

BORN & BRED

ISSUE 5

50P

DISCOVERED!

THE MAN WHO BET THAT MAIDENHEAD
WOULD HAVE A DECENT F.A. CUP RUN



Photo Phil Adkins

A MAIDENHEAD UNITED FANZINE

OFFICIAL SPONSORS OF DEREK SWEETMAN

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to issue five of Born & Bred, the first of the new season. Once again this fanzine returns, devoted almost exclusively to the mighty Maidenhead United FC.

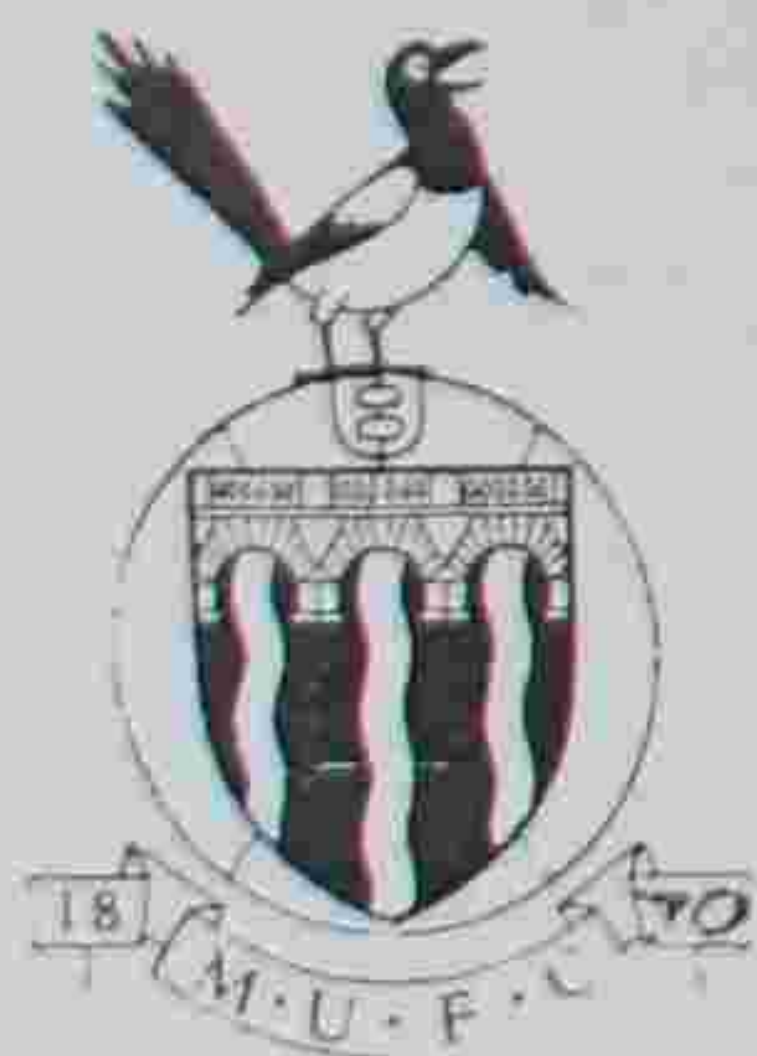
What has happened to all the money made from last seasons issues? You may ask. Well last season, in addition to sponsoring the team for every league goal scored at the rate of one pound each, we paid for the kit sponsorship of Magpies manager John Watt. All other proceeds from the fanzine were passed into the safe hands of the Coombs. Already this season we have paid for the kit sponsorship of John's sidekick Derek Sweetman. All future proceeds will go to the club in one form or another, maybe we will buy Sweets a pair of earplugs to protect him from the Old Gits abuse.

The only back issue available from me is number 4, it will cost you either 50p in person, or 75p from the address below (including p&p). Copies of that and earlier issues 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.

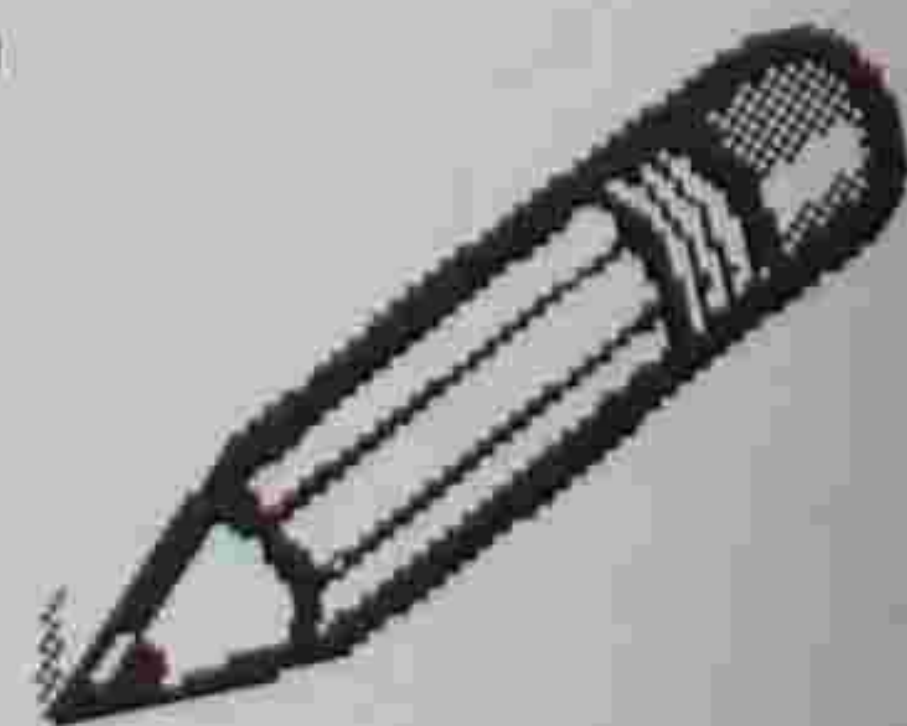
Happy reading.

STEVE JINMAN



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THIS EPISODE OF BORN & BRED WAS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
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BEST BOY: PHIL ADKINS
CATERING: PADDY ELRICK
SOUND: DAVID PERKINS

ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ACTUAL EVENTS IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL

BUNG SENSATION!!! (allegedly)

Yes in true Roger Cook style (allegedly), we are able to reveal (allegedly), topical premier league financial shenanigans being imitated at York Road (allegedly). Here we see left back Kevin Brown and left winger Mickey Creighton exchanging a wad of notes (allegedly). Why are they doing this? Is there a short Malaysian in the background (allegedly)? Who knows? Who cares?

Photos Phil Adkins



EDDIE TORIAL

As many a crap football pundit has said, the season's a marathon not a sprint. Thank God for that as Maidenhead's season has only just got out of the starting blocks. The nightmarish start was unable to be banished from the memory quickly thanks to the abrupt halt to the season caused by the FA Cup exit. One week ago I was dreading writing this article but a heartening performance at Ruislip Manor put the teams prospects in a slightly better light. October will give John and the lads a chance to kick start the season. Continued improvement will surely lead to a healthier league position in a months time.

Although Ruislip would never be considered as serious promotion contenders, they had been one of the early season pacemakers and Maidenhead had not won at Grosvenor Vale for over a decade. Things are looking up at last.

Some people however were quick to point out that Ruislip were beaten by bottom team Wembley the previous week, yet since then Wembley have beaten promotion favourites Wokingham and Marlow. There will obviously be no easy games this season (Brian), whipping boys such as Dorking and Croydon seem to be a thing of the past. It would seem to be an impossible task to pick three teams to go up, let alone three to go down. Everything is up for grabs.

