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Opening shot



"I have seen a lot of change: the game has evolved enormously. Today we wear heart-rate monitors for training and matches to make sure we're getting the right quantity and level of physical work done. After games - home or away - we have special ice baths to help us recover and we are told to ensure we eat the right foods and to refuel within 30 minutes of the match finishing.

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Albion defender Guy Butters, who turned 38 on Tuesday, on the changes he has seen during a football career that's spanned three decades

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WITHDEAN

Up north, a credit to the name of Brighton & Hove Albion

AFTER a harsh defeat in our last home game with Leeds United, when we lost out to a goal that came against the run of play on the afternoon, we faced the long trip north to Hartlepool United last weekend. After being in a fantastic position at half-time – 1-0 up and with the hosts down to ten men – in the end you could argue we were fortunate to come away with all three points. Having said that we had opportunities and attacking situations in the second half to score a second and possibly third goal to have made the game much more comfortable than it was in the end.

We were once again roared on by your fantastic support, which was acknowledged by Hartlepool's chief executive who has since contacted the club to thank everyone connected with the Albion for the way we conducted ourselves on the day – and particularly the supporters who made the trip. Once again you were an absolute credit to Brighton & Hove Albion Football Club.

Our good form in October means we have now lost just once in the last seven games and are starting to produce the type of results we know we can – but today's visitors Luton will

be coming to Withdean full of confidence, following an excellent victory over Nottingham Forest last week, not to mention a superb performance and narrow defeat against Premier's Everton on Wednesday night in the Carling Cup. Having seen that game, I know the least we can expect today is a very tough match from Kevin Blackwell's side.

Finally that form led to us and our club being nominated for the League One manager of the month award for October – although pipped by Roberto Martinez of Swansea City. I say us, because although it is the manager who is nominated, I think this recognition reflects on everybody: the squad, the backroom staff, indeed the whole club. It has been a fruitful month for us, with just one defeat – the unlucky reverse to Leeds United – and three wins away from home at Bournemouth, Port Vale and Hartlepool. However, there is still a long way to go this season: as yet we have achieved nothing – but we have set the benchmark.

Give them your total support.

Dean Wilkins



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Editor

This week Albion boss Dean Wilkins was nominated for the League One manager of the month award. He didn't win, but third place wasn't bad – and I'm sure we'd all settle for a similar finish in the table come the end of the season. The form in October has been excellent: four wins, one draw and one defeat. So it was nice to see that recognised by the Football League.

As the manager points out, these awards are not just about the manager, but his squad of players, coaching staff and backroom team. So it's a pat on the back for all concerned for a great effort in October – and it's nice to see Albion getting positive coverage in the national media – but it should be treated as nothing more than a progress report.

Adam El-Abd points out in his interview elsewhere in this issue, the club hasn't achieved anything yet; and Aidy Boothroyd raised a few smiles when he talked down Watford's roaring start to the season by pointing out to an over-enthusiastic interviewer that we hadn't even reached bonfire night!

However, the team is making progress and Dean is growing into his role as manager. Who knows where we'll finish this season, and the excellent continued support the team is enjoying will only make that position higher. So you too take a pat on the back for your efforts... but just keep them up during November and for the rest of the season!

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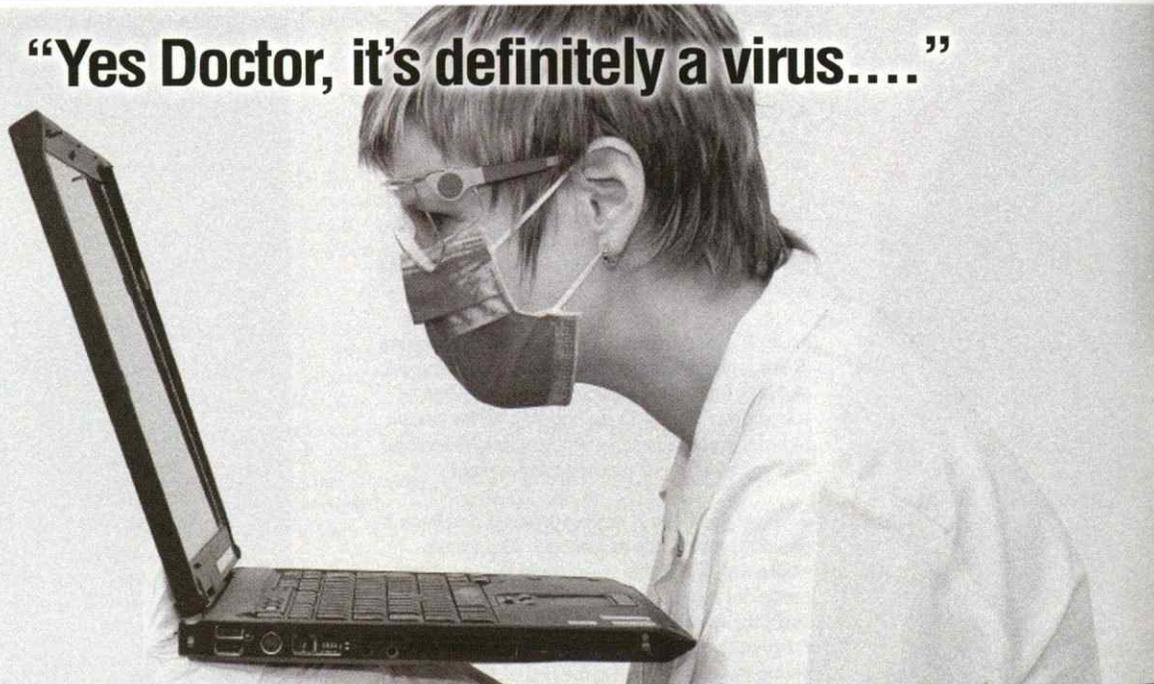
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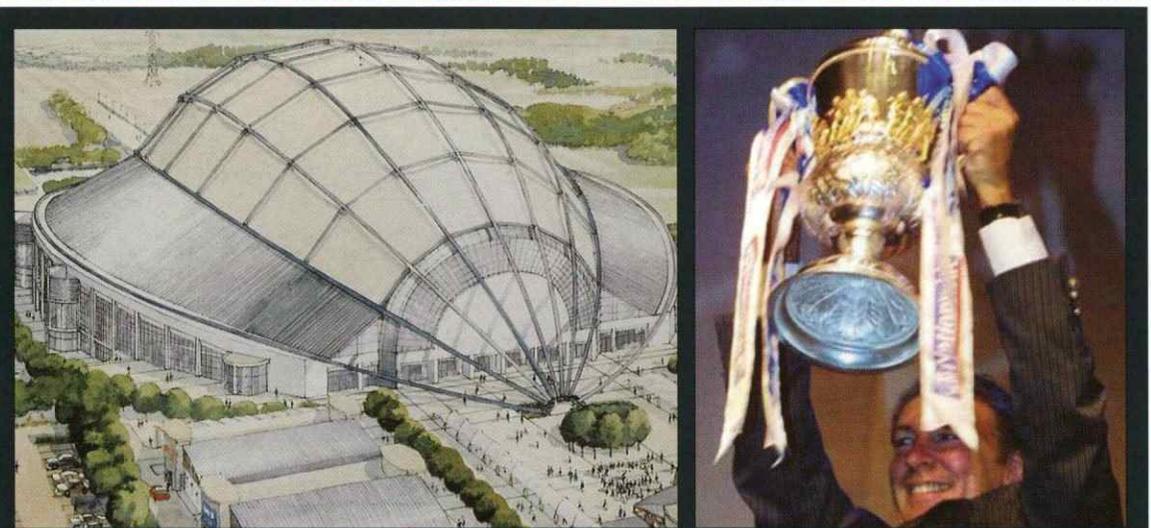
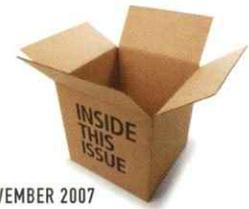


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Amazing plans once proposed for Luton Town - their stadium saga goes on and on and... Gordon Smith gets to lift the FA Cup after all but what would have happened if... It's up there somewhere...



inside

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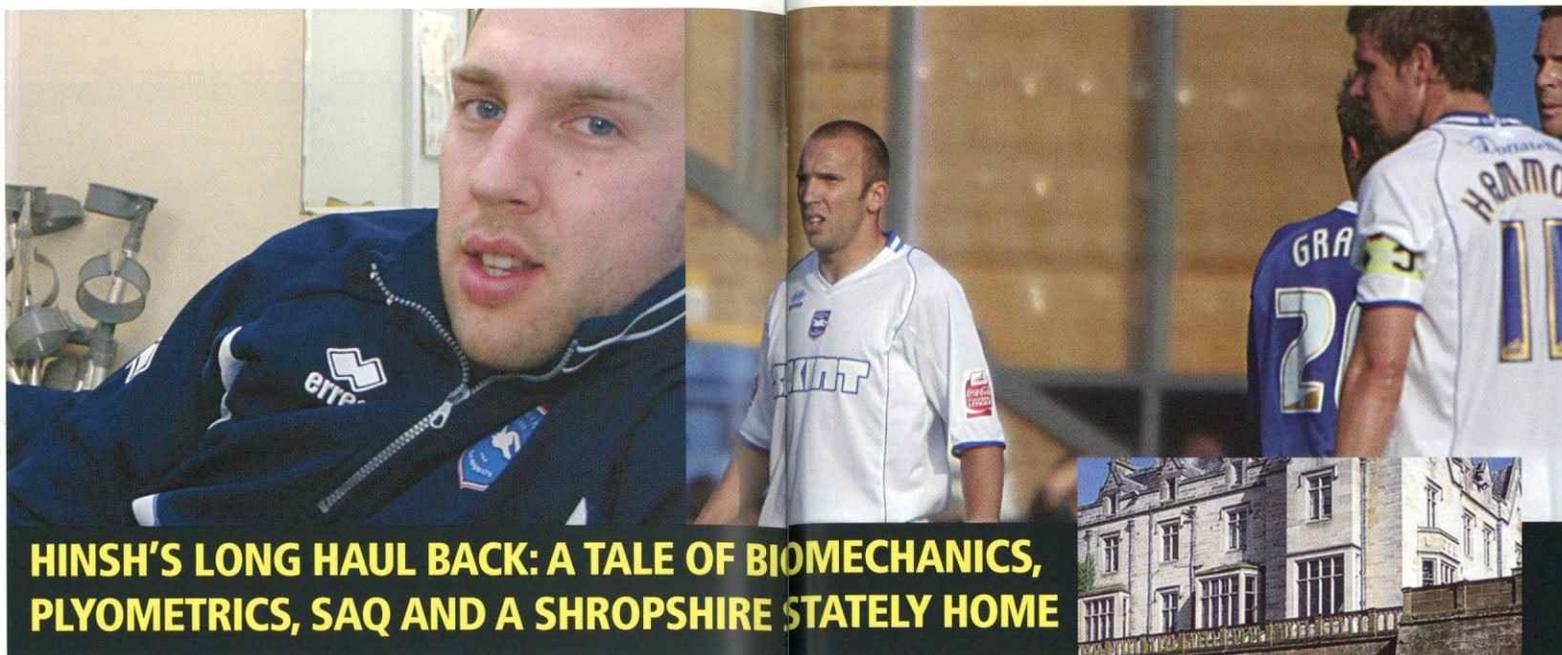
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HINSH'S LONG HAUL BACK: A TALE OF BIOMECHANICS, PLYOMETRICS, SAQ AND A SHROPSHIRE STATELY HOME

Lilleshall... it's part of the football vocabulary, and we often hear about players going there as they look to overcome an injury problem. This week Adam Hinshelwood was the latest Albion player to spend a week at the National Sports Centre, based in the small Shropshire town. But what goes on behind the closed gates in the grounds of Lilleshall Hall?

It was used as a training base by Alf Ramsey and the England team during the 1966 World Cup; the FA's training academy was there between 1984 and 1999 (from which Albion club coach Ian Chapman was the first to graduate into the ranks of professional football); and since 1986 the International Sports Medicine Institute and Rehabilitation Centre has been used by the FA to help injured players recover.

That's where Adam spent his last five days and Albion physio Malcolm Stuart explains exactly why it's beneficial. "The whole thing helps: being away from the

training ground, where everybody's working on injuries and not seeing players going out and playing games, helps mentally. On the physical side, specialist physios and top sports therapists work with players on a one-on-one basis. The medical and rehabilitation facilities are second to none and the grounds are superb. I have spent a lot of time at Lilleshall and admire the way they work. I always like to send players there."

A week there is usually very intense: starting each day early in the morning and going through to the evening. Players have to prepare for their time at Lilleshall and make sure their bodies can cope with the intensity of the rehab sessions. "The amount of work Hinsh did before to going to Lilleshall allowed him to work at his maximum," continued Stuart. "I spoke to him early in the week and he had a biomechanical assessment on Monday and was given a programme of work which, as you would expect with Hinsh, he got fully stuck into. He was up there with an old friend of his, Mark McCammon, who was doing some

rehab on a shoulder injury.

"We liaised with Lilleshall during the week and they will give us written results. So far everything has gone really well for him. What we would all like to see now is for Hinsh to come back into light training, then into full training and go through the rest of the season injury free. I think he deserves that – but we have to make sure that his whole body is ready to accept it, and not just the injured area."

Stuart's job is not just about getting players like Adam back to fitness after an injury – it's about prevention as well as cure, and ensuring players stay fit. He does this by working with the squad using plyometrics, SAQ training, pilates and other disciplines. The Albion medical team also work to make sure that the players are constantly performing at their own personal peak of fitness by monitoring their heart rates during training. This ensures that players are getting the right amount of physical work done during training.

"The manager embraces the

changes being made in the game – and has used many things we get out of the research to benefit the players. As a result we have lessened the amount of hours that have been spent in the treatment room, we've lessened the injuries and we've lowered the insurance bill. It's a benefit to any club to have the players spending more time on the training pitch and playing games – and that is particularly important at Brighton, where we need to look after our resources in the best possible way.

"The monitoring of heart-rates on a daily basis enables us to ensure they're not over-training. It's easy to top training up, but when lads are overtired and physically jaded it's a problem. A lot of the top clubs have got this facility inhouse. We've had contact with Birmingham, Norwich and Ipswich and have been to see Bolton, who lead the field with their inhouse work and facilities.

That is something we would like to have in the new stadium - it would benefit the local community as they will have access to it for fitness testing."

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Albion's own European union? Thanks to PSB: Leeds match sponsors

European trialists with Albion

ALBION boss Dean Wilkins has spent part of his week casting an eye over two European trialists. German keeper Jonas Sela has been working with Albion goalkeeping coach Paul Crichton, after a week's training at Ipswich Town; while Portuguese left-back Carlos Da Mota has also been with Albion's first team since last Tuesday. Goalkeeper Sela is a free agent after being released by German club Mainz; Da Mota is with Portuguese club Immortal, and was recommended by Albion's recently appointed chief scout Barry Lloyd. The pair featured in a behind-closed-doors friendly

against a Worthing XI on Wednesday at Woodside Road (see page 49).

This coming week, Wilkins will take a look at another foreign goalkeeper, as he looks for increased cover and competition for Michel Kuipers. Danish keeper Jonas Jensen – currently on the books of Swedish club Elfsborg and also recommended by Lloyd – is to join on a week's trial on Monday. Meanwhile the Albion boss has decided not to pursue his interest in Daniel Bocande, the Senegal midfielder who spent an extended period on trial and recently played twice for the reserves.

Big thanks to our Leeds match sponsor



Enormous thanks as ever to our match sponsors, Parsons Son & Basley, who are great friends of the Albion. They chose goalkeeper, Michel Kuipers as their man of the match and are shown here at the pitchside presentation immediately following the game and, later on, with more of their representatives in hospitality.



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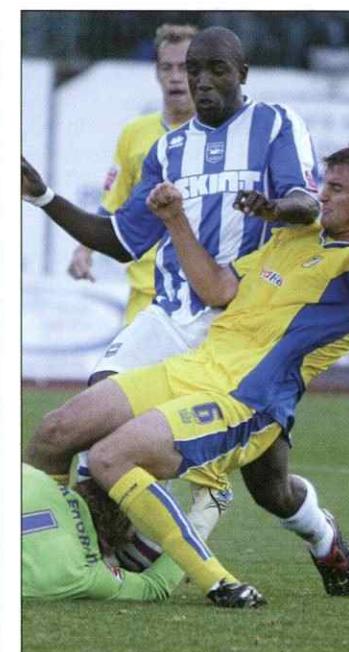
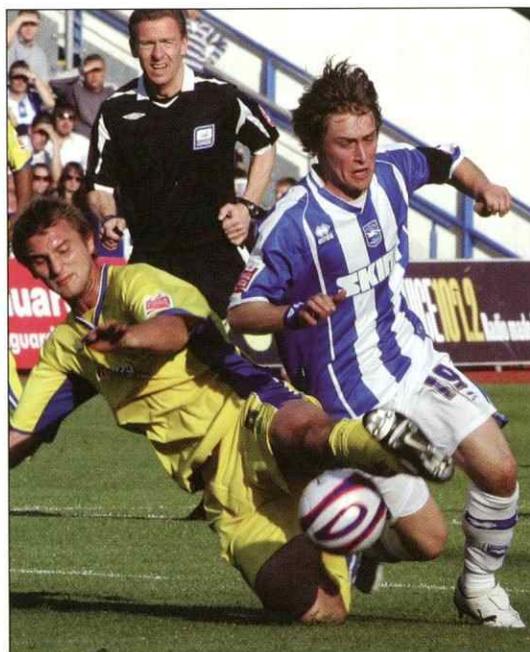
A DESPERATELY UNLUCKY ALBION WERE LEFT WONDERING WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN AFTER LEEDS, DISTINCTLY SECOND-BEST FOR LONG PERIODS, WON THE MATCH WITH A LATE STRIKE – AS THEY HAVE SO OFTEN THIS SEASON.

