

seagull

BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION V LUTON | 25 MARCH 06

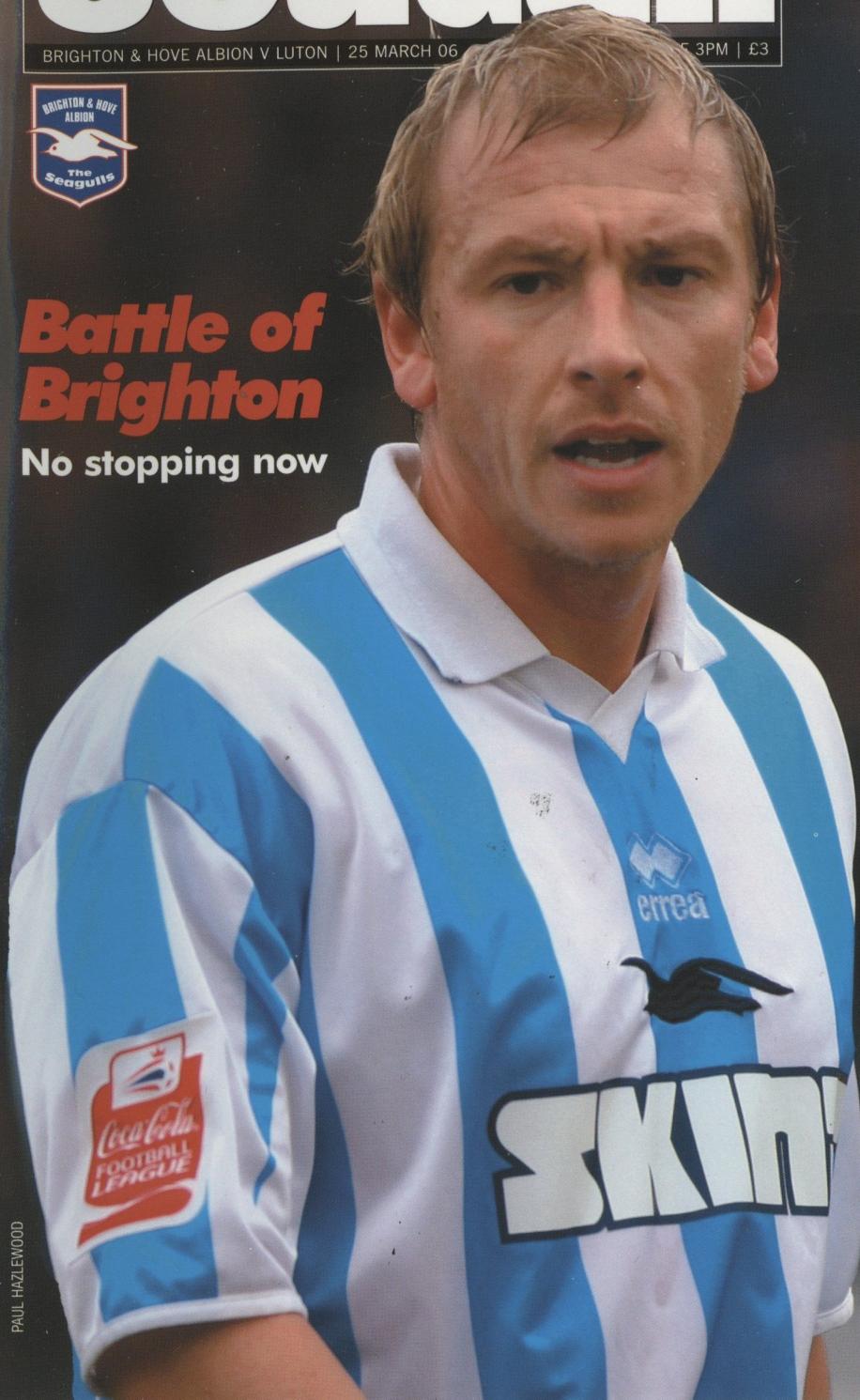
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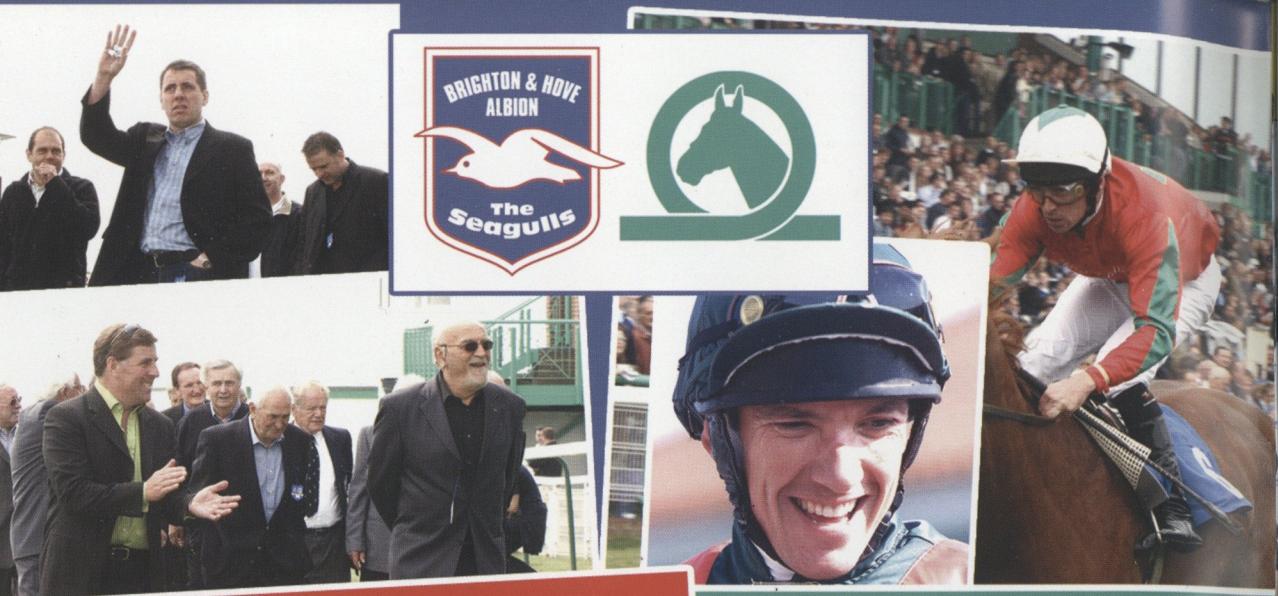
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We say...

Football began when schoolboys, factory workers, church members, or simply a bunch of friends, joined forces to form a team.

This evolved into clubs representing their district, town, or county in the Albion's case; in national or regional leagues and cup competitions.

Eleven men on each side, every Saturday, at various stadiums across the land, for nine months of the year.

That's how it's been for well over a century - a way of life. As the game has progressed and moved on, so has the involvement with its community, its lifeblood.

It's so much more than football now. Our favourite sport is used to educate, inspire, and give opportunities to people who may not get them elsewhere.

The Albion's Football in the Community scheme, showcased in this edition of *Seagull*, is, quite simply, enormous. Its operations reach out to every part of Sussex and provide invaluable services to thousands of men, women and children, irrespective of wealth or status, every day of the week.

If the scheme's success and importance was measured in football terms the Albion would have had the Premiership title in the bag some time ago.

It's something we should all be very proud of...

Dan Tester, editor

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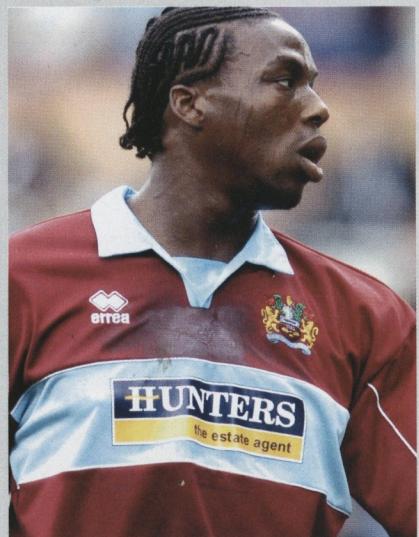
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■ NEW STRIKER ARRIVES

Welcome, Gifton

On transfer deadline day, shortly before the 5pm deadline, Albion completed the signing of former Watford, Stoke and Burnley striker Gifton Noel-Williams on loan until the end of the season. Albion have paid a five-figure loan fee for the 25-year-old, which the club was prepared to pay in order to secure the services of the player.

Noel-Williams began his career at Watford and has made 228 senior starts, 88 substitute appearances and scored 66 senior goals. He will have Albion squad number 7.



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To avoid the drop we have to give blood if necessary

Programme notes can be a very useful vehicle for managers to communicate with the club's supporters. Rather than trust our message to be delivered as we intended it by the media, you can have it straight from the horse's mouth. How many of you actually read what we have to say is another matter.

At this stage of the season there is a danger that we can become repetitive. I apologise if that is the case now.

My head aches trying to think where there might be players that we have not considered. My ear is sore from holding the phone to it. Apart from the obvious reasons like injury, unavailability, the refusal of the player to come and play at Withdean and, on one occasion only, cost, we have also faced problems with work permit issues.

We seem to be destined to stick by our present squad. So be it. When I took over Dick made the situation quite clear. It would be a bonus if funds became available to buy players. I accepted that then and I accept it now.

This is a development job. We must bring on the youngsters whilst juggling the available playing budget in order that occasionally we can

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Congratulations to Henry and Irene Wood who celebrate their Golden Wedding anniversary this weekend. Both are South Stand season ticket holders and have supported the club for over 60 years. Their children and grandchildren are also season ticket holders so they're obviously doing something right!

bring in a more experienced player. We still have the smallest budget in the division, which we do try to make the best of. We will not always get it right but neither do Manchester United and Chelsea.

Our young players will develop quicker playing in the Championship when tested every week, even when losing!

We have to give blood if necessary in order to try and avoid the drop. Regardless of our circumstances we can still do it. These next games will be about attitude. They will require commitment beyond the call of duty. They will need those that are selected to produce career performances. The players cannot accept less than 100% and must demand that of each other. I will not accept anything less and neither should you. Let us know how you feel if you do not see that type of commitment.

The understanding that you have demonstrated has been brilliant but the players have to know that you will continue to do that only if they give you everything.

■ I was pleased to announce on Thursday that we have secured the services of Gifton Noel-Williams. A robust centre forward, Gifton should bring something of what we've been looking for to the forward line and be a great foil for one of our young strikers. I would like to wish Gifton all the best.



**BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION
FOOTBALL CLUB**

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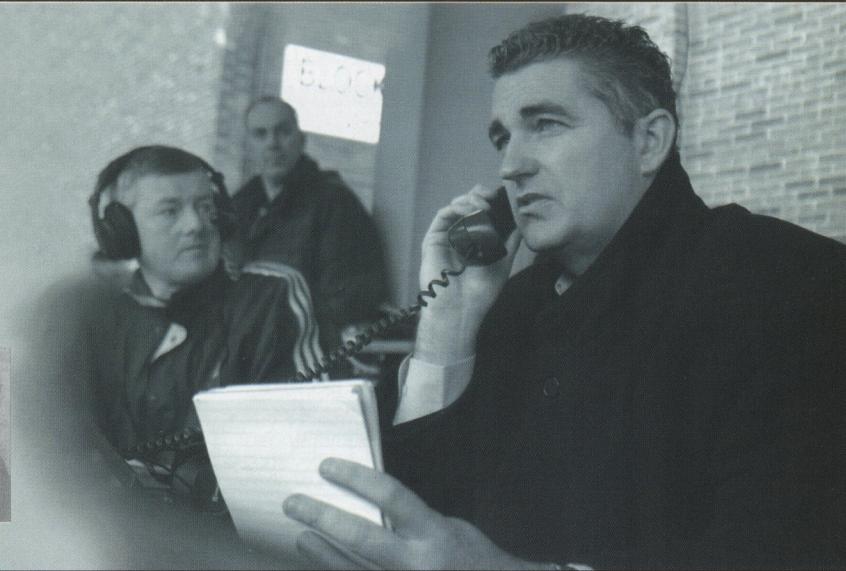
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EVERY SATURDAY

Read Andy every day
in The Argus



Fortress Withdean please for the last few games

/// THERE is no time like the present for Albion to turn Withdean into a bit of a fortress once more.

The fading hopes of Championship survival depend on it.

It is hard to see the Seagulls picking up many points from visits to Millwall, Ipswich and Wolves, given the dramatic decline in away form this year.

The four matches left at home, starting with today's clash against mid-table Luton, are another matter.

Of course, it won't be easy against Mike Newell's side - no game is when you have won only five all season.

QPR's determined display at Loftus Road last Saturday emphasised that teams with supposedly nothing to play for can still cause problems and Luton played a much-changed Albion off the park at Kenilworth Road at Christmas.

The Hatters are contrastingly poor travellers. They share with Burnley the dubious distinction of 13 away defeats, the most in the Championship.

Southampton, Sheffield Wednesday and Stoke - all in the bottom half of the table - are the others yet to come to Withdean.

Wednesday are the only ones still in peril and Albion should be grateful for their Easter Monday visit. A gap of seven points between the sides, with seven games to go would be even more daunting without it.

Albion's successes since the move to Withdean in July 1999 have been based on an impressive home record.

This season has been different. Up until the mid-December visit of Hull, more points had been picked up away.

The away record was remarkably good at that stage for a team in Albion's position, the memorable victory at Crystal

Palace supplemented by draws at Derby, Preston, Leeds, Burnley, Leicester, Sheffield Wednesday, Cardiff and Watford.

Even taking into account the disastrous run since - the draw at QPR ended a run of eight straight away defeats - the Seagulls have accumulated only a point fewer on the road than Micky Adams' Coventry, who are sitting comfortably in the top half of the table.

You don't need a plush new stadium, like Coventry's Ricoh Arena, to be formidable at home either. Luton are proof of that.

Nobody likes Withdean, not the players, management, supporters or us in the spoilt media, accustomed to much grander facilities at most other Championship clubs.

Albion must stop opponents from liking it too, by sending them home pointless.



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Albion in the Community is growing so fast we need six pages to tell you everything that's going on!

An incredible amount of hard work goes on behind the scenes from the club's committed and dedicated team. Aside from the full-time staff, an army of part-timers and volunteers make the Albion in the Community scheme one of the biggest and most successful of its kind in the country.

We'll overview what the scheme has to offer and give you all the details you need to get involved; whether it's playing football, brushing up on your Maths and English skills, or leading a healthier lifestyle. If you can't find the information you require here, visit the website above.

From football courses, educational opportunities and a special disability section, the Albion's comprehensive initiative is top of the league.

Founded in 1990, with the purpose of encouraging grass roots football, the programme has grown to offer a wide range of football development initiatives and events for children and adults of all backgrounds.

The Albion in the Community programme is not just about the sport we all love. The scheme can be broken down into three main areas:

- Education
- Health
- Football

■ EDUCATION

Using football as the inspiration, anyone from nine to 90 can benefit from the club's learning programmes.

In July 2002, the Sussex Learning & Skills Council (SLSC) provided the Albion's Football in the Community Scheme with government and EU funding to set up a Study Support Centre at Withdean.

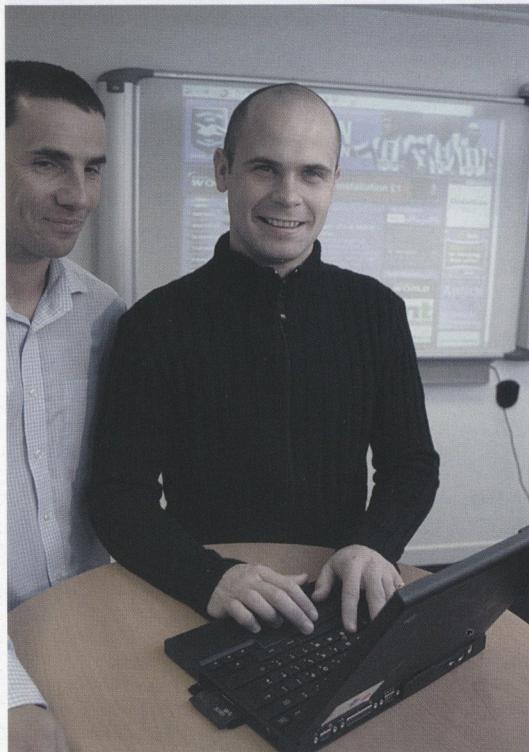
The aim was to use the power of football to encourage adults back into education.

The impact for the community was almost immediate. Here's what the SLSC had to say on the Centre just a few months after it opened...

"The club has led the way in developing sports club-based learning and has not only developed its own brand of learning opportunity but has co-ordinated the activities of other sports employers in Sussex. Sussex and Brighton & Hove needs a higher skilled workforce and higher levels of educational achievement. The Albion are contributing, significantly, to economic development and the enhancement of opportunities for individuals and communities through harnessing the power of sport."



■ adult education



Nothing like 'school'!

Club captain Charlie Oatway is one of thousands of people to benefit from the Albion's adult education facilities at Withdean Stadium.

As featured in *The Sun* newspaper this week, the inspirational midfielder has signed up for the Government's *Get On* campaign which is hoping to improve numeracy and writing skills among the adult population.

The club's inaugural adult education programme was launched at Withdean in January 2003. The main target of learner attendance hours achieved was exceeded by 10% in the first year.

The continuing

growth and success meant the club received a further £1.7 million of government funding (another record), to build upon the success of the club's Brighton centre by expanding adult education provision with additional Study Support Centres in other football clubs around Sussex.

The adult courses are run in partnership with local Further Education colleges at Bognor Regis, Crawley Town, Eastbourne Borough, Hastings United and Worthing.

The current

range of adult education courses is listed in the next column.

- Computer (ECDL)
- Literacy (English)
- Numeracy (Maths)
- Careers Advice & Guidance
- Sport (BTEC National Award) Brighton only
- Sport (Foundation Degree) Starting autumn 2006 - Brighton only

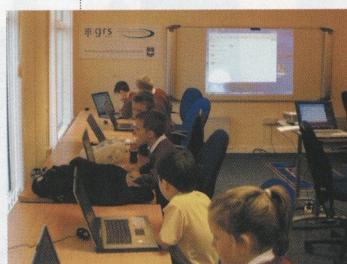
The friendly and informal environment has been incorporated at five other Sussex football clubs.

"It's a brilliant scheme - whether you need to cover the basics or just brush up your skills," says Oatway. "The lessons are nothing like school either!"

All courses are available free of charge to anyone over the age of 20 who is a permanent Sussex resident except for those currently in full-time education, or who are working full-time in the public sector or in a large enterprise.

With the completion of Falmer, new courses in Building & Construction as well as additional Sports and Health courses will be available in purpose-built teaching facilities.

In 2005-06 the Albion's education programmes will have provided 2,000 places for learners across Sussex.



