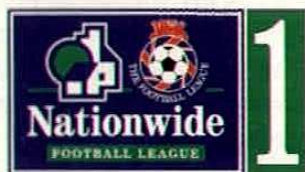




versus swindon town

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hawthorns

news

with Geoff Owen

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1895, 1912, 1935,
League Cup Winners: 1966.
Runners-up: 1967, 1970,
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Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen and welcome to this top of the table clash.

With both sides having made solid starts to the season today's game promises to be a most interesting one, and after losing our proud unbeaten record last Saturday we will be even more determined to claim three points.

Tuesday evening saw us put in a professional display at Luton in the Coca-Cola Cup. The tie looked a potentially tricky one but we overcame it without too many problems and now look to be on course for a place in the third round.

Thanks for your support, lets hope that the game lives up to expectations.



TREWICK USES HIS HEAD

I have reported before about the enthusiasm, and dedication that John Trewick puts into his job, but behind the scenes John also has another claim that he is proud of, and I regularly talk to him about his activities playing "head-tennis".

With his partner Richard O'Kelly they claim to be World beaters. John recently told me, "We have had a few games this season and Richard and I are still the undisputed champions.

"A few of the youngsters have fancied their chances and we soon put the young pups in their place.

"Some of the senior pro's get onto the head-tennis court, but they usually suffer the same fate!"

John plays the game for fun, but also pointed out, "It's a great game to develop your touch on the ball and football technique."

I asked John if he had ever had a challenge from the boss — John

replied: "Not yet, we haven't seen him on the court yet but it would be interesting, and it's something that I'm going to work on."

John's claims have sometimes been exaggerated, using the title 'World champions' and during the season I'll keep you in touch with any new pretenders to the crown.

GOING FOR GOLD

Debbie Limbrick, of the Albions own Duke of Edinburgh's Award Group, received her Gold Award at Buckingham Palace at the end of July.

It was the culmination of challenges which Debbie completed successfully earlier this year. Debbie has also been a guest at a special reception for award recipients at the Council Chambers in Oldbury, attended by the Mayor of Sandwell, and organised by our sponsors, West Bromwich Building Society.



DEBBIE LIMBRICK WITH HER VERY SPECIAL AWARD

The Award is open to anyone between the ages of 14 to 23 years and there will be a special evening for new entrants, on Wednesday, 1st October, 8pm kick off.

If you fancy a challenge and want to do something a bit different, why not come along, the meeting will be held in the Players Lounge. Further information can be obtained from the Community Office.

SMUDGER KNUCKLES DOWN

Dave Smith recently signed a new two-year contract to keep him at The Hawthorns, after playing for over a year not knowing where his future would be, but since putting pen to paper he can now look forward to another challenge.

David told me that his life is very much happier now, which has shown in his performances, and went on to say; "Obviously the last 12 months have been very uncertain, being on a week-to-week contract, but the new boss has moved in and I've been able to secure a new contract which is a relief not only for myself, but for my family as well."

Smudger also knows that there is more hard work ahead and said; "I will be trying as hard as I can to stay in the team because we must have at least 20 first-team players, and anyone who is selected now realises that a couple of bad performances and they will be out of the side."

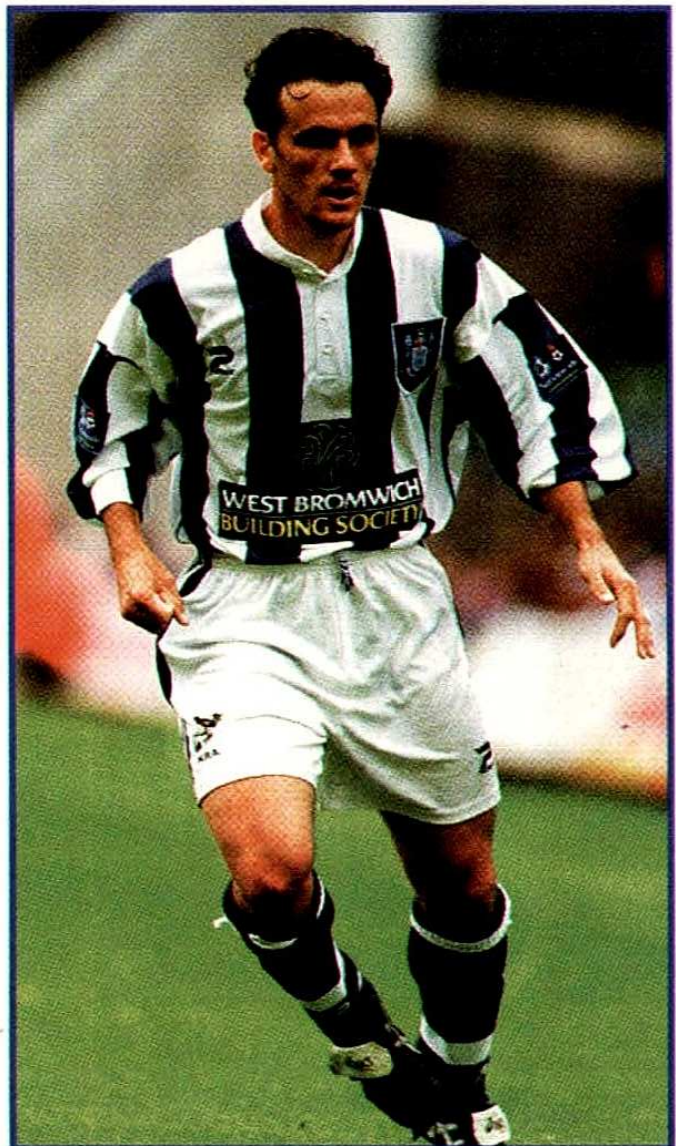
The squad has been stretched recently because of International calls and injury and Dave will be hoping that now he has grabbed his chance he will be able to hold on to it.

WEST MIDLANDS HIRE AND HAULAGE — EASING YOUR CAR PARKING BLUES!

To help Albion supporters with the ever increasing problem of finding a place to park we are delighted to say that West Midlands Hire and Haulage of Dartmouth Road, Smethwick are offering their car park.

The car park is supervised at all times and is locked during the games. For more details contact West Midlands Hire and Haulage on:

0121-555 5558



DAVID SMITH — LOOKING FORWARD TO THE CHALLENGES WHICH LIE AHEAD

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen and welcome to today's clash with Swindon Town. Few people would have predicted this game to have been a top of the table clash at the outset of the season but with ourselves lying third and Swindon second this afternoon's match has all the ingredients to be a most fascinating encounter.

With the disappointment of losing our proud unbeaten record at QPR last Saturday, we will be even more determined to get back onto the winning trail and start another unbeaten league run today. Although the result went against us at Loftus Road there were a number of positive points which we can take from the game and a number of lessons which we can learn for the future. At times we controlled the game in the middle of the park, but in the end we were beaten by a side who, in all fairness, have invested heavily in new talent.

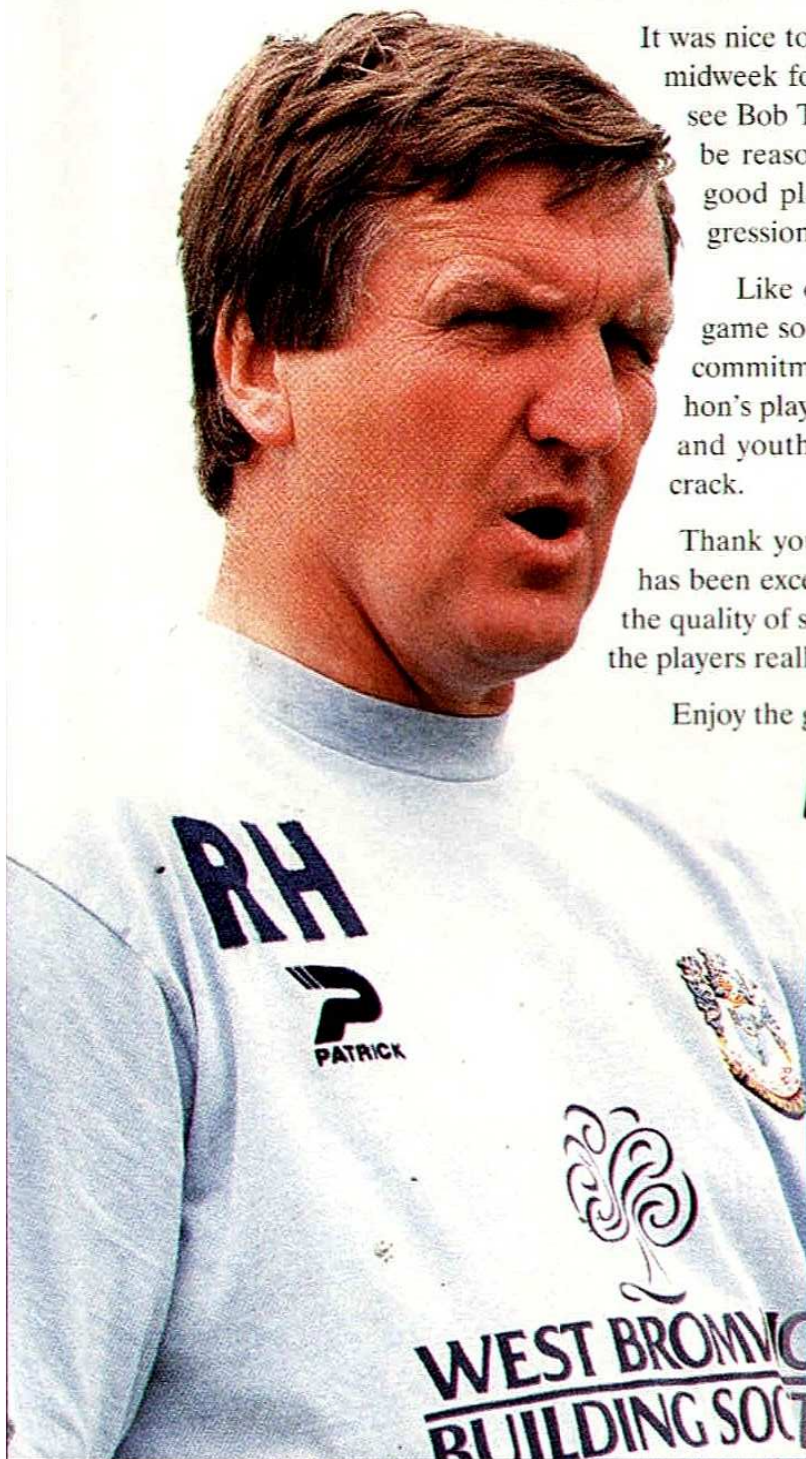
It was nice to go back to one of my former clubs, Luton in midweek for the Coca-Cola Cup tie and it was great to see Bob Taylor get his name on the scoresheet. We can be reasonably pleased with the draw as it gives us a good platform for the second leg and further progression in the competition.

Like ourselves, Swindon have only lost one league game so far this season. They play with a passion and commitment which was the hallmark of Steve McMahon's playing career and with their blend of experience and youthful exuberance they will be a tough nut to crack.

Thank you for your support this afternoon, as ever it has been excellent in recent games and I still can't believe the quality of support we get on our travels, both myself and the players really appreciate it.

Enjoy the game,

Ray Harford



from the

boss

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SWINDON
TOWN
F.C.

visitors

Swindon Town

Four wins and two draws from seven games, sees Swindon Town off to their best Division One start for a long time. The Robins are one of three clubs tied on 14 points at the top of the table, and they only trail leaders Bradford City on goals scored.

After last season's roller-coaster ride — which included a 7-0 thrashing by champions Bolton, and a 6-0 demolition of Huddersfield — consistency needs to be the key this time round. Steve McMahon will not be happy with finishing in 18th place come next May.

The manager has fashioned a side very much in his own image — hard working yet skilful, solid but capable of turning defence into attack with devastating speed.

Star turn at the County Ground, so far this season, has been the midfield import, Philippe Cuervo. The Frenchman is full of flair, loves to take players on and has been instrumental in The Robins fine start. He missed last weekend through injury, but if he's back today, he'll certainly be the one to watch.

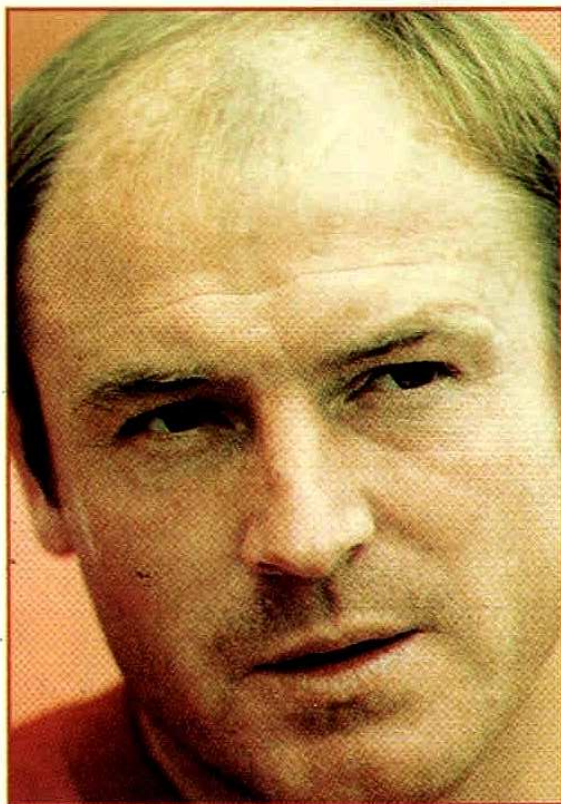
Home wins over Crewe and, last Saturday, Tranmere Rovers, combined with a couple of draws — with Nottingham Forest and Huddersfield — have provided a useful launch-pad for a successful campaign. And, having beaten both Reading and Stoke away, the only blot on their travelling record is a 2-1 defeat by Ipswich Town. They haven't hogged the headlines, and they've gone about their work with a quiet efficiency.

