

# Blades

Official Matchday Magazine of Sheffield United FC



**Sheffield  
United  
v  
Swindon  
Town**

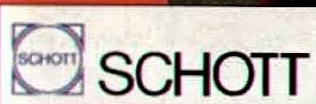
**Nationwide  
League  
Division One**

**Tuesday 26th  
November 1996**

**Kick-off 7.45pm**

## **Roger and OUT?**

Match sponsor



**Roger Nilsen ponders his  
chances of a permanent  
return to Norway's  
international fold**

**Chris Short  
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# FROM THE BOARDROOM

*... the very latest on the Club's flotation ... and a dramatic development concerning the Abbeydale Training Ground plans ...*

**With regard to the flotation, things have progressed very well - the Chairman and the Board are working very hard to progress the proposal to a successful conclusion and it is proposed that within the course of the next few days the Club's annual accounts will be completed and dispatched to our shareholders. The date for the AGM will be set at the earliest opportunity.**

We have had contact from many people expressing their interest in acquiring shares and once a prospectus has been produced we will ensure that this is made available to supporters of Sheffield United.

This prospectus will provide you with details of the shares, their price, and the quantity that may be purchased, along with an insight into the nature of the businesses of the enlarged Company.

You are always advised to take independent advice and there are many local people qualified to provide this service. These pages, along with local and national press, will continue to carry information up to the point of flotation.

**ABBEYDALE ...** you will be aware that our bid for National Lottery funding towards the proposed development of facilities at Abbeydale Grange School was turned down, and also that we re-submitted it.

That has now been withdrawn in the light of recent discussions between Chairman, Mike McDonald, the leaders of the Sheffield City Council, and local MP's such as Richard Caborn.

The reason? Sheffield's plan to bid for the National Academy of Sport which Abbeydale, the Council and the City's professional clubs, including ourselves and Sheffield

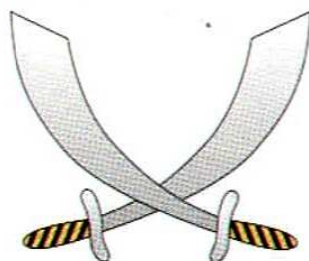
Wednesday, agree is a good and worthy one.

It is true that in recent months there has been considerable harmony and good will between United and the City Council, certainly more so than in previous regimes, and each side has tried to appreciate the others efforts in matters pertaining to development.

We, therefore, wish to support the City's bid which will include Abbeydale as one of three centres for soccer excellence in the city (the others being at Sheffield Wednesday's proposed new training ground and at Don Valley itself).

As a result, our bid will be re-drafted but will emphasise the link between the two proposals, thus strengthening the case for both.

***"We wish to support the City's bid which will include Abbeydale as one of three centres for soccer excellence in the city"***



## Scene Setter

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### MATCH MAGAZINE

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The first real taste of winter brought a lot of disruption last week and we had a wasted journey and an overnight stay for the Crystal Palace fixture that fell victim to the snow and heavy rain. It all gets very frustrating, especially when such an experience not only leaves the players keyed up for a game that never happens, but then stops us giving them appropriate training during the rest of the week.

On the morning of the scheduled match snow started falling at our Hotel at around eight in the morning. The best we could manage in the shape of exercise was a walk after breakfast whilst waiting anxiously for telephone calls about a decision because, at that stage, the match at Selhurst Park, half an hour away, was still on. Snow wasn't settling there but there was a lot of heavy rain and, in the end, that is what caused the postponement when the pitch became waterlogged after the covers were removed.

Naturally, we had a lengthy and slow trip back up north through the bad weather and

should record here the thanks and admiration of us all at Sheffield United for the loyalty and fortitude they showed in such an awkward situation. We appreciate that a financial commitment was made in many cases and it's no fun having to travel a long distance whilst wondering all the time, "Is it on or off?" Let's all hope for a mild winter and no more postponements.

The snow lying on the University fields we use for training prevented us working on them for the rest of the week so again we weren't able to put into practice the training programme we would have liked leading up to the Bolton game.

Although our own pitch was in good condition, owing to the effect of the undersoil heating which was on virtually all week, we had to protect it as much as we could for the game. I am very much aware that we suffered a bit through using the pitch to train on when I first came, and that contributed to the surface being affected not only then but at the end of the season.

I haven't had much opportunity to talk to you about the comings and goings of one or two players recently; we were delighted to acquire Paul Parker's services for a month during which he will be determined to prove himself worthy of a full



contract. We have a lot of fixtures coming up which could well mean players picking up a few knocks so having Paul here will be invaluable to us - don't forget he is an International and has played

**"There was a lot of tension before the game with us not having played here for a little while, and playing against a high-quality top of the table side - and I think it showed."**

Premiership football this season with Derby County.

Andy Scott has returned from Chesterfield having done well in a loan deal that served its purpose for all parties. He scored three goals for the Spireites in

no time at all but suffered a slight toe injury which curtailed his spell there by a few days, although the next move was always for him to return here.

I have commented on Phil Starbuck's unusual career move elsewhere in tonight's programme and hope it works out well for him in Holland.



jammed motorway, as did several super United supporters who also made all, or part of, the journey before hearing the bad news.

I hope they were able to get to the Lane for the match against Bolton last Friday and heard the thank you message to them which went out on the tannoy. In any event it is only right that I

# HOWAR



Doug Hodgson and Mitch Ward are both making steady progress but, because of the nature of their injuries, are unable to do much work with us other than exercise to maintain their upper body strength. As a result I took the unusual step for me of packing them off for a few days to get a bit of a change of scenery and to avoid the frustration of hanging round the Lane with fit players - they should then come back raring to go.

Tonight we have an opportunity of putting right some of the things that were plainly not functioning properly against Bolton when we were clearly out of sorts in many areas. There was a lot of tension before the game with us not having played here for a little while, and playing against a high-quality top of the table side - and I think it showed.

We weren't at the races for much of the first-half and conceded what I thought was a bad goal from our point of view. But we hung in there and got back into it with a great Gareth Taylor header which came just at the right time before the interval. Both goalkeepers had to make great saves at times, Bolton's particularly towards the end as we had our best spell after Petr Katchouro had gone on when we needed to liven up.



Howard Kendall

# D KENDALL

Up front with the United manager

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## MINI SEASON TICKET PRICES

Mini season tickets are for the last 11 home League matches of the season, beginning with Oldham Athletic on Saturday 28th December, and make the ideal Christmas present for the Blades fan in your family - they are on sale from Thursday 28th November.

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Adult	£10.00	£110.00	£90.00
Concession	£7.00	£77.00	£63.00
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- 3) By telephoning the Ticket Office (0114 221 1889) if paying by Access/Visa/ Switch. There is a booking fee of £1 on credit card payments for Mini Season Tickets.

★ To qualify for the concessionary rate you should be under 16 or over 60 on Saturday 28th December, 1996. Proof of age must be shown/supplied to purchase concessionary price tickets (ie copy of Birth Certificate/Pension Book).

★ Students over the age of 16 who are in full-time education may apply for concessionary discount. Official confirmation must be supplied to show that the applicant is a full-time student for the remainder of the 1996/97 season.

★ Mini Season Tickets are for home League matches only. At the end of the season your seat will be reserved for you until the discount period for renewal has expired.

★ Our opening hours are: **MON-FRI 9am-4.45pm SATURDAYS 9am - 12 noon**

★ Our address is: **The Ticket Office, SUFC Ltd, Bramall Lane, Sheffield S2 4SU.**

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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.





# ROGER ANSWERS THE CALL TO ARMS

*Game off for the Blades - but Roger gets the chance to stake his International claim*

**ROGER NILSEN** has become firmly established in our defence and has made the adjustment to English football with comparative ease. He can consider himself a first-team regular, despite the changes on the playing front that were inevitable when Howard Kendall took over.

There is no question about his pedigree here, but his International appearances have been few and far between since he came to Bramall Lane in November 1993.

A full stint against Switzerland two weeks ago has not convinced him that his return at that level is going to be a permanent one.

"I don't think I'm really in the present manager's plans," he revealed this week, "and I expect to be out of the next squad he names unless there are as many injuries as there were coming up to the Switzerland World Cup qualifier."

Unavailability of players like Liverpool's Stig Bjernebye brought about a last minute call-up for Roger just three days before we were scheduled to play tonight's opponents here. With Alan Kelly and Gareth Taylor already away on International duty that meant the automatic postponement of the League game - and a far from smooth quick exit for the blond full-back.

He was hurriedly given a flight ticket to Berne and then had to travel to Zurich to join up with his team-mates for the match, but there was no-one to meet him off the plane and no instructions as to where to head from there! A heavy telephone session was successfully negotiated to track down the squad and all was eventually well.

To beat such a fancied side as Switzerland 1-0 on their own soil was a very creditable result and Roger is optimistic about his nation's prospects.

"We won comfortably and, having three wins from three games, we have to be confident of making it to France for the Finals in 1998. Our next official game is, I think, in February so we can relax over the New Year without the pressure of worrying about making up lost ground."

When Roger and Jostein Flo first signed for the Blades Norway were building a reputation as a team to be feared, but lost their way a little. Now, after a transitional period, they are becoming strong again and appear to be developing an increasingly

large share of the promising young striker market.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer made an immediate impression this season at

Manchester United but was only on the bench against

Switzerland. Now Spurs, Liverpool and Blackburn are competing for the 20 year old Rosenberg youngster Steffen Iverson who is rated at £2.3 million. Jostein's younger brother, Torre Andre Flo is presently occupying the wide right role for Norway that older brother, Jostein, used to fill.

But at least Roger felt at home with his fellow back-four members in Zurich, who all play their League football in England - Ronny Johnsen at Manchester United, Alf-Inge Haaland at Forest and Henning Berg at Blackburn.

Having current Internationals on our staff is a big boost to the Club and Roger can't have done his prospects much harm in Switzerland. A win and a clean sheet is all a defender - and a manager - can ask for.





# "LIGHTS, ACTION, SOUND..." SMILE PLEASE, NIGEL!

Assistant Manager **NIGEL SPACKMAN** hasn't had the best of opportunities to stake a regular claim to a first-team place in recent weeks as he has battled to shake off a leg injury,

but he has been kept busy in a variety of roles that all contribute to his position at the Club.

Thursday and Friday, which was matchday, were long and hectic but

had a touch of glamour thrown in as he faced the often nerve-racking business of being in front of the TV cameras on numerous occasions - and then on Saturday morning it was back to basics at Bramall Lane.

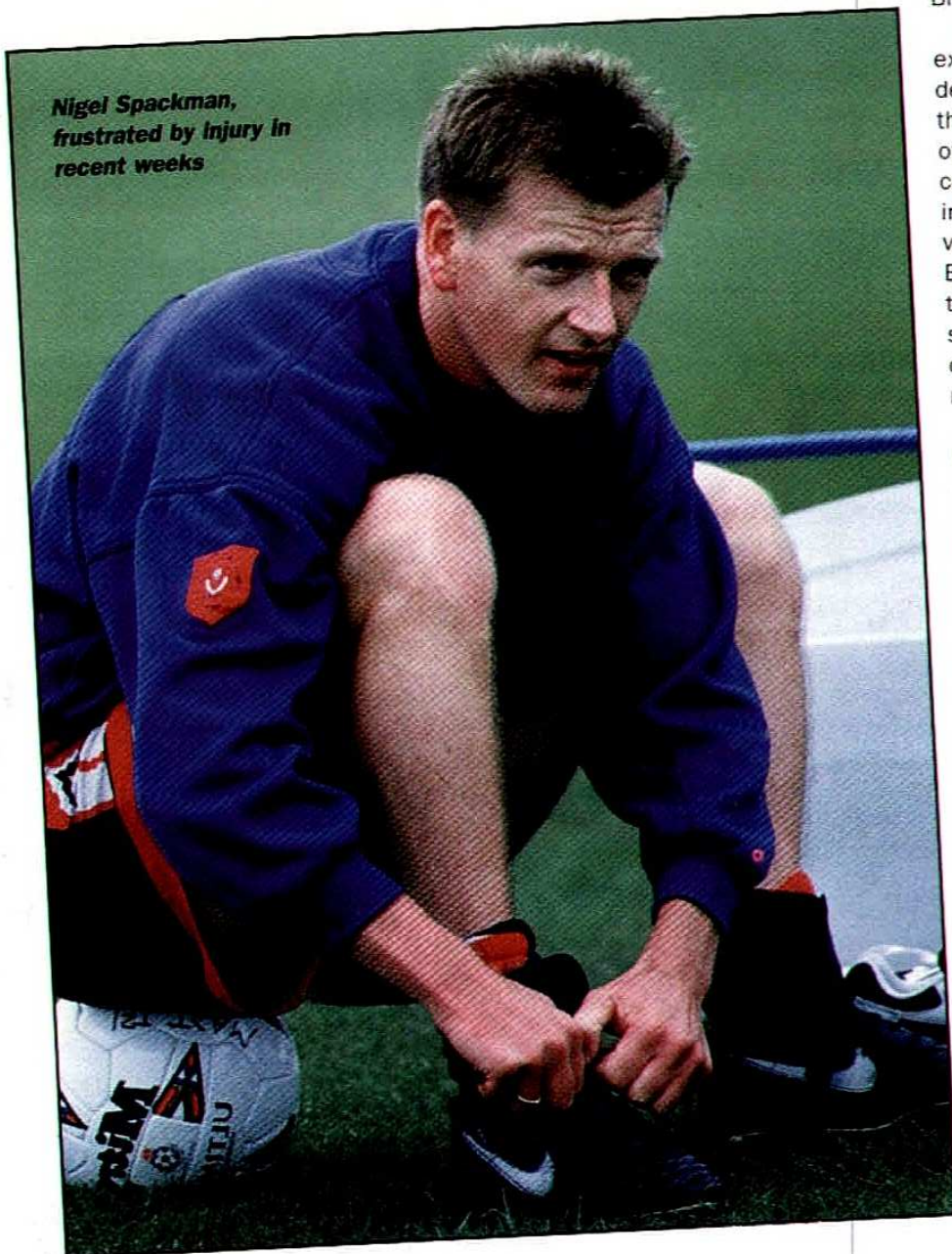
He's become an experienced campaigner at dealing with the media over the years, acquiring the skills of communication in countless after-match interviews as a player with very high-profile clubs in England and Scotland, and then more recently as a summariser or panel guest on football programmes on radio and television.

