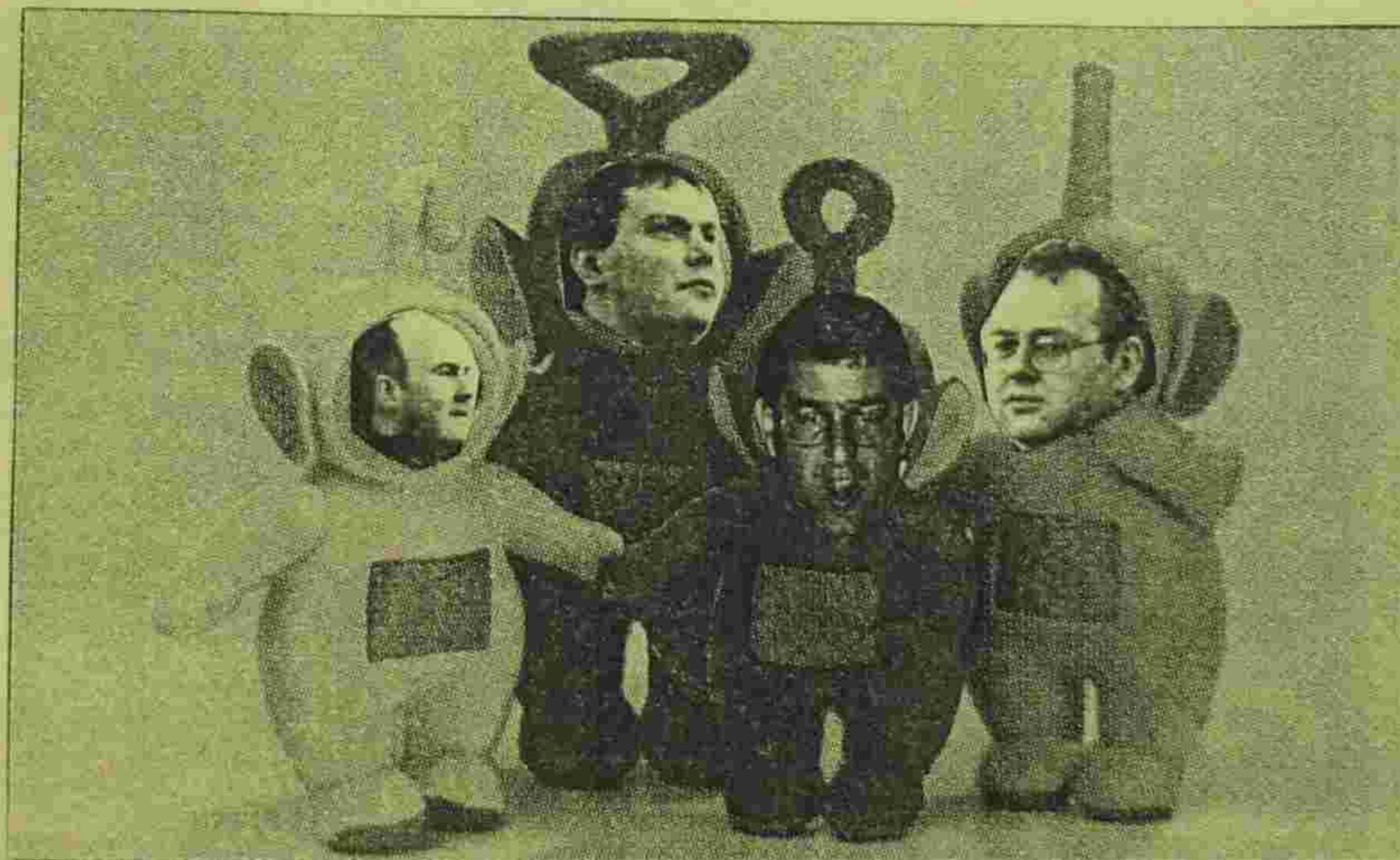


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# BORN & BRED

ISSUE 15, 50P



**OH-NO! IT'S THE  
TERRACETTUBBIES!!**

THE INDEPENDENT MAIDENHEAD UNITED FANZINE



# **Born and Bred**

## THIS ISSUES CONTRIBUTORS....

*Keith Jackson, Steve Jinman, Murdo Macleod, Trevor Kingham, Mark Leonard, Pat and Richard Llanwarne*

## PHOTOGRAPHS....

*Mark Leonard, unless states*

## OTHER PEOPLE....

*Bob Popejoy for the colour cover*

## OUTLETS.....

*Sportspages, Charing Cross Road, London*

*The Club Shop, which will also stock some back issues*

*The Social Club by the York Road turnstiles*

*And from us around the ground on matchdays.*

## CONTRIBUTIONS....

*We are always on the lookout for contributions, articles, letters, nude girlie pix etc., just send them to us at the address below.*

## BACK ISSUES....

*Currently available are issues 3,4,5,6,7,11 and 13 for the measly price of 50p plus an SAE. Issues 1,2,8,9,10,12 and 14 are all sold out and are gone for good.*

## SUBSCRIPTIONS....

*Subscriptions cost a mere £3.00 for the next five issues.*

## NEXT ISSUE OUT....

*Lets face it, we are not kidding anyone are we? This issue was supposed to be out before Christmas. Lets just say before the Millenium.*

## SEND YOUR SCRIBBLINGS AND £££ TO...

**BORN AND BRED, 'PENDEEN', STROUD FARM ROAD,  
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Welcome to issue 15 of **Born and Bred**, the fanzine of Maidenhead United FC. All money raised from this publication is ploughed back into the Club, and we have already paid for the sponsorship Alan Devonshire and Brian Conner this season. Our aim is to enlighten, not offend, and the right to reply is encouraged by any person who feels aggrieved by an article featured within this publication.

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## EDDIE TORIAL

I don't really know where to start....first apologies for the huge gap between issues. This was due to a number of factors, perhaps the main one being that the team had been playing really well and it took a long time to get over the shock, after years and years of sub standard football at York Road.

Anyway, some great performances so far this season have seen Maidenhead hovering just below the top three. In recent weeks however, lack of matches and the resultant lack of match fitness has led to some shaky performances, including 2 points dropped at Thame and a disastrous defeat at home to Romford. Inevitably, we have started to slip down the league table, and now find ourselves back in our spiritual home of mid table. As soon as we regain our pre Christmas form, sooner hopefully rather than later, we should pick up the points and feature in the scramble for promotion come May. Only Aldershot appear to be guaranteed a place in the Premier Division next term, which leaves two places up for grabs, and just about anyone can claim those. Recent weeks have seen Uxbridge (!) rise up the table into a healthy position, and the threat of Leatherhead, Hampton and Grays has been there all season. Along with Romford, Billericay and Bognor, we have plenty of games in hand on the above teams, so really, it is in our own hands. If we win the games in hand, then who knows? We can't control how other teams perform, but we are far from out of it yet. Besides, we still have to play Billericay and Hampton twice, and 12 points from those four matches would seriously boost our chances.

We also find ourselves in the bizarre position of still being in two cup competitions in February! The Full Members Cup...how long ago it all seems now..... sees us face the unenviable task of visiting Leatherhead. We should have won there earlier in the season, and despite the fact that they are unbeaten at home, I am confident we overcome them and I am already looking forward to visiting Carshalton in the next round.

The Berks and Bucks Cup, which we haven't won for nearly 30 years, perhaps offers our best chance of silverware this season. By the time you read this, the replay with Wokingham will have taken place, but I can't see that knocking them out will be a problem. Windsor away awaits the winners, and having seen them 3 or 4 times this season, that tie will present the Magpies with little more than a stroll in the park. With Reading playing Wycombe in the quarter finals, and Aylesbury being drawn against Chesham, should the Magpies face the winners of Marlow v Thatcham in the semi final, then a place in the final seems a distinct possibility. Of course, I am assuming that we have beaten Wokingham. If not, then I am going to look a bit of an idiot.

So, 19 league games to go - with 8 of the last 11 at home - and providing we win 14 of them, we should be playing Premier Division football next season. See you there?

Keith Jackson

## ST. AUGUST. AUGUST. AUGUST. AUGUST

maximum points from the first three games....business as usual as the annual FA Cup Preliminary Round defeat occurs in Wales....Grays edge fight game at York Road....

No-one could have asked for a better start to the season, as Thame (5-0), Leyton Pennant (2-1), and Romford (1-0) were all beaten with consummate ease. This was the best start we had had to a league campaign since the promotion season, and although these three sides weren't expected to feature in the promotion race this term, it was certainly a morale boosting start.

