

# palace

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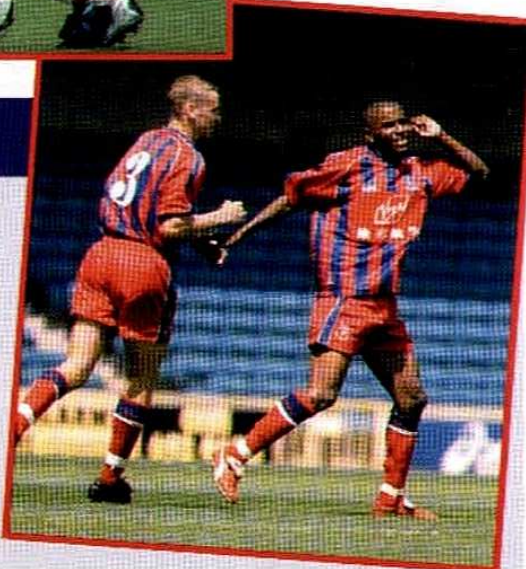


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May I start by extending a warm welcome to all the players, officials and supporters of Swindon Town. They were one of only two teams to beat us twice last season so we are fully aware of what they are capable of. Jimmy Quinn has done a very good job since taking over from Steve McMahon and, despite a poor start to the season, will provide a stern test of our credentials today. In a way, their heavy defeat at Ipswich recently might work against us because they will be fighting tooth and nail to prove to everybody that the 4-1 reverse they suffered was just a blip.

#### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Our first three matches have provided much food for thought. We are unbeaten, which is always a nice position to be in, but there has been very little to choose between ourselves and the teams we have played. Our first game, against Crewe, was a match which could have gone either way. I felt that we were in the ascendancy after taking the lead through Simon Rodger but, in the end, Crewe would have felt harshly treated if they had not got a point. Obviously people can point to the fact that we missed the penalty as proof that we should have won, but I am not sure I agree. As regards the penalty miss, I never criticise players who miss spot kicks. I know from personal experience what it feels like to miss from twelve yards and it is the loneliest feeling in the world. Lee felt good about taking the kick and I am a firm believer in always allowing the person who feels the most confident to take them. On this occasion, he missed but you also have to give credit to the goalkeeper who made a good save. I was disappointed in the way that we conceded the equaliser which came about through sloppy defending and we are well aware that we have to tighten up in our performances in order to obtain good results.

#### PLEASING

Our next league game came at Barnsley, where, although we claimed all three points, the match was another very tight affair. There was very little to choose between the two teams but, on the day, we shaded it. On another occasion, it could quite easily have gone to the home team. We had a good cutting edge and to score three goals away from home is always pleasing, but I would not want anybody to get too carried away after the start we have made. We might be fourth in the table, but to even have league tables at this stage seems utterly ridiculous to me.

In those sorts of matches, it could well just be a little bit of good fortune or a refereeing decision that decides the game. Against Barnsley, TV evidence showed that we were very unfortunate with at least two decisions that led to goals and also had a bit of luck ourselves with our second strike. Again, these are decisions that you just have to accept because, as the old adage goes, the luck usually evens out over the season.

**"I was disappointed in the way that we conceded the equaliser which came about through sloppy defending and we are well aware that we have to tighten up in our performances in order to obtain good results."**

#### DEPARTURE

Last week saw the departure of central defender David Tuttle to Barnsley for £125,000. Of course, you never want to lose players, but in some ways selling David was a necessity. 'Tutts' was an excellent club man but, as one of the players who had taken a pay cut and was owed money, there was always a little bit of commitment missing. This is understandable, as I was asking all my players for 110% commitment and yet we were not paying his wages in full. That type of relationship is always doomed to failure and so his departure was somewhat inevitable. We also had to consider the fact that David would have been on a Bosman ruling at the end of the season, when we would not have received any money at all for him. In that sense, £125,000 is a reasonable return. It also looks like more sales can not be ruled out of the equation, which is a desperate disappointment. Our squad is already threadbare and, when a spate of injuries hits us (as it inevitably will), we could find ourselves in real problems.

#### NEW CONSORTIUM

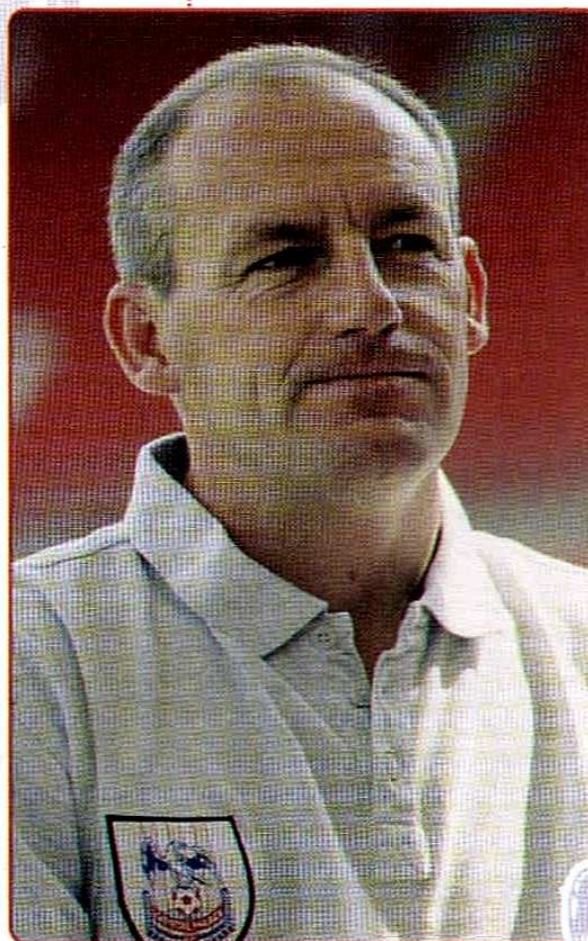
I was slightly concerned that the

new owners did not intervene in the sale of David - perhaps by subsidising the situation until a better solution could have been found? Everyone knows that in our current position we are not able to bring in a replacement for David and it has left our staff dangerously short-numbered. If we do not add to our playing staff soon, we will be in for a very difficult campaign and you, the fans, deserve more than that.

#### WRIGHT DECISION

Finally, may I say a word about Ian Wright, who recently announced his retirement at the end of the season. When I was with Ian earlier in his career, he always insisted that he would play till he dropped, but now I think he has made a very wise decision to leave while we still cherish the memories. It would have been tragic for Ian to have played lower league football as a shadow of his former self and the finances in football, as well as his TV career, has meant he can leave the game with no financial concerns. Everyone at Palace, where he played for six very happy years, wishes him every success in the future.

Enjoy today's game,  
Steve Coppell



COPPELL'S COMMENT





## CLUB DIRECTORY

Crystal Palace Football Club (1986) Ltd  
Selhurst Park Stadium, London SE25 6PU  
(In Administration)  
Tel: 0208 768 6000 (main switchboard)

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Palace Clubcall - news and interviews: - 09068

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(All calls to these services are charged at 60p/min at all times.)

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## INSIDE TODAY'S PROGRAMME

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★ Peter Morley CBE Pgs 18/19 ★ Clinton Morrison Profile Pgs 32/33

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## NEW CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCED

Club Administrators Moore Stephens last week issued a press release regarding the position of Chairman at Crystal Palace and we are pleased to reproduce their statement below:- Chairman Mark Goldberg has resigned from the Crystal Palace FC Board Of Directors from Wednesday 11th August 1999. The Board has invited the Administrators to approve their nomination of Company Secretary Peter Morley CBE, as Chairman, and they were pleased to endorse that appointment. Peter has been a very fine ambassador for a number of years and has assisted the Administrators in the performance of our duties over the last few months.

We are currently working with the city consortium who are set to acquire the club following Administration and we are grateful to Mark for his considerable efforts to initiate the consortium. We wish Mark well for the future.

## 'QUID A KID' FOR CUP MATCH



The match against Colchester is balanced at 2-2 going into the 2nd leg next Tuesday and we are operating our successful 'Quid A Kid' scheme which means that all under-16's will be charged just £1 to watch this Worthington Cup tie (kick-off 7.45pm). Supporters who have already purchased junior tickets at the original price of £5 will of course have the option of either £4 refund or the balance in additional tickets. These supporters should contact the box office on 0208 771 8841. The reduced price of £5 will still apply to senior citizens and students, while adults are priced at £10.

## SADLER'S PROBLEMS EASE



Palace's physio has had an uncharacteristically quiet start to the season, a welcome change from last campaign when half the first team squad seemed to be crocked at some point. Gary Sadler does, however, have a few concerns; Craig Foster and Leon McKenzie are both long-term casualties but he has better news regarding England under-21 player Hayden Mullins. "Hayden has had a few problems with his ankle over the past few weeks," he commented. "He picked up an injury to the ankle on the club's tour of China and injured the same ankle but in a different place against Colchester in the League Cup. However, he came through well against Barnsley and has trained well in preparation for the game against Swindon." Mullins himself was surprised to be back as quickly as he was, given the nature of the original injury sustained in the Far East: "Initially we thought it was just a gash," he confessed, "but when I went to have a scan the specialist said that the bone was bruised and I was lucky not to have had the ankle broken. In that respect it was great to be back so early." And what of Foster, who was stretched off against QPR in the final game of last season with a knee injury? "Craig has come back very pleasingly," said Sadler. "He was given a deadline of three months after the operation, after which he can resume light training. He is already doing light jogging and is recovering very well. I would have thought he would be back in contention in a couple of months." Only Lee Bradbury (dead leg) and Simon Rodger have given Sadler cause for concern in preparation for this afternoon's game against the Robins, but both are expected to be available.







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## TUTTLE COMPLETES MOVE

Central defender David Tuttle has completed his £125,000 move to Barnsley to link up again with former Palace manager Dave Bassett. The Reading born defender made ninety-six appearances for Palace since his transfer in 1996 and scored five goals. We wish Dave all the best with his new club following his three year spell at Selhurst Park.



## GRAHAM GAINS UNDER-21 CAP

Congratulations to midfielder Gareth Graham who was capped by Northern Ireland on Tuesday night in an under-21 friendly against France. Graham turned in an excellent performance and set up one of Ireland's goals in the 3-1 victory.



## OUR 'REV' COMPLETES 25 YEARS

Crystal Palace were among the first football clubs to appoint an honorary chaplain back in 1974 when Club historian Rev Nigel Sands was invited to serve in that capacity as well, and we want to mark the significant silver anniversary of that appointment this afternoon.

As a regular contributor to Palace's matchday programme, indeed he was its editor for several years and has also been the author of ten books about the Eagles, Nigel is well known to many of our supporters. However, like all the football chaplains, his other role here at Selhurst Park is low key. Thus, whilst the individuals and families with whom he has been involved as our chaplain has, almost without exception, been most grateful to him. It may be surprising to some readers to learn that he has been part of our club in this way for a quarter of a century.

Nigel has been a Palace supporter since childhood and celebrated his fiftieth as supporter back in 1996, but the involvement he treasures here above all others is as our chaplain, and it is his contribution to Crystal Palace in this capacity that we acknowledge and thank him for today

## TRAIN TRAVEL

The train travel bookings for the visit to Huddersfield Town are being taken in the away travel portakabin this afternoon. The fare is £28 in advance or £30 at the station (must be booked prior to the day) and departs from Kings Cross at 10.10am.



## SPECIAL SOUVENIR PROGRAMME FOR WOLVES



As most of you will know, Palace celebrate their 75th Anniversary of playing at Selhurst Park this season and, to mark the occasion, Palace Publications are pleased to announce that supporters will be able to buy a special souvenir issue of the Matchday Programme for the game with Wolves on Tuesday, August 31st (kick-off 7.45pm). As well as the usual programme, with its mix of features, competitions and statistics, a recreation of the programme for Palace's first ever game at Selhurst Park, against Sheffield Wednesday in August 1924, will also be included. Supporters with any special memories of these 75 years, please write to the Publications Dept at the club or phone 0208 768 6021.

## RUGBY RULE MOVES SPORTS

Some readers may already be aware that Rugby's ten yard rule, whereby a free kick is advanced by ten yards if another offence is committed before play is restarted, has begun to be used in football. It will be introduced in this season's Auto Windscreen Shield competition and in two divisions of the Central midlands league.

FIFA is anxious to see a reduction in both dissent and timewasting and early evidence indicates that this rule has a marked effect on both in our game so that as a result some commentators are even suggesting that it will be in place in the laws in time for the 2002 World Cup.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please would all supporters remain in their seats during play as persistent standing in seated areas is considered to be a threat to public safety and also an annoyance to other supporters.

## SELHURST SUPER DRAW

The first winner of this season's Selhurst Super Draw was David Halfacre of Shirley. David is a season ticket holder in the upper tier of the Holmesdale Road stand and the winning number was 1266.

The tickets are priced at £1 each and the prize will almost certainly be increasing every match as the holiday season draws to a close.

The lottery office is situated above the programme shop at the Holmesdale Road end of the private road at the back of the main stand.







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# ON THIS DAY



**T**urning back the calendar to today's date in several interesting, significant or poignant anniversaries with club historian, Rev Nigel Sands.

## 21ST AUGUST

For many years, if 21st August was a Saturday, it would be the first day of the new Football League season and was therefore a focus of considerable interest to football fans all over the country. Here's a few special opening day matches from our nostalgia department.

**1949**

### REVERSE AT READING

Palace's first ever opening day match on 21st August fell in 1949 when we travelled to Reading and



**FRED KURZ**

suffered a heavy 1-5 reverse. Fred Kurz hit our consolation goal and went on to become our top scorer of the season. However, this first game was a fair preview of what turned out to be a thoroughly depressing campaign in which we finished bottom of the league and had to seek re-election.

**1965**

### PALACE BLOWN UP AT ST ANDREWS!

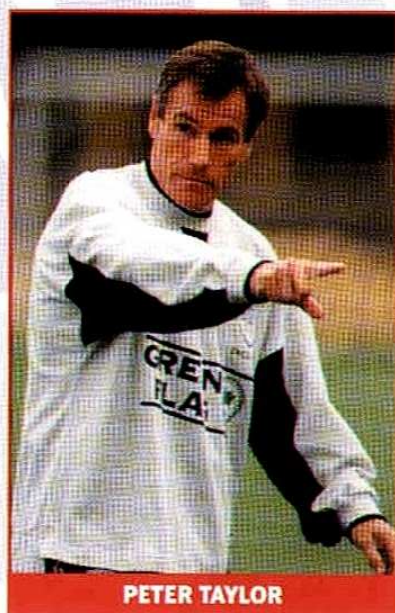
Palace's first game of 1965-66 was a Second Division fixture at St Andrews, home of relegated Birmingham City. Although the Blues took a 13th minute lead, Palace debutant Ian Lawson, the former Burnley and Leeds striker, volleyed an equaliser just before the break. It took Birmingham until the 84th

minute to unlock our defence again but then, in the dying moments, Palace forced a corner and Alan Stephenson leapt high at the far post to nod the ball home. However, while the ball was still in flight and before it crossed the goal-line, the referee began to blow his whistle for the end of the game and, although the ball hit the back of the net while he was still doing so, the 'goal' could not stand because it is the first note of the final whistle that signals the end of the match.

**1976**

### PETER TAYLOR'S LAST EAGLES GOAL WINS PALACE'S FIRST GAME

Third Division Palace were under new management for the opening of



**PETER TAYLOR**

the 1976-77 league season. Malcolm Allison had departed from Selhurst Park in the summer and had been replaced by Terry Venables, but the Eagles' star performer at this time was Allison's terrific signing for Palace, left footed, right-winger Peter Taylor. Our opponents for the first fixture were relegated York City, but Palace made home advantage count and won with the only goal of the game, netted by their England international during the first half. In fact this proved to be Peter's last goal (his 39th in league and cup)

for Palace, because within a month he had moved to Tottenham for £200,000. Palace's season took a long time to gather momentum, but it ended as it had begun with a victory and that proved sufficient for us to gain promotion and a return to Division Two after an absence of three years.

**1993**

### BOWRY DEPARTS AT BRISTOL CITY

This was actually Palace's second First Division fixture of 1993-94 but, whilst it proved a bitter



**BOBBY BOWRY**

disappointment to us all, it seemed only to spur the Eagles to better, stronger performances which would, ultimately, lead to promotion, the championship and a return to the Premier League. Palace lost 0-2 at Bristol City on this warm afternoon and suffered the indignity of having midfielder Bobby Bowry sent off early in the game in controversial circumstances. However, the Eagles avenged this defeat in some style, winning the Selhurst Park return the following January 4-1.

Rev Nigel Sands

Club Historian and Honorary Chaplain

ON THIS DAY





**N**ow that I have finally recovered from having been rendered temporarily speechless by our win at Barnsley, I ought to offer an apology. I may have given the impression in the Crewe programme that I was in a downbeat pessimistic mood and sliding into a deep depression at the thought of a long hard season of struggle ahead. I was obviously feeling a bit under the weather that day and have now seen the error of my ways. It is now apparent to me that we are heading for another glorious promotion - superbly led by our skipper, Mr. 'goal-machine' Rodger! Seriously though, only three matches in and we've already seen the typical Palace that we all know and love - one good, one bad and one indifferent performance - none of them, naturally, in the games that you would predict; a missed penalty - and, depending on whether the journalist from your Sunday paper had left for his free half-time biscuits or not, a howler of a miss from the

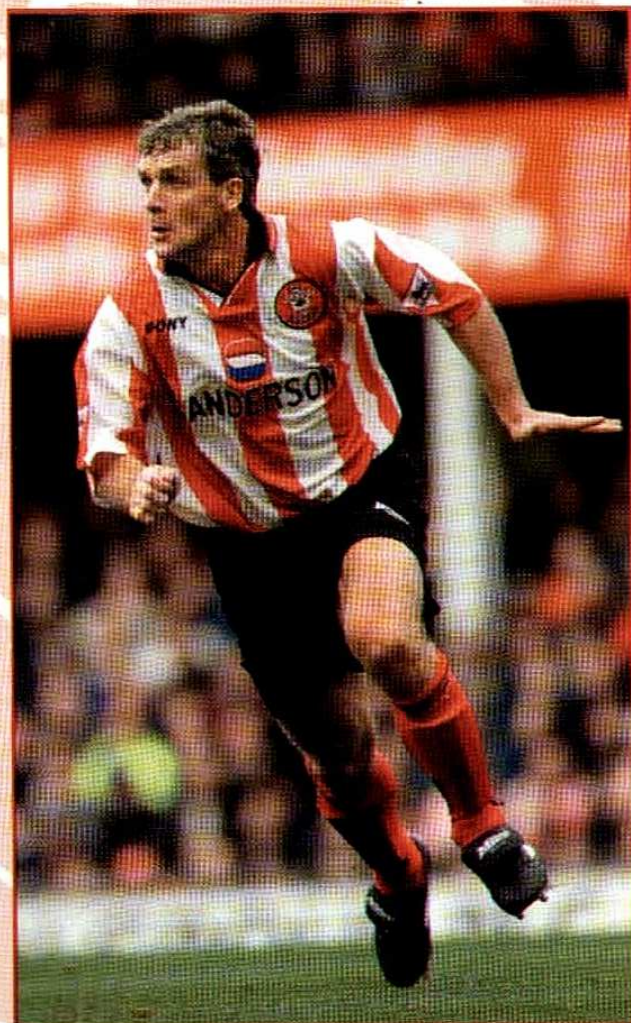
rebound or a disputed disallowed goal; draws snatched from the jaws of defeat; draws snatched from the jaws of victory and a thoroughly welcome away win just in time to confound all the people who were climbing into their harbinger of doom and gloom costumes. Quite how anybody could get sufficient value for money out of supporting anybody else is beyond me!

\*\*\*\*\*

I'd actually cheered up long before the win at Oakwell (only to be come crashing down to earth again after the game at Colchester!). Anybody reading the article before the Crewe game could quite reasonably have been worried whether I would decide to end it all before making it to the match! In fact, having written the piece some days earlier, by the eve of the big kick-off I had undergone a strange transformation. My mind appeared to have been completely (and utterly irrationally) taken over

by optimistic thoughts for the new season! Despite the worryingly early signs of dementia, my sub-conscious refused to harbour thoughts which did not include challenging Man United for world domination, purely on the basis that the sun would be shining, the grass would be green and everything begins 0-0. I also knew that come the next morning that would all have changed again (which it did!). I have never yet left the house on matchday without some nagging fear that I am on my way to watch a 9-0 defeat. The day it finally came true was actually a blessed relief as I was able to say 'I told

you so' to all the people who accuse me of being an eternal pessimist on the way to matches. I still feel that this matchday morning feeling is the reason Palace fans were placed on Earth. It is our duty to suffer it on behalf of everybody else. I was talking to friend last week who confirmed my opinion that supporting Palace is more of a vocation than something to take pleasure in! His exact words were "I will NOT enjoy the game, unless we are 7-0 up by half time. Even then I will harbour some concern about the team's ability to hang on. If Palace go 1-0 up after 5 minutes, I will want the game to end. Watching Palace is, for me, agony from beginning to end. It isn't really



**MARK HUGHES**

about football - I can't be objective enough to appreciate the skills on display. It is only the result that matters. I do appreciate good football, but only when I am watching a game not involving Palace." Now hands up everybody who recognises these sentiments and I bet we have a Mexican wave going in no time! I'm actually rather worried about the rampant optimism that seems to grip the fans who have started following the club in the Nineties. These youngsters really don't seem to have grasped what it means to follow Palace. I don't believe you can truly class yourself as a Palace fan from the top drawer whilst expressing positive emotions. It just isn't what we're about. I think perhaps the best thing would be if







the club DID go into liquidation - just so that the true red 'n' blues amongst us could say 'I told you so' and die happy!

\*\*\*\*\*

On the subject of going 1-0 up early doors - my personal nightmare is always going 2-0 up (and I seem to remember Steve Coppell saying something similar once so I know I'm not alone!). I always feel that at 1-0 the side keeps playing, but at 2-0 they take the foot off the gas. If the score gets pulled back to 2-1 the initiative is with the other team and 2-2 or even 2-3 seems



**RICHARD HARRIS**

has been a whole-hearted player for Palace so will obviously be a big loss - although at least we're getting a six-figure sum for him. Confused? So was I! You might also have been a bit confused (I'm sure Jolly was) by my earlier referral to his new nickname. Surely a goal every two

games does not make a goal machine - especially when we could all probably make a list of the previous occasions when Jolly has troubled the scorers. All will no doubt become clear if you follow the match reports in The Sun over the next few weeks. Now if I was the editor at The Sun I would be asking for a copy of the train ticket when the expense claim comes in, just to make sure it was Oakwell that the hack turned up to. Not only was Jolly

awarded the 'Star Man' accolade for his two (?) lightning strikes, but our man from the currant bun was also the only one to acquire the scoop of the day about Graham Tuffel. At least the poor guy isn't alone in his myopia. According to the rest of Wapping Craig Foster had made a remarkable recovery to take a place on the bench - looking remarkably like Richard Harris it has to be said. Add to that the nerve they had to castigate the referee who didn't see Mark Hughes' shot rebound out of the net last week when they, to a man, all saw Lee Bradbury's follow up to his penalty miss crash into the net when it did nothing of the sort, and you're left with the best reason of all to go to the match - it's the only way you'll find out what really happened (maybe United's treble was just down to inaccurate reports - you never know your luck!)

Paul Romain



**SIMON RODGER**

**POINT**

inevitable (we could all make a list a page long where this has happened to Palace). I was down the pub supporting the Gills against Man City in the play-off final last season and, because off this theory, I was telling everyone that would listen that I had a bad feeling when the Gills went 2-0 up with a couple of minutes remaining. Even when City pulled one back people thought it was all over - I KNEW it was!

\*\*\*\*\*

Just to compound the problems we are facing this season, I was shocked this week to read of the departure of Graham Tuffel. Graham apparently

**STANDPOINT**





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# EDGY EAGLES MAKE NERVOUS START

New season, same Palace. That was the overriding feeling amongst the crowd who trooped out of Selhurst Park two Saturdays ago as the Eagles, keen to carry on the traditions started last season, threw away a one-goal lead late on to Dario Gradi's Crewe Alexandra. The start of the season is usually treated with eager anticipation by all football followers, but Palace supporters could have been forgiven a touch of trepidation as the new campaign approached this year - the financial situation which had glowered over the club for most of the summer (and, indeed, was only resolved two days before the start of the season), a steady stream of departures away from Selhurst Park and uncertainty as to whether or not Palace would even be given permission to start their league programme all contributed to a slightly subdued atmosphere around the ground two weeks ago.

## NERVOUS

The Selhurst faithful's mood was hardly lightened by a nervous performance from the side in the first half. Chances were few and far between, with Simon Rodger having Palace's only meaningful effort at goal - a scuffed shot that bobbed harmlessly wide of the left-hand post. Crewe looked the more composed team and Rodney Jack, in particular, was causing havoc on the Eagles' right flank. However, the home side were given a great chance to calm their nerves when Clinton Morrison, who held the ball up superbly throughout the game, was dragged to the floor by Alexandra defender Lee Unsworth. Lee Bradbury stepped up to take the resultant spot kick only to see it saved by Crewe custodian Jason Kearton. The crowd's cries of frustration, however, were tempered when the rebound fell kindly to the ex-Manchester City man who drew back his leg and blasted the ball against the bar. Cue heads in hands for the vast majority of the spectators and, of course, for poor Bradbury. "The keeper made a good save from the



penalty," commented Palace coach Steve Kember, "but Lee really should have scored with the rebound. He knows that and obviously he was very disappointed. But he's come back from setbacks before and won't let it get him down."

## FITTING

The second half was better, both for Palace and general entertainment value. The Eagles finally broke Alexandra's resistance in the 67th minute and it was fitting that Simon Rodger, who recently signed a new two-year contract, should grab the goal. The club's longest-serving player fired into the roof of the net after a mad scramble in the Crewe penalty area and gleefully celebrated in front of the adoring Holmesdale End. "Everyone was delighted for him," confided Kember, "and he deserved his goal. He always gives one hundred per cent when he plays for Palace, but he also has a lot of ball skills, as well as good delivery from set-pieces. It's great that he signed a new deal because the fans love him."

