldridge 12
Roberts 12
Blake 11
Goodman 10
Sturridge 10
Booth 8
McCarthy 7
Bennett 7
Freedman 7
Gray 7
Hunt J 7
Malkin 7
Marshall 7
Mathie 7
McLoughlin 7
Moore 7
Payton 7
Philips 7
Ward 7
Willems 7

Tranmere 12

Leicester 12

Sheff Utd 11

Wolves 10

Derby County 10

Huddersfield Town 8

Oldham 8

Tranmere Rovers 7

Crystal Palace 7

Sunderland 7

Birmingham City 7

Hunt 7

West Brom 7

Millwall 7

Ipswich 7

Portsmouth 7

Tranmere Rovers 7

Barnsley 7

Watford 7

Norwich City 7

Derby County 7

TOTALS 263 2,986,752 11,356

Other divisions

Pld Total Average

Premier 179 4,847,368 27,080

Second 242 1,233,982 5,099

Third 240 818,082 3,409

GRAND TOTAL 924 9,886,184 10,699

Highest 42,019 (Man Utd) 6,352 (Wimbledon)

Lowest 12,016 (Gillingham) 4,019 (Sheffield Utd)

Note: all calculations are based on

attendances as first published.

(Up to and including 18/12/95)</p

First Division Table 95/96

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	P
1. Sunderland	21	6	3	1	19	7	4	5	2	10	9	38
2. Derby	22	6	4	1	20	9	4	3	4	15	18	37
3. Leicester	22	4	3	4	18	18	6	3	2	19	14	36
4. Charlton	23	4	5	2	15	13	5	4	3	14	10	36
5. Huddersfield	22	8	1	2	24	13	2	4	5	8	14	35
6. Grimsby	22	5	5	1	13	8	4	3	4	14	16	35
7. Norwich	22	5	4	2	13	9	4	3	4	21	17	34
8. Stoke City	22	4	4	3	13	8	5	3	3	19	18	34
9. Birmingham	22	5	5	1	18	12	4	2	5	14	17	34
10. Millwall	23	4	3	5	11	13	5	4	2	13	15	31
11. Southend	22	6	3	2	15	11	2	4	5	10	16	31
12. Oldham	22	5	4	2	21	12	2	5	4	13	14	30
13. Tranmere	22	5	3	3	21	13	3	3	3	11	11	30
14. Ipswich	22	5	3	3	21	17	2	5	4	16	16	29
15. Barnsley	22	5	4	2	14	14	2	3	6	14	24	28
16. Palace	21	2	5	3	12	14	4	3	4	12	13	26
17. Portsmouth	22	4	4	3	20	15	2	3	6	14	21	25
18. Reading	22	4	3	4	17	17	1	6	4	10	13	24
19. West Brom	22	5	1	5	13	13	2	2	7	12	22	24
20. Watford	22	3	5	3	15	12	2	3	6	12	18	23
21. Port Vale	22	2	3	6	12	18	3	5	3	13	12	23
22. Wolves	22	3	4	4	13	14	2	3	6	14	19	22
23. Sheff Utd	22	3	2	6	14	18	2	2	7	14	22	19
24. Luton	22	2	3	6	13	18	2	3	6	4	16	18

Up to and including 19th December 1995.

Crystal Palace appearances and goals 1995/96 season

Player	D.O.B.	Signed from	League		Cup		CP career	
			Apps	Gls	Apps	Gls	Apps	Gls
Jeroen Boere	18.11.67	West Ham 4.9.95	-	(4)	-	-	-	4
Chris Coleman	10.6.70	(Now Blackburn)	17	-	4	-	190	16
Ian Cox	25.3.71	Carshalton 8.3.94	-	(2)	-	-	15	-
Jason Cundy	12.11.69	loan from Tottenham	1	-	-	-	1	-
Gareth Davies	11.12.73	Hereford 1.7.95	4	1	-	-	4	1
Iain Dowie	9.1.65	(now West Ham)	4	2	-	-	25	10
Bruce Dyer	13.4.75	Watford 9.3.94	13 (4)	5	4	-	54	7
Marc Edworthy	24.12.72	Plymouth 26.5.95	20	-	4	-	24	-
Dougie Freedman	21.1.74	Barnet 8.9.95	15 (2)	7	-	-	17	7
Tony Gale	19.11.59	Blackburn 1.9.95	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jimmy Glass	1.8.73	Trainee 1.7.91	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dean Gordon	10.2.73	Trainee 1.7.91	19	4	4	-	146	14
David Hopkin	21.8.70	Chelsea 18.7.95	20	2	4	4	24	6
Ray Houghton	9.1.62	A. Villa 23.3.95	19	1	4	-	35	3
Brian Launders	8.1.76	Trainee 12.8.93	-	(1)	-	(1)	5	-
Nigel Martyn	11.8.66	B. Rovers 15.11.89	21	-	4	-	319	-
Damian Matthew	23.9.70	Chelsea 11.2.94	4 (4)	-	1 (1)	-	28	1
Leon McKenzie	17.5.78	Trainee 6.10.95	2 (6)	-	3	1	11	1
George Ndah	23.12.74	Trainee 17.8.92	3 (3)	-	(1)	-	46	3
Darren Pitcher	12.10.69	Charlton 1.7.94	17	-	2 (1)	-	56	2
Andy Roberts	20.3.74	Millwall 18.7.95	12 (2)	-	3 (1)	-	18	-
Simon Rodger	3.10.71	Trainee 1.7.90	3 (4)	-	1	-	118	5
Anthony Scully	12.6.76	Trainee 1.12.93	-	(2)	-	-	2	-
Richard Shaw	11.9.68	(Now Coventry)	15	-	4	-	268	3
Paul Sparrow	24.3.75	Trainee 8.7.93	1	-	(1)	-	2	-
Gareth Taylor	25.2.73	B. Rovers 29.9.95	12 (1)	1	-	-	13	1
Steve Taylor	7.1.70	Bromsgrove 19.6.95	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jamie Vincent	18.6.75	Trainee 8.7.93	9 (3)	-	2 (1)	1	15	1
Rhys Wilmot	21.2.62	Grimsby 5.8.94	-	-	-	-	7	-

Up to and including 22nd December 1995.

