



ENDSLEIGH
LEAGUE
DIVISION ONE



V
UTON TOWN

Saturday
23rd March
1996

Kick-off
3.00 p.m.



MATCH SPONSOR



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SHEFFIELD

United

£1.50



A WINNING TEAM



WARD'S BREWERY - THE OFFICIAL CLUB SPONSOR

From the Boardroom

Chairman Mike McDonald, hopes you enjoy the game but realises that every result is important.

Like it or not we are in a relegation battle that, if you were an uninvolved neutral, would be an exciting and unpredictable one to observe.

From our perspective it's one that won't seem to go away, however well we seem to perform on the field. It often seems to be two steps forward and one back with plenty of other teams threatening to fall through the trapdoor and then rescuing their immediate crisis with a surprising victory.

Our long-awaited away win at Birmingham might have appeared to all of us as the turning point of our season. It was a day when we played well, took three points and benefited from other teams poor results.

A leap up the table ensued and the team looked certain to beat Stoke in our last home game right up to the final minute. Indeed, visiting manager Lou Macari rated his team's visit as a tough prospect and admitted they were fortunate to get a 0-0 draw.

A point was precious little reward for our attacking play but the display seemed to convince us that we were on our way upwards. The defeat at Millwall undid all the good work and the team knew it.

It would be easy to be critical because our expectations were so high and our disappointment was correspondingly hard to take. But it was only our third defeat in sixteen league games and I think we would all have gladly accepted that in advance.

The Club has put quality on the field in the belief that it will win the day in the end. Quality and experience matter and, in the heat of the battle ahead, I am confident that it will prove crucial in our favour.

But nerves and pressure are bound to play some part in every player's character on occasions and ours wouldn't be human if they didn't feel the weight of it sometimes. Let's hope that the game at Millwall was a rare "bad day at the office" for our lads.

I don't mind admitting that when I took over the Club I was counting on Sheffield United's almost legendary post-Christmas spirit from the threat of relegation winning the day again.

In reality, the atrocious first half of the season and the subsequent efforts to change things round have made it even more difficult to pull away from trouble.

Anyone who blindly claims that there is "nothing to worry about" is surely not feeling the same emotions as the rest of us. It's a worrying time but I'm certain that, of all the teams in the lower reaches of this Division, the Blades have the greatest potential to pull off a series of wins to take them to safety.

It is looking increasingly likely that the outcome will not be decided until the last game of the season - we have Port Vale at home - and I suppose that has been the likely scenario for quite a while.

We need to stay in this Division and make a fresh start next August. Your attendance and vocal support is very much needed so I hope you will enjoy the Family Day today and encourage your friends to take advantage of the "Four Game Special" mini-ticket offer on page 42 of today's programme.



SHEFFIELD UNITED

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Howard Kendall

One point from the six on offer in our last two games has been a setback although most people will agree that our performance here against Stoke City was worthy of a win.

When you look back over each ninety minute performance, sometimes you think you got what you deserved. That was certainly the case at the New Den last week but we had every right to feel hard done by against Lou Macari's team.

We came up against a goalkeeper in inspired form and we have to hold up our hands and admit he did brilliantly. But, if the opposition goalkeeper is the man of the match, then you know you can at least be pleased that he was tested with efforts on target, and we had any number of those.

The visit to Millwall should have been a good opportunity to win. They are a side who have struggled recently and were looking anxiously over their shoulder at relegation. But we produced the worst display since I came here.

Too many of our players had an off day and, although it isn't often they all play well together, you can't expect a good result when so many are off the boil. I hope it was a one-off performance and I have to say that, given our displays up to the Millwall match, it's more likely to be that than a regular occurrence.

Luton Town are welcomed today and we both know the significance of the game for the two teams. The "Hatters" made an excellent start under Lennie

Lawrence and although they haven't quite maintained it recently, they only lost to very late goals at Crystal Palace in midweek.

When we went there a few weeks ago they were very well organised defensively. It was one of our better performances and we received a lot of praise from people within the game who watched it; unfortunately, we couldn't finish off our good work

"We came up against a goalkeeper in inspired form and we have to hold up our hands and admit he did brilliantly."

and were punished by an excellent free-kick by Bontcho Guechev.

I'm delighted to have brought John Bailey into the Club to help us with the coaching. He understands that its for a short period of time, until the end of this season in fact.



I have plans in mind about a more permanent appointment after that time, but John's a bubbling character and he'll do a lot of good in the next few weeks.

The players showed me last week that they are a bit uptight and John does help players in dressing-rooms to relax and I'm sure ours will respond to him between now and the end of the season.

He helped Viv with the Reserves in their 1-0 win over Wolves on Wednesday and he'll be involved with players here at all levels as part of the team along with Viv and myself.

My first link with John was when I took over at Blackburn Rovers. He was at the end of his contract, Everton signed him, and he was the first player to be transferred through the tribunal system - at about £300,000.

He proved a tremendous servant there as a cultured left full-back, moved to Newcastle as a player and then to Bristol City when he took up some coaching responsibilities, too.



I took him to Everton in a coaching role during my second spell at Goodison Park and I know he's relishing the opportunity of being involved again. He'll be a real asset between now and the end of the season.

It has become a bit tense. Other clubs near the bottom end of the table will be finding the same things; every game is vitally important, even more tension creeps in as games run out. I'm sure we are doing the right thing by trying to relax the players a little bit more because a more relaxed player, and not an uptight player, will produce a better performance.

Whilst we wait for other teams to make up their games in hand on us we can do nothing but check their results and the midweek ones went quite well for us overall. I'm looking forward to the time coming up soon when we all start on level terms for the run-in to the end of the season. Psychologically this will be a big boost to our players and

will make the situation much clearer.

It was nice to see three of our players called up for International duty next week. It was no surprise that Roger and Alan were called up but it was also encouraging that Gareth Taylor can push his claims for Wales

"It has become a bit tense. Other clubs near the bottom end of the table will be finding the same things."

after his full debut some months ago - Bobby Gould, the Wales Manager, was one I spoke to when enquiring about Gareth before his move here.

Finally, I'd like to ask for your vocal support again and particularly welcome the newcomers today who are taking advantage of our "Family Day". I hope you enjoy the entertainment on and off the pitch and make us "Your team" every matchday.

Howard Kendall

Training Kit sponsored by

GT SPORTS

...Story so Far...

Thursday 29th February

Howard Kendall allows Brett Angell to return to Sunderland after his loan period.

The Club's AGM is held in the Executive Suite – and a Mowlem's representative is present to answer questions on the John Street Stand Development.

Friday 1st March

Everton's Gary Ablett comes to Bramall Lane on loan as Michael Vonk starts his suspension.

Saturday 2nd March

Endsleigh League Division One
BIRMINGHAM CITY 0 UNITED 1

Scorer: Walker (80).

Birmingham: Griemink, Edward, Frain, Samways, Breen, Johnson, Hunt (Forsyth 25), Legg, Bull (Tail h-t), Devlin, Bowen (Martin 76).

United: Kelly, Short, Nilsen, Cowans, Hodgson, Ablett, White, Ward, Starbuck, Hutchison, Whitehouse (Walker 74). Unused: Beard, Tracey.

Attendance: 16,799.

Referee: Scott Mathieson (Stockport).

Gary Ablett, first game on loan, Andy Walker's first goal for the Club; the result? The first away win for Howard Kendall. United are always too strong, too determined for troubled Birmingham but leave it late to snatch the win when other results also go for them.

Gary Ablett: "I was surprised at the high quality of the game. I take my hat off to Doug Hodgson, he was outstanding."

Howard Kendall: "We had to make changes but we were superb at the back... we have brought players in and they have done everything that was asked."

Wood and Elton twice put the Juniors ahead but York City battle back for a 2-2 draw.

Monday 4th March

Mark Blount and Brett Storey leave the club by mutual consent. Marvin Marston goes to Bournemouth for Reserve team trials matches.

Wednesday 6th March

Russian Peter Kachuro debuts for the



Debut man Gareth Taylor outjumps Stoke's Ian Cranson.

Reserves at Derby; Quinn puts United ahead in a game which ends 1-1.

Thursday 7th March

Frantic day of activity for United as Adrian Heath leaves to become manager of Burnley, Dave Tuttle and Carl Veart join Crystal Palace with Gareth Taylor plus cash coming the other way. John Gannon becomes an Oldham Athletic player for a nominal fee.

Dane Whitehouse signs a new three year contract.

Saturday 9th March

Endsleigh League Division One
UNITED 0 STOKE CITY 0

United: Kelly, Short, Nilsen, Cowans, Hodgson, Ablett, White, Ward, Taylor, Hutchison (Walker 72), Whitehouse. Unused: Tracey, Starbuck.

Stoke: Prudhoe, Clarkson, Sandford, Sigurdsson, Cranson, Potter (Dreyer 89), Beeston, Sheron (Peschisolido 83), Sturridge, Gleghorn. Unused: Gayle.

Attendance: 14,468.

Referee: Roger Furnandiz.

Taylor's debut should be a winning one but he and several others are denied by a Prudhoe supershow, the woodwork and a goal-line clearance. Promotion aspirants Stoke threaten little and are happier with a point.

Gareth Taylor: "I was tired towards the end because I hadn't played for a couple of weeks... in the second half they were lucky to hold out. The goalkeeper had one of those days."

Howard Kendall: "We can be disappointed after the second 45 minutes but there was definite room for improvement on what we did in the first half."

The Juniors twice hit back to claim a point at Doncaster Rovers, Metcalf and Summerell with a penalty getting the goals.

Tuesday 12th March

The Juniors game at Hartlepool is postponed because of the weather.

Wednesday 13th March

Icy conditions result in the Reserves game Oldham Athletic (at Stalybridge Celtic's ground) being called off.

TODAY'S MATCH SPONSOR

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THE LANE SPORTS INJURY CLINIC



DEREK FRENCH
Physiotherapist

Member of the Society of Sports Therapists

Derek reviews the progress of United's injured players

DAVID WHITE

David has had a groin problem for a few weeks now. He is trying to cope with it and is restricted in his training so he will probably need an operation as soon as the Season ends. Hopefully, he can continue until then.

BRIAN GAYLE

Brian is happy with the progress he has made with his knee. Although it's not yet 100%, he is moving a lot better and, in general, he is more comfortable most of the time. It's been a worrying time for all of us involved with this kind of problem, but hopefully it is all behind him now.

MICHAEL VONK

Michael has a muscle tear in his right hamstring which measures 3x2 cm in all. We can now have an ultrasound scan which shows exactly what we're dealing with and obviously helps us with our treatment and rehabilitation programme. This is a fairly long process as the tear has to heal. Firstly, the blood clots between the ends of the tear, muscle fibres then start to grow through the blood clot, eventually reforming the continuity of the muscle. As you can imagine, great care has to be taken during this period as re-tearing of the new muscle fibres will hinder the recovery time and delay the player's return to fitness.

Derek French, Physiotherapist to Sheffield United Football Club is currently offering a full range of treatments for all sporting injuries.

Lane NEWS

HOWARD AND ALAN COLLECT WIN DOUBLE

Pre-match presentations today centre on Howard Kendall and Alan Kelly for their contributions to the team's successful spell in February which lifted United in the relegation battle.

The boss will receive his Endsleigh League Manager of the Month title at 2.45 p.m. whilst Alan follows up with the "Wilkinson Sword Protector Award".

The Blades played seven times in February and conceded only four goals as the team lost just once, against WBA.

Alan is now a player of high reputation and International standing but still earns his daily bread every week on the league circuit so this Award is even more welcome:

"It makes you very proud to win something like this, proof that people see you doing well and acknowledge your achievements.

"There have long been awards given, particularly for strikers so its nice that goalkeepers get recognised along the way. It's a high pressure job and I think every keeper in the land will look forward to the chance of winning it, whatever division they are in.

"We had a good month, strung a few results together and I hope I played my part in it. With the Boss winning his Award as well it was a good month and gave us something to build on."

Elder brother and Bury goalkeeper Gary beat Alan to the Award by picking it up earlier in the season after a dodgy start but Alan has levelled things up and quips, "He can stop lauding it over me now!"



KEEP IT IN THE FAMILY

Welcome to any newcomers today, particularly youngsters who are taking advantage of our "QUID A KID" offer. Last year, against Reading, we operated the scheme during the league's "Year of the Family" theme; this season we have initiatives under the banner of the "School Year".

We have arranged plenty of entertainment which will include a demonstration of soccer skills at half-time by young players from the Sheffield United School of Excellence. Thanks to John Dungworth and Graham Bland for their efforts in providing you with a glimpse of some of our budding potential.

There are plenty of face-painters around to give youngsters a distinctive colourful look for just £1 whilst we also welcome performers from The Loft, Stage Right and the Jumping Ju-ba-loo Samba drumming group.

A good atmosphere should be generated and we want you to transmit that to the team today, and we have a great ticket offer available for our last four homes games (see page 42).

Finally, special thanks to:

MARS for providing the **M&M's**

and to **DAILY STAR** for their contribution to today's event.



HEARD THE ONE ABOUT...?

The Irishman, the Welshman and the Norwegian? Well, all three are Sheffield United players - and they will all be away from Sheffield next week celebrating International call-up.

Alan will be the Republic of Ireland's last line of defence against Russia at Landsdowne Road next Wednesday in a friendly match, whilst Roger Nilsen (pictured) could face Northern Ireland in Norway in another midweek friendly.