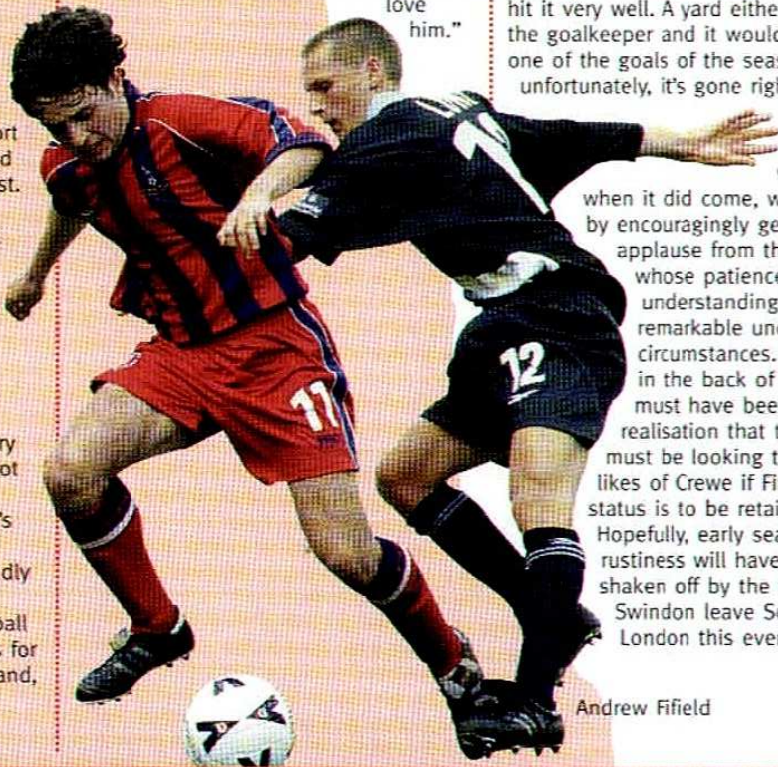
The goal seemed to spur Palace on and Hayden Mullins, who looked strangely out of sorts (doubtless owing to his lack of match practice due to the injury he sustained on Palace's tour of China), sneaked a shot past the outside of the post soon afterwards.

## INEVITABLE

However, in keeping with the pattern established in the middle of last season, one goal proved not to be enough. A steady build-up of Crewe pressure was finally rewarded as substitute Mark Rivers gratefully made use of the yards of free space afforded him by the Palace defence to smack home an equaliser. For a second time, palms were clasped to foreheads in frustration and the Railwaymen's away following celebrated wildly. Kember, for one, was not happy with the manner in which the goal was conceded: "We were very slow in marking up and closing down the cross. They got a lucky rebound and the lad finished well. But, really he shouldn't have been given the chance in the first place." Yet there was still time for the Eagles to carve out more chances: Clinton Morrison shot powerfully against the legs of Kearton and Bradbury, who had no luck all afternoon, was denied the chance to knock home the rebound by a desperate covering challenge. Even David Tuttle, amazingly, got in on the act as he propelled a fearsome free-kick goalwards only for Kearton to save once again. Was that something Tutts had planned? "David has always reckoned himself from set-pieces," confirmed Kember, with tongue rather firmly planted in his cheek, "but he did hit it very well. A yard either side of the goalkeeper and it would have been one of the goals of the season but, unfortunately, it's gone right down his throat."

The final whistle, when it did come, was greeted by encouragingly generous applause from the fans, whose patience and understanding have been remarkable under the circumstances. But, lurking in the back of their minds, must have been the realisation that the Eagles must be looking to beat the likes of Crewe if First Division status is to be retained. Hopefully, early season rustiness will have been shaken off by the time Swindon leave South London this evening.

Andrew Fifield



FROM THE DUG-OUT





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today and to

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to make sure those three points  
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Thank you to all those who entered  
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Congratulations to the winners,  
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4 tickets plus coach travel to the  
match

#### Second Prize:

Billy Purchase (Season ticket  
holder) who wins a Philips  
Personal Stereo Radio.

#### Third Prize:

David Powell (Jo6005) who wins a  
Philips Personal Cassette player.

I still have a few tickets still  
available, so if you are interested  
just give me a call. Tickets are  
priced at £20 for juniors and £30  
for adults.

### FUN DAY

Our friends at Beaver Water World  
are holding another fun day in  
September and for more  
information give them a call on  
01959 577747.

### TODAY'S MASCOTS

Today we welcome mascots Joshua  
and Remi Digby from Marlborough  
Wilts, who are 9 and 7 respectively.  
Their hobbies include football and  
their favourite player is, of course,  
their dad Fraser!

### AWAY FROM HOME!

I am running a trip to the mighty  
McAlpine Stadium in Huddersfield on  
the 28th August to watch the Eagles  
take on the Terriers. The cost of the  
trip is £20 for adults and £15 for  
Juniors for further information give me  
a call.



I will be running trips to the following  
away grounds this year:

Bolton Wanderers	Saturday 6th November
Port Vale	Saturday 20th November
Charlton Athletic	Sunday 26th December
Stockport County	Monday 3rd January
Nottingham Forest	Saturday 19th February
Norwich City	Saturday 11th March
Fulham	Saturday 1st April
Tranmere Rovers	Sunday 7th May

For further information just give me a  
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## JUNIOR EAGLES



### STAR BABY EAGLE

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James  
Waddington  
Age:  
16 months  
Lives:  
Biggin Hill



Favourite Player: Hayden Mullins

Hobbies: Swimming and  
eating

Favourite Song: Sometimes by  
Britney Spears (James enjoys jigging  
along to this song)

Favourite TV Programme:  
Neighbours

Favourite Holiday: Florida

If you would like to be a star Baby  
Eagle send in all of your information  
plus a passport photograph and you  
will be featured in a future  
programme!



### BIRTHDAY PARTIES AND MASCOTS

Would you like to lead the team  
onto the pitch on a matchday?

Would you like to celebrate your  
birthday here?

I still have a number of birthday  
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me either by phone or by post.



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Total payable	£14,560.00

APR 0%

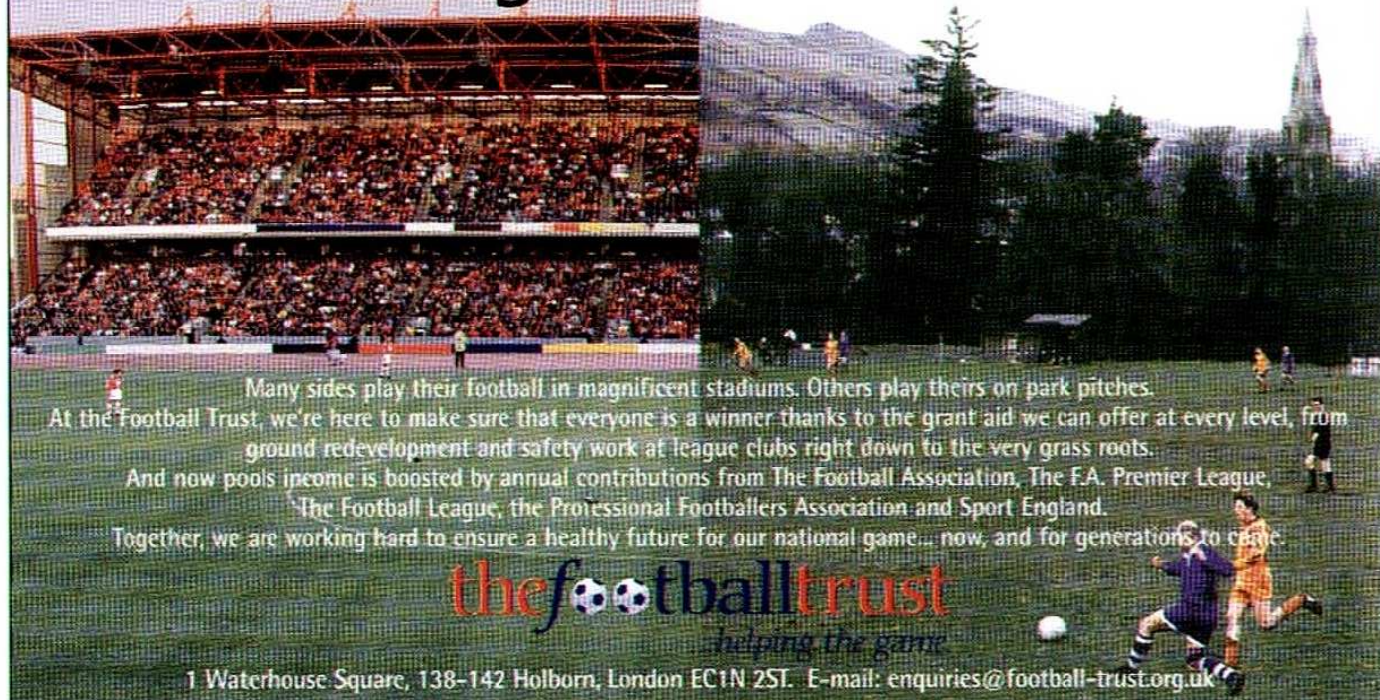
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Lots of love,  
Kelly and James, Durrington

contact me at the phone number below.

Bryan Evans, Ayr (01292 270360)



## Dear In Off The Post,



I am a season ticket holder in the Holmesdale End and was a member of the small group of travelling fans who went to Layer Road, Colchester for the first leg of the Worthington Cup tie. Although the lads did not play well, Nicky Rizzo scored a great goal near the end to salvage some pride. I was disappointed, however, to hear the reception given to Lee Bradbury. OK, Lee had missed a penalty against Crewe a few days earlier, but some of the chants from a small section of the crowd suggested he had deliberately missed the kick. I find that ridiculous. Lee has not had an easy time since he came to Palace. In fact, he hasn't had an easy time since he left Portsmouth a few years ago. Most would agree he was very impressive in pre-season and looks a perfect foil for young Clinton Morrison. The boo-boys should shut up. Last year we made a real effort to get behind the team when the finances at the club were in a mess. This year, not much has changed off the pitch. Let's get back behind the lads. We knew it was going to be difficult, so don't give them grief. Up the Palace!

Mr D. Barnes, Shirley

## Dear In Off The Post,

I would like to wish my dad, Mr. Wilf Hugill, a very happy 60th birthday on August 23rd. We have season tickets in the Holmesdale Stand and have followed the Eagles for many years. Unfortunately, my father's leg is in plaster at the moment so he is being forced to miss a few games, but he

## Dear In Off The Post,

I read with interest John McBride's letter in the Crewe programme regarding a pub in Bath called 'Crystal Palace'. I was recently in Bath myself and visited the pub. After a few drinks I noticed that the bar staff were all wearing 'Crystal Palace' T-Shirts and after much negotiation, and some more beer, I managed to buy one of the shirts for the princely sum of £2.38 (all the money I had left in my pocket at the time). I am now the proud owner of a Crystal Palace shirt that must be unique around Selhurst Park!

Rod Thompson, East Grinstead

## Dear In Off The Post,

I am writing to comment on the new home kit. It is brilliant to see the lads back in the traditional red and blue stripes. The personnel may have changed, but it is like being back in the early 1990's again.



Congratulations to everyone concerned. The away kit is growing on me steadily. It's a shame the club never considers returning to a diagonal red and blue stripe, although it might get in the way of a sponsor's label. Saying that, we don't have any so maybe this

year might have been the year to re-introduce it! Well done again to whoever chose the kits.

Pam Grieves, Bromley

## Dear In Off The Post,

I am a Palace fan of over twenty years but, due to family reasons, now live in Scotland. Going to home games is very difficult, but I do intend to travel to away matches in the North of England. I would like to find out if there are any other Palace fans in Scotland or North-West England. If there are, it would be nice if you could

## Dear In Off The Post,

I am a Palace Season Ticket holder in the Whitehorse Lane Stand and would like to say how highly I rate our Australian winger Nicky Rizzo. I believe that Nicky has all the



attributes to emerge as a really top class winger in years to come and hope that he fulfils his promise at Selhurst Park. Although he does not score many,

when he does hit the back of the net they are really special (remember the strikes against Norwich and Colchester last week) and he has the confidence to take on and beat opposition full backs. Good luck to Nicky, and all the lads, for the forthcoming season.

George Weyman, Thornton Heath

## Welcome!

Everyone at Crystal Palace Football Club would like to welcome 20 year old Gunnar Ingibergsson to today's match against Swindon Town. Gunnar, who is attending his first ever game at Selhurst Park, is over in this country from Reykjavik, Iceland. We hope he enjoys this afternoon's Division One fixture.

## Got Something To Say?

'In Off The Post' is a page for you, the supporters. If you have any comments or photos relating to any aspect of the club's activities, would like to announce a birthday, or have a question to ask a member of staff, then we would be delighted to hear from you. Please send your contributions to: 'In Off The Post', Palace Publications, Selhurst Park, London, SE25 6PU. Alternatively, you can fax us on 0181 768 6114.

IN OFF THE POST





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**PHILIPS**



**16**

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**with MIKE SULLIVAN**

A very warm welcome to all of today's match sponsors from everyone in the Palace marketing department.

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## TODAY'S MATCHBALL SPONSORS

**CUSTOM CABLE COMPANY (COMMUNICATIONS) LIMITED** - would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all of their guests and wish Palace the best of luck for today's game and the rest of the season. Today's prediction for all you betting types - Palace 3 Swindon 1 (first goal Bradbury).

## NEW MITSUBISHI HALF-TIME CHALLENGE

New rules have been introduced for this season's Mitsubishi challenge to try and win a brand new car. The lucky participant in the competition will have five attempts on goal from varying positions of difficulty between the penalty spot and the midway point between the penalty area and halfway line. In order to win the car, a goal must be scored from the furthest position, then three goals from the remaining four positions. Don't forget to see page 10 of today's programme for your lucky number and then listen out for announcements on the PA system.



**MITSUBISHI MOTORS**



## SPORTING DINNER

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NOOKIE BEAR**  
THURSDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER  
1999

FOR FULL DETAILS SEE PAGE 50

# PRESENTATION TIME

Pictured below is Managing Director, Phil Alexander, making a presentation to joint Administrators Mr Simon Paterson and Mr David Rolph from Moore Stephens Booth White. Moore Stephens were our match sponsors for the opening fixture against Crewe Alexandra.



Pictured below are our matchball sponsors' party from Custom Cable Company receiving their signed matchball from 'man of the match' Lee Bradbury.



Pictured above are two young guests from our matchday sponsors' party lining up with the two captains, officials and matchday mascot prior to kick-off.



Mr David Rolph is seen here presenting a bottle of champagne to 'man of the match' Lee Bradbury.

## 'HOME AND AWAY' PLAYER KIT SPONSORSHIP

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- Two complimentary tickets to a home league game chosen by the club.
- An autographed football signed by the players of Crystal Palace F.C.

However, should you like to sponsor his home and away kit, you will receive **DOUBLE** the benefits.

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Cost of sponsoring a player's kit Home £250.00 + vat Away £250.00 + vat

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To sponsor a player's kit, please ring 0181-768-6019 and ask for the marketing department.



**A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN****Dear Friends**

By the time you read this I will have been Chairman of Crystal Palace for eight days. Short enough to wonder at the thrill of being at the head of the Football Club which been my passion and entertainment for nearly half a long life-time, and long enough to wonder what I've let myself in for.

During the last thirty years I've met a lot of very friendly, committed people with whom I've been able to share the ups and downs of supporting a football club through all its traumas, from relegation from First to Third Division in two seasons, to the thrill of playing at Wembley in the play-offs, and in the FA Cup Final (we should have beaten Manchester United), and bringing home the Zenith Data Systems (formerly the Full Members) trophy.

I got involved with football by chance - one of the disadvantages of being a retailer is that you have to work on Saturdays and for many years I never had the opportunity to watch a football match until I switched to a desk in Head Office.

When I could take an active interest in sport, if only as a spectator, a long term friend whose father had been a Director of the Club suggested that I would enjoy watching Crystal Palace and invited me to Selhurst Park.

**IMMEDIATELY CAPTIVATED**

After one match I was captivated by the individual skills of the players and the fact that you could see everything that was happening on the pitch, the opposite of rugby football

which I had played and refereed.

Next season I bought my first season ticket, and my family and I have been supporting the Club ever since.

I confess that I have never stood on the terraces, never yelled abuse at visiting supporters, but I have sung the Palace songs, especially at away cup matches. For thirty years I've sat in the main stand, as a season ticket holder, then as a member of the Vice Presidents' Club in the posh area of the Directors' Box and finally as a Director.

If you ask me what being Chairman involves, at the moment it is not easy to say. I have a lot of people to thank, not least my colleagues, the Board of Directors.

**"I'd like to see the Club back where it belongs - a friendly, family, football club successful on and off the pitch, where kids of all ages are proud to wear the Palace colours."**

They've had a difficult time, putting money into the Club and watching it drain away through no fault of their own. Without exception they are Palace supporters who have all stood by the Club through a very difficult and stressful time.

My predecessors, as far back as I can remember, owned the Club, or at least had a majority shareholding. This meant that they made all the management decisions, sometimes good, sometimes not so good, and their Boards of Directors tended to be advisory rather than executive, although many of them have been able to bring specialist knowledge and expertise as well as investment to the Boardroom table.

My situation is very different - I'm appointed by the Administrators on the recommendation of my colleagues, to act as the focus of opinion from all sections, and represent the Club in the best possible light.

The Club is in Administration, which means that all the executive decisions and all the finances are handled by the Administrators, Simon Paterson and David Rolph. They have the tricky job of keeping Palace going on the proverbial shoestring, having to make disagreeable but necessary decisions to keep the Club going, finding new investors who will take over from them and recommence normal trading, while satisfying the people to whom we owe money that they are acting in their best interests.

**NEW LEASE OF LIFE**

We are still in business, still playing football and have satisfied the Football League that we can complete the season's fixtures. The







Administrators have found investors to give the Club a new lease of life and enable them to withdraw and move on to other jobs. All this takes time, so please be patient.

We've had a rotten press, every snippet of bad news has been seized upon, built up and written about. That's in the past, so from now on let's be positive about Palace, and talk about the good news.

This year we are celebrating seventy five years at our present ground. We don't own the freehold, but I'm sure that if the incoming owners can satisfy Ron Noades that they have the interests of the Club at heart, that they are not out to make a quick buck and that they want to continue to play football at Selhurst in the foreseeable future, he would help to develop the stadium, build a new stand that is overdue for replacement and increase the capacity to international requirements.

#### TALENTED SQUAD

Then there is the team - when you are wrestling with income and expenditure and trying to balance the books it's easy to forget that the Club is only as good as its performance on the pitch. As well as a nucleus of seasoned professionals, we have a very talented squad of youngsters who are happy to have the chance of showing what they can do, and I don't think we'll be disappointed. I had the opportunity of spending time with them on the pre-season tour of China, and you couldn't find

a more dedicated, hard-working bunch of lads. They astonished the Chinese with their discipline and work-rate on the field, in unfamiliar conditions, and as the British Ambassador said: "you couldn't find a better set of representatives for English football and for Britons abroad."



On Monday of this week, one of the national daily papers suggested that we should consider erecting a statue of Steve Coppell at Selhurst Park. Throughout an uncertain future, pay restraint, and player sales to reduce our debt, Steve has coached the team and turned them out each Saturday with results that must have surprised even the most hardened cynic. A consummate professional who is a role model for any aspiring footballer, Steve has earned our respect and gratitude

and having previously enjoyed our most successful season ever his leadership, we hope that he will again work his own brand of magic and restore the glory days to Palace. But, it takes time, so again please be patient.

#### THE FUTURE OF THE CLUB

The Football Academy under the direction of John Cartwright is just starting its second year of existence. This is where the future of our Club lies, and with the help of youth team coach Peter Nicholas, moving up to reserve team coach Steve Kember, and the general support of the back room staff headed by physiotherapist Gary Sadler, fitness trainer George Dick and all the support staff, not forgetting Vic Bettinelli who in China was the life and soul of the party, the prospects for future success look good.

I wouldn't like anyone to forget our non-footballing staff, led by Managing Director Phil Alexander. The management, accounting, administrative, box office, lottery, mail order, maintenance, marketing, membership, public relations, publications, retail shop and warehousing departments, have continued to run the business with the minimum of staff, and the fact that we have 8,900 season ticket holders is a testament to their skills and your loyalty.

As supporters you have been wonderfully loyal and I am grateful to all of you. If you want to give an extra boost to the Club then tell all your friends with local businesses that we need corporate sponsorship. This is one of the areas where we still need more help.

Finally I'd like to see the Club back where it belongs - a friendly, family, football club successful on and off the pitch, where kids of all ages are proud to wear the Palace colours. Whatever I can do to help, I'll be there.

My best wishes for a successful season to all of us, and let's be positive about Palace.

With kind regards

Peter Morley  
Chairman







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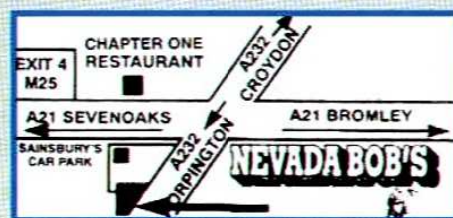
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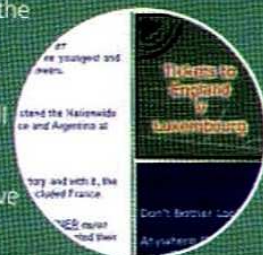
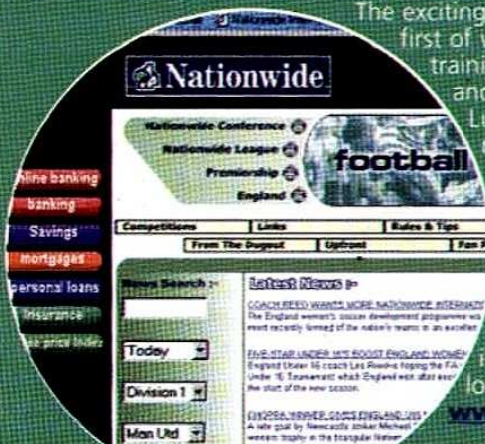
### footballNOW!

Central to the re-launch of the football site, will be fanFARE - a fans' forum aimed at giving supporters the chance to air their opinions, tell their silly soccer stories and ask key questions to the top names in the game.

The exciting new format includes prize competitions - the first of which is for a trip for two to see England in training, a signed England shirt, a signed England ball and tickets for the Euro 2000 qualifier against Luxembourg - plus special offers on soccer merchandise and, from the autumn, an interactive Manager game in which fans across the nation will be invited to take part.

For all this plus the latest news on the international fortunes of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, domestic competitions such as the FA Cup and Northern Ireland's Nationwide Gold Cup - and not forgetting Manchester United's participation in the World Club Championship - log on to footballNow! at

[www.footballnationwide.co.uk](http://www.footballnationwide.co.uk)



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GOALS

EAGLES DIARY

### Sunday 1st August

Thousands of Palace fans flock to Selhurst for the club's annual Open Day. In hot and sunny weather, the crowds are treated to a succession of interviews with players and management (including Steve Coppell and Joint Administrator, Simon Paterson) on the main stage as well as a whole host of other events and attractions. Elsewhere, the Charity Shield goes to Arsenal as they defeat Manchester United 2-1 at Wembley. United take the lead through David Beckham's free-kick, but are pegged back by goals from Kanu and Parlour. It is the first time United have lost after leading since 1993.

### Tuesday 3rd August

Palace bounce back from their 4-0 hammering at Southend with a



comprehensive 3-0 win at Crawley - the goals being scored by Howell, Dsane (pictured) and a 30-yard cracker from Chinese international Fan Zhiyi.

### Thursday 5th August

Good news at last for Eagles fans, as Administrator Simon Paterson announces that he has accepted a bid for Palace from a consortium of City financiers. Mark Goldberg has no part in the new consortium, but Paterson says that the club are still open to bids that are 25% over the offer from the City businessmen. Palace will stay in Administration for at least another two months and the Football League-enforced transfer embargo remains - thus ruling out any immediate transfer activity for the Eagles.

### Saturday 7th August

The season kicks off for real as Palace entertain Dario Gradi's Crewe Alexandra at Selhurst Park. A slightly disappointing crowd of 13,664 see Palace take the lead against the Railwaymen (Simon Rodger celebrating the signing of



his new contract with a piledriver into the roof of the net from fifteen yards)

only to throw it all away five minutes from time. Mark Rivers proved to be the Eagles' tormentor, slamming home after being left totally unmarked by the Palace defence. In other games, the Premiership starts in predictable fashion: Chelsea hammer Sunderland 4-0 at Stamford Bridge, Arsenal scrape a fortunate home win against Leicester and new-boys Watford go down 2-3 at home to Wimbledon. The other newly-promoted team, Bradford, fare better and pull off an impressive 1-0 win at Middlesbrough. Shades of Palace's opening day success at Goodison Park in 1997, perhaps? In the other leagues, the biggest win of the day is recorded by our South Coast rivals Brighton, who trounce Mansfield 6-0, while Blackburn Rovers make an inauspicious debut in the First Division - drawing 0-0 against Port Vale at Ewood Park.

### Sunday 8th August

Manchester United make a characteristically shaky start to their league campaign as Sir Alex Ferguson sees his charges frustrated by Everton. United take an early lead through Dwight Yorke, but an own goal from Japp Stam (believed to be the first mistake in the whole career of the big Dutchman) hands the Toffees a point. Meanwhile, United's neighbours, City, also suffer disappointment - losing 1-0 at home to Wolves on their return to the First Division.

### Monday 9th August

Tottenham register their first win of the season, beating Newcastle 3-1 at White Hart Lane. Away from football, England are spared an embarrassing second successive Test Match defeat by the weather. It rains all day at Old Trafford to ensure England can go into the final game at The Oval with a chance of winning the series.

