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17th December 1989
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ALBION**

v
SWINDON TOWN

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Vol. 81 No. 13

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W E L C O M E

CHAIRMAN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Whilst unhappily we are having a difficult season on the playing side, I am very confident that matters will improve in the not too distant future, commencing hopefully this afternoon with a victory over Swindon Town.

It is common knowledge that the club had a dreadful injury list at the start of this current season, when it is arguable we had more players in for daily treatment who could be labelled 'N.H.S.' than those who could be labelled 'W.B.A.' and actually being fit and eager to play in the League side.

Fortunately most of those who were affected are now recovering and are not only playing again, but actually performing in their rightful positions!

A noticeable absentee right now of course, is our player-manager Brian Talbot, whom we wish a speedy recovery from his recent operation.

Thus, we are now looking forward to the year 1990 with some anticipation, and in the



meantime, on behalf of myself, my fellow directors at The Hawthorns, and the rest of the Albion staff I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a very happy and memorable Christmas and a highly successful New Year.

John G. Silk,

Chairman,

West Bromwich Albion F.C.



• TO • THE • HAWTHORNS •

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BAGGIES NEWS

SUNDAY FOOTBALL

Can you remember the first time Albion played a competitive match on a Sunday - and who were their opponents?

Well, you've got to go back almost 16 years - to 27th January 1974 - to a 4th round F.A. Cup tie away to Everton.

That afternoon a bumper crowd of 53,509 packed into Goodison Park to see Second Division Albion hold First Division Everton to a goalless draw. Albion then went on to win the replay 1-0 thanks to a strike from Tony Brown, but they were eliminated from the competition in the next round, defeated 3-0 at home by the eventual losing finalists Newcastle United.

The first Sunday game staged at The Hawthorns took place virtually four years ago - on 22nd December 1985 - when Albion beat Watford 3-1 in a Second Division game, which attracted 11,092 spectators. Three players who are no longer with the club, scored for Albion - Steve Hunt (penalty), Robbie Dennison and Imre Varadi.

F.A. CUP DRAW

As you all now know Wimbledon will be our visitors to The Hawthorns in the 3rd round of the F.A. Cup on Saturday January 6th, 1990, kick-off 3.00pm.

This will be the first time the 'Dons' have ever played at The Hawthorns and Albion have only ever met the Plough Lane club on one previous occasion. And that was two years ago, in this same competition, in the same round, on 9th January 1988, when the 'Dons' won 4-1 at Plough Lane - on their way, of course, to Wembley glory when they caused one of the biggest shocks in post-war Cup Finals by beating Liverpool 1-0.

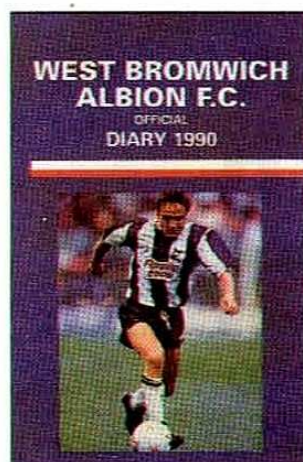
Wimbledon, managed by former Albion striker Bobby Gould, were in the Midlands last season for the 3rd round of the F.A. Cup when they took on and beat Birmingham City 1-0 at St. Andrews. They then accounted for Aston Villa in round four, knocked out Grimsby Town in round 5 but then succumbed to Everton (1-0) in the quarter final at Goodison Park. Everton, of course, had eliminated Albion in a 3rd round replay earlier in the competition, and they progressed through to the Final where they lost to their arch rivals Liverpool 3-2 after extra-time.

An interesting point is that Albion have not won a 3rd round F.A. Cup tie (at home or away) for seven years. Their last success at the first hurdle was when they beat Rotherham United 3-0 in a replay here at The Hawthorns in January 1983.

DEBUT FOR VETLE

Our recent recruit from the Danish League club FC. Lyngby, Vette Andersen, made his Football League debut eight days ago when he came on as substitute for Albion against AFC Bournemouth, replacing flu-stricken Colin Anderson on the left side of midfield.

Out now - and a must for Christmas and certainly for the New Year - is the new 1990 West Bromwich Albion Diary, on sale in the club shop at just £2.50. A last minute stocking filler if ever we saw one.



The programme sponsors for our home game with Leeds United were Credit Collectors (U.K) Ltd., of Dronfield, Sheffield, and our picture shows Albion's Martyn Bennett (with Colin West in the background) presenting an autographed ball to guests of that company. Do you recognise the gentleman on the extreme right? He is Kevin Sharpe, the Yorkshire County cricketer.

You will have noticed in various publications, including the Albion News, that Vette's christian name has been spelt in two different ways. Well, we can assure you - and it's come 'straight from the horse's mouth as they say' - that it is definitely Vette, and not Vitte.

UNCLE STAN

On the 'Home and away' page in our last programme the printers 'cut off' the last line of Martyn Bennett's story. It should have read: Stan Bennett, the former Walsall centre-half, is Martyn's uncle. Our apologies.

SATELLITE WINNER

Bond Club agent Mrs. Hoult of Ferndale Road, Oldbury, got a very big Christmas Surprise when her name was drawn out of the drum yesterday week during the half-time interval, by former Albion star Jeff Astle.

Her prize, which was kindly supplied by N.T.C. of Bearwood Road, Smethwick, was of course the Satellite Dish which includes 19 pre-programmed channel receiver and full feature infra-red remote control.

The draw in addition to our regular matchday draws for agents, will be drawn quarterly. All agents that have been registered with the club for at least three months are entered in the draw. So if you are not at present an agent and would like to be one, then please telephone Sonya Cox on 021 525 8888, who will dearly love to feed you all the necessary information on how to join up.

Jeff was kept busy during the break and he also drew out the winner of our Mercury Feature Phone System, kindly donated by I.S.L. of Sandwell Business Park, West Bromwich. I.S.L. are fully approved Mercury Communications dealers, and supply most makes of telephone systems, plus text and data products.

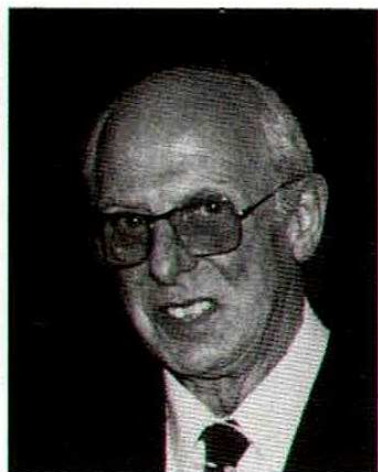
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TOMBOLA NUMBERS

3571 - Today's Matchball — 5876 - 2 Rainbow
Stand tickets — 7277 - 2 Terrace tickets

BAGGIES NEWS



OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that the club learned earlier this week of the sad death of Eric Painter.

A retired former deputy Principal of Bilston College, Eric was a member of the Albion match day staff for many years, and had been senior steward for the past decade or so.

Eric will be sorely missed at The Hawthorns, and our deepest sympathy and

condolences are extended to his wife, Muriel, and their family.

R.I.P.

ALBION MEMBERS CLUB

West Bromwich Albion FC are upgrading their membership club and invite you to join if you are not already a member.

Membership is FREE and carries the following advantages:

- * Specially reserved areas in the ground to which no other spectators will be permitted - the Rainbow Stand Blocks S, T, V & X, the Woodman Corner terraces and the Family Section (Block M of the Halford's Land Stand).



'...and a great day out was had by us all - thank you Albion.' Pictured here in the Bassett Suite in the Rainbow Stand, are the guests of M.E.B., who were our associate match sponsors for the game v. Leeds United three weeks ago.

- * Members may take guests into these areas, but must accept responsibility for their guests' good conduct during the game.
 - * Members will be given priority on ticket distribution, both for home and away fixtures, and particularly for all-ticket matches.
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AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION

Mr. T. G. Wyatt, of Pedmore, Stourbridge, came across an old autograph book while searching through some of his father's memorabilia - and this sheet of signatures came to light. It is of Albion's professional staff at the start of the 1928-29 season, and among those easily identifiable are most of the 1930-31 'double winning' side including Harold Pearson, George Shaw, Tommy Magee, Bill Richardson, Jimmy Edwards, skipper Tommy Glidden, Joe Carter and Stan Wood, as well as Jimmy



Cookson, Bob Finch, George Ashmore, George James, Arthur Fitton, Dicky Dale and the late Jimmy Murphy.

Mr. Wyatt also found a sheet of autographs appertaining to Birmingham players from the following season, and these included Joe Bradford, who scored against Albion in the 1931 F.A. Cup Final.

Thankyou for sending in your 'find' Mr. Wyatt. Very interesting.

RADIO THROSTLE

Good Afternoon ladies and gentlemen and a warm welcome to the Hawthorns for the last fixture of 1989, and indeed the 1980's.

As promised in the last programme we will take a look at

FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY

We have now started our Community Programme here at The Hawthorns with fitness sessions, using the multi-gym weight lifting facilities at the ground..

Admission to these sessions is FREE, so anybody not working or is unemployed can come along on Tuesday afternoons: ladies from 1.30 to 2.30, followed by the gents, from 2.30 to 4.30.

If you wish to attend with your boyfriend, girlfriend, husband and/or wife, we will only be too happy to accommodate you.

All sessions will be fully supervised. So get along to The Hawthorns on Tuesday afternoons and get yourself fit for Christmas!

Future activities will be highlighted in forthcoming matchday programmes.

Should you require any further information regarding the above, then please contact Dennis Mortimer on 021 525 0226.

some of the records you youngsters can purchase for the older members of your family for Xmas.

Well worth looking at would be "The Classical Experience" which features some of the greatest classics of all time, you may have seen this on T.V. Also of interest for Operatic fans would be the latest "Pavarotti" L.P.

If you are buying for Grandpa's and Grandma's then the Max Bygraves L.P., "Singalonga War Years" could go down well as it features all the songs they used to sing during the war. Also worthy of attention would be "Thank you very much" by Cliff and the Shadows, and the "greatest hits" by both Neil Diamond and Diana Ross.

As an option to an L.P., there is an excellent video available featuring Frank Sinatra, Liza Minelli, and Sammy Davis Jr. The video is called "The Ultimate Event" and retails for £9.99.

If you get bored after the festivities then why not take a trip down to your local video store, new releases out this week include "Her Alibi" starring Tom Selleck "Beaches" starring Bette Midler, and the excellent "Rain Man" with Tom Cruise and Dustin Hoffman.

There are too many good videos to list here, but your local video store should have a Top 50 chart to help you make your choice.

This afternoon on Radio Throstle I, we will be playing some of the Xmas classics, I hope you'll enjoy them.

I would just like to wish all supporters a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year and we'll see you in 1990.

Best Wishes

Matthew James.



The ever-popular Martyn Bennett (he seems to get everywhere these days!) is seen here presenting an autographed football to the son of Trevor Poulton (standing behind, right), the Managing-Director of G. B. Mountford, who were our Associate Matchball sponsors for the Leeds United fixture last month. Also in the group is Trevor's wife and other guests of the company, based in Kingswinford.

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First of all this week I would like to take the opportunity to wish all West Bromwich Albion supporters a very happy Christmas.

