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# FRANCIS

## Trevor

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Despite the defeat at Charlton on Wednesday night, I would describe myself as satisfied with the last ten day's events. The Bolton victory was full of incident and good football. Whilst many people may have been surprised that we beat the league leaders, I certainly wasn't. I am always full of optimism when we are playing at home, no matter who the opposition. I just wish I could say the same when we play away. There were a couple of outstanding goals on the night and it was good to see both Paul Furlong and Jason Bowen featuring on the scoresheet. The only disappointment was Paul Devlin's sending-off which had followed the dismissal of Mike Newell in the reserve match the night before. Obviously, this will soon cause me a real problem with two of our four strikers unavailable for selection. I will be monitoring the situation daily with Kevin Francis making an excellent recovery and not far away from being ready to return to action. If Furlong or Bowen were to suffer an injury in today's game I would have to act very quickly by bringing a player in, either on a loan basis or a permanent deal. Ricky Otto has just finished his loan spell at Charlton and so that will help matters slightly. If the supporters went away from

the Bolton game pleased with what they had witnessed, then those of you who attended the Molineux match must have been given a real boost with a victory over one of our local rivals. Numerous times this season I have been puzzled by our inability to reproduce anywhere near the type of performances away from home that we have produced at St. Andrew's. The result is always important but the performance at

***It is a game that we are fully capable of winning and after the setback at Charlton it is a game that we simply must win.***

Molineux was even more pleasing. One thing is for sure. If we could play like that in all our away games until the end of the season, we would certainly gain more points than we would lose. After that victory there was so much euphoria and everyone was keen to find out, having broken the away day jinx, if we could follow it up with another success at Charlton. After Andy Legg had scored his second goal in as many games, I thought that would

provide the players with the perfect incentive to go on and win the game. To come out of the game with nothing to show for our efforts was a real blow. The performance may not have reached the levels that I was expecting but I felt that we were good enough to earn a share of the spoils. After the Wolves win, I needed confirmation at Charlton that we could perform consistently at that level and they showed on Wednesday that much more work needs to be done. Charlton were a very well-organised outfit and just because they may not have the kind of reputation that teams like Wolves have got of being a big club, it doesn't make the game any easier. Charlton are one of only two teams in this division who are unbeaten at home this season which proves what a good side they really are.

This afternoon we welcome Steve McMahon and his Swindon side to St. Andrew's. It is a game that we are fully capable of winning and after the setback at Charlton it is a game that we simply must win.

*Trevor Francis*





# PRESENTS MESSAGE

Last season, Birmingham City Football Club, in accordance with the wishes of their then manager Barry Fry, terminated its Youth Development Scheme. Any good development scheme is very expensive to run, but more than that, it requires a great deal of management time which Barry felt that he and his backroom team were unable to give at that time. Barry's great strengths are seeking and finding promising players from the lower divisions and we, the owners, felt it was correct to back Barry's judgement that our time and money would be better invested in this way.

It is no surprise or secret that, on the contrary, Trevor Francis feels that Birmingham City's future can be assured by copying the example of Manchester United, Liverpool and Blackburn and investing

heavily in finding and developing our own players from a very young age. After all, Trevor himself came through the Blues youth

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## ***The search for the next Trevor Francis - Birmingham City Academy of Football***

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scheme of the time!

The club has therefore made the decision to back Trevor 100% by setting up **The Birmingham City Academy of Football**. 'Academy' means a specialized institute for

learning. We have already recruited some of the most experienced and successful professionals in this field in Brian Eastick, who will be responsible to Trevor for the success of the academy, and Bob Latchford, another of Blues' great youth

development successes, who has been appointed as Youth Development Officer. Brian and Bob have been working non-stop and have recruited some of the best scouts and coaches in the youngster's football. Our plan is to spread the net even wider in the search for promising young talent and to extend the scope of the Academy to children as young as nine years of age. In order to compete with the lure of the biggest Premiership clubs, Birmingham City have employed professionals who have experience of spotting and developing potential from an extremely young age



and so our Academy team will be liaising with schools throughout the West Midlands to ensure that every promising youngster has an opportunity to attend open trials on a regular basis. The Birmingham City Academy of Football will be available to all children on merit. It will not depend on the 'old boy network'. Once identified, Academy pupils will receive the best equipment and facilities that we can afford. For example, each age group will have their own physiotherapist. We will also utilise other expertise available within the club such as Arvel Lowe, the senior fitness coach. Trevor Francis and Bob Latchford are the best examples of how a club can develop players capable of success at the top level of football. Trevor has convinced the club that it is worth investing in an Academy of Football which must be run as professionally as the senior squads. It will cost £150,000 each year to run and it is unlikely to show any return whatsoever for five years.

Karren and Allan Robson are looking at ways in which the club can raise the money to fund such a scheme. As a gesture of good faith in their ability to convince the good people of Birmingham to help, we have decided to assist their efforts by personally donating an additional £1 for every £1 they can raise for the Academy.

We believe that Birmingham youngsters deserve the same opportunities as those in London, Manchester, and Liverpool and are desperate for the Academy to be a success. When we finally leave Birmingham City Football Club, whether that is ten, twenty, or thirty years time, what finer legacy could we leave behind than a club capable of producing some of the best players in English football? Please help where you can.

A programme of fund raising events will be held in aid of the Academy culminating in the biggest and best Celebrity Dinner at the end of the season. Top names from the world of football, sport in general, and

showbusiness will be supporting the event and, of course, all the directors, players and management will be present for the biggest celebration in the history of the Blues. You will be able to win the opportunity to have the use of St. Andrew's for your own football match, be chairman of the club for a match and walk away with totally unique prizes that were beyond your wildest dreams.

Tickets for this fantastic event will be sold out months in advance. So, to reserve your table for just £350+VAT contact the commercial department on 0121 772 0101 ext 7.





David Sullivan  
David Gold  
Ralph Gold



# ST. ANDREW'S

## newsround



The new office complex is above the Kop Ticket Office that is to become the new port of call for all ticket enquiries

### OFFICE MOVE

It's all change at St. Andrew's next week as both the club offices and the Main Ticket Office will be moving locations. On Friday 29th November, the removal men arrive to transport everything across to the new offices situated at the back of the Brew XI Kop stand. The club would like to apologise in advance for any inconvenience this may cause to supporters on this date. Everything should be installed and the club offices be fully operational by Monday 2nd December. Obviously, this will mean that there will be a lot of changes of which all supporters should be aware.

#### Ticket Office

On Friday 29th November, tickets for the Barnsley and Grimsby games will still be sold from the present ticket office by the Main Stand. However, because of the re-location of the computers, there may be a limited choice of tickets available.

On Saturday 30th November, the new ticket office at the back of the Brew

X1 Kop stand will be fully operational with a full choice of tickets available. From this date onwards, the present ticket office by the Main Stand will only be open on a matchday and the Kop Ticket Office will become the new port of call for all ticket sales and enquiries. The opening hours will not change.

#### Reception

From Monday 2nd December, all visitors to the club offices should report to the Kop reception. All office staff will be moving over to the new offices in the Kop stand, without exception. The switchboard will be operational from 8.30am to 5.30pm throughout the week.

### CLUB SHOP NEWS

With Christmas just around the corner, both the Superstore and the City Centre shop will be opening late on Thursday nights until 7pm. Your first opportunity to do a bit of late-night shopping will be this coming

Thursday (28th November) and this will continue up until Christmas. Both stores will also be open on Sundays between 10am and 4pm starting from December 1st. All three replica kits are available in all sizes and they also have in stock lots of other Christmas gift ideas including calendars, watches, gold and silver pendants, clocks and the adorable cuddly Beau Brummie dog (see pages 24 and 25). Don't forget that as well as visiting the new Superstore before and after the game, you can also purchase any club shop items at half-time from the matchday souvenir shop, situated at the rear of the store inside the Cattell Road turnstile.

## MEET THE PLAYERS

To coincide with the Thursday late-night openings at the Superstore at St. Andrew's, but not at the City Centre shop, there will be guest appearances from selected first team players. Each Thursday between 6pm and 7pm, as well as picking up all those Christmas gifts, you can have the chance of meeting some of your Blues heroes and collecting those treasured autographs. In fact, if you buy a calendar, for example, then why not ask the players to sign it and make your gift extra special.

## BOXING DAY BLUES

The kick-off for Blues' Boxing Day clash at Oldham has been brought back. The game will now begin at 1pm instead of the scheduled 3pm start. So, if you're planning to travel to the match, then make sure that you don't overdo the festive celebrations and miss the coach to Boundary Park!

## RED DEVIL'S RESERVES

Another piece of fixture news that may be of interest to supporters is the rearrangement of the reserve team clash against the mighty Manchester United. The game was scheduled for this coming Wednesday but, due to United's Coca Cola Cup commitments, the match will now take place on Wednesday 4th December at Keys Park, home of Hednesford Town.

## SPECIAL MESSAGE

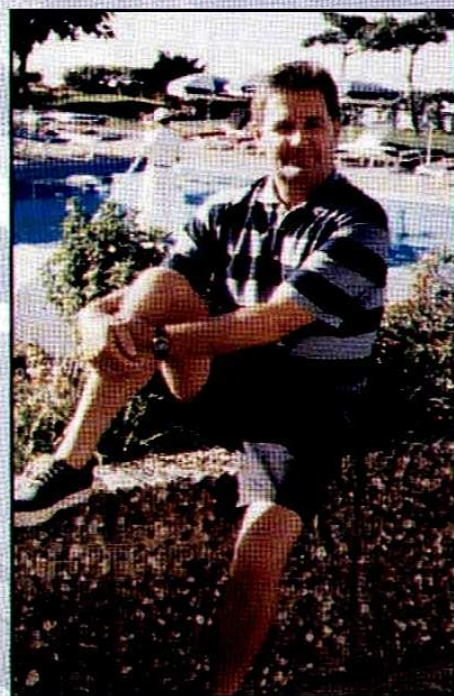
The club have been asked to relay the following message through our matchday programme to a couple of avid Blues fans.

'To Ray and Cheryl Goody, I don't know how I'd have managed without you. You've been really great friends. Thank you.'

With love from Karen, Jack and Alex.'

## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Blues season ticket holder Roy Vaughan has supported the club for over 40 years and today celebrates his birthday. Special wishes are sent by wife Sandra and children Richard and Scott who are all avid supporters and sit alongside Roy in block 29 of the Brew XI Kop stand. Birthday greetings are also sent



by everyone at the club.

## NORWICH PROGRAMME

The club have been contacted by a number of Norwich supporters who are desperate to get their hands on a copy of the programme from when the Canaries played at St. Andrew's in October. If you think you can help, please contact Peter Lewis on 0121 772 0101 ext. 1236.

**Moulinex SWAN**



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# TERRACE

## talk

What a difference a couple of results make. Although this is being written prior to the Charlton game and the current mood of supporters will be dependent on that result, the players proved beyond any doubt their true capabilities in the victories over Bolton and Wolves. After two such impressive performances, it's unfair to single out individuals and a valid case could be made for every player. However, I must mention Paul Tait, an enormously gifted player, but who in truth has had more than his share of ups and downs. His ability has never been in question, but injuries and problems both on and off the field have cost him dear. Nevertheless he now has a golden opportunity of proving to supporters and critics alike, just what a fine player he is. His response to the crude attempts by the Bolton players to incite him was first class and displayed a maturity previously unseen. He let his football do the talking whilst he followed this up with an equally impressive display at Wolves, linking up superbly in midfield with Barry Horne and Chris Holland.

