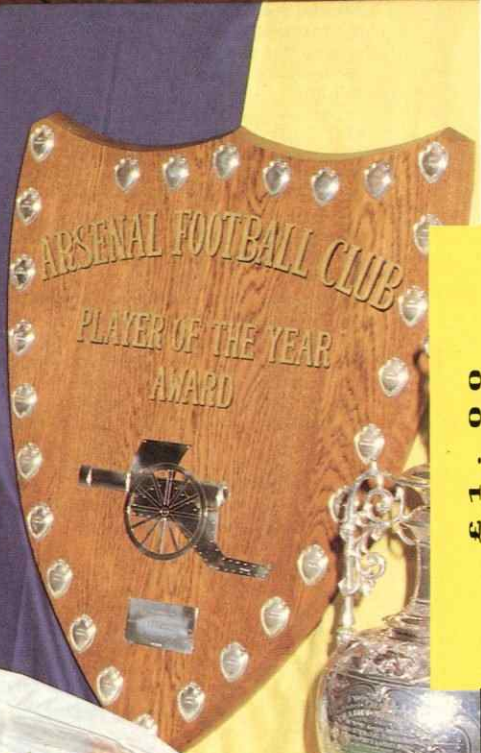




ARSENAL

MERRY CHRISTMAS
TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS



OFFICIAL MATCH
DAY MAGAZINE

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LUTON TOWN

BARCLAYS LEAGUE
DIVISION ONE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1989

KICK OFF 3.00PM

WELCOME TO THE PLAYERS, OFFICIALS AND SUPPORTERS OF LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR STADIUM HOURS

Arsenal Stadium will shut at 5pm next Friday (December 22). It will re-open for business as usual on Wednesday, December 27 at 9.30am.

For new year, the Stadium will close at 5pm on Friday, December 29. It will be open for the match against Crystal Palace on New Year's Day, and will re-open for business as usual on Tuesday, January 2 at 9.30am.

BRAVE CHRISTIAN EARNS AWARD

Thirteen-year-old Gunners fan Christian Seymour, from Frimley, will receive a special award before today's game. Christian was taken ill with leukaemia at the age of two and for five years he underwent blood transfusions and drug radiation treatment, which made his hair fall out. But he has survived to play his favourite sport, football, as well as cricket, swimming, and rounders.

Christian has won the star prize in a competition run by "Winners", a childrens sports magazine published by Marshall Cavendish. His prize is a Raleigh mountain bike, which will be presented to him by Tina Jones from Marshall Cavendish on the pitch this afternoon.

WE'VE GOT IT TAPED

The best of today's match action will be available on video from the Gunners Shop in 10 days time. Match videos cost £14 (+ 80p for postage and packing). Please call in, or write to: The Gunners Shop, Arsenal Stadium, Highbury, London N5 1BX (phone: 01-226 9562).

MAKE MONEY

WITH ARSENAL

Be among the winners with Make Money lottery tickets! You too could win a major prize! Look out for the Make Money girls all round the ground today. Tickets cost only 25p each — and you could win £1,000.

'92 CLUB' BOOKLET

The '92 Club' (the organisation for supporters who've attended games on all 92 League grounds) has produced its own record and information booklet. It includes space to enter full details of 100 games attended, plus phone numbers of League clubs, weather forecast services, railway stations and enquiry offices. It costs £1.50 (including postage), from: The '92 Club', 104 Gilda Crescent, Whitchurch, Bristol BS14 9LD.

ALDERSHOT PROGRAMME FAIR

The Aldershot Programme Fair will be held tomorrow (Sunday) at The Sportsman's Club, opposite the Aldershot ground, between 11am and 2pm.

GOING TO Highbury?

Richard Page is looking for a lift to get him to Highbury on Boxing Day, to connect with our Travel Club coaches to Southampton. He will share all petrol costs. If you can help, please contact Richard at: 16 Dallin Road, Plumstead, London SE18 3NU.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy 21st birthday to Gunners regulars Carol Crowley from Kentish Town and Tracey Ann Ellis from Romford.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MICHAEL THOMAS, THE BARCLAYS 'YOUNG EAGLE OF THE MONTH' FOR NOVEMBER



● Gavin Maule, Junior Gunner of the Month for November, receives his award from Steve Bould, watched by Barry Luter from Bank of Nova Scotia, who donated the prizes.



BY CAR TO ASTON VILLA

Leave north London on the A1, and join the M1 at Junction 2. Continue on the M1 until Junction 19, then join the M6. Leave the M6 at Junction 6 and turn left on to the A38M. At the first roundabout (Park Circus), turn right into Victoria Road. At the second roundabout, take the third exit, into Witton Lane, and Villa Park is on your right.

There is street parking (controlled by the police) around the ground. The nearby Asda car park in Aston Hall Road is open on match days.

OBITUARY

We are sad to record the recent deaths of three loyal Arsenal fans....

Of Stan Raeburn from Hemel Hempstead, who'd been a Gunners regular since 1926, when he was eight years old.

Of Ben Fisz, a Polish war hero, who'd supported the Gunners since coming to England at the end of the war.

Of Tom Loader, who'd been an east stand ticket holder for more than 40 years.

We send our condolences to their families and friends.

STADIUM MANAGER'S ASSISTANT REQUIRED

We are looking for a young person, ideally 18-22 years of age, to work as an assistant to our Stadium Manager. Candidates should be educated to at least 'A' level standard, and have organisational skills. A technical background would be an advantage.

If you are interested, please apply in writing enclosing your CV, to: John Beattie, Stadium Manager, Arsenal Football Club, Arsenal Stadium, Highbury, London, N5 1BU.

CHRISTMAS HOLIAYS SOCCER SCHOOL

The ideal present for any Arsenal-mad youngster. See page 30 for details!

FA CUP DRAW

We have been drawn away to Stoke City in the FA Cup third round. The game will be played on Saturday, January 6. For ticket and travel details, please see the Travel Club message on page 22.

CLOCK END ALLOCATED TO SPURS FANS

For our match against Tottenham next month, the Spurs supporters have been allocated the whole of the Clock End. Our terrace season ticket holders should use the North Bank for this game. Thank you.

BEAM BACK FROM IBROX

After the success of our live 'beam back' from Tottenham on October 18, we're pleased to announce another live telecast...when we play Glasgow Rangers in the first leg of the Zenith Data Systems Challenge for the unofficial British championship at Ibrox on December 19. See page 8 for all the details.



● Malcolm Bromham Continental Airlines vice president (Europe) presents a replica silver airliner to George Graham and Peter Hill-Wood, to commemorate our championship success.

ARSENAL CLUBCALL



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- INFORMATION LINE -
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☎ For all your Arsenal ticket and travel information.

Calls to Clubcall are charged at around 38p per min 8am-6pm and 25p per min after 6pm and weekends inc VAT.

PHONE NOW!

VIDEO DELIGHT!

How would you like a video compilation of Arsenal's greatest moments of 1988/9 for a Christmas present, or a great gift to give another Gunners fan? Turn to page 9 to find our how to get your copy!



ARSENAL FOOTBALL CLUB LIMITED

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01-359 0131 (information)

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1972, 1978, 1980

Littlewoods Cup Winners: 1987

Runners-up: 1988

Football League Cup runners-up:
1968, 1969

European Fairs Cup Winners:
1970

European Cup Winners Cup
runners-up: 1980

Programme edited and compiled by
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Young fan Damon shows off the Arsenal champions
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G E O R G E G R A H A M

I can't say I've been too close to the team just lately. I've had the 'flu so I've restricted my appearances to a minimum, to avoid infecting the players and the staff!

I did get to Coventry last Saturday though: and I was very impressed with what I saw.

I have been concerned about our away form, especially our inability to assert our authority early in the game. The players rose to the challenge at Highfield Road. Our performance was superb. I haven't seen us dominate so much away from Highbury this season. We carried on where we left off against Manchester United. All that worried me was that we didn't turn our superiority into goals until late in the match.

But the goal was well worth waiting for! I made the substitution because Brian Marwood had a touch of 'flu — and Paul Merson's response was terrific.

That was a great goal, a delicate chip from a very difficult angle. It says a lot about Paul's skill and confidence that he was prepared to lob a 6'4" 'keeper like Steve Ogrizovic.

With Paul looking lively; Alan Smith and Perry Groves busy, and Niall Quinn bursting to get back, we have plenty of forward options. Kevin Campbell (who scored for Leicester at Blackburn last Saturday) will return in the new year too.

I don't want our front players feeling too comfortable. None of them should, with so much competition around! I've changed our striking partnership three times already this season, and I won't hesitate to do so again.

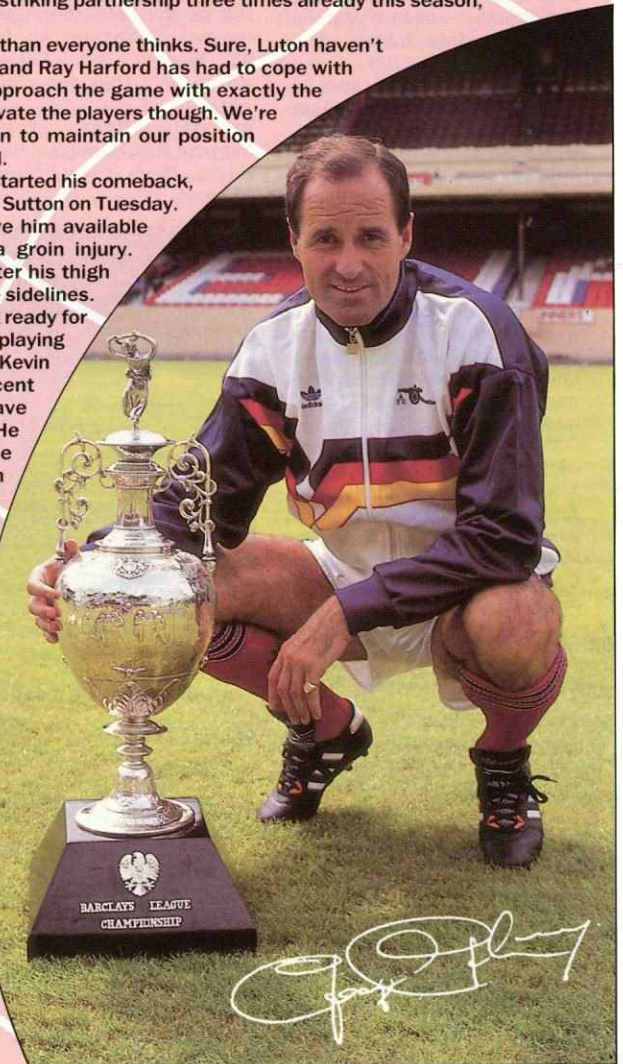
Today's game could be more tricky than everyone thinks. Sure, Luton haven't won an away league game for a year and Ray Harford has had to cope with a string of injuries. But we have to approach the game with exactly the right attitude. I shouldn't have to motivate the players though. We're top of the league, and determination to maintain our position should be all the motivation we need.

