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v LUTON TOWN SATURDAY 6 AUGUST 2005 3PM

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Crystal Palace FC
100 years of passion & pride



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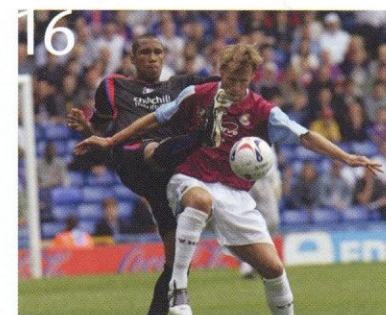
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CLUB HONOURS

The Football League:

Promoted from Division One Play-Offs:
 1996-97, 2003-04
 Division One Champions: 1993-94
 Division Two Champions: 1978-79
 Division Two Runners Up: 1968-69
 Promoted from Division Two Play-Offs:
 1988-89
 Division Three Champions: 1920-21
 Division Three Runners Up: 1963-64
 Division Three (S) Runners Up: 1928-29,
 1930-31, 1938-39

Division Three finished 3rd & Promoted:
 1976-77

Division Four Runners Up: 1960-61

The FA Cup:

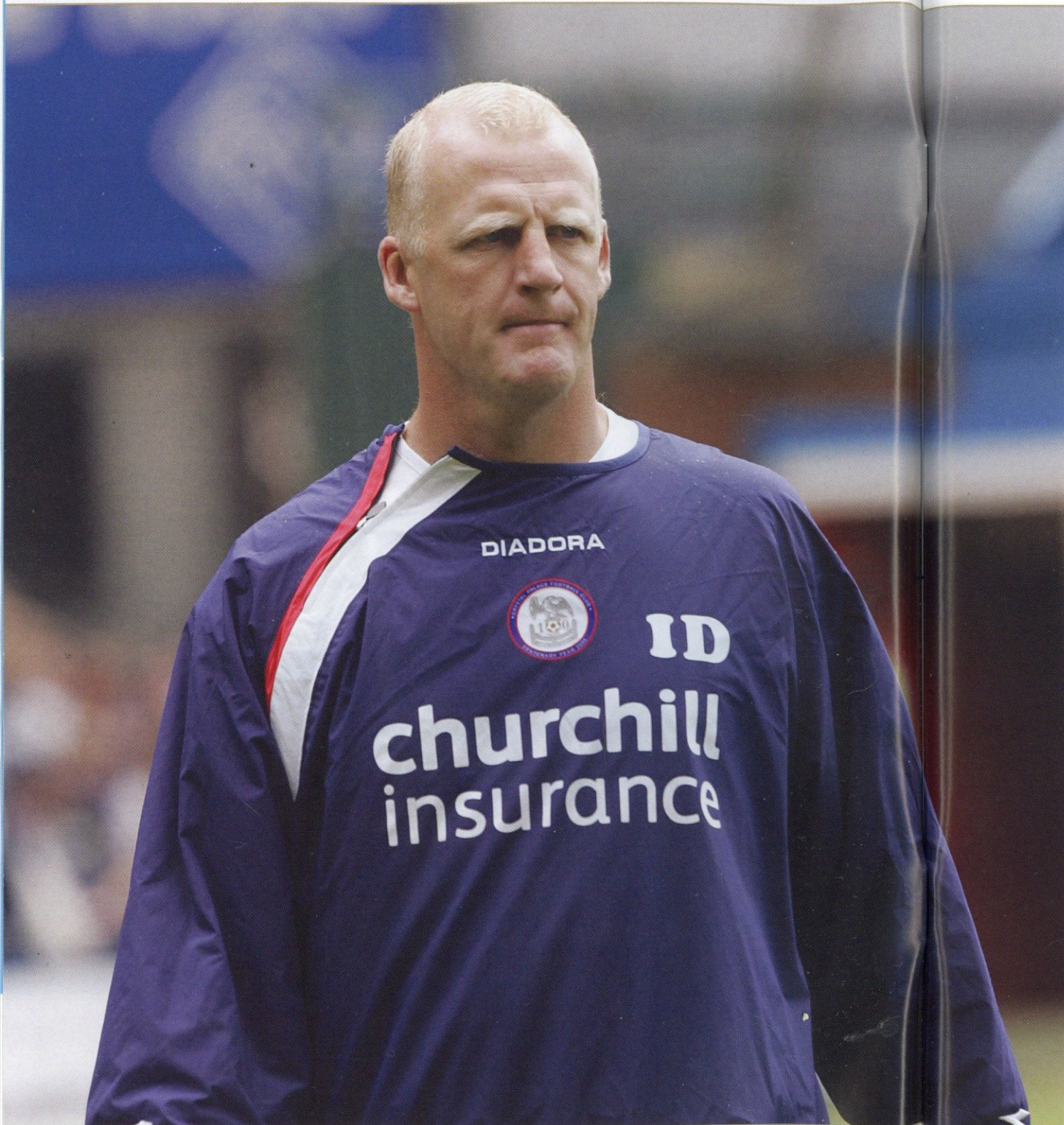
Runners Up: 1990

The Football League Cup:

Semi-Final: 1993, 1995, 2001

Full Members Cup:

Winners: 1991



From Dowie's Desk

Good afternoon and welcome to the first game of the 2005/06 season.

Firstly I'd like to welcome Mike Newell and his Luton side to Selhurst Park today after a terrific season last year, which saw them win League One, and deservedly so. Luton was my first professional club as a player and I have some very special memories from my time there. It is always a special occasion when you meet one of your former clubs as a manager you have to remain focussed on the job ahead.

Since our last match of pre-season against West Ham United Andrew Johnson has signed a new five-year contract with the club. There was a lot of speculation over the summer but the club was proactive and went to Andy with a statement about our ambitions for this season and he has shared in them. It's a huge investment for the Chairman and a massive boost for the football club.

All the fans and staff are delighted to see that Andrew will be here for the long term wearing the red and blue. He has already worn the colours with distinction and he's currently Palace's favourite son. It's a special thing that he has achieved because of his performances over the last few years and I've already seen more from him this season as he continues to develop as a player.

Our last result in pre-season was a little disappointing but we're pleased with certain aspects. After the final whistle we realised that we still had a lot of hard work to do before today. On the day against West Ham the end product was not really there but we were still happy with some of the performances.

Everybody needed a game over pre-season and every player in the squad knows their role within our game plan, whether it is for five or 90 minutes. The four games we've played during pre-season have been fantastic because of the quality of the opposition and I think that the new signings have shown that they've settled into our style of play. It always takes a bit of time for new signings to get to know everybody and read how they play but we're very pleased with the way they've settled in.

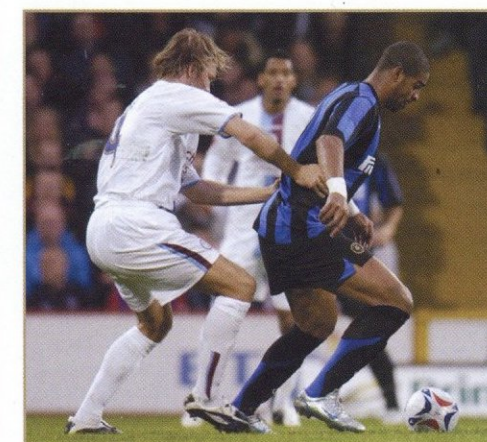
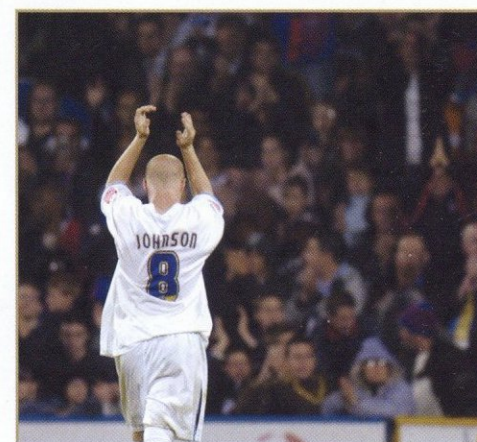
We've worked hard in pre-season and things have gone well. We've had fewer games than most but that was a well thought out process to make sure that we are fresh for today's game. We did some high intensity work in training and before the Inter Milan match we did a fitness hit, which may have made the players a bit tired, but they responded with a good performance that day.

Even though we lost against West Ham United both teams failed to create many chances so we are just looking for the final piece of the jigsaw. Apart from a few niggling injuries we've had a full squad to pick from over the past week as we work towards today's game. Some of the lads who have missed the pre-season games with injury played against Crawley Town in the week and after some more fitness training we are now raring to go.

I know that it will be a great atmosphere today at Selhurst as we start what will hopefully be a successful centenary season for the club.

Enjoy the match.

Iain Dowie





Captain's Comments

Good afternoon everybody and welcome to our first game of the 2005/06 season against last year's League One Champions Luton Town.

A lot has happened over the summer and I was lucky enough to travel to the Confederations Cup tournament with Australia. I was looking forward to the games out in Germany and unfortunately in the first game against the Germans I picked up an ankle injury and missed the rest of the games. It was a definite blow and it meant that I missed the first few weeks of pre-season. That's all in the past now though and I played 30 minutes of the West Ham United game and an hour at Crawley Town to start getting my match fitness back. I've been back training with the boys now for the past few weeks so I'm certainly on my way back.

The squad travelled to a training camp in Germany which proved to be a fantastic exercise for all involved. We did a lot of work on our fitness and we played two very good matches against FK Teplice and Eintracht Frankfurt. Physical fitness is great but there is nothing like match fitness because you need games to get match sharpness.

All the players are used to the hard work and intense training during pre-season and we enjoy it. The gaffer and the coaching staff are always striving to improve things in training and all of the lads are striving to improve as players so it all goes hand in hand.

The trip to Germany also helped the three new boys to get to know everybody. Darren, Jobi and Jon are all good lads, and more importantly, they are good players. They've all settled in very well and we're looking forward to them making a big

contribution this year to help us get back into the Premiership at the first time of asking.

This year we've had a really good selection of pre-season matches against high-class opposition. The Inter Milan match a few weeks ago was a very tough test for us but it was a chance to work on a few things. Defensively we played well and when you play against the best you expect them to have a lot of possession, which I think we dealt with very well. Sometimes all the substitutions in friendly matches can affect the rhythm of the game but then pre-season matches are all about making sure everybody gets a game and is ready for the new season. For example, I played the final 30 minutes of the West Ham game and that was the start of my comeback. All of the first-team squad have played a part during pre-season and we're all ready now for today's game against Luton Town.

During pre-season you always have your eyes focussed on the first match of the campaign and for us it will be a big week. We've got three games in seven days coming up including matches away at Wolverhampton Wanderers and Norwich City but we're ready for it and physically we're building up every day.

We're ready for the new season and we're all hoping to get off to a flyer.

Enjoy today's game and remember to make plenty of noise.

Poppa



6 Crystal Palace v Inter Milan



Crystal Palace v Luton Town 7



CRYSTAL PALACE FC LAUNCH CENTENARY EDUCATIONAL CD ROM

'Learning Through Football'

One of the many initiatives for the club's centenary celebrations is the launch of a CD Rom which can be used by schools for years 4,5 and 6 throughout the 2005/06 school year. The CD-Rom is launched in conjunction with the Crystal Palace Exhibition at The Croydon Clocktower which is due to open later this month.

The CD Rom pack, which is free to schools, has been constructed under the guidance of Chris Myant and Rob Mathews from our study centre here at the club with the full support of The Croydon Education Authority. The CD Rom is divided into three core areas:- English, Mathematics and History lessons, aimed at putting football into an educational context and designed to help make learning fun and exciting.

Crystal Palace Chief Executive Phil Alexander said "This really is a fantastic project and I would like to thank everybody involved for helping to make the CD-Rom a reality. The club prides itself on its role in the community, and this is yet another example of all the good work which is happening.

Sponsorship is a vital ingredient in our world and the club would like to thank David Hudson at Nestlé (UK) for his support by sponsoring both initiatives. Nestlé are very much part of the local community, like ourselves, and all credit must go to them for their vision and foresight in sponsoring the project."

David Hudson, Communications and Corporate affair Director from Nestlé said:- "Nestlé UK is delighted to support the Crystal Palace Centenary Exhibition and the

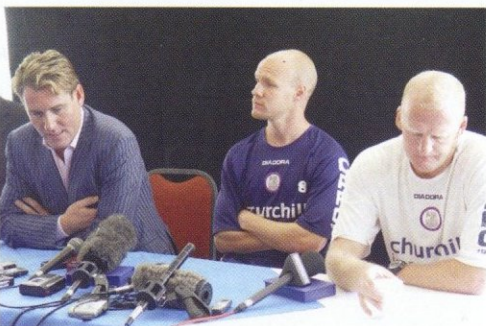
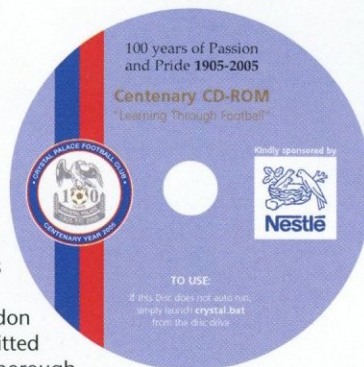
supporting educational CD Rom, which will be used by primary school children throughout the borough. Nestlé is one of the largest employers in Croydon and we are committed to supporting the borough and its residents. Many of our employees have been life long supporters of the club, and this is a unique opportunity to show our support of Crystal Palace FC and its role in the Croydon community."

This CD Rom was launched at our pre-season friendly against Inter Milan when head teachers from local schools attended to be given a full tour of the study centre plus an overview of the CD Rom.

Schools also have an opportunity to win a computer each month in the Nestle Challenge thanks to our friends at Nestle. Full details are in the pack.

The Club would also like to thank all the other sponsors who have also helped to support both the CD Rom and the Exhibition. They include The Croydon Advertiser, Custom, Croydon Council and The Crystal Palace Supporters Trust.

For further details primary schools are asked to contact Rob Mathews direct at the club on 020 8768 6000 or roberttmathe@hotm.com.



AJ SIGNS NEW DEAL

Last week England international Andrew Johnson signed a new five-year contract with the club.

AJ scored 21 goals in the Premiership last season and was second only to Thierry Henry in the goalscoring charts. He has now scored 67 goals in just under 130 games and he is 11th on the all-time Palace goalscorers list.

Crystal Palace Chairman Simon Jordan told the official Palace matchday programme of his delight at Andrew signing a new deal.

"I'm delighted Andrew has signed a new deal at the club," said Simon. "It's a statement of intent that the club intends to progress and get back into the Premiership. One of the best English strikers is going to stay at a club when everybody was saying he wouldn't, so it's a good indication to Palace fans of where we are."

When asked if he was ever worried about whether AJ would leave the club Simon replied: "No. I knew that it was going

GEOFF COMPLETES LE TOUR

Former Palace captain and England international Geoff Thomas has completed cycling the route of the Tour de France in aid of charity. Geoff started out on his journey just over a month ago to raise money for Leukaemia Research and he completed the 2200 mile course just a couple of weeks ago.

Geoff was diagnosed with the life-threatening chronic myeloid leukaemia in July 2003 and underwent a bone marrow transplant in January 2004. He has been in remission since last Christmas and had been given permission by doctors to take on the physical demands of the Tour de France.

In five years' time Geoff will know whether he has beaten the disease but his immediate plans are to raise awareness and money for Leukaemia Research.

"I'm sure we didn't look as impressive as Lance did on Sunday and I know the crowds were not quite as thick as they were when he won his seventh Tour here but I couldn't have cared less," said Geoff on his official website www.geoff-thomas.com. "For me, the four riders who accompanied me around France over the past month and the five support staff who have made this fundraising ride possible, we have all won the Tour de France in 2005."

For more information on Geoff's bike ride or to donate money to Leukaemia Research visit www.geoff-thomas.com.

There is a special collection taking place at the Wolves v Crystal Palace match taking place in support of Thomas's fundraising campaign for Leukaemia Research and this will be at Molineux on Tuesday 9th August. About 30 collectors are needed from 5.45pm to 7.45pm in the evening.

Geoff will be attending the match on Tuesday and collectors will be able to watch the game after the collection. Please contact Caroline King at Leukaemia Research if you are able to help: cking@lrf.org.uk or call 020 7269 9063.



to be a little bit of a battle but that was more to do with outside influences. We played a winning hand, like I knew we would, because we're in control of our own destiny. We know the player and we have the right agenda. Our motivations are based upon honesty and integrity and on no particular gain. Andrew has got the awards and recognition he deserves and he has assurances that if his performances merit it he will be in the England squad. We have a player that will fire us back to the Premiership."

For an EXCLUSIVE interview with AJ turn to pages 48 and 49.

BRIGHTON AWAY TICKETS

Due to the exceptionally high demand for tickets for Brighton and Hove Albion away, and with fewer than 1000 tickets available, Crystal Palace Football Club will be implementing a ticket purchase priority scheme. The scheme will ensure season ticket holders who travel to most away games will have the best opportunity to purchase a ticket.

Applications to purchase one ticket per person for this game are in the first instance by post only to: The Ticket Office, Crystal Palace Football Club, Selhurst Park Stadium, London, SE25 6PU.

Season ticket holders should collect and submit with their application as many of the five ticket stubs from the following away games as possible; Reading on 13th September, Cardiff City on 17th September, QPR on 3rd October, Coventry City on 15th October and Crewe Alexandra on 29th October.

Once ticket applications are received they will be date stamped and fulfilled on a first come first served basis and in the following order of priority. All applications with five ticket stubs will be fulfilled first, then any remaining tickets will be allocated to applications with four ticket stubs, then three, then two, the finally one.

The closing date for applications will be Saturday 5th November. Match tickets will be posted out from Monday 7th November. In the unlikely event there are any remaining tickets available after this process, they will go on general sale on Monday 14th November to season ticket holders and members only.

Fulfilment is of course subject to availability, and in the event that there is an over subscription in any of the categories, Eagle Gold members and Golden Eagle members who are season ticket holders will be given first priority.

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Crystal Palace FC
100 years of passion & pride



commercially speaking

A warm welcome on behalf of the Sales & Marketing team to the first game of the new 2005/06 season. Along with the rest of the club we are looking forward to a successful season and a swift return to the Premiership!!

Introducing your team for 2005/06

Alan Kimber ~ Business Development Manager



Alan has joined the club after spending many years in Football Marketing and is responsible for developing new clients and partners for the club's extensive advertising and hospitality portfolio.

Becky Frewing ~ Senior Sales Executive



Becky has been with the club for over three years now and co-ordinates all Matchday and Corporate Events as well as managing many key accounts.

Emma Saunders ~ Sales & Marketing Administrator



Emma joined us after working with the Hospitality team on a Matchday and is the main cog in our team. Emma is responsible for pulling together the matchdays and ensuring that all our guests have great day out!

For any Hospitality, Advertising or Sponsorship enquiry please contact us on 020-8768-6049*

Today's Sponsors

A special welcome to our new sponsors Wickes who join us today as Match Sponsors. Wickes have signed a huge sponsorship deal with the Football League and are also proud sponsors of our new Half time Challenge 'On me Shed Son'.

A big thank you also must go to those companies on our new 'Centenary Experience Package'

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Cobra are pleased to continue their support for Crystal Palace FC as season long sponsors and wish them luck in their quest for promotion back to the Premiership. Cobra would like to extend a warm welcome to their guests today from Land Use Consultants. For further information please contact Peter Bright on 0870 300 1913.



Day by Day . . . entry one



John Harbin

First of all I would like to say how nice it was to meet so many of you at the end of season awards night - I'm still winning those bets for the Ashes!

In the week leading up to today's game we've probably been slowing down a bit and sharpening certain aspects up. So overall the volume probably hasn't been increased but the intensity has. And obviously we've also been re-focusing on the footballing side of things.

It's been a good pre-season, because we've been able to steer clear of injuries in the main. So we're at full strength going into today's game, which is what I've asked for when we planned the schedule.

It all started after our final game last season when the players were given their off-season schedule. We've been very sensible - a lot of thought has gone into the recovery process, and the players have come back fitter than they did last season. The pre-season before last they'd spent a bit of time celebrating, but obviously there's not too much to celebrate when you've been relegated. All the body fat test results have been the best since I've been at the club.

The new guys are all fit lads, but the most important thing with them is that they're all good characters as well as good footballers. To me, that's just as important. They're three men of principles, not layabouts, who are keen to impress. I've got no doubt they will add to the strength of the squad.

Over the course of the pre-season we've used a few different facilities, putting in some work at the pool amongst other things. Bromley and Croydon councils have helped out, so we thank them for

their support. We've also updated much of the equipment at the training ground, such as speed gates and reaction gates, which not many, if any, of the other football league clubs have got. So whilst the team might have been relegated we feel the facilities at the training ground have actually improved if anything.

The staff, the players and the facilities have all gone up a level. The chairman's backed us on these things because he knows how important they are. As a result we're probably more of a Premier League club this year than we were last year.

Championship football is obviously very different from Premiership football, but we believe we're ready for the unique challenges it presents. In a funny way we're probably now the Arsenal, or the Chelsea, or the Manchester United of this division. Every club will list down the date when they'll play us, and everyone will want to raise their games to try to beat us. The press and the pundits say we're one of the favourites to go up, so that gives everyone else an added incentive to beat us. We've got to be aware of that so we don't drop silly points. We'll have to fight just as hard, if not harder than our rivals. We can't start thinking we are Arsenal, because we're not.

Take today's opponents Luton, for example. They'll be keener than anyone to impress and prove the critics wrong after coming up a division. It'll be a bit like a Cup final for them, and we all know what can happen in the Cup. So we'll have to make sure we're not a victim of any so-called giant-killing. We felt right at home in the Premier League, so that's where we want to get back to because it's where we feel we belong.