### Tuesday 10th August

Palace's nervy start continues as the Eagles can only draw 2-2 with Colchester in the first round of the Worthington Cup. The Second Division side are reduced to ten men after just three minutes (goalkeeper Simon Brown sent off for handling outside the area) but despite their numerical advantage, Palace struggle and have to come from behind twice to salvage a draw: Jamie Smith (with his first goal in a Palace shirt) and Nicky Rizzo score the goals, the latter coming from 20 yards out in the very last minute. Our opponents this afternoon are humiliated as they lose 1-0 to Third Division Leyton Orient and Port



Vale are beaten at Chester. In the Premiership, Sunderland beat Watford 2-0, Arsenal are victorious at Derby and Manchester United hammer

Sheffield Wednesday. West Ham give themselves an uphill struggle by losing the first leg of their Intertoto Cup Final against Metz 1-0 at Upton Park.

### Wednesday 11th August

Chelsea leave it late but eventually overcome a determined Skonto Riga side in the Champions' League qualifying round. The Blues run out 3-0 winners at Stamford Bridge and are almost certain of progressing to the next stage.

### Thursday 12th August

Darren Huckerby completes his £4.5m move to Leeds United from Coventry City as David O'Leary starts to spend some of the money reaped from the sale of Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink.

### Friday 13th August

Palace defender David Tuttle opens talks with Barnsley with a view to arranging a £150,000 move to Oakwell. Tuttle, who joined Palace in 1996 from Sheffield United, is expected to move next week. Blackburn's rocky start back in Division One continues unabated, as they lose 3-2 at Huddersfield Town who score their winner in the last minute.

### Saturday 14th August

Tuttle may have had second thoughts about joining the Tykes, however, as Palace beat the Yorkshire team 3-2 at Oakwell. Simon Rodger, with his second of the season, Dean Austin and Lee Bradbury are the goalscorers while Barnsley manage two strikes of their own: a debatable penalty scored by Darren Bernard and an even more controversial goal from Mike Sheron, whose shot from a quickly-taken free kick did not, from television replays, appear to cross the line. Elsewhere, Man Utd march on with a hard-fought 2-0 home win over arch-rivals Leeds, Arsenal can only draw at Sunderland, Chelsea equalise in the last minute at Filbert Street and Watford become the latest newly-promoted side to win at 'Fortress Anfield', beating Liverpool 1-0.





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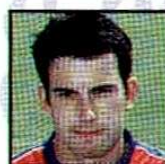
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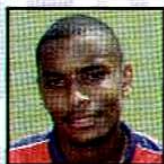
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# RESERVES & YOUTH ROUND UP

**F**ull time staff at the Academy are pushing together very hard in preparation for the new season. On Sunday 22nd August, we will host our first in-house training day for all Academy staff. The purpose of the day is for John Cartwright, the Academy Director, and myself to present the ways in which the Academy hopes to develop over the coming season, both in terms of playing staff and organisation. John Cartwright has made slight alterations to the training techniques that will be used this season, with a lot of emphasis placed on technique in tight situations that will be presented in matches. As we mentioned in the Crewe programme, the priority is most certainly on



performance levels rather than results. The Academy also wish to announce a Parents' Meeting when

the Academy staff hope to have available a brochure outlining the plans and objectives of the Academy for the boys over the coming season. It also gives details about the new training venues. The start of the Academy programme is in September and, as previously stated, we are very happy to have the use of the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre for matches. Matches start at the Centre in the opening weekend of September.

## TOURNAMENT SUCCESS

We would also like to mention the success we have had with a number of tournaments we have entered in our under-15 and 16 squads. The picture above is of the squad that attended the Retrai Tournament in Nantes. The team was unfortunately knocked out in the quarter-finals by Ajax Amsterdam, but the experience was invaluable and will be very important for their development. Entering tournaments has been difficult because of the restraints imposed on the club in its current financial situation, but we all hope to progress in this area soon.

## CHANGES

May I finish by saying that all the Academy staff have been working very hard in preparation for the new season. We have fully reviewed the Academy and have made a number of important changes to the running of it in order to provide the best quality service to young boys who wish to become professional footballers. Once again, we hope that all the teams have successful seasons.

Derek Broadley  
Education and Welfare Officer

## CRYSTAL PALACE FA PREMIER RESERVE TEAM FIXTURES

Tue	August 17	Nottingham Forest	L	0-1
Wed	September 1	Tottenham Hotspur		
Wed	September 8	Leicester City		
Tue	September 21	Arsenal		
Wed	September 29	Derby County		
Tue	October 5	West Ham United		
Wed	October 13	Coventry City		
Wed	October 27	Southampton		
Wed	November 10	Watford		
Mon	November 15	Chelsea		
Wed	November 24	Charlton Athletic		
Wed	December 1	Wimbledon		
Mon	December 6	Leicester City		
Wed	December 15	Arsenal		
Wed	December 22	Nottingham Forest		
Tue	January 11	Tottenham Hotspur		
Wed	January 26	Southampton		
Wed	February 2	Watford		
Wed	February 16	Chelsea		
Wed	February 23	Charlton Athletic		
Wed	March 8	Wimbledon		
Wed	March 15	West Ham United		
Tue	March 28	Derby County		
Wed	April 26	Coventry City		

Home fixtures in bold







## PETER NICHOLAS COMMENTS ON THE YOUTH SIDE



PETER NICHOLAS

Welcome to this afternoon's game against Swindon Town. Hopefully we can get that first home win of the season after two draws against Crewe and Colchester and an excellent win at Barnsley last week.

## FRIENDLY SUCCESS

Two Tuesdays ago, a young reserve team played a Dr. Martens' League side, Erith and Belvedere. We expected a tough game, as they had beaten Bromley 5-0 the week before, but the lads performed extremely well and won the match 5-0. We only had one senior player on show (Matt Svensson) so it was a great chance for the younger players to shine, which they did. Our goals came from Chris Sharpling, Gareth Graham, Ryan Williams, Matt Svensson and Mark Nicholas, but it was the manner of our performance which was the most pleasing. Even Erith commented on how slick and professional we looked, and there is no greater compliment than one paid by the opposition. The pre-season games have all been positive experiences for

the players, because they have been playing against tough men's sides. Hopefully these results bode well for the future of the youth teams and, also, the senior sides in years to come.

## PROSPECTS

This season sees us play our games at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre, with kick-offs at 11am. It would be great to see a few fans down at the Sports Centre for these games. The chance is there for spectators to make Saturday a real day out, with the first team in action at Selhurst in the afternoon. The Academy is going very well, with a whole range of sides from nine to sixteen years of age playing on Sunday mornings and all the coaching staff at the club are confident that you will be seeing some good football being played by the youth sides this term.

Our first two games are against Leicester and Wimbledon which should give us a tough start to the season. I do not know much about Leicester, but we expect a hard test as they are a Premiership club with a Premiership set-up. Wimbledon, on

the other hand, are well-known to us and always make life very difficult. While getting wins under our belt is always a nice feeling and breeds confidence, our main priority is to improve the technique of the

youngsters and ensure that they emerge into the first team in a few years' time as good professionals. In that sense, results are a secondary concern.



CHRIS SHARPLING

Erith & Belvedere 0  
Crystal Palace 5

Club XI squad: Kendall, Howell, Boardman, Antwi, Sharpling, Leacock, G. Williams, R. Kember, M. Nicholas, Graham, Dsane, Svensson, R. Williams, Elsegood, Surey, R. Smith.

Peter Nicholas

**Don't forget that the Palace Academy sides will be playing all their home fixtures on Saturday mornings (11am) at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre**

YOUTH ACADEMY CRYSTAL PALACE F.C.  
U/17 FIXTURES 1999/00

Date	Home fixtures in <b>BOLD</b>
Aug 28	Leicester
Sept 4	Wimbledon*
11	N Forest
18	West Ham
25	Tottenham*
Oct 2	Charlton*
16	Fulham*
23	Southampton*
30	Arsenal*
Nov 6	Reading
13	Bristol City*
20	Millwall
27	Tottenham*
Dec 4	Fulham*
11	Southampton*
22	Reading
29	Arsenal*
Feb 5	Bristol City
12	Millwall*
19	N Forest
26	Watford
Mar 4	Charlton*

\* Denotes Rearranged fixture

YOUTH ACADEMY CRYSTAL PALACE F.C.  
U/19 FIXTURES 1999/00

Date	Home fixtures in <b>BOLD</b>
Aug 28	Leicester
Sept 4	Wimbledon
11	N Forest
18	West Ham
25	Tottenham
Oct 2	Chelsea
16	Fulham
23	Southampton
30	Arsenal
Nov 6	Reading
13	Bristol City
20	Millwall
27	Chelsea
Dec 4	Fulham
11	Southampton
22	Reading
29	Arsenal
Feb 5	Bristol City
12	Millwall
19	Norwich
26	Watford
Mar 4	Charlton







## STEVE KEMBER COMMENTS ON THE RESERVE SIDE



STEVE KEMBER

Last Tuesday, we played our first game in the inaugural FA Premier Reserve League, a division which was created after the end of last season. Unfortunately, we lost 1-0 to Nottingham Forest in the seventh minute of stoppage time added on at the end of the match so, from a results point of view, things have not started well for us. However, we had a very young side out and they did extremely well against an experienced Forest team who fielded the likes of Carlton Palmer and Dave Beasant, who both have international caps, as well as an array of trial foreign players keen to impress the Forest coaching staff. With this in mind, our lads were a credit to the club because the only player we had of genuine experience was Matthias Svensson. As I have said, all the players acquitted themselves well, but I would particularly like to mention Ryan Williams, who was playing his first full reserve match. He has earned the nickname 'Roadrunner' because of his work rate and the way he gets round the pitch, but he also distributed the ball very well against Forest. He got battered a bit, but stood up well to the pressure.

## TERRIFIC SAVES

In goal, Matthew Gregg had a good game and made a couple of terrific saves from one-on-ones. The only real mistake he made came for their goal, when he didn't really make a good enough clearance from a backpass, but overall he did a good job. Until we come out of Administration (and still, therefore, under the transfer embargo imposed by the Football League), the reserve team is likely to remain very young. Against Forest, the team was effectively an under-20's side (with the exception of Matt Svensson) and, whilst that will give those players invaluable experience, it also means that many of the games will prove difficult. However, I can guarantee that all the lads will do their very best and be totally committed.

The reserve league is a very exciting prospect for all the players and coaching staff. After so many years in the Combination league, it marks a real change for the better and gives a chance to all the lads to play against good quality players at large arenas. The facilities on offer at the City Ground were first class, with excellent changing areas and a lovely surface on which to play. We will also, as you all know by now, be playing our reserve games up at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre which gives everybody the chance to come along to a local venue and see the lads in action.

Quite obviously, the more fans we can get coming to these games the better and I would encourage all of you to turn out for our opening home matches against Tottenham Hotspur (Wednesday 1st September, kick off 7.30pm) and Leicester City (Wednesday 8th September, 7.30pm).

## COACHING SITUATION

With the departure of Ray Harford from the club, many of you may be wondering what exactly the situation is regarding the club's coaching staff. In this respect, nothing has really changed from last season. Everyone is mucking in and helping Steve Coppell with the first team duties, with myself, Peter Nicholas, John Cartwright and Vic Bettinelli all contributing. Whether Steve wants to get another coach once things settle down financially is up to him. The financial problems the



MATTHEW GREGG

club have been through over the last six months or so have been a terrible strain on everybody - players, fans and most certainly the coaches. We have had to come in to training every day not knowing if we still had the same squad from the previous night and that is hard to deal with. Planning

ahead becomes almost impossible and we would like to thank you, the fans, for the patience you have shown. Hopefully, we are now in sight of an end to the boardroom problems and can get on with the job of winning points.

Enjoy this afternoon's match, Steve Kember

## Nottingham Forest 1 Crystal Palace 0

Palace: Gregg, Sharpling, Rizzo, Boardman, Harris, Hankin, Williams R (Nicholas 85), Hibbert, Carlisle (Dsane 75), Svensson (Howells 80), Martin.

Dial the Palace Clubcall on 09068 400 333 for all the latest news on the Eagles' reserve side (Calls charged at 60p/min at all times)

## RESERVE TABLE 1998/99



Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIF	PTS
Charlton	28	19	3	6	60	24	+36	60
Tottenham Hotspur	28	18	3	7	56	24	+32	57
Chelsea	28	18	3	7	39	22	+17	57
Ipswich	28	17	4	7	62	32	+30	55
Watford	27	14	9	5	56	29	+27	51
Southampton	28	15	4	9	53	37	+16	49
Peterborough	28	14	6	8	50	35	+15	48
Fulham	28	14	5	9	63	44	+19	47
Arsenal	28	13	6	9	47	37	+10	45
Colchester	28	13	4	11	46	43	+3	43
West Ham Utd	28	11	8	9	56	40	+16	41
Norwich	28	12	5	11	38	34	+4	41
Northampton	28	12	5	11	35	41	-6	41
Luton Town	28	11	7	10	45	43	+2	40
Q.P.R.	28	11	5	12	44	34	+10	38
Portsmouth	28	11	5	12	40	37	+3	38
Wimbledon	28	9	11	8	37	36	+1	38
Brighton	28	9	10	9	27	31	-4	37
AFC Bournemouth	28	10	6	12	43	39	+4	36
Crystal Palace	28	9	6	13	43	51	-8	33
Oxford United	28	10	3	15	33	52	-19	33
Reading	28	9	4	14	31	41	-10	31
Swindon Town	28	8	6	14	26	47	-21	30
Cambridge Utd	28	8	6	14	41	65	-24	30
Barnet	28	8	5	15	33	65	-32	29
Millwall	28	7	6	15	33	58	-25	27
Brentford	28	5	7	16	25	56	-31	22
Wycombe	28	5	7	16	24	57	-33	22
Gillingham	28	4	5	18	21	54	-33	17



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**(Season Tickets or Membership Cards must be shown)**

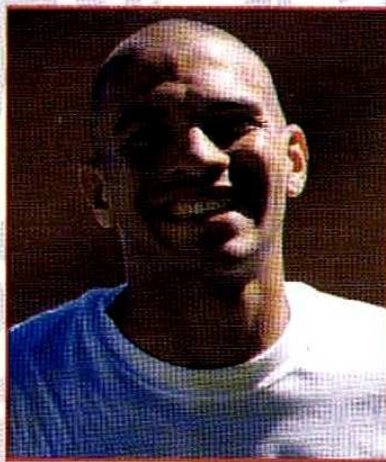
**FREE ADMISSION**





# STAN COLLYMORE

**H**e remains an enigma, a striker who can turn a game with one piece of sublime skill. But ex-Palace hitman 'Stanley Victor' as Villa boss John Gregory calls him, tongue firmly in cheek, remains fair game for the waiting hacks as he continues to hit the headlines on both the back and front pages.



## BIZARRE INCIDENT

Only last weekend, Stan Collymore was at the centre of a bizarre incident which resulted in the sending-off of Manchester City defender Andy Morrison. One thing's for sure, life's never dull when Stan's around.

**"He's already striking up a good understanding with Geoff Horsfield and I hope they'll develop into a threatening strike partnership."**

After a nightmare spell at his boyhood team Aston Villa, the place which Stan proclaimed as 'the club where I will finally settle' shortly after signing for £7 million in May 1997, the 28-year-old has been given one final chance to save his tempestuous career, at the multi-millionaire's playground of Craven Cottage, home of Fulham Football Club.

Following a season where Collymore was admitted to a clinic suffering from stress after being accused of beating up his showbiz girlfriend Ulrika Jonsson, the former Nottingham Forest and Liverpool player is eager to make up for lost time.

## UNQUESTIONABLE TALENT

Earlier this summer, Fulham owner Mohammed Al Fayed and manager Paul Bracewell rescued Collymore from his Midlands hell by taking him on a three month loan with a view to a

permanent move. After his devastating spells in the First Division with Southend and Forest, could this move finally provide the wayward striker with a fitting location to display his



unquestionable talent?

"I don't think it's a gamble signing Collymore at all," insisted Bracewell. "He's proved that with some good performances already and he's worked hard since coming to Fulham."

## GOOD UNDERSTANDING

"He's already striking up a good understanding with Geoff Horsfield and I hope they'll develop into a threatening strike partnership."

Fulham's Worthington Cup first leg clash at Third Division Northampton Town was a case in point, when Collymore treated the fans to his trademark electrifying runs and awesome power before setting up

youngster Sean Davis for the opener in a 2-1 win. After that performance, partner Horsfield revealed himself to be another fan.

"I'd love Stan to stay on a permanent basis and he has said that he wants to. He's big and strong and likes to run at defenders and gives us something extra."

## FLOURISHED

Frank Clark, Roy Evans and John Gregory all tried to steer Collymore in the right direction but ultimately failed - all three forced to sacrifice

his goalscoring prowess for a quieter life.

However, the likes of Colin Murphy and Barry Fry were able to make progress as the striker



flourished under their leadership - a fact that is sometimes forgotten amid all the stories that adorn the Sunday morning tabloids.

In a division which pundits believe is the toughest on record, Collymore may yet prove all his doubters wrong and provide the Cottagers with the spark that could lead them to a fairytale berth in the Premiership next season. If this becomes reality, Bracewell's 'gamble' will prove to be the signing of the summer.

Marcus Lee  
Collings Sport

HEADLINE MAKER

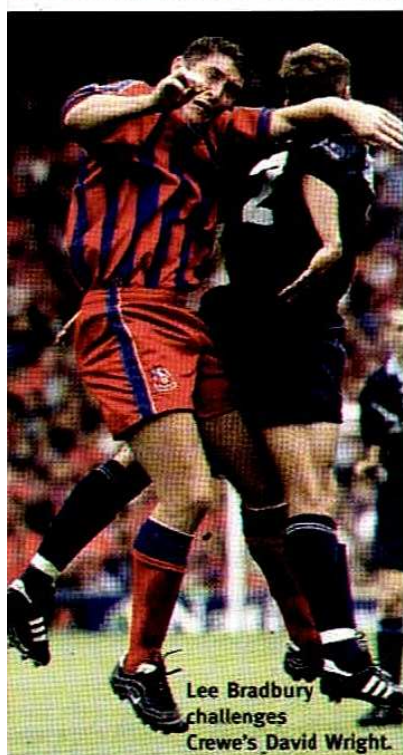




# ACTION REPLAY



## ACTION REPLAY FROM PALACE'S LEAGUE MATCH



**Nationwide League Division One**  
**Saturday, 7th August 1999**  
**Crystal Palace 1 (Rodger 67)**  
**Crewe 1 (Rivers 84)**  
**Attendance: 13,664**

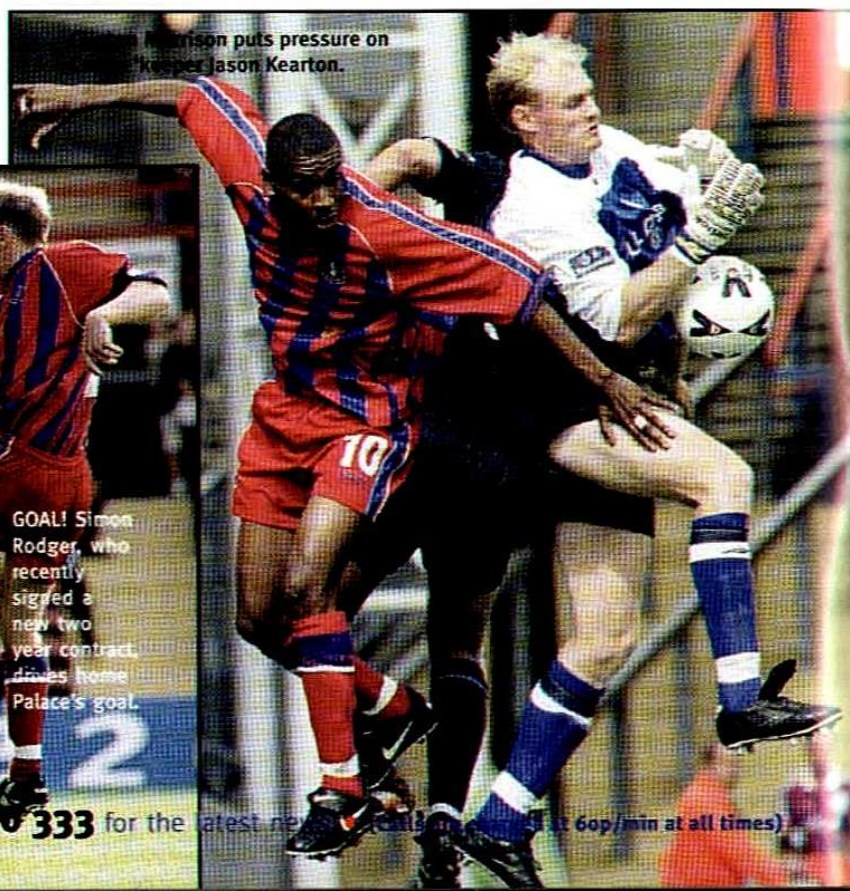


**PALACE:** Digby, Smith, Frampton, Austin, Mullins, Bradbury, Morrison, Rizzo (Evans 61), Linighan (Tuttle 77), Carlisle, Rodger.

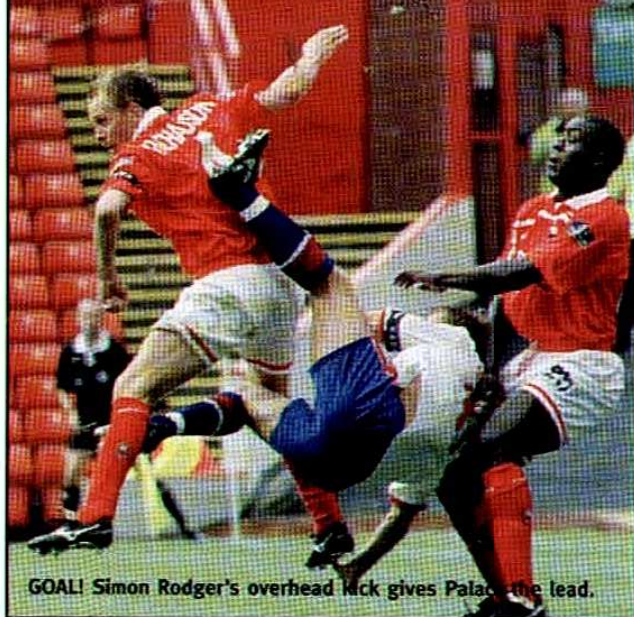
**CREWE:** Kearton, D. Wright, Smith, Macauley, Little, Charnock (Rivers 71), Jack, Lunt, Unsworth (S. Wright 67), Sorvel, Grant (Tait 45).

**Referee:** Mr J. Kirby

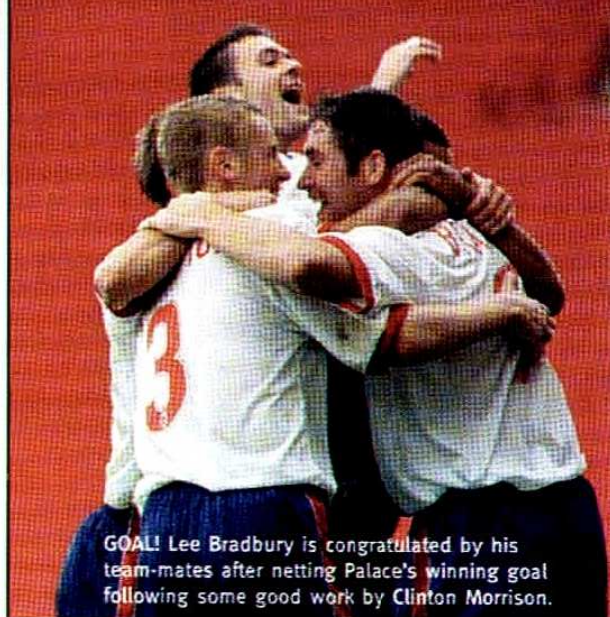
**Bookings:** Palace - Bradbury, Smith. Crewe - Unsworth, D. Wright







GOAL! Simon Rodger's overhead kick gives Palace the lead.



GOAL! Lee Bradbury is congratulated by his team-mates after netting Palace's winning goal following some good work by Clinton Morrison.

## S AGAINST CREWE ALEXANDRA AND BARNSLEY..

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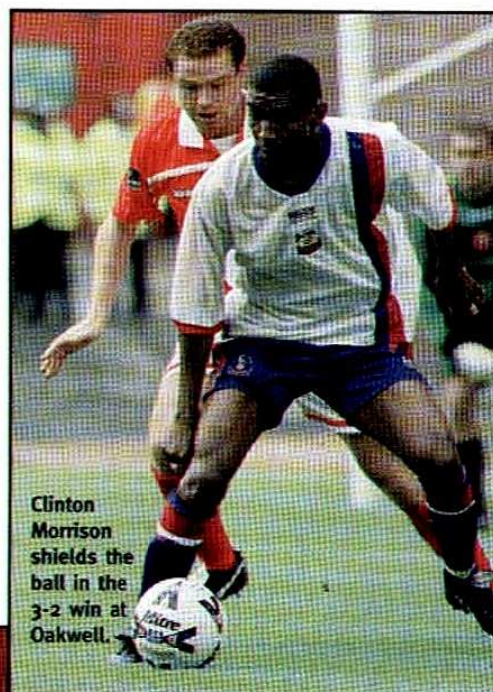
**Nationwide League Division One**  
**Saturday, 14th August 1999**  
**Barnsley 2 (Barnard 44 pen,**  
**Sheron 63)**  
**Crystal Palace 3 (Rodger 24,**  
**Austin 59, Bradbury 74)**  
**Attendance 14,461**



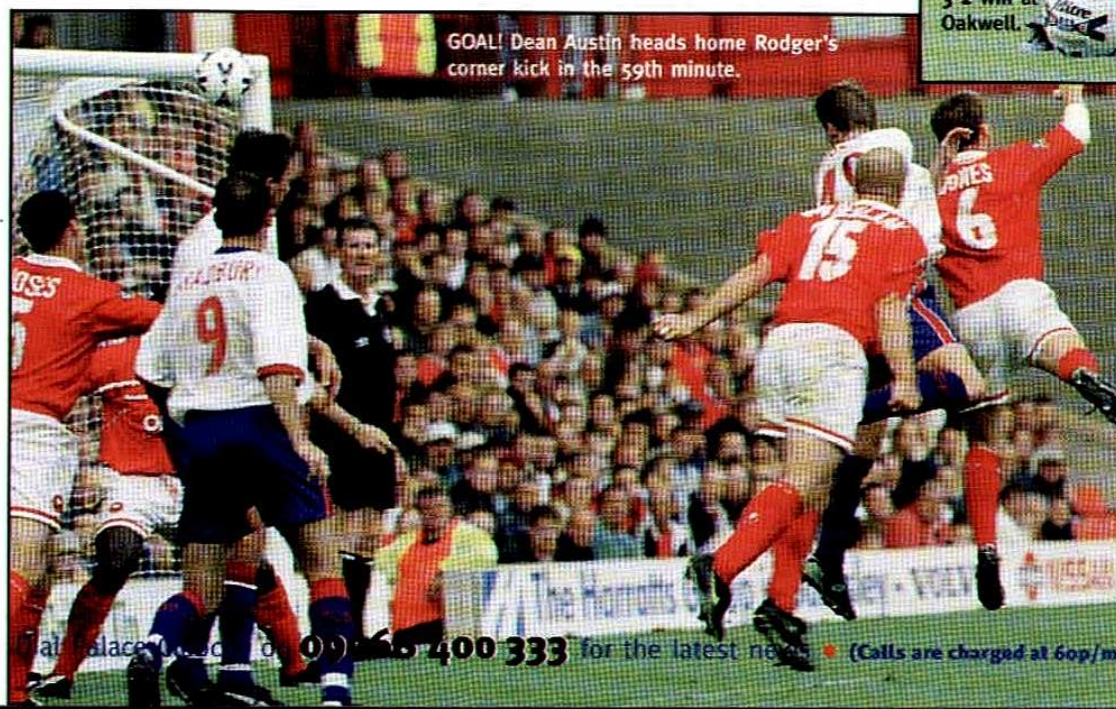
**BARNSELY:** Bullock, Appleby, Richardson (Eaden 61), Moses, Jones, Hignett, Shipperley (Hristov 84) Barnard, Sheron (M. Bullock 83), Van der Laan, Austin.