I'm pleased to say Steve Bould has started his comeback, with a run-out in the reserve friendly at Sutton on Tuesday. It will be a bonus and a relief to have him available again after four months out with a groin injury. Meanwhile, Paul Davis is fit again after his thigh problem, and waiting patiently on the sidelines. He's worked tremendously hard to get ready for league action. But Michael Thomas is playing really well, and so is Kevin Richardson. Kevin has been particularly effective in recent weeks, when his battling qualities have played a key part in our success. He doesn't always get the credit he deserves, but players like Kevin provide a vital balance in any successful squad.

On Tuesday we go to Ibrox to face Rangers in the Zenith Data Systems British challenge — the unofficial British championship decider. Forget any ideas that this will be a 'friendly'. Rangers will want to stuff us. As an Anglo-Scot, I'll be delighted to beat them. So will our players.

I hope these meetings will become regular contests — just as they were in the 30s, when both clubs were at the height of their powers. Arsenal and Rangers have a magic aura about them. Both boast traditions dating back more than half a century. If two such famous clubs could compete against each other on a regular basis, it can only generate interest in the positive side of British football.

Merry Christmas to you all



RESERVES & YOUTHS

STEWART HOUSTON

STEWART'S PLOY FRUSTRATES THE DONS

Stewart Houston hit on a last minute tactical switch that helped our reserves gain a 0-0 draw at Wimbledon on December 2.

Said Houston: "Ipswich's reserve coach, Charlie Woods, told me how much trouble John Fashanu and John Gayle had caused when Wimbledon won 4-1 at Portman Road. So I decided to use a sweeper formation, and it served us well. We defended as well as I've seen this season and squashed the threat — even if we did collect a few bumps and bruises!"

Houston reserved special praise for goalkeeper Alan Miller and sweeper David Hillier, who both shone despite knee knocks.

Miller made two brilliant second half saves from Gary Brooke, who'd also hit the woodwork with an early free kick.

"The game was played at a frantic pace and it was hard for our lads to hold the ball. But we came more and more into the game in the second half," added Houston.

Dons 'keeper Neil Sullivan denied Martin Hayes and Andrew Cole, and Kwame Ampadu fired a shot just over. Arsenal: Miller, Francis, Hartfield, Hillier, Hannigan, Caesar, Hayes, Davis, Cole, Ampadu, McKeown.



● Ireland centre half Pat Scully has rejoined us after two months on loan at third division Preston. Kevin Campbell's loan spell at Leicester has been extended for another month.

● Trialist forward Andy Clarke scored both goals when we beat Orient 2-1 in a work-out on November 31.

● Clarke was also in the Barnet line-up that beat us 3- at Underhill last Tuesday. Paul Merson netted our goal.

Said Stewart Houston: "We didn't approach the game right. We had a strong side on paper. But on the field, there was a feeling of: 'What are we doing at Barnet on Tuesday afternoon'? They deserved to win."

Arsenal: Miller, Francis, Morrow, Lee, Hannigan, Hillier, Hayes, Davis, Quinn, Merson, Jonsson.



● A Luton defender takes a grip on Ty Gooden.

YOUNGSTERS SAIL THROUGH LUTON REPLAY

The young Gunners overcame Luton, and their plastic surface, to win last Wednesday's FA Youth Cup second round replay 4-2.

That result earns Arsenal us a third round tie away to Oxford United. We have already won at Oxford in the League Cup — when we recovered from 1-3 down with half-an-hour left, to triumph 4-3.

"The lads didn't let the pitch bother them. We decided that

OVENDEN PAPERS COMBINATION FIXTURES 1989/90

Date	Opponents	F	A
Aug 19	Luton Town	1	6
Aug 23	Reading	4	2
Aug 26	Tottenham	3	2
Sept 5	Watford	3	2
Sept 9	Southampton	3	2
Sept 16	Millwall	3	0
Sept 20	Charlton Athletic	3	1
Sept 26	QPR	3	1
Oct 10	Norwich	0	2
Oct 12	Southampton	1	1
Oct 17	Millwall	1	3
Oct 25	Tottenham	2	3
Oct 30	Crystal Palace	1	1
Nov 1	Fulham	3	0
Nov 4	West Ham Utd	8	4
Nov 14	Reading	2	1
Nov 21	Swindon Town	1	1
Dec 2	Wimbledon	0	0
Dec 12	Sutton (friendly)	2	1
Dec 20	Oxford United	Away	
Jan 6	Fulham	Home	
Jan 13	Ipswich Town	Home	
Jan 20	Watford	Away	
Jan 23	Portsmouth	Away	
Jan 27	Oxford United	Home	
Feb 3	QPR	Home	
Feb 14	Brighton	Away	
Feb 17	Swindon Town	Home	
Feb 28	Ipswich Town	Away	
Mar 3	Wimbledon	Home	
Mar 10	West Ham United	Home	
Mar 13	Charlton Athletic	Away	
Mar 20	Brighton	Home	
Mar 24	Portsmouth	Home	
Apr 4	Crystal Palace	Away	
Apr 10	Norwich City	Home	
Apr 18	Chelsea	Home	
Apr 21	Luton Town	Home	

OVENDEN PAPERS COMBINATION

(up to and including December 10)

	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tottenham	18	14	1	3	53	23	43
Millwall	19	11	5	3	32	18	38
Arsenal	18	11	3	4	42	31	36
Chelsea	15	10	2	3	38	19	32
Norwich	16	10	1	5	30	18	31
Wimbledon	17	7	6	4	29	21	27
Swindon	19	9	0	10	30	34	27
Brighton	17	8	2	7	28	30	26
Oxford	16	7	2	7	28	30	24
C. Palace	19	6	5	8	27	24	23
QPR	16	7	3	7	29	33	23
Ipswich	17	6	3	8	27	34	21
Luton	13	5	4	4	23	18	19
Portsmouth	14	4	7	3	14	19	19
Charlton	17	5	3	9	29	35	18
West Ham Utd	17	4	5	8	34	37	17
Watford	15	2	6	7	25	33	12
Reading	17	2	4	11	19	47	10
Fulham	14	3	1	10	9	37	10
Southampton	18	1	6	11	17	30	9

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE FIXTURES 1989/90

Date	Opponents	F	A
Aug 12	Norwich	3	2
Aug 19	Cambridge	8	1
Aug 23	Tottenham	2	3
Aug 26	Chelsea	0	0
Aug 29	Watford	1	0
Sept 2	Charlton Athletic	0	1
Sept 9	Colchester (SECLC-1)	3	2
Sept 14	C. Palace (SJFC-1)	1	1
Sept 16	Leyton Orient	2	0
Sept 21	C. Palace (SJFC-1/R)	2	1
Sept 23	Fulham	1	1
Sept 30	Ipswich	4	2
Oct 7	QPR	3	0
Oct 14	Gillingham	7	2
Oct 21	Oxford Utd (SECLC-2)	1	1
Oct 28	Oxford Utd (SECLC-2R)	4	3
Nov 4	Leyton Orient	4	1
Nov 7	Cambridge (SJFC2)	2	0
Nov 11	Southend	4	1
Nov 18	West Ham	2	1
Nov 25	Watford	2	4
Nov 28	Luton (FAYC2)	2	2
Dec 2	Portsmouth	0	0
Dec 6	Luton (FAYC2R)	4	2
Dec 9	Watford (SECLC-3)	1	2
Dec 12	Luton (SJFC-3)	4	0
Dec 16	Tottenham	Home	
Jan 6	Cambridge	Away	
Jan 13	Chelsea	Away	
Jan 20	Charlton Athletic	Home	
Jan 27	Fulham	Home	
Feb 3	Gillingham	Home	
Feb 10	Ipswich	Away	
Feb 24	Millwall	Away	
Mar 3	West Ham	Home	
Mar 10	Portsmouth	Home	
Mar 17	QPR	Away	
Mar 24	Southend	Home	
Apr 14	Millwall	Home	
TBA	Norwich	Away	

Reserves Next Home Match v FULHAM

January 6 — venue & k/o TBA

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES DIVISION ONE

(Up to and including December 10)

	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tottenham	16	14	1	1	50	13	29
Arsenal	16	10	3	3	43	19	23
Chelsea	16	9	3	4	34	12	21
Leyton Orient	16	8	3	4	34	12	21
Charlton	15	9	1	5	26	20	19
Watford	16	8	2	6	29	24	18
Norwich	16	6	3	7	15	16	15
Cambridge	15	5	5	5	25	34	15
Portsmouth	13	4	5	4	22	18	13
Gillingham	13	6	1	6	26	29	13
Ipswich	14	5	2	7	20	31	12
QPR	12	4	2	6	18	23	10
West Ham	14	4	1	9	23	32	10
QPR	12	4	2	6	18	23	10
Fulham	16	1	5	10	13	45	7
Southend	16	2	2	12	18	44	6

— whatever the 2-2 scoreline in the first game suggested — we were the better team, and just got on with the job," said Pat Rice.

Even so, our youngsters had to summon up all their determination after Luton had retrieved a two goal deficit.

Midfielder Steve Clements struck twice early on (including another of his long range specials) to give us a great start. Luton pulled one back just before half time — then levelled soon after the interval.

But Andrew Cole — so unlucky in the first game at Highbury — popped up with our crucial third, before substitute Stuart Young rounded off a thrilling night with a fourth goal to end Luton's challenge.

Arsenal: Will, Faulkner (Flatts), Fowler, Parlour, Webster, Hartfield, Warden, Clements, Bacon (Young), Cole, Joseph.



● John Bacon and Andrew Cole celebrate John's equaliser which earned us the chance to win at Luton in last week's FA Youth Cup replay.

WILL TO THE RESCUE

Goalkeeper Jim Will was our hero as we slipped out of the South East Counties League Cup 1-2 in last Saturday's quarter-final against Watford.