Thame, it must be said, were piss poor. They will be there or thereabouts come May (the relegation zone that is). Leyton were better - a trip dahn the East End on a Wednesday night is never going to be too fruitful, but all credit to the team, and especially Tim Cook whose inspirational display and last minute goal ensured all 3 points for the Magpies. Romford were disappointing. A newly promoted team on the up, a la Purfleet / Yeading, they seemed to play like a newly promoted side on the slide, a la Canvey / Thame. Maidenhead dominated the match, and Obi got the winner with about 15 minutes to go. All credit to stand in keeper Stuart Wallace, who looked an adequate replacement for Trevor Roffey. Sadly, Stuart has now left the club, in suspicious circumstances. If you want to point an accusative finger, then Paddy is your man. As soon as Stuart read that Paddy was his sponsor in the programme, he was never seen again. Romford enabled the assembled Magpies fans to embark on their first real awayday of the season, and due to the minuscule size of the bar at Romford, we headed to a pub on the outskirts of Enfield. A party was in full swing in the garden with some rather tasty young ladies. Seizing the moment, the Magpies fans

sat on the adjacent tables, but sadly, no invitations were forthcoming. They must have seen Logic.

The visit of Grays for our fourth game of the season provided the first real test for the Magpies. Grays don't want to spend any more time than is necessary in division one since their relegation last term, and on the evidence of this performance, they won't have to. It was a good performance from Maidenhead, and it gave us a chance to see the best the division will have to offer. Obviously we won't face teams like Grays every week, but it did show Alan the sort of side he will have to produce if we are going to be playing Premier Division football next year. A good game of football nonetheless, which Grays were fortunate to sneak 1-0. Did anyone notice that all the Grays fans were either under 10 or over 65? But believe me, that is where their similarities with Windsor end.



Chuck gets yet another leg injury trying to impersonate Bruce Lee at home to Thame

Business as usual in the FA Cup. We were fortunate enough to be drawn to play a side in A DIFFERENT BLOODY COUNTRY in a regionalised round, and the Magpies put in a dreadful performance to go out 2-1. No bar at Newport, so we assembled in a pub close to the ground prior to kick off, which had a collection of about 500 football pennants, and old Newport County memorabilia. It is a bit sad to see what has now become of this once proud club. Still, they played us off the park, and most Magpies fans left embarrassed by what they had seen. The least said about this game the better. Still, we can concentrate on the league now (ahem).



## EMBER · SEPTEMBER · SEPTEMBER · SEPT

out of the League Cup at the first hurdle.... humiliation at Berkhamsted..... Ben Abbey leaves for Crawley.....last minute goal helps Worthing to all 3 points.....Bognor beaten.....Staines smashed.....

September proved to be a bit of a mixed bag in terms of results. Two league wins against Bognor and Staines, but two defeats at the hands of Worthing and Berkhamsted. No luck in the League Cup either, as Romford managed to transform themselves from also rans to potential champions in only 2 weeks.

The win against Bognor was just what the doctor ordered after the Grays defeat. Alan rated it as one of the best Maidenhead performances he has witnessed, and he couldn't be argued with really. I have said it before and I will say it again, Bognor are one of the best footballing sides around, and whenever they visit York Road, Maidenhead always seem to raise their game, as if to prove the point that WE are the best footballing side around. Some slick passing, good defending and solid attacking enabled the Magpies to grab all three points courtesy of a goal from the rapidly improving Tyrone Houston, and the win lifted the Magpies back to the top of the table. Tyrone is playing the best football of his career in a Maidenhead shirt at the moment, and has been instrumental in our rise to the top of the league.

The Magpies were shot down to earth with a humiliating defeat at Berkhamsted, which rates as one of the worst Maidenhead performances of all time. Because an ex Royal dies and the country loses its grip on reality, the match was



Everyone but the referee spotted Tyrone push the ball in with his hand against Bognor, not that we care

switched to a Friday night, but strangely enough it wasn't the 13th of the month. The only highlight of this match was when a Maidenhead fan attempted to throw the ball back into play, but it hit the fence surrounding the pitch, rebounded to the back of the stand, ricocheted off the top, and hit Logic in the back of the head! A brief moment of hilarity in an otherwise dark day for Maidenhead.

Three more mediocre performances followed, the defeat by Romford being disappointing, but the second resulting in a 4-0 win at Staines. No-one is going to criticise a 4-0 win, but it was not even close to Maidenhead playing at their best. The final part of this below par trilogy was a 2-1 defeat at Worthing, thanks to a late, late goal from the Sussex club. Most people are happy with a draw away

from home, but to go so far midweek and lose after playing so poorly is soul destroying.

All in all, September was not a good month. The only consolation is that despite losing twice, Maidenhead were still in a promotion place by the end of the month. Before the start of the season, Alan said he would be very happy with finishing in the top eight. You have to remember, since we got promoted we haven't managed to finish in the top half in six attempts, so if Alan can get us a top eight place then mission accomplished.

## OBER · OCTOBER · OCTOBER · OCTOBER

Uxbridge, Wembley and Chertsey are all beaten at York Road....an easy win at Molesey....Lucky Leatherhead...the defence of the Full Members Cup begins with a win at Bromley.....

October probably stands out as the finest month Alan has had in the Maidenhead hot seat. Despite a defeat at Cambridge City in the Trophy, the Magpies were on tip top form in the league, beating Uxbridge, Wembley, Chertsey, and Molesey, and somehow leaving Leatherhead without a point despite outclassing them throughout the game. The boys are also refusing to let go of the Full Members Cup, as Bromley were disposed of in extra time 3-2.

Following the three dodgy performances that ended September, the Magpies made a shaky start against perennial also rans Uxbridge. Being a goal down at half time probably did the team the world of good, as they came out fighting and won the match 2-1. This performance and result kick started our season once again, as three days later Wembley were trounced 4-0 at York Road. Then Leatherhead was the next port of call.

Leatherhead were another side at the top. A six pointer, if such things can exist in October. The driving rain and poor pitch was always going to make the game a bit of a lottery, but the Magpies outplayed Leatherhead throughout the first half, and it will remain a mystery forever how we failed to lead at the interval. In the second half, disaster struck. Immediately after Garry Atrell had missed a penalty, a dreadful mistake by Kevin Brown left a Leatherhead striker bearing down on Trevor Roffey to make it 1-0. Not wasting any time, Huggy equalised minutes later, and then shot after shot after shot bombarded the Leatherhead goal. It was only inevitable then that Leatherhead should score

the winner late in the second half. Maidenhead fans left dumbstruck, shocked that such a good performance could not reap rewards. Lady luck was certainly not with us today - she was pissing all over us from above. At least the

Magpies rebounded with another great performance beating Chertsey 4-1.

Chertsey were another side in the hunt at the top, but not for long fellows. You were crap.

In stark contrast to previous performances, the Magpies were easily beaten at Cambridge in the Trophy. Cambridge was a new ground to Maidenhead fans, and quite a few of us made the trip, but the team could just not deliver the goods. Three Cup matches played, three cup matches lost. Now it really is time to concentrate on the league, which the team certainly did with a stroll in the park at Molesey which resulted in a very easy 3-0 win.

Our bid to retain the Full Members Cup started in superb fashion, as

the team played outstanding yet again to beat Bromley 3-2 in extra time, with Andy Eaton getting two, and Tyrone scoring a well deserved equaliser late into the match. Apologies to Andy - after levelling the scores at 1 apiece, he turned to the sizeable Maidenhead contingent who ran down the enormous terracing at Bromley to congratulate him. Andy was soon engulfed by adoring fans, and was lucky to escape unhurt. When he got the winner, he didn't come so close. It's amazing how quickly these youngsters learn....



Huggy's goal at Leatherhead was not enough to save the Magpies from defeat



## MBER - NOVEMBER - NOVEMBER - NOVEMBER

promotion setback as Aldershot win at York Road.....points dropped again as Leyton Pennant hold Magpies.....biggest league win for 2 and a half years as Croydon are hit for six.....business as usual at Barton....

On paper at least, November seemed to provide not too many problems for the Magpies. But alas, football is never played on paper, and the reality of it was very different. The only semi tricky match seemed to be the visit of Aldershot. Aldershot are always going to be a tough team to beat, and as the last three meetings at York Road had all ended square, another tough encounter awaited. With both teams high flying near the top of the league, 3 points were essential to maintain an advantage over the other teams at the top. However, Aldershot, under new manager George Borg, looked like the team that wanted it more. Maidenhead were outclassed in every department, and it wasn't until late in the match when I think we really stepped out of first gear. But when you are 2-0 by half time to a stubborn

Aldershot side, you have little chance of clawing your way back in. In balance, the Magpies created the better chances in the second half, but unfortunately, it was a case of too little too late.