SEAGULLS LEARNING CENTRE

Publishing a sports magazine is just one of the fascinating projects undertaken at the Seagulls Learning Centre.

CLaSS (City Leisure and School Sport) magazine focuses on school sports and is made entirely by the Centre's pupils who also get a chance to develop their journalistic skills.

Playing For Success (PFS) is a government-funded after-school project. Based at sports clubs nationally, with the aim of inspiring greater academic achievement, the Albion opened its new Playing For Success Centre at Withdean Stadium at the beginning of the year. The club's existing Study Support Centre at the ground has been expanded to create a new 'out of school hours' learning area, the Seagulls Learning Centre, and is equipped with state-of-the-art ICT facilities.

The initiative is funded three ways; by government, local authority and the football club. Generous sponsorship has also come from Technical Response and GRS. Between them they have provided the Seagulls Learning Centre with 17 laptop computers, an

- ▶ interactive whiteboard, projector, cameras and office furniture.

The programme is an extension of the adult education programmes, reaching a new age group. In conjunction with Brighton & Hove City Council, the DfES and Albion's business sponsors, youngsters will have the chance, via the inspirational factor of sport, to gain greater understanding and confidence within three key skills areas: Literacy, Numeracy and Information & Communication Technology (ICT) as well as developing their teamwork, self-esteem and communication skill.

Pupils will attend short weekly programmes in groups of up to 20 learners.

Local schools can offer their pupils increased out-of-school hours provision at the Albion. The new PfS Centre can accommodate up to 800 children each year, from up to 40 Brighton & Hove schools.

PfS uses the pull of a sport as its inspiration to motivate pupils aged 9-13 with their schoolwork, raising general educational standards.

Since 1997, the scheme has grown to become a well-established and highly successful educational programme of 'after school' study support centres, implemented by over 100 major sports clubs around the country.

For more information contact centre manager Anthony Faulkner through the website.

ALBION YOUTH PLAYERS LEARN OFF THE PITCH TOO

It's not just local children who benefit from the Albion's Study Support Centres; future Albion players do too. As part of the club's Football Scholarship Scheme, all of the youth team (under 18s) undertake 10 hours of education a week in addition to their football programme. This includes the Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence that comprises an NVQ and 2 A levels or 4 GCSEs.

The scheme is run by the Albion's Education Department in conjunction with Sussex Downs College, with lessons based at the College.

The Football Scholarship Scheme is part of a national Football League initiative to improve the educational standards of footballers. The Albion have been running the scheme for several years with excellent results.

CROSS CHANNEL CONNECTION

Awarded European funding through the Interreg IIIA Project, the Albion and Le Havre Football Club's (known as Havre Athletic Club) Anglo-French cross-cultural project began in 2004.

The project is run by former Albion and Le Havre striker, John Byrne.

Byrne joined Albion for

the first of three spells from our friends across the English Channel in 1990 and had previously enjoyed four seasons in the top flight with QPR.

Representing the Republic of Ireland during his first period at the club, Byrne formed a formidable club partnership with Mike Small which took the Albion to within 90 minutes of the old First Division.

Byrne left the Goldstone and went on to play in an FA Cup final for Sunderland before moving on to Millwall and Oxford then returning south and finishing his career at Albion in 1996, having scored a total of 28 goals in 110 appearances.

The joint venture aims to promote and deliver learning and cultural activities using football as the driving force to increase participation and raise cultural awareness amongst the citizens of Le Havre and Brighton & Hove.

Successful visits last year included the club's first teams crossing the channel to play in friendlies, community groups doing the same, and the Albion assisting their French counterparts to set up a Study Support Centre at Le Stade Jules Deschaseaux.

Nine exchange visits are planned for 2006, and it is hoped that a further programme could be set up for 2007 and beyond.



■ health

THE ALBION CHOOSE HEALTH

On the pitch the Albion can sometimes be bad for your health but, off it, the club is leading the way when it comes to choosing a healthier lifestyle.

The Albion was one of the first in the country to lend its support to a government-backed health initiative.

The 'We Choose Health' campaign was officially launched at the Norwich match in October last year. The Albion, in partnership with Brighton & Hove City Council and the Brighton & Hove City Primary Care Trust, is supporting the Department of Health's white paper entitled 'Choosing Health.'

The Government aims to tackle four key areas of concern in

public health:

- obesity
- smoking
- alcohol abuse
- sexual health

AN IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

Another new initiative in the Albion's groundbreaking programme is The Seagulls Six Week Lifestyle Challenge.

On Saturday 1st April, as part of Albion in the Community's We Choose Health campaign, the scheme launches and aims to encourage people to start to lead a healthier lifestyle.

From the beginning of April, and for the following six weeks, the programme will be providing information and tips on how to achieve and sustain successful dietary changes.

For example, in

order to really make a change, complete a food and activity diary to track your progress then use the questionnaire check where you need to make those changes.

The diary and questionnaire can be downloaded from Albion in the Community's website www.albioninthecommunity.org.uk

Here are a few examples of what you may decide to change

- Limit my chocolate intake to three fun-sized bars a week
- Eat at least three pieces of fruit every day
- Cut the fat off meat before cooking
- Switch to semi-skimmed milk
- Cut my alcohol by half
- Eat breakfast at least 5 days every week

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■ football development

FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT

Former centre back Larry May - who played over 300 games for Leicester City, Barnsley, Sheffield Wednesday and Albion - is Football Coordinator for Albion's Football in the Community (FITCH) programme.

The huge programme touches all four corners of Sussex and in any given week over a dozen junior schools, in each of the four areas, will be visited by Football in the Community coaches.

The scheme is sponsored by ADT.

With full time coaches in Brighton and Hove, East and West Sussex and soon to be mid Sussex, the programme offers boys and girls, from ages six up to 14, of all

abilities, the opportunity to enjoy football in a structured way through professional coaches.

"The kids don't have to be the best players in the world," says May. "They can be part of the next generations of supporters too. If they're good enough they can then go on and feature in the Centre of Excellence. We identify them and push them on to Martin Hinshelwood and on to the Skills Centres. There's a great link from grass roots, to the Centres of Excellence, and on to the first team.

"We offer after-school clubs and curriculum time coaching at schools throughout the county and holiday courses throughout school holidays at Easter, half-term, summer etc. We give out forms to schools and have a database with thousands of names. Libraries, schools, anywhere where we think we'll get a good uptake. We're the biggest club in Sussex and

it's important that we get more people to have a closer affiliation to the club."

Tournaments, five-a-side festivals and mini soccer are run between six to ten weeks with qualified coaches. The Skills Centres take place in Leisure Centres across the county where the children receive a higher level of coaching.

The Holiday Football Courses take place over • Easter holidays • Whitsun half-term break • Summer holidays • October half-term break • Christmas holidays

General courses, which can run from one to five days, are for ages 6-13, boys and girls. Mini Kickers courses are for boys and girls aged 5-7. Courses run from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm each day unless stated and full details of venues and prices can be found on the website.

WEST SUSSEX

Former jockey Tony Clark was appointed by Martlet Homes and the Albion in 2003 to set up and develop community football skills centres in the west of the county. Coach of the Year award for West Sussex and Chichester, Clark oversees more than 2500 children, from all over the district who are benefiting from the programme on a weekly basis.

With his team, Clark

goes into schools, arranges Friday night football sessions and extensive holiday workshops. There is one full-time coach, Ben Johnson, and 15 part-time coaches - all qualified to UEFA Level 2 or above.

Tony's unfaltering enthusiasm and passion for coaching has gained him the respect of all the youngsters.

"The football courses don't just teach the kids about football - we are giving them life skills, showing them how to get on with other people, how to live healthy lifestyles and so on," explains Clark.

EAST SUSSEX:

Brian Cooper is running things over on the other side of the county. With over eight years' experience working for Wimbledon's Community Scheme, Cooper had a remit to get to the parts of East Sussex that the club had so far failed to reach. "I had a blank canvas," says Cooper. "The Albion's reputation in some areas needed enhancing. We started with after-school clubs and holiday courses in Uckfield, Battle, Eastbourne, Crowborough, Hastings and Rye. The club's stature is starting to grow again." Peacehaven and Seaford are also benefiting from the Albion's courses. In May, two teams from the East Sussex Development squads will travel to Holland to take part in a tournament in Arnhem.

"Some of my work is as a schools sports coordinator, with PE teachers in Brighton, Hove and Worthing, to get schools to have stronger links with the club than they have already," says May. "It's going really well and I'm working with Andy Marchant who heads up sport at Dorothy Stringer Secondary School."



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■ football development

CHILDREN'S & SCHOOLS COURSES

The Albion's Football Development scheme has achieved the FA Charter Standard Award for its children's holiday courses, and during 2004-2005 reached over 9,000 children.

The scheme is provided at schools and sporting venues across Sussex by the club's regional Football Development Officers, assisted by the club's team of qualified football coaches.

DISABILITIES FOOTBALL PROJECT

The Disabilities Football Project is an important part of the Albion In The Community programme.

It already makes a big difference to many children's lives in the county.

Here's just a small selection of what's happening across Sussex.

Seagull Specials Club: For children aged 5 and upward and groups for children and adults of all ages and ability every other Saturday at Portslade Leisure Centre from 11.00am to 4.00pm, there are 6 different groups through the day depending on ability and age.

Visually Impaired Juniors: Ages 7 to 16 every other Sunday at Portslade Leisure Centre from 11.30am to 1.00pm.

Deaf Juniors: Ages 8 to 16 train at Preston Park every Monday, 6.30pm to 7.30pm.

Sunday Adults: A club for adults with learning difficulties every Sunday at

Portslade Leisure Centre from 10am to 11.30am.

Mid Sussex Marvels: Ages 8 to 16 every other Saturday at Oakmeads Community College in Burgess Hill from 10.30am to 12.00.



supported by the Football Association.

For more information on these and dozens of other courses, visit the website.

FOOTBALL SOCIAL INCLUSION PROJECT

The project provides football opportunities for socially excluded young people living within deprived communities in Sussex.

As well as promoting the game of football as a healthy recreation, the project provides drug awareness education.

The initial target was for the project to go county-wide in 2008. By 2005 over 1,700 young people were being coached each week Sussex-wide by the club's professional coaching team.

HOLIDAY COURSES AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

During holiday periods hundreds of disadvantaged young people take part in fully-funded Football Social Inclusion Holiday Courses throughout Sussex, receiving professional coaching from qualified coaches. The holiday courses are run by the Albion during the Summer and Easter holidays, as well as half-term holidays and after school, evening and Saturday clubs and youth club football sessions.

The Project already reaches over 1,000 socially excluded young people each week.

At the community's heart

PRESTON, 11 MAR 2006
Henderson outstanding

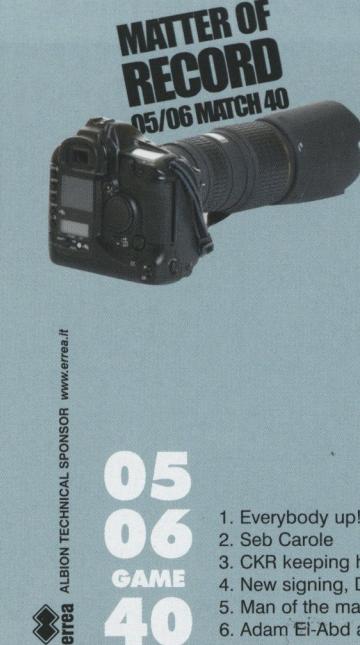
A point at last for Albion, and a good one it was, against a Preston side challenging for a play-off place. The visitors were perhaps, marginally, the better team on the day, but an excellent all-round effort from our collection of youngsters (and Chippy and Guy) kept us in touch with those immediately above us.

The Albion player with most to be pleased about was Wayne Henderson, who was responsible for a poor punch that led to the Plymouth winner a week earlier, but who thoroughly redeemed himself with an international-quality display. His low, reflex save from a Danny Dichio first-time shot was outstanding, but in general he showed why he's the man in charge of the number one shirt, and why the Republic of Ireland have awarded him his first full cap.

At the other end, it was business as usual, with a great deal of energy spent, but no end product. Colin Kazim-Richards played as a lone striker, and clearly thrived on it, despite close attention from North End's muscular defence. Gary Hart, Seb Carole, and Adam Hinshelwood might have nicked the points, as might CKR himself, but this was undoubtedly a point gained in the battle against the drop.

Teams: Albion: Henderson, Hinshelwood, El-Abd, McShane, Butters, Lynch (Hart h-t), Carole, Hammond, Carpenter, Frutos (Loft 87), Kazim-Richards. Unused subs: Martin, Mayo, Gatting. Yellow card: Carpenter.

Preston: Nash, Alexander, Davidson, Davis, Mawene, Jarrett, Sedgwick (Whaley 71), Mears, McKenna, Nugent (Ormerod 81), Dichio (Agyemang 71). Unused subs: Hill, Neal. Yellow cards: Jarrett, McKenna, Sedgwick.



05
06
GAME
40

1. Everybody up!
2. Seb Carole
3. CKR keeping his eye on the ball
4. New signing, Doug Loft
5. Man of the match, Wayne Henderson
6. Adam El-Abd and Richard Carpenter



Young guns go for it

Albion's youth team has been grabbing the headlines this season for their outstanding achievements on the pitch. Now the club has offered contracts to no fewer than ten of the current crop - the highest ever take up in the club's history.

A magnificent FA Youth Cup run, culminating in a heartbreaking penalty shoot-out defeat at Newcastle United's St James' Park in the quarter finals - not to mention an impressive league season - has seen Albion's youngsters earn widespread, and much deserved, praise.

Third-year scholars Dean Cox and Sam Rents - in the final year of their scholarships under the old three-year scholarship scheme - have each been offered one-year deals by manager Mark McGhee.

Eight of the second-year scholars have been offered professional deals for next season.

Joel Lynch and Joe Gatting three-year deals;



Bee-sting Albion's under-18s were held to a 1-1 draw at home to Brentford in their last Football League Youth Alliance outing a fortnight ago. Dean Cox opened the scoring for the Seagulls, but Brentford hit back; Albion's lead at the top of the Youth Alliance is four points with six matches left to play. Martin Hinshelwood told *Seagull*, "We were a little bit disappointed overall. We started very slowly in the first half, although the second half was better. The boys have set their standards very high, and now we want them to maintain them." *Albion: Sullivan, Fogden, Cobbs, Chamberlain, Elphick, May, Carey, Fraser, Gargan, Robinson, Cox. Subs not used: J Martin, Skinner.*

Photographs Paul Hazlewood / John Elms

Hinshview

Director of Football Martin Hinshelwood gave *Seagull* his view of the ten youngsters



Dean Cox - Winger. Born: Cuckfield, West Sussex, 12/08/1987. Not the biggest but has a big heart and always gives 100%.



Sam Rents - Left back. Born: Brighton, 22/06/1987 Been on work experience at Worthing and has improved. Great left foot, deserves his contract.



Joel Lynch - Defender. Born: Eastbourne, East Sussex, 03/10/1987 Outstanding centre half and left back. A great addition to the football club.



Paul Hinshelwood - Defender. Born: Chatham, Kent 11/10/1987 Likes to defend. Fully deserves his year, especially after the last couple of months.



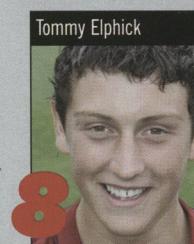
Joe Gatting - Striker. Born: Brighton, 25/11/1987 Good goalscorer, knows where the net is. Has worked hard and improved.



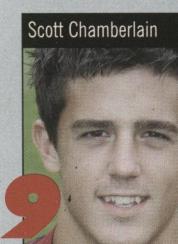
Wes Fogden - Winger. Born: Brighton, 12/04/1988 Again, not the biggest. Competes, is a good footballer and gives his all.



John Sullivan - Goalkeeper. Born: Shoreham-By-Sea, West Sussex, 08/03/1988 Only 15 when he joined us. Has worked tremendously hard and been on the subs' bench for first team. Played for England under 18s in Turkey in October.



Tommy Elphick - Defender. Born: Brighton, 07/09/1987 Appeared for the first team. Confident on the ball and happy to play from the back.



Scott Chamberlain - Midfielder. Born: Eastbourne, East Sussex 15/01/1988 Good ball player. He's first class and just loves playing.



Tommy Fraser - Midfielder. Born: Brighton, 05/12/1987 Captained the youth side this year and led by example. Really pushed on this season.

Jake Robinson and Richard Martin, also part of this impressive age group, have already signed pro contracts with the club.



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the albion football club of the future

There's more in the pipeline



Brighton & Hove Albion is proud to use the excellent football facilities at Ardingly College.



ARDINGLY
COLLEGE

The Albion's thriving youth set up continues to supply the club with a steady stream of talented home-grown youngsters. Last week the club signed eight players on full-time youth scholarship deals, which will commence in August 2006.

The boys, who finish their secondary school education this summer, have graduated from the club's Centre of Excellence. The scholars work on a full-time basis under Director of Football Martin Hinshelwood plus youth team coaches Dean Wilkins and Vic Bragg, with a view to winning a professional contract at the club.

The scholarship programme also includes an Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence - which will be undertaken under the guidance of Albion's Principal of Education, Alan Sanders. This includes a BTEC Certificate in performance and excellence (equivalent to two A Levels); an NVQ; an FA Level 2 Coaching Certificate; and a Key Skills Certificate.

Hinshelwood said, "We're looking forward to working with the new boys. They all hail from Sussex apart from Matthew Foreman, who is from Kent."

"We only take boys on if we feel they can cope with the next step and hopefully go on to play in our first team. The club can see what we're trying to do with the Centre of Excellence and the youth team, and it is paying dividends for the first team."

Director of Football Martin Hinshelwood gave *Seagull* the inside track on the latest batch of youngsters to join the club on a full-time basis.

Zac Beda, 16 (Woodingdean), Cardinal Newman School, Defender. Good on the ball and six foot tall. Can play right back, centre half or midfield. A utility player. Travelled to Newcastle for the FA Cup game.

Lee Bryant, 16 (Hurstpierpoint), Downlands School, Defender. Centre half, very tenacious. He's a Crystal Palace fan though! Been involved in the FA Youth Cup this season.

Ruben French, 16 (Bognor), Bognor Community College, Left winger. Likes to take people on and has a great left peg.

Matthew Foreman, 16 (Tonbridge, Kent), Judd School, Striker. Our 'overseas player'. Unfortunately, he's been out all season with a knee ligament injury.

Andrew Pearson, 16 (Hove), Blatchington Mill School, Defender Centre half, 6ft 2ins. Can also play midfield and is very strong in the air.

Dan Royce, 16 (Yapton), Felpham School, Right winger. Great physique, great engine.

Kane Louis, 15 (Patcham), Dorothy Stringer School, Midfielder. Likes to play. Again, he's a footballer. He's improved 100% as the season's progressed.