He is going to get a whole lot more of the same as he makes the transition to full managership one day, but he already has a relaxed and confident style that will stand him in good stead. And his experiences last week should certainly help him to think on his feet and be prepared for any eventuality.

United's Christmas video - a kind of resume of the first half of this season - is well under way and Nigel was one of a number of Blades' stars, including David Holdsworth, Don Hutchison, Gareth Taylor and Mark Patterson, who were interviewed for it straight after training on Thursday.

Midway through Nigel's interview, which took place in the

*Nigel Spackman, frustrated by injury in recent weeks*





Boardroom, the telephone rang, an interruption that lead to much amusement but necessitated the halting of proceedings and a re-shoot after he had answered it - and the call wasn't even for him!

As soon as that was over he was summoned at short notice to stand in for someone else as Sky TV's profiled personality which was recorded and put out before the match itself. A quick jog to Sky's temporary studio for the day at the Lane put him straight in the hot seat to answer a barrage of questions which, given his late call-up, he had little time to prepare for. The situation was made that bit more bizarre by the fact that Televideo, who produce United's videos, popped in to film Sky filming Nigel - talk about "us, watching you, watching us!"

Nigel says, "It was quite good fun, really, although they did ask me to tell a joke and I said the only clean one I knew was one of John Bailey's - but no-one could understand it anyway!"

Although Howard Kendall did the pre-match interview for Sky, Nigel was pressed into service afterwards to comment on the game and almost immediately was whisked away by Chief Executive, Charles Green, to Pond's Forge Sports Centre in the city for an appearance on the BBC's Children in Need special.

The pair were able to hand over a cheque for over £2,000 as a result of United's £1 pledge for every child who came to the game free of charge as part of an organised school or youth group. The figure was boosted by a collection at the ground and an auction winning £120 pledge from Blades fan Peter Gillott of Castleton who had a VIP evening with the Chairman in the Director's Box as a result of his successful bid on Radio Sheffield.

There was no morning off for Nigel on Saturday. He was back on duty in the Bramall Lane gymnasium working with the Reserves in preparation for last night's re-arranged game against Leicester City at the Don Valley Stadium. At least he had a rest from the cameras.

## WHEN PORT VALE IS HEAVEN ON EARTH!

**There could have been better days and places to make your long awaited return to first-team football but for CHARLIE HARTFIELD a rainy, murky day at Port Vale must have seemed like Wembley on a sunny afternoon.**

Fully nineteen months after last pulling on a senior shirt in a 0-1 defeat at Portsmouth, and then facing week after week of worry and doubt, he got the nod from Howard Kendall to replace the injured Mitch Ward at Vale Park.

His cruciate knee ligament injury had resulted in a long, hard slog to convince himself and everyone else, particularly Howard Kendall, that he could fight his way back into League action. Despite being replaced by Andy Walker after 69 minutes, Charlie was clearly relieved to have made it:

"I enjoyed it despite the fact that Vale were a good side and made us work hard. People tell me that their pitch is one of the biggest in the League but that didn't to be a problem to me, especially as I was asked to play a holding role in the centre of a three man midfield between Mark Patterson and Don Hutchison.

"A draw was a good result for us, and a satisfactory return for me, but I know it is only the beginning and the real task is to get in the side and play well enough to stay in it. At least I have proved that I'm completely over the injury and capable of getting into the squad."

## PHIL TAKES DUTCH COURAGE

There are no hard feelings from PHIL STARBUCK about the way things seem to be turning out for him at the Lane, and he's brave enough to try his luck in a foreign field to keep his career alive. Clearly behind Gareth Taylor, Andy Walker and Petr Katchouro in the strikers' pecking order at present, he is in Holland for six weeks playing for RKC Waalwijk in the top division over there.

Phil, United's PFA Representative at Bramall Lane, started off with a game against the highly rated PSV Eindhoven and then scored on his home debut against Vitesse Arnhem so a permanent move could be in the offing.

Howard Kendall says; "A fee was agreed between us and RKC before Phil joined them so if he does well and agrees a contract a deal will be done."

Phil is philosophical about his prospects in Sheffield, conceding that, "the boss has brought in a few new strikers since I've been here and they are all doing well and scoring goals. I accept that's the way things happen and he can't play all of us. I'm approaching this new opportunity with a completely open mind."

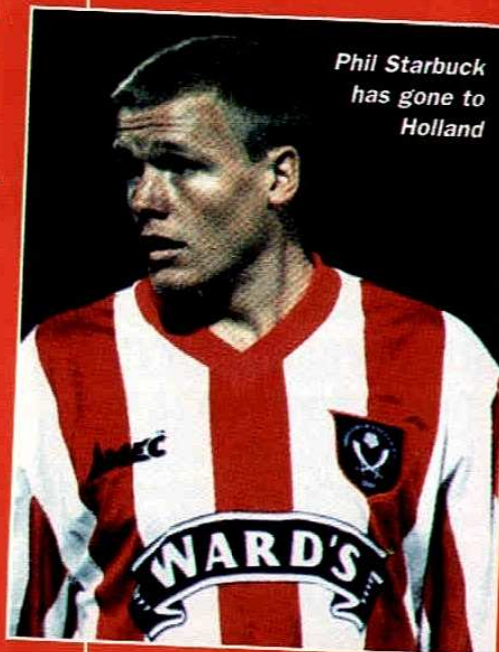
## YOUNGSTERS IN THE NEWS

**Congratulations to;**

\* Paul Burke, a striker with our U16's who was called up to the 30 strong squad for England U16's series of matches this season.

\* Michael Anderson, a midfielder from Loughborough, and Adam Burley, a wide player from City School, Sheffield - they are to sign for the Blades as U15's

\* Danny Bostock, another midfield prospect who has opted to join United's Centre of Excellence despite a lot of interest from Premiership clubs in the Midlands.



*Phil Starbuck  
has gone to  
Holland*



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# STORY SO FAR

The latest entries in the Blades 1996-97 diary...

## WEDNESDAY 30TH OCTOBER

Nationwide League Division One

### NORWICH CITY 1 SHEFFIELD UNITED 1

Scorers: Norwich - Adams (71), United - Katchouro (24)

**Norwich:** Gunn, Newman, Mills, Eadie, Polston, Sutch, Adams, Johnson (Crook 79), Milligan, Scott (Fleck 62), O'Neill. Unused; Akinbiyi.

**United:** Kelly, Short, Nilsen, Hutchison, Vonk, Holdsworth, Ward, Patterson, Taylor (White 79), Katchouro (Walker 89), Whitehouse. Unused; Tracey.

**Attendance:** 14,534

**Referee:** AR Leake (Darwen)

Two in-form teams provide a great match that has everything to please the neutral and committed alike. Neither can afford to lose ground to the other at the top and United grab the lead, and almost hold out, against mounting pressure. Kelly is only beaten by a great free-kick but a doubtful one, too, given by a referee who books five Blades and no home player!

**Alan Kelly:** "Brilliant end to end stuff, wasn't it? And a lot of it at my end I must say. It must have been great to watch because it was great to play in."

**Howard Kendall:** "Overall, a fine night; a good surface and two good sides that were up for it. We conceded too many free-kicks in the first-half which kept the pressure on us unnecessarily."

## THURSDAY 31ST OCTOBER

Starbuck's goal is the only consolation in the Reserves' awful display in losing 1-4 to Preston at the Lane.

## SATURDAY 2ND NOVEMBER

Juniors come out on top in a 4-3 thriller with Middlesbrough; Ludlam, Hawes, Davies and Wood, in the last minute, get the goals.



## SUNDAY 3RD NOVEMBER

Nationwide League Division One

### GRIMSBY TOWN 2 SHEFFIELD UNITED 4

Scorers: Grimsby - Livingstone (33, 50), United - Hutchison (27), Whitehouse (44, 82), Katchouro (80)

**Grimsby:** Pearcey, Fickling (Jobling 45), Gallimore, Smith, Rodger, Woods, Childs (Wrack 82), Livingstone, Mendonca (Forrester 82), Shakespeare, Black.

**United:** Kelly, Ward, Nilsen, Hutchison, Vonk, Holdsworth, White (Short 78), Patterson, Taylor (Walker 63), Katchouro, Whitehouse. Unused; Tracey.

**Attendance:** 5,935

**Referee:** Richard Poulain (Huddersfield)  
Bright, windy conditions make life difficult for United and managerless, struggling Town also do their bit - but the Blades' impressive away form holds up with Whitehouse, involved in all the goals, emerging as the hero, although Katchouro's second successive scoring header turns the tide at a tricky moment, enabling the side to move into sixth place.

**Dane Whitehouse:** "They put us under real pressure in the second-half and we had to battle, but we came good in the end; sometimes you have to dig in like that."

**Howard Kendall:** "Delighted .. but we can't be happy with the performance ... at 2-2 the likely winners were Grimsby Town... this compensates for those earlier times when we thought we were unfortunate."

## TUESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER

The Reserves' first-ever game at Don Valley ends in a comfortable 2-0 win against Wolves through strikes by Anthony and Walker.

## WEDNESDAY 6TH NOVEMBER

The game with Swindon is postponed as Roger Nilsen is called up for International duty.

## THURSDAY 7TH NOVEMBER

England International defender Paul Parker signs a one month contract.

## Next Home Match

Huddersfield Town's £2m summer investment in three players delivered an immediate return with five wins as they reached seventh place at the beginning of October.

The bright start then tailed off as they lost the services of their newcomers. Former Blackpool defender Andy Morrison dropped out after five league games and the strikers, Marcus Stewart and Andy Payton, were sidelined after sharing 14 goals in 13 appearances together.

Stewart, a record £1.2m purchase from Bristol Rovers, scored nine times and looked well capable of matching his achievement in netting 30 goals to top the Division Two list last season.

The well-travelled Payton, signed from Barnsley for £325,000, struck up a good understanding with Stewart, and Huddersfield were rightly hopeful that they could improve on last season's top eight finish in their first year back at the higher level.

But the squad became severely weakened by injuries, not only to the new recruits but to other key players as well. Up to a week ago, they had gone nine matches without a win, dropping down to 17th in the table.

In that time, they suffered a 6-0 defeat at Swindon - the first of seven matches in which they failed to score. The only goals in a six-week period came in one game - a 3-3 draw against Bradford City after they had trailed 3-0 in the first half.

Manager Brian Horton will be hoping that the worst is over now that the injuries are clearing up. Stewart and Payton resumed their partnership at Oxford ten days ago and Morrison returned for a 0-0 draw at Manchester City last week.

The Maine Road fixture brought their sixth away point of the season, adding to draws against Wolves and West Brom in the Midlands and their only travelling victory so far at Ipswich.

At home, they had beaten Charlton, Oldham, Reading and Birmingham, and drawn with Crystal Palace, Southend and Bradford.

★ Honours were even in last season's meetings with the Blades. Jostein Flo and Glyn Hodges scored in our 2-1 win at the McAlpine Stadium, but Andy Booth - now with the Owls - and Darren Bullock contributed in Town's 2-0 victory at Bramall Lane.



Story so far





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As United's complement of International players increases **DAVE BURKINSHAW** recalls England's

# HEROES OF ITALIA 1990

**United's recent signing of former England defender Paul Parker (right) revived memories of England's best ever performance in the World Cup Finals outside this country.**

In Italy in 1990 Parker was a member of the team which unluckily lost to West Germany in the semi-finals of the competition.

Bobby Robson's England reached the semi-finals after first qualifying from group F which consisted of Eire, Holland and Egypt and then disposing of Belgium and Cameroon in the knock-out stages. Parker played in all the games except the opening one against Eire.

In the Semi-final against West Germany England dominated the first half but failed to capitalise on their superiority. Germany took the lead in the 59th minute when Brehme's free-kick took a wicked deflection off Parker and looped agonisingly over goal keeper Peter Shilton. England fought back and equalised in the 80th minute through Gary Lineker.

The match went into extra time and Chris Waddle almost won the game for England when his shot hit the inside of the post. It was at this point in the game that Paul Gascoigne shed his famous tears when he was booked for a foul which would have meant him missing the Final.

The match was decided on penalties after a 1-1 stalemate at the 120 minutes mark. England began the shootout well when Lineker, Beardsley and Platt all scored but unfortunately Brehme, Matthaus and Riedle did the same for the Germans. England's fourth penalty, taken by Stuart Pearce, was saved by German 'keeper Illgner. They then scored to put Germany 4-3 ahead leaving Chris Waddle needing to score to keep England's hopes alive. His shot flew high over the bar and England were out of the 1990 World Cup.

The team played one more match in Italia 90 when they met hosts Italy in the third place play-off and lost 2-1.

Below are brief career details of the England players since their brave Semi-final appearance:

**Peter Shilton:** That Italy game was his 125th and last International appearance. Has had a spell as manager at Plymouth but is still pursuing the possibility of making 1000 League appearances - at present has over 990 to his credit.

**Stuart Pearce:** Remains loyal to Nottingham Forest and is still a vital member of Glen Hoddle's England squad.

**Des Walker:** Moved to Italian club Sampdoria in 1992 before returning to England with Sheffield Wednesday in 1993.

**Paul Parker:** Moved to Manchester United from Q.P.R. in 1991. Had a brief spell at Derby after his release from Old Trafford before joining the Blades.

