

FOREST

The Official Matchday Magazine of Nottingham Forest Football Club

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Nottingham Forest
v
Swindon Town

Nationwide League
Division One

Friday,
26th December, 1997

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.



Number 16

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Wishing all our supporters a Happy New Year from everyone at The City Ground



French ace's twin hopes

Thierry Bonalair not only hopes to play an increasingly prominent part in our promotion push in the New Year but is also aiming to clinch an extension to his contract with us.

The French utility player only signed a 12-month deal when he joined us from Swiss side Neuchatel Xamax during the summer and has since had his progress checked by fitness worries.

He has, however, returned to the first team scene in recent weeks and opened his goal account for us (as well as turning in a 'Man of the Match' performance) in our 2-2 draw with Bradford.

KICK-OFF

With
Dave Bassett

I hope you all had a marvellous Christmas Day. It's back to business for us this afternoon as we entertain our fellow promotion chasers Swindon.

Not too many people would have put money on Swindon being in the promotion frame at the half-way point of the campaign but Steve McMahon has done a terrific job at the County Ground.

Swindon may not possess too many big names but they're a talented outfit and you disregard teams like them at your peril – rather like Stockport, who made life very difficult for us on Saturday.

I know for a fact we can play much better than we actually did against Stockport. One or two players had an off-day and as a team our general level of performance was below par.

But not even the great teams in world football play well week in, week out. Take Manchester United for example. They didn't play particularly well against Newcastle on Sunday but won 1-0.

Newcastle, on the other hand, played quite well and probably deserved something for their efforts but were left empty-handed.

That's the way it goes but I was pleased with the perseverance the players showed on Saturday. They stuck to their task and we got our reward in the form of a 2-1 win with both of our goals coming in the final 10 minutes.

Pierre van Hooijdonk scored his 14th League goal of the campaign from the penalty spot to cancel out Stockport's opener and then Steve Stone supplied the match-winner with his first goal of the season.

I'm sure that will have done his confidence the power of good. I got the impression that Steve was trying a little too hard in front of goal, such was his desperation to get off the mark.

His goal against Stockport is sure to have eased some of the pressure he was putting himself under and it would be nice to think he might start contributing a few more goals to our cause.

I was pleased with Andy Johnson's contribution. He did well in what was his first start since mid-September, especially when you consider we had been forced to rush him back into the first team after a spell on the sidelines with a knee injury.

I'd also like to mention Steve Guinan's contribution. He came in for his first start of the season in place of the injured Kevin Campbell and although it wasn't easy for him, he did well – as did Ian Moore, who came on as a substitute for him late on.

There are sure to be other times between now and the end of the season when I'll need to call on Steve and I'm sure he will be much the wiser for his run-out on Saturday.

Away from the first team scene, meanwhile, our youth team were sadly beaten by Southampton in the third round of the F.A. Youth Cup on Friday.

They lost 3-0 at The Dell but according to Paul Hart, they played better than the scoreline suggests.

In comparison to many other youth teams, our side is relatively inexperienced but we believe it's important, as part of their development process as players, that we expose our young talent to good quality opposition.

And although they may have lost at Southampton, I'm sure the players gained yet more valuable experience.

Back to first team matters... and following today's date with Swindon we're off on our travels with a couple of tough away games. Needless to say, your support could prove invaluable.



We head to Manchester City in two days time. They've already beaten us once this season and took three points off Middlesbrough on Saturday, so we're in for another stern test.

Then a week tomorrow we face Charlton in the third round of the F.A. Cup.

We may have beaten them 5-2 in a League encounter at The City Ground last month but they haven't lost since then, which speaks volumes for their ability.

A good cup run is always welcome and adds extra stimulation to the season. Whilst this will be a hard game, we will do our best to reach round four.

All that's left for me to do is, on behalf of myself, the coaching staff and players, wish you all a very Happy New Year.



CARLING

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Ground every success for the
1997-98 season.

Cooper's Column

I hope you're having a good Christmas and hopefully we'll provide you all with a belated gift this afternoon in the form of three more points at the expense of Swindon.

One thing's for sure, we're in for another big test – although it would be nice to think we could produce a performance of a higher quality than that which we turned in against Stockport on Saturday.

We got the points thanks to a 2-1 win but apart from the last 10 minutes or so – when we scored both of our goals – it was a scrappy game and we really struggled to make an impression.

We went in at half-time a goal down but we still felt we could win the game. We just felt the hardest job was going to be grabbing the equaliser... and that's the way it turned out.

It came eventually from a Pierre van Hooijdonk penalty and then Steve Stone popped up with the winner – yes, I know it's hard to believe but he actually scored!

'Stoney' has been desperate for a goal, especially after his remarkable (that's the kindest way to describe it) miss at Reading a couple of months ago.

But he opened his account for the season with five minutes remaining on Saturday and that was enough to earn us three valuable points that took on extra significance with Middlesbrough's defeat at the hands of Manchester City.

We'd barely returned to the dressing room after the final whistle when Steve's mobile phone rang.

Apparently, it was his wife Judith. She'd heard on the radio that 'hubby' had scored but couldn't quite believe it... so she rang the man himself for confirmation of the fact!

On a serious note, though, I must admit I was somewhat disappointed that the half-time whistle was greeted by a chorus of boos. Okay, we were a goal down but the job was only half done.

Now don't get me wrong, the supporters pay their money and are entitled to their opinion but it still grates a little.

For three quarters of last season we were booed but we deserved that because we were in the process of waging an unsuccessful battle against relegation from the Premiership.

But look at us now... we're joint leaders of the First Division and still getting a bit of stick. I can understand the fans' frustration but a little more patience wouldn't go amiss.

Patience could well be the name of the game today against a Swindon side who are in the promotion running themselves.

I didn't play in our meeting with them at the County Ground in September but they apparently made life very difficult indeed for us. However, we collected a point, which not too many teams have done this season.

They may not have too many star names but they've still got some quality players in the likes of Alan McDonald, Chris Hay, George Ndah and Mark Walters.

Ndah, who Steve McMahon signed recently from Crystal Palace, is noted for his speed, so we'll have to be on our guard.

But hopefully we'll be able to get the right result which would set us up nicely for Sunday's trip to face Manchester City, who are sure to be on a high after their win over Middlesbrough six days ago.

Finally, I'd like to sign off by wishing you all on behalf of the players a very Happy and Prosperous New Year. Let's hope 1998 proves to be the year when we book our return to the Premiership.



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Directors : Reg Dove,
Ken Eggleston, Bob Fairhall,
Tim Farr, Irving Korn,
Paul Markham

Manager : Dave Bassett

Assistant Manager :
Bobby Houghton

Coaches : Liam O' Kane,
John Perkins and
Steve Beaglehole

Physiotherapist :
John Haselden

Secretary : Paul White

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City Ground



Sidelines

Brave Lee's on the mend, thanks to Mark

Mark Crossley put the smile back on the face of teenage supporter Lee Knox after he was injured in a firework accident last month.

Mark helped speed-up 14-year-old Lee's recovery when he went along to the Queen's Medical Centre in Nottingham to pay him a visit and present him with a replica goalkeeper's top.

Welsh international Mark said: "Lee is a brave lad and I was only too happy to go along to meet him and pass on the best wishes of everyone at Forest."



club and know how the team play and hopefully I can make a bigger

Mark Bailey, of Tamworth, won the free draw run in conjunction with the award, giving him the opportunity to present Dave with his prize and also enjoy a VIP day out for two at The City Ground as a match-day guest of our major sponsor Pinnacle.

If you want to take part in the December voting, please send your nomination to Pinnacle/Forest Player of the Month, Pinnacle Insurance, Pinnacle House, A1 Barnet Way, Borehamwood, Hertfordshire WD6 2XX.

Travel companion wanted

Can anyone help Cheshire-based Yvonne Lewis who is looking for a companion to travel to our games with?

Yvonne can be contacted at 92 Stone Cross Lane, Lutton, Warrington, Cheshire WA3 2SG or by calling: (01942) 276317.

Back... with a goal!

Andy Johnson could not have asked for a better way to mark his return from a frustrating injury lay-off.

The £2.5million summer signing from Norwich spent a month on the sidelines nursing a knee problem but returned to the first team scene as a substitute in our televised date with Wolves 12 days ago.

And although we slumped to a 2-1 defeat, Johnson had reason to be pleased after opening his goal account for us.

The 23-year-old midfielder reflects: "It's always nice to get your first goal for a club. It's just a shame it didn't win us the match or at least earn us a point."

He adds: "I'm just delighted to be back in action. It took me a while to settle in at the City Ground and then I happened to pick up the knee problem."

"But I've got no excuses now. I've been here long enough to know everyone at the

impression in the second half of the campaign."

Dave the tops

Dave Beasant's superb form since joining us from Southampton was confirmed with him topping the supporters poll for our Pinnacle Player of the Month award for November.

Until having to miss out recently because of an ear infection, Dave has been a model of consistency as our last line of defence and thoroughly deserves the accolade.

Dave follows in the footsteps of Kevin Campbell, who was the first winner of the award for October.

BIG MATCH SPONSOR

We're delighted to welcome today's Big Match Sponsors Experian to The City Ground.

We sincerely hope their representatives and guests have a memorable afternoon with us and would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their support.

Meanwhile, our official Supporters Club have kindly agreed to sponsor today's match ball and we'd also like to thank them for their backing.

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PICTURE COURTESY OF FOOTBALL LEAGUE

There's no Dell-ight after Cup defeat

Friday, 19th December
SOUTHAMPTON 3, FOREST 0

Our hopes of F.A. Youth Cup glory have been put on hold for another year after this third round defeat at The Dell.

Needless to say we were disappointed – especially after our recent run of good results at Premier Youth League level – but Southampton were a very well-organised outfit and proved to be too strong for us on the day.

We were up against it almost from the word go as Southampton took the lead with just a couple of minutes on the clock – although there was a shade of controversy about their goal.

One of their wide players collected the ball in what we felt to be an offside position. There was, however, no flag and he was allowed to knock in a cross which was duly dispatched past Mark Goodlad (pictured).

The home side added to their lead midway through the first half before we created a couple of good openings before the break

which, unfortunately, Steve Gough and Marlon Harewood weren't able to make the most of.

We had to re-shuffle at half-time when central defender Kevin Dawson had to come off with an injury. We put Matthew Turner on in midfield and asked Richard Cooper to drop back into defence.

And although we competed well enough in the second half, we just couldn't find a way past the Southampton goalkeeper.

As it was, The Saints had the final say as they set the seal on their win with a third goal five minutes from the end.

Our preparations for the game weren't exactly trouble-free as we lost the services of Gareth Williams on the morning of the match – in bizarre fashion.

The midfielder, who has been doing well for us at youth level this season, fell



awkwardly after going up for a header in training and broke a bone in one of his legs.

Unfortunately, he's now facing in the region of three months on the sidelines.

Team : Goodlad, Freeman, Foy, K. Dawson (M. Turner 45), Doig, Gough, R. Cooper, Edds (Ashley 80), Hodgson, Harewood, Reid (Higgins 60).

• ***The Cup game at Southampton brought the curtain down on our programme of youth team matches for 1997.***

We take a break from chasing Premier and Midland Melville League points over the Christmas and New Year period.

But we hope to launch 1998 in the best possible style when we resume Melville action on 3rd January with a home encounter with Walsall.

For all the latest news from the City Ground

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Youth Report



visiting the City

SWINDON

Steve McMahon has successfully established Swindon in the promotion running – without breaking the bank !

He's assembled a talented squad at the County Ground and he's done it on something of a shoestring budget.

That has not only earned him a whole host of admirers but given Swindon a real chance of returning to the Premiership for the first time since 1994, when they lasted just one season in the top flight.

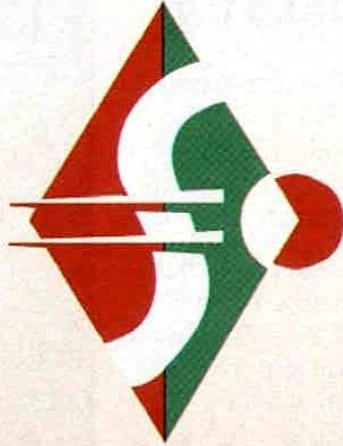
Canny operator McMahon may have forked out £500,000, £400,000 and £330,000 for George Ndah, Darren Bullock and Chris Hay respectively this year.

But he has largely contented himself with the acquisition of free transfer talent – like Brian Borrows, a veteran of more than 400 League games for Coventry, and Northern Ireland star Alan McDonald.

Both of them have become key figures in Swindon's promotion push and McDonald, capped more than 50 times by the Irish, is full of praise for the man at the Wiltshire club's helm.

He told reporters recently: "Steve has got to be in the frame for a top job now. Just look at my old club Queen's Park Rangers. They've spent nearly £8million on transfers in the last year and are nowhere.

"Look at what Wolves have forked out. Yet, I don't suppose Steve has spent even £1 million. The rest of us have been frees or loans."



There's no doubt that McMahon will be looking for the most recent addition to his squad, Ndah, to make a big impact in the second half of the Division One campaign.