**PALACE:** Digby, Smith, Austin (Harris 89), Mullins, Linighan, Frampton, Thomson, Woozley (Hibburt 72), Rodger, Bradbury (Svensson 80), Morrison.

**Booking:** Palace - Bradbury.



Clinton Morrison shields the ball in the 3-2 win at Oakwell.



GOAL! Dean Austin heads home Rodger's corner kick in the 59th minute.

**Photographs**  
**by Neil Everitt**  
**and Action**  
**Images**





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# TYKES TAMED AT OAKWELL

The legacy of last season's scrappy away form lingered in the mind in the build up to Palace's trip to Oakwell last Saturday. The bookies made the game a home-banker, with ex-Eagles Dyer, Shipperley and Thomas all to score. A drubbing of his former club to welcome Dave Bassett to the Tykes' hot seat. No problem.

Unfortunately, that hot seat must be steaming by now. The ex-Palace manager was dumped unceremoniously by a resilient and inspiring Eagles display in south Yorkshire. Dyer didn't even play, while Shipperley's efforts were rewarded with a late substitution as the Tykes' strike-force came up against a brick wall. Who would have predicted an away win? When the home side threatened incessantly in the dying minutes, not many.

"In the end I suppose we were holding on," said a relieved Steve Coppell after the game. "The players in the dressing room felt in the end that the fates had conspired against us after what we considered to be a dubious penalty - I'm sure the Barnsley public might disagree - and then a goal which may or may not have crossed the line."

## HARSHLY PENALISED

Indeed, the win came against all the odds. Leading through a close-range overhead kick, scored by the skipper, Simon Rodger had been harshly penalised on the stroke of half-time after running shoulder to shoulder with Craig Hignett into the area. Darren Barnard duly slotted home the penalty.

But the Tykes' second equaliser was equally controversial. A quick free-kick was thumped against the bar by Mike Sheron and rebounded off the line back against the woodwork. Once they had cleared the ball, the Palace defence turned round amazed to see the referee signalling a goal.

"There was a certain element of doubt amongst the assistant referee and my players," admitted the Eagles manager, "but to have conceded two goals like that it wouldn't have surprised me if they had grabbed a third. But we hung in there and



claimed the three points which is vitally important for us this year."

## NO WHISTLE

Centre-half Andy Linighan was more surprised by the speed at which the home side had been allowed to take the free-kick. "I don't know what the rules are, but I thought the referee was supposed to get the wall back ten yards and at least give the players a chance to get organised," he said.

"There was no whistle, so we were disappointed. Whether it went over the line is another point."

The uproar surrounding the goal threatened to ruin the afternoon for the vocal travelling support, but the goal-fest was not over quite yet. That the Eagles came back to claim a deserved win is testament to the spirit instilled in the squad by the Palace management. Lee Bradbury's perfectly executed side-footed finish settled the five-goal thriller and left Bassett fuming into his Bovril.

The win was founded on good old-fashioned hard work. The performance heartened the manager: "In midweek when we were 2-1 down we didn't work as hard as we should and as we did today. We should have been working harder. It's just that mentality

- when you've got something to play for, something obvious which is right in front of your nose, then you do work hard. We just have to try and maintain that standard on a game by game basis."

## HARD WORK

And no one typified the effort than the match-winner, Lee Bradbury. "Bradbury had 80 minutes of hard work," added Coppell. "We had Matt Svensson on the bench who is just coming back from a long-term injury and he was raring to go. With ten minutes to go it was nice to be able to put someone on who would chase things put over the top - a fresh pair of legs. Lee worked very hard for the team and he thoroughly deserved his goal."

The three points left Palace fourth in the fledgling Division One table. It left Barnsley bottom of the lot. "I think we expected a sterner test from Barnsley," said Linighan, who had returned to the starting line-up in place of Oakwell-bound David Tuttle. "But the boys worked extremely hard to not give them time on the ball and disrupt their game plan. It's credit to us for getting the crowd on their backs."

"We have a youngish team - there are not that many experienced players apart from myself. That's all credit to the young lads who have come in and worked really hard for us."

For the veteran defender, the final whistle was greeted with a certain relief. "You need a little breather at 37 you know," admitted the former FA Cup winner. "It's just nice to get all three points."

By Dominic Fifield



PLAYER FEATURE







**P**alace strikers are a strange breed. The last ten years has seen Selhurst Park develop into a veritable pantheon of forward ability, starting with Ian Wright and Mark Bright's golden partnership during the latter years of the Eighties and progressing steadily through such names as Stan Collymore (albeit briefly), Chris Armstrong, Dougie Freedman and Matt Jansen in the Nineties. However, with the exception of Wright (who is, with probably some justification, more remembered for his goalscoring feats with Arsenal rather than Palace), those same strikers all seem to have fallen on hard times after leaving South London: Bright was unable to recapture the form that brought him so many goals at Selhurst and did not last very long at Sheffield Wednesday, Armstrong has been injured for much of his career with Tottenham, Freedman was a flop at Wolves and has only done well in fits and starts for Forest and Jansen, who has the potential to be one of the best strikers in the country, was relegated with Blackburn and has been blighted by fitness problems.

**"It's important to get a good education and I had a great time at school. But the best part of the day was always football at lunchtimes!"**

Collymore, meanwhile, has earned more backpage headlines in the last two or three years than most celebrities manage in a lifetime and amassed enough money in transfer fees to wipe off the national debts of a clutch of South American countries.

### IMMEDIATE IMPRESSION

Now, the mantle has been passed onto the still exceedingly young shoulders of Clinton Morrison, a 20-year old striker who has all the potential to be the next 'great' to emerge from SE25. Morrison made an immediate impression when he scored with virtually his first



kick in a Palace first team jersey, against Sheffield Wednesday in the last game of the doomed 1997/98 campaign. Perhaps a little surprisingly, given Morrison's effervescent personality, he admits to having had a few butterflies on the day of his Palace bow: "I was a bit nervous," he confessed. "I only knew I was going to be a substitute the day before the match so I didn't have much time to prepare for the game. When I came on, the score was 0-0 and there wasn't very long to go. I just wanted to get my first touch and settle down a bit, but with my second I managed to score so that was just perfect." There was something touchingly symbolic about the manner of Morrison's strike, coming as it did from an Attilio Lombardo pass. The significance of the 33-year old Lombardo

(who was destined to leave shortly afterwards) passing on the title of 'crowd favourite' to the youthful Morrison was befitting of the occasion and seemed to earmark the Tooting born forward for success - even though he had spent barely ten minutes on the Selhurst turf.

### JUMPERS FOR GOALPOSTS

Morrison went to school in Putney and Richmond and, again surprisingly, insists he enjoyed the atmosphere of the classroom almost as much as that of the sports field: "I enjoyed my lessons, especially English and Maths. It's important to get a good education and I had a great time at school." He pauses before inevitably adding, "But the best part of the day was always football at lunchtimes!" Having been rejected by Tottenham, Morrison was asked to play a trial match by Palace's youth supremo Peter Nicholas and, in keeping with his record of making strong first impressions, registered a hat-trick. A YTS contract soon followed and it was not long before Morrison began scoring goals for fun in the youth teams. "Peter Nicholas has always been brilliant to me," said Morrison, who clearly has enormous respect for Palace's former Welsh international. "He knew what I was capable of and, whenever I wasn't

performing for some reason, he was always quick to give me a kick up the backside. He also gave me a lot of good advice on how to improve my game - especially my finishing."



### Clinton's Favourites

**Hobby:** Shopping (in his words, 'I enjoy looking good')

**Players:** Pele & Ian Wright

**TV Programme:** Eastenders

**Ground:** Highbury

**Music:** R&B



## HE'S ALL WRIGHT

Nicholas obviously did a good job. Morrison was Palace's leading goalscorer last season, a record in keeping with the forwards listed earlier (Wright, Bright, Armstrong and Freedman were all leading Palace's scoring charts in their first full seasons at Selhurst). Indeed, Morrison has been hailed in some quarters as the 'new Ian Wright', a view seemingly endorsed by manager Steve Coppell, who brought Wright to Palace from Greenwich Borough in 1985. "He reckons I have some of Ian's qualities," Morrison commented, "and obviously it's nice to be compared to such a great player, but I would like to be recognised on my own merit. Besides, Ian Wright is such a unique striker I'm not sure anyone can be compared to him." And what on having such a remarkable first season in Palace colours? "It was unbelievable. At the start of the season there were loads of other strikers at the club and I thought that I'd just be used as a squad member. But the financial problems meant that quite a few players left so I got my chance a lot earlier than expected."

## FUTURE PROSPECTS

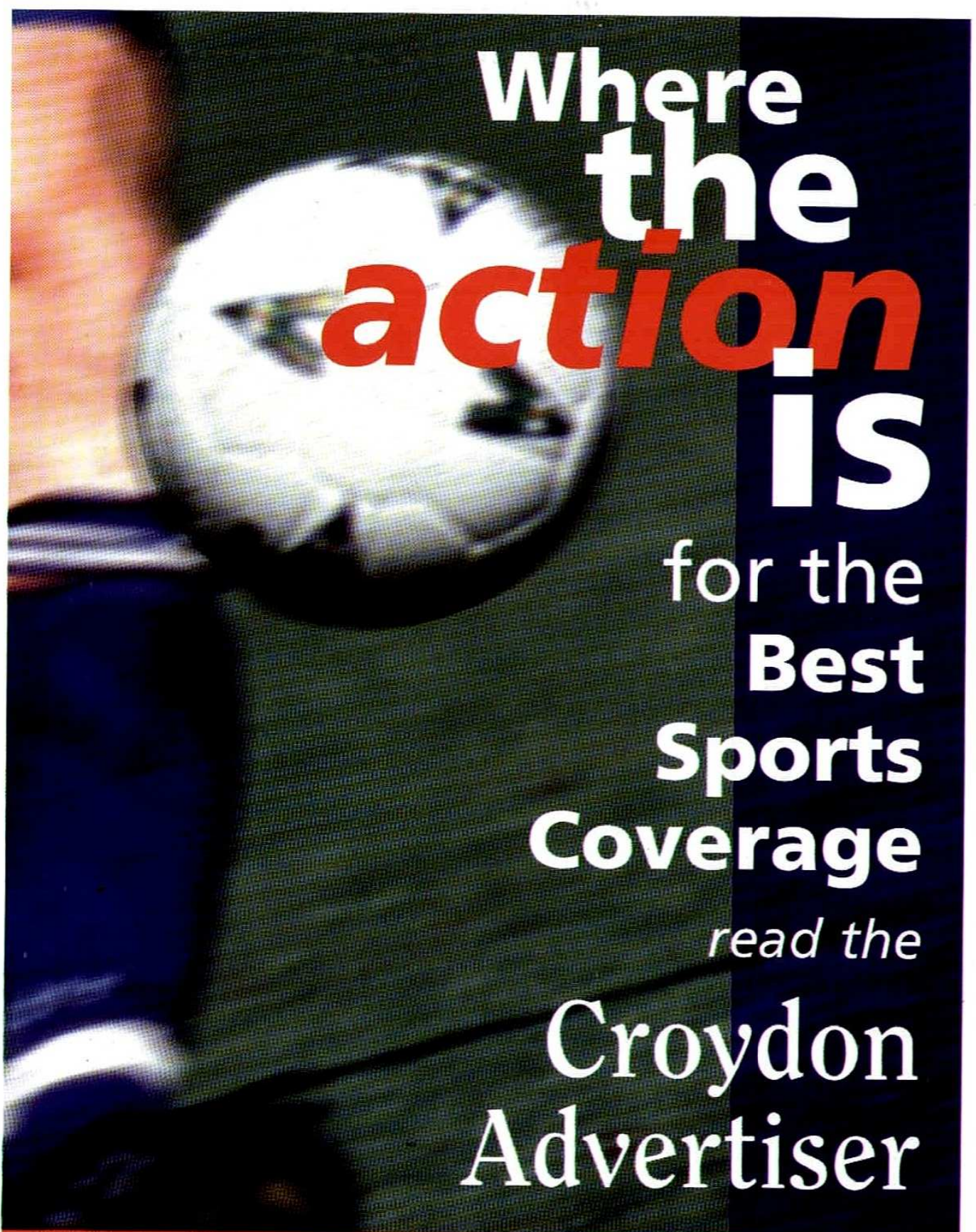
Now, it seems, Clinton Morrison has the world at his feet. It will surely not be long before he joins his good friend Hayden Mullins in the England under-21 side and, from there, almost anything is possible. He has been linked with a host of top clubs during the summer but, refreshingly, seems committed to the Palace cause: "I love the club," he said, "and if it were possible I'd like to stay here for the rest of my career." Palace fans have heard this before from many other players who insisted their loyalty to the Eagles was unquestionable before promptly vanishing from South London. But, with Morrison, the commitment seems genuine - as it often is with players who have risen through the youth ranks at a club. The youngster is also mature enough to realise that the time will come when he wants to sample new pastures but, for now at least, Palace fans can rest assured that their red-booted hero is going nowhere.

Andrew Fifield

# CLINTON MORRISON







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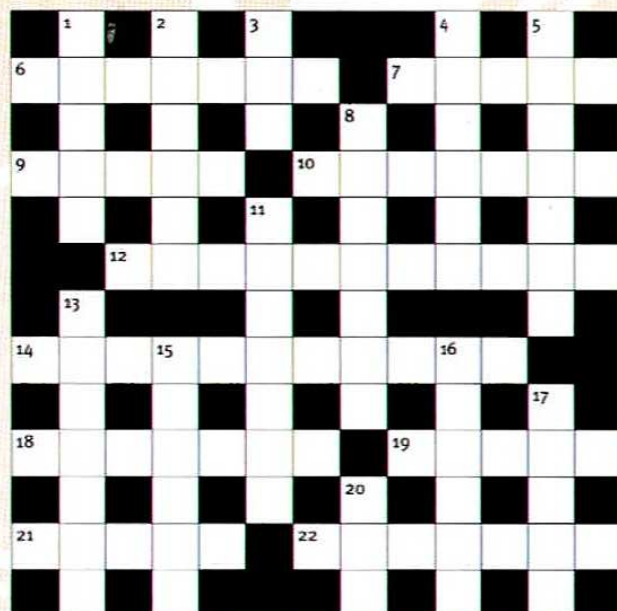
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# PALACE CROSSWORD

Compiled by Jim McLaren



## ACROSS

6. Brilliant young West Ham midfielder (3,4)
7. What three winning points score in tennis (5)
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Vigo, a promising Spanish side (5)
10. Raymond, one of Scotland's best professional golfers (7)
12. Wimbledon champ once again (4,7)
14. Newcastle's supporters (3,4,4)
18. Goes to a football match (7)
19. His time as Sampdoria manager was short-lived (5)
21. Strokes on the green (5)
22. Athletics spear (7)

## DOWN

1. Brilliant Chelsea midfielder (5)
2. Cut down an opponent (6)
3. Norwegian striker (3)
4. Captains do this at the start of the match (4,2)
5. Vialli's nationality (7)
8. Victory by a big margin
11. Athletes like to set new ones (7)
13. Goalkeepers always want one (4,3)
15. Teams in the English Premiership (6)
16. 1970's German striker (6)
17. The greatest manager never to be knighted? (5)
20. Wilkins, the man of many clubs (3)

Answers on page 63

## QUICK QUIZ

Five questions about Palace's Premiership campaign of 1997/98

1. Palace established an unwanted record in this season. What was that record?
2. Who was Palace's only ever-present in 97/98?
3. How many teams scored three goals against Palace at Selhurst during the league season?
4. How many wins did Palace record on their travels?
5. Who scored twice in our cup win over Scunthorpe at Selhurst Park?

## FIVE ABOUT PALACE

1. Bill Davies became Palace's first full international in 1908, when he faced Scotland at Dundee. Who did he play for?
2. Which two Palace strikers registered hat-tricks for the Eagles in our 8-0 win over Southend in the Rumbelows League Cup in 1989?
3. Two clubs have beaten Palace 9-0 - can you name both of them?
4. How old was Phil Hoadley when he made his Palace debut against Bolton in 1968?
5. Who did Palace play in their first Football League game in August 1920?

## FIVE ABOUT SWINDON

6. Former manager Steve McMahon, who scored against Palace in the FA Cup semi-final of 1990, joined the Robins from which club?
7. Which trophy did the Robins win in 1969?
8. A year after their Wembley triumph in '69, Town picked up another piece of silverware - which one?
9. How many goals did Swindon concede in 1993/94?
10. Sam Allen is by far the longest serving manager in Swindon's history?



Steve McMahon

## FIVE ABOUT FOOTBALL

11. Which club holds the record attendance for an English football match held outside London?
12. Which team were the unfortunate recipients of a 36-0 defeat at the hands of Arbroath?
13. When was the last time a team other than Rangers or Celtic won the Scottish League championship?
14. Which team was stripped of the title 'European Champions' after a financial scandal in 1993?
15. How many different English teams have won the European Cup?





Crystal Palace extend a warm welcome to this afternoon's visitors from the West Country, Swindon Town, for this our third league game of the 1999/2000 season.

#### RETURN TO GLORY

Aside from their famous League Cup Final win in the mud at Wembley against Arsenal in 1969, the most notable achievement in Swindon's history was their promotion to the Premiership in 1993 – the first time that the club had graced the top flight.

In the years leading up to that success the Robins had slowly established a side that had the potential to grace our greatest stage. Their revival began in the mid-80's under Lou Macari and was taken on by Ossie Ardiles before Glenn Hoddle led Town to promotion courtesy of a thrilling play-off final win over Leicester City.

However, the seeds of doubt were sown when Hoddle departed for Chelsea during the close season and his assistant, John Gorman, took over. Despite Gorman's greatest efforts Swindon found themselves rooted to the bottom of the division throughout the season and suffered a seemingly inevitable relegation. Swindon, though, had won many friends with their particularly attractive style of football and many pundits tipped them for an immediate return to the Premier League only for the Robins to suffer a subsequent relegation to the 2nd Division.

A new manager came in, Steve McMahon, who relit the fire at the County Ground. The title was secured at the first attempt and Swindon, buoyant after this success, seemed set to take on all-comers in the 1st.

#### STANDING STILL

The anticipated revival did not occur and having overseen two seasons of mediocrity in this division the club's board brought in crowd favourite, Jimmy Quinn, to take over as boss in October of last year. Although this change sparked an inevitable short-term revival with consecutive wins over QPR and Crewe, the side continued to be blighted by inconsistency. Too often Swindon would follow up impressive wins

which highlighted their potential such as a 3-1 triumph over Barnsley and a 1-0 win against Wolves with dismal defeats at Bristol City and Oxford United.

Having fought so hard to become established as one of the brightest clubs in the league, Swindon appeared to be standing still.

#### RELEGATION SCRAP

Ultimately the threat of relegation loomed large over the County Ground. With talented players of the likes of George Ndah, Iffy Onoura and Chris Hay in the side it seemed inconceivable that the Robins could be demoted once again, but fortunately these players pulled out all the stops in the

**SWINDON  
TOWN  
F.C.**

final few weeks of the season to ensure another year in the 1st Division. Indeed, Swindon won here at Selhurst Park in April of last season far more comfortably than the 1-0 scoreline suggests with a performance that seemed to promise better times in the future.

#### POINT FOR STARTERS

On paper Swindon were given the perfect opportunity to get their league campaign off to a good start. A fixture against the newcomers to the division, Walsall. Boosted by the inclusion of new signing from Peterborough United, Gulliano Grazioli, Jimmy Quinn's side travelled to the Bescot Stadium confident of securing an early three points. However, despite putting in an encouraging display defensively, the Robins rarely threatened the home side's goal. The closest they came to scoring being a scorching long range free-kick from veteran winger, Mark Walters, which James Walker did well to tip over. What was pleasing was that the defence seemed to have got over their tendency from the previous season to concede sloppy goals with the impressive

Gareth Hall marshalling the back four well. Frank Talia, too, showed the form which is keeping ex-Palace youngster Jimmy Glass out of the side with a great stop from Mark Robins' header. Although the hoped for win had not materialised, a point and a welcome clean sheet was not bad for starters.

#### EMBARRASSING DEFEATS

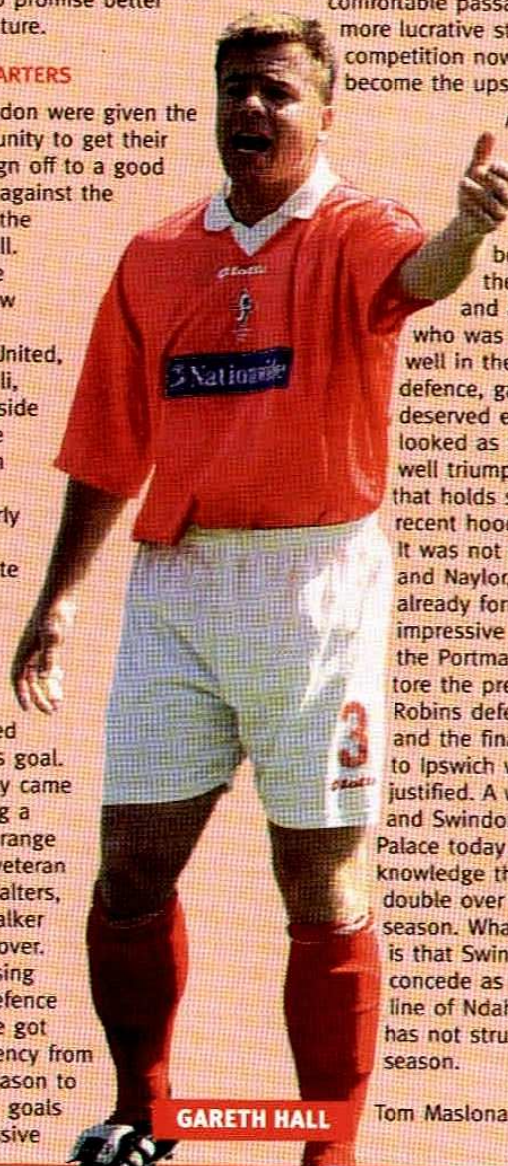
What has followed in the fortnight since that draw has been far less pleasing for the Swindon faithful. A home game in the 1st round of the Worthington Cup against lowly Leyton Orient seemed to provide the perfect opportunity for their much-heralded strike force to cash in

with a number of easy goals. However, the East London outfit provided much stiffer opposition than had been expected and surprised everyone by coming away with a 1-0 win. What had previously appeared to be a comfortable passage into the more lucrative stages of the competition now threatens to become the upset of the round.

A televised game against Ipswich on Sunday gave Town an ideal chance to bounce back from their humiliation and after Grazioli, who was finding space well in the Ipswich defence, gave them a deserved early lead it looked as though they may well triumph over the team that holds something of a recent hoodoo over them. It was not to be. Johnson and Naylor, who are already forming an impressive partnership for the Portman Road side, tore the previously assured Robins defence to shreds and the final score of 4-1 to Ipswich was more than justified. A win is needed, and Swindon come to Palace today with the knowledge that they did the double over the Eagles last season. What is imperative is that Swindon do not concede as their forward line of Ndah and Onoura has not struck gold yet this season.



**FRANK TALIA**



**GARETH HALL**

Tom Maslona





# JIMMY QUINN

Former Northern Ireland striker Jimmy Quinn is approaching the end of his first year as manager at the County Ground and the 39-year-old is hoping for an upturn in fortunes after making a low-key start to the new campaign.

"It could be better. We had a good result against Walsall and then we were terrible against Leyton Orient, while against Ipswich we were beaten by the better side," Quinn admits.

"However, I'd rather struggle at the start of the season than at the end and there's plenty of time to put it right."

## BATTLING QUALITIES

Swindon finished just three points above the relegation zone last year and Quinn concedes that without having the spending power of mega-rich clubs like Blackburn and Fulham, his side have to rely on their battling qualities and team spirit. "You look at the league and it's going to be a lot tougher this year, with the teams coming down and also the teams coming up. Like Palace, we have to make do with what we've got and make sure that the players have belief in themselves. That's the nature of my job. I knew that when I took it on and it's a question of being positive. Like a lot of other teams I'm looking to the 50 points we need to stay up.

We've got to be realistic and it's going to be tough. Four or five players left during the summer and we can't replace them at the moment. I've got to try and wheel and deal and get a couple out to get a couple in."

So, how does Quinn intend to get the Robins moving in the right direction?

"We've got to tighten up a bit in defence because we haven't been at our best in the last couple of games. The sooner we can do that, the sooner we can strive for better things.