Kane Wills, 16 (Shoreham), King's Manor School, Midfielder. Good footballer, likes to play.

QPR, 18 MAR 2006
A precious point

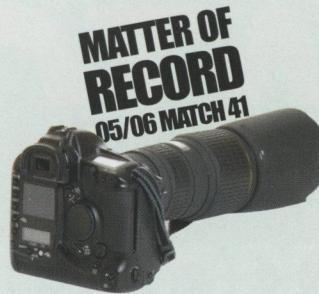
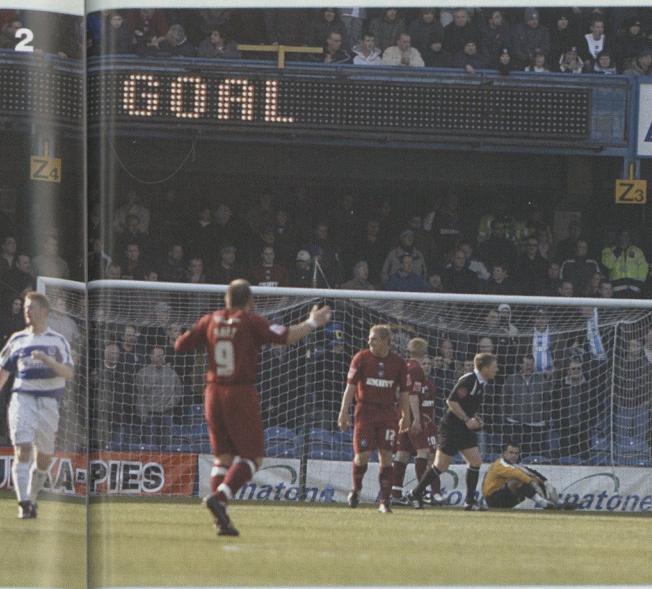
Given Albion's well-documented problems in front of goal, it was noble of Queens Park Rangers to find the net for us and hand over a precious point. Marcus Bignot's embarrassment at nodding Gary Hart's hopeful hoist past his own keeper was acute, and it gave us a point we didn't look like getting for much of the match. Sheffield Wednesday, however, beat Preston for the first time in a quarter of a century, making our position even more precarious.

The turning-point in a niggly clash came when Kevin Gallen was dismissed after a tussle with Paul McShane, though few Albion fans saw it clearly – the away end at Loftus Road probably has the worst sight-lines in the country, with the possible exception of the away end at Withdean when someone has forgotten to take down the hammer-throwing net.

Gareth Ainsworth, often a thorn in our side in the past, put the home side ahead early on, and Rangers looked the more likely scorers. So it proved, though Bignot wishes it hadn't. The youthful, and exotically named Shabazz Baidoo then missed a sitter in stoppage time, so luck was undoubtedly on our side. Let's hope it stays that way for a while.

Teams: QPR: Jones, Bignot, Shittu, Evatt, Milanese, Ainsworth, Lomas, Bircham, Cook (Baidoo 62), Gallen, Nygaard (Yousouf 62). Unused subs: Royce, Langley, Santos. **Scorer:** Ainsworth 13. **Red card:** Gallen 50. **Yellow card:** Baidoo.

Albion: Henderson, Hinshelwood, McShane, Butters, El-Abd (Dodd 55), Carole (Gatting 58), Hammond, Carpenter, Frutos (Loft 65), Hart, Kazim-Richards. Unused subs: Martin, Reid. **Scorer:** Bignot 80g. **Yellow cards:** El-Abd, Hart.



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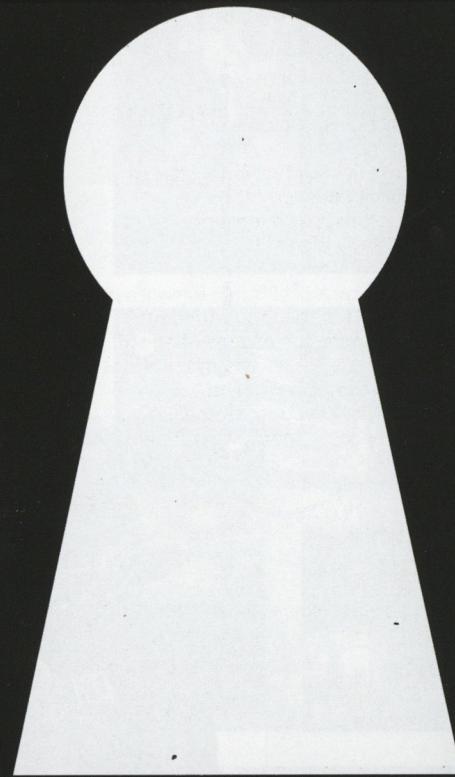


05
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GAME
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1. Seb Carole
2. QPR's goal
3. Paul McShane
4. Jumping high - Gary Hart
5. Joe Gatting on a run
6. Richard Carpenter
7. Bignot - own goal

WATCHIN'

Freemasons feat. Amanda Wilson



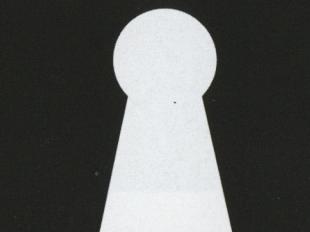
OUT FEBRUARY 27TH

The follow up to the Smash Hit 'Love on my Mind'

Freemasons feat. Amanda Wilson
LOVE ON MY MIND



Freemasons feat. Amanda Wilson
WATCHIN'



loaded

newsroundup

Jake's goal not enough at Den



ALBION reserves have been in action in London twice since our last home game, losing a behind-closed-doors friendly with Arsenal and on Tuesday they lost 3-1 to Millwall - a game which counted for both the Pontins Holiday Combination Cup and League.

Jake Robinson was on target at the New Den for Albion, but a brace for Ross Gaynor and another for Curtis Weston secured the victory for the home side. Reserve boss Dean White said, "Millwall had about four shots at goal and scored three. We had possession, we had chances, but we just couldn't score. Ultimately it's all about goals."

On the plus side Federico Turienzo came through 45 minutes on his comeback from a hamstring injury, while Jason Dodd and Florent Chaigneau played the full 90 minutes.

Seven days earlier Albion's reserves had tackled a star-studded Arsenal side which featured the likes of Dennis Bergkamp, Sol Campbell, Robin Van Persie and teenage sensation Theo Walcott. In a close contest, Bergkamp's goal proved the difference in a memorable match for Albion's young side.

Albion v Arsenal: Martin, (Sullivan), Reid, T Elphick, Dodd (Fraser), Rents; Robinson (Fogden), Cox (Chamberlain), Nicolas, Loft, Gatting (Gargan), McPhee. Albion v Millwall: Chaigneau; Dodd, T Elphick, Mayo, Rents; Cox (Jarrett), Reid, Nicolas, Loft, Turienzo (McPhee), Robinson. Subs not used: R Martin (GK), Breach.



When in Rome don't wear a shirt like the Romans do...

Albion fans Ross Tomsett and Duncan Spalding recently attended a Serie A game at the Stadio Olimpico Rome between Lazio and AC Milan. Ross, in the stripes, went to visit Duncan who has been working in the Italian capital for the last 18 months.

Help the Colts in the greatest away trip

ON APRIL 4th the youngsters of Chailey Colts are off on an educational and sporting visit to McCarthy Island, 300 miles upstream on the River Gambia in West Africa. The party will live for five days in the local round huts and experience African village life without electrical communications, TV or computer games.

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between the 300 children in the local school, will embark on a programme of cultural understanding and friendship.

Chailey sponsors have provided them with three full sets of kit which, together with two sets of England strip, will help a local Gambian club develop.

For further information contact Simon Ramm on 07779 497319 or at churchhilllewes@aol.com and Kathryn Haylett on 01273 400706.



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What a week! Doug lifts off

New boy Doug Loft has told Albion fans there is more to come, after a dream week. It began with a fleeting home debut against Preston and finished with a 25-minute appearance in the match at QPR last week. Add in a midweek reserve friendly at Arsenal which saw Loft up against the likes of Sol Campbell, Robin Van Persie and Dennis Bergkamp and you get the full picture.

"I was pleased to get on and actually play (in the matches against Preston and QPR)," the former England youth international told *Seagull* shortly after the final whistle at Loftus Road. "It was good to get some minutes under my belt. Now I want to settle down, relax and play – hopefully

a little bit better than I feel I have so far. "It's been good to get the opportunity from the gaffer and hopefully I can improve on it. I've been doing well in training, working hard and playing well in a few reserve team games, so it's not a total shock to be involved with the first team so quickly after signing. Everyone else here is experienced and I am just coming up through the ranks. I'm hoping to be able to make an impact but while I was hoping it would happen this season, I was more expecting it to be next term."

The youngster hails from Maidstone and travels into training with fellow son of Kent Richard Carpenter. Loft became Mark McGhee's first transfer window acquisition in January. Spotted playing for Ryman League

Division One Hastings United by Dean White, Loft was originally at Gillingham before taking time out to complete his studies.

Left-footer Loft made quite an impression during his short stay at the Pilot Field. Despite his side losing 3-2 to Braintree in the Cup on his debut, the former Gills youngster's impact was immediate winning the man-of-the-match award and scoring a screamer into the top corner from 25 yards.

His next appearance for United came at Whyteleafe where Loft again picked up the man-of-the-match accolade and, according to the match report, displayed 'boundless energy and moments of mesmeric skill'.

Hastings' form didn't match Loft's but, despite the team's poor run, the

youngster's performances stood out. His best moment came on Boxing Day, the day after his birthday, in the derby against Ashford Town where he was involved in all of United's good play, scoring the winner in a 2-0 victory.

Overall, Loft played ten times for the East Sussex outfit; netting twice and receiving the man-of-the-match award on no fewer than four occasions. He made his Albion debut, albeit for a couple of minutes as substitute, in the recent home draw with Preston North End. "It was great to get on and make my home debut against Preston, even if it was just for a few minutes," recalls Loft. "I got a nice reception from the crowd and I really enjoyed it.

"Against QPR I played on the left wing. I'm normally a central-midfielder so that was a change for me. The manager just sent me on and gave me instructions to get out wide and when I got the ball, to use my pace and try and get in behind them. He told me to shoot if I got the opportunity; at the end I had one shot but unfortunately it went wide.

"The pace of the game was quicker than I am used to but we train hard and play at a high pace in training so I am getting used to it. It was buzzing a bit after the sending-off and it was a different experience than what I am used to, but one that will be good for me.

"I'm still just delighted to be here. We train every day and I just love every bit of it. I'm still settling down and trying to show what I can do, in any way that I can, so I have a chance of getting into the team. Every player who is out there, playing in the positions that I can, like Alex and Seb, deserves to be there. If I can do anything when I come on to make an impression then that'll be great.

"The team spirit remains brilliant. No-one is thinking about relegation – it's not even mentioned. We are battling to stay up. We are unbeaten in the two games that I have played in so far – maybe I'm a lucky omen?"

One game can change it all around. We just have to keep battling in every game and hope for the best and hope the other results go our way. We'll keep remaining positive."



■ Doug was injured in the reserves' match on Tuesday and is awaiting a second X-ray on his leg.

Q&A

What's the spirit in the camp like at the moment? Is there still a genuine belief that we can avoid the dreaded drop?

Yes, of course! One thing the club has got is good team spirit. All the boys stick together. I think the main reason for that is that everyone is friends; that always helps. We're definitely confident we can avoid the drop.

How do you cope with continually being selected for the bench, but never quite making it on to the field of play?

It's frustrating. It's been very frustrating for me this season and I'm upset about it. I'd like to think that a lot of the fans would like to see me out there. The manager can only pick eleven players and he's the boss - what he says goes and I respect that. All the other players are my friends so when I don't play and I'm frustrated I still want the team to do well because we're all in it together, part of the club.

How often do you get back to Cyprus? How many of your family still live there?

I try to get back quite a lot. I was involved with the under 21s and due to not really featuring that much this season I've not yet been able to push on to the senior squad. Every time we had a game I'd fly over and on average I must fly over four or five times a year. A lot of my family are based in Limassol, in the south of the island.

You're having a dinner party at your house. You can invite any five famous people, dead or alive, but no one from the current Albion squad. Who would you choose and why?

I'd have to invite Diego Maradona because, in my eyes, he's the best player that has ever lived. Eva Mendes: she's beautiful! Mahatma Gandhi: because he's the spitting image of my dad! Nelson Mandela: I'd love to talk to him about his life and what happened in South Africa. Jennifer Lopez: see Eva Mendes!

What's the political situation in Cyprus these days?

I think everyone's getting on. I don't really follow the goings on there to be honest: I've lived in England all my life. It's still very popular with tourists, mainly due to the weather. It's so hot there, it's very hard to acclimatise, especially when you're playing football.

What is the best ground you've played at so far and how does it compare to Withdean?

Stamford Bridge was great when it was full: St James' Park too. The atmosphere is brilliant at Newcastle. Those grounds are totally different to Withdean. It doesn't matter if there are 6,000 or 50,000, the crowd have paid to come and watch and support us. Brighton fans deserve a hell of a lot of credit; they haven't even got a roof! Can you imagine what they'd be like with facilities like Stamford Bridge?

If you had to star in a sitcom, which one would you choose and who would be your co-star?

I'd have to be the Fresh Prince of Bel Air and Guy Butters would have to be the uncle. (For the uninitiated, the uncle character was very rich and very large!)

What's the state of Cypriot football like at the moment? Do you follow the domestic league and how are the national side getting on?

I keep an eye on things in Cyprus and have a lot of friends out there who play. The top teams are Anorthosis Famagusta, Apollon Limassol, APOEL Nicosia and Omonia Nicosia. For the Cyprus national side it's hard. We're only a small island. The under 21s have done really well and the standard of football is getting much better out there. Quite a few players who are doing well are starting to move over to the Greek mainland to play for teams such as Panathinaikos, AEK Athens and Olympiakos.

sea gull interview

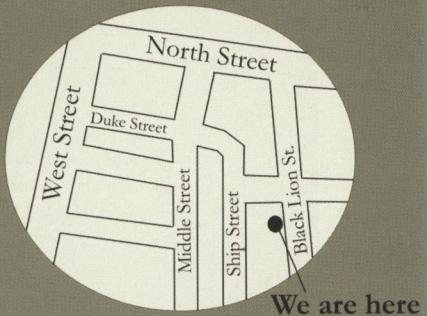


■ THE MAN INSIDE THE SHIRT... ALEXIS NICOLAS ASSISTS DAN TESTER

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Mark & Michel extended; Albert comes back, Gary moves

BRISTOL City and Boston United will retain the services of Mark McCommon and Michel Kuipers for a further month on loan while winger Albert Jarrett is expected back at the club after a two month spell at Swindon Town. Striker McCommon was on target for the Robins in their recent 6-0 demolition of Gillingham and Kuipers helped Boston beat Lincoln 2-1 in the Lincolnshire derby.

Albion have an instant recall option on the Dutch keeper, should his services be required back at the club.

GARY Elphick has joined St Albans on a free transfer until the end of the season. The centre-back made two appearances in the first team, both this season, against Sheffield United at Withdean and away at Reading. The young defender has already made a big impact helping them to two victories and two clean sheets to boot. He made his debut in a 3-0 win over Carshalton and also weighed in with the second goal in last week's 2-0 win over Eastleigh.



One more reason to go up the Junction

BRADFORD Bill is a well-known face among the Albion faithful. Pictured here with his wife Christine, Bradford Bill - to use his Yorkshire moniker - runs The Junction pub in his adopted city and has recently scooped the 'pub of the year'

award from the Campaign for Real Ale. The pub has already won two CAMRA pub of the season awards in Bill's 19-month tenure. Keep up the good work Bill!

Photo reproduced by kind permission of the Telegraph & Argus, Bradford



"It's not them and us. It's all of us"

THE Albion have had their fantastic community work honoured by the Football Association and Minister for Sport Richard Caborn MP.

A delegation from the club's Study Support Centre was at Soho Square for a presentation ceremony to receive the award in recognition of their support of the Government's Heading For Success Initiative. Captain Charlie Oatway, Chief Executive Martin Perry and Albion's Principal of Education Alan Sanders received the award on behalf of the club. Oatway told the audience how the club has helped him overcome his literacy problems. Afterwards he said, "It came to a stage where I wanted to do something about it and I have done."

He added, "It's what a football club is all about. It's not them and us - it's all of us.

"And it's not only about supporters of the football club, it's not about just football people, it's for adults everywhere. The more people who come through the doors it's beneficial to them and their families.

"I think we've had near to 1000 people through the club's six Study Support Centres. In this particular league, there's no doubt we're top of it."



SEAGULLS CLUB



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THE new East "family" Stand will be open today for the first time. We want to build this into something special for Seagulls Club members, giving it a real family feel and a fun experience at games. So watch this space as things develop!

Last week we travelled to QPR with our Seagulls Club coach. There aren't many trips left now this season. For details ring Paul Kerr, 01273 604645. There are still spaces on the Ipswich trip, so if you haven't been before now's the time to go!

It's vital today to get right behind the team as they aim to claw their way up the league. 90 minutes of non-stop encouragement helps, the cause! Be the extra man that might just get us a result that throws the relegation battle wide open! **COME ON YOU SEAGULLS!** Matt.

TRAINING WITH THE SEAGULLS CLUB

Five-a-side training at the King Alfred Leisure Centre in Hove continues until the end of April and includes a free swim afterwards so bring your swimming gear. So far we've seen Kerry Mayo, Jake Robinson, Chris Breach, Adam El Abd, Charlie Oatway, Richard Carpenter, Colin Kazim-Richards, Albert Jarrett, Guy Butters and Adam Hinshelwood. **SO DON'T FORGET THOSE CAMERAS AND AUTOGRAPH BOOKS!**

4-7 year olds: 1st Thursday of month

8-10 year olds: 2nd Thursday

11-12 year olds: 3rd Thursday

13 and over: 4th Thursday

PLUS GIRLS ONLY SESSION FOR ALL MONTHS WITH A 5th THURSDAY

EASTER SOCCER SCHOOLS

Easter Soccer Schools will again offer discounts to Seagulls Club members. Full info on venues and dates are in your newsletter or contact the club offices: 01273 6952400 for further details.