In reality the Wolves result was worth just three points but the pressure building from our appalling away form threatened to engulf the Club. Perhaps now we'll be slightly more relaxed, though there can be no relaxation in effort, determination or desire to win. Furthermore, was there a single Blues fan who was not delighted to put one over a certain Mark McGhee, a man who has the uncanny ability to motivate the

opposition but seemingly not his own team? I am sure that Mark means no harm and believes what he says, but too many of his comments are extremely unwise just hours before the passion of a local derby.

Watching a re-run of the Wolves game on video, it's pleasing to note that Gareth Southgate's judgement as a tipster matches that of his ability as a penalty-taker! Seriously though at least Gareth was able to appreciate Steve Bruce's excellent performance which was in sharp contrast to a certain TV presenter. Perhaps someone should point out to Tony Francis that Steve's astute reading of a game more than compensates for his so-called lack of pace. I would not send the bath-chair round just yet if I were you Tony!

Thanks to everyone who wrote stating how much they enjoyed the 1956 Players Reunion organised by the Birmingham City Historical & Collectors Society. We're pleased to confirm that the "1970's Players Evening" has been arranged for Friday, 6th December with guest speakers Bob Latchford, Dave Latchford, Malcolm Page, Alan Campbell, Joe Gallagher and Karen Broadhurst. New members are always welcome and can contact the Secretary on 323 4851 for full details.

Ivor Crigman

Birmingham City Historical & Collectors Society

# Mean Deals

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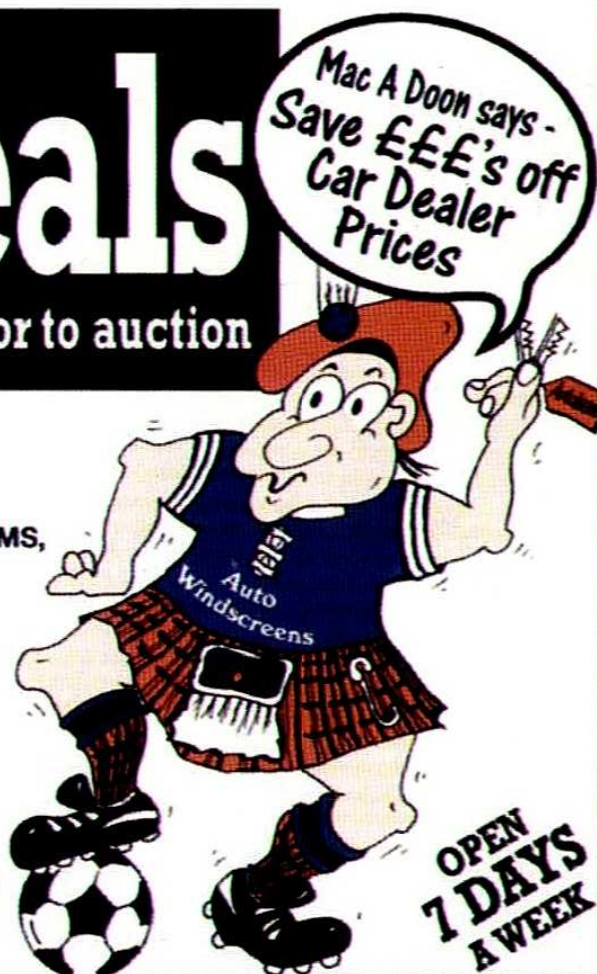
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# FOCUS ON...

## BLUES 3 BOLTON WANDERERS 1



**main pic:**  
*Jason Bowen launches another attack.*

**insets:**

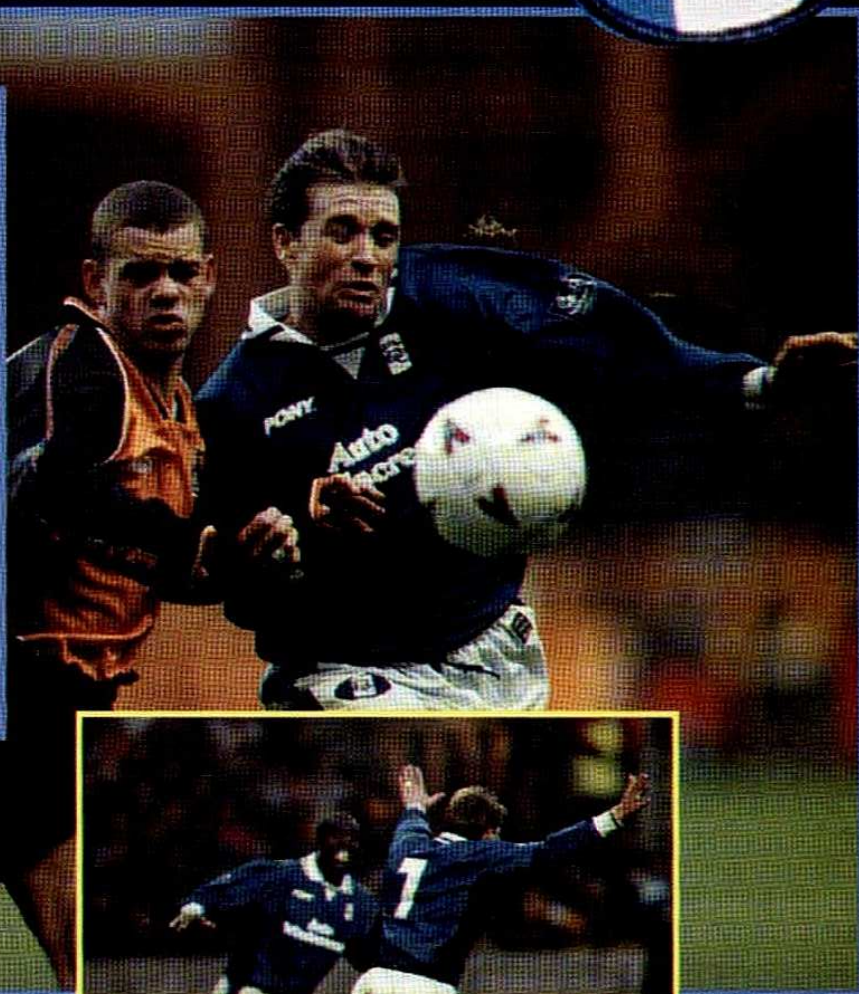
*Top: Jason Bowen is first to congratulate Paul Furlong on his opener.*

*Below: Confirmation: Jason Bowen cracks in Blues 2nd ... and enjoys the moment with Matt Jackson.*

*Left: Gary Ablett intercepts a Bolton attack.*



# WOLVES 1 BLUES 2



*main pic:*  
Wolves' Jamie Smith  
gives Andy Legg a run for his money.

*insets:*  
Above: Steve Bruce clears a dangerous  
attack from Roberts and Van der laan.

*Below left:* Gary Breen fires  
Blues' into a 6th minute lead.

*opposit:* Andy Legg turns  
to celebrate his winner.

*Below right:* Paul Devlin keeps  
a close eye on the  
attacking Jamie Smith.





# the man of the match

Blues' Welsh international Barry Horne became the latest recipient of the Capolito Roma man of the match award after the well-deserved and much needed victory over the league leaders Bolton Wanderers. The gap between the Trotters and the rest of the division has been growing by the week and Blues themselves were twenty points behind the Lancashire men before the evening's entertainment had begun.

Entertainment was certainly the name of the game in this encounter with three sending-offs, a temper tantrum the type of which would have been more at home at a playgroup, and an own goal scored by the opposition manager's son. This game had everything, but more important to Blues and their management team were the three points that moved the side up to 15th in the first division.



Barry Horne receives a £100 Capolito Roma voucher from Alan Kent of Central Pallet

"We found something extra in the second half and to beat a team who play as well as they do and came to us at the top of the league was very satisfying," said boss Trevor Francis.

Barry Horne put in his usual battling performance winning the ball and in his deep midfield role he was always looking to create goalscoring chances and begin moves. This he did with Blues' second goal as he tidied up a loose ball on the edge of the box and then released Chris Holland who beat two defenders and ran half the length of the pitch to set up the decisive second goal for Jason Bowen.

In fact, Holland could count himself unlucky not to have picked up the award himself as he was involved in the build-up for all three goals.

Francis said of the Blackburn born youngster: "As well as his ability on the ball, Chris has a good touch, technique and passing skill. He also has terrific endurance and he showed recently at Lilleshall that he is best ever when it comes to endurance."

Leon Hickman of the Evening Mail wrote of Blues' performance: 'They allowed their opponents little room to manipulate the ball, tackled quickly, passed surely and, most of all, defended securely, even though they were without skipper Steve Bruce.'

**Bolton  
Wanderers**

Wednesday 13th November 1996

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**CHRIS HOLLAND**

# MEET THE REAL CHRIS HOLLAND

BY PETER LEWIS

Blues midfield starlet Chris Holland admits that at the age of 14 he had to make a very important decision about his future and it certainly seems that he chose the right option.

Chris explains: "From a young age I had always excelled at running as well as football. In fact, I finished fourth in the 1500 metres at the English Schools Championships. I thought seriously about an athletics career but I decided that football would be the better alternative. It was a very hard decision for me to take because I was very passionate and committed to my running."

Chris was born in a small town called Whalley situated just outside Blackburn and grew up with his parents along with sister Lindsey and brother John. His father is an engineer and his mother works as a secretary and he has certainly never forgotten his roots.

"I was a Blackburn lad through and through, and all my friends and family still live in the area. We are a very close family and are together on a regular basis because I travel back most weekends," said Chris.

