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Leeds United official matchday magazine 2005-06 Issue 19 £3.00

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2006/2007 SEASON TICKET RENEWALS - REMINDER!

Don't forget, NEXT TUESDAY is the deadline to claim the early renewal price and pay by the INTEREST FREE INSTALMENT PLAN.

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CLUB HONOURS: League Champions: 1968-69/1973-74/1991-92
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1927-28/1931-32/1955-56 FA Cup Winners: 1972 FA Cup Finalists:
1965/1970/1973 League Cup Winners: 1968 League Cup Finalists:
1996 European Cup Finalists: 1974-75 European Cup Winners Cup
Finalists: 1972-73 Fairs Cup Winners: 1967-68/1970-71 Fairs Cup
Finalists: 1966-67 FA Charity Shield Winners: 1969/1992 FA Youth
Challenge Cup Winners: 1992-93/1996-97.

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PLAY YOUR PART, SUPPORT YOUR CLUB.

COLOSSUS KELLS HAS WON THE RESPECT OF US ALL

As well as being another vital match in an important season, today's game marks a landmark in the club's history – the 500th appearance of Gary Kelly, something only nine other people have achieved.

In this day and age it is becoming much rarer for anyone to play that number of matches for one club. Gary's been here boy and man and done a terrific job.

He's been a colossus both on and off the pitch at this club. I have the utmost respect for him. He's someone I often talk to and I have made use of his knowledge. And with 500 games under his belt, he's playing better now than he has for a long time.

After the win at Watford, it was disappointing not to take all three points at Leicester and we all acknowledged that it was far from being one of our best displays.

But don't let's get it out of perspective. It was a bad day at the office but we have a great set of lads and they will come back, no problem.

We keep getting results and that is important. Sometimes you play really well and sometimes you don't but when you go away from home the first thing is to ensure you don't get beaten and we have achieved that most of the time this season.

Fantastic

If you play 50 or so games in a season, you are going to have the odd match where it isn't quite right but on the whole the players have been fantastic. Let's remember, we are sitting in the top four with 63 points, we are not third from bottom with 27 or 28 points.

I love working with these people, they are a great set of lads and they have put this club back on its feet. They are desperate to see Leeds United back in the Premiership, which is where this club should be.

I believe in every one of them, those who are playing and those in the squad. My squad would be in anybody's first team in the Championship. Every man and his dog watches what Leeds does and if, on occasions, we don't live up to expectations, they are quick to jump on us. But we know about the expectations here and we can take them because we know we are heading in the right direction.

What was great for me was that I came back in after the Leicester game and didn't have to say much because the players knew they hadn't been at their best. Their appraisal of their own performance was honest, they knew it hadn't been good enough.

I don't have to go in blasting people. Sometimes I have to say my piece but they know that if I have something to say, it's for the common good and they accept that.

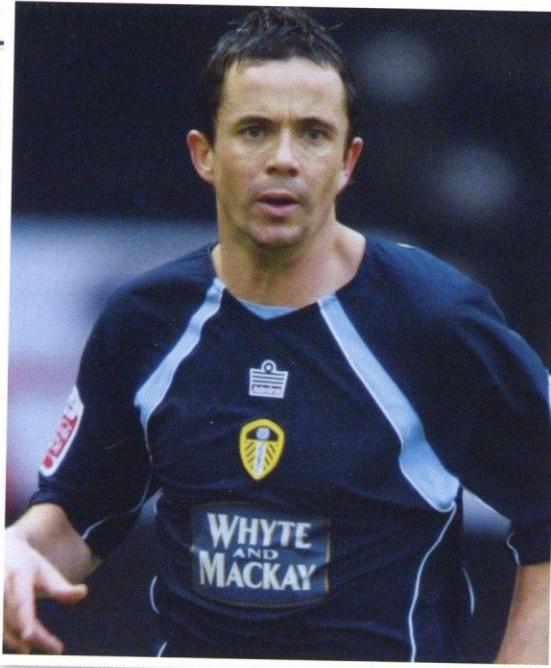
We suffered a blow this week when Richard Cresswell had his operation and it turned out that his injury was significantly worse than we thought and it was confirmed he will be out for the rest of the season.

Strength

But once again I expect the squad to be able to rise above setbacks like this. They've done it before. They've risen to every challenge that's been thrown at them. We've been unlucky with several players – Cressy early on, Rob Hulse for a spell, Steve Stone, Frazer Richardson, Matthew Kilgallon, Robbie Blake, David Healy – but we've always been able to cover it.

Richard's absence means a massive onus falls on Rob Hulse's shoulders again. He carried the mantle brilliantly until we had to let him have some rest and recuperate and I believe he has the ability and mental strength to rise to the occasion again.

Talk of injuries makes us think of Alan Smith and the awful break he suffered at the weekend. I loved working with Smithy when he was here. He is such an honest player and our heart goes out to him. He is a Leeds lad. We miss him and wish him all the best in his recovery and if there is anything at all that we can do to help, we will not hesitate.



It's going to be a long haul for him and the inactivity will drive Alan mad – he's so hyperactive, you have to tie him down to have a conversation with him. But he does have the mental makeup to deal with it. He works exceptionally hard and while you wouldn't want it to happen to anyone, Alan is one of the people you would expect to be able to cope with it and come back.

Today we face another tough test with the visit of Luton. Last week they thoroughly deserved to beat Reading so there is no way anyone will underestimate them.

Respectability

Mike Newell and Brian Stein have done a terrific job at Kenilworth Road. Luton were written off before the start of the season and they have shocked a lot of people. Their performance in the FA Cup against Liverpool highlighted just how far they have come.

They are a set of lads who are honest and work hard and have a very good manager and that's a formula that can take you a long way. Mike's taken them from near obscurity back to respectability.

As someone born in Luton that pleases me but all my thoughts are now on Leeds and we will be out to dent their play-off chances if we can.

Once again we are playing a side that seems to have hit its best form in the run up to meeting us. We know it's going to be difficult but we are confident in ourselves. We've dealt with these situations before and hopefully we can do it again.

Kevin Blackwell

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Just as we were completing our survey, our Lords and Masters decided it for us. Elland Road will be totally non-smoking next season.

So, no more fag burns on the carpet, no more ashtrays, dog ends and empty packets in the concourses and a saving on cleaning costs to boot. Out will go all the dispensers, we will have to decide what to replace them with.

Mind you, cannabis is apparently still acceptable, as is under age sex for girls (get your morning-after pill here and a free consultation from the doctor behind your mother's back). Yes, we are smoothly moving towards a totally liberated society provided you don't want to hunt foxes, park your car on a double yellow line or voice your dissent from Mr Blair's and Mr Brown's pronouncements.

On a more serious note (you cannot take politics seriously any more) one thing that you mustn't do in this free society is stand up at football matches. Even if you are well behaved and just cheer on your team, you must sit down. Now I know that some people think it is a harmless form of demonstrating that this particular law is an ass, (and I have some sympathy with that view) however, there can be repercussions.

We have received a complaint from Derby County that barely 100 of our 2,500 travelling supporters sat down, the rest stood up. Even allowing for some exaggeration it is clear that there was massive civil disobedience. Well done, up the workers and all that! Only one problem – if we are in the Championship next season, Derby will not give us many (if any) tickets so you won't be able to support your team, which could be detrimental to their performance.

Just as serious, the Football League are considering making clubs even more responsible for their supporters by making them pay compensation to the home clubs for any loss of income suffered as a result of away fans not being admitted. You could have a situation where Leeds fans are not admitted to away games with Leeds paying money to the home club instead of buying the next striker or centre back we need – a double whammy from fans who profess to love their club.

You have been warned. Don't complain to me next season if such a situation comes about.

While on money matters, thank you for your magnificent response to the season ticket renewals, we have received just over 3,700 forms as I write, worth apparently £1.7m. Please remember that the deadline for the early renewal discount expires next Tuesday, 28th February, as does the offer of four months free credit.

On the commercial front, negotiations continue apace and the support being shown by our corporate partners and sponsors is very encouraging. The business community are recognizing the progress made over the last twelve months and want to be more involved with Leeds United. We welcome their endorsement of our efforts. Their support will help accentuate our rate of progress. Watch this space for further announcements – there are a few imminent!

With Cresswell out for the rest of the season, our injury list grows. Richard joins Steve Stone on the long-term injury list with both Frazer Richardson and Matthew

Kilgallon a few weeks away from fitness. Are we downhearted – we shouldn't be. One man's setback is another's opportunity to prove his quality and determination and that is what we want today and every day until the end of the season.

One player who is still available is Gary Kelly who, hopefully is making his 500th appearance today. A one Club man, Gary is a rare example of the old school of players who doesn't believe that the grass is greener in the next field. Two young players who think that it is are Michael Woods and Tom Taiwo, two of our academy players who have refused professional contracts with Leeds and are now training with Chelsea. I believe that they have made a mistake in taking the Russian Rouble and could well damage their future careers beyond repair. Both their parents and their agents should take a long hard look in the mirror.

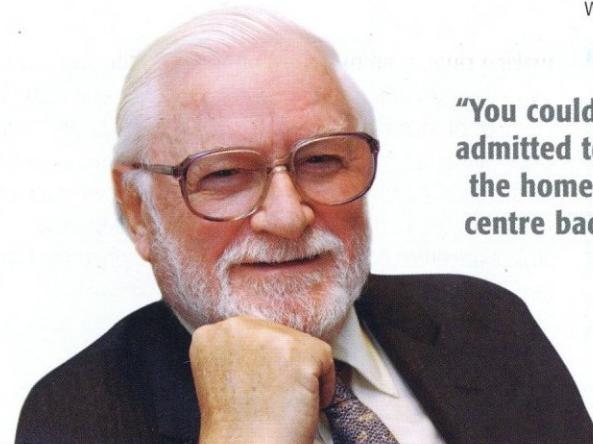
Talking of the Mirror, I got my cheque for £10,000 this week from that wretched newspaper for wrongfully suggesting that I binned out of Southampton when we went three goals down. A cheque for £5,000 has gone to each of my two chosen charities, St Gemma's Hospice and Lineham Farm.

Finally a fond farewell to Ian McNeill, our chief scout, who retired last month. Ian has worked for me as assistant manager and chief scout for over twenty years. His biggest claim to fame is that, when working for Leeds, he discovered Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink. We bought Jimmy for £1.2m and sold him to Athletico Madrid for ten times that amount.

Ian and his lovely wife Sheila are our guests today, we wish him a happy retirement.

Now, twelve matches to go – let us continue our winning ways.

STAND UP FOR LIBERTY BUT NOT FOR FOOTBALL



"You could have a situation where Leeds fans are not admitted to away games with Leeds paying money to the home club instead of buying the next striker or centre back we need – a double whammy from fans who profess to love their club."

Ken Bates





1 One of the most disappointing performances of the season by United who were faced by a Leicester side reduced to ten men for 78 minutes.

Leicester took an early lead through Ian Hume and seven minutes later United equalised via a Robbie Blake penalty after Rob Hulse was pulled back by Patrick McCarthy who was red carded.

Leeds huffed and puffed but failed to make the breakthrough and manager Kevin Blackwell said: "I'm disappointed we didn't make use of the extra man. We seemed to be brain dead.

"We lacked a spark we needed and didn't create any chances. We need to go for every game now if we want to grab second."



IT IS A CRIMINAL OFFENCE TO TRESPASS ON THE PITCH OTHER THAN IN AN EMERGENCY.



**LEICESTER CITY 1
LEEDS UTD 1**

Saturday 18 February 2006

Leicester: Henderson, Stearman, McCarthy, Kisnorbo, Johansson, Maybury, Gudjonsson, Hughes, Tiatto (Williams 64), Humer, Fryat (O'Grady 76). Unused: Smith, Gerrbrand, Logan.

Leeds: Sullivan, Kelly, Butler, Gregan, Crainey, Douglas, Bakke (Healy 66), Miller, Lewis, Hulse, Blake (Moore 71). Unused: Bennett, Einarsson, Walton.

Referee: R. Oliver (West Midlands)

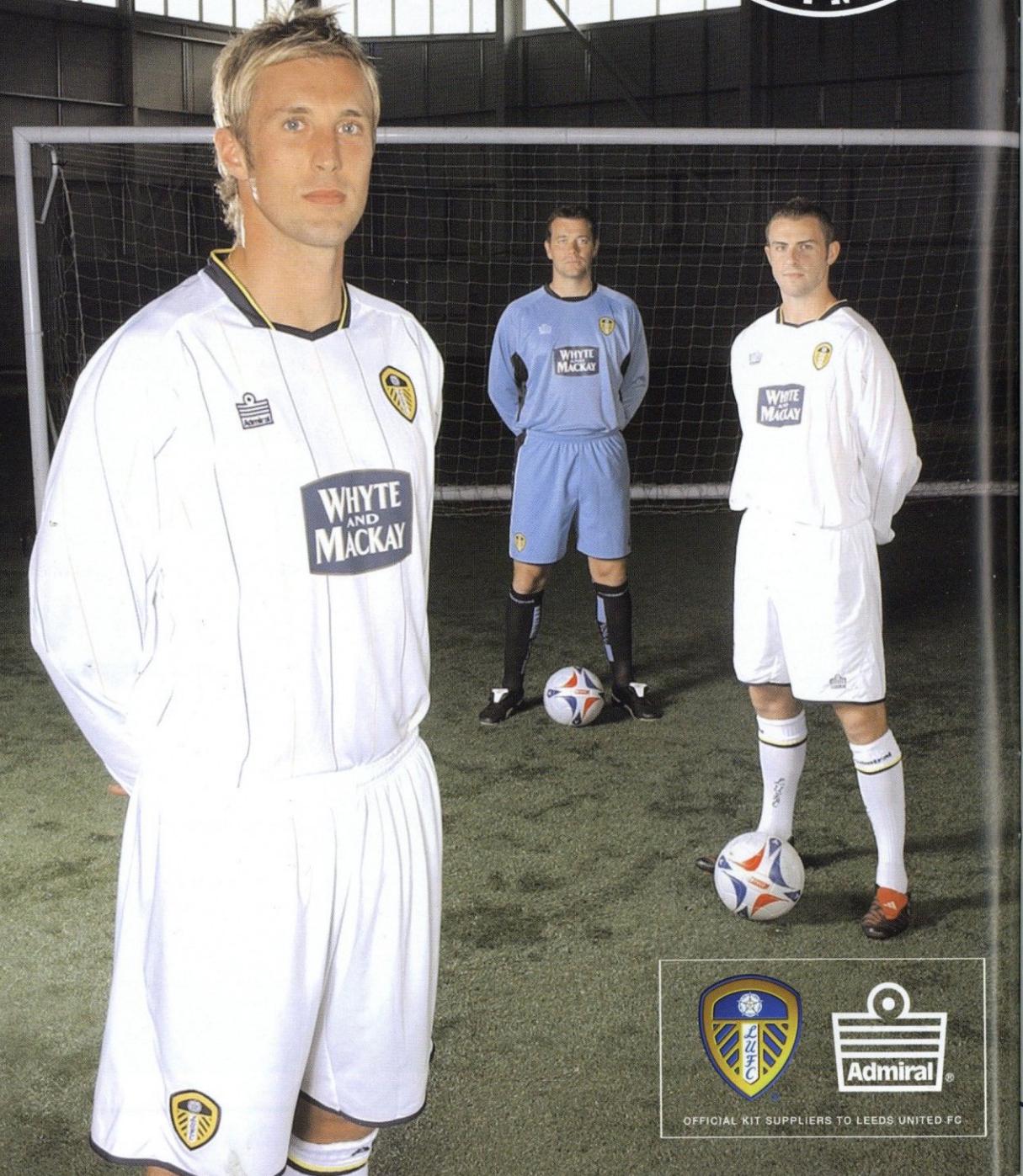
Attendance: 25,497



1. Robbie Blake gets his shot away.
2. Rob Hulse gets to the ball first despite a lunging tackle.
3. The 3,000th goal - Robbie Blake puts away the penalty to reach a landmark in the Coca Cola challenge this season.
4. Eddie Lewis under pressure as he tries to cross.
5. Rob Hulse just beaten to a high ball by Paul Henderson.



PROUD KIT SUPPLIERS TO LEEDS UNITED FC



SOMETIMES KELLS AND I FEEL WE'VE PLAYED EVEN MORE!

It's great to be able to pay tribute to Gary Kelly on the day he makes his 500th appearance for Leeds United.

I don't believe we will ever see a player notch up that many games for one club again and it's to Gary's credit that he has done it at a big club like Leeds with most of the games played at the highest level.

