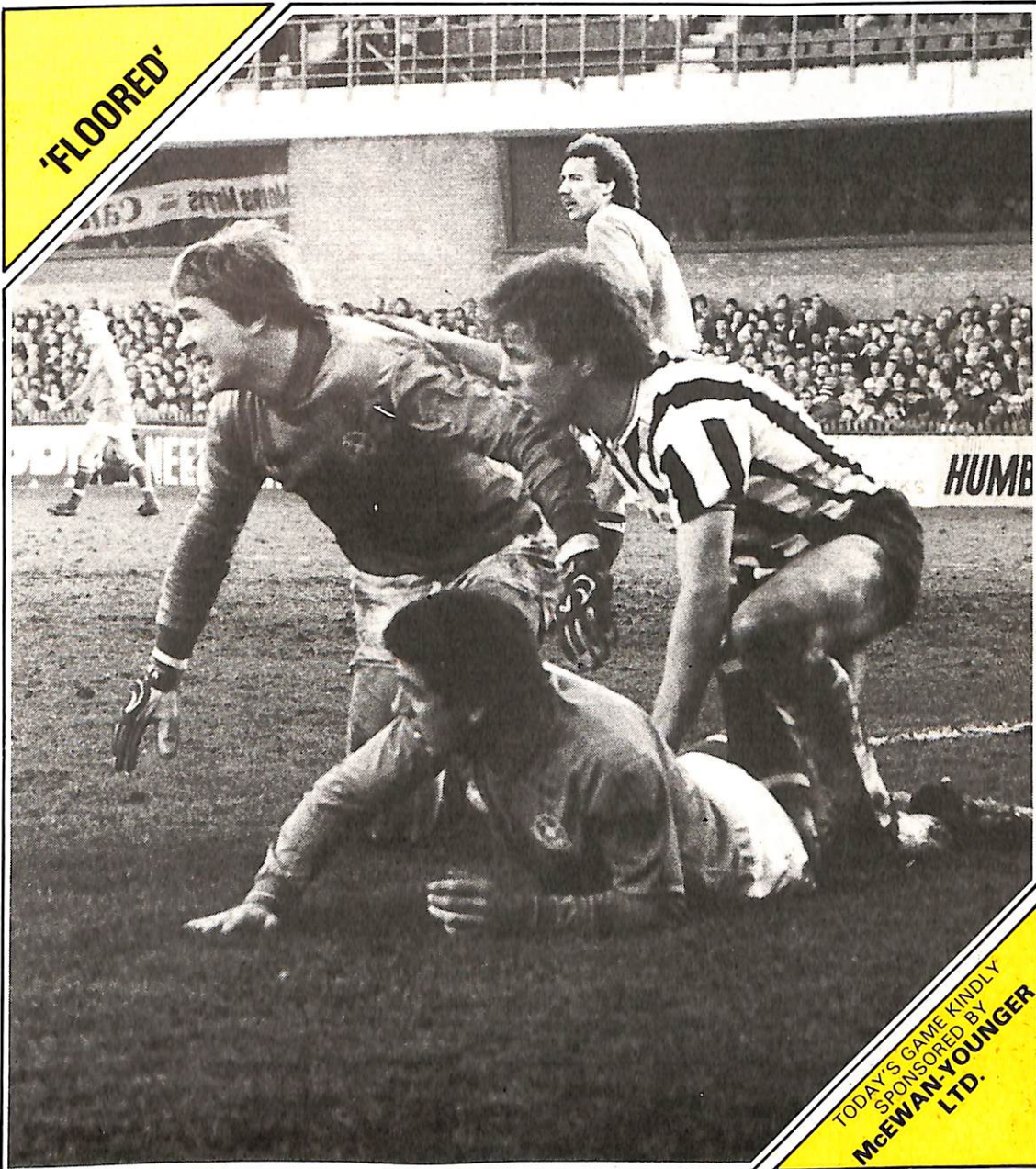


OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME OF GRIMSBY TOWN F.C.
SEASON 1983-84

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40p



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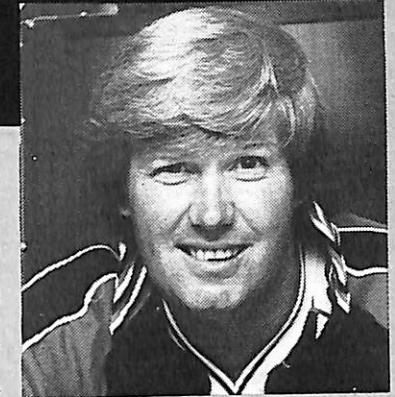
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Dave Booth



Last Saturday's postponement was a blow in more ways than one. Firstly we were kicking our heels while some of the other promotion challengers were gathering points, and secondly there was the loss in revenue.

Just now there seems to be more discussion about footballing finances than the game itself. One club after another gets in to bother, and while, thankfully we are in a reasonable position here at Blundell Park, four weeks without any gate money does have an effect. Bills still have to be paid, and as the home club now keeps all the turnstile takings, Grimsby Town has not received a penny piece since Portsmouth were here at the beginning of March. It is at times like this, that the work of Alec King and our Commercial Department is really appreciated.

As much as we wanted to play Barnsley last week, there could be little argument with the referee's decision. The pitch was water-logged, and as I drove over to Huddersfield in sleet and rain, it was apparent only the most fanatical of supporters would have turned out.

Naturally enough we wanted to get the game played as soon as possible, but Barnsley had different ideas, and it looks as though the matter will now be left to the Football League.

Things are still as tight as ever at the top, and while Carlisle slipped up at Blackburn, both Manchester City and Newcastle kept up the challenge. The Tynesiders have two home games this week, so it is vital that we maintain the pressure and take advantage of our home games.

Our visitors this afternoon came

through a recent lean spell with that win over Cambridge. Mick Buxton has done an excellent job at Leeds Road, bringing them through from Division Four on a slim budget. This season they started off really well, but a spate of injuries in recent months caused a temporary slide. Huddersfield like ourselves are restricted to a 15-16 man squad, and inevitably the absence of key players has an effect.

While small squads do lead to a certain frustration, it is surely sensible to live within one's means. The Charlton situation sent shivers through the football world, and now Swansea, Derby, and Middlesbrough are all in a similar position. The remarkable thing is that the clubs in danger of folding are often the least expected. In fact the last few months has seen Second Division clubs, famous names in football at that, struggling to make ends meet. The smaller outfits are still viable. There must be a moral there somewhere.

Thankfully we have a clean bill of health as the season enters the final furlong. Joe Waters collected a broken nose in the Lincolnshire Cup Final at Boston, but following a minor operation is back to normal.

I am sure we are in for a good game this afternoon, so as usual get behind the team and cheer the lads to victory.



Martell Player of the Month for February, Nigel Batch receives his Brandy from Bryan Jarvis of Tates.

COVERPIC: Bobby Cumming, with help from goalkeeper and defender picks himself up off the floor following his attack on the Portsmouth goal.



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HUDDERSFIELD

The Mariners will be facing a revamped Huddersfield front line in this afternoon's encounter. Hours before the transfer deadline, Terriers' boss Mick Buxton swooped to arrange loan deals with West Brom. and Wolves for experienced strikers Peter Eastoe and Mel Eves. The new duo teamed up last Saturday at Leeds Road and were instrumental in Huddersfield gaining their first victory in ten outings, when luckless Cambridge were beaten 3-0. Molineux man, Eves knocked in two, and Town fans may recall he scored in both games last year, when Grimsby played Wolves. In fact Mel topped Wanderers goal scoring charts last season, but has been unable to maintain the same standard in Division One. The arrival of Danny Crainie from Celtic caused him to lose his place in the Molineux line-up and the one time England 'B' international will be determined to make his mark with Huddersfield.

It would seem there is no place for Peter Eastoe at the Hawthorns now that John Giles has returned to manage the Throstles. Peter 31, has had a nomadic footballing career, beginning with Wolves, and taking in spells at Swindon, QPR, and Everton, before he signed for WBA in 1983. While at Goodison Park, he wore the No. 11 shirt when Everton were beaten in the League Cup at Blundell Park in October 1979.

Huddersfield's sequence of poor results, was accompanied needless to say by a

shortage of goals. Indeed until last Saturday only four had been netted in the League since New Year's Day. Consequently the swoop for new strikers was predictable, though it seems ironical that on the day Eves and Eastoe were arriving, Kevin Stonehouse, starman in recent weeks should have been departing to bolster Fourth Division Blackpool's promotion hopes in a £25,000 deal.

One reason for the low goals return has been the absence of leading marksman Mark Lillis. A Manchester lad, he also topped the goalscoring charts last season but has suffered a spate of niggling injuries. Mark signed pro for Huddersfield in 1978, was voted 'Player of the Year' in his first full season, and has played in close on 150 League games for the Terriers.

Huddersfield started their first Second Division campaign for a decade in fine style. They were on the heels of the promotion pack up to Christmas, earning some creditable away points, notably a 2-1 win at Leeds, and a scoreless draw at Hillsborough. They also recorded 3-0 victories at Oldham and Cambridge, a 2-1 win at Charlton, and shared the points on visits to Blackburn, Carlisle, Barnsley, Swansea, Derby, and Crystal Palace.

Had the Terriers not leaked so many home points — five defeats and four draws at Leeds Road, then they would be comfortably placed in the top half of the table.

During the summer, Huddersfield made one crucial acquisition. The signing of Paul Jones formerly with Bolton provided defensive experience of the top two Divisions. Now in the veteran stage, Paul figured in 444 League games for the Trotters, the club he joined as an apprentice in 1969. He was once being tipped for international honours, and is still one of the top half dozen central defenders in the Second Division.