As goals go, it was a bit of a mess, involving a miscue from Adam El-Abd, a great rescuing save from Michel Kuipers, and the luck of the bounce for Leeds as the ball dropped to Tresor Kandol. Having gone weeks without conceding, the way this one went in was a major disappointment, but if things had gone Albion's way at the other end, it might not have been so crucial.

The Seagulls pushed unbeaten Leeds all the way, with Casper Ankergrren by far the busier of the two keepers, and Albion's patched-up midfield on top, with David Martot having his best game for the club, and Jake Robinson looking lively, especially in the first half. Seb Carole was fairly quiet on his return to Withdean, a tribute to another good defensive effort.

But Kandol, once an Albion target, had the final say. If fortune balances itself out over the course of a season, we've got some to look forward to. But defeat still hurts.

Albion: Kuipers, Whing, El-Abd, Elphick, Richards, Savage (Elder 82), Fraser (Loft 87), Hammond, Martot, Robinson (Forster 87), Revell. Unused subs: Sullivan, Rents. Yellow card: Whing. Leeds: Ankergrren, Richardson, Heath, Marques, Clapham, Prutton, Hughes (Westlake 37), Douglas, Carole, Kandol, Beckford (De Vries 89). Unused subs: Lucas, Huntingdon, Andrews. Scorer: Kandol 78. Yellow cards: Beckford, Marques.



"Desperately unlucky"



Adam was bracing himself for bad news a week ago. It didn't come and he took full advantage.

It was great to see Adam El-Abd at his best last week for the trip to Hartlepool United; the no-nonsense defender produced a superb defensive display alongside Tommy Elphick to help Albion to an impressive win in the north-east, but this week he told *Seagull* he was surprised he kept his place in the side, following a mistake in Albion's last home game against Leeds United.

"When you make a mistake as crucial as the one I made against Leeds, which cost us the game, you expect to be left out, but I'd like to thank the gaffer for keeping me in," explained El-Abd. "It gave me a massive amount of confidence because I was bracing myself for the chop – as you do when you make a mistake like that."

A naturally defensive player, his blip in the Leeds game aside, the 23-year-old has been in fine form in recent weeks; like his defensive colleagues and goalkeeper Michel Kuipers he was equally impressive during the on-the-road in wins at Bournemouth and Port Vale.

"I am a defensive minded player. Wherever I play I do enjoy a good tackle and a challenge. A lot of my game is based around defending. When you go away the onus is on the home team to bring the game to us and therefore it can be backs to the wall at times. Whereas when you play at home the onus is on us to take the game to the opposition."

El-Abd has played in every outfield defensive position for the club, and last season was labelled as the Albion's 'enforcer' by *The Argus*; last Saturday he was described by his defensive colleague Tommy Elphick as a "man mountain" following the 2-1 win in the north-east. All that

underlines the main ingredient in Adam El-Abd: total commitment, and not just on a Saturday afternoon or Tuesday evening when it comes to a match, but also in training throughout the week. A will to win and keep improving as a player is another huge part of El-Abd's make up.

"We are all very pleased with the form of late – but we know there are areas in which we can improve and we've spent training this week aiming to do that. Playing against ten men last week we shouldn't have made it as difficult as we did and we've got to improve on that. We didn't play anywhere near to our full potential, but to go to a place like Hartlepool and come away with the win you have to be happy. Not many teams will leave there with maximum points this season.

"The back four and midfield in front of us defended well, and as a team we looked fairly solid. That gave us the platform to go and win the game. It's a young back four, but there is quite a lot of experience in there. Tommy Elphick is the exception to that, but even he has come in and played with a maturity that's beyond his years."

At 23, El-Abd was the senior defender on duty at Hartlepool – he's older than Andrew Whing by nine days, and Matt Richards by three months. Despite being relatively young, the three already have a wealth of experience in the game: each has played well over 100 games, with the majority at Championship level, and it all bodes extremely well for the future.

Eighth ahead of today's match, El-Abd feels what Albion achieve this season is down to the players. "We haven't achieved anything yet, apart from winning a few games, and it's a long season. A realistic target is to be going for the play-offs. We have enough quality within the squad, not just in the eleven, but in the whole squad. There is a lot of competition for places which keeps everyone on their toes and that only makes for a successful campaign.



It's Hawesy, the SCR commentator with the power to depress half of Sussex once a fortnight.

PRESSBOX...
COMMENTS FROM
OUTSIDE THE CLUB

Fitness first

My favourite Groucho Marx quote goes "You're only as young as the woman you feel". I bring this up principally for a cheap laugh, but also because of the mighty clash that might happen today between the 39-year-old Paul Furlong and the mere stripling that is the 38-year-old Guy Butters.

There does seem to have been a change in football culture for the better from "win or lose, we're on the booze" to perhaps a more measured method of rest, recovery and nutrition. A change that is still waiting to be picked up by wider society I think, for better or worse. It's good to see increased professionalism rewarded by longevity. Outfield players in the Football League past 40 are still a rarity, but I am beginning to think it might be less so in the future.

Tony Ford and David Eyres are the only names that spring to mind recently, but that may well change as players rest more and have their diets more scientifically thought out. Add that to the value of experience and we may be seeing the curiosity of the "age of the senior citizen" when the game seems to be focused more on power and strength than ever before.

In Italy, you can argue, this trend has already started. Paolo Maldini still plays at the age of 40 for AC Milan, and Alessandro Costacurta just managed that before retirement.

On the subject of fitness and longevity, I have been struck recently by how much playing a game does seem to take out of players. Guy recently said he spends most of his time at home on the sofa with a blanket over him eating the odd sandwich, while Dean Cox commented on how remarkably energised he felt following his enforced absence against Leeds. This is not to say the players aren't fit, I am guessing it must be to do with the levels of concentration required as well. He who switches off soon suffers after all....



Getting behind our club. Mike Ward talks to the people at the heart of the Albion.

seagull *interview*



THE mike ward INTERVIEW



IT'S been another frustrating season so far for Albion defender Adam Hinshelwood. All six minutes of it.

On he came for the last few moments of that lousy defeat at Gillingham back in September, his first appearance of the new campaign. Off he trudged at the final whistle, cautiously relieved that his troublesome right knee appeared to have come through this test without giving him any further gyp.

And back he climbed onto the treatment table 48 hours later, his initial optimism having turned out to be horribly misplaced.

As Basil Fawlty used to yell sarcastically: "Thank you, God. Thank you so bloomin' much." Or words to that effect.

"It had felt fine at the end of the match," Adam recalls, as we stand in the Withdean sunshine before the Leeds match, chatting about the poor bloke's catalogue of crockings, "but on the Sunday morning I was out walking with the kids when I realised I had a problem.

"I looked down and my right knee had swollen up to about twice its normal size."

Frustrating? Er, yeah, just a bit. This is a guy, remember, who's spent the best part of two and a

"Football's all I've ever known since I was a kid."



half years fighting injury, ever since being stretchered off with cruciate ligament damage in a league match against Rea**ng here at Withdean.

And it hasn't just been a case of one long, miserable lay-off. It's been a succession of raised hopes and soul-destroying setbacks: getting himself sent off in a long-awaited comeback match against Norwich, for example, after picking up two yellow cards ("I think I was a bit over-eager," he reflects) – and, far worse, aggravating the old injury itself during a pre-season friendly last year against Colchester.

It's enough to do any bloke's head in, you'd imagine. Even to convince him he should throw in the towel. After all, previous generations of footballers would have kissed goodbye to their futures after suffering injuries this bad.

Adam admits that in his darkest moments the thought has crossed his mind – to accept that maybe, despite his best intentions, he's finished as a professional footballer.

Adam Hinshelwood is 23.

"The prospect of another nine-month lay-off, so soon after the first one, was really hard to take," he tells me. "I thought that was it, to be honest. I thought my career was over."

Which presumably had him wondering what the hell he could do instead, work-wise?

"Yes, that's the main thing that runs around in your head. That's

why you get so depressed. I've got a bricklaying course behind me, but if it's a toss-up between doing that or coming in for training every day, well, there's only one winner there.

"I mean, no disrespect to anyone who does that for a living but football's all I've ever known since I was a kid. It's in my blood."

It doesn't help, of course, that Adam once got picked for England Under-21s, back in the 2004-05 season, for games against Wales and Azerbaijan. Doesn't help, I mean, in that it merely underlines the opportunities he's missed out on.

"If you look at some of the players who were in that squad and where they're playing now it's unbelievable, really," he reflects. "People like Jermaine Pennant, Glen Johnson, Darren Bent, they're all playing week-in-week-out in the Premiership now . . ."

"But to be honest, I just want to play football. I've got to the stage now where I'm sort of not too fussed at what level. I just want to play. I love playing the game."

Perhaps the biggest plus in Adam's life is his family: fiancée Tracey, whom he's known since they were schoolkids, and their two children, Jack, 2 and Gracie, 1.

"The kids keep me on my toes when I go home," he says. "And Tracey's always been so supportive."

That, plus the fact that his parents live just a short distance from his home in Selsey, means

he's been able to rely on a rock-solid support network during the dark times. Without it, Adam concedes he'd have struggled to cope.

"If I'd been a single bloke it would have been so much harder to take," he admits. "Psychologically I'd have been shot to bits."

Right now, all he wants to do is make up for lost time. He'd love the chance, for instance, to play in an Albion-Palace derby. His family connections with Palace – both via his dad Paul and his uncle Martin, Albion's Director Of Football – would count for nothing, he vows, if he had the chance to trot out against our biggest rivals.

"I don't feel the rivalry any less than the other lads do," he insists. "I'm gutted I've never been able to play in one of those matches."

Not that Adam wants our sympathy over his injury plight, he's anxious to stress. "I don't want people feeling sorry for me," he insists, "even though I'm pouring my heart out here!"

"The things that have happened are just the reality I've got to take. There are people a lot worse off than me.

"You have to appreciate what you've got, take the positives out of every situation.

"This has just made me more hungry and determined. All these things happen for a reason.

"I plan to come back bigger, better and stronger."

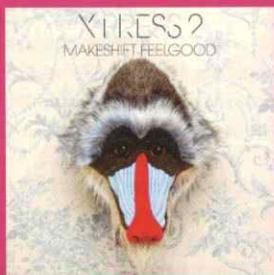
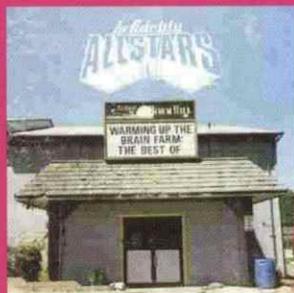
* Mike Ward is Daily Star TV Critic, TV Editor of the Daily Express Saturday magazine and author of *Gullhanger* (Mainstream, £9.99).

SKINT

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GOOSE 'BRING IT ON' Goose are garnering huge critical acclaim and their now legendary live show has rocked crowds at Fabric:Live, Great Escape Festival, Camden Crawl and Insomniacs Ball. The upcoming mix package on new single 'Bring It On' features remixes from Mstrkrft, Boris Dlugosch and Teenage Bad Girl, with the band themselves recently producing stunning remixes for The Scissor Sisters and The Crips. 'This album is immense' 8/10 NME. OUT NOW

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Local schools come to the Albion, and vice versa...



One game, one community

AS part of Albion In The Community's work to promote Kick It Out's anti-racism week, the holiday football courses during half-term focused on an anti-racism message and coaches encouraged the children to think about the multi-cultural appeal of football with a mini World Cup.

The Albion invited children and

parents from St Mary Magdalene School in Brighton to attend the Leeds match. The school is one of the most ethnically diverse in Brighton & Hove with over 25 nationalities represented within the pupils. As you can see from our picture, the children thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon at Withdean.

■ The first school to take part in Albion in the Community's healthy living programme was St Joseph's in Hollingdean. Rick Holden, Luke Tyler and Paul Reid led an all-school assembly designed to raise children's awareness of key health issues. "The visit was a huge success," said Luke, "I have since been back to lead after-school coaching sessions, and many children have told me how they were eating lots of fruit and making other changes to their diet." Other local schools taking part include Bevendean Primary, Carlton Hill Primary, St Luke's Junior, St Mary Magdalen's RC Primary, St Nicholas CE Junior, West Blatchington Junior and Whitehawk Primary.



Meanwhile, elsewhere in league 1

Transfer embargo in Wilts... new manager coming soon to Staffs

Robins rocking from transfer ban

SWINDON TOWN confirmed this week that they've been placed under a transfer embargo by the Football League. They were hoping to have alleviated the problem by this weekend - coming, as it did, after bills went unpaid. It means the newly-promoted League One side cannot bring in any new players while the embargo stands. Manager Paul Sturrock confirmed: "It's a difficult scenario for everybody because there are areas of the team we would like to strengthen. Obviously we're unable to do that at this moment."



Vale to unveil soon

BILL BRATT, Port Vale chairman, has announced the Staffordshire strugglers will reveal the identity of their new manager after the weekend's games. "Progress has been made and a decision on a new manager will be made next week," said Bratt. "In the meantime, caretaker boss Dean Glover will be in charge against Huddersfield this weekend." The Burslem-based outfit have been managerless since Martin Foyle left the club in late September - recording two wins and four defeats since that time.

'Natural causes' led to Saddler's death

OUR Tuesday visitors Walsall have been mourning the early-season death of 16-year-old youth-teamer Anton Reid. An inquest this week recorded 'natural causes' - after a football had hit Anton in the chest, he collapsed in the penalty area. He was pronounced dead on arrival after being airlifted to hospital.



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in safe hands

Good stuff. Bad stuff. From the cuttings file, some of the things people have been saying about us lately.

Albion stuff



Brighton supporters thanked

"I thought the way the fans paid their respects to Michael on Saturday was superb; the perfect tribute. The minute's silence was impeccably observed and it was an incredibly moving tribute to a very special young man. The outpouring of support from fans of other clubs - including Brighton on Saturday - has been awesome. Football fans get a lot of bad press but the way people have rallied round in the wake of this tragedy has been very, very touching."

Hartlepool United chief executive Russ Green on Saturday's tribute to the late Michael Maidens.

"When we started the season we knew this would be a difficult game. We'd talked about it all week - it's a difficult place to have the best of games and you need the players to adapt.

"Credit to the defenders and the goalkeeper because when you defend well and keep a clean sheet you automatically have a platform to win matches. It's easy to look at the strikers but clean sheets are important as well.

"We would love to have played better and we are capable of doing that but we have to be pleased with the win."

What a difference a fortnight makes... Gus Poyet reflects on victory for Leeds at Withead a fortnight ago and, below, his words to the Daily Mail this week.

"There were so many problems (at Leeds). I don't think I will ever experience as bad a situation for the rest of my coaching career. At Tottenham, there are rumours, but

there are no big issues at the club. It is just about getting training right and turning results around. I lost count of the things that went wrong at Leeds and just couldn't believe it."

"I don't think we helped ourselves in a couple of situations today. We had a man sent off and then conceded a soft goal near the end but overall it was a fantastic effort from the lads.

To get ourselves back in the game against a talented Brighton side speaks volumes about the lads - but maybe we got a bit greedy after that and some sloppiness crept in."

Pools boss Danny Wilson assesses their home defeat to the Albion.

"My own observation, shared by many fans, is that Bas can be absolutely devastating coming off the bench against tiring opponents. Saturday's match was not the first game he has won for the Albion this season - I'm thinking particularly of the Southend game that he transformed almost single-handedly as a second half substitute - and the challenge he now faces is to be as influential across the entire 90 minutes."

Andy 'Ferret' Heryet's midweek blog on seagulls.co.uk

"There is none of that (drinking culture) now and I think you are going to see a lot more people going on until they are my age."
Guy Butters tells The Argus just how times have changed, reflecting this week upon the occasion of his 38th birthday.



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PHOTOS: PAUL HAZLEWOOD

BAS SAVAGE WAS THE LAST-GASP HERO AS ALBION CLOCKED UP ANOTHER HARD-EARNED VICTORY, AND ALTHOUGH MANAGER DEAN WILKINS WASN'T HAPPY AFTERWARDS, THE FANS WHO MADE THE LONG JOURNEY WERE GENERALLY SATISFIED.

