# BORN & BRED

ISSUE 6

50P

## BEATLES REVIVAL JIM CASHES IN

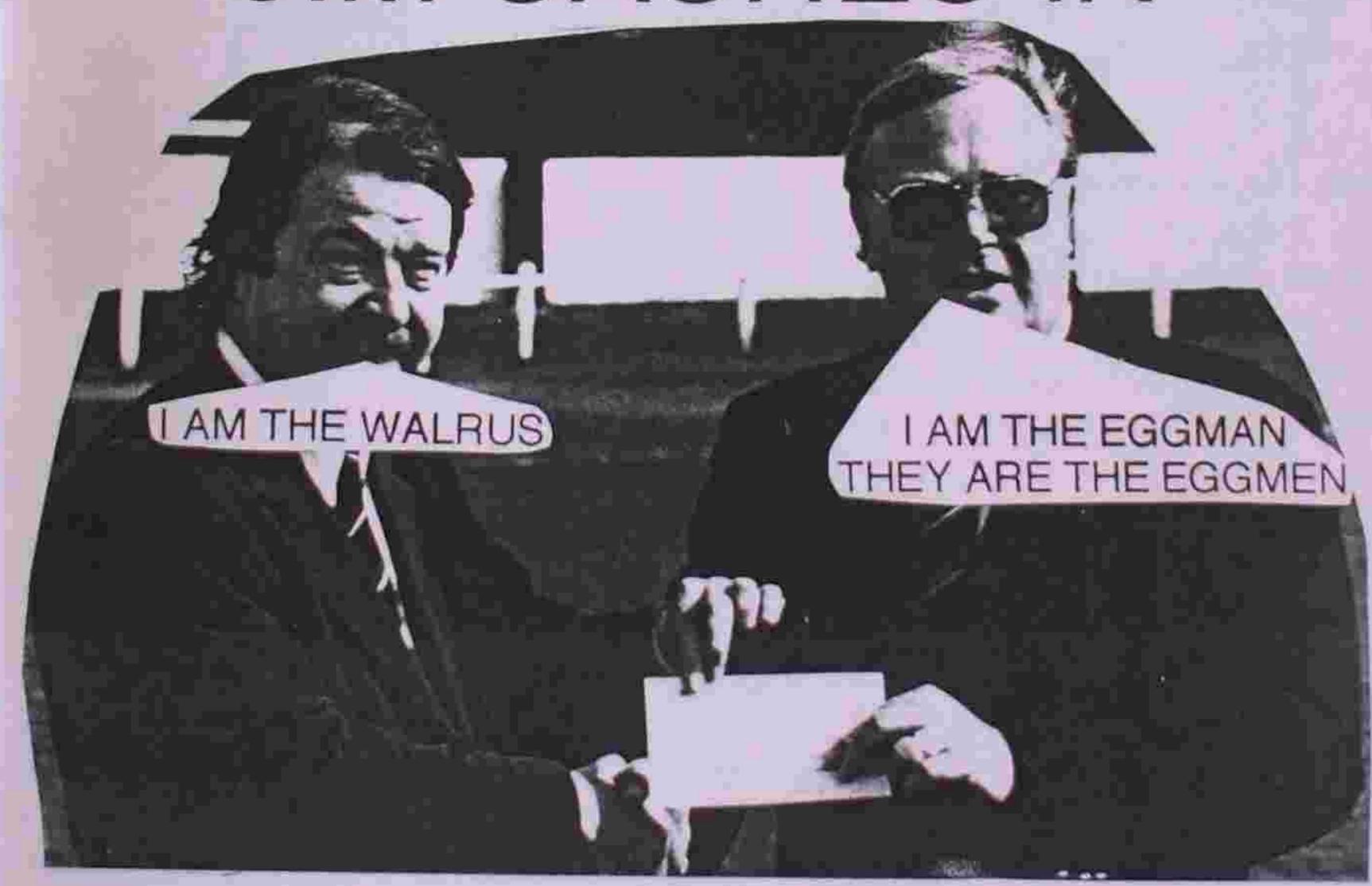
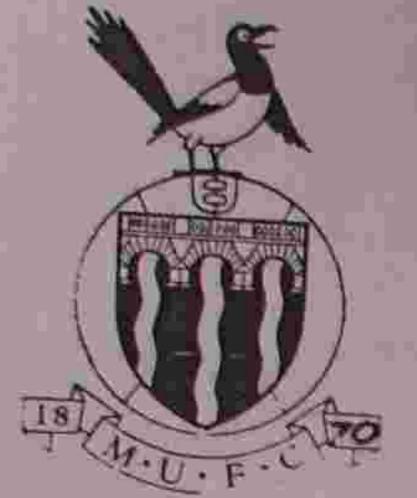


Photo: Mark Leonard

THE LONGEST RUNNING MAIDENHEAD UNITED FANZINE

OFFICIAL SPONSORS OF JIM BARRS & DEREK SWEETMAN



## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to issue six of Born & Bred, the fanzine devoted exclusively to the mighty Maidenhead United FC. All proceeds from this fanzine will go to the football club. This season we have already paid for the kit sponsorship of Jim Barrs and Derek Sweetman.

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 (Editor)

Back issues available: numbers 4 & 5.

50p, from Steve or 75p from the address below (including p&p).
Copies of these and earlier issues may also be available from the club shop, which will also stock this issue as will Sportspages, the specialist sports book shop, 94-96 Charing Cross Road, London.

Issues one, two and three are now completely sold out.