The next three matches, a 0-0 draw with a determined Leyton Pennant side, a 6-1 mauling of Croydon, and defeat by the only goal of the game at Barton proved that Maidenhead still haven't managed to shake off the 'Jeckyl and Hyde' tag which has dogged us in the past. In all fairness, the Leyton match saw some good football from both sides, but stern



*Player of the season certainty Tim Cook has been in superb form so far*

defending from Leyton stopped Maidenhead from scoring, rather than our own ineffectiveness in front of goal. Any doubt to our strikeforce was quickly removed in the Croydon game. Despite some sloppy defending, the Croydon goalkeeper pulled off a string of fine saves, but even he couldn't stop the Magpies taking a 5-0 lead at the break. The second half was an anti climax, but the damage had been done. The opening 45 minutes of this match was the best I have seen under Devonshire. Maidenhead really looked a class above.

In time honoured tradition, the performance after the wonderful display against Croydon rates as one of the worst witnessed all season. Even after that fine 6-1 win, and considering Barton had lost 6-1 at Romford on the same day, most Magpies

fans have come to expect a defeat at Barton. However, to play dreadful three season running at Sharpshoe Road is getting tiresome, and once in a while a little effort on their feeble excuse for a football pitch wouldn't go amiss. Torrential rain late in the second half seemed to spur Maidenhead into action, but the equaliser never really looked like coming, and for the third season in a row, we left that dump at Sharpshoe Road without a point.

## "SARGE"

One of the disadvantages of following Maidenhead United is the absence of cameras at the games. There is never an opportunity to relive great goals or settle arguments about dodgy refereeing decisions. Sadly United's abysmal FA Cup form means that the BBC's cameras are unlikely to be setting up at a Magpies match in the near future. However what if you could have chosen any game for Motson, Lynam and Hansen to cover over the past few years, what goals would you have liked to be kept on film for posterity. Immediately incidents from last year's cup run or the promotion season spring to mind. What about the unforgettable Berks & Bucks Semi-Final draw against Aylesbury or the first match at Aldershot? I'm sure everyone has their personal favourites.

However perhaps there is one unlikely source to whom we should look to, the recently departed Kevin Brown. Signed by John Watt, Sarge wasn't exactly heralded as a solution to all Maidenhead's problem or even a vital addition to the squad. In fact the first description I heard was "nice guy shame he's not very good". Yet gradually Kevin became a regular fixture on the team sheet settling into a conventional left back role before moving into centre defence when Alan brought his wing back system with him.

During his career Kevin scored just three goals, each of them coming in a Maidenhead victory, the first two worthy of a place in any all time top ten goal chart. The first was the most important. The scene was a pre Christmas league match at York Road against Ruislip Manor. United had a comfortable 3-1 lead but let it slip in the second half. With the scores level and seconds left on the clock Maidenhead pressed for a winner. A ball was fired deep into the Ruislip half and met the head of Kevin Brown just outside the penalty area. The impact took none of the pace off the ball which flew 20 yards into the back of net. Soon after the restart the ref blew for time, Maidenhead had won by the odd goal in seven, a muddy smudge on the top of a grinning Kevin Brown's head telling the tale of the winning goal.

Kevin's second goal came almost a year later, the final goal in a 5-2 demolition away at Thame. Now some uncharitable spectators had put Kevin's first strike down more to luck than judgement, his second although less important was definitely all his own work. Picking the ball up deep inside his own half, Sarge brought it forward opposing players parting like the red sea in the face of a determined run, then some thirty yards out Kevin let fly and amazed all present as the ball flew past a stunned keeper into the back of the net.

So whatever the circumstances surrounding Kevin's departure from York Road, he will always be remembered for these two moments of his Maidenhead career both of which would have been well worth preserving on tape for years to come. Thanks for the memories Sarge.

Maidenhead career: 150 full appearances, 30 as sub, 3 goals.



## EMBER - DECEMBER - DECEMBER - DECE

defeat at Bognor.....revenge is sweet as Magpies win at Aldershot.... easy path through in Berks and Bucks... Whyteleafe demolished at York Road... defence of Full Members Cup continues with a win at Hampton....

Once in a while, every football fan at any Club, will witness a batch of matches which make them realise that their Club can compete with the best the world can offer. For Magpies fans, that occurred in December. Despite an early setback at Bognor, the month proved what a great side Maidenhead can actually be.

At Bognor, Maidenhead defended superbly for the entirety of the first half, and stunned the majority of the large crowd into silence as Tyrone Houston grabbed the opening goal of the game just before half time. However, 5 minutes into the second half, the Magpies found themselves 2-1 down, due to two opportunist goals from Bognor. Then Maidenhead, in stark contrast to their first half performance, bombarded the Bognor goalmouth with some superb attacking football, and we were genuinely unlucky to lose out in the end. More positive vibes than negative came from this match, which were carried through to the next match, a 4-0 hammering of Kintbury Rangers in the County Cup.

With 2 good performances under our belt, we travelled to Hampshire to face the might of Aldershot. When Aldershot had won at York Road a few weeks earlier, they looked far and away the better side. This was a serious case of roles reversed, as the Magpies dominated the match, and a goal five minutes before the end of each half secured a valuable, and extremely morale boosting win in front of over 2,200 people.

Now the freight train that is Maidenhead United Football Club was seriously

gaining momentum. Whyteleafe came to York Road and were brushed aside with consummate ease 5-0, but then came perhaps the trickiest test yet: a trip to (then) Division One leaders Hampton in the Full Members Cup.

On a pitch that was barely playable, the Magpies played some of the finest football I have witnessed in my 12 years following the Club. Every man played his part, and a brace in each half saw the Magpies cruise to a fine 4-0 win. To go to the divisional leaders and play well would have been a bonus, but to go there and look a different class is something else. We were due to face Hampton in our next match, but as soon as the fourth goal went in, you knew that we would be left with a blank Saturday. Hampton made no effort to make the pitch playable, and for the first time in a long, long while, teams were becoming genuinely afraid of playing us. We were unstoppable.

As with all good things, the fantastic run had to end. A lengthy lay off caused by postponements and lack of fixtures meant that the freight train would inevitably lose momentum. What a shame, because the way we were playing meant that this locomotive's terminus was the Premier Division, without a doubt.



*Gary Attrell's booking at Aldershot handed him a 2 match suspension*

## ARY - JANUARY - JANUARY - JANUARY - JAN

a shaky Magpies are held 0-0 at Thame in the first match for almost 4 weeks.....Romford win at York Road.....Connor sent off as Wokingham earn a draw in Berks and Bucks....Merchant still a wanker at Grays.....

Aaaarrggghhh!!!! What the HELL happened? After performing like serious contenders for the Championship in December, the Magpies played like mere pretenders to the throne in January.

A lengthy lay off due to postponements and lack of fixtures (one of which was a postponed game against Berkhamsted because they were still in the FA Trophy - how?) saw the Magpies face Thame away in their first match for nearly 4 weeks. The lack of match fitness certainly showed, as did not having the suspended Gary Attrell, and Maidenhead failed to take any of their chances and dropped 2 points in a goalless draw. One point to note was that the Magpies took almost 100 fans to Thame. Just goes to show that the support really is out there.

The visit of fellow promotion contenders Romford was always going to be a tough test, and when Chuck opened the scoring after 5 minutes, we thought that Thame was just a one off. How wrong we were, as some atrocious defending enabled Romford to score 3 opportunist goals, and take all three points. This was a serious blow to our promotion chances, but perhaps the biggest disappointment was that our old friend Paul Evans had left Romford. Oh well, can't have everything.

Wokingham - a club in severe trouble both on and off the pitch, surely

would have enabled the Magpies to regain their pre Christmas form. A fine strike from Huggy opened the scoring, but Wokingham equalised shortly before half time and heaven knows how they held on for the rest

of the game and extra time without conceding. A much better performance, but not quite enough. Brian Connor was unfairly sent off, and a couple of clear penalties weren't given, so it's nice to see that Berks and Bucks referees are still at their piss poor standard ....which brings me nicely on to the match at Grays, where our old friend Mr Merchant was the man in the middle.

He hasn't changed: he was consistently bad towards both teams throughout the match, and although we lost 1-0, the performance was promising, but luck was just not on our side. The game showed that the

Magpies are 2 or 3 players short of a great team, and with Brian Connor's suspension creeping up, Alan is going to have to start making those phonecalls and getting the chequebook out sooner rather than later.

