

# Wimbledon

Matchday

Magazine £2.00



ROUND 3

The Crazy Gang

Tuesday  
22nd October 1996  
Kick-off 7.45pm

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## INSIDE TONIGHT

Oyvind Leonhardsen



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### Can Luton repeat 1988 League Cup glory?

Wimbledon and Luton are set to meet in the 1996 League Cup final on Tuesday, October 22nd. Luton manager Ian Holloway says: "We've got a great chance to repeat our 1988 League Cup glory." Luton's last League Cup triumph was in 1988 when they defeated Wimbledon 2-1 in the final at Wembley. Luton manager Ian Holloway says: "We've got a great chance to repeat our 1988 League Cup glory." Luton's last League Cup triumph was in 1988 when they defeated Wimbledon 2-1 in the final at Wembley.

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### The Man in Charge

After the departure of Terry Taylor, Luton manager Ian Holloway says: "We've got a great chance to repeat our 1988 League Cup glory." Luton's last League Cup triumph was in 1988 when they defeated Wimbledon 2-1 in the final at Wembley.



# LUTON TOWN

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# Cup competitions can be great levellers

Good evening and welcome to tonight's guests Luton Town.

What can I say since I wrote my last programme notes before the Sheffield Wednesday game?

Eight more goals scored, two victories, another six points in the bag and on Saturday night we were sitting joint top of the Premiership table.

I won't deny that I – along with everyone else on the managing and playing staff – are thoroughly enjoying ourselves at the moment, I don't see how we could fail to do so.

Seven successive Premiership wins has not only hoisted us right up to the dizzy heights we are at the moment, it has also brought us, I understand, to within one point of equalling Manchester United's Premiership record of eight in a row.

For the moment, any thoughts of that will have to be put on hold until Saturday when we make the long trek up to the north east for our clash with Bryan Robson and his Middlesbrough side.

I could easily talk for ages about how brilliantly I feel the players have done and what a magnificent result and performance it was again at Stamford Bridge.

But they know better than that.

We have got where we are by sheer dogged determination and hard work. We know what our strengths are and we have been playing to them extremely well over the last few weeks.

However, I can't emphasise enough the importance of keeping our feet on the ground and we can not afford to take anything for granted at all. And that's why it would be foolish of me and the players to assume that all we have to do is turn up here this evening and the rest will take care of itself.

I don't believe for one second that Luton would allow us to get away with it if we did, and that is what I will be warning my men about.

This evening is going to be all about our attitude and application. We have shown against your Chelsea's Tottenham's and Everton's that we can do it.

Now we have to make absolutely certain that we are in the right frame of mind when we step out to take on Luton.

They are no mugs. This is a big, big game for them and an opportunity for Lennie Lawrence's side to make a real name for themselves as giant killers in much the same way that we have done ourselves in the past.

# can

It's an old cliché, but cup competitions can be a great leveller, you only need to look at some of the incredible results the Coca Cola Cup has provided this season so far.

I know I have said it before and I make no excuses for saying it again, but there are plenty of banana skins out there. We have got to tread carefully and make sure that we don't end up slipping on one and falling flat on our face.

That point has been drilled into the lads. We can't afford to be complacent. Luton will be up for this game tonight and so must we. We've got to be prepared to sweat blood and tears – and I'm confident that we will do so in order to get in the hat for the next round.

I said a couple of weeks ago that I felt that our hopes of qualifying for Europe would probably come in the shape of either Coca Cola or FA Cup success and despite our current League position, the realist in me stands by that.

