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Division Two
**Notts County v
Luton Town**
Saturday August 7
1999
Kick-off 3.00pm

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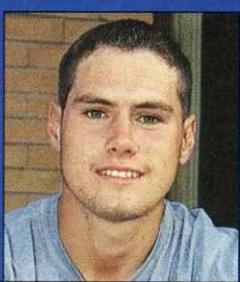
Notts County v Luton Town


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At home with . . .
Kevin Rapley

On the Spot -
Clayton Blackmore

In the season -
1973-74



WARM WELCOME

CLAYTON BLACKMORE and Paul Gibson officially joined our playing staff during the summer and we are sure you will want to join us in wishing them a long and successful stay at Meadow Lane.

The link between them, of course, is that they are both former Manchester United players although while Clayton is an experienced Welsh international who has tasted European success, Paul is striving to establish himself.

The young goalkeeper made such a good impression against Gillingham and Mansfield in the closing weeks of last season that it prompted Sam Allardyce to offer him a two-year deal.

Clayton, who went on to serve Middlesbrough and Barnsley, has signed a one-year deal and he marked his arrival with a fine performance in the pre-season game against Arsenal, which earned him the 'Man of the Match' award.

KEY CHANGES

THREE major changes were agreed at this summer's Annual Meeting of the Football League and will kick into gear this afternoon.

Against our wishes - mainly because of the

expense it involves - the squad system has been introduced and all players will carry the same squad number throughout the season.

That brings League clubs into line with the Premiership, of course, and so do the other changes. Five substitutes will now be named, of which three can be used, and in the event of clubs being level on points goal-difference is the deciding factor in the League table - not goals scored.

BANGING THE DRUM

AS you are no doubt aware, Sam Allardyce has been concerned for some time about the lack of atmosphere at Meadow Lane and we are looking



New boys at Meadow Lane . . . Clayton Blackmore and Paul Gibson

Down the Lane

to do something positive about this.

The plan is to form a Notts County band, who will take up residence in the Jimmy Sirrel Stand, but in order to do that we have to find some musicians.

If anyone is willing and able to get involved - preferably on drums or brass instruments - please contact Tony Cuthbert at Meadow Lane.

Said Allardyce: "On the occasions when we have a relatively small crowd in a large stadium, it's not easy to generate an atmosphere and I think that tends to give the advantage to the away team.

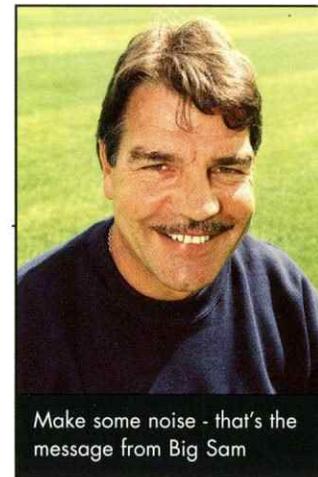
"It's more than coincidence that we always seem to perform better in a good atmosphere and I'm keen to see us do something about this."

TRAVEL PLANS

BURY are our first round opponents in this season's Worthington Cup and we travel to Gigg Lane on Tuesday for the first leg, with the return at Meadow Lane in a fortnight's time.

Our supporters will be accommodated in the Manchester Road West Stand - admission costs £14 for adults and £8 for juveniles and OAPs - and parking is restricted to nearby streets.

We are on our travels again to Colchester next Saturday and you can take your pick between sitting at standing at Layer Road. Terrace admission costs £9 and £5 and to sit in Block E of the Main Stand costs £11 and £7.



Make some noise - that's the message from Big Sam

SWITCHED TO FRIDAY

THERE have been two changes to our list of Second Division fixtures recently and they both involve switching matches to a Friday evening.

Please note that we have agreed to Wrexham's request to move our game at the Racecourse Ground to Friday September 3 (kick off 7.30pm) to avoid clashing with international matches the following day.

And our Easter trip to Wycombe has now been switched to Friday April 21 (7.45pm) because they feel it will attract a better attendance.

On the subject of Bank Holiday fixtures, we are at home to Brentford on Monday August 30 and that game will kick off at 3pm.

SAD DUTY

WE are sad to report that two dedicated Notts County fans - Paul Hilder and Frederick Moore - died during the summer.

Paul, who was only 28, apparently passed away during a routine operation. Frederick, 73, played for our colts side as a youngster and although he spent many years in Canada and Australia, he always remained a staunch fan. We extend our sincere condolences to their families and friends.

Cover Photograph:

Gary Owers in action against Arsenal - picture courtesy of Actionimages Plc

HOTLINE GOSSIP

A NEW season always provides an opportunity to make a fresh start and we've taken the decision to launch 'Notts County Hotline' - a new telephone information line.

After several years linked to Clubcall, we have now gone into partnership with the Colchester-based company of SPORTstalk and the object of the exercise is to provide an even better service to our supporters.

Please note that Clubcall is no longer the official Notts County line and if you want to keep fully up to date with all the news and views from Meadow Lane, the number to ring is . . .

09068 44 3131

With this service, we are using the 'menu' system, which allows you to select only the information you want to hear.

Options will include the News Report - updated at least once every day - match coverage and interviews, details of forthcoming matches and tickets, plus an interesting new feature called 'Fans Talkback'.

This is being introduced shortly and the idea is that you ring in after the matches and give your views on any issue relating to the game. This is done by using the 'Fans Talkback' answering machine and on Monday afternoon, we will re-produce a cross-section of supporters' views. That facility will be available shortly . . . we will keep you posted.

It's very important to us to have an opportunity to get our message across to supporters and likewise, we want to know what's on your mind.

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MARCUS BICKNELL,
RICK LONSDALE

Club Chaplain
CLIVE ANDREWS

IT makes me shudder when I think of this time last year. Roger Cleary had left us, Mark Smith was about to join Barnsley and with so many injury problems, we just weren't right - even though we went to Oldham on the opening day and won comfortably. In comparison, our preparations have been so much better this time around and although it would be foolish to make rash predictions, I'm quietly confident about our prospects.

The biggest disappointment 12 months ago was that we failed to maintain the momentum that had built up when we won the Third Division title by a street.

With 10 new players arriving at the club, it was bound to take time for them to settle in and coupled with the backroom changes and the injuries, things didn't go the way we had planned.

It's a different scene now, though, and the simple fact is that if we can pick up points at the same

rate as we did in the final three months of last season, we will be well in contention for promotion.

In an ideal world, I would have liked to strengthen a couple more areas of the team but even so, we already have a strong Second Division squad with good competition for places.

An important facet of the long

"Our next challenge is to make the sort of start which builds confidence"

trip to Thailand and Brunei was always going to be the opportunity it presented for the team to 'bond' off the field and it was very successful in that respect.

Football wise, it was hard work for the players because of the extreme conditions but we can look back on the tour and say that we got everything out of the four

matches that we wanted in terms of fitness.

By bringing the players in to work on a three-days-a-week basis from the start of June, our fitness programme was ahead of schedule by the time we set off for Thailand.

We were already in good shape and it was important to remember that we would be entering a marathon when the League season got underway.

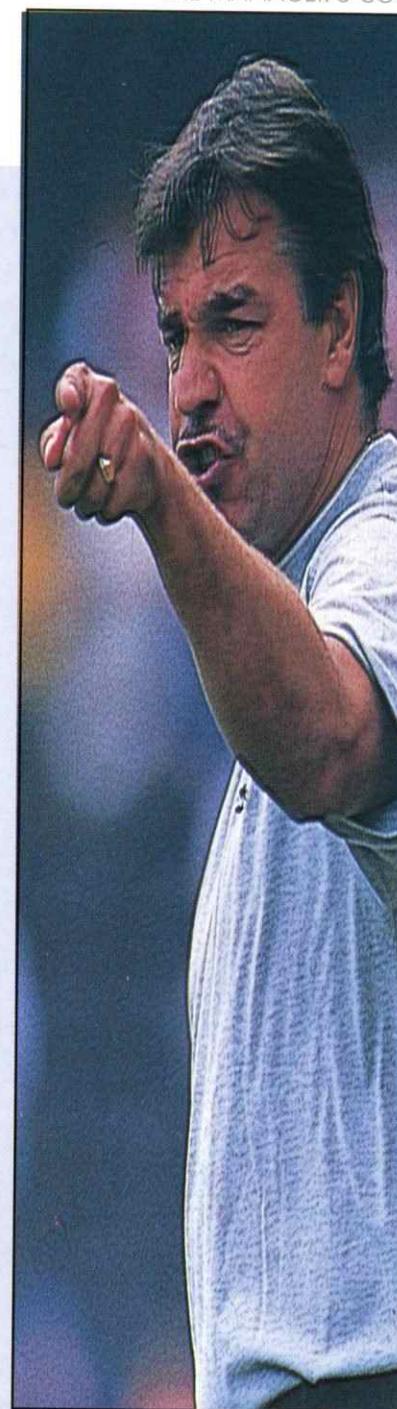
The danger is that you can get too far ahead of yourself and then go stale by Christmas. The balance has to be right and I think we've managed to achieve that.

As I've said, compared to this time last year, the lads know each other so much better - on and off the pitch - and the next challenge is to get off to the sort of start which builds confidence.

I've always felt that you cannot make worthwhile judgements before you have clocked up 10 matches and it will be the middle of October before we really have a clear view of how good we are. But one thing I know for certain is that unless we re-discover how to make home advantage count, we have very little chance of getting into the leading bunch and staying there.

With that in mind, this is a big day for us and despite all their problems off the field, I know enough about Lennie Lawrence to realise that Luton will set us a stiff test. Hopefully, we will respond in the right manner.

Thanks for your backing and



you can rest assured that if we don't manage to bring more success to Meadow Lane, it won't be through lack of trying.