Club captain Dave Sutton partners Paul at the heart of the back four. Signed from Plymouth for £10,000 in March 1978, the strapping six footer will soon be making his 250th League appearance for the Terriers.

Ex Mariner Keith Hanvey, who moved to Leeds Road in August 1978, has only made fleeting first team appearances this season. Last year he missed just three games, but pelvic disorders are regrettably causing a question mark over his future career.

Full back David Burke is another to have made the relatively short trip from Burnenden Park, Bolton. Born in Liverpool, he played First Division soccer for the Wanderers, before joining Town two years ago. He was voted 'Player of the Year' last season.

The departure of full back Malcolm Brown for Newcastle, caused manager Buxton to secure the services of Brian Laws from Burnley. Brian, a Wallsend lad served his apprenticeship at Turf Moor, and completed a century of first team outings before crossing

the Pennines.

Young goalkeeper Keith Mason made his League debut last season in a 4-0 win over Cardiff, and has now displaced Brian Cox, the former Sheffield Wednesday custodian.

In Brian Stanton and Colin Russell, Huddersfield have a couple of midfielders who can knock in goals. Both are Merseysiders, but while Stanton arrived at Leeds Road by way of Bury, Russell was a £15,000 signing from Anfield, where he made one substitute appearance. Completing midfield is Stephen Doyle, a Welsh Under 21 cap, signed from Preston in October 1982.

Phil Wilson is the third ex-Bolton player who could figure in today's line-up. He was an apprentice at Burnden Park, though born in Pontefract. An attacking midfielder he missed only one game last season.

More often than not winger Daral Pugh has been substitute this season. Despite being born in Sunderland, he has gained representative honours for Wales at Under 21 level, and began his pro career with Doncaster. He can operate on either flank, and can always be counted to net the odd goal.

Completing the panel are David Cowling, an apprentice with Mansfield, but whose League debut did not come until his transfer to Huddersfield, and Roy Greenwood, a seasoned professional, who has seen service with Hull, Sunderland, Derby, and Swindon. Finally youngster Ian Measham, recovering from a broken leg, will be looking to make his presence felt in the remaining weeks of the season.

Huddersfield enjoyed a good Milk Cup run, knocking out Mansfield and Watford, before going down to Stoke in a replay. They reached Round Four of the F.A. Cup by beating QPR, but somewhat surprisingly bowed out to struggling Notts County on their own turf.

Now established back in the second tier, Huddersfield have the organisation and potential to go further. Certainly manager Mick Buxton's sights are on higher things.

The Boss Mick Buxton

Among the congratulatory telegrams that arrived at Blundell Park in May 1980 after the Mariners had won the Third Division Championship was one from Mick Buxton. It read "Well done and thanks".

His side had just won the Fourth Division title, collecting 101 goals on the way, and part of that success was attributed to the 4-1 defeat Town handed out to Huddersfield at Leeds Road in the League Cup. The Mariners, that September evening, played super football, and set a standard that Buxton demanded from his own team in their quest for promotion.

Mick took over as manager at Leeds Road in October 1978, following the departure of former Grimsby boss Tom Johnston. He is therefore the longest serving 'gaffer' in the Second Division beating Shrewsbury's Graham Turner by a couple of months.

In the six years since his appointment Mick has stabilised the fortunes of an ailing club, taking them from Division Four to Division Two, and arousing interest in the West Yorkshire town. Gates were hovering around the 2,000 mark when he took over, and rumours that the once famous club could go to the wall were rife.

Formerly a coach with the club Mick has skilfully blended a mix of experience and youth, that is well equipped to face the challenge of the future.

Born in Corbridge, a place more famous for being the home of novelist Catherine Cookson, the young Buxton was an apprentice at Burnley in the late 1950's, then the mecca for many a promising north eastern footballer. A rugged defender Mick's playing career, compared to his later managerial successes was nondescript. — 19 appearances in seven years at Turf Moor, and a further 35 for Halifax whom he joined in June 1968. There was then a spell at Southend before he began his association with the Terriers.

Leeds Road is now very much his second home and undoubtedly more successes lie ahead.



Back Row: Stephen Doyle, Ian Measham, Keith Hanvey, Dave Sutton, Brian Cox, Keith Mason, Paul Jones, Mark Lillis, Kevin Stonehouse, David Burke.
Front Row: Brian Stanton, Daral Pugh, Colin Russell, Mick Buxton (Manager), John Haselden (Chief Coach/Physio.), Phil Wilson, Roy Greenwood, David Cowling.

PRESENT...

Form Notes

Huddersfield's win over Cambridge last Saturday, was their first in ten games

HUDDERSFIELD'S FIVE YEAR RECORD

Season	Div	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Pos	Top League Scorers	Average		Cup	
											Gate	M.C.	F.A.	
1978-79	4	46	18	11	17	57	53	47	9	Robins 16	3,649	1	1	
1979-80	4	46	27	12	7	101	48	66	1	Robins 25	8,714	2	1	
1980-81	3	46	21	14	11	71	40	56	4	Kindon 18	11,548	1	3	
1981-82	3	46	15	12	19	64	59	57	17	Cowling 8	6,745	2	4	
1982-83	3	46	32	13	10	84	49	82	3	Lillis 19	9,262	4	3	

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...AND PAST

THIS AND THAT

Bobby Cumming has painful memories of the Yorkshiremen's last Blundell Park visit. In scoring the winning goal in that League Cup tie of August 1979, Bob practically decapitated himself when colliding with the goalpost and required stitches over his left eye. Over at Leeds Road in the second leg Mike Lester scored the final goal of his Mariners' career when coming on as sub for Joe Waters.

Talking of Town's skipper, who could forget his marvellous goal in this fixture in February 1979? Gathering the ball in the centre circle, he seemed to take on the Huddersfield defence single-handed before slotting the ball home.

Today's fixture is the 50th in the League between the two clubs. When the series started in November 1911 just £183 was taken at the gate.

When Town recorded their biggest winning margin over Huddersfield, it was a former Leeds Road player who masterminded the success. Winger Dennis Jennings showed scant regard for his former colleagues in September 1934 scoring one and setting up Pat Glover for four, as Town went nap over in the West Riding.

Our biggest defeat was by the same 5-1 scoreline when Peter Doherty scored twice in September 1947. Like Dennis Jennings a decade before, he showed little remorse for former colleagues. The Irishman had played for Town in war time.

CUP CLASHES

1974-75 F.A. Cup Round 1 Blundell Park Town won 1-0
1979-80 F.L. Cup Round 2 Blundell Park Town won 1-0
Second Leg Leeds Road Town won 4-1

TWO CLUB MEN

Huddersfield pivot Keith Harvey is the most recent player to have appeared for both clubs, Manchester born, he started his career in 1971 at Maine Road, but never made the first team. It was with Swansea that he made his League debut against Scunthorpe in August 1972. Keith moved to Rochdale a year later, and arrived at Blundell Park in February 1977, playing his first match for Town in the home 1-0 defeat by Mansfield that month. He played 54 games for the Mariners before moving under freedom of contract to Leeds Road in the summer of 1978. A stalwart for the Terriers, Keith has figured in nearly 250 games for the Yorkshiremen, but has been troubled by pelvic disorders in recent months.

Flying winger of the 1960s, Brian Hill was the subject of a £22,000 transfer, when he left Town for Leeds Road in November 1966. Brian joined the Mariners in August 1960 from Ollerton Colliery. In 180 League games for Town, he scored 26 goals. At Huddersfield he continued to mesmerise defences for nearly three years, before joining Blackburn and ending his League career with Torquay in 1972. Brian, now back in Lincolnshire still figures in local football.

Others to have figured for both clubs in the post war period include goalkeepers Ian Turner, Neil Freeman, and Tom Daley, the incomparable Ron Cockerill, and Brian Kerry. Also to be included in the answer to Clever Dick No. 5.

HUDDERSFIELD'S LAST LEAGUE VISIT

Saturday 3rd February 1979. Division Four.
Town 2 (Waters, Ford) Huddersfield 1 (Robins)
Grimsby: Batch, Moore D., Moore K., Waters, Barker, Crombie, Ford, Lester, Mitchell, Cumming, Brolley, sub. Drinkell.
Huddersfield: Starling, Brown, Sandercock, Hart, Sutton, Topping (sub. Lillis), Gray, Fletcher, Cowling, Robins, Brelby.
Attendance: 4,919.

