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BORN & BRED

ISSUE 10, 50P



CHILDRENS TV STARS 'THE CHUCKLE BROTHERS' GET YORK ROAD JOB

THE LONGEST RUNNING MAIDENHEAD UNITED FANZINE



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to issue ten 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 Martyn Busby and Alan Devonshire.

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.

Keith Jackson, Editor

Back issues available: numbers 4,5,6,7 limited numbers of 2,3, and very limited numbers of issues 8 and 9.

50p from Steve, or 75p from the address below (including p&p).

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c/o 'PENDEEN'
STROUD FARM ROAD
HOLYPORT
MAIDENHEAD
BERKSHIRE
SL6 2LH

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THE FANZINE COLLECTIVE
KEITH JACKSON, STEVE JINMAN,
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EDDIE TORIAL

As the disappointment of 95/96 becomes but a fading memory, a certain sense of optimism is engulfing the York Road regulars. The departure of John Watt was no surprise, in fact, it was inevitable. No one expected the man to be in charge this term, indeed, many were surprised or disappointed to see him last the entirety of last season.

The appointment of Devonshire and Busby left many asking questions; could they cope in division one seemed to be the most common. Having only managed at a lower level, many thought that other, more experienced managers would be more suited to the post. Kelman, with his proven track record and Martyn Spong seemed to be the names on everybody's lips. Even George Talbot got numerous mentions in the press, due solely to the pages of this fanzine expressing their preferences. As it happens, Kelman and Spong were seen as unsuitable, and Talbot was neither approached or did he apply for the position.

As I write, the Magpies have played four league games. Two wins and a draw is fine by me, and exceeded the expectations of some of the York Road 'faithful'.

The performance at Molesey was exceptional, we kept on battling and were unlucky to concede a silly goal near the end. The 4-0 defeat of Wokingham saw two battling teams play some good football, but four goals in 10 minutes hardly gave a clear representation of the match. But I can't help wondering, under Watt that would have turned into a 4-0 defeat.

New players have adapted well to the jump in football. The partnership of Ruggins and Agudosi looks likely to set the division alight, indeed, the sheer arrogance of Agudosi in front of goal gives the Magpies fans hope that at last we have found a striker who can in some way help shake off the ghost of Laryea.

No one is expecting miracles this season. What would be nice is to follow a side who are in the top half of the table, not peering over our shoulders at the relegation zone, and biting our nails whilst waiting for the Barton result to come in, and calculating just how many points are needed until we are mathematically safe. Hopefully this season, we shouldn't have to worry about that. A run in the FA Cup is long, long overdue to.

Talking about the relegation zone, it is nice to see Marlow finally playing the football we all knew they were capable of. A solitary point at home against Tooting, whose escapades last term would have put Harry Houdini to shame, have left the Blues rooted to the foot of the table. Defeats against Molesey and Wokingham, who we subsequently beat in their next fixtures must make the Marlow fan worry about the season ahead. Reports of their match against Bognor (lost 2-0) which came from the many Magpies fans included the words 'laughable', 'a joke' and 'hilarious'.

I know the division isn't simply about who finishes highest, us or them, but for the first time in many, many years, we are above Marlow in a league table. Six points clear. And it's only August.

Keith Jackson

THE JOHN WATT YEARS

The end of last season couldn't come quickly enough for most of Maidenhead's weary supporters and, to be perfectly honest, nor could the ending of John Watt's three and a half year saunter down the road to nowhere.

It had all seemed so different in November 1992 when, after only 3 wins in the first 21 matches John "70 players a season" Clements was given his P45 by the club. (Later, as despair set in, he moved into the ground redevelopment industry before returning triumphantly to what he knew best, namely using his unique talents for guiding his troops to a bottom three league position and combining it with dealings in the transfer market that made Barry Fry look like Bruce Rioch during his Arsenal sojourn.)

Although the Magpies didn't exactly set the league alight during the remainder of the 1992-93 season, John's arrival certainly signified an upturn in fortunes and we finished the season in the position many fans see as our spiritual 'home', namely twelfth. It was certainly an improvement on the sixteenth position we attained the previous season.

Perhaps even more important was the stabilising effect John Watt's appointment had on the side, with new arrivals including Vernon Pratt, SupaTrev and the brothers' Stone all playing key roles.

The opening day of season 1993-94 saw a 4-0 thrashing of those perennial strugglers Whyteleafe, sweet revenge for our 5-1 drubbing at their toilet of a ground a year previously. It was also this game which gave rise to the first truly memorable Watty quote "one swallow doesn't make a summer." What an accurate preface this proved to be as we then proceeded to illustrate the one consistent facet of our play that season - inconsistency. For each orgasm, Bishops Stortford away for example, with Maidenhead the first team to score a league goal against them in a 1-1 draw that also stopped them beating our Ishtman league record start to a season, there was always a very embarrassing premature ejaculation like the Saffron Walden league cup debacle for instance, a spineless 3-1 defeat against lower divisioned opposition in front of a large travelling Magpies support, made all the more painful by the fact that it was the only cup competition we stayed in for more than 180 minutes and a prestigious quarter final tie at Enfield awaited the winners.

The playing personnel followed a similar tack. The trickery of a resurgent Paul Dadson and midfield steel of Tim Cook tended to be negated by the lethargy of Paul West and the downright absurdity of Francis Araguez (a favourite son of Watt's who continually came back to haunt us and who even prompted a burst of "If Franny plays for Maidenhead so can I!!" at one particular match.)

As the season began petering out into traditional Magpies nothingness there came a couple of flashpoints which signified the start of the choppy waters to be encountered during the remainder of Watt's stint at the helm of the good ship Maidenhead. At Abingdon towards the end of a truly dire performance Derek Sweetman, John's assistant, felt the need to remonstrate with some of the fans who had been barracking the likes of Phil Surridge and Dominic Gavin. With hindsight this was probably unfair on the players concerned, as it wasn't their fault they were merely 'cannon fodder' - i.e. parks players from Derek's Sunday side playing about fifteen divisions above their capabilities. However, it certainly made for a bizarre side show.

The management's defence of this was to blame the club for this predicament. In their eyes a lack of finance had meant that, with injuries to key players to contend with, very cheap replacements had to be drafted in. The cynics remained unconvinced, preferring to cite shortcomings within the management team of a lack of knowledge of available players currently playing at the same standard. It was an accusation that never really went away.

The imaginatively titled "Battle of the Borough" in April 1994 against a John Clements managed Loser & Beaten F.C. side nearly proved to be John's last game in charge. That we lost 1-0 against a team we beat 4-1 in a boxing day massacre earlier in the season, who were destined for the drop into division two, and who played the last seventy minutes with ten men was bad enough. However, to witness arguably the worst Maidenhead performance I think I have ever seen, with our hapless heroes unable to string two passes together nor play a single ball under forty yards (both in height and in length), and in the company of the best turnout of Magpies fans I have seen (trimming into three figures) was stomach-churning. The story is that John offered Jim Parsons his resignation after the game only for Jim to refuse it and ask him to think again. This he duly did and he then saw out the rest of a wholly disappointing season where we finished 17th. That we survived the drop by a massive 18 points was more due to the sheer ineptitude of the complete dross that finished below us rather than through our own endeavours.