Can Maidenhead get involved in the promotion race? Well it certainly isn't in the realms of fantasy, although I'd settle for a solid top 10 position at Christmas. The team seems a bit more settled now with all the new signings beginning to bear fruit. The lack of departures from York Road also means there is now some security in case of an injury crisis.

Off the field though, one moan is the 33% increase in admission and programme prices. I know that the league has raised the minimum entry to £3.50, but was it necessary to go higher, it hardly encourages casual supporters into the ground, or invites further expenditure on golden goals / raffle / food / beer etc. I do concede however that regular supporters have been looked after with a great deal on season tickets.

On a more positive note, the Maidenhead Advertiser has been giving some excellent coverage to the club in particular and the Ithsmian League scene generally. Hopefully this novel spotlight will not blind the Magpies and they will create some great headlines to overshadow the Oak Tree road mob. Come on you Stripes!

Steve Jinman

COVER STORY THE CUP OF WOE

What is it with Maidenhead and the FA Cup? When will we get a decent run. This year we were involved in the "tie of the preliminary round" (End 2 End), and the draw was such that if we had won this league status suggested that the 4th and final Preliminary Round would be reached. As the Advertiser pointed out you have to go back 15 years since the club reached this point in the competition. Cup success has eluded the club under many managers. Surely the club has paid enough in the last decade. Isn't it time for Marlow to give us some of the glory (the money would be nice too).



FOOTBALL CRAZY - by Logic

"Without a doubt," I always said,
"The Magpies are the best!
Striped shirts, black shorts, their socks are red,
And Whichford on their chest.
And every time they had the ball,
I'd give a mighty cheer:
"You super Magpies!" I would call;
A doctor standing near
Heard me say, "they are so great,
They're going to win the Cup...
He didn't long deliberate;
He just had me locked up."

YORK ROAD REPORTS

PART 1

BEAT SURRENDER

MAGPIES 3 (Ribeiro 3) UXBRIDGE 0

The first win in seven games, came courtesy of Nick Ribeiro hat trick. The evening, however, was marred by a sickening injury to Dale Godfrey. So yet another player falls victim to the Maidenhead curse on strikers.



Maidenhead supporters XI 1994/95 (at Bognor) Photo Mark Leonard

BARKING 2 MAGPIES 0

This was a thoroughly awful game. In depressing surroundings, against distinctly mediocre opposition United slumped to a easy defeat. However proceedings were livened up by an impromptu ticker tape welcome for Maidenhead at the beginning of the second half. By the end of the game most supporters attention was focused on the girls athletics meetings on the adjacent running track. Any fans intending to make the return trip this season should note that it is possible to gain free entry to the ground by either walking through the local park, carrying a camera, or taking a wrong turning when walking from the toilets back to the bar. Brian discovered this last route, although whether this was by his ingenuity, or via an alcoholic vision or even both no one will ever know.

WORTHING 3 MAGPIES 0

The last away game of the season led several United fans to opt to spend the day in fancy dress. A fact that seemed to provoke more reaction from the Worthing fans than their impending promotion. Worthing got the three points they required for promotion fairly easily although United had enough chances to show that there wasn't that much to choose between the two sides. There was a welcome return to the side for Mickey Creighton who showed just the flashes of inspiration that had been often since the turn of the year. Performance of day however, came from the Maidenhead supporters, who totally out shouted the 600 Worthing fans. As a club that had just gained promotion they didn't seem to want to sing about it. There was no celebratory pitch invasion and some club officials even thanked the United for "making" the afternoon. Maybe they all secretly agreed with those Magpies who chanted "You're coming straight back down". Events so far this season seem to be bearing this prediction out!



Magpies fans at Worthing Photo Mark Leonard

MAGPIES 4 (Creighton, Ribeiro, McNamee, Pritchard) STAINES 2

The season ended with a morale boosting win over Staines. United twice came from behind to run out comfortable winners. Highlight of the game was Macca challenging the keeper, who ended up with sore ribs after missing the ball and catching Peter's head!

This result left Maidenhead in a final position of twelfth. But if justice had been done in the shape of a win in the home game against runaway champions Boreham Wood, then United would have finished in what I feel would have been a more realistic eighth spot. Although the 1994/5 season must be seen as the most successful since promotion. Here's to more improvement in 1995/6.

by Paul Weller

1994/95 - THAT WAS

The following is the result of brief and totally unrepresentative survey carried out at the end of last season. Thanks to all those who took part, you are mentioned on page 2.

Player of the Year

Unsurprisingly, virtual ever present and joint top scorer Vernon Pratt received a near unanimous victory, although there were votes for Paul Dadson (player of the half season perhaps?) and Trevor Roffey.

Most Improved Player

No clear winner here with Kevin Brown, Dave Harrison (a real prospect for the future - as a coach?), and Tyrone Houston all tying for first place. There was also a mention for Nick Ribeiro. One respondent (an old git in the making?), claimed that there hadn't been one!

Best Magpies Performance

Predictably, the 3-1 victory at Aldershot led the field here, although the remarkable comeback at Billericay would probably have leapfrogged it from second spot had it been witnessed by more United fans. Other mentions went to Barking (5-2), Staines (2-2), Boreham Wood (0-1), and Wembley (5-0).

Worst Magpies Performance

In a hotly contested category the depressing displays at home to Wembley (0-5), and at Whyteleafe (0-3) just edged it from the humiliation dished out by Chertsey at home (2-8). Can you believe that the Chertsey manager didn't want to play that afternoon? There were also votes for Berkhamsted (0-1) and Barking (0-2).

Magpies Goal of the Season

Another joint win for Kevin Brown, as his dumbfounding last minute long range winning header against Ruislip Manor sharing the honour with any one (unspecified) of James Pritchard's four at Wembley. One other nomination went to Danny Pedley's goal at Dorking.

Best Moment of the Season

The day at Aldershot was a clear winner here. There were also several votes for various non-Maidenhead moments such as Marlow and Windsor getting relegated and Partick Thistle staying up!

Worst Moment of the Season

Unfortunately Paul Dadson breaking his leg was an easy winner. However on a less serious note, some were more disturbed by the daylight robbery committed by Boreham Wood in March, and naturally the thought that Partick Thistle might get relegated!

Best Opponents

Chertsey by a long way from Aldershot, Bognor and Worthing.

Worst Opponents

Dorking, well ahead from Wembley and the Old Gits.

Best Opposition Player

Errol Brown aka Lee Charles (Chertsey) now of QPR. Tooting's Mark Tompkins was also nominated.

THE SEASON THAT WAS

Worst Opposition Player

The Dorking keeper.

Best Opposition Goal

Too close to call with anyone of Chertsey's eight, Tim Cook's O.G. against Boreham Wood and the cliched response of "all opposition goals are bad" leading the field.

Best Home Game

Aldershot (2-2), comfortably beating Worthing (1-0)

Worst Home Game

Wembley (0-5), beating contenders such as Abingdon (0-2), Boreham Wood (0-1), Chertsey (2-8) Fareham (0-1) and Havant (0-1).

Best Away Supporters

Unanimously Aldershot.

Best Awayday

Aldershot... again!

Most Friendly Away Welcome

Winners were those wonderful people at Bognor closely followed by those at Wivenhoe.

Best Away Game & Ground

Need I say it... Aldershot (3-1).

Worst Away Game

Those meaningless end of season games at Whyteleafe (0-3) and Barking (0-2).

Worst Ground

Choose one from Barking, Leyton (whose delights we won't be sampling this season) and Staines.

Most Pleasing Aspect of the Season

Generally people seemed quite happy with last season, notably they appreciated the quality of Magpies' support away from home and the hope engendered by the excellent spell of form up to Christmas. Predictably many were glad that Marlow were relegated meaning there would be a local derby to look forward to. There was also delight from one quarter that Trevor decided to stop talking (in the programme that is).