THE FULL LEAGUE RECORD 1911-12 TO 1978-79

Season	Division	Home		Away		Final Position	
		P	A	P	A	Town	Terriers
1911-12	Two	1-2	0-2	9	17		
1912-13	Two	0-0	2-0	7	5		
1913-14	Two	2-1	2-1	15	13		
1914-15	Two	0-0	1-3	17	8		
1919-20	Two	1-0	0-3	22R	2P		
1929-30	One	4-2	1-0	18	10		
1930-31	One	2-1	2-2	13	5		
1931-32	One	1-4	1-1	21R	4		
1934-35	One	1-1	5-1	5	16		
1935-36	One	1-1	0-1	17	3		
1936-37	One	2-2	3-0	12	15		
1937-38	One	4-2	2-1	20	15		
1938-39	One	3-3	0-2	10	19		
1946-47	One	1-0	2-3	16	20		
1947-48	One	3-0	1-5	22R	19		
1956-57	Two	1-2	1-2	16	12		
1957-58	Two	4-1	0-1	13	9		
1958-59	Two	2-1	0-2	21R	14		
1962-63	Two	1-1	0-0	19	6		
1963-64	Two	2-2	2-1	21R	12		
1973-74	Three	2-1	0-1	6	10		
1974-75	Three	1-2	0-1	16	24R		
1977-78	Four	1-0	3-1	6	11		
1978-79	Four	2-1	0-2	2P	9		

P = Promoted R = Relegated

TOWN v. TERRIERS - LEAGUE SUMMARY

Division	Away						Home					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A
Division One	10	5	4	1	22	16	10	4	2	4	17	16
Division Two	10	4	4	2	14	10	10	3	1	6	8	15
Division Three	2	1	0	1	3	3	2	0	0	2	0	2
Division Four	2	2	0	0	3	1	2	1	0	1	3	3
Totals	24	12	8	4	42	30	24	8	3	13	28	36

CLEVER DICK

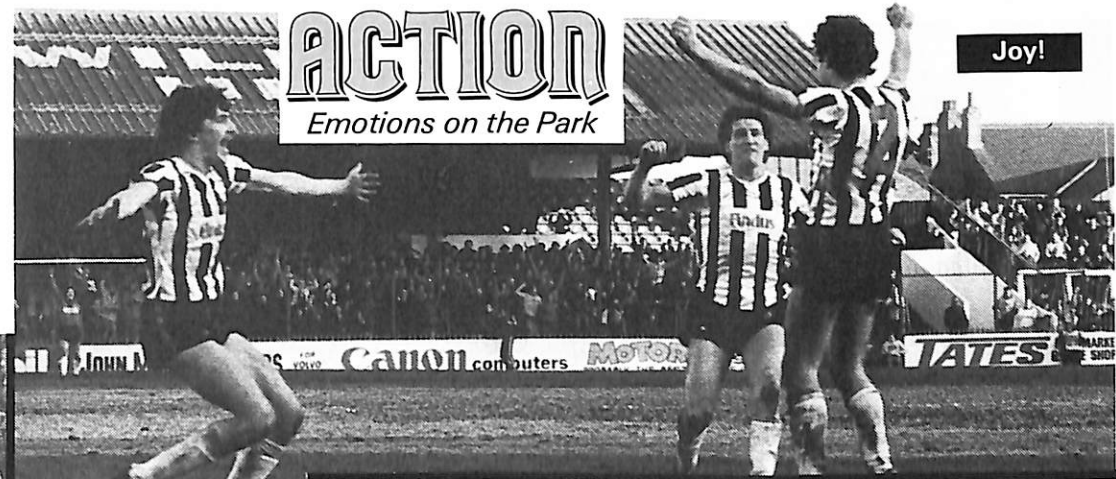
- Which clubs were involved in the first League game to be played under floodlights?
- Two former Grimsby managers have also been in charge at Leeds Road. Names please.
- Name the player who won most 'caps' while with Huddersfield, and skippered the Terriers to the Second Division Championship in 1969-70.
- When did Huddersfield win three League Championships in a row?
- I was born in Birmingham, played just two League games for Huddersfield in 1976, and three for Grimsby a year later. Who am I?
- Which player holds the Division Three (North) goalscoring record for Grimsby Town?
- When did the Mariners enjoy their longest unbeaten run in the League?
- Who scored the only goal when Town beat Huddersfield in the F.A. Cup back in 1974-75?
- This rugged Huddersfield half back later managed Grimsby in the 'sixties.
- Name the oldest player to turn out in a League game.

Answers on page 14 beneath 'Read All About It'.

ACTION

Emotions on the Park

Joy!

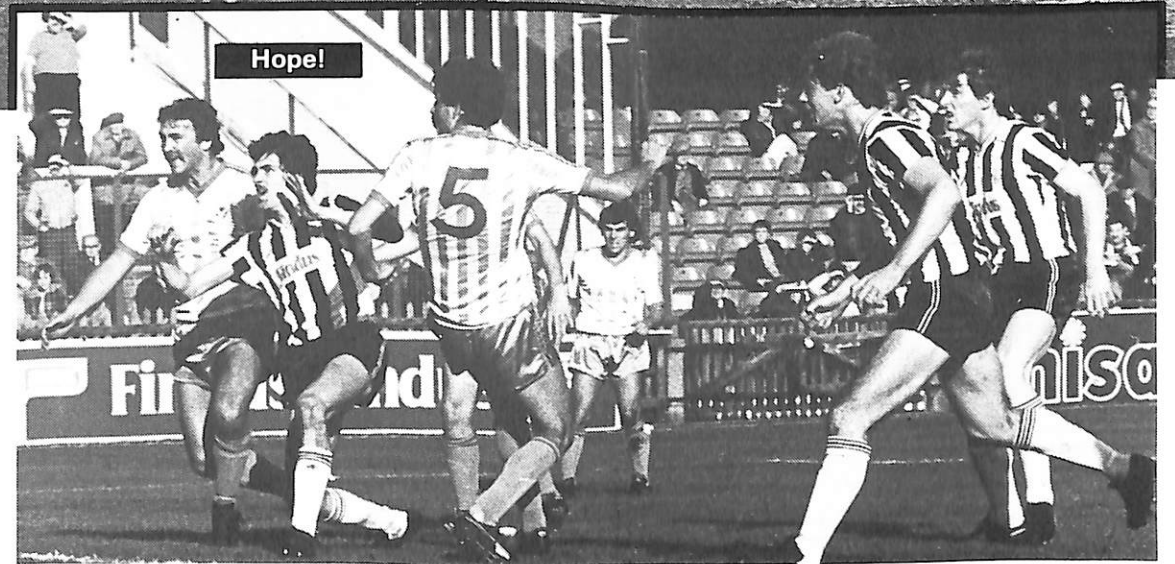


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Despair!



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'Notice' Board

ON DUTY TODAY

MASCOT
Raymond Want
47 Worcester Ave., Grimsby
Raymond is 9 years old and attends Nunsthorpe Junior School. He enjoys football, swimming and is a Star Wars fanatic.
His favourite Mariner is Tony Ford.
Raymond has just recovered from Chicken Pox.

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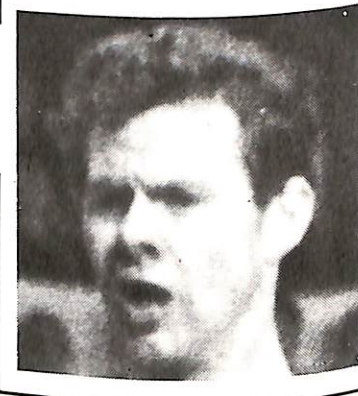
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No. 19 Mariners Leading Leaguers

Time Served

Ron Rafferty 1956-1963



Ron's cherubic, youthful good looks made him the darling of the female supporters, but the rangy six-footer cut a dash in other ways, and his 145 strikes put Ron second only to the legendary Pat Glover in the Mariners' goalscoring stakes.

His average of a goal every other game made 'Raff' one of the most prolific scorers of the period, and on four occasions, 1957-58, 1958-59, 1960-61, and 1961-62 he was the Mariners' leading scorer.

Born on Tyneside, Ron was reared in Berkshire and began his footballing career with amateurs Wycombe Wanderers. He signed for Portsmouth at the age of 20 in July 1954, and made his First Division debut for Pompey the following season. Playing at inside forward opportunities were limited at Fratton Park, and in view of his later goalscoring record it seems strange he found difficulty in finding the net.

Another factor in his slow start was National Service that restricted progress, but Town, newly promoted to Division Two invested in potential when they received his services for £3,500 in December 1956.

Grimsby badly needed a goalscorer, Bob Crosbie was going through a lean patch and winger John Scott was having to shoulder the responsibility.

Rafferty rose to the challenge in more ways than one, still operating as an inside forward the goals started flowing. Particularly deadly in the air, his powerful heading brought most of his goals. With John Scott and Jim Bell to provide the pinpoint crosses, there was no finer sight than Raff taking off, neck muscles stretching, as the ball was thumped in

to the net.
In 1959-60 he and Ralph Hunt plundered 57 Third Division goals between them. Two seasons later he teamed up with Cliff Portwood to spearhead a remarkable recovery that brought Grimsby from mid-game of the season of their final 21 matches. Town won 17 and Ron scored 26 goals in that sequence.
He struggled to find the net back in the Second Division, and the arrival of George McLean signalled the end of his Blundell Park days. Ron moved to Hull in July 1963 with Town pocketing £10,000. By now many considered his ground play was the weakest part of his game. Ron never really settled at Boothferry Park and moved to Aldershot in 1967 where he finished his career in the Fourth Division. During that spell Ron played for the Shots in their first ever visit to Blundell Park in September 1968. He wore the No. 5 shirt and successfully steered his team to a 2-0 win.

RAFF'S LEAGUE LOG

Season	Division	Apps	Goals
1956-57	Div. Two	17	10
1957-58	Div. Two	40	26
1958-59	Div. Two	39	19
1959-60	Div. Three	46	24
1960-61	Div. Three	45	24
1961-62	Div. Three	46	34
1962-63	Div. Two	31	8
Totals		264	145

with Portsmouth

1954-55	Div. One	11	3
1955-56	Div. One	9	2
1956-57	Div. One	3	5
Totals		23	5

with Hull City

1963-64	Div. Three	14	6
1964-65	Div. Three	2	6
Totals		16	6

with Aldershot

1966-67	Div. Four	22	6
1967-68	Div. Four	23 + 2	2
1968-69	Div. Four	34	2
Totals		79 + 2	10

SOCCER

IS BOOMING MARVELLOUS

By Colin Benson

For as long as I can remember every season has been previewed with alarming stories of clubs in debt, dropping TV ratings and dwindling gates. Just at that moment when optimism and excitement should be generated the media seem to delight on emphasising that our game is dying on its feet.

We are reminded of the days when 75,000 crammed into the Valley — that amphitheatre which is Charlton Athletic's home ground — for one game, while last season they pulled in just over twice that many people over the whole League campaign.