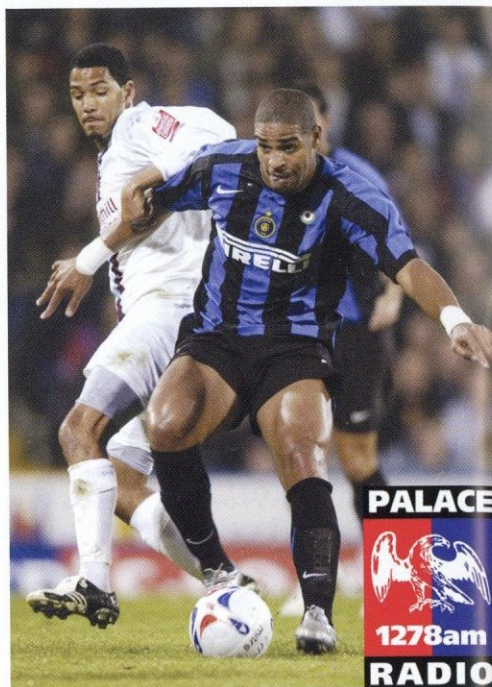


palace radio 1278am

Show Times:

Midnight: Non-stop Music Mix

- 7am Good Morning Selhurst**
News, views & club information
- 9am Late & Lazy Breakfast Show**
Music, news & chat
- 11am Palace In The Past**
Re-live 100 years of Crystal Palace
- 12noon Weird & Wacky World of Bill & Chris**
A left-field look at the goings on in football
- 1:30pm Fixture Focus**
Topical debate and a look ahead to the day's game - first for team news at 2:30pm
- 3pm Live Match Commentary**
Every kick of the game, with half-time and full-time scores from around the grounds
- 5pm Your Shout**
Post-match discussion and phone-in



Palace Radio is back on-air with new shows in 2005/06 along with all your old favourites. Broadcasting on 1278am every time Crystal Palace play a home fixture and bringing you commentary from the first kick of the season right through to the final whistle next May.

Start your match day with the all-new Good Morning Selhurst Show (7am-9am) featuring the latest club news, views and debate. The Late & Lazy Breakfast Show follows an hour earlier than last season (9am-11am) but still packed full of the latest tunes, irreverent chat and celebrity gossip.

New for the Centenary Season take a look at Palace In The Past, cheekily subtitled One Hundred Years of Pain. Re-live the highs and lows with the people who were actually there and join in with your own memories of the club's history.

From noon join old favourites Bill & Chris in their Weird & Wacky World as they take a left-field look at the goings on in football from Selhurst Park and beyond. The charity bets are back aiming to beat last season's £1,750 raised for the British Heart Foundation and completing the build-up to every match at

1:30pm it's the Fixture Focus team with the hottest debate, official team news, and regular interviews with the manager and players.

Your Shout, football's liveliest phone-in all about CPFC, follows Palace Radio's live commentary. Join Nick and Clive and share your reaction to the day's match action.

In fact don't wait until 5pm to have your say, contact Palace Radio before the game too with your Palace point of view and dedications!!

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E-mail: studio@palaceradio.net

Listen to Palace Radio on-line - part of the Palace World package available from <http://www.cpfc.co.uk/>
For full details see the website at:
<http://www.palaceradio.net/>

championship chatter



by Andrew Fifield

This year's Coca-Cola Championship promises to be one of the most competitive in years. We profile all 24 clubs and Andrew Fifield predicts who will finish where.

1. Crystal Palace

Palace have in my opinion the division's best manager, keeper and striker. That, combined with some astute signings, should be enough to ensure promotion.

2. Norwich

Nigel Worthington has, by and large, kept his squad in tact and has one of the league's best forwards in Dean Ashton.

3. Wolves

Glenn Hoddle's side were brilliant in the final five months of last season, and would have walked promotion but for a poor start.

4. Sheffield United

Perennially difficult to beat and should once again be challenging, particularly as they have bought well.

5. Reading

Steve Coppell needs to make good on Reading's potential this season or face the consequences.

6. Southampton

For all their off-field media exposure, Southampton will be a force at this level especially while Harry Redknapp remains in charge.

7. Leeds

Leeds could do a Preston if their new signings gel quickly, but that is asking a lot of Kevin Blackwell.

8. Derby

The departure of George Burley

was a shock, but Phil Brown is a competent replacement.

9. Ipswich

Lost their best players during a disastrous close season and need their new strikeforce to fire immediately.

10. QPR

A hard-working team built in the image of their manager: few easy points are on offer against Rangers.

11. Preston

The surprise package of last season but will not have the advantage of the unexpected this year. Mid-table.

12. Leicester

Dreadful last season when they promised so much, Leicester must and surely will improve.

13. Hull

Hull have at long last climbed to a level befitting their status, but a third successive promotion is unlikely.

14. Plymouth

A flurry of signings has stirred interest, although they will have to become less dour if they are to challenge.

15. Burnley

The divisions most predictably mid-table team by a distance: stout at the back but lacking up front.

16. Cardiff

Cardiff have stabilised after threatening to go under completely at the start of the summer and should avoid relegation.

17. Coventry

Micky Adams is a fighter and he will need to be at his combative best if Coventry's season is not to end in disaster.

18. Stoke

Tony Pulis close season sacking was amazing, and a year of struggle is looming large.

19. Luton

Did brilliantly to win League One but could find the higher level tough. Survival would be an achievement.

20. Millwall

One of the worst pre-seasons of any club ever. Only that typical lions spirit will keep them up.

21. Sheffield Wednesday

About time they came back up, but a lack of investment could cost them dearly as the season progresses.

22. Brighton

Mark McGhee pulled off a miracle in keeping Brighton up last season? but he'll top it if they avoid relegation again.

23. Watford

They were poor last season and since then they have lost their two best players and club captain - never a good sign.

24. Crewe

The pundits always write Crewe off and Dario Gradi always prove them wrong - but I don't think this time.



action replay

Crystal Palace 0-1 West Ham Utd



Though West Ham are no Inter Milan, Saturday's friendly at Selhurst against the Upton Park outfit was always likely to provide more of a test of Palace's true credentials.

Both teams fielded strong sides, with Palace starting with the same 11 that took the field against Roberto Mancini's men with the exception of Darren Ward and Aaron Fray, who both occupied the substitutes' bench.

In their place Mark Hudson and Gary Borrowdale started, and in the fourth minute Hudson was called into action to halt the progress of the visiting captain Nigel Reo-Coker, who had run on to Marlon Harewood's astute through ball. Palace's first effort of the game came from Andy Johnson who tested Roy Carroll in the Hammers goal with a left foot volley on the quarter hour mark. A minute later Ben Watson was presented with a shooting opportunity, but he dragged his effort well wide of the upright.

The first real save of the game arrived in the 20th minute, when Gabor Kiraly produced a smart stop from Harewood's low drive.

For the home side former Hammer Jobi

McAnuff looked impressive, after an equally positive showing in midweek, and mid-way through the half his rampaging run almost sent Johnson through, but the striker was stopped in his tracks by the linesman's flag. After playing for the full 90 minutes on Wednesday night Fitz Hall was replaced on the half hour mark by Ward, whose brother Elliott started at centre back for the visitors. But the change failed to disrupt Palace's flow, and three minutes later Johnson's spectacular bicycle kick nearly gave the home side the lead.

However seven minutes before the break the deadlock was broken by the side in claret and blue, as Matthew Etherington was left with the easiest of tasks from Harewood's centre.

The start of the second-half saw two more changes in the form of Wayne Andrews and Michael Hughes, who replaced Tom Soares and Mikel Leigertwood respectively. West Ham made a substitution of their own, bringing on Shaun Newton for youngster Gavin Williams, and a minute after the re-start the midfielder fired a shot narrowly wide of Kiraly's goal.

In the 50th minute Wayne Andrews, playing wide on the right, beat Paul Konchesky, but his cross was easily

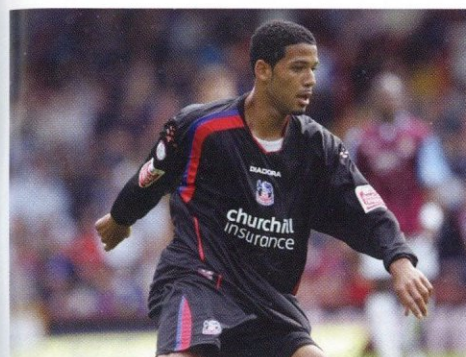
gathered by Carroll. Ten minutes later Carroll was beaten, but sadly for Eagles fans Ben Watson's rising shot from the edge of the box flew just wide of the upright. After a flurry of substitutions the game subsequently bore a slightly disjointed feel, as the players initially struggled to adapt to their new roles.

West Ham re-established their composure the quicker of the two sides, as Mario Licka fired a long-range volley narrowly over the crossbar.

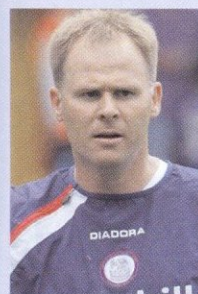
It looked as though the West Ham supporters in the 10,400 crowd would return home the happiest, particularly when Harewood rounded substitute goalkeeper Julian Speroni. But the Argentine stopper did well to force the striker wide, and the former Forest forward skewed his shot into an empty Whitehorse Lane stand.

Near the end Freedman tested Carroll with a dipping volley, but that was as close as the Eagles came to breaking the deadlock. Overall a mildly disappointing afternoon for Palace fans, but their team's real test comes today with the visit of Luton to Selhurst Park.

with photos from Neil Everitt



From the Dugout . . .



We were pleased with certain aspects of the display but we still have a lot of hard work to do. The end product wasn't really there but, as I said, we're still happy with some of the performance.

Neil McDonald (Palace Assistant Manager)



We played the ball well and controlled the game. We've got young players who are going to get caught at times, but they've got pace, stamina and strength.

Alan Pardew (West Ham United Manager)

Saturday 30th July 2005 pre-season friendly



Crystal Palace



Gabor KIRALY
Gary BORROWDALE
Fitz HALL
Mark HUDSON
Emmerson BOYCE
Jobi McANUFF
Ben WATSON
Mikael LEIGERTWOOD
Tom SOARES
Andrew JOHNSON
Jon MACKEN

Subs:
Julian SPERONI
Danny BUTTERFIELD
Darren WARD
Tony POPOVIC
Wayne ANDREWS
Michael HUGHES
Joonas KOLKKA
Dougie FREEDMAN
Sandor TORGHILLE
Aaron FRAY

West Ham United



Roy CARROLL
Danny GABBIDON
James COLLINS
Elliot WARD
Paul KONCHESKY
Gavin WILLIAMS
Nigel REO-COKER
Christian DAILY
Matthew ETHERINGTON
Marlon HAREWOOD
Teddy SHERINGHAM

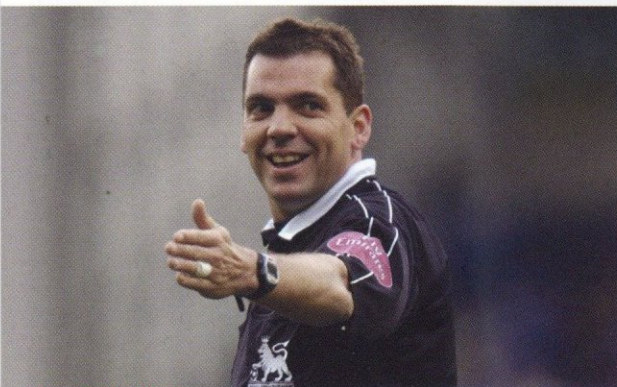
Subs:
Shaun NEWTON
Hayden MULLINS
Mario LICKA
Yossi BENAYOUN
Hogan EPHRAIM
Stephen BYWATER
Malky MACKAY
Tomas REPKA
Anton FERDINAND



man in the middle



Today's referee, Staffordshire based Phil Dowd, will be well known to Crystal Palace having officiated in four of our league games last season. Those fixtures saw mixed fortunes for Iain Dowie's men with away defeats to Portsmouth, Liverpool and Chelsea alongside a famous home win over Steve Bruce's Birmingham City. Here he talks to us about his career, the offside law, professionalism in refereeing and his best ever game.



The Early Days

"I have been a referee for 23 years and have enjoyed every minute. I used to play football at left-back until the age of 21 and wanted to keep in touch with the game and thought refereeing would allow me to do that. One day I refereed a local team with no qualifications and after the game I was told by both managers that I was poor. I decided to go on a refereeing course to prove them both wrong. I passed my refereeing exam at the north Staffordshire referees association, and went into the Sunday leagues and the Saturday afternoon youth leagues.

My first Football League line was at Rochdale and the referee was John Kirby. The main difference for me was how professional the referee and other assistants were and the game went so fast it was over before I knew it.

I made the step up to refereeing in the Football League when I took charge of Brentford vs. Mansfield.

I remember after 75 minutes feeling absolutely shattered because I had run around like a headless chicken, trying to miss nothing. It was a big learning

curve for me; I learnt how to pace myself after this, as I had absolutely nothing left in reserve. It was a really hot sunny day but a greatly enjoyable experience.

When I took charge of my first Premier League game in December 2001 it was a great honour. Fulham beat Everton 2-0 at Craven Cottage and I had to send off two players near the end. My mentor, Andy D'Urso, was with me then, and after the game everybody said how well I'd done and how calm I was (even though inside I was not so calm). This experience has stood me in good stead ever since.

Changes in Football

Before the advent of professionalism in refereeing I worked in the coal business for over 20 years, working in the coalface and for a steel stockholder. It was a bit of a struggle choosing to referee on my days off, begging for half days and using my holidays for games.

A typical day would mean me starting work at seven in the morning in Stoke, taking a half day, driving straight back home, arriving at three in the morning and then getting up again at seven the next morning, ready for work. This wasn't a very healthy way of working and you are on a high after finishing a game, so it takes a bit of time to get to sleep as well.

With professionalism I've now got time to train in the morning, day or night and use the ProZone analysis system and dieticians. I now feel fitter and more prepared for the games coming up.

Something we are doing is training with clubs themselves. This gives us time to explain to managers and players about why decisions are made and for the managers and players to ask questions about laws and what they don't understand.

I used to train with Port Vale when Brian Horton was the manager - he was instrumental in pushing and helping me as a referee. This constant dialogue between officials, players and managers is a good thing so everyone can understand each other.

Andy D'Urso used to be my mentor and now I am a mentor myself for Mark Clattenburg. I was fourth man here at Selhurst last season for the Everton

home game when Mark made his Premiership debut. We are roommates when we go away - I look after him and he's a really big talent for the future. If I can help anyone else, then I will, when I finish it would be nice to help referees get further than where I am.

The Offside Law

On the subject of the forever discussed offside ruling, Dowd empathises with the majority of fans about the much misunderstood role of the so called "Active" and "inactive" players.

"Unfortunately we do not have a say in the laws, we only uphold them. I would have to agree, it would make it a lot easier if we abolished non active and active but until this does or does not happen we will forever be debating the offside law".

Dowd's Best Performance

For the record, Dowd regards the best game he has ever officiated being one that only saw one yellow card produced. The fixture in question? Chelsea's 1-0 home win over Liverpool in the Premiership last October.

Crystal Palace vs Luton Town

Iain Dowie's men are well known to Dowd, who describes Palace as a "hard-working team, who never know when to give up".

Dowd has particularly good memories of Dougie Freedman even though he once had to red card the Eagles' Glaswegian goal getter.

"I remember when Palace went up to Anfield to play Liverpool in the 4th Round FA Cup replay. Palace were in the old First Division and won 2-0 in an entertaining game of football, but I had to send Dougie Freedman off for an incident with Sami Hyslop near the end of the match. He was sent-off quite rightly, but he came into my changing room to apologise afterwards and since then I've had the upmost respect for the player."

Dowd last officiated a Luton Town game, back in April 1999 when The Hatters lost 1-0 to Lincoln at Kenilworth Road.



Phil Dowd



The Career of Phil Dowd

- 1984 - Started refereeing
- 1992 - Football League Linesman
- 1995 - Premier League Linesman
- 1997 - Football League Referee
- 2001 - Premier League Referee

Phil Dowd 2004/05 Card Count Games: 36





The Opposition Luton Town



NICKNAMED the Hatters, Luton Town were formed in 1885 and moved to their current home in Kenilworth Road, now an all-seater stadium, some 20 years later.

Currently managed by former Blackburn striker Mike Newell, who guided the team to the League One title last year after parting company with previous club Hartlepool, the club's most well-known recent players include former Manchester United goalkeeper Les Sealey, who sadly passed away in 2001, and erstwhile Arsenal manger Bruce Rioch.

Arguably the Hatter's most famous former boss is David Pleat. Pleat enjoyed two managerial stints at the club, though the latter spell between 1992 and 1995 was marked by relegation from the top flight.

Luton did reach the FA Cup semi-final in 1994, disposing of Premiership opponents Newcastle and West Ham in the process. But that brief highlight was swiftly followed by an extended period in the doldrums, with yet another relegation in 1996 - this time under Lennie Lawrence.

Despite an abundance of goals from Tony Thorpe the Hatters narrowly failed to bounce straight back from whence they came at the first time of asking, and it was a blow from which they struggled to recover. The club's on-field woes were compounded by turmoil off it, as two periods in the hands of the administrators and even a season in English football's basement ensued.

But in recent years the club's fortunes have been revived, and this year they will be aiming to confound the critics and stay in the division.



HONOURS

Division Two: 1981/82
Division Three/League One: 1936/37, 2004/05
Division Four: 1967/68
League Cup: 1988

STATISTICS

All-time most appearances: 550 - Bob Morton
All-time top scorer: 265 - Gordon Turner
Highest transfer fee paid: £850,000 - Lars Elstrup from OB Odense, 1989
Highest transfer fee received: £2.5m - John Hartson to Arsenal, 1995
Biggest league win: 12-0 vs Bristol Rovers, 1936
Biggest league defeat: 0-9 vs Small Heath, 1898

from the other camp

Kevin Nicholls

Interview with the Luton Town Captain . . .

IN A newspaper interview last weekend Luton manager Mike Newell insisted promotion to the Premiership is not an unrealistic aim for the Hatters.

And while club captain Kevin Nicholls, 26, would not wish to raise fans' expectations even higher, he is clearly confident the Championship newcomers can hold their own this season.

The recent record for teams promoted from League One is good - Plymouth, QPR and Brighton all beat the drop last season - so there is perhaps no reason for the side from Kenilworth Road to limit their ambitions.

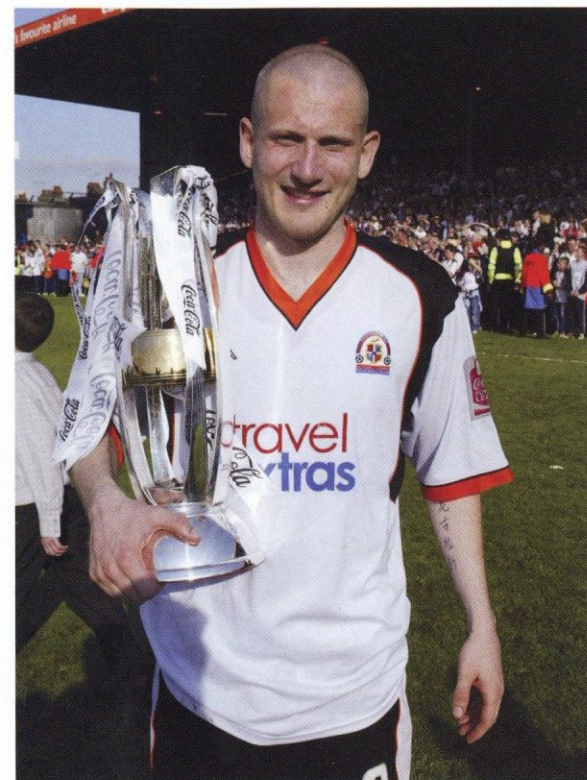
Nicholls, a ferocious midfielder who graduated from the Charlton academy before joining Wigan for £250,000 in 1999, told the Palace matchday programme: "We just want to do as well as we can really - we haven't set ourselves any targets as such. The boys got used to winning last season and it's a nice habit to get into, so I don't see why we can't continue this year."

Newell's men won last season's league title by some 12 points, having been in the top three for all but a few weeks of the entire campaign. Nicholls, who found the net 14 times from his berth on the right-hand side of Luton's midfield, acknowledges the step up in class will be marked, but feels the manager's shrewd acquisitions - having been in administration not so long ago, the club has no choice but to act prudently - will stand the squad in good stead.

He said: "Dean Morgan's got previous Championship experience with Reading, so he'll know what the league's all about. I didn't know a lot about Markus [Heikkinen] before he joined from Aberdeen, but from what I've seen of him in training and pre-season he'll no doubt be a good addition to the squad. And we all know what Viney [former Portsmouth striker Rowan Vine] can do, because we saw what he's capable of last season."



A baptism of fire sees the Kenilworth Road club take on the Eagles, Southampton and Leeds in consecutive matches, but the trio hold no fear for Nicholls. He said: "Palace were unlucky not to survive last season, and they've managed to hold on to nearly all of their players so it's going to be a massive test for our boys. But pre-season's gone well, and I feel we're ready for the challenge. I'd much rather be playing against the likes of Palace than some of the teams in League One, with



all due respect to them. You want to test yourself against the best."

Very few of the Luton squad have tasted life in the Championship, let alone Premiership, but Newell has brought his experience to bear on the training ground and is beginning to see the fruits of his labour, with the camp's morale and confidence at an all-time high.