**Mark Wright:** Moved to Liverpool from Derby County in 1991. A recall to England colours in 1996 was thwarted by injury.

**Chris Waddle:** He was playing for Marseille at the time of Italia 90. He moved to Sheffield Wednesday in 1992 where he remained until this season. Played for Falkirk for a spell but has now signed a contract at Bradford City until the end of this season.

**Terry Butcher:** After a successful spell as a player with Glasgow Rangers has had unsuccessful spells as manager at Coventry and Sunderland.

**David Platt:** Left Aston Villa in 1991 for a lucrative career in Italy. He played for Bari, Juventus and Sampdoria before returning to England with Arsenal in 1995.

**Paul Gascoigne:** After a career

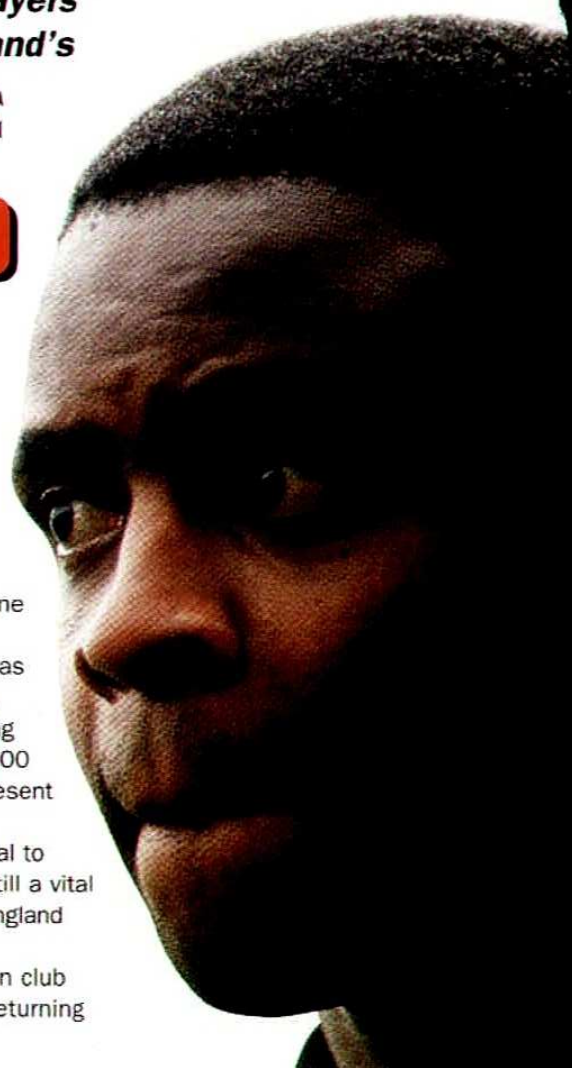
threatening injury in 1991 'Gazza' moved to Italian club Lazio and then joined Glasgow Rangers in 1995. Love him or hate him, his presence in the game cannot be ignored.

**Peter Beardsley:** Moved from Liverpool to Everton in 1991 before returning to hometown club Newcastle United in 1993 where he has played some of the best football of his career.

**Gary Lineker:** played for Tottenham until 1992 before an unsuccessful move to Japanese club Grampus 8. Scored 48 goals for England, one short of Bobby Charlton's record 49 goals. Now seen regularly on television.

**Trevor Steven:** Came on as substitute for Butcher in the Semi-final. Had a brief spell at Marseille before returning to Glasgow Rangers. His recent career has been blighted by injuries.

**Bryan Robson, John Barnes, Steve Bull, Steve McMahon, Tony Dorigo and Neil Webb** also played for England in Italia 90 games.





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# THE ROBINS

## FORM GUIDE

Swindon Town are back to where they started after a dizzy period in which they nurtured the new England management team and played in a different division for five seasons in succession.

The trail took them to Wembley and on to the highest point in their history, but then turned a full circle with two backward steps before they came forward again with a promotion-winning side. . .

- ★ 92-93: Promotion from Division One with player-manager Glenn Hoddle scoring in the play-off final against Leicester shortly before his move to Chelsea.
- ★ 93-94: Assistant manager John Gorman takes the helm but Swindon drop out of the Premiership after one season.
- ★ 94-95: New manager Steve McMahon is unable to correct another slide to relegation, though the side goes close to another Wembley trip with an appearance in the League Cup semi-final.
- ★ 95-96: Messrs Hoddle and Gorman assume control of the England team as Mr McMahon celebrates the Second Division Championship at the end of his first full season.
- ★ 96-97: Back to Division One for a further attempt to recover lost ground - and a money-spinning bonus with a Coca-Cola Cup-tie in front of a near-50,000 crowd at Old Trafford.



Swindon's driving force... Player manager Steve McMahon





The Wiltshire club's regeneration was signposted last year with 23 points from the first nine games and then sealed with a 12-match unbeaten run at the end. The title was won with three games to spare in a season of only four league defeats.

This total was exceeded after only ten fixtures this season, but cup victories over Wolves and QPR revealed a potential which emerged in spectacular style during October.

In the space of a week, the Robins climbed ten places, stunning Huddersfield Town with six goals in 19 minutes and inflicting a first home defeat on high-riding Crystal Palace.

Striker Peter Thorne scored a hat-trick against Huddersfield and made his tally five in three games with an equaliser against Manchester United before Swindon slipped off the cup trail with a 2-1 defeat by the champions.

Subsequent form reflected the volatile nature of the division. Swindon lost two in a row, then won two in succession, and retained seventh place despite last week's defeat at Ipswich.

## TRANSFERS

**In less than two years, Steve McMahon built virtually a brand-new team for little more than the record fee of £1.3m received from Middlesbrough for striker Jan Aage Fjortoft in March 1995.**

The bulk of the spending was done before Swindon won promotion last season, but they have since brought in six players for a total investment of only £115,000.

For that modest sum, they recruited . . .

- ★ Two Premiership players - former England and Liverpool winger Mark Walters from Southampton and full back Gary Elkins from Wimbledon.
- ★ An experienced European campaigner and ex-French Under-21 international in defender Frederic Darras, who spent 11 years with Auxerre

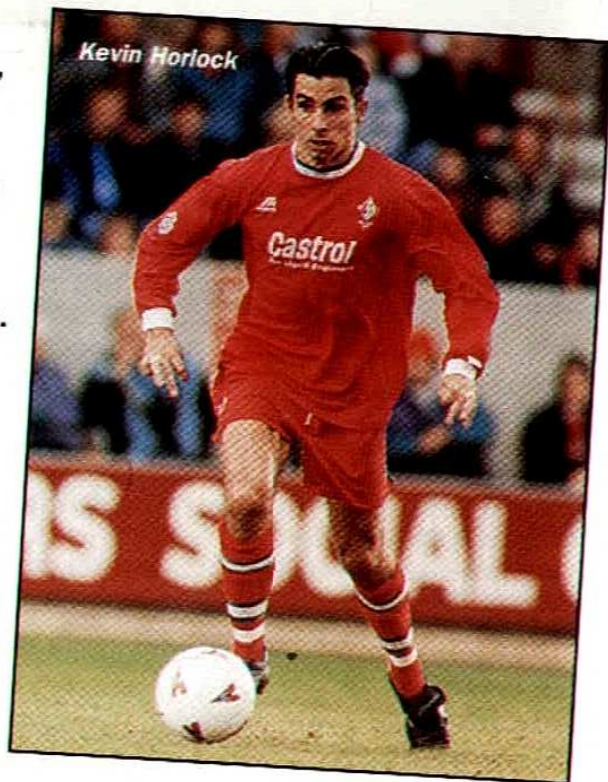
before playing for Bastia.

★ Midfield man Scott Leitch, who clocked up over 150 senior appearances in Scotland with Dunfermline and Hearts.

★ Spurs' reserve team captain, Kevin Watson, a goal-scorer on his first-team debut for the Londoners in a Coca-Cola Cup-tie four years ago.

★ Peter Holcroft, a 20 year old midfield player from Everton.

The only fees were



Kevin Horlock

paid for Leitch and Elkins, the latter signed in September after 110 top-flight outings with Wimbledon.

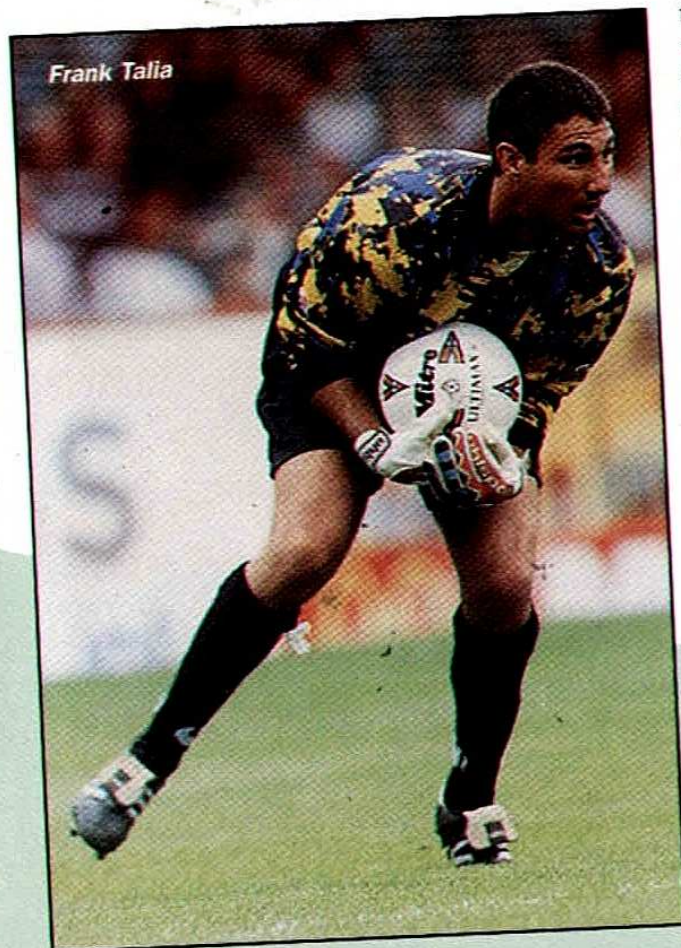
## THE SQUAD

**Long-serving goalkeeper Fraser Digby, now in his testimonial season after ten years' service, has become the last survivor from the promotion-winning Wembley side in 1993.**

The other remaining links were broken this year with the £100,000 sale of Shaun Taylor to Bristol City and free transfers for Martin Ling (Leyton) and Paul Bodin (Reading).

Two other players were on the staff in 1993 but did not feature in the Wembley triumph. Republic of Ireland Under-21 full back Wayne O'Sullivan was in his first year as a professional, and midfielder Kevin Horlock, now a Northern Ireland international, was in his first season after moving from West Ham.

Sheffield-born Digby made 25 league appearances last season - his third promotion campaign with the club - but this term he had to wait until last Saturday to take over from former Blackburn keeper Australian Frank Talia.



Frank Talia



## Management

**Steve McMahon's first-team playing career has spanned 16 years - and it may not have finished despite a back injury which restricted him to one substitute appearance from last Christmas.**

The 35-year-old Merseysider made his league bow for Everton in August 1980, but it was to be on the other side of the city where he would make his reputation as one of the finest midfield players of his generation.

The switch to Liverpool was by way of a £300,000 move to Aston Villa in 1983 and then a £375,000 transfer to Anfield in 1985. He proved to be an inspired signing by Kenny Dalglish, finishing his first season with League and FA Cup medals.

Capped six times at Under-21 while with his first two clubs, he graduated to the full squad with Liverpool, and his 17 England appearances included duty at the 1990 World Cup tournament in Italy.

On Christmas Eve 1991, he made his most expensive move, joining Manchester City for £900,000, and he stayed at Maine Road until becoming player-manager at Swindon in November 1994.

Mr McMahon appointed a new No 2 this season when Mike Walsh joined him as first-team coach in October. He was a Republic of Ireland international during a lengthy career with Bolton, Everton, Manchester City and Blackburn.

In later years, Mr Walsh was manager at Bury, and at the beginning of this season, he was in charge at the Unibond Premier League club, Barrow.

Three centre backs have had top-level experience - a considerable amount in the case of Ian Culverhouse, a £250,000 buy from Norwich, but less so for his partners.

Mark Seagraves, a £100,000 capture from Bolton in 1995, started as a reserve player with Liverpool and then went to Manchester City, while Mark Robinson played mainly for Barnsley and had a short spell with Newcastle before joining Swindon for £600,000 in July 1994.

The wing back positions were filled for a time by newcomers Darras and Elkins, and in midfield, Horlock was joined by two of the other summer signings, Walters and Leitch.

At 32, Walters can look back on numerous medals with Rangers and Liverpool in a career of more than 400 league games, but his range of experience is more than matched by another midfielder - the former Spurs and West Ham player, Paul Allen, who arrived from Southampton last October.

Swindon have a choice of four strikers, the most travelled being 28-year-old Wayne Allison with a career record of more than 90 league goals. The Huddersfield-born player started with Halifax Town and then ran up a transfer bill of over £1m - £250,000 to Watford in 1989, £300,000 to Bristol City a year later, and £475,000 to Swindon

in 1995. He was top scorer with 20 league and cup goals in his first season at the County Ground.

Peter Thorne played as substitute in the 1994 Charity Shield match at Wembley - his only senior outing for Blackburn Rovers - and moved to Swindon for £200,000 in the following January.