It is, of course, far too early to make reasonable predictions

about how the season will pan out. It would be no real surprise, though, if McMahon's men proved to be this season's 'surprise package'.

Steve McMahon, Manager

In his first full season as player-manager he led Swindon to the Second Division Championship in fine style making 21 appearances despite a series of injuries. As a player, he collected almost all the honours available for both club and country. Began his career at Everton scoring 11 goals in 100 league games before a £175,000 transfer to Aston Villa. Kenny Dalglish then took him to Liverpool for £375,000 where he emerged as a midfield general of the highest quality bagging League and FA Cup winners medals galore during the glory years at Anfield. He also gained international recognition collecting 17 full England caps and being part of the 1990 World Cup squad. Christmas of 1991 saw Manchester City pay £900,000 for his services and he continued to perform at the highest level until taking over as Swindon manager in November 1994.



Steve McMahon — proving to be a very capable manager

Fraser Digby, Goalkeeper

Town's longest serving player

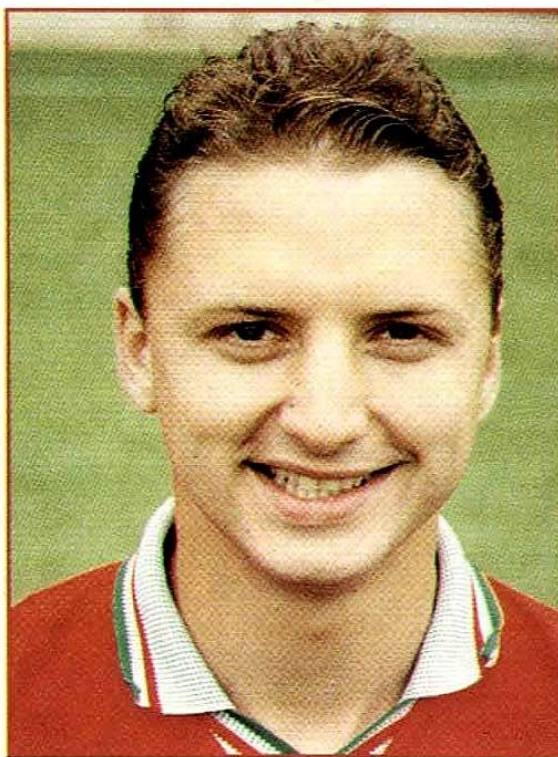
celebrated his testimonial season in 1996/97 and to cap another marvellous campaign was voted Player of the Year. Served his apprenticeship at Manchester United and after a successful loan spell at the County Ground, signed for the club in a £32,500 deal. This former England Under-21 international returned to United on loan in 1992/93 but his only senior appearances at Old Trafford was for Town during their season in the Premiership. Currently fighting off the challenge of Frank Talia for the number one jersey.

Ian Culverhouse, Defender

After nine successful seasons at Norwich City, this cultured defender signed for Swindon in December 1994 for a tribunal set fee of £250,000. Was a member of the Norwich side who hit the headlines with their tremendous UEFA Cup win away at Bayern Munich. Began his career at Spurs.

Mark Seagraves, Defender

Mark was installed as club Captain last season and played a leading role at the heart of the defence before injury brought a premature end to his season. A former Liverpool apprentice and England Youth international, Mark made his league debut while on loan at Norwich City before signing for Manchester City. He then



Steve Finney — has seen injuries blight his career at Swindon

signed for Bolton Wanderers and made 180 appearances for the Trotters before linking up with Swindon in a £100,000 deal in June 1995.

Jason Drysdale, Defender

Former Newcastle player who joined Swindon in a £340,000 deal in March 1995. An unfortunate series of injuries have limited his appearances in a Swindon shirt. Most at home at left-back, Jason began his career at Watford where he won an FA Youth Cup winners medal.

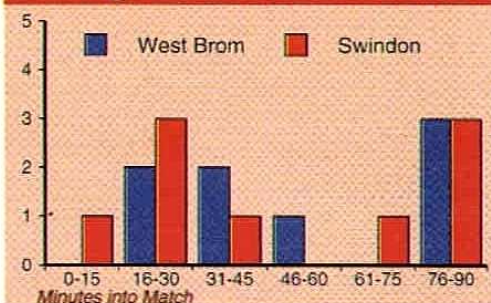
Frederic Darras, Defender

This free transfer capture from French club Bastia is a former Under-18 and Under-21 international for France. Spent 11 years with double winners Auxerre during which time he made no fewer than 19 appearances in the European Cup. Came over on a three year deal in August 1996 and is comfortable playing anywhere across the back line.

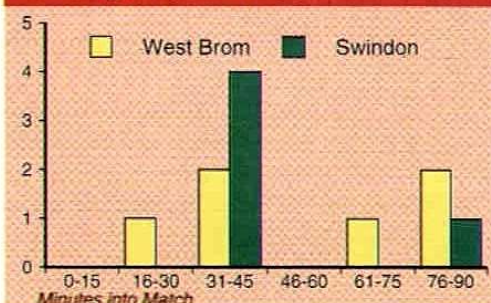
league form over the season



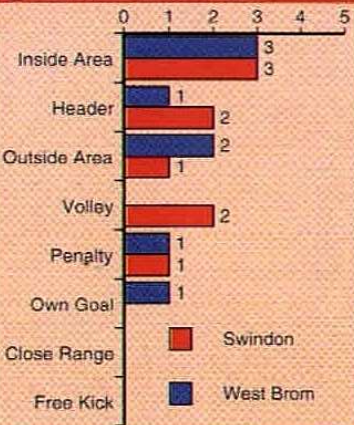
when goals have been scored



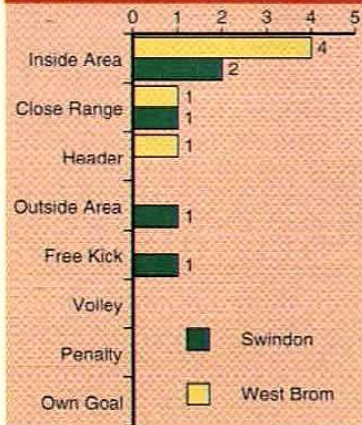
when goals have been conceded



goals - how scored



and how conceded



the robins



Alan McDonald, Defender

After spending his entire career at Queens Park Rangers, Alan made his first ever permanent move — to the County Ground during the summer on a two-year deal. A highly committed defender, his wealth of experience attracted Steve McMahon when he realised the Northern Ireland International's contract was up at Loftus Road. This former Northern Ireland skipper has 53 international caps to his name.

Darren Bullock, Midfielder

This tough tackling central midfielder signed a three and a half year contract in February 1997 after a £400,000 move from Huddersfield Town. Scored 20 goals in 156 appearances for the Terriers and could be described as a late developer as he was only drafted into the full-time professional game in November 1993 following a £55,000 step up from Nuneaton Borough.

Ty Gooden, Midfielder

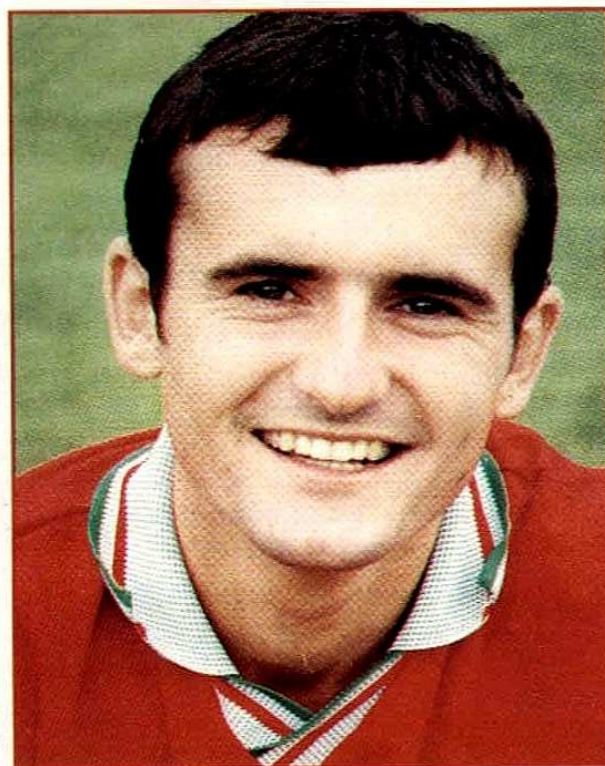
Signed by John Gorman in 1993 after being released by Wycombe Wanderers following a successful trial period, he made over 30 appearances during Swindon's Championship season but was hindered by injuries last term and played only a handful of games.

Alex Smith, Midfielder

Another former Evertonian, Alex joined Swindon in January 1996 and made 13 first-team appearances as Swindon won the Second Division title. Struggled to find his form during the early part of last season but finally broke into the first-team after Christmas.

Mark Walters, Midfielder

On his day one of the most talented wingers around, Mark showed the skills which made him a hit at Aston Villa, Glasgow Rangers and Liverpool before a serious knee injury left him sidelined for the last few months of the season. Joined Swindon on a free transfer last Sum-



Alex Smith — the former Everton man is looking to become a regular fixture in the Robins line-up

mer and once fully fit, this former England international could hold the key to a successful season for his side.

Kevin Watson, Midfielder

Came though Tottenham's junior ranks and made 12 first-team appearances under Terry Venables before being loaned out to Bristol City and Barnet. Joined Swindon on a free transfer last Summer and made 18 starts in Division One.

Philippe Cuervo, Midfielder

This gifted Frenchman impressed manager Steve McMahon during a trial period at the County Ground and signed a three-year contract on a free transfer from Sochaux just before the new season started. A talented midfield player who likes to run at opponents, Philippe's previous clubs include Saint Etienne.

Wayne Allison, Forward

Top scorer for the past two seasons, "The Chief" has proved to be a valuable asset since his £475,000 move from local rivals Bristol City. A big, strong target man, Wayne served his apprenticeship with Halifax Town before playing for Watford and then making a name for himself at Ashton Gate.

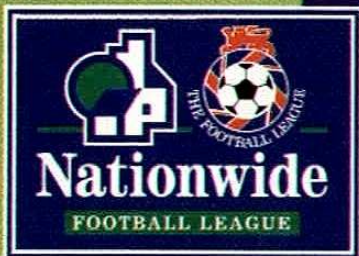
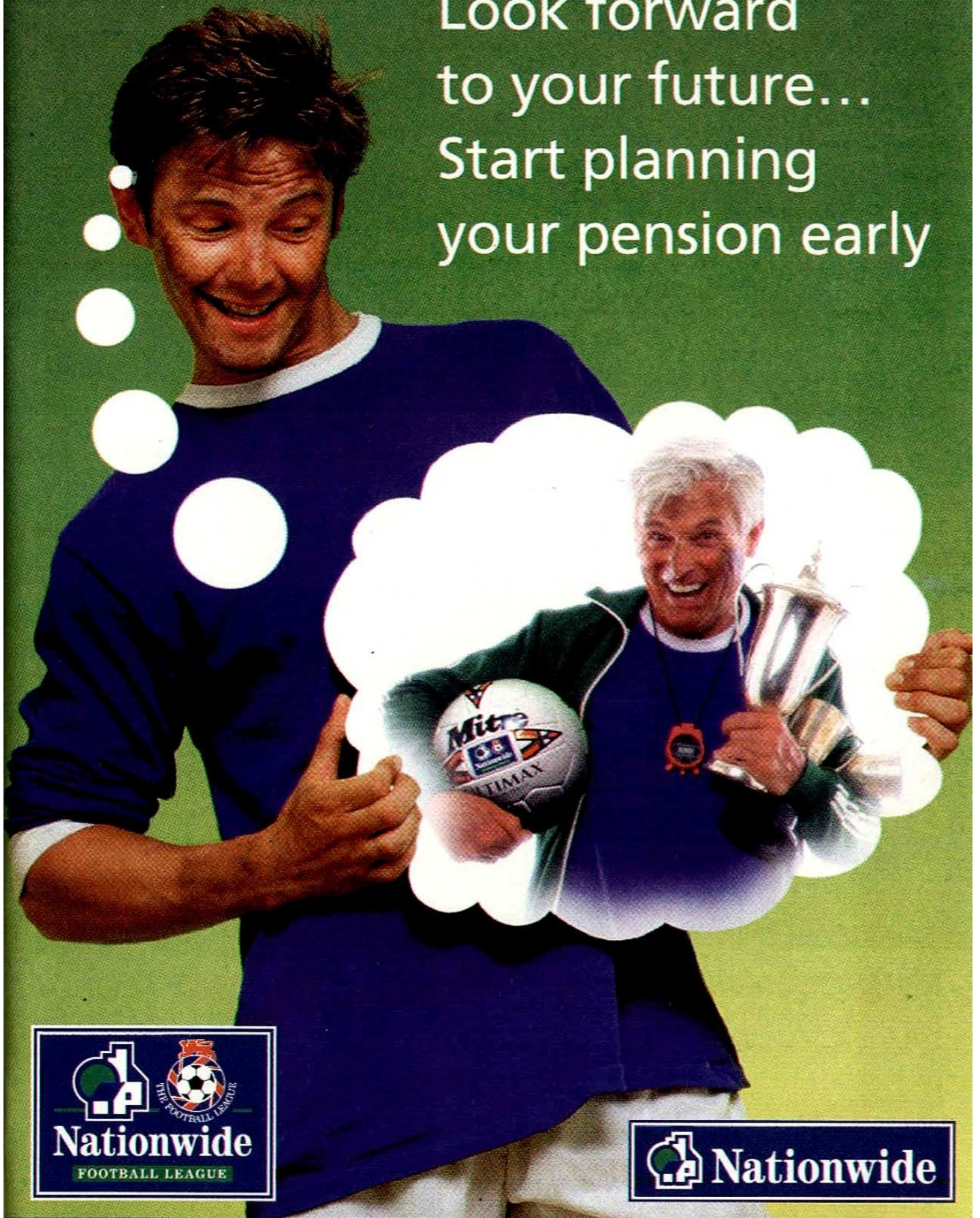
Steve Finney, Forward

A series of injuries restricted Steve to just nine starts last season, this after suffering a broken ankle at the tail end of the previous campaign. Prior to this had netted 16 times after signing on a free transfer from Manchester City.