The striker – who celebrated his 23rd birthday three days ago – struggled to make an impact at his previous club Crystal Palace but announced his arrival on the Swindon scene in the best possible fashion.

Ndah marked his debut against promotion rivals Middlesbrough with a spectacular strike and is now looking to reward McMahon for the faith he has shown in his goal-scoring ability.

The Swindon boss will hope to see Ndah forge a prolific partnership with the man who has been such a rip-roaring success in the first half of the campaign – former Celtic star Hay.

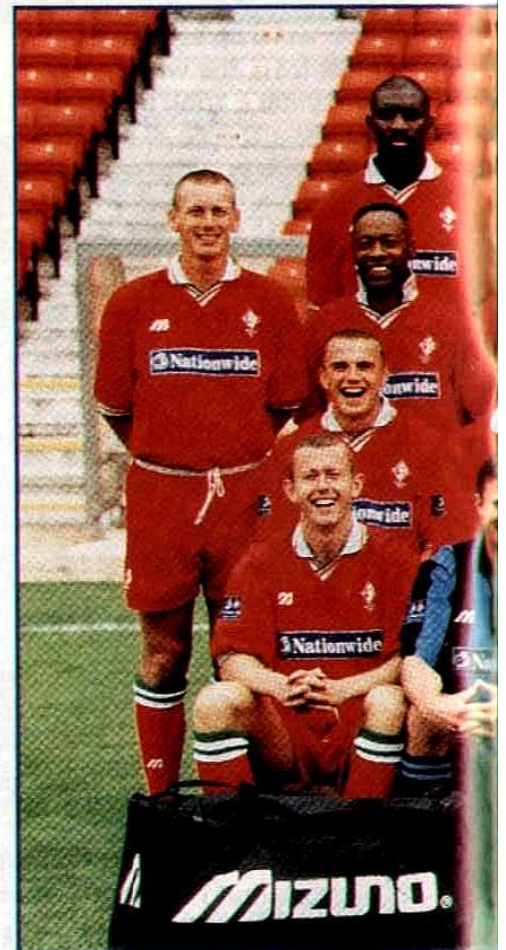
He checked-in from Parkhead just a week before the start of the season and is now pushing our own leading marksman Pierre van Hooijdonk for the Division One's 'Golden Boot' award.

Hay will be looking to make up for lost time having served a three-match ban only to then miss the 2-1 defeat at the hands of fellow high-fliers Sheffield United 13 days ago with a knee injury.

In his absence, McMahon handed former Manchester City man Steve Finney the opportunity to make his mark in Swindon's front-line alongside new boy Ndah.

Finney arrived at the County Ground in a free transfer – as did former Aston Villa, Rangers, Liverpool and England wideman Mark Walters and French duo Frederic Darras and Philippe Cuervo.

The unfortunate Cuervo, who signed a three year contract during the summer after impressing McMahon during a trial, has been



y Ground TOWN

dogged by injury since his arrival from Sochaux.

But 31-year-old Darras, a former Under-21 international, has established himself as a key figure at the back alongside the likes of McDonald, Borrowes and Mark Robinson.

Versatile defender Robinson cost Swindon £600,000 – a record outlay at the time for the Robins – from Newcastle in 1994 but has since more than justified that price tag.

Swindon had to pay a more modest £35,000 to secure the

services of goalkeeper Fraser Digby but he has also made a big impact.

Currently the club's longest serving player, the former England Under-21 international enjoyed a well-deserved testimonial last season during which time he was also voted 'Player of the Year.'

Digby kept us at bay in our goalless encounter with McMahon's men at the County Ground in September and will be aiming for a similar outcome this afternoon.

MEET THE MEN FROM THE COUNTY GROUND

Back row (left to right) :

Wayne Allison (no longer with club), Mark Seagraves, Fraser Digby, Steve Mildenhall, Frank Talia, Steve Finney, Kevin Watson.

Third row :

Alan McDonald, Mark Walters, Craig Taylor, Gary Elkins, Mark Robinson, Scott Leitch, Ian Culverhouse, Frederic Darras, Alex Finlayson.

Second row :

Lee Collins, Peter Holcroft, Phil King, Darren Bullock, Wayne O'Sullivan (no longer with club), Ty Gooden, Steve Cowe.

Front row :

Jason Drysdale, Jonathan Trigg (Physiotherapist), Ross MacLaren (Reserve Team Coach), Steve McMahon (Team Manager), Mike Walsh (First Team Coach), Les O'Neill (Chief Scout), Alex Smith.



Photographs courtesy of Bradford Telegraph and Argus

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Management



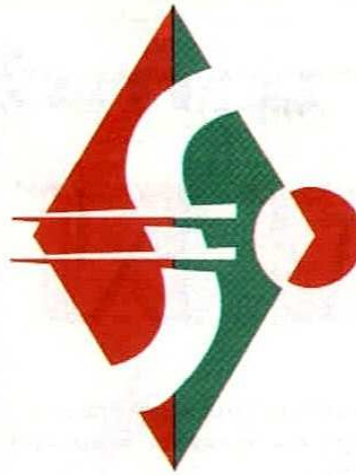
Swindon boss Steve McMahon has enjoyed numerous successes – both as a player and as a manager.

As a player, he won League and F.A. Cup winners' medals with Liverpool, bagged 17 England caps and was a member of Bobby Robson's squad for the 1990 World Cup finals.

And in his first full season in charge of Swindon following his managerial appointment in November, 1994, he led the Wiltshire club to glory in the form of the Second Division Championship.

McMahon, a tenacious midfield general, launched his playing career with Everton before moving to Aston Villa. After a successful spell in the Midlands, he found himself heading back to Merseyside where he became a key figure for Liverpool.

In 1991 he joined Manchester City in a £900,000 deal and continued to perform at the highest level before taking over as player-manager at Swindon.



FRASER DIGBY

Swindon's longest serving player, he celebrated his testimonial season in 1996/97 and what's more, was voted 'Player of the Year.' The former England Under-21 international served his apprenticeship with Manchester United but moved to the County Ground in a £32,500 deal after a successful loan spell.

BRIAN BORROWS

Signed an 18-month contract with Swindon last month

after ending his long association with Coventry City in a free transfer. The vastly experienced Liverpool-born defender made more than 400 League appearances for the Sky Blues and has also represented Everton and Bolton.

MARK ROBINSON

Launched his career with West Brom but made such an impact at Barnsley that Newcastle swooped to sign him in 1993 for £450,000. Lost his place in the St. James' Park first team through injury and joined Swindon for a then club record fee of £600,000 in July 1994. Can play at full back or in the centre of defence.

DARREN BULLOCK

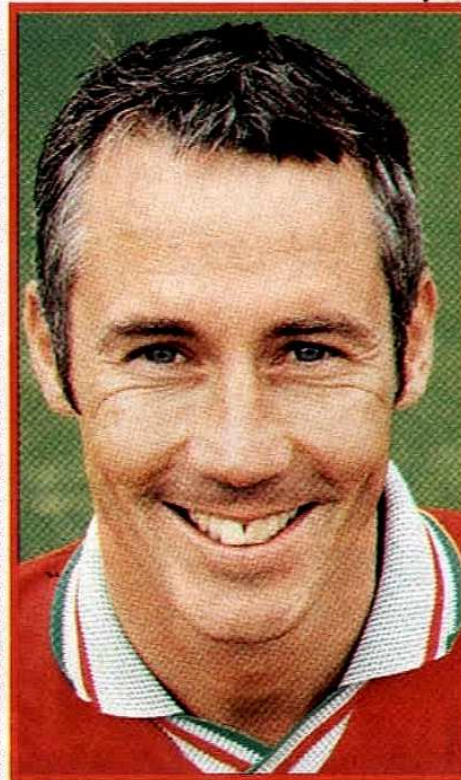
The tough-tackling central defender joined Swindon from Huddersfield in February of this year in a £400,000 deal. The 28-year-old was a late starter in the world of professional football and only joined Huddersfield four years ago after a successful spell with non-league Nuneaton Borough.

FREDERIC DARRAS

A former French Under-18 and Under-21 international, he made a free transfer switch from Bastia last year. Spent 11 years with French 'double' winners Auxerre, during which time he gained a great deal of experience in European competition. Is comfortable playing anywhere across the back line.

ALAN McDONALD

The 34-year-old former Northern Ireland captain



Ian Culverhouse

PROFILES

SWINDON TOWN

had spent his entire career with Queen's Park Rangers before joining Swindon during the summer. A highly-committed central defender, his wealth of experience attracted boss Steve McMahon when he realised his contract was up at Loftus Road.

DAVID THOMPSON

Although widely regarded as one of Liverpool's most promising youngsters, he has yet to muscle in on the first team scene at Anfield. The 20-year-old joined Swindon on loan last month and has made a big impact at the County Ground with his cultured midfield displays.

LEE COLLINS

The talented youngster was forced to watch from the sidelines for much of last season through injury but signed an extension to his contract and is keen to land a regular place in midfield. Signed for Swindon two years ago after impressing while on trial at the County Ground.

STEVE FINNEY

A series of injuries restricted him to just nine starts last season but the 24-year-old has bounced back to re-establish himself. Launched his career with Preston and then moved on to Manchester City, where he didn't get the chance to make a League appearance. Joined Swindon in a free transfer.

GEORGE NDAH

The speedy winger joined Swindon from Dave Bassett's former club Crystal Palace last month in a £650,000 deal and has wasted little time in making an impact at the County Ground. He marked his debut against Middlesbrough with an excellent goal and looks to have a very exciting future.

TY GOODEN

Signed by Swindon four years ago after being released by Wycombe Wanderers. Made more than 30 appearances during the 1995-96 campaign when Town collected the Second Division title but was hampered by injuries last term and as a result only played a handful of games.

CHRIS HAY

The fleet-footed young striker was signed from Celtic a week before the start of the Division One campaign for £330,000 and has since responded with more than a dozen goals. Signed a three-year contract and Swindon are convinced they landed themselves a bargain.

STEVE COWE

He may only be 5ft. 6ins. tall but what he lacks in inches he makes up for with his pace and skill on



Darren Bullock

the ball. A livewire front player, he initially joined Swindon on loan from Aston Villa but was soon snapped up on a permanent basis. Scored seven goals last season in 32 starts.

MARK WALTERS

On his day he's still one of the most talented wingers in the English game. Last season he showed the kind of skills that made him such a big hit with Aston Villa, Rangers and Liverpool before a knee injury sidelined him for the final few months of the campaign. The former England international joined Swindon on a free transfer.

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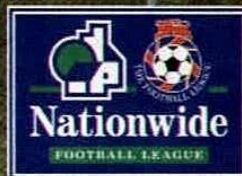
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MATCH *From the past*

21ST OCTOBER, 1972 . . .

FOREST 2, SWINDON TOWN 2.

BY NEIL SMITH

Forest, in search of their first victory in more than a month, had little more than 24 hours before being rendered managerless, following the departure of Matt Gillies, who had tendered his resignation following weeks of mounting opposition to his leadership from the terraces.

A mild mannered Scot, Gillies had been in charge a little short of three years, during which time the club had drifted aimlessly towards relegation.

Crowds that had averaged 25,000 during his first season at the helm had slumped dramatically.

Little wonder that a mere third of that average were assembled for the clash with Swindon, as Forest, in dire need of inspiration both on and off the field, slithered slowly toward Division Three.

The manager's reigns had been taken up, although only temporarily, by assistant manager Bill Anderson.

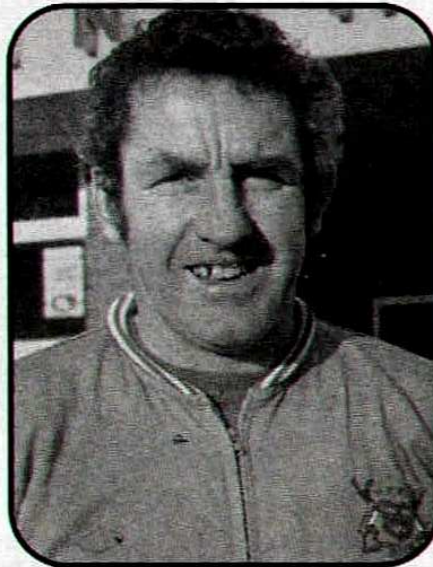
Electing to play the side selected prior to Gillies' resignation, Forest took to the field with their leading goalscorer Martin O'Neill as substitute . . . whilst Swindon sought their first away win of the season, and what would have been their first ever victory over the Reds.

Forest gave every indication that the visitors would gain that victory . . . dour and devoid of any attacking ideas the Reds goalscoring burden lay at the feet of Alan Buckley and Sammy Chapman, while the Robins massed in defence, relying on rapid counter attacks from their two wing men Don Rogers and Steve Peplow (who was later to join the Reds for a brief spell) to provide goalscoring opportunity.

It was from one of those counter attacks that the visitors snatched the lead through Peplow.

Rarely did Forest look like hauling themselves back into the game as they toiled to break down a solid rearguard.