Coach Pat Rice is expecting a better performance in today's top-of-the-table clash against South East Counties leaders Spurs — who pipped the young Gunners 3-2 in August.

"The players were disappointed with their own form,"

he said: "I don't think it was a reaction after the win at Luton. The lads just didn't do themselves justice. They're eager to put that right."

Re-vitalised Arsenal camped in the Hornets half throughout the second half. But we only had one Steve Clements strike to show for all our pressure.

Arsenal: Will, Joseph, Fowler, Parlour, Marshall, Webster, Warden (Bacon), Clements, Young, Cole, Flatts.

ONSLAUGHT FAILS TO CLINCH THE POINTS

The young Gunners second half assault went unrewarded when they drew 0-0 at Portsmouth in the South East Counties League on December 2.

Said Pat Rice: "No way was this a thriller...a bumpy pitch and a cold windy day hardly made for ideal conditions! We defended well under pressure in the first half, then took the game to Portsmouth after the interval. We had the chances, but a draw was probably a fair result."

Irish striker John Bacon went close twice and Colin Hoyle sent another effort narrowly wide in our second half onslaught. We also had two penalty appeals turned down. Arsenal: Will, Faulkner, Fowler, Parlour, Marshall (Clements), Webster, Warden, Joseph, Bacon (Young), Hoyle, Gooden.

BY KEVIN CONNOLLY



LIVE TELECAST FROM GLASGOW

TUESDAY'S BIG MATCH RANGERS v ARSENAL

THE ZENITH DATA SYSTEMS CHALLENGE
...the champions of England meet the champions of Scotland

This great event is already a sell-out, for Rangers fans only. So come and watch a thrilling contest in the comfort of the stands at Highbury!

The Gunners have shown their quality away from home on some memorable occasions already this year...At Anfield on May 26, of course...and in Miami against South American champions Independiente in another Zenith challenge.

Now the combined might of Scotland and England bars our path. Chris Woods, Richard Gough, Gary Stevens, Terry Butcher, Trevor Steven, Mo Johnston, Ally McCoist, Ian and Derek Ferguson: they're all determined to play in the World Cup finals...And Arsenal are bound to rise to the challenge!

Says George Graham: "As a Scot, I know all about Rangers pride. They'll want to beat the champions of England, just as we'll want to beat them!"

Says Rangers manager Graeme Souness: "This will be a prestigious game, Rangers never play 'friendlies'!"

Enjoy the action — live on screen at Highbury. Tickets cost £7.50 (from our box office, or at the turnstiles on the night). Kick-off time is 7.30pm. Doors open at 6pm. See you on Tuesday!

• See page 27 for more about Rangers...



• Terry Butcher

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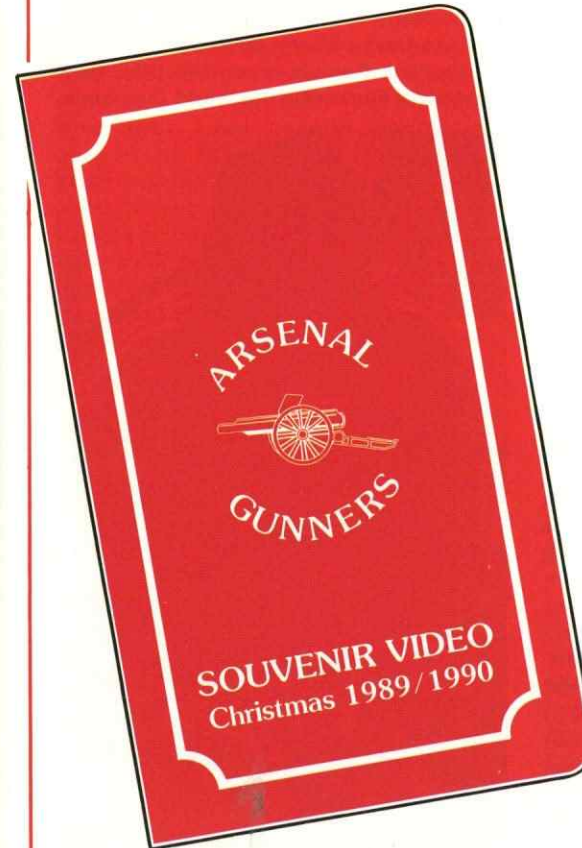


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FIT AGAIN AND FULL OF BUZZ

Paul sets out his comeback hopes

Paul Davis is ready and waiting...Waiting for a chance to get back into the first team he hasn't graced since he trudged off injured 15 minutes from the end of our game at Manchester United on April 2.

Paul has marched a long road to recovery. He's sometimes wondered if he was ever meant to play in the first division again. Not surprising when you consider he's only started five matches in the last year.

Davis's long hours with Gary Lewin — battling to regain fitness after a thigh operation in August — have finally paid off.

Now the 27-year-old midfielder is eager to begin his first division comeback.

Last Saturday, he sat and observed, as a radio summariser for Capital Gold at Coventry — and jumped out of his seat when Paul Merson scored that brilliant winner. But Davis's real stage remains on the pitch.

"It's a terrific feeling to be playing again. I've had no reaction from the injury, and after eight reserve games, I'm as fit as I'll ever be, playing in the Combination," says Paul, who headed our opening goal in the friendly at Sutton on Tuesday night.

"I'm just waiting to return to the League scene again. I know it's hard for George Graham, because Michael Thomas and Kevin Richardson are playing well, and Siggie Jonsson has been a regular sub. But I'm 27 now, and there's only one place to play. That's in the first team. I'm ready if the manager wants me!"

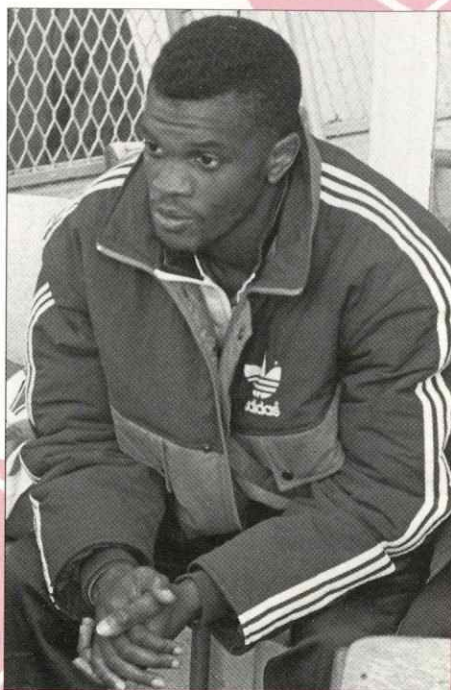
Davis aims to escape from the reserves before much longer. "There's a massive difference — in quality and approach — between the Combination and the League," he declares: "I've seen that largely at second hand. Brian Marwood has played in both recently, and confirms my feelings."

"I want to get out of the reserves as soon as I can...before I start making sub-conscious adjustments to reserve football, which are totally unacceptable in the first division."

Paul is already one of Arsenal's 'elder statesmen'. He can soothe anxieties in the dressing room when the pressure mounts.

He can exert a calming influence on the field too.

Davis's re-emergence would draw a huge cheer from the Highbury crowd. Happy endings have already been postulated — like helping Arsenal retain the title, then playing for England in the World Cup finals.



● Paul Davis...watching thoughtfully from the bench.

Paul appreciates the thoughts. But he'd prefer to tread more softly.

"I endured some rough spells in my early years at Highbury, so I appreciate the fans feelings now," he reflects: "But it's a trial for any player to return to the first division after an operation. It's bound to take me a while to re-adjust to the pace again.

Then he adds: "The fans may not see the best of me straightaway...But I don't want to waste any time."

BY KEVIN CONNOLLY



CRYSTAL PALACE

BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION ONE
MONDAY, JANUARY 1, KICK-OFF 3PM

Crystal Palace's mammoth £1,650,000 investment in shoring up their leaky defence seems to be paying dividends. Last Saturday they pulled off their first away League win of the season at Manchester United (2-1) after drawing their previous away game at Sheffield Wednesday (2-2).

Palace, who come to Highbury on New Year's Day, smashed the British transfer record for a goalkeeper, when they paid Bristol Rovers £1 million for Nigel Martyn last month. Only a few days later they purchased centre-back Andy Thorn from Newcastle for £650,000.



● Nigel Martyn...had a great game when Palace won at Old Trafford last Saturday.

Manager Steve Coppell had recommended these deals to his board when his newly-promoted side was struggling to find its feet in Division One. Palace finally returned to the First Division last May, after a couple of near misses, so they are particularly anxious not to slip back again.

Everyone expected it would be difficult acclimatising to First Division football. So it has proved. Palace received an awful early shock when they crashed 0-9 at Liverpool in September.

They bounced back to draw at Southampton (1-1) four days later, but that was the only away point they had salvaged until their revival began with the arrival of those new men last month.

Palace lost at QPR (0-2), Derby (1-3), Aston Villa (1-2) and Manchester City (0-3).

In the second round of the Littlewoods Cup, Palace lost the first-leg at home to Leicester (1-2) but recovered to win 3-2 at Filbert Street. That gave them the tie on the away-goals-double rule.

At the next stage they were held 0-0 at home by Nottingham Forest, then lost the replay 0-5.

Now Palace have more stability in defence, their midfield has more time to produce some creative football — a fact that is being appreciated by their two deadly strikers, Mark Bright and Ian Wright.

Bright, who scored 50 times during the last two seasons, had been finding life tough at the top. He did not score at all this term until late October. But he grabbed both Palace goals at Old Trafford last weekend and has now netted nine times in his last nine games. That's a little like his old form.

Wright, who contributed 23 goals in 1987/88 and 33 last season, has scored nine times this term.

With Palace's new found confidence, the Gunners will have to keep a close watch on these prolific scorers when they come here on January 1.

H I G H B U R Y V I S I T O R S



LUTON TOWN



● *Manager Ray Harford.*

Injury-hit Luton have been holding a place in the middle of the First Division largely due to their home performances. The Hatters have not won away from home in the League since last December, since when they have completed 18 away First Division matches without a victory.

This season they have collected away points from draws at Sheffield Wednesday (1-1) last Saturday, QPR (0-0), Millwall (1-1) and Crystal Palace (1-1) but they were beaten at Tottenham (1-2), Coventry (0-1), Manchester City (1-3) and Southampton (3-6).

They did win at Third Division Mansfield (4-3) in the second round of the Littlewoods Cup. They won the return 7-2 at Kenilworth Road, to ensure a comfortable passage into the third round. But the Hatters then crashed 0-3 at Everton.