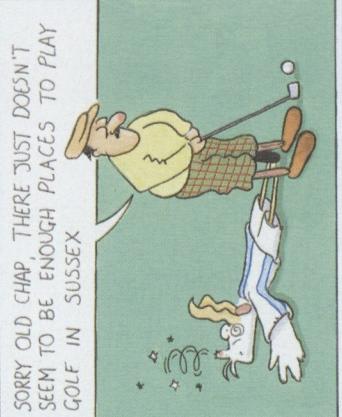
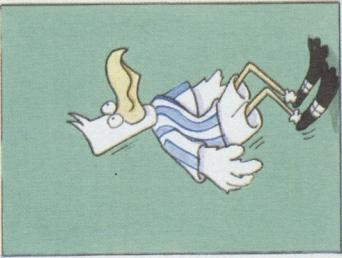
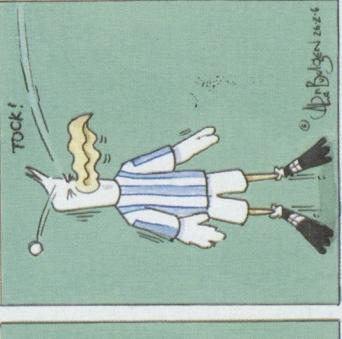
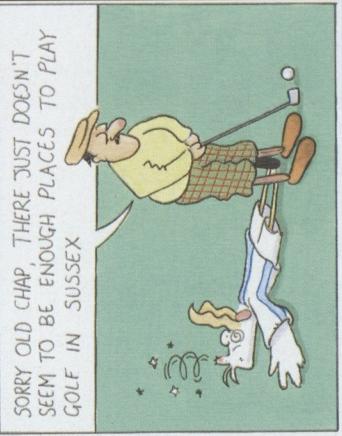
PLAYER OF THE SEASON

MAKE SURE YOU VOTE! Send in the voting slip on the back of your newsletter or email your first and second choice (plus name and membership number) to Matt at matt.hicks@btconnect.com



Where did that lot come from?

CUTTY
Alan Budgen's



Sunday results

March 12	
U7	1-4 & 3-0
U8	1-2 & 1-2
U10	2-0 & 2-0
U11 (Club)	1-5
U11 (FC)	6-3
U12 (Club)	2-1
U13 (Club)	4-2
U15 (Club)	7-0
U15 (FC)	15-0

March 19

U11 (Club)	0-0
U11 (FC)	2-0
U12 (Club)	1-2
U12 (FC)	4-0
U15 (Club)	2-2
U15 (FC)	6-3

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NOT SO Slim's AWAY GAME PREVIEW



King of the mascot jungle: Lions are a recurring favourite among mascot-makers. From top - Aston Villa, Bolton, UK Athletics, Chelsea and, our favourite, Blackburn

Next Saturday heralds one of the more crucial fixtures in our season, though the same can be said of our opponents, Millwall, who of course are Mark McGhee's former club.

Many pundits predicted a poor season for Millwall this time, given the chaotic state of the club after Dennis Wise resigned as manager last May. He'd led them to the FA Cup Final and into Europe, not to mention some respectable efforts in the league, but maybe the many changes in the boardroom were too much.

Steve Claridge - an Albion player, briefly, last season - replaced him, though not for long. Before the current season began, he was out, and Colin Lee came in, only to lose his job just before Christmas, with David Tuttle being brought in as caretaker. Four bosses in seven months doesn't help to create a healthy, well-organised club.

Quite how the Lions have managed to accumulate 14 dismissals so far this season, however, is beyond comprehension. At Withdean, they were tough, but relatively fair, certainly in

comparison to the QPR team that had visited us a few days earlier. All the same, referees have brandished the red card frequently, and the FA has seen fit to send an official to chat to the squad about their disciplinary problems.

These days, every club except saintly Crewe can expect a few over the course of a season, but 14 must be some kind of record, and it's clearly had a negative effect on their attempts to stay in the Championship. As with Albion, however, their destiny is still in their own hands, and they have a reasonable-looking run-in following their match at Watford today.

They face Albion, Plymouth, and Burnley at the New Den, and travel to Derby, Southampton, and Crewe. It's hard to say how many points they'll need from those games, but with Sheffield Wednesday five points ahead at present - and seven in front of Albion - the Owls have to be the main target for us both.

The New Den, by the way, is not as intimidating as the old version used to be. Millwall have made great efforts in recent seasons to weed out the hooligan element that attached itself to

the club for so many years, and though the occasional outbreak still happens at away matches, the local police have it down to a fine art in Bermondsey, the rather unlovely part of London where the Lions play.

Albion have never won at the New Den, but next week we visit a club with the worst home record in the division - ten defeats so far. We lost to Millwall on the final day of 2005, having dominated the first half only to be pegged back with two goals in the first five minutes of the second.

That was one of Tuttle's earliest games in temporary charge - he's picked up Colin Cameron on loan from Wolves in the meantime, and results have improved, but this is a must-win game... for both Lions and Seagulls.

Pubs

Not So Slim always has the same advice for fans visiting Millwall, and that is to avoid the tiny handful of pubs within walking distance of the stadium. They are best left to the locals, but fortunately the ground is only one train stop from London Bridge station, which is easy to reach from Sussex and which is

surrounded by hosteries.

Come out of the station, and head down the ramp on the far side of the taxi and bus area. Turn left at the end onto the main drag, and you'll soon see the excellent Borough Market on your right. Stoney Street borders the market, and though it's quite short, it contains three pubs, including the ever-popular Market Porter - a useful place to know if you're ever in the area and in need of a pint early on a weekday morning, as it has a licence to open at 6am to serve the market.

Not far off, in Tabard Street, is a little outpost of Sussex, in the form of the Royal Oak, which is owned by Lewes brewery Harveys. It looks great, and the food is pretty good, too.



RELUCTANT TO TAKE THIS LION DOWN



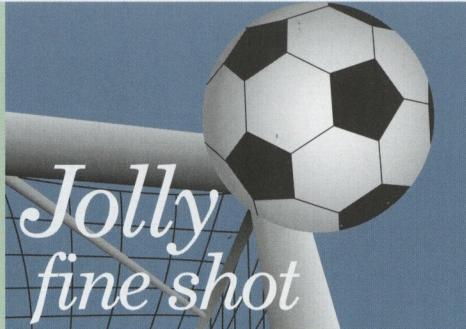
Getting there

By road
We often say 'don't go to London by car' and this is especially true of Millwall. It's so easy to get to by train that it's simply not worth risking your hubcaps.

By rail
Head for London Bridge, and from there it's just one stop to South Bermondsey, where you'll find a walkway to the away end.

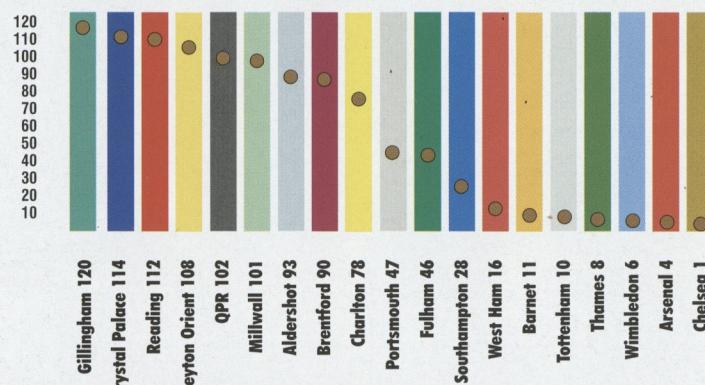


Inset: David Livermore keeps the show on the road at Ipswich earlier this month.



*Jolly
fine shot*

CHARTING THE ALBION'S 5000 GOALS



L of a goal

Albion League goals against London clubs and local rivals



Goal number 4100 – Kevin Bremner

Kevin Bremner wasn't the most skilful or elegant striker Albion have ever fielded, but the fans loved the effort he put into every game, regardless of whether it was going his way or not. He nabbed his fair share of goals in the 1987-88 promotion season, despite being outshone by Garry Nelson, and in 1989-90 he was top scorer. Goal 4100 came at Stoke's old Victoria Ground in November 1989 – our second of the afternoon, though the Potters had got three of their own in the first half, including one in the first 30 seconds. City were relegated to level three with just six wins to their name – two of them over the Seagulls – but we escaped the drop with a late surge, inspired by Sergei Gotsmanov.



Goal number 4200 – John Byrne

You can see him at most Albion home games, and hear him on the radio, but John Byrne was once a star striker, not just for Albion but for several other clubs in England and France, plus the Republic of Ireland. Albion's 4200th Football League goal came in a bizarre match at Millwall in September 1991, shortly after we'd ended the Lions' play-off hopes by beating them twice on the way to Wembley. Perry Digweed was injured in the warm-up; substitute keeper John Keeley wasn't ready until eight minutes into the game, so defender Gary Chivers deputised between the sticks. And still we won 2-1.

Memorable goals – the 1991 play-offs
Nobody expected Albion to reach the play-offs in 1990-91 for a place in the top division. With 89 minutes gone in the final league match of the season, it looked all over – but up stepped Dean Wilkins with a great free-kick, and we were up against Millwall in the semi-finals. We went behind early on at the Goldstone, but a burst of four unanswered

Albion goals either side of half-time sent us off to the old Den in good heart. Once more, the Lions went ahead, but goals from Robert Codner and John Robinson made it 6-2 on aggregate. The final was a disappointment, Notts County, under Neil Warnock, winning 3-1 despite a late Wilkins goal, but the scenes on the terraces were something to behold, with well over 30,000 Albion fans making the journey.



Goal number 4300 – Kurt Nogan

If ever there was a 'confidence' player, it was Kurt Nogan. When he first joined Albion in 1992, he looked way off the pace, and he was in and out of the team. Suddenly, however, the goals started to flood in for the Welshman. Between December 9 and the end of the season, he scored 22 times. Goal 4300 came in a 3-1 home win over Mansfield in April 1993, but the storm clouds were beginning to gather, and only 4731 were there to see it.



Goal number 4400 – Jeff Minton

Jeff Minton, a midfielder who is still treading the boards in non-league football to this day, got goal number 4400 in a 3-0 win at Bournemouth that should never have happened. The match was played in the most atrocious weather conditions we've suffered in living memory – one touchline was so deeply under water that full-backs could only hoof the ball a few yards before it stopped in another quagmire – but by adopting a policy of gang-tackling, Albion prevailed comfortably.

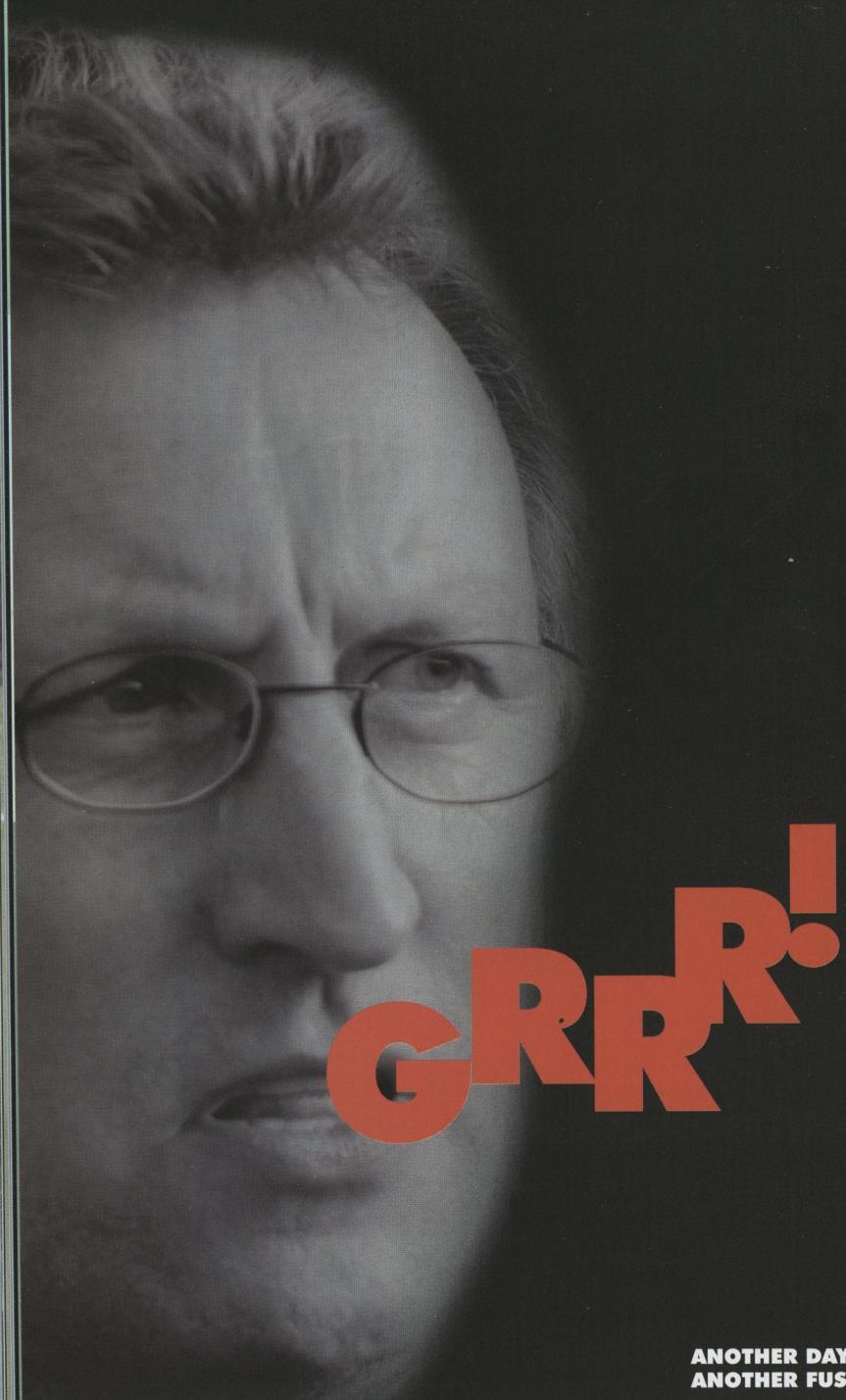
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GRRR!

**ANOTHER DAY,
ANOTHER FUSE**

Sheffield United's outspoken manager Neil Warnock is feeling the heat of the Championship promotion race after his side's 2-1 defeat at Norwich last weekend. United had looked certainties for an automatic spot earlier in the season but now things are not so clear cut. After last week's match Warnock gave a V-sign to the Norwich manager Nigel Worthington, a gesture which the City boss clearly found disrespectful.

Warnock was having none of it, accusing the Norwich manager of a refusal to shake hands, saying, "I won't deny that I flipped my fingers in his direction, but only because I was so disgusted and frustrated at being humiliated by a fellow manager. I believe I am entitled to some respect in that situation. If the same circumstances arose I would do the same again." Worthington's response was more measured, pointing out that: "There is a manager's code of conduct and that's not in it."

Warnock, who was charged earlier in the season for his behaviour after a defeat at Reading, has done nothing to dispel the feeling that he is a bad loser, claiming: "I held out my hand for six or seven seconds but he kept on talking and turned his back. There was no mix-up, he even looked me in the eyes. I am sorry if it upset any fans. There was definitely no offence intended to anyone inside the ground apart from their staff. When the governing body looks at the incident I think they will decide to take no action."

Worthington did not see the incident until he

watched it on TV afterwards and added, "I'm not bothered about it in any way, shape or form but I did find it a little bit disrespectful and unprofessional. What I can confirm is that I did shake hands with Neil Warnock after the game."

The incident has been reported to the FA and referee's chief Keith Hackett explained: "With incidents such as this, if any of the four match officials has not seen it, then the match assessor can report it. Had it been seen during the course of a match the outcome would have been that the manager would have been sent to the stands."

As usual, Warnock was grumbling after the game about his side's ill fortune and the referee: "By the law of averages we are going to get some luck and we are due some because we haven't had any in the last few games. The referee was in a bad position when he disallowed Michael Tonge's quick free-kick."

Warnock's one-eyed view of things even extended to a claim that if his team play like they did at Norwich for the rest of the season, promotion will be assured. "I'm glad that the Blades' fans here saw we are back as a real team again, playing good football. I wouldn't want to be playing us in the last seven matches," he boasted.

Around 3,500 United fans were at Carrow Road, matching the number at the Blades' previous away game at Coventry. Warnock has urged the fans to fill Bramall Lane for the remaining home games and match the fervour shown by those that follow the club on the road. The recent derby against

Wednesday was the biggest crowd in the Championship this season and Warnock feels that proves Sheffield is more than capable of housing premiership football: "It's just getting there that is the problem. It's taken us six years to get anywhere near."

Warnock's other preoccupation – apart from upsetting people – has been signing strikers, but his latest deal has gone badly wrong. After securing West Bromwich Albion's Geoff Horsfield on loan, the player has been so concerned

about his lack of first team appearances that he and Warnock have agreed to investigate ways of terminating the current deal early. This suggestion has not gone down well at the Hawthorns, with the Baggies refusing to take the player back. A WBA club statement said: "We have made an agreement with Sheffield United for a loan until the summer and a permanent transfer for an already agreed fee. That deal will stand unless United can find an alternative club to take on their responsibilities."

Horsfield, who moved to Bramall Lane only a month ago and was set to stay until the end of the season, clearly didn't appreciate the over-abundance of strikers on Warnock's pay roll, resulting in only one start and two substitute appearances so far. At the moment it looks impossible to find a way out of the deal for a player who cost West Brom £1m from Wigan in December 2003.

Another manager who



has been embroiled in controversy this season is Stoke boss Johan Boskamp – originally installed in place of Tony Pulis at the start of this season because he was supposed to have knowledge of the European transfer market. For the second time this season he has had a bust up over tactics with Director of Football John Rudge and assistant manager Jan De Koning. This time the pair have been suspended and the Stoke board have made it clear that things can't carry on like this.

Boskamp has warned he will quit at the end of the season if Rudge and De Koning stay.

A statement on the club's website said: "In light of the lack of a resolution between the football management team, the board has asked John Rudge and Jan De Koning to stay away from the club pending discussions about their future roles." The three originally fell out after Rudge passed tactical advice to a player via De Koning in the 2-1 win at Coventry in November.

One director of football definitely leaving a Championship club is Derby County's Murdo Mackay. He had originally threatened to quit Pride Park in September, incensed by the board's decision to sell Polish striker Grzegorz Rasiak to Tottenham Hotspur on the final day of the summer transfer window. He was then due to leave the club last month, after offering to resign in December, before changing his mind. Now the club and Mackay have finally decided to call it a day.

**That was the foot
ball week that was**

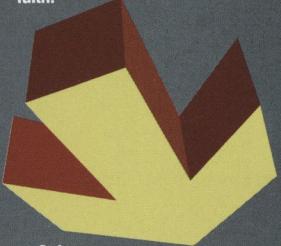


3 UP...

Ricardo Fuller
Palace dumped the Jamaican after he failed to score for them in eight games five years ago – so it must have been a joy to return to Selhurst Park and score the goal that gave Ipswich a point.

Jason Dodd
Good to see Jason finally making his comeback at Loftus Road last weekend after a truly horrendous run of injuries – now we could do with one of his 35-yard specials... perhaps against Southampton?

Wrexham fans
Those Albion fans who helped to kick-start their campaign against rotten ownership on our last visit will be delighted to hear that the courts have found the club's directors guilty of acting in bad faith.



