

SPONSORS OF ALAN DEVONSHIRE AND MARTYN BUSBY

# BORN & BRED

ISSUE 11, 50P



HARRY AND CROXFORD:  
TWO OF A KIND?

THE INDEPENDANT MAIDENHEAD UNITED FANZINE





## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to issue eleven 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. Issues 1 and 10 have completely sold out. They can be yours for the princely sum of 50p from Steve, or 75p from the address below (including p&p).

**Stockists:** Born and Bred is available from us around the ground, Sportspages Bookshop, 94-96 Charing Cross Road, London, The Social Club, and the Club Shop, which may also stock earlier issues.

**Correspondance:** All correspondance will be considered for publication and is actively encouraged. Our address is 'Pendeen', Stroud Farm Road, Holyport, Maidenhead SL6 2LH.

A big thank you to **ROGER COOMBS**; without his efforts and good nature issue 10 would never have been out anywhere near on time.

Apologies for those who missed out on issue 10, it was all sold out in 3 days and took us all a bit by surprise. Hopefully there shouldn't be such a mad scramble for copies this time.

THIS EDITION OF BORN AND BRED WAS BOUGHT TO YOU BY.....

**THE FANZINE COLLECTIVE**

KEITH JACKSON, STEVE JINMAN,  
MARK LEONARD & MURDO McLEOD

with help from Richard Jackson, Mark Smith, & Roger Coombs

COLOUR COVER: BOB POPEJOY OFFICE SUPPLIES LIMITED

## EDDIETORIAL

Two months have passed since issue 10 came out, and we have seen some very topsy-turvy performances on the pitch, some good wins that put us on top for a fortnight, and some disappointments that saw us slip down a few places. These performances have ranged from the fantastic (Chesham) to the adequate (Leyton) to the down right abysmal (Worthing). Luck has been on our side occasionally (Tooting) and against us (Heybridge). A league record of won 6 drawn 2 lost 8, with the same home record as away, seems to show that the big C, consistency, seems to be missing at the moment. We have to get our act together sooner rather than later, as time is running out. Fortunately for us, other teams are struggling with consistency too. A win is enough to lift you from near the bottom to near the top overnight.

Cup form, as usual, has been disappointing. The FA Cup game against Havant was a poor game, and we were never really in it. The draw was kind to us, and had we beaten Havant, we would probably still have been in the competition now. The league cup saw us lose to Heybridge, who are doing very well in the Premier this season. It took us a while to get in the game, but by then, we were 2-0 down. The second half performance deserves a lot of credit though; we were drastically unlucky not to win. Against Corby in the FA Trophy, we got what was, on paper, a very good result. It's always nice to see hatricks, but we thoroughly deserved the victory, even if it was a bit nailbiting towards the end. We still have two more cups though, even if they are 'Micky Mouse' competitions. In the Berks and Bucks (surely no-one can take this competition seriously anymore) we have been paired against Abingdon at home. Luckily for us, we have recieved a bye in the first round of the full members cup, but knowing our luck, instead of getting a 'plum' draw at Enfield, Yeovil, Kingstonian etc, we will probably draw someone awful like Thame or Berkhamsted.

The player front is looking good, with a number of new signings looking promising. Adams, Ulas and Cowlin look good enough, but their arrival is overshadowed by the departure of Mark Harrison, which was an awful blow.

All we can do is put our heads up high and go into the next few weeks looking to retain our early season form. This, of course, will not be easy, as we have some difficult games coming up. Bromley today will be extremely tough, as will Walton away, Aldershot away, and not forgetting our 'bogey' side, Barton.

The Derby day defeat was disappointing, but at least we can take solace from the fact that Marlow have lost their last two games 6-1!!

Just in case you didn't know, in issue 10 I wrote that we were six points ahead of Marlow; that, now, of course, has risen to seven. And they are out of both the FA Cup and the FA Trophy. And if it wasn't for Canvey Island's incompetence, they could well be bottom.

A little word of congratulations goes to Kevin Brown, who recently made his 100th appearance for the club. Well done Sarge, and lets get that annual cracker of a goal sooner rather than later!

Keith Jackson



### MAGPIES 0 HAVANT 1

It was that time of the year again when thoughts turn to the twin towers as we embark on the 'Road to Wembley'. The pre-match conversations centred around the rumour that BBC cameras were going to be at York Road, complete with Gary Salt 'n Vinegar, but that turned out to be a severe case of Chinese whispers!

But - could this be the year when the Magpies put together a decent cup run? The qualifying group draw had been kind, with us guaranteed home advantage all the way, in a relatively week group with only Gloucester City as a challenge. All we had to do was overcome Havant Town.....

It turned out to be a typical Southern League side that visited York Road that day - very little football capability, but well organised, very disciplined and, above all, strong. It has to be said that some of the Magpies players certainly showed that they had little appetite for a battle. The only goal of the game came after 30 minutes, when Havant converted just about the only chance they created all afternoon. The majority of the match was an eminently forgettable affair, although the Magpies finished the game strongly and were somewhat unlucky not to get an equaliser. But a combination of strong play by Havant coupled with some strange refereeing decisions led to a feeling of inevitability about the final outcome a long time before the final whistle.

It is somewhat galling to think that Thatcham (Yes - them of the Wessex League) were the eventual qualifiers from the Magpies group. And, we can't even boast of going to Wembley (and winning again) this season 'cos the bastards went and got relegated last year.

RAJ

### MAGPIES 2 CHESHAM 1 (Agudosi 2)

I have often felt that the Magpies have this sort of Jekyll and Hyde aspect of performances. Put them up against a crap side and they will turn in a crap performance, but conversely, if the opposition is good, then the performance seems to match. After the rather dull F.A. Cup affair, the visit of Chesham represented a very stiff challenge, and the team rose to the occasion magnificently. The Magpies took the game to Chesham right from the start, and, quite frankly, Chesham were run ragged. Gary Attrell looked like he wanted to show his old team mates that he could still turn it on when he wanted to, and turn it on he certainly did. Maidenhead completed a splendid first quarter of the game with two goals, both scored by Chuck Agudosi, so keeping his personal goal tally in excess of his appearances. Dave Harrison, making his first appearance of the season, certainly made his presence felt at the set pieces, and the value of his selection could not be denied.

Gradually, Chesham got back in the game and scored a well deserved goal just on the half hour. But it was in the second half that Chesham showed their real capabilities. They started playing a very attractive brand of football, rarely seen at this level of football. The Magpies were forced to defend for most of the half, but they did it in some style to deny Chesham any more goals, with Mark Harrison, Kevin Brown and Tyrone Houston working particularly hard. As they pressed forward, Chesham left themselves open to the counter attack, and the Magpies showed how dangerous they could be by coming close to extending their lead on a few occasions.

I fully expect Chesham to be contesting a promotion place, if not the championship, come the end of the season, and this victory will surely rate as one of the best of the season for the Magpies. All the sweeter as it was achieved in front of League Chairman, Alan Turvey, a self confessed Chesham supporter!

RAJ

### MAGPIES 1 (AGUDOSI) HEYBRIDGE SWIFTS 2

The ICIS league has 4 divisions, as you are probably already aware. You wouldn't have bloody thought so, judging by the way we always seem to pull a Premier division team out of the hat when it comes to the league cup. Aylesbury (the holders) last season, Walton & Hershaw the year before and now a newly-promoted Heybridge side who had lost only one match prior to this encounter. Still, at least we were at home so it was their turn to make the arduous journey round the magic roundabout, or the M25 as its sometimes known. Fairs fair as we had to do it in the pouring rain on a midweek last year and, anyway, there's no way we'd get a draw despite our great start to the league campaign. Would we? The general consensus of opinion on the terraces was that the result wasn't too important but it would be a good early test of how far the new regime had come.

Twenty minutes into the game, two goals down (one an absolute pearler from at least thirty yards which even I clapped!), and an inability to get out of our half meant that we were in very real danger of getting a complete hiding. Heybridge were playing the kind of pressing high-tempo football which had swept them to promotion and, basically we weren't at the races. Another cup defeat was on the cards, surprise, surprise!

This made what followed in the remainder of the match all the more amazing. The players woke-up and decided that giving the opposition so much respect early on had been the striped-crusader's downfall. To a man the Magpies outfought, out-thought, out-battled & completely outplayed the visitors in what was, for me, the best display of attacking football I had seen since the first half of 'that' Aylesbury game last season. The Heybridge goal led an extremely charmed life, with wave after wave of Magpie attacks bringing last ditch tackles, goal line clearances, post AND bar rattling but ultimately only bearing a single Chuck goal. As the final whistle sounded, signalling the end of another journey down the cup run cul-de-sac that is Magpie Street, our heroes left the pitch in glorious defeat to an ovation normally only reserved for a crushing victory.

Any further proof that may have been required of the standard of the Maidenhead performance came in the form of a cursory remark from a Heybridge official along the lines of 'we'll see you next season if you carry on playing like that.' Indeed.

As an aside it was interesting to be warned about the inhospitable welcome awaiting us at Canvey Inbred, sorry Island. Roll on January!