So we achieved the grand total of one league point in January. Not really good enough is it? I sincerely hope that this was just a temporary hitch in proceedings, as I don't really want 5 months of quality football to go unrewarded come May.



*Our promotion chances are boosted with the news that Brian Connor will get a 3 match suspension*



YES, IT'S BACK ! THE BORN & BRED FREE GIFT !

## PROGRAMME PRATTLE DECODER

We've all been there. You've paid your quid for the 'official match-day programme' (I ask you, have you seen a bloody 'unofficial' one?) Anyway, you're reading the sanitised dross they have to put out so as to not offend anyone, wondering what those phrases like 'A great competitor' really mean only to find out after your star player has been carried off that it should REALLY say 'A right dirty bastard.'

Well, now you can stay one step ahead of the game with this handy, easy to use decoding list which not only shows the typical phrases you're likely to find in each club's official organ (oo-er missus!) but also their true meaning.

### POSITION:-

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 'Keeper'           | Usually the oldest player in the team - i.e. he has 'kept' or lasted longer than the rest. No? Oh well, please yourselves !   |
| 'Sweeper'          | In Britain, player who spends his time trying to clear up mess caused by rest of defence. <i>Alternative positional name</i> 'All over the bloody place'. On continent, an elegant player who orchestrates every move his team makes.                     |
| 'Libero'           | As above, except as described by a complete tosser.   |
| 'Ball winner'      | Spends entire game sat on his arse  |
| 'Man-marker'       | Marks other men - usually for life  |
| 'Play-maker'       | Play actor/fuss-maker   |
| 'Midfield general' | Player with Napoleon complex  |
| 'Target Man'       | Scapegoat for team's lack of goals  |
| 'Goal poacher'     | Lazy goal hanger  |
| 'Inside-out'       | Defender trying to mark Garry Attrell   |
| 'Upside-down'      | Cheating striker trying to get a penalty  |
| 'Subs'             | 1 - Good player, but no fitness whatsoever<br>2 - Manager's/Main Benefactor's son<br>3 - Someone on way back from injury<br>4 - Gives the gaffer a lift every week.<br>5 - Someone entirely crap to bring on 5 minutes before time when you're 4 up, just |

to completely patronise the opposition

### PLAYER PROFILE:-

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 'Utility Player'                              | Equally crap in every position   |
| 'An intelligent player'                       | Once seen holding a broadsheet newspaper   |
| 'Good in the air'                             | Crap on the ground   |
| 'Likes a tackle'                              | Expect tricky winger not to see out entire game  |
| 'Club stalwart'                               | No other bugger wanted him   |
| 'Veteran'                                     | Old codger   |
| 'Committed'                                   | Likely to get booked today   |
| 'Has got a good engine'                       | Liabile to run around like a headless chicken for 90 minutes   |
| 'Fans favourite'                              | 1 - Scored winning goal against hated local rivals last time out<br>2 - Takes his turn getting the beers in<br>Always after a pay rise<br>Frequent visitor to S&M clubs<br>Thick as shit |
| 'Never stops trying'                          |  |
| 'Goes in where it hurts'                      |  |
| 'Doesn't know the meaning of the word defeat' |  |

### HE'S RULED OUT TODAY BECAUSE OF:-

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 'Groin strain'                  | Shagged himself stupid during the week   |
| 'Severe groin strain'           | And the wife found out about it  |
| 'Stomach pains'                 | In fact, she stabbed him   |
| 'Shoulder injury'               | From lifting too many pint glasses   |
| 'Mystery Virus'                 | Drug overdose  |
| 'Picked up a knock in training' | The centre-half lamped him at training   |
| 'Calf problems'                 | Had a cow of a game last week  |
| 'Pulled hamstring'              | Saturday's cup opponents are watching today's game and we don't want to give too much away |
| 'Achilles strain'               | Actually a twisted ankle, but that sounds too poofy  |

Heavily plagiarised from Kevin Baldwin's *This Supporting Life* with extra work by MM



HAMMERS HERO  
**DEVO**  
**CREAM**  
**AT THE**  
**TOP!**  
 Upton Park memories and life with Maidenhead United

**ALAN DEVONSHIRE still remembers the crunch — the sickening injury that effectively ended his playing career.**

It happened at seven minutes past three on January 7, 1984 when West Ham United were playing Wigan in a Third Round FA Cup tie. A typical weaving run for which he was renowned was ended by a reckless, late challenge from a Wigan defender. Dev went one way, his knee went the other and he was out of action for 19 months.

The crude



**Good times - Alvin Martin receives the P-O-Y trophy from Trevor Brooking with runners-up Phil Parkes and Alan Devonshire.**

tackle shattered everything inside his knee, which had to be completely rebuilt and put back together. Dev did fight his way back and stayed with the Hammers until 1990 — but was never the same player that had established himself as one of the game's most exciting and skilful midfield players. The injury ended any hope of Dev adding to the eight England caps won between 1980 and 83.

It just goes to show you never know

what lies ahead in football. That's why I tell the lads in the game today to make the most of what they have, because it can all come to an abrupt end," he says.

Alan has to rate as one of the greatest bargains of all time after joining West Ham from non-League Southall for just £5,000 in 1976.

Among his most treasured memories of his Upton Park career was helping West Ham to an FA Cup triumph over Arsenal in 1980, the League Cup Final and promotion from the old Second Division a year later.

Against Arsenal Dev made the winning goal for Trevor Brooking — one his rare headers — following a

mazy run down the flank and inch-perfect cross that had the Arsenal defence in a tangle. Does he rate that as his best-ever performance for the Hammers?

"No, in my view, the best game I played for West Ham was in the FA Cup semi-final replay that took us to Wembley that year. That game against Everton was as near perfection as I ever got. Everything went right for me that night at Elland Road. We won 2-1 and I scored the first goal and made the second for Frank Lampard."

After his long absence following that injury against Wigan, Dev fought his way back and was a prominent figure in the West Ham team that finished a best-ever third in the First Division in 1986. Sadly he suffered another injury when he snapped an Achilles



**FACT FILE**

**BORN:** April 13, 1956 in Park Royal, South London  
**HAMMERS CAREER:** Between 1976-90 358 League appearances, 29 goals  
 88 Cup appearances, 3 goals



**Club Call**  
**0891 12 11 65**  
0891 calls charged at 50p per minute at all times

**- ALAN DEVONSHIRE -**

**IN THE 18 OR SO MONTHS THAT ALAN HAS BEEN AT YORK ROAD, WE HAVE NEVER PRODUCED AN ARTICLE REGARDING HIS GLITTERING PLAYING CAREER. AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, WEST HAM PRINTED ONE IN THEIR PROGRAMME FOR THE GAME AGAINST ASTON VILLA A FEW WEEKS BACK AND SAVED US THE BOTHER OF DOING ANY RESEARCH. THANKS TO TREVOR KINGHAM FOR PROVIDING THIS ARTICLE.**

tendon just 15 minutes into the 1987-88 season and didn't return until a year later. Alan stayed with West Ham until 1990 when he joined Watford before ending his career two years later.

At his peak with the Hammers, Dev was in demand and several inquirers from other clubs were "hushed up" by manager John Lyall. "I never knew until a few years after I had left Upton Park that John told me about the other clubs eager to sign me. He said nothing to me at the time, not that it would have made any difference. There's no way I ever wanted to leave West Ham."

His loyalty to West Ham probably cost Dev dear. Does he resent all the money that's being paid to players these days? "Good luck to the players who are getting it. I wish I was still around to get some of it myself. Seriously, the transfer fees being paid and the dough some people are earning is crazy. But it can't last because it is running out of control

and it's only a matter of time before the gravy train comes off the rails." After ending his playing days, Dev earned a living with the odd

**DEV'S FAVOURITES**

Who does Dev rate as the best Hammers he ever played with?  
 "That's easy — Billy Bonds and Trevor Brooking. Bonzo's fitness and attitude are legendary and I'll always remember the help he gave to me when I first got into the side.  
 "Trevor was a different player altogether. He was great mates with Bonzo, who acted as his minder. The amazing thing about him was that opponents knew exactly what he was going to do, yet were powerless to do anything about it.  
 "They were great days at Upton Park, with a fantastic bunch of players and I'm so grateful to have had the privilege of being part of them."

coaching job here and there. Now he is making his mark as manager of ICIS League club Maidenhead United. He led them to their first trophy in 27 years last season, beating the likes of Sutton United and Yeovil to win the ICIS League Cup. But does he yearn for the big time?

