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Wednesday 11th March 1998  
Kick-off 7.45pm

Vol.2 Issue 24 Price £2.00



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ONLY THIS BADGE  
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MIDDLESBROUGH  
v Swindon Town



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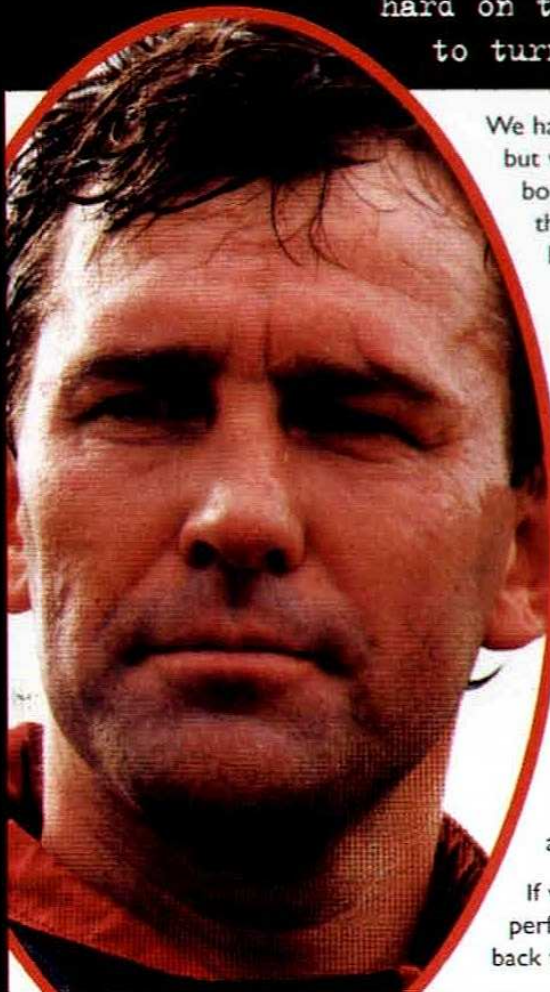
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Tonight's game gives us a good chance to put things right after two poor performances and results.

We have had a good long chat in the last few days about the games at Forest and QPR. The lads feel they know where we have been going wrong and we've been working hard on the training pitch to turn it round.



We have suffered two heavy defeats but we still believe that we can bounce back quickly and build on the good run we had in February.

I feel maybe that the run of games last month caught up with us at Forest. There was a bit of tiredness. At QPR, we could have had four or five goals ourselves but we conceded bad goals as a defensive unit and it cost us.

Swindon can't be high on confidence coming into this game. They started the season strongly and were highly placed when we played there. We got a good win and since then they've hardly won a game.

If we can put in a good performance then we can bounce back from those two defeats.



# ports:

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Marlon Beresford will make his debut in goal for us tonight after joining from Burnley.

I feel we've been living on a knife-edge for about a year-and-a-half with our goalkeeping situation. Last season we had a problem with Gary Walsh and Mark Schwarzer being injured and Ben Roberts had to play with an injury.

This season Ben has had a back injury and that looks like it could be long-term. We also don't know how long Mark will be out for.

We've got Andy Dibble here and I did look at bringing in players on loan but we need permanent cover. All top clubs have fierce competition for the goalkeeper's jersey so it can only help us to have another good 'keeper here.

I've always rated Marlon very highly and people have been talking about him as a 'keeper with great potential for quite a few years.

Clubs had always been put off by Burnley's high asking price but he was out of contract in the summer and Burnley were willing to come down.

He's a big lad and I expect him to do well. He's ready for the challenge of competing with Mark and Ben for a first team place.

Hamilton Ricard should also be with us later this week. I'm delighted that the work permit has come through and his arrival should give us a lift for the end-of-season run-in.

He's a top player with experience at the highest level. He's tall, strong and quick and will add a bit of extra quality to the squad.

We have a free week next week so we will have a good chance to get him settled in and hopefully, after tonight and the game at Portsmouth on Saturday, we will have two good results under our belts to turn things round.



## PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP

### 'KEEPER TO MAKE DEBUT TONIGHT

Goalkeeper Marlon Beresford is set to make his Boro debut tonight. He was signed at the weekend in a £400,000 move from Burnley. Beresford, 28, started his career at Sheffield Wednesday but never made a first team appearance at Hillsborough. He had loan spells at Bury, Ipswich, Northampton and Crewe before joining Burnley for £95,000 in 1992.

### RICARD CLEARED FOR BORO

Columbian international Hamilton Ricard is another new arrival at Boro. The 24-year-old has been granted a work permit by the Department of Employment and will be able to play in Boro's end of season run-in. He joins from Columbian club Deportivo Cali for a fee of £2 million.

### JUST LIKE WATCHING BRAZIL

Boro fans will be able to see the best young players from England and Brazil in action when the Cellnet Riverside Stadium hosts a schoolboy international next Tuesday. Tickets, priced £5, are available from the stadium ticket office.

### SIGNED SHIRT PRIZE WINNER

Riverside Red subscriber Mr MW Cockerill is the latest winner of a signed shirt in our monthly draw. All subscribers are entered into the draw and Mr Cockerill of Whitby is the February winner.

### BORO FANS WANTED FOR REUNION

Boro fans who went to St Thomas' School in Middlesbrough are being invited to a reunion. Those born between September 1955 and August 1956 are getting together at The Highfield in Marton Road on Friday night. Ring Mandy Carney (700889) or Graham Munck (826129) for details.

*Music kindly provided by*



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# CHATTERBOX CHATT

Views from the Boro stars... News and Views from the

## MARK HOPING FOR CUP FINAL COMEBACK

Injured Boro number one Mark Schwarzer is hoping a swift recovery could still give him the chance to play in the Coca-Cola Cup Final.

Schwarzer believes three weeks could be sufficient recovery time and that would give him a good chance of playing at Wembley and then figuring in the promotion run-in.

"This sort of injury can take three to six weeks but I'm hoping, as it's a partial tear of the muscle, it will be only three or three and a half weeks," said the Australian.

"I'm in seven days a week at the training ground getting treatment and it's coming along in leaps and bounds so I'm hopeful."

Contrary to reports it is not the thigh muscle that has kept Schwarzer out.

He explained: "I had had problems for a couple of weeks with a tendon in my groin and something had to give. I was turning to run back to goal in the Crewe game when I tore the muscle in my groin."

## BACK NIGHTMARE HAUNTING BEN

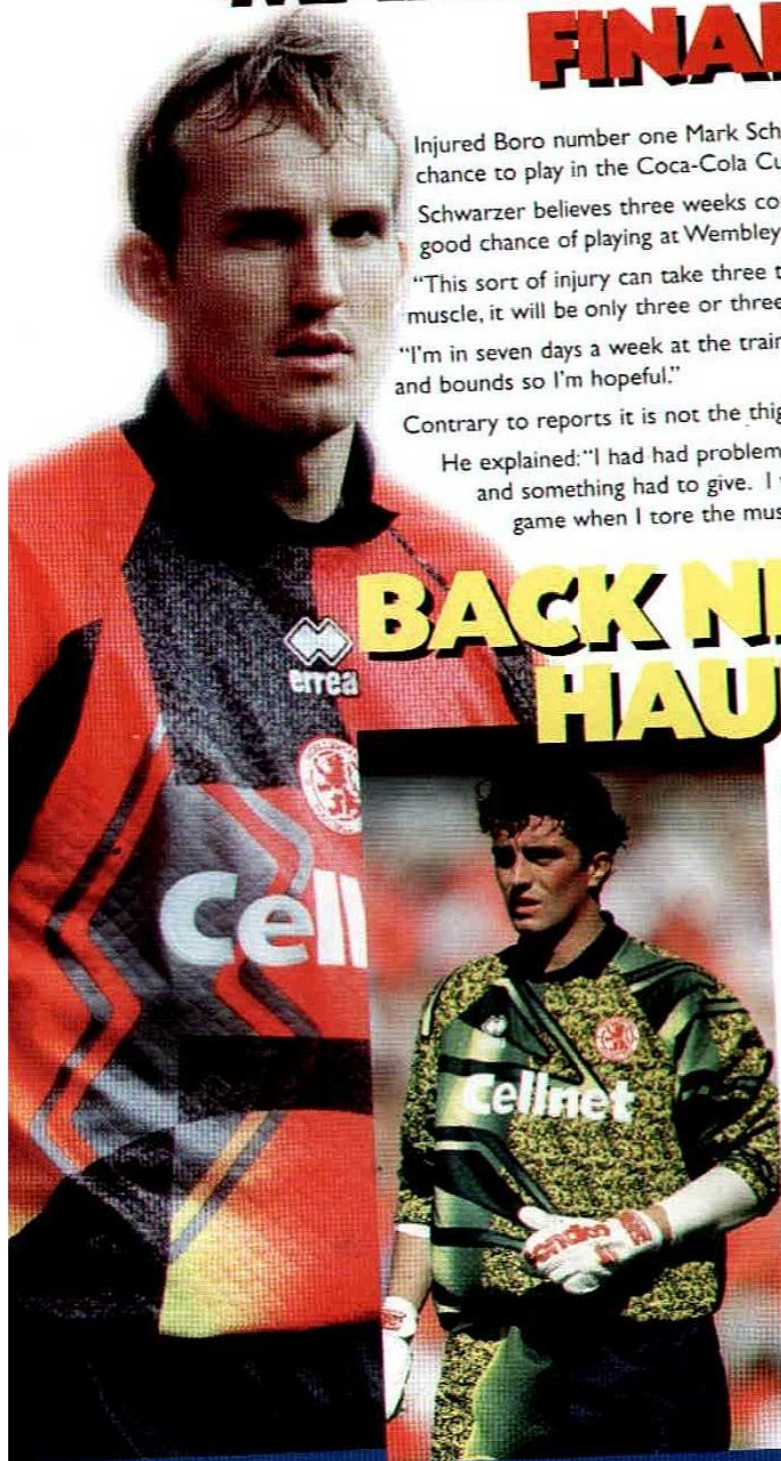
Ben Roberts has suffered a further injury setback, breaking down in training when he was hoping to return to action for Boro.

The young goalkeeper has been out for more than three months with a mystery back complaint and now looks set to be missing for some time yet.

Ben explained: "I've had problems for several months with pains in my lower back. I've been to see quite a few specialists and had lots of scans but we're not sure what it is.

"It seemed to have calmed down and I went back into training last week but after four days I broke down again. It's really frustrating because I don't know how long it will be and especially when I might have been playing again with Mark getting injured.

"I really want to get back to fitness but it's not looking too good at the moment."





Boro stars...News and Views from the Boro...News and

## YOUNGSTERS' CHANCE TO IMPRESS



Anthony Ormerod and Andy Campbell will be missing from the Boro squad tonight as they were called up to represent the Football League.

The 18-year-olds, who've made such a good impression this season, were rewarded for their impressive displays by being selected for a game against their Italian counterparts.

The team, chosen by Charlton boss Alan Curbishley and including the pick of the Nationwide League's under-21 stars, took on the Italians at the Valley last night.

Ormerod said: "The game is designed for them to have a look at some of the players who don't normally get a chance at under-21 level.

**"It will be good experience for us, there's some good players in the team. Hopefully, I can impress the manager here so I can get back in the side and also make an impression with the people who pick the England under-21 side for the future."**

## 1997/98 ROLL CALL

Player	Boro Apps	1997/98 Goals	Boro Apps	Goals	Career Apps	Goals
Alun Armstrong 22.2.75	4	1	4	1	163	49
Steve Baker 8.9.78	6	-	6	-	6	-
Mikkel Beck 12.5.73	34	13	59	18	59	18
Clayton Blackmore 23.9.64	1	-	52	4	243	24
Marco Branca 6.1.65	4	2	4	2	4	2
Andy Campbell 18.4.79	7	2	12	2	12	2
Fabio 14.3.72	1	-	1	-	1	-
Gianluca Festa 15.3.69	27	2	40	3	40	3
Curtis Fleming 8.10.68	21	1	178	2	178	2
Craig Harrison 10.11.77	13	-	13	-	13	-
Craig Hignett 12.1.70	29	5	149	31	270	73
Vladimir Kinder 9.3.69	21	2	27	3	27	3
Craig Liddle 21.10.71	6	-	25	-	30	-
Neil Maddison 2.10.69	12	1	12	1	181	19
Paul Merson 20.3.68	35	11	35	11	369	90
Alan Moore 21.11.74	4	-	114	14	114	14
Robbie Mustoe 28.8.68	24	3	236	17	326	29
Anthony Ormerod 31.3.79	17	3	17	3	17	3
Nigel Pearson 21.8.63	26	2	113	5	446	24
Philip Stamp 12.12.75	10	-	59	3	59	3
Robbie Stockdale 30.11.79	1	-	1	-	1	-
Mark Summerbell 30.10.76	11	-	14	-	14	-
Michael Thomas 24.8.67	7	-	7	-	295	33
Andy Townsend 23.7.63	28	2	28	2	426	35
Steve Vickers 13.10.67	23	-	154	7	464	18
Goalkeepers	Boro Apps	1997/98 GC	Boro Apps	GC	Career Apps	GC
Andy Dibble 8.5.65	2	9	21	31	280	NK
Ben Roberts 22.6.75	6	6	16	18	37	46
Mark Schwarzer 6.10.72	27	21	34	28	47	44

Key to information: top line - League games; bottom line - European, cup and play-off games. Figures refer to English and Scottish leagues only. NK - not known.



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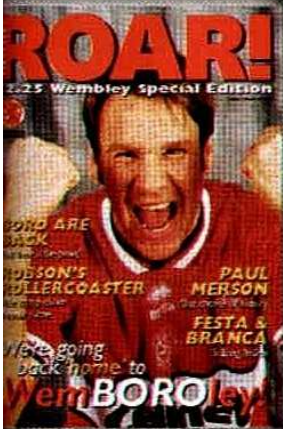
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# RIVERSIDE ROAR IS BACK!

# BORO NEWS



Riverside Roar will be back on the shelves in time to capture the Wembley fever once again gripping Teesside. A fantastic special edition will shortly be running off the presses and it is the only way to really get into the know as we prepare for that trip back to the Twin Towers.

The Magic Man, Paul Merson, is the cover star and is just one of many who gave exclusive interviews to Roar in the build-up to the cup final.

Bryan Robson gives his views and there's chats with Nigel Pearson, Marco Branca and Gianluca Festa as well as a trip down memory lane with a ride on the Robson Rollercoaster and 30 reasons why Boro are back.

Don't miss the special edition of Riverside Roar. It's in the shops next week priced just £2.25.

