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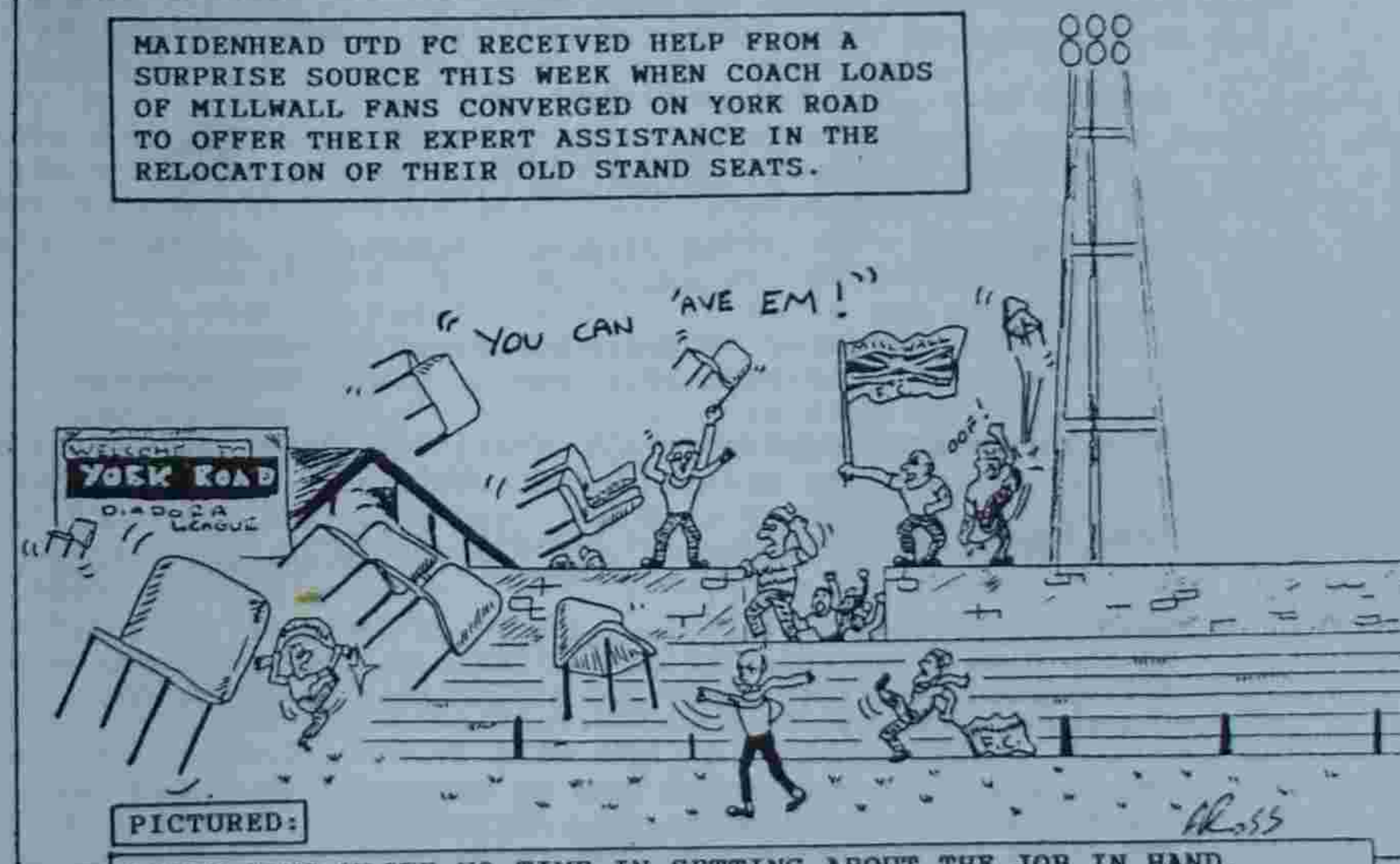
The Shagging Magpies



AN ALTERNATIVE LOOK AT MAIDENHEAD UNITED FC.

MILLWALL SELL OFF: magpies purchase 250 seats.

MAIDENHEAD UTD FC RECEIVED HELP FROM A SURPRISE SOURCE THIS WEEK WHEN COACH LOADS OF MILLWALL FANS CONVERGED ON YORK ROAD TO OFFER THEIR EXPERT ASSISTANCE IN THE RELOCATION OF THEIR OLD STAND SEATS.



PICTURED:

LIONS FANS WASTE NO TIME IN SETTING ABOUT THE JOB IN HAND. SPOKESMAN, 'BARRY THE FROG' DECLARED, "WE AINT 'AD THIS MUCH FUN SINCE WE WENT TO LUTON AND RE-ARRANGED THEIR SEATS FOR 'EM!"

****IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT****

CONCERN IS MOUNTING AS TO THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE THREE ADVERTISER SPORTS REPORTERS: STUART ROACH, MARK ROACH AND CHRIS EWERS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN SEEN AT YORK ROAD FOR AGES. MAGPIE OFFICIALS ARE CONCERNED THAT THEY MAY ALL HAVE BUMPED THEIR HEADS AND LOST THEIR BEARINGS. THE LAST KNOWN SIGHTING OF THE TRIO WAS AT OAK TREE ROAD, MARLOW. IF ANYONE SEES THEM PLEASE GIVE THEM DIRECTIONS TO YORK ROAD, THE HOME OF MAIDENHEAD UNITED FC.....THANK YOU



WELCOME TO ISSUE FIVE OF THE "SHAGGING MAGPIES"

MAIDENHEAD UNITED'S ONLY OFFICIAL FANZINE

(Come to that, Maidenhead United's ONLY fanzine)

Before we go any further let's get all the boring stuff out of the way.

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Many thanks must go to:- The players, officers and
committee members of Maidenhead United.

The views printed in the fanzine are not necessarily those of the Club or Editors. If anyone feels that they have been misrepresented within these pages then they do indeed have the right to reply.

We would like to remind you that NO monies are recieved by the Editors or contributors. All monies raised from this or any issue are passed directly to Maidenhead United Football Club.

We would also like to remind you that the contents of this fanzine contain language unsuitable for the young. The Editors take no responsibility for the distribution but recommend that under 18's are not sold copies.

Thank you.

Steve Beard and Trevor Kingham

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EDITORIAL.

I start as with previous issues by thanking you for purchasing this copy of issue 5 and in doing so contributing another much needed £1 towards the redevelopment costs of York Road. It's now a year since we produced issue 1 and in that time we've raised a considerable sum of money. I had hoped that in this issue you would be reading an official explanation from the Club regarding a change of direction concerning where the money we raise would be spent. Unfortunately this has not been forthcoming so it has been left to me to put the record straight.

The Shagging Magpies came about to help with the cost of constructing a wall along the railway side of the ground, a requirement set down by the League to enable our ground to receive an 'A' grading. The 'A' grading is vital to the Club if we have any ambitions to progress into a higher League. The situation has now changed somewhat and the construction of the wall is no longer an urgent necessity as it was a few months ago, thus the plans to build the wall have been put on ice. However you will have noticed that the Club is at the present time investing large sums of money in developing other parts of the ground and this is where the money we have raised has been redirected.

Fanzines are all about expressing an opinion without fear of having your views dismissed as is so often the case when putting your point of view to your Club. This statement is certainly the case with The Shagging Magpies, you may not always agree with what you read should that be the case then feel free to put pen to paper and let us know. How sad it is that so few readers do actually put pen to paper, they'd much sooner give us an ear-bashing about something they disagree with! To these people I will only say, I for one have no intention whatsoever of expressing their views, it's up to them to write in! I can't believe that over the 4 previous issues not a single Maidenhead supporter has found cause to question anything we have printed, in fact the only response has come from Dulwich Hamlet supporter, Mishi Morath and Aveley fans whose comments are printed elsewhere in this issue, surely you don't all agree with us! I hope that the amount of stick dished out in the issue will prompt a reaction from the aggrieved because that is our intention!

Following the last issue we received one or two complaints that the content was a little out of date and we readily accept that the criticism was justified. However in our defence it's worth pointing out that we rely on the good will of the people entrusted to do the copying, or should I say - We pray they don't get caught using the company photocopying machine!

As with previous issues it's not been easy encouraging people to write in as I have previously mentioned, however after much prompting we had a bit of an avalanche of contributions unfortunately by that time the issue was all but complete, it's very difficult when someone submits a single page to include their effort because it means finding another 3 pages to go with it. Bearing this in mind I must apologise to Dean Burton and Richard Jackson for not printing all the articles they submitted, but on the positive side it will help us to get started on the next edition.

I can not finish this piece without a special mention to Richard Jackson for the tremendous help he has given us by way of writing some excellent stuff and submitting it pre-typed.

Chris

Negative Vibes

Since the appointment of John Watt as manager, the Club has been undergoing what can only be described as a 'transitional period', during which time we've seen many once familiar faces depart the Club and many unfamiliar faces arrive. It takes time for a team to knit together and we, as supporters can't expect miracles overnight.

I've been fortunate to attend all Maidenhead United matches since John's appointment both home and away so speak from a position of strength.

During the last few months I've witnessed a gradual improvement in our performances as the team slowly but surely get to know each others strengths and weaknesses, and at the time I write this piece (Following the 1-0 victory at Heybridge Swifts) I honestly believe that we can start to look ahead with a degree of optimism.

As the season approaches its final quarter we have little to play for in terms of honours, but we have much to play for in terms of building for the following season. One serious deficiency in the side hardly needs saying - we're failing to hit the back of the net often enough, our strike rate to say the least is very poor. I take comfort in the knowledge that John and his assistant Derek are working extremely hard to rectify the situation and hopefully by the time we go to print we should be witnessing the fruits of their labours.

It's no secret that I was none-too-pleased when the Club dismissed our previous manager John Clement. John, with very limited resources at his disposal performed miracles to keep the Club on an even keel and met with a great deal of success when one considers the financial restraints imposed upon him.

I know nothing as to the reasoning for John's dismissal so have no right to make judgements on the people who took the decision, however I would like to take the opportunity to express my disappointment in the way the Club handled it. When 'Clemo' was appointed as manager he quite rightly received an official welcome published in the match programme, yet when he departed not so much as a mention or a word of thanks was forthcoming.

So as a result of this I'll say it for them. "Thanks John for all the positive efforts you made in striving to put Maidenhead United amongst the elite of Non-League football - and I know that a great many of our supporters echo my sentiments. Good luck for the future"

Now the Club must look to the future under the guidance of John Watt ably assisted by Derek Sweetman.

I've come to know John quite well since his promotion from acting as reserve team manager to the 1st team position he now holds and I have to add that I've been very impressed.

The work put in by John and Derek for the Club has to be seen to be believed, far above what could be reasonably expected of them, especially when you take into consideration that they both work full-time outside the game.

If commitment alone is a barometer for success then Maidenhead United will very soon be winning everything!



To be honest, considering the way 'Clemo' was dispensed of, taking over from him must have been an extremely difficult decision to make. To John Watt's credit he's wasted no time by taking the bull by the horns and has very quickly gained the respect of us all.

No matter which club you play for or support come the start of a new season we ALL think we've a team capable of great things, very soon our aspirations are dashed and we quickly have to face up to the prospect of another fruitless campaign. In contrast I believe that the supporters of Maidenhead United can at last look forward with much confidence for a welcome bit of success here at York Road, Which brings me nicely onto my last point.

I'm of the belief that the supporters of a club play a very major role in determining the difference between success and failure. A crowd that constantly barrack individual players, often for no other reason than the sheer hell of it succeed only in destroying the confidence of the player to such a degree that even before he leaves the dressing room he's on a hiding to nothing. He Scores 3 goals but all the crowd notice and comment on is the glaring miss he made! His 3 goals are disregarded only the miss counts in their eyes, he just can't win no matter how hard he tries.

It's not only individual players who suffer there are some amongst us on the York Road terrace who on the face of it only come along to pour scorn on the whole team! The 'Negative Vibes' filter through to the players having a dramatic effect on the overall performance of the whole team, in turn these 'Negative Vibes' have a major influence on the outcome of the game.

A typical example is the treatment meted out to one of the clubs most talented individuals, Paul Mulvaney. Paul is a great talent and a major asset to the Club. The harsh treatment he has had to endure on many occasions this season is totally unjustified. I know from speaking with Paul that it has affected his game, no matter how hard he tries the good moves he makes are quickly forgotten and the odd mistake is met with a bombardment of abuse from a very small but mouthy minority who frequent the home terraces.

CUT IT OUT NOW!!! If you claim to be a genuine supporter of Maidenhead United then I suggest you do just that.....**SUPPORT THEM!!!**

Whilst on the subject of support I can't finish without a comment on our tremendous away following, which often outnumbers the home clubs supporters.

If you've yet to travel to an away match I suggest you give it a try, your support is much appreciated by the team, there's always seats available on the team coach and it only costs adults a fiver regardless of the distance travelled.

Don't be afraid to pop in the Boardroom at any home match and ask for details - you'll be made very welcome of that I can assure you.

TREVOR KINGHAM.

Leyton-Wingate win award

With the end of another season on the horizon, proprietors of trophy shops throughout the land are rubbing their hands at the prospect of an avalanche of orders for the traditional end of season awards. You name it they'll deliver, trophies, plaques, beer mugs, glassware, the list is endless. Yes it's Christmas, when rich pickings are to be had.

Not so very long ago awards were restricted to player of the year, these days it's become the norm to make presentations to 'Young Player of The Year' - 'Clubman of The Year' - 'Most Improved Player of The Year' - 'Managers Player of The Year' - 'Players Player of The Year' to list a few.

Often one outstanding player returns home with a sackful of awards! I suspect that things are getting just a little out of hand. The latest award must rate as the most absurd ever to appear on the scene, namely 'The Supporter of The Year' I ask you! Just what is it that makes one supporter more deserving than another? Dare I suggest it's because he's called the referee a pratt (Sorry Vernon there I go again!) more times than anyone else! Maybe it's because he can shout the loudest! Could be he's the most popular because he shares his beautiful model wife around with mates! The mind boggles!

I can just see it a year from now: 'Managers Supporter of The Year' - 'Club Secretaries Supporter of The Year' - 'Tea Ladies Supporter of The Year' - Outrageous! At this rate we'll all walk away with something before very long! Now that's not a bad idea, how about an award for 'The Maidenhead Utd Fanzine of The Year? Why stop there? Let's present our favourite coach driver with a trophy; 'The Coach Driver Who Stopped to Allow The Occupants To Have A Damn Good Piss-Up award'

I've always considered fanzines to be a forum for an alternative view of the particular club from which they originate, "And now for something completely different" to coin a phrase!

With this in mind The Shagging Magpies have come up with arguably the most purposeful and prestigious award ever, the oscar of football writers excellence.

We're calling the award "THE STEVE DAVIS TROPHY FOR THE CLUB WITH THE MOST INTERESTING HISTORY" Catchy don't you think!

To determine a winner Steve and myself have been busy studying the history of all the clubs to visit York Road this term, not wishing to bore you with the usual- "It was a very difficult decision to make there were many clubs in contention" and all that sort of award ceremony crap, we'll come straight out with the winner.