"No, I'm happy doing what I'm

doing at the moment. I'm the part-time manager working three days a week with an honest bunch of lads at Maidenhead and they're all eager to learn. I also coach kids of all ages in Osterley in Middlesex and the Hampton Ladies — we're top of the Great Western Premier League at the moment!" Maidenhead have a reputation for being one of the fittest teams in the League. Has Alan any special techniques, or coaching secrets?

"I wouldn't say secrets," he laughs. "I do a lot of ball work because I believe that's the way the game should be played. You play with a ball, so you should train with a ball. I work on sharpness and try to improve player's touch. We're one of the fittest teams in the League and I doubt we run more than 200 yards a week during training without a ball."

"Finally, I'd like to be among the first to wish all the West Ham fans a very Happy Christmas and successful 1998."

**www.westhamunited.co.uk**





# **BRIAN BELLSTEND**

**MAIDENHEAD'S GRITTIEST,  
BULLSHITTIEST COLUMNIST:  
ONLY IN YOUR 50p BORN AND  
BRED**



WHEN is Alan Devonshire going to realise that this club is going nowhere so long as he insists on playing a strikeforce consisting of youngsters such as Andy Eaton and Chuck Agudosi? These players have no interest in playing for Maidenhead United: they are only interested in the huge pay packets they pick up at the end of the week. This club must have experienced strikers to progress and move into the next millennium. Only recently we had exactly what we needed in Colin Tate and Paul McKinnon - two vastly experienced strikers who were at York Road for their love of the game and their love of Maidenhead United. They weren't interested in the money, and were probably playing for free anyway. Scavengers such as Eaton and Agudosi are a strain on this Club's resources. Devonshire should wake up and sack these two - and with any luck Tate and McKinnon may still be interested in playing for the Club they so much loved.

AFTER A DISASTROUS start to the season, things are simply getting worse and worse. When the best players were turning out for the Magpies in the 50's - for a light ale and a pork pie I hasten to add - not a season went by without a major trophy being secured. What has Alan done since he became manager? Nothing. He has won a trophy by fluky wins over poor opposition, and taken the club to their

highest League position for 15 years. This simply isn't good enough. Alan has had more than enough time to get this once proud Club into the Premier Division, and to win the FA Cup, and he has failed. It's high time the Club realised what a waste of time this man is and give him his marching orders. In my day he wouldn't have lasted five minutes. With managers like him running the side, they are going nowhere.

WEST HAM bought a full strength squad to York Road for a pre season match, as I'm sure you know. When oh when will the Club wake up and realise that playing such pointless games is a waste of everybody's time? What benefits can playing a Premiership side in front of a 3,000 possibly bring for a Club like Maidenhead? Are our players going to learn anything? Of course not. I sincerely hope this pointless venture is never repeated at Maidenhead. The Club must prepare for the forthcoming season by playing local sides. Playing West Ham is just a waste of everybody's time. Ask around. The popular opinion around is that the people of this once great town would rather see Chalfont St Peter than West Ham pre-season. So cancel this event in future. It's about time the Club listened to popular opinion, and arrange friendlies against the teams that really matter.

**Brian Bellstend has been a 'dedicated' Magpies follower since 'the good old days', and therefore his opinions hold the most value.**

## A 1950'S INTERVIEW WITH....

**ALF CLOGGER**

PREVIOUS CLUBS: *The Eighth Army*  
AMBITION IN LIFE: *To meet Arthur Askey*  
AMBITION IN FOOTBALL: *To win the FA Amateur Cup*  
MEMORABLE MATCH: *Montgomery v Rommel, El Alamein, 1942*  
BEST GROUND: *Sandy Lane, Tooting and Mitcham*  
WORST GROUND: *Loakes Park, Wycombe Wanderers*  
BEST GOAL: *The one where I broke the goalie's neck and shoulder charging him into the net*  
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT IN FOOTBALL: *Being spoken to by the ref after breaking an opponents leg*  
TEAM SUPPORTED AS A BOY: *"The" Arsenal*  
BOYHOOD HERO: *Charles "Charlie" Charles*  
CURRENT FOOTBALLER MOST ADMIRED: *Wing Wizard Stanley Matthews*  
BEST MANAGER: *Mr Sadist, my PE teacher who taught me everything I know about using physical violence in the name of sport*  
HOBBIES: *Watching "television" and smoking*  
FAVOURITE MUSIC: *The Beverley Sisters* DRINK: *Brown Ale*  
FOOD: *Spam and lard* ACTOR: *Norman Wisdom* ACTRESS: *Diana Dors*  
TV SHOW: *The Coronation* HOLIDAY: *Week in Blackpool*

### FAN PROFILE: Arthur Brain

Most of you will know Arthur Brain - he's the nerd on the terrace with a decibel level of 28 and an IQ to match. He was interviewed by a freelance Born and Bred reporter in the palatial surroundings of the Aldershot bar, after our extremely satisfying win there in December...

Favourite Colour: Black....no white.....no it's black

Favourite TV programme: Match of the Day

Favourite Film: 35mm

Favourite Bird: Magpie

No dummy, Favourite Bird: Oh! Sam Fox

Favourite Football League team: Football League?....No, it doesn't ring a bell

Most Memorable Match: You know that one where we won 3-0, or was it 3-1? Anyway, it was at home I think, last season, or was it.....

Record Attendance: 3 consecutive matches in 1994

Claim to Fame: Dedication on Star FM

Who would you most like to be stuck in a lift with? A lift engineer

In the Sixties, did you prefer the Beatles or Elvis? I am Elvis

Occupation: Works down the chip shop

Ambition: To have my picture in Born and Bred

*A photo of Arthur Brain can be seen on page 84*



## NORFOLK'N CHANCE

For those of you who bother to read our club history page in the programme when we travel away you may have read the bit about how the 'United' part of our title came to be. Basically, Maidenhead FC merged with Maidenhead Norfolkians in 1919 to become the current club, Maidenhead United.

Presumably to stop the 'Norfolkian' part of the name from disappearing from sight completely a knockout competition has been run since, which has continued to this very day. The club lend their full support to this competition, as it should, and although it is essentially a local footballing community based competition with a large portion of the entrants coming from Saturday parks football sides, the Magpies enter a side which has traditionally been based around our reserves.

Apparently, such was our dismal record in the Norfolkian Senior Cup in recent years that we have now been entered into the Intermediate competition, featuring such illustrious sides as Phoenix Old Boys Reserves (not even their first team!) So, as you can see, not exactly the sort of competition that brings with it a potential European place!

However, to be fair, the club was actually having some kind of cup run in this competition as a result of playing in the more 'junior' competition and the entrance of a side at least demonstrated the clubs continued commitment to it.

Which makes it all the more galling that, having recently beaten the mighty Windsor Cricket Club !?! 3-0 in the last round, the game now has to be replayed due to us having fielded an ineligible player. Hang on a second. This is, after all, the competition that WE effectively run (albeit via the separate entity that is the Norfolkian Cup Committee, who hold all their meetings in our boardroom!) and that also Maidenhead players who have played in the following competition's are automatically ineligible for anyway:-

- 1 - The FA Cup.
- 2 - The FA Trophy.
- 3 - The Berks & Bucks Cup.

Quite honestly, that really only leaves the youth team and anyone else who hasn't been in the frame recently, and whilst I wouldn't expect the club to bend the rules to give us an unfair advantage I find it ludicrous that we actually stack the odds so heavily against ourselves. After all, we have to play all our home ties at York Road and we even host the final every year! I am sure the groundsman wouldn't be sorry to see the back of these extra Mickey Mouse Cup games. We would have been better off getting thrown out if we did indeed field an 'ineligible' player. In fact, sod it. Let's just go the whole hog and

introduce a few further restrictions that only apply to us. The following should also be excluded:-

- 4 - Anyone over the age of 15 and under the age of 50.
- 5 - Anyone who was born outside the chimes of the station approach clock.
- 6 - Anyone who's favourite colour is auburn.
- 7 - Anyone who has ever owned a Betamax video recorder.
- 8 - Anyone who has never driven a Citroen 2CV.
- 9 - Anyone who has never played the Himalayan noseflute.
- 10 - Anyone who has ever owned a pair of chocolate-brown pants with cream piping.
- 11 - Anyone whose name is not Gerald.
- 12 - Anyone who has ever played football.

This would at least force the issue.

It could ONLY happen at Maidenhead United !

PS - The name of the chairman of the Norfolkian Committee, who presumably was involved in this whole debacle? Why, it's our very own fixtures secretary Ken Balchin. Yes, he of 7.30 kick off away at Worthing on a Tuesday night fame!