MM



Popejoy predicts 1-1 at Whyteleafe

### Whyteleafe 1 MAGPIES 2 (Harrison M (pen), Agudosi)

A game which saw Maidenhead hold onto top spot thanks to a late winner from Chuck. Maidenhead took control of this game from the off and a mediocre Whyteleafe side were expected to crumble when they had a player sent off for an off the ball challenge on Trevor Roffey. Shortly afterwards Mark Harrison put United into the lead with a penalty, but Whyteleafe equalised before the break, their goal also coming from a spotkick. In the second half Whyteleafe decided to cut their losses and play for a draw, their strategy working well as wave after wave of United attacks was repelled. Eventually Chuck got a deserved winner although after he scored Whyteleafe came out of the trenches and almost got a late equaliser. By the way Whyteleafe is now officially the second best clubhouse in the division (after Bognor), for selling chips and London Pride at £1.50 a pint. SJ



### MAGPIES 0 Billericay 1

Oh well, our fantastic league form couldn't go on forever, we all knew that. The Magpies went into this game after four consecutive league wins. The last time we won four league games on the trot was as far back as March 1991, and we all know what happened *that* season. I don't wish to keep on bringing it up, but it further emphasises just how bad John Watt was if he couldn't even get us four consecutive victories.

Billericay are always one of the tougher teams in the division, but usually just because they are hard to beat. This term however, they are just a touch more physical. Well, not just a touch, more of a half nelson. And so the Magpies lose their unbeaten home league record and drop down the table. The game itself was disappointing, Billericay looked ok and they should do well in the league, but then we say that every season. This game did not live up to the classic 2-2 draw at York Road from last term, and it was a game of very little incident.

A point to note - this was also our **THIRD** consecutive home defeat.

KRJ

### Tooting & Mitcham United 1 MAGPIES 5 (Agudosi 2, Ruggins 2, Harrison M(pen))

An exciting win at Sandy Lane, where it seemed at times that Maidenhead could score at will. However, Tooting went a goal up just after the off and proved difficult opponents until Chuck decided to beat the keeper with an impudent lob after completely missing his first shot. He then scored his second with an amazing shot from some distance. However the most rewarding moment of the night came when John "David Speedie" Ruggins scored his first goal for the club with a rasping drive to give Maidenhead a 3-1 lead at half time. The game was put beyond doubt just after the break when the Tooting keeper was sent off for bringing down John Ruggins in the area. Mark Harrison netted the resulting spot kick, his last for the club. With time ticking away, John proved he is no Colin Tate by scoring his second of the match to make the score 5-1.

SJ

#### JOHN RUGGINS

After what seemed like months of trying, John finally got his first goal for the club at Tooting, with a well hit strike. It was a blessing, as John was starting to look frustrated at his barren season.



### BASINGSTOKE 2 MAGPIES 0

We may have gone into this game having thrashed Tooting 5-1 the previous Tuesday, but those of us who went to Sandy Lane knew that it wasn't anything like as good a performance as the scoreline had suggested. Against the only team still with an unbeaten record we were about to be given a harsh lesson in the realities of just how far the Busby & Devonshire revolution still has to go.

Straight from the kick off we were overwhelmed by a very powerful and effective Basingstoke team who outgunned us in every department. Even our own boy wonder Chuck looked decidedly off-colour as he was given the runaround by the Basingstoke 'tree' of a number five. Quite why we proceeded to test his aerial ability time and again was beyond me.

Anyway, basically we were shite partly because half the players showed no interest in the game whatsoever and partly because our hosts didn't allow us any time on the ball. Certainly, if they carry on playing like they did against us (which results suggest they have been as, at the time of writing, they are still unbeaten and are comfortably second in the table) then promotion should be a formality, especially bearing in mind the lack of consistency being shown by virtually the whole of the division.

I must also admit to being suitably impressed with the set-up at Basingstoke, with the club officials all working hard to ensure a successful day off the field as well as on it, and judging by the number of families who attended the game, I don't appear to be the only one. Their bar prices were fantastically low, food was served in the clubhouse until late evening and there was even entertainment, well Karaoke anyway, laid on which we were made very welcome to stay for. The 'friendly' aspect of the club even extended to everybody's favourite pool-shark Thomas Attrell getting followed around the clubhouse by a young female 'admirer'. Not that we teased him about it of course. Well, not much.

It was probably a combination of the above factors which led to us setting a new personal best of not leaving an away ground until well over six hours after the final whistle. Well that and a increasingly burning desire to make complete tits of ourselves on the Karaoke. After much deliberation (about ten pints of it!) we opted for that Beatles classic 'I Feel Fine', not that it sounded much like it, the way we murdered it. However, it was still probably the best performance in a Maidenhead shirt at the Camrose that day, and it certainly got the biggest round of applause that night. I think that's what is known as the sympathy vote.

Lastly, whilst chatting to one of the club officials we were told about the hostile atmosphere and reception they had encountered at Canvey Island earlier that week. Now haven't I heard that somewhere before?

MURDO MACLEOD

### MAGPIES 1 (Ruggins) Croydon 2

Just as it seemed that Busby and Devonshire were getting the side together and the Magpies were starting afresh so to speak, this game had a little hint about the past to it. Remember under John Watt (it's that man again!) we used to rise to the opposition, like the games against Bishops Stortford in their promotion year? This game was the opposite - we fell down to the opposition, in fact, we had to sink pretty low indeed. John Ruggins scored our goal on 28 minutes, and the Magpies looked safe to hold onto the lead at half time. Just as the watches ticked on to 3.45, people made their way to the bar while the game was still in progress. Croydon had a goal disallowed, which should have been a goal really, the referee and linesman seemed to be unable to make up their minds, so I wouldn't have been at all surprised if they tossed a coin to see if it counted. First, a Croydon player claimed to have been fouled and the ref played advantage, but then Croydon themselves committed a foul and the goal was disallowed. All in the goal area. All after 3.45. I don't think the second half kicked off until about 10 past 4.

Two late penalties, both converted by a Ferdinand, ironically enough, gave Croydon victory, who were captained by an ageing Kenny Samson. This was a disappointing display. Come on Stripes, you KNOW you can do better than this...

KRJ



## LEYTON 1 MAGPIES 1 (HAREWOOD)

Walking towards the theatre of dreams that is Wadham Lodge I saw the unnerving sight of pub footballers, due to play next door, queuing up for access to the same changing rooms to be used by the Super-Stripes. Sacrilege! Not that the Super-Stripes were in action today anyway as Maidenhead ran out sporting their away strip of .....er, red shirts with white shorts & socks!

Could it be that the club's unscrupulous officials were mindful of the massive(-ish) financial rewards to be gained by introducing another kit for us poor downtrodden supporters to shell out for? Or was it more to do with the fact that the club finally recognised that blue is not a traditional Maidenhead colour (and is also associated with *them down the road*), and seeing as how red has been our adopted 'third' colour for a while now, decided to use that rare ingredient common sense to good effect by making this our away kit?

Maybe, but my money is on the fact that our beloved league sponsors ICIS, which until recently many people thought stood for I Can't Issue Shirts, appear to have finally got their arses into gear by providing not one but two kits to the club. And it's only October! To be fair they are improving as we still awaited our home kit at this stage of last season, only to see it appear just in time for the Christmas 'rush' with the black portion of the kit altered to a somewhat interesting shade of blue.

Never mind, eh. After all, it was only our 125th anniversary. Thinking positively, at least if they continue their league sponsorship for the next, say, forty years or so we may actually get the kit in time for the first game of the season. Now I'm just being ridiculous.

Kick off time and this week's captain, SupaTrev, duly lost the toss meaning that some of us would inevitably miss the first ten minutes of the game while we hoisted the big fuck-off flag that tells everyone within a two mile radius who we are, just in case they weren't sure. (Well, it doesn't get an airing very much on account of the fact that most grounds don't have anywhere big enough for it to go!) Any rival clubs reading this please take note and build a seventy feet plus stand forthwith. Anyway, 60 seconds into the game, and with tie-up number 14 securely in place, the remainder of the 'Magpies faithful' (copyright Maidenhead Advertiser) went wild as an awful error by the Leyton 'keeper gifted Sparky his second goal of the campaign. Obviously this description is not my view of events as I saw bugger all.

The remainder of the half saw Maidenhead, and NOT England as commented on by a very confused Trevor Kingham, take Leyton apart but fail to add to their tally of goals. This half also saw a virtuoso display by our new signing Obi Wan Kenobi, or Obinna Ulasi if you read the next home programme. He showed good pace and a great first touch as he turned the right back inside-out, before tiring late in the second half. His performances to date certainly prove the point that our management team are prepared to go out and look at other players with a view to strengthening our squad, rather than merely rely on existing players bringing friends and relatives to the club, or bemoaning the lack of resources afforded to them by the club. Point taken Mr Watt?

The second half was a different affair. Maidenhead continued to carve out chances but failed to convert them, the exception being a tremendous bullet header by Obi which was ruled out for offside, shortly after which Leyton equalised with a scrappy goal. Buoyed by this they then took the game by the scruff of the neck and dominated the remainder of the proceedings. Not that Mister Logic noticed as he was too busy stuffing his face with the every hot dog and burger within the vicinity. I hate that. Travel all that way to supposedly support the team then piss about doing constant shuttle runs to the tea bar. If you're that fucking hungry just go to a greasy spoon caff of a Saturday afternoon and to hell with the football. There, I feel better for saying that!