**Notts County
Football Club**

Meadow Lane Stadium,
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THE PROGRAMME

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Terry Bowles

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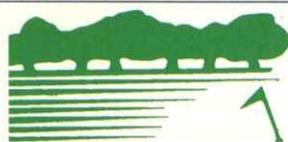
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Boardroom view

From **Derek Pavis**

I REALISE this is no time for negative talk but Notts County is your club as well as mine and it's only fair that you should be totally aware of a few harsh realities.

When Managing Director Geoff Davey sat down recently with our Financial Director John Mounteney to draw up the budgets for the year, the best estimate was that we would lose £350,000 this season - before a ball is even kicked.

Hopefully, it won't be quite that bad because we have budgeted for only playing in the first round of the FA and Worthington Cups and if we have a good season, our average attendances may be slightly higher than we anticipate.

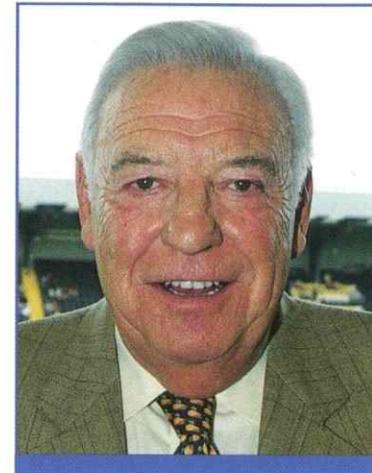
Realistically though, unless we have a good Cup run or sell a player for a substantial sum, we will make another heavy loss and quite simply, any shortfall will come out of my pocket.

When people criticise me for taking decisions which enable us to keep our finances in check - and the club alive - I hope they will bear these facts in mind.

It's not an easy responsibility to live with and after carrying this burden for 12 years, it has taken its toll.

I still look forward to a new season, the same as ever, but it's no secret that I would be prepared to sell the club if the right offer came along because I would dearly love to remove the financial anxiety from my shoulders.

Enough of the negative talk. It's a



fresh start for everyone this afternoon and ever the optimist, I live in hope that the squad of players we have is good enough to get us back into the First Division.

As you may recall, we spent a fair bit of money before the transfer deadline on Mark Warren, Peter Beadle, Mark Stallard and Kevin Rapley.

Our main concern at that time was strengthening the team so that we could get clear of relegation trouble but they collected enough points in the final three months of the season to suggest we now have a strong Second Division side.

Unlike last year, we have a settled squad with two good goalkeepers, three central defenders, five strikers and hundreds of midfield players.

They carry all our hopes and dreams into the new season. Our goal is to return to the First Division . . . and I wish the players and management every success.

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Meadow Lane Diary

Saturday July 24th

Went to Radio Nottingham for a live broadcast with Brian Tansley, discussing my role at life at Meadow Lane in general.

Sunday July 25th

The first team were in action against the Brunei national team and won 2-0 with goals from Matt Redmile and Duane Darby.

Monday July 26th

With youth manager John Gaunt away for the week on a coaching course, Brian Bates became a key man and apart from looking after the scholars, he was in charge of the Reserves at Burton in the Bass Charity Vase game against West Brom. We fielded a makeshift team, including several young trialists, and were beaten 5-1.

Tuesday July 27th

The first-team drew 0-0 against The Port Authority of Thailand, their League champions, while back at Meadow Lane, we had more problems with the pitch. Despite the lack of water, the new surface was coming on nicely but Trevor Hutchinson was concerned about a recurring weed problem

and we decided it would have to be treated.

Wednesday July 28th

We were pleased to accommodate a group of people on a Prince's Trust project. Their final challenge was to stand in the middle of the pitch of a Football League club. The Reserves came from behind to beat Leicester 3-2 in the Bass Charity Vase.

Thursday July 29th

The latest fax from Geoff Davey confirmed that the party were set to start their 24-hour trip home and would be landing at Heathrow at 5.30pm the following day. The ashes of a life-long Notts County fan were scattered on the pitch.



Brian Bates . . .
key man

Friday July 30th

A chance to 'clear the decks' in my office, ready for the fresh pile of work which was sure to be generated when the party returned to Meadow Lane next week. Helped to stock up the team coach with drinks and fruit before it set off for London to collect the tourists, for the final leg of the journey home.

Tony Lutber



On:

2nd August 1998 . . .

Richard Liburd was given a one-year contract after impressing in pre-season training.

11th August 1997 . . .

Gary Strodder was stripped of the captaincy after being sent off in the County Cup Final against Forest. Ian Hendon was named as his replacement.

7th August 1995 . . .

We agreed to pay £150,000 to West Brom for Gary Strodder and a League Tribunal ordered us to pay £150,000 for Darren Ward - plus 25 per cent of any sell-on profit and £10,000 if he is capped by Wales.

8th August 1994 . . .

Mick Walker confirmed his interest in Swansea midfielder John Cornforth and we completed the signing of Nigerian international defender Michael Emenalo from Belgium club Moelenbeek.

9th August 1993 . . .

an International Tribunal in Glasgow ordered us to pay £400,000 to Rangers for Gary McSwegan.

6th August 1991 . . .

Chris Short and Dean Thomas signed new three-year contracts.

Young players provide hope

LUTON TOWN used to be well known in the football world for their battles to stay in the top flight but more recently, they've been concentrating their efforts on trying to stay alive.

A financial crisis forced the club to call in the Receivers in the closing stages of last season and there were genuine fears about whether they would survive.

Since then, good progress has been made in getting the Hatters back on their feet and although it's likely to take longer to revive their football fortunes, a sound youth policy is providing much-needed cause for optimism.

Luton's talented youngsters won the South East Counties League Championship last season and several of them have already been rewarded with first-team opportunities.

The latest to come through is Matthew Taylor, a 17-year-old left wing-back, who made a massive impact in pre-season and looks destined to miss out the reserve-team part of his soccer education.

It's just as well that hard-pressed manager Lennie Lawrence has such a talented batch of youngsters to turn to

because he had to sell players during the summer to help ease the financial worries and none of the £1.4million he raised has been made available to spend.

At the time of writing though, Lawrence is set to make a signing and in Efetober Sodje, he has captured a player who would be an asset to any Second Division team.

An outstanding defender with Macclesfield for the past two years, he was available on a free transfer under the Bosman ruling during the summer and the move to Luton represents something of a homecoming.

He was at Kenilworth Road as a youngster, during David Pleat's time in charge, and although he was expected to return to Luton after gaining experience with Stevenage Borough, he landed at Macclesfield instead. Incidentally, if Sodje's transfer does go through as expected, he won't be available to play this afternoon - or in the next two matches - because he's suspended.

And that just about sums up the way things have gone for Luton in recent times.



MEET THE MANAGER

LENNIE LAWRENCE (below) is renowned as a man who relishes a struggle and his ability to cope with adversity has been severely tested since taking charge at Kenilworth Road four years ago.

He replaced Terry Westley after Luton had slumped to the bottom of Division One - despite spending £2million in a short period of time. Only four matches had been won out of 22 and when Luton's directors decided they needed an experienced hand on the tiller, Lawrence fitted the bill perfectly.

He knew all about running clubs on shoestring budgets, having made his name by taking impoverished Charlton into the top

flight and keeping them there for four years.

As a player, he operated in non-league circles with Croydon, Carshalton and Sutton and his managerial career started as assistant at Plymouth and Lincoln. He went to Charlton as reserve coach and was boss for nine years before taking over at Middlesbrough. He led them to promotion to the Premiership a year later, but they were relegated after only one season. Bradford City offered the next opportunity, but he left after 18 months and a few weeks later, became Luton's 21st manager.

Lawrence's record at Luton: Played 194, won 70, drawn 52, lost 72, goals for 250, goals against 235.

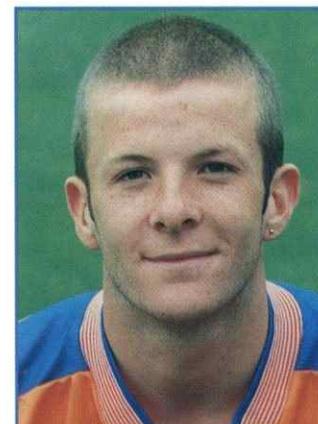
The players

GARY DOHERTY
Born Donegal, 31.1.80

Big and brave, he is a centre-half who can also operate as a centre-forward. Played for the Luton team which won the South East Counties League Championship last season. He became a temporary striker to help an injury crisis, and did well enough to make the switch permanent. Is also making an impact on a bigger stage after being capped at youth level and he has already been on the subs' bench for the Republic of Ireland. Luton record to the start of this season: 35 appearances, 6 goals.

STUART FRASER
Born Edinburgh 9.1.80

Stylish defender and skipper of the Championship-winning youth team last season. Reckoned by the coaching staff to be an outstanding prospect, he was given his League



Stuart Fraser



Gary Doherty

debut against Carlisle in a 3-2-win on the final day of the 1997/98 season and within a year he was competing with the redoubtable Mitchell Thomas for the left back spot. Luton record: 10 appearances.

STUART DOUGLAS
Born London, 9.4.78

A 'hot shot' in youth and reserve team football, he was a 17-year-old trainee when he made his League debut for Luton against Oldham in 1995, but had to battle to overcome injuries before winning a regular place last season, when he appeared in 50 games.

Luton record: 75 appearances, 14 goals.

ANDREW FOTIADIS
Born Hitchin, 6.9.77

Another local discovery, he chose to stay at school to gain A-levels before being a full-time soccer professional. Won England Schools caps at under-15 and under-18 levels and developed a style to delight Luton fans and worry opposing defences, as an old-

WE LAST MET . . .

It was a major turning-point for us in February when Kevin Rapley's debut goal inspired a 1-0 win at Kenilworth Road at a time when we were down in the relegation zone and had lost 10 games out of 12.

That victory set us on the path to safety although Luton took revenge when we last met because they came to Meadow Lane two months later and secured their own safety by winning 2-1.

