

OFFICIAL SPONSORS OF JIM BARRS & DEREK SWEETMAN
THE LONGEST RUNNING MAIDENHEAD UNITED FANZINE

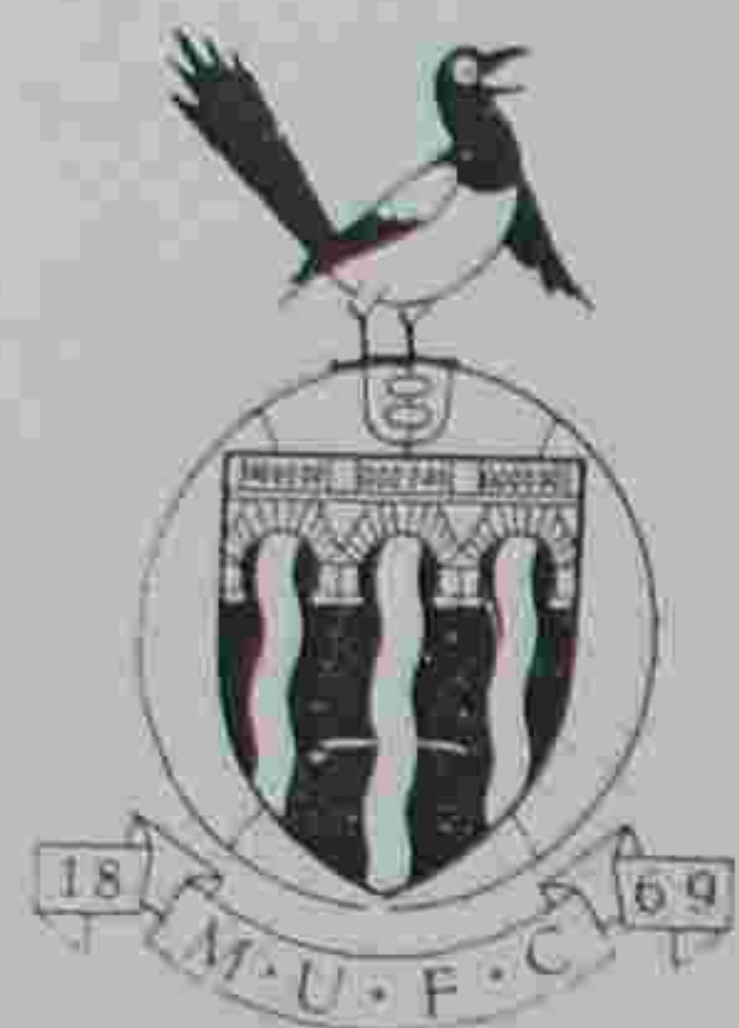
BORN & BRED

ISSUE 7

50P

4-1

WHAT A DING DONG DO!
DERBY WIN CELEBRATION ISSUE



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to issue seven 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 & 6.

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 the social club and Sportspages, the specialist sports book shop, 94-96 Charing Cross Road, London. Issues one, two and three are now completely sold out.

Write to: BORN & BRED

c/o 47 COURTLANDS
MAIDENHEAD
BERKSHIRE
SL6 2PT

THIS EDITION OF BORN & BRED WAS BROUGHT TO YOU BY

THE FANZINE COLLECTIVE

KEITH JACKSON, STEVE JINMAN,
MARK LEONARD & MURDO MACLEOD

WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS:

PHIL ADKINS, RICHARD JACKSON, ANDY ROSS & MARK SMITH.

ELVIS LIVES!

Yes here to welcome you to this issue of Born & Bred, is the one and only, inimitable, Elvis Presley. So Mr. King of Rock & Roll, why don't you get the show on the road with a big hello?



Helloooooooooooooooooooooo Elvis!



Crap Reasons for Stopping the Game

Wembley 2, Thame United 2

THAME United were forced to settle for a draw at Wembley, despite orchestrating a comeback that saw them grab an early second-half lead.

The visitors found themselves a goal down after just two minutes when they failed to clear a high cross from the left and striker Andy Smith capitalised on the error from close range.

However, United were given a rare chance to regroup after 20 minutes when the referee stopped the game as one of the linesmen was suddenly struck down with a serious case of toothache.

The game resumed after a 12-minute stoppage when a Wembley official took over the flag and the break had obviously allowed visitors a chance to position...

EDDIE TORIAL

"A change is gonna come". Yes as predicted by me in the programme following the Trophy disaster against Thame, surely the low point of our season, things have changed for the better over the last couple of months. The team seems to have woken up to the fact that they are playing in a very average division and therefore have nothing to fear from anyone. This positive attitude has resulted in some much improved performances although it has yet to have had a great effect on our lowly league position and points total. However in the context of our season this improvement in performance has done much to allay relegation fears.