On the rare occasion they did carve out an opportunity John Robertson and John Cottam both failed to force a save from goalkeeper Downsborough.



Dave Mackay



Matt Gillies

TEAMS

FOREST : Barron, Hindley, Gemmill, Serella, Cottam, Fraser, Lyall, Robertson, Chapman, Richardson (O'Neill), Buckley.

SWINDON : Downsborough, Thomas, Trollope, Smart, Burrows, Potter, Peplow, Howell, Treacy, Noble, Rogers.

With six minutes left Swindon appeared to have secured the win they had waited so long for when Don Rogers slipped clear to carve out a chance for centre forward Ray Treacy to score his fourth of the season.

The goal signalled a mass exodus, yet as Forest's supporters swarmed over Trent Bridge, the Reds, to the disbelief of Swindon and those remaining, hauled themselves level in the final two minutes.

Having never looked like salvaging anything from the instant Peplow had the visitors ahead, Forest's young midfielder John Robertson struck what appeared to be a consolation goal after exchanging passes with Buckley.

Almost from the kick-off captain Tommy Gemmill in support of what was to be the last attack of the game strode into the penalty area from the left, before unleashing a shot that opposing skipper Frank Burrows blocked on the line . . . the ball fell at the feet of substitute O'Neill who scrambled home what must have been the most untidy goal of his long career.

Swindon could not believe what had happened – acting Forest manager Bill Anderson did little to ease their pain when conceding that Forest never looked like scoring, an opinion until those final two minutes no one would have questioned.

Forest set about installing a new man at the helm with justified haste, as the names of leading up and coming managers of the day were bandied about . . . Dick Graham of Colchester, John Bond at Bournemouth and Peterborough's Noel Cantwell . . . a few touted the merits of former player John Barnwell.

Forest's next manager, though, slipped out of the City Ground little more than an hour after he had been subjected to daylight robbery.

Dave Mackay, the departing Swindon manager, having seen his outside right Rogers sold to Crystal Palace was appointed Gillies' successor just over a week later.



MATCH ACTION



BRADFORD FIGHTBACK SPOILS THE CELEBRATIONS

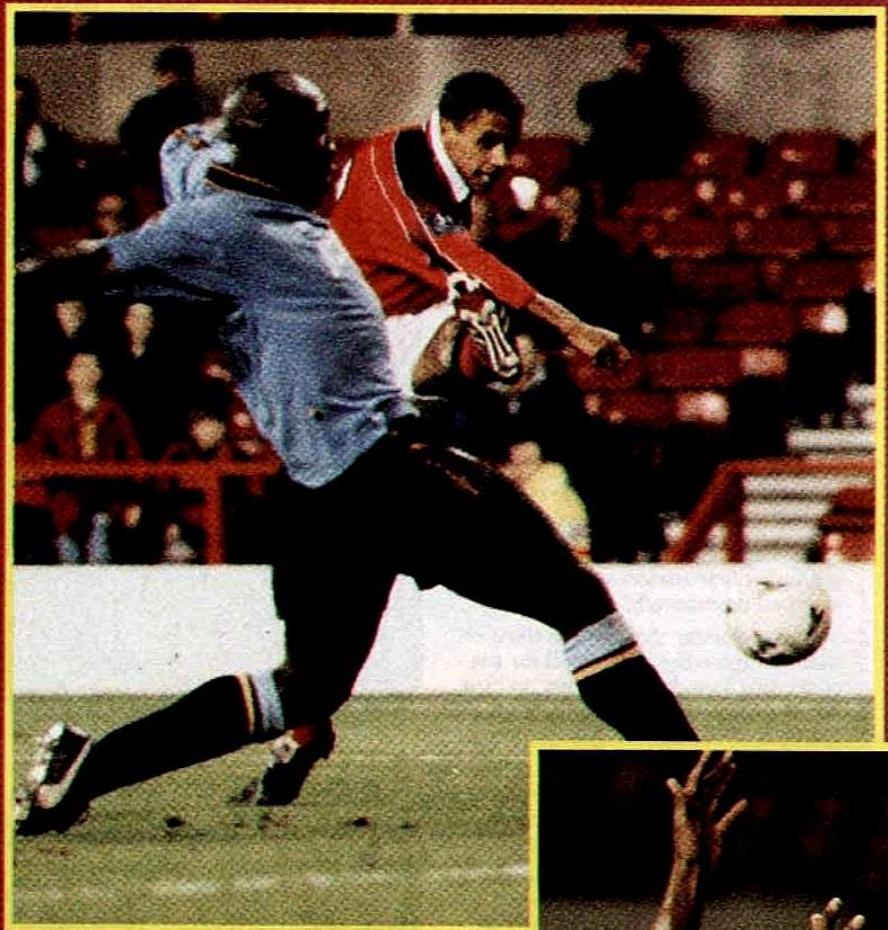
We were left frustrated by Bradford a fortnight ago after they fought back from 2-0 down at the City Ground to snatch a point.

We looked to be coasting to victory when Colin Cooper and Thierry Bonalair grabbed a goal apiece. Bradford, however, had other ideas and capped their fightback with a last-minute equaliser.

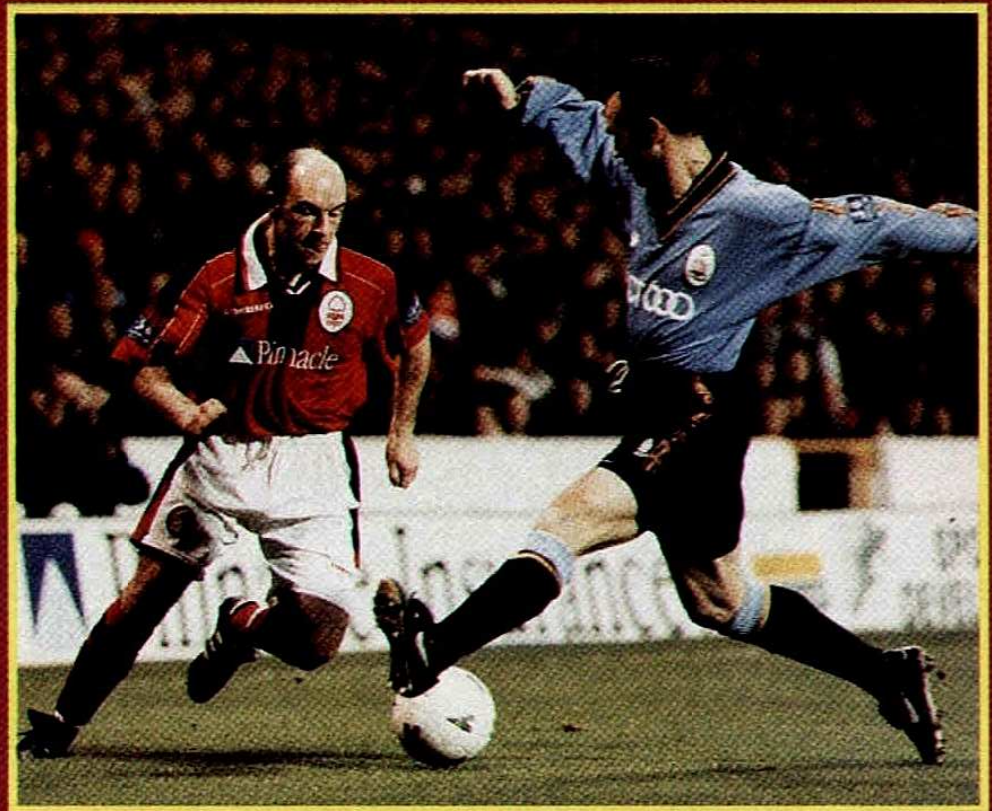
Skipper Cooper is pictured (far top right) firing us in front with his second goal of the campaign.

Frenchman Bonalair (right), meanwhile, put his recent injury frustration behind him by opening his goal account for us and then celebrated his precious strike with the fans (below middle).

Our other pictures show Kevin Campbell (below) getting a shot in on goal and Steve Stone causing problems for the Bradford defence.