Matt Redmile scored his first goal for 19 months in that game but two-goal Tony Thorpe, on loan from Bristol City, produced the match-winning performance.

fashioned centre-forward, with his physique, power, and determination to score goals. Luton record: 61 appearances, 7 goals.

PAUL McLAREN
Born High Wycombe, 17.11.76

The midfielder was still a schoolboy when Luton realised that he had enough talent and strength to play regularly in their youth team. A YTS offer was a formality, and he was offered pro terms while still only 17. Forceful and always ready to back up attacks, he soon became a regular after a 1994 debut. Luton record: 123 appearances, 2 goals.



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**LIAM GEORGE**

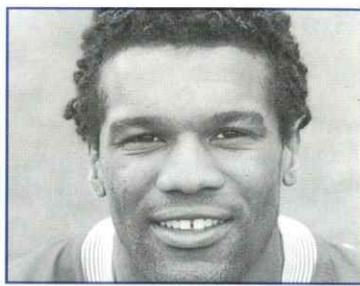
Born Luton, 2.2.79

Full of pace and nimble footwork, he was well set a year ago to clinch a League place after impressing as a constant scorer in the youth and reserve teams. A regular member of the Republic of Ireland squad that progressed to the European Youth Championships final in the summer of 1998, he had made his league debut against Bristol City in September 1997, and started last season as an established first choice. But he broke his leg at Wigan and the season was nearly over by the time he recovered. Luton record: 18 appearances, no goals.

PHIL GRAY

Born Belfast 2.10.68

Signed for the second time in 1997, the Northern Ireland striker hopes to get in a full season after being hit by a succession of injuries. He was in Spurs reserves when David Pleat, then in his second spell as Luton manager, splashed out £275,000 for him in August 1991. Two years later he sampled the Premiership with Sunderland, for £800,000 and after three years at Roker went to Nancy in France, and then Fortuna Sittard in Holland. He needed little encouragement to return to Kenilworth Road for £400,000, and having rediscovered his goal touch was recalled to the Northern Ireland squad in November. Luton record: 62 appearances, 15 goals.

**GAVIN MCGOWAN**

Born Blackheath, 16.1.76

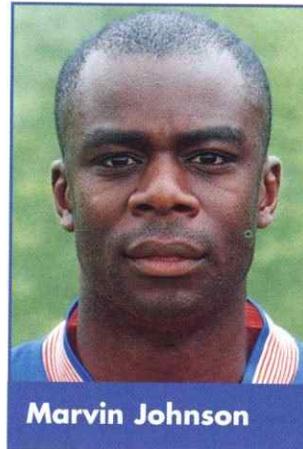
A right back fighting for a Premiership place against very stiff competition at Arsenal, he signed for Luton for the third time in June 1998. The first two were loan deals, one in March 1997 ending prematurely through injury. He re-joined Luton on loan for three months, at the start of the 1997/98 season. Lennie Lawrence rated him, but could not afford to make an offer, and was delighted to conclude a quick deal a year later when Arsenal offer the defender a free transfer. Luton record: 50 appearances, no goals.

Here today Luton Town

MARVIN JOHNSON

Born Wembley, 29.10.68

Longest-serving player at Kenilworth Road, he's a versatile player, normally a centre-half but capable of filling in on the flanks or in midfield. Now starting his 12th season as a first-team regular with his only club. Injuries have been a problem, but he has always bounced back and is skipper of the team he joined as a schoolboy.

**Marvin Johnson**

Luton record: 356 appearances, 9 goals.

RAY MCKINNON

Born Dundee, 5.8.70

A move to Luton at the start of last season gave the former Scotland under-21 midfielder his second chance to make the grade in English soccer, after an unhappy experience with Nottingham Forest. Joined Dundee United as a YTS and in 1992 Forest paid £750,000 for him. But Brian Clough resigned, and Frank Clark was determined to build his own squad. McKinnon made only eight appearances in 20 months before being transferred to Aberdeen. Spent two years there, then returned to Dundee United. Two years later, he took advantage of the Bosman ruling to try his luck in England again, and Luton beat several other clubs to secure his signature. Luton record: 37 appearances, 2 goals.

MICHAEL McINDOE

Born Edinburgh, 2.12.79

Made his debut for Luton's senior side last season when injuries hit three players above him in the pecking order for the wide left midfield slot. Joined Luton as a YTS after leaving school, and was part of their youth team which won the South East Counties League Championship and the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup in the 1997/98 season. Made his first team debut in the Worthington Cup first round victory over Oxford United a year ago. Luton record: 28 appearances, no goals.

MATTHEW SPRING

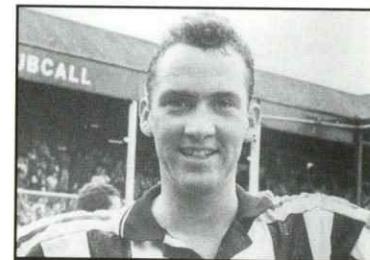
Born Harlow, 17.11.79

The competitive midfielder was a driving force in the Luton side which reached the FA Youth Cup semi-finals in 1997, and it was no surprise when he was called up for a League debut, when still only 17, as a sub against Bristol City in September 1997. Last season was his best yet - he topped the Hatters' appearance list with 54 games, and scouts from the big clubs regularly watched him. Luton record: 67 appearances, 3 goals.

ALAN WHITE

Born Darlington, 22.3.76

Lennie Lawrence went back to Middlesbrough, one of his old clubs, when an injury crisis robbed him of three of his back four in September 1997. Centre-half White was a prospect Lawrence knew well because he signed him as a 17-year-old at Ayresome Park. Was unable to force his way into Middlesbrough's Premiership squad after the advent of Bryan Robson and his big-money signings so grabbed the chance to rejoin Lawrence in a £40,000 transfer. Luton record: 71 appearances, 2 goals.

**LINK MAN**

ROB MATTHEWS' stay at Meadow Lane was especially notable for two reasons . . . he made his League debut while still a student at Loughborough University and a few weeks later, he scored the goals which relegated Luton Town from the top flight.

It was Neil Warnock who gave him his debut against Coventry in April 1992 and in the final game of that season his two goal-blast sunk a Luton side who needed to win to have a chance of survival.

Ironically, three years and several knee operations later, he moved to Kenilworth Road for £100,000 but Matthews, who is currently with Stockport County, made only 11 appearances for Luton before returning north to join York City.

OTHER SQUAD MEMBERS**LANDRY ZAHANA-ONI**

Luton record: 8 appearances, no goals.

ANDRE SCARLETT

Luton record: 8 appearances, 1 goal.

MATTHEW TAYLOR

Luton record: No appearances.

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HERE WE GO . . .

THERE'S no doubt that having Manchester City in the Second Division last season, along with Stoke City and the revitalised Fulham, added a touch of glamour.

Something to tempt those who wouldn't normally travel away and for the faithful few who follow us all over the country with great dedication, they offered trips to relish.

Although Stoke are still with us, "money talked" in the case of Manchester City and Fulham and while they've gone off to pastures new, we've been joined by some familiar friends.



for those who like to make their own way to matches, trying to find a parking spot close to Brentford's neat Griffin Park stadium is always a nightmare.

But with Fulham being promoted, the London trip is more or less a straight-swop - and at least Swansea didn't manage to win the Third Division Play-offs!

It was sad in some respects to see Lincoln and Northampton go down because they were handy enough trips to pleasant stadiums but Scunthorpe comes into the same category (remember Gary Jones' match-winning double when we last went there on Boxing Day two years ago?).

Bury are back among the lower leagues after a brief taste of life at a higher level and although Oxford United look to have won their battle to stay in business, it was achieved at the cost of relegation.

Also dropping down from the First Division are Bristol City - we head for Ashton Gate in February - and coming up from the Fourth are Brentford, Cambridge United, Cardiff City and Scunthorpe United.

In "mileage" terms, this season won't be too different to the last. Cardiff is a bit of a drag and

on Saturday March 25 and that will be a significant afternoon for the small group of fans who followed us in February when we made our last-ever appearance at Springfield Park . . . and got absolutely drenched on the open terracing.

Football stadiums have changed so dramatically in the past 10 years or so that it's always an interesting feature for the hardy travellers, discovering what's new.

One to look out for, for example, is Gillingham, who has been busy building two new stands during the summer, and there are sure to be other clubs who have been making significant changes in the past few months.

Long trips to really test the loyalty of the 'travel club' include Bourne-mouth in January, Gillingham and Blackpool in March and a Friday evening trek to Wrexham in September.

But one which will appeal especially to those 'collectors' of new grounds is at Wigan

THE RATINGS

Throughout the season our 'foreign correspondents' will give their views on the grounds we visit and give ratings in several categories

Send your views to The Editor, c/o Notts County, or phone **Hotline Fans Talkback**

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PONTINS LEAGUE Division One

18 Aug	Stockport Co
31 Aug	WREXHAM
8 Sept	Scunthorpe Utd
14 Sept	BLACKPOOL
29 Sept	York City
5 Oct	LINCOLN CITY
27 Oct	Scarborough
17 Nov	Walsall
30 Nov	SHEFFIELD UTD
7 Dec	SHREWSBURY
14 Dec	Rotherham Utd
5 Jan	Lincoln City
18 Jan	YORK CITY
26 Jan	Wrexham
1 Feb	STOCKPORT
23 Feb	Blackpool
29 Feb	SCUNTHORPE
14 Mar	ROTHERHAM
29 Mar	Sheffield Utd
11 Apr	SCARBOROUGH
19 Apr	Shewsbury
25 Apr	WALSALL

Reserves & Youth



RESTRUCTURED LEAGUE

THE Pontins League has been re-organised this season following the withdrawal of 17 clubs, who have gone off to form a new competition - mainly for those clubs involved in the Premiership.

The new-style Pontins League now has three divisions - Premier, First and Second - which reflects the positions of the various clubs at the end of last season.