Biggest Disappointment of the Season

Most people were disappointed with the poor run of results after the new year, and the absence of any cup run (or victory for that matter). Obviously nobody was happy with the many serious injuries suffered by some of the players. One disgruntled supporter was also most upset by the election to Parish Councillor of Sarchfeld MacDonald. Who?

Predictions for 1995/6

Quite simply an improvement on 1994/5 with maybe promotion or even a cup run. Although two fans would settle for Mark Smith getting laryngitis for the duration of the season!

ADIOS TO NICK RIBEIRO (THE HAT TRICK HERO)

Nick has recently left the club to take up an offer of a job in Spain. I will be sorry to see him go. He may never have established himself in the first team but Nick always gave 100% when required to fill in for the latest injury stricken first choice striker and weighed in with his fair share of goals. However it looks as if Nick has already impressed with his hat trick scoring ability...



WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP (Doha, Qatar) Final: Argentina 2 (Biagini 26, Guerrero 89) Brazil 0. Third/fourth place play-off: Portugal 3 (Ribeiro 69, 81, Carvalho 72) Spain 2 (Salgado 25, De la Peña 38).

Due to popular demand we are proud to announce the return of...

THAT MAN TALKS BOLLOCKS Number 6 Walter Gammie

In the Times recently the aforementioned journalist (fiction writer more like) visited Uxbridge for an FA Cup tie. He described the ground thus:

"few non league clubs can have as well tended flowerbeds as Uxbridge, add its picnic tables, the cherry trees amid the lawn, the peeling white picket fence that channels the players onto the pitch and views of neighbouring Stockley Park and Honeycroft was an agreeable place to visit in the soft sunshine on Saturday"

For those who don't know the Honeycroft is a charmless ground in the middle of Stockley Park Industrial Estate. So its official Mr. Gammie. You talk bollocks!

PADDY'S PATTER

The following article has been censored...

Youse lot all fxxxxx right? Mines a bxxxxx pint. Get us a sxxxxx burger too. Lets see the fxxxxxx programme, what date is that on the front, Andy you clueless fxxxxx. Whats fxxxxx Terrace Talk doing back again, Trevor its fxxxxxx sxxxx. Whats Sarchfeld done with his hair it looks fxxxxx stupid. Come on Maidenhead fxxx the bxxxxxxx. Up the Jags!



BEFORE OR AFTER?

Trevor Kingham in fancy dress at Worthing. If Trevor had got a pound for every person who asked him when he was going to put his costume on that day. He'd have that day. He'd have been able to get a taxi home.

GROUNDS FOR

During the summer, United supporters cannot have failed to notice that those worthy(?) townfolk representing "The Man" in Maidenhead have been indirectly discussing the future of Maidenhead United Football Club. In planning for future retail development in Maidenhead, the council has decided that it might be a good idea to build a car park to replace the hallowed York Road turf. These plans have now progressed, I think, to the public inquiry stage. Thus it seems possible that the real estate value of Estadio York Road may at last be possibly realised. This raises many questions, most importantly: Should the club move? If so where? I think most fans would agree with the sentiments expressed by Roger Coombs in his excellent letter to the Maidenhead Advertiser. Indeed it is quite reassuring that the club seems quite prepared to stand up and decide upon its future alone. Whatever happens will surely lead to a defining moment in the club's history as wherever Maidenhead United end up playing it will eventually be in a smart A graded ground old or new.

Steve Jinman

Mark Leonard has produced the following article on the subject...

Since long before most of us can remember, it seems there has been speculation about where to move the Magpies' playing facilities so that Maidenhead town centre can add to its delightful attractions yet another area of wasteland, someday perhaps to be built on.

Timed to coincide with the last game of last season, the most recent proposal was Stafferton Way, described as "an ideal location". Well, I suppose that an old sewage works is preferable to the toxic waste dump one developer seemed so keen on, but I don't feel a buzz of excitement from the prospect of us being sandwiched between an industrial estate and the rubbish tip, with its associated interesting smells and insect life. What the developer clearly meant was that we would be nicely out of the way and would have no neighbours to annoy (annoy the neighbours, who us?).

Leaving cynicism aside for a moment, this site has some good points; it is still close to the town centre and on what may yet become a through road. Also, anyone who has helped work on the ground in recent summers will realise that parts of York Road have gone past "delightfully run down" to the "almost past saving" stage of decay, and the cracks that have appeared could swallow vast sums of money, and yet I am loathe to abandon our venerable home.

So what is it about the place - is it just nostalgia? No for you see, for all its problems, York Road is still one of the best grounds in the

CONCERN?

division. With its traditional character and an ability to generate an atmosphere, even with an attendance that barely constitutes a crowd, it is a "proper" football ground.

We do have to visit some pretty miserable older grounds, but it must be said there are few less inspiring venues than a purpose built new non league ground. Designed (by people who understand nothing about being a football fan) merely to be "tidy" and to comply with grading criteria, rather than with any consideration for a sense of occasion or atmosphere, they are almost without exception sad and soulless. The following passage, extracted from Robert Hardman's column in the Daily Telegraph on April 19th, illustrates the point:

It was many years since I had been to the Poole Stadium, a wonderful old wreck of a place acting as home to both Poole Town and the local speedway team. The rusting floodlights soared above the town centre, the old stands poked their gnarled heads over a mish-mash of corrugated fencing. Not a pretty sight, certainly not a model of New Age stadium design but a place with atmosphere. Except that it was empty.

I was told that the club had been moved out by the council last year and had gone to a new site on the outskirts of town.

I knew what to expect. And I knew I had found it when a ball flew over a low breeze-block wall onto my bonnet. Inside was a drab little ground with a tiny bus-shelter stand and a railing around the pitch. Bashley went into a well-

deserved 1-0 lead, which they held to the end, leaving Poole's small band of around 150 fans to contemplate the Southern Division relegation zone more closely.

There are many complicated reasons behind the club's move to new premises — not least a rent rise due to stadium redevelopment — but it has wrecked Poole Town's morale.

Here was a team representing a town of 130,000 people with a ground and a crowd inferior to those enjoyed by Bashley, a club from a clearing in the New Forest.

Whatever the problems of big old football grounds, they at least have the capacity to make clubs think big.

Poole Town will never think big again as long as they are tucked away behind breeze blocks and a bus shelter.

And that's why I'm worried. I'm sure we would get better facilities than poor old Poole Town (indeed, we must insist on better facilities than we currently have at York Road, as the shaky future of our tenure there is partly to blame for its deterioration and for a reluctance to carry out major improvements), but a football ground is far more than the sum of its facilities. If we must move to a new ground (and not without shedding a few tears for York Road) then please, please don't let it be built without us, the supporters, having a real say in its planning and approval.

Mark Leonard

YORK ROAD REPORTS
PART 2

IN THE SUMMERTIME (WHEN THE WEATHER WAS FINE)

Just like professional football the summer brought a period of "frenzied transfer activity" to York Road. Almost as soon as the season was there was much "media speculation" as to how John Watt would strengthen his squad. Wild rumours of signings of players of the calibre of David Crown or Cliff Hercules flew around thanks to the Maidenhead Advertiser. Some weeks I half expected to discover that John's latest targets were Stan Collymore and Dennis Bergkamp! By the beginning of pre season however, the following major signings had been made. From Yeading came a "much travelled" striker who "knows where the goal is", Paul McKinnon. From Berkhamsted came the "enigmatic" forward, Colin Tate. From Slough came the "committed", midfielder Tony Dell. Generally these signings were warmly greeted, although perhaps led some people's pre season predictions to go into overdrive.