That result came as a bitter disappointment because Luton had reached the final for the past two seasons. In 1988 they pulled off a fine 3-2 victory over us at Wembley to win the club's first major trophy.

Last season they lost 1-3 to Nottingham Forest at Wembley.

Two days after conceding those six goals at Southampton, Luton crashed 1-4 at Crystal Palace in the second round of the Zenith Data Systems Cup. So they were happy to keep a clean sheet in a 0-0 home draw against Tottenham the following Saturday, then fight back to earn a point at Hillsborough last weekend.

One of the reasons why Luton have been conceding goals is that manager Ray Harford has had both regular central defenders — Dave Beaumont and Darron McDonough — out of action through injury.

Left-back John Dreyer moved across to the middle of the back four with Marvin Johnson being called up to partner him. Richard Harvey was recalled at left-back.

Goalkeeper Alec Chamberlain and right-back Tim Breacker had ever-present records up to the end of November.

In midfield Danny Wilson, Mick Kennedy and Kingsley Black have now become well established but Steve Williams and David Preece have each taken turns to fill the fourth midfield position.

England striker Mick Harford has missed the entire season so far with injury. At first last season's top scorer Roy Wegerle and Danish international Lars Elstrup occupied the striking positions — but both went through barren periods and each took his turn on the substitutes' bench while Iain Dowie has been given a run in the side. Manager Harford's options were further restricted when Wegerle joined QPR in a £1 million deal earlier this week.

ALEC CHAMBERLAIN (Goal-keeper) Alec was signed from Everton for £150,000 last season and took over in the Luton goal towards the end of the campaign. He was a reserve player at Ipswich but soon stepped into League soccer with Colchester after a transfer in 1982. Everton signed him for £75,000 in 1987 as cover but, after a loan spell with Tranmere last season, he moved on to Kenilworth Road.



● *Tim Breacker*

TIM BREACKER (Defender) Tim is a former Luton apprentice who got his League chance in 1984. Within a couple of years, he was in the England under-21s side, and gained two caps. Tim won a Littlewoods Cup winners' tankard in 1988 and a runners-up award last season.

DARRON McDONOUGH (Defender) Darron completed his apprenticeship with Oldham and played over 200 first-team games for the Latics, before his £85,000 transfer to Luton in 1986. He was recalled to the Hatters' side midway through last season and played in the Littlewoods Cup final as substitute.



● *Darron McDonough*

DAVE BEAUMONT (Defender) Dave was signed from Dundee United for £150,000 last January. He joined the Dundee club from school and worked his way into their first-team in 1984.

JOHN DREYER (Defender) John was an apprentice with Oxford but played League soccer for both Torquay and Fulham, on loan, during the 1985/86 campaign, before getting his chance in the Oxford side the following season. Luton signed him for £140,000 in 1988.

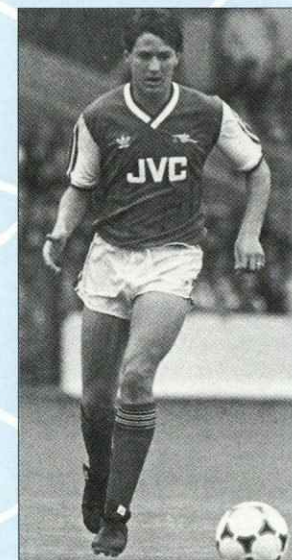
GRAHAM RODGER (Defender) Graham made only one League appearance for Wolves before linking with Coventry in 1985. Though injuries hindered his first-team chances at Highfield Road, Graham did star as substitute at Wembley when Coventry won the FA Cup in 1987 and he also gained four England under-21 caps. Luton signed him this summer for £150,000 with a further £100,000 to be paid if he plays 60 first-team games.

MARVIN JOHNSON (Defender) Marvin is a former Luton apprentice who broke into the first-team for a few

games in 1987/88. Last season he enjoyed a lengthy run at centre-back.

RICHARD HARVEY (Defender) Richard is a former England youth international. He made his League debut in 1986 and is pressing for a more regular first-team place this season.

DANNY WILSON (Midfield) Danny played League football for Bury and Chesterfield before joining Nottingham Forest in a £100,000 deal in 1983. He spent a loan period with Scunthorpe, then made a full transfer to Brighton in 1984. While with the Seagulls, Danny was introduced to the Northern Ireland side. He is now a regular for his country, with 16 caps. Luton signed him in 1987 and he scored at Wembley in their victory over us in the 1988 Littlewoods Cup final.



● *Steve Williams...in Arsenal colours, pictured three years ago on the Luton plastic which is now his home ground.*

STEVE WILLIAMS (Midfield)

Former Gunner Steve made his name with Southampton and he played for England on six occasions during his eight seasons with the Saints. Arsenal signed him for £500,000 in 1984 and he moved on to Luton for £300,000 in 1988. In addition to his full caps, Steve also played for England at under-21 and "B" levels.

MICK KENNEDY (Midfield) Mick joined the Hatters a few days before the start of the season in an exchange deal. He broke into League soccer with Halifax in 1978, moving on to Huddersfield two years later. Middlesbrough signed him for £200,000 in 1982 then, two years later, he became a Portsmouth player. Bradford City signed him for £250,000 in 1987 but last season he moved on to Leicester, where he remained until his latest move. Mick has played for the Republic of Ireland on two occasions.

RICHARD PREECE (Midfield) David made his League debut for Walsall in 1981, winning a regular place two years later. Luton paid £150,000 when they signed him in 1984 and he later played in two Littlewoods Cup finals. Last season he was capped three times by England "B".

RICHARD COOKE (Midfield) Though he appeared only occasionally in Tottenham's first-team, Richard played for England at youth and under-21 levels. He really made his name, though, after moving to Bournemouth in 1986 and, after starring in the Cherries' exciting FA Cup run last season, Luton secured his transfer for £140,000.

BY TONY PULLEIN

H I G H B U R Y V I S I T O R S

LARS ELSTRUP (Forward)
Lars was signed from Odense for £650,000 in August, with ex-Gunners striker Raphael Meade also going as part of the deal. He scored five times in his first two Littlewoods Cup games for the Hatters but he didn't get off the mark in the First Division until scoring in the 1-1 draw at Millwall. Lars has been capped by Denmark on 12 occasions.

KINGSLEY BLACK (Forward)
Kingsley made a remarkable impact after being introduced to the Luton side two seasons ago. He starred in their Littlewoods Cup win at Wembley and, within weeks, was in the Northern Ireland side. He now has seven full international caps.

IAIN DOWIE (Forward) Iain was happy playing in non-League soccer with St Albans, Hertford, Cheshunt and Hendon until Luton signed him in a £30,000 deal, in December 1988. He had scored 80 goals in two-and-a-half seasons with Hendon. Iain celebrated his Luton debut with a goal against Crystal Palace in a Simod Cup tie last season.



● Mick Harford...has missed the entire season so far with injury.

TEN YEAR REVIEW

Luton have been re-establishing themselves at First Division level over the past seven years. Two seasons ago they won their first major honour when they defeated the Gunners in the Littlewoods Cup final at Wembley.

That was one of three Wembley finals contested by the Hatters over the past two seasons.

The Hatters narrowly avoided relegation last season, but they had previously occupied a middle-of-the table position in recent years.

DIVISION TWO

Season	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Posn.	FAC	LC	Sim
1979/80	42	16	17	9	66	45	49	6th	3	1	—
1980/81	42	18	12	12	61	46	58	5th	4	3	—
1981/82	42	25	13	4	86	46	88	1st	4	2	—

DIVISION ONE

Season	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Posn.	FAC	LC	Sim
1982/83	42	12	13	17	65	84	49	18th	4	4	—
1983/84	42	14	9	19	53	66	51	16th	3	2	—
1984/85	42	15	9	18	57	61	54	13th	SF	1	—
1985/86	42	18	12	12	61	44	66	9th	6	3	—
1986/87	42	18	12	12	47	45	66	7th	4	—	—
1987/88	40	14	11	15	57	58	53	9th	SF	W	F
1988/89	38	10	11	17	42	52	41	16th	3	F	3

FAC — F.A. Cup; LC — League Cup, Milk Cup, Littlewoods Cup; Sim — Simod Cup.

PAST MATCHES BETWEEN ARSENAL AND LUTON

(Arsenal's score shown first)

Season	H	A	Competition
1897/98	2-1	1-3	Football League/Littlewoods Cup
1898/99	3-0	1-4	1970/71 Third Round: Arsenal won 1-0 at Luton
1899/1900	5-1	0-3	1988 Final: Luton won 3-2 at Wembley
DIVISION ONE			
1955/56	3-0	0-0	FA Cup
1956/57	1-3	2-1	1952 Sixth round: Arsenal won 3-2 at Luton
1957/58	2-0	0-4	1986 Fifth round: Luton won 3-0 at Luton after a 2-2 draw at Luton and a 0-0 draw at Highbury
1958/59	1-0	3-6	
1959/60	0-3	1-0	
1974/75	2-2	0-2	
1982/83	4-1	2-2	
1983/84	2-1	2-1	
1984/85	3-1	1-3	
1985/86	2-1	2-2	
1986/87	3-0	0-0	
1987/88	2-1	0-0	
1988/89	2-0	1-1	

FORM GUIDE — LUTON'S League results this season

Opponents	Score	Scorers	Crowd
Tottenham (a)	1-2	Wegerle	17,668
Sheffield Wed (h)	2-0	Wilson, Black	9,503
Liverpool (h)	0-0		11,124
QPR (a)	0-0		10,565
Charlton (h)	1-0	Wilson	8,859
Coventry (a)	0-1		11,152
Wimbledon (h)	1-1	Wegerle	8,449
Manchester City (a)	1-3	Black	23,863
Aston Villa (h)	0-1		9,433
Norwich (h)	4-1	Black, Dreyer, Wilson, Williams	9,038
Millwall (a)	1-1	Elstrup	11,140
Derby (h)	1-0	Dowie	8,919
Crystal Palace (a)	1-1	Wilson	11,346
Manchester Utd (h)	1-3	Wilson	11,141
Southampton (a)	3-6	Dreyer, Black, Elstrup	14,014
Tottenham (h)	0-0		12,620
Sheffield Wed (a)	1-1	James	16,339



LAST TIME WE MET

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1989 — First Division
ARSENAL (0) 2 LUTON (0) 0
 Groves, Smith Attendance: 31,102

ARSENAL: Lukic, O'Leary, Winterburn, Thomas, Bould, Adams, Rocastle (Merson), Richardson, Smith, Groves, Marwood.