We have been allocated a place in Division One and please note that while all of our home fixtures will take place at Meadow Lane, kick off times will vary. The majority will get underway at 2pm but exceptions to that rule at this stage are the visits of Lincoln City and Sheffield United, which will kick off at 7pm.

BROUGH'S TARGET

GARY BRAZIL has urged young Michael Brough to follow the lead of Richard Holmes and Dean Howell and force his way into contention for a first-team spot.

Midfielder Brough, one of the three youngsters who stepped up to the professional ranks during the summer, might well have gone on the trip to Thailand and Brunei had he not been suffering from a groin injury.

Said Brazil: "He was unlucky to get injured when he did but even so, I'm looking for him to come through this season and really make an impact.

"The big thing that he has going for him is his desire. He wants to be a winner and although there are a lot of players ahead of him in the queue for places



Michael Brough . . . hit by injury

in the centre of midfield, he will have them glancing over their shoulders."

OLLIE'S BIG MOMENT

OLLIE BATES emerged as an unlikely hero in pre-season when the Reserves came from behind to record a dramatic 3-2 win over Leicester City in the Bass Charity Vase fixture at Burton.

With the first-team squad away on tour, the youth team involved in a fixture of their own and several players nursing injuries, our resources were fully stretched.

So Brian Bates, the Director of our Centre of Excellence who was looking after the team, called on his son to make up the numbers.

Ollie, who is 26, is a left winger with Long Eaton United and it was a moment to savour for him when he completed a brilliant comeback by our makeshift side by notching the winner.

Said Brian Bates: "West Brom were far too strong for us in our first Bass Charity game and when Leicester scored on either side of half time, I thought we were heading for another 5-1 drubbing.

"But as against West Brom, the quality of our passing was good and this time, we managed to do a lot more where it matters - in the opposition penalty area."

Numerous chances were created and when three were carved out in the space of 10 second half minutes, Mark Robson, Jason Sedlan and Bates tucked them away to clinch a deserved win.

PLENTY OF ACTION

OUR youth team are one of nine clubs competing this season in the South Central Conference Division of the Youth Alliance.

But apart from meeting the eight other clubs on a home and away basis, there will be plenty more action besides to keep our youngsters busy.

Once the League programme is completed in mid-February, the top three clubs will go into Division One of the Merit League, where they will meet the top clubs from other divisions, the middle three go into Division Two and the bottom three into Division Three.

They then start a fresh home-and-away competition, much the same as last season when we eventually won the Division Three Merit League.

In October, the Youth Alliance Cup gets underway, which is an open competition involving clubs



in all divisions. The Cup quarter finals, semi-finals and final are scheduled to be played at the end of the season.

ACCENT ON YOUTH

EIGHT new scholars have joined us this summer. . . from as far apart as London, South Wales and Northern Ireland.

And 16-year-old Andrew Murray from Widmerpool has also joined us on a non-contract basis while he remains at school to study for his A levels.

It's a similar situation to that in which Tommy Gallagher found himself a few years ago - and that didn't prevent him from becoming a key figure in Mick Walker's double-winning youth team, and going on to make the first team at the age of 18.

The other new recruits are Dean Berry (midfield from London), David Cross (midfield from London), Saul Deeney (goalkeeper from Derry), Mark Dunn (striker from South Wales), Matthew McCaul (midfield from Derby), Calum Osbourne (midfield from Selston), Lee Poznanski (defender from Mansfield), Paul Riley (midfield from Eastwood).

With only four of last year's intake being kept on - Andy Briggs, Andy Davies, Craig Housley and Matthew Skevington - we are sure to be fielding a very young youth team this summer.

That might well be reflected in results . . . but time will tell.



Mark Robson . . . on target against Leicester

SOUTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE DIVISION

14 Aug	OXFORD UTD
21 Aug	Shrewsbury
28 Aug	NORTHAMPTON
4 Sept	Luton Town
11 Sept	WEST BROM
18 Sept	WOLVES
25 Sept	Cambridge Utd
2 Oct	Walsall
9 Oct	F A Training
23 Oct	Cup Prelim 1
30 Oct	Cup Prelim 2
6 Nov	Cup Prelim 3
13 Nov	Cup Prelim 4
20 Nov	Cup Prelim 5
27 Nov	LUTON TOWN
4 Dec	West Brom
11 Dec	Wolves
18 Dec	CAMBRIDGE UTD
15 Jan	WALSALL
22 Jan	Oxford United
29 Jan	Cup 2
5 Feb	SHREWSBURY
12 Feb	Northampton
1 Mar	Cup Q/Final
22 Mar	Cup Semi Final
16 Apr	Cup Final

Second phase Merit Division
Matches Begin 26.2.2000

Fans can have their say on footballNOW! - the new-look Nationwide soccer web site with up-to-the-minute news and features on England's European Championship campaign, the Premiership and all the big European competitions as well as the Nationwide Football League and The Nationwide Conference.

football NOW!

Central to the re-launch of the football site, will be fanFARE - a fans' forum aimed at giving supporters the chance to air their opinions, tell their silly soccer stories and ask key questions to the top names in the game.

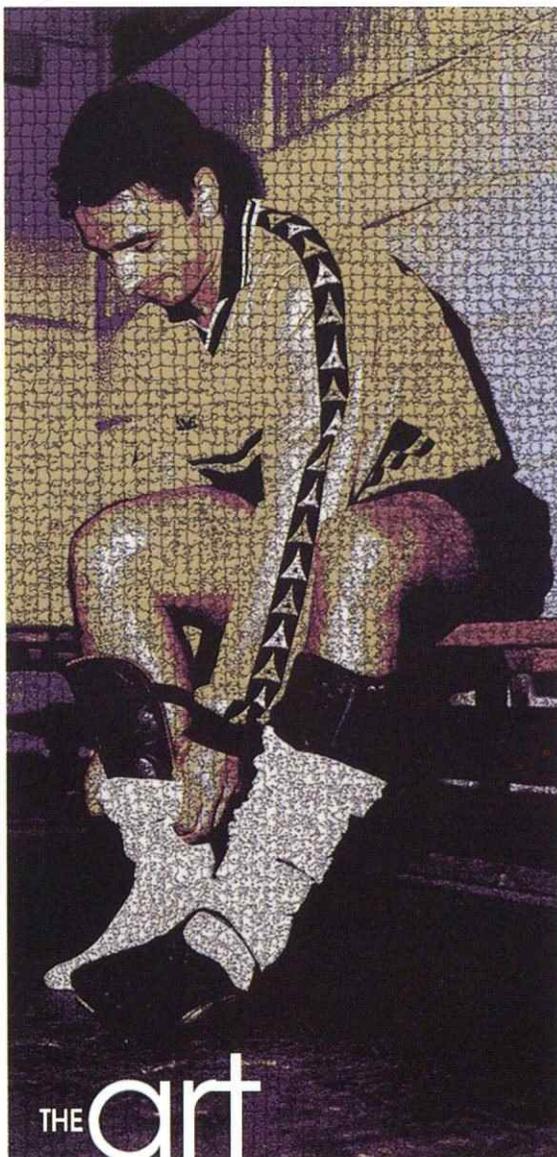
The exciting new format includes prize competitions - the first of which is for a trip for two to see England in training, a signed England shirt, a signed England ball and tickets for the Euro 2000 qualifier against Luxembourg - plus special offers on soccer merchandise and, from the autumn, an interactive Manager game in which fans across the nation will be invited to take part. For all this plus the latest news on the international fortunes of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, domestic competitions such as the F.A Cup and Northern Ireland's Nationwide Gold Cup - and not forgetting Manchester United's participation in the World Club Championship - log on to footballNow! at www.football.nationwide.co.uk

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Fanfare

CALLING ALL GOLFERS

THE annual cricket match between Lifeline members and the players had to be called off last month because of rain and with the senior squad out of the country for two weeks, it proved impossible to find a new date.

The date, though, is firmly fixed for the annual Lifeline Golf Tournament and it will take place - raining or not - at Cotgrave GC on Monday September 13.

There will be a shot-gun start at 10.30am and the cost for entry is £32 for members and £37 for non-members. Places are filling fast for what is always one of the most popular Lifeline activities but there are still some available.

NEW FORMAT

THE Family Magpies scheme always offers good value - especially for youngsters who attend most of the matches - and that will be even more true this season.

Season-tickets for the Family Stand are available at just £25 for under-12s and £60 for under-16s and also allow access to the Family Magpies room on match days.

A new development this season is that Family Magpies is going to link up with our Football in the Community scheme and as a result, there will be even more activities for young members on match-days.

Said Family Magpies organiser Tim Bradd: "Plans are being

finalised at the moment and could well be introduced in time for the next home game."

MEETING PLANNED

NOTTS County Supporters Cub will be holding their Annual Meeting in the Family Room at Meadow Lane on Monday August 16 (8pm).

And by then, officials are hoping there will be a significant increase in membership because they have launched a drive for new recruits.

A discount on the annual membership fee is available to anyone who enrolls before the end of this month.

TREAT IN STORE

MORE than 20 sick youngsters and their parents will be special guests at next month's Meadow Lane clash with Blackpool - thanks to a successful tenpin bowling night organised by Notts County Patrons.

Teams representing Notts County, the Ex-Players' Association, Junior Magpies, Supporters Club and Family Magpies took part on the night.

And they raised enough money for "Wish Upon a Star" to nominate a party of children to come to visit Meadow Lane and enjoy the match.

Significant contributions were made by Megabowl, Harry Ramsdens, Ex-Players Association, Hi-Field Leisure and Knoll Pharmaceuticals.

LIFELINE WINNERS

This week's Lifeline winners are . . .
£1,000 - S. Atkinson (Rise Park)
£100 - D. Pavier (Woodthorpe),

D. Miller (West Bridgford),
M. Durkin (Burton Joyce).
£50 - J. Sheldon (Bestwood), A. Henshaw (Borrowash), P. Hanley (Nuthall).