A new season and with it new hope, but certainly no great expectations due to the complete lack of progress shown the previous term. Further strengthening of the squad included Tyrone Houston, Wanky Wanderers outcast Alec Norman, the return of Micky 'Vialli' Creighton and regular starting places for the products of the much heralded 'youth policy'. You know the ones. Started at Marlow, became a bit disillusioned there, couldn't yet drive so had to join another local outfit, namely Maidenhead. All of them flitted in and out of the first team on the basis that each stirring performance was generally followed by one equally nondescript. To be fair they also tended to be victims of John's strange scapegoating process, whereby a dismal team display would result in one or two players being cast as the villains of the performance, resulting in them immediately disappearing from the squad altogether until John felt they had been punished sufficiently. (It was a process that would ultimately see the end of Magpies careers for the likes of Vernon Pratt among others.) Ultimately with John sticking by his strange process of not believing in progression into the starting eleven via the bench the unified mass that was Pedley/Pritchard/Wilshire exercised similar solidarity to that shown when they had arrived at York Road and used the return part of their ticket for the Marlow donkey, where they now currently ply their trade, when they are actually in the team of course.

Early results were typically indifferent with customary early season exits from all the cups, but with the newly relegated Dorking and Wivenhoe continuing to show a complete inability to collect any points as they tried, but eventually failed, to emulate Loser And Beaten's majestic slide from the premier to third division in successive seasons, there was really only one relegation spot to fight for. Just as it looked as though we may become embroiled in this squabble something amazing happened.

A game away at Billericay is never easy, but to go there, go three goals down in the first 12 minutes yet hit back with five goals in the last 22 minutes was truly amazing. It was a game I was privileged to witness and certainly ranks as the best Maidenhead performance I have seen.

Having suddenly been hit with the realisation that, on their day, they could beat the best the division had to offer the Magpies then went on a two month league rampage sweeping all before them to finish the year in 2nd position, albeit having played more games than their promotion rivals. During this 'purple patch' there were some wonderful performances, the highlight of which was the 5-0 demolition of Wembley. That we won there was no real surprise, because as the song goes "we always win at Wembley!" It was more the manner in which we completely overwhelmed our hosts with some breathtaking football that gave the fans something to be optimistic about for a change, instead of the constant grind of watching our team slogging it out with the rest of the dead wood in the bottom six.

It was also during this period of realisation that promotion WAS a possibility that the club worked flat out to have York Road ready for inspection by the ground grading committee by the 31st December deadline, a ridiculously early date. Certainly, much work had been done anyway during the previous two or three summers under the expert guidance of Bob Hussey as the club sought to upgrade the facilities at the ground, but a lot of this was aimed at making up for the previous twenty years' neglect, mainly due to the mismanagement of previous regimes. It is a price that the club is still paying for and is one that has hindered them for many a season. The much coveted A grading was achieved meaning that promotion to the premier division would be allowed in the event of the team finishing in a top three position. It was to be something that the club would be grateful to John for as it was this inspired league run that proved to be the catalyst for the club's increased efforts off the field.

Unfortunately the coming of a new year also signalled a downturn in fortunes on the pitch. The team's line up had remained settled during the majority of the season so far but bad injuries to both Paul Dadson, who had been enjoying his best form in a Maidenhead shirt until he broke his leg against Rushlip Manor, and Mickie Creighton who finally submitted to the back problems that had been plaguing him for a while necessitated a change of personnel up front. That adequate replacements were not found within the club emphasised the lack of strength in depth within the first team squad. That John was unable to secure the services of capable replacements elsewhere yet again cruelly exposed the frailties of his managerial expertise, and gave the terrace cynics a chance to exercise the pessimistic thoughts they had been having to suppress during the team's rich vein of form.

It was also during this period that a certain high quality production was born (and subsequently bred). The fanzine you are currently reading was the brainchild of one Steve Jimman Esq. and was launched partly in response to the poor press coverage the club was getting at that time, although this has thankfully improved dramatically, and partly to show the management/players/club officials that not all Maidenhead fans were overtly negative in their hopes and desires for the club. The fanzine was something that John, Derek and the players always responded to positively. Even when we were being critical of them they never saw it as anything other than loyal supporters exercising their right to give their opinions in a constructive manner and it is certainly something we respect them for. Hopefully it is an attitude that will continue to flourish under the new management team.

The remainder of the 1994-95 season saw just 4 of the remaining 18 league matches won, with the club finishing in that magical position of twelfth again. More surprising was the fact that we only finished six points above the drop zone, indicating yet again how tight the division can be with only the finest of lines between success and failure. The lowpoints came in the form of a 5-0 pummeling in the return fixture with Wembley and an 8-2 hammering, dished out by easily the best side we played that season, Chertsey. From a personal point of view, whilst it was disappointing that we faded so badly it had been great to have felt that at last we seemed to be moving in the right direction, both on and off the pitch, and that although promotion had been an unobtainable goal it had been a refreshing feeling following a side that, for once, had not set out with the sole objective of merely keeping its head above water in the division it was in.

The 1995-96 season has already often been referred to as the season that promised so much, yet delivered so little. A wave of optimism surrounded the club following the previous season's progress and, with an increased budget at his disposal John added experienced players Tony Dell, Paul McKinnon and Colin Tate to the existing squad, virtually all of whom stayed at the club, coupled to some good pre-season results, (most notably against a Reading side at nearly full strength and who were fortunate to beat us 3-2 with a couple of late goals) expectations went into overdrive.

It was easy to understand why. After all the three new signings came to the club with good track records and had proven themselves at a higher level than they would be playing at this season. It was to be John's misfortune that with the exception of McKinnon, who had a disappointing injury-riddled season, the other two would prove to be so disastrous that they barely made it into the second half of the season. It was a familiar scenario that must have had the manager tearing his hair out. The previous season Dave Thompson had arrived at York Road with an impressive strike rate but left at the end of the season a broken man with a solitary goal in his 12 appearances. This looked positively prolific when compared to Tate's single goal in fifteen starts and fourteen further sub-appearances. They were just two of the many victims of the strikers' impotency that appeared to affect new arrivals at York Road during Watt's reign.

The vast majority of us anticipating a flying start to the campaign were quickly brought crashing back to reality as an unlucky defeat at home to a poor Barking side was followed by a performance nearly as mind-numbingly appalling as the one at Windsor 18 months previous. That it was also against such hated local rivals this time Marlow, left supporters feeling shell-shocked, numb and betrayed. As if things couldn't get any worse we then crashed out of the F.A. cup, totally outplayed by a very average Thame side with 4-0 the final score.

'Indifferent' is perhaps the only polite way of describing results in the couple of months that followed. Any confidence the team may have had was now long gone and each performance saw a decline in the quality of play.

