

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE OF OLDHAM ATHLETIC A.F.C.

80p

Latics



LATICS CLUBCALL
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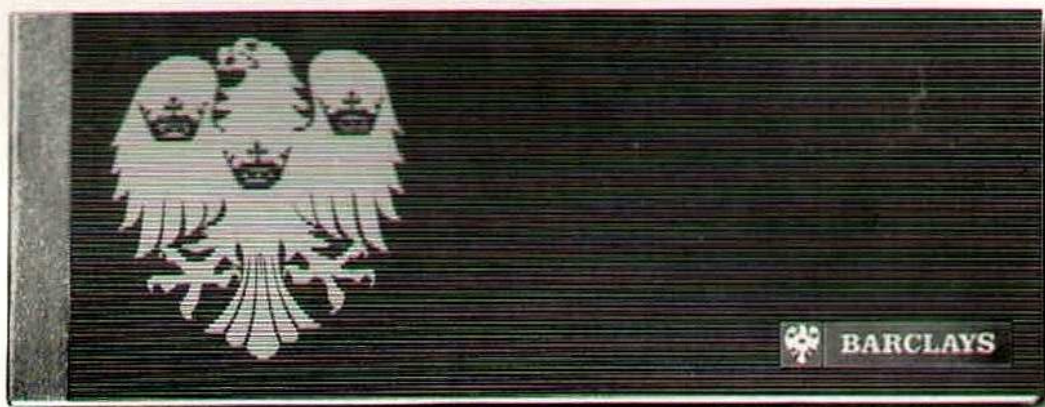
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BARCLAYS LEAGUE

Season 1988/89
v. SWINDON TOWN
Saturday, May 13th
Kick-Off 3.00 p.m.

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Around the Leagues with Tony Pullein

GOODBYE TO DARLINGTON

Darlington's battle for League survival ended with their 1-5 defeat at Scunthorpe last Saturday. After 68 years of League soccer, Darlington will revert to the non-League scene next season and everyone in football will be hoping they do not go the way of Newport County, who folded a few months after suffering a similar fate last year.

The match which really caused their downfall, however, was the one a week earlier when they played at home to Colchester, the other club involved in the scuffle for survival. They lost that critical game 1-2 and Colchester turned the screw when they won 4-0 at home to Exeter on Friday evening.

That meant Darlington needed to win both of their remaining matches to stand any chance.

Scunthorpe needed the points just as desperately to help their promotion cause. A hat-trick from Tony Daws put them on the way towards that objective — and sent Darlington into the GM Vauxhall Conference.

They will be replaced by Maidstone United, provided the Football League considers that the club's ground is up to standard.

Steve Bull became the first player since the second world war to score 100 goals in two seasons. He netted his 50th of this season in Wolves' 3-2 win over Northampton which virtually assured them of the Third Division Championship. That may by now have been settled in their favour and, if that is the case, Wolves will have become the first club ever to win the Championships of the Fourth and the Third Divisions in successive seasons. Bull scored 52 times for Wolves last season.

Manchester United's misfortune continued at Q.P.R. on Monday when they were beaten 2-3 in spite of turning in a thrilling footballing display. Though United were without key men Bryan Robson, Norman Whiteside and Paul McGrath, their young team produced some sparkling football, creating enough chances to have won with ease. In the end, after leading 2-1 and controlling much of the game, they conceded two stunning goals to Andy Gray — the second in the last minute — to suffer an unlucky defeat.

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ROOM AT THE INN

The Blue Bond Club has managed to obtain three extra rooms on our Oldham Wakes sell out holiday to Orlando, Florida.

The trip is for two weeks departing on Sunday, 18th June from Manchester International Airport. We will be staying at the Days Inn at Altimonte Springs in Orlando. The all-in price of £385 adults and children from £199 represents excellent value and includes free car hire for two weeks!!

Telephone Gordon on 061 652 0966 for full details.

LADBROKES GOALMINE

Ian Marshall picks this weeks selections on the Ladbrokes Goalmine. If all six selections are correct the club will win £125,000.

WIMBLEDON 1, LIVERPOOL 3
BRADFORD CITY 1, MANCHESTER CITY 0
CRYSTAL PALACE 0, BIRMINGHAM 1
OLDHAM ATHLETIC 5, SWINDON TOWN 0
HALIFAX 0, HEREFORD 0
DUNDEE UNITED 0, HAMILTON 1

F.A. SUNDAY CUP COMPETITION SEASON 1988/89

FINAL TIE
EAST LEVENSHULME

v. ALMETHAK
SUNDAY, 14th MAY, 1989
AT STOCKPORT COUNTY F.C.
Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

The F.A. Sunday Competition is organised for Senior Sunday Clubs throughout the Country, and attracts an average entry of 100. This season's Final will be between East Levenshulme of the Ashton Sunday League, and Almethak of the Liverpool and District Sunday League. At Stockport County's Edgely Park Ground tomorrow Sunday, 14th May, kick-off 3.00 p.m.

Admission prices are as follows:-
Seats £3.50 and Standing £2.00, and tickets are available at the turnstiles on the day of the match.

FLYING OFF

Next Tuesday 17 players and directors will take off from Manchester Airport for a seven night stay on the island of Corfu.

After a season ravaged with injuries the players will have deserved a short break relaxing away from the rigours of full-time training, and return fresh and raring to go for an all out assault on promotion to Division One.

WHO WILL IT BE?

All the votes have now been cast for the 'LOOKERS PLAYER OF THE YEAR', and all will be revealed before the kick-off of today's game.

Will Andy Ritchie pick up the award for the second year running? Will Denis Irwin add it to his 'Junior Latics Player of the Year' title, or could it be Tommy Wright, Roger Palmer, etc., etc.

The presentation of the 'Lookers Player of the Month' for April/May will precede the main presentation, and both will be made by Lookers Group Personal Manager, Stuart Gordon.

NEW SIGNING

Latics Clubcall carried the news first on Tuesday morning that Joe Royle had agreed a fee of £22,000 with Bristol City manager Joe Jordan for the transfer of striker Scott McGarvey.

Remember hear all the news first on 0898 12 11 42 LATICS CLUBCALL.

Personal terms were agreed on Tuesday afternoon and Scott completed the transfer at Boundary Park on Wednesday morning.

He will make his debut on Monday night in a testimonial game for Dave Ryan at Northwich Victoria's ground.
kick-off 7.30 p.m.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the Gurr family from Poynton in Cheshire. They are the winners of the 'NISA - TODAY'S DEDICATED FAMILY AWARD'. The family were nominated by Mr. Chris Silver and some of the reasons for his nomination are listed below.

Travelling 21 miles from Poynton to every home match, plus many away games. Sponsoring Mike Flynn's Socks for the season.

Selling all their Latics Christmas Draw Tickets in a mainly Pro Manchester City area.

Purchasing their Vauxhall Cavalier Car from Lookers, simply because of Lookers connection with Latics.

There were many more reasons, and considering that three years ago the family were living in Kent and had never seen Oldham play, the judges decided that they were worthy winners of the award.

The family will receive a handsome trophy plus a £50 cheque on the pitch before today's game, and they have kindly agreed to donate the cheque to five local pensioners. So the first five pensioners who purchase a season ticket on Monday, 15th May will also receive a £10 voucher to spend in their local Nisa - Today Supermarket.

START OF A NEW ERA?

The 1989/90 season will see the start of a new era for all true Latics supporters aged over 16 years.

In August 1989 the Latics Supporters Association will be relaunched with a brand new committee and a new format with regular evenings where fans can get together, meet the players and partake in quizzes and obtain other privileges and discounts.

Membership will run from August 1989 to December 1990 and will then be renewable annually. All members will receive a Special Limited edition Enamel Lapel Badge. To reserve your application form ring 061 652 0966 and you will be one of the first to receive a copy, and on August 3rd there will be an enrolment night in the Clayton Arms, when members who have already joined, and those who enrol on the night, will be entered into a FREE draw with two prizes of a Season Ticket and an autographed ball.

So act NOW - Give us a ring to reserve your application form to join an elite band of supporters.

HELP

A collection will be taken at today's game by THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY.

Founded in 1881, The Children's Society now helps over 11,000 children and young people and their families in over 120 projects. No two projects are identical and they include runaway schemes, home finding teams, residential homes, and special care units for the handicapped. More than a third of the Church of England Children's Society are family centres and neighbourhood community schemes, and the Holts Village Community project in Oldham is the Society's local project. If you would like to help in any way please contact Howard Smith on 0254 831993.

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HILLSBOROUGH COLLECTION

At our last home game the Round Table Associations of Saddleworth, Oldham and Oldham & Medlock Vale, collected donations from the crowd for the Hillsborough Fund.

A total of £2054.09 was raised and later the Oldham Athletic Directors increased this sum to £4,000. On behalf of the Club I thank each and every one of you for your generosity.

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FIRST DIVISION FOR THE ROBINS??

Swindon Town come to Boundary Park today in the knowledge that they have already qualified for a place in the end of the season 'play-offs'. Swindon have never appeared in the First Division in their 98 year history, in fact the highest place they have ever attained is fifth in Division Two in the 1969/70 season, although the Robins did win the Football League Cup the previous year 1968/69. A win today at Boundary Park could take Swindon into third place in Division Two and who knows maybe bring First Division soccer to the County Ground for the very first time!