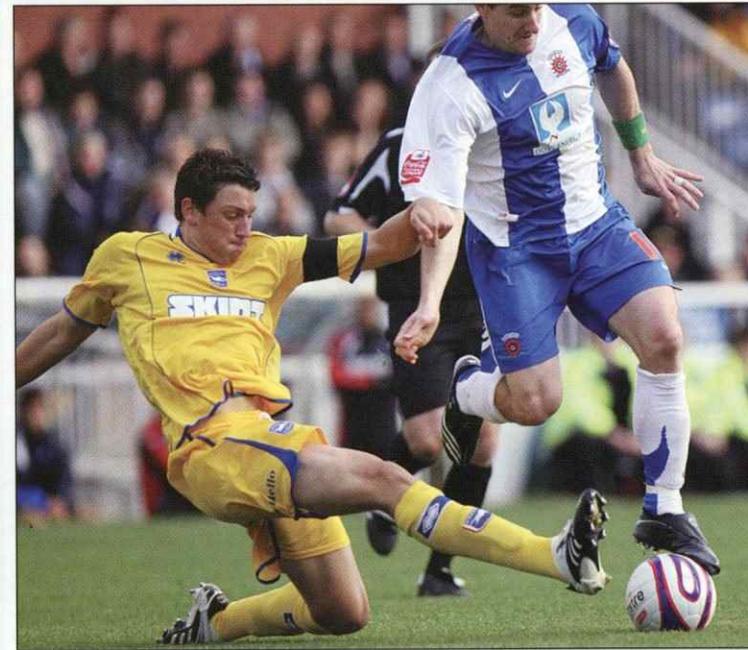
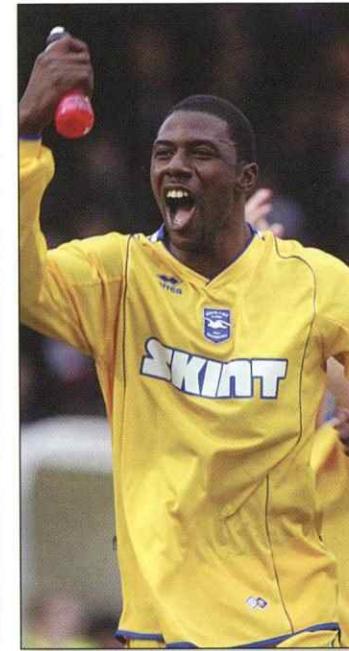
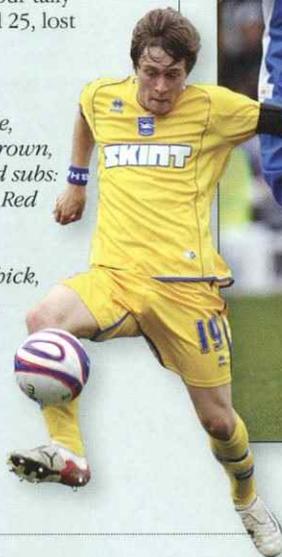
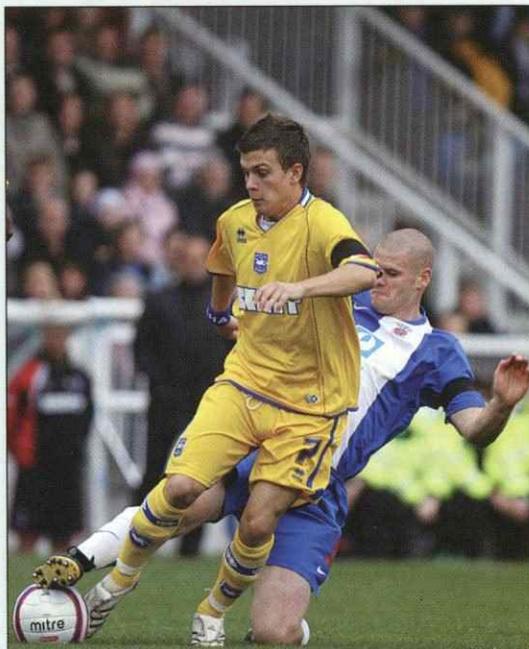
So many footballing memories are made of late winners, and they don't come much later than Bas's special. He beat a couple of defenders before threading a shot into the net, redressing the balance after referee Jonathan Ross – sorry, Moss – awarded Pools a dubious penalty a few minutes earlier. Richie Barker netted, as he did quite a few times for us 10 years ago, and it looked like the game was heading for a draw.

Pools, suffering from the tragic death of midfielder Michael Maidens a week before, shot themselves in the foot twice in the first half, firstly when Ben Clark misdirected a clearing header past his own keeper, and later when Willie Boland was sent off for flooring Dean Cox.

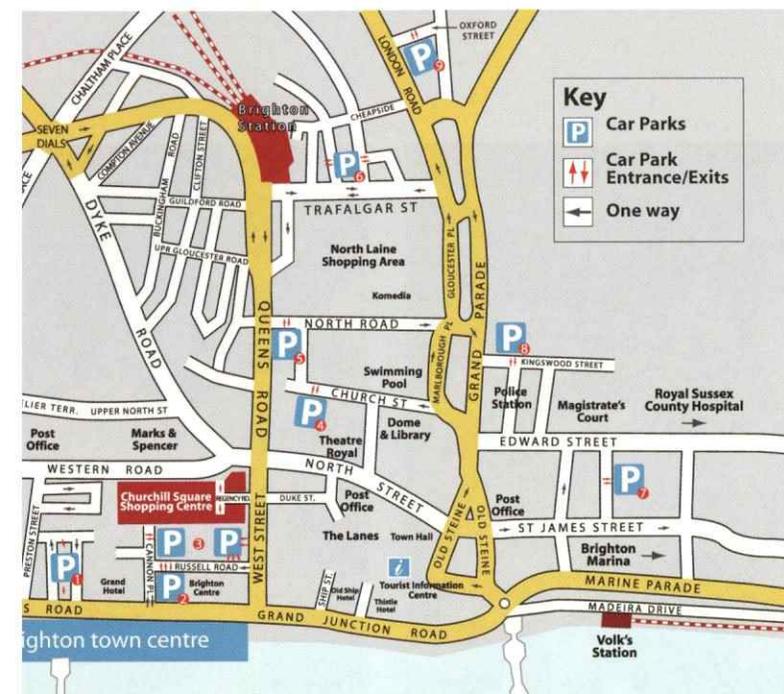
A good day out, a battling display, and three points from a fine ending – that's what away fans are looking for. And for the record, our tally against Hartlepool now reads played 25, lost one!

Pools: Budtz, Coles, Nelson, Clark (Monkhouse b-t), Humpbreds, Liddle, McCunnie (Sweeney 73), Boland, Brown, Porter (Mackay 80), Barker. Unused subs: Foley, Antwi. Scorer: Barker 85pen. Red card: Boland 45. Yellow card: McCunnie.

Albion: Kuipers, Wbing, El-Abd, Elpbick, Richards, Cox (Loft 67), Hammond, Fraser, Martot, Robinson, Revell (Savage 54). Unused subs: Sullivan, Elder, Butters. Scorers: Clark 14og, Savage 90.



"A battling display"



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The next level



Richard Walker takes a closer look at JAROSLAW FOJUT, Bolton Wanderers' Polish centre-half currently making a name for himself in Bedfordshire...

POLISH central defender Jaroslaw Fojut – who starred for Luton Town against Everton in Wednesday night's Carling Cup tie at Kenilworth Road – is finally getting his chance to shine in English football... and taking it.

Try coming to England as a 16-year-old speaking very little English. His bravery's certainly not under question.

The Polish defender, now 20, did just that when he signed youth-team papers at the Reebok Stadium to join Sam Allardyce's foreign legion at Bolton Wanderers. Whether the Trotters' scouts saw him playing for MSP Szamotuly, Darzbor Szczecinek or Legionovia Legionowo is anyone's guess!

Three years down the line, with plenty of academy and reserve team experience under his belt, he wasn't close to breaking into the first-team set-up on a regular basis so took the decision to ask then-manager Sammy Lee for a loan move – brave stuff, again. But then when you've trekked most of the way across Europe, hardly Herculean stuff.

It's probably hard to comprehend life outside the Premiership for budding foreign stars who are only fed top-flight images. The infrastructure of the English game below tier one never ceases to amaze. "As far as training conditions are concerned, there's a great difference. But all I need to be happy is a piece of grass and a ball!"

Two brief substitute appearances in four years with Wanderers suggest he's unlikely to feature in any immediate or medium-term plans, so the beauty of the loan system is that it benefits not just the receiving club but a player struggling to make his name, too.

"It's not a step down in my opinion," added Fojut, who made his Hatters' debut in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy against Northampton in front of 2,500 at Kenilworth Road.

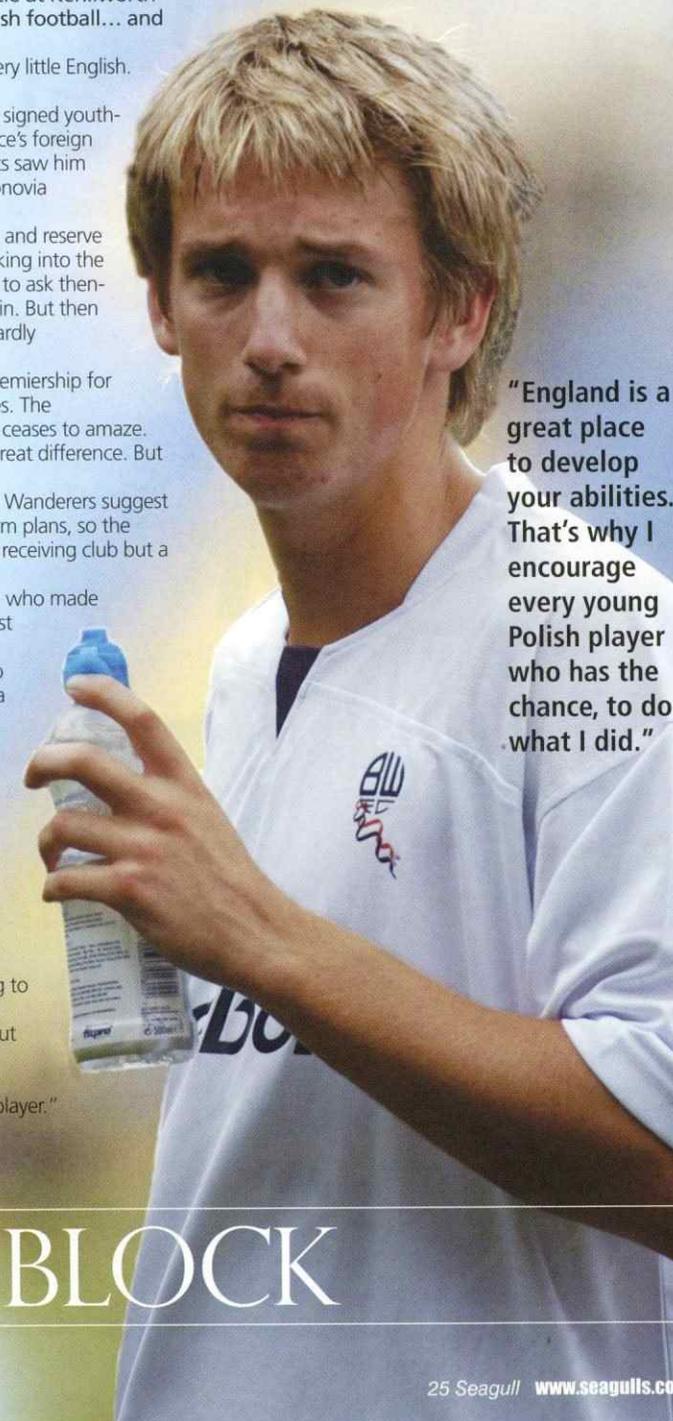
"It's just a normal way for a young footballer to go who wants to get essential experience. Luton is clearly a place where I can learn a lot so I will do my best for the fans, the club and myself."

Fojut's formed a steady central defensive pairing alongside club captain Chris Coyne – impressive enough, in fact, to keep summer signing Richard Jackson on the bench and force reliable veteran Chris Perry out to right-back.

Obviously feeling positive about his recent experiences in England, he said: "England is a great place to develop your abilities."

Of course things take time, as Fojut's aware from personal experience, but if his form at Luton is anything to go by, the former Polish youth international won't be playing too many more Bolton reserve team games – but his sights are set a little higher.

"If I continue to play regularly at Luton, I would definitely come back to Bolton as a more experienced player."



"England is a great place to develop your abilities. That's why I encourage every young Polish player who has the chance, to do what I did."

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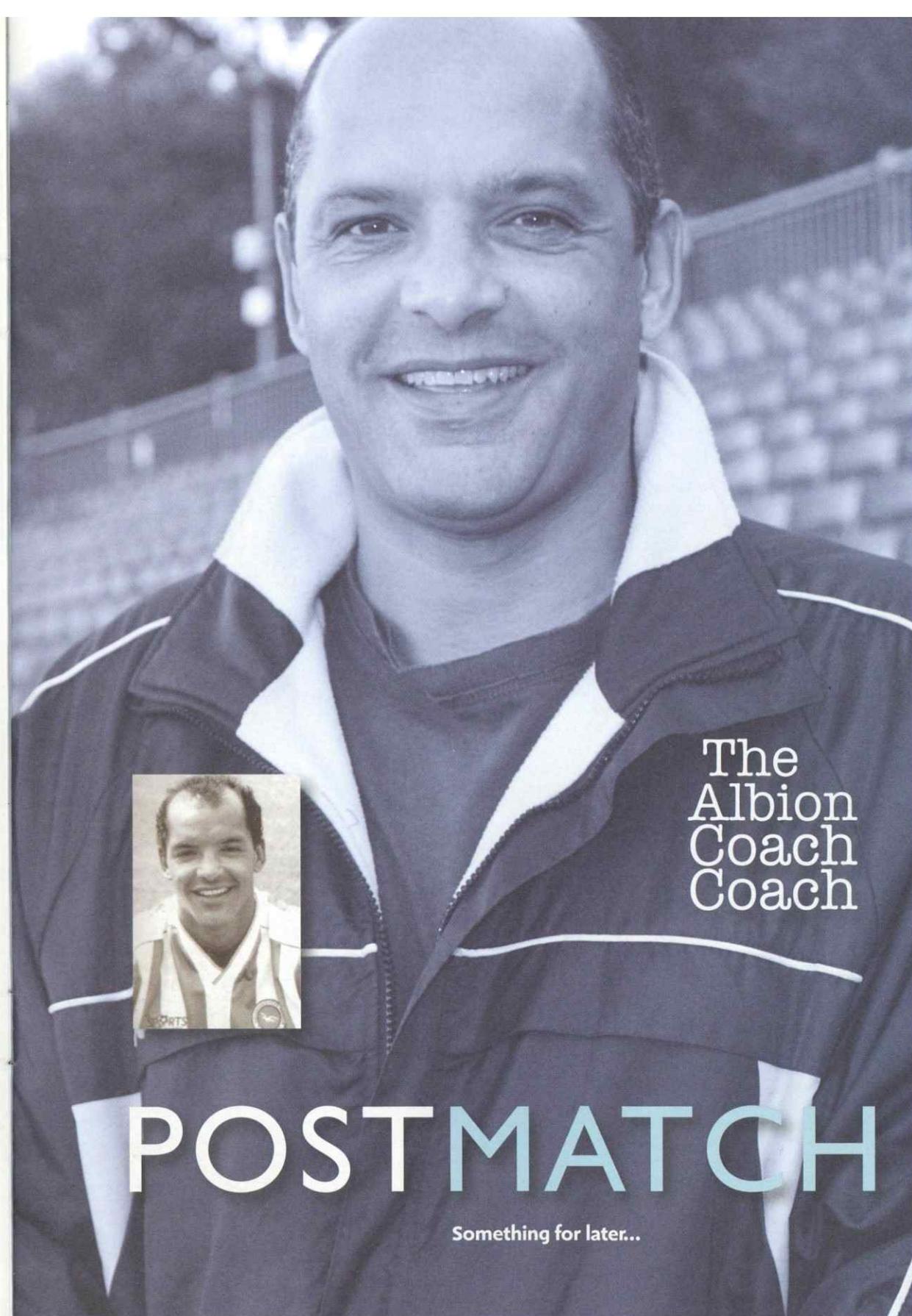
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The
Albion
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POSTMATCH

Something for later...

Football, like Gwyneth Paltrow running to catch an underground train, is a game riddled by fate, coincidences, what-ifs and near misses. This week, Spencer Vignes asks how Albion's destiny would have been different had Gordon Smith scored 26 goals for the club instead of 25.

SLIDING DOORS



What would have happened if...



Smith had scored

AT AROUND 5.25pm on Saturday 21 May 1983 Michael Robinson, playing up front for Albion in the FA Cup Final, chased after a lobbed pass from teammate Jimmy Case and having outmuscled Manchester United defender Kevin Moran for possession squared the match ball into a titanic sized space occupied by one man – Gordon Smith. The score was finely balanced at 2-2 and the game deep, deep, deep into extra time, Brighton having taken a first-half lead through Smith before recovering from 2-1 down thanks to a Gary Stevens equaliser. A winner at that late stage would have sealed the match and the trophy. Instead of striking the ball first time, Smith opted to steady himself by taking one touch before blasting a shot from barely seven yards out. All that stood between him and glory was United goalkeeper Gary Bailey. The ball left Smith's right boot and was on target but got caught beneath Bailey's legs before going loose. Showing the kind of world class reactions that would win him England caps, Bailey spun round and fell on the ball before Smith could beat him to it.

The chance had gone begging. To a man, Albion's bench held their heads in their hands. The score remained 2-2. The game ended 2-2.

Albion lost the replay 4-0 despite having more efforts on goal

than in the original game.

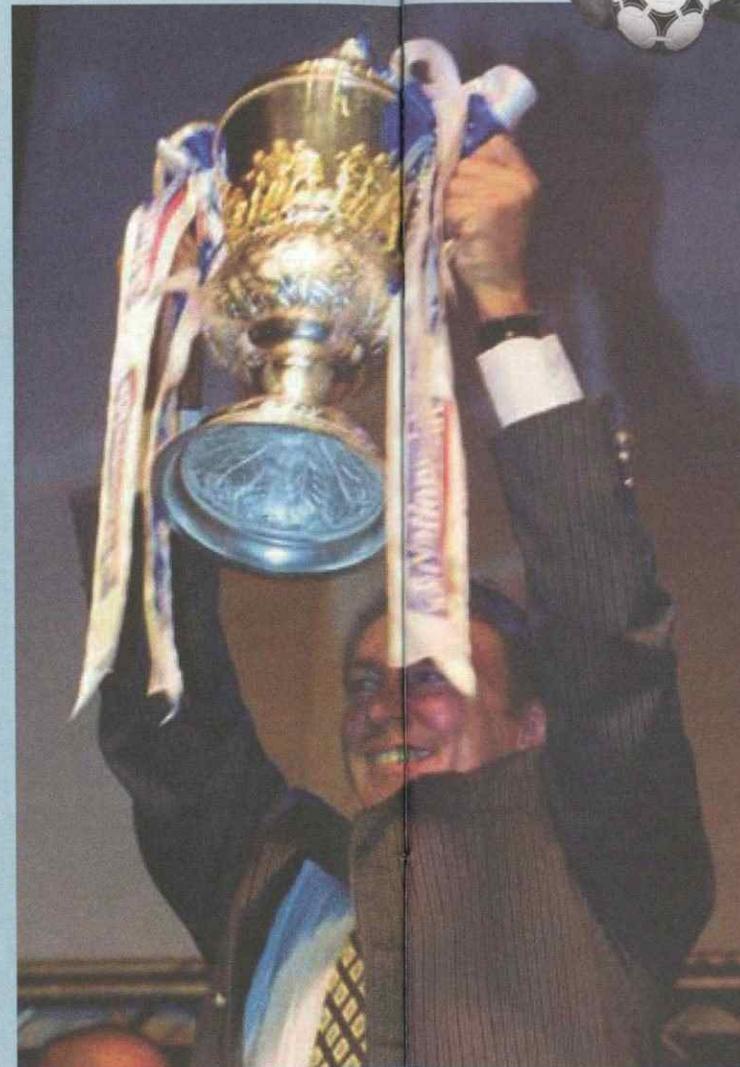
Now this may sound sad in the extreme, but there's probably not a day gone by during the intervening 24 years and five months when Gordon Smith's miss hasn't at some stage appeared in my head.