Of his manager, Nicholls said: "Mike has a completely different style from [previous incumbent] Joe Kinnear. He's brought a fresh approach to life, and it seems to be working. We all like to have a laugh and a joke on the training ground, but when the serious business starts the boys all know it's time to get their heads down and work hard."

Having picked up eight cards of various colours last season Nicholls plays harder than most, and he is relishing the prospect of going head to head with the likes of Michael Hughes and Southampton's Dennis Wise over the course of the forthcoming campaign. Never one to shirk a challenge Nicholls, who has become a firm fans' favourite, has left a mark on many a midfielder, but says any ill-feeling is left out on the pitch after the game.

As if to confirm his nice guy credentials, Nicholls ends the interview by wishing the Eagles the very best for the season ahead... "After Saturday of course," he adds.



The Opposition Player Focus

Marlon
BERESFORD



Marlon Beresford (Goalkeeper): Currently recuperating from an injured toe, Beresford is unlikely to be fit for the start of the season, but is nominally Luton's number one custodian. Since joining the Hatters in July of 2004 from League One rivals Barnsley, Beresford has brought his vast experience to bear – his former clubs include Bradford, Burnley, Middlesbrough, Sheffield Wednesday and Wolves – and he was a key figure in Luton's successful promotion campaign last term. Has more than 400 league appearances to his name.

Dean Brill (Goalkeeper): Likely to start between the sticks for the Hatters after featuring in most of the club's pre-season friendlies. Big things are expected

Warren
FEENEY



of local lad Brill after he broke into the first-team reckoning last season. Likely to be Beresford's long-term replacement when the veteran 'keeper hangs up his gloves. Brill kept a clean sheet on his under-19 debut as a 15-year-old in April 2001 and his impressive displays since have alerted the attention of several bigger clubs, but the Hatters fought off the competition to secure the youngster's signature.

Curtis Davies (Defender): Blessed with exceptional pace, Davies is able to get himself out of trouble on the few occasions he does make mistakes. Several Premiership clubs are thought to be monitoring the centre-half's progress, and manager Mike Newell is resigned to losing one of his prize assets should he star in this year's Championship campaign. Newell said: "Curtis is brave, he defends in an old-fashioned way, and what we're working on is to get him better on the ball, because when he has that he'll be a target for Man United. I could even lose him this season, for more than £2m." Davies is likely to partner Chris Coyne in central defence this afternoon.

Marcus Heikkinen (Defender): A summer arrival from SPL side

Sol
DAVIS



Aberdeen, for whom he was a regular starter, Heikkinen came on for Davies during the Hatters' 2-1 win in last Saturday's friendly against Stevenage Borough. Having previously plied his trade for Pompey, this whole-hearted competitor is well versed in the demands of the English game.

Chris Coyne (Defender): A former Australia Under-17 international who joined Mike Newell's men from Dundee for a fee of £50,000 in 2001. Coyne's former clubs include Perth Soccer Club and West Ham, for whom he signed as a teenager during Harry Redknapp's tenure at Upton Park. Found first team opportunities hard to come by, and was subsequently shipped out on loan to Brentford and Southend. A commanding centre-half who is particularly strong in the air, Coyne was praised by Newell as "the type of player who breaks his nose, gets it wiped, and gets on with the game – and the next game three days after that."

Paul Underwood (Defender): A naturally left-sided player equally capable of playing in midfield or at full-back, Underwood scored a curling 25-yard free-kick to open the scoring against Stevenage last Saturday. Luton fought off stiff

Steve
ROBINSON



competition from a whole host of clubs to complete the free transfer of Underwood from Second Division rivals Rushden & Diamonds on deadline day last year. Since joining the Hatters, he has established himself as a highly valued and reliable member of Mike Newell's squad.

Russell Perrett (Defender): After being sidelined for much of last season with persistent injuries, Perrett will be keen to make up for lost time having just signed a one-year contract extension over the summer. Another former Portsmouth man, Perrett helped Cardiff gain promotion in 2001 before being released by the Bluebirds the following summer. Having played just six times last season, Perrett will be raring to go this time around.

Kevin Nicholls (Midfielder): Nicholls came through the ranks at Charlton before being sold to Wigan for £250,000 as a teenager. Has since recovered from the disappointment to become a consistent and reliable performer on the right-hand side of Luton's midfield, making 47 starts last

Steve
HOWARD



season after an injury-plagued 2003/2004. A complete player who is equally adept at breaking up attacks and starting new ones, Nicholls bagged an impressive 14 goals last year. The Hatters' skipper, who has also captained England at under-18, under-19 and under-20 level, picked up one red and seven yellow cards last term.

Paul Hughes (Midfielder): A promising career which started at the Chelsea academy was cruelly interrupted after the gifted midfielder sustained a serious groin injury in 2000, which put him out of action for nine months. Hughes worked his way up at Stamford Bridge from trainee to Premiership, learning his trade under Glen Hoddle's management, and gained experience on loan at Stockport, Norwich and Crewe. When Hoddle became manager of Southampton he soon recruited Hughes, but the midfielder then suffered his injury. Stuart Gray subsequently succeeded Hoddle, whereupon Hughes fell out of favour and was placed on the transfer list. He joined Luton at the start of the 2001/02 season.

Paul
UNDERWOOD



Dean Morgan (Midfielder): A free-scoring attacking midfielder, Morgan immediately endeared himself to the Kenilworth Road faithful with a brace of goals during the Hatters' pre-season friendly win over Aylesbury. The former Reading man, brought in on a free transfer, looks to be another shrewd acquisition by Mike Newell.

Ahmet Brkovic (Midfielder): The Croatian bagged an impressive 16 goals from midfield last season, and was instrumental in the club's push for promotion. Newell revealed the secret to his success is simple. He said: "People ask what we've done with Ahmet. We haven't done anything except give him the freedom to go out and play, and tell him we believe in him." Brkovic will be keen to add to the 33 goals he has scored so far in English football.

Rowan Vine (Striker): Arrives with a reputation as a potent attacking force. Most Luton fans will already be aware of Vine's prowess after the hitman joined them on loan from Portsmouth for

Paul
HUGHES



the latter part of the club's title-winning campaign. After his impressive performances Vine was subsequently persuaded to join Luton on a full-time basis for a fee which could rise to £125,000, dependent on goals and appearances. Could form a lethal striking partnership with Steve Howard.

Enoch Showunmi (Striker): The rangy striker's goal this season will be to build on his burgeoning reputation. A sound start to his professional career saw Showunmi receive a close season call-up to the Nigerian squad for the Unity Cup, which was staged in England. Since joining the Hatters from Notts County in September 2003, initially on a non-contract basis after the Football League had imposed a transfer embargo on the debt-stricken club, Showunmi has established himself as popular figure on the Kenilworth Road terraces. He was rewarded for his displays with a two-and-a-half-year contract in February 2004 after the Football League gave the club permission to sign him permanently.

Steve Howard (Striker): Last year's top scorer with 22 goals, Howard will be crucial in

Luton's bid to remain in the Championship. Speculation over the summer linked him with a move to various high-profile clubs, but he put an end to it by recently penning a new two-year deal with the Hatters. Has scored consistently wherever he has played, and this year should be no different.

Warren Feeney (Striker) Born in Belfast, Feeney started his career as a trainee at Leeds before being released by the Elland Road club and joining Bournemouth, where he had previously been on loan. Scored 30 goals in 80 appearances for the Cherries before joining Stockport for a fee of £45,000. Despite the club struggling in the League One basement, Feeney scored 17 times in 32 games. On the back of his performances in the north west Mike Newell signed the Northern Ireland international for £150,000 in March of this year.



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past meetings



PREVIOUS MEETINGS

LAST 10 LEAGUE GAMES

Season	Home	Away	Division
1963-64	D 1-1	W 4-0	3
1973-74	L 1-2	L 1-2	2
1977-78	D 3-3	L 0-1	2
1978-79	W 3-1	W 1-0	2
1981-82	D 3-3	L 0-1	2
1989-90	D 1-1	L 0-1	1
1990-91	W 1-0	D 1-1	1
1991-92	D 1-1	D 1-1	1
1993-94	W 3-2	W 1-0	1
1995-96	W 2-0	D 0-0	1

LEAGUE SUMMARY

	P	W	D	L	For - Agst
Home	23	13	8	2	53 - 29
Away	23	4	7	12	27 - 46
Totals	46	17	15	14	80 - 75

OVERALL MEETINGS including Cup matches

	P	W	D	L	For - Agst
Home	30	19	8	3	75 - 34
Away	24	4	8	12	27 - 46
Totals	54	23	16	15	102 - 80

19.03.96
Crystal Palace 2
Luton Town 0
Football League Division One

PALACE:

Miller, Edworthy, Vincent, Roberts, Tuttle, Hopkin, Pitcher, Houghton, Freedman (Veart 78), Ndah, Andersen (Dyer 78)

LUTON TOWN:

Feuer, James, Thomas, Waddock, Davis, Patterson, Guentchev (Hughes 71), Oakes, Taylor (Linton 81), Oldfield, Thorpe.

This fixture had been re-arranged from Boxing Day when it had fallen foul of a heavy overnight frost. Palace were the in-form team in the division at this stage, having won four games since securing a goalless draw at Kenilworth Road at the beginning of the month, and thereby risen from ninth to third in the table.

Luton were struggling to retain their First Division status. Their team included former Palace defender Darren Patterson and it appeared to Palace fans that the Hatters were playing for a draw to aid their cause. The Eagles inevitably had the greater amount of possession but faced with dogged defence and hindered by an inability

to provide an accurate final pass or telling cross, it began to appear as if Luton might achieve their objective.

However, the introduction of Palace's eager substitute Bruce Dyer with just 12 minutes remaining changed all that and secured a Palace victory that if fully deserved, was also, extremely late in coming. In the 82nd minute Dyer converted a brilliant overhead kick from David Tuttle following one of David Hopkin's long throw-ins and then just a few minutes later the young striker again combined well with Hopkin and was able to net Palace's second to send our fans home contented.



a foot in both camps

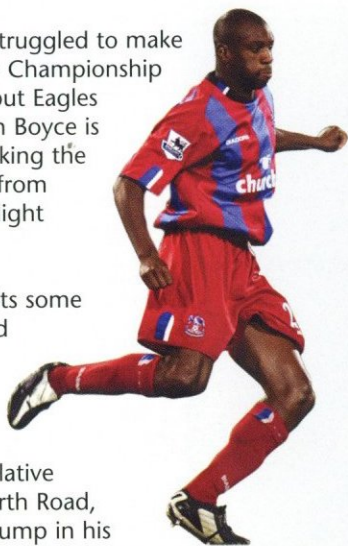
MANY a player has struggled to make the step up from the Championship to the Premiership, but Eagles right-back Emmerson Boyce is almost unique in making the successful transition from League One to top flight football.

As Boyce freely admits some eyebrows were raised amongst the so-called experts when former Hatter Iain Dowie recruited the full-back from the relative obscurity of Kenilworth Road, but Boyce took the jump in his stride to such an extent that he was one of five players to be nominated for Palace's Player of the Year award – this despite missing the latter part of the season through injury.

Boyce is now completely recovered from the broken foot which cruelly curtailed his campaign, and is looking forward to re-acquainting himself with some old friends this afternoon. And although he has fond memories of the five seasons he spent in Luton's first team, he will be fully focused on picking up Palace's first three points of the season come 3pm.

He told the matchday programme: "There's a lot of guys at the club I still talk to. I spoke to a few of them after they went up and they were all delighted. Obviously I was pretty disappointed that we'd been relegated, but I was still pleased for them. They had a great season last year, and obviously I wish them all the best for this season."

Boyce spent three seasons under former Hatters manager Joe Kinnear's tutelage before current boss Mike Newell took over and, according to the 25-year-old, brought a fresh approach to life at Kenilworth Road.



He said: "Mike Newell's really turned the club around. He inspires a lot of confidence in the boys. He just lets the players go out there and express themselves. I've got a lot of respect for Joe [Kinnear] – he's from the old school, and has built up a big reputation. In contrast Mike's an up-and-coming manager, and I think he'll go a long way in the game."

Boyce himself has come a long way in such a short space of time. Few Palace fans would have expected him to replace Danny Butterfield in the right-back berth, but after Butterfield sustained an injury Boyce was promoted in his place – a place he held onto before succumbing to an injury of his own.

He is now the man firmly in charge of the shirt, and is expecting a warm reception when he takes to the Selhurst turf this afternoon from the fans who voted him their player of the year in his final season at the club.

He said: "It'll be an emotional time for sure for me. Hopefully I'll get a good reception from their fans, but come the end of the game all I'll be worried about is getting the three points."

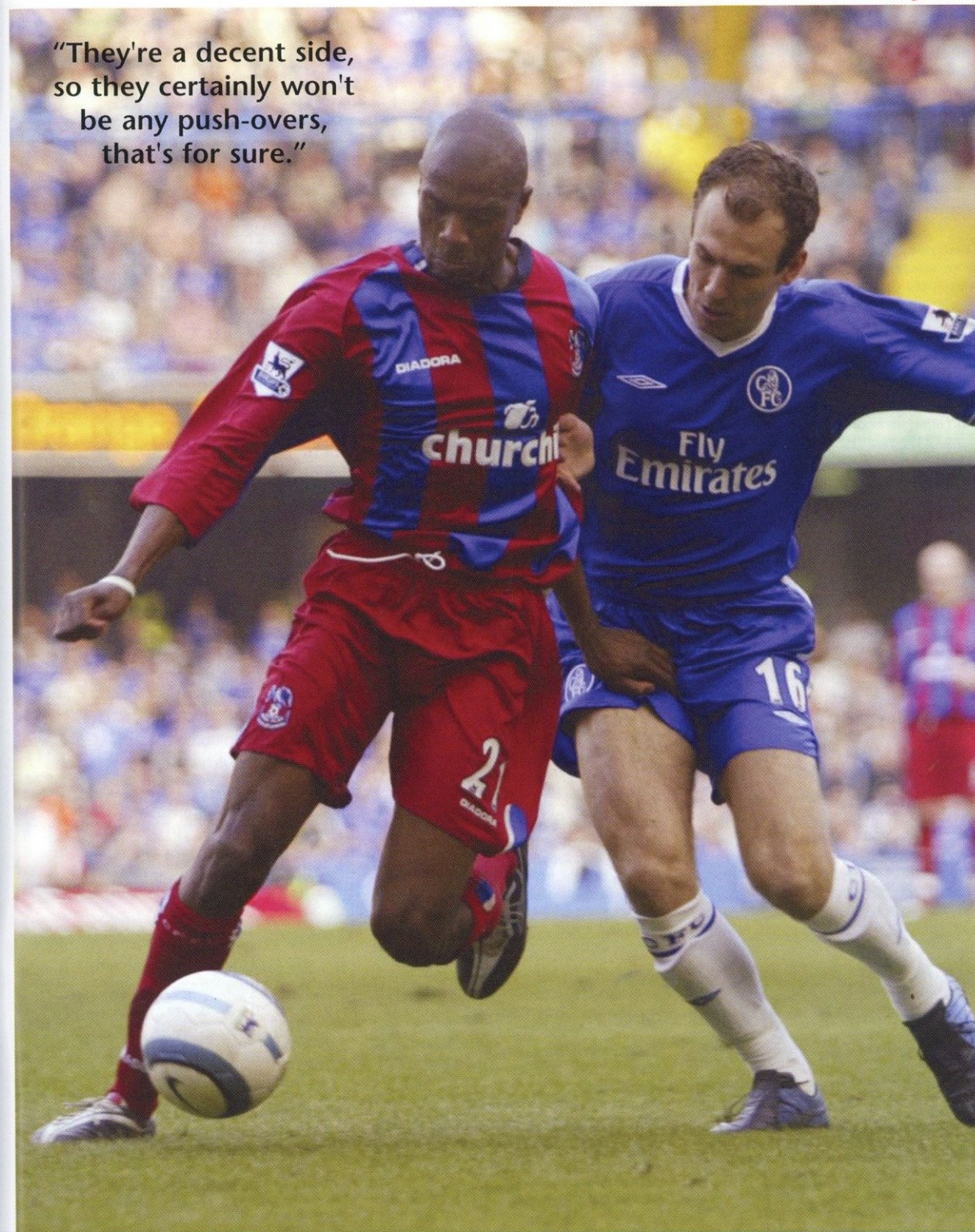
"They're a decent side, so they certainly won't be any push-overs, that's for sure. Obviously they've got Steve Howard up front who's been getting the goals. Curtis [Davies] is an up-and-coming player, and they've also got the likes of [Chris] Coyne at the back, so there's a lot of good players at the club. If I play I'll probably be up against [new boy] Dean Morgan, so I'm looking forward to the challenge."

"I think they'll do well in this league. They won the title last year so confidence will be high, and hopefully after Saturday's game they can kick on. We'll be looking for promotion, and realistically they'll probably be looking to stay in the division, so hopefully we can both achieve our aims. A perfect season for me would be to see us go up and Luton stay up."



emmerson boyce

"They're a decent side, so they certainly won't be any push-overs, that's for sure."





palace reserves



Reserve Manager
Kit Symons

Even though results are important Reserve Manager Kit Symons feels they are secondary to the real purpose of second-team football: namely to assist in the recuperation of injured first-team players and develop the careers of some of the younger academy graduates.

He said: "The role of reserve team manager is two-fold really: to get first-team players-match-fit or help them back from injury; and then also to develop some of the younger players. Obviously the results do matter, but they're not as important as the first two aims.

"So in some ways it makes my job a little easier if the emphasis isn't so much on picking up the three points. There's not the same stress on, for instance, working on the opposition's free-kicks as there would be for a first-team game. That allows me to concentrate more on the performances of our own players. The job of the reserves is to improve the performances of the players across the board."

After a 1-0 defeat to Crawley Town in a pre-season friendly on Tuesday the season begins in earnest for the reserves with the visit of Coventry City to Selhurst Park this Wednesday.

Symons was naturally disappointed with the defeat against Crawley but after seeing Tony Popovic, Danny Granville and Tommy Black complete 45, 60 and 70 minutes respectively, and in the process play themselves into contention for selection for today's game, he still feels it was a worthwhile exercise.

He said: "For the three first-teamers it was their first game back after injury. I consulted with Iain on how long a work-out he wanted to give them, so when he gave me the nod I took them off. They all came through the match unscathed, and so should be fit and raring to go for the start of the new season."

By not knowing which or even how many players he will have at his disposal from one week to the next, Symons' job is necessarily made all the more difficult. But

the uncertainty can also have its advantages, as he explained: "Sometimes players are asked to play out of position, which can help in their development and reading of the game, particularly with the younger ones.

"For example Ryan Hall played in central midfield for us against Crawley, even though he's normally a left-sided player, and potentially a very good one at that. But he'll benefit from the experience. He's only a youngster, so obviously doesn't know the game just yet. The only way to do that is to play against decent opposition on a regular basis, and with reserve team football that's exactly what you get. Working on building up a knowledge of the game is now the most important thing, because technically the youngsters are all very good."

Hall is certainly one of the younger crop of players to look out for this season, as is Aaron Fray, who impressed on the club's pre-season tour of Germany and the subsequent friendly against Inter Milan.

Symons felt the tour went particularly well, and will have served as a valuable lesson to some of the players on the fringes of the first team, like Fray.

He said: "It was a very good tour. The two games went well and the training was excellent. Most of the youngsters had a run out, with Aaron perhaps the biggest plus to come out of the whole tour. It maybe came as a surprise to some people, perhaps even to the lad himself, but he certainly took his chance with both hands when it came along."

Reserve team line-up against Crawley Town

(4-4-2): Rikki Banks; Sam Togwell, Glenn Wilson, Tony Popovic, Danny Granville; Tommy Black, Anthony Danze, Ryan Hall, Nathan Simpson, Tyrone Berry, Lewis Grabbán.

Palace Reserves Fixtures 05/06

2005

10 Aug	Coventry City	H
17 Aug	West Ham Utd	A
31 Aug	Derby County	H
6 Sep	Leicester City	A
14 Sep	Arsenal	H
19 Sep	Charlton Athletic	A
28 Sep	Portsmouth	A
5 Oct	Ipswich Town	H
10 Oct	Fulham	A
7 Nov	Norwich City	A
16 Nov	Watford	H
23 Nov	Tottenham Hotspur	A
30 Nov	Southampton	H
7 Dec	Chelsea	H
14 Dec	West Ham Utd	H
20 Dec	Coventry City	A

2006

11 Jan	Leicester City	H
17 Jan	Derby County	A
23 Jan	Arsenal	A
8 Feb	Charlton Athletic	H
15 Feb	Ipswich Town	A
22 Feb	Portsmouth	H
28 Feb	Fulham	H
14 Mar	Southampton	A
22 Mar	Norwich City	H
27 Mar	Watford	A
5 Apr	Tottenham Hotspur	H
10 Apr	Chelsea	A

FA Premier Reserve League South

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Arsenal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 Charlton Athletic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 Chelsea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 Crystal Palace	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 Derby County	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 Fulham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 Ipswich Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8 Leicester City	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9 Norwich City	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 Portsmouth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11 Watford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

FA Premier Academy Under 18 Fixtures 05/06

2005

20 Aug	Leeds United	H
27 Aug	Huddersfield Town	A
3 Sep	Leicester City	A
10 Sep	MK Dons	H
17 Sep	Reading	A
24 Sep	Southampton	H
1 Oct	Fulham	A
8 Oct	Millwall	H
15 Oct	Arsenal	A
22 Oct	Ipswich Town	H
5 Nov	West Ham Utd	H
12 Nov	Charlton Athletic	H
19 Nov	Norwich City	A
3 Dec	Chelsea	H
10 Dec	Southampton	A

2006

7 Jan	Millwall	A
14 Jan	Arsenal	H
21 Jan	Ipswich Town	A
4 Feb	West Ham Utd	A
11 Feb	Charlton Athletic	A
18 Feb	Norwich City	H
25 Feb	Chelsea	A
4 Mar	Fulham	H
11 Mar	Tottenham Hotspur	H
18 Mar	Birmingham City	A
1 Apr	Bristol City	H
8 Apr	Cardiff City	A
22 Apr	Watford	H

FA Premier Academy Under 18 Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Arsenal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 Charlton Athletic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 Chelsea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 Crystal Palace	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 Fulham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 Ipswich Town	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 Millwall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8 Norwich City	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9 Southampton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 West Ham Utd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



Youth Coach
Gary Issot

Under 18 coach Gary Issot talks about pre-season for the Youth side.