So, one each which was a fair result at the end and one we would have settled for prior to kick off. It was just a shame we couldn't have converted a few of the early chances we created and the game would have been dead by half-time.

MURDO MACLEOD

## MAGPIES 2 (Attrell, Agudosi) MARLOW 3

We promised ourselves after last year's fiasco that we wouldn't do it again, but with Marlow bottom of the table and Maidenhead sitting handsomely in fourth place, we just couldn't resist giving the local derby a bit of a build-up; in fact, we were drooling at the prospect of deepening the Oak Tree Road gloom. Adding to our joy was the legion of ex-Maidenhead players who had left York Road in the summer for Marlow's greener pastures, and found themselves instead with redder faces. Still, we mustn't be complacent; with no fewer than five former Magpies in the line-up, the Blues were likely to be more than a little fired up for today's game.

What a start! Adrian Chambers in the Marlow goal seemed a little dodgy from the off (surely he wasn't put off by our antics behind his goal) and in the fifth minute his blunder left Garry Attrell with a simple tap-in into an empty net. We should then have taken control, but our finishing was not forceful enough as Maidenhead failed to convert a host of chances. 1-0 at the interval - was one goal going to be enough?

The Blues came back out in determined mood, but could not contain the Magpies on the break and within minutes Tyrone Houston teed up a ball for Chuck Agudosi just inside the Marlow box, who drilled it past Chambers' vain dive for 2-0. Chuck's momentum carried him right through the penalty area, across the line, over the pitch barrier and into the arms of his adoring public at the Bell Street End. The referee didn't see it that way and booked our hero for his celebrations. An on-the-spot collection by the fans ensured his fine was paid almost before the notebook was back in the ref's pocket. Bottom of the league and 2 goals down, surely there was no way back for Marlow now?

Blink and you missed it... a giant spacecraft suddenly appeared over the pitch, beamed up our valiant players and instantaneously replaced them all with clones. It took a while, but Marlow gradually became aware that none of the Maidenhead players had a clue about the game, and they began to run our midfield ragged, and bombard the netting behind the Canal End goal with shots. It was only a matter of time before one of them hit the mark and ex-Magpie James Pritchard duly obliged. 2-1.

Things didn't get any better; our defence and our nerves in tatters, the disbelieving onlookers could only look on in disbelief as Marlow pulled us apart again and drew level. That gloating walker (damn that Spell-Check) Pritchard came haring triumphantly towards the Bell Street End to shove the fact as near to in our faces as he dared. The officials thought nothing of it and the action went unbooked.

Desperate times call for desperate measures; the ball seemed hardly to get out of our own half, affording precious little opportunity to throw our supply of carrots at Marlow's man with the golden hooves, Steve Croxford, so as a last resort, we took it upon ourselves to drive the opposition round the bend by singing out the remainder of the game to the tune of 'Busby and Devonshire's Black-and-White Army'. It was all to no avail; minutes from the end, Marlow made our nightmare complete by slotting home the winner. That bandstand (my Spell-Check's playing up again) Pritchard rubbed more salt in the wound with a repeat of his dubious 'celebration' charge, which again went unnoticed by the referee and assistants. At the final whistle, Pritchard was joined by the bravest of his teammates for one more defiant yell at us. For once, irony failed us and we bade him a surly 'fund off' (you don't think this Spell-Check joke is beginning to wear a bit thin?)...

The Social Club was sure to be buzzing unbearably with Marlow smugness, so the disconsolate Magpies fans went to the pub to gather their thoughts. Murdo was last seen with a beer in front of him, the level gradually rising as he cried into it... M.L.

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#### MAGPIES 4 (Ulasi 3, Harrison D) Corby Town 2

Once again the Mag's draw Southern League opposition in the Trophy, and repeat the now customary four goal feat that we have done in the past against Canterbury and Fareham. To be fair to Corby, we actually played well in this match and Corby were a little disappointing.

Just when you thought you had seen everything, the unbelievable happened. The game was flowing well, both teams missing good chances, when Maidenhead were awarded a free kick just outside the Corby area. Up stepped Dave Harrison who looked as though he was going to shoot. Before someone could get on the phone to warn the Taplow residents to guard their greenhouses when BANG! The ball was in the net! Once again, the now legendary Harry scores on his comeback, which not only earned him adoration from young kids after the final whistle (he must be preparing for a role as Fagin in a production of Oliver Twist), but also a chance to get nostalgic and take a reminiscent look at past great goals he has scored in an Advertiser interview.

The Magpies maintained their edge on the game, and in the 73rd minute Obinni Ulasi got his first for the club to make it 2-0. Obinni, by the way, was nicknamed 'Beano' at Hayes for some reason, so now is perhaps time to stop all the Obi Wan Kenobi talk and Star Wars references. The force was definitely with Obi as he scored his second, a delightfully placed lob into the top left hand corner of the goal to make it 3-0 in the 81st minute, and to put the game out of doubt for Corby. Unfortunately, they had other ideas.

85 minutes were on the clock, and a run down the left wing and a fiercely hit shot made it 3-1 to Corby, but we weren't bothered, it was just their consolation goal. Two minutes later, and panic started to set in, as Corby got their second. Nails were bitten, sweat broke, and then as they hit the crossbar shortly afterwards, I think some underwear may well have been soiled in the dugout. Just as it looked as though Corby would claw their way back in, Obi rounded off a fine afternoon for himself by slotting his third and Maidenhead's fourth past the Corby keeper after some nice work by Chuck. A cracking game for the neutral, but I hope for the Bromley game the club will have the sense to warn the Coronary Care Units at the local hospitals, just in case.

KJ

#### MAGPIES 2 (Ulasi, Ruggins) BERKHAMSTED 0

A home game against Berko - what a mouthwatering treat! Well, no, actually. No flair, no support, no appeal. If they had some followers we could at least bait them about last year's debacle at Broadwater, with their Fawley Towers administration and comedy floodlights.....

The Magpies went into this game in a precarious 4th place at the head of the most congested mid-table in history; fourteen teams separated by just three points! We could not afford anything less than a win.

The less said about the first half performance the better.

What was in the half time tea? A much more purposeful Magpies started to set about their opponents and Obinna Ulasi's never-say-die spirit created a splendid goal from a ball that looked lost. Cue wild arm waving from your's truly.

An old favourite of ours (not) was in the Berko goal, Paul 'Lurch' Holland, once of Ruislip. Ulasi's goalscoring achievements may have been going to his head when, faced with a one-on-one with the 9 foot Herman Munster look-alike, he attempted to chip it over him. A less formidable obstacle would have been the towering new net behind the Canal End....

Berkhamsted were overrun for the whole half, but with our recent record towards the end of matches, there was tension on the terraces until John Ruggins' late goal from close range sealed the game. Congratulations must go to Trevor Roffey's understudy, Lee Knott, for his first clean sheet at senior level. Magpies back on track at last!

M.L

#### Worthing 4 MAGPIES 0

First, something that the Club have often done at games, and I'm sure we do it for all home games, and some away, is to name a man of the match. I don't think an award was given for this one. So come on, lets have your nominations. All of you that went, and there was quite a few of us, get your nominations in now for man of the match at Worthing. You have eleven to choose from, and Sparky, as he came on as sub, and lets just see if you can name one. I bet you can't. I couldn't. Perhaps one of the players would like to nominate themselves even? Any takers?

This is without doubt the most awful, appalling, dire, dreadful, woeful, heinous, shocking, scandalous, sordid, disgraceful, piss poor, paltry, incompetent performance I have seen for a long, long while. There is no excuse for the way we played, and although I can't imagine for one minute either Martyn or Alan will look for excuses, things have got to improve.

A goal down at half time, which I must admit was a great shot which Lee had little chance of stopping, I thought we should be able to claw something back against the team with the worst defensive record in the division, and the team who had been beaten 3-1 by Marlow the previous week. How wrong I was. Two goals in about 10 minutes midway through the second half put the game beyond doubt, and another late goal meant that the Magpies crashed to their heaviest defeat since the ill fated Semi Final replay at Aylesbury last year.

Although not wanting to single any player out for playing bad, Lee Knott was the recipient of some petty comments late in the game. Lee has played well in all the other games this season, lets hope this was his 'off day'. Until Trevor regains full fitness, I will be happy to see Lee between the sticks, and I think others should see him that way too.

Not a word was said in the car on the way home for over an hour such was the disappointment. Come on Maidenhead, you know as well as I do that you can play much, MUCH better than this.

You know how bad a defeat was when four of those who saw the game were still thoroughly pissed off about it in The Brewers pub on Sunday lunchtime, and one of those was the Chairman!!

KJ

### SIMON WESTON'S ONE WORD MATCH REPORTS

#### NUMBER ONE: WORTHING AWAY

#### "BOLLOCKS"

*More post match analysis the next time the Eastbourne branch of the Maidenhead United fan club makes a return to the terrace.*

### THE ADVERTISER TELLS LIES!!

After our recent table topping antics, the Advertiser stated that it was the first time the Magpies had topped division one in their history. Well I'm sorry Mr Standley (for it was him who wrote the article), but that is a load of bollocks. Cast your mind back to September 1974, we were top then (although it was still known as division two), and more recently, (well, February 1980), we topped the table going into our game at Ware. Thanks to Mark Smith for the details.