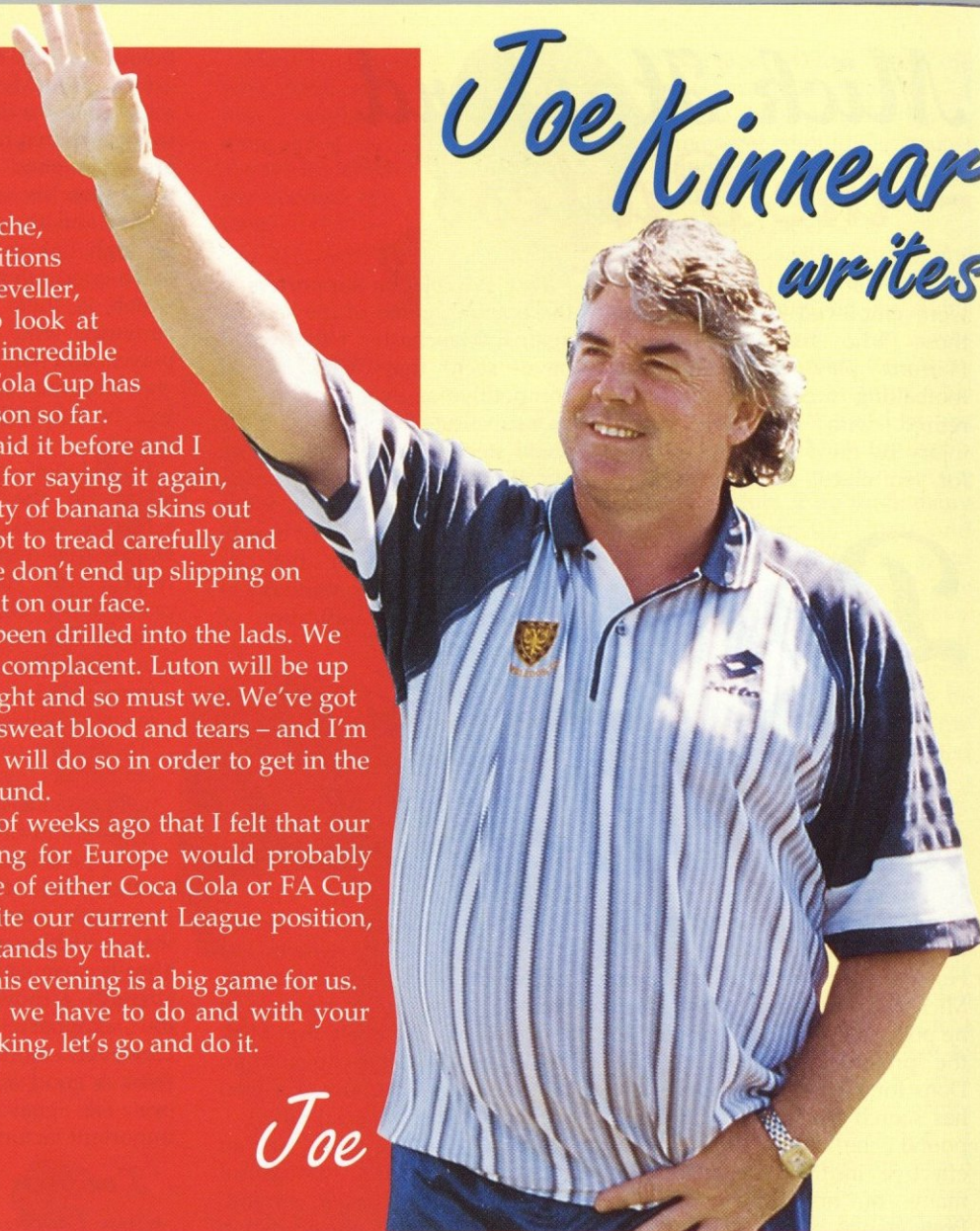
Which is why this evening is a big game for us.

We know what we have to do and with your brilliant vocal backing, let's go and do it.

Enjoy the game.

Joe

# Joe Kinnear writes



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# Mick Harford — the Professional

If the National Lottery finger were employed to point at all those who have seen Mick Harford play over his vast footballing career, it would have retired with repetitive strain injury by now. Mick has played for ten clubs, made over five

Any Wimbledon supporters at the opening game of the season, against Manchester Utd, would have seen that Mick is as competitive as ever. Coming on as a substitute he played with his usual steely resolve, affecting an air of intimidating indifference.