We've had few changes of personnel this year in the Academy. Darren Hare has joined us from Gillingham as Education and Welfare Officer and Paul Lowe now oversees the whole of the Academy from the Under-16 side down to the Under-9s.

John Harbin looks after all the fitness with us and he's been careful this year because we had a lot of injuries last season where they had come straight from school into full-time training. We've been a couple of per cent lower in intensity than the first-team and the lads are looking fitter for it.

There have also been a number of new arrivals on the playing front and I'm looking forward to this year, as we're very hopeful for our eight new first year scholars.

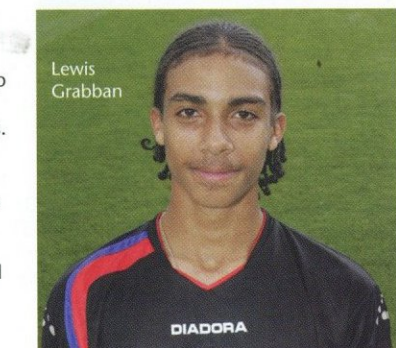
So far pre-season has gone well for the Under-18 side. We've played a few friendly matches and we've tried to use everybody from the squad in the first two games.

We played a senior game against Hitchin as a physical test for the boys and we came back with a hard earned 2-2 draw. Our side was made up of mainly second and third-year scholars and it was quite a good performance because most of their side was made up of ex-professionals and scholars who were mostly aged around their mid 20s. Both our goals came from Lewis Grabbán, one of which was a penalty. We should have won as we conceded a late goal, which came from what looked like a foul on our goalkeeper. There were also a couple of exceptional performances from Andy Straker and Martin Pearson.

Most of our scholars are from the London area but the way it works in Academy football at the moment is that if you are aged between 9 and 12 then the travelling time to the training facilities must be no longer than one and a half hours. The travelling time increases to two hours for 13 to 16 and then over 16s can come from anywhere in the country. This means that a lot of our players are local lads, which helps because when they join the club they have to train full-time at Beckenham along with studying at Orpington College.

As always, March will be a difficult time for us in the Academy because that is when we have to make a decision on whether to keep on the second year scholars that we have. It's a tough process but what we try and do is let the boys who are not going to make it into the next year know as early as possible so that, with our help, they can find another club or else make new plans in life.

The Crystal Palace Academy currently has a vacancy for a matchday co-ordinator who will organise the fixtures at the Training Ground on Sunday mornings. Any applicants must be CRD checked. If you are interested please contact Paul Lowe on 020 8658 7700.



Lewis
Grabbán



palace ladies



After what can only be described as a successful season in the FA Southern Premier Division, Crystal Palace Ladies opted for a change at the top this year. Micheal Beale who had won back to back promotions with the ladies side, decided to press on with his coaching Career and concentrate on his full time job. Chelsea's Academy with fresh ideas, bags of enthusiasm and a determination to succeed, Mark Callaghan and his team took up the post. This year the team is expected to push on from last years fourth place finish and with the sport growing frantically in this country, Mark has brought in a managing and coaching team

of Brian Baker, Simon Crockett and Tyrone Reid. A sports therapist, Alan Rowe, has also been brought and he is working miracles with the injured players from last year.

With Most of the squad retained from last season and one or two additions still to be made, pre-season has been a progressive learning curve. With Colchester United the only loss during pre-season and wins against QPR and AFC Bournemouth, the signs are positive.

Crystal Palace ladies are also very proud to announce that the Army have sponsored the team this year. In what is a ground breaking partnership.

In what is the clubs' centenary year, both the Mens and Ladies pushing to compete in the country's top division. Please show your support to the ladies team who play their games at Whyteleafe FC Church Road Whyteleafe on Sundays at 2pm. Their first game is on Sunday 21st August against Bristol City.



Palace Ladies Fixtures 05/06

2005

14 Aug	Millwall Lionesses	A
21 Aug	Bristol City	H
28 Aug	AFC Wimbledon	A
4 Sep	Portsmouth	A
7 Sep	Brighton & HA	H
18 Sep	Reading Royals	H
25 Sep	Cardiff City	A
2 Oct	Portsmouth	H
5 Oct	Brighton & HA	A
16 Oct	Southampton Saints	H
23 Oct	West Ham Utd	A
30 Oct	Watford	A
13 Nov	Langford	H
20 Nov	Reading Royals	A
27 Nov	Cardiff City	H
11 Dec	Southampton Saints	A
18 Dec	West Ham Utd	H

2006

15 Jan	Watford	H
22 Jan	Langford	A
29 Jan	Millwall Lionesses	H
5 Feb	Bristol City	A
12 Feb	AFC Wimbledon	H

Womens FA Premier League South

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 AFC Wimbledon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 Brighton & HA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 Bristol City	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 Cardiff City	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 Crystal Palace	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 Langford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 Millwall Lionesses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8 Portsmouth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9 Reading Royals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 Southampton Saints	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11 Watford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12 West Ham Utd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

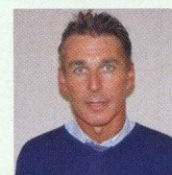


from the grass roots

Football in the Community Team



Colin Morris



Nicky Johns



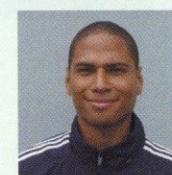
Clarry Birch



David Blitz



Michael Harrington



Danny Thomas

CPFC FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY 2005/06

NEW BROMLEY POSITIVE FUTURES PROGRAMME

Football in the Community have been successful in accessing funding of £200,000 over a three period from Positive Futures and funding partners, Broomleigh Housing Association and Bromley MyTime in order to develop an out-reach programme in the Bromley Wards of Anerley and Penge.

Working closely with partners; Bromley Drugs and Alcohol team and Bromley Youth Offending team, the project will offer diversionary football activities in order to engage disadvantaged young people between the ages of 10 to 19. This exciting

new project will be delivered through primary and secondary school after school clubs, estate coaching sessions, an estate league and a coach education programme. The programme will offer young people the opportunity to improve their levels of physical fitness as well as develop their social skills, self confidence and self esteem, thereby helping to fulfil their potential.

The Community scheme are currently advertising a new development officer post with a view to start the programme in September 2005. If you are interested in this exciting new job position please see details below.



Crystal Palace FC Football in the Community Scheme

Bromley Positive Futures Development Officer
Salary £21,000 per annum

38 Hours per week (The job requires evening and some weekend work)

Crystal Palace FC Football in the Community Scheme are seeking a highly motivated and energetic person to develop its Positive Futures programme in the London Borough of Bromley wards of Anerley and Penge.

The applicant requires:

*A minimum 1st 4 Sport level 2 Qualification

*A clean driving licence

Relevant experience within Estate based programmes would be an advantage

Please send CV and letter of application to:

Nicky Johns, Crystal Palace FC FITC, Selhurst Park, London, SE25 6PU




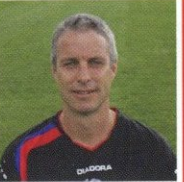



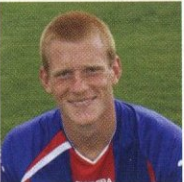








Closing date: Thursday 18th August 2005



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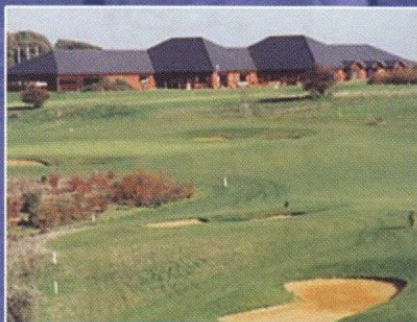
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'GAME OF TWO HALVES'

Tuesday 27th September 2005

18 holes of golf in the morning
at the Swallow Surrey Farleigh
Court Golf Club . . .



Swallow Surrey Farleigh Court

- Tea/Coffee & Bacon Rolls on arrival
- 18 holes of Golf
- Light Lunch
- Nearest the Pin competition
- Longest Drive competition
- Prizes for the Winning Team
- Prize for the Top Individual



Crystal Palace Vs
Sheffield Wednesday
in the evening . . .



Selhurst Park Stadium

- Crystal Palace Vs Sheffield Wed
- Three course evening meal
- Presentation of the Prizes by Palace VIP
- Directors Box seats to watch the match
- Match Programmes
- Private Bar facility
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Crystal Palace FC
100 years of passion & pride



today's mascots

Please offer a warm welcome to our first mascots of
the Season...

George Philips (right) is 5 years old from Croydon, who
attends Atwood School. George's hobbies are playing football
where he goes training 4 times a week and his favourite player
is Andy Johnson. George will be playing in a Warlingham
Under 7's team next Season and we hope he has a fantastic
day to remember!



We also give a big welcome to our Away mascot **Jay Sharpe**, 9
years old from Luton. Jay attends Sundon Park Junior school
and plays for Sundon Park Rangers as a centre forward. His
favourite players are Kevin Nicholls and Rowan Vine. Jay
attends all of Luton's home and away matches with his Mum,
Grandma and Grandad who are all watching him today. Have
a great time Jay!

MEMBERSHIPS

THE OFFICIAL CRYSTAL PALACE MEMBERS CLUB 2005/06

ADULT MEMBERSHIP FULL OF VALUE

- Exclusive Personalised TeamCard
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- SE25 Magazine Subscription
- £2 match ticket discount
- (not available on matchday or for Cup games)
- Opportunity to be a Matchday Mascot

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- Discounted Football Courses

**ALL FOR JUST £20
JOIN THE CLUB!**



CRYSTAL PALACE F.C.



Back Row : Glenn Wilson, Mark Hudson, Sandor Torghelle, An
3rd Row :- Jobi McAnuff, Mikele Leigertwood, Ben Watson, Gabor
2nd Row :- Brian Rogers (Kit Manager), Mike Kelly (Goalkeeping Coach), To
Joonas Kolkka, Paul Caton (Physiothera
Front Row :- John Harbin (Fitness Coach) Danny Butterfield, Tony Popovic
Bob Dowie (Director Of Football), Dougie Freedman, Andrew

CRYSTAL PALACE FC

1905 - 2005



100

Issue One

100 years of passion and pride



Season 1905-06

FINAL TABLE: SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION TWO 1905-06.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Crystal Palace	24	19	4	1	66	14	42
Leyton	24	16	6	2	61	18	38
Portsmouth Res.	24	12	8	4	52	24	32
Fulham Res.	24	11	6	7	52	39	28
Southampton Res.	24	7	9	8	39	41	23
Southern United	24	8	7	9	45	49	23
St. Leonards United	24	9	4	11	54	50	22
Watford Res.	24	8	5	11	43	47	21
West Ham Res.	24	7	5	12	46	48	19
Grays United	24	8	3	13	24	77	19
Reading Res.	24	6	5	13	36	49	17
Swindon Town Res.	24	5	5	14	36	51	15
Wycombe Wanderers	24	5	3	16	36	83	13

The present Crystal Palace Football Club was founded during the spring and early summer of 1905 and the 16 players assembled by the appointed manager, John Robson, came mainly from the north of England or the Midlands, Robson himself was previously manager at Middlesbrough. The club had applied to join the Football League Division Two and then the Southern League Division One but had to settle for the Southern League Division Two. This Division had fewer games, 24, mostly against Reserve sides, and probably to bolster the number of fixtures Palace were also admitted to the United League. It was in this lesser league that the club competed in its first game at New Brompton (now Gillingham) on 1st September 1905, winning 3-0 with goals from 'Dickie' Roberts, Ted Birnie and Dick Harker.

Captain Birnie had issued a rallying cry when he said "We must win nearly every Southern League game and then they will have to have us in Division One". Only 24 hours after the United League game Palace hosted Southampton reserves at our home of The Crystal Palace for our first senior game but after racing into a 3-0 lead, courtesy of goals from Roberts, Archie Needham and George Thompson, the team ran out of steam losing 4-3 to the Saints.

The players took Birnie's words to heart as, following that opening day defeat in the Southern League, the club

would not lose another game that season, a further twenty-three games that included a run of 17 consecutive victories between October 1905 and April 1906, the highlight of which was a 9-1 thrashing of Grays United in November. The crunch game was at fellow title challengers Leyton in April 1906 and proof that the game had caught on in the Palace area was that hundreds of supporters travelled to East London to cheer their favourites on to a 2-1 victory.

As if to prove our form was no fluke the team embarked on a successful run in the FA Cup that began with a 7-0 defeat of Clapham in the First Preliminary Round that October. Not only is this still our best winning scoreline in the FA Cup (equalled once) but Walter Watkins, with the aid of two penalties, claimed the first hat-trick for a Palace player, a feat he repeated 11 days later in a United League fixture.

RESULT CAUSES NEW FA RULE

The Grenadier Guards were seen off 3-0 in the next round and then the Palace were drawn at home to Chelsea, the Stamford Bridge club having been admitted to the Football League over Palace so the game offered the Glaziers (as the club was becoming known) an opportunity to prove a point. On the day in question, November 18th, Chelsea also had a Football League

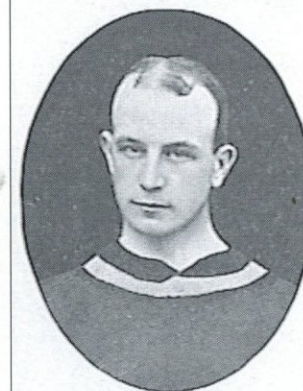
fixture at home to Burnley to fulfil and thus sent a largely reserve team to the Palace that was summarily humiliated 7-1 which included another Watkins hat-trick. The outcome of this tie led the Football Association legislating that any club competing in the FA Cup must field their strongest side. A further Cup victory over Luton Town followed and Palace were now in the First Round proper that entailed a journey to Blackpool. Again Palace showed their burgeoning capacity for Cup upsets by taking the Football League Division Two club to a second replay at Villa Park before bowing out to a single goal.

Attendances at The Crystal Palace were regularly attracting audiences of between three and five thousand where a special admission price for those attending the football games, and not the other attractions in the imposing glass building or its gardens, had been negotiated before the season began. This was granted at six old pence plus an additional sum to sit in the stands.

One of the stars of this blossoming team was George Woodger who had joined the club from Thornton Heath Wednesday and became our first 'local hero' gaining the quaint nickname of 'Lady' for his delicate ball playing skills. George was with the club for five years, later becoming captain and then, after his transfer to Oldham in 1910 he gained his coveted England cap.

This first ever season of Crystal Palace Football Club was a resounding triumph, runners up in the United League and Champions of Southern League Division Two, by four points from Leyton, which meant election to Division One. The season was also notable as the club obtained its biggest ever victory for the first team when West Beckenham were trounced 17-2 in a friendly game in February 1906.

PROMINENT FOOTBALLERS.



G. WOODGER,
CRYSTAL PALACE.

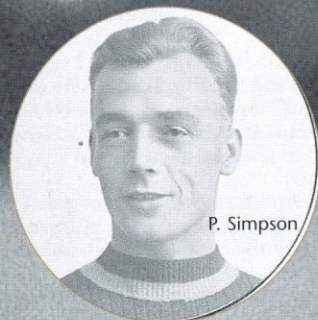
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Issue One

Vince Hilaire



A. DAWES



P. Simpson

Crystal Palace FC
100 years of passion & pride



PALACE AND LUTON OVER 100 YEARS

There are a number of clubs in this our Centenary season with whom our association stretches back to the first couple of years of our existence. With regard to Luton Town, they were amongst our first opponents in the FA Cup as we were drawn to play them at home, at The Crystal Palace, in the Fourth Qualifying Round in December 1905.

Having beaten Chelsea in the Third Qualifying Round it took only a single goal from Dick Harker shortly after half-time in a game played on a quagmire of a pitch to see off the Hatters and place us in the First Round proper (now Third Round) at Blackpool.

Promotion to the Southern League Division One in 1906 brought us into our first League contact with Luton and they avenged that cup defeat by doing the 'double' over us in the League, winning 1-0 on our home ground in October 1906 and then 2-1 at Kenilworth Road the following March. Our first victory came in the following season with a 4-2 victory at The Crystal Palace on March 4th 1908 and during the final season that both clubs competed in the Southern League, 1919-20, Palace claimed notable 4-1 scorelines home and away.

HAT-TRICKS GALORE

Both clubs became founder members of the Football League Third Division in 1920 and Luton remained regular opponents until 1937. Some of these games were quite high scoring encounters such as the fixture at Kenilworth Road on 10th November 1928 where Harry Havelock hit a hat-trick for the Palace but still ended up on the losing side 5-3. Havelock would gain his revenge two months later in the FA Cup when, in a Third Round replay at a snowy Selhurst Park in January 1929, he again banged in three goals in the first 45 minutes as Palace went on to complete a 7-0 rout, our biggest score over the Hatters. The following season witnessed the arrival of Peter Simpson in the Palace forward line and the Scotsman would also be a scourge of the Bedfordshire club as, over the next six years he would plunder 14 goals, also including two hat-tricks, to become our leading scorer against Luton.

Forward Albert Dawes also had good games for the Palace against Luton in the mid-1930s so much so that, amid uproar from Palace fans, he joined the Hatters in December 1936 and in true Palace fashion returned to Selhurst Park and scored a goal in their 4-0 victory a month later on their way to the Championship, however Albert would be back with the Palace in February 1938. The clubs met on a few occasions in the localised leagues implemented during the Second World War and in 1963 it was Palace who were gaining promotion out of Division Three when our best ever victory, 4-0, at Kenilworth Road was obtained on 18th September.

In 1977 and 1982, when both clubs were in Division Two, there were a couple of enthralling 3-3 draws here at Selhurst Park. The first of these was on a Boxing Day as Luton went into a 3-1 lead by half-time. Palace then rallied, reduced the arrears through Barry Silkman and then in the final minutes, Ken Sansom grabbed a point for the

Eagles. In March 1982 there was an incredible burst of four goals in five minutes as each team traded blow for blow and again Luton grabbed another near half-time but Neil Smillie equalised in the 70th minute.

In a Simod Cup-tie here in South London on 10th January 1989 Iain Dowie scored his first goal for Luton to give them the lead but then Mark Bright completed a hat-trick in 16 first-half minutes and Ian Wright wrapped up the scoring shortly into the second half. Three Palace players made their debuts at Kenilworth Road on 25th August 1990 in a Division One fixture, Eric Young, Glyn Hodges and John Humphrey with Young claiming the only goal of the game in a season that saw the Eagles obtain their best ever League placing of third.

When the clubs last met nine years ago the teams played out the only goalless League fixture between us and it took three attempts, following two postponements, before the home game at Selhurst Park finally kicked off on 19th March 1996 and two goals from Bruce Dyer earned a 2-0 victory.

Our Cup record against the Hatters is quite exemplary, no doubt because in most of the ties Palace have been drawn at home. Two of the three FA Cup encounters between us have already been mentioned, a third in January 1986 gave Luton their only Cup success over us when they won 2-1 at Selhurst Park. The one League Cup tie here in September 1971 ended 2-0 in favour of Palace while three Simod/Zenith Cup ties between January 1989 and February 1991 have all ended emphatically in the Eagles' favour.

PLAYER CONNECTIONS

Despite being located no more than 40 miles away from South London, there were very few players who appeared for both clubs until after the Second World War, apart from the aforementioned Albert Dawes. Amongst these Brian Lewis and Jack Bannister date from the 1960s and then Roger Hoy joined the Hatters from Palace in August 1970 and spent a season there. In the 1980s there was a flurry of activity as Vince Hilaire and Trevor Aylott made a straight swap in July 1984. Then in January 1985 Peter Nicholas moved up to Kenilworth Road for three years before signing for Aberdeen. Iain Dowie started his League career with Luton signing from non-league Hendon in December 1988 and later joining Palace from Southampton in January 1995. His 10 goals from 25 first team appearances failed to keep us in the Premiership but impressions had already been made before he was transferred seven months later.

Darren Patterson ended his Eagles' career in August 1995 by opting to play for Luton while more recently Steve Kabba spent three games on loan from the Eagles in March 2002 and at the end of the same year goalkeeper Cedric Berthelin joined the Eagles after nine league appearances with the Hatters. Lastly current Palace defender Emmerson Boyce will be reunited with the colleagues he left only a year ago.



PAST MASTERS with Alan Russell

During the inter-war years at Palace and particularly in the 1920's, the club were blessed with a number of talented players in different positions across the pitch.

Most of the attraction of that era focuses on one man, Peter Simpson, who rightly holds his place in any potential hall of fame, and is highly regarded by anyone with an interest in the club's history for his place as Palace's all time record goalscorer.

There were however those that contributed to his highscoring exploits, and one of the players who supplied him with passes or crosses was Albert Ernest Harry, who was born in Surbiton on 8th March 1897 and played as a right sided midfielder for most of his career, having started as a forward during his non-league beginnings. "Bert" as he was often known, had a humble start in the game as he originally started playing whilst he was with the British Army stationed in India during the First World War. Upon his return to England, he joined up with the newly formed Kingstonian FC (created from the merger of the previous two clubs in the local area) who at that time were playing in the Athenian league.