Some of this improvement is surely due to the excellent signing of Gary Attrell. Although the signing will hardly detract from the Dad's Army element of our playing staff (don't panic!) it has considerably strengthened John's attacking options, giving him the opportunity to play two wingers now that Paul Dadson has reclaimed his place in the team. The potential of the new attacking force was revealed in the one game which all Maidenhead supporters will remember this season for, the 4-1 thrashing of Marlow. As was said after the 5-2 defeat of Thame, the players have shown their potential as a team, it is now up to them to show it a bit more often. Not even two swallows make summer!

The signing of Gary also revealed something of the nature of the gap in ability which would have to be bridged to maintain a position in the top half of the Premier Division. Just before Christmas I saw Harrow comfortably beat Enfield 3-1 with an excellent fast flowing display of football. Considering that Enfield look like retaining the Championship they so easily won last season. The gulf between the Premier and first divisions seemed massive. However on Boxing day, I witnessed a woeful contest between two of the Premier's strugglers, Hendon and Yeading. The game ended in a scrappy draw and showed that it was possible to survive relying on more earthy qualities such as guts and passion. Certainly the fortunes this season of Boreham Wood and Chertsey show there is little to fear for promotion candidates Oxford and Heybridge well organised outfits that they both are.

There is one category however that Maidenhead more than match up to their Premier counterparts. That is the ground which of course has now held its prestigious A grade for over a year. Whatever Marlow fans may think this means that York Road is officially a class apart from Oak Tree Lane. The true worth of Bob Hussey's work is now showing itself as most clubs in division one and some in the Premier have struggled to meet the new A grade requirements. Let's hop that we won't have to rely on the grading committee to rescue us come the end of the season.

This eventuality won't happen of course as by then John will have guided the team to their especially reserved berth of mid table safety in the good ship Division One. The rest of January and February consists entirely of fixtures which are winnable. Of course "there are no easy games in this division", but then there aren't many fixtures to fill us supporters with visions of a dreadful thrashing. As many points as possible must be taken in this period before we face Oxford, Heybridge, Aldershot (twice) and Bognor (twice) in March and April. I want to look forward to these "big" games safe in the knowledge that three points aren't absolutely essential. Come on you stripes!

Steve Jinman

TRANSFER EXCLUSIVE

It can be now exclusively revealed that 5 Maidenhead supporters (4 of whom are pictured below), were the target of a 7 day approach over the Christmas. Top premier footballing side Harrow Borough who unfortunately are a stereotypical shit ground no fans outfit put in the multiple request after hearing of some fabulous performances in the face of adversity during Maidenhead's autumn of discontent. The deal which would have included a flag, photos and fanzine in return for copious amounts of beer and curry fell through however shortly after the 5 made their first visit to Earlsmead. Left speechless after witnessing a truly thrilling Harrow victory over Enfield, they failed to convince the Harrow chairman of their much vaunted potential and the transfer collapsed. Spokesman for the quintet, Murdo MacLeod was reportedly sick over a parrot.



TV HELL

One feature of the New Year was a new burst of publicity for the club coming from the Public Access Channel of the local Cable company. Every Monday at 6.30 pm on Channel 7, The Juice reviews all the action from the local ICIS fixtures. The text service also gives full details of the recent results, up to date tables and forthcoming fixtures. The programme also gives supporters the opportunity to film their local team in action.

For the Marlow game Trevor Kingham took up this challenge and armed with £20,000 of camera filmed the action. The highlights of his endeavours were replayed the following Monday, whilst in the studio Jon Swan discussed the game with a representative from Marlow. In an atmosphere which owed more to TISWAS than Football Focus, Jon was frequently seen with his head in his hands as kids ran screaming around the studio, whilst puppets moved across the shot. The parting shot of the half hour show saw the entire ensemble waving good-bye with Jon head in hands reluctantly signalling his farewell.

The following Monday the show went distinctly upmarket, and no wonder as Steve Jinman and Murdo MacLeod were representing the club in a sports quiz against Marlow (in the form of Colin Ferguson and Kevin Mitchell). History repeated itself as Steve and Murdo ran out easy winners (11-4), to move into the quarter finals. **SJ**

YORK ROAD REPORTS

GETTING BETTER

MAGPIES 2 (Gold, Harrison M) BILLERICAY 2

A fighting performance which ended with the extraordinary sight of John Watt running up to the Bell End to congratulate those stood behind the goal. In a game where everybody had to pull together to earn a point, Maidenhead gave one of their best displays of the season. Mark Harrison's late equaliser was no less than the team deserved in a game which saw United take control in the second half and visibly grow in confidence. This was in spite of Billericay twice taking the lead, and chance after chance going begging as the Billericay keeper, defence and woodwork combined to keep United out in at least case by resorting to illegal means. With amongst others, Alec Norman playing magnificently on the right wing, however Maidenhead eventually saw justice was partly done with a draw. All this resulted in a great post match atmosphere, which in turn led to good sales of the new fanzine. So more of the same against Uxbridge please lads!