We have a long Christmas trip awaiting us for Boxing Day's match at Plymouth Argyle, but in the meantime we take on Swindon Town this afternoon and I would like to welcome the club's players, officials and supporters.

I was at Swindon last Sunday to watch them play Sheffield United and felt that Ossie Ardiles' side dominated the match, though Sheffield won it 2-0.

Swindon looked a very useful side and illustrated against Sheffield the point I have been making all along this season - that the standard of teams throughout the second division is very even.

It was also demonstrated last weekend at highly fancied Newcastle United, where Oxford United were the visitors and 3-2 winners.

I don't feel that there is one team in the division that stands head and shoulders above the rest, though the team I consider just about the best - Leeds United - we beat ourselves recently.

With the teams in the division so much of a muchness I reckon that the ones who will be successful are those that work the hardest, who are prepared to go through the pain barrier to win matches.

We put in that sort of performance against Leeds, but perhaps we did not try quite so hard in the second half of last week's match against Bournemouth.

After leading 2-0 at the interval we really should have gone on to win the match, but instead ended up drawing 2-2.

The overall performance of the side was typical of our season so far - very good at our best, very poor at our worst.

I saw one newspaper article that described the performance as 'the good, the bad and the ugly'. Presumably the 'good' was our first half display, the 'bad' described us in the second half and the 'ugly' referred to yours truly.

Talking about myself, I have had to go into hospital for a cartilage operation this week but hopefully I shall be at the game this afternoon organising things as usual.

I have to confess that I did not particularly want to have the operation, feeling that I could remain fit enough to play matches on an irregular basis.

But the team's second half performance last week convinced me that I should get fully fit as soon as possible.

In any case, I have had the injury for about a

"The overall performance of the side was typical of our season so far - very good at our best, very poor at our worst."

year now so it really was time to clear up the problem once and for all.

It should only be a few weeks before I am back in action, but by then we shall be past the halfway mark in the season.

Our position in the League as we approach the halfway stage is

very disappointing, and obviously we have got to do everything we can to start climbing the table.

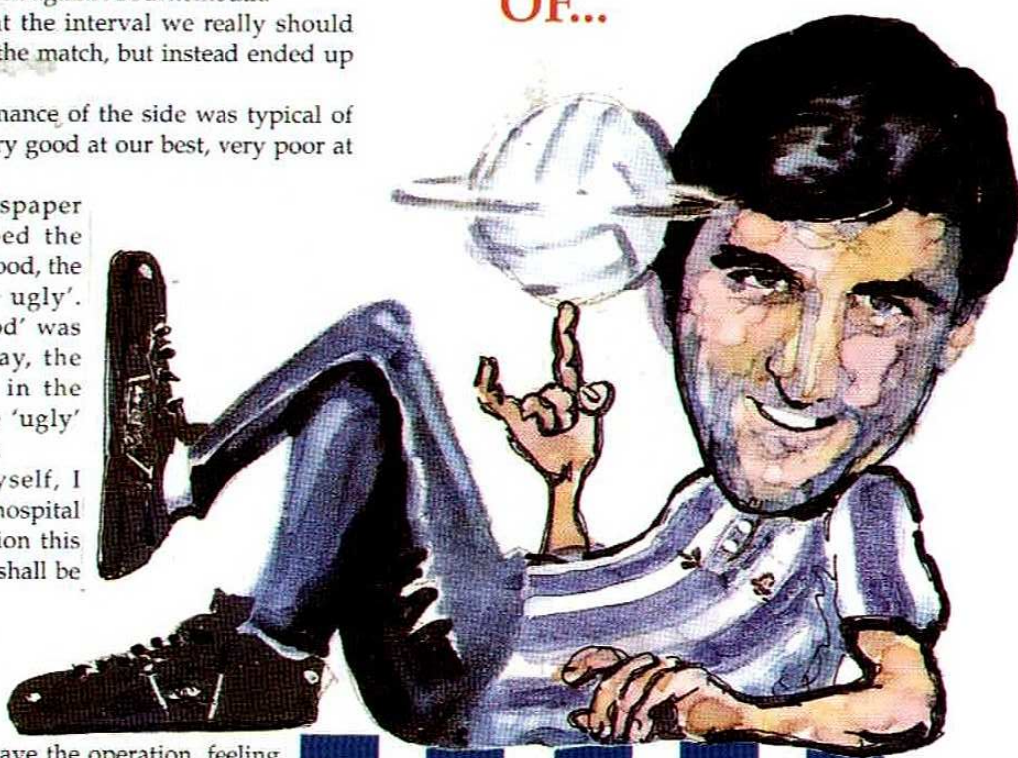
We have to stick to our footballing beliefs and keep on working hard - we have no divine right to be at the top end of the table.

When I took on the job of player/manager here I knew it would not be an easy task, and it is proving to be every bit as hard as I felt it would be.

But I feel we are working on the right lines and, if we can get more consistency into our play, we can move in the right direction as far as our League position is concerned.

We'll be aiming to start the run-up to the busy Christmas and New Year period with a victory this afternoon. Enjoy the game everyone, and once again - Merry Christmas to you all.

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HAWTHORNS



There is one full-time member of The Hawthorns staff who has not seen Albion play at home for five years, although he's been at the ground whenever there has been a match in progress!

That person is the club's accountant Mike Rollason, who next month will celebrate six years service with West Bromwich Albion.

Mike, aged 41, is a bachelor living in Sutton Coldfield. He joined The Hawthorns' staff in January 1984 - and when he 'signed' for the Baggies he was taking his first job in footballing circles.

Recalled Mike: "Prior to me joining the staff at Albion, I had worked in the accountancy profession for six years, in the jewellery trade for a further six, spent two years working in the steel industry and then immediately before taking the position as accountant here at The Hawthorns, I had twelve months with a holiday firm, working on the company's computer."

Mike, in fact, has two main jobs to do at the club. He is in the main, solely responsible for looking after the money side of the club, but he also has to ensure that the matchday tickets are all arranged and marked up accordingly for the respective home fixtures - and he has to account for those allocated to supporters travelling away.

"I usually work an eight-hour day, 9 to 5 generally, but when there is a match, whether that be in midweek or on a Saturday afternoon (or even a Sunday like today), I do put in a few extra hours work. On matchdays I act as assistant to the chief steward, Geoff Turton, and I am in the checkers room throughout the duration of a match, working flat out from virtually the time of the kick-off up until at least 20 minutes into the second-half. And then I

spend the rest of the match reconciling the gate return with the computerised count. Occasionally I am on duty at The Hawthorns from 9am till 10pm - but I enjoy it and it's all worthwhile at the end of the day."

Mike aims to get the club's accounts ready for the Albion Chairman and the Financial Director, Joe Brandrick, at least 14 days after the end of each month. "I have done reasonably well with regards to meeting this deadline" smiled Mike, "although it can be very difficult at the start of the season following summer sales of season tickets. The innovation of the computer, however, has helped me no end, and in some cases I just can't do without one - or the computer!"

Mike is not, on his own admission, a great lover of football. His personal hobbies include photography, motor racing and hill walking, the latter which he does often around Wales and the Peak District.

And after a good weekend away from home, when sometimes he covers a fair few miles, he looks forward to his daily chores at The Hawthorns, relaxing in his own office, albeit only for a few minutes a day, because Mike Rollason is one of the busiest employees on the Albion books, and his work is much appreciated by everyone who comes in contact with him.

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Soccer Quiz.**

HOW TO ENTER:

A different set of questions will appear in each edition of the Albion News throughout the month. After every home game write the answers to 'today's questions' on a postcard and send them to Apollo 2000 Super Quiz, c/o The Commercial Department, West Bromwich Albion Football Club, The Hawthorns, Halford Lane, West Bromwich, B71 4LF.

The person with the most correct answers at the end of the month will receive two Executive Club Tickets for the next home match at which he or she will be presented with a £100 Apollo 2000 voucher on the pitch at half time!

The person to send in the most correct answers over the season wins the £500 Apollo 2000 voucher jackpot.

Look out for the Super Quiz in each Albion News and keep plugging away!

Apollo2000
GAS - ELECTRICAL SUPERSTORES

Today's Questions



Today's quiz is a picture one - and all you have to do is identify these 5 former Albion players, seen at The Hawthorns in July 1962. Four of them were already established pros with the club.

WINNER

The answers to the five questions set in the AFC Bournemouth programme eight days ago are: (1) Kevin Steggles, (2) Garry Thompson (v. Villa), 3 - 1965 (v. Villa), 4 - Hughie Reed and 5 - Oldham Athletic. Paul Dunn, from Bacup, Lancashire, our quiz winner for the month of November, will be presented with his £100 voucher by a representative of Apollo 2000 during the half-time interval of today's match.

A41 Holyhead Road, Birmingham. Tel: 021-523 4241.

Branches also at: Redditch, Worcester, Cheltenham, Gloucester, Hanley, Preston, Blackpool, Oxford and Poole.

The answers to this afternoon's quiz will appear in your next programme (1st January).

JUNIOR BAGGIES

The Junior Baggies are
Sponsored by.....

Apollo
GAS + ELECTRICAL
2000
SUPERSTORES



Well, what a great time we all had last Thursday night at the Halfords Lane Throstle Club's Junior Baggies Christmas Disco/Party. Everyone present had a smashing good time and did you recognise the mystery 'Father Christmas'?

One or two of you did - a lot of you didn't. Yes, it was, of course, our Irish international midfielder Bernard McNally, who did a wonderful job - didn't he?

If you missed that 'party' then don't be left out of any of our events in the New Year. Join the Junior Baggies NOW. Ask your parents to collect an application form from the club shop, or failing that,

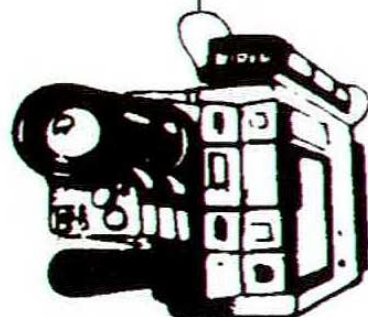
call in and get one yourself. We have one or two things lined up for 1990 and we want all our junior supporters to be part of the action.

You will notice here that we have carried a picture of Old Trafford, the home of Manchester United Football Club, certainly one of the great soccer arenas of the world.

Several Junior Baggies members will be visiting this ground on Thursday 28th December - and we are pleased to say that the trip is now fully booked.

We all know that United are going through a bad patch at the moment but their past record in League, F.A. Cup and indeed in European competitions has been most impressive, although they haven't actually carried off the First Division title since 1967. You can reel off a long list of super players who have donned the famous red and white strip down the years, Charlton, Best, Law and Stiles, and so on. All these, and more, along with film of the club's history, will be seen on video at Old Trafford; a visit will be made to the museum, and visitors can walk on that hallowed turf. It should be a great day out - and we will let you know how we got on in the New Year.

Until then, from everyone at The Hawthorns, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas.



C. B. VIDEO

For all your video requirements

* Weddings * Sporting Events

Videos of all Albion home matches are
available from the club shop.