An injury to Thorne last season

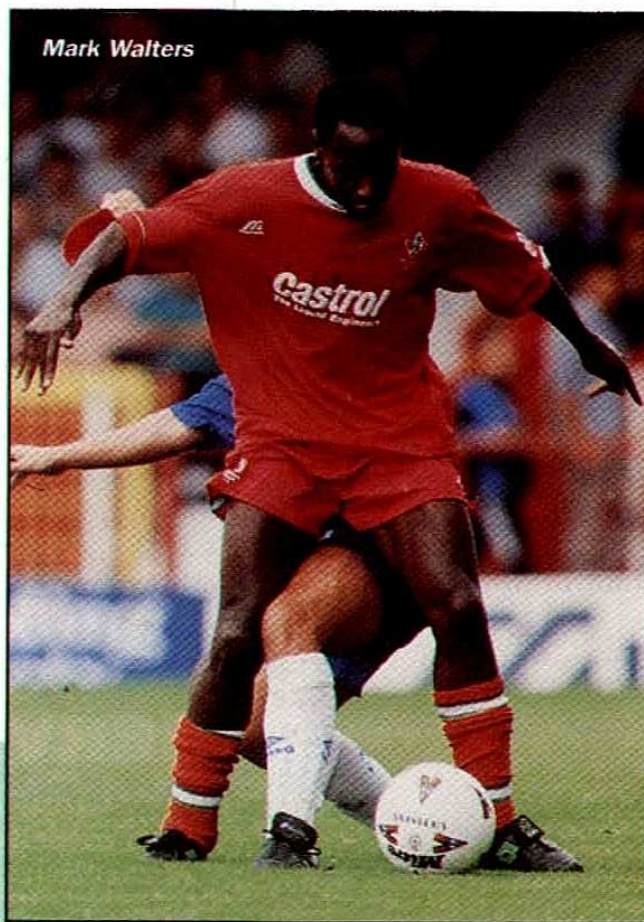
created an opening for Steve Finney and the free transfer man from Manchester City was top marksman with 16 goals until breaking an ankle at Burnley in March.

Finney's misfortune prompted a loan deal for Aston Villa's Steve Cowe and this led to a £100,000 transfer before he scored one of the championship-clinching goals at

Chesterfield in April.

The promoted squad also included Jason Drysdale, unlucky with injuries since his £340,000 move from Newcastle in 1995; Ty Gooden, a 1993 arrival after being released by Wycombe; Alex Smith, who came from Everton in January this year; and Scotsman Lee Collins, previously with Albion Rovers.

Mark Walters







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## RECORDS

### United v Swindon

Home	8	6	1	1	16	7
Away	8	2	1	5	10	16
Total	16	8	2	6	26	23

### First League game at Sheffield 9 Feb 1970

United 1 Swindon 2

### Swindon 11 Oct 1969

Swindon 2 United 1

### United's biggest win

3-0 H 1980-81

### Swindon's biggest win

5-2 H 1980-81

### Doubles by United

1 - in 1989-90

### Doubles by Swindon

1 - in 1969-70

### United's last goal v Swindon

Glyn Hodges 15 April 1995

### Swindon's last goal v United

Martin Ling 15 April 1995

### United hat-tricks

none

### Swindon hat-tricks

Andy Rowland 1980-81 H

### United clean sheets

H - 3, A - 2

### Swindon clean sheets

H - 3, A - 0

### Highest attendance at

Sheffield 22,711 1969-70

Swindon 21,944 1969-70

## QUICK FACTS

★ We have not yet failed to score in a League game against Swindon at the Lane and our only League defeat was in 1969-70 when Swindon won 2-1 on their first visit. We did, however, lose to Swindon in the F.A. Cup in 1907-08 - despite Swindon being a non-League club at the time.

★ Our first ever Sunday game at the Lane was against Swindon, in the old Division Two on 20 December 1987. Richard Cadette scored the only goal in our 1-0 victory.

★ Peter Dornan, whose English career consisted of four appearances, played for both ourselves and Swindon. He joined us from Linfield in December 1976 where he returned after just two games plus a substitute appearance. He returned to England in 1979 and made one substitute appearance for Swindon. However, despite his brief career in England, he played several times in European competitions, including the European Cup, with Linfield. He would not have reached such heights with either the Blades or Swindon!

## SWINDON TOWN ROLL CALL 1996-97

(Appearances for Nationwide League Division One & Coca-Cola Cup)

Player	Birthplace	Birthdate	Previous Club	Apps	Goals
Paul Allen	Aveley	28.8.62	Southampton	7(4)	1
Wayne Allison	Huddersfield	16.10.68	Bristol City	16(2)	7
Lee Collins	Bellshill	3.2.74	Albion Rovers	1	-
Steve Cowe	Gloucester	29.9.74	Aston Villa	13(4)	3
Ian Culverhouse	Bishop's Cleeve	22.9.64	Norwich City	17	-
Frederic Darras	Calais	19.8.66	Bastia	17(2)	-
Fraser Digby	Sheffield	23.4.67	Manchester United	1	-
Jason Drysdale	Bristol	17.11.70	Newcastle United	6	-
Gary Elkins	Wallingford	4.5.66	Wimbledon	10	-
Steve Finney	Hexham	31.10.73	Manchester City	4(5)	1
Ty Gooden	Canvey Island	23.10.72	Wycombe Wanderers	1(1)	-
Kevin Horlock	Plumstead	1.11.72	West Ham United	21	4
Scott Leitch	Motherwell	6.10.69	Hearts	20	1
Steve McMahon	Liverpool	20.8.61	Manchester City	-	-
Wayne O'Sullivan	Cyprus	25.2.74	School	8(4)	1
Mark Robinson	Rochdale	21.11.68	Newcastle United	18	1
Mark Seagraves	Bootle	22.10.66	Bolton Wanderers	15(2)	-
Alex Smith	Liverpool	15.2.76	Everton	1	-
Frank Talia	Melbourne	20.7.72	Blackburn Rovers	20	-
Peter Thorne	Manchester	21.6.73	Blackburn Rovers	10(6)	7
Mark Walters	Birmingham	2.6.64	Southampton	16(1)	4
Kevin Watson	Hackney	3.1.74	Tottenham Hotspur	6(5)	1

ALSO PLAYED: Shaun Taylor (to Bristol City) 3(1) apps.  
(Up to and including Saturday 2nd November)



## THE LAST TEN

SWINDON TOWN'S LAST TEN LEAGUE RESULTS...

Date	V	Opponents	Result	Attendance
Sep 14	H	Tranmere Rovers	2-1	8,430
Sep 21	A	Scorers: Walters pen Horlock QPR	1-1	13,662
Sep 27	H	Scorer: Cowe Wolverhampton W.	1-2	8,572
Oct 2	A	Scorer: Horlock Bradford City	1-2	9,249
Oct 12	H	Scorer: Walters pen Oxford United	1-0	10,811
Oct 16	H	Scorer: Horlock Huddersfield Town	6-0	7,724
Oct 19	A	Scorers: Walters Thorne 3 Crystal Palace	2-1	15,088
Oct 26	A	Scorers: Allison Thorne Reading	0-2	11,018
Oct 30	H	W. B. Albion	2-3	8,909
Nov 2	H	Scorers: Allan Thorne Manchester City	2-0	14,374

### Progress...

September 14: 10th.  
November 2: 7th.

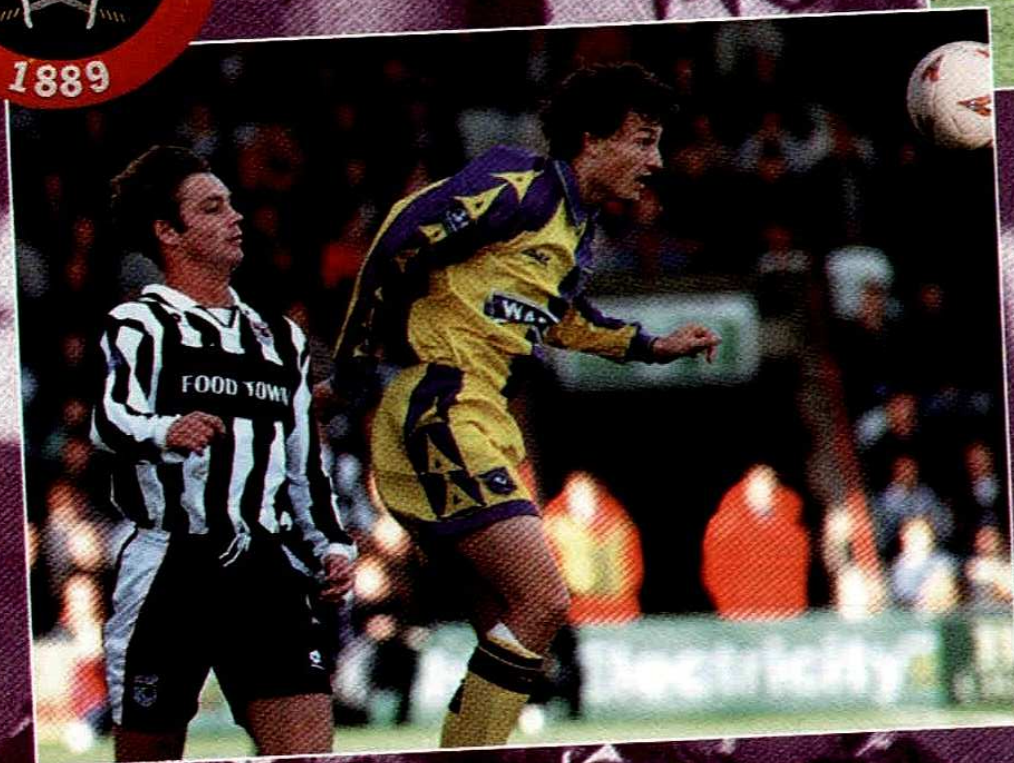
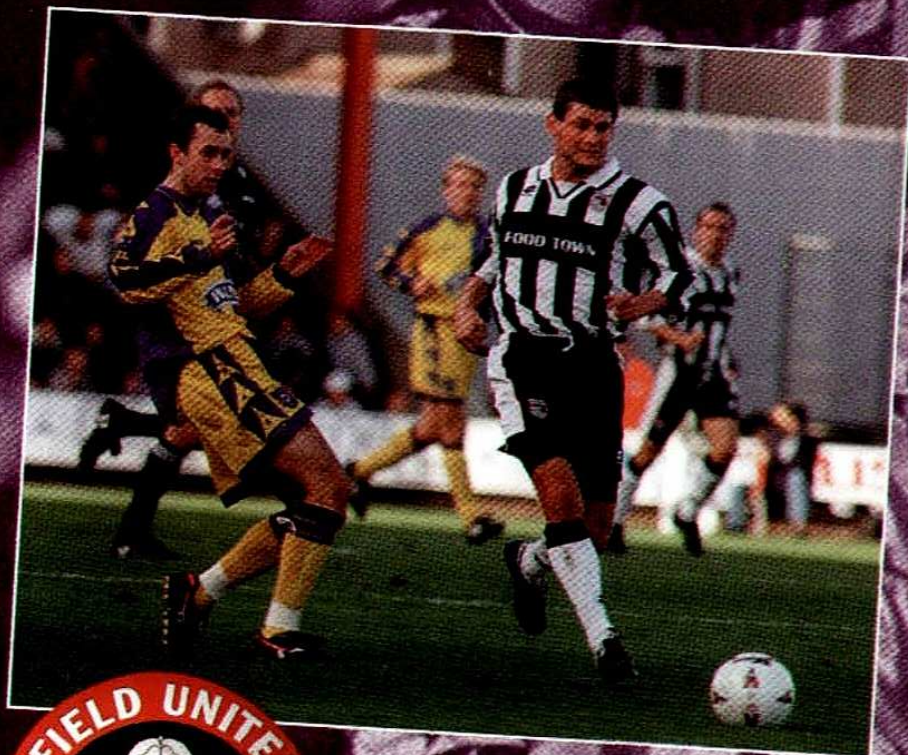
16 points from 30