I was aware of Gary before I came here. He has a reputation throughout football as someone who always has a smile on his face, on and off the pitch. He's a great family man and I think of him as someone with the same aura as Lucas Radebe.

Gary was a great help to me when I arrived. He showed me the ropes and he and I have turned out to be a good team.

The two of us had a laugh the other day about playing so many games in our careers and admitted that sometimes when you come in to training, it can feel as though you've played 700-800 matches! But matchdays still give you that buzz and playing football is not only what we do for a living, it's something we love doing.

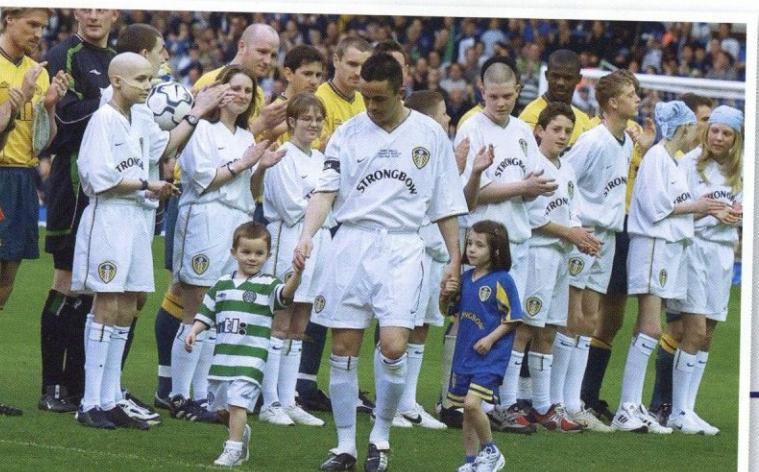
Gary has said that when he finally hangs up his boots he's going home to Ireland and certainly not going to be a manager. We'll see.

CAPTAIN'S COLUMN



Paul Butler, Captain, Leeds United FC

I still haven't made up my mind. Some people I respect have told me I should think about it so I'm keeping my options open by doing my badges and I



have to admit that since I've been at Leeds, I've become more and more interested in all aspects of the game, not just playing. I enjoy getting out and meeting the fans and I'm interested in non-playing aspects of the club, so we'll have to see.

With the play-offs looking a strong possibility for us this season, it was disappointing to hear that the new **Wembley Stadium** won't be ready in time for the play-offs or FA Cup final. No disrespect to the Millennium stadium, which is terrific, but I'm sure everyone was looking forward to going back to Wembley.

One of the good things about Wembley being unavailable in recent years has been the England side going round the country and I wish the FA would continue to do this, even when it does re-open. It's very expensive for people in the north always to go down to London for internationals, and I think they should continue to move around.

We have been disappointed with our last three away results, games we feel we should have won. You don't ever want to lose matches, but it is ironic that we would have been better off losing one of those and winning the other two rather than three draws.

But our home form has been good lately so we have to pick ourselves up again today and get back on the winning track. Luton are a good side – we watched them beat Reading last week – but we believe in ourselves and will be looking for three points again today.





Since his return to first-team action, United have conceded just three goals in six games. That means it's taking the opposition nearly 200 minutes to score each goal against Leeds - a record any defence in the country would be proud of.

Gregan and Paul Butler are one of the most experienced partnerships in the Championship and their knowledge is being shown with every passing game.

It's a satisfying time for Gregan, who has had to bide his time before getting his chance after **Matthew Kilgallon** picked up his injury.

The former West Brom skipper endured a run that saw him make only three appearances out of a possible 18 before Killa's injury but now he's back in the side and enjoying his football again.

"It's not nice to be out of the side," admits Gregan. "It was looking pretty bleak for me but thankfully I've been given an opportunity and now I've just got to make sure I take it with both hands. It's not nice for Killa that he's had to have an injury but I've got to try to make the most of my chance while he's out and then make it difficult for the gaffer to leave me out."

Gregan played in the first 15 games of the season before **Kevin Blackwell** choose to use Killa alongside Butler.

"If you look at the statistics before I was left out we had kept quite a lot of clean sheets," he says. "We've only conceded three goals in six games since I came back in and if we repeated that for the rest of the season we'd be laughing."

Gregan admits to being unhappy at the plight he found himself in at the turn of the year, when his path back into first-team action looked bleak. He was frustrated at Blackwell's decision to leave him out but knew that the only way back into the team was to show his worth to the gaffer.

"I don't think you'd be human if you could just take a decision like that and not let it get to you," he says honestly. "But the manager is paid to pick the team and that's his job. I didn't agree with it, but it's

REVITALISED GREGAN LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Sean Gregan has been quietly going about his business at the heart of United's defence and is now looking towards a bright new dawn at Elland Road.



Matthew Kilgallon

this season and we have one of the best defensive records in the Championship. If that doesn't prove to people that he is a good centre-half, I don't know what else he has to do.

"Having said that, people had been on his back ever since he came here and I think it was vastly unfair. I just want him to maintain the form he has shown because then we will have a battle for the position when Matthew Kilgallon is fit again."

Blackwell added: "Many people argued that Killa would be a big loss to us and he is – don't get me wrong – but we haven't looked any different since he has been out and I feel really pleased for Sean."

Gregan himself admits it will take time for him to get back to his absolute best, but feels he is taking steps in the right direction and is pleased with the progress both he, and the team as a whole, are making.

"It is difficult after being out for three months. It's hard to be up to speed straightaway after you've not been playing. You can keep fit by training every day, and I'd been doing some extra training too, but there's nothing like match fitness to get you really sharp."

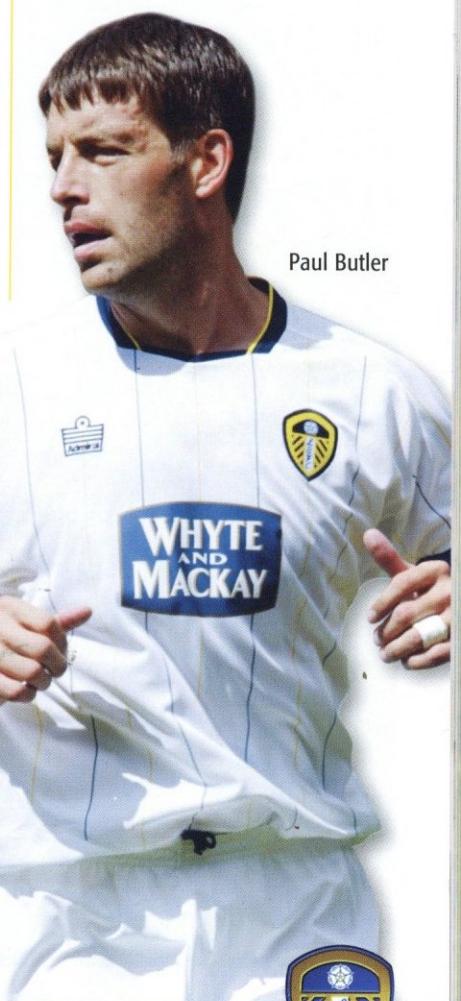
With the play-offs just around the corner, United are motoring on full throttle in an attempt to earn promotion back to the Premiership.

Gregan believes that form,

confidence and the strength of Blackwell's squad should give Leeds more than a fighting chance if they are involved in the play-offs at the end of the season.

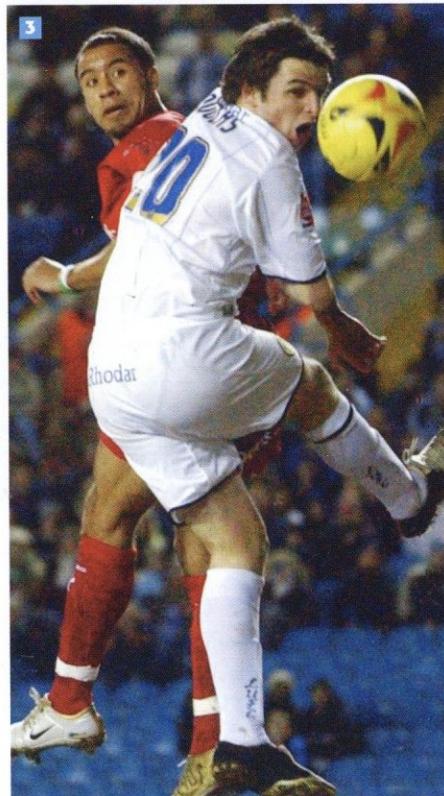
"Last year there were a lot of areas (in the team) where we (the players) weren't really challenged. I heard **Eddie Gray** on the radio after the QPR game and he was saying that we could now probably name two sides, play them against each other and you wouldn't be confident of picking a winner."

"The team that wins the play-offs is the one that goes into it in the best form. There's also a lot of experience needed within the side, and I think we've got that. If we've got good form going into them, if we're involved, then we should do well."



Paul Butler



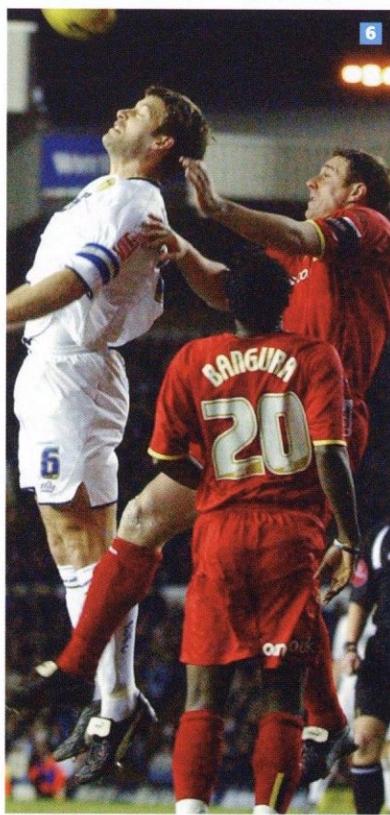
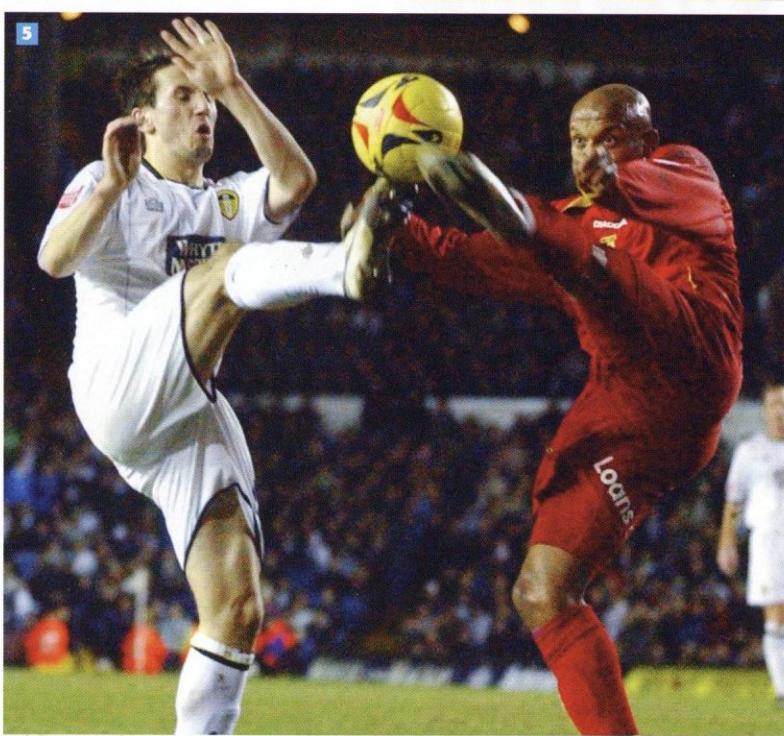


A thrilling clash between two of the front-runners for promotion ended with victory for Leeds against a Watford side reduced to nine men after Ben Foster and Darius Henderson had been sent off.

Watford took the lead just before half time when Ashley Young hit an unstoppable free-kick into the top corner of Neil Sullivan's net.

But United increased the pace in the second half and Robbie Blake clinched the points to take Leeds back above Watford with a well-taken penalty after Foster's dismissal for bringing down Rob Hulse, and then finishing off a cross from Richard Cresswell.

Skipper Paul Butler said: "We started the second half playing as well as we have done all season. The crowd were terrific. The atmosphere was as good as I have known it since I came here."



LEEDS UTD 2 WATFORD 1

Tuesday 14 February 2006

Leeds: Sullivan, Kelly, Butler, Gregan, Crainey, Douglas (Healy 74), Miller, Derry, Lewis, Blake, Hulse (Cresswell 74). Unused: Bennett, Einarsson, Walton.

Watford: Foster, Doyley, De Merit, Mackay, Stewart, Eagle (Chamberlain 58), Chambers, Bangura (Mariappa 75), Young, King (Bouazza 83), Henderson. Unused: McNames, Diagouraga.

Referee: M Jones

Attendance: 22,007



1. Robbie Blake fires home the equaliser from the penalty spot.

2. ...and receives congratulations from Shaun Derry.

3. Jonathan Douglas wins a header.

4. Robbie Blake poaching near the Watford goal.

5. High kicks - Liam Miller challenges for a bouncing ball.

6. Paul Butler wins a header.

7. Neil Sullivan gathers in a high ball.

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United's Frazer Richardson has paid tribute to Gary Kelly ahead of today's game and revealed an interesting side to Gary's character.

"I'd put him up as the biggest player here," says Frazer. "He would never admit that though - he's that type of guy. He's very down to earth and he looks after the young kids no end, especially the Irish lads."

"He does the right things, even the little things, like knowing all the young lads' names. Not a lot of the first team could probably name everyone here, but Kells is the type of guy who can do that, say hello to everyone and greet them by their name."

"He's always trying to help me. I can remember that just before Christmas we had quite a few games coming up. Kells got suspended, so he was going to miss a game, but two weeks before that I'd got injured."

LUCKLESS FRAZER PAYS TRIBUTE TO KELLS

Gary Kelly is set to mark his 500th game for Leeds this afternoon but, according to Frazer Richardson, it could easily have been a different story.

"I can remember saying to him that I didn't know how long I would be out, but he was saying to me: 'Come on Frazer, you've got to get fit, you've got to get in and then make this place your own.'

"You wouldn't really expect him to say that, because I am a right back and I'm going after his position. But that's the type of guy he is. He's behind you 100 per cent and I've got a great amount of respect for him."

Frazer is two weeks away from a return to action after a setback on his left knee and the young Leeds star can't wait to get stuck in.

This latest injury came on the first day back in training after a medial ligament blow to his right knee. It has been a hard slog to get himself back to fitness, but Richardson can now see the light at the end of the tunnel.

"It's just hard graft," says Frazer. "You're in at 9:15am and away at 5pm. You probably work twice as hard when you're injured as you do when you're fit. But that's the way it is, they try to get you back quickly and that's the name of the game."

"Normally you have a programme to do. The physios have a look at you to check there's nothing wrong, and then it's

just a case of cracking on with your programme. That can entail anything - they show you different exercises to do, or it could be weights, or you could be in the pool with Sutts (Alan Sutton). Sutts is nearly 60 years old but you'd never believe it, the way he swims. He's unbelievable."

Richardson admits to being frustrated by his spell on the sidelines, particularly with the team pushing for promotion.

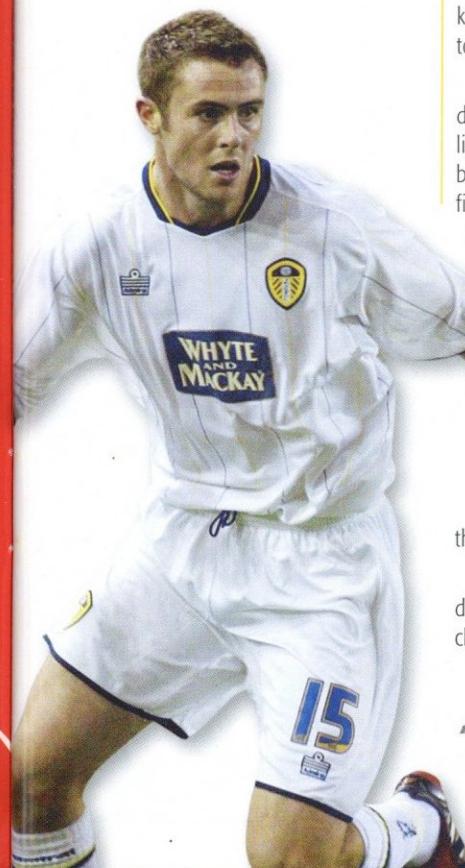
"Frustrating is the understatement of the year. When you're fit you start to take things for granted, but when you're injured it brings you back down to earth. Two weeks ago I thought I was unlucky, but then you see what's happened to Smithy (Alan) and it puts things into perspective."