Come next March, Albion's 'Geordie' midfielder Colin Anderson will celebrate ten years as a professional footballer - and by that time he hopes that he will be back to the kind of form he was showing twelve months ago.

Halfway through last season he was playing perhaps some of his best football of his career on the left side of midfield, when Albion were going great guns. But then he suffered a facial injury against Everton in the 3rd round of the F.A. Cup here at The Hawthorns and was forced to miss four matches. He came back in mid-February but he will admit that he hasn't really reached the heights he achieved before leaving the pitch following a challenge by Pat Van den Hauwe in that cup tie.

Said Colin: "At the time we were performing really well and were sitting on top of the Second Division table. The players were working for each other, the morale inside the dressing was sky high and we just wanted to be out on the pitch everyday."

Then came a double blow when both Colin and Don Goodman were injured against Everton in successive matches. Carlton Palmer left shortly after and although the players were all still as determined as ever to win promotion, the consistency which had been so prominent before suddenly dwindled.

Recalled Colin: "Injuries disrupted the side considerably early in the New Year, and we struggled to get the right results, especially against fellow promotion candidates. But having said that, we could still have made the play-offs at the death - with a little bit of luck - which sadly we didn't get."

"This season we have certainly struggled to get our game together, and as for me, I've again been troubled by injury - an ankle this time, which has been giving me some jip over the past three months. But now I'm battling back to full fitness and hopefully I shall be pushing for a regular place in the first team in the not too distant future."

Colin was born in Newcastle on 26th April 1962, and after leaving Chapel House Middle school (he played his first game in the school team at the age of 9) he had a two-year apprenticeship at Turf Moor, signing professional forms for Burnley in March 1980. He actually played alongside Albion's current commercial manager Alan Stevenson on a handful of occasions.

In October 1982, after a brief spell with South Shields, he chose to switch to the opposite end of the country, moving in fact, some 350 miles south west to join Torquay United on a free transfer - which left him 450 or so away miles from his birthplace in Geordieland.

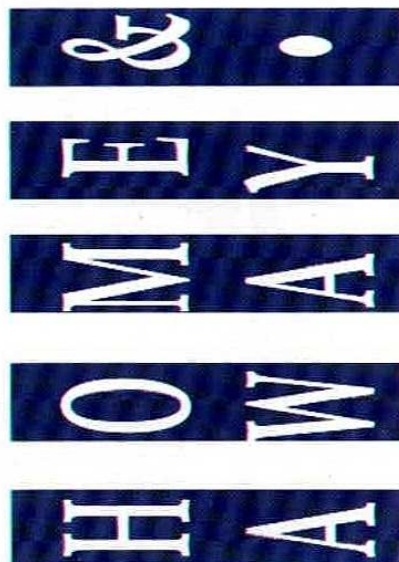
Colin fought his way through the lower divisions the hard way - he made over 120 appearances for Torquay - and he has always admitted to himself 'if you work hard, you will reap rewards.'

Said Colin: "For me it has always been the case of working hard - if you do just that then you will get things out of the game. That was exactly what was happening to me, and Albion, last season - until that Everton game."

"Back in 1985, Johnny Giles was manager at Albion and choosing to come to The Hawthorns, was the best move I ever made - Albion is by far the best club I have served with. The facilities, the stadium and the general set-up is all First Division standard - and hopefully that's where we are going!"

Colin, in fact, spent a couple of months on loan with Albion at the tailend of the 1984-85 season - this after a spell with Q.P.R. (also on loan) - and he made his debut in the Baggies colours, as 'sub' away at Everton on 20th August 1985, when he replaced Barry Cowdrill at left-back.

Colin was originally a full-back and was converted into a midfield grafter by Ron Saunders, and then he gained further



COLIN ANDERSON

encouragement from Ron Atkinson and more recently from Brian Talbot. And he is still endeavouring to improve his game day by day.

Colin is now living at Norton, Stourbridge, with his girlfriend Lynne and daughter Emma, aged 8. His hobbies include squash and swimming, as well as driving, although last weekend on a trip 'home' to Newcastle, Colin had his car stolen, which ruined a pleasant weekend for his entire family, especially after he had returned to first team duty against AFC Bournemouth.

When he retires from the game he would dearly love to own a wine bar or small restaurant.

Colin's playing record to date:

Club	Apps.	Goals
Burnley	3+3	-
Torquay	122+2	10
Albion	115+11	10
Totals	240+16	20

D I V I S I O N 2

Thirty five more goals were scored last weekend in Division Two matches - and there were a surprising number of away wins - six - two of them coming on the Sunday afternoon, when Portsmouth beat Plymouth 2-0 at Home Park and Sheffield United went back to the top of the table by virtue of their 2-0 victory at Swindon, our opponents at The Hawthorns today.



Jimmy Quinn

Pompey's triumph was their third away win of the season - and on target were former Stoke, Sheffield Wednesday and England winger Mark Chamberlain, and the promising Guy Whittingham, with his 10th goal in League action.

An own-goal by Jon Gittens set Sheffield United on the road to their win at The County Ground. Midfielder Mark Morris added a second after the break to inflict upon Swindon their second home defeat in four days. Victory of course shot Dave Bassett's team back to the top

of the Division, ahead of Leeds, who 24 hours earlier had won 2-0 at Middlesbrough.

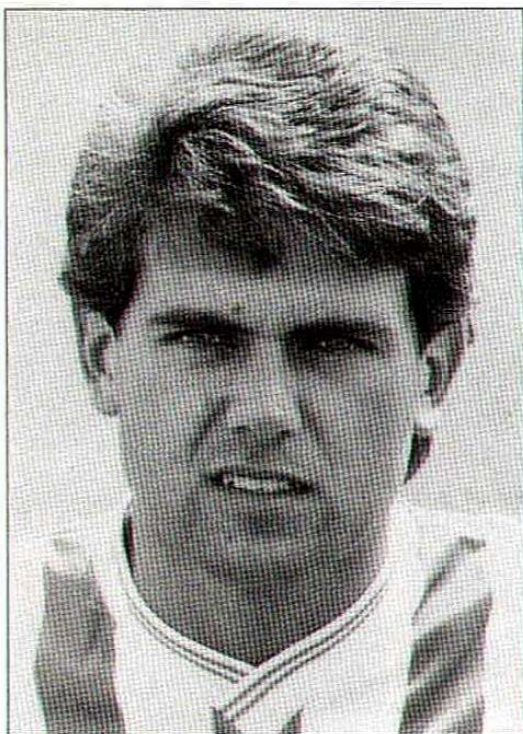
This game at Ayresome Park was halted in the 37th minute when trouble broke out in the enclosure housing the travelling Leeds supporters. Four fans were injured and referee David Scott led the players off the field for a quarter of an hour. Police and stewards moved in after a fan approached a linesman, indicating that there was trouble developing on the terraces.

At this juncture Leeds were already a goal up through Carl Shutt, and defender Chris Fairclough weighed in with a second four minutes before half-time to seal United's 13th win of 1989-90.

Newcastle's lowest gate of the season so far - 16,685 - saw them lose their unbeaten home League record when they crashed 3-2 at St. James's Park against Oxford United, who prior to this game had only scored nine goals in nine away games. Ceri Evans fired the 'U's' into a 21st minute lead; Mark Stimson equalised 14 minutes later before Jimmy Phillips struck home a penalty 50 seconds into the second-half to edge the visitors back in front. Battling Oxford then increased their lead 17 minutes from time when Paul Simpson curled in a free-kick. At the death Mick Quinn claimed his 21st goal of the season when he slotted in a penalty after being bundled over by the aggressive Phillips.

A bubbling Oxford manager Brian Horton said afterwards: "That was one of the best performances put on by a team under my management - and it earned us the double over one of the better sides in the division."

Last season Blackburn and Leicester City drew 0-0 at Ewood Park - last week City won 4-2 - and that meant there had been a total of 21 goals registered on Rovers' soil in the last three matches. Rovers, in fact, went a goal up through Simon Garner's tap-in (35 mins.) before three efforts in 20 minutes either side of half-time put City firmly in the driving seat. First Gary McAllister netted a debatable penalty, then Simon Morgan cracked in a 20 yarder after Paul Moran and Kevin Campbell had created the opening, and Campbell himself made it 3-1 on the hour. Rovers



Dean Wilkins

fought back and reduced the deficit through substitute Howard Gayle, who netted with a brave header, only for Tommy Wright to restore the balance with a fourth for City seven minutes from time.

Bradford City, Albion's last opponents of 1989, won 2-1 at home against West Ham United, Jimmy Quinn scoring a dramatic winner 45 seconds from time. Mark Leonard had put City ahead in the 15th minute before Mark Ward levelled things up on the half-hour.

"We scored far too early" said Port Vale manager John Rudge as his side took the lead in the 2nd minute away to struggling Hull City, Robbie Earle on target. Vale, in fact, according to Rudge 'took it far too easy after that' and the Tigers bounced back to record their first home win of the season with goals from Andy Payton (14 mins.) and Steve Doyle (25).

The other team from the Potteries, Stoke City, also came a cropper when they lost 1-0 at home to Barnsley, Steve Cooper striking the all-important goal for The Tykes in the 72nd minute. Stoke 'keeper Peter Fox saved a late penalty from David Currie, but this defeat sent Alan Ball's side slithering to the bottom of the table.

Watford improved their position in the bottom half of the table with a fine 3-0 home win over 'astro-turf' experts Oldham Athletic. Paul Wilkinson (3 mins.), Glyn Hodges (30) and £500,000 new boy Gary Penrice were the marksmen.

Brighton, our visitors to The Hawthorns on New Year's Day, were held 1-1 at The Goldstone

Ground by Wolves. Former Albion man Robbie Dennison equalised for the Wanderers with a marvellous free-kick 13 minutes from time after Dean Wilkins had put the Seagulls in front five minutes earlier.

There was a similar scoreline at Portman Road where Ipswich Town were held 1-1 by high-flying Sunderland. Gary Owers gave the visitors the lead halfway through the first-half but veteran John Wark equalised for the Suffolk club after the interval to keep them in touch with the leading pack.

Albion, as most of you saw, were pegged back by AFC Bournemouth here at The Hawthorns. Don Goodman and Kevin Bartlett had given us a 2-0 interval lead but former England and Watford striker Luther Blissett netted twice in seven minutes to earn the Cherries a point. These goals were, in fact, the first scored by Bournemouth in League action on Albion soil. The turnout, incidentally, was the lowest for a League game at The Hawthorns in 1989-90 - just 8,568.

And talking of attendances - here are the highest, lowest and average home League gates for the Second Division clubs as they stood after last weekend's fixtures:

Club	Highest	Lowest	Average
Barnsley	16,629	5,524	8,672
Blackburn	10,329	7,467	8,626
Bournemouth	9,979	6,412	7,843
Bradford C.	12,527	7,350	8,883
Brighton	12,689	7,218	9,357
Hull City	11,620	4,207	7,012
Ipswich T.	14,506	10,362	12,313
Leeds Utd.	31,715	21,694	26,067
Leicester	18,032	8,199	11,533
Middlesbro'	21,727	13,551	16,367
Newcastle	28,092	16,685	20,744
Oldham Ath.	10,685	4,940	7,069
Oxford Utd.	5,664	4,027	4,355
Plymouth	10,884	6,876	8,594
Portsmouth	12,632	6,491	8,654
Port Vale	11,156	6,168	7,845
Sheff. Utd.	20,822	12,631	15,198
Stoke City	27,032	9,346	13,086
Sunderland	29,499	14,234	18,775
Swindon T.	10,741	6,540	8,921
Watford	12,736	8,445	10,157
W.B.A.	21,316	8,568	12,057
West Ham	25,892	17,704	20,727
Wolves	22,231	12,338	15,574

HAPPY CHRISTMAS
TO ALL OUR
SUPPORTERS



THE CARING FACE OF FOOTBALL



Strenuous efforts are being made to provide modern facilities for the safety and comfort of all football spectators.

