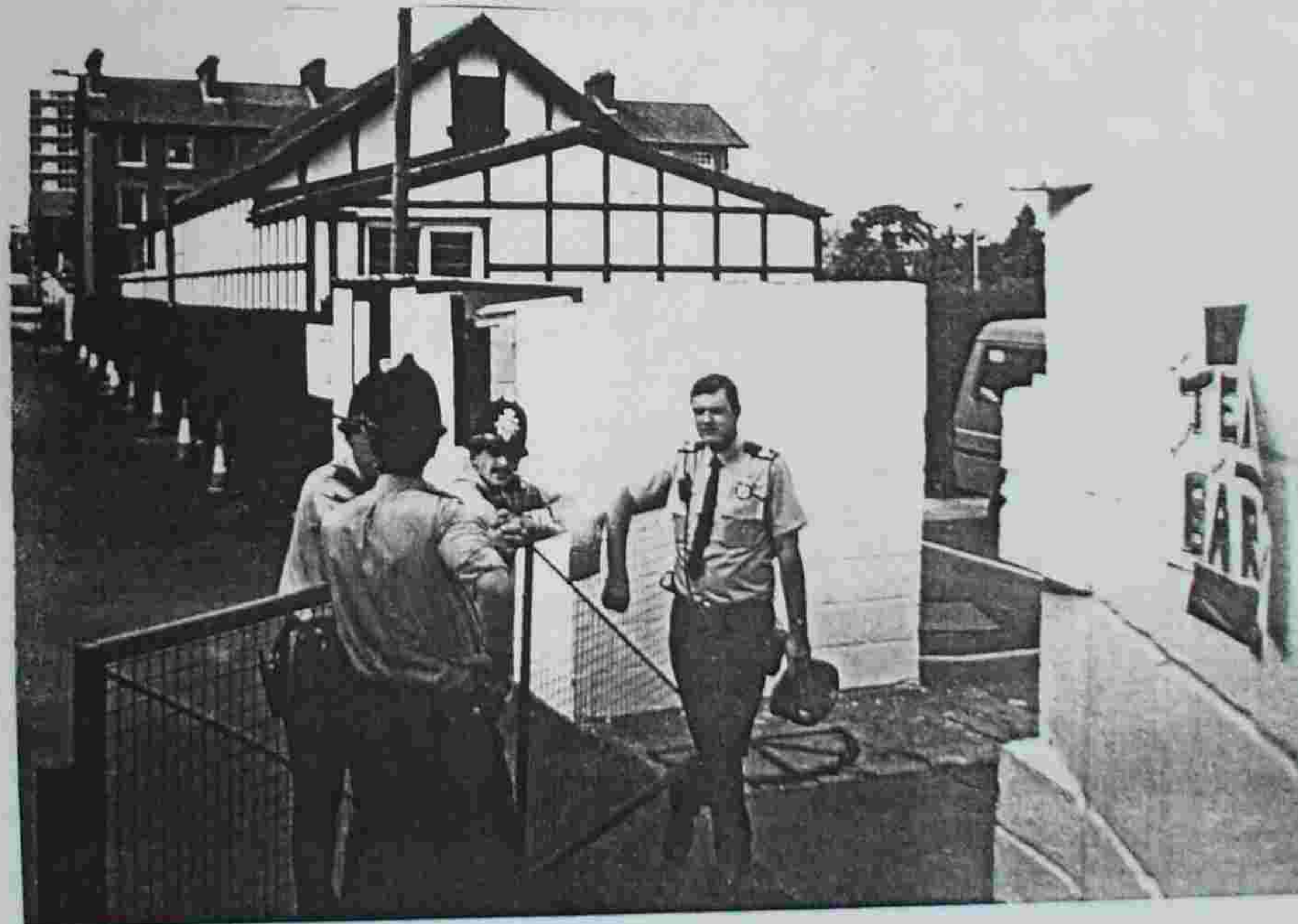


BORN & BRED

ISSUE 4

50P

DAWN RAID AT YORK RD



POLICE SWOOP TO INVESTIGATE
MAGPIES' RECENT CRIMINAL FORM

A MAIDENHEAD UNITED FANZINE



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to issue four of Born & Bred, a fanzine which this month is once again devoted almost exclusively to the mighty Maidenhead United FC.

What has happened to all the money made from the first three issues? You may ask. Well in addition to sponsoring the team for every league goal scored at the rate of one pound each, we have taken out the kit sponsorship of Magpie's manager John Watt. All other proceeds from the fanzine have also been passed into the safe hands of the Coombs'.

Literally a handful of issues two and three are available from the address below for 75p (including p&p). Further copies may also be available from the club shop, which will also stock this issue as will Sportspages, the specialist sports bookshop, 94-96 Charing Cross Road, London. Issue one is now completely sold out.

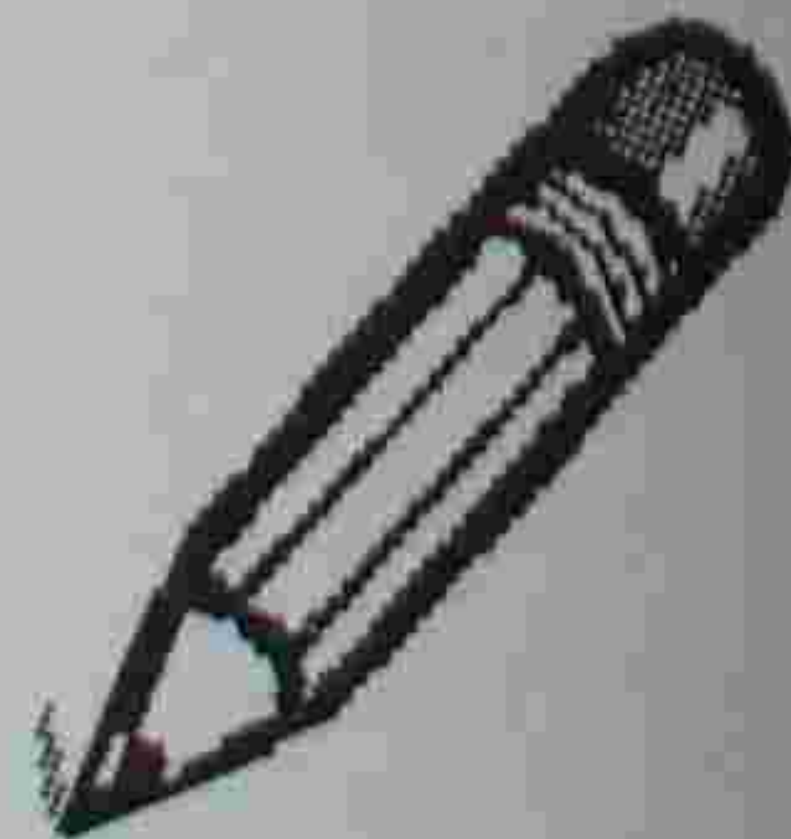
All correspondence will be considered for publication. All articles within reflect only the view of the author, and the right to reply is offered to all concerned. Our intention is to enlighten not offend.

Finally, a big thank you to all those who have bought, contributed to and produced this and all the other editions of B&B this season. Long may it continue. Please remember to complete the end of season survey contained within. The results will appear in the next issue which will appear early next season. Happy reading.

STEVE JINMAN

Write to: BORN & BRED

c/o 47 Courtlands
Maidenhead
Berkshire
SL6 2PT



THIS ISSUE OF BORN & BRED WAS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE USUAL SUSPECTS: STEVE JINMAN AND MURDO MACLEOD
AIDED AND ABETTED BY: RICHARD KELLY, MARK LEONARD, GRAHAM LUCKETT, "Red" PAT MacDONALD & ANDY ROSS.

YOU ARE THE REF!

THE DATE: 25TH MARCH 1995

THE SCENE: MAIDENHEAD UNITED TAKE ON RUNAWAY LEAGUE LEADERS BOREHAMWOOD. IN A CLOSELY FOUGHT GAME THE MAGPIES WITHSTAND SOME EARLY PRESSURE AND GRADUALLY TAKE CONTROL AS HALF TIME LOOMS.

THE INCIDENT: ANDY SMITH KNOCKS A CORNER INTO THE BOX AND VERNON PRATT MAKES HIS CUSTOMARY AERIAL CHALLENGE AS THE PHOTO SHOWS. THE HAND OF HIS RIVAL DEFENDER MAKES FIRM CONTACT.



