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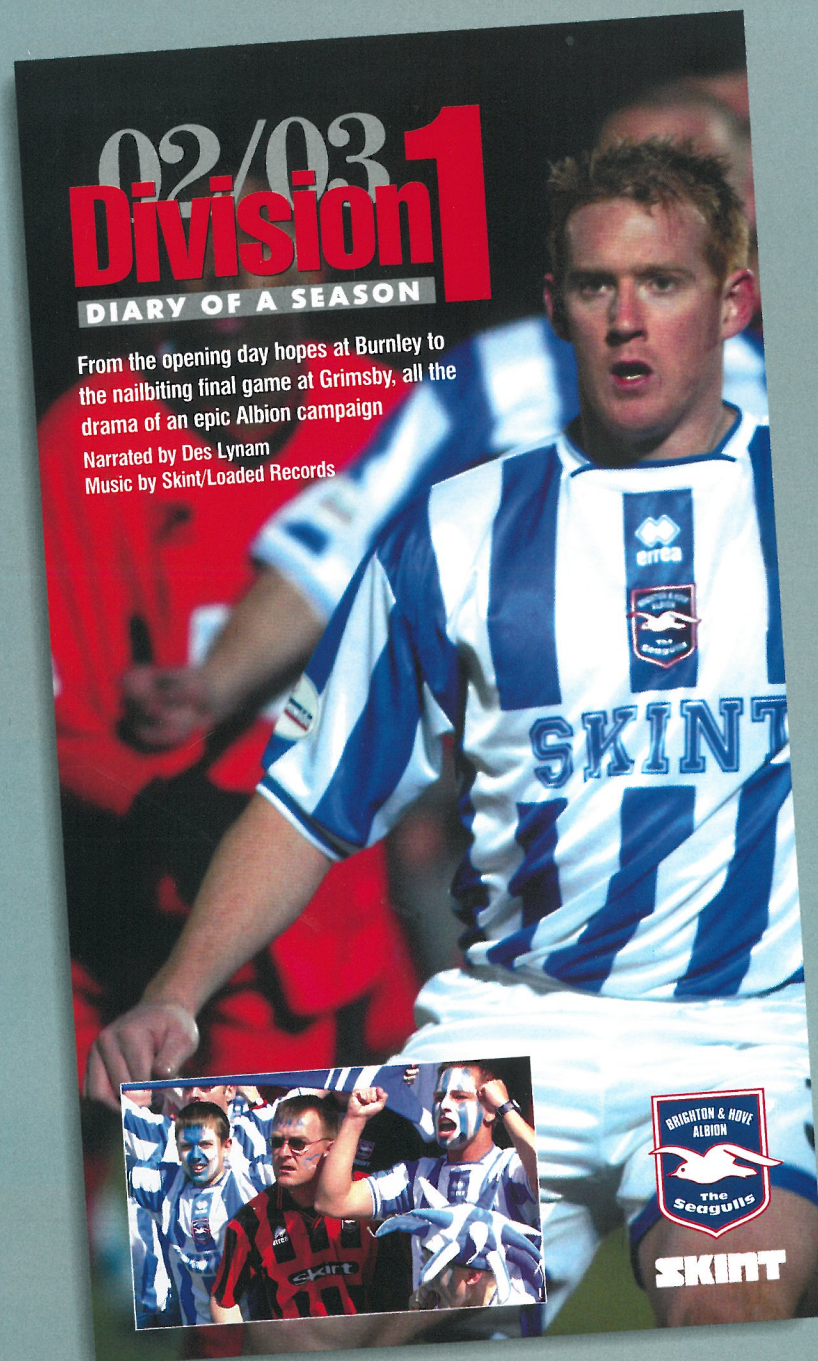


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Afternoon...

...our gain

Roman Abramovich is not the first non-Brit to appear in a boardroom in this country – amongst others, Milan Mandaric has done sterling service to Pompey – but Chelsea's new owner has made an instant, massive impact. He's already brought players to Stamford Bridge who, if they gel, will be very hard to beat, and more are on the way.

Some are British, like Wayne Bridge and Joe Cole; others, like Damien Duff, Adrian Mutu, and Geremi, are not. The net effect has been to freeze out many of the players who might have expected to be fighting for first-team places; those players are then forced to consider leaving the club.

One of them is Leon Knight, of course. Just from a handful of appearances in a Brighton shirt, we know what a good footballer he is. Last week, he teased and tormented QPR's man-mountain Danny Shittu,



bagging two fine goals and picking up the Man of the Match award. At Chelsea, however, his first-team chances would be almost nil.

Chelsea's loss is our gain. At Brighton, he'll get the opportunities he longed for at Chelsea. That's how the clubs in the lower divisions are

benefiting from the influx of players from abroad – and dropping down to a lower level often helps the players, too. The standard of football naturally improves, though whether it's good for the national side is another matter.

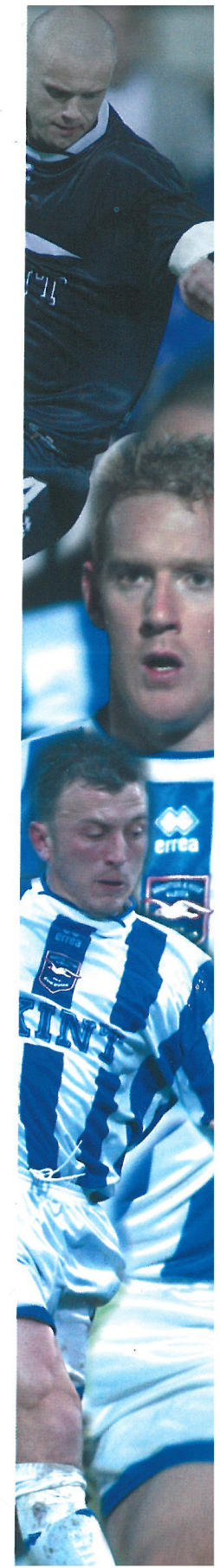
Don't forget, too, that new opportunities arise at the clubs where players have left. Blackburn have brought in Australian Brett Emerton to take Duff's place; at West Ham, young British players like David Noble, Matthew Etherington, and Richard Garcia are battling for Cole's spot.

This is Leon's big chance. From what we've seen so far, he'll take it with both hands.

inside this issue

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And here's Peter Watson at the top of the Eiger in the summer. Peter lives in Lancashire and says that a lifetime's love affair with the Albion has equipped him to deal with uphill struggles >>>





Martin Perry: stand up if you want Falmer

Listening to you singing for Falmer on Monday night was another tremendous example of the support that you have given the Falmer Project team working behind the scenes to get us our new stadium.

The banners at the stadium and the singing were broadcast on Sky TV and Radio 5 Live and we certainly got our message out to the nation – let's hope Mr Prescott went home early to watch the match.

We have been working flat out all year on the project so let me bring you up to date.

The Inquiry opened in February and was scheduled to take six weeks. Our witnesses gave their evidence first and all 16 of them including architects, transport consultants, environmental experts and planning consultants, Dick Knight, me, Des Lynam, David Davies – then acting Chief Executive of the FA – and Peter Lee, Chief Executive of the Football Foundation, presented our case extremely well. They showed just how strong the case is and why Falmer is not just the only site in Brighton, but why it is also the best site in the City for a Community Stadium.

The balcony at the Town Hall in Hove was full most of the time with Albion supporters and they gave us fantastic support by just being there listening quietly to the arguments. Many of you said to me they were amazed at the level of detail and the amount of work that had gone into our case. A big thank you to everyone who came – you made a great impression and were complimented by the opponents to the scheme. There is no doubt you strengthened our case.

We were followed by the City Council witnesses giving evidence in support of the project. The Council are now fully on board – won over by the arguments in terms of the economic, social and community benefits – and they are doing everything they can to make the stadium happen. It is now one of the Council's strategic priorities. They told the Inspector that

to lose the Club would be a 'disaster' for the City and that in terms of delivery of Community Programmes we were now the City Council's major partner.

This was then followed by the objectors who complained but were unable to identify a viable alternative site and could not unravel our case.

However because so many people wanted to give evidence we ran into a second session which was held in June and it then became clear that we still had one final hurdle before us.

The University of Brighton have always supported the stadium proposals and confirmed their support at the Inquiry. However the negotiations to sort out the fine details of the lease were protracted and we were unable to complete them before the end of the second session of the Inquiry in June. As a result the Inquiry will resume for a final session in October.

We have now made significant progress with the University. The access arrangements have been agreed and an additional planning application has been submitted to Lewes District Council to cover the amendments to our original proposals. The Secretary of State has called this new application in to determine it himself so it will be considered when the Inquiry resumes in October. We have also made great progress on the other legal agreements with the University, and are on track to have all of these finalised by the time the Inquiry opens on 14th October.

This will remove the final hurdle and is good news for the Club.

Providing all goes well in October the Inquiry will close by the end of the month and we expect that the Inspector will submit his report to the Secretary of State shortly afterwards. We should know the outcome by the end of the year.

Provided that the decision goes in our favour we then have to secure the funding and the University have to vacate the buildings that

we will be demolishing to make way for our stadium. To do this the University have to build a new teaching block and they have already submitted a planning application for this. When we know that the application is complete and that the City Council planners have started their consultation we will ask you to write to the Council in support of their application. It is important that Councillors realise that the University's plans are the key to work commencing on our new stadium.

Ian Hart in a recent radio phone-in and in the Argus suggested that the City Council should make a substantial contribution towards the cost of the stadium. Supporters may have got the impression that the Council were not supporting the stadium or would not have any financial involvement. The fact is that the Council are very supportive of the proposals and the deal with Sussex University and the progress we have made with the University of Brighton could not have been achieved without its direct involvement.

The Council has committed itself to giving its land at Falmer to the Club under a lease, free of charge, and in return will seek an involvement in the stadium company and will secure other community benefits to which the Club has already agreed. The land will be worth several million pounds on the open market and therefore represents a significant financial contribution to the project. We are very grateful.

So although the progress is slow we are getting nearer to our new home. So for now **STAND UP IF YOU WANT FALMER** (but then please sit down again!)

Enjoy the season and I will write again when there is more news.

Martin Perry

martin.perry@bhaft.co.uk



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Steve Coppel



A warm welcome to Mike Newell, his players, and everyone connected with Luton Town Football Club. They, like many clubs in our division, seem to have had a traumatic summer, but their results at the start of the season have shown what often happens in these circumstances.

Everyone bonds together, and hidden qualities emerge to help provide better results. Their start, like our own, has been very encouraging, and I hope today's game proves to be entertaining for you all.

Our win last week against Queens Park Rangers was very satisfying for a number of reasons. First of all, the TV cameras found their way to Withdean

and we were able to play well for the TV audience. We were also able to relay our 'new stadium' message to people outside the immediate area, and maybe, if John Prescott was watching, he will have witnessed the passion for the future direction of this football club.

Time will tell if the message has got through, but I repeat once again that without a new theatre in which to play our football, we will forever be condemned to being a footballing bonsai.

Monday night also witnessed the goalscoring abilities of Leon Knight. Our success in securing his signature on a contract for Brighton is described elsewhere in this issue. We were involved in some intense competition, and it seemed ironic in the modern game that a player who realistically would struggle to play in Chelsea reserves is so much coveted by other clubs.

Football is all about rejection and how high you bounce back, and Leon, in the short time we have known him, has been determined to show Chelsea that the mass injection of funds and the purchase of international players may mean the overlooking of latent home-grown talent. Now is his chance to prove his doubters wrong.

As I have mentioned, both Luton and ourselves have had good starts to the season, but every football person will tell you that the domestic campaign is very much a marathon. The teams who are fastest out of the blocks in any race are not guaranteed overall victory. Over the course of the next nine months, we will be tested by not only varying oppositions, but also injuries, weather conditions, travelling up and down the country on our more congested roads, and perhaps most of all by the severe mental test of application over the course of 50-plus games, maintaining a level of physical fitness and 'attitude'.

Finally, our victory against Bristol Rovers has brought us an away game against Middlesbrough, which is a really exciting test as far as I am concerned. For the players to be up against the Juninhos, Mendietas, and Southgates of this world gives everybody a real buzz, as well as providing some much-needed cash.

Thank you very much for your welcome and support last Monday – I think it is fair to say that, as well as the players, you all gave a good account of yourselves in front of the cameras.

Steve Coppel

Falmer's the hope and the goals are the glory

www.seagulls.co.uk Seagull 7



QPR 18 AUGUST 2003

The first home game of the season was a night to savour. Two teams with contrasting approaches met in front of the live TV cameras, both having begun the campaign with two wins, and produced a match to remember.

Albion went through the whole of last season without coming from behind to win. Rangers were beaten not just by spirit and tenacity, though – it was a triumph for skill and organisation over muscle and brawn.

Leon Knight again emerged as the match-winner, scoring both goals, and he tormented the cumbersome QPR defenders, but this was a fine display by the team as a whole against the pre-season promotion favourites. From the moment a Paul Watsonesque free-kick by Argentinian Gino Padula evaded everybody and bounced into the corner of the net to give the visitors the lead, Albion

were the better side. Knight's equaliser came within three minutes of Padula's goal.

Rangers took a physical approach, with Marc Bircham and Martin Rowlands going into the referee's book, and Padula lucky not to join them in a tough first half. There's always a danger that someone may take it too far, and it was Terrell Forbes who did so. He reacted to a Kerry Mayo challenge, which had left him with a nasty gash, by kicking out, raising his hands, and finally butting the Seagull, leaving referee Mark Warren with little choice.

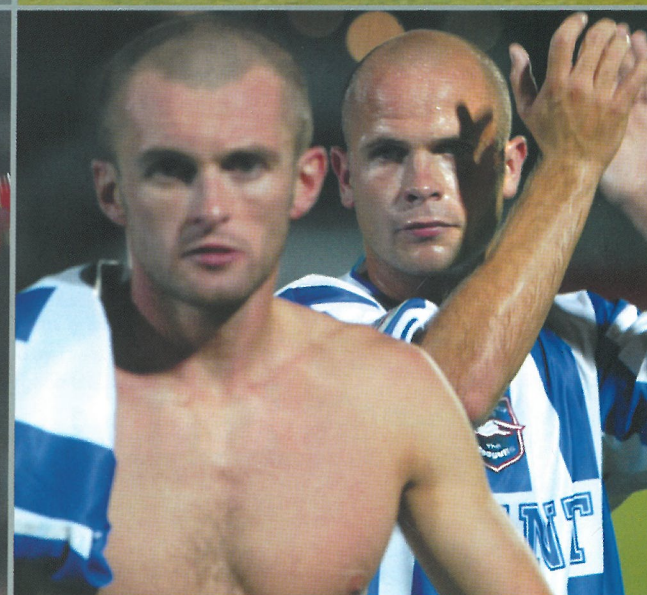
It didn't take Albion long to take advantage, Darius Henderson heading on Danny Cullip's long free-kick to Knight, who stretched to knock the ball beyond Day and into the corner of the net. Knight and Henderson had both forced good saves out of Day just before that moment,

and until the last few minutes the Seagulls remained well on top. An impressive victory was rarely in doubt.