Sometimes it comes and goes in a flash. On other occasions, like around FA Cup Final day itself when the BBC archive department and 'friends' are dredging it up for the umpteenth time (the latter knowing full well the numbing effect it will have on my senses) it hangs around like a bad smell for hours.

There you are, Australian outback, Ayers Rock in all its glory, the setting sun bringing out the seductive red tint in your curvy girlfriend's hair and BANG.....out of nowhere and for no apparent reason there's Gordon standing with the goal at his mercy, and you're thinking 'Hit it first time. No, first time you numpty. Agggggghhhhh!'

Am I alone in suffering from this condition? I'd like to think I am, that I spare thousands of others this immense burden by manfully shouldering it myself. But, deep down, I know only too well that the answer is no, I'm not.

So how would my life – sorry, our lives – be different had Gordon's shot flown past Gary Bailey into the back of that



Wembley net?

The obvious thing to say is that we would all support a club that once won the FA Cup, still in my humble opinion the most prestigious club competition in the world. Referee Alf Grey played only 22 more seconds of extra-time before bringing the match to a close. That would have been just enough time for United to kick-off and perhaps hit a hopeful long ball towards Graham Moseley's penalty area. By the time it had come down, knowing how officials like to blow for time when the ball is in the air, the game would have been over. Being honest, I think we all know that Albion's chances of ever reaching another FA Cup Final (let alone winning it) are slim to zilch. As (and excuse the namedropping here) Gary Stevens said to me only a few months ago 'It had never happened before and it will probably never happen again.' Smith scoring would have ensured us our place in the history books before it was too late.

Smith scoring would also have meant that on 20 August 1983 Albion would've faced Liverpool at Wembley in the Charity Shield in front of 92,000 people, then the capacity crowd for the traditional curtain raiser to each season. Which, I think those of us alive at the time can agree, would have

topped sitting in a traffic jam on the way to Angmering beach for entertainment value (and we'd probably have won, knowing Liverpool's complete inability to beat us in any cup competition around that time).

Then on Wednesday 14 September Albion would have taken their bow in Europe with Dukla Prague (later to be immortalised in the memorable Half Man Half Biscuit song 'All I Want For Christmas Is A Dukla Prague Away Kit') visiting the Goldstone in the first round, first leg of the European Cup Winners' Cup.

Thirteen days later, visas and Russian tanks permitting, we would all have been on tour in Czechoslovakia. For the record, United ended up struggling against Dukla, going through only on away goals. Had it been us – and we had won – Albion would then have faced Spartak Varna in the next round. I have absolutely no idea where the hell Varna is, but I'd have enjoyed finding out and it would have made a nice alternative to Barnsley.

Which brings me round nicely to the nitty gritty of this particular Sliding Doors. How would Smith scoring have affected the club in the long run?

Albion had, I should point out, been relegated from the old First ▶

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What would have happened if...

...Gordon Smith had scored twice at Wembley

► Division two weeks before the FA Cup Final.

Gordon bless him could've scored six against Manchester United but that wouldn't have altered the fact that we were bound for Oakwell, Blundell Park and Gay Meadow during the 1983/84 campaign rather than Old Trafford, Anfield and Highbury. It would however have created a bubble of optimism from which a bid for promotion could have been launched (although whether Jimmy Melia would have been at the controls, bearing in mind his allegedly haphazard approach to training and management, is another matter).

Michael Robinson would probably still have gone to Liverpool because, well, when Liverpool ask you to sign, you sign. Gary Stevens on the other hand might have stayed because when Spurs ask you to sign, you think about it (which Gary did. Why leave when you're still young, happy where you are and believe you could actually benefit from a year in the Second Division?). Instead, the double wammy of relegation and defeat at Wembley created an atmosphere of gloom that

manifested itself in a poor start to the following campaign, with eight of our first 16 league games being lost.

Who knows? Maybe the club's worsening financial situation would have forced Stevens to leave anyway, goal or no goal by Gordon. I've got a sneaky feeling that even if Smith had scored we would still have ended up at Hereford that mad Saturday afternoon in May 1997. The rot and general malaise had already set in. We would just have been the club that won the FA Cup in 1983 and almost went out of the Football League, rather than the club that reached an FA Cup Final and almost went out of the league. The story would simply have been even bigger.

On the plus side at least we got a name for a club fanzine out of it while 'And Smith Must Score' certainly remains one of the more memorable lines of football commentary delivered in modern times (by BBC Radio Two's Peter Jones, lest we forget). But, let's be honest, that's a small return for something that has blighted so many of our lives for well over two decades. Still, it could be worse I suppose.

How? Well you might be Gordon Smith for starters.

Give him credit, the man has always remained admirably upbeat about what happened on 21 May 1983, reminding all and sundry that he did actually score at Wembley that afternoon. Just a shame you didn't make it two eh Smudger? Then you wouldn't have spoiled that visit to Ayers Rock for me. And that week on the French Riviera after I won the lottery. And that night of wild passion with Cindy Crawford. And...



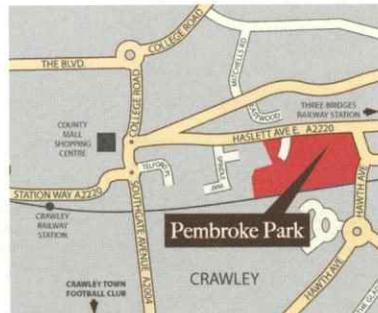
top right: Gordon Smith at the Goldstone; above left: and Smith did score (the first goal); but not this time

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What laws would you change to improve the game?



Cigarette Card Heroes

Filling the boots of Brian Horton was no easy task. After initial scepticism from the Goldstone terraces, TONY GREATISH eventually endeared himself to the Hove faithful with some wholehearted displays.

The London-born midfielder arrived from Luton Town – for £150,000 – as a 24-year-old in 1981. An established international with 25 Republic of Ireland caps already to his name, Tony shone in the 1982/83 campaign during Albion's memorable run to an FA Cup Final date with Manchester United. The Irishman was made captain in the absence of the suspended Steve Foster – and led the team out wearing a white headband in honour of the England defender – as his side forced a replay with a 2-2 draw.

After 8 goals in 121 appearances, Tony left – along with several other highly-paid players – in a £95,000 move to West Bromwich Albion in March 1984. The last of his 44 international caps were won at the Hawthorns before a loan spell at Manchester City in 1987, and a stint at Portuguese club Salgueiros. Another century of run-outs at Rotherham United, and two more as player coach at Walsall, and the bearded wonder moved into the Conference in 1992 with Bromsgrove Rovers.

Dan Tester

View One: Martin Hinshelwood, Director of Football

"The one thing that really irritates me is players having to leave the field after they've had treatment, just so they can be waved back on again by the referee.

What's wrong about it is where an attacking player gets fouled, he has to leave the pitch and watch his team take a free-kick with only 10 men while the opponent who committed the offence is able to help defend at the set-piece.

It can't be right that the team who should have the advantage are suddenly one player short – he should be allowed to stay on.

I don't think I would want a situation where the offender has to go off the pitch while someone gets treatment, that would be open to more abuse and lead to chaos.

Perhaps not everyone's aware, but this directive applies right down the ages to the Centre of Excellence on a Sunday morning too. Seeing youngsters having to walk off and back on again is a bit silly.

I know the directive with injuries now is for the referee to decide when the game should be stopped and I think that's right. People falling down feigning injury – even just to stop the other side's momentum – is far too prevalent now and, while I don't want to see a head injury or serious knock ignored, players need to be discouraged from taking themselves out of the game."

View Two: Matt Miller, Rehabilitation & Conditioning Coach

"There's not one I feel really, really strongly about but there are two or three I think could be tweaked for the sake of the game.

The first of those is to do with the injury situation; the going off and coming back on rule is a bit of a farce. Especially if you get, say, a centre-half who gets injured challenging at a corner. He has to go off while his team have to defend the corner with a man short.

The off-side law is always up for debate, of course. The biggest problem is, I think, that most people don't understand the phases of play part of it – I certainly don't!

It could be simplified, for the sake of players and fans. When you're active, when you're not, are you coming back; there's too many uncertainties for my liking. And I've always wondered, if an attacker on the other side of the pitch can't be given off-side, why can a full-back nothing to do with the play keep attackers on-side?

The third thing is quite a topical one; the interaction of players and coaches with the officials.

I know there was a trial a few years back where any dissent meant the free-kick got moved forward 10 yards. It used to look a bit strange but it got the message across well. I'm seeing youngsters now getting on to the referee after every decision. They can only be copying adults they've seen do it – so why couldn't it be stamped out right the way through. I know it's been said before, but we can learn a lot from rugby on this point."

Should injured players always have to go off the field... and a straightforward way of dealing with dissent.



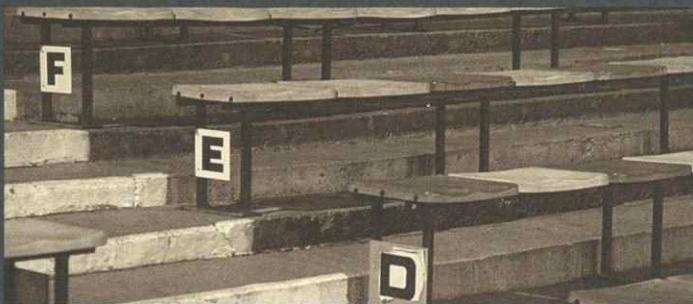
Matt Miller (left) and Martin Hinshelwood play God for a few minutes.



A poignant moment before the game against Leeds - the team and supporters join in the one minute's applause for former Albion player and groundsman, Frankie Howard | *Bennett Dean*

It might look like a fairy tale but has it got a happy ending? The BBC's local man looks at the saga of Luton's replacement ground.

Where will Luton end up? "When the news came through about Falmer, we all said: 'God, even Brighton have got a new ground now!'"



It's quite a few years since fans of the Albion starting talking about a new ground. Quite a few being about 12, in fact – not 25 or even 50! BBC Three Counties (Herts, Beds & Bucks) Radio sports editor SIMON OXLEY tells Richard Walker why the Hatters' stadium saga is set to last another 25 years...



DESPITE his northern roots, there's few closer to Luton

Town's fight to relocate than Simon Oxley, Andy Hawe's equivalent to the northern home counties (albeit covering Watford, Luton, Wycombe and MK Dons). Giving airtime to the plight has helped him develop a deep understanding of the issues – while remaining incredulous that the matter is still unresolved.

"It was in the 80s when the

ground issue first really got going – although I know the club and the fans have talked since the war of trying to move from Kenilworth Road," says Simon, a former press officer and programme editor at Luton Town who joined BBC 3CR when he left the club in 1998.

"That period with Luton in the top-flight – Division One as it was called then – was when the club sold the ground to Luton Borough Council to raise some much-needed cash. The directors had invested a lot of money to help Luton enjoy the success they did.

"So the money from the sale

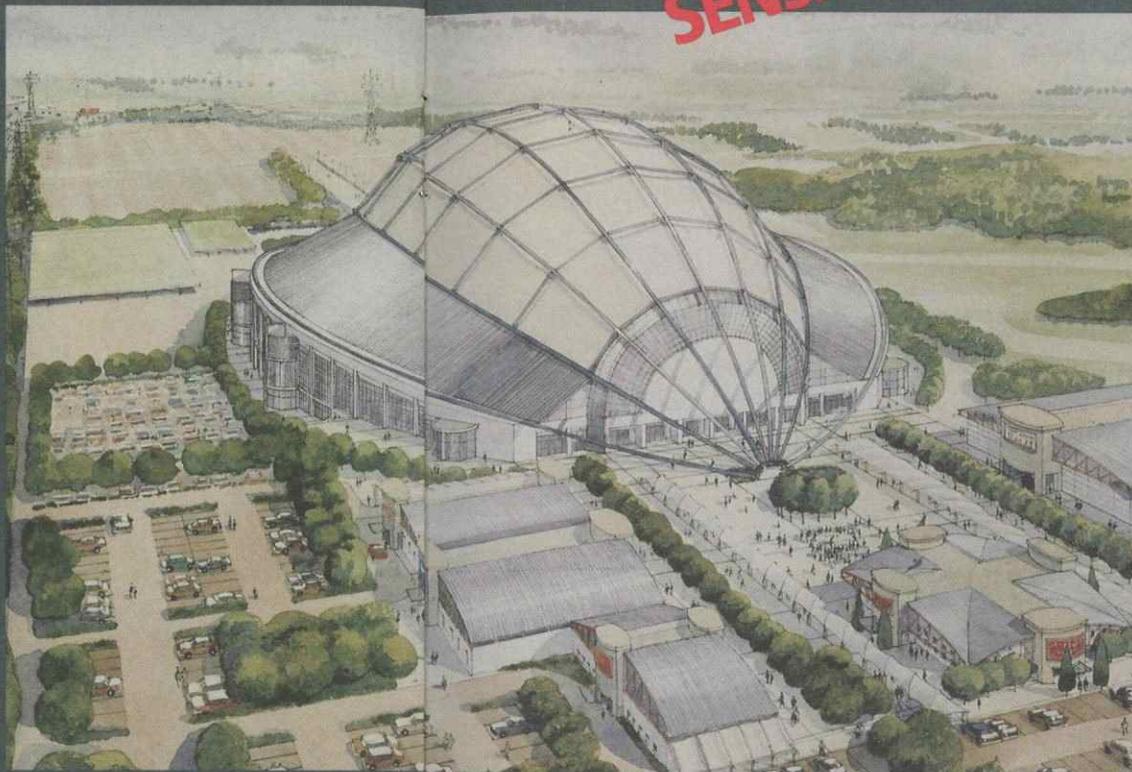
went to pay back a number of loans from individuals and also helped finance the continued success of the side through the 1980s under David Pleat."

So no tale here of deceit and skull-duggery to rival the Albion's mid-90s' plight, but nevertheless Simon feels the writing was on the wall from the point that the Hatters no longer owned the very odd-shaped piece of land on which their ground is wedged together.

"Because things were going well, the feeling was 'Oh well, in 10 years' time we'll be in a new stadium anyway'," explains Simon.

"And why shouldn't they have thought that – Luton had built themselves up and were a very well-run club. But there were

**LONG DRAWN OUT
STADIUM SAGA
SENSATION!**



those who were saying 'You shouldn't ever sell your biggest asset'.

"But while the council still get a lot of stick for not finding somewhere new for Luton to play, they do charge the club a peppercorn rent and have been doing so for well over 20 years now."

The big difference here, though, is that they're still where they call 'home' – rather than at an athletics track, getting in the way of the locals.

Everyone understood Brighton fans' feelings but, even though Luton fans are still watching their football at Kenilworth Road, they've been promised a move on at least three or four occasions only for even

some of the most concrete plans to hit a fatal snag. Not good.

"Doing my job at weekends, I always think about Luton's plight because we go to at least one new stadium every season.

"So while their debate continues, in many other cases clubs and councils have got a new ground built with what seems the minimum of fuss.

"That's what's made it worse over the last 20 or so years. Luton were one of the first clubs to talk about moving but are seemingly no nearer doing so – and are going to be one of the last, it appears!"

A stadium at Milton Keynes (see over the page) was the first time serious plans had been drawn up as a blueprint for the

Hatters' future – a clear marker that club officials felt the long-term future lay outside their home conurbation.

Luton's 20-odd miles from MK but, even in the 1980s, it was an acknowledgement of how tough it was to find spare land within the borough.

"The chairman at the time, David Evans, talked of moving to MK in the 80s then his successor David Kohler dropped it into conversation in the 90s – more as a stick to beat Luton Council with than anything else, I think.

"It was more a case of Kohler trying to force folk's hands when he was trying to build at the M1 Junction 10 site. 'The Kohlerdome', as it was called, was deliberately positioned to avoid town centre crowding but was scrubbed for being too near to the motorway.

"Lo and behold, now Luton fans have been to Reading – right next to the M4 – and Coventry, adjacent to the M6, which makes things more difficult to accept as time goes on."

Sundon Springs (to the north of the town), Butterfield Green, Stopsley (a district of the town), the Kohlerdome at Junction 10 and another Junction 10 project, Junction 12 by Toddington Services – all schemes mooted in Simon's time covering the Hatters who, to their eternal credit, plough on, never dwelling on their problems.

"The scheme that came the closest was David Kohler's. Okay, he didn't own the land at Junction 10, he did take the decisions to a public inquiry and then an appeal after that.

"Although, more recently, ↗

The amazing Kohlerdome, above, was a sort of rural Crystal Palace...

The style... the personality... the MK stadium had a certain 80s early-Panasonic-tape-deck charm



LONG DRAWN OUT STADIUM SAGA SENSATION!

THE SPOT

people have owned both the club and the land they wanted to move to, they haven't gone nearly as far as Kohler did."

Born and bred in Leeds, the accent's more Luton than Leeds these days for Simon who has more than a little sympathy for the plight of Hatters' fans.

"I should imagine it particularly grates with Luton fans to see Reading so well off. Let's face it, Elm Park was a pit of a place but look at the Madejski and what it's allowed the club to do. Okay, they've had a benefactor driving the issue but the two places are worlds apart."

Time is a healer, they say, yet it can also dim the flames of even the most ardent campaigners. Allied to that, Luton Town have never had one strong voice – just a succession of owners and

chairmen all saying much the same stuff.

"It does seem a bit different now, though," adds Simon. "The people are more realistic and are gradually straightening the club out, accepting it's a long process."

Ironically, the relationship with the council holds fairly true. Plentiful are the community involvement strategies being jointly launched right now – but chances of a joint launch of some new stadium-building still seem a long way off.

"The council have always been happy to host club folk waving a trophy from the top of a bus outside the town hall yet haven't really ever got right behind the ground move.

"And it's in their interests since they own the land and want it for some prime-site housing.