## CAN I HAVE A LOOK AT THE PROGRAMME?

Most people reading this will have already read Mark Smith's excellent books on Maidenhead United (I know we go on about them, but they really are very good...), but there was one area which Mark merely skated over; the Matchday Programme.

Last season, we had a great looking programme; it had a new photo on EVERY cover, and not even all league sides do that. It is such a shame things went downhill in last seasons programme as soon as you opened the first page. This year we are back to the same cover EVERY issue, and although there is more to read, the sudden impact that a cover can give is sadly lacking. The old saying goes "You can't judge a book by it's cover", but sod it, I will. Not a book exactly, just the programme.

The club started issuing programmes in 1919 apparently, but the format remained the same until 1972. The plain and simple *Magpie* was used throughout this period, changing very little in content or appearance. The only difference the club used was to print it on different coloured paper, and hope no one would notice. Old traditionalists that we are, here at Born & Bred, we stick to the same ethics - we merely change the colour of the cover, and hope no-one notices.

The Seventies was an era fondly remembered for its crapness. Flared Trousers, platform shoes, *Pans People*, pine panelling in every room, *Basil Brush*, you get the picture. Keeping in with the spirit of things, the Magpies issued some truly awful programmes in this era. The 1975/76 season issue had two players on the front kicking an Isthmian League logo around. As the ideals of racial integration spread throughout the seventies, the Magpies cashed in on this too, with one white and one black player on the cover, but perhaps there was a hint of racism in the Magpies boardroom at the time, as the black player has white hands and legs.

During 1976/77, the Magpies put photos on the front page for the first time. Three pictures at funny angles, one of which features a rather out of breath John Watt taking a shot. I assume for a club of our size to have photos on the front cover was quite an achievement at the time, but I am amazed the club used the pictures they did. Apart from the John Watt photo, another shows a player standing on one leg with hand coming into the shot pointing a finger at his knee. One can only guess what was going on here, perhaps the player in question had just come back from injury, and his team mate was showing the opposition his scar. The other photo is of a goal keeper catching the ball, but the picture was taken from behind. The cover states that the photos are courtesy of the Advertiser, but all I can assume is that they must have had some pretty crappy photographers in the mid 1970's.

By 77/78, the club had progressed to having four pictures on the cover, a design that was to stay for the rest of the decade. The club used different colours for the cover during this time, another innovative move in the world of York Road programmes. John Watt makes yet another appearance on the cover this season, as does a bunch of Bell Enders dressed in those coats with furry hoods that kids used to wear in the seventies, you know the coats, you will see them next time Match of the Day show a seventies 'giant killing' in the FA Cup, and all the little sods run on the pitch after the final whistle. They will be bound to be wearing them.

By 78/79, the club had progressed one step further. The cover had seen three photos, then four, and now, we get four photos PLUS match details! On the front cover!! Wow!!! The club are almost professional now!! Err, not quite. The fact of the matter is that the ink used for printing match details smudged. In fact, it smudged a lot. If anyone has programmes from this season, check them. The ink on some of mine still hasn't dried, 18 years on. The club must have realised the mess this caused, newly painted walls would have been covered in grubby fingerprints, and people had Isthmian league division one sides printed on their white shirts. Gladly, possibly due to the mess, the club stopped after one season.

The early 80's saw an awful programme cover, with three terrible photos. The only benefit from this era was that fifteen years on you can see perhaps the most awful Maidenhead shirts ever. They are plain white in that itchy heavy cotton with Brillo as the sponsor. They must have been uncomfortable enough, and Brillo probably only sponsored the club for a laugh, either that or the company actually made the shirts too.

By 83/84, the clubs programmes became good looking; more Ryan Giggs than Iain Dowie. A large photo of a player unknown (to me), and a little triangle cut off in the corner. The club badge in the middle, the sponsors logo at the bottom, ah yes, this was a cover to be proud of. Even better things happened in 84/85, when the club issued the best looking programme cover it has ever done. A return to black and white striped shirts, and a black and white striped programme cover. The corner was cut off again (as it was to be until 90/91) and the now legendary 'Shagging Magpies' badge appeared in the top corner. The badge was to be the inspiration behind the first Magpies fanzine, but, like the badge, it eventually faded into obscurity. The following season, things took a turn for the worse, on the pitch and on the programme cover. The club stopped using plain old black and white and used another colour too, purple. Why purple? It looked awful! Again, we were looking awful in the programme stakes, and then the unthinkable happened....

86/87, as well as being our relegation year, will be remembered for the worst programme cover ever, not just in the history of the club, but in the history of football. Instead of using a picture of a soaring magpie, or a photo of a player, the club decided on a rather abstract drawing of a pair of red socks. The shock to the players was obvious, as no league game was won with this cover until mid November. This cover was awful, even offensive. The designer of this monstrosity will remain anonymous, partly because we don't want to embarrass him, and partly because we don't know who it is. I think it is better that way.

Purple appeared on the cover in 87/88 again, when the club started issuing awful covers for our stay in division two. A badly drawn tussle between two players on the cover of the 88/89 season was equally bad, and a player is leaning over oblivious to the fact that he has just had the ball taken from him by a large curly haired man. Strangely enough, the curly haired man was nowhere to be seen in 89/90, but his victim was, standing in exactly the same pose, but with the ball at his feet. Perhaps this was just before he was dispossessed? Who knows? Who cares?

Things were on the up again in 90/91, when a COLOUR photo appeared on the cover. Unfortunately, it was of our main stand, which in those days looked a damn site worse than it does now. Every game was printed on the cover, and the teams on the back. Wow! At last, the Magpies had a programme cover to cheer about. The team were ecstatic about this cover, and we won our first thirteen league games and eventually got promoted.

The 90's saw a new badge on the cover, a cover which was hardly awe inspiring. The new badge says '1869' for the 93/94 season, then miraculously changes to '1870' for 94/5. Just goes to show that if you look back into the history books, you can find unearthing some new truths. I think Marlow's history should be delved into, as I can't imagine they have won as many trophies as they claim. They probably made some of them up, the lying little gifts. Of course, no-one will ever look up Marlow's history, as of course, no one is in the least bit interested.

The current cover, taken from a piece of art known as 'Man with muscular leg' first made his appearance in 94/5, not a classic in programme covers, it has to be said. Both then and now, there is no indication of what the game is by looking at the cover. Obviously, this saves time and money, and a shrewd bit of finance raising was done by the club in the season between. Last term the club put a new photo on the cover every issue, mostly old team photos to celebrate 125 years. The price also rose 20p to compensate for this, and this season, you're back to the boring old drawing, at no decrease in price. Clever eh?

95/96 was definitely the most professional looking cover, but black and white with a bit of red isn't exactly eye catching. Most peoples programmes end up in the bin anyway, so it never really mattered. The club has always maintained that it doesn't make much money from programmes, and the money raised barely covers the cost of printing. A single photocopied sheet at 10p would probably be more economically viable, and we would be spared the horrendous artwork of recent seasons.



1984/85 - A WORK OF ART



1986/87 - TRULY AWFUL



## DIAL A CLICHÉ

I'm sure many of you readers are by now missing the weekly opportunity to gorge yourself on the verbal feasts that were John Watt's and Tim Cook's regular outpourings in the Maidenhead Advertiser. To see how much you learnt here's a quick quiz.

Early Doors...

Q1 What do you do with the formbook?

- a) Digest every snippet from it.
- b) Make predictions (if the form book is anything to go by)
- c) Throw it out of the window.

Q2 What is an early goal conceded?

- a) A devastating blow.
- b) Just the start you didn't want.
- c) A real pissar.

Q3 What is an exciting game?

- a) A game that couldn't have been better even if you had written the script yourself.
- b) A game where the real winner is football.
- c) Bloody unusual.

Q4 At the end of the day Brian, football is really all about...

- a) Goals.
- b) The best team on the day.
- c) Eleven men against eleven.
- d) Entertainment.
- e) Guts and commitment.
- f) All of the above and probably a lot more.

Either side of the half time interval...

Q5 What does a goal on the stroke of half time do?

- a) Gives the psychological edge to the team scoring it.
- b) Stuns the home crowd.
- c) Catches out all those of you who sneak off for a swift pint.

Q6 What do teams have to do on losing the first leg of a cup tie?

- a) Face an uphill struggle.
- b) Remember that in reality its only half time.
- c) Complain bitterly about these two legged affairs.

Starting to flag as you run out of steam...

Q7 What would Maidenhead get if (a very big if I know) we drew one of the Big Boys in the FA Cup...

- a) Our Cup Final.
- b) Cup Fever.
- c) Vandalised.

Q8 The ICIS League Division One is...

- a) Something Maidenhead haven't finished in the top half of since 1984/85 under Brian Carterer and Colin Lippiatt.
- b) The club's bread and butter, the cup just the icing on the cake.
- c) A marathon not a sprint.