Chris Hay, Forward

This pacy young striker was drafted in from Scottish giants Celtic a week before the new campaign for £330,000. A three-year contract was agreed and Swindon believe they have got a bargain for a player who made more than 20 first-team appearances for Celtic.

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albion people

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Good afternoon and welcome to The Hawthorns. Our

Match Sponsors today are our old friends Bass Mitchells & Butlers we hope key Account Manager, Bob Leatherland, and his guests enjoy the day. Mitchells & Butlers are very supportive of the club as they also sponsor our Brew XI Stand. Today is sure to be a good game, as both teams have started the season very well. I hope all the guests of Bass M & B enjoy the match. Matchball Sponsors are Firkins the bakers. This is an ideal opportunity to thank Firkins for their many years of support of the club in particular Martyn Cavil and Managing Director Neil Garrity.

INSIDE THE HAWTHORNS WITH TOM CARDALL

Man Of The Match Mardon

Paul Mardon was voted as West Bromwich Building Society's Man of the Match for the Wolves game. Paul received a bottle of bubbly from Dave MacKay who is the Building Society's Assistant General Manager. Can I take this opportunity to thank all the Albion fans who have



entered the Albion Premier Saver Account competition. There is still plenty of time to enter as the winner is not being drawn until half-time against Birmingham City on Sunday, 23rd November.

Supporter Of The Month

A new public relations initiative we would like to start is "Supporter of the Month". Can I ask Albion fans to write in to me at the club nominating someone they feel should be "Supporter of the Month", who along with a guest of their choice will be the special guests of Chief Executive John Wile and the Board of Directors. The supporter can be anyone you wish to nominate, either for their support of many years, the many miles they travel etc., in fact anyone you feel qualifies. We intend to have a special supporter for every game, whose story will be featured on the Albion People Page. Please write with your nominations to: Tom Cardall, Commercial and Public Relations Manager, West Bromwich Albion FC, The Tom Silk Building, Halfords Lane, West Bromwich, West Midlands, B71 4BR.



Chairman's Welcome

West Bromwich Building Society's Chairman John Baker visited The Hawthorns for the recent local derby against Wolves. To celebrate the sponsorship we arranged for a special cake to be made. Chief Executive John Wile was delighted to present the cake to John Baker.

American Friends

Roger Howell is a mad keen Albion fan who now lives in San Francisco where he runs the "Mad Dog in the Fog" pub. Roger flies across the Atlantic a number of times a year to watch the



Baggies in action. For the Wolves game Roger also sponsored our Matchball. He is seen receiving an autographed football before the game from Albion strikers Lee Hughes and Andy Hunt. Pictured left to right are: Michael Howell, John Randle, Jan Howell, Roger, Lee and Andy.



Tranmere Birthday's

Lee Manning celebrated his 18th Birthday at the Tranmere game. New signing Sean Flynn presented Lee with an autographed football. Looking on is Lee's dad John and a family friend.

Caroline Coombs and her daughter Charlotte had a double birthday surprise at The Hawthorns for the Tranmere game. Sean Flynn was delighted to present a signed ball to Caroline and Charlotte.



Mags Bags Glass Statuette

Another of our Stand Sponsors, Travel West Midlands, sponsored our recent local derby with Wolverhampton Wanderers. Public Relations Officer for Travel West Midlands, Mags Winthrop is pictured with Albion Chief Executive John Wile receiving a glass statuette in appreciation of the sponsorship.

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen and welcome to today's game. We have numerous events for you this season at The Throstle Club, details of which can be found on this page. Don't forget that we also cater for private parties — for information on these and for any questions you have regarding The Throstle Club please don't hesitate to pop in and see me (Ally Brown), or ring me on 0121 553 1514.



throstle Club

Willie Returns

Willie Johnston is now appearing for TWO nights at The Throstle Club on Saturday, 22nd November and Sunday, 23rd November. Further details will appear on this page at a later date.

Forums

The next Supporters Club Sports Forum at The Throstle Club will be on Thursday, 25th September and the special guests will be dynamic striking duo Andy Hunt and Lee Hughes.

Line Dance Class

If you fancy having a go at line dancing then get yourself along to The Throstle Club every Tuesday evening where classes will be taking place. (Please note that on the occasional Tuesday evening when WBA have a home game the class will be put back 24 hours to the Wednesday evening).

Tonight Is Cabaret Night

Tonight's Cabaret Night entertainment features former singer in The Fortunes, Shel McRea. We are also pleased to welcome hilarious comedian Colin Dennis. Unfortunately the event is a total sell-out but we are sure to have other cabaret nights in the future so watch this space.

West Bromwich Albion Sporting Dinner

West Bromwich Albion are proud to announce that their next Sporting Dinner will be held on Thursday, 23rd October at the Woodland Suite, Belfry Hotel.

Special guest speakers will be former England Internationals Rodney Marsh and Peter Osgood.

Master of Ceremonies

Tom Ross — Head of Sport 1152 Xtra AM.

The evening starts 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

Dress is dinner suits.

Tickets are priced at £37 each, bookings can be made individually or in tables.

Rodney Marsh



Peter Osgood

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quick quiz

WORDSEARCH

Hidden within the grid are the names of five current Division One stars. Can you find them? (Score 2 points for each name you find).

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 P R N A N N A R B D E G C
 S P E Q U N M B R N N O K

Total score: _____ out of 10.

THE NAME GAME

The following past and present Albion stars share the same first name. Using the surnames provided, work out their first names. (Score 2 points for each correct answer)

SURNAMES	FIRST NAME
1) Allen/Fenton
2) Suggett/Anderson
3) Barnes/Butler
4) Wile/Osborne
5) Lee/Reilly

Total score: _____ out of 10.



PICTURE QUIZ: WHOSE STRIP?

Can you name the former Albion player in picture 1 and the club's strip that he is wearing? (Score 2 points each for naming the player and the strip)

Picture 2 shows an ex-Swindon man. Can you name him and the club whose strip he is wearing in the picture? (Score 1 point each for naming the player and the strip)

Total score: _____ out of 6.



BAGGIES & ROBINS DIRTY DOZEN

Here are 12 questions on current Albion and Swindon players. Questions 1 to 4 are worth 1 point each, questions 5-8 are worth 2 points each and questions 9-12 are worth 3 points each.

- 1) From which club did Albion sign Paul Mardon?
- 2) Mark Walters joined Liverpool from which Scottish club?
- 3) What nationality is Paul Peschisolido?
- 4) From which current Premiership club did Swindon sign Jason Drysdale?
- 5) How old is Paul Raven?
- 6) At which former Football League club did Swindon striker, Wayne Allison kick-off his career?
- 7) Ian Hamilton came on as a substitute at Cambridge. Which player did he replace?
- 8) How many league goals did Swindon defender, Mark Scargraves score during his career at Liverpool?
- 9) Albion snapped up Peter Butler from Notts County, but which club was he at prior to the Magpies?
- 10) Swindon's Scott Leitch has played for two clubs in the Scottish League. Name them both.
- 11) At which club did David Smith play just one game on loan during the 1992/93 season?
- 12) In what year did Swindon's Alan McDonald join QPR?

Total score: _____ out of 24.

Answers: WORDSEARCH: Brian Deane, Paul Merson, Gavin Peacock, Ged Brannan, Richard Rufus, THE NAME GAME: 1) Ronnie, 2) Colin, 3) Peter, 4) John, 5) George; PICTURE QUIZ: 1) Scott Darton wearing the Blackpool strip, 2) Nicky Summerbee wearing the Manchester City strip; BAGGIES & ROBINS DIRTY DOZEN: 1) Birmingham City, 2) Glasgow Rangers, 3) Canadian, 4) Newcastle United, 5) 27, 6) Hailfax Town, 7) Peter Butler, 8) None, 9) West Ham United, 10) Dunfermline Athletic and Heart of Midlothian, 11) AFC Bournemouth, 12) 1981.

FINAL SCORE:

_____ out of 50.



community programme

sponsored by



Good Afternoon,
Welcome to today's fixture against Swindon. Everyone within the Community Programme would like to congratulate Ray Harford and the boys on what has been a fantastic start to the season and we hope our good form continues until the end of the season.

We hope all our junior supporters have coped nicely with going back to school after the long summer holidays and if you have started a new school, good luck.

Keep reading future issues of the Albion News for details of forthcoming events organised by the Community Programme.

Enjoy the game

*Brett Bensley and Clint Roberts
Community Department*

Each year nearly 2000 children enter the West Bromwich Albion Football Club Community Programme penalty competition sponsored by West Bromwich Building Society in a bid to become the club's premier penalty taker.

This year's competition reached an exciting climax before the fixture against Manchester City on 12th April. The eventual winner was Wayne Etheridge (Ryders Green School) who not only won a beautiful trophy, but also a holiday for himself and his family at one of Haven Holidays many sites within this country.

Our thanks go out to everyone who entered, the West Bromwich Albion Groundsmen and finally to Haven Holidays for donating such a wonderful prize.

For details of future penalty competitions, please contact the Community Office at West Bromwich Albion F.C. on 0121 525 0226.



Pictured are Brett Bensley (Community Officer), Tony Dubberley (West Bromwich Building Society) and Mark Ashton (Assistant Commercial Executive) along with the finalists John-Paul Baker (All Saints C of E), Stacey Timms (Glebefields), Wayne Etheridge, Alex Giles (Corngreaves) and Richard Dubberley (Kent Close).

Reprographics by SentryBox Tel: 01895 251220



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Tel: 0121-551-6439.

SUPPORTERS' CLUB BRANCHES

Anglia Branch:

Mark Alefounder 01206 504949

Avon & Somerset Branch:
Paul Holder 01934 844271

Devon Branch:

Clive Thomas 01628 56234

Disabled Branch:

Kevin Candon 0121 359 6863

Droitwich:

Tommy Morgan 01905 774888

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Alan Jones 0121 474 3002

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Jon Norridge 01452 417987

Hitchin & District:

David Powell 01462 454997

Kidderminster:

Roy Hayden 01562 69179

London Branch:

Tony Vass 0181 668 6626

Malta:

Alfred Vassallo 00356 492342

Manchester:

Malcolm Jones 0161 926 8077

Northern:

Richard Ryan 0121 748 7185

Northern Ireland:

Philip McAllister 01960 378957

North East:

Dave Hewitt 0191 455 7844

Oldham:

Matt & Vikki Wharton 0161 681 5694

Redditch:

Pat Luke 01527 527190

Republic of Ireland:

Paul Peavoy 00 353 1831 4499

Shropshire Branch:

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South Birmingham:

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James Verrier
11340 Greenwood, Shelby TWP, N,
Michigan 48316

Walsall:

Jim Goode 01922 415683

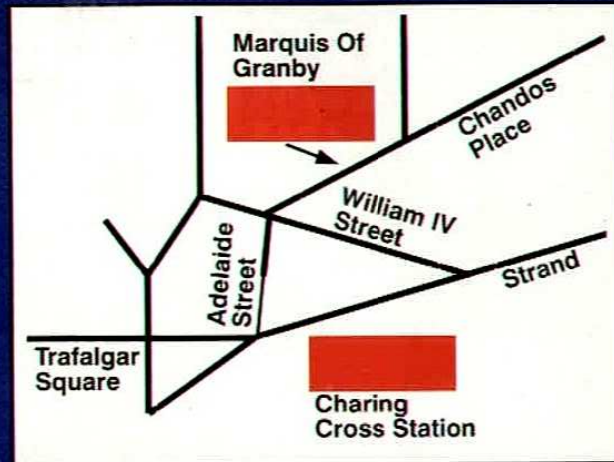
Warwick:

Jane Connolly 01203 368 472

Wednesbury:

Barry Parker 0121 553 5204.

LONDON



The London Baggies now meet in the "Marquis of Granby", 51 Chandos Place (see map above)

Next meetings dates are:

Monday, 29th September

Monday, 27th October

Monday, 24th November

Gather from 7.00pm onwards to start meeting at 8.00pm in the upstairs meeting room. (Buffet provided — £1 per head)

SHROPSHIRE BRANCH

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 2nd October at the Malthouse pub, Ironbridge, where the special guest will be Paul Franks of Radio WM.