## GREAT AWAY RESULTS

"I hope we can improve on last year's position. We had some great away results last year, and tended to play better away from home, because the players are more relaxed. At the County Ground, for some reason, the

nerves set in. It's very frustrating because as a manager you want money to spend, but I've got a good bunch of lads and where we lack quality we can make up for in effort."



Although he hasn't totally written off his own chances of surprising a few of the division's 'wealthy brigade', Quinn believes that money will talk in what he describes as the 'toughest First Division ever'. "Ipswich are very strong and have money to sign new players, so I fully expect them to gain automatic promotion this year. Although Blackburn have got off to a shaky start I think they'll

definitely be up there, but you can't rule out Birmingham and Nottingham Forest. It's like a second Premiership!" Without the luxury of financial backing to pick up future stars, Quinn admits that the club are heavily focused on

**"Like Palace, we have to make do with what we've got and make sure the players have belief in themselves. That's the nature of my job. I knew that when I took it on and it's a question of being positive"**

developing their youth system, so that the Wiltshire club are able to hold their own and compete with their rivals in future years.

## LONG TERM PLAN

"We have got a long-term plan here concerning our youth policy. We want to get an Academy up and running, but it's going to take time. We're looking to the future with ambition and we want to produce kids who can come through and succeed at a higher level."

After finally hanging up his boots a year ago after a glorious goal-filled finale to his career at Peterborough United, Quinn insists that he still itches to add to his impressive goalscoring career tally. However, he also admits that the game has changed dramatically in recent years.

"When you play for 19 years you certainly miss it, but it's different these days. It's disappointing to see

the joy of playing taking second place in priorities to money. I just hope that people running the game can turn that around."

Quinn is hoping that today's game will provide the spark which will fire Swindon in the right direction, although he concedes that the game is destined to be a hard-fought affair. "It's going to be a tough game. Palace got off to a good start and there seems to be a good team spirit at the club. Steve's a good manager, but we've got to give a good account of ourselves and hope we can get a result."

Marcus Lee  
Collings Sport

## LEAGUE RESULTS IN 1999

### 1999/2000 season

Sheff Utd	(H) D 2-2	Ndah, Onuora
Port Vale	(A) W 1-0	Ndah
Bury	(H) D 1-1	West og
Sunderland	(A) L 0-2	
Oxford	(A) L 0-2	
Portsmouth	(H) D 3-3	Hay 2, Onuora
Watford	(A) W 1-0	Howe
Tranmere	(H) L 2-3	Reeves 2
Bolton	(H) D 3-3	Howe, Hay, Walters
Stockport	(A) L 1-2	Walters
Crewe	(H) L 1-2	Hay
QPR	(A) L 0-4	
Ipswich	(H) L 0-6	
Huddersfld	(A) W 2-1	Howe, Hay
Birmingham	(H) L 0-1	
West Brom	(A) D 1-1	Ndah
Palace	(A) W 1-0	Onuora
Grimsby	(H) W 2-0	Onuora, Ndah
Norwich	(A) L 1-2	Onuora pen
Barnsley	(H) L 1-3	Griffin

### 1999/2000 season

Walsall	(A) D 0-0	
Ipswich	(H) L 1-4	Grazioli

VISITORS





## VISITORS



### Swindon Town 1999/2000

**BACK ROW (left to right):** Alan McDonald (Assistant Coach), Craig Taylor, Gareth Davies, George Ndah, Steve Mildenhall, Ify Onuora, Alan Reeves, Chris Hay, Dave Moore (Physiotherapist).

**CENTRE ROW (left to right):** Frazer McHugh, Robin Hulbert, Philippe Cuervo, Charlie Griffin, Jimmy Glass, Frank Talia, Giuliano Grazioli, Mark Robinson, Lee Collins, Steve Cowe.

**FRONT ROW (left to right):** Sol Davis, James Williams, Mark Walters, Gareth Hall, Mike Walsh (First Team Coach), Jimmy Quinn (Manager), Scott Leitch, Ty Gooden, Bobby Howe, Paul McAreevey.

The pundits have already written Swindon Town off this season. Too inconsistent; too fragile defensively to compete in such a difficult league; too desperate after Christmas; too bad. Such criticism is vaguely ridiculous as anyone who saw the Robins win here at Selhurst Park in April could testify. The Town defence might be breached from time to time, but too fragile? With Ify Onuora and George Ndah up front? With Mark Walters marshalling the midfield? With Mark Robinson and Gareth Davies at the back? If they're fragile, then the bull would come out second best in the

proverbial china shop.

Manager Jimmy Quinn has not been granted the luxury of his predecessors in the County Ground hot seat. Glenn Hoddle, John Gorman and even Steve McMahon all had a bit of money to spend, but Quinn's pre-season featured a swoop for a Third Division striker available for nothing and a scouring of the non-league scene. It's more than Steve Coppell was able to do, but it may not be enough to alter the Robins' ultimate ambitions.

Those ambitions must be to stay in Division One. The pundits were justified in predicting a relegation dog-fight given Town's ability to nose-dive in the blink of an eye. A few years ago they were challenging at the other end before plummeting without trace; last year they appeared set to be embroiled in the nerve-jangling last day skirmishes before Palace and West Brom duly rolled over. This year, Quinn's squad will be tested to the full.

It is not a squad without class. In goal, **Frank Talia** is sure to continue the recent tradition of Australians between the visitors' sticks here at Selhurst Park. Standing at 6' 1", he joined Blackburn Rovers seven years ago and initially arrived on loan at the County Ground in November 1995. As back-up to Fraser Digby, he quietly learned his trade before taking his chance with some terrific displays. It was Talia who shut the Eagles out last term. He will be keen to do so again today. Contrary to press speculation linking him with practically every club in land, **Jimmy Glass** remains a Robin with little chance to make an impact on the first

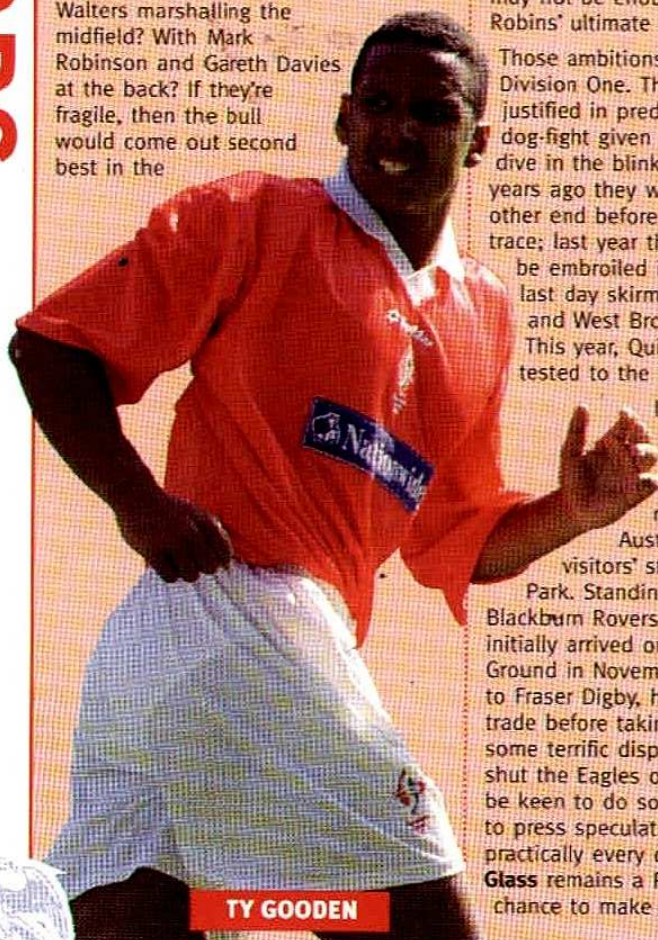
team. His remarkable heroics at Carlisle at the end of last season have earned him a place in the history books, not least at Scarborough, but his chances remain limited in Wiltshire. Ex-Eagle Glass has been desperate to leave, but for the moment is having to make do with reserve team outings. It must all seem something of a come-down.

Indeed, youth team product **Steve Mildenhall** may even keep Glass off the bench this afternoon. The 6' 5" stopper made two first team appearances in 1995/96 and played as an outfield player the following year, but is once again waiting for his chance to impress. At the back, **Gareth Hall** remains a strong performer at this level. The veteran former Chelsea and Sunderland man joined on a Bosman deal and impressed at times last season. The Croydon born full-back boasts nine Welsh caps and is more than capable of filling any position across the back-line.

**Alan Reeves** quit Wimbledon's Crazy Gang in search of first team football having failed to follow in the footsteps of John Scales at Selhurst Park. The tall central defender has been frustrated by injuries, but notched up two goals in 24 appearances last season and added his vast experience to the Robins' rearguard. **Mark Robinson**, meanwhile, started his career at West Bromwich Albion before joining Barnsley on a free transfer back in 1986. A move to Kevin Keegan's Newcastle followed in 1993, for a fee of £450,000, and this increased to £600,000 when Swindon snapped him up in a club record deal a year later. Robinson can play at full-back, in the middle or as a sweeper and continues to perform wholeheartedly at the heart of the defence.

**Craig Taylor** is the younger brother of former Town favourite Shaun and signed from non-league Dorchester Town for £25,000. Having scored a superb 35-yard goal on his Town debut against Port Vale, the 25-year-old has maintained the family's links with the Robins and has become an integral figure at the club. Another ex-Eagle, **Gareth Davies**, hobbled out of the Robins' visit to Selhurst last April having signed on a free transfer from Thames Valley rivals Reading a month earlier. Well-known for his commitment and aggressive style, the fiery-haired Welshman should revel in the atmosphere back in south London today.

Cheltenham born **Sol Davis** was offered a professional contract in the summer of 1998 having starred in the Robins' junior sides as a left-sided full-back. He made his debut as a substitute at home to QPR at the age of 18 and was thrown in for his full debut in the local



**TY GOODEN**





derby with Oxford. He played 23 times last term and looks like one to watch for the future.

In midfield, Town have tended to rely more on the physical than the creative in recent times. Since the days of Gorman, the engine room has reflected the industrious Steve McMahon more than the sublime passing of a Hoddle, but that is not to do the Robins an injustice. **Mark Walters** has enjoyed a new lease of life since joining on a free transfer from Southampton and has proved a thorn in Palace's side more than once since moving to Wiltshire.

The former Villa, Rangers and Liverpool winger is easily Town's most experienced player and is still more than capable of terrorising opposition defences; he scored eleven times last season. **Ty Gooden** joined on a free from Wycombe and featured strongly in the Robins' Division Two title in 1995/96. Since then, however, injuries have limited his opportunities, although he will be expected to supply the ammunition for the visiting strike force this afternoon.

**Scott Leitch** joined from Hearts for a bargain £15,000 in 1996 and was named club captain in the summer, such was the impression he made on new Town boss Jimmy Quinn. Strong in the tackle and capable of spreading the play, the Scotsman typifies the battling nature of the Robins midfield. **Robin Hulbert**, meanwhile, will be looking to add to the six starts he made last year as he continues to develop into a fine player. A loan spell with Newcastle United was invaluable and Hulbert should come to the fore this year. **Lee Collins** is another Scottish player snapped up for a small fee who has flourished in Division One, although injury ruled him out for most of last season. He was Town's most improved player in 1997/98 and will be looking to re-establish himself this time around.

The midfield flair is supplied by Frenchman **Philippe Cuervo** who signed from Sochaux. A broken ankle restricted his opportunities to impress, but if he can earn himself a starting place this term he should prove a force to be recognised at this level. **Bobby Howe** is an attacking midfielder signed from Nottingham Forest who has popped up with some vital goals since moving to the County Ground. Born in Annisford, the 25-year-old also spent a loan spell at Ipswich Town before joining the Robins.

Up front, Jimmy Quinn has moved to change the frightening, imposing image established by his predecessor with the signing of the tricky yet diminutive **Guiliano Grazioli** from Peterborough. Grazioli dumped Swindon out of the FA Cup whilst he was on loan at Stevenage Borough two years ago - a strike he followed up in a high-profile clash with Newcastle United. He returned to Peterborough last term and notched up five in an 8-0 mauling of Barnet, and his 15 goals attracted the attention of the former Posh coach Quinn. His arrival on a free transfer is intriguing - he should prove a decent foil for the giant **Iffy Onuora**, who scored the only goal at Selhurst four months ago. Onuora enjoyed a memorable first full season at Town, grabbing 20 goals after signing for just £100,000 in March 1998. He leads the line impressively and, in full flow, is a frightening sight. With **George Ndah** (featured right) developing rapidly alongside, it is hard to see where **Chris Hay** lies in the pecking order. The £330,000 signing from Celtic scored 13 goals in his first 18 appearances for the club, but he has floundered somewhat since. Niggling injuries hampered his progress, although he still chalked up six goals in 18 starts last year.

Presumably, his position will even be threatened by the arrival of teenage prospect **Charlie Griffin**. The prolific former Chippenham Town man was top scorer in the Screwfix League with 30 goals before joining

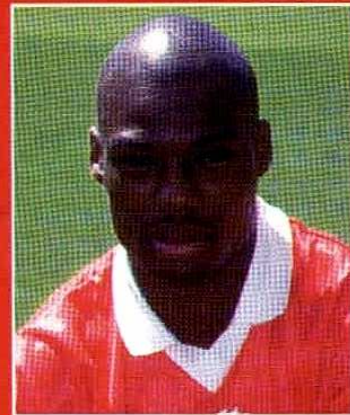


SCOTT LEITCH

Swindon, and he showed his class by opening his professional account after just seven minutes of his debut against Barnsley last season. So goals should not be a problem. Quinn's side know they are in for a tough campaign, but the Robins are more than capable of embarrassing the pundits. The tag of underdogs should spur them on throughout the season.

Dominic Fifield

## STAR MAN



### GEORGE NDAH

Big George needs little introduction here at Selhurst Park. Manager Steve Coppell readily admitted that he would not have sold the 6' 1" striker if he had his time game; Ndah's aerial ability and pace was sorely missing when Palace slipped out of the Premiership two years ago.

And, more's the pity, the striker has made the Eagles all too aware of their loss ever since. At the County Ground last year his flicked header past Fraser Digby set up a 2-0 win for the Robins, while it was the leggy Ndah's marauding run down the left flank which set up Iffy Onuora for the only goal of the game back at Selhurst Park in April. He has not been afraid to put himself about, either, admitting he was lucky to stay on the pitch in the first clash last season.

But George typifies the quality footballers produced by the Palace youth system. When his chances became limited here, he moved on for £500,000 and could now be sold for four times as much. Eagles fans should welcome his return before kick-off, but the only chanting of 'Ooh, aah, George Ndah' to be heard once the game is underway will be from the banks of travelling Robins cheering their man on. Palace's loss has been Swindon's gain.

# VISITORS



## PREVIOUS MEETING



The clubs' last meeting at Selhurst Park:  
Saturday 17th April 1999  
Football League, Division One

**Crystal Palace 0  
Swindon Town 1**  
(Onuora 51)

**Attendance:** 18,660

**PALACE:** Miller, Jihai, Petric, Austin, Burton (sub Svensson 54, sub Carlisle 70), Thomson, Foster, Frampton, McKenzie,

Morrison, Mullins.

**SWINDON:** Talia, Linton, Davies (sub Robinson 29), Hay (sub Walters 75), Hall, Borrows, Howe, Ndah, Onuora, Bradley (sub Watson 25), Gooden.

Circumstances forced both Palace and Swindon to field makeshift sides for this First Division clash towards the end of a season that had been disappointing for both outfits.

Clinton Morrison looked likely early on to extend Palace's praiseworthy run of ten undefeated games. He lobbed over in only the fifth minute, then hit Swindon's right hand post after a quarter of an hour, before Kevin Miller was called upon to beat away a fierce drive from on loan Shane



Bradley. George Ndah also drew a fine save from his former colleague just before the interval, but Palace had had the better of the first period when the half-time whistle blew.

However, Swindon took the initiative soon after the restart and they did so with a superb goal in which George Ndah played a major role. He powered down Palace's unprotected right flank in front of the main stand, then delivered a perfect low cross for the unmarked Iffy Onuora to lift into the roof of the Whitehorse Lane goal from close range.

Palace put Town under some pressure during the last quarter of the game, but the visitors were comfortably able to achieve their second consecutive victory at Selhurst Park and with it a season's double over the Eagles - their second of the term and some compensation for their frustrations during 1998-99.

## SWINDON TOWN

## OFF-BEAT WITH THE OPPOSITION

• The story of Swindon's foundation as a football club is a fairly complex one. It is generally accepted that the club was born in 1881 after William Pitt, the captain of of the Spartans (an offshoot of a cricket club), changed his side's name to Swindon Town. The club was originally an amalgamation of the Spartans and the charmingly-named St. Mark's Young Men's Friendly Society.

• Palace and Swindon do share a link, in that Bert Head moved to Selhurst Park after a nine-year stint as boss at the County Ground from 1956 to 1965. Head went on to manage Palace until 1972 when he became General Manager for another year.

• The Robins have been managed by some illustrious names in their long history. Dave Mackay, the former Tottenham defender, was boss in Wiltshire from 1971-72. Lou Macari took the reins for five years during the eighties, former Argentinian international Ossie Ardiles was in charge in the early nineties and Glenn Hoddle cut his managerial teeth at Swindon before moving onto bigger things (and controversy) at Chelsea and England.

• Swindon set a points record for the Football League when they romped away with the Division Four championship in 1985/86, recording 102 points along the way.

## ROLL CALL

SEASON 1999/00 (LEAGUE GAMES ONLY)

	PREVIOUS CLUB	APPS	GLS
Ty Gooden	Wycombe	1	-
Guliano Grazioli	Peterborough	2	1
Charlie Griffin	Bristol Rovers	- (1)	-
Gareth Hall	Sunderland	2	-
Chris Hay	Celtic	- (1)	-
Bobby Howe	Nottm Forest	1	-
Robin Hulbert	-	2	-
Scott Leitch	Hearts	1	-
Frazer McHugh	-	1	-
George Ndah	Crystal Palace	2	-
Iffy Onuora	Gillingham	2	-
Mark Robinson	Newcastle	2	-
Frank Talia	Blackburn	2	-
Craig Taylor	Dorchester Town	1 (1)	-
Mark Walters	Southampton	1 (1)	-
James Williams	-	2	-
Adam Willis	Coventry	- (1)	-

CRYSTAL PALACE V  
SWINDON TOWN  
PREVIOUS MEETINGS

## LEAGUE GAMES

Season	Home	Away	Division	Season	Home	Away	Division
1920-21	W 1-0	W 3-1	3	1950-51	W 2-0	L 0-2	3 (S)
1925-26	W 1-0	L 1-3	3 (S)	1951-52	L 0-1	W 2-0	3 (S)
1926-27	W 5-0	L 1-6	3 (S)	1952-53	W 3-0	W 6-3	3 (S)
1927-28	W 1-0	D 3-3	3 (S)	1953-54	W 3-2	D 1-1	3 (S)
1928-29	W 6-1	L 2-3	3 (S)	1954-55	D 0-0	D 0-0	3 (S)
1929-30	W 1-0	L 1-3	3 (S)	1955-56	L 0-2	D 0-0	3 (S)
1930-31	W 3-1	D 4-4	3 (S)	1956-57	D 0-0	L 1-3	3 (S)
1931-32	D 0-0	L 2-3	3 (S)	1957-58	W 4-1	D 0-0	3 (S)
1932-33	W 4-3	L 0-1	3 (S)	1961-62	W 3-1	L 0-5	3
1933-34	D 0-0	L 2-3	3 (S)	1962-63	D 0-0	L 0-1	3
1934-35	W 7-0	D 1-1	3 (S)	1964-65	W 3-1	L 0-2	2
1935-36	W 5-1	W 2-0	3 (S)	1973-74	W 4-2	W 1-0	3
1936-37	W 2-0	L 0-4	3 (S)	1974-75	W 6-2	D 1-1	3
1937-38	L 0-1	L 0-4	3 (S)	1975-76	D 3-3	W 2-1	3
1938-39	D 1-1	D 2-2	3 (S)	1976-77	W 5-0	D 1-1	3
1946-47	W 4-1	L 0-1	3 (S)	1987-88	W 2-1	D 2-2	2
1947-48	D 1-1	D 0-0	3 (S)	1988-89*	W 2-1	L 0-1	2
1948-49	D 1-1	L 0-1	3 (S)	1996-97	L 1-2	W 2-0	1
1949-50	D 2-2	L 2-4	3 (S)	1998-99	L 0-1	L 0-2	1

## CUP GAMES

Season	Home	Away	Cup	Round
1909-10	L 1-3	-	F.A.	1
1923-24	L 1-2	-	F.A.	3
1927-28	L 1-2	D 0-0	F.A.	2
1954-55	-	W 2-0	F.A.	1
1988-89*	W 2-0	W 2-1	F.L.	2
1989-90	W 1-0	-	F.M.	SF (5th)
1991-92	-	W 1-0	F.L.	4

## OVERALL MEETINGS

	P	W	D	L	For	Agst
Home	43	25	10	8	92	40
Away	42	10	13	19	50	73
Total	85	35	23	27	142	113

\*In addition to the four games shown above (in 1988-89), there were two more in the league play-offs that season. Palace lost away 0-1 and won at home 2-0. Following this Palace beat Blackburn 4-3 (in two legs) to gain promotion.





# OPPOSING VIEW

**G**ulliano Grazioli has had his fair share of fame in recent years, but the 24-year-old striker, who is playing in Division One for the first time in his career, is now happy to just take a back seat. Grazioli hit the headlines in the 1997/98 season when non-league Stevenage Borough enjoyed a memorable cup run. Having already scored against his present club Swindon Town to knock them out in the previous round, Grazioli hit the equaliser to take Newcastle United to a third round replay. Last season he scored five goals in one game for Peterborough United against Barnet in a Third Division league game, but he knows that feat will be difficult to repeat two divisions up.



## TOUGH GAMES

"I knew there would be some tough games in this division this season," said Grazioli, reflecting on last Sunday's 4-1 defeat at home to Ipswich Town.

"Some of the bigger teams who have come down from the Premiership I expect to be really tough to play against, and there are also some big clubs who were pushing for promotion last season but failed.

"I always feel confident that I can score goals against anyone, but I didn't know how I'd deal with the jump up of two divisions until I tried it.

"I'm still apprehensive now, but confidence comes with experience and at the moment I'm getting that with every game I play at this level."

## FREE TRANSFER

Grazioli began his career with non-league Wembley, where he regularly made his mark in his own unique way. On three occasions he scored four goals in a game during a great season for the London club.

He entered league football when he arrived at Peterborough United in October 1995 on a free transfer. After loan spells at Yeovil, Enfield and Woking he went to Stevenage Borough and found fame, before returning to Peterborough last season.

After enjoying a great start to last season alongside current boss Jimmy Quinn he became increasingly

disillusioned at not getting a regular first team place and in the summer jumped at the chance to join Swindon and old pal Quinn. "I was in and out of the side at Peterborough. Even though I was scoring the goals Barry Fry would leave me out," added Grazioli.

**"So far I'm very pleased with the move. I've settled in really well and Jimmy has helped me in training as he did at Peterborough."**

"I enjoyed my time there and I think I matured as a player, but when Swindon came in and the opportunity was there for me to play in the First Division there was only one choice.

## SETTLED IN

"So far I'm very pleased with the move. I've settled in really well and Jimmy has helped me in training as he did at Peterborough. With his experience I know I can learn a lot."

Grazioli will gain more experience today when he plays against Palace and at Selhurst Park for the first time, but he is confident he can be the man that can help the club achieve their aims.

He concluded: "I've never played

against Crystal Palace and I've never even been to



Selhurst Park, so it'll be another new experience that I'm looking forward to.

"The more games like this I play, the more my game develops. That can only be a good thing. Jimmy hasn't set us any targets yet, but he obviously wants us to avoid a relegation battle and I'd love to score the goals to help keep the club up."

Will Spong  
Collings Sport



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# OAKWELL STUNNED BY LEE'S CLINICAL FINISH

A rare away win and a classy goal to settle the result. Palace returned from Barnsley with pride well and truly intact and three excellent points in the bag. The pundits were looking slightly confused - 3-2 to Palace? Most had Shipperley and Dyer down to score a couple each with Geoff Thomas coming off the bench to notch a late fifth. Forget it. The Eagles were well worth the win. "It was a really pleasing afternoon's work," said striker and match-winner Lee Bradbury. "For us to go to Barnsley and claim all three points was really good. I was obviously pleased to get on the scoresheet myself - it was an excellent win."



touch on the shot and kept it out. They were two goals we did not deserve to concede. But we played well as a team and showed plenty of spirit to keep coming back. Clinton did well, noticed my run and put it into my path. I thanked him after the game."

## JUST REWARD

The decisive third was just reward for Bradbury's hard work. He has had his problems since moving to Selhurst Park for £1.5 million just under a year ago - most of them have been well and unfairly publicised - but the goal may have put him back on

course. It will have helped to obliterate the painful memory of the season's opener here in south London. "I was absolutely gutted," he said, recalling the penalty miss against Crewe. "I've been practising my penalties all pre-season, training hard to get them right and then, when it came to the actual game I went and missed it. Obviously the rebound came down off the bar as well. You just have to put it behind you and try and forget what happened."

The miss was untypical of the striker's pre-season form. He had netted consistently both in China and in the Eagles' friendlies, most notably against Premiership Leicester City here at Selhurst. That calm, controlled finish past goalkeeper Pegguy Arphexad suggested the goals would flow once the season was underway. Bradbury still hopes they will.