For most of the season Mick has been on the subs' bench. However, this is not an indictment of his standard of play, but an indication of

# Dons' Profile

Wimbledon's recent good form, which has seen them 'scoring goals for fun'. Should there be a change in fortune it is very likely that Mick would be Joe's first choice to go into combat, especially if a goal were needed at a crucial time.

Off the pitch Mick is an interesting and thoughtful character, who gives careful, almost meticulous consideration to questions before answering. In discussing his career he has an eloquence which indicates a deep satisfaction and pride from all he has achieved.

Ultimately, Mick is a realist. A good example of this is evident when he discusses tonight's opposition, Luton, a team with which his heart lies: 'it's a home draw against a second division side,' he says. 'If we play to our capabilities we should be

favourites to go through.'

However, Mick is also aware that Luton, having beaten Derby to go into this round of the cup, are on a good run too: 'Luton have won six of the last seven games and their confidence will be high,' he says. 'They've got some good talent. One player to watch is their centre forward, Fernardi, who is a very good player and has a lot of teams watching him. I'm sure our card will be marked when we play them.'

Wimbledon too has strong talent on the front line and selflessly, Mick readily acknowledges this and willingly pays respect to his team-mates, particularly Chief and Marcus Gayle. Two other players who undoubtedly have benefitted from Mick's experience are Jason Euell and Carl Cort: 'These are very promising youngsters,' says Mick. 'They will go a long way in the game.'

Jason and Carl both possess a lot of pace and this is a quality which Mick believes is essential in today's game. He explains: 'I was not blessed with pace. I always use my height and my strength. I think that nowadays the emphasis is on pace. However, more importantly, I think a good attitude and good eye for goal are the most important factors.'

*'I've been in football now for twenty years and that is all I know and I all I want to know.'*

One player who certainly has these attributes is Newcastle's Alan Shearer. However, in light of Alan's recent 15 million pound transfer from Blackburn, is it not also important in this very commercial climate that players learn to handle the pressure of

high profile moves? Mick who acknowledges that this pressure exits, believes that it is erroneous and unfair to saddle the players with this: 'The Ferdinands and Shearers of the world do not let the fees weigh on them and that is the way it should be,' he explains. 'A lot of pressure is put on players, but it really has nothing to do with them. They play to their best ability and a value is put on them. They only do what they can do on a football pitch and if someone wishes to put a certain value on them, then that is his problem and not the player's.'

Mick's obvious understanding of the game means that he is a prime candidate to go into management when he retires from playing. This is not a concept he finds disagreeable: 'I've been in football now for twenty years and that is all I know and all I want to know,' he says. 'Later, I would like to be involved in coaching. That's my ambition, I want to stay in the game in some capacity ... However in the short term I am happy with Wimbledon. I view myself foremost as a player at the moment.'

*'A manager should be honest and fair....'*

Many players who have gone into management have not always matched the success of their

careers. What are the fundamental qualities a manager should have?: 'A manager should be honest and fair,' Mick explains. 'He should also be hard working and have respect.'

Perhaps, in the future, one team Mick will manage is Luton. A sign of the club's affection for him was witnessed when the Luton supporters chanted his name at the end of last season. Mick too has a lot of affection for the club: 'I go to as many games as I can and I've got a good relationship with the chairman,' he says. 'I've got a good affinity with the fans. Luton will always be in my heart and my name being chanted on the terraces is a great compliment.'

*'It's best job in the world.'*

Mick is the ultimate professional. He is dedicated to his job and club and appears to be very content with his lot. It is difficult not to warm to his enthusiasm and satisfaction for the game: 'Football is a tremendous life for anyone. It's been my life and I wouldn't have had it any other way,' he says. 'I've got so many happy memories from the game, it will always be my heart. It's the best job in the world.'