Star referee at Wembley and Barking, Rowan Atkinson. Photo Mark Leonard

WEMBLEY 0 MAGPIES 1 (Norman)

In a more defensive performance, the Magpies took their customary three points from Wembley. United took an early lead when Alec Norman made sure a Paul McKinnon effort reached its target. Wembley responded with some pretty build up play but were unable to make a serious enough breach of the back four to worry Trevor Roffey. However second half injuries to the centre back pairing of Robbie Gold and new signing Steve Croxford led to some anxious moments late on in the game. Me? I was never worried, the day Maidenhead lose at Wembley would after all be surely followed by an equally rare United win at Abingdon.

CHESHAM 1 MAGPIES 0

In a travesty of a result, Maidenhead lost a game which would have left a neutral observer believing the Saturday evening Division One table was upside down. The first half was marred by an over zealous performance by a referee who seemed to want to make the game a non contact sport. Tony Dell was apparently sent off for poisoning the pure air of the alleged family (i.e. dead) atmosphere of Chesham's ground by swearing in disbelief at a linesman's decision. However the most extreme evidence of the referee's harsh nature came when he booked Mr. Mild Mannered Attitude himself, Alec Norman!

Chesham took the lead shortly after the sending off, with confusion re supreme in the United defence. As well as rearranging things to comp for Dell's dismissal John had to make an early substitution to replace the Steve Croxford with fellow centre back Dave Harrison.

After spending the rest of the first-half getting things back on an ever United took control in the second period, surging forward time and time ag sand covered pitch unfortunately to no avail. Even though the Che keeper looked more like an understudy than Maidenhead's competent de Matt Pollard, no goal was forthcoming and the game ended in defeat. Thi however taken in a graceful manner, which should be noted by Ches manager Jim Kelman, who went on to have a go at Mrs Dadson for havi temerity to congratulate her team on a fighting if fruitless performance. I with your handbag next time Mrs Dadson!

WHYTELEAFE 2 MAGPIES 1 (Smith)

Another chapter in the games we should have won book which see get bigger by the week this season. Against Whyteleafe, United ha possession, domination, and chances by the bucket load but fail capitalise and lost the game to two sucker punches at the end of eac Gary Attrell starred on his second debut for the club, but a solitary Andy goal was simply not enough to clinch even a goal. Hopefully these points won't be the difference between Whyteleafe staying up or going as it is neither a great place to watch football nor the location of many memories for Maidenhead fans.



The Maidenhead bench at Whyteleafe. Photo: Mark Le

MAGPIES 4 (McKinnon, Dadson 2, Smith) MARLOW 1

The result everybody wanted in the game everybody had been waiti Once again the players showed the table is upside down as secon bottom Maidenhead thrashed fourth top Marlow. After scrappy start M took the lead from a penalty the refereeing blowing after the ball had a been put in the net anyway. However in complete contrast to the ga Marlow earlier this season, the United players fought back magnificently McKinnon hit back straight away to equalise, and 7 minutes later the pe Andy Smith who had an amazing game in the midfield finished off a s move to make it 2-1. By the time Paul Dadson made it 3-1 it was cle team was firmly set upon making proper amends for the August resu Marlow must have been relieved to hear the half time whistle.

In the second half, Marlow threw everything forward, but made little impact on a Maidenhead defence marshalled by the effervescent Dave Harrison, and featuring for the first time Ben Cook (Cometh the hour, cometh the ICEMAN!). The victory was sealed by Paul Dadson's late second goal, and despite some destructive behaviour by some Marlow pond life who seemed eager to prove that they were at least semi literate, the good night in prospect was eventually enjoyed by all.

MAGPIES 1 (Croxford) BRACKNELL 0 (B&B Cup)

A rare cup victory came courtesy of Steve Croxford's first ever Maidenhead goal, in a game which could scarcely have been more in contrast to the previous Saturday's. Division 2 side Bracknell lived up to their current cup pedigree by dominating much of the game and were justifiably aggrieved not to have taken the game to extra time. Still in the cup the result is all that matters. "Any performance is good enough as long as it get you in the hat for the next round Brian". Windsor away in the last eight is a good enough draw for me. Could be a remote possibility of some cup glory in the offing. If we were to win at Windsor, we would unfortunately be denied an easy semi-final against Marlow, as of course they were knocked out by the much feared (not) Wessex League team Thatcham Town.