THE PROBLEM: LIKE THE BASTARD IN THE BLACK YOU CAN CLEARLY SEE THE HANDBALL. DO YOU:

A) BELIEVING THE DEFENDER TO BE WAVING TO SOME PEOPLE ON A PASSING TRAIN WAVE PLAY ON AS THE HANDBALL IS THUS UNINTENTIONAL

B) BELIEVING THE DEFENDER TO BE AUDITIONING FOR AN IMMINENT AUDITION IN A RIGHT GUARD DEODORANT ADVERT WAVE PLAY ON AS THE HANDBALL IS THUS UNINTENTIONAL

C) BELIEVING THE DEFENDER IS USING A SUPERMAN STYLE TECHNIQUE TO GAIN EXTRA HEIGHT WAVE PLAY ON AS THE HANDBALL IS THUS UNINTENTIONAL

D) BELIEVING THE DEFENDER IS TRYING TO KNOCK THE BALL CLEAR WITH HIS ARM AWARD A PENALTY TO MAIDENHEAD

IF YOU CHOSE OPTION D, WELL DONE! YOU ARE A SANE MEMBER OF THE HUMAN RACE AND HAVE THE BASIC ABILITY OF JUDGEMENT NECESSARY TO BECOME A REFEREE

IF YOU CHOSE OPTIONS A, B OR C UNLUCKY! YOU MUST BE MR D. ROBERTS OF ALDERSHOT.

EDDIE TORIAL

1994/5 will soon be the season that was, one month ago it definitely looked like it was going to be the best in terms of position since promotion, but a recent inability to win games has seen United slide to towards a "Coventry" position of mediocrity, so let's hope the lads can put a few results together in the remaining games so that all the hopes raised during the middle of the season aren't made to look totally naive.

After an average start in the league and a disastrous run of cup defeats the season's turning point must be seen as Billericay. 3-0 down and John Watt was in his own words looking at the sack, but a tremendous rally in the last quarter of the game saw the Magpies come off as 5-3 winners, and embark on a 15 game run containing just 2 defeats which took Maidenhead to second place in the table. This allied with the tremendous news that all the hard work on the ground had been rewarded with an A grading led to some serious promotion talk.

What followed was a run of 15 games containing just two victories! However this only served to illustrate the injury problems facing John Watt since Christmas which have meant that he has been unable to field a settled midfield or forward line since then. Sporadically the team has shown its true capabilities at Aldershot and at home to Borehamwood. Most worryingly there has recently been a run of several drawn games (6 in the last nine) with Maidenhead taking the lead in all but one of them.

That said I'm of the belief that if you draw all your away games and win all your home games you will win promotion, and with the superb travelling support it's not surprising only six games have been lost on the road this term, in fact if you take away the three defeats in August its been virtually promotion form since then. So why can't United have a similarly covetable home record? That's the six million dollar question.

First and foremost a fit again Mickey Creighton and Paul Dadson would go some way to solving the problem, they scored 19 goals between them in the first half of the season before they became injured. How would another 19 goals in the second half of the season have changed some of those drawn games? There's no point reminiscing over what might have been now though, let's just hope John Watt is allowed to field his first choice eleven in their best positions for something approaching a full season next time around. Support your local team.

Steve Jinman



O'NEILL: Bitter

EXCHANGE AND MART

O'NEILL IN APOLOGY SHOCKER!

Wycombe boss Martin O'Neill apologised profusely to an unknown Magpies fan who was on the wrong end of a fiery outburst from O'Neill last night. The incident happened after the Bell End Ultra taunted O'Neill with the fact that his team had just lost to Slough. Earlier in the season Slough had been held to a draw by United. He was also reminded of his statement made last season after signing a new contract that he would have serious words with his Chairman if he ended up as manager of Maidenhead United, "the tinpot little club down the road". The fan informed him that he wasn't good enough to take the York Road hot seat anyway.

O'Neill in row with Magpies fan



O'Neill: Angry exchange

WITH the behaviour of players, managers and fans under the microscope, the game's reputation suffered another blow as the result of an incident at ~~Wexham Park~~ ^{Slough}. The unlikely offender was the usually urbane Wycombe manager Martin O'Neill who was involved in a scuffle with a Magpies fan after seeing his side get beaten 2-0 by Slough in the B & B cup quarter final.

O'Neill reacted angrily to a comment as he went to board the team coach and had to be separated from the supporter by a club steward. As he walked away, O'Neill shouted: 'You're right - I am a bad loser.' However, a few minutes later he apologised to the fan.

Slough 2 Wycombe 0

MARTIN O'Neill was involved in a car-park scuffle with a Magpies fan after this B&B cup setback.

The Wycombe boss was angered by a comment made as he boarded the team coach. As he was pulled away O'Neill shouted: "You're right,

I'd be lucky to find work at York Road in any capacity.

Slough 2 Wycombe 0

WYCOMBE boss Martin O'Neill nearly came to blows with a Magpies fan after the game.

The fan waylaid O'Neill in the car park, accusing him of being a bad loser.

Spectators watched in amazement as stewards pulled them apart after they traded bitter words.

At one stage the manager and the critic grabbed at each other. That was when the bystanders stepped in.

Said O'Neill later: "I am a bad loser. But I apologised for how I reacted."

The fan was less gracious. "I saw it as a sarcastic apology," he retorted.



Any resemblance to real life events is highly unlikely.

YORK ROAD REPORTS

by Steve Jinman

MAGPIES 1 (Pratt) BILLERICAY 1

A game which saw United salvage something from what had been an awful month of results. A tense even struggle ended up as a draw, Maidenhead threatening mainly from set plays, finding the net twice. Unfortunately this week the opposition goalie had the intelligence to leave Tim Cook's goal bound kick-in alone.

MAGPIES 6 (Pratt, Norman, Araguez, Blake, Pedley, Ribeiro) Dorking 1

Maidenhead's first win at York Road since the turn of the year comes all too easy against the division's whipping boys Dorking. Playing against a keeper who would struggle to catch aids in a Tunisian brothel, United surged into a 5-0 half time lead. After just one minute Vernon Pratt became the club's leading goal scorer in the league, a fair reflection on the problems Maidenhead have had fielding a settled front line since Christmas. Highlights of the day are two quality goals from Gary Blake and Danny Pedley, ironically their first and last goals for the club respectively. Scoring on his debut after signing from Burnham, Gary will doubtless entertain the supporters whatever the quality of his performances, due to the fact that he looks like Ricky Otto, and he allows supporters by way of his surname, to relive the glory days of On The Buses, one of the greatest sitcoms ever produced (not). I recommend that the next person to shout out "I'll get you Butler" should be banned from York Road indefinitely.

LEYTON 0 MAGPIES 0

A bore draw that Maidenhead nearly lost at the death. Little else can be said about this dire game except how sad it is to see a grand old club such as Leyton playing at such a terrible ground. There was so much scaffolding and string about it was as if the whole place could collapse at any moment.

BERKHAMSTED 1 MAGPIES 1 (Harrison)

A much livelier affair which will be remembered for the goal scoring return of Dave Harrison. Roared on by a vociferous away following United took the lead through Harry, but once again the opposition hit back to equalise and force yet another draw.

MAGPIES 0 BOREHAMWOOD 1 (D. Roberts)

What could have been such a great day for Maidenhead United FC was ruined by possibly the worst refereeing performance I have ever seen. Proceedings began rather early with the official signing of a

sponsorship deal with Whichford car dealerships, instigated by the "manageress" Aviva Swan. In this money motivated age it was good to hear that as well as the money and reciprocal advertising both sides hope to put something into the local community too, let's hope they remain true to their word.

The game itself saw United give possibly their best home performance of the season against the team who are running away with the league title. As the game wore on, Maidenhead dominated more and more, but could not get the ball into a goal protected by a superb keeper and a solid defence who overcame the handicap of wearing shirts designed by someone taking serious drugs. Magpies efforts were not helped by the referee ignoring an embarrassingly blatant penalty offence, and giving the keeper more protection than a packet of durex.

At the other end Borehamwood looked dangerous on the break even after Tony Samuels had to go off, embarrassed by the marks he was getting from the Maidenhead supporters, who held up scorecards every time Samuels executed one of his intricate dives. The Wood brought the best out of super Trevor Roffey but even he wasn't able to keep out the wickedly deflected free kick just two minutes from time. United came close to scoring several times in the fifteen minutes of injury time (guilty conscience?) but it was obvious to all present that this was always going to be one victory Borehamwood never deserved.

BOGNOR 1 MAGPIES 1 (McNamee)

A day at the seaside ended in Maidenhead gaining another point away from home courtesy of a Peter McNamee header, early in the first half, all interest in the game ending when Bognor equalised straight after half time.

WHYTELEAFE 3 MAGPIES 0

This was the 50th game I'd been to this season and it was definitely one I'll want to forget. Maidenhead's first away defeat since mid-January, and their worst since the opening day of the season, came against a wholly more purposeful and organised Whyteleafe team, who rose above their inauspicious surroundings to obtain a comfortable win. There was no comfort for United supporters, hopes that Whyteleafe's sponsorship by the Sport (described as "a bit juicy" by Mr. S. Payne, Middx) would lead to aliens landing in the centre circle or the appearance of unfeasibly large breasted women were unfounded.

