

BORN

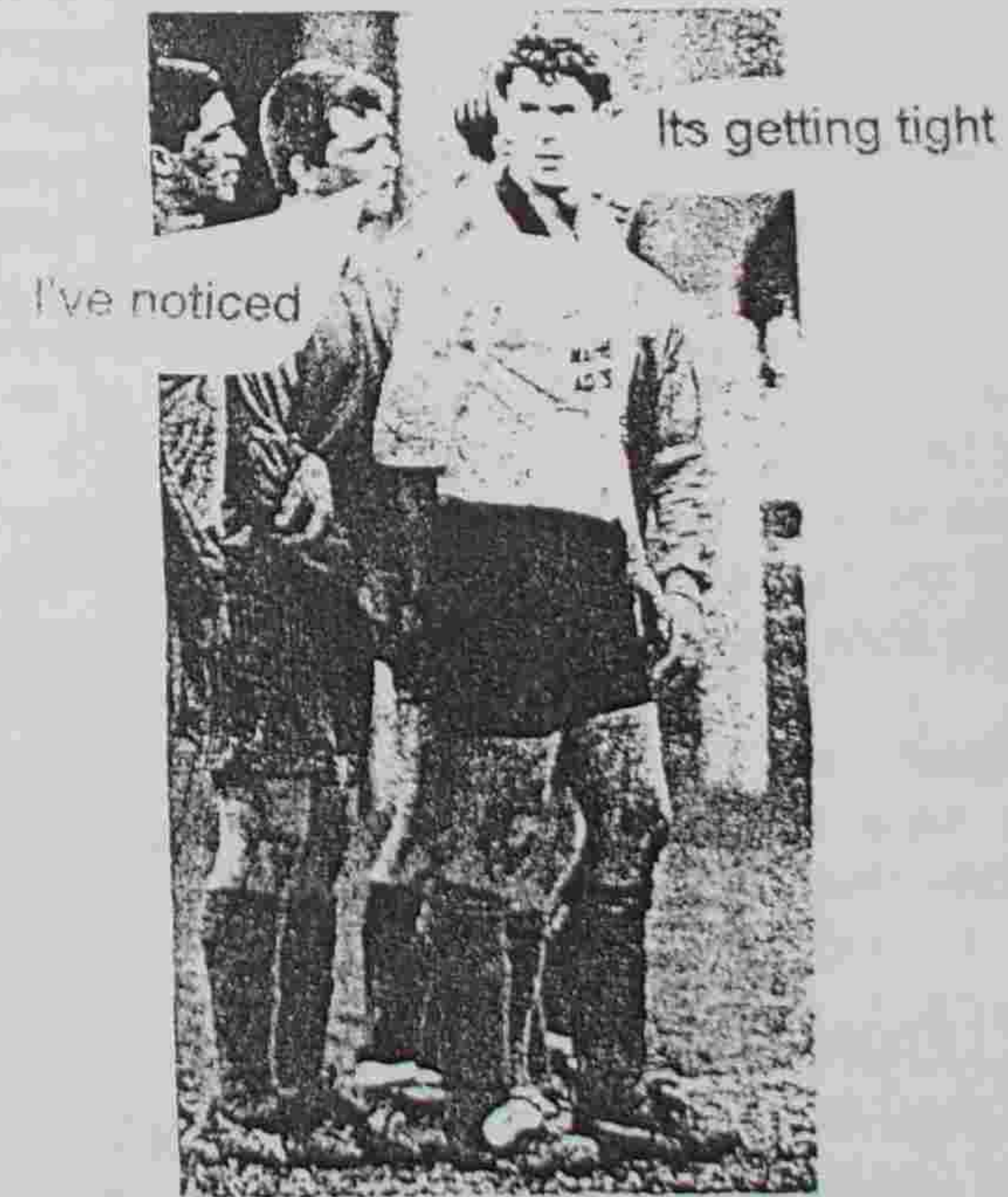
ISSUE 2

& BRED

50P

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TIM COOK'S
VERDICT
ON THE
PROMOTION
RACE



THE MAIDENHEAD UNITED
FANZINE WITH VALUE
ADDED READING

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Issue 2 of Born & Bred, thanks for sticking with us if you bought Issue 1, if you didn't, where the hell were you? This issue carries on in much the same style as the first, focusing on Maidenhead United, whilst reserving some space for Reading, a fair reflection of my supporting habits over the last six weeks. Thanks to all those who have contributed to this issue, I look forward to more forthcoming for issue 3.

A few copies of issue 1 are still available for 75p (inc. p&p) from the address below. Copies may also be available from the club shop, which will hopefully stock this and all other editions. At least two more editions are planned for this season, provisionally they will appear on 25th Feb. and 8th April, subscription to these is available from the address below for just £1 (i.e. p&p free!).