Forest



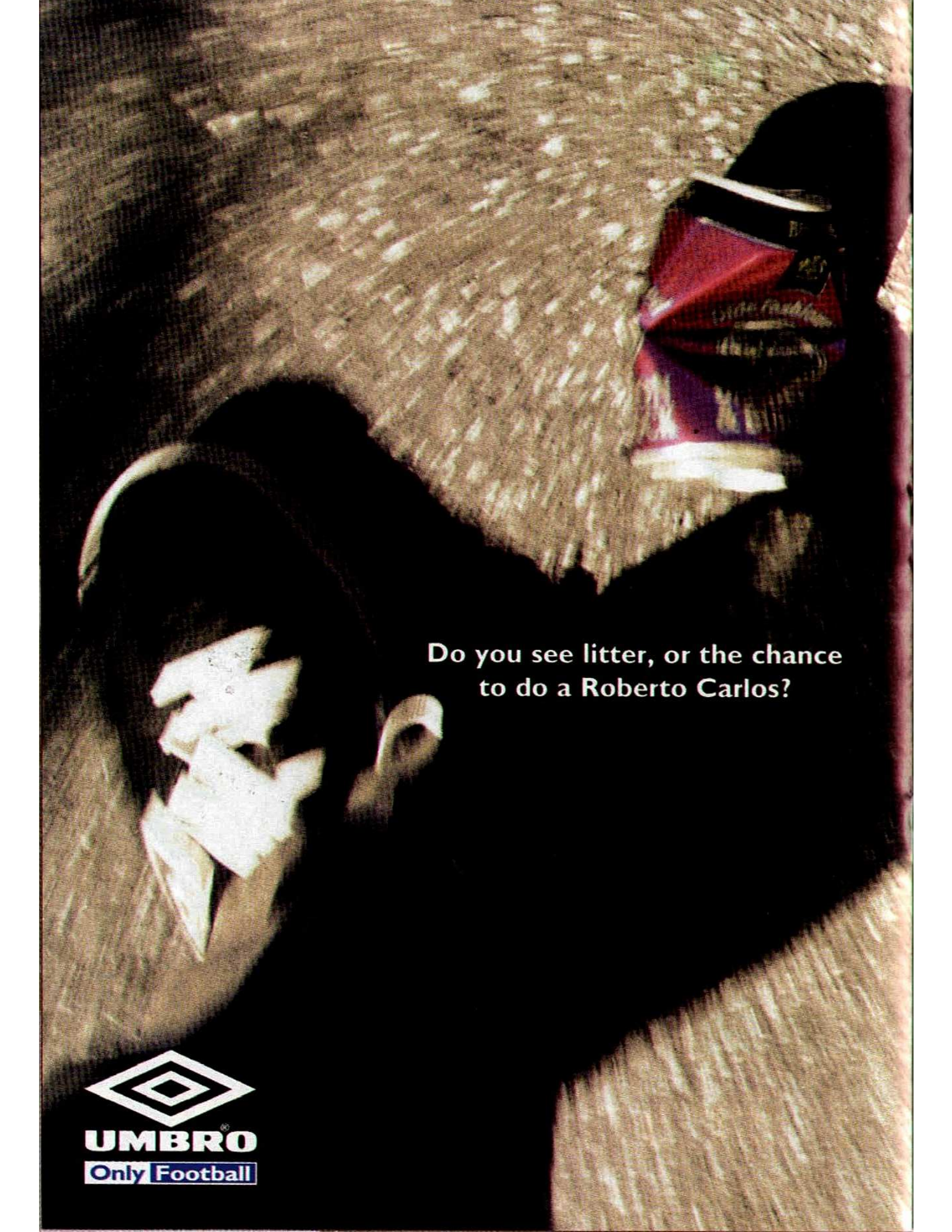
2 Bradford City 2

For all the latest news from the City Ground

17

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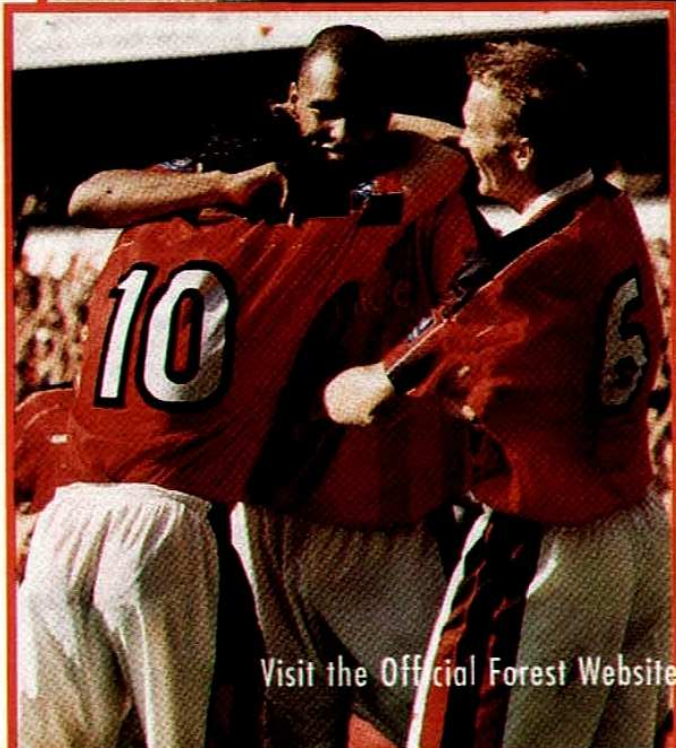
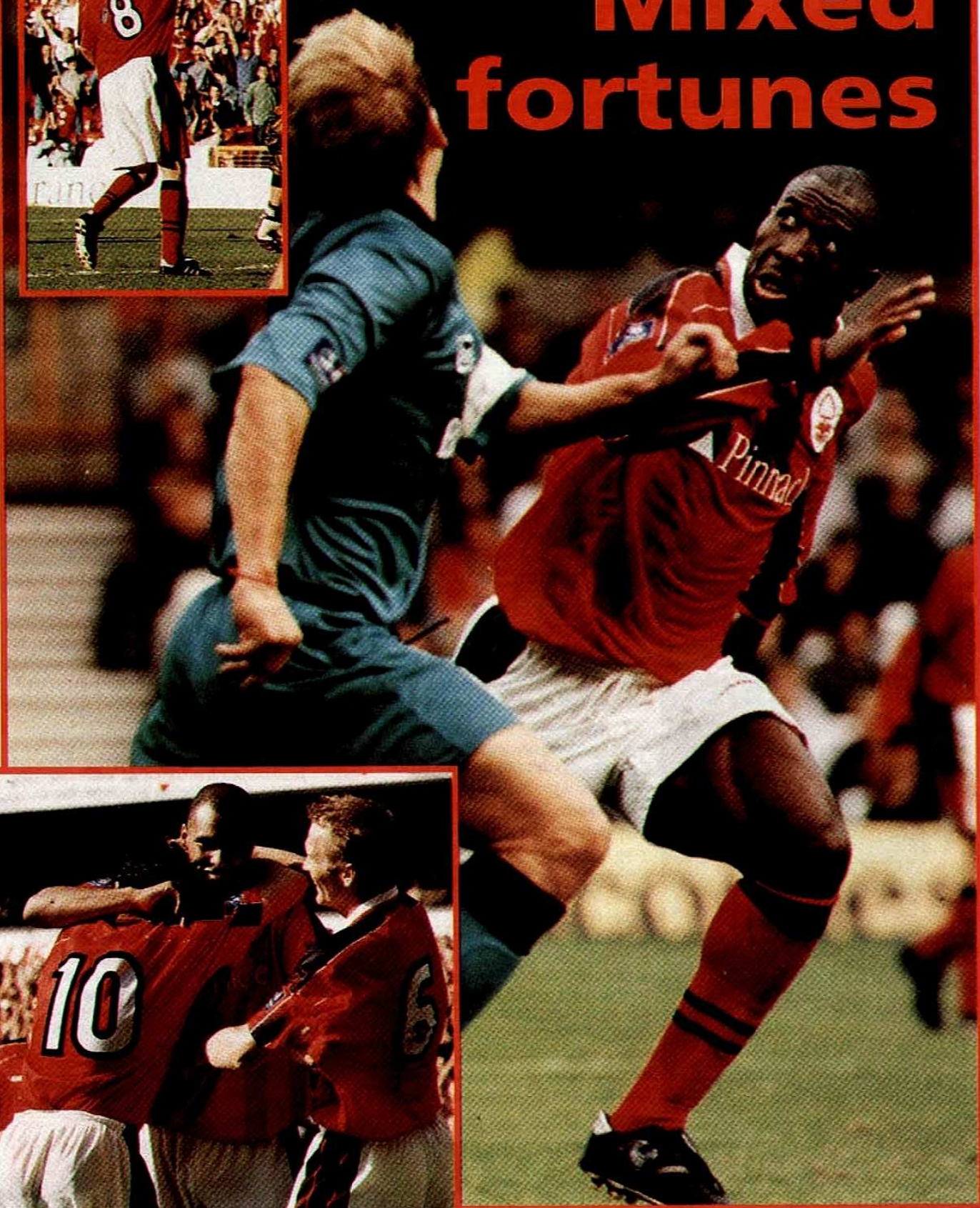
Do you see litter, or the chance
to do a Roberto Carlos?



UMBRO
Only Football

As a New Year prepares to dawn at The City Ground, we look back on a 1997 full of . . .

Mixed fortunes



Visit the Official Forest Website



January

1 – Reserve coach Richard Money leaves the City Ground to join our former boss Frank Clark at Manchester City.

4 – Alfie Haaland turns down our offer of a new four-year contract.

6 – Businessman Grant Bovey, who had been in the takeover running, offers to buy former City Ground favourite Nigel Clough from Manchester City. Clough is already back on Trentside, in a loan deal.

8 – Assistant manager Alan Hill brings his long association with us to an end by resigning to take up a similar post with Clark at Maine Road.

9 – Steve Stone undergoes surgery to remove a supportive wire from the knee he injured earlier in the season.

13 – We set-up a swap loan deal with Manchester City involving Clough and goalkeeper Tommy Wright, who finds himself heading for Maine Road.

17 – Brian Clough returns to familiar territory – the City Ground – to watch son Nigel in action in a reserve game.

22 – We appoint Ian Storey-Moore, our former striker, as chief scout.

27 – Player-team manager Stuart Pearce agrees a one-year extension to his playing contract.

February

4 – Pearce calls for a quick solution to the takeover saga, as he needs money to strengthen his relegation-threatened squad.

7 – Goalkeeper Mark Crossley vows to battle on until the end of the season – despite a hernia problem.

11 – Former boss Clark confirms his interest in Chris Bart-Williams.

12 – Clark is told Bart-Williams is not available as we stand firm under pressure to sell.

24 – The end of an era and the start of a new one . . . as Bridgford plc complete a successful takeover of the club. Their offer is accepted by the club's shareholders at an E.G.M. bringing to an end the long-running takeover saga.

26 – There's concern for Bart-Williams as he undergoes a knee operation.



Alfie Haaland

27 – Bart-Williams discovers his knee injury is not as serious as first thought. We're given the green light to make a move for Celtic's free-scoring Dutch striker Pierre van Hooijdonk.

28 – Dave Bassett resigns from his post as manager of Crystal Palace to join us as general manager to work alongside Pearce.

March

4 – Tommy Wright completes a permanent move to Manchester City, despite the offer of a coaching position at the City Ground. Bassett makes the acquisition of a striker the club's No.1 priority.

7 – Bassett confirms his interest in Norwich City's highly-regarded midfielder Andy Johnson.

10 – We break our transfer record to land van Hooijdonk from Celtic. We fork out an initial £3million but the fee could eventually rise to £4.5million depending on bonus payments.

13 – Bassett confirms his interest in former England star Chris Waddle, who is apparently available to leave Bradford City on a free transfer. Ian Moore, meanwhile, becomes our second signing of the week, joining us from Tranmere in a £750,000 deal.

14 – We fail in a bid to sign Celtic midfielder Brian O'Neil on loan after the Glasgow club stall over completing the necessary paperwork. The player, who had flown to Nottingham and hoped to make his debut the following day against Liverpool, is left with little alternative but to head back to Scotland.

18 – O'Neil is able to breathe a sigh of relief as his loan switch is finally completed.



Tommy Wright

19 – Bassett takes his search for new talent to Italy as he jets off on a scouting mission.

April

16 – Van Hooijdonk and Moore open their goal accounts for us in a Nottinghamshire County Cup success over Mansfield Town.

18 – With the first month of his loan spell set to expire, we launch a bid to keep Celtic's O'Neil at the City Ground for at least another month.

21 – Crossley finally succumbs to the hernia problem that has been troubling him for several months and enters hospital to undergo surgery. That opens the way for his understudy Alan Fettis to make his mark at first team level.

25 – Bassett dismisses newspaper reports linking us with a move for Wimbledon star Vinnie Jones.

29 – Bassett finds himself off on his travels again. This time his destination is Norway as he steps up his search for new talent.

May

1 – Our youth team clinch the Midland Melville League Championship with a win over neighbours Notts County. It represents our third title success at that level in seven years.

8 – Pearce announces that he intends to stand down from his managerial position after our final game of the campaign at Newcastle because he wants to concentrate on trying to extend his playing career.

13 – It's revealed that we're tracking midfielder Chris Byrne, one of the men who played a key part in Macclesfield's GM Vauxhall Conference title success.

16 – Bassett appoints Bobby Houghton as his assistant manager. Ironically, Houghton had been coach of Malmo when we beat the Swedish side in the 1979 European Cup final.

20 – Midfielder Haaland flies to his native Norway to think over his future with us.

22 – Malmo star Anders Andersson is the latest player to be linked with us after Bassett and Houghton watch him in action. Meanwhile, we hope to have talks with Watford's Alan Miller as we put another 'keeper, Fettis, on the transfer list.

31 – Striker Jason Lee joins Watford in a £250,000 deal.

June

2 – With Haaland now destined for a link-up with Leeds, Bassett tells the Yorkshire club he expects a "fair price" for the Norwegian star.



4 – Watford star Miller becomes Bassett's first signing as manager . . . or does he? The goalkeeper is paraded as the latest addition to our playing squad but within a week he decides instead to join Bassett's former club Crystal Palace.

9 – Paul Hart is appointed as our first ever Director of Youth Coaching. Hart leaves a similar post with Premiership outfit Leeds to rejoin the club where he had a spell as a player in the 1980s.

12 – We sign French star Thierry Bonalair on a free transfer from Swiss side Neuchatel Xamax. Bonalair signs a 12-month contract.

18 – Bryan Roy, who has been told there's little future for him at the City Ground, is linked with a move to newly promoted German First Division side Hertha Berlin.

25 – Swiss international Pascal Zuberbuhler is reported to be interesting Bassett, who finds himself still looking for a new 'keeper following Miller's decision to link-up with Palace rather than us.

30 – Roy's move to Hertha Berlin is finalised.





July

1 – We appoint Mike Kelly as our goalkeeping coach. Kelly, who played for QPR and Birmingham, has worked extensively with the English and Swiss national squads.

2 – Andy Johnson completes his move to the City Ground – some time after agreeing to join us. The talented midfielder, who was also wanted by Premiership outfits Leicester and Crystal Palace, struck a deal with us in June but Norwich refused to rubber-stamp the £2.2million deal until July.

3 – Alan Rogers becomes the second new arrival in the space of 48 hours. The highly-promising left back arrives from Tranmere in a £2million transfer.

9 – Former England midfielder Geoff Thomas checks-in at the City Ground in a free transfer switch from Midlands rivals Wolves. Thomas was also wanted by Premiership newcomers Barnsley but is happy to sign a 12-month contract with us.

14 – Yet another new arrival . . . this time vastly-experienced Swiss No.1 Marco Pascolo, who costs us £750,000 from Italian side Cagliari.

17 – Pearce drops a bombshell when he announces he's ending his 12-year association with us. The legendary defender, desperate to play in the Premiership in a bid to keep alive his chances of playing in next summer's World Cup finals with England, clinches a free transfer.

18 – Another surprise as Pearce is signed by Kenny Dalglish for Newcastle.

23 – Paul McGregor, who was dogged by injury for much of last season, faces up to another spell of inactivity after damaging a knee in a pre-season game at Arnold.

30 – Leeds are ordered by a transfer tribunal to pay us £1.6million for the services of Haaland – much to the disappointment of Bassett, who had placed a higher valuation on the Norwegian.

30 – Stone, sidelined since September with a knee tendon injury, is told he can make his comeback in a pre-season game against Leeds – if a specialist gives him the all-clear.

31 – Steve Wigley, our former winger, is named as our new Youth Development Officer.



Stuart Pearce



August

3 – Stone makes a successful return as a substitute against Leeds but there's bad news as Colin Cooper suffers a badly gashed leg which could sideline him for two months.

4 – We make yet another signing, paying Norwegian side Rosenborg £500,000 for Jon Olav Hjelde. The 25-year-old, who played in the European Champions League last season, finds himself in line for a quick-fire debut in the absence of Cooper.

9 – We launch the new campaign in the best possible style – with a 1-0 win at Port Vale. Kevin Campbell scores the only goal of the game.

18 – We find ourselves facing a goalkeeping crisis after Pascolo joins Crossley and Fettis on the injured list.

21 – Dave Beasant, Southampton's former England 'keeper, is drafted in on a month's loan. In the process, he renews acquaintances with Bassett, his manager at his first club Wimbledon.

27 – Bassett reveals that he has rejected a £3million bid from an Italian club for Hjelde – just a matter of weeks after paying Rosenborg £500,000 for his services.

28 – There's growing concern that Stone, just back after a lengthy lay-off with a knee problem, may now have a hernia.

September

1 – Stone undergoes yet more surgery – this time to cure a double hernia.

9 – Fettes joins Blackburn to act as cover for their first choice Tim Flowers. The North West club make a move for the Northern Ireland international after John Filan, who had been deputising for Flowers, suffers a broken leg.

16 – Cooper turns down a £2.5million move back into the Premiership – with West Ham.