TRANSFER SEEKING TRIO

Andy Barlow and Andy Rhodes have both decided to ask for a transfer from the club after a meeting with Joe Royle last week. The fact that Joe could not guarantee a first team place for both players next season was the deciding factor on the issue.

The two players bring the transfer list up to three with Peter Skipper being the other man searching for a new Club during the close season, team boss Joe Royle has informed all three players that he will require a fee for them.

I am sure all supporters wish the players good luck in their future careers, with whichever club they move on to.

I DO, I DO, I DO, I DO

The end of season brings with it the sound of wedding bells for a member of Latics players:-

Ian Marshall will marry Samantha on June 10th.

Frank Bunn will marry Marion on June 3rd.

Andy Rhodes will marry Linda on June 3rd.

Andy Barlow will marry Susan also on June 3rd.

Best wishes go out to all the couples from all at Boundary Park.

BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	45	15	6	2	50	25	13	6	3	43	23	96
Manchester City	45	12	8	3	48	28	11	4	7	28	24	81
Blackburn	45	16	4	3	50	22	6	7	9	24	35	77
Watford	45	14	5	4	41	18	7	7	8	29	30	75
Crystal Palace	44	13	6	2	37	16	8	6	9	29	32	75
Swindon Town	45	13	8	2	35	15	7	7	8	31	36	75
Barnsley	45	12	8	3	37	21	7	6	9	26	36	71
Ipswich Town	45	12	3	7	40	23	9	4	10	29	38	70
W.B.A.	45	13	7	3	43	18	4	11	7	21	23	69
Leeds United	45	12	6	5	34	20	5	9	8	22	27	66
Sunderland	45	12	7	3	38	21	4	7	12	20	37	62
Bournemouth	45	13	2	7	32	20	5	5	13	21	42	61
Stoke City	44	10	8	4	31	23	5	5	12	24	46	58
Bradford City	45	8	10	4	28	21	5	6	12	23	37	55
Oxford United	45	11	6	5	40	30	3	6	14	22	36	54
Leicester City	45	11	6	6	31	20	2	9	11	23	41	54
Oldham Athletic	45	9	9	4	47	30	2	11	10	26	40	53
Plymouth Argyle	45	11	4	8	35	22	3	7	12	20	44	53
Portsmouth	45	10	6	6	31	18	3	6	14	20	41	51
Brighton	45	11	5	7	36	24	3	3	16	19	40	50
Hull City	45	7	9	6	31	24	4	5	14	21	43	47
Shrewsbury	45	4	10	8	22	28	4	7	12	15	36	41
Birmingham	45	6	4	13	21	33	2	7	13	9	39	35
Walsall	45	3	10	9	26	39	2	6	15	14	38	31

CALL UP FOR BIG ANDY

Andy Holden received news last week that he has been called into the Welsh squad for the World Cup game against West Germany on 31st May.

Andy has already gained one full and one Under '21' cap for Wales but has never played in a World Cup game - on the subject of International honours - both Denis Irwin and Mike Milligan are hoping to make the step up to a full cap for their county Eire in the up and coming World Cup games. Both players received 'rave' reviews after their recent Under 23 appearances against Northern Ireland in which Denis scored his first international goal with one of his famous 20 yard thunderbolts.

BIG SAVINGS

Inserted in today's Matchday Programme you will find all the details on the season ticket prices for next season. There are big savings to be made if you purchase your ticket before June 3rd.

You can also order your ticket by post saving you the time and trouble of making a special journey - you will find a postal booking form within the season ticket insert.



LATICS AT DRILL FIELD



Today is not the last game for Athletic because this Monday, 15th May, the complete first team squad will be playing Northwich Victoria's 1984 Wembley winning team.

The game is for the Dave Ryan Testimonial Fund.

Dave Ryan the ex-Manchester United goalkeeper has spent the last 12 years giving Northwich sterling service. Dave of course is John Ryan's brother and John along with Graham Able (Chester City) and rumour has it Mark Ward (West Ham United) will be guesting for Northwich. Joe is sending our strongest possible squad to pay tribute to Dave who incidentally works at Boundary Park as Assistant Community Supervisor under John Platt (yes he's playing too!)

MONDAY, 15th MAY
NORTHWICH VICS v. OLDHAM

ATHLETIC

Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

at The Drill Field, Northwich

Admission:-

Ground £1.50, Seats £3.00

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BOUNDARY PARK SAYS FAREWELL TO . . .

GARY HOOLICKIN

12 years ago today, a certain Gary Hoolickin's name appeared in the match programme for the first time. 14th May 1977 in the home game against Luton Town, Gary made his football League debut.

Now 243 Latics appearances later Gary is to retire from professional football. The official reason from the doctor is "That Gary's knee could not stand up to the rigours of day to day training." Gary has struggled with lots of injuries throughout his career at Boundary Park but none so serious as the one picked up in a pre-season friendly against Flixton which, after three operations, was ultimately to end his playing career. Gary along with his wife Lesley and sons Anthony, Christopher and Gary junior know they will always be welcome at Boundary Park.



PHILIP HOUGH

Club Secretary Philip Hough is also attending his last game at Boundary Park today in his official capacity. Philip joined the club from Cambridge United on 13th August 1987 and will have completed two seasons as Secretary at Boundary Park.

Philip is to take up the post of Secretary at 3rd Division Northampton Town and everyone at the club wish Philip and wife Tracy along with their children Christian and Benjamin every happiness in the future.



GIANT END OF SEASON SALE

At the Programme Shop,
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Saturday 27th May
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WELCOME TO THE '92' CLUB

Today's match is very special for one Swindon Town supporter, David Maltby of Rother Close, Green Meadow in Swindon is visiting his 92nd Football League ground today when he arrives at Boundary Park. Our congratulations go out to David on his magnificent achievement but his achievement will only last for three months unless he visits Maidstone United on the occasion of their first game in the Football League!!!

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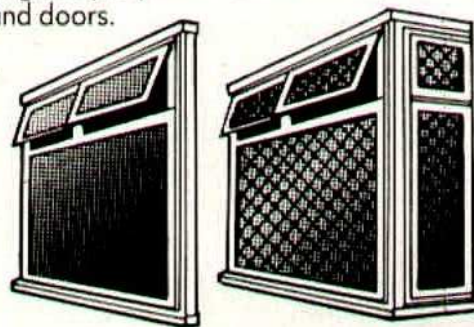


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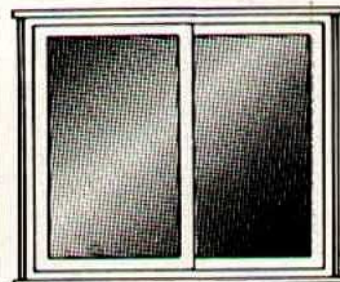
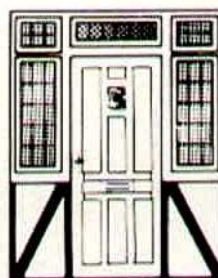
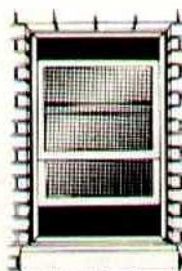
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Joe's page

It took a long time coming, but it was worth waiting for! Our second away victory at Leicester was as welcome, as it was deserved. Of course we gave away our customary soft goal to start with, but even without our regular front players we were creating more than enough chances, and the two goals we did score were very well taken. Having won so well at Leicester, we made the now frequent trip across the Pennines, to Leeds, for our last away game of this season, hoping for a repeat victory. I have spoken many times this season, of the vast majority of draws that 'should've been' victories, but in all honesty, a draw was a fair reflection of the game.

Welcome to today's visitors from the West Country, who have already qualified for the promotion play-offs to compete for a place in Division One next season. I envy Lou Macari and his team their involvement and look upon today's fixture as a yardstick for next season, when we must try to lose our 'tag' as the 'treble chance' favourites, and indeed, one of our 20 draws to date was a 2-2 draw of the 'should've won' variety last December, so revenge is definitely the order of the day.

Billy Urmsons reserve squad are still in with a great chance of promotion to Division One of the Central League, and have three fixtures left, after today. Whatever the outcome, I would like to congratulate Bill and the boys on a successful season.

I would like to close by thanking all our staff, full time and matchday, for their efforts and support this season, and I would like to wish our Company Secretary, Phil Hough, all the best in his new career when he returns to his native Lincolnshire.

Thank you to all our faithful, particularly the away regulars, who must have despaired of ever seeing us win again, before the Leicester game, particularly after such a super start to this most erratic season.

I remain convinced that we are better equipped than ever for an assault on Division One next season, and with your support and encouragement, who knows?