Looking back to

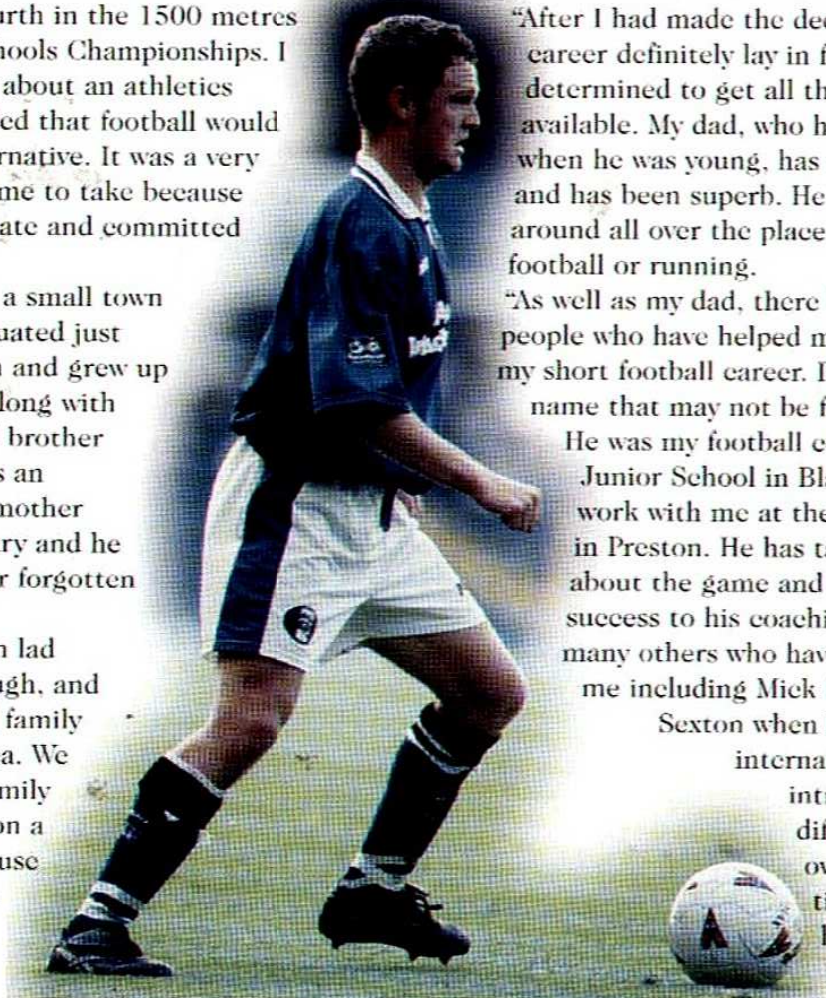
his teenage years, he insists that school work didn't take second place to his football and he left with some reasonable qualifications under his belt. After all, he did actually attend two schools at the same time, although the second one was the National School of Football!

"After I had made the decision that my future career definitely lay in football then I was determined to get all the best coaching available. My dad, who had trials with Leeds when he was young, has always encouraged me and has been superb. He didn't mind driving me around all over the place, whether it be for football or running.

"As well as my dad, there have been a lot of people who have helped me along the way during my short football career. Peter Warburton is a name that may not be familiar to many people.

He was my football coach at St. Francis Junior School in Blackburn and went onto work with me at the School of Excellence in Preston. He has taught me a great deal about the game and I owe so much of my success to his coaching. There have been many others who have had an influence on me including Mick Bosworth and Dave

Sexton when I have been on international duty. I have been introduced to a lot of different styles of football over a short period of time and it has all helped to improve my game," said Chris.



Growing up in Blackburn, Chris naturally became a regular at Ewood Park. However, in the early days, Rovers were not quite the force they are today.

"When I first started going along to watch them, they were playing in the old second division in front of crowds numbering a few thousand. One game that always sticks in my mind was against West Ham when Rovers were leading 4-0 only to end with a 4-4 draw," remembers Chris.

Outside of football, Chris enjoys nothing more than a night out with his friends and girlfriend Claire. The couple met about five years ago but it wasn't until they met up about three years ago at the appropriate venue of an ice rink that they fell for each other.

"Claire isn't really a football fan but she came along to the last home match against Bolton and apparently she just kept moaning about being cold. Although, secretly, I think she quite enjoyed it," laughs Chris.

Music is an important plays a major role in Chris' life and on a Saturday night after a match

he can usually be found in one of the clubs in Blackburn with his friends.

"My taste in music is pretty varied. I enjoy anything from Oasis to hardcore Techno music," admits Chris.

However, he certainly wouldn't let his social life get in the way of his football career. Although, as he recalls, you can get yourself into dangerous situations, even while you are off the pitch.

He remembers: "There was one game whilst I was at Preston when I was substitute and I was warming up along the touchline. Suddenly, the ball was kicked in my direction and two players came racing after it. The ball went out of play so I went to collect it and both players collided into me. I was injured and had to be substituted before I even got on the pitch! I was actually out with the injury for a couple of weeks. I didn't find it amusing at the time but when I look back now I suppose it must have been an hilarious sight for the crowd."

# HALF TIME QUIZ

BY ANNA WATTON

- Which team recently scored 4 goals in the first half of a Nationwide League Division One match?
- Which former Blues player recently resigned as manager of Telford United?
- Name the midfielder who played on loan with Blues and Swindon last season?
- Which Scottish club recently won its first major trophy - the Scottish Challenge Cup?
- Against which team did Blackburn gain their first league win this season?
- Name the two men who have managed both Blues and Swindon.
- In which European country did teams called HJK and TPS contest this years cup final?
- Which Premiership player recently made his 700th league appearance and scored twice in the match?
- Tranmere Rovers' record goalscorer has also played briefly for Blues and Swindon. Who is he?
- Who, before Glenn Hoddle, was the only England manager to win his first three matches?
- Which country scored 11 goals in a recent European World Cup qualifier?
- Swindon were knocked out of last year's Autowindcreens Shield by a team Blues beat on the way to the winning the trophy two years ago. Who was it?
- Former Blues striker Andy Saville now plays for which club?
- Which Nationwide Division One side lost four successive home games earlier this season?
- Who was the Blues goalkeeper when Swindon won 6-4 at St. Andrew's in April 1993?

1. Portsmouth (v W.B.A.) 2. Wayne Clarke 3. David Price 4. Stranraer 5. Liverpool 6. Lou Macari and Dave Mackay 7. Finland 8. Peter Beardsley 9. Ian Muir 10. Walter Winterbottom 11. Macedonia (v Liechtenstein) 12. Hereford United 13. Wigan Athletic 14. Wolves 15. Andy Gosney.

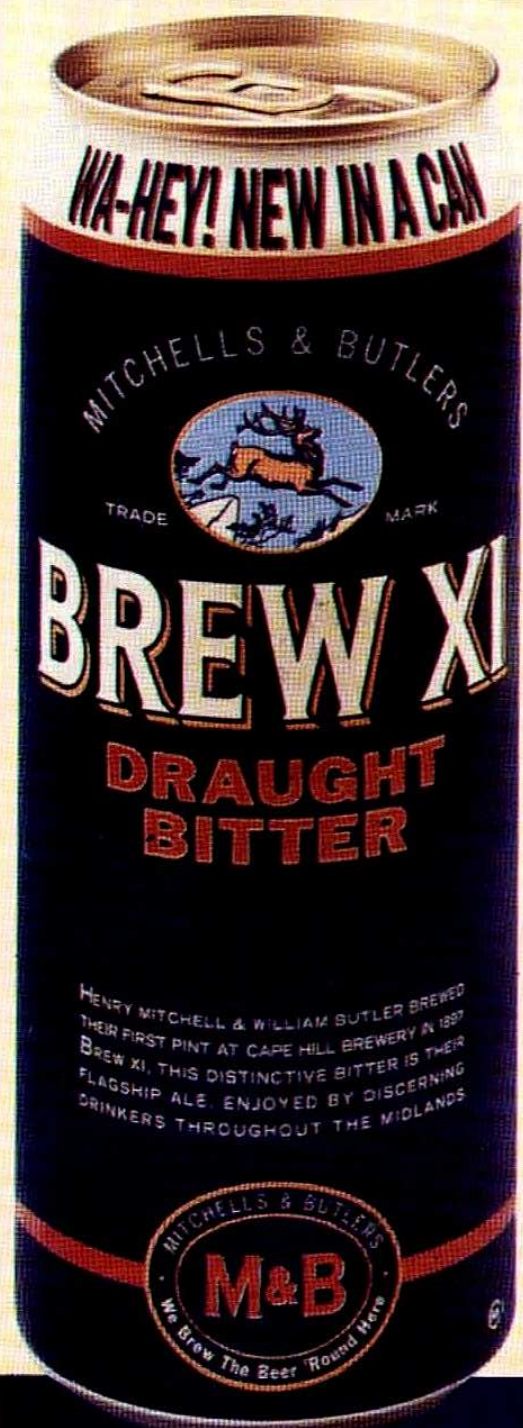
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**TODAY'S TEAM MASCOTS****sponsored by**

Blues will have two lucky mascots leading them into battle before this afternoon's match and don't be surprised if one of them has a rather sheepish look on his face. It will certainly be a case of little and large with six-year-old Scott Byrne joined by Jack Pilmer, 34 years his senior. It was Scott's birthday yesterday and we are glad that he has chosen to continue the celebrations here at St. Andrew's today. He attends St. Bernadette's School and has supported Blues since the tender age of just three. Scott's favourite player is Ian Bennett and, apart from football, he also enjoys

watching videos and is a big fan of the Power Rangers. Let's hope that he chooses to wear his blue suit this afternoon.

Jack will actually be celebrating his 40th birthday with his family tomorrow but there may not be many of them left when he discovers who was responsible for today's surprise. Jack had no idea what was in store for him as he made his way to St. Andrew's this afternoon. Jack has followed the fortunes of the Blues for 28 years and nominates Trevor Francis as his favourite ever Blues player. Despite his age, Jack has been known to put on a pair of football boots himself and his experience has proved to be invaluable for the Belview United defence. He also likes to play pool and snooker, and you won't be surprised to hear that he is not a member of the Beau Brummie Club! Hope you both enjoy your day with us here at St. Andrew's.

**Scott Byrne****Jack Palmer****ALL THE NEWS - ALL THE VIEWS - FIRST ON BLUES CLUBCALL 0891 12 11 88**

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# RESERVES & YOUTH

*A closer look at the youngsters at Birmingham City*

## BIRMINGHAM CITY RESERVES 0 EVERTON RESERVES 0

Hednesford Town's Keys Park ground was used for the first time by Blues to hold a reserve game but any locals who came out expecting to see a stylish display of attacking football would have gone away sadly disappointed.

There were few chances in a game that was more notable for the two players sent off than for any other reason. Blues striker Mike Newell and Everton apprentice Gavin McCann both received their marching orders from referee Castle for two bookable offences. Newell was sent off late in the first half and McCann followed for an early bath at the beginning of the second half.

Of the little football that was played, Blues created the better openings. Christy McKenzie should have scored when he was presented with a gilt-edge opportunity with a one-on-one with the visiting keeper.

Wayne Dyer also went close to scoring after John Frain had set him up inside the six yard box but the youngster hit his shot just past the post as Blues piled on the pressure in the closing minutes. However, at the end of the day, both teams had to be content with a share of the spoils and the result moved Blues up to ninth in the table.

**Blues team:** Sutton, Bass, Frain, Edwards, Rea, Castle, Hinton, Cornforth, Newell, McKenzie, Homer, subs Francis (D), Dyer, Dyson.

## PONTINS PREMIER LEAGUE

### AUGUST

Thursday 22nd **Liverpool** H 1-1  
Wednesday 28th **Leeds United** A 0-1

### SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 11th **Nottingham Forest** H 1-1  
Monday 16th **Blackburn Rovers** A 4-0

Wednesday 25th **Stoke City** H 0-1

### OCTOBER

Wednesday 2nd **Oldham Athletic** H 0-1  
Wednesday 9th **Tranmere Rovers** A 2-1

Wednesday 23rd **Bolton Wanderers** H 1-1

### NOVEMBER

Tuesday 5th **Derby County** A 0-3  
Tuesday 12th **Everton** H 0-0

### DECEMBER

Wednesday 4th **Manchester United** H 7.15  
Tuesday 10th **Nottingham Forest** A

### JANUARY

Monday 6th **Stoke City** A  
Wednesday 22nd **Blackburn Rovers** H 7.15

### FEBRUARY

Wednesday 5th **Bolton Wanderers** A  
Wednesday 19th **Derby County** H 7.15  
Tuesday 25th **Everton** A

### MARCH

Wednesday 12th **Sheffield Wednesday** H 7.15  
Wednesday 19th **Manchester United** A

Wednesday 26th **Leeds United** H 7.15

### APRIL

Monday 7th **Liverpool** A  
Wednesday 16th **Tranmere Rovers** H 7.15  
Tuesday 29th **Oldham Athletic** A

Home fixtures between 1st November and the 31st March will be played at Keys Park, the home of Hednesford Town. Matches before and after this date will be played as usual at St. Andrew's.