So Albion went to the top of the table, even if only because Brighton starts with a B and Luton with an L.

Albion: Roberts, Watson, Cullip, Hinshelwood, Mayo, Jones, Rodger (Oatway 83), Carpenter, Hart, Knight, Henderson. Unused subs: Kuipers, Pethick, McPhee, Harding. Scorer: Knight 12.68. Yellow cards: Mayo, Henderson.

QPR: Day, Forbes, Shittu, Carlisle, Padula, Bircham, Palmer, Rowlands (Bean 83), Williams (Oli 83), Sabin (McLeod 52), Furlong. Unused subs: Culkin, Walshe. Scorer: Padula 9. Red card: Forbes 60. Yellow cards: Bircham, Rowlands.



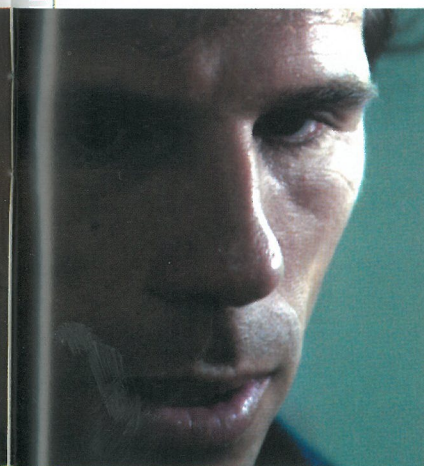


Knights round the table agree a fee...

knightshift



"Leon reminds me of myself. He is as good as I was at the same age."



With the ink barely dry on a new two-year contract, Leon Knight has revealed to Seagull the ease in which he made the decision to convert his loan move to Albion to a permanent one.

The striker, who's signed from Chelsea for an undisclosed fee, said, "It was a very easy decision. After the first few games I'd seen how the club was run and it's the kind of club I want to be at.

"I want to get my career back on track, and I want to get Brighton back into the First Division... I need to be in a team that's got a good team spirit; I need to be in a team that is heading places.

"Brighton have skipped up two leagues, gone up to Division One, come back down, but they have still got those players. If it comes down to the last two games of the season they know what it's all about."

The early signs have been good. The 20-year-old has settled in quickly and already found his feet at Brighton - bagging four goals in his first two League matches for Albion.

Those goals came while Leon was a loan player at the club, but now, after some tough negotiating from Dick Knight, the striker is a Brighton player full stop.

Dick Knight agreed terms with Chelsea last weekend, and negotiated personal terms with his namesake and his agent, and ensured Albion beat off competition from QPR and two other First Division clubs.

The deal was finally completed on Thursday afternoon, after the player had passed his medical that morning.

It's news that has delighted Albion fans, but nobody is happier than Steve Coppell, who admitted, "He's made a massive impact in the first three games and I am really pleased he's signed permanently. He's been the difference in the early games. He's a real box of tricks, and he gives us something that not many other Second Division teams have."

Credit must go to Coppell. Speaking to the Albion's official website on 15th August, Knight revealed not only that he was keen to sign for the Seagulls, but also the reason why. "Steve Coppell is the manager I would like to play under, because it's important to have someone who knows what he's doing, and can manage his players individually and collectively... It's really down to Chelsea."

The young striker had been at Chelsea since he was 13, but with first-team chances not coming his way - and increasingly unlikely to do so - Knight is pleased to be heading out of Stamford Bridge. He said, "It is a relief to be in a place where they want me."

Despite making only one start in his time at Chelsea, there were many at Stamford Bridge who rated him highly - including Blues legend Gianfranco Zola, who saw him as potentially filling his boots and providing the club with an ideal replacement. Speaking in May 2002, he said of Knight, "Leon reminds me of myself. He is as good as I was at the same age. He has a good touch and is very strong."

Brighton fans who've seen him already wouldn't disagree, Gianfranco.



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Goings on



A day by the Riverside

THE Carling Cup tie at Middlesbrough will be played on Wednesday 24 September. Ticket arrangements will be announced as soon as we have them.

• The 40-Note Fund, which proved so popular last season as a means of raising money to bolster the squad, is continuing this season and the organisers will soon be announcing some new activities. Keep an eye on this space.



A RECENT competition in the city offered the chance of a free flat for a year, through leading agent Harringtons Lettings. The winner would be the person who managed to get the most free publicity. Pleased to help, ladies.

Loyal friends

WE have joint match sponsors to welcome today – they are our old friends Greenham Trading, and Jamcard. Our match-ball sponsors Newey & Eyre have also been involved with the club for some time. Our grateful thanks go to all three companies, and we wish them a great afternoon with us.

Our photo shows Sheila Blackmore from CPS Ltd, who sponsored the match against Queens Park Rangers last week, presenting the Man of the Match award to Leon Knight, who of course scored both goals on a memorable night – and one that certainly buried our TV game hoodoo.

Ali oop in lights

FANS might have noticed that number 98 on the Albion teamsheet is Peter Ali, who won the auction to be part of the squad this season. Peter has already turned out in an Albion match – he briefly appeared in the friendly win at Barnet, though whether he shared in the win bonus is unknown!

By the way, Plymouth, our next opponents, have a number 90 – it's former Labour Party leader Michael Foot, a long-term fan and director of the club, who like Steve Claridge chose his shirt number to match his age!

No flies on website

LOOK OUT FOR... Albion's official website relaunched last week. See the new look on seagulls.co.uk

Golden Goal card takes off

OUR new Golden Goal competition got off to a flying start against Queens Park Rangers, with the three goals coming in 08:23 minutes, 11:09 minutes, and 68:00 minutes. Oddly, the first and second prizes were won by two people who were on the same table in the Hospitality Suite!

Tickets cost £1 a pop, and you get two times (and therefore two chances to win) per ticket. There's a special offer on until the end of August – you can buy 23 tickets for £20. By the way, the prize for the sixth goal rises by £50 each time fewer than six goals are scored, and now stands at £550.



Noticeboard



Visitors

IT'S BEEN A TRAUMATIC SUMMER IN Bedfordshire as, not for the first time, the club has hit the headlines following the actions of their Chairman. Remember David Evans and his ban on away fans - which served as a means of getting him into Parliament?

But to their credit, Mike Newell's team have put the club's off-field problems behind them and made an excellent start to the season, winning their opening two league games, and reaching the second round of the Carling Cup with a 4-1 defeat of league new boys Yeovil.

Much of the squad was brought to the club by previous manager Joe Kinnear, who made wholesale changes after taking over in February 2001, but the transfer embargo imposed by the Football League has allowed just one new face this summer, 21-year-old Courtney Pitt joining on loan from Portsmouth.

Club captain Kevin Nicholls may be familiar to those who braved the trips to Priestfield - he played four matches for the Seagulls whilst on a month's loan from Charlton. The former England under-18 skipper later joined Wigan for £250,000, a direct replacement for Paul Rogers, who in turn was Micky Adams's first summer signing. Brought to Luton from Wigan two years later, he made the holding role in left central midfield his own. Tough in the tackle, Nicholls likes to get forward and creates many important goals with visionary passes out of defence.

Nicholls formed an excellent midfield partnership with Matthew Spring, a product of

the Hatters' youth scheme. He made his first-team debut later that year, aged just 17, and is now one of the club's most senior players with more than 250 appearances - he's one of the first names on the team sheet. A tough tackler and an inspired passer, Matthew has scored some spectacular long-range goals, one earning him a place in the Goal Of The Month competition on BBC's Match Of The Day.

One man who has thrived on those defence-splitting passes is striker Tony Thorpe. Already a legend from his first spell at Kenilworth Road, Thorpe became a Hatter for the fourth time in the summer of 2002 as Joe Kinnear looked to strengthen his squad for the return to Division Two. He began his career with Luton back in 1993 after signing on a free transfer from Leicester, and scored 60 goals in 145 appearances between 1992 and 1998.

Big-money moves to Fulham and Bristol City followed, and he returned for two loan spells - scoring five times in eleven appearances - before Joe lured him back for good. A natural finisher with a real poacher's instinct of being there where it matters inside the six-yard box, Thorpe's quick feet and even quicker footballing brain make him a handful. He and Steve Howard scored 39 goals last season and Thorpe has already snapped up three this term.

Howard was also quick off the mark, scoring in the Carling Cup demolition of Yeovil, and again in the 2-1 win at Stockport that sent the Hatters to the top of the table. Winner of the Golden Boot for his 24 goals in Division Three two seasons ago, he stepped up a division and

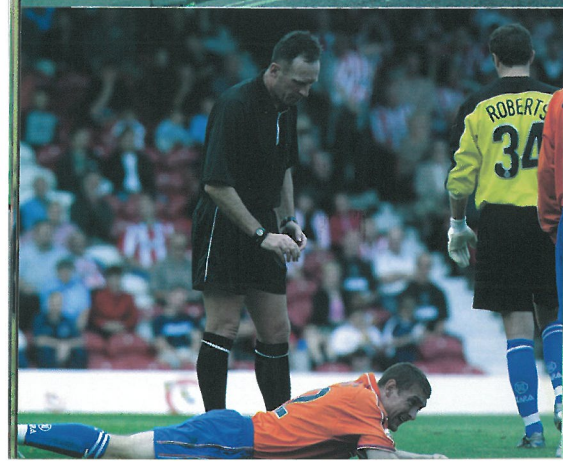
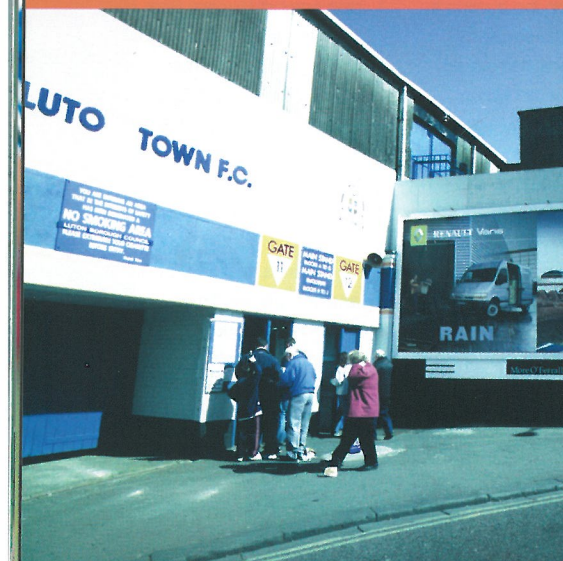
did it all again, with 23 goals last season to prove just what an excellent player he has become. And that Third Division Golden Boot nearly never happened. At the start of the season, Howard went through a spell where he was unable to score, culminating in his becoming so desperate that he twice took and twice missed a penalty at York, against the better advice of senior team-mates, because he was so desperate to score his first of the season.

An angry Joe Kinnear disciplined him, left him out of the next game and threatened to sell him. Not only did he apologise, work twice as hard and come back to score his first goal of the season in the very next game, but he went on one of the best scoring runs any Luton player has ever produced. By the end of November 2001, he had scored just three goals in 18 games, but in his next 25 matches, he scored an amazing 21 times to win the award. A powerful, combative leader of the line, who scores with his head and feet, he also does a lot of work in his own box from set-pieces. He's no stranger to the Albion, having played against the Seagulls for Hartlepool and Northampton.

Versatile defender David Bayliss has good reason to remember his clashes with the Albion whilst with former club Rochdale. He

Rootin' tootin' Luton spring a surprise.

The Hatters return to Brighton for the first time in 13 years, when they were at the Goldstone for a third round FA Cup tie. And it's our first meeting in league competition for over 20 years, when both clubs were members of the old First Division.





was sent off in their 3-0 defeat at the Goldstone in our final season at the old ground, scored the consolation goal as Albion recorded their first-ever 'home' win at Priestfield the following season, and was on target in the first minute at Withdean in the Lancashire side's 4-3 success in December 1999. Bayliss originally joined Rochdale as a trainee and played 215 games for the Spotland side, scoring nine goals, before moving to Kenilworth Road two seasons ago.

Croatian-born midfielder Ahmet Brkovic is also no stranger to Albion fans, having made 82 appearances for Leyton Orient, scoring nine times, including the winner in the O's 1-0 win at Withdean in January 2000. Brkovic can play anywhere across the midfield, but has also had a couple of stints up front during injury crises, as well as at full-back, making him one of the club's most versatile players. A regular last season, he has a keen eye for goal, scoring a six-minute hat-trick at Stevenage in the LDV Vans Trophy second round.

It's been quite a while since Albion beat Luton in the League - it was 1978, in fact, when Nobby Horton, then an Albion great and later to become a Hatters great, got the first goal from the penalty spot in a 3-1 Goldstone win. It's about time we turned them over again.

"LOOKING BACK, I'D SAY..."

Today's Memory Match recalls the last time Albion knocked a top-division team out of the FA Cup. The team was Luton in 1990, and the score at the Goldstone was a resounding 4-1.

Albion's victory was far from expected. They were struggling in the old Second Division, and Barry Lloyd's team had won only one of their previous 12 matches. They hadn't even scored in the last four. But Luton were pretty ordinary that season, too, despite the presence of former Brighton favourite Danny Wilson in their midfield, and they hadn't won for two months. Not only that, but they hadn't won away all season.

Not many goals, you might have thought - and at the break, you'd have been right. It was



HOW TO TALK
YOURSELF INTO
A TICKET: STEVE
HOWARD IN
CONVERSATION.

PAUL HUGHES
SLOWS THINGS
DOWN

The boys from Beds

(Could be a right four-poster this afternoon...)

3 Alan Neilson (D) Age 30; signed February 2002 from Fulham. Previous clubs: Newcastle, Southampton. German-born Welsh international.

4 Matthew Spring (M) Age 23; signed July 1997 as a trainee.

5 Russell Perrett (D) Age 30; signed August 2001 from Cardiff. Previous clubs: Lymington, Portsmouth. A team-mate of Robbie Pethick at Pompey.

7 Adrian Forbes (M) Age 24; signed July 2001 from Norwich, £60,000. Once an England Youth player.

8 Kevin Nicholls (M) Age 24; signed August 2001 from Wigan. Previous club: Charlton. Had four games on loan to Albion in 1998-99.

9 Tony Thorpe (F) Age 29; signed June 2002 from Bristol City. Previous clubs: Leicester, Luton, Fulham. Has more than 50 League goals for both Bristol City and Luton.