The first competitive encounter of the season gave the new recruits, a chance to be tested against one of the strongest teams outside the Premier League, **Reading**. In front of a healthy crowd the teams played out a goalless first half. However the second half saw United overhaul a one goal deficit to hold a 2-1 lead with 15 minutes left. The highlight of the day then came with an Irish stalker holding up proceedings. Two Trevor Morley goals then gave Reading a face saving life line. But in the last minute Reading's inept Danish trialist (known as the new Schmeical, new Dorking keeper more like), almost gave Maidenhead an equaliser after misjudging a corner. All in all a good afternoon for the club, some appreciation coming from the otherwise dire Reading fanzine Heaven 11: Only £4 to get in, had increased to £4.80 by the time the turnstile chap had flogged you an 80 pence programme. However, on entering the ground a rather distinctive 'Social Club' (bar) stood out very temptingly. Cheap beer - & whether you were actually allowed to do it - the chance to watch the game with a pint in your hand.

The following week at York Road, Paul McKinnon "opened his Maidenhead account" with a fine strike against his last club **Yeading**, however with a largely reserve influenced line up taking the field in the second half, Yeading came back to win very comfortably.

Another large home defeat came next at the hands of **Peterborough** reserves, before confidence was restored a little with comfortable wins at **Racing Club Warwick** and **Lewes**.

The pre season friendlies did little to indicate what the Magpies fortunes would be over the following months, the amount of players involved meant that they simply provided all the squad members the chance to demonstrate why they should make the first team sheet. Other new pre season signings included ex Windsor skipper, defender Robbie Gold, full back Mark Harrison and right winger Richard McDowell. It was also confirmed during this period that Simon Daley and Dave Thompson had left the club. Thus Maidenhead were equipped to face the new season. Now for the real thing!

by Mungo Jerry

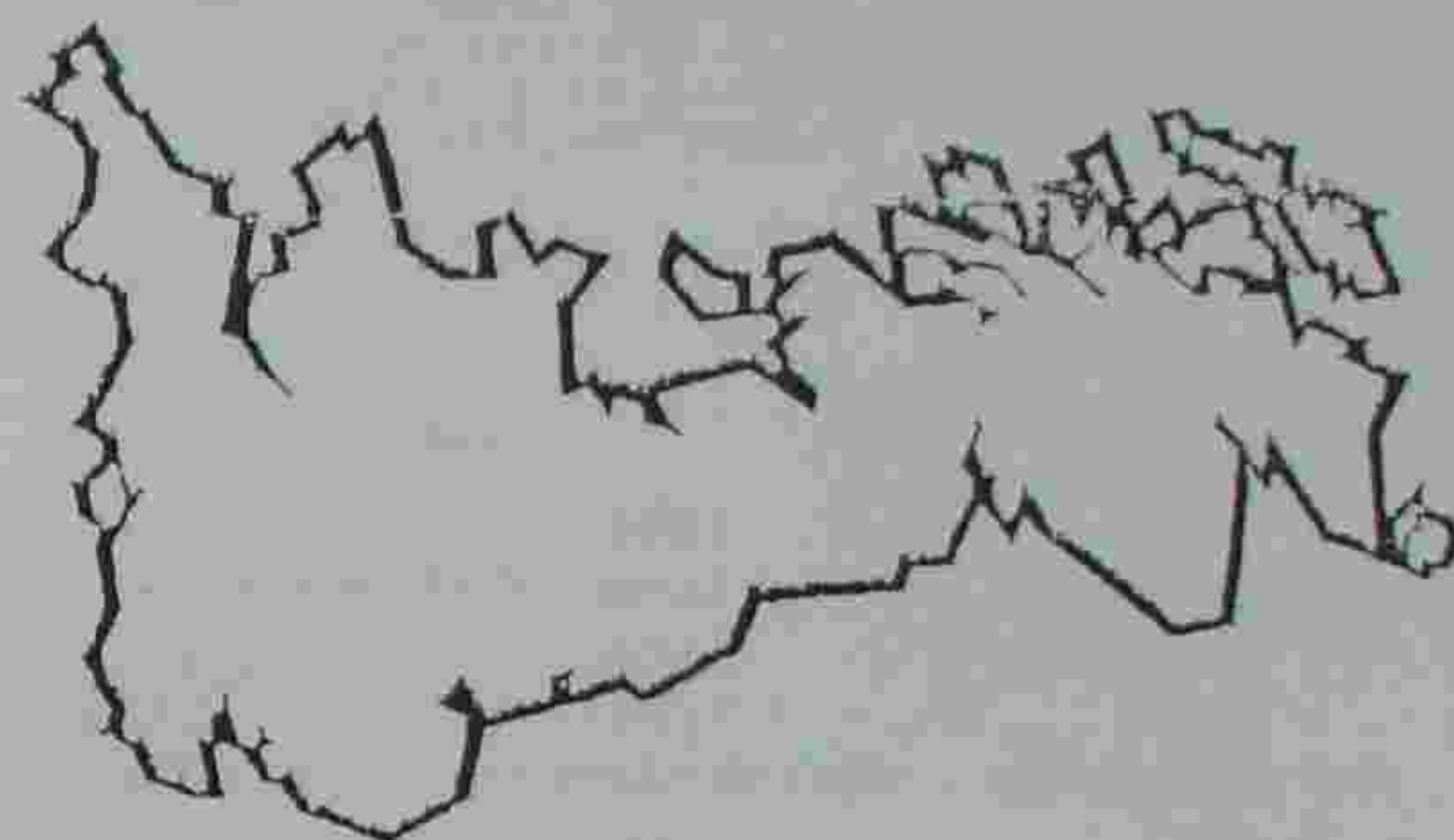
SPECIAL ADVERTISING FEATURE

Do you come from Manchester?

Do you have any relatives in Manchester?

Do you live near Manchester?

If you can say NO to these three questions you are an ideal person to become a fan of Manchester United



see if you & your dog friends fight the ever-growing army of scabbers you can't see around Great Britain and answer the questions of MUFU. The first time newly-formed and paid 1000 where you think the city of Manchester is on the map score. MUFU quickly award of these being tried correct entries there. Above the tracker which we asked you to fill in below.

You could win

1st prize: Brattonville 1.4g Ford Bandwagon for you and the others to jump on

This prestige venue comes with many features such as stereo radio, pre-set to come on at 1.15 every Saturday (of course you won't be at the game).

2nd prize: One year's supply of Manchester United shirts

These will be dispatched to you weekly

3rd prize: A complete supply of Manchester United programmes from the games that you have attended

Both will be sent in the same envelope

Tie-breaker (in no more than 12 words)

The one thing that turned me into such a sad bastard that I feel it necessary to follow a football team I have absolutely no connection with is:

Name:

Address:

Mental age:

Our thanks to Southern Cross Airlines. The Ugly inside for sending the original idea

EXCLUSIVE!!!

Supporters may be aware of United's excellent record against Wembley. What they won't be aware of is the club's innovative money saving scheme that this good form (and the similarly consistent bad record against Abingdon) has inspired. In this time of fiscal austerity we are able to show evidence (opposite) of this ingenious system.

FREE GIFT!!!

JANUARY	1st	13th	25th
FEBRUARY	2nd	14th	26th
MARCH	3rd	15th	27th
APRIL	4th	16th	28th
MAY	5th	17th	29th
JUNE	6th	18th	30th
JULY	7th	19th	31st
AUGUST	8th	20th	
SEPTEMBER	9th	21st	
OCTOBER	10th	22nd	
NOVEMBER	11th	23rd	
DECEMBER	12th	24th	

1890 1891 1892 1893 1894 1895 1896 1897 1898 1899 1900

1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000

11.00 am 3.00 pm 7.30 pm 7.45 pm 8.00 pm

Don't ever say that your supporter friendly fanzine Born & Bred never gives you, the reader, any free gifts. (After all our defence has been managing to do it enough so far.) Above you will find your handy easy-to-use programme sticker sheet.