**COME ON YOU DONS!**



## ANOTHER AWARD

Congratulations are in order to young defender Chris Perry – again.

Chris has started the season in fabulous form and two weeks ago picked up the *Evening Standard* Player of the Month Award for September.

Well, now Chris has got to make a little bit more room in his cabinet after he came out top of the *South London Press's* Player of the Month for September too.

The monthly award scheme is based on a marking system involving all four south London League clubs – ourselves, Palace, Charlton and Millwall. Each game a mark out of 10 is given to every player and at the end of the month the figures are added up and an average mark worked out.

And Chris came out a clear winner for the SLP's first award of the season with a marvellous average score of 8.16 – one of their highest ever.

"It's great news for me," he said, "But more importantly, it shows that as a team we have been doing well."

"I'm really enjoying my football at the moment, well, when you've won six games in succession it's difficult not to, isn't it?!!"

And Manager Joe Kinnear added his praise, he said, "Chris has continued to go from strength to strength this season."

"In my opinion he is one of the best centre-halves in the Premier-

ship. He is strong in the air and when tackling, and has the ability to read the game really well.

"It's always gratifying when

kids come through your youth set-up and I'm glad to say that Chris is another successful product of that."

## NUMBER ONE

Joe Kinnear was all smiles after picking up the Carling Premiership Manager of the Month Award for September.

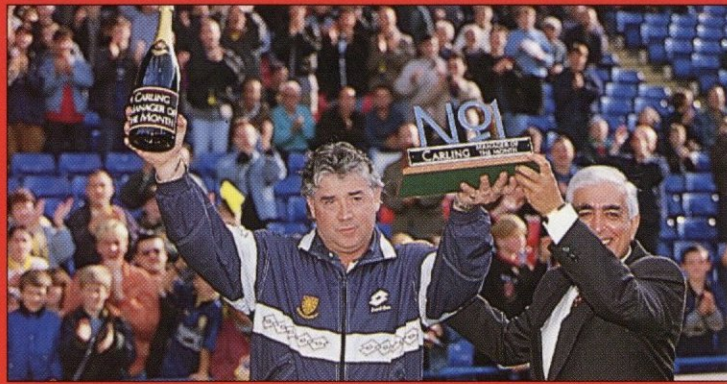
A sensational run of results during September saw the Dons unbeaten in seven games, of which six ended in victory.

And Joe picked up his award, along with a magnum of champagne before our last home game against Sheffield Wednesday.

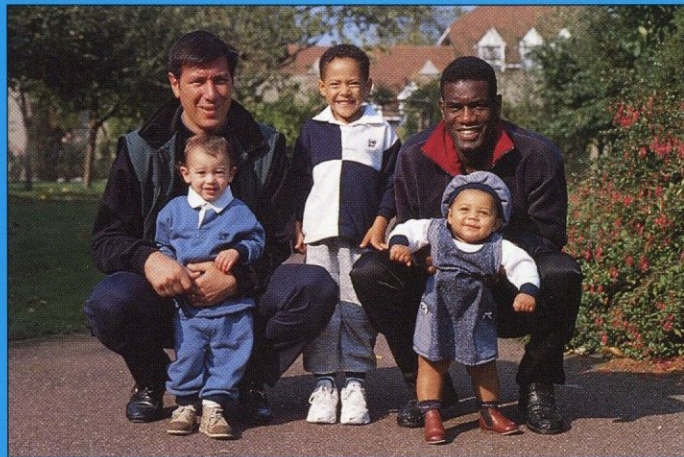
"It's always a real honour to be recognised in this manner," said Joe. "I've now won the award four times – and hope to get it another four times over again."

"It is very pleasing because it means that I'm doing a good job, and so are the players."

"So as far as I'm concerned the more Manager of the Month Awards, the better!"



Joe is seen above receiving his award from Owner Sam Hammam



# Dons Diary

Look out for the  
**Crazy Gang**  
collection

The Crazy Gang Collection is a new innovation featuring a range of exclusive Leisure wear.