Q9 When a player scores an own goal its

- a) A cruel twist of fate.
- b) Rather amusing.
- c) A personal nightmare.

Q10 Dave Harrison is...

- a) An inspiration to all at the club.
- b) A workaholic.
- c) An old fart.

Now some post match analysis

Rate your score as follows.

- 1. A-0, B-1, C-3. 2. A-1, B-3, C-0. 3. A-3, B-1, C-0.
- 4. A-1, B-1, C-1, D-1, E-1, F-3. 5. A-3, B-3, C-0. 6. A-1, B-3, C-0.
- 7. A-3, B-3, C-0. 8. A-1, B-3, C-0. 9. A-3, B-1, C-0. 10. A-3, B-1, C-0.

0-10 Abysmal. You must think football is played by two teams of fifteen with an odd shaped ball.

11-20 Potential. Get a subscription to Born & Bred and read the Maidenhead Advertiser more often.

20-29 Excellent. Why not write an article for Born & Bred or get a job at the Maidenhead Advertiser.

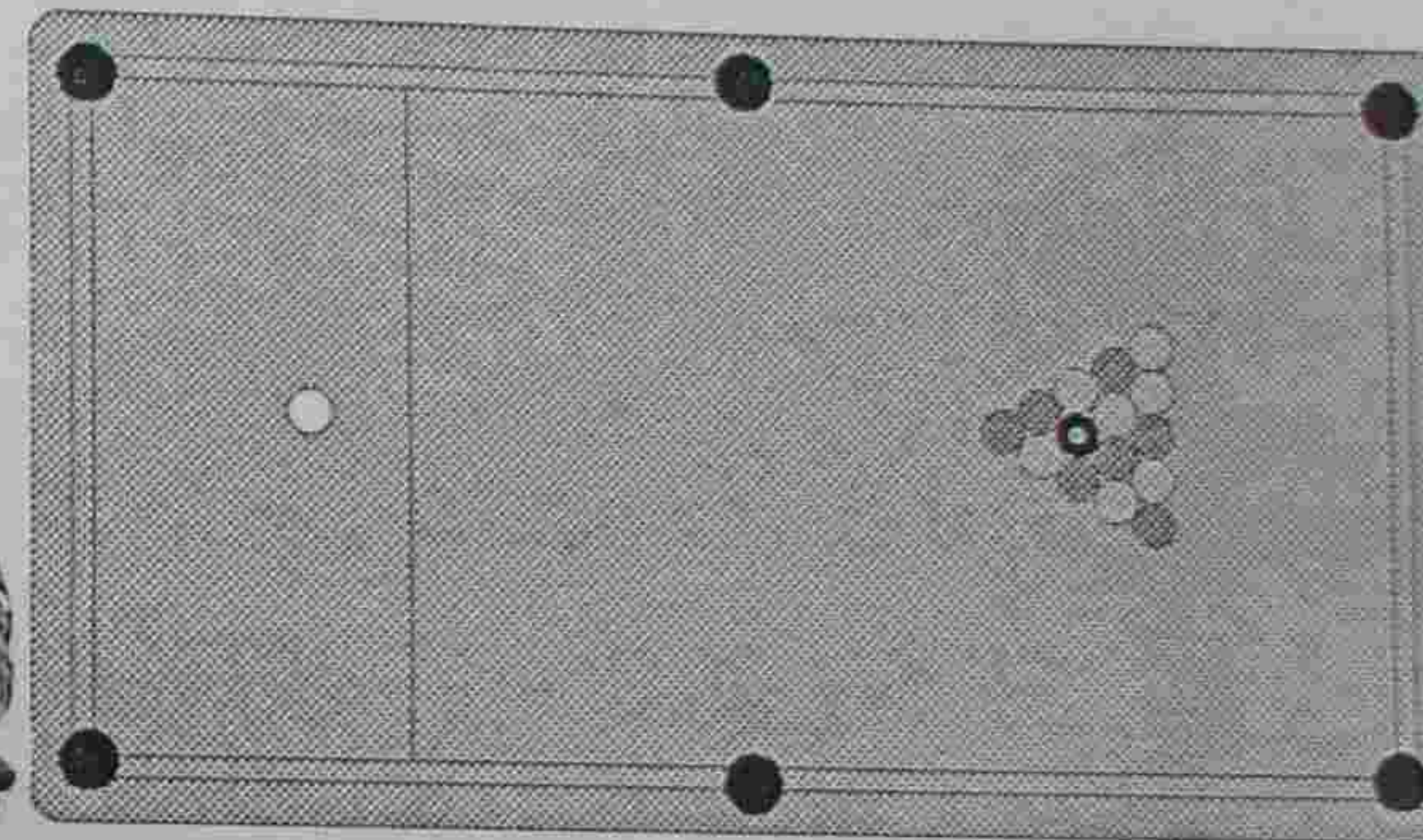
30 Perfect. You have already written for this fanzine and/or the Maidenhead Advertiser.

31+ Impossible. You are a liar and a cheat or maybe you're just crap at adding up.

SJ Based on an article in the greatest fanzine of them all, the late lamented Hit The Bar.

## HUGGY BEAR'S POOL TIPS

with Steve Brown



### NUMBER ONE : THE BREAK.

"The break is an important part of the game; get one down and you can be cruisin' for victory. When I play in the bar, before shooting off to a jumpin' joint to survey the chicks, I like to break first, 'cos Huggy never misses the chance to get ahead!"

*Due to a boardroom shake-up, we regret to inform you that Willie Thorne's snooker tips has had to have been cancelled.*

### THAT MAN TALKS BOLLOCKS!!

#### NUMBER 10: JEFF KING

If you don't know who Jeff King is, take a peek inside the back cover of issue 10. He is the cartoon man standing by the sign. Yes, our Mr King, fat bloke and erstwhile manager of bottom side Canvey Island proudly proclaimed at York Road in August that 'no team will win at Canvey this season'. Well, now it's November, and he has been proved **WRONG!** He must have included his own side in that, because all of their games have been draws this season. Oh, except the league defeat by Wokingham. And the cup defeats against Sutton, Heybridge and Sudbury. So it's official fatso, you've guessed it...

**JEFF KING! YOU TALK BOLLOCKS MATE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**



# Da, da, da, derr, de-da, da, daa; da, derr, de-da, da, daa...#

31 August, 1996: Another year, another FA Cup Preliminary Round tie, bigger all chance of any success. As usual.

But a week before the big day, the news came down the grapevine that the BBC's Match Of The Day cameras were coming to York Road to kick off their 'Road to Wembley' feature!! We (the fans, that is) might have our moment of glory after all, not that we would dream of embarrassing anyone, of course.

We were misinformed! A few days later, to our dismay, it was revealed that we would be visited not by the telly people, but by a photographer taking pictures for the new BBC magazine, Match of the Day. Oh, well! - Still, it was a chance to get ourselves featured in print; Murdo's craft skills came to the fore again and he added to the Bell Street End decorations (that enormous banner and flag) by creating a stunning replica in cardboard and tinfoil of the FA Cup. All we needed now to make the headlines was for Mickey to score a goal - Mary the Sheep it was waiting on the railing.

Sadly, it all came to naught; we lost, not even a goal to celebrate. So we made sure our camera-toting visitor would remember the noisy lot behind the goal, inviting him to photograph the 'Cup' being duly deposited in the bin.

It was a pointless gesture - it wouldn't have mattered if we had all turned up in wetsuits and at the merest provocation dived backwards onto the pitch like Jacques Cousteau from a boat ("irrelevant" - what does that mean?) or staged a naked protest on the pitch after losing, no photo of it would have been printed. What the world saw of Maidenhead United, empty of people and of passion, placed for contrast facing scenes of emotional West Brom fans packed into QPR's away section, was the following pathetic picture.

Behind a rusty old bicycle with its headlamp falling off, one mystery spectator (not a fan, just a very, very sad bastard) sits alone, hunched on the concrete step at the end of the Shelf in an ill-fitting jacket and a hat borrowed from Lando, courtesy of the BBC's Last of the Summer Wine props department. Strange coincidence, that it should appear in a BBC publication. Now, surely I'm not suggesting that this amusing photo of an archetypal 'some non-league crap no-one gives a toss about' scene was set up? After all, York Road does attract some very odd folk in the guise of groundhoppers - but a woolly hat in August and subtle finishing touch for an FA Cup Preliminary Round tie? A bag over the shoulder, turned towards the camera to reveal the legend, 'DUSTY DREAMS'? Come on, now!

We at Born and Bred pride ourselves that in our relatively short existence we have exposed a lot of bollocks (metaphorically), that has been talked in our presence, but this must beat them all; didn't someone once say, a picture is worth a thousand words...?