As usual the meeting will start at 7.30pm and will be open to all Baggies. Anyone wishing to join the Shropshire WBA Supporters Club will be welcome to do so on the night.

BONEY HAY & CANNOCK

This branch of the supporters club will, in future, be known as SOUTH STAFFS. There is also a new contact name — Stuart Jeffrey who can be contacted on 01543-670804.

OLDHAM

Matt and Vikki would like to wish Jake Edwards a very happy 7th Birthday and hope he enjoys his first visit to The Hawthorns today with his brother Nyle.

For the match against Bury, supporters are once again welcome at the "Gardeners Rest", Hollins Road, Hollinwood before the match (15-20 minutes drive to Gigg Lane). Please contact Matt or Vikki for directions.

Baggies Rattle

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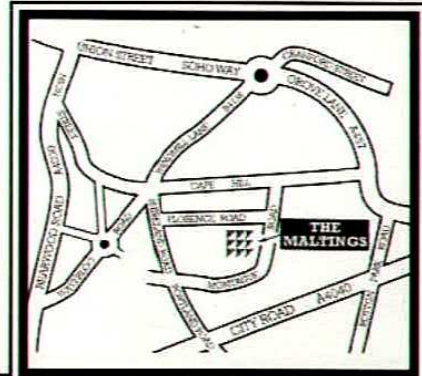
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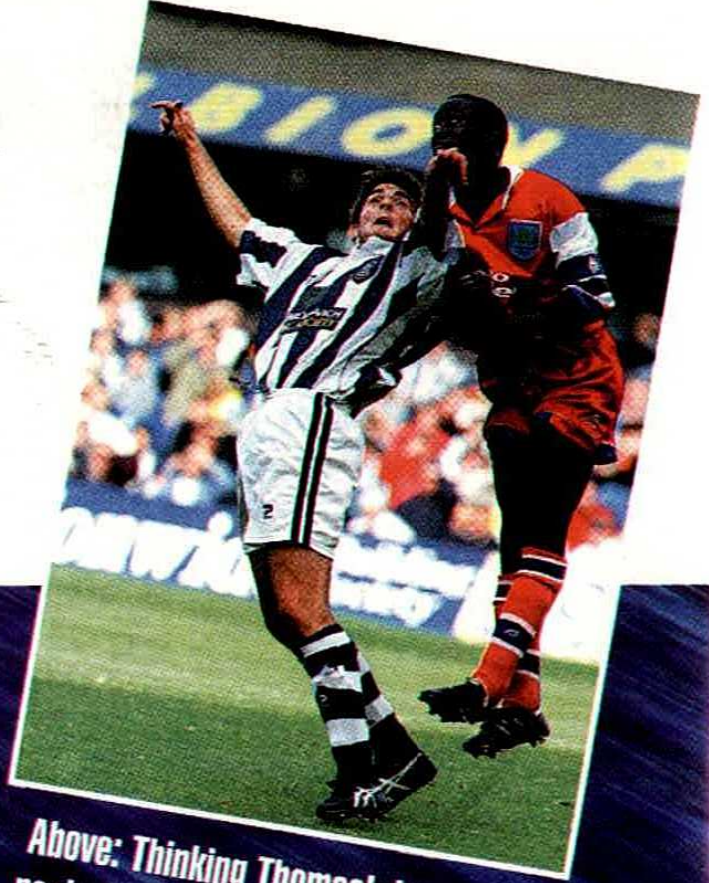


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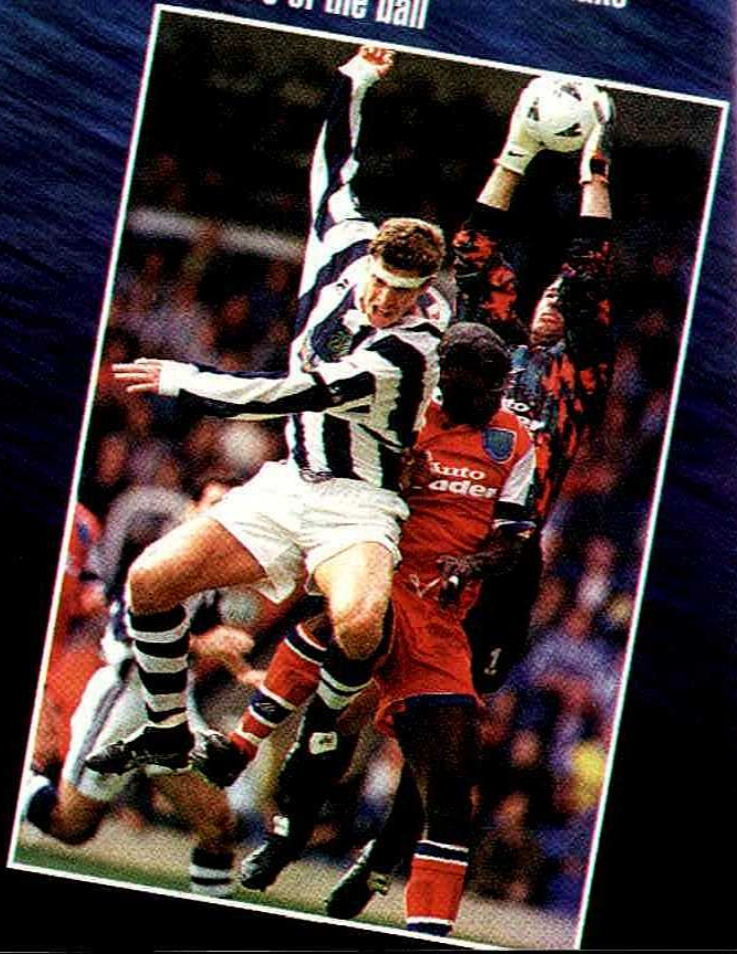
Magpies action

Sunday 7th September 1997 • West Bromwich Albion 1 • Reading 0



Above: Thinking Thomas! James Thomas has no doubts in which direction Albion are going

Below: Karate kid Hunt gives a quick demonstration as the Reading defence take care of the ball





Right: We are top of the league! Headbanded hero Hunt celebrates as his goal sees the Throstles perch on top of the table

Below: Bob Taylor practices for his new career as a ventriloquist whilst making dummies out of the Reading defence



james thomas

player profile

With the papers regularly saturated with tales of sleaze, bungs, and general foul-play in football, it's not often you stumble across an act of kindness in the game, but when Albion boss Ray Harford was stuck with a bit of a striker problem, Blackburn Rovers' Roy Hodgson stepped into the breach and kindly offered him one of the best young attacking prospects in the country.

James Thomas was Roy Hodgson's generous gift to the Baggies and he is now over half-way through his month's loan at The Hawthorns. James is a player the Albion boss has admired since he saw him as a youngster at Ewood Park, and he secured his services to help alleviate the problems that occurred a couple of weeks ago, when Lee Hughes was injured, Bob Taylor was struggling to find match fitness after a minor injury and Paul Peschisolido was on international duty.

Unfortunately for the Albion, Hodgson's generosity does not extend to the possibility of the young Welshman signing on the dotted line at the end of the month. Although in the situation Albion found themselves they knew that it would only be a matter of time before their original attacking options were restored, so Thomas's job at The Hawthorns would always have been a stop-gap measure.

Interestingly, Ray Harford indicated that the prospect of purchasing Thomas is a remote one with his frank quote in the local press; "We couldn't afford his bootlaces." Yet this is most definitely a reflection on the extortionate market-rate of young talented international strikers, rather than a lack of cash and ambition at the club.

When he arrived at The Hawthorns, the 19 year-old was not exactly a household name but his progress at Blackburn has been impressive.

"I've been at Blackburn since signing for them as a 16 year-old schoolboy and recently I'd been getting into the first-team squad at Ewood Park. I've also broken into the Welsh Under-21 side which is brilliant, as was playing for them at Under-18 level."

James explains that his decision to come to the Black Country was made all the easier by the presence of Ray Harford at the Albion.

"I knew Ray from when he was at Blackburn and that definitely made it easier to decide to come down here. I'm aiming to get quite a bit of first-team experience which will really improve my game."

James is an ambitious player who does not hesitate when asked who he regards as his role-model:

"Alan Shearer. Being at Blackburn when he was still there was great for me. His attitude and determination to succeed were incredible and it shows you the way you need to approach the game yourself. As a Welshman I suppose it's no surprise that Mark Hughes and Ryan Giggs are also players that I admire, but I guess Shearer is the man who I'd most like to emulate as my game is more in his style.

I'm not really holding back to goal player like Hughes, I prefer to use my pace and look to latch onto through balls."

Playing in a team that is riding high in the league, it must be an enjoyable loan period for the Welshman, especially as the midfield at The Hawthorns is working well for the forwards:

"It helps to have players like Richard Sneekes to play the ball



through to me. He's a great player and is playing brilliantly at the moment. Roy Hodgson had told me that it would be good experience for me here. The team's form has been excellent and I really want to do well for West Brom. I had played at The Hawthorns before my loan spell, it's a great ground and the atmosphere is incredible."

James Thomas certainly sounds happy enough at the Albion and whatever happens to the young Welshman in his footballing career, it's been a pleasure to have him at The Hawthorns.

What other sports are you good at, if any?

I represented Wales at 100m and long jump when I was at school, I also enjoy a round of golf when I get the time

If you played abroad, which team would you most like to play for?

Juventus

Whose talent do you most envy?

Alan Shearer

What do you wear in bed?

Boxer Shorts

Who has been the biggest influence on your career?

Alan Irvine — youth team coach at Blackburn

What was the last book you read?

I tend to stick to the sports magazines

Have you ever wanted to be anything other than a footballer?

No

What tape is currently in your car stereo?

Be Here Now by Oasis

What is your favourite journey?

The journey back to Swansea when I get chance

What has been your most embarrassing moment?

I missed an open goal from about a yard out in the Lancashire Youth Cup Semi Final at Ewood Park, which was a very important fixture to us

What is the worst lie you have ever told?

I try not to tell lies

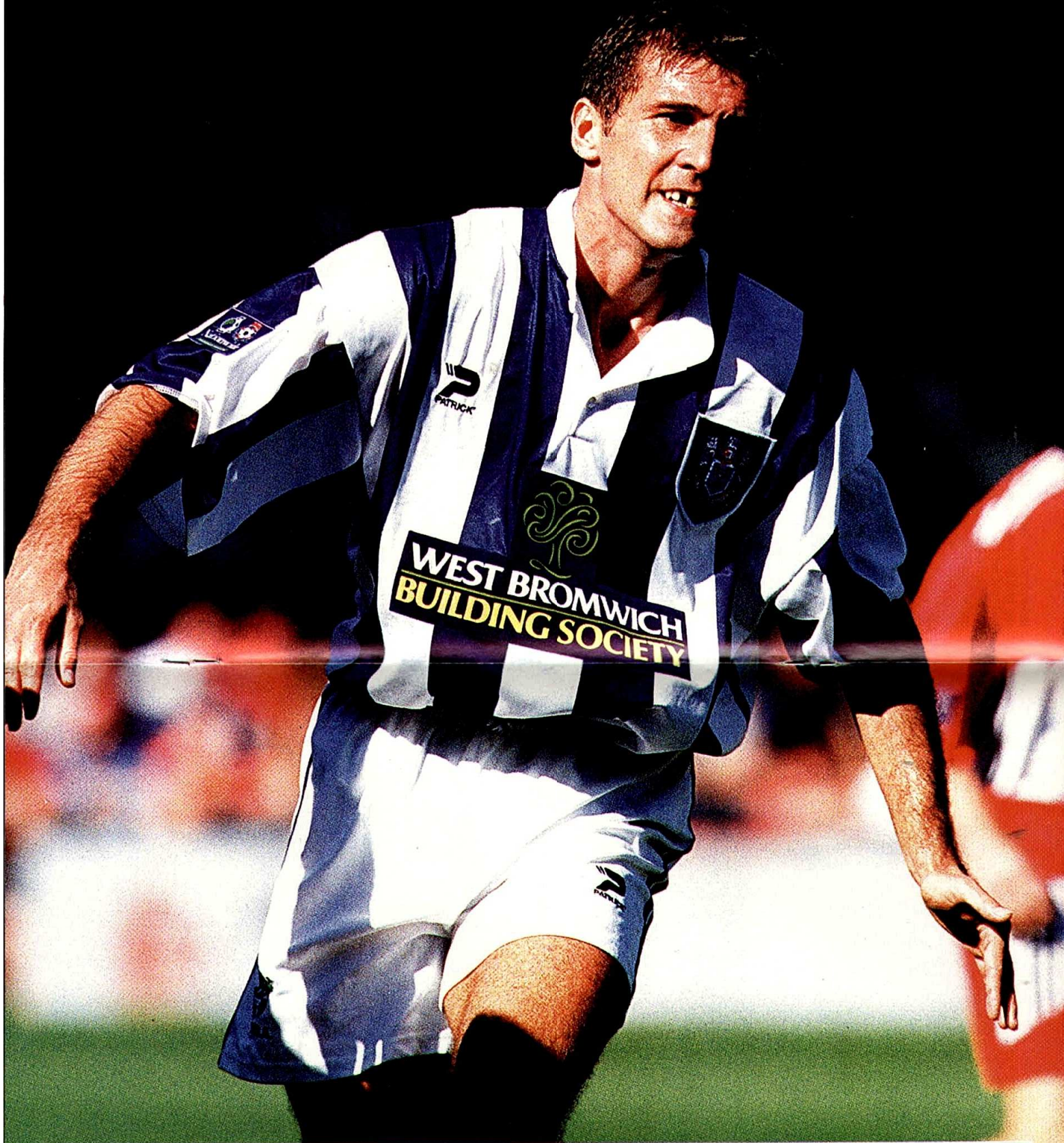
What is the one single thing that would make your life better?