The collection is being produced by Jenda Sales & Marketing, Suffolk, it will include a wide range of Leisure wear for Men, Ladies and a comprehensive selection of Baby wear.

Our pictures here and on tonight's front cover show some of the quality products that will be available from the range soon.

A full colour brochure produced by Sharon Sillitoe and her Marketing team with the help of location facilities provided by Selsdon Park Hotel will be found in our matchday programme against Arsenal on November 2nd.

Copies of the brochure will be available from the Club Shop after this date.

We are sure you will be impressed with the new collection.

## HAVE A BET WITH LADBROKES

Maybe, it's tempting fate, but has anyone else noticed?

Since the programme started carrying a double page pull-out photo three issues ago the 'pin up' concerned has been our first goal scorer.

First Marcus Gayle scored when he was the double page pull-out and then Efan Ekoku followed suit 10 days ago in our game with Sheffield Wednesday!

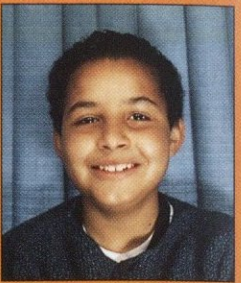
The Chief's second minute strike against the Owls wrote his name in the history books because it was the fastest Premiership goal of the day.

## Tonight's Match Mascot ASHLEY CLARK

Ashley, aged 11, comes from Streatham and attends Beachwood Prep School.

His favourite player is Marcus Gayle. Hobbies include football, cricket and music.

We hope you have an enjoyable evening Ashley.



And if you had been lucky enough to visit one of the many Ladbrokes betting booths around Selhurst Park, you could have had a flutter at 33-1 on that happening.

## NOTE NEW DATE

Please note that our away game against Manchester United at Old Trafford will now be played on Wednesday, 29th January, 1997, kick-off 8.00pm and NOT ON Saturday, 29th March. If, however, either club is involved in a live televised FA Cup 4th Round match on Monday, 27th January, the game will be rescheduled again.

Our home match against Blackburn Rovers remains, for the moment, on Saturday, 14th December.



## PREVIOUS MEETINGS

## The Dons V The Hatters

### LEAGUE GAMES

Season	Home	Away	Division
1986-87	L 0-1	D 0-0	First
1987-88	W 2-0	L 0-2	First
1988-89	W 4-0	D 2-2	First
1989-90	L 1-2	D 1-1	First
1990-91	W 2-0	W 1-0	First
1991-92	W 3-0	L 1-2	First

Summary	P	W	D	L	For	Agst
Home	6	4	0	2	12	3
Away	6	1	3	2	5	7
Totals	12	5	3	4	17	10

### CUP GAMES

(Football Association, Football League, Full Members)

Wimbledon have only ever played Luton in one major cup match. This was in our famous F.A. Cup season, 1987/88, when we beat them 2-1 in the semi-final at White Hart Lane.

John McBride  
(Association of Football Statisticians)

Date	Name	Age
Oct 22	Charles Bialaszewski	9
	James Somers	16
	J Ford	15
	C. Exall	9
	Nicholas Jarrett	15
	Lee Healy	10
	Karen Hussain	13
	James Baker	9
	Lauren Dennis	7
	Michael Coffey	14
	Robert Hamblin	13
	Christopher Atkinson	11
	Brian Birch	6
	Kimberley Howes	13
	Jane Barraclough	16
	Helen Barraclough	16
	Andrew Petridge	14
	Richard Gray	10
	Ryan Kingsnorth	8
	Thomas Brooks	11
	Mark Dainty	14
	Nicola Rollings	13
	Adam Huntly	13
	Janine Ryan	8
	John Barron	12
	Cathy Walker	12
	Daniel Aherne	14
	Christopher Cunningham	1
	Mark Turner	8
	Peter Hudson	8
	Stuart Kirkby	14
	Paul Kirkby	14
	A Kemp	4
	Master Keeling	10
	Ben Baker	16
	Lynette Clark	16
	Tasmin Ellis	13
	Rebecca Ryan	12
	Terry Clifford	9
	Christopher Reed	14
	K Scott	11
	Nathan Read	6
	Ben Williams	13
	Miss A Sawyer	13
	Bryon Rees	13
	Sam Taylor	9

Birthdays from November 1 to November 15 will appear in the Arsenal programme.