An example of the marvellous surroundings at Barking. Photo: Mark Leonard

BARKING 1 MAGPIES 1 (Dadson)

Prior to this game Barking had lost ten matches in a row, sacked their second manager of the season, and had to call off their last game due to lack of player! However in the context of United's woeful form at Mayesbrook Park, we should probably be grateful for a draw. Taking the lead from yet another Paul Dadson tap in, Maidenhead eased into half-time 1-0 up. After the break though Barking were a different side throwing everything at Trevor Roffey's goal. They were rewarded with a point when Trevor was finally beaten by the goal of the season, an overhead kick from 25 yards out. Paul Dadson nearly stole the points late on with a long range effort which the keeper just kept out. Fortunately Barking have been unable to obtain an even a B grade, so we won't have to visit a ground which as Richard Jackson put it has recently been upgraded from a shithole to a toilet!

Lennon & McCartney



MAGPIE GREATS

**1
James Pritchard**

James was regarded by many as the brightest prospect to emerge from the youth team at York Road for some time. Making his debut at Leyton in February 1994, James started his senior career in style by scoring Maidenhead's goal in a 1-1 draw. This brought immediate promotion to the full team, his full debut coming at home to Worthing in a 2-1 draw. Over the next eighteen months, James made over 50 full appearances for the club, all as a teenager, before the seemingly inevitable happened and he went to Marlow to rejoin his ex Maidenhead youth team colleagues Gary Wiltshire and Daniel Pedley.

James was the complete footballing opposite of the also recently departed Peter McNamee. Will we ever see a cross between the two at York Road? This would be a bloody ugly but perfect footballing machine

Highlight of his short York Road career was that 4 goal night at Wembley in November 1994. Two of the goals that evening would have graced any class of football, on night when he could seemingly do no wrong. Yet James was no one game wonder. Like any player he had his good days and his bad days, but on his good days he was just that little bit more extra special than most. Talent such as his can't fail at this level of football. Proof that he can mix it with the best in our league came when he gave an accomplished performance against a very strong Aylesbury side in the league cup earlier this season. Proof that he has got sufficient character to back up his talent also came early this season when his consistently good performances shone out like a beacon in United's dire start to the current campaign.

Hopefully the rumours about Slough Town being interested in him are true, and he gets his chance to perform on a national platform in the Conference. It would be disappointing however if Marlow were to receive some financial benefit for a player who had only been with them 5 minutes. Regretfully James wasn't on contract when he left York Road. I for one wouldn't be surprised if that fact came back to haunt the club in years to come. Good luck James.

Appearances: 52 Sub: 15 Goals: 8

magpies

FEBRUARY TOUR 1996

3rd - TOOTING, Sandy Lane
17th- BASINGSTOKE, Camrose Stadium
20th- WINDSOR, Stag Meadow
24th- BERKHAMSTEAD, Broadwater Stadium
28th-ABINGDON, Culham Road

tickets for all shows £4.00

**(WATT'S THE STORY?) BUGGER ALL GLORY
OUT NOW!!!**



Luxury travel to gigs...



"Its great man" says one of the happy fans
who experienced the January tour to the full

MAIDENHEAD UNITED F.C.



LUXURY TRAVEL



STOP PRESS

All are welcome to join in a pre-match pub crawl of Windsor prior to the big Berks & Bucks Cup, quarter-final battle of the borough at Stagnant Meadow. A must to forget the pain of the defeat by 10 Clementines in our last meeting, and to fill us up with optimism for the evening's entertainment.



MAGPIE GREATS

2 Vernon Pratt

Vernon came to Maidenhead with fellow former Sutton giant killer Trevor Roffey, both making their debut on Boxing Day 1992 in 0-0 draw at home to Abingdon. Over the next three years Vernon became recognised as a loyal servant of the club, despite living no short distance away. Last season was easily his best at the club, with a big helping hand from the kick in experiment he finished on joint topscorer with 11 goals, and missed just one game (through suspension). The previous season although missing an outrageous two matches he had played even more games.

Whilst admitting that he wasn't exactly blessed with lightning pace (or to be totally truthful any pace) he would quite often redeem himself with his experienced positional play and his ability to score goals. Eleven goals from a non-free kick or penalty taking centre back speaks for itself. Certainly Tim Cook's long throw ins seem less dangerous now that Vernon isn't on the end of them.

One memory about Vernon which stands out is Vernon's performance at Worthing a few seasons ago. The game was played in atrocious conditions but Vernon still managed to notch a goal of the season contender. You generally don't see many defenders (or any Maidenhead players come to think of it) try and lob the goal keeper from fully 30 yards, let alone hit the bar before the keeper did the decent thing and notch the ball in the onion bag with his back. Later the Chairman had the audacity to declare it an own goal! Some people will do anything to save buying a bottle of brandy, Vernon later got his own back by surpassing his goal target with ease.

One person with mixed feelings about his departure will be Murdo. He has lost the club's only other Leeds supporter but then again, he can forget about his pledge to buy Vernon a pint for every goal he scored. One other unique quality Vernon possessed was ability to avoid bookings either by discreetly hiding behind the other centre back or by exposing the referee to his verbal charm.

Vernon now plys his trade in the Southern League at the closer to home Fleet Town. Hopefully a cup draw will bring Vernon back to York road next season as he was one of the most likeable at the club during his stay. Good Luck Vernon!