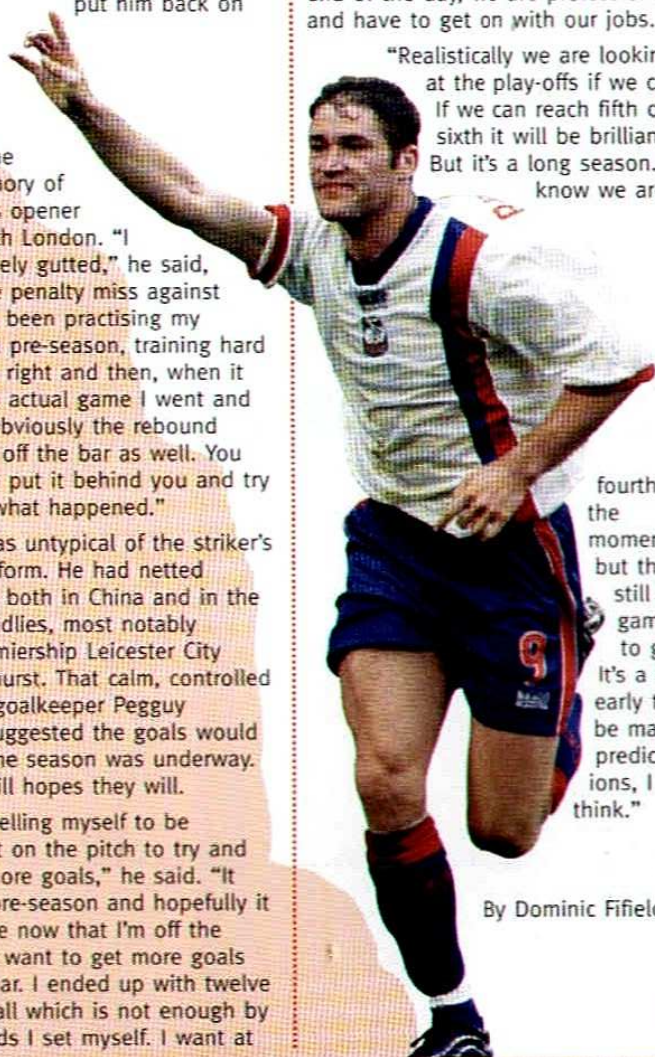
"I've been telling myself to be greedier out on the pitch to try and get some more goals," he said. "It worked in pre-season and hopefully it will continue now that I'm off the mark. I just want to get more goals than last year. I ended up with twelve goals over all which is not enough by the standards I set myself. I want at

least fifteen this time around.

## LOAN SPELL

"It has been difficult to settle. Last year I went off to Birmingham on transfer deadline day after things were beginning to click. The loan spell went well. I spoke to Trevor Francis at the end of the season and he said he would be taking me on this year - he'd come in and make an offer for me. For some reason he didn't do that. That was his decision. But really I just want to settle down here. I've moved around too much in my short career - I did well when I was at Portsmouth and was reasonably settled. I want to get a house down here and stay at Palace." For the moment, the striker is hoping the early season form can bring another three points this afternoon. With spirit bolstered by the win at Oakwell, he is chomping at the bit to get at Swindon Town. "The lads have tried to put the financial side of things in the background and get on with the matter in hand," he said. "The problems will blow over some time, it's just a matter of when. At the end of the day, we are professionals and have to get on with our jobs."

"Realistically we are looking at the play-offs if we can. If we can reach fifth or sixth it will be brilliant. But it's a long season. I know we are



fourth at the moment, but there's still 43 games to go! It's a bit early to be making predictions, I think."

By Dominic Fifield

## CONTROVERSY

But the win was not without an element of controversy. Ignoring the Tykes' claims of off-side against Clinton Morrison when Dean Austin thumped home the second, both home goals could easily - should easily - not have stood. The first, a penalty, was generous. The second, off the cross bar and out, bordered on the scandalous.

"I was behind the penalty incident, but it looked as if Jolly and Craig Hignett were shoulder to shoulder," admitted the former Portsmouth and Manchester City man. "He got into the box and fell over. The referee fell for it as well and gave a penalty. Then their second goal didn't cross the line. It bounced down off the line, back on to the crossbar and back out again. Fraser Digby did well to get a





THOSE WERE THE DAYS

# PALACE FIZZ WITH SEVEN UP AGAINST THE ROBINS

**O**n Good Friday 19th April 1935, Palace entertained Swindon Town at Selhurst Park. Following a six goal victory against Newport six days earlier, the Palace supporters found themselves cheering on their favourites to another comprehensive win, this time going one goal better as they won 7-0.

Crystal Palace, chasing that elusive promotion place at the top of Division Three South, began the game in the way they had finished the previous week. Almost from the first kick, centre forward Albert Dawes raced away leaving the Town defenders in his wake and promptly scored. He then repeated the same feat nine minutes later. After a quarter of an hour it was 3-0 as Frank Manders found the net with the best shot of the game and before the break James Purdon and Manders again gave Palace an insurmountable advantage. One Palace fan enjoying this impressive victory was Charles Hussey who was celebrating his ninety-first birthday from his accustomed seat in the stand.

## TOP FORM

The Palace defence was also in top form with good work coming from the full-backs Ted Owens and Ossie Parry which ensured that most Swindon attacks broke down before their

forwards got within shooting distance. With centre-half Jimmy Wilde keeping Fowler at bay, goalkeeper Ronnie Dunn had little to do, and any shots that came his way were straight at him.

Swindon reshuffled their forward line for the second half and fought gamely. However, they had the misfortune to lose a man through injury and they could not prevent Palace taking their tally to seven with a couple of goals from our left-winger Bob Bigg. His first came from a header, while his second saw him putting the finishing touches to a goalmouth scramble after the ball had hit the post.

The spectators at the game had, as usual, been entertained by the Crystal Palace Band, who had played a selection of popular tunes. Season ticket holders had paid £3 3 shillings (£3 15p today) for a seat in the main stand with ladies and boys (what about the girls!) being charged £2 2 shillings (£2 10p). It cost 6d (2 1/2p) to park your car at the ground and even in those days it was managed by National Car Parks Ltd! For those thinking of buying a house, a semi-detached property at Gladeside, between Addiscombe and Shirley, would cost £650 and to furnish it a three-piece suite started at £15 with a bed priced from £3.

## SIMPSON'S RETURN

Any pressure Palace had put on the teams above them in the table with this emphatic scoreline was removed by losing at home to Exeter the following day. However, for the return game at the County Ground on the following Bank Holiday Monday afternoon, Peter Simpson returned to the Palace forward line, having missed the previous two home matches. He partnered Albert Dawes, who moved to inside left, and after twenty-five minutes he opened the scoring from Purdon's pass - his first goal for two months. Again it was the Palace team



PETER SIMPSON

that was the most impressive and midway through the second half, Briggs, the Robins goalkeeper, pulled off a magnificent save to deny Dawes. Unfortunately, though, a moment's lapse of concentration allowed the Wiltshire side to equalise through Tom Armstrong and the faint flicker of promotion that had existed three days earlier was now snuffed out with this 1-1 draw.

The match also transpired to be Simpson's last game for Crystal Palace as he did not feature in the remaining two fixtures and was transferred to West Ham in the summer. The Scotsman had joined us from Kettering in 1929 and scored 165 goals in 195 first team appearances, which included a hat-trick on his debut. He is still the Eagles' leading goalscorer and his 54 league and cup goals in one season will surely never be beaten.

## THE 1934-35 SEASON

Manager Jack Tresadern was beginning his fourth full season in charge and, as with the others, the Palace fans held hopes that this might be the one for gaining promotion from Division Three South. Favourite Albert Harry had now hung up his boots after thirteen years, which was mostly spent on the right wing, and eyes were on his replacement in Scotsman Jimmy Carson from Bradford. Other new faces were full-back



RONNIE DUNN

THOSE WERE THE DAYS





ALBERT HARRY

Ted Owens who joined in a rare Palace deal with Preston North End and went on to remain with the club until after the War, while the outside left berth was filled by Bob Bigg, a local man from Thornton Heath who joined the club from Redhill. Forward Albert Dawes had netted sixteen times from the twenty-two games he played the previous season and it was his partnership with the prolific Peter Simpson, who had been absent since February through injury, that held most expectations. In recognition of his services to the club, Simpson was awarded a benefit match at Selhurst Park on the afternoon of Wednesday 31st October. It is of interest to note here that in these days before floodlights, matches were played on Wednesday afternoons in an era when shops had a half-day each week.

## DEBUT GOAL

Bigg started off in perfect fashion, scoring on his debut in the first game at Aldershot



JACK TRESADERN

which ended in a 2-2 draw, while in our first home game of the campaign against Cardiff on 1st September Albert Dawes scored five of the goals in the 6-1 victory. It was evident that, due to injury, Simpson was not as sharp as he used to be and Tresadern began to use him in a more withdrawn role as a decoy. This fact was borne out by the results for the first sixteen games in which he scored only seven goals, while twelve came from Albert Dawes and another dozen came from the wings. For a number of weeks the manager was unable to observe the results of this strategy as he broke his leg while taking part in a training match in late October. Tresadern had to remain at home well into the New Year as reports were brought to him of the players and matches.

## FRUSTRATING CAMPAIGN

In the league it looked as if Crystal Palace might make an issue of the championship. However, a cup humiliation at Yeovil, where we lost 3-0 on November 28th, coupled with heavy defeats at Reading (1-6) and Torquay (1-7) in December, seemed to knock some of the stuffing out of the side. Charlton finished champions and were promoted having proved their superiority to Palace in mid-February by defeating us 2-1 at Selhurst Park in front of our biggest crowd of the season. It must have been yet another frustrating campaign for the fans as the club, who had shown on its day that it was capable of playing exhilarating football and producing some emphatic victories, ended in fifth place. With Simpson's scoring prowess on the wane, it was left to another player to stake his claim here. Twenty-year-old Frank Manders, who came into the side in September, took up this role and was ever present from then on, scoring fourteen goals. Manders had made his debut when he was just seventeen, but this was his first extended run in the side. Such were his performances that he soon came under the scrutiny of other clubs, and in fact left the following October for Norwich who paid a then club record fee for his services. Another player

who made his mark during the season was Nick Collins, who played in his first match in September. He went on to rank amongst the finest wing-halves the club has ever had.

At the end of the season, besides Simpson leaving, manager Jack Tresadern moved across London to take charge at Tottenham. In retrospect, it could be considered that his time at Palace should have been more successful, given the quality of players available at his disposal.

P42 W19 D10 L13 F86 A64  
Points 48 Position 5th

By Ian King

## PALACE V SWINDON

## FIRST GAME

13.10.1906 3-2 HOME  
S. LEAGUE

## BIGGEST HOME WIN

19.4.1935 7-0 DIV. 3 (S)

## BIGGEST AWAY WIN

1.11.1952 6-3 DIV. 3 (S)

## BIGGEST HOME DEFEAT

31.12.1910 2-5 S. LEAGUE

## BIGGEST AWAY DEFEAT

4.12.1926 1-6 DIV. 3 (S)  
23.12.1961 0-5 DIV. 3

## HIGHEST HOME ATTENDANCE

24,184 26.8.1961 HOME

## LOWEST HOME ATTENDANCE

4,000 15.10.1919 S. LEAGUE

## HIGHEST AWAY ATTENDANCE

17,619 6.9.1947 DIV. 3 (S)

## LOWEST AWAY ATTENDANCE

4,642 15.4.1933 DIV. 3 (S)

## LAST SIX HOME LEAGUE GAMES

D W W W L L

## LAST SIX AWAY LEAGUE GAMES

W D D L W L

## LEAGUE RECORD

	P	W	D	L	F	A
HOME	38	23	10	5	86	33
AWAY	38	7	12	19	45	72





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**SATURDAY 4TH SEPT KICK-OFF 3.00PM**  
**SHEFFIELD UNITED v CRYSTAL PALACE**



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The trip to Yorkshire starts at 8.30am and the fare is £16.20 for season ticket holders and official Palace supporters' club members and for non members it's £18.

**NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE**  
**SATURDAY 11TH SEPT KICK-OFF 3.00PM**  
**MANCHESTER CITY v CRYSTAL PALACE**



Our first match of the season against one of the promoted sides sees us making the journey to Maine Road. The fare is £16.20 for season ticket holders and official Palace supporters' club members and for non members it's £18.00. The departure time is 8.30am.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO BOOK EARLY FOR THE COACHES TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT.**

## THE OFFICIAL PALACE SUPPORTERS' CLUB

This year there are even more benefits as a Palace member and we show here the details of our three types of membership currently available for this season.

### ADULTS £20



\* £2 DISCOUNT ON TICKETS FOR HOME LEAGUE GAMES BOOKED PRIOR TO MATCHDAY. (APPLIES ONLY TO MEMBERS TICKET.)

- Club shop discount 5% on cash/cheque transactions over £5 (excludes sale goods and videos)
- 10% discount on club coaches to away matches.
- Priority booking facility
- Free admission to home reserve games.
- Pre-match admission to Crystals
- Members' forums
- Collectable annual Palace pin badge (adult members only)
- Palace news delivered (from time to time) to your door.

### JUNIOR EAGLES £15 5-16 YEAR OLDS



- Membership welcome pack
- Bi-Monthly junior newsletter
- Signed Christmas card
- Exclusive Junior events and activities competition

### BABY EAGLES £10 0-4 YEAR OLDS



- Baby welcome pack
- Baby Eagle certificate
- Free entry to CPFC Baby Eagle of the season competition

**MEMBERSHIP DOES NOT GUARANTEE ADMISSION IF THE STADIUM OR A PARTICULAR SECTION IS FULL TO CAPACITY.**

**APPLICATION FORMS AVAILABLE FROM SELHURST PARK STADIUM.**

**FOR MEMBERSHIP FORMS AND FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT THE BOX OFFICE ON 0208 771 8841 OR CALL IN DURING OPENING HOURS 9.30AM UNTIL 5.00PM (Weekdays)**





## WORTHINGTON CUP 1ST RND 2ND LEG

Crystal Palace v  
Colchester United  
Tuesday August 24th  
1999 Kick-Off 7.45pm  
Adults £10 Concessions £5.  
**ALL UNDER 16'S GAIN ADMISSION FOR £1.**

Season ticket holders' seats will be held for this match until 5pm on Saturday 21st August 1999.



Tickets for this match are currently on general sale.

## NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Sheffield United v  
Crystal Palace  
Saturday September 4th  
1999 Kick-Off 3.00pm.  
Seats Adults £14 Concessions £8.



## NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Crystal Palace v Grimsby Town  
Saturday September 18th  
1999 Kick-Off 3.00pm  
Ticket prices: See panel below.  
The tickets for this match are currently available to members only; they go on general sale from Monday 23rd August 1999.



## NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Crystal Palace v  
Portsmouth  
Saturday October 2nd  
1999 Kick-Off 3.00pm.  
Ticket prices: See panel below.  
Tickets are currently on sale to members only and will go on general sale from Monday 6th September 1999.



## NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Huddersfield Town v  
Crystal Palace  
Saturday August 28th  
1999 Kick-Off 7.45pm.  
Seats Adults £13  
Concessions £7  
There are no tickets available prior to the match. They will only be available on the day at the McAlpine Stadium.



## NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Crystal Palace v  
Wolverhampton Wanderers  
Tuesday August 31st  
1999  
Kick-Off 7.45pm  
Ticket prices: See panel below.



## BOOKING YOUR TICKETS

Box Office Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 9.30am-5.00pm  
Saturday (matchdays) \*9.00am - kick-off and after the match.  
(\* When Wimbledon are at home, CPFC enquiries can only be dealt with between 9.00am and 12 noon)

Telephone bookings: Box Office 0208 771 8841 Press 1 upon connection and please have your membership and credit card details ready.

Calls may be monitored to ensure high quality of service. A booking fee applies.

Tickets ordered by credit card may be collected from the main box office up until three hours prior to kick-off. After this time, those pre-ordered tickets are available from the ticket collection point.

For after hours booking (24 hours) please call ticket master on 0207 413 3555. Please note that only certain blocks are available on this service and no membership discount can be offered (there may be a restriction on the number of tickets available per transaction). A per transaction booking fee, plus handling charge applies.

## FAX THE BOX OFFICE DIRECT ON 0208 653 4708.

Ticket and travel information line: For general ticket & travel information 24hrs a day, please phone the Palace Infoline on 09068 400 334.

Please note that calls to this service are charged at 60p a minute at all times.

## NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Crystal Palace v  
Ipswich Town  
Saturday October 9th  
1999 Kick-Off 3.00pm  
Ticket prices: See panel below.  
Tickets are currently on sale to members only and will go on general sale from Monday 13th September.



## SELHURST PARK BOX OFFICE

0208 771 8841

Mon to Fri 9.30am - 5pm  
Saturday from 9am on  
Palace matchdays

## MATCHDAY PRICES 1999/2000 SEASON

### MAIN STAND

Stanley Stephenson/Players/Glaziers Lounge	£25
Senior Citizens/U16 (all Lounges)	£15

### ARTHUR WAIT STAND

Adult	£20
Senior Citizen/U16	£12

### WHITEHORSE LANE STAND

Adult	£16
Senior Citizen/U16	£9

### HOLMESDALE STAND

Upper Tier (gallery) (no concessions)	£21
Upper Tier	£19
Lower Tier	£16
Senior Citizen/U16	£9

### FAMILY AREA

#### MAIN STAND (BLOCKS A & J)

Palace Club Member	£16
Senior Citizen Member	£9

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL CLUB MEMBERS WHO PURCHASE TICKETS PRIOR TO THE DAY OF THE GAME WILL RECEIVE A £2 DISCOUNT ON MATCHDAY PRICES. THESE REDUCTIONS DO NOT APPLY FOR CUP MATCHES.

FOR ALL MEMBERSHIP DETAILS, PLEASE SEE PAGE 46 OF TODAY'S MATCH PROGRAMME.

# BOX OFFICE



## PLAYER FEATURE

**E**ven by Palace standards, the nineties have been an unpredictable and exhilarating adventure for supporters of Swindon Town. Well, at least until the last few years. There have been promotions, demotions, play-offs wins, constant thrills and spills; there has been the slick, glorious passing styles imposed by Ardiles and Hoddle; there has been the agony of financial irregularity, ruining so much promise; there has even been the frailest defence in Premiership history.

More recently it's gone a bit stale in Wiltshire. The passing has dried up, the fans preferring to stay away while their side battles it out to hold its own in the First Division. Even the return of the Prodigal Son in Jimmy Quinn has failed to lift the depressing gloom which has been mounting over the County Ground.

### CHANGING ATMOSPHERE

For Fraser Digby, between the sticks for Palace this afternoon, it must be a depressing sight. The Robins goalkeeper of over a decade moved on when it became clear the atmosphere was changing in the Swindon dressing-room. It was a wrench to leave, but the time was right. From the Eagles training ground at Streete Court, Digby has charted the plight of his former club. "I still keep an eye on what's happening down there," he admitted last week. "I've got a lot of friends still at the club and don't live too far away. I keep abreast of it. It was a pity to go out like I did. Steve McMahon was manager at the time and I didn't feel at ease with signing another new deal. It wasn't right for me.

"I wasn't happy down there and the whole atmosphere was spoiling the good times I had had at the County Ground. Then Terry Fenwick rang me up and said he'd like me to come down to Palace. I jumped at the chance. I knew it would be difficult to dislodge Kevin Miller, but I had played over 500 games for Swindon anyway and thought it was a great new challenge. When Kevin got injured at the start of the season, the chance came a little bit sooner than I had expected."

Digby enjoyed an extended run in the team while Miller recuperated and then struggled to break back on to the scene. Events this term suggest his place in the starting line-up could be even more permanent; Miller has

# FRAZER DIGBY



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walked out and jeopardised any chance he may have had of playing for Palace again.

## ROLLER-COASTER RIDE

Looking back at his time at Swindon, Digby can be forgiven for sounding nostalgic. "I had quite an eventful time really," he mused. "I spent twelve years there and we had a real roller-coaster ride; we had some great years and some dire years. Lou Macari brought me to the club first of all and we got promoted. We'd been promoted with a record number of points the year before and, after he bought me, we went up again."

"Fraser Digby will be received with great affection on Saturday as he is regarded very highly in Swindon," said Graham Reeves, a die-hard Robin and creator of the club's unofficial web-site. "The fans did not want Fraser to go, but there were contractual disagreements with Town's then manager Steve McMahon. At shot stopping he is one of the best in the country."

But the talented young goalkeeper was no product of the County Ground youth system. His formative years were spent at Old Trafford under the eyes of Big Ron Atkinson: "Lou brought me in on loan initially from Manchester United, but one of the reasons I signed for the Town was because Ron Atkinson got the sack at Old Trafford. Alex Ferguson came in and said he'd give me the same opportunity as everyone else, but I was enjoying my football down at Swindon. I was in the first team and we were near the top of the old Third Division. We ended up getting promoted in the play-offs."

Turning his back on the Ferguson revolution, which would take some years to bear fruit, a permanent move to Swindon was sealed. Digby's decision should be put in perspective - the Robins were enjoying a new lease of life under Macari, while the intense, desperate pressure to mount a realistic league challenge at Old Trafford was building up.

## TERRIBLE EXPERIENCE

At the County Ground, success followed success. "We had a few more good years with Lou - we played Palace a couple of times in the play-offs along the way," he said. "Then he went to West Ham and Ossie Ardiles came in. We went up into the old First Division, but because of financial irregularities we were actually relegated immediately back into the Third Division. We were reinstated into Division Two, but that was a terrible experience. We had played some brilliant football that year and it was all



wasted."

To have won at Wembley, celebrated promotion, but suddenly find yourself a division worse off must have been devastating. "It proved too much for Ardiles. Ossie moved on a year later after the disappointment of not being promoted," he recollected. An adequate replacement was waiting in the wings. "Then Glenn Hoddle came along from Monaco. He was still playing then, but tactically he was very aware. A couple of years with him and we were promoted to the Premiership. That was superb."

The demotion aside, these were the golden years for Swindon Town. Once they had stopped chuckling into their pints, even Oxford fans must have acknowledged the outstanding quality of some of the Robins football. They passed teams off the pitch. On their day they were untouchable. With Kevin Keegan's Magpies running riot at the top of Division Two, Swindon went to St James' Park and outplayed the Geordies, emerging with a nil-nil draw when they deserved more. This was champagne stuff.

## ATTRACTIVE FOOTBALL

"When Ossie came in he brought his own players in to play his style of football - on the ground. That's the way he liked it. Glenn came in and adapted it to what he wanted and we did play some attractive football."

"I actually went back to Man United on loan over Christmas during Glenn's spell at the club," said Digby. "I worked with Schmeichel - that was amazing - before going back to the County Ground in January. We got to the play-offs again and beat Leicester 4-3 in the final. It was probably the best game of football I've seen. The two play-off finals were both special - we beat Sunderland 1-0 in 1990 and then Leicester. That was a memorable game. They were both incredible experiences. That was the best time, really."

Of course, the Premiership experience under John Gorman was somewhat chastening. The return trip to Tyneside, a year on, produced a 7-1 mauling and, when Leeds scored five at the County Ground on the last day, Swindon had conceded 100 league goals. At least Digby had the consolation of missing most of the campaign: "I missed a third of the season when we were in the Premier League. We conceded a record amount of goals, but it was a good experience and one that you want to resurrect really."

Presumably the Premiership experience was more appealing than picking the

ball out of the back of the net every five minutes. Amid the debris of the next few years - successive relegations began to take their toll - Digby remained loyal, even when he might have looked for a move back to the big-time. After all, he was an England under-21 international who had threatened to make it at a higher level.

## GOOD CAREER

"When I left United for Swindon I had four under-21 caps and I was due to play for England B to play Italy at Brighton," he said. "Unfortunately, we had an ongoing cup game against Bolton so I couldn't join up with the squad. If I'd moved from Swindon to another club a bit earlier then who knows what might have happened? Look at Nigel Martyn. He was at Bristol Rovers but got a move to Palace and now he's a full international playing for Leeds. He went that way while I stayed at Swindon - you just don't know with football. I've had a good career and hopefully I've got some good times to come here."

No longer a first choice stopper, Digby moved on at the end of the 1997/98 season. He was given a memorable send-off. "The fans at Swindon were different class with me," he smiled. "I was there for so long and did my best and the supporters were marvellous. They turned out for my testimonial and virtually filled the County Ground, which doesn't happen too often these days. They were really good and I enjoyed my time down there. Hopefully I can develop the same rapport down here and we can have similar success."

This afternoon, Digby will be reunited with old friends from the County Ground. "One of my best friends at Swindon is the manager this afternoon - Jimmy Quinn," he said. "I played with him when he was at Swindon first time around, but there were also the likes of Duncan Shearer, Colin Calderwood. Glenn and Ossie were obviously special, but we had some good players down there."

As for the game itself, there's revenge to be exacted. Last season Digby was welcomed as a returning hero to Wiltshire, even if his new team's display was desperately disappointing. The Robins hardly broke into a sweat before running out 2-0 winners, so the Eagles have a point to prove today.

"We were disappointed with that game really," added Digby. "We had a couple of decisions which went against us early on - Lee Bradbury scored a goal that was disallowed for off-side. I didn't really want to go back there and lose - I'd have settled for a draw - but they were something of a bogey team for us last year. They did the double over us, so I think we've got a little bit of a score to settle this afternoon."

By Dominic Fifield

# PLAYER FEATURE





# **CRYSTAL PALACE**

## **FOOTBALL CLUB**



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## **SPORTING DINNER**

Thursday 16th September 1999

Crystals Banqueting Suite, Selhurst Park Stadium

We are delighted to announce our first dinner of the new season

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# SIMON'S JOLLY GOOD SHOW DELIGHTS FANS

The dictionary definition of hero is as follows:

someone of superhuman strength, courage or ability, favoured by the gods and distinguished by the performance of extraordinarily brave or noble deeds; an illustrious warrior. It may be going too far to state that Simon Rodger fits into all these categories (even the most ardent fan would be pushed to describe the spiky-haired

midfielder as a brave warrior and the number of injury problems the former Bognor Regis player has suffered during his career pretty much rules out any blessings from the heavens). However, the 27 year old has certainly transcended the ordinary during his time at Selhurst Park.