To make a successful career out of football



James Thomas





paul mardon



football historian
leigh edwards
focuses on
connections with
our visitors

names & games

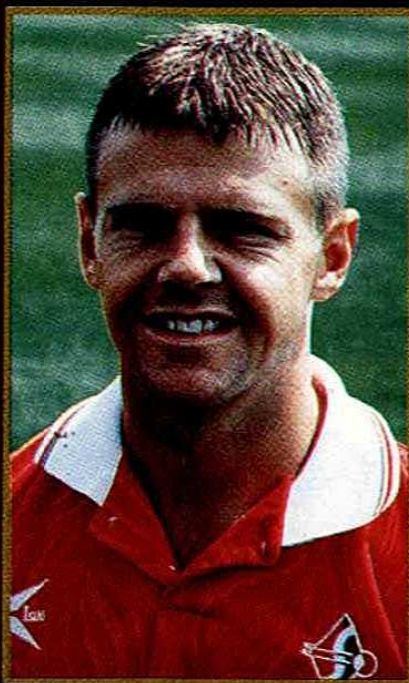
League Record Against Swindon

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Home	7	3	0	4	12	13
Away	7	1	2	4	5	9
Total	14	4	2	8	17	22

Goals by Wayne Allison and Alex Smith gave Swindon Town a 2-1 First Division win on their last visit to The Hawthorns in February 1997. Paul Holmes, Paul Peschisolido and Richard Sneekes scored in Albion's 3-2 victory at the County Ground in October 1996, their first-ever League win at Swindon. West Brom's last League victory over Swindon at The Hawthorns was the 2-1 Second Division success in April 1991 with goals by Steve Parkin and Graham Roberts.

Robins' Robinson

Ex-West Brom defender Mark Robinson joined Swindon Town from Newcastle United for £600,000 in July 1994 and was ever-present in the Robins' 1995/96 Second Division title success. Former Albion loanee Phil King rejoined Swindon on a free



Mark Robinson



Paul Crichton

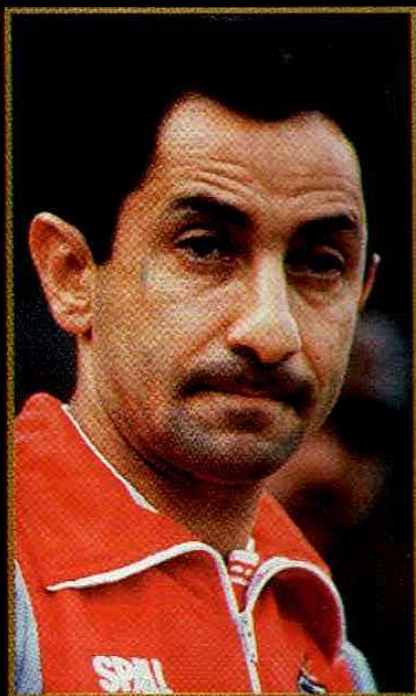
transfer from Aston Villa in March 1997, having scored four times in 116 League games during his first period at the County Ground. Goalkeeper Paul Crichton had a loan spell at Swindon during the 1987/88 campaign.

High Fives

Peter Thorne's hat-trick and other second-half goals by Jan Aage Fjortoft and Ty Gooden gave the following Swindon Town team a 5-2 First Division win over fellow strugglers West Brom in front of 12,960 at The Hawthorns on 19th March 1995: Fraser Digby, Wayne O'Sullivan (Ty Gooden), Andy Todd, Adrian Viveash, Mark Robinson, Shaun Taylor, Kevin Horlock, Joey Beauchamp, Jan Aage Fjortoft, Peter Thorne, Steve McMahon. Albion's side included Swindon's former Eire international defender Kieran O'Regan.

Managing To Succeed

Former Swindon Town player-manager Ossie Ardiles took charge of West Brom in May 1992 and plotted promotion via the Second Division play-off final at Wembley in 1992/93. He was suc-



Ossie Ardiles

ceeded at The Hawthorns by his assistant Keith Burkinshaw who had previously been his manager at Spurs and chief scout at Swindon. Ex-Swindon full-back Jack Smith managed West Brom to promotion at the first attempt in 1948/49.

Irish International

Centre-forward Ray Treacy was capped by the Republic of Ireland at both West Brom and Swindon Town. He signed professional from apprentice for Albion in June 1964 and gained four caps while at The Hawthorns before moving to Swindon via Charlton Athletic for £35,000 in June 1972. Capped 11 times while at the County Ground, he scored 16 goals in 55 League games for Swindon prior to joining Preston NE in December 1973 and returned to Albion in August 1976.

Leading Marksman

Former England Youth striker Peter Eastoe was Swindon Town's top scorer in two successive seasons after a record £88,000 move

from Wolves in November 1973. He netted 43 goals in 91 League outings while at the County ground prior to joining QPR for £80,000 in March 1976 and moved via Everton to West Brom in exchange for Andy King in August 1982. Ex-Albion pair Hugh MacLean and Ron Potter also played for Swindon during the mid-1970's.

Road To Wembley

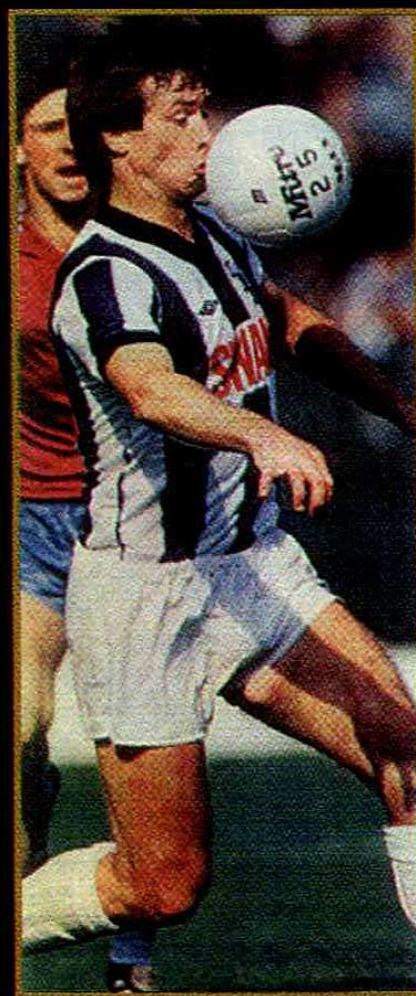
Goals by Jeff Astle and Clive Clark gave the following West Brom team a 2-0 League Cup fourth round win over third division Swindon Town in front of 16,254 at the County Ground on 25th October 1966: Ray Potter, Campbell Crawford, Ian Collard, Graham Lovett, Stan Jones, Doug Fraser, Graham Williams, Jeff Astle, John Kaye, Bobby Hope, Clive Clark. Cup holders Albion went on to face QPR in the final, staged at Wembley for the first time.

Prolific Goalscorer

Ex-West Brom forward Jimmy Cookson was Swindon Town's leading marksman in 1936/37. He played for Manchester City and Chesterfield prior to joining Albion in June 1927 and netted an incredible 103 goals in 122 League outings, including a club record six goals at home to Blackpool in September 1927. Moving to Plymouth Argyle in August 1933, he joined Swindon three years later and scored 31 times in 50 Third Division (South) games while at the County Ground.

Double Winner

One-time Swindon Town centre-half Bill Richardson was ever-present in West Brom's 1930/31 promotion and FA Cup 'double' success. He joined Albion from Great Bridge Celtic in November 1926



Peter Eastoe

and also played in the 1935 FA Cup final, scoring once in 319 League outings before moving to Swindon in May 1937. Another member of Albion's 1930/31 'double' squad, Welsh international right-half Jimmy Murphy, made 204 League appearances and was capped 15 times prior to joining Swindon in March 1939.



Kieran O'Regan

in the blood

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The Four Tops

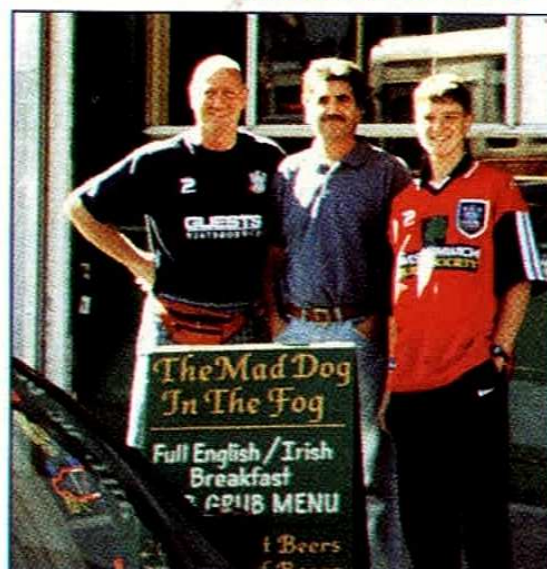
Enjoying a happy Baggies holiday are (L to R): Mick Sheppard, Janet Sheppard, Carol Burgess and Keith Burgess. Disney World continues to prove itself the place to holiday if



you are an Albion fan and this quartet are certainly flaunting their colours to good effect. The holiday makers resisted the temptation to grab the over-sized rodent for

a quick photo opportunity but they did manage to get that Enchanted Castle/Magic Kingdom type thing in the background, which is one of the gaudiest most tasteless buildings you're ever likely to see — then again, have you seen Molineux recently!

Albion Fans Are San Francisco Golden Greats



Having always wanted to put a face to Roger Howell and his Mad Dog In The Fog Pub in San Francisco, In The Blood have finally received a pic of Roger and his esteemed drinking establishment. Roger sponsored

Kevin Donovan's kit last season and currently sponsors Cyrille Regis', he also sponsored the Matchball for the Wolves fixture this season, so he has quite a high profile at The Hawthorns. It was no surprise therefore, that when the Baggies mad Hall family holidayed in San Francisco, top of the agenda was to scour the city's streets for the famous watering hole.

As you can see the Hall's search was a successful one and David Hall and his son Tom are pictured either side of Roger. Mum Wendy is behind the camera.

Fair Play To The Youth team



Albion fans Angela Jarvis and Michelle Bryceland would like to send a big Baggie thank you to John Trewick for bringing the youth team to their old school, Hall Green Primary, to open their Summer Fair.

The girls, who are pictured with John, said that everyone at the event had a brilliant time — young and old — and the presence of John and the youth team made the event extra special.

In The Blood thinks that the young Albion players must have made a surprise visit as something seems to have turned one of the girls' hair white — perhaps it was the legendary 'Trewick Bear Hug' which did it.

Beware Blues Boys Hugo's There



In Kings Heath, heart of Blue Nose country, sit these two fine automobiles. You may recognise the yellow Yugo, which has starred on these pages before and when Louise Griffen passed her test the Yugo driver, who is also Louise's 'fella', treated her to a wonderful personalised Baggies registration.

The Yugo is called Hugo whilst Louise's Uno is Bianca and they sit cosily together outside their house annoying those Blues fans but delighting In The Blood. It's great to see such dedicated Albion fans and it's also smashing to see that Hugo the Yugo is still going strong — not that In The Blood ever doubted that the classy motor would make it into the new season!

She Used To Be Calder Tottenham Fan

On June 21st Malcolm Calder and his fiancée, Kim, tied the knot and — as with all good weddings — football was a dominant theme.

Malcolm and his whole family are Season Ticket holders in the Apollo 2000 stand and his passion is reflected in the West Brom shirt cake in the photo. However, a closer look reveals another cake on the table in Tottenham Hotspur colours — Kim's passion.



The blue and white wedding therefore suited both bride and groom but it will obviously only be a matter of time before

Kim exchanges White Hart Lane for The Hawthorns. In The Blood expects Malcolm to have Kim comfortably settled down in the Apollo 2000 by the end of the season — we shall be monitoring the situation with interest!

Great Plate Mate

Jealous — you should be. Mick and Pat Crowley have sent us this pic of their beloved car number plate ALB 10N, which, they say gives them a great deal of pleasure. It's a bit naughty of Mick and Pat to make all In The Blood readers drool longingly at their pride and joy but we reckon there may be even more sought after plates by the end of this season. Has anyone got any ideas of how Albion fans could construct PREMIER, CHAMPS or GOING UP.



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the baggie bird

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Ruth Carpenter sent me this lovely letter that reminded me of the smashing day I had down at Warwickshire. I must admit I try not to tease Wolfy, but sometimes I can't help myself. If anyone else has any letters or stories about me (I won't get big-headed, honest), please send them in to the Community Department.
Thanks again Ruth,
Baggie Bird

Dear Baggie Bird,
You're the best local mascot there is!! During July I went to the first ever competition night cricket game and even though Warwickshire won, the highlight of the evening was seeing and meeting you there, along with all the other local mascots. The best part of the evening was when you came to the stand where I was sitting and gave me a hug! You were brilliant, especially when you pulled Wolfie's tail and flew in the mascot's race. I am now your biggest fan, keep being-boinging,
Up the Baggies,
Love from Ruth Carpenter.
Ps: I hope you can print this on your page in the programme!