And the winner is.....***LEYTON WINGATE ***
"CONGRATULATIONS LEYTON WINGATE"

And here is their winning entry:

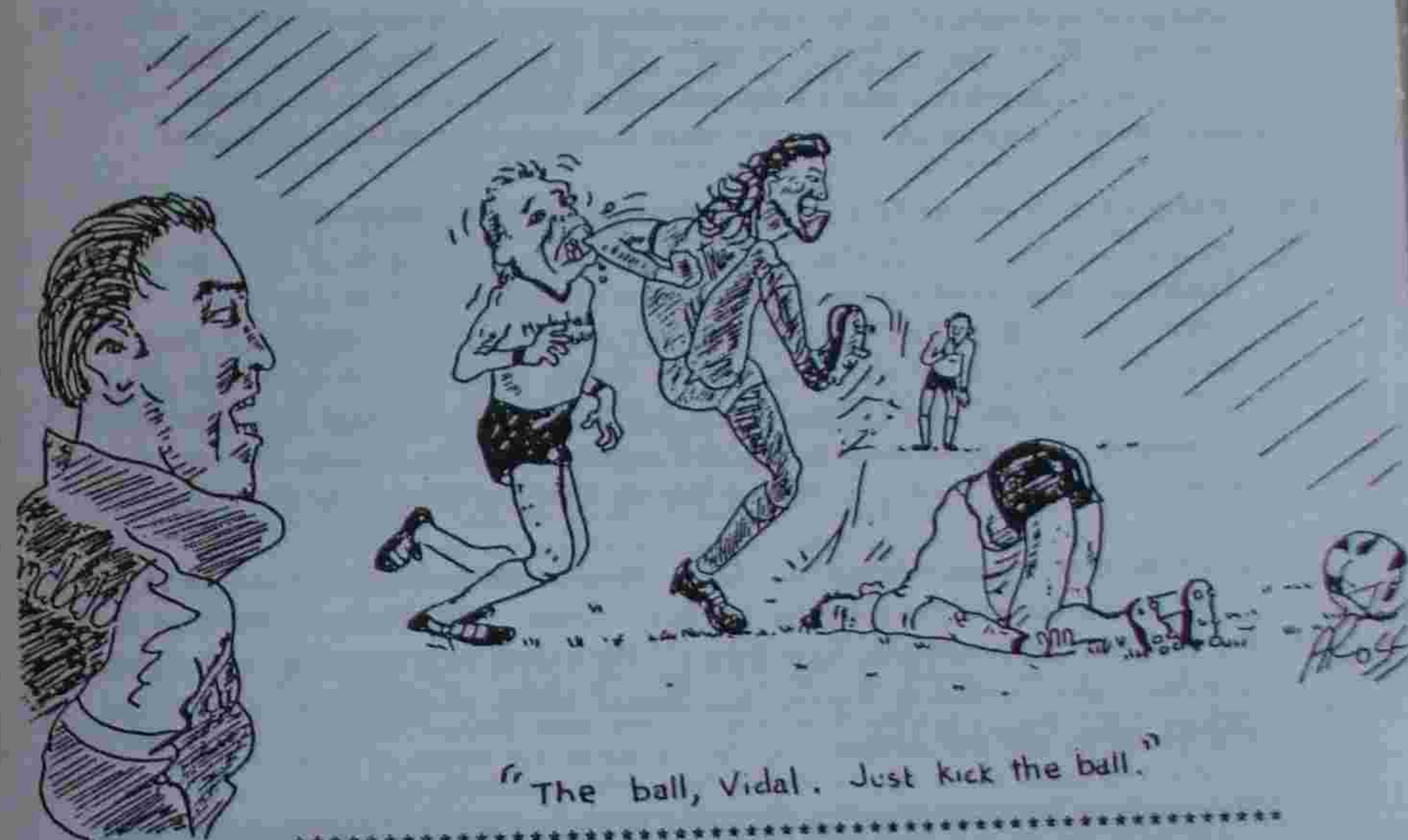
"Founded in 1868 Leyton Football Club played in the F.A.Cup from season 1874/75 until season 1878/79 when they scratched from the 1st round - they had been drawn away to South Norwood!"

A quite magnificent entry I think you'll all agree! Even before this season is over Leyton Wingate have been installed as red hot favourites to sweep the board again next year, so to all you programme editors out there - get writing!

GREAT SPORTING MOMENTS

NO. 1

CHRIS VIDAL VISITS YORK ROAD



Player of the Year

The Shagging Magpies will be bowing to conformity this year by making their very own presentation to their player of the year. However the method we have chose to canvass your votes can in no way be construed as 'conformity'. We like to think we're a cut above the rest, and of course we are! Most clubs simply hand out voting slips to supporters in attendance at home matches, many of which haven't attended an away match all season, the end result being that the winner is selected by supporters who have only watched the majority of matches played at York Road.

We've decided to conduct our ballot at away matches only and voting will take place at the following matches:- Barking, Aveley and Lewes. If you are unable to attend any of the matches listed but have travelled to a minimum of 6 away games you will also be entitled to vote. Just pop in the social club and ask for Trevor, before or after all home matches.

Things aren't that bad, after all!

When things have been going terribly wrong, results going against us and lady luck has seemingly ridden off into the sunset, don't despair. There is always somebody worse off than we are, although it might seem somewhat difficult to believe. I recently picked up a tremendous little book entitled *The Book of Heroic Failures* compiled by Stephen Pile. It is also sub-titled as *The Official Handbook of the Not Terribly Good Club of Great Britain*. It's a superb volume that I thoroughly recommend, in which I found a few references to great disasters of football, which may offer a crumb of comfort to you all in these times of total disenchantment.

The book tells the tale of what could be regarded as the worst soccer match ever arranged. It was in 1973 that Oxbarn Social Club, who played at the time in the Wolverhampton Sunday League, arranged a friendly match in Germany. Only when they arrived at their opponents' luxury stadium did they realise that they had mistakenly arranged a friendly with SVW Mainz, a top first division side of the day. For their part, the Germans were expecting to play against Wolverhampton Wanderers, then one of the best English League sides. The Oxbarn Club secretary knew something was wrong on hearing that the Germans were on an £80 win bonus.

After the fifteenth goal whistled into Oxbarn's net, their goalkeeper was seen to fall to his knees, obviously praying for the final whistle. It was around this time that the sixteenth and seventeenth were scored. The crowd were nevertheless delighted to watch Oxbarn instead of Wolves, and cheered loudly whenever they got the ball. Oxbarn Social Club lost 21-0.

The match on record as attracting the fewest spectators was that great game between Leicester City and Stockport County, played on May 7th 1921. Both teams were playing away from home, as Stockport's ground had been temporarily closed for repair, and the game was played in the immense Old Trafford home of neighbours Manchester United. The crowd? A measly 13!

Finally, the honour of the goalkeeper to make the worst save falls upon one Senhor Isadore Irandir. Whilst playing for his Brazilian team Rio Preto, he contrived to let in a goal after just three seconds!

From the kick-off in the match between Corinthians and Rio Preto in the Bahia Stadium, the ball was passed to Roberto Rivelino who scored instantly with a left foot drive from the halfway line. The ball went past the ear of Senhor Irandir, while he was on his knees finishing pre-match prayers in the goalmouth.

At least, Maidenhead United has not fallen to the level where Stephen Pile would find us to be interesting, but we have come perilously close on occasions. Perhaps we can all find solace in this simple quotation from the Bible:

And the last shall be first.

St Matthew, Ch. 19, v.30

DIADORA FOOTBALL LEAGUE

YORK ROAD ACADEMY FOR FOOTBALLERS

REPORT in respect of MAIDENHEAD UNITED for the term ending on 30 JANUARY 1993

OCTOBER: Saw four matches with Premier Division Yeading and five league matches and not a single victory. The four games with Yeading were in the F.A. Trophy and the Diadodo League Cup; our best performance was away in the F.A. Trophy when we should have won, but ended up with a 2-2 draw. Yeading won the replay at York Road easily and thrashed us at their place in the League Cup replay when they should have won by a far bigger margin than 4-1.

In the league we drew with Chalfont St Peter at home, bored everyone senseless at Bishops Stortford gaining a goalless draw, and then lost at home to leaders Dorking by a single goal. Promotion chasing Hitchin then won 3-2 at York Road following a gutless, disinterested display by our lot. There was more fighting than football when Molesley were the opponents at York Road at the end of the month, but a crucial penalty save by Richard Elliott earned us a draw.

NOVEMBER: Began with a long midweek trip to Leyton where we hung on for another point, and then we gave a miserable display at Tooting & Mitcham and were stuffed. We struggled away to Hungerford Town in the prestigious Berks & Bucks Cup and managed to bring them back to York Road for a replay. At long last we managed a league win, at home to hapless Aveley, preventing the current lot from creating a new all-time record of games without a win. This was followed by an unconvincing 3-2 win over Hungerford Town in the CC (Crappy Cup) replay. Clements is sacked.

John Watt takes over, Magpies hammered at Billericay. One week later and we record a thumping victory at York Road against Lewes - jolly good stuff!

DECEMBER: A really entertaining game ends with a point apiece at Boreham Wood but three days later we never get going at Walton & Hersham and end up losing by the odd goal in three. December 12th, and bottom of the table Barking visit York Road; in a first half where we appeared capable of scoring everytime we attacked against a genuinely pitiful defence, we lead just 2-1 at the interval. It all goes hopelessly wrong in the second half and we lose 4-3. Disgraceful. Three days later and we have progressed through the qualifying rounds into the FIRST ROUND PROPER of the... er... um.. Berks & Bucks Cup, thanks to a 5-1 win at Buckingham against Winslow. Boxing Day and a goalless draw at Abingdon; Bank Holiday Monday and a goalless draw against Wembley.

JANUARY: January 2nd and a goalless second half against Whyteleafe, but fortunately we had scored three ourselves in the first period. We can count ourselves somewhat fortuitous as Whyteleafe created and missed a whole host of chances (including missing a twice taken penalty twice!) and I felt that if anyone had been converted, the final score might have been different (maybe 3-1 or 3-2?) Purfleet came to York Road, looked much better than we did, found themselves 2-0 down at half-time, but rallied strongly to end with a point. Wokingham, struggling in the Premier Division, destined for the drop (with Loser & Beaten FC) visit our patch in the CC and win embarrassingly easily. Words cannot describe adequately our performance. Another draw, our eleventh in the league, at Uxbridge. The Pools companies refuse point blank to ever consider putting Maidenhead on the coupon. Important victory at home to Leyton at end of month elevates Magpies to tenth position - and promotion bound!!

GENERAL REPORT A disjointed term. Performances in October were extremely poor, and there was only a little improvement in November. A new headmaster was appointed and since then the last two months have seen some encouraging signs, despite some very poor lapses (Barking, Wokingham). I feel that if some consistency can be achieved there may be an outside opportunity of finishing in the lower reaches of the top ten, but strengthening is needed in midfield and up-front.

THE ARTHUR-GATE TAPES

We've had Diana-Gate, we've had Camilla-Gate. Now we've got Arthur-Gate!! One of our unscrupulous reporters stooped lower than any Daily Sport reporter would ever have the balls to - he bugged the living room of our very own Arthur "muff" Diver. In doing so he brought us this facinating insight into the life of Arthur as he relaxes at home with his good lady wife, Edna.

ARTHUR: What d'you mean, I ought to go on a friggin' diet..!? God meant me to be fat.

EDNA: Of course he didn't, Arthur. That's a silly thing to say.

ARTHUR: What's bloody silly about it? It's true.

EDNA: Are you sure you only had a couple of drinks at the pub? You usually only talk rubbish when you've had one too many.

ARTHUR: I told you. I only had enough money for two pints. Besides, you only had three quid in your purse.

EDNA: You stole from my purse!!!

ARTHUR: I was skint.

EDNA: You're definately going on a diet now.

ARTHUR: Why?

EDNA: 'Cos you've just drunk tomorrows tea!

ARTHUR: Huh?

EDNA: That money you stole was for tomorrows tea. I was going to buy the bacon with it.

ARTHUR: I don't like bacon.

EDNA: That's good 'cos you're not getting none. Your on a diet.

ARTHUR: You and bloody diets.. That's all you women think about. Diets, diets and bloody more diets. You're all bloody diet mad. How many times have I got to tell you? God meant us to be like this.

EDNA: There's just no talking to you, is there Arthur? You've always got to be right.

ARTHUR: I ALWAYS am right.

EDNA: Arthur!!

ARTHUR: Look, Edna. If him upstairs, you know, the god almighty, meant me to be thin, then why did he make my mouthhole three times the size of my arsehole? Eh? Answer me that clever dick.

EDNA: That's a ridiculous statement.

ARTHUR: No it's not. Look at your mother, she's so thin she makes a matchstick look healthy.

EDNA: What's she got to do with anything?

ARTHUR: Everything! 'Cos she's the biggest arsehole I know.

EDNA: I despair with you sometimes, Arthur. I really do. Where are you going?

ARTHUR: I'm off to have a crap if you must know. Why? D'you care to join me?

EDNA: You're disgusting, Arthur! My mother always said you were the worst of a bad lot. Sometimes I wonder why I married you.

ARTHUR: Didn't have a lot of bleedin' choice, did you. You were daft enough to get yourself pregnant.

EDNA: I didn't do it on my own you know. It does take two.

ARTHUR: That's strange.. At the time I certainly thought I was on my own.

EDNA: And what do you mean by that..!??

(At this point we hear the door close.. Fifteen minutes later...)

EDNA: You were a long time?

ARTHUR: There's an extra card on at tomorrows racing. Got to study the form, haven't I.

EDNA: What for? You haven't any money left to have a bet.

ARTHUR: Haven't I? Oh, yes, of course I haven't. I forgot.. What's on the box tonight, luv? Anything worth watching?

EDNA: There's that new two part serial, starring whathisname and whatshername. You know, the bloke I always fancy on that commercial.

ARTHUR: Bloody serial's no good to me. I won't be here tomorrow night.. I've got a darts match.. Cup quarter final. If we win it'll be the first time the Three Jolly Rapists has reached a final.

EDNA: I thought you always said you needed a good drink inside you before you were able to play darts?

ARTHUR: I do.. And what with it being a quarter final I'll probably need to drink double.

EDNA: Oh, yes? You will, will you?

ARTHUR: Yup.. So, don't you go getting any funny ideas about me servicing you tomorrow night. I'll probably have a job getting up the stairs let alone getting up anything else.

EDNA: Don't you worry, Arthur. It won't be me who needs a service.. It'll bloody well be YOU!

ARTHUR: Huh?

(We hear a dull thud followed by a sharp scream)

ARTHUR: Ow!! What the bloody'all d'you think you're doing woman? That's my best putter?

EDNA: Bastard!! You haven't spent your money at all! You've spent all mine!

(We hear more harrowing screams and yells)

ARTHUR: Stop it!! Stop it!! You silly cow. You'll break my leg.

EDNA: Not before I've broken this putter I won't.

ARTHUR: Don't do that! I'll need it Thursday. Ouch! That's my hand!

(Even louder screams and yelling)

EDNA: There you go.. You won't be able to hold ANY club now. And that includes your little widget.

At this point the bug went dead. We think this was due to Edna smashing the table lamp, with the bug attached to its base, over Arthurs head. We are pleased to say Arthur is recovering well - Albeit in St Marks Hospital...

First Impressions

***** CHAMPION HILL: HOME OF DULWICH HAMLET *****

I can't say I was over thrilled at the prospect of a long journey on a cold February evening to Dulwich Hamlet's Champion Hill ground, the temporary home of our hosts Bromley, but on the plus side it did at least offer the ideal opportunity to inspect the rebuilt and recently opened stadium. We departed from Maidenhead at 5.15pm arriving some 1 hour 45 minutes later at the 'Supermarket' ground.