Things came to a head following another atrocious display, again against Thame, this time in the trophy as we were slaughtered 5-0 at home. The saddest aspect of one of the blackest days in recent Magpies history was the fact that by the time the third goal went in most of us were genuinely past caring. I have to say that I was one of those people, and whilst it shames me to admit it, it gives an indication of how bad things had got. Walking towards the bar after the whistle had sounded Jim Parsons had a 'lively debate' with John out of earshot of everyone else. It subsequently transpired that the outcome was that Jim's initial feeling had been to give John the bullet to put him out of his (and our) misery. However, a few moments reflection of the situation, together with a plea from John to be given one last chance had meant that the manager was set a target of 6 points from the next three games. It was a far from satisfactory situation as it pleased neither John's detractors (and by now there were quite a few) who had demanded his head after the match, nor those who were prepared to back the manager through this very rough patch as they felt he was being placed in an no win position with the prospect of having to perform his job with the proverbial Damocles sword constantly hanging over him. Even the few neutrals who hadn't nailed their colours to either mast felt it to be a worthless compromise. After all what would happen if the points total was to be achieved only for the club to then lapse back into its old losing ways?

The situation became slightly clearer following the 3-0 defeat at the hands of Wokingham a week later. It seemed irony was playing a cruel joke on the manager when, yet again, Thame were the next opponents in what became a shit or bust confrontation. It was one of only a couple of matches I missed that season, and thus I was not sucked in by the hype and furore surrounding the 5-2 victory, so you can imagine my bewilderment and incredulity to hear that, following the game John had been told that his job was safe for the time being! What was it the quote that John himself had previously used about swallows and summer?! It seemed the club were now trying to outdo some of the spineless team performances with one of their own.

With his job now 'safe' John must have felt he was able to relax a bit as we travelled to bottom of the table Barton, who had only managed one league win all season. The team certainly looked relaxed as our hosts stuck four past us without reply. As the match report in the fanzine stated "normal service has been resumed."

The season continued to trundle by as results varied from good (the 4-1 thrashing of Marlow, with some local pride being restored) to bad (a 5-1 stuffing at Leyton Pennant.) League form showed some improvement, although that wasn't hard bearing in mind the dismal form shown in the first third of the season, but the atmosphere at the club had changed and it certainly wasn't for the better. Certainly the quality of some of his phrases hadn't improved either with the introduction of the godawful "early doors" and others straight out of the Ron Atkinson book of crap managerial phrases.

There had long been stories circulating that, during his '6 point ultimatum' period John had encouraged players who were the subject of 7 day approaches from other clubs to go elsewhere. It appeared to be an unprecedented act of vindictiveness which angered a lot of people and certainly changed their opinion of the man. What had previously been a fairly happy relationship with supporters and club officials developed into nothing more than curt pleasantries.

It also seemed to me that, as John became more and more withdrawn (perhaps even accepting the inevitability of his fate), he became the chief protagonist in cultivating a 'them and us' situation with the club's officials and supporters on one 'side' and the first team management with the unwitting players on the other. Although it was both commendable and understandable that John should so vigorously defend his players, it certainly seemed from an independent viewpoint that some of his decisions were made with the primary intention of antagonising those at the club. Why else would there have been so many changes to the team after every match, irrespective of the result or performance, especially as it meant the club were committed to paying a first team squad comprising some eighteen or nineteen players, some of whom were obviously nowhere close to fitness.

It all seemed to be rather strange behaviour from the man a lot of people felt had been given a second chance when he hadn't deserved it, only for him to throw it back in the club's face.

Back on the pitch the only real highlight came in the form of a more than overdue cup run in the Berks & Bucks. The events surrounding the Aylesbury game have already been well documented in previous editions of this fanzine, so no one really needs reminding how unlucky we were not to beat them. Certainly beating Wokingham in the final would not have been beyond our capabilities. Perversely, it is perhaps for the best that things turned out as they did as it would have taken a very brave chairman indeed to sack someone who had just won the club it's first trophy in 25 years. I would like to think that this view is taken more with concern for the long term future of the club, rather than short term success.

As soon as the season finished the inevitable happened and John was relieved of his responsibilities. Privately he berated the club for having the audacity to undertake such an action and pleaded for more time-something he had had more than enough of. Publicly he informed the papers that he was glad it was all over and that the club had done him a favour. After all it wasn't worth all the aggravation was it? The final twist of fate saw him quickly move down a division to become assistant manager at Loser and Beaten. Are you really trying to tell me that his new job IS worth the aggro? I doubt it.

Personally I think the club moved forward in leaps and bounds during John's stint in charge. The unfortunate thing is that it was only really OFF the field that progress was made rather than ON it as towards the end the team was going backwards at an alarming rate. No one would dispute that John was a very pleasant man off the pitch. It was just unfortunate that, on the pitch he lost the plot somewhat.

Replacements in Martyn Busby and Alan Devonshire have now been found and I think they deserve the support of everyone at the club, whether things initially go right or not. They should certainly get a reasonable amount of time to sort things out to how they want. After all their predecessors got plenty.

Murdo Macleod



MANAGERIAL RECORD

	W	D	L	F	A
92-93	8	12	9	36	37
93-94	15	14	22	63	61
94-95	16	12	20	76	86
95-96	15	15	21	59	85
Total	54	53	72	234	269

STATISTICS COURTESY OF THE MAIDENHEAD UNITED BIBLE, 'THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK SMITH'.

Hold on to your hats, folks...it's the return of....

THAT MAN TALKS BOLLOCKS!!!!

Once again, a new season, a new issue of B&B, and a new TMTB. This month....

NUMBER 9 : JON SWAN

As many of you are aware, Andy Ross is no longer editor of the matchday programme, and until Steve Jinman takes over in October, the vacancy is being temporarily filled by Jon Swan. Cast your mind back to August 17th, Maidenhead v Canvey Island. In his editorial, Jon writes 'Details of how to get to Molesey are elsewhere in this programme.' Well, I found pen pics of Canvey and Maidenhead, last years stats, a fixture guide, but NO DIRECTIONS TO MOLESEY. Only a minor factor Jon, but I'm afraid, yes, you've guessed it. IT'S OFFICIAL! THAT MAN TALKS BOLLOCKS!!!

A HISTORY OF MAIDENHEAD F.C

Once again, Mark Smith has painstakingly traced the history of our glorious club right back from it's conception up until the First World War. This is available in a book entitled **MAIDENHEAD FOOTBALL CLUB 1870-1914**, and is available from the Club Shop priced at only £4.00.

It makes very interesting reading, and contains original press cuttings from the newspapers of the day, and all the results of matches played in this era. Buy one today, and if you don't have his other book, **MAIDENHEAD UNITED 1919-1995**, copies of that are still available too.

LETS KEEP IT FRIENDLY.

Pre season friendlies....ah yes. Don't you just love them? If you win, it is a great indication of what is to come, and if you lose? Well, it's only a friendly, it doesn't matter what happens. For the Magpies, it was a mixed bag of results this time. Last season, we had the big boys come to York Road, Reading and Peterborough. This time, no league sides, so we'll just have to make do with the local teams. Never mind.