During 1989, more than £1.25 million will be spent on improvements projects at Football League grounds and areas for people with disabilities form a major part of this programme. This season will see further initiatives including new and better toilet facilities, additional enclosures for family support and the provision of seating within existing accommodation.

The Football Grounds Improvement Trust is responsible for all these measures. Each year it receives half of the £9.5 million donated by Littlewoods, Vernons and Zettors from their Spotting-the-Ball competition and spends it on schemes to improve standards at British football stadia.

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SUPERCALL 

YOUR RESERVE

What a grand week it's been for Albion's youngsters.

Eight days ago they went to town and beat their North Staffordshire rivals Port Vale by 5-3 in a very entertaining eight-goal thriller in the Midlands Purity League.

On target for Albion were David Pritchard, Les Palmer, Matthew Birch and Scott Colcombe, who claimed two.

The victorious team was: Mark Ashton; Tim Mahoney, Lyndon Price, Paul Sweeney, Scott Hall, 'Huggy' Ehioghu; David Pritchard, Matthew Birch, Les Palmer (Craig Hollier), Craig Love and Scott Colcombe. The substitute not used was David Whalley.

Then last Tuesday night, at The Baseball Ground, in front of a fair sized crowd, Albion's youngsters progressed through to the next round of the F.A. Youth Cup by beating a strong, purposeful Derby County side 2-1 - a victory which made up in a small way for that Zenith Cup defeat suffered by their seniors on 29th November.

Albion's teenagers put up a battling performance which saw them hit back after going a goal down very early on.

County led 1-0 at the interval but during the second-half Cyril Lea's lads picked up a gear and eventually gained their due rewards in fine style.

Jason Withe equalised in the 55th minute and ten minutes from time David Pritchard powered in for the winner.

Albion now meet Doncaster (away) in the next round early in the New Year - the Belle Vue club having knocked out Everton, one of the favourites to win this season's competition, last weekend.

Against the Rams, Albion fielded: Ashton; Mahoney, Price (Hollier); Sweeney, Hall, Ehioghu; Pritchard, Birch, Palmer (Colcombe), Love, Jason Withe.

The reserves drew 1-1 at Stoke last Wednesday and full details of this game will appear in your next issue of Albion News.

Meanwhile the draw for the next round of the Birmingham Senior Cup was made recently and Albion have been drawn at home to Moor Green, the tie to be played on or before 20th January 1990.

MIDLAND PURITY LEAGUE

(placings at 9th December 1989)

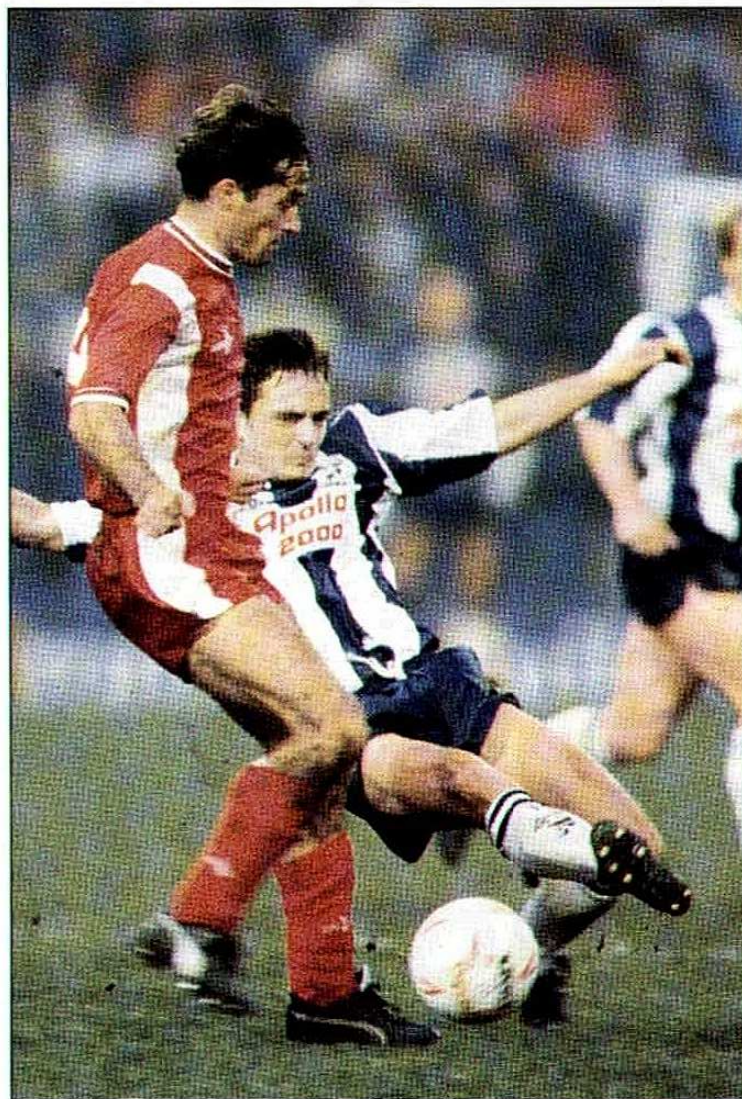
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leicester	16	11	2	3	36	16	35
Derby Co.	15	11	1	3	36	15	34
Coventry C.	16	9	3	4	35	14	30
Notts Co.	15	9	2	4	38	18	29
Birmingham	14	9	2	3	31	16	29
Nott. Forest	14	9	2	3	23	13	29
Aston Villa	16	8	5	3	36	28	29
ALBION	16	5	5	6	27	26	20
Shrewsbury	15	6	2	6	23	22	20
Stoke C.	16	5	4	7	14	27	19
Mansfield	16	5	4	7	14	32	19
Wolves	15	3	5	7	20	28	14
Port Vale	14	3	3	8	27	33	12
Chesterf'd.	14	3	3	8	26	35	12
Walsall	16	2	1	13	12	41	7
Peterboro'	16	0	4	12	12	48	4

PONTIN'S LEAGUE FIXTURES 1989-90

Wed	Aug	23	Scunthorpe United	1-0
Wed	Aug	30	Barnsley	1-2
Wed	Sep	6	Bolton Wanderers	5-1
Wed	Sep	13	Wolverhampton W	1-1
Thu	Sep	21	Wigan Athletic	1-2
Tue	Sep	26	Sunderland	2-0
Thu	Oct	5	Blackpool	4-0
Tue	Oct	10	Rotherham United	0-0
Thu	Oct	19	Burnley	0-1
Thu	Oct	26	Middlesbrough	2-2
Wed	Nov	8	Preston North End	1-2
Wed	Nov	15	Port Vale	3-3
Thu	Nov	23	Grimsby Town	7-1
Thu	Nov	30	Sheffield Wednesday	0-4
Wed	Dec	6	York City	4-1
Wed	Dec	13	Stoke City	1-1
Wed	Dec	20	Mansfield Town	
Wed	Jan	3	Barnsley	
Wed	Jan	10	Scunthorpe United	
Wed	Jan	17	Wolverhampton W	
Wed	Jan	24	Bolton Wanderers	
Tue	Jan	30	Wigan Athletic	
Wed	Feb	7	Sunderland	
Wed	Feb	14	Rotherham United	
Wed	Feb	21	Blackpool	
Wed	Feb	28	Sheffield Wednesday	
Tue	Mar	13	Grimsby Town	
Wed	Mar	21	Burnley	
Mon	Mar	26	Middlesbrough	
Wed	Apr	4	York City	
Thu	Apr	12	Stoke City	
Wed	Apr	18	Mansfield Town	
Thu	Apr	26	Preston North End	
Wed	May	2	Port Vale	



A L B I O N



ALBION 2

(Goodman, Bartlett)

BOURNEMOUTH 2

(Blissett 2)

Bernard
tackles
back

It went
thataway!

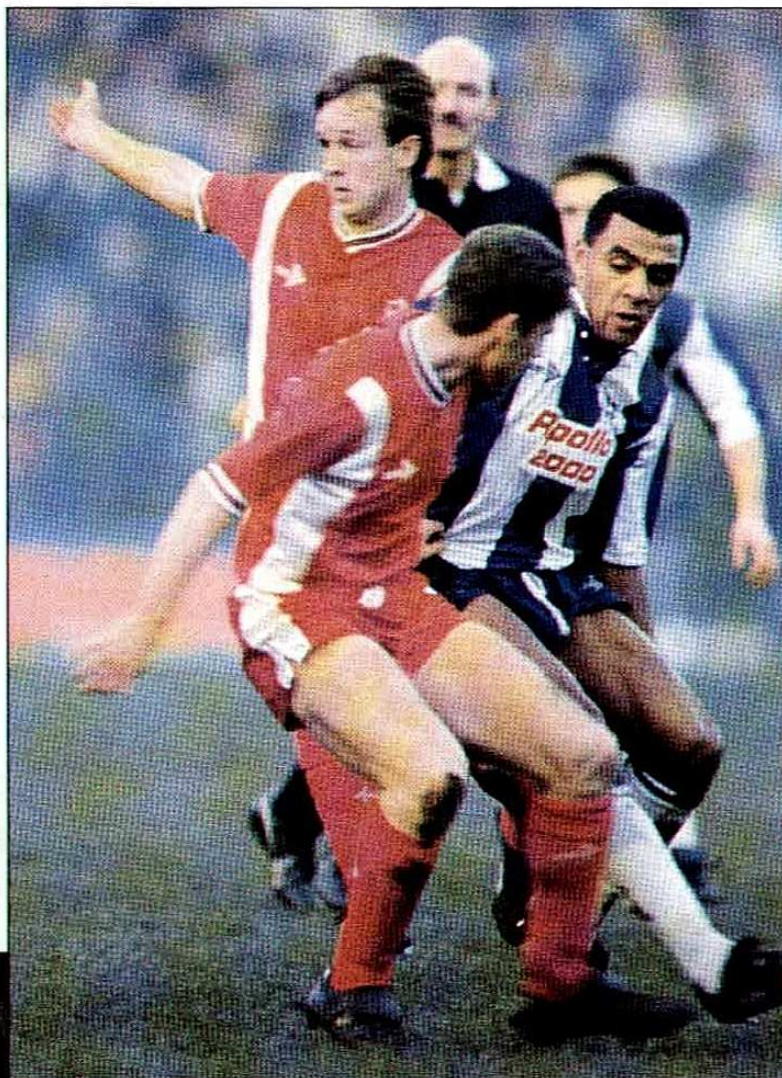





I N A C T I O N



Is this a
private party?