MAIDENHEAD 1 (Thompson) NEWBURY 1

A typical end of season game saw United draw for the fifth time in eight games and so slip further into the middle of the table diaspora. However this game was memorable for Dave Thompson who at last scored his first goal for the club. After his spectacular effort against Borehamwood was kept out by the post it looked as if Thommo had fallen prey to the curse of Logic (details in issue 3), his kit sponsor, hopefully this opportunist effort from a Tim Cook free kick will be the first of many. Speaking of Logic, we were pleased to see a close relation of his running the line in front of the social club. Most of the friendly decisions however came from a referee who seemed intent on booking as many of this ex Reading youth XI as possible, unfortunately the only United player to enter the book was not Tim Book as expected, but Vernon Pratt. This means Vernon will not be ever present and so will miss out on the solid silver trophy we were going to give to him.

PEDLEY ON HIS BIKE!

The last few weeks also saw the departure of right winger Danny Pedley. I had mixed feelings about this. Danny was the only fit winger at the club and also had a lot of potential. However he often flattered to deceive and clearly wanted to move. I'll remember him for a dazzling display in the Aldershot home game last August, I'll expect others will recall his spectacular long range efforts in both the Dorking games this season. Hopefully we'll soon see him back at York Road next season playing for his newly relegated club Marlow.



REASONS WHY FOOTBALL IS BETTER THAN WOMEN

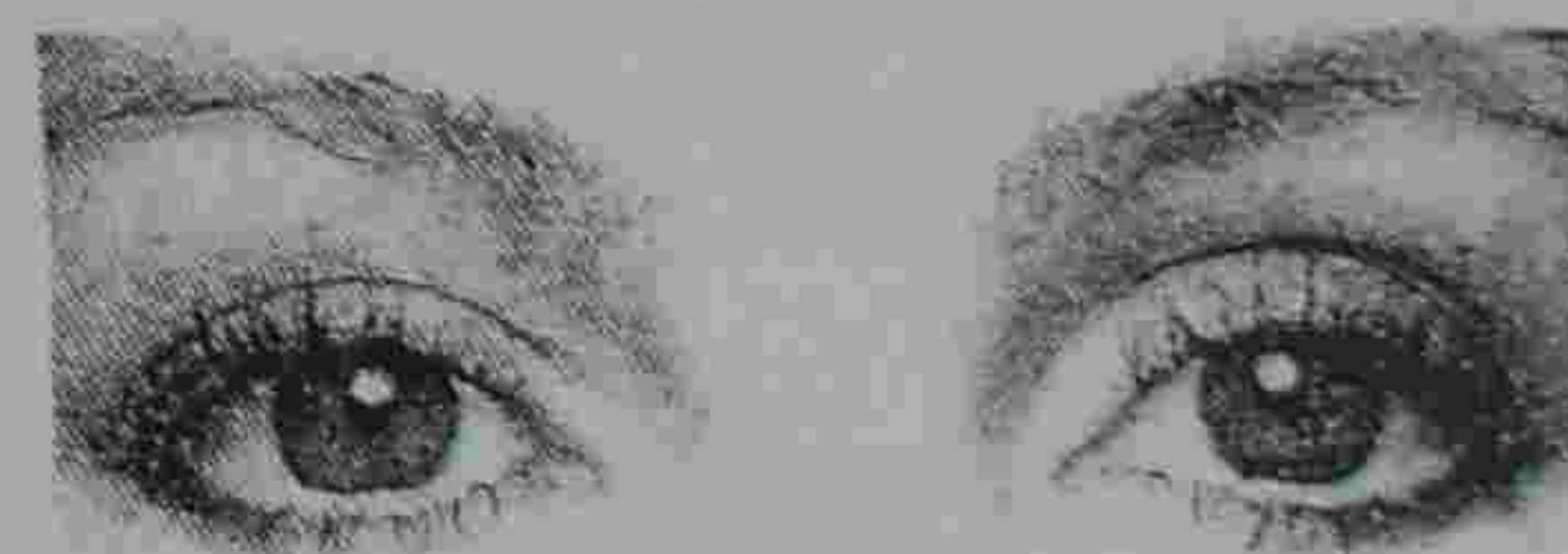
(gratuitously nicked from Where's the Money Gone? fanzine)

1. You only have to see football twice a week.
2. Footballers don't shout at you when you forget their birthday
3. You get a break from football during the summer.
4. There are no referees to send a woman off when she argues with you.
5. Football doesn't complain when you watch it on the telly.
6. Footballers don't want to know how much you earn.
7. Football doesn't complain if you leave the toilet seat up.

All this reminds of Frank Skinner's reply when asked whether he'd rather shag Elle McPherson or watch West Brom. He opted for West Brom, as he'd be guaranteed a change of ends after 45 minutes!



LONG-SIGHTED? SHORT-SIGHTED?



BLATANT DISREGARD FOR THE RULES OF SOCCER!
THEN WE NEED YOU! BECOME A REFEREE CALL THE SWEET FA.

INTO THE LION'S NEW DEN

I recently made the short trip up to East London to Millwall's new ground to see them play Reading. Obviously I primarily went to see Reading take another step towards the Premier League, but I was also interested in seeing at first hand what the New Den was like having been totally unimpressed by new stadia at Charlton, Chester and Wycombe.

I was prepared for the worst when the London Bridge station announcer told me I was boarding a train for the New London Stadium, fearing some American ball park awaited me, however I couldn't have been more mistaken.

Like the new stadium at Molineux, which almost convinced me that all seater grounds are a good idea, the New Den is a great place to watch football. The Reading fans were allocated the top tier behind one of the goals, which considering the amazing view was just about worth the twelve pound ticket. The seats were covered, there was plenty of leg room and were tiered at just the right rate to ensure a perfect view for everybody. Beneath the stand there were multiple burger bars and toilets (strange how I found it necessary to put these two together). Beer was served and so I was able to have a pre match pint whilst watching highlights of previous games on the TVs strategically placed on the walls.

The one disappointing thing about the evening (apart from a dire Reading performance which led to an inevitable defeat) was the distinct lack of atmosphere which was surprising considering the fiery reputation of Millwall fans. This was due to the fact that the crowd of 7,546 was thinly spread out around the 18,000 capacity stadium and, in I think a sad drawback of all seater stadia which has been pointed out by many supporters.

After the game there was the obligatory wait whilst police cleared the home fans away from the area, before we were escorted back to the train. When we got on the waiting train the doors closed and a young Millwall fan with long blonde hair graphically reminded us of the score. After receiving the inevitable two fingered response someone realised that he resembled Dougal the Dog, and so the entire carriage serenaded him with the Magic Roundabout theme tune. This provided an amusing end to an evening which once again proved that whatever the surroundings nothing can make up for losing.

STEVE JINMAN



FOOTBALL FANS *against the* CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT

352 Southwyck House, Moorlands Estate, Brixton, London SW9 8TT
Call: 0171-274 8029 (Call first to send fax), e-mail: ffacja@urban75.demon.co.uk

The Government has recently passed an Act that will directly affect your rights as a football fan. The FFCJA is a campaign set up to warn and inform fans about the implications of the Act, and to co-ordinate national and local peaceful protest. We have the full backing of the Football Supporters Association, and Liberty, the National Council for Civil Liberties.