## ROBBO'S number one

Bryan Robson picked up his second Nationwide Manager of the Month award of the season for leading Boro to a fantastic February.

Robbo saw his side win five league games and drop just two points - in the tough away game at Birmingham. Boro ended the month top of the table and February also saw the fabulous Coca-Cola win over Liverpool.

Meanwhile, Mikkel Beck picked up his Nationwide Player of the Month award before a recent game at the Cellnet Riverside. He was picked by Sky viewers as the Nationwide's best player in November. Paul Merson has also won two of the monthly awards this season.



## ROBBO'S HIT MEN HIT THE STREETS

A brilliant new addition to the range of official Boro videos is out now with the release of Robbo's Hit Squad.

The VSI-produced video focuses on the fabulous night that saw Boro triumph over Liverpool with exclusive behind-the-scenes footage from that memorable night.

It also features the mid-season highlights in the race to the Premiership, with all the action and goals. There's also a chance to see Bernie Slaven interviewing Paul Merson.

Get Robbo's Hit Squad from the two club shops now at just £12.99.

## MORE CHANCES TO WIN A CAR



Three Boro Jackpot ticket holders got a unique chance to take to the field at the Cellnet Riverside at half-time in the Sunderland game. They took part in a game of chance, shooting at a target set up in the goal-mouth, hoping to win a car.

The trio were unlucky this time but there will be more similar competitions run at forthcoming games with different games of skill and more chances to win a car. Make sure you buy your Boro Jackpot ticket to be in with a chance.

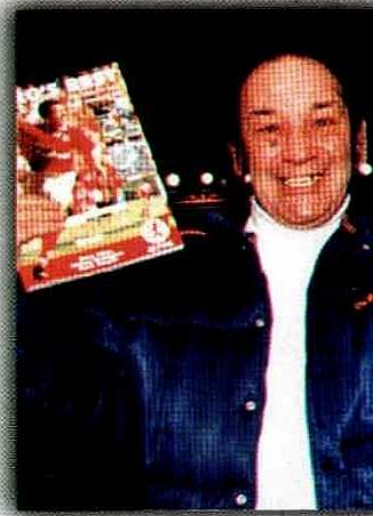
The trio were unlucky this time but there will be more

## ERIC WINS WITH BORO'S BEST

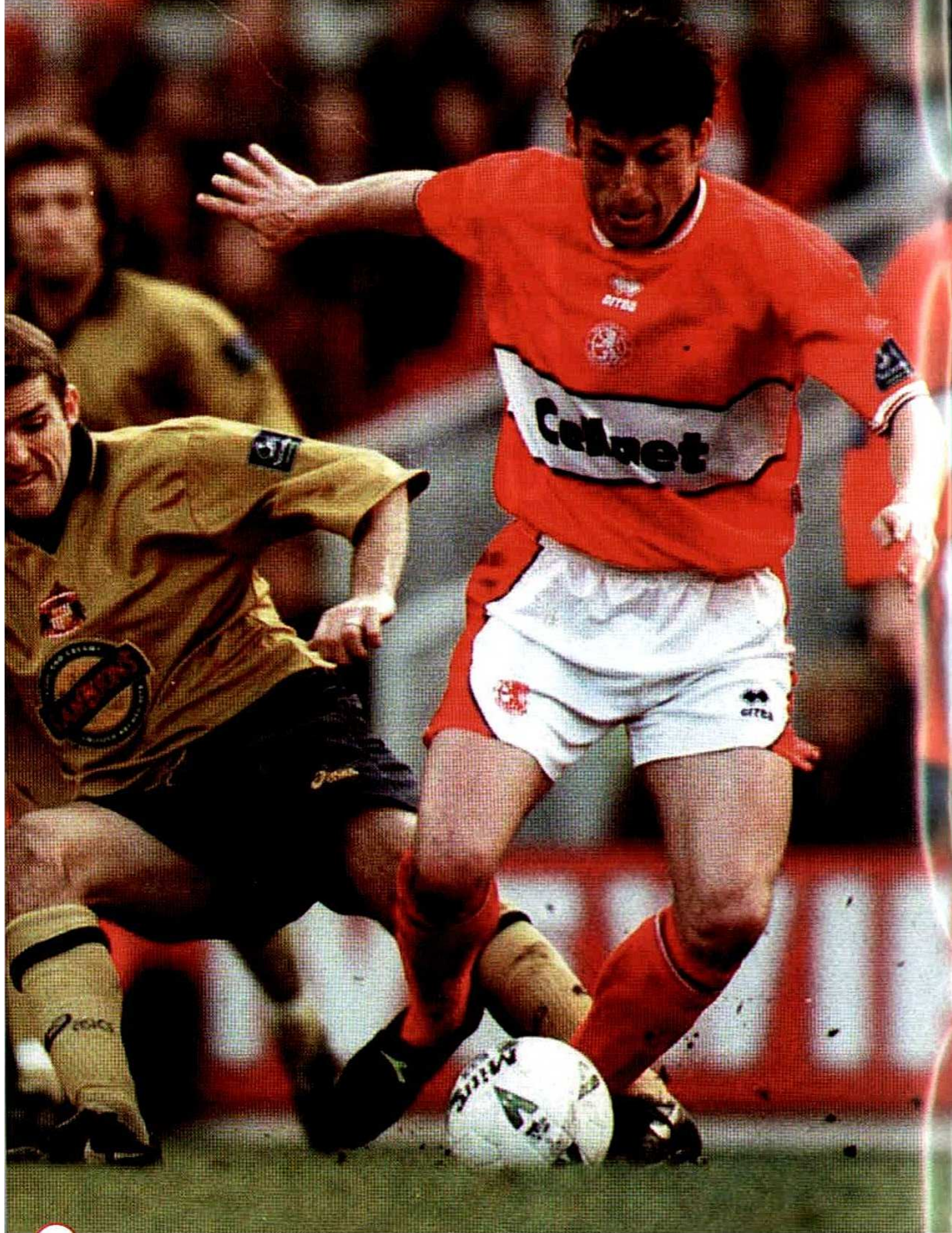
Boro fan Eric Cummings (right) is looking forward to a great family holiday just from reading Boro's Best and listening to Century Radio.

Using his copy of the best-selling book, Eric was able to answer questions set on Century Radio and he went on to win a £500 holiday voucher courtesy of Dawson & Sanderson of Middlesbrough.

Competition runners-up will receive the first ever tour of the Boro training ground at Rockliffe Park. The club will contact them with details at a later date.









## ACTION REPLAY

BORO

3

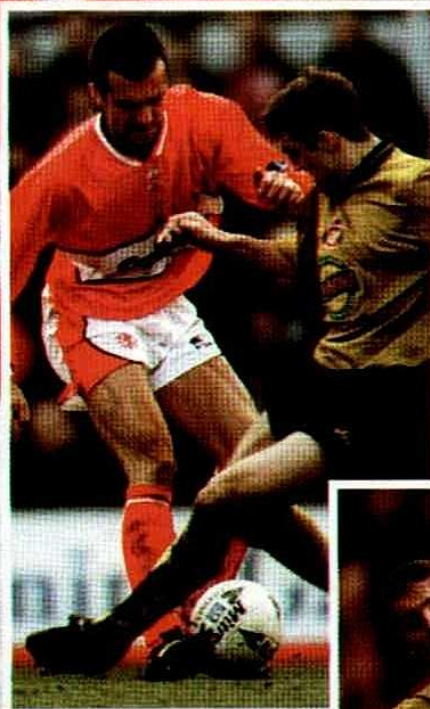
Branca 31 & 68  
Armstrong 87

SUNDERLAND

1

Clark 90

## what the papers said ...

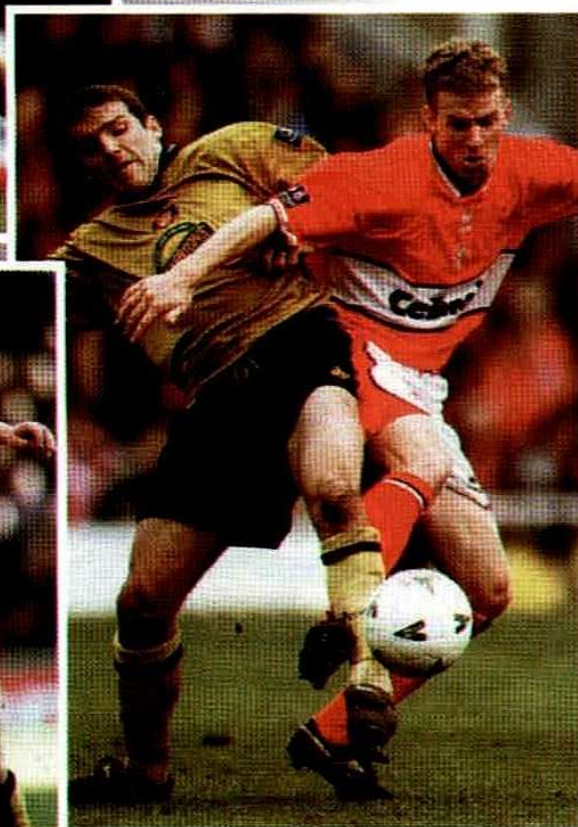


"Firm at the back, confident in midfield and decisive up front, Bryan Robson has a blend which will surely take the club straight back into the Premiership. He also has Paul Merson. Quite what Merson is doing, playing at this level, only he knows."

Ian Potts, *The Independent*

"Michael Owen and Kevin Phillips are the red-hot strikers of the Premiership and First Division. At least they were - until they met Nigel Pearson. Fittingly, both hit-men were in slightly different shades of gold when they arrived at the Riverside Stadium. And in the most critical games of the season, Boro's Captain Fantastic swatted them both away with ease."

Colin Young, *The Sun*



"Failure is not the act of falling down but the acceptance of defeat. Nine months ago, Middlesbrough were on the canvas, their ambitions and emotions shredded at Wembley and in the Premiership. Now, wiser and harder, Boro are returning irresistibly to both elite pastures with lessons learnt, spirits restored and hopes high. Success is stamped upon the Riverside again."

Henry Winter, *Daily Telegraph*



"If Paul Merson doesn't go to France, Glenn Hoddle should be sent to Coventry. The former Arsenal star is playing with such flair and finesse that boss Bryan Robson reckons he could pick up the PPA Player of the Year award."

Martin Howe, *Daily Star*





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# PROFILE

## interview

### MARK SUMMERBELL

by Dave Robson



Sunderland's loss was definitely Boro's gain when a young Mark Summerbell decided to team up with Boro.

Summerbell, then an eager 11-year-old schoolboy, attended the Boro's School of Excellence in Durham during the Bruce Rioch era.

And even though he had the chance to sign for his beloved Sunderland, Boro's reputation for nurturing young talent won the day.

He signed schoolboy forms at 14, YTS forms at 16 and turned professional at 18.

And now, after a clutch of dynamic midfield performances, the 21-year-old has recently put pen to paper on a contract

"When I first came, we were getting gates of around 6,000 at Ayresome Park. The change since then has been unbelievable - it's great to be part of such a big club."

which ties him to Boro for three and a half years.

Not bad for a one-time Roker Park season ticket holder who used to name Gary Rowell among his favourite players!

Mark, who hails from and still lives in Durham, said: "All my family used to go and watch Sunderland. A lot still do and so do all my mates, but I'm Boro through and through now.

"I got offers to go to Sunderland before I signed schoolboy forms with Middlesbrough, but the main thing was Boro's record with young lads. Everyone got their chance.

"I never had a doubt in my mind about signing. As much as I was a Sunderland supporter in those days, I knew I wanted to play for Middlesbrough.

"My friends give me a bit of stick, but it's all in fun. They're all behind me, as much as they want Sunderland to do well."

Certainly, Mark's displays this season make Boro fans glad he's gracing the Cellnet Riverside Stadium rather than the Stadium of Light.



"I never had a doubt in my mind about signing. AS much as I was a Sunderland supporter in those days, I knew I wanted to play for Middlesbrough..."

His all-action style won rave reviews and earned him an extended run in the first-team before Christmas, only ended by an ankle ligament injury picked up at Maine Road.

You'd think one of his most memorable moments would have been the Coca-Cola Cup Fourth round tie with Bolton Wanderers when he scored his first Boro goal.

But thanks to a Boro old boy, the memory of the ball hitting the back of the net is a bit of a blur.

He explained: "I can't remember too much about it, to be honest. Jamie Pollock tried to challenge me at the same time as I kicked the ball.

"I remember the ball being pulled back but, as he tackled me, I knocked my knee against his. It really hurt. I can remember hobbling away as everyone was congratulating me."

Robbie, Emerson and Andy Townsend have been different class with me. Even when Robbie wasn't playing himself, he'd help me and give me advice. I suppose I like to get stuck in, in the same way as players like Robbie do."

Mark's debut was in April 1996, when he came on as substitute at Tottenham - ahead of a Brazilian World Cup winner.

He explained: "I was just chuffed to be travelling - I didn't really think I'd be involved. Even when Robbie Mustoe got injured and had to come off, my first reaction was that Branco would come on. I was a bit shocked to be told to get ready, but it all happened so fast, I didn't have a chance to think about it."

And as for the boss who gave him that first chance, Mark has an obvious respect.

"There's nothing you can say other than that he's the best in the business. You can only learn from him."

And like many fans, he can't believe the transformation in Boro as a club in just a few years.

He said: "When I first came, we were getting gates of around 6,000 at Ayresome Park. The change since then has been unbelievable - it's great to be part of such a big club."

Mark also doesn't feel morale was as bad last year as was sometimes suggested.

"Obviously it's brilliant this season, but morale is always good when you're doing well. It seemed fine last year, too, although it obviously helps when you're at the top of the league rather than the bottom."