All you have to do is part with your 80p upon entering the ground and try and work out which particular astral calendar Hand Shandy Andy (our programme editor) has used this week in order to determine what time, day, month, year, century & last but not least planet HE thinks the match will take place on.

Having done this merely use the sheet to make the necessary alterations and HEY PRESTO! everything will be back to normal (well off the pitch anyway.)

MAIDENHEAD UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB



Founded 1870
Registered Ground and Office:

York Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire. SL6 1SQ
Telephone 01628 36314 (Boardroom)
01628 24739 (Social Club)
0891 122 903 (Hotline)

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W WHICHFORD
Nothing's Impossible

The Secretary
Wembley F.C.
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Wemberlee Wemberlee
Itsagreatbigplaceinlondon
andtheycallitwemberlee
Norf London.

29th September 1995

Our Ref: - Baldyslaphead/JC

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: ICIS LEAGUE DIVISION 1 FIXTURE - 4TH NOVEMBER 1995

I write with reference to the above matter and to the forthcoming meeting between our two respective teams.

You will note from your records that over virtually the last decade this fixture has resulted in a victory for Maidenhead United which is no doubt a cause for extreme irritation for your club, especially taking into account some of our performances.

I feel I should also point out that although within the footballing world it is generally regarded as the pinnacle of a players career to play on the hallowed turf the appeal of seeing the magnificent twin towers each season is starting to wane. Notwithstanding that of course it is wonderful to be able to boast of such an unparalleled record at the famous venue.

I have also been informed by our treasurer that the cost involved of arranging for player transport is in excess of £150. It is with these thoughts in mind that I would kindly request that it would be simpler for all concerned if the 3 points in question were merely sent to us in the post.

To this effect I enclose a pre-paid envelope for your attention and look forward to hearing from you in due course. (For your information I have received a similar request from Abingdon Town concerning their forthcoming match at York Road and I can advise that I have already agreed to a similar request.)

Yours sincerely

ROY 'THE BOY' BANNISTER

125 YEARS OF SENIOR FOOTBALL

Full Members of The Football Association, Members of The Isthmian League, Suburban League, Allied Counties Youth League and the Berks & Bucks County Football Association.

YORK ROAD REPORTS
PART 3
STRAIGHT TO HELL

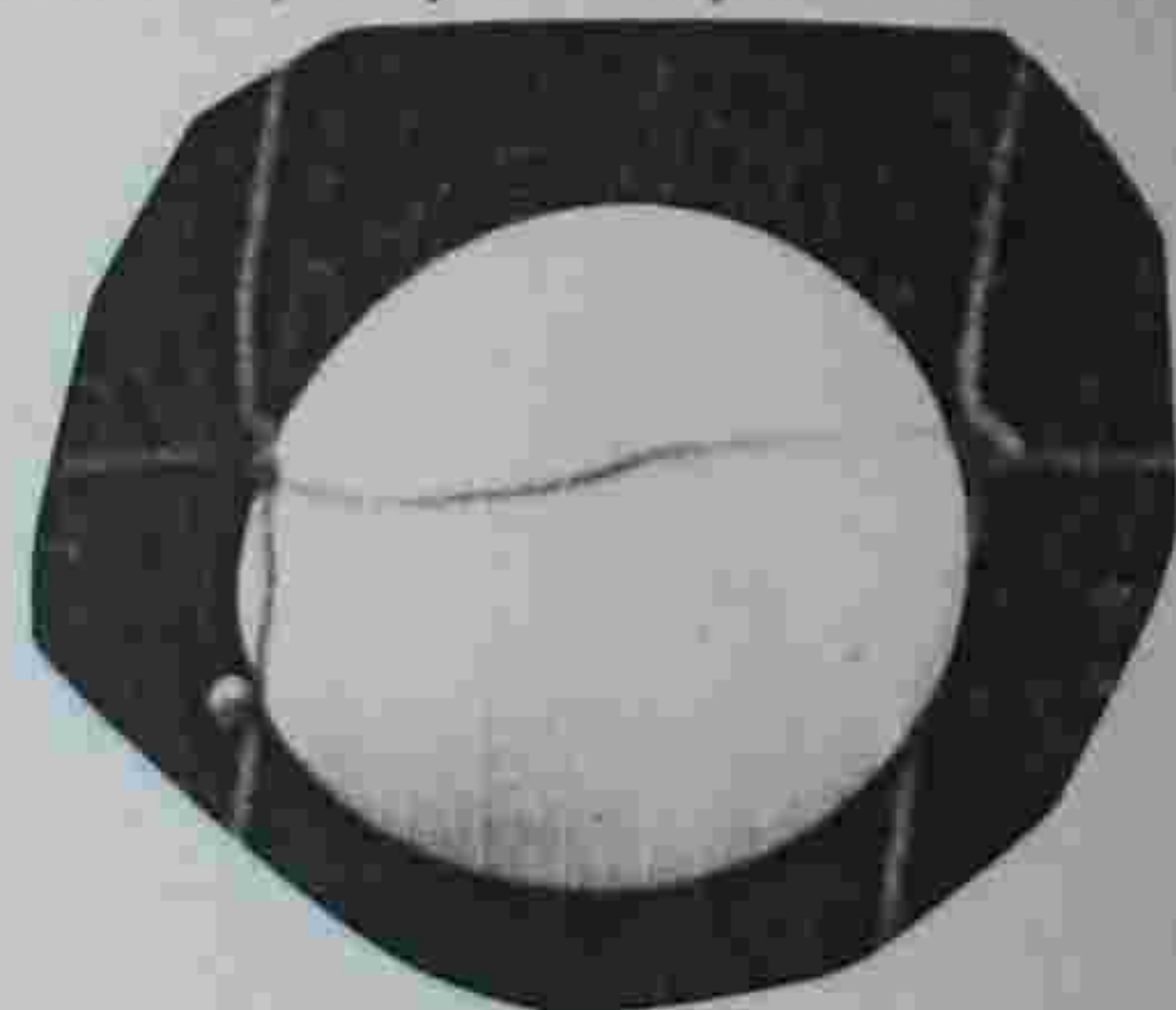
MAGPIES 0 BARKING 2

As I walked down Bell Street with my new season ticket, I must confess I was secretly looking forward to a season where United would consistently show the impressive form which led to talk of promotion last term. With a bigger and more experienced squad, surely this would be the beginning of the most successful league season of the 90s. The first half bore this out to some extent with Maidenhead dominating an average as ever Barking outfit which had only been patched together in the previous week. However chances were not taken and by full time Barking had taken advantage of their limited opportunities and grabbed three points. Thus Maidenhead's terrible opening day record continued, but surely this early season hiccup would be remedied with a stirring performance in the local derby at Marlow three days later.

MARLOW 3 MAGPIES 0

How wrong could I be? This must have been the worst United performance since the 1-0 defeat at the hands of soon to be relegated Windsor 18 months ago. Marlow cruised to a humiliatingly easy victory, in what had been up to kick off a great day for Magpies fans.

Earlier several of us had warmed up for the derby by visiting several local hostleries, before setting up camp at The Plough where an increasingly large group of supporters greeted those travelling to the ground with bold promises of how United were going to put Marlow firmly in their place. The difference in the pre and post match mood was incalculable. Only a severely pissed Phil Adkins was capable of hitting the back of the net, in a display for which Vernon Pratt was made the scapegoat, although to my mind there were 10 other equally worthy candidates. The season couldn't get any worse... could it?