First up to visit York Road were HAYES, premier division winners and Conference new boys. A game against a Conference side is always going to be tough, because you never know what sort of squad they will have assembled. Just look at Slough, they seem to be buying players left right and centre. Fortunately for the Magpies, we weren't on the end of any sort of hammering and a well fought out 1-1 draw with a goal from Agudosi giving the magpies a reasonable start.

Next up were a visiting side from Ireland, CREWE. No-one really knew what to expect, but on their three match stop over here, they were also playing Yeading and Staines, so they realistically should have been a similar standard to us. Yeading had beaten them 1-0 the night before, so if a Premier division side could only scrape by, what chance did the Magpies have? As it turned out we had a bloody good chance..... I don't think I can remember all of the goal scorers, but I'll have a go: Agudosi got three, Sparky got one, Tyrone scored twice, Attrell scored, there was an own goal, and I'm afraid I will have to give up there. In case you don't know, we brushed them aside 10-1, and a great performance was enjoyed by all. It was nice to see a Magpies team battling, trying for more goals and moving forward all the time. When it is 70° and you are 5-0 up in a pointless friendly, a team under John Watt would have not bothered to try and play football still. Lets face it, a team under John Watt would not have been 5-0 up, but I'm sure you know what I mean. This was a performance I was hugely impressed with. And for the record, they lost 4-0 at Staines two days later

Next up were YEADING, and a battling performance saw the Magpies finally go down 2-1. Rumours were going around that both Windsor and Beaconsfield had already beaten Yeading, and I will be honest, some people were less than happy with this performance. But it was a friendly for Christ's sake, does it *really* matter? We also lost the next two, 2-1 at CHERTSEY and 2-0 at home to a decent looking WEALDSTONE side. On the whole, the pre season didn't give too much away, but it did show that some players looked quite good, and others not so good. There was definitely room for improvement, but as I said, friendlies are great if you win, and it doesn't matter if you lose.

I was pleased to see the admission at York Road for all our home matches was only £2, or half the price of League admission. This is how it should be, you don't rip people off for matches that are only really training games. By contrast, Chertsey had different ideas. Those who went to Alwyns Lane had to part with £5 just to see a friendly. That is an insult to people who are expected to pay every week to watch their side, and there are no excuses. If Chertsey were playing Chelsea or someone, you can sort of expect to pay a little bit more. Those matches are expected to attract a bigger crowd, and are used by clubs for a source of income. But £5 for Maidenhead? I remember Chertsey ripping us off something rotten in a league game a couple of years back, charging for car parking etc., but for a friendly there is no excuse at all.

YORK ROAD REPORTS

MAGPIES 1 (Attrell) CANVEY ISLAND 1

The opening league fixture threw up this tough first challenge for the new management team. Canvey Island had waltzed through the lower divisions of the ICIS League since their elevation from the Essex County League and their impressive travelling were fully confident that Maidenhead would offer little resistance to their all conquering eleven. This conviction was blown apart straightaway as Maidenhead scored what will probably be the most bizarre goal seen at York Road this season.

The move began when a Ben Cook hoof found touch deep inside Canvey's half. Ex pro keeper John Keeley rushed to collect the ball unaware that his defender had already picked up another one which quickly found its way to Garry Attrell who quickly filled the empty onion bag.

Gratefully accepting this gift United promptly sat on their lead soaking up wave after wave of Canvey attacks, occasionally getting forward to create the game's best chances. Before half time Gary Attrell had a chip well saved and Mickey Creighton was inches away from converting a useful cross into a 2-0 lead.

Canvey eventually made their pressure pay off by equalising from a late penalty before Paul Dadson missed a great chance to win the game, putting the ball over the hapless Keeley and the bar after the keeper had saved Paul's initial shot.

Altogether an encouraging start for Alan and Martyn, with their new team just failing to beat a side full of confidence and ex professionals. After the game the Canvey Island manager reaffirmed his supporters' confidence by announcing that no side would win at their home ground. He looks to be right. They managed to hold the mighty Berkhamsted to a draw there the following Tuesday and still remain undefeated with four points from four games to date.

THAME 1 MAGPIES 0

It is said that if there is a pint glass with half a lager in it, an optimist would view it as half full whereas a pessimist would consider it as half empty. A Maidenhead fan would refuse to even see the glass such has been the ability of fate to smack them in the face in recent seasons. The game against Thame was a prime example. Carrying on in the same vein as Saturday United made a poor Thame side look exactly like a poor Thame side. Worries about Tim Cook's presence in the Thame midfield were quickly replaced by questions of Tim who? Yet sure enough Thame capitalised on an early defensive error

and proceeded to hold onto the lead for the next 86 minutes, Maidenhead hitting the crossbar twice. After the game Alan Devonshire consoled us with the words "Don't worry it will come". How right he was.

MOLESEY 1 MAGPIES 2 (Brown, Agudiosi)

On paper this was another tough test. On grass this was a comfortable win. Molesey's decline last season was prompted by the news that they would be relegated due to their ground, irrespective of results. They had seemed eager to impress that they still had Premier League pretensions beating "promotion favourites Marlow" (copyright: Maidenhead Advertiser) 4-2. However a workmanlike first half performance was capped by a goal by Harewood who along with Steve Brown had performed superbly in the midfield. The second half saw United consolidate this with a goal from substitute Chuck Agudiosi, which Magpie supporters to be closet Black (push pineapple shake the tree) Lace (jump up and down and grind coffee) fans. Mark "Beckham" Harrison almost put the result beyond doubt with his wonder goal attempt before a defensive slip led Molesey in for a late consolation goal. Maidenhead are back!

MAGPIES 4 (Attrell 2, Agudiosi 2) WOKINGHAM 0

This result was the icing on the triple decker cream sponge cake of August league form. The super Magpies absolutely destroyed Wokingham before the TVFM radio car in a magical eight minute spell after half time which saw the A team of Chuck and Gary score two goals apiece. This result leaves little doubt that Martyn and Alan have bought players and a system which can do the business in ICIS division one this season. The only cloud hanging over the their team now is the big C- consistency. Lets hope this cloud won't burst but will be blown over to join the storm clouds gathering at Oak Tree Lane.

Steve Jinman



2 goals for Attrell

MARK SMITH gives his view on the new management duo...

This article was written the weekend after Busby and Devonshire were appointed.

So, the Officers of the Club have chosen Martyn Busby and Alan Devonshire as the people "to take us into the next century". It is an interesting choice, but very much a gamble, as neither has run a club at this level before.

There is no settling in period for the new incumbents of the York Road hotseat. The best time to change managers is early in the close season and this allows the new appointment to obtain new players, establish tactics and work on fitness in preparation for the forthcoming season.

But after five years of relative mediocrity since our promotion to our current status in 1991, expectations are high and a good start must be made in August as we will no doubt be involved in the preliminary rounds of the F.A. Cup and success in this competition is long overdue.