It is true of course that attendances have shrunk alarmingly from those unreal years just after the Second World War when they peaked at 41 million. As you know last season the total aggregate attendance for the Football League was just under 19 million and that is a lot of people to lose, but in comparison with other forms of live entertainment such as the cinema, theatre and even bingo, soccer has more than held its own.

It was inevitable that once civilisation had picked up the pieces following the holocaust that the pattern would change, and as prosperity grew and society became more affluent so the social structure altered.

Today the British public have a whole host of alternatives in which to plough their money and enthusiasm and it is estimated that as much as one third of our lives is now devoted to leisure.

It is now a major factor in the national economy and it is estimated that some £36,000 million a year — almost 22 per cent of our consumer spending — is spent on leisure pursuits.

Inevitably then the activity which had the biggest slice of the cake is going to lose the biggest slice

of followers, but even though soccer has seen its following diminish through the turnstiles there has been a marked increase in the numbers of people participating in the game, which indicates that there is still a healthy interest.

Crystal Palace chairman Ron Noades is not one for beating about the bush and he puts the statistical paraphernalia into perspective when he claims: "Something like 400,000 a week watch League football, and that is worth £20 million a year.

"It is all very well moaning about how many fans we have lost, but look at it as a percentage. Gates have dropped something like 3% a year which is a marvellous figure.

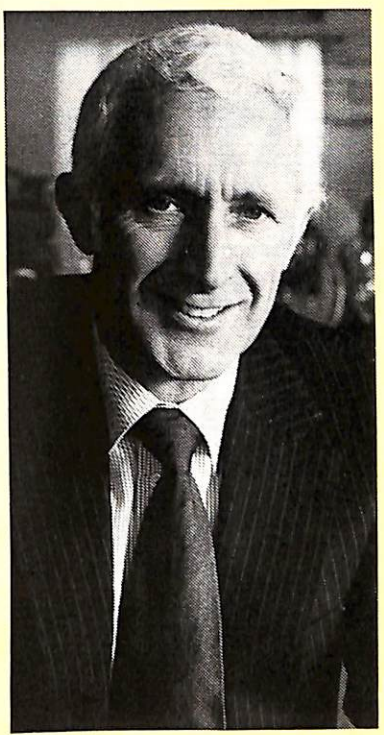
"We should be boasting about the fact that 400,000 people watch football on a Saturday instead of complaining that the gates are down on last year.

"There is nothing wrong with the drop in gates we have experienced since the fifties. When taken in context with other leisure industries, football has weathered the depression well.

"The trouble is that through the attitude of the national press we have generated a loss of confidence in the product and that is what we as an industry must restore."

Already this season there are positive signs of the game stabilising its position. More fans watched Canon League matches up to the end of December this season than they did in the corresponding period last season. The aggregate was 9,473,449, an increase of 68,418.

Not earth shattering agreed but the average crowd at 996 League matches from last August to the end of December was 9,511, compared with 9,593 from 970 matches over the same period last season, a shortfall of a mere 0.9 per cent.



"I think it is a remarkable achievement," exclaims Graham Kelly, Secretary of the Football League. "It certainly reflects the excitement as well as the quality of this season's divisional championships.

"The First Division has proved anything but a one-horse race as it had threatened to become at the turn of the year last season.

"There have been some huge crowds at Second Division matches involving Sheffield Wednesday, Chelsea, Manchester City and Newcastle United throughout the season. But what looked like developing into a promotion battle between four clubs then enveloped almost the top half of the table.

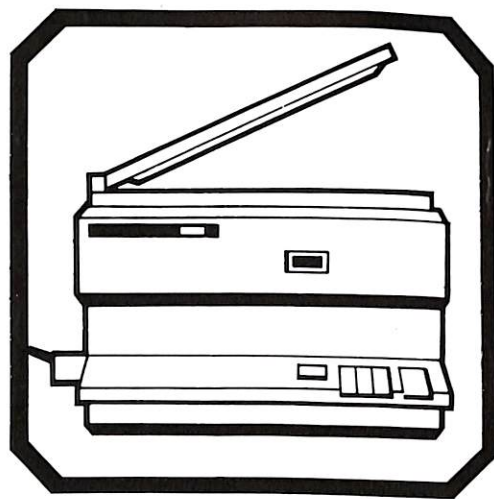
"There was a similar situation in the Third Division, and in the Fourth only York City threatened to outstrip their rivals."

No one is resting on their laurels, though there is still a long way to go, but there is no doubt that football is still entrenched as Britain's national game, it is woven into the fabric of our lives.

Divisional figures, from August until the end of December:

	Aggregate	Matches	Average per Match
Div. 1	4,572,676	231	19,795
Div. 2	2,835,838	243	11,670
Div. 3	1,301,654	260	5,006
Div. 4	763,281	262	2,913
Total	9,473,449	996	9,511

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Bradley's BRIEF



Ray Bradley of the 'Sunday Express' writes for you

Who is going to come second in the First Division championship race? I don't know and I don't care. I am much more interested in who is prepared to challenge Liverpool for the title and at the moment there is not even a confident runner.

Liverpool have been put on a pedestal by all their rivals and the only person who seems to be worried about the final outcome is their 62-year-old "new" boss Joe Fagan. He just cannot afford to fail after following Bob Paisley and Bill Shankly.

Manchester United manager Ron Atkinson publicly rebuked his players after their sensational F.A. Cup defeat at Bournemouth and stated that his team now have a duty to their fans and must go all out for the title.

A couple of weeks later he expressed doubts whether Liverpool could be caught. That hardly rings of confidence. Big Ron had better get his act together because United fans cannot tolerate failure — and dismissals in the Milk Cup and F.A. Cup by Third Division opposition will hardly enhance the Atkinson image if The Reds fail again in the championship.

Southampton cannot win the title according to manager Lawrie McMenemy. He claims that his club does not have the resources to challenge the major First Division powers. It all has the stench of fear.

"We cannot go out and buy the best players like Liverpool, United, Spurs and Arsenal," he stresses. But Southampton have splashed out heavily in the past on "unknowns" like Peter Shilton and David Armstrong and have one of the most experienced squads in the First Division.

Forest supremo Brian Clough is equally adept at dodging the issue and has bitterly complained in the past about the lack of support and resources at his "little" club.

Enthusiastic bubbles

The crafty Clough already has two championships under his belt and can afford to play it cool as his team continue to thrive and duck and dive among the leaders. Again he emphasises the lack of financial resources after assembling a side that is brimming with bright talent.

Clough, who has quite enough to say on England in the media, seems to go into a deep freeze on match days when it comes to summing up his team, the opposition or domestic issues.

It may all be good psychology but it only serves to boost the Liverpool legend of invincibility. Where are the bold brigades with the same Spartan strain as Liverpool? Not in England, that's for sure.

West Ham, a team of rare flair, have been hard hit by injuries to key players like Alvin Martin, Alan Devonshire and battling Billy Bonds, but at least manager John Lyall does not have me crying in my beer about resources.

"We have worked hard to keep up with the leaders and don't want to relax now," says Lyall. "There is no sense in sitting back and moaning. I have told my players that we must battle on and they have responded magnificently."

Well, if not stirring Bill Shankly rhetoric, at least Lyall is not copping out completely. There are still a few bubbles of enthusiasm in the East End.

Not quite so many in the West End where Q.P.R. have now joined the contenders but feel they are in fast company according to Terry Venables, their astute manager.

"We are doing very well on our return to the First Division but have dropped a lot of vital points," he sums up. "We shall be quite happy to settle for a place in Europe."

Roasted by Coventry

It seems I have heard the same speech before. Watford muttered the same sentiments last season when they were mowing down the opposition with their "up and under" tactics.

Yet are Liverpool so impregnable? Were they not whipped at Coventry by a collection of liquorice all-sorts? Did not Joe Fagan request a whisky at Highfield Road after seeing his team roasted by a pint-sized terror named Terry Gibson, a Tottenham reject who had Bruce Grobbelaar groping for cover?

Gibson grabbed a hat-trick and expressed the opinion that he was not too impressed by Liverpool's defence.

Is it not time that some of our bright, brave, well-paid bulldog breed of managers exhibited the same audacity and stopped running for the trenches when Liverpool pop up in conversation.

Otherwise they might as well put a monkey in charge at Anfield and we can all dance to the same tune.

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Bryan Robson — can he drive United to a championship title?

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ENGLAND'S YOUNG ONES...

TOMMY CATON

Who will feature in Bobby Robson's plans for the next World Cup series? Well in the forefront of England's future are the lads who have represented their country at Under-21 level. Colin Benson has been looking at the candidates and today features a young defender who has recently captained the side, Tommy Caton.



The first thing that strikes you about Tommy Caton, apart from his solid 6ft 2in frame, and curly hair, is his confidence in his own ability.

He is one of those players who seems to have been around for a long time yet incredibly he was only 21 last October.

Tommy started his career with Manchester City and spent five years at Maine Road before realising a dream and joining the one club he had always wanted to play for, Arsenal, last November.

It was inevitable that he would eventually move to Highbury for young Tommy Caton has planned his career carefully. Although born and bred in Liverpool and an admitted Liverpool supporter, he chose to join Manchester City as a schoolboy, in preference to the Merseyside clubs, "because the chances from my point of view of getting into the first team were a lot better at Maine Road."

He explains: "At the time City had only three centrehalves in the club and they were all over 30; Tommy Booth, Mike Doyle and Dave Watson. So there was a reserve place for me straight away and I was just lucky enough at the time to push on in to the first team myself."

Relegation to the Second Division last May was a great disappointment and one of the factors which made him think about moving.

PLAY AT THE TOP

"I loved every minute with City," he enthuses but having spent the last three seasons in the England Under-21 squad Tommy was conscious of the fact that this is his last term at that level unless called up as one of the two over age players permitted by the rules.