Become a Junior Baggie

Free Gift: You will receive a surprise free gift as part of your membership.

Birthday Card: You will receive a birthday card for your birthday, signed by your favourite player.

Membership Card: With your own personal number.

Christmas Parties: You will receive an invite to the Christmas parties for a nominal fee.

Free Tickets: You will receive tickets to a selected first-team game during the season.

Birthday Treat: You will be entitled to a £10 discount on any bookings.

Chance To Be A Team Mascot: Randomly selected from all our members.

Soccer Course: You will be entitled to a discount on any booking.

Newsletters: Two newsletters throughout the season, which will include reports on all Junior Baggie activities.

Commercial Mascot: You will be entitled to a £10 discount on bookings for commercial mascots.

Ticket Priority: Junior Baggies receive the same ticket priority as Supporters Club members do.

Vote For JJ Player Of The Year: Win the chance to present the trophy to the winning player.

Free Entrance To All Reserve Team Games.

This season we have held the price at £11. Due to problems last year with packs going astray in the post we have decided this year that all members packs are to be collected from our offices in Halfords Lane. If this is not possible we will post them with a charge of £1 for postage and packing.

JUNIOR BAGGIES MEMBERSHIP 1997/98

The Tom Silk Building, Halfords Lane, West Bromwich, West Midlands, B71 4BR. Tel: 0121 525 0226. Fax: 0121 553 6634.

Membership Details

Name: Telephone No:

Address:

Postcode:

Date Of Birth: Favourite Player

Please Post My Membership Pack I enclose my membership fee for £11

Also an additional £1 for P & P

Please return to WBA Junior Baggies. The Tom Silk Building, Halfords Lane, West Bromwich, West Midlands B71 4BR.

Please DO NOT send cash through the post. Make all cheques payable to WBA FC Junior Baggies. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us on 0121-525 0226 during office hours.

RESERVES & YOU

PONTIN'S LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Up to and including Wed 3rd September 1997

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Grimsby Town	3	3	0	0	9	2	9
Middlesbrough	4	2	1	1	11	6	7
Bolton Wanderers	3	2	1	0	8	3	7
West Bromwich Albion	4	2	1	1	6	7	7
Sunderland	4	2	0	2	6	9	6
Port Vale	4	1	2	1	8	7	5
Oldham Athletic	4	1	2	1	6	6	5
Coventry City	3	1	1	1	4	2	4
Wolverhampton Wdrs	3	1	1	1	4	5	4
Leicester City	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Huddersfield Town	4	1	0	3	6	12	3
Notts County	4	0	1	3	5	13	1
Manchester City	2	0	0	2	2	4	0

PONTIN'S LEAGUE FIXTURES FOR SEASON 1997-98

Wednesday 13th August	Port Vale	3-0
Wednesday 20th August	Manchester City	1-0
Thursday 28th August	Notts. County	2-2
Monday 1st September	Grimsby Town	0-5
Wednesday 10th September	Leicester City	(H)
Wednesday 24th September	Oldham Athletic	(H)
Tuesday 7th October	Wolverhampton Wanderers	(A)
Wednesday 15th October	Sunderland	(H)
Wednesday 29th October	Coventry City	(H)
Wednesday 12th November	Bolton Wanderers	(A)
Wednesday 19th November	Huddersfield Town	(H)
Wednesday 26th November	Middlesbrough	(A)
Tuesday 9th December	Manchester City	(A)
Wednesday 17th December	Port Vale	(H)
Wednesday 7th January	Grimsby Town	(H)
Monday 19th January	Leicester City	(A)
Wednesday 11th February	Notts. County	(H)
Wednesday 4th March	Oldham Athletic	(A)
Wednesday 11th March	Bolton Wanderers	(H)
Tuesday 24th March	Coventry City	(A)
Wednesday 1st April	Huddersfield Town	(A)
Wednesday 8th April	Middlesbrough	(H)
Wednesday 22nd April	Wolverhampton W.	(H)
Monday 27th April	Sunderland	(A)

A couple of weeks ago the reserve team travelled to Grimsby where we suffered a heavy defeat, 5-0. Anyone who read my reserve team pages which highlighted our early season victories over Port Vale and Manchester City will wonder what's happened to the reserve team in such a short space of time, but I can assure you that circumstances are significantly different in the reserve set-up since those victories.

Whereas those games featured plenty of experienced pro's, injuries, International call-ups and first-team mid-week fixtures dictated that the most experienced player I could field against Grimsby was Michael Rodesthenous at the grand old age of 21, the next oldest player was 18 illustrating that we had to field an unusually inexperienced side.

We were 4-0 down at half-time and had shown ourselves to be understandably naive. At the interval we decided to treat the second half as a separate game, similar to when we played Notts. County, and to that extent lost the second half 1-0 with a much improved performance.

One of the key factors in the second period was the introduction of Coach John Trewick, who, although having recently celebrated his 40th birthday, made a huge difference in the fact that he added experience on the park that we simply didn't have. The situation was also helped by the introduction of another sprightly 40 year-old, Richard O'Kelly, who also helped settle the side and provide his know-how against a Grimsby side that included experienced players such as Kingsley Black and Tommy Widdrington.

This was such a good, constructive lesson for the younger players involved in the game, they realised that all the enthusiasm, energy and fitness in the world sometimes cannot compete against players who have seen it all and done it all. I would like to think that the game and the little things that John and Richard did when they came on, will help them in future matches.



John Trewick — his experience proved invaluable

The youth team recently competed in the first round of the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup against Nottingham Forest and after a very exciting tie, we went out of the competition after losing 3-2 in a replay at the City Ground.

The team drew 0-0 at The Hawthorns, forcing the replay, and played superbly deserving to kill the tie off at the first attempt, a fact acknowledged by Forest's youth team boss Paul Hart. We had a number of good chances and there were some excellent performances against a team who have always had a good youth set-up, and traditionally been a bit of a bogey team for the young Baggies.

In the replay we again played to a high standard. We started like a train, giving Forest some real problems and after 15 minutes it was no surprise when we went ahead. Marvin Blake showed great persistence and badgered the Forest centre-half into an error, which Marvin capitalised on, banging the loose ball past the 'keeper. We then went to sleep somewhat and handed the initiative back to the East Midlands who duly equalised on the half-hour. This kick-started us back into action and after a mazy run from Adam Oliver was ended illegally, Michael Garrity stepped up to tuck away the penalty.

The frenetic half ended with us in front and the lads held onto the lead comfortably until 20 minutes from the end of the game, when an innocuous challenge in our penalty area saw the referee amazingly point to the spot. Forest gratefully accepted the gift and went on to score the winner with five minutes left — no complaints about this one, a sensational strike from 25 yards out.

The lads were understandably disappointed, as they should have been when they were the better side over the two games, but they can all be proud of their performances. They were a real credit to the club and I could not have asked for more of them. It was great experience for the lads to play at The Hawthorns and the City Ground and hopefully each of the players involved will have enjoyed the games and have a taste for playing on the big stage.



Marvin Blake — on the scoresheet at the City Ground

MIDLAND MELVILLE YOUTH LEAGUE

as at 30th August 1997

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Wolves	4	4	0	0	16	3	12
Walsall	4	4	0	0	13	3	12
Aston Villa	4	3	1	0	14	5	10
Peterborough Utd	4	2	2	0	11	3	8
Grimsby Town	4	2	1	1	6	8	8
WBA	4	2	0	2	11	11	6
Nottingham Forest	4	1	2	1	10	8	5
Leicester City	4	1	2	1	7	6	5
Coventry City	4	1	2	1	5	7	5
Mansfield Town	4	1	1	2	7	6	4
Birmingham City	4	1	1	2	5	11	4
Northampton Town	4	0	3	1	6	8	3
Shrewsbury Town	4	0	2	2	6	12	2
Port Vale	4	0	2	2	4	10	2
Notts County	4	0	1	3	4	9	1
Lincoln City	4	0	0	4	4	19	0

MIDLAND MELVILLE YOUTH LEAGUE FIXTURES FOR SEASON 1997-98

Saturday 9th August	Notts. County	4-3
Saturday 16th August	Wolverhampton Wanderers	1-5
Saturday 23rd August	Walsall	1-2
Saturday 30th August	Lincoln City	5-1
Tuesday 2nd September	Nottingham Forest (S.JFCR1)	0-0
Saturday 6th September	Shrewsbury Town	P
Tuesday 9th September	Nottingham Forest (S.JFCR1R)	2-3
Saturday 13th September	Peterborough United	4-2
Saturday 20th September	Birmingham City	(A)
Saturday 27th September	Nottingham Forest	(A)
	League Cup Round 1	
Saturday 4th October	Northampton Town	(H)
Saturday 11th October	Grimsby Town	(A)
Saturday 18th October	Leicester City	(H)
Saturday 25th October	Aston Villa	(A)
Saturday 1st November	Coventry City	(A)
Saturday 8th November	Port Vale	(H)
Saturday 15th November	Mansfield Town	(H)
Saturday 22nd November	League Cup Round 2	
Saturday 29th November	Notts. County	(H)
Saturday 6th December	Wolverhampton Wanderers	(A)
Saturday 13th December	Walsall	(H)
Saturday 20th December	Lincoln City	(H)
Saturday 3rd January	Shrewsbury Town	(A)
Saturday 10th January	Peterborough United	(A)
Saturday 17th January	League Cup Semi-Finals	
Saturday 24th January	Birmingham City	(H)
Saturday 31st January	Nottingham Forest	(H)
Saturday 7th February	Northampton Town	(A)
Saturday 14th February	Grimsby Town	(H)
Saturday 21st February	Leicester City	(A)
Saturday 28th February	Aston Villa	(H)
Saturday 7th March	Coventry City	(H)
Saturday 14th March	Port Vale	(A)
Saturday 21st March	Mansfield Town	(A)

baggies bonanza

Our latest lucky Baggies Bonanza winner was Derek Taylor from Warley who took home £500 after Albion's mid-week win over Cambridge United.

Derek and son Darren are seen here collecting their prize from Deborah Jinks, Kate Evans and Sonya Cox from the Commercial Department, and Baggie Bird.

Make sure you get your Baggies Bonanza ticket from one of our many friendly sellers for your chance to be our next big winner.



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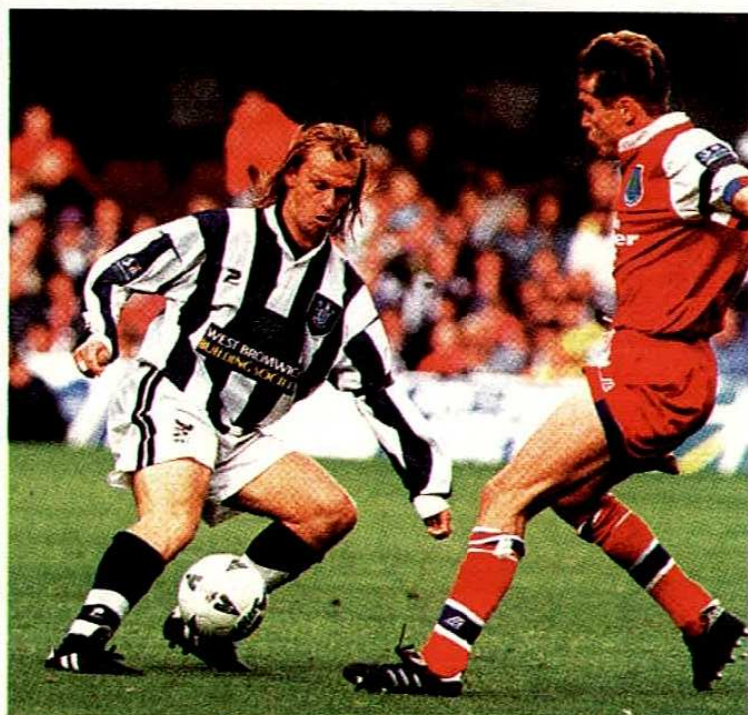
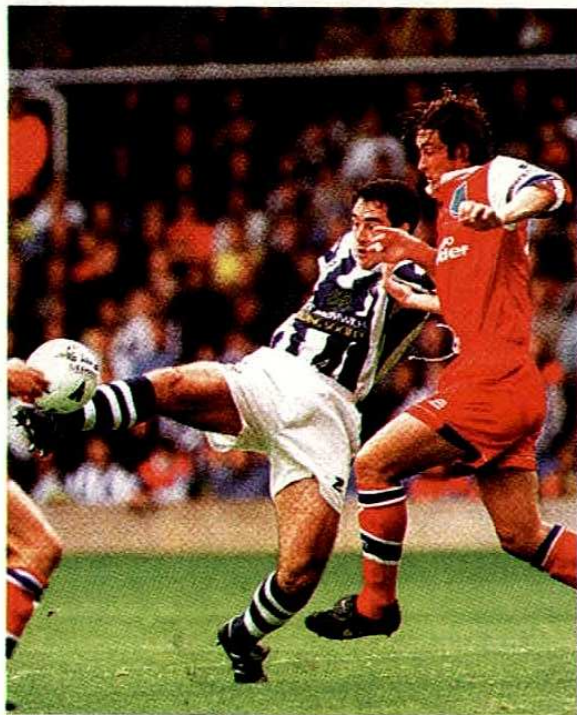
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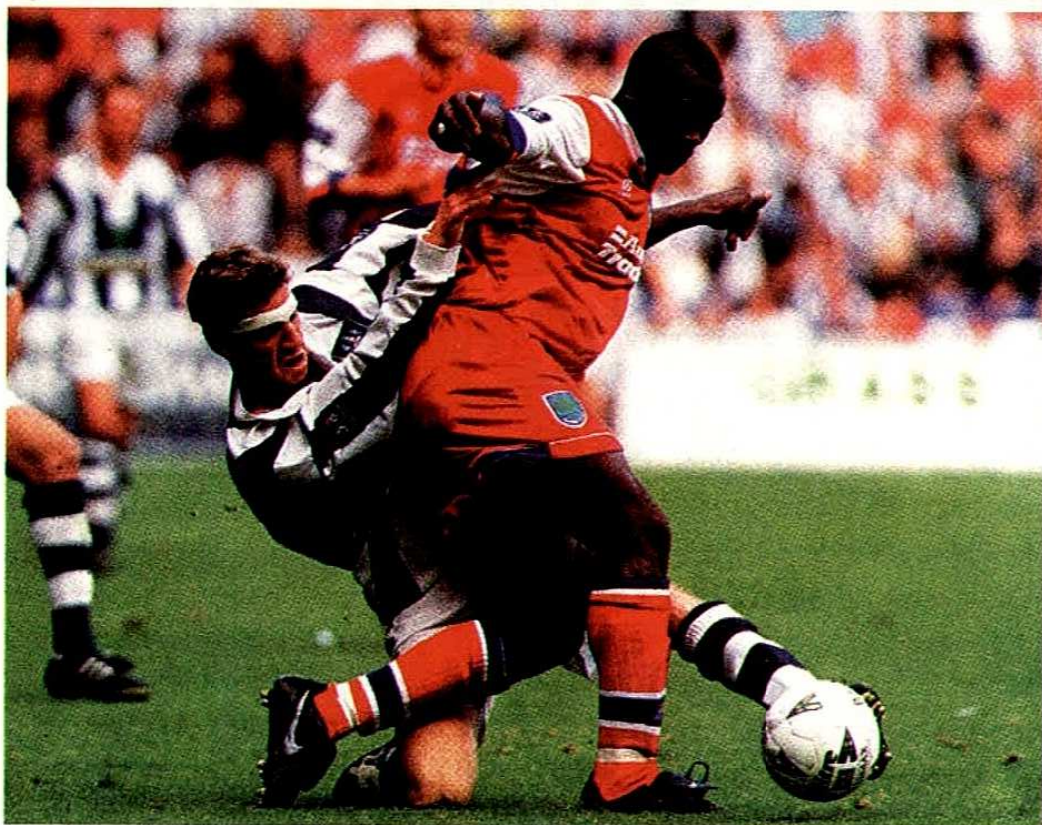
action extra