Can Busby and Devonshire deliver the goods? Maidenhead have this unfortunate knack of giving people their first opportunity to manage a club at this level, and it hasn't produced a great deal of success, with only Geoff Anthony producing the goods in the last twenty years. Of the last eleven management teams at York Road (if one excludes Phil Jarratt's farcical stay in 1980), seven were being given their first opportunity to Manage a side (Dempsey, Harris, Anthony, Bath/Chatterton, Smith, Spong and Watt), two (Kelman and Goodwin) had primarily managed at a lower level (both at Hungerford) at the time of taking over at York Road, and only Caterer/Lippiatt and Clements had ever managed at this level before moving to Maidenhead.

If Busby and Devonshire fail to get it right, and my only expectations at York Road at present is to see the club establish itself in the top half of the league table, then the fault will have to lay at the door of the officers that choose them. At this level of football, half the battle is knowing the right players who will perform capably at this standard and getting them to do it at York Road - probably the only time this has happened was during the 1990/91 promotion campaign - Watt's major downfall was probably not knowing the right players and getting them to York Road, will Busby and Devonshire?

We sincerely hope so, we wish them all the best in their efforts. We really hope the club has made the right choice. Time, which is not on our side, will tell.

Continuing from this article, Mark added the following points earlier this week...

The early signs, however, have proved encouraging to say the very least. A good start to the season was imperative and it is important to build upon the 4-0 demolition of Wokingham. The game against Havant takes on a special significance as a good Cup run is well overdue. It is likely that the victors of this match should be capable of progressing to the 3rd qualifying round of the competition where the likelihood of Gloucester or Basingstoke will stand in the way of a place in the final round of qualification. The great incentive is that today's winners would have home advantage up to the final round of qualifying games. The Hampshire opponents have made a cracking start to the season and hopefully this should produce a better game than was staged two years ago when they won 1-0 in a rather ordinary game with a last minute goal. The support so far this season has been terrific, responding to good performances on the field. It's early days yet, but maybe playing matters are taking a turn for the better, at long last.

AND A FOND FAREWELL TO.....

As with the end of any season, even more so one which sees management changes, a number of players will part company with the club, and a number will join. Some people think certain players are irreplaceable, but, more often than not, others come in to fill their boots.

This season saw the departure of, most notably, Tim Cook and Alec Norman, and Steve Small, with Matt Pollard, Robbie Gold, Steve Croxford, Francis Araguez and Lee Hanratty also leaving for pastures new. At first, the mass exodus, as the papers put it, from York Road, was expected to be much more severe than it turned out. The petty 'slanging match' which followed between Trevor Kingham and Marion Norman in the Advertiser just seemed to be a pointless affair trying to justify why certain players have called it a day.

There are some players who choose to stick with a manager rather than a club, as both Francis Araguez and Lee Hanratty followed John Watt to Windsor where he is now assistant manager. It finally seems as though John has got his wish of managing a division 2 side, because over the past couple of seasons that certainly looked like what he was aiming to do.

Lee and Franny will be no great loss to the club. That's putting it mildly. Neither player looked capable of playing first division football, Franny looked a reserve team player at best, and Lee? Considering he was a signing with a lot of first division football experience, he never showed what we must assume to be his full capability.

Losing both your manager (again, no great loss) and your reserve manager (sadly) to two of your local rivals will always spark some sort of desertion from your club. Graham Roberts got the pick of the bunch of departees, with Steve Small and Alec Norman showing some great promise last year. Steve Croxford, who has also joined Marlow, is one of those players who shows no club loyalty whatsoever. Since progressing through the ranks from youth team to first team player with the Magpies back in 1991/92 (if you discount 4 substitute appearances spread over two seasons), he has also played for Walton, Kingstonian, Camberley and Uxbridge, and then back to Maidenhead and now on to Marlow. That means Steve has left a club six times in four seasons. And they have made him Captain? I thought a Captain is someone who can show determination, motivation and loyalty. Steve in my view possesses neither of these qualities.

The other main loss of the close season was Tim Cook. This was no surprise, as Tim was approached by Thame way back in November. I believe the only reason Tim left Maidenhead was for financial reasons; Thame were offering a lot more money than he was getting at York Road. If that is the main cause, you can't blame him for leaving. Tim will be a sad loss on the whole, and has given three seasons good service at the club. It's always a blow to lose your Captain, and the motivational qualities Tim possessed on the pitch were second to none, and although not wishing Thame success for the season ahead, I hope Tim enjoys his football there and has a fruitful season.

INJUSTICE WAS DONE

Last season, the Magpies had little to cheer about in the league or the major cups. The Berks and Bucks Senior Cup was the one little chance Maidenhead had of any success. Easy wins against Bracknell and Windsor saw us earn a place in the semi final, and we were drawn at home to Aylesbury. Aylesbury were to be no easy task, they had already beaten us 3-0 in the League Cup, but the Magpies were quietly confident. 1-0 when the ref blew for half time, an incident was to happen that would change the shape of the season, the Cup, and possibly a player's career. As the players walked back to the dressing room, the Aylesbury defender Gary Smith struck Garry Attrell so hard in the face, his injury needed hospital treatment. Obviously, when an incident as serious as this happens, the referee takes action. Mr Moore, of Tilehurst, did absolutely nothing. Neither he, or the two linesmen saw anything, except the blood on the changing room entrance floor that they had to walk over.

The incident was sickening. The action taken by the matchday officials, although bad, was what we have come to expect from those who wear a Berks and Bucks badge on their black outfits.