Right the only thing to end up in Marlow's net. Left the early season verdict

THAME 4 MAGPIES 0 (FACUP)

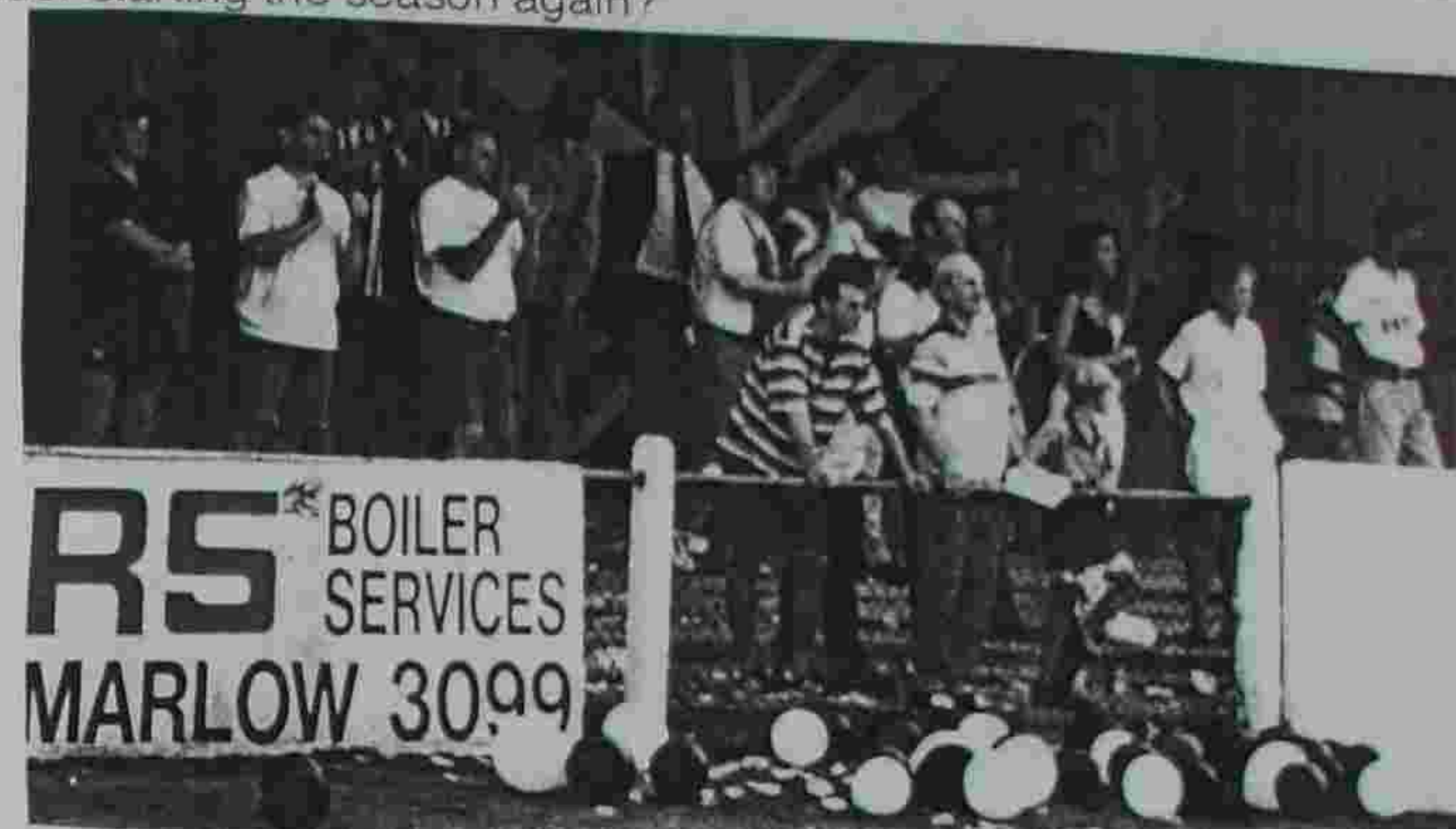
Well for me it couldn't as I spent this day watching Brian Lara smash the England bowlers all over the Oval. Others weren't so lucky. Murdo felt obliged to tell the tale.

After the ticker tape and balloons of Marlow came the Christmas paper and ribbons as the festive season arrived early at Thame, who had this game wrapped up by half time with three gift goals. Christmas is a time for repeats and so it proved here as the Magpies followed their inept performance against Marlow with one just as appalling. Those black and white turkeys were well and truly stuffed. This left the fans with the impression that Maidenhead's idea of a cup run is 45 minutes followed by another 45 minutes. Honestly the words shambles and pathetic do not even begin to describe how bad this performance was and anyway such metaphors lose their impact with

constant overuse.

Back to Christmas: McNamee received two cards from the referee and there was the stark realisation that our midfield resembled Father Christmas (neither exist). The donkeys? Well work that out for yourself. The wise men were those who chose not to come to the game. The religious theme ends here as no one got near to a cross.

Strong stuff from Murdo but seemingly justified, I wonder if the FA would consider starting the season again?



Magpies fans at Marlow Photos: Mark Leonard

MAGPIES 2 (Houston, Smith) TOOTING 2

Goals and a point at last! A resolute display from United made sure the misery would continue no longer. A superb strike from Andy Smith giving Maidenhead a hard earned first point.

MAGPIES 2 (McKinnon 2) WHYTELEAFE 1

Maidenhead are back! As predicted by "Mystic Trev", Paul McKinnon gets United back to winning ways. Man of the match however was Trevor Roffey who kept out everything that Whyteleaf (who had begun the season strongly) fired at him. Trevor was cruelly denied a clean sheet by a harsh injury time penalty.

AYLESBURY 3 MAGPIES 0 (LCUP)

What a bad draw. As if Maidenhead don't struggle enough in cup competitions they face the holders away from home in the league cup. The result was readily expected but a battling performance against a very strong side from the Magpies rewards the fans for their journey.

MAGPIES 0 BASINGSTOKE 0

In a game to match the abysmal weather, United hold on for a point. This was largely thanks to another superb performance from keeper Trevor Roffey. The game gets so boring that at one stage a Magpies fan falls asleep resulting in a nasty fall. So be warned, watching bad football can damage your health!

