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FA Carling Premiership
Saturday 12th February, 1994

Aston Villa v Swindon Town

Inside today...

DALIAN ATKINSON

Going for a record

MARK BOSNICH

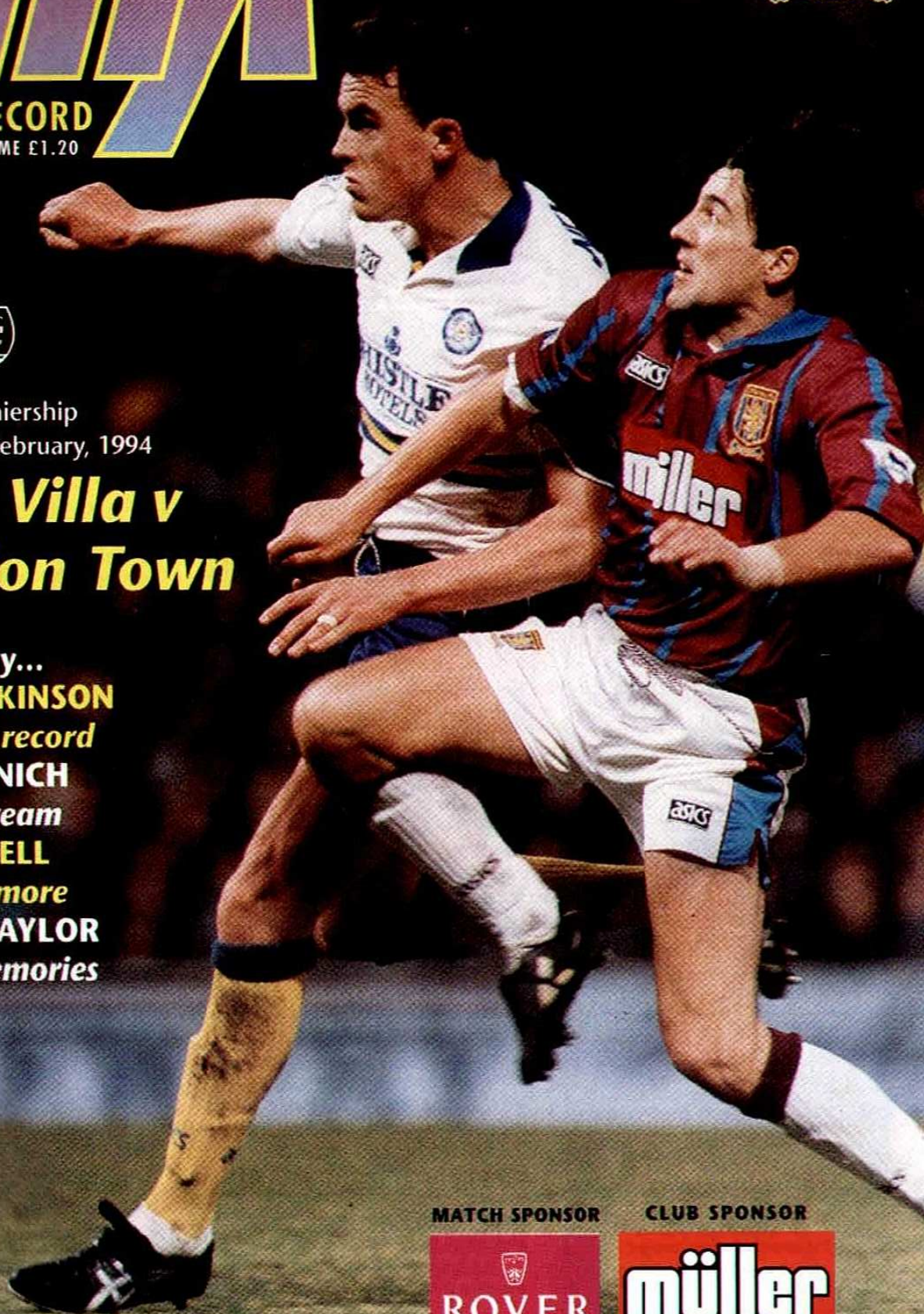
Wembley dream

DAVE FARRELL

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RON ATKINSON

Now we can build a winning home run



Bearing in mind the inconsistency of our home results, the experience of winning two on the trot has naturally given us all a big boost.

Victory over Leeds United last Sunday was, I felt, achieved in a thoroughly professional manner even though there were one or two unusual individual errors in front of our goal in the first half.

Once we had got on top in the second-half we were never going to let go and in my view the winning goal by Andy Townsend was superbly-taken and well-deserved.

Also, after the break, we got our act together and played some excellent attacking football. We could have won by more than the odd goal.

As in the previous home game, the 3-1 win over West Ham, we were the dominant force well before the end and playing with more like the assurance of our away performances.

I have always said that our form would build as the season progressed and recent results are confirming that opinion.

I don't expect anyone to start banging the drum on our behalf because we've done nothing yet, but a run of five wins and a draw in six games spread over three competitions is not bad by anybody's standards.

Our football season is a marathon, not a sprint remember, so any team able to come on strongly over the final stages must have a chance of picking up some of the rewards on offer.

You may recall that I stated very clearly in these notes for the Leeds game that climbing up the Premiership is still a major priority.

Nobody had better start thinking that we can cruise through the league fixtures in order to 'save ourselves' for the cups.

That's not on at all, believe me.

We still have those games in hand due to postponements and cup commitments and the teams above us will look at them and realise that they are not safe.

That being so we'll have no-one taking the view that Swindon are among the

'easier' of the home challenges and that we can keep something in reserve for the first leg of the Coca Cola Cup semi-final at Tranmere in mid-week.

The fact is that they are potentially as much of a threat as any club in the league and our job is to give total application to going for a third home win on the trot.

It would be a big bonus for all of us if we could continue to stifle all the old talk about Villa Park being a bit of a jinx for us.

Playing in this marvellous stadium is our greatest strength and we should be able to say, as many clubs say, that playing at home is worth a goal start.

At the time of writing I am not sure how our injury situation will work out with Ray Houghton and Steve Staunton, not to mention Townsend, having had problems in the Leeds game.

It's been good to have Dwight Yorke back in the squad and getting some match practice in as substitute. With Dwight and others wanting to be part of it all, we have plenty of challenge for places and important fixtures coming up thick and fast.

Just a quick word about Dalian Atkinson. You will have read in the press that there was a bit of problem but this has long since been resolved now and there is no discord in the camp, whatsoever.

Dalian is as keen as the rest of us to bring honours to the club.

The simple message today is, once again: FORGET THE CUPS. Winning three more Premiership points is the only thing on our mind.

Fixture change

Our away game with Leeds United has now been brought forward a week to Wednesday 16th March (7.45pm).

A reminder that our next home game is the re-arranged Premiership fixture with Manchester City. This will be played on Wednesday 22nd February (7.45pm).

Tickets purchased for the postponed games for each of these fixtures will still be valid.

Cup of joy

Ray Houghton will relive memories of his first major medal in professional football in next week's Coca Cola Cup semi-final - and this time he will be hoping to fill the hearts of Villa fans with joy rather than sadness.

Houghton capped his first season at the Manor Ground by being in the Oxford United side which won the 1986 League Cup - and in the process they overcame Villa over two legs in the semi-finals.

But the Republic of Ireland international insisted that he and his Villa colleagues will take nothing for granted - even though they will be installed as favourites to overcome First Division opposition.

Thirty-two-year-old Houghton told the programme desk: "I've played in three FA Cup finals and also been to Wembley with the Republic and also for the Charity Shield.

"But nothing can match that feeling of the first visit to the twin towers. To pick up my first winners medal and also score the second goal made it extra sweet.

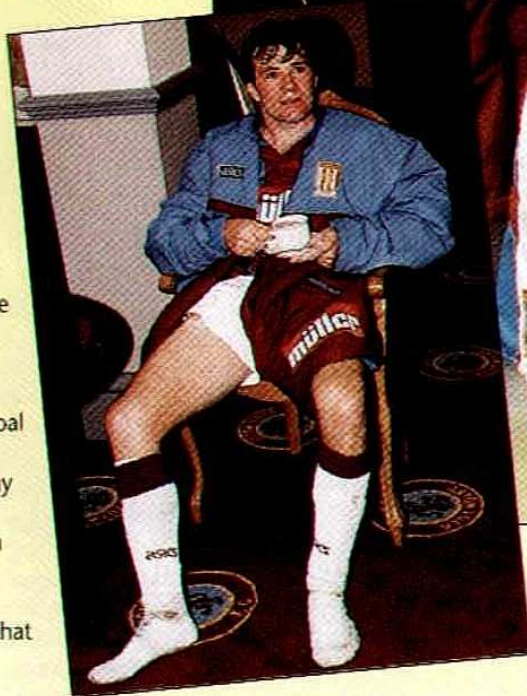
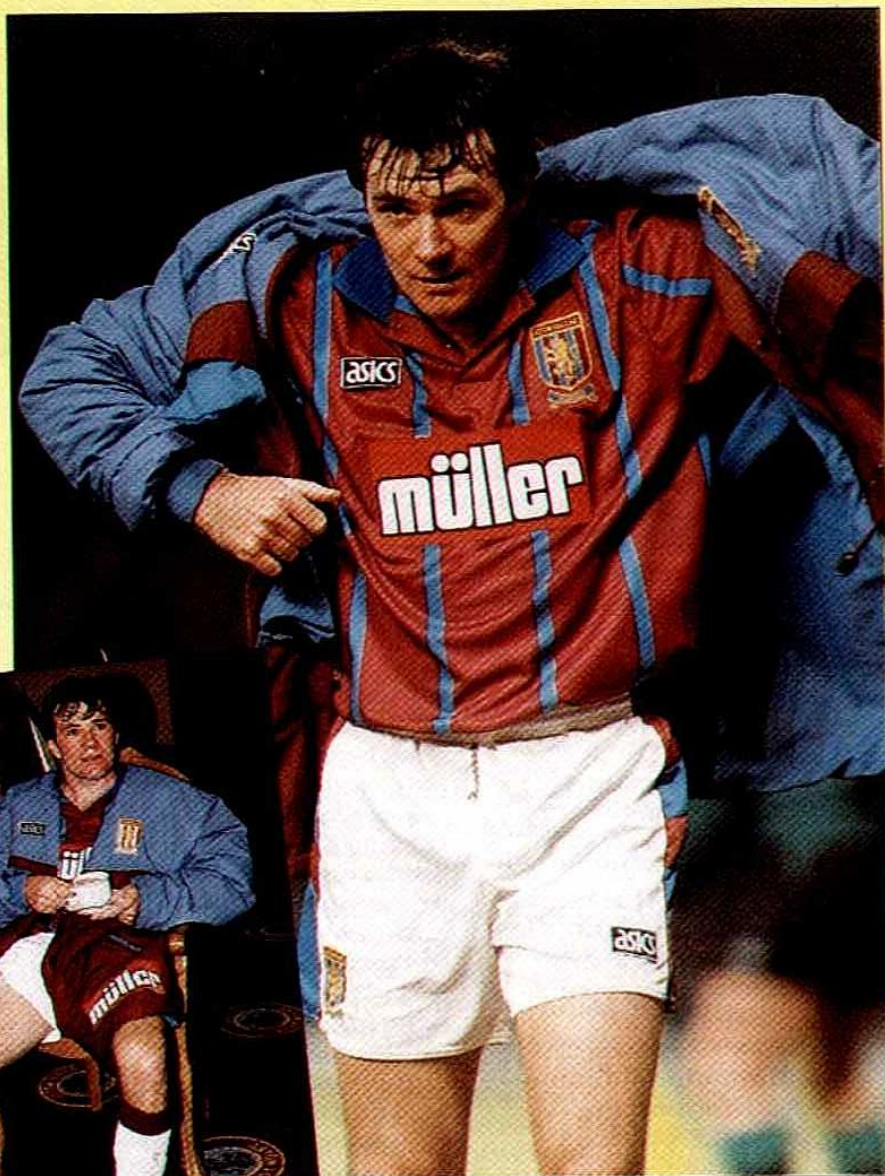
"The League Cup may not have the glamour which is associated with the FA Cup - but it will always have special memories for me after that day eight years ago.

"We were actually underdogs. We had beaten Aston Villa in the semi-finals but Queen's Park Rangers had overcome Liverpool and their league form at the time was a lot better than ours.

"We were threatened by relegation and they were supposedly the better team - but on the day we played the football and won very easily (3-0).

"We strolled it and people said it was one of the most one-sided finals they had seen. Everyone was on top of their form and we passed the ball about very well.

"In truth should have had more than three goals and by the end we were playing one-touch football and almost toying with them. That was probably the pinnacle of what Oxford have achieved



So what does a player do when he's substituted? Some head straight for the bath, others see the game out on the bench, but on Sunday Ray Houghton opted for a nice cuppa and watching the end of the match on TV.

so far but there were good players in that team like John Aldridge (now with Tranmere!), Billy Hamilton, Jeremy Charles, Kevin Brock etc.

"We were in the First Division at the time and to cap things off nicely we avoided relegation by beating Arsenal in the final game of the season."

Houghton added: "It would be nice now to go back there with Villa - but there's no easy team in the semi-finals. You can't be a bad team to have got that far. But to play away first is an advantage to us because, if we can pick up a result, it will put us in a good position to come home and try and finish the job off.

"What we certainly don't want is to go away and lose by two or three goals and

then find the tie is virtually beyond you. But the first priority is to try and get three points today."

Houghton is hoping that Villa will reap the benefit for the challenges ahead from a rare recent couple of weeks without any mid-week action. He said: "Hopefully we've all made the most of it and got in a good rest and recharged the batteries because it could be a very hectic couple of months. It looks like we might be playing two or three games a week until the end of the season."

● In goal for Queen's Park Rangers in that 1986 League Cup final was current Villa fitness condition coach Paul Barron.

Ray Houghton was talking to John Curtis

Dalian's 'best' target



Dalian Atkinson is on course for his best ever haul of goals in a season but claimed: "Before I came to Villa I saw myself as more of a Peter Beardsley-type player."

Atkinson's best goal tally for a campaign was 15 - for Sheffield Wednesday in 1989-90 and then with Spanish club Real Sociedad the following season.

The 25-year-old player looked well on course to beat that last season with 13 goals by December before being affected by a stomach muscle injury.

Atkinson has continued in the same vein this season - his tally currently stands at 12 - to confirm his reputation as one of the country's top marksmen.

Atkinson admitted: "I could have had more goals this season - but 12 months ago I was laid up through injury so I'm happy to be playing now."

"Last year by Christmas I had 13 goals and everyone was raving on about possible England call-ups and I've got a similar record this season so I've got to keep on going."

"If I maintain the same sort of ratio I'll have around 20 by the end of the season - but to be fair all through my career I've never been known as an out and out goalscorer."

"It's only since I came to Villa Park, and more particularly when I teamed up with

Deano (Dean Saunders) just after the start of last season, that people have cast me in that mould."

"I'd never previously seen myself as that. I really saw myself in the way people that regard Peter Beardsley, someone who would make a lot of goals."