TRAVEL NEWS

Tuesday August 10,
Worthington Cup 1st round
BURY

V NOTTS COUNTY

Take the M1 north to junction 42, and join the M62 (west). Exit the M62 at junction 17, take Bury Road (A56). After 3 miles turn right into Gigg Lane.
Ground capacity: 11,840

Saturday August 14,
Nationwide League

COLCHESTER UNITED V NOTTS COUNTY

Take the A1 south to Huntingdon, and then A14 as far as Ipswich. Join the A12, and then A134 or B1508 into the town centre. Follow signs to Layer (B1026) which leads onto Layer Road.
Ground capacity: 7,555

SUPPORTERS CLUB TRAVEL

The Supporters Club will be running coaches to both the above fixtures.

Departing Meadow Lane for **Bury** at 4.00pm on Tuesday afternoon - with a special discount rate of £5 for anyone wishing to travel.

Coaches leave for **Colchester** at 9.00am on Saturday, priced £12 (adult members) and £11 (junior or senior citizen members). For non-members the cost is £14.

The Bangkok & Brunei experience

IT was a pre-season trip with a difference and while the players came home fitter and well prepared to face the rigours of a new season, everyone in the party was surely more worldly wise as a result of the experience.

From my point of view, the whole thing was fascinating. There was evidence of great affluence - especially in Brunei - but also awful poverty as we experienced sights and smells which constantly reminded us that we were a long way from home.

For the Thailand and Brunei national teams, our visit represented an opportunity put the finishing touches to their preparations for the SEA Games.

That's short for South East Asia Games - which cover all sorts of sports apart from football. These are hugely important in that part of the world and are currently taking place in Brunei.

With Peter Withe in charge of the Thailand team and David Booth, the ex-Grimsby boss, as National Coach we had some familiar faces to greet us along the way but one thing which didn't change was the weather.

Rarely was the temperature less than 90 degrees and the humidity less than 90 per cent and needless to say, that was a real problem for the players.

It was very much to their credit that through eating and drinking properly and getting plenty of rest, they were able to meet the challenge and that was underlined when we rounded off the tour with two games in little more than 24 hours.

The opening fixture against Thailand was the most testing and came before the players had time to really get acclimatised. We lost 4-1 but then beat Brunei 2-0 and then, back in Bangkok, faced the Thai League champions and Cup winners on successive days.

In Thailand, they name their teams after the sponsors and a goalless draw with Port Authority was followed by a 3-1 win against Thai Farming Bank.

Our visit created tremendous interest. It was a fascinating experience and although it was hard work for the players, they were great ambassadors for the club.

That was underlined beside the pool in Brunei when a British couple approached us and asked whether we were anything to do with the British football team staying at the hotel.

As they said: "What a credit they are to your club."



Left:
The players training against the skyline of Bangkok.

Below:
ANDY HUGHES doing his Robbie Williams impression on the final night on tour.



By Managing Director **Geoff Davey**

ON the 'Pink Palace' - the luxury coach allocated to us throughout the trip by the Football Association of Thailand.



CHAIRMAN Derek Pavis greets Martin Clarke, who followed us to Bangkok and Brunei from his home in West Brigford.



DUANE DARBY in the thick of the action in the 0-0 draw with Port Authority.



HEADING for home . . . the players prepare to board the coach after a job well done in the final fixture, a 3-1 win over Thailand Fann Bank.

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Slater's Choice

BBC RADIO NOTTINGHAM

COLIN SLATER has covered Notts County for 40 years - the past 31 of these for BBC Radio Nottingham - and during the course of this season, he will be selecting his 25 favourite players.



Picking my favourite Notts players out of the hundreds who have appeared in the famous old strip over the 40 seasons that I have been reporting the club's affairs is no easy task.

You are not being asked to agree with my selection. You may be surprised at some my inclusions and omissions. But remember the title - they are MY favourites, for whatever reason - not necessarily the best, or the highest achievers, but - and this has been my guiding principle - because of what they offered.

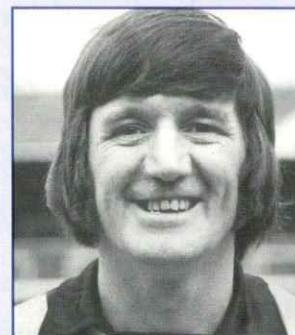
They are going to appear on this page at random. There is no particular significance in who comes first or last. It happens that I think few whose memories go back nearly 30 years will quarrel with the nomination of Willie Carlin.

In the early part of the 1971-72 season I was briefly in Germany on other business and was absent when Gillingham won 2-1 at Meadow Lane to dump Notts out of the League Cup.

The previous day, Jimmy Sirrel had completed the signing of Carlin from Leicester City for £25,000 and he made his debut a few days later against Shrewsbury Town. It turned out to be a winning start for the dynamic little midfielder as Notts won 1-0, Alan Mansley scoring in the first half.

Now the background to Willie's moves among three East Midlands clubs - Derby County, Leicester and Notts - which was remarkable, if not unique.

Carlin had already been on the books of Liverpool, Halifax, Carlisle and Sheffield United when Brian Clough paid what was then a club record fee to take him to the Baseball Ground. The figure was £63,000. He signed in August, 1968, made his Derby debut at the end of that



**WILLIE
CARLIN**

month - a 2-2 draw with Hull City - and they then went on to win the Second Division Championship. Carlin made 36 League appearances, scored eight goals and was an inspirational character.

Come October, 1970 and he was the central figure in a truly dramatic move. Derby lost a home midweek match to Chelsea and before midnight he had been sold to Leicester for £40,000 and made his debut in a goalless draw against Birmingham.

Carlin made 31 appearances and was a pivotal character in another promotion success as Leicester carried off the Second Division Championship. Events off the field were conspiring against Carlin, however.

Leicester manager Frank O'Farrell joined Manchester United and his successor Jimmy Bloomfield - debatably, had no place for Carlin in his plans. He had played only one league game in the early part of the season before Notts stepped in.

The man with the Midas touch when it came to figuring in promotion successes had no such good fortune in his first season at Notts.

County had been promoted from the Fourth Division the previous season (1970-71) and for a long time it looked as if they were going to sweep straight through to the Second. Those dreams shattered but they made up for the disappointment next time round, occupying second place. Carlin played 28 league matches but even then he suffered from arthritis and used to spend a long time before kick-off, loosening the creaking joints so that he could give of his best.

Before long he was on his way again, to Cardiff City, but his contribution to Notts, and to East Midlands football generally, had been just a bit special.

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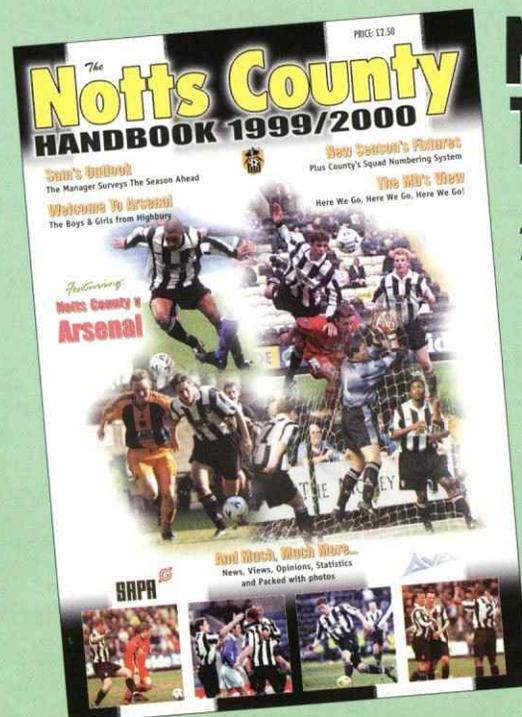
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On the spot

CLAYTON BLACKMORE

Which team did you support as a boy?

Leeds United . . . mainly because Peter Lorimer was my idol. I went there on trial at one stage - I remember staying with Brian Flynn - but eventually signed for Manchester United.

Who was your sporting hero?

Peter Lorimer - I always admired his ability to shoot from anywhere on the pitch.

Who was the biggest influence on your career?

My parents were a huge influence but I also owe a lot to Eric Harrison, the recently retired youth coach at Manchester United, and to Brian Whitehouse, who looks after the reserves at Old Trafford.

What was your highest 'high' in football?

Helping Manchester United beat Barcelona 2-1 in the 1991 European Cup Winners' Cup Final in Rotterdam. I kicked one off the line in the last minute - but no one ever seems to remember that!

What was your lowest 'low'?

Not making the United team for the 1990 League Cup Final against Forest. I had played the previous Wednesday and done well but come the final, I wasn't even on the bench. I would bracket that alongside being left out of the Middlesbrough team after playing all season en-route to promotion.

Where would you most like to score the winner?

I've experienced the thrill of scoring at Wembley - for Manchester United in a Charity Shield game against Liverpool - but I've always wanted to do that in a Cup Final. Realistically, that's now passed me by so I'll settle for getting the goal which clinches promotion for Notts County this season . . . wherever that may be.

Who was your most difficult opponent?

I can't single one out because they're all difficult.

What is your favourite stadium?

After spending the best part of 15 years at United, Old Trafford will always be very special but I also have a real 'soft spot' for Cardiff Arms Park. I played there a few times with Wales and the atmosphere was terrific, even when the ground was half full. I regret that although Mark Hughes and I always said we would go there for a rugby match, we never made it.

What one change would you make to improve the game?

There's nothing wrong with our game and it should be left alone.



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for more details

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Linda Patterson

County Commercial



Sharon Bowbanks

As the first day of the new season is now upon us, we would firstly like to thank all of our existing sponsors for their continuing support for the 1999/2000 season.