Our newest recruit, Gareth Taylor, who won his first full Welsh cap against Albania earlier this season, is part of the Welsh get-together at Newport as manager Bobby Gould continues his new team's preparations. Best of luck to all of them - just don't get injured, lads!



HAT-TRICKS THIS SEASON IN DIVISION ONE

Jonathan Hunt*	Birmingham City v Norwich City	26th August
Iwan Roberts	Leicester City v Portsmouth	30th August
Alex Mathie	Ipswich Town v Sunderland	2nd September
Carl Leaburn*	Charlton Athletic v Ipswich Town	23rd September
Julian Hails	Southend United v Leicester City	23rd September
Simon Strurridge	Stoke City v Southend United	11th November
Doug Freedman	Crystal Palace v Wolverhampton W.	22nd November
Craig Russell	Sunderland v Millwall	9th December
Dean Gordon†	Crystal Palace v West Bromwich Albion	23rd December
Doug Freedman	Crystal Palace v Grimsby Town	5th March
Bob Taylor	West Bromwich Albion v Watford	5th March

† Includes two penalties *Includes one penalty

ON THE MOVE

Since our last performance the following players have moved on, Carl and Dave to Crystal Palace, and John to Oldham Athletic.

CARL VEART

Carl became a United player in July 1994. His first meeting with the Blades was as an opponent when he scored against us on our Australian Tour whilst playing for Adelaide City. He was signed at an initial fee of £250,000 and made his senior debut on 24th August 1994 in the ill-fated game against Ancona in the Anglo-Italian Cup. His league debut, as substitute, followed three days later when we lost 1-3 at home to Notts. County. His first goal was long in coming - he scored twice in our 3-1 league defeat of Bolton. His final appearance for the Blades was as a substitute at home to Barnsley on 24th February. His record as a Blade is 53 appearances (and 21 more as sub), scoring 18 goals made up of: league 47 (19) apps, 16 goals; FA Cup 2 (1) apps, 1 goal; CC Cup 2 (1) apps, 1 goal; Anglo-Italian Cup 2 apps.

JOHN GANNON

John joined United from Wimbledon, initially on loan, and he made his debut at home to Blackpool on 25th February 1989 and he scored in the 4-1 victory. He made 16 appearances that season before finally signing for the Blades in June 1989 on a free transfer. The following season was his most productive - he made 39 league appearances and scored three goals. Since season 1993-94, when he played a few games on loan at Middlesbrough, John has not been able to maintain a regular place in the team and his final game was on 13th January in the 1-1 draw at Tranmere. He leaves Bramall Lane having made 195 first team appearances, with 12 more as substitute, and having scored seven goals, including one penalty (1989-90). His appearances and goals in the various competitions are: league 162 (and 12 subs), 6 goals; FA Cup 14 apps; CC Cup 13 (1) apps; ZDS Cup 4 apps; Anglo-Italian Cup 2 apps, 1 goal.

DAVID TUTTLE

Dave joined us from Spurs for a fee of £350,000 in August 1993. He made his United debut in the Premier League on 14th August 1993 in our 3-1 home defeat of Swindon Town. He played in 31 league games that season before badly damaging his knee in our 2-0 home victory over Newcastle United. He missed the last two games of the season - including the game at Chelsea, and it was 11 months before he returned to first team duty playing in six of the final seven games of last season. His final game this season was at Norwich on 28th February. His one goal for the Blades was in January this year in the 1-1 home draw against Watford. In his 31 months at Bramall Lane David made a total of 68 first team appearances (he never came on as substitute) consisting of: league 63; FA Cup 3; CC Cup 2.

IN BRIEF

- RESERVES FIXTURES
The Pontin's League fixture at Bolton Wanderers, postponed earlier in the season, will now be played at Burden Park on Wednesday, 3rd April.
- HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SUFC!
The meeting at which it was decided to form the football section of Sheffield United Cricket Club was held 107 years ago yesterday!
- GOOD NEWS...
for four of our Second Year apprentices who have been offered professional contracts. They are winger Paul Wood, Steve Hawes, Chris Bettney and Liam Dyer. All have had Reserve team experience and Steve has played for the first team.



Liam Dyer

- SENIOR BLADES
Please note: to qualify for any concessions from The Sheffield United Football Club, members of the Senior Blades are reminded that subscriptions which were due on 1st January, MUST BE PAID by 31st March.

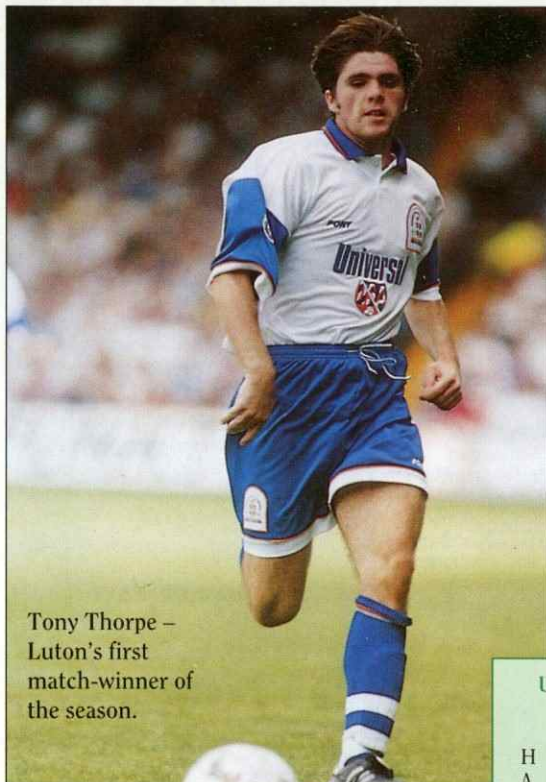
Payments accepted at the ticket office or directly to the Secretary, 18 Rundle Road S7 1NX. Telephone: (0114) 258 5189.

- WELCOME TO...
Scholes Park Raiders from the Scarborough and District Minor League, Under 9's and Under 13's, 14's, 15's and 16's who played the Junior Blades at Birley School this morning. This is their second visit having had an enjoyable first visit to Bramall Lane two years ago.

The Junior Blades will be visiting Scarborough for return matches on 27th April.

- FANCY THAT
Within four days Port Vale had their highest and lowest league attendance of the season. On 9th March 6,222 turned up to see Vale beat Southend 2-1 and on 12 March 16,737 were there to witness Port Vale completing the double over Stoke City with a 1-0 win!

VISITORS..UP TO PRESS



Tony Thorpe – Luton's first match-winner of the season.

LUTON TOWN'S RECORD

- MOST LEAGUE GOALS IN A SEASON**
55 Joe Payne, Div. 3S (1936-37)
- MOST LEAGUE GOALS IN A CAREER**
243 Gordon Turner (1949-64)
- MOST LEAGUE GOALS IN A GAME**
10 Joe Payne v Bristol Rovers, Div. 3S (13.4.1936)
- RECORD LEAGUE VICTORY**
12-0 v Bristol Rovers, Div. 3S (13.4.1936)
- MOST LEAGUE APPEARANCES**
494 Bob Morton (1948-64)
- OLDEST LEAGUE PLAYER**
Dally Duncan 39 years, 11 days (1947)
- YOUNGEST LEAGUE PLAYER**
Mike O'Hara, 16 years, 32 days (1960)
- RECORD FEE PAID**
£650,000 Lars Elstrup (Odense, August 1989)
- RECORD FEE RECEIVED**
£2,500,000 John Hartson (Arsenal, January 1995)
- LAST LEAGUE HAT-TRICK**
Kerry Dixon (H) v Stoke City (27th Nov., 1993)
- LAST SEASON'S LEADING LEAGUE GOAL SCORER**
Dwight Marshall (11)

UNITED'S LEAGUE RECORD AGAINST LUTON TOWN

	P	W	D	L	F	A
H	16	7	6	3	26	23
A	17	6	2	9	24	29
Total	33	13	8	12	50	52

KICKBACK



**UNITED 1
LUTON TOWN 3**
Saturday, 22nd Oct., 1994

The teams began this encounter on the back of very different results although they were both in mid-table with a clutch of clubs all sharing the same number of points and games played.

Luton had just slaughtered joint-leaders Middlesbrough but United had lost at WBA, the Blades's third game without finding the net.

A neutral wouldn't have known that Luton were supposed to be the in-form team as United played the visitors off the park for half an hour. The solitary **Nathan Blake** goal was paltry reward for an excellent spell by United even though they lost the injured Flo after only ten minutes – Doug Hodgson came on up front for his debut.

Brian Gayle conceded an own goal after 33 minutes and David Pleat's men immediately showed that their brilliant away record was no fluke, dominating the rest of the game against a jittery United. Two late goals by Julian James (72) and Kerry Dixon (79) settled the issue.

United: Kelly, Gage, A. Scott, Rogers (Littlejohn 75), Gayle, Marshall, Reed, Gannon, Blake, Flo (Hodgson 10), Whitehouse.

Luton Town: Sommer, James, Johnson, Waddock, Thomas, Peake, Telfer, Hughes, Dixon, Preece (Oakes 77), Marshall. Unused: Thorpe.
Attendance: 13,317.



Jurger Sommer hurdles makeshift striker Doug Hodgson.



SPORTS AND LEISUREWEAR AVEC STYLE

LUTON

Luton have been sliding back into relegation trouble following an exhilarating flourish which seemed to be lifting them clear.

When Lennie Lawrence took over as manager in December, the Hatters were anchored to the bottom of the First Division. But the team responded to his call for an all out effort and the Hatters remained unbeaten in his first eight league matches, five of which were won.

That lifted them into eighth from bottom place and they then looked ready to continue their rise to safety. But football's a funny game, as someone once said and the Hatters then failed to win any of their next five games.

Prior to their mid-week visit to Crystal Palace, Luton found themselves back in second-from-bottom position.

The Hatters are having to survive with the loss of striker Dwight Marshall through injury. Marshall, who had scored 13 times, could be out of action for the remainder of the season.

For the past few weeks John Taylor has been partnering Bontcho Guentchev in attack. Guentchev had netted eleven times before the Palace game.

Midfield positions have been occupied by Graham Alexander, Gary Waddock, Scott Oakes and Tony Thorpe. When Oakes was injured, Ceri Hughes earned a recall.

Paul McLaren has also played in midfield whilst Richard Harvey has been used both in midfield and at left-back.

The versatile David Oldfield has appeared both in attack and midfield and is often included as substitute. Midfield Vidar Riseth is often included as substitute.

Steve Davis has been holding one of the central defensive positions for much of the season, being partnered by both Marvin Johnson and Darren Patterson, who has also played at right-back, the position held in recent weeks by Julian James. Des Linton has also appeared in defence. Mitchell Thomas is well established at left-back. Ian Feuer, signed from West Ham for £580,000 in December following a loan spell, has taken over in goal.

Prior to their trip to Crystal Palace, the Hatters had won away games in the First Division at Southend (1-0), Ipswich (1-0) and Norwich (1-0).

They drew at Grimsby (0-0), Wolves (0-0), Watford (1-1), Leicester (1-1) and Derby (1-1) but were beaten at Reading (1-3), Millwall (0-1), Tranmere (0-1), Stoke (0-5), Barnsley (0-1), Portsmouth (0-4), Sunderland (0-1) and Huddersfield (0-1).

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 that competition.

Their FA Cup interest came to a dramatic end when they crashed out by 1-7 at Grimsby.

SCOTT OAKES (Midfield/Forward)

Scott joined Luton in October 1991, along with Des Linton. His performances for the Hatters in the 1994 FA Cup run attracted much interest from Premiership clubs. The England Under-21 international was Luton's leading scorer that season with 13 goals, including a hat-trick in the FA Cup sixth round replay win over West Ham. He scored 10 goals in the 1994/95 season.

Missed the first two months of the 95/96 season with a hamstring injury.

IAN FEUER (Goalkeeper)

Ian signed for the Hatters from West Ham in December 1995, for a fee which could rise to £580,000 depending on appearances. The 6'7" American arrived at Luton in September, and spent three months on loan, playing in 14 league games. At West Ham he was understudy to Ludek Miklosko, but never played a first team game, and due to restrictions on overseas players was kept off the bench by Les Sealey. His Luton debut wasn't his league debut though, as he was on loan at Peterborough in 1994/95, playing 16 games in Division Two.

JOHNNY VILSTRUP (Midfield)

Johnny signed for Luton from Danish side Lyngby for £205,000, and is on the verge of a place in the Danish national squad. Highly-rated midfielder who earned the reputation of a free-kick specialist in Denmark, and reportedly had the hardest shot in Danish football.

We have won only one of our last five games against the 'Hatters' - but we did win that in style, by 6-3 at Kenilworth Road last season. Even if we don't see a similar scoreline today history suggests we should see some goals - there has not yet been a league game at the Lane between the clubs with fewer than two goals.

RICHARD HARVEY (Defender)

Richard resurrected his Town career in 1994/95 after two years plagued by injury. The former England youth international missed the entire 1993/94 season after a cruciate knee ligament operation, and made his first appearance of the following campaign at Barnsley in January. His appearance at home to Watford in March 1995 was his first at Kenilworth Road for three years, and he held the left-back position for the remainder of the season.

JULIAN JAMES (Defender)

Julian joined Luton as a trainee, and was introduced to First Division football five seasons ago, after being sent off on his debut in a Littlewoods Cup win at Leeds. A former England Under-21 international, he was a regular at left-back in the 1993/94 season, but made the right-back position his own in 1994/95 with a string of consistent displays which earned him the Player of the Year award from the Loyal Luton Supporters Club.