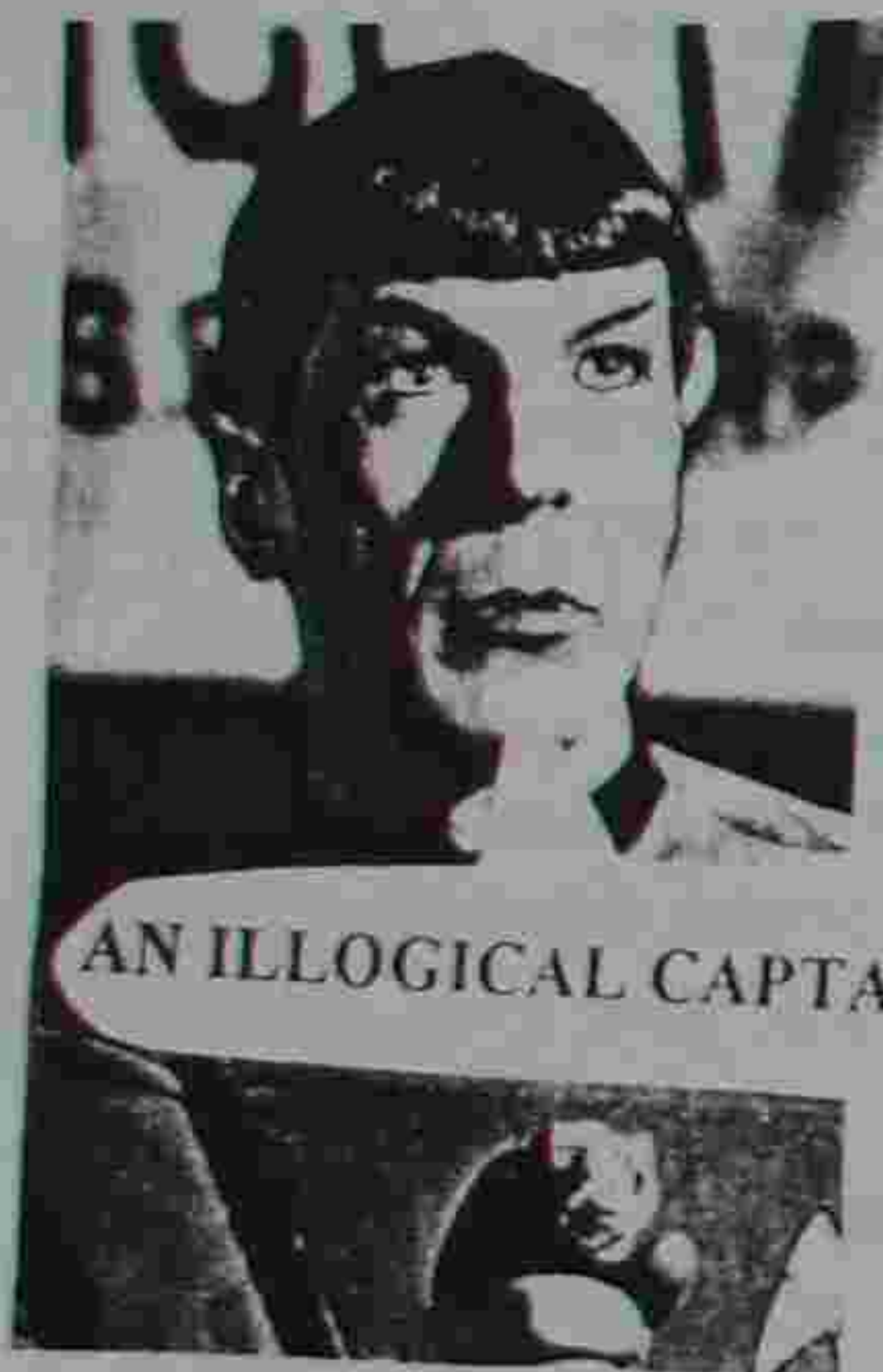
Maidenhead sent in a full report of the incident, which eventually led to the Aylesbury player being charged. He had struck a player in the face, hospitalising him, off of the field of play, and he received a penalty which, at best, is farcical.

A one match ban and £100 fine does not quite seem justice. If any player from Maidenhead behaved in such a way, he would have been removed from the payroll immediately. I would like to think a Maidenhead player would never behave like that at the ground.

What sickens me is that the player was found guilty, he had committed an offence. He was found guilty of what can only be described as assault. What sickens me is that as the FA found the man guilty, it wasn't considered to be an offence worthy of much of a punishment. Players get more than a one match ban for being sent off, and £100? Surely that's less than a week's wages for a premier division player. If the incident happened in the Premier League, say involving a big name star, do you think a week's wages and a one match ban would be the outcome? No, of course it wouldn't.

IT'S TIME "LET'S ALL LAUGH AT MARLOW"
PAGE!!!

So Marlow have announced Croxford
will be Skipper this season...



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE?



NEW STRIKER BRINGS OPTIMISM TO OAK TREE ROAD

magpies

1996-97 SEASON GUIDE

The new season is already well under way, so how about a little guide to get you through the mayhem of the next nine months?

A handy little fixture list, a who's who at York Road, tips for the season, a guide to the new clubs, and much much more! Well, not much much more, no more in fact. That is it.

The close season, as you know, bought many changes at York Road, and, consequently, at Slag Meadow and Oak Tree Road. The annual shake up here means other clubs can benefit by signing our cast offs. Windsor get John Watt and Lee Hanfatty, Marlow get Steve Croxford. Everyone is happy! Among the new faces at York Road this term are our new management duo, Martin Busby and Alan Devonshire. So without further a do, lets introduce the boys!!!

MR MARTYN BUSBY

Martin is no stranger to managing an ambitious club, having previously held the reigns at Beaconsfield and the mighty Feltham and Hounslow. A stalwart at QPR for many seasons, Martyn also played for Notts County and Portsmouth before retiring. Busby is perhaps best known for his role as British Telecom's mascot during the late 70's/early 80's.

MR ALAN DEVONSHIRE

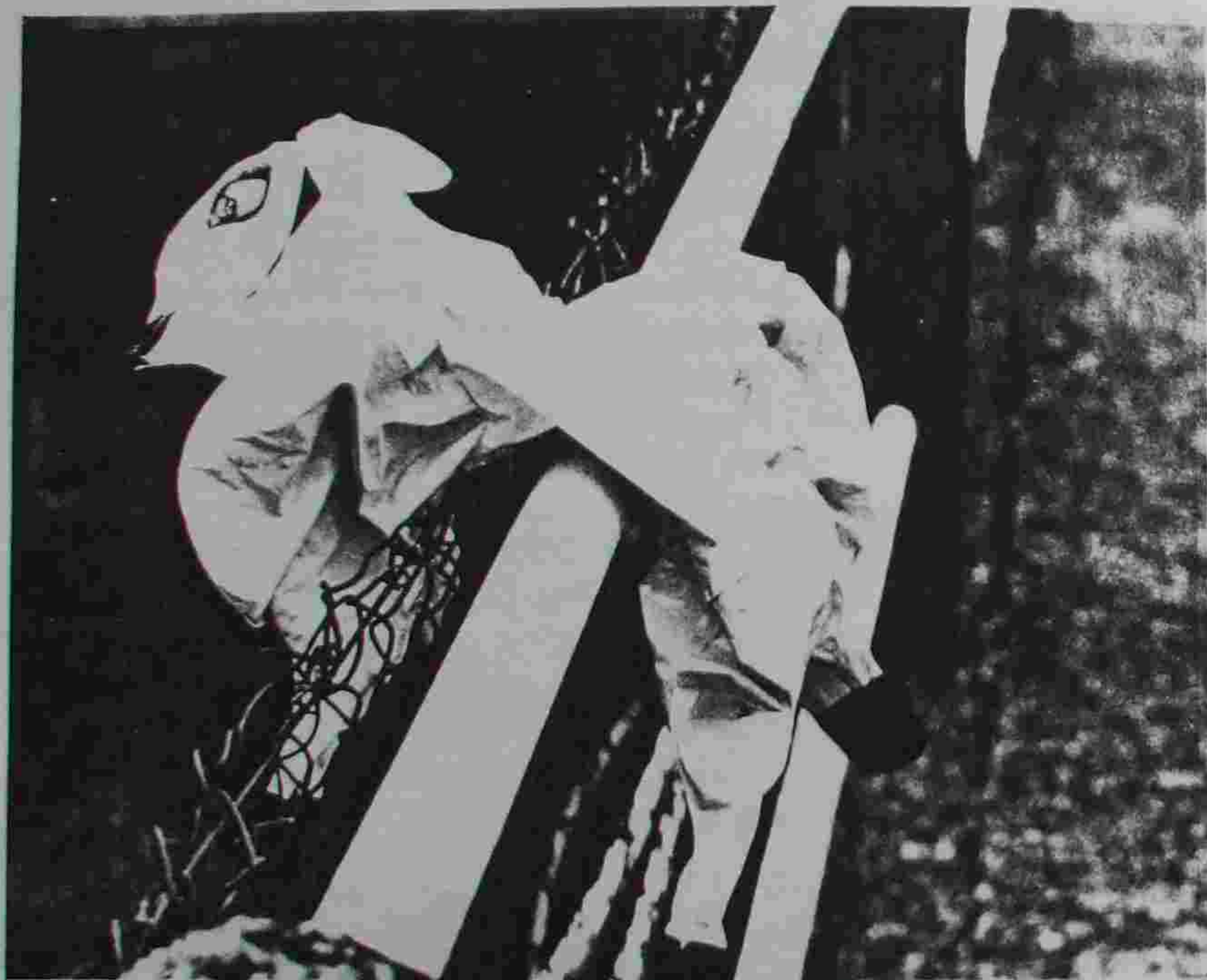
Alan comes to York Road from the hugely successful Osterly Town side from last year. Osterly won the Middlesex Senior League, the league cup, some sort of other cup, and picked up two £10 prizes in their lottery syndicate.