23 – Beasant's loan spell with us is extended into a second month as we call for UEFA to take tougher action against Anderlecht, who have admitted bribing the referee of our 1984 UEFA Cup semi-final clash. UEFA ban the Belgian club from the next European competition for which they qualify.

26 – Ian Moore joins West Ham on a month's loan.

October

7 – Stone reveals that he has struck a deal with us over a new four and a half year contract that will make him one of the highest wage earners outside the Premiership.

17 – Stone officially signs his new contract and sets his sights on clinching a place in the England squad for the World Cup finals.

18 – Dean Saunders is told he can leave the club for a cut-price fee, just a few months after Everton failed in a £400,000 bid for his services.

24 – Beasant is controversially sent-off for the first time in his career in front of the Sky cameras at Reading – a decision which almost certainly costs us three points. Instead, we have to settle for a 3-3 draw.

28 – Referee John Brandwood admits he was wrong to send Beasant off at Reading, which leaves the 38-year-old 'keeper free from the threat of suspension.

November

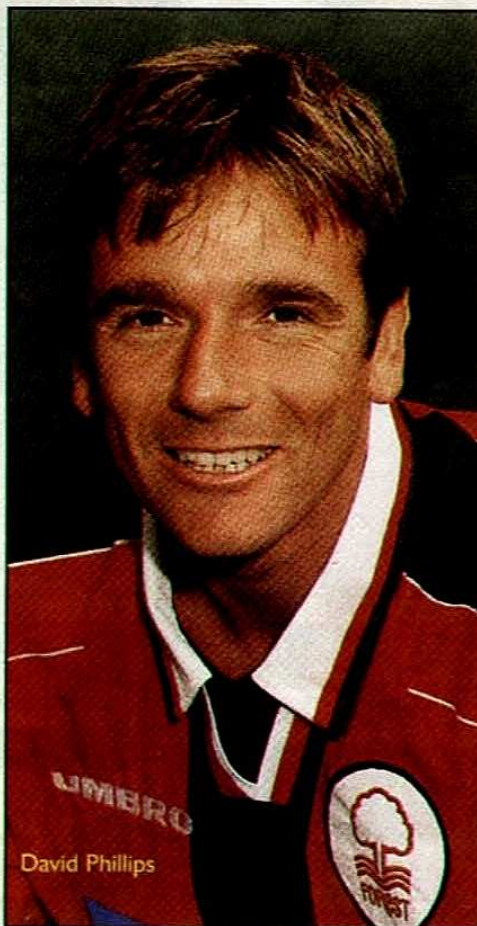
1 – Winger Chris Allen, who has struggled to break into Bassett's first team this season, is placed on the transfer list as we inch closer to securing Beasant on a free transfer.

7 – After a successful loan spell reserve defender Vance Warner joins Rotherham for a nominal fee as boss Bassett denies newspaper reports linking in-form Campbell with a move to Newcastle.

10 – Craig Armstrong is forced to pull out of the England Under-21 squad for the European Championship play-off first leg with Greece in Crete through injury. But we still have a representative in the squad after Rogers is given a late call-up.

12 – Long-term injury victims Thomas and Crossley prepare to resume full training.

14 – Welsh international David Phillips joins our First Division rivals Huddersfield on a free transfer.



David Phillips

19 – We decide to sever our links with Italian striker Andy Silenzi and release him from his contract. After struggling to make an impact at the City Ground, he joined Venezia on loan last season but has been kicking his heels in Italy after failing to clinch a permanent move to the Serie B club during the summer.

27 – Transfer-listed winger Allen joins Second Division strugglers Luton on a month's loan.

December

2 – Saunders joins our promotion rivals Sheffield United on a free transfer.

8 – Andy Johnson makes a successful return to action in a reserve game at Birmingham after more than a month on the sidelines with a knee injury.

16 – It's revealed that Bassett is interested in signing Swedish international Peter Wibran on loan for three months. The 28-year-old Helsingborg midfielder is apparently keen on a move to The City Ground.

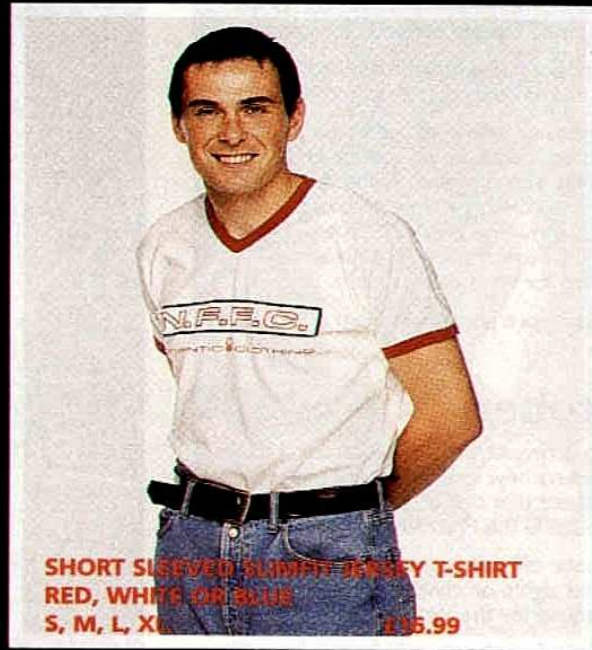
The story continues . . .



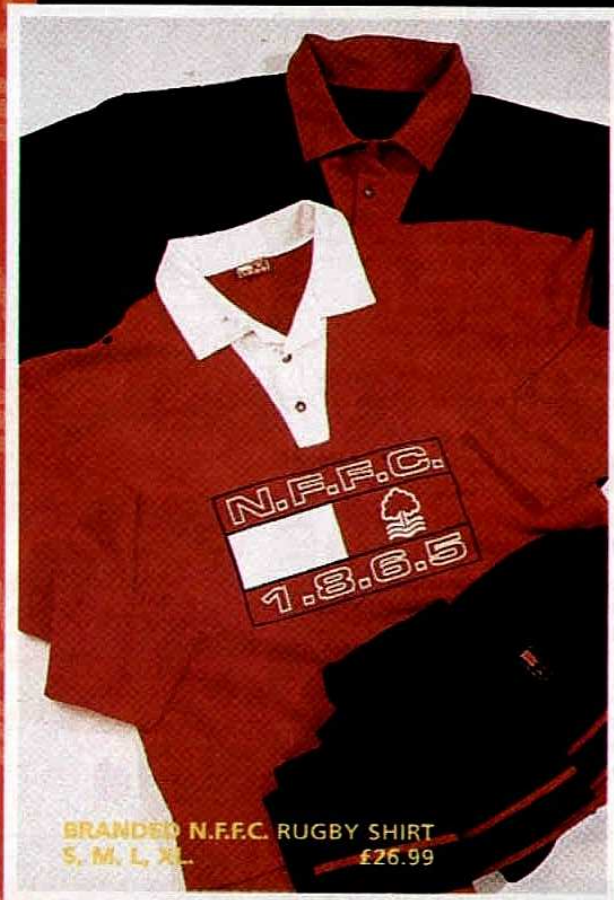
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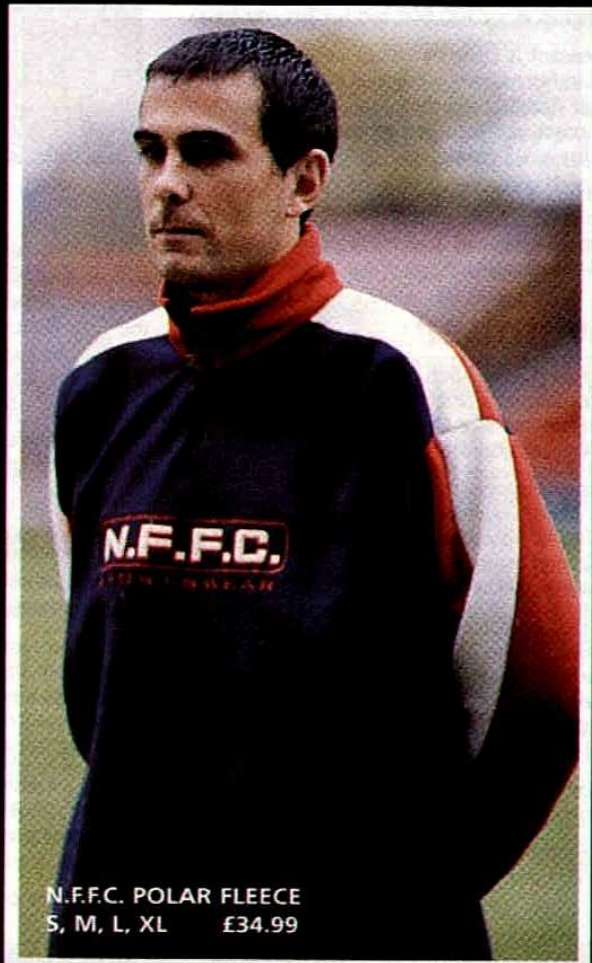
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Have a stylish New Year at the City Ground

As 1997 draws to a close, it's time to start thinking about the New Year – and we are offering supporters the opportunity to follow our 1998 promotion push in executive style.

Dave Bassett and the players are, of course, aiming for a quick-fire return to the Premiership but we believe our corporate facilities are already in the top flight.

Supporters now have the chance to enjoy that excellent hospitality at each of our ten scheduled First Division games in 1998 from as little as £40 (plus VAT) per game.

We are offering ten match packages for both the Castle Club and Robin Hood Lounge and included in both is a reserved seat for each game, four course pre-match meal, match programme, exclusive bar facilities and car parking.

And we're also offering a Mix and Match special as an alternative arrangement if it's not possible for you to get to all the games.

See below for all details on our Matchday Hospitality packages.



Executive Membership Half Season Special

Package includes all home league games from Saturday, 10th January, 1998.

Membership includes :

- Grandstand seats*
- Four course pre-match meal
- Match Programme
- Exclusive bar facilities
- Car Parking

* Castle Club seating behind glass in Trent End Stand – Dress codes apply.

Prices :

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Mix and Match Special

Select one game from group A and one from group B below for only £80 plus VAT.

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Group A | Group B |
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| Sunderland | Huddersfield Town |
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| Wolves | Reading |

Benefits include :

- Grandstand seats*
- Four course pre-match meal
- Match Programme
- Exclusive bar facilities
- Car Parking

* Castle Club seating behind glass in Trent End Stand – Dress codes apply.

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All-time great saves.



Official Restaurant of the Premier League

1. Gordon Banks, England v Brazil 1970. 2. Dave Beasant, Wimbledon v Liverpool 1988. 3. Big Mac Meal, £2.88. 4. Jim Montgomery, Sunderland v Leeds United 1973.

HALF-TIME

Crossword

ACROSS

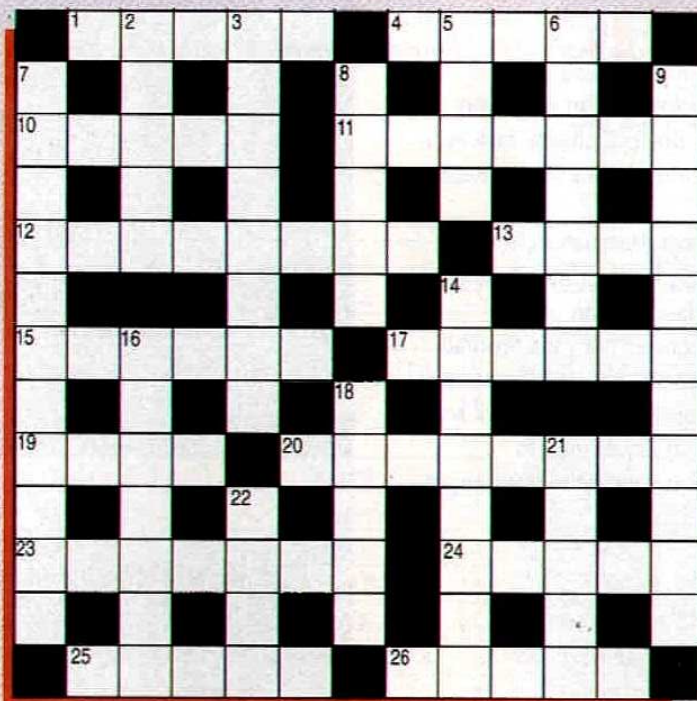
1. False ones for (1990's) Bristol City boss Joe Jordan (5).
4. Mr. Francis (1990s) "Spurs" ex boss (5).
10. Danny (1990's) Northampton Town defender (5).
11. UEFA Cup winners 1981 (7).
12. Home of Burnley F.C. (4 and 4).
13. Some referees have this prejudice (4).
15. Trevor (1970/80's) Leeds United and England defender (6).
17. Collection of football divisions (6).
19. United sides contain a single thing, apparently (4).
20. Forfar F.C. (8).
23. Allen, Port Vale defender (7).
24. Cup shock (5).
25. English F.A. Cup winners 1946 (5).
26. Working and employing the ball (5).