Have a great summer *Joe*

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Facts & Figures

ATTENDANCES/SCORERS

	Total	Average	Leading Goal Scorers
Barnsley	154,501	7,357	Currie 13, Lowndes 6, Cooper 6
Birmingham City	135,156	6,436	Robinson 5, Whitton 5, Atkins 3
Blackburn Rovers	181,080	8,623	Gayle 17, Garner 16, Kennedy 10
Bournemouth	173,462	8,260	Blissett 16, Aylott 6, Newson 6
Bradford City	212,362	10,112	Leonard 7, Quinn 6, Thomas 5
Brighton & H.A.	195,097	9,290	Bremner 15, Nelson 14
Chelsea	331,073	15,765	Dixon 21, Durie 17
Crystal Palace	215,797	10,276	Wright 21, Bright 20
Hull City	147,874	6,722	Edwards 25, Whitehurst 5, Peyton 4
Ipswich Town	258,618	11,755	Dozzell 11, Wark 11
Leeds United	518,660	22,550	Davison 14, Baird 10
Leicester City	247,122	10,744	Newell 12, McAllister 10, Cross 9
Manchester City	540,496	23,500	Moulden 13, Morley 11, Biggins 9
Latics	159,625	7,256	Palmer 14, Ritchie 14, Bunn 13
Oxford United	139,319	6,333	Foyle 14, Hill 10, Simpson 8
Plymouth Argyle	198,444	8,628	Tynan 24, McCarthy 8, Marker 6
Portsmouth	227,890	10,359	Quinn 17, Aspinall 11, Chamberlain 6
Shrewsbury Town	103,511	4,705	Irvine 5, Kelly 5, McGinley 5
Stoke City	211,960	9,635	Bamber 6, Beagrie 6, Henry 6
Sunderland	312,913	14,223	Gabbiadini 20, Pascoe 9, Armstrong 8
Swindon Town	198,830	8,645	Shearer 14, White 12, Foley 8
Walsall	134,729	6,124	Rimmer 8, Naughton 7
Watford	282,798	12,296	Wilkinson 18, Porter 10
West Bromwich Alb.	293,446	12,759	Godman 15, Robson 9

(Up to and including Saturday, 6/5/89)

RESERVE FIXTURES CENTRAL LEAGUE DIVISION TWO 1988/89

1988	Aug.	31	GRIMSBY TOWN	H	4-2
	Sept.	7	Bolton Wanderers	A	4-1
		13	BRADFORD CITY	H	1-2
		21	Wigan Athletic	A	1-1
		28	DARLINGTON	H	2-1
	Oct.	5	York City	A	2-2
		18	STOKE CITY	H	1-0
	Nov.	1	Middlesbrough	A	1-2
		8	HULL CITY	H	3-2
		17	Doncaster Rovers	A	0-0
		21	NOTTS COUNTY	H	3-2
	Dec.	5	SCUNTHORPE UTD	H	4-1
		19	Port Vale	A	0-2
1989	Jan.	10	Grimsby Town	A	2-1
		18	PRESTON NORTH END	H	1-1
		25	Mansfield Town	A	2-5
	Feb.	1	Darlington	A	1-0
		7	YORK CITY	H	6-0
		15	Stoke City	A	1-1
		21	ROTHERHAM UNITED	H	1-2
	Mar.	1	Hull City	A	0-0
		7	MIDDLESBROUGH	H	2-1
		15	WIGAN ATHLETIC	H	4-0
		22	Blackpool	A	P-P
		28	Bradford City	A	1-1
	Apr.	6	PORT VALE	H	6-0
		12	Scunthorpe United	A	1-1
		18	DONCASTER ROVERS	H	1-0
		25	Notts County	A	0-4
	May	3	MANSFIELD TOWN	H	6-1
		8	Rotherham United	A	1-0
		10	Preston North End	A	
		15	BOLTON	H	
		17	BLACKPOOL	H	
		22	BLACKPOOL	A	

APPEARANCES & GOALSCORERS SEASON 1988/89

Up to and including 18th March, 1989

Name	League		Cup	
	Apps	Gl's	Apps	Gl's
Neil ADAMS	9	-	-	-
Andy BARLOW	14 (1 sub)	-	3	-
Earl BARRETT	42	-	6	-
Chris BLUNDELL	2	-	1	-
Steven BRAMWELL	- (1 sub)	-	-	-
Frank BUNN	25 (2 sub)	12	3	1
Mike CECERE	9 (4 sub)	2	11 (1 sub)	-
Willie DONACHIE	4 (5 sub)	-	2	-
Winston DUBOSE	-	-	1	-
Mike FLYNN	8 (1 sub)	-	-	(1 sub)
Nick HENRY	13 (4 sub)	-	2	-
Jon HALLWORTH	16	-	-	-
Asa HARTFORD	3 (1 sub)	-	-	-
Andy HOLDEN	12	3	-	-
Denis IRWIN	38 (1 sub)	2	5	-
John KELLY	39 (1 sub)	6	5	-
Norman KELLY	- (1 sub)	-	-	(1 sub)
Peter LITCHFIELD	3	-	-	-
Ian MARSHALL	39	4	6	1
Mike MILLIGAN	37	6	4	1
Simon MOONEY	-	-	-	(1 Sub)
Stephen MORGAN	1	-	-	-
Roger PALMER	44	14	5 (1Sub)	-
Tony PHILLISKIRK	3 (8 sub)	1	1 (2 sub)	-
Andy RITCHIE	28	14	5	2
Andy RHODES	25	-	5	-
Peter SKIPPER	26	1	3	-
Paul WARHURST	2 (3sub)	-	2	-
Gary WILLIAMS	2 (4sub)	1	1 (1 sub)	1
Tommy WRIGHT	36 (1sub)	7	4	1

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*Taken from an interview with
Steve McIlwham of
Latics Clubcell.*

Many footballers find it difficult to fill the spare time that inevitably crops up with the way things are organised. But 28 year old Latics Skipper John Kelly has no trouble at all in occupying the hours away from Boundary Park. John is a partner in the Kelly family sports shop, with responsibilities for the mail order side of things. Kelly's Kits have offices in Liverpool and Manchester, and with a mail shot of some 18,000 catalogues he is very busy. "It's a good business to be in," says John, "we supply kits to all sorts of football clubs. We are not in the replica business but more towards providing high quality, long lasting, value for money strips to teams where obviously the finances are tight."

The shop, in Liverpool, has been established 25 years and was started by his father Noel, who many people will remember from his days at Arsenal, Nottingham Forest, Crystal Palace and as player manager at Tranmere Rovers, incidentally the same club that John started on the pro-road. Having such a well known football father was a help to John, as he explains, "Dad didn't interfere at all but obviously with so much experience behind him he could spot my mistakes." As we have already mentioned John started off at Tranmere who spotted him playing in the West Cheshire League for Cammell Lairds. Johnny King in his first spell at Prenton Park, invited him to pre-season training and then offered him the chance to turn pro. All this was despite the fact that between the ages of 15 and 17 John did not kick a football in anger. After Wrexham had rejected him as a schoolboy John turned to Rugby Union and played for two years at stand off, thoroughly enjoying himself in a game that certainly suited his prodigious kicking skills. But tempted back to soccer John stayed for three years at Tranmere. "It was a great place both

At home with. . . . John Kelly

to play and to learn. We had Derek Mountfield and John Williams, now at Bournemouth, in the side, and I'm delighted to see Johnny King on the brink of promotion this season. I left Prenton Park to sign for Tommy Docherty at Preston, but in characteristic fashion the Doc was sacked seven weeks later, but he must have thought that I could play because three years later he came in for me again to go to Wolves," says John. But it was Harry McNally who took him to Chester, and in three years at Sealand Road they were promoted and reached the Northern Final of the Freight Rover Trophy. John's next move took him to today's visitors Swindon, although it did not work out at the County Ground and within five months he was on the move again. "It was a big disappointment that it didn't go well for me at Swindon, I bought a flat in the town but didn't actually manage to live in it, because four days after getting the keys, I was off to Latics." John arrived at Boundary Park in November 1987 and settled quickly. He has bought a house in Chester, which he shares with girlfriend Nicky, and like everyone at the club he is bitterly disappointed with the progress of the past season. "It has been frustrating with our injuries, because I know that with a full strength side we are as good as anybody in the Second Division. I think I'm the only player who hasn't been injured this season but I have missed four matches through suspension. But while that's annoying, the way I play makes it inevitable that I'll pick up the odd booking. But I'm certain that with an even amount of luck we'll be around next season. Finally as skipper of the side I'd like to thank the fans for their backing this year because it can't have been easy at times, but you've helped us enormously."



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SOCCER TOPICS

MORE TALK OF A SUPER LEAGUE

With Tony Pullein
Editor of Football Monthly



The season has scarcely ended but already we hear rumours once again of the so-called Big Five clubs pressing for a breakaway League. The idea is to corner the television market and the huge revenue available from this source.

There might be some merit in this argument if the men conducting it had the benefit of a long experience in the organisation of professional football behind them. Most of them, however, are fairly new to the game and, though probably very successful in their own business fields, are still amateurs when it comes to the business of football.

Last summer it is said that ten clubs had come close to agreeing to leave the Football League and take part in a new ITV Super League. If that had happened, those clubs would possibly have earned enormous sums of money from television for around five years. But, inevitably, the public tires of seeing the same old sides week after week on the box and, as commercial television is guided by its audience levels, it would at some point - either sooner or later - lose interest in that type of professional football.

What would happen to those ten clubs then? Inevitably, their own attendances - the real flesh and blood who have actually been turning up at their grounds for years to keep the clubs in business - will have dropped alarmingly.

Would they expect to be invited back into the Football League? If so, at what level - Division Four, maybe?

Would the League want them back?

None of these questions seems to have been considered at any depth.

This has been football's major problem in recent times. All energies have been channelled into getting us through next season. What it desperately needs is someone to chart its progress over the next 10, 20 and 50 years.

I personally doubt that, at the end of the day, any club would be foolish enough to resign from the League,

particularly at this moment in time.

For if the big clubs were to drop out of the League this summer, I don't think it would be possible for them to be seen on television for at least three years.

ITV's current agreement is with the Football League Ltd. - not with individual clubs.

The League could insist that ITV honours the remaining three years of its contract with them. That would mean the £11 million annual fee being shared among the clubs still remaining under the League's umbrella.