"My right knee injury came about from a shot that I scuffed. All the lads were taking the mickey but I knew I'd done something straight away, because I've done them both in the past. I knew instantly that I'd done it."

"My left knee, that was another shot in training. It was a volley, and I did score, but I felt it go. I thought I could run it off, but I came back in after training and it swelled up."

Everyone at Elland Road is now hoping Frazer can make a successful and speedy return to the United line-up - even Gary Kelly!

"That's the type of guy he is, he's behind you 100 per cent and I've got a great amount of respect for him."



DO NOT LEAVE BAGS UNATTENDED AT ANY TIME.

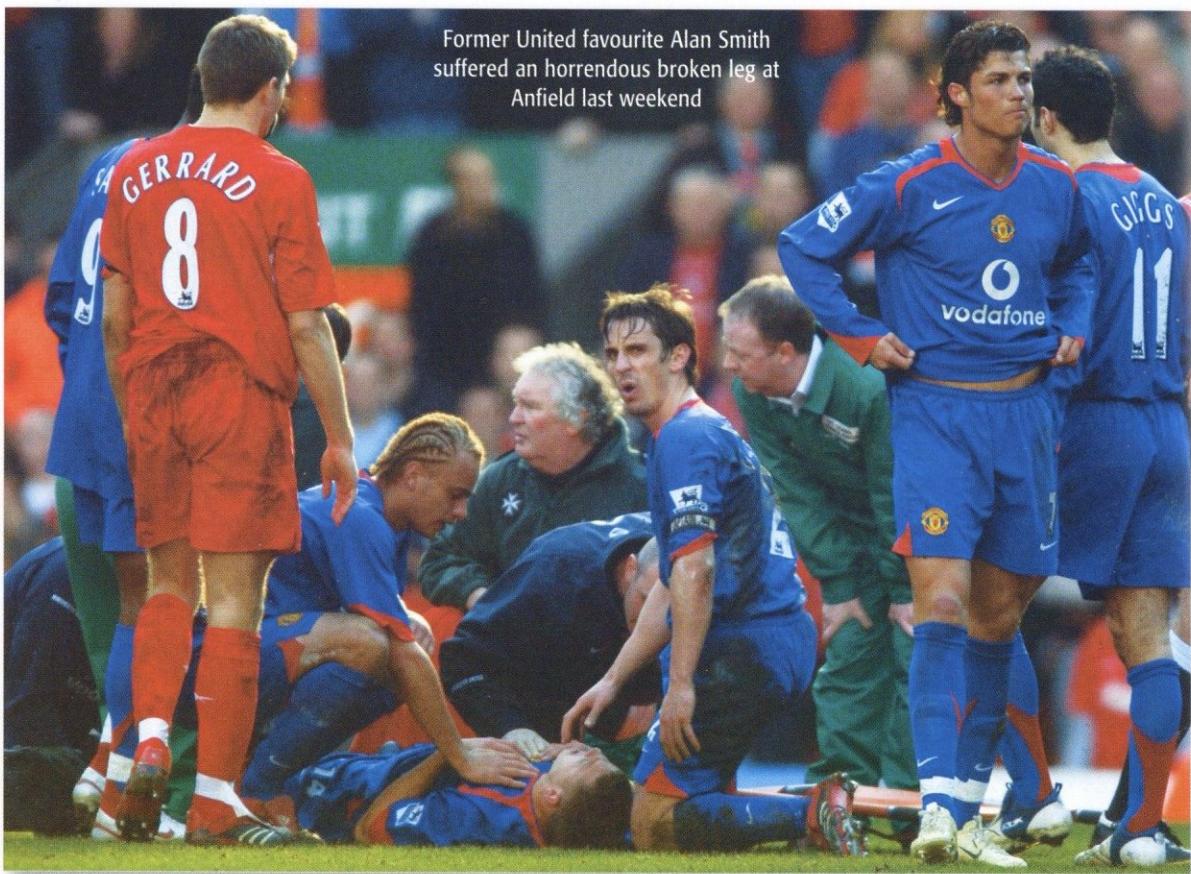


No matter which team Alan Smith plays for these days, there cannot have been a single person who didn't feel sympathy for his plight as he lay in agony at Anfield after breaking his left leg and dislocating his ankle.

I'm told the Liverpool fans sportingly applauded him, but I was a bit disappointed to hear one or two fans at our game against Leicester saying what had happened to Alan didn't matter because he plays for Manchester United. There is no need for that kind of talk.

I am sure if we had stayed in the Premiership, Smithy would still be a Leeds player because he loved the club.

The pictures in the papers made me wince. Fortunately, such injuries are rare, but they are a reminder that the high standard of living top footballers enjoy can come at a painful price.



Alan Smith's horrendous injury during Manchester United's 1-0 defeat at Liverpool last weekend highlighted the risks footballers take every time they step foot on the pitch.

As Alan said later, he knew he was in trouble when he saw his leg lying one way and his ankle pointing to Hong Kong!

Sir Alex Ferguson, who described the injury as the worst he had seen, praised Alan's tremendous courage and the hope is that Smithy will make a full recovery. I certainly hope so because he

always gave 100 per cent when he was here and he is one of those enthusiastic people who live to play football.

Alan has to prepare himself for nine months out at best, which means his hopes of playing in the World Cup this time have gone. He left Leeds United in the hope of making the World Cup squad

– whether he would have done so we don't know – and missing out on Germany is one of the blows he has to cope with.

However, he has to look on the bright side and realise he is young enough to bounce back and pick up his career when he gets over the injury.

I remember the heartbreak our own Paul Reaney and Terry Cooper went through when broken legs kept them out of FA Cup finals, and wee Bobby Collins fractured his hip in a European Fairs Cup tie in Turin.

Bobby was well into his thirties at the time and it was an horrendous injury. It was the result of a very bad tackle and it prepared us for what to expect from some teams we were to meet during many years of European combat.

Bobby made a comeback and played for another couple of years, which was a tribute to his character, determination and healing powers.

Paul and Terry suffered straightforward broken legs but Terry took longer to recover from his because he struggled to produce enough calcium.

It is not just the pain of the injury that affects a player in such circumstances; it is the knowledge that he will miss some of the big occasions he has been working towards.

And there are the long, lonely months spent on rehabilitation while his team-mates are out there training and playing.

Steve Stone has been going through something similar since damaging his Achilles during pre-season training, but the plus side is that footballers at clubs like Leeds receive the best medical care and our experts are among the most knowledgeable in the business.

I noticed the other day that Michael Bridges had some good things to say in the press about our physio Dave

Hancock, hailing him for saving his career. It was Dave whose prompt actions saved Paul Butler's life after our captain was knocked unconscious and swallowed his tongue against Sheffield United at Elland Road last April.

Today's game against Luton reminds me of a centre half called John Faulkner who joined us from Sutton United but suffered a broken kneecap before going on to join Luton and enjoy a good career with them.

John had played against us in an FA Cup-tie for Sutton in 1970 and although we scored six against them, with Allan Clarke netting four and me scoring the other two, Don Revie was impressed with John's performance and it was said that Don intended grooming him as a successor to Jack Charlton.

Unfortunately, John scored an own-goal on his debut in the home game against Burnley when Eddie Gray scored that memorable goal after a masterpiece of dribbling. John dislocated his kneecap in his next appearance, at home to Manchester City, and joined Luton in 1972.

That injury was probably the worst I've witnessed because the kneecap finished up round the back of his leg and the bone was sticking out.

Coming up to date, I was disappointed to learn that Richard Cresswell will be out for the rest of the season after a cartilage operation. We thought we were well off for strikers not so long ago, but Rob Hulse, Robbie Blake, David Healy and Ian Moore have all had their injury problems.

The way Richard plays, he risks being injured because he is a brave lad who goes in where the boots are flying. So in a way he is a victim of his own bravery.

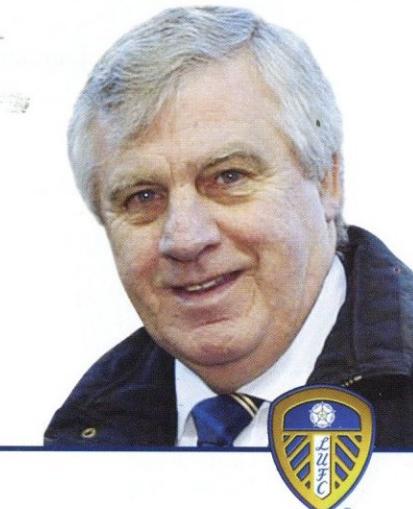
The 1-1 draw at Leicester last week was a blow to our hopes of automatic promotion, especially as Sheffield United



Terry Cooper

won. The play-offs do look assured, even though we will still try for automatic promotion, and we could do without picking up injuries in the meantime. If we are to miss out on the top two places, the sooner we are mathematically certain of finishing in the play-offs the better. Then Kevin could maybe rest one or two players with niggling injuries to ensure their fitness for the play-offs.

Peter Lorimer



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PAYING HIS DEWS

23

IT ALL STARTED AT SCUNTHORPE WITH A PROLIFIC YOUNG STRIKER

**Milestone man Gary Kelly could be forgiven for enjoying a taste
of the black stuff after today's historic game for the Irishman.**

All being well, Gary will make his 500th appearance for Leeds this afternoon and will join an exclusive and respected group of United players to reach this milestone.

The proud Irishman is already tenth in the club's list of all-time leading appearance makers, but to reach the 500-barrier is an achievement in its own right and the long-serving defender deserves to enjoy a couple of pints of Guinness tonight to toast his efforts.

In an age where big money moves and lucrative deals dominate football it's rare to see a player remain in one place for so long.

And, when you consider that, with the exception of Eirik Bakke, none of Gary's senior team-mates remain from recent years, the fact he has reached the 500-mark is all the more significant.

My earliest memory of Gary is from 1991 when he made his first team debut in a League Cup clash against Scunthorpe.

Kells was just 17 years old when Howard Wilkinson gave him his bow and at that time he boasted the reputation of being a prolific striker in the club's youth side.

That sounds a contradiction in terms nowadays when you look at Gary's record in front of goal. Nevertheless, he started out as a striker before some positional manipulation saw him first as understudy, then as replacement for the popular Mel Sterland.

I was also there when Gary made his first league appearance - as a

substitute during a dour 0-0 draw at Nottingham Forest if memory serves me right. Nothing special in that you may think, but little did any of the Leeds fans present that afternoon realise they were watching the start of a quite amazing career.

Since that December day in 1991 - when Leeds were on their way to collecting the league title for the first time in 18 years - Kells has been an almost ever-present on the roller-coaster at Elland Road apart from his time out injured.

He may have played a very minor role in the club's last championship success, but he was a fixture in the side when a very real title challenge beckoned a couple of years ago.

As Kevin Blackwell has pointed out, the bulk of Kelly's appearances have been made in the Premier League and in Europe, a fact that speaks volumes.

It's well known that Gary is one of the jokers in the Elland Road pack. One of his more recent escapades was to evict a drunken Norwegian referee from the official Leeds party during the club's pre-season tour last summer.

Surprisingly, Kells can also be one of the quieter members of the squad. Some players enjoy speaking to the media while others tend to be more reticent.

Over the years, Gary has done his best to keep a low profile. That's a shame because when he does speak he is usually worth listening to and has some interesting views on the game.

Paul Dews, Chief Football Writer

**YORKSHIRE
Evening Post**

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM PERSISTENT STANDING.

His observations about what has happened at Leeds in recent years would surely be informative from someone who has been on the inside, but he has kept his own counsel and, to use a cliche, let his boots do the talking.

And he has done that frequently. He rose to the challenge when Danny Mills was brought in as a right-back and, during Terry Venables' time as manager, scored a fantastic goal against Crystal Palace in the FA Cup on a day when Leeds were looking for a leader to step forward.

That was Gary Kelly at his best.

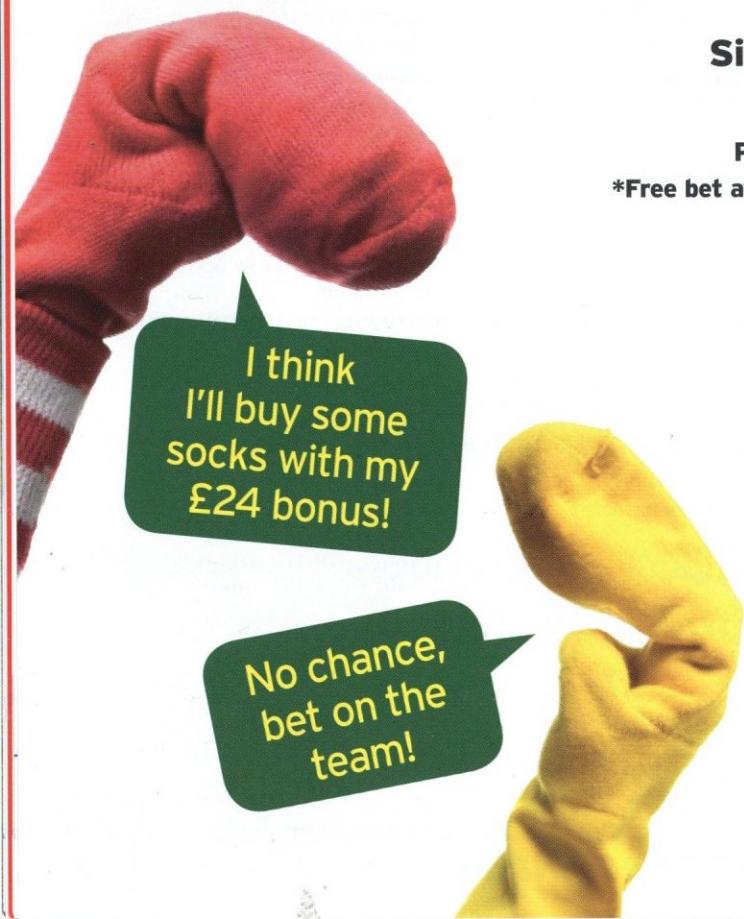
Responsibility is something that Kells has thrived upon over the years. When he took over from Paul Butler as captain at the end of last season he led by example and he has excelled again this season.

In fact, I'd go as far as suggesting that some of Gary's recent performances have been up there with his very best and, 500 games on, he is still giving his all for the cause.

Good luck this afternoon, Gary



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COLLECTION RAISES OVER £1,000

Leeds United supporters donated generously to The National Autistic Society (NAS) at the home game against Queens Park Rangers.

Twelve fancy dress clad fund raisers collected a tremendous £1,062.86. The NAS would like to extend a very big thank you to all those who dug deep and congratulate Leeds United on the equally good match result.

The money raised will benefit children who attend The NAS Robert Ogden School in Thurnscoe, Rotherham. The school provides specialist care and education for around 130 pupils with autism here in Yorkshire and is the biggest of its kind in Europe.

Autism affects around 535,000 people in the UK alone, which equates to one in every 110 people. It is likely therefore that you will know, or have heard of someone living with the condition. Children and adults with

autism often have problems making sense of and coping with the world around them. They have difficulty developing friendships or understanding other people's feelings and many lead lonely lives.

Specialist education and structured support can really make a difference to the life of a person with autism, helping to maximise skills, achieve full potential in adulthood and lead as 'normal' a life as possible.

If you would like to find out more about The Robert Ogden School and how you can help further, please call Kate Baines, Regional Fundraising Manager for the NAS on 0115 847 3506, or email Kate.Baines@nas.org.uk

For further information about autism, please visit web site www.autism.org.uk



CHIEFS OF THE BRITS

Congratulations to Leeds band and keen Leeds United fans Kaiser Chiefs on winning three awards at the 2006 Brits. The lads, who spent an enjoyable visit to the training ground at Thorp Arch earlier in the season, were nominated for five awards and were named Best British Group, British Rock Act and British Live Act. The event was held at London's Earls Court Arena.

PRESENTATION TO GARY KELLY

In the run-up to kick off today, Peter Lorimer will be making a special presentation to Gary Kelly to mark the United fullback's 500 appearances for the club.



LEEDS UNITED MEMBERS CLUB, CALL 0845 121 1992.

NURSE IN MEMORY OF BRUCE

There will soon be a specialist melanoma nurse attached to St James's Hospital in memory of former United physio Bruce Craven and funded for the first two years by the charity that carries his name.

Bruce died on 27 February last year at the age of 32 and shocked United players and staff decided to mark their friend's life in a positive way.