## STOKE CITY YOUTH 3 BIRMINGHAM CITY YOUTH 0

Blues' Director of Youth Coaching Brian Eastick described this Purity Youth League Cup performance as 'inept' and was not happy with the attitude of some of his players.

He said: "We didn't compete in the right areas of the park to give ourselves a realistic chance of obtaining a result. There were a lot of disappointing individual performances that disappointed me a great deal."

Honours were even at the half-time whistle but the Potteries club made their dominance show with three second half goals and thoroughly deserved the victory. It was a very disappointing performance from the Blues youngsters who still lead Melville Midland Youth League by one point from rivals Aston Villa.

**Blues team:** Bryan, Jukes, Hatton, Sanderland, Homer, Dodds, Sedgemore, Dyson, Burden, Tilley, Lutz, subs: Jones, Crockett, Worrall.

## MELVILLE MIDLAND YOUTH LEAGUE

### AUGUST

Saturday 10th **Aston Villa** H 1-1  
Saturday 17th **Wolves** A 3-2  
Saturday 24th **Coventry City** A 3-0  
Saturday 31st **Derby County** H 3-1

### SEPTEMBER

Thursday 5th **QPR (Southern Junior Floodlit cup R1)** A 2-1  
Saturday 7th **Leicester City** H 0-1  
Saturday 14th **Lincoln City** A 1-0  
Saturday 21st **Mansfield Town** A 1-0  
Saturday 28th **Northampton Town** A 3-1

### OCTOBER

Saturday 5th **Stoke City** H 1-1  
Saturday 12th **WBA (purity league cup Rd1)** H 1-0  
Saturday 19th **Nottingham Forest** A 1-0  
Tuesday 22nd **Norwich City (Southern Junior Floodlit cup R2/A)** 2-0  
Wednesday 30th **Port Vale (Midland Youth Cup)H** 0-2

### NOVEMBER

Saturday 9th **Shrewsbury Town** H 3-0  
Friday 15th **Stoke City(purity league cup Rd2)A** 0-3  
Saturday 23rd **Walsall** H

### DECEMBER

Saturday 7th **Aston Villa** A  
Wednesday 11th **Wycombe W (Southern Junior Floodlit cup R2/A)** H  
Saturday 14th **Wolves** H  
Monday 16th **Sunderland (F.A. Youth Cup Rd2)A**  
Saturday 21st **Coventry City** H

### JANUARY

Saturday 4th **Derby County** A  
Saturday 11th **Grimsby Town** H

### FEBRUARY

Saturday 18th **Mansfield Town** H  
Saturday 25th **Northampton Town** H  
Saturday 1st **Notts County** A  
Saturday 8th **Peterborough United** A  
Saturday 15th **Grimsby Town** A

### MARCH

Saturday 1st **Port Vale** H  
Saturday 8th **Shrewsbury Town** A  
Saturday 15th **Walsall** A  
Saturday 22nd **Nottingham Forest** H  
Saturday 29th **West Bromwich Albion** H

### APRIL

Saturday 5th **Wes Bromwich Albion** A  
Saturday 12th **Lincoln City** H  
Saturday 19th **Notts County** H  
Saturday 26th **Stoke City** A

### MAY

Saturday 3rd **Leicester City** A

All home fixtures will be played at Woodbourne Sports Club which is on Rumbush





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Season Ticket Holders and True Blue members will receive a £1 Discount off 3rd Shirts on production of Season Tickets or True Blue Membership Cards.

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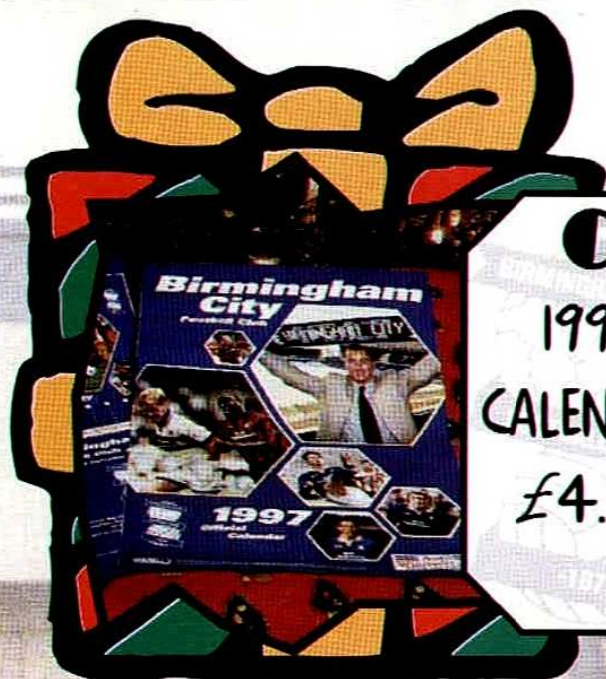
During the months of October & November True Blue Members will received 10% Discount on ALL Club Shop merchandise. This is in addition to the Special Offer on 3rd Kits. Membership Cards must be produced at time of purchase.

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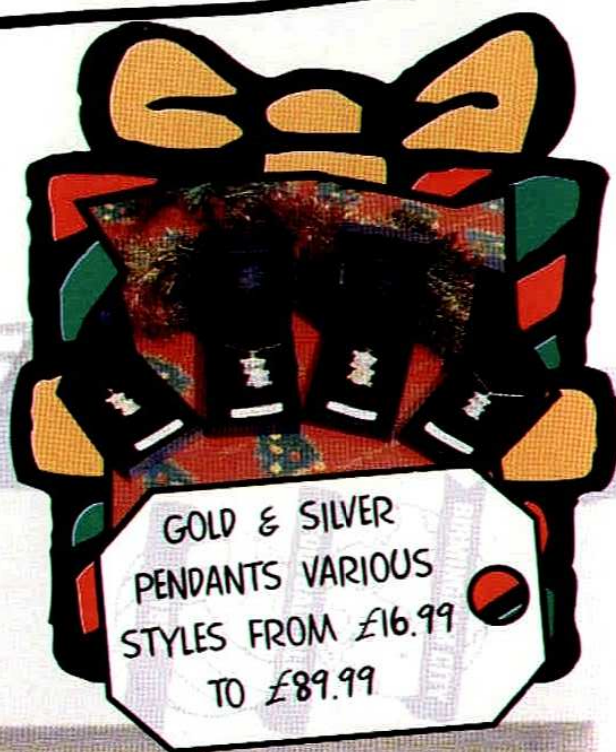
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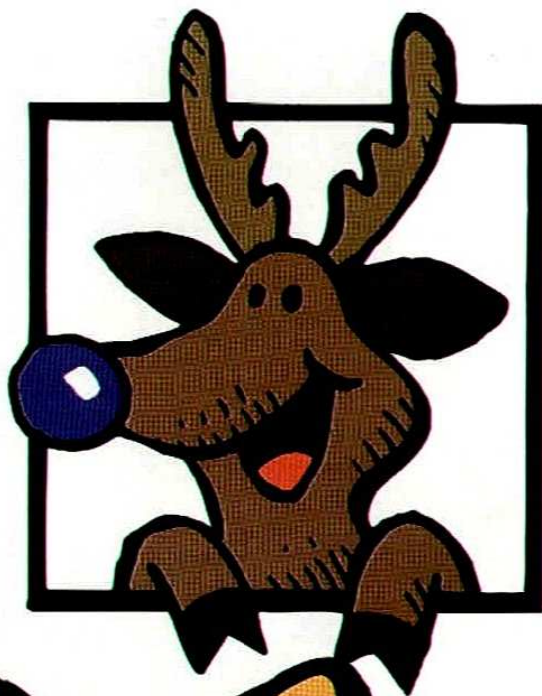
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You will also be invited to members only nights where you will be able to meet the players and you will have the opportunity to join coaching sessions on Saturday morning. Details will be sent when you join the club. To join and receive all the above goodies and benefits fill in the form below.

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Are you over 60 and want to be part of a social group for senior citizens that meet each week, then join the BIRMINGHAM CITY SENIOR CITIZENS SUPPORTERS CLUB. This exciting new club for over 60's is being run by Mrs Gold, mother to Mr Ralph and David Gold, and Mrs Sullivan, mother of Mr David Sullivan the Club Presidents. The aim of the club is to enjoy social events such as afternoon bingo with complimentary coffee and biscuits each Monday in the Wiseman Suite in the Main Stand, and to arrange away game trips at special low costs. The Club will give all Senior Citizens a special chance to meet each other and enjoy a social life

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To join please send a cheque or postal order DO NOT SEND CASH for £2 made payable to Birmingham City FC

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BIRMINGHAM B9 4NH and send with the filled in form below:

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**BEAU BRUMMIE CLUB** - I enclose a postal order or cheque made payable to Junior Supporters Club, for £10 ☐ (tick)

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**SENIOR CITIZENS SUPPORTERS CLUB** - I enclose a cheque or postal order for £2 made payable to BCFC ☐ (tick) PLEASE ALLOW 28 DAYS FOR DELIVERY

AND CONFIRMATION OF DATE THAT BINGO STARTS. PLEASE SEND PHOTOCOPY PROOF OF AGE SUCH AS PENSION BOOK, DRIVING LICENSE ETC.

\*\*On a first come first served, subject to availability bases. PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH.



# In my

# OPINION

## WHAT IS COMMITMENT?

Commitment is a word often banded about by 'experts' and fans alike to validate or chastise their team. Commitment - what does it mean? Duty, obligation, responsibility, dedication, devotion? Well, do any of today's players representing Birmingham or whoever really fit that description?

However, the word is still used and none more vividly than after Blues' shameful debacle at Port Vale. I read with interest letters to the local press that the players did not play with pride for themselves or the club, and in a word lacked 'commitment'.

Yet, was it not a case of everybody merely having an 'off day', inexcusable as it was. There seems to be many people out there who think one has to come from within the city boundary to wear the blue with pride. Yes, I would agree that recent Brummie examples fulfil the explanation of commitment. Duty, obligation, responsibility and dedication are words that aptly describe someone like John Frain from the present team. But John knows that a player's life is short and if they are not wanted or better offers come along they will go.

Also, despite the poor and frustrating start to Trevor's first campaign, no one would argue against the commitment shown by seasoned professionals like Steve Bruce and Barry Horne. I do realise that these players are paid huge sums to perform but I for one do not begrudge them on their efforts shown thus far. You only have to compare them with the likes of last season's 'Premier' loans like Samways and Sheridan.