LUTON: Sealey, Breacker, Harvey, Preece (Oldfield), Foster, Beaumont, Wilson, Wegerle, Harford, Hill, Black.

OUR TEAM ALSO
COVERS BUSINESS
EVERYWHERE.



YOU'RE
BETTER OFF
TALKING TO
BARCLAYS
MEMBER OF IMRO

We know it's teamwork that counts, so come down to see our squad for the back-up your business needs.



PLAYER OF THE YEAR: ALAN SMITH

Alan receives a commemorative cut glass decanter and glasses from chairman Peter Hill-Wood at the Supporters Club's dance.



DANIEL MAKES IT 6000!

Today we welcome our 6000th member this season, nine year-old Daniel Shoben from Ilford. Daniel will be receiving a special presentation on the pitch before today's game.

And now we hope to pass 7000 members before the end of the season! You can help us by making sure all your friends who support Arsenal know about Junior Gunners too!

WELCOME, JUNIOR HATTERS

Welcome to all the Junior Hatters who are here today, especially the group who have come with Bev Tyler to play football against Junior Gunners this morning.

We're pleased to see you and hope you enjoy your visit to Highbury.

GARRY WINS "QUIZBALL" PRIZE

Congratulations to Garry Mewett from Eastbourne, the winner of our "Quizball" competition. He correctly told us that the other two London teams (apart from Arsenal) who have won the league championship are Chelsea and Tottenham.

Garry wins a copy of the "Quizball" game, kindly donated by KPI Ltd.

Well done to everyone who entered, and if you were unlucky this time, you can still buy the game in the Gunners Shop, price £19.99 (It would make a good Christmas present).

THANKS TO ADIDAS

Junior Gunners would like to thank Adidas for kindly donating a set of Arsenal kit to our mascot Nicky Sheed.

JUST FOR FUN

In our last programme, we asked you to name the Scottish club which Manchester United boss Alex Ferguson used to manage. It was ... Aberdeen. Today's question concerns our visitors Luton Town. Who was the last player to join Luton Town from Arsenal? Answer in our next programme.

MYSTERY WINNER

Today's mystery Junior Gunner is called Tony and he lives at 107 Ellerton Road. If this is you then you have won a £5 voucher to spend in the Gunners Shop. To claim your prize, please contact Debbie in the Junior

Gunners office (phone 01 359 0205) and tell her your surname and the rest of your address.

BALLBOYS AND BALLGIRLS

Thank you to our ballboys and ballgirls this afternoon who are:-

Austin Byrne, James Buck, Ian Wright, Susan Howard, Paul Quirke, Luke Rowe, Andrew Bell, Craig Stuart.

● Junior Gunners would like to thank Vandanel Sport and Leisure Ltd for kindly providing the wetsuits for our ballboys and ballgirls.



● Mark Maurice, our mascot against Manchester United, meets skipper Tony Adams before the game.

Our mascot today is nine year-old Nicky Sheed, from Islington, who attends Copenhagen primary school. He says he enjoys all his school work, but particularly art. After lessons he plays football at the Copenhagen Play Centre.

Last season he skippered his team to success in their league and under-7's cup. Unfortunately they have no league to compete in this year, but Nicky, a keen striker, is still the captain. Football is his main interest and doesn't have many other hobbies, although he likes to swim. He is not keen on children's TV programmes, but he enjoys "A Question of Sport" and tapes any programmes about football.

Nicky has been an Arsenal fan for the past three years — unlike his 10 year old brother Darren who supports Spurs!

Nicky's favourite Gunners are Tony Adams, Alan Smith and David Rocastle.



OUR MASCOT: NICKY SHEED

JUNIOR GUNNERS GRAFFITI WALL

Happy birthday, Debbie, for Christmas Day. Love from John, Sue, Paul, Kevin, Jean, Roger and Scott.

Love you all the numbers, dad. Merry Christmas. Love David and James Armstrong.

Liam Sullivan wishes Kerry, Karen, nanny and John a merry Christmas.

Merry Christmas Mummy and Daddy, and Happy Birthday Daddy. Lots of Luv Louise Kirsty Campbell (Aged 15 months)

To Marion, Clive & Corinne Betts: Have a very Merry Christmas. With Lots of Love from Paul xxx

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to Mum, Dad, Chris and all Junior Gunners. Love from Angela Smith.

Happy Christmas to all my family. Love from Charlotte George (Aged 6 weeks)

A very Merry Christmas to Mum, Dad, Joe, Martin, Baron and Lynne who makes us our Bacon Sandwiches before every match. From James Warnock

Paul Waterfield — Happy tenth birthday. From Uncle Jim and Auntie Maureen.

Phillip Sell — Happy 11th birthday. Love from all the family

Maxie Chessis — Happy fourth birthday. Love from Mummy, Daddy & Oliver

Paul Nisbett — Happy 16th birthday. Love from Mum, Dad & Chris

Kevin Brunton — Happy 17th birthday. Love Linda, Peter, Paul & Chris

Damien White — Happy third birthday today. Love from Mummy & Daddy

Matthew Robson — Happy belated sixth birthday for December 4. Hope you enjoyed the day and your party. Love mummy, daddy, Adam & Kirstie

Darren Belnikoff — Happy ninth birthday. From mum, dad and Jamie.

All Junior Gunners — A very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Love from Debbie and Sue.

To the best mum & dad in the world, Phil and Maggie. Have a lovely Christmas — Love from Paul and Mark Richardson.

FACE IN THE CROWD
Are you the face ringed in the photograph right? If you are, you've won two tickets for an Arsenal home game this season. All you have to do is bring along your programme and membership card to Debbie at the Junior Gunners office and claim your tickets. You can do this between 9.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday or between 12 midday and 2pm on Saturday first team home match days.



Here's the latest from...



The great Christmas Competition from Panini — Your favourite sticker people!!

Just write the answers to the three simple questions below on a piece of paper and hand them into the Panini Swop Shop staff before the end of today's game and you could be one of three lucky winners to get an extra Christmas present from Panini!

1. How many first division teams play in yellow shirts at home?
2. Who was England's highest goalscorer in the 1986 World Cup?
3. Name the first British team to win the European Cup?

The first three correct entries out of the bag will win. Ask at the Panini Swop Shop at the next home game to see if you've been one of the lucky ones! (Don't forget to put your name on your entry!)

BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION ONE 1989/90



Date	Home	Attendance	Pos	Away
Aug 19	Manchester United	47,245	—	Lukic
Aug 22	Coventry	33,886	—	Lukic
Aug 26	Wimbledon	32,279	—	Lukic
Sep 9	Sheffield Wed	30,058	8	Lukic
Sep 16	Nottingham Forest	22,216	6	Lukic
Sep 19	Plymouth (LC 2/1)	26,865	—	Lukic
Sep 23	Charlton	34,583	4	Lukic
Sep 30	Sheff Wed	31,833	3	Lukic
Oct 3	Plymouth (LC 2/2)	17,360	—	Lukic
Oct 14	Manchester City	40,414	2	Lukic
Oct 18	Tottenham	33,944	2	Lukic
Oct 21	Everton	32,917	5	Lukic
Oct 25	Liverpool (LC 3)	40,814	—	Lukic
Oct 28	Derby	33,189	4	Lukic
Nov 4	Norwich	35,338	3	Lukic
Nov 11	Millwall	17,265	2	Lukic
Nov 18	Queens Park Rangers	38,236	1	Lukic
Nov 22	Oldham (LC4)	14,924	—	Lukic
Nov 26	Liverpool	35,983	2	Lukic
Dec 3	Manchester United	34,484	2	Lukic
Dec 9	Coventry	16,255	1	Lukic
Dec 16	Luton			
Dec 19	Rangers (ZDSC)			
Dec 26	Southampton			
Dec 30	Aston Villa			
Jan 1	Crystal Palace			
Jan 6	Stoke (FAC3)			
Jan 13	Wimbledon			
Jan 20	Tottenham			
Jan 23	Charlton			
Feb 3	Nottingham Forest			
Feb 10	Sheffield Wednesday			
Feb 24	Liverpool			
Mar 3	Queens Park Rangers			
Mar 10	Manchester City			
Mar 17	Chelsea			
Mar 24	Derby			
Mar 31	Everton			
Apr 7	Aston Villa			
Apr 14	Crystal Palace			
Apr 16	Southampton			
Apr 21	Luton			
Apr 28	Millwall			
May 5	Norwich			



CARING FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES
 The National Childrens Home, based in Highbury, is our designated charity for 1989/90.
 Please help them this Christmas
Look out for the NCH messages in the programme throughout the season.



THE FAMILY GAME
 More and more clubs are providing modern facilities to enable families to watch and enjoy our national game in safety and comfort.
 Family stands and enclosures are a common feature of a league programme to improve football stadia throughout the United Kingdom. This season will see further projects including new and better tier facilities especially for female fans, the provision of seating in existing covered areas and improved accommodation for supporters with disabilities.
 The Football Grounds Improvement Trust is responsible for all these measures. Each year 4 million of the £5 million donated by Lutewoods, Vernons and Zetters from their Spotting the Ball competition is spent on schemes to improve standards at League grounds in Britain.

() Time Substitute used. † Player Substituted. * Own goal. ‡After extra time.

BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION 1

BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION ONE — 1989/90 (up to and including December 10)

Pld	home			away			Pts	Top League Scorers	Average Home League Attendance	
	L	F	A	W	D	L				
17	7	2	0	21	4	3	8	13	33	34,719
17	4	2	1	16	4	5	3	18	14	31
17	6	2	1	20	10	3	2	8	7	31
17	3	6	0	14	9	4	1	3	10	9
17	4	3	1	19	12	3	3	16	16	27
17	3	5	1	17	11	4	1	3	9	10
17	5	0	3	16	7	2	3	6	7	25
17	5	0	3	14	12	2	4	3	11	12
17	6	1	2	17	9	1	2	5	7	15
17	5	0	3	8	8	2	2	5	5	14
17	3	2	3	9	8	3	2	4	12	9
16	4	2	3	13	7	2	1	5	11	16
17	3	2	3	10	10	2	4	3	11	11
17	1	3	4	6	11	3	5	1	12	9
17	4	3	2	10	6	0	4	4	8	15
17	4	2	3	13	13	1	2	5	7	23
17	3	3	3	14	11	1	3	4	10	19
18	3	4	2	10	7	1	1	7	2	20
17	2	4	2	9	7	1	3	5	4	12
17	4	1	4	15	14	0	2	6	5	20

NEXT AT HIGHBURY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19
 The Zenith Data Systems Challenge
RANGERS
V ARSENAL
LIVE ON SCREEN AT HIGHBURY!
KICK OFF 7.30PM
MONDAY, JANUARY 1
BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION ONE
V CRYSTAL PALACE
KICK-OFF 3.00PM

HOW TO GET YOUR HIGHBURY TICKETS

MATCH AND TICKET INFORMATION
 The Prices of numbered and reserved seats for our home League matches are:

Match	Normal Price	Grade A* Matches
Centre Blocks	£12	£13
Next to Centre	£9	£10
Wing Blocks	£8	£9
LowerTier	£6	£7
Family Enclosure Members only	£6	£6
Juvenile/OAP Adult	£3	£3

The majority of available seats at Highbury are priced at £6 (£7 grade 'A' matches). Tickets for all our League matches are bookable throughout the season by ringing our Dial-A-Seat service on 01-226 4050. We accept both Visa and Access cards. Application must be made no later than 72 hours before the fixture in question. To make a postal application, write to the Box Office, Arsenal Football Club, Highbury, London N5 1BU, and enclose appropriate remittance and a stamped and addressed envelope.
 Personal application can be made between 9.30am and 5pm, Monday to Friday and first team Saturdays from 9.30am.
 DIAL-A-SEAT: 01-226 4050
 ANSAPHONE: 01-359 0131
 ENQUIRIES: 01-226 0304

*Remaining Grade A Matches — Tottenham, Liverpool, Everton, Chelsea.

TRAVEL CLUB

SOUTHAMPTON V ARSENAL

BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION ONE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, KICK-OFF 1PM

This match is all ticket. We have sold our allocation of seat tickets. Terrace tickets (price: £5) are on general sale from the Travel Club.

The Travel Club has laid on coaches to take our supporters to Southampton. Coaches leave Arsenal Stadium at 9.45am. Return fare costs £8.50.

Please note: You must buy your match and coach tickets by 4.45pm on Thursday, December 21.

ASTON VILLA V ARSENAL

BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION ONE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, KICK-OFF 3PM

This match is all ticket. Seat tickets (price: £9) and terrace tickets (price: £6) are on general sale from the Travel Club.

The Travel Club has organised a train trip to this game. The train leaves Euston at 12.25pm. Return fare costs £11.

STOKE CITY CITY V ARSENAL

FACUP THIRD ROUND
SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, KICK-OFF 3PM

This match is all ticket. Season ticket holders...may make a postal application for tickets from Monday (December 18). Please enclose a cheque for £7 (seat ticket) or £4 (terrace ticket), voucher 26 from your season ticket book, suitably completed, plus a s.a.e.

Season ticket holders can also make a personal application, from Thursday, December 21. Please show your season ticket book when you buy your ticket.

Tickets will be on sale from the Match Day Ticket Office in Avenell Road, between 9.30am and 7pm on December 21.

Travel Club members...the Travel Club has organised two packages to this match. A rail/seat ticket package costs £20. A rail/terrace ticket costs £17. Train timings are awaited.

Travel Club members can buy their packages from the Travel Club, between 9.30am and 7pm on Wednesday, December 27, Thursday, December 28, and Friday, December 29.

General sale...any remaining tickets will go on general sale from Arsenal Stadium, between 6pm and 7pm on Tuesday, January 2 (subject to availability).

The Travel Club will be running a special executive trip to the game at Stoke. For latest details, contact Paul Johnson at the Travel Club.



WIMBLEDON V ARSENAL

BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION ONE
SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, KICK-OFF 3PM

This match is not all ticket. Terrace admission (price: £6) will be available on the day.

• Thanks, fans! Tony Adams leads the team in appreciation of our travelling supporters.

The Travel Club would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas
The Travel Club is open from 9.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Arsenal Travel Club, Arsenal Stadium, Avenell Road, Highbury, London N5 1BU.
Telephone: 01-359 0205.

TRACK

5 YEARS AGO

We maintained our championship challenge with an impressive 4-0 win over West Bromwich. It was the fourth time we had scored four at Highbury, where we were still unbeaten after 10 games. Paul Davis set us on our way with a 13th minute penalty. In the second-half, Brian Talbot and Ian Allinson (2) added the others.

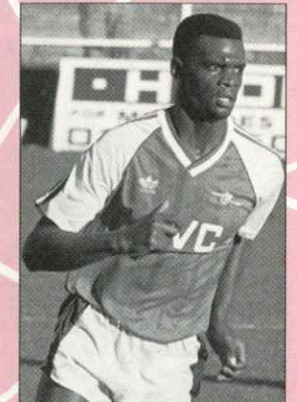
Luton drew 2-2 at Leicester with a last-gasp equaliser from Mick Harford. Brian Stein had got their first. Alan Smith netted one for Leicester.

The three teams above us in the First Division all won.

Leaders Everton thrashed Nottingham Forest 5-0 at Goodison Park. Graeme Sharp (2), Kevin Sheedy, Trevor Steven and Peter Reid got the goals.

Tottenham stayed within a point of them by winning 2-1 at Watford, with goals from Mark Falco and Garth Crooks.

Manchester United, level on points with the Gunners, beat QPR 3-0 at Old Trafford. John Gidman, Mike Duxbury and Alan Brazil were the scorers.



• Paul Davis... his penalty set us on the way to a 4-0 win over West Bromwich.

15 YEARS AGO

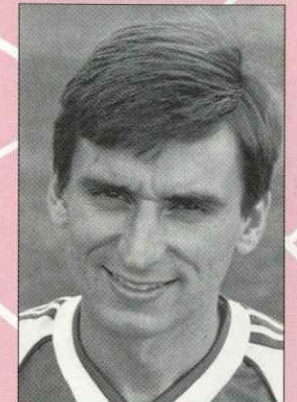
Fellow-strugglers Leicester held us to a goalless draw at Highbury. The result meant that we dropped to fourth from bottom of the First Division.

Below us were Leicester, Carlisle — who had beaten us the previous week — and Luton, who lost 0-2 at Liverpool. John Toshack and Steve Highway netted for the Reds.

First Division leaders Everton kept one point ahead of Liverpool by winning 1-0 at Derby, Bob Latchford scored the goal.

Tottenham were embarrassed 0-4 at Ipswich, Colin Viljoen, Kevin Beattie, Mike Lambert and Roger Osborne were the Ipswich players on target.

Second Division leaders Manchester United played out a goalless draw with Orient at Old Trafford.



• Alan Smith... on target for Leicester in a 2-2 draw against Luton.

25 YEARS AGO

Joe Baker gave us a first-half lead at Aston Villa. But after the interval our opponents struck back with three goals — one from ex-Gunner John McLeod and two from Alan Baker to send us to a 1-3 defeat.

Luton, then in the Third Division, lost 2-3 at Bristol Rovers. Ray Whittaker scored twice for the Hatters but he was outshone by Ian Hamilton, who grabbed a hat-trick for Rovers.

One point separated the three teams at the top of the First Division. Manchester United, the leaders, did not play because of fog at Old Trafford.

Second placed Leeds won 1-0 at Wolves but Chelsea, in third place, crashed 0-3 at Sunderland.

Jimmy Greaves scored twice as Tottenham drew 2-2 at home to Everton. Fred Pickering replied with two for the Toffees.



• Joe Baker...scored at Aston Villa

CUP DRAW BRINGS A SMILE TO STEVE'S COMEBACK

A third round F.A. Cup draw at Stoke brings a smile to Steve Bould's face — even though our eager centre back reckons it's touch and go whether he'll be ready for the big occasion in his home town.

Mind you, he's not complaining. He's just happy to be playing again, after four months out of action because of a persistent groin problem — when he suffered the anguish of two abortive comeback attempts.

"That's the trouble with a groin injury. You use the muscles every time you move your body, so it can become a difficult problem to clear up," says Steve.



● Steve's last first team appearance... when he headed our winner against Liverpool in the Makita final at Wembley.

The 6'3" defender started his return in the reserves friendly at Sutton on Tuesday night.

That was a tension-packed occasion for Bould: as tense as any big game he played for us last season.

"No messing around.. I felt scared beforehand," he admits: "Twice I'd tried to come back. Twice I'd pulled the groin in training. Twice I'd had to start all over again. That fear was still at the back of my mind, however much I tried to look on the bright side. It was simply a relief to play again."

It's been a long haul for Bould, who made his last first team appearance on July 30 when he headed our winner against Liverpool at Wembley in the Makita Trophy final.

His return not only strengthens our squad, it also gives George Graham the option of using the sweeper system he deployed so successfully at the end of last season.

After his recent experiences, Steve remains cautious about his prospects. "I hope to play again in the reserves next Wednesday, and see how I feel after that," he says: "I've a good few matches to come through before I can think about the first team again."

"There's a world of difference between running in training and playing in the Combination. The difference — in pace and thought — between the Combination and the league is even more pronounced."

With only one reserve match scheduled in the intervening weeks, Steve admits it's unlikely he'll be available for the F.A. Cup tie at Stoke on January 6.

"It's a superb draw from my point of view," he says: "I'd love to play, though I think it's premature to expect I'll be ready in time."

Ex-Stoke stars, like our £500,000 signing Lee Chapman, and Tottenham striker Garth Crooks, have received a rough ride from the Victoria Ground crowd. Steve hasn't appeared at Stoke since he joined us. But he's never criticised his home town club, and he expects a happy homecoming, even if he's watching from the stand.