It is estimated that 80 per cent of our exposure to the sun comes by the age of 21 and it is for this reason that melanomas are a particular problem for young people. Figures show that between 1979 and 2000 the cases of melanomas doubled in the age group 20-24 and that one tenth of all cancers in this sector are caused by the sun.

United players launched a wristband campaign to raise awareness of this problem and more than 3,000 bands have already been sold. The squad have also

been actively promoting publicity about the dangers of skin cancers on TV and in local and national newspapers. One such appearance on local TV resulted in a man going to have a mole checked at St James's. It was found to be malignant but was luckily caught early and successfully treated. The patient admitted that if he hadn't seen the Leeds players on TV, he would never have had the check-up.

United's major fundraising night brought in a staggering £68,000, of which £6,000 is going to the David Price Melanoma fund supported by Bruce's girlfriend Sian Jones, and £2,000 to a fund managed by Harry Townsend, which also promoted the wristbands.

Sian, the players and physios Dave Hancock and Alan Sutton decided the other £60,000 would fund the Bruce Craven specialist nurse. Such is the anxiety about this form of cancer that every NHS trust has been instructed to have a



specialist nurse within five years and the charity's funding of the first two years means Leeds will have a nurse earlier than most.

But the effort doesn't stop there. Everyone at Leeds is determined to maintain their effort in memory of Bruce, and the players will be working with the nurse when he or she is appointed, visiting schools and continuing to raise awareness.

If you wish to contribute, you can buy the armbands in United shops or send a cheque, payable to Melanoma Awareness, to Stix Lockwood, Leeds United FC, Elland Road, Leeds LS11 0ES.

PALACE DATE



The home game against Crystal Palace, postponed in August and again earlier this month, will now be played on **Tuesday, 21 March**, with a 7.45pm kick-off. The home reserve game against Everton, postponed on Wednesday, 18 January, will now be played on Wednesday, 19 April, at South Leeds Stadium (7pm).

RECALLED BY THE REPUBLIC

United's on-loan midfielders Jonathan Douglas and Liam Miller have been recalled to the Republic of Ireland squad for a friendly against Sweden on Wednesday, 1 March, at Lansdowne Road. It is the first squad Steve Staunton has selected since taking charge. Jonathan has two caps and Liam has nine.



MARRIAGE PROPOSAL ACCEPTED

Becki Brock thought she and partner Jamie Clarke were setting off to Elland Road because they had won a prize in a competition entered by Jamie.

She confessed as she waited to go out on to the pitch to 'meet a player' that even though Jamie has been a lifelong Leeds fan and their five-week old baby was named after Lucas the Kop Cat, this was her first visit to the ground.

It was a visit she won't forget. Instead of meeting a player she found

herself in the centre circle with Jamie proposing marriage.

Becki accepted and the couple plan to tie the knot in May, 2007.

UNITED FAN'S OLYMPIC SILVER

Keen Leeds United fan Frode Estil, of Norway, was prevented by the organisers from wearing his United cap on the podium after taking the silver medal in the men's 30km pursuit cross-country skiing event at the Torino Olympics.

Frode, 33, recovered from a fall and a broken ski at the mass start, which cost him 45 seconds, yet he sensationally caught all but one of the other 76 competitors and was pipped to the gold medal by Russian Eugeni Dementier. In this event, the skiers go 15km classic cross-country before changing skis to complete 15km freestyle.

Frode, pictured in his Leeds United shirt with medals won previously, had planned to retire after this season, giving him more time to watch Leeds. However, he has indicated he may still be competing in the longer distances for which there are fewer races. He hopes to visit Leeds before the end of the season and, as his races finish around the beginning of April, he may go to the game against Crewe on 22 April or the play-off final if we are involved.

He was very pleased to receive videoed good luck messages from Kevin Blackwell on the website and read them on his lap-top in Italy. He said: "Getting the messages from Kevin Blackwell was awesome. I don't think they know what cross-country skiing is over there in England."

Frode hopes to add more medals to his collection before the winter Olympics end. He won three medals at the 2005 World Championships in Germany – bronze in the pursuit and gold in the 50km classical and 4x10km relay.

As well as following Leeds United, he lists his hobbies as fishing and hunting birds, elk and moose!

ELLAND EYE – FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 17: A total of 78,591 Leeds fans had voted in the Coca-Cola Win-A-Player competition, keeping the club at the top of the Championship entries list - nearly 14,000 ahead of second-placed Sheffield Wednesday.

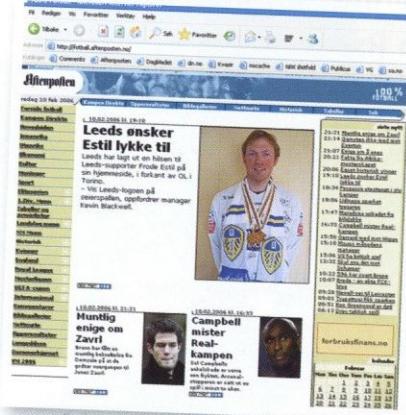
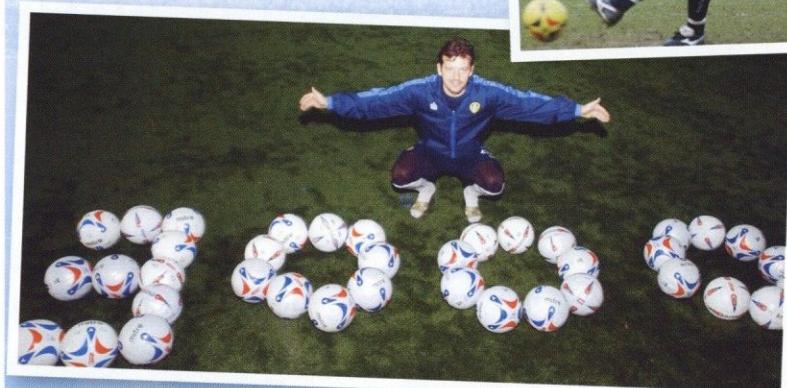
February 18: Robbie Blake's 12th minute penalty, which earned United a draw against Leicester City at the Walkers Stadium, was the 3,000th goal scored in the Football League this season.

FEBRUARY 20: Australian midfield man, Joel Griffiths, returned from Australia and checked in at Thorp Arch complete with the necessary forms to enable him to be registered to play for Leeds.

FEBRUARY 21: The decision was made to hold the Championship and Football League play-offs in May at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium following news that no promise could be made that the new Wembley Stadium will be completed in time.

David Healy and Jonathan Douglas presented **The Beeston Hill Parent & Staff Association** with a cheque for £5,000 as part of **The Community Shield Distribution**.

FEBRUARY 24: Neil Sullivan celebrated his 36th Birthday.



BIG SCREEN MESSAGES

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Braised Beef in Guinness Colcannon, Roast Parsnip & Carrots

Baileys Cream & Ginger Cheesecake

Coffee & Mints

Vegetarian Option available

That many games for one club is a remarkable achievement in modern football and Gary achieves it at the age of 31, having missed a whole season in 1998-99 with a shin splint injury.

To mark this occasion we spoke to some of the people who have known him over his time at Elland Road

HOWARD WILKINSON

Howard Wilkinson gave Gary his debut and was responsible for switching him from a striker to right back, a move that paid instant dividends because at the end of his first season Kells was in the Irish squad in the World Cup.

Wilkinson said: "One of my earliest memories of Gary is fetching him back from Ireland one summer when he decided he didn't want to stay at Leeds. I sat him down and told him I was going to play him at right back in pre-season.

"He was dubious about it because he'd always been a striker but he quickly adapted and at the end of that season he was voted the best defender in the World Cup in America.

"He was never going to make it as a striker at the highest level but he had pace, was good in the air, had great balance, loads of energy and wasn't frightened. We did some work with him and he was a good listener and quickly took information on board and applied it.

"Gary was a great signing and has been a wonderful servant of Leeds United. He shuns the limelight and is what I like to describe as low maintenance. Reaching 500 games with one club is a considerable feat and I think he could well turn out to be one of the last to do it at this level."

JACK CHARLTON

Jack Charlton, who gave Gary his international debut with the Republic of Ireland, holds Leeds United's appearance record and believes it will never be broken.

England World Cup winner Jack, who played 772 times for the club in

KELLY'S A HERO

STARS PAY TRIBUTE TO MARK HIS 500TH GAME FOR UNITED

Gary Kelly is set to pass a major career landmark today, his 500th competitive game for Leeds United.

league matches, FA Cup, League Cup and Europe as a vital member of Don Revie's 'Super Leeds' side, is one of Gary's greatest admirers.

He told the programme: "To make 500 appearances these days is a big achievement for any player, even if he has moved around from club to club, but to do it at one club, as Gary has done, is extra special.

"I don't think my record will ever be broken because Gary is a rarity as a one-club man. You don't get lads signing for a club at 15 and staying there for the rest of their careers, as many of my generation did.

"If they are good enough they eventually move on and if they are not they are moved out. The game is played with such pace and passion these days that it's easy for players to pick up injuries that can keep them out for a long time. Gary missed a whole season with a shin splints injury, otherwise he would have reached the 500 mark long before now."

Jack added: "I spent a lot of time with Gary when I managed the Republic and he's a smashing lad. I've followed his career at Leeds closely and he is one of those players who always gives 100 per

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32 ▶



LEEDS UNITED STADIUM TOURS, CALL 0845 121 1992.



cent. He's good to have in the dressing room too because he has an impish sense of humour. I'm told that, as one of the senior players, he helps the younger ones and likes to organise social events, which are very important for building team spirit.

"Although I was never his club manager, Gary wasn't a moment's bother during his time with the Republic. He is still young enough to clock up many more appearances for Leeds and I am sure he will."

STEPHEN McPHAIL

Republic of Ireland midfielder Stephen recalls: "I came over to Leeds as a 15-year-old and Kells looked after me from the start. He was an absolute legend to the youngsters there. He looked after us all and made sure we were comfortable at the club."

"Gary reaching his 500th game for Leeds couldn't have happened to a nicer person and he deserves all the accolades he gets. We still see each other every couple of weeks and we talk together regularly on the phone."

"He's the life and soul of the dressing room. As soon as you walk in on a morning, Gary is the first person you hear and it brings a smile to your face. He's different class and great to have around."

"We had some great times together and some of my best memories are of European trips with Kells – they were the best times of my life. He's always got a smile on his face and I'm just very proud to call him my mate."

IAN HARTE

Ian Harte is Gary's nephew as well as friend and a one-time team-mate for Leeds and the Republic.

He recalled: "When I first came to Leeds I was very homesick and Paul Hart arranged for me to share digs with Gary. That helped me settle. He was always there to look after me."

"We've got a great relationship and it was great that we played so many times together for club and country. We've always had a great laugh together – he's always got funny crack to keep things going."

DAVID WETHERALL

Former United central defender David Wetherall remembers: "I was on the bench when he played his first game at right back. No one was sure how he would go but he had a stormer."

"Gary was always a great lad to have around the place. He was always lively and liked a joke, though I'm not going to be drawn into telling you about them!"

GARY SPEED

Part of Leeds' championship winning side of 1992, Gary Speed has also played more than 500 competitive games in his career at Leeds, Everton, Newcastle and Bolton. He was eager to pay tribute to his former team-mate: "You don't play 500 games for a great club like Leeds without being quality. Kells is a great character. Off-field he was always mischievous and I look back with amusement at some of his antics! Good luck, Kells."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34 ▶

Year	LEAGUE				FA CUP				LEAGUE CUP				EUROPE				Total			
	St	Sb	U	Gls	St	Sb	U	Gls	St	Sb	U	Gls	St	Sb	U	Gls	St	Sb	U	Gls
1991-92	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0
1992-93	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1993-94	42	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47	0	0	0
1994-95	42	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	0	0	0
1995-96	34	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	51	0	0	0
1996-97	34	2	0	2	4	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	2	0	2
1997-98	34	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	1	0	0
1998-99	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1999-00	28	3	2	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	44	3	2	0
2000-01	22	2	6	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	11	1	4	0	35	3	10	0
2001-02	19	1	16	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	3	0	5	0	23	2	23	0
2002-03	24	1	10	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	6	0	0	0	34	1	11	1
2003-04	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	0	0	0
2004-05	43	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47	0	0	0
2005-06	33	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	0	0	1
Total	392	11	35	2	34	1	0	2	23	2	3	0	35	1	9	0	484	15	47	4

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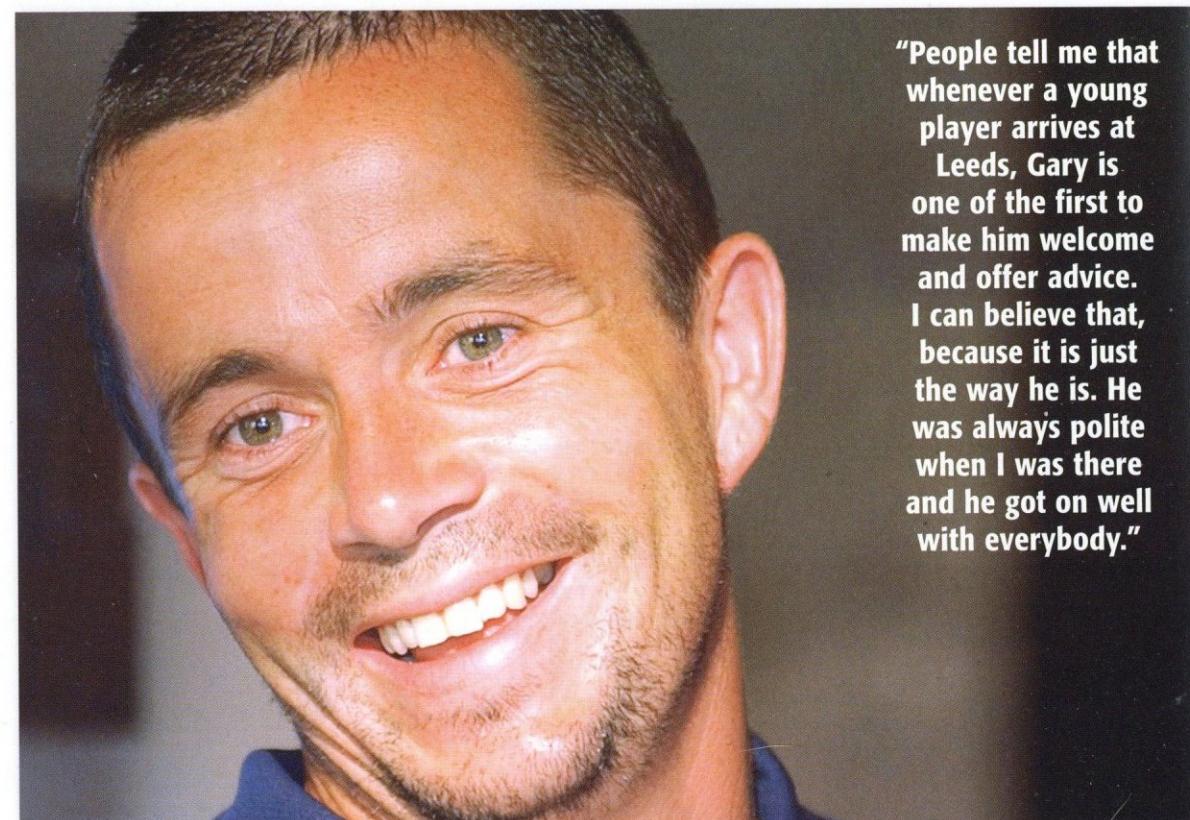
The combination of Kelly and Strachan on the right side of the Leeds team became a familiar sight once Gary had won a regular first team place in the 1993-94 season.

It was an injury to Gordon that paved the way for Kells to make his league debut as a second half substitute at Nottingham Forest in 1991. The pair eventually roomed together on away trips and formed a mutual respect.

Gary says he learned a lot from Gordon about how to conduct himself, but 'Strach' laughed: "He probably picked up my bad habits."

Gordon, of course, is now managing Glasgow Celtic and he was delighted to pay tribute to Gary's achievement when we contacted him.

"How old is Gary now?" asked Gordon. On being told the Irishman was 31, he laughed: "Anyone who played with



"People tell me that whenever a young player arrives at Leeds, Gary is one of the first to make him welcome and offer advice. I can believe that, because it is just the way he is. He was always polite when I was there and he got on well with everybody."

STRACHAN'S TRIBUTE TO HIS ROOM MATE

Leeds United legend Gordon Strachan joked that Gary Kelly had done especially well to reach his 500th game after having to play behind the wee Scottish winger!

me and is still playing is doing well, especially Gary because he played on my side of the pitch! To be serious, he's had a fantastic career.