11 Steve Robinson (M) Age 28; signed June 2002 from Preston, £50,000. Previous clubs: Spurs, Bournemouth. Played against the Seagulls for Bournemouth and Preston.

12 Chris Coyne (D) Age 24; signed September 2001 from Dundee, £50,000. Previous club: West Ham. Has played for Australia at youth level.



14 Courtney Pitt (M) Age 21; signed August 2003 on loan from Portsmouth.

17 Emmerson Boyce (D) Age 23; signed August 1998 as a trainee.

18 Ahmet Brkovic (M) Age 28; signed October 2001 from Leyton Orient. Previous club: HNK Dubrovnik. Scored against Albion at Withdean in January 2000.

19 Steve Howard (F) Age 26; signed March 2001 from Northampton, £50,000. Previous clubs: Tow Law Town, Hartlepool.

Scored his 50th League goal for the Luton Hatters against the Hatters from Stockport last week.

21 Paul Hughes (M) Age 26; signed August 2001 from Southampton. Previous club: Chelsea.

22 Dave Bayliss (D) Age 26; signed December 2001 from Rochdale. Has had a mixed past against the Seagulls.

23 Ian Hillier (D) Age 23; signed November 2001 from Spurs.

24 Sol Davis (D) Age 23; signed August 2002 from Swindon, £60,000. Yet to score in over 150 League appearances.

32 Lee Mansell (M) Age 20; signed August 2000 as a trainee.

33 Dean Brill (G) Age 19; signed August 2002 as a trainee.

34 Dean Crowe (F) Age 24; signed October 2001 from Stoke.

38 Michael Leary (M) Age 20; signed July 2002 as a trainee.

39 Steven O'Leary (M) Age 18; signed October 2001 as a trainee.

41 Kevin Foley (D) Age 18; signed July 2002 as a trainee. Two yellow cards in two games this season.

47 Robert Beckwith (G) Age 18; signed August 2002 as a trainee. Started the season as first-choice keeper.

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SERGEI ON A RUN

goalless, and fairly dire. But whatever Lloyd put in the half-time oranges had a miraculous effect.

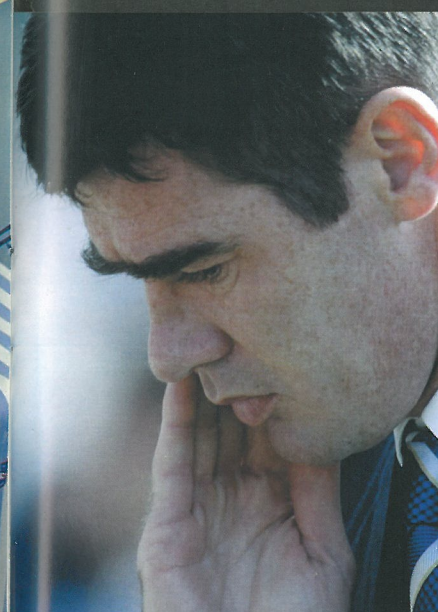
The first goal came from Keith Dublin, who was having a season to remember. He had been Albion's regular left-back, but his distribution let him down, so he was switched to centre-half with huge effect. The other three goals all came from Albion legends – Garry Nelson, Robert Codner, and Alan Curbishley.

A protest against the board had been planned for after the match, but it turned out to be a damp squib, with Albion's fans in euphoric mood and not inclined to hurl abuse at Greg Stanley and the others. That was to change....

Although Albion went out in the next round, League form improved, especially when Sergei Gotsmanov joined in February. He was from Belarus in what was then the Soviet Union and he played just 16 games for the Seagulls, but what an impact he made. Albion avoided relegation, and the following year were very close to promotion, losing the play-off final.

As for Luton, they too stayed up after a big

improvement in form. On the final day, they needed to win at Derby while Sheffield Wednesday had to lose at home to Forest. Luton won an epic match 3-2, while the Owls capitulated to a 3-0 defeat.



Mike Newell's first taste of life in the hot-seat ended on a sour note. His reward for taking Hartlepool on a rare visit into the Second Division was to be shown the door. However, he was not out of the game for long and was appointed as new Luton boss in June, beating off competition from the previous incumbent Joe Kinnear and Steve Cotterill.

His only previous managerial experience was at Tranmere, where he was reserve team boss, and Doncaster, where he coached.

Newell's playing career began with his hometown club, turning out for Liverpool juniors before moving to Crewe, where he would return in the twilight of his career. After three appearances he moved to Wigan Athletic where he established himself as a professional.

He signed for Luton in January 1986 and made 63 league appearances before moving on to Leicester in September 1987. After two seasons he returned to Merseyside to play for Everton before making the move to Blackburn who he helped into the Premier League and then to the title.

He also set a new record in the Champions League the following season, scoring the fastest ever hat-trick in the competition with a ten-minute treble against Rosenborg.





COMMON DENOMINATORS: THE LINKS BETWEEN LUTON AND THE ALBION

When Jo Kinnear joined the Albion in 1975, his career in football was thought to be nearly over. And when he left Luton in 2003, his career in football was thought to be nearly over...



The names of three Albion legends, **Steve Foster**, **Danny Wilson** and **Brian Horton**, stand out amongst the long list of players who have represented both clubs.

Foster began his career as a centre-forward with his hometown club, Portsmouth, before being converted to a defender and attracting a £150,000 move to the Goldstone in 1979, where he was a rock in Albion's defence for five years, making 332 appearances.

In 1984 he was involved in another big-money move, this time to Villa, but things went badly wrong and they were more than happy to release him to David Pleat's Luton for a cut price £65,000 only months after paying out £200,000 for his services. Foster became Pleat's first major signing following a restructuring of the Luton board in 1984, and he was immediately made captain where his inspirational performances made sure that relegation fears soon disappeared.

In 1987 Foster was reunited with former Albion team-mate Danny Wilson. Wilson was virtually ever-present over the next three seasons as the Hatters made four trips to Wembley, appeared in an FA Cup semi-final, and dined with the threat of relegation.

As he had done with the Seagulls, Wilson netted his fair quota of goals while always giving 100 per cent to the side, which he skippered following the departure of Steve Foster. Vital goals in the Littlewoods Cup final win of 1988 and at home to Norwich a year later to seal another season in Division One, will always endear Wilson to the Luton supporters as well as his all-action displays.

After the Hatters had narrowly missed out on promotion to the old Division One in 1980 and 1981, the supporters wondered who manager David Pleat would bring in to strengthen the side to ensure it was third time lucky. Many eyebrows were raised when it was announced that Brian Horton was to move to Kenilworth Road from Brighton with Ere international

midfielder, Tony Grealish going in the opposite direction.

Horton led the Hatters to the Second Division championship in his first season. His inspirational play, ability to read the game and intelligent passing transformed the team into winners, but after overseeing the development of the Hatters' young side into an established top-flight outfit, Horton departed to Hull when offered the player-manager position. Later, as manager of Oxford, Horton prized Foster away from Kenilworth Road.

The man who replaced Nobby at the Goldstone, Albion Cup Final captain **Tony Grealish**, was originally discovered by Orient boss George Petchey playing on Hackney Marshes. He made 171 appearances for the O's before joining Luton for £150,000 in August 1979. Signed by Mike Bailey in October 1981, Tony played 121 times for Albion in his two-and-a-half years.

One of **Kurt Nogan's** first duties after signing for Luton as an apprentice in 1986 was to clean Steve Foster's boots, and he had to wait three years for his debut, when he scored against Liverpool in January 1990. But after the Hatters were relegated from the top flight, Kurt was released, and after an unsuccessful trial with Peterborough he joined the Albion in October 1992. He took time to adjust, but 26 goals in 48 games brought him the Player of



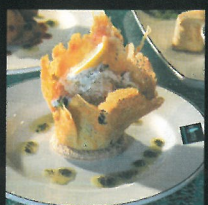
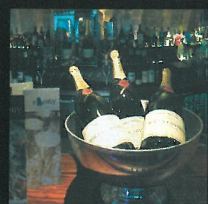
PAUL DICKOV, MARK WALTON, BRIAN HORTON



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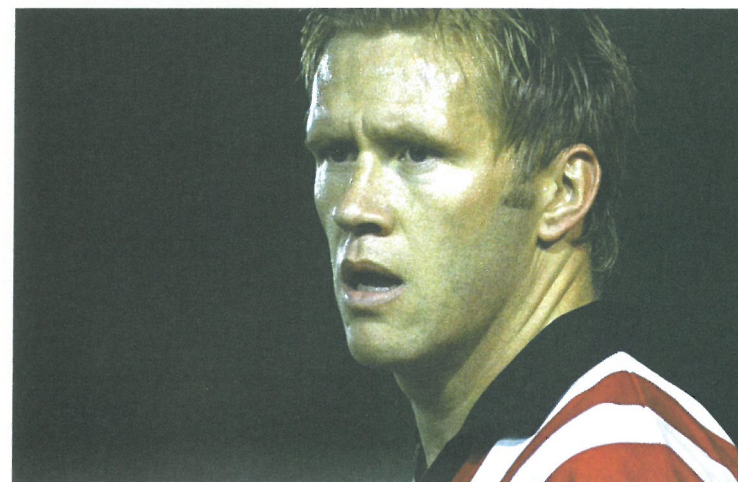
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COMMON DENOMINATORS



the Season award in 1993/94. He's now been forced to retire, having been injured playing for Cardiff.

Jamie Campbell was another player to have begun his career at Kenilworth Road, and he made 45 appearances for the Hatters in four years with the club, before moving on a free transfer to Barnet in 1995. The left-back later signed for Cambridge United, helping them to promotion to Division Two in 1999, before becoming one of Micky Adams' many signings that summer, as he looked to rebuild the team. Jamie made 30 appearances in his one season with the club before moving to Exeter. Famously, he was part of the Grecians' side that picked up ten yellow cards in a match at Withdean – he wasn't one of them, but he made up for it by scoring an own goal! He spent most of last season with Stevenage Borough, and he's currently with Nationwide Conference side Woking.

Along with Campbell, **Mark Walton** was amongst the influx of players to Withdean in a summer when it was almost obligatory to have played for Fulham before signing for the Seagulls.

The much-travelled goalkeeper began his career at Kenilworth Road as a junior back in 1987, switching to Colchester in a £15,000 deal later that year without making a first-team appearance. After a stint with Norwich he joined Fulham, where he helped the Cottagers to the Third Division championship under Micky Adams in 1997.

Andy Petterson, who made nine appearances in goal for the Seagulls last season, played for the Hatters as long ago as 1988, playing 21 times for the club whilst on loan from Swindon. Albion goalkeeper Ben Roberts made 14 loan appearances for the Hatters in 2000, and current Luton skipper Kevin Nicholls – a former colleague of Petterson's at the Valley – played four times for the Seagulls while on loan from Charlton during the 1998/99 season.

Others to have worn the shirts of both clubs include **Alan Biley**, **Paul Dickov**, **Raphael Meade**, **Don Shanks** and **Mike Small**.

Photo above shows Jamie Campbell.



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Back row: Mark Windsor, Adam El-Abd, Matt Piper, Gary Elphick, Chris May, Adam Mountford, Chris Breach, Steve May, Ben Fillery.
Front row: Jake Robinson, Ben Watson, Lee Carey, Kim Eaton (Physio), Martin Hinshelwood, Dean Wilkins, Sam Rents, Darren Budd, Dean Cox.

A brief guide to the future

Mark Windsor – striker in his third year as a scholar. Part of the team that, two seasons ago, went further in the FA Youth Cup than any in Albion's history, and went out unluckily to eventual winners Aston Villa. Mark has already played for the reserves.

Adam El-Abd – third-year scholar, a central defender who has played midfield and was also part of the Youth Cup run. Last year, he was rewarded with a first-team squad number.

Matt Piper – one of several players who is the son of a well-known Sussex football name. Steve Piper played in midfield in the great 1970s Albion team. He's a second-year full-back who has played in midfield.

Gary Elphick – like dad – also Gary – who played for several Sussex non-league clubs, he's a central defender. In his second year as a scholar.

Chris May – his well-known dad is Larry, who played 25 games as a central defender for Albion in 1988-89 before retiring through injury. Chris, though, is a goalkeeper in his second year as a scholar.

Adam Mountford – a first-year scholar who joined the club at the late age of 14. Plays as a central defender or full-back, and like all the squad, he's from Sussex.

Chris Breach – defender or midfielder who played for the reserves when he was just 15 years old. Now in his second year as a scholar.

Steve May – the second of Larry's sons to feature in the youth set-up, he's a defender like his dad. Larry, by the way, is now coaching for the Surrey FA.

Ben Fillery – dad Mike played for Chelsea, QPR and other clubs during a long pro career. Ben is a second-year scholar who had been at Palace and Charlton, but chose to join Albion during his final year at school – he's a left-footed defender or midfielder.

Jake Robinson – the first-year scholar, a striker, was with Albion when Dean Wilkins and Martin Hinshelwood arrived, though back then, at the age of 11 or 12, he played at the back while at the Centre of Excellence.

Ben Watson – a second-year striker who was on the verge of the squad that

did so well in the Youth Cup, despite being younger than the others.

Lee Carey – first-year scholar who also has family connections with the club – the midfielder's brother John was a scholar at Albion when Deano and Hinsh arrived.

Kim Eaton (Physio) – brought in by the new Hinsh 'n' Deano regime about five years ago.

Martin Hinshelwood – returned to the club under Horton in 1998. First-team manager for a while last season, but has now returned to his first love.

Dean Wilkins – rejoined the club along with Hinsh, having played a mammoth 375 games for the Seagulls.

Sam Rents – first-year scholar who had trials with England schoolboys. Plays in defence.

Darren Budd – now in his third year as a scholar, he's been beset by bad luck of late. He'd only just returned to full-time training following a broken leg when he fractured the same limb again. He's just started rehab work – the plaster is off now, but he's some way off full fitness.

Dean Cox – tricky little first-year striker or winger who is in his first year as a scholar.



Under-17s have good start but under-19s don't have a start at all

Albion's under-19 side have had an aborted start to the season, but the under-17 team have won their first two League games.

The under-19s had a free Saturday while the first team played at Oldham – there's an uneven number of teams in the league, so there's always a free day for one side – while second-Saturday opponents QPR pulled out of the league. Albion's u-19s therefore opened their season at Colchester two days ago, after we went to press.

The under-17s began very well, thrashing Orient 4-0 with goals from Mountford, Robinson, Leach and Gatting. The performance a week later wasn't as good, but goals from Robinson and Cox gave the young Seagulls a 2-1 win at Luton.

This coming weekend sees an in-service training session – a useful exercise which involves all those attached to the various stages of the youth set-up getting together to discuss what can be added to what's already happening. Deano, for instance, will be taking a session that promotes the usefulness of central defenders hitting diagonal balls, a very specific area which is rarely covered in the everyday training sessions. Others will be looking at footwork, and a series of equally specific lessons.