They don't want the football club in the middle of the residential Bury Park area but there the club still sit. The mere fact nothing's happened indicates a clear failing to me.

"Junction 12 (of the M1) is the latest talk – next to the southbound Toddington services for Brighton fans who I'm sure have been past there a few times. It's right at the edge of the borough, though, and not hugely popular with supporters. Trouble is, finding somewhere in the town has proved nigh on impossible for over 20 years."

If this scheme doesn't work, Simon fears the Hatters could be stuck at the sub-10,000 capacity Kenilworth Road for another 25 or 50 years.

"If Junction 12 doesn't happen, it's hard to see where the

club would go. All the sites I considered as possibles over recent years have been built on."

Different to the Albion, who just weren't wanted (by some) where they're now headed. But no less upsetting for those with their club at heart.

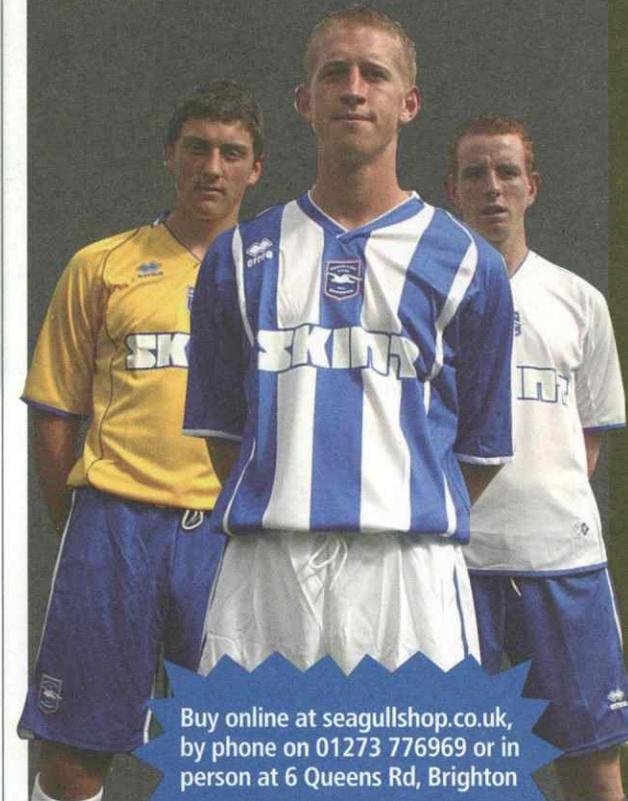
"Those running the club would say Junction 12 offers the best chance for the future but no one wants it there." Now that sounds familiar.

"In the early 80s, the Luton News ran a very successful 'Keep Luton in Luton' campaign when the MK option came up. I have to say I'm not sure what they'd do if it came up again.

"When the news came through via Southern Counties about Falmer, we all said: 'God, even Brighton have got a new ground now!'"

Don't get shirty this Christmas!

FANTASTIC ALBION SHIRT OFFER: BUY ONE, GET 2ND FOR £10!



Buy online at seagullshop.co.uk, by phone on 01273 776969 or in person at 6 Queens Rd, Brighton



SMALLPRINT: Offer valid 5 Nov - 31 Dec 2007 whilst stocks last. Two shirts may be different sizes; offer includes babies' complete kits. Shirts must be of different styles. Shirt with lower normal rrp will be the reduced shirt. BHA membership discounts apply only to full-priced shirt. Returned shirts must be accompanied by a valid till receipt or they will be deemed to have a value of £10.

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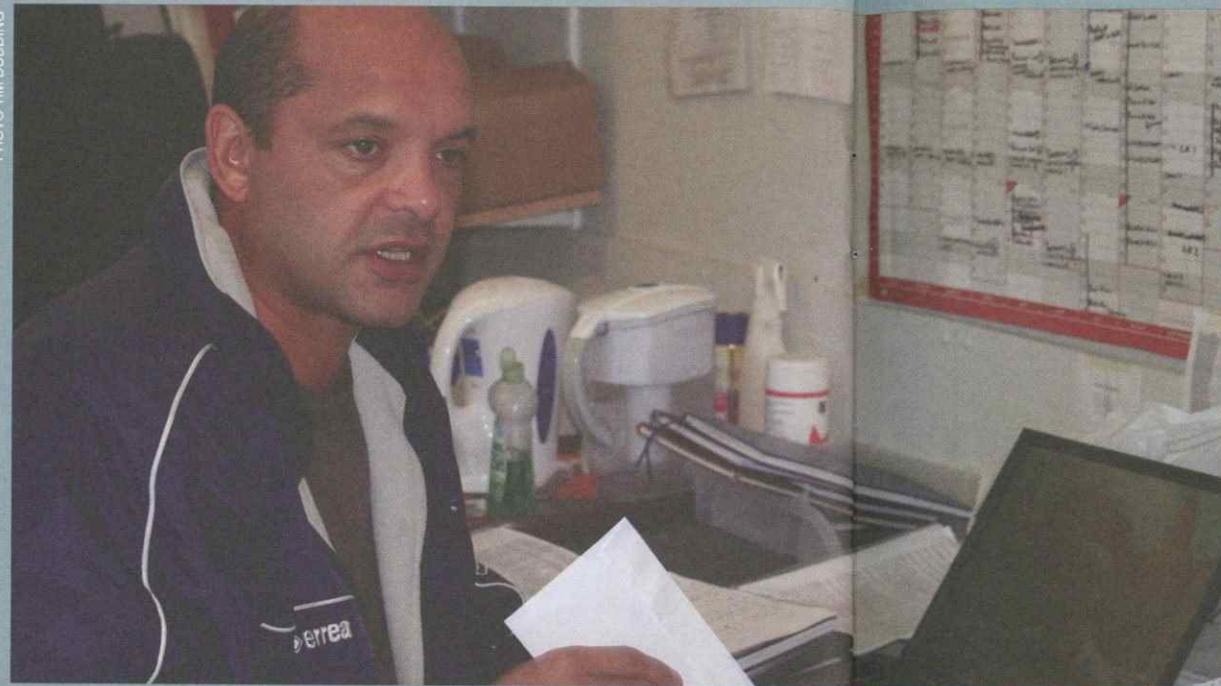
ROYAL YORK

LANSDOWNE PLACE



Winner Community Club of the Year 2007

PHOTO TIM DUBDING



The man who coaches our coaches

ALBION have close to 200 coaches delivering courses for the club's award-winning community scheme, but have you ever wondered who coaches the coaches?

That responsibility falls to former Albion, Sheffield Wednesday and Leicester defender Larry May, now the club's football development manager. He has the necessary UEFA A licence required to coach the coaches, and alongside David Jupp ensures each Albion in the Community coach is FA qualified, CRB registered and has a certificate in first aid.

Ensuring Albion's coaches have all the necessary qualifications is one small part of Larry's role, but most of his work is administration based, supporting the club's development officers in Brighton and Hove, and Mid, West and East Sussex as they provide football courses in schools in term time and soccer schools during the holidays.

Larry has an excellent pedigree: he played at the top and since retirement has coached from grass roots right the way through to professional level. "I played here for two years and then I coached with the first team and reserves under Barry Lloyd and Martin Hinshelwood.

"After leaving the club, I went away and worked with the local authorities as a football development officer and then worked for the FA for four years. A few years ago I was invited back here by Steve Ford to come in and oversee everything. It was nice to come back to a club, where there is professional football going on. I work with a small team of people and it has been really enjoyable."

He's helped the football development side of the community scheme expand at a rate of knots. "The number of children coming to various courses and the sheer volume of schools

we're working with is tremendous and we just want that to build and build. These youngsters are the people we want to be involved in the new stadium and to become future supporters of the club."



Albion and the community team are grateful for the support of



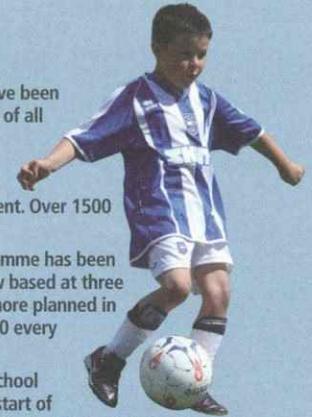
What Larry looks after

Holiday Courses: Albion's football courses have been running since 1990. Girls and boys aged 6-14 of all abilities are welcome. The aim is for children whatever their level to have a great time, make friends and enjoy and improve their ability in a safe, structured but fun environment. Over 1500 attended during the summer holidays.

Saturday Soccer Courses: This popular programme has been developed over the last two years and is now based at three venues in the Brighton and Hove area with more planned in other locations. Sessions run from 9.30 - 11.00 every Saturday morning during term time.

Goalkeeping Courses: New term-time after school specialist goalkeeping courses began at the start of 2007 with great success. Currently based in Brighton, the sessions are open to boys and girls aged 6-14 from any school who wish to come and learn new skills and improve their goalkeeping technique.

Coach Education: Aimed at anyone over 16 who would like to become a qualified football coach, Albion In The Community's football development department runs five-day courses leading to the Level 1 Certificate in Coaching Football (L1CCF).



Albion's School's Programme

Albion In The Community is helping to enrich the PE and Health curriculum in many schools around Sussex. Our coaches visit local schools to deliver fun football programmes in the following areas:

Healthy Living Programme: The Albion's Community Coaches have undergone NHS training in Health & Nutrition in order to provide a new service to local schools with the Albion's new Healthy Living initiative.

Careers Advice: Albion's Football Development coaches attended the Sussex Skills Festival at Brighton Racecourse in October designed to give advice and information to Year 9, 10 and 11 pupils from across the county.

Schools Multi Sport/Skills Programmes: Following the success of its award winning football programmes Albion In The Community development team have this year developed a new Schools' Multi Sports/Skills Programme for primary schools during curriculum time. Programmes are based on the National Curriculum and are tailored to suit school facilities and the age of the children.

After School Football Clubs: The after-school football clubs are based at many primary schools right across Sussex. The programmes run weekly over five to six weeks, and the aim is to offer children a regular hour long session of fun football games and quality coaching. The scheme has expanded over the last two years and can currently cater for over 100 schools across Sussex.

If you are a school or individual who is interested in any of our programmes please call 01273 330594 or email larry.may@studysupport.org for more information.

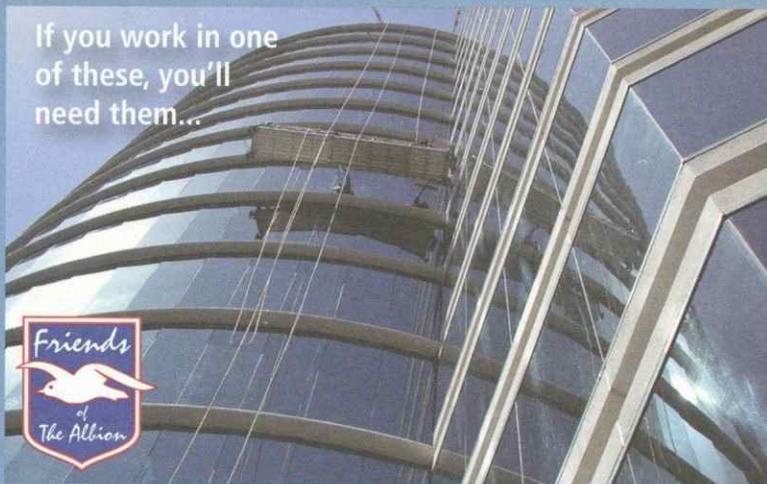
It's better to do business with a friend. This week...



"We get more business here than anywhere"



If you work in one of these, you'll need them...



Friends of the Albion gives Albion-friendly businesses a platform to network and develop ideas while offering discounts and special offers to fellow supporters. It's been a huge success. A directory with details of each of the 200 members is printed every year and delivered to 30,000 homes and businesses. Members meet for breakfast once a month in the boardroom at Withdean to exchange knowledge and contacts. Regular guests include Dick Knight and Martin Perry who conduct Q&As and relay the latest news.

Virtually any service can be found in the directory from Holidays, Hairdressers, House builders and Hotels to Jewellers, Kitchen Designers and Fitters, Water Coolers Suppliers and Vets. In each edition of Seagull, we'll introduce a FOTA member. Today we meet Phil Bath of European Office Products plc, based in Ford, Arundel.

A LOT has happened in the last forty years but one thing has remained constant: Phil Bath's devotion to the Albion.

"My father took me to a game at the Goldstone when I was eight, some time in 1966. My sons now accompany me to matches."

Phil's company, European Office Products plc, is a founder member of the Friends of the Albion. "We've been there since day one. The company had just started when Kevin Keehan approached me, along with a few others, to ask us what we thought of this proposed networking group. We loved the idea and signed up immediately," explained Phil.

"The company provide business machines from cash registers,

copiers and guillotines to printers, projectors, scanners, shredders and telephone products. Our office furniture includes desks, computer workstations, conference furniture, tables, filing cabinets, seating, bookcases and canteen furniture."

"We get more business through the Albion and FOTA than anywhere else. We've got some very good customers because of our association; both directly through members or indirectly through referrals. I get calls from members enquiring about office furniture for their friends and contacts and next thing you know we're doing business with them. It's great.

"Conversely, if there's any service we require we use other

members of Friends of the Albion. I moved last summer and the builders and plumber I used were both members. I try and give business back.

"If you're a football supporter and live in Brighton and Hove – and you run a business – there is no better networking group in the city. It's a win, win, win situation: the club benefits, you benefit and the other members benefit. I would encourage any local business – football lovers or otherwise – to join Friends of the Albion."

For more information, please call Phil on 07768 384453. European Office Products plc, Rudford Industrial Estate, Ford, Arundel BN18 0BF. www.europeanop.com



Fitness tests at Chichester... our Leeds ball sponsors...



What's going on? We don't really know, but a number of photos showing this worryingly hairy beast arrived in the office. On the back it says 'Bill Wickham, Tunisia'. The name of the supporter sitting on Mr Wickham's hump isn't made clear.

First team squad take heart in Chichester

LAST week the Albion spent two days at Chichester University. The squad were split into two and each group spent a day undergoing special fitness tests to help the club plan for a mini 'pre-season' training regime during December.

Albion physio Malcolm Stuart explained, "We've got a lad working with us called John Bond who is studying sports science at Chichester University. Part of his dissertation is on heart rates and physical fitness in

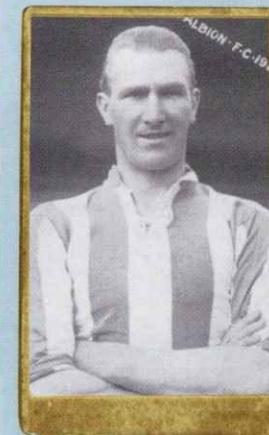
professional footballers, so we took the first-team squad over last week to take a VO2 (heart-rate) test.

"The university were extremely helpful and very welcoming. They gave us free use of their facilities – which were also used by the GB Olympic boxing squad in preparation for the games – and the results of the tests will help us pre-plan fitness as we come up to December when we need a second mini pre-season with the players."



Very many thanks to our matchball sponsors for the Leeds game - on the left is Peter Baker with his guests, and below are the representatives from the Build Center.

THANK YOU!



Cigarette Card Heroes

Nearly eighty years ago, the Albion boasted a truly prolific goalscoring partnership; Hugh Vallance, and DAN KIRKWOOD. The big Scot represented Glasgow Rangers – and St. Johnstone on loan – but his opportunities were limited at Ibrox and Hillsborough beckoned.

An FA Cup third round defeat at Wednesday in January 1927 did have a positive note. One of Dan's few performances for the Owls caught the eye of Albion manager Charlie Webb and in August 1928, he offered his opposite number Robert Brown £500 – beating off interest from Aston Villa and Huddersfield Town, who had been league champions for three consecutive seasons and runners-up for the last two – for the striker's services.

In the next five years the big forward netted 82 times – including scoring four on two occasions in the 1929/30 campaign when his partnership with Vallance reached 58 league strikes – in 181 starts. Injury led to a free transfer – aged 32 – to Luton Town in October 1933, and just a few weeks later he moved to Swindon Town to finish his playing career. Employed as a collier for the rest of his working life, Dan was also an accomplished bowls player and collected county championships in Scotland.

Dan Tester

Getting in

TICKET INFO

IMPORTANT ALL HOME GAMES ARE TICKET ONLY. TICKETS FOR HOME GAMES CAN BE BOUGHT ONLINE DOWN TO 1 HOUR BEFORE KICK OFF - COLLECT AT WITHDEAN TICKET COLLECTION POINT. BUY IN PERSON, ONLINE, BY PHONE, OR BY POSTAL ORDER. TO ACCESS THE ONLINE TICKET SALE WEBSITE LOG ON TO WWW.SEAGULLS.CO.UK AND CLICK THE TICKETS BUTTON. FOLLOW THE BUY TICKETS ONLINE LINK.

3 MATCH PACK!

WALSALL, CARLISLE UNITED + NOTTINGHAM FOREST
This package, now on sale, offers an approximate discount of 5% on normal match prices and represents a good opportunity for supporters to secure their ticket for the Nottingham Forest fixture ahead of the match going on general sale. Prices for the mini package are on the right.

Area	Match Day	3 Match
South Stand Centre		
Adult	24.50	70.00
Senior	16.50	47.00
U16	15.00	43.00
South Wings/East South East Stand		
Adult	23.50	67.00
Senior	15.50	44.00
U16	14.00	40.00
Student	17.00	49.00
Family Area		
A+U16	28.00	80.00
A+U10	24.50	70.00

FAB STUDENT DEAL! ALBION V. WALSALL - TUE 6 NOV, KICK-OFF 7.45PM
Student Night - Uni students can get in for just £5!!! Take your NUS to the Ticket Office, 5 Queens Road and get your tickets for just £5. This match is now on sale.