...3 down

Ricardo Fuller
OK, so he netted that crucial goal noted above – but perhaps making what the referee called 'an obscene gesture' at the linesman ten minutes later wasn't such a good idea. Red card.

John Rudge and Jan de Koning
Just before we played Stoke in November, the pair – director of football and coach respectively – were suspended by the Potters. Now it's happened again. Looks like manager Johan Boskamp will win this one.

Racism
FIFA have proposed that clubs whose fans are found guilty of racial abuse will be punished severely, with relegation a serious option. There's only one thing to say to that – well done FIFA. Spot on.

CHARLIE!

OFFICIALLY THE PLAYERS' FAVOURITE COLUMN

THE good news is I am out of plaster and have had the pins taken out of my ankle. The bad news is I won't be back fit this season! It's great to be off the crutches, but I will miss my fleet of personal chauffeurs (Guy, Doddsy, Little Hinsh and Hicksy).

Colin Kazim-Richards may have thought he'd got away with this one, but one of my many sources has told me he's been suffering a wee bit of motor trouble! Apparently, there he was driving around the town centre in his new motor, giving it the big 'un, playing his music really loud and showing off. The only problem was that when he pulled into the garage he put diesel into his petrol motor!

Remember Colin, green pumps for unleaded, black ones for diesel. Anyway, the upshot of it all was that Colin had to pay out nine hundred quid and some to get it sorted out. So, this month, not only has he spent half his wages on dressing room fines, but he's now had to lump out nearly a grand to fix his motor!

Dean Wilkins (Mrs Doubtfire) is trying desperately to cling on to his youth. I saw him going into the gym the other day in a specially made adult-size Brighton baby-gro-style workout suit, with his six strands of hair gelled down to make him look younger.

Dean White went all the way to Grimsby the other



night to watch a player, only to find out when he got there that the lad wasn't even playing. Dean wasn't too fussed as they have plenty of fish & chip shops in Grimsby, but he did get the hump when he found out the train back to Brighton didn't get home until 2 in the morning. The staff on the buffet car were happy though as they had never made such a profit, and were able to take the rest of the month off thanks to their bonus.

Our former captain Paul Rogers was 41 (looks more like 51) this week. He still 'plays' for Worthing, and as a special birthday treat they let him have a ten-minute run out against Lancing's C team, which included a couple of women and the physio to make up the numbers. He wore his brand new Nike under-armour and then rang me up to tell me he got 11 out of 10 in the Argus player ratings the next day.

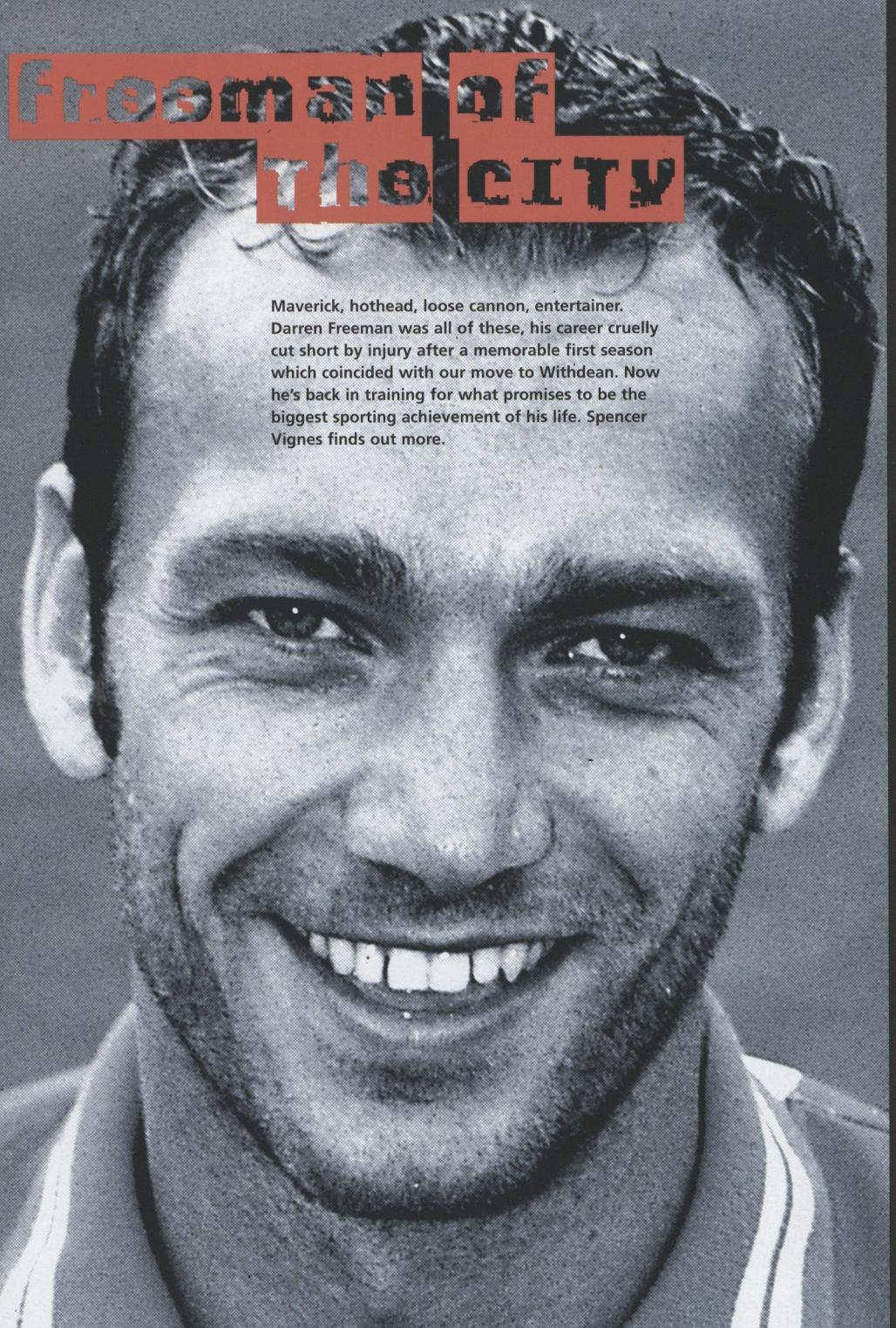
Kerry 'Taking Liberties' Mayo has another few events coming up. There's a golf day up at Singing Hills Golf Club coming up and you can see details elsewhere in the programme for his testimonial game and summer ball - apparently he got Kevin Keegan in a headlock until he agreed to give him adverts in all the home match programmes until the end of the season. You can book for those, the game and summer ball, but the golf event is already a sell-out which is doubly pleasing for his financial advisor (aka Mrs Mayo).

Colin giving me a lift home



freeman of the city

Maverick, hothead, loose cannon, entertainer. Darren Freeman was all of these, his career cruelly cut short by injury after a memorable first season which coincided with our move to Withdean. Now he's back in training for what promises to be the biggest sporting achievement of his life. Spencer Vignes finds out more.



At around 6am each Sunday for the past couple of months, Darren Freeman has left his house in Saltdean to go for a run. He's followed the same route week in, week out – down to the lido, along the clifftop, round the marina, then past the Palace and West Piers until he reaches a lamppost outside Fat Boy Slim's place. Then he loops back in the direction he's just come, arriving home in time for a bath before taking his teenage sons Leighton and Stacey to play Sunday morning football.

Why does Darren do this? It's certainly not because he likes running. Far from it ("I am the worst runner in the world. I don't enjoy it. I feel like I'm pulling a caravan.") It's not even really because he wants to get fit, even though his body did balloon to 16-stone plus after he stopped playing football. It's because he's on a mission to raise cash for the British Heart Foundation, fuelled by the horrific memory of his own mother fighting for life on the floor of her home having been struck down by a heart attack three years ago.

"I get these flashbacks of my mother and it keeps me going," says Darren, who on 23 April will line up alongside thousands of others in this year's London Marathon. "Me, my brother and my brother-in-law had been working on her front garden. I'd nipped home when I got a call from my brother saying 'She's lying on the floor, I think she's having a heart attack'. He saved her life, because he did mouth-to-mouth and kept her alive until the ambulance crew arrived. I flew back round there and it was a horrible sight. Apparently she'd just made him a bacon sandwich. Then she went blue and hit the floor.

"For a while it was touch and go whether she'd make it. She was in intensive care up at the Royal

Sussex County Hospital, but she's a tough cookie and with help from everyone there she pulled through and is fit and well again now. But it made me think to myself how we all take life for granted. That's when I decided I'd like to do the London Marathon."

Now I don't know about you, but even the idea of doing a marathon is enough to bring me out in a cold sweat – and I'm relatively fit. By his own admission, Darren is probably fitter now than he was throughout much of his professional career. But the pains still linger, especially after those long training runs, the legacy of two double hernia operations and an untold number of injuries, many of which he stupidly insisted on playing through.

"I was an idiot. If I hadn't done that, then I might still be playing now. People didn't really know how unfit I was. There were times when I could barely do my boots up I hurt so much, but I just so wanted to play and didn't want to look like I was letting the side down. It wasn't public knowledge that I was suffering, but between me and you I was."

It's seven years now since Darren signed for his hometown club, lured back south from London by the same Micky Adams who had also signed him for Fulham and Brentford. At the time it all seemed to make perfect sense – local lad signs for the club he supported as a boy, whose supporters are crying out for a maverick who will make watching football interesting again after years in the doldrums. Yet a fear of failure meant he very nearly didn't come at all. "A lot of people wouldn't have done it. I had two children and a girlfriend, and if you don't do very well you're gonna get stick, plus your kids will get stick. You'll have to live with that for the rest of your life. You'll get people coming up going

'You're a waste of money, you did nothing for us'. The flip side of the coin is a lot of people would give their right arm to play for their hometown club. That's what swung it for me in the end."

Darren made his debut in that memorable first ever league game at Withdean, a 6-0 demolition of Mansfield Town in which he scored a hat-trick. If ever there was a double-edged sword of a performance by a player, that was it. "Yeah, we set the standard a little bit too high because you're not going to go out and win 6-0 every week. Yet some people seemed to expect us to. Not just that, they thought I should be scoring hat-tricks every week. I remember one guy coming up to me in the car park after one game, and he had a right go at me for not scoring. What could I do? They pay their money, they're entitled to their opinion. But we did dig our own grave a bit with that performance."

No matter what some supporters thought of his scoring rate, nobody could doubt his passion for the cause – even if it did spill over on occasion. Two red



savage haircut

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seagull/interview

look at the length of that hair

cards (for stamping and spitting) meant he was absent for several games during the first-half of the 1999/00 campaign. Yet does he regret the sudden rushes of blood to the head? Does he hell! "Look, I was very passionate about the game. Off the field I'm a big softy, but on it I did tend to get a bit frustrated. Football brings out the madness in people. You see calm rational people like doctors and lawyers at football games going absolutely ape. It's not necessarily right, but it's the way it is."

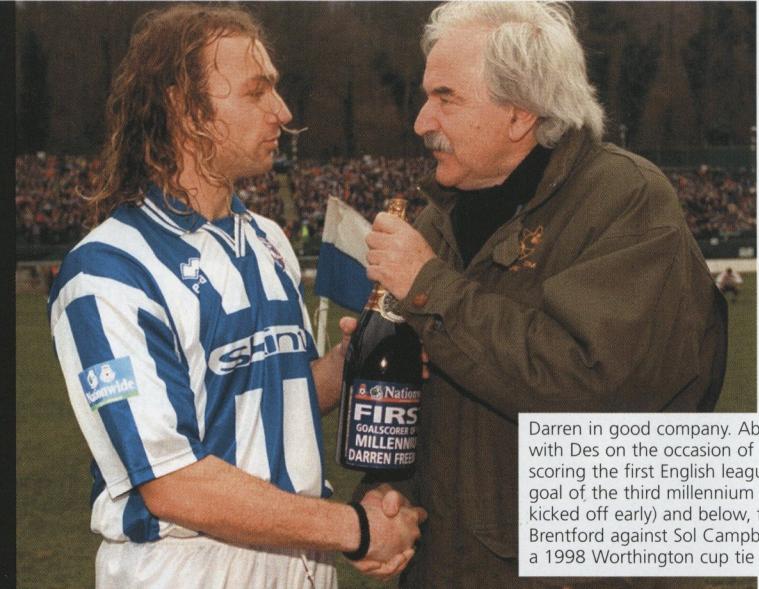
The mark of any popular player is the number of favourite moments fans have of them strutting their stuff. Darren's certainly got a few, my own personal favourite being the opener in a 3-1 away win against Division Three champions-to-be Rotherham in December 1999, the one where the post-goal celebrations involved Alan Cork pretending to 'scrunch' the striker's trademark locks (now sadly deceased) with an imaginary pair of curling tongs. But for many, including football statos the country over, he'll always be remembered as the man who scored the first league goal of the 21st century, coming 100 seconds into a lunchtime win over Exeter City on 3 January 2000. Does anyone seriously remember Lorenzo Pinamonte's brace that

day, because I'd clean forgotten?

"We'd stayed in a hotel the night before that game and I'd shared a room with Kerry Mayo. I just had this funny feeling I would score, so I took out a pen and wrote 'Happy New Year' on a t-shirt which I decided to wear under my shirt the following day. I said to Kerry, 'It's definitely gonna happen'. And it did. A great feeling and a nice goal from what I remember. A volley, wasn't it?" Yep Darren, it was, from the edge of the six yard box after Charlie Oatway had nodded the ball in his direction.

That Exeter win made it seven points from three games over the holiday period, yet the Albion still fell just short of the play-offs despite a 14 game unbeaten run to round off the season. Sadly, Darren's injuries then began to catch up with him. Though he remained on the books until 2002, he never scored another goal after the 1999/00 season. With the Zamora era in full flow, his departure to Margate raised barely a footnote in the local let alone the national press.

"That was probably the worst day of my life," says Darren. "I knew it was coming what with the injuries, but it doesn't make it any easier. At Margate my groins were



Darren in good company. Above, with Des on the occasion of scoring the first English league goal of the third millennium (we kicked off early) and below, for Brentford against Sol Campbell in a 1998 Worthington cup tie

killing me. It was hurting so much that I just had to stop. These days I try to play in the odd veterans' game with the likes of John Robinson, but even that's a struggle now.

"I'll be the first to admit that I didn't really look after myself when I finished playing, not in terms of what I ate and drank. I was filling my face and not burning it off. That's why I got to 16 stone 2 pounds. Now I'm down to 13.8 and I feel great. But so would you if you were putting in the miles I'm doing!"

Ah yes, the marathon. Although it's his first race over the 26.2 mile distance, the fact he's already accustomed to training runs of around 18 miles should stand him in good stead. "I'd like to do it in under four hours. But my main aim is just to raise as much money as possible for the British Heart Foundation so they can continue to do their best for people like my mother. That's all that's important."

* If you would like to sponsor Darren and help him raise money for the British Heart Foundation, send your donations to Darren Freeman c/o Brighton & Hove Albion, 8th Floor, Tower Point, 44 North Road, Brighton BN1 1YR.



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seagull/player report

no döddle

Been a bit of a nightmare so far for Saint Jason. But he's better now.

It's been a frustrating season at times for many at the club - players and supporters - but nobody more so than veteran Jason Dodd.

The 35-year-old former Southampton defender's season started with such promise: an impressive display in a decent 1-1 draw at Derby was capped by an assist for Albion's goal.

Since then he has been restricted to just seven Championship appearances, all because of a niggling ankle problem followed by a importunate back injury. However, Dodd is hoping the most recent of his appearances - at QPR last week - will finally signal the end of his injury nightmare.

"I've been desperate for a game for ages," explained Dodd. "If I can be of benefit to the team in any way during the remaining seven games to help us stay up then that would be fitting. The gaffer worked really hard to get me down here and hopefully I can give a little something back."

Dodd's other six appearances since his summer move from Saints all came in the first half of the season, and before replacing Adam El-Abd for the last 35 minutes at Loftus Road last week, he hadn't played a competitive fixture since being forced off in the opening minutes of Albion's 1-1 draw at Cardiff.

Prior to his return on Saturday, Dodd played 70 minutes in a behind-closed-doors friendly at Arsenal's London Colney training ground four days before the trip to west London.

Arsenal had several of their big guns on show including Dennis Bergkamp - who scored the only goal of the game - England defender Sol Campbell, and strikers Robin Van Persie and Theo Walcott.

"Dodd showed, even in that hour against Arsenal, what a good player he is," said Mark McGhee on the right back's return. "He didn't give the ball away; he wasn't exposed by Van Persie and Bergkamp and was probably the most experienced player on the pitch in terms of Premiership games."

The 1-1 draw at QPR was hard fought despite the home side being reduced to ten men when Kevin Gallen received his marching orders in the 50th minute. Dodd added, "People always say that it's difficult to play against ten men but we had a lot of the ball."

"They did reasonably well. We gambled a little bit allowing them to hit us on the break as we were left two-on-two a lot at the back. We were desperate to win the game and are disappointed to only get a point."

"I don't really know what happened with the own-goal, but in the position we are in at the moment, we'll take any goal. Under different circumstances we may have been happy with a point from here, but we are really disappointed."

"I came on and was possibly trying too hard. After about five passes Guy turned to me and said that we are the ones playing in maroon! That lightened it up a little bit. My instructions were to get on the ball. We knew that with ten men they were going to sit deep so we just tried to pass the ball. Sometimes it makes it difficult."

"They were dropping further and further back and we didn't want to keep punting the ball into the box."