DOWN

2. One sees Hereford play in Surrey, apparently (5).

3. Rovers F.C. (8).
5. End Park, Dunfermline Athletic (4).
6. Slippery pitch when it is (7).
7. Anglo-Italian Cup winners 1995 (5 and 6).
8. Davies (1990's) Manchester United midfielder (5).
9. Welsh Cup winners 1947 (7 and 4).
14. Full football attendances are (8).
16. St., French League club (7).
18. Football boot feature (5).
21. George, ex-English ref no relation to boxer "Iron Mike" (5).
22. Phil (1990's) Liverpool defender (4).

CROSSWORD ANSWERS
 ACROSS : 1. Teeth, 4. Gerry, 10. Osheda, 11. Ipswich, 12. Turf Moor, 13. Bias, 15. Cherry, 17. League, 19. Unit, 20. Athletic, 23. Tankard, 24. Upset, 25. Derby, 26. Using.
 DOWN : 2. Esher, 3. Tranmere, 5. East, 6. Raining, 7. Notts County, 8. Simon, 9. Chester City, 14. Sellouts, 16. Etienne, 18. Studs, 21. Tyson, 22. Babb.



Crossword compiled by Thomas Trickett

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 982 4410

PRIZE GUYS

Two members of our 'foreign legion' played starring roles in recent games at the City Ground.

And Pierre van Hooijdonk, who scored a spectacular hat-trick in the win over Charlton, and Thierry Bonalair, who made a goalscoring contribution after coming on as a substitute against Bradford, are pictured receiving their Man of the Match awards from representatives of our Big Match Sponsors.

Doug Ward, of Brown-Bevan, is seen with Pierre while Steve Bird, of Sol Construction, is handing over Thierry's prize after the Bradford game.



Trust us to help the game

The Football Trust has been providing support for the game at every level throughout the UK for over 22 years. Its present priority task is to help League clubs to complete the implementation of the Taylor Report recommendations.

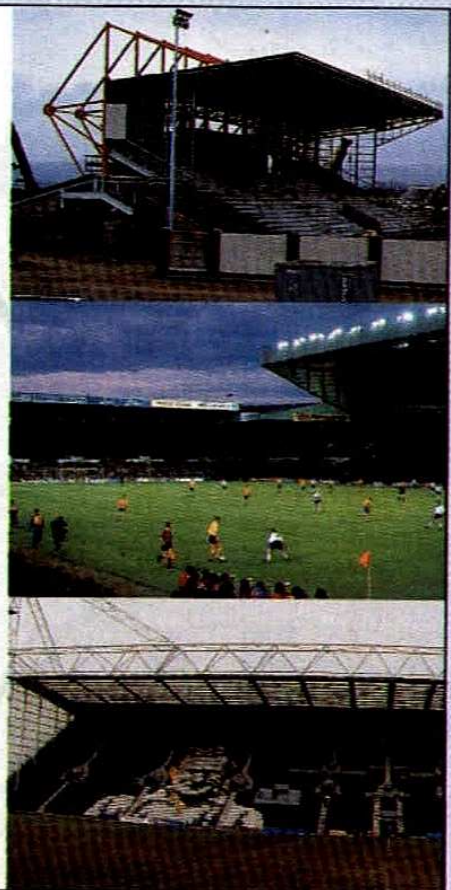
Thanks to the Government and to the Football Association, the FA Premier League and the English Sports Council, a major new funding package to secure the future of the Trust has been put in place.

These funds will be in addition to income derived from the football pools companies Littlewoods, Vernons and Zettors, and will enable the Trust to complete its Taylor task, carry on its essential safety work and continue to grant aid football at every level. The Government's commitment to the Trust has the support of everyone who cares about our national game.



THE FOOTBALL TRUST
Helping the game

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For all the latest news from the City Ground

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Phone Forest Club Call 0891 12 11 74

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FOCUS

on the reserves

PONTINS LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION FIXTURES

Aug	12	Tues	Everton	0-5
	20	Wed	BIRMINGHAM CITY	2-1
	28	Thur	LEEDS UNITED	3-2
Sept.	4	Thur	Aston Villa	1-2
	29	Mon	Stoke City	2-3
Oct.	8	Wed	LIVERPOOL	1-1
	13	Mon	Manchester United	1-1
	28	Tues	Sheffield Wednesday	0-4
Nov.	12	Wed	TRANMERE ROVERS	6-4
	19	Wed	BLACKBURN ROVERS	1-4
	24	Mon	Derby County	1-3
Dec.	8	Mon	Birmingham City	0-2
Jan.	7	Wed	Leeds United	
	21	Wed	ASTON VILLA	
Feb.	19	Thur	STOKE CITY	
Mar.	2	Mon	Preston North End	
	11	Wed	Tranmere Rovers	
	25	Wed	SHEFF. WEDNESDAY	
April	1	Wed	DERBY COUNTY	
	8	Wed	Blackburn Rovers	
	20	Mon	Liverpool	
	29	Wed	MANCHESTER UNITED	
To be arranged: Preston North End (home), Everton (home).				

PONTINS LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leeds United	12	8	2	2	26	12	26
Blackburn	12	7	4	1	26	9	25
Man. United	12	6	3	3	27	17	21
Aston Villa	12	5	4	3	21	13	19
Stoke City	12	6	1	5	16	19	19
Everton	12	5	3	4	21	15	18
Derby County	13	5	2	6	20	23	17
Preston N.E.	11	5	1	5	14	24	16
Birmingham	12	3	5	4	12	13	14
Liverpool	12	3	4	5	17	23	13
FOREST	12	3	2	7	18	32	11
Sheffield Wed.	13	2	4	7	19	28	10
Tranmere	13	1	5	7	19	28	8

Our programme of Pontins League Premier Division matches for 1997 came to a premature end last week with the postponement of our home game with Everton.

It was scheduled for last Wednesday but, with concerns over the icy weather that was sweeping the country at the time, the referee decided it was best for all concerned to re-arrange the fixture for the New Year.

It leaves us with the prospect of 12 games in 1998 that really are going to determine whether we have a future beyond this season in the highest echelon of the Pontins League.

I'm convinced we will stay-up but, having said that, I don't think it would be a disaster if we were to be relegated to the First Division.

Don't get me wrong, I'd be disappointed if that happened – no manager or coach wants their side to go down – but a spell in a lower league could prove to be beneficial to a number of players.

As you're no doubt aware, we've trimmed the size of our playing staff this season and, in the process, reduced the average age of the squad.

More and more of our up-and-coming youngsters are getting the chance to make an impression at reserve level, which in the long term should help their development as players.

But for some of them, life in the Premier Division is something of a struggle. They find they are coming up against far more experienced performers and as a result, they may not have always done themselves justice.

What's more, we've found results hard to come by as well in recent months, which inevitably has affected the confidence of the younger members of our side.

So, with that in mind, a spell in the First Division (where the standard isn't quite so high) might just prove beneficial for them and enhance their prospect of progressing into the first team set-up – although as I keep having to remind some of them who believe they should be training with the seniors, they've got to earn that right.

But make no mistake, we'll be striving to keep our place among the Pontins League elite and I'd like to think we might have more of a settled side in the second half of the campaign.

That certainly hasn't helped our cause, particularly in defence where we've been forced to chop and change personnel on a regular basis.

I tend to think that you can get away to a certain extent with making a number of changes up front and in midfield but you need a settled defence... and that's a luxury we haven't enjoyed this season.

But Stuart Thorn has recently returned from injury and I'm looking forward to seeing him working alongside the likes of Craig Armstrong and Andrew Dawson.

One man who was particularly disappointed that last week's reserve game was called-off was Finnish trialist Aki Riihalati.

Having figured in our previous game against Birmingham, Riihalati was due to get another run-out against Everton.

Naturally, he was disappointed but we hope to have him back here to play in our first game of 1998 against Leeds when, all being well, the likes of Geoff Thomas (pictured) and Mark Crossley will also be in a position to hit the comeback trail after their respective injury problems.



With Steve Beaglehole



Geoff Thomas

There's a double dose of mascots this afternoon as both ourselves and Swindon will be led out by youngsters.

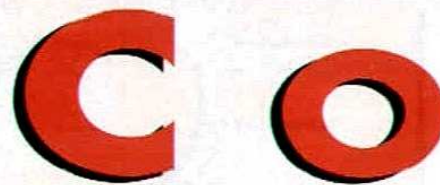
Wearing our colours will be 10-year-old Ben Clifford (pictured right) from Barrow-upon-Soar in Leicestershire.



He attends Hall Orchard Church of England Primary School in Barrow and his hobbies are football and basketball. Ben has two favourite players in Colin Cooper and Pierre van Hooijdonk.



Swindon's mascot, meanwhile, is eight-year-old Craig Anthony Middleton, who lives in Carlton-in-Lindrick, near Worksop. He attends Kingston Junior School and his favourite player is Chris Hay.



There's still chance to join in the fun

It's not too late to get the most out of your break from school – by booking a place on our Christmas holiday football coaching courses.

Designed to educate and entertain youngsters of all ages and abilities, the courses are staffed by our Football in the Community coaches who are all experienced in supervising young people.

Every child will be encouraged to get totally involved in the play and given every opportunity to succeed in acquiring new skills . . . as well as new friends.

There are still places available at: Magnus Church of England School, Newark (29th, 30th and 31st September); Kimberley Comprehensive School (29th and 30th December); Cotgrave Manvers School (31st December); St. George's School, Sleaford; Garibaldi School, Forest Town, Mansfield and Alderman Derbyshire School, Bulwell (all 2nd January).

Please call the Community Office on (0115) 9824453 for your late availability bookings.

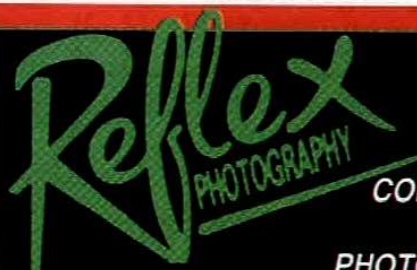
Festive delight for city youngsters

The Football in the Community department was delighted to host a



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COMMUNITY & JUNIORS

Christmas party for more than 100 young people from estates in the city of Nottingham.

The groups attending came from Morvyn Park Juniors, Broxtowe Youth Arts, Clifton Green Lane Youth and Community Centre, Asian Women's Group, Southglade Juniors, Bestwood Youth Project and Sycamore Youth Centre.

Community Officer Mark Green entertained the children to a tour of the City Ground and gave them the chance to take a 'behind the scenes' look at places that are usually off limits to the general public.

Highlights of the trip for the youngsters included viewing all the silverware we've won over the years and visiting the changing rooms where some of the world's greatest players have prepared for games at the City Ground.

After the excitement of the tour, the youngsters had the chance to relax for a short while as they enjoyed a party in our Robin Hood hospitality suite. Food and drink flowed freely before the start of traditional Christmas games, like Pass the Parcel and Musical Chairs – all of which

was followed by a festive quiz.

The whole event was climaxed by the visit of manager Dave Bassett and a number of first team stars, including Ian Woan, Steve Stone, Thierry Bonalair and Jon Olav Hjelde. The players chatted to the youngsters and signed autographs for everyone... mostly the accompanying adults.

Just as the buzz was dying down following the departure of the players, the children were given another surprise as Santa Claus made his traditional appearance to greet them.

After congratulating the youngsters on their behaviour throughout the year he sent them home happily clutching a Forest goodie bag to remind them of their special visit to the City Ground.

Sherwood's a star

Sherwood Bear may be a newcomer to the City Ground scene but he's already proving



to be a big hit with young and old alike.

Our new mascot (pictured far left entertaining the crowd before a recent home game) is growing in popularity. Keep a look out for him.

Melanie's memorable moment

Melanie Nichols enjoyed a rewarding trip to the City Ground for our clash with Bradford earlier this month.

Melanie, who is 10 and from Sheffield, won the Junior Reds half-time 'Lucky Seat' draw and is pictured above with her prize.

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City of

NOTTINGHAM

Nottingham City Council's Sports Development Unit are launching Phase 5 of the 'No Limits' Sports Coaching Programme for 8-15 year-olds after Christmas. There are 11 sports including Girls Football starting in January at sports centres, community centres and schools across the City and cater for all standards.

For your free leaflet and further information about any of the courses contact Dawn Foston on 915 2758.

Details of all the City of Nottingham's Football in the Community activities can be found by 'phoning Ian Hands on Nottingham 915 2742.