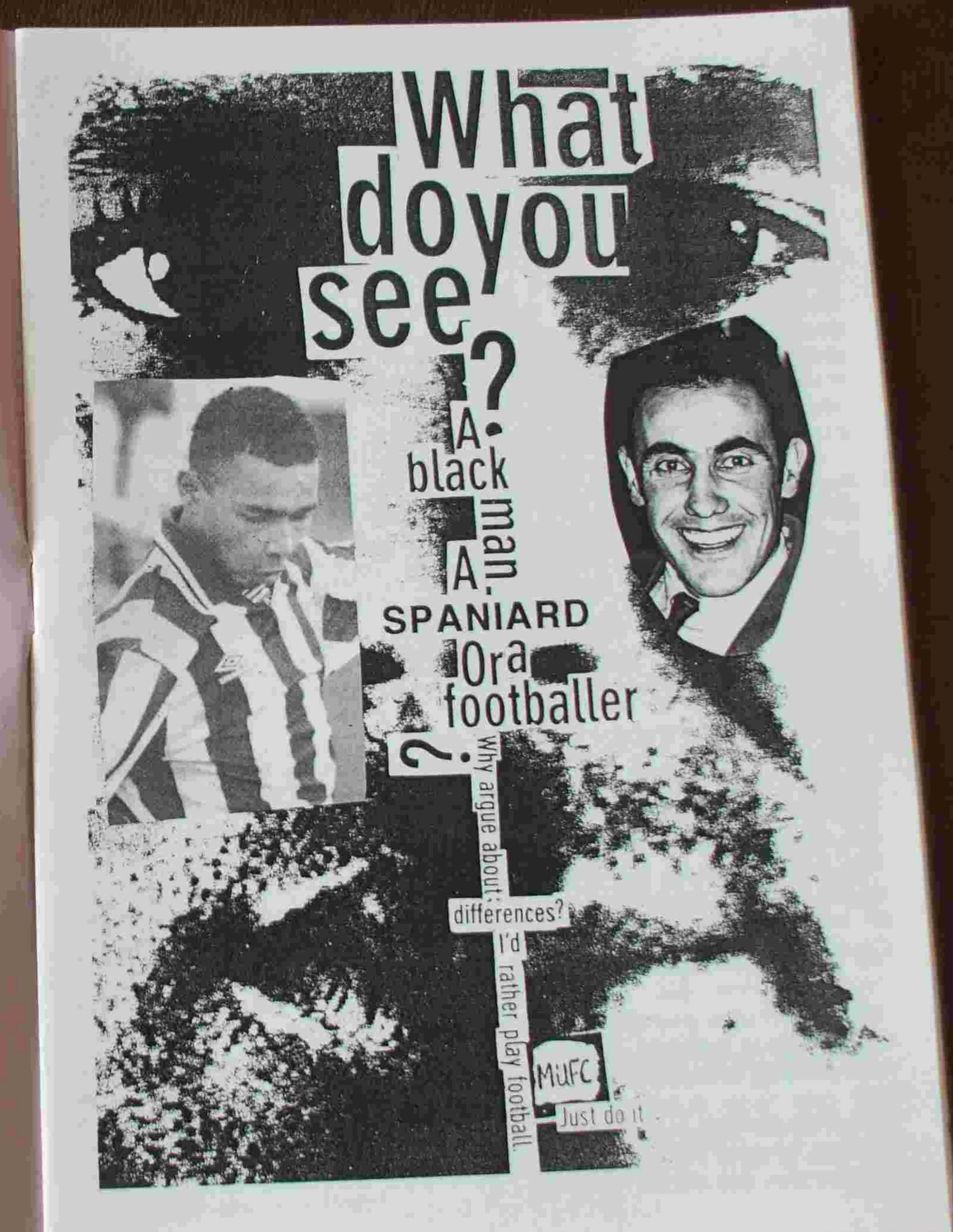
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IN ASSOCIATION WITH:

PHIL ADKINS, TREVOR KINGHAM, KEITH JACKSON,
RICHARD JACKSON, MARK LEONARD AND PAT MACDONALD



#### EDDIE TORIAL

The last few weeks must have been the most eventful for some time. On the pitch things have generally gone from bad to worse as the team have slid as of Tuesday night into the bottom three. A relegation battle is thus this season's reality. The results which led to this position were only halted by the amazing performance at Thame. The players proved their true worth in this game, which only served to further mystify supporters puzzled by the terrible current form. However from this day the players should be judged by this performance, they have prove that they can perform effectively as a unit against a team which is as average as you get in ICIS division one, and so they must live in its shadow. Naturally supporters will now expect the same standards week in week out. We know what you can do lads so lets see it a bit more often!

As for the manager's position, it seems to just change constantly. For as many people that you ask about it you would get as many difference. In particular the Advertiser seems to bring forth new evidence for or against John staying on a weekly basis. Is Mark Roach a mystic? He seems to know more about the situation than anyone else. Writing this on Thursday I look forward to reading the next instalment. Who knows what will happen next?

Speaking of the Advertiser it has to be said once again that their coverage of the club in particular and the ICIS League Division One in general has been excellent this season. At least this fanzine seems to have had some influence in its first twelve months. It has also given us the opportunity to analyse in detail Marlow's concomitant slide down the table after starting as though they would bounce back to the Premier division straight away. Has their bubble burst only time will tell, surely their early exit from the FA Cup will have as devastating effect financially as it has had on morale. Long may their demise continue. I look forward to welcoming them to the relegation dogfight on January 13th, whatever our position, whoever is our manager. Come on you stripes.

by Steve Jinman

#### STRANGE TANNOY ANNOUNCEMENTS OF OUR TIME

At Aldershot on Tuesday night in the second half:
"Will supporters please stop throwing snowballs or else the referee
will abandon the match"

## CONGRATULATIONS



Paul and Tony share a private moment together Photo Phil Adkins

One of the few highlights in what has so far been a dire season was the return to the first team of Paul Dadson. After his injury Paul showed true character by bouncing back straight away turning up for the next home game in a wheel chair. He then attended most of the rest of the games that season cheering the team on with two of the club's most loyal supporter his parents. By the time the Aldershot game around the attendance by swelled by the massed ranks of the Dadson family happy to cheer against their home town.

By late July Paul was able to make his comeback appearance as he came on as a sub against Reading. He continued his rehabilitation by being ever present for the reserves until he got the call to return to the first team, giving a whole hearted performance against his old club Wokingham only being denied a goal by an amazing save. The following week he did get a goal and the comeback was almost made complete on Tuesday night, when he hit the post against the team he loves to hate, Aldershot. Well done Paul its great to have you back!

## YORK ROAD REPORTS PART 1

#### THE HUNT FOR GOOD OCTOBER

MAGPIES 0 OXFORD CITY 2

The hope built up in September quickly floundered in this comfortable 2-0 defeat at home to Oxford. Playing attractive passing football City took a two goal half time lead and then sat back safe in the knowledge that they could deal with anything United threw at them. Oxford showed just how poor this division is, they were playing in the South Midlands league at the beginning of the decade but look a good bet to continue their march up the Isthmian League into the Premier Division in time for next season. Its just a pity their supporters are lobotomised sheep shaggers!



Maidenhead supporters seventies style at Staines Photo Jim Barrs

FAREHAM 2 MAGPIES 4 (Pritchard, Pratt, Creighton, Tate)

The first away win in the FA Trophy for nine years! United easily beat a woeful Fareham team, who looked every inch a club struggling for survival in the Southern League. Magpies fans severely annoyed all present with a 13 minute rendition of "Johnny Watt's black and white army". They then took a "trophy" from the car park all the way to Southampton where they dined in the Keith Jackson approved Raj Duf curry house. A great day all round considering the inauspicious surroundings, made all that more special by the occasion of Colin Tate scoring his first (only?) goal for Maidenhead.

HEYBRIDGE 1 MAGPIES (McNamee)

The sort of fixture that begs the question why bother? The longest away trip of the season on a Tuesday night against the top of the table team who had taken maximum points at home so far. This question was fully answered when Macca stabbed home the equaliser with seconds left on the clock. This was a remarkable game. Maidenhead produced some fine one touch football in the first half and looked just as good as their all conquering hosts until Swifts took the lead with half an hour gone. The second half saw a relentless assault on the United goal with a combination of some superb goal keeping from Trevor Roffey, some poor finishing from Heybridge and the woodwork keeping the score at 1-0. However during the last ten minutes United could have snatched victory with James Pritchard and Mickey Creighton having good efforts and Macca missing sitter. He then made up for this by equalising after some good work from Pritchard. Cue an impromptu pitch invasion from the loyal Magpies present and seconds later the final whistle. Later the same fans were asked to leave the club house way past closing time to let the barman get to bed. We must be mad! This month Crimewatch will be reconstructing this immoral robbery.

Staines Town 2
Maidenhead Utd 1
THE SIGHT of away team fans booing the referee off the pitch seems to be a common feature at Wheatsheaf Lane these days.

Just a month after the Aldershot supporters had hurled abuse at the match officials at the final whistle, a smaller but equally vociferous band of Maidenhead fans vented their anger on Mr K Merchant.

In truth he had not been more biased for one team than the other, merely so frustratingly erratic in the second half that he managed to alienate almost everyone in the ground.



The Staines referee and linesmen, easy winners of the biggest tits of the month competition, closely followed by Miss October.

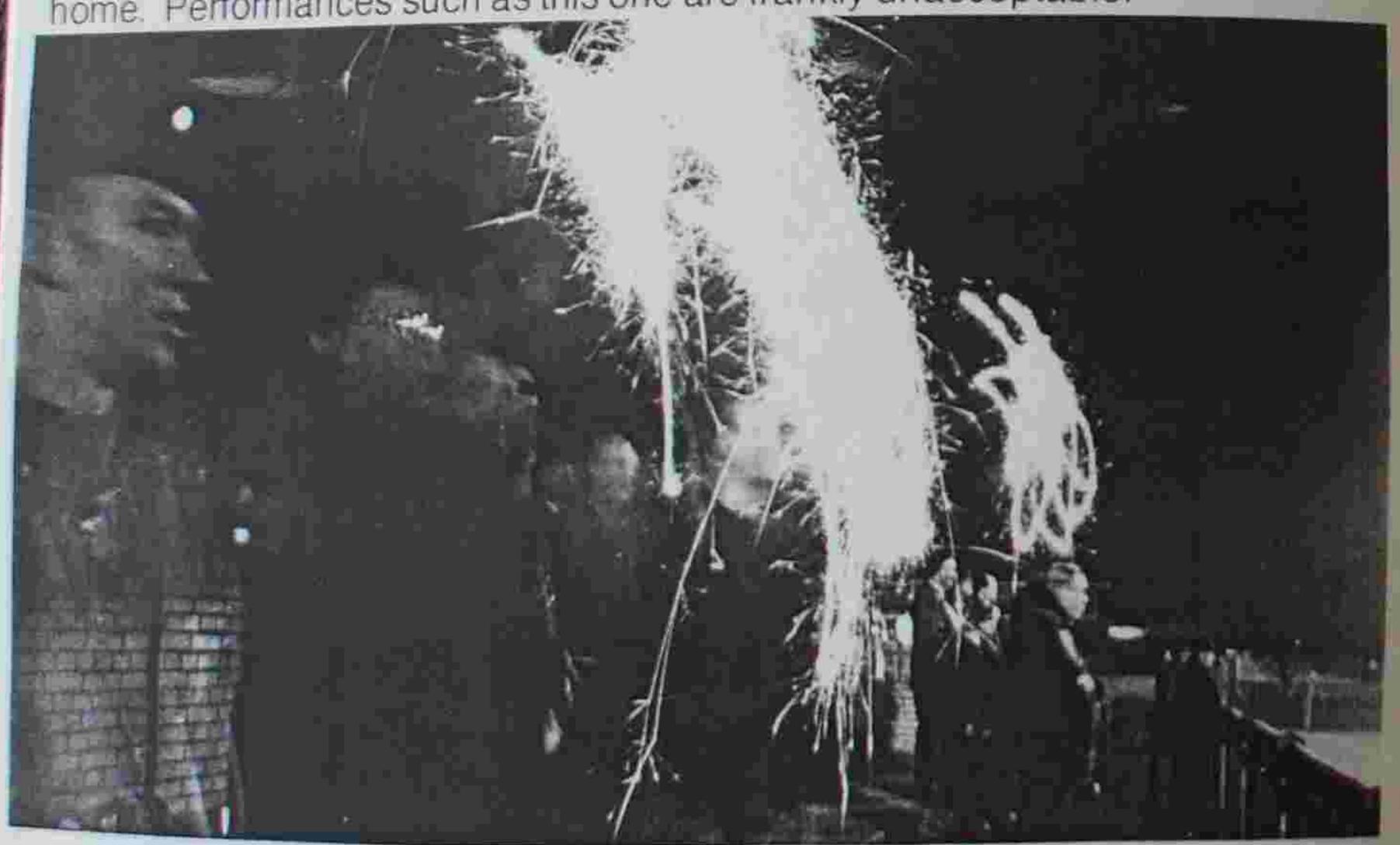
STAINES 2 MAGPIES 1 (Pratt)

Today was payback time as all the luck received during the previous game was heartlessly rescinded by the worst refereeing performance I have ever seen. The day had begun brightly when Magpies fans turned up kitted out in 70s attire, wholly suitable for the kitsch, throwback surroundings. The first half passed by without incident except for one indication of the shape of things to

come when the Staines 'keeper was cruelly denied the credit for a great save after which referee Mr. K. Merchant (16 The Orchard) awarded a goal kick. The match turned on a penalty award early in the second half. A Staines attacker match turned on a portation and the dame continued for some time until Me. nose, he then waved play on and the game continued for some time until Mr. Merchant (Tadworth) stopped the game to consult a linesman. Mr. Merchant (Surrey KT 20 7LP) then awarded a penalty which was duly converted. Whilst United were reeling from the shock Staines made it 2-0 from an offside goal Thereafter Maidenhead were chasing a game which could have been won Vernon's goal proving to be a consolation as Mr Merchant (01737-842841) continued his catalogue of bad decisions. Fortunately Staines were embarrassed by this unseasonal goodwiil and failed to capitalise further.

MAGPIES 0 BERKHAMSTED 2

A diabolical performance against the worst team to visit York Road this season. There is a world of difference between being beaten by the referee (Staines) or a class team (Oxford), and losing comfortably to Berkhamsted at home. Performances such as this one are frankly unacceptable.



Sparklers on the terraces at Uxbridge Photo Mark Leonard

UXBRIDGE 0 MAGPIES 0

Tonight it was back to basics as United ground out a point in the fog at Uxbridge. In a dour game Maidenhead took a safety first approach and were rewarded with a hard earned point. The only sparkle was seen on the terraces with the fireworks being provided in a best forgotten incident in the clubhouse afterwards.

So ended an amazing month of highs and lows. Nothing had gone drastically wrong but then again not much went right either. Any lingering thoughts of promotion were definitely laid to rest for another season as everybody steeled themselves for a long hard winter.

by Sean Connery

#### DEAR JOHN

#### Where can a manager turn for help?

When everything gets on top of the modern day football manager, where can he go for help? Traditionally, he would have had to sort things out for himself. But help is now at hand! The F.A. in their infinite wisdom, have recognised that managers are under severe constant pressure, and have decided to help by installing a Football Managers Psychiatric Help Line. All the troubled manager has to do is ring the special number:

RING RING....RING RING....RING RING.

CLICK

This is Jimmy Hill welcoming you to the F.A. Psychiatric Help Line. We are here to offer you guidance, courtesy of the F.A. To hear the F.A. help for your particular problems, please press the appropriate key, as follows.

If you are obsessive-compulsive, press 1 repeatedly

If you are co-dependent, please ask your assistant manager to press 2.

If you have multiple personalities, ask your defence to press 3, 4, 5 and 6.

If you are paranoid-delusional, we know who you are and what you want. Just stay on the line so we can trace the call.

If you are schizophrenic, listen carefully and your Chairman will tell you which number to press.

If you are manic-depressive, it doesn't matter which number you press - no one will answer anyway.

Please press the number of your choice after the referee's whistle!

Richard Jackson

## TURNER PRIZE SHOCKER!



News has reached us that intruders have broken into the Tate gallery. The gallery is currently exhibiting work by the artist Damien Hirst, recent winner of the prestigious Turner prize.

Naturally, Mr Hirst was extremely concerned when informed that an incident had occurred, although he was relieved to learn that none of his work (with each piece reputedly worth in the region of £20,000) had been stolen. Indeed, as our exclusive picture shows, one of his pieces appears to have been significantly improved!

You can imagine the artists delight when informed that, immediately following national news coverage of the audacious 'crime' an art dealer offered £50,000 for the newly customised tem, We certainly think that it's worth every penny!

#### PAYING THE PRICE

Hands up who went to the Tuesday night game at Heybridge Swifts? Ok then, hands up who went and didn't pay to get in? Out of those who didn't pay, how many of you are officers of the club, and quite rightly, should not pay to get in at away matches? That still leaves a handful of so called travelling supporters who regularly attend away matches and for some reason believe that they have the right to enter the ground free of charge. Maidenhead United have always been known for a healthy away following, an honour that the club take some pride in. But recently, the club has been travelling with a few hangers on, those who arrive at the ground and tell the gateman "I'm with Maidenhead". This, quite frankly, is unacceptable. The club is given a number of passes which allow free admission which go to officers and some committee members, and only people carrying these passes should be allowed free admission. Admittedly, these passes are rarely all used, because some of the people who are in possession of such passes do not attend matches away from York Road. But that is no reason for some committee members to blag their way in for free. I can think of a number of committee members who travel to virtually all away matches and would not dream of getting in free, taking the view that if you go away, as a supporter of the club, i.e., not on any 'official business', you are going to the match to watch the game, and so quite rightly, you pay your £4 to get in. I live in hope that one day, when asked for a pass for the boardroom, those who are not in possession of one get asked to leave, thus embarrassing themselves immensely. The only downfall is that when this happens, these parasites will also tarnish the name of the club.

Keith Jackson

IT'S SAD.....BUT IT'S TRUE!

Maidenhead United's Youth team recently played a league match away against those perennial losers Windsor And Eton (aka Loser And Beaten.)

Despite playing the majority of the game with only ten men, which also included the substitute goalkeeper playing in an out-field position, the Super Mags still romped to an amazing 9-0 victory!

However one of the highlights of the match involved a Loser substitute storming out of the dugout in disgust at his team-mates inept performance then going home prior to the end of the match.

This incident soon paled into insignificance, though, when a white rabbit darted across the patch and promptly became entangled in the Loser goal net. Quote of the night came from Magpies supremo Richie Goddard who asked "how are you going to catch it seeing as how you haven't caught anything else all night!"

As the mighty Basil Brush might say ..... Boom! Boom!

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!

And they said it wouldn't last! Yes with this issue Born & Bred reaches the grand old one year old. This issue also sees us pass the mark reached by our esteemed predecessor The Shagging Magpies which stopped after the fifth issue to allow the editoriotransferothe programme to write Trevor's talk. So now Born & Bred is officially Maidenhead United's most prolific unofficial fanzine. At last something to celebrate in the club's 125th anniversary season?

Born as a reaction to the total lack of coverage of the local football scene and bred into a 100% Maidenhead publication over the last year, this fanzine has gone from strength, not bad for a rag with a crap

title inspired by a line from Fever Pitch.

Ironically the first issue appeared with the Magpies enjoying their best run of form for a long time. In the meantime things have got steadily worse on the playing front, the latest issue coming out as the team ride on the crest of another slump, hanging perilously one spot

above the relegation places.

Yet off the pitch the fact that the fanzine has remained and improved issue by issue, shows how things have improved in this area. Starting off with the Klinsman dive at Wivenhoe and quickly followed by the living stripes at Heybridge, those behind the fanzine have constantly strived to take everybody's mind off some dire performances whilst highlighting the good times and will continue to do so. So events such as paper welcomes at Aldershot, Barking and Marlow, replica shirts at Bognor, fancy dress at Worthing, seventies style clothes at Staines and Tartan dress at Barton will hopefully prove to be the first few in a long line of excuses for a piss up.

Why do we bother? Because it's a bloody good crack thats why!! The fanzine mob of me Murdo, Logic, Phil, Trevor, Keith and Ian are quite happy to suffer the ridicule endured by admitting that we are proud supporters of Maidenhead United, safe in the knowledge that those taking the piss will spend hours scouring the small print of the sports pages to find out Maidenhead's results and gain more

ammunition. Who's the real sad gits?

We support Maidenhead for better or worse (admittedly a bit more of the "better" wouldn't go amiss at the moment), safe in the knowledge that our day will come (preferably before I'm drawing my pension). Mark Smith's excellent club history showed just how successful the club has been in past years and sets the standard for future achievements. Hopefully this fanzine will be around to chronicle such events in years yet to come.

by Steve Jinman

#### WHY I WATCH MAIDENHEAD

I first started coming to watch Maidenhead United towards the end of the 1985/86 season, I didn't, at first, come to watch through choice. My attendance at York Road was primarily due to a scheme operated by East Berkshire Mental Health Authority which allowed the clinically insane contact with the outside world once a week. This scheme was met with a degree of success, and the Authority continue to use their People and Places operation to this day, explaining the high number of people at York Road recovering from similar problems, both on and off the pitch.

It would be fair to say that I fully recovered in May 1990, which ironically, was the end of our promotion season. Now, however, the scheme seems to have backfired into some kind of downward spiral, as I feel I am now more of a basket case than I ever was before. Things have reached low points at games at Lewes and Worthing in recent years, when many of the 'subjects' (as the Authority like to call them) forgot to wear their regular clothes and turned up wearing all manner of gear such as gorilla outfits, and Batman costumes.

Part of the authorities programme was to stop people walking around the street shouting, swearing, and generally harassing passers by. This to seems to have backfired, as I shout and scream at the top of my voice more often on a Saturday afternoon than ever before.

I would like to say I recovered, but now I am worse than ever. What makes somebody travel to Heybridge Swifts on a Tuesday night, and not leave the bar until 11.30, knowing damn well they had to be in the office at 7.30 the following morning? What makes somebody travel into darkest Oxfordshire to see a team that have scored 9 goals against us in two previous meetings this season? The only way I can stop the decline of my mental state in to stop watching Maidenhead play. Believe me, get out now before it is too late. I must stop now, as my voluntary carer has arrived. Or is it my lift to Barton....???

#### PAUL CANOVILLE : A TRIBUTE

I write to you so that you may give a mention to a former Cheisea player who has had to quit the game because of Injury, Paul Canoville Despite 516 offerts in a four year spell at Chelses the action packed Bridge Bews and Club Programme could not space even a small col men as a tribute



Apr self-resper remember, W MARKET MARK Palace

~PAUL CANOVILLE~

The season of 1990/91 will be fondly remembered by Magpies fans as the year we finally achieved promotion from that abyss of non league football known as Division 2 South. After the bitter disappointment of missing out the previous year. Maidenhead were desperate to improve on their 5th place and go all the way and get one of those two promotion spots. The season started well, as the club established a record 13 win start to the league campaign. One player who played a major part in this was one Paul Canoville. Paul had made his name in football in the mid to late 1980's as a striker with Chelsea. but decided it was time to raise his standard of football and join Mardenhead

Paul was just the sort of player Maidenhead needed, an ex-pro who although may not be able to last 90 minutes each week, would be influential enough to make a big enough impact on the game for the duration of time that he was on the field. Paul rarely did last 90 minutes, in fact I think no-one would correct me if I said that he never lasted 90 minutes, but if impact on a game was what you wanted, then Paul was your man.

fted It wasn't until Paul's fifth game, on October 20th 1990 that his quality really shone through. Maidenhead were playing Cove at home, a team newly to at elected to the league, and to say that they were a good side is like saying Marlow are going to get promoted. Paul, for the 70 minutes that he was on the field, totally demolished Cove. I've seen about 500 Magpies matches, and ad can honestly say, hand on heart, that I have never witnessed a player all control a game so much. He failed to score in this 5-1 win, and only managed 3 in his 17 appearances for the club, but when you consider his striking lent partner was one Benny Laryea, who would trample over his own mother to You get a shot at goal, it is not really surprising. hat

Paul's final game was a goalless draw at Banstead on January 22nd, to when he left the club to join ....err, I don't know.

ask Chelses to stage a benefit match to can afford to let Chelsea's most gifted beig his out sow that his career has ended so prematurely?

> Kelvin Barker Shepherds Bush

player go. I find that depressing and a parallel to the fate of Paul Canoville.

So why don't the Club play Reading as a pre-season friendly, with the gate given to Paul?

#### THAT MAN TALKS BOLLOCKS SPECIAL!

Number 7 JAMES STANDLEY

This issue's TMTB is an extra large one (oper missus), in fact its a veritable wheelbarrow carrying Buster Gonad of a feature. All the mistakes below were made by Advertiser journalist in just one edition of that esteemed organ. After reading the following I think you will have to agree that its official James Standley, you talk bollocks!

Marlow return to ICIS League action with the visit of lowly Uxbridge. The Blues have slipped down the table in recent weeks, having not played a Division 1 match for a month.

They have played at least two games less than all bar one of the six sides above them in the league, and Uxbridge should provide a safe three points for Marlow.

Final Score: Marlow 2 Uxbridge 3

Staines T (0)2, Maidenhead Utd. (0)1

Beeks (pen) 61 Williams 64

by James Standley



Colin groans as somebody realises the mistake Photo: Mark Leonard

#### YORK ROAD REPORTS PART 2 WATT'S GOING ON?

MAGPIES 0 THAME 5

Another unforgivable performance, leading to those involved losing their wages. The fact that John Watt offered his resignation after this game says it all, but this was only the first instalment in an ongoing debacle which has given the Advertiser ample opportunity to dig out those "Club in crisis" headlines from a dark corner.

MAGPIES 0 WOKINGHAM 3

Another Saturday another home defeat. Wokingham seldom looked like a side from the promotion pack and the final scoreline flattered them. The wholesale changes precipitated by the previous game gave Paul Dadson and Steve Harris their first opportunity to impress this season, and their wholehearted approach was matched by the rest of the team in a battling performance. Fair enough guts and passion don't win any trophies single-handedly but it makes a world of difference to supporters to see their side scrap for everything especially when Wokingham's two late decisive goals were scored by a player who should have taken an early bath.

THAME 2 MAIDENHEAD 5 (Harrison M, Dadson, Own Goal, Norman, Brown)

In a game where every supporter had to look closely to see if it really was Maidenhead on the pitch (if only because they were wearing Thame's away kit), the Magpies showed what could be. At kick off time the correct kit and virtually every club official bar Trevor Kingham was stuck on the M40. Hardly a good start to the day particularly in the light of the following Friday's report that John Watt would have been sacked if the team failed to win. Things worsened when star striker Paul McKinnon also got stuck in traffic forcing the inclusion of veteran supporters favourite Dave Harrison as a stopgap striker.

The early script read the same as the previous episode with Thame taking an early lead. What followed then was nothing short of remarkable. Mark Harrison struck first with a wicked shot from the left flank to level things up. Paul Dadson then put United in front for the first time in 6 weeks. This was a short-lived experience however as Thame hit back almost directly from the restart. But a resurgent Maidenhead could not be held in check as an own goal and an Alec Norman effort beat the hapless Thame keeper before half-time.

The victory was completed early in the second half when Kevin Brown scored a goal which must rank amongst the best ever scored by a Maidenhead left back. Picking the ball up in his own half "Sarge" shrugged off three challenges before unleashing a lethal shot from 30 yards which the goalkeeper had no chance of stopping.

Although well beaten Thame then showed they were no mugs by testing Trevor Roffey in the Magpie's goal on more than one occasion. The Thame keeper was finally given a chance to chance when palmed over a Mickey Creighton chip, only for the ref to steal his

praise by awarding a goal kick.

The control which Maidenhead had taken on the game allowed Magpie's fans to reflect on their surroundings. Basically Thame have no support but their new facilities must rank as the best I have seen for a club of their stature. What a shame it isn't appreciated by the Thame public. If only it was possible to make similar improvements to York Road.



Thame s new stand at 5 to 3 Photo End2End

By the final whistle Maidenhead had given their finest performance since the Aldershot win last January. Everything went right as Magpies fans were taken back in time almost one year to last season's fine unbeaten run. Hopefully the players can produce several more repeats (after all it is Christmas), without the motivation of having their manager's future at their feet.

BARTON 4 MAIDENHEAD 0

On the previous Friday to this game the Advertiser reported that John Watt's job was now safe. This was hardly surprising considering

the last performance and allowed the Maidenhead ultras with opportunity of providing a distraction off the pitch of a rather more light

hearted nature.

To commemorate United's first visit to Barton, we decided to dress up in Tartan. Well Barton are the northernmost club in ICIS division one (north of Watford in fact), and tartan sounds a bit like Barton!! What do you expect for 50p satire? What followed was an unforgettable day/evening spent regaling the locals with the full reperoire of the Bell St. choir in Barton's excellent social facilities. Even the barman bought us a round as women from the village flocked to discover what Murdo kept up his kilt. This must have been prompted by the sight of his big car and his big hat. I hope they weren't too disappointed. Things took an even uglier turn (if this was possible) on the way home when someone decided to redecorate the back seat upholstery of Murdo's car with the contents of their stomach. Was revenge sweet Logic?

The game? Well against a team bottom of the league with only one win all season. United capitulated to a depressingly comfortable defeat as Barton capitalised on a lucky first goal. Normal service has

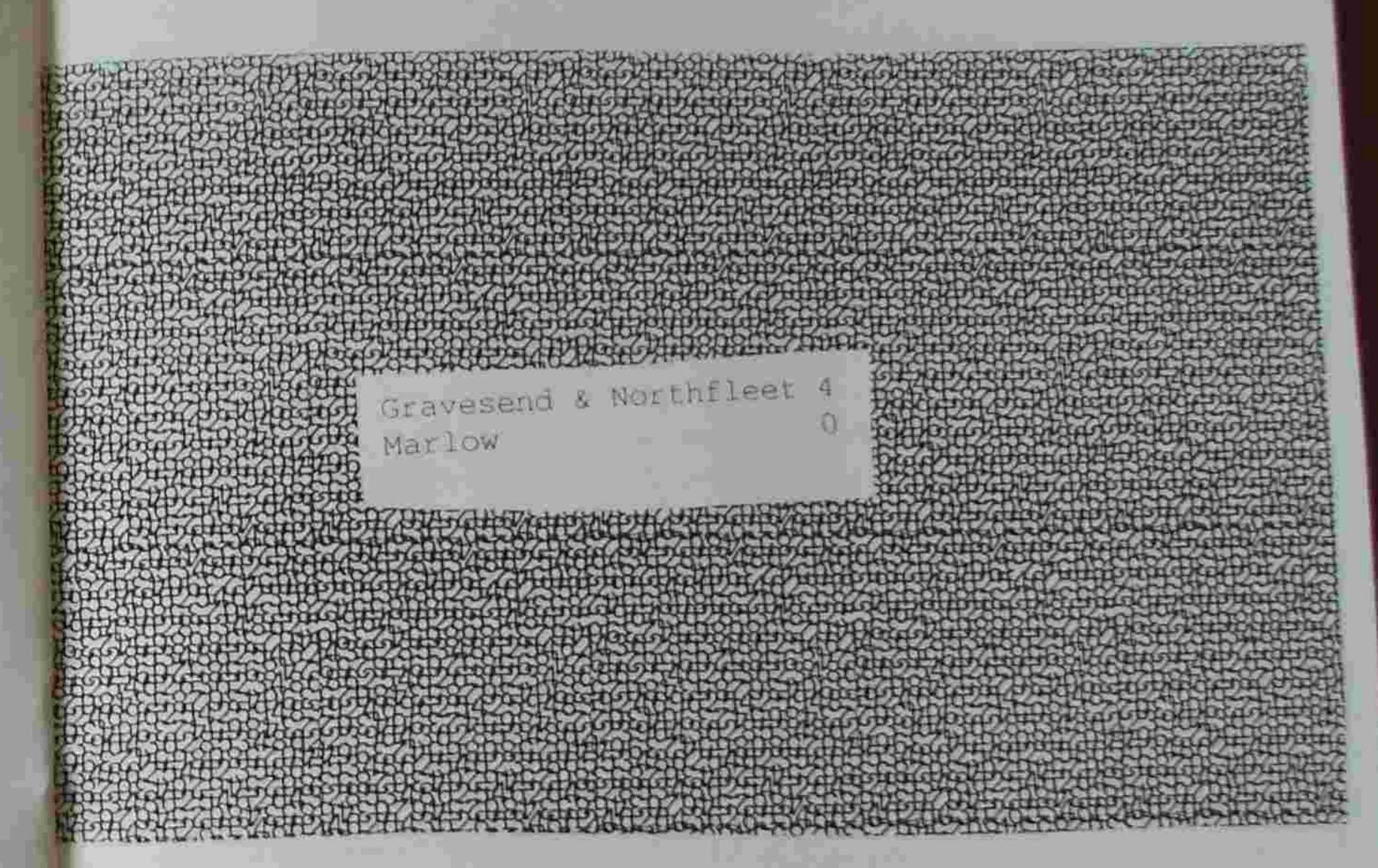
been resumed.

ALDERSHOT 3 MAGPIES 1(McKinnon)

Tonight was snow joke for the Magpies as they crashed out of the Mickey Mouse cup. In farcical conditions United put up a brave fight against a distinctly average Shots XI augmented for the occasion by the match officials. With about 20 minutes gone the referee looked as though he was going to do the right thing and call the game off. By this time the lines were neatly camouflaged by the snow and it was impossible to see the far goal through the swirling blizzard. Then Aldershot got a dodgy penalty, only to find that the spot had been stolen! Entertainment was then provided by the players digging for the spot and the referee pacing out 12 yards from the goal line. After the kick was converted. Aldershot quickly made it 2-0 and thus made sure the game would be completed. In a repetition of the Pele/Banks 1970 save with added snow super Trevor Roffey then brilliantly denied Aldershot from putting the result beyond doubt. Half time allowed Aldershot to try out their new sweeper system, as the ground staff cleared their lines efficiently. Maidenhead stormed back in the second half with a goal and looked to have levelled things up only for the linesman to miss the ball crossing the line (he must have had snow blindness). From this point on Aldershot regained their grip on the game scoring again to make the final score a flattering 3-1.

by Marvin Gaye

#### FREE GIFT ...



Your free gift for this issue comes in the form of one of those difficult and annoying "Magic Eye" sheets,

Having had the Marlow sheep-shaggers harp on about their recent F.A.Cup successes, Born And Bred have had this highly creative and individual sheet produced at no expense spared. (Sort of.)

Merely squint until your eyes pack-up whilst contorting your face until it resembles that of Ian Dowie (unless you are Ian Dowie which will give you an unfair advantage.) Having done this it MAY just be possible to make out which particular league teams are going to be the subject of Marlow's money-spinning, giant-killing acts this year.

#### PAST MAIDENHEAD GREATS

#### ALBERT BLENKINSOP

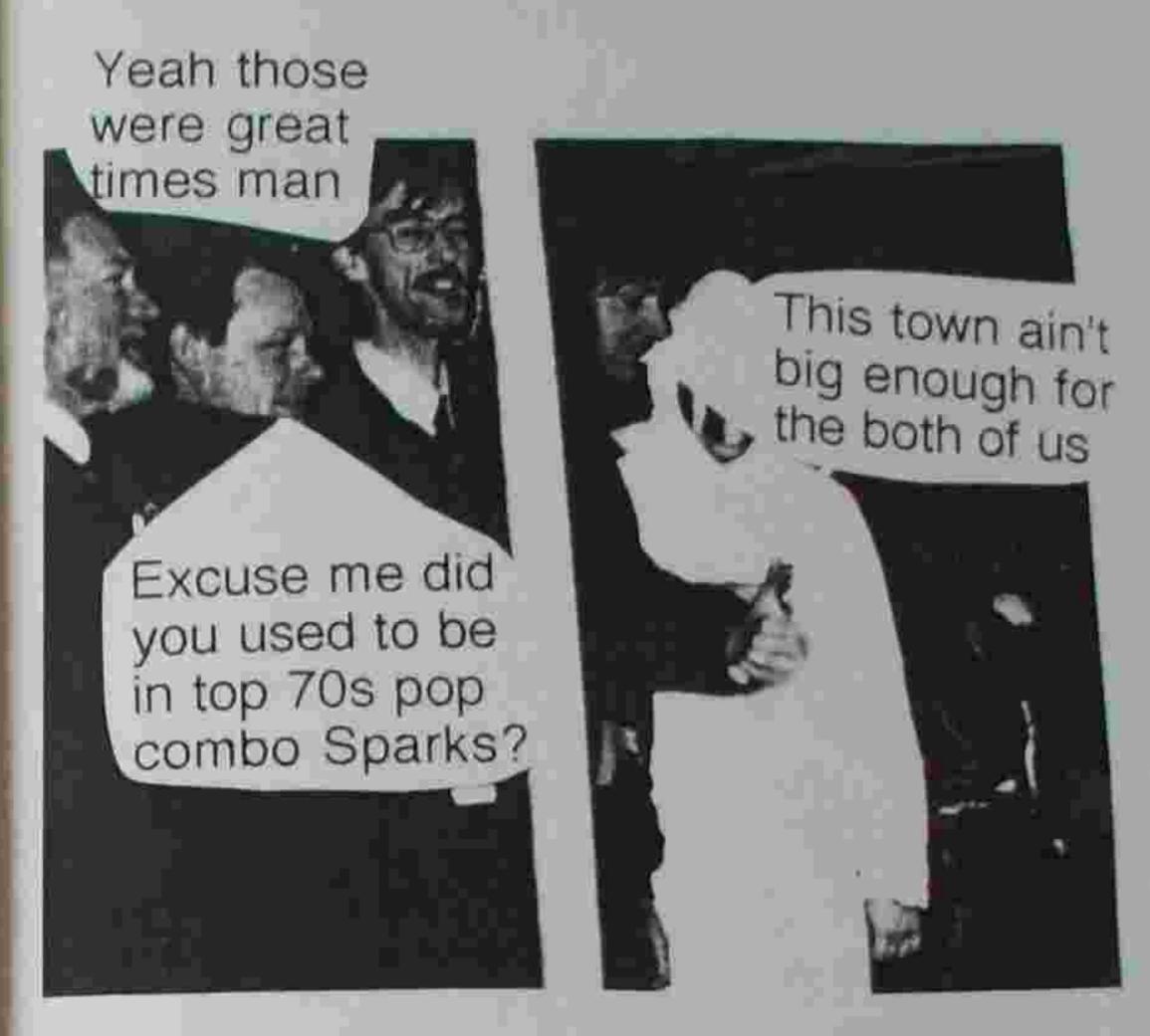
Albert Blenkinsop was a Maidenhead man through and through. Born on May 13th 1903, one of 17 children, he was the son of Charlie Blenkinsop, a television repair man, and lived in a derelict house on the High Street where McDonalds now stands Times were hard for the Blenkinsops, especially when Charlie lost his job due to the fact that televisions hadn't been invented then, so his mother, Ivy, earned what she could doing sexual favours to soldiers who were on duty in the First World War

When the War finally ended, and the soldiers returned to their families. Charlie decided it was time to introduce his son into the world of amateur football, hoping that he would be spotted by one of the glamorous London clubs and be able feed and cloth the large Blenkinsop family. Albert played his first match for Maidenhead on March 13th, 1920, scoring all 7 goals in a game against Chesham. When his father heard the news, he was sure that Albert would end up playing for a big London side. Charlie's dreams were shattered when he heard the news that Maidenhead actually lost the match 4-3 Albert continued to play for the Magpies until the outbreak of war in September 1939, making some 732 appearances and finding the net on 543 times, 502 of which were own goals.

Charlie knew someone who held a job at the Maidenhead Advertiser, working for the sports records department. He believed he could change Albert's statistics so that it looked as if he had scored 502 times for Maidenhead. Indeed that happened, and Albert was promptly transferred to Arsenal, and was due to make his debut immediately after the war. This was just what the Blenkinsop family needed, to get them out the dire slum which they lived in and onto better things. Sadly, that never happened, as the ship that Albert was serving on, the SS Live Forever, was destroyed somewhere of the coast of Southampton in May 1945, just before D-Day.

Albert's total Magpies record:

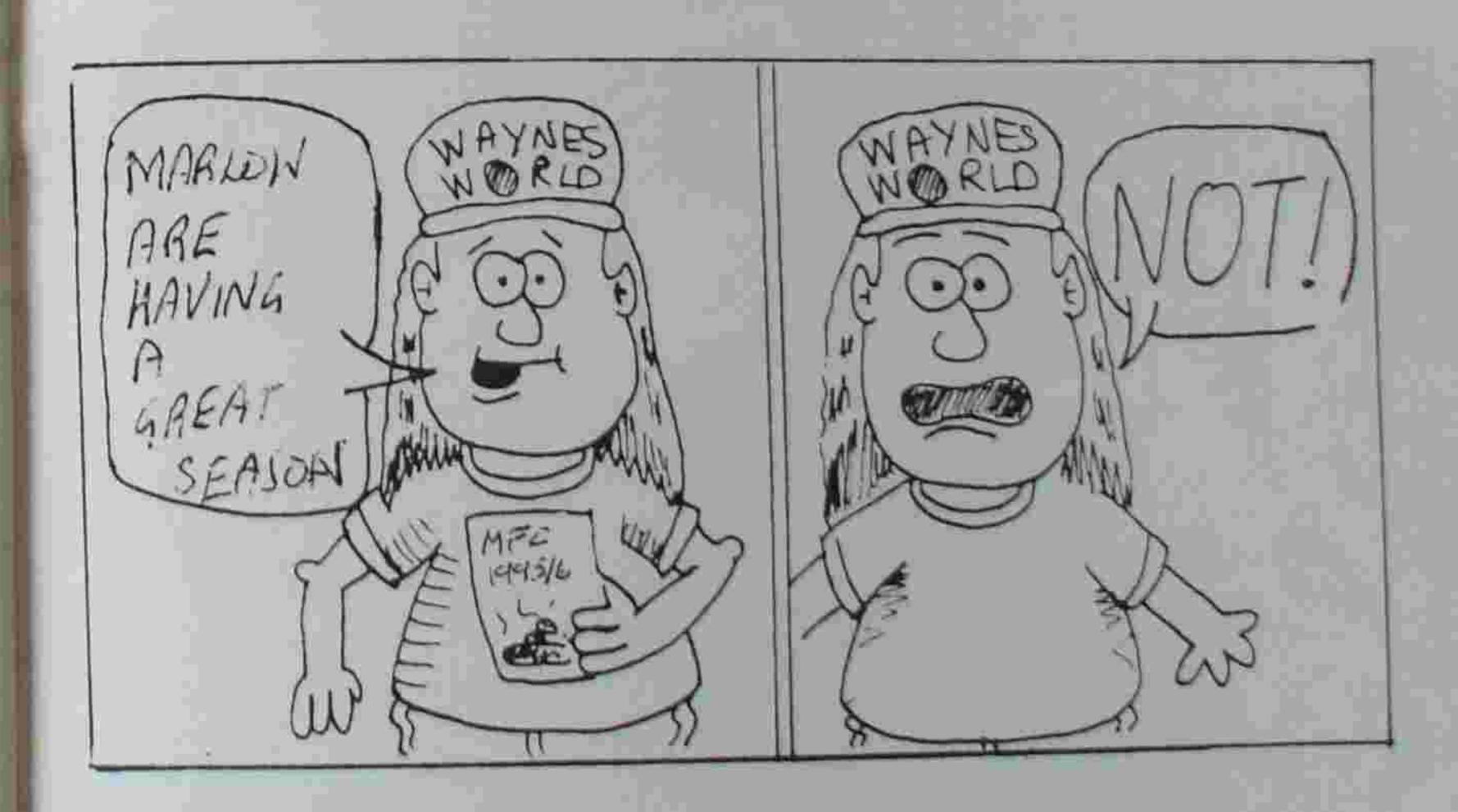
APPEARANCES: 732 GOALS : 4 I



#### SOMETHING FOR

#### THE JOCKS

Of course, good television sometimes attracts a cult following, but it becomes a victim of its own success. Have I Got News For You and Twin Peaks, for example, became mainstream hits, and that will just not do. Appreciating crap is a fine art rather like supporting Partick Thistle or Leyton Orient. Any idiot can be a fan of Glasgow Rangers or Liverpool, but supporting a team that will never win an award is a noble calling.



Is the grass always greener?

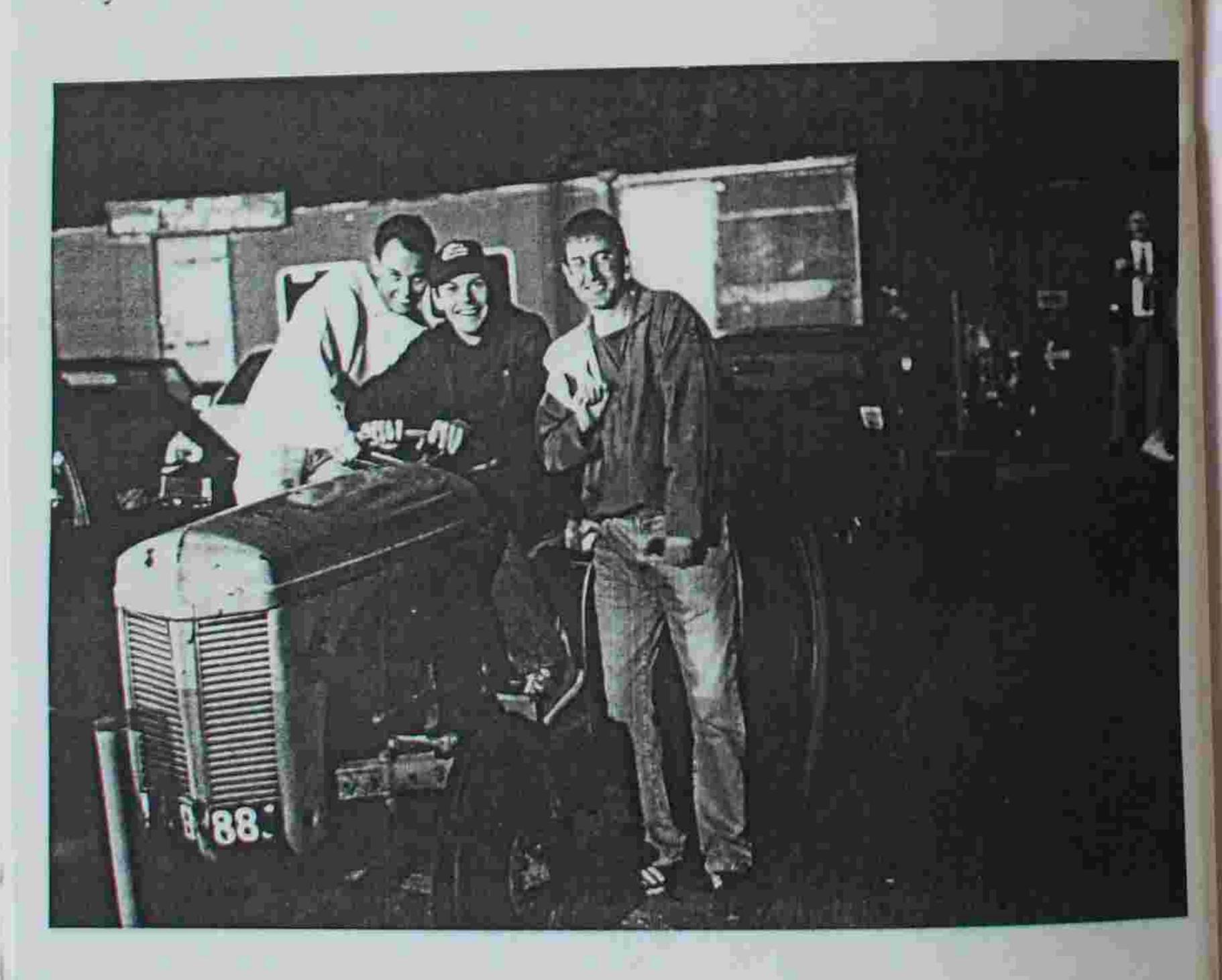
Those at the Aldershot game on Tuesday night will have been shocked by the entrance charge of £5 (£6 for a seat) and programme price of £1.20. According to a friendly Aldershot source this is because Aldershot need a crowd of 1,400, every home game just to break even! God knows how they'd get along on the usual ICIS 1 gate of 150 or so?

#### AWAY DAZE

Following the amazing success of the "Seventies at Staines" and "Tartan at Barton" theme days. Maidenhead United pissheads are proud to announce their next event:

#### "AYRICKS AT ABINGDON"

As can be seen from Logic's now legendary photo, Abingdon is a club lying deep in the heart of the Oxfordshire country side. In recognition of this fact we want you to join us on Boxing Day in traditional country attire. So its time to get out those smocks, straw hats and pitch forks, whilst not forgetting those important accessories, the scrumpy container and the ear of corn to chew on. So this boxing day chuck away that unwanted puppy, forget your indigestio /hangover and think country side, think Oxfordshire, and dress up for 'Ayricks at Abingdon. Bona fide Yokels need not attend.



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BACK PAGE UNITED

## SUTTON JOINS THE MAGPIES



Chris the anorak Photo Andy Ross

In an amazing move which shocked the football world, Chris Sutton yesterday joined non league minnows Maidenhead United on a months loan. Sutton who has been unsettled at last season's Premier League champions Blackburn Rovers for sometime revealed exclusively to Born & Bred his reasons for opting to come to York Road to get first team football:

"Well I wanted a move back down south, Tottenham showed some interest but when I arrived at York Road I fell in love with the place. I couldn't believe it a ground right next to the one of the busiest stretches of railway in the country. Train spotting has always been my true love football just pays the bills really. My agent tried to liven up my image by getting me involved in night-club brawls, fights with taxi drivers, marriages to page three girls but it just wasn't me. I am just an ordinary lad who spent his adolescence stood at the edge of train platforms copping abuse from football fans, ideal training for my career you might say."

Magpies chairman Jim Parsons was obviously delighted with his new signing. A more than adequate replacement for the recently departed James Pritchard, some questioned how United could pay Sutton's wages. Parsons admitted "we are staking a lot on Chris, the rest of the 1995/6 playing budget plus the 1996/7 one and the 1997/8 one..., god help us if he demands a win bonus". One thing's for certain if this doesn't get the Maidenhead public

interested in their football club nothing will.

NEXT ISSUE 13TH JANUARY 1996