In a nutshell, my view is that the word commitment should be dropped and be replaced by the word 'professional'. This sums up the likes of Bruce, Frain and Horne far better despite their differing abilities and we all have our own views on those who are quite possibly unprofessional.

Steve Vale  
Erdington

I am sure that the vast majority of men in the crowd today, and let's not be sexist, quite a few females as well, have at one time or another taken part in a Sunday League soccer match. It may have only been the once when you went along to watch your mate play and only ten of his team had turned up. You were asked whether you had ever played football before. Even though you had replied in the negative a shirt was thrown in your direction and you were told that for the next two hours your name was Bob!

Then there are the committed Sunday morning players, such as myself, who turn up every week without fail. Despite the fact that just a few hours earlier you may have been watering your next door neighbour's garden with 12 pints of Caffreys and a chicken balti, you still manage to drag yourself out of bed at an unearthly hour in the morning to play football. You arrive at the ground, I mean park, to find that there are no changing rooms so you are forced to get changed on the side of the pitch, often in conditions that would send penguins waddling for cover.

Once out on the pitch you discover that you are being marked by 6'5" skinhead whose team mates insist on referring to as 'Basher'. You spend most of the first half trying to convince yourself that you hadn't really seen him on an edition of 'Crimestwatch' the previous week. Anyway, you continue to put your life, as well as livelihood, at risk as Basher finds great pleasure in kicking lumps out of your kneecaps. Always the glory hunter, you chase any long balls even if they may seem to be a lost cause in search of that all important goal that would see your name up in lights. Well, in a half an inch of the Sports Argus, if it's your team's turn to get a mention that season.

So, why do we put ourselves through this weekly torture? Because we enjoy it!

Which brings me to my point (praise the Lord, I hear you all cry). How many people can honestly say that they enjoy their job, let alone that they would actually spend their free time doing it. Football players don't realise how lucky they are. In my opinion it is not just a lack of commitment but a case of complacency. How many times will a youngster making his debut in the first team let you down. He may lack the experience but he will always give 100% in an effort to impress. It may do some players good to think back to their early days and realise that earning a living out of football is not a god-given right but a very fortunate one.

Peter Lewis  
Blues Programme Editor



Caught.  
Ball watching!

Rephotographs by SentryBox Tel: 01895 251220

If you have an opinion on this or any other football-related topic, whether it be regarding the Blues or football in general, please send your letters to:-  
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Just as it seemed as if our season was finally starting to show signs of life, we go and spoil all that hard work with another away day defeat at Charlton. We simply cannot afford to lose these type of matches if we are realistic about our promotion ambitions. It is important to put together an unbeaten run that not only moves us up the table but also raises the confidence of everyone in the squad. That is why the defeat at The Valley was so frustrating.

Unfortunately, I was forced to miss the game with a twisted ankle that I sustained during the bruising battle at Molineux on Sunday. I also missed our last home encounter with league leaders Bolton Wanderers with a muscle strain which was also very frustrating. I was determined not to miss my first game of the season but it wasn't to be and at least the rest enabled me to play against Wolves. You have to be very

careful with muscle injuries to make sure that a strain doesn't turn into a pull and you end up missing even more games. I am one of the worst spectators of a

***We simply cannot afford to lose these matches if we are realistic about promotion ambitions.***

game as I like to be involved but I have to admit that the performance against Bolton was superb and we were well worthy of the three points.

I was pleased to be back in the action on Sunday and what a game to return for. Local derbies are always special occasions and it was a great game in which to finally break that unwanted away day record. We never looked in danger of losing the match, but after Andy

Legg had restored our lead it was a matter of digging deep and holding out until the final whistle. This we did quite comfortably and the relief was there for all to see at the end of the match.

It is important that we get back to winning ways this afternoon but we aren't going to find things easy against a well organised Swindon side under the management of Steve McMahon. Apart from their shock defeat at Ipswich on Tuesday night they have been enjoying a purple patch in recent weeks and we will have to approach the game in completely the right manner if we are going to get anything out of it. I am sure that with your support then we are fully capable of producing the right result.



**JOHNSONS**

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# ticket information

## SEASON TICKETS (REDUCED PRICES)

	Main Stand	Kop	Tilton Road	Family Stand
Adult	£160.50	£172	£137	£108
Senior Citizen & children under 16	£82	£82	£76.50	£73

CHECK OUT PAGE 21 FOR DETAILS OF A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SEASON TICKET

## TICKET DETAILS FOR FORTHCOMING MATCHES

Nationwide League Division One  
Tuesday 26th November K.O. 7.45pm  
READING v BIRMINGHAM CITY  
No tickets are required. Pay on the turnstiles.

Nationwide League Division One  
Saturday 30th November K.O. 3.00pm  
NORWICH CITY v BIRMINGHAM CITY  
This match is ALL-TICKET for Blues fans.  
Tickets are now on sale to season ticket holders (voucher i) and True Blue Club members only.  
Any remaining tickets will go on general sale on Monday (25th November)  
Tickets are priced at £15 + £1 (administration charge) with no concessions  
FANS SHOULD NOT TRAVEL TO THIS GAME WITHOUT A TICKET

Nationwide League Division One  
Tuesday 3rd December K.O. 7.45pm  
BIRMINGHAM CITY v BARNSLEY  
ALL TICKETS BOUGHT IN ADVANCE OF THE GAME - JUST £4  
PAY ON THE DAY - £5  
(except for visiting supporters in K. Paddock - £10)  
SEE PAGE 44 FOR MORE DETAILS

Nationwide League Division One  
Saturday 7th December K.O. 3.00pm  
BIRMINGHAM CITY v GRIMSBY TOWN  
Tickets go on sale on Monday (25th November). 'B' match prices.  
Special offer for season ticket holders who can purchase as many tickets as they like for their friends and family in the Railway End of the ground for just £4 up until Friday 6th December. You will need to bring voucher w out of your season ticket book. If you wish, you can also swap your own season ticket seat for one next to those you have purchased in the Railway End.

### MATCHDAY INFORMATION

Season ticket holders must bring their season ticket book with them to all home league games. The appropriate voucher number must then be ripped out in front of the turnstile operator

## REMINDER REGARDING CONCESSIONARY PRICES FOR TICKETS

Under 16's - Only Beau Brummie members can buy tickets for a concessionary price in advance of the game. If the child is not a member then the full price of the ticket must be paid. On a matchday the only area that under 16's who are not Beau Brummie members can gain admission for a reduced price is the Family Enclosure, if tickets are still available for this area. Beau Brummie members can purchase reduced price tickets on a matchday, or in advance, for any area of the ground on production of their membership card.  
O.A.P.'s - Concessionary priced tickets for O.A.P.'s must be purchased from the ticket office 48 hours before the game. Proof of age must be brought.

### OPENING HOURS

Season tickets and match tickets can be purchased by going to the Ticket Office (Main Stand side) any time Monday-Friday, 9.30am-5.30pm (except on a Thursday before a Saturday home game when it stays open until 7.00pm), on non-match Saturdays 9.30am-12.30pm and all day on matchdays. Don't forget match tickets can also be bought from the ticket office in the city centre club shop.

For any ticket enquiries or if you wish to book by credit card, please ring 0121 772 0101 ext. 5

N.B. Are you are finding it difficult to save up enough money to buy your season ticket in one lump sum? For details of how you can pay in monthly installments, ring Alan Tarry on 0121 643 4502

**ON NOVEMBER 30TH  
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for more details!**



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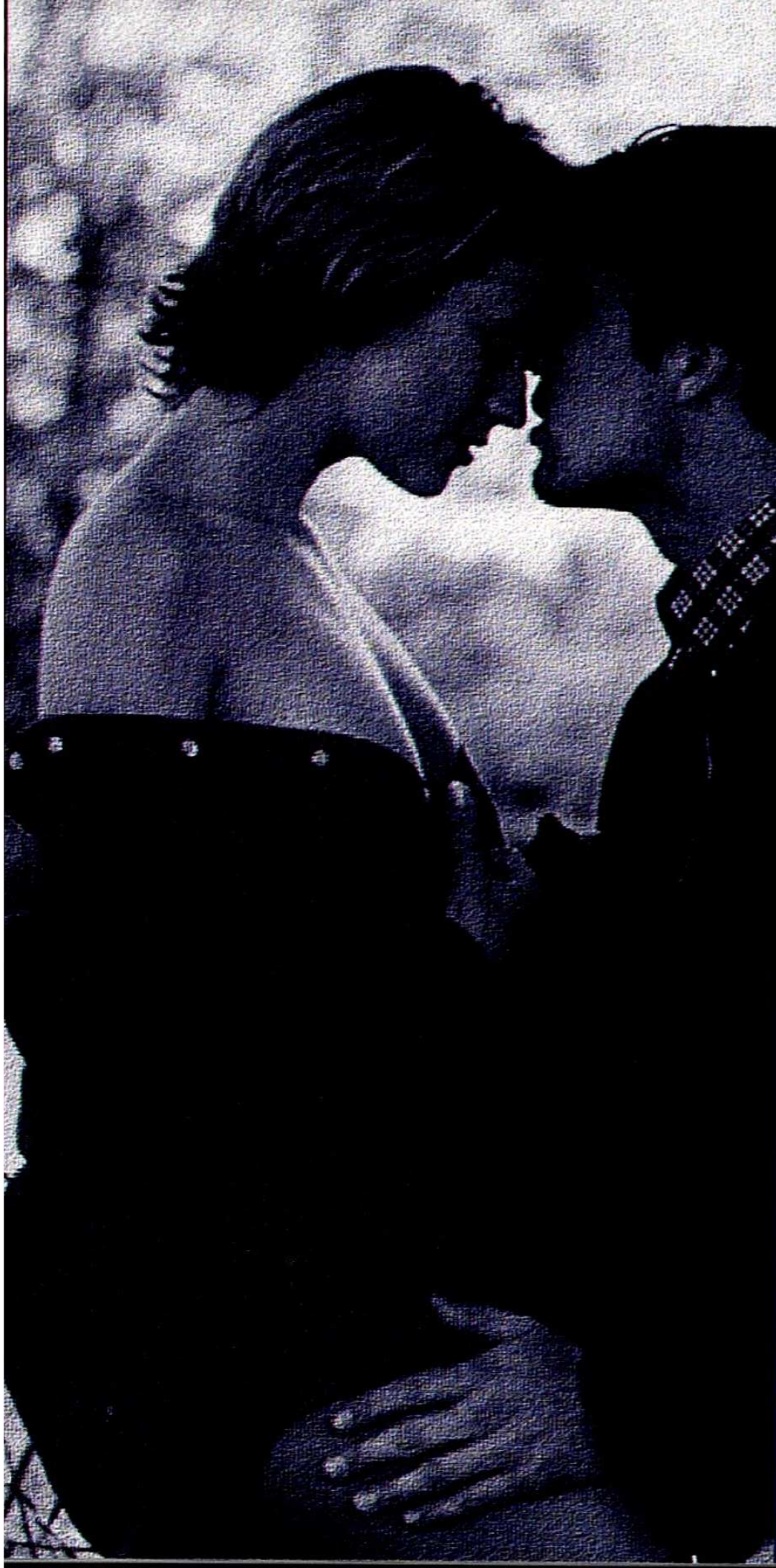
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# A NOSE THROUGH THE STORY

Right, so it looks nice, it doesn't feel too bad either, all mushy and slushy in your hand (remember, kids are reading this as well, so come on, out of the gutter!). I mean that slippery white stuff. That stuff the old'uns go on about in the olden days - snow. Not that powder you whipper snappers call snow. No, boot clogging, feet freezing, real snow. The sort that Polar Bears refuse to go out in.