All correspondence will be considered for publication. All articles within reflect only the view of the author, and the right of reply is offered to all concerned. Thanks again for buying this fanzine, the proceeds of which go to Maidenhead United F.C. in the form of goal sponsorship at the rate of £1 per league goal scored (backdated to the beginning of this season). Happy reading.

STEVE JINMAN

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A BELATED THANK YOU FOR HELP WITH ISSUE 1 TO DAVE "CUT AND PASTE" PERKINS, AND RICHARD "CHANGE FOR A FIVER? NO PROBLEM" KELLY.

THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN PRODUCED WITH THE INVALUABLE HELP OF MURDO McLEOD.

EDDIE TORIAL

The subject of this piece is one topical at both York Road and Elm Park at the moment, namely loyalty and commitment. Two qualities which form the bottom line of any supporters critique, how often have you heard the cry of "I don't care what happens as long as so and so shows plenty of loyalty and commitment."

Obviously in the case of Reading I am talking about Mark McGhee, a man whose loyalty and commitment to the club during December was felt by the majority of supporters to be so lacking that his departure to Leicester seems to have cast a shadow of his achievements at Reading which lead to him being arguably the club's best ever manager. However I for one will be giving him a warm welcome if he ever returns to Elm Park as I feel he was let down badly by the club in the six months preceding his departure.

After all where was the board's loyalty and commitment to McGhee, no new improved contract was forthcoming when he brought the championship to Reading, despite only having peanuts to spend on players for three years. Then although crowds had by now more than doubled, the board refused to show their commitment to further progress by providing McGhee with the funds to patch up his injury stricken squad, and furthermore the board went onto betray the fans by telling McGhee to go and talk to Leicester after he had declared his disinterest in the job. Even when his overnight change of heart is considered, it should be remembered that his reward for joining Leicester was the chance to secure his family's future, surely the people he should be showing loyalty and commitment to first and foremost. So good luck Mark and see you in the Premier League next season!

At York Road loyalty and commitment on and off the pitch has been readily forthcoming in recent weeks. Off the pitch Bob Hussey and his team of volunteers (you know who you are), have put some amazing effort over short period of time, installing fences and seats to ensure that all important A grading will be achieved. On the pitch there have been yet more A grade performances with potential defeats turned into draws (Newbury and Staines), and potential draws turned into victories (Ruislip Manor). However throughout this period John Watt has had terrible selection problems with virtually every first team player suffering injury or suspension lately. Yet fringe players such as Franny Araguez, Kevin Brown and Nick Ribeiro have clearly benefited from an extended run in the team and so maintained the promotion challenge with some sterling performances. Also encouraging is the commitment of long term injury sufferers Paul McDowell and Paul Dadson, they are to be found cheering on their team mates without fail every Saturday. Such is the team spirit at Maidenhead currently that it seems success won't elude the Magpies for lack of trying. Support your local team.

STEVE JINMAN

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"Ooo-aaarrrrr!" While Abingdon Town officials repair to the bar, a group of Maidenhead United yobs spy the opponents' chairman's motor in the VIP car park and decide to take it for a joy-ride: "It's quicker than that Skoda we knicked from York Road!"



In the face of mounting criticism of my photographic skills, that I am unable to capture a goal on film, I have decided that it's about time I restored some of my wounded pride and reputation. After only a few hours of diligent searching, I unearthed this picture, which I'm sure you'll agree is a superlative photo of a Maidenhead goal, pin-sharp and clearly showing both posts, the bar, stanchions and net. I hope this puts an end once and for all to these unjust and unfounded allegations and I can now proceed around the ground without fear of suffering hurtful taunts. For those doubters who think this picture must be a one-off, I have plenty like it; interested persons are welcome to take a look at them.

MARK LEONARD (Match Photographer)

BELL END BANTER

MAIDENHEAD 1 (Pratt) WORTHING 0

Another three points gained, from a scrappy affair against a Worthing team who have not lost since. United won thanks to an opportunist goal from Maidenhead's very own version of Paul Warhurst, Vernon "gamekeeper turned poacher" Pratt, who diverted a shot from James Pritchard into the net. The margin of victory looked like being more decisive until Mickey Creighton went off with a back injury, United holding on to their lead despite the appearance of Mark Fatgut sorry Falco.

NEWBURY 2 MAIDENHEAD 2 (Norman, Araguez)

A hardworking performance from the Magpies earned them a point against a Newbury side who were considered by those present to be rather better than their league position suggested, although the game was no way near as one sided as some believed (see THAT MAN TALKS BOLLOCKS 3), Maidenhead nearly winning it with a late effort from Andy Smith. Off the pitch Newbury showed they were at the cutting edge of new stadia design with their portable (I kid you not) terracing, apparently soon you won't have to change ends at half time, ground staff will simply wheel you round.

STAINES 2 MAIDENHEAD 2 (Dadson, McNamee)

Arriving at the ground with Murdo in good time, we paid the ferryman to take us across the lake masquerading as a car park and found ourselves at one of the worst grounds I've ever attended. Barely a blade of grass on the pitch and almost total lack of terracing off it. The state of the pitch spoiled the game, but at least it could honestly be said that Magpies' fans packed the terrace behind the goal.