TOWN



MARVIN JOHNSON (Defender)

Marvin made his Football League debut against Wimbledon in 1988, and quickly established himself as a versatile defender. Started the 1994/95 season at left-back, but then switched to the centre of defence to form a reliable partnership with Trevor Peake. Marvin was one of only three players to play in every first-team match last season, and was awarded the Players' Player of the Year trophy.

At the end of season 1989-90, Luton narrowly escaped relegation from the old Division One. On the final day of the season, to avoid relegation, Luton had to win at Derby County and Sheffield Wednesday had to lose at home to Nottingham Forest. Luton did win, 3-2, and Wednesday did lose, 0-3, and were relegated - and few will need reminding that we were promoted to take their place!

DES LINTON (Defender)

Des signed for Luton from Leicester City in October 1991, along with Scott Oakes, as part of the deal which took midfielder Steve Thompson to Filbert Street. He was a regular at right-back during the 1993-94 season, but the 1994/95 campaign was dogged by a series of injuries.

GRAHAM ALEXANDER (Defender/Midfield)

Graham joined the Hatters in July 1995, and

was Terry Westley's first signing after being confirmed as Luton's new manager. The Town coaching staff had been watching him for two seasons before deciding to make their move, with the fee in the region of £100,000, with further payments depending on appearances.

STEVE DAVIS (Defender)

Steve joined the Hatters for £250,000 in the summer of 1995 after making over 160 league appearances for Burnley, scoring 22 goals. He joined the Turf Moor side in August 1991 for £60,000 from Southampton, after loan spells at Burnley and Notts County. He captained Burnley during their rise up the league into Division One, and played in both their victories over Luton in the 1994/95 season.

DAVID OLDFIELD (Midfielder)

David returned to Kenilworth Road in the summer of 1995 for £150,000 six years after leaving Luton Town. He started his career with the Hatters, scored on his full league debut in a 2-1 home win over Watford in May 1988, and went on to make 29 league appearances for the Hatters, scoring four goals. Australian-born Oldfield, who played for England Under-21s, joined Manchester City for £600,000 in March 1989, before moving on a Leicester City.

BONTCHO GUENTCHEV (Forward)

The Bulgarian international signed for the Hatters after being released by Ipswich. The 31-year old striker, who played in the 1994



THE MANAGER

LENNIE LAWRENCE

Born Brighton, 14 December 1947

PLAYER

Croydon
Carshalton Athletic
Sutton United

Football League app. - Nil.

MANAGER

Plymouth Argyle (caretaker) 1978.
Charlton Athletic - November 1983.
(1986 promotion Div. 2 to Div. 1
(1987 Full Mem. Cup runners-up)
(1990 relegation Div. 1 to Div. 2)
Middlesbrough - June 1991
(1992 promotion Div. 2 to PL)
(1993 relegation PL to Div. 1)
Bradford City - May 1994
Luton Town - December 1995

Back row: Ben Chenery, Danny Power, Gary Simpson, Fred Barber (now Birmingham), Paul McLaren, Rob Matthews (now with York City), Gavin Johnson (now Wigan), David Green, Steve Davis, Kelvin Davis, John Taylor, Trevor Peake, Julian James. Middle row: 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 (First Team Coach), John Moore (Youth Team Coach), Les Shannon (Scouting Co-ordinator), Nigel Terry (Director). Front row: Jamie Woodford, Gary Waddock, Tony Thorpe, Ceri Hughes, Mick McGiven (Former Assistant Manager), David Kohler (Chairman), Terry Westley (Former Manager), Scott Oakes, Nathan Jones (no longer with club), Graham Alexander, Dwight Marshall.



Bontcho Guentchev



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World Cup Finals in the USA when Bulgaria reached the semi-finals, had been at Ipswich for three seasons playing 58 games in the Premier League. He arrived on a free transfer after being released by the Portman Road club, but his wife's employment at the Bulgarian embassy now means he is free to continue playing in the UK.

VIDAR RISETH (Striker)

Luton completed the signing of Vidar from Norwegian side Kongsvinger in October 1995, for £100,000, which could rise to £175,000 depending on appearances. He made his debut as a second-half substitute against Charlton, and his full debut in the following week's game at Stoke.

PAUL McLAREN (Defender)

Paul made his debut in the Town first-team on the final day of the 1993/94 season, coming on as a substitute at Stoke City. He joined the Hatters from school, and is an England youth international.

CERI HUGHES (Midfield)

Ceri was a regular in the Town midfield in the 1993/94 season, and his performances earned a call-up to the full Welsh side. Scored seven goals in the 1993/94 season, but damaged knee ligaments against Grimsby in November 1994.

Made his comeback against Norwich on the opening day of the 95/96 season, but suspension and injury prevented an ever-present start.

Luton Town are one of the clubs to have had two spells in the league. They were elected to Division Two in 1897-98 but after three seasons they decided to resign, having finished next to bottom. However when the new Division 3S was formed in 1920, Luton became one of the founder members.

DARREN PATTERSON (Defender)

Darren signed for the Hatters in August 1995 from Crystal Palace for £150,000, a fee which could rise to over £200,000 based on appearances. The Northern Ireland international started his league career with Wigan, and joined Palace for £250,000 in 1992. An achilles injury ruled him out of the first two months of the season, and kept him out of Northern Ireland's final European Championship qualifying matches.

TONY THORPE (Midfield)

Tony made an immediate impact in the Town side when he scored for the Hatters on his full debut at Newcastle United, in the fourth round of the FA Cup in January 1994. He joined the club at the start of the 1992/93 season, following a spell at Leicester. Scored Luton's winning goal at Southend in August 1995 – the Hatters' first win of the season, and their first under Terry Westley.

Luton's manager Lennie Lawrence is something of a rarity in that he never played league football. The only other of the 92 league managers in that position is Dario Gradi of Crewe. Alex Ferguson never played in the English league but did play Scottish league football. Terry Westley, Luton's previous manager, also had no league experience.

GARY WADDOCK (Midfield)

Gary completed a free transfer move from Bristol Rovers in December 1994, after a three-month loan spell at Kenilworth Road. Started his career with QPR making over 200 appearances, including an FA Cup Final against Spurs in 1982, and the subsequent replay. That was followed by a spell in Belgium with Charleroi and at Millwall, QPR again, and Swindon, before moving to Bristol. Gary missed only one game, through suspension, after joining the Hatters in 1994/95, and scored his first goal for the club on the final day of the season.

JOHN TAYLOR (Forward)

John joined Luton on deadline day in March 1995, for £200,000 from Bradford City. He started his career at Colchester, but was later snapped up by Cambridge from non-league Sudbury. He scored 46 goals in 160 appearances for Cambridge before a move to Bristol Rovers, where he netted 44 goals in 95 appearances. The centre-forward had scored 13 goals for Bradford before his move to Luton. Struggled with a back injury at the start of the 95/96 season, and had an operation in October, ruling him out until Christmas.



**CUP FINALIST
MITCHELL THOMAS**

Left-back Mitchell Thomas returned to his original club just over two years ago after moving into London with spells at Tottenham and West Ham.

He completed his apprenticeship at Kenilworth Road and made his league debut against West Ham in January 1983. He held his place for three more games, then went back into the reserves until the following season when he won himself a regular place.

His consistent performances earned him a call up to the England under-21 squad. He made his first appearance, as substitute, against Turkey in October 1985 and later played full games against Denmark and Italy.

It was during the summer of 1986 that Tottenham signed him for £250,000. The following season he was a member of the Spurs' side surprisingly beaten 2-3 by Coventry in the FA Cup Final at Wembley.

Mitchell moved on to West Ham in a £500,000 deal during the summer of 1991 but, after holding his place for one season, he found himself out of favour.

In November 1993 he welcomed the chance to return to league football when he re-joined Luton.



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THE WAYNE IN SPAIN!

Pictured outside the Nou Camp Stadium, home of Barcelona, is serving Royal Navy man Wayne Taylor who is wearing the Blades away shirt.

He's based in Gibraltar until 1998 and is trying to create a Costa Blades Supporters club - any 'ex pats' out there who want to join can contact Wayne at RA's Box, HMS Rooke, BFPO 52.

Incidentally, the photograph shows Wayne with Barcelona fans before the big game against Real Madrid in February - 115,000 spectators saw 'Barca' win 3-0.

BOSNIAN BLADES

c/o SSgt Aidy Meredith and Sgt Dean Hague, HQ UK NSE, Operation Resolute, BFPO 544.

The two lads above recently 'dodged the bullets' in Bosnia to telephone our Souvenir Shop at the Lane and order some of our merchandise on the Credit Card hotline.

They were very complimentary about the service they received and revealed their attempts to form 'Blades in Bosnia', an unofficial spin off borne out of necessity rather than choice - "to date we have two members, but hope to expand before our end of tour.

Nice one, lads, keep up the good work.

MORE SPANISH CONNECTIONS?

We have received this letter which could prove a great opportunity for supporters to develop football based relationship with like minds in Spain.

I am the director of an international language school in Beasain, which is in the Basque region of Northern Spain and I am writing to you on behalf of some of my students who are learning English.

These students, who range in age from boys and girls of eight years old through to adults have expressed great interest in making contact with children and adults of similar age, with a view to becoming pen-pals, exchanging football paraphernalia etc. and generally making friends, even leading to the interesting possibility of organising exchange visits between the two towns/cities.

The local football team here is La Real Sociedad of San Sebastián. Fans might remember the likes of John Toshack, John Aldridge, Kevin Richardson and Dalian Atkinson all of whom have been on the books in recent years. "La Real" are a mid-table first division outfit who play against high-flyers such as Real Madrid, Barcelona, Deportivo, Atletico, etc.

If there are any fans who would like to broaden their horizons and learn a little about the Spanish game, they can write to me at the address given below and I will pass the letter on to students of a similar age.

Alan Bumstead, inlingua idiomas, J. M. Iturrioz 11, 20200 Beasain, Guipuzcoa, Spain.

COMPETITION WINNERS

1. 'When Saturday Comes' K. Smith of Eckington receives a UCI pass valid for six months plus an autographed SUFC football after Tony Currie made the draw at the Stoke game.

2. 'The Stripes Vote' E. Saunders of East Bank View, Arbourthorne was chosen at random by Chairman Mike McDonald at the same game.



GUESTS TODAY

We are delighted to welcome hundreds of pupils from the following Sheffield Schools - guests of the Club, arranged through Tony Currie's "Football in the Community" programme.

Abbeydale Grange, Arbourthorne, Athelstan, Brunswick, Carfield, Gleadless, Halfway, Manor Lodge, Mosborough, Pye Bank, St. Therasas, Thorpe Hesley, Wincobank.

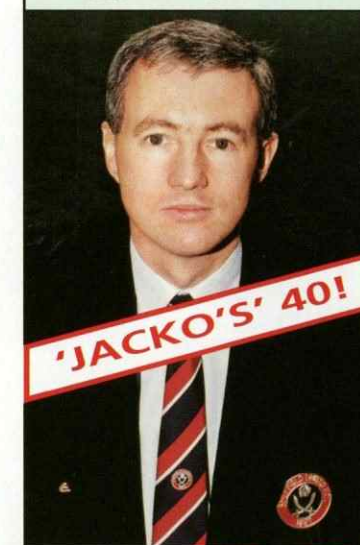
In addition welcome to Storrs FC U-11s, York County U-11's.

And a group from The Community Recreation and Leisure Services.

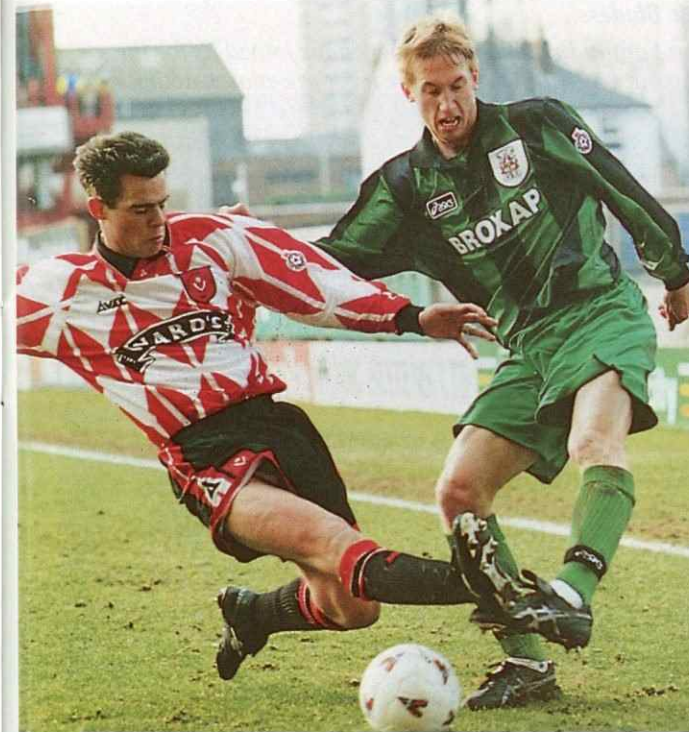
Our Souvenir Shop Manager, Mel Jackson, took a week off work to escape the ribbing from everyone at the Club as regards his 40th birthday last Wednesday.

Well, Mel, it didn't work and now there are a few thousand others in on the secret.

Happy Birthday!