ALBION V. CHELTENHAM TOWN - WED 14TH NOV, KICK-OFF 7.45PM
STONE'S PAINT TROPHY - AREA QUARTER FINAL
Tickets for this match are now on sale. Ten, nine and three year holders can claim their free ticket for this match.
NORTH STAND: Adults: £12.00 (includes Senior Citizens and Students) Under 16s: FREE (Limited to one per adult same family); Additional U16s: £6-00; Additional U10s: £1-00
SOUTH STAND: Adults: £10-00 (includes Senior Citizens and Students); Under 16s: FREE (Limited to one per adult same family); Additional U16s: £5-00; Additional U10s: £1-00
Adult season ticket holder (any stand) buying one ticket is also invited to buy an additional adult ticket at half-price (i.e. North £6.00, South £5.00).

ALBION V. ALBION - SAT 17 NOV, KICK-OFF 12.30PM
This match is all ticket. Albion fans have been allocated 1360. Ticket prices for this match are: Adults: £20.00 Concessions: £13.00. Concessions apply to Under 16s, over 65s, students (valid NUS) and unemployed with proof of benefit receipt. Wheelchair users and their carers are not charged for entry, although all tickets must be booked in advance on 0871 310 1883. This match is now on general sale.

ALBION V. CARLISLE UNITED - SATURDAY 24TH NOV, KICK-OFF 3PM This match is now on sale.

Information correct at the time of going to press. For the latest info and to buy tickets online. 01273 776992 or seagulls.co.uk. All applications or personal calls should be made to 5/6 Queens Road, Brighton BN1 3WA.

Brilliant ticket deals...

In the L&G Family stand, ADULT + u16: £28.00 / ADULT + u10: 24.50 / FAMILY OF 4 FROM £49

SCHOOL, YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUBS AND OTHER YOUTH CLUBS £1 for u10s, £6 for u16s and £12 for accompanying adults in Legal & General Family Stand. For info or to reserve group booking, please email vicky@bhafc.co.uk or call on 01273 695400.

FOR ALL THE LATEST ALBION TICKET INFO CALL 01273 776992 OR LOG ON TO OUR OFFICIAL WEBSITE WWW.SEAGULLS.CO.UK

	Adult	Senior	Junior	Student
North Stand Centre	27.00	18.50	17.00	N/A
North Stand Wings	25.50	18.00	16.50	N/A
South Stand Centre	24.50	16.50	15.00	N/A
South Stand Wings	23.50	15.50	14.00	17.00
South East Stand	23.50	15.50	14.00	17.00
East Stand	23.50	15.50	14.00	17.00
L&G Family Stand	23.50	15.50	14.00	N/A

Albion & Hove Albion Ticket Office 01273 7769925 Queens Rd, Brighton BN1 3WA www.seagulls.co.uk

GETTING IN AT A DISCOUNT?

Juniors, students and senior citizens may be asked to produce proof of age when buying tickets or at the turnstiles for home and away matches. Please carry some form of proof of age.

NEXT HERE: WALSALL Withdean - Tue Nov 6, 7.45pm

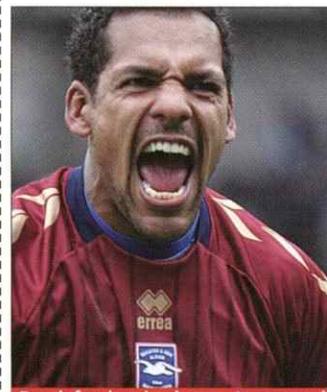
It's All About The Money

Boss Richard Money, that is, not the folding stuff as - like most in League One - there's not enough spare at Walsall.

The one-time Liverpool back-up man has cut his managerial teeth outside of these shores but is now making a decent fist of putting Walsall, often the poor relations of the West Midlands, back on track to relative success.

He has a 50 per cent win-ratio during his time in charge (since May 2006) and is continuing to build a squad capable of sustaining League One status. Now playing at the newly-named Banks's Stadium (the local brew, in case you weren't aware) the Saddlers are just about coming to terms with the new challenges offered by those in the third tier of the game, having been promoted as champions of League Two last season.

Often, that momentum and added confidence can see newly-promoted clubs start, if not always finish, particularly well. But not so



Ear defenders in chaps... It may well prove possible for Michel Kuipers and Clayton Ince to have a chat about the game from opposite ends of the Withdean this afternoon

NOVEMBER						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



We were relegated at Walsall's stadium in 1996, when the home supporters showed wonderful backing as the Albion entered its nightmare. The stadium is now called, with perfect punctuation, the Banks's Stadium. Richard Money, below, getting rightful thanks after a wonderful season.



for Walsall who have only in the past six weeks started to put together something like the form that took them to the summit of the basement a year ago. The squad boasts a fine mix of youth and experience, with the latter to the fore in the form of keeper Clayton Ince, striker Tommy Mooney, wingers Paul Hall and long-serving Darren Wrack, midfielder Danny Sonner and defenders Ian Roper and Rhys Weston. Youngsters Troy Deeney, David Fox and Ishmel Demontagnac will be less familiar names to fans of the Albion - but they've had just as big an impact on Walsall's

forwardlook

progress as some of the veterans of Football League life.

From our own experiences, we know it's not always easy to find your feet in a higher division but, just lately, the Saddlers seem to have done that.

Having steadied a ship in danger of sinking early on, their now lower mid-table position is probably just about what was expected when they kicked off against Carlisle at the Banks's Stadium back in August.

Their form on the road...

Last time away from the West Midlands, Walsall needed a late strike from Darren Wrack to rescue a point at strugglers AFC Bournemouth. But that belies solid away form which sees them unbeaten in five and with three victories - at Millwall, Hartlepool and Doncaster - to their name.

In fact, it's at home where Money's side have struggled, managing only one win thus far - though they can start to turn that round with the visit of Cheltenham Town to the Banks's Stadium today.

There are, however, two further blots on the travelling copybook in the form of cup defeats; 2-0 at Swansea in the Carling Cup and again 2-0 at Bournemouth in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy.

Man in form - Clayton Ince

Standing at an imposing 6ft 5ins, Trinidadian goalkeeper Clayton Ince has been ever-present for the Saddlers this term - and, at times, he's been a busy man.

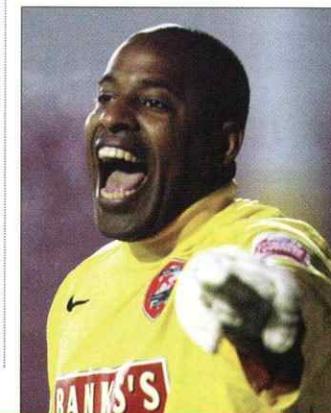
It took until September 8 for Ince

to record his first clean sheet of the season - a goalless draw at home to Staffordshire rivals Port Vale - but his form has remained very solid throughout the campaign thus far.

A former fans' favourite at Crewe Alexandra, where he successfully vied for the goalkeeper's jersey with fellow black stopper 'Big George' (Ademole Bankole), Ince has superb reflexes and agility for such a big man.

Possessor of a mighty kick, he's just as likely to be seen throwing the ball over the half-way line if the trusty right boot is letting him down at all.

After kicking his heels on the bench at Coventry for a year, he signed for Walsall in summer 2006 and hasn't looked back. His championship winner's medal is complemented by his inclusion in the PFA League Two Team of the Year - no better recognition than from your peers. Now 35, the Caribbean keeper earned the last of his 63 caps back in 2005, but would seem to still be right at the top of his game.



MATT SAYS



WELCOME to Withead for today's match with Luton and a warm welcome to any junior Hatters who have made the trip.

You will shortly be receiving a letter in the post reminding you of some of the fantastic opportunities available to you as members and giving you the chance to introduce a friend to the Seagulls Club in time for our brilliant CHRISTMAS PARTY: 18th December, full details of which will follow soon! All those who get a friend to join will be included in a prize draw for a signed home shirt.

We are running coaching sessions for Seagulls Club members aged 5 and 6 at Downlands school on Tuesday afternoons 5 - 6pm. These sessions give members the opportunity to learn some new skills but also they'll form the base of our Seagulls Club FC under 7 team for the future. Feel free to come along.

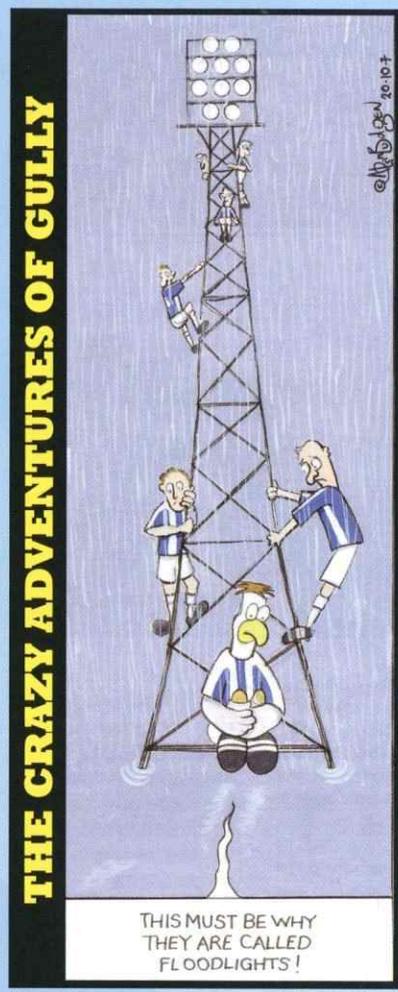
We are still hoping to take a coach to Leyton Orient for the game on the 17th November. This game has an early kick off. For prices and departure times contact Paul Kerr.

Get behind the team again today... the atmosphere against Leeds was terrific so let's do it again!

Enjoy the game.
 Matt

MASCOTS MASCOTS

Oliver Collins was our mascot for the Leeds game. He's shown here before the kick-off with his favourite player, Jake Robinson.



THIS MUST BE WHY THEY ARE CALLED FLOODLIGHTS!

ALAN BUDGEN

A great time was had by all at Louie's special Gully birthday party at Withead earlier this month. Contact Matt or the Club Shop for details if you'd like to know how to book one.



5-A-SIDE TRAINING

Five-a-side training is in full swing at the King Alfred Leisure Centre in Hove. Sessions are from 6.30 until 7.30pm and there's a free swim after the football so bring your swimming gear.

PLEASE NOTE THAT FOR ALL MONTHS WITH A FIFTH THURSDAY THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL GIRLS-ONLY SESSION ALLOCATED TO THIS SLOT.

1st Thursday of month	4-7yr olds
2nd Thursday of month	8-10yr olds
3rd Thursday of month	11-12yr olds
4th Thursday of month	13yr olds +

Birthdays

Our brilliant November birthday people... Daniel MacDonald, Ellie Ponsonby-Way, Oliver Blake, Jimmy McManamon, Tom Perkins, Chay Chapman, Brady Ellis, Robert Tulley, Thomas Lettres, Jordan Maglennon, Liam Hanmer, Ben Dawson, James Strudwick, Ben Haskell, Hayley Chappell, Alexander Scovell, Aaron Clarke, Christian Weatherstone, Jack Barton, Tyler Hounsome, Jonathan Hall, Joshua Richardson, Liam Ross, Daniel Jones, Lara Welsh, Michael Platt, Danielle Hilling, Martyn Box, Adam Cornford, Oliver Staines, Luc Doherty, Caleb Stanford, Lee Pennock, Madison Adams, Kye Palmer, James Harrison, Ryan Nicholas, Louise Page, Cameron McKechnie, Patrick Gorton, Christopher Lloyd, Matthew Wharfe, Stefan Abram, Mika Ellett, Bryce Hounsome, Aidan Silsby, Olivia Ravan, Thomas Parry, Alex Valeri, Jake Broomfield, Bailey Martin, Brendan Hawes, Emily Walker, Stuart Bell, Charlie Taylor, Rebecca Woolven.

TODAY'S MASCOT



Andrew Sullivan is 10 years old and attends Birchwood Grove School in Burgess Hill where he is a member of the school football team. He also

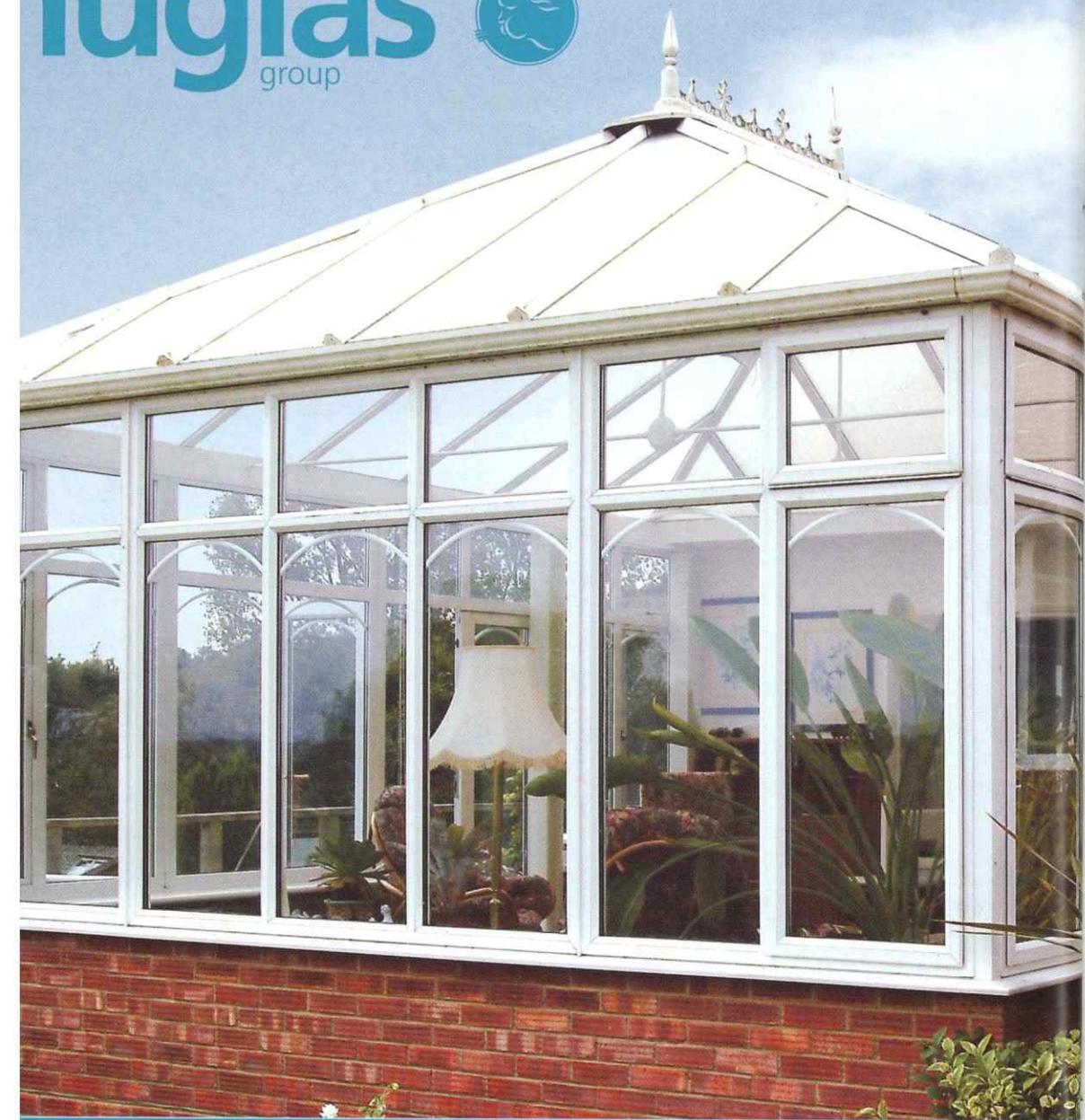
plays for Southdown Athletic U11s and has scored two goals in four games this season. Andrew's a great fan of the Albion and his favourite player is Jake Robinson but

he also loves Bas Savage's moonwalk.



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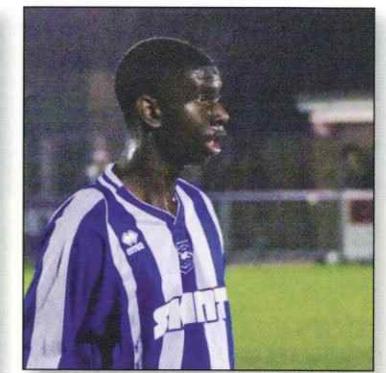
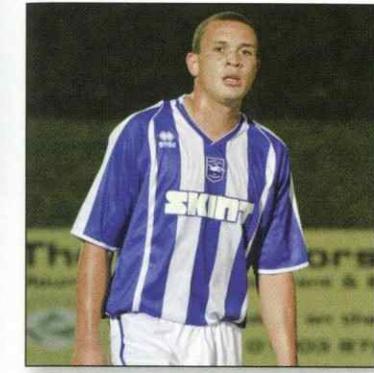
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■ Geoff Penn photos show the return of Joel Lynch, Portuguese left-back Carlos De Mota and ex-Palace Michael Kamara



Closed doors friendly makes it 11 in two for reserves

Albion's reserves have rattled in an impressive eleven goals in their last two matches: a Sussex Senior Cup second round tie at Crawley Down and a behind-closed-doors friendly with Worthing at Woodside Road on Wednesday night.

Both games saw strong Albion line-ups, with veteran pros Nicky Forster and Guy Butters featuring in both matches. Indeed Forster was amongst the goals in the 5-1 cup win over Crawley, opening the scoring for the Seagulls in the first half with a volley, before the home side equalised with a stunning long-range strike from Mark Saunders.

Nathan Elder restored the lead ten minutes before the break when he followed up a Sam Rents drive. Forster and Guy Butters were then both withdrawn at half-time.

Albion began to dominate after the break, and Paul Reid made it 3-1 with a powerful shot from 18 yards that went in off the bar. Substitute Ruben French made it 4-1 when he got on the end of an Elder cross, and Gary Hart completed the scoring with a cross-come-shot that found its way into the top corner.

Director of Football Martin Hinshelwood was pleased overall and gave an interesting insight into his half-time team talk. "I surprised

them a little bit at half-time when I went in and turned it round on them and asked them, 'What do you think?' They said we're taking too many touches and holding on to the ball for too long. That was spot on and in the second half they put it right – but the attitude in both the Crawley game and against Worthing was excellent."