Travelling on the team coach ensured that parking wouldn't present a problem, although it has to be said there didn't appear to be an abundance of parking spaces for those travelling by car.

As we alighted from the coach and made our way to the entrance I couldn't help but feel that I was about to experience life in a whole new world! From the outside the stadium looked more like a high security prison than a place of entertainment with its huge concrete walls enclosing the playing area. Considering the stadium had recently undergone a £2 million face-lift I expected a little more attention to detail. As an example the boards above the turnstiles which clearly stated the admission prices were a bit on the shoddy side to say the least, a couple of pieces of hardboard which looked like they were left-overs from the local council, used for boarding up old houses, painted white with wobbly lettering.

Negotiating the turnstiles was an experience not to be missed. Okay at 14½ stone I'm a fat bastard, but there's others amongst us who have far more belly than me! (Lucky for Brian he decided not to come, he really is a 'Fat bastard!'). How I ever managed to squeeze through the tiny gap must rate on par with the feat performed by the ancient Egyptians in hauling the great stones to the top of the pyramids!

In fairness I was later to discover that there was in fact a gate a few yards away where entry could be gained by anyone with a waist measurement exceeding 36", I just wish someone had told me about it before I let all the air out of my fat belly!

After negotiating the turnstile I was greeted with a sight which both amazed and disappointed me at the same time. The main stand to my right housing some 400 seats is magnificent, above the seats the building rose high into the sky.

Inside the main building complex I found my way to the social club, The bar must have stretched half the length of the pitch, the furniture and decor resembled the inside of a hospital on its day of opening so clinical in its lay out and cosmetically spotlessly clean. To one side windows enabled the patrons to look out at the pitch with an uninterrupted view. Sadly I felt the club lacked any atmosphere or individuality, not a fixture list, picture, pennant, notice board or anything else to adorn the pascal painted walls to remind one that you were visiting a football ground.

Along with the main bar a great many other facilities were incorporated within the main building offering countless options to its visitors all of the highest standards of luxury and would be the envy of all but a few football clubs throughout the entire country especially at Premier and Football League level!

As for the rest of the ground I have to admit I was not so impressed. The standing area behind both goals was in the main flat with a small 'plinth' like terrace a mere three steps in height no more than the width of the penalty area, it resembled a podium on which medalists would mount to collect their prizes.

Opposite the main building offered the only part of the ground where spectators could stand undercover although the covered area is barely 30 yards wide, the rest of the standing area (Note how I avoid using the term 'Terrace') was simply a tarmac path.

The high concrete walls which surround three sides of the ground gave the impression that even on a hot summers day the stadium would feel 'cold' due in the main to them having as much character as the bland walls of the social club. I can't help but draw the conclusion that a massive 'personalisation' process is needed to make the regulars feel like their at home.

For a stadium of such obvious magnificence the refreshment bar also comes in for a bit of criticism, not only is it difficult to locate tucked under the main building no hot food is served, a can of coke and ham roll is not my idea of comfort on a bitterly cold evening. On the plus side the staff at the tea bar and throughout the stadium were the perfect hosts.

The playing surface comes in for some heavy stick and can only be described as 'patchy', on account that there was, if you looked very closely small patches of grass amongst the sand dunes! Next time I visit the ground I'll bring a bucket and spade and a camera so I can take a photo of the goal-keepers head sticking out of the sand just like when I go to the seaside!

I've no doubt that given time all the criticisms I have levelled at Champion Hill will be rectified and in spite of what I've had to say about the ground it is undoubtedly one of the best Non-League venues around and I strongly recommend a visit and whilst you're there make sure you pick up a copy of the Dulwich Hamlet fanzine Champion Hill Street Blues a great favourite of mine and an excellent read.

As for the match Bromley were deserved victors by three goals to Nil and looked a very good side considering they hadn't won in their 12 previous games, which includes defeats in their last 4 home games before our visit.

The match for Maidenhead was effectively over when goal-keeper Sean Saunders sustained a serious leg injury when challenging a Bromley forward on the edge of the area. All credit to the host club/clubs for the excellent medical facilities on hand and the expert attention he received from officials of Maidenhead United, Dulwich Hamlet and Bromley, not forgetting the local hospital....GET WELL SOON SEAN. Come to think of it.....GET BETTER SOON MAIDENHEAD UNITED!

TREVOR KINGHAM.

CHAMPION HILL STREET BLUES IS AVAILABLE FROM:-12 KEATS HOUSE, PORCHESTER MEAD, BECKENHAM, KENT, BR3 1TD. Issue 21 features THE SHAGGING MAGPIES!
Enclose 60p plus SAE.

Haybridge Swifts (0) 0, Maidenhead Utd. (0) 1

the midfielder quickly got involved in the action.

In the opening 15 minutes of the half, Maidenhead missed three gilt-edged chances.

Reeve set up the first, putting Alleyne through, only for McCutcheon to smother his shot. Soon after Paul McNamee nearly scored as he aimed a diving header at a free kick, but with the goal at his mercy he was unable to connect.

Then it was Dadson's turn to be foiled by the six foot six inches tall McCutcheon. The striker found himself clear of the back four, but his goal-bound chip was stopped in mid-air by the 'keeper's outstretched arm.

As if we didn't have enough Paul's in the side this season - Paul Holder, Paul Mulvaney, Paul Reeve, Paul Dadson, Paul (Small) Frame, Now we've got Peter McNamee changing his name to PAUL!

Welcome - I think not!

Searching through my collection of match programmes I always seem to come across the same old statement, usually printed in the first few lines, which goes something like this:

Today we welcome to wherever our visitors from wherever and hope they enjoy their short stay with us and have a safe journey back to wherever.

Don't it just make you sick! I ask you. How can anyone in their right mind welcome a team who last season put two of your best players in hospital, scored two clearly off-side goals and winning the match two nil and to round it off ate all the sandwiches before our own players got out of the showers! As for a safe journey home, Bollocks to that! Surely something along the lines:

Today we entertain whoever and on the assumption that we give them a right thrashing we hope they enjoy their visit. However should they defeat us then we hope the sandwiches give them food poisoning and the return journey home is interrupted with a major mechanical breakdown to their coach resulting in a six hour wait for a breakdown truck in freezing fog! As for the officials and supporters: 'GO TO HELL!'

Would be more appropriate! Just a thought.

Whilst on the subject of match day programmes congratulations are in order to our very own programme Editor JON SWAN who after many years of trying finally came up with the goods at the home match against Croydon, when the announcement over the tannoy system stated, and I quote: "THE MAIDENHEAD UNITED LINE-UP IS AS PRINTED IN TODAY'S PROGRAMME" Unquote. It went through my mind WELL DONE OLD BOY you've finally cracked it! Never again will anybody be able to say "It's about time that pratt who does the programme printed the right team!" On behalf of all our supporters Jon we're very, very proud of you. Bet you can't do it again though!!!

Extract from a recent issue of the Maidenhead Advertiser.

No schools at York Rd.

Maidenhead United Football Club wish to make it clear that they do not run a football coaching school.

The club has received a number of phone calls enquiring about soccer schools but they wish to point out that there are currently no schemes affiliated to or endorsed by the club.



Living proof that Maidenhead United do not and never have run a football coaching scheme!

Simon Says.....

It was a lovely day, and the woodland was alive with the sounds of summer. The sun washed the trees, and the speckled sunlight danced on the forest floor. All the creatures of the forest frolicked and played happily, and were not troubled by the approach of Snow White who was on her way home to the dwarf's house. She was also extremely happy, and sang a gentle song as she meandered her way through the glade.

However, the idyllic setting suddenly didn't seem quite so perfect, and a dark cloud filled her mind. "Where are my little friends?" she thought to herself. "Why have they not come to meet me, as they usually do?"

Her pace quickened as she moved swiftly towards the clearing where the Seven Dwarves had made their home. A dread fear swelled into her thoughts as she suddenly became aware of the acrid smell of fire. The forest had fallen strangely quite, and none of the animals could be seen or heard.

As she moved into the clearing, her heart pounding ever faster, her worst fears were realised. She was met with sight of the cottage in ruins, the roof collapsed, and an ugly pall of smoke drifting upwards from the shattered remains. The Fire Chief from the Woodland Brigade stood morosely surveying the scene.

"What has happened?" Snow White cried. "Where are my little friends?" The Fire Chief sadly turned and said "Not much hope, I'm afraid, Miss White. They couldn't have had much of a chance." Just then, another fireman sorting through the charred remains called out "Chief, I think I heard something in there", and pointed towards a particularly messy area. The Chief hurried over, and together they frantically clawed away some of the rubble.

"Quiet, everybody" shouted the Chief, as he bent low and listened intently. Then, to everybody's surprise, a very faint voice could be heard from deep beneath the smouldering wreckage. All the firemen and Snow White strained to catch the few quite words that issued from below. Then, they suddenly understood the spluttered sentence from deep within. "Maidenhead for the cup!" the hushed voice whispered.

"Hurry", urged the Fire Chief. "Dopey's still alive!"

(From an original story courtesy of Simon Weston)

Breakspear's Bitter

The capabilities of referees causes much emotion and discussion especially from players and spectators. As a qualified referee myself, I can readily accept what a difficult and often thankless task officiating is at any level of football. Recent moves to try and let ex-professionals achieve top refereeing standards without going through the usual pyramid of progress according to experience would, without doubt be an absolute disaster! I would guess that 95% of players don't even know the laws of the game. I wouldn't even think that many managers have any comprehensive understanding either, and I would have to agree that sometimes some referees give the impression that they don't have a clue! Many of the laws are strictly defined and crystal clear, but many important ones are the subject of an individual interpretation of the laws by that particular referee, and this is the area where problems arise.

Take two examples from Maidenhead's recent away games at Molesey and Dorking:

At Molesey, the Surrey side were awarded a penalty. The referee had decided that a Maidenhead defender had handled the ball on the goal-line. Now, referees do not give decisions on what they think might have happened, they decide on what they see, so stands to reason the referee must have seen a handball. Handball has to be intentional, accidental use of the hand or arm is not an offence, and this again is a decision that has to be made by each referee. So back to the Molesey game and the current laws of the game state that a player deliberately handling the ball must be sent from the field of play - our defender was only cautioned. That must indicate that the referee was unsure as to the validity of his original decision, because if he had been certain then he had no choice but to dismiss our defender.

At Dorking the referee made a decision that was absolutely disgraceful! Violence on the field of play is something that cannot be tolerated. Whilst referees penalise and caution players for relatively trivial offences they are sometimes too tolerant in dealing with players who commit more serious offences.

With a few minutes remaining, a Maidenhead defender made a late tackle on a Dorking forward that merited a caution. The Dorking forward responded with a flurry of punches directed at the Maidenhead defender in an act of retribution and retaliation. The referee correctly cautioned the Maidenhead defender and then remarkably made an unbelievably gutless decision by only cautioning the Dorking forward!

The laws of the game on this matter are crystal clear, punching an opponent is violent conduct, one of three offences which warrant being sent off.

Allowing acts of violence to go unpunished is unacceptable! The referee should be ashamed of himself!!!

MARK SMITH.

Scouting Around

Jim Barrs has recently been doing some scouting, and discovered a young Nigerian lad playing in local league football. As he seemed to have a remarkable ability to score goals, he decided to take him along to a Magpies training session to see what he was like, which would also give the manager an opportunity to view his talents.

As they arrived at York Road, John Watt was standing in the Bell Street goal mouth talking to some players. Jim took the lad over to the others and introduced him to the boss. "This is the lad I was telling you about, John. His name is Thumpum Ngogo". John seemed to ignore him, but then started talking in a somewhat staccato voice, almost verging on pigeon English.

"This," he said, pointing to the left upright, "goal post. This - other post" he continued, pointing at the far post. Raising his hand and offering the bar, he said "and this - crossbar. In goal - net". He went in the goal and grabbed a handful of the net. In a more agitated manner he went on, "Your job - kick ball - in net - make net bulge!"

Jim was quick to interrupt. "Hold on, boss" he said. "The lad hasn't just come out of the jungle, you know. He does speak English." John Watt turned quickly. "It's all right, Jim, I wasn't talking to him, I was talking to that Mulvaney!"



'YESTER YEAR'

I recently spoke with a friend of mine GEOF MILES who has supported Maidenhead United for over 35 years, during which time he has attended matches regularly both home and away. I asked Geof if he would be kind enough to share with us a few of his memories. Heres what he had to say:

We've had a bit of a lean spell with regard to goal-scorers of late, as an older supporter I can't help myself thinking back in time to the old days, to events that many of the present day supporters have never seen. Some years ago our team included by today's standards 'an extinct breed' known as wingers. Their job was to stay on the wings, left or right for the whole duration of the match, their brief was to attack along the wing and get the ball across, sounds simple doesn't it. It's a shame that these day's a winger is a rare commodity indeed, they tend to follow the ball straight down the centre along with the rest of the team! I remember the time at Maidenhead when we had in the side two local forwards who it must be said we haven't seen the like of since! Peter Lowen was 6 foot tall and suffered from asthma, he scored literally dozens of goals in the Magpie shirt, waltzing round defences as if they didn't exist! Mick Chatterton was the other, he had a shot like an exocet missile and was rarely off target! "Give it to Chatt" The crowd would roar whenever it was a dead-ball situation....."IF ONLY".

The day's I refer the terraces were packed in their thousands. I remember a cup-tie, we were away to Colchester, we took 13 coaches from Maidenhead that day! (Ed - I too recall reading in one of this seasons programmes the time we met Leyton in the cup and the club hired a special train to get all the Maidenhead supporters to the game)

We used to have two tea-bars at York Road, if you just wanted a cup of tea you didn't have to queue for an eternity while the people in front waited for their hot-dogs to cook.

I can't help thinking that the players in those days played for the team and not the money as is the case today with the majority of players around.

I still turn up most Saturdays and moan when we lose just like I've done for the last 35 years or so! Geof signs off 'Hardcore' Thanks for sharing a few memories with us Geof let's hope we can again return to the big-time in the not too distant future.

Chesham United (2) 4,

Costa (two pens)
19, 81
Barnes 29
Townsend 58

Marlow (1) 3

Byrne 14
Lay (two pens)
84, 86

By Stuart Roach

many minutes to haul Marlow back from the dead. It has been suggested that FIFA are considering introducing penalties in all competitions to ensure that every match has a positive outcome, and the experiments appear to have started a little prematurely.

Costa had already scored one penalty earlier in the game, as Chesham hit back from a goal down, and Costa and Lay gave a faultless example of how to finish from eight yards.

I'm not surprised considering the distance from which they took the kicks. EIGHT YARDS!

Vote of Confidence?

I am sure that you don't need reminding of the famous report in the Advertiser in January 1991. It went something along the lines of...

Mr. Parsons, the club Chairman said "We know that the results recently have not been very good, but we have faith in Gary Goodwin. He has my total support and confidence in being able to recover the situation".

The sporting headline the following week reflected the interview well.

GOODWIN OUT ; CLEMENTS IN

In the same newspaper, in January 1992, an interview was recorded....

In a statement about the situation, Vice-Chairman Mr. Swan told the Advertiser "John Clements is well aware of our predicament, but I have total confidence in his ability to lead us to safety".

Do you remember the headline on the sports pages the next week?

CLEMENTS SACKED - WATT TAKES OVER

It doesn't take a genius to work out that the best way to get rid of somebody is to give them a vote of confidence. We are therefore giving all supporters the chance to promote the removal of anyone who has pissed them off recently. Just fill in the form below, and return it.