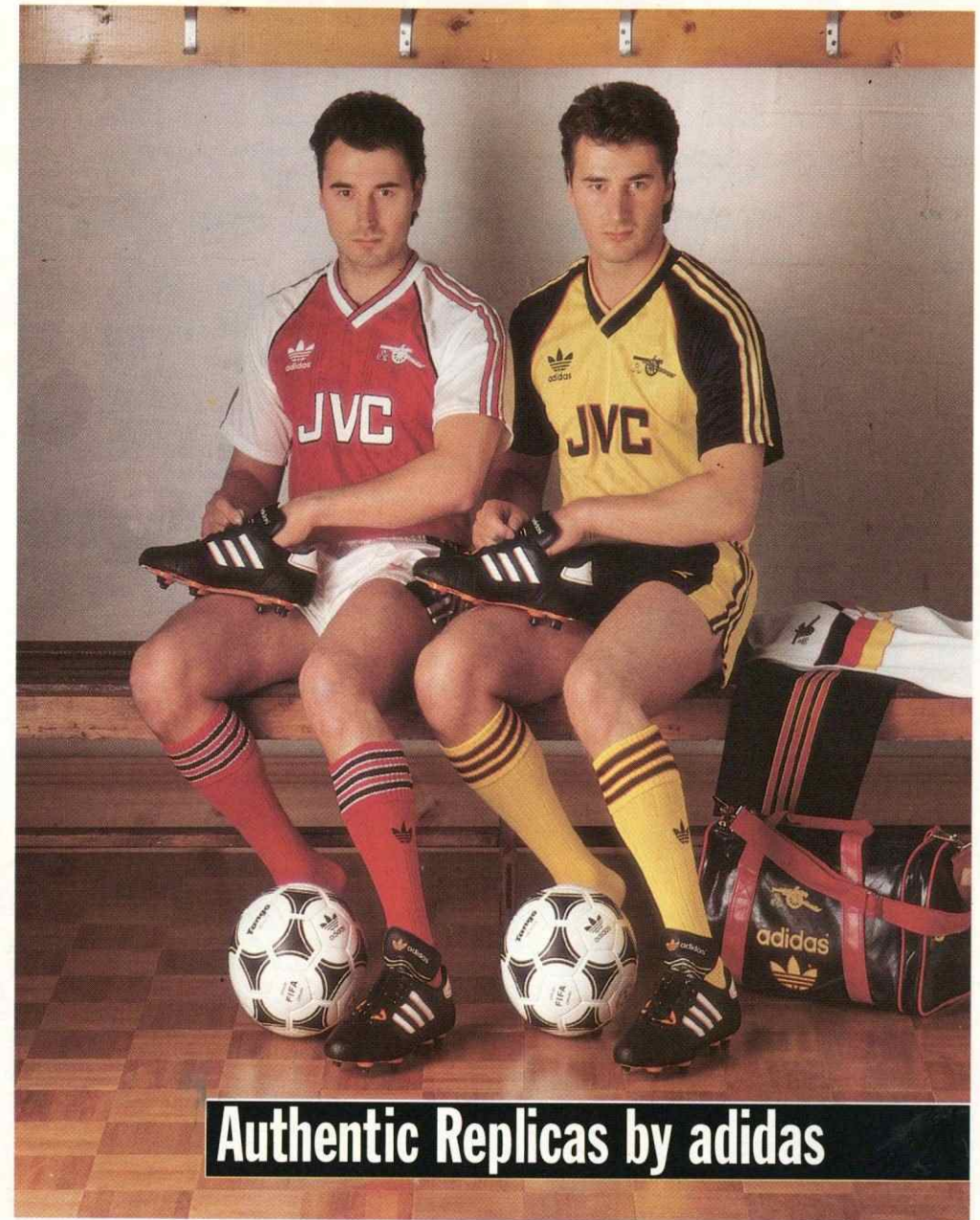
"Stoke did a lot for my career, and I hope the fans still remember me with some affection," he says.

But most of all, Stoke isn't Oldham. No plastic surface. A pleasant stadium, and excellent grass pitch. A one-off occasion, yes. With a vociferous crowd roaring on Stoke to rise above their inconsistent league form, and ex-Guner Alan Ball demanding something extra from his team.

"I can't say too much about Stoke's present line-up, because the personnel have changed a lot since I was there," says Steve, who reckons Peter Fox and Nicky Morgan will be his only former colleagues to face the Gunners: "But it's a one-off occasion for them. They have nothing to lose."

"Potentially we face a tricky game. But the memory of our defeat at Oldham should make us even more determined to ensure we don't go out to a second division side again."

BY KEVIN CONNOLLY



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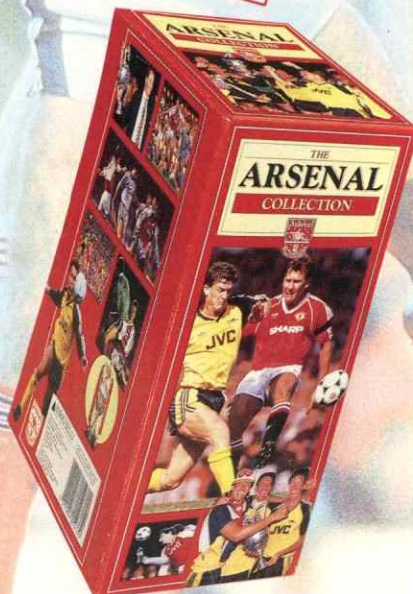
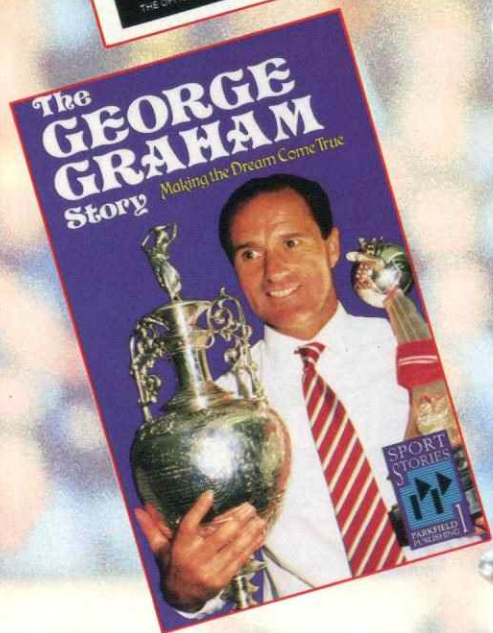
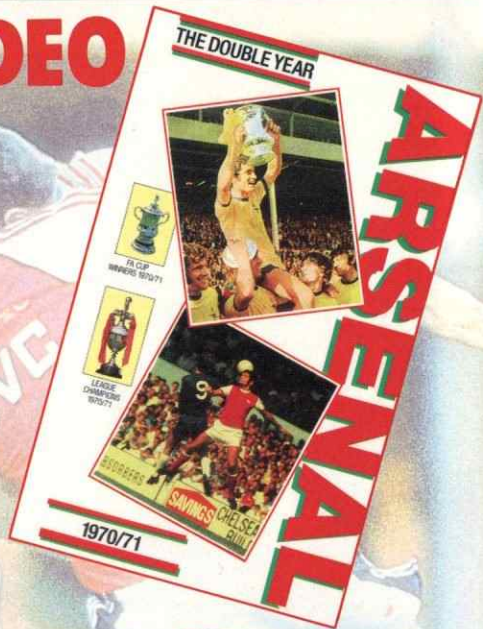
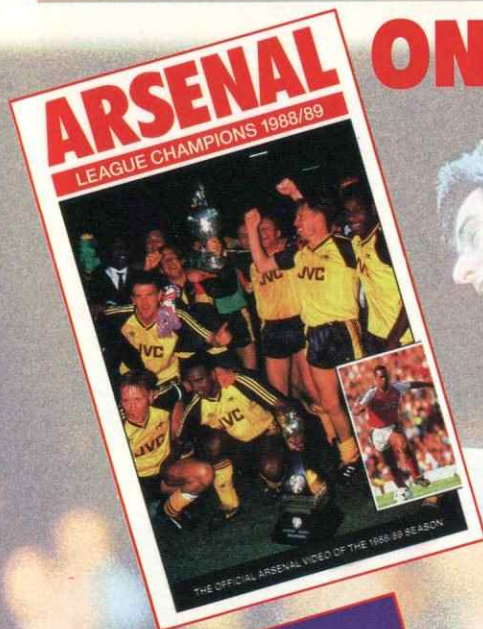
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PARKFIELD
ENTERTAINMENT

HIGHBURY FOCUS

RANGERS... SCOTTISH CHAMPS WITH AN ENGLISH CONNECTION

Spotlight on our Zenith Data Systems challenge opponents

Rangers have pulled out of their bleak start to the season and last Saturday's 3-0 home win over Motherwell kept them level on points with Premier Division leaders Aberdeen.

Last May's league championship celebrations turned sour this season when they managed to win only one of their opening six League games. That left them only one point clear of bottom place.

Rangers were also bundled out of the European Cup after losing 1-3 at home to Bayern München. They suffered yet another blow when Aberdeen beat them 2-1 in the Skol Cup final.

For a while there was much speculation about the future of manager Graeme Souness, who has invested huge amounts of money in players since taking over at Ibrox in the summer of 1986.

Much of it was spent on English players and more than half the Rangers team to face the Gunners will be players familiar to Highbury fans.

England goalkeeper Chris Woods, came here in his QPR and Norwich City days, while England centre-back Terry Butcher starred for Ipswich many times on this ground. Right-back Gary Stevens was signed from Everton in 1988 and his England and Everton colleague, midfielder Trevor Steven, followed him to Ibrox a year later.

Midfielder man Nigel Spackman was signed from QPR only a few weeks ago and England under-21 winger Mark Walters was formerly with Aston Villa.

Other Rangers' players with English connections are Scotland centre-back Richard Gough, who spent over a season with Spurs, and Scotland striker Mo Johnston whose £1.2-million signing from Nantes last summer created great controversy in Glasgow. Johnston, who once played for Watford, had been expected to re-join his old club Celtic but, at the last minute, signed for arch-rivals Rangers.

Johnston thus became the first Catholic ever to play for Rangers.

Until last month England's Ray Wilkins was also gracing Rangers' midfield but he has now returned to England with QPR.

Even Ally McCoist, Rangers' main goalscorer over the past six seasons, has English connections. The Scottish international spent two seasons with Sunderland but returned to his native land to sign for Rangers in 1983; some while before Mr Souness instituted his English revolution at Ibrox.



● Rangers Scotland centre forward Ally McCoist... Can he and Mo Johnston outwit our mean machine defence on Tuesday?