Young players talk about football all day, and when they see professionals doing something, they try to emulate it – but most don't yet have the power to hit an accurate long pass. These sessions help them with the technique and encourage them to try.



Fixtures

Under-19s (all matches 11am)

16 Aug	QPR H
23 Aug	Colchester United A
30 Aug	In Service Training -
6 Sep	Leyton Orient H
13 Sep	Southend United A
20 Sep	Portsmouth H
27 Sep	Gillingham A
4 Oct	Wycombe H
11 Oct	Youth All Cup Round One
18 Oct	Brentford A
25 Oct	Leyton Orient A
1 Nov	Southend United H
8 Nov	Portsmouth A
22 Nov	Youth All Cup Round Two
29 Nov	Wycombe A
6 Dec	Brentford H
10 Jan	QPR A
17 Jan	Youth All Cup Round 3
24 Jan	Colchester United H

Merit Division changeover occurs from January 31. These fixtures will be published as they become available.

Under-17s (11am)

9 Aug	Leyton Orient	4-0
16 Aug	Luton Town A	2-1
23 Aug	QPR H	
30 Aug	In Service Training	
6 Sep	Northampton T (12 noon) A	
13 Sep	Wycombe H	
20 Sep	Brentford H	
27 Sep	Cambridge Utd (12 noon) A	
4 Oct	Southend United H	
11 Oct	Portsmouth H	
18 Oct	Rushden & D (12 noon) A	
25 Oct	Gillingham H	
1 Nov	Oxford United A	
8 Nov	Colchester United H	
22 Nov	Cambridge Utd (12 noon) H	
29 Nov	Southend United A	
6 Dec	Portsmouth A	
13 Dec	Rushden & D (12 noon) H	
20 Dec	Brentford A	
10 Jan	Gillingham A	
17 Jan	Oxford United H	
24 Jan	Colchester United A	
31 Jan	Leyton Orient A	
7 Feb	Luton Town H	
14 Feb	QPR A	
21 Feb	Northampton T (12 noon) H	
28 Feb	Wycombe A	

Mirage Video

To win a copy of the new video, all you have to do is log onto the competition section of the seagulls.co.uk website - and answer the following question:

Who scored Albion's opening goal of the 2002/03 season?

All entries must be received by Monday 1st September 2003. Winners will be announced on seagulls.co.uk and in the Swindon edition of Seagull.



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The new Albion video Diary of a Season was released last week - to celebrate, we are giving away five signed copies!



Albion in the community



Soccer Schools

Thanks to all of you who have taken part in the Soccer Schools over the summer! We've had over 400 people attend our courses so far and there are still courses this week and at the start of September. It's been a fantastic success once again, and a lot of fun for all concerned.

If you would like more information on these upcoming courses, or those we'll run in the future, please contact the Community Scheme at the club.

included a specialist goalkeepers and outfield players course.

Many thanks to all the coaches who helped make these courses a tremendous success, and a special thanks to No 1 Goalkeeping, who set up the courses with us this year.

Again, if you would like more information on any of the courses, please contact us at the club (details page 3).

Residential Courses

Our Residential courses have already taken place for this year.

The first took place at Brighton College from Aug 8 - 11 and this was for goalkeepers only, while the other two Residential courses took place at Ardingly College from Aug 11 - 15, and

Moulsecoomb and Whitehawk Soccer Schools

The free soccer schools at these venues have been a tremendous success with over 30 children attending each venue every day.

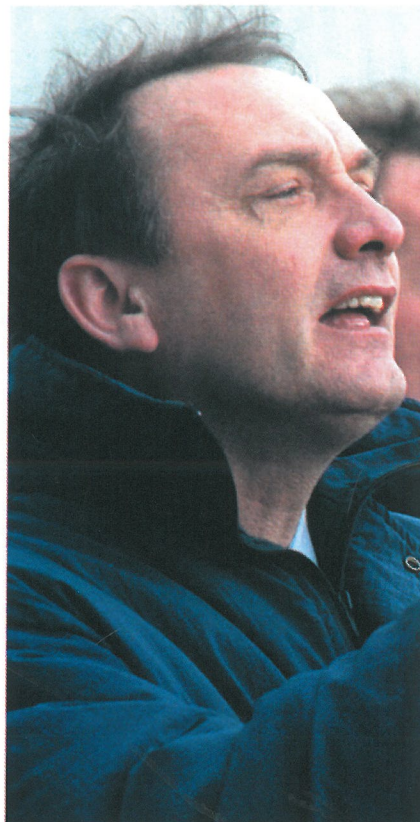
Thanks to all the coaches and staff, who have helped set up these courses over the summer.

A summer of football fun



The poachers who turned gamekeepers

Management is one of the most common paths for ex-footballers, and former Brighton players are no exception. These days, League clubs fairly regularly select retiring players still in their thirties as manager, without any non-league experience - Albion have done it several times, most successfully with Alan Mullery. Many still take the old-fashioned option, building up their careers via clubs most fans only hear about when they reach the first round of the FA Cup; others take up coaching and progress via the Assistant Manager position. Most fail. Rare is the football manager who hasn't been sacked at some point in his career. Our list includes only those who had some success after leaving Albion - it doesn't mean they were never sacked, though!



You'll have your own list of people missing from this list - there's John Gregory, for one. The truth is, though, that his tame effort at Aston Villa and his dismal period at Derby, and ordinary times at Portsmouth, Plymouth, and Wycombe, plus the fact that he's won nothing, count against him. The mystery is how he came to be seen as Premiership material at all - though he was a good player. Kieran O'Regan did a splendid job at Halifax,

but didn't get the chance to take it further than the Conference. Chris Cattlin was a popular Brighton manager, but he won nothing; Charlie Webb fits the same category. Andy Ritchie had a struggle at Oldham, though he was loved there as a player. Chris Ramsey has done very well with the England youth teams; Clive Walker has made a name for himself in the non-league game. So disagree if you will - but here's our Top Ten.

1. Howard Wilkinson

Howard was nothing special as a player, turning out 147 times on Albion's wing between 1966 and 1971 after dropping down the leagues from Sheffield Wednesday. By the time he was 27 he'd fallen into the non-league ranks with Boston United. Jim Smith was his manager there, and he encouraged Wilko to take up coaching. When Smith left, Howard took over as manager, and he's never looked back. By 1978 he was involved in the England set-up and he's still the FA's Technical Director. That call-up was on the back of his success at Leeds, where he joined a mid-table Division Two club and turned them into champions within four years. Following his disastrous spell at Sunderland, plenty of people think his methods are now a bit outdated, but he's clear at the top of our list.

2. Dave Sexton

Dave's another who has been part of the England set-up for decades, and he only finds himself behind Sergeant Wilko because he didn't manage a championship-winning team. He did win the FA Cup, and a European trophy. As a player in the lower divisions, he'd been useful - a thoughtful inside-forward with

an eye for goal, as indicated by his 28 in 53 appearances for Albion in the 1950s. After leaving Chelsea, he managed QPR, Manchester United, and Coventry, all in the top division. Now 73 and living in Hove, he's a very popular visitor to Withdean, and has served under several England managers. And by all accounts, you couldn't wish to meet a nicer bloke.

3. Major Frank Buckley

The Major hadn't made much of an impact when he joined Brighton nearly 100 years ago, but just one season at the Goldstone transformed his career. He moved to newly-promoted Manchester United in 1906, then had spells with neighbours City, Birmingham, and Derby, where he was capped by England. Blackpool made him their manager in 1923. Known to be extremely strict with his players, it wasn't until he went to Wolves that he began to show his prowess. They won Division Two in 1932, then assaulted the top flight. He was one of the most respected football men of the first half of the twentieth century.

4. Alan Curbishley

Spells at West Ham, Birmingham, and Aston Villa launched a more-than-useful career for the skilful midfielder who was once on the verge of an England call, but it was as he was winding down his career that he found the club where he'd make his name. That was Charlton, of course, where he played for four years before joining Albion and shepherding us to promotion in 1988. Returning to Charlton as player-coach, he soon became manager alongside Albion-hero-to-be Steve Gritt. The Albion-connected duo did a fine job with limited resources, but the club really began to take off when Gritt moved on. Charlton finally made the Premiership in 1998, and though they were relegated a year later, the board kept their heads and retained Curbs. They were rewarded with the Division One title in 2000, and since then the club has fully established itself in the Premiership.

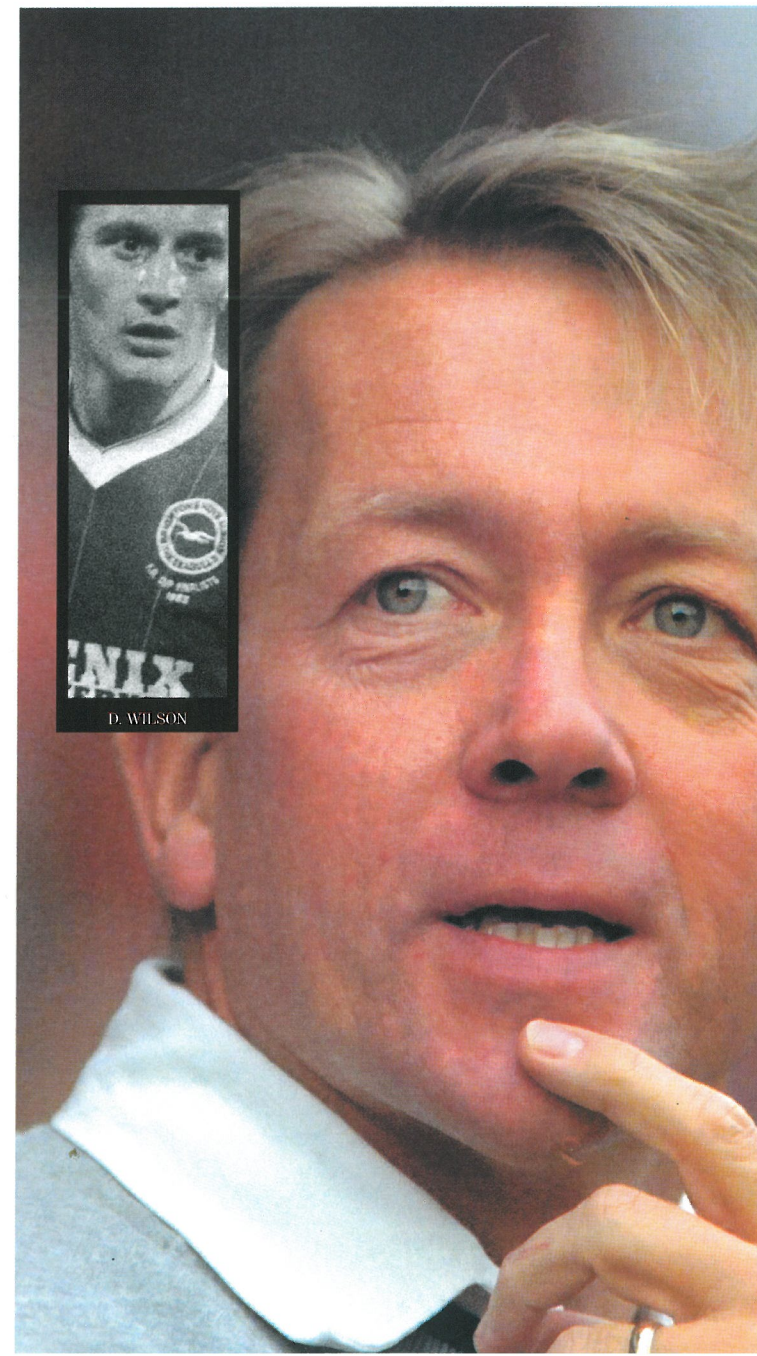
5. Joe Kinnear

Joe came to Brighton to end his career in 1975, and left a year later. Wimbledon are not a club that has ever done anything by the book, and within a couple of years of joining ▶

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ALAN CURBISHLEY,
DANNY WILSON
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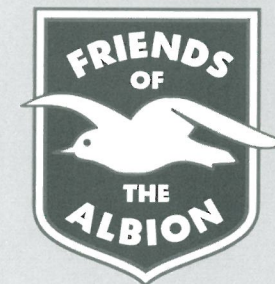
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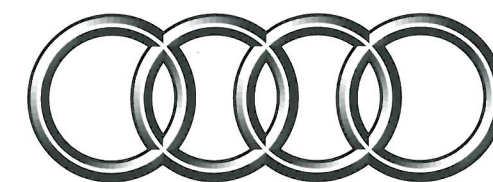
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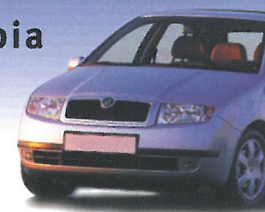
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them as a junior coach he was managing the club. He somehow achieved the miracle of keeping the Dons in the top division, but suffered a heart attack. He joined Luton in 2001, winning promotion with them a year later, but was inexplicably sacked during the frighteningly surreal Gurney Coup.

6. Jimmy Sirrell

A little inside-forward with teeth that went in all directions and a Glasgow accent that could strip the paint off the goalposts from the centre-circle, Jimmy didn't have a great playing career, failing to make the grade at Celtic and Bradford Park Avenue before coming to Albion and enjoying modest success. He embarked on his managerial career the hard, traditional way, coaching at Aldershot and managing Brentford. He impressed Notts County, though, and he became their boss. As manager during the 70s and 80s, he took them from Division Four to Division One.

7. Danny Wilson

You can read more about Danny's exploits elsewhere in the programme, so we'll keep it brief. Albion's midfield playmaker of the 1980s went into coaching, then management, at Barnsley; he took them into the Premiership. He's never quite matched that since, but that feat in itself is worthy of a place on our list.

But we did like him...



8. Jack Mansell

Jack was interested in coaching and management almost from the moment he joined Albion in 1949, gaining his coaching badge and managing at County League level while he was still a player with Brighton. Retiring as a player, he began a pioneering management career, circling the globe and taking in jobs in Holland, the USA, Greece, Turkey, Bahrain, and Israel, as well as brief spells at Rotherham and Reading. A true original who helped promote football around the world, he still lives in Sussex.

9. Brian Horton

Neither Brighton nor Luton fans would begrudge him his place. He served both clubs wonderfully as a player, as well as Port Vale and Hull, but his managerial career is somewhat chequered. Hull were promoted under him; Oxford drifted; Manchester City were a stable Premiership club; Huddersfield flourished and then fell apart; Albion improved, but he left for Port Vale, where he's become becalmed. Coming up to his 20th year in the job, he hasn't had as much success as he'd have liked, but he should have stayed with a big club.