"Hopefully I will go up a grade and reach the top next season," he smiles, "but a lot depends on how your club side are performing. If the team are playing well in the League then you are playing well and this helps in international selection."

"I rated Manchester City as one of the biggest clubs in the country and I have had no doubts all season that they will win promotion back to Division One

this year but you can't help wondering whether playing in the Second Division will affect your international status, even if it is only for a season and so the move to Arsenal was a good one all round for me.

"The skill factor is not as high in the Second Division although the game tends to be quicker in as much as there is a lot more bustling and players put you under pressure quicker."

"The under-21 games are a lot slower than at club level, First Division and Second Division, but your options are far fewer when you actually have the ball."

"From a defenders point of view they tend to drop off and let you have the ball at the back, picking up the midfield and front players which reduces your options to make a pass."

"I enjoy being with England. It is always good to get away from the club for a week, meet different lads, different training schedules and methods. When you get home on the Thursday you are hungry to play again."

COMPETITIVE

Tommy has always been a big lad and has played at fullback or in the centre of the defence since first participating in organised football at school on Merseyside. He is a natural athlete and very competitive.

He has achieved a lot in a very short time — playing well over 180 senior games for Manchester City — yet still has the desire and ambition to improve his performance.

"Everybody has to work at their game," he says. "Even if you are the best in the world you can always improve on it. After training I always work on what I think are my weak points and I am prepared to put in extra stints in the afternoon."

That sort of dedication will be to his credit. Strong in the air, brave and hard in the tackle Tommy is at his best when in the centre of the defence where his lack of pace is not so exposed.

He is also pretty useful at dead ball kicks and scored a few goals for Manchester City from set-pieces. Tommy is certainly one of the contenders for Mexico 1986.

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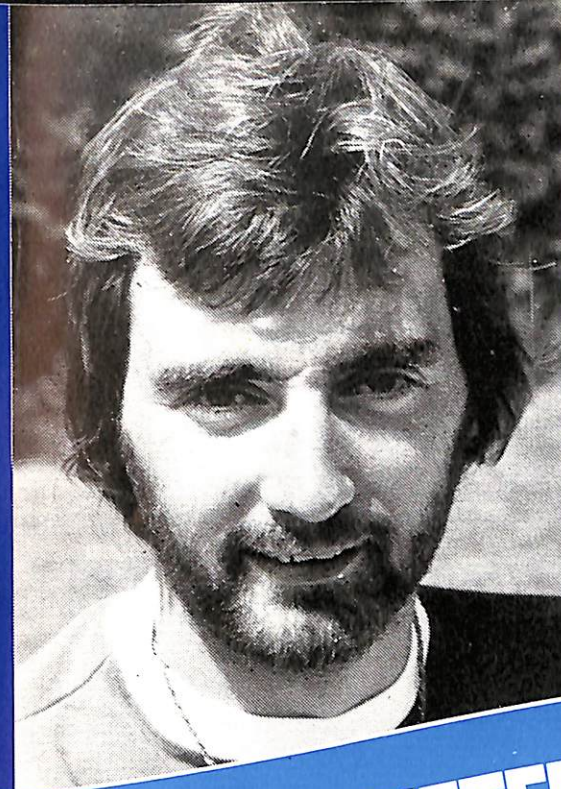
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ONLY THE GIFTED ARE CLOBBERED

The Potteries side had long been searching for a magnetic personality who could capture the fans imagination and Alan fulfilled that role admirably but after three years at the Victoria Ground, he was sold to Arsenal . . . The fee was again £250,000.

Things did not go well for him at Highbury and after a lot of traumas the Gunners cancelled his contract in October 1978, after just 36 games, and Alan joined Seattle Sounders for £100,000.

His attitude and work rate were continually called into question and the suggestion that he was lazy on the field is something which particularly hurts him.

Alan retorts: "That is one of my strengths and in fact after I had played for England in an Under-23 match in 1972, Alf Ramsey told me that I had worked too hard."

Alas his opportunity to display his silky skills on the big international stage was limited to just two appearances in 1975, against West Germany and Cyprus.

Disenchanted by the whole thing Alan says: "Since Sir Alf Ramsey won the World Cup in 1966 I don't think England have looked for world class players. The emphasis has been on fielding a team which can go out and compete."

"When you look at the current team and see that we have only one world class player — Peter Shilton — it is

frightening. That just about sums up the game, because every other international side in the world has brilliant midfield players or brilliant front players and that includes the smaller nations.

FALL GUY

"Yet we struggle to pick a world class player in these positions and they have been about, make no mistake.

"People like Rodney Marsh, Peter Osgood and Stan Bowles. But they all had bad reputations and because they did not run and chase everything they were discarded irrespective of the skill they possessed.

"I'm sure it was because they were a little bit special that they got the bad reputations. I don't know whether it is jealousy or what but they took criticism which they did not deserve and I can't understand that.

"The average players on the field who just run about for 90 minutes don't come under the hammer it is those players with special gifts who get clobbered every time.

"At this present time it is Glenn Hoddle who is the fall guy. They keep putting him through a test when he shouldn't be in that position. Glenn should have been made captain of England a long time ago, he would have been a great example for the kids to follow.

"I was in that category before, Tony Currie was the same and there have always been midfield players around who could do it for England if they were only given the chance."

Back in the colours of Stoke City Alan himself has shown that his four year stint in the NASL has not blunted his appetite for the game or his skills. Against Arsenal and West Ham United in his first two games of this season (Jan/Feb) he showed all his commanding attributes.

The precision pass, the ability to hold the ball and his generalship were all in evidence. He looked lean and fit and supported the ball with youthful exuberance . . . It seems such a pity that all this flamboyant brilliance was not allowed to flourish in English football. The loss has been as much ours as it has Alan Hudson's.

ALAN HUDSON, who won two England caps in the mid-seventies, made a welcome return to English football, not in the Second Division with Chelsea, the club he signed for last summer, but in the First Division with Stoke City, where he is on loan.

One of the most gifted players of his generation, he came to prominence as an outstanding teenage midfielder with Chelsea in 1969, playing alongside such player talented names as Peter Osgood, John Hollins, Bobby Tambling and Ian Hutchinson.

He has been associated with some of England's finest clubs yet his career, dogged by injuries and personal problems, never quite fulfilled the promise it showed. At 32, he admits that his playing career has come off the rails on numerous occasions but says "I wouldn't change any of it for the good times I have had in the game and wherever I have been I have always put one hundred per cent into it."

Over the years Alan earned a bad reputation, a stigma he justly claims was unwarranted.

"I have always been a great trainer, and I say great because Micky Droy said to me in pre-season this year, 'I don't know how you do it'."

"You see when you live a life like I lead then you have to train harder than anybody else. I like to enjoy myself, but I do it at the right times, and I work hard at the right times."

"After a game I have to go to the pub to relax. If I don't I can't sleep, I just lay awake analysing the game again, so a couple of beers or so helps me unwind."

DISENCHANTED

Alan played 145 League games for Chelsea before the then fashionable Stoke City snapped him up for £250,000 in January 1974.

A MATTER OF PERSONAL PRIDE

At 32, John McGovern, one of the game's most respected players, found himself sitting in the managerial chair, when Bolton Wanderers appointed him as their player-manager in June 1982.

He faced an onerous task and as the ailing club slipped deeper in the mire last season, the Scot from Montrose experienced the bitter side of football as Wanderers tumbled out of the Second Division.

It was a hard pill to swallow for a man, who as a player, has achieved so much. He has won Football League Championship medals with Derby County and Nottingham Forest, the club he led to two European Cup Final victories in 1979 and 1980.

Behind all those successes was a man John describes as "the best manager in the game," Brian Clough. "And that is not only my assessment but that of public opinion," adds John.

"Brian Clough is certainly the best I have experienced and obviously the tips I have learned from him that I think are good ones I am going to put into practice myself."

So how much of the Brian Clough doctrine applies at Burnden Park these days? "People ask me if I am going to be another Brian Clough," says John, "but there is only one Brian Clough. All I want to do is an honest job and get an honest day's pay for it."

"If I manage to survive another four or five years as a manager then I will be satisfied that I have given the job a go. But as I say I am still a novice in the managerial stakes. I have actually lasted two years of my contract almost and what comes after that will obviously be based on the results we get between now and the end of the season, when the contract comes up for renewal."

Has he enjoyed his first experience as

the boss?

"Well last season when we were relegated and down at the bottom of the Second Division, and we had players who really did not have the desire to play, or the desire to win, and accepted losing week in week out, I found it very difficult indeed.

"I felt as though there was a weight on my shoulders, I felt as though there was a lot of pressure on me. But the chairman and the directors were very very good to me in those dark days. They realised how difficult a job it was for me and they told me that I'd be alright.

"The only thing that comes into it then is your own personal pride. I want to do well because of my own personal pride. I don't care whether I am being paid £50-a-week or £450-a-week, I want to do well.

"Any job I attempt I do to my best ability."

Those are the standards John sets himself and he expects those who work for him to be equally ambitious and determined to succeed.

"I want my players to be ambitious, I want them to do well but above all I want them to be honest . . . I don't like cheats," he says.

"Nobody like cheats. The public that come to watch you can even to a certain extent put up with a team whose results are not very good. But they will not stand for cheats, those players, who do not give their all for the club they play for.

"Thankfully at the moment here at Bolton we have not got any and that means that we have a good chance to improve."

McGovern, a hard working industrious workhorse on the field, has now managed to turn the ship around and head back towards Division Two. He has done this without his own services on the pitch, following 14 months of perpetual injuries, but despite the fact that he was aching to play, he dropped himself after making his comeback at Walsall in January because he knew he could play better.