We would also like to give a warm welcome to all of our first-time sponsors, including Coldseal Windows, Kensington Freak Menswear and Prime Technology, and hope they enjoy a long and enjoyable relationship with us at Meadow Lane.

The Club is also delighted to welcome back a number of companies who had a break from Meadow Lane last season, including Signs (UK) Ltd, who have returned to us as Executive Boxholders - we hope you enjoy the season!

You may have noticed that The Village Hotel & Leisure Group have taken over the sponsorship of our Matchday programme for the 1999/2000 season. The Village is a regular haunt for many of our playing staff and officials and we are delighted to have them on board as sponsors this year.

The Barmy Army

It's not everyday you see a Grenadier Guard posted on the touchline at Meadow Lane, but with the new Army perimeter advertising board in place, Sergeant John Hinds braved the sweltering heat at the Arsenal match to promote their association with the Magpies.



Matchday Mascots

For One Of The Best Days Of Your Life!
This Great Day Out At Meadow Lane Includes

- Full Kit For The Mascot To Keep (Home, Away or Goalkeeper)
- Meet The Players In The Dressing Rooms For Autographs
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- Medal And Autograph Book
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Contact Sharon For A Mascot Information Pack

Executive Guest Package

Why not make your visit to Meadow Lane extra special?

From business entertaining to simply celebrating a special occasion, the Executive Guest Package offers a low-cost high-value way to enjoy the complete Meadow Lane Experience.

- 3 course carvery meal in our stylish Oriental Suite.
- Seats in the Sponsors Section of the Derek Pavis Stand
- Reserved car parking (1 pass per 4 guests)
- Matchday programme

£35 + vat per person - A Games
£45 + vat per person - B Games

Contact Linda For More Information

Contact Linda on 0115 9557214 or Sharon on 0115 9557220

Club Shop

www.nottscounty.co.uk

1999/2000 REPLICA KITS

Adult Shirts ...S/M/L/XL£39.99
Child Sizes3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10..£33.99

Adult Shorts...30, 32, 34, 36, 38...£18.99
Child Sizes22, 24, 26, 28£14.99

Adult Socks4-7, 8-12£9.99
Child Sizes12-3.....£7.99

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Baseball Cap£9.99
Leather N.C.F.C. Football£9.99
Leather N.C.F.C. Football (Autographed) ..£15.00

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Ford Van£8.99
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0115 9529000

OPENING TIMES:

Thursday's.....10.00 - 3.30
Friday's.....10.00 - 3.30
Home Match Saturday's....10.00 - 5.30
Other Saturday's9.00 - 12.00

Other Items

Official Club History Book.....£16.95
Programme Binder£5.99
Ceramic Mugs.....£2.99
Ceramic Mugs (full colour).....£4.50
Ceramic Money Box.....£5.99
Ceramic Wall Clock.....£10.99
Cotton Tea Towel.....£3.99
Pens.....£1.99
Pencils.....70p
Note Book.....£1.20
Book Mark.....£1.10
Tax Disc Holder.....99p
Velcro Wallet£1.99
Leather Credit Card Wallet£4.99
Key Ringsfrom £2.50
Window Stickersfrom £1.00
Golf Ball£2.50
Golf Ball (pack of 3).....£5.00
Scarves£6.99
Lapel Badges.....from £2.00
Wristwatch£24.99
Club Ties.....£12.99
Tie Pins£4.00

MAIL ORDER ADDRESS:

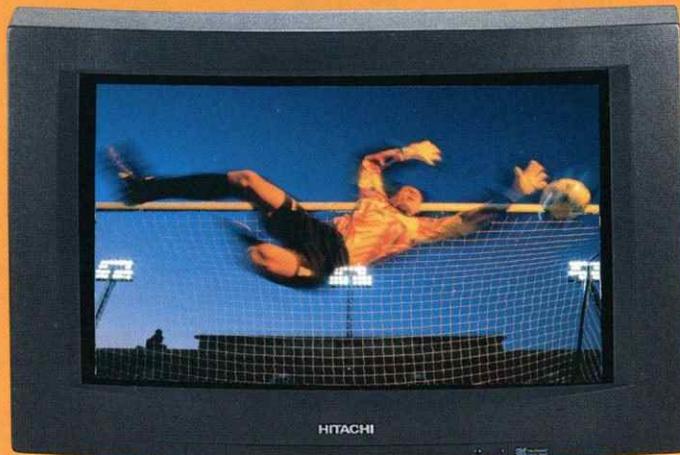
Club Shop, Notts County FC,
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ACCESS - VISA - DELTA - SWITCH
Credit Cards orders will be despatched the same day.

Postage should be added at the rate of £1.00 for the first item and 50p for each additional item.



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Our regular update on former Meadow Lane favourites

Keeping in touch

Murphy's mission

COLIN MURPHY likes to keep on the move and our former manager has now taken up a fresh challenge in South East Asia as National Coach of Myanmar, formerly Burma.

Murphy had a spell as National Coach of Vietnam after leaving us and was hailed as a national hero after guiding them to third place in the South East Asia Games.

With two children at university, he decided to return to this country and took up the post of Director of Youth at Tottenham. Now, though, he's on the move again and has apparently committed himself long-term to Myanmar by agreeing a three-year contract.

Pride Park role

DAVID HUNT, the industrious midfielder who had a nine-year stint at Meadow Lane, has gone back to his roots. Hunt joined us from Derby County for £30,000 in 1977 and gave outstanding value after following Colin Murphy, when he came to Meadow Lane as Jimmy Sirrel's assistant.

These days, Hunt operates a highly successful Soccer Schools

business in his native Ashby and that has led to him getting involved again with Derby.

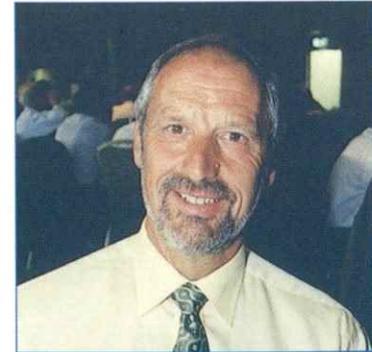
He explained: "I sent a batch of lads across to Derby for trials and several of them have been taken on. One thing led to another and I'm now looking after the under-14s at their school of excellence, and running the Sunday team for that age group."

Dream job

ROY BROWN confirmed that he's very much alive and well by attending Jack Wheeler's Dinner and not only that, he's had a new lease of life.

The former Reading goalkeeper, who figured in our Third Division promotion-winning side of 1973, was astonished to learn a few years ago that a Nottingham newspaper had carried his obituary! At that time, he was managing a sports centre on the outskirts of Watford but now, he's returned to his home-town to become secretary of Reading Golf Club.

"It's my dream job," said the 11-handicapper. "I had just taken early retirement when I heard they were looking for a new secretary and I was delighted when I was offered the post."



The secretary . . . former 'keeper Roy Brown

WHERE IS HE NOW

STEVE CARTER, the tricky little winger who was known as 'Flash' to his colleagues at Meadow Lane in the '70s, is now living at Wilmslow in Cheshire.

That's familiar territory for him, of course, because it was from Manchester City that he joined us in 1972 - and then went on to make 188 League appearances and score 21 goals.

These days, Carter is working for American Airlines at Manchester Airport . . . responsible for checking over the aircraft and making sure the cleaners have done their job to a high standard.



Lifeline Golf Day

MONDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 1999

Contact Peter Orme on 0115 955 7213 for more information



1999/2000 Match facts and player statistics

Sa 7 Aug	LUTON TOWN
Tu 10 Aug	Bury LC 1 (1)
Sa 14 Aug	Colchester
Sa 21 Aug	SCUNTHORPE
Tu 24 Aug	BURY LC 1 (2)
Sa 28 Aug	Cambridge
Mo 30 Aug	BRENTFORD
Fri 3 Sep	Wrexham
Sa 11 Sep	BLACKPOOL
Tu 14 Sep	League Cup 2 (1)
Sa 18 Sep	Cardiff City
Tu 21 Sep	League Cup 2 (2)
Sa 25 Sep	BRISTOL ROVERS
Sa 2 Oct	Oldham Athletic
Sa 9 Oct	Bury
Sa 16 Oct	WYCOMBE
Tu 19 Oct	CHESTERFIELD
Sa 23 Oct	Bristol Rovers
Sa 30 Oct	F A Cup 1
We 3 Nov	Stoke City
Sa 6 Nov	GILLINGHAM
Sa 13 Nov	Preston N E
Sa 20 Nov	F A Cup 2
Tu 23 Nov	OXFORD UNITED
Sa 27 Nov	BRISTOL CITY
Sa 4 Dec	Luton Town
Sa 11 Dec	BOURNEMOUTH
Sa 18 Dec	Millwall
Su 26 Dec	WIGAN
Tu 28 Dec	Reading
Mo 3 Jan	BURNLEY
Sa 8 Jan	Bournemouth
Sa 15 Jan	COLCHESTER
Sa 22 Jan	Scunthorpe
Sa 29 Jan	CAMBRIDGE
Sa 5 Feb	Brentford
Sa 12 Feb	WREXHAM
Sa 19 Feb	Bristol City
Sa 26 Feb	CARDIFF CITY
Sa 4 Mar	Blackpool
Tu 7 Mar	Gillingham
Sa 11 Mar	STOKE CITY
Sa 18 Mar	Oxford United
Tu 21 Mar	PRESTON N E
Sa 25 Mar	Wigan Athletic
Sa 1 Apr	MILLWALL
Sa 8 Apr	Burnley
Sa 15 Apr	READING
Fri 21 Apr	Wycombe W
Mo 24 Apr	OLDHAM
Sa 29 Apr	Chesterfield
Sa 6 May	BURY