"I've always admired his enthusiasm and his open-mindedness in changing from being an ordinary striker into one of the best full backs in the game. He decided to give it a bash and realised he could make a success of the switch.

"He has been at Leeds through thick and thin. It can't have been easy for him experiencing the turmoil the club went through, but he stayed loyal and you never heard a word of complaint from him. He just got on with his job despite seeing so many players, managers and coaches come and go."

Gordon added: "People tell me that whenever a young player arrives at Leeds,



Gary is one of the first to make him welcome and offer advice. I can believe that, because it is just the way he is. He was always polite when I was there and he got on well with everybody.

"I remember Gary changing from a striking role into defence during a pre-season tour in Ireland. We were struggling for a right back so Howard Wilkinson and myself said 'let's try him there'. If it's not working out for a kid in one position you try him in a different one and in Gary's case it was the making of him.

"His generosity is well known too. He gave his testimonial cash to charity and that was a first class thing to do. It didn't surprise me in the least."

It hasn't been lost on Gordon that while Kells is still filling the right back role, Stephen Crainey has been holding down the left back berth in recent weeks. Gordon signed Crainey from Celtic for his former club Southampton and is an admirer of his fellow Scot.

"Stephen may not be the most mobile, but he is a fine passer of the ball and a decent lad. He will do well for Leeds," said Gordon who still looks out for United's results all those years after inspiring them to promotion from the old Second Division in 1990 and to the League Championship two years later.

MORE TRIBUTES ON PAGE 37 ▶

GARY KELLY - A SHINING WHITE

9 JULY 1974: Gary was born in Drogheda.

9 JULY 1991: Signed for Leeds United from Home Farm in Dublin.

8 OCT 1991: Gary, then aged 17, replaces Carl Shutt five minutes before full-time in a Rumbelows Cup tie against Scunthorpe to make his first appearance in the Leeds first team. Leeds won 3-0.

14 AUG 1993: Kelly makes his first start for Leeds in a 1-1 draw at Manchester City on the opening day of the 1993/94 season.

23 MAR 1994: Makes his international debut in Dublin as Republic of Ireland draw 0-0 with Russia.

29 MAY 1994: Scores his first goal for the Republic of Ireland in a 2-0 win against Germany in Hanover.

9 DEC 1995: Kelly misses his first game since establishing himself in the Leeds first-team. He had made 118 consecutive appearances but international duty forced him to miss a 1-1 draw with Wimbledon.

23 NOV 1996: Scores his first goal for United in a 2-0 win at Southampton. It took Kells 166 appearances to open his account.

20 JAN 1997: Kelly's free-kick at Upton Park opens the scoring in a 2-0 win over West Ham.

28 AUG 1999: Makes his first appearance after missing the entire 1998/99 campaign with shin splints in a 2-1 win against Spurs.

7 MAY 2002: Gary's ten years at Elland Road is marked by a special charity match against his boyhood heroes Celtic. The 26,440 fans raised £655,000 which Gary donated to cancer charities in Leeds and his home town of Drogheda in memory of his sister Mandy, who died of cancer.

16 FEB 2003: Registers the third goal of his Leeds career in a 2-1 triumph at Crystal Palace in the fifth round of the FA Cup.

25 SEPT 2003: Announces his retirement from international football, aged 29, after making 52 appearances for the Republic of Ireland and featuring in the 1994 and 2002 World Cups.

17 JAN 2006: Smashes home a spectacular effort against Wigan to take Leeds' FA Cup third round tie with the Latics to a penalty shoot-out. Kelly's first goal at Elland Road.

25 FEB 2006: Makes his 500th first team appearance for Leeds in today's Coca Cola Championship fixture against Luton.



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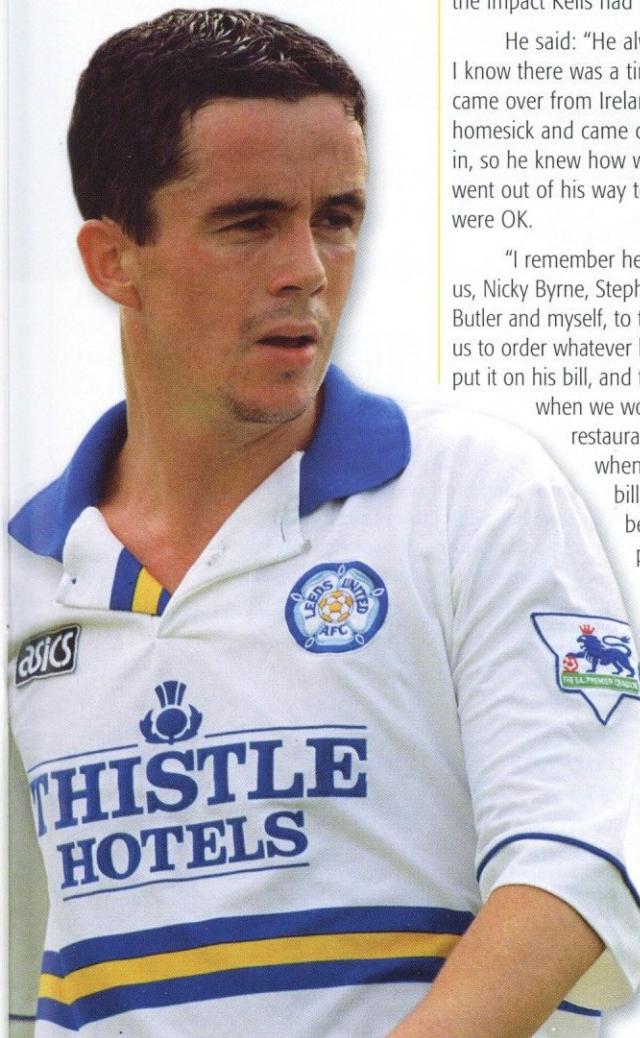
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35

DAVID BATTY

A folk hero at Elland Road, David Batty is a close friend of Gary's and said: "Kells is a top man both on and off the park. A team player in everything he does and definitely in my time the funniest and most popular player with his team mates.

"He was vastly underrated but not by those who played with him and it's brilliant to see he lost none of his fitness or enthusiasm he showed when he first started.

"Kells has been on a rollercoaster of a journey just like the fans, but his loyalty has never wavered in times when others have jumped ship. Well done, Gaz."



DO NOT LEAVE BAGS UNATTENDED AT ANY TIME.

JONATHAN WOODGATE

'Woody' is now at Real Madrid but made the effort to phone the programme to pay his tribute. He told us: "He's a top man. He was someone I looked up to from the time I joined Leeds and he was always happy to have a word and was always encouraging me.

"It is a bit daunting when you first get into the team and Kells helped me a lot, talking to me all the time. I still keep in touch with him and phoned him when he scored his goal against Wigan."

ALAN MAYBURY

One of a stream of fine players to join Leeds from Ireland, Alan Maybury recalls the impact Kells had on him.

He said: "He always looked after us. I know there was a time when he first came over from Ireland that he felt homesick and came close to jacking it in, so he knew how we felt and always went out of his way to make sure we were OK.

"I remember he once took four of us, Nicky Byrne, Stephen McPhail, John Butler and myself, to the kit man and told us to order whatever boots we wanted and put it on his bill, and there were times

when we would be in a restaurant having a meal and when it came time for the bill, we found it had been paid. Kells had picked up the tab.

"He was tremendously generous. When he came back from the World Cup he gave a load of his stuff from the tournament to John Butler who looked after his boots.

**LEEDS UNITED TOP
TEN APPEARANCES**

1. Jack Charlton	772
2. Billy Bremner	770+1
3. Paul Reaney	734+12
4. Norman Hunter	722+2
5. Paul Madeley	711+13
6. Peter Lorimer	674+27
7. Eddie Gray	559+8
8. Johnny Giles	521+4
9. Gary Sprake	504+2
10. GARY KELLY	484+15

"And on the football side he was a big influence on me and went out of his way to help me. I remember when I was suffering from shin splints, he knew what I was going through and kept encouraging me and kept me going. He just couldn't do enough.

"He's always been a joker. Even when he was first in the team at 21 he'd be leading the way with the jokes. He's a great guy to have around the club.

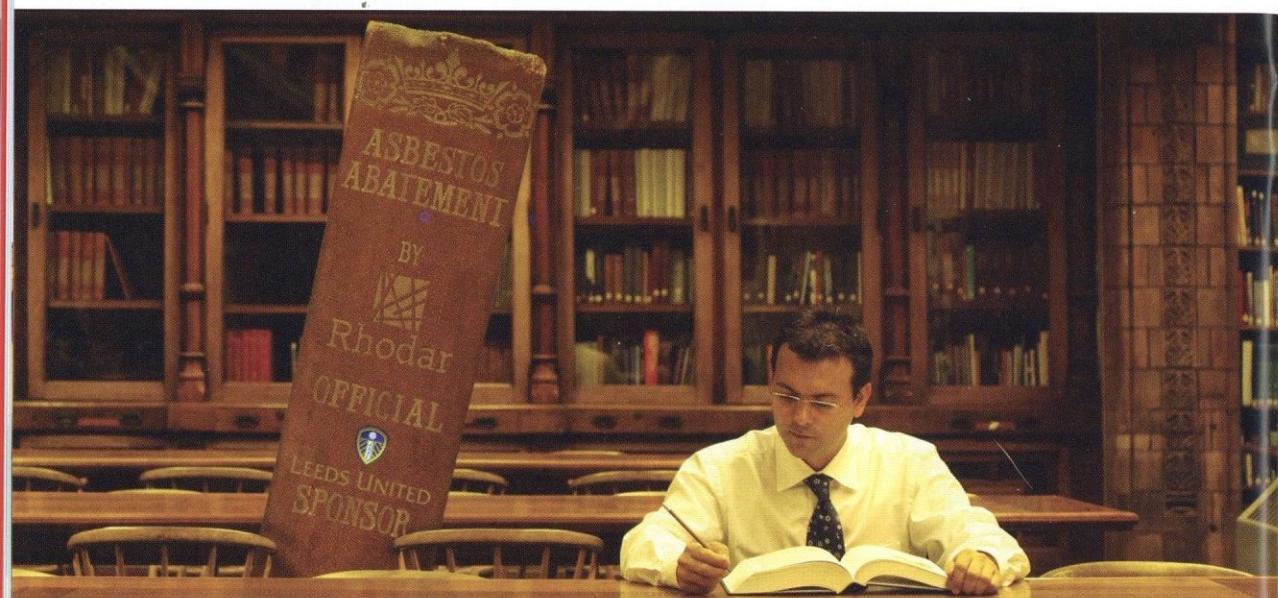
"I remember one day that Nicky Byrne came up to the training ground to see us after he'd hit the big time with West Life. He came out and did a bit of light training with us and the next minute Kells was out on the training ground running around in Nicky's expensive leather trousers and boots.

"But it was never malicious stuff and he knew when to be serious and when to mess about.

"The great thing about him is that he hasn't changed. I saw him again when Leicester came up to play Leeds and he was just the same as he'd always been."



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MEET THE MANAGER - MIKE NEWELL

After a month that has seen plenty of off-field dramas, Mike Newell will be happy just to be concentrating on Luton's performances.

The Hatters boss has been at the centre of speculation linking him to Leicester City after the dismissal of Craig Levein but Newell has recently announced that he will be staying at Kenilworth Road.

It was news that Luton fans had been longing to hear and now Newell can focus his mind completely on the Hatters.

Newell has only had a relatively short managerial career so far but he has already won promotions with two different teams and has been awarded the Coca Cola Football League One Manager of the Year award.

As a player Newell won a Premiership title at Blackburn Rovers and played in the Champions League. He also enjoyed spells at Crewe, Leicester, Wigan and Everton amongst others in a 19 year career that took in 14 different clubs.

He got his first managerial break at Hartlepool, where he guided the club to the runners' up spot in Division Three in 2003.

His return to Kenilworth Road - this time as manager - came in June 2003, 17 years after making 63 appearances for Luton between January 1986 and September 1987.

Mike Newell

HATTERS HAPPY WITH CHAMPIONSHIP LIFE

After a promising start to life in the Coca Cola Championship, Luton have faded in recent months but still sit comfortably in the top half of the table and, having just inflicted Reading's first defeat in 33 games, are back in the play-off hunt.

It is a remarkable achievement for a side enjoying its first season back in the Championship and shows the quality of their squad and the strength of Mike Newell's managerial capabilities.

Luton romped to the Football League One title last year, racking up a massive 98 points as they took 29 wins from their 46 league fixtures.

That achievement earned Newell the title of Football League One Manager of

the Year but there was still little clue as to how they would fare when they made the step up to the Championship this season.

The Hatters surprised everyone with a promising start and they were in the play-off places until mid-December.

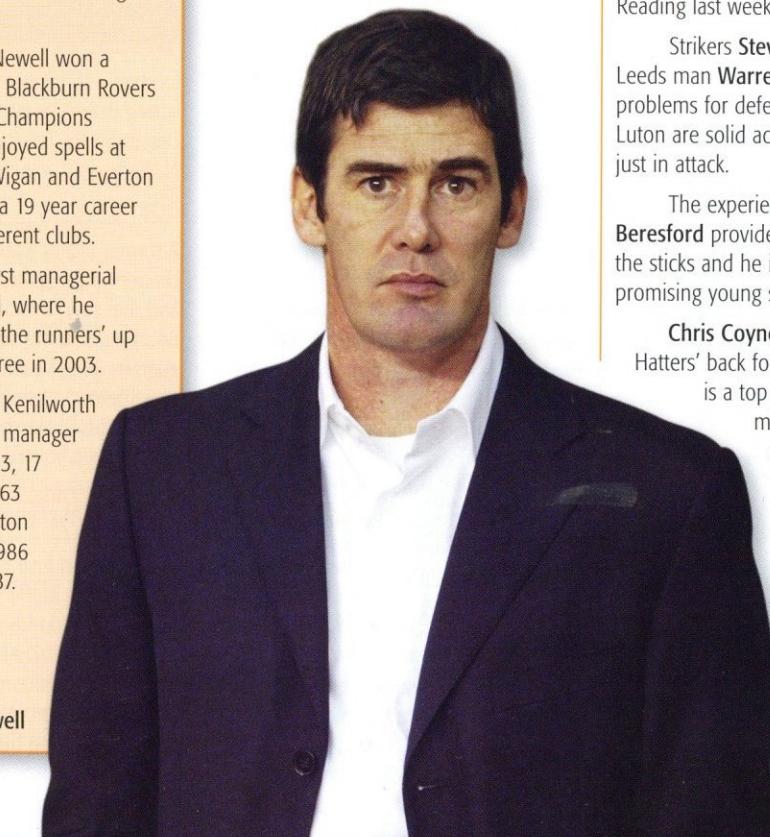
They could still make the play-offs - although it will take an unlikely collapse from one of the teams above them - and they are still a threat to any team in this division on their day, as shown by beating Reading last weekend.

Strikers Steve Howard and former Leeds man Warren Feeney can cause problems for defenders at this level but Luton are solid across the park and not just in attack.

The experienced keeper Marlon Beresford provides assurance between the sticks and he is ably backed up by promising young stopper Dean Brill.

Chris Coyne is a mainstay of the Hatters' back four while Kevin Nicholls is a top quality Championship midfielder capable of upsetting the rhythm of any team in this league.

Leeds boss Kevin Blackwell will have to be aware of the threats across the pitch as he plots to bring down his hometown team to keep United in the promotion hunt.



RACIST AND OBSCENE CHANTS ARE A CRIMINAL OFFENCE.

1 MARLON BERESFORD (Goalkeeper)

DOB: 02/09/69

The much-travelled goalkeeper arrived at Luton from Barnsley in the summer of 2004. A former Sheffield Wednesday, Burnley and Middlesbrough stopper, Beresford has made more than 400 professional appearances in his career.

2 KEVIN FOLEY (Defender)

DOB: 1/11/84

A Republic of Ireland U21 international, Foley has been one of the main success stories at Kenilworth Road in recent seasons. He has emerged as a regular first-team member and the 21-year-old's cultured style of play has already attracted many admirers.

3 SOL DAVIS (Defender)

DOB: 4/9/79

Now in his fourth season at Kenilworth Road after moving from Swindon, the tough-tackling left-back commands respect and is an established Coca Cola Championship defender. Comfortable on the ball and a real menace in defence, Davis makes life difficult for every striker he faces.