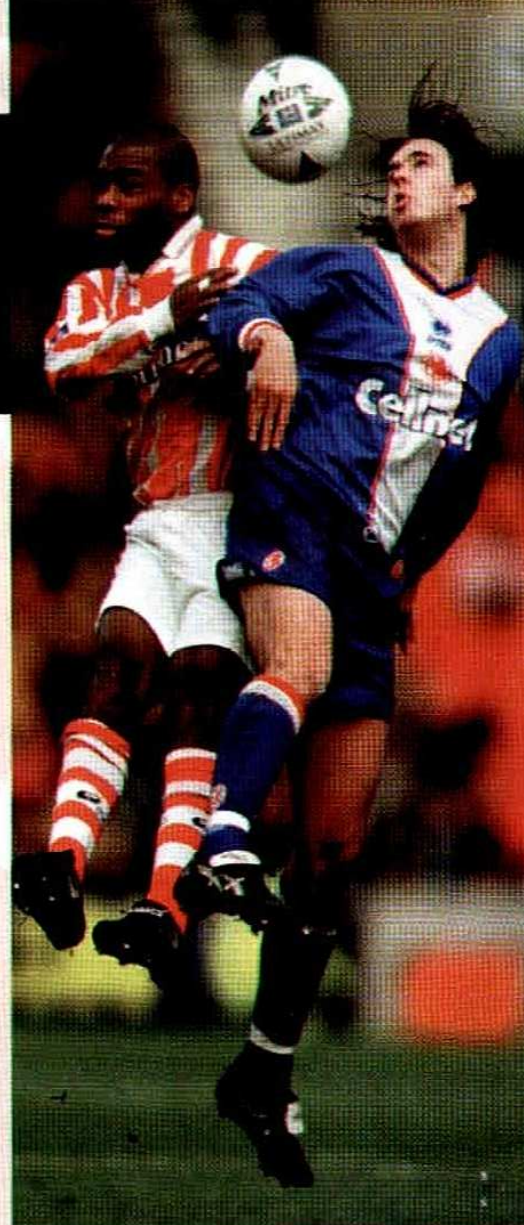
And with Boro and Sunderland both flying high in Division One, it's certainly going to make life interesting in the Summerbell household.

For the record, the ball was knocked back by Craig Hignett and Mark looped it into the net.

But it was Mark's overall performance which delighted Robbo, who described it as "excellent", and impressed the Evening Gazette, who dubbed him "tireless and tidy".

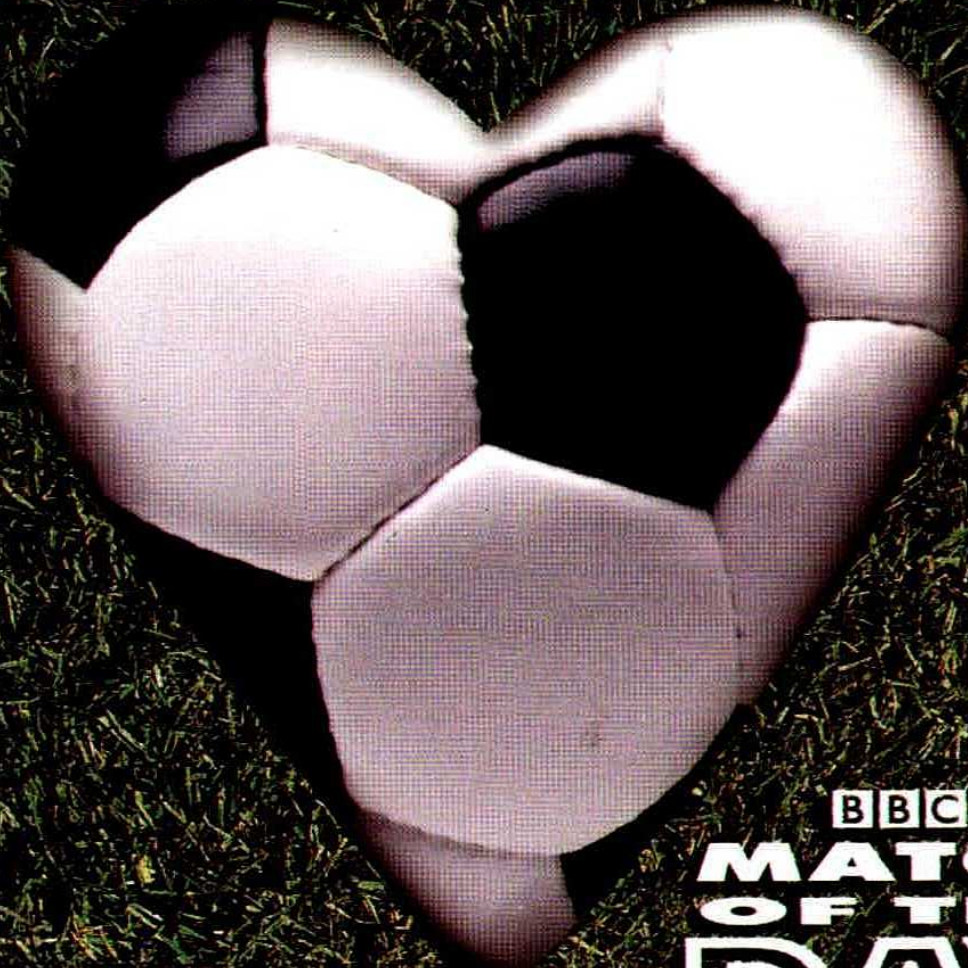
His impressive work-rate is one of the most noticeable features of his play, a trait doubtless enhanced by learning his trade alongside the likes of Robbie Mustoe.

Mark says: "Players like





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# MANAGER INTERVIEW

STEVE McMAHON... STEVE McMAHON... STEVE McMAHON... STEVE McMAHON...

## STEVE McMAHON *by Marcus Lee*

Steve McMahon is currently experiencing one of those nightmare runs that all managers dread. In just four short months the Swindon boss has seen his team pick up a mere 12 points from a possible 54 and exit the FA Cup to non-league Stevenage Borough. Oh, and not forgetting an FA misconduct charge for himself.

A 1-0 home victory against Bradford City in mid-November enabled Swindon to move to the top of Division One, but their dismal run of form has had dire consequences with the top spot now seeming a million miles away.

The Robins are instead sliding towards the relegation zone, much to the anger of the club's fans, who have displayed banners calling for the manager's head. But McMahon is adamant that he is the right man to turn the club's fortunes around.

"I won't let a small minority of supporters drive me out," insists McMahon. "Of course I'm not happy about our form at the moment but what can I do?"

"If there's a manager out there who can do a better job on the same

resources, I'd happily walk away. But I'm no quitter and I can sleep at night knowing that I'm doing my best."

Indeed, McMahon knows that while the top clubs in the division can go out and spend millions on new players, he is in the unenviable position of having to scrimp and save to balance the books.

Giant striker Wayne Allison's £800,000 move to Huddersfield Town is a case in point, as his departure coincided with the club's nose-dive down the table. Injuries and suspensions to key players such as Mark Walters and Chris Hay have also hindered Swindon's cause.

"If the fans knew of the problems we have got they would understand the difficulties," said McMahon. "I'm a proud person and it hurts me to see the banners. I want to strengthen the squad but the players we can get must be better than what we've already got."

One man that understands the difficult position that McMahon

is in is Swindon chairman Rikki Hunt. He backs his man to the hilt.

"Steve McMahon is going to be at the club for a long time, and as long as I'm here, so will he," admitted Hunt. "If he left it would be because he wanted to."

The pressure is definitely on, but after a glittering 18-year playing career where he won a hatful of medals and gained the reputation of being a footballing "hard-man", McMahon is used to high-pressure situations.

The Liverpool-born 36-year-old began his playing career at Everton, before moving across Merseyside, via Aston Villa, to Anfield. Here he emerged as the driving force in a Liverpool midfield that was to sweep all before them, winning three league championships and two FA Cup winners' medals.

He then moved to Manchester City in 1991, before ending up at Swindon Town in December 1994.

His tough-tackling approach won him 17 England caps, but the footballing principles he experienced as a player at Anfield have not been lost on him in management. His Swindon team have gained many plaudits for their slick and inventive passing approach to the game.

In his first full season as player-manager at the County Ground, McMahon inspired his team to the 1996 Division Two championship - this after the Robins had suffered two successive relegations.

Progress was made again last season, as Swindon consolidated their position in Division One by finishing 19th and, despite the chants made by a minority of supporters, the Robins have continued their progress this term, while also maintaining their entertaining style of play.

However, McMahon knows that if he fails to reach the play-offs, the club will have to pay back £35,000 to supporters under an agreement made with season ticket holders.

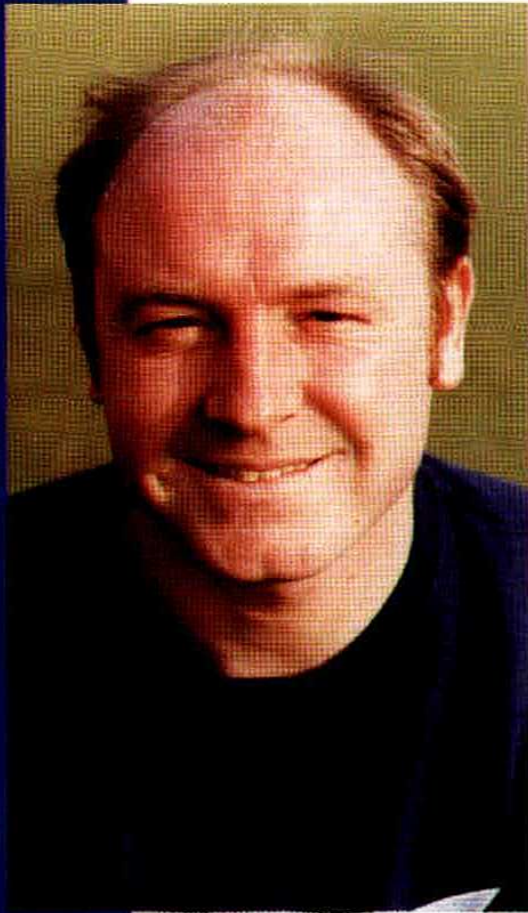
McMahon is under no illusions as to the size of the task facing him as the season moves into a crucial phase.

"I've said it before, but we're over-achieving at the moment considering the limited resources we have," he said. "We were in first place after 17 games and now we've come down to earth a bit."

"If it had been the other way around. If we had started slowly and then come good fans would now be praising us. It's hard to accept the banners because it is pre-meditated."

**McMahon finishes:**

**I still believe we have the, ability and we've got enough games to go to make the, play-offs, but it's going to be a hard task ahead."**



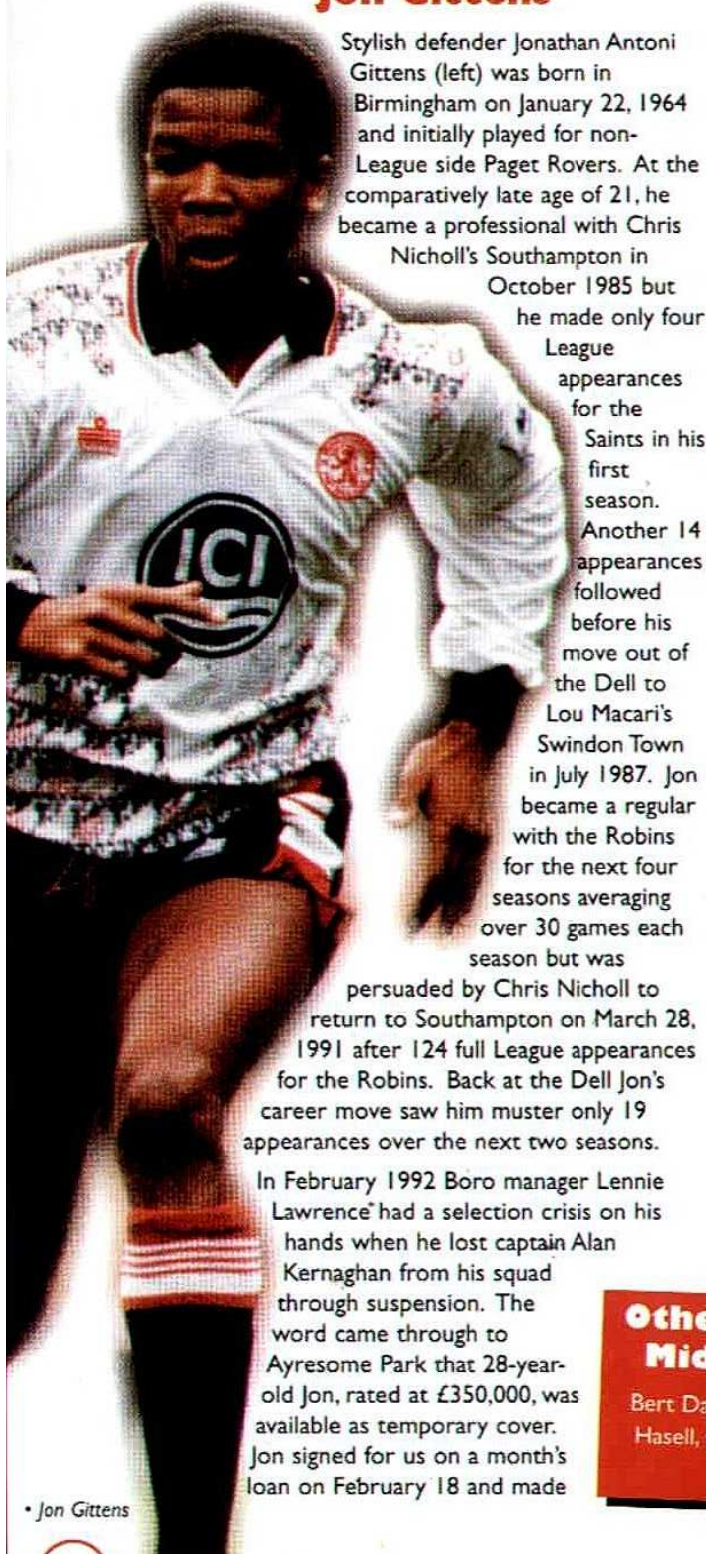


# Swindon

# Connections

Club historian Harry Gasper trawls through the archives to bring back memories of some of those players that have played their part in the history of Boro and Swindon.

## Jon Gittens



Stylish defender Jonathan Antoni Gittens (left) was born in Birmingham on January 22, 1964 and initially played for non-League side Paget Rovers. At the comparatively late age of 21, he became a professional with Chris Nicholl's Southampton in October 1985 but he made only four League appearances for the Saints in his first season. Another 14 appearances followed before his move out of the Dell to Lou Macari's Swindon Town in July 1987. Jon became a regular with the Robins for the next four seasons averaging over 30 games each season but was

persuaded by Chris Nicholl to return to Southampton on March 28, 1991 after 124 full League appearances for the Robins. Back at the Dell Jon's career move saw him muster only 19 appearances over the next two seasons.

In February 1992 Boro manager Lennie Lawrence had a selection crisis on his hands when he lost captain Alan Kernaghan from his squad through suspension. The word came through to Ayresome Park that 28-year-old Jon, rated at £350,000, was available as temporary cover. Jon signed for us on a month's loan on February 18 and made

his Boro debut at home to Blackburn Rovers in a goal-less draw four days later.