## THAT MAN TALKS BOLLOCKS N<sup>o</sup>(... who cares?) - Jon Swan

Well, I realise this is hardly red-hot news, but I rediscovered (and couldn't resist) the following load of cobblers from 1990, undiminished by the passing years:

That November, we were the last senior club in England with a 100% league record. The Times ran a short feature on us, including an interview with Jon Swan, which he reproduced in the programme. What words of wisdom did he impart to the esteemed daily? I quote: "We've missed out on promotion in the League for the past 10 years because we've had some pretty good cup runs. We'd swap an FA Vase final appearance for a league championship any day."

Hang on a minute, Jon: which FA Vase final appearance would that be? Maidenhead held back by cup success?! For the record, in all our history, we have played in 3 FA Vase campaigns and **never reached the 1st round proper!** Well... what about the other cups we contested in the 10 years before 1990-1991?

- FA Cup: Out in 1st round played: 5 times. Best: 3rd QR (twice).
- FA Trophy (8 seasons): Out in 1st round played: 4 times. Best: 3rd QR.
- League Cup: Out in 1st round played: 5 times. Out in 2nd round played: 4 times. Best: 4th Round.
- Berks & Bucks: Out in 1st round played: 6 times. Best: Semi-Final.

As I suspected - not much there to keep us from concentrating on the league... After all those years, you must have thought you had got away with it, but now it's official: Jon Swan, YOU TALK BOLLOCKS!



## The Class of 97 One Year On...

Although it is barely nine months since Trevor Roffey became the first Maidenhead United captain for 27 years to lift some silverware a number of the squad who heroically stuffed the Aylesbury Ducks 3-0 have already departed. Here is an update on the exploits of the 14 black and white heroes:

### 1 Trevor Roffey

Super Trev has maintained his almost unshakeable grip on the Maidenhead Number One shirt this season reaching the 200 appearance landmark on the way. Playing his part in the Division's best defence and looks odds on to collect the first ever Chairman's brandy award for clean sheets.

### 2 Tyrone Houston

Tyrone is enjoying the best season of his Magpies career in his right wing back role. Has surprised everyone by scoring seven goals already this season, and is in line for a double brandy award.

### 3 Obi Ulasi

After an excellent start to his York Road career last term, Obi was somewhat subdued in his wing back role early on this season as he struggled against injury. However has begun to come good again of late.

### 4 Kevin Brown

After being left out of the team in November, Kevin decided against fighting for his place and stepped down a level to play for Windsor. Is rumoured to be the Royalist's new midfield playmaker, which says a lot about Division Two football.

### 5 Brian Connor

Brian is fast becoming Maidenhead's Mr. Consistency. Week in week out, Brian runs his socks off at the back and fails to score a goal. Surely the best thing to leave Marlow since the Wethered brewery closed down.

### 6 Mark Harrison

Fast becoming the new Frank Sinatra, i.e. he is a classy performer with a great career behind him who keeps coming out of retirement. Left York Road in December for the none too quiet life of Molesey's defence. The most distressed person on his departure was Peter Attrell.

### 7 Tony Gale

Maidenhead's answer to Gary Lineker semi retired in January to concentrate on his burgeoning career as a media pundit and book his ticket to France. So looks like he will be missing the delightful away trips to Grays and Croydon in favour of Paris in the summer. Oh well it takes all sorts. Still available for the odd game.

### 8 Steve Brown

Huggy has continued to hustle opposing midfielders and press for the title as Alan Devonshire's best signing.

### 9 Francis Duku

Stepped up in the summer to Southern Premier Leaguers Crawley. After failing to make an impact he became the second ex Magpie to line up for Romford this term.

### 10 Mickey Creighton

The man who scored the all important first goal back in May, spent the summer getting his hernia problem sorted out and after regaining full fitness is currently the Magpies' top scorer.

### 11 Garry Attrell

As I write Garry is sitting out the first suspension of his career, it is only for two games but this will cover at least 34 days. After gaining revenge on Aylesbury last season Garry must now be gunning for the football boot industry who have still failed to come up with a pair whose laces don't come undone regularly.

### 12 Ben Abbey

After a good start to the season Ben joined the mini exodus to Crawley. He seems to be making a fair go of it at this level. He has already starred on the front cover of the Crawley fanzine Much Ado about Nothing.

### 14 Andy Eaton

The young striker has remained on the fringe of the first team, waiting patiently for an extended run in the starting line up. Played a blinder in the best Magpies' display of the season so far at Bromley.

### 15 Steve Nott-Macaire

Will Maldini make the grade? Has continued to hold a regular place on the bench



# THE ISTHMIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Headquarters: LONDON HILTON ON PARK LANE  
LONDON W1A 2HH

## Fax Cover Sheet

DATE: November 13th, 1998 TIME: 13:34

TO: Martin Gregory  
Ryman Limited

FROM: Alan Turvey  
Isthmian Football League

RE: Sponsorship Of The  
Isthmian Football League

Number of Pages Including Cover Sheet: 1

### Message:

Martin,

Our Cayman Islands Holding Company have informed us that your cheque has cleared, and we can now 'dot the "I"s' and cross the "T"s' and your company can now commence their sponsorship of the Isthmian League.

There are however, a few minor points that need to be cleared up:

First: we want red pens in our offices, and some of those rubbers that are half blue - and half white. If you cant supply those, then some of those rubbers that smell like strawberry.

Second: As we use a lot of pencils, we want some of those pencil cases shaped like a space rocket, and some of those pencil sharpeners that look like mini Coke cans. Oh, and some of those pencil tops that look like characters from the Mr Men.

Third: As our previous sponsors leis provided footballs and kits to all of our member clubs, we must come to some compromise. I suggest that you provide a big rubber band ball to every clubs, and some kit like the uniform the staff in your shops wear.

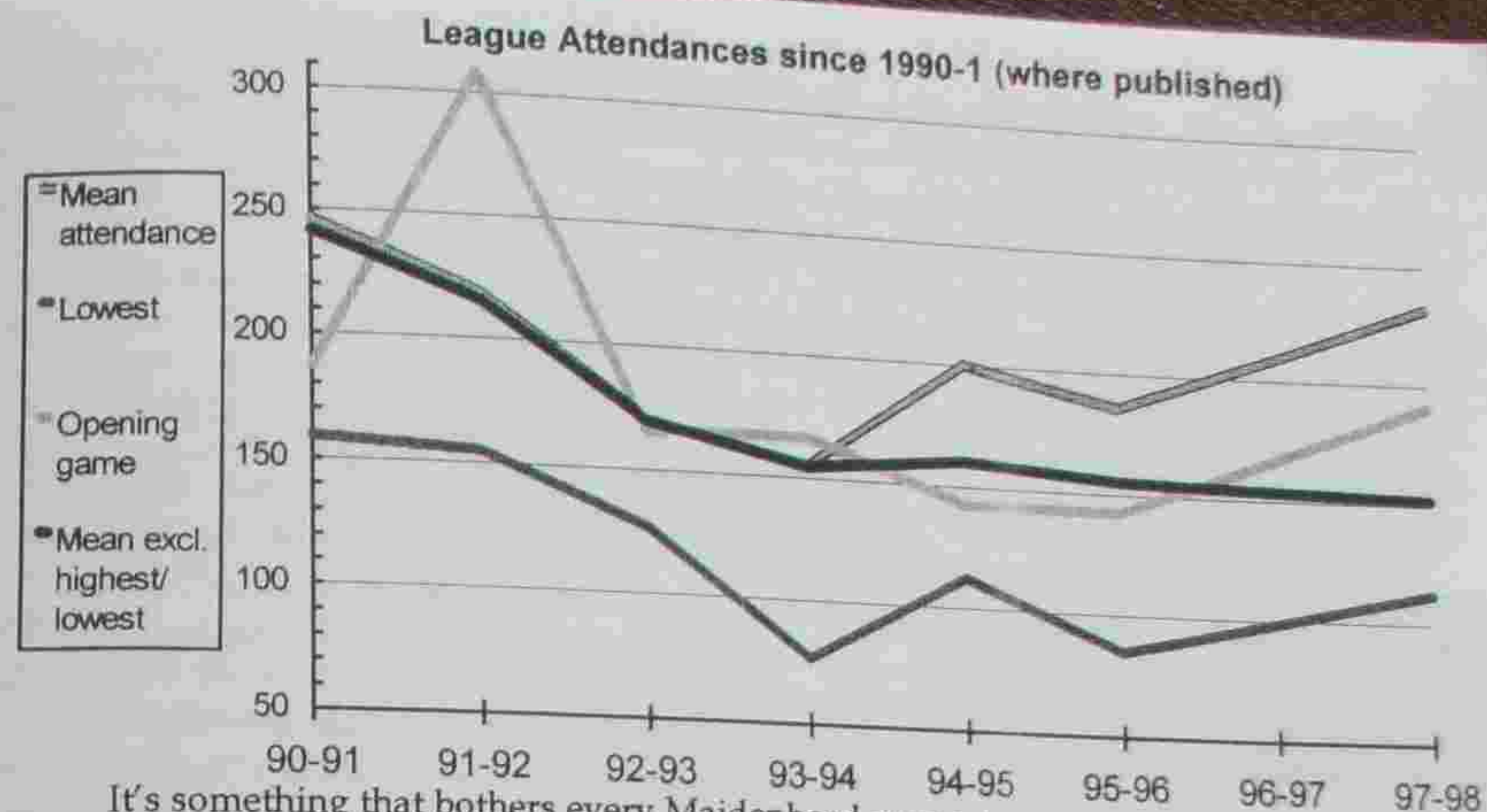
Fourth: A 10% off voucher for the top goalscorer in each division should be awarded, to provide an incentive for attacking play.