# KATCH OF

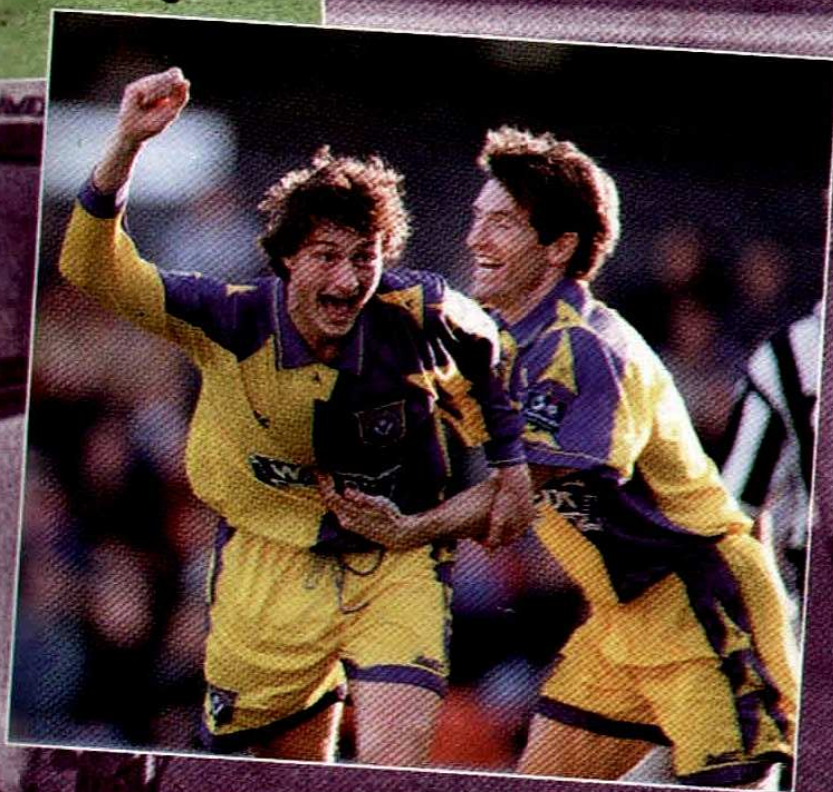
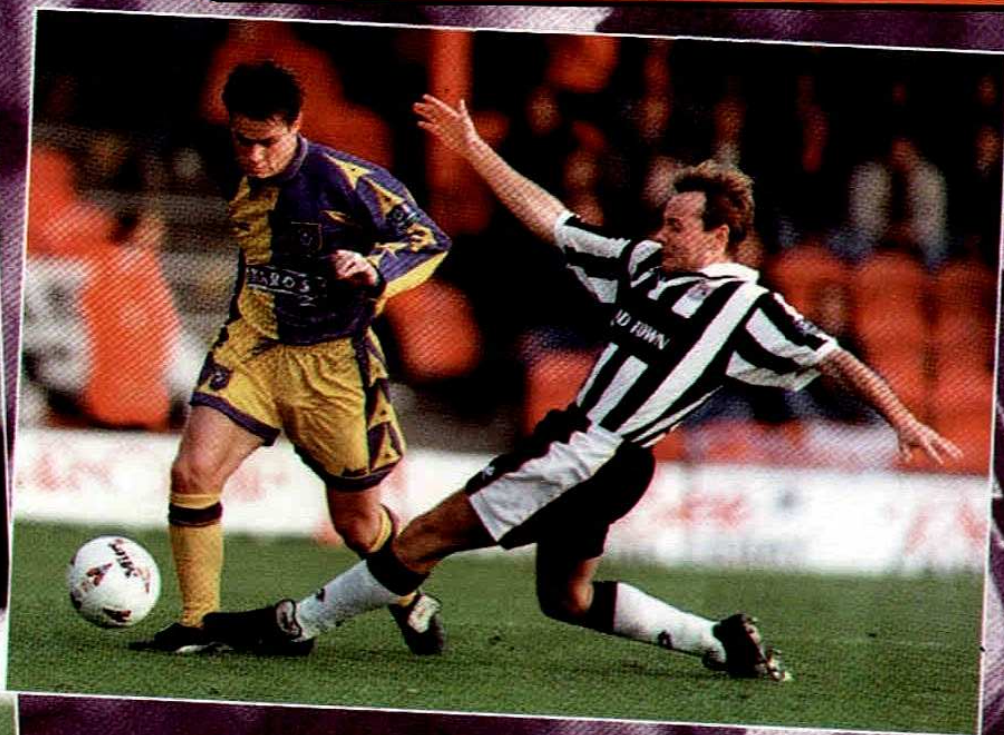
Action from Blundell Park





# THE DAY

Grimsby Town 2 - Sheffield United 4



*Reeling in the catch is something they're used to in Grimsby... but not last Sunday afternoon!*

*Our very own giant 'Katchi' - Belarus belter, Petr Katchouro (middle top, left and far left) helped himself to another goal as the team sunk the Mariners in front of the Sky TV cameras at Blundell Park. But the win was by no means just down to Petr. Dane Whitehouse registered twice and Don Hutchison grabbed his second goal of the season (top left).*



Action from Blundell Park





SPORTS AND LEISUREWEAR AVEC STYLE



# CHRIS SHORT



**Name:**

**Chris Short**

**Born:**

**9th May 1970 in Munster (Germany)**

**Height:**

**5ft 10in**

**Weight:**

**12st 3lb**

**Team Position:**

**Defence**

**Career Note:**

**During his time at Notts County, Chris was sidelined for a year through a stamina sapping illness**



**This has not been a very happy season so far for Chris Short, our defender who joined us soon after the arrival of Howard Kendall. He's been troubled by injuries, as he explains**

"I had an enjoyable time on our pre-season tour of Malaysia but then, right at the very end, I pulled my hamstring when training. I was injured when we went on tour to Northern Ireland and so didn't play, and then wasn't selected for the opening match of the season.

"Then I had a run of games in the first team, but was still troubled by my injury. A poor game against Stockport meant that I lost my place, but even when I regained it again I still found the hamstring was causing me a little trouble. It's as though I've never really got going this season. I would love to get it completely cleared up and get back to playing how I know I can. After all, the squad we have is now so strong I can't afford to lose my place as there are so many other good players who might claim my spot."

The move to United was a good one for Chris, and one that he has thoroughly enjoyed. "I wasn't involved at all at Notts County last season. Some of us, including Nigel Jemson and Chris Marsden, were being completely overlooked so when

I heard that Howard Kendall wanted me to come to Bramall Lane and jumped at the chance" he said.

Things had once looked so promising at County and he explained that, "I was in their promotion team when they went up to the old First Division. I played in about half their matches in the First, including a 3-1 early season win here at Bramall Lane, and in the later match when United gained revenge at Meadow Lane.

We were relegated, however, and that was my only opportunity in the highest Division.

"It was mostly downhill after that although, when Howard Kendall arrived for a short spell as manager, we did get to Wembley in the Anglo-Italian Final and I played in that."

Chris's attitude to football is, to some extent, coloured by an illness that kept him from playing for eighteen months. "I got a stomach infection that eventually entered my blood stream and I felt so tired that I could often only train for five minutes.

Playing became out of the question and I had to face the fact that I thought that I would never be able to play again."

What made it worse, he says, was nobody seemed to be able to find the cause. "Eventually it was diagnosed as a fungal infection, I was put on drugs and a strict diet, and within a month I was back playing. I feel so grateful to be playing again, having been told that I probably never would, and I

**"I feel so grateful to be playing again, having been told that I probably never would, and I look at things rather philosophically. All I really want to do now is to get in the team and stay there"**

look at things rather philosophically. All I really want to do now is to get in the team and stay there."

There is rather more to it than that, though, as he would like to emulate his

older brother, Craig, who now plays for Everton. "We remain very close friends and our families visit each other regularly. We seem to always be phoning each other, and watch each other play whenever possible," he said, "Now all I want is for us to play against each other in the Premiership." Let's hope this wish can be granted next season.



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## BLADES ON THE TERRACE!

A display of Blades shirts decorate this Hotel verandah in Alcudia,



Majorca, last summer as Blades Revival member Mick Aldred from Brinsworth, wife Kath, daughters Louise and Nicola joined forces with the Merrill family from Thurcroft to announce their particular corner of the world as a United stronghold.

## WELL DONE, KIDS!

The persistence of 9 year old Hannah Raw and her brother, 7 year old Christopher, brought United a mention in the "Green 'Un" last month.

The pair, who are both Junior Blades, wrote three letters about us to the local press and took them to task for not printing the first two! The result? Success with the following which duly appeared: "I think the United players will play well in every game now that the new stand is built and there are supporters on that side of the pitch to cheer them on."

## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday today to John Walker

Recent birthdays include: Rachel Devaney, Nancy Logan, Paul Cutts, Andrew Eastwood, Adam Burnett, Sean Bishop, Thomas Armin, Richard Simmons, James Clay, Gemma Stones, Jade Murray, Robin Askham, Ben Knight, Sophie Cobley, Nicholas Curtis, Kelly Littlewood, Jamie Williams, Kieran Hooper, Brady Edwards, Joseph Craft, Thomas Duggan, Alex Gosbee, Samuel Ollerenshaw, Mark Hayman, Keith Taylor, Christopher Bennett, Gemma Kirkland, Paul Mountain, Richard Hutton, Mark Gabriel, Ashley Broughton, Richard Green, Joel Greaves, Alexander Dickson, Louise Thakeray, Jamie Lee, Daniel Fry, Richard Kirk.

## Football in the Community



with Tony Currie

## SOCCER COURSES AT BRAMALL LANE

We are putting on two ONE DAY courses at the Lane on

- ★ Mon 30th Dec for boys & girls, aged 7-9 years from 10am-3.30pm
- ★ Thurs 2nd Jan for boys & girls, aged 10-12 years from 10am-3.30pm

### WHAT YOU GET

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- ★ Match ticket v Southend on January 18th
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- ★ 6 a side Competition
- ★ Penalty Competitions
- ★ 50 places only, per Course

PRICE £10 per Course

Forms available at SUFC or ring TC on 2769314

## CONSOLATION FOR MITCH

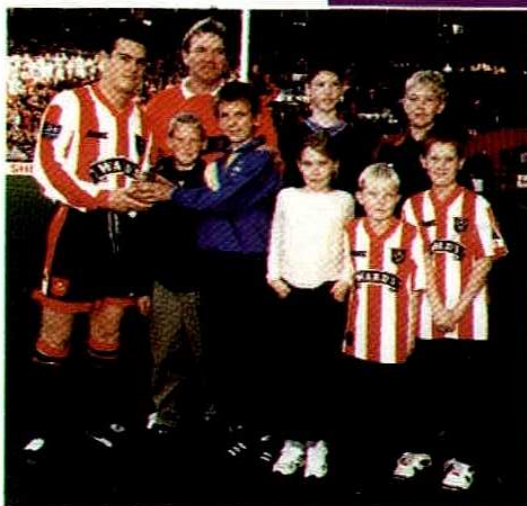
Mitch Ward's fractured foot has

unluckily sidelined him for a few weeks but it doesn't dull the memory of his fine form, particularly that in September which earned him the Football in the Community award for that month.

He is pictured receiving it from Matthew Taylor and Saturday Club members.

## TONIGHT'S MASCOT

**JOHN WALKER** is 9 years old and attends Broom Valley School in Rotherham. His hobbies are playing football (naturally!), watching the Blades (even more naturally!) and chasing his dog, "Jocko"! John claims that all United's players are his favourites but he does single out one - his cousin who happens to be John Reed!



## SATURDAY CLUB

The Saturday Club runs each weekend at Gleadless Primary School, Hollinsend Road, for both boys and girls aged 7 - 13 years.

Non-match day times are 10am - 1pm. £4

Match days last from 10am - 5pm. £8 (match ticket included)

Season Ticket holders can get a £3 discount, and Junior Blades a reduction of £1

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# The INSIDE LANE

**The fast track to all official Blades club news...**

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

**As all United supporters will be aware, financial assistance from the Football Trust has been of the utmost help to Sheffield United as Bramall Lane has been redeveloped in recent years, culminating in the replacement of the John Street Stand.**

However, I suspect that few of you will know that the potential input of this invaluable organisation is under threat.

The future funding of the Football Trust is a very important matter for us and the whole of football.

The Trust provides essential support for safety and improvement work and for the redevelopment of grounds to meet the requirements of the Taylor Report. The transformation we are seeing at our grounds would be impossible without them.

Our top clubs have largely completed the Taylor task and the trust is now concentrating on clubs in the Second and Third Divisions, whose needs

are considerable but whose resources are extremely limited. Just as this crucial stage of implementing Taylor is reached the national lottery has halved the Trust's income. The crisis will deepen now that the mid-week lottery draw is round the corner.

The Football Trust is urging the Government to:

- 1) extend the Taylor implementation to 2003, thus making it's reduced annual income available over three years to enable the smaller clubs to see through the Taylor task;

- 2) reduce pool betting duty to help to consolidate the pools business and thus the income of the trust.

**The Trust's work is of enormous value and it's future must be safeguarded. Please play your part by writing NOW to your MP - (name) House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA urging him to make representations to the Chancellor**

## HK AND CO. HELP THOMAS

**Blades fan, Malcolm Gudgeon, of Greenhill, Sheffield has sent a nice letter to Howard Kendall for the part played by Howard, Nigel Spackman and Charlie Hartfield in a fund-raiser for his autistic son, Thomas, last month.**

A Charity match, held at Abbeydale Grange School playing fields, was followed by a get together at the Cherry Tree Inn, and raised £311 towards sending Thomas to London for treatment - the presence of the United trio helped swell the sum and we wish Thomas all the best.

Howard and Nigel are pictured (below) with players, officials and Thomas after the game.





**TICKET OFFICE UPDATE**

DIRECT TICKET BOOKING LINE

0114 221 1889

Mon to Friday	9am - 4.45pm
Saturday	9am - noon
Saturday matchday	9am to kick-off
Day prior to a first team game	9am - 6pm

**INSTANT TICKET INFORMATION**

0891 332950 (Calls charged at 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p per minute at all other times)

**MATCHDAY PRICES****NATIONWIDE LEAGUE 1996 - 97**

	ADULT	JUN./SENIOR CONCESSION
Laver Stand	15.00	8.00
Kop Stand	10.00	7.00
Family Enclos.	10.00	5.00
John St. Stand	16.00	8.00

No more than two adult tickets can be purchased with each child in the Family Enclosure.

**Jun. (Juniors):**

Supporters under 16 years of age.

**Seniors:**

Supporters aged 60 years and over.

**Students/UB40:**

Supporters who are in full-time education or are unemployed. Confirmation of status MUST be provided when purchasing these tickets from the Ticket Office.

**These tickets are not available at the turnstiles.**

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To qualify for discount prices you must be either:

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★ Please produce proof of the above when booking to obtain the discounted prices

**TICKET INFORMATION****QPR V SHEFFIELD UNITED**

Nationwide League Division One  
**Saturday 30th November, kick-off 3pm**

This match is NOT all-ticket for Blades fans. 1,200 seats are available in the School End Lower Tier, price £13 Adults & £6.50 Juniors/OAP's. Further seats in the Upper Tier may also be available if required for Blades fans, price £11 Adults & £5.50 Juniors/OAP's. Lower Tier seats are on sale now

**TRAVEL CLUB**

Depart SUFC Car Park - 9am  
Price £14

Adult Discount Price £13

Concession Discount Price £12.50

Please book by Wednesday 27th November.

**SHEFFIELD UNITED V HUDDERSFIELD TOWN**

Nationwide League Division One

**Tuesday 3rd December, kick-off 7.45pm**

This match has been re-arranged from the original date of 27th August. Match tickets purchased for the original date are still valid. Tickets are on sale now.