MARK LEONARD



**Maidenhead v Havant**  
31st August 1996

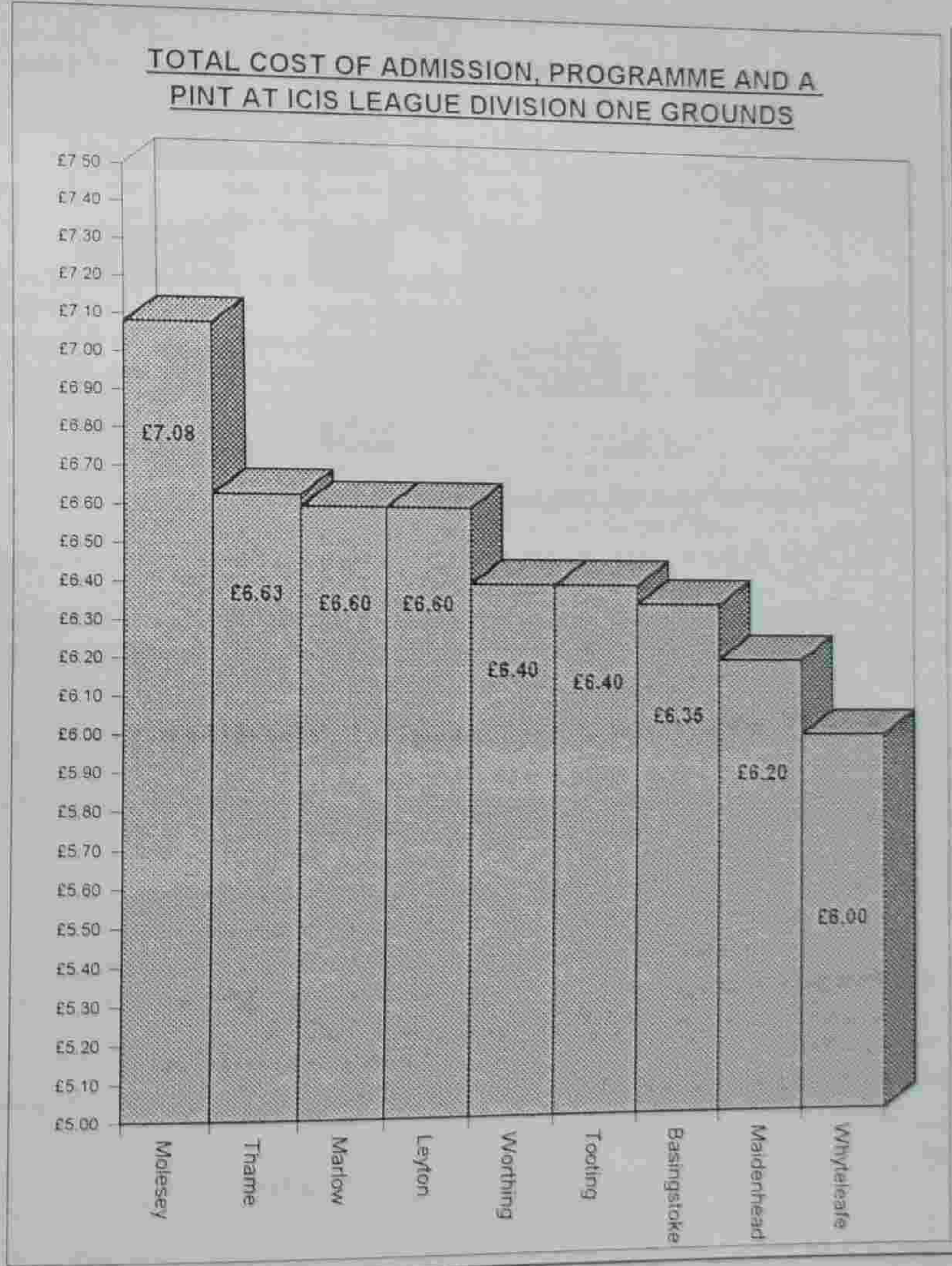
Maidenhead United, who played in the first ever FA Cup, were the only surviving team from that original competition to run out in the first Preliminary Round on this year's road to Wembley. They played host to Havant Town, who duly beat them 1-0. This Saturday, Havant take their next step towards Wembley at home against Basingstoke. Photograph: Football Archive/Michael Craig



**MATCH DAY**

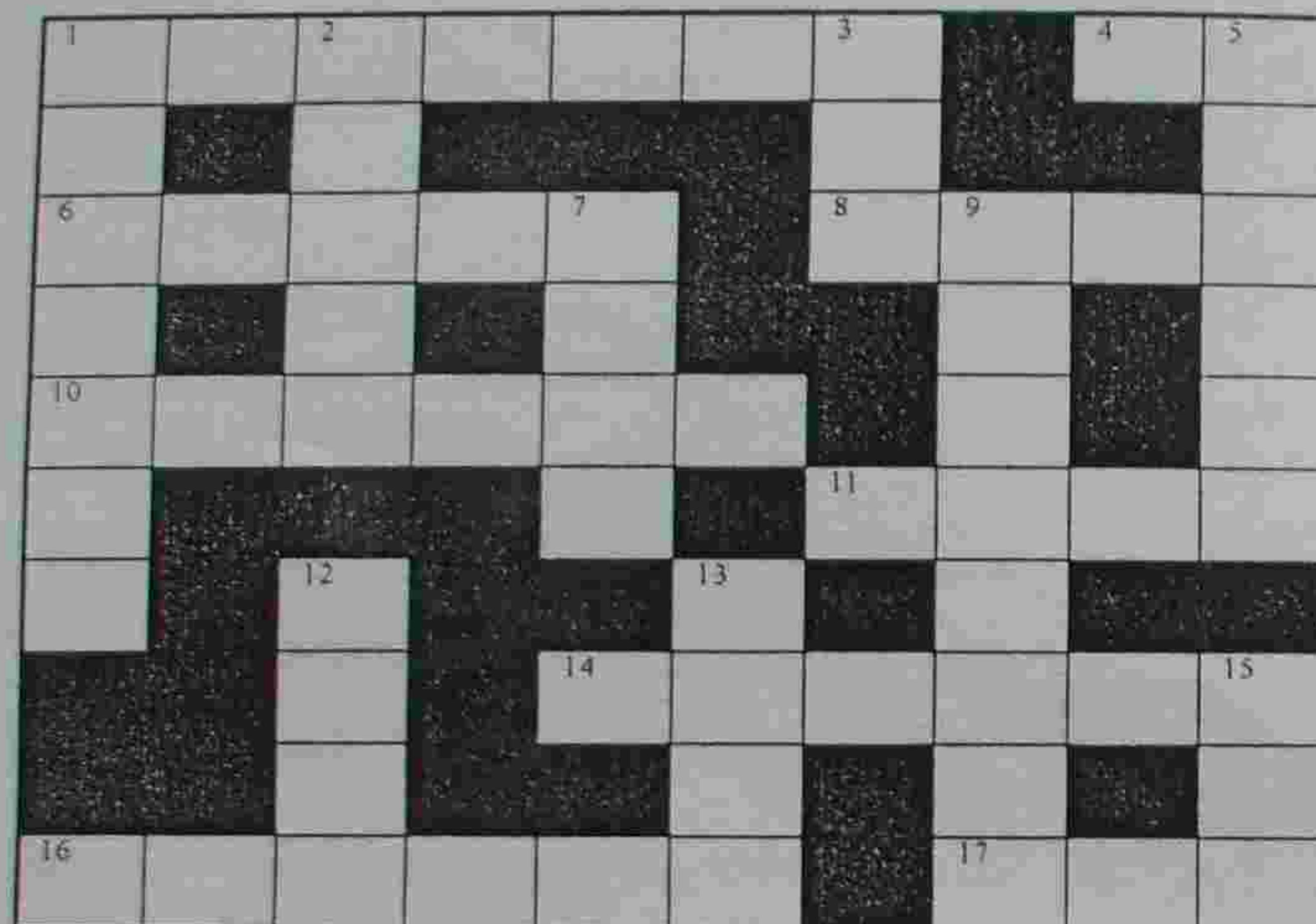
**BORN & BRED PRICEWATCH UPDATE....**

With seven grounds visited so far, lets have a look at the latest prices, shown in this nifty graph. We've included ourselves, and also the scum from down the road, who don't fair too good at all....





## THE AMAZING BORN & BRED CROSSWORD !!



### CLUES:

#### ACROSS

1. Short haired superstar, formerly of Chesham and St Albans.
4. We always do crap in these competitions.
6. New signing from Hayes.
8. Captain in our promotion year.
10. We lost by this score against Havant.
11. Marlow's win at Maidenhead will be their \_\_\_\_ away this season.
14. Premier Division side from Claremont Road.
16. Vaughan, or Phil.
17. Will Marlow stay up this year?!!

#### DOWN

1. The new Les Ferdinand.
2. Tim Cook's new club.
3. 1 down does this to keepers a lot.
5. Essex side, one of their fans dressed as the Pink Panther at York Road three seasons back.
7. Quality sports manufacturers, and sponsors of our league.
9. Sheep, sheep, sheep shaggers!!
12. We got quite a few of these under John Watt.
13. Main end at York Road.
15. Chuck hits the back of this quite a bit.