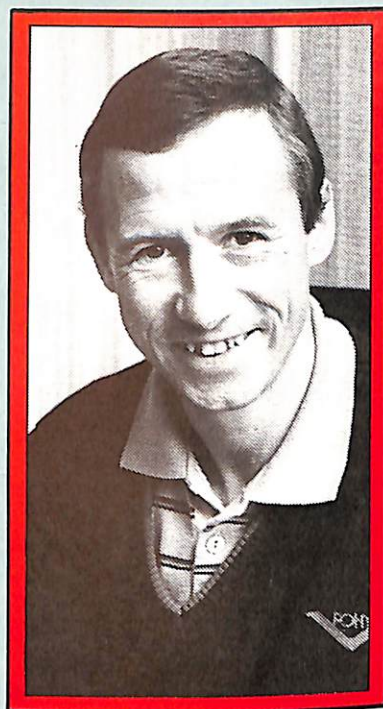
"I signed Graham Bell from Carlisle and he played and we won against Bristol Rovers (3-0) and at Southend United (1-0), so I was very satisfied with his performances and he kept his place," says John.

"I had one or two bad injuries which kept me out for 14 months but we have a very very young side and I thought it was about time I gave one or two of them a break, and it was time I accepted some of my responsibility and got back out there on the field.

"I think I am still fit enough to play at 34, but with the inclusion of Graham Bell, a player I have had my eye on for some time, we have looked a very competent side.

"It is very difficult combining management with playing anyway. The biggest problem for me is the actual concentration when you go out on the park to play.

"When you are a player the only thing you have to worry about is justifying your own position in the side, but when



you are a manager you have a million other things on your mind and in some of the games I played in when I first came to the club I found it was really hard to concentrate on just playing the game . . . And I don't think my performances lived up to my reputation."

John, who was signed by Brian Clough for Derby County from Hartlepool in 1968, has played most of his soccer in the top flight but he does not think that should have any bearing on his performances with Bolton in the Third Division.

He says: "Generally you have one preparation whether you are in the First Division or the Fourth Division. Your preparation is the same for every match although the actual game is a little more hectic — they give you a little less time — in the lower divisions.

"But I started my career in the Fourth Division with Hartlepool so I am not a complete stranger to it. That was a few years ago but I have been very fortunate that I have had a tremendous career and won a few trophies.

"Now I have to prove myself as a manager. We have a good young squad at Bolton and I can only see us getting better. It sounds like a bit of a cliché, but they are very young and they are still learning.

"If we do get better then it will be because of the hard work all the lads have put in."

John McGovern is not one to let his feet off the ground. After a brilliantly earned victory at Roots Hall he busied himself opening lemonade bottles without a bottle opener. There was plenty of fizz all round for the happy Bolton players, but the bubbly is shelved until they really complete the business and climb back to Division Two.



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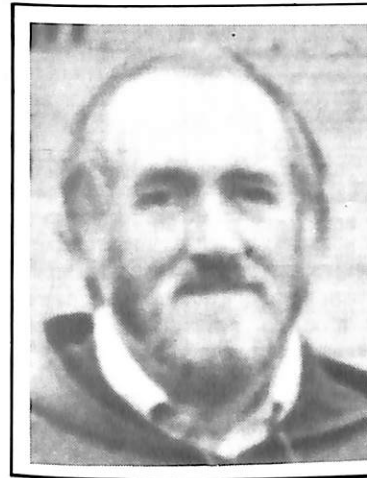
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MARINER MAN

John Fraser

'Fearless Fraz' is about to complete 13 eventful years at Blundell Park. The man who admits a hankering for the dunes of his native Montrose, makes do with a trip to Cleethorpes beach to cure his nostalgia.

A Scottish Schoolboy international, John's playing career with his home town club, in the Scottish League was cut short by back trouble. Physiotherapy was a means to an end. It provided a job, and opened up the possibility of continuing in football.

There is little doubt he could have pursued a career in soccer management. Indeed he was caretaker boss at Blundell Park in between Tom Casey and John Newman. It probably says much for his good sense that John avoided the temptation. Nonetheless his views on football are widely respected, as he has proved over the years.

But his central purpose is the treatment of injuries. Time and again John's skilled hands have eased strains and pulled muscles, coaxed many a wiry frame back to fitness. Occasionally his treatment may be unorthodox. Strawberry flavoured ice cream does wonders for a sprained ankle, and in any case it tastes better than liniment!

Every now and then he tries out a new technique. Kevin Moore has related a humorous tale about impact therapy when Fraz misread the distance from which a sandbag was dropped on to the affected area. The difference between three inches and three feet can have painful implications. Then of course there is the good old-fashioned remedy of a kick in the backside.

Jokes apart, John is one of the most respected physio's in the business. Professionally trained in Glasgow, his prowess at the treatment table attracted First Division Aston Villa back in 1979. He politely declined. Since his arrival at Blundell Park, playing resources have always been slim. As a result many hours of overtime are spent in his room beneath the Main Stand.

When he first arrived in Grimsby, John got to know that treatment room particularly well. For with characteristic Scottish canniness he slept at the ground and was never late for work.

Lawrie McMenemy brought him down from Scotland where he was trainer/coach to Raith Rovers, spending eight years at Stark's Park. While at Kirkcaldy John visited Cologne to watch Helmut Schoen, the West German national coach in action.

Since then Fraz has witnessed the changing

fortunes of football. Six managers, three promotions, a relegation, heady days at Liverpool, hard slogs at Workington and Hartlepool. Starry eyed youngsters, the odd embittered old pro. He has provided continuity, and while the hair is a little greyer and he now sports a beard, the dedication and commitment is still as evident as when he first arrived.

Last season he took a well earned benefit. Unfortunately several events were dogged by bad luck, and his twice postponed testimonial game with Nottingham Forest coincided with an atrocious downpour.

Plegmatic to the last John took it in his stride, just as he has taken the setbacks, "It is just one of those things".

Vital Info

Born: Montrose.
Birthdate: September 1932.
Career Highlights: Getting promotion to Division Two.
Career Lowspots: Being relegated to Division Four in 1977.
Influences on Career: Former Scottish international goalkeeper George Farm at Raith Rovers and Lawrie McMenemy.
Career after the Mariners: "I think I'll retire to Scotland."
Town debut: Season 1971-72.

NEEDHAMS MEATS

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The Games People Play 1983-84

Date	Opponents	Att.	Res.	Pts.	Pos.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Aug. 27	Shrewsbury Town	5,177	1-1	1	17	Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
Sept. 6	Cardiff City	5,135	1-3	1	12	Batch	Cooper	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
10	Leeds United	7,723	2-0	4	14	Batch	Cooper	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
17	Newcastle United	9,000	1-1	6	10	Batch	Cooper	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
24	Middlesbrough	10,239	1-1	9	10	Batch	Cooper	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
27	Fulham	5,789	2-1	6	14	Batch	Cooper	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
Oct. 4	Barnsley	10,966	1-3	9	10	Batch	Cooper	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
11	Manchester City	25,080	0-0	9	10	Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
18	Huddersfield Town	8,887	0-0	13	15	Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
25	Brighton & H.A.	5,469	5-0	10	9	Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
29	Crystal Palace	6,075	2-0	16	8	Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
Nov. 5	Derby County	11,531	2-1	19	6	Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
12	Porsmouth	12,906	0-4	19	8	Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
19	Charlton Athletic	5,584	2-1	22	6	Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
26	Swansea City	6,178	1-0	25	6	Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
Dec. 3	Carlisle United	5,665	1-1	26	6	Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
10	Blackburn Rovers	6,409	1-1	27	7	Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
17	Oldham Athletic	4,825	3-0	30	6	Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
24	Sheffield Wednesday	13,151	3-2	36	6	Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
31	Sheffield Wednesday	16,197	1-0	33	6	Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
Jan. 7	Cambridge United	4,319	2-2	37	6	Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
14	Cardiff City	7,164	1-0	40	5	Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
21	Fulham	7,351	1-1	41	5	Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
28	Shrewsbury Town	3,343	2-1	44	5	Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
Feb. 4	Middlesbrough	7,342	0-0	45	5	Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
11	Manchester City	11,986	1-1	46	5	Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
18	Newcastle United	28,528	1-0	49	4	Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
25	Derby County	8,530	2-1	55	3	Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
Mar. 3	Crystal Palace	5,956	1-0	55	3	Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
10	Portsmouth	8,729	3-4	55	6	Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
17	Charlton Athletic	7,626	3-3	56	6	Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
24	Leeds United	14,452	1-2	56	6	Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
31	Huddersfield Town					Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
Apr. 7	Brighton & H.A.					Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
14	Swansea C. (FA SF)					Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
21	Sheffield Wednesday					Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
28	Cambridge United					Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
May 5	Blackburn Rovers					Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
12	Oldham Athletic					Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
19	FA Cup Final					Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
	Chelsea					Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
	Barnsley					Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark



Young Mariners from Down-Parry, Nicholas and Australia Party of Melbourne, Australia.

Home matches and scorers in heavy type. * Own Goal. p. penalty. † Player withdrawn. ‡ after extra time.

CUP FIXTURES AND RESULTS	Att.	Res.	Pts.	Pos.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Aug. 30 York City WCI (2L)	3,505	1-2	1	17	Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
Sept. 13 York City WCI (2L)	3,580	2-0	4	14	Batch	Cooper	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
Oct. 4 Coventry City WCI (1L)	6,088	0-0	6	10	Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
25 Coventry City WCI (2L)	6,705	1-2	6	10	Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark
Jan. 7 Portsmouth FAC3	12,707	1-2	6	10	Batch	Cumming	Crombie	Waters	Nicholl	Moore K.	Ford	Wilkinson	Drinkell	Bonnyman	Enson	Whymark

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WOODY in reserve

After the euphoria of recent weeks results at all levels of the club have been disappointing of late. Our Colts continue to have a fine season in the Grimsby League, although in between now and the end of April I hope to be able to field several very young teams indeed. It is obvious that the more experience that these 14 and 15 year old players can be given the greater the dividends from them later on. Also a demanding ninety minutes played in the more physical atmosphere of senior football soon sorts out the promising boys from the "no-hopers".