With United unable to play their usual passing game, Staines dominated with simple but effective tactic of hoofing the ball into the grassy corners, winning a place kick of some sort and then executing their well rehearsed set plays, a ploy which twice gave them the lead, Maidenhead equalising at the end of each half Paul Dadson firing in the first from close range after Vernon Pratt (in his own words), sat on the keepers head, and Peter McNamee doing likewise with just two minutes remaining. However United almost won the game in injury time although Paul McDowell was one man grateful for a draw having been jumped on by Murdo when Macca's late equaliser went in.

Berks & Bucks Cup MAIDENHEAD 2 (Dadson 2) WOKINGHAM 1

A home win in a cup match at last (the fifth attempt this season). The game was won thanks to an accomplished first half performance from United, two goals from Paul Dadson ensuring that a second half fight back by the Town came too late to prevent United from progressing into the 1st Round proper and another home draw, against Reading. For once fans protests calling for the manager to be sacked came from the opponent's fans, although Wokingham became yet another team to benefit from a footballing lesson at York Road as they like Worthing haven't lost since their visit.

MAIDENHEAD 4 (Dadson, Pratt 2, Brown) RUISLIP MANOR 3

Inevitably this game will forever be overshadowed by the terrible injury suffered by Paul Dadson in the second half, but having seen the resilience shown by Paul since than I know I'll be seeing him back in Magpies shirt sometime in 1995. In the meantime its great to see you on the terraces cheering the lads on.

The game itself was a topsy turvy affair with United letting a 3-1 lead slip, but just when it looked like the points would be shared up stepped Kevin Brown headed a late winner, an spectacular debut goal for the club. He'd probably describe it something like this: "Well I was proceeding in an easterly direction when I saw this white projectile coming over, spotting some innocent bystanders in yellow shirts, I leaped and diverted the projectile into a handily placed net some twenty yards away, beating this idiot in a green shirt who thought he could catch". What a goal, even Murdo was left speechless, at last a victory over Ruislip Manor.

UXBRIDGE 1 MAIDENHEAD 1 (Ribeiro)

Both teams shook any ill effects from Xmas to provide an entertaining game. United had enough chances to win the game but considering the selection problems a draw was just about a satisfactory result. A particularly pleasing note was the goalscoring return of Nick Ribeiro after a long spell in the reserves, he certainly seemed glad to be back. Also, thanks must go to Steve Croxford who tried to give his old club an early lead with a bizarre own goal near miss. Talking point of the game occurred when three cars were announced to be blocking the car park, when their numbers were given five people walked out. Very strange.

MAIDENHEAD 1 (Ribeiro) BASINGSTOKE 3

A sorry end to the year. When Nick Ribeiro knocked in a stinging Tyrone Houston effort which hit the bar, it looked like United would go onto

win this vital top of the table clash. However the game turned with just ten minutes left when Eddie Doyle was adjudged to have picked up a back pass by everybody's favourite fat bloke, ref Charlie Brakspear. 'Stoke scored from the resulting free kick, and went onto hit two sucker punches as Maidenhead pressed forward looking for the winner. Odd sight of the day, a man with a stupid hat on claiming to be Paul McDowell.

MAIDENHEAD 2 (Norman, Araguez<pen>) TOOTING & MITCHAM 0

1995 got off to a great start with this first ever league win over Tooting which took the Magpies to second place, causing Jim Barrs to have to attend to several nosebleeds. Played on a hard surface the game was instantly forgettable, but with the team roared on by the second highest crowd of the season this hopefully is the way things will continue at York Road in 1995.

WIVENHOE 1 MAIDENHEAD 1 (Ribeiro)

Just a point from this "Surrey Awayday" (sorry Andy), when the performance deserved all three. Nick Ribeiro's goal (his third in four games) gave United an early lead which they were unable to capitalise on, being denied by a superb goalkeeping display from the Town No.1 and a strange refereeing decision, the Magpies were forced to allow Wivenhoe to extend their unbeaten run to seven matches, although they still looked like a team struggling against relegation.

Highlight of the day was the unveiling of the "Klinsman" to celebrate the first goal, to protect the innocent I'll simply refer to the performers as an injured Brummie midfielder, a Leeds supporting committee member and a fat Scotsman. Leaping onto the pitch they raced over to the corner flag and dived full length along the turf, whilst a bemused Ribeiro wondered why nobody was looking at him.

The game continued with Maidenhead making most of the running, Tyrone Houston dominating the right flank so well he was practically playing as a winger. However the closest Maidenhead came to extending their lead came midway through the second half when Jim Pritchard beat several defenders and the keeper with a mazy run, only to see his shot blocked on the line. Shortly after, Wivenhoe equalised, but United fought to the end for a winner, stretching the Town defence time and time again, but when the ball eventually hit the back of the net it was inexplicably disallowed (thus spoiling Murdo's Roger Milla impression at the corner flag), and so Maidenhead had to settle for a draw.