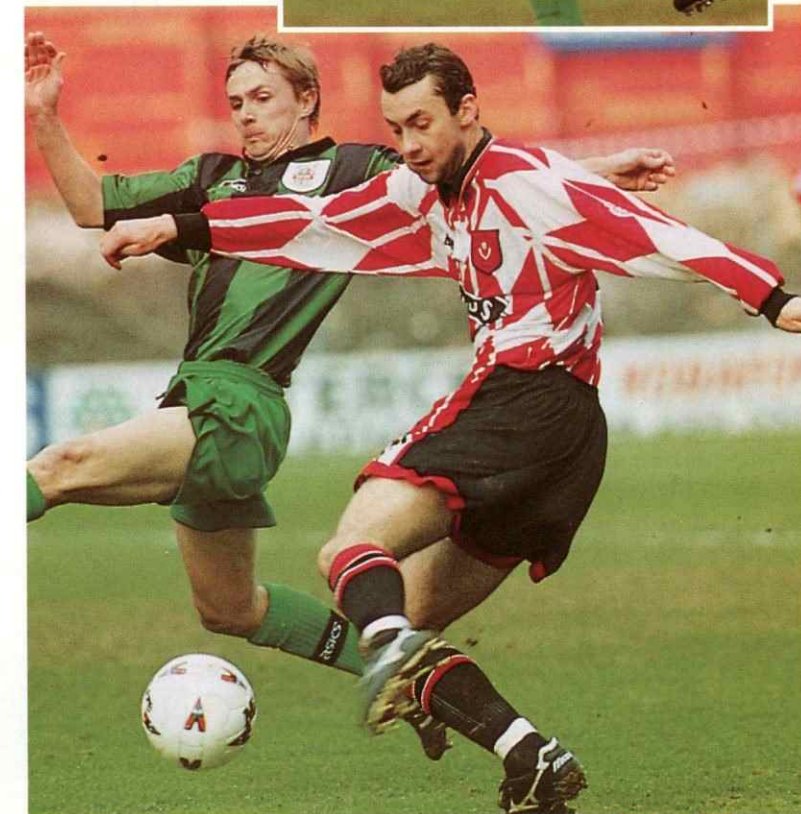


Prudhoe the party pooper



Only the brilliance of Stoke keeper Mark Prudhoe prevented United marking Gareth Taylor's debut with a conclusive victory – a 0-0 draw was a poor return from a conclusive Blades performance in terms of shots on target.

- Man of the match Prudhoe foils Gareth Taylor and Doug Hodgson (above left).
- Gordon Cowans and Roger Nilsen block Mike Sheron's path (left).
- Mitch Ward launches into a tackle (above).
- No doubt that 'Sid' Cowans is winning this high ball (above).
- 'Hutch' about to slip another challenge.





Hello Junior Blades,

Luton Town Family Enclosure members have joined us for the match today but were unable to make it for pre-match activities. Thank you to everyone who took part on the 3rd March with Stoke City Family members playing football at Ponds Forge – they thoroughly enjoyed their day with us. Well done everyone.

ELAINE

BIRTHDAYS TODAY

Joseph Hukin, 8 years, Lee Brennan, 10 years.

BIRTHDAYS TO DATE

Adam Hopkinson, Peter Sliwinski, Daryl Buckley, David Beresford, Anthony Willis, Laura Mott, Claire Mott, Claire Mitchell, Stephanie Hutchinson, John Scott, Gary Beckett, Tom Burlaga, Todd Jackson, Ian Bisatt, Jodie Parker, Rosie Ogden, Sarah Nicholson, Thomas Cain, Nathan Buckley, Todd Hithersay, S. Jones, Michael Edwards, Ricky Bradley, Richard Tilley, Ian Cartwright, Richard Gardner, Liam Ashton, Lee Hill, Shona Pratt, Christie Hodges, Joseph Kirkham, Jamie Wallis, Katherine Lingard, Rebecca Chambers, Christopher Turney, Shelley Coe, Richard Slack, T. Middleton, Laura Turton.

We're Full Up

If you require information regarding our mascot package or wish to book a place for next season please contact Donna Fletcher at the Pools Office. Tel. No. (0114) 272 7901

TODAY'S TEASERS

1. What is Luton Town's ground called?
2. Which team has John Gannon joined?
3. What nationality is Gareth Taylor?

Answers at the bottom of the page.

Luton Mascot

THOMAS WALDRON

Thomas Waldron, aged 11 who will be at the match today with his dad.

His favourite player is Dwight Marshall.

Thomas' hobbies are swimming, cricket and athletics.



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Mascot

RACHEL HANCOCK

Rachel Hancock, aged 5. A pupil of Sitwell Infants school.

Her favourite player is Dane Whitehouse.

Rachel's hobbies are going swimming and watching Sheffield United.

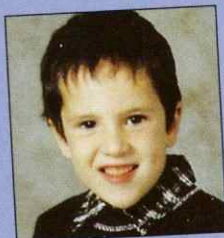


Mascot

THOMAS KIRKLAND

Thomas Kirkland, aged 8. A pupil of Hasland Junior School. His favourite players are Mark Patterson, Alan Kelly and Don Hutchison.

His hobbies are football, tennis, swimming and basketball.



BIRTHDAY DRAW WINNERS

Congratulations – Rosie Ogden receives a £3 voucher to spend in the Souvenir Shop for being this month's Junior Blade birthday winner.

WE'RE GOING TO...PORTSMOUTH

On Monday, 8th April – contact Elaine for details of times/cost etc.

Mascot

CHRISTOPHER MOORWOOD

Christopher Moorwood aged 4, a pupil of St. Thomas More's school.

His favourite players are Brian Gayle and Roger Nilsen.

His hobbies are football, cricket, swimming and watching Sheffield United.



TODAY'S TEASER ANSWERS:

1. Kenilworth Road. 2. Oldham Athletic. 3. Welsh.



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Chris missed last Saturday's game at Millwall through suspension and hopes to regain his place today, setting up a reunion with an old mate on the opposition side:

"Yes, Steve Davis was a Southampton player but he came to Notts. County on loan during our Premiership days and struck a friendship with Tommy Johnson (now at Villa) and me."

Now, Chris and Steve are with different teams, locked in a desperate battle for survival where every goal, every point is vital but Chris has great confidence in Howard Kendall.

"I think his experience at big clubs will stand us in good stead. He knows so much about the game, and I feel I owe him something for taking me on here."

Chris began his United career so impressively that a levelling off period in his form was almost inevitable and even led to him being left out a few weeks ago.

"I admit that I didn't perform well for a time, particularly against West Bromwich Albion, but when I got back at Birmingham I was pleased with my contribution, as I was against Stoke City.

"My first United games against Arsenal were big ones that lift players and make them work harder. People perhaps judged me on those performances and, for one reason or another, you can't always go forward as you would like.

"Playing full-back is physically hard and, secondly, if you have a winger to mark it is obviously more restrictive."

That said, it's also true that those early matches showed what Chris was capable of and gave evidence of what he had done so often at Notts. County - his strength is definitely coming forward.

With brother Craig in Everton's defence Chris has no shortage of advice and his father is both his biggest fan and critic.

"You know yourself if you've had a bad game," says Chris. "And equally you feel pretty happy after a good one. But you need to be realistic, and that's why it's so useful to have him there - even though he watched me against WBA and slaughtered me!"

Even though Craig was left out of Everton's team after the FA Cup defeat at Port Vale, Gary Ablett did not replace him and has ended up at Bramall Lane. Chris sees that as a good move - "He's certainly a good player, useful in the air and composed on the ground - we've made him welcome."

Chris flying runs down the right flank, and his competitive spirit, got him into trouble in the 0-0 game at Norwich and led to him picking up the caution that pushed him over 21 points.

His clash with Carl Bradshaw was uncompromising with a fair bit of banter between them, but no hard feelings. He remembers, "The ball was in the air when I went to challenge him and I put my arm up to protect myself. I wasn't booked for that but he remembered that incident in a later challenge and the referee felt that he had no option but to book me!"

He is now looking forward to settling in the Sheffield area in the next few weeks, moving from Nottingham to a house in the south of the City. Wife, Eleanor, finishes her job in July and wants to take a course in Nutrition at College.

As ever Chris has a refreshingly honest view of that: "As a student she'll be sponging off me for a few years and then she can keep me after my football career!!"

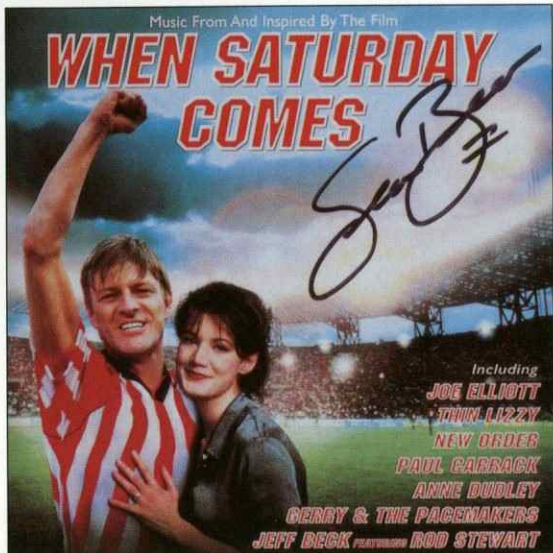
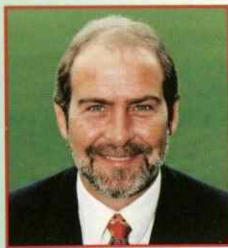


Chris Short



Off THE Park

ANDY DAYKIN
Commercial Manager



WHEN SATURDAY COMES - THE SOUNDTRACK WIN! WIN! WIN!

The soundtrack from the Sean Bean film, *When Saturday Comes*, is now available and features Def Leppard's Joe Elliott, Thin Lizzy, Tony Hadley, Anne Dudley, Gerry and the Pacemakers and local band, Big Wide World.

PolyGram, the distributors of the soundtrack have sent us ten copies which have been signed by Sean and you could win one by answering the following simple question.

"Which long established amateur side is featured in the film, *When Saturday Comes*?"

Please send your entries to: WSC - Soundtrack, c/o Sheffield United FC, Bramall Lane, Sheffield S2 4SU

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It is a great pleasure for us to be welcoming two of the Football League sponsors to Bramall Lane for today's game.

Firstly, there will be Neville Statham, representing our League's major sponsor Endsleigh, who will be presenting Howard Kendall with the Manager of the Month Award for February, and we are also delighted to be welcoming Andy Davis of Wilkinson Sword who will be presenting Alan Kelly with the Goalkeeper of the Month Award for February.

Accompanying these two sponsors and representing the Football League, will be Jack Taylor, probably the most celebrated referee (other than George McCabe, of course) to have graced the game.

Let's hope it won't be too long before they are back again for some more presentations.



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FRANK MAKES ANOTHER COMEBACK!

Frank Worthington (pictured here and displaying his usual modest dress sense) made yet another comeback last week, but this time it was as the Guest Speaker at our Executive Club Gentleman's Evening, which raised over £2,500.

As in his footballing days, Frank was in excellent form and helped to make the evening a great success, which was enjoyed by all who attended.

Proceeds from the evening will be used to provide new strips for the Junior Blades football section, who were represented at the dinner by their Chairman Ken Carr.



BLADES Business

Dave Burkinshaw

GOALS GALORE

It is almost 60 years since Luton Town's Joe Payne scored 10 goals in a single league game to claim a record that remains unbeaten today and may never be beaten.

Payne's remarkable feat occurred on a wet, cold Easter Monday 13 April 1936 in a Third Division South game at home to Bristol Rovers. Twenty-two year old Payne, who was born at Brimington Common near Chesterfield, was not known as a prolific goalscorer at the time. He was an average reserve half-back who was playing his first game at centre forward against Rovers because Town's regular centre forwards Jack Ball and Bill Boyd (an ex-Blade) were injured. He had only played in 3 previous league games.

Before the game manager Ned Liddell had told Payne "you're in lad. At centre forward. Do your best. Get a couple of goals if you can." Luton Town who were top of the table at the time eventually won the game 12-0. Below are the details of Payne's feat:

- 23 minutes he scores his first with a brilliant ground shot.

- 40 minutes he taps in Town's third after Rovers keeper fails to hold a shot from Payne's colleague Stephenson.

- 43 minutes he completes his first hat-trick.

- 49 minutes he crashes home his fourth.

- He netted further goals at the following times to claim double figures and earn the nickname Ten Goal Payne: 55, 57, 65, 76, 84, 86.

Immediately after the game it was thought that he had only scored nine goals. The headline of the match report in the Bristol Evening Post for 13 April stated:

"LUTON MAN SCORES NINE AGAINST ROVERS"

The referee confirmed that Town's seventh was indeed scored by Payne and not by Martin as first thought. Martin had rushed to bundle both the goalkeeper and the ball into the net after Payne's header had been saved. The referee ruled that Payne's header had already crossed the line.

After the match Payne's feat attracted much interest including



Ten goal Joe Payne.

transfer offers from other clubs. Although Luton failed to win promotion at the end of the season, Payne remained with the club and in the following season, 1936-37, he scored a club record of 55 goals as The Hatters won the Third Division South title. He later moved to Chelsea, West Ham and Millwall before retiring in the 1947-48 season. He also won one England Cap.

Payne died in April 1975 aged 61 and his achievement, which is unlikely to be beaten, is commemorated in a Joe Payne lounge at Town's Kenilworth Road ground.

Remarkably, earlier in the 1935-36 season, Tranmere Rovers forward Robert "Bunny" Bell had scored nine goals in a league game. This occurred on 26 December 1935 in Tranmere's 13-4 home victory over Oldham Athletic. Bell also missed a penalty and therefore the achievement of being the first player to score ten goals in an English league match.