=====

To: The Committee
Maidenhead United Football Club

I believe that is a really first class person, and I would like you to publicly give him/her a Vote of Confidence.

Yours Sincerely,

.....

The Old ones are the best!

Not long ago, I was away on business and decided it would be good fun to seek out a local football match. Much better to spend my spare time following healthy pursuits than standing in the hotel bar getting slowly plastered!

I looked in Yellow Pages under Football, but could only discover the names of the local football pools collectors. Examining the local paper, I found that Banstead were due to play Petersfield that evening. "That sounds exciting!" I said to myself. (I know, but this is only a story) I looked up the telephone number of Banstead and gave them a call. The phone got answered on the twenty-fifth ring.

"Allo, Banstead 'ere." announced a rather agitated voice, accompanied by lots of heavy breathing. "I hope I haven't disturbed you" I said, somewhat apologetically. "No, that's all right," came the reply, "I was outside marking the pitch out for the game tonight. Can I 'elp yer, Guv?" I was somewhat taken aback by this. "I really wanted to speak to the Club Secretary or the Match Secretary" I explained, "or any other member of the committee".

"That's me" came back the reply. "Which one?" I asked. "I'm the Secretary, Match Secretary, Chairman, Treasurer and Groundsman" he said. "I'm busy, so what the bleedin' 'ell do yer want?"

"All I wanted to know" I began, "is what time does the game start tonight?" He thought for a while and said "What time can you get here?" "No, you don't understand," I said. "If I get there at seven fifteen, will I get a parking place?" A quite laugh came over the phone. "Get here at quarter past and you'll get a game" he chortled. "I don't want to play" I explained, "but will I be able to sit down arriving then?" He laughed again and said "If you bring a chair with you."

Undeterred, I went to the game anyway. Arriving in Banstead, I asked a local where the ground was. "What ground?" he asked. "Why, Banstead Athletic's of course" I replied. "Banstead who?" he said. The somewhat animated conversation went on for some time before another urchin was able to direct me to the local swimming pool. "I'm pretty sure some pillocks kick about there" he offered.

I eventually found the ground, parked my car in the empty car park, and went in. There was no-one on the gate, but someone jumped out of the shadows and said "Do you want a programme?" I said I would, so he said "I'll go and photocopy one for you then" and off he scuttled. I leant against the fence, and said to the bloke next to me "OI! Wheres the tea-bar?" but he was too far away to hear.

Once the game started, I was so enthralled that I woke up just as they turned the lights out. Perhaps I should have stayed at my hotel and got pissed. It would have been better than being pissed-off like I was!

Police Raid Club

Police acting on information received made a dawn raid on the headquarters of Maidenhead United Football Club last week. The officers involved in the dawn swoop were members of an elite unit set up to combat the distribution of obscene publications. The police disclosed that they had received a tip off from a member of the public that the club were hoarding vast quantities of subversive literature.

Shortly after the raid the club issued the following statement:

At approximately 6.15 am police entered club premises by forced entry and conducted a thorough search of the club's main office. A considerable quantity of unsold match-day programmes were removed from the premises so that they could be checked over back at the station by the investigating officers over a nice hot cup of tea. We have been informed by the officer in charge of the raid that the reason for the seizure of the programmes was that they had received a number of complaints from the unsuspecting public that within the pages were a number of scenes of two magpies indulging in explicit sexual behaviour (Having it off). Following their investigations the police were prepared to allow the club to continue selling the programmes on condition that the explicit pictures showing the two magpies having it off were covered with a censor flash. The club has very reluctantly agreed to conform with this request.

A Club spokesman added: " This looks like curtains for the Club's Fanzine 'The Shagging Magpies'. Unless that is, we can persuade the Editors to change the name to: 'Two Magpies Sitting Next To Each Other On Perches Of Completely Different Heights! Let's just hope they'll go along with it because if they won't this Club is doomed!!!"

FREE GIFT

The Editors of The Shagging Magpies offer their most sincere apologies to all the people who purchased the last issue only to discover that the pages were not stapled together. We realise the torment it must have caused and by way of offering the unfortunates some form of compensation we are enclosing **TWO EXTRA STAPLES** with this issue. Should you have been one of the lucky people to receive a stapled copy of issue 4 then we like to think that you'd be honest enough to return the two extra staples enclosed with this issue which you are clearly not entitled to!

At a recent Committee meeting at Egham Town Football Club the following resolution was passed, Quote from match programme: "A memorable decision was taken : Henceforth our official nickname is **"THE SARNIES"** any side can have boring 'Town' as a moniker! Unquote. Can they be serious?!!!! (EG-HAM -'THE SARNIES'.....GET IT!)

Embarrassed Magpies!

Very recently, the club secured one of the best sponsorship deals in non-league football when agreement was reached with Quemagat Developments Ltd. Although new floodlights are among improvements to be made to the York Road ground, arrangements are now in hand for the construction of a 15,000 capacity sports stadium on the outskirts of the town; plans have been finalised, York Road is to be sold with the club intending to move to the new stadium in three years' time.

Extract from Kingstonian v Maidenhead Utd programme dated; 13th September 1983.

Extract from Maidenhead Advertiser 15th Jan 1993.

RAIDING proposals to improve sports and leisure facilities - which include moving Maidenhead United Football Club to an upgraded Braywick Park - are outlined in the plan.

The football club has wanted to move from its York Rd ground for more than a decade and, according to chairman Mr. Jim Parsons, relocation is vital to its survival.

Options for the club were discussed during the preparation of the previous local plan for Maidenhead but came to nothing. "We have always been happy to relocate," said Mr. Parsons, adding the current regime appeared more sympathetic to the football club's plight than its predecessor.

The move now looks set to be considered as part of a comprehensive strategy for Braywick Park's future management currently being developed by the council's recreation unit.

The council is committed to improving and consolidating facilities at Braywick, one of Windsor and Maidenhead's most important outdoor recreation sites.

What the hell does Mr Parsons think he's playing at?! Here we are spending a bloody fortune on ground improvements only to be told that the moment the Club finds a buyer we're off! I'm with Swany on this one mate!

PERSPECTIVE

But, as Mr. Swan emphasised, the club is keeping its faith with the current manager, despite the poor run of results.

"There's no pressure on the manager whatsoever. You've got to look at it in the proper perspective. Some of the league draws we've had have been good results, such as the games Molesey and Leyton, and we had the two good draws against Yeading."

"It's basically been down to bad finishing - that's been the key to our whole season, and Tuesday's game against

All 3 of these cuttings came in the space of just 8 days in November 1992. Poor old 'Clemo' First the vote of confidence from Swany, then our first win in 15 matches, then to cap it all the bloody sack!!!

Extract from Maidenhead Advertiser dated 12th February 1993.

PHASE one of a major facelift for Maidenhead United Football Club's York Rd stadium begins next week. The club plans to spend £14,000 putting in 200 new seats, five new turnstiles and fencing around the ground to upgrade the stadium and so help next season's promotion bid.



On Thursday workmen will start rebuilding the Bell St entrance with a new wall, gate and turnstile.

The new entrance, which will take three weeks to complete, will mean permanent closure of an unofficial short-cut across the club's land linking Bell St and York Rd. A new gate will be installed, which will be kept locked.

The bulk of the work will begin at the end of the season in June. The Bell St stand will have 150 new seats and the main stand 50, all bought from Millwall Football Club in London.

Plans include four more new turnstiles, a women's toilet next to the changing rooms, resurfacing two car parks as well as repainting and decorating the ground.

After a poor start to the season, the Magpies have risen to mid-table in the Diadora League division one. To make a serious promotion challenge next season the ground must be improved from its B-grade status to A-grade.

Jon Swan, the club's vice chairman, said: "These days it's not just putting a team on the pitch, it's getting a ground graded appropriately for the premier division."

"The problem is this will all cost money which we are having to raise ourselves. We are looking for a local business prepared to sponsor a stand."

"The name of the company would be written across the stand, which would be called after the company and so provide a long-term advertising arrangement."

The Magpies' plans have been given a boost by a £6,500 grant from the Football Trust, which leaves them with £7,500 to raise.

If fund-raising goes well, future plans could include an enclosed press box with a telephone line and an enclosure for 150 people covering the terraces at the York Stream end.

Club officials have dismissed the Royal Borough's suggestion of moving the club to a new ground and developing the York Rd site for housing.

Mr. Swan said: "As far as we are concerned we are not moving anywhere. The council has not come to us with any proposals. The first we heard about moving was reading it in the Advertiser."

Clements delighted by win

A relieved John Clements was delighted with Saturday's 1-0 win against Aveley, a result which saw the end of Maidenhead's 14 match run without a victory.

And Clements claims the rebuilding process at the club is only in its early stages, with more new players expected to arrive at York Rd. this season.

"We're always looking to strengthen the side - we're trying to build a side that will do well," he stated.

Magpies sack manager

Maidenhead United have sacked manager John Clements. On Saturday the Magpies beat Aveley 1-0 to record their first win in 15 games. Full report on Page 49.

BEST FOR LOCAL SPORT

SPARKES FLYING FOR MAIDS Page 32

CAESAR IS HAILED AT BROMLEY Page 37

MAIDS WIN AT SLOUGH Page 321

Industrial League details

RESULTS	TABLES																																																																																																																																																																																	
<p>BERKS & BUCKS JUNIOR CUP</p> <p>North Stand</p> <p>43 Gvt 2. Brackley 1-0 11/11</p> <p>West (Maid) 2. Woodbury 1-0 11/11</p> <p>Woodbury 3. Slough 1-0 11/11</p> <p>BERKS & BUCKS JUNIOR TROPHY</p> <p>North Stand</p> <p>Crown 3. Slough 2 1-0 11/11</p> <p>North Stand 3. Slough 2 1-0 11/11</p> <p>Slough 2. The Box 2 1-0 11/11</p>	<p>Primary Division</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Club</th><th>P</th><th>W</th><th>D</th><th>L</th><th>F</th><th>A</th><th>Pts</th></tr> <tr><td>Slough 1</td><td>11</td><td>7</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>22</td><td>10</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>Slough 2</td><td>11</td><td>6</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>18</td><td>11</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>Slough 3</td><td>11</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>15</td><td>11</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>Slough 4</td><td>11</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>12</td><td>11</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>Slough 5</td><td>11</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>2</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>Slough 6</td><td>11</td><td>2</td><td>7</td><td>2</td><td>8</td><td>11</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>Slough 7</td><td>11</td><td>1</td><td>8</td><td>2</td><td>6</td><td>11</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>Slough 8</td><td>11</td><td>0</td><td>9</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>11</td><td>9</td></tr> </table> <p>Division 2</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>Club</th><th>P</th><th>W</th><th>D</th><th>L</th><th>F</th><th>A</th><th>Pts</th></tr> <tr><td>Alderbourne</td><td>11</td><td>9</td><td>6</td><td>2</td><td>22</td><td>8</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>Morning Star</td><td>11</td><td>8</td><td>6</td><td>1</td><td>22</td><td>10</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>Castle Utd.</td><td>11</td><td>9</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>23</td><td>15</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>Englefield Res.</td><td>11</td><td>9</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>21</td><td>16</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>Iver Spts Res.</td><td>11</td><td>4</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>28</td><td>34</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>Crown (Maid)</td><td>11</td><td>9</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>19</td><td>23</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>Merlin</td><td>11</td><td>6</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>8</td><td>8</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>Blues (Maid)</td><td>11</td><td>6</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>17</td><td>14</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>APC High Duty</td><td>11</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>0</td><td>2</td><td>13</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>Windsor Wand.</td><td>11</td><td>9</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>17</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>Old Pals Res.</td><td>11</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>0</td><td>3</td><td>11</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>MARLOW</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>0</td><td>3</td><td>9</td><td>0</td><td>86</td><td>3</td></tr> </table>	Club	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Slough 1	11	7	2	2	22	10	23	Slough 2	11	6	3	2	18	11	21	Slough 3	11	5	4	2	15	11	19	Slough 4	11	4	5	2	12	11	17	Slough 5	11	3	6	2	10	11	15	Slough 6	11	2	7	2	8	11	13	Slough 7	11	1	8	2	6	11	11	Slough 8	11	0	9	2	4	11	9	Club	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Alderbourne	11	9	6	2	22	8	14	Morning Star	11	8	6	1	22	10	13	Castle Utd.	11	9	5	1	23	15	11	Englefield Res.	11	9	5	1	21	16	11	Iver Spts Res.	11	4	2	5	28	34	10	Crown (Maid)	11	9	3	2	19	23	8	Merlin	11	6	2	3	8	8	7	Blues (Maid)	11	6	2	2	17	14	6	APC High Duty	11	5	3	0	2	13	12	Windsor Wand.	11	9	2	2	5	17	20	Old Pals Res.	11	5	2	0	3	11	18	MARLOW	11	12	0	3	9	0	86	3
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Slough 7	11	1	8	2	6	11	11																																																																																																																																																																											
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Morning Star	11	8	6	1	22	10	13																																																																																																																																																																											
Castle Utd.	11	9	5	1	23	15	11																																																																																																																																																																											
Englefield Res.	11	9	5	1	21	16	11																																																																																																																																																																											
Iver Spts Res.	11	4	2	5	28	34	10																																																																																																																																																																											
Crown (Maid)	11	9	3	2	19	23	8																																																																																																																																																																											
Merlin	11	6	2	3	8	8	7																																																																																																																																																																											
Blues (Maid)	11	6	2	2	17	14	6																																																																																																																																																																											
APC High Duty	11	5	3	0	2	13	12																																																																																																																																																																											
Windsor Wand.	11	9	2	2	5	17	20																																																																																																																																																																											
Old Pals Res.	11	5	2	0	3	11	18																																																																																																																																																																											
MARLOW	11	12	0	3	9	0	86	3																																																																																																																																																																										

Marlow on the up after cup exploits

MARLOW (0) 2	LONG BARN (7) 10
Anshay 82	Hugh 2,5,7 Pugh 14,19,22(pen)
Garter 87	Barney McGrew 40
	Cuthbert 54 Dibble 67 Grubb 70

The Future is rosy for the Maidenhead Advertiser's number one team - Marlow. Despite the fact that they come from Buckinghamshire, are over four miles from Maidenhead, and get their coverage in the Bucks Free Press, we are determined to give them better coverage than that team which are only fifty yards from our offices - Maydinhid Yonunity. We cover local sides in all sports except those that come from the name in the title of the paper, well we give them little bits of space here and there, when Marlow, Burnham and Flackwell's games are off.

Anyway, onto the game. The scene was set, the Alfred Davis Memorial Ground was buzzing with its usual atmosphere of one man, two dogs and the tea bar lady eagerly awaiting this crucial Berks & Bucks Intermediate Cup with the Long Barn pub from Cippenham (about four miles from Maidenhead). And then sensationally, the man tied his dog to a fence post and went to the Gents to relieve himself whilst the tea bar lady put the kettle on to make a cup of coffee.

By the time I got to the game (4.20), Marlow were unfortunately losing. But they dominated the last twenty minutes and scored two magnificent goals. Dobbin the Donkey was grazing quietly in the Long Barn half of the field when a marvellous penetrating through ball from Larry Day ricocheted off Dobbin straight into the path of Basil Anshay who couldn't miss as the Long Barn 'keeper had gone to the tea bar for a cuppa. One minute later, Long Barn were awarded an extremely debatable penalty. I felt that their forward made a meal of the tackle, but after he had been carried off and his left leg thrown over the pitch perimeter barrier, Les Garter made a superb save and kicked the ball upfield towards the Long Barn goal - their 'keeper had just come out of the urinals and could only watch as the ball bounced into the net - goal of the season in my book.