Alright, so we had a mild downpour (is that the right expression?) a couple of seasons ago when our neighbours in the Black Country refused to turn out in it. As for country wide white-outs? Well, you would have to go back to that famous 'Football Focus' interview with the king of commentators himself, 'Motty', struggling to hold himself and microphone together as old winter did his worst. His flat cap and sheepskin soon disappeared under a blanket of white, much to the amusement of old 'Dessy', back in the warmth of the studio, no doubt.

Now old Bert sitting next to you will quite readily expand on the terrible winter of '63, or worse still '48. He'll tell you that players in his day didn't wear gloves on the pitch, let alone tights (sorry, John). He seen 'em play in thick pea soupers where you couldn't see the touch line, never mind the other half. You had to shout to the bloke in front of you to ask what the score was. He would shout

back: "Dunno mate, I thought I was in the queue for the pictures!"

With all the emphasis now on a better quality of product and greatly advanced facilities for the spectator, isn't it about time that we abandoned the middle of winter as the main time of the season. Either close the league down from December to the beginning of March, or, better still, play summer football. Can you imagine sitting on a warm blue seat on a balmy summer's afternoon, shirt sleeves, with a cold glass of something quenching in your hand. Ah, heaven! On second thoughts, give me a cold,

bleak November afternoon any day, dark by 3.30pm and minus six by tea time. That's real British football weather. You've got your mom's tights on under your jeans (if you're a fisherman, you'll know), and a mug of bovril in your cold mit. Give me three inches of frozen mud covering the pitch and sleet raining down the back of my coat!

I'd sooner be cold at St. Andrew's than

warm in the Maracana. We don't get the fogs that we used to get though. Even the traditional British winter seems to have warmed up over the last twenty years, the Greenhouse effect has a lot to answer for. Come on Mickey Fish, give us some real old fashioned winters. The sort that made the pawnbrokers cover up their signs. Maybe then the lads will once again flourish in the winter wonderland.



by Derek Cox



# Nationwide and The Football League – A winning team –

Nationwide Building Society is delighted to be sponsoring The Football League and is proud to be associated with the national game. Millions of people around the country enjoy League games, with an increasing number of families attending matches.

Similarly, Nationwide has a relationship with many households in the UK – around one in four. It looks after the financial needs of over seven million people and is the UK's largest building society intending to remain customer owned, committed to putting customers first.

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clubs and 630 Nationwide branches throughout England and Wales, we are looking forward to working with The League and its member clubs to support community initiatives and forge even closer links with local people. Wherever you find a football team you'll find a Nationwide team.

Nationwide's philosophy is to be "in tune with people", and we believe that the help we can give in investing in football's future will further demonstrate this and underline our general commitment to meeting customers' needs.

We would like to take  
this opportunity to wish your  
club a successful season.



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We are PROUD to have you as a Season Ticket holder and a True Blue Card member, we know that you are a 100% GENUINE BLUES FAN and without you there would not be a Birmingham City Football Club. As a mark of our thanks to you we have put together this PRIVILEGE PAGE that will give True Blue Club members and Season Ticket Holder ONLY fantastic discount on club merchandise, Bonfire night at HALF PRICE, £30 a head off Club VIP meals, etc, etc. This is our way to say a BIG THANK YOU to all Season Ticket holders and True Blue Club members. Make sure you get the programme each game to keep informed of new discounts and privileges. If you have any queries contact Karren Brady direct at the club.

**\*PLEASE NOTE: THE INFORMATION BELOW APPLIES TO THE ORIGINAL TRUE CLUB CLUB AND NOT THE PONY TRUE BLUE SUPPORTERS CLUB**

### TRUE BLUE MEMBERS ONLY

In the months of October and November you can get 10% discount off any Blues Merchandise in the Club shops. All you have to do is produce your membership card at the till when you pay.

Your card will be checked to ensure that all payments are up to date.

### SEASON TICKET HOLDERS AND TRUE BLUE CLUB MEMBERS

3rd SHIRT kit goes on sale on October 15th with the following special prices for Season Ticket holders and True Blue Club members.  
SIZE:SPECIAL PRICE FOR SEASON TICKET & TRUE BLUE CLUB ONLY\*\*

<b>BOYS</b>	<b>£26.99</b>
<b>YOUTHS</b>	<b>£31.99</b>
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### NEW DISCOUNT

Season Ticket holders and True Blue Club Members can now get a £5 discount off the superb Auto Windscreens Leisure Shirt.

### \*\*TRUE BLUE PLEASE

NOTE: If you purchase in October or November you get an additional 10% off of these already discounted prices.

### SEASON TICKET HOLDERS AND TRUE BLUE CLUB MEMBERS

If you fancy a special day out at Blues, as season ticket holders and True Blue club members you can sit in the Directors Box and have a

meal in the new Gold Suite restaurant for just £45 ALL INCLUSIVE per person. The usual price for this package is £75, so you get an AMAZING DISCOUNT OF £30 PER PERSON. Take advantage of this offer by calling THE COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT ON 0121 772 0101 EXT.7. This discount is available for ALL games subject to availability.

### CHRISTMAS PARTY - TRUE BLUE CLUB MEMBERS ONLY

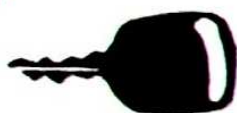
We will be organising a Christmas party for all True Blue Club members to meet the players, Trevor Francis, The Club President (David Sullivan/David Gold and Ralph Gold) within the next few months. THIS WILL BE COMPLETELY FREE OF CHARGE, so make sure you buy the programme for more information.

**TO JOIN THE TRUE BLUE CLUB  
see the advert on page 12.**

**TO BE A SEASON TICKET  
HOLDER contact the  
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Saturday home game until  
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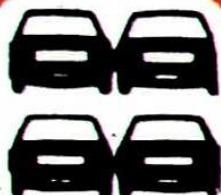
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## PREVIOUS

by **Roger Baker** *Birmingham City Historical & Collectors Society*ENCOUNTERS!  
Swindon Town

The first League meeting between Blues and Swindon took place in the 1969-70 season. Swindon had had a terrific season the previous year, finishing as runners-up in Division III and winning the League Cup. Swindon had the brilliant Don Rogers on their staff but unfortunately Blues fans were prevented from seeing him as he failed a late fitness test before the game. Otherwise Swindon fielded a full strength side.

Blues were making a comeback from a poor start to the season. After failing to win any of their first five games we had gone eight home games without defeat and four games, home and away. The only piece of team strengthening that we had done was to sign Tony Hateley from Coventry. The big forward had not exactly been a success, having scored only twice in 14 games. A reshuffle in midfield had produced an effective unit of Trevor Hockey as marker, Malcolm Beard as ballwinner and Johnny Vincent as playmaker.

Blues started off like a rocket. Within the first five minutes both Bobby Thomson and Johnny Vincent had had shots charged down. After seven minutes we took the lead. Swindon's captain Stan Harland,

who was of course later to captain us, was pressured into a poor clearance by Hateley. The ball ran out to Bert Murray who ran onto it and fired home from 12 yards. Within a couple of minutes Vincent had fired a shot against the post. Blues continued finding their way through Swindon's defence with monotonous regularity but it was not until the 20th minute that we increased our lead with a close range header from Geoff Vowden. For the next ten minutes Blues continued a non-stop assault on the goal and only a fine display by Swindon's keeper, Peter Downsborough, prevented us from extending our lead.

Then suddenly things changed. There were questions in the papers for a few days later as to why the Blues decided to sit back on their two goal lead. Manager Stan Cullis denied that there was anything deliberate about it but suspicions lingered that the team had been told to save something for the game away at Portsmouth four days later. Whatever the reason the game died and very little action took place from then on. The most notable incident occurred at the start of the second half. I have been watching the Blues for over thirty years and I can safely say that this game was the

only one that I have ever seen where the same team kicked off in both halves. Blues players protested to referee Derek Nippard but it made no difference as Swindon were allowed to kick off twice. After the improvement of the last few weeks talks of promotion was in the air but the Evening Mail's Neville Foulger was less enthusiastic. He commented that "it would be a brave man to wager heavily on Blues getting promotion. As we all know, they have been in this position before and failed." It was surprising to find that in an era of football hooliganism newspaper headlines were made that weekend by sporting violence of another kind. At Leicester the Springbok touring rugby team were meeting the Midland Counties (East). The Springbok tour was dogged by protest throughout because of the apartheid situation and a massive police presence was required at Welford Road to ensure the game went on. The protest was led by 19 year old student Peter Hain. Hain, of course is now an M.P. I wonder what his position on football violence is!

**Roger Baker**  
*Birmingham City Historical & Collectors Society.*





With the festive season nearly upon us, right on cue the Robins of Swindon come flying into St. Andrew's. Few pundits would have predicted with over a third of the season gone in a Midlands dominated first division that Swindon and local rivals Oxford United would have been leading the way when it came to clubs in the region. Last weekend saw the Wiltshire side record an impressive 3-0 home victory over high-flying Barnsley at the County Ground to take them up to seventh. Having suffered the agony of relegation in consecutive seasons, boss Steve McMahon has set his sights on returning the club to the top flight as quickly as they had descended.

The victory over the Tykes had followed a previous 2-0 home success against Manchester City with a brace from striker Wayne Allison doing the damage. It has been the away form that has been the Robins' downfall so far this season with just two victories in seven encounters on the road at the time of writing. They began the season with the long trip to East Anglia to take on Norwich City and suffered a 2-0 opening day defeat. Four points were picked up in their next two games at the County Ground against Port Vale and Oldham Athletic. This was followed by an impressive 3-1 victory at Southend United and a 2-1 defeat at Grimsby. That has been the story of Swindon's

inconsistent season so far with victories intermingled with draws and reversals. A 1-0 home defeat against Portsmouth was followed three days later with a 2-1 win on their own patch against Tranmere. They managed to re-discover that winning feeling in the middle of October with three victories in a week including a 6-0 hammering of humble Huddersfield. However, a Coca-Cola Cup encounter at Manchester United seemed to take its strain on the players as they were defeated 2-1 on the night and this was followed by back-to-back reversals in the league against Reading and West Brom.

### THE SQUAD FRANK TALIA

Goalkeeper who hails from the Australian city of Melbourne and was playing for Sunshine George Cross when he was spotted by a scout playing for his country's under-21 side. He was invited to England and had trials with Chelsea and QPR amongst others before signing for Blackburn Rovers in August 1992. He failed to make any appearances for the Ewood Park club although he did make 15 league appearances whilst on loan at third division Hartlepool. He joined Swindon in November 1995 after a short loan period at the County Ground.