Ugh!
What
have
you
trodden
in?



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COVERS BUSINESS
EVERYWHERE.

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BETTER OFF
TALKING TO



BARCLAYS

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We know it's teamwork that counts, so come
down to see our squad for the back-up your
business needs.

HAWTHORNS AWAY TRAVEL SECTION

Tuesday, 26th December 1989

Plymouth Argyle v. Albion (kick-off 3.00pm)

Coaches depart at 9.00am; fare - £8.50

Saturday 30th December, 1989

Bradford City v. Albion (kick-off 3.00pm)

Coaches depart at 11.30am; fare £5.00

All coach bookings can be made at both The Throstle Club, Halfords Lane, and at the Albion Club Shop. For bookings during the day, please visit the Club Shop and see the wide variety of souvenirs available for Christmas.

Bookings during the evening (7.30pm onwards) can be made at The Throstle Club.

Please note that tickets must be purchased for the Plymouth match before 20th December. For further information, please telephone 021 553 1514 and ask for Brian 'Joe' Wilton.

ARMY FAN

Dear Sir,

Hello everyone. I would like to send you my best regards and ambitions to West Bromwich Albion Football Club, its manager, players, directors, staff and supporters.

I am aged 26, an active soldier in the Army and a very keen supporter of Albion. I follow their progress through the press and occasionally on the radio, but I would dearly love to know more about the club in general, and I would like to become a member of one of your supporters clubs. I would appreciate it very much if some one could write to me with information.

Thank you, and a very Merry Christmas to you all at The Hawthorns.

Shehab Ahmed, P.O.Box 7357, Al-Haifa, Baghdad, Iraq.

Ed: The relevant details regarding membership to the W.B.A. Supporters Club have been forwarded to Shehab in Iraq. Yes, these Baggies' fans get everywhere!

ENTERTAINMENT AT THE THROSTLE CLUB, HALFORDS LANE, WEST BROMWICH

Sunday & Friday Evenings: Bingo night - with the ever-increasing Snowball the star attraction!

Tuesday Evenings: Dancing tuition in both modern and sequence styles.

Wednesday Evenings: Auction night with 100's of bottom-priced bargains available.

Forthcoming Shows:

Saturday 23rd December: An Evening with 'Three Way Split' playing music for all tastes. Admission: £1.00 for members & members' guests.

Sunday 24th December: Grand Christmas Eve Cabaret Show with 'Rio'. You are guaranteed a great evening - tickets available for members & members' guests at £2.50 each.

Sunday 31st December: New Year's Eve 'Party' Dance with the 'Cowboy Road Show', with added competitions, games and spot prizes. Admission: Members & Members' guests, £3.00 each.

For further information on any the above functions, please contact Bob Millward personally at the club or telephone him (any evening) on 021 553 1514.

MAMMOTH TOURS

Mammoth Tours will be running executive coaches (fitted with video & toilet) to both of the away matches over Christmas. The coaches depart from Stourbridge and will then pick up as normal at Lye, Colley Gate, Halesowen, Blackheath, Whiteheath and West Bromwich.

Coaches depart for Plymouth on Boxing Day at 8.30am: fare £9.00, and for Bradford on Saturday 30th December at 10.30am: fare £6.50.

For bookings, please telephone Dave Holloway on 021 552 7379 (ansaphone available). Bookings restricted to supporters club members only.

SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS

Our Annual Christmas Dinner was held at The Moat House eight days ago before the game with AFC Bournemouth. Our thanks to all who attended and helped make it such a resounding success - player-manager Brian Talbot, club Chairman John Silk and his fellow directors, the guest players and of course, the supporters. It was nice also to welcome Dr. Roger Rimmer, the Albion doctor, and ex players Ronnie Allen and Steve Mackenzie.

Many thanks also to the Albion, and to Alan Stevenson and Jean Deeley in particular, for the wonderful gesture of inviting supporters who attended the dinner to watch the match (v. Bournemouth) from the Sponsors Lounge as guests of the Albion club. Quite a few accepted the invitation and were very well looked after by Jean.

A reminder that the brand new Supporters Club Shop is due to be opened in the Birmingham Road End for today's match. You can buy all your supporters club and Albion club shop merchandise from there and you can also book away travel with Mammoth Tours.

Also on sale today is issue No. 70 of Fingerpost, the official supporters club magazine. Look out for sellers to obtain your copy.

AND A GOOD NIGHT WAS HAD BY ALL!

Dear Sir,

On the way back from the recent Sheffield United-Albion game we called in at The Hunters Arms pub in the Derbyshire village of Kilburn. We first came across this pub by accident on the way home from our 'Beach-wear Party' at Hull last season, and a great time was had by all that night.

This time, though, the evening was even better! And at the end of the night the whole pub was singing along and having a great time.

We presented the gaffer with a Christmas Tree for his superb hospitality and through the 'Albion News' we would like also to say a big thankyou to Ian the Hippy, Joan, Jayne, Peter, Keith Rhodes and his brother, Steve, 'Xmas Jumper' and the one and only Billy 'the mouth organ' Lloyd.

A copy of this programme will be sent off to all concerned at 'The Hunters Arms.'

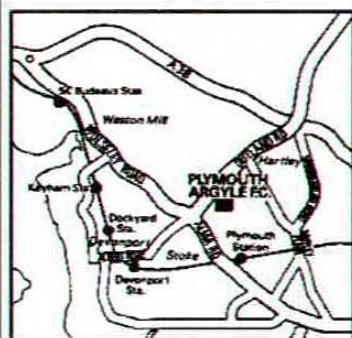
From: Dean, Dub, Chris, Colin, Ian, Mark, Jarv, Model Mick, Steve, Davel, Dave, Jimmy, Andy and The Bishop of Gloucester.

AWAY TRAVEL

Plymouth v. Albion -
26 December 1989

How To Get There...

From all directions: A38 Plymouth by-pass to Tavistock Road A386. Branch left to Plymouth A386, then turn right then left into Outland Road A3041 for Home Park.

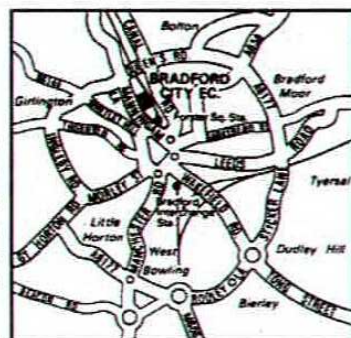


Car park adjoining ground, capable of accommodating 2,000 vehicles.

Bradford City v. Albion -
30 December 1989

How To Get There...

From the South & West: M62 and A606 (M) to Bradford. Fourth exit from roundabout to A6036 Ring Road. Left at crossroads A650, left into Valley Parade for ground. From East: A647 to Bradford, then same as above from roundabout. Street parking available near the ground.



ALBION CLUB SHOP

With Christmas fast approaching the Albion Club Shop has a wide variety of gifts for the whole family - and more. So why not call in after the game, during the week, whenever you can, and see what we have to offer.

Home and away shirts - £18.95 (sizes 22" to 32") and £21.95 (34" to 48").

Home and away shorts - £8.45 a pair (21" to 30") and £9.45 a pair (31" to 36")

Socks - £4.25 a pair (boys and youths) and £4.75 a pair (mens).

Albion tracksuit (size 22"/24" to 30"/32") - £34.95 and the S/M, M and L/M - £39.95 each.

Scarves (printed navy & white and green & yellow) - £2.95

Woven scarves (Jacquard) - £3.95

Bob & Ski hats, and navy & white and green & yellow flat caps - £2.95 each

Embroidered Jumpers (jade or navy with button up collars) S, M, L, XL and blue & white embroidered (ziggy) M, L & XL - £16.95 each.

Sports Shirts (Fred Perry style, navy, white or jade with embroidered Throstle) S, M, L, XL - £14.95 each.

Roll Neck Jumper (Navy) - £17.95

'V' Neck Jumpers (Navy) sizes 22"/24" to 30"/32" - £14.95 each. Small, Medium & large - £17.95 each.



T-Shirts (Baggies on Tour 89/90) S, M, L, XL - £5.99 each.

Albion T-shirts (blue, white, green) S, M, L, XL - £5.95 each. Junior size - £4.99.

Pennants - £1.50 and £3.75.

Programme Binders - £3.95 each

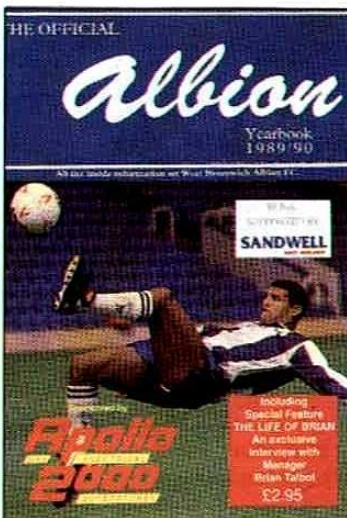
Albion 1990 Diaries - £2.25 each

Miscellaneous items include:

Leather footballs (from £3.95), towels (£3.25), wallets (£1.75), blazer badges (£2.95), ladies briefs (£1.95), wrist bands (99p), car stickers (65p), key rings (£2.75), Albion posters (£1.75), photographs in postcard size of current players (60p each), assorted lapel badges (£1.25 each), sports bags (£8.95), ashtrays (£1.50), engraved glass tankards (£6.95), money box (£3.95), souvenir footballs (£10.95), desk tidy (£1.25), individual gift packs (£2.25), inflatable Throstles (£2.95 each), WBA Large 'nut' (£3.95), Small 'nut' (£2.50), WBA 'Spectator' (£2.99), Super Baggies Club Bugs (50p), Baggies Club Bear (75p) Super Baggies Sock Ties (35p).

Videos: Match tapes £13.95 each

Compilation tapes £15.95 each



Albion Publications:

Autograph book: £1.95,

West Bromwich Albion

(Complete Record 1879-1987): £15.95,

W.B.A. Who's Who (1879-1989): £6.95,

Albion Year Book (1989-90) £2.95.

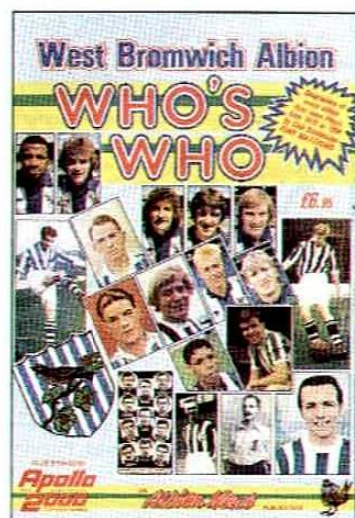
1989-90 Videos

A new Albion compilation video, with the highlights of all the home games for the first half of this current season (up to and including Derby County, Zenith Cup tie) is on sale now, price £15.95.

Club Shop Opening Hours

From now up to Christmas, the Albion Club Shop will be open Monday to Friday during normal office hours. It will also open next Saturday morning (16th) and on December 23rd, closing at 12 noon on both days.

The shop will not be open on Christmas Eve as stated in the last programme.