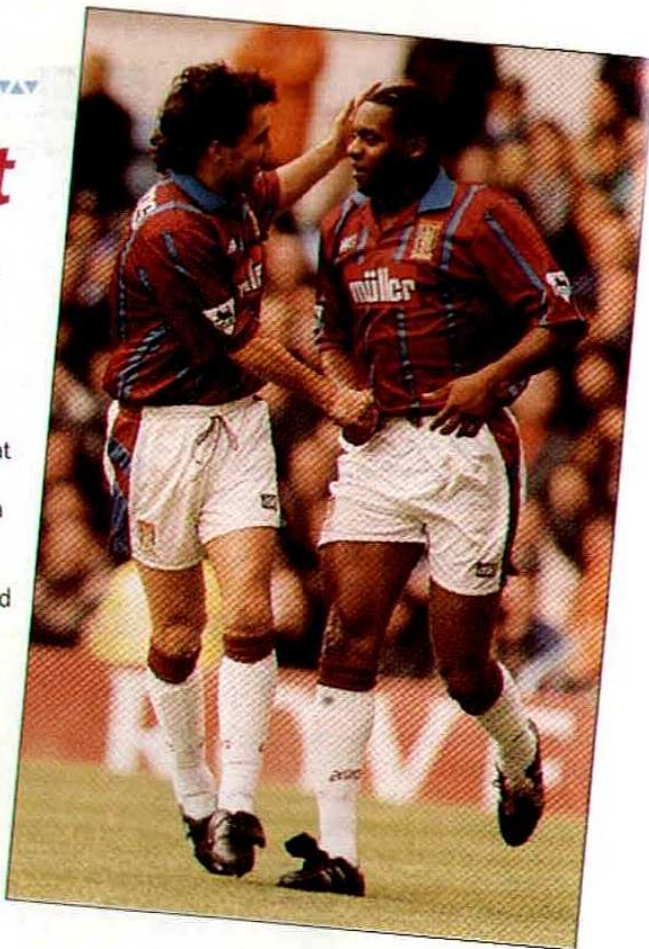
"But now I'm getting my chances, and putting the odd one away, people turn around and look at me and think 'he's a goalscorer now.'"

While Atkinson has consistently found the net, he has plenty of sympathy and support for strike colleague Saunders whose luck in front of goal has deserted him for most of the season.

Atkinson said: "Every striker, no matter how good they are, goes through a bad patch. When Deano first came to the club he was scoring goals for fun and everyone was behind him 100 per cent."

"Then when he hit a bad patch I've heard a few murmurs in the crowd and people saying this and that about him in the press."

"I think it's all wrong. Everyone knows Dean Saunders is a proven goalscorer and



he's just been having one of those sequences where little has gone right for him."

"His record at Oxford United, Derby County and Liverpool stands up with anybody and, with the way he works and tries hard for the team at Villa, people should support him."

"He doesn't want to miss chances - and maybe opposing goalkeepers are trying that extra bit harder because of whom he is - but rest assured he will bounce back."

Meanwhile, Atkinson insisted that the magnet of a possible Coca Cola Cup final appearance would not distract Villa's players from the bread and butter of obtaining Premier League points.

He said: "Rest assured it won't be hard to concentrate on the league games. There is still plenty to play for with nearly 50 points still at stake."

"If you get in a winning frame of mind it doesn't matter what the competition is. You don't think 'today is a Premier League game, we won't be able to play as well.'"

"It's just the next game and you want to win - and besides any team which thinks it can switch itself on and off from one game or one competition to the next would be asking for trouble."

"We will all be concentrating one hundred per cent on trying to beat Swindon Town before we turn our thoughts to the Coca Cola Cup."



Bozzie's Wembley dream

Mark Bosnich looked forward to his first major semi-final - in the Coca Cola Cup - and admitted: "I've had this feeling since after the third round that this could be our year."

The Australian ace explained: "We could have gone out early on against Birmingham City or Sunderland. In both ties we had a fair amount of good fortune."

"It was then that I thought perhaps fate was smiling on us although I've had a burning desire and determination since the two Blues games to get to Wembley and win the cup this season."

"Like any young boy I used to dream back home in Australia of getting to Wembley. It's the greatest arena on earth, the most famous ground in football."

"Since those early rounds we've played well to win at Arsenal and Tottenham. Personally I would rather be playing a Premier League team in the semi-final rather than a team who will be billed as underdogs and will come out with nothing to lose."

"People say we've got the easier draw but I'm not in the business of being afraid of whom we draw. It's not a good precedent to set to say 'I'm glad we've avoided so and so' and I like to pit myself against the best."

Back from the seaside

Promising goalkeeper Michael Oakes is back with Villa after making his senior debut during a spell on loan with Third Division Scarborough.

Oakes only played two games before returning to Villa but it is all part of the learning process - and valuable experience - for the former youth team player.

Last season Oakes, who recently signed a new two year contract with Villa, broadened his experience while on loan to Beazer Homes league club Gloucester City and then GM Vauxhall Conference side Bromsgrove Rovers.

A blessing in disguise



Although he would have preferred to be heading for the United States this summer, England's elimination from the World Cup may in the long run prove a blessing in disguise for Earl Barrett.

For it will give Villa's 'Mr Versatility,' who was very much in previous manager Graham Taylor's thoughts for the USA, the opportunity to rest up the nerve problem above his left ankle.

Barrett refuses to blame the injury, which initially reared up after the first Coca Cola clash with Birmingham City, for an indifferent spell when he returned to the side.

But it is a fact that he is still troubled by the problem - and a testimony to his character that he has battled back to something approaching his best form and earned rave reviews from manager Ron Atkinson.

And Barrett again demonstrated his value by filling three different positions - sweeper, centre-half and right-back - in three successive games recently.

Barrett said: "I don't like to blame injuries if things are not going right. Obviously I've got a bit of a problem but I'm a professional footballer and I've really got to cope with the situation.

"I don't want to say 'I've not been playing well because of my injury.' It's possibly affected me but it's very rare that footballers play without an injury, knock or niggle of some sort."

Barrett added: "When things are going bad for a player then it's a case of keeping your head up, getting on with things and battling away.

"When you are struggling you should think about keeping your place and being in the team for when the good times come - because when that happens you want to be involved and not miss the boat.

"The lads on the bench have said a few people were getting onto me but I haven't noticed it. When I'm playing I tend to block the crowd out and concentrate on my game.

"Thankfully in the last few games I've been playing something like what I know I'm capable of and it's up to me to keep that going. I don't really mind playing all over the place. It's just great to be in the team."

Barrett admitted: "The ankle aches after training and after games - and when a chance presents itself I've got to rest and strengthen it. The doctors say the only cure is a long break but with the games coming thick and fast it's difficult to do that.

"A few people have been saying that it's a blessing in disguise that I won't be going to America this summer. I know what they mean - and a break will help - but I think I'd rather be going to the World Cup!"

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KICKS OFF
WITH ONE.**

**STEVE
EATS
CORNERS.**

**RON
ALWAYS
KEEPS A
COUPLE IN
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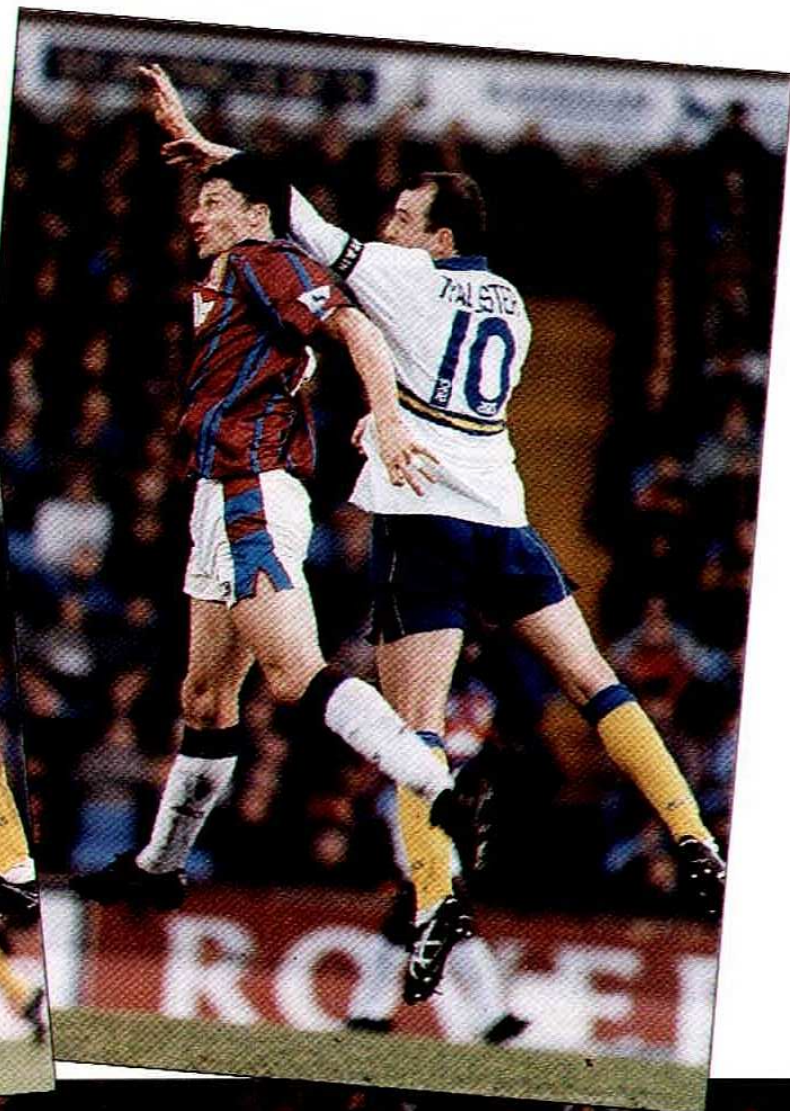
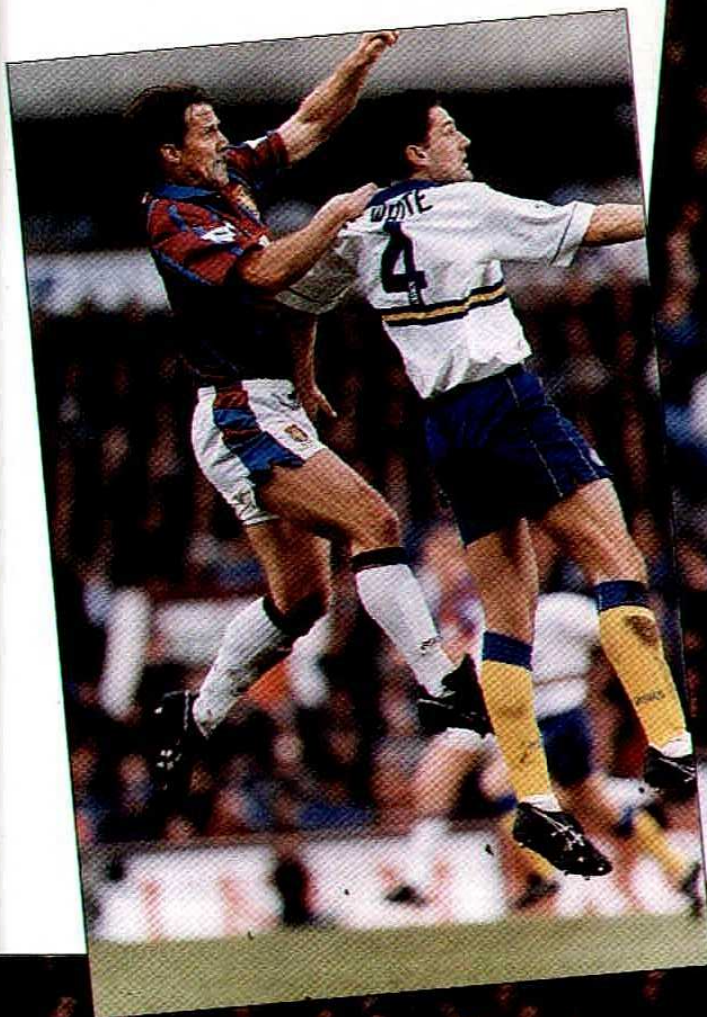
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ACTION REPLAY...



Dalian Atkinson sees his far post header gathered by Mark Beeney in Sunday's TV clash with Leeds. Above: Shaun Teale and match winner Andy Townsend are pictured in aerial challenges with David White and Gary McAllister respectively.



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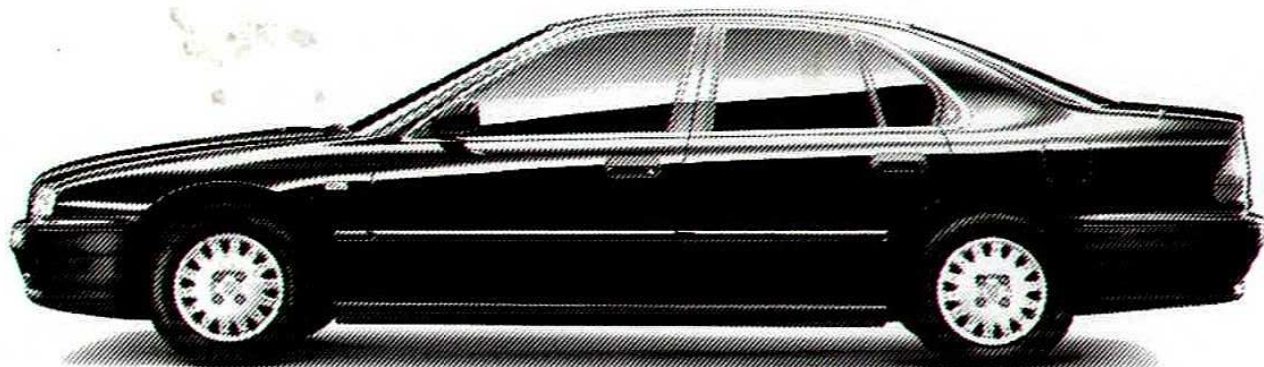
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The search for Villa's No.1 hit-man

Which player should history honour as Aston Villa's greatest goalscorer?

This query is raised by some interesting statistics sent in by seventy-five year old fan Albert Griffiths of Sutton Coldfield, who is clearly also a computer buff.

Albert has taken all the top strikers whom he has personally seen during his sixty-three years of watching the club, fed their goals and appearances through his personal computer and come up with an 'efficiency rating'.

In this way the overall leading scorer, Billy Walker with 244, does not come out on top because others have had a better goals-per-games ratio.

However, since Albert's records only cover his personal viewing we have added three previous players, Harry Hampton, Len Capewell and John Devey, to make the top six (if not necessarily the remainder) a comprehensive Villa 'all-time' 'scoring efficiency' table, as follows:

SCORING EFFICIENCY LEAGUE

Name	Apps	Goals	Goals per game	Games per goal
1. Pongo Waring	226	167	0.74	1.35
2. George Brown	126	89	0.71	1.42
3. Harry Hampton	373	242	0.65	1.54
4. Len Capewell	156	100	0.64	1.56
5. John Devey	306	187	0.61	1.64
6. Gerry Hitchens	160	96	0.60	1.67
7. Frank Broome	151	90	0.60	1.68
8. Tony Hateley	148	86	0.58	1.72
9. Dave Astley	173	100	0.58	1.73
10. Trevor Ford	128	61	0.48	2.10
11. Billy Walker	531	244	0.46	2.18
12. David Platt	155	68	0.44	2.28
13. Eric Houghton	392	170	0.43	2.31
14. Derek Dougan	60	26	0.43	2.31
15. Harry Burrows	181	73	0.40	2.48
16. Peter Withe	232	92	0.40	2.52
17. Derek Pace	106	42	0.40	2.52
18. Andy Gray	206	78	0.38	2.64
19. John Deehan	135	50	0.37	2.70
20. Ray Graydon	225	81	0.36	2.78
21. Peter McParland	340	120	0.35	2.83
22. Dave Walsh	114	40	0.35	2.85
23. Johnny Dixon	430	144	0.33	2.99
24. Andy Lochhead	149	44	0.30	3.39
25. Brian Little	294	82	0.28	3.59

● Figures include League, FA Cup and League Cup. Players must have scored 25 or more to qualify.