Anyone wishing to delve seriously, and deeply, into this argument has available to him all the statistics from the past. It is quite easy to appreciate that your top ten teams of today will not be your top ten clubs next season - and certainly not in ten years time.

Given the stagnancy of a competition limited to ten clubs, complacent in the knowledge that they cannot be relegated, those "top" ten would rapidly deteriorate.

Since finance is at the root of the matter - the clubs earning most at the gate are consequently the most popular and would have the widest appeal to a television audience - let us take a look at the ten best supported clubs ten years ago. They were: Arsenal, Aston Villa, Derby, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester City, Manchester United, Nottingham Forest, Tottenham and W.B.A.

Of those, Derby have since visited the Third Division, Leeds and W.B.A. have been struggling for some years and Manchester City have spent some time in Division Two.

Go back to 1969 and we find the ten clubs with best support were Arsenal, Chelsea, Coventry, Everton, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester City, Manchester United, Newcastle and Tottenham.

In 1959 the leaders were Arsenal, Aston Villa, Bristol City, Bristol Rovers, Chelsea, Liverpool, Manchester City, Manchester United, Tottenham and W.B.A.

If a super League had been formed at any of those junctures, it could be seen how rapidly its status would have diminished.

The point that our negotiators seem to miss is that, if the break were to be made now, exactly the same process would follow. Only, if a breakaway League would be formed, there would be no natural healing process - through promotion and relegation - to enable it to retain its respectability.

Another way to look at this thing is that, within the present structure of the Football League, it is possible for ten clubs to enjoy the image of being highly successful. Ask anyone in football and they will tell you that any side managing to stay among the top ten in our First Division is to be much admired.

Yet in a ten-club competition, the bottom five would be seen as failures - not clubs that were particularly worth watching.

We have to beware of those who try to convince us of what is best for the game when they are, in reality, only considering what they *hope* will be best for their own club.

That's why I believe we should listen to people of vision, like Jimmy Hill and Bobby Charlton, who genuinely desire to put something back into the game. They know what the business of football is all about. They have a wealth of experience at several levels within the game.

Yes. We should listen to men like these.

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**Meet the
Manager:****Lou Macari****SWINDON
DELIGHTED THEY
HAD A CHANGE OF
MIND OVER
MACARI**

One of the wisest decisions ever taken by the Swindon directors was to re-instate Lou Macari as manager in April 1985 - five days after they had sacked him. That first decision had caused such a shock in the town and led to a delegation from the players to have the boss returned to office.

Happily, the situation was soon normalised, Mr. Macari continued to lay his plans to see the club rise from their home at the time in the Fourth Division. These began to be realised when Swindon won the Championship of Division Four in 1986 and followed that with further promotion a year later. Now Swindon are on

the brink of promotion to Division One.

Mr. Macari spent his distinguished playing career with Celtic and Manchester United. He celebrated his first Celtic game with a goal in 1969 and, whilst with the Celts, he played in five Cup Finals.

After being capped twice at Under 23 level, he made his debut for the full Scotland team in 1972 and went on to

collect 24 caps for his country.

Manchester United signed him for £200,000 in 1973 and for more than a decade he starred in the United side, scoring regularly.

He was appointed player-manager of Swindon during the summer of 1984 and played on for one more season before retiring to concentrate fully upon the managerial side.

ONE TO WATCH

Duncan Shearer found himself surplus to requirements with his first club, Chelsea, and probably feels he made the best decision of his life when he left Stamford Bridge in 1986. For, since then, he has become one of the game's most successful strikers. He has been a top scorer for his club in all three of his full seasons.

Duncan scored on his League debut for Chelsea in February 1986 but he got only one more game in their League eleven. They had successful strikers Kerry Dixon and David Speedie on top form at that time.

He moved on to Huddersfield a month later - and scored a hat-trick in his first full game for them, plus two more goals in his next match.

In 1986/87 he was Huddersfield's top scorer with 25 goals - including four in one game against Bradford. He led the way with 16 at Huddersfield last season and then moved on to Swindon at the end of it.

Though he made a slow start at the County Ground, he has come good in the second part of the season and his two goals, which helped them clinch a place in the play-offs last Saturday, made him their top scorer with 16.

SWINDON ON BRINK OF FIRST DIVISION

by Tony Pullein

Swindon's 3-0 home victory over Stoke last Saturday secured them a place in the promotion play-offs and the opportunity to complete a remarkable rise from the Fourth Division to the First within the space of just three years!

The club's progress since Lou Macari took over as manager in July 1984 has been truly breath-taking. They were struggling in the Fourth Division when he arrived but in 1986 he led them to the Divisional Championship with a record number of 102 points.

A year later Swindon finished third in Division Three to qualify for the play-offs. After defeating Wigan 3-2 on aggregate, they came from behind to draw 2-2 with Gillingham in the final. Swindon then won the play-off by 2-0 at Selhurst Park. That took them into the Second Division.

Swindon have a good reputation in knockout football and, having succeeded once in a play-off series, they are not too daunted at the prospect of having to go in with Blackburn, Watford and either of Manchester City or Crystal Palace for another bout of play-off games this year.

If Swindon succeed, they will go into the First Division for the first time in their history. Swindon have a good away record, with away League victories to their credit at

Watford (3-2), Shrewsbury T. (1-0), Portsmouth (2-0), Ipswich (2-1), Bournemouth (3-2), Birmingham (2-1) and Brighton (2-0).

They drew at Barnsley (1-1), Blackburn Rovers (0-0), Oxford (1-1), Leicester (3-3), Bradford City (2-2), Leeds U. (0-0) and Walsall (2-2).

Swindon were beaten at W. B. A. (1-3), Sunderland (0-4), Hull (0-1), Stoke (1-2), Crystal Palace (1-2), Chelsea (2-3), Plymouth (1-4) and Manchester City (1-2).

Swindon fans travelling to Boundary Park are hoping this is the last time, for the time being at least, that they will be watching them play in the Second Division. And that next term they will be competing in Division One.

The Swindon side is likely to be selected from:

FRASER DIGBY
(Goalkeeper)

Fraser was a reserve player with Manchester United and he got his chance in League football soon after moving to Swindon in 1986. Within a short time he was in the England under-21 side, winning three caps at that level.

DAVID HOCKADAY
(Defender)

David was a forward in his Blackpool days and now used his attacking instinct to back up the Swindon forwards. Blackpool blooded him in League football during the 1976/77 season and he was transferred to Swindon in 1983.

ROSS MacLAREN
(Defender/Midfield)

Ross was a junior player with Glasgow Rangers and it was

after moving on to Shrewsbury that he got his chance in League soccer in 1981. He quickly established himself in their first-team and in 1985 he was transferred to Derby County. Steve became part of the Rams' side which won promotion from the Third to the First Division in successive seasons and he joined Swindon last summer for £150,000.

TIM PARIN
(Defender)

Tim was signed from Bristol Rovers in 1986 and has hardly missed a game since his arrival. Blackburn launched his League career in 1977 but he got only limited opportunities at Ewood Park. He moved on to Swedish club Malmoe in 1980 and returned to English football a year later when Bristol Rovers signed him.

JON GITTENS
(Defender)

Jon was playing for Paget Rovers when Southampton signed him. He made his First Division debut for the Saints in 1986 and made around 20 senior appearances prior to his transfer to Swindon in 1987.

PHIL KING
(Defender)

Phil got his League chance with Exeter in 1984/85 but he did not always hold his place in the side. Torquay signed him during the 1986 close-season but within a matter of weeks he was on the move to Swindon.

STEVE FOLEY
(Midfield)

Steve developed in the junior teams at Liverpool and it was



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In conjunction with Government requirements the club have extended their membership scheme arrangements. The aim of the scheme is to offer selected viewing areas for home supporters only, either as a family unit or as individuals. Following discussions with the Police and the Football League the following areas have been designated as Members only:

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2. The cards will remain the property of Oldham Athletic who reserve the right to withdraw a card in the event of the holder being found guilty of any incident of crowd misbehaviour.
3. If the card is lost or destroyed the club should be informed immediately. A duplicate will only be issued when the Secretary is satisfied that the original is not being used by someone else. There will be a £1.00 charge for duplicate cards.
4. Any application by persons under 16 years of age will have to be countersigned by the parent or guardian of the applicant.
5. The membership card carries with it no other rights or privileges.
6. An application for membership will incorporate an undertaking by the member to comply with the terms of membership set out in the previous conditions and to obey the Ground regulations.

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**PHOTO CALL
SWINDON TOWN**



**Back Row
(left to right):**

**Charlie Henry,
Fraser Digby,
Nicky Hammond,
Tim Parkin.**

**Middle Row
(left to right):**

**Dave Hockaday,
Phil King,
Duncan Shearer,
Jon Gittens,
Ross MacLaren,
Steve White,
Leigh Barnard.**

**Front Row
(left to right):**

**Bobby Barnes,
Peter Coyne,
Paul Bodin,
Colin Calderwood (Capt.),
Steve Foley,
Alan McLoughlin,
Mark Jones.**

while he was out on loan to Fulham that he first tasted League football in 1983/84. At the end of that season he was transferred to Grimsby where he quickly won a first-team place. Sheffield United signed him in 1985 and a further transfer took him to Swindon in 1987.

**TOM JONES
(Midfield)**

Tom was signed from Aberdeen in September. He had spent just over a year in Scottish football after joining the Dons from GM Vauxhall Conference Club Weymouth.