## AN APPEAL

There can be no doubting that the change in management, together with the subsequent upturn in fortunes on the pitch has led to an extremely upbeat mood on the terraces. Average attendances appear to be up on last season and there are far more kids/teenagers coming to the games which is great as, without them, there won't be a club at all in years to come. Hell, we can even now actually attend games with the primary intention of watching the football instead of merely using it as the excuse to make complete asses of ourselves by dressing up in ridiculous costumes/making a mess of some poor opponents ground/abusing the inbred locals (whenever in Oxfordshire) and just generally getting completely lagered-up! Until recently the only entertainment encountered at the majority of games tended to be provided by the supporters. Mind you I do miss the 'theme days'!

Bearing this in mind why is it that the vocal support the team are now receiving is generally poor when compared to the previous couple of seasons? Yes I know that there have been exceptions to this, mainly on the awaydays. I also accept that we are one of only a handful of clubs in the division with ANY vocal support but that's not the point. We just aren't getting behind the team enough!

I could understand it if the reverse situation were true. After all it's hard to motivate yourself to support a team that has struggled as consistently as our's has but we actually seem happier straining our vocal chords for the cause when the team is struggling and in the shit, which has been quite regularly in recent years. Perhaps some of us feel that as the team seem to be doing quite well without our backing then let them get on with it. My response to that is simple. Bollocks!

The hard-core supporters (and you know who they are) are giving their all as usual but that's not enough. The club are quite justifiably proud of the fact that Maidenhead United F.C. is moving forward in leaps and bounds off the pitch. Martin Busby and Alan Devonshire are doing their damndest to lead us to the promised land, or the ICIS Premier as it's more commonly known. This journey to glory can be made easier with your, nay OUR help. As some Ginge twat (no offence Johnny Ruggins!) recently sang, we're in this together. About a year ago Bob Hussey started a campaign entitled 'Rally round the flag.' My own message to you all is equally simple.....

### SING YER HEARTS OUT FOR THE LADS!

Here endeth this editions lecture.

MURDO MACLEOD



NOSTALGIA.....

Many of the 'youngsters' frequenting the York Road terraces these days will find it hard to believe that in the not so distant past, some of the visiting sides used to bring a coach of supporters with them enabling the Bell Street choir - now part of the 'Old Gits brigade' to indulge in some excellent camaraderie. The sight of a lone Berkhamsted supporter standing behind the goal recently really highlights the problems attracting loyal supporters these days. I had to take the opportunity to reminisce about some of the matches against our Trophy opponents, Bromley, who in the late 70's and early 80's not only provided good quality opposition, but also brought a noisy group of supporters to our ground.

We never did well against Bromley in my early years of watching, losing our first four league games against the Kent side when they were relegated in 1975, including 6-1 and 4-0 defeats at their Hayes Lane ground. In 1977 our side began to improve and we actually had the audacity to snatch a late goal in January 1978 to secure a 1-1 draw at their ground, when they were well set for promotion. They didn't like that and although they won the return match at York Road in April 1-0, they missed out on promotion by just one point. Shame.

In 1978, Geoff Anthony assembled a promotion challenging side and Maidenhead were well up the table when they visited Bromley in mid-March. A coachload of supporters roared Maidenhead to a 2-1 win with new signing Andy Painter scoring the winner following some indifferent goalkeeping by Malcom 'Sinex' Broadway.

Two weeks later, an inspired display of incompetence by our own custodian, Ian Bath (the only goalkeeper I have ever known to shout "hold" the moment he launched a drop kick skywards and "clear it" the moment the ball came into our half) allowed Bromley to gain revenge with a thumping 4-1 win which signalled the start of our promotion jitters.

Maidenhead finished 3rd that year, and the following year both sides were destined to do well, but Bromley obviously had high hopes as well and, realising they always won at York Road, actually brought a coachload of supporters and began their celebrating at kick off. They won 4-1. But the good off the field rivalry was now being well established and at the return in February a full coach of Magpies followers gained some revenge with a 3-1 win in a thrilling, nailbiting match. Bromley had the last laugh in the league stuttering over the finishing line to pip Maidenhead to second place. Off the field, both teams had formed supporters football teams and entering a competition called the Football Supporters Invitation Shield, Bromley and Maidenhead were two of the original five entrants and were drawn against each other in a two legged match. I'll never forget the first leg at Bromley, played on 23rd March 1980 when Chris Raine scored the only goal and then ran along the length of the touchline signalling to the large assembled crowd of Bromley followers that he was certain he was going to score another goal as well, as that was the number of fingers he was holding up. We went on to win the shield that season and even sixteen years later, almost half of the supporters team are still watching the club; Derek Blow, Martin Callaway, Justin Cook, Chris Raine, myself and Jon Swan.

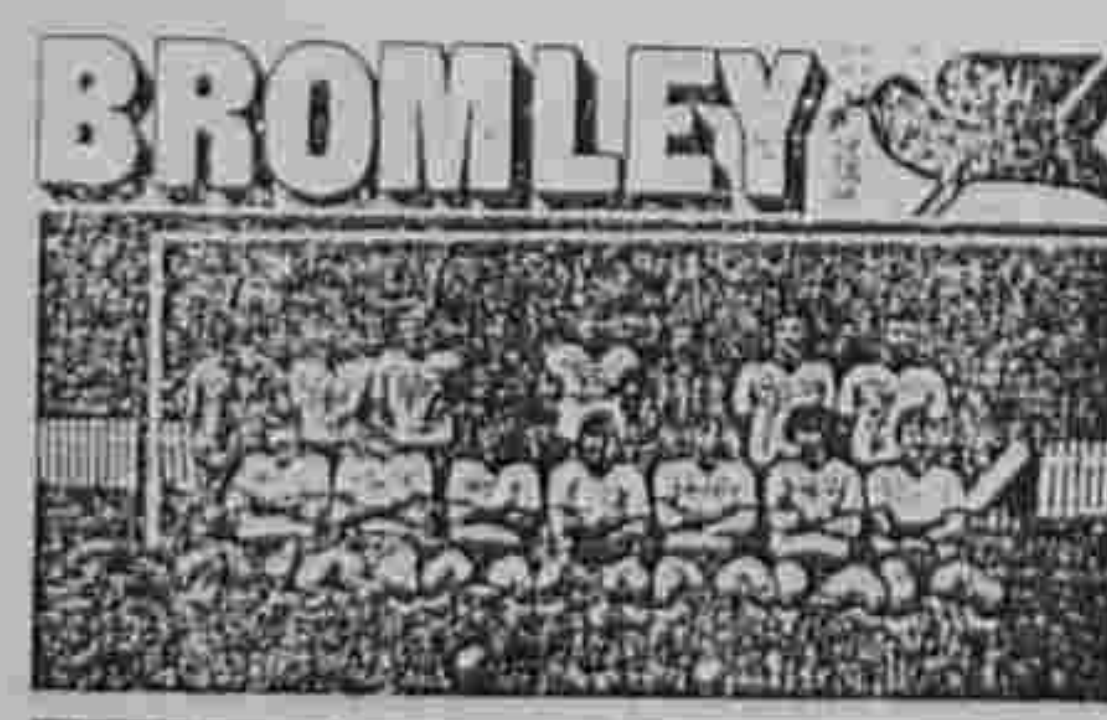
Bromley buggered it up by getting promotion and our only two meetings since then (in 1992 and 1993) were not the same. It would be nice to have a bit of camaraderie when we meet; they had over 1,000 for their 4th Qualifying round FA Cup match against Sutton a couple of weeks ago, so they might bring a few with them for the Trophy game. Incidentally, all is not lost, we have beaten them at home; in a 1927 Amateur Cup tie in fact!

BROMLEY SUPPORTERS F.C.

Supporters invitation knockout Cup Semi Final

Sunday 23rd March 1980  
KICK OFF 2.00 pm

BROMLEY SUPPORTERS (White)	MAIDENHEAD LTD SUPPORTERS (Tangerine)
Steve Corley	1 Derek Blow
Peter Oliver	2 Andy Spratt
Ray Buck	3 Chris Raine
Peter Cork	4 Dave Griffiths
Mark Bennett	5 Mark Smith
Martin Etheridge	6 Mick Wright
Ian Micklowright	7 Clive Beckerville
Kevin Price	8 Nick Denholm
Lance Nurdin	9 Tony Drake
Colin Russell (C)	10 Martin Galloway
Norman Ormes	11 Tony Halkyard
John Ashenden	12 Justin Cook
Roy Oliver	13 Dave Faber
David Acton	14 Kevin Moll
Mark Weatherdon	15 Jon Swan



Mark Smith

Supporters Invitation Knockout Cup Semi Final  
Sunday 23rd March 1980  
KICK OFF 2.00 pm

BROMLEY	MAIDENHEAD UNITED
1 Ian Bath	1 Ian Bath
2 Steve Corley	2 Steve Corley
3 Ray Buck	3 Ray Buck
4 Peter Cork	4 Peter Cork
5 Mark Bennett	5 Mark Bennett
6 Martin Etheridge	6 Martin Etheridge
7 Ian Micklowright	7 Ian Micklowright
8 Kevin Price	8 Kevin Price
9 Lance Nurdin	9 Lance Nurdin
10 Colin Russell (C)	10 Colin Russell (C)
11 Norman Ormes	11 Norman Ormes
12 John Ashenden	12 John Ashenden
13 Roy Oliver	13 Roy Oliver
14 David Acton	14 David Acton
15 Mark Weatherdon	15 Mark Weatherdon

HOW MANY AT THIS SEASONS GAME?