The green, green grass of home

Fans taking their places for last Sunday's game with Leeds would have been surprised to see the pitch still under cover with just 15 minutes to kick-off.

With a deluge of rain coming in the hours leading up to the big game groundsman Tony Eden's decision to protect the surface until the last possible moment was a real winner.

Come 4 o'clock the rain had eased and the pitch not only looked in superb condition for the time of year but played like it too.

Only the linesman found things a little sticky, this picture (right) shows what conditions could have been like without the cover.

Well done to Tony Eden and his hard-working team!



Statistics can prove everything or nothing, depending on what you read into them. A point worth noting are that Billy Walker not only scored more goals than any other player but kept his strike ratio of a goal in every 2.18 games going over 531 appearances, phenomenal.

Thanks for an interesting talking point, Albert.

Extra mascots

When the team files out today it will be led by half-a-dozen mascots instead of the usual two.

This is a sequel to the Manchester City fixture scheduled for December 27 but postponed because of weather conditions. For that game a special Christmas present idea was in operation whereby a place could be purchased for £150 which went into the club's Charity Trust to support worthwhile causes throughout the year.

Some of those youngsters who were disappointed on Boxing Day opted for this fixture to catch up on their belated Xmas present. They are: **Jack Pinnock** (aged 9, favourite player Dean Saunders, hobbies music and computers); **Daniel Burchell** (10, Nigel Spink, car racing); **Carl Dickens** (9, Paul McGrath); **Matthew Dyke** (8, Tony Daley & Dalian Atkinson, playing for Boldmere Under 9's); **William Hadley** (9, Steve Staunton, playing for Kings Heath Concorde Under 10's); **Steven Farmer** (13, Paul McGrath, playing for Nuneaton Schools and Warwickshire district football).

Swindon have two mascots (pictured here): **Simon Girling**,



from Swindon, whose favourite player is Martin Ling and Hannah Squire, from Wolverhampton, who favours Adrian Whitbread.



Semi-final tickets are selling fast

Although the second leg of the Coca Cola Cup semi-final at Villa Park on February 27 is NOT all-ticket, fans are reminded that seats and standing tickets can be purchased in advance.

Already around 25,000 places have been reserved so anyone keen to be there is advised to buy in advance, just in case there is a sell-out.

These can be obtained by personal or postal application or by telephone with credit card.

Fans are advised that while a kick-off time of three o'clock has been printed on the tickets the actual starting time has yet to be determined.

It is likely that the game will be live on ITV but that has yet to be confirmed.

Villa Park's group for '96

Villa Park will stage fixtures from Group A, England's group in the 1996 European Championship Finals.

Wembley also stage fixtures from the same group, with England likely to play all the games in London as they did in the 1966 World Cup.

As host nation England do not have to qualify.

The three Villa Park Group A matches will be staged on June 10, 13 and 18 plus a quarter-final on June 23.



Always a smooth ride with Rover

Players and senior staff have taken delivery of their 'L' Registration vehicles in the yearly arrangement with the Rover Group.

Rover are today's Match Sponsors, and very welcome ones at that.

"We've been proud to associate ourselves with Rover for the past eight years now," pointed out Abdul Rashid, the Commercial Manager.

"In return for the excellent fleet of totally reliable vehicles which they supply, the company receives a package of advertising and promotional facilities from the club."

The picture shows Shaun Teale arriving with his family at Villa Park last Sunday for the game with Leeds.

● You can take a peek inside the Teale's house with the latest issue of 'Claret & Blue' featuring superb pictures of Shaun at home... available from your newsagent or the Club Shop now.

King Kevin

Villa skipper Kevin Richardson, dubbed King Kev along with Arsenal's Kevin Campbell, shares the lead in Shoot's Stars of the Month ratings with a joint score of 8.00.

"Steady as ever..." Shoot call Richardson. And nobody's arguing.

Programme hand-out

Long-range fan David Sanderson, who travels to Villa games from Doncaster, made a generous gesture at the West Ham game.

David not only brought with him his treasured collection of old Villa programmes but, as the picture (left) shows, distributed them free of charge in the disabled enclosure.

Praise for fans, from Grimsby

Take a bow those Villa fans who travelled to Grimsby for the fourth round FA Cup-tie victory.

An article in a subsequent issue of the Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph outlined how impressed the locals were with the Villa travellers.

The tribute to Villa supporters is on the end of a story outlining details of Villa's stay at the Briggate Lodge Inn at Broughton where the official party also impressed staff with the way they conducted themselves.

"Upwards of 300 Villa fans converged on Brigg pubs at lunchtime," said the article. "And they were praised for their behaviour."

"Sgt. Robin Triffitt, of Brigg Police, said they were not aware of any problems



adding that one landlord had been so impressed he was thinking of writing to the club in praise of their supporters." The press are often criticised for 'only printing the bad news' so it was rewarding to read the other side of the coin.

"The players conducted themselves very well," said the article and added: "All the girls who spoke with Ron Atkinson thought he was a lovely man and a very nice person."

Old smoothie...

New Villa book

Supporters with an appetite for club history and for collecting memorabilia will be attracted to a new book on the market, ASTON VILLA on Cigarette and Trade Cards by Derrick Spink (Brewin Books, £6.95).

Described as an illustrated history of the famous football club... shown on cigarette and trade cards owned by the author, it is on similar lines to the former Villa archivist's previous publication ASTON VILLA: A Portrait in Old Picture Postcards.

Hants Villans

Mr S. King of 4 Larch Road, Coxford, Southampton SO1 6ET often makes a 300-mile round trip to Villa Park alone.

He is wandering whether any Villa fans based in the Hampshire area are interested in either sharing a lift and travelling expenses or even helping form a Hampshire Branch of the Supporters' Club.

He writes: 'I often pass cars, with claret and blue scarves from there windows so I know a lot of Villa fans travel from the Hampshire/Newbury areas along the A34.'

Mr King can be contacted via the above address or by phone on 0703 510947.

Steve's honour

Villa secretary Steve Stride has been nominated as honorary president of the South African supporters club which grows in strength by the week.

Bye bye George

George Gavin, the BRMB/XTRA sports editor, has left Birmingham to join the new Radio Five sports programme and he goes with every good wish from Villa Park.

Gavin was widely regarded as part of the Villa scene and was well-respected by staff and players.

His place has been taken by his previous No.2 Tom Ross who, on the Friday evening phone-in programmes, has been known for championing the Birmingham City cause while Gavin more often fought Villa's corner.

Ross will no doubt cover more Villa games than in the past, and all the club asks is objective reporting... with just a touch of claret-and-blue bias here and there, maybe!

Two special guests today

Sydney Pride, 70, of Exeter, is one of today's special guests of the club to mark his years of loyal support.

Sydney first started coming to Villa Park around sixty years ago and his earliest clear memory was of the famous day when Arsenal won 7-1 and Ted Drake scored all of the goals.

A second 'special guest' today is Dessie Michael Moylan from Streetly. Dessie celebrated his 70th birthday on the same day as Villa chairman Doug Ellis and has been a Villa Park regular since 1946-47.

His favourite player over the years was Leslie Smith, "I later bought a TV from his

shop in Bevington Road, Aston and remained friends with him," he recalls.

Mr Moylan's most treasured Villa memory is the European Cup success.

Win Sid's shirt

All you have to do is to ring the club Prizeline on 0891 12 10 16 and you could win a superb Villa souvenir.

The last duty Gordon 'Sid' Cowans was asked to perform before his transfer to Derby County was to autograph his shirt. Now, one of the callers will be selected to walk off with Sid's shirt as a memento of one of Villa's most popular players of recent years.

If you want that fan to be YOU, get ringing Prizeline.

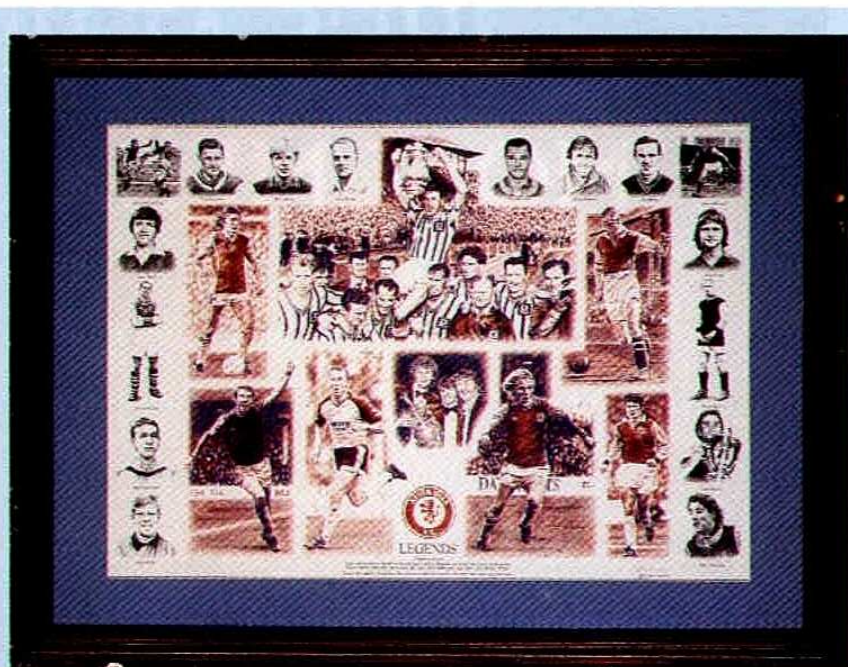
ASTON VILLA FOOTBALL CLUB PROGRAMME FAIR

at the North Stand Banqueting Suite
Sunday 13th February 1994

Kick-off 11.00am - 2.00pm

Admission: Adults 30p, children 20p

Villa Cubs Free (Please show your membership card)



CLUB SHOP SPECIAL

Aston Villa Legends Limited Edition Framed Print

Featuring 36 Aston Villa player legends from the past and present day
Each print individually numbered and signed by the artist - Leon Evans, from the
Spiral Gallery

Available from Villa Park at a special price of £39.99 (normally £65.00)



**"CHRIS WADDLE
IS OFF THE PITCH AT
THE MOMENT,
EXACTLY THE POSITION
HE'S AT HIS
MOST MENACING."**

GERALD SINSTADT

Obviously wasn't feeling the full 4.1%.



Enjoy more Colemanballs every fortnight in Private Eye Magazine.

Kilcline helps turn the tide

Swindon Town dipped into the troubleshooting manual when they recruited Brian Kilcline.

Two years ago this month, the powerhouse defender was Kevin Keegan's first signing for Newcastle United, with just 13 games in which to save the Tynesiders from relegation to the old Third Division.

Not only did they survive with a last-match win at Leicester, but they went on to run away with the title last season. Kilcline was no longer a regular but his influence as club captain was considerable.

The Magpies' official handbook observed that Kilcline "confronted a challenge that would have demoralised many, by both helping the youngsters in training and becoming an inspiration to all in the dressing room."

It was these leadership qualities which attracted Swindon last month when they responded to a 6-2 defeat at Everton by clinching a £90,000 deal for Coventry City's FA Cup-winning captain in 1987.

For their money, they also received a glowing message of encouragement from

the selling manager... "If there is one man who can save Swindon from going down, it's Brian Kilcline," said Mr Keegan.

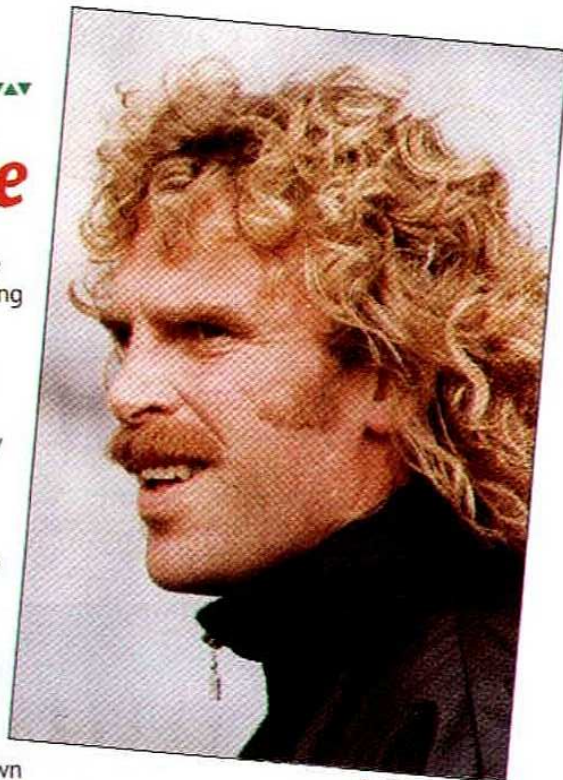
The 31-year-old centre back led his new club to successive victories over Spurs and Coventry - lifting the Robins to within two points of a safe place.

Manager John Gorman saw the results as a rallying call for the last lap in Swindon's first-ever campaign at the top level. Not that he was entirely depressed by the apparent trouncing at Everton.

That match was typical of many. Swindon turned on some eye-catching football, came from two down to level the score, and only suffered in the closing minutes after playing with ten men for most of the second half.

Up to that point, they had been enjoying a good run away from home, drawing after being in front at Liverpool, then scoring last-minute equalisers at Sheffield Wednesday and Coventry.

In fact, since losing to Villa at the end of October, they averaged a point-a-game,

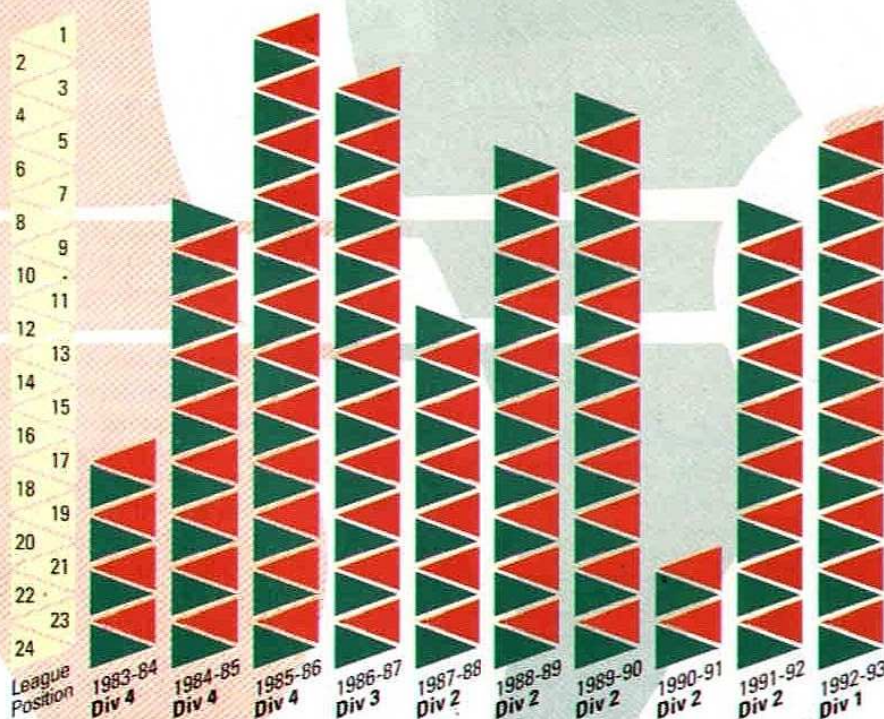


▲ Brian Kilcline

but a decisive forward move was delayed by upsets at home, notably the seven goals conceded in Christmas games with Arsenal and Chelsea.