STEVE JINMAN

UNITED THEY STAND

NAME: Mark Leonard

AKA: Lawrence Logic

FIRST GAME: 1990/1 v. Hampton

BEST GAME: 1994/5 Wembley 0 Maidenhead 5

WORST GAME: 1993/4 Windsor 1 Maidenhead 0

BEST SEASON: 1990/1

FAVOURITE CURRENT PLAYER: James Pritchard

FAVOURITE PAST PLAYER: Cliff Alleyne

BEST GOAL: Danny Pedley's v. Dorking 1994/5

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MAIDENHEAD'S PRESS COVERAGE?

Richard Copeman does a good job but there is too much coverage of Marlow in the Maidenhead Advertiser.

BEST GROUND: TOOTING & MITCHAM

WORST GROUND: STAINES AND WINDSOR

LEAGUE TEAM SUPPORTED: READING

PREDICTIONS FOR 1995: Hopefully promotion.

NAME: Murdo McLeod

AKA: The man with the flag

FIRST GAME: About 1983 v. Wembley

BEST GAME: 1994/5 Billericay 3 Maidenhead 5

WORST GAME: 1992/3 Maidenhead 0 Wokingham 5

BEST SEASON: 1994/5

FAVOURITE CURRENT PLAYER: Peter McNamee

FAVOURITE PAST PLAYER: Kevin Tilley

BEST GOAL: Either of James Pritchard's long range goals at Wembley 1994/5

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MAIDENHEAD'S PRESS COVERAGE?

Good when Richard Copeman does it

BEST GROUND: BOGNOR

WORST GROUND: STAINES

LEAGUE TEAM SUPPORTED: LEEDS

PREDICTIONS FOR 1995: A top six place this season.

THAT MAN TALKS BOLLOCKS

No. 4 Matthew Lorenzo

"Hello and welcome to the Carlton match and today you'll be seeing another cracking Endsleigh Divison One Fixture involving Derby and Wolves, coming to you live and exclusive only on Carlton, after the break."

Need we go on?

ELM PARK EAR

Well, much has happened at Elm Park since Issue 1, but at least now the coaching staff crisis precipitated by Mark McGhee's departure has been partially solved by the appointment of Jimmy Quinn and Mick Gooding as joint managers. My views on McGhee's departure are to be found elsewhere, but I think its now time to draw a veil over this turbulent affair and get behind the new coaching team (whatever its final form) and give the team the maximum support in these trying times.

Concentrating on matter on the field of play, the team has still been getting the results to maintain play off contention despite the terrible injury crisis. If anybody is unhappy with the current level of performance, just look what's happened to poor old Swindon (haha) who are now battling to avoid the drop after being one of the promotion candidates in the autumn.

For example the Boxing Day bore draw with Luton was hardly great entertainment but another point was gained, against the country's best away side, at least the game was livened up by the guest appearances of Eastenders' Sanjay as ref and Coronation Street's Samir moonlighting in the Luton no.7 shirt. In fact Division One seems to be full of celebrity lookalikes, who can forget the ref against Burnley, surely he's the bastard brother of Anthony Hopkins, no wonder he didn't flinch when a South Banker ran onto the pitch to ask how much time was left.

Anyway as I was saying although the football at Elm Park hasn't been exactly a joy to watch lately, with the honourable exception of the game of the decade against Wolves (who got what they were owed from day one of the season with seconds), Reading have shown that they can still go to places like Port Vale and Sunderland and win, and when a proper defence can be fielded allowing midfielders like Gooding and Jones to return to their most effective positions, it should be back to the heady days of September and October again, hopefully in time to clinch a play off spot and march onto Wembley and the Premier League. Come on you Royals.

THAT BLOKE TALKS BOLLOCKS!!!

No. 3 An Anonymous Newbury Reporter

I hope this bloke got a dictionary for Xmas so he could find out the meaning of words such as balance, objectivity and fact. Any resemblance in the report below to actual events in the match is purely coincidental

EDDIE HITS A SPECIAL AS TOWN TICK AGAIN

A SPECTACULAR goal from Eddie Denton earned Newbury a draw on Tuesday in a game that - again - they ought to have won.

Denton's outrageous 25-yard volley in the 73rd minute was Newbury's second equaliser of the game, but they should not have trailed in the first place to a Maidenhead side belying its fifth place in Diadora League Division One.

Instead, Newbury conceded two soft goals, the first in the eighth minute when Andy Parr missed a header, Darren McCance missed a tackle on Alec Norman, and the striker's

weak shot bobbled in over Danny Honey's dive.

John Milne, returning from suspension, had the first of two headers cleared off the line by Francis Araguez nine minutes later,

and Andy Deamer met Matt McDonnell's cross seven minutes from the break, but headed wide from 10 yards.