### FRASER DIGBY

Goalkeeper who started as a trainee at Manchester United and also spent time on loan at Oldham Athletic and Swindon Town for experience but again was not afforded first team exposure. In December 1986 Town paid £32,500 for his services and has gone on to make over 400 senior appearances for the Robins.



IAN CULVERHOUSE

### IAN CULVERHOUSE

Cultured defender who was a polished full-back with Norwich City and excels in the role of sweeper. Culverhouse is a product of the Tottenham Hotspur youth policy. Played only one senior game for Spurs before

joining Norwich City for £50,000 in October 1985. He amassed some 369 appearances for the Canaries and was an influential figure in their European campaign. He moved to the County Ground in December 1994 for £250,000.



**FREDERIC DARRAS**

Defender who joined during the summer from French club Bastia on a three year contract. He spent 11 years with French double winners Auxerre and has represented his country at under-18 and under-21 level. He has made no fewer than 19 European Cup appearances including a quarter-final tie against Fiorentina.

**JASON DRYSDALE**

Bristol born defender who joined Town from Newcastle United for a fee of £340,000 in March 1995 but has been desperately unlucky with injuries meaning that his appearances have been limited. A former Watford trainee, he went on to make 160 senior appearances scoring 13 goals before a £425,000 move to St. James Park in August 1994. Found his opportunities limited and after less than seven months opted to try his luck with Swindon.

**KEVIN HORLOCK**

A current member of the Northern Ireland squad, Horlock has proved a great asset to the team since arriving on a free transfer from West Ham United with no senior league appearances to his name. He had joined the Hammers from school and scored 11 goals from left back for their youth team in 1990/91. A good tackler and striker of the ball, he demonstrated his scoring ability at senior level last season by netting 16 goals in 12 league games.

**WAYNE O'SULLIVAN**

Talented young full-back who was given his first senior opportunity in an Anglo Italian Cup tie at Oxford United in September 1992. He made his league bow as a substitute in a 2-0 home win over Port Vale at the beginning of the 1994/95 season and was in the starting line-up for the first time against Watford a fortnight later. He has progressed well and last season not only established himself in the senior side but was also a regular in the Republic of Ireland's under-21 squad.

**MARK ROBINSON****MARK ROBINSON**

Joined the apprentice ranks at West Brom on leaving school in June 1985 and made his league debut against Sheffield Wednesday in the April of 1986. He was not offered a professional

contract by the Baggies but was soon snapped up by Barnsley. Was given his chance with an extended first team run in 1989 and such was his form that Newcastle United soon swooped in with a cheque for £450,000 in March 1993. Having struggled to hold down a first team place, he gladly moved to Wiltshire for £600,000 in July 1994.

**MARK SEAGRAVES****MARK SEAGRAVES**

A former Liverpool apprentice and England youth international. Seagraves was seen as the ideal partner for Shaun Taylor at the heart of the defence when Town paid Bolton Wanderers £100,000 for his

registration in June 1995. Made his Town debut at Hull City on the opening day of last season and played in the opening 17 games before injury curtailed his involvement to 25 starts for the season. He has also played for Norwich City, Manchester City and Bolton Wanderers.

**GARY ELKINS**

Left-sided defender who made over 100 appearances for Wimbledon in the Premiership before signing for Swindon in September 1996 in a £100,000 deal. Played for Fulham as a youngster, had a spell on loan at Exeter City before signing for the Dons in August 1990 for £20,000.

**PAUL ALLEN**

Very experienced midfielder who signed for the Robins on a free transfer from Southampton in October 1995. Started his career with West Ham United as an apprentice in 1979 and went on to make 197 appearances scoring 11 goals. In June 1985 Allen signed for Tottenham Hotspur for £400,000 where he played 377 games scoring 28 goals. In September 1993 he made the move to the Dell during which time he also enjoyed loan spells at Luton Town and Stoke City.

**TY GOODEN**

Signed by John Gorman in 1993 following a successful loan period after being released by Wycombe Wanderers. Made over 30 appearances last season and received a championship medal. Scored a memorable goal in the Robins 3-0 victory over Barnsley last weekend.

**SCOTT LEITCH**

This former Motherwell, Dumfermline and Hearts midfielder was signed for £15,000 after a successful loan spell at the County Ground. Leitch is determined to help Town continue their climb to the top and started the first 19 games of this season.

**ALEX SMITH**

Former Everton trainee who signed professional forms in January 1996. He played in the Toffeemen's European Cup Winners Cup campaign, but never appeared in the Premiership. Made 13 league appearances for the Robins last season.

**MARK WALTERS**

Birmingham born midfielder joined Swindon on a free transfer from Southampton in the summer and is hoping to relaunch his career at

the County Ground. The former Liverpool and Rangers star has one England cap to his name and also three Championship medals.

**KEVIN WATSON**

Midfielder who came through Tottenham's junior ranks having joined the club at the age of eleven. Made 12 first team appearances under Terry Venables in 1994. Had loan spells at Bristol City and Barnet and captained Spurs reserves for the last two seasons.

**WAYNE ALLISON**

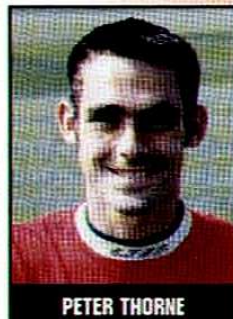
Hot-shot striker who has been hitting the back of the net regularly for the Robins since his £475,000 transfer from Bristol City at the beginning of the 1995/96 season. He served his apprenticeship with Halifax Town and caught the attention of Watford who invested £250,000 in his transfer in July 1989. A year later he was in his way to Ashton Gate in a deal worth £300,000 where he soon established himself as a local hero finishing top scorer for the third time in 1995.

**STEVEN COWE**

Cowe started as a schoolboy at Aston Villa and graduated to professional status in the summer of 1993. He was recruited on loan initially, as cover following the injury to Finney, but impressed the management so much that a permanent move was quickly arranged. Made his league debut as a substitute in the 2-0 defeat of Peterborough United and registered his first league goal in a 3-1 win at Chesterfield.

**STEPHEN FINNEY**

Finney started his league career with Preston North End coming on as substitute against Exeter City in 1992. He was released after six appearances and was signed by Manchester City after a trial. It was at Maine Road that the Robins' boss Steve McMahon came into contact with him and when Finney was released on a free transfer, he swooped quickly to capture the services of the 23 year-old. He was joint top scorer with 16 goals when he suffered a broken ankle at Burnley last season.

**PETER THORNE****PETER THORNE**

Thorne was snatched from the shadow of Alan Shearer in January 1995 and is a strong robust striker in the mould of the England hero. He had joined Blackburn Rovers as a trainee in 1989

and made his only first team appearance for them at Wembley in a Charity Shield match. At Swindon he scored four goals in his first two games and despite a catalogue of injuries he contributed 10 goals in 22 league starts as the Robins soared to Second Division title glory last season.



# BLUES v BARNESLEY

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 3rd**

**Kick off 7.45pm**

**All seats in the ground - £4**  
(if tickets are purchased in advance of the game)

**Pay on the day - £5**  
(except visiting fans in K. Paddock - £10)

The last time the admission prices were reduced against Bradford it resulted in a 3-0 home win.

After that game the following said:

*Trevor Francis: "The atmosphere that the bumper crowd created was electric and played a big part in the win"*

*Steve Bruce: "The attendance was absolutely incredible and really helped to spur the lads on to victory"*

*David Sullivan: "Having spoken to some of the players after the game, they told me that the crowd really lifted the side and was a major motivating factor behind the victory"*

*Inform all your friends, and let's make sure that St. Andrews is full to the rafters again to roar the Blues on to another three points.*

To book by credit card call

**0121 772 0101 EXT 5**

N.B. Tickets are on sale from the City Centre Club Shop as well as at the main ticket office at St. Andrews.

**KICK BY KICK COVERAGE OF EVERY BLUES GAME 0891 12 11 88**

*calls cost 45p per minute cheap rate 50p per minute at all other times*



# NEXT

## VISITORS

**BLUES v BARNSELEY**

**TUESDAY 3rd DECEMBER 1996**

**KICK-OFF 7.45pm**

Barnsley will be travelling down the M1 to become the next visitors here to St. Andrews on Tuesday 3rd December, with the match kicking off at 7.45pm. As soon as the first whistle of the season was heard, The Tykes were off the blocks quicker than any other side in the division recording five consecutive victories to shoot to the top of the table. However, the season is more of a marathon than a sprint and the Yorkshire side's form has been rather inconsistent of late. A perfect example of this has been the last two games with a 3-1 victory over Norwich followed by a 3-0 defeat at today's opponents Swindon Town.

Inconsistency was the problem last season with win followed by defeat followed by draw. Last season's meeting between the two teams at St. Andrews ended in a disappointing goalless draw. The match took place on a cold February night and was played on a frozen pitch that gave the teams little opportunity to produce a flowing game of football. The Blues players probably had other things on their minds as scheduled for the following Sunday was the Elland Road showdown with Leeds in the second leg of the Coca Cola Cup semi-final tie. The other meeting between the two teams last season was far more memorable; well, for Blues fans anyway. At half-time the teams were deadlocked at

0-0 in the Oakwell clash, but events were soon to change. Just after the break, Steve Claridge was brought down in the box which not only resulted in a penalty award but also the dismissal of Barnsley keeper Watson. Jonathan Hunt converted from the spot and there followed a four goal avalanche. Strikes from Ken Charlery, Neil Doherty, Richard Forsyth and Claridge, all of whom have now left the club, completed a 5-0 away win. Blues had recorded their largest away victory since 1976 and Barnsley's misery was complete when their defender Charlie Bishop was sent off.

Danny Wilson's team could be capable of producing a prolonged promotion bid with a couple the close season signings already proving to be useful acquisitions. Striker Paul Wilkinson joined from Middlesbrough and great things have been expected of Trinidad and Tobago international Clint Marcelle who was signed from Portuguese first division side Felgueiras.

31 year-old Wilkinson has scored goals wherever he has gone and, in particular, when he dropped down a division from Nottingham Forest to Watford and he scored 52 goals in 134 games for the Vicarage Road club. Wilson will no doubt be hoping that he can do the same job at Oakwell and he started impressively scoring four goals in the first eight games.

Marcelle has made over 30 appearances for his country over the last four years and the 27 year-old could turn a few eyes in the first division this season. He recorded his first goal in the opening day fixture at West Brom and has featured on the scoresheet a number of occasions so far this season.

On the adjacent page you will see that the admission prices have been dramatically slashed for this game. Tickets cost just £4, if bought in advance of the game. Don't miss out on what should be another electrically charged evening of first division football at St. Andrews. Tickets are on sale now at either ticket office or by calling 0121 772 0101 ext 5.