On the next page, we open Swindon's 1993-94 diary as a major change followed the Wembley play-off victory over Leicester City...

SWINDON'S TEN YEAR LEAGUE RECORD



Previous meetings (Villa score given first)

Villa Park	The County Ground
69-70 0-2 (29,797)	1-1 (22,984)
72-73 2-1 (30,865)	3-1 (13,615)
73-74 1-1 (20,709)	0-1 (8,476)
87-88 2-1 (16,127)	0-0 (10,959)
93-94 ~	2-1 (16,530)

Garry Thompson scored both Villa goals in a 2-1 win when Swindon last came to Villa Park, for a Second Division fixture, on December 5th 1987. All three goals came in a four minute spell early in the second half with Jimmy Quinn netting the visitors goal from the penalty spot.

In goal for Swindon that day was Tim Flowers, on loan from Southampton, who has since become a £2m 'keeper. The game also saw home debuts for two Graham Taylor signings, Andy and Stuart Gray.

June

4 Player-manager Glenn Hoddle agrees to join Chelsea and the vacancy at the County Ground is immediately filled by his assistant, John Gorman . . . The new boss played for Celtic, Carlisle, Spurs and Tampa Bay Rowdies, then went into coaching with Gillingham and Leyton before arriving at Swindon in April 1991.

15 Nicky Summerbee, son of a former Swindon, Manchester City and England winger, plays for the triumphant England side in the Toulon Under-21 tournament . . . Previously he had scored the winning

goal in the semi-final against Scotland.

19 Andy Rowland, who played more than 250 games for the club, is appointed to the coaching staff.

22 The new assistant manager is David Hay, a Scottish international who was with Mr Gorman at Celtic.

July

1 A £500,000 deal is completed for Rapid Vienna's Norwegian World Cup striker, Jan Aage Fjortoft, who previously worked with Mr Hay when he was coach at Lillestrom.

13 A tribunal rules that Chelsea should

pay £75,000 for Mr Hoddle's playing registration plus £2,000 a game up to a maximum of 50.

19 Promotion-winning defender Colin Calderwood agrees to sign for Tottenham.

27 Aussie World Cup forward David Mitchell goes to the Turkish club, Izmir, for £20,000.

28 Swindon pay £500,000 for the Leyton Orient defender Adrian Whitbread, who was known to Mr Gorman from their time together at Brisbane Road.

August

10 The fee for Calderwood's move is set at £1.25m, a percentage of which is due to his former club, Mansfield Town.

14 Welsh international Paul Bodin (calf) and midfielder Micky Hazard (Achilles) miss the club's Premiership debut but Dutch defender Luc Niholt, a £175,000 signing from Motherwell, is included along with the other newcomers, Fjortoft and Whitbread . . . Goalkeeper Fraser Digby and forward Steve White are the only survivors from the side which came out of Division Three in 1986 . . . Former Spurs player John Moncur scores Town's first top-flight goal in a 3-1 defeat at Sheffield United.

18 Andy Mutch joins Swindon for £250,000 after nearly seven years as Steve Bull's partner on Wolves' rise from the Fourth Division.

22 Kevin Horlock, a free transfer signing from West Ham in 1992, is called up for a 5-0 defeat at home to Liverpool.

25 Swindon have conceded 14 goals in losing their first four matches.

28 The first point is banked with a 0-0 draw at Norwich . . . Bodin, still troubled by his injury, is ruled out of Wales' World Cup match with RCS.

September

6 Former England defender Terry Fenwick is signed from Tottenham after impressing in a trial period.

18 Bodin returns in a 2-2 draw with Newcastle and their are first Premiership goals for Mutch and midfielder Martin Ling, the latter in his second spell with Swindon after a five-year break at Southend.

28 Whitbread is out for a month following a minor knee operation.

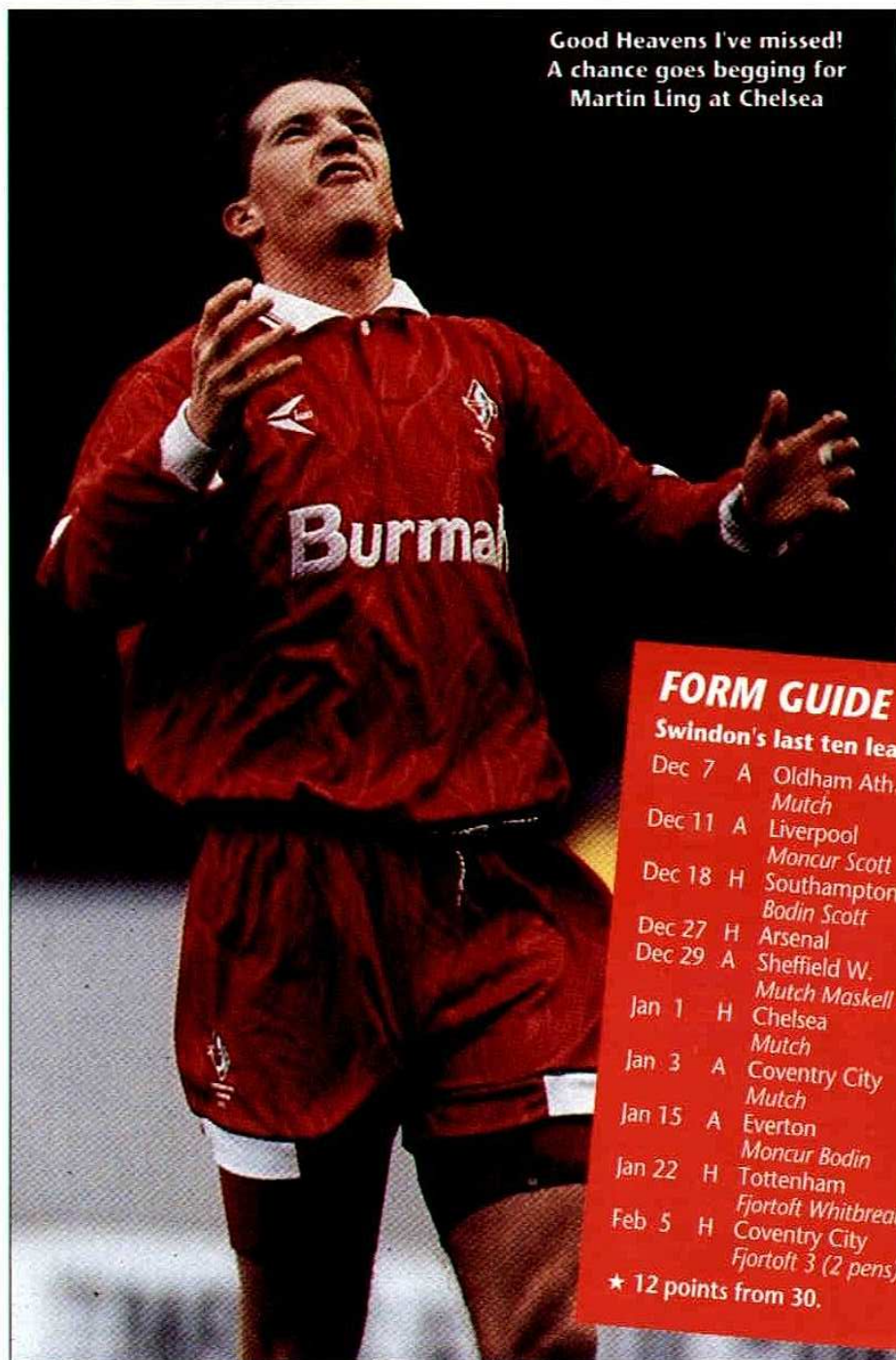
Good Heavens I've missed!
A chance goes begging for
Martin Ling at Chelsea

FORM GUIDE

Swindon's last ten league games...

Dec 7	A	Oldham Ath.	Lost 1-2
		Mutch	
Dec 11	A	Liverpool	Drew 2-2
		Moncur Scott	
Dec 18	H	Southampton	Won 2-1
		Bodin Scott	
Dec 27	H	Arsenal	Lost 0-4
Dec 29	A	Sheffield W.	Drew 3-3
		Mutch Maskell 2	
Jan 1	H	Chelsea	Lost 1-3
		Mutch	
Jan 3	A	Coventry City	Drew 1-1
		Mutch	
Jan 15	A	Everton	Lost 2-6
		Moncur Bodin	
Jan 22	H	Tottenham	Won 2-1
		Fjortoft Whitbread	
Feb 5	H	Coventry City	Won 3-1
		Fjortoft 3 (2 pens)	

★ 12 points from 30.



Our full league record against Swindon is:

	Home						Away				
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A
Premier Lge	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1
Division Two	8	2	1	1	5	5	1	2	1	4	3
TOTAL	9	2	1	1	5	5	2	2	1	6	4

Biggest home win: 2-1, 16th September 1972

2-1, 5th December 1987

Biggest away win: 3-1, 10th February 1973

Heaviest home defeat: 0-2, 23rd August 1969

Heaviest away defeat: 0-1, 24th November 1973

Highest home attendance: 30,865, 16th September 1972

Lowest home attendance: 16,127, 5th December 1987

Highest away attendance: 22,984, 26th December 1969

Lowest away attendance: 8,476, 24th November 1973

Most goals in a game for Villa: 2

Ray Graydon (in a 3-1 away win in 1972-73)
and Garry Thompson (in a 2-1 home win in 1987-88)

October

13 Fjortoft is on the scoresheet as Norway book their World Cup place with a 3-0 win against Poland.

16 Shaun Taylor, a defensive cornerstone since a £200,000 move from Exeter in 1991, scores a late equaliser against Everton - his second goal in successive games.

23 Mr Gorman, the fifth former Spurs player to manage Swindon, picks up a point on a return to White Hart Lane.

30 Whitbread is back as substitute as Villa win 2-1 at the County Ground.

November

3 Hazard re-joins former Swindon boss Ossie Ardiles in a £50,000 move to Tottenham.

17 The unfortunate Bodin hits the bar from a penalty as Wales are denied a place in the World Cup finals.

18 Keith Scott, top scorer for Conference champions Wycombe Wanderers last season, joins Swindon for £300,000 after scoring 14 goals this term.

24 A debut marksman in a draw with Ipswich, Scott goes one better with the vital goal against QPR as Swindon register their first win at the 16th attempt.

December

11 Twice in front at Liverpool, Swindon are pegged back by a late equaliser.

16 Former England forward Frank Worthington takes up a temporary coaching appointment working with the club's strikers.

18 Scott collects his fourth goal in seven games to settle a basement clash with Southampton.

27 Kevin Campbell's hat-trick for Arsenal puts a dampener on Swindon's Christmas.

29 Craig Maskell, last season's top scorer after an exchange move from Reading, scores twice in a 3-3 draw at Hillsborough but 'keeper Digby misses the last 20 minutes after dislocating a shoulder.

January

1 Understudy Nicky Hammond takes over in goal against Chelsea and teenager Shane Cook is on the bench.

8 Hammond, suffering from a stomach virus, leaves his sick-bed to play in a 1-1 draw with Ipswich in the FA Cup.

11 Stewart Kerr is recruited on loan from Celtic to cover the goalkeeping position.

15 Everton score three times in the last eight minutes as Swindon become the first team to concede six goals in a Premiership match this season.

18 Fjortoft's first goal for the club takes Town into extra time before they go out of the Cup at Ipswich.

20 Brian Kilcline completes his £90,000 transfer from Newcastle.

22 Fjortoft opens his scoring account in English League football and Whitbread scores his first in the Premiership as Spurs are beaten at the County Ground.

26 Another goalkeeper signs on loan - Jon Sheffield arriving from Cambridge after a recent spell with Colchester.

February

5 A proposed loan to Lillestrom now cancelled, Fjortoft makes his tally five in three games with a hat-trick against Coventry.

8 Maskell goes to Southampton for £250,000.

Robins Roll Call

Player/Birthplace, Birthdate 1993/94 Lge & Cups
Previous clubs Apps Gls

PAUL BODIN 22(3) 6

Cardiff, 13.9.64

Newport, Cardiff, Bath, Newport,
Swindon, C.Palace, Swindon

FRASER DIGBY 25 -

Sheffield, 23.4.67

Manchester United

TERRY FENWICK 22(2) -

Seaham, 17.11.59

Crystal Palace, QPR, Tottenham

JAN AAGE FJORTOFT 14(11) 5

Norway, 10.1.67

Hamar Komeratene, Lillestrom,
Rapid Vienna

NICKY HAMMOND 8(1) -

Hornchurch, 7.9.67

Arsenal

KEVIN HORLOCK 23(4) -

Bexley, 1.11.72

West Ham United

BRIAN KILCLINE 2 -

Nottingham, 7.5.62

Notts C., Coventry, Oldham, Newcastle

MARTIN LING 29(2) 1

West Ham, 15.7.66

Exeter, Swindon, Southend

ROSS MACLAREN 12(2) -

Edinburgh, 14.4.62

Shrewsbury, Derby

JOHN MONCUR 32 3

Stepney, 22.9.66

Tottenham

ANDY MUTCH 30 8

Liverpool, 28.12.63

Southport, Wolves

LUC NIJHOLT 24(2) -

Zaandam, 29.7.61

Haarlem, AZ 67 Alkmaar, Utrecht,

OB Basle, Motherwell

KEITH SCOTT 12(2) 4

London, 10.6.67

Hinckley, Leicester United, Lincoln,

Wycombe Wanderers

JON SHEFFIELD - -

Bedworth, 1.2.69

Norwich, Cambridge

NICKY SUMMERBEE 28(2) 3

Altrincham, 26.8.71

SHAUN TAYLOR 33 2

Plymouth, 26.3.63

Bideford, Exeter City

ADRIAN WHITBREAD 25(1) 1

Epping, 22.10.71

Leyton Orient

STEVE WHITE 3(5) -

Chipping Sodbury 2.1.59

Bristol R., Luton, Charlton, Bristol R.

ALSO PLAYED: Micky Hazard (to Tottenham)

9(2) apps. Craig Maskell (to Southampton)

10(8) apps, 3 gls.