★ Please note that match tickets which were sent to John Street Stand and Family Enclosure Season Ticket holders for the original date are NOT valid. These are clearly marked JOHN STREET STAND EXCHANGE and WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED at the turnstiles. Season Ticket holders in these areas should use their season ticket books as usual.

**SHEFFIELD UNITED V PORTSMOUTH**

Nationwide League Division One

**Saturday 7th December, kick-off 3pm.**

This match is NOT all-ticket.

Tickets are on sale now.

**OXFORD UNITED V SHEFFIELD UNITED**

Nationwide League Division One

**Saturday 14th December, kick-off 3pm.**

This match is NOT all-ticket for Blades fans. 2,100 Terrace tickets are available, priced at £9.00 Adults & £6.00 for Juniors U16 / OAP's over 65.

420 seats are also available, priced at £12.00 Adults & £8.00 Juniors / O.A.P. All concessionary priced tickets are ONLY available in advance. The adult price will be charged at the turnstiles. Tickets will be on sale in advance from Monday 2nd December.

**TRAVEL CLUB**

Depart SUFC Car Park 10am  
Price £12

Adult Discount Price £11

Concession Discount Price £10.50

Please book by Wednesday 11th December

**SHEFFIELD UNITED V BARNSELY**

Nationwide League Division One

**Saturday 21st December, kick-off 3pm.**

This match is NOT currently all-ticket. However, supporters are advised to purchase tickets in advance. Should demand indicate that ground capacity may be reached then this match may become all-ticket. Tickets will be on sale from Monday 25th November.

**THANKS, LADS**

**Blades Commercial Manager, Andy Daykin, and his wife were recently involved in a car accident in difficult conditions on a dark evening on the outskirts of Sheffield.**

Happily, no-one was seriously hurt but such occurrences are always traumatic and Andy would like to thank Ian Pinnington and Jonathan Ashton, students at Hallam University, for stopping and being so helpful to all concerned.

**DOUG'S HOME HELP**

**DOUG HODGSON earned a glowing tribute on his trip home to "Oz" in the summer.**

Here is an extract from a letter



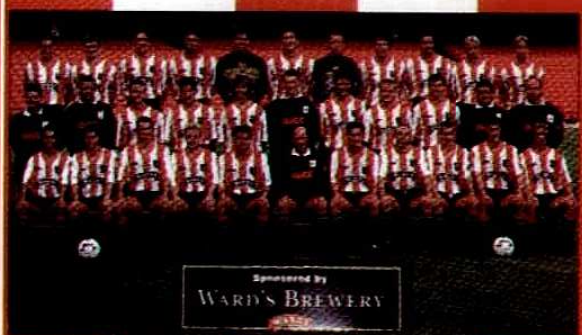
from Paul Willigenburg, Treasurer and U15Coach at the Langwarrin Soccer Club in Doug's home town of Frankston in Victoria;

"The Committee would like to pass on it's thanks to Doug for his efforts on our behalf during his stay. As well as assisting us at a function to open our new soccer grounds., Doug addressed the crowd assembled on the day and christened the main ground by kicking the first ball played on it. He also assisted me personally by coming to an U15 training session to talk to my players.

Our Club is a small but growing one in Melbourne and needs all the help it can get to continue growing. Dougie is a local lad and we appreciate his effort in supporting one of his local clubs"

# SHEFFIELD United

Official 1997 Calendar



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12 months a year with the new official

## BLADES CALENDAR for 1997

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## Action Replay

- 1) Who are the two United players featured in the picture taken from the game played between the two sides on 14th August 1993?



- 2) Who is the Swindon player also in the picture?
- 3) With which club is the answer to question three now with?
- 4) In the game played between the two sides in Division Two on the 20th December 1987, United won 1-0. Who was the United scorer?
- 5) Who were the two managers on that day referred to in question four?
- 6) Who was the manager of Swindon immediately before John Gorman?
- 7) In the game between the two sides in a Division Three fixture on 6th September 1980, United won 3-0. Who were the United scorers?
- 8) Who were the goalkeepers in the game mentioned in question seven?
- 9) Which Sheffield born goalkeeper made 348 appearances for Swindon but eventually went 'on loan' to Manchester United?
- 10) In the game played at the County Ground between the two sides on 22nd August 1987 Swindon won 2-0. Who were the goalscorers?
- 11) In the old Division 2 United played Swindon on 12th September 1989 and won 2-0. Who scored the United goals?
- 12) United's previous home game to that mentioned in Question 11 was against Brighton at the Lane. What was the final score in that game?

## The Answers

- 1) Paul Rogers and Andy Scott.
- 2) John Moncur.
- 3) West Ham United.
- 4) Richard Cadette.
- 5) Billy McEwan and Lou Macari.
- 6) Glen Hoddle.
- 7) Tony Kenworthy, Martin Peters and Mike Trussion.
- 8) Richardson and Allen.
- 9) Fraser Digby.
- 10) Calderwood and Quinn.
- 11) Bob Booker and Brian Deane.
- 12) 5-4 to United.



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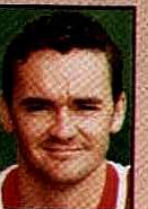
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Think of United and Swindon and you think "red", but **DENIS CLAREBROUGH** reveals that both teams once had a

# TOUCH OF THE BLUES

One of the items in my limited collection of football ephemera - normally referred to as "football rubbish" - is the blue and white Swindon Town Supporters Club badge which you see illustrated.

It was manufactured about 60 years ago by the respected Birmingham firm of W.O.Lewis, and the presentation card that came with it is headed "Official Badge".

I asked a keen supporter of today's visitors if he could throw any light on the Cambridge blue colour of the badge, for Swindon, as I'm sure you are all aware, have played in red shirts for many a long day, but the answer was no.



play in blue and white stripes and United in red? We don't really know. If minutes were ever taken when the decisions were made, and they probably were in United's case, then they have been kept a very close secret. Perhaps they remain in some dusty old file in a

Sheffield solicitor's office but, more likely, were thrown away years ago or were destroyed in the Blitz.

United, in any case, appear to have started out with white shirts and blue shorts before adopting red and white stripes. The choice of red was probably because it was the colour used by our local Football Association and United were founded in an attempt to offer Sheffield people a first class local representative side.

Some League clubs have turned out in a multitude of different strips while others have stayed faithful to their original choice. In general, it is fair to say that the bigger the club, the less likely it is to stray from its original shirt colours, but in only a few cases, are the reason for the colours known.

The best known story is that of Arsenal. Founded by the workers at the Woolwich munitions factory, two of the team had played for Nottingham Forest and had retained their red Forest shirts and it seemed common sense for the other nine - the goalkeeper played in the same strip in those days - to buy or beg similar red shirts!

Swindon in their early years, played in maroon, or red and black striped or quartered shirts, then had a couple of seasons in green shirts with white sleeves before settling on the red shirts that have remained as their standard strip.

Their change strip has often been blue but not Cambridge blue. Perhaps the badge was made in error and intended for Manchester City supporters. I would certainly be glad if one of you could solve the mystery.

Mistakes do occur, of course; one of the pre-war comics - "The Adventure", as I seem to remember - printed a picture of United's Fred Tunstall in blue and white stripes and, in later years Tony Kenworthy was shown on a picture card in blue and white stripes!

Why do Wednesday





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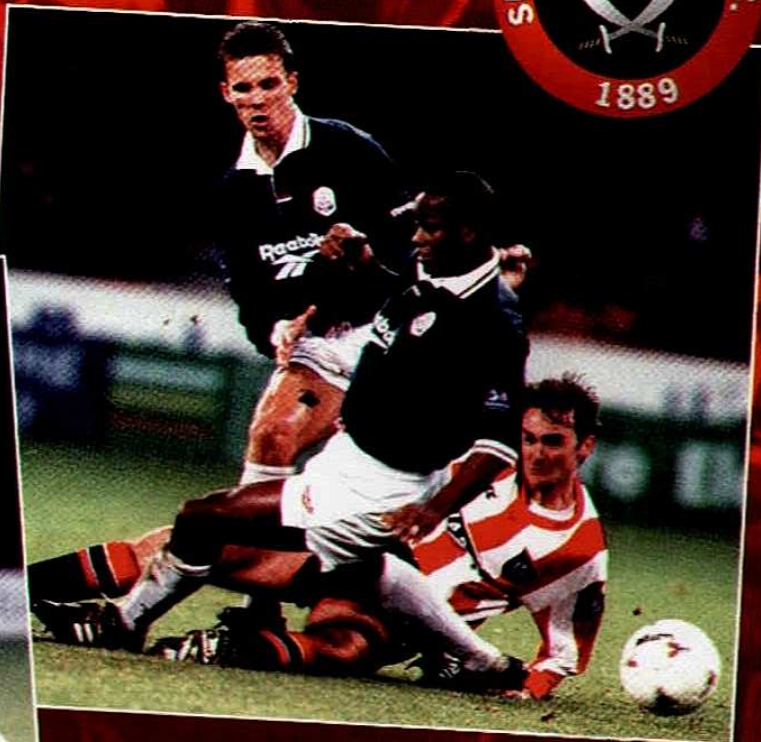
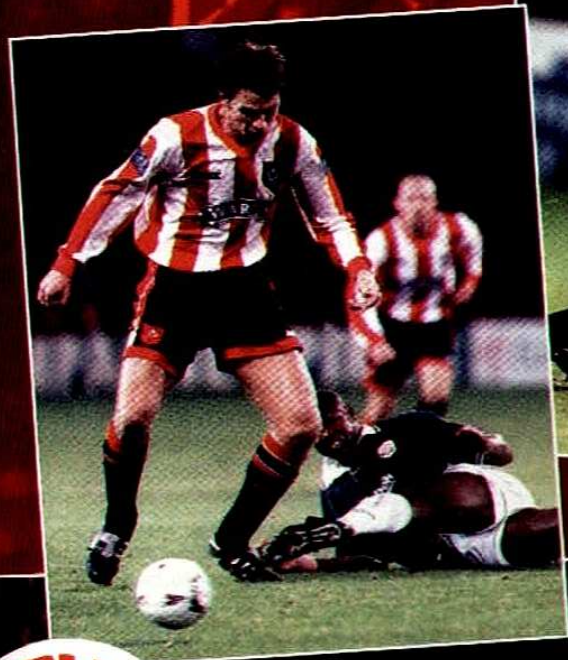


# TAYLOR MADE

Sheffield United 1 - Bolton Wanderers 1



A superb thumping header from Gareth Taylor a few minutes before half-time ensured a share of the points when table-topping Bolton visited the Lane last Friday. The Welsh international's eighth goal of the season cancelled out an earlier effort from Bolton's former Blade Nathan Blake.



Action from The Lane .....



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# RESERVE

## WOOD SETTLES THRILLER!

**United inflicted on 'Boro their first defeat of the season, and their first away loss for a year, with a late goal from Paul Wood after the Blades had let slip a 3-1 lead.**

We were on our game straight away and took the lead on 25 minutes with one of our best goals so far. Davies delivered an inch perfect 60 yard pass and **LUDLAM** headed it in on the run from just inside the box.

'Boro hit back to equalise with a toe-poke when United failed to clear their lines but **HAWES** restored the lead before the break with a clever lob over the goalkeeper, despite the swirling wind.

Both sides were trying hard to play good football but United had the edge and were rewarded with a third goal, stabbed in from close-range by **DAVIES**. That should have been enough to put us in the driving seat but Hawes' headed back-pass lacked conviction and was intercepted; Hocking's desperate challenge resulted in a successful penalty conversion.

Naturally the visitors were lifted, quickly equalised and had a good spell but United, through real character, weathered the storm, and clinched a win when a neat move involving Morris was finished off by **WOOD's** header. The Blades had set a standard that has to be reproduced regularly against stiff opposition.

**Saturday 2nd November**

NI League

**UNITED 4**

**MIDDLESBORO 3**

**United:** Heritage, Mays (Wood ht), Woodhouse (Dyer 77), Hawes, James, Hocking, Strickland, Ludlam, Morris, Tracey, Davies. Unused: Eastwood

**Scorers:** Ludlam (25), Hawes (39), Davies (50), Wood (86).

## LAST GASP AGAIN

**We took the initiative and the lead after 15 minutes when Morris linked up with TRACEY who side-footed past the keeper from 6 yards.**

The Blades youngsters were working well as a team and had many more chances at goal, Ludlam forcing the keeper to make two great saves and Strickland underhitting a brilliant opportunity from 10 yards.

The team, well organised and playing well, went in at half-time feeling confident.

The second half was a completely different story; disaster struck as we conceded three goals in eight minutes through individual errors. Creditably, our boys battled back steadily into the game again and pulled a goal back after 75 minutes when Davies passed to **LUDLAM** who headed it passed the unsighted keeper.

United were back on form and had numerous goal attempts including a twenty yard volley from Tracey which went wide, and a Davies chip which forced the keeper to make a great save. Mays was then pushed in the area but the referee failed to see it.

In the last minute, when the fightback appeared to have been in vain, **TRACEY** got on the end of a long ball which had flown over their centre-half and slid it home to draw us level.

A draw was poor reward as we were much more tactically aware and physically dominated the home team. There were some useful individual performances including those of Lee Morris, who always troubled Newcastle with his pace and intelligent running, and Ludlam who had an outstanding game.





# AND YOUTH

**Saturday 9th November**

N.I. League

## NEWCASTLE 3 UNITED 3

**United;** Heritage, Doane, Woodhouse, Hocking, James, Ludlam, Mays, Strickland, Morris, Tracey, Davies.

**Unused;** Eastwood, Bamforth, Nixon.

**Scorers;** Tracey (15, 90), Ludlam (75).

## BLADES LIGHT THE BLUE TOUCHPAPER

**United Reserves thoroughly enjoyed their first game at Don Valley Stadium, despite the awful conditions and counter attraction of it being bonfire night!**

Coach Viv Busby likened the modern setting, floodlights and super surface to playing in a foreign stadium and was very happy with the Blades' excellent team performance.