STOP AND SEARCH



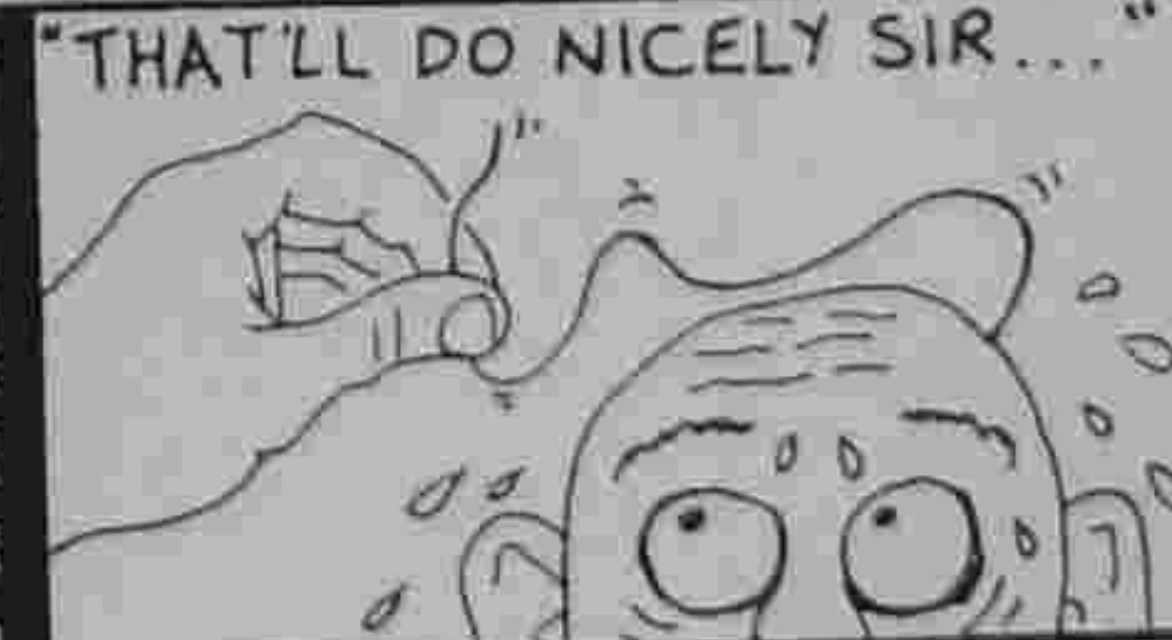
All football fans know what it's like to be harassed and treated like a criminal just because you're going to a match. Section 60 of the Act gives Police powers to STOP AND SEARCH, without any reason, any vehicle or person, even if you're nowhere near the ground! Fans are already searched as they enter grounds, and last season, out of the 23 million people who attended games, just 35 were found with offensive weapons! These additional powers are unnecessary, and may create tension, ill-feeling and possible confrontation between fans and the Police.

Sections 68-71 creates a new offence of "aggravated trespass". This means that peaceful demonstrations such as those seen at Man City, QPR, Spurs, West Ham, etc., are now criminal acts, and the Police have the right to arrest everyone taking part. In fact, you could be arrested even if you're nowhere near the ground! - all the Police need is "reasonable suspicion" that you intend to go! Often protests are the only means left for loyal fans to voice their passionate concern about what's happening at their club. Removing this right of peaceful protest will deprive law-abiding fans their say in the running of their club - and it is you, the fans, who pay the wages!



PROTESTS

ARRESTS



Fans are often hauled out of grounds for no apparent reason. The Act abolishes the right of silence, increasing the chances of miscarriages of justice. If you are arrested, the Police are empowered to FORCIBLY pluck hair or take a mouth swab. This information will stay on a national DNA database even if you're subsequently not charged. This is worrying as there is already recorded cases of innocent fans finding themselves on a "hooligan blacklist".

The Act makes it a criminal offence to sell on a match ticket, even if it's at cost price! The law's supposed to be aimed at ticket touts, but we've already heard evidence of ordinary fans being threatened with arrest for trying to sell on single spare tickets, or having their tickets confiscated! If you've a spare ticket, the club cannot buy it back, you can't sell it to anyone else so you lose your money! Needless to say, this only applies to football and not to rugby, tennis, theatre, ballet, opera, horse-racing, classical music concerts etc., etc.



TICKETS

ALARM!



Section 154 of the Act introduces a new crime of "intentional harassment, alarm and distress". This means that if you verbally or visibly "insult or abuse" (i.e. shout or gesture) within sight or hearing of a person likely to be caused "alarm or distress" (?), you will commit an offence punishable by up to six months in prison. This is worryingly vague. Football fans by their nature can be rowdy, and often enjoy taunting and teasing the opposition, and this law gives the police fresh powers for indiscriminate arrest.

We are now putting together a "Bill of Rights" for football fans which will take the form of a wallet-sized card detailing what rights you have, what the police can and cannot do, and what to do if arrested. This will be distributed free to every ground in the UK. We have no funding so we need your help to make this happen. We desperately need donations, contributions, anything! We also need to hear about your experiences under these new laws - call/write to us (in confidence). For more CJA info call Liberty 0171-378 8659, for anti-CJA actions, call Freedom Network: 0171 738 6721, and for other football issues, call the FSA: 0151-737 2385.

CAMPAIGN HOTLINE: 0171-274 8029

SUPPORTERS SURVEY 1994/95 SEASON

And now the end is near... and so its time for that fanzine favourite the end of season survey. We'd be really grateful if you'd fill in your answers to as many of the following questions as you feel qualified to. Remember they all relate to the 1994/95 season only. Please hand your finished surveys to either Steve or Murdo, or if you're scared stiff of us send them to the address at the front of the fanzine. Three replies will be drawn at random to win a prize of a Magpies club badge and mug. The results will be published in the next fanzine which will appear at the beginning of next season. Thank you for your time.

NAME:

MAGPIES PLAYER OF THE SEASON:

MOST IMPROVED PLAYER OF THE SEASON:

BEST MAGPIES PERFORMANCE:

WORST MAGPIES PERFORMANCE:

MAGPIES GOAL OF THE SEASON:

BEST MOMENT OF THE SEASON:

WORST MOMENT OF THE SEASON:

BEST OPPONENTS:

WORST OPPONENTS:

BEST OPPOSING PLAYER:

WORST OPPOSING PLAYER:

BEST OPPOSING GOAL:

BEST HOME GAME OF THE SEASON:

WORST HOME GAME OF THE SEASON:

BEST AWAY SUPPORTERS AT YORK ROAD:

WORST AWAY SUPPORTERS AT YORK ROAD:

AWAY TRIP OF THE SEASON:

MOST FRIENDLY WELCOME AWAY FROM YORK ROAD:

LEAST FRIENDLY WELCOME AWAY FROM YORK ROAD:

BEST AWAY GAME OF THE SEASON:

WORST AWAY GAME OF THE SEASON:

BEST GROUND:

WORST GROUND:

BEST PROGRAMME:

WORST PROGRAMME:

BEST CLUBHOUSE:

WORST CLUBHOUSE:

MOST PLEASING ASPECT OF THE SEASON:

BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT OF THE SEASON:

PREDICTIONS/HOPES FOR 1995/96:

GENERAL IMPRESSIONS OF THE FANZINE:

FOOTBALL FANS *against the* CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT

352 Southwyck House, Moorlands Estate, Brixton, London SW9 8TT
 Tel: 0171-274 8029 (Phone first to fax) e-mail: ffacja@urban75.demon.co.uk

Dear Fanzine Editor, Journalist, Football Fan.

At the beginning of the season we launched the above campaign in response to the then proposed Criminal Justice Bill. Our aims were to warn and inform fans of the implications of the Bill and to raise awareness on the terraces as to how the Bill would affect the civil rights of all football fans.

The response was incredible - over 75 fanzines across the UK publicly supported the campaign, and major media interest and concern was reflected by features in The Guardian, The Telegraph, The Independent, The Observer, all the football magazines, NME, The Face, and i-D Magazine amongst others. We were also interviewed on BBC TV, Sky, Channel 4, ITV, and spoke on fifteen live BBC radio interviews.

The Act is being introduced in stages, with the Stop and Search, DNA database, Intentional Harassment, and Right to Silence clauses becoming law in April, 1995. The Ticket Taut law came into effect in November 1994, with a Home Office directive clearly stating that the law is only to be aimed at professional ticket touts. Despite this, there's already been recorded cases of innocent fans being threatened with arrest or having their tickets confiscated just for trying to sell on single spare tickets.

The powers in the Act are very broad and vague, and it seems that some Police forces are already interpreting these laws in an aggressive and unfair manner towards football fans. This sets a worrying precedent for when the rest of the Act becomes law.