(Up to and including Saturday 5th February)



Andy Townsend

ASTON
Villa



Career Record:

Season	Club	League			Cups		
		Apps	Cls	Ag	Apps	Cls	Ag
84-85	Southampton	5	-	-	-	-	-
85-86	Southampton	25 (2)	1	-	5 (5)	-	-
86-87	Southampton	11 (3)	1	-	2 (1)	-	-
87-88	Southampton	36 (1)	3	5	-	-	-
88-89	Norwich	31 (5)	5	7 (1)	2	-	-
89-90	Norwich	35	3	9	-	-	-
90-91	Chelsea	34	2	11	3	-	-
91-92	Chelsea	35	6	10	1	-	-
92-93	Chelsea	41	4	7	3	-	-
93-94	Aston Villa	20	3	11	1	-	-
TOTAL		273 (11)	28	67 (7)	10		

THE TEAM TALK

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FA Carling Premiership matches at Villa Park

TICKET PURCHASING FACILITIES

There are three ways supporters may obtain tickets for our home matches:

● By personal application from the North Stand Ticket Office

Ticket Office Opening Hours	Monday to Friday	9.00am - 5.30pm
	Saturday (Matchdays)	9.00am - kick off time 4.45pm - 5.15pm
	Saturday (No home matchday)	9.00am - 12.00 Mid-day

● By postal application

Supporters wishing to apply by post may do so, sending a covering letter stating which match, ticket requirements and the correct remittance, together with a stamped-addressed envelope. Please allow adequate time for the tickets to be returned by post.

● By credit card telephone order

021 327 7373 - For Saturday matches the deadline for using this service is 2.00pm on the Wednesday prior to the game.

021 327 7373 - For Midweek matches the deadline for using this service is 2.00pm on the Friday prior to the game.

Supporters are reminded that the above details are for Aston Villa home matches in the FA Carling Premiership ONLY.

TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE FOR THE FOLLOWING HOME FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP MATCHES

Villa v Manchester City	Tuesday 22nd February (7.45pm)
Villa v Everton	Wednesday 30th March (7.45pm)

Prices as follows:

Seat tickets £13.00 or £11.00 (half price Juniors/OAP's)

Advance terrace tickets* £8.00 (£4.50 Juniors/OAP's)

*12.00 midday on a match day is the last time Holte End terrace tickets can be purchased at the reduced rate. After this time, admission to the Holte End terrace is by payment at the turnstiles only, £9.00 (£5.00 Jun/OAP's).

● Coca-Cola Cup Semi-Final 1st Leg - Wednesday 16th February 1994 (8.00pm)

Tranmere Rovers v Aston Villa

THIS MATCH IS ALL TICKET

At the time of going to press it was anticipated that all tickets would be sold. However, should any tickets remain unsold they will be placed on general sale directly after today's game. An announcement in this respect will be made at half-time today.

● Coca-Cola Cup Semi-Final 2nd Leg - Sunday 27th February 1994 (3.00pm)

Aston Villa v Tranmere Rovers

Non Season Ticket Holders can apply for seat tickets priced £13.00 or £11.00 (half price juniors/OAP's) and Holte End terrace tickets priced £8.00 adults, £4.50 juniors/OAP's.

Seat Season Ticket Holders have until mid-day on Saturday 19th February to claim their own seats. Voucher No. 34 is required from Season Ticket books. Prices are as follows:

Trinity Road Stand £13.00	Trinity Road Enclosure £11.00
Doug Ellis Stand Upper £13.00	Doug Ellis Stand Lower £11.00
North Stand £10.00	(All season ticket seats are half price for juniors/OAP's)

Holte End Season Ticket Holders have until mid-day on Saturday 19th February to present Voucher No. 34 from their Season Ticket books and guarantee admission to the Holte End. Tickets are priced £8.00 adults, £4.50 juniors/OAP's.

● FA Cup Fifth Round - Sunday 20th February 1994 (3.05pm)

Bolton Wanderers v Aston Villa

THIS MATCH IS ALL TICKET

Terrace tickets, price £7.50, are currently on sale to Season Ticket Holders presenting Voucher No. 32 accompanied by a stamped Away Match Attendance Card; and Museum and Premier Club members presenting Voucher No. 32.

Monday 14th February, 9.00am: Terrace tickets priced £7.50 will go on sale to Season Ticket Holders presenting Voucher No. 32.

General Sale: Any remaining tickets will be placed on general sale from 9.00am on Wednesday 16th February.

ASTON VILLA OFFICIAL TRAVEL CLUB

Coca-Cola Cup Semi-Final 1st Leg
Tranmere Rovers v Aston Villa
Wednesday 16th February
Depart Leisure Centre 4.00pm.
Fare: £8.50.

FA Cup Fifth Round
Bolton Wanderers v Villa
Sunday 20th February
Depart Leisure Centre 11.00am.
Fare: £9.00.

NON MEMBERS WELCOME

For bookings ring the Travel Club Hotline
021-328 3322. Take advantage of our
Access and Visa facilities or fax your
reservation on 021-327 7227.

● FA Carling Premiership - Sunday 6th March 1994 (4.00pm)

Coventry City v Villa

THIS MATCH IS ALL TICKET

Seat tickets, priced £15.00, will go on sale to Season Ticket Holders and Museum and Premier Club members presenting Voucher No. 31 from their Season Ticket books from 9am on Monday 21st February.

Any remaining tickets will be placed on general sale from Monday 28th February.

ON THE ROAD

➤ AA Route to Tranmere

M6 Jct 6 (A38/A38(M)/A5127, W.M. Follow M6 North West to junction 20. Branch left then keep left (signposted North Wales) to join motorway M56 to junction 15. Branch left to join M53 (signposted Birkenhead) to junction 4. Leave motorway and at roundabout take 4th exit B5151 (signposted Bromborough). In 2.4 miles turn right into Prenton Road West for Tranmere Rovers FC.

Car parking: Limited street parking.

Nearest railway station: Hamilton Square, Rock Ferry (1 mile). Liverpool Lime Street (main line).

➤ AA Route to Bolton

M6 Jct 6 (A38/A38(M)/A5127, W.M. Follow M6 North West to junction 21A. Join M62 eastbound (signposted Leeds) to junction 14. Branch left to join M61 (signposted Bolton). In 0.9 mile take right-hand lane. Leave motorway and follow A666. In 2.1 miles branch left B6536 and at T-junction turn left into Raikes Lane. In 0.1 mile at T-junction turn right into Manchester Road. Bolton Wanderers FC is on the right.

Car parking: Limited street parking. Large car park 200 yards from ground and multi-storey car parks in town centre.

Nearest railway station: Bolton.

Promotion at the last gasp

● DENNIS SHAW talks to GRAHAM TAYLOR about the day his team won promotion at Swindon six years ago, with other recollections from secretary STEVE STRIDE

It was the last day of training for the 1987-88 season 'proper', a Friday lunchtime, May 6.

Graham Taylor assembled his players at Bodymoor Heath, and they sat around him on the grass as he produced half-a-dozen bottles of champagne. There in the warm sunshine they celebrated with a glass of bubbly or so each... 24 hours BEFORE the match at Swindon which would decide if they had automatic promotion or a play-off place. "The club had been in danger of going into the Third Division, remember," the ex-Villa and England boss recalled.

"We'd had a good season but a difficult and traumatic one in some ways and the butterflies had started to creep in over the last game or two.

"I had been bringing new players in with all the domestic problems and buying and selling houses and living in hotels that this situation can bring.

"In the circumstances I felt that I should relax the players and remind them of what we had achieved ahead of the Swindon game. I didn't want them to feel that our season depended upon it.

"If we didn't go up the next day then I wanted them to be clear that we would make it via the play-offs and that I appreciated all they had done. It looked odds-on that's how it would work out."

To be fair, the facts and figures of the situation were not in Villa's favour.

Middlesbrough and Bradford City were

in contention with Villa for second place behind Millwall who were virtually home and dry. Both of these rivals were at home, with Middlesbrough needing only to draw against Leicester City and Bradford wanting to beat Ipswich to be sure.

Basically Villa had, at worst, to avoid defeat while hoping for the other two to slip up.

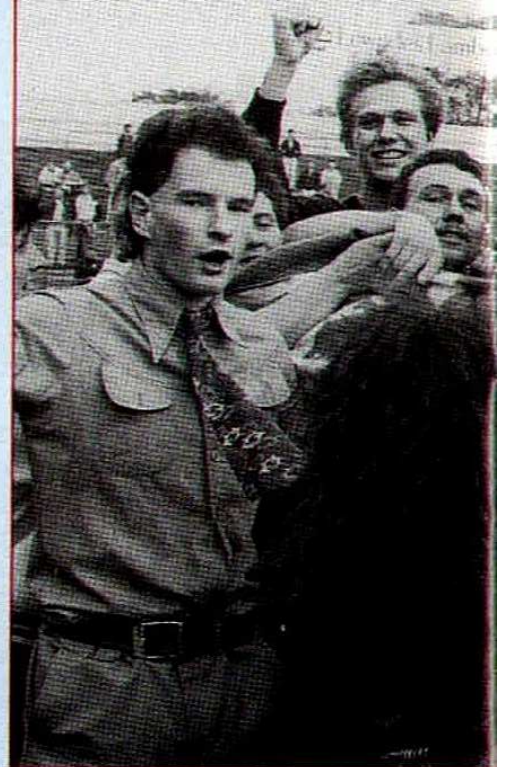
"It was a very windy day at Swindon," Graham went on "and all I can remember about the game is that it was very poor. I do recall favourable scorelines from the other matches coming through and my saying to John Ward, beside me on the bench 'if we all stay like this, John, we're up...'"

But, when the final whistle came at 0-0 ... chaos confusion, uncertainty. Over to Steve Stride: "I haven't seen so many transistor radios at a game since Highbury when we won the Championship," recalled the Villa secretary. For some reason which I can't remember the Middlesbrough result was a long time coming after ours and Bradford's (who had lost) were over.

"Bursts of cheering kept breaking out as people set off false alarms and the players were in groups still on the pitch not knowing if they were promoted or not."

Back to Graham. "There was all this cheering going on but I still hadn't heard the Middlesbrough result. I looked up for my family in the stand and I could tell from the expression on my daughter Karen's

▲ Garry Thompson is chaired off the Swindon pitch by jubilant Villa fans.



face that they didn't know yet. The last thing I wanted was to be seen celebrating on the pitch if it then didn't work out right, so I walked slowly to the dressing room.

"At first I thought it was empty because the players were still on the pitch, waiting and hoping. But then I realised that there was one player, on his own, with his back to me unaware I was there.

"He was saying, out loud 'please God, let it happen... please God, let it happen.' It was Steve Sims.

"I said to him 'well, you can't do any more about it now, Steve lad...' Most people, to this day, don't realise the major part he played in our getting up.

"Martin Keown (who didn't play in the final two promotion games), was a fine player and very quick, but he could be very excitable. Sims did a marvellous job, stabilising alongside him in the middle of the defence. The history of clubs tends to recall the stars and the stalwarts who made 300 or 400 appearances but they too easily forget the part played by the Steve Sims's of this world."

Graham then said to the strapping defender: "Come on, let's go back on the pitch and find out."

There was mass cheering now, and fans and players everywhere. Taylor's first glance was to his family. "I can close my eyes now and see Karen's face," he told me. "She had a whopping, beaming smile behind two thumbs pointing upwards.

"I knew then that we were promoted, and I could celebrate with the rest."

Villa's dressing room was now a whirl of celebration. "Graham went round hugging every player," Steve reflects. "And the journey back on the coach was... well... let's just say 'very cheerful'."

MATCH FACTS

Saturday 7th May 1988

Football League Division Two

SWINDON T. 0 ASTON VILLA 0

Swindon: Fraser Digby, David Hockaday, Phil King, Kieran O'Regan, Tim Parkin, Colin Calderwood, Dave Bamber, Jon Gittens, Jimmy Quinn, Steve Foley, Steve White. Subs (not used): Bobby Barnes, Alan McLoughlin.

Villa: Nigel Spink, Kevin Gage, Bernie Gallacher, Andy Gray, Steve Sims, Allan Evans, Paul Birch, Warren Aspinall, Garry Thompson, Stuart Gray, David Platt. Subs (not used): Tony Daley, Alan McNally. Attendance: 10,959.



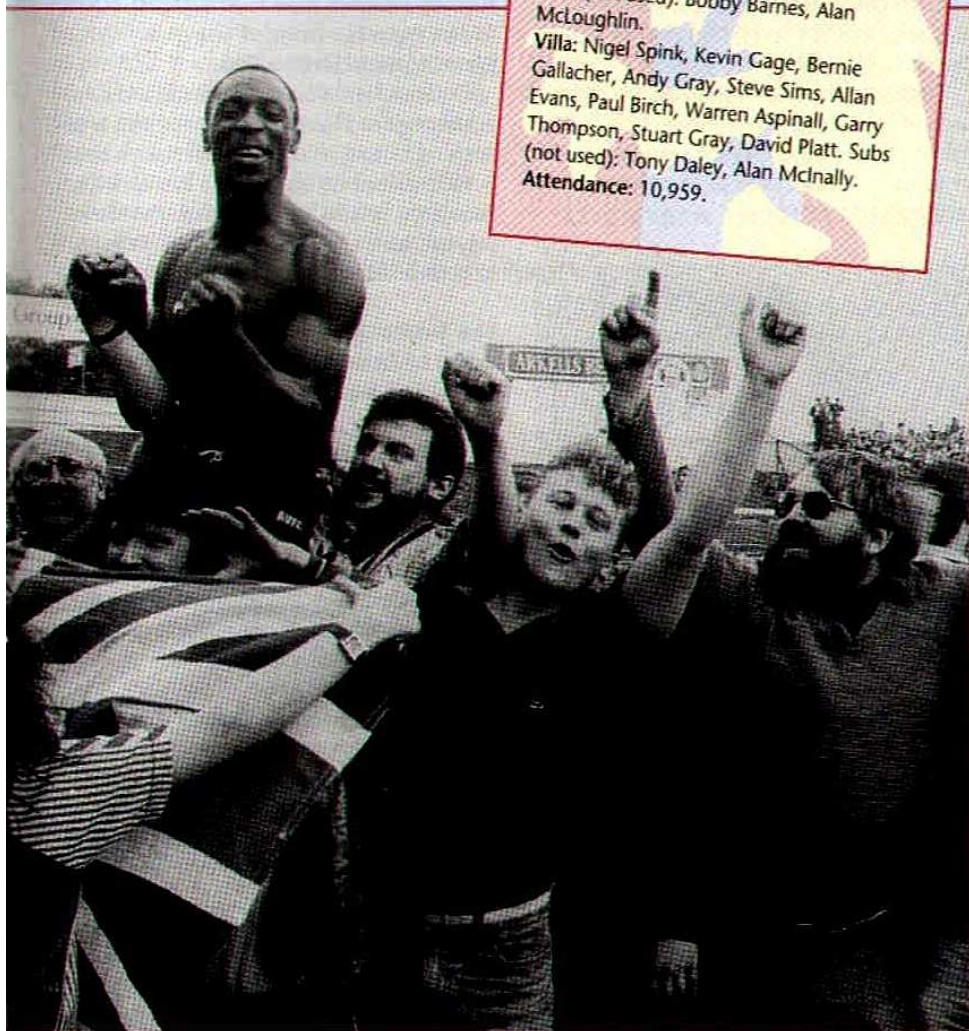
▲ Steve Stride

Middlesbrough, like Bradford City, had lost at home in front of capacity crowds who had gone there expecting a automatic promotion rather than a play-off place.