Premier Division Table 95/96

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	P
1. Newcastle	18	9	0	0	21	4	4	3	2	16	11	42
2. Man Utd	18	6	3	0	20	8	4	2	3	15	11	35
3. Tottenham	18	4	2	3	10	9	5	4	0	14	8	33
4. Liverpool	18	5	2	1	20	5	3	2	4	11	10	31
5. Aston Villa	18	5	3	1	14	6	4	2	3	11	8	32
6. Arsenal	18	5	4	0	15	7	3	3	3	8	5	31
7. Middlesbrough	18	6	2	1	14	5	2	4	3	5	7	30
8. Nottm F.	16	4	4	0	16	8	2	5	1	10	15	27
9. Leeds	17	5	1	3	11	9	2	3	3	12	15	25
10. Chelsea	18	4	4	1	11	8	2	3	4	6	11	25
11. Blackburn	18	7	1	1	25	7	0	2	7	3	17	24
12. Everton	18	4	2	3	14	11	2	3	4	8	9	23
13. West Ham	18	3	3	3	10	13	3	2	4	9	11	23
14. Sheff Wed.	18	3	2	4	14	14	2	4	3	12	13	21
15. Sc'ton	18	3	3	3	9	9	1	2	6	8	19	17
16. QPR	18	2	3	4	10	16	2	0	7	4	10	15
17. Man City	17	3	2	3	4	5	1	1	7	5	21	15
18. Wimbledon	18	2	3	4	12	15	1	2	6	11	23	14
19. Coventry	18	2	3	4	13	16	0	3	6	10	24	12
20. Bolton	18	2	3	4	7	12	0	0	9	9	22	9

Up to and including 18th December 1995.

LEAGUE & CUP facts and statistics 1995/96

Results... fixtures... attendances... scorers... line-ups... Results... fixtures... attendances... scorers... line-ups... Results...

DATE	OPPONENTS	RES.	ATT.	POS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	SUB	SUB	SUB	REFEREE
Sat Aug 12	Barnsley	W	4	3	12,166	2													
Sat Aug 19	Ipswich Town	L	0	1	12,681	11													
Sat Aug 26	Charlton Athletic	D	1	1	14,092	9													
Tue Aug 29	Sheffield United	W	3	2	10,378	4													
Sat Sep 9	Birmingham City	D	0	0	19,403	14													
Tue Sep 12	Watford	D	0	0	8,780	12													
Sat Sep 16	Huddersfield Town	D	0	0	15,980	15													
Sat Sep 23	Oldham Athletic	L	1	3	6,586	17													
Sat Sep 30	Stoke City	D	1	1	15,010	18													
Sat Oct 7	Sunderland	L	0	1	14,329	20													
Sun Oct 15	Port Vale	W	2	1	6,935	18													
Sun Oct 22	Millwall	L	1	2	15,136	20													
Sat Oct 28	Leicester City	W	3	2	18,376	17													
Sat Nov 4	Reading	L	0	2	16,687	19													
Sat Nov 11	Norwich City	L	0	1	14,156	20													
Sun Nov 19	Southend United	D	1	1	5,089	19													
Wed Nov 22	Wolverhampton Wanderers	W	3	2	13,340	16													
Sat Nov 25	Derby County	D	0	0	14,109	17													
Sun Dec 3	Sunderland	L	0	1	12,777	18													
Sat Dec 9	Oldham Athletic	D	2	2	14,108	18													
Sat Dec 16	Stoke City	W																	

Team Check



CRYSTAL PALACE

Red and blue shirts, red shorts, red socks

- 1 Nigel Martyn
- 2 Marc Edworthy
- 3 Dean Gordon
- 4 Andy Roberts
- 5 David Tuttle
- 6 David Hopkin
- 7 Darren Pitcher
- 8 Ray Houghton
- 9 Dougie Freedman
- 10 George Ndah
- 11 Leif Andersen



LUTON TOWN

White shirts with blue sleeves, blue shorts and blue and white hooped socks

- 1 Ian Feuer
- 2 Julian James
- 3 Mitchell Thomas
- 4 Gary Waddock
- 5 Steve Davis
- 6 Darren Patterson
- 7 Bontcho Guentchev
- 8 Scott Oakes
- 9 John Taylor
- 10 David Oldfield
- 11 Tony Thorpe

REFEREE AND LINESMEN

The revised referee and linesmen for tonight's game are as follows:

Referee: Mr P. Taylor

Linesmen: Mr A.R. Legg (yellow flag) and Mr M. Stobart (red trim).

Reserve official: Mr J. Kasey.

WEMBLEY INTERNATIONAL

Tickets are available to purchase for the following international at Wembley:

v HUNGARY 18th May 1996

Prices are: £45 and £40 Olympic Gallery, £30, £26, £23, £20, £16, £13. Applications should be sent to Paula Morley, Selhurst Park, London, SE25 6PU. Cheques should be made out to Crystal Palace F.C. Final date for application is 15.4.96.



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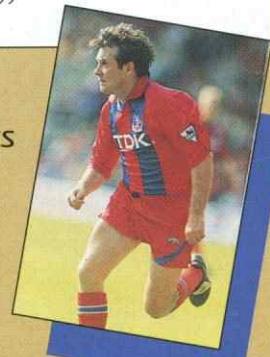
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