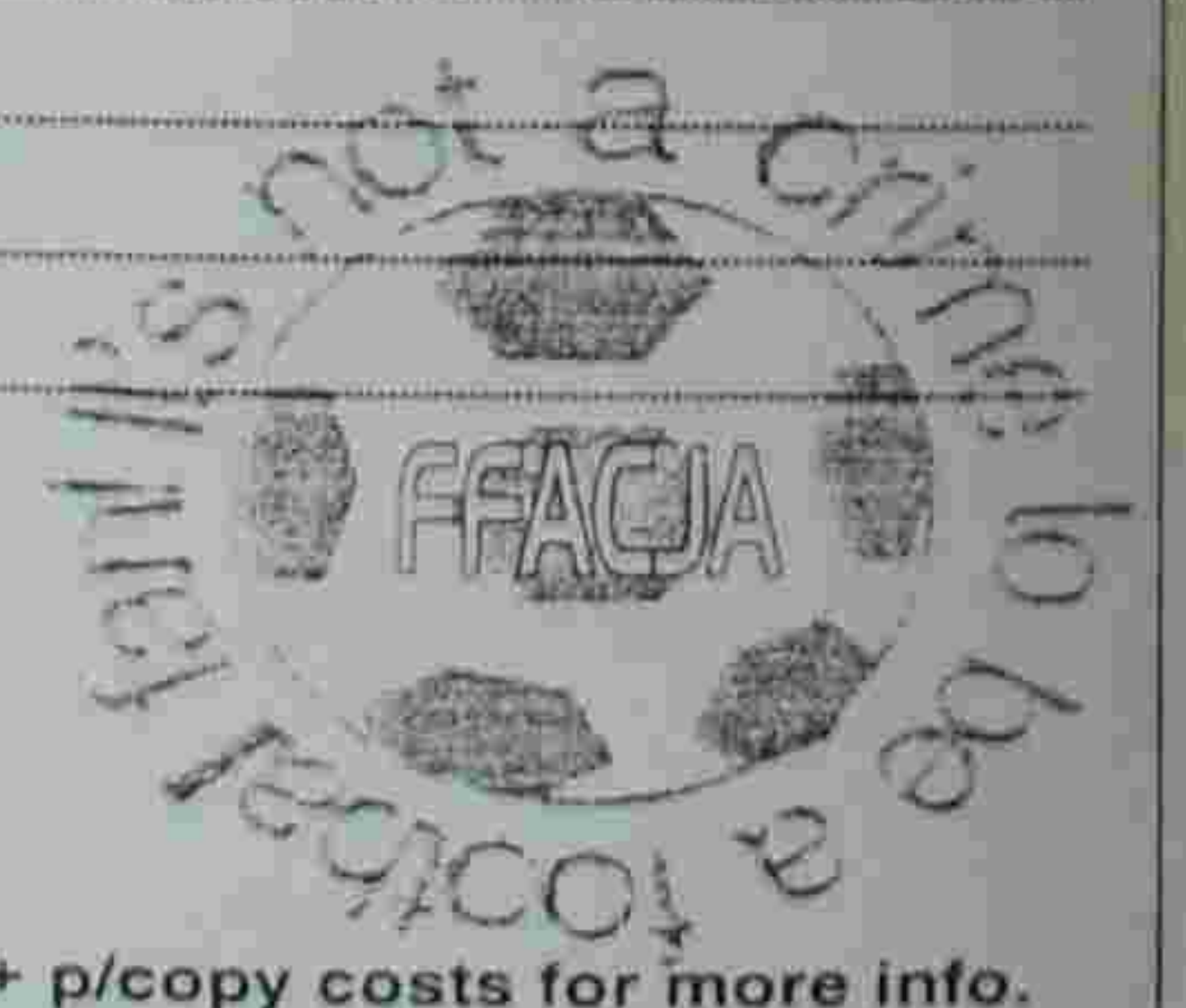
We need to know how fans are suffering under these new laws, and have set up a Hot-line where fans can report their experiences. This information will help us compile a "Bill of Rights" for football fans, which will take the form of a wallet-sized card detailing what rights you have, what the police can and cannot do, and what to do if arrested. This will be distributed free to every ground in the UK. This is a huge task, and we need your help to make this happen. We need your support, ideas and donations. Tell your local press about the campaign, photocopy the enclosed leaflet, rattle a cash bucket outside the ground - anything! Please fill in the form below and return it to us as soon as possible and tell us what you can do to help.

We have the full backing of the Football Supporters Association, and Liberty, the National Council for Civil Liberties.

Fanzine/ Club : _____
 Contact: _____
 Address: _____
 _____ Postcode: _____
 Tel/Fax: _____ e-mail: _____
 Donation: £ _____ (payable to: FFCACJA)

I/We will help distribute the cards
 Will carry features on the campaign
 Will act as a local co-ordinator
 Will fundraise
 Will hassle the local press

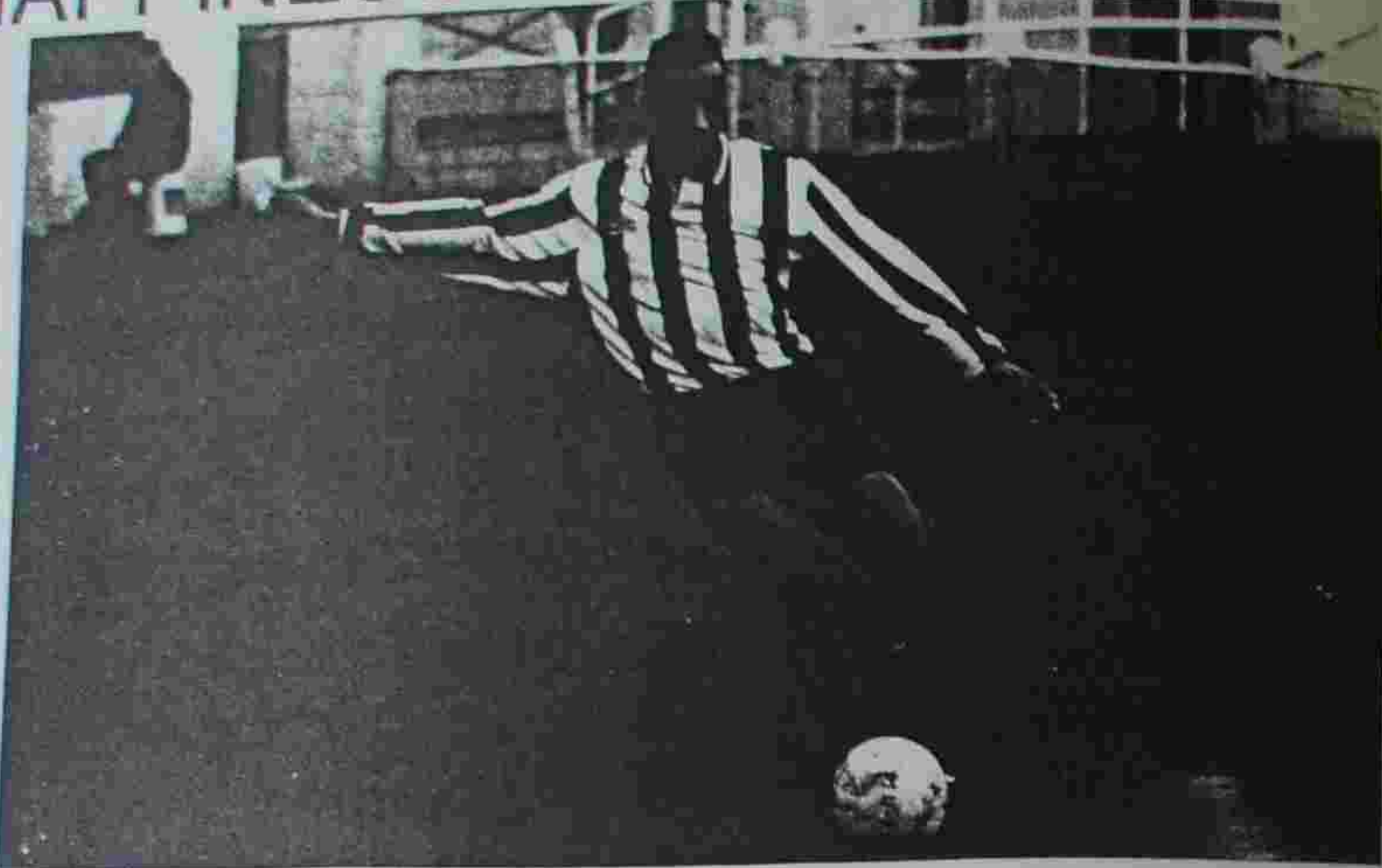
Return to the above address. Please enclose SAE + p/copy costs for more info.