Today as you read these notes the Colts side will be playing Brigg Town in the semi-final of the County Intermediate Cup. Hopefully we will have three youngsters from the North-East in our team. Paul Stout, Neil Woodward and Chris Leadbitter are all trying to become apprentices at our club. In fact a further six of today's side are in a similar position and this surely is most satisfactory from the club's viewpoint.

Although the results of the Reserve matches have been a little disappointing it has been really satisfying to watch Andrew Dixon and Kevin Storr make their home debuts in the Central League side. Although, by their own admission, neither played anywhere near their best the experience gained by them will be invaluable in their future careers at the club. Already both boys have agreed to apprenticeships at Blundell Park and I hope that they fulfil all their ambitions.

Finally I would like to thank Albert Taylor, who is responsible for scouting within our local area. Albert has managed to attract the entire Grimsby Boys U14 squad to our training sessions. The standard of this group of boys appears impressive and their Grimsby Boys' results back this up. Well done Albert!!

ALAN WOODWARD

CENTRAL LEAGUE		F-A
Aug. 31	Huddersfield Town	1-2
Sept. 8	Bradford City	4-2
20	Wigan Athletic	2-1
28	Manchester City	1-2
Oct. 4	Notts. County	0-1
11	Preston N.E.	1-2
19	Barnsley	4-3
27	Port Vale	2-1
Nov. 2	Huddersfield Town	2-3
8	Coventry City	0-0
15	Chesterfield	2-1
22	Blackpool	1-3
30	Rotherham Utd.	5-0
5	Wolverhampton W.	0-1
Dec. 10	Notts. County	2-1
Jan. 31	Manchester City	0-2
Feb. 7	Preston N.E.	3-3
21	Barnsley	1-1
28	Coventry City	0-1
Mar. 6	Wigan Athletic	3-3
13	Port Vale	3-3
20	Bradford City	1-2
27	Chesterfield	
Apr. 3	Blackpool	
10	Rotherham Utd.	
17	Wolverhampton W.	
25	Oldham Ath.	

To be arranged: Middlesbrough, Oldham Athletic, Middlesbrough

CENTRAL LEAGUE		APPS	GOALS
P. Grotier	17		
M. Burrell	3		
D. Topliss	3		
G. Henshaw	18	3	
A. Moore	13		
N. Cooper	7	1	
M. Hine	19	3	
G. Lund	18	11	
T. Whymark	5	3	
M. Speight	8	1	
K. Topliss	15		
D. Hannay	2		
M. Andreuszewski	4		
A. Foster	14		
A. Gale	4		
P. Wilkinson	1	1	
R. Cumming	2	1	
N. Mathews	15		
R. Greenough	15	4	
J. McMahon	1		
P. Bonnyman	8	2	
S. Holgeth	11		
D. Shearer	10	5	
M. Davidson	1		
K. Storr	2		
P. Agnew	7		
N. Crane	6	1	
J. Cutbush	1		
D. Mitchell	1		

+ 1 o.g.

TODAY AT HALF TIME
LIVE ON RADIO
HUMBERSIDE
with
MARINERS STAR
PRIZE
BINGO DRAW
PETER SHEFFIELD
HOLIDAY VOUCHERS

NORTHERN INT. LEAGUE		F-A
Aug. 13	Newcastle Utd.	1-2
27	York City	2-1
Sept. 3	Huddersfield Town	1-0
17	Middlesbrough	2-0
24	Huddersfield (Cup)	1-1
Oct. 1	Sunderland	0-0
8	Barnsley	0-2
15	Sheffield Utd.	0-1
22	Halifax T.	3-2
29	Rotherham Utd.	5-1
Nov. 5	Leeds Utd.	1-1
12	Middlesbrough	0-3
19	Newcastle Utd.	1-3
26	Huddersfield T.	3-0
Dec. 3	Doncaster R.	4-1
10	Sheffield Wed.	P-P
17	Hartlepool Utd.	4-1
Jan. 14	Sheffield Utd.	5-1
Feb. 4	Bradford City	5-1
11	Sheffield Wed.	5-2
18	Leeds Utd.	P-P
25	Bradford City	2-1
Mar. 3	Sunderland	4-0
10	Halifax T.	2-0
17	Hartlepool Utd.	1-5
Apr. 7	Doncaster R.	5-1
21	York City	
28	Rotherham Utd.	

Supporters please note that the Juniors home games will be played on King George V Stadium, Grimsby

NORTHERN INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE		APPS	GOALS
D. Hannay	21		
S. Holgeth	19		
A. Foster	18	1	
T. Gale	11	3	
M. Davidson	14	1	
A. Moore	10	1	
A. Woods	14	3	
R. Dunderdale	19	2	
K. Storr	14	8	
N. Mathews	20	7	
K. Topliss	20	5	
D. Topliss	19	1	
A. Dixon	19		

Read all about it

Letters from supporters through the season

11, Greenhow Street, Sheffield, S63TN.

Dear Dave,
As a diehard Sheffield Wednesday supporter, I have attended all the Owls' matches, both home and away, so far this season.

On balance of what I have observed of the teams comprising Canon League Division Two, Grimsby Town are without doubt, to my mind, the best team Wednesday have played this season, if the Boxing Day game was typical of your team's performance.

No doubt about it, the Mariners' was an all round team performance, with the players totally committed, the attitude and application spot on. How refreshing it was to see a team in opposition to Wednesday who were prepared to work for each other, running for, winning and distributing the ball selflessly.

The team, to a man, displayed maximum effort, enthusiasm, and inspired confidence in each other. It speaks volumes for your astute management, on limited resources, that you have established a team of considerable ability and character of whom the supporters can feel proud.

I am looking forward to the Mariners' visit to Hillsborough, in April, and if your team's present progress can be maintained it would be fitting reward for all concerned if your efforts win you promotion at the end of this campaign.

Indeed there is a place for a team like Grimsby Town, whose achievements are as a result of hard work, resulting in attractive attacking football, rather than some of the so-called glamour clubs who regard their period in the Second Division as merely an inconvenient, but brief sojourn, and who resort to the open cheque book policy to restore them to their considered entitlement in the Premier Division.

Wishing you continued success.
Best wishes,
Jim Kershaw.

5 Kenwood Gdns,
George Lane,
South Woodford,
London E18 1LP

To: The Manager,

As I have now reached the ripe old age of 70, my finance commitments do not permit me to travel to your home games, but may I first congratulate you on achieving such a fine run in the league this season, and sincerely hope that your club will be in the 1st Division next season. (Keep hold of Drinkell and Ford if you can).

Whether it is my memories which goes back to the 1930's when you

had such gifted players as Jackie Bestall and Pat Glover, or whether it is that famous "Black and White" strip, or the smell of the fine fresh fish from Humberside and NOT Billingsgate, I will never know.

May I add that I have been working with the Arsenal F.C. for many seasons and during my visits at Highbury have passed many programme sellers who sell numerous programmes of bygone days, but I have NOT been able to purchase one of Grimsby Town Football Club.

I would therefore be most grateful if you would kindly send me one of your recent programmes and other literature appertaining to the 'Mariners'.

Once again, many congratulations to your success and look forward to seeing you at Highbury next season.

Yours very sincerely,
Ted Carson

P.S. I will forward a Postal Order for any expense incurred.

86 Wroughton Road,
Battersea,

Dear Sir, London S.W.11
I am writing to say how much I enjoyed watching your match against Man. City on Saturday evening 4th February on T.V.

I am 72 years of age, and I think the game was played in true good English Style, as we used to see it played many years ago — every Saturday. It was a very hard match but sporting good luck to Grimsby Town Club. Keep playing like that and you will get good returns.

Yours faithfully
C. W. Tozer

P.S. I will try and see and support you when you visit Chelsea or Fulham.

Second OPINION

By now Middlesbrough and Derby County could be no more. Those once famous clubs recently followed Charlton to the High Court, and sooner or later a League club will bite the dust. Wolves, Bristol City, Hull and Bradford City all escaped liquidation at the eleventh hour. It seems only a matter of time.

'Boro owe £700,000, and need gates of 10,000. With only half that number coming through the turnstiles, the sale of startlets like **Stephen Bell**, **Mick Kennedy**, and **Darren Wood** is inevitable. A Wood of course rejected a £100,000 move to Sheffield Wednesday, but how decision that kept **Malcolm Allison** at Ayresome Park. but for how long Allison, arguably the best coach in the business, remains on Teeside is open to question. He says he owes it to the Middlesbrough public not to part with his best players. Unfortunately the public could not care less.

Skipper **Irving Natrass**, the club record buy a few years ago at £375,000 says there will be a mass exodus from Ayresome if Allison leaves.

'Boro did little to encourage his staying, with an inept home display against Fulham, who extended their unbeaten run to eight games with a 2-0 win. **Gordon Davies** hit his 20th goal of the season and **Dean Coney** added a second.

Other crisis club Derby managed to scrape together £45,000 by selling **Calvin Plummer** and **Ron Futcher** to Barnsley, but were unable to arrange a deal with either Notts County or Coventry that would have brought in another £75,000 for **John Robertson**.

Kenny Burns on loan from Leeds to the Baseball Ground has now made the move permanent, but the immediate future looks bleak for the Rams, unless a "Sugar Daddy-Robert Maxwell" figure appears. In the longer term, Derby supporters have the Third Division to look forward to.