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# FIRST TEAM STATISTICS

## Nationwide League Division One

COMPUTER AND DATA INSTALLATIONS TEL:0121 326 0050

Date	Opponent	Venue	Score	Pos	Att
<b>AUGUST</b>					
Sunday 18th	Crystal Palace	H	1-0	8	18,765
Saturday 24th	Sheff Wed	A	4-4	5	16,332
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>					
Saturday 7th	Tranmere Rovers	A	0-1	20	8,548
Tuesday 10th	Oldham Athletic	H	0-0	19	17,228
Saturday 14th	Stoke City	H	3-1	14	18,812
Saturday 21st	Manchester City	A	0-1	17	26,757
Saturday 28th	Queens Park Rangers	H	0-0	18	17,430
<b>OCTOBER</b>					
Tuesday 5th	Huddersfield Town	A	0-3	23	10,904
Saturday 12th	Bradford City	H	3-0	18	25,157
Tuesday 15th	Ipswich Town	H	1-0	11	15,864
Friday 18th	Oxford United	A	0-0	13	7,584
Saturday 26th	Norwich City	H	2-3	15	18,869
Tuesday 29th	Portsmouth	A	1-1	16	6,334
<b>NOVEMBER</b>					
Saturday 2nd	Port Vale	A	0-3	20	8,388
Wednesday 13th	Bolton Wanderers	H	3-1	16	17,033
Sunday 17th	Wolverhampton	A	2-1	14	22,627
Wednesday 20th	Charlton Athletic	A	1-2	14	8,574
Saturday 23rd	Swindon Town	H			
Tuesday 26th	Reading	A			
Saturday 30th	Norwich City	A			
<b>DECEMBER</b>					
Tuesday 3rd	Barnsley	H			
Saturday 7th	Grimsby	H			
Saturday 14th	West Brom Albion	H			
Friday 20th	Southend United	A			
Thursday 26th	Oldham Athletic	A			
Saturday 28th	Tranmere Rovers	H			
<b>JANUARY</b>					
Wednesday 1st	Manchester City	H			
Friday 10th	Stoke City	A			
Saturday 18th	Reading	H			
Wednesday 29th	Queens Park Rangers	A			
<b>FEBRUARY</b>					
Saturday 1st	Bolton Wanderer	A			
Saturday 8th	Portsmouth	H			
Saturday 15th	Swindon	A			
Saturday 22nd	Port Vale	H			
<b>MARCH</b>					
Saturday 1st	Grimsby Town	A			
Tuesday 4th	Wolverhampton	H			
Saturday 8th	Southend	H			
Saturday 15th	West Brom Albion	A			
Saturday 22nd	Sheffield United	H			
Saturday 29th	Crystal Palace	A			
Monday 31st	Charlton Athletic	H			
<b>APRIL</b>					
Saturday 5th	Barnsley	A			
Saturday 12th	Huddersfield	A			
Saturday 19th	Bradford City	A			
Saturday 26th	Oxford United	H			
<b>MAY</b>					
Saturday 17th	Ipswich Town	A			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Bennett	Poole	Ablett	Bruce	Breen	Castle	DEVLIN	Newell	Furlong	Home	Legg	Otto (11)	Sutton	Hunt (8)
Bennett	Poole	Ablett	Bruce	Breen	Castle	DEVLIN	Newell	Furlong	Home	Legg	Otto (11)	Sutton	Hunt (8)
Bennett	Poole	Ablett	Bruce	Breen	Castle	DEVLIN	Newell	Furlong	Home	Legg	Otto (11)	Sutton	Hunt (8)
Bennett	Poole	Ablett	Bruce	Breen	Castle	DEVLIN	Newell	Furlong	Home	Legg	Otto (11)	Sutton	Hunt (8)
Bennett	Poole	Ablett	Bruce	Breen	Castle	DEVLIN	Newell	Furlong	Home	Legg	Otto (11)	Sutton	Hunt (8)
Bennett	Poole	Ablett	Bruce	Breen	Castle	DEVLIN	Newell	Furlong	Home	Legg	Otto (11)	Sutton	Hunt (8)
Bennett	Poole	Ablett	Bruce	Breen	Castle	DEVLIN	Newell	Furlong	Home	Legg	Otto (11)	Sutton	Hunt (8)
Bennett	Poole	Ablett	Bruce	Breen	Castle	DEVLIN	Newell	Furlong	Home	Legg	Otto (11)	Sutton	Hunt (8)
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Bennett	Poole	Ablett	Bruce	Breen	Castle	DEVLIN	Newell	Furlong	Home	Legg	Otto (11)	Sutton	Hunt (8)
Bennett	Poole	Ablett	Bruce	Breen	Castle	DEVLIN	Newell	Furlong	Home	Legg	Otto (11)	Sutton	Hunt (8)
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Bennett	Poole	Ablett	Bruce	Breen	Castle	DEVLIN	Newell	Furlong	Home	Legg	Otto (11)	Sutton	Hunt (8)
Bennett	Poole	Ablett	Bruce	Breen	Castle	DEVLIN	Newell	Furlong	Home	Legg	Otto (11)	Sutton	Hunt (8)

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE													
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolton	18	8	2	0	23	7	3	2	17	18	38		
Crystal Palace	18	5	2	1	19	5	4	5	1	22	10	34	
Norwich	18	4	5	1	13	7	5	0	3	14	11	32	
Barnsley	17	4	3	2	16	10	4	3	1	14	12	30	
Sheffield United	16	3	3	1	14	8	5	2	2	17	9	29	
Oxford	16	2	1	1	18	4	2	2	5	6	11	28	
Swindon	17	6	1	3	19	8	2	1	4	8	11	26	
Tranmere	18	5	2	3	20	15	2	3	3	6	6	26	
Wolves	17	2	3	4	8	10	5	2	1	14	7	26	
Stoke	16	4	1	1	11	10	2	5	3	12	17	24	
Port Vale	19	2	5	3	10	11	3	4	2	7	9	24	
W.B.A.	18	1	4	4	9	14	4	4	1	14	13	23	
Portsmouth	19	4	3	3	14	10	2	2	5	8	15	23	
Q.P.R.	19	2	3	5	10	14	3	4	2	11	12	22	
Huddersfield	17	4	3	2	13	8	1	2	5	7	17	20	
Southend	19	4	3	3	18	16	0	5	4	2	15	20	
BIRMINGHAM	15	5	2	1	13	5	0	3	4	5	13	20	
Charlton	15	4	2	0	10	4	2	0	7	6	18	20	
Ipswich	18	2	4	2	12	12	2	3	5	10	14	19	
Reading	17	4	2	1	11	9	1	2	7	9	19	19	
Man. City	17	4	0	3	9	8	2	1	7	10	18	19	
Bradford	19	4	2	4	12	18	0	3	6	4	15	17	
Oldham	19	1	5	3	9	10	2	2	6	11	14	16	
Grimsby	18	2	2	6	10	20	1	3	4	9	17	14	
UP TO AND INCLUDING SAT 16th NOVEMBER 1996													

Player Substituted • Own Goal (NAME) Player Scored (No.) Substituted for

Coca Cola Cup 1996/97													
<b>AUGUST</b>													
Wednesday 21st	Brighton & Hove Albion	A	Rst (1st leg)	1-0									
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>													
Wednesday 4th	Brighton & Hove Albion	H	Rst (2nd leg)	2-0									
Wednesday 18th	Coventry City	A	Rd 2 (1st Leg)	1-1									
Tuesday 24th	Coventry City	H	Rst (2nd Leg)	0-1									

## FA Cup 1996/97

<b>NOVEMBER</b>	
Saturday 16th	FA Cup 1
<b>DECEMBER</b>	
Saturday 7th	FA Cup 2
<b>JANUARY</b>	
Saturday 4th	FA Cup 3
Saturday 25th	FA Cup 4
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	
Saturday 15th	FA Cup 5
<b>MARCH</b>	
Saturday 8th	FA Cup 6
<b>APRIL</b>	
Saturday 12th	FA Cup Semi-Final
<b>MAY</b>	
Saturday 17th	FA Cup Final

### NEXT GAME AT

## ST. ANDREWS

# BIRMINGHAM CITY

## V BARNESLEY

### NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

#### TUESDAY 3RD DECEMBER 1996

#### KICK-OFF 7.45pm

See Ticket Information page for Ticket Prices

Appearances and Goals 1996/97													
League				Cup				TOTAL					
A	(S)	G	C	A	(S)	G	C	A	(S)	G	C	S.OFF	
ABLETT	14	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	15	(2)	2	2	1	
BOWEN	10	(3)	2	1	1	1	1	11	(4)	3	2	1	
BREEN	16	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	17	(2)	2	2	1	
BRUCE	15	(4)	1	1	1	1	1	16	(5)	5	4	1	
CASTLE	4	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	5	(2)	2	1	1	
DEVLIN	13	(3)	2	1	1	1	1	14	(4)	4	3	1	
DONOWA	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	2	(2)	2	1	1	
EDWARDS	4	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	5	(2)	2	1	1	
FRANK	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	2	(2)	2	1	1	
FURLONG	17	(1)	5	1	1	1	1	18	(2)	6	2	1	
HOLLAND	13	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	14	(2)	2	2	1	
HORNE	16	(4)	1	1	1	1	1	17	(5)	5	4	1	
JACKSON	4	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	5	(2)	2	1	1	
JOHNSON	6	(3)	2	1	1	1	1	7	(4)	4	3	1	
LEGG	13	(3)	1	1	1	1	1	14	(4)	4	3	1	
NEWELL	7	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	8	(2)	2	1	1	
OTTO	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	2	(2)	2	1	1	
POOLE	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	2	(2)	2	1	1	
SUTTON	1	(1)	1	1	1	1	1	2	(2)	2	1	1	
TAIT	4	(2)	1	1	1	1	1	5	(3)	3	2	1	

### Next Game at St. Andrews

Tuesday 3rd December 1996  
Kick-Off 7.45pm  
**BLUES**  
V  
**BARNESLEY**

SEE TICKET INFORMATION PAGE FOR FULL DETAILS OF TICKET ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS GAME

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### ALAN CAMPBELL AND JOE GALLAGHER

#### TO APPEAR AT ST ANDREW'S

The next meeting



# TEAMS



## BIRMINGHAM CITY

## SWINDON TOWN

1	STEVE SUTTON		FRASER DIGBY	1
2	MATTHEW JACKSON		MARK ROBINSON	2
3	MICHAEL JOHNSON		TY GOODEN	3
4	GARY ABLETT		SCOTT LEITCH	4
5	GARY BREEN		MARK SEAGRAVES	5
6	CHRIS HOLLAND		KEVIN HORLOCK	6
7	ANDY LEGG		WAYNE O'SULLIVAN	7
8	PAUL TAIT		FREDERIC DARRAS	8
9	PAUL FURLONG		STEPHEN FINNEY	9
10	BARRY HORNE		WAYNE ALLISON	10
11	JASON BOWEN		MARK WALTERS	11
S U B S T I T U T E S				
12	ANDY EDWARDS		GARY ELKINS	12
13	PAUL DEVLIN		PETER HOLCROFT	13
14	MIKE NEWELL		STEVEN COWE	14

## MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee:

**G.B. FRANKLAND** (Middlesbrough)

Asst Referees:

**S.J. GRIFFITHS** (Macclesfield)

**B.L. POLKEY** (Nottingham)

Fourth Official:

**T.C. ADCOCK** (Burton-on-Trent)



## Blues telephone numbers

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CLUB FAX  
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TICKET OFFICE  
0121 772 0101 EXT.5  
TICKET INFORMATION LINE  
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CLUB CALL  
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