**COLIN CALDERWOOD
(Midfield)**

Colin started his League career with Mansfield in 1982. After three seasons as a regular with the Stags, he signed for Swindon in 1985.

**ALAN McLOUGHLIN
(Midfield)**

Alan did not make the first-team with Manchester United but got his chance after joining Swindon in 1976. He also spent a loan period with Torquay two seasons ago.

**STEVE WHITE
(Forward)**

Steve quickly earned a reputation as a regular goalscorer after winning his place in the Bristol Rovers' side in 1978. Luton signed him for £175,000 in 1980 and he held his place in their senior side for just over two years before transferring to Charlton for £80,000. He returned to Bristol Rovers in 1983, remaining with them until signing for Swindon in 1986. He scored 14 goals last season.

LATICS

v.

**SWINDON
TOWN**

Previous League Results

Season	Home	Away
1930/31	2-1	1-1
1965/66	1-1	1-0
1966/67	1-0	3-6
1967/68	0-2	0-0
1968/69	2-3	1-5
1987/88	4-3	0-2
1988/89		2-2

FILE

SWINDON TOWN

THE CARING FACE OF FOOTBALL



Strenuous efforts are being made to provide modern facilities for the safety and comfort of all football spectators.

This year, more than £1.25 million will be spent on improvements projects at Football League grounds and areas for people with disabilities form a major part of this programme. 1989 will see further initiatives including new and better toilet facilities and additional enclosures for family support.

The Football Grounds Improvement Trust is responsible for all these measures. Each year it receives £4.5 million from the Spotting-the-Ball competition run by Littlewoods, Vernons and Zettlers and spends it on schemes to improve standards at British football stadia.

CLUB DIARY

Tuesday 2nd May

No major injuries are reported from the win at Filbert Street, but Andy Ritchie and Frank Bunn are still struggling.

Wednesday 3rd May

Reserves hammer Mansfield Town 6-1 in the chase for promotion to the Central League First Division. Four games in ten days now face the lads including a top of the table clash with Bolton Wanderers.

Thursday 4th May

Andy Holden is called into the Welsh squad for the International match.

Friday 5th May

A new computer is installed at Boundary Park to handle ticket distribution (season tickets etc.) for next season and should hopefully cut out any human errors, i.e. — double booking of seats.

Saturday 6th May

Although Andy Ritchie is making good progress

END OF SEASON MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Chairman
IAN H. STOTT

This season has been a sad one in many ways. Nationally we have had tragedy, division and the threat of misguided and unwanted membership legislation; at home we have had disappointment, injury and unfulfilled promise.

The disaster at Sheffield demonstrated that football can respond positively in both an emotional and financial way, but it also brought sharply into focus one of the main concerns about the Government's membership scheme, namely the build up of spectators at the turnstiles at and around the start of a game. In view of the official enquiry further comment would be wrong but it is to be hoped that this enquiry will at least look at the proposed legislation and its possible effects.

Division in the game is still with us with the so-called 'big five' attempting to run things to suit themselves particularly financially. If they

CAN'T GET TO THE THE MATCH ON LATICS

DAY TO DAY HAPPENINGS AT BOUNDARY PARK

to full fitness he is not quite ready for the game at Leeds and the same team that won at Leicester will take the field at Elland Road.

Sunday 7th May

Manchester All Stars beat the Gateshead Senators in the latest American Football encounter at Boundary Park.

Monday 8th May

Andy Goram calls in to visit everyone, and informs us of his latest success playing cricket for the South of Scotland in the trials for the full Scotland squad.

Andy scored 28 with the bat and took 2-32 with the ball and *could* be representing Scotland at cricket as well as soccer!

Reserves travel to Rotherham United in the Central League Division Two, and earn three points with a 1-0 win, the goal coming from Willie Donachie.

are not prepared to be truly part of a 92 Club League, I believe they should go off and have their own competition, and let us concentrate on running a strong and viable football League. Let 'em go I say!

Here at Boundary Park things have not gone as we confidently expected last August. It is difficult to pinpoint the reasons though it has to be said that we have had some very influential long term injuries. Our ability to score goals is only matched by our enthusiasm for letting them in — positively encouraging them in some instances. This is all very interesting for the neutral spectator, but positively a health risk for the committed.

On the ground itself we have plans for extending the Junior Latics Lounge, with improved toilet facilities (including disabled), a new shop with an enhanced range of leisure wear and the erection of an electronic scoreboard on the Rochdale Road end. The future of at least some sections of the pitch perimeter fencing will be decided during the summer.

Philip Hough is leaving to return south, and we wish him well. Gary Hoolickin has finally lost his fight against injury and I am sure we all thank him for his long and loyal service to the Club. He will always be welcome at Boundary Park. Finally may I thank you all, ladies, gentlemen and families for your continued support — we will do it soon I assure you!

Have a pleasant summer and I'll see you next August.

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NEWS FOR JUNIOR LATICS

JUNIOR LATICS SOCCER TOURNAMENT

The play-off matches in the Junior Latics Soccer Tournament took place on Friday 5th May with the excitement lasting right up to the final whistle. Both finals went into extra time and in the 11 and Under League it also took penalties to decide the eventual champions. The winners of the 11 and Under League were Tommy Wright's team who beat Earl Barrett's team 4-3 on penalties, with Denis Irwin's team third and Andy Holden's team fourth. In the 12 and Over League, the winners were Nick Henry's team who beat Roger Palmer's team 3-0 after extra time in the final. In third place was Mike Milligan's team with Frankie Bunn's team fourth. Joe Royle presented all the players with their trophies on the pitch after the final matches. The 'Player of the Tournament' Awards went to Anthony Howarth in the 11 and Under League and Paul Allison in the 12 and Over League.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to Wesley Kerwin Royle and Jonathan Lees who celebrate their birthdays today, and Happy Birthday also to all those members, too numerous to mention, who celebrate their birthdays during the summer months.

MATCH MASCOT

Today's Match mascot is 9 year old Stuart Lomax of 16 Chiltern Drive, Royton. Stuart attends Thorpe Primary School, Royton, and his favourite player is Frankie Bunn. Hope you enjoy your day Stuart.



SWINDON MASCOT

We also welcome to today's game a Mascot from Swindon, who is 6 year old Wayne Cleverley of 117 Kennet Avenue, Greenmeadow, Swindon. He attends St Mary's School and his favourite players are Duncan Sherarer and Fitzroy Simpson.



THANK YOU

Finally a big 'Thank You' to all our members who have supported the team, both home and away, throughout the season, we hope you enjoy your summer break and look forward to seeing you again in August.

LAST MEETING

Our final meeting of the season on Thursday 4th May was another success with over 350 members and parents going along to the Royton Assembly Hall. Highlight of the evening was the presentation to Denis Irwin of the 'Junior Latics Player of the Year' Trophy. We also made a presentation of a silver salver to Roger Palmer in recognition of his 111 League goals. The raffle for the Hillsborough Disaster Fund raised a fantastic total of £150 which we increased to £200 from the Junior Latics Funds. Jon Hallworth, Andy Ritchie, Mike Milligan and Gary Williams also came along to join in the fun and sign dozens of autographs.



Jonathan Ford, Mascot for the game against Bradford City, meets his favourite player Frankie Bunn, before the kick off.

RESERVES AND YOUTH UP DATE

CENTRAL LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

WEDNESDAY, 3rd MAY, 1989

OLDHAM ATHLETIC 6 MANSFIELD TOWN 1

Athletic took full revenge for the 5-2 defeat inflicted upon them in January by the Field Mill side.

Latics took the lead in only the second minute through a Mark Stewart header after good work by Tony Barlow and Simon Mooney, six minutes later Latics were two up when Simon Mooney drove home from 18 yards. In the 11th minute Mooney made it 3-0 when he curled his shot round the advancing keeper. Andy Gayle added his customary goal to make the halftime score 4-0. The second half saw a Peter Skipper 'power' header make it 5-0 and an unfortunate own goal took Latics into a 6-0 lead. Mansfield's consolation goal came in the 88th minute — but it could not detract from another powerful display by Athletic's young reserve team.

Team: Rhodes, Tony Barlow, Andy Barlow, Allen, Skipper, Norman Kelly, Mooney, Wood, Morgan, Gayle, Stewart.

Subs: Cartwright, Fisk.

Goalscorers: Stewart, Gayle, Skipper, Mooney (2), McKernon (own goal).

CENTRAL LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

MONDAY, 8th MAY, 1989

ROTHERHAM UNITED 0 OLDHAM ATHLETIC 1

Latics went to Millmoor in full knowledge that only a win would keep their promotion hopes alive. The game developed into a midfield battle of few chances. Those chances that did arise fell to Athletic, both Bramwell and Gayle could have scored but were

foiled by fine saves. Andy Barlow had what looked a good goal disallowed after Gayle had hit the post, but Latics were not to be denied. In the 38th minute Bramwell broke down the left and crossed to find Willie Donachie steaming in, to fire past the stranded Rotherham keeper.

Two home games this Monday and Wednesday could clinch promotion.