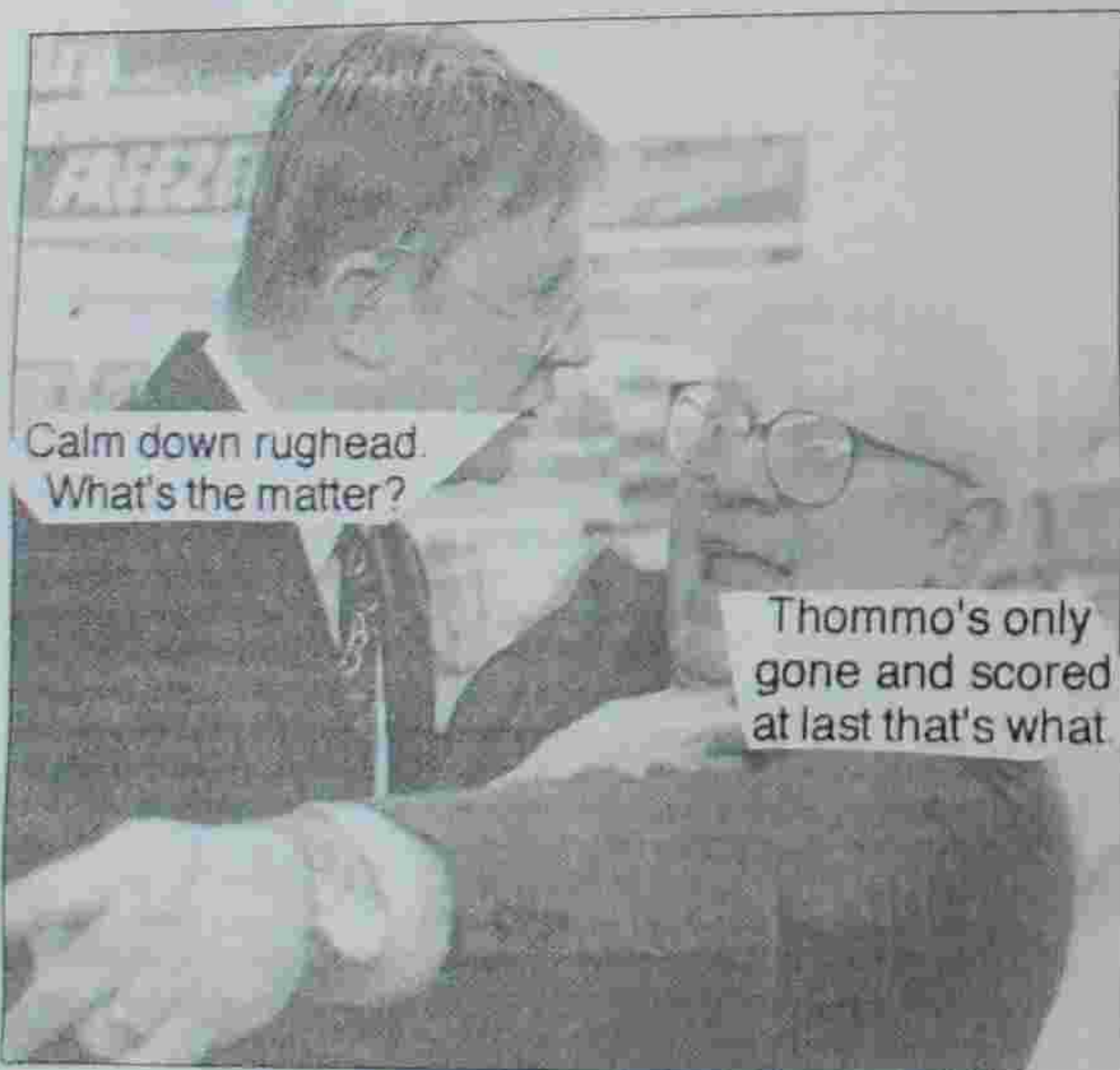
I WANT.....



HAPPINESS ISN'T...



A WINGER CALLED HAMLET



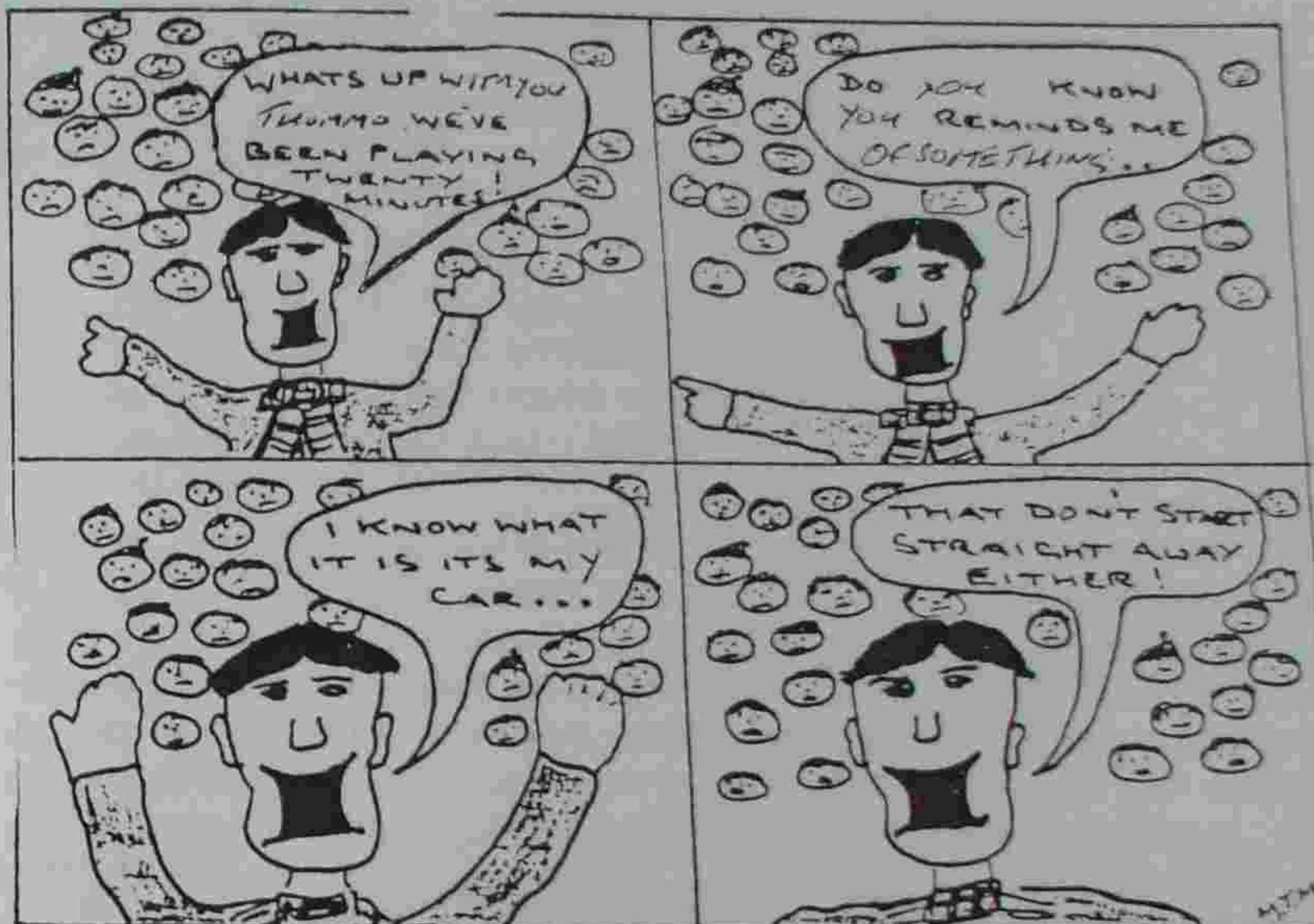
Calm down rughead.
What's the matter?

Thommo's only gone and scored
at last that's what



Hello I'm Hand shandy Andy.
When I'm not fronting top
70s band Sparks, I edit the
programme

BELL END MAN



STOP PRESS

TOOTING & MITCHAM 1 MAGPIES 1 (Pratt)

Magpies draw again, like the Bognor game taking the lead early in the game and dominating the rest of the half. But unfortunately Tooting did likewise in the second half. Vernon's goal means he is now joint top Maidenhead goalscorer in 1994/5. United better watch out, if they continue to score draw at this rate the drugs squad will be paying a visit to York Road!

McNAMEE TAKES THE HIGH ROAD IN TWO MILLION ANFIELD DEAL SHOCKER

Fantasy football or just another example of domestic transfer market madness?

Well, neither really. Mind you, with a number of players already having recently benefited directly from the excellent playing facilities at Estadio York Road, who's to say it isn't out of the question.

Confused? Well let me explain...

Firstly there was Chris Sutton, who trained at York Road with England U-21s, and shortly after became involved in the largest media auction since Cookham Dean made it publicly known that Dominic Gavin was available for transfer, before ending up with Big Fat Jack and Kenny Subtitles-Required.

Next up was Hristo Stoichkov. One minute he was playing for then Serie B nobodies Brescia, training on the hallowed York Road in preparation for the Aggro-Italian Cup Final at the other Wembley, then he was off starring in the World Cup for Bulgaria stopping the Germans from getting to the Final again, before a multi million peseta move took him to Barcelona where he was getting down to the serious task of humiliating Manchester United in the Champions League.

On a slightly less global scale I have it on good authority that Reading's Uwe Hartenberger's form improved beyond all recognition after his brace of goals in the B&B cup match at York Road (Ed- Yes Uwe has gone onto score in every other round of the cup as Reading walked into the final, must be something to do with the glamour and prestige of the competition).