I think that is everything, and I hope you enjoy sponsoring our league.

Yours,

*Alan Turvey*

*working late one night, one of the staff of Born and Bred managed to press the right buttons on the fax machine and intercepted this message which sheds some new light on the sponsorship deal between the Isthmian League and Ryman...*



It's something that bothers every Maidenhead supporter:

### WHERE IS EVERYBODY?

A few weeks ago, the Maidenhead Advertiser's "Trifler" remarked on the subject of our pitiful attendances, as the fans have been doing for some time. Can nothing be done to get the public of Maidenhead interested in their football club?

The story so far, since 1990-1991, as illustrated on the chart above:

- One fact that stands out very clearly is that we have never since come close to the mean attendance of 246 reached in Division 2 (South) in our promotion year.
- The opening attendance of the season is a good indication of the optimism of the townsfolk. After an encouraging season in 1989-1990 (5th place), a crowd of 187 saw the opening game of 1990-1991. Following promotion, there were 309 at the first home game, eager for more success. Season after season of mediocrity saw that drop away to less than 150 by 1995-1996. No figures were published for 1996-1997, which tells its own story. But we won THAT CUP - surely that would bring the masses flocking through the turnstiles the next season. The first game attracted a slightly disappointing 191 fans, still 34% up on the last recorded opening game.
- The lowest gate of the season is a good indication of the club's hardcore following; this too makes for depressing reading. In the first 2 seasons under consideration, there were one or two exceptionally low attendances of barely 150. More recently, we have on occasion played to league gates of less than 100.
- At first glance, the mean attendance appears to have improved in recent seasons; but exclude the highest (the "Aldershot factor") and lowest from the calculation and the situation becomes clear. Gates have levelled off at around a dismal 150. This season, despite that cup win and our good performance so far in the league, is the lowest yet, at just 152.

What will it take to turn things around? We have flattered to deceive in the past, so now even being among the front-runners doesn't get the public interested. And though we are proud to have won it, what does the Isthmian Full Members' Cup really count for in the grand scheme of things? We really need to make people aware of the standard of football we play and demonstrate the standing of the club; and for that, nothing less than a real run in the FA Cup will do.

LOGIC

A more encouraging statistic: Woking v Magpies in the FA Trophy in 1985-86: Attendance 146. Woking's average crowds since FA Cup fame: nearly 3000...



## ASK A POLICEMEN

"Old MacDonald had a farm E-I-E-I-O,  
And on that farm he had some pigs E-I-E-I-O,  
With a nick nick here and a nick nick there,  
Here a nick there a nick everywhere a nick nick,  
Old MacDonald had a farm E-I-E-I-O."

Football Supporters 80s Britain

Oh yes, the recent football past is a foreign country, they did things very differently there. Although surely a similar ditty will soon be forthcoming in homage to our increasingly zealous stewards, for the few of us who stood on those crumbling 80s terraces things were a lot simpler. Not only were we frequently enraged so as to abuse the bastard in the black on the pitch, but we were also often to be seen spouting bile at the bastards in black who surrounded us and routinely penetrated our ranks to whisk off another unfortunate for the grave crimes of swearing, gestures (such as waving to a friend in the stand) or having an offensive haircut / skin colour / hand knitted sweater. Everybody knew the police were the enemy and stood squarely against them. Now in these collaborative times we unite with the stewards to rid ourselves of that unreconstructed skinhead in Block X Row G Seat 23.

However for those of us soccer perverts inhabiting the seedy world of non league football, the times they aren't a changing. Well they are, sort of, the latest policeman trying to fit me and my fellow Maidenhead United supporters up, just happened to be playing for Romford in that all important Guardian Insurance Isthmian League Cup First Round tie at the time.

The story began on the second weekend of the season, when the Magpies travelled to the newly promoted and reformed Romford for a league match. Earlier that week we had been warned to watch our step as a hostile reception surely awaited. Our heads filled with sordid tales of East End gangsters living out their retirement in leafy Essex, having sunk their ill-gotten gains into the new football club (star player ex Arsenal winger turned car salesman Martin Hayes, fact!) it was with some trepidation that we travelled east. However as usual this seething cauldron of hatred turned out to be little more than 400 pensioners who liked to spend Saturday afternoons lambasting the referee. To allay our fears further, the programme included a page full of ground regulations kindly provided by the FA.. In case the reader can not hazard a guess as to the content of this tablet of stone, let's just say it was OK to give a round of applause occasionally and maybe even shout "Well played lads!" at the end of the match, although on second thoughts that might have been pushing our luck. Most striking of these regulations, for reasons which will become clear later, was the one reminding "all visitors to Romford FC that aggressive language and behaviour is not acceptable here and any offenders will be asked to leave the ground". Anyway on a beautiful summer's day Maidenhead thrashed Romford 1-0, the only irritating aspect of the Romford fans' behaviour being their constant fawning over our manager and all time Essex hero, ex Hammer Alan Devonshire.

Fast forward to mid September and Estadio York Road as Romford travel to the Royal borough for the aforementioned cup clash. In a match which lived up to its dull billing, by the second half the Magpies fans had resorted to that much loved non league pastime of abusing the opposition (so much more effective at this level where you know the recipients can hear every word). That evening's victim was chosen after a rare Maidenhead attack, when centre back Richard Evans berated his defence

calling each of them in turn what sounded like a "can't". From then on every time he touched the ball we would shout "you're a can't". He was quickly rattled turning his attention away from the match to have a go back at us and things reached a delightful conclusion when he conceded a penalty with ten minutes to go. After super Garry Attrell, had converted the spot kick, Evans ran over to the delirious terrace to inform us that he would see us later. He then went and reported us to the referee for spitting minutes of the match Romford equalised and in his one good deed of the night Mr Evans lifted the threat of extra time by scoring the Romford winner. This inspired him to run the length of the pitch gesturing us to "come and have a go...". However the final whistle sounded soon after and that was that or so we thought.

Some time later in the club bar Mr. Evans actively sought us out and went onto repeatedly ask us to "step outside". As he realised his invitation would only be met by increasingly loud bursts of laughter, he sloped off with his tail firmly between his legs for the long journey home (made even longer when the wheels fell off the coach on the M25, justice!). In his absence the nasty truth about Evans began to be revealed by the Maidenhead players. He had been racially abusing Maidenhead's black players throughout the game and had threatened to put star player Tony Gale in hospital. To top things off it was discovered that Mr Evans was a policeman. In light of Romford's own ground regulations we felt duty bound to report Evans to the league, if only to prevent him from being embarrassingly ejected from his home ground during a match. We are currently waiting for a reply. Watch this space.

## Two wheels off our wagon . . .

Maidenhead 1 Romford 2

BORO players, officials and supporters survived what could have been a horrifying crash on their return from Tuesday's Guardian Insurance Cup tie, where a Paul Evans special had booked them a place in the second round.

The team coach lost two of its back wheels and it was only due to the experience of the driver that those on board escaped serious injury, as chief executive John Goodwin explained.

"The bus went careering across the motorway and the driver was fighting with the wheel.

"How he got it to the side of the road I don't know.

"Apparently he's been driving for some 26 years and I think that if had we had anyone with less experience it would certainly have been a terrible accident."

The Boro contingent did not return to Sungate until 2am on Wednesday morning, by which time their fine win over Alan Devonshire's side must have seemed a distant memory.

After a goalless first half Maidenhead took the lead from the penalty spot with around a quarter of an hour left in the game.