Other great individual goalscoring feats include the following:

- (i) Arbroath's John Petrie scored 13 in their 36-0 win against Bon Accord in

the Scottish Cup on 12 September 1885.

- (ii) On the same day as Petrie's feat Alisdair D'Arcy scored 10 for Dundee Harps in their 35-0 win over Aberdeen Rovers.

- (iii) St Mirren's Gerry Baker scored 10 in his team's 15-0 win against Glasgow University in the Scottish Cup on 30 January 1960. A year later his brother Joe Baker notched 9 for Hibernian in their 15-1 Scottish Cup victory over Peebles Rovers.

- (iv) Bournemouth striker Ted MacDougall scored 9 against Margate in the F.A. Cup on 20 November 1971.

The most goals scored by United players in one league game is 5 on two occasions:

- Harry Hammond against Bootle in November 1892.

- Harry Johnson against West Ham in December 1927.

In other first team games Arthur Brown scored six in a friendly against his old club, Gainsborough Trinity.

More recently the best individual feats are:

- Last hat-trick Dane Whitehouse against Stockport County in the Coca Cola Cup September 1994.

- Last league hat-trick Brian Deane against Ipswich January 1993.

- Last 4 goal hauls in competitive games came from Keith Edwards on two occasions in 1983: (i) against Gillingham in the league August 1983 (ii) against Wrexham in the F.A. Cup November 1983.



Four goal Keith Edwards!

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TALKING POINTS

With Roger Barnard

TRANSFER TALK

A few weeks ago Wimbledon let it be known that they were considering moving their team lock, stock and barrel across the Irish Sea, actually playing their 'home' games in Ireland. As a way of drawing larger crowds it's an interesting idea. With good air links, visiting teams might actually find the trip less tiring than a coach drive to some of our more far-flung destinations.

Such a move would be unprecedented in British football but the idea of moving a club to another town is not. It almost happened here in Yorkshire nearly 80 years ago when Huddersfield Town planned to move their base to Leeds.

Before the First World War Leeds was represented by a team called 'Leeds City'. Normal league and cup competition was suspended after the 1914-15 season but wartime matches continued. However a scandal broke when it was alleged that Leeds City players - who included guests from other clubs - had received excessive payments in contravention of FA rules.

The Football Association launched an enquiry but, to protect all the players from possible consequences, the Leeds City management locked the evidence in a safe and refused to hand it over to the FA at the end of the war. If they thought they were calling the FA's bluff, it didn't work. In October 1919, with only eight matches of the season played, Leeds City were thrown out of the Football League, leaving the city with no professional football side.

Given the long-standing, and sometimes none-too-friendly, rivalry between Sheffield and Leeds, the situation today might appeal to a few diehard Sheffield supporters. However, it did not last for very long.

With their club abolished the former Leeds City professionals found themselves in limbo and the Football League arranged for an auction of players to other clubs, conducted behind closed doors. In the end, transfers were arranged at fees varying from £1,250 to £250.

A few weeks later the plot thickened, with Huddersfield Town now entering the equation. The club had been formed in 1908 in an area traditionally fond of Rugby football. It was struggling badly, with pitifully small gates, in Division Two. Casting his eyes towards the now soccer-less Leeds, the club's owner, Mr. J. Hilton Crowther, decided he might do better if he transferred the entire Huddersfield Town club to Leeds.

Secret talks with the League Management Committee in London produced no objections but news of the negotiations leaked out and the people of Huddersfield were furious.

Support for the team grew and suddenly the struggling Huddersfield Town players found a new belief in themselves, losing only three of their next 35

matches. Huddersfield won promotion and sensationally reached the FA Cup Final in 1920.

The story did not have the perfect ending for Huddersfield for they went down to Aston Villa by a single goal in extra time, credited ironically to one William Kirton, a former Leeds City player whom Villa had bought in the auction.

The thwarted J. Hilton Crowther achieved his objective in another way, forming Leeds United as an amateur side in 1919. The team turned professional in 1920 and was elected to Division Two the same year. The rest, as they say, is history.

Incidentally, during Huddersfield Town's successful FA Cup run, the club borrowed an Aladdin's Lamp from a theatre, where it had featured in a pantomime. The Lamp was taken with the side to important matches and was in the dressing room for the Final, where the Huddersfield players rubbed their boots with it for good luck.

Of course, no professional footballers today would put their trust in good luck charms ... would they?



Wimbledon's Carlton Fairweather 'flying' in the Don's Plough Lane days - now could the team fly out to Dublin!



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Pictured is Mitch Ward receiving his 'Football in the Community' Player of the Month Trophy for January from Saturday Club regulars Lee Carder, Thomas Boxall, Chris Cowie, Jamie Whitehead, Luke Adams and Shaun Holmes.



BLADES SUPPORTERS CLUB

Good afternoon and welcome to Bramall Lane for this afternoon's game against Luton Town, who like the Blades are finding a winning streak hard to come by. Let's hope it doesn't start for them today!

However, Luton are in the fortunate position of having games in hand. I know they have yet to win them, but at least they still have the opportunity. Ours sadly is slipping away fast, although a few wins could see us climbing up the table. Maybe today will be another rung up the ladder for us.

It is vital that the crowd gets behind the team from the start, then maybe we shall have a lot to cheer about. The game at Millwall was very disappointing, both for the travelling faithful and Manager alike, when after a bright start we faded badly and in the end could not complain at the result.

A special welcome today to all the children whose parent's Aunt's, Uncle's etc. have brought them on this special "Kid A Quid" Day. Some will be here for the first time - maybe the "seeds" will be sown for life, and new Blades' fans gained for many years to come. Congratulations to SUFC for providing this opportunity. At a time when watching football is an expensive hobby. Many folk do not now bring children on a regular basis, as they used to, and as a possible result, interest in 'live' football could suffer in the future. Enjoy your afternoon, kids, and don't forget - you can shout your loudest here when the "Blades" appear. We hope you will come back often.

This evening sees the biggest social event in the Supporters Club Calendar, The Player of the Year Dinner taking place in the Executive Suite. I sincerely hope that the evening will measure up to those in the past, especially as Howard Kendall and Viv Busby will be attending. I am sure we shall have a great evening, with our thanks going once again to our Sponsors, Overdrive Repair Services, Sands of Sheffield and Redwing Engineering not forgetting Gary Sinclair Entertainments who supply the Disco. And last, but certainly not least, to all those of you who give your support.

● Our next Executive Meetings will take place on Thursday, 4th April, 1996 at 7.30 p.m. in the Sponsors Lounge. Will all branches please send delegates.

Have a safe journey home, we want to see you all at Leicester. Who can forget our last visit there when we achieved promotion? I hope I get a better view than I did then - I virtually never saw the ball kicked as people were standing on their seats for the whole game, which spoiled the event for all those of us who were not prepared to risk injury doing likewise. A similar result next Saturday will be greatly appreciated.

Get behind the lads from the kick-off as your encouragement, I know, makes a vast contribution. But also let's keep it going for the whole game, especially if things do not go to plan early on. We must make every home game like a Cup tie with your help.

BERYL WHITNEY



Q9

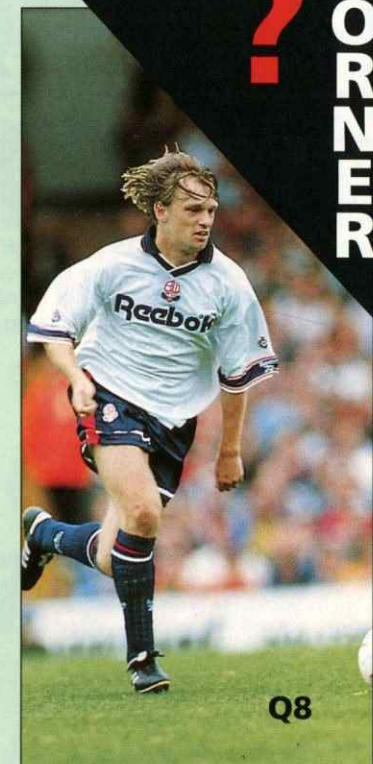
QUIZ

by Chris Wintle

1. Who was manager of Luton immediately before Harry Haslam?
2. Luton conceded six goals in a match twice last season. Who were their two opponents?
3. Who was Luton's leading goalscorer in the league last season?
4. Ex-Bolton player Richard Sneekes has recently joined which First Division side?
5. From whom did Watford sign Jamie Moralee?
6. Which teams play at Upton Park?
7. Ex-England midfielder Paul Stewart has recently joined which team on a free transfer?
8. Who is the current manager of Gillingham?
9. Whose fanzine is entitled 'The Seadog Bites Back'?
10. If the goalkeepers this season were Jon Sheffield and Shay Given which two teams would be playing?
11. Which ex-football manager wrote a book titled 'The Glory and the Grief'?
12. Which team is sponsored by 'Dagenham Motors'?
13. Which team are known as 'The Trotters'?
14. Which team plays at Meadow Lane?
15. Which two teams will play in the 1996 Auto Windshield Final?

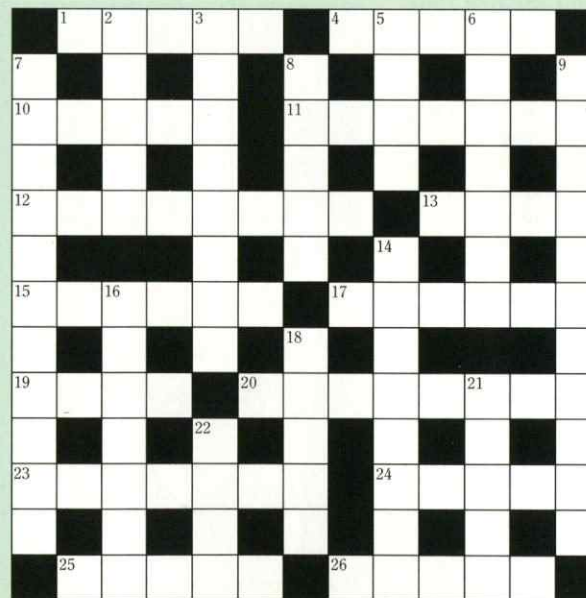
Answers on page 40

THINKERS CORNER



Q8

Soccer Crossword



ACROSS

1. English county where Paul Ince was born (5).
4. Nationality of AFC Bournemouth player Michael McElhatton (5).
10. Elland, Maine or Highfield for instance (5).
11. Brazilian striker (7).
12. English Division Two ground (8).
13. ---- Baggio, Italy defender (4).
15. Franco, ex-Italy defender (6).
17. Stuart, Sydney-born Reading Striker (6).
19. ---- Dorigo, Australian-born English Premier League player (4).
20. Flank position associated with Ryan Giggs maybe (4) & (4).
23. Racecourse Ground team (7).
24. # You'll Never Walk ---- # at Anfield (5).
25. San Marino League side (5).
26. Bomb action when kicking the ball hard (5).

DOWN

2. Mike, former West Ham United player early 1990s (5).
3. Goal attempt which is not a hard hit (4) & (4).
5. Italian League side Lazio hail from this city (4).
6. Forwards rely on plenty of this if they are going to score (7).
7. "The Mariners" (7) & (4).
8. Airdrieonians play at ---- field Park (5).
9. Germany goalkeeper World Cup '94 (4) & (7).
14. Topic of this crossword (8).
16. Scottish Premier League club, formed in 1873 (7).
18. Stade de ----, French League club (5).
21. Club nickname of Scunthorpe United (5).
22. ---- Babb, Republic of Ireland defender (4).

● Crossword supplied by Thomas Trickett.

Answers on page 40

THE Record Breakers

BY DENIS CLAREBROUGH

THE CHAMPIONS (1981-82)

There will be thousands of Unitedites here today who will never forget the last few minutes of the vital Third Division relegation struggle at the Lane against Walsall in May, 1981. A draw was sufficient for United but Walsall had to win. What should have been an enthralling battle never materialised; fear gripped both teams. Walsall failed to carry the battle to United and the Blades seemed happy to settle for a scrappy but satisfactory draw.

With about a quarter of an hour to go, Alan Buckley, the visitor's player-manager, at last seemed to realise the seriousness of his team's position and for the first time, began to attack United's nervous defence and with about five or six minutes left to play, he was brought down in the penalty area. Buckley normally took the penalty kicks for Walsall but he was unfit to resume and it was another reliable goal scorer, Don Penn who took the kick, shooting into the middle of the goal as Steve Conroy dived away to the right.

A poor game became memorable. United, attacking the Kop end, raised their game and with only two or three minutes remaining, were given a lifeline when a Walsall player was judged to have handled the ball. I thought the decision was harsh but Walsall's agony was brief. John Matthews was expected to take the spot kick but he walked away from the job and Don Givens, the only volunteer, made a hash of it.

The unthinkable had happened! My father's generation had never contemplated watching United in the lower reaches of the then, Second Division; now, the Fourth Division loomed ahead.

And yet, those of our supporters who can look back to those Fourth Division days will generally recall it as one of their happiest of seasons. We won a lot of matches, we scored a lot of goals and we visited places we never expected to visit.

We had a new manager and a new chairman and some new players; John McAlle came from Wolves, Paul Richardson from Stoke City and Keith Waugh from Peterborough

United and to the delight of our supporters, towards the end of September, Keith Edwards returned to the Lane after his spell at Hull.

The first fifteen minutes of the new season seemed to indicate that the Fourth Division would hold few problems for United; Steve Neville scored in the first minute and Matthews added a second. A final score of 2-2 however, indicated that the old defensive frailties had not been totally solved.