Central League Division Two—Season 1988/89

Division 2	P	W	D	L	FOR	AGT	PTS
Hull City	34	25	3	6	85	38	78
Notts County	33	19	8	6	75	47	65
Stoke City	33	16	10	7	57	38	58
Bradford City	31	17	6	8	72	50	57
Oldham Athletic	30	16	7	7	62	37	55
Bolton Wanderers	30	16	7	7	70	47	55
Middlesbrough	31	14	7	10	72	55	49
Darlington	32	12	7	13	47	57	43
Rotherham United	32	12	5	15	57	60	41
Grimsby Town	33	12	5	16	46	59	41
Port Vale	34	11	6	17	44	58	39
Mansfield Town	32	9	11	12	58	62	38
York City	33	10	7	16	51	57	37
Blackpool	30	10	5	15	46	69	35
Preston North End	31	10	4	17	52	59	34
Wigan Athletic	31	7	11	13	43	55	32
Scunthorpe United	31	7	6	18	36	66	27
Doncaster Rovers	34	4	7	23	31	86	19

Latics Sponsorkit 88/89

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<p>ANDY HOLDEN Boots – P. FITCHETT Socks – Shorts – Shirt – T/Suit – JANET MATTHEW & IRENE</p>		<p>PAUL WARHURST Boots – THE CHAPS Socks – MICK & JON Shirt – DUNCAN HALL Shorts – CATH WOODALL T/Suit –</p>		<p>WILLIE DONACHIE Boots – TREVOR BLAND Socks – GORDON LAWTON Shorts, Shirt, T/Suit – IAN PALMER (Fresh Produce) 061 736 4727</p>	
	<p>NICK HENRY Boots – AMY BEST, age 3 Shorts – WENDY DYER & SUSAN HASLOP Shirt – DAVE MARR Socks – T/Suit –</p>		<p>DENIS IRWIN Socks – RODNEY RODNEY Shirt – MIKE KOSTECKY Boots – Shorts – CHRIS NORTH T/Suit –</p>		<p>JOHN KELLY Full Kit – TILE TREND – STEWART DUNKERLEY 0706 840520</p>
<p>IAN MARSHALL Full Kit – OLDHAM ATHLETIC SUPPORTERS IN THE SOUTH</p>		<p>MIKE MILLIGAN Full Kit – CROMPTON ENGINEERING COMPANY LIMITED</p>		<p>ROGER PALMER Full Kit – OWL PLASTICS LIMITED</p>	
	<p>ANDY RHODES Full Kit – TREVOR HALL, ISLE OF WIGHT</p>		<p>ANDY RITCHIE Full Kit – MOORSIDE METAL PRODUCTS LIMITED</p>		<p>TOMMY WRIGHT Socks, Shorts, Shirt & T/suit – J.N.O. BRIERLEY & SONS Boots – RICHARD & STUART WEDDELL (Gatley)</p>
<p>GARY WILLIAMS Full Kit – Mr. IAN RILEY (DFR) JOINERS & BUILDERS 620 8359</p>		<p>GARY HOOLICKIN Full Kit – Miss G. BYRNE</p>		<p>PETER SKIPPER Full Kit RICHARD CARTWRIGHT</p>	

MILLWALL AND PRESTON SHARE FOOTBALL TRUST COMMUNITY AWARD

Millwall and Preston North End are the joint winners of the inaugural Football Trust Community Club of the Year Award. The two, deemed by the Trust to have contributed most to their local communities, were each presented with a cheque for £30,000 during a ceremony held at the Waldorf Hotel in London. The money will be used to introduce further community initiatives at The Den and Deepdale.

The panel of judges were unable to separate the two clubs and unanimously agreed to divide the award. Millwall, strongly commended for their extensive work with the elderly and women supporters, received particular praise for their positive endeavours to combat racism. Preston North End, who have approached their community role in a different but equally effective manner, gained high praise for the extensive use of their artificial playing surface at Deepdale. Prize-money totalling £100,000 was pledged by The Football Trust in recognition of efforts made by professional clubs to strengthen links with their local community and to mark the Football League's Centenary.

The awards were presented on a divisional basis by Lord Aberdare KBE, Chairman of The Football Trust. Millwall and Preston North End, joint winners of the Community Club of the Year Award, won their respective Divisions, promotion challengers Manchester City and Watford shared the award in the Second and Crewe Alexandra collected the Fourth Division title. Prizes of £30,000 went to Millwall and Preston North End, £20,000 to Crewe Alexandra and £10,000 each to Manchester City and Watford. All prize-money will be spent by the clubs on further community initiatives. Millwall and Preston were also awarded a special illuminated address and the divisional winners and commended clubs received commemorative plaques. Lord Aberdare commented: "There was an excellent response from the four divisions of the Football League. The submissions, all of which were extremely professional, have highlighted a more enlightened attitude within the game and one which deserves far greater recognition."

A total of 57 Football League clubs tendered applications for the Trust's Community Award Scheme displaying a varied range of initiatives. These include the introduction of creches, programmes to counter racism and sexism and the extensive provision of facilities for spectators with disabilities.

Clubs commended for their efforts were Arsenal (a Special Commendation), Aston Villa, Bradford City, Brentford, Colchester United, Derby County, Doncaster Rovers, Grimsby Town, Leeds United, Oldham Athletic, Reading, Sheffield United, Sheffield Wednesday, Southampton and Tranmere Rovers. Since 1979, The Football Trust, which is funded entirely by Littlewoods, Vernons and Zetters from their Spotting-the-Ball competition, has worked extensively to support and fund community initiatives in the professional and semi-professional game.

Almost £2.5 million is invested every year by the organisation in football and the community schemes throughout the United Kingdom. Initiatives include the allocation of funds for the PFA's Community Programme in Professional Football, the provision of hard surface play areas, full-sized artificial pitches, the development of women's football, the funding of Soccer As Family Entertainment, the building of numerous indoor sports facilities and an extensive programme of pitch and changing accommodation improvements in conjunction with local authorities.

John Platt receives Oldham Athletic's commendation plaque from Lord Aberdare, KBE, Chairman of The Football Trust.



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Another football season is almost over, apart of course, from those clubs involved in the play-offs that will make or break their year. The play-off system is certainly one that had its detractors but there can be no doubt that it generates excitement for the fans, and even those who have suffered are still enthusiastic about its merits. Look at this seasons Third Division, with Wolves and Sheffield United dominating things, the promotion play-offs have extended the season for another seven clubs who are battling for four places. Preston, Chester and Port Vale from our area are all involved here.

At the top of the Second Division Blackburn have secured a place in the forthcoming battle, and depending what happens at Valley Parade this afternoon, Manchester City may put their fans through the mincer with the Blues stumbling at the last hurdle. But whatever happens over in Yorkshire Mel Machin is a good manager.

The North of England is dominating matters at the top of Division Four with Rotherham, Scunthorpe, Tranmere, Crewe, Scarborough and Wrexham all involved in an intriguing dog fight. But on a sad note it is goodbye to Darlington who drop out to make way for Maidstone. Let's hope they can do a Lincoln rather than a Newport County.

Candidates for Manager of the Year will shortly be bandied about with familiar names to the fore. But for what it is worth my nomination goes to Clive Middlemass at Carlisle United for a job of the highest order. I do not think for a moment that Clive will collect any champagne or trophies from the games major sponsors, but for what he has achieved at Brunton Park he has my full admiration.

Finally a big 'thank you' to the Latics fans who have made Clubcall such a great success this season. We will be continuing throughout the summer months looking back at the season every day on Latics Clubcall.

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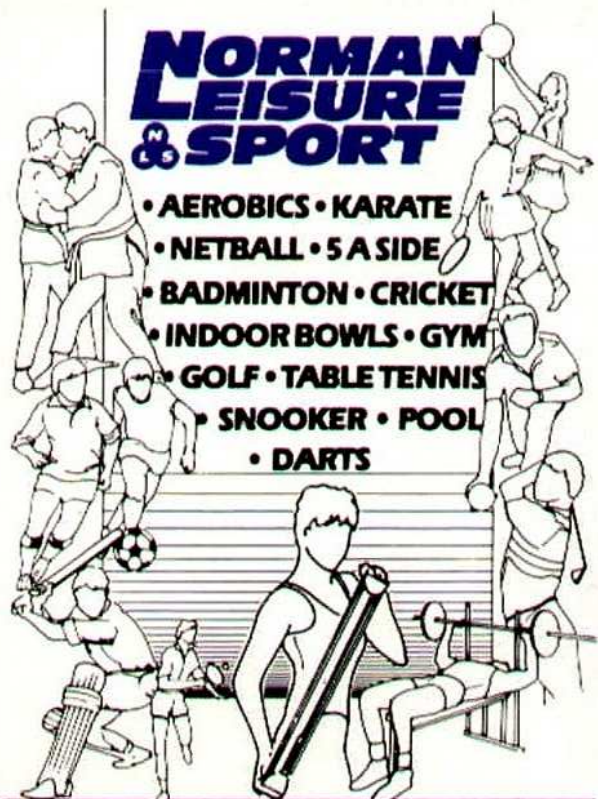
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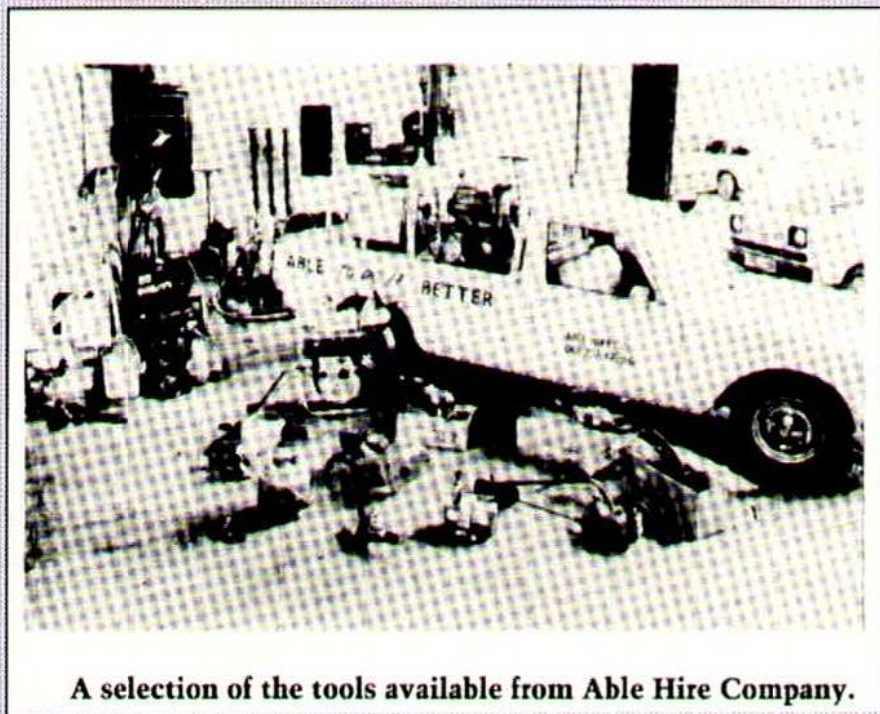
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Today's game is sponsored by Able Hire Company, who hire specialised equipment to the construction industry.