Marlon Beresford



Sol Davis



Ahmet Brkovic



Steve Howard

was voted the fans' Player of the Year in 2002 and the players' Player of the Year in 2003. A real handful.

23 DEAN MORGAN (Midfielder)

DOB: 3/10/83

Morgan enjoyed spells at Colchester and Reading before moving to Kenilworth Road ahead of the start of this season. A regular in Luton's first-team line-up, Morgan can operate in both midfield and attack and has provided plenty of options for the Hatters in their first season back in the Coca Cola Championship.

26 MARKUS HEIKKINEN (Defender)

DOB: 13/10/78

The Finnish international spent two seasons at Aberdeen before moving to Luton in time for the start of the current campaign. An intelligent defender who reads the game well, Heikkinen is also solid in the air and determined to block out every striker he comes across. Has also spent a short spell at Portsmouth but has played most of his career in Finland.

27 PETER HOLMES (Midfielder)

DOB: 18/11/80

A former Sheffield Wednesday favourite, Holmes is now halfway through his sixth season at Luton. A graduate of the FA's School of Excellence, Holmes was in the same year as Michael Owen. He signed a new one-year contract at Kenilworth Road before the start of this season and is looking to earn himself another deal as the season progresses.

33 DEAN BRILL (Goalkeeper)

DOB: 2/12/85

Luton-born shot stopper Dean Brill is expected to have a big future in the game. Having only just turned 20, Brill has plenty of time ahead of him to learn his craft and establish himself as first choice at Kenilworth Road. He has already made a handful of appearances this season and his organisational abilities are second to none.

ONE TO WATCH**8 KEVIN NICHOLLS**

(Midfielder)

DOB: 2/1/79

A rugged midfielder who has captained England at U18, U19 and U20 level, Luton pounced when Wigan put him on the transfer list for just £150,000 in 2001.

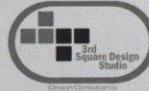
The former Charlton midfielder, who left the Valley in a £250,000 deal to join Wigan in 1999, has quickly established himself as a fans' favourite at Kenilworth Road since leaving the JJB Stadium.

He captained the side to their League One triumph last season, scoring 14 goals in the process and was a clear winner in the Supporters' Player of the Year award.

A constant threat on the right side of midfield, Leeds will have to shut Nicholls down and not allow him time on the ball if the Whites are to get a result this afternoon.



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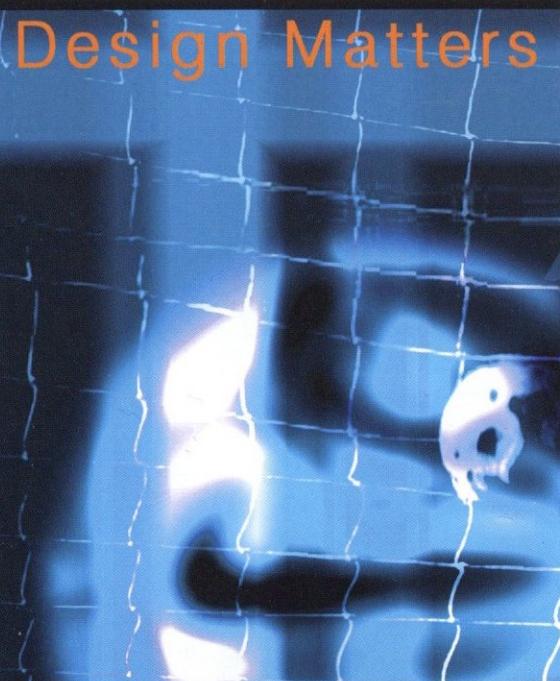


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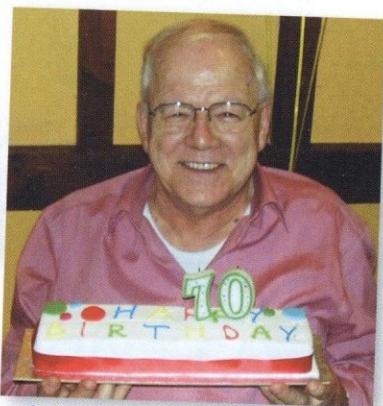
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Blake			
Healy		1 - 0	
Derry		2 - 0	£10
Lewis	£10	2 - 1	
Butler		3 - 0	

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DANIEL'S BACK

Daniel Johnson is four years old today and as part of his birthday treat he's making his fourth visit of the season to Elland Road along with his dad, Shaun. Daniel's favourite players are Neil Sullivan and Rob Hulse.



BIRTHDAY TREAT

Bob Gamble celebrated his 70th birthday on 9 February and his family, Brian, Michell, Julie and John, have treated him to a day out in the Banqueting Suite today. Bob is a lifelong Leeds fan who has been a season ticket holder for many years.

SARAH CELEBRATES

Sarah Hartshorn, who is a home and away season ticket holder, will be 28 on Tuesday. Her favourite player is Sean Gregan. Her mates at Leeds United wish her a very happy birthday and say enjoy the Cribbs concert.



ANGLESEY WHITE 1

Timothy Williams, who was 20 on Thursday, is at today's match with his father and friends. He became a United fan after seeing them beat Wimbledon 5-0 in the championship-winning season.



ANGLESEY WHITE 2

The greeting to Timothy was sent by Meirion Williams, but he didn't know that we also received a note from Ceinwen Lewis Jones wishing him a belated happy birthday.



PLENTY TO CELEBRATE

Daniel Ward, pictured right with his friend Chris, is 12 years old today. He is a big Leeds fan and has been to most of the home games this season. His favourite player is David Healy. Daniel and Chris are at today's game with their dads, and by coincidence Chris's dad is also celebrating his birthday.



OLIVER IS 11

Oliver Andrew is 11 years old today. He has been supporting Leeds since he was seven and has been a season-ticket holder in the East Stand for the last three seasons. His favourite player is David Healy. He and his dad Mick say they enjoy the 100-mile round trip from Cheshire for the home games and enjoy every minute, win, lose or draw.



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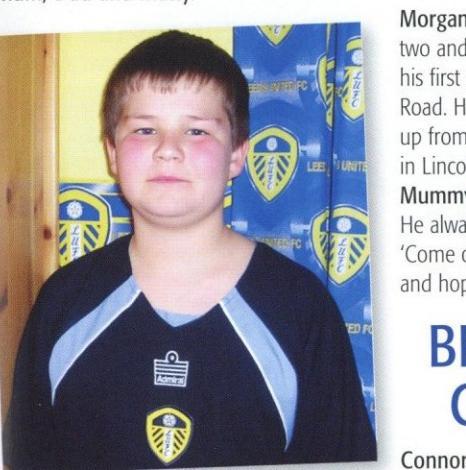
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COURTNEY'S FIRST GAME

Courtney Louise Farnell from Tingley is eight years old today and is in the East Stand for her first visit to Elland Road. We are sure she will become a Leeds fan and will be at Elland Road on a regular basis. Happy birthday, Courtney. Love from Mum, Dad and Matty.



SURPRISE TOUR

Ashley Dodd, from Sleaford in Lincolnshire, is 11 years old today and is at the match with his dad Stuart. As a surprise, he went on a tour of the ground this morning. Happy birthday, Ashley. Love from Mum and Dad.



FIRST GAME FOR MORGAN

Morgan Varlow, aged two and a half, is at his first game at Elland Road. He has travelled up from his home in Lincoln with his Mummy and Daddy. He always shouts 'Come on, Leeds' whenever they are on TV and hopes they have big win today.

BEDFORD FAN CELEBRATES

Connor Holt will be seven tomorrow. He has supported Leeds since he was very young and has travelled to the match from his home in Bedford. His favourite player is David Healy. Love from Daddy, Mummy, Sophie and Aimee.



OVER FROM DUBLIN

Colin and Val Duffy are visiting Elland Road from their home in Dublin, a trip arranged as a Christmas present by their wives. The last game they were at was last season Leeds v QPR. It would be nice for a repeat of that 6-1 scoreline. With them today is Val's son-in-law, Kevin, whose wife Emer is due to give birth to their first child a week after the game. Also, Alan who will be marrying Val's daughter Ciara in September. It is Kevin and Alan's first time at Elland Road.

DOWN FROM LAKES

Matthew Cooper is here with his dad Andrew from their home in the Lake District as part of the celebrations for Matthew's 11th birthday next Friday. Matthew's favourite player is David Healy.



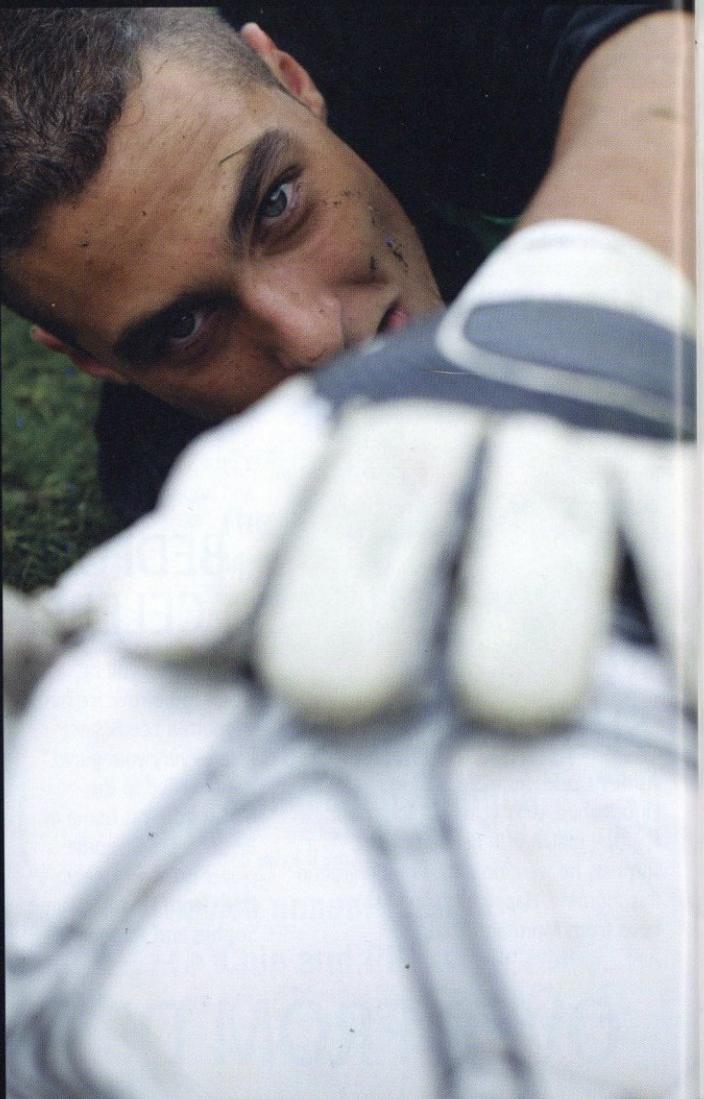
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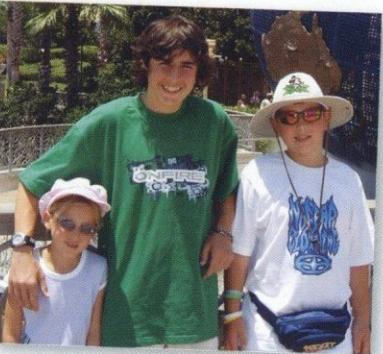
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BIRTHDAY BOYES

Casey Boyes, pictured in the middle of his sister Francesca and brother Oliver on holiday in Florida, celebrates his 14th birthday today. Both boys play for Kirk Deighton Rangers and are season ticket holders with their grandad Pat and dad Tony, who celebrated (?) his 42nd birthday yesterday. Happy birthday, Case, from Mum and Dad.



KEEPER RICHARD

Richard Dyke was 12 years old on Thursday and is at today's match with his sister Rachel. He has been a United fan for years and is a season ticket holder in the Family Stand. He plays in goal for Northowram U12s and his favourite player is Neil Sullivan. Happy birthday, Richard, lots of love from Mum, Dad, Rachel and Amy.



SCARBOROUGH WHITE

Mrs P Hall has written in to wish Dianne Smith a happy birthday for Monday. Dianne from Scarborough is at the game today.



FANS REUNITED

Mick Andrew has suggested we should have a fans reunited section in the programme. He writes: "I would love to make contact with the three friends with whom I used to travel to Leeds all through my university days in the seasons 1969-72 but sadly lost contact with after university. Does that ring a bell? If so email lufcprog@aol.com and we'll put you in touch."



Happy 22nd anniversary to Jackie. Hope you enjoy your first game at Elland Road (This is not your anniversary present). Love from Andy Senior.

TOURING ELLAND ROAD

Leon Bould, who is seven on Tuesday, is celebrating at today's match with his mum, dad and older brother Kelsey. This morning Leon and 20 of his friends had a tour of Elland Road. The brothers are fanatical Leeds supporters and season ticket holders. Their favourite players are Eddie Lewis and David Healy.



If you want to put something on The Noticeboard, please ensure we receive it at least 14 days before the match it is intended for. You can post your notice to

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FIRST VISIT

Sister Ellan McGrath has written to tell us that her grand nephew, James Morrissey from Galbally, Co Limerick, is visiting Elland Road today for the first time. Jamie is eight years old and has a sister Emma. He is a great supporter of Leeds United and is with his dad at the match.



ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS



Happy 22nd anniversary to Jackie. Hope you enjoy your first game at Elland Road (This is not your anniversary present). Love from Andy Senior.

FIRST VISIT FROM SOMERSET

Happy eighth birthday to Callum Mooney from Chard in Somerset, who is visiting Elland Road today for his first home match. Love from Mum and Dad.



Junior Spotlight

Hi there!

As you will have seen elsewhere in today's programme, this afternoon we celebrate Gary Kelly's 500th game for Leeds United.

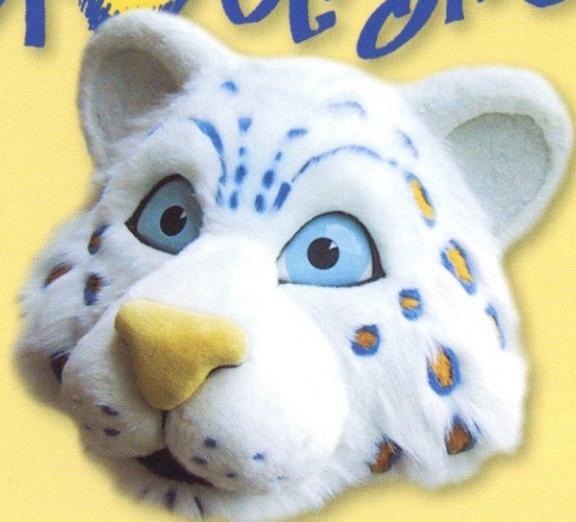
Gary is now tenth in the club's list of all-time player appearances. That means that only nine players have ever played more times for Leeds United than Kells has!

It is a phenomenal record and Gary should be proud of everything he has achieved during his time at the club.

He has played in the Champions League, UEFA Cup and Premiership for Leeds and the World Cup for the Republic of Ireland.

I've been having a look back at my record books and the only players to have played more games than Gary are all from *Don Revie's brilliant team* of the sixties and seventies.

Out of interest, here are the nine players that have played more games than Kelly: Jack Charlton (772), Billy Bremner (771), Paul Reaney (746), Norman Hunter



(724), Paul Madeley (724), Peter Lorimer (701), Eddie Gray (567), John Giles (525) and Gary Sprake (506).

Ask your parents about some of these names if you don't know them!

Gary Kelly has spent his entire career at Elland Road, showing something that everyone should be more aware of - loyalty.

The club gave him his chance in professional football and he has repaid them many times over with his performances and dedication to the Leeds United cause.

It would be great if Kells could score this afternoon - I'm sure everyone will be cheering for him whenever we go forward - but most importantly we have to get another three points.

We are now getting to the really important stage of the season, when every result matters.

Robbie Blake's two goals made sure we got a good win against Watford in our last match at Elland Road in a very exciting game. Let's hope we can get another win today and keep putting pressure on those teams around us in the league table.

The lads will need all your support until the end of the season, so make sure you cheer as loud as possible.

Enjoy the game and don't forget to give me a wave!



United legend Jack Charlton played 772 games for Leeds - that's 273 more than Gary Kelly... at the moment!

JOKE CORNER

Why did the chicken cross the beach?

To get to the other tide!

HA HA

Why doesn't Batman play cards?

He always ends up with the Joker!

What do you call a man outside the front door? Matt!

Why do cows wear bells?

Their horns don't work!