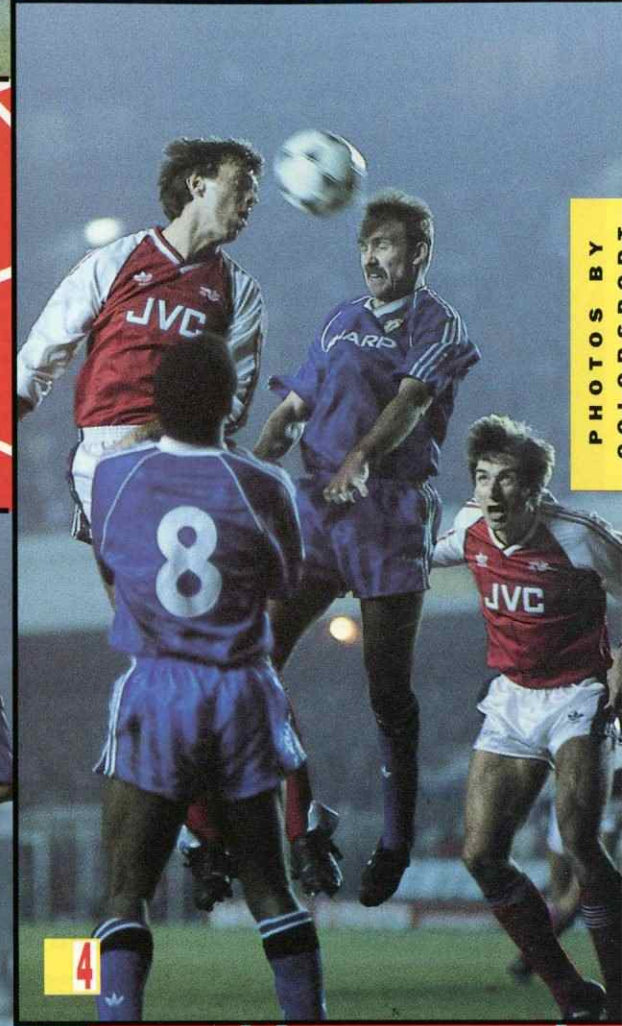
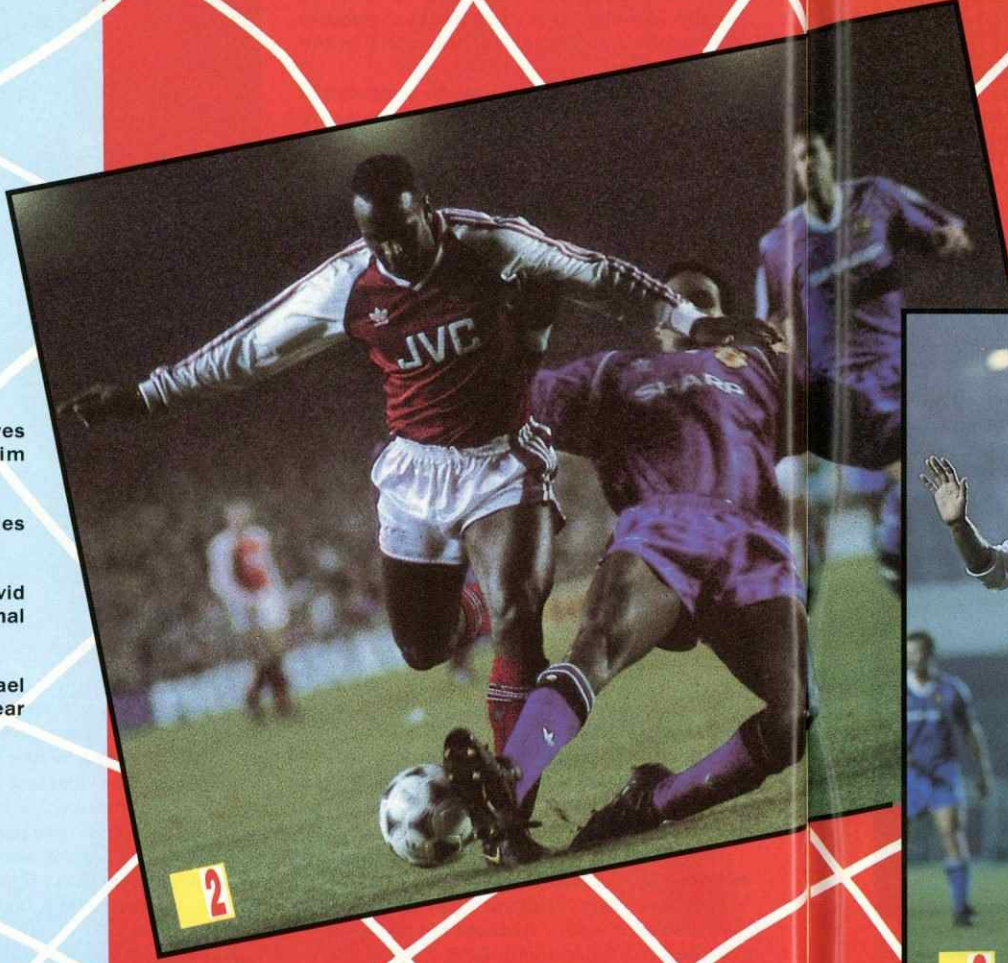
With the annual England-Scotland international now being discontinued, this meeting of the champions of Scotland and England will bring a new dimension to the rivalry that has existed between the two countries for more than 100 years.

Many of the players who will be representing England and Scotland in next summer's World Cup finals will be on view on what promises to be a fascinating evening's entertainment.

See it live on video, here at Highbury!

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GUNNERS ACTION



**BARCLAYS
LEAGUE**
DECEMBER 3
ARSENAL 1
MAN UTD 0

1. Goal! Perry Groves drives our winner past Jim Leighton.
2. David Rocastle hurdles Paul Ince's challenge.
3. Hang on a minute...David O'Leary checks the signal at a corner.
4. David rises above Michael Phelan to flick on a near post header.

PHOTOS BY
GARY WOOD



CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS SOCCER SCHOOL

An opportunity not to be missed for any Soccer-mad youngster. A perfect Christmas present from a sensible parent.

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, December 27, 28 and 29 1989.

Our Soccer School is for boys and girls aged 9-14.

It starts at 10a.m. and finishes at 3p.m. each day and takes place at our new Sports Centre behind the Clock End in Avenell Road. It's all about football skills and five-a-sides.

The cost is £25 (or £23 for Junior Gunners) and includes an Arsenal Soccer School T-shirt.

To register, send a cheque (made out to Arsenal F.C.) to: Christmas Soccer School, Arsenal Stadium, N5 1BU and enclose your name, address, phone number and age.

You will not hear from us (unless the course is full). So once you have sent in your application just turn up on Wednesday December 27 at 10a.m. with your sports gear, training shoes and a bite to eat.

You can buy drinks, crisps and other snacks but we will not be providing lunch.

ARSENAL CHAMPIONSHIP FIVE-A-SIDE TOURNAMENT WINNERS

Congratulations to u-12 winners Barnet Youth, who pipped Jubilee Youth 2-1 in the final. Stuart Hinds scored both the Barnet goals. Paolo Vernazza replied for Jubilee.

Congratulations also to u-16 winners Eden Grove 'B', who beat St John's 4-3 on penalties after their final had ended 2-2. Mark Garvey netted both Grove goals. Paul Buchanan scored two for Saints.

All four teams will receive their trophies and medals in a presentation ceremony on the pitch, before today's game.



● Assistant manager Theo Foley, joins some of the youngsters who attended our first Soccer School of the season.

'ARSENAL EVENING' HELPS THE CARERS

We are delighted to welcome Bridie O'Connor to today's match, when she will be presented with a £3,000 cheque for the Peace Day Group, who look after mentally handicapped people in Eden Grove.

The money was raised at an 'Arsenal evening' at the Moynihan Arms, St. Georges Road, organised by Arsenal's Pat Galligan.

Tony Adams, Niall Quinn and Michael Thomas were 'real' stars that evening.

They gave money, collected money and took part in the cabaret, all for the sake of this very worthy cause.

Thank you very much to Tony, Niall, Michael and everyone else who made the evening such a success.

*The manager of the champions
 and Barclays 'Manager of the Year'*

GEORGE GRAHAM

will be in the Gunners Shop from 4pm onwards next Thursday (December 21), to personally sign copies of his great video 'The George Graham Story — Making the Dream Come True.'

Come and meet George and get *your* copy signed!



JOHN LUKIC	1	ALEX CHAMBERLAIN
LEE DIXON	2	TIM BREACKER
NIGEL WINTERBURN	3	RICHARD HARVEY
MICHAEL THOMAS	4	DANNY WILSON
DAVID O'LEARY	5	MARVIN JOHNSON
TONY ADAMS	6	JOHN DREYER
DAVID ROCASTLE	7	STEVE WILLIAMS
KEVIN RICHARDSON	8	IAN DOWIE
ALAN SMITH	9	LARS ELSTRUP
PERRY GROVES	10	DAVID PREECE
BRIAN MARWOOD	11	KINGSLEY BLACK
	12	
	14	

Red shirts, white neck and sleeves,
 white shorts, red socks

White shirts, black shorts,
 white socks

LUTON TOWN



OFFICIALS

REFEREE: LAWRENCE DILKES (Mossley)

Lawrence is a personnel manager. He is married, with a seven year-old daughter. He started refereeing in 1971 in the Hyde Junior League. He progressed via the Manchester League and the Northern Premier League to become a League linesman in 1980. He was upgraded to a League referee three years later.

He took charge of the 1988 FA Trophy final and Sherpa Van Trophy final. He takes a keen interest in coaching budding referees and is chairman of the Stalybridge and Hyde Referees Association.

LINESMEN: S. R. LOUDON (Cleveland) Red trim.

A. P. MURPHY (Basingstoke) Yellow trim.

The fourth official today is Mr Stephen Palmer.

TODAY'S MATCHBALL SPONSOR

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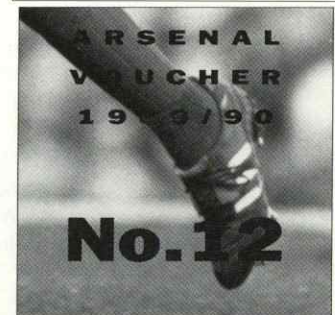
SCOREBOARD

Today's other First Division matches are...

- Charlton v Crystal Palace
- Chelsea v Liverpool
- Coventry v Wimbledon
- Everton v Manchester City
- Manchester Utd v Tottenham
- Millwall v Aston Villa
- Norwich v Derby
- Sheffield Wed v QPR

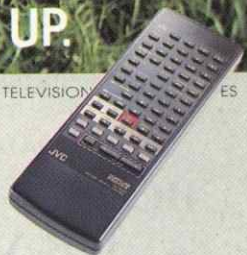
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Nott'm Forest v Southampton





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