Appearances: 125 Sub: 5 Goals: 15

THE JOKE!

(After 5 minutes in a P.C. camp)

Always on the look out for new contributors your faithful B&B correspondent was accosted by a Magpies fan proffering a joke for inclusion in the fanzine. The conversation went something like this...

Hello are you involved with that Born & Bred fanzine?

Hello, yes I am.

Do you want to hear a joke?

Yeah go on then.

This Nigger walked...

Hey hold it there!

What's up?

You can't say that. This is a football fanzine, not the Klu Klux Klan monthly.

Can't say what?

The 'N' word. There's no way Born & Bred going to print racist material.

It's only a joke.

That doesn't matter. You're not using our fanzine to raise a laugh at the expense of blacks. Remember the 'Let's Kick Racism Out of Football' campaign?

OK, fair enough, point taken. This Jew walked into a bar...

Hold on!

Now what?

Same problem. Racial stereotypes.

How about an Irishman then?

No.

Dago? Kraut? Frog?

No foreigners!

OK. This poofster walked into a bar and said...

Come off it. We can't risk alienating our gay readers.

Well all right this gorgeous bird walked into a bar...

No that's sexist. We can't offend our female readers.

Jesus it's only a joke.

That maybe so, but this is the era of political correctness, so think carefully, and by the way no blasphemy.

What about cripple?

No!

Dwarf?

No!

Fat bastard?

Right that's it now you're getting personal.

OK, one more it's a good one honestly.

No, I don't want to hear it, push off.

Come on, one more chance.

Are you sure it's neither racist or sexist, nor refers to either gays, paraplegics or the physically challenged?

Not a bit, trust me.

Go on then, but I'm warning you!

This Marlow fan walked into a bar and said 'Ouch!'

Why's that then?

It was an iron bar. Now was that worth waiting for?

You bet!

This scoreline on Saturday 16th December certainly caused the odd eyebrow to be raised, but it would have been largely overlooked by Monday morning if it hadn't been for the report that I read in the Sunday papers. There, for all the world to see, was a quotation from the Leeds manager, Howard Wilkinson. "It was all my fault", he said. "I picked the team, and I told them how to play the game. I screwed up!" How refreshing it was to read the comments of a manager taking the blame for a lousy performance.

Reading further in to the paper, I found a comment from Bruce Rioch, the Arsenal manager. After his side had scored a somewhat undeserved last minute equaliser against Chelsea, he was quoted as saying "It was my fault. I adopted a far too cautious approach and paid the penalty". Even ex-Reading manager Mark Maghee on losing his first game in charge of Wolves said "I underestimated the capability of some of my players. Changes will have to be made."

I wonder if those Premier Division Managers have ever used such excuses as "What do you expect with the budget I have to work with?" or "It's never easy playing at home when the fans have a go at the players" or "It's never easy playing away when the fans have a go at the players" or "We haven't played for two weeks - the lads were not match fit" or "We've played three games in a week - the lads were knackered" or "We were the better team. It's just that the opposition took their chances" or "I played the team the fans wanted - and they got it wrong" or "The side was what the committee wanted - they got it wrong" or "The grass was too long for our playing style" or "The grass was too short for our playing style" or "They used an orange ball - we aren't used to that" or "The pitch was too bumpy/too flat/too soft/too hard/too wide/too narrow/too long/too short/too good". Or, it could always be down to the referee or the linesman. What does it take for a manager to take the blame and carry the can?

RAJ

THE GALLERY

Hello and welcome to the Gallery. This issue's photos have been sent in by Mark from Maidenhead. Top: Tartan at Barton. A bunch of pissheads masquerading as marauding Scots at Barton in early December. Bottom: A winter's scene. Half-time at the Aldershot Carlton Cup game

Photos Mark Leonard



A Born and Bred World Exclusive

1995 WAS A RECORD BREAKING YEAR FOR THE MAGPIES

JANUARY

Began with a 2-0 home success against Tooting & Mitcham thanks to a goal in either half from Alec Norman and Francis Araguez. This first ever league win over the visitors from Surrey catapulted the club to second place in the table - the highest standing for over fifteen years. At Wivenhoe five days later we failed to capitalise on a first half goal from Nick Ribeiro, were pegged back, and then had what looked a perfectly legitimate late goal disallowed. The following Saturday's long journey to Haybridge was fruitless, as the home side belied their lowly position and recorded a 3-2 win. One week later, Chertsey Town visited York Road and their embarrassingly easy win emphasised that we were merely pretenders to the throne. The 8-2 final scoreline was our biggest defeat since we lost by the same scoreline at Hampton in October 1982, although no visiting side had scored so many at York Road against us since Wycombe won 8-0 in a Floodlight League game in February 1968. A damage limitation exercise three days later saw Reading restricted to a 2-0 victory in a Berks & Bucks Cup tie at York Road - the Royals went onto to lift the trophy. The month ended with probably the best performance of the season with a superb 3-1 victory at Aldershot in front of 1,877 people. It proved that the team can outplay and outbattle the very best, the tragedy is that they do it far, far too infrequently. From then on the season slid sadly into a rapid decline....