10. Steve Cotterill

Steve began the year by leading Cheltenham into Division Two, having already brought them from mediocrity in the Doc Martens League and through the Conference into the League. He then resigned and went to Stoke, but after a decent start to the season he decamped for Sunderland, where Wilko's ship was leaking badly. It sank with all hands in May, but not before the two ex-Albion men had made way for Mick McCarthy.



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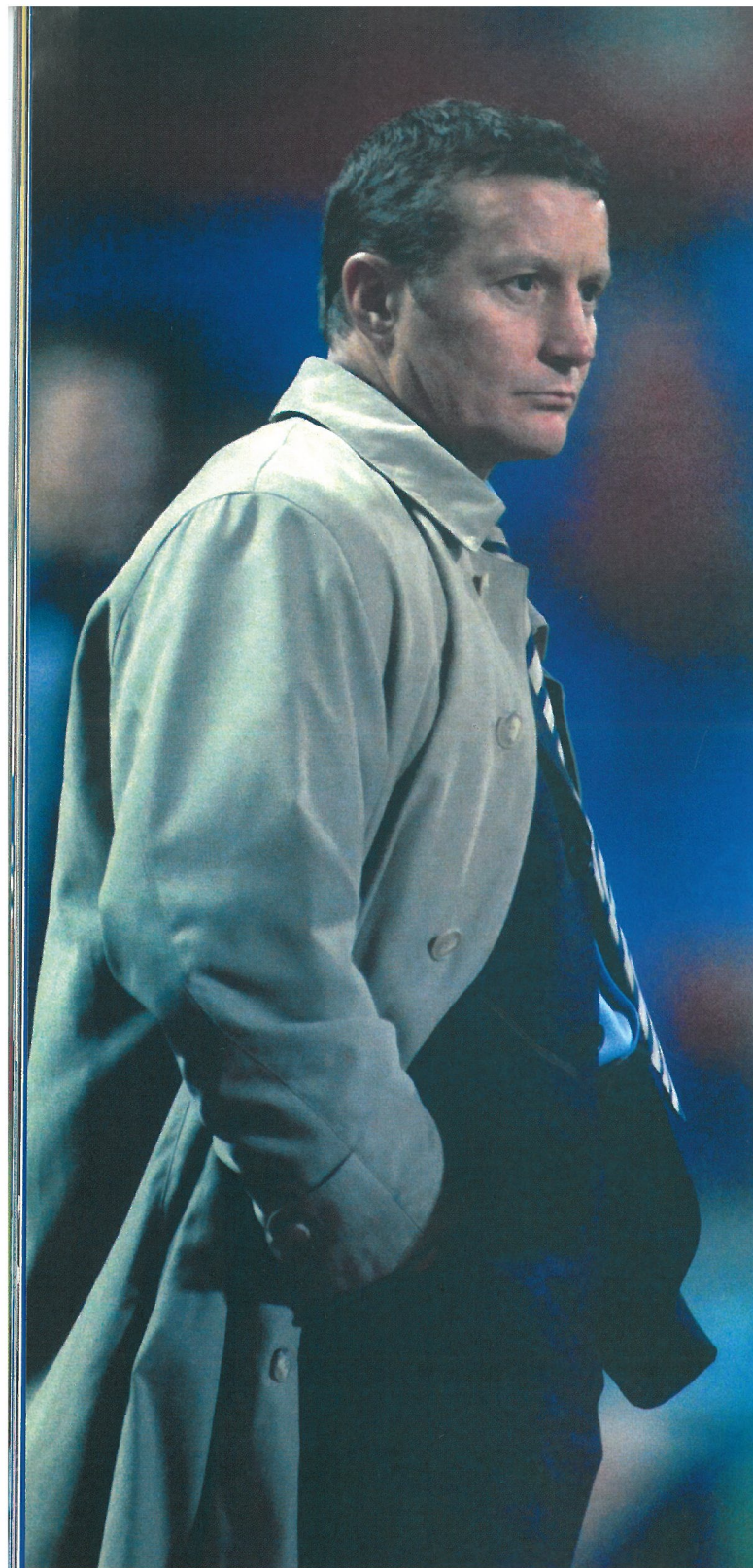
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THE LEGENDARY MR WILSON

Several years ago some bored Pennsylvania college students came up with an idea for a game called Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon. The students had worked out that virtually every actor walking the planet could be connected in six or less moves to the star of Footloose and Apollo 13. For instance, Vinny Jones was in Snatch with Brad Pitt, who was in Sleepers with Kevin Bacon – a score of two linking the Wimbledon hardman with the acting world's very own journeyman.

We've thought about creating a similar game called One Degree of Danny Wilson. The 43-year old Lancastrian does appear to be on amiable terms with an unusual number of clubs residing in football's third tier. From Barnsley in the north to Brighton in the south – just name a team, and it's a safe bet there's a Danny connection.

"You know I hadn't really thought about that until you mentioned it," laughs Wilson shortly after finishing a Monday morning training session with his current employers, Bristol City. "I'll be in for a few rough receptions this season then!"

He's joking, of course. If there's one common thread running through his career, it's this. Wherever Wilson has played or managed, he's been highly regarded by both fellow professionals and supporters. Even during his final months in charge at Hillsborough (a period which included a group of local MPs publicly demanding his sacking), most Wednesday fans chose to go easy on him, remembering instead his fine service to the club as a player.

"I'd like to think that I gave everything to every club I've been involved with," says Wilson.

He arrived at the Goldstone on loan from Forest during November 1983 as an unknown. Six months had elapsed since relegation from Division One and Chris Cattlin was doing his best to assemble a team worthy of promotion.

There was only one problem. Cash problems meant the days of big-money signings were over, something many disillusioned Albion fans were having trouble coming to terms with. To them Wilson – a 23-year old City Ground reject who had spent the previous month on loan to Scunthorpe – had as much appeal as a sloth.

But two goals on his debut against Cardiff City and a magnificent solo effort away at Palace on Boxing Day helped do the trick. With Jimmy Case injured, the five foot six inch dynamo more than filled the former Liverpool star's boots.

"It was a fantastic move for me. I'd gone from being a regular at Chesterfield to being a bit part at the City Ground, surrounded by all these players who had won European Cups, people like Gary Birtles and Viv Anderson. But with the likes of Ian Bowyer ahead of me, I was never going to get first team football.

"That all changed at Brighton. There was a great feeling about the place, and with players like Jimmy Case and Joe Corrigan no shortage of talent. Fortunately I got off to a good start, and things went from there."

Shortly after Cattlin paid £45,000 to make his loan signing permanent, Wilson was involved in what still remains many people's choice as the most outstanding Albion performance in living memory – a 2-0 FA Cup Fourth Round win over Liverpool at the Goldstone. Goals from Gerry Ryan and Terry Connor ended up denying The Reds a unique 'quadruple', Joe Fagan's side going on to win the European Cup, the Football League title and the League Cup that season.

"That has to be my favourite memory from all my time at the Goldstone. Back then Liverpool were just awesome, and to beat them like we did was virtually unheard of. I think it was the first-ever FA Cup tie to be screened live on television,

which made it even more special."

Wilson's time at the Albion ended on something of a sour note with relegation to the old Division Three in 1987, two years after missing out on promotion to Division One by just three points. Luton Town – then in Division One – were willing to splash out £150,000 for his services.

"My time at Luton coincided with the most exciting period in the club's history," remembers Wilson. "We were so unfashionable, despite having players like Mick Harford, Mal Donaghy and Steve Foster, yet we still managed to finish in the club's highest league position ever and win the League Cup. It is a remarkable tribute to everyone associated with the club then, including of course Ray Harford, who died recently."

Besides earning him more international caps for Northern Ireland (his mother was Irish), Wilson's outstanding form meant that larger clubs were always monitoring his progress. In the summer of 1990, Ron Atkinson's Sheffield Wednesday, relegated to Division Two but looking to bounce back, signed him for £200,000.

The following three years proved to be the most successful in Wilson's playing career. Wednesday cruised to promotion, defeating Man U in the League Cup final the same season. In 1993, they finished as runners-up to Arsenal in the FA and League Cups. So it came as something of a surprise to many fans when he left the club that August to take up the post of



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Seagull Interview



THE LEGENDARY MR WILSON

► assistant to manager Viv Anderson at Barnsley.

"At Barnsley, there was an understanding that if Bryan Robson got a senior position in management, then Viv would join him as his assistant. Sure enough, Bryan got the Middlesbrough job, and Viv went with him. The club also kept their word and promoted me from assistant manager to manager.

"When we first went there, crowds were down to two or three thousand. But we worked hard, and got the mix right by bringing in experienced players to help the younger ones coming through."

In 1997, against all the odds, Wilson guided Barnsley into the Premier League. He recalls the following months as being like "going on a roller coaster every week." Despite several thrashings, and a surreal match in which Worthing referee Gary Willard sent off three Tykes players against Liverpool, his gritty side had their relegation confirmed only during the final fortnight of the season.

Despite the drop, Wilson's stock remained high, and it came as no surprise when he went back to Hillsborough as manager in 1998. Crippled by debt and with too many high-earning players not performing on the pitch, it proved to be an unhappy return. He was sacked in January 2000, Wednesday dropping out of the Premier League four months later.

"Even now, I'm still bitterly disappointed about how I came to get the bullet. There were people in the boardroom not offering their support who should have been. There were players there who were not playing to their potential. I tried to do my best, which is unfortunately more than can be said for some people. But yes, getting fired hurt, and did so for a while."

Wilson's managerial rehabilitation is currently well under way at Ashton Gate, with Bristol City expected to be challenging for the Division Two title come next May. This season will be his fourth in charge of what he admits is a club with "massive potential and great fans," acknowledging that "it's time we delivered something for them."

But when it comes to the other two promotion places on offer, he'll be more than happy if they're taken up by the Albion and Luton.

"Both have been through so much, and have found themselves in situations that have concerned me as a former player. In Dick Knight, Brighton now have someone who's positive and can achieve great things. Of course they've got to get the ground sorted out, but I think if anyone can do it, he can. Then they can start enjoying the kind of crowds they used to get back at the Goldstone.

"As for Luton, hopefully they've put their darkest days behind them now and can push on. They've certainly made a good start. After everything both clubs have been through, they deserve a little bit of success."



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As Roy Chuter shows, the Albion will never ever stop amazing us

Just three months ago, all was doom and gloom. Division One had proved a fraction too good for the club at this stage in its development, and our chief goalscorer looked to be on his way. Not only that, but the manager we'd come to respect was out of contract, and several of last year's squad were heading for pastures new.

Well, the goalscorer's gone, but the grim mood has turned into one of optimism. All it took was a couple of good wins and signing Steve Coppell for another year.

This edition of Seagull went to press before the game at Barnsley last Saturday, so it may be that the good start to the season will have fallen by the wayside by the time you read this, but either way, it's worth keeping our feet on the ground.

Remember last season? Two games in, we had four points on the board and an excellent away victory under our belts. We weren't to know that we'd fail to pick up a point in our next twelve games, leaving us well adrift at the bottom by Autumn.

Then again, there was 2000-01. It ended with the Third Division championship. But how did it begin? With an ignominious defeat at Southend, a scrambled win over Rochdale and two more losses. The home defeat by Kidderminster left us in the bottom four, and some began to mutter that Micky should go. We lost seven more games all season.

A good start doesn't always mean a good finishing position, and a bad start doesn't always mean a struggle. That's true of other clubs, too. Take Manchester United – in 1985-86, under Ron Atkinson, they won their first ten League games, scoring 27 and letting in just three. They finished the season in a woebegone fourth place, twelve points behind winners Liverpool, and their search for a

League title went into a 20th unsuccessful year. Big Ron left, and was replaced by someone called Alex Ferguson.

Millwall did even worse ten seasons later. In December 1995, they sat proudly on top of Division One, with the Premiership beckoning. Manager Mick McCarthy was doing a tremendous job. Then he left to take Jack Charlton's place with the Republic of Ireland, and it all went horribly pear-shaped. They had a terrible run, and dropped into the bottom three in the table at just the wrong time – when the season was over. Down they went.

Albion's own records show nothing quite as dramatic as that, but we've had our moments. 1978-79 was a case in point – after a defeat at Notts County on a bitterly cold day at the end of November, we were 12th in the old Second Division. But a fantastic run – just two defeats in the last 23 League games – took us into second place, and a cherished place in the top flight for the first time.

History more or less repeated itself the next year – a terrible start left us adrift, but as Wardy, Nobby, Lawro, Fozzie and co got used to the higher level, the results improved so much that we ended well clear of the drop.

The Albion's best-ever start was 1953-54. The first five games ended in victories, and we were top. A draw at Southend temporarily knocked them off that perch, but two more wins followed. Surely this must be the year? But no – we trailed off to finish second to Ipswich. Second wasn't good enough – only one team went up in those days.

Season 1993-94 began catastrophically and by Christmas we were kept off the bottom of Division Two only by Barnet, who had lost most of their players following financial meltdown. Liam Brady, though, had just taken over from Barry Lloyd, and he masterminded a remarkable comeback following a win over Barnet on Boxing Day. Suddenly, we couldn't

lose, and were safe long before the end.

We can't, however, leave out the Gritt Escape of 1996-97. The season began with the hapless Jimmy Case in charge and the club in uproar. The Goldstone had been sold, then given a reprieve for a year, but it was to be demolished at the end of that season.

When Albion lost to Darlington at the Goldstone on 3 December, they were nine points adrift and heading for the Conference. Two more points went a week later, deducted by the FA in the belief that punishing the club was a reasonable way of attacking a board who quite clearly didn't care if Sussex had a football club or not. Exit Case and enter Steve Gritt, who certainly didn't turn out to be the directors' plaything many fans expected.

Under Gritt, Albion began to play with wingers, and with confidence. With Stuart Storer and Paul McDonald marauding down the flanks, and Ian Baird and Craig Maskell finding their goalscoring touch, Albion roared into form. They were still hopeless away, but the gap started to shrink as win after win was racked up at home. The highlight was Fans United Day, when supporters of clubs all over the world turned up to protest against what was happening, and were rewarded with a 5-0 win over Hartlepool. Maskell got a hat-trick.

As the season drew to a close, Dick Knight and his 'consortium' finally reached agreement to take over the club, and the final, tearful game at the old ground ended in something close to glory when Storer got the only goal, while Hereford lost at Leyton Orient to go bottom. We only needed a draw at Hereford to be safe, and send them down instead, and of course we got it – not without scares, and not without a quite awful first-half display.

The lesson's simple – don't get too excited if we start well. And don't get too depressed when it's not going so well.



96/97 and 00/01: two momentous seasons that finished very differently to how they started.

IN THE AUTUMN OF 2000, SOME FANS WERE MUTTERING THAT MICKY WASN'T UP TO IT

Well you have to start somewhere

SEAGULLS CLUB

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS!