When the mathematics were worked out it could hardly have been closer. Villa (68-41) and 'Boro (63-36) both had a goal difference of 27 alongside a points haul of 78. Those five goals more scored (68 compared to 63), over a 42-match programme, steered Graham Taylor's team into the First Division.

By then a certain David Platt, who cost a pittance from Crewe, had made eleven first-team appearances.

The rest, as the cliché goes, is history. The foundation of today's high expectations were firmly entrenched on that fateful, fruitful and fraught day at Swindon when Karen Taylor's smile said it all.



▲ Steve Sims - prayed for promotion.

PONTIN'S CENTRAL LEAGUE FIXTURES 1993-94

Aug 19	H	Leeds United	1-0
Aug 26	A	Sheffield Wednesday	2-0
Sep 8	A	Sunderland	3-1
Sep 16	H	Everton	2-1
Sep 23	H	Wolverhampton W.	0-1
Sep 30	A	York City	4-2
Oct 7	A	Newcastle United	1-0
Oct 13	H	Manchester United	1-1
Oct 21	A	Nottingham Forest	1-2
Oct 28	H	Liverpool	4-0
Nov 1	A	Sheffield United	0-1
Nov 10	H	Leicester City	3-1
Nov 15	A	Willenhall (BSC 2)	2-2
Nov 17	H	Notts County	4-0
Nov 23	A	Derby County	1-1
Dec 2	H	Blackburn Rovers	1-0
Dec 9	A	Willenhall (BSC 2 Replay)	3-2
Dec 15	H	Sheffield Wednesday	3-0
Jan 5	H	Coventry City	4-0
Jan 8	H	Halesowen T. (BSC 3)	2-0
Jan 19	H	Newcastle United	3-0
Jan 31	A	Hednesford T. (BSC 4)	1-2
Feb 2	H	Nottingham Forest	2-0
Feb 8	A	Everton	0-3
Feb 14	H	Sunderland	
Mar 2	H	Bolton Wanderers	
Mar 9	A	Blackburn Rovers	
Mar 16	A	Wolverhampton Wanderers	
Mar 23	H	York City	
Mar 29	A	Coventry City	
Apr 5	A	Leeds United	
Apr 11	A	Liverpool	
Apr 13	H	Sheffield United	
Apr 18	A	Leicester City	
Apr 27	H	Derby County	
May 3	A	Notts County	
May 11	A	Bolton Wanderers	
TBA	A	Manchester United	

MIDLAND PURITY YOUTH LEAGUE FIXTURES 1993-94

Aug 7	H	Birmingham City	0-3
Aug 14	A	Coventry City	0-3
Aug 21	H	Derby County	2-4
Aug 27	A	Grimsby Town	1-1
Sep 1	H	Fulham (SJFC 1)	2-1
Sep 4	H	Leicester City	1-1
Sep 10	A	Lincoln City	6-2
Sep 25	A	Northampton Town	1-1
Sep 27	A	Bournemouth (SJFC 2)	2-1
Oct 2	H	Notts County	0-1
Oct 4	A	Hereford United (MYC Pr)	3-2
Oct 9	A	Nottingham Forest	3-1
Oct 16	H	Walsall (LC 2)	1-2
Oct 23	A	Port Vale	1-0
Oct 26	A	Cambridge Utd (FAYC 1)	4-1
Oct 30	A	Leicester City	4-1
Nov 1	A	Leicester City (MYC 1)	2-1
Nov 6	H	Shrewsbury Town	1-1
Nov 13	A	Stoke City	3-5
Nov 27	A	West Bromwich Albion	1-0
Dec 6	A	Watford (FAYC 2)	3-1
Dec 11	H	Wolverhampton W.	6-3
Dec 18	A	Wolverhampton W.	0-2
Dec 20	H	Bristol City (SJFC 3)	2-0
Jan 15	H	Coventry City	1-2
Jan 26	A	Bristol City (FAYC 3)	4-1
Jan 29	A	Derby County	1-1
Feb 5	H	Grimsby Town	3-1
Feb 9	H	West Ham Utd (FAYC 4)	
Feb 12	H	Lincoln City	
Feb 15	A	Stoke City (MYC 2)	
Feb 19	A	Mansfield Town	
Feb 26	H	Northampton Town	
Mar 5	A	Notts County	
Mar 8	H	Brighton & H.A. (SJFC SF)	
Mar 12	H	Walsall	
Mar 19	H	Nottingham Forest	
Mar 26	A	Peterborough United	
Apr 2	H	Port Vale	
Apr 9	A	Shrewsbury Town	
Apr 16	H	Stoke City	
Apr 23	A	Walsall	
Apr 30	H	West Bromwich Albion	
May 7	H	Mansfield Town	
TBA	A	Birmingham City	
	H	Peterborough United	

KEY: FAYC = FA Youth Cup, LC = League Cup, SJFC = Southern Junior Floodlit Cup, MYC = Midland Youth Cup.

RESERVE & YOUTH

Newcastle coach is full

"The best reserve team I have ever seen," - that was Newcastle United reserve team coach Jeff Clarke's reaction after his were beaten 3-0 by Villa in a Pontin's League Division One match at Villa Park.

Clarke had no complaints about the result which enabled Villa to complete a double after a 1-0 win at St. James' Park in October - and maintain their title challenge. Two goals from Stefan Beinlich and another from skipper Ugo Ehiogu clinched victory for Villa.

Clarke said: "We were always second best and I have to hold my hand up and say the better team won. Beinlich's first goal was also out of this world - one of the best I've seen.

"The ball was thrown into him just inside the box and he took it on his chest, hit it over his shoulder and it dipped and swerved into the net."

That goal came after 11 minutes and Beinlich could have made it 2-0 when he was put clear but saw his angled drive well saved.

The German striker eventually scored a second from close range in the 79th minute and Ehiogu finished off a fine move eight minute from time to complete the scoring.



▲ Stefan Beinlich - super strike!

The reserves experienced more joy when they defeated Nottingham Forest 2-0 at Villa Park.

A goal either side of half-time settled the issue. Guy Whittingham latched onto Dwight Yorke's through ball to give Villa a 40th minute lead. Yorke was again the provider in the 47th minute and his crossfield ball was hammered home from 15 yards by Dave Farrell.

The reserves suffered their first Pontin's League defeat for more than three months when they went down 3-0 at Everton on Tuesday night.

Tony Cottee, returning to action after injury, proved to be the difference between the sides as he snapped up a hat-trick.

Villa, who included trialist striker Scott Murray, played some neat football but lacked the decisive touch in front of goal.

Villa were beaten 2-1 by Beazer Homes League club Hednesford Town in the quarter-final of the Birmingham Senior Cup.

Defences were on top until Riccardo Scimeca gave Villa a 40th minute lead after latching onto Richard Crisp's through ball.

Hednesford equalised via a free-kick from Paul Jones on the hour and then the same player crossed for substitute Mark Hallam to grab a last minute winner.

The Under-21 side triumphed 5-2 away to Queen's Park Rangers with the aid of two goals from Neil Davis.

Trevor Berry, Riccardo Scimeca and Trinidadian trialist Charles Da Silva were the other marksmen.

On Monday afternoon the Under-21s lost 5-1 at home to a strong Nottingham Forest side which included several over age players. Robert Rosario grabbed a hat-trick for Forest while Villa's consolation goal was scored by Neil Davis.

Villa moved into the fourth round of the FA Youth Cup with a 4-1 victory over Bristol City at Ashton Gate.

It enabled Villa to complete a double over the West Country Club after their 2-0 away in the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup in January.

But coach Colin Clarke admitted the game was a lot tighter affair than the score-line suggested before Villa sealed the tie with two goals in the final five minutes.

of praise

Schoolboy Richard Walker made a major contribution with two goals - his first for the club - and also being involved in the build-up to the other two.

However, Clarke selected striker Darren Byfield as Villa's best player and he was a constant threat to the City rearguard.

Villa could have gone ahead in their first attack when Byfield was brought down in the box but Lee Hendrie's penalty was saved and he put the rebound over the bar.

However, after five minutes Byfield burst through and, although his shot was parried, Walker followed up to fire home a superb volley. Ten minutes later it was 2-0 after good play by Walker and then Hendrie and this time he slipped the ball past the City goalkeeper.

The home side then exerted heavy pressure for long periods but they had to wait until the 81st minute before reducing the arrears after a scramble.

City then pushed forward and Walker caught them on the break and capped a superb run by scoring with an angled shot in the 85th minute. Seconds before the whistle Walker headed a centre from Leslie Hines into the path of Hendrie who drove a fierce shot under the goalkeeper.

Clarke said: "We were flattered by the scoreline and came under a lot of pressure but I was pleased by the attitude of the boys. Bristol were a bit stronger and we had to battle all the way through.

"I've only been picking Walker for the cup games and some people say that is the wrong way around to introduce him because he is playing in the pressure matches.

"But he has handled the pressure very well and he gives us another dimension to our play and takes the pressure off Byfield who had a superb match."

● A report on Wednesday's scheduled fourth round home tie with West Ham will appear in the next match programme.

The youth team returned to Midland Purity League action and turned in a battling performance to draw 1-1 away to Derby County.

Clarke said: "They had beaten us 3-0 right at the start of the season and the return match emphasised how far we've come in a few months.

"The Derby players were very big compared with our lads and it was a fight to compete physically but I was very

Match details

Saturday 29th January 1994

Midland Purity Youth League

DERBY COUNTY 1 ASTON VILLA 1

Scorer: Boxall.

Villa: Rachel, Petty, Mitchell, Moore, I. Brown, Hines, Senior (sub: Peters 70), Burchell (sub: Devlin 75), Boxall, Byfield, Hendrie.

Monday 31st January 1994

Birmingham Senior Cup - Round Four

HEDNESFORD T. 2 ASTON VILLA 1

Scorer: Scimeca.

Villa: Oakes, Evans, Pearce, Crisp, P. Browne, Boden, Berry, Davis, Scimeca (sub: I. Brown 43), Williams, Farrell. Sub (not used): Murphy.

Wednesday 2nd February 1994

Pontin's Central League - Div. One

ASTON VILLA 2 NOTT'M FOREST 0

Scorers: Whittingham, Farrell.

Villa: Spink, Kubicki, Small, Parker, Ehiogu, Boden, Yorke, Beinlich, Whittingham, Breikreutz, Farrell. Subs (not used): Berry, Crisp.

Saturday 5th February 1994

Midland Purity Youth League

ASTON VILLA 3 GRIMSBY T. 1

Scorers: I. Brown, Peters pen, Devlin.

Villa: Rachel, I. Brown, Murphy, Moore, Mitchell (sub: Senior 15), Burchell, Peters, Petty, Boxall, Hines (sub: Devlin 65), Hendrie.

Monday 7th February 1994

Under-21 Fixture

ASTON VILLA 1 NOTT'M FOREST 5

Scorer: Davis.

Villa: Oakes, Evans, Pearce, Boden, P. Browne, Crisp, Williams, Murray, Davis, Scimeca (sub: Devlin 2), McGregor (sub: Wicks 70).

Tuesday 8th February 1994

Pontin's Central League - Div. One

EVERTON 3 ASTON VILLA 0

Villa: Spink, Kubicki (sub: Berry 70), Small, Parker, Ehiogu, Boden, Murray, Beinlich, Whittingham, Breikreutz, Farrell. Sub (not used): Pearce.

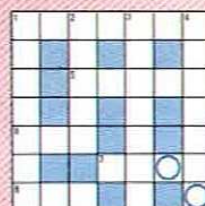
pleased with the way we battled to earn a point. It speaks volumes for the boys.

"Byfield was again our best player and Lee Burchall did very well in midfield before having to come off with an injury."

Villa went ahead after 12 minutes with a fine goal from Mike Boxall who turned a defender on the edge of the box and flashed a 20 yard shot over the goalkeeper.

Derby equalised on the stroke of half-time and pressed for the majority of the second half but Villa held firm.

X - WORD



When the grid has been filled in, the circled letters will reveal the name of a Villa player, past or present.

Across:

1. The Bluebirds (7)
5. Torquay's nickname (5)
6. Sealey or Ferdinand (3)
7. Swedish international, once on Everton's books (4)
8. Ellis or Hammam (3)
11. Cambridge's manager 1992-93 (6)
14. Crystal Palace manager 1982-84 (7)
15. Irwin or Law (5)

Down:

1. Derby full-back (7)
2. Veteran striker (5)
3. German 'keeper (7)
4. Wimbledon centre-forward (7)
9. Mohamed Ali Amar (5)
10. Southampton 'keeper (7)
12. Norwich 'keeper of the 70's (6)
13. Douglas Park Scots (5)

See page 31 for solution...

ONE TO ELEVEN

Test your knowledge of Villa, Swindon and football in general.

1. Which ex-Villa and Swindon player scored two Premiership goals last weekend?
2. Who were Villa's scorers in the 2-1 win at Swindon in October?
3. Which club did Swindon beat at Wembley last season?
4. Which Villa defender scored on his debut in Villa's first ever league game at Swindon on Boxing Day 1969?
5. ... and who scored twice when the teams last met at Villa Park?
6. Who was Swindon's manager before Ossie Ardiles?
7. Swindon's top scorer of last season left for the South Coast this week. Who is he?
8. Who scored the goal which knocked Blackburn out of the FA Cup this week?
9. Who scored two goals in a Premiership game last weekend but finished on the losing side?
10. Which Premiership player scored two penalties in a game last weekend?
11. Who were the two Leeds substitutes at Villa Park on Sunday?

See page 31 for answers...

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United again at Everton



Everton's new coach, David Williams, resumed a number of old friendships on his arrival at Goodison.

In 1985-86, he played in Norwich City's Second Division championship side captained by Dave Watson - now the skipper at Everton.

In 1988 he was acting manager of a Welsh international team including Neville Southall - the long-serving 'keeper at Goodison.

From 1988 to 1992, he was assistant manager at Norwich while the reserve team was run by Mike Walker - the man responsible for taking him to Merseyside.

Mr Williams, 38, enjoyed a long playing career with Bristol Rovers and managed the West Country club for two seasons before joining Norwich as a player in 1985. He won five full caps for Wales while at Carrow Road.

NATIONWIDE

Who will the golden boot fit?

Numerous milestones are within reach of Tynesider Alan Shearer and adopted Geordie Andy Cole as they set a fearsome pace at the top of the Premiership scorechart.

When the deadly duo levelled out with 23 League goals apiece - and, remember, Shearer did not start a League game until the end of September - there was far more at stake than the prestige of becoming England's No 1.

They were leaders in the race to take the Golden Boot for the top marksman in Europe - and in with a chance of reaching the highest total by a First Division or Premiership forward in more than 25 years.

In that time only five players have scored 30 or more in a top-level league campaign in England, and we have to go back to the

halcyon days of the 1960s to find a target that might be out of range.

The great Jimmy Greaves scored 41 for Chelsea in 1960-61 and later, after a short spell in Italy, he logged 37 and 35 in successive seasons for Tottenham. The 37-goal tally was matched by Ron Davies for Southampton in 1966-67.

Cole has already nailed down one distinction in all competitions. He became quickest to 30 goals in a season for Newcastle, beating George Robledo (1952) with just four days to spare.

It's a fair bet that Cole and Shearer will take the English Golden Boot out of London for the first time in six seasons.

Only time will tell how they compare with the leading scorers since 1967...