Even Newcastle, with gates averaging 28,000 are far from happy financially. Some £800,000 in the red, they do not even have the security of their own ground, it is owned by the City Council. With 23 full-timers on the books, a big clear out is scheduled for May. **Steve Carney** is



Kenny Burns

attracting plenty of interest. **David Mills** fancies a move nearer to his Sheffield home, a first team regular, full back **John Anderson**, is also expected to leave Tyneside. So too, could be **John Ryan**, the £200,000 buy from Oldham. Rumours are also rife that whatever happens as regards promotion, **Arthur Cox** may well be parting company with the Magpies. Possible replacement is tipped as **Malcolm Macdonald**.

Meanwhile on the pitch Newcastle took a point from homespun Shrewsbury. Manager **Graham Turner** made a rare appearance in the No. 5 shirt, and coach **Chic Bates** was also called into action, as leading marksman **Alan Brown** had been sold to Doncaster for £35,000 to balance the books. **Steve Cross** netted both Shrew's goals and but for an own goal from home defender **Paul Johnson**, United would have lost.

On loan striker from Everton, **David Johnson** netted in the last 10 minutes, to give Man. City three valuable home points against Cardiff, who had led for most of the match, with a **Gordon Owen** goal, **Graham Baker** notched the other City strike.

Carlisle boss **Bob Stokoe** was straight to the point when questioned recently on Football Focus about money matters. He accused the big clubs of being selfish and greedy, prophesying the death knell for soccer if the decision about home clubs keeping gate receipts were not reversed. His team came a cropper at Blackburn where home skipper **Derek Fazackerley** celebrated his 501st League game by thumping in a penalty as Rovers cruised to a 4-1 win.

Though the Cumbrians are financially solvent largely through a profitable squash club and pub, there will be greater use of part timers next season at Brunton Park.

Oldham have signed Man. United goalkeeper **Jeff Wealands** on loan, to cover until the season end for **Andy Goram**, out with an ankle injury. Despite his presence the Latics went down 2-1 at Charlton where **Mike Flanagan** scored his first goal since returning to the Valley from Q.P.R.

Brighton, whom Town visit next Saturday, made it five games without defeat with a 3-0 win over the equally improved Leeds United. Defender **Eric Young** scored his first goal for the club, with one time Elland Road favourite **Terry Connor**, and **Danny Wilson** adding the others.



Mike Flanagan

Big Scores This Season

27/8 Chelsea 5	Derby 0	10/9 Blackburn 5	Derby 1
17/9 Man. City 6	Blackburn 0	1/10 Brighton 7	Charlton 0
1/10 Fulham 5	Swansea 0	1/10 Shrewsbury 5	Leeds 1
8/10 Chelsea 5	Fulham 3	15/10 Grimsby 5	Brighton 0
29/10 Newcastle 5	Man. City 0	1/11 Portsmouth 5	Cambridge 0
6/12 Chelsea 6	Swansea 1	10/12 Newcastle 5	Huddersfield 2
17/12 Sheff. Wed. 5	Cardiff 2	14/1 Sheff. Wed. 6	Swansea 1
25/1 Charlton 5	Cambridge 2	17/3 Fulham 5	Man. City 1

CANON LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

(Up to and including Tuesday 27th March 1984)

Club	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Leading Scorers — League, Cups	League Gates Best Average
Chelsea	33	11	4	2	40	16	7	7	2	26	18	65	Dixon 24, Speedie 12, Nevin 7	35,147 19,496
Sheffield Wed.	31	12	3	1	40	15	7	5	3	19	13	65	Varadi 18, Bannister 7	41,134 21,271
Newcastle Utd.	32	11	2	2	36	15	7	4	6	28	30	60	Keegan 24, Waddle, Beardsley 13	36,506 28,398
Carlisle Utd.	33	10	5	2	24	8	6	6	4	16	15	59	Poskett 16, Shoulder 9, O'Riordan 6	14,756 5,927
Manchester C.	33	11	3	2	33	14	6	5	6	19	24	59	Parlane 17, Tolmie 14, Baker 7	41,862 26,987
Grimsby T.	32	9	5	1	27	11	6	6	4	14	21	55	Drinkell 15, Wilkinson 12, Ford 8	16,197 7,743
Blackburn R.	33	8	9	0	32	16	6	4	6	14	21	55	Garner 19, Thompson 8	18,199 7,524
Charlton Ath.	33	12	4	1	32	14	2	5	9	12	32	51	Hales 10, Moore 8, Robinson 7	14,393 6,474
Brighton	33	7	6	4	33	16	6	2	8	21	28	47	Connor 15, Young A., Wilson 9, Ryan 7	20,874 12,474
Leeds United	32	10	2	4	26	15	4	7	5	22	24	44	McCluskey, Wright 8, Watson, Ritchie 7	30,806 16,030
Huddersfield T.	32	7	4	5	19	14	6	4	7	24	23	41	Lillis 13, Russell 8, Stanton 7	23,497 9,770
Portsmouth	33	6	1	9	31	24	6	4	7	20	21	41	Hateley 21, Biley 14, Dillon 10, Morgan 8	18,852 13,813
Fulham	33	6	5	5	28	21	4	6	7	20	30	41	Davies 20, Rosenoir 8, Coney, Tempest 5	24,787 8,926
Cardiff City	32	9	1	5	24	18	4	1	12	17	30	41	Owen 11, Vaughan, Baird 6	14,580 6,808
Shrewsbury T.	33	8	5	3	24	16	2	5	10	10	29	40	Petts 8, MacLaren, Brown 6	9,471 4,787
Middlesbrough	33	6	6	4	19	15	3	4	10	13	22	37	Currie 14, Otto, Sugrue 5	19,648 9,014
Oldham Ath.	33	8	5	4	26	21	2	2	12	11	36	37	Palmer 12, Cross 7, Ward 5	9,269 5,640
Barnsley	32	6	5	5	24	20	4	1	11	19	25	36	Geddis, Glavin 9, Gray 8	13,781 7,993
Crystal Palace	32	6	4	6	13	14	3	5	8	19	25	36	Evans 7, Giles, Hilaire 4	18,691 14,121
Derby County	32	5	5	7	19	26	2	3	10	8	43	22	Davison 13, Campbell, Plummer 4	10,900 7,318
Swansea City	33	5	3	9	13	21	0	4	12	16	43	22	Walsh, Gale 4	10,602 3,962
Cambridge U.	33	2	6	9	16	28	0	2	14	6	36	14	Cooke 7, Sinton 5	

1. Portsmouth v. Newcastle, Division One, 22 February 1956; 2. Bill Shankley, Tom Johnston; 3. Jimmy Nicholson, Northern Ireland; 4. 1923-24, 1924-25, 1925-26; 5. Full back Paul Cooper; 6. Jimmy Carmichael, 37 in 1921-22; 7. 17 match sequence in 1900-01 (Division Two); 8. An own goal by Geoff Hutt; 9. Don McEvoy; 10. Neil McBain, the New Brighton manager played in goal v. Hartlepool in March 1947 at the age of 52. New Brighton lost 3-0.

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GRIMSBY TOWN

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- NIGEL BATCH**
A Huddersfield lad, and still retains a cricketing connection with the area.
- BOB CUMMING**
Scored the winner when Huddersfield were last at Blundell park – in 1979 for a League Cup match.
- DEAN CROMBIE**
Made his 200th League appearance for Town earlier in the season. Has missed just two games this term.
- JOE WATERS**
Netted a spectacular goal against the Terriers back in February 1979. Broke his nose last week but everything is now mended.
- CHRIS NICHOLL**
Gained his 40th Northern Ireland cap last September, and played his 600th League game this season.
- KEVIN MOORE**
One of several youngsters signed by Tommy Casey when he was manager. An ever present this season.
- TONY FORD**
Has made more substitute appearances, 31, than any other current Grimsby player. Former Wintringham schoolboy.
- PAUL WILKINSON**
Still eligible for the Northern Intermediate side, but his 12 goals so far prove a Second Division capability.
- KEVIN DRINKELL**
Has netted 72 League goals for the Mariners. Made his debut while an apprentice and has been club top scorer twice.
- PHIL BONNYMAN**
Glasgow born. In his second season at Blundell Park following a transfer from Chesterfield.
- PAUL EMSON**
Five goals to his name this term, the last one coming on New Year's Eve against Cardiff.
-

HUDDERSFIELD TOWN

Yellow Shirts, Yellow Shorts



- KEITH MASON**
Taken over the goalkeeping role this season.
- BRIAN LAWS**
Close-season signing from Burnley.
- DAVID BURKE**
Liverpool-born, he came through the ranks at Bolton.
- BRIAN STANTON**
Long-serving ex-Bury midfielder with strong shot.
- DAVE SUTTON**
Powerful centre half, once with Plymouth.
- PAUL JONES**
Signed in the summer after long career at Bolton..
- MEL EVES**
On loan from Wolves for one month. Scored twice on debut against Cambridge last week.
- STEVE DOYLE**
Former Welsh Under-21 international, signed from Preston.
- PETER EASTOE**
On loan from W.B.A. until end of season.
- PHIL WISLON**
Another of the strong ex-Burnden Park clan.
- DAVID COWLING**
Speedy winger with eye for goal.
- DARAL PUGH**
Signed from Doncaster in exchange for Terry Austin..

Men in Black

REFEREE: E. J. SCALES (WARE)
LINESMEN: B. R. SMITH (LEICESTER) RED FLAG
A. WARD (SLEAFORD) YELLOW FLAG
STAND-BY OFFICIAL: RICHARD MCGREGOR (GRIMSBY)

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