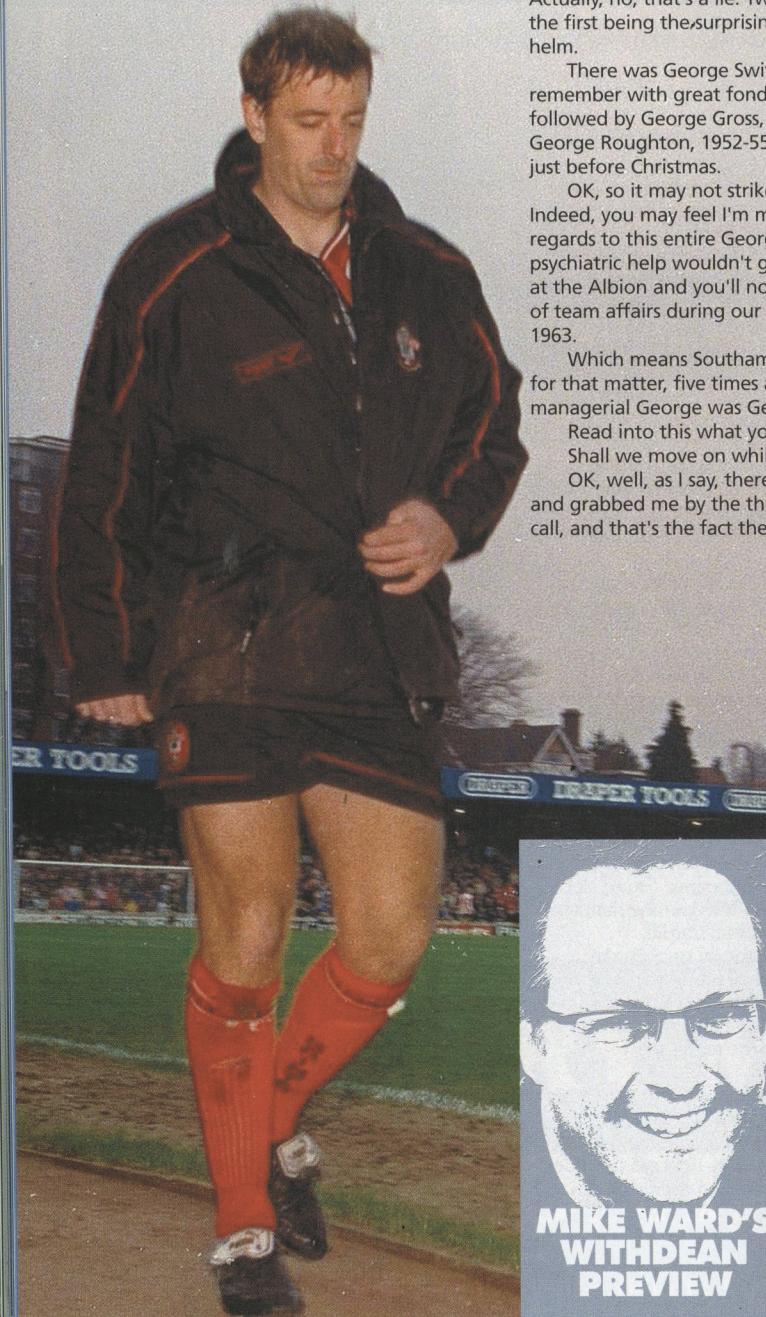
"We have got to play Sheffield Wednesday yet in our so-called mini-league and that will be a massive game for us."



The Gaffer worked
really hard



They've been getting through an awful lot of managers in recent years, have our next guests Southampton, the side who tread Withdean's hallowed turf'n'sand combo a couple of weeks from now. Never bodes well, that.



Fallen Saints

I WAS sat idly flicking through my copy of whatever the Rothmans Football Yearbook is called these days and I happened to glance down the list of those esteemed gentlemen who've been in charge of the Saints since the club's foundation in 1885. One particular detail immediately leapt out at me. Actually, no, that's a lie. Two particular details immediately leapt out at me, the first being the surprisingly high number of Georges they've had at the helm.

There was George Swift, from 1911 to 1912, who I'm sure we all remember with great fondness. There was George Kay, 1931-36, immediately followed by George Gross, 1936-37 (do stop me if I'm boring you here), then George Roughton, 1952-55, and now of course George Burley, who took over just before Christmas.

OK, so it may not strike you as a truly outstanding quantity of Georges. Indeed, you may feel I'm making a disproportionate amount of fuss with regards to this entire George-related issue and that perhaps some form of psychiatric help wouldn't go amiss. But take a look at our own hall of fame at the Albion and you'll notice we've only ever had a single George in charge of team affairs during our entire history, namely George Curtis from 1961 to 1963.

Which means Southampton have hired FIVE TIMES as many as us. And, for that matter, five times as many as their bitter rivals Pompey, whose only managerial George was George Smith, 1961-70.

Read into this what you will. I'm just saying it's a little strange, that's all. Shall we move on while I'm waiting for my medication to kick in?

OK, well, as I say, there was a second extraordinary detail that leapt out and grabbed me by the throat as I glanced down the Saints managerial roll call, and that's the fact they've had eight managers since 2000, which to me

Looking down?

still seems like only yesterday. Namely, Dave Jones, Glenn Hoddle, Stuart Gray, Gordon Strachan, Paul Sturrock, Steve Wigley, Harry Redknapp and the latest of the Georges I've just mentioned. Amazingly, that's three more bosses than we've got through ourselves during that period, and we're the ones with an excuse.

To put this into some kind of perspective, the previous eight managerial stints at the Saints spanned nearly half a century. Incredible, eh?

So what exactly should we be concluding from all this? I've absolutely no idea, and to be perfectly honest with you I'm kind of wishing I hadn't brought the whole thing up in the first place. The thing is, I just get these stupid ideas in my head and there's no stopping me. Next time I'll write something crushingly dull about their away record instead. Spare myself a whole heap of grief.

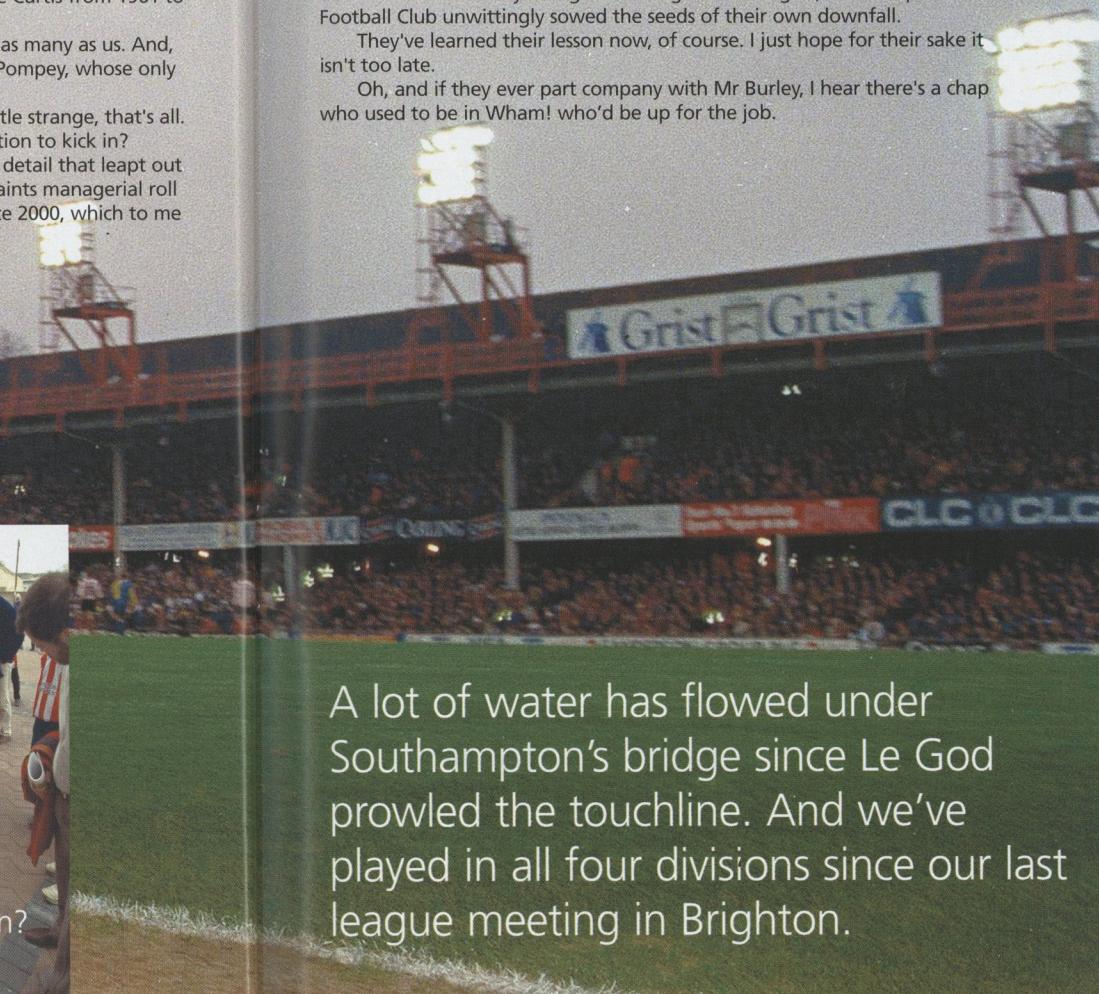
Still, now that we've come this far I suppose I could conclude by suggesting that Southampton's rapid turnover of bosses underlines the precarious nature of modern-day football management. It's hardly an original point to make, or even a terribly interesting one, but that doesn't mean to say it isn't true.

Either that or I could suggest it points to Southampton having lost their way as a club, despite having a nice new ground to play in these days. Probably not entirely wrong either.

But in fact I'm not going to draw either of these conclusions. Instead, I'm going to suggest that by turning their back on their own time-honoured tradition and recklessly hiring non-Georges as managers, Southampton Football Club unwittingly sowed the seeds of their own downfall.

They've learned their lesson now, of course. I just hope for their sake it isn't too late.

Oh, and if they ever part company with Mr Burley, I hear there's a chap who used to be in Wham! who'd be up for the job.



A lot of water has flowed under Southampton's bridge since Le God prowled the touchline. And we've played in all four divisions since our last league meeting in Brighton.

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This week's fan's Q & A is from Simon Rusbridge, a lifelong Albion fan. Simon is married to Debs and they have a son, Thomas 2, with another one due on June 11th!

FAN TALK



What's your first game? Standing on the old East terrace at the Goldstone I saw us lose 3-1 to Spurs on 9th March 1982. I think Steve Gatting scored our goal and Spurs had the likes of Crooks and Archibald playing. This is my 24th year - and we've seen a few ups and downs in that time!

What's your connection to the Albion? How did you start supporting the club? I was born in Brighton and they are my local club. My son already has blue and white blood running through his veins.

Most players have a pre-match routine, what does your pre-match preparation consist of? Before my son came along it involved a few pints in the Railway Bell then the train to Preston Park. If we had a good win, or it was freezing at Withdean, I usually headed back to the Prince Albert for a few winter warmers. Now my routine is a short train trip from Worthing and maybe a quick pint in the Sportsman.

What's your favourite moment as an Albion fan? There have been so many great times, for different reasons. The earliest would be Gary Stevens' equaliser in the Cup Final, then the goal and celebration after the Hereford game and Danny Cullip's header against Chesterfield. Recently, Virgo's goal against Swindon in the dying seconds, the penalty shoot out and Leon's penalty at the Millennium Stadium, stand out.



What's the funniest thing you've ever seen at an Albion game? The funniest moment was seeing Nigel Erskine run out as mascot at the Goldstone. I just remember the laughter from the North Stand as he performed a swan dive in front of the stand with his shorts around his ankles.

What's your best away trip as an Albion fan? Selhurst this season to see us beat Palace. Sheffield United away in 1989. There were only a few hundred Albion fans there and within 20 minutes we were 3-0 down. Somehow we came back and with ten minutes left we were 4-3 up. Unfortunately, we let this slip and we lost 5-4 but it was, without a doubt, the best game I have ever seen.

Who is your all time favourite Albion player and why? John Crumpin. Not the most talented of players, but he gave everything. I'm sure everyone remembers how he marked John Barnes out of the game during the cup tie at Anfield in 1991.

You're having a dinner party at your house. You can invite any five people connected with the Albion, dead or alive. Who would you choose and why? Brian Clough: although I'd keep an eye on the whisky. I just think he would be interesting to have a chat with. Frank Worthington: to hear all the stories he must have about the numerous clubs he played for. Kerry Mayo: to honour his loyalty and endeavour for the club. Mark Lawrenson: to hear what he's got to say about the Albion, from a pundit's point of view, and to find out why he doesn't hold us in high regard these days. Steve Gritt: to thank him for keeping us in the league when everything seemed lost.



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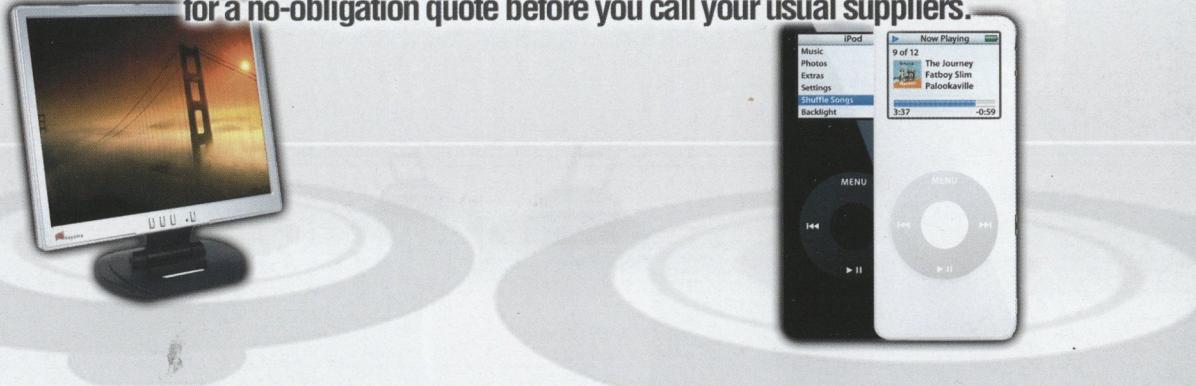
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Raceday - it's tomorrow!

We're just hours away from one of the club's favourite days of the year. The third annual Albion Raceday takes place tomorrow. Not only is it an opportunity for fans to get close to the current squad but we are also delighted to welcome many heroes from past decades. This year is no exception. The following have stated their intention to be there; Paul McCarthy, Stewart Henderson, Ian McNeill, Norman Gall, Andy Rollings, John Robinson, Bobby Smith, John Shepherd, Wally Gould, Gary Chivers, Perry Digweed, Clive Walker, Robert Isaac, Robert Codner, Stuart Tuck, Steve Burtenshaw, Rod Thomas, Bobby Laverick, Ian Goodwin, Paul Clark, Roy Jennings, Ken Beamish, Eric Gill, Peter Harburn, Brian Tawse, Reg Fox, Gary Williams, Teddy Maybank, Jack Bertolini, Eric Steele, Mel Hopkins, Fred Binney, Tony Towner, Bobby Baxter, Denis Foreman, Micky Kavanagh, Eric Whitington, Jack Mansell, Paul Rogers, Dean Wilkins, John Byrne and Steve Piper.

You can pay on the gate, so please get the autograph books out and come along. The first race is at 2:30pm.

Q-Leisure Sporting Day

Don't forget we have a very special day at Q-Leisure on April 26th. Individuals and fans can enjoy a day's off-road driving, archery, quad biking and go-karting. Call Paul Rogers on 01273 648176 for more details.

Heroes & Winners results service

March 11
1st: £250 club shop voucher
Heroes: Dave Turner & Steve Foster
Winner: Terry Pierce
2nd: Framed & signed McShane photo
Heroes: Eric Steele & Gary Stevens
Winner: Brian Johnstone
3rd: 2 tickets to Albion Raceday
Heroes: Fred Binney & John Templeman
Winner: Nigel Mainwood

March 17
1st: Framed & signed picture of 100 heroes
Heroes: Paul Rogers & Jimmy Case
Winner: Liz Costa
2nd: Dinner for 2 at Donatello's
Heroes: Doug Rougvie & Larry May
Winner: Peter Izard
3rd: £25
Heroes: Ken Beamish & Paul Brooker
Winner: Sally Petch

Withdean Wager v Preston
1st: 0001, £400 – Gary Palmer
2nd: 1605, signed football – unclaimed



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Special offers also apply to leisurewear including the Skater T-shirt shown. Visit the shop in Queens Road or online at www.seagullshop.co.uk



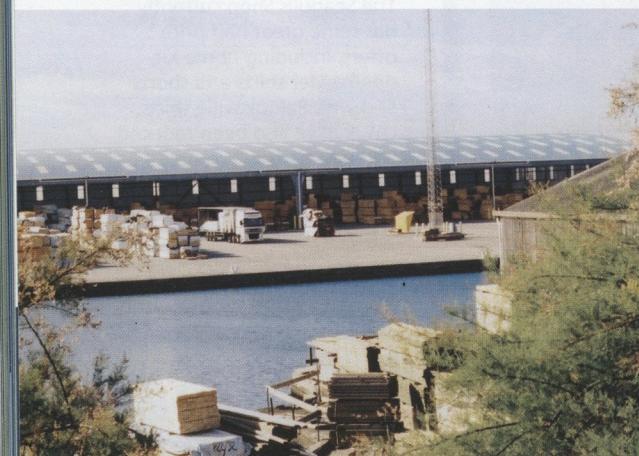
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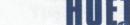
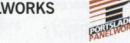
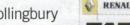
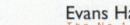
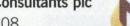
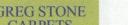
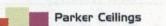
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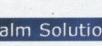
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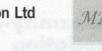
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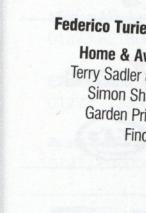
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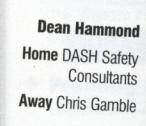
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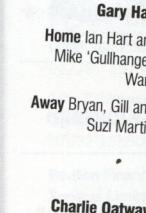


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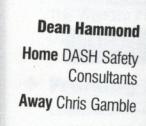
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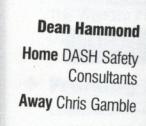


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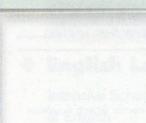
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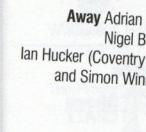
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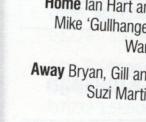
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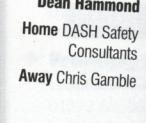
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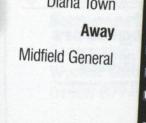
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 Away Marie David

Ticket info

Millwall v Albion, Sat 1st Apr, kick-off 3pm This match is all-ticket with an initial allocation for Albion fans of 1,500 tickets. These are available to Away Members only (one per member), and can be applied for by post only. These are priced £19 for adults, £12 senior citizens and £10 for U16s. No NUS discounts. Any unsold tickets will be available at the ground on the day of the game. Wheelchair users please apply to the Albion ticket office.

**Albion v Southampton, Sat 8th April,
kick-off 3pm** Tickets are now on sale by
phone, post or in person.

RESERVES

Wed 17 Aug	Woking (h)	6-1
Wed 31 Aug	Pontins Hol. Cup	
Wed 7 Sep	Reading (a)	0-2
Wed 14 Sep	Wycombe W. (a)	0-3
Tues 11 Oct	Luton (PHC) (h)	0-0
Tues 25 Oct	QPR (a)	5-2
Wed 16 Nov	Aldershot (a)	2-1
Wed 23 Nov	Ringmer (SSC2) (a)	1-0
Wed 30 Nov	Crawley Town (h)	2-1
Wed 7 Dec	Horsham (SSC3) (a)	0-1
Wed 11 Jan	Reading (h)	0-0
Wed 25 Jan	Colchester (a)	2-2
Wed 1 Feb	Millwall (h)	3-0
Tue 21 Mar	Millwall (PHC)* (a)	1-3
Mon 27 Mar	Gillingham (a)	2.00
Mon 3 Apr	QPR (h)	7.00
Tues 11 Apr	Crawley (a)	7.00
Wed 19 Apr	Aldershot (h)	7.00
Wed 26 Apr	Wycombe (h)	7.00
Tue 2 May	Gillingham(h)	2.00
Thu 4 May	Woking(a)	2.00

*Pontins Hol Comp. League and Cup

**TICKETLINE
01273 776992**

Ipswich Town v Albion, Sat 15th April, kick-off 3pm This match is all-ticket with an initial allocation for Albion fans of 1,400 tickets. These are available to Away Members only (one per member), and can be applied for by post only. These are priced £25 for adults, £17.50 senior citizens and £9 for U16s. No NUS discounts. Any unsold tickets will be available at the ground on the day of the game (tickets will be £2 dearer on the day). Wheelchair users should contact Ipswich Town on 01473 400553.