Furthermore you may remember one Errol Brown sorry Lee Charles starring for Chertsey during their lucky 8-2 win at York Road. Yes the former lead singer of Hot Chocolate scored a hat trick amongst Chertsey's eight goals against the run of play, and has reputedly attracted bids of 50,000 and 75,000 pounds. Amazingly Chertsey felt able to turn these down such is the state of their finances, which won't come as a shock to anyone who was thoroughly fleeced at the away game earlier in the season (they're not even in the Premier Division never mind the Premier League!).

I could go on about the amazing money which passes hands after people leave York Road, but the libel laws prevent me from commenting about referees especially one in particular. Oh well if I win the lottery on Saturday I'll know York Road will have had a hand in my good fortune!

MURDO MacL FOD



JIM BARRS' COMEDY CORNER

Yes despite the gross libels staining my good name which appeared in previous issues, I've returned with the mysterious story of the Millwall manager who was shot at. Surprisingly this was not by an aggrieved fan but by a player! Before the war contract regulations stated that players on the transfer list could not be paid. An unknown Millwall manager used this to get at a player he didn't much like. The player was left penniless on the list knowing full well that no offers would be accepted. Furiously he burst into the manager's office brandishing a gun and demanded that he be taken off the list, when the manager refused he fired the gun at him. Fortunately the gun was an old first world war weapon and worse than useless, the bullet flying past the managers head and embedding itself in the wall, where it stayed as a testament to player power, probably until the Den was pulled down in 1993!

Following their 4-1 cup defeat by Everton Spurs player turned up for training only to find a cow grazing in the penalty area. When Gerry Francis asked how it got there he was told that it had escaped from a farm after hearing how much more room there was in the Tottenham box.

During Arsenal's last European game why did Brian Moore mention that "the stakes in this match are sky high" when the camera panned to Paul Merson?

There is no truth in the rumour that if Reading's Uwe Hartenberger is named as substitute, he nips onto the pitch early to put his towel on the bench.

I was glad to hear referee John Tart was all right after being shot by hooligans during a game, it would have been a tragedy if he'd been blinded, although it wouldn't have had a serious effect on his refereeing career.

There was never any doubt that Bruce Grobbelaar and Hans Segers would be released from custody, after all the police must've known that under FIFA regulations you are no longer allowed to charge goalies.

One person who need not fear a nose attack by Vinny Jones is Matt Le Tissier. Vinny would be too worried about biting off more than he could chew.

George Graham finally chose to resign as Arsenal manager, when he admitted to the Fraud squad that he did get Southampton to pay three quarters of a million pounds for Perry Groves.

After Chris Armstrong's drug revelations will anybody be surprised when Crystal Palace score draw?

FIVE GO MAD AT BUTLINS

Well six actually, seven by Saturday night. Yes following the success of last years Magpie invasion of Butlins for the Bognor away game another party made a return trip this season. The puzzling attraction of Paul Daniels meant that this year Murdo could only book one flat for four and so a rather small group left Maidenhead on Friday 31st March.

Delayed by the main weekly event in the Sussex village of Billingshurst, the arrival of a Budgens lorry, we arrived two hours later at Stalag Luft Butlins. Our two extra inmates were blagged in embarrassingly easily, and after moving into our compact and bijoux hut, the first meeting of the escape committee took place and within minutes we were vaulting over a wooden horse in the exercise yard.

Back in the real world Butlins cuisine was deemed so awful that a trip to MacDonalds ^{was} in order, followed by a viewing of Pulp Fiction. This led to numerous recreations of the scene discussing a "Royale with Cheese", before hitting the dance floor to do our Uma Thurman / John Travolta impressions. A crap band from Yorkshire revealed why they were playing Butlins this weekend and Take That weren't, and Logic revealed why he wouldn't be entering the All England Disco Dancing Championships that were being held the following day.

Next day was match day and after a swim and a pre match cooked breakfast and the superb Lennox Cafe, we made our way to Nyewood Lane, home of Bognor Regis Football Club. The first person we met on entering the ground was a mad Yorkshireman wearing a Leeds United shirt and hat, he turned out to be the Magpies' coach driver and not that mad either leading the away fans' singing and receiving two collections on the way home. However his jokes were exhibited the following day on the Antiques Roadshow, he definitely had been to the Jimmy Tarbuck school of comedy.

After sampling the liquid product from the wonderful social club (complete with terrace "beer garden"), Phil dished out his replica shirts complete with number. This allowed Mickey Creighton to roll out his line about "nobody else being fit to wear the 10", for once he was right as Trevor Kingham drew this shirt, going on to demonstrate why fat men shouldn't wear stripes.

Spurred on by his girlfriend Macca opened the scoring early on in an entertaining first half, the locals were even heard responding to our United songs at one point, remarkable at a club where the fan's average age means ~~they can't afford to give~~ OAP discounts. The game ceased to be of interest when Bognor equalised soon after half time, causing the Butlins mob to rue their missed opportunity of seeing Paul



Murdo raises the Flag at Bognor during the 1994 visit

Daniels (his show started at 4pm), then again it can't have been that bad. Highlight of the second half was the dismissal of the little shits playing football behind the Bognor goal, instigated by Dave Thompson, who made his most useful contribution of the afternoon by booting their ball into orbit.

After the game the other United XI piled onto the excellent playing surface to take an alternative team photo. A Bognor official ran over to us, not to tell us to get off his pitch but to take the picture so Logic could be in it. We then made our way back to the social club, past a mad woman in green who was in tears, devastated at seeing her heroes robbed of a win. At the bar we found ^{one} of our number who had seen a grand total of four minutes football that afternoon, this bizarre (lucky?) statistic was due to the fact that Leeds Rugby League team were playing live on Grandstand, to protect the innocent this person will simply be known as Mike Payne.

Post match entertainment was provided by a Bognor team queueing up to take Trevor Roffey's drink driving test, the concept of gullibility doesn't seem to have reached the South Coast yet. After leaving the club it was time for more drunken debauchery at Butlins before settling down on Sunday for a triple bill of Premier League and League Cup Football before Trevor Kingham revealed his hitherto secret talent for ping pong, before sadly we had to dodge the searchlights, vicious dogs and machine gun nests and leave for Maidenhead. Seriously, I lost count of the numerous Bognor supporters, players and officials who approached us afterwards to thank all those associated with Maidenhead United FC for making their afternoon an enjoyable one. So it looks like we'll have to repeat the whole experience again next year. Good!

Steve Jinman

TAYLOR'S DREAM ERECTION

(but Wycombe can't get it up)

In the long wake that understandably (and quite rightly) followed the horrendous Hillsborough disaster in 1989, football fans everywhere have been told to sit down and shut up. Six years on from that terrible day when 96 ill fated Liverpoolians lost their lives trying to watch a game of football the effects of the long overdue Taylor report which was prompted by these events, have begun to hit our local professional league clubs. You've already read about the ground problems facing Reading, here's some thoughts about those which Wycombe could soon be confronted with.

The lego stadium which is Adams Park was built at a reported cost of 6 million pounds. Following this "arrogant" O'Neill has led his team from the Conference to the brink of Endsleigh League Division One in less than five years. Should they win promotion, they will have three years to make the ground all seater. This would cut the capacity in half to around 5,000. This isn't enough for their current needs never mind those of a higher division. The potential cost of promotion would be huge to a team of Wycombe's limited resources.

Obviously Wycombe are an ambitious club and have made amazing progress in a very short period of time, but if they do win promotion the question that would have to be asked is should they be allowed to progress further?

The new ground's location is such that those who chose it were either naive or only thinking of short term progress. I fear that if they do win promotion, the honour could well be denied them on the grounds of safety.