After the game, Marlow manager Russ David said that he felt that Marlow had been magnificent in their fightback, memories of White Hart Lane, Waterloo, Trafalgar, etc., "It will be difficult to get the lads to raise their game for next weeks league fixture in our endeavours to gain promotion to division one of the Industrial League. We are only twelve points behind the leaders, Alderbourne, and despite having only ten games left to play, if we can win them all then pigs might fly. Windsor not get relegated, more crap" He went on to add his disappointment at the decision by key defender Dobbin the Donkey to leave the club for pastures new. "He'd ate all the grass in both goalmouths and felt it time to move on; He fancied a nice juicy ploughed field, so has gone to Harefield United."

Confidence is shattered

When we wrote to the Maydinhid Yonunity manager Jim Witt, he was disheartened by his sides display at Slough last Saturday (brief report page 34, main report page 321 between Household Articles and Rivercraft). "Only winning 10-0 has really shattered our confidence - Mulvaney's chin is on the ground as he only scored six goals, it's a desperate situation. Our supporters haven't responded, we only took 2,000 followers to Wexham Park and our home gates of 3,300 are really poor." There is no point going to York Road for tomorrow's 6th round FA Cup tie against Everton as we spotted a small puddle in the Canal End goalmouth when we looked out of the office window on Tuesday. Despite the heatwave, we reckon the game will be called off, so go to Marlow instead. (or Slough, or Flackwell Heath, or if you are really desperate, Burnham)

**SPORT
IN BRIEF**

**LOCAL ANGLERS ARE
FROZEN OUT!**



The Big Fish Column
by Ian Welch

Canoeing
Marlow Canoe Club were desperately unfortunate to finish last in their contest against other local canoeing clubs last week. "Bridlington, Crewe and Carlisle proved too strong, and I knew when two of our crew drowned and our boat capsized that it wasn't going to be our lucky day" said skipper Dell Tony.

At the All British Angling Championship, Marlow Angling Club member Dick Head finished in a very creditable 1,003rd position, having successfully landed a massive 4 gramme beauty. "I patiently waited all day for a bite and was thrilled when, with just five minutes of the competition remaining, my bait of an uncooked baguette was taken by this fish, the size of which I have never seen before" said the ecstatic Dick. The Maidenhythe angler, who we have pictured (reluctantly) with his catch won the competition, but we know you're not the least bit interested in that.

**Burnham are
buried**

and who'd care?



Recent action from a local game containing no Maidenhead player

Cricket

**Side edge
through**

Marlow were extremely unlucky to lose their National Knock-Out Cup game to Norf Middinhid last week by 394 runs. Norf Middinhid plodded along scoring just 13.7 runs per over. Marlow's bowling was extremely tight, Pratt being the pick of the bunch with 9-80 of his six overs as Middinhid luckily finished on 411-0. In reply, Marlow were so unlucky to lose their first eight wickets for twelve runs - fluky bowling and lucky fielding, coupled with poor umpiring decisions meant that Marlow finished all out for 17, despite a great knock of twelve by Extras.

Lethargic effort in league

Although we didn't send a football reporter to their game at Slough last week which ended in an unconvincing 10-0 win for the Magnets, I have heard from one of the Slough's spectators mum's brother's daughter-in-law that the visitors were lethargic and genuinely lucky to win.

Tennis

Burnham (that village in Bucks given ample coverage in the Slough Observer) hopeful Neal Andemal was most unfortunate to lose 0-6, 0-6, 0-6 to a player from an unmentionable town in a recent tournament. Neal said "It was incredible, he won every game to love, but of his 72 points, 36 were net cord flukes, 36 were aces and all were dodgy line calls. I was by far the better player."

Netball

In their last match at Kidwells Park, the visiting Slough side were unjustly beaten 43-0. "I'm sure our ring wasn't wide enough for the ball to go through it" stated beaten Slough captain Pradjat Sharma, and she added "the home side disrupted our style of play by having five of their side sent off when the score was 0-0. In my opinion this was blatant sportsmanship, verging on cheating."

**Slough
appoint
chief**

SWIMMING

SLOUGH Dolphins S.C., based at Montem Leisure Centre, has appointed Nigel Goldsworthy as Chief Coach.

As an A.S.A trained coach, Nigel uses the latest techniques and is particularly keen on good stroke work. With the full support of club officials and poolside helpers, he aims to put Slough on the swimming map.

Nigel has been actively involved with swimming for over 20 years. A former Great Britain International, mainly racing 100m freestyle, he also tackled the English Channel as a member of a world record breaking team raising money for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. Formerly coach of Swiss Cottage S.C., Nigel, 31, is married with an 18 month son and lives in Bear Green.

HOW THEY STAND

GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE												
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	P	P	A	P	P
Middlesex United	29	12	1	0	12	5	11	5	0	28	17	7.5
Slough	29	8	0	3	23	12	4	3	2	10	10	3.9
Daylesham	21	5	1	3	25	13	5	4	1	13	4	3.7
Bromsgrove	22	5	3	2	17	10	4	5	1	14	14	3.5
Witchamont	20	6	3	1	10	10	4	0	4	15	17	3.3
Uxbridge	21	5	3	3	20	17	4	3	3	13	13	3.3
Woking	23	3	1	6	11	17	7	2	4	24	21	3.3
Northwich	22	2	2	7	13	18	7	2	2	24	12	3.1
Yarnold	21	6	2	2	20	10	3	2	6	9	17	3.1
Saltbridge	24	2	6	3	12	18	5	4	4	17	16	3.1
Bath	20	5	4	2	18	10	3	2	4	14	11	3.0
Wokingham	23	7	2	4	24	18	1	3	6	14	22	2.9
Wokingham	24	5	3	3	15	11	5	1	8	10	10	2.9

GROUNDHOPPING

a personal view by
Jim Dunn

What is a Groundhopper? I've lost count of the number of times I've heard that question over the years. There are many different interpretations of this, but briefly, it is a football fan who will think nothing of travelling many miles to see a match involving two teams that he has no interest in whatsoever.

This can range from a man (female 'hoppers' are extremely rare!) who lives somewhere like Devon going to see a game in the Carlisle & District League - amazing as it sounds, I have met dedicated hoppers like this - right the way down to the more modest Groundhopper (GH) who sticks to his local area.

I have been hopping for about seven years now and occupy somewhere near the middle ground. I will go to those grounds within reasonable distance and tend to stick to the feeder leagues and above. I am rather restricted in my hobby as I am a referee on Saturdays, play in a Quiz Team on a Monday and give preferential treatment to the two greatest loves of my life, Millwall and Maidenhead. It is therefore a once a week hobby, although occasionally I enjoy a 'double' or 'triple-header' (two or three games in one day). This is in stark contrast to the gentleman called Maurice from Telford who I got talking to at Beaconsfield recently who was witnessing his 137th game of the season, and tried to go to a game every day of the week. I'm a novice by comparison, nevertheless I have chalked up 36 new grounds this season (up to early March) and am approaching 250 all told.

But let's go back to the beginning - how did I get involved in this strange pastime? Well, I shan't tell you because it's a very boring story, but suffice it to say it was a day when both the Lions and the Magpies were away and I had a desperate desire for some football. To begin with, I visited the more local grounds like Windsor, Slough, Hayes, etc.... but later on became more adventurous and went further afield; Hornchurch, Finchley and Oxford City.

The grounds I visited were very variable in their set-ups, ranging from the super-duper stadiums of what are now the Premier League teams, right down through standard Diadora League grounds to the most basic of all - Hellenic League Easington Sports was just a clubhouse, a pitch and a set of dug-outs, whilst Cray Valley of the Spartan League didn't even have the latter! Frequently I bump into old friends - other hoppers. Gerry from Eastleigh, Rob from Watford, Dave from London are all people I have met many times.

Many people reading this will be totally confused wondering what the enjoyment is in all this. Some would say it is the journey, some meeting new people, others being more interested in the beer served in the clubhouse. I think for me it is a combination of a number of factors, with the most important aspect being the game itself. I have enhanced my enjoyment further now by

drawing all the grounds I visit, roughly at first and in more detail later. Until this season, I didn't have a car and it could be quite enthralling working out train times, bus prices, ground directions etc... although having a car has rather simplified this task.

So what constitutes a groundhop? Once again, this is open to speculation, but I personally list all games that are not home games of Millwall or Maidenhead. I also sub-classify these games taking place on a completely new ground to me where I am a strict neutral. These I call 'TRUE' hops.

Some of the more dedicated groundhoppers are much fussier than that, and among the more strange rules that I have come across are:-

- i) The GH who insists on touching both crossbars at every ground visited.
- ii) The GH who won't regard a ground as having been visited unless he has a drink in the bar.
- iii) Many groundhoppers are fussy about programmes, and if one isn't issued they will visit the ground again when one is. Some have even gone as far as issuing a programme on a club's behalf rather than go without.
- iv) One GH insisted on making his own way and using only public transport, preferring to walk for miles rather than accept a lift.
- v) Some will insist on watching a full 90 minutes - tricky if the train times are against you, and what happens if the game is abandoned?
- vi) Possibly the silliest one of all was the GH who would not regard a ground as having been visited if the game finished 0-0!

Personally, I have only one rule. I must see a match at the ground in question, for example, I've been to Northampton Town for a cricket match but not for football, so I can't cross it off yet.

This season, I have had something of a jinx on me, as on two occasions, at Ely City and Shoreham, matches have been abandoned. On three other occasions, at Milton Keynes Borough, Alvechurch and Curzon Ashton, I have arrived at the ground only to discover that the games had been called off. On arrival at Ashcroft Co-Op, I discovered that the venue had been changed at the last minute to what was little more than the local park.

Virtually every visit I have done has been an adventure of sorts, so it is difficult to know where to start. I have certainly had some great moments. At one time, there was a GH Magazine Club and a number of conventions, usually involving a match against a local team, but sadly these have all gone now. Perhaps the best time to hop is early or late in the season when the weather is warm. I remember with particular affection leafy countryside walks to Abingdon (in Spartan League days), Whyteleaf and Longford.

Perhaps the more memorable hops are those when things go disastrously wrong. At Hednesford Town, I waited an hour and a half for a certain bus before discovering that it didn't run that day. Running like hell at Feltham for a train, sighing with relief when I just made it only to discover it was going in the wrong direction. Being given mid-week train times to Margate for a

Sunday game I missed almost half the match - a similar thing happened at Easington Sports.

Killing almost an hour at Milton Keynes this season, only to discover that the game had been called off, driving like a maniac, I just about caught most of a game at Newport Pagnell Town. The unreal atmosphere of a match on a plastic pitch, surrounded by a 20 foot high fence means I will not visit Potters Bar Crusaders again.

Sadder visits are those I recall to ex-grounds. Witney Town, Kingstonian, Scunthorpe and Andover are among a number of clubs which have moved since I saw them. Others, such as Oxford City and Electrolux have folded completely. Possibly the most interesting of all are the incidents which are just plain bizarre.

At Crown & Manor, the game had to be held up when a drunken French girl staggered on to the pitch. Hitch-hiking from Trowbridge to Radstock on a double-header (2 games in one day), I got picked up by a 'nice boy' who was more interested in ball sports of a different kind. Naturally, I beat a hasty retreat. Coming back from Braintree Town, my train was delayed for half an hour while police removed a dead body from the line. Returning from Canterbury City, I missed the last train and had to walk home from Slough in the pouring rain.

Without a doubt, the highlight of my whole groundhopping experience occurred last Easter, when, thanks to the dedication and hard work of a Northern League Official, a whole groundhopping weekend was organised. We attended seven matches in 3 days, and all accommodation, food and transport was organised. There were nearly 200 of us up there and nearly all agreed that it was a great experience, and the good news is that it'll happen again this year. I actually went to three further games in the Midlands on the way home to make a total of ten new grounds in four days.

Finally, I would like to present a brief summary of my latest jaunt, and hopefully one day it may inspire someone out there to try out this marvellous hobby. After a thumb through the latest edition of Non-League Traveller, I decided to settle on Wessex League club Romsey Town. The reason for going there, other than the obvious one of it being a ground I haven't visited before, was a report in Traveller that the club may be moving soon to a new ground. I always try to visit grounds which may be 'going'.

The By-Pass ground is, as the name suggests, on the By-pass lying adjacent to the A31/A27 junction. The nearest railway station was Romsey, about three quarters of a mile away. Entrance to the ground was £1.80, including a twenty page programme with plenty of reading matter. The clubhouse was small and friendly with beers very reasonably priced, although choice was somewhat limited. There was also a rather nice tea bar.

Romsey have been having a treacherous time this season, despite being champions just two seasons ago. They are currently lying rock bottom, having lost 22 of their 26 games and conceded over 100 goals. Opponents Thatcham Town are the most northerly of all the Wessex League Clubs. They are in a handy 5th place with games in hand, but some way behind runaway leaders Wimborne.

During the game itself, heroics from Romsey goalkeeper Eloux Pierrick restricted Thatcham to two goals in the first half. In the second half, the visitors simply tore the battling, but woefully inferior, home side to shreds, and the final scoreline of 9-0 did not flatter them. All in all, a very enjoyable night and a club well worth visiting.

ROMSEY TOWN 1992 -93/43

"BY-PASS GROUND"
March 1993

CAPACITY 1200
COVER 150
SEATS NONE
VISITS 1993

MATCH
ROMSEY TOWN v. THATCHAM TOWN

DATE
3rd MARCH 1993 WEDNESDAY

COMPETITION
WESSEX LEAGUE

GROUND/PREVIOUS VISITS
BY-PASS GROUND, ROMSEY / NONE

CONDITIONS
COLD AND DRY

RESULT
0-9

SEQUENCE
0-1,0-2, HT, 0-3,0-4,0-5,0-6,0-7,0-8,0-9

MATCH RATING
7

JOURNEY METHOD
CAR FROM MAIDENHEAD

HOP RATING
8

COLOURS

	ROM.	THAT.
SHIRTS	GREEN	BLUE/WHITE STR.
SHORTS	GREEN	WHITE
SOCKS	GREEN	RED



"Thanks, Pawa. I've been trying to get him off to sleep for hours."

YO HO HO

Needless to say the kiddies Christmas party held at the Social Club on January 24th was undoubtedly a resounding success. I would personally like to thank all those involved in organising the event and look forward to bringing my daughter Scarlett, Victoria to the next one. Also of course I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our very own 'Malcolm of The Magpies', Roy 'Pav' Bannister who brought a whole new meaning to the term 'Happy' Christmas. (Just how many Red Rocks do you consume in a day Roy?). Roy's 'impersonation' of Santa was without a doubt a memory every one in attendance will savour forever! Equal only to his impersonation of 'The Invisible Man' at the Magpies Stag Night, tell us Roy, where did you vanish to when that charming young lady came looking for you? Cheers Roy - Mines a Red Rock!

ANDY ROSS.

I too would like to publicly thank Ray Dawson and all his helpers for putting on a super do for the kids - and how nice it was to see, John Watt, Francis Araguez, Steve Emmanuel and their families in attendance supporting all the hard work put in.

TREVOR KINGHAM.

The Crumbling Pyramid?