Harry played at least a couple of dozen games for the K's, and spent nearly two seasons with them, also turning out in representative matches for both an Athenian league side, and a Surrey FA team. Then in May 1921 he played in the Surrey Senior Charity Shield final for K's against Redhill (a match that they won 3-1), which was played at Palace's then ground of "The Nest" (which was almost opposite Selhurst station). As luck would have it - Palace manager Edmund Goodman was watching from the stand amongst a crowd of 3,000 or so and saw Harry in action first hand. Harry was described by a local paper as, "the cleverest forward on the field" and the writer went on to add that he was also, "quick on his feet and with good ball control, he was the outstanding player in the team". He topped off a



good display with a header to score the third goal.

It didn't take Goodman long to decide that he'd watched a player who could do things at a higher level, and the following month on 21st June, Albert Harry signed for Crystal Palace.

However, instant success was not his and it was a steep learning curve as he spent the next nine months in Palace's reserve side playing in the combination league. It wasn't until 22nd March 1922 that Albert Harry made his first team bow in Palace colours (replacing the injured George Whitworth), and still playing as a forward he made an instant impact by scoring two goals with shots in a 4-1 win at home to Bury.

The supporters and local press were unanimous in their praise at this instant impact "on this display it will be difficult to keep him out of the team in the future" remarked one journalist, who noted Harry's speed and positioning, going on to suggest that he bought out the best in the other players. He went on to play a further seven times in the tail end of that season and scored once more in those games.

By the time the following season had come around (1922/23) manager Goodman had taken his height into account (he was 5'9 tall) and had adapted him to play on the right side of the midfield, where after taking a short period to bed in, he went on to achieve great success for Palace, linking up with some excellent players the club had at the time such as left midfielder George Clarke and legendary Palace striker Peter Simpson. During his second season he scored twice more in 25 league and cup appearances, but over the course of the next 12 seasons, he virtually (injury apart) cemented his place in the Palace starting line-up and was usually only absent when injured.

It's impossible to calculate exactly how valuable he was to the side, as his work on the wing and his crossing and linkup play was responsible for numerous goals that both Clarke and Simpson scored over the years, and with over 300 goals between them, that's an impressive contribution.

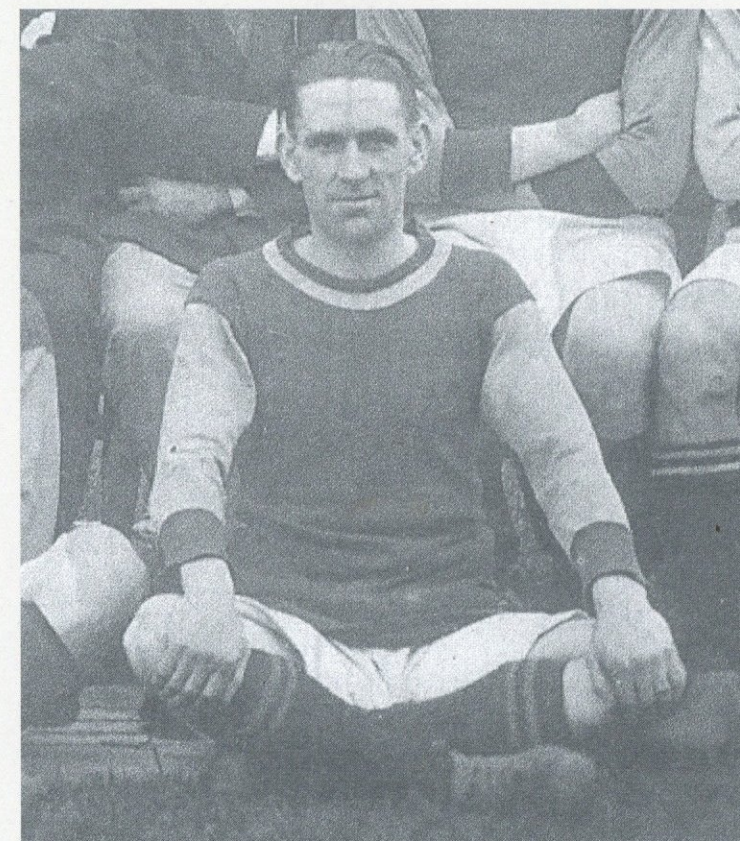
Eventually in the final season of his Palace career (1933/34 when he was 36-years-old) he was effectively only filling in for others and made 15 appearances for the first team, playing for the reserves in between. His last first team game for Palace was on 24th March 1934 in a game against Brighton, but he played the following month twice for the second 11, setting up four goals in those two matches.

When the club published their list of "retained" players in April, Bert was named on it, but either player or club decided to call it

a day as in a second list put out two weeks afterwards in May, he was not named as part of the squad that would be staying.

A loyal one-club league footballer, he was given a benefit match by the club the following month and captained Palace against Fulham in a 2-2 draw which was attended in good numbers by both sets of fans. Upon leaving Palace, Harry left football entirely and moved to Staffordshire where he took over the running of the Lord Nelson pub in Oakmoor.

Albert Harry passed away in 1966 at the age of 70, but is fondly remembered by all Palace fans with an interest in the club's distant past.





100 years of passion and pride



Anthony Danze, Fitz Hall, Danny Granville, Ryan Hall, Aaron Fray, Jimmy Black, Aki Riihilahti, Darren Ward, Gary Borrowdale, Wayne Andrews, (Asst Physiotherapist) Alex Manos (Asst Manager), Michael Hughes, Neil McDonald (Asst Manager), Iain Dowie (Manager), Johnson, Jon Macken, Kit Symons (Reserve Team Manager)

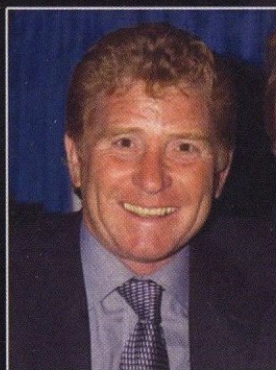


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at The Selsdon Park Hotel, South Croydon

Crystal Palace Football Club is proud to present an evening of festive entertainment at The Selsdon Park Hotel this December and for the first time you have the choice of two nights. Alan Ball is one of the most passionate speakers on the dinner circuit and simply must not be missed. Alan is joined by Jed Stone, a top comedian who will have your guests aching with laughter. This is a fabulous opportunity to entertain your staff or clients just before Christmas and to meet Crystal Palace legends who will be present celebrating the Club's Centenary Year.



ALAN BALL MBE

The youngest of England's World Cup winners - Alan was just 21 at the time of the final in 1966. He enjoyed a distinguished international career spanning 10 years (1965-75) that saw him win 72 caps, play in two World Cups and captain his country. Alan is recognised as one of the best after-dinner speakers in the business.



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After 10 years fronting top comedy showband "Scholar", Jed went solo as a comedian and has never looked back. His nutty and cheeky style appeals to all, he is deadly quick but never offensive, naughty but not crude, but best of all he's FUNNY.

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rob takes the mike



Matchday announcer Rob Fox is back with the first of his regular columns - Join him in the Stadium this afternoon from 1:30pm

Hi there,

Well, here we are again!

A new season. A new league. And new expectations. I honestly feel that after the disappointment of relegation last season, we have come out of it fitter, stronger and more than capable of returning to the top flight this campaign. And boy am I looking forward to the challenge which lies ahead.

Why? Well there are a number of reasons. Firstly, we have strengthened the squad. The players that we have brought in will knit well with our existing players. Secondly, the fact that players crucial to our success, have pledged their future with us, resting safe in the knowledge that the likes of AJ, Gabor and Dougie are committed to getting the club back in the Premiership. And thirdly, because of you! Yes YOU, reading this page. Last season I was so proud of the support that you gave. Even when things were not going our way. I made mention a few months ago of the impact that you had on the team during numerous games, but none more evident than the Arsenal home match. One nil down, and you could have heard a pin drop....for about ten seconds, and then Selhurst Park erupted. The outcome is now written in the record books. Bang! One-One! And YOU helped make it happen

Take it from me, this season there will be times when the players once again will call on you to help turn things around. Let's be honest, we may not have it all our own way in the battle this season. There will be times when they will need you to lift them. And you can lift them, as has been proved. They know they can count on you.

You would have noticed that at the end of last season when 'Glad All Over' was played, the

chorus was faded down to enable you to join in. So many of you have written or emailed me to ask if we could continue to do that this season. I think it's a brilliant idea! When I've been out there on the pitch ready to introduce the teams to you and I've heard you all singing it really has made the hairs on the back of my neck stand up. Imagine how the players feel when they hear you. Come to think of it, I think I'll ask them, and I'll let you know some of their comments in the coming weeks.

On a musical theme, we'll be introducing some different tracks into the matchday playlist. At some point in a future programme I'll give you details of the artists and tracks that I'll be playing. I'm certain they will help to build up the atmosphere as the clock counts down to kick off on match days here at Selhurst Park.

Over the coming season, I hope to include new features in my programme page. I'll still be featuring the competitions, giving you the chance to win some great prizes courtesy of Upshot Communications in the weeks to come.

Well I'm sure that in the coming months there will be plenty to chat about. I am SO looking forward to this, our centenary season. And I honestly believe that we have the capabilities to go straight back up!

I will see you down pitchside around 2:45pm.

Remember, Be Loud, Be Proud, Be Palace!

'...come on you EAGLES!!!!

Enjoy the game,

Rob



Player **INTERVIEW**

After massive amounts of media speculation it was announced on Tuesday 2nd August that Andrew Johnson was not going to be leaving the club this summer. Along with Chairman Simon Jordan and Manager Iain Dowie the 24-year-old was present at a press conference to tell the world that he had committed his future to Crystal Palace by signing a new five-year contract.

"It's been a difficult couple of months, but I have committed my future to Crystal Palace," said Andrew. "Now I want to let my football do the talking and fire Crystal Palace back to the Premiership which I know we are capable of doing."

"I am delighted to finalise things and I didn't want to go into the start of the season with ifs and buts. I wanted to tie myself down to something and I've decided to stay at Crystal Palace and I've got five years on my contract and I can't wait for the start of the season."

Since finishing as the Premiership's top English goalscorer last season and returning from the England squad that toured the United States the Bedford born striker has been under the media spotlight. He has been linked with big money moves to West Bromwich Albion, Tottenham Hotspur and Everton but Crystal Palace is where he wants to play.

"You want to go into the new season with a clear head and you want to know where you're going to be and what's going on," said Andy. "My family won't have to move now, we're settled down here and there are a great bunch of lads at the club. I'm playing under the best manager in the league, if not the country, and I'm sure that staying at Crystal Palace will improve me as a player."

"[People asking about your future] all the time can start to get on your nerves but that's part and parcel of football," said Andrew of the last few months. "There's always going to be speculation and there'll always be

questions asked. The thing that gets on your nerves the most is when you don't know the answer to the questions that people ask you but now I know exactly what's going on."

Many people believed that playing in the Championship would hinder Palace's top scorer achieve his aims of playing for England at the 2006 World Cup but as he explains, there should be no reason why not playing in the Premiership should be a barrier to international success.

"Making the England squad last season was a dream come true for me because as a youngster it's all I ever dreamed of. A lot of speculation over the summer was because of my England career but Sven-Goran Eriksson was at the game against West Ham United last week and he left after I came off. If he wasn't at the match then that would have been a problem but he was there watching me so it gives me hope for the future."

"The ball's in my court now and I've got to go out and score goals like I have done in the past few years. I'm sure that I'm capable of scoring goals again this season especially as the players around me here will help me improve my game."

With his future sorted Andrew can now look forward to this season but he admits that it will be difficult in the Championship.

"It's a difficult league and the teams that have recently come down from the Premiership have found it hard. You play probably 20% more games than you do in the Premiership and there are lots of midweek matches. It'll be tough but the coaching staff are working hard and are prepared for it. The boys are looking fit and strong and the morale is good so if we can get off to a flyer and win some good points, it will set us up for the season."

Andrew JOHNSON

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matchday message board

Congratulations to lifelong Palace fan Steve Fouhey and his partner of Bedford who has given birth to Joshua William Fouhey.



In loving memory of Beth Dobkowicz who passed away in July. she watched Crystal Palace for 25 years until illness prevented her from attending the games. Beth has left behind generations of supporters and will be sadly missed.



Many Happy Returns to Sam Smith who was 10 years old on the 2nd August. He is a season ticket holder in the Croydon Advertiser Family Stand and is here today with his Dad and two brothers. Lots of Love from Mum, Dad, Danny and Paul.

Happy 40th birthday to Karen Lowes in the Croydon Advertiser stand, from Nici, Karen, Kayleigh, Mel, Chloe, Geoff and Diane. Now you're over the hill too!

Happy Birthday to Rachael Smith, who was 23 on the 3rd August and is sitting in the Arthur Wait Stand Block V. Love from all her friends.

Mike Hand, a Palace fan and season ticket holder for 30 years, passed away in June after a brief illness. Mike sat in Block F of the main stand. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

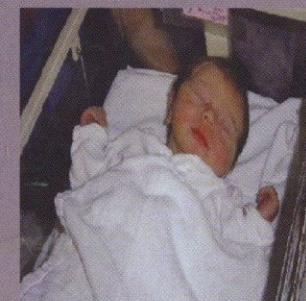
Happy 55th birthday to 'Neen' from Dan, Siobhan and Eve.

Palace fan since age of seven, Derek Eadon, sadly passed away in May 2005. The 43 year old was formerly a resident of Thornton Heath before living in Staffordshire and leaves Sherree and his children, Darren, Danielle and Jordan.

Jess Louise Barnard is the latest addition to this Palace supporting family. Proud Uncle and Auntie (Lester and Charlotte) can't wait to take her to a Palace match. Let's hope her first words are 'bouncebackability' xxx



Many Happy Returns to Gill Meech who celebrated her 50th birthday earlier this week. She will be watching from the Holmesdale Road stand this afternoon and we send best wishes from all her family and friends on this special occasion.



Kevin Morris, Adrian Herbert and Matthew Copping all visited Selhurst Park earlier this week as part of a trip around the league grounds. They are raising money for St Michael's Hospice and can be contacted via www.justgiving.com/92footychallenge



WANTED - One home shirt for 2003/04 season -size XXL - will pay £30 for blank and £45 with name and number on back. Please ring Nigel Dowling for details on 0785 433 8993.



behind the goal

That was some end to last season wasn't it? There may have been sadness, but there were no regrets. There was sorrow but also great pride. In this, our centenary year, eight minutes is added to those fateful seven minutes in May 1990 as a so near but yet so far period that defined our future.

We may have suffered relegation but my summer hasn't been haunted by recrimination or relegation-depression. The over riding feeling I have, and will always have, is of pride that the team Iain Dowie dragged from the teeth of a drop to the lowest league position for nearly 30 years competed admirably in the cash soaked Premiership.

So as we enter this season in the elaborately named 'Coca Cola

Championship' we can have real hopes in our ability to bounce back immediately. It's true the retention of Andrew Johnson will be important and Simon Jordan's made it his mission to keep our great goalscorer here in SE25. AJ, understandably, was distracted by his dream of travelling with Sven and cartloads of luxury luggage to Germany next summer.

Whether he's scoring for fun in the Fizzy Pop, or appearing in the Premiership it's obviously not definite that he will be a cert for the 2006 World Cup but a few goals will help – 60 for sure. Despite AJ winning the free-kick for Kieran Richardson to score, and playing a role in the Greenwich youngster's second, our striker's role in the US tour was underplayed by all; the press, the TV and more crucially the

management. I get the gut feeling that Sven fancies Wayne Rooney (short, pacy goalscorer), Michael Owen (short, pacy goalscorer) and Jermaine Defoe (short, pacy goalscorer) ahead of our freescoring forward. Much could happen between now and the summer but you feel Sven will look to the different option of the £7m Liverpool man, Peter Crouch. No one can blame AJ for aiming for the very top though as The Dowie's and John Harbin would not expect anything less from one of their players. Us fans, though, will just be delighted that he has signed that new deal.

We welcome to Selhurst three new faces in the form of Darren Ward, Jobi McAnuff, who will know the ground well and Jon Macken. All have suggested in pre-season that they will be

valuable additions to our team. McAnuff is a straight replacement for the sadly departed Wayne Routledge. Let's hope that McAnuff and Joonas Kolkka wreak the kind of havoc on this division's defences that Routledge and Julian Gray did the last time we were here. Ward's timing in departing the chaotic New Den was impeccable. The Lions Player of the Season for the past two years will be looking to form an uncompromising defensive partnership with Fitz Hall. Onesize's pre-season form suggests he will be some player this term.

Jon Macken will need no introduction to Palace fans who saw him in action for Preston against the Eagles. Whether in tandem with AJ or Dougie Freedman I predict we will witness the return of the Mack, yes I do, do, do. With the Lilywhites he put fear into defences across the land and he can recapture that form.

I'm sure many of you were here for that special night where our beautiful centenary kit took its bow against the mighty Internazionale of Milan. It was a special night, not spoiled by the tardy Inter coach driver. The sight of the 1971 match against Inter played out on the Jumbotron was a treasured one for those who originally witnessed the Anglo-Italian Cup match and of profound interest to us, ahem, younger fans who missed it. The archive footage was to provide a spellbinding precursor to the event that took place the night after at the

Fairfield Halls.

The launch of our centenary DVD was impressive. I would recommend the three hour film to anyone. Slickly manufactured, with a dry commentary by our own Kevin Day it holds some remarkable footage, some of which I was unaware existed. The cine film of scenes around 1960s Selhurst Park is fascinating and to see the goals from the legendary last match of the 1976/77 season at Wrexham is worth the £30 alone in my opinion. To see Rachid Harkouk's volley after hearing tales of it time after time was great. Congratulations to the club and everyone involved in this excellent momento of 100 years.

Our last match of a more selective pre-season than usual saw us face our replacements in the top flight West Ham, this once again proved a useful opportunity for the lads to all get a run out before the start this afternoon.

We start our campaign against promoted Luton Town, about whom Emmerson Boyce will be able to shed some light. I've got a feeling this year could be special, let's make it kick off in style today.

Enjoy the game and have a good singsong.

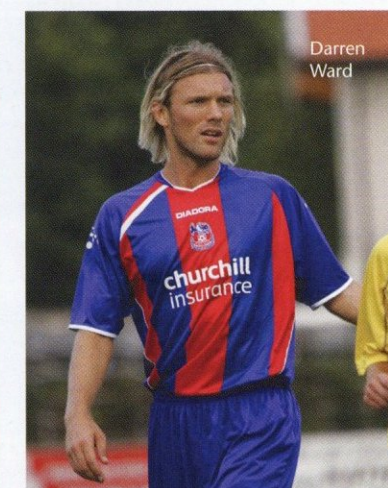
Come on You P's!!



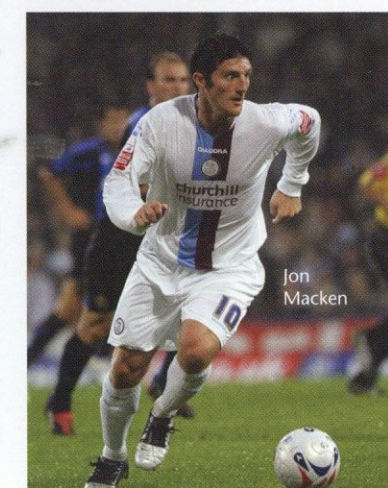
with Laurie Dahl



Jobi McAnuff



Darren Ward



Jon Macken

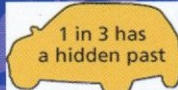
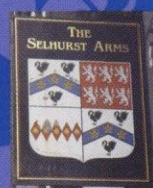
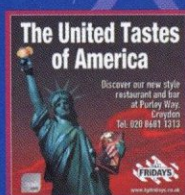
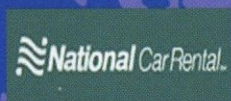
Andrew Johnson



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london's calling



BBC London's Tom Watt
Talks Footy in his regular column . . .

WATT'S UP TOM?

The Jimmy Seed Stand at The Valley was the place to be – and no place to be – last game of the season. Everybody in football has had their fill of ifs, buts and maybes. But being just eight minutes from starting a second season back in the Premiership is about as crushing as it gets. For one, I was convinced – from August right up until the moment that goal was bundled in at the Eagles' far post – that Palace had enough to stay up. It's not much by way of comfort now, of course, but Darren Ward would have been just the bloke to have around to make sure Fortune's header didn't go in.

You probably don't need me reminding you, do you? You've had the summer to worry over whether Palace weren't quite good enough or were good enough but just unlucky. And now all that matters is the nine months ahead in which to ensure that the club's back for another go at the first time of asking. The demands of the Championship – the physical battle, the week in, week out competitiveness – may be the same Palace left behind after that splendid afternoon in Cardiff May before last. I was watching football at this level last season, though, while Selhurst was hosting the high life, and be warned: there are better teams down here – and more of them – than there were last time Palace went up.

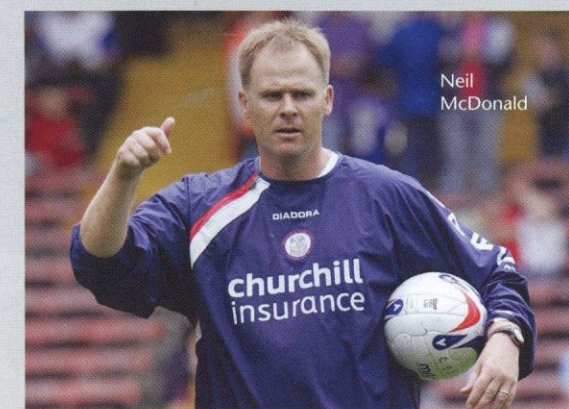
There'll be at least half a dozen who'll be going into the new season fancying that they've done enough – spent enough – over the summer to give it a proper go: Leeds, Wolves, Leicester, Sheffield United, Preston and Hull. You can probably add Norwich and Southampton to the list while you're at it. And there'll be one or two who might turn up the kind of surprise Derby did last season, like Cardiff or QPR. You might as well make that half the division, I suppose, who'll reckon their time has come. Right now, mind, I'd fancy Palace against any of them on any given afternoon. And I fancy Palace against them all season, too.