In between, Newbury had enough possession to make a pride of lions jealous, and Denton, Graham Kemp, and Milne all went close. Mark Holzman was also sending over a stream of crosses from the right against a Maidenhead defence that seemed incapable of clearing its threat alone in its lines, first time. Milne opened the second

NEWBURY TOWN 2, Holzman 65, Denton 73 mins MAIDENHEAD UTD 2

Norman 8, Araguez 66 mins

Newbury Town: Danny Honey; Tony Gibben, Darren McCance, John Milne, Graham Kemp; Andy Parr, Aaron Giammer, Mark Holzman, Eddie Denton; Matt McDonnell, Andy Deamer; Subs: Stuart Beavon, Alister Roper

half with another towering header, forcing Maidenhead keeper Trevor Rofley to tip over, and Rofley looked to have palmed the ball into

Milne's path when saving from McDonnell after 56 minutes, but the ball span the wrong side of the crossbar.

Araguez again cleared off the line from Milne seven minutes later, but an equaliser was not long in coming, McDonnell getting free on the left and crossing well for Holzman to stab in at the far post.

But the visitors scored again within a minute, Danny Pedley's cross from the right letting Newbury do their Maidenhead impressions, and Araguez forcing the loose ball in despite appeals for a foul on Andy Parr.

Milne, playing the last few minutes with a blood-

and bandaged head, showed a defender's finishing skills from McDonnell's cross twelve minutes from time, but Maidenhead almost stole all three points two minutes later, Honey making an outstanding save from substitute Andy Smith.

ALL ABOUT ALDERSHOT

With Maidenhead's long awaited fixture at the "wreck" just around the corner, here's a rough guide to the day, followed by the sorry tale of my last visit to the place which used to be home to the British Army (the main reason why a small town like Aldershot could support a league team for so long).

Aldershot traditional rivals of Reading F.C., and the first league club to go bust for 30 years (haha), are as you probably know having a somewhat average season after their romp through divisions 2 and 3. At last they've reached the stage when they don't simply have to turn up to win, and furthermore seem unlikely to have a major say in the promotion race. Supporter discontent is reportedly high, with the players (who I've heard aren't exactly happy with the manager) being glad of the "cage" leading to the dressing rooms at Newbury to protect them from the wrath of their own supporters after their defeat there earlier this season. Unsurprisingly gates have fallen, still this will almost certainly be the best ground and biggest crowd, United will play before this season.

The Recreation Ground is fairly easily accessible by both car and train. By train travel via Reading, admiring several big houses where rich people live near Ascot, alight at Aldershot and make the five minute walk to the ground. By car travel via Bracknell, Camberley and Farnham to Aldershot, the ground being fairly easy to find with plenty of parking available. Fast food freaks will be ecstatic to know that there is a drive in Burger King near the ground to compound the thrill of the drive in Kentucky which you should pass when driving through Bracknell.

Enter the ground through the park gate style turnstiles, and pause on the other side to admire the floral clock. Follow the right hand path, past the High Street "end" (not a good place to stand as you will feel like you are watching park football, probably quite apt for Division 3 however). Seats are plentiful on either side of the ground but I recommend that you proceed under (yes under) the Railway Line stand take your place on the magnificent (in relation to Diadora League grounds) Kop which has the double utility of giving maximum volume to chants such as "Come on you stripes", "Maidenhead" and "Roffey had it covered", and keeping you dry.

Enjoy the game which I predict will see Danny Pedley return to the form he showed in the corresponding fixture at York Road, leading the Magpies to a comprehensive 3-1 victory. See you in the bar afterwards.

STEVE JINMAN

ALDERSHOT 3 READING 1 THE DAWNING OF THE GREY AGE

The date was 27th November 1990, the venue the Recreation Ground, for that all important Preliminary Round Group Match (Southern Section), in the Leyland Daf(fy Duck) Cup. Already both teams were out of the proper cups (Reading losing to non league Colchester oh the shame of it), and out serious promotion contention. Moreover with Aldershot losing their having created a competition record by losing 10-1 in their first group game against Southend, surely this was the point when Ian Porterfield could turn his lack lustre Reading team around and set the team on the road to Wembley to at least give this piss poor season some meaning. I couldn't have been more mistaken.

With Aldershot actually taking some pride in their performance in what was after all a local derby, they raced into a two goal lead and by half time looked easy winners. This was confirmed when the final whistle sounded with the score at 3-1. Quite easily the worst performance I've seen from Reading, even the jeers of "going broke", and "Spencer is a con man" couldn't lift the gloom. This was the night when this particular season ended (in November for God's sake).

The Aldershot supporters went home happy at their first victory over the Royals in over 18 years, a big boost in their ultimately doomed fight against liquidation. For Reading supporters, one saving grace was the debut of the Archmeister, Stuart Lovell, who could have guessed what a player he would turn out to be. However the following May the magic man came down from the north and began to cast his spell which slowly but surely would lift the club out of their seemingly eternal slough of despondency and on to the dizzy heights of the championship and talk of Premiership football coming to Reading. Nothing was further from my mind that night.