Wolves, fielding a side with possibly £10 million worth of talent on show, almost went behind in the first minute but Anthony pulled a clear chance wide. The reprieve lasted until the 22nd minute when **ANTHONY** fired home from eight yards, the culmination of a great passing move that caused chaos in the Wolves penalty area.

Playing what Viv assessed as the best, most controlled football since he has been here, United went two up with another well-worked goal although Bettney's final miskicked shot fell kindly for **WALKER** to finish superbly from 16 yards past former Blade Hans Segers.

Wolves' only real consistent threat was provided by their tall players at set-pieces, but Anthony went closest again and might well have had a hat-trick for the Blades who all deserve a mention for this display - although the tremendous attitude of the senior professionals set the tone for the team effort.

**Tuesday 5th November**

Pontins League Division One

## UNITED 2 WOLVES 0

**United;** Heritage, Beard, Dyer, Hocking, Sandford, Hartfield, Bettney (Morris 80), Anthony, Starbuck, Walker (Ludlam 60), Hawes. **Unused;** Wood

**Wolves;** Segers, Wright, Pearce, Westwood, Young, Thomas, Corica, Ferguson, Leadbeater, Roberts, Crowe.

**Subs;** Sawyers, Jones, Stimpson

**Scorers;** Anthony (22), Walker (50)

## 1996-97 Fixtures

### NORTHERN INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE

#### AUGUST

Sat 10	CHESTERFIELD	9-0
Sat 17	Bradford City	2-0
Sat 31	Doncaster Rovers	3-0

#### SEPTEMBER

Tue 3	BARNSELY	1-2
Sat 7	N'castle Utd(Lge Cup)	1-3
Sat 14	SCUNTHORPE UNITED	2-0
Sat 21	York City	0-0
Sat 28	SCARBOROUGH	4-1

#### OCTOBER

Tue 8	BRADFORD CITY	0-2
Sat 12	Hull City	1-1
Sat 19	DARLINGTON	3-0
Sat 26	Hartlepool United	4-1

#### NOVEMBER

Sat 2	MIDDLESBROUGH	4-3
Sat 9	Newcastle United	3-3
Sat 16	SUNDERLAND	2-4
Sat 23	Huddersfield Town	A
Sat 30	LEEDS UNITED	H

#### DECEMBER

Sat 7	SHEFF. WEDNESDAY	H
Sat 14	Rotherham United	A
Sat 21	Chesterfield	A

#### JANUARY

Sat 4	Barnsley	A
Sat 11	DONCASTER ROVERS	H
Sat 18	Scunthorpe United	A
Sat 25	YORK CITY	H

#### FEBRUARY

Sat 1	Scarborough	A
Sat 8	HULL CITY	H
Sat 15	Darlington	A
Sat 22	HARTLEPOOL UNITED	H

#### MARCH

Sat 1	Middlesbrough	A
Sat 8	NEWCASTLE UNITED	H
Sat 15	Sunderland	A
Sat 22	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	H
Sat 29	Leeds United	A

#### APRIL

Sat 5	Sheffield Wednesday	A
Sat 12	ROTHERHAM UNITED	H

**N.B.** All Youth Team games will be

played at the Don Valley Stadium,

Sheffield,

kick-off 11am unless otherwise stated.

I - kick-off 12 noon

N - kick-off 10.45 am

### PONTIN'S LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

#### AUGUST

21	Wed	Notts County	2-3
----	-----	--------------	-----

#### SEPTEMBER

5	Thu	ASTON VILLA	2-1
11	Wed	Sunderland	0-3

#### OCTOBER

2	Wed	Coventry City	0-2
8	Tue	PORT VALE	2-1
16	Wed	Middlesbrough	1-1
31	Thur	PRESTON NORTH END	1-4

#### NOVEMBER

5	Tue	WOLVES	2-0
14	Thur	West Bromwich Albion	0-0
25	Mon	Leicester City	A

#### DECEMBER

4	Wed	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	H
10	Tue	SUNDERLAND	H
18	Wed	Aston Villa	A

#### JANUARY

22	Wed	Blackpool	A
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#### FEBRUARY

4	Tue	MIDDLESBROUGH	H
17	Mon	Wolves	A
25	Tue	WEST BROM.	H

#### MARCH

5	Wed	Huddersfield Town	A
18	Tue	LEICESTER CITY	H
25	Tue	NOTTS COUNTY	H

#### APRIL

1	Tue	Preston North End	A
16	Wed	Port Vale	A
29	Tue	COVENTRY CITY	H

TBA		BLACKPOOL	H
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**Paul Wood's header settled a seven goal thriller against Middlesbrough**

Reserve and Youth



# VITAL STATISTIC

## First Team Statistics

Date	Opponents	Home/Away	Res.	Gate	Pos	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Aug 17	Reading	A	0-1	11,081	22	Kelly	Ward	Sandford	Spackman	Vonk	Nilsen	Hutchison <sup>▲</sup>	Patterson <sup>■</sup>
Aug 20	BRADFORD CITY (CCC 1;1)	H	3-0	7,575	-	Kelly	Short	Ward <sup>▲</sup>	Spackman	Vonk <sup>1</sup>	Sandford	White <sup>1</sup>	Patterson
Aug 24	BIRMINGHAM CITY	H	4-4	16,332	17	Kelly	Short <sup>▲</sup>	Nilsen	Spackman	Vonk <sup>■</sup>	Sandford	White	Hutchison
Sept 3	Bradford City (CCC 1;2)	A	2-1	3,593	-	Kelly	Short	Sandford	Hutchison	Vonk	Nilsen	Ward <sup>1</sup>	Patterson
Sept 7	Oldham Athletic	A	2-0	7,323	18	Kelly	Short	Sandford <sup>1</sup>	Hutchison <sup>1</sup>	Vonk	Nilsen	Ward	Patterson
Sept 10	BRADFORD CITY	H	3-0	12,591	9	Kelly	Short	Sandford	Hutchison	Vonk	Nilsen	Ward	Patterson <sup>▲</sup>
Sept 14	IPSWICH TOWN	H	1-3	14,261	16	Kelly	Short	Sandford	Hutchison	Vonk <sup>◆</sup>	Nilsen	Ward <sup>1</sup>	Patterson <sup>■</sup>
Sept 17	Stockport County CCC 2(1)	A	1-2	4,004	-	Kelly	Short <sup>■</sup>	Sandford	Hutchison <sup>■</sup>	Vonk <sup>1</sup>	Nilsen <sup>▲</sup>	Ward	Patterson
Sept 21	Wolves	A	2-1	25,170	13	Kelly	Ward	Hodgson <sup>■</sup>	Hutchison <sup>■</sup>	Vonk	Spackman	White <sup>1</sup>	Patterson
Sept 24	STOCKPORT COUNTY CCC 2(2)	H	2-5	6,285	-	Kelly	Ward	Hodgson <sup>▲</sup>	Hutchison	Vonk	Spackman	White	Patterson
Sept 28	MANCHESTER CITY	H	2-0	20,867	9	Kelly	Ward <sup>1P</sup>	Sandford	Hutchison	Hodgson	Nilsen	White	Patterson
Oct 1	Southend United	A	2-3	3,716	10	Kelly	Ward <sup>■</sup>	Sandford	Hutchison <sup>▲</sup>	Vonk	Hodgson	White	Patterson
Oct 12	TRANMERE ROVERS	H	0-0	15,059	10	Kelly	Short <sup>▲</sup>	Nilsen <sup>■</sup>	Ward	Vonk	Holdsworth	White <sup>■</sup>	Patterson
Oct 15	CHARLTON ATHLETIC	H	3-0	14,080	7	Kelly	Ward	Nilsen	Hutchison	Vonk	Holdsworth	White	Patterson
Oct 19	Stoke City	A	4-0	13,581	6	Kelly	Ward	Sandford	Hutchison <sup>▲</sup>	Vonk <sup>2</sup>	Holdsworth	White	Patterson
Oct 26	QUEENS PARK RANGERS	H	1-1	17,096	7	Kelly	Ward	Sandford <sup>▲</sup>	Hutchison <sup>■</sup>	Vonk	Holdsworth	White	Patterson
Oct 30	Norwich City	A	1-1	14,534	8	Kelly	Short	Nilsen	Hutchison <sup>■</sup>	Vonk <sup>■</sup>	Holdsworth <sup>■</sup>	Ward	Patterson <sup>■</sup>
Nov 3	Grimsby Town	A	4-2	5,935	6	Kelly	Ward	Nilsen	Hutchison <sup>1</sup>	Vonk	Holdsworth	White <sup>▲</sup>	Patterson
Nov 13	West Bromwich Albion	A	2-1	12,167	5	Kelly	Short	Nilsen	Hutchison <sup>1</sup>	Vonk	Holdsworth	Ward <sup>▲</sup>	Patterson
Nov 16	Port Vale	A	0-0	8,352	5	Kelly	Short	Nilsen	Hutchison	Vonk	Holdsworth <sup>■</sup>	Hartfield <sup>▲</sup>	Patterson
Nov 22	BOLTON WANDERERS	H	1-1	17,069	4	Kelly	Short	Sandford	Hutchison <sup>▲</sup>	Vonk	Holdsworth <sup>■</sup>	White	Patterson <sup>■</sup>
Nov 26	SWINDON TOWN	H											
Nov 30	Queens Park Rangers	A											
Dec 3	HUDDERSFIELD	H											
Dec 7	PORTSMOUTH	H											
Dec 14	Oxford United	A											
Dec 21	BARNSELY	H											
Dec 26	Bradford City	A											
Dec 28	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H											
Jan 1	WOLVES	H											
Jan 4	F.A. Cup Round 3												
Jan 11	Ipswich Town	A											
Jan 18	SOUTHEND UNITED	H											
Jan 25	FA Cup Round 4												
Jan 29	Manchester City	A											
Feb 1	Swindon Town	A											
Feb 8	NORWICH CITY	H											
Feb 15	Bolton Wanderers	A											
Feb 22	GRIMSBY TOWN	H											
Mar 1	Portsmouth	A											
Mar 4	PORT VALE	H											
Mar 8	Barnsley (or F.A. Cup Rd 5)	A											
Mar 15	OXFORD UNITED	H											
Mar 22	Birmingham City	A											
Mar 29	READING	H											
Mar 31	Huddersfield Town	A											
Apr 5	WEST BROMWICH ALBION	H											
Apr 6	Coca-Cola Cup Final												
Apr 12	C. PAL. (or F.A. Cup s.-final)	H											
Apr 19	Tranmere Rovers	A											
Apr 26	STOKE CITY	H											
May 4	Charlton Athletic	A											
May 17	F.A. Cup Final												
TBA	Crystal Palace	A											

### Key:

All home games in capitals. Players name in bold denote scorers.  
<sup>▲</sup> = withdrawn.  
<sup>■</sup> = booked.  
<sup>◆</sup> = sent off.  
<sup>P</sup> = penalty.

## NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

	HOME						AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Bolton W.	20	8	2	0	23	7	3	5	2	18	19	40	
Crystal Palace	19	5	2	2	21	8	4	5	1	22	10	34	
Barnsley	18	5	3	2	19	12	4	3	1	14	12	33	
Norwich City	18	4	5	1	13	7	5	0	3	14	11	32	
Sheffield United	17	3	4	1	15	9	5	2	2	17	9	30	
Tranmere R.	19	5	2	3	20	15	3	3	3	8	7	29	
Wolves	19	2	3	5	9	12	6	2	1	17	9	29	
Oxford United	20	6	3	1	18	4	2	2	6	7	13	29	
Swindon Town	19	6	1	3	19	8	2	1	6	10	15	26	
Birmingham C.	18	6	2	1	14	5	1	3	5	8	16	26	
Ipswich Town	20	4	4	2	17	15	2	3	5	10	14	25	
Stoke City	17	4	1	2	12	12	2	5	3	12	17	24	
Huddersfield	19	5	3	2	15	8	1	3	5	7	17	24	
Port Vale	20	2	5	3	10	11	3	4	3	8	11	24	
Portsmouth	20	4	3	3	14	10	2	2	6	10	18	23	
West Bromwich	18	1	4	4	9	14	4	4	1	14	13	23	
Southend Utd.	20	4	3	3	18	16	1	5	4	4	16	23	
Charlton Ath.	17	5	2	1	12	7	2	0	7	6	18	23	
QPR	20	2	3	5	10	14	3	4	3	12	14	22	
Reading	18	5	2	1	13	10	1	2	7	9	19	22	
Manchester City	19	4	1	4	10	10	2	1	7	10	18	20	
Bradford City	20	4	2	4	12	18	1	3	6	6	15	20	
Oldham Ath.	20	2	5	3	10	11	2	2	6	11	14	19	
Grimsby Town	19	2	2	6	10	20	1	3	5	9	19	14	