Very best wishes from everyone at the Albion to Seagulls Club members who have birthdays in August!

Aaron Bright, Cortney Hazlewood, Cameron Raiman, Ryan Hooker, Maddie Beach, Ben Thomsett, Daniel Seligman, Karl Drake, Louise Foulger, Matthew Fisher, Briony Moore, Laurie Fear, Gregory Lake, Joseph Pirolli, Sam Holland, Sebastian Samrah, Aaron Mayhew, Kit Simmonds, Kelvyn Brown, Joseph Melville-Reed, Joe Hedgecock, Nicola Hill, Jade Evans, Robert Newmarch, Joe D'Ath, Lewis Rendell, Lucy-Layla Widdowson, Thomas Harman, Joshua Stevens, Peter Bowles, Henry Edwards, Alasdair Jones, Matthew Smith, Kieren Iredale, Cara Hilson, Samuel Rooke, Brett Stephens, Connor Ward, Alfie Rix, George Wells, Shaun Nichols, Chris O'Malley, Thomas Dowell, Daniel Lander, Jacob Impey, Robin Alner, Ryan Crews, Arron Stevens, Jack Rowe-Hurst, Joshua Porter, Tim Brann, Matthew Hayward, Alexander Staines, Jon Clydesdale, Montgomery Roberts, Suzette Baker, Daniel Royce, Nathan Edwards, Christopher Field, Joshua Manderson, Oliver Nottage, Jacob Atterbury, Jennifer High, Alan Baughan, Emma Cordell, Jack Young, Ellis Hatter, Russell Wood, Calvin Hatter, Ben Hollman, Ben Colyer, Aimee Ost, Kieran Sands, Helen Yates, Michael Browning.



That'll do for a start!

Welcome back to Withead for today's Bank Holiday fixture against Luton Town.

At the time of writing, the Barnsley result was not known but a good performance in front of the Sky cameras put us top of the League and a win at Bristol Rovers saw our name in the hat for the next round of the Carling Cup. It was good to us as well. It paired us with a trip to Premiership Middlesbrough. So far so good as far as this season goes!

One quick mention and good luck message to Bobby Zamora from everyone connected with the

Seagulls Club. Thanks for everything and all the very best for your Premiership career.

All the membership packs are still being processed and although over half have now been sent there are still plenty more to prepare. Please be patient if yours still hasn't arrived. It's on its way. Your T-shirts and exclusive flag are available from the Club Shop. However, you will need to call in to collect them and you will need to take your membership card and letter with you to collect.

Five-a-side training begins the first Thursday in September at the



King Alfred Leisure Centre in Hove. Please remember this includes a free swim after the football so bring your swimming gear (best behaviour please!).

This season will see us attempt to travel to as many away games as possible. We will only be able to travel if there are enough of you wishing to do so. Listed below are the planned trips. Your contact for booking on these will be Paul Kerr on Brighton 01273 604645 or Pat in the Club Shop. It will be our aim to keep the members' price for travelling on these coaches to a minimum and

FIVE A SIDE TRAINING

Day	Age Group
1st Thursday of month	5-8yr olds
2nd Thursday of month	9-10yr olds
3rd Thursday of month	11-13yr olds
4th Thursday of month	14 and over



the cost will include your match ticket.

Our Sunday football section is now even bigger, in fact we are running the most ever Seagulls Club FC teams since we formed over 15 years ago. If you are interested in signing for one of them, regardless of ability, then please contact Bob Bantock, Ian Barron or myself (see contacts for details).

Our mascots v QPR were Calvin Hatter and Michael Harrington. They are pictured with their favourite players and with the officials before kick off.

Enjoy the game and let's hope for another 3 Withead points!!
Matt

CLUB PRESIDENT:
CHARLIE OATWAY



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CLUB CONTACTS

PRESIDENT Charlie Oatway
AWAY COACH ORGANISER
Paul Kerr 01273 604645

FOOTBALL TEAMS CHAIRMAN Mick Wright
07885 193910;
m.d.wright@ntlworld.com

**SUNDAY FOOTBALL
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**
Bob Bantock 01273 880396

MINI SOCCER CO-ORDINATOR
Ian Barron 07739 732332

CO-ORDINATOR Matt Hicks
01273 648172 (left)
matt.hicks@bha.co.uk



ON THE ROAD... Games we're going to during this season: Colchester, Bournemouth, Peterborough, Notts County, Swindon, Luton, QPR,

Wycombe, Port Vale, Sheffield Wed, Blackpool, Bristol City, Wrexham.

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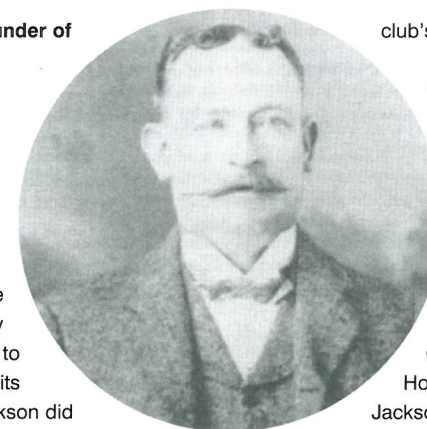
Remembering the founder of the Albion

No edition of Seagull based around managers would be complete without mention of John Jackson. Many people reading this won't have heard of him, but every club needed someone to get it off the ground in its earliest years, and Jackson did that job for Brighton.

Even before Albion was formed, he was the man picked to get Brighton United, the town's first professional club, up and running. They ceased to exist in less than two years, but undaunted, Jackson was involved in promoting Brighton & Hove Rangers, who also came to a sticky end before they could fulfil Jackson's dream of taking up a Southern League place in 1901.

That place eventually went to the newly-formed Brighton & Hove Albion, and Jackson, who had a good track record with clubs like Wolves, Liverpool, and Leicester, was once again chosen to manage the side.

He'd also organised the hurried meeting in which the club was set up, and spoken passionately at it. A pub licensee himself, running the Farm Tavern in Farm Road, on the northern side of Western Road, he set up the meeting at the Seven Stars in Ship Street. This pub was run by Ike da Costa, who became one of the



club's early benefactors.

So Albion was formed on 24 June 1901, and had a place in the Southern League but not much else. Sorting out a ground proved relatively simple – they played at the County Ground in Hove for the first year.

Jackson worked tirelessly to find players for the new club, and mould them into a formidable team.

After a good first season, they won promotion to the Southern League First Division the following year, with Jackson still at the helm. By that time, they'd moved to the Goldstone, which had been a hockey pitch, and also home to Hove FC.

Jackson helped to establish the club in the higher division before leaving Albion for the last time in 1905, returning to his equally-beloved pub trade. He died at the age of 70 in 1931.

His grave, in Brighton & Preston Cemetery, is currently unmarked – but this Albion great, to my mind, should have a proper, permanent memorial stone. Perhaps there are people out there who would like to contribute to erecting a suitable monument to the man who founded our club? If so, please get in touch with me via the club, and together we'll give John Jackson the tribute he deserves.

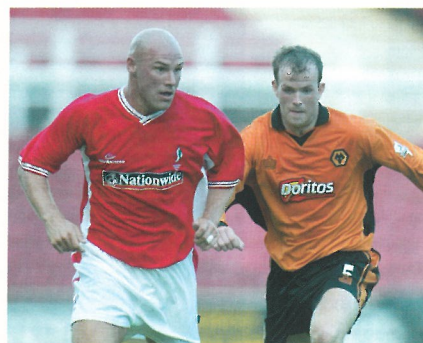
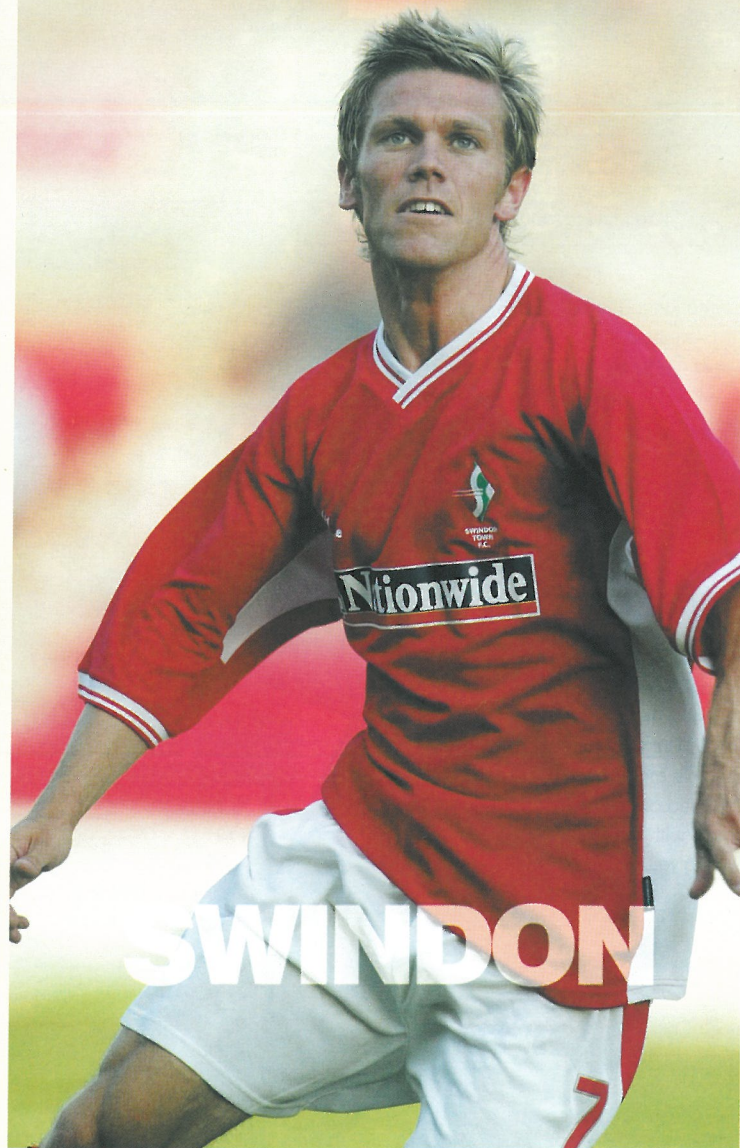
Roy Chuter

The man we must never forget



next at home

Just keep bob bob bobbin' along



Swindon Town are the next visitors to Withead on September 6th in what will be our first Saturday home fixture of the season.

Albion were already assured of promotion to Division One when the Robins were last here, and that match will be remembered chiefly for the wait that followed the final whistle – Reading were still playing and victory could have delayed our Championship celebrations, but they could only draw.

Swindon are still suffering the fallout from the collapse of ITV Digital, but manager Andy King is hoping to start adding extra players to his squad thanks to the Red Army Fund. No, he hasn't discovered a Russian a billionaire living in rural Wiltshire – the fund is the brainchild of the Swindon Town Supporters Trust in conjunction with the Supporters Club.

The idea is for fans and businesses to contribute to a pot, which exists for the sole purpose of providing the Town boss with funds for new faces. Once funds have been lodged into a special account, King will be able to request all or part of the balance to bring in a player (or players) of his choosing at any time, and by the beginning of August more than £20,000 had already been received in pledges. It's rather like Albion's 40-Note Fund, which will soon be promoting new events and is sponsoring Ben Roberts this season.

Red Army Fund spokesman Tony Norris said: "Supporters have always had the power to help a team's performance by singing their hearts out, but now there is another way to help bring the success we all want. The Red Army

Swindon's red army has the bit between its teeth



Fund gives both fans and local businesses the chance to feel part of their club, and also the opportunity to have a direct impact on what happens on the pitch. Imagine the feeling if a player purchased or taken on loan through the Fund scores the goal that secures promotion. Those supporting the RAF, for as little as £5 a month, can genuinely say 'I helped bring that about.' It will generate a feeling of pride and it's a case of every penny counts."

The club are also keen to expand their youth policy, and have enlisted the help of Robins hero Don Rogers to play an active role in helping to prevent local youngsters being snapped up by other clubs. Rogers wrote his name into club legend with two goals in the 3-1 win over Arsenal in the 1969 League Cup Final.

County Ground youth development officer Jimmy Fraser has met with officials from the newly-formed North Wiltshire and District Youth and Minor League to establish a structured system for giving Town the first chance to check out potential stars. League secretary Stuart Morgan said: "I think most fans like to see Swindon lads playing for Swindon Town. We have 211 teams at all levels in the league so Jimmy Fraser effectively has 211 instant new scouts out there. If a manager of a club believes he has a player or players he thinks Swindon Town should look at, they will be asked to contact Don Rogers or me and the information will then be relayed to Jimmy."

Also, representative sides from our league will play matches at the County Ground. That will be a fantastic experience for the players while giving Swindon Town the chance to assess the lads at the same time."

Town had an abysmal start to the season, when visitors Sheffield Wednesday went 3-0 up against them within 25 minutes of the beginning of their opening fixture. Things improved somewhat, with goals from Stefani Miglioranzi and Sammy Igoe putting a respectable face on their defeat. Far worse for them was the news that Jimmy Davis, who played 15 times for them last season, had been killed in a car-crash.

Two wins in Essex followed – at Southend in the Carling Cup, and at Colchester in the

League. Both featured late winners by Tommy Mooney, while Sam Parkin got off the mark for this season with two goals at Roots Hall.

Igoe and Mooney are examples of Swindon's new acquisitions. Mooney, signed from Birmingham, scored from the spot at Withead last season while on loan at Stoke, while Igoe struggled to get into the Reading side, especially after Sidwell joined the club.

Albion's recent record against Swindon isn't anything to shout about – just one win in the last 15 matches, and for that you have to go back to April 1990 when Kevin Bremner and Gary Chivers gave Albion a 2-1 win at the County Ground. The last home success was in November 1976, when Andy Rollings, Ian Mellor (who scored twice) and Peter Ward were all on target in a 4-0 win.

The return fixture on New Year's Day has become part of Albion legend. Swindon's pitch was notoriously bad, but they knew how to play on it, and had the Seagulls 4-0 down after just over an hour... when the rain started again and referee Alan Robinson abandoned the match. Justice was done in the rematch, with the Robins winning 2-1, although by this time Albion had already clinched promotion.

The Swindon side you'll see on Saturday week won't be especially young or inexperienced, or even particularly local – but if their plans work out, things will be very different a few years down the line.

SAMMY IGOE, FAR LEFT, AND TOMMY MOONEY, SHOWN IN A PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY WITH WOLVES' MARK CLYDE, ARE TYPICAL OF SWINDON'S NEW SIGNINGS.



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Not So Slim, on the road again

WE HAVE GOOD MEMORIES OF Plymouth. It was 14 April 2001 when we last went there, heading for promotion from Division Three and with an outside chance of confirming it that day. Suffice to say the long shot came in.