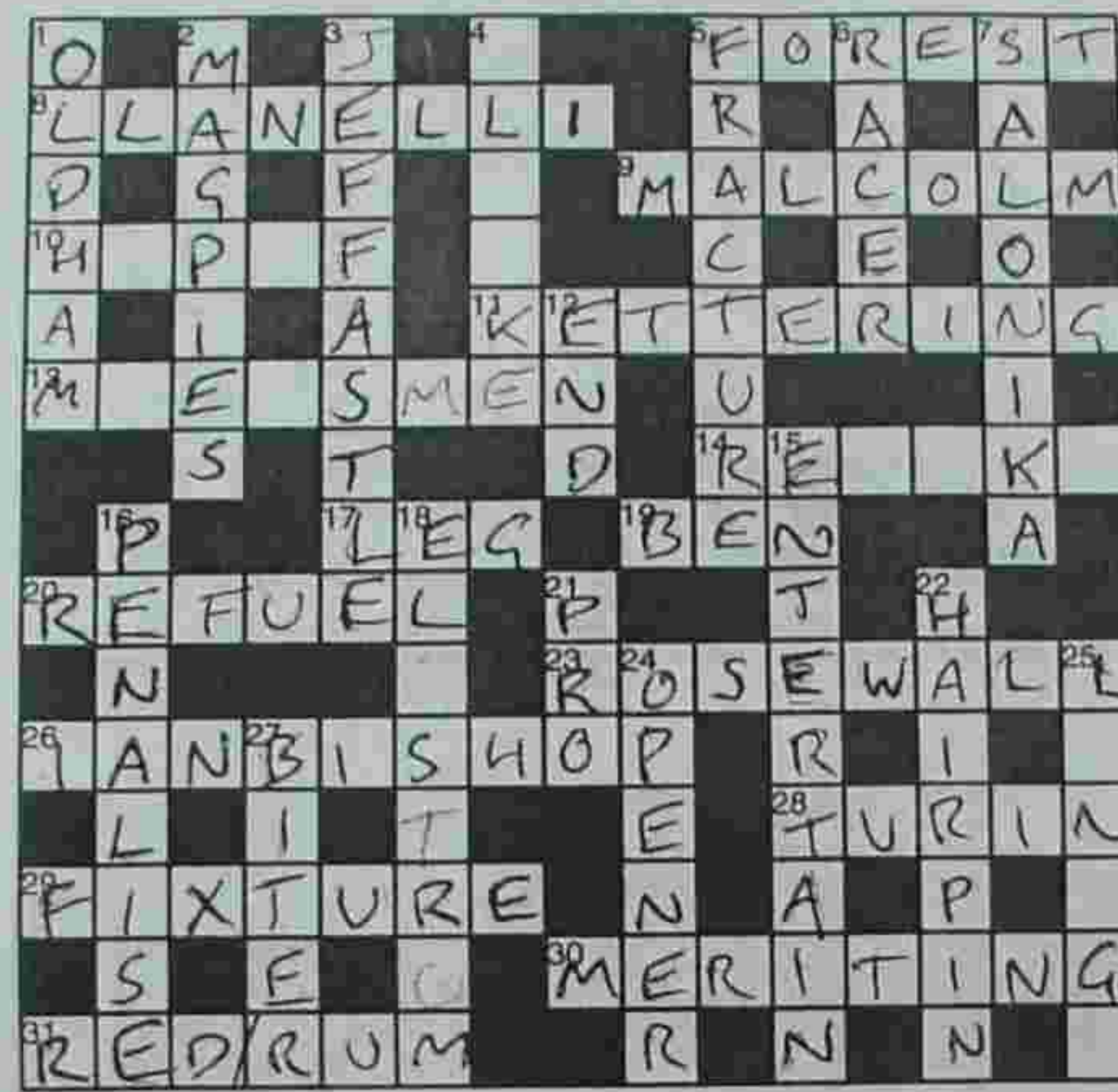
RUISLIP MANOR 0 MAGPIES 1 (McKinnon)

The best display of season so far gives United their first away win of the season. On another day the score might have been 3-0 against a Manor team fourth in the table at start of play. Suddenly its four league games without defeat. After slipping onto the critical list as a result of the Marlow defeat and knocking on death's door at Thame, Maidenhead's season seems to have recovered enough to come out of rehabilitation and come out fighting. After a stop start September, there is dare I say it reason to look forward to in October.

by Joe Strummer

CROSS WORDS

When I came across the pitifully inadequately researched cock-up you see in this cutting from a well-known daily newspaper, it became clear to me that a strongly-worded letter was needed. Although it may be that I overdid it a bit, the newspaper met my balanced viewpoint (also reproduced here) with stony, self-righteous silence. So, should some smart-arse trivia buff say to you, "Oh, yes, I've heard of Maidenhead United - they're called the Tanners, aren't they?", you'll know whom to blame...



SPORTS CROSSWORD

DOWN

- 1 — Athletic, the 'Latics' (6)
- 2 Maidenhead United's nickname (7) *TANNERS*
- 3 West Brom player who played for England in 1969 and 1970 (4,5)
- 4 Don —, rugby union player who became New Zealand's most capped full-back (6)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Sport 5
 ACROSS: 5 Forest, 8 Lanelli, 9 Malcolm, 10 Hanu, 11 Kattering, 13 Marksman, 14 Revoku, 17 Lag, 19 Ben, 20 Refuel, 23 Rosewall, 26 Ian Bishop, 28 Turin, 29 Fixture, 30 Meriting, 31 Red Rum
 DOWN: 1 Digham, 2 Tanners, 3 Jeff Astle, 4 Clarke, 5 Fracture, 6 Racer, 7 Salonika, 12 End, 15 Entertain, 16 Penalise or penalize, 18 Elvetrom, 21 Pro, 22 Hairpin, 24 Opener, 25 Lynegh, 27 Biter.

SIR - To many, it might appear trivial, but The Daily Telegraph has left me feeling deeply, deeply offended. I feel personally slighted, in the way, say, a Newcastle United fan might at seeing his club called the "Hatters". And why?

In Telegraph Sport of June 12, I found my eye irresistably drawn to the Sports Crossword and to clue no. 2 down: "Maidenhead United's nickname (7)". Quick as a flash, I filled in "Magpies", only for a dreadful feeling to overcome me when I tried to complete the puzzle, and found that the words across did not fit. The "correct" solution, it transpired (I needed a stiff drink to give myself the courage to look), was "Tanners".

When the past glories of the team one adores are so distant, and a mention in the press so rare that even a crossword clue can quicken the pulse, one should be grateful for small mercies; had not your compiler made this frightful bloomer, the clue should have read, "Leatherhead F.C.'s nickname", and our name would have remained in cobwebbed obscurity a little longer.

But, oh, the hurt is too great... Nothing less than a grovelling apology and some long-overdue publicity for my beloved Magpies could even begin to console me. Maybe, I could forgive you; you might even persuade me to reconsider my boycott of The Daily Telegraph. Just maybe...

Yours tearfully,

MARK LEONARD

EXTRAS...EXTRAS...EXTRAS...EXTRAS...EX

Looks like Marlow and Wokingham were assured promotion before a ball was kicked. Slough won't be so happy with the Birmingham Argus' impromptu non league reconstruction!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 1995

THE FAMOUS SPORTS PAPER

Sports

Argus

Enfield	1	1	0	0	4	1	1	3
Chertsey T	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
Wokingham	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
Dulwich	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
Hayes A	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
Grays A	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
Worthing	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1
Bishop Stid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carshalton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chesham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heath	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hitchin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kingstonian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marlow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purfleet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Albans	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sutton Utd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Walton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aylesbury	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Bromley	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Yeading	1	0	0	0	1	1	3	0
Molesley	1	0	0	0	1	1	4	0

ICIS ONE

Aldershot	1	Haybridge	1
Whyteleafe	2	Wombly	0
Basingstoke	5	Staines	0
Ruislip N	1	Wokingham	2

The following headline must have caused some worried moments for two Magpies fans during summer:

MURDO MACCLEOD TO TAKE THE REINS AT PARTICK

What is the difference between OJ Simpson and Ray Harford? OJ got a years trial.