CRAP PROGRAMME; AND WE SAID SO

MARK HARRISON

Just as the season, and the team, were starting to take shape, the unthinkable happens - Mark Harrison decides to quit football. Mark's influence on the team this season was immeasurable, players of his standard, with a good mix of skill and experience, are almost impossible to come by.

Mark made his debut at the start of the disappointing 95/96 campaign, playing the opening two matches against Marlow and Barking, but gave no real indication of his skill. He was dropped after the Marlow game, along with a number of other players, as John Watt tried to blame his poor motivational skills on individual players. But by mid September, Mark was back in the first eleven, and there he stayed until his departure at the start of October.

Mark came to the club with a wealth of experience behind him. He started with Hayes, before Maidenhead promotion season from the Conference to the old division four. After two seasons there, Mark moved to Wealdstone, where he was captain for many seasons. A brief spell at Harrow Borough, and onto York Road where he established himself as one of the better defenders the club has seen for many years. John Watt may have come under criticism from many corners in the past, but signing Mark was one of the best decisions he made.

Mark was a player with outstanding workrate on the field, and you always felt safe when the ball fell to his feet. Perhaps the first game when his ability really shone out was in the game against the Icis League XI last season, the friendly we played in torrential rain as part of our 125th anniversary 'celebrations'. The result was, as I am sure very few of you remember, was a gritty 0-0 draw, with Mark winning man of the match. To hold the best players the league can assemble to a goalless draw perhaps gives credit to the defence we had last year (a lot of goals conceded, but I think that was our strongest area last term), and Mark certainly looked as if he should be playing for the Icis Select side, rather than a club kicking around the wrong end of the first division table.

Mark was never a great scorer of goals, but he was certainly a scorer of great goals. He amassed only 8 in his Maidenhead career, but in 48 games, for a defender, that is a very good strike rate. His first of two at home to Aylesbury in the Berks and Bucks semi final last year was perhaps the goal of last or any season. To score direct from a free kick in the centre circle is worthy of the Peles of this world without doubt. Most of Mark's goals came from the penalty spot, where he would hit the ball like his namesake did 7 or 8 years ago, hard and fast, and always in the back of the net, like his second against Aylesbury, and goals this season at Whyteleafe and Tooting.

Mark's departure from the club was by no means acrimonious. He was not getting any younger, and wanted to spend more time with his family. If Mark had left Maidenhead for another side, people would have been very disappointed, but Mark's retirement from the game signifies the farewell of one of non leagues finest players, and definitely one of Maidenhead's finest. Even though his time spent at York Road was little over a season, he will undoubtedly feature as a "Magpies Great" in years to come.

Mark Harrison: Appearances: 48 (and 3 as sub) Goals: 8

Keith Jackson



Mark scores the opener at Whyteleafe



## THE DAY WE ALL LAUGHED AT MARLOW

More often than not, at least once a season a bunch of Magpies fans will make pilgrimage to another ground to either cheer on another team, or simply to watch a game because we aren't playing. A couple of seasons ago Ruislip Manor was the venue for their game against Windsor, last season we ended up watching Harrow v Enfield for some reason. This season, Marlow were the unfortunate side to have to put up with us, on the Saturday which is always kept free for Maidenhead fans to go elsewhere - FA Cup 1st Qualifying round day.

Marlow were playing Braintree, a team whose supporters we have met before, at six a side competitions. You got the impression that they normally take quite a few away with them, and as Marlow were at the bottom of Division One, well, we were curious to see just how bad they were. Braintree, by the way, were flying high in Division Three.

As is almost customary, a few of us met up in the Queens around 11, before making our way to the station. Only half a dozen or so Magpies fans were expected, and as we boarded the train our number was only four. We were swelled (quite literally) when Brian McKendrick appeared, and the train left for Marlow. A quick pint at the Marlow Donkey (can't think who that's named after) and then onto the Plough, the scene of high spirits and drunkenness last time we played Marlow.

By the time we were in the ground, the Magpies 'support' was well into double figures, as was the Braintree following, and as you would expect, the Marlow public came in their usual droves, because they had nothing better to do, and Wycombe were away.

The game itself was dire; Braintree looked like you would expect - a third division side, as did Marlow. Marlow were beaten 2-0, so their 5,000 'regulars' who made the trips to Spurs, West Brom and Swindon were disappointed that they wouldn't have a game to go to this year. One strange thing, a Magpies fan, whom no-one claims to know (although I reckon he's Phil's mate) was seen wearing a MARLOW shirt!! I can only guess he took pity on them, because no-one else seems to wear them. His excuse was that he only follows Marlow in the Cup, and that all local teams have to stick together. What a load of bollocks. I suppose he follows Windsor in the Berks and Bucks, Slough in the Trophy, and Wokingham on midweek away matches.

A point of note - the Marlow officials were disgusted that we turned up to support Braintree that day. They told us this when we were still in their bar at 6.30. Nice of them to take our money, the tossers. Lets hope they finish the season where they belong - at the bottom of the pile. It serves them right that they are in the shit that they are, if you can squander all the Cup run money AND a £10,000 prize from Littlewoods in 3 years, and all you have to show for it is one relegation from the Premier and a struggle this season, tough shit. And to think they spent £5,000 on Tim Buzaglio...where is HE know?



Braintree join us to laugh at Marlow

Logic investigates the mystery!

### THE WHICHFORD FILES

Logic investigates the mysterious disappearance of the club's sponsors

The era's over, who's to blame?  
You promised much, then promised more,  
If on our shirts we'd print your name,  
We'd never heard of you before.

You made the news, you stole the scenes,  
A massive deal, the papers said,  
I was so pleased, I stained my jeans,  
Spilling my coffee as I read.

Oh, Whooford! Nought's impossible...  
Oh, Whenford! All was dross and bull...

Your name on every action shot,  
Warn on the street and on the pitch,  
You've made it, so now we're forgot -  
I'm left unpicking every stitch...

We had some hopes of what might be,  
In dreams, we really went to town,  
But you withdrew the warranty,  
When it was clear we'd broken down.

Oh, Whereford! So where's your money now?  
Oh, Whyford! Silk purse to ear of sow...

We read you cared, in black and white;  
Long-term commitment was your pledge,  
You sponsored everything in sight,  
But didn't make it past N-reg.

There are some things that won't be missed,  
The jingles, and that dismal voice -  
Jon Swan will have a new playlist,  
An altogether better choice...

Oh, Whatford! We'll win without you nags,  
Bye, Whichford! We'll still stand by the Mags!

### GAS AN ARM (No. 1)

Who is this sad person who has nothing better to do with his spare time than rearrange the letters of football team names, I don't hear anyone ask. Well, are you sad enough to try and put them back in the right order? The following all faced us either in league or cup games last season:

- 1 NYLON TEEN PANT
- 2 TOXIC FROGD
- 3 ROW 5 BRAVE - ROTI
- 4 BARTON SKEW B THEM
- 5 STONE DOWN BRAIN
- 6 MINT AID OUGHTTA CONDEMN IT
- 7 DOWN THAT LOSER
- 8 WANK TOOTING BESS
- 9 WORST GONE BORING
- 10 BONN GOAT WIND

### SANG A RAM (No. 2)

Yes, all you Lexicophiles (I made that word up), here are some more muddled-up football clubs, all of whom we played last season.

- 1 MIDDEN MIGHT CONTAIN A TOUT
- 2 WEIGH DERBY S FITS
- 3 LA WORM
- 4 WHAT FOR? ... AMEN
- 5 DIRE TOWN ON SAND
- 6 T BOND NO TWANG
- 7 CEDE HUMAN SHIT
- 8 MAID'NHEAD CON GIT: MOUNT IT
- 9 TATE S ON WINS
- 10 REALLY BIT IN COW

ANAGRAMS No. 1: 1 Leyton Penant, 2 Oxford City, 3 Barton Rovers, 4 Berkhamsted Town, 5 Windsor and Eton, 6 Tooting and Mitcham United, 7 Aldershot Town, 8 Basinstoke Town, 9 Bognor Regis Town, 10 Abingdon Town.

ANAGRAMS No. 2: 1 Tooting and Mitcham United (again), 2 Haveridge Swifts, 3 Marlow, 4 Fareham Town, 5 Windsor and Eton (again), 6 Abingdon Town (again), 7 Chesham United, 8 Tooting and Mitcham United (yet again!), 9 Staines Town, 10 Billericay Town.





BACK PAGE UNITED



*Ready for action? Photo: Mark Leonard*

News has reached Born and Bred that following an injury to our number one SupaTrev, managers Martin Busby and Alan Devonshire have been on the lookout for a replacement. Our picture shows Born & Bred's very own Keith Jackson in 'action' at a six a side tournament at Catford in the summer. He really commands his area well, and is almost cat-like in the way he makes some of his acrobatic saves. This boy could go far, really, really far", the managers were not heard to say last night.

Thanks for buying issue 11 of Born & Bred. Issue 12 should be out for the Boxing Day visit of Hampton. Don't forget, any articles, letters, freebies, bribes etc should be sent to the address inside the front cover.