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A stylized, high-contrast illustration of a British five-pound banknote. The note is tilted at an angle, showing the portrait of Queen Elizabeth II on the right side. The text 'FIVE POUNDS' is visible on the left, and 'ELIZABETH II' is on the right. The note is surrounded by dynamic, angular lines suggesting movement or a stack of money. The overall style is graphic and modern.

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★ S T A R S ' N ★ S T R I P E S ★

To celebrate 110 seasons of the Albion
we take a look at some of the records
and heroes behind the famous stripes

Albion reached the halfway mark in their 42 League match programme of season 1919-20 with two excellent home victories - 4-0 against Sunderland and 3-0 v. Derby County, the latter bringing them the double over the Rams.

In spite of heavy rain, a Boxing Day crowd of 43,579 saw the Sunderland match in which Albion, fielding their strongest available side of Pearson; Smith, Pennington; Richardson, Bowser, McNeal; Crisp, Magee, Bentley, Morris and Gregory, played some quite brilliant football, sweeping down field time and again with great precision and drive.

After 14 minutes of continuous pressure Albion finally broke through but it was courtesy of a Sunderland defender!

Freddie Morris challenged the visiting left-back Young on the edge of the area and a hurried back-pass was spotted by the alert Tommy Magee who toe-ended the ball past 'keeper Scott, Hodson failing in an attempt to scramble the shot off the line.

Although Albion dominated the remainder of the half - Morris going close on three occasions - they went in at interval with just that one goal to show for their efforts.

In the second period Albion were pegged back early on by Sunderland but gradually asserted their superiority, and although the visitors broke away from time to time, the Albion defence was rarely troubled, Jesse Pennington having a quite superb game at left-back.

In the space of five minutes (50-55) Albion had eight attempts on the Sunderland goal, but only one passed Scott, who gave him credit, played an absolute 'blinder' throughout. That second strike came in the 52nd minute when, following a run and cross by Jack Crisp, Alf Bentley nodded the ball down for Morris to drive home perfectly from 10 yards.

A quarter of an hour from the end, by which time the Sunderland defence had been raced and harassed to a standstill, Howard Gregory set up Morris for number three and with two minutes to go Bentley scored from Magee's pass. Inside the last 60 seconds Bobby McNeal struck the Sunderland crossbar with a 35 yarder and Crisp had a 'goal' ruled out for offside.

The Athletic News summed up Albion's performance like this: '...they played with dash, a freshness, a vivacity and a common-understanding among their forwards which



Freddie Morris

were difficult to resist. The front men got into their stride so quickly and whirled the ball about so unexpectedly that the Sunderland defenders wondered how their methods could be circumvented - and while they speculated, they lost!

Twenty four hours later unchanged Albion played hosts to Derby and this time 34,167 fans entered The Hawthorns to see another fine performance by the Baggies.

The ground conditions were vastly different to the day before and instead of the pitch being heavy it was 'just right for football.'

Albion got off to a flying start, Morris scoring after just four minutes when he turned sharply in the box and drilled a low shot past Lawrence from 15 yards. Magee then had two long-range efforts charged down and Morris fired over the top as Albion went for the kill. But Derby counter-attacked well and both Quantrill and Burton caused Pearson to be on his guard with telling shots. Albion, in fact, held the upper hand until the interval but only had that one goal in the bag after dominating the action for most of the first 45 minutes.

In the second-half Albion again took the game to Derby and on the hour a sweet move involving Pennington, McNeal, Morris and Gregory ended with Magee slamming the ball past Lawrence to make it 2-0.

Chandler then cleared off the line from Bentley and at the other end Pearson saved well from Burton. Goal number three came in the 65th minute when Morris evaded a challenge from Wightman to slot the ball home after good work by Gregory on the left.

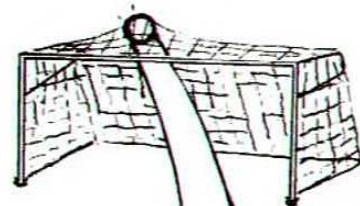
Albion continued to monopolise the attack and both Morris and Crisp had good chances to increase the score before referee Jack Kirby from Preston called it a day.

Thus, after adding four vital points to their total, Albion went in to the second part of the season as comfortable League leaders, having chalked up 32 points out of a possible 42. They had scored 61 goals, and Morris had bagged 24 of them, including 10 out of 16 in the month of December, two in each of five games.

Albion's next two fixtures were both away - at Sunderland and Blackburn on the 1st and 3rd of January 1920. Follow their progress on their march to the League Championship in your next Matchday Magazine.

T.M.

S P O N S O R A G G O A L



From as little as 10p per goal you can sponsor the Baggies goalscoring efforts. It's up to you, you can decide the price that suits your pocket. Your name will appear in the list below, and every fully subscribed supporter will be invited to a fantastic end of season party, where you will be awarded a certificate signed by the entire 1st team squad and presented to you personally by Brian Talbot.

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Why not add your name to the list and help push the Baggies towards their goal? You can follow the progress towards goal in every home programme

PAST ENCOUNTERS

ALBION v SWINDON TOWN

Albion and Swindon Town have met each other on eight previous occasions in major competitions - six have been in the Football League Division Two, one in the League Cup and one in the F.A. Cup.

At present Albion have registered four victories, Swindon three and there has been one draw (0-0 at The County Ground last season).

The first of those eight meetings took place at Swindon on 25th October 1966 when a crowd of 16,254 saw Albion win a nail-biting 4th round League Cup tie by 2-0 with late goals from Jeff Astle and Clive Clark.

The second clash was in the 4th round of the F.A. Cup; the venue was The Hawthorns and the date: 3rd February 1973. Again Albion were 2-0 winners, and on target in front of 20,795 fans, were Tony Brown and Len Cantello.

The initial League tussle was staged at The County Ground on 8th September 1973. Albion had Scottish international Willie Johnston sent-off (after a clashing with former Baggies man Ray Treacy) and Swindon went on to win 1-0 in front of an 11,583 crowd.

The return game at The Hawthorns that season (29th December) went in favour of Albion by 2-0, almost 15,000 seeing Alan Merrick and Johnston hit the target. It was Merrick's first-ever goal for Albion.

There was then a break of 14 seasons before the teams met again - and this time Swindon 'doubled-up' over Albion, winning 2-1 at The Hawthorns and 2-0 at The County Ground in 1987-88.

Again a player was sent off - this time one in each game - Albion's Tony Kelly in the former and Town's Bobby Barnes in the latter.

A crowd of 7,503 witnessed the contest in West Bromwich when Martyn Bennett (Albion) and John Kelly and Jimmy Quinn (Swindon) found the net.

Over 12,000 fans saw Steve White grab both goals in Town's home win - and they came after Barnes had been dismissed!

Last season Albion took four points off Swindon with a 3-1 home triumph and a goalless draw in the return.

There were 7,518 spectators present to see Paul Dyson, Don Goodman and John Paskin steer Albion to that home success and an audience of 12,240 witnessed the contest at Swindon.



Ron Potter

PLAYED FOR BOTH CLUBS

A dozen players have been associated with both clubs over the years and these include (in A-Z order with their respective Albion records included) wingers Mick Betteridge (5 apps. 1948-51) and John Chadburn (4 goals, 48 apps. 1900-03), striker Jimmy Cookson (110 goals, 131 apps. 1927-33), winger Fred Fenton (one goal, 6 apps. 1903-04), utility forward Hughie MacLean (8 apps. 1967-74), the late Jimmy Murphy (223 apps. 1928-39), centre-halves Ron Potter (8 apps. 1964-70) and Bill Richardson (one goal, 352 apps. 1926-37), forward Andy 'Scottie' Smith (8 goals, 25 apps. 1900-03), full-back Sid Swinden (4 apps. 1931-37), goalscorer Ray Treacy (7 goals, 28 apps. in two spells: 1961-68 & 1976-77) and 'keeper Herbie Webster (one app. 1928-29). Murphy and Treacy were both internationals, winning 15 and 43 caps for Wales and the Republic of Ireland respectively.



Albion goalkeeper Peter Latchford in action against Swindon Town at The County Ground 16 years ago - when the clubs met in the League for the first time.

B R I N G • O N

THE ROBINS



Swindon Town were formed in 1881 and it was not until 1920 that they gained Football League status, entering Division 3 (S). Earlier they had reached the F.A. Cup semi-final in 1910 and 1912 and were beaten 8-4 by Manchester United in the 1911 Charity Shield game.

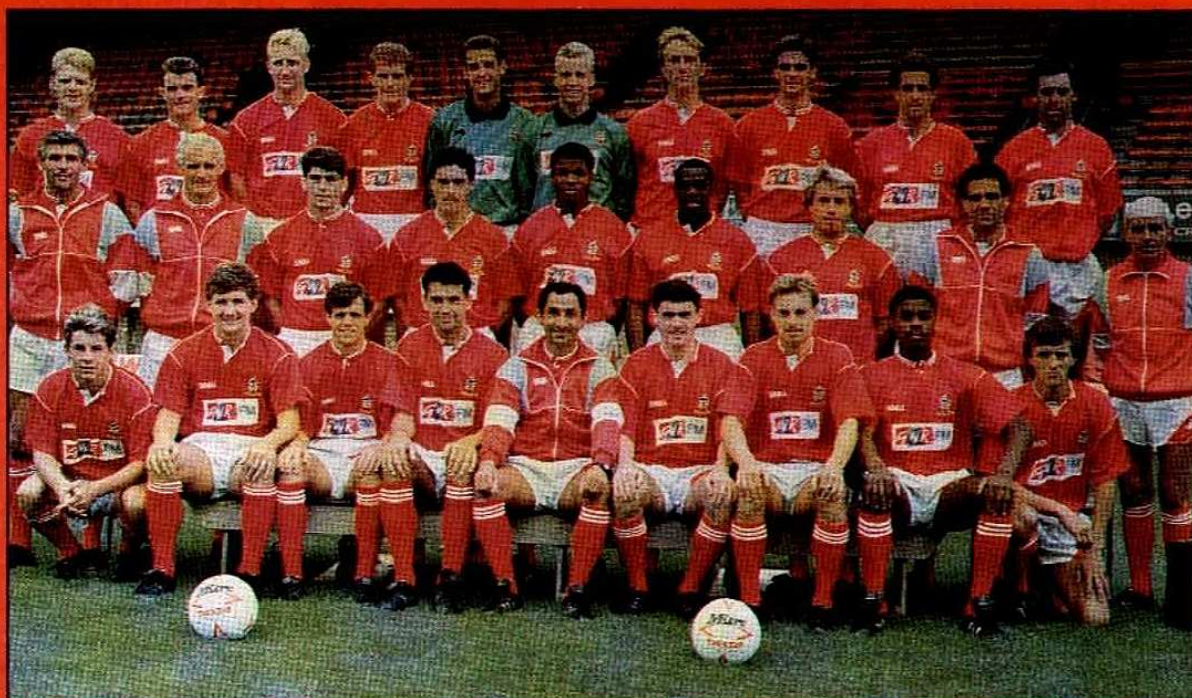
They played in the Third Division (S) until 1958 when they were elected members of the newly-formed Division Three, winning promotion from that section in 1963 when they finished runners-up. Sadly, though, they dropped back down a peg in 1965 but thereafter the Robins embarked on a great spell, perhaps the best in their long history.