This is the second time that they have been sponsors this season, the first being the Chelsea match back in October — obviously we will all be hoping for a better result this afternoon.

Able Hire have been involved with sponsoring Athletic for five years now, and Managing Director Alan Tupman is delighted with the results. He is enthusiastic about the reception that his company and their guests receive at Boundary Park, they get to see behind the scenes and meet the players after the match. "The players and staff at Athletic all work very hard to make us feel welcome," says Alan.

In his capacity as Funds Chairman of Saddleworth Round Table, Alan organised the collection of donations to the Hillsborough Fund at the Plymouth game a fortnight ago, and everyone at Able Hire is looking forward to 20th May, when two teams from the firm will be competing in the Saddleworth Beer Walk, again raising funds for Hillsborough. The teams will have a boat race theme — Oxford and Cambridge complete with boats! Calling at 12 pubs they will have to complete the gruelling task



A selection of the tools available from Able Hire Company.

of drinking a half pint in each one.

Able's turnover is now fast approaching £1 million a year, and the company's growth is to be helped considerably by the installation of a £30,000 computer system, which will ensure the prompt and efficient servicing of orders whilst at the same time taking care of stock control and invoicing.

The company has come a long way since its inception in 1980 by Alan Tupman and fellow director Derek Thompson, the company then employed just two people and the first year's turnover was £30,000.

They now have a workforce of 22, based at their 6,000 square feet premises in Weymouth Road, Eccles. All plant is serviced and maintained by qualified fitters, and the delivery fleet is equipped with two-way radios for a fast response geared to customer's needs.

Able Hire are proud of their ability to deliver the goods anywhere in the North West within four hours of receipt of order.

The company motto is "ABLE TO DO IT BETTER", and it is clear that is just what they are doing — let's hope the 'Latics' will be following suit next season.

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The answers to the questions which appeared in the Plymouth Programme were Paul Warhurst, Nick Henry, and Frank Bunn.

Here is your last chance for this season to win a Super Lorus Sports Quartz Watch Free. Just answer the questions below and send your answers on a postcard or a sealed envelope to:

Lorus Watch Competition, Oldham Athletic Football Club, Boundary Park, Oldham OL1 2PA to arrive by Saturday 20th May.

1. Who won the Junior Latics Player of the Year Award?
2. What is the Lookers Car of the Week?
3. Who's Telephone Number is 633 6328

All the answers can be found inside this programme.

REWARD FOR VOUCHER HOLDERS

Voucher Holders Save £5

Those supporters who have religiously collected their Programme Tokens throughout the season will receive a financial reward when they visit the Latics Club shop. All those supporters with 18 or more tokens attached to their Token Sheets, will be able to get £5 of any item priced at £10 or more available in the Latics Club Shop.

This offer will only be available until 31st May, 1989 and is not redeemable against goods on Special Offer.

BLUE BOND CLUB

Everyone in the Oldham area should by now have received a copy of Blue Bond Club news with last weeks addition of the Advertiser. The Blue Bond Club now has even more incentives to become a member with the 'New' shopping from home feature.

Remember every day 365 days a year we draw a winning £100 number along with 20 consolation prizes. To join see page 34 of this programme.

This weeks £100 winners are:

S2122 J. Howard,
L5889 I. Roberts, N6445 P. Smith,
F4664 V. King, C1812
F. North, E1246 E. Scott,
J3059 H. Wright.

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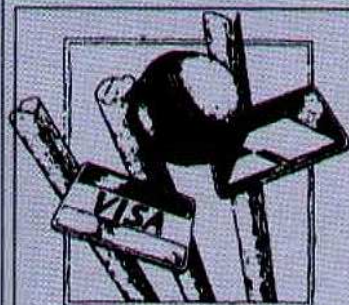
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A Sun hat	£1.99
T-Shirts from	£11.99

and what every English summer wouldn't be complete without:

A Latics Umbrella only	£13.99
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KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH

Do you want to know about all the Latics transfer news during the close season? All the details about exciting things that will be happening at Boundary Park before the start of next season? The new Sponsorship deals that are agreed? In fact just about everything of any note that actually occurs. If so, then you will hear it first on Latics Clubcall, which will continue throughout the close season with daily updates.

We guarantee to give you all the news first on 0898 12 11 42. LATICS CLUBCALL.

LATICS' CAR BOOT SALE



Don't forget that throughout the summer period (with the exception of June), Latics will be holding monthly car boot sales on the Lookers Stand car park. Sunday 28th May is the next one, so make a note in your diary 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. £5 cars £10 vans. Other dates are 30th July, 27th August. For more information and to book your place telephone 652 0966.

24 HOURS A DAY WE'LL KEEP YOU IN TOUCH
LATICS CLUBCALL 0898 12 11 42

LATICOS ACTION

LEEDS UNITED 0 ATHLETIC 0

1. 'TOP MAN' The Electronic Scoreboard says it in the background, it must refer to Roger Palmer, Latics new top goalscorer.
2. Was it a penalty. Decide for yourself, as the picture shows Tommy Wright well inside the penalty area when tripped by Peter Haddock.
3. Tommy Wright tormented Peter Haddock all afternoon and here he skips past the full back again.