## ADORED

It is not entirely obvious why Rodger is adored the way he is. There have undeniably been more flamboyant, crowd-pleasing and, to be brutally honest, better players during the nine years he has spent at Selhurst Park, but the fact remains that he is loved by the Palace faithful. There are a plethora of plausible reasons for his popularity: his tenacity in the tackle, the fact that he, along with manager Steve Coppell, represents a link back to glory years of the early nineties when Palace swept aside all that came before them to finish third in the old First Division and, perhaps most likely, his loyalty to the club despite the turmoil that has enveloped Palace in the past few seasons. Leaving aside the brief loan spells at Stoke and Manchester City, Rodger has become a fixture in the Selhurst dressing room, notching up over 200 appearances for the club since turning professional in 1990. Two weeks ago, Jolly endeared himself still further to the fans with a typically pugnacious display in the heart of the Palace midfield - crowning his performance with a thundering shot that whistled into the top of the net before Crewe goalkeeper Jason Kearton could get a hand near it. The ecstatic celebrations, carried out in



front of the Holmesdale End that loves him the most, told their own story.

## DELIGHT

"It's great to get on the scoresheet as I don't get too many," said Rodger, speaking after the game with Alexandra. Indeed he doesn't - that strike was only the ninth of his Palace career. A strike rate of one per year

does not, Simon admits, look too good in the record-books: "I probably should get a few more, but not scoring many means that they are all the more special when they do go in. It was nice to score on the first day and, in particular, in front of the home fans. Hopefully, I can grab myself a few more before the end of the season." The goal was, maybe, a way of saying thank-you to the fans who had cheered him from the start of the league's opener. After all these years, does the supporters' adulation still have a big effect on the likeable Rodger? "It's always great to hear your name being chanted," he confirmed. "It gives you a great lift on the pitch and enables you to play with that extra 10% which can make all the difference."

## DISAPPOINTMENT

Rodger's performance apart, however, Palace were disappointing against Dario Gradi's side. A frustratingly soft goal was conceded with just five minutes remaining and the dream start was rudely snatched away - something that annoyed Rodger as much as anybody else. "It was

disappointing," he commented. "We didn't pick the Crewe men up well enough and that gave their striker a relatively easy chance. It happened quite a lot last season and we need to sort it out on the training pitch before it becomes a habit this term." Perhaps not surprisingly, given the problems that have cast a shadow over Selhurst Park in the past few months, the bookies have predicted a season of struggle for the Eagles. However, it is a view not shared by either the Palace squad and especially Rodger: "We've got some very good players. We have a nice mixture of youth and experience in the team and, provided we get the team spirit we had at the end of last season and work hard in training, we shouldn't have too many problems."

## LOYAL SERVANT

Simon's signing of his new contract was made all the more pleasing because it guarantees him a testimonial season next year - a just reward for nine years of faithful service to Crystal Palace. "It's a nice bonus," he admitted. "The fans have supported me all the way throughout my career and hopefully they can come out and support me again next season for the testimonial." Rodger shouldn't worry unduly - there can be few more certain things in football.

Andrew Fifield



PLAYER FEATURE





## Crystal Palace Study Support Centre



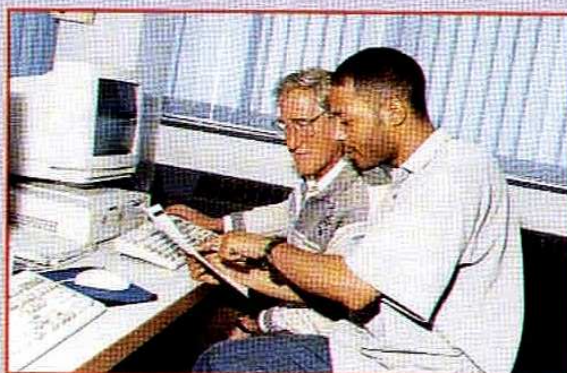
We are delighted to announce that Croydon Council's Award winning Adult Education Service (CETS) is coming to the Crystal Palace Study Support Centre from September. This will be a fantastic opportunity to learn new computer skills, surf the net or gain a qualification using excellent facilities and equipment.

### Introduction to PC's:

Learn to use a computer confidently and understand the basic concepts of word processing, spreadsheets and databases. Tuesday or Thursday mornings, 10-12.30 for 10 weeks at a cost of only £55.25 (discounted fees are available).

### Introduction to the Internet:

Learn to connect to the Internet; using E-mail; access, search and print information from the World Wide Web and create a simple Web Page. Monday or Wednesday Mornings, 10-12.30 for 5 weeks at only £31.50. For more information and to enrol please phone 0990 561 630



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

## PROGRAMME MONTHLY & FOOTBALL COLLECTABLE

### Programme collecting for Non-Anoraks

*A series of articles by the Editor of Programme Monthly & Football Collectable Magazine describing the different varieties of programmes that can form a collection.*

#### 1. Setting the Scene

The very fact that you are reading this programme puts you into one of the four categories of programme collector - potential, latent, casual or confirmed. The purpose of this series of articles is to convert those programme buyers from the first two categories into casual or confirmed collectors by describing the different types (sets) of programmes, and by highlighting the pleasures that can come from collecting football programmes.

A collection can be of any size, however modest or impressive, and can cost as much or as little as you want to spend on it. There are no barriers to entering the programme buying market, therefore, where you will find avid collectors from all walks of life. Subscribers to "Programme Monthly", for instance, include solicitors, accountants, actors, schoolboys and girls, students, housewives, farm labourers, factory workers, teachers, business executives - and an MP from Mauritius. So it's not simply a case of "You've bought the programme - now wear the anorak!"

"What do I collect?" is not usually a question which

arises in the early stages of a programme collection, which is first formed by the accumulation of programmes from various sources, mostly from the first few years of attending football matches. If the collecting "bug" bites, then anything and everything will be voraciously added to a collection, and it is only when ambitions are limited by the availability of funds, that thought will have to be given to specialisation. The composition of each collection is unique to its collector, so there are endless variations of collecting themes, but there are accepted basic building blocks, and these will be described over the course of the season in this series of articles. As well as describing the "sets", and the pitfalls and pleasures to be encountered en route, we will try to point out what to look for in terms of value and collectability and perhaps give existing collectors - and those who accumulate programmes but don't consider themselves to be collectors - some ideas towards widening their horizons and deriving more pleasure from the hobby.

Most casual collectors will have a handful of "landmark" programmes in their possession - cup finals and semi

finals (if their team has been fortunate enough to aspire to these heights), internationals, testimonials, special fixtures, major cup ties - each of which provides an interesting and achievable set to collect. The regular supporter may make the point of buying a home match programme; those who follow the team away from home will take this a stage further, and the more committed fans could extend this to friendly fixtures, foreign tours - all without leaving the confines of your favourite club. To expand horizons, you could go back in years, setting an earliest date (1950, 1960, 1970, 1980 for example) and collecting programmes back to that starting point.

Someone with a wider interest in football could collect other clubs, other leagues (perhaps venturing into non-league), other countries - the possibilities are endless, and each will be covered over the course of the coming season.

"Programme Monthly & Football Collectable" contains at least 128 pages each month on all aspects of football collecting. The current edition is available priced £2.10 (inclusive of postage) from 46 Milton Road, Kikcaldy, Fife, KY1 1TL; or send 8 x 1st class stamps.



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## FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY



with Terry Byfield

The sponsorship of this scheme has received an award under the Government's Business Sponsorship Incentive for Sport



## GIRLS FIVE-A-SIDE

In June we held another successful girls only five a side tournament that was held at Norman Park in Bromley, Barclays Bank supported the event. The tournament had twenty teams competing from Bromley and surrounding boroughs and it produced a morning of football, which was of the highest quality.

The final saw Worsley Bridge School (pictured right) overcome Crofton Junior School 4-0 to lift the trophy. Tournament co-ordinator and girls development officer Richard Kyle was pleased with the day's events, "It was pleasing to see how much quality of football was played by the girls and how they have progressed from the initial tournament. It is obvious that great strides are being made in the

development of female players at a very young age."



## SPECIAL NEEDS FUND DAY

The Bromley community scheme, in conjunction with McDonalds, Barclays and Sports Match, ran its second annual special needs fun day at Majorie McClure School in Chislehurst during the summer term. Four local schools were invited to take part in this continued development of the Bromley scheme.

Majorie McClure, Woodbroke, Rectory Paddock schools from Bromley and St Giles school from Croydon each entered two six a side squads to take part in the day's activities which included table football, hardest shot and a six a side

competition.

The overall winners for the second year was the Majorie McClure School and trophies were presented to the table football and hardest shot winners. At the end of the day, each child was given a goody bag supplied by the sponsors.



Majorie McClure school team, winners of the six a side competition.

## SATURDAY SOCCER

Mini soccer is an ideal introduction to football for children of all ages as it provides opportunities for more contact with the ball and, as such, children have an increased opportunity to develop their techniques.

Croydon football in the community operate a number of mini soccer centres throughout Croydon on a Saturday morning - just turn up and pay as you play at £2 per session at one of the following centres.

Ashburton High School	9.30am - 11.00am
Byron Junior School	9.30am - 11.00am
Regina Coeli Junior School	10.00 am - 11.30am
Selhurst Park	9.30am- 11.00am
Woodcote Junior School	9.30am - 11.00am

For further information or address of venue, please call 0181 768 6063.

## PALACE PROMOTION

The Bromley scheme has recently announced four new girls sides with monthly coaching from the Bromley development officers. The matches have been very competitive and the highlight of the season has been promotion for the senior girls side.

**Seniors:** The girls have had an outstanding season gaining promotion for the second consecutive campaign to the First Division of the Greater London League. With outstanding performances by Emily Wells and Ruth Cory, the girls finished top scorers having netted in almost every game.

**U14:** They have had an up and down season, losing many players at the start of the campaign. It took most of the autumn months to replace the players. This showed in the results, as they won most of their games after Christmas. A special mention to Leanne Reidy who, for the

second season running, won the Player of the League award and Victoria Wells who was again top scorer for the season.

**U12:** As the season progressed and the new players settled, it appeared that the campaign took better shape. The girls had better form after Christmas, finishing the season with some good results. The top scorer for the season was Jade Shortall.

**U10:** This was a newly formed side this season. The whole campaign was spent recruiting new players. They played friendly games and won them all.

The club are currently looking for new players to continue its development, if you are interested in playing for the Palace or you would like to get involved with women and girls soccer, please contact either Christine on 01689 811396 or the community office on 0208 768 6066.

## SUMMER COURSES

Our popular summer courses continue through August and September for boys and girls aged between 6 and 13. The venues in Croydon are Ashburton High School, Monks Hill Sports Centre, Selhurst Park Stadium, Lewis Health Works, Woodcote School and Fairchild's School. For further details please call 0208 768 6063.



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FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY





## HE PLAYED FOR BOTH CLUBS

**D**espite enjoying a successful career at both club and international level, Paul Bodin has had to suffer the indignity of being remembered as the man whose missed penalty denied Wales a place in the 1994 World Cup finals. For too long the Welsh had been considered the bridesmaids of international football, but with a forward line that boasted the likes of Giggs, Hughes, Rush and Saunders, they had come within one win of qualifying for the tournament. Their vital game against Romania was poised at 1-1 when they were awarded a spot-kick which Bodin stepped up to take - only for the Swindon left-back to smash the ball against the crossbar. "It's often said that I cost Wales their place because I missed the penalty that would have put us 2-1 up, but we had to win that game and there were still 34 minutes left after my kick. I did miss a penalty - there's no disguising that - but I'll never admit that I cost Wales the game, although that moment is obviously one of the biggest disappointments of my career. It's football and it's hard to take at the time, but I also scored the penalty in the play-off final for Swindon that won us promotion against Leicester so I know both sides of the coin. I just consider myself lucky to have played in the Welsh side that got so close to qualifying for the World Cup because we are always ranked so low that to qualify we have to beat two recognised countries in our group. A lot of people ask why we never go further with players of the calibre of Giggs and Hughes, but to be honest apart from the attackers who were world-class the rest of the lads were just good, honest pros."

## GOOD, HONEST PRO

That description is a fitting one for Paul who enjoyed a fine start to his career with Cardiff City before joining Swindon in 1987 via Newport County. At the time it would have been impossible to predict that Swindon would go on to reach the heights that they did.

"Swindon was quite similar to my two previous clubs, although the facilities were a little better. At the time it was quite a small town itself - now it's absolutely booming - and I wasn't really that aware of them. Your interest in a club is

only aroused when they show an interest in signing you and it wasn't until I looked around the changing room that I realised that there were a lot of good players at the club like Jimmy Quinn, Steve White - who's now my assistant at Bath - Colin Calderwood, Alan McLoughlin and Fraser Digby. Lou Macari had assembled a very good side on limited finances."

Swindon spent the next couple of years forging a reputation as one of the best young sides in the division before mounting a serious challenge for promotion in 1988/89. In April they confirmed their status as the danger side of the division by beating Palace 1-0 in a tense encounter at the County Ground. Fate decreed that the two sides would meet again in the play-off semi-finals.

"Palace were a very strong side and were unlucky not to get automatic promotion, but we won the home leg 1-0 and quite fancied ourselves to win the tie. However, at the end of the day, they deserved to go through. We had a few injuries that night and Steve Foley and Tom Jones played despite needing operations. From that moment on Palace just went from strength to strength."

## DENIED PROMOTION

While Paul had to sit out much of that season due to the form of Phil King, he was a permanent fixture in the side the following year when Swindon won through to the play-offs again. This time they were successful and beat Sunderland 1-0 in the final, but a number of financial irregularities behind the scenes led to the Football Association taking the unprecedented step of refusing them entry to the top flight.

"It was devastating. There were one or two things going on, but they weren't major financial things. We were only a little club so we were only talking about small amounts of money and bonuses, but the Inland Revenue found out about them. Lou Macari left the club and Ossie Ardiles came in, but it was still going on. The players put it to the back of their minds and won promotion through the play-offs and during the course of that time our chairman, Gary Herbert, spoke to the FA and they assured us that we'd be allowed to go up. When we beat Sunderland we hired an open top bus and had a great reception in Swindon only to find out three weeks later, when I was on my

holidays, that it had all been taken away. It took a long time for us to recover and we were nearly relegated the following season. Everybody's chins were on the ground - not only the players, but the supporters too."

## PALACE MOVE

The wait to play in the top flight would not prove to be a long one for Paul as Crystal Palace came in for him with a £550,000 bid. Personally the move looked to be a very good one as in his own words, "Palace were a very progressive club and had assembled a very good team", but his time at the club was to turn sour as Steve Coppell left him out of the side time and time again.

"I did think that if they had shelled out that amount of money for me then I'd obviously be in their plans, but I signed while I was injured and when I was fit again I couldn't really force my way back into the team."

Paul eventually made his Palace debut in an evening game against Spurs and excelled in a 1-0 win. The fans had become accustomed to the side's direct style of play but yearned for better quality football so Paul was welcomed with open arms. Although he went on to play in the remaining games of the 1990/91 season, he found himself on the sidelines at the start of the following campaign much to everyone's surprise.

"I've got a picture at home of me marking Paul Gascoigne on my debut and the caption underneath the photo said that, although I'd had an excellent game, Steve Coppell felt that I played too much football. I tend to agree with that and think that sometimes that was the case. I'd always played football on the floor and perhaps, in terms of being a full-back, I did overplay. Steve must have thought that I'd change but I didn't."

## QUICK RETURN

While the Palace fans had clearly taken Paul to their hearts it was clear that the manager felt that Richard Shaw was better suited to the team's style of play. Having played just one more game for the club he made his final bow alongside Ian Wright and Perry Suckling in a 3-2 win at Oldham before returning to Swindon.

"Personally it was a great experience living up in London and playing for a big club, but it never really worked out. I've no regrets. I think that football careers are too short to be worrying about the negatives. It was a great move and boosted my international career and, although it was a different style of play, I would have hoped that I could have





adapted to it. Unfortunately I don't feel that I was ever given that opportunity. I never fell out with the management. Steve Coppell is a very quiet man, but Alan Smith was probably my biggest ally and would take time out to talk to me. He was very helpful and often invited the players round to his house for a few drinks while Eddie McGoldrick was also a good lad. I lived in Coulsdon and he lived near me and he was the one that invited me round to his place and helped me to settle in. It's a different world in London so he was very good."

## BOYHOOD HERO

Having avoided relegation, Swindon had slowly begun to re-establish themselves after their recent troubles. Ossie Ardiles had left the club and Glenn Hoddle had taken his place for his first managerial role in the game.

"Glenn really turned us around and playing in the same side as him was a fantastic experience. I've always been a Spurs fan so that was something I'll never forget. His ability was unbelievable. He was as fit as a fiddle and the sweeper system that we played was perfectly suited to him. He found the time on the ball he wanted at the back and his pinpoint passing was a pleasure to watch. In the end we all felt that he might leave because he was such a success. To get Swindon up was a great achievement and, although I'm sure he saw us as a stepping stone, we felt that he might give it a go after winning promotion."

What followed in the Premier League was nothing short of horrible. While Swindon won a load of friends with their free-flowing football, they won few points and suffered a predictable relegation.

"I wouldn't say that we were outplayed in a lot of those games although we lost most of them, but we possibly overplayed at times. In the Premier League the strikers are so clinical that we'd make a mistake, go one down, and end up chasing the game. We enjoyed it though and got some good results, although most of those came away from home. We drew with Tottenham, Arsenal, Sheffield Wednesday and Liverpool, but we probably weren't strong enough. That's what happens when you take the spine out of a team. Colin Calderwood went to Tottenham, Glenn Hoddle left for Chelsea and Dave Mitchell went abroad and that really cost us."

## BATH MANAGER

A subsequent relegation followed for the Robins before Steve McMahon led them back up to Division One. However, having played his part in this success, Paul ended his association with the club by joining Reading. He spent two seasons there before embarking on a managerial career of his own.

"I'd been at Reading for a couple of years and my first season there was very good, but a new manager came in and he made it clear that I didn't figure in his plans. Bath came in for me towards the end of the 1997/98 season and they had to get somebody in quickly because contracts were up. I'd been coaching youngsters for three or four years so I felt that it was a natural progression and that I couldn't really turn the job down. It's totally different to playing and there are no half measures. You have to put your mind and body into it and that's what I've done. It's what I want to do and if you're not totally committed then you won't succeed."

Tom Maslona

# PAUL BODIN







### GOLDEN EAGLES CLUB

This year's AGM will take place at the Fairfield Halls in Croydon on Monday 18th October 1999. Tickets will be available for members soon. A booking form will be forwarded with your new Golden Eagle card this month, along with a voting slip for your Player of the Year and Young Player of the Year.

Only Members whose payments are completely up to date will be eligible to be entered into the main draw where the 1st prize is £25,000 and the 2nd prize is £5,000. There will also be spot prizes drawn during this evening.

You can join the Golden Eagles Club for only £2 per week, and a contribution from your membership goes directly towards Crystal Palace's future by helping to develop the Youth Academy at Streete Court (pictured).



Each week you can win the first prize of a holiday for two at our exclusive villa at La Manga in southern Spain, or the second prize of a cheque for £750. There

are also consolation prizes each week varying from £10 to £25. Other benefits available to members include:

- 5% discount off a season ticket or £2 off your own ticket for home league games
- Priority bookings for match tickets (tickets will be on sale eight weeks before home games where possible)
- 10% discount at the Club Shop (apart from sale goods or videos)
- Entry into members bars on match days
- Palace News delivered

Members are able to purchase a number of assorted vouchers to enable them to make savings on everyday items, such as shopping from Sainsburys or children's items from Mothercare, Childrens World and BHS using Storehouse vouchers. Furniture Village can help to furnish your home with their discount offer and the Fairfield Halls always offer entertainment for everyone should you wish to purchase vouchers through us at the Golden Eagle office as a present. Just phone the voucher line and your vouchers will be ready for collection in 48 hours.

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SAINSBURY'S SAVACENTRE	5%		



"Hi, this is David Jensen, chairman of the Golden Eagles Club. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our members to today's game against Swindon. If you require any further details about this club, and the wonderful range of benefits of being a member, then please ring 0181 768 6000.

*David Jensen*

### GOLDEN EAGLES WEEKLY DRAW WINNERS

W/C 5/07/99 WEEK No 45		W/C 12/7/99 WEEK No 46		W/C 19/7/99 WEEK No 47		W/C 26/7/99 WEEK No 48	
La Manga	3261	La Manga	169	La Manga	255	La Manga	1878
£1500	3410	£1500	2419	£1500	1061	£1500	159
Holiday	393	Holiday	351	Holiday	1367	Holiday	1217
2552	1921	563	821	3099	1723	4416	2131
2525		300		859		265	
£750	2978	£750	3508	£750	3838	£750	1690
1316	2066	1017	4330	614	2060	2570	24
Gold £25	Bronze £10	Gold £25	Bronze £10	Gold £25	Bronze £10	Gold £25	Bronze £10
829	2380	249	3300	551	4459	96	1996
410	2034	2656	2251	1898	53	2127	1374
1667	1662	3588	3665	1106	2494	1606	1667
2056	2237	2838	1763	1951	3035	541	623
3608	1230	1783	2435	2323	2379	3026	1453
	471		378		1046		4459
Silver £15	1685	Silver £15	2663	Silver £15	1049	Silver £15	1133
1828	1150	2217	2520	4093	1081	1052	1042
4843	1412	3336	1897	1422	3630	982	562
4427	2697	1685	3673	181	58	2903	555



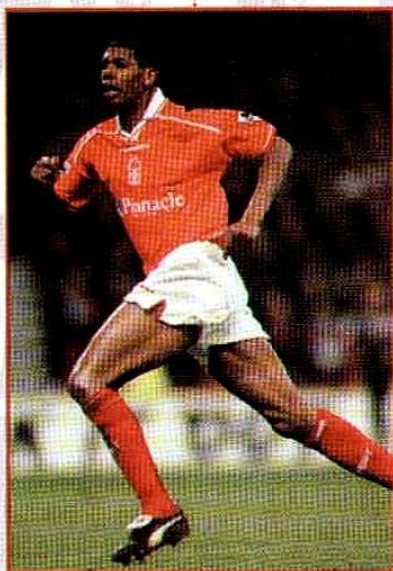


## GAME OF THE WEEK: PORTSMOUTH v STOCKPORT COUNTY

On paper, this clash on the south coast would scarcely cause a ripple of enthusiasm, but a glance at the league table confirms the unlikely fact that this is an early season top-of-the-table match. County have made their best start to a season in fifty years under the management of Andy Kilner, opening their account with three points at Grimsby and following it up last week with a late winner against Tranmere. No less surprising is the auspicious start of Pompey who had record signing Rory Allen to thank for a well-earned draw at Wolves, building on their first week success over Sheffield Utd. Alan Ball was thrilled to bits with the performance, highlighting the new-found confidence of the team. "To come to Molineux and gain a point is a big achievement for us," he said. "We only won one away game last season, which was a disgrace. On the balance of chances I think we could easily have won. At the end I was sorry we didn't take three points." Whether he will be in such a positive frame of mind come Christmas remains to be seen.

Early-season pacesetters and play-off perennials Ipswich Town hope to see the prolific form of striker David Johnson continue against Bolton Wanderers at Portman Road this afternoon. After their 4-1 demolition of today's visitors in front of the cameras and the excellent opening day win over Nottingham Forest, they fully merit their position at the top. Forest, meanwhile, faced West Brom at the Hawthorns in last night's televised encounter. Both teams notched their first wins last weekend, although ex-England hero Platt may have to rethink his half-time team talk as he admitted after his side's 2-1 win over Grimsby, "I had nothing to say to the players at half-time because they had been that good." The Mariners promptly equalised immediately after the break, and it was only an 87th minute strike from Carlton Palmer that spared the manager's blushes. Fellow Premiership old boys Blackburn Rovers have found it difficult to adjust

to the demands of the Nationwide League and have claimed only one point so far in the campaign. They will be praying for the early recovery of strikers Ashley Ward and ex-Palace favourite Magic Jansen. The latter pledged his future to the club amid speculative interest from Old Trafford and Highbury, but his injury woes continue with a bruised kidney ruling him out of the visit of Barnsley. Charlton's start has been hindered by only having played one game which saw the Valiants overcome the poor Tykes with a hat-trick from Clive Mendonca at The Valley, but they will hope to continue their dream of a fast-track straight to the Premiership with a win over Norwich today. Of the three newly promoted teams, Walsall will be the most pleased with their start as two draws with Sheffield United and Swindon see them rubbing shoulders with



CARLTON PALMER

Fulham and looking down the table at Manchester City. Ray Graydon's side will be hoping that their pint-sized striker Mark Robins will adjust quickly to British life after his adventure with Greek side Panionios and lead them to victory against Crewe. Fulham must make the long journey to the Lincolnshire coast to face Grimsby, and Maine Road hosts the visit of early-season strugglers Sheffield Utd. Huddersfield Town boss Steve Bruce paid his own side a backhanded compliment when commenting on his team's 3-2 win against Blackburn last week saying, "I think whoever finishes above them will be there or thereabouts at the end of the season." Many critics' outside tip for reaching the play-offs this year, the Terriers must travel to Prenton Park and face a Tranmere side which has yet to chalk a win in this year's campaign. After an encouraging start, Gerry Francis refused to come back down to earth after QPR's defeat last Saturday against Bolton Wanderers at The Reebok Stadium: "The defeat is a bit hard to take because we had chances to equalise, and were unlucky hitting the bar and the post. I feel sorry for my players. They worked hard and deserved something out of the game - maybe a win." In order for their luck to change, they will have to stop teenage

sensation Robbie Keane, who has single-handedly earned Wolves four-point tally with goals against Manchester City and Portsmouth. The travelling Molineux faithful will be praying that their Irish diamond's early-season gleam will not attract undue attention from Premiership suitors, as the rest of the side has yet to fire on all cylinders. Today's last game sees near neighbours Birmingham City entertain Port Vale, who will hope that their opening draw against Blackburn is not the highlight of their season.