LEEDS MASCOTS MEMBERSHIP MASCOT



JOSEPH HAYWOOD

Age: 7

From: Dewsbury

Favourite Player: David Healy

Hobbies: Football and rugby

Match Prediction: 2-0 Leeds win

COMMERCIAL MASCOT



BETHANY CZOPCZYC

Age: 11

Favourite Players: Rob Hulse and Danny Pugh

Hobbies: Dancing, Majorettes and swimming

Match Prediction: 3-1 Leeds win

LUTON MASCOT



DECLAN FRY

Age: 14

From: Guisborough

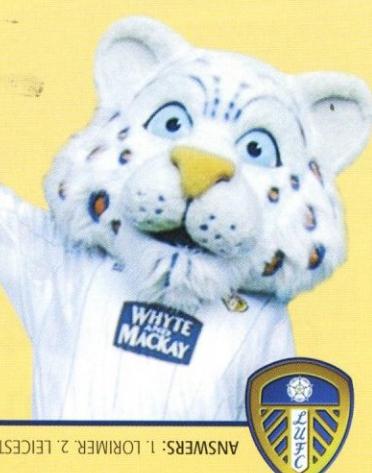
Favourite Player: Kevin Nichols

Hobbies: Football, hockey and swimming

Match Prediction: 2-2

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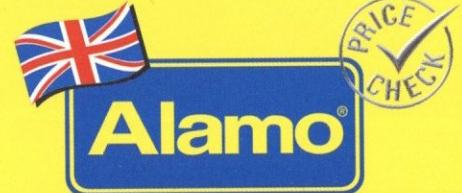




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TAKE THE PROVEN PATH TO INCREASED BUSINESS

There are still a few businessmen out there who believe sponsorship and promotion linked to football is a bit indulgent. They see it as a way of the MD or marketing director using the company's money to help out his favourite club while also adding some perks to his own matchday enjoyment.

Well, both those things can be true but they are the spin-off of sponsorship. The main benefit is that it increases the sponsor's business.

In recent weeks we have given case studies from businesses as different as asbestos consultants Rhodar and Alamo car hire to show how a link with Leeds United produces a positive effect on the bottom line.

We have another prime example in Whyte & Mackay who have used their shirt sponsorship to establish themselves as one of the leading whisky brands in England and Wales.

In simple sales terms, Whyte & Mackay have increased their volume sales in England and Wales by more than 500 per cent in the two years since linking up with United.

That is not achieved just by handing over some cash and attaching your company's name to a sponsorship. It comes from a close relationship with United's commercial department to ensure that every penny you invest in sponsorship is made to work hard to achieve your goals.

Their job doesn't stop at the moment you sign the contract. That's when it starts. From then on they are dedicated to finding creative ways to make your sponsorship successful, pointing out opportunities you might not have considered, arranging promotions that



will keep your company's name in front of the large and lucrative audience.

Whether you are looking for added sales, increased brand awareness, an improved image, new markets, a way to network with other businesses or a combination of all these, you should be talking to Leeds United's experts about sponsorship.

As a spin off, you will be helping United as they rebuild and return to their rightful place among the biggest clubs in Europe. As a Leeds fan, you will find you enjoy your football even more.

But most of all, you will be doing the right thing by your business.

Phone Steve Lewis on 0113 367 6318 or email him on steve.lewis@leedsunited.com and see how the power of Leeds United can boost your bottom line.



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DON'T MISS OUT ON A CHANCE OF A LIFETIME

There are still a few places available for our unique opportunity to have lunch at the House of Commons.

Events like this can only be arranged by invitation and we are fortunate to have been invited by MP Colin Burgeson, whose constituency includes our Thorp Arch training ground.

Lunch will be served in the Churchill Room at the Palace of Westminster on Friday 3 March and as well as enjoying a very special experience, you will also be helping the Academy who will be receiving the funds from the event.

Also that weekend, to tie in with our vital game at Crystal Palace, we have arranged a visit to a West End musical on the evening of 3 March and a pre-match

lunch and seats in the directors box at Selhurst Park for the big game.

You can mix and match from these events. Prices are as follows:-

House of Commons Academy Lunch

£105 + VAT each

Musical

£59 + VAT

Crystal Palace hospitality package

£120 + VAT

For further details please contact John Hemmingham at Leeds United AFC on 0113 367 6242.

KIT UP FOR THE WORLD CUP

Next month United will launch a stylish new range of clothing branded for both Leeds and England ready for the World Cup.

Even if you are not lucky enough to get to Germany this summer, don't forget to pop into the club shops and pick up some of the new range of T-shirts and leisurewear, perfect for your summer holiday.

IRISH EYES WILL BE SMILING

United are staging a special dinner to celebrate St Patrick's Day on 17 March from 7.00pm to 1.00am.

It will all be staged in true Irish style with Guinness and traditional Irish fayre, as well as music from Bare Faced Cheek, a five-piece local band who play a mix of Irish and popular tunes from the sixties to present-day.

This is the first time Leeds have held a St Patrick's Day dinner instead of their usual lunch and the mouth watering menu starts with **Black Velvet** (Champagne and Guinness), followed by **Peas and Ham-hock Soup** with Soda Bread, a main course of **Braised Beef in Guinness**, Colcannon, Roast Parsnip and Carrots, with a sweet of **Baileys Cream and Ginger Cheesecake** followed by **Coffee and Mints**.

At just £24 per ticket, or £220 for a table of ten, with drinks packages available, this promises to be one of the great nights to remember in the Banqueting Suite. To book your place at this special dinner phone 0845 121 1992.

BARGAINS ON SALE

If you are looking for a bargain, now is the perfect time to go into the club shop. Junior replica shirts which were £28 are now *on sale for just £9*. Ladies replica gear is *down from £33 to £15* while adult bench coats are *£30 cheaper at just £25*. And there is up to *50 per cent off* selected training wear.



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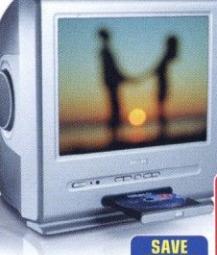


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WILKINSON'S LEEDS EDGE TOWARDS 'CHAMPIONS' TAG WITH LUTON WIN

In United's title winning campaign of 1991/92, manager Howard Wilkinson set the Whites a target of 40 points from the first half of the season.



David Batty

A 2-0 triumph at Kenilworth Road in December 1991 gave Leeds 41 points and there were still another two games to go until Leeds reached the halfway mark of their fixture list!

Such was Leeds' excellent form that by 7 December 1991 they found themselves ten points clear of third-placed Sheffield Wednesday, and only Manchester United were in any position to deny the Whites the title.

It was Leeds' quality across the park that did for most opposition that season and Wilkinson had worked hard to assemble a squad that could compete with anyone in English football.

The midfield was arguably the strongest of any club at that time, with David Batty, Gordon Strachan, Gary

McAllister and Gary Speed all playing at their brilliant best in a unit that worked hard and created chances in equal measure.

The Yorkshire Post picked up on that point and reported that "once Leeds moved up a couple of gears ... Luton could not stay with the pace."

Batty was even "turning on the kind of form that won him England honours" as Leeds controlled play and possession throughout.

Goalkeeper John Lukic had proved a colossus in between the sticks for United, and Leeds solid defensive display

at Luton meant the Whites' stopper had now kept 11 clean sheets out of a possible 19 in the league.

He was at his best to deny ex-England striker Mick Harford midway through the first half, making a fine fingertip save from Harford's looping effort, and remained alert as the match wore on and Leeds began to pull away from their hosts.

Leeds had not won at Luton since Don Revie's playing days but goals from Rod Wallace and Speed put an end to that miserable record - but it took until the 68th minute before Leeds eventually broke the deadlock.

Batty's long throw from the left was headed backwards by the towering Lee Chapman. Chris Whyte knocked the ball on again and Wallace, positioned just eight yards out in the centre of the goal, showed a ruthless streak to smash in his sixth goal in his last five outings.

And one minute later Speed doubled the advantage. He collected Mel Sterland's cross, edged forward and unleashed a "startling drive on the turn" to put Leeds beyond reach.

Despite a few nervous jitters along the way, United were eventually crowned champions at the end of the 1991/92 campaign in what was to prove a career highlight for just about everybody involved in that team.

For the record, United's line up at Luton was: Lukic, Sterland, Dorigo, Batty, Fairclough, Whyte, Strachan, Wallace, Chapman, McAllister, Speed.



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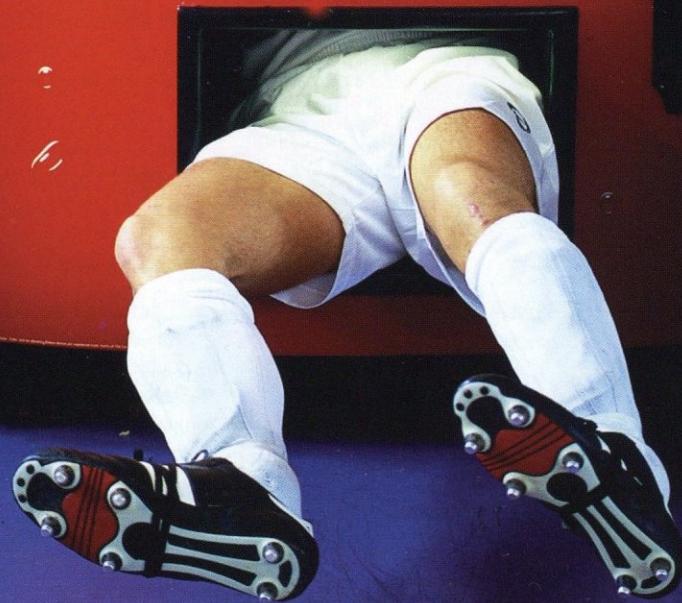


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NEXT UP AT ELLAND ROAD – NORWICH CITY - 11/03/06

59

LEEDS LOOKING TO CLIP CANARIES' WINGS

United fans get the chance to welcome another old boy back to Elland Road next month, when former Leeds defender Nigel Worthington brings his Norwich side to West Yorkshire intent on wrecking the Whites' promotion push.

And Darren Huckerby, a striker at Leeds during David O'Leary's reign as Elland Road boss, will also be looking to show United's fans exactly what they are missing.

Norwich sit comfortably in mid-table this term, having secured their 13th win of the season last week in a 2-0 triumph over Derby.

Huckerby was on the scoresheet a week ago as Norwich continued to restore some pride to their fans with a performance that backed up their 3-0 win against Brighton five days earlier.

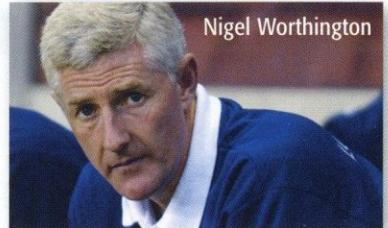
Worthington has come under pressure from parts of the Norwich faithful for what they see as a somewhat disappointing campaign following the club's relegation from the Premiership at the end of last season.

But those two wins have given Worthington and his Norwich squad plenty to smile about.

"Regardless of who the players are and regardless of who the manager is you have got to stay together," said Worthington. "We have done that in the past and I'm sure we will do it again in the future."

Such is Worthington's confidence in his squad that he is still refusing to rule out the possibility of the Canaries featuring in this year's play-off competition – despite being nine points behind sixth-placed Preston.

"We are nine points behind Preston so there is a lot of work to be done," he said. "But there are still 33 points to play for so we are certainly in with a chance. All we can do now is keep working hard



Nigel Worthington

and hopefully build on the very good week we have just had.

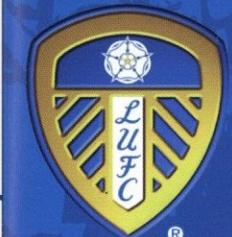
"Three games in a week is never easy and I was absolutely delighted with our performance against Derby. I thought our application and attitude was first class and I don't think anyone would deny that we deserved to win the game."

But United will be hoping that they can clip the Canaries' wings and will be looking to ensure their own play-off place with another three points at Elland Road.

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ACADEMY U18

LEEDS UTD 4

SHEFFIELD UTD 1

Leeds bounced back in style with four outstanding goals as they outplayed the Blades.

Gavin Rothery started the goal fest, sweeping home the ball from the edge of the area, and Ben Parker made it 2-0 with a superb solo effort. Having beaten two men, he managed to bulldoze his way past a third despite being off balance, then regained his composure to round the keeper and slot it in.

The third was described by coach **Greg Abbott** as one of the best scored by the U8s this season. **Robert Bailey** started the move from deep and the rounded it off, heading home a perfect pass from **Charlie Hutton**.

The final blow was another fine solo effort, **Jon Howson** picking the ball up on the edge of the area, sidestepping a defender and driving it across the keeper into the corner of the net.

Greg Abbott said: "We played some great football at times and you have to be happy when you beat a side 4-1 but we have very high standards here and there are still things we can improve on."

ACADEMY U18

DERBY COUNTY 2 LEEDS UTD 0

United were worn down by a powerful Derby side who took over at the top of the league with two second half goals.

Leeds included several younger players against a team that is always made up of bigger lads coming to the end of their academy careers, and coach **Greg Abbott** admitted that one or two of his more senior players, who have also played a lot of games in the reserves, were looking a bit tired.

But Leeds more than held their own in the first half before being overpowered and Abbott declared: "Derby deserved the win but I still think we have the better players in the long run."

LADIES STORM TO CUP SEMI-FINAL

BIRMINGHAM CITY 1

LEEDS UTD 3

Goals from Karen Burke, Karen Walker and Sue Smith saw Leeds storm into the semi-finals of the Women's FA Cup where they will meet Liverpool on 12 March.

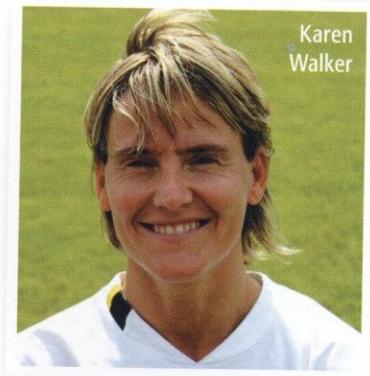
Sophie Walton set the tone for the match when she won the ball with a crunching tackle almost straight from the kick off and Leeds went on to dominate the early stages.

Jess Clarke tested England goalkeeper Jo Fletcher early on and **Natalie Haigh** saw a header go just wide of the post.

Stand-in skipper Burke was leading from the front and fired Leeds in front with a 25-yard shot after good work from Sue Smith.

Leeds went further in front five minutes before the break when Burke picked out Walker with a cross field pass and the striker managed to squeeze it in over the keeper from a tight angle.

Gemma Fay pulled off a finger-tip save to maintain Leeds' advantage and, after withstanding a Birmingham flurry early in the second half, Leeds clinched the game with a fine goal from **Sue Smith**, who had been causing the Birmingham defenders problems all afternoon.



Karen Walker

Burke picked out Smith on the wing and she cut into the area, beat three players, rounded the keeper and rolled the ball into the net for a potential goal of the season.

Birmingham managed a late consolation but Leeds manager **Julie Chipchase** was delighted with the result, saying: "The girls were tremendous. Karen Burke never stopped running, both in attack and defence. She was back to her best."

With semi-final opponents Liverpool playing in a league below, Leeds have a great chance of reaching their first final but Chipchase warned: "I have to be pleased with the draw but there is no way we think we are in the final already."

"Liverpool are top of the Northern National League and have some good players and nothing less will do than the commitment and workrate we showed against Birmingham."

RESERVES RAINED OFF

United's match at Wolverhampton Wanderers was called off because of a waterlogged pitch. A full report of Wednesday's game against Liverpool will appear in the next programme.