Albion v Sheffield Wednesday, Mon 17th April, kick-off 3pm Tickets are now on sale by phone, post or in person.

Wolverhampton Wanderers v Albion,
Sat 22nd April, kick-off 3pm At the time
of going to press, details are yet to be
finalised for this fixture. Watch this space or
see www.seagulls.co.uk for further
information.

**Albion v Stoke City, Sun 30th April,
kick-off 1.30pm** Tickets go on sale (to
personal callers, by post and telephone)
from Monday 27th March at 10am

**UNDER-18
FOOTBALL LEAGUE
YOUTH ALLIANCE LEAGUE SOUTH EAST**

Sat 20 Aug	Leyton Orient (a)	2-1	Buy a Matchday Ticket Hotline on 01273 776992
Sat 3 Sep	Gillingham (a)	2-2	
Sat 10 Sep	R & Diamonds (h)	3-2	
Sat 17 Sep	Wycombe W (a)	1-1	
Sat 8 Oct	Cambridge Utd (h)	5-1	
Sat 15 Oct	Luton (a)	1-0	
Sat 19 Nov	Southend (h)	3-0	
Sat 26 Nov	Portsmouth (a)	2-0	
Sat 3 Dec	Colchester Utd (h)	4-1	
Sat 10 Dec	QPR (a)	4-1	
Sat 17 Dec	Northampton T (h)	3-0	
Sat 7 Jan	Brentford (a)	9-0	
Sat 21 Jan	Luton (h)	2-0	
Sat 4 Feb	Southend Utd (a)	1-1	
Sat 18 Feb	Colchester Utd (a)	0-1	
Sat 11 Mar	Brentford (h)	1-1	
Sat 25 Mar	Leyton Orient (h)	11.00	
Sat 1 Apr	Gillingham (h)	11.00	
Sat 8 Apr	R & Diamonds (a)	12.00	
Sat 15 Apr	Wycombe W (h)	11.00	
Sat 22 Apr	QPR (h)	11.00	
Sat 29 Apr	N'thampton T (a)	12.00	
UNDER-18			
FOOTBALL LEAGUE			
YOUTH ALLIANCE CUP SOUTHERN SECTION			
Sat 24 Sep	Swansea (a)	2-0	
Sat 1 Oct	Newport (a)	6-0	
Sat 22 Oct	Luton (h)	0-1	
Sat 29 Oct	Wycombe (a)	2-1	
Sat 5 Nov	Exeter (h)	2-1	
Sat 12 Nov	Plymouth (h)	0-1	
FA YOUTH CUP			
Wed 17 Dec	Port Vale (R3) (h)	2-1	
Sat 17 Jan	Chelsea (R4) (h)	2-1	
Wed 8 Feb	Blackburn (R5) (a)	3-2	
Wed 1 Mar	Newcastle (QF) (a)	*0-0	

* Albion lost 3-2 after penalty shoot-out

MATCH AND MATCHBALL SPONSORS: 01273 695400 FOR INFO

DATE	MATCH	MATCH SPONSOR	BALL SPONSORS 1 / 2 / 3 / 4
TUE AUG 9	READING	GREENHAM TRADING	1: PAUL EARL LTD 2: CHURCHILL SQUARE
SAT AUG 13	CREWE	RIENDS OF THE ALBION	1: D W ELECTRICAL LTD
MON AUG 29	PLYMOUTH	KINGSPAN SKIP HIRE	1: RIX AND KAY 2: ITW CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS
TUE SEP 13	SHEFF UTD	PAUL PROPERTIES / NORTH LAINE DESIGN	1: FEIST HEDGETHORNE
SAT SEP 17	COVENTRY	CHANDLERS PAUL PROPERTIES	1: BLUESTONE 2: CURRIE & BROWN
SAT OCT 1	NORWICH	NSURE	1: MAZARS
SAT OCT 15	CARDIFF	WICKES	1: WEB PLACING 2: HARDINGS CATERING
SAT OCT 29	IPSWICH	PARK CAMERAS & SONY	TEKA LTD
TUE NOV 1	WOLVES	LANGUARD ALARMS	1: FDM 2: TRAVIS PERKINS
SUN NOV 20	CRYSTAL PALACE	RLF	1: BROADWATER MAILING 2: KITTLEA ESTATES LTD 3: HUETS 4: CPS
SAT NOV 26	DERBY	HATLEY INVESTMENTS LTD	1: IN MEMORY OF LES MITCHELL 2: SELBORNE CONSULTANCY
FRI DEC 16	HULL	SPB HEATING	1: ESCHMANNS 2: FRIEND JAMES
MON DEC 26	QPR	APEX CREATIVE	1: DAVID CUFF 2: DAVID HALL
SAT DEC 31	MILLWALL	PTS	1: SHOREHAM VEHICLE AUCTIONS
SAT JAN 7	COVENTRY : FAC3	PAUL CHEAL PLUMBING & HEATING	1: UHY HACKER YOUNG
SAT JAN 14	LEEDS	MAN FINANCIAL	1: COGNOSCO 2: NUGLAS 3: WINDMILL KITCHENS
TUE JAN 31	BURNLEY	SIBCAS PAUL PROPERTIES	1: CURRIE & BROWN 2: BAKER TILLY 3: LANGUARD ALARMS
SAT FEB 11	LEICESTER	GRS GROUP LTD	1: MID SUSSEX ROOFING SUPPLIES 2: RDF 3: PHILCOX BROS
SAT FEB 18	WATFORD	ALEXANDERS CATERING	1: WILSON SANDFORD 2: TRAVEL CITY DIRECT 3: G&S MECHANICAL SERVICES
SAT MAR 11	PRESTON	ELPHICK BROS. PLASTERING	1: DW ELECTRICAL 2: WSL (BRIGHTON) LTD 3: CCI
SAT MAR 25	LUTON	HOP	1: LAVA LOUNGE 2: DW ELECTRICAL
SAT APR 8	SOUTHAMPTON	PAUL PROPERTIES CHANDLERS	1: COGNOSCO 2: D C FREEDMAN LTD 3: GILES CONTRACTS
MON APR 17	SHEFF WEDS	HBS BUILDERS MERCHANTS	1: NORTH LAINE DESIGN 2: BARRY TILZEY 3: G&S MECHANICAL SERVICES
SUN APR 30	STOKE	INTERNET SEAGULLS	1: PAUL CHEAL 2: WOODEN FLOORING CENTRE

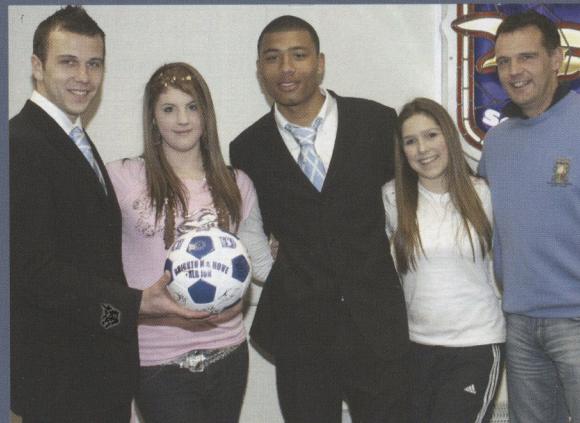


THANKS TO ALL OUR SPONSORS

Goalkeeper, Wayne Henderson, was chosen as Man of the Match by our Preston match sponsors, Elphick Bros. Plastering (photo above). Thanks to them and to our matchball sponsors, DW Electrical, (below left), our programme printers, WSL (Brighton) Ltd (below right) and CCI (see photo on page 61).

Our match sponsors today are HOP and the matchball sponsors are Lava Lounge and DW Electrical.

Our grateful thanks to them all for their valued support





HOW TO APPLY FOR HOME TICKETS

Applications by post only, and by the date specified by the club. Please enclose SAE, marked in the top left-hand corner with the match name. Include the number of tickets you hope to obtain. Sales will be limited to four tickets, with a max two adults per party.

- Payment should be by cheque or credit/debit card.
- If you are paying by cheque and wish to be considered for tickets in all areas of the ground, leave the amount payable blank and mark the cheque "not to exceed" the maximum amount you are prepared to pay.
- Cheques payable to 'Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club'. Post-dated cheques not accepted under any circumstances. Please include a sae, for delivery of the tickets, or information that the application has been unsuccessful.

**TOTALLY
UNACCEPTABLE TO
THE ALBION!**

**Foul & abusive
language**

**Racist language &
behaviour**

Drunkenness

Pitch encroachment

Missile throwing

**Anyone committing these
offences will be banned by
the club.**

SHOW HOOLIGANS
AND RACISM THE
RED CARD!
REPORT A RACIST!
*Complaints in
confidence to 01273
695400 or
seagulls@bhafc.co.uk*

DATE	OPPONENTS	RESULT	ALBION SCORERS	H.ATT	A.ATT
SAT AUG 6	A. DERBY COUNTY	1-1	HAMMOND 7	25,292	1,751
TUE AUG 9	H READING	0-2		6,676	538
SAT AUG 13	H CREWE ALEXANDRA	2-2	KNIGHT 42, HAMMOND 87	6,132	222
SAT AUG 20	A. HULL CITY	0-2		18,648	849
TUE AUG 23	A. SHREWSBURY (C. CUP 1)	2-3	McCAMMON 17, ROBINSON 80	2,141	187
SAT AUG 27	A. PRESTON NORTH END	0-0		12,461	413
MON AUG 29	H PLYMOUTH	2-0	ROBINSON 11, CARPENTER 46	6,238	468
SAT SEP 10	A. LEEDS UTD	3-3	KNIGHT 27, CAROLE 51, GREGAN 82og	21,212	1005
TUE SEP 13	H SHEFFIELD UTD	0-1		6,553	567
SAT SEP 17	H COVENTRY CITY	2-2	KNIGHT 49, KAZIM-RICHARDS 54	6,529	741
WED SEP 21	C. CUP 2				
SAT SEP 24	A. BURNLEY	1-1	McSHANE 25	11,122	454
TUE SEP 27	A. LEICESTER CITY	0-0		20,296	370
SAT OCT 1	H NORWICH CITY	1-3	FRUTOS 67	6,624	723
SAT OCT 15	H CARDIFF CITY	1-2	McSHANE 60	6,485	691
TUE OCT 18	A. CRYSTAL PALACE (20:00)	1-0	McSHANE 78	22,449	3,375
MON OCT 24	A. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY	1-1	KAZIM-RICHARDS 93	21,787	462
WED OCT 26	CARLING CUP 3				
SAT OCT 29	H IPSWICH	1-1	HAMMOND 15	6,867	734
TUE NOV 1	H WOLVERHAMPTON WDRS	1-1	FRUTOS 40	6,642	710
SAT NOV 5	A. STOKE CITY	0-3		15,274	594
SUN NOV 20	H CRYSTAL PALACE (13:30)	2-3	KNIGHT 22, 53 pen	7,273	705
TUES NOV 22	A. CARDIFF CITY	1-1	KAZIM-RICHARDS 73	9,595	125
SAT NOV 26	H DERBY COUNTY	0-0		6,855	666
WEDS NOV 30	CARLING CUP 4				
SAT DEC 3	A. WATFORD	1-1	BUTTERS 51	14,455	1,948
SAT DEC 10	A. READING	1-5	KAZIM-RICHARDS 84	18,546	1,860
FRI DEC 16	H HULL CITY	2-1	CAROLE 16, OATWAY 45	6,921	441
WED DEC 21	CARLING CUP 5				
MON DEC 26	H QPR (13:00)	1-0	BUTTERS 7	7,341	825
WED DEC 28	A. LUTON TOWN	0-3	-	9,429	1,376
SAT DEC 31	H MILLWALL (13:00)	1-2	HAMMOND 3	6,847	716
MON JAN 2	A. SOUTHAMPTON	1-2	MAYO 21	24,630	3,244
SAT JAN 7	COVENTRY (FAC 3)	0-1		6,734	864
TUE JAN 10	CARLING CUP SF 1				
SAT JAN 14	H LEEDS UTD	2-1	REID 10, HART 80	7,415	894
SAT JAN 21	A. SHEFFIELD UTD	1-3	KAZIM-RICHARDS 83	27,514	817
TUE JAN 24	CARLING CUP SF 2				
SAT JAN 28	FAC 4				
TUES JAN 31	H BURNLEY	0-0		6,627	360
SAT FEB 4	A. COVENTRY CITY	0-2		20,541	1,582
SAT FEB 11	H LEICESTER CITY	1-2	FRUTOS 56	7,187	893
TUE FEB 14	A. NORWICH CITY	0-3		24,038	505
SAT FEB 18	H WATFORD / FAC 5	0-1		6,658	891
SAT FEB 25	A. CREWE ALEXANDRA	1-2	KAZIM-RICHARDS 11	5,925	772
SUN FEB 26	CARLING CUP FINAL				
SAT MAR 4	A. PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	0-1		13,650	560
SAT MAR 11	H PRESTON NORTH END	0-0		6,361	602
SAT MAR 18	A. QPR	1-1	BIGNOT 79 og	13,907	1,929
TUE MAR 21	FAC 6				
SAT MAR 25	H LUTON TOWN				
SAT APR 1	A. MILLWALL				
SAT APR 8	H SOUTHAMPTON				
SAT APR 15	A. IPSWICH TOWN				
MON APR 17	H SHEFFIELD WEDS				
SAT APR 22	A. WOLVERHAMPTON W/FAC SF				
SUN APR 30	H STOKE CITY (13:30)				
SAT MAY 13	FA CUP FINAL				

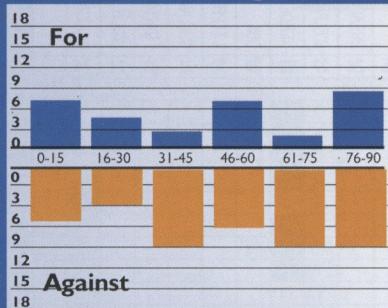
Kick-offs are at 3pm on weekends & bank holidays and at 7.45pm on weekdays, unless otherwise stated.

QUIZ ANSWERS THE WARM-UP 1. Mark Ormerod v Mansfield Town [Won 6-0] 2. Eric Morecambe 3. Sheffield United [1975 to 1977] 4. Paul Dickov 5. Bobby Robson GUESS WHO Nathan Jones [born Rhondda] Cardiff [trainee], Luton, Valencia [Spain], Southend, Scarborough [L], Brighton, Yeovil, OLD GROUNDS FOR NEW 1. Fulham 2. Wolves 3. Reading STAT-TASTIC! Ben Roberts [England Under-21 International] - Middlesbrough, Hartlepool [L], Wycombe [L], Bradford City [L], Millwall [L], Luton [L], Charlton, Reading [L], Luton [L], Brighton WAIT A MINUTE MR POSTMAN! 1. Moss Rose Ground, Macclesfield Town 2. Reebok Stadium, Bolton Wanderers 3. Vale Park, Port Vale BY MUTUAL CONSENT? Lennie Lawrence [Born Brighton]; As a player: Croydon, Carshalton & Sutton Utd. As Assistant Manager: Plymouth & Lincoln City. As Reserve Team Manager: Charlton. As Manager: Charlton, Middlesbrough, Bradford City [L], Grimsby [Cardiff]. As Director of Football: Bristol Rovers.