A few years ago, when the Non-League Pyramid was conceived, it was a welcome innovation which finally recognised the importance of football outside of the Football League. The purpose was to structure the whole of junior football in such a way as every club, being a member of a recognised league, would have a clearly defined promotion scheme to reward their success. Even the lowliest club could then see just how they could rise through the ranks and, with lots of luck, even join the professional ranks of the top flight.

This was like a breath of fresh air to football. For as long as memory served, election of a new club to the Football League was a rarity, and even the various amateur leagues resisted interference in their affairs and refused any form of promotion from other leagues.

As soon as the Pyramid system was founded, the true value was immediately seen, and clubs found their correct place in the overall scheme of things. Promotion to the Football League was achieved, and successfully too! The higher ranks of Non-league football soon found long established teams tumbling to levels more suited to their capabilities. Everything in the footballing garden seemed to be coming up roses. But then things started to go wrong, and the first cracks appeared in the foundations of the Pyramid. Things have gone from bad to worse, so much so that today the whole fabric of the system is crumbling at an alarming pace, and unless the Football authorities, the clubs, the players and the fans take action, Non-league football could very soon crumble into total oblivion.

The writing was on the wall as soon as the junior leagues started imposing ground grading standards which were out of all proportion to the level of the game. It cannot be denied that the grading system had merits, and was the guide-line by which clubs could plan to develop facilities in line with their playing ability. But the management went totally over the top, and imposed grading restrictions which meant clubs were forced into massive spending programmes which they could ill afford. A typical example of the ludicrous ground grading scheme was the case of Wokingham Town last season. Because of delays in the completion of ground development work, the club was forced to start the season playing home games as guests of another club. They were generously offered facilities at the Elm Park ground of Reading FC, a member of the then third division. To comply with League regulations, the Isthmian League had to inspect the ground, and incredibly declared that Elm Park did not meet Isthmian League standards.

Other clubs have fallen foul of such ground grading systems, and having fought long and hard to achieve success on the field, have then found that progression to a higher league has been denied them. Colne Dynamos, one of the most successful teams in recent years, disappeared completely because of this, and I can see other clubs being similarly affected. But what is being done about it?

Even at the highest level, the Football League have almost given up and have re-organised to protect the elite clubs - The Premier League. To the supporters it means very little, because Spurs versus Arsenal would be the same no matter what the league is called. All the fans get is a load of unwanted pre-match razz-a-matazz and the sight of officials dressed up in poofy turquoise. What football gets is the rich clubs getting richer whilst the poor clubs get poorer. How can the demise of clubs like Aldershot and Maidstone be justified, and it will not be long before other clubs go the same way.

At the lower level, money is scarce, as rising costs and falling gates take their toll. Most clubs are in severe financial situations with little chance of surviving, with the catch-22 situation of increasing admission prices to cover costs only to see fans stay away because of high prices. The leagues are compounding the situation by forcing clubs into ever increasing investment in facilities, which in turn will force clubs to abandon the league structure and quit the Pyramid system. Little can be done about the cost of admission as clubs struggle to balance the books. I suppose it is possible to allow free admission and to make a collection amongst the crowd, with the fans giving what they think the game is worth. (No sir, you can't take money out of the pot). I somehow don't see this scheme working.

The players must also take some of the responsibility for the difficulties that clubs find themselves in. The sort of money some of the players are demanding has gone out of all proportions. I fail to see how most of them can justify their claims, given the abject performances they turn in week after week. Rather than get overpaid for just turning up, I would like to see them get paid by the fans, which would then be almost directly linked to their success rate. Think of it this way; 150 fans turn up and pay £3 each, that gives £450. Take the officials expenses and club costs out of this and it may leave £300. This could then be shared out among the players. Being successful would bring in more spectators and thus increase the players purse.

Such suggestions are probably just regarded as flippant, but somebody somewhere has got to start thinking hard, and quickly, before the Pyramid falls into the unstoppable spiral towards oblivion. In the last couple of years we have seen clubs disappearing from within our own league, Eastbourne, Southwick, Harlow and Vauxhall Motors to name just some. The same thing is happening in other leagues too. It is time to act now, and this means everyone. To the leagues I say rethink the policies. Protect your clubs and protect your future. To the clubs I say stand up and be counted. Protest loudly and strongly with a unified voice. To the players I say be reasonable and realistic. And give us the effort and results that we pay for.

Finally to the supporters - get behind your club and give it all the support you can. Don't just think that all you have to do is turn up and watch a match every so often. The clubs need your help in everything it does, more so off the field than on it. Your club is a precious commodity to your environment. It is here today, but will it still be here tomorrow? All you may have left in the future is the prospect of watching a poor team playing on a poor pitch at Braywick. Is this what you want?

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MAN?



WANTED

Police today released an artists impression of a man they would like to interview in connection with a number of incidents involving the extortion of considerable amounts of money from regulars at a number of Public Houses in the immediate vicinity of York Road, Maidenhead.

The man they are looking for is described as having a Mediterranean complexion, between 5'9" and 5'10" unshaven, with extremely scruffy hair. He has what was described by a witness a really weird moustache and often wears a very dirty old raincoat. Aged about 50 with a 'lived in' face. Police have reason to believe that this man must be sleeping rough and warn all local residents that they should check their garden sheds and garages with extreme caution. He is often accompanied by a female who is of a similar appearance, possibly his daughter.

The officer in charge of the investigations, PC Kevin Brown disclosed that the man they are seeking enters Public Houses consumes large quantities of alcohol and then hassles individuals into parting with large sums of money claiming that it's for the local football club. PC Brown warns that under no circumstances should any member of the public attempt to apprehend this man as he could be dangerous. If you know anything no matter how vague then call PC Brown at Slough Police Station.

Your call will be treated in the strictest of confidence you don't even have to leave your name and you could earn yourself free drinks for a year from the landlord of the Anchor if as a result that the information you have given leads to the apprehension of this evil man.

TALKING STRAIGHT

Dear Sir,

Are you aware that at the moment there is a strange being roaming the terraces at York Road. Apparently it seems this being's sole aim in life is to alleviate £30 from the pockets of unsuspecting Maidenhead players. You might be surprised to learn that this money loving vulture, who only partially resembles a human, is not a thief or a pickpocket. He is, in fact, a so called artist - and I don't mean of the urinary kind. No, this six foot plus length of sinew thinks he's another Rolf Harris, or rather he thinks he thinks he's another Rolf. Confused yet? You will be.. Who wants to be another Rolf Harris? surely one is enough? Strange lad. Anyway, I digress.. (Bloody well get on with it! - Ed)

Considering this parasitic cartoonist doesn't even remotely resemble Rolf I find it hard to believe that he has the gall to continue the masquerade. And as for his didgeridoo playing.. Our man doesn't even know where to purchase the aforementioned. I thought everyone knew you could pop down to Wicks and get one. I mean, all you is a bit of 3 by 2 hardboard.. Anyway, that aside.....

(That's it! That's enough! Stop! No more! In all my life I have never read such mindless drivel. Where the bloody hell is all this prosaic crap leading us? When I said we wanted articles I didn't mean this sort of shit! Jesus, I could write better stuff than this!

The sought of material we are looking for should ideally be definitive articles, clear articles, succinct articles. Articles that tackle the subject head on, articles that are hard hitting but not unfair. Articles that offer constructive criticism, articles that are to the point, blunt, truthful. Articles that show satirical valour, articles that are enlightening. Even piss-taking articles!

Of course, I certainly don't expect to receive articles of such literary excellence that a referral to the Writers Guild is in order. I just want honest, down to earth, mud raking, controversial, hair raising, temper evoking, pieces.

Whatever you do, please don't send me articles that I don't understand.

The pages of this fanzine are for the use of Maidenhead United supporters. We want to print their views, their ideas, their trivia. These pages are NOT for suppressed, aggravated, Rolfe Harris fans.

At this point I sent the article back to its author and asked him to follow my guidelines. Along with the above guidelines I also asked him to make his article; Brief, pointed, direct, lean and mean. His finished article was the business. It was everything I had asked for...

Dear Sir,

I think Andy Ross is a money taking bastard.

Due to its contents, and the fact that this article came from a player, I have decided it is in the best interest of all concerned, not to print the contributors name and address. Apart from that I think the article is brilliant. It is everything I have asked for...

Steve Beard...

Bits 'n' Pieces

Paul Mulvaney has asked us to put the record straight as to the reason for his temper tantrum following his substitution near the end of the home match against Bishop Stortford in which he stormed off the pitch swearing and cursing and caused serious GBH to the dressing-room door. It wasn't being substituted that maddened Paul, what really upset him was that as he walked off Paul Dadson told him that while he was on the field some bastard in the dugout had eaten all his fruit pastilles!

Stan Payne, Maidenhead United Secretary let me into a little secret the other day about our manager John Watt. Apparently when John signed for Maidenhead United as a player back in 1973 he smoked 60 cigarettes a day! I couldn't resist asking him who the manager was at the time who was stupid enough to sign a player on who smoked 60 cigarettes a day? His reply? "WELL IT WAS ME ACTUALLY"!

DIADORA DEAL - GOOD NEWS!

Diadora have announced they are renewing their existing sponsorship of the Isthman League for another two years from the end of the current season with a further one year option taking it up to the end of 1995-96. The three year deal is worth more than £350,000. In addition there will be a £10,000 bonus for the first player scoring 45 Diadora League goals in a season.

Maidenhead United Chairman Jim Parson has asked us to point out that the heavy turn over of players in recent weeks and his error in over-ordering Club ties has no connection and is purely a coincidence. He went on to say that any player found not to be wearing the Club tie will be heavily fined and that persistent offenders will be released by the Club.

The new Club tie is obtainable from the Club shop, behind the bar in the Social Club or from the right hand pocket of Jim's dirty raincoat. Price £5.

***** 10 THINGS YOU NEVER HEAR AT YORK ROAD *****

1. Good save Sean!
2. Great cross Francis!
3. Good pass Scouse!
4. Hasn't the referee had a great game!
5. Great shot Reevo!
6. 'Atmosphere'
7. I reckon we'll go up this season!
8. Well played Maidenhead!
9. I must go and buy a copy of the Shagging Magpies!
10. "Hello Trev' I've bought you a cigar". "Thanks very much Jim".

Food for thought

As attendances at all levels of football continue to decline at an alarming rate it must be in the best interests of all clubs to ensure they do everything they can to boost their income. At the non-league level every penny really does count.

As a relative newcomer to the non-league scene I can only speak from the observations I have made when travelling around following Maidenhead United in the Diadora League and make no claim to speaking from a wealth of experience. I believe there are a number of ways in which clubs can help themselves to increase their revenue and are well worth some consideration.

Consider this fact, by far a clubs main source of income is generated by gate receipts, of course there are many other means of raising cash such as, Lottery tickets, Golden goals, Raffles, Ball and match sponsorship, just a few examples all of which are of vital importance in ensuring the clubs survival, however it has to be said if there was no paying customers all of these fund raising schemes would be pointless.

Bearing in mind the importance of the revenue generated at the gate of entry I can't help but draw the conclusion that many clubs are losing out as a result of what appears to be on the face of it an unwritten agreement between themselves and other clubs, this being the issuing of passes to club officials. Don't get me wrong, the elected committee of a club perform a vital role in giving up much of their time attending meetings and carrying out all the necessary tasks required to keep a club ticking over, without whom the club would cease to operate. The committee perform these important tasks without any financial reward although it must be said that they do enjoy the privilege of free admission to matches both home and away along with many other concessions. I feel it important to emphasis at this point that all the committee members perform their vital tasks for **their** clubs and their clubs only! And it is their club and their club only who should be rewarding them with free admission, free programme, drinks and sandwiches in the boardroom, whereas when they travel to an away match they are most fortunate in enjoying the same hospitality yet have done nothing to earn it.

I can't help but ask the question, Why do away committee members gain free admission, free programme, free drinks and grub? It disturbs me somewhat when clubs are obliged to entertain vast numbers of visiting 'dignitaries' way and above the level of acceptability, the cost incurred is phenomenal!

Bearing in mind that all gate receipts go to the home club what is stopping clubs issuing passes to all their travelling supporters and in doing so cheating the host club out of a considerable amount of much needed revenue, I'm not suggesting for a moment that this happens but it makes me wonder.

I think the time has come when clubs start to sort things out by adopting a policy of only inviting Directors, Club Secretaries, Treasurers and team officials as guests, the remainder who contribute much to their own particular club but nothing to their hosts should be encouraged to pay their way like all visiting supporters do and in doing so they will ensure that the club they have just visited will still be around come next season.

I'm all for extending the hand of friendship and consider 5 non-paying guests, hospitality - I consider more than 5 non-paying 'guests' as taking the piss!

The extra money generated by adopting this simple policy would make a major difference to a clubs income and could be put to good use in improving the team and the spectator facilities.

TREVOR KINGHAM.

Meet the men from York Road

JOHN WATT.....MANAGER.

John's appointment had nothing to do with his knowledge of the game or his managerial skills. He was offered the job because he was the only man around at the time of the right height who the assistant manager Derek Sweetman didn't have to look up to! He went down in my estimations the day he released our resident donkey Steve Croxford who never failed to give us all a good laugh regardless of the result. John did make an effort to put matters right by including Richard North in the side against Winslow but sadly he's left him out ever since.

Since his appointment John has shown a willingness to sign any player prepared to stand his round in the bar, so there's hope yet for George Best and Jimmy Greaves.

The main criticism I have of John is that he doesn't wear a Diadora jacket, maybe it's not his fault, could be the club have yet to issue him with one. Whatever the reason he must make an effort to get one!

JIM BARRS.....FAITH HEALER.

Jim is to medicine what John Barnes is to international football. Being the deeply religious person that he is it was felt by the club that he'd be the ideal candidate to dispense the 'Holy Water'. Jim's main concern is that one day a player might suffer a genuine injury, but should such an eventuality ever occur he always comes prepared with his Barclaycard at the ready.

ROY BANNISTER.....RESERVE TEAM GROUPIE.

Nicknamed 'PAV' for his uncanny resemblance to the fat man from Italy who just like Roy is, fat, ugly, balding and tone deaf. Roy is a merchant-banker as so many of his closest associates will verify. His most famous composition to date being 'Bull-shitting in The Bar' He can often be seen on a match day running the line and proudly boasts of never having taken an officials course, for anyone who has witnessed his performances they won't need reminding of this fact. In common with so many merchant-bankers Roy drinks 'Red Rock' cider and is careful to restrict himself to a meagre 14 bottles before matches.

Being of a rather shy nature Roy rarely mixes in social circles but has been known to pick up the odd woman, and I mean 'odd' woman in every sense of the word!

SEAN SAUNDERS.....BALL RETRIEVER.

In signing Sean from Holmer Green John Watt showed everyone that he's not as serious as he appears and in fact has a wonderful sense of humour. I used to think that Tommy Cooper was funny that was until I witnessed one of Seans performances. Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that Sean's a magician, as you all know in a magicians case 'the quickness of the hand deceives the eye' unlike Sean where the quickness of his hand wouldn't fool a blind donkey! The one thing Sean has in common with Tommy Cooper is his ability to make people laugh. Watch out Trevor Roffey for Sean has all the right ingredients to break your record of conceding 11 goals in just two matches!

More men from York Road

JOHN FRANKS.....HATCHET MAN.

John was rushed into the side to replace Francis Araguez who accidentally let it slip that his previous clubs included such low life as Slough Town, Windsor & Eton and the final nail in the coffin Burnham! John will be forever grateful to Maidenhead United for rescuing his career after spending what seems like an eternity at a grotty little backwater of a club somewhere in Bucks. So pleased was John to sign 'for us that rumour has it he actually pays the club to get a game and anyone who has seen him play will be as sure as myself that he must pay the club to get a game.