Substitutes

Nationwide League Division Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Fulham	46	19	3	1	50	12	12	5	6	29	20	101
Walsall	46	13	7	3	37	23	13	2	8	26	24	87
Man City	46	13	6	4	38	14	9	10	4	31	19	82
Gillingham	46	15	5	3	45	17	7	9	7	30	27	80
Preston	46	12	6	5	46	23	10	7	6	32	27	79
Wigan	46	14	5	4	44	17	8	5	10	31	31	76
Bournemouth	46	14	7	2	37	11	7	6	10	26	30	76
Stoke City	46	10	4	9	32	32	11	2	10	27	31	69
Chesterfield	46	14	5	4	34	16	3	8	12	12	28	64
Millwall	46	9	8	6	33	24	8	3	12	19	35	62
Reading	46	10	6	7	29	26	6	7	10	25	37	61
Luton	46	10	4	9	25	26	6	6	11	26	34	58
Bristol Rov	46	8	9	6	35	28	5	8	10	30	28	56
Blackpool	46	7	8	8	24	24	7	6	10	20	30	56
Burnley	46	8	7	8	23	33	5	9	9	11	40	55
Notts Co	46	8	6	9	29	27	6	6	11	23	34	54
Wrexham	46	8	6	9	21	28	5	8	10	22	34	53
Colchester	46	9	7	7	25	30	3	9	11	27	40	52
Wycombe	46	8	5	10	31	26	5	7	11	21	32	51
Oldham	46	8	4	11	26	31	6	5	12	22	35	51
York	46	6	8	9	28	33	7	3	13	28	47	50
Northampton	46	4	12	7	26	31	6	6	11	17	26	48
Lincoln City	46	9	4	10	27	27	4	3	16	15	47	46
Macclesfield	46	7	4	12	24	30	4	6	13	19	33	43

LEADING SCORERS

Top scorers in 1998/99

29 goals	Cureton (Bristol R)
25 goals	Horsfield (Fulham)
25 goals	Barlow (Wigan)
25 goals	Stein (Bournemouth)
23 goals	Payton (Burnley)
23 goals	Roberts (Bristol R)

NOTTS COUNTY PATRONS

Working together for Notts County



Alan Archer, Sharon Gibbs, John North, Adam Stokes, Maurice Archer, Olgo Brown, Vivien Grubb, Jack Palmer, Moira Spendlow, Michael Stone, Roy Spendlow, Sue Stone, Geoff Gibbs, Pat Molyneux, David Richmond, Ian Stokes, George Wisher, Jean Webster, Jill Clarke, Liam Clarke, Norman Oliver, Brian Johnson



• For details about The Patrons contact Tim Bradd or Geoff Gibbs

Key: PLAYER WITHDRAWN - Ward* SUBSTITUTE USED - Ward• GOALSCORER - Stallard GOALSCORER (PEN) - Owers P

The big leap, from Reading to Cotgrave

At home with . . .

KEVIN RAPLEY has spent the past few weeks making himself at home in Cotgrave and the promising young striker is convinced that will have a major influence on his performances this season.

After choosing us in preference to Southend United in February and making his £35,000 move from Brentford, Kevin lived in a variety of hotels around Nottingham.

But he invested in a house in April, moved in during June and as he explains, he's extremely happy to have his own space. "Living in hotels was a pain," he said. "I never felt as if I could

really relax because it wasn't home and every opportunity I got, I used to dash off back to Reading.

"Obviously that wasn't ideal because it's not an easy journey from Nottingham but I didn't want to be stuck in the hotel - especially on a day off."

Bachelor Kevin, who is 21, lived with his parents in Reading so it was clearly a big step for him to move to the Midlands and then purchase his first house.

He added: "I've think I've settled in reasonably well with Notts County and it can only help my football that I'm feeling a lot more contented, now that I have my own place.

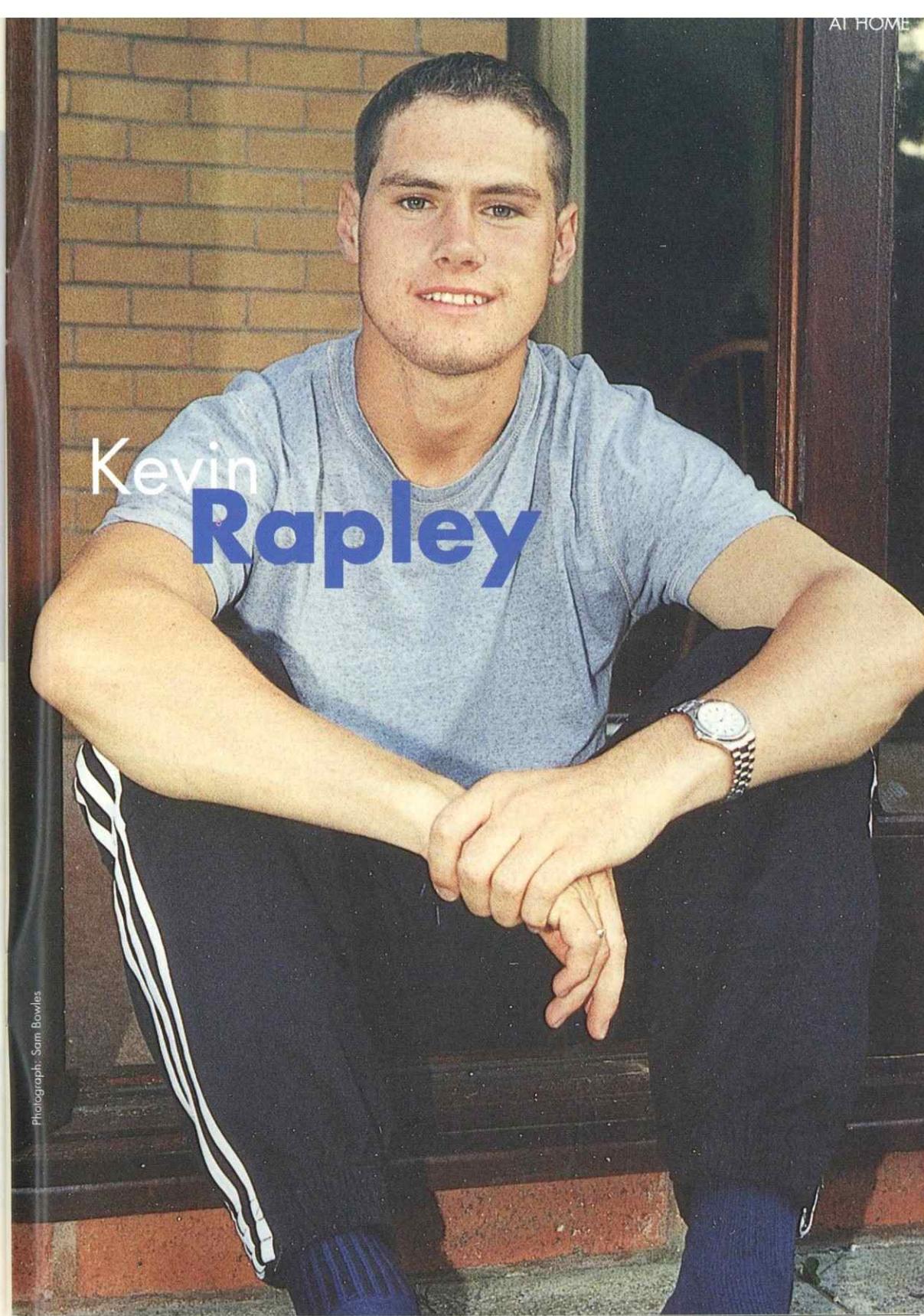
"My dad is one in a million

and he's been brilliant about the move. He took a fortnight off from work to come up and decorate the house from top of bottom and he's made a fantastic job of it.

"Living on my own in terms of washing, ironing and cooking is no problem to me because I used to do all of that when I lived in Reading.

"As for the rest, I'm learning most of that the hard way - and I do like a clean house. Whether it will last, I'm not too sure but the place has been spotless since I moved in."

Away from football - and his new pride and joy - Kevin's main hobbies are fishing and playing golf and snooker.



Kevin Rapley

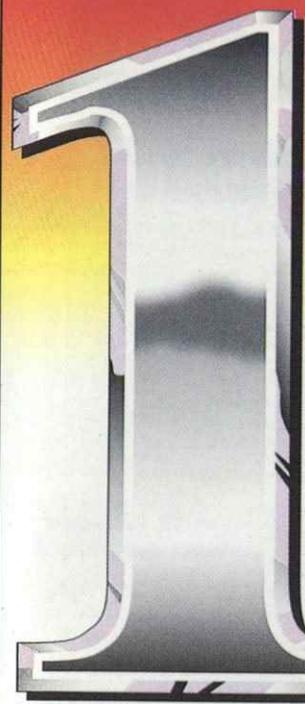
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- a) Home League only £57.50
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- c) When subscribing part-way through the season £2.50 per edition inc. p&p

Programmes may also be reserved and collected/paid for at the Programme Shop on matchdays. Once reserved however, payment is due and the programme will be held until collected.

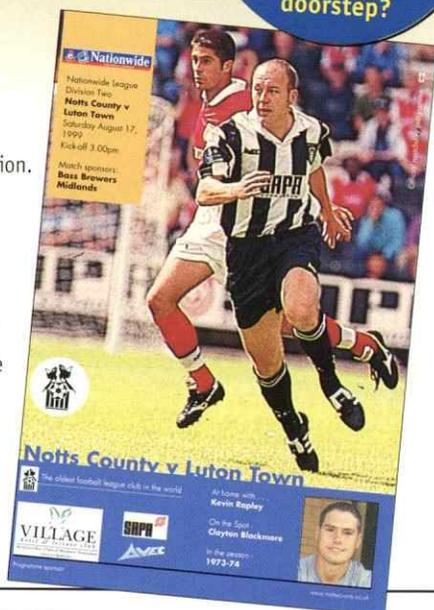
Programmes from Cup games (home & away) will be reserved to order!