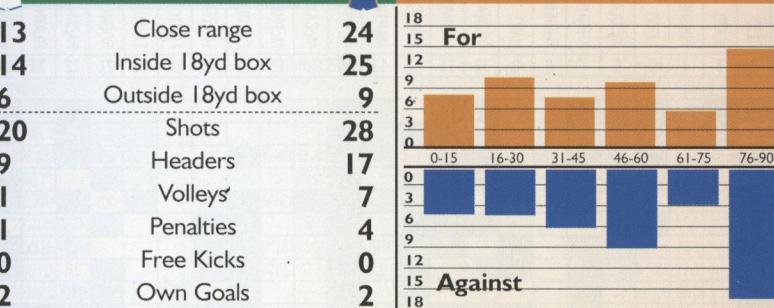
Brighton v. Luton Town



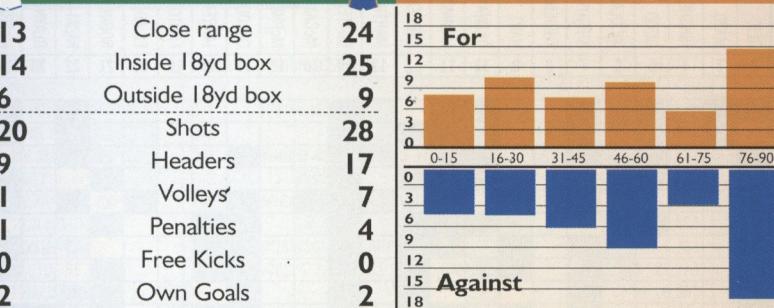
When for & against



Where & how scored



When for & against



Last 6 results

Opponents	H/A	Score
QPR	A	1-1
Preston	H	0-0
Plymouth	A	0-1
Crewe	A	1-2
Watford	H	0-1
Norwich	A	0-3

Swings

Won when Behind	1
Drawn when Behind	6
Drawn when Ahead	3
Lost when Ahead	6

Discipline

Red cards	4
Yellow cards	63
Fouls committed	540
Average per game	13.85

Set piece goals

Scored from free kick	4
Scored from corner	3
Conc from free kick	5
Conc from corner	3

Strike ratio

Shots on target	162
Goals scored	33
% shots scored	20.4
Divisional rating	16

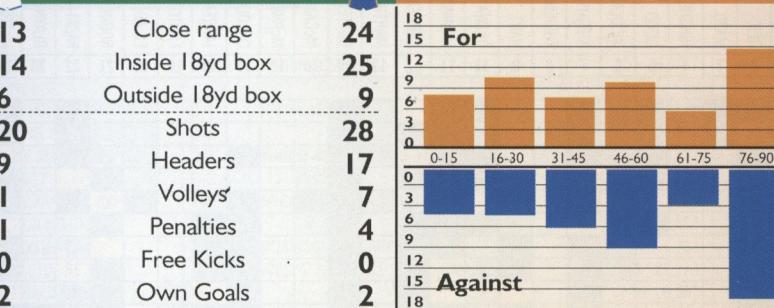
Top scorer

Colin Kazim-Richards	
Goals Scored	6
Games Played	35
Points Won	3

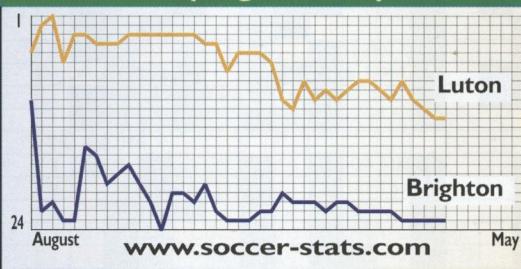
Where & how scored



When for & against



Seasonal progress comparison



Last 6 results

Opponents	H/A	Score
Derby	H	1-0
Leicester	H	1-2
Millwall	A	1-2
Leeds	A	1-2
Reading	H	3-2
Cardiff	H	3-3

Swings

Won when Behind	3
Drawn when Behind	3
Drawn when Ahead	4
Lost when Ahead	3

Discipline

Red cards	5
Yellow cards	46
Fouls committed	556
Average per game	14.26

Set piece goals

Scored from free kick	8
Scored from corner	4
Conc from free kick	10
Conc from corner	3

Strike ratio

Shots on target	241
Goals scored	58
% shots scored	24.1
Divisional rating	10

Top scorer

Steve Howard	
Goals Scored	13
Games Played	36
Points Won	7



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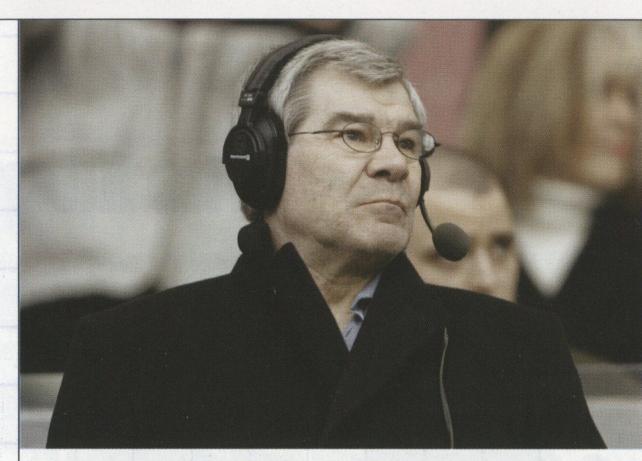
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Malcolm McDonald at a Premier league game last month



5 minute Game Guide



Odd record between the clubs

IT LOOKS now as if Luton won't make the play-offs, but for a large part of the current season, they seemed likely to challenge for a place in the Premiership, just four years after leaving the basement, and despite becoming a laughing-stock in the summer of 2003 when they managed, briefly, to find a chairman even more inept than one or two of those associated with Albion in the past.

That era, however, brought Mike Newell to the club – in controversial circumstances – and he's done a truly remarkable job. The chaos of 2003 quickly dissipated, and the Hatters surged to the League One title last season, arguably without big names and definitely without spending large sums.

This time round, they've shown that it's possible to compete at the higher level, and they've played some neat football along the way – as those who watched their 5-3 FA Cup defeat to Liverpool will know. Newell, though, has yet to sign a new contract. It's a little different in Sussex. Town went from 1922-23 to 1969-70 without a victory over Albion on the coast, and since then they've won just once, well over twenty years ago. It's a run we desperately need to keep going.

Albion fans who remember with a shudder the 3-0 defeat at Kenilworth Road just after Christmas shouldn't necessarily use that poor performance as a benchmark, it's a little different in Sussex. Town went from 1922-23 to 1969-70 without a victory over Albion on the coast, and since then they've won just once, well over twenty years ago. It's a run we desperately need to keep going.

The Hatters dropped out of the top flight for the first time in 1960 and were in the Fourth Division by 1966. Supermac Malcolm McDonald fired them up in 1970 and Town were back in Division One by 1975, albeit for just one season.

After Millwall fans rioted in 1985, then chairman, Conservative MP David Evans, banned all away fans. As a result the club were banned from the League Cup. The ban was lifted just in time for the 1987/88 season. The eighties, the most successful period in the club's history, coincided with the laying of a plastic pitch in 1985. Luton's highest ever league finish, seventh, was achieved in 1987 and was followed in 1988 with a 3-2 League Cup Final triumph over Arsenal with a side that included Albion legends Danny Wilson and Steve Foster. The Hatters were back at Wembley in the same competition the next year but couldn't overcome Cloughie's Forest side.

When diminutive striker Paul Walsh bagged a trio of hat-tricks for the Hatters in the 1982/83 season, it was the first time a Luton player had managed the feat since Gordon Turner in 1957/58. He struck four hat-tricks the previous season!

Dan Tester

www.seagulls.co.uk Seagull 67



The future's looking good

It's the end of the 1995/96 season and Lennie Lawrence's side drop out of the top two divisions after 26 years. A play off semi final defeat to Crewe Alexandra the following campaign knocks the stuffing out of the club. In a scenario all too familiar with Albion fans, the continuing stadium conundrum affects matters on the pitch and Town don't recover. Lawrence is shown the door after a third successive finish out of the top ten and is replaced by former England midfielder and Luton legend, Ricky Hill.

Unfortunately, the on pitch magic isn't replicated and Hill leaves after just four months. Another Kenilworth Road favourite, Lil Fuccillo, fairs no better, and lasts even less time, before Joe Kinnear arrives in Bedfordshire. The damage is done and the Hatters fall into the basement for the first time since 1968.

Straight back up on 97 points in 2002 and things are looking brighter. Mike Newell claims the hotseat after controversially winning the fans' votes in an unusual managerial selection process instigated by former chairman John Gurney.

The fans are more than happy with the big Scouser. The club romped to the League One title last season and have impressed so far in 2005/06. Can Newell make the biggest step of all...

96

97

Saturday 27 April 1996

Luton need a victory to have any chance of staying in Division One. Barnsley are the visitors and, despite having nothing to play for, take a first half lead through midfielder Brendan O'Connell. Journeyman Neil Redfearn makes it two before the break. The crowd of just over 6,000 then see the midfielder net again in the second half to put the game beyond the home side. Tony Thorpe scores a consolation as the Hatters wave goodbye to Division One. On the same day the crossbars came down at the Goldstone...

Saturday 11 December 1999

An otherwise disappointing season sees a trip to Craven Cottage for the FA Cup 3rd round as a welcome respite from the rigours of league football. It doesn't quite go according to plan - despite young forward Liam George putting the visitors ahead after 6 minutes - as Geoff Horsfield and Sean Davis strike First Division Fulham into a 2-1 lead by the 14th minute. Midfielder Matthew Spring equalises eight minutes from time to earn a Kenilworth Road replay. The previous night the 5,049 brave souls at Withdean get completely drenched watching Albion lose 4-3 to Rochdale.

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Monday 25 August 2003

It's Luton's first visit to Withdean for this Second Division clash. The home side take the lead in the 16th minute when Hart's cross finds Darius Henderson completely unmarked in the area. The striker fires in a low cross shot that is deflected into his own goal by Chris Coyne on the slide. A second-half strike from Albion skipper Charlie Oatway gives the Albion three points. Steve Howard is sent off and manager Mike Newell ordered from the dug out as Luton slump to a 2-0 defeat.



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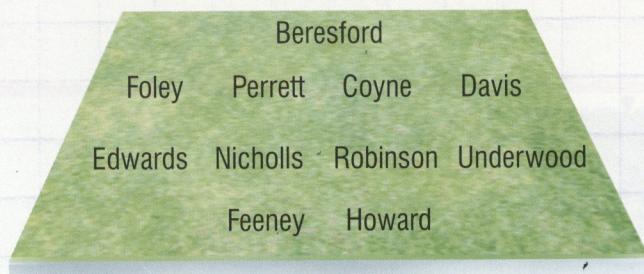
Tuesday 24 April 2001

Rotherham United are the visitors to Kenilworth Road and after a dreadful season Luton finally succumb to relegation to the basement division, for the first time since 1968. Midfielder Chris Sedgwick nets for the visitors on 76 minutes to make it 1-0, keeping the Millers in the play off zone. The result is the Hatters' tenth game without a win. Four days later Bobby Zamora scores a hat-trick in the 4-1 Withdean win over Macclesfield Town to keep the Albion on course to switch divisions with Town.

Saturday 30 April 2005

With the Second Division title wrapped up weeks ago Luton can take things easy in the last home game of the season. Ahmet Brkovic gives the champions an early lead but it's Brentford who haven't read the script as Sam Sodje and Deon Burton put the visitors 2-1 up after 26 minutes. Late goals from Kevin Nicholls, Enoch Showunmi and Steve Robinson, in the last six minutes, restore the party atmosphere as the Hatters canter to their sixth successive victory. An own goal secures a vital three points for the Albion at Rotherham United.





Players to watch, line-up, tactics

Luton picked up a much-needed victory over Derby last Saturday, and they did it with what manager Mike Newell called 'a team with as much experience as possible', a young side having struggled in previous weeks.

Few players are as experienced as goalkeeper Marlon Beresford, who once, unwittingly, played a small part in keeping troubled Albion afloat. Top-flight Leeds were looking for a goalkeeper in 1993, but our own Mark Beeney impressed in a 3-1 win at Burnley while Beresford struggled at the other end – and it was Beeney who signed for the Elland Road club, bringing in enough cash to stave off the creditors.

Experience is also the key up front, where prolific Steve Howard and Northern Ireland international Warren Feeney began last Saturday's fixture. Howard is one of those wizards in and around the box, and is particularly dangerous with his head, while Feeney's pace, elusiveness and power make him a difficult customer. In reserve, they boast Rowan Vine and Enoch Showunmi, both of whom are capable of great things on their day.

Both scored against Albion in December, as did Steve Robinson with a delicate chip. He's one of the unsung heroes of the Hatters midfield, combining effort and skill, while Kevin Nicholls is the hub at the centre of the park. He spent a month on loan with Albion back in 1998-99, but like us he can be forgiven for putting that dismal period in our history out of his mind.

The wide men are likely to be Carlos Edwards, who impressed everybody when he played here for Wrexham two seasons ago, and Paul Underwood, once a solid and dependable left-back with Rushden & Diamonds but now more likely to be found further forward.

A sound defence revolves around former Pompey man Russell Perrett and Australian Chris Coyne, with Sol Davis keeping the left flank quiet and Kevin Foley raiding down the right.

AHMET BRKOVIC

In the absence of the injured Kevin Nicholls, Ahmet Brkovic has been given the chance to carry on the form he's shown since coming to England from his native Croatia in 1999. Originally, he was with Leyton Orient, and Albion fans might remember him scoring a winner at Withdean for the O's not long after we returned from the horrors of exile in Gillingham. Luton signed him in 2001, and he really came into his own last season, when he scored 16 goals from midfield, as well as providing his side's creative force.

Players to watch, line-up, tactics



CHRIS COYNE

If there's a hidden secret to Luton's success in recent years, it just might be central defender Chris Coyne. He arrived in England as long ago as 1996, when he signed for West Ham as a teenager, but he couldn't break into their Premiership squad and was loaned to Brentford and Southend before being released to join Dundee. He wasn't in Scotland for long – Luton picked him up for a small fee in 2001, and he blossomed as a calm and assured defensive rock. He's impressed every bit as much in the Championship as in the lower divisions – could he yet break into the Australian squad in time for the World Cup?

STEVE HOWARD

If you were looking for one of those big, powerful English-style centre-forwards who are great in the air but who can also play a bit when the ball's on the ground, you'd stop looking when you spotted Steve Howard. He's been around a fair while – he was with Hartlepool when they played in the legendary Fans United game at the Goldstone in 1997, and always caused havoc for Albion defences in his Northampton days – but since his move to Luton for a bargain £50,000 in 2001, he's really come of age, and he recently banged in his 100th goal for the club, at a rate of roughly one every two games.

Who-he?

Figures at end of each entry refer to games played/goals scored

- 1 Marlon Beresford (G): Age 36. England. Previous clubs: Sheff W, Burnley, Middlesbro, York, Brad C, Barnsley. 36/0
- 2 Kevin Foley (D/M): Age 21. Republic of Ireland. Ex-trainee. 34/0
- 3 Sol Davis (D): Age 26. England. Previous club: Swindon. 20/0
- 4 Chris Coyne (D): Age 27. Australia. Previous clubs: Perth Glory, West Ham, Dundee. 31/3
- 5 Russell Perrett (D): Age 32. England. Previous clubs: Pompey, Cardiff. 10/0
- 6 Paul Underwood (M/D): Age 33. England. Previous clubs: Enfield, Rushden & Diamonds. 29/0
- 7 Carlos Edwards (W): Age 27. Trinidad & Tobago. Previous clubs: Trinidad Defence Force, Wrexham. 39/2
- 8 Kevin Nicholls (M): Age 27. England. Previous clubs: Charlton, Albion on loan, Wigan. 33/6
- 9 Rowan Vine (F): Age 23. Previous club: Pompey. 25/8
- 10 Warren Feeney (F): Age 25. Northern Ireland. Previous clubs: Leeds, Bournemouth, Stockport. 38/7
- 11 Steve Robinson (M): Age 31. Northern Ireland. Previous clubs: Spurs, Bournemouth, Preston. 25/2
- 12 Enoch Showunmi (F): Age 23. England. Previous club: Willesden. 36/1
- 13 Ahmet Brkovic (M): Age 31. Croatia. Previous clubs: Dubrovnik, Leyton O. 37/6
- 14 Steve Howard (F): Age 29. England. Previous clubs: Hartlepool, Northampton. 38/14
- 21 Keith Keane (M): Age 19. England. Ex-trainee. 8/1
- 23 Dean Morgan (F): Age 22. England. Previous clubs: Colchester, Reading. 32/6
- 26 Markus Heikkinen (M): Age 27. Finland. Previous clubs: HJK Helsinki, Pompey, Aberdeen. 35/2
- 27 Peter Holmes (M): Age 25. England. Previous club: Sheff W. 21/2
- 28 David Bell (M): Age 22. Republic of Ireland. Previous club: Rushden & Diamonds. 4/0
- 33 Dean Brill (G): Age 20. England. Ex-trainee. 6/0
- 45 Leon Barnett (D): Age 20. England. Ex-trainee. 17/0

BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION

LUTON

1	Michel KUIPERS
2	Paul REID
3	Kerry MAYO
4	Adam HINSELWOOD
5	Jason DODD
6	Alexis NICOLAS
7	
8	Federico TURIENZO
9	Gary HART
10	Charlie OATWAY
11	Dean HAMMOND
12	Richard CARPENTER
13	Richard MARTIN
14	Guy BUTTERS
15	Mark McCAMMON
16	Chris McPHEE
17	Sebastien CAROLE
19	Alexandre FRUTOS
20	Adam EL-ABD
21	Jake ROBINSON
22	Colin KAZIM-RICHARDS
23	Doug LOFT'
24	Paul McSHANE
26	Chris BREACH
28	Wayne HENDERSON
27	Gary ELPHICK
29	Dean COX
30	Tommy ELPHICK
33	Joe GATTING
34	Joel LYNCH
40	Florent CHAIGNEAU



Coca Cola Championship

23 March 2006

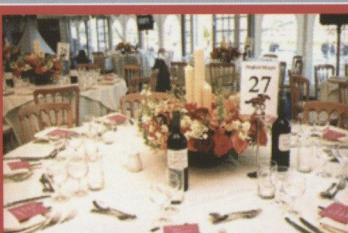
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	GD
READING	39	16	3	1	48	12	11	7	1	33	13	91	+56
SHEFF UTD	39	12	4	3	35	19	10	5	5	30	22	75	+24
WATFORD	39	10	5	4	36	20	10	7	3	34	24	72	+26
LEEDS	39	12	4	3	33	17	8	7	5	21	16	71	+21
C PALACE	39	11	5	4	32	16	8	5	6	27	23	67	+20
PRESTON	38	7	9	2	24	12	7	9	4	24	16	60	+20
WOLVES	39	8	8	3	19	12	6	9	5	24	19	59	+12
CARDIFF	39	10	6	3	30	17	6	4	10	22	28	58	+7
NORWICH	39	10	4	6	28	20	5	4	10	21	35	53	-6
COVENTRY	39	11	6	3	35	19	2	7	10	17	36	52	-3
IPSWICH	39	7	7	5	23	25	6	6	8	23	29	52	-8
LUTON	39	10	5	5	42	28	5	1	13	16	32	51	-2
QPR	38	7	6	6	20	19	5	6	8	23	33	48	-9
PLYMOUTH	39	8	7	5	21	19	3	7	9	12	22	47	-8
STOKE	38	7	4	9	22	28	7	1	10	18	25	47	-13
LEICESTER	39	6	8	5	25	22	5	5	10	19	29	46	-7
HULL CITY	39	7	6	7	22	20	4	5	10	21	29	44	-6
BURNLEY	38	9	3	6	29	20	3	4	13	12	31	43	-10
SOUTHAMPTON	38	6	10	4	19	15	2	8	8	17	26	42	-5
DERBY	39	6	9	4	29	23	2	9	9	19	32	42	-7
SHEFF WED	39	6	6	8	20	23	3	5	11	10	25	38	-18
MILLWALL	39	3	7	10	11	24	3	8	8	18	28	33	-23
BRIGHTON	39	4	7	8	19	24	1	9	10	14	35	31	-26
CREWE	38	4	6	9	27	36	1	7	11	15	41	28	-35

ELSEWHERE / OFFICIALS

Cardiff v QPR
 Crewe v Coventry
 Derby v Crystal Palace
 Ipswich v Hull
 Leeds v Stoke
 Leicester v Reading
 Preston v Plymouth
 Sheffield Utd v Southampton
 Watford v Millwall
 Wolves v Sheffield Wed

Today's referee is Mr Paul Armstrong. His assistants are Mr Gary Ives (red/yellow diamonds) and Mr Brendan Malone (yellow). The fourth official is Mr John Hopkins.

Marlon BERESFORD	1
Kevin FOLEY	2
Sol DAVIS	3
Chris COYNE	4
Russell PERRETT	5
Paul UNDERWOOD	6
Carlos EDWARDS	7
Kevin NICHOLLS	8
Rowan VINE	9
Warren FEENEY	10
Steve ROBINSON	11
	12
	13
	14
	15
Enoch SHOWUNMI	16
Paul HUGHES	17
Ahmet BRKOVIC	18
Steve HOWARD	19
	20
Keith KEANE	21
Danny STEVENS	22
Dean MORGAN	23
	24
	25
Markus HEIKKINEN	26
Peter HOLMES	27
David BELL	28
	29
Dean BRILL	33
Leon BARNETT	45



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