As most of you will know, Jon scored only one goal for Boro but, arguably, it was one of the most important in the club's recent history. He scored the vital winner at Molineux which clinched Boro's promotion to the Premier League in May 1992. In the summer of that year he turned down the chance to join Wimbledon and Newcastle United to come to Ayresome Park in a £250,000 permanent move but lasted only one season at Middlesbrough. He was on his way to Portsmouth in the summer of 1993 and spent three seasons at Fratton Park before a transfer to his current club Torquay United.



• John Neal

## John Neal

Tee-totaller John Neal (right) was born in Silksworth, Durham on April 3, 1932 and supported Sunderland as a boy, playing his early football with the local colliery side Silksworth CW Juniors. At the age of 16, in August 1948, he joined the playing staff of Third Division North side Hull City then managed by Raich Carter.

Once described as "... one of the quiet men of football ... but a tough tackling, no-nonsense full back" he was to

### Others who been involved with both Middlesbrough and Swindon Town

Bert Davies, Tom Dawson (Boro war guest), Jan-Aage Fjortoft, Bert Hasell, Chris Kamara, Ken McPherson, Allan McRobbie, Mel Nurse and Andy Todd.

• Jon Gittens



## MIDDLESBROUGH DEBUTS AGAINST SWINDON

Player	Debut	Ven	Score	Div	Pos
Alan Foggon	Nov 22 1972	h	0-2	2	Sub
David Mills	Apr 14 1970	a	3-0	2	O/R
Colin Walsh	Feb 2 1991	h	2-0	2	C/H

spend seven seasons at Boothferry Park registering a total of 60 appearances before a move to Swindon Town in July 1957. After 91 games he was allowed to leave the County Ground and ended up working on the production line at Ford's Dagenham plant playing non-League football with King's Lynn.

In July 1959 his League career was resuscitated by a £6,000 transfer to Joe Mercer's Aston Villa and, whilst at Villa Park, John won a League Cup winner's medal against Rotherham United in the first ever final of the competition, which was then played on a home and away basis, as well as the Second Division championship. John left the Midlands giant to sign for Alvin Williams' Southend United in November 1962, finally retiring from playing in June 1967 at the age of 35.

John joined Wrexham as coach, then followed a fruitful 10 years' association with the Racecourse Ground club. As manager John guided Wrexham to promotion from Division Four and also took the Welsh club into the quarter-finals of the European Cup-Winners' Cup.

When Jack Charlton resigned as Boro manager the club turned to Third Division Wrexham for Jack's successor and John became Boro's 16th manager on May 19, 1977. John was responsible for bringing John Mahoney, Billy Ashcroft, Terry Cochrane and Irving Natrass (all record buys) to the club. The purchases of Micky Burns and Bosco Jankovic added some flair to Boro's forward line but David Armstrong, Terry Cooper, John Hickton, Craig Johnston, David Hodgson, David Mills, Mark Proctor and Graeme Souness were all allowed to leave the club whilst he was manager.

Indeed, it was the sale of Craig Johnston to Liverpool that caused John to leave the club to manage Chelsea in May 1981. At Stamford Bridge, Neal led Chelsea's charge to the Second Division championship in 1984 but heart surgery in 1985 saw him replaced by Dave Hollins with Neal being shuffled "upstairs" in the capacity of consultant but he and Chelsea parted company in late October 1986.

### John Walker

Scottish international full-back John Walker was born in Beith, playing his early football as a part-time outside-left for his home town club. Whilst taking part in a dinner-time kick-about at the factory where he worked he was coerced into playing as a full-back. Scottish Second Division side Raith Rovers spotted him playing for Burnbank Athletic and signed him up. Glasgow giants Rangers picked him up for a meagre £60 and he moved to Ibrox in 1905 but within two years was taken on by Southern League side Swindon Town. At Town he won the first of his nine full Scotland caps and



• Jan Fjartoft - a favourite at Boro and Swindon

helped the Robins win the Southern League championship, winning the plaudits of all and sundry and was, in many fans' opinion, the best full back in the Southern League.

Boro manager Tom McIntosh forked out a hefty £1,000 to prise Walker away from Town and John played for Boro in 109 games either side of the Great War before a move to Reading in 1921. He returned to Swindon at the end of his career and ran a fish shop in the town for many years.

## LEAGUE LANDMARKS

Our League record against Swindon Town

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	
Home	14	8	3	3	26	13	
Away	15	7	2	6	16	17	
	29	15	5	9	42	30	41 pts

### Highest Victory

Home 4-0 (15 Oct 1966)  
Away 3-0 (14 Apr 1970)

### Heaviest Defeat

Home 0-2 (25 Nov 1972) & (11 Nov 1989)  
Away 0-4 (4 Mar 1967)

### Last Win

Home 3-1 (29 Oct 1994)  
Away 2-1 (22 Nov 1997)

### Last Draw

Home 2-2 (7 Dec 1991)  
Away 1-1 (28 Apr 1990)

### Leading League

scorers against Town

Bernie Slaven 6, John O'Rourke 4

**Current squad members who have scored against Town are**

Craig Hignett, Paul Merson and Robbie Mustoe (2).



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# RAIN'S VIEWPOINT

## SWINDON TOWN

Dick Mattick is a regular contributor to the Swindon programme and the club historian. He gives his thoughts on recent events at the County Ground ...

*by Dick Mattick*



**"It's a game of two halves" is a bit of a football cliché but in Swindon Town's case it's been more a case of a season of two halves.**

The first part was a very successful one. It started efficiently with a 2-0 victory over newly-promoted Crewe. The goalscorers were Wayne Allison and Steve Finney, the duo who had scored the goals in the Second Division Championship season of 1995-96. It was a victory which gave some heart to supporters who, after a dismal end to the 1996-97 season, feared the side might not be good enough to stay up.

One of the reasons for this optimism was the performance of Philippe Cuervo obtained from Paris St Germain for free. The

skills of the tall, elegant midfielder were one of the reasons for the early season successes of the Town.

Even if there was the disappointment of an early exit from the Coca-Cola Cup at the hands of Watford, Swindon continued to prosper in the League.

A factor in their success was the goalscoring exploits of Chris Hay. Hay, signed from Celtic in the close season, seemed to be a perfect foil for Wayne Allison.

Allison was the workhorse of the team, happy to hold the ball up and be kicked from behind without complaint but unable to finish in "one on ones" with the keeper.

On the other hand, Hay was the invisible man, like the great Swindon icon, Don Rogers, he might contribute nothing for 85 minutes and then destroy a team with a clinical strike when he finally got a chance.

He began a real purple patch with a hat-trick against Port Vale which was to see him notch 10 goals in



• Craig Taylor

### FACTFILE PART 1

Address: County Ground,  
Swindon, Wiltshire SN1 2ED  
Tel: 01793 430430  
Fax: 01793 536170

Ground capacity: 15,728  
Record attendance: 32,000 v  
Arsenal, 1972

Manager: Steve McMahon

Early history: As with many clubs, Swindon began life as an off-shoot of a cricket club, going under the name of the Spartans. It is widely accepted that 1881 is the year that the club became Swindon Town. But there is no evidence to confirm that this occurred before 1883 when the club amalgamated with St Mark's Young Men's Friendly Society. The club took over the County Ground in 1896 and was an original member of Division Three in 1920.



nine games before he lost his place due to suspension and then injury.

Also prominent in this period, which saw Swindon Town rise to top of the First Division table, was Alan McDonald. A free transfer from Queens Park Rangers, McDonald, a Northern Ireland international, might have lost some pace but had lost none of the positional sense and strength in the air which had won him international honours.

The turning point was almost certainly the sale of Wayne Allison - "the Chief" - as he was known to Swindon fans. Financially this made good sense. Allison would have been able to move for nothing at the end of the season and Swindon's directors did not

feel able to turn down the £800,000 on offer from Huddersfield. That Huddersfield were willing to pay this much for his services indicated they

were more prepared to gamble on keeping First Division status than Town were on reaching for the Premiership.

All seemed to be well at first as Steve Cowe, a £100,000 signing from Aston Villa, who had been unable to hold down a first team place, scored the first time he replaced Allison. Time was to show, however, that Allison's departure was to effect Swindon's performances most notably in defence where his strength in the air was sadly missed at corners.

It was against Boro that Swindon unveiled Allison's replacement. George Ndash had been signed from Crystal Palace for £500,000. A record of around a dozen goals in over a hundred matches did not seem that impressive but when he scored the opening goal against Boro his lightning pace certainly impressed the Swindon faithful. Sadly, he has not scored since and has spent a long time side-lined with injury.

Fraser Digby has been doing splendid work as Swindon's keeper since he joined from Manchester United 10 years ago. The affection in which he is held by the Swindon faithful is shown by the

fact that more turned up for his testimonial, against what was a Manchester United reserve team, than for many League fixtures at the County Ground.

Unfortunately, it was Digby's error that gave Boro their equaliser and if he was unfortunate that a poor kick went straight to an opponent, he was even more unfortunate that the player the kick went to was the skilful Paul Merson and that Boro went on to win.

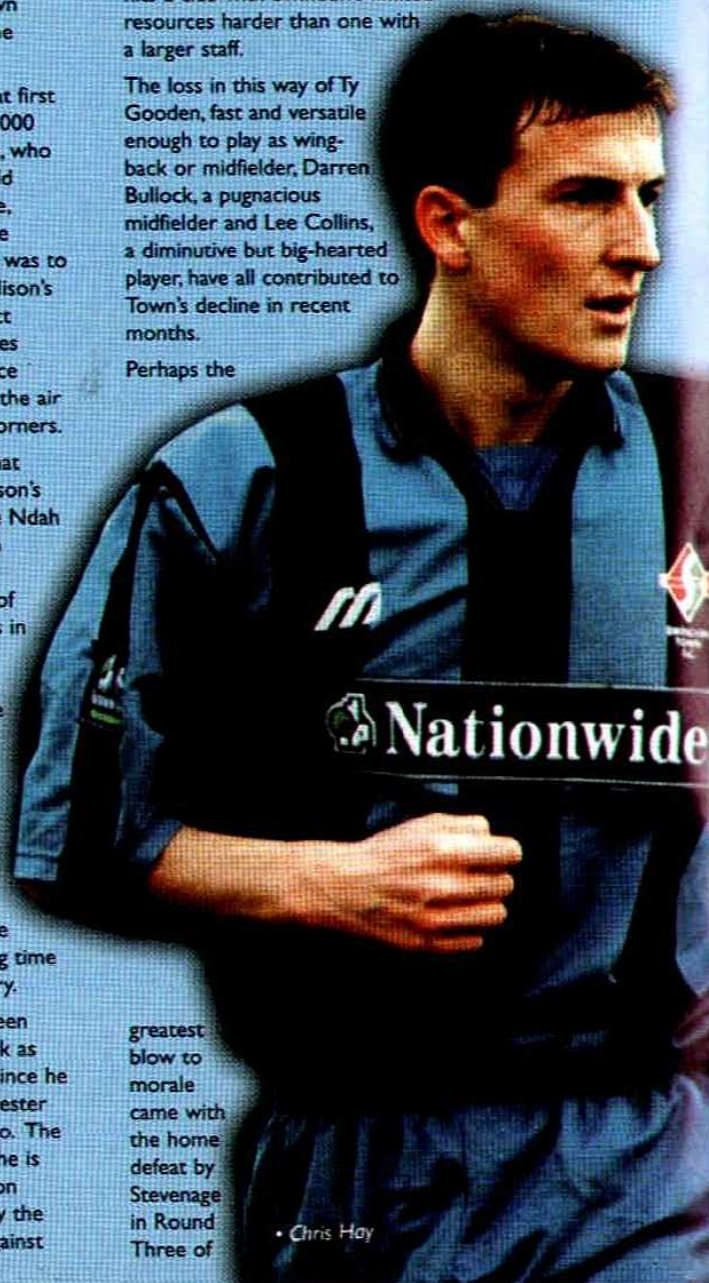
Since then Swindon have been in virtual free fall. A major problem has been a lack of a regular defence. Brian Borrows, signed from Coventry City where he played in the 1985 Cup final team, has given some impressive performances but often the defence has lacked stability both in terms of personality and shape.

A notable performance in this respect came in the home match with Oxford United. Playing a flat back four, Town had looked in trouble and were lucky not to be more than one goal down. Switching to three central defenders and with two wing-backs they turned the game round and won 4-1.

Swindon's disciplinary record has not been the best in the League and the loss of players through suspension hits a club with Swindon's limited resources harder than one with a larger staff.

The loss in this way of Ty Gooden, fast and versatile enough to play as wing-back or midfielder, Darren Bullock, a pugnacious midfielder and Lee Collins, a diminutive but big-hearted player, have all contributed to Town's decline in recent months.