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Community Centre

COMMUNITY



Still going strong after a decade of "doing good for people and football"

10 years and counting

WE reach a significant milestone today because our Football in the Community scheme is celebrating its 10th birthday.

We've come a long way since our programme was first launched and one way or another, have reached thousands of people in and around Nottingham.

In fact, as Graham Moran says: "The scheme has developed and flourished beyond our wildest dreams. For example, from visiting one school a week to provide activities for 60 children, we now visit six schools a weeks and work with around 480 boys and girls.

"That works out at about 20,000 youngsters every year . . . and that's just our schools programme!"

Among the other activities Graham and his team organise are birthday parties, after school coaching, senior supporters events, girls football, match visits, tours of the grounds and charity fund raising - not to mention an extensive programme of school holiday activities.

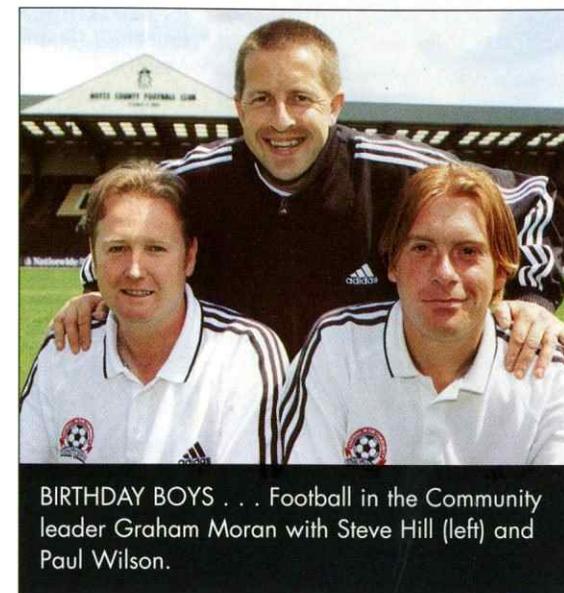
In order to meet the demands, our Football in the Community team has now increased to three full-time members of staff and six people in training and Graham said: "We've been incredibly busy - and that's the way we like it.

"Our work is all about doing good for people and good for football . . . what more could we want!"

• **School holiday courses** are now well underway and starting on Monday, we will be running a four-day special which includes lots of five-a-side matches, penalty shoot outs, team games, skills sessions and the brand new Wagon Wheels Target Shooting Game.



During the course, there will be an opportunity to meet the players and collect



BIRTHDAY BOYS . . . Football in the Community leader Graham Moran with Steve Hill (left) and Paul Wilson.

autographs and photos at the training ground. The course is open to boys and girls aged 5-13 years and is designed to suit all abilities. The fun starts at 10am each day and finishes at 3pm.

The cost of enrolling on the course is £55.99 - and that includes a new Notts County home shirt. All children will need a packed lunch and drinks, suitable clothing for outdoor use, and as the surface is Astroturf - trainers only, please.

To book a place, call the Community Office on 0115 955 7215 or 955 7201. You can also use our Freephone Booking System on 0800 328 3026 (24 hours).

• **A full list of all our summer activities** and further information about the Football in the Community scheme at Meadow Lane is available by calling 0115 955 7215 or 955 7201, or you can email us on: info@nottscountyfc.org.uk

WHO MADE THE CHARTS

- **YOUNG LOVE** by Donny Osmond (4 weeks at No. 1)
 - **I LOVE YOU LOVE ME** by Gary Glitter (4 weeks)
 - **MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE** by Slade (5 weeks)
 - **TIGER FEET** by Mud (4 weeks)
 - **WATERLOO** by Abba (2 weeks)
- One-hit wonder - EYE LEVEL** by the Simon Park Orchestra

MAKING THE NEWS

IN SEPTEMBER: The Government launched 'Equal Opportunities for Men and Women', aiming to stop discrimination against women by setting up a Equal Opportunities Commission.

IN OCTOBER: England missed their chance to qualify for the World Cup by drawing 1 - 1 with Poland at Wembley.

IN NOVEMBER: The first ever peace agreement was signed by Egypt and Israel to hold a cease-

fire from the war between the two nations.

IN MARCH: The world's worst air disaster killed 344 passengers on board a Turkish Airlines flight from Paris to London.

IN MARCH: Red Rum won the Grand National for the second time.

IN MAY: Sir Alf Ramsey, manager of England's 1966 World Cup winning team, was sacked by the FA.

IN JUNE: An IRA bomb exploded in Westminster Hall despite the high security arrangements.

In the season . . .

73-74

TWO promotions in three years had carried us into the Second Division on the crest of a wave but were we good enough to mount an immediate challenge for a place in the top flight?

1973-74

On the evidence of the opening day display - a 4-1 win at newly relegated Crystal Palace - the answer was a resounding 'Yes'.

David Needham, Les Bradd and Willie Carlin were all missing through suspension but Eric Probert, our new record £30,000 signing from Burnley, made his debut and so did David McVay - a couple of weeks after leaving school. Sadly, the euphoria soon disappeared as we lost at home to lowly Doncaster Rovers in the League Cup three days later and were then given a 4-1 thumping by Sunderland. We soon found our level, however, and a run of only two defeats in 15 matches before Christmas suggested that we had no cause to worry about relegation.

Consolidation was the target and although we suffered an embarrassing 5-1 home defeat against Sheffield Wednesday and also lost 4-0 against champions Middlesbrough at Ayresome Park, it was a commendable effort to finish the season in 10th spot.

In March, Jimmy Sirrel paid out £23,000 to Manchester United for a young left back called Ray O'Brien. "One for the future" said the manager but after making his debut on a 2-0 win at Preston three days later, he was to remain a fixture for the next 10 years.



FLASHBACK

NOTTS COUNTY 0, NOTTINGHAM FOREST 1

It's difficult to believe but 30,036 people packed into Meadow Lane on Boxing Day 1973 to watch the first local derby for 16 years.

The game captured the imagination of everyone in Nottingham and was an especially big day for young David McVay, whose task was to man-mark Forest's dangerman Duncan McKenzie.

He did an outstanding job overall although McKenzie played a part in the key moment after 37 minutes when he was fouled by David Needham and George Lyall converted the decisive penalty.

Division Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Middlesbrough	42	27	11	4	77	30	65
Luton Town	42	19	12	11	64	51	50
Carlisle	42	20	9	13	61	42	49
Leyton Orient	42	15	18	9	55	42	48
Blackpool	42	17	13	12	57	40	47
Sunderland	42	19	9	14	58	44	47
Forest	42	15	15	12	57	43	45
West Brom	42	14	16	12	48	45	44
Hull City	42	13	17	12	46	47	43
Notts County	42	15	13	14	55	60	43
Bolton	42	15	12	15	44	40	42
Millwall	42	14	14	14	51	51	42
Fulham	42	16	10	16	39	43	42
Aston Villa	42	13	15	14	48	45	41
Portsmouth	42	14	12	16	45	62	40
Bristol City	42	16	10	18	47	54	38
Cardiff City	42	10	16	16	49	62	36
Oxford United	42	10	16	16	35	46	36
Sheffield Wed	42	12	11	19	51	63	35
Crystal Palace	42	11	12	19	43	56	34
Preston NE	42	9	14	19	40	62	31
Swindon Town	42	7	11	24	36	72	25

GAMES + GOALS

	Apps	Gl
Brindley	42	-
Randall	42	13
Masson	40	11
Mann	40	5
Bradd	39	10
Needham	39	1
Probert	35	2
McManus	34	-
Stubbs	32	6
Nixon	31	2
Worthington	25	-
McVay	25	-
Carter	14	1
Bolton	12	-
Brown	8	-
O'Brien	8	-
Vinter	6	1
Cliff	5	-
Collier	3	-
Scanlon	2	-
Carlin	1	-
Dyer	1	-



The Family Magpie Club

Season 1999/2000

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(On 7th August 1999)

£60.00

Please Note: All applications for Membership **MUST** include a head and shoulders photograph along with proof of age.

CALL TIM BRADD ON NOTTINGHAM 0115 955 7210



NEXT AT THE LANE

Nationwide League
Notts County
v
Scunthorpe United

Saturday August 21 -
Kick-off 3.00pm

Darren **Ward** 1

Mark **Warren** 4

Matthew **Redmile** 5

Ian **Richardson** 6

Paul **Bolland** 8

Mark **Stallard** 9

Peter **Beadle** 10

Shaun **Murray** 11

Gary **Owers** 12

Richard **Holmes** 19

Clayton **Blackmore** 24

1 Tanny **Abbey**

4 Matthew **Spring**

5 Alan **White**

6 Marvin **Johnson**

7 Phil **Gray**

8 Paul **McLaren**

9 Stewart **Douglas**

10 Michael **McIndoe**

13 Stuart **Fraser**

15 Matthew **Taylor**

17 Emmerson **Boyce**

S u b s t i t u t e s



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Mr S. R. M. Proctor-Green
(Rotherham) and Mr K. J.
Nind (Bromsgrove)

4th Official:
Mr B. Wildgoose (Matlock)

Referee: Anthony Leake (Darwen, Lancashire)

Refereed the 1995 FA Cup semi between Everton and Spurs, and in the same year he took charge of the Smpdoria and FC Porto Cup winners' Cup quarter final.

Leading out the teams

Dominic Fells is 10 years old and lives in Shepshed, Leics. He is moving house at the end of the month so he will be starting a new school - Cobden Street Primary in Loughborough. Dominic enjoys swimming, playing football, and also visiting football grounds. His favourite players are Darren Ward, Peter Beadle and Mark Stallard and his ambition is to be a Notts County player.



Matthew Parson from Hemphill Vale is 8 years old and he attends the Hemphill Hall Primary School. Matthew is a budding sportsman and he plays for Priory Celtic Youth Football Club and Kimberley Cricket Club. Matthew's favourite player is Darren Ward and surprise surprise, when Matthew grows up he too wants to be a footballer.