9	10	11	Sub	Sub	Sub
Taylor▲	Walker	Whitehouse	White (7)	Tracey	Katchouro (9)
Taylor	Walker▲ <sup>1A</sup>	Whitehouse▲	Hutchison (2)	Katchouro (9)	Starbuck (11)
Taylor▲ <sup>2</sup>	Walker <sup>2</sup>	Patterson	Katchouro (2)▲	Tracey	Hodgson (12)
Taylor▲	Walker <sup>1P</sup>	Whitehouse	Hodgson	Tracey	Katchouro (9)
Taylor▲	Walker▲	Whitehouse	Spackman (10)	Tracey	Katchouro (9)
Taylor <sup>1</sup>	Walker▲	Whitehouse <sup>2</sup>	Spackman (8)	Tracey	Katchouro (10)
Taylor■	Walker▲	Whitehouse	Katchouro (10)▲	Tracey	White (12)■
Taylor	Katchouro▲	Whitehouse	Hodgson (6)	Tracey	White (10)
Taylor♦	Starbuck▲	Whitehouse	Sandford	Tracey	Katchouro (10) <sup>1</sup>
Taylor <sup>1</sup>	Katchouro <sup>1</sup>	Whitehouse	Sandford	Tracey	Starbuck(3)
Taylor <sup>1</sup> ■	Walker▲	Whitehouse	Short	Tracey	Katchouro (10)
Scott▲	Walker <sup>2</sup>	Whitehouse	Starbuck (9)	Tracey	Short (4)
Katchouro	Walker	Whitehouse	Hutchison (2)	Tracey	Scott (10)
Katchouro <sup>2</sup> ▲	Walker <sup>1</sup>	Whitehouse	Taylor (9)	Tracey	Sandford
Katchouro▲	Walker <sup>1</sup>	Whitehouse	Hawes (4)	Tracey	Taylor (9) <sup>1</sup>
Katchouro▲	Walker	Whitehouse	Nilsen (3)	Tracey	Taylor (9) <sup>1</sup>
Taylor▲	Katchouro <sup>1A</sup>	Whitehouse	White (9)	Tracey	Walker (10)
Taylor▲	Katchouro <sup>1</sup>	Whitehouse <sup>2</sup>	Short (7)	Tracey	Walker (9)
Taylor	Katchouro▲	Whitehouse	Sandford (10)	Tracey	Walker (7) <sup>1</sup>
Taylor	Katchouro▲	Whitehouse	Parker (10)	Tracey	Walker (7)
Taylor <sup>1</sup> ■	Walker▲	Whitehouse	Parker (4)	Tracey	Katchouro (10)

## SHEFFIELD UNITED FIRST TEAM

	League Apps Gls	Cup Apps Gls	Blades Apps Gls
<b>Graham ANTHONY</b> South Shields 9.8.75	-	-	2(1) -
<b>Mark BEARD</b> Rushampton 8.10.	-	-	15 (7) -
<b>Charlie HARTFIELD</b> London 4.9.71	1	-	52(11) 1
<b>Steven HAWES</b> High Wycombe 17.7.78	(1)	-	1(2) -
<b>Doug HODGSON</b> Frankston Aust 27.2.59	3 (1)	1 (1)	20(8) -
<b>David HOLDSWORTH</b> Walthamstow 8.11.61	9	-	9
<b>Don HUTCHISON</b> Gateshead 9.5.72	16(1) 3	3 (1)	38(3) 5
<b>Petr KATCHOURO</b> Minsk, Belarus 2.8.72	8 (8) 5	2 (2) 1	10(10) 6
<b>Alan KELLY</b> Preston 11.8.68	17	4	174(3) -
<b>Roger NILSEN</b> Tromsø, Norway 8.8.69	12 (1)	2	114(3) -
<b>Paul PARKER</b> Essex 4.4.64	(2)	-	(2) -
<b>Mark PATTERSON</b> Darwen 24.5.65	17	4	44 2
<b>John REED</b> Rotherham 27.8.72	-	-	13(4) 3
<b>Lee SANDFORD</b> Basingstoke 22.4.68	10 (1) 1	3	13 (1) 1
<b>Andy SCOTT</b> Epston 2.8.72	1 (1)	-	42(30) 9
<b>Chris SHORT</b> Munster, Germ. 9.5.70	9 (2)	3	28(4) -
<b>Nigel SPACKMAN</b> Romsey 2.12.60	3 (2)	2	5 (2) -
<b>Phil STARBUCK</b> Nottingham 24.11.68	1 (1)	1	27(12) 2
<b>Gareth TAYLOR</b> W-S-Mare 25.2.73	12 (3) 7	4 1	26 (3) 10
<b>Simon TRACEY</b> Woolwich 9.12.67	-	-	176(2) -
<b>Michael VONK</b> Alkmaar, Holl. 28.10.68	16 2	4 2	39 4
<b>Andy WALKER</b> Glasgow 8.4.6	12 (4) 7	2 2	26(6) 17
<b>Mitch WARD</b> Sheffield 18.6.72	14 2	4 1	129(22) 13
<b>David WHITE</b> Manchester 30.10.67	10 (3) 1	2 (1) 1	39(8) 9
<b>Dane WHITEHOUSE</b> Sheffield 14.10.70	16 4	4	205 (31) 42(11p)



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# THE LAST WORD...

With Roger Barnard

**Students of Sheffield United history will know that when the club was formed in 1889 the playing strength was boosted by the presence of half a dozen Scotsmen. Scotland had a surplus of footballing talent and it made sense to import several experienced players to help the new club.**

Over the years the best English sides have often included some of the cream of Scottish talent. The triumphant Liverpool squad of a few years ago included the likes of Dalglish, Gillespie, Hansen, Nicol, MacDonald and Ray Houghton (who was Glasgow-born despite subsequently playing for Ireland). You would be hard pressed to find

many clubs in the Football League that didn't have one or two Scotsmen in their squad. Today, however, the picture looks very different. Where have all the Scottish footballers gone?

I put the question to our 'resident expert' — Andy Walker. He agreed that times have changed. "When I was little I had a Leeds strip for the only reason that they had Lorimer, Bremner, Gray, Gordon McQueen..." He could have added Joe Jordan and goalkeeper David Harvey, too, in that formidable squad in the early seventies.

Andy feels, however, that this was a particularly strong time for the Scots and that their time will come again.

"Certainly just now Scottish football is not as high a standard as it once was," he says, "but having said that, standards have maybe even improved for the top clubs — Celtic and Rangers."

One of the reasons for the lack of Scottish players in English football could be that, with asking prices for British players at inflated levels, better bargains can be found

abroad. However, it can also be argued that the depth of talent simply isn't there north of the border at the moment.

At 31, Andy Walker is hardly a veteran, but the breeding ground for Scottish footballers would appear to have changed drastically just in his lifetime. Memories of his childhood will strike a chord with many readers. "When I was growing up, in the school holidays, I would be up and have my breakfast, go out and play football, get shouted in for my lunch, back out playing football, shouted in for my dinner, back out again, and shouted in when it was bedtime.

"There aren't as many places to play football these days," he says. For the goals we'd put a couple of jackets down or a couple of bricks — anywhere there was space to play we'd get a game up."

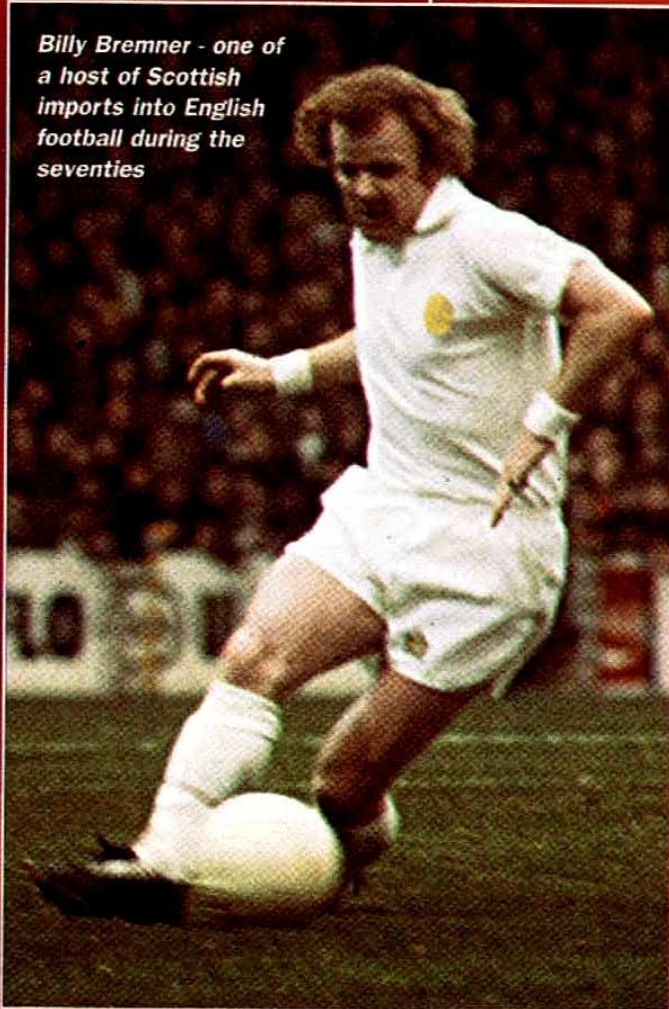
But, as Andy points out, now kids have got other attractions: roller blades, ten-pin bowling, small basketball, short tennis, rugby, and youth clubs competing with football, and the scenario is, of course, just the same in England.

Pity the poor club talent scout, trying to unearth nuggets, when the grass roots are now full of youngsters in designer clothing, participating in the latest fad. Happily, football is still by far the biggest attraction for boys, and will surely remain so for a long time.

That said, forecasting the future is fraught with pitfalls. Pity the unnamed football writer who — when Stanley Matthews made his soccer debut at the age of 17 — penned the words: 'Stanley Matthews lacks the big match temperament. He will never hold down a regular first team place in top class soccer'.

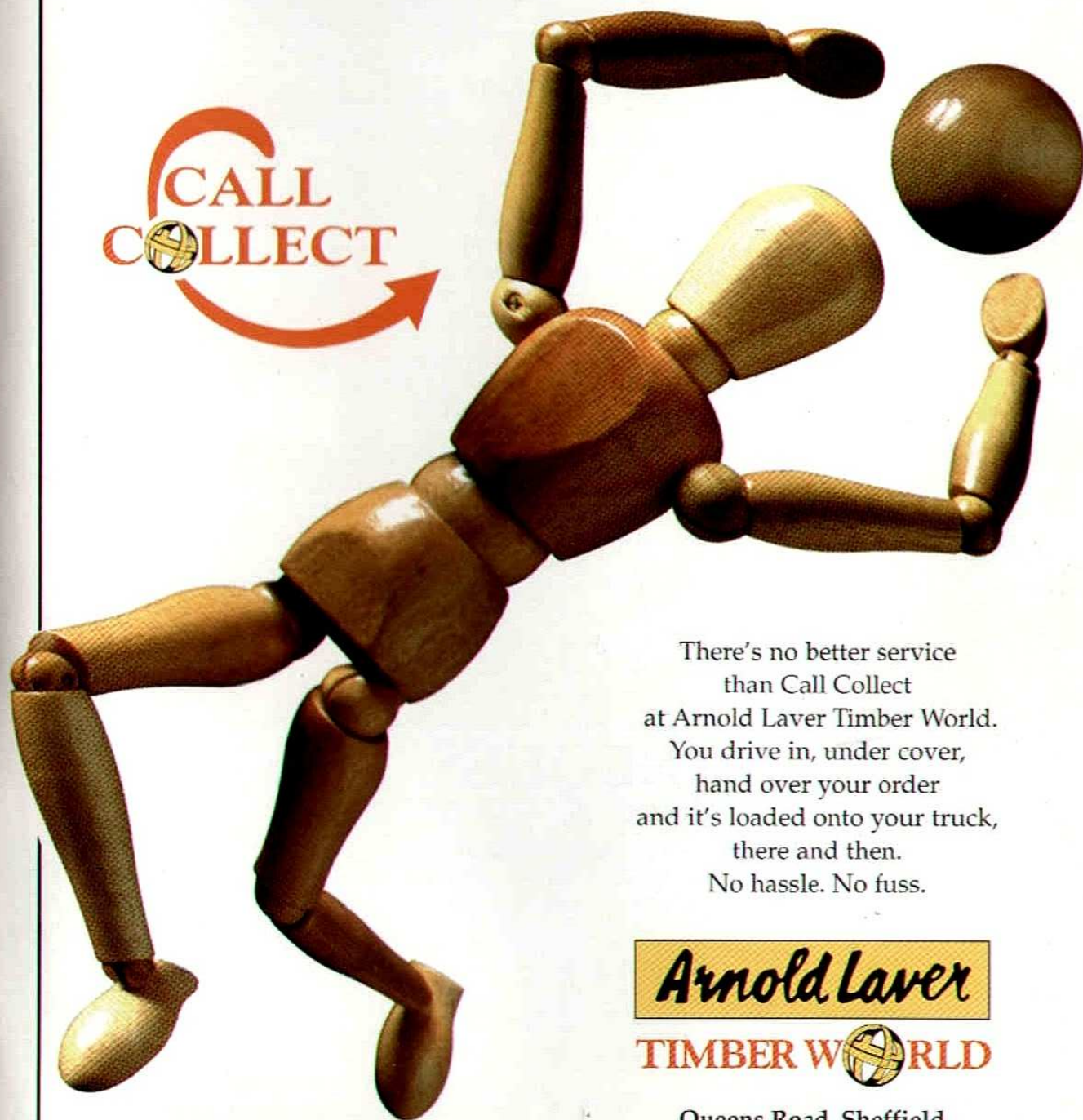
Proof, indeed, that you should never believe what you read in the press!

*Billy Bremner - one of a host of Scottish imports into English football during the seventies*





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- 3 ROGER NILSEN
- 4 DON HUTCHISON
- 5 MICHAEL VONK
- 6 DAVID HOLDSWORTH
- 7 DAVID WHITE
- 8 MARK PATTERSON
- 9 GARETH TAYLOR
- 10 PETR KATCHOURO
- 11 DANE WHITEHOUSE
- 12
- 13
- 14



### SWINDON TOWN

- 1 FRASER DIGBY
- 2 MARK ROBINSON
- 3 TY GOODEN
- 4 SCOTT LEITCH
- 5 MARK SEAGRAVES
- 6 KEVIN HORLOCK
- 7 WAYNE O'SULLIVAN
- 8 FREDERIC DARRAS
- 9 STEVE FINNEY
- 10 WAYNE ALLISON
- 11 MARK WALTERS
- 12
- 13
- 14

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