Promotion was achieved once more at the end of season 1968-69, when they also won the Football League Cup, beating Arsenal 3-1 after extra-time at Wembley, when star of the show that day was one of the club's finest-ever players, Don Rogers.

They immediately built on that success and finished fifth in Division Two in 1970 - their highest-ever League placing incidently - and they carried off the Anglo-Italian Cup to show they were no mugs when it came to playing competitive European football!

After a good sequence in Division Two, relegation came again in 1974 and eight years later, they collapsed into the Fourth Division, staying their four seasons before bouncing back into Division Three in 1986 with a record 102 points claimed. Twelve months later they were back in Division Two - and last season Swindon only missed out on possible promotion to Division One by losing to Crystal Palace in the play-offs.

Swindon's 37 year-old manager Ossie Ardiles, the former Spurs and Argentinian international midfielder, who took over control of the playing side at The County Ground from Lou Macari back in July, has done an excellent job at the club in such a short time, and if you glance at the Second Division



Swindon Town 1989/90. Back row (l to r) - Phil King, Dave Hockaday, John Cornwell, Duncan Shearer, Fraser Digby, Nicky Hammond, Tim Parkin, Adrian Viveash, Steve White, Tony Galvin. Middle row - Chic Bates (ass. manager), John Trollope (Youth team manager), Tom Jones, Ross MacLaren, Jon Gittens, Neil Tomlinson, Leigh Barnard (now Cardiff City), Andy Rowland (coach), Kevin Morris (physio). Front row - Paul Hunt, Steve Foley, Mark Jones, Colin Calderwood, Ossie Ardiles (manager), Alan McLoughlin, Paul Bodin, Fitzroy Simpson and Nicky Summerbee.



table you will see that the Robins are nicely placed in the middle section, setting themselves up for a promotion challenge in the next five months or so.

Ardiles will choose from these players for today's game, most of them having already established themselves in Swindon's team this season:

FRASER DIGBY - goalkeeper, aged 22, highly rated, capped

three times by England at Under 21 level, and who was previously an apprentice with Manchester United. Has now chalked up over 140 appearances for Town.

DAVE HOCKADAY - full-back, aged 32, who has

been with the club since August 1983 when he left Blackpool, for whom he scored 26 goals in 179 outings, mainly as a winger. Was converted into a full-back by Swindon and has now topped 270 appearances in that position.

PAUL BODIN (top left) - full-back, aged 23, a native of Cardiff, who joined Town from the now defunct Newport County in March 1988, having

earlier served with Cardiff City and Bath City. He is close to the milestone of 150 senior appearances.

ALAN McLOUGHLIN - midfield, aged 22, from Manchester, former apprentice at Old Trafford who signed for Swindon on a free transfer in August 1986. Played 27 games on loan to Torquay in seasons 1986-87 and 1987-88.

COLIN CALDERWOOD - Scottish central defender, aged 24, and the club captain. Transferred to Swindon from Mansfield in June 1985 after making 110 appearances for the Stags. He has now amassed in excess of 200 for the Robins.

JON GITTENS (above, centre) - defender, aged 25, from Moseley, Birmingham, who played eighteen



League games for Southampton before joining Swindon for a Tribunal-set fee of £40,000 in July 1987. Started his career with Paget Rangers and last season he accumulated 51 disciplinary points!

STEVE FOLEY - midfield, aged 27, a Liverpoolian, signed by Swindon from Sheffield United for £35,000 in July 1987. He started off at Anfield, had a spell on loan with Fulham, scored five goals in 40 games for Grimsby and then hit 18 in 76 appearances for the Blades. He has now played 100 plus times for Swindon.

SHAUN CLOSE - forward, aged 23, signed earlier this season from AFC Bournemouth, having previously served with Tottenham (9 League games).

TOM JONES - midfield, aged 25, born Aldershot but signed by Swindon from Aberdeen at the start of last season. Was one-time apprentice with Chelsea and also assisted Farnborough Town and Weymouth.

DUNCAN SHEARER - striker, aged 27, a native of Fort William, who was bought from Huddersfield in June 1988 for £250,000 after netting 47 goals in less than 100 games for the Terriers. He began his career with Chelsea, who spotted his talents while he was with Inverness Clachnacuddin.

STEVE WHITE - striker, who will be 31 on 2nd January, has served and scored for four different clubs: 52 goals in 172 games for Bristol Rovers (two spells), 30 in 79 for Luton (two spells), 12 in 31 for Charlton and over 40 in almost 140 outings for Swindon. He has also been on loan to Lincoln (3 apps.). He joined the Robins from Eastville on a free transfer in June 1986.

ROSS MacLAREN (bottom left) - midfield/defender, aged 27, from Edinburgh, who netted 22 goals in 179 games for Shrewsbury and five in 144 for Derby County prior to arriving at The County Ground in July 1988 for a fee of £150,000. He was a member of the PFA Division Two side whilst with Derby.

FITZROY SIMPSON - midfield, aged 19, born Bradford-on-Avon, who has progressed through Swindon's youth and reserve team ranks - and made his debut for the club twelve months ago - coming on for 30 seconds against Shrewsbury.

JOHN CORNWELL - midfield, aged 25, from Bethnal Green, who struck 39 goals in 225 outings for Leyton Orient and just one in 37 appearances for Newcastle, before teaming up with Swindon in December 1988 for £60,000.

PAUL HUNT - striker, aged 18, a home-produced youngster, who was a consistent scorer in Swindon's youth and reserve teams over the last two seasons.

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BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION 2										SCORE	ATT.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14
AUGUST																								
9	Sheffield U	H								0-3	14,907	Bradshaw	Bradley	Parkin	Talbot	Whyte	North	Ford	Goodman	West	McNally	Anderson	Robson 4s	Thomas 8s
12	AFC Bournemouth	A								1-1	8,226	Bradshaw	Bradley	Parkin	Robson	Whyte	North	Ford	Goodman	West	McNally	Anderson	Talbot 10s	Thomas 9s
16	Fort Vale	A								1-2	7,695	Bradshaw	Burgess	Parkin	Robson	Whyte	Bradley	Ford	Goodman	West	McNally	Anderson		Thomas 11s
SEPTEMBER																								
1	Sunderland	H								1-1	10,885	Bradshaw	Burgess	Parkin	Robson	Whyte	Bradley	Ford	Goodman	West	McNally	Anderson	Talbot 8s	Thomas 1s
5	Leicester C	A								3-1	10,727	Marriott	Burgess	Parkin	Robson	Whyte	Bradley	Ford	Goodman	West	McNally	Anderson	Talbot 4s	Thomas
16	Oxford U	H								3-2*	9,628	Marriott	Burgess	Parkin	Robson	Whyte	Bradley	Ford	Goodman	West	McNally	Anderson	Thomas 4s	North 2s
20	Oxford C (LCC 2/D)	H								1-3	7,771	Ward	Bradley	Parkin	Robson	Whyte	North	Ford	Goodman	West	McNally	Anderson	Thomas	Burgess 2s
23	Bradford C	A								1-2	6,907	Marriott	Bradley	Burgess	Robson	Whyte	North	Ford	Goodman	West	McNally	Anderson	Thomas 11s	Dobbins
27	Oldham Athletic	H								2-2	9,269	Naylor	Bradley	Burgess	Robson	Whyte	North	Ford	Goodman	West	McNally	Anderson	Thomas 11s	Talbot 9s
30	Blackburn R	H								3-2	19,739	Naylor	Bradley	Burgess	Robson	Whyte	North	Ford	Goodman	Thomas	McNally	Anderson	Talbot 4s	Bartlett
OCTOBER																								
1	Bradford C. (LCC 2/2)	A								5-3	5,731	Naylor	Bradley	Burgess	Talbot	Whyte	North	Barham	Goodman	Thomas	McNally	Bartlett	Allardycce	Foster 8s
14	Widford	A								2-0	10,444	Naylor	Bradley	Burgess	Talbot	Whyte	North	Barham	Bartlett	Thomas	McNally	Ford	Allardycce	Foster
15	Wolves	H								1-2	21,316	Naylor	Bradley	Burgess	Talbot	Whyte	North	Barham	Goodman	Thomas	McNally	Ford	Robson 2s	Foster
17	Stoke City	A								1-2	11,991	Naylor	Parkin	Burgess	Robson	Whyte	North	Barham	Goodman	Thomas	McNally	Ford	Talbot 4s	Bartlett
21	Hull City	H								1-1	9,228	Naylor	Parkin	Burgess	Robson	Whyte	North	Barham	Goodman	Thomas	McNally	Bartlett	Talbot 11s	Bartlett (1) 7s
25	Newcastle Utd (LCC 3)	A								1-0	22,639	Naylor	Parkin	Hodson	Talbot	Whyte	North	Ford	Goodman	Thomas	McNally	Robson	Talbot 11s	Barham
28	Middlesbrough	A								0-0	14,076	Naylor	Parkin	Hodson	Talbot	Whyte	North	Ford	Goodman	Thomas	McNally	Robson	Bartlett	Allardycce
NOVEMBER																								
1	Newcastle Utd	H								1-5	12,339	Naylor	Parkin	Hodson	Talbot	Whyte	North	Ford	Goodman	Thomas	McNally	Robson	Bartlett 11s	Allardycce 9s
14	Newcastle Utd	A								1-3	12,028	Naylor	Burgess	Hodson	Talbot	Whyte	North	Barham	Goodman	Bartlett	McNally	Ford	Thomas 7s	Parkin
18	Barnsley	H								7-0	9,317	Naylor	Hodson	Harbey	Talbot	Bennett	Whyte	Ford	Goodman	Bartlett	McNally	Parkin	Thomas 9s	Burgess 5s
22	Portsmouth	A								1-1	9,069	Naylor	Hodson	Harbey	Talbot	Raven	Whyte	Ford	Goodman	Bartlett	McNally	Parkin	Thomas	Burgess 2s
22	Derby Co (LCC 4)	A								0-2	21,313	Naylor	Hodson	Harbey	Talbot	Raven	Whyte	Ford	Goodman	Bartlett	McNally	Parkin	Thomas	Robson 2s
25	Leeds Utd	H								2-1	15,116	Naylor	Burgess	Harbey	Talbot	Raven	Whyte	Ford	Goodman	Bartlett	McNally	Parkin	Thomas	Robson 4s
29	Derby Co (ZC)	H								0-5	4,880	Naylor	Burgess	Harbey	Talbot	Raven	Whyte	Ford	Goodman	Bartlett	McNally	Parkin	Thomas	Robson 2s
DECEMBER																								
1	Sheffield Utd	A								1-3	14,094	Naylor	Burgess	Harbey	Talbot	Raven	Whyte	Ford	Goodman	Bartlett	McNally	Parkin	Thomas	Robson (1) 4s
2	AFC Bournemouth	H								2-2	8,568	Naylor	Burgess	Harbey	Robson	Raven	Whyte	Ford	Goodman	Bartlett	McNally	Anderson	West 9s	Anderson 11s

BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION 2
up to and including Sunday 11th December 1989