1992-93	Teddy Sheringham (Tottenham)	22
1991-92	Ian Wright (Arsenal)	29
1990-91	Alan Smith (Arsenal)	23
1989-90	Gary Lineker (Tottenham)	24
1988-89	Alan Smith (Arsenal)	23
1987-88	John Aldridge (Liverpool)	26
1986-87	Clive Allen (Tottenham)	33
1985-86	Gary Lineker (Everton)	30
1984-85	Kerry Dixon (Chelsea)	24
1983-84	Ian Rush (Liverpool)	32
1982-83	Luther Blissett (Watford)	27
1981-82	Kevin Keegan (Southampton)	26
1980-81	Steve Archibald (Tottenham)	20
	Peter Withe (Aston Villa)	20
1979-80	Phil Boyer (Southampton)	23
1978-79	Frank Worthington (Bolton)	24
1977-78	Bob Latchford (Everton)	30
1976-77	Andy Gray (Aston Villa)	25
	Malcolm Macdonald (Newcastle)	25
1975-76	Ted MacDougall (Norwich)	23
1974-75	Malcolm Macdonald (Newcastle)	21
1973-74	Mike Channon (Southampton)	21
1972-73	Bryan Robson (West Ham)	28
1971-72	Francis Lee (Manchester City)	33
1970-71	Tony Brown (W.B. Albion)	28
1969-70	Jeff Astle (W.B. Albion)	25
1968-69	Jimmy Greaves (Tottenham)	27
1967-68	George Best (Manchester Utd)	28
	Ron Davies (Southampton)	28

Andy Cole aiming high

Concerned by injuries among his central defenders, Sheffield Wednesday manager Trevor Francis signed Simon Coleman from Derby for £250,000 - and suddenly produced a defence including four centre backs.

Brian Linighan, a younger brother of the Arsenal and Ipswich defenders, slotted in on the right and Coleman played at left back - a position he had never occupied at Derby or his previous clubs, Mansfield and Middlesbrough.

The management verdict on the newcomer was quite straightforward. Mr Francis said: "I've signed a tall, commanding player who is versatile enough to play anywhere across the back four. And don't forget he is only 25."

Meanwhile, Wednesday welcomed back two of their injured internationals, both of whom were out from October to January. Striker David Hirst appeared as substitute in the FA Cup and midfielder John Sheridan played in the Reserves.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP TABLE

Attendances			Home					Away					Pts	
Best	Average		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L		F
44,750	44,109	Manchester United	28	9	5	0	26	10	11	2	1	31	15	67
21,462	15,775	Blackburn Rovers	26	9	3	2	21	9	7	3	2	18	11	54
36,901	29,529	Arsenal	27	7	5	2	18	9	5	5	3	13	5	46
36,388	34,762	Newcastle United	26	7	3	3	25	10	6	3	4	20	15	45
44,068	37,932	Liverpool	27	8	4	2	26	16	4	4	5	20	18	44
34,959	27,771	Sheffield Wed.	28	6	6	2	30	17	5	4	5	22	20	43
39,106	33,872	Leeds United	27	8	3	1	24	13	3	7	5	15	16	43
40,903	29,083	Aston Villa	26	6	2	5	14	12	5	6	2	17	15	41
20,650	18,371	Norwich City	26	3	5	4	10	12	7	5	2	32	20	40
21,267	15,181	Queen's Park R.	27	6	3	4	25	18	5	3	6	17	18	39
20,787	19,053	West Ham United	27	5	5	4	15	16	4	3	6	10	19	35
17,020	13,558	Coventry City	27	5	6	3	12	11	3	4	6	16	21	34
16,584	8,427	Wimbledon	26	5	4	4	16	15	3	5	5	11	21	33
22,355	16,915	Ipswich Town	27	4	6	4	12	15	3	5	5	11	15	32
38,157	22,648	Everton	28	6	1	7	20	22	3	3	8	12	18	31
33,130	27,765	Tottenham H.	28	3	5	6	20	21	4	4	6	16	16	30
37,064	21,150	Chelsea	26	5	4	4	14	12	1	4	8	11	22	26
35,155	25,733	Manchester City	26	3	6	4	14	16	2	3	8	9	17	24
16,556	13,475	Southampton	27	5	1	7	16	18	2	2	10	11	21	24
16,708	12,321	Oldham Athletic	27	3	4	6	15	25	2	4	8	7	21	23
30,044	20,092	Sheffield United	27	4	5	4	14	15	0	5	9	8	27	22
17,651	14,886	Swindon Town	28	4	4	7	17	29	0	6	7	14	33	22

FIRST TEAM ROLL CALL

Player	League	Cups
Birthdate/place	Apps	Apps
DALIAN ATKINSON	22	8 11 4
21.3.68 Shrewsbury		
EARL BARRETT	23	- 9
28.4.67 Rochdale		
STEFAN BEINLICH	2	- - -
13.1.72 Berlin		
MARK BOSNICH	16	- 8 (1) -
13.1.72 Fairfield (Australia)		
MATTHIAS BREITKREUTZ	-	- - -
12.5.71 Berlin		
NEIL COX	9 (3)	2 4 (1) -
8.10.71 Scunthorpe		
TONY DALEY	11 (5)	- 5 (1) -
18.10.67 Birmingham		
UGOCHUKO EHIQGU	2 (2)	- - -
3.11.72 Hackney		
DAVE FARRELL	1	- - -
11.11.71 Birmingham		
STEPHEN FROGGATT	3 (1)	- - -
9.3.73 Lincoln		
RAY HOUGHTON	17 (4)	1 5 (3) 3
9.1.62 Glasgow		
DARIUSZ KUBICKI	1 (1)	- - -
6.6.63 Warsaw		
PAUL McGRATH	24	- 9 -
4.12.59 Ealing		
GARRY PARKER	9 (2)	1 4 -
7.9.65 Oxford		
KEVIN RICHARDSON	24	3 11 2
4.12.62 Newcastle		
DEAN SAUNDERS	25	6 10 3
21.6.64 Swansea		
BRYAN SMALL	6	- 3 -
15.11.71 Birmingham		
NIGEL SPINK	10 (1)	- 3 -
8.8.58 Chelmsford		
STEVE STAUNTON	15	- 3 7
19.1.69 Drogheda		
SHAUN TEALE	24 (1)	1 11 -
10.3.64 Southport		
ANDY TOWNSEND	20	3 11 1
23.7.63 Maidstone		
GUY WHITTINGHAM	12 (5)	3 3 -
10.11.64 Evesham		
DWIGHT YORKE	- (3)	- (1) 1
3.11.71 Canaan, Tobago		

Also played: Gordon Cowans (to Derby) 9(2) apps (Lge); 6 apps (Cups)

FACTS & FIGURES

(Premiership games only)

Highest Attendance:

44,750 Man. Utd. v Everton, 22.1.94

Lowest Attendance:

4,739 Wimbledon v Coventry, 26.12.93

Highest Home Score:

6-2 Everton v Swindon Town, 15.1.94

Highest Away Scores:

0-5 Swindon v Liverpool, 22.8.93

1-5 Everton v Norwich, 25.9.93

2-5 Oldham v Manchester Utd, 29.12.93

Most Goals in a Match:

4 Efan Ekoku (Norwich) v Everton 25.9.93

3 Mick Quinn (Coventry) v Arsenal 14.8.93

3 Tony Cottee (Everton) v Sheff. U. 21.8.93

3 Kevin Campbell (Arsenal) v Ipswich 11.9.93

3 Alan Shearer (Blackburn) v Leeds 23.10.93

3 Peter Beardsley (Newcastle) v Wdon 30.10.93

3 Robbie Fowler (Liverpool) v Soton 30.10.93

3 Bradley Allen (QPR) v Everton, 20.11.93

3 Andy Cole (Newcastle) v Liverpool, 21.11.93

3 Kevin Campbell (Arsenal) v Swindon, 27.12.93

3 Tony Cottee (Everton) v Swindon, 15.1.94

3 Jan Fjortoft (Swindon) v Coventry, 5.2.94

LEADING SCORERS

(including Cup & European games)

30 Andy Cole (Newcastle United)

27 Alan Shearer (Blackburn Rovers)

24 Ian Wright (Arsenal)

23 *Mark Stein (Chelsea)

22 *Sean McCarthy (Oldham Athletic)

20 Chris Sutton (Norwich City)

18 Mark Bright (Sheffield Wednesday)

18 *Keith Scott (Swindon Town)

17 Eric Cantona (Manchester United)

15 Peter Beardsley (Newcastle United)

15 Kevin Campbell (Arsenal)

15 Tony Cottee (Everton)

15 Robbie Fowler (Liverpool)

*Includes goals for other clubs

All statistics up to and including

Wednesday 9th February 1994.

FIXTURES AND MATCH DETAILS

Key ■ = Played. ■ 3 = Goal scorer and number of goals scored.

■ = Substitute and player replaced. S = Unused sub.

* = Substituted player.

Date	Venue	Opponents (Competition)	Result	Att.	Pos.
Aug 14	H	Queen's Park Rangers	4-1	32,944	1
Aug 18	A	Sheffield Wednesday	0-0	28,450	6
Aug 21	A	Wimbledon	2-2	7,533	10
Aug 23	H	Manchester United	1-2	39,624	10
Aug 28	H	Tottenham Hotspur	1-0	32,498	10
Aug 31	A	Everton	1-0	24,022	4
Sep 11	H	Coventry City	0-0	31,181	5
Sep 15	A	Slovan Bratislava (UEFA 1/1)	0-0	10,886	-
Sep 18	A	Ipswich Town	2-1	16,617	3
Sep 21	A	Birmingham City (CCC 2/1)	1-0	27,815	-
Sep 25	A	Oldham Athletic	1-1	12,836	3
Sep 29	H	Slovan Bratislava (UEFA 1/2)	2-1	24,461	-
Oct 2	H	Newcastle United	0-2	37,336	7
Oct 6	H	Birmingham City (CCC 2/2)	1-0	35,856	-
Oct 16	A	West Ham United	0-0	20,425	7
Oct 19	A	Deportivo La Coruña (UEFA 2/1)	1-1	27,500	-
Oct 23	H	Chelsea	1-0	29,706	7
Oct 26	A	Sunderland (Coca-Cola Cup 3)	4-1	23,692	-
Oct 30	A	Swindon Town	2-1	16,530	5
Nov 3	H	Deportivo La Coruña (UEFA 2/2)	0-1	26,737	-
Nov 6	A	Arsenal	2-1	31,773	3
Nov 20	H	Sheffield United	1-0	24,686	2
Nov 24	H	Southampton	0-2	16,180	3
Nov 28	A	Liverpool	1-2	38,484	5
Nov 30	A	Arsenal (Coca-Cola Cup 4)	1-0	26,453	-
Dec 4	A	Queen's Park Rangers	2-2	14,915	5
Dec 8	H	Sheffield Wednesday	2-2	20,304	6
Dec 11	H	Wimbledon	0-1	17,940	7
Dec 19	A	Manchester United	1-3	44,499	9
Dec 29	A	Norwich City	2-1	20,650	8
Jan 1	H	Blackburn Rovers	0-1	40,903	10
Jan 8	A	Exeter City (FA Cup 3)	1-0	10,570	-
Jan 12	A	Tottenham H. (Coca-Cola Cup 5)	2-1	31,408	-
Jan 15	H	West Ham United	3-1	28,869	9
Jan 22	A	Chelsea	1-1	18,341	10
Jan 29	A	Grimsby Town (FA Cup 4)	2-1	15,771	-
Feb 6	H	Leeds United	1-0	26,919	8
Feb 12	H	Swindon Town			
Feb 16	A	Tranmere Rovers (Coca-Cola Cup SF/1)			
Feb 20	A	Bolton Wanderers (FAC 5)			
Feb 22	H	Manchester City			
Feb 27	H	Tranmere Rovers (Coca-Cola Cup SF/2)			
Mar 6	A	Coventry City			
Mar 12	H	Ipswich Town (or FAC 6)			
Mar 16	A	Leeds United			
Mar 19	H	Oldham Athletic			
Mar 26	A	Newcastle United			
Mar 27		Coca-Cola Cup Final			
Mar 30	H	Everton			
Apr 2	A	Manchester City			
Apr 4	H	Norwich City			
Apr 9	A	Blackburn R. (or FAC SF)			
Apr 16	A	Sheffield United			
Apr 23	H	Arsenal			
Apr 30	A	Southampton			
May 7	H	Liverpool			
May 14		FA Cup Final			
TBA	A	Tottenham Hotspur			

Nigel SPINK	Earl BARRETT	Steve STAUNTON	Shaun TEALE	Paul McGRATH	Kevin RICHARDSON	Ray HOUGHTON	Garry PARKER	Dean SAUNDERS	Dalian ATKINSON	Tony DALEY	Steve FROGGATT	Mark BOSNICH	Andy TOWNSEND	Gordon COWANS	Ugo EHIUGU	Neil COX	Dwight YORKE	Stefan BENLICH	Matthias BREITKREUTZ	Dave FARRELL	Guy WHITTINGHAM	Bryan SMALL	Dariusz KUBICKI	Michael OAKES		
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Okay for starters, now let's see the main course!



In culinary terms Villa's promising young winger Dave Farrell has sampled the starter dish but is now looking for a taste of the main course.

The 22-year-old player, who last month completed two years with Villa, was given 60 minutes of senior action against Blackburn Rovers - his first for 15 months.

But it has only served to whet the appetite of the former Redditch United player, who was recently awarded a new two year contract, for a bigger slice of the action. And a post-match word of encouragement from manager Ron Atkinson sent Farrell back into the reserves in good heart - aiming to deliver the goods and to be equipped for when another senior chance lands on his doorstep.