John reckons he's played at White Hart Lane home of the scum of British football, I'm not convinced, I mean to say; have you seen him in action? He's having a lark! Everyone knows that to play at White Hart Lane you've got to be total and utter crap and to date John only rates as half of that!

His main contribution to the club is that he's helped the chairman unload another club tie!

PETER McNAMEE.....'SNIFFER'

Peter signing for Maidenhead was by accident. It was one Thursday evening when he happened to be walking past the ground when he noticed a group of 'men' scurrying about the hedgerows and gardens, on questioning them as to their motives he discovered that they were in fact 'training' it was further revealed that the first 11 to find a ball would be rewarded by being included in the starting line up for Maidenhead United on the following Saturday. Peter was quick to seize the opportunity of playing for a 1st Division club by finding a ball. After only having played for a 2nd Division club in a country that most of us have never heard of you can imagine his joy.

He presented his ball to the manager and after a 4 hour wait while the other balls were found Peter was presented with the number 5 shirt not because that was his position but because it was the only one that fitted him.

He's never looked back since which is a pity really as he might just have spotted Molesey forward Chris Vidal launching an assault on him which resulted in a long lay-off and an extended stay in hospital to have his nose returned to its rightful position, that being in the middle of his face!

Peter can only get better when he makes a concerted effort to learn the English language, until then he must accept that not all opposing players wear a number 2 shirt, in this country sticking two fingers up at the referee and declaring off-side is just not acceptable.

Peter let the side down badly when being sent off against Molesey for not ensuring that his assailant joined him in hospital, he's got to learn to pack more power in his punch.

TYRONNE HOUSTON.....DYNAMITE.

Tyronne differs from many of the players here at York Road in-so-much that he actually looks like he can play a bit, he's got good pace a stinging tackle and never stops to admire a good pass but follows it up for a return ball. Sadly he'll soon get found out, stands to reason, this club's got no room in the team for someone who can play a bit. Especially someone who learnt his trade at Slough Town under the guidance of a person with the same name as the conservative MP for the town who is affectionately known by their supporters as 'Fat-Bastard!' On the plus side he's got a hair cut like 'Tin Tin' Magic!!!

More men from York Road

VERNON PRATT.....BY NAME etc,etc.

Vernon is sick and tired of having to shoulder the blame for everybody else's mistakes. Cries of "You Pratt". "What a Pratt". "Don't give it to that Pratt", rain down from the terraces. To make matters worse even his team mates join in. It's now got to a stage that he's become totally demoralised and would like to make it clear that until this despicable verbal abuse ceases he has no intention of passing the ball to any of his team-mates and will continue giving it to the opposition. He can't help being a pratt, he was born one and has had to suffer the consequences every day of his life! Vernon longs for the day when a team-mate makes a mistake and he doesn't get the blame for it. The day when the crowd react to a mistake with cries of: "You Araguez!" - "What a Roffey!" - "Don't be a Holder all your life!" - "You stupid McNamee!" I can only echo his sentiments and suggest that all you Pratts get off his back and give him a break!

KEVIN BROWN.....A REALLY NICE GEEZER.

For someone as charming as our Kev' it's a little harsh on him that where-ever he goes he's called a 'pig' and I'm not referring to his table manners either! Our Kev's a snorter! Either that or he likes dressing up. With such a demanding occupation you can imagine just how much he enjoys putting his feet up on the bench while listening to his walkman blasting out substitute by the Who on a Saturday afternoon. Since John Watt was appointed manager Kev's become his right hand man on the bench due to the fact that Derek Sweetman our assistant manager prefers to sit on John's left. Should Kevin have any skill then he's a master at disguising them, probably down to his job I suppose, undercover and all that! One thing for certain, if mingling in a crowd and being inconspicuous is part of his training then on the rare occasion he turns out for the 1st team he leaves you in no doubt that he's good at his job! Realistically Kevin must stand a better chance of bringing Ronnie Biggs to justice than he does of securing a regular 1st team place. It's a shame really considering he's such a nice bloke...For a Bastard that is!

CHRISTIAN BARTLETT.....PUND RAISER.

To date the most significant contribution Christian has made to the club is raising £25 from a scratch card after the Aveley match. Christian has struggled to secure a regular place in the 1st team ever since the day when he made his big breakthrough by proving to the manager that he was as capable as anyone else of clearing the Bell Street terrace with a shot, in fact he reached the clock tower by the station with his first penalty attempt. Sadly for Christian that since his debut he hasn't quite kept his form and rarely these days can he reach the Advertiser building let alone the station! He's now back in the reserves and to his credit he did manage to loft 5 balls out the ground in one match, alas the manager wasn't present to witness it for if he was it would surely have signalled Christians return to first team football. Unfortunate for Christian is that he's a local lad and as we all know there's little room in the side for a local lad! If he ever hopes to make a breakthrough into the big time he must make sure he makes a bigger effort to wear the club tie.

More men from York Road

KEVIN STONE.....HALF BACK-HALF FORWARD.

Kev's biggest claim to fame is that he's the only player on the books called Kevin Stone. Before joining the club he made over 300 appearances for a little known club whose name escapes me but I know it sounds like the surname of that school teacher bloke in Coronation Street, and also similar to the club that dropped out of the league at the beginning of the season. Kev' is extremely ambitious and hopes to fulfil a life time ambition here at York Road by winning a ball in the air. Kevin tells us the biggest influence on him since arriving has come from club physio Jim Barrs, who has spent many long evenings with Kev after matches helping him to be more consistent in 'hitting the bar'Can't imagine what he means? One of the biggest problems Kev has had to come to terms with since joining us is counting his wages and has asked us to request that in future would the club be so kind as to pay him in £50 notes, that way he won't have to waste half an hour after every game counting bundles of tenners.

TREVOR ROFFEY.....BALL RETRIEVER.

Must rate as one of John Watt's most shrewd signings to date, after snatching him from Sunday League side Burnham just a week after conceding 11 goals in two games. His main strength is undoubtedly his ability to retrieve the ball from the back of the net, return it to the centre spot in one kick and at the same time direct a torrent of abuse at every member of his team. Must rate as main rival to Chris Greenings replacement Jim Parsons to become 'Ball-Boy of The Year'. On the plus side Trev' is a great reader of the game and proudly points to his annual subscription to 'Shoot' and Match Weekly as proof. He's made a big impression on our kit-washer by always returning to the dressing room after the match as clean as when he went out. Trev' loves to play practical jokes on people and on his arrival at Abingdon for his debut he quite literally had the whole team rolling around the floor with laughter when declaring "I'm a goalkeeper!!!".

DARREN STONE.....MASCOT.

In the short time Darren has been at the club he's already become a very popular figure with his catchphrase "What-ya-having-then?!" But it's costing him dearly, forcing him to have to put in many extra hours outside Waterloo Station extracting loose change from passers by. His main ambition is yet to be fulfilled, he wants to be a footballer one day. Fortunate for him he's got time on his side and so is not too concerned by wasting a year or two here at York Road whilst looking round for a club that does actually play football. Darren bears a remarkable resemblance to another new face in the side Kevin Stone and even shares the same surname! Even more remarkable is that they've both played for M****w. Another amazing similarity is that they both refer to the same man often seen in the bar, before, during and after the match, as dad! I suspect there could be more to this string of co-incidences than meets the eye. Darrens biggest thrill to date was travelling on the team coach to Dorking and rubbing shoulders with the super stars of Maidenhead United FC, a memory he'll treasure for the rest of his life!

More men from York Road

PAUL DADSON.....!GOODY TWO SHOES!

Paul kicked-off his career at the very bottom by signing for little known Midland side Coventry City. With such a poor start it's not surprising that Paul rates playing for Coventry Reserves against Liverpool at Highfield Road in front of a crowd of a meagre 5,000 as the pinnacle of his achievements to date. Still on the plus side at least he finally made the big time when he signed for the Magpies! Paul's biggest weakness is undoubtedly his ability to get his name in the referees report. In an effort to rectify the situation and to once and for all have the tag 'Goody Two Shoes' removed he has pleaded with the manager to encourage all the players to wear a number 9 shirt and change their names to Paul Dadson, then the next time a Maidenhead player falls foul of the laws of the game and finds his name in the book it'll be Paul Dadson who will gain the reputation of being a bit of a devil! The manager has started to respond and the evidence is there for all to see - 'Paul' Holder 'Paul' Reeve - 'Paul' Mulvaney, just a few examples! The crowd too can play their part. So the next time Paul's in the side let's hear it for Paul - "Come on 'Dads' murder 'im!"

ANDY SMITH..... PENSIONER.

What is there to say about this man that hasn't been already said?! Elsewhere in this publication there is an article entitled "The Old Ones Are The Best" What a pity that in Andy's case this old adage has no meaning! Andy is the oldest player in the side - and looks it! Watching Andy play makes me wonder why I ever gave up the game at a youthful 35! After all, if Andy can still play at his age I've still got a few years in me yet. It's been said by many "Oh shit Smudgers playing, we've lost" Rarely are they wrong! In an act of kindness I made the decision last season to sponsor Andy's socks, okay he didn't wear them, but I bet if he did he'd have given his all just for me! Andy is the perfect role model for any youngster with ambitions to make it to the top who hasn't got a hint of footballing ability, after all, if he can do it so can my old granny!!!

THE FOLLOWING APOLOGY
WAS RECENTLY DESPATCHED
TO CAMBERLEY TOWN FC.
FROM MAIDENHEAD UNITED FC.



STEVE
BAYNES.

WE'RE VERY, VERY SORRY!

IT'S NOT FOOTBALL



I've always fancied golf. Not literally - not to the point where I'd approach it in a nightclub dressed in my best gear and enquire as to the chances of a slow dance in a dark corner - but I fancy it all the same.

It's the sheer lackadaisicality of it all that appeals to me. Wandering around a few fields on a nice sunny day with a little trolley in tow, periodically delivering a hefty tubbing to a small defenceless object before moving on to the clubhouse and discussing the price of leaded windows for conservatories over a few dry martinis (daren't drink lager in the nineteenth hole!).

But at other times golf scares me. Drive past a golf course on any given day in winter and you'll understand why. The wind sounds like a tea kettle and the trees are bent over almost double. The rain - horizontal - lashes with such force that old ladies are separated from their teeth, and church spires are split in two by forked lightning. You would think on such a day that the course would be empty. But no. Puddles? Certainly. Lakes even. Broken flagpoles? Yes.. flying around everywhere. But desolation isn't to be seen because apart from the the above the place is bloody packed!

Men, women, children! All dressed in waterproofs! All dragging their clubs! Through puddles. Over fallen trees. Each one determined to complete a round of golf regardless of the possible cost to personal health or safety. So addicted are they to their sport that nothing else matters as they chase that elusive handicap lowering score.

On reflection, I think I'll give it a miss and stick to football. It's less dangerous...

Steve

MAIDENHEAD UNITED OFFICIALS V MAIDENHEAD ADVERTIZER

Why Maidenhead United Officials want to play the Maidenhead Advertizer beats me? But they do. The happy event will take place on a Sunday afternoon. Don't ask me which one 'cos I'm not sure. No doubt the Advertizer will give the game the coverage as it does 1st Team games. So, if you want to find out when the big event is then read it in the Slough Observer!

Trev has come up with a terrif' idea in that he reckons we should tender for positions in the team that takes on the 'paper'. Trev has started proceedings by offering £10 for the left wing slot. I have matched his offer for the position of net-warden (goalkeeper you divots!). Let's see the rest of you dip into your pockets.

If you remember I was the STAR of last years game... A full report was in ish 2, or was it 3? Well, it was definately one of them anyway. If you haven't read it then back issues are available from the club shop. If the club shop has run out then tough shit - you should have bought one at the time!

MAIDENHEAD UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

A Week in the Life of the Treasurer

MONDAY.

- Morning - Opened post. Only 14 reminders for payments and 3 threats of court action, quite a light post!
- Evening - Committee meeting. Presented latest management accounts. Proposed to have a sponsored effigy-burning competition to raise money, our previous manager chosen as the effigy and it was thought that the police will impose a crowd limit of 5000!

TUESDAY.

- Afternoon - Receive telephone call from the vice-chairman. Apparently a Premier League club will be disposing of their horse trough-cum jacuzzi and it would be ideal for the players to use as a bath. The cost is only £1000. I inform him in no uncertain terms that we have already spent the budget for the rest of the century. He replies "I was only asking".
- Evening - Reserve Team match at home. Decide to charge admission and receipts only fall £25 short of referees and linesmen's expenses. Floodlights are adjusted to save money - Now only the player with the ball is illuminated.

WEDNESDAY.

- Morning - Time spent in my office. Interview 6 clients 5 agree to buy Alphabet tickets for the Club. Make note to increase fees of the 6th by £100!
- Afternoon - Receive telephone call from Hon. Secretary. Apparently a friend of an ex-Yeading player's next door neighbour has an ingrowing toenail. Would the Club like to donate £5. I decline and the Hon. Sec says "Thank you for your kind offer". Also, some more elastic is needed for the players shorts, but I have to tell him that the budget does not stretch that far!
- Evening - Check proceeds of fruit machine in Club house and find it has made a profit of £25 for a change. Then bar manager informs me that he is owed £30 for a win which the machine did not pay out.

THURSDAY.

- Morning - Meeting with the bank manager, who says he would be happy to extend the overdraft by £50,000 interest free, and wishes to sponsor the Club for £20,000. Suddenly wake up and realise I was only dreaming.
- Afternoon - Meeting with the VAT Inspector, who wants to know why we keep getting VAT refunds. I explain that we do not have enough income to generate any VAT liability. VAT man is so sympathetic he sponsors our next League match at home!



FRIDAY.

- Morning - Visit hospital for session with psychiatrist. He asks me my interests and when I say I am Treasurer of Maidenhead United he certifies me as insane and tells me to take up something sensible, like sky-diving without a parachute.
- Evening - Meeting with team manager to discuss player's bonuses. It is agreed as follows:-
1. Goalkeeper gets £5 for wearing matching socks.
2. Captain gets £10 for remembering name of the goalkeeper.
3. Striker gets £10 for only 3 shots ending up in Bell Street!

SATURDAY.

- Afternoon - Home League game. Get to ground in order to man turnstile at Bell Street. Charge 5 people £3 each to leave before match starts! Buy Golden Goal ticket - instead of time of goal the competition has been changed to the date of the first Maidenhead goal. I picked April 4th 1994, a good chance of winning! This will save us paying out for a considerable time!

SUNDAY.

- Morning - Write up financial records for the week, write out cheques to pay bills and then calculate bank overdraft. Tear up cheques just written out. Prepare figures for next Committee meeting.
- Evening - Have a rest and ring Hotline (0891 122903 for all the latest news at York Road) to find out what happened at yesterday's match! Find out that the half-time whistle has just gone and the score is 0-0!

So that's it for another fairly uneventful week!
ROGER COOMBS.

The following poem was submitted for publication by Dean Burton who claims to have wrote it at the tender age of 6½. I think it will go some way to explain how at a very early age Dean's mental health was rapidly deteriorating. No better emphasised than by the fact that today Dean is completely off his box after taking on the responsibility of Commercial Manager at the Club.