On the way home the car radio announced that John Major was to become the new Prime Minister. Since Aldershot's last victory over Reading, Britain had suffered under the prime ministerial yoke of Heath, Wilson, Callaghan and Thatcher, that night Reading fans got a sneak preview of the banal, depressing life with the proud to be grey Y-front man newly installed at No.10. Let's hope Maidenhead don't make it a repeat performance on the 28th January.

STEVE JINMAN

CIGARETTES & ALCOHOL THE PHIL ADKINS PAGE

MAD!!

John Watt recently accused the Maidenhead fans of being fickle.. Well he obviously hasn't been to Reading!

The other Sunday I travelled over to Elm Park to see Berkshires second team playing Wolves. And what a game it was.

I would go into more detail on the skills of the likes of Quinn, Lovell and Co. but I'm sure Steve will have done so elsewhere.

Now I'm not a regular visitor to Reading (half a dozen games a season) but I am a member (Ooh-er!) and enjoy the attractive style they play.

Anyway, Me and four mates made it to Elm Park in plenty of time, eager to be seen on tele and to rip the piss out of Graham Turnip and John de Wolf (John de Donkey more like).

But as soon as we got to our spot (I may not be a regular, but you always stand in the same place don't you?) the songs had started.

No longer "Mark McGhee is magic" Oh no, now it's "Mark McGhee's a wanker" With the chairman conducting the fans!

After all McGhee had done for the club I thought he deserved better than that!

His achievements were chronicled in our last edition. And to champion John **MA**Dejski with

chants of "there's only one John **MAD**.." etc. was pitiful. Especially considering Readings millionaire chairman had told McGhee to talk to Leicester about the vacancy (and not finding the cash for a pay rise for the highly successful and popular manager).

McGhee seems to be securing his future, (obviously not secure at Elm Park) **MA**Dejski So who's the real wanker?...you decide. I know who gets my vote!

LOYAL ROYAL

NAME: Tony "wavy" Davey

NO. GAMES ATTENDED PER SEASON: All home and the odd away

SUPERSTITIONS: I always park my car in the same place and if I come from the Oxford Road I walk up Belmont Road.

WHERE DO YOU STAND AND WHY: At the Tilehurst end slightly to the left of the goal due to a combination of tradition and superstition

FIRST GAME: 1978 Reading 2 Hull 0, some Hull player called Hoolickin got sent off, and the bloke behind me shouted "Fairy" at Lawrie Sanchez for the entire game.

BEST GAME: 1994/5 Reading 4 Wolves 2

WORST GAME: 1988/9 Reading 0 Wigan 3 (including a Karl Elsey own goal)

BEST SEASON

FAVOURITE CURRENT PLAYER: Adrian Williams

ALL TIME FAVOURITE PLAYER: Jimmy Quinn

BEST GOAL: Billy Whitehurst v. Bolton 1988

BEST GROUND: Highbury

WORST GROUND: Griffin Park, Brentford

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF READING'S MEDIA COVERAGE: Meridian coverage is excellent. Did you know Clive Baskerville lives two doors down from me!

BEST KIT: Last season away kit of blue and yellow hoops

OTHER TEAM SUPPORTED: Liverpool

PREDICTIONS FOR 1995: Reading to finish 7th, Blackburn to win the Premier League, and Leicester to stay up.

LETTERS

Dear B&B,

I got hold of a copy of issue 1 of "Born and Bred", and after some careful mthought decided to take you up on your invitation to write in. I should at this point inform you that I have a very sad tale to tell. I've written to many magazines in the past who specialise in helping people with their personal problems, alas without any success.

Some nine months ago I met the girl of my dreams, a real stunner. We hit it off instantly and in a matter of days she moved in with me. I was madly in love.

One day we went for a drive and pulled into a quaint little country pub in Iver. All was well until I popped out for a leak. A man stopped me and informed me that every bloke in the pub had screwed my girl, he went onto describe how she used to appear as a stripper in the pub, often taking part in sordid lesbian acts. My confidant bore me no malice, but just felt that I should know what I was letting myself in for.

On returning to the bar, I couldn't help noticing everyone looking at us, some were even laughing and giggling, whispering "I've had her". When we returned home I confronted her with the truth, and she admitted everything and a lot more besides, but I loved this girl so dearly, I was prepared to let bygones be bygones, nothing I thought could come between us, until I found something out that was so horrific, so terrible I left her immediately and vowed never to see her again.

It was a Sunday evening, I could sense she had something to tell me, something very serious, I wasn't wrong. We sat quietly for a while, then suddenly she turned and looked at me, she stared directly into my eyes, unable to speak. I begged her to reveal all insisting that whatever had happened I would always love her, and with tears flowing from her eyes she at last let slip this dreadful secret.