Albion were comfortable 6-1 winners over Worthing, in a match that saw Joel Lynch playing an hour on his comeback from injury. The coaching staff also used the friendly to cast an eye over trialist goalkeeper Jonas Sela, Portugese left-back Carlos Da Mota and former Crystal Palace defender Michael Kamara.

German stopper Sela played the first half in goal for the Worthing XI –

with John Sullivan in goal for Albion – before the keepers switched sides, but not ends, at half-time. The idea being that both would get a similar workout.

Forster was once again in the goals, and looked sharp throughout as he was involved in all six. He opened the scoring after an inch perfect free-kick from Sam Rents, before Doug Loft made it 2-0 to the Seagulls after good work down the right flank from Gary Hart.

Nathan Elder then netted two headers, both from Forster crosses. In between Elder's brace, former Albion midfielder Danny Davis netted a penalty for the home side. In the second half Forster added his second, knocking in Hart's header on the line to make it 5-1, before Rents completed the scoring with a powerful finish, again from a Forster centre.

LEAGUE TABLE						
	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1 Charlton	5	4	0	1	8	12
2 Palace	6	3	2	1	2	11
3 Soton	5	3	1	1	3	10
4 Watford	4	2	1	1	1	7
5 Brighton	6	2	1	3	-1	7
6 Aldershot	4	2	0	2	0	6
7 Millwall	6	1	3	2	-1	6
8 QPR	4	2	0	2	-2	6
9 Orient	4	1	0	3	0	3
10 Wycombe	6	1	0	5	-10	3

Albion v Crawley Down: Sullivan; Ide, Mayo, Reid, Cook, Butters (Brinkhurst), Hart, Loft, Forster (French), Elder, Rents (Thomson). Subs: Wills, Pelling (GK).
Albion v Worthing XI: Sullivan (Sela); Mayo, Butters (Beda), Lynch (Kamara), Da Mota; Hart, Loft (Royce), Reid, Rents; Forster (Louis), Elder.

"I seem to do that bit better in the reserves than on Saturdays – perhaps it's playing with more experienced lads..."

Next in our spotlight for focus on youth players is left-sided **Ruben French**.

BORN and bred in Bognor, Ruben's been with the Albion since the age of 10. It's a long way from Bognor Martlets Under-10s on a Sunday morning for the now 17-year-old.

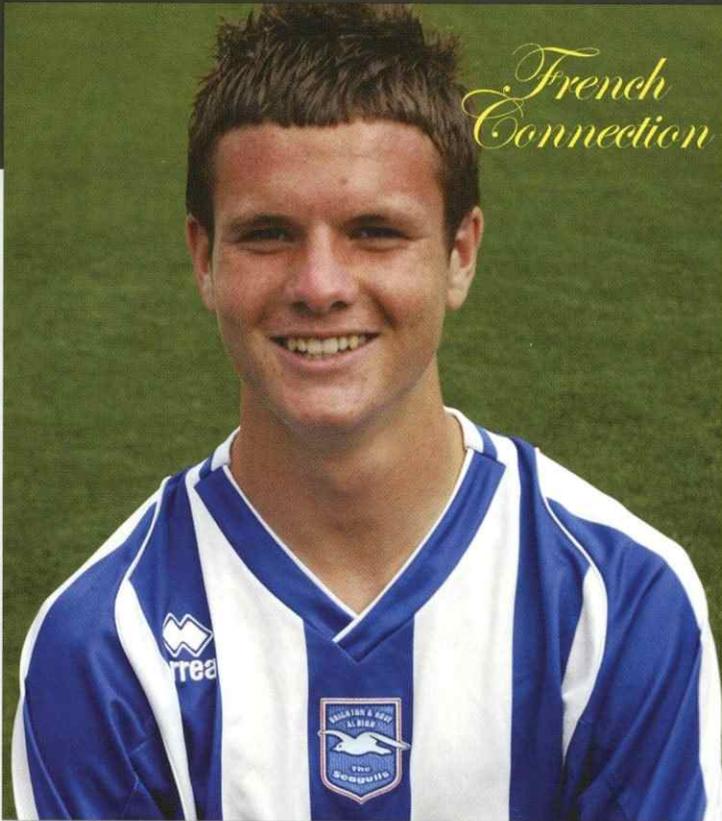
"My dad ran our Sunday side and I was lucky enough to get a trial with Brighton," said Ruben. "We had a good team; my dad stopped when we went from seven to 11-a-side but we carried on being successful and there was about six of us training with Brighton at one point."

Two of those – Ruben and Dan Royce – are now pushing for professional contracts - Dan via Portsmouth who were first to take him on.

"Dan's from Bognor too and played in our team but that seems a long time ago," smiles the left-footed French who, having played left-winger when younger, is now equally at home in midfield or at full-back. "I'm growing to like left-back the more I play there. But recently, in the reserves, I've been at left midfield with Kerry Mayo behind me. That's great, because I can learn a lot from his experience."

"There's Kerry and Sam ahead of me at left-back so I don't actually mind which position I play in – I think you need to be more than just one-dimensional."

A sweet striker of a dead-ball and a good shaper of a dangerous cross from the flank, Ruben's not averse to honing his skills further down the park on a Sunday. "I go down there with a few mates or sometimes my dad



and we just hit a few balls for a while – I find it quite relaxing."

Not that there's much time to relax with weekend youth team games and now featuring regularly in the reserves for Ruben. "I made my first start earlier this season; I was at left-back and Kerry was in the centre and he helped me a lot."

Then, last midweek, having replaced Nick Forster at half-time during the Crawley Down Sussex Cup tie, French made his mark as a goalscorer.

"That was good, to get one, but the game was long since over," he smiles. "I finished off a cross from Nathan Elder and again it was good for me to play with some of the senior boys."

"I seem to do that bit better

in the reserves than on Saturdays – perhaps it's playing with more experienced lads.

"I'm really enjoying things right now, and I feel I'm ahead of where I thought I'd be in terms of progress. But I know what my target is, like all the boys, and I'm just keeping my head down and working hard."

There'll be another second-year scholar in the spotlight in Tuesday's Walsall issue of *Seagull*.



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Lacklustre in Beds; better against Herts

Luton 1 Albion 0 Saturday 20 October 2007 Puma Youth Alliance

Albion's Under-18 team went down to their second league defeat of the season at their counterparts from today's visitors Luton Town. Youth team coach Vic Bragg explained his side didn't create the chances of the previous week against Brentford. "Too many players were off-colour, to be honest. It was a lacklustre performance from us, well below the standards we've set ourselves."



"If we'd have played against a stronger side we'd have been beaten by a long way." A single goal 20 minutes into the match was good enough to sink the Seagulls, but there were a couple of individual bright spots to add a positive tinge to a disappointing morning. "Kane Louis (left) was excellent up front for us; he's got quick feet and his energy was impressive."

"We also introduced Ryan Thomson – a 15-year-old – for 15 minutes at the end and he did very well, retaining possession and not looking out of place at all."

The Albion had a couple of second-half chances and forced a few set-pieces and, while few sides will match them technically, Bragg's side never really exhibited the same will and endeavour as their opponents. *Albion: Pelling; Rowe, Beda, Bryant, French; Brinkhurst (Martin), Wills, Ide (Thomson), Foreman (Royce); Upton, Louis.*

Albion 3 Barnet 1 Saturday 27 October 2007 Puma Youth Alliance Cup (Group 3)

A winning performance, so to speak, was the order of the day against a physical Barnet side in the last of the Puma Youth Alliance Cup qualifying group matches – with three points required to see the Albion through to the knock-out stages.

This they got, although their performance was more a battling one than anything with a great deal of style attached.

"Our football wasn't the best but we stuck at it and scored some good goals," Bragg said.

Goalless with over an hour gone, it was first-year striker Liam Upton who broke the deadlock with a close-range finish, following up on good work out wide by Kane Louis.

Danny Royce doubled the lead with a classy solo effort – beating three defenders before floating home over the keeper – and Louis added a third on the turn before Barnet notched a late consolation.

Performances take precedent over results for Bragg normally, but this victory ensured safe passage out of the group for the Albion – the next round in the competition coming up towards the end of this month.

Albion: Pelling; Cook (Rowe), Beda, Bryant, French; Brinkhurst, Wills, Ide, Royce; Upton (Martin), Louis.

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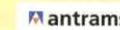
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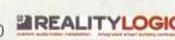
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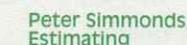
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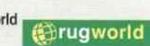
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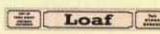
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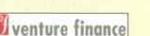


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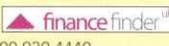


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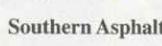
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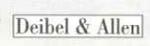
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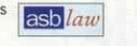


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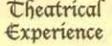
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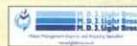
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Stat Pack



2007/08 LEAGUE STATS

	8 Position	14	
	13 Played	13	
	6 Won	5	
	2 Drawn	2	
	5 Lost	6	
	15 Goals For	17	
	12 Goals Against	17	
	20 Points	17	

Record Against Top Half of Table

W	D	L	RANK	W	D	L	RANK
2	1	3	9	2	2	3	6

Record Against Bottom Half of Table

W	D	L	RANK	W	D	L	RANK
4	1	2	8	3	0	3	15

Record When Scoring First

W	D	L	RANK	W	D	L	RANK
5	0	1	9	5	0	1	8

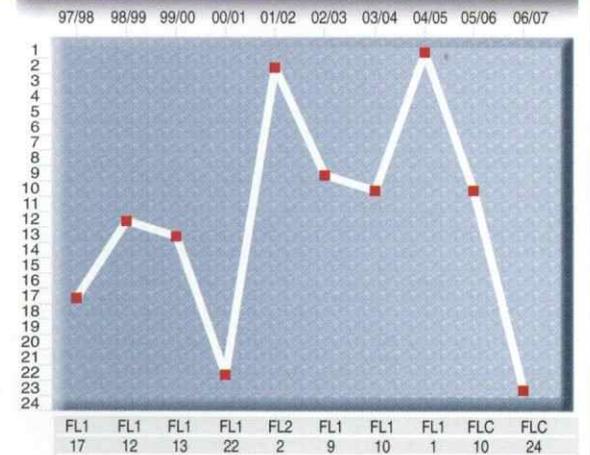
Record When Conceding First

W	D	L	RANK	W	D	L	RANK
1	0	4	12	0	1	5	21

Match Scores

Wins: 1-0[1], 2-0[1], 2-1[2], 3-0[1], 3-2[1], Losses: 0-1[2], 0-2[1], 1-2[2], Draws: 0-0[2]
Wins: 2-1[3], 3-1[1], 4-1[1], Losses: 0-1[1], 0-2[2], 1-2[3], Draws: 0-0[1], 1-1[1]

LUTON - TEN SEASON RECORD



*up to and including 28/10/2007

MANAGERIAL RECORDS

Dean Wilkins	Kevin Blackwell
Played 53 Won 18 Drawn 12 Lost 23 For 58 Against 61 Av Pts/game 1.25 Biggest Win(s) Won 4-1 on 2 occasions Biggest Loss(es) Brighton 0 Blackpool 3 (08/10/2006).	Played 20 Won 6 Drawn 3 Lost 11 For 23 Against 31 Av Pts/game 1.05 Biggest Win(s) Luton 4 Northampton 1 (15/10/2007). Biggest Loss(es) Luton 0 Sunderland 5 (06/05/2007).

MANAGER HEAD TO HEAD RECORD

Played ..0	Dean Wilkins	0	Kevin Blackwell	0
Draws ..0	Goals 0		Goals 0	

Player with the most...	shots	shots on target	shots off target	assists	crosses	fouls	free-kicks-won
Alex Revell 27	Nicky Forster 10	Alex Revell 17	Bas Savage 3	Dean Cox 30	Tommy Elphick 19	Dean Cox 32	

Player with the most...	shots	shots on target	shots off target	assists	crosses	fouls	free-kicks-won
David Bell 32	David Bell 16	David Bell 16	Darren Currie 5	Darren Currie 54	Paul Furlong 36	Paul Furlong 32	

Player with the most...	shots	shots on target	shots off target	assists	crosses	fouls	free-kicks-won
David Bell 32	David Bell 16	David Bell 16	Darren Currie 5	Darren Currie 54	Paul Furlong 36	Paul Furlong 32	

SHARP SHOOTERS

Brighton	CCFL Cup	Tot	Luton	CCFL Cup	Tot
Dean Hammond	4	0	4	5	4
Dean Cox	3	1	4	4	3
Alex Revell	2	0	2	3	1

TEAM HEAD TO HEAD RECORD

Played	4	Brighton wins	1	Luton wins	2
Draws	1	Goals 3 (0.8 per game)		Goals 6 (1.5 per game)	
0-0's	0	Times failed to score 2		Times failed to score 1	

Biggest League win at Brighton for each team:

25/08/2003 Brighton 2-0 Luton
No wins for Luton



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TRAILER

Relegated back to League One last season and floating around in mid-table, history says it could be a lot worse for LUTON TOWN who are happy stabilising the club both on and off the pitch. Experienced players, a respected manager and an ambitious – but realistic board – suggest the future's bright for the pride of Bedfordshire.

Ambitious board means the future's bright for the pride of Beds

SETTING THE SCENE

It's no wins – and only two goals scored – in six games on the road for the Hatters but don't be fooled; they've been competitive. Five wins at home is solid form, and will preserve mid-table status but Blackwell's admitted their travel sickness needs addressing.

THE GAFFER

It was Dennis Wise a fortnight ago, now his Leeds predecessor KEVIN BLACKWELL brings his side to Withead. The 48-year-old Luton-born former goalkeeper is attempting to bring a steadying influence to the Good Ship Luton, which foundered in Championship waters last term. Much has been made of the 'Dad's Army' he appears to have signed at Luton – but perhaps these wise old heads are just what the club will be glad to have on board through the slog of a League One winter. The policy very nearly paid dividends at Elland Road for Blackwell, who came within one victory of leading Leeds back into the top-flight at the second time of asking. His break came when he was appointed manager of Leeds in 2004. Stability was the aim and he achieved a mid-table finish. But a run to the Play-Off final was followed by a disastrous start to 2006/07 culminating in Blackwell leaving Elland Road in the September.

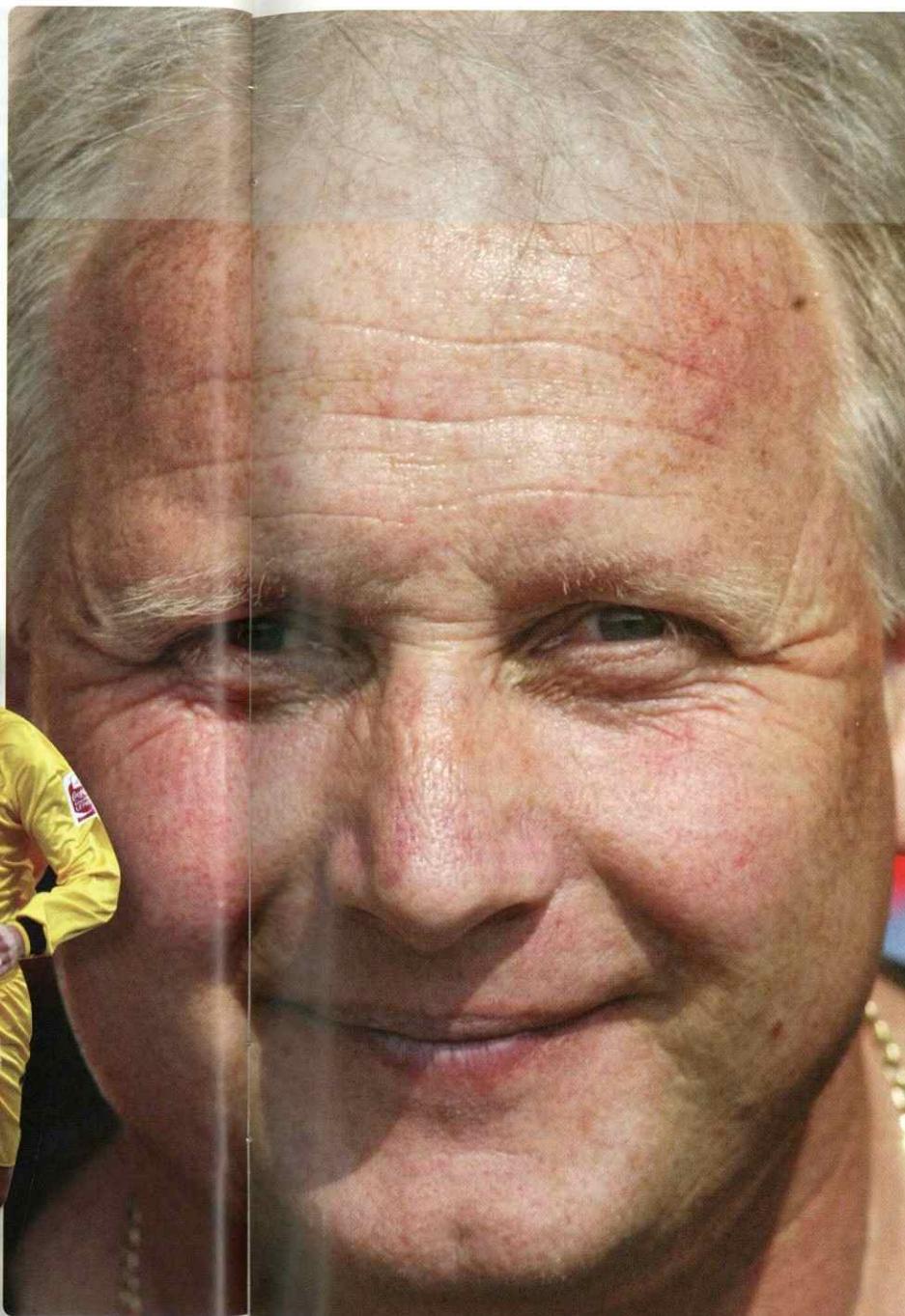
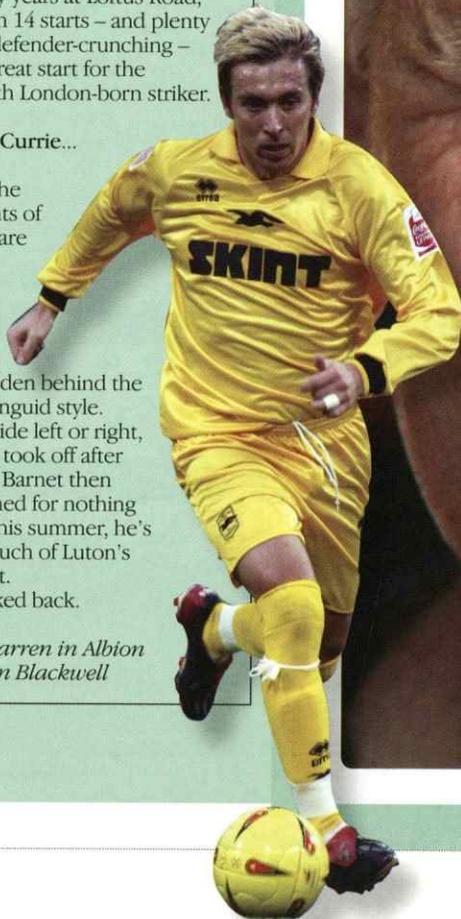
STARRING

If you're good enough you're old enough, they say. Try if you're young enough you're young enough in the case of Paul Furlong – now 39 but still charging round the pitch and banging the goals in. A big hit at Watford, Birmingham and QPR, it was only at Chelsea where he couldn't get on the goals trail. Now back in the third tier after five happy years at Loftus Road, nine goals from 14 starts – and plenty of assists and defender-crunching – constitutes a great start for the evergreen north London-born striker.