But the visitors, seeking revenge for a recent league defeat at Sungate, battled back and headed goals from John Nicholson, a glancing effort, and Evans, one of his trademark thunderbolts, saw them through to the next round.

So here we have it, conclusive proof that if players from other clubs decide to abuse the York Road faithful, then they do so at their own risk. Although we have no qualified mechanics amongst our numbers, we are a dab hand with a spanner and a wheel brace, so let this count as a warning! No such action was needed when Romford visited us in the League, as their coach driver made sure that if any damage was going to be done to his coach, he would do it himself. And promptly reversed into the signpost outside the York Road entrance!

Thanks to Romford fan Ryan Ward for the clipping



Double whammy as club loses new home bid and faces bribery allegations

# Black day for Borough

SOLIHULL Borough set itself on a blacked week in their history when Solihull Council pulled out of proposals to develop the Norman Green Athletics Centre in Solihull 'spoiled' with allegations of bribery.

Following the FA Cup tie with Darlington last November, the club have publicly refuted all accusations that referee Paul Robinson received money from one of their officials after the game. Chairman John Hewison

said: "It's a load of rubbish. We have requested a pen and paper with the FA and want the matter dealt with as quickly as possible. Someone at Darlington has accused us of trying to bribe the referee which is

ridiculous. That it has already happened to the club and is very messy. However, Solihull Council's decision to terminate negotiations with Borough over the Norman Green Athletics Centre may come as a

REPORT BY NICK PULLEN

boomer blow. Mr Hewison said: "We're back in where we were seven years ago, given selling our ground at Widney Lane."

"It seems as though the council don't want us to play in Solihull. It means we've wasted the past year looking at Norman Green. They've really let us down."

Borough had hoped to base themselves at Norman Green and develop a stadium, having spent the past seven years ground-sharing with Moor Green.

Dashed

But a letter to Mr Hewison from council leader Michael Corser has dashed all hopes.

The letter read: "Following the latest meeting between the football club and representatives of the council, it has become clear there is no way forward on negotiations regarding the use of the Norman Green Athletics Centre for football."

"The requirements of the football club, which I understand are based on league requirements cannot be accommodated within the

conditions which have been laid down by the council.

"In order to bring this matter to a conclusion, I propose to ask the council at its February 17 meeting to resolve to terminate negotiations with the football club."

Coun Kay Wild (Con, St Alphege) who represented residents opposed to the club's move to Norman Green said: "It would be hypocritical of me not to say I am pleased and I am delighted it is not going to Norman Green but equally I feel very sorry for the football club, who I think have been led up the garden path."

"The idea should never have got off the ground in the first place as it is such an inappropriate site and the football club would not have been led along to think it was going to take off."

Mr Hewison fears the club may now have to quit their current base at Tansworth Lane - which is council owned, because they are unable to develop the premises.

He said the club would hold an emergency meeting to decide their next move.

## HENSONS MUPPETS CHARGED IN 'LUCKY-BAGS' BRIBERY SCANDAL!

News has reached us here at Born & Bred Mansions of the controversy surrounding our old 'mate' and everyone's favourite ex-committee member Steve 'Jim was sayin' to may the oover dai' Henson.

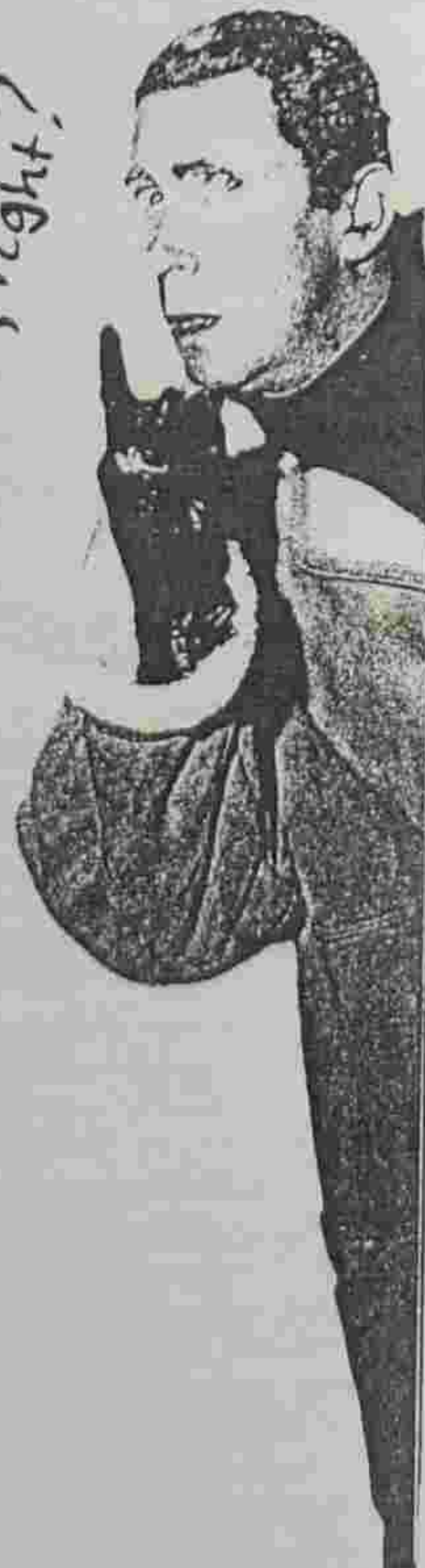
Having made a huge impact here at York Road (namely in the way he averaged a constant ninety pies an hour at the tea bar for home games) you are probably aware that he had moved back to Brummieland for personal reasons (and definitely NOT because he was a bankrupt sweetie salesman who the authorities were about to catch up with.....er allegedly. NO. Fuck it, NOT allegedly at all!)

Well, he's obviously got back in with his old crowd at Solihull Borough. Remember them? The team that visited York Road for a Henson-arranged pre-season friendly, and who insulted, sorry 'honoured' us by putting out their reserves dregs/youth team. Mind you, we soundly sent them packing back up the M40 with a...er..2-2 draw?!?

Anyway, listed below are clippings from both national and local newspapers outlining both their recent alleged (that one I DO mean!) FA cup bribery scandal and the fact that the local council won't find them a new home. The word on the street in Solihull is that a recently appointed club official was at the centre of the 'bribery' storm, having supposedly offered the match referee a lifetime's supply of sherbert dips, a thousand gob-stoppers and as many 'Love Hearts' as he could carry. The man in black was said to have been deeply affronted by this offer, as apparently he was only interested in something called Fudge Packers. I didn't know they made a sweet called that!

When caught up with by our reporter yesterday Henson was only prepared to make the following statement..... "You ain't sin me, roight?"

You ain't seen me, right?



FA charge Cup referee with bribery

A REFEREE and footballer from Solihull Borough have been charged with bribery by the Football Association. The Football Association has charged Paul Robinson, a referee, and John Hewison, a footballer, with offering or accepting any inducement or reward for influencing the result of or conducting any match. Robinson, who is a former professional footballer, was charged with offering or accepting any inducement or reward for influencing the result of or conducting any match. Hewison, who is a former professional footballer, was charged with offering or accepting any inducement or reward for influencing the result of or conducting any match.

# Solihull News

Friday, January 23, 1998

Serving the borough since 1930 Part of the MetroNews series 30p where sold

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## MAGPIES

### MAIDENHEAD'S NEWEST THEME BAR

Yes, in keeping with the theme bar revolution which is sweeping Maidenhead, Born & Bred is proud to announce that the club shack is about to be transformed into *MAGPIES*, the ultimate in non league social clubs.

- At *MAGPIES* you can.
- Revel in the air free smoky atmosphere
- Sample our competitively priced fizzy beer
- Listen to the sounds of yesteryear on our stone age stereo
- Watch Sky Sports on our 21" Television
- Wallow in the misery of Tom Cook
- Be humiliated on the pool table by Thomas Attrell
- Argue with Murdo MacLeod
- Fail to understand Brian McKendrick
- Laugh at Mr. Logic
- Read the graffiti in the Urinals
- Travel down memory lane with Stanley Payne
- Waste your money on the fruit machine

Your hosts will be the Dawson family headed by Mr Elvis himself, Ray Aaron Dawson.

As well as high quality Ryman League football, membership of *MAGPIES* also gives you access to top dart action, as every Tuesday *MAGPIES* plays host to a premier Maidenhead Ladies Darts league match.

Host band at *MAGPIES* will be Del Shannon and the Runaways.

Tempted? Then fill in the form below and return to Pat "I've got the power" MacDonald.

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My social life is incomplete without *MAGPIES*. Please send me details of how to join immediately. NAME:  
ADDRESS: