



15p

OFFICIAL
NEWSPAPER
OF NOTTS COUNTY
FOOTBALL
CLUB

MAGPIE

VOLUME 2, NUMBER EIGHT
SATURDAY, NOV 27, 1976

v. LUTON TOWN

LEAGUE DIVISION TWO.
1976/77 SEASON



RECORD BREAKER

Pictured below is the goal, captured by photographer Joe Bangay for the Daily Express, which made Les Bradd the Magpies all-time top scorer.



**COULD YOU
BE A CLUB
DIRECTOR?** *Page 3*

**Angela Probert
— the girl
behind the man** *Page 14*

**MEET
STRIPEY**
... and his man
Page 13



The Magpie

Official Newspaper of
Notts County Football Club

Notts County Football Club, Meadow Lane, Nottingham.
(Established 1862).

Telephone: Information Desk 864152, General Office
868494, Commercial Manager 868177, Pools Office
864718.

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Mr. L. S. Levin, JP
Mr. R. Sweet.

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Secretary, Dennis Marshall, FAAL.
Accountant, Chick Heath.
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Runners Up, 1972-73. Division Four, 1970-71; Runners Up,
1959-60.

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COUNTY 75 MAKE THEIR POINT

BY STUART BURGAN

COUNTY 75, the fund-raising organisation dedicated to raising monies for Notts County Football Club, recently proved its worth in a highly practical way.

It was responsible for a considerable amount of cash being donated to the Club last season and this was a major factor in the trading figures for the 1975/76 season showing a credit.

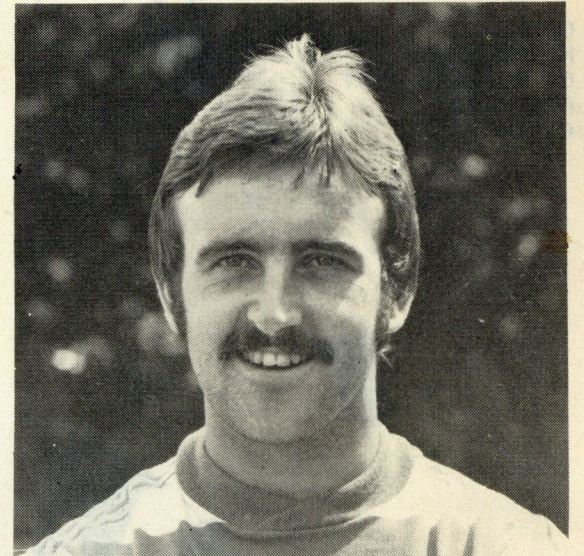
This time though, when the County 75 committee of Messrs. John Carroll, Cedric Ford, Peter Gray and Richard Turton, heard that the Club wanted to sign a player but lacked the necessary funds, they quickly decided to make the money available and so Martyn Busby became a Magpies player — truly a supporters' player because his purchase was made possible through the hard work of Promotions Manager Graham Bradbury and his staff and particularly County 75 agents and the thousands of people who purchase chance tickets.

The County 75 committee have already intimated that if their success is continued there is no reason why similar amounts of money shouldn't be donated to the Club — and for similar reasons.

Here then, is a situation whereby you can give positive assistance to the Club.

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Supporters player— Martyn Busby.

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Tribute to Les Sponsorkit Scheme

ON behalf of all Magpie readers, congratulations to Les Bradd on becoming the Magpies highest ever goalscorer.

With his career by no means over there is time for Les to set a record that will probably never be beaten (if he has not done so already!)

Goals seem harder to score nowadays than was the case years ago and to notch more than a hundred at senior level is something that few players ever achieve.

Another record and another ambition achieved for Les Bradd — I wonder what the next milestone in his career will be? It seems that he has already just about done it all.

P.S. — A quick chat with Les has revealed that there is at least one ambition left (apart from playing in the First Division that is)—he has not yet scored a hat-trick for the Magpies — perhaps today?

PLAYER

TRISTAN BENJAMIN
LES BRADD

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DAVID McVAY

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Another nice thing to report on LES BRADD — he has been selected as 'Midlands Player of the Week' by the Sunday Express newspaper. Les receives a magnum of champagne. Not bad in your first week back in action Les!

THOSE old enough to remember a BBC TV quiz programme of some years back called "What's My Line" will also recall that as a contestant arrived on the camera, he or she was asked to mime and sign in.

The idea was that a panel would then have to guess the occupation of the person. Usually the panelists guessed correctly only about 40 per cent of those appearing!

Recent publicity following the announcement that two of our Directors, Mr. Bill Hopcroft and Mr. John Maitland had resigned, led me to thinking about this particular show. Because I wondered what mental picture the public and press have of a football director.

UNKIND

Cartoonists, cynics and humourists often portray a view of such a man by most unfair and unkind descriptions, when in truth a director of a football club is an amalgam of many people, all highly respected.

There are 92 Football League clubs and all but one, our neighbours being the exception with a Committee rather than a Board, have directors. On average there are six directors per club, making a total of over 500 connected with the League.

Looking through the list of names one is struck by the fact there are many doctors in the list. Sheffield United for instance have four, including a surgeon and a professor.

Also included in the director's lists there is a Lord and a couple of Knights, plenty of lawyers, architects and others with degrees and academic qualifications.

This city boasts the only Q.C. in the list, Mr. Brian Appleby, Chairman of the Forest, and the only MP, our own Chairman, Mr. Jack Dunnett.

The smallest board is currently our own with only three directors and the largest is a tie between several clubs who have eight.

DIFFERENT

Over a period of time they have joined the board of a football club which, Forest excepted, are all limited companies, so your football club director is a director of a company formed for the playing and promoting of football matches.

Naturally this is slightly different to being a director of a company that actually produces a product for sale or offers a service.

But they are responsible to shareholders, the Football League and the Football Association and for running their clubs within the terms of the Companies Act.

What are these duties and responsibilities you may ask? Well, in 1965, in the FA News, our Chairman, then Chairman of Brentford Football Club, penned an article which summarises the position very well:

To be a Director of a Football League Club is a very much sought after honour and one by its very nature restricted only to the few. What is the attraction in being a director?

Apart from the joy of sharing vicariously in the playing success of the team (when this occurs) there is the opportunity of watching more football and in greater comfort than that open to most other people.

Further, there is the pleasure of travelling to away matches, living and breathing football for some hours and being able to discuss football exclusively almost ad nauseum with others who are knowledgeable and are aware of the difficulties of running a club. I find that I forget, temporarily, my other problems.

There is certainly no financial benefit to being a director: quite the reverse. The theoretical 7½% dividend permitted to shareholders is in fact rarely paid by any club. Even those clubs earning sufficient to justify the payment of a dividend do not do so and prefer to keep the money in the game.

Expenses? In theory out of pocket expenses can be reimbursed but most Directors do not trouble to collect them. And no payment whatsoever is permitted for services rendered.

What are the responsibilities of a Director? Although the training, fitness, discipline and selection of the team are left to the Manager and the administration to the Secretary, the Directors ultimately bear the responsibility. It is their job, inter alia, to select the best possible men as Manager and Secretary and then for the sake of the club, the team and the public, to be willing to remove them if they are not capable of fulfilling their functions.

INTERESTING

Apart from this it is the Directors who are responsible for ensuring that the club is, and remains, financially viable, that the money is there to meet the wages week in and week out (including the close season) and to pay a transfer fee for that super player that the Manager feels is all that he needs for success.

But despite the responsibilities and financial burdens that are incurred there seems to be no lack of potential seekers of worry.

Mr. Dunnett's observations about directors not being able to receive any remuneration for their services is interesting and perfectly true and speaking personally, I may add, therein lies a tale.

A director of any business outside football naturally expects to get some form of reward in the shape of a dividend from his company's activities but in soccer this is not so. Outside a very select few, there aren't many clubs who make a profit, as Mr. Dunnett says, even if they did and do, not one penny goes back to the directors.

To be blunt, if you are a director putting money into a football club you stand very little chance of making it work for you!

Indeed, comes the day you leave a club for any reason at all, you can re-sell your shares (presuming there's anyone interested in buying them!) generally for face value only. So, in short, what you put in is all you take out.

Between joining a board and leaving it the odds are you'll have spent a lot of money of your own on loans, ground improvements, purchasing players and assisting with running expenses which is virtually lost forever.

Secretary speaking



The Dennis Marshall Column

People outside football administration think there's some perks to the job of a football director in the shape of a seat or two in the Directors' Box, home or away. Or of access to a Cup Final or international ticket. They claim there's even a certain social standing to possessing the title "Football Club Director" that stands you in good stead in the world. Well, if all this is true, they pay a very high price for these small "rewards" if that is what they are.

TRADITIONS

Of course, football clubs have certain traditions in the town or city in which it is based. Given a good run in the League or Cup everyone — even those who are not necessarily fans — take a certain amount of pleasure and interest in the progress made. Publicity is sometimes world wide.

So, on that basis, active participation as club director can bring a pleasurable experience on a personal, local and national front.

But, all too often football clubs struggle along trying to make ends meet and directors find themselves involved, working hard to keep the club going. There's little reward in that situation and often much ridicule from people who ought to know better.

Perhaps you think, having read this far, I'm not making a very good advertisement for a vacant post of club director to be filled. Maybe so, but in truth, no matter what the circumstances, there always seems to be someone who comes along and shows a willingness to help.

ACTIVE

Many clubs would fold overnight but for the magnificent assistance that directors give to their clubs. Indeed, if people who call themselves "supporters" were only one quarter as committed there wouldn't be many clubs struggling as they are.

Directors do not pay lip service to the word "Support". Their active participation and involvement ensures that any shortfall between money coming in through the gates and money going out on wages and expenses is met... usually from their own pocket.

Directors get a lot of criticism from the press.

Journalists are in a privileged position no matter what their forte. Be they involved in reporting on politics, industry, sport, entertainment, etc. They can fire the bullets but don't

Could you be a director?

always have the background knowledge to put the rifle to their shoulder with firmness and accuracy.

Sporting journalists in the main are very fair, honest and sincere... jokingly I often say, some of my best friends are press men... equally jokingly those to whom I address these remarks say, "poor man to have so few friends!"

STRANGE

It's a very strange facet of football that only two journalists to my knowledge currently have places on the board of a football club. Even then their tie-up is on a slightly wider plane than being "journalists" as such.

I refer to Bill Bothwell and Jimmy Hill. Bill is Chairman of Tranmere Rovers and also does commentary work for the BBC on soccer whilst Jimmy has many jobs that we know of but is most famous for his Match of the Day, Saturday evening programme. He's on the Coventry City board.

A few years ago John Camkin worked for the now defunct News Chronicle and also became a Director of Coventry City. He's now adviser to the Saudi Arabian FA. Fulham, whom we visited last Saturday, have Len Shackleton on their board.

Len, an ex-professional footballer turned journalist, is not now actively connected with the sporting press as a writer.

In the Editor's View column in the Football Post, Harry Richards, time and time again, aims comments and remarks about many things and occasionally about Notts County! Since he speaks with the authority of a man who has spent a lifetime in sporting journalism and being concerned with local soccer, then he obviously has a sound base from which to expound. Accordingly one has to respect his views.

IDEAL

One gets the impression that he also knows a little about how to run a football club such as our own and possibly he might like to put his name forward as a potential director. Joking aside, his association with the sport, his experience as a journalist and editor, his local patriotism, give him ideal qualifications. I'm sure there are many areas in promotions, public relations and advertising where his expertise would be a tremendous asset to this club or any other.

I mentioned this the other day to a group of County fans. They simply laughed and said the first thing he would do would be to change our colours... but

I'm sure he would be far more constructive and positive than that, given the opportunity.

Basically, of course, the handicap that most people have when contemplating directorship of a football club is the thing that rules our lives (or practically so) in so many ways... CASH!

The lack of it in the first instance and the wish to not squander or waste in the second.

That's why, any criticiser of football directors should be tempered by asking simple questions of oneself... "WOULD I BE PREPARED TO DO IT... WOULD I PUT MY OWN AND MY FAMILY'S MONEY INTO FOOTBALL?"

If you can't answer these with a "yes" then the other question like: "Would I run the club BETTER than those who do?" Must remain unasked.

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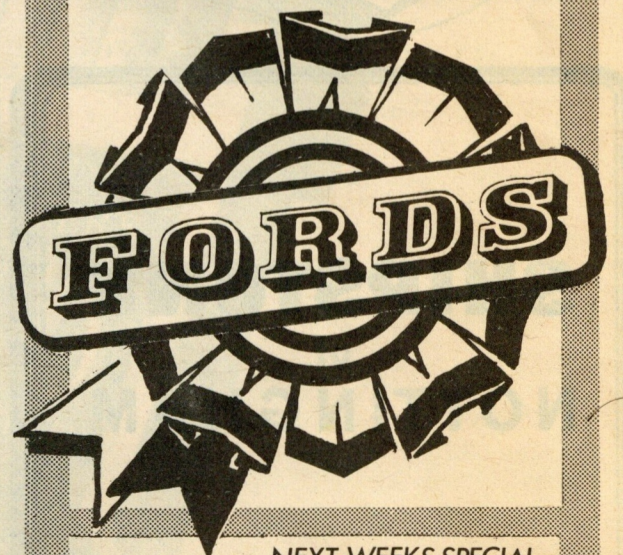


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ROUND THE BRANCHES

Beeston

The Chequers Inn, High Road, Chilwell, was the venue of one of the now regular joint social evenings held by Beeston and Newark branches — on Monday, November 15.

The pub games which were the original reason for the meetings tend to drift into the background from a competitive point of view these days — in fact I don't even know who won what last week — as members of the respective branches now intermingle in an atmosphere of conviviality (try saying that with your false teeth!) to voice their varying opinions on Matters Magpie.

On second thoughts, one small correction — Newark members will point out that almost all the raffle prizes went to their Beeston counterparts, with President Ian Bolton again among the frontrunners.

The next meeting at The Chequers will be at 8 p.m. on Monday next, November 29

and new members will as usual be more than welcome.

Encouraged by their recent initial victory in the Wednesday 5-a-side league the branch footballers had a recruiting campaign to extend their interest to a full eleven and played their first friendly match on Sunday, November 14 against Middleton School (Wollaton) Parent Teacher Association.

The result was unfortunately a bit of a thrashing for the branch but as I was playing for the opposition it is more than my life is worth to mention the score.

However the game was played in a fine spirit (not liquid — that came after), remaining friendly to the end.

It is hoped that a pitch can be found for a second match tomorrow and anyone wishing their team to play a Sunday friendly should 'phone David or Sean Patterson on Nottingham 222625.

Netherfield

Our Netherfield branch, who already operate their own football team in Division 1 of the Senior Afternoon Section of the Nottinghamshire Sunday League, have made a good start to the season, losing only one of their first seven games. They are currently third in the table.

Unfortunately, their season has been seriously marred by the very untimely death at the age of 23 of their secretary, Kevin Cassidy. We extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Cassidy who is left with the responsibility of bringing up three young children.

Newark

Mick Patterson and his colleagues have organised successful coach trips to the recent games at Hereford and Sheffield, and anyone living in the vicinity of Newark can obtain details of future transport from Mick on Newark 76609 or Colin Briggs on Newark

73098. They will also advise you on other branch activities.

About 20 members made the journey to Beeston for the social evening reported above and preparations are in progress to return to hospitality in the not too distant future.

The branch are also in course of planning a Cabaret Evening, to be held at The Cardinals Hat by the good offices of Mine Host (Newark Committee member) Ray Dixon, in aid of the David Needham Testimonial Fund. This will probably take place in January or February so watch out for further details.

Sunday Soccer

The Notts County Supporters Club eleven face two tough fixtures tomorrow and next Sunday as they tackle the leading team in their division twice in consecutive matches.

When I point out that there is only one point between the teams as I write and we are three points clear of the third-placed team you will realise the importance of the games to our lads. Your support on the Victoria Embankment tomorrow afternoon will be more than welcome.

Obviously, Mick Bromley and his colleagues have settled in to the higher grade of



football very satisfactorily, probably benefitting from the length of time that many of them have played together.

However, manager Neal Hook is particularly pleased with the way that Anthony Eaton, who is only fifteen years old, has performed when called on to date.

This is tempered to some degree by the fact that for some time we shall be without our regular number 6, Kevin Pavis, who sustained what transpired to be a broken bone in his leg and severely torn ligaments, in the cup game last Sunday against Greencroft.

November 21 will be a day that the Pavis family will be anxious to forget as quickly as possible since Kevin's father, Derek, the newest Committee member with our neighbours across the river became ill. All Mag-

pies fans will join me, I am sure, in sending best wishes for the speediest of recoveries to father and son.

STOP PRESS

Great night at the Bier Keller for David Needham's Testimonial on Monday. The management said that we were the best private party they had had since the place opened — also Karl and the Heidelbergers enjoyed the evening as much as we did, which is apparently very rare and a great compliment to their audience.

Our thanks are due to Committee member Jean McVeagh, who did all the organising and liaison, and if you missed this one — don't worry, we may ask Jean to organise another Bier Keller evening in the New Year.

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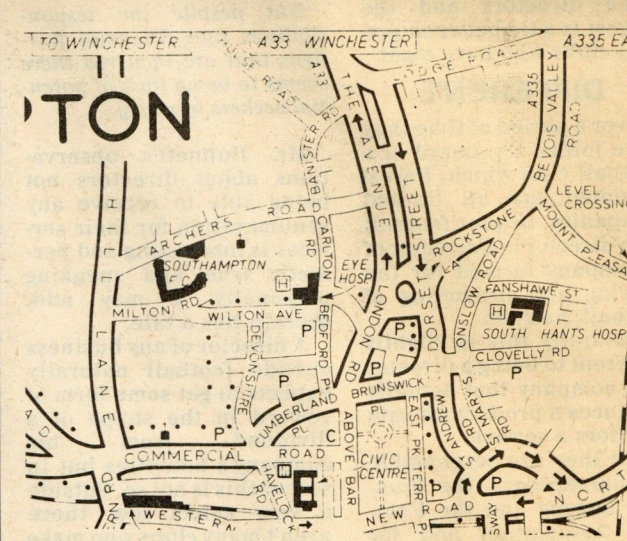
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FROM THE MANAGER'S CHAIR by Ron Fenton



At last . . . our luck changes

TWO good results to reflect on this week. Starting with our last home game against the Wolves, it was of course disappointing to "lose" a point after dominating the game and doing enough to win handsomely.

I felt that we might well have put the result beyond doubt by half-time and at the end of the ninety minutes we were shattered that Wolves had equalised. In the dressing room afterwards it was almost as if we had lost.

FULL VALUE

This is the way the game goes sometimes and you have only to look back as far as our game against Oldham Athletic when we won with a last

minute penalty, to see the reverse situation. They must have felt about the same as we did last week to lose after keeping us out for nearly ninety minutes.

I am sure that everybody got full value for that game against Wolves though, despite our dropping a point. Many people have told me that they reckon it to have been the best, most entertaining match to be played at Meadow Lane for a long, long time.

We followed that match with a great result at Fulham, our highest score away from home for years and very pleasing to me and I'm sure all supporters. Steve Carter is a rare goalscorer but that one at Craven Cottage

was worth waiting for, you could go ten years before seeing a better one.

Perhaps the goal will give Steve the confidence to go with his undoubted ability and I look forward to seeing his name on the scoresheet regularly from now on!

Travelling back from Fulham I was reflecting on the fact that things seemed to be going right at last. Ray O'Brien and Les Bradd both fit again and playing well, the goals going in, Gordon Mair although only involved for ten minutes or so, doing enough to prove he is "ready for action" at senior level.

Players like David Smith, John Sims, Ian Bolton and David McVay (all eager for the chance to prove themselves) on

the sidelines as cover. Not forgetting of course, Brian Stubbs who was only out of the side due to having a cold.

Yes things looked pretty good for us, Ray O'Brien said that his troublesome thigh strain was no worse after the game and it looked as if we could play a settled side. But then, as always seems to happen in football, we were brought down to earth again last Monday with the news that Ray had a delayed recurrence of his injury and will definitely be out for the next three weeks as he must completely rest his strained thigh.

Ah well, that's football! To close on a cheerful note I must add my personal congratulations to big Les Bradd on being the Magpies leading scorer — many more to your total Les!

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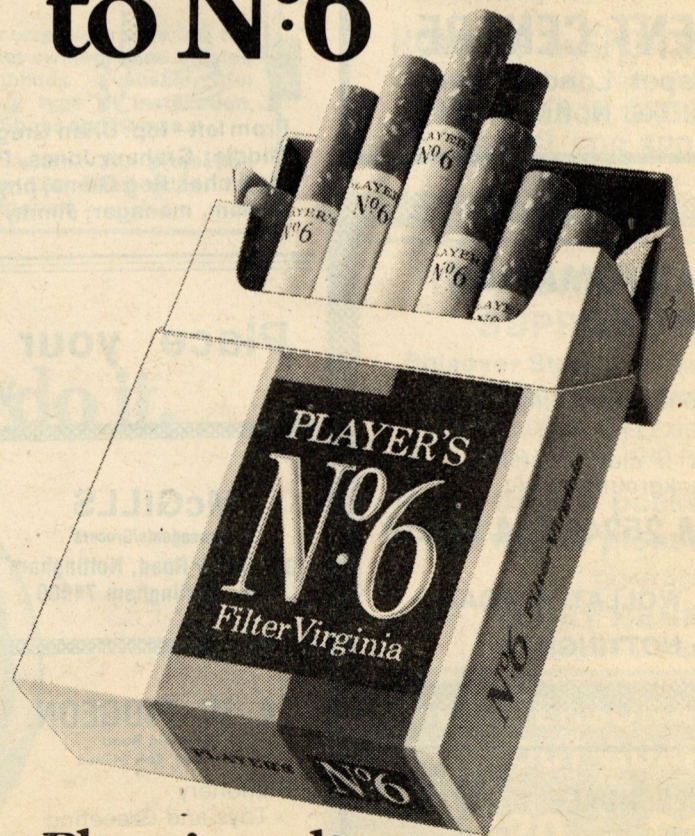
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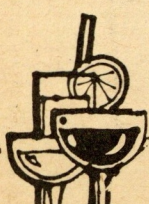
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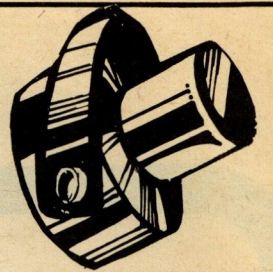
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HARD UP — BUT BATTLING ON!

THE thoroughly unpleasant fact that the vast majority of the 92 member-clubs of the Football League are running at a financial loss scarcely seems to penetrate the consciousness of the average fan.

Week in, week out he reads about losses building up week in, week out... and manages to shrug off the news as "just one of those things."

Two Second Division clubs have done rather more to bring the point home: Chelsea, who some weeks before they climbed to the head of the table, were given an additional year's grace by their creditors — and today's visitors, Luton Town, who were the first club seriously to fly the distress signals.

With talk going on that The Hatters "might do an Accrington Stanley" (which — shades of 1958 — means dropping out of the League mid-way through a season) the club called an extraordinary shareholders' meet-

ing last December, barely nine months after they had figured in the First Division.

Shareholders were told the worst: Luton would go out of existence unless they could get additional finance within a few days, the bankers having refused to extend their credit and the directors having for the time being to pay the wages out of their own pockets.

Two days later gifted midfielder Peter Anderson had to be sold to Antwerp for £80,000. It wasn't to be the last sale, for Andy King was to be on his way to Everton at the end of the season while, for lesser money, Peter Spiring found his way to Hereford.

But how much did the Luton public REALLY CARE? The question is

raised because the b's average gate last seas was still only just above 1' 00— and that cannot have eant economic salvation... gate income along!

Yet for most of the season Luton were never completely out of the promotion hunt. After a good run from early December, when the players responded marvellously to the emergency situation by winning seven consecutive matches, Luton were still fifth in place at the end of March, and even-

tually finished seventh, five points behind promoted club West Bromwich Albion.

The record this season is not as good. Luton were in eighth place early in September, but they have been as low as 18th before a couple of points from last week's win over Cardiff City hoisted them back to a more respectable 13th.

And the gates remain

stubbornly low: only 8,845 saw the win over Cardiff, while the previous home match — a 4-2 win over Bristol Rovers — attracted a thousand LESS!

In between those home wins Luton sustained a 4-2 defeat at Millwall, spied on for Notts by Mick Jones as part of the preparation for today's clash.

Mick tells me that Luton were unlucky to lose, played well enough to merit a draw, but lost two late goals to Millwall as a result of lapses in concentration.

BARGAIN

Those taking the eye included goalkeeper Keith Barber, while the finishing at the other end is chiefly supplied by Scottish striker Dixie Deans, in his first season following a bargain £20,000 transfer from Celtic, and ex-Everton star Jimmy Husband.

Watch out, too, for the Fletcher brothers, Paul in mid-field and Ron up front.

Two away successes have so far come when perhaps least expected, at Wolves and Burnley, with defeats at Hull, Charlton, Plymouth, Blackburn and Millwall and a draw at Carlisle.

Only a late goal by Ian Scanlon separated the teams here last season, and Notts can expect no favours today from hard-up but still-fighting Luton.



From left— top: Brian Gregory, Steve Buckley, Tim Smith, Kim Wassel, John (Dixie) Deans, Ricky Hill, Sandor Simon. Middle: Graham Jones, Paul Fletcher, John Faulkner, Tony Knight, Keith Barber, John Ryan, Paul Price, James McNichol, Reg Game, physio. Front: Pasquale Fuccillo, Brian Chamber, David Carr, Roy McCrohan (coach), Harry Haslam, manager; Jimmy Husband, John Aston, Peter Mead.

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The night I played at Meadow Lane

I SHALL never forget my first appearance on the sacred turf at Meadow Lane. It was also my last!

The floodlights beamed down on us as we emerged from the players' tunnel — or I imagined they did even if they were only switched on at half-power.

There was no mighty roar from the stands as we came out — not even polite applause.

PRACTICE

That was because there was no-one there on that cold November evening. You see I was one of the thousands of boys who, over the years, came down to Meadow Lane in the evenings to train under the watchful eye of Jack Wheeler.

And that evening, my club side, who operated in the semi-obscurity of the Mansfield Youth League, was playing a Notts County Youth team in a practice match.

It was a few years ago now and as time passes, the memory plays tricks. I don't think my performance quite matched up to the descriptions I give to my three young children "of the time daddy played at Meadow Lane."

In truth, they would rather watch the antics of

By Paul Richardson

of the Notts. Free Press and consultant to MAGPIE.

bionic people on television than listen to me anyway.

Maybe one day, God willing, my grandchildren will provide a better audience.

MY CHANCE

Anyway, to get back to that match, I recall us being 6-0 down after about 20 minutes although the final score escapes me. I recall receiving the ball once and tearing in from the left wing — I was called an outside-left in those days — set to score the goal of the month and write my own episode into the history of Meadow Lane.

Shame, at the vital moment, I lost control, mis-kicked and finished flat on my back with the ball ending somewhere near the corner flag.

That was my sole contribution to the match, save running up and down the touch-line to try and look as though I was involved.

What a consolation at the end though, to step into the same bath as that used by so many great names — to follow in the footsteps of the "Legends of the Lane."

I came down several more times for training under Jack Wheeler. He was fantastic. "If only the first team

trained as hard as you lads, we'd be in the First Division," he used to say. We loved it and he knew it.

I never did get to play another game at the Lane. That was my big change and I muffed it — and it was then that I thought perhaps I might be better at writing about the game.

I shall never forget the experience though and neither will my friends! By the way, did I tell you about my first and last appearance at Field Mill?

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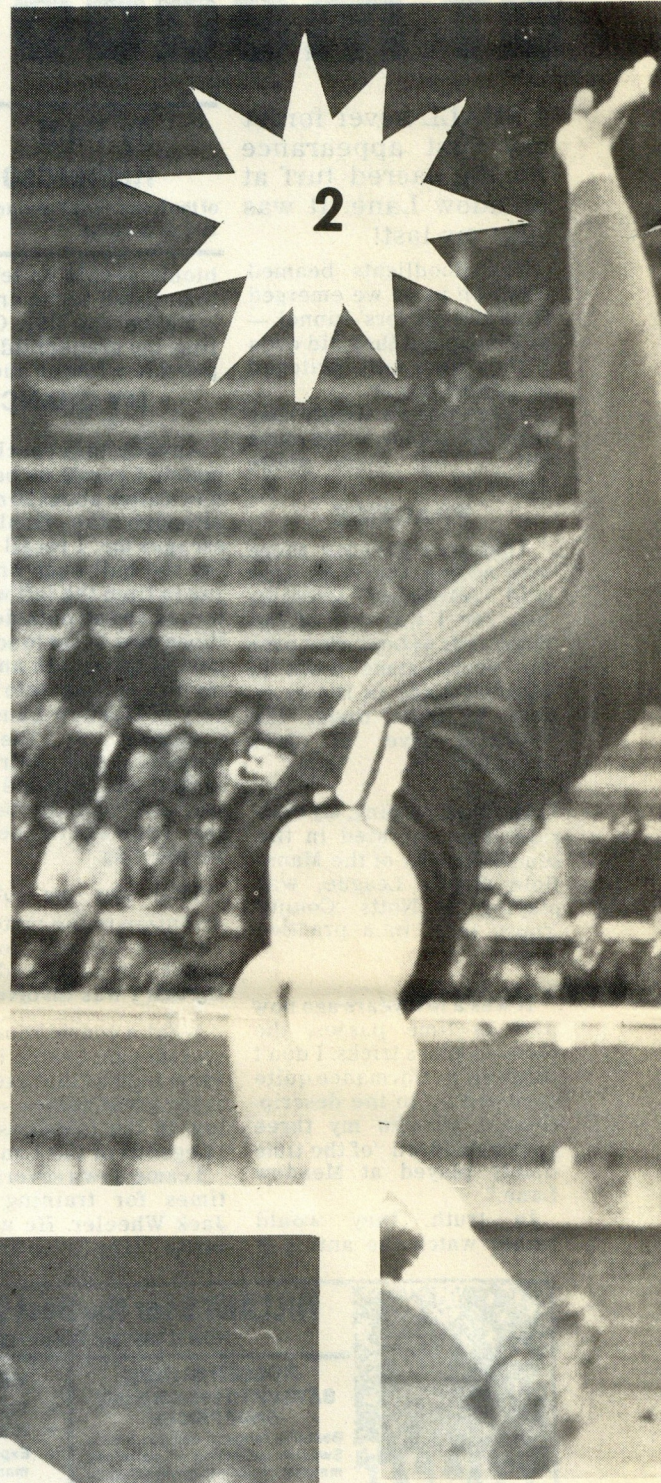
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day.

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goalkeeper Mell

Goal No. 2 — No char
25-yard effort ro

Goal No. 3 — Vinter co
and pushes it pa

Goal No. 4 — Busby c
rocket a shot pa

Goal No. 5 — Bradd loo
cross only to see
over the line.

Photograph
Sumpter of Jo

WELL THEY ASKED FOR IT!

WE cannot resist reproducing the following extracts from the Fulham programme published for our game there last Saturday:

"Notts County lost at Craven Cottage last season, just as they had lost the previous season, and the season before that and so forth back over four decades to the early Thirties.

They haven't of course been appearing consecutively since then but the fact remains that in 43 years Notts have picked up one point from their not completely infrequent visits to this part of London.

You could say that jinxes don't come any bigger and you wouldn't be far from the truth. At the risk of sounding immodest we have a record against our friends from the East Midlands which offers a great deal of comfort, particularly at times like these when we are in urgent need of a home win."

The article finished with: "But for the Cottage job they could do with the resurrection of Robin Hood, Friar Tuck and the rest of his merry men. Without them, the Form Guide respectfully suggests that the evidence supporting another Fulham win is well nigh incontrovertible."

Sequences always come to an end don't they? And certainly from the tone of the editorial they asked for the result they got.



...trouncing we handed
...Craven Cottage last Satur-

...a looping shot over the head of

...for Mellor as Carter's brilliant
...ts into the top corner.

...cts the through ball from Bradd
...the oncoming goalkeeper.

...talises on a defensive error to
...Mellor.

...on as Mellor fumbles a Richards
...hit defender Howe and bounce

...s by John and Geoff
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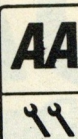
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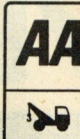
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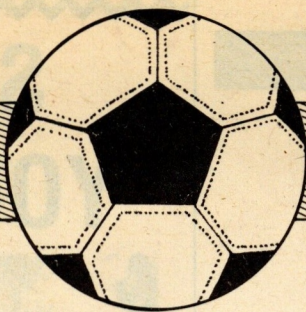
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NEWS ON TWO

Geoff Allman

WE are certainly creating a few surprises in our away games this season with, in the space of five games, a 5-1 defeat and a 6-1 defeat and a 4-1 win and a 5-1 win. Last week's 5-1 win at Fulham was our biggest away from home since we won by a similar scoreline at Everton way back in 1951/52 when both clubs were in Division Two.

It was also the first time that Fulham had conceded five goals at Craven Cottage since Cardiff won there in 1968/69, also in Division Two.

Our last win at Craven Cottage was way back in January 1933 when we just got home 4-3, since when we had until Saturday picked up only one point in eleven games there.

We have now gained two more points in away games than at home, in addition to which we have scored almost three quarters of our goals this season away from home. Saturday's game brought a particularly happy return 'home' for **VIV BUSBY**, who in the corresponding game two seasons ago netted for the Cottagers against us.

Another forward making a happy return on Saturday was Blackburn's

DAVE WAGSTAFF, who in his first game at Molineux since moving from Wolves, had the satisfaction of laying on the matchwinner for **JOHN BYROM**, who got both his side's goals, his first for the club, since returning from Bolton at the beginning of the season. His tally of league goals is now 160.

Wolves have found Blackburn to be something of a bogey team over the years just as Southampton have found Bolton a hard team to beat at The Dell. They have picked up only one point from Wanderers' last three visits to The Dell. Bolton have now taken six points from their last four away games and with a place also in the League Cup last eight next week they really look to be back in business.

STEVE TAYLOR got two of their goals in a 3-1 win on Saturday and in his first full season in the game his tally of 15 goals to date is second only in Division two to 18 of Charlton's **DEREK HALES**.

Derek failed to score on Saturday when Charlton's run of three successive home wins was ended by a 2-1 win by Blackpool, who now have the remarka-

ble record of five wins and three draws in their last eight games at The Valley. They too have a sharpshooter, **MICK WALSH**, whose goal on Saturday was his twelfth of the season and the Seaside have not lost away since going down here in October.

Better times seem to have arrived for Hereford United, who in their first ever season in Division Two suffered the nightmare of seven successive defeats recently. Their goalless draw with Oldham on Saturday brought their fourth point in three games and they have now drawn with teams in the promotion race in each of their last two home games. The previous one was against leaders Chelsea, who drew again on Saturday at Forest's City Ground. This was the first point Forest had dropped at home since the end of August and a crowd of over, 27,000 double their average gate previously this season.

What a lopsided record is that of Hull who after beating Plymouth 3-1 on Saturday found themselves unbeaten at home but, without an away win this season

Another unusual record is that of

wooden-spoonists Orient, whose 1-1 draw at Sheffield United on Saturday left them with the record of seven away games in league and cup without defeat whilst failing to score in any of their last four home games.

Their goal in a 1-1 draw on Saturday came from **PETER ALLEN**, his first since September 1973. Peter is now within a few games of becoming the first Orient player ever to play in 400 league games for the club.

Sheffield United's goal on Saturday came from **KEITH EDWARDS**, the second of his career, and they are now unbeaten at home though they have won only once away and are currently just outside the front runners.

Millwall had another profitable long journey to Carlisle on Saturday, avoiding defeat there for the fourth successive time and in fact taking both points with **TERRY LEE**, getting the only goal of the game. Poor old Carlisle, who have picked up only two points from their last eight games are in considerable danger of sliding back to Division Three, from which they escaped for the first time ever in 1965

Schools penalty tourney

THIS afternoon we have the second Redmayne County Schools Penalty Competition semi-final in which boys from schools under the jurisdiction of the South Notts. F.A. take part.

The participants are Carlton le Willows v Redhill and all are under 16. Carlton qualified by defeating Bramcote Hills 8-5 and Redhill who beat National Comp. (Hucknall) 6-4.

The winning team today represents the South Notts. Schools against the Nottingham Schools representatives, Margaret Glen Bott (winners here last match over Manvers 10-9; in the

Under 16 Final v Burnley here at Meadow Lane on Saturday, December 11, when we play Burnley.

The referee once again is Mr. Tom Whithead (Notts. F.A.), the competition

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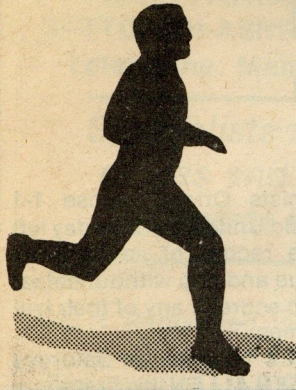
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Running Bear says . . .



It's being there that counts —ask 'Uncle Tom!'

IT has always been a source of amazement to me how a blind person can enjoy attending a football match (and many of them do), when most of the interest is purely visual, but the reason is probably explained in the person of Tom Lord, one of the hard-working "backroom boys" who are part and parcel of the Meadow Lane scene and without whom things would not quite be the same. Every football club seems to have its share of such people and a good job too for they give many hours of voluntary service to their respective clubs. In the case of "our Tom", (to get back to the plot!) and the explanation of how blind persons can enjoy the game. Tom spends most of home match days working in one of our souvenir kiosks and rarely sees much of the games.

It is easy to follow a game according to Tom without actually seeing it; to the experienced "ear" every gasp, ooh and arrh of the crowd means something — a bad pass, a good pass, a fierce tackle, a good run etc., etc.

And so the mood of a game can be followed quite well and the fact that you are THERE, where the action is, is important even if you cannot actually see the game.

This seems a good time to tell you a bit more about Tom Lord, a genial Falstaffian figure well known to many supporters. Over the years Tom has served the club on a voluntary basis in many different ways, amongst others his work has included manning the tea bars situated round the ground, helping with away match travel arrangements, working in the souvenir kiosks as mentioned above and innovating a Junior Supporters' Club night.

This takes place every Friday night at Meadow Lane and Uncle Tom can be found organising events and handing out refreshments to the youngsters.

He is currently President of the "Junior" Notts County Supporters' Club and Treasurer and member of many years standing of the senior body.

On behalf of all junior supporters over the years we say thank you Uncle Tom. A less pleasant subject to report — several supporters who attended the recent game at Sheffield were disgusted at the manhandling they received or witnessed from a hooligan element in the United crowd. Incidentally this took place at the Bramall Lane end of the ground, where Sheffield officials advised us to go!

Outside the ground supporters and their vehicles were attacked without reason and several people remarked on the absence of the local police. It does seem that some police forces take the attitude that football supporters, because they attend the game and show their favourite colours, ask for all they get.

I sincerely hope this is not so because, thankless though their job is, without their care and protection we are lost. What a pity people can't go to a match to watch the foot-

At least we know that we can enjoy ourselves at Meadow Lane where trouble very rarely if ever appears, it must be a unique experience for opposing fans as well.

To close on a happy note— after Les Bradd's record breaking goal against Wolves at our last home game, he entered the Centenary Lounge at the precise moment that his face appeared on the television which is situated directly above the entrance. Laurence Olivier with his great sense of timing could not have done better!

And of course Les' was done in complete innocence. Imagine the surprise registered on the face of our modest goalscorer as a tremendous cheer went up on his entrance, it must have seemed a louder cheer to Les than that which greeted his goal!

Everyone in the room, including guest Dave MacKay, manager of Derby County, joined in the much deserved applause.

Thank you Les, as Mrs. "Running Bear's" favourite player, you made hers and everybody's day.

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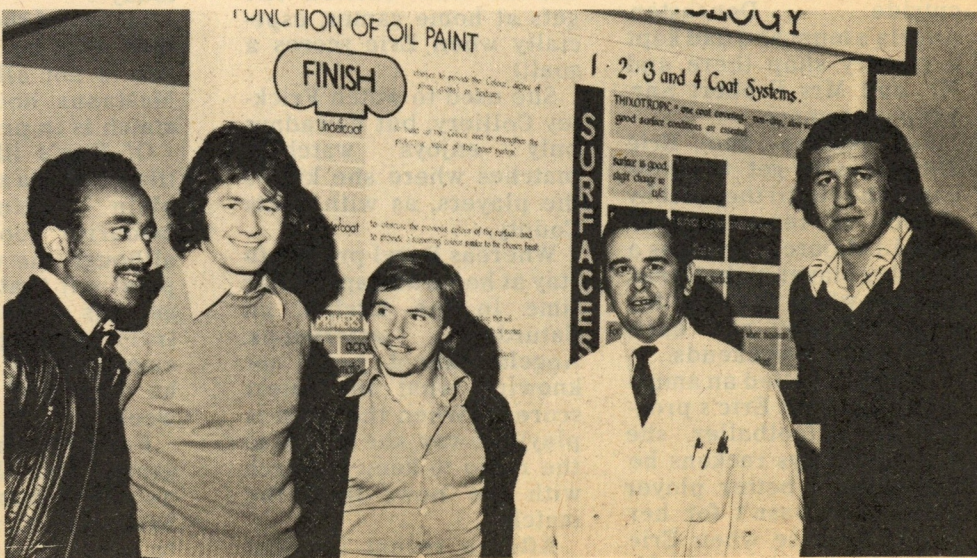


MAGPIES DAY OUT

THE first team squad together with manager Ron Fenton and coach Mick Jones recently spent a day at H.M. Detention Centre at Whatton at the invitation of officer Gordon McKellar.

A good time was had by all concerned, the players certainly enjoyed the great hospitality offered by the staff and boys at the Centre and they in turn were pleased to see "Notts County" at close quarters. In the pictures:

- (1) Ron Fenton is seen accepting a memento of the visit, a plaque made by the boys.
- (2) The Magpies on stage. The players made themselves available for a questions and answers session. The boys at the Centre had many interesting queries and enjoyed the opportunity of firing pertinent questions at the players.
- (3) A group of players pose with an officer who instructs the boys in technical details of painting.



Odds and...

Fulham have come to hate the sight of Notts County. Our astonishing 5-1 victory at Craven Cottage was Fulham's heaviest defeat since last April when they went down 0-4 — at Meadow Lane!

It was also the first time Fulham have conceded five goals at Craven Cottage in a League game since December 1968 when they lost 1-5 to Cardiff City. On that occasion they actually opened the scoring.

Notts County have now scored more away League goals (17) than any other club in the country.

The successes of Leatherhead (v Northampton), Minehead (at Swansea) and Hillingdon (at Torquay) in last Saturday's first round F.A. Cup ties took the number of non-League victories over Football League clubs since the last war to 71. They may well have been added to in the

mid-week replays as no fewer than six of the minnows earned replays against League clubs.

Halifax Town and Stafford Rangers, who drew 0-0 last Saturday, have been drawn together in the F.A. Cup for three seasons in succession. If they should come out of the bag together again next season they will equal the competition record.

Former Notts County striker Kevin Randall hit four goals in a League game for the first time in his career when Mansfield beat Reading 4-0 in a recent Third Division game. The only previous time Kevin had registered a League hat-trick was for Chesterfield versus Crewe in December 1967.

Spectators crave for goals. That's what the pundits say. But don't put

forward that theory to Charlton Athletic. They've scored more home goals than any other Second Division club, apart from Forest, and they possess in 18-goal Derek Hales the division's top scorer — yet Valley attendances are down by almost 1,000 on last season's!

West Ham made their worst start since returning to the First Division in 1958, collecting only five points from their

opening 12 games. The only club in the last 20 years to escape from the bottom three places in Division One after such a poor start was Birmingham City in 1959/60.

The 42,654 crowd for the Chelsea v Southampton game was easily the highest for a Second Division game this season and was the best at Stamford Bridge for three-and-a-half years

...ends

INTRODUCING STRIPEY . . . and his man Peter Dredge

STRIPEY is our new "resident" cartoon character created by graphic designer Peter Dredge. Peter has a bent (?) — his own phrasing — towards illustration and particularly cartoons. He has recently had some work bought by PUNCH

A freelance, Peter Dredge gained a diploma in Graphic Design at Trent Polytechnic and has worked on his own since leaving there in 1975.

He turns out regularly for Pernod F.C. of the Notts Sunday Morning Intermediate League, Division One, playing as a "stopper".

Apparently they are

thinking of changing their name to Maxwell House F.C. next season because they have tried so many different blends!

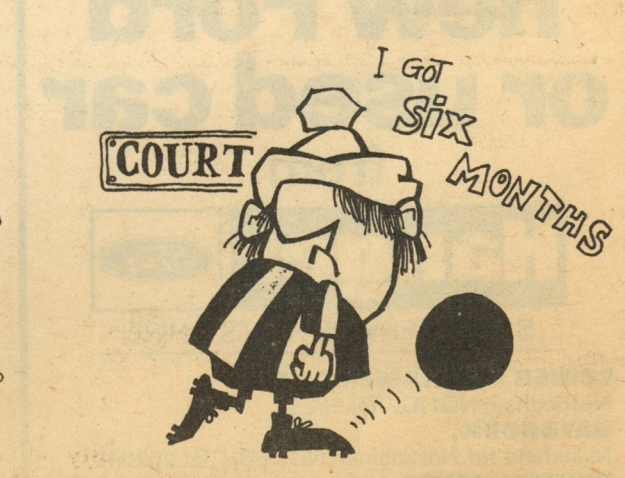
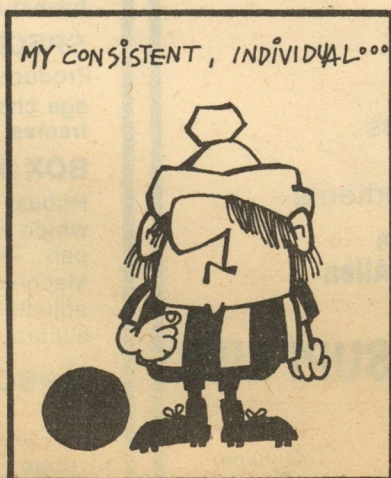
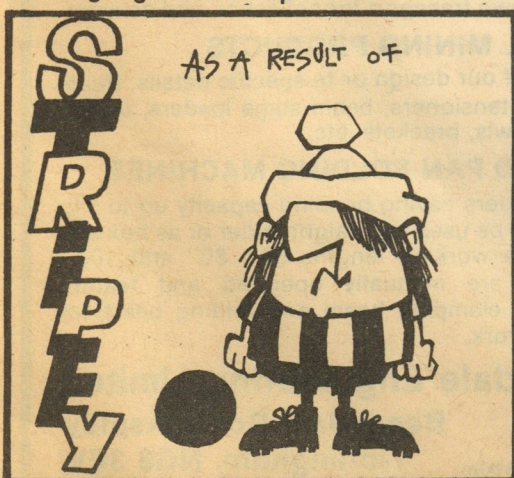
In a letter to your Editor, Mr. Dredge confesses to watching football some Saturdays and says something about a team that

plays in red. I do not know to whom he refers but if he truly has seen a red team I feel it must have been sometime when he was holidaying in Russia.

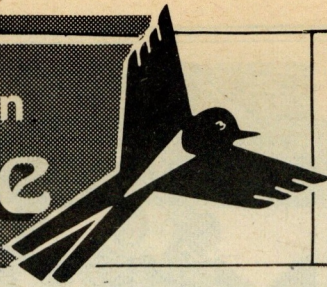
Anyway, on to more important things, Stripey will appear in all future issues of Magpie this season and we

hope you enjoy his antics.

Our congratulations and thanks go to Peter Dredge on his brilliant character — if you or your company need any graphic designing you could do worse than contacting Peter Dredge on Plumtree 2744.



Lady Helen Magpie



meets the girl behind the man . . . ANGELA PROBERT

ANGELA Probert takes the limelight this week in our Girl Behind the Man feature.

She and Eric live not far from the McManus family in Cotgrave. They were married in 1972 but their first meeting was something out of the ordinary.

Both Angela and Eric were born in the little village of South Kirkby, just outside Doncaster, Angela's mum and dad kept a grocery shop there and Mr. and Mrs Probert Sr. were customers.

But Angela and Eric didn't really get to know each other until they met by chance on separate holidays in Majorca! Eric was a Burnley player at that time, and so when the holiday was over they saw each other only at weekends.

Angela recalled an amusing story about Eric's progress as a footballer, she says he always reckons he would be a better player today if it wasn't for her father because when Eric was only eight years old, he

used to practise by kicking a ball against her parents' gate and Angela's father used to park his van in front of the gate and so spoil Eric's practising!

Unlike Deryl McManus, Angela Probert, although not particularly sportsminded, likes to watch her husband play football. (I for one have noticed how excited she gets at home games, especially when Eric scores a goal!)

She used to watch Frickley Colliery, but nowadays only enjoys watching matches where she knows the players, as with Notts County.

Whereas Deryl prefers to stay at home and spend her time in the kitchen on Saturday afternoons, Angela cannot bear not knowing what the latest score is. When the team is playing away, she listens to the radio to keep in touch with the news from the match.

After a recent incident when Notts took a rare

hammering away from home, Deryl, being superstitious, banned Mrs. Probert from her house after 3 o'clock on Saturday afternoons!

The reason for this was that Angela, after hearing a score, flash of 2-1, went round to see Deryl and jokingly said "He's (meaning Eric) only let five or six in today".

Little did she know at the time that he had! So now she is not allowed in the McManus house whilst a match is in progress . . .

Of Eric's likes and dislikes, Angela says he enjoys plain cooking and his favourite food is steak, although she would like to point out that he does not get this every day as (contrary to popular belief among some supporters), he does NOT earn £300 a week!

Friday nights before a game, Eric likes to sit quietly at home, but come Saturday morning he gets "a bit edgy" and plays Jethro Tull records to take his

mind off the game. According to Angela, he has this will to win whether he is playing football or monopoly!

Angela is a trained sales representative and is at present with County 75 recruiting new agents.

As far as home life goes, Angela says both she and Eric like Nottingham and are happy here. The third member of the Probert household not yet mentioned is a dog—a Red Setter called Dino (after the pet dinosaur in the TV series "The Flintstones"?)

When Eric finishes playing football, Angela thinks they will probably set up some form of business and they particularly like the idea of running a public house.

She already has some business experience for she ran her own shop, a general store, when she was only 19 and her father is a publican, so he should be



Angela Probert (right) talks with a County '75 agent

able to give them some helpful tips.

In the meantime, let's hope Eric goes on playing for Notts County for a few years yet, so that we can also have the pleasure of Angela Probert's company in the stand on Saturday afternoons.

DON'T THROW THOSE MAGAZINES AWAY

IF anyone has any old football magazines or annuals they no longer have a use for, please don't throw them away. I can probably use them, so why not send or bring them to Meadow Lane.

★ ★ ★

I KNOW there is still a long way to go yet before the final day

for your entries to the "Knit a Long Scarf" competition, but as there will not be another edition of Magpie until the closing date, here is a reminder for you.

Bring or send your entries into me at Meadow Lane by December 11 when we are at home to Burnley.

Results of the competition will be announced in the fol-

lowing copy of Magpie v Hull City on December 27th and I am looking forward to a bumper entry so keep those needles clicking!

★ ★ ★

Further to my suggestion of a social evening specially for the ladies in a recent Lady Magpie column, it is hoped to

arrange a night out in the near future if the response is good enough.

So it's up to you . . . In order to get an idea of the numbers involved, would any lady supporters who are interested please either drop me a line as soon as possible, or leave your name and address (and a telephone number if possible), at the Secretary's Office

after today's game so that I can get in touch when more arrangements have been made.

★ ★ ★

Meadow Lane might not be attracting large crowds these days, but it is certainly attracting some well known faces. Our visitors over the last few

weeks have included actor Robin Bailey, lady cricketer Enid Bakewell and singer/actor Paul Jones.

At our last home game against Wolves there was another familiar face in the stand—one time Notts County player, Ron Wylie who I am sure many supporters here today will remember.

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s—player substituted.
★—1 goal ●—2 goals †—3 goals.

Date	Opponents	Ground	Attendance	Result	Accum. Points	League Pos.	McManus	Richards	O'Brien	Probert	Needham	Stubbs	Carter	McVay	Bradd	Mann	Scanton	Sims	Benjamin	Smith	Vinter	Bolton	Ross	Busby	Mair	Own Goal
1976																										
Aug 7 S	FOREST (A/S Cup)	H	11,258	0-0	—	—	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11s	12								
10 T	Bristol C. (A/S Cup)	A	3,272	0-2	—	—	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9s	10	11									
14 S	W.B.A. (A/S Cup)	A	6,396	1-3	—	—	1	2	3	4	5s	6	7	8	10	11	7★									
21 S	MILLWALL	H	8,649	1-2	—	—	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	9★	12	11										
25 W	Chelsea	A	17,426	1-1	1	—	1	2	3	4★	5	6	7	7	9s	6	11									
28 S	Plymouth Argyle	A	14,539	2-1	3	—	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	7	11			9★								
Sept 1 W	Scunthorpe LC2	A	6,208	2-0	—	—	1	2	3	4	5	6	12	7★	11											
4 S	BOLTON WANDERERS	H	9,346	0-1	3	10th	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	7s	11											
11 S	Cardiff City	A	11,988	3-2	5	12th	1	2	3	4	5★	6	12		10	11	9									
18 S	BLACKPOOL	H	9,598	2-0	7	7th	1	2	3	4	5	6	12		10★	11s	9s									
22 W	Derby LC 3rd Rd	A	24,881	1-1	—	—	1	2	3★	4	5	6	12		10	11s	9									
25 S	Bristol Rovers	A	6,238	1-5	7	14th	1	2	3	4	5★	6	7s		3	11	9									
Oct 2 S	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	H	9,123	1-0	9	9th	1	2	3	4	5	6s	12		10	11★	9									
4 M	DERBY LC 3rd Rd rpl	H	16,276	1-2	—	—	1	2	3	4	5	6s	12	10s	10											
9 S	Blackburn Rovers	A	7,993	1-6	9	15th	1	2	3	4★	5	6s		3	11	9										
16 S	ORIENT	H	8,192	0-1	9	18th	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		6	11s	12									
23 S	Hereford United	A	7,462	4-1	11	—	1	2	3	4	5★	6		3	11	8										
26 T	Forest (C Cup)	H	9,415	1-0	—	—	1	2	3	4	5	6	12		10	11	8s									
30 S	CARLISLE UNITED	H	8,327	2-1	13	7th	1	2	3	4★	5	6	12		3	11	8s									
Nov 6 S	Sheffield United	A	18,355	0-1	13	10th	1	2	3	4	5	6	12		3	11	8s									
13 S	WOLVES	H	14,234	1-1	14	11th	1	2	3	4	5	6	12		9★	10	11									
20 S	(1) Fulham	A	12,191	5-1	16	—	1	2	3	4	5	6	7s		9	6	11									
27 S	LUTON TOWN	H																								
Dec 1 W	League Cup, 5th Rd																									
4 S	Southampton	A																								
11 S	(2) BURNLEY	H																								
18 S	Charlton A.	A																								
27 M	HULL CITY	H																								
29 W	Nottingham Forest	A																								
1977																										
Jan 1 S	SHEFFIELD UTD	H																								
3 M	Carlisle United	A																								
8 S	F.A. Cup, 3rd Rd																									
15 S	CHELSEA	H																								
19 W	League Cup, S-F																									
22 S	Millwall	A																								
29 S	F.A. Cup, 4th Rd																									
Feb 5 S	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	H																								
12 S	Bolton Wanderers	A																								
16 W	League Cup, S-F																									
19 S	CARDIFF CITY	H																								
26 S	(5) Blackpool	A																								
Mar 5 S	BRISTOL ROVERS	H																								
12 S	(LCF) Oldham A.	A																								
19 S	(6) BLACKBURN R.	H																								
26 S	Orient	A																								
Apr 2 S	HEREFORD UNITED	H																								
8 F	Hull City	A																								
9 S	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	H																								
11 M	Wolves	A																								
16 S	FULHAM	H																								
23 S	(SF) Luton Town	A																								
30 S	SOUTHAMPTON	H																								
May 7 S	Burnley	A																								
14 S	CHARLTON A	H																								
21 S	F.A. Cup Final																									

NORTH MIDLAND LEAGUE

AUGUST
 Mon 23 Middlesbrough (Annual) (H) 1-0
 Champions v Cup Winners match
 Tue 31 Mansfield Town (Cup) (A) 2-2

SEPTEMBER
 Tue 7 Chesterfield (Cup) (H) 2-0
 Tue 21 Mansfield Town (Cup) (H) 0-1
 Wed 29 Chesterfield (Cup) (A) 1-0

OCTOBER
 Tue 5 Rotherham United (A) 3-6
 Tue 12 Halifax Town (A) 0-1
 Tue 19 Barnsley (H) 3-0

NOVEMBER
 Tue 2 Hull City (A) 1-2
 Tue 9 Doncaster Rovers (H) 2-1
 Tue 16 Grimsby Town (A) 4-0
 Tue 23 Mansfield Town (H) 3-0

DECEMBER
 Wed 1 Chesterfield (A)
 Wed 7 Middlesbrough (H)
 Mon 13 Sunderland (H)
 Tue 21 Rotherham (A)

JANUARY
 Tue 11 Halifax Town (H)
 Wed 19 Barnsley (A)
 Tue 25 Hull City (H)

FEBRUARY
 Tue 8 Doncaster Rovers (A)
 Tue 15 Grimsby Town (H)
 Tue 22 Mansfield Town (A)

MARCH
 Tue 1 York City (H)
 Tue 8 Chesterfield (H)
 Tue 15 Middlesbrough (A)
 Mon 21 Sunderland (A)
 Wed 30 York City (A)

MIDLAND INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE

AUGUST
 Sat 21 Bristol City (A) 1-3
 Sat 28 Stoke City (H) 0-0

SEPTEMBER
 Sat 4 W.B.A. (A) 1-2
 Sat 11 Port Vale (H) 1-0
 Sat 18 Wolverhampton (A) 1-1
 Sat 25 Aston Villa (H) 3-2

OCTOBER
 Sat 2 Stoke City (A)
 Sat 9 Wolverhampton (H) 2-0
 Sat 16 Nottingham Forest (A) 1-2
 Sat 23 Mansfield Town (H) 1-3
 Sat 30 Shrewsbury Town (A) 3-4

NOVEMBER
 Sat 6 Shrewsbury Town (H) 1-1
 Sat 13 Birmingham (H) 2-2
 Sat 20 Port Vale (A)

DECEMBER
 Sat 4 Derby County (H)
 Sat 11 Aston Villa (A)
 Sat 18 Nottingham Forest (H)

JANUARY
 Sat 1 Mansfield Town (A)
 Sat 18 W.B.A. (H)
 Sat 15 Derby County (A)
 Sat 22 Bristol City (A)

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The organisers would like to acknowledge, with their gratitude and thanks, donations to the above Fund, made by the following: Miss E. I. Walker, D. E. Smith, C. Lunt, H. J. Moss, and the many anonymous donations.

If you would like to contribute to this fund, please send your donation to: Mr. H. Moss, The Cottage, Village Road, Clifton, Nottingham. Unless otherwise requested, your name will be acknowledged in a future issue of "Magpie."

SECOND DIVISION

Club	P	W	Home					Away					Pts
			D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A		
Chelsea	15	6	1	0	16	9	4	2	2	11	10	23	
Bolton	15	6	0	1	15	7	3	2	3	12	12	20	
Blackpool	16	4	1	3	19	9	4	3	1	15	9	20	
Wolves	15	4	1	3	19	11	2	4	1	14	9	17	
Notim For	15	5	2	2	26	12	1	3	3	5	7	17	
Oldham	15	5	3	0	18	8	1	2	4	5	11	17	
Millwall	14	5	1	1	16	5	2	1	4	8	13	16	
Charlton	15	5	1	2	21	14	1	3	3	11	16	16	
Notis Cnty	15	3	1	3	7	6	4	1	3	17	18	16	
Blackburn	15	4	1	2	11	5	3	1	4	6			

LANE LINE-UP

NOTTS COUNTY

- Eric McManus 1
- Pedro Richards 2
- Arthur Mann 3
- Eric Probert 4
- David Needham 5
- Brian Stubbs 6
- Steve Carter 7
- Mick Vinter 8
- Les Bradd 9
- Martyn Busby 10
- Ian Scanlon 11
- Gordon Mair 12

Black and White striped shirts, black shorts

LUTON TOWN

- Keith Barber
- Paul Price
- Steven Buckley
- Brian Chambers
- Graham Jones
- Paul Futcher
- Dixie Deans
- Alan West
- Ron Futcher
- Pasquale Fuccillo
- John Aston
- To be announced

Orange shirts, blue shorts

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HALF-TIME SCOREBOARD

A Blackburn Hereford		L Birmingham Man. City	
B Blackpool Fulham		M Coventry Arsenal	
C Bolton Charlton		N Derby Sunderland	
D Bristol R. Hull		P Leeds Leicester	
E Cardiff Forest		Q Liverpool Bristol City	
F Chelsea Burnley		R Man. Utd. West Ham	
G Millwall Sheff. Utd.		S Middlesbro Ipswich	
H Oldham Southampton		T Newcastle QPR	
J Orient Wolves		U Norwich Villa	
K Plymouth Carlisle		V Mansfield Swindon	

TO commemorate Les Bradd's feat in becoming the Magpies highest ever goalscorer, the Notts County Centenary Association are presenting him with an inscribed silver tray. The presentation will be made on behalf of the Association by their Chairman Mr. John Mounteney.

It will take place immediately before today's kick-off. Also in attendance at the presentation will be the man who Les beat in setting the new record — old Magpies favourite Tony Hateley.

TODAY'S BALL BOYS

BALL Boys this afternoon are kindly provided by the Dunkirk Primary School of Nottingham and we thank their master, Mr. Peter Evans, and their parents for allowing them to be part of our activities. We hope they enjoy the visit. Track suits, as always, are provided by Messrs. Redmayne and Todd Ltd., of Nottingham

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