What she told me changed my life forever. The bitch, that rotten despicable woman, after the best nine months in my life she turned to me and confessed... to being a Wycombe Wanderers fan. From that day to this I've hated that bloody woman!

Yours sincerely, Trevor Kingham.

B&B- Well Trevor obviously this was a traumatic period of your life but at least you resolved this affair correctly. By the way I heard you refereed a game, a friendly at York Road before Xmas, nobody was booked but you had to talk to a couple of players, did this mean there was nearly half an hour of injury time? Only joking!

Dear B&B,

Thankyou for sending me your fanzine which I enjoyed reading. I have enclosed the Newbury report you asked for. The only time that I've seen Maiden head was in the 91-92 season when you lost 2-1 at home to Whyteleafe in December.

To be honest I'm not a Newbury fan and never will be. Instead last Tuesday I went to see the team I support, Thatcham (I live nearer), beat Petersfield 6-0, and then on Saturday beat Brockenhurst 3-0 to go top of the league. 1

Last night they thrashed Hungerford 5-1 away in the Berks & Bucks Cup.

Just because Newbury have signed a load of past it Reading players the local paper has been giving them blanket coverage and even though Thatcham are top of their league it hardly gets mentioned. Newbury's loyal supporters have only been watching them since last March and when Newbury couldn't play a Faraday Road, did their supporters go, did they fuck. Yours hoping you beat the wankers at York Road, Matthew Frost.

B&B- Cheers for the report Matthew (see That Man Talks Bollocks No.3), feel free to come and cheer for the Magpies on 8th April.

MARK E SMITH'S COMEDY CORNER

Professional grim northerner and leader of the last remaining punk project THE FALL, tickles your funny bone...

What has a three pin plug and Manchester United got in a common?

They both perform brilliantly in Europe but are absolutely useless on the continent.

How many FA officials does it take to change a light bulb?

They couldn't say it all depends if Alan Sugar wants the light bulb changed.

I would like to confirm that there is absolutely no truth whatsoever in the rumour that Match of the Day will soon be changing its name to Bruce'll fixit.

Dear B&B,
 Please find enclosed the latest issue of "There's Only One Reggie Harris", without doubt the finest fanzine in the Diadora League if not the western world.
 Spotted your new publication in WSC, and thought you may be interested in seeing life in Division 2 through the eyes of fanatical Aveley fans. I must admit it makes Division 1 seem almost like Nirvana, try not to get relegated if you can as its pretty shitty down here I can tell you.
 We used to exchange copies with Shaggin Magpies for a couple of seasons but things seemed to have dried up their end of late. Have they ceased trading? Or indeed are you Magpies reincarnated? It seems unlikely that we can escape out of Div.2 this season (unless of course its into Div.3). So here's to a happy season and a Maidenhead v. Aveley league tie by 19963
 Aveley league tie by 1996/7.
 Yours in Footie, Andy

B&B 1996/7? We'll be in the Premier by then!

MAGPIES ARE ON A HIGH

COME ON OWN UP
WHO LET PAUL
MCDOWELL PASS
HIS HOMEMADE
CIGARETTES ROUND
THE DRESSING ROOM

JIM BARRS TOP TIPS

Yes B&B is proud to announce that Maidenhead's jovial physio, the man with the healing hands, Jim Barrs has agreed to put down his silk cut for five minutes to divulge some of the most prized secrets of his trade. Take it away Jim...



Amil Nitrate gives you a hard on

Arsenal's groundsman has been working overtime recently, a blonde member of their first team squad has been regularly coming to Highbury for extra training at night and for some reason when the groundsman starts work in the morning all the white lines have disappeared. It is also rumoured that the same player will soon be moved to centre back as George Graham wants to inject some speed into his defence.

STATTO SAYS

In this column top media personage, sex symbol and star of the smash hit series Fantasy Football, dishes the dirt on his fellow stars. Take it away Statto...



David Baddiel is a wanker
 is a wanker

TWO SPACE FILLING PHOTOS



FEVER PITCH

As I expect some of you already know this is the title of Nick Hornby's award winning novel about his life and times as a football supporter. It is worth a fiver of any fans money, but it is of special relevance to Maidonians as Hornby was brought up in the area.

The novel chronicles Hornby's life from the first moment he stepped into a football ground, continuing in diary style until the book's completion in 1991. Maidenhead fans would particularly enjoy the countless references to the area and the section devoted to non league football which contains the following extracts:

"I was there on the great day in '69 when they won the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup beating Wolverton 3-0 in the final played at, I think, Chesham United's ground. And at Farnborough once, a man came out of the clubhouse and told the travelling fans to keep the noise down... ..I became diverted by the shouts of players. "Put him in the tea bar!" urged Maidenhead's Mick Chatterton, our hero, to a team mate faced with a particularly tricky winger one afternoon."