A lot has happened since. Plymouth followed Albion as Division Three champions and they've transformed their boardroom, their ground and their team.

The away end used to be a draughty, uncovered terrace at the end of a narrow alley leading from the car-park. The rest of the ground was a bit ramshackle. The ground is almost unrecognisable now. There's one old

stand, though that's scheduled for demolition when the funding's available, and three spanking-new ones under one sweeping roof. It's almost all-seated.

The work should give Argyle a firm hold on the 21st century. Previous chairman Dan McCauley had allowed the club to deteriorate – they weren't threatened with immediate closure, but they weren't moving forwards, either.

Now they are, and it's possible to imagine one of English football's most isolated clubs – Exeter and Torquay are geographically closest, but they're 30 or 40 miles away, while the whole county of Cornwall is full of armchair Manchester United 'fans' in dire need of conversion

to real football – achieving what they've failed to do in 117 years of history, and reach the top division.

That'll take some time, of course, but the basis is now in place. Paul Sturrock is a good manager, and with backing from the fans and the board, he could take his developing team very close to promotion. They failed to win either of their first two League matches, however, and flopped out of the Carling Cup at Colchester, but it's early days yet. Let's hope they haven't found their form by the time we go there on Saturday. The match, by the way, is all-ticket.

Next page: Essex hero of Sussex & Devon ▶

THE OLD AND THE NOT: MANAGER PAUL STURROCK AND OUSTED CHAIRMAN DAN McCAULEY



PUBS

Home Park is in an area that simply doesn't have any pubs. The nearest is the Pennycomequick, the best part of a mile away along Outland Road towards the station, and that's a shadow of its former self. There are others close by, including the Britannia at the bottom of Wolseley Road, which has strong connections with Argyle. Their fans are generally friendly, so it's worth trying.

A place as full of sailors as Plymouth is, however, always likely to contain plenty of drinking-holes around the waterfront area, and indeed it does – take your pick along Union Street and its offshoots.

Those looking for a quieter life might head for Mutley, one of the student areas of the city. It's a mile or so to the south-east of the ground down Peverell Park Road, and well signposted. The Fortescue on Mutley Plain and the nearby Hyde Park cater for sports fans.

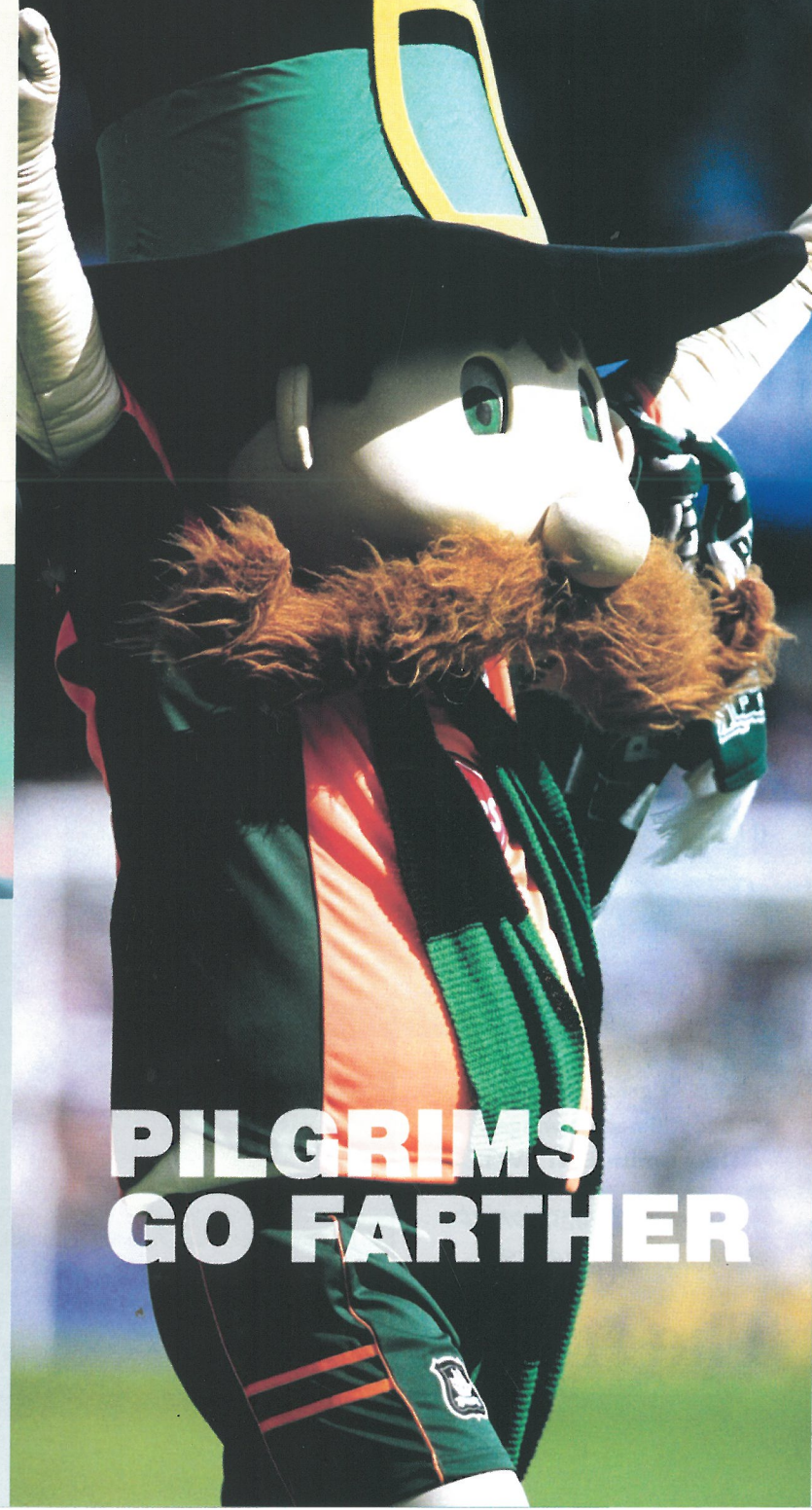
For restaurants, head for the ancient Barbican area. There's a nice old pub called the Dolphin not far away, on Southside Street near the fish market.

With Dartmoor to the north and Exmoor beside it, country pubs are plentiful, as are places with odd names. Buckland Monachorum is one of them – it has a good pub called the Drake Manor with a wonderful reputation.

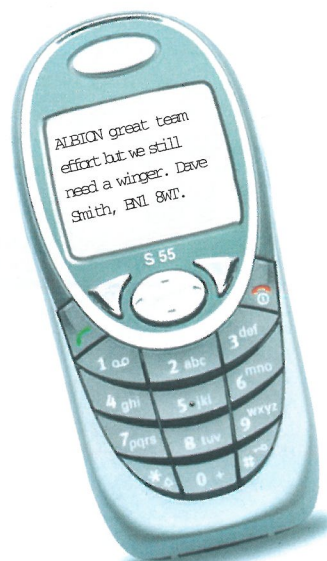
GETTING THERE

By road Once you get to the A38, it's usually easy going, but getting from the end of the M27 to the A38 can be frustrating. Taking the A31/A35/A30/M5 route is usually best, but there's a case for many other options, including forgetting all the country routes and chancing the M25/M4/M5 method. There's a big car-park at the ground.

By rail You can get to Plymouth along the coast, though football fans usually prefer to travel by a route that'll mean seeing the match. Trains from London Paddington are fairly frequent, and the station is a mile south of the ground.



Text us after the game



Simply text your message,
(No more than 20 words) to:

07776 101010

Your first word must be Albion,
followed by a space and then
your message, name &
postcode. Example:

**ALBION great team effort
but still need a winger.
Dave Smith, BN1 8WT.**

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The Argus



UNIVERSAL HERO

AROUND the spring of 1988, a piece of graffiti appeared on a wall a couple of streets away from Horsham station. 'Gary Nelson - Untouchable', it read, just like they used to do in Chicago in the days of Al Capone and Elliot Ness.

Despite an inability to spell - it's Garry, not Gary - the author had a point. Nelson's exploits during the 1987/88 season were little short of astonishing. Peter Ward may have hit more goals in a single season, but the boy from Braintree had the edge when it came to scoring the ones to remember. This particular writer's own personal favourite came in a cup tie at Brentford, when he dribbled the ball around seven men, through a Chinese takeaway and across both runways at Heathrow before slamming the ball into the net. Okay, forget the Heathrow bit, but you get the picture.

Nelson arrived at the Goldstone having previously been on the books at two of the Albion's forthcoming opponents, Swindon Town and Plymouth Argyle. Today, he looks back on his days at the County Ground with mixed feelings.

"Lou Macari was the manager back then, and we didn't really see eye to eye. I was being played all over the place. I even began one season at left-back!

"Plymouth was different. I enjoyed two happy seasons there, during which we went from nowhere to almost getting into the old Division One. They've got the potential. The ground looks good and there are a couple of people on the board with financial clout."

After finishing as a professional, Nelson spent several years working for the PFA before leaving to become a full-time pundit with ITV, concentrating on clubs in the Football League.

With the ITV Digital collapse he found himself out of a job. Thankfully, he had contacts - and qualifications - outside the game to fall back on. He now works as managing director of a small firm in Chelmsford. But he still looks back at his time on the Sussex coast, and in particular that first season, with fondness.

"I'd finally won my battle to persuade people that I could play up front, and wasn't some kind of left-sided midfielder," he remembers. "It was an amazing feeling going out on to the pitch for every game knowing you were going to score. Your confidence levels are just sky-high. It doesn't really get any better than that."

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just the ticket

Ticket information has already been published for the following matches. For other forthcoming games please check with the ticket office on **01273 776992**; see the Ticket News section of seagulls.co.uk, local press; or subscribe to either the club's free email newsletter service or the premium-rate Official Albion SMS Alerts service.

Plymouth v Albion Sat 30th Aug, 3.00pm. All ticket - Albion fans have been allocated 2,000 seats, £15 for adults, £10 for senior citizens and students (NUS card req), under-16s £5. One ticket per AMS member. Apps by post or phone before 4pm Tuesday. Personal callers have until Friday 22nd August, subject to availability.

Albion v Swindon Sat 6th Sep, 3.00pm. This match is sold out.

Colchester v Albion Sat 13th Sep, 3.00pm. All ticket - Albion fans have been allocated 1,000 tickets. £16 for adults, £13 for conc (terrace tickets £9 and £7). One ticket per AMS member. Apps by post only, please enclose correct payment and SAE.

Applications will be dealt with in strict date order.

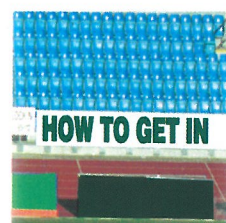
Albion v Chesterfield Tue 16th Sep, 7.45pm. Postal apps to be received no later than 1st Sep. Tickets remaining after ballot will go on general release. Please check with the ticket office or see seagulls.co.uk and/or local press for any announcements.

Albion v Sheffield Wednesday Sat 20th Sep, 3.00pm. Postal apps to be received no later than 1st Sep. Tickets remaining after ballot will go on general release. Please check with the ticket office or see seagulls.co.uk and/or local press for any announcements.

Applying for home tickets

Supporters wishing to purchase home match tickets should apply by post only, and by the date specified by the club. Please enclose SAE, marked in left-hand corner with the name of the match. Indicate number of tickets required. Sales will be limited to four tickets, with a maximum of two adults in each party. Payment should be by cheque, credit card or debit card.

Supporters who are paying by cheque and wish to be considered for tickets in all areas of the ground should leave the amount payable blank and mark the cheque "not to exceed" the maximum amount they are prepared to pay.



Cheques should be made payable to "Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club". No post-dated cheques will be accepted. All applicants should include SAE, which will be used for delivery of the tickets or information that the application has been unsuccessful.

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The Albion 

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10/11 BRIGHTON

11/4 -1 goal
8 -2 goals

9/4 DRAW

5/2 LUTON

4/5 +1 goal
1/5 +2 goals

CORRECT SCORES

BRIGHTON	v	LUTON
8	0-0	8
11/2	1-1	11/2
14	2-2	14
6	1-0	8
8	2-0	14
15/2	2-1	12
14	3-0	40

H/T - F/T DOUBLE RESULT

	H/T	F/T
11/5	BRIGHTON - BRIGHTON	
14	BRIGHTON - DRAW	
28	BRIGHTON - LUTON	
7/2	DRAW - BRIGHTON	
9/2	DRAW - DRAW	
13/2	DRAW - LUTON	
25	LUTON - BRIGHTON	
12	LUTON - DRAW	
6	LUTON - LUTON	

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Far from academic as reserves kick off in style

ALBION'S RESERVE TEAM KICKED-off their new season last Wednesday with a comfortable 3-0 victory over Cambridge United at the Abbey Stadium.

After the summer break and a hot pre-season, reserve team coach Dean White agreed that it was good to get back into the swing of things, and to be back playing competitive matches again.

"It's nice to be back and involved again, and the lads enjoyed it," he



said. It's nice to be out there, and because we don't have a massive squad, most of the players get to play 90 minutes."

White sees it as his job to keep the fringe members of the squad match fit and ready should they be called upon for first-team duties, and although results are important to him, he concerns himself more with the performances of his players.

"My job is to prepare the young players and those players who are not in the first team so that if they get their chance, they make it hard for the gaffer [Steve Coppell] to leave them out.

"We've got a lot of talented youngsters at the club, but it's not easy to break through - if it was you would see loads of young players in the first team.

"They need to work hard, listen to what we tell them and then maybe they'll get their chance." It turned out to be a comfortable result at the Abbey Stadium, although after the first 45

minutes it looked as if the Seagulls would have their work cut out.

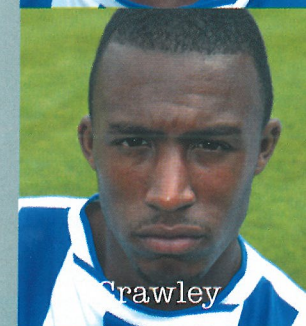
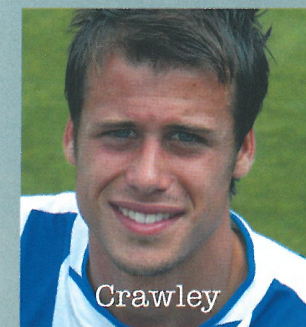
"It was a very hot day, but we did a lot better in the second half than we did in the first," said White. It was very competitive in the first half, but we played well later on and got the goals that we deserved."

David Lee (below left) had given Albion the lead after a quarter-of-an-hour, finishing neatly after a through ball from John Piercy. Nicky Bridle doubled the lead after the break, finishing superbly from just inside the box after good work by Chris McPhee.