Having played for West Ham over 350 times, Alan is no stranger to any of us. He also played 8 times for England, including matches against Holland and West Germany. In his 8 match international career, he came on as a substitute once, and was taken off three times. Never mind Alan, you'll always be *our* hero.

OBITUARY

It is with great sadness that we must announce the passing of Mary the Sheep, one of the most respected club mascots around. Mary began life in fine form, celebrating a 4-0 victory at home to Abingdon, and it seems ironic that her short life ended at her spiritual home, Culham Road. Mary died of tears to her genital area, the result of over celebration by one IAN JACKSON. If you see this man at any match, please do not approach him as he maybe dangerous, and almost definately a pervert.

Thankfully, Ian replaced Mary, and Mary the Second made her debut at Thame.



MARY THE SHEEP: 8/4/96 - 1/5/96
GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

THE GUIDE TO THE NEW BOYS

CANVEY ISLAND:

A new ground for the Magpies to visit, as i'm sure we are all aware now, the only UK ground under sea level. Wowee. Canvey think division one will be a breeze, but after drawing at York Road and at home to Berkhamstead in their opening games, it may not be as easy as they think. Some experience in the team, and are prone to giving away bizarre goals early on in matches. We go there in January, so expect the game to be called off and a Tuesday night in April will probably be the order of the day.

CROYDON:

For those unfamiliar to this side, they play at the fabulous Croydon Arena, a wonderful ground in a wonderful part of England. Lets all hope our visit their in March will be as fruitful as the last one, and lets hope not as foggy as the one before.

MOLESEY:

Another fine ground, as i'm sure many of you already know. As ever, the relegated clubs are 'fancied to do well' as we are often told. Fancied by who? Have you ever heard Trevor Brooking on Match Of The Day saying "Well, I thought Everton battled hard for their point, but I don't half fancy Molesey to dowell in the Ic1s first this season."? No of course you haven't heard it. It's just a cheap, easy line that programme editors use to fill up space.

WALTON AND HERSHAM:

Fancied to do well this term, Walton are the big money team of the division, and hold the prestige distinction of being one of Steve Croxfords former clubs, so they can't be all that intelligent over there can they? Upper mid table at best.

WORTHING:

Another team fancied to do well, Worthing fell from grace with an almighty bump last year, gaining only 19 points the whole season. Complete shit or what? Nice ground though, and is the first part of the Magpies Seaside Trilogy, seeing us take in Worthing and Bognor in November and Canvey Island in January. Brrrr...i can feel that cold sea breeze already.

HAMPTON:

Got promoted, I don't like their charmless little ground, so I don't give a toss about their season.

THE YORK ROAD ROLL CALL 1996-97 SEASON

TREVOR ROFFEY Now in his fifth season, Super Trev made his debut at Abingdon way back in December 1992. Kept a clean sheet in his first three games. No doubt about it, our Trev is the best keeper in the division.

TYRONE HOUSTON Been with the club since 92/3, except for a short spell at Chalfont. I mean, if he'd gone to Slough, Hayes, or even Harrow, you could sort of understand it. But Chalfont? Defies logic, doesn't it.

MARK HARRISON Highly experienced defender who played for Maidstone when they won the Conference title, although after failing to gain re-election, Maidstone were forced to play football in a division where the standards were lower, and Mark left. Scorer of 60 yard goals *extraordinaire*.

KEVIN BROWN Sarge has been with the club four years now, and his impact has been immense. Sometimes. Like that goal he scored against Ruislip Manor two seasons back, or the one at Thame last season. Well Kev, we expect another this year.

BEN COOK Promising player who looked very tasty at the end of last season. When he gets good, he will possibly continue the family tradition of sodding off to a club with a bigger wage bill.

MARK HAREWOOD Sparky, as he is known, was by all accounts a revelation in the reserves last term. It just goes to show what a complete utter tosser John Watt must have been to leave a player of this calibre out of the first team. A very impressive display in the friendly against Wealdstone was followed by a better performance at Molesey, in which he scored. Lets hope it's the first of many, Mark.

PAUL DADSON Long serving...horrific leg-break....good clubman....all round nice guy....loyal...blah blah blah....

GARY ATTRELL A well known face in local football, Gary scored the goal that knocked Millwall out of the FA Cup. Unfortunately he was playing for Slough at the time, the bastard. One of the best players you will see in the division, opponents will use any means necessary to stop him. Married with two kids, one of whom is a potential pool shark who fell off the terrace at Molesey and cut his knee. How we laughed. It is a pleasure and a privilege to have Gary at the club again..

MICKY CREIGHTON Vialli look a like who has a liking for sheep, much to the disgust of Abingdon goal keepers. Unfortunately the love of his life received a puncture at the Oxfordshire side last season, but a new, improved partner made her debut at Thame this season.