You've probably gathered by now that I'm a fully paid-up member of the Iain Dowie Appreciation Society. Never mind the predators circling round his centre forward for much of the summer, it's of immeasurable importance

that the boss seems to have been as single-minded about preparations for life after relegation as he was about getting a team ready for the Premiership a year ago. Despite the loss of Routledge, the new arrivals mean the squad looks stronger than it did last May. Mind you, luring Neil McDonald down the M6 may prove, in time, to be the best bit of business Palace did this summer.

Since Bolton returned to the Premiership, a lot's been made – and rightly so – of Sam Allardyce's ability to blend foreign stars, even when they're apparently on their last legs, with British players with a point or two to prove. Less attention, perhaps, has been paid to the nuts and bolts of what's been going on at Wanderers' training ground, where McDonald's been first team coach for the last four and a half years. The Djorkaeffs and Hierros have tipped up to find a regime as progressive as anything on the continent and driven by an attention to detail that's given the team a competitive edge against the best in the top division.

Iain Dowie's no stranger to fresh ideas himself. McDonald will bring plenty of the same with him, you can be sure. Between them, they'll have got themselves a plan for pushing Palace back into the Premiership. One that probably won't involve Palace being 18 places off the pace at Christmas this time round.



Neil McDonald

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palace crystal cheerleaders

The Crystals have had a whirlwind of events during the break between football seasons. Last weekend was the British National Cheerleading Championships where the Palace Crystals proudly won 4th place with their dance routine, 5th place in the team cheer division and 5th place in the 5-girl partner stunt division. Pictures to follow later this month.

Did you catch the double-page colour spread in the South London Press, Friday, July 29th!! We hope you were proud to see the fabulous media coverage of your cheerleader's performances at Selhurst Park, as a special feature leading up to the championships weekend.

And perhaps you are of fan of Trouble TV! The Crystals have appeared in the promos of 'Freshman on Campus' which has been running all this week and continues until August 19th. Tune in early to catch the links to each episode!

To contact the Palace Crystals: 020 8669-0380

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palace study centre

"Palace's Commitment to the Community in Action"

To kick off our centenary season we, together with the football club, launched our latest project for school pupils at the Inter-Milan game. The CD ROM, created by centre teacher Rob Matthews and sponsored by Nestlé will cater mainly for Key Stage Two pupils and it is being offered free to every school in the borough.

The Centenary CD ROM has been designed to get children learning by combining their usual school curriculum together with the history of Palace. For example the CD ROM will allow pupils to improve their maths with football league tables as part of a series of lessons and when the hard work is over pupils can attempt to complete the quiz "Know your Palace".

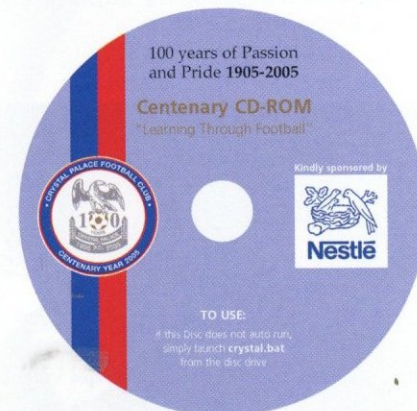
The centenary CD ROM will be sent out to every school in Croydon over the summer and can be loaded onto any number of computers for the whole class to use.

Schools can also arrange to bring a class down to the Study Centre at Selhurst Park for a free centenary experience morning catered to each school's individual needs.

There will also be a competition beginning in the new school year every month for 10 months, Nestlé very generously offering a brand new computer each month as a prize.

To arrange a school visit or to learn more - Contact Rob Matthews on 020 8768 6066

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Darren Ward, Man of the Match v West Ham United

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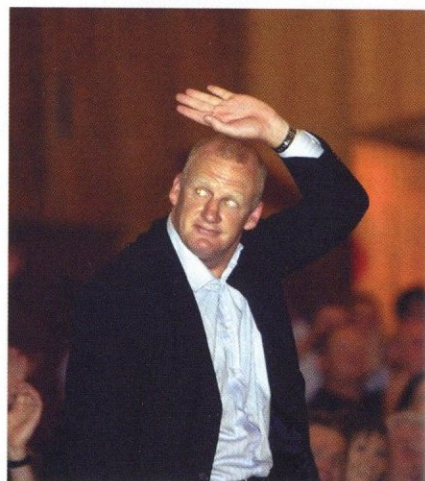
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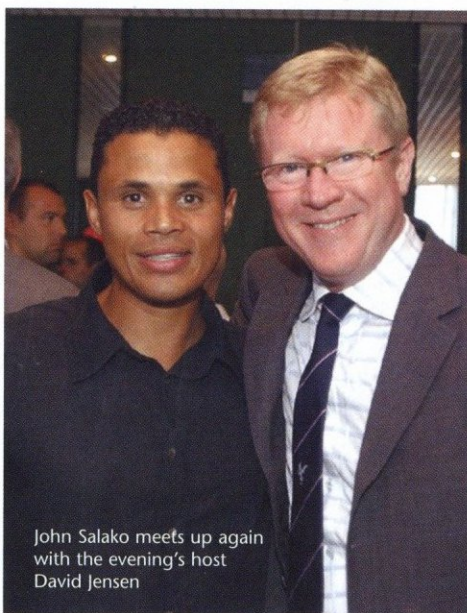
dvd premiere



On Thursday 28th July the Crystal Palace Centenary DVD was shown for the first time at the Fairfield Halls in Croydon. Supporters who pre-ordered the DVD were entered into a draw and 500 lucky people won a pair of tickets to the Premiere.

As well as the lucky supporters Palace stars from the past and present were also in attendance to watch the three-hour documentary on the history of Crystal Palace.

The DVD is now available to buy priced at £29.99 and comes with a two and a half hour bonus disc, which includes supporters' favourite Palace goals and the full uninterrupted interview with Ian Wright and Mark Bright.



John Salako meets up again with the evening's host David Jensen



The Palace Old-Guard!
(L-R) David Payne, Alan Stephenson, Vic Rouse, Jim Cannon and Peter Burridge

centenary book



In the autumn of 1905, Edmund Goodman and John Robson stood on the touchline in the shadow of Joseph Paxton's Crystal Palace watching a fledgling team put through their paces. The club secretary and manager aside, only 10 other people had turned up to watch the newly formed side, flung together virtually overnight, play a practice match ahead of their inaugural season.

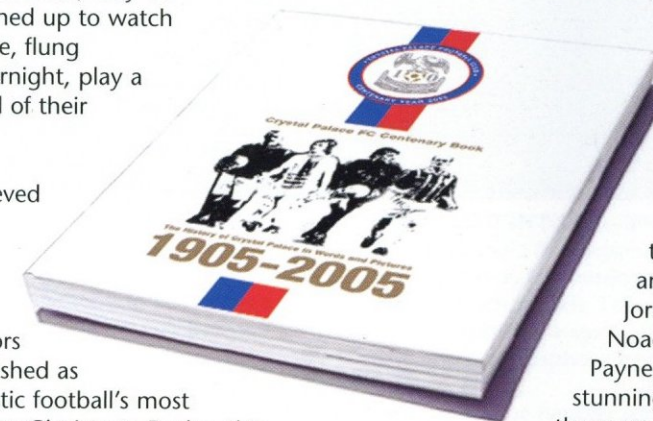
Few would have believed then that, 100 years on, the club born so inauspiciously in front of a handful of inquisitive spectators would now be established as one of English domestic football's most celebrated forces. From Glaziers to Eagles, this has been a century to savour.

Over the intervening seasons, Crystal Palace supporters have enjoyed the most exhilarating of rollercoaster rides. Fans have seen it all. There has been the glitz and glamour of Big Mal and Terry Venables' 'Team of the Eighties' which briefly peered down from the top of the league, to the resurgence enjoyed under Steve Coppell which saw Wembley appearances and the Eagles challenging consistently at the pinnacle.

There have been giddy occasions of celebration when promotion has been celebrated with gusto after excruciatingly tense contests against the likes of Fulham, Wrexham, Burnley and Blackburn. There has

been similar delirium at Wembley and the Millennium stadium to mark breath-taking returns to the top flight, then startling victories amongst the elite at the likes of Old Trafford, Anfield and Highbury.

Palace fans have gasped in delight at the silky skills of Johnny Byrne and Don Rogers, the industry and commitment of Geoff Thomas and Jim Cannon, as well as the goalscoring feats of Peter Simpson and football's most famous striking couplet, Ian Wright and Mark Bright. In more recent times, Andy Johnson has caught the breath with his searing pace and prolific exploits in front of goal to propel him into Sven-Goran Eriksson's national squad as the highest scoring Englishman in the Premiership last term.



To mark the club's glorious centenary this season, Crystal Palace have produced a special illustrated book which covers all the highs and lows of life as an Eagles' supporter with insights from the personalities who shaped the modern-day club. There are contributions from Simon Jordan, Steve Coppell, Ron Noades, Jim Cannon and David Payne, as well as an array of stunning photographs from down the ages charting Palace's progress from the depths of the Third Division South into the top echelons of the English game.

Written by Dominic Fifield and Andrew Fifield and including complete club statistics to cover the 100 years compiled by Ian King, this is the complete record of a remarkable centenary.

The club would like to express thier thanks to all those that have helped contribute to this intriguing story of the club.

This Publication is now available from the club shops at Selhurst and Allders of Croydon. Priced £24.99



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from the locals



Each week one of the local sports journalists will be giving thier view on Palace life as they see it.

This week we start with Croydon Advertiser's Palace Correspondent James Gill who reflects on days gone by and looks ahead to season 2005/06

May 15, 2005. I would be lying if I said I remembered it well. I, along with four other souls who follow the trials and tribulations of Crystal Palace football club for a living, had stopped off for a pint at London Bridge on the way home from the Valley, the sombre setting of Palace's relegation from the Premiership.

Before long, beers had made way for tears, as the five of us lamented a league campaign of near misses, could-have-beens and what-ifs following another season in the life of Palace.

Hard to believe that less than three months on and that same gaggle of reporters are rubbing their hands together with anticipation. The feeling in the press box at Selhurst Park is one of optimism ahead of the new Championship season.

The events of last Tuesday morning have played a big part in this. News of Andrew Johnson's five-year contract gives Palace a unique edge over their Championship rivals; no other club in the league will go into the season riding on such a tidal wave of bonhomie. In a division where putting together purple patches of form is crucial, that extra momentum gained from the Johnson contract could prove telling as Palace look to fly out of the traps at 3pm this afternoon.

Johnson's commitment to the cause has effected everyone. Supporters are thrilled that their beloved AJ will be with them for five more years. Chairman Simon Jordan can take pride in a job well done, having convinced the striker to put pen to paper. Manager and mentor Iain Dowie gets to spend more time shaping his coltish young striker. And players not only get to play alongside one of the best British strikers, but they also keep a close pal. Friends in football are few and farbetween, but Johnson is clearly content.



"The chairman has rewarded me with a good contract," said the England international. "I haven't had to move, my family are settled, I'm among a great bunch of lads, I'm under one of the best managers in the league - if not the best - and there is a great atmosphere here. Of course I am happy."

Johnson will be happier still if, come May, Palace are back in the top flight and he has become an England regular ahead of the World Cup finals in Germany. Johnson has said the future is in his own hands, but Palace's fate also rests with his team-mates, all raring to go for the new season. Wayne Routledge, Gonzalo Sorondo, Neil Shipperley, Vasilios Lakis, Darren Powell and Nicola Ventola have all moved to pastures new, but new signings Jon Macken, Jobi McAnuff and Darren Ward have settled well with the existing squad.

Now, with a formidable squad in place, Palace players new and old will do everything in their power to ensure the club are playing among the nation's elite in the Premiership next season, and Johnson is rubbing shoulders with the world's elite with England in Germany next summer.



palace n proud

with Alex Warner

The Eighties Around Selhurst

Aylott, Carlisle and more . . .

Each home league match Palace fan Alex Warner will look back over particular memories Eagles fans have of our 100 years.

100 years of Crystal Palace Football Club - wow that is something worth celebrating! A century of blissful happiness and joy delivered to thousands of lives by our magnificent Eagles! This season I intend to gorge on every single glorious attribute that makes supporting our wonderful club so unique, so fulfilling and so utterly invigorating.

Trevor Aylott stands out for many supporters as representing a fondly recalled renaissance following a period that provided the stiffest endurance test for Eagles supporters, sorting out the men from the boys.

Those amongst us that survived the period 1981-1985 were all the stronger for the experience and adversity made the success at the end of the decade all the more satisfying. Looking back, many fans claim to have derived masochistic pleasure from such hardships as penniless Palace scrapping its youth team to keep in business, the wonderful Whitehorse terrace reduced to a few steps by a supermarket, losing 5-0 to Oxford and Wimbledon, or having a succession of hapless managers trying to fend off relegation to the old third division. A few even enjoyed us going to Peterborough in 1983 with a 3-0 first leg lead in the Milk Cup then losing by the same scoreline and being defeated on penalties in a performance so bad that Alan Mullery printed a formal

apology in the following week's programme, advising that the team had donated their wages to charity.

Looking back from the security of knowing we all lived happily ever after, it's easy for some to perversely feel affectionate about this period. After all, if you witnessed the inept performances from the empty and disillusioned terraces, then you could at least say, "I was there during Palace's dark ages". The worse it got, the more satisfying the gradual revival that was sparked when Steve Coppell arrived as manager for the start of the 1984/5 season. At 28 years old, Coppell was the country's youngest manager and his unexpected appointment was popular because it suggested a fresh approach. His assistant was Ian Evans, a Palace hero whose fight for recovery following a leg broken by George Best earned him instant respect.

Symbolically, Aylott was Steve Coppell's first signing in football management and spelt out a statement of intent in terms of the style of football fans could expect for the future, rotating around a big, uncompromising centre-forward. Aylott's summer arrival, though, was treated with cynicism by the long suffering Palace fans who feared he was too similar to previous manager, Alan Mullery's signing of unsuccessful, old-fashioned strikers. However, that he'd just scored in nine consecutive games during Luton's fantastic season in the top flight and enjoyed success at Chelsea showed that Coppell had the capability of making big signings. Don't forget too that today's opponents, Luton, were a homely club who'd audaciously and infuriatingly replaced us as the aspiring "Team of the Eighties". To do a deal with the Bedfordshire folk was a coup.

Peter Nicholas departed to Luton in exchange for Aylott. Nicholas' second spell at Palace was disappointing and for sometime he had been unhappy, falling out with Chairman Ron Noades. Despondent Vince Hilaire also followed to Kenilworth Road and only Jim Cannon remained from the successful, though now disengaged, "Team of the Eighties". Going to up and coming Luton represented promotion for Nicholas and Hilaire, keeping their career in the ascendancy, whilst Coppell was now able to create a fresh start at Selhurst, away from the in-fighting and anxiety of the recent past.

Fans forgave Aylott's sometimes horrendous finishing, satisfied by his experienced role as a foil or minder for the

Crystal Palace 1985-86
Trevor Aylott (middle row,
fourth from left)



raw talent in Andy Gray and Gary Stebbing. 6ft. 1' and with bulging biceps and muscles, Aylott had the physique of a body builder, though he was a gentle giant, despite being sent off on his fourth appearance. Though occasionally struggling, his work-rate enabled him to be our top scorer in a difficult 1984/5 campaign with nine goals, mostly from close-range. His sheer enthusiasm was an immediate indication that Coppell's signings possessed the determination and resolve so lacking by those made by his predecessors and was typical of the new dawn at Selhurst.

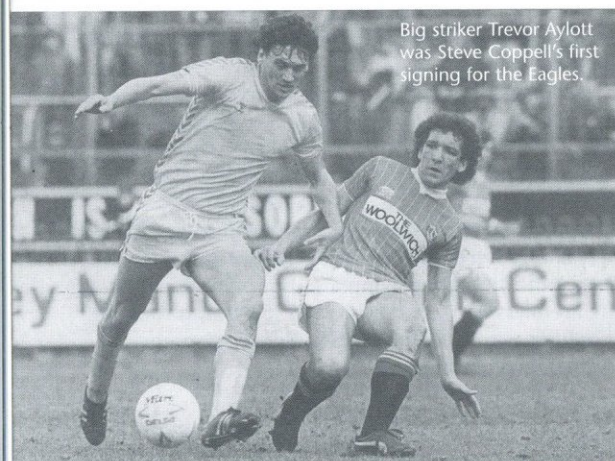
Phil Barber and Ian Wright's emergence the following season rationed Aylott's appearances. However, his occasional goals, cumbersome style and hilarious blunders in the six-yard box made him a figure of endearment. Sometimes he was a maestro with a predatory touch and on other occasions he was tagged Palace's first ever donkey, causing some wags to bring carrots to Selhurst for his return in a Bournemouth shirt. Story goes that Jim Cannon tried to wind Aylott up during the game, saying "Trevor, the fans are calling you a donkey" with mock concern. Big Trev gleefully replied "that's okay, they called me that and far worse when I played for them", proudly revelling in the "eeyore" chants.

Aylott became a folk-hero and though for years to come opposition misses were greeted with chants of "Son of Aylott", he enjoyed an excellent rapport with the Palace fans at a time when we'd been starved of true personalities. That the banter towards him was good-natured was a reflection of the changing mood at Selhurst. Previously, any bungling miss by a striker was greeted with unforgiving abuse. Steve Coppell's Palace of the mid-eighties was a fun place to be, more relaxed and with an emerging bond between players and fans.

Never underestimate how useful it was to have the influencing experience of Aylott, keeper George Wood, Jim Cannon, Alan Irvine and Mickey Droy at the Club during a transitional campaign when livewire and energetic youngsters such as Wright, Finnigan and Gray were bursting onto the scene. As it turned out, the 1985/6 season was my all-time favourite. Crowds were slowly on the increase, though still low enough for a real die-hard sense of camaraderie on the rain-swept Holmesdale. With something to now shout about, we were also chirpier at away games, sporting our fashionable Palace ski-hats and mullet hairstyles. After the tragedies of the previous year, football hooliganism was at last beginning to wane. Dad let me go on my own to Palace for the first time ever and in monsoon conditions I saw us draw 1-1 with bottom club Carlisle United in front of barely 3,000 fans. The weather was so appalling that terrace supporters - including those from Carlisle - were allowed at half-time to watch together in the Arthur Wait Stand! Significantly, for me I was no longer reliant on Dad taking me to football so from then on, every fixture was mandatory.

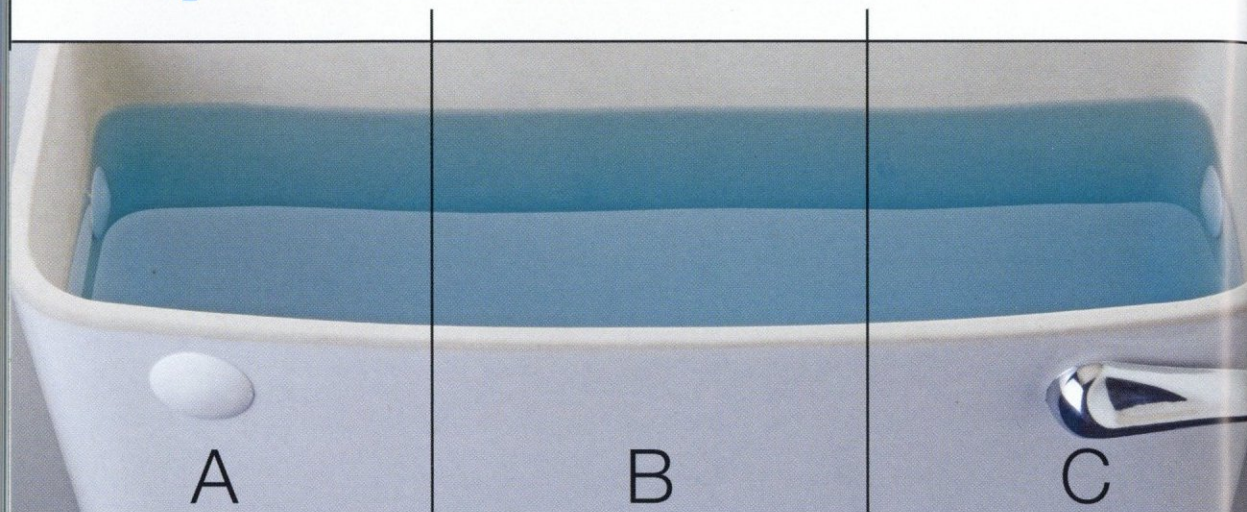
Sixty-one appearances and 14 goals might not seem enough to achieve iconic status, but there's more to it than mere stats. Honest, hard-working, only occasionally successful whilst interspersing ingenuity with ineptitude, Trevor Aylott stood for everything I loved about Palace and had been shorn of during the previous half-decade. Significantly, his presence was a sign that the good times had returned.

Big striker Trevor Aylott
was Steve Coppell's first
signing for the Eagles.



Win a pair of season tickets for the Championship team of your choice.

Spot the ballcock.