The return of Edwards gave United the impetus they had required; his attacking partnership with Bob Hatton proved too much for most of the defences in the division and Mike Trusson also weighed in with some valuable goals and by the end of October United, for the first time, held the top spot in the table.

Bury, Bradford City, Bournemouth, Peterborough and Wigan were the main threats to United who were not totally convincing.

The side were strengthened by the addition of Jeff King and Colin Morris but the team still had off days. A quite anonymous performance against non-league Altrincham in the FA cup and a 5-2 away defeat at Colchester in front of the Match of the Day cameras, with Waugh particularly at fault, made it obvious that promotion was far from certain.

United were the richest and biggest side that the Fourth Division had experienced; many of the grounds were ill equipped to cope with the vast army of usually good humoured United supporters that descended on them. For the home team, it became the 'match of the season' with a record gate and extra determination

in their players to defeat the 'big city club'.

United proved equal to the occasion; the defence may have lacked some skills but Tony Kenworthy, John MacPhail, Stewart Houston, and Paul Garner were not short of determination and ability and Waugh - Colchester apart - was a fine goalkeeper. In mid-field, Matthews, King, Richardson and Trusson had sufficient qualities to establish control and no other team could offer the attacking skills of Morris, Hatton and Edwards.

A rather fortunate away victory against Hartlepool at the end of February and a remarkable draw at Tranmere where Waugh saved a last minute penalty kick gave the players a great boost of confidence and the last nineteen games were played out undefeated.

Particularly memorable were the 7-3 victory against Northampton; the 5-1 win at Halifax (my first sight of the game was a first minute goal for the home side); the late equaliser from Edwards at Bury; the convincing 4-0 victory at Peterborough and Jeff King's last minute winner at Crewe and finally, that happy Championship day in the sunshine at Darlington.

Those of you who share those memories will know that there's more to football than twenty two men kicking a ball about.



Mike Trusson. One of the stars of United's Fourth Division Championship side.

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DEN-TED!



United's visit to the new Den held high hopes of a continuation of the revival - but Millwall's home hoodoo over us continued with a 1-0 win that might have been even greater.

- Don Hutchison gets in a tangle (top left).
- Roger Nilsen and Chris Malkin can't shake each other off.
- Uwe Fuchs breaks through Doug Hodgson's challenge to score the only goal.

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AWAY

BY DAVE WICKETT

BIRMINGHAM CITY 0 UNITED 1



It was nearly ten years ago that United last played at St. Andrews and so for many Blades fans this was their first visit. For some of us who had been many times in the past however, it had been a poor ground for favourable results and we had to go back twenty four years to our last victory.

Could this be the end of this miserable run and the first long awaited away win for United under Howard Kendall? Thankfully it was and after a battling, determined no nonsense approach by United we got the result we so wanted, and deserved. Birmingham, under Barry Fry change their players so often it's a wonder that they ever get to know each other. They had two players making their debuts in this match, making a total of 41 so far during the season, and the manager promised that there would be more new signings before the transfer deadline. With their first tactical substitution coming after only twenty five minutes, Birmingham seemed to be unsettled to say the least, and United made the most of the occasion, and with Gary Ablett making a superb debut for us, we did not let the lead slip. One of their new boys, Legg, had an astonishingly long throw, as long as any I can ever recall, and throw-ins from just inside our half were reaching into the goalmouth, fortunately to little effect on this occasion.

There was much confusion amongst the Blades fans about our substitution, with the announcement that Mark Beard had come on, whereas it was Andy Walker with much shorter hair which made a player that was hardly familiar to Blades fans even more difficult to recognise. On leaving the ground many fans were still claiming that Beard had scored, but whatever the conclusion as to the scorer, the near one two thousand Blades fans faced a happy journey home.



Gordon Cowans attempts to block a clearance by Johnson.

DAYS



PAGES 48
COST £1.50
ADVERTISEMENT PAGES 9

An interesting programme, with some controversial aspects. They include a commendable sector entitled Supporters Charter which states that they "aim to be recognised throughout the land as a club which welcomes football supporters from any club to a friendly atmosphere and safe environment." They then go on to list 8 points for their supporters to achieve in order to promote this including getting to the ground "at least thirty minutes before the kick-off" and (remember this is for supporters) "allow free-kicks and penalties to be taken without distraction".

On another page they have another article on a similar theme, which is equally to be commended, entitled Working Together - To make St. Andrews a better place. In this they state that despite all their effort they still have a minority of fans who continue to spoil things. They state that "These people are scum", with which most of us would agree.

Finally, reference must be made to their article on our former goalkeeper Willie Foulke who weighed in at over 22 stone. They wrote about two players who managed to charge him over the goal line including 'Appy Arry' Ampton of Villa who "developed a style of charging all of his own which involved running headfirst at the keeper. Even a man of Foulke's dimensions had difficulty withstanding a 13 stone guided missile. The charge left Hampton hanging up side down the the goalnet with his studs tangled. Rather foolishly he asked Foulke for a hand to get down. Willie's reply, or at least the printable version of it, was "Tha' got tha'sen up there, tha' can ***** get tha'sen back down". A great story.

FINAL SCORE (Maximum 5 *)

Design	***
Content	****
Photography	***
Value for Money	****

*The views expressed throughout this programme are not necessarily those of Sheffield United FC.

PONTIN'S LEAGUE DIVISION ONE 1995/96

August					
15 Tu	Liverpool				1-1
23 W	Notts. County				3-2
Sept					
4 M	Newcastle United				0-1
14 Th	Bolton Wanderers				1-1
21 Th	Sheffield Wednesday				1-1
27 W	Blackburn Rovers				1-1
October					
2 M	Birmingham City				1-2
12 Th	Stoke City				0-2
17 Tu	Tranmere Rovers				3-1
25 W	West Bromwich Albion				2-1
31 Tu	Derby County				2-3
November					
15 W	Manchester United				0-6
22 W	Nottingham Forest				3-1
27 M	Everton				1-1
December					
5 Tu	Sheffield Wednesday				0-0
11 M	Blackburn Rovers				0-3
18 M	Wolverhampton W.				1-0
January					
2 Tu	Oldham Athletic				5-1
11 Th	Leeds United				0-1
16 Tu	Notts. County				1-1
25 Th	Liverpool				0-4
30 Tu	Newcastle United				1-1
February					
14 W	Leeds United				0-0
26 M	Manchester United				0-3
March					
6 W	Derby County				1-1
20 W	Wolverhampton Wanderers				
25 M	Birmingham City				
April					
3 W	Bolton Wanderers				
10 W	Stoke City				
16 Tu	West Bromwich Albion				
24 W	Tranmere Rovers				
30 Tu	Everton				
May					
8 W	Nottingham Forest				
TBA	Oldham Athletic				

Fixtures to be played at Bramall Lane apart from those during November-March inclusive which will be at Saltergate, Chesterfield

PONTIN'S LEAGUE

(up to and inc. Wednesday 13th March)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester U.	24	17	4	3	53	24	55
Stoke City	26	14	5	7	49	34	47
Derby County	26	13	7	6	44	33	46
Liverpool	26	13	5	8	49	33	44
Everton	25	12	6	8	38	30	42
Leeds United	22	10	5	7	26	21	35
Newcastle U.	26	10	5	11	40	43	35
Oldham Athletic	25	9	7	9	38	40	34
Tranmere R.	23	10	3	10	49	44	33
Nottingham F.	24	9	6	9	35	37	33
Birmingham C.	23	10	2	11	43	50	32
Sheffield Wed.	25	8	7	10	44	45	31
Notts. County	24	8	5	11	39	44	29
Sheffield United	25	6	10	9	28	39	28
Bolton W.	24	6	9	9	33	40	27
Blackburn R.	24	6	8	10	36	38	26
Wolves	24	6	4	14	29	37	22
West Brom. A.	23	2	4	17	22	63	10

QUINN CLAIMS IT!

Pontins League Division One
Wednesday 6th March 1996

DERBY COUNTY 1 UNITED 1

Second placed Derby had won the earlier fixture by 3-2 at Bramall Lane but United on this occasion fielded a side laced with experience, youth and intrigue.

Major interest centred on Marc Joseph, on trial from Cambridge United, and particularly Belarus International striker, Peter Kachuro, who had spent the previous few days training with the club.

Conditions were pretty tricky on the notorious Baseball Ground surface although joint Rotherham United manager Archie Gemmill, a spectator, assessed it as no better than when he was winning Championship medals on it with Derby!

The pace of County's Cunningham was an early factor which United had to contend with but it as a handball offence by John Reed which gave Derby a 23rd minute spot-kick, Darren Wrack let us off the hook by dragging the penalty-kick wide of goal.

Andy Walker was upended in the penalty area but no award was made on that occasion, and there was no score until a minute from the break. Wayne Quinn curled in a left-footed free-kick from the right which deceived Quy with Kachuro almost getting a touch with his head. Despite the Russian's claim, 'Quinny' is credited with the goal!

United sat a bit deeper and defended well from then on but were pegged back by Kavanagh's free-kick after he himself had been scythed down.

The Blades had a great chance to score after Kachuro played Beard in for a chance but Quy

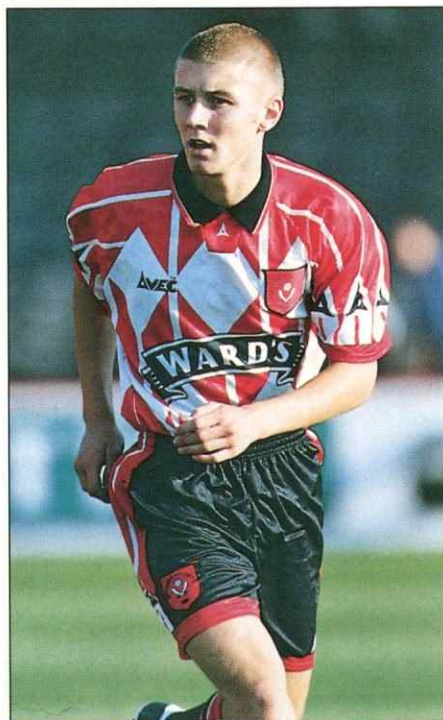
parried the shot and Walker's follow up was blocked also.

Viv Busby praised Kachuro's efforts afterwards: "He can speak virtually no English, has had very little time with us but he showed a good attitude and can certainly play." Joseph, playing sweeper, had a quietly effective game.

Derby: Quy, Kozluk, Trollope, Kavanagh, Sutton, Ashbee, Wrack, Cunningham (Brown 72), Smith, Preece, Cooper. Unused: Owen, Murphy.

United: Tracey, Gage, Quinn, Joseph, Gayle, Hawes, Bettney, Beard, Kachuro, Walker, Reed. Unused: Collins, Hocking, Elton.

Scorers: Derby - Kavanagh. United - Quinn (44).



Goalscorer from free-kick - Wayne Quinn.

PONTIN'S LEAGUE RESULTS (7th-13th March, 1996)

Division One: Manchester 2, Sheffield Wednesday 1; Nottingham Forest 1, Notts. County 0; Liverpool 0, Derby County 0; Newcastle United 2, Oldham Athletic 1; Stoke City 1, Wolves 0; Everton 2, West Bromwich Albion 2.

ONE THAT GOT AWAY

Northern Intermediate League

Saturday 2nd March 1996

UNITED 2 YORK CITY 2

Although our youngsters picked up a much-needed point they certainly should have had all three as the visitors played out much of the second-half with ten men and equalised with only five minutes remaining.

United led after quarter of an hour, Paul Wood cashing in on the back post from 12 yards after a cross from the left hand side.

York equalised on the half-hour when the Blades failed to defend a corner properly. Although United were passing the ball about well and looking the more threatening team they needed to tighten up their physical defending and win more headers at the back.

They achieved this after the break and took the lead on 67 minutes, Lewin, making the most of his rare appearance, did well down the right, creating the opportunity for Paul Elton to score.

City had a payer dismissed unnecessarily and should have been further punished by goals but equalised when a long ball down the middle beat Hocking and a visiting striker latched on to it to score past Spooner.

Despite Kevin Davies adapting nicely to a new defensive position, and the team scoring twice in an unproved performance, United felt disappointed at not pressing home a good chance of a morale-boosting win.



Adapting well - Kevin Davies.

United: Spooner, Bettney, Davies, Summerell, Hocking, Hawes, Wood, Lewin, Elton, Ludlam, Tracey.

Unused: Bamforth, Doane, Eastwood.

Scorers: Wood (17), Elton (67).

N. INTERMEDIATE RESULTS (Sat. 16th March, 1996)

Barnsley 2 Hull City 0; Bradford City 6, Chesterfield 2; Darlington 1, York City 3; Hartlepool 1, Sheffield United 3; Leeds 0, Rotherham 2; Middlesbrough 6, Sunderland 2; Newcastle United 3, Doncaster Rovers 2; Sheffield Wednesday 0, Huddersfield Town 2.

TALE OF TWO HALVES

Northern Intermediate League

Saturday 9th March 1996

DONCASTER R. 2 UNITED 2

Many of the boys had been told the day before about the offer of professional contracts and Keith Mincher took the opportunity to play some of them in their most comfortable positions - or ones that would give them vital experience.

Unfortunately Rovers were a rather big side and United, in the first half, showed signs of being daunted by their stature and physical presence. Consequently we played with an unacceptable approach that drastically effected our playing standards and fell behind from a free-kick after 38 minutes.

United were re-shaped at half-time and turned the game completely. Mick Collins went to centre-half when Litten was injured

and was outstanding throughout the game.