2

PHOTOS:
OLDHAM
EVENING



3

THE GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

DATE	OPPONENT	ATT	RES	PTS	POS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14
1988 Aug.	Barnsley	6,551	1-1	1	Rhodes	Barrett	Barrett	Flynn	Marshall	Milligan	Palmer	Kelly	Cecere	Bunn 1	Bunn 1	Wright	Donachie	Philliskirk
29	Manchester City	22,394	4-1	4	Rhodes	Barrett	Barrett	Flynn	Marshall	Milligan	Palmer	Kelly	Cecere	Bunn 1	Bunn 1	Wright	Donachie	Philliskirk
Sept.	Blackburn Rovers	10,052	1-3	4	Rhodes	Barrett	Barrett	Flynn	Marshall	Milligan	Palmer	Kelly	Cecere	Bunn 1	Bunn 1	Wright	Donachie	Philliskirk
10	Birmingham City	5,810	4-0	7	Rhodes	Barrett	Barrett	Flynn	Marshall	Milligan	Palmer	Kelly	Cecere	Bunn 1	Bunn 1	Wright	Donachie	Philliskirk
17	Bradford City	12,325	0-2	7	Rhodes	Barrett	Barrett	Flynn	Marshall	Milligan	Palmer	Kelly	Cecere	Bunn 1	Bunn 1	Wright	Donachie	Philliskirk
20	Oxford United	5,854	3-0	10	Rhodes	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Cecere	Bunn 1	Bunn 1	Wright	Donachie	Philliskirk
24	Hull City	6,329	2-2	11	Rhodes	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Cecere	Bunn 1	Bunn 1	Wright	Donachie	Philliskirk
27	Darlington (LC 2R 1L)	1,665	0-2	11	Rhodes	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Cecere	Bunn 1	Bunn 1	Wright	Donachie	Philliskirk
Oct.	Sunderland	12,559	2-3	11	Rhodes	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Cecere	Bunn 1	Bunn 1	Wright	Donachie	Philliskirk
4	Watford	10,038	1-3	11	Rhodes	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Cecere	Bunn 1	Bunn 1	Wright	Donachie	Philliskirk
8	Stoke City	6,511	2-2	12	Rhodes	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Cecere	Bunn 1	Bunn 1	Wright	Donachie	Philliskirk
11	Derrington (LC 2R 2L)	4,553	4-0	13	Rhodes	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Cecere	Bunn 1	Bunn 1	Wright	Donachie	Philliskirk
22	Brighton & Hove Albion	9,799	0-2	12	Rhodes	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Cecere	Bunn 1	Bunn 1	Wright	Donachie	Philliskirk
25	A.F.C. Bourne	4,522	2-0	15	Rhodes	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Cecere	Bunn 1	Bunn 1	Wright	Donachie	Philliskirk
29	Portsmouth	11,310	1-1	15	Rhodes	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Cecere	Bunn 1	Bunn 1	Wright	Donachie	Philliskirk
Nov.	Walsall	5,755	3-0	19	Rhodes	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Cecere	Bunn 1	Bunn 1	Wright	Donachie	Philliskirk
5	Everton (LC 3R)	17,230	1-1	20	Rhodes	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Cecere	Bunn 1	Bunn 1	Wright	Donachie	Philliskirk
11	Shrewsbury	4,701	0-0	20	Rhodes	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Cecere	Bunn 1	Bunn 1	Wright	Donachie	Philliskirk
19	Leeds United	8,830	2-2	21	Rhodes	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Cecere	Bunn 1	Bunn 1	Wright	Donachie	Philliskirk
26	Plymouth Argyle	7,829	0-3	21	Rhodes	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Cecere	Bunn 1	Bunn 1	Wright	Donachie	Philliskirk
29	Everton (LC 3 R.R.)	14,573	0-2	22	Rhodes	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Cecere	Bunn 1	Bunn 1	Wright	Donachie	Philliskirk
Dec.	Leicester City	5,769	1-1	22	Rhodes	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Cecere	Bunn 1	Bunn 1	Wright	Donachie	Philliskirk
10	Swindon Town	5,540	2-2	23	Rhodes	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Cecere	Bunn 1	Bunn 1	Wright	Donachie	Philliskirk
14	Middlesbrough (Simod C.)	7,439	0-1	23	Rhodes	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Cecere	Bunn 1	Bunn 1	Wright	Donachie	Philliskirk
16	Ipswich Town	8,982	1-2	23	Rhodes	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Cecere	Bunn 1	Bunn 1	Wright	Donachie	Philliskirk
26	West Bromwich Albion	9,852	1-3	23	Rhodes	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Cecere	Bunn 1	Bunn 1	Wright	Donachie	Philliskirk
30	Crystal Palace	6,562	2-3	23	Rhodes	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Cecere	Bunn 1	Bunn 1	Wright	Donachie	Philliskirk
1989 Jan.	Birmingham City	5,998	0-0	24	Rhodes	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Cecere	Bunn 1	Bunn 1	Wright	Donachie	Philliskirk
7	Charlton Ath. (FAC 3R)	5,060	1-2	24	Rhodes	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Cecere	Bunn 1	Bunn 1	Wright	Donachie	Philliskirk
14	Manchester City	19,536	0-1	24	Rhodes	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Cecere	Bunn 1	Bunn 1	Wright	Donachie	Philliskirk
21	Barnsley	7,879	3-4	24	Rhodes	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Barrett	Cecere	Bunn 1	Bunn 1	Wright	Donachie	Philliskirk
Feb.	F.A. Cup 4th Rnd	6,364	3-1	27	Hallworth	Irwin 1	Irwin	Kelly J.	Marshall	Holden	Skipp	Palmer	Ritchie 2	Morgan	Warhurst	Henry	Mooney	Philliskirk
4	Watford	10,952	0-0	28	Hallworth	Irwin	Irwin	Kelly J.	Marshall	Holden	Skipp	Palmer	Ritchie 2	Warhurst	Warhurst	Henry	Kelly N.	Bramwell
11	Stoke City	5,922	2-1	31	Hallworth	Irwin	Irwin	Kelly J.	Marshall	Holden	Skipp	Palmer	Ritchie 2	Warhurst	Warhurst	Henry	Kelly N.	Bramwell
18	Brighton & Hove Albion	13,261	2-2	32	Hallworth	Irwin	Irwin	Kelly J.	Marshall	Holden	Skipp	Palmer	Ritchie 2	Warhurst	Warhurst	Henry	Kelly N.	Bramwell
25	Chelsea	7,763	2-2	33	Hallworth	Irwin	Irwin	Kelly J.	Marshall	Holden	Skipp	Palmer	Ritchie 2	Warhurst	Warhurst	Henry	Kelly N.	Bramwell
28	A.F.C. Bourne	6,017	3-0	36	Hallworth	Irwin	Irwin	Kelly J.	Marshall	Holden	Skipp	Palmer	Ritchie 2	Warhurst	Warhurst	Henry	Kelly N.	Bramwell
Mar.	Shrewsbury Town	5,576	2-2	37	Hallworth	Irwin	Irwin	Kelly J.	Marshall	Holden	Skipp	Palmer	Ritchie 2	Warhurst	Warhurst	Henry	Kelly N.	Bramwell
3	Walsall	4,558	1-1	41	Hallworth	Irwin	Irwin	Kelly J.	Marshall	Holden	Skipp	Palmer	Ritchie 2	Warhurst	Warhurst	Henry	Kelly N.	Bramwell
11	Portsmouth	11,753	1-1	42	Hallworth	Irwin	Irwin	Kelly J.	Marshall	Holden	Skipp	Palmer	Ritchie 2	Warhurst	Warhurst	Henry	Kelly N.	Bramwell
14	Oxford United	13,612	1-3	43	Hallworth	Irwin	Irwin	Kelly J.	Marshall	Holden	Skipp	Palmer	Ritchie 2	Warhurst	Warhurst	Henry	Kelly N.	Bramwell
16	Blackburn Rovers	8,589	4-1	46	Hallworth	Irwin	Irwin	Kelly J.	Marshall	Holden	Skipp	Palmer	Ritchie 2	Warhurst	Warhurst	Henry	Kelly N.	Bramwell
27	West Bromwich Albion	5,194	0-2	46	Hallworth	Irwin	Irwin	Kelly J.	Marshall	Holden	Skipp	Palmer	Ritchie 2	Warhurst	Warhurst	Henry	Kelly N.	Bramwell
Apr.	Bradford City	9,088	0-2	47	Hallworth	Irwin	Irwin	Kelly J.	Marshall	Holden	Skipp	Palmer	Ritchie 2	Warhurst	Warhurst	Henry	Kelly N.	Bramwell
1	Ipswich Town	5,948	2-2	47	Hallworth	Irwin	Irwin	Kelly J.	Marshall	Holden	Skipp	Palmer	Ritchie 2	Warhurst	Warhurst	Henry	Kelly N.	Bramwell
8	Crystal Palace	6,748	1-1	48	Hallworth	Irwin	Irwin	Kelly J.	Marshall	Holden	Skipp	Palmer	Ritchie 2	Warhurst	Warhurst	Henry	Kelly N.	Bramwell
15	Sunderland	4,614	2-2	48	Hallworth	Irwin	Irwin	Kelly J.	Marshall	Holden	Skipp	Palmer	Ritchie 2	Warhurst	Warhurst	Henry	Kelly N.	Bramwell
22	Hull City	7,233	2-1	52	Hallworth	Irwin	Irwin	Kelly J.	Marshall	Holden	Skipp	Palmer	Ritchie 2	Warhurst	Warhurst	Henry	Kelly N.	Bramwell
29	Plymouth Argyle	14,459	0-0	53	Hallworth	Irwin	Irwin	Kelly J.	Marshall	Holden	Skipp	Palmer	Ritchie 2	Warhurst	Warhurst	Henry	Kelly N.	Bramwell
May	Leeds United	14,459	0-0	53	Hallworth	Irwin	Irwin	Kelly J.	Marshall	Holden	Skipp	Palmer	Ritchie 2	Warhurst	Warhurst	Henry	Kelly N.	Bramwell
6	Leeds United	14,459	0-0	53	Hallworth	Irwin	Irwin	Kelly J.	Marshall	Holden	Skipp	Palmer	Ritchie 2	Warhurst	Warhurst	Henry	Kelly N.	Bramwell
13	Swindon Town	14,459	0-0	53	Hallworth	Irwin	Irwin	Kelly J.	Marshall	Holden	Skipp	Palmer	Ritchie 2	Warhurst	Warhurst	Henry	Kelly N.	Bramwell
20	F.A. CUP FINAL	14,459	0-0	53	Hallworth	Irwin	Irwin	Kelly J.	Marshall	Holden	Skipp	Palmer	Ritchie 2	Warhurst	Warhurst	Henry	Kelly N.	Bramwell

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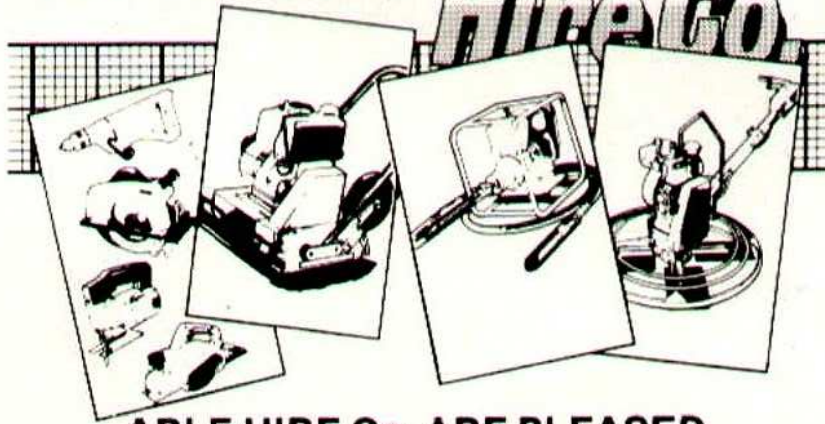
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Subs: 12 - T.B.A. 14 - T.B.A.				
11 S. White	10 R. MacLaren	9 A. McLoughlin	8 D. Shearer	7 S. Foley
	6 C. Calderwood	5 T. Parkin	4 T. Jones	
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Portsmouth	v	Chelsea
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