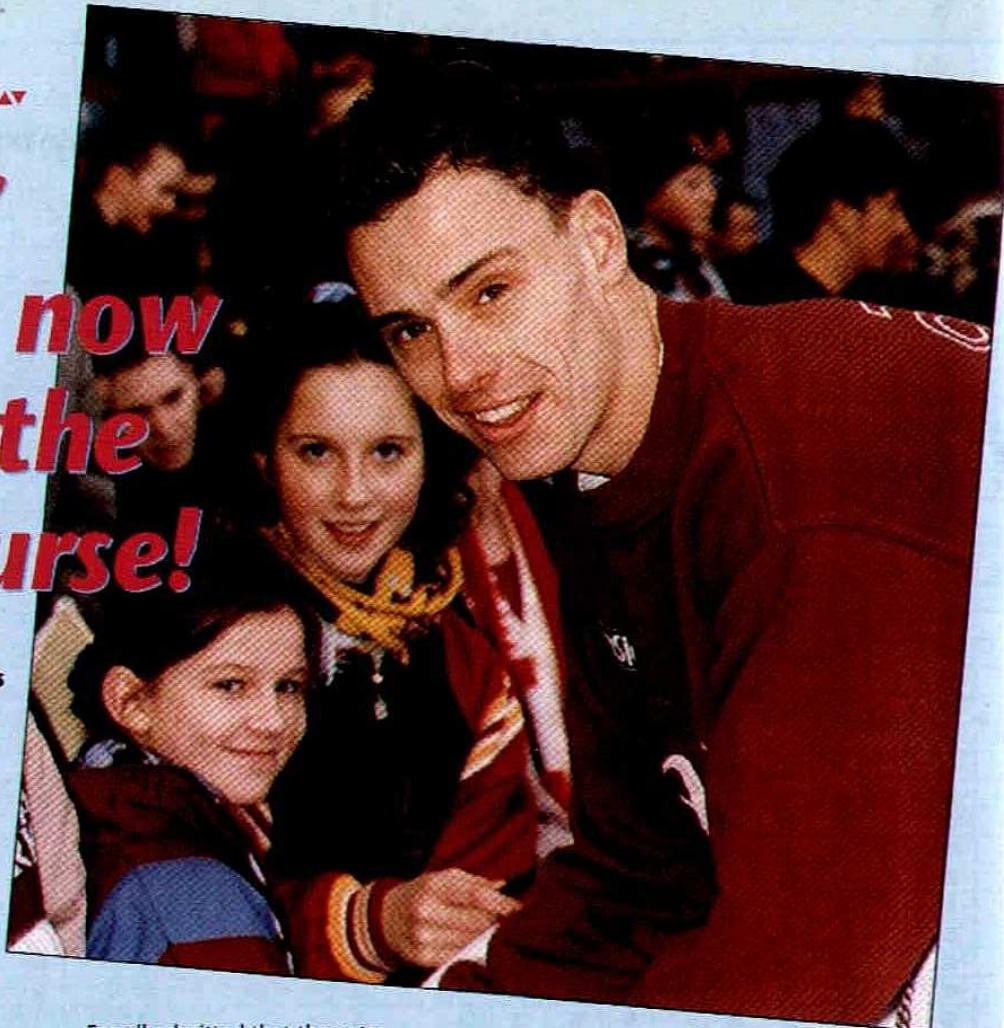
Farrell told the programme desk: "I enjoyed the experience very much and for some reason I wasn't nervous before the game which I couldn't understand why.

"I think it might have been because the gaffer only sprung the news on me the morning before the game. I was very surprised - but having sampled the first team I want another taste of it.

"I was not really happy with the way it went. I thought I battled well but to be fair Blackburn defended strongly and I didn't get many opportunities to put crosses in.

"I'd have liked to stay on for the whole game but afterwards the gaffer said I would get another chance so I've got to keep plugging away in the reserves - and show that I deserve another go.

"With people in the squad like Garry Parker, Andy Townsend and Ray Houghton, excellent passers of the ball, it is really great for a winger."



Farrell admitted that the extra pace of the Premier League was the biggest difference in attempting to step up from the reserves.

But his upbringing via Sunday League football in Birmingham - harnessed to full-time training - has helped him to come to terms with the physical side of the professional game.

The Birmingham-born player admitted: "I can definitely say from experience that Sunday League football is just as physical as Premier League football - if not more.

"A lot of blokes in pub teams might not be particularly skilful - but they do like to go in very hard - and you need a lot of strength to come through that."

Farrell added: "I've been quite happy with my form in the reserves this season. I feel I've become a better all-round player and feel more confident on the ball than I used to.

"My crossing is an awful lot better than it was six months ago and I think that's because Jim Barron has given me a lot of encouragement to just knock the ball down the line past the defender and get it into the box.

"But I can still do a lot better and still have got a lot to learn. I'd like to be more consistent. That's probably the most important thing in football, to go out there

week in and week out and do the business. It's also one of the hardest things to achieve - except it seems for people like Paul McGrath - but it's no good performing, for example, one game in every three."



Farrell completed his first full season in the professional game with two senior appearances - against Oldham Athletic and Queen's Park Rangers - and a Pontins League championship medal to his name.

That represented a more than satisfactory return - particularly as he had to adjust to a new position on moving to Villa Park for £45,000 in January 1992.

Farrell said: "When I went to Villa it was the first time I was used as an out and out winger. At Redditch United I was used in more of a central role.

"Being a wide man involves more work. You have to track back and there are not that many out and out wingers left. There's possibly Chris Waddle - but a lot more wide midfielders are a lot more defensively-minded than they used to be."

Farrell added: "Winning that Pontins League medal in my first season gave me a lot of confidence and there are a lot of promising lads striving to break through.

"I did quite well for the last six or seven weeks and to go away with the first team for the friendly with Manchester United in Belfast and then the match in Mauritius - when I scored - was also a big boost.

"I did quite well in both games and it enabled me to start this season with a lot of confidence. I was looking up high, aiming to get into the first team and to stay there.

"Obviously that's not quite happened - but I hope before the end of the season that I am able to get a few more games under my belt."

Regarding his new two year deal, Farrell

said: "It came at the right time financially for me and also gave me a big spur to play better as well - and again boosts the confidence.

"My initial contract was due to end in the summer and I didn't know whether I had done well enough to earn another one.

"You obviously give your best every game - but when you are uncertain about your future you strive to perform extra well and give more than 110 per cent.

"I was expecting to hear at the end of the season and when the gaffer pulled me in early and told me the news I was well pleased. Now I've got to try and make the most of it."

● Dave Farrell was talking to John Curtis.

Off the Park

Villa's Shaun Teale and Swindon's Andy Mutch are big mates right back from their earliest schoolboy soccer days as six-year-olds... and both are suspended from today's game.

If there's one very minor consolation it is that they can have a drink together BEFORE the match, if they so choose, as well as afterwards...

When they left school, both to turn pro, their careers went off in different directions but they have remained friends. They would dearly have loved to be in opposition today but it was not to be.

Teale's unlucky suspension, for reacting to being elbowed in the face, has proved expensive.

Manager Ron Atkinson reckons that Teale's club fine for retaliating 'paid for the drinks' when the team were in Tenerife recently.

But that's nothing on Paul McGrath who lost two week's wages for missing the coach to Exeter.

"Macca paid the hotel bill...", wisecracked the gaffer.

Dean Saunders appeared on the Channel 4 programme Zig-Zag, which appears at breakfast time and features two puppets, Zig and Zag.

Rumour has it that Deano agreed to go on because he thought Zig-Zag described one of his goal-scoring runs...

But, knowing the 'wind-up' merchants in the dressing room, Saunders was risking several days of 'verbal' for having gone on the kiddie's programme.

Or was he? "I was relieved to discover the programme was going put while we were in Tenerife so the lads never saw it," he revealed.

Zig-zagged out of that one, didn't you, Deano.

Incidentally, the cheery Welsh cap was seen with a bandaged hand recently and it proved to be the result of his having bent his hand back attempting to stop a fierce shot in training at Bodymoor Heath.

The episode has convinced him that he would rather spend his career whacking shots at goalkeepers than attempting to stop them himself.

And Bozzie the Aussie reckons his job's safe.



ON THE SPOT WITH...

Guy Whittingham

Who was your first girlfriend? The wife!
What is your most prized possession? My little boy.
What are your hobbies away from football? Looking after Joss and playing golf.
Do you play a musical instrument? I'm trying to play the sax.
Which was the first football team you played for and in which position? Churchdown Panthers Under 10s - in midfield.
What has been your most embarrassing moment? Getting married with only one eyebrow.
What has been your most embarrassing moment in football? Falling over with no-one within 10 yards of me against Liverpool in a Villa Park FA Cup semi-final.

What was your first car? A Vauxhall Chevette.
What's the worst kit you've ever seen? Brighton's deckchair shorts last season.
Which song would you choose to perform at a karaoke night? Saturday Night at the Movies - The Drifters.
Who's your regular room-mate and what annoying habits does he have? Andy Townsend - none yet!
Who's the dressing room joker? Too many to mention.
What are your favourite and least favourite grounds? Any as long as I'm playing.

Diary Dates

Saturday 12th February

● Today's other

Premiership games

Everton v Ipswich Town
Manchester City v West Ham
Oldham v Chelsea
Sheffield United v Coventry
Southampton v Liverpool
Tottenham v Blackburn
Wimbledon v Newcastle
● Purity Youth League
VILLA YTH v LINCOLN CITY
(Bodymoor Heath, 10.45am)

Sunday 13th February

● Aston Villa Football

Programme Fair in the
North Stand Banqueting
Suite, 11am-2pm, admission
30p adults, 20p children...
Villa Cubs free.

● Coca-Cola Cup S/F (1)

Man. Utd v Sheffield Wed

● FA Carling Premiership

Norwich City v Arsenal

Monday 14th February

● Pontin's Central League

VILLA RES v SUNDERLAND
(Villa Park, 7pm)

Tuesday 15th February

● Midland Youth Cup 2

STOKE CITY v VILLA (7pm)

Wednesday 16th February

● Coca-Cola Cup S/F (1)

TRANMERE ROVERS v VILLA
(Prenton Park, 8pm... all
tickets sold... live on ITV)

Saturday 19th February

● FA Cup 5th Round

Bristol City v Charlton Ath.
Kidderminster v West Ham
Oldham Athletic v Barnsley
Oxford United v Chelsea
Wolves v Ipswich

● FA Carling Premiership

Blackburn v Newcastle
Coventry v Manchester City
Everton v Arsenal

Leeds United v Liverpool

Swindon v Norwich City

● Purity Youth League

MANSFIELD YTH v VILLA YTH

Sunday 20th February

● FA Cup 5th Round

BOLTON v VILLA (Burnden
Park 3.05pm... all ticket - see
page 19... live on BBC1)
Cardiff City v Luton Town

Monday 21st February

● FA Cup 5th Round

Wimbledon v Man. United

Tuesday 22nd February

● FA Carling Premiership

VILLA v MANCHESTER CITY
(Villa Park, 7.45pm)

Sunday 27th February

● Coca-Cola Cup S/F (2)

VILLA v TRANMERE ROVERS
(Villa Park, 3.00pm)

FOR THE RECORD



▲ Match winners - Dwight Yorke at Grimsby (above) and Andy Townsend against Leeds last week (below).

Saturday 29th January

FA CUP 4TH ROUND

GRIMSBY T. 1 ASTON VILLA 2

13 mins 0-1 Ray Houghton

58 mins 1-1 Paul Groves

78 mins 1-2 Dwight Yorke

Grimsby: Crichton; Ford, Handyside
(sub: Lever, 80), Fitcher, Croft;
Childs, Dobbin (Shakespeare, 80),
Groves, Gilbert; Mendonca,
Livingstone. Sub (not used):
Clohesy.

Villa: Bosnich; Barrett, McGrath,
Teale, Staunton; Houghton,
Richardson, Townsend, Daley (sub:
Cox, 24); Saunders (sub: Yorke 34),
Atkinson. Subs (not used): Spink.

Referee: I. Hemley (Bedfordshire).

Bookings: Gilbert (Grimsby).
Sent-off: Livingstone (Grimsby) and
Teale (Villa) - 23 mins.

Attendance: 15,771.

Villa contingent: 4,000.

Shaun Teale becomes the first Villa player to be sent-off since Ron Atkinson took over. He receives his marching orders along with Steve Livingstone when he retaliates to receiving an elbow in the face from the Grimsby striker. Neil Cox immediately replaces Tony Daley to restore the back four. Dean Saunders is forced off with a back injury before the interval but his replacement, Dwight Yorke, becomes matchwinner with his first goal of the season. Is this the first time Villa have ever gone in at half-time missing three of the players they started the game with?

Sunday 30th January

Villa are drawn away (again) to the winners of the Bolton-Arsenal tie in the fifth round of the FA Cup.

Monday 31st January

Villa are knocked out of the Birmingham Senior Cup by a last minute goal at Hednesford. Riccardo Scimeca is the Villa scorer.

Wednesday 2nd February

The reserves beat Nottingham Forest 2-0 at home with goals from Guy Whittingham and Dave Farrell.

Thursday 3rd February

Gordon Cowans leaves Villa for Derby in a £75,000 deal. His third



Villa Park spell ends with him just one game short of 400 league starts for the club. His overall Villa league and cup record reads 505(+22sub) apps, 59 goals - placing him third in the all-time list.

Saturday 5th February

On-loan Villa youngster Graham Fenton scores West Bromwich Albion's winner against Sunderland.

Sunday 6th February

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

ASTON VILLA 1 LEEDS UNITED 0

68 mins 1-0 Andy Townsend

Villa: Bosnich; Barrett, McGrath,
Teale, Staunton (sub: Cox, 58);
Houghton (sub: Yorke, 73),
Richardson, Townsend, Daley;
Saunders, Atkinson. Sub (not used):
Spink.

TRANSFER TRAIL SOLUTION (see page 23)

Across - 1. Cardiff; 5. Gulls; 6. Les; 7. Rehn;
8. Sam; 11. Atkins; 14. Murray; 15. Denis.
Down - 1. Charles; 2. Regis; 3. Illgner;
4. Fashanu; 9. Nayim; 10. Andrews;
12. Keelan; 13. Clyde. Hidden player: HUNT.

ONE TO ELEVEN ANSWERS (see page 23)

1. Paul Rideout; 2. Shaun Teale & Dalian Atkinson; 3. Leicester; 4. George Curtis;
5. Garry Thompson; 6. Lou Macari; 7. Craig Maskell; 8. Darren Pitcher; 9. Mark Stein;
10. Jan Fjortoft (Swindon); 11. Noel Whelan,
John Pemberton & John Lukic.

Leeds: Beeney, Kelly, Fairclough,
Newsome, Dorigo; Strachan, Speed,
McAllister, Hodge; Deane, White
(sub: Whelan, 71). Subs (not used):
Lukic, Pemberton.

Referee: J. Borrett (Great Yarmouth)
Bookings: Speed (Leeds), Cox
(Villa)

Attendance: 26,919.

Leeds contingent: 2,866.

League positions before/after:
Villa 10/8, Leeds 7/7.

Villa win in front of a live Sky TV audience for the first time this season.

VILLA VOUCHER



Number 16



Squad Check

in association with **müller**

Aston Villa v Swindon Town



NIGEL SPINK	1	FRASER DIGBY
EARL BARRETT	2	NICKY SUMMERBEE
STEVE STAUNTON	3	PAUL BODIN
SHAUN TEALE	4	(31) BRIAN KILCLINE
PAUL McGRATH	5	LUC NIJHOLT
KEVIN RICHARDSON	6	SHAUN TAYLOR
RAY HOUGHTON	7	JOHN MONCUR
GARRY PARKER	8	ROSS MACLAREN
DEAN SAUNDERS	9	JAN AAGE FJORTOFT
DALIAN ATKINSON	10	MARTIN LING
TONY DALEY	11	
STEVE FROGGATT	12	STEVE WHITE
MARK BOSNICH	13	(40) JON SHEFFIELD
ANDY TOWNSEND	14	ADRIAN WHITBREAD
	15	ADRIAN VIVEASH
UGO EHIOGU	16	KEVIN HORLOCK
NEIL COX	17	CHRIS HAMON
DWIGHT YORKE	18	EDWIN MURRAY
STEFAN BEINLICH	19	ANDREW THOMSON
MATTHIAS BREITKREUTZ	20	WAYNE O'SULLIVAN
DAVE FARRELL	21	(22) AUSTIN BERKLEY
GUY WHITTINGHAM	22	(23) NICKY HAMMOND
BRYAN SMALL	23	(25) ANDY MUTCH
DARIUSZ KUBICKI	24	(26) TERRY FENWICK
		(27) KEITH SCOTT



Referee

Robert Hart, Darlington

Linesmen

Mr. R.H. Andrews (Yellow Flag)
Mr. E.G. Hannah (Yellow/Red Flag)

Standby Official

Mr. P.H. Charnock



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