Perhaps the



greatest blow to morale came with the home defeat by Stevenage in Round Three of

• Chris Hay

## FACTFILE PART 2

Record League Victory: 9-1 v Luton, Division 3(S), 1920

Record Cup Victory: 10-1 v Farnham U Breweries, FA Cup 1st round replay, 1925

Record Defeat: 1-10 v Manchester C, FA Cup 4th round replay, 1930

Most League Goals in Season: Harry Morris, 47, Division 3(S), 1926-27

Record League Scorer: Harry Morris, 216, 1926-33

Record League Appearances: John Trollope, 770, 1960-80

Most Capped Player: Rod Thomas, 30, Wales

Record Transfer In: Joey Beauchamp from West Ham, £800,000, 1994

Record Transfer Out: Kevin Horlock to Manchester City, £1,500,000, 1997

Football League Record: 1920-21

Division 3; 1921-58 Division 3(S); 1958-

63 Division 3; 1963-65 Division 2; 1965-

69 Division 3; 1969-74 Division 2; 1974-

82 Division 3; 1982-86 Division 4; 1986-

87 Division 3; 1987-92 Division 2; 1992-

93 Division 1; 1993-94 Premier League;

1994-95 Division 1; 1995-96 Division 2;

1996- Division 1

Honours: Division 2 champions 1996;

Division 4 champions 1986; League Cup

winners 1969; Anglo-Italian Cup winners

1970.

fact that more turned up for his testimonial, against



# SWINDON'S ROLL CALL 1997/98

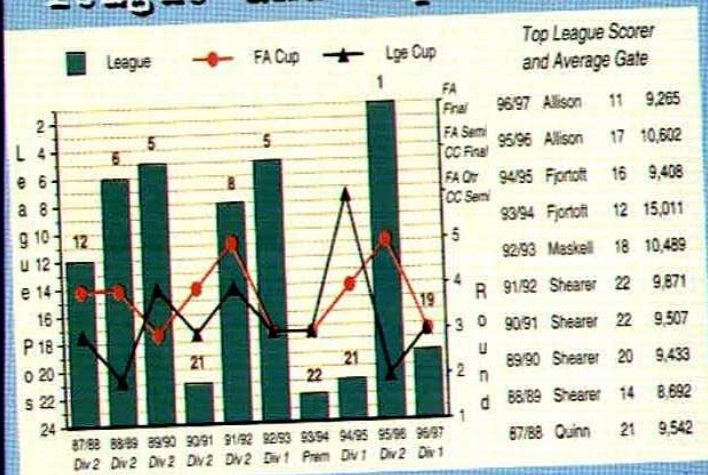
	A	G	C	Previous Clubs
Ty Gooden	30	2	6	Wycombe Arsenal
23/10/72	3			
Brian Borrowes	29		4	Coventry Bristol City (L)
20/12/60 Eng B				Bolton Everton
Fraser Digby	28		1	Man Utd Swindon (L)
23/4/67 Eng U21				Oldham
Chris Hay	26(3)	14	5	Celtic
28/8/74	2		1	
Alan McDonald	24(3)		3	QPR Charlton (L)
12/10/63 N Ire	3			
Craig Taylor	22(3)	1	3	Dorchester
24/1/74	1			
Scott Letch	20(1)	1	4	Hearts Dunfermline
6/10/69	2		1	
Mark Robinson	19(1)	1	5	Newcastle Barnsley
21/11/68	2			West Brom
Darren Bullock	17(5)		9(1)	Huddersfield Nuneaton
12/2/69				
Wayne Allison	16	3		Bristol City Watford
16/10/68	2			Halifax
Mark Walters	15(8)	3	2	-now at Huddersfield
2/6/64 England	2(1)	1		Southampton Liverpool
Stephen Finney	15(6)	4	1	Wolves (L) Stoke (L)
31/10/73	1(1)			Rangers Villa
Lee Collins	14(4)	1	4(1)	Man City Preston
3/2/74	1			
Phillipe Cuervo	11(5)		3	Albion Possil Utd
13/8/69	2			
Kevin Watson	11(4)			St Etienne
3/1/74	1			
Jason Drysdale	11(3)		2	Tottenham Brentford (L)
17/11/70 Eng Yth	2(1)			Bristol City (L) Barnet
Ian Culverhouse	9(2)		2	Newcastle Watford
22/9/64 Eng Yth	1			
Bobby Howe	9		2	Norwich Tottenham
6/11/73				
George Nidah	8	1	1	Forest Ipswich (L)
23/12/74	1			
Steve Cowe	5(7)	2	1	Palace Bournemouth(L)
29/9/74	(1)			Villa
Mark Seagraves	5			
22/10/66 Eng Yth	2			Bolton Man City
Steve Maldenhall	4			Liverpool Norwich
13/5/78				
Alex Smith	2(3)		1	Everton
15/2/76				
Frank Tafia	2	1		Blackburn Hartlepool (L)
20/7/72	1			
Stuart Elliott	1			Newcastle Hull (L)
27/8/77				
Michael Pattimore	(2)			
15/3/79				
Sol Davies	(1)			
4/9/79				
Robin Hulbert	(1)			
14/3/80 Eng Yth				
Steve McMahon	(1)			Man City
20/8/61 England				Liverpool
Alex Meechan	(1)			Villa
29/1/80				Everton

A APPEARANCES (SUB) G GOALS C CAUTIONS  
(SENT OFF)

the FA Cup. A recent article in "When Saturday Comes" suggested you needed a dodgy pitch, dodgy officials and dodgy weather for a Cup upset. The pitch was not too bad and there could be no complaints about the officials but the weather was more than a bit iffy.

A cracking shot by Mark Walters, who I would rate Town's most skilful but also most injury-prone player, was helped by a strong wind which turned into a howling gale in the second half. Digby was finding it hard to get his goal kicks beyond the edge of his own area and it was

# Swindon's 10 year league and cup record



from one such kick that the goal which led to Swindon's 2-1 defeat came.

Given that it took Newcastle United two games to beat the non-League team, Swindon's performance does not seem so disastrous but it was certainly critical in hitting Town's morale and leading manager Steve McMahon to put a not wanted notice on eight of his players.

Before that Stevenage match when one looked at the two sides on paper, one can have expected only one outcome. Given the cost and League positions of tonight's teams, again there would seem to be only one possible winner but to end with another football cliché "It's a funny old game" and the Stevenage match should remind Swindon that tonight they could be the underdogs who triumph.

• Fraser Digby



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# BORO BRAINSTORMER

"It'll have you tearing your hair out!"

1 How much did Boro pay Swindon for Jan Fjortoft?

2 Which current Boro player had a trial at Swindon before joining Boro?

3 Which Bryan Robson signing scored his first goal for the club in the last home meeting with Swindon, a 3-1 victory in 1994?

4 Who was the first British player to score for Boro this season?

5 Which player wore the number 13 shirt for Boro last season?

6 Who did Boro play on Boxing Day last season?

7 Which two sides met in the play-off final when Boro were promoted at the end of the 1994-95 season?

8 Which club has former Boro player Brian Laws as its player-manager?

9 From which club did Inter Milan sign Gianluca Festa?

10 Which Italian club, which also boasts Marco Branca as one of its former players, did Festa join on loan in the 1993-94 season?



## MIDDLEBROUGH OFFICIAL SUPPORTERS CLUB NOTES

It's truly fantastic that Boro have reached another Wembley Final on 29 March, becoming the first club to reach three consecutive domestic cup finals.

Before we played Liverpool, I tempted fate by speculating whether we would become the first holders of such a

record. Certainly no-one in living memory had done it. But I thought maybe in the last century one of those now defunct clubs like the Old Estonians or Royal Engineers, who seemed to win everything back then, must have been in three consecutive FA Cup Finals (no League Cup in those days of course). It seems not though, so Boro have made history.

I know the fans are looking forward to this final much more than the FA Cup Final last season, which is understandable I suppose, given the circumstances surrounding the club at the time of that match. Everyone has been eagerly booking hotels in and around London and making plans for get-togethers with other fans both before and after the game. I know there will be the usual gatherings at Trafalgar Square, which we hope will go off as trouble-free as both similar occasions last season. For anyone who didn't experience the Trafalgar Square gatherings last time, I'd recommend you try and get along this time, any time after about 10pm on the Saturday night seems to be the best time. I remember last year when Steve Gibson turned up and had to leave pretty quickly as he was in danger of being mobbed. John Hendrie also put in an appearance and proved just as popular - who knows who'll turn up this year.

All in all, it should be another great day out at the Twin Towers, a place we struggled to reach for so long but which now feels like a second home - some fans have begun to be able to identify which are their regular seats!

We've got one more meeting at The Ayresome Park before the Big Day, Wednesday, 18 March at 7.30pm. Hopefully we'll be able to give details of any other special events surrounding the Final at that meeting. Meanwhile, let's play our part tonight in helping the lads secure the three points we'd have been playing for on the Wembley weekend.

**Simon Bolton**  
Secretary



MIDDLESBROUGH SUPPORTERS SOUTH

Nowadays most European resorts carry English satellite stations, but not all do and, particularly in the USA or Southern Europe, switching on the TV can prove a fruitless exercise. Newspapers are usually received a day late so it is usually left to a frantic telephone call home to get the news.

I was on holiday in Portugal with friends (Boro fans) a number of years ago early on in the season and Boro were playing Port Vale at Vale Park one evening. Anxious to know the result at 9.30pm we telephoned relatives in North Yorkshire to get the result. We got through, only to get the mother of our friend. Our mate wasn't in, he was at the pub, and worse, his mother didn't really follow sport so she wouldn't know the result - or so we thought.

"We don't suppose you know how Boro got on this evening do you Mrs Gallon?" we asked expecting the answer to be no. "Oh yes," she said, "I happened to be watching the local news tonight and..." she spluttered as our escudos continued to drop away in the phone box. "Boro won." BORO WON ... on this news we both danced around the phone box in triumph. "Port Vale Two," Mrs Gallon added.

It took a few dreaded seconds for the last part to sink in. It was as good as pin in a balloon. Boro 1 Port Vale 2, she had said. Thousands of miles across the continent three simple words had left two people devastated and disconsolate. Of course we forgot the result an hour later as we hit the Algarve night-spots but it does underline the fact that Boro matches means thousands of global phone calls home every match to check on our club's well-being.

I got three letters this week from children in parts of the world we only read about in foreign news sections of the daily papers. All three passed on congratulations to the club for reaching Wembley once more. The countries being Bosnia, Botswana and Zambia! Its a small world after all.

Membership is open to Teesside exiles at £10 per season and details can be obtained from Jan Sanders, Membership Secretary at 6 Valley Rise, Wheathampstead, Herts AL4 8JF.

**Geoff Vickers**  
Secretary

## ANSWERS

- 1 £1.3 million; 2 Givitsis Fleming; 3 Neil Cox;
- 4 Robbie Mustoe;
- 5 Gary Walsh;
- 6 Everton;
- 7 Bolton & Reading;
- 8 Scunthorpe;
- 9 Cagliari; 10 Roma.



# MICHAEL THOMAS

## CAREER LEAGUE HISTORY

86/87 Arsenal	3	-
86/87 Portsmouth (loan)	12	-
87/88 Arsenal	37	9
88/89 Arsenal	37	7
89/90 Arsenal	36	5
90/91 Arsenal	31	2
91/92 Arsenal	10	1
91/92 Liverpool	17	3
92/93 Liverpool	8	1
93/94 Liverpool	7	-
94/95 Liverpool	23	-
95/96 Liverpool	27	1
96/97 Liverpool	31	3
97/98 Liverpool	9	1
97/98 BORO (loan)	7	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>33</b>

**Born:** Lambeth 24.8.67

**Boro debut:** v Tranmere 4.2.98

**Honours:** England Schools, Youth,  
Under-21, B and full international.



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2



3



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# FOR THE RECORD

Disproving the saying of lies, damn lies and statistics...

## DON'T PANIC!

Don't panic just yet! The shock drubbings at Nottingham Forest and QPR were temporary set-backs for Boro but there's no need to set the alarm bells ringing.

With 35 games played Boro are still five points ahead of schedule compared to where they were during the title success of 1995.

Back then in Robbo's first season in charge, Boro had amassed 63 points from their opening 35 league fixtures. This time, we've got 68 going into tonight's game.

By the end of that season, Boro lifted the championship with a total of 82 points. However, it seems odds on that it will take at least six more points to clinch promotion this time around with Forest, Sunderland and Charlton all giving chase.

Season	Manager	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1987-88	Rioch	35	17	10	8	47	27	61
1991-92	Lawrence	35	17	10	8	43	29	61
1994-95	Robson	35	18	9	8	50	28	63
1997-98	Robson	35	20	8	7	55	36	68

However, the defeats at the City Ground and Loftus Road did give Boro one unwanted record. It was the first time Boro had conceded four goals or more in consecutive games for more than 15 years.

Malcolm Allison was in charge last time it happened - Boro following up a 5-1 home defeat to Blackburn with a 4-0 defeat at Wolves. Before that, it was way back in November 1965 that Raich Carter's side lost 5-0 at Derby and 4-3 at home to Cardiff within a week.

## ALUN IS NO.32



The unforgettable win over Sunderland last month saw two club records broken - not by Branca, but by fellow newcomer Alun Armstrong.

Alun not only became the 32nd player to represent the club's first team this season - a seasonal record for the club - but also became the 18th first team goalscorer of the season - another club record!

Since then, Andy Dibble has become the 33rd player used and Neil Maddison has become the 19th goalscorer. Proof that Boro's success is down to not only a team effort but a squad effort.

## NEIL IS NOT A NUMBER, HE IS A FREE MAN!

Boro's very own Mr Versatile Neil Maddison has played the numbers game since joining the club from Southampton last October.

The former Southampton star has worn no less than SEVEN numbers on the back of his shirt in less than 20 appearances for the club. Having started out at number seven on his debut at Wolves, he switched immediately to number eight for the following game against Portsmouth. Three days later he played at number two against QPR.

He wore number 13 as a substitute against Huddersfield in December and has also worn numbers six, 11 and 12 when requested.

Only Mark Summerbell has come close to switching numbers with such regularity, though three of his numbers were 12, 13 and 14 as substitute. But it is Maddison who can claim to be the man without a number.

Maddison's single game at number 11 makes him one of an incredible 13 players to have worn the number 11 shirt for the first team this season. It seems since Fabrizio Ravanelli disregarded the shirt after just two games of the campaign, it is the number no-one wants.

Since Rav's departure, the number 11 shirt has been worn by Alan Moore, Andy Townsend, Andy Campbell, Craig Harrison, Fabio, Anthony Ormerod, Phil Stamp, Maddison, Jaime Moreno, Steve Baker, Mark Summerbell and Michael Thomas!

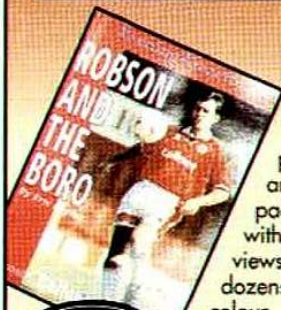
After 11, the next most popular - or should that be unpopular? - number is two - as worn by Curtis Fleming, Craig Liddle, Gianluca Festa, Baker, Maddison, Steve Vickers, Robbie Stockdale and Vladimir Kinder.





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## Boro Tankards



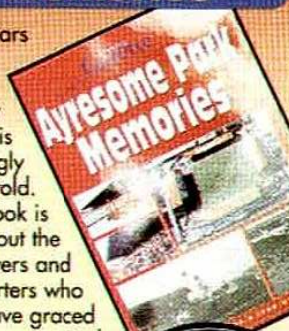
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\* Presentation boxes available £5 each

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# Tales of the RIVERSIDE

... via Thailand!



appears to be staffed entirely by Boro fans.

First they kept me up to date with the recent flurry of transfer activity but after the victory over Sunderland they really went to town. Their only English soccer story on Monday February 23rd was headlined: "Buoyant Boro dreaming of a quick return to the Premiership."

I just wonder if Craig Hignett realised how far his incisive comments to reporters would carry? "Middlesbrough as a club is bigger than any player and the club have handled themselves in a determined manner. In doing that, they have belittled the players who have gone, the ones who criticised us, who used us."

Sounds like Higgy's been going to philosophy lessons since I last heard him on Century ...

## BORO FANS REALLY ARE EVERYWHERE



I couldn't believe my eyes as I dragged my rucksack down the main street of Koh Samui. I had been driven out of my beach hut by a thriving colony of insects while a large lizard/small dinosaur had shared my shower. What's more I had a near fatal hangover.