KIT SPONSORSHIP



Chris Allen



Craig Armstrong



Chris-Bart Williams



Thierry Bonolair



Steve Chettle

Heanor Branch Supporters Club
Tel: 01773-719894



Kevin Campbell

Keith, Jacqui, Gareth and Ryan Shaw of Leeds

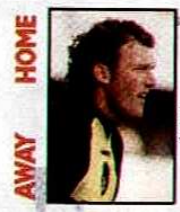


Colin Cooper



Mark Crossley

Harboro & District Supporters Club
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Dave Beasant

Lea Hanrahan

Beech Restoration
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Scot Gemmill

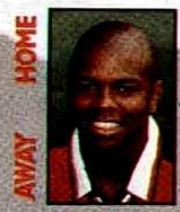
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Des Lyttle

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Paul McGregor



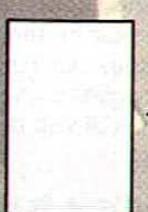
Ian Moore



Marco Pascolo



Alan Rogers



Steve Stone

White Horse Inn Woolley Moor
Tel: 01246 590319



Geoff Thomas

Thomas Bolton

Andrew Cox of Jersey



Ian Woan



Pierre van Hooijdonk

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James Cherry Deeping St. James



Dave Bassett

Print Productions Limited
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Jon Olav Hjelde

Pownall Supporters Club
Tel: 01623 452418

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN
KIT SPONSORSHIP
Telephone : 0115 982 4450
FOR FULL DETAILS**

Super supporter Stuart Astill passed a remarkable milestone last month . . . by watching us in League action for the 1,000th consecutive time!



Our 1-0 win at Ipswich took his tally to the magical four-figure mark but he has no intention whatsoever of easing-up.

Stuart's remarkable labour of love kicked into gear in September 1973 at Bolton, since when he has clocked-up thousands of miles . . . and spent just as many pounds.

He admits: "People are always asking me to try and guess how much I've spent following Forest down the years but although I can honestly say it's been worth every penny, I really don't like to think about it.

"When I started back in 1974 I didn't set out to try and attend 1,000 League games on the trot. I just enjoyed it – as I still do – and simply kept going and going."

The former British Rail Engineering employee hasn't managed to make it to all our Cup ties during his 24-year spell of unstinting devotion but it's not always been for the want of trying.

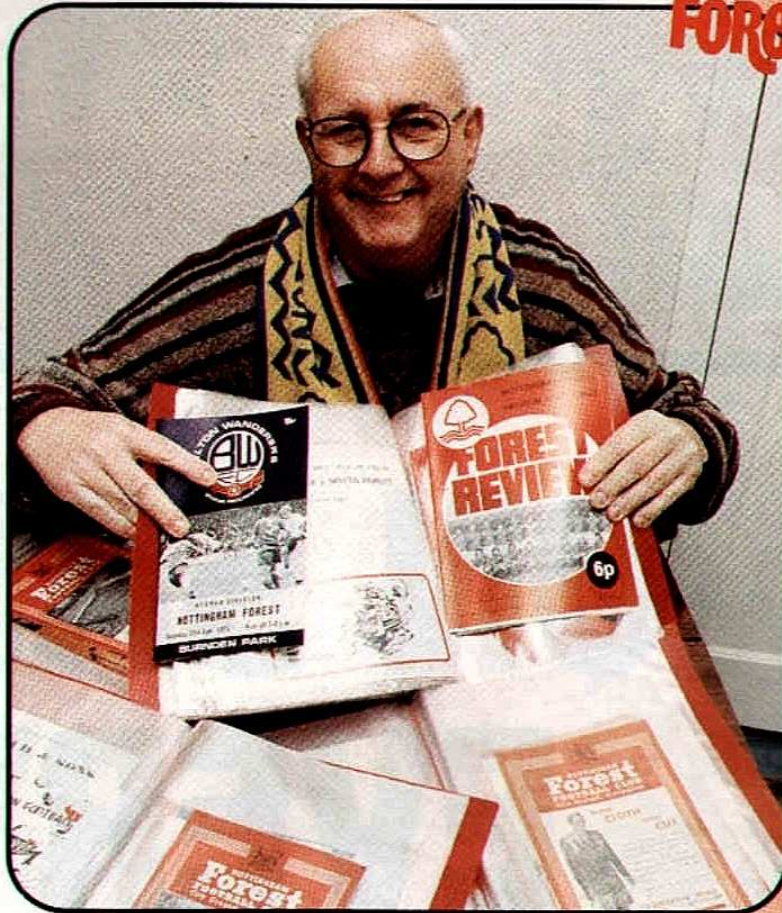
He explains: "One of the Cup games I missed was the European Super Cup game against Valencia. I booked to go on a one-day trip to Spain but the organisers didn't get a big enough response, so they decided to tie it in with a week-long trip.

"If I'd gone for a week, I would have missed the previous Saturday's League game as well as the following Saturday's League game . . . so I decided against making the trip."

Stuart is now semi-retired but even when he was in full-time employment – at the BREL site in Derby – he managed to fit following our fortunes the length and breadth of the country around his work commitments.

He recalls: "As long as I put in the required hours I was okay and so I always managed to leave at lunchtime if Forest were playing away.

"I must admit I used to pinch the odd half day here and there and I remember one occasion when I'd had three afternoons off in a



fortnight our charge hand told me the supervisor wanted to see me.

"I really thought I was for the high jump but he just sat me down and told me 'Stuart, most of the men who work here are full-time fitters and part-time football supporters but you're a football fan who works as a fitter in his spare time.'

"I was amazed when he told me to carry on enjoying myself while I could, which was a relief because I was planning to leave early the next day to go and watch Forest."

Although he's a follower of our fortunes first and foremost – he has been a keen fan since 1956 when he watched us in action against a Middlesbrough side that included Brian Clough, who scored a hat-trick that day, and Peter Taylor – he also takes pleasure in watching other sides in action.

In fact, he manages to watch in the region of 120 to 130 League games a season and has even managed to attend three games – in one day!

"That was Good Friday 1975," he recalls. "I watched West Ham against Stoke in the morning at Upton Park, then went to White Hart Lane to watch Spurs against Wolves in the afternoon and then in the evening headed back up to the Midlands to watch Coventry against Sheffield United."

What's more, 52-year-old Stuart – who is one of our former shareholders and is now a Life Vice President – has only missed two of England's home internationals since 1970.

But there's no doubt that we've provided him with the most memorable moments. "We hold the record for the longest unbeaten run – 42 games – and I saw everyone of them and, of course, I was there at Coventry when we clinched the League title in 1978.

"I've some marvellous memories . . . and hopefully I'll collect a few more in the years to come!"

FANS FORUM

Football POST



**ON SALE
EVERY
SATURDAY**

**NOTTINGHAM'S ONLY
LOCAL SPORTS PAPER**

The 1977/78 Season Remembered

By John Lawson

Nottingham Forest's game on Boxing Day 20 years ago was understandably built up as a potential game of the season.

The visit of Liverpool, who had been champions for the previous two years, to the City Ground was never going to decide the League title but it would nevertheless have a significant bearing on the outcome.

Forest had opened up a lead at the top of the table – they were two points ahead of Everton and six above the men third-placed from Anfield and in the days of just two points for a win, Liverpool did not want the gap growing any wider.

Forest warmed up for the showdown by taking a pre-Christmas Spanish break in Benidorm but Clough and Taylor had the players ready for action on their return.



Recent new signing David Needham scored in the games against Newcastle and Bristol City

A crowd of 47,218, comfortably the biggest of the season, squeezed into the City Ground for an eagerly-awaited confrontation . . . and they were not disappointed.

Forest ripped into Liverpool from the start and when Viv Anderson and Tony Woodcock set up an opening goal for Archie Gemmill, whose 20 yard effort screamed into the Liverpool net, it looked as though the Nottingham Reds would flourish.

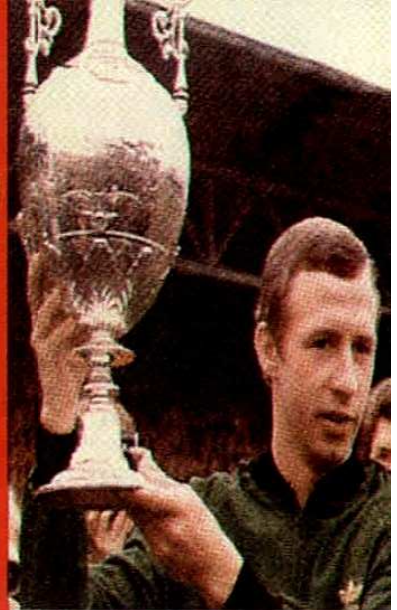
But Liverpool revealed the quality and character of which champions are made and hung on under intense pressure to snatch an equaliser through Steve Heighway.

It was an absorbing affair but there was not the same intensity in the next game as Forest travelled to the North East and comfortably beat a Newcastle side, whose eyes were anxiously on the other end of the table, 2-0.

David Needham, who had wasted no time in making an impression, and John McGovern were the scorers and Needham repeated his goalscoring act when Forest completed the double over Bristol City in a 3-1 win at Ashton Gate.

Woodcock and Martin O'Neill also got their names on the scoresheet as Forest ended the year in style.

Could they take their exhilarating form into the New Year. The next side bidding to check their runaway progress were Everton, who had title aspirations of their own.



HOW TO PAY FOR YOUR TICKETS

CASH – If paying in person at the ticket office. We recommend that you do not send cash through the post.

CHEQUE – Made payable to N.F.F.C.Ltd. Please write your name, address and guarantee card number on the reverse.

CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS – Personal and postal credit card (Access and Visa) applications will incur a 5% service charge, debit cards are accepted at no extra charge. Telephone bookings only through our credit booking line will incur a charge of £1.25 per ticket and a £1.25 handling charge.

POSTAL ORDERS – These should be crossed and made payable to N.F.F.C. Ltd.

BY POST – Please include a S.A.E. and clearly state the date of the game and which Stand you require and a daytime phone number, if possible, in case of any queries. If paying by credit card/debit card please include the full number and expiry date and for switch cards the issue number also.

DO NOT SEND CASH.



Home

Nottingham Forest Football Club Half Season Tickets 1997/98 Now on Sale

STAND	REVISED PRICE
Main Stand	
Full	£169.00
Concession	£109.00
Executive Upper Centre (Blocks J, K, L, M)	
Full	£159.00
Concession	£109.00
Executive Upper Wings (Blocks G, H, N, P, P3)	
Full	£149.00
Concession	£99.00
Executive Lower Centre (Blocks R and S)	
Full	£139.00
Concession	£89.00
Executive Lower Wings (Blocks Q and T)	
Full	£129.00
Concession	£79.00
Trent End Upper and Bridford Upper	
Full	£149.00
Concession	£99.00
Trent End Lower	
Full	£129.00
Concession	£79.00
Junior Reds	£69.00

Next at The City Ground

**NOTTINGHAM
FOREST**

v.

PORT VALE

Nationwide League
Division One

Saturday, 10th January, 1998

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

Tickets for this match are now on
general sale

Benefits

- Guaranteed seat for every first team league match (Home)*
 - Priority for away tickets*
 - Priority for cup tickets*
 - Priority for Play-Off/Wembley tickets (if required)*
 - Priority renewal option on next year's season ticket*
- * Above also apply to "Full" season ticket holders

Inclusive Matches

Dec.	26	Fri	Swindon
Jan.	10	Sat	Port Vale
	31	Sat	Oxford United
Feb.	14	Sat	Sheffield United
	18	Sat	Huddersfield
	28	Sat	Middlesbrough
Mar.	4	Wed	Sunderland
	14	Sat	Bury
April	4	Sat	Ipswich
	13	Mon	Wolves
	25	Sat	Reading

AND Away



TICKET INFORMATION

MANCHESTER CITY v. FOREST

Nationwide League Division One

at *Maine Road*

Sunday, 28th December

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

Tickets for this match are now on general sale.

Prices : £12 Adults,
£7 Juniors (Under-14's), and
Senior Citizens.

Tickets for this match are now on general sale.

Normal league prices apply, including concession corner.

Double and triple header offer also available. Contact the ticket office for further information.

NORWICH CITY v. FOREST

Nationwide League Division One at *Carrow Road*,

Saturday, 17th January

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

Tickets for this match will be available on general sale from 9.00 a.m., Saturday, 3rd January.

Prices : £16 Adults
£11 Juniors and Senior Citizens.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS v. FOREST

Nationwide League Division One at *Rangers Stadium*,

Wednesday, 28th January

Kick-off 7.45 p.m.

Tickets for this match will be available on general sale from 8.30 a.m., Wednesday, 14th January.

Prices, Upper Tier: £15 Adults
£8 Juniors and Senior Citizens.

Lower Tier: £13 Adults
£7 Juniors and Senior Citizens.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC v. FOREST

Littlewoods Sponsored F.A. Cup at *The Valley*,

Saturday, 3rd January

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

This match is ALL TICKET.

Tickets for this match are now on general sale.

Prices : £20 Adults
£10 Juniors and Senior Citizens.

FOREST v. PORT VALE

Nationwide League Division One at *the City Ground*

Saturday, 10th January

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

Travel in Style with

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- All Departures from Main Stand Car Park
- Executive Coaches
- Stewarded Travel
- Toilet Facilities
- Video Facilities
- Refreshments available
- No Membership required – simply purchase a ticket from the ticket office.

Game	Depart	Fare
Manchester City	10.00 a.m.	£7.50
Charlton Athletic	10.00 a.m.	£9.00
Norwich City	10.00 a.m.	£9.00
Q.P.R.	10.00 a.m.	£9.00

Ticket Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8.30 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.

Saturday (non-match days)
9.00 a.m. - 12 noon

Saturday (match days)
8.30 a.m. - Kick-off and 15 minutes after the match.