A day out at York Road is fun for me, there's no where I'd rather be! A great football game, it's just down the lane, the team are the best, so forget all the rest, or your girlfriends breast! A great stand, worth twenty grand! The fans full of cheer, the clubhouse for a cheap beer, the burgers second to none, they settle on your tum! The roar of the crowd sounds rather loud, I'm so proud, when we score a goal, even though I'm on the dole! I love Maidenhead United!

DEAN BURTON.
AGED 6½.

Right to Reply

As a result of our groveling explanation as to why the supporters of Maidenhead United voted Dulwich Hamlet as having the worst and most unwelcoming supporters we had the displeasure to encounter throughout the whole of last season which we published in our last issue, we received a letter signed by over half of the Aveley supporters who were to say the least disgusted that we dared to say anything nice about Dulwich Hamlet or their supporters.

Here's what they had to say:

Dear Mr Kingham,

On our recent trip to York Road the staff of 'Reggie' (There's only one Reggie Harris, Aveley's Independent Fanzine) purchased issue 4 of 'The Shagging Magpies'. Though our feelings for Maidenhead on that day (You lucky bastards!) was tinted we all agreed that your fanzine was a commendable effort and most enjoyable. (Ed; And these are the people who accuse us of groveling!)

Imagine if you can our dismay when we reached your 'Right to Reply' page and your appalling retraction to Dulwich 'our' supporters are 'orrible' Hamlet!

Though I never saw issue 3 I would of found it most humorous to read that you voted the hated Hamlet as 'Worst opposition Supporters'. Further damning and ridiculing of them would of made it better IF you had followed this up in your next ten issues! Instead however you print and accept their feeble whingeing and spoil all the good work and credibility you had earned yourselves.

We have met Mr Morath (Author of letter from Dulwich Hamlet published in issue 4) after being invited by his Fanzine/Supporters Club to a quiz night for charity (We do a lot for chaaarrrity mate). We, in true Aveley style came last but we had a brilliant night answering questions like; Who's the sponsor of the Scottish League? Answer-Milletts! or; Where do Swansea City play? Our answer of course was - Who cares! This made the trip to South London all the more enjoyable for us but alas we haven't been invited back. Probably an oversight! The point is that fanzines are meant for most part to be humorous and if Mr Morath and Dulwich can't take a joke then sod them!

If fanzines start to get too indepth or serious then they might as well become official. In future stick to your guns. If someones crap stand up and say it loud! (Then hide behind the biggest bloke you can find). If you mean what you say in the true partisan fashion then it doesn't matter what you say, if others don't like it let them print their own fanzine and have a go back. It's all just a bit of fun, don't let the likes of Moraths spoil it with their bleating and carping. As far as you're concerned Maidenhead are the best team/club around and Dulwich are scum! Keep it that way and let's have no more 'namby pamby' sucking up to other supporters.

Good luck with your 'zine' and the quest to obtain enough funds to build your wall.



If you have any cash left over could you build one in front of us so that we don't have to watch the crap that gets dished up whenever Maidenhead and Aveley play each other.

Yours in a united stance
against Dulwich Hamlet.

Terry, Aka and Charlie Magri.

P.S. Aveley are the best team in the world, it's just that no-one else knows it!

'THERE'S ONLY ONE REGGIE HARRIS'
Fanzine of Aveley Football Club.

Available from:
88 Rachael Clare Close,
Corringham,
Essex,
SS17 7SS.

* Send no money, we pay
you! However we ain't
paying for your bleed-
stamp so enclose a S.A.S.

The following is an extract from issue 15 of T.O.O.R.H. which will give you some idea of the content of the fanzine which I have to admit is excellent and well worth a 24p stamp to obtain!

I can't close this edition of the fanzine without once more drawing attention to the fact that Purfleet are now the primary enemy for us. We loathe them more than any other team in the world. These are words that really stick in my craw for I believe that they have been elevated to a height of which they are not deserving. Our time and attention could be better spent pillorying those who have an inalienable right to ceaseless abuse - Namely Tilbury! That said, Purfleet have in recent times been a more realistic threat to our pre-eminence in Thurrock. I just wonder what little scheme they might dream up next, perhaps buying our ground just to build houses on, perhaps?

Of both the letters we've received from readers over the last year it has to be said that this particular letter had quite an amazing effect on us and has led us to reconsider our editorial stance quite drastically and as a result we'd just like to say to all the following clubs, Abingdon Town, Barking, Billericay Town, Bishop's Stortford, Boredom Wood, Chalfont St Peter, Croydon, Dorking, Heybridge Swifts, Hitchin Town, Lewes, Leyton-Wingate, Molesey, Purfleet, Tooting & Mitcham Utd, Uxbridge, Walton and Herisham, Wembley, Whyteleafe and last but not least Aveley.....YOOOOOURE SHIT!

FOR ALL YOUR PLUMBING
AND HEATING WORK
CONTACT
BOB HUSSEY
MAID (0628) 29553.

(PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A GENUINE ADVERT)

INSECTS AT YORK RD

I have always held the strong belief that people join committee's so that they can serve and further the cause of the committee's purpose. This is why people put their names forward for consideration in the first place. It is common practice for people to offer their services to committee's in which they have criteria skills. This is how organizations evolve, survive, and press forward toward their aims and goals. You only have to look at the numerous charity organizations to see how this works.

Constructive criticism should be praised and applauded. It is such criticism that often rights the wrongs that provoked the criticism in the first place. It is with this objective in mind that I have embarked on this article.

The more I visit York Road the more it strikes me that some committee members are becoming parasites. Yet, these same people are supposed to be helping the club - NOT bleeding it dry. Yes, I know these committee members are offering the club their time - but are they really?

What I am trying to say is; It is just not good enough to turn up for meetings and say Yea or Nay, when asked to pass a resolution. Now, don't get me wrong. I'm not saying all committee members do this, just some of them. As far as I know most are doing a good job, which can be seen by all on match days - when they try and take our well earned pennies from us. But even these committee members do this at a cost to the club. It doesn't matter which way you look at it, **THEY ARE BEING PAID.**

Of course, by now, most of the committee members will be jumping up and down like demented Mexican Beans proclaiming their innocence. "No buggar's ever paid me??" But I'm afraid to say.. **YOU HAVE BEEN PAID..** Maybe not in the physical sense of payment, but nevertheless payment. Surely this defeats the whole object of becoming a committee member?.....

Yes, yes... I can hear you, "Where is the bastard? I'll wring his neck! Fancy saying downright lies about us being paid... It's just not true." **BOLLOCKS..** As I said, you may not be being paid in the physical sense but you certainly are being paid **INDIRECTLY**, through so-called perks. Let me list some of them...

1. HOME MATCHES.

- a)... On a home match day a committee member does not have to pay an entrance fee..

A SAVING OF A MERE £3 !!!

- b)... A committee member receives a free match programme..

A SAVING OF 60p

- c)... At half time a committee member (if he so wishes) receives a free cup of tea and biscuits...

A SAVING OF APPROXIMATELY 35p

- d)... At the end of the game a committee member is entitled to sandwiches and a FREE bar in the Board Room...

CALCULATING THAT THE AVERAGE COMMITTEE MEMBER CONSUMES AN AVERAGE OF 2.6 DRINKS AND EATS 3.4 SANDWICHES, MEANS HE IS SAVING HIMSELF APPROX.. £3.76

Now, not all committee members take full advantage of this, but, nevertheless these facilities are available to them. I'm also told that the majority of committee do indeed use these facilities to the full.

ON AN AVERAGE HOME GAME A COMMITTEE MEMBER CAN SAVE HIMSELF A MASSIVE £7.71

EVEN MORE IF THE COMMITTEE MEMBER BROUGHT ALONG A GUEST OR WIFE.....

(and I wonder if they bought any raffle tickets?)

2. AWAY MATCHES.

- a)... A committee member receives free coach travel... (This will be double if the committee member takes his girlfriend or wife)

A SAVING OF £5 !!!! OR £10 !!!

- b)... A committee member receives free entry into ground... (This will be double if the committee member takes his girlfriend or wife)

AN AVERAGE SAVING OF £2.75 OR £5.0

- c)... Free tea and biscuits at half time

ANOTHER 35p SAVING

- d)... Yet more free sandwiches and booze at the end of the game ...

£3.76 BETTER OFF

- e)... Oh, and I nearly forgot - a free match programme.

A 60p SAVING

THIS IS AN INCREDIBLE SAVING OF £12.46 FOR THE LONE COMMITTEE MEMBER !!!!

DOUBLE IF HE TAKES A GIRLFRIEND/BOYFRIEND OR SPOUSE.

No doubt during your committee meetings you discuss means and ways in which money can be raised. Usually it will be the poor supporter who suffers the brunt of the cash raising. Is it of any surprise that you get the "V's up" when you are so obviously creaming off the top.

To those committee members who refuse to take advantage of these perks, I take my hat off to you.. To the others... **PISS OFF**

On occasions when I have entered York Road at the Bell Street End, there often hasn't been a gateman to collect my money.. Unlike some I don't jump for joy, but hunt out the front gateman to pay my money to. I do this because I'm morally bound to.. I do it to help the club I support.. You won't see me taking a freebie.

Recently committee members have been harrassing my Co-Editor, Trevor Kingham, about the arrival of Issue 5. One of the reasons why we have taken so long to produce another Issue is the club's, and supporters, apathy. Until recently - about four weeks ago - we hadn't received a single article. This hardly gives us the encouragement we need to carry on.

WE MAKE MONEY FOR THE CLUB.....

WE DO NOT CREAM OFF CLUB.....

OUR CONSCIENCE IS CLEAR.....

IS YOURS ?????

Steve Beard.

The Staggering Bagpipes

In the good old days, when someone wanted to write an article, they simply sat down at the good old trusty typewriter and bashed out a page or two of prose. Not any more though! Today we live in a hi-tech world where the micro-chip is king. No more the old Smith Corona and the spilling mistakes. Today everything is produced on a computer using a word processor. One big advantage of using such modern technology is that you can't make mistakes, or so they say. It is, of course, very easy to perpetrate a giant cock-up if you really want to, but one feature of the word processor is its capability of performing a spell check. For the uninitiated, this means that the computer checks every word that has been written against a built in dictionary. In this way, words that are mis-spelt can be detected. The computer also has the means of correcting the spelling, or at least, suggesting the correct spelling or offering an alternative. A good example of what I mean can be seen in the title of this piece; it started life as The Shagging Magpies! Some words are not in a standard computer dictionary, particularly real names. Recently, I wrote a letter with quite a few names in it, and when I ran the spell-check, I was quite amused at some of the suggestions that my word processor offered. I therefore tried it out with some of the more familiar names around York Road.

Starting at the back, our two goalkeepers will henceforth be known as Drover Raffia and Shun Sounders. Kevin Stone seems to be well recognised by my computer, but it seems to have sorted out Vernon Pratt by offering up Vermin Brat. Noddy Holder almost got through, the only change being to Noddle, but the captain suddenly became Stiff Enamel. Peter MacNamee has become Peter Magnum which may indicate he is better suited to be in the firing line. The strike force has not been too successful lately, with Scouse becoming Paul Unevenly, but things could be about to improve with Paul Dadson being reborn as Paul Godsend!

Furnace Argues probably speaks for itself, and maybe the computer knows a thing or two as Stuart Muir has turned out to be Strut Mare. Finally on the player front, I hope Benny Laryea doesn't take action as Bendy Lawyer. On the management front, John Watt seems to have survived, but his able assistant seems to have got a name to fit the role - Jerky Sweating!

I turned my attentions to the committee after this, but somewhat disappointingly, most seem to come out smelling of roses. Parsons, Swan, Chandler, Smith and Bannister all seem to have survived, although the later became somewhat appropriately Boy rather than Roy. Stan Payne suddenly found himself to be Star Paying (how ironic) and McDonald was Pat Machined (accounting for the shape). The Coombs name found two alternatives, so our intrepid duo became Roger Climbs and Jean Chomps. Bob Popejoy looked amazed at being Bob Pop-eyed, but the strangest computer alternative was given for Ken Balchin, who unkindly was renamed as Ken Belching (pardon me!)

To close, may I just point out that the magazine's editor, Trevor Kingham has become known as Driver Kimono, probably justified as the resident shagging geisha, and I almost hesitate to point out that my own handle became Richard Jackass! Oh dear, the donkey's back again.

CLASSIFIED ADS CLASSIFIED ADS CLASSIFIED A

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Edited by Benny Laryea

GET 'IM OFF - THE ANTHOLOGY OF
HELPFUL MANAGEMENT HINTS
By The Bell Street Boys

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R. & J. Coombs

The Old Mill by the Stream
 Cookham Dean

An offer you can't refuse....

I read a very interesting report in the paper about a football match that took place in Sicily recently. The game was played between Bardolino and Cadullici, and among the spectators was the Bardolino chairman, Don Benucci. By the very name, and from the venue, you may gather that the Don was the local Mafia boss. Cadullici took the lead, and extended their advantage to two-nil by the interval. As the players took the field for the second half, Don Benucci went up to the Cadullici keeper and, with a gun against his temple, suggested that he may like to be of a more generous disposition in the second half. Final score was 6-2 to Bardolino!

I thought that this technique had possibilities at York Road, so I vowed to put it to the test at the next opportunity. I didn't have long to wait, as the following Tuesday we were playing Wokingham in the County Cup. When we were two goals down, I went behind the Wokingham Goal and drew my Colt 45. I called the keeper over and suggested to him that it may be to his advantage if he made sure that he didn't save any direct shots on target. He readily agreed to my proposition as he indicated that, quote "I'm no bleedin' hero" unquote. From then on he never put a hand, or foot, on a shot from the Maidenhead forwards. We lost, 5-0.

**FANCY DRESS
 LEWES
 SAT' 24th APRIL.**

Our final away match of the season is at Lewes on 24th April. Let's make it a day to remember! The order of the day will be strictly **FANCY DRESS!** Let's show the people of Lewes that it's not only our manager that has a great sense of humour! (No better emphasised than his team selections!) We too can make people laugh! Join us on the team coach which departs from York Road at around mid-day. (Check travel details in match programme or ask a Club official) The fare is only £5 with reductions for children. Make a date in your diary, win, lose or draw we'll still be laughing! Everyone welcome. **BE THERE!**

THANKS.

That's it folks, we hope you enjoyed the read. To ensure the survival of this fanzine please, please make an effort to put pen to paper. We want to hear what you've got to say whatever the topic. Thankyou again for your contribution to the redevelopment of our ground.

A final thankyou to Roger and Jean Coombs for their help in producing this publication.

I'm a Marsbarwrapperholic

I doubt if there's a single person in the whole of the Country who hasn't heard about the special promotion that confectioners Mars are running at the moment.

FREE MARS BARS ***BUY ONE GET ONE FREE***

The outer wrapper proclaims "Check inside to see if you've won!"

"1 IN 12 A WINNER!"

Well I don't bloody well believe them!

Over the last few months I've purchased literally thousands of the sodding things, bugger the chocolate I just want to be a winner!

I've bought the sodding things 12 at a time - I've bought 12 from 12 different shops - I've visited the same shop 12 times in a day and bought one on each occasion - I've enlisted the help of 12 friends to buy one each from 12 different shops all at the same time - You name it I've tried it!

No matter what I seem to do when it comes to opening the wrapper I always without fail get the same sodding bloody message:

*Sorry, you are
not a winner.
Please try again.*

What I'd really like to know is:

HAS ANYONE OUT THERE IN THIS GREAT BIG COUNTRY OF OURS

EVER WON A FREE BLOODY MARS BAR OR ARE MARS

TAKING THE PISS?!!!!