FEBRUARY & MARCH

Bogey side Abingdon Town were the first visitors to York Road that month and went away pleased after an easy 2-0 victory. The rivalry between the supporters goes back to the ding dong battles of our meetings in Division 2 South, but these days we seem unable to raise our game against the Oxfordshire side. Wembley then came to York Road knowing that we are their bogey side - we have a better record against the Middlesex side than any other club in the league over the years. The team produced a spineless display and Wembley were able to avenge their earlier 5-0 home defeat by us by winning by the same scoreline. We produced a more determined display a week later by earning a 1-1 home draw against Billericay Town and then demolished a woefully weak Dorking side at York Road by 6-1 in early March. We scrapped hard for a point away to Leyton in the middle of the month, and then veteran Dave Harrison scored our equaliser away to Berkhamsted. March finished with the signing of the Whichford International sponsorship deal before the game at York Road against runaway leaders Boreham Wood. We raised our game and outplayed the Hertfordshire side for long periods, were denied a blatant penalty, and conceded a last minute own goal to lose.

APRIL & MAY

Started with the eagerly awaited and enjoyable trip to Bognor Regis Town. A good time was had by all and an early Peter McNamee header secured a point. Three days later at Whyteleafe we were nopeless and crashed 3-0. A home draw was then secured against a Newbury town side destined for the drop, and then a Vernon Pratt goal secured a draw away to Tooting & Mitcham. A hat-trick from Nick Ribeiro ensured a 3-0 home victory against Uxbridge that gave us more breathing space from the scramble happening at the bottom to avoid relegation, but then we produced a pitiful display at Barking and lost 2-0, and our 3-0 defeat at Worthing saw the home side promoted in front of a strangely muted crowd. Our final game of the season was an entertaining match at York Road with Staines Town that ended in a 4-2 victory.

We finished the season with 57 points from 42 games, finishing twelfth. We were seventeen points off a promotion spot, and six above a relegation place. We won just five of our nineteen league games in the five months.

Just as the last strains of Auld Lang Sine were fading into history, and the first bell of the new year echoed from Big Ben, it was revealed that 1995 had been a record breaking year for the Magpies.

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

Optimism was high at the start of our 125th anniversary season. We had secured the new "A" grading enabling us to play Premier Division football, but now came the hard part. Barking were the opening day opponents at York Road. Outplayed for the first half, the Essex side gradually came into the game and snatched a 2-0 win. Three days later a large contingent of Magpie fans in a 954 crowd saw their side totally outclassed at Marlow. The 4-0 thrashing at Thame in the F.A. Cup preliminary round compounded a week of sheer agony for Maidenhead supporters. An first goals and point came in a 2-2 draw at home to Tooting & Mitcham, and this was followed by a 2-1 home victory over Whyteleafe thanks to a brace by Paul McInnon and a superb goalkeeper display by Trevor Roffey. We made an honourable exit from the League Cup having been drawn away to holders Arsenal's United, but four days later were lucky to draw at home to Hampton Town who were denied by a superb display from Trevor Roffey. We finished the month with our first ever league success away to Fulfill Manor courtesy of Paul McInnon's early strike.

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

Newly promoted Oxford City visited York Road and coasted to a comfortable victory. They were easily the best side we had played. Our first Cup victory of the season came at Fareham in the F.A. Trophy, Colin Tate scoring his first goal for the club in a 4-2 victory, and three days later a last minute strike from Peter McNamee secured a 1-1 draw away to leaders Heybridge Swifts who had outplayed us for the first seventy five minutes. At Staines a fair crowd witnessed some bizarre refereeing that resulted in a 2-1 defeat, but then a poor Berkhamsted side came to York Road and won 2-0 thanks to an inept display by the Magpies. Halloween saw the Magpies visit Uxbridge, and we ground out a point in a goalless draw. Thame visited York Road in the F.A. Trophy; Maidenhead were truly pitiful for the majority of time in recent seasons and lost 5-0. Wokingham visited us for a league match and despite a more spirited display, we lost 3-0. It was the tenth time in sixteen competitive matches this season that we had failed to score! We hoped the season had at last started following a superb 5-0 victory at Thame in the League. For once we were fired up and committed and produced a display full of passion and effort rewarded with some good football and superb goals.

DECEMBER

The real Jekyll and Hyde character of the side was illustrated when the same starting eleven that performed so well at Thame were comprehensively beaten by bottom club Barton Rovers. Their 4-0 victory was only their second league win of the season. We made our exit from the Full Members Cup on a snowbound pitch at Aldershot, before we secured a point in an entertaining 1-1 tie with Boreham at York Road. An early Alec Norman goal secured victory away to Wembley in a real bottom of the table "six-pointer" and kept up our remarkable record at Vale Farm. The match closest to our 125th birthday, away to Chesham on 16th December was to prove to be the last match of the year and ended in a 1-0 loss, although we played for 75 minutes with just ten players following Tony Bell's pointless dismissal, and deserved at least a draw. All three matches scheduled for the Christmas period fell foul to the weather.

SUMMARY

1995 proved to be a most disappointing year. In terms of winning matches, our total of ten from 43 games was the lowest post-war tally, one behind the total matches in 1975. Our overall record was somewhat depressing, and much better things must be achieved on the pitch in this new year.

Our total: PL 43 W 10 D 10 L 23 F 1 A 4 H 10
 We failed to score in 20 of the 43 matches. Mark Bishop

MAGPIE GREATS

3

Peter McNamee

Appearances: 83 Sub: 6 Goals: 11



The phrase "Terrace Hero" was never more apt than in Peter McNamee's case, especially with the Jock Squad cheering him on. I have always maintained that the players that supporters appreciate most is the 110 percenters who will always try and give a real 'blood and guts' performance, even when things are not going right (which is quite often in our case.) Detractors may point to the number of free-kicks conceded and bookings earned by Peter but the faithful would dismiss these as necessities to his combative style of play.

I am one of the lucky few to be able to say that I was there at Basingstoke when Macca scored the ultimate 'steamroller' goal ending with two defenders, the goalkeeper and the ball in the back of the net for a 94th minute equaliser. On a more mischievous note we all remember the pantomime "behind you!" episode with Mr crap-dreadlocks himself Chris Vidal, which was already Vidal's second on-field skirmish that season (and this was only in October!) Shortly afterwards he was 'released' by Molesey and I believe he now makes his living as Prince Naseem's sparring partner.

Affable off the field but aggressive on it, most players would settle for a similar appraisal to that afforded to Macca. Of course the lecherous old scrotes amongst us are more likely to remember his affable and definitely non aggressive stunner of a girlfriend, Stella, and her liking for ludicrously short skirts!

It's just a shame that we never quite got to the bottom of those rumours about him achieving the distinguished title of Scotlands most booked player one season, earned whilst at Queens Park. It would have been nearly as much of an honour as the accolade of being the only player I have ever known to actually write an article for the match programme, something we were extremely grateful for and which added to his already massive 'cult status.'

The recent departures of Vernon, Macca and Jimbo leaves the appearances chart looking a bit forlorn. Whilst it's always sad to lose a club 'stalwart' (and I think that's a fair description to use here) the loss of these three players is particularly disappointing as in past seasons they quite often represented the heart of the team as well as the affections of the loyal Magpies. In addition to this the departure of three players in such quick succession from a club which has become unaccustomed to ANYONE leaving could be construed in some quarters as a mass exodus! Certainly the majority of supporters wish them well with the rest of their careers and they have all left us with plenty of good memories.

DO YOU REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME?

The scene was a sunny afternoon, the event my first ever visit to a football match. It was my first pilgrimage to the back street chapel of football that is York Road, to see the Magpies play Harwich & Parkeston. As me and my dad entered the ground shortly before half time (rather late considering the five minute walk from our front door to the Bell Street end), we were informed by the man on the gate that the score was 0-0 and that there were no programmes left (some things never change). The score remained level until the second half, when Maidenhead raced into a 3 goal lead. United must have been kicking towards the Canal End as I can remember being surrounded by several vociferous Harwich fans, one of whom looked like an extra from The Sweeney, sporting a marvellously garish leather coat and a Phil Parkes style droopy moustache. The Harwich fan's effort was eventually rewarded when their side notched a consolation goal, to leave a final score of Maidenhead 3 Harwich 1.

Mark Smith's new book has allowed me to furnish these scanty memories with some match facts. Apparently the game was played on 16th April 1979, and was a vital win in Maidenhead's ultimately doomed promotion bid.

VIRGIN TRAVELS

Fourteen and a half years after making my first visit to watch Maidenhead, I thought it was high time I made the effort to go to an away game. And so it was that I made the short trip to Chalfont St. Peter on freezing cold night in the week before Christmas for a Mickey Mouse, sorry Carlsberg Cup first round tie.

The evening began inauspiciously when on arrival at the imaginatively titled "Playing Fields" 5 minutes before kick off, me and my travelling companions were seemingly alone in the ground. However when the teams ran out soon after the Maidenhead posse complete with flag emerged from the social club.

The first 70 minutes of the game were distinctly lacking in memorable football moments, United taking the lead through Kevin Stone. Earlier United had been denied a penalty after an Oscar winning dive from Franny. Punctuating the cold spells stood on the grass banks behind each goal, was the visit to the best part of Chalfont's ground, the social club with hand pulled Tetley's to remind us of the frozen north style atmosphere that awaited us outside. At just 39 the crowd (if you can call it that) was the lowest ever at a game I had attended. The only one suitably attired was someone in a romper suit, rumoured to be Paul Mulvaney after someone spotted a lock of blonde hair slip out of his balaclava.

Disaster struck when Chalfont equalised with 20 minutes left, prompting someone to scream from the Maidenhead dugout (allegedly): "If you're going to let them score, give them two!". Nobody and least of all the United coaching staff wanted their sentence extended to include 30 minutes extra hard labour. We were all granted a stay of execution however when the late lamented Nick Ribeiro (the hat trick hero) popped up to slot in a late winner and win the man of the match award of a crate of Carlsberg. The shivering onlookers were rewarded with an all too rare away cup victory, in a fashion which has seldom been repeated since.

Steve Jinman

FREE GIFT...

THIS ISSUE'S FREE GIFT.

FOLLOWING THE RECENT SUCCESS OF THE READING EVENING POST'S "ROAR FOR THE ROYALS" CAR STICKER COMES OUR OWN HIGHLY INDIVIDUAL EFFORT WHICH IS A MUST FOR ALL SELF-RESPECTING MEMBERS OF THE BELL STREET CHOIR. IT MAY EVEN DOUBLE THE VALUE OF SARCHFIELD'S SKODA! HOI HOI TARBAY!

MOAN FOR THE MAGPIES



Europe United

A Day for Everyone who Loves Football

This is really what Philosophy Football is all about. Takes place in central London, **Saturday 1st June 1996**, the weekend preceding the opening of Euro '96. **Europe United** is a day, and night, celebration of fans' cultures from across Europe. We're now well advanced in our planning, the day will open with both a football fashion show, and a fans' Parliament of Europe. There will be a five-a-side competition, video festival, photography exhibition, live music, knockout poetry cup, world premiere of a play about Albert Camus, the goalkeeper, cabaret and more. This will be the only Euro '96 event organised by fans, for fans. It's going to be big, fun and a most positive antidote to the runaway fears of the championships being nothing more than a Nazi beer-fest. We'll keep you posted, all the profits from the shirts are being used to fund the festival so in a sense you're already part of it but do please put **1st June** in that diary when it pops out of your Christmas stocking and be prepared for some serious enjoyment.

PHILOSOPHY'S IN PHILOSOPHICAL FOOTBALL

Number Two: The Christmas Six-Pointer

This quality football, lasting well over an hour but shorter than long enough to fill your pockets to gladden the hearts of all but those who have a heartless...



Outside Left: Oscar Wilde

A player who understands the importance of being earnest in one's goalkeeping ambitions.



Goalkeeper: Albert Camus

Albert Camus' saves embody the absurd tragic-comic nobility of goalkeeping.



Left Back: Jean Baudrillard

Jean Baudrillard defends by way of revolutionary spontaneity rather than more traditional configurations.



God-like Genius: Pelé

Pelé's classic shirt is now available in a long-sleeved version. Essential sportswear this winter for his inside pretense.



Centre Forward: Brian Clough

Not a fan of route one, Brian rejected the aerial route. But don't risk a pitch invasion when Brian scores, he could teach Cantona a thing or two about crowd control.



Forward: Eric Cantona

Eric is a dedicated opponent of the end obscurity of weak teams playing the English school of empirical football. 100% undrafted.

Also available: Blanchflower, Grimsel, Shanky and Cantona (unofficial home kit) write for details



PHILOSOPHY FOOTBALL ORDER FORM

Shirts are long-sleeved XL, 100% top-quality cotton give. Shirts are £15.95 (plus £1.85 p&p for each shirt, £4.35 annual overseas). Cheques payable to Philosophy Football.

Please send me the following shirts (state name & quantity of each shirt):

POUNCE CHECKS FOR £

Name & address

Postcode

to be

Date

Phone (optional)

RETURN: PHILOSOPHY FOOTBALL, 28 WARGRAVE AVENUE, LONDON N15 6UD ENGLAND

BACK PAGE UNITED

SWAN MANIA!



John and his fan club Photo: Andy Ross

Following his recent appearance on top rating cable show The Juice (the what? ed) Magpies vice chairman Jon Swan has been mobbed by female admirers at subsequent home games. Seen by many as the next Des Lynam due to his smooth appearance and delivery on the show, Jon seems set to reach the heady heights whose limits have been set by the likes of Eamon Holmes and Dougie Donnelly.

In yet another exclusive interview Magpies Chairman Jim Parsons felt Jon's burst of fame was a good thing. "Obviously any thing which draws the crowds into York Road is a good thing although of course I'd prefer it if they took more of an interest in the team".

NEXT ISSUE TUESDAY MARCH 5