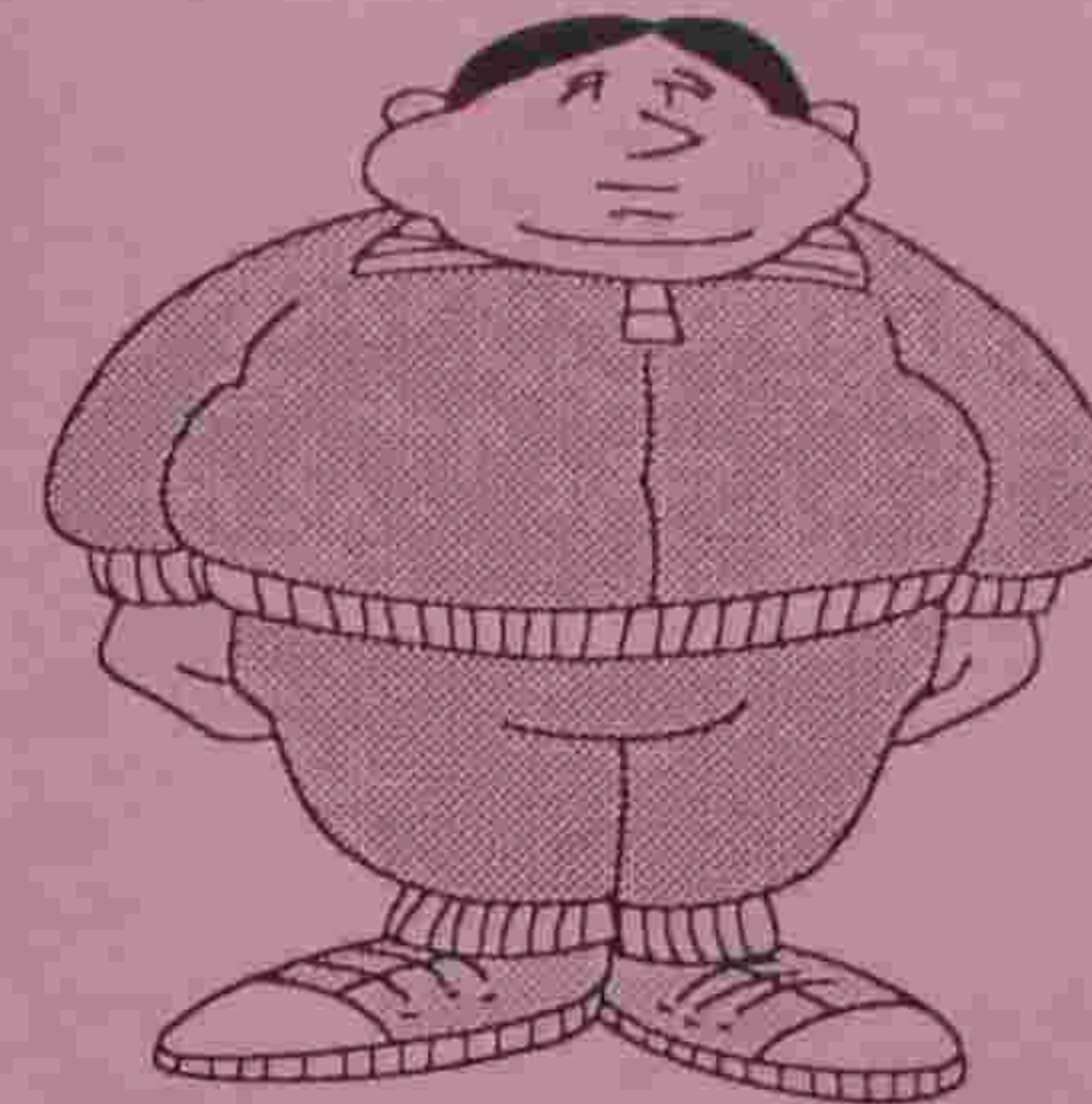
JOHN RUGGINS John is looking better and better, a natural battler who, if the Molesey game is anything to go by, should enjoy a productive season with Charles Agudosi up front. Manages to win balls in the air despite only being around five foot tall.

CHARLES AGUDOSI Now this boy is a bit special. A hatrick against Crewe pre season, and a superb tight angle strike against Molesey has given the club someone to look forward to in front of goal for the first time since Laryea. With a surname that sounds a bit like *Agadoo* you can be sure some terrace sing-a-longs will follow the many goals he is likely to get this term. Why, wasn't that Mr Devonshire leading the dancing from the dugout at Molesey?

PAUL MCKINNON Needs no introduction, Paul is an experienced player who others can learn from. Scored seven times last season, not bad for someone who is 38 years of age.

STEVE FITZROY BROWN One of the Osterly players from last season, Steve has looked very impressive in the couple of games he has played. Has a certain never give up attitude about him, I look forward to the season ahead with him.

LEE KNOTT A goalkeeper from the youth side, Lee is still only 20. At least we can all feel safe in the knowledge that should Roffey become unavailable for any reason, we have a highly competent and useful replacement. Impressive in the first two league games, Lee should become an important squad member this term.



Ruggins

JUST SOME OF THE PROBLEMS CANVEY ISLAND WILL FACE IN THEIR QUEST FOR PROMOTION.

£££ BORN AND BRED PRICE-WATCH £££

Over the course of the season, we shall be monitoring the prices at different clubs to see who works out cheapest and who is the most expensive. Factors like admission, programme, price of a pint will be taken into account. With only two grounds visited in competitive fixtures so far, lets have a price update for August.....

	Admission	Programme	Pint
THAME	£4.00	£1.00	£1.63
MOLESEY	£4.50	£1.00	£1.58
this is in comparison to us...			
MAIDENHEAD	£4.00	£0.80	£1.40

Don't forget, if YOU get conned at a ground, let us know!!!!

The close season saw the usual work on the ground being done, and hopefully players and supporters will have noticed. A redecoration of the changing rooms and a complete overhaul of the shower areas were just some of the jobs carried out, and although we don't know everyone concerned, Born and Bred would like to thank **DAVE JONES** and **BOB HUSSEY** for all the time they spent at the ground. It's a shame some of the other committee members and officers couldn't have spared the time.

FANZINE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

After much heated debate in the Anchor pub in Park Street, the fanzine crew finally decided on **ANDY SMITH** as our player of the year for 1995/96. Andy recieved a fine trophy, and was deservedly winner of the Club player of the year, and the player's player of the year. Andy is taking a break from first team football at the moment, but we all look forward to his welcome return in the near future. Congratulations, Andy, a true star.

Nice to see Dave Harrison making a welcome return to the football field, if only in goal for the reserves. Dave actually played between the sticks for the first team at Southwick back in 86/7 when Rackley got sent off.

WEDDING BELLS WERE THE ORDER OF THE DAY FOR OUR LOVELY BARMAID TRACEY WHO GOT MARRIED OVER THE SUMMER TO MICHAEL, THE SON OF PAUL AND ELVIS. ALL THE BEST TO THE HAPPY COUPLE.

BACK PAGE UNITED



A joyous Micky last week. Photo: Mark Leonard

News has reached Born and Bred that superstar striker and Gianluca Vialli look-a-like Micky Kryton became a daddy shortly before the start of the season. Our picture captures Micky in joyous mood, only minutes after the birth. When asked to comment upon his miracle of life, Micky simply muttered something about plasma, intergalactic co-ordinates, and how the landing in sector 18XD was going to be a little tricky. "And besides", our hero said, "Filming for the sixth series starts soon", before he was shut down and pushed back into the BBC props cupboard.

Well that's all folks, for the time being at least. Next issue should be out on October 19th, when the mighty Corby Town make their York Road debut.