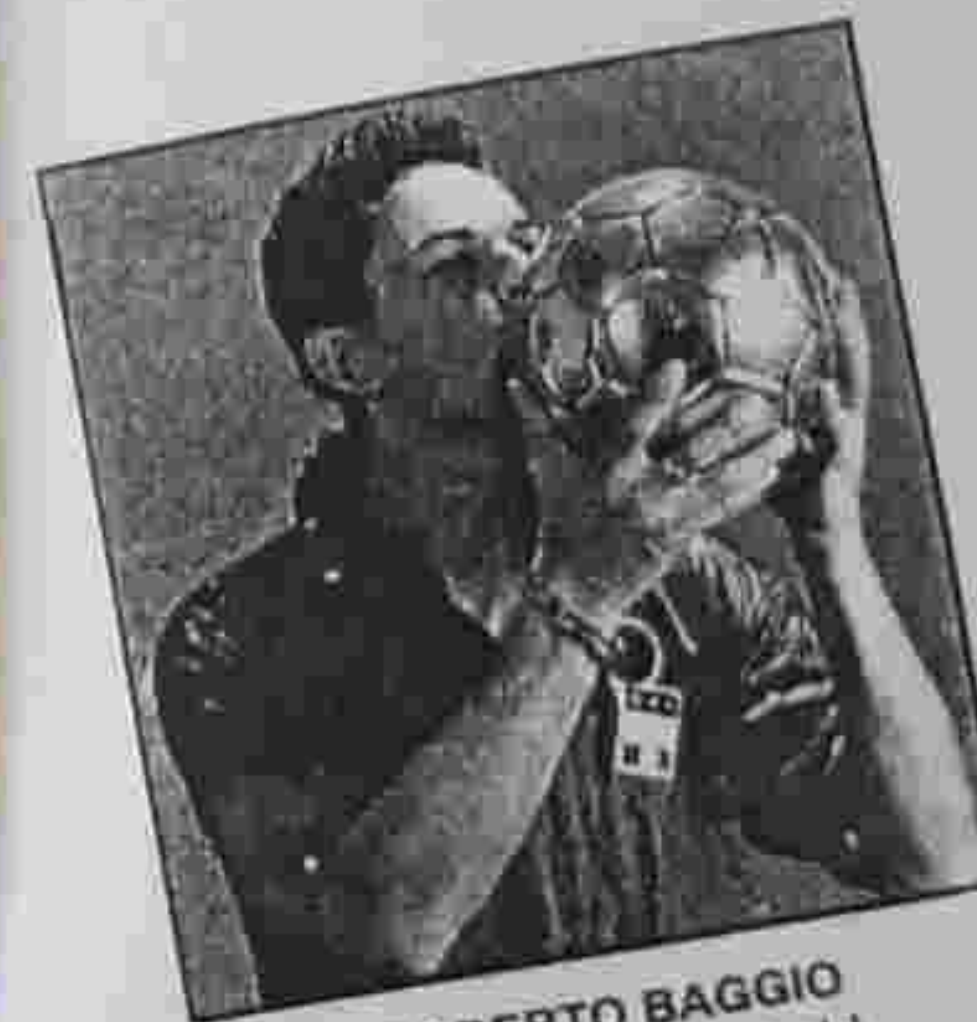
Picture the scene. Wycombe's new all seater Adams Park is playing host to a Sunderland team running away with the title (this is bordering on the realms of fantasy I know, but bear with me). Hundreds of ticketless Makems descend on Wycombe with the aim of seeing the match. Approaching Adams Park by its' one and only access road, a crush emerges at one of the gates. The situation is serious, people are getting injured. The emergency services arrive to sort out the situation and take the casualties away. But they can't get to the scene as the one and only access road is blocked by cars and people trying to escape from the trouble. This log jam causes yet more distress and the seriousness of the situation quickly escalates into disastrous proportions.

Now if you put this hypothetical situation to Wycombe Wanderers FC, they will tell you that they are far too organised for such a thing to happen. I concede that my scenario is relatively far fetched, but who predicted the myriad of other terrible events which have afflicted football over the last ten years. Multiple access to Adams Park must be created, otherwise the spectre of a possible tragedy will always hang like a black cloud over the ground. I can't think of any other League club whose ground is on dead end road, not even poor old Macclesfield have this problem, so should Wycombe be made to act? Lord Justice Taylor its over to you...

GRAHAM LUCKETT

diadora

LIGHT YOUR FIRE



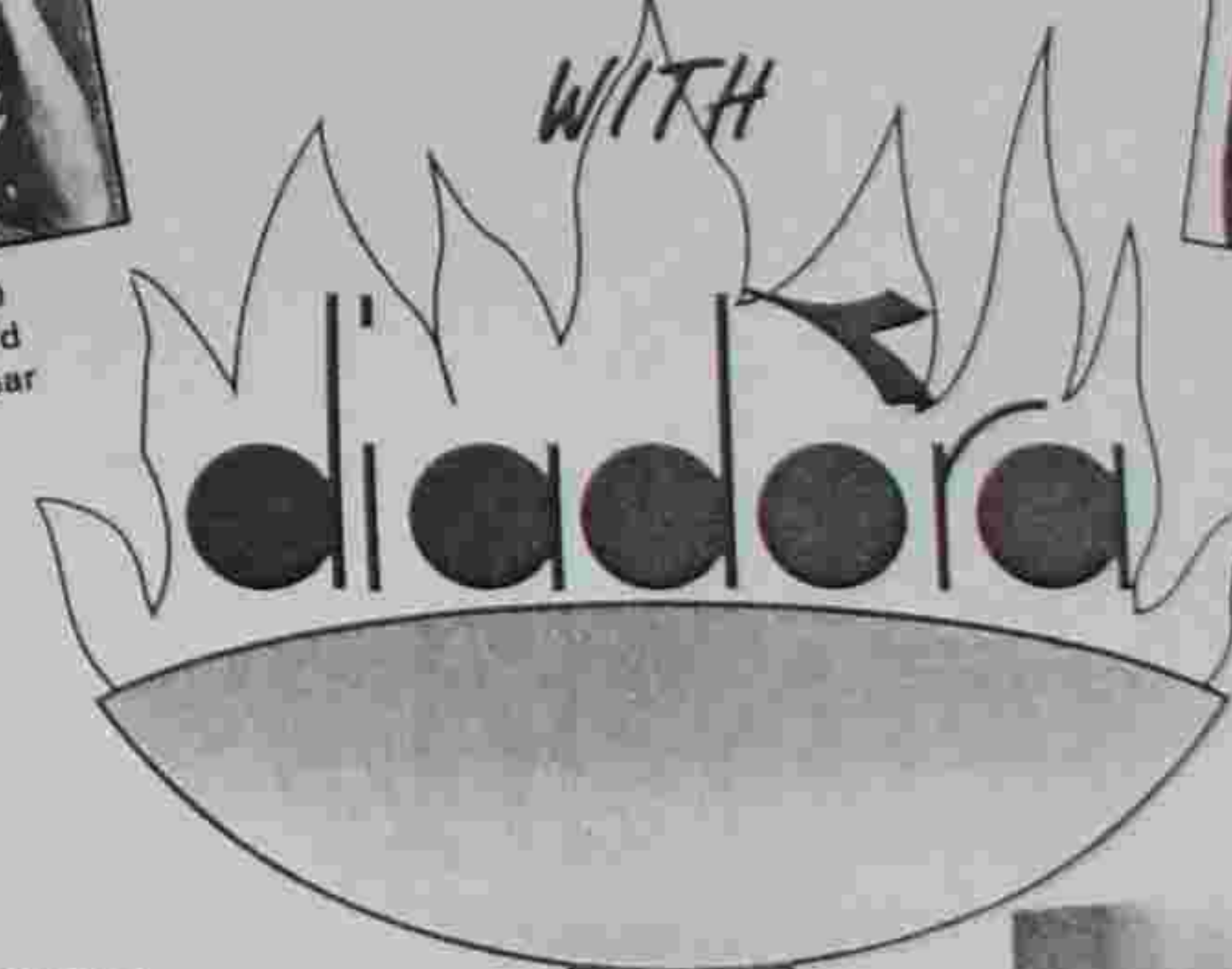
ROBERTO BAGGIO
European and World
Footballer of the Year



MARCO VAN BASTEN
Three times European
Footballer of the Year

FIRE UP YOUR
PERFORMANCE

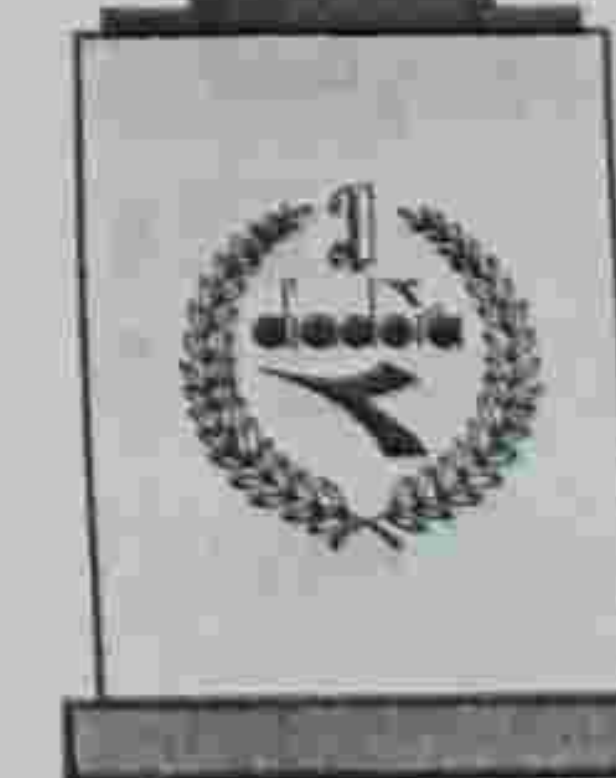
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