But the sight of a Thai bin man wearing a Boro shirt was almost enough to finish me off. He responded coolly to my

excited greeting and at first refused to pose for a photograph. But when I produced a Boro scarf, he could resist no longer.

"What does it say on the back of your shirt?" I asked. It's quite difficult to understand many Thais' English but I think he said: "Andy Cole."

Now he either doesn't get the Gazette as often as he should or some wily shopkeeper convinced him this was yet another new Man United strip.

Or maybe he said "Juninho..."

## HIGGY REACHES OUT ACROSS THE GLOBE

Thai football fans can have few excuses for not keeping up with news from the Cellnet Riverside these days. The Bangkok Post

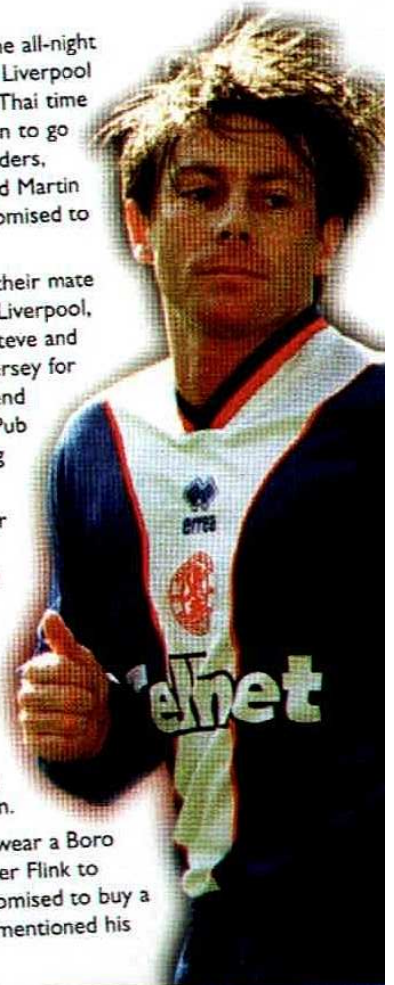
## DOING MY BIT FOR WORLD HARMONY

It took some time to get over the all-night celebrations which followed the Liverpool game. The game finished at 5am Thai time and I was far too excited by then to go to sleep. I met two exiled Teessiders, Steve Rehill from Normanby, and Martin Khan from Priestfields, and I promised to give them a mention.

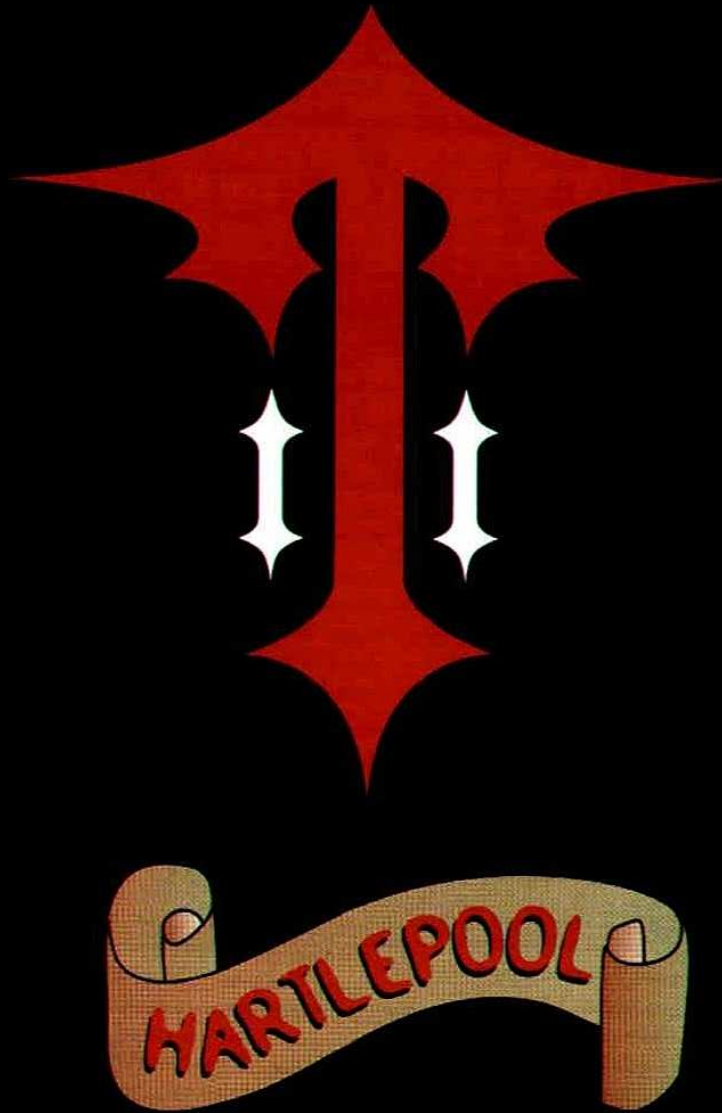
They were good company but their mate Keith Hennessey, from Anfield, Liverpool, seemed like a bit of a misery. Steve and Martin have been working in Jersey for the last 10 years and recommend you drop into the Shipwright Pub from where they run a thriving unofficial Boro fan club.

As we hugged each other after the final whistle, a Swedish bloke came up and demanded to join the party. He told us he'd been a Boro fan all his life, ever since his grandma randomly bought him a pennant. It hadn't always been easy, he admitted, and now he thought he was long overdue a bit of a celebration.

If you're ever in Stockholm, wear a Boro shirt and wait for Christopher Flink to come and greet you. He promised to buy a copy of the programme if I mentioned his name.







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# ALL OVER THE WORLD

... a special review of soccer happenings around the globe.



Bulgarian international Hristo Stoichkov (below right) has done little this season to change his reputation as one of football's most eccentric and temperamental players.

Well known for falling out with managers and team-mates in the past, Stoichkov's latest target is Louis Van Gaal (left), the Dutchman who is his manager at Barcelona.

The striker has found himself frozen out of the first team at Barcelona and has made no secret of his distaste for the man in charge.

The writing was on the wall fairly early on when Van Gaal took exception to Stoichkov training while wearing a pair of glasses identical to those worn by the manager.

His next step was to criticise the manager's

tactics in the press joking to press men that soon Van Gaal would be playing with seven strikers.

But the final straw was when Stoichkov was asked for his response to a newspaper poll which found that 73 per cent of Barca's fans blamed Van Gaal for the team's disappointing season.

The Bulgarian said: "Perfect. The people know who is to blame."

Football is a passionate game but in the Central American country of Guatemala passions ran over more than usual when a minor scuffle between two players led to a full-scale riot that stopped just short of civil war.

The incident occurred after a local derby between two bitter

rivals in Guatemala City. Comunicaciones had just thrashed Municipal 3-0 when two players became involved in a scuffle.

It is unclear who started the fight but in any case within seconds all 22 players as well as substitutes and coaches had become involved.

Needless to say, the supporters soon joined the fray and pitched battles broke out around the stadium. The fighting then spilled out into the car park and onto the streets where people who were not even at the game became involved.

The city's police were stretched to the limit to quell the fighting and tear gas canisters and batons were needed to calm down the situation. The incident was so serious that 72 people were hospitalised overnight.

A police spokesman, in brilliantly understated style, said: "In Guatemala we take our football too seriously."

Britain's football task force could be taking on its own kind of hooligans - mad fathers.

David Mellor's team has been asked to look into the problem of partisan parents by the London Federation of Clubs for Young People.

They are calling for a crackdown on dads who "applaud cheating and resort to violence, swearing and abuse when attending football matches being played by boys and girls as young as 10."

Many Boro fans might disagree but, apparently, going out to watch football is good for your health.

Boro supporters traumatised by the events of last season and the rollercoaster ride that has been watching Boro, can take comfort in the results of a study undertaken by researchers in Sweden.

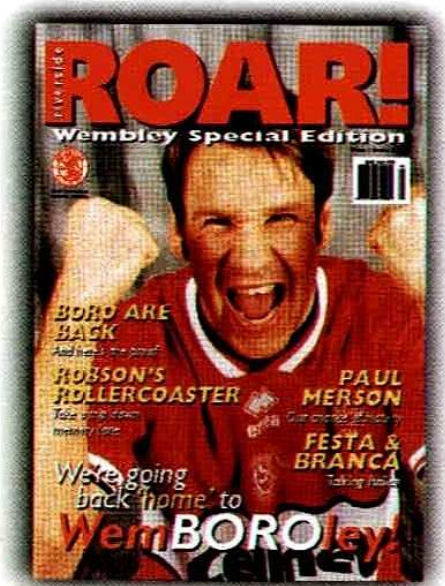
They found that people who went to watch exciting outdoor sports events tend to live longer than people that don't.

One of the researchers explained: "Men and women who go out to watch football matches have stronger immune systems than those who watch it from the comfy sofa. A stronger immune system protects the body from disease."





# What shall I read on the way to WemBOROLEY?



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# BORO HEAD INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

**Middlesbrough Football Club continues to progress on and off the pitch as the pictures here show. Three major construction programmes are currently underway, showing further the ambition of the club to compete with the best in Britain and Europe.**



- **ROCKLIFFE PARK (right)** - Construction work is now well under way on Boro's state-of-the-art training ground at Rockcliffe Park, Hurworth. The fitness centre will be one of the best in Europe when completed later this year.
- **HERLINGSHAW CENTRE (above)** - The Football Academy is now holding regular courses at its new home. But work will continue for some time to come on this exciting centre which will be a great facility for the local area.
- **THE CORNERS (below)** - Progress is quickly being made to prepare Boro for what they hope will be a Premiership season to come with an increased capacity of 35,000 at the Cellnet Riverside Stadium. The development is scheduled to be completed for the start of next season.





# BORO GREATS

## mark proctor

by Peter Harris



• Proctor captained Boro on their first ever Wembley trip.

**M**ark Proctor's story sums up everything that was wrong with the Boro of old.

Midway through the 1980-81 season, Proctor was a star of the side which looked set to finally put Boro on the map.

Glory beckoned for John Neal and his men as Johnston, Hodgson, Armstrong and Proctor himself took Boro to within two steps of an FA Cup Final.

The failure to beat Wolves in the sixth round was disappointing enough, but it was to prove far more significant than most fans realised.

Those young stars came to realise their only chance of big-time success was away from Ayresome Park and one by one the side of '81 was decimated.

Proctor says he would have loved to stay with Boro but the players sensed it was time to abandon ship.

He says: "That side was probably a player or two short from competing with the big boys but all were sold."

"We reached the the FA Cup quarter final and finished mid-table but a lot of the older players were talking about the team being broken up and it was decimated.

"In actual fact, the older lads were advising me not to re-sign and in the summer I went to Forest under freedom of contract.

"I would've loved to stay if things had been right but it was going the opposite way."

As Boro began their infamous slide to near-extinction, Proctor was turning out for Brian Clough in Nottingham, while Johnston and Hodgson were competing for top honours at Liverpool and Armstrong was with Lawrie McMenemy at Southampton.

• Proctor with Andy Payton in his second spell with the club.







• Proctor now coaches the Boro youngsters. He's pictured with youth development officer Ron Bone.

Proctor never fully settled by the Trent, though he says playing for Clough was an "experience" even if he was terrified of the legendary boss.

A couple of years later, he was back in Middlesbrough. Unfortunately for Boro, he was a Sunderland player but chose to live in his home town and commute up the A19 every day.

Proctor enjoyed his days at Sunderland, then a top flight club, and became a mainstay of the Roker midfield.

But fortunes on Wearside took a dive similar to those of

Boro, with relegation to the old division three in 1987 marking the end of Proctor's time at the club.

Offered a return to the top flight at Sheffield Wednesday, "Proc" teamed up with Howard Wilkinson and spent two years at Hillsborough before a shock call from Boro coach Colin Todd brought a move back to Ayresome in March, 1989.

Proctor says: "It came right out of the blue. Colin Todd rang me and it was sorted out in 24 hours.

"It was a funny situation to come back to because both Wednesday and Boro were in the bottom eight and were due to play each other in the last game.

"I remember looking at the fixture list and thinking it couldn't end up being a crucial game but we ended up going there needing to win.

Boro failed to get that victory, losing to a Steve Whitton goal and dropping out of the top flight at the death.

"That was the worst day of my career, a massive disappointment," admits Proctor.

"The next season I was certain we would go straight back up but we ended up needing to win the last game of the season again to stay up. We beat Newcastle."

That bleak season of 1989-90 did have a highlight, as Proctor skippered Boro in the club's first ever game at Wembley in the ZDS Cup.

Proctor stayed on the Boro roller-coaster for three more

years - appearing in the play-offs, winning promotion to the Premier League and then tasting relegation once more in 1993.

He is still disappointed at his lack of first team opportunities in that final year in the Premier.

He says: "To be fair to Lennie Lawrence he has said in print that I did not get a fair chance, but I don't know why I was not given that chance. In the end, I was pushed out of the club which was a shame because I had wanted to finish my career at Boro."

A spell at Tranmere followed - and last season Proctor's battle-weary legs were turning out for Hartlepool after an SOS from their boss, Mick Tait.

Now 37, he is back where he started, this time on the other side of the fence coaching Boro's juniors and working at the School of Excellence.

Proctor can only hope the generation of stars he is trying to bring through will not also be forced to turn their backs on Boro to find success.



• Proctor was picked for the England under-21 side in his first Boro spell.

**BLAST** from the past

Put the name to the face of the Boro player from yesteryear. Answer on page 46



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# ROCKLIFFE VISIT SUCCESS



More than 200 youngsters got a sneak preview of Boro's new state of the art training ground when they got

the chance to visit Rockliffe Park and meet the Boro stars. The youngsters were taking part in the Football in the Community scheme's half-term courses and the visits to the training ground completed a great week.

Football in the Community Officer Lawrie Pearson said: "The kids had a great morning out and came away with plenty of

autographs on shirts, balls and anything else they could lay their hands on. Even their hands as well!

"I have to give my thanks to the players for spending so much of their time signing. It made it a great end to a really good week's courses."

Courses were held in Redcar, at Egglecliffe Comprehensive and Grangefield Youth and Community Centre.

Details will be announced soon for forthcoming courses which will include a trip to the Cellnet Riverside Stadium.



# BECK'S CUP OF CHEER



Mikkel Beck kicked off a major campaign for the charity Mencap before Boro's Coca-Cola triumph against Liverpool at the Cellnet Riverside Stadium.