Match Day Only

Executive Ticket Office

Saturday (match days)
8.30 a.m. - Kick-off and 15 minutes after the match.

Midweek (match days)
5.30 p.m. - Kick-off and 15 minutes after the match.

Telephone Numbers

Ticket Office:

0115 982 4445

Information Tape:

0115 982 4446

Credit Card Line:

0115 971 8181

Tickets for home games go on general sale 4 weeks before the match.

Prices : £20 Adults

£10 Juveniles/Senior
Citizens (over 65's)

Concession Corner

For many home matches in 1997/98, we are introducing a special concession corner. This area will be an unreserved seating area and will usually be in the Lower Bridgford Stand adjacent to the Main Stand. However, this position may change from match to match.

Tickets will be priced £14 and £7.

Tickets must be purchased in person.

£14 tickets will only be sold to an adult accompanied by at least one child, and to students who present a current form of photo identification (either a library card or a Student Union card). Cards without a photo will not be accepted. Identification may also be requested upon admission at the turnstiles.

£7 tickets will be sold to children, and also to Senior Citizens.

Appearances 1997/98

	League		Cup		Total	
	App	Gls	App	Gls	App	Gls
Pascolo	5	-	1	-	6	-
Beasant	18	-	2	-	20	-
Crossley	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fettis	-	-	1	-	1	-
Lyttle	23	-	4	-	27	-
Bonalair	9	1	1	-	10	1
Rogers	23	-	4	-	27	-
Chettle	23	-	3	-	26	-
Cooper	16	2	1	-	17	2
Hjelde	19	1	2	2	21	3
Armstrong	9	-	4	1	13	1
Warner	-	-	1	-	1	-
Thom	-	-	1	-	1	-
B-Williams	18	1	3	-	21	1
Gemmill	23	1	3	-	26	1
Thomas	7	2	1	1	8	3
Johnson	11	1	3	-	14	1
Stone	14	1	-	-	14	1
Phillips	-	-	2	-	2	-
Woan	8	1	1	-	9	1
Allen	1	-	2	1	3	1
Campbell	20	10	2	-	22	10
Hooijdonk	22	14	4	4	26	18
Saunders	9	2	3	2	12	4
Moore	3	-	2	-	5	-
Guinan	2	-	1	1	3	1
Howe	-	-	1	-	1	-

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesbrough	23	13	6	4	39	19	45
FOREST	23	13	6	4	37	21	45
Sheff. United	23	11	9	3	34	22	42
Charlton	23	12	5	6	43	29	41
West Brom	23	12	4	7	25	21	40
Sunderland	22	11	6	5	35	21	39
Swindon Town	23	11	5	7	32	31	38
Wolves	23	10	6	7	29	26	36
Stockport	23	10	5	8	39	32	35
Bradford	23	8	9	6	22	22	33
Birmingham	23	8	8	7	24	19	32
QPR	23	8	6	9	28	36	30
Norwich City	23	8	6	9	23	32	30
Ipswich	22	6	9	7	27	25	27
Stoke City	23	7	6	10	24	30	27
Oxford United	23	7	5	11	29	33	26
Port Vale	23	7	5	11	26	30	26
Reading	23	6	7	10	21	35	25
Man. City	23	6	6	11	26	27	24
Huddersfield	23	6	5	12	24	37	23
Tranmere	22	6	4	12	28	34	22
Bury	23	4	10	9	22	32	22
Crewe	23	6	3	14	26	39	21
Portsmouth	22	5	5	12	26	36	20

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FIRST TEAM

Date	Day	Opposition	Result	Att.	1	2
Aug. 9	Sat	Port Vale	W 1-0	12,533	Pascolo	Lyttle
11	Mon	Doncaster CCC 1 (1)	W 8-0	4,547	Pascolo	Lyttle
15	Fri	Norwich City	W 4-1	17,178	Pascolo	Lyttle
23	Sat	Oxford United	W 1-0	9,486	Beasant	Lyttle
27	Wed	Doncaster CCC 1 (2)	W 2-1	9,908	Fettis	Lyttle
30	Sat	Q.P.R.	W 4-0	19,169	Beasant	Lyttle
Sept. 3	Wed	Manchester City	L 1-3	23,552	Pascolo	Lyttle*
7	Sun	Swindon Town	D 0-0	13,051	Beasant	Lyttle
13	Sat	Sheffield United	L 0-1	24,536	Beasant	Lyttle*
17	Wed	Walsall CCC 2 (1)	L 0-1	7,841	Beasant	Lyttle
20	Sat	Portsmouth	W 1-0	17,292	Beasant	Lyttle
24	Wed	Walsall CCC 2 (2)	D 2-2	6,037	Beasant	Lyttle
27	Sat	Stoke City	W 1-0	19,061	Beasant	Lyttle
Oct. 3	Fri	Huddersfield Town	W 2-0	11,258	Beasant	Lyttle
18	Sat	Tranmere Rovers	D 2-2	17,009	Beasant	Lyttle
21	Tues	West Brom	W 1-0	19,243	Beasant	Lyttle
24	Fri	Reading	D 3-3	12,610	Beasant*	Lyttle
Nov. 1	Sat	Crewe	W 3-1	18,268	Beasant	Lyttle
4	Tues	Bury	L 0-2	6,137	Beasant	Lyttle
8	Sat	Sunderland	D 1-1	33,160	Beasant	Lyttle
15	Sat	Birmingham City	W 1-0	19,610	Beasant	Lyttle
22	Sat	Charlton Athletic	W 5-2	18,532	Beasant	Lyttle
26	Wed	Middlesbrough	D 0-0	30,143	Beasant	Lyttle
29	Sat	Ipswich Town	W 1-0	17,580	Beasant	Lyttle
Dec. 6	Sat	Bradford City	D 2-2	17,943	Beasant	Lyttle*
14	Sun	Wolves	L 1-2	24,635	Pascolo	Lyttle*
20	Sat	Stockport County	W 2-1	16,701	Pascolo	Lyttle*
26	Fri	Swindon Town				
28	Sun	Manchester City				
Jan. 3	Sat	Charlton F.A. Cup 3				
10	Sat	Port Vale				
17	Sat	Norwich City				
24	Sat	F.A. Cup 4				
28	Wed	Q.P.R.				
31	Sat	Oxford United				
Feb. 7	Sat	Portsmouth				
14	Sat	Sheffield United				
18	Wed	Huddersfield Town				
21	Sat	Stoke City				
24	Tue	Tranmere Rovers				
28	Sat	Middlesbrough				
Mar. 4	Wed	Sunderland				
7	Sat	Crewe				
14	Sat	Bury				
21	Sat	Birmingham City				
28	Sat	Charlton Athletic				
April 4	Sat	Ipswich Town				
11	Sat	Bradford City				
13	Mon	Wolves				
18	Sat	Stockport County				
25	Sat	Reading				
May 3	Sun	West Brom.				
16	Sat	F. A. Cup Final				

KEY TO TABLE: Home matches and Scorers in Heavy Type. *Player withdrawn. +Substitute used
• Player sent-off.

STATISTICS 1997-98



Rogers	Hjelde	Chettle	Thomas	Stone*	Johnson	Hooijdonk	Campbell	Bonalair*	Gemmill+	Saunders+	Armstrong
Rogers*	Hjelde2	Chettle	Thomas*	Bonalair*	Gemmill	Hooijdonk2	Saunders2	Allen	Phillips+	Moore+	Armstrong+
Rogers	Hjelde	Chettle	Thomas2*	Stone*	Gemmill	Hooijdonk	Campbell	Bonalair	Saunders+	Johnson+	Armstrong
Rogers	Hjelde	Chettle	Thomas	Gemmill	Johnson	Hooijdonk	Allen*	Bonalair*	B-Williams+	Guinan+	Armstrong
Rogers	Armstrong	Thom	B-Williams*	Howe	Johnson*	Hooijdonk*	Guinan	Allen	Woon+	Moore+	Warner+
Rogers	Hjelde	Chettle	Thomas	Bonalair	Gemmill	Hooijdonk3	Saunders	B-Williams	Johnson	Moore	Armstrong
Rogers	Hjelde	Chettle	Thomas	Bonalair*	Gemmill	Saunders	Campbell	B-Williams	Johnson+	Moore+	Armstrong
Rogers*	Hjelde	Chettle	Thomas	Johnson	Gemmill	Saunders*	Campbell	B-Williams	Hooijdonk+	Bonalair	Armstrong+
Rogers	Hjelde	Chettle	Thomas*	Johnson	Gemmill	Hooijdonk	Campbell	B-Williams	Saunders+	Bonalair+	Armstrong
Rogers	Hjelde	Chettle	Phillips*	Johnson	Gemmill*	Hooijdonk	Campbell	B-Williams	Saunders+	Guinan	Armstrong+
Rogers	Cooper	Chettle	Hjelde*	Saunders	Gemmill	Hooijdonk	Campbell	B-Williams	Johnson+	Guinan	Smith
Rogers	Cooper	Chettle	Armstrong	Saunders	Gemmill	Hooijdonk	Campbell*	B-Williams	Johnson+	Guinan	Smith
Rogers	Cooper*	Chettle	Armstrong	Saunders	Gemmill	Hooijdonk	Campbell	B-Williams	Johnson+	Guinan	Smith
Rogers*	Cooper	Chettle	Armstrong	Saunders	Gemmill	Hooijdonk	Campbell	B-Williams	Johnson+	Guinan	Smith
Rogers	Cooper	Chettle	Hjelde	Bart-Williams	Gemmill	Hooijdonk	Campbell	Woon*	Johnson	Guinan	Stone+
Rogers	Cooper	Chettle	Hjelde*	Woon*	Gemmill	Hooijdonk	Campbell	B-Williams	Johnson+	Guinan	Stone+
Rogers	Cooper	Chettle	Armstrong	Stone	Gemmill	Hooijdonk2	Campbell	B-Williams	Johnson	Guinan	Woon
Rogers	Cooper	Chettle	Armstrong*	Stone	Gemmill	Hooijdonk2	Campbell	B-Williams	Hjelde+	Moore	Woon
Rogers*	Cooper	Chettle	Hjelde	Stone	Gemmill	Hooijdonk	Campbell	B-Williams	Pascolo	Moore	Woon+
Rogers	Cooper	Chettle	Hjelde	Stone	Gemmill	Hooijdonk	Campbell	B-Williams	Pascolo	Moore	Woon
Rogers*	Cooper	Chettle	Hjelde	Stone	Gemmill	Hooijdonk	Campbell	B-Williams*	Armstrong+	Moore	Woon+
Rogers	Cooper	Chettle	Hjelde	Stone	Gemmill	Hooijdonk3	Campbell	Woon*	Armstrong	Moore	Williams+
Rogers	Cooper	Chettle	Hjelde	Stone	Gemmill	Hooijdonk	Campbell	B-Williams	Pascolo	Moore	Woon
Rogers	Cooper	Chettle	Hjelde	Stone	Gemmill	Hooijdonk	Campbell	B-Williams	Pascolo	Moore	Woon
Rogers	Cooper	Chettle	Hjelde	Stone	Gemmill	Hooijdonk	Campbell	Woon*	Armstrong+	Guinan	Bonalair+
Rogers*	Cooper	Chettle	Hjelde*	Bonalair	Gemmill	Hooijdonk	Campbell	Woon	Armstrong+	Moore+	Johnson+
Rogers*	Cooper	Chettle	Johnson	Stone	Gemmill	Hooijdonk	Guinan*	Woon	Armstrong+	Moore+	Bonalair+

NOTTINGHAM CITY FOSTERING AND ADOPTION SERVICE are looking for carers in the Nottingham area for children of all ages who need to spend time away from their families. We are interested in hearing from you whatever your gender, age or ethnic background, whether you are single or married.

If you would like to enquire about fostering or adoption and find out more, please contact us on 980 5805 or write to our office at 126 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3HL and we can send you an Information pack.

Please ask for Janine, Amrit or Sue, the social workers in the Recruitment Team or the Duty Social Worker.

Nottinghamshire



County Council



**NOTTINGHAM
FOREST**

Manager: **Dave Bassett**



**SWINDON
TOWN**

Manager : **Steve McMahon**

1 MARCO PASCOLO

2 DES LYTTLE

3 ALAN ROGERS

4 COLIN COOPER

5 STEVE CHETTLÉ

6 ANDY JOHNSON

7 STEVE STONE

8 SCOT GEMMILL

9 PIERRE VAN HOOIJDONK

10 IAN MOORE

11 IAN WOAN

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1 FRASER DIGBY

2 ALAN McDONALD

3 BRIAN BORROWS

4 CRAIG TAYLOR

5 MARK ROBINSON

6 DAVID THOMPSON

7 DARREN BULLOCK

8 TY GOODEN

9 MARK WALTERS

10 STEVE FINNEY

11 GEORGE NDAH

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OFFICIALS

Referee: **Mr. G. LAWS**

Assistant Referees:

Mr. A. L. CLYDE, Mr. H. M. WEBB

Reserve Official: **Mr. G. MELLOR**