Above: By Royal command. Bob Taylor stretches out a leg to win the ball

Top right: Sneekes foils the Royals! With a drop of the shoulder, Richard Sneekes has the Reading defence tied up in knots

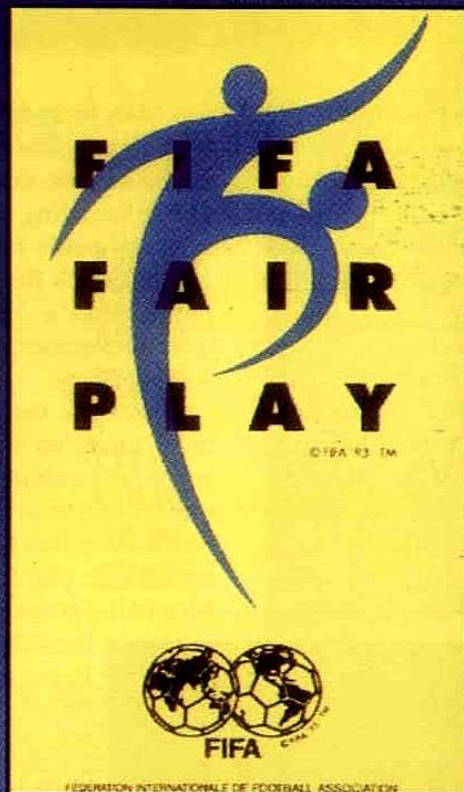
Right: Andy Hunt puts the block on Linvoy Primus as he ruffles a few more feathers in the Royals defence



The Football League FIFA Fair Play Day: 20th-21st September 1997

Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st September are special days in this year's football calendar: they have been designated as the first ever FIFA Fair Play Day.

Throughout the world, in most of the 198 countries and territories affiliated to FIFA, football will be played with particular emphasis on the spirit of Fair Play. In countries as far apart as Chile and Vietnam, and as diverse as Italy and Rwanda, people will be joining in the effort to raise awareness of the continuing need for sportsmanship in football.



All clubs in the Nationwide Football League are giving their complete support to this venture. At every match this weekend, supporters will see the referee present each team captain with a FIFA Fair Play pennant immediately prior to the kick-off.



At football matches all around the globe players and spectators will be reminded of the importance of Fair Play.

Please show your support today.

forward t

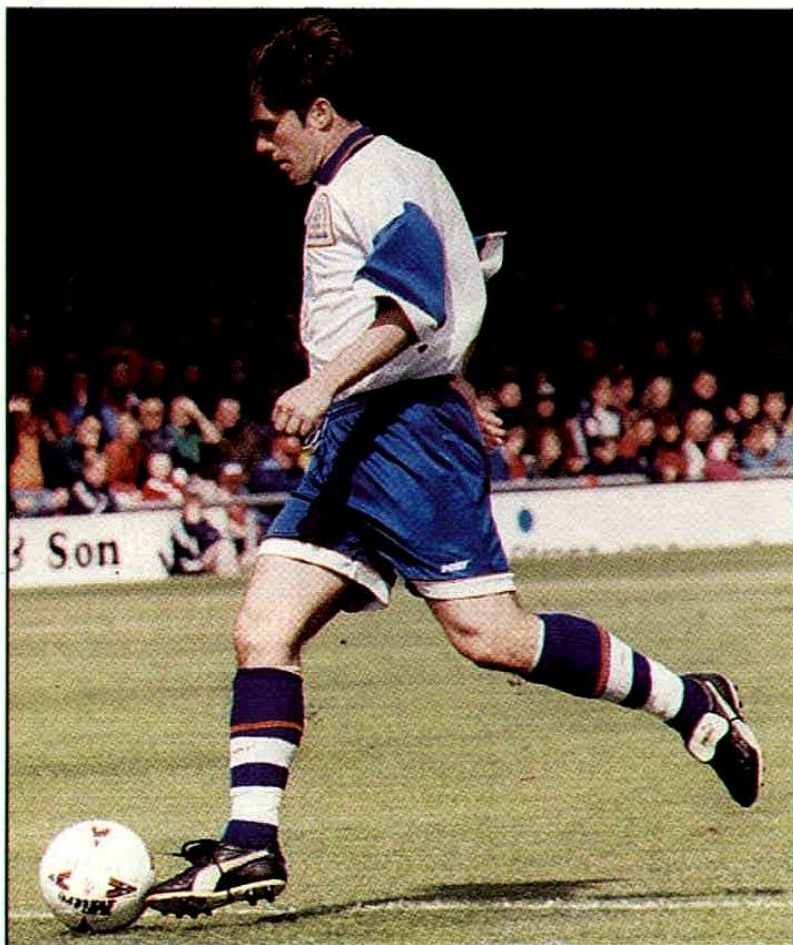
We meet again here on Tuesday night when Second Division Luton Town visit for the return leg of our Coca-Cola Cup Second Round tie. We will hope for a better result than our last clash at The Hawthorns, a 2-0 defeat towards the end of 1995-96 which saw The Hatters gain their first win in nine games.

Luton were on their way down from the first division when we played then and last season was their first at that Division Two since 1969-70. They came very close to making an immediate return but were beaten by Crewe in the semi-finals of the play-offs. This was a bitter disappointment for a side widely regarded as being one of the best footballing outfits in Division Two and they seem to be struggling to find their form again. Looking at Luton's results this sea-

son, they kicked off with a trip to the seaside and a 1-0 defeat against Blackpool before beating Southend by the same score at Kenilworth Road. They drew 0-0 at big spending Fulham and then were held 1-1 at home by newly-relegated Oldham. In the next match at Kenilworth Road Millwall came away with all three points after a 2-0 success. One win and two goals from five games is not what the Bedfordshire public was expecting.

Looking at the Luton squad, the key man to watch must surely be ace goalscorer Tony Thorpe. The 23 year-old established himself as a lethal striker last season and it is perhaps surprising that he was not lured away from Kenilworth Road during the summer. Three players with top-flight experience include Mitchell Thomas, known for his time at Spurs but back at the club where he began, Trevor Peake, remembered for his years at Coventry and Gary Waddock, who played over 200 games for QPR. Other players who have years of experience under their belts include Marvin Johnson, Julian James and Steve Davis, while ex-Barnet winger Paul Showler is now breaking into The Hatters line-up too.

If it's experience you want then few managers have more of that commodity than Luton boss Lennie Lawrence, appointed in December 1995 after spells with Middlesbrough and Bradford City. However he is best known as the great escape artist of Charlton's days in the top-flight. This season has seen him struggling to cope with an injury crisis that has seen 10 players in the treatment room. England Youth goalkeeper Kelvin Davies was recalled from a loan spell at Hartlepool when Ian Feuer suffered a shoulder injury and Lawrence also took Bolton left-back Bryan Small on a month's loan with a view to a permanent move. When Luton have a full squad to select from maybe their results will resemble last year's as they clearly have a number of talented individuals. After our scare here against Cambridge we will take nothing for granted and an enthralling cup-tie could be in prospect.



Tony Thorpe — remained loyal to the Luton cause despite his goalscoring exploits of last term

ninking

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A FAMILY TICKET MAY BE BOUGHT IN ADVANCE FOR USE IN THE FAMILY STAND. THIS WILL COST £30 AND WILL BE A FOUR PERSON PACKAGE INCLUDING A MINIMUM OF TWO CHILDREN. CHILDREN TO BE REGARDED AS THOSE WHO ARE UNDER 16.

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Supporters who do not have their Name & Address (Account) listed with the ticket office are advised to do so as this may enable ticket priority for some high profile matches. Please fill in the enclosed and post to: WBA Ticket Office, The Tom Silk Building, Halfords Lane, West Bromwich, West Midlands, B71 4LG

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Day Time Tel:

Home Tel:

BURY (AWAY)

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

SATURDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 1997

This match is ALL-TICKET. Tickets are now on general sale. Seats £14.00 Adults £8.00 Jnr/OAP. Allocation 2678. An extra allocation of terrace will be issued subject to seats selling out. Supporters are asked not to travel without a ticket.

PORTSMOUTH (AWAY)

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

SATURDAY 18TH OCTOBER

Uncovered seating only 1500 allocation. Prices £11.00 Adults £5.00 Jnr/OAP. This match is ALL-TICKET. Tickets available to: Away Season ticket holders/Premier Shareholders Wednesday 1st October; Season ticket holders/Shareholders Tuesday 7th October; General Sale 13th October.

NOTTM FOREST (AWAY)

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

TUESDAY 22ND OCTOBER

Price: Adults £20.00, Jnr/Oap £10.00. Tickets will need to be purchased in advance, 3000 available. On sale to: Away Season ticket holders/Premier Shareholders Wednesday 1st October; Home Season ticket holders/Shareholders: Tuesday 7th October; General Sale: Wednesday 15th October.

Telephone your ticket requirements
0121 553 5472 or Fax 0121 553 4204.
Postal applications welcome enclosing
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Trust us to help the game

The Football Trust has been providing support for the game at every level throughout the UK for over 22 years. Its present priority task is to help League clubs to complete the implementation of the Taylor Report recommendations.

Thanks to the Government and to the Football Association, the FA Premier League and the English Sports Council, a major new funding package to secure the future of the Trust has been put in place.

These funds will be in addition to income derived from the football pools companies Littlewoods, Vernons and Zettlers, and will enable the Trust to complete its Taylor task, carry on its essential safety work and continue to grant aid football at every level. The Government's commitment to the Trust has the support of everyone who cares about our national game.



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PATRICK

travel talk

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Welcome to today's top of the table clash with Swindon Town and how nice it would be to keep up our 100% home record after the disappointment of being knocked off the top of the league at Queens Park Rangers last Saturday. Amazingly our last home win, over Reading was our fourth win at The Hawthorns this season in the league and cup matches and came on September 7th. Our fourth home win last season came on March 4th!

Despite last week's setback we can't complain at our own start to the season, if anyone had said to you before the Tranmere match that in the middle of

Raffle Prize Winners
Ipswich Town — Stephen Layland
Stoke City — Lee Southall
QPR — David Holloway**
Thanks to Lee Hughes for making the draw
before the match last weekend
** For those interested it wasn't me who won the raffle!

September we would have been joint top, after matches with Wolves, Ipswich and Stoke, you would have settled for that... and asked them what they were drinking!

Draws at Ipswich and Stoke were particularly impressive considering our records against both sides, which is now 20 matches against Ipswich and 17 versus Stoke since our last win after those two results, and especially the second-half performance at Portman Road.

I am looking forward to the re-matches later in the season when hopefully we can finally beat both teams.

Ray Harford looks to have got the team spirit right and the remaining two league matches this month will be big tests, today against second place Swindon and next Saturday at newly promoted Bury, who haven't lost a home league match at Gigg Lane since April 6th 1996. A total of 29 matches unbeaten, let's hope we can do the business and maintain our fine start.