Using hi-tech, state-of-the-art gadgetry, we've removed the ballcock from this toilet cistern. Mark a cross in the grid square where you think the centre of the ballcock would be, fill in some gubbins below and then send this to: Spot the Ballcock Competition, Ark-H Handling Ltd, Unit 1, Kenneth Way, Wilsted, Bedford MK45 3PD. Then you and a mate could get a whole season of free football. **But be quick, entries must be received by Tuesday 9th August.**

Club you want tickets for:

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1. This competition excludes Leeds United FC. 2. Open to UK residents aged 18 and over, except employees of the promoter and their immediate families, its agencies or anyone else professionally connected with the creation or administration of the promotion. 3. Closing date 09/08/05. 4. Prize fund consists of: one pair of season tickets per Championship Club per entrant only for the 2005/06 season for the clubs stated on this entry form. 5. By participating in the promotion, claimants agree to be bound by the terms and conditions and by any other requirements set out in the promotional material. 6. Entries must be made on an official claim form completed in ink or ballpoint pen. 7. No bulk or third party entries. 8. The promoter reserves the right to disqualify incomplete, altered or illegible entries and entries from persons banned from attending Championship matches. No responsibility will be accepted for entries lost, delayed or damaged. 8.1 Each prize winner must take full responsibility for his/her own behaviour, wellbeing, safety and conduct and that of their guest when using the season tickets to attend matches. For the avoidance of doubt, neither Wickes nor its affiliates, its respective directors, employees or agents will be held responsible for the behaviour, wellbeing or safety of the prize winner or their guest at matches. 9. The position of the ballcock will be determined by an independent plumbing expert based on the cistern photograph. 10. To enter, use your skill and judgement to correctly identify the grid square within which you consider the expert judge has identified as containing the centre of the ballcock. 11. The first correct entries drawn at random will be the winners. The winners will receive a pair of season tickets for the 2005/06 season for the club chosen on the entry form. 12. In the event of unforeseen circumstances, the promoter reserves the right to offer an alternative prize of equal or greater value. 13. No cash alternative will be given. 14. Winning draws will be made by an independent person. 15. Winners will be notified in writing by 12/08/05. 16. After 13/08/05 the names and counties of the winners can be obtained from the address below, on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope marked 'Wickes Season Ticket Winners'. 17. Winners may be requested to take part in any publicity accompanying or resulting from this promotion. 18. Promoter: Wickes Building Supplies Ltd., 120-138 Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2QB. Please do not send entries to this address. 19. No purchase necessary.



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THERE'S 'EVERYTHING TO PLAY FOR' THIS SEASON

Following an impressive debut from The Coca-Cola Championship, we are looking forward to developing its position as the pinnacle of The Football League.

Last season, more fans went to watch Coca-Cola Championship games than attended Serie A matches and as one of Europe's major league competitions, The Championship has a great story to tell.

We aim to tell it this season through a campaign called **'Everything To Play For'**. The focus of the campaign will be on communicating what we see as The Championship's key strengths, such as:

- **ATTENDANCES:** The Coca-Cola Championship is the fourth best attended league in Europe
- **COMPETITIVENESS:** On the final day of the 2004-05 season, 9 of the 24 teams were battling for either automatic promotion, a Play-Off place or trying to avoid relegation
- **COMMUNITY:** 55% of fans live within a 10 mile radius of The Championship club they support

- **HOME GROWN:** 40% of players in the England U21 and 41% of players in the Wales U21 squad during the 2004/05 season came from Championship clubs

- **HISTORY:** The title 'Football League Championship' dates back to 1888 and The Championship name was brought back to reclaim its heritage

- **VALUE:** The Deloitte Annual Review of Football Finance described The Championship Play-Off Final as 'the richest game on earth'

We hope that shows why we believe there is **'Everything To Play For'** in The Coca-Cola Championship.

Enjoy the season

Stewart Regan
Director,
The Football League Championship





Young midfielder Tom Soares was one of the success stories of last season, but he will be hoping to avoid the dreaded second season syndrome which seems to afflict some players.

Having surprised many – himself included – with the number of first-team appearances he made last term, the 19-year-old was rewarded with an improved four-year contract at the beginning of the year.

The loss over the summer of Wayne Routledge, with whom Soares formed an understanding as they continually swapped flanks during matches, was naturally a blow for the club, but perhaps ironically Routledge's departure has provided Soares with the chance to nail down a regular first-team slot this season.

Said Soares: "Everyone knows what a great player Wayne was for us, but he's moved on now. That's football, and we wish him all the best.

"From my point of view pre-season went really well. I started a few games, so hopefully if I keep working hard my first-team chances will continue to come along."

The arrival from Cardiff of Jobi McAnuff, whom Soares already knew, means the Eagles now have three wide men – the third being Joonas Kolkka – vying for two starting places. But Soares feels the competition for places can only improve the strength of the squad.

He said: "With the new lads coming in we've maybe got an even better

Player *INTERVIEW*



Tom **SOARES**



squad than we had last year. I know Jobi through a few of the other boys at the club, so I already knew what he's capable of. On top of that Jon Macken and Darren Ward have come in and done really well. They've shown in training and matches what top players they are, so it looks good for the rest of the season."

First up are today's opponents Luton, about whom Soares admits he does not know a great deal. But he has been given a few tips by team-mate Emmerson Boyce, a former Hatter himself.

He said: "Boyce came from Luton so obviously he's really up for the match, as are all the lads. It's the first game of the season so we'll be looking to get a good start under our belts and start kicking on from there.

"After that we've got tough games against Wolves and Norwich, who will probably be our main rivals for promotion this year. But the Championship's always been a tough division, particularly so this year, so we know every game's going to be really hard. After coming down from the Premiership every team we come up against is going to be trying to take us down a peg or two and going all out to beat us.

"But we're ready for that. The manager's obviously warned us to guard against complacency, but we're all professionals so we know what's required of us."

TICKET INFO...

Match: Wolverhampton Wanderers
Venue: Molineux, Wolverhampton
Date: Tuesday 9th August 2005
Kick-off: 7:45pm

Tickets for this match are now on General Sale. Prices:
Adults £23 Concessions £13

Match: Norwich City
Venue: Carrow Road, Norwich
Date: Saturday 13th August 2005
Kick-off: 3pm

Tickets for this match will go on general sale from Saturday 6th August. There is a limit of two tickets per person. Prices:
Adults £25 Concessions £18 Under 12s £11

Match: Plymouth Argyle
Venue: Selhurst Park, London
Date: Saturday 20th August 2005
Kick-off: 3pm

Tickets for this match are now on General Sale. Prices:
Adults £20-40 Concessions £12-27

Match: Walsall
Venue: Selhurst Park, London
Date: Tuesday 20th August 2005
Kick-off: 8pm

Tickets for this match are now on General Sale. Prices:
Adults £15 Concessions £5 Under 16s £1 (Please note: A maximum of three Under 16 tickets per paying adult may be purchased otherwise the concession rate will apply)



DOWN OUR WAY...

Palace kick off the first of three home games in a week at Selhurst Park with the visit of Plymouth Argyle to SE25.

The Pilgrims mustered a respectable 17th last year in the Championship after being promoted so convincingly in the previous campaign. The season could have gone a lot better had a promising start of just one defeat in the opening six matches been increasingly undermined by disastrous away performances.

In fact Argyle lost 15 away games, comfortably the worst record in the Championship, meaning they finished just three points clear of the last relegation place.

BACK-LINE REBUILD

Manager Bobby Williamson's main task this summer has been to reshape the back line in order to stop haemorrhaging goals, and the wily Scotsman has made some astute signings.

Nigerian international defender Taribo West has been the most high profile signing at Home Park this summer, and his experience will add steel and finesse to the defence. Capped some 40 times for his country, West had previously plied his trade with the likes of Auxerre, Inter Milan, Kaiserslautern, AC Milan, and of course Derby County, and turned up in the south-west at 2am to sign his one-year deal. "I like the ambition of the club and the heart of the coach," he said, "and I hope to play in the first team and help the club into the Premiership."

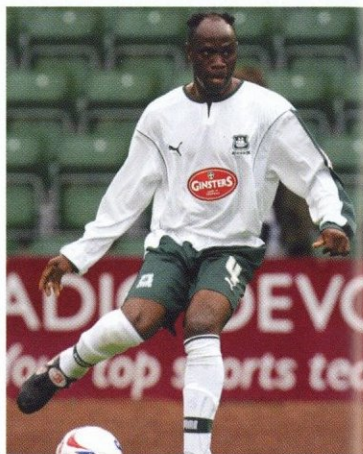
While some fans are concerned that West has taken the place of terraces' favourite Graham Coughlan, Anthony Barnes and Rufus Brevett have also been added to the squad, and the Plymouth boss is pleased with how the close season has gone. "We're looking composed and solid at the back and that's going into the middle of the park - if we just add the final bit, I'm hoping we can create chances and score goals."

MIDFIELD STAGE

Much of the responsibility for creating chances will rest on the young shoulders of Bojan Djordjic. The 23-year-old former Rangers and Manchester United midfielder moved south in June after failing to make an impact at the Scottish champions.

The Belgrade-born maestro has a big reputation after graduating from Manchester United's trainee school, and he is keen to impress, saying, "I need to

Saturday 20th August
Coca-Cola Championship
Plymouth Argyle - Kick-off 3pm
Key Player: Taribo West



play 40 games a season. It's no good saying I was talented but not getting any games. I have now given myself a chance to be at a level I can play at."

Williamson is equally aware of his potential. "He's very talented. All he has not had in Britain is a stage. He's got an opportunity here. All I can do is give him a stage and hope that he gets the breaks along the way to do well."

MAGYAR MAESTRO

Alongside Djordjic may well be Hungarian Akos Buzsaky who joined from Porto in January on loan. The 23-year-old's performances over the following months earned him cult status among the Home Park crowd, and although the Portuguese giants demanded a £350k fee, the midfielder eventually signed for free on a three-year-deal in the summer.

Argyle's last visit to Selhurst was three years ago in the Carling Cup when an Andy Johnson winner in the second half of extra-time sealed a scrappy 2-1 win. The last league game was an altogether more convincing 4-1 victory for Palace in 1988, summing up the Pilgrims' form up in SE25. The visitors have not won here since 1951, and the fact that Dowie's men are looking to get off to a fast start in the league campaign coupled with Plymouth's poor away form, makes their task of getting a first win in over 50 years a daunting one.

By Chris Waters

ON THE ROAD...



Coaches:
Depart: 2:30pm
Eagle Gold: £22.50
Season Ticket holders/
members: £25
Guests: £27.50

By Road:

Exit the M6 at Junction 10 then take the A454 via Willenhall to Wolverhampton ring road. At the first ring road island take the fourth exit (A449 to Stafford) then go straight on at the next two sets of traffic lights. Filter right at the third set of lights into Waterloo Road and Molineux is 500 yards on the right.

Parking:

Parking is available in Wolverhampton city centre (five minutes walk away). Car parks are signposted from Wolverhampton ring road.

Tuesday 9th August
Coca-Cola Championship
Wolverhampton Wanderers
Kick-off 7:45pm



By Rail/Bus:

From Wolverhampton railway/bus stations follow the ring road, walking down the side of the Chubb buildings, then at the major crossroads you will see Molineux on the left.



Coaches:
Depart: 9:30am
Eagle Gold: £22.50
Season Ticket holders/
members: £25
Guests: £27.50

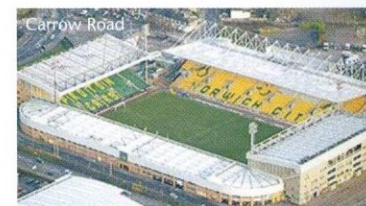
By Road:

The ground is well signposted from the A11 and A47. From the southern bypass (A47) take the A146 into the city and at the traffic lights turn right and follow the outer ring road: Turn left at the roundabout, then right at the next lights. Follow the inner ring road round to the right, over the river and the ground is on your right. If in doubt follow the signs for the railway station until you get to the river (where the rail station is off to the left and ground on your right).

Parking:

One of the best car parks for away fans is Norfolk County Hall, which is well sign posted on the left of the A146, as you follow signs towards the

Saturday 13th August
Coca-Cola Championship
Norwich City
Kick-off 3pm



ground from the southern bypass. It is currently £3 and can hold about 2000 cars, and usually fills up by about 2pm.

By Rail:

The ground is approximately a five-minute walk from the station. From the station turn left and head for the Morrison's supermarket and the ground is visible behind that. Alternatively, on exiting the train station walk along 'Riverside Road'. The ground is at the end of this road.

BOOKING YOUR TICKETS...



08712 000071
(national call rates apply)



on line at
www.cpfc.co.uk
(click on to 'Tickets')



email
boxoffice@cpfc.co.uk

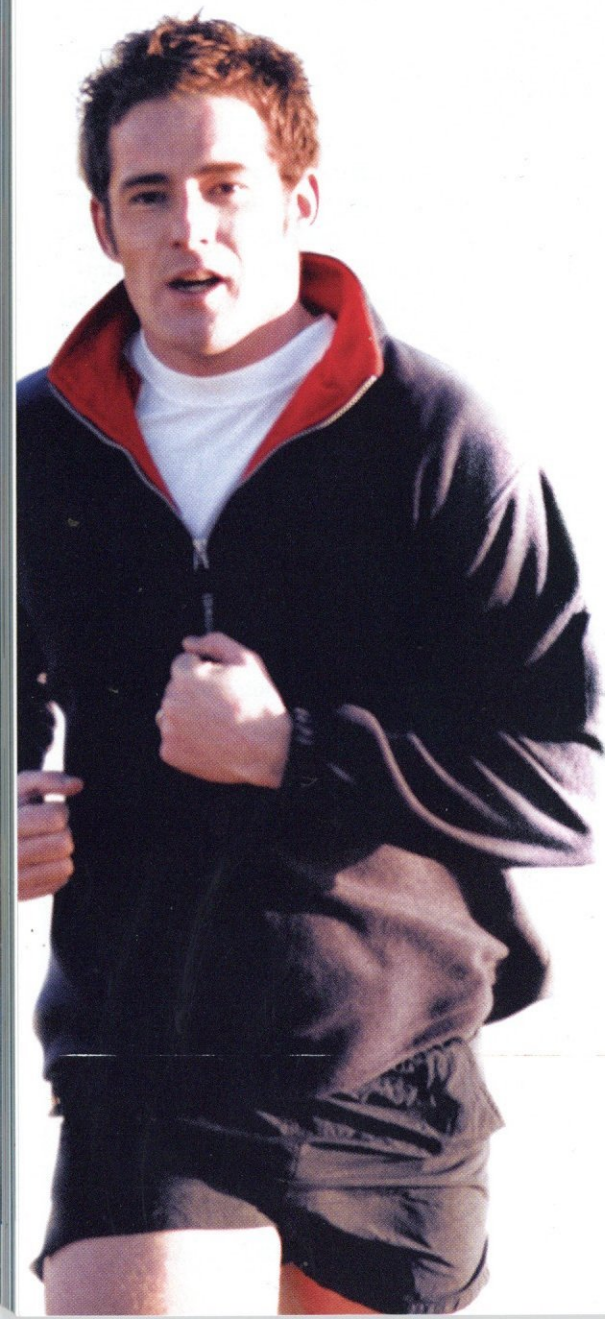
Box office opening hours:

Monday-Friday 9am-6pm
Saturday matchdays 9am-3pm
Saturday non-matchday 9:30pm-12:30pm
Reserve (home) fixtures: Open until kick-off (7pm)

For all the latest news from Selhurst Park

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Crystal Palace v. Luton Town



When for & against	Where & how scored	When for & against
For Against 	7 Close range 32 Inside 18yd box 2 Outside 18yd box 11 Shots 11 Headers 8 Volleys 11 Penalties 0 Free Kicks 0 Own Goals	18 15 12 9 6 3 0 0 3 6 9 12 15 18

Last 6 results	Seasonal progress comparison	Last 6 results																																										
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Opponents</th><th>H/A</th><th>Score</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Charlton</td><td>A</td><td>2-2</td></tr> <tr> <td>Southampton</td><td>H</td><td>2-2</td></tr> <tr> <td>Newcastle</td><td>A</td><td>0-0</td></tr> <tr> <td>Liverpool</td><td>H</td><td>1-0</td></tr> <tr> <td>Blackburn</td><td>A</td><td>0-1</td></tr> <tr> <td>Norwich</td><td>H</td><td>3-3</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Opponents	H/A	Score	Charlton	A	2-2	Southampton	H	2-2	Newcastle	A	0-0	Liverpool	H	1-0	Blackburn	A	0-1	Norwich	H	3-3	 www.soccer-stats.com	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Opponents</th><th>H/A</th><th>Score</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Doncaster</td><td>A</td><td>3-3</td></tr> <tr> <td>Brentford</td><td>H</td><td>4-2</td></tr> <tr> <td>Wrexham</td><td>A</td><td>2-1</td></tr> <tr> <td>MK Dons</td><td>H</td><td>1-0</td></tr> <tr> <td>Bournemouth</td><td>A</td><td>1-0</td></tr> <tr> <td>Blackpool</td><td>H</td><td>1-0</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Opponents	H/A	Score	Doncaster	A	3-3	Brentford	H	4-2	Wrexham	A	2-1	MK Dons	H	1-0	Bournemouth	A	1-0	Blackpool	H	1-0
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Swings	Discipline	Last meeting at Selhurst Park	Swings	Discipline
Won when Behind 0 Drawn when Behind 5 Drawn when Ahead 6 Lost when Ahead 2	Fouls committed 538 Average per game 14.16 Yellow cards 57 Red cards 3	2-0 Dyer 82, 88 Attendance 13,609 Referee Taylor Martyn, Edworthy, Vincent, Roberts, Tuttle, Hopkin, Pitcher, Houghton, Freedman (Dyer), Ndah, Andersen (Veart) Booked Vincent, Houghton Sent Off none	Won when Behind 6 Drawn when Behind 7 Drawn when Ahead 6 Lost when Ahead 1	Fouls committed 667 Average per game 14.5 Yellow cards 66 Red cards 4

Set piece goals	Strike ratio	Luton's Last 10 Years	Strike ratio
Scored from free kick 4 Conc from free kick 4 Scored from corner 6 Conc from corner 6	Shots on target 190 Goals scored 41 % shots scored 21.6 Divisional rating 14		Shots on target 296 Goals scored 87 % shots scored 29.4 Divisional rating 6

Is it the Premiership or Division 1...? Or is it the Championship...? And what's Division 2 now...? The leagues have changed again...check out how your team were doing the last time it happened...

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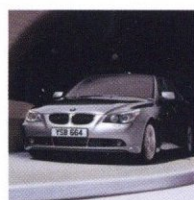
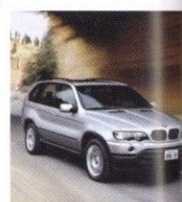
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FL Championship stats

Scored & conceded in last 15 mins

FOR	76-90	Total	%	AGAINST	76-90	Total	%
Brighton	14	40	35.0	Millwall	18	45	40.0
Nottm Forest	14	42	33.3	Preston	18	58	31.0
Wolves	22	72	30.6	Sunderland	12	41	29.3
Plymouth	15	52	28.8	Stoke	11	38	28.9
Rotherham	10	35	28.6	West Ham	15	56	26.8
West Ham	18	66	27.3	Plymouth	17	64	26.6
Millwall	13	51	25.5	Gillingham	17	66	25.8
Gillingham	11	45	24.4	Wigan	9	35	25.7
Burnley	9	38	23.7	Cardiff	13	51	25.5
Reading	12	51	23.5	Leeds	13	52	25.0
Watford	12	52	23.1	Reading	11	44	25.0
Crewe	15	66	22.7	Coventry	18	73	24.7
Derby	16	71	22.5	Ipswich	12	56	21.4
Leeds	11	49	22.4	Crewe	17	86	19.8
Stoke	8	36	22.2	Leicester	9	46	19.6
Sunderland	16	76	21.1	Rotherham	13	69	18.8
Ipswich	17	85	20.0	QPR	10	58	17.2
QPR	10	54	18.5	Watford	10	59	16.9
Coventry	11	61	18.0	Nottm Forest	11	66	16.7
Wigan	12	79	15.2	Derby	10	60	16.7
Preston	10	67	14.9	Sheff Utd	9	56	16.1
Cardiff	7	48	14.6	Brighton	10	65	15.4
Sheff Utd	7	57	12.3	Burnley	6	39	15.4
Leicester	6	49	12.2	Wolves	7	59	11.9

Headed goals

Most headed goals scored

Player	Club	Goals
Rasiak	Derby	8
Ellington	Wigan	6
Helguson	Watford	6
Taylor	Nottm Forest	6
Tudgay	Derby	6
Dichio	Millwall	5
Friio	Plymouth	5
Furlong	QPR	5
Gray	Sheff Utd	5
McCulloch	Wigan	5
Miller	Wolves	5
Caldwell	Sunderland	4
Naylor	Ipswich	4
Roberts	Wigan	4
Sheringham	West Ham	4



Heads I win: Derby's Gregor Rasiak (above) has scored the most headed goals in the Championship.