By Chris Waters

## THIS WEEKEND'S OTHER FIXTURES

### FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

**SATURDAY, 21ST AUGUST**  
CHELSEA v ASTON VILLA  
COVENTRY v DERBY  
EVERTON v SOUTHAMPTON  
LEEDS v SUNDERLAND  
MIDDLESBROUGH v LIVERPOOL  
NEWCASTLE v WIMBLEDON  
SHEFF WED v TOTTENHAM  
WATFORD v BRADFORD  
WEST HAM v LEICESTER

### SUNDAY, 22ND AUGUST

ARSENAL v MAN UTD

### DIVISION ONE

**SATURDAY, 21ST AUGUST**  
BIRMINGHAM v PORT VALE  
BLACKBURN v BARNSELY  
CHARLTON v NORWICH  
GRIMSBY v FULHAM  
IPSWICH v BOLTON  
MAN CITY v SHEFF UTD  
PORTSMOUTH v STOCKPORT  
QPR v WOLVES  
TRANMERE v HUDDERSFIELD  
WALSALL v CREWE

### DIVISION TWO

**SATURDAY, 21ST AUGUST**  
BLACKPOOL v GILLINGHAM  
BOURNEMOUTH v COLCHESTER  
BRISTOL ROVERS v OXFORD  
BURY v BRENTFORD  
CHESTERFIELD v CAMBRIDGE  
NOTTS COUNTY v SCUNTHORPE  
OLDHAM v BURNLEY  
READING v LUTON  
WIGAN v BRISTOL CITY  
WYCOMBE v PRESTON

### SUNDAY, 22ND AUGUST

STOKE v MILLWALL

### DIVISION THREE

**SATURDAY, 21ST AUGUST**  
BRIGHTON v TORQUAY  
CARLISLE v HARTLEPOOL  
CHELTENHAM v HULL CITY  
EXETER v ROTHERHAM  
HALIFAX v PLYMOUTH  
LINCOLN v BARNET  
MACCLESFIELD v SWANSEA  
PETERBOROUGH v LEYTON ORIENT  
SHREWSBURY v DARLINGTON  
SOUTHEND v MANSFIELD  
YORK v ROCHDALE



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## COLCHESTER UTD

Home

Second Leg

Worthington Cup

Tuesday, 24th August

7.45 pm

First leg finished 2-2

Key Player - **Jason Dozzell**  
(midfielder)



As any regulars at Selhurst Park over the last few seasons will tell you, one of the Eagles' most annoying tendencies has been to concede late goals which end up costing us crucial points.

How refreshing it was at Layer Road two weeks ago, then, when Palace were themselves saved by a last minute Nicky Rizzo equaliser. The diminutive midfielder spared the blushes in Essex, meaning that Colchester will need to attack in the second leg.

And attacking has, recently, been something of a problem for 'The Us'; with just one league goal scored in their opening two matches, Mick Wadsworth's men will no doubt still be reeling from a crushing 3-0 home defeat at the hands of Notts County last Saturday. This relatively poor start to their campaign is in no way indicative of some of the quality in their line-up; Sagi Burton won many admirers at Selhurst Park last season, with his level-headed performances at the back, and Brian Launders was once a prolific goalscorer in the Palace youth and reserve sides.

Elsewhere, Jason Dozzell is at the heart of an impressive midfield. The journeyman ex-Ipswich star is of a proven Premiership pedigree, having served both Ipswich and Tottenham at the top level. Now that Palace have the all-important away goals to bring back to Selhurst, the pressure is surely on Colchester to bring the game to us.

Expect an open game.

## HUDDERSFIELD

Away

Saturday 28th  
August, 3pm

Current league  
position - ninth (two  
matches played)

Key Player - **Marcus Stewart** (striker)



Last season's trip to Huddersfield was one which travelling Palace fans would rather put behind them - after a long journey, the Red and Blue

Army witnessed a 4-0 drubbing at the spectacular McAlpine Stadium, just before Christmas. In hindsight, some consolation can be taken from the fact that it was by no means Palace's worst away effort of the campaign.

This season has brought a variety of new faces in the Terriers' line-up, but it is perhaps the manager's which is the most familiar; Steve Bruce now replaces Peter Jackson, and has already got an impressive victory over Blackburn, the team tipped for a quick return to the top flight. The star of the show on that occasion was Marcus Stewart, who hit a brace to seal the points. The pacy striker will no doubt be the scourge of many First Division defences this season.

But Bruce has also invested wisely with summer signings - in Kenny Irons, brought from Tranmere Rovers, he has a highly

experienced midfielder, who will no doubt strengthen a midfield which could already boast quality in the likes of John Dyson, who had an impressive campaign last year. Scott Sellars, a recent transfer from Bolton, will also be looking to boost Huddersfield's promotion challenge. When Clyde Wijnhard, a pacy striker with a keen eye for goal, is added to the equation, this one could be a stern test for the Palace defence. Let's hope they can withstand it.

## WOLVES

Home

Tuesday, 31st August  
1999, 7.45pm

Current league  
position - seventh  
(two league matches  
played)

Key Player - **Robbie Keane** (striker)



Wolverhampton manager Colin Lee was, surely, distraught at losing Steve Bull over the summer months. The veteran former England international finally hung up his boots last season, after a prolific

thirteen years at Molineux.

But finding a replacement has not proved difficult for Lee, as, in Robbie Keane, he has a striker with similar eye for goal, not to mention energy and tenacity. Indeed, the meteoric rise of the young Irishman has provoked interest from a number of teams, eager to offer Keane a chance at top-flight football.

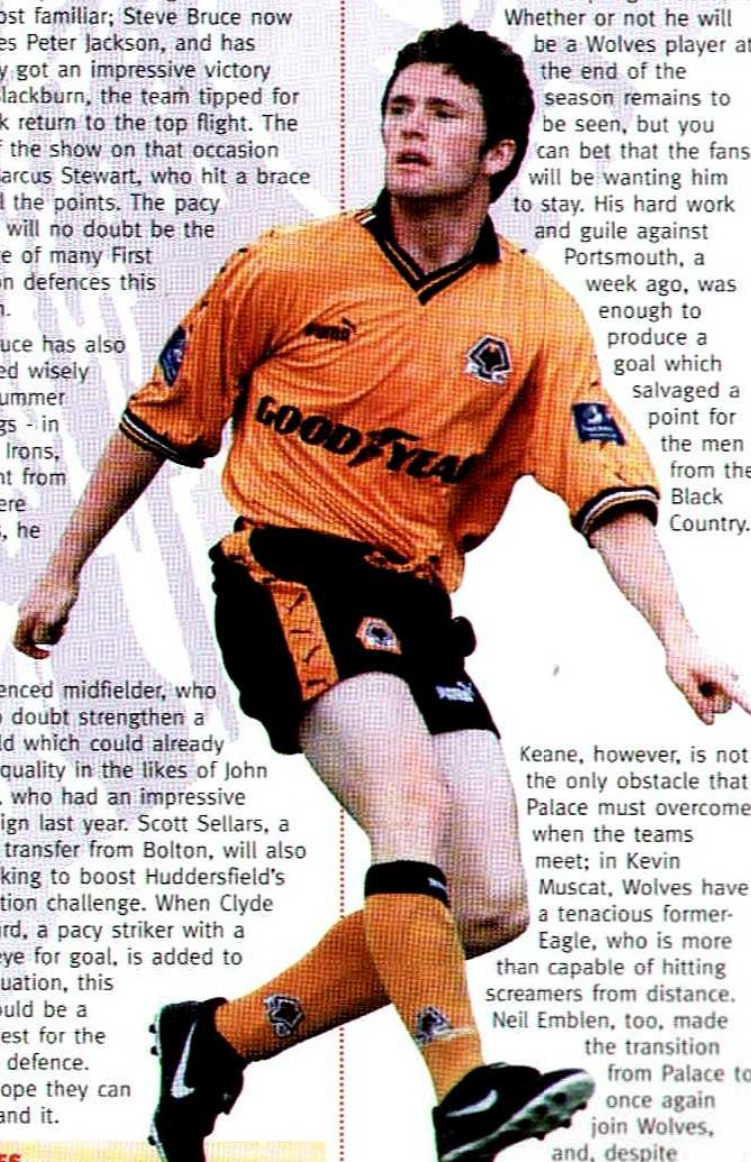
Whether or not he will be a Wolves player at the end of the season remains to be seen, but you can bet that the fans will be wanting him to stay. His hard work and guile against Portsmouth, a week ago, was enough to produce a goal which salvaged a point for the men from the Black Country.

Keane, however, is not the only obstacle that Palace must overcome when the teams meet; in Kevin Muscat, Wolves have a tenacious former-Eagle, who is more than capable of hitting screamers from distance. Neil Emblen, too, made the transition from Palace to once again join Wolves, and, despite

perhaps not having the time he would have wanted to truly prove himself at Palace, remains a more than capable stopper. The Premiership experience of Steve Sedgley and Andy Sinton in the midfield should also contribute to an quality Wolves line-up. Perhaps we can hope for a rerun of the five-goal thriller at Selhurst last season; on that occasion, the Eagles stole all three points.

Richard O'Connor.

*At the time of writing, Robbie Keane was still at Wolves. However, a £6 million fee had been agreed with their Midland rivals, Coventry.*



FORWARD VIEW





## Opta Head to Head

## Simon Rodger and Mark Walters



New Palace skipper Simon Rodger has enjoyed a breathtaking start to the new season after securing a new contract with the Eagles.

In nine previous seasons at Selhurst Park, 'Jolly' had managed only eight goals in all competitions for Palace, but after two Nationwide Football League matches in 1999-2000, Rodger is the club's top scorer having netted in both games.

The club's longest serving player is clearly relishing his new role in the centre of midfield. Against Crewe, Nicky Rizzo played at left wing while at Barnsley, Andrew Frampton filled in at left wing back, leaving Rodger in the middle of the park alongside Hayden Mullins.

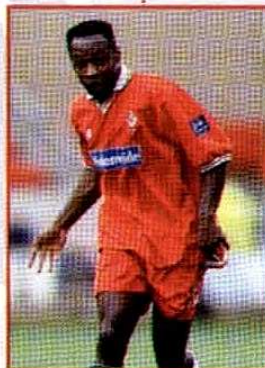


In today's match with Swindon, he goes head-to-head with experienced Swindon midfielder Mark Walters, who has also had a fine start to the new campaign, despite Town's stuttering form.

We've asked player performance analysts Opta Index, the official statisticians to the Nationwide Football League, to run the rule

over the pair – and the figures highlight the two men's strengths perfectly.

Walters, a key figure in Swindon's 0-0 draw with promoted Walsall on the opening day of the season, was surprisingly left out of the starting line-up for the 4-1 televised hammering by Ipswich Town. Even though he has only played 120



pass completion rate, Palace's passing has been somewhat below par so far this term and Rodger's 61 per cent figure is actually above the average for the Eagles' squad, but some way below the sort of ratio you would expect for a midfielder.

On the other hand, the captain's crossing has been exemplary, with an above-average 33 per cent of all centres finding a red and blue shirt.

There was no better example than at Barnsley, when Rodger's in-swinging corner was met by Dean Austin's bullet header. The goal was even more remarkable given that it was Palace's only corner of the game!

Both men have a reputation for being feisty in the tackle, but neither has yet been booked and, indeed, the only foul Rodger has

committed was the challenge on Craig Hignett at Oakwell which led to Barnsley's dubious penalty at the end of the first half.

It may be the likes of Clinton Morrison and Iffy Onuora that grab the headlines this afternoon, but you can be sure that Rodger and Walters will be in the thick of the action. A Palace win over Swindon is long overdue, of course; Town completed the 'double' over Steve Coppell's men last season.

CARLING OPTA

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Opta Head to Head  
Simon Rodger v Mark Walters  
1999-2000 Nationwide League Statistics Only

	Rodger Walters			Rodger Walters	
Minutes on Pitch	180	120	Dribbling		
Goal Attempts			Dribbles and Runs	4	1
Goals	2	0	Dribble Completion	100%	0%
Shots on Target	2	2	Defending		
(inc goals)			Tackles Made	4	12
Shots off Target	2	0	Tackles won	75%	58%
Blocked Shots	0	1	Blocks	1	0
Passing			Clearances	3	8
Goal Assists	1	0	Interceptions	1	1
Total Passes	59	31	Discipline		
Pass Completion	61%	90%	Fouls	1	3
Crossing			Offside	0	0
Total Crosses	9	3	Yellow Cards	0	0
Cross Completion	33%	0%	Red Cards	0	0

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With John McBride (Association of Football Statisticians)  
Up to and including Sun 15th August 1999

## a statistical review

**ATTENDANCES** **ENGLISH LEAGUES 1999/00**

DIVISION ONE	PLD	AVGE	AV.98/99
BARNLEY	1	14,461	16,269
BIRMINGHAM	1	24,042	20,794
BLACKBURN	1	20,530	25,773
BOLTON	1	13,019	18,240
CHARLTON	1	19,268	19,816
CREWE	0		5,269
CRYSTAL PALACE	1	13,664	17,123
FULHAM	1	16,754	11,387
GRIMSBY	1	5,528	6,681
HUDDERSFIELD	1	13,670	12,976
IPSWICH	1	20,830	16,920
MANCHESTER CITY	1	31,755	28,261
NORWICH	1	15,261	15,761
NOTTM FOREST	1	17,121	24,415
PORT VALE	1	7,891	6,991
PORTSMOUTH	1	17,667	11,973
QPR	1	13,642	11,793
SHEFF UTD	1	12,581	16,243
STOCKPORT	1	6,555	7,900
SWINDON	1	6,195	8,651
TRANMERE	1	7,674	6,930
WALSALL	1	6,437	5,457
WEST BROM	1	16,196	14,585
WOLVES	1	21,024	22,620

TOTALS			
PREMIER	27	29,968	30,580
FIRST	23	14,859	13,666
SECOND	24	7,143	7,554
THIRD	24	4,165	3,821
GRAND TOTALS	98	14,513	12,493

UP TO AND INCLUDING SUNDAY 31 AUGUST

NOTE: Calculations are mostly based on first published attendance.

### GOAL STATISTICS - All Divisions 99/00

**GOALS - AVERAGE PER MATCH**

Div	Gls	Matches	Avg	98/99 Avg
Premier	72	27	2.67	2.52
First	56	23	2.43	2.63
Second	61	24	2.54	2.46
Third	51	24	2.13	2.54
TOTAL	240	98	2.45	2.54

### GOAL DIFFERENCE

Div	Best		Worst	
Premier	Man Utd	+6	Sheff Wed/Newcastle	-5
First	Ipswich	+5	Swindon/Barnsley	-3
Second	Wigan/Notts County	+3	Scunthorpe	-4
Third	Brighton	+7	Mansfield	-7

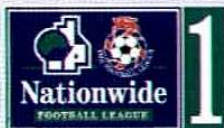
### GOALS SCORED

Div	Best		Worst
Premier	Man Utd	7	Coventry/West Ham
First	Ipswich	7	Man City
Second	Wigan	6	Oldham/Scunthorpe
Third	Brighton	8	Northampton/Chester/ Mansfield

**GOALS CONCEDED**

Div	Best	Worst	
<b>Premier</b>	Aston Villa/West Ham	Newcastle	8
<b>First</b>	8 clubs with	1 Barnsley	6
<b>Second</b>	Notts Co/Brentford/ B. Rovers	0 7 clubs with	4
<b>Third</b>	Darlington/Rochdale/ York	0 Mansfield	7

## RESULTS and FIXTURE DATES

[illegible]

The dates of those matches scheduled for live tv coverage are followed by x

The A.F.S can be found on the Internet. The address is:- <http://www.innotts.co.uk/~soccerstats/>



KEY: ▲ ● ■ = Corresponding symbols show player substituted and his replacement. 1 = Red figures denote goal and number of goals scored. \* = denotes player sent off



DATE	OPPONENTS	K.O. F-A	CROWD																			
SAT 7 AUG	CREWE ALEXANDRA	3PM D 1-1	13,667	Digby	Smith	Frampton	Mullins	Unghan	Austin	Carlisle	Rizzo	Morrison	Bradbury	Rodger	Tuttle	Thomson	Gregg	Martin	Evans	Mr J. Kirby	Mr W. Burns	
Sat 14 Aug	BARNLEY	3PM W 3-2	14,461	Digby	Smith	Frampton	Mullins	Unghan	Austin	Woolley	Thomson	Morrison	Bradbury	Rodger	Rizzo	Thomson	Svensson	Gregg	Harris	Mr J. Kirby	Mr W. Burns	
SAT 21 AUG	SWINDON TOWN	3PM																				
Sat 28 Aug	HUDDESFIELD TOWN	3PM																				
TUE 31 AUG	WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS	7.45																				
Sat 7 Sep	Sheffield United	3PM																				
Sat 14 Sep	Manchester City	3PM																				
SAT 21 SEP	GRIMSBY TOWN	3PM																				
Sat 28 Sep	West Bromwich Albion	3PM																				
SAT 5 OCT	PORTSMOUTH	3PM																				
SAT 12 OCT	IPSWICH TOWN	3PM																				
Sat 19 Oct	Birmingham City	3PM																				
Wed 26 Oct	Blackburn Rovers	7.45																				
SAT 23 OCT	TRANMERE ROVERS	3PM																				
TUE 26 OCT	WEST BROMWICH ALBION	7.45																				
Sat 30 Oct	Portsmouth	3PM																				
Sat 6 Nov	Bolton Wanderers	3PM																				
SAT 13 NOV	QUEENS PARK RANGERS	3PM																				
Sat 20 Nov	Port Vale	3PM																				
TUE 23 NOV	NORWICH CITY	7.45																				
SAT 27 NOV	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	3PM																				
Sat 4 Dec	Crewe Alexandra	3PM																				
SAT 18 DEC	FULHAM	3PM																				
Sat 26 Dec	Charlton Athletic	3PM																				
TUE 28 DEC	WALSALL	3PM																				
Mon 3 Jan	Stockport County	3PM																				
SAT 15 JAN	BARNLEY	3PM																				
Sat 22 Jan	Swindon Town	3PM																				
SAT 29 JAN	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	3PM																				
Sat 5 Feb	Wolverhampton Wanderers	3PM																				
SAT 12 FEB	SHEFFIELD UNITED	3PM																				
Sat 19 Feb	Nottingham Forest	3PM																				
Sat 26 Feb	Grimsby Town	3PM																				
SAT 4 MAR	MANCHESTER CITY	3PM																				
TUE 7 MAR	BOLTON WANDERERS	7.45																				
Sat 11 Mar	Norwich City	3PM																				
SAT 18 MAR	PORT VALE	3PM																				
Wed 22 Mar	Queens Park Rangers	7.45																				
SAT 25 MAR	CHARLTON ATHLETIC	3PM																				
Sat 1 Apr	Fulham	3PM																				
SAT 8 APR	STOCKPORT COUNTY	3PM																				
Sat 15 Apr	Walsall	3PM																				
SAT 22 APR	BIRMINGHAM CITY	3PM																				
Mon 26 Apr	Ipswich Town	3PM																				
SAT 29 APR	BLACKBURN ROVERS	3PM																				
Sun 7 May	Tranmere Rovers	3PM																				
WORTHINGTON CUP																						
Tue 10 AUG	1st rd, 1st leg Colchester United	7.45 D 2-2	4,232	Digby	Smith	Frampton	Mullins	Tuttle	Austin	Woolley	Thomson	Morrison	Bradbury	Rodger	Rizzo	Harris	Gregg	Emmet	Martin	Wicks		
TUE 24 AUG	2nd rd, 2nd leg COLCHESTER UNITED-AS																					
Wed 15 Sep	2nd rd, 1st leg																					
Wed 22 Sep	2nd rd, 2nd leg																					
Wed 13 OCT	2nd rd																					
Wed 3 Dec	6th rd																					
Wed 15 Dec	5th rd																					
Wed 12 Jan	SF1																					
Wed 26 Jan	SF2																					
Sun 27 Feb	Final																					
FA CUP																						
Sat 14 Dec	3rd rd																					
Sat 8 Jan	4th rd																					
Sat 29 Jan	5th rd																					
Sat 19 Feb	6th rd																					
Sat 8 Apr	SF																					
Sat 20 May	Final																					
©The Football League Limited 1999																						

WORTHINGTON CUP																						
Tue 10 AUG	1st rd, 2nd leg Colchester United	7.45	B 2-2	4,252	Digby	Smith	Frampton	Mullins	Tuttle	Austin	Woolley	Thomson	Morrison	Bradbury	Rodger	Rizzo	Harris	Gregg	Ednie	Martin	Woolley	
TUE 24 AUG	2nd rd, 2nd leg COLCHESTER UNITED-45																					
Wed 15 Sep	2nd rd, 1st leg																					
Wed 22 Sep	2nd rd, 2nd leg																					
Wed 13 Oct	2nd rd																					
Wed 1 Dec	4th rd																					
Wed 15 Dec	5th rd																					
Wed 12 Jan	SF1																					
Wed 26 Jan	SF2																					
Sun 27 Feb	Final																					
FA CUP																						
Sat 11 Dec	3rd rd																					
Sat 8 Jan	4th rd																					
Sat 29 Jan	5th rd																					
Sat 19 Feb	6th rd																					
Sat 8 Apr	SF																					
Sat 20 May	Final																					


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<b>F.A. CUP</b>																						
Sat 11 Dec	3rd rd																					
Sat 8 Jan	4th rd																					
Sat 29 Jan	5th rd																					
Sat 19 Feb	6th rd																					
Sat 8 Apr	SF																					
Sat 20 May	Final																					

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(ALL HOME MATCHES ARE IN BOLD AND IN CAPS)

**Quiz Answers:** 1. Wales, 2. Ian Wright & Mark Bright, 3. Burnley & Liverpool, 4. 16 years, 112 days, 5. Merthyr Tydfil, 6. Manchester City, 7. The League Cup, 8. The Anglo-Italian Cup, 9. 100, 10. 30 years, 11. Manchester City (84, 91g), 12. Ben Arnold, 13. 1985, 14. Marselles, 15. Four (Man Utd, Liverpool, Notts Fst and Aston Villa).  
**Crossword Answers:** Across: 6. Joe Cole, 7. Forty, 9. Ceiba, 10. Russell, 12. Pete Sampras, 14. The Toon Army, 18. Attends 19. Platt, 21. Potts, 22. Javelin. Down: 1. Poyet, 2. Scythia, 3. Fila, 4. Toss-up, 5. Italian, 8. Runaway, 11. Records, 13. Shut-out, 15. Twenty, 16. Muller, 17. Stein, 20. Ray.  
**Quick Quiz Answers:** 1. Number of defeats in a row (eight - it would have been 11 had it not been for a solitary win at Newcastle), 2. Kevin Miller, 3. Nine, 4. Six, 5. Neil Embien.


  
**Football League**

**1**

# FIRST DIVISION

## TABLE 99/2000

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts					
Ipswich	2	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	4	1	6
Stockport	2	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	6
Portsmouth	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	1	4
C Palace	2	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	3	2	4
Birmingham City	2	0	1	0	2	2	1	0	0	1	0	4
West Brom	2	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	2	1	4
Bolton	2	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	4
Wolves	2	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	4
Charlton	1	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
QPR	2	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	1	1	2	3
Huddersfield	2	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	1	1	3	3
Nottm Forest	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	3
Fulham	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	2
Walsall	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	2
Crewe	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1
Blackburn	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	1
Norwich	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Port Vale	2	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	1
Tranmere	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1
Man City	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Sheff Utd	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Swindon	2	0	0	1	1	4	0	1	0	0	0	1
Grimsby	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
Barnley	2	0	0	1	2	3	0	0	1	1	3	0

Up to and including 19th August 1999



# TEAM CHECK



## Crystal Palace

Manager: Steve Coppell

Colours: Red & Blue  
Shirts, Red Shorts,  
Red Socks



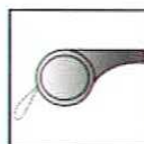
## Swindon Town

Manager: Jimmy Quinn

Colours: Light and Dark  
Blue Shirts and Shorts,  
Light Blue Socks



## TODAY'S REFEREE



**Alan Butler**  
Commenced refereeing  
in the local  
Nottinghamshire  
Leagues and was  
promoted to the Football

League Assistant Referees' list in 1988. Six years later Alan, who is a senior police officer, became a Football League referee. His achievements to date have seen him referee the GM Vauxhall Conference Cup Final in 1995 and was the fourth official for the FA Trophy Final at Wembley earlier this year. Away from football, Alan is interested in DIY, driving, reading and travelling.

### NEXT MATCH AT SELHURST PARK

Worthington Cup First  
Round Second Leg  
Tuesday 24th August 1999  
Crystal Palace v Colchester  
United

Kick Off 7.45pm

### TODAY'S MATCHBALL SPONSORS



### TODAY'S MINI SPONSORS

## PALACE CLUBCALL

PETE THE EAGLE  
SPONSOR

## KCS MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

**PALACE TICKETLINE**  
**09068 400 334**

### PALACE CLUBCALL

**09068 400 333**  
Dial today for all the  
latest news, views and  
interviews

(calls to Clubcall are charged at  
60p/min at all times)

2	Jamie Smith	1	Frank Talia
3	Andrew Frampton	2	Mark Robinson
4	Dean Austin	3	Gareth Hall
6	David Woosley	4	Scott Leitch
7	Hayden Mullins	5	Gareth Davies
8	Fan Zhiyi	6	Craig Taylor
9	Lee Bradbury	7	Bobby Howe
10	Clinton Morrison	8	George Ndah
11	Nicky Rizzo	9	Iffy Onuora
12	Jamie Fullarton	10	Guiliano Grazioli
13	Fraser Digby	11	Ty Gooden
14	Stephen Thomson	12	Alan Reeves
15	Craig Foster	13	Jimmy Glass
16	Matthias Svensson	14	Mark Walters
17	Andy Linighan	15	Chris Hay
18	Wayne Carlisle	16	Lee Collins
19	Leon McKenzie	17	Steve Cowe
20	Richard Harris	18	Steve Mildenhall
21	Matthew Gregg	19	Adam Willis
22	Andrew Martin	20	Charlie Griffin
23	Stephen Evans	21	Sol Davis
24	James Hibbert	22	Robin Hulbert
25	Gareth Graham	23	Philippe Cuervo
26	Stephen Hunt	24	Sam Campagna
27	Sean Hankin	25	Frazer McHugh
28	Stephen Kabba	26	Nicky Burke
29	Roscoe Dsane	27	Jamie Mills
30	Jonathan Boardman	28	Ricky Culbertson
31	Simon Rodger	29	Alan Flanagan

Referee: Mr A.N. Butler

Assistant Referees: Mr G.L. Ives (Yellow Flag)

Mr A.M. Wilkins (Red Trim)

Reserve Official: Mr P.C. Leeds

Official Suppliers to  
**Crystal Palace Football Club**

Saunders Abbott