Mikkel helped launch Britain's Biggest Tea Party to net vital funds for people with learning disabilities. The Danish striker fired the first shot with the promotional tea cup. Pictured with him is Boro fan Stephen Johnson, who belongs to Mencap's local Gateway club.

The campaign brings together Mencap and Brooke Bond D. It is designed to raise money to help the estimated 1.2 million people in Britain who have learning disabilities.

Half a million people are expected to turn cuppas into cash by holding 4,000 tea parties from June 20-28 during Mencap's special awareness week. But the charity needs many others to organise parties. Further information is available by writing, at no charge, to Britain's Biggest D Party, Freepost, London EC1B 1AA, or telephone at local rates 0645 777 779, the hotline set up for the parties.

Please help Mencap go for its goal to support many of the country's most vulnerable people.

# CAUGHT ON CAMERA

We have linked up with Paintball UK Ltd who have kindly donated vouchers for paintball games. The lucky winner will win two vouchers valued at £70 to be used at their sites in Guisborough or Scotch Corner. Each game will include 250 paintballs, lunch, tea and coffee. Paintball UK can be contacted on (01642) 813231.

If you recognise yourself in the latest picture taken on the Stadium's CCTV Cameras, present the programme to safety officer Ron Turnbull together with your Red Book or Season Ticket at the Cellnet Riverside Stadium reception.



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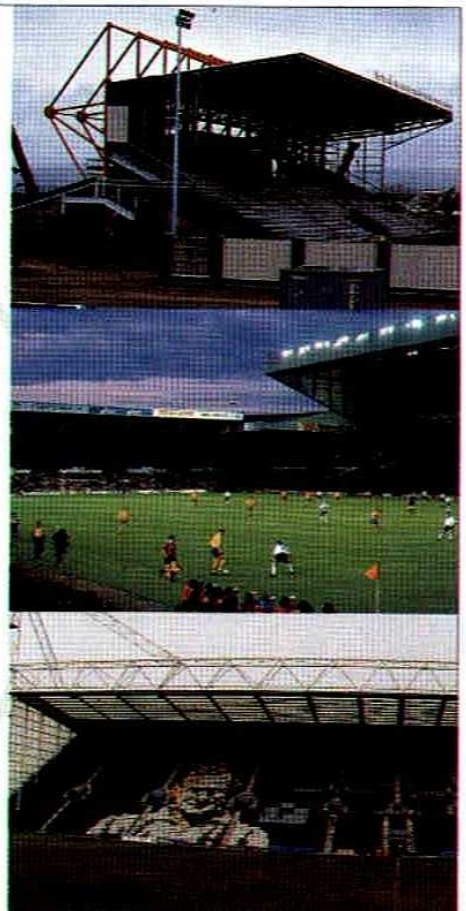
Thanks to the Government and to the Football Association, the FA Premier League and the English Sports Council, a major new funding package to secure the future of the Trust has been put in place.

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.



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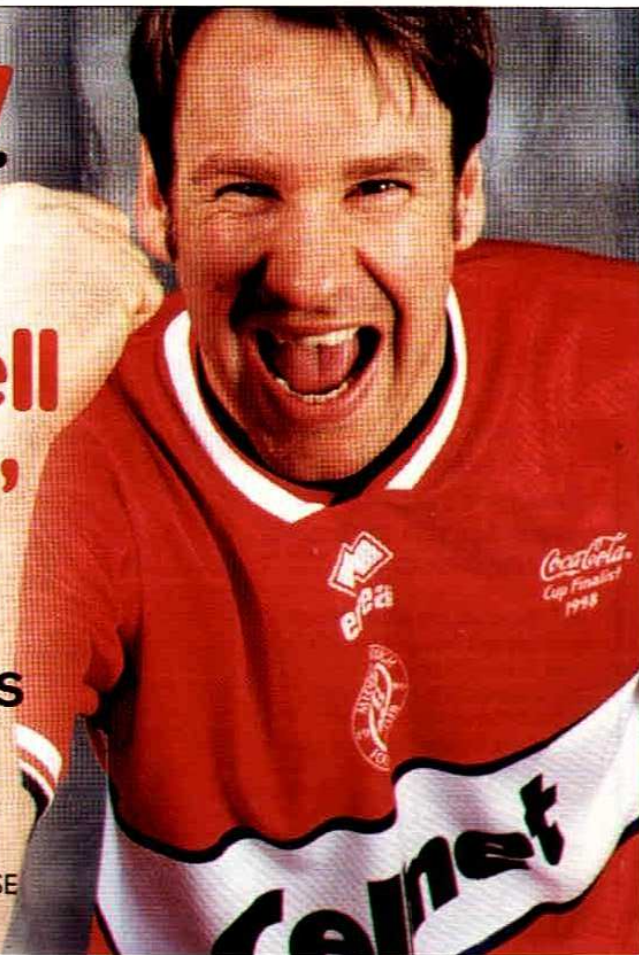
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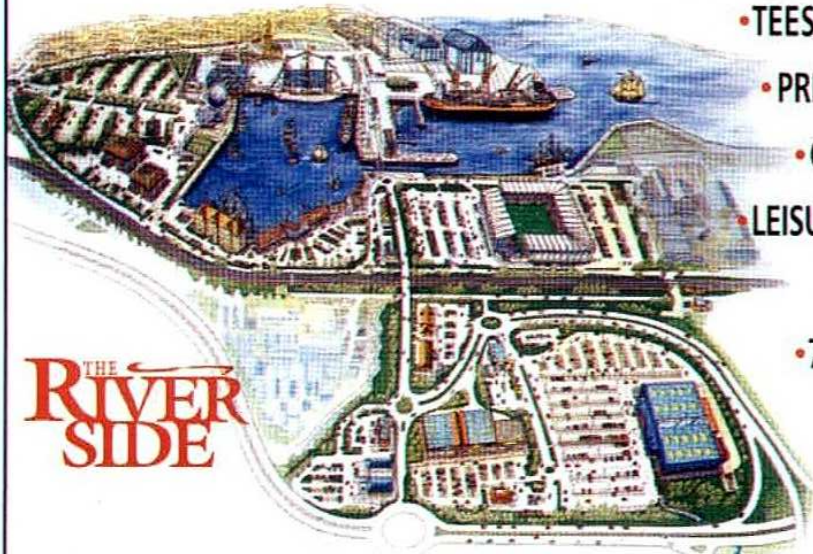
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# see every goal

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 Nationwide



# COMMERCIAL BREAK



Tonight's re-arranged fixture against Swindon Town is due to our Coca-Cola Cup Final visit to Wemborley on Sunday 29 March. We have over the past two weeks had quite a few new items in

the Club Shops commemorating our achievement. There are new lines arriving daily with one more large delivery from Errea of home shirts with the Coca-Cola Logo. We had had all our stocks of Away Shirts embroidered with the Cup Final Logo also, so we hope we will meet demand. The special T-Shirts, Sweatshirts, Scarves, Caps and Mugs have proved very popular and the new line of Red and White False Eye-Lashes are in great demand. Our theme is Wemborley as we are the first Club ever to play in three consecutive Cup Finals. We could not of course re-name the twin tower stadium The Riverside of the South. Back to tonight's action when we all hope our two recent defeats are put behind us.

Our Match Sponsors are



Cleveland Waste Management who are part of the Northumbrian Water Group. The company is responsible for the development of the new Energy from Waste Plant at Billingham. This new

plant, when commissioned, will change dramatically the waste disposal structure of our region. Some 250,000 tonnes of locally produced domestic waste will be incinerated at the plant. At this time 90% of this waste is disposed of at land-fill sites. An excellent by-product of this new technology is that 20 mega watts of electricity per year will be produced which is enough power to heat and light all the homes in Hartlepool. Also 5,000 tonnes of good quality steel will be extracted from the ash and taken to the British Steel plant at Grangetown for recycling. This is enough steel to make 25 Angels of the North. Let's hope we can dispose of tonight's opposition as easily as this new plant will dispose of our waste.

Team Sponsors tonight are Sarp UK Ltd. The company was formed in January 1998 with three major companies joining together and trading under this new name. The companies who merged were Leigh Environmental Ltd, Wistech Plc and the Whelan Environmental Group. The company which has depots in Billingham and Darlington offers the following services to industry: liquid waste collection and disposal; chemical cleaning; dry waste collection and total waste management.



Our Man of the Match Sponsors are Integrated Office Systems of Stockton. The company have for the last five years been the local sales office for Xerox for



the Teesside, North Yorkshire and County Durham areas. The

company are the current supplier to Middlesbrough Football Club of copying and fax machines. They are prepared to carry out a free assessment of client needs and identify ways of improving productivity.

Match Ball Sponsors are T M Ward (Darlington) Ltd. The company is a long established family firm employing 85 staff. They



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Our final sponsors tonight are Denholm Industrial Services Ltd who are



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the first time Denholm Industrials have utilised our sponsorship packages and here's hoping they will be entertaining at Premiership games next season.

**Graham Fordy**  
COMMERCIAL MANAGER

## Tickets & Travel

### BORO V CHELSEA Coca-Cola Cup Final Sunday, March 29

Every Red Book and Season Ticket holder is guaranteed a seat for the game. No tickets will be sent out until March 10 at the earliest. Do not contact the ticket office unless you have not received your tickets by Wednesday, March 18.

To clarify the position regarding discounted family tickets, only 2,200 of these have been received and they will be allocated to those Red Book and Season Ticket holders who have already applied for tickets in the £40 and £26 price ranges and who have children under the age of 16 in their party. There were far more applicants in this range than the tickets available so they have been allocated on a first come, first served basis from the applications received.

An announcement will be made on or around March 20 with regards to general sale. No details are yet available.

Meanwhile, Police at Wembley Stadium have issued a statement warning fans only to buy their tickets from authorised distributors. Supporters who buy tickets from a tout or other unauthorised person will not be allowed into the stadium.

They have also made the following suggestions:

- \* Keep tickets secure and do not leave valuable property in cars
- \* Keep a separate record of ticket details to assist in obtaining duplicates should the tickets be stolen
- \* Remember that Wembley is an all-seater stadium and tickets are not transferable once inside the stadium
- \* Don't let excessive alcohol ruin your day. It is a criminal offence to either convey alcohol on coaches or mini-buses to the match or attempt to enter the stadium with alcohol
- \* Make prior arrangements to meet friends at an agreed location should you become separated. The information booth by the Royal Tunnel is a good location
- \* Wembley Stadium is surrounded by a strictly controlled no parking zone. Vehicles illegally parked will be towed away.
- \* The A1, A41 and A406 (North Circular Road) is the most direct route to the stadium, following the brown directional signs for the stadium.

## MASCOT



Tonight's mascot is nine-year-old Michael Wright. He lives in Easterside, Middlesbrough and his favourite player is Paul Merson. He goes to St Thomas More School and likes football, running, and watching WWF wrestling on Sky. He goes to Boro matches with his Auntie Helen and Uncle Rob who bought him his season ticket.



# YOUTH & reserves

## FA Premier Youth League Boro 0 Sunderland 2 21.2.98



• Christian Hanson

Boro suffered their first Premier League defeat since November against a strong Sunderland side.

Boro fielded a mixed side and, as coach Kenny Wharton explained, results are not the be-all and end-all at youth level.

"You can't be into development and winning games. We have to give everyone a fair chance over the season so they can show what they can do and give them a chance to progress.

Sunderland followed a different strategy in the recent games. Wharton said: "This was the first of two games against Sunderland in the two leagues over three days. We fielded two different sides with a mixture of first and second years

while Sunderland fielded virtually the same team twice."

But, while results aren't too important, it was still a disappointing performance.

Wharton said: "We were totally out-battled more than anything. We didn't compete well and struggled at the back.

"They won the game 2-0 and I can't remember us creating a chance. We came back a little in the second half but it was disappointing.

"We've had a poor couple of weeks since the

defeat against Leeds in the FA Youth Cup."

Boro: Jackson, Booth (Stockdale), Cronin (Dunn), Gavin, Kelly, Swalwell, O'Brien, Hudson, Jones, Trevor, McStea (Walklate)

## Northern Intermediate League Boro 1 Sunderland 2 23.2.98

Boro's second match against Sunderland also ended in defeat, two days after the previous meeting.

Coach Mark Proctor was disappointed with the result but conceded that Sunderland had deserved to win the game.

"We did OK in the first half but they were bigger and stronger than us and they were worthy winners."

Boro's goal came from striker Christian Graham who has recently been in good goalscoring form.

Proctor said: "Christian got the goal and was probably our best player. He's having a good spell."



• Paul Terrell

### FA Premier Youth League

Sep 13	Crystal Palace	A	1-2
	Kell		
Sep 20	Queens Park Rangers	H	2-0
	Bowes, O'Brien		
Sep 27	Wimbledon	A	2-1
	Burdock, O'Brien		
Oct 4	Chelsea	H	1-3
	Reeve		
Oct 11	West Ham	H	3-1
	Trevor, Connor 2		
Oct 18	Leeds United	H	2-2
	Connor, Swalwell		
Oct 25	Derby County	A	1-1
	Swalwell		
Nov 1	Nottingham Forest	H	0-3
Nov 8	Sunderland	A	2-1
	Swalwell, Burdock		
Nov 22	Coventry City	A	2-1
	Newham, Reeve		
Nov 24	York (FA Youth Cup)	A	1-0
	Kell		
Nov 29	Sheffield Wednesday	A	4-2
	Connor, O'Brien, Trevor, Summerbell		
Dec 6	Barnsley	H	2-1
	Kelly, Canavan		
Dec 13	Leeds United	A	3-3
	Kell 2, Burdock		
Dec 20	Charlton (FAYC3)	H	3-2
	Canavan, Jones, McStea		
Jan 17	Derby County	H	2-2
	Canavan, Swalwell		
Jan 31	Nottingham Forest	A	6-1
	Bowes 3, Reeve, Stockdale, Newham		
Feb 9	Leeds (FAYC4)	H	0-0
Feb 17	Leeds (FAYC4R)	A	0-2
Feb 21	Sunderland	H	0-2
Feb 28	Coventry City	A	1-3
	O'Brien		
Mar 7	Sheffield Wednesday	H	
Mar 14	Barnsley	A	
Mar 21	Tottenham Hotspur	H	
Mar 28	Arsenal	A	
Apr 4	Southampton	A	
Apr 25	Play-Off Round One		
May 2	Play-Off Round Two		
May 13	Play-Off Semi-Final		
May 20	Play-Off Final First Leg		
May 27	Play-Off Final Second Leg		





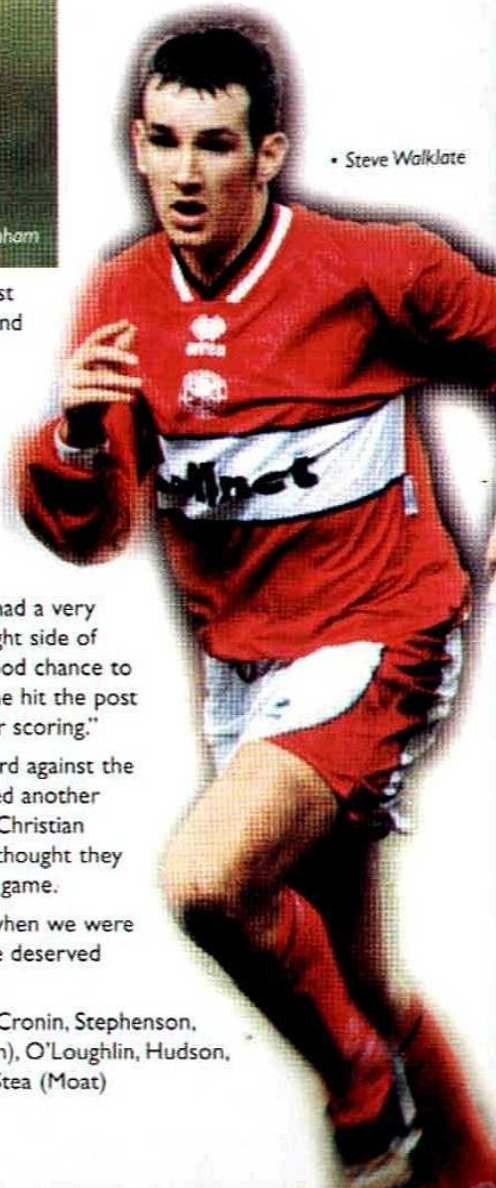
• Christian Graham

Boro: Jackson, Allon, Carter, Cuthbertson, Canavan, Hanson, O'Loughlin, Newham (Terrell), Graham, Burdock (Bowes), Kilgannon (Reeve)

## Northern Intermediate League Boro 2 Rotherham 3 28.2.98

Boro dominated the game against Rotherham, hitting the woodwork three times, but suffered a narrow defeat.