...and Darren Currie...

Needing little introduction, the mercurial talents of Darren Currie are now being enjoyed by supporters of his eleventh club. Genuine creativity is hidden behind the 32-year-old's languid style. Comfortable wide left or right, Currie's career took off after bright spells at Barnet then Wycombe. Signed for nothing from Ipswich this summer, he's been part of much of Luton's attacking threat. and hasn't looked back.

Photos show Darren in Albion strip, and Kevin Blackwell



The Cast...

1 BRILL, Dean (G) 8/0 (apps/goals this season) English; 21; ex-youth team, also Gillingham (loan). Home-grown keeper just starting to establish himself after sporadic appearances as back-up to Marlon Beresford. Previously on-loan Ben Alnwick did take his place.

3 GOODALL, Alan (D) 16/1 English; 25; ex-Bangor City, Rochdale. Steady full-back's one of summer influx. League ever-present had two years at Rochdale and claimed a UEFA Cup start when at Bangor.

4 HUTCHISON, Don (M) 8/1 Scottish; 36; ex-Hartlepool, Liverpool, West Ham, Sheff Utd, Everton, Sunderland, Millwall, Coventry. One of many wily veterans signed by Blackwell, struggled with injury but class presence at heart of side.

5 PERRY, Chris (D) 17/1 English; 34; ex-Wimbledon, Spurs, Charlton, West Brom. Another older head, former Crazy Gang member great in air relative to height. Solid reader of game, great influence on youngsters.

6 COYNE, Chris (D) 12/0 Australian; 28; ex-West Ham, Brentford, Southend, Dundee. Loyal Aussie's starting seventh Kenilworth Road season. Well over 200 games makes him a £50,000 bargain buy having failed to settle elsewhere.

7 MORGAN, Dean (M/F) 11/0 English; 24; ex-Colchester, Reading. At home wide left but also can do striker's shift, Morgan's been linked with big-money moves away. Contracted till summer 2009, ex-Royals man's been a fixture in and around the side.

8 BELL, David (M) 13/4 English; 23; ex-Rushden. Versatile (either centre or right) midfielder, notched game-clincher v Forest last weekend. High hopes of future Eire Cap for Nene Park product.

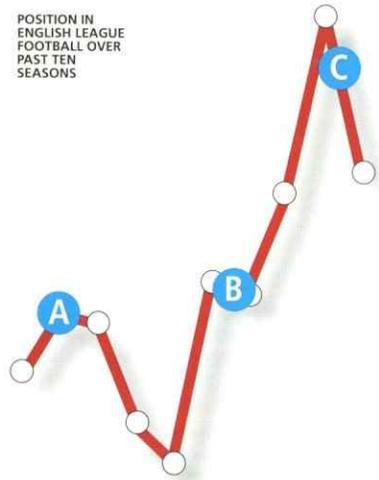
9 PARKIN, Sam (F) 2/0 English; 26; ex-Chelsea, Millwall, Wycombe, Oldham, Northampton, Swindon, Ipswich. Injury-plagued Kenilworth Road year follows tough time at Ipswich. Yet in hot form at Swindon previously – yet to recapture County Ground form.

10 CURRIE, Darren (M) 13/2 English; 32; ex-West Ham, Shrewsbury, Orient, Plymouth, Barnet, Wycombe, Brighton, Ipswich, Coventry, Derby. Seeming lackadaisical style for ex-Seagull belies a hard worker with genuine creative quality. Hatters' regular rediscovering Wycombe and Ipswich form.

SOME CLUBS JUST CHUG ALONG IN A CALM AND BORING WAY. BRIGHTON DOESN'T. AND NOR DOES LUTON

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POSITION IN ENGLISH LEAGUE FOOTBALL OVER PAST TEN SEASONS



1998 99 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07

A August 6, 1999 – the day before the 1999/2000 season
No goals or points earned this day, but it did see Cliff Bassett pull the Hatters out of administration. Later to relinquish the reins to Mike Watson-Challis, Bassett came in at a time when the failed Kohler Dome concept had cost the club much-needed cash and assets, in the only form available: Town's best players. Manager Lennie Lawrence secured a hugely-respectable mid-table finish by May 2000, achieved with a young squad. But it was to get worse before it got better again.

B Luton Town 4 Brentford 2 – April 30, 2005
The last home game of an imperious season for Town. Ninety-eight points and 87 goals were recorded as Mike Newell's Hatters stormed out of the top of League One. It had been three years since Luton's promotion from League Two so, one takeover and a change of manager later, things were looking rosy in south Bedfordshire. Skipper Steve Robinson iced the cake on this day, notching a 90th-minute fourth to seal the points and send over 9,000 at Kenilworth Road into raptures.



C Luton 2 Queens Park Rangers 3 – November 11, 2006
The beginning of the end for Newell's association with the Hatters – and, in many ways, his stock in the game too. The Scouser made sexist remarks about lineswoman Amy Rayner after his side lost to QPR. And he also found time to criticise the chairman too! Not a victory for the Newell PR machine; several spats with the hierarchy preceded his March 2007 departure from Kenilworth Road, an unsettling time which must have contributed to the club's relegation from the Championship.

11 PESCHISOLIDO, Paul (F) 5/1 Canadian; 36; ex-Toronto Blizzard, Birmingham, Stoke, West Brom, Fulham, QPR, Sheff Utd, Norwich, Derby. Veteran goal-sniffer – now at his ninth English club – signed for one year in the summer after Pride Park release. Over 50 games for Canada.

12 JACKSON, Richard (D) 15/0 English; 27; ex-Scarborough, Derby. Gritty, determined centre-back started with Seadogs before eight years with Rams. Virtually ever-present this season.

14 ROBINSON, Steve (M) 12/1 Northern Irish; 32; ex-Spurs, Orient, Bournemouth, Preston, Bristol C. Loyal Ulsterman's in sixth Hatters' season. Driving force behind previous League One promotion, plays centre or right midfield with equal aplomb. Well over 150 Town appearances.

15 O'LEARY, Stephen (M) 1/0 Irish; 22; ex-youth team, also Tranmere (loan). Chances restricted this term for skilful Irish midfielder. Excellent loan spell at Tranmere two years back – struggling to make an impression at Town.

16 EDWARDS, David (M) 12/1 Welsh; 21; ex-Shrewsbury. Lively midfielder has been a bright spark this term, slotting alongside more experienced types. Wales Under-21 cap's been on fringes of full squad – £250,000 summer buy from Shrews.

19 TALBOT, Drew (F) 12/2 English; 21; ex-Sheff Wed, Scunthorpe. Not free-scoring just yet, youngster's another £250,000 buy with promise. Unable to help Town avoid drop last term, involved mainly off bench so far.

20 ANDREW, Calvin (F) 11/0 English; 20; ex-youth team, also Bristol C and Grimsby (loans). Home-town kid, two decent loan spells have toughened his outlook. Knee ligament injury ruined last term, still working his way back into contention.

21 KEANE, Keith (M) 4/0 Irish; 20; ex-youth team. Four years on from first-team bow, Luton-born ex-scholar's still to make place his own. Defensive midfielder type's been on fringes of squad under Blackwell.

22 LANGLEY, Richard (M) 0/0 Jamaican; 27; ex-QPR, Cardiff. Injury's stopped the former Rangers pacy midfielder getting involved after solid debut year for Town in difficult times. London-born, Jamaica caps to his name as early as 2001.

24 UNDERWOOD, Paul (D) 0/0 English; 34; ex-Enfield, Rushden. Illness has precluded defender's involvement for over a season now (since March 2006 1-1 Albion draw). Former Town title-winner was Rushden fans' favourite before 2004 move.

25 SPRING, Matthew (M) 17/7 English; 27; ex-youth team, also Leeds, Watford. Stylish central midfielder's in second spell with Hatters. Forgettable time with Whites preceded halcyon promotion year at Watford before Autumn 2006 transfer back 'home'.

28 McVEIGH, Paul (F) 12/0 Northern Irish; 29; ex-Spurs, Norwich, Burnley. Pint-sized forward, Northern Ireland cap's without a goal but selfless team player. Came up through Carrow Road ranks, also Championship spell with Clarets.

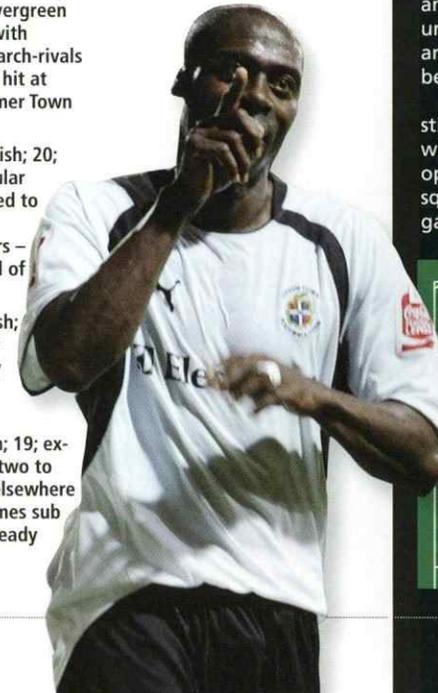
29 FURLONG, Paul (F) 16/9 English; 39; ex-Enfield, Coventry, Watford, Chelsea, Birmingham, QPR, Sheff Utd. Evergreen striker's top of the goal chart with Hatters, having made name at arch-rivals Watford fully 15 years ago. Big hit at Blues and Rangers before summer Town switch.

31 FOJUT, Jaroslaw (D) 10/0 Polish; 20; on loan from Bolton. Town regular since coming on loan, contracted to the Reebok. Polish stopper's featured three times for Trotters – will be at Luton till at least end of December.

32 CHARLES, Ryan (F) 0/0 English; 18; still a trainee. Young striker yet to feature, back from injury playing youth-team football again.

34 BARRETT, Zac (G) 0/0 English; 19; ex-youth team. Currently number two to Brill – with Beresford on loan elsewhere – although Blackwell never names sub keeper. Promising stopper's already signed pro forms.

Paul Furlong, best-before about 2010 probably



The Audience

Geoff Hughes, from Whipsnade
"You've got to be prepared to take the rough with the smooth as a Luton fan – and we're getting a bit of the rough at the minute. I like what Blackwell has done with the team, despite the fact they're all as old as me. If we get some stability for a season or two, that would be great. There's been enough ups and downs lately."



The Script...

BLACKWELL went five in midfield for the visit of Forest last weekend, although you can call it a 4-3-3 when Luton got forward as many times as they did.

The 39-year-old Furlong plays the hold-up role perfectly while still being adept enough to get on the end of the action in the box. McVeigh's a good small man foil for him, and may start today but we've taken Edwards to lie in support, with Bell, ex-Seagull Currie or maybe even Robinson taking up the wide berths.

Blackwell's already changed winning line-ups so no surprise if striker Andrew or winger Morgan were to start today – both are young and provide good outlets.

Spring is a reliable in the centre with an eye for goal. Edwards exhibits clever movement and is ideal for the in-the-hole role, if it's deployed.

In front of the home-grown Brill, who's been in good nick this term, the experience of Perry and Coyne are key. Perry was at a fairly unfamiliar right-back versus Forest with Coyne and Bolton loanee Fojut in the centre. Goodall's been as steady as you like at left-back.

Renowned for their good football, there's still plenty of that from Blackwell's side but the wily Furlong also gives them the 'out ball' opportunity. His prowess allows the play to be squeezed and enhances Luton's high-pressure game out of possession.



IT'S POSSIBLE...



THIS AFTERNOON'S SQUADS

2	□	Andy WHING ■	■	Dean BRILL	1	□	●
3	□	Kerry MAYO	■	Alan GOODALL	3	□	
4	□	Adam HINSHELWOOD	■	Don HUTCHISON	4	□	
5	□	Joel LYNCH	■	Chris PERRY	5	□	
6	□	Adam EL-ABD ■	■	Chris COYNE	6	□	
7	□	Dean COX ■	■	Dean MORGAN	7	□	
8	□	Alex REVELL ■	■	David BELL	8	□	
9	□	Nick FORSTER	■	Sam PARKIN	9	□	
10	□	George O'CALLAGHAN	■	Darren CURRIE	10	□	
11	□	Dean HAMMOND ■	■	Paul PESCHISOLDO	11	□	
12	□	Gary HART	■	Richard JACKSON	12	□	
13	□	John SULLIVAN	■	Steve ROBINSON	14	□	
14	□	Guy BUTTERS	■	Stephen O'LEARY	15	□	
15	□	Paul REID	■	David EDWARDS	16	□	
16	□	Michel KUIPERS ■	■	Lewis EMANUEL	17	□	
17	□	Bas SAVAGE	■	Ahmet BRKOVIC	18	□	
18	□	Sam RENTS	■	Drew TALBOT	19	□	
19	□	Jake ROBINSON ■	■	Calvin ANDREW	20	□	
20	□	Joe GATTING ■	■	Keith KEANE	21	□	
21	□	Nathan ELDER	■	Richard LANGLEY	22	□	
22	□	Tommy FRASER ■	■	Paul UNDERWOOD	24	□	
23	□	Doug LOFT	■	Matthew SPRING	25	□	
24	□	Tommy ELPHICK ■	■	Soi DAVIS	26	□	
25	□	Scott CHAMBERLAIN	■	Paul McVEIGH	28	□	
26	□	Wes FOGDEN	■	Paul FURLONG	29	□	
27	□	David MARTOT ■	■	Jaroslav FOJUT	31	□	
28	□	Matt RICHARDS ■	■	Ryan CHARLES	32	□	
	□		■	Zac BARRETT	34	□	●
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	□					□	
	□					□	

● Goalkeeper ■ Started last League game ■ Out on loan

OFFICIALS

Today's referee is Mr Darren Deadman. His assistants are Mr Warren Atkin (red/yellow diamonds) and Mr John Hayto (yellow). The fourth official is Mr David Buck.

ELSEWHERE IN LEAGUE ONE

Bristol Rovers v AFC Bournemouth
 Carlisle United v Leeds United
 Crewe Alexandra v Yeovil Town
 Huddersfield Town v Port Vale
 Leyton Orient v Oldham Athletic
 Millwall v Hartlepool United
 Northampton Town v Southend United
 Nottingham Forest v Tranmere Rovers
 Swindon Town v Doncaster Rovers
 Walsall v Cheltenham Town

FOOTBALL LEAGUE ONE

2 November 2007

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	GD
CARLISLE	13	4	1	1	9	2	3	2	2	11	8	24	+10
SWANSEA	12	2	2	1	5	4	5	0	2	17	8	23	+10
TRANMERE	13	3	3	1	11	6	3	2	1	7	4	23	+8
L ORIENT	13	3	1	2	9	12	4	1	2	12	11	23	-2
SOUTHEND	13	4	0	3	12	7	3	1	2	9	9	22	+5
NOTTM F	13	2	3	1	7	3	3	3	1	12	5	21	+11
LEEDS	13	6	1	0	15	4	5	1	0	10	3	20	+18
BRIGHTON	13	3	1	2	9	6	3	1	3	6	6	20	+3
SWINDON	12	4	1	1	13	4	1	3	2	7	8	19	+8
NORTHAMPTN	13	4	1	1	11	5	1	3	3	8	13	19	+1
DONCASTER	13	4	1	2	13	7	1	2	3	6	9	18	+3
YEOVIL	13	2	2	3	5	8	3	1	2	6	5	18	-2
HARTLEPOOL	12	3	2	2	11	8	2	0	3	8	8	17	+3
LUTON	13	5	1	1	15	8	0	1	5	2	9	17	0
WALSALL	13	1	2	3	6	9	3	2	2	8	7	16	-2
CREWE	13	3	1	2	7	7	0	4	3	7	13	14	-6
HUDDERSFIELD	13	2	2	2	7	7	2	0	5	3	15	14	-12
GILLINGHAM	13	4	2	1	11	8	0	0	6	1	18	14	-14
BRISTOL R	13	0	4	2	7	11	2	3	2	7	7	13	-4
OLDHAM	12	2	0	4	5	7	1	3	2	6	7	12	-3
MILLWALL	13	3	0	3	8	7	0	3	4	3	13	12	-9
PORT VALE	13	2	1	4	7	9	1	1	4	4	8	11	-6
CHELTENHAM	13	1	4	2	7	10	1	0	5	4	11	10	-10
BOURNEMTH	13	0	2	5	4	13	2	1	3	8	9	9	-10

LEEDS DEDUCTED 15 POINTS



BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION v
LUTON TOWN





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