COCA-COLA FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE

P	HOME					AWAY					Pts	GD	
	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A			
Reading	35	15	1	1	45	10	10	7	1	30	13	83	+52
Sheff Utd	35	12	3	2	33	16	10	5	3	29	18	74	+28
Watford	35	9	4	4	32	17	9	6	3	31	23	64	+23
LEEDS	34	11	3	2	29	13	7	6	5	18	14	63	+20
C Palace	34	10	4	3	25	11	6	5	6	23	22	57	+15
Preston	33	6	9	2	21	11	7	7	2	23	12	55	+21
Cardiff	35	9	6	3	29	17	5	4	8	20	24	52	+8
Wolves	34	7	7	3	17	12	5	7	5	20	16	50	+9
Luton	35	9	5	4	40	26	5	1	11	14	28	48	0
Ipswich	35	6	6	5	20	24	6	5	7	20	24	47	-8
Norwich	35	8	4	6	24	18	5	3	9	18	29	46	-5
Coventry	35	9	5	3	31	18	2	6	10	16	35	44	-6
Burnley	34	9	3	5	29	17	3	4	10	12	26	43	-2
Plymouth	34	7	6	4	20	18	3	7	7	12	20	43	-6
QPR	34	7	4	6	19	18	4	5	8	19	30	42	-10
Stoke	33	5	4	8	18	24	7	0	9	17	23	40	-12
Hull City	35	5	6	6	18	17	4	5	9	19	26	38	-6
Southampton	34	5	9	3	14	11	2	7	8	16	25	37	-6
Leicester	35	5	8	5	22	20	3	5	9	16	26	37	-8
Derby	35	4	9	4	25	23	2	8	8	17	29	35	-10
Sheff Wed	35	5	5	8	17	22	3	5	9	10	21	34	-16
Millwall	35	2	7	9	9	22	3	7	7	16	25	29	-22
Brighton	35	4	6	8	19	24	1	8	8	12	31	29	-24
Crewe	34	3	5	9	24	34	1	6	10	15	40	23	-35

BARCLAYS PREMIERSHIP RESERVE LEAGUE NORTH

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS	
Man Utd Res	20	16	0	4	55	22	33	48
Middlesbrough Res	21	13	5	3	44	17	27	44
Aston Villa Res	20	11	7	2	44	19	25	40
Man City Res	19	9	6	4	31	24	7	33
Liverpool Res	18	8	4	6	19	20	-1	28
Newcastle Res	19	7	6	6	34	31	3	27
Everton Res	20	7	5	8	23	29	-6	26
Sunderland Res	21	7	5	9	26	35	-9	26
Blackburn Res	19	6	6	7	30	36	-6	24
Birmingham Res	21	5	6	10	24	30	-6	21
LEEDS UTD	18	5	6	7	14	23	-9	21
West Brom Res	20	5	5	10	20	35	-15	20
Wolverhampton Res	18	5	4	9	19	23	-4	19
Bolton Res	19	3	4	12	14	33	-19	13
Wigan Res	19	3	3	13	12	32	-20	12

FA PREMIER ACADEMY U 18

As at: 19 Feb

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS	
LEEDS UTD	20	12	3	5	41	22	19	39
Derby	20	11	6	3	34	19	15	39
Newcastle	19	8	4	7	24	24	0	28
Sheff Utd	21	6	6	9	23	30	-7	24
Middlesbrough	20	7	3	10	23	35	-12	24
Nottm Forest	19	6	4	9	26	25	1	22
Sunderland	21	6	3	12	18	28	-10	21
Sheff Wed	21	6	3	12	25	41	-16	21
Barnsley	20	4	4	12	15	36	-21	16
Huddersfield	17	4	2	11	18	42	-24	14

Due to the unavailability of South Leeds Stadium, the Reserve team match v Everton, scheduled for Wed 19 April 2006 (7pm) will be played at Elland Road.

STAT ATTACK...

HATTER RECORD: Today's match is only the 19th league encounter at Elland Road between Leeds and Luton Town. United's record so far is W9, D5, L4, GF29, GA 19. Overall, we have played Luton just 37 times in the league with a record of W12, D14, L11, GF48, GA 36.

TOP SCORERS: Robbie Blake's penalty against Leicester took him to ten in the league, one ahead of Rob Hulse and David Healy. When those two reach ten, it will be the first time since 1993-94 that United have had three strikers in double figures. Then it was Rod Wallace 17, Brian Deane 11 and Gary Speed 10.

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NATIONWIDE WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE SEASON 2005-06

Date	Opponent	Comp/F-A
Sun 14 Aug	Fulham	2-1
Sun 21 Aug	Arsenal	3-4
Sun 28 Aug	Everton	2-4
Sun 4 Sep	Charlton	0-2
Wed 7 Sep	Sunderland	1-1
Sun 11 Sep	Bristol Acad (Lge Cup)	1-2
Sun 18 Sep	Bristol Acad	2-2
Sun 2 Oct	Charlton	1-1
Wed 5 Oct	Sunderland	2-2
Sun 23 Oct	Birmingham	3-3
Sun 30 Oct	Doncaster Belles	3-1
Sun 6 Nov	Chelsea	1-2
Sun 20 Nov	Chelsea	3-2
Sun 4 Dec	Fulham	1-0
Sun 11 Dec	Birmingham	0-2
Sun 8 Jan	Doncaster Belles (FAWC)	2-1
Sun 22 Jan	Arsenal	1-4
Sun 29 Jan	Everton (FAWC)	3-1
Sun 12 Feb	Birmingham City (FAWC)	3-1
Sun 12 Mar	Liverpool	FAWC
TBA	Doncaster Belles	L
TBA	Bristol Acad	L
TBA	Everton	L

BARCLAYS PREMIERSHIP RESERVE LEAGUE NORTH

Home matches are played at South Leeds Stadium unless stated.

Wed Aug 10	Newcastle United	2-3
Wed Aug 31	Everton	1-1
Tue Sep 6	Man Utd (at Elland Rd)	0-2
Wed Sep 14	Bolton Wanderers	0-1
Wed Sep 21	Wigan Athletic	2-1
Tue Sep 27	Liverpool	1-0
Tue Oct 4	Wolves	1-3
Tue Oct 11	Middlesbrough	0-0
Wed Oct 19	Aston Villa	0-3
Wed Nov 2	Blackburn Rovers	0-1
Wed Nov 16	Birmingham City	0-0
Wed Dec 14	Sunderland	2-1
Wed Dec 21	Newcastle United	2-2
Thu Jan 12	Manchester United	1-5
Mon Jan 23	Bolton Wanderers	1-0
Wed Feb 1	West Bromwich Albion	1-0
Wed Feb 8	Wigan Athletic	0-0
Wed Feb 15	Wolverhampton Wdrs	P-P
Wed Feb 22	Liverpool	0-0
Wed Mar 1	Middlesbrough	
Tue Mar 7	Aston Villa	
Mon Mar 13	Blackburn Rovers	
Wed Mar 22	Manchester City	
Mon Mar 27	Birmingham City	
Wed Apr 5	West Bromwich Albion	
Mon Apr 10	Manchester City	
Wed Apr 12	Sunderland	
Wed Apr 19	Everton	7.00pm
Wed May 3	Play-off	

F.A. PREMIER ACADEMY LEAGUE UNDER-18 2005/06 FIXTURES

Sat Aug 20	Crystal Palace	3-3
Sat Aug 27	Charlton Athletic	1-0
Sat Sep 3	Everton	0-1
Sat Sep 10	Liverpool	1-3
Sat Sep 17	Manchester City	3-1
Sat Sep 24	Sheffield Wednesday	1-0
Sat Oct 1	Middlesbrough	1-1
Sat Oct 8	Nottingham Forest	5-2
Sat Oct 15	Barnsley	3-0
Sat Oct 22	Newcastle Utd	3-0
Sat Nov 5	Sunderland	3-1
Sat Nov 12	Derby County	1-2
Sat Nov 19	Sheffield United	1-0
Sat Dec 10	Sheffield Wednesday	4-0
Sat Dec 17	Huddersfield Town	3-0
Sat Jan 7	Nottingham Forest	6-0
Sat Jan 14	Barnsley	2-0
Sat Jan 21	Newcastle Utd	1-2
Sat Feb 4	Sunderland	1-2
Sat Feb 11	Derby County	5-0
Sat Feb 18	Sheffield United	10-1
Sat Feb 25	Huddersfield Town	
Sat Mar 4	Middlesbrough	
Sat Mar 11	Manchester United	
Sat Mar 18	West Bromwich Albion	
Sat Apr 1	Wolverhampton Wanderers	
Sat Apr 8	Blackburn Rovers	
Sat Apr 22	Bolton Wanderers	
Sat May 6	Semi-final	
Sat May 11	Final	

Kick off time is 11.00am unless stated

FIRST TEAM PLAYING SQUAD 2005-06 STATS & ROLL CALL

Championship Start	Sub	Gls	Cup matches Start	Sub	Gls	Leeds Utd career Start	Sub	Gls
Neil Sullivan	30	0	5	0</				

G = Goalkeeper
RB = Rightback
LB = Leftback
CB = Centreback
RM = Right Midfield
CM = Centre Midfield
LM = Left Midfield
S = Striker
y = yellow Card
r = red Card
Sub = Used Sub
U = Unused Sub

CC = Carling Cup
FAC = FA Cup
PLAYER'S NAME SHADE

G = Goalkeeper	LM = Left Midfield	CC = Carling Cup	Matching colours indicate
RB = Rightback	S = Striker	FAC = FA Cup	players substituted and
LB = Leftback	y = yellow Card	PLAYER'S NAME SHADED	players who replaced the
CB = Centreback	r = red Card	GREEN = Goalkeeper	
RM = Right Midfield	Sub = Used Sub	SHADED GREY =	

All fixtures kick-off at 3pm unless stated otherwise.

CM = Centre Midfield **U** = Unused Sub Left the club, or out on loan Unless stated otherwise

Happy Birthday to our
CEO, **Shaun Harvey**
(above right) and our
Head of Membership,
John Hemmingham.
Best Wishes from all the
staff at Leeds United.



**Book your accommodation for the next Leeds United game
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†Play-off dates are subject to confirmation

*Brighton goalscorers - Sep 10, 2005 - Knight (28)

8Southampton goalscorers - Nov

§Southampton goalscorers - Nov 19, 2005 - Parreira (27), Quashie (33, 45 pen) -
Wigan goalscorers - Jan 17, 2006 - Johansson (27), Roberts (50, 103)

- Wigan goalscorers - Jan 17, 2006 - Johansson (23), Roberts (50, After extra time (2-2 at 90 minutes). Wigan won 4-2 on penalties.

After extra-time (2-2 at 90 minutes). Wigan won 4-2 on penalties.

10

LEEDS
UNITED

1	NEIL SULLIVAN	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	GARY KELLY	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	STEPHEN CRAINEY	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	PAUL BUTLER	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	SEAN GREGAN	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	DAVID HEALY	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	ROB HULSE	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	EDDIE LEWIS	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	DANNY PUGH	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	IAN BENNETT	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	STEVE STONE	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	FRAZER RICHARDSON	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	GYLFI EINARSSON	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	LIAM MILLER	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	SIMON WALTON	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	EIRIK BAKKE	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	JONATHAN DOUGLAS	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	SHAUN DERRY	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	IAN MOORE	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	DAN HARDING	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	RUI MARQUES	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	RICHARD CRESSWELL	<input type="checkbox"/>
26	MATTHEW KILGALLON	<input type="checkbox"/>
27	JOEL GRIFFITHS	<input type="checkbox"/>
28	ROBBIE BLAKE	<input type="checkbox"/>
31	STEVEN McKEOWN	<input type="checkbox"/>
33	NICK GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
36	MARK WILBERFORCE	<input type="checkbox"/>

LUTON
TOWN

<input type="checkbox"/>	MARLON BERESFORD	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	KEVIN FOLEY	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	SOL DAVIS	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	CHRIS COYNE	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	RUSSELL PERRETT	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	PAUL UNDERWOOD	6
<input type="checkbox"/>	CARLOS EDWARDS	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	KEVIN NICHOLLS	8
<input type="checkbox"/>	ROWAN VINE	9
<input type="checkbox"/>	WARREN FEENEY	10
<input type="checkbox"/>	STEVE ROBINSON	11
<input type="checkbox"/>	ENOCH SHOWUNMI	16
<input type="checkbox"/>	PAUL HUGHES	17
<input type="checkbox"/>	AHMET BRKOVIC	18
<input type="checkbox"/>	STEVEN HOWARD	19
<input type="checkbox"/>	KEITH KEANE	21
<input type="checkbox"/>	DANNY STEVENS	22
<input type="checkbox"/>	DEAN MORGAN	23
<input type="checkbox"/>	MARKUS HEIKKINEN	26
<input type="checkbox"/>	PETER HOLMES	27
<input type="checkbox"/>	DAVID BELL	28
<input type="checkbox"/>	DEAN BRILL	33
<input type="checkbox"/>	LEON BARNETT	45
<input type="checkbox"/>	ROB BECKWITH	47

RESULT

LEEDS UNITED

H/T

LUTON TOWN

F/T

LEEDS UNITED SCORERS

LUTON TOWN SCORERS

ATTENDANCE

MAN OF THE MATCH

THE MATCH OFFICIALS:

Referee: K Hill
 Assistant: G Brittain
 Assistant: A Halliday
 4th Official: N Swarbrick

SATURDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2006

THE COCA COLA FOOTBALL
LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

Coventry v Burnley
 Crewe v Brighton
 Crystal Palace v Norwich
 Derby v Plymouth
 Hull v Wolverhampton
 Ipswich v Leicester
 Leeds v Luton
 Reading v Preston
 Sheffield Utd v QPR
 Southampton v Sheffield Wed
 Stoke v Millwall
 Watford v Cardiff



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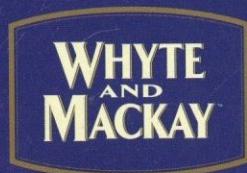


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The team spirit
of Leeds United



BE A PART OF THIS
GREAT CLUB



Kevin **BLACKWELL**



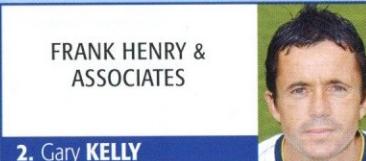
Sam **ELLIS**



6. Paul **BUTLER**



1. Neil **SULLIVAN**



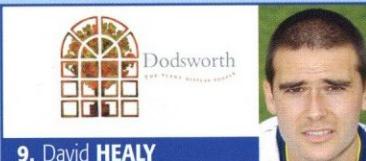
2. Gary **KELLY**



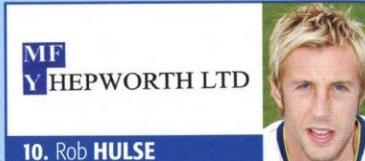
3. Stephen **CRAINER**



8. Sean **GREGAN**



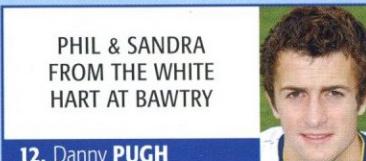
9. David **HEALY**



10. Rob **HULSE**



11. Eddie **LEWIS**



12. Danny **PUGH**



13. Ian **BENNETT**



14. Steve **STONE**



15. Frazer **RICHARDSON**



16. Gylfi **EINARSSON**



17. Liam **MILLER**



18. Simon **WALTON**

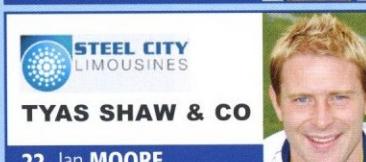


20. Jonathan **DOUGLAS**



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21. Shaun **DERRY**



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22. Ian **MOORE**



23. Dan **HARDING**



25. Richard **CRESSWELL**



26. Matthew **KILGALLON**



28. Robbie **BLAKE**



33. Nick **GRAY**



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Ken and Suzannah Bates
were special guests at the
last Peacocks' Lunch



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LEEDS ON THE ROAD

Following on from the success of 'Leeds on the Road' in Hampshire and Ilkley we are pleased to announce that our next event is at Scarborough on Friday, 31 March before our away game against Hull. Full details and ticket information will be published on our website and in the next programme.

PEACOCKS' LUNCH

Our thanks go to our chairman Ken Bates and his wife Suzannah who were special guests at our February Peacocks' lunch. Those in attendance learned about how things have changed for the better on the inside at Elland Road as well as on the pitch.

The date for the next lunch is Wednesday 8 March when our special guest will be Leeds favourite Trevor Cherry.

To book tickets for the silver service three-course lunch call 0845 121 1992. Ticket price £15.50.

REGIONAL MEMBERS CLUBS

We are delighted to announce Carlisle Whites as the latest Regional Members Club following an evening at the Lakes Court Hotel in Carlisle. Many thanks go to Paul Armstrong and the fans from Carlisle for putting on the evening and inviting John Hemmingham to speak.

We now have 31 groups either formed or in the process of forming. If you are interested in forming a Leeds United Regional Members Club please call John Hemmingham on 0113 367 6242.

TICKET OFFER

One thing we have learned from our fans is that they are not aware an adult and a child can buy two tickets for a combined price of £35 for our family section in the East Stand. If the game is category B, that goes down to £30. This offer applies to members only; only one membership is needed to buy the two tickets.

Call our ticket office on 0845 121 1992.



THE LEEDS UNITED MEMBERS CLUB, CALL 0845 121 1992 NOW!