With a much sounder base to work from United found more exciting attacking play, resulting in a flurry of late-goals. Ian Metcalf (80) equalised after a corner-kick but Rovers immediately went down the field and took advantage of Bettney's underhit back-pass to regain the lead.

Summerell (85) equalised from the penalty spot when Metcalf was blatantly held by the goalkeeper. United should have won the game, a fact sportingly acknowledged by Rovers Coach Steve Beaglehole, but must learn from the experience of their poor first half performance.

United: Spooner, Bettney, Metcalf, Summerell, Hocking, Litten (Lewin 60), Wood, Hewitt (Davies h-t), Collins, Ludlam, Dyer (Mays 70).

Scorers: Metcalf (80), Summerell (pen, 85).

NORTHERN INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE 1995/96

August					
5 S	Hull City				2-2
12 S	Rotherham United				0-2
19 S	Chesterfield				5-0
26 S	Leeds United				2-1
September					
2 S	Bradford City (NIL Cup)				1-1
9 S	Hartlepool United				0-0
13 W	Bradford City (NILC rep.)				1-2
16 S	Darlington				1-4
23 S	Huddersfield Town				2-1
30 S	Bradford City				1-2
October					
14 S	Barnsley				2-1
23 M	Sunderland				0-3
28 S	Newcastle United				2-3
November					
4 S	Sheffield Wednesday				0-3
11 S	Middlesbrough				0-3
18 S	Hull City				0-2
25 S	Rotherham United				1-3
28 Tu	Newcastle U. (FAYC 2)				2-1
December					
2 S	Chesterfield				7-1
16 S	York City				1-2
19 Tu	WBA (FAYC 3)				2-1
January					
6 S	Huddersfield Town				1-2
13 S	Bradford City				2-4
20 S	Doncaster Rovers				1-2
February					
10 S	Liverpool (FAYC 4)				2-3
17 S	Sheffield Wednesday				1-4
24 S	Middlesbrough				0-1
28 W	Sunderland				0-2
March					
2 S	York City				2-2
9 S	Doncaster Rovers				2-2
16 S	Hartlepool United				3-1
18 M	Newcastle United				1-1
27 W	Leeds United				
30 S	Darlington				
April					
13 S	Barnsley				

N. INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE

(up to and inc. Saturday 16th March)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesbrough	26	18	4	4	54	26	58
Leeds United	25	16	4	5	80	32	52
Huddersfield T.	26	16	4	6	51	27	52
Sheffield Wed.	25	15	4	6	57	21	49
Newcastle U.	24	14	3	7	60	35	45
Rotherham U.	26	13	6	7	40	34	45
Sunderland	23	14	2	7	59	32	44
York City	27	11	7	9	50	38	40
Barnsley	25	11	5	9	42	36	38
Hull City	23	8	5	10	24	30	29
Doncaster R.	25	7	6	12	36	62	27
Bradford City	25	8	1	16	28	49	25
Hartlepool U.	26	7	2	17	27	57	23
Sheffield United	26	6	4	16	38	53	22
Darlington	25	6	3	16	33	66	21
Chesterfield	27	1	2	24	26	107	5

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EMPICS Ltd.*

The views expressed by the individual contributors are not necessarily those of Sheffield United F. C., the Editor or J. W. Northend Ltd.

Closing in on...

Our latest signing is playing for his third club this season and was part of a unique triple transfer deal that saw Dave Tuttle and Carl Veart make the opposite move to Crystal Palace.

Gareth began the season in great form for Bristol Rovers. He and strike partner Marcus Stewart formed a pairing that hit the headlines last season and drew admiring glances – and a joint £1.5 million bid from West Ham United.

The bid was turned down and Rovers fought their way to the Wembley play-offs, only to lose out to Huddersfield Town at the final hurdle.

Five quick goals this season persuaded Palace to move in with a £700,000 down payment for the 6'2" striker who had missed most of the 1993-94 season because of a cruciate ligament operation.

He was then mainly regarded as a centre-back but John Ward converted him to a striker almost by accident, playing him up front in practice during his rehabilitation when tackling wasn't part of his recovery programme!

Present Southampton manager Dave Merrington also had a big say in his career development. Gareth was at the Dell for four years, first as a schoolboy and then as an apprentice:

"I learned an awful lot from him and grew up a great deal as a result, both on and off the pitch. Dave recommended that the then manager, Chris Nicholl, should take me on as a professional and it looked likely until a last minute change of mind, so Rovers took me on.

The transfer to Selhurst Park should have been the stepping-stone to greater things but Palace's style wasn't conducive to

getting the best out of a player who had thrived on crosses at Bristol Rovers.

"Palace played me as the line striker and had five at the back with no wingers. Consequently I was starved of the type of service I needed and only scored two goals, one against Port Vale in the FA Cup and one against Stoke City in a 2-1 league victory."

In one of those coincidences that happen frequently in football Gareth faced Stoke in his United debut and was very happy with the support of his team-mates.

"Dane and Mitch supplied more crosses on that day than I'd had all season! I enjoyed it, might have scored on more than one occasion, but I'll feel happier when I've worked a few things out in training, particularly on free-kicks and corners.

"There are so many good players here. Gordon Cowans was excellent

GARETH TAYLOR

IN DETAIL

- Playing position...central striker.
- Age: 23 (25.2.73)
- Place of Birth: Weston-Super-Mare.
- Family: girlfriend, Helen.
- International Honours...Welsh Full International and seven U-21 caps.
- Nickname...G.T.
- Gareth rates himself as "nothing special" academically – but he did pass seven GCSE's at school.

against Stoke and I remember Don Hutchison had an outstanding game at Palace when I was on the other side."

"Dave Bassett came in and wiped the slate clean. Obviously, he had his own views on players and when I lost my place through injury I was only on the bench. I think he wanted to bring others in but had to sell to raise the money.

"He wanted to cover other positions and I was the odd one out – but I understand that's how things often happen in football and 'Harry' was good enough to tell one about United's interest. Whilst I was at Palace I gained my first full cap and again learned a lot about the pitfalls of football.

"I had no hesitation about making another move up here. I needed a fresh start and am happy that Howard Kendall is giving me the opportunity.



ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sunderland	36	18	12	6	48	26	66
Derby County	37	17	14	6	56	41	65
Crystal Palace	37	16	13	8	54	41	61
Charlton Athletic	35	14	14	7	49	39	56
Stoke City	35	14	12	9	46	36	54
Ipswich Town	35	14	11	10	65	52	53
Huddersfield Town	36	14	11	11	47	43	53
Barnsley	36	13	12	11	50	53	51
Southern United	37	13	11	13	44	48	50
Leicester City	36	12	13	11	52	53	49
Birmingham City	36	12	12	12	47	47	48
Millwall	37	12	11	14	35	47	47
Norwich City	37	11	12	14	48	45	45
Wolves	36	11	12	13	46	48	45
Portsmouth	36	11	11	14	55	57	44
Tranmere Rovers	35	11	11	13	47	43	44
Port Vale	33	10	12	11	39	43	42
Grimsby Town	35	10	12	13	39	50	42
West Bromwich Albion	36	11	8	17	45	58	41
Reading	35	8	16	11	40	47	40
Oldham Athletic	35	9	12	14	45	42	39
SHEFFIELD UNITED	37	9	12	16	41	51	39
Luton Town	35	9	10	16	31	47	37
Watford	35	6	14	15	39	51	32



UNITED'S ROLL CALL 95/96

Player	Birthplace/Date of Birth	1995/96 League		Cup
		App.	Goals	
Gary ABLETT	Liverpool 19.11.65	3	-	-
Graham ANTHONY	South Shields 9.8.75	-	-	1
Mark BEARD	Roehampton 8.10.74	13(3)	1	2
Mark BLOUNT	Derby 5.1.74	7(1)	-	2
Gordon COWANS	Durham 27.10.58	12	-	3
Ross DAVIDSON	Chertsey 13.11.74	1	-	-
Kevin GAGE	Chiswick 21.4.64	2	-	-
Brian GAYLE	London 6.3.65	3(1)	-	-
Steven HAWES	High Wycombe 17.7.78	1(1)	-	-
Doug HODGSON	Melbourne 27.2.69	8(3)	-	2(1)
Don HUTCHISON	Gateshead 9.5.71	10(1)	1	-
Alan KELLY	Preston 11.8.68	34	-	5
Roger NILSEN	Tromso, Norway 8.8.69	31	-	5
Mark PATTERSON	Darwen 24.5.65	12	2	2
Andy SCOTT	Epsom 2.8.72	3(4)	-	1
Chris SHORT	Munster 9.5.70	8(2)	-	3
Philip STARBUCK	Nottingham 24.11.68	5(5)	1	1
Simon TRACEY	Woolwich 9.12.67	2	-	-
Gareth TAYLOR	Weston-S-Mare 25.2.73	2	-	-
Michel VONK	Alkmaar 28.10.68	11	-	2
Andrew WALKER	Glasgow 6.4.65	3(2)	1	-
Mitch WARD	Sheffield 18.6.71	31(3)	-	4
David WHITE	Manchester 30.10.67	20(1)	4	3
Dane WHITEHOUSE	Sheffield 14.10.70	30(1)	2	5
<i>Also Played</i>				
Brett ANGELL	Marlborough 20.8.68	6	2	-
Tony BATTERSBY	Doncaster 30.8.75	3(7)	1	1(1)
Nathan BLAKE	Cardiff 27.1.72	20(2)	12	-
Scott FITZGERALD	London 13.8.69	6	-	-
Jostein FLO	Eid, Norway 3.10.64	17(2)	4	1
Mark FORAN	Aldershot 30.10.73	6	1	-
John GANNON	Wimbledon 18.12.66	12	-	1
Adrian HEATH	Newcastle-U-Lyme 11.1.61	-	4	-
Glyn HODGES	Streatham 30.4.63	15(7)	3	1(4)
William MERCER	Liverpool 22.5.69	1	-	-
Paul HOLLAND	Lincoln 8.7.73	11(7)	1	2
Paul ROGERS	Portsmouth 21.3.65	13(3)	-	1(1)
Rob SCOTT	Epsom 15.8.73	2(3)	1	-
David TUTTLE	Reading 6.2.72	26	1	3
Carl VEART	S. Australia 21.5.70	17(10)	5	2(2)