Bookings are now being taken for the trips to Bury, Portsmouth and Nottingham Forest, details of which are elsewhere on this page.

Anyone living in the Redditch area can now get on board at the Foxlydiate Arms, if you are interested contact Pat Luke on 01527 527190 or alternatively come into the Ticket Office before home matches to see me. The Redditch Branch also run a coach to all of the home matches, once again contact Pat for details, Please note that the match at Nottingham Forest has been moved from the Wednesday to the Tuesday as Forest play the following Friday.

Dave Holloway — Travel Organiser

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SATURDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 1997 V BURY				
3-00pm	9-30am	9-45am	10-30am	£8/£9
SATURDAY 18TH OCTOBER 1997 V PORTSMOUTH				
3-00pm	8-30am	8-45am	9-30am	£12/£13
TUESDAY 21ST OCTOBER 1997 V NOTTINGHAM FOREST				
7-45pm	3-30am	3-45am	4-30am	£7/£8

All coaches, supplied by Bowers, to be fitted with video and WC and refreshments will be available.

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Bookings can be made by calling at the Ticket Office or by ringing 0121-553 5472 (credit cards).

Please remember to book early, to avoid disappointment.

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Please note that anyone boarding coaches having drunk excess alcohol or in possession of alcohol will not be allowed to travel with Baggies Travel, and no refund will be given.

The Club have now opened an official Club Shop in Savacentre, Freeth St, Oldbury.

Opening Hours: Monday to Wednesday 8am-8pm
Thursday & Friday 8am-9pm
Saturday 8am-8pm
Sunday 10am-4pm

Tel: 544 1360



The West Bromwich Building Society home shirt is now available at the Club Shop and Savacentre. The Yellow 'Guests' away shirt is available in adult sizes at the bargain price of £9.99 at the Club Shop.



Nationwide, the World's No.1 Building Society, wishes all clubs a successful 1997/98 season



Official Sponsors of The Football League

inside write

with Daryl Burgess



Tony Dobson — Backing The Bears

You Kent Win 'Em All

There has been a lot of cricketing bets flying around the dressing room, firstly there was the Aussies against the English lads and then the Kent supporters and Warwickshire fans. The Kent lads are made up of the gambling goalkeepers Nigel Spink and Alan Miller amongst others and they were rubbing their hands when Kent looked favourites for the Sunday League. Unfortunately for them the Warwickshire lads — myself, Dobs (Tony Dobson) and Smudger (David Smith) — had the last laugh as Warwickshire over hauled Kent on the final day to clinch the title —YOU BEARS!

New Committee Are Just Fine

There is a new fine system in place at the club, where the new red-hot players committee of Nigel Spink, Alan Miller, Ian Hamilton and Paul

Raven collect fines from players who are late for training. The fines all go into the players pool and the new committee is desperately trying to fine as many players as possible, so there will be a lot of money in the kitty. They haven't caught me yet.

Talking of training, Buts now has someone else to shout with after the arrival of Flynny, it's certainly not a nice experience when they BOTH start giving you stick, what a double act.

Potts Of Paint

Potts is busy decorating his house at the moment and consequently keeps giving the lads his really useful handyman tips, like how to paint. Him, Mards and Raves are often seen locked in fascinating discussions comparing notes on different paint colours etc.

One man has been particularly



Graham Potter — Handy Man To Have Around

keen to shoot away from training recently, Hunty has been concerned about the welfare of his two new arrivals, cats "Tinkerbell" and "Bam Bam". Come to think of it with two kittens rampaging through the house it might not be long before Andy is re-decorating as well!

Players Pay Respects

On a more serious note, some of the lads went down to Kensington Palace last Friday night, as our hotel where we were staying before the QPR game was just around the corner. We went to pay our respects, and the scenes there were still incredible.

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League Cup
League
APP: GOALS

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League 7
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League Cup 1
League
APP: GOALS

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League Cup 1
League 3
APP: GOALS

CARL TRANTER 

League Cup
League
APP: GOALS

JOHN TREWICK  **In memory of the late Frank Baker — Loyal Supporter**



STACY COLDICOTT



RABCO FITTINGS, REDDITCH



ALBION STAT

	Opponents	F-A	Attn	Pts	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
August 1997												
Sat 9	Tranmere Rovers	2-1	16,727	-	Miller	McDermott	Nicholson	Sneekes ■	Mardon	Murphy	Flynn	Butler
Tue 12	Cambridge United (CCC1/1)	1-1	3,520	-	Miller	McDermott	Nicholson	Sneekes	Mardon	Murphy	Flynn	Butler ■
Sat 16	Crewe Alexandra	3-2	5,234	2	Miller	Holmes	Nicholson	Sneekes ■	Mardon	Murphy	Flynn ◆	Butler
Sun 24	Wolverhampton Wanderers	1-0'	21,511	2	Miller	Holmes	Nicholson	Sneekes	Mardon	Raven	Flynn	Butler
Wed 27	Cambridge United (CCC1/2)	2-1	10,264	-	Spink	Holmes ▲	Nicholson	Sneekes ○	Mardon	Raven	Flynn ■	Butler
Sat 30	Ipswich Town	1-1	13,508	3	Miller	Holmes	Nicholson	Sneekes ○▲	Mardon	Raven	Flynn	Butler
September												
Wed 3	Stoke City	0-0	17,500	3	Miller	Holmes	Nicholson	Sneekes	Burgess	Raven	Flynn	Butler
Sat 6	Reading	1-0	15,966	1	Miller	Holmes	Nicholson	Sneekes ▲	Burgess	Raven	Flynn	Butler
Sat 13	Queens Park Rangers	0-2	14,399	3	Miller	Holmes	Nicholson	Sneekes	Burgess	Raven	Flynn ▲	Butler ◆
Tue 16	Luton Town (CCC2/1)	1-1	3,437	-	Miller	Holmes	Smith	Sneekes	Burgess	Raven	Coldicott	Hamilton
Sat 20	Swindon Town											
Tue 23	Luton Town (CCC2/2)											
Sat 27	Bury											
October												
Sat 4	Oxford United											
Sat 11	Manchester City											
Sat 18	Portsmouth											
Wed 22	Nottingham Forest											
Sat 25	Sheffield United											
November												
Sat 1	Bradford											
Tues 4	Norwich City											
Sat 8	Charlton Athletic											
Sat 15	Port Vale											
Sun 23	Birmingham City											
Sat 29	Middlesbrough											
December												
Sat 6	Stockport County											
Sat 13	Sunderland											
Sat 20	Huddersfield Town											
Fri 26	Reading											
Sun 28	Stoke City											
January 1998												
Sat 3	FA Cup 3											
Sat 10	Tranmere Rovers											
Sat 17	Crewe Alexandra											
Sat 24	FA Cup 4											
Tues 27	Ipswich Town											
Sat 31	Wolverhampton Wanderers											
February												
Sat 7	Swindon Town											
Sat 14	Queens Park Rangers											
Tues 17	Oxford United											
Sat 21	Bury											
Tues 24	Portsmouth											
Sat 28	Manchester City											
March												
Tues 3	Charlton Athletic											
Sat 7	Bradford City											
Sat 14	Norwich City											
Sat 21	Port Vale											
Sat 28	Birmingham City											
April												
Sat 4	Middlesbrough											
Sat 11	Stockport County											
Mon 13	Sunderland											
Sat 18	Huddersfield Town											
Sat 25	Sheffield United											
May												
Sun 3	Nottingham Forest											
Sat 16	FA Cup Final											

Away matches in red. Goal scorers shown with a ● with number of goals scored. Substitutes used and the player replaced have either ■ ◆ or ▲ after them.



CALLING ALL ALBION PREMIER SAVER ACCOUNT HOLDERS

Win a VIP day for two at The Hawthorns when Albion play Huddersfield Town on December 20.

The VIP day includes: ★ a tour of the ground ★ a meal in the Sponsors Lounge ★ meeting the players ★

All you have to do is answer these three simple questions and send your answers on a postcard to Tom Cardall in the Commercial Department.

1. Name West Bromwich Albion's last three managers, before Ray Harford.
2. John Wile has recently returned to The Hawthorns as Chief Executive, but how many seasons did John actually play for the Baggies?
3. Name the Albion goalscorers when they beat Port Vale in the final of the Division Two play-offs in 1993.



Three correct entries will be drawn on the pitch at the half-time break of our game against Birmingham City on Sunday, 23 November.

All entries to be received by Monday, 17 November.

THANKS TO ALL PREMIER SAVER ACCOUNT HOLDERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF WEST BROMWICH ALBION

Watch out for more Premier Saver competitions in the future.

RESULTS 97/98

9	10	11	12	13	14
Peschisolido ▲	Hunt ①	Kilbane ①◆	Hamilton ■	Caldicott ◆	Hughes ▲
Peschisolido ①	Hunt	Kilbane	Hamilton ■	Spink	Dobson
Peschisolido ▲	Hunt ①	Kilbane	Hamilton ■	Smith ◆	Hughes ▲⊕
Peschisolido ▲	Hunt	Kilbane ■	Hamilton ■	Dobson	Hughes ▲▲
Peschisolido	Hunt ①	Kilbane	Hamilton ■	Dobson ◆	Hughes ▲◆
Taylor	Hunt ■	Kilbane ◆	Hamilton ■	Smith ◆	Caldicott ▲
Taylor ■	Hunt ▲	Smith	Thomas ■	Dobson	Hamilton ▲
Taylor ■	Hunt ①	Smith	Thomas ■	Dobson	Hamilton ▲
Thomas ■	Hunt	Smith	Kilbane ■	Dobson ◆	Hamilton ▲
Taylor ①	Hunt	Kilbane	Dobson	Spink	McBarnett

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

Up to and including Wednesday, 17th September 1997

	Home						Away						Pts
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A		
Bradford	7	2	2	1	6	8	2	0	0	5	1	14	
Swindon	7	2	2	0	5	2	2	0	1	4	3	14	
West Brom	7	3	0	0	4	1	1	2	1	4	5	14	
Birmingham	6	2	0	1	5	1	2	1	0	6	2	13	
Nottm Forest	7	2	0	1	9	4	2	1	1	2	1	13	
Sunderland	7	2	0	1	6	3	2	0	2	6	5	12	
Wolverhampton	7	2	2	0	8	4	1	0	2	2	4	11	
Sheff Utd	5	3	0	0	5	1	0	2	0	0	0	11	
Charlton	6	2	0	0	5	3	1	1	2	6	5	10	
Port Vale	7	2	0	1	5	3	1	1	2	3	5	10	
Bury	7	1	3	0	3	2	1	1	1	4	5	10	
QPR	6	2	1	0	4	1	1	0	2	3	7	10	
Portsmouth	6	2	1	1	8	6	0	1	1	3	4	8	
Middlesbrough	5	1	0	1	2	2	1	2	0	5	3	8	
Stoke	6	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	2	8	
Norwich	7	1	0	3	1	8	1	1	1	3	5	7	
Oxford Utd	7	2	0	1	5	1	0	0	4	5	10	6	
Man City	6	0	2	0	3	3	1	1	2	6	7	6	
Crewe	6	0	0	3	3	6	2	0	1	5	4	6	
Ipswich	5	1	1	0	3	2	0	2	1	3	4	6	
Tranmere	7	1	0	2	2	6	0	1	3	3	6	4	
Reading	7	1	0	3	3	7	0	1	2	1	5	4	
Stockport	7	0	3	0	3	3	0	0	4	4	8	3	
Huddersfield	6	0	2	2	3	5	0	1	1	1	3	3	

Surprise!
SARAH HOPKINSON
Congratulations on your 21st Birthday. Lots of love from Mom, Dad & Rachael xxx

Happy Birthday
GRAHAM BIGGS
With love from the 'Boing, Boing Biggs'

CLASSIFIED ADS

The Club Shop require a part-time member of staff to work 15 hours per week, 12.00pm to 3.00pm, Tuesday to Saturday. Please apply in writing to D. Judge at the Club Shop.

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CCC = Coca Cola Cup. FAC = FA Cup. † = Own Goal.

STARTERS

albion v swindon

- Alan Miller 1 Fraser Digby**
- Paul Holmes 2 Frederic Darras**
- David Smith 3 Brian Borrows**
- Richard Sneekes 4 Darren Bullock**
- Daryl Burgess 5 Chris Casper**
- Paul Raven 6 Alan McDonald**
- Stacy Coldicott 7 Mark Walters**
- Ian Hamilton 8 Jason Drysdale**
- Bob Taylor 9 Chris Hay**
- Andy Hunt 10 Wayne Allison**
- Kevin Kilbane 11 Ty Gooden**

- 12
- 13
- 14

 Frazer Stretton commenced his Refereeing career back in 1977 in his home town of Leicester. He became a Referee for the Beazer Homes League in 1984 before becoming a Football League Linesman some four years later. He eventually got a place on the Football League's Referees List in 1995. Frazer is married with four children.



Mr A. J. Green
(yellow flag)



Mr E. A. Martin
(red flag)

Reserve official:
Mr G. J. Worrall



today's mascots

Michael Davidson (left) is 11 years of age and attends Wood Green High School. His hobbies are football and drawing and his favourite Baggies men are Alan Miller and Paul Peschisolido.

Thomas McNally (right) is six years of age and attends St Mary's R.C. School. He enjoys football and swimming and also rates Alan Miller and Paul Peschisolido as his favourite players.



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