Rotherham made the early running going into a 2-0 lead. But after the first 15 minutes, Boro were the strongest side.



• Steve Walklate

Coach Kenny Wharton said: "We must have created 10 very good chances and hit the post three times. We should really have won the game but I was pleased with the performance."

John O'Loughlin pulled a goal back for Boro to make the score 2-1, cutting inside from the right side.

Wharton said: "John had a very good game on the right side of midfield and had a good chance to bring us level when he hit the post just five minutes after scoring."

After conceding a third against the run of play, Boro pulled another back through in-form Christian Graham and Wharton thought they may go on to win the game.

"The second came when we were really on top and we deserved more."

Boro: Jackson, Allon, Cronin, Stephenson, Kelly, Terrell (Newham), O'Loughlin, Hudson, Bowes, Graham, McStea (Moat)

## Pontins League Division 1

Aug 13	Huddersfield Town Beck 3, Stamp, Ravanelli, Freestone	H	6-1
Aug 20	Bolton Wanderers Campbell	A	1-3
Aug 27	Sunderland Freestone, Campbell	H	2-0
Sep 3	Oldham Athletic Freestone, Campbell	H	2-2
Sep 10	Wolverhampton W. Freestone	A	1-1
Oct 7	Manchester City Summerbell, Hignett	A	2-3
Oct 16	Port Vale	H	0-2
Oct 22	Coventry City Summerbell, Connor, Trevor	A	3-2
Oct 29	Grimsby Town	H	0-1
Nov 11	Notts County Connor, Summerbell, Freestone 2	A	4-2
Nov 17	Leicester City Trevor	A	1-0
Dec 3	West Bromwich Albion Whyte, Campbell	H	2-0
Dec 10	Bolton Wanderers Stamp	H	1-0
Dec 15	Huddersfield Town Fabio	A	1-0
Jan 7	Oldham Athletic Campbell	A	1-1
Jan 21	Wolverhampton W.	H	post
Feb 9	Sunderland	A	0-0
Feb 18	Coventry City	H	post
Mar 11	Notts County	H	post
Mar 24	Grimsby Town	A	
Apr 1	Leicester City	H	
Apr 8	West Bromwich Albion	A	
Apr 22	Manchester City	H	
Apr 29	Port Vale	A	

## Northern Int. League

Aug 9	Newcastle United Burdock, Conlon	H	2-1
Aug 16	Scarborough Graham	A	1-1
Aug 23	Sheffield United O'Brien, Hudson	H	2-0
Aug 30	Bradford City Kilgannon	A	1-0
Sep 13	Darlington Reeve 2	H	2-2
Sep 20	Hartlepool United Kilgannon 2, Canavan 1	A	3-1
Sep 27	Hull City	H	0-0
Oct 3	Sunderland Canavan	A	1-1
Oct 18	Rotherham United Kilgannon, Canavan	A	2-1
Oct 25	Scunthorpe United Reeve 2, Booth	H	3-1
Nov 1	Sheffield Wednesday	A	0-2
Nov 8	York City Graham, Reeve	H	2-0
Nov 15	Barnsley Kelly, Bowes, Jones	A	3-0
Nov 22	Chesterfield	H	post
Nov 29	Doncaster Rovers Terrell, O'Loughlin	A	2-1
Dec 6	Huddersfield Town	H	0-1
Dec 13	Leeds United Canavan	A	1-2
Dec 20	Leeds United	H	post
Jan 10	Scarborough Reeve	H	1-1
Jan 17	Sheffield United Trevor, Burdock, Reeve	A	3-2
Jan 24	Bradford City Hudson, Bowes	H	2-1
Jan 31	Darlington	A	post
Feb 7	Hartlepool United O'Brien	H	1-2
Feb 23	Sunderland Graham	H	1-2
Feb 28	Rotherham United O'Loughlin, Graham	H	2-3
Mar 7	Scunthorpe United	A	
Mar 14	Sheffield Wednesday	H	
Mar 21	York City	A	
Mar 28	Barnsley	H	
Apr 4	Chesterfield	A	
Apr 11	Doncaster Rovers	H	
Apr 18	Huddersfield Town	A	
May 2	Hull City	A	
May 6	Newcastle Utd	A	



# NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIV 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
1 Nottingham Forest	36	21	8	7	60	33	71
2 Sunderland	35	20	8	7	66	37	68
3 BORO	35	20	8	7	55	36	68
4 Charlton Athletic	36	18	8	10	63	46	62
5 Ipswich Town	36	15	13	8	59	38	58
6 Sheffield United	34	15	13	6	50	37	58
7 Birmingham City	36	15	12	9	49	30	57
8 Stockport County	37	16	6	15	60	53	54
9 Wolverhampton W	34	15	7	12	44	36	52
10 West Bromwich A	37	14	9	14	36	42	51
11 Bradford City	37	12	13	12	38	39	49
12 Crewe Alexandra	37	14	5	18	45	53	47
13 Swindon Town	36	13	7	16	36	51	46
14 Oxford United	36	12	8	16	45	50	44
15 Norwich City	37	11	11	15	36	56	44
16 QPR	37	10	13	14	42	51	43
17 Bury	37	8	18	11	35	43	42
18 Portsmouth	36	11	7	18	40	51	40
19 Tranmere Rovers	35	10	10	15	37	42	40
20 Manchester City	37	10	9	18	41	44	39
21 Huddersfield Town	37	10	9	18	39	57	39
22 Reading	36	10	9	17	36	59	39
23 Port Vale	37	10	8	19	42	53	38
24 Stoke City	37	8	13	16	35	52	37

# SEASONS STATS 97/98

DATE	OPPOSITION	FT	HT	ATT		
AUG SAT 9	CHARLTON ATHLETIC	H	2-1	0-1	29,414	
AUG SAT 23	STOKE CITY	H	0-1	0-0	30,122	
AUG SAT 30	TRANMERE ROVERS	A	2-0	1-0	12,095	
SEPT TUE 2	STOCKPORT COUNTY	A	1-1	1-0	8,257	
SEPT SAT 13	BRADFORD CITY	A	2-2	1-1	17,767	
SEPT TUE 16	CCC 2(1) BARNET	H	1-0	0-0	9,611	
SEPT SAT 20	BIRMINGHAM CITY	H	3-1	3-0	30,125	
SEPT TUE 23	CCC 2(2) BARNET	A	2-0	1-0	3,968	
SEPT SUN 28	SUNDERLAND	A	2-1	0-0	35,384	
OCT SUN 5	SHEFFIELD UNITED	H	1-2	1-1	30,000	
OCT WED 15	CCC3 SUNDERLAND	H	2-0	0-0	26,451	
OCT SAT 18	CREWE ALEXANDRA	A	1-1	0-0	5,759	
OCT TUE 21	OXFORD UNITED	A	4-1	1-0	8,306	
OCT SAT 25	PORT VALE	H	2-1	1-0	30,096	
OCT TUE 28	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	H	3-0	2-0	29,965	
NOV SAT 1	WOLVERHAMPTON W	A	0-1	0-0	26,896	
NOV WED 5	PORTSMOUTH	H	1-1	0-0	29,742	
NOV SAT 8	QUEENS PARK R'GERS	H	3-0	2-0	30,067	
NOV SAT 15	NORWICH CITY	A	3-1	1-1	16,011	
NOV TUE 18	CCC 4 BOLTON	H	2-1	aet	1-1	22,801
NOV SAT 22	SWINDON TOWN	A	2-1	1-1	15,288	
NOV WED 26	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	H	0-0	0-0	30,143	
NOV SAT 29	WEST BROM' ALBION	H	1-0	1-0	30,164	
DEC TUE 2	IPSWICH TOWN	A	1-1	1-0	13,619	
DEC SAT 6	BURY	A	1-0	0-0	8,016	
DEC SAT 13	READING	H	4-0	0-0	29,876	
DEC SAT 20	MANCHESTER CITY	A	0-2	0-2	28,097	
DEC FRI 26	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	A	1-0	0-0	18,820	
DEC SUN 28	STOCKPORT COUNTY	H	3-1	1-1	30,166	
JAN SAT 3	FAC 3 QPR	A	2-2	1-1	13,379	
JAN TUE 6	CCC Q/F READING	A	1-0	0-0	13,072	
JAN SAT 10	CHARLTON ATHLETIC	A	0-3	0-2	15,742	
JAN TUE 13	FAC3R QPR	H	2-0	0-0	21,817	
JAN SAT 17	IPSWICH TOWN	H	1-1	0-0	30,081	
JAN SAT 24	FAC4 ARSENAL	H	1-2	0-2	28,264	
JAN TUE 27	CCC S/F(1) LIVERPOOL	A	1-2	1-1	33,438	
FEB SUN 1	STOKE CITY	A	2-1	1-1	13,242	
FEB WED 4	TRANMERE	H	3-0	2-0	29,540	
FEB SAT 7	BIRMINGHAM CITY	A	1-1	1-1	20,634	
FEB SAT 14	BRADFORD	H	1-0	0-0	30,165	
FEB WED 18	CCC S/F (2) LIVERPOOL	H	2-0	2-0	29,828	
FEB SAT 21	SUNDERLAND	H	3-1	1-0	30,227	
FEB WED 25	CREWE ALEXANDRA	H	1-0	0-0	29,936	
MAR SUN 1	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	A	0-4	0-0	25,286	
MAR WED 4	QUEENS PARK RANGERS	A	0-5	0-4	11,580	
MAR WED 11	SWINDON TOWN	H				
MAR SAT 14	PORTSMOUTH	A				
MAR SUN 22	NORWICH CITY	H				
MAR SUN 29	CCC FINAL CHELSEA					
APR SAT 4	WEST BROM	A				
APR TUE 7	SHEFFIELD UNITED	A				
APR SAT 11	BURY	H				
APR MON 13	READING	A				
APR FRI 17	MANCHESTER CITY	H				
APR FRI 24	PORT VALE	A				
APR WED 29	WOLVERHAMPTON	H				
MAY SUN 3	OXFORD UNITED	H				

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Did you recognise goalkeeper  
Kelham O'Hanlon?



POS.

6	BEN ROBERTS	CURTIS FLEMING	VLADIMIR KINDER	STEVE VICKERS	GIANLUCA FESTA	EMERSON	CLAYTON BLACKMORE	ROBBIE MUSTOE	MIKKEL BECK	PAUL MERSON	FABRIZIO RAVANELLI	CRAIG HIGNETT	CRAIG LIDDLE	PHIL STAMP	ALAN MOORE	DEREK WHYTE	CHRIS FREESTONE	ANDY TOWNSEND	ANTHONY ORMEROD	ANDY CAMPBELL	MARK SUMMERBELL	NIGEL PEARSON	MARK SCHWARZER	CRAIG HARRISON	STEVE BAKER	KRISTREVOR	FABIO	NEIL MADDISON	JAIME MORENO	ROBBIE STOCKDALE
17	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
11	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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15	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

KEY: 1 APPEARANCE, 1 GOAL SCORED & NUMBER, 1 SUBSTITUTED



# Middlesbrough V Swindon Town

MARLON BERESFORD	■ 1	■ FRANK TALIA
GIANLUCA FESTA	■ 2	■ MARK ROBINSON
CURTIS FLEMING	■ 3	■ BRIAN BORROWS
STEVE VICKERS	■ 4	■ SCOTT LEITCH
NIGEL PEARSON	■ 5	■ CRAIG TAYLOR
ROBBIE MUSTOE	■ 6	■ LEE COLLINS
CRAIG HIGNETT	■ 7	■ MARK WALTERS
ANDY TOWNSEND	■ 8	■ PHILIPPE CUERVO
MARCO BRANCA	■ 9	■ STEVE FINNEY
PAUL MERSON	■ 10	■ STEVE COWE
MICHAEL THOMAS	■ 11	■ TY GOODEN
NEIL MADDISON	■ 12	■ CHRIS HAY
MIKKEL BECK	■ 13	■ ALAN McDONALD
ALUN ARMSTRONG	■ 14	■ STEPHEN HOWE



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■ ASTON VILLA	V	BARNESLEY	■
■ CHELSEA	V	CRYSTAL PALACE	■
■ LEEDS	V	BLACKBURN	■
■ WEST HAM	V	MAN UNITED	■
■ WIMBLEDON	V	ARSENAL	■

## Officials

Tonight's referee is Steve Baines of Chesterfield. Assistant referees are Mr I Blanchard of Hull (red trim flag) and Mr B Lowe of Doncaster (yellow flag). Fourth official is Mr A Dodds.

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