Date	Opposition	F-A	Gate	Pos.	KEEPER	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	SUBSTITUTES		
Aug. 12	Watford	1-2	8,667	-	Kelly	Ward	A. Scott*	Holland*	Tuttle	Nilsen	Rogers	Veart	R. Scott*	Blake 1 ^B	Whitehouse	Flo (9)	Starbuck (4)	Gayle (3) ^B
19	TRANMERE ROVERS	0-2	11,247	24	Kelly	Ward	A. Scott*	Holland*	Tuttle	Nilsen	Rogers	R. Scott*	Flo	Blake	Whitehouse	Beard (3)	Veart (8)	Gayle
26	Oldham Athletic	1-2	6,751	24	Kelly	Beard ^B	Nilsen	Rogers ^B	Gayle ^B	Tuttle ^B	Ward	Veart	Flo*	Holland	Whitehouse	A. Scott (9)	Mercer	Blake 1 (2)
29	CRYSTAL PALACE	2-3	10,378	24	Mercer	Beard	Nilsen	Rogers	Gayle	Blount*	Ward	Veart*	Flo 1*	Blake	Whitehouse 1	Hodges (8)	R. Scott (9)	A. Scott (6) ^B
Sept. 2	West Bromwich Albion	1-3	14,377	24	Kelly	Beard ^B	Nilsen	Rogers*	Gayle	Blount	Ward ^B	Veart*	Blake	Hodges	Whitehouse	Hawes (4)	Mercer	R. Scott 1 (8)
9	NORWICH CITY	2-1	11,205	24	Kelly	Beard	Nilsen ^B	Rogers*	Tuttle*	Blount	Ward	Flo	Blake 1	Hodges	Whitehouse	Holland ^B (5)	Battersby	Veart 1 (4)
12	CHARLTON ATHLETIC	2-0	9,448	19	Kelly	Beard*	Nilsen	Rogers ^B	Hodgson	Blount	Ward	Flo*	Blake 2	Hodges ^B	Whitehouse	Holland (10)	Battersby (8)	Veart (2)
17	Barnsley	2-2	7,150	21	Kelly	Beard	Nilsen ^B	Rogers*	Hodgson	Blount	Ward*	Battersby	Blake 2	Hodges	Whitehouse	Holland (4)	Tracey	Veart (7)
20	BURY C-C 2 (1)	2-1	4,075	-	Kelly	Beard	Nilsen	Holland	Hodgson*	Blount	Ward	Battersby*	Blake	Anthony*	Whitehouse 1 ^B	Hodges (5)	Rogers (10)	Veart 1 (8)
24	Huddersfield Town	2-1	12,840	16	Kelly	Blount	Nilsen	Rogers	Foran	Tuttle	Holland	Flo 1	Blake ^B	Hodges 1 ^B	Whitehouse	A. Scott (9) ^B	Tracey	Veart
30	IPSWICH TOWN	2-2	12,557	17	Kelly	Blount	Nilsen	Rogers	Foran	Tuttle ^B	Beard*	Flo*	Blake 1 ^B	Hodges	Whitehouse 1 ^B	Veart (9)	Holland (8)	A. Scott (7)
Oct. 3	BURY C-C 2 (2)	2-4	2,888	-	Kelly	Blount	Nilsen	Rogers	A. Scott*	Tuttle	Beard ^B	Holland 1	Veart	Flo 1	Whitehouse	Hodges (5)	Tracey	Battersby (7)
7	DERBY COUNTY	0-2	12,721	19	Kelly	Davidson*	Nilsen	Holland	Foran	Tuttle	Hawes*	Flo*	Blake	Hodges	Whitehouse	Ward (7)	Veart (8)	Battersby (2)
14	Southern United	1-2	5,292	20	Kelly	Ward ^B	Nilsen	Gannon	Foran	Tuttle*	Holland 1	Flo	Battersby*	Hodges	Veart*	R. Scott (11)	Rogers (6)	Blake (9) ^B
21	LEICESTER CITY	1-3	13,100	21	Kelly	Ward	Nilsen	Gannon ^B	Foran ^B	Tuttle	Holland	Flo 1	Blake	Hodges	Starbuck	Gage	Tracey	Veart
28	Wolves	0-1	23,881	23	Kelly	Gage	Nilsen	Gannon*	A. Scott	Tuttle	Veart	Flo ^B	Blake	Hodges ^B	Starbuck*	Holland (4)	Tracey	Ward (11)
Nov. 4	PORTSMOUTH	4-1	11,281	21	Kelly	Gage ^B	Nilsen	Holland	Whitehouse	Tuttle	Veart 2	Flo 1	Blake*	Hodges*	Ward	Beard (2)	Starbuck (10)	Battersby 1 (9)
11	Port Vale	3-2	7,284	18	Tracey	Beard	Nilsen*	Gannon	Whitehouse	Tuttle ^B	Veart ^B	Flo	Blake 2	Hodges 1*	Ward	Battersby	Holland (10)	Hodgson (3)
18	Sunderland	0-2	16,640	19	Kelly	Beard	Whitehouse	Gannon	Hodgson	Tuttle ^B	Veart ^B	Flo	Blake	Holland ^B	Ward ^B	Blount (7)	Tracey	White (10)
21	GRIMSBY TOWN	1-2	9,884	20	Kelly	Beard	Whitehouse	Gannon*	Hodgson	Tuttle	Veart*	Flo ^B	Blake 1	White	Ward	Hodges (8)	Rogers (4)	Battersby (8)
25	READING	0-0	9,737	19	Kelly	Beard*	Whitehouse	Veart	Fitzgerald	Tuttle ^B	White	Flo	Blake*	Hodges	Ward	Battersby (9)	Rogers (2)	Hodgson
Dec. 2	Derby County	2-4	13,841	21	Kelly	Beard	Hodgson ^B	Gannon*	Fitzgerald	Tuttle*	White ^B	Flo*	Blake 1	Veart 1	Whitehouse	Battersby (8)	Ward (6) ^B	Hodges (4)
9	Huddersfield Town	0-2	12,126	23	Tracey	Beard	Nilsen	Gannon	Foran ^B	Fitzgerald	White*	Veart	Blake	Hodges*	Whitehouse*	Battersby (7)	Holland (10)	Flo (11)
16	Ipswich Town	1-1	9,630	23	Kelly	Rogers ^B	Nilsen	Gannon	Fitzgerald	Tuttle	White	Veart*	Blake*	Holland	Ward	Hodges (8)	Tracey	Starbuck 1 (9)
20	Stoke City	2-2	12,265	23	Kelly	Rogers ^B	Fitzgerald	Gannon*	Vonk ^B	Tuttle ^B	White 1	Patterson 1	Battersby	Holland	Ward	Hodges (5)	Tracey	Heath (4)
26	BIRMINGHAM CITY	1-1	17,668	23	Kelly	Rogers	Nilsen	Gannon*	Fitzgerald	Tuttle	White	Patterson 1	Starbuck*	Hodges	Ward	Foran (9)	Tracey	Heath (4)
Jan. 6	Arsenal (FA Cup 3)	1-1	33,453	-	Kelly	Short ^B	Ward	Gannon*	Vonk	Nilsen	White ^B	Cowans	Starbuck*	Hodges	Whitehouse 1	Hodgson (4)	Tracey	Heath (9)
13	Tranmere Rovers	1-1	7,321	23	Kelly	Short	Ward	Gannon*	Vonk ^B	Nilsen	White	Cowans	Starbuck*	Hutchison	Whitehouse	Hodgson (9)	Tracey	Hodges 1 (4)
17	ARSENAL (FA Cup 3 replay)	1-0	22,255	-	Kelly	Short	Nilsen	Patterson	Vonk	Tuttle	White	Cowans	Veart 1	Ward	Whitehouse*	Hodges (11)	Tracey	Heath
20	WATFORD	1-1	12,782	24	Kelly	Short	Nilsen	Patterson ^B	Vonk	Tuttle 1	White	Cowans	Hutchison	Ward*	Whitehouse*	Hodges (10)	Tracey	Veart (11)
28	ASTON VILLA (FA Cup 4)	0-1	18,749	-	Kelly ^B	Short	Nilsen	Patterson	Hodgson	Tuttle	White	Cowans*	Hutchison*	Ward	Whitehouse	Hodges (8)	Tracey	Veart (9)
31	Luton Town	0-1	6,995	24	Kelly	Ward	Nilsen ^B	Patterson ^B	Vonk	Tuttle	White*	Cowans*	Angell	Hutchison	Whitehouse	Veart (7)	Tracey	Heath (8)
Feb. 3	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	2-1	10,956	22	Kelly	Ward	Nilsen ^B	Patterson ^B	Vonk	Tuttle*	White 2	Cowans	Angell	Hutchison	Whitehouse	Veart (6)	Tracey	Heath
10	Crystal Palace	0-0	15,883	23	Kelly	Short ^B	Ward	Patterson ^B	Vonk ^B	Nilsen	White	Cowans	Angell	Hutchison ^B	Whitehouse*	Hodgson (11)	Tracey	Heath
13	MILLWALL	2-0	10,007	22	Kelly	Short	Ward	Patterson	Vonk	Nilsen	White	Cowans	Veart 1*	Hutchison 1	Whitehouse	Hodgson	Tracey	Starbuck (9)
17	Charlton Athletic	1-1	11,239	22	Kelly	Short	Nilsen*	Patterson ^B	Vonk	Tuttle ^B	White 1	Cowans	Veart ^B	Hutchison	Ward	Whitehouse (3)	Tracey	Angell
20	WBA	1-2	10,944	23	Kelly	Short	Ward	Patterson	Vonk	Tuttle	White	Veart	Angell 1	Hutchison	Whitehouse	Hodgson	Tracey	Cowans
24	BARNESLEY	1-0	14,584	20	Kelly	Ward	Nilsen ^B	Patterson	Vonk ^B	Tuttle	White	Cowans	Angell 1*	Walker*	Whitehouse	Short (9)	Tracey	Veart (10)
28	Norwich City	0-0	10,945	21	Kelly	Ward	Nilsen	Cowans	Vonk	Tuttle*	White	Patterson ^B	Angell	Walker*	Whitehouse	Short (10) ^B	Tracey	Starbuck (6)
Mar. 2	Birmingham City	1-0	16,799	17	Kelly	Short	Nilsen	Cowans	Hodgson	Ablett	White	Ward ^B	Starbuck	Hutchison ^B	Whitehouse*	Walker (11)	Tracey	Beard
9	STOKE CITY	0-0	14,468	17	Kelly	Short ^B	Nilsen	Cowans ^B	Hodgson	Ablett	White	Ward	Taylor	Hutchison*	Whitehouse	Walker (10)	Tracey	Starbuck
16	Millwall	0-1	7,795	20	Kelly	Ward	Nilsen	Cowans*	Hodgson	Ablett	White	Patterson	Taylor ^B	Walker	Whitehouse	Hutchison (9)	Tracey	Beard (4)
23	LUTON TOWN																	
30	Leicester City																	
April 2	SOUTHEND UNITED																	
6	WOLVES																	
8	Portsmouth																	
13	SUNDERLAND																	
20	Grimsby Town																	
27	Reading																	
May 4	PORT VALE																	
11	FA Cup Final																	

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Scorers in Bold type ^BBooked ^SSent off *Own Goal Figures in brackets () indicates player a sub replaced

QUIZ AND CROSSWORD ANSWERS

QUIZ

1. Alec Stock. 2. The Blades and Southampton in the FA Cup. 3. Dwight Marshall. 4. West Bromwich Albion. 5. Millwall. 6. West Ham United. 7. Sunderland. 8. Tony Pulis. 9. Scarborough. 10. Peterborough and Sunderland. 11. George Graham. 12. West Ham United. 13. Bolton Wanderers. 14. Notts. County. 15. Rotherham and Shrewsbury.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 1. Essex. 4. Irish. 10 Roads. 11. Romario. 12. Millmoor. 13. Dino. 15. Baresi. 17. Lovell. 19. Tony. 20. Left Wing. 23. Wrexham. 24. Alone. 25. Isola. 26. Blast.
 DOWN: 2. Small. 3. Easy Miss. 5. Rome. 6. Service. 7. Grimsby Town. 8. Broom. 9. Bodo Illgner. 14. Football. 16. Rangers. 18. Reims. 21. Irons. 22. Phil.

ALSO TODAY

Barnsley v Southern United
 Charlton Athletic v Stoke City
 Crystal Palace v Portsmouth
 Huddersfield Town v Grimsby Town
 Leicester City v Millwall
 Norwich City v Derby County
 Port Vale v Ipswich Town
 Sunderland v Oldham Athletic
 Tranmere Rovers v Reading
 Watford v WBA

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Blades TICKET NEWS



LEICESTER CITY v UNITED

Endsleigh League Division One
Saturday, 30th March, kick-off 3.00 p.m.

This match is ALL TICKET for Blades fans. 2,700 seats are available in E Stand. Tickets are on sale. Tickets in block U are priced at £13 (no concessions). Tickets in Block T and V are priced at £10 adults and £5 OAP's/Juniors.

UNITED v SOUTHEND UNITED

Endsleigh League Division One
Tuesday, 2nd April, kick-off 7.45 p.m.

This match is NOT all ticket. Tickets are on sale now.

UNITED v WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS

Endsleigh League Division One
Saturday, 6th April, kick-off 3.00 p.m.

This match is currently NOT all ticket. However supporters are strongly advised to purchase tickets in advance. Should demand indicate that ground capacity may be reached, then this match would become all ticket. Tickets are on sale now.

Please note that the Bramall Lane Tier is not available to home fans for this match. Season Ticket holders who sit in this area should have already received a letter offering alternative seats for these matches. These should be claimed by **Saturday, 30th March**. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.



PORTSMOUTH v UNITED

Endsleigh League Division One
Monday, 8th April, kick-off 3.00 p.m.

This match is not all ticket for Blades fans. 1,900 terrace

FOUR GAME SPECIAL

Support Howard Kendall and United to the end by coming to watch our last four home matches -

AT A SPECIAL PRICE - ADULT £30 CHILD £5

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DONT'S MISS THIS GREAT OFFER!

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tickets are available in the Milton End, price £8.00 each (no concessions). These tickets are available at the turnstiles and are not available in advance. 1,200 seats are also available in D section priced at £13.00 adults and £9.00 juniors/OAP's. Concessionary prices are only available in advance and will not be available on the day. Seat tickets on sale from Monday 25th March.

UNITED v SUNDERLAND

Endsleigh League Division One
Saturday, 13th April, kick-off 3.00 p.m.

This match is not currently all ticket. However supporters are strongly advised to purchase tickets in advance. Should demand indicate that ground capacity may be reached then this match would become all ticket. Tickets are on sale now.

Please note that the Bramall Lane Tier is not available to home fans for this match. Season Ticket holders who sit in this area should have already received a letter offering alternative seats for these matches. These should be claimed by **Saturday, 30th March**. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

EASTER CLOSURE

The Pools and Ticket Offices will **only** be closed on Easter Monday (8th April) for the holiday period.

- Fans wishing to go to **Portsmouth** with the Travel Club are reminded that places **must** be booked by **Thursday, 4th April** in order that Coaches can be ordered **before** Good Friday.

MEMBERSHIP WINNERS

The winners of tickets for today's match in the BLADES MEMBERS DRAW are as follows. We hope you all enjoy the day.

- Mrs. D. M. Bruce of South Anston
- Mr. J. Shaw of Deepcar
- Miss L. M. Lane of Chester

REMEMBER THAT AS PART OF THE MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE BLADES MEMBERS ARE ENTERED IN A DRAW FOR THREE PAIRS OF TICKETS FOR EACH HOME LEAGUE MATCH...IT COULD BE YOU!



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BLADES TRAVEL CLUB

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Depart	Adult Members/ Season Ticket Holders	Concessions	Non-Members	Book By
LEICESTER CITY				
Saturday, 30th March	11.30 a.m. £7.00	£6.00	£8.00	Thursday, 28th March
Pick-up points (South-bound), Chesterfield/Hasland A617, 11.50 a.m. M1 Junction 29, 12.00 noon. Other pick up points south of junction 29 on the M1 may be arranged. Anyone wishing to board the coach at Chesterfield or Junction 29 MUST pay in advance at the Pools Office and notify the staff when booking.				
PORTSMOUTH				
Monday, 8th April	8.00 a.m. £14.00	£13.00	£15.00	Thursday, 4th April
Pick-up points (South-bound), Chesterfield/Hasland A617, 8.20 a.m. M1 Junction 29, 8.30 a.m. Other pick up points south of junction 29 on the M1 may be arranged. Anyone wishing to board the coach at Chesterfield or Junction 29 MUST pay in advance at the Pools Office and notify the staff when booking.				

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