Goalkeeping & goalscoring

Best goalkeeping ratio

Total goals conceded	39
Opposition shots on target	231
Percentage of shots saved	83.1

Best strike ratio

Total goals scored	66
Shots on target	194
Percentage of shots scored	34.0

Worst goalkeeping ratio

Total goals conceded	64
Opposition shots on target	194
Percentage of shots saved	67.0

Worst strike ratio

Total goals scored	36
Shots on target	211
Percentage of shots scored	17.1

Burnley



Crewe



Plymouth



Stoke



2004/05 season round -up

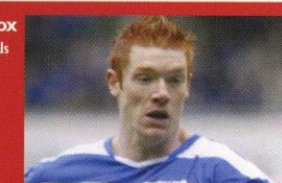
Margins of victory & defeat

WON BY	1 gl	2 gls	3 gls	4+ gls	LOST BY	1 gl	2 gls	3 gls	4+ gls
Sunderland	15	11	1	2	Wolves	8	2	0	0
Wigan	5	14	4	2	Wigan	8	1	0	0
Ipswich	14	6	1	3	West Ham	10	4	1	0
Derby	10	10	2	0	Watford	11	5	2	0
Preston	13	3	5	0	Sunderland	7	3	0	0
West Ham	15	4	1	1	Stoke	15	3	1	0
Reading	13	4	1	1	Sheff Utd	8	4	1	2
Millwall	11	5	2	0	Rotherham	16	10	1	0
Sheff Utd	12	4	0	2	Reading	9	3	2	0
QPR	12	3	2	0	QPR	12	4	1	1
Stoke	12	5	0	0	Preston	5	6	1	1
Burnley	9	5	1	0	Plymouth	12	5	2	2
Wolves	7	6	2	0	Nottm Forest	13	2	4	1
Leeds	10	2	1	1	Millwall	11	5	0	0
Plymouth	8	2	3	1	Leicester	9	4	0	0
Brighton	13	0	0	0	Leeds	6	6	1	1
Cardiff	5	6	2	0	Ipswich	4	5	0	0
Coventry	9	2	1	1	Gillingham	7	11	1	1
Crewe	5	4	3	0	Derby	7	4	2	1
Gillingham	9	3	0	0	Crewe	8	5	4	3
Leicester	5	6	1	0	Coventry	13	2	5	0
Watford	6	4	2	0	Cardiff	12	4	2	0
Nottm Forest	7	2	0	0	Burnley	10	5	1	0
Rotherham	5	0	0	0	Brighton	9	8	3	1

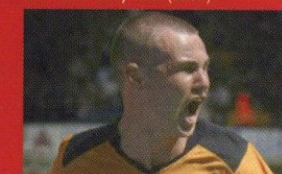
Close range goals

Most goals scored inside 6yd box

Player	Club	Goals
Kitson	Reading	8
Miller	Wolves	8
Cort	Wolves	7
Cresswell	Preston	7
Gray	Sheff Utd	7
Helguson	Watford	7
McCulloch	Wigan	7
Rasiak	Derby	7
Sheringham	West Ham	7
Ellington	Wigan	6
Elliott	Sunderland	6
Naylor	Ipswich	6



Close Calls: Reading's Dave Kitson (above) and Wolves Kenny Miller (below)



Comebacks & throwaways

WON FROM	-3	-2	-1	TOTAL	LOST FROM	+3	+2	+1	TOTAL
Ipswich	0	1	5	6	Rotherham	0	1	6	7
Derby	0	1	4	5	QPR	0	0	6	6
Coventry	0	0	4	4	Plymouth	0	1	4	5
Preston	0	0	4	4	Coventry	0	0	5	5
Sheff Utd	0	0	4	4	Leicester	0	1	2	3
Sunderland	0	0	4	4	Gillingham	0	0	3	3
Wolves	0	0	4	4	Millwall	0	0	3	3
QPR	0	1	2	3	Reading	0	0	3	3
Reading	0	0	3	3	West Ham	0	0	3	3
					Wigan	0	0	3	3
DRAWN FROM	-3	-2	-1	TOTAL	DRAWN FROM	+3	+2	+1	TOTAL
Wolves	0	1	14	15	Leicester	0	0	11	11
Nottm Forest	0	1	7	8	Crewe	0	1	8	9
Ipswich	0	1	6	7	Coventry	0	2	6	8
Brighton	0	0	7	7	Watford	0	2	6	8
Leeds	0	0	7	7	Wolves	0	0	7	7
Derby	0	2	4	6	Cardiff	0	1	5	6
Cardiff	0	0	6	6	Ipswich	0	1	5	6
Crewe	0	0	6	6	Gillingham	0	0	6	6
Preston	0	0	6	6	Leeds	0	0	6	6
					Nottm Forest	0	0	6	6
					Wigan	0	0	6	6

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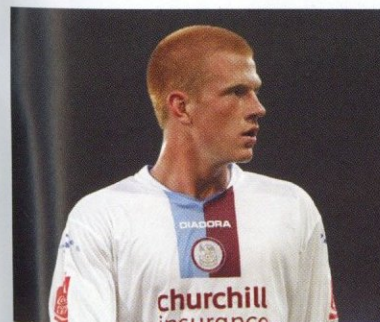
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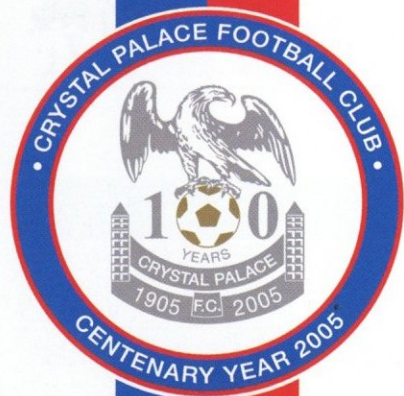


player statistics 2005/06

	Crystal Palace Career Record										Internationals			This Season																	
	League Apps		Gls	FA Cup Apps		Gls	Lge Cup Apps		Gls	Other Apps		Gls	Total Apps	Gls	Nation	Caps	Gls	League Apps		Gls	FA Cup Apps		Gls	Lge Cup Apps		Gls	Other Apps		Gls	Total Apps	Gls
Wayne ANDREWS	(9)	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	9	0					0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0
Tyrone BERRY	0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	0	0					0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0
Tommy BLACK	67(59)	10		3(1)	2		13(3)	5		0	0	146	17					0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0
Gary BORROWDALE	24(19)	0		1(1)	0		4(4)	0		0	0	53	0					0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0
Emmerson BOYCE	26(1)	0		0	0		1	0		0	0	28	0					0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0
Danny BUTTERFIELD	98	5		6	0		10(1)	0		3	1	118	6					0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0
Anthony DANZE	0	0		0	0		1	0		0	0	1	0					0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0
Aaron FRAY	0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	0	0					0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0
Dougie FREEDMAN	179(61)	85		3(5)	0		14(2)	8		3(3)	2	270	95	Scotland	2	1		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0
Danny GRANVILLE	102(5)	9		4(3)	0		5	0		3	0	122	9					0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0
Fitz HALL	36	2		1	0		0	0		0	0	37	2					0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0
Ryan HALL	0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	0	0					0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0
Mark HUDSON	21	1		0	0		2	0		0	0	23	1					0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0
Michael HUGHES	68(2)	5		2	0		3	0		3	0	78	5	N. Ireland	70	5		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0
Andrew JOHNSON	104(3)	59		5	0		6	7		3	1	121	67	England	2	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0
Gabor KIRALY	32	0		1	0		1	0		0	0	34	0	Hungary	57	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0
Joonas KOLKKA	20(3)	3		0	0		1	0		0	0	24	3	Finland	65	11		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0
Mikele LEIGERTWOOD	23(9)	1		1	0		2	0		3	0	38	1					0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0
Jon MACKEN	0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	0	0	R. of Ireland	1	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0
Jobi McANUFF	0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	0	0	Jamaica	1	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0
Tony POPOVIC	111(2)	6		5	0		8	1		3	0	129	7	Australia	51	7		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0
Aki RIIHILAHTI	121(21)	11		3	0		8(2)	1		3	0	158	12	Finland	60	10		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0
Tom SOARES	16(9)	0		(1)	0		2(1)	1		0	0	29	1					0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0
Julian SPERONI	6	0		0	0		2	0		0	0	8	0					0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0
Sam TOGWELL	(1)	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	1	0					0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0
Sandor TORGHELLE	3(9)	0		0	0		3	1		0	0	15	1	Hungary	13	4		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0
Darren WARD	0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	0	0					0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0
Ben WATSON	27(15)	1		2	0		3(3)	0		0	0	50	1					0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0
Glenn WILSON	0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	0	0					0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0

(Substitute appearances in brackets)





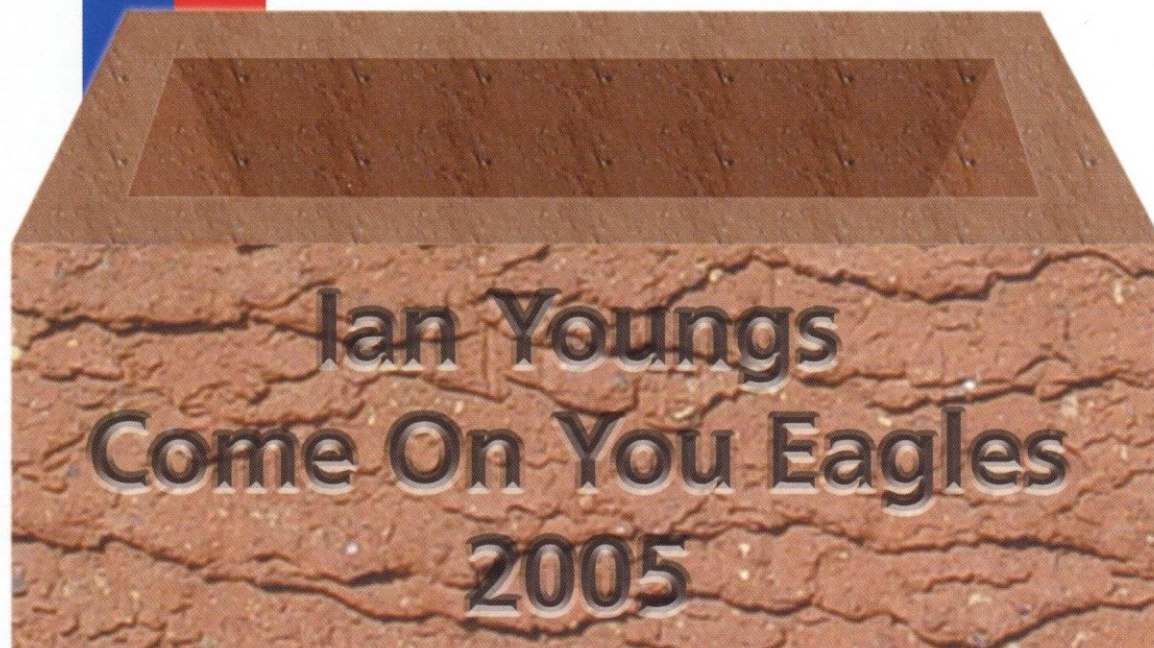
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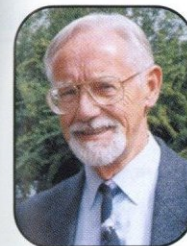


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season 2004/05 statistics



A Statistical Review
2004/05 by
John McBride

John McBride is a member of the Association of Football Statisticians, 18 St Philip Square, London SW8 3RS

ATTENDANCES		ENGLISH LEAGUES 04/05				
PREMIERSHIP	PLD	AVGE	HIGHEST	LOWEST	AV. 03/04	
Arsenal	17	37,979	38,164	37,010	38,079	
Aston Villa	18	37,354	42,593	31,312	36,622	
Birmingham City	18	28,760	29,382	27,177	29,078	
Blackburn Rovers	18	22,315	29,271	18,006	24,376	
Bolton Wanderers	18	25,006	27,880	23,692	26,718	
Charlton Athletic	18	26,403	27,104	24,263	26,278	
Chelsea	18	41,870	42,328	40,864	41,272	
Crystal Palace	18	24,108	26,193	20,705	17,344	
Everton	18	36,834	40,552	32,406	38,837	
Fulham	17	19,838	21,940	16,180	16,240	
Liverpool	18	42,587	44,224	35,064	42,677	
Manchester City	18	45,192	47,221	42,453	46,830	
Manchester United	17	67,871	67,989	67,704	67,641	
Middlesbrough	18	31,965	34,836	29,603	30,395	
Newcastle United	18	51,844	52,326	50,430	51,966	
Norwich City	18	24,304	25,522	23,549	19,074	
Portsmouth	18	20,072	20,210	19,620	20,054	
Southampton	18	30,610	32,066	27,343	31,717	
Tottenham Hotspur	18	35,883	36,254	35,105	34,872	
West Brom	18	25,987	27,751	23,849	24,765	
TOTALS						
PREMIER	380	33,899	67,989	16,180	35,008	
CHAMPIONSHIP	552	17,414	47,350	3,804	15,893	
LEAGUE ONE	552	7,737	28,798	2,384	7,512	
LEAGUE TWO	552	4,499	11,735	1,436	5,390	
GRAND TOTALS	2,036	14,366			14,341	

NOTE: CALCULATIONS ARE MOSTLY BASED ON FIRST PUBLISHED ATTENDANCES

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GOAL STATS - ALL DIVS 04/05

GOALS - AVERAGE PER MATCH				
Div	Gls	Matches	Avg	03/04 Avg
Premier	975	380	2.57	2.66
Cham'ship	1,342	552	2.43	2.60
League 1	1,551	552	2.81	2.64
League 2	1,348	552	2.44	2.53
TOTAL	5,216	2,036	2.56	2.61

GOAL DIFFERENCE				
Div	Best		Worst	
Premier	Chelsea	+57	Norwich	-35
Cham'ship	Wigan	+44	Rotherham	-34
League 1	Luton	+39	Stockport	-49
League 2	Scunthorpe	+27	Kidderminster	-46

GOALS SCORED				
Div	Best		Worst	
Premier	Arsenal	87	Blackburn	32
Cham'ship	Ipswich	85	Rotherham	35
League 1	Luton	87	Port Vale/Stockport	49
League 2	Yeovil	90	Peterborough	39
			Cambridge	
			Kidderminster	

GOALS CONCEDED				
Div	Best		Worst	
Premier	Chelsea	15	Norwich	77
Cham'ship	Wigan	35	Crewe	86
League 1	Luton	48	Stockport	98
League 2	Scunthorpe	42	Kidderminster	85

DOUGIE MURRAY

Dougie Murray was a Season Ticket holder in Block M of the Holmesdale Road Upper Tier. He had been a Season Ticket holder for the past five years and before that a regular attendee of games.

Crystal Palace was the second most important thing in Dougie's life after his family. He loved the club and last season we travelled to many away games together but all season he had been saying to me that he didn't want to go across town to Charlton if they could send us down. We went to the game and despite Fulham doing us proud it was not to be and to think that this was Dougie's last game still makes me sad.

One fateful night Dougie's partner phoned me to say that she had returned home from work and found him dead. I was at a loss what to say. It turns out he had suffered a fatal asthma attack while no one was there. It just goes to show how naïve I was, as I never thought my close friend had asthma that badly and you see so many people with inhalers these days that I really didn't think it could kill you. He was only 47 and is survived by his long-term partner Claire Wood and his seven-year-old daughter Lauren Murray.

I wanted him to be remembered by the club and the fans he loved so much and also I hope that when his daughter is a bit older she will look at this programme and remember

her father and his love for the club. He was planning to take her to a game this year but sadly that will not happen now, however in the future as she gets older if she shows an interest in football and Crystal Palace I will gladly bring her along.

Finally – so my buddy can remain a part of this club and be remembered I plan to buy a centenary brick in his honour – so should you be looking at the wall when it is built and see a brick with the words: "Dougie Murray – R.I.P True Fan," you will know the story behind it.

Now let's all get behind the boys today and make all Palace fans past, present and future happy and proud to be Eagles forever.

Noel Symonds





2005/06 season statistics

Coca-Cola CHAMPIONSHIP

		Home					Away					Pts	GD
		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F		
1	Brighton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Burnley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	C Palace	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Cardiff	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Coventry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Crewe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Derby	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Hull City	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Ipswich	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Leeds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Leicester	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Luton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Millwall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Norwich	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Plymouth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Preston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	QPR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Reading	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Sheff Utd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Sheff Wed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	Southampton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	Stoke	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Watford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Wolves	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

(up to and including 05.08.05)

BARCLAYS PREMIERSHIP

		Home					Away					Pts	GD
		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F		
1	Arsenal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Aston Villa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Birmingham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Blackburn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Bolton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Charlton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Chelsea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Everton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Fulham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Liverpool	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Man City	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Man Utd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Middlesbro	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Newcastle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Portsmouth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Sunderland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Tottenham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	West Brom	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	West Ham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Wigan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

(up to and including 05.08.05)



STARTING ELEVEN



SUBS

EAGLE BUILDS A NEST

We are all, in our party, here today to say goodbye to a loved and cherished friend!

I personally have known Richard Brightiff for just over 20 years and I will definitely be sad to see him go.

Born in Hastings, Richard went to school with Kevin Ball, ex Sunderland captain, and both played football for Sussex boys even though Richie knew his real calling would always be the stage and his ever growing want for the dance in his life!

Kevin went onto great things within professional football and Richard didn't, unless playing for Tooting & 'The White Hart' in Catsfield are classed as a success !

Richard started dancing at approx six but by 7.15pm he had got bored and moved onto something else !!

From here Richard went onto study at Laine Theatre Arts where he became a singer, actor and his first real love, a dancer.

Richard has performed in numerous hit West End musicals including 'The Hunting Of The Snark'.

Now he tries the world of Finance ! The city won't know what's hit it !! Especially his company Nigel Lynn who obviously don't know about Richards penchant for Lycra, sequins and the West End stage.

Richie has been a massive Eagles fan for a very long time. The first game he ever saw was with Don Rogers in the side that beat Manchester United 5-0.

I have been through the recent ups and downs of 'The Eagles' over recent seasons with Richie and have

seen how passionate he is about them.

This brings us here today, as I have said, to say goodbye.

Richie from all of us don't forget where we are. We will always be your friends and some will always be your family.

For you August 21st will be the end of a very special era.

Just remember mate once that ring is on your finger you'll never get Sky Sports on your telly.....

FRIENDS OF RICHARD BRIGHTIFF

IMPORTANT MESSAGES

The club remind all supporters that it is an FA requirement to remain seated in all seated stadiums. Failure to comply could lead to ejection from Selhurst Park and a possible ban.

We also remind supporters that racial chanting is prohibited at all times within Selhurst Park Stadium. Any supporter failing to comply could face prosecution and this could lead to the club facing disciplinary action by The Football Association.



CRYSTAL PALACE

MANAGER

Iain Dowie

- 1 ☐ Gabor **KIRALY**
- 3 ☐ Danny **GRANVILLE**
- 4 ☐ Darren **WARD**
- 5 ☐ Mark **HUDSON**
- 6 ☐ Tony **POPOVIC**
- 7 ☐ Jobi **McANUFF**
- 8 ☐ Andrew **JOHNSON**
- 9 ☐ Dougie **FREEDMAN**
- 10 ☐ Jon **MACKEN**
- 12 ☐ Mikele **LEIGERTWOOD**
- 14 ☐ Ben **WATSON**
- 15 ☐ Aki **RIIHILAHTI**
- 16 ☐ Tommy **BLACK**
- 17 ☐ Michael **HUGHES**
- 18 ☐ Gary **BORROWDALE**
- 19 ☐ Tom **SOARES**
- 20 ☐ Danny **BUTTERFIELD**
- 21 ☐ Emmerson **BOYCE**
- 22 ☐ Joonas **KOLKKA**
- 23 ☐ Wayne **ANDREWS**
- 25 ☐ Fitz **HALL**
- 27 ☐ Anthony **DANZE**
- 28 ☐ Julian **SPERONI**
- 29 ☐ Sam **TOGWELL**
- 30 ☐ Sandor **TORGHELLE**
- 31 ☐ Tyrone **BERRY**
- 32 ☐ Ryan **HALL**
- 37 ☐ Glenn **WILSON**
- 38 ☐ Aaron **FRAY**



LUTON TOWN

MANAGER

Mike Newell

- 1 ☐ Marlon **BERESFORD**
- 2 ☐ Kevin **FOLEY**
- 3 ☐ Sol **DAVIS**
- 4 ☐ Chris **COYNE**
- 5 ☐ Russell **PERRETT**
- 6 ☐ Paul **UNDERWOOD**
- 7 ☐ Carlos **EDWARDS**
- 8 ☐ Kevin **NICHOLLS**
- 9 ☐ Rowan **VINE**
- 10 ☐ Warren **FEENEY**
- 11 ☐ Steve **ROBINSON**
- 14 ☐ Michael **LEARY**
- 15 ☐ Steven **O'LEARY**
- 16 ☐ Enoch **SHOWUNMI**
- 17 ☐ Paul **HUGHES**
- 18 ☐ Ahmet **BRKOVIC**
- 19 ☐ Steve **HOWARD**
- 20 ☐ Curtis **DAVIES**
- 21 ☐ Keith **KEANE**
- 23 ☐ Dean **MORGAN**
- 25 ☐ Dino **SEREMET**
- 26 ☐ Markus **HEIKKINEN**
- 27 ☐ Peter **HOLMES**
- 29 ☐ Calvin **ANDREW**
- 33 ☐ Dean **BRILL**
- 45 ☐ Leon **BARNETT**
- 47 ☐ Rob **BECKWITH**

TODAYS OFFICIALS

REFEREE

Mr P Dowd

ASSISTANT REFEREES

Mr D Caan, Mr P Norman

FOURTH OFFICIAL

Mr K Woolmer

TODAY'S OTHER FIXTURES

Coca-Cola Championship

Crewe Alexandra v Burnley

Derby County v Brighton

Hull City v QPR

Ipswich Town v Cardiff City

Norwich City v Coventry City

Reading v Plymouth Argyle

Sheff Utd v Leicester City

Southampton v Wolves

Stoke City v Sheff Wed

Watford v Preston

NEXT MATCH AT SELHURST

Palace v Plymouth Argyle

Coca-Cola Championship

Saturday 20th August

Kick-off 3pm