However Fever Pitch is not just a scrapbook of reports and memories from a quarter of a century stood on the terraces, but a compendium of thoughts and reflections on almost every football related subject under the sun. For example Hornby believes the

attraction of non league football is in its intrinsic lack of professionalism which ultimately spoils the enjoyment of watching the higher levels of the game. Added to this are Hornby's experiences outside football which however obscure are always related back to the game.

One overriding theme of the book is Hornby's evident hatred of life in the Thames Valley, he yearns for a life in the bright lights of the big city. This feeling is perhaps most strongly articulated when Hornby describes his trip to see Arsenal play at Reading in the FA Cup of 1972. Hornby pretending to be a bona fide Londoner is caught when a Royals fan asks him where he comes from, when the reply comes the fan shouts

"Maidenhead? But thats four miles down the road! You shouldn't be supporting Arsenal this afternoon, You should be supporting your local team." It was the most humiliating moment of my teenage years."

Quite right too, why be ashamed about where you were born at the end of the day you can't do anything about it.

All in all Fever Pitch is a book about being a football supporter rather than football itself, and although I wouldn't go as far as some who call it "the best football book ever written", and despite its leading role in making football trendy which in turn has led to some people who don't know their Arsenal from their Albion claiming to be experts on the game, I think the 200 or so pages amount to a very thought provoking read and a must for any committed follower of the game.

STEVE JINMAN

REVIEWS

HEAVEN ELEVEN

This is a new fanzine produced in homage to the heaven eleven which regularly tread the turf at Elm Park. At the moment it is a pretty basic club fanzine, with match reports, previews on forthcoming away games, a letters page and articles on all topical issues relating to Reading FC. However what it lacks in substance it makes up for in style, as it is sumptuously produced with superb quality photos, illustrations and captions. One black mark however is the frequent presence of adverts including one has a whole page to its self what the fuck is going on lads, is this your day job? Worth a read if your at all interested in Reading, but little for anybody else.

50p from PO Box 2120, Reading, RG1 8YR.

The BOG end newspaper

Another well produced club fanzine, Bog Paper with its radical views on Tooting & Mitcham FC would be of interest to anybody involved in the non league scene. Full of words and pictures about the Terrors and their followers the Tooting Popular Front, its a bit pricey but all proceeds do goto the club. An interesting piece in the current issue details the story of the "Tooting one" arrested at Abingdon (they don't like strangers in those parts), and an amusing fictional letters page. One query is the use of two pages for the current seasons stats, isn't that what programmes are for?

£1 from The Club Shop, T&M FC, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 2MD.

THERE'S ONLY ONE REGGIE HARRIS

This now surely legendary Aveley fanzine has reached the grand old age of 23, and very good it is too. Dispensing with any formal set up, each contributor simply gives his view on the current state of affairs at Aveley. Amust for any real fan, they even pay you to take it off their hands (1p). The editor calls it the best fanzine in the Diadora League if not the western world, and who am I to argue (for the time being). If you ever have to define the quintessential fanzine for someone just point them in the direction of 233 Somerset Gardens, Tottenham, N17 (free with an SAE

REVIEWS

PIE MUNCHER

One of many Preston fanzines and for my money this is the best. Just about worth the cover price (come on where else can you find the views of one S.Jinman), there is comprehensive coverage of Lancashire's greatest club the Nob End. The pisstakes of the local rivals coupled with the excellent general content make it essential reading for any follower of North West or lower division football.

£1 from 10 Esplanade, Preston, PR1 4PJ.

COCK A DOODLE DOO

This Spurs fanzine is just what you'd expect from a Premier League club, slick production values are espoused in this A4 magazine with a premier price. Personally, this sort of fanzine is the antithesis of what fanzines should be about, the opposite of Theres Only One Reggie Harris. Still when all said and done it is an entertaining read and still cheaper than the programme. Surprisingly though, despite my gooner heritage I was strangely unmoved by the inevitable Arsenal piss takes, and quite amused by the digs at Nick Hornby.

£1.50 from PO Box 6486, London, E8 2QJ.

THE FAR CORNER by HARRY PEARSON

This book is a season long survey of football at all levels in the North East of England (hence the title), and rather an impressive read, virtually unputdownable. The book paints a vivid and accurate (according to my Geordie mate Mike) picture of football culture in the area. Instead of chapters the book is simply a journal of all the games Pearson attends in 1993/4 which amount to a match by match guide to the area. In entertaining detail Pearson spices up each match report with amusing stories about the clubs and supporters involved and another funny anecdotes garnered from a lifetime living in the area. Reading fans will be particularly interested by the Hartlepool chapter which covers the visit of the champions last February. Entirely suitable for any football fan due to the breadth of clubs covered and the authors warm and humourous style.

Available in hardback for £9.99 from all good bookshops.



AWAY THE LADS

The next six weeks could prove crucial to the Magpies season with vital games at home to Billericay and Chertsey also with the big match at Aldershot, and a local derby against Abingdon to look forward to as well as a possible run in the Berks and Bucks Cup, it should be an exciting time.

Next issue: End of February.

Take it away Brian...



All the
best