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sheff Utd	21	7	3	1	20	12	6	3	1	17	9	45
Leeds United	21	9	2	0	21	6	4	3	3	15	15	44
Sunderland	21	6	4	1	23	14	4	3	3	13	15	37
Newcastle	21	7	2	1	21	12	3	4	4	17	12	36
Ipswich	21	5	4	1	18	11	4	3	4	14	16	34
Oldham	21	7	4	0	20	10	2	3	5	7	13	34
West Ham	21	6	3	2	19	9	2	4	4	13	16	31
Blackburn R	21	3	5	2	22	19	4	5	2	16	14	31
Swindon T	21	5	2	3	22	10	3	4	4	14	19	30
Brighton	21	5	3	3	17	10	2	4	4	13	17	28
Plymouth A.	21	5	1	4	13	11	3	2	6	18	19	27
Port Vale	21	4	5	1	14	10	2	3	6	11	16	26
Oxford Utd	21	5	3	3	18	14	2	2	6	12	19	26
Watford	21	6	1	3	16	11	1	4	6	8	16	26
Bournemouth	21	5	2	4	16	16	2	3	5	14	19	26
Albion	21	3	4	3	20	19	3	3	5	15	17	25
Leicester	21	4	3	4	14	15	2	3	5	12	17	23
Bradford	21	5	3	2	14	9	0	5	6	9	17	23
Barnsley	21	3	4	4	13	15	3	1	6	10	26	23
Portsmouth	21	2	5	4	15	17	3	2	5	9	14	22
Middlesbrough	21	4	3	3	13	14	1	3	7	11	20	21
Hull	21	1	4	5	8	14	1	7	3	13	15	17
Stoke City	21	2	5	4	11	14	0	4	6	6	21	15

PLAYER'S RECORDS

Player	1989-90		Goals	WBA Career (L + C)	
	Apps	Goals		Apps	Goals
S. Allardyce	0 + 1	-	-	0 + 1	-
V. Anderson	0 + 1	-	-	0 + 1	-
C. Anderson	11 + 1	-	-	115 + 11	10
M. Barham	5	-	-	5	-
K. Bartlett	11 + 2	5	5	21 + 8	8
M. Bennett	1	-	-	219 + 1	10
D. Bradley	13	1	1	81 + 7	5
P. Bradshaw	4	-	-	22	-
D. Burgess	17 + 3	-	-	17 + 3	-
I. Cartwright	-	-	-	0 + 1	-
W. Dobbins	-	-	-	28 + 12	-
A. Ford	25	3	3	34	4
A. Foster	0 + 1	-	-	0 + 1	-
D. Goodman	25	11	11	110 + 11	36
G. Harbey	7	-	-	7	-
S. Hodson	7	-	-	24	-
B. McNally	26	5	5	26	5
A. Marriott	3	-	-	3	-
S. Naylor	18	-	-	164	-
S. North	15 + 1	-	-	85 + 1	-
S. Parkin	18	1	1	18	1
P. Raven	6	-	-	9	-
G. Robson	15 + 5	2	2	115 + 30	13
B. Talbot	14 + 7	2	2	71 + 7	6
J. Thomas	9 + 11	4	4	9 + 11	4
G. Ward	1	-	-	1	-
C. West	9 + 1	2	2	26 + 1	10
C. Whyte	26	5	5	20	8
Opponents	-	1	1	-	-

* Opponent (Greenhall) Own Goal

Division 2 Facts & Figures

Top Scores:

Albion	7	Barnsley	0	11-11-89
Swindon T	6	Stoke C	0	4-11-89
West Ham	5	Sunderland	0	18-10-89
Blackburn	5	Barnsley	0	30-9-89
Wolves	5	Portsmouth	0	30-9-89
Bournemouth	5	Hull City	4	26-8-89
Sheff. Utd.	5	Brighton	4	9-9-89
Albion	1	Newcastle	5	1-11-89
Newcastle	5	Leeds United	2	19-8-89

Leading Marksmen (L & C)

21	Mick Quinn (Newcastle)
16	Andy Ritchie (Oldham)
14	Bernie Slaven (Middlesborough)
12	Marco Gabbiadini (Sunderland)
11	Steve Bull (Wolves)
11	Bobby Davison (Leeds)
11	Don Goodman (Albion)
10	Scott Sellars (Blackburn)
10	Guy Whittingham (Portsmouth)

Highest Attendances

31,715 - Leeds	v.	Newcastle	2-12-89
29,499 - Sunderland	v.	Newcastle	24-9-89
28,204 - Leeds	v.	Wolves	21-10-89
28,092 - Newcastle	v.	Sheff. Utd.	25-11-89
27,815 - Leeds	v.	Sunderland	14-10-89
27,032 - Stoke City	v.	Port Vale	23-9-89
26,921 - Leeds	v.	Watford	18-11-89
26,791 - Leeds	v.	Plymouth	1-11-89
26,484 - Leeds	v.	Bournemouth	4-11-89

Lowest Attendances

3,863 - Oxford	v.	Barnsley	21-10-89
4,027 - Oxford	v.	Bradford C.	9-9-89
4,029 - Oxford	v.	Hull	18-11-89
4,207 - Hull	v.	Port Vale	9-12-89
4,375 - Oxford	v.	Stoke	1-11-89
4,403 - Oxford	v.	Plymouth	2-12-89
4,480 - Oxford	v.	Oldham	11-11-89

League Hat-tricks

M. Quinn 4 (N'castle)	*v.	Leeds	19-8-89
P. Moulden 3 (B'nem'th)	v.	Hull	26-9-89
A. Payton 3 (Hull)	v.	B'nem'th	26-9-89
G. Strachan 3 (Leeds)	v.	Swindon T	23-9-89
M. Quinn 3 (N'castle)	v.	Brighton	21-10-89
D. Goodman 3 (Albion)	v.	Barnsley	11-11-89
A. Kernaghan 3 (Midd'bro)	v.	Blackburn	21-11-89

Sending-offs (League only)

18 players have so far been sent-off in 2nd Division games this season, with three of them - Tommy Wright (Leicester) and Paul Warhurst (Oldham) and Sean Dunphy (Barnsley) in clashes v. Albion.

Looking Back

Five Years - to 18 December 1984:

Goals by Garry Thompson and Derek Statham (penalty) were enough to give Albion a 2-1 win, on grass, at Luton Town in a First Division match which was witnessed by just 7,286 spectators, some 400 of them being Baggies fans when away supporters were allowed in to Kenilworth Road!

Ten Years - to 15 December 1979:

A crowd of 18,820 at The Hawthorns witnessed a competitive First Division game between Albion and Arsenal which finished all square at 2-2, all four goals coming in a frantic but entertaining first-half. Sammy Nelson and Frank Stapleton were on target for the Gunners while midfielders Bryan Robson and John Treweek were on the mark for Albion, and playing at No. 4 for Arsenal was a certain Brian Talbot.

Fifteen Years - to

21 December 1974:

In front of a near 30,000 crowd - those were the days - Albion beat rivals Aston Villa 2-0 in a Second Division match at The Hawthorns. That flying Scot Willie Johnston scored the first goal and Joe Mayo knocked in the second to give the Baggies' fans a great Christmas present.

Twenty Years - to

13th December 1969:

A rare First Division win at Portman Road for Albion - 1-0 the score with Jeff Astle doing his goal-poaching stuff in front of an 18,364 crowd. No - Brian T. was not in the Ipswich line-up!

Twenty Five Years - to

19 December 1964:

An unfamiliar site for Albion supporters - a goal by centre-half Stan Jones - but it was to no avail as Fulham took the points with a 3-1 win in a First Division game at Craven Cottage, watched by 10,390 freezing fans.

Thirty Years - to 19 December 1959:

To win at Old Trafford in the 1950's was indeed a great achievement - and Albion did just that by beating Manchester United 3-2 in front of 33,677 fans. Derek Hogg, Ronnie Allen and Davey Burnside scored for the Throstles while Alex Dawson and Albert Quixall replied for the Reds.

Forty Years - to 17 December 1949:

There were 20,369 spectators inside The Valley to see Albion beat Charlton Athletic 2-1 and thus achieve the League double over the Londoners in their first season back in the top flight since 1938. Irish international centre-forward Dave Walsh was Albion's two-goal hero.

Fifty Years - to 16 December 1939:

In a wartime friendly at The Hawthorns, Albion accounted for Coventry City 3-1 with goals by Harry Jones (2) and Joe Johnson. The turnout was 3,802.

100 Hundred Years - to 21 December 1889:

A pre-Christmas bonus for Albion and their dedicated band of 3,500 supporters as Accrington were defeated 4-1 at Stoney Lane in a First Division match. Tom Pearson scored a hat-trick and Jem Bayliss added the other - on a bitterly cold, frosty afternoon.

S

T

C

A

F

A

B

W

TEAM CHECK



ALBION
(Navy Blue &
White)



**SWINDON
TOWN**
(Red & White)

HALF-TIME SCOREBOARD

A - Everton v. Man. City
B - Nott. Forest v. Soton
C - Northampton v. Reading
D - Cambridge v. Peterbro
E - Carlisle v. Stockport

Stuart NAYLOR	1	Fraser DIGBY
Daryl BURGESS	2	David KERSLAKE
Graham HARBEY	3	Paul BODIN
Gary ROBSON	4	Alan McLOUGHLIN
Paul RAVEN	5	Colin CALDERWOOD
Chris WHYTE	6	Jon GITTENS
Tony FORD	7	Tom JONES
Don GOODMAN	8	Duncan SHEARER
Kevin BARTLETT	9	Steve WHITE
Bernard McNALLY	10	Ross MacLAREN
Colin ANDERSON	11	Steve FOLEY
	12	
	14	

Referee: **Mr. F. Roberts** (Prestatyn, Clwyd).

Ffrangcon Roberts is Headmaster of a Primary school in Meliden, Prestatyn, married with two teenage sons, who commenced refereeing at Stockport in 1970. He moved to Wales in 1974 to officiate in the Welsh League, then switched to the Cheshire League, reaching the League 'Line' in 1979 before getting on to the League Referees List in 1981-82. He was FIFA Referee for Wales until January 1989 (retired through age), and is also a Referees Instructor for the Welsh F.A. He likes all sports, in particular keep fit classes, squash and golf. And he also dabbles in amateur dramatics, wine-making and gardening.

Linesmen: **Mr. A. M. Davies** (Red trim flag) and **Mr. J. G. Smith** (Yellow trim flag).
The reserve official today is **Mr. J. J. Monnes**.

NEXT AT THE HAWTHORNS

West Bromwich Albion
v.
Brighton
Barclays League
Division Two
Monday 1st January
1990
Kick-off 3.00pm

West Bromwich Albion
v.
Wimbledon
F A Cup 3rd Round
Saturday 6th January
1990
Kick-off 3.00pm

TODAY'S MASCOTS



This afternoon's mascots are (left) Albion's Robert Wall, aged 10, from Wombourne, who attends Blakeley Heath Primary school, and (right) Swindon's Paul Witts, aged 12, who is a pupil at Ridgeway school, Westlea. Paul's favourite player is Steve White.



TODAY'S MATCHBALL SPONSOR

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