Shaun Wilkinson rounded the keeper with 15 minutes remaining to make it three and put the result beyond doubt.



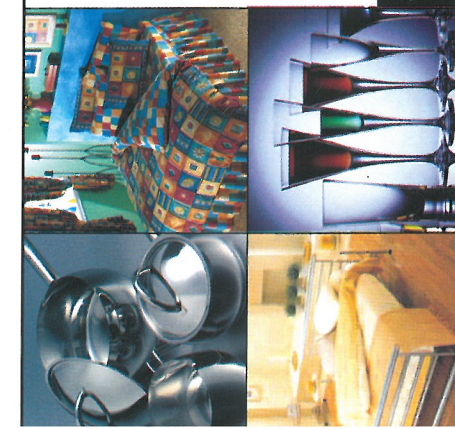
Aug 20	Cambridge United A	3-0
Sep 3	C Palace H (Pontin's Hols Cup Group Match)	7pm
Sep 10	Colchester United H	7pm
Sep 24	Gillingham A	2pm
Oct 8	Millwall H	7pm
Oct 22	Norwich City A	7.30pm
Nov 5	Peterborough Utd A	2pm
Nov 12	Millwall A (Pontin's Hols Cup Group Match)	2pm
Nov 26	Aldershot Town H	7pm
Dec 3	QPR H (Pontin's Holidays Cup Group Match)	7pm
Dec 10	Southend United A	2pm
Jan 21	Gillingham A (Pontin's Hols Cup Group Match)	2pm
Feb 3	QPR A	7pm
Feb 18	Brentford H	7pm
Mar 10	Wycombe W H	7pm
Mar 24	Northampton Town A	2pm
Mar 31	Pontin's Hols Cup Semi-Final	
Apr 7	Reading A	2pm
Apr 21	Crystal Palace A	7.30pm
May 12	Pontin's Holidays Cup Final	



BEEN THERE, DONE THAT

Several members of the squad have gone on loan in search of valuable first-team experience. Midfielder Geoff Pitcher joined Stevenage Borough for a month at the beginning of August, whilst Daniel Marney and Carl Wilson-Denis have linked up with Crawley Town. First-year professional Dan Beck has headed along the coast to spend a month with Bognor Regis Town.

volkins@home

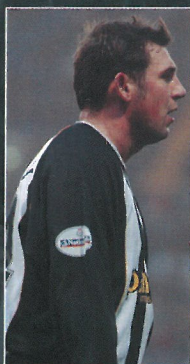


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2

VIEW

IS DARREN CASKEY FAT? IS LEON MCKENZIE LEAVING? HAS IAN DOWIE HAD ENOUGH? AND HOW ABOUT MR PROSSER? ANDY SCHOFIELD WELCOMES YOU TO 2003/04



IT IS QUITE RIGHT THAT THE START of the season is when optimism abounds. If you can't dream in August it's a pretty sad state of affairs.

However, Division Two can be a strange league. With seven new clubs each season - more than any other division - it can be difficult to fathom. One good season in this division and you're only a step away from the Premier League. One disastrous season, followed by a bad start, and you could be on the verge of oblivion. A few years ago, the losing play-off finalists from the previous season got relegated from Division Two three years on the run.

Losing your best players and wondering where the cash to pay the next wage bill is coming from can be a disaster. Huddersfield bombed out of Division Two last season after a year of off-the-field turmoil. But sometimes adversity seems to bring out the best in the team. At Kenilworth Road, the Joe Kinnear legacy seems to have bred a Wimbledon-style togetherness in the face of summer madness.

Ian Dowie will be hoping for a similar scenario at Oldham after their nightmare summer. After getting to the play-offs and then watching the side dismantled to pay the wage bill, Dowie has told the club's new owners that he will walk out unless he is able to do his job properly. The club, however, was placed into administration last week.

In an effort to keep Peterborough's squad together, Barry Fry has rejected a bid from Division One new boys Wigan Athletic for striker Leon McKenzie. "We have turned down a bid of £375,000 from Wigan Athletic for Leon," Fry confirmed to the club's official website.

"Paul Jewell spoke to me in the week and expressed an interest, but his bid the next day failed to meet our asking price of £750,000."

So do any fans already think they're in for a long hard slog? The supporters of football's oldest club, Notts County, are downbeat at their side's prospects. They have now spent longer in administration than any other league side and have the customary transfer embargo hanging over them.

The club's response has been to invite contributions to the match-day programme from anyone who wants to say anything - a dangerous thing to get into with hopes so low, even if commenting on which players manager Billy Dearden has picked is banned.

Judging by some of the comments posted by their long-suffering supporters on websites after a none-too-auspicious start to the season, the editor might have a difficult job finding acceptable comments. All the complaints are about team selection and the fans' main talking-point is the serious weight problem clearly evident in one-time Spurs midfielder and Peter Taylor target, Darren Caskey.

At bookies' favourites QPR, the loss of a key player at the start of the season has irritated supporters. Ian Holloway has already been in touch with five clubs to find a replacement for midfielder Richard Langley who has been sold to Cardiff for an initial fee of only £200,000.

Having again picked up Everton's Kevin McLeod, who made his second Rangers debut at Withead a week ago, having been on loan last season, QPR have been linked with a move for Portsmouth's Mark Burchill, who cost

£900,000 from Ipswich in 2001.

"We have spoken to Portsmouth about Mark and asked about his availability," the QPR boss told the club's official website. "We've got five players in mind at the moment and we will have to see where this leads us. But the bottom line is that I'm after a centre-forward and a left-sided player and selling Richard Langley will hopefully have given us the opportunity to make these two signings."

Clubs' fortunes can also wax or wane on the vagaries of refereeing decisions. Two referees with well-known red card tendencies have already made their mark on Division Two this season.

Richard Beeby enraged fans of both sides in the recent match between Sheffield Wednesday and Oldham, played in front of 24,630 fans, by sending off Owls' Shefki Kuqi for diving and then Latics' Danny Hall for a foul. Kuqi had already scored twice but Oldham fought back to equalise against 10 men.

Meanwhile, the unforgettable Phil Prosser intervened in Grimsby's home defeat by Port Vale to give winger Iain Anderson a straight red card when he went up for a header - and perhaps it's a sign of the times that Town manager Paul Groves doesn't think there's any point in appealing.

Groves explained that "Anderson made a genuine challenge to try and head the ball. I think the referee deemed it an elbow but I just don't see it that way. It won't be worthwhile appealing." As is often the case, Prosser's red card was the turning point, as Vale came back from 1-0 down to win 2-1. It may be a new season, but some things never change.

Apple pie in the sky hopes

Main photo: Richard Beeby; above: Darren Caskey; right from top: Leon McKenzie, Ian Dowie and Mr Prosser

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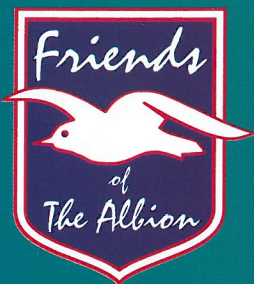
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www.seagulls.co.uk Seagull 53

* The prices above are per day and based on a 7 day hire.
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and the facts of the matter are these...

Date	Opponents	Result	Albion scorers	H. att	A. att
Sat Aug 9	Oldham	3-1	Knight / Knight / Henderson	6,652	901
Tue Aug 12	Bristol R (LC1)	1-0	McPhee	5,518	515
Mon Aug 18	QPR	2-1	Knight / Knight	6,536	
Sat 23 Aug	Barnsley				
Mon 25 Aug	Luton				
Sat 30 Aug	Plymouth				
Sat 6 Sep	Swindon				
Sat 13 Sep	Colchester				
Tue 16 Sep	Chesterfield				
Sat 20 Sep	Sheffield Weds				
Sat 27 Sep	Hartlepool				
Tue 30 Sep	Rushden & D				
Sat 4 Oct	Blackpool				
Sat 11 Oct	Grimsby				
Sat 18 Oct	Bournemouth				
Tue 21 Oct	Brentford				
Sat 25 Oct	Stockport				
Sat 1 Nov	Peterborough				
Sat 8 Nov	FA Cup/1				
Sat 15 Nov	Bristol City				
Sat 22 Nov	Notts County				
Sat 29 Nov	Wrexham				
Sat 6 Dec	FA Cup/2				
Fri 12 Dec	Port Vale				
Sat 20 Dec	Tranmere				
Fri 26 Dec	Wycombe				
Sun 28 Dec	Swindon				
Sat 3 Jan	Luton (FAC/3)				
Sat 10 Jan	Oldham				
Sat 17 Jan	QPR				
Sat 24 Jan	Barnsley (FAC/4)				
Sat 31 Jan	Plymouth				
Sat 7 Feb	Wycombe				
Sat 14 Feb	Grimsby (FAC/5)				
Sat 21 Feb	Bournemouth				
Sat 28 Feb	Stockport				
Tue 2 Mar	Brentford				
Sat 6 Mar	Tranmere (FAC/6)				
Sat 13 Mar	Port Vale				
Tue 16 Mar	Chesterfield				
Sat 20 Mar	Colchester				
Sat 27 Mar	Sheffield Weds				
Sat 3 Apr	Hartlepool (FAC SF)				
Sat 10 Apr	Blackpool				
Mon 12 Apr	Rushden & D				
Sat 17 Apr	Peterborough				
Sat 24 Apr	Bristol City				
Sat 1 May	Notts County				
Sat 8 May	Wrexham				
Sat 22 May	FA Cup Final				

KUIPERS	WATSON	MAYO	CULLIP	BLACKWELL	PETHICK	KNIGHT	RODGER	HART	OATWAY	HENDERSON	CARPENTER	BUTTERS	JONES	PITCHER	WILKINSON	MARNEY	VIRGO	PIERCY	MCPHEE	HAMMOND	LEE	HINSHELWOOD	HARDING	BECK	BRIDLE	ROBERTS	WILSON-DENIS							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
●●●	■	■	■		●	21	6	▲	■	9	■		■	■	●					▲		■	■	●	●		■	■						



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Appearances and goals 22 August 2003

	Lge apps	Lge goals	LC apps	LC goals	FAC apps	FAC goals	Total apps	Total goals
ROBERTS	2		1				5	
WATSON	2		1				180	14
MAYO	2		1				245	10
CULLIP	2		1				161	6
KNIGHT	2	4	1				2	4
RODGER	2		1				31	2
OATWAY	1+1		1				143	6
CARPENTER	2		0+1				133	11
JONES	2		1				106	7
HINSHELWOOD	2		1				9	0
HENDERSON	2	1					2	1
HART	1+1						209	36
MCPHEE	0+1		1	1			9	0
PETHICK	0+1						51	0
HARDING			0+1				2	0
KUIPERS							94	0
BLACKWELL							21	2
BUTTERS							6	0
PITCHER							10	0
WILKINSON							15	0
MARNEY							12	0
VIRGO							15	0
JOHN PIERCY							4	0
DEAN HAMMOND							4	0
DAVID LEE							2	0
DAN BECK							0	0
NICKY BRIDLE							0	0
CARL WILSON-DENIS							0	0

Football League Division Two 21 August 2003

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Brighton	2	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	3	1	6	+3
Luton	2	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	2	1	6	+3
Port Vale	2	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	2	1	6	+2
Bristol C	2	1	0	0	5	0	0	1	0	1	1	4	+5
Tranmere	2	1	0	0	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	4	+3
Sheff Wed	2	0	1	0	2	2	1	0	0	3	2	4	+1
Hartlepool	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	3	4	+1
Barnsley	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	2	4	+1
Wrexham	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	4	+1
QPR	2	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	1	1	2	3	+4
Peterborough	2	0	0	1	3	4	1	0	0	3	0	3	+2
Swindon	2	0	0	1	2	3	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
Wycombe	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	3	3	0
Rushden	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	1	3	3	-1
Blackpool	2	1	0	0	3	2	0	0	1	0	5	3	-4
Chesterfield	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
Bournemouth	2	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	1	2	1	-1
Grimsby	2	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	2	2	1	-1
Plymouth	2	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	1	2	1	-1
Oldham	2	0	0	1	1	3	0	1	0	2	2	1	-2
Stockport	2	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	-2
Colchester	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	-2
Brentford	2	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	1	1	4	0	-6
Notts Co	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	5	0	-6



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6) 0



Our mascot



Today's mascot is ten-year-old Aaron Stevens from Copthorne. Aaron plays for Copthorne U11s and enjoys swimming, Cubs and trampolining. His favourites are Leon Knight and Chris McPhee and he tells us he's looking forward to promotion and the new stadium.

Alan NEILSON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3
Matthew SPRING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4
Russell PERRETT	<input type="checkbox"/>	5
Adrian FORBES	<input type="checkbox"/>	7
Kevin NICHOLLS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	8
Tony THORPE	<input type="checkbox"/>	9
Steve ROBINSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	11
Chris COYNE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	12
Courtney PITT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	14
Emmerson BOYCE	<input type="checkbox"/>	17
Ahmet BRKOVIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	18
Steve HOWARD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	19
Paul HUGHES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	21
Dave BAYLISS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	22
Ian HILLIER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	23
Sol DAVIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	24
Lee MANSELL	<input type="checkbox"/>	32
Dean BRILL (G)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	33
Dean CROWE	<input type="checkbox"/>	34
Michael LEARY	<input type="checkbox"/>	38
Steven O'LEARY	<input type="checkbox"/>	39
Kevin FOLEY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	41
R BECKWITH (G)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	47
McSHEFFREY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Today's referee is Mr Phil Crossley. His assistants are Mr Michael McCoy (yellow flag) and Mr Jarnail Singh (red and yellow flag). The fourth official is Mr Dave Phillips.

1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michel KUIPERS
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul WATSON
3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kerry MAYO
4	<input type="checkbox"/>	Danny CULLIP
5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dean BLACKWELL
6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Robbie PETHICK
7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Leon KNIGHT
8	<input type="checkbox"/>	Simon RODGER
9	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gary HART
10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Charlie OATWAY
11	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Darius HENDERSON
12	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Richard CARPENTER
13	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Guy BUTTERS
15	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nathan JONES
16	<input type="checkbox"/>	Geoff PITCHER
17	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shaun WILKINSON
18	<input type="checkbox"/>	Danny MARNEY
19	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adam VIRGO
20	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	John PIERCY
21	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chris MCPHEE
22	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dean HAMMOND
23	<input type="checkbox"/>	David LEE
24	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adam HINSHELWOOD
25	<input type="checkbox"/>	
26	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dan HARDING
27	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dan BECK
28	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nicky BRIDLE
29	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ben ROBERTS
30	<input type="checkbox"/>	Carl WILSON-DENIS
98	<input type="checkbox"/>	Peter ALI

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