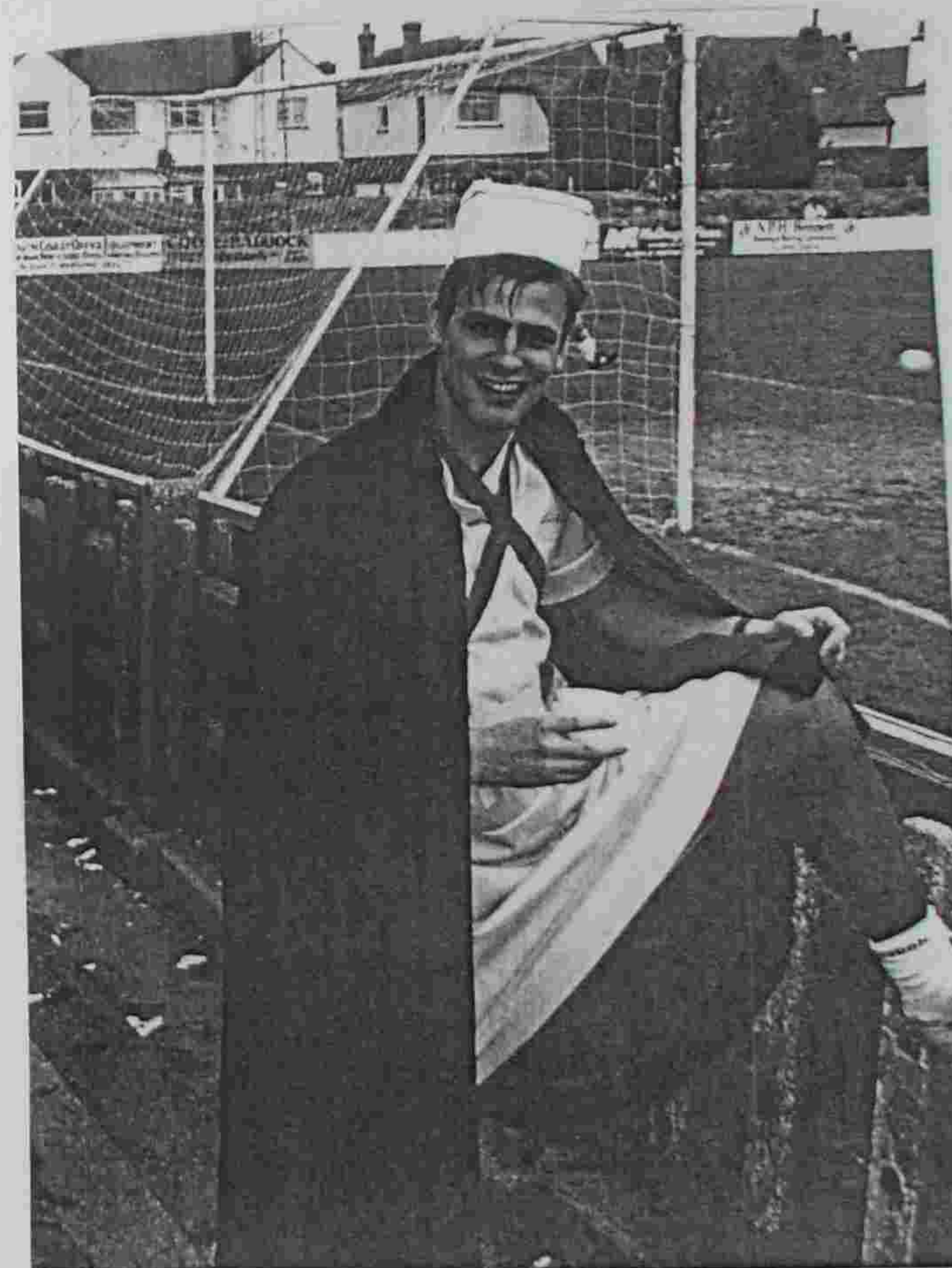
What is another difference between OJ Simpson and Ray Harford? Harford's got less than a year to sort out his defence.

What is the difference between Manchester City and a lift? It takes Manchester City 9 months to go down.

What happens next when the ball enters Manchester City's half? A goal.

Why is Manchester United's new away kit silver? To match the colour of the two runners up medals they won last season.

PAGE 23 GIRL...

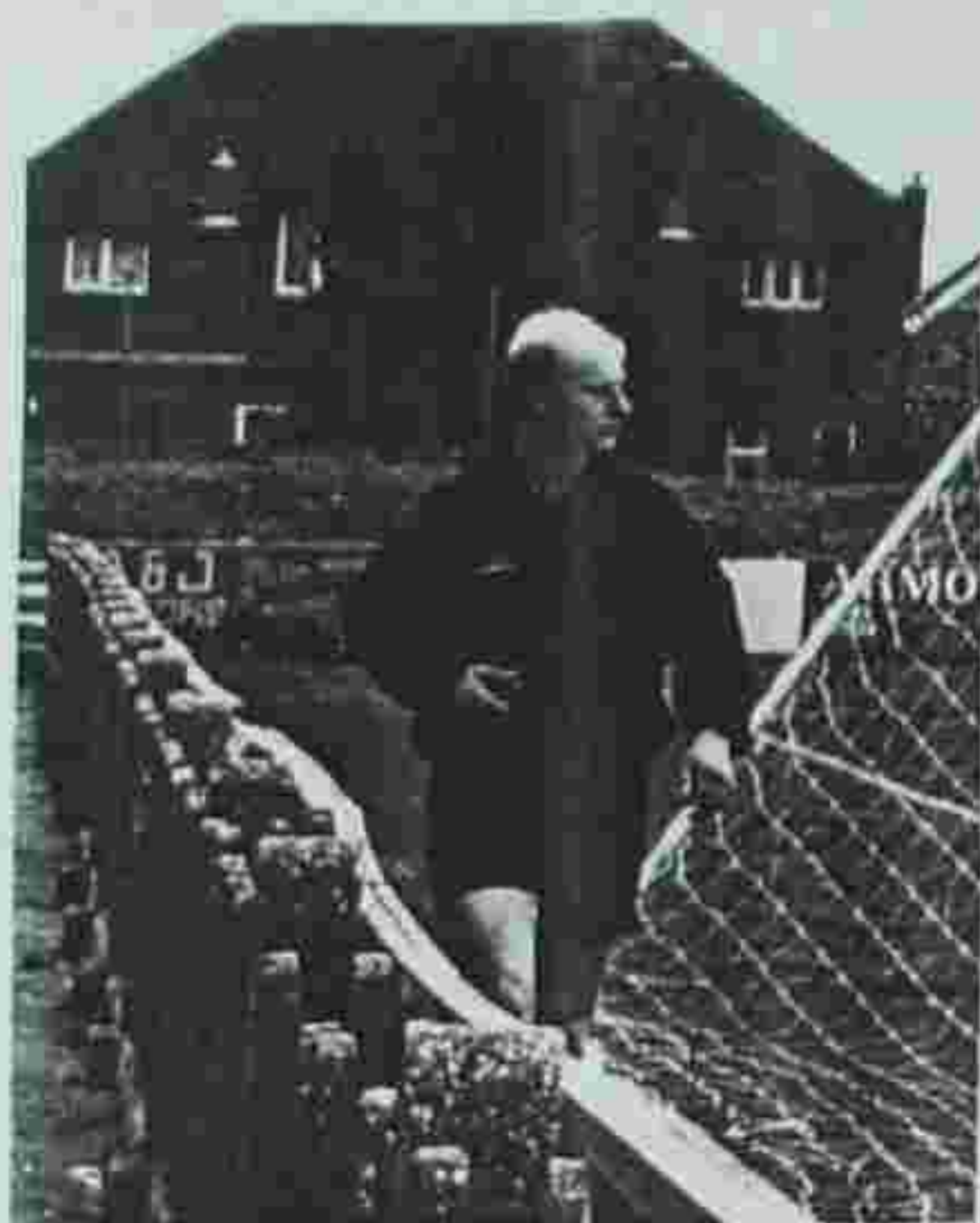


DADSON IS BACK

Yes last season's star on the pitch (pre Christmas) and on the terraces (post Christmas), is well on his way to reclaiming his place on the left wing. He has been playing for the reserves since pre season and should be in contention for a first team place within the next month. Furthermore as our picture shows he has taken a nursing course in case of future injuries.

BACK PAGE UNITED

THOMMO STORMS OUT IN WAGES ROW



It can be revealed today that Dave Thompson has left the club after being told that he would be paid next season on a money for goals basis. On being told of this innovative move, Thompson stormed out of the club (see picture left) vowing never to return. In an exclusive interview Thompson reasoned that "there was no way I could accept the deal, I've got to eat regularly for God's sake".