# DONS & Coming Soon

## Information .....to Selhurst Park

### IF IT'S A DRAW TONIGHT

If this evening's match ends in a draw the replay will be at Kenilworth Road on Tuesday, 12th November, kick-off 7.45 p.m. Admission for Wimbledon supporters would be £12.50 for adults and £6.00 concessions. Please note that the match would be ALL TICKET for Wimbledon fans with no admission on the night. Tickets will be available from the Selhurst Park Box Office.

### CUP DRAW

The draw for the Fourth Round of the Coca Cola Cup will be made live on Sky Sport tomorrow evening, Wednesday, 23rd October, at about 10.15 p.m. Matches will be played on Tuesday or Wednesday 26 or 27 November.

### MIDDLESBROUGH v WIMBLEDON FA Carling Premiership

Saturday, 26th October, 1996 at the Cellnet Riverside Stadium, kick-off 3.00pm  
This match is ALL TICKET. Wimbledon supporters must pre-purchase match tickets from the Selhurst Park Box Office price £17 for adults and £10 concessions for the South Stand at the Riverside Stadium.

### LIVERPOOL v WIMBLEDON FA Carling Premiership

Saturday, 23rd November, 1996 at Anfield, kick-off 3.00pm  
Tickets will soon be available for our match at Anfield price £17 for adults and £8.50 for under 16's and senior citizens. Wimbledon fans will be accommodated in the centre section of the Anfield Road Stand behind the goal. Tickets are only available to Wimbledon season ticket holders, Crazy Gang members and official Wimbledon FC Supporters' Club members.

### HOME LEAGUE GAMES NOW BOOKING v ARSENAL

Saturday, 2nd November, kick-off 3.00pm  
You are advised to book early for this fixture. All areas of the Stadium will be open.

### v COVENTRY CITY Saturday, 16th November, kick-off 3.00pm

### v NOTTINGHAM FOREST Saturday, 30th November, kick-off 3.00pm

### CRAZY GANG MEMBERSHIP

If you haven't yet joined the fastest growing football family please pick up an application form today at the Box Office or administration centre. Alternatively, we can send a form to you through the post. Membership costs £10 for adults and £5 for under 16's and senior citizens.

### HOW TO BOOK MATCH TICKETS

By personal application at the Selhurst Park Box Office. Please produce your Crazy Gang membership card and/or Season Ticket book. Opening times are 9.30am to 4.30pm Mondays to Fridays, 10.00am to 12 noon on Saturdays (later if Wimbledon are at home) and for about half an hour after each home match.

By post, enclosing the correct remittance (cheques and postal orders to be made payable to Wimbledon FC Limited) and a first class stamped addressed envelope.

By telephone on 0181-771 8841 or the premium rate service 0891 516 161 (45p per minute off peak and 50p per minute at all other times) using an accepted credit or chargecard.

Please note that a booking fee of three per cent, but a minimum of fifty pence, is charged on ALL transactions using accepted credit and chargecards, plus postage where applicable.

24 hours a day via TICKETMASTER on 0171-413 3388 (£1.25 per ticket service charge and £1.25 per transaction handling charge).

### ARSENAL

### SATURDAY 2nd NOVEMBER

Wimbledon faces a tough task when it takes on North London rivals, Arsenal. The Gunners have looked impressive for most of this season, and always seem to stretch the Dons at Selhurst Park.

Last season the two teams managed seven goals between them over two fixtures. This season both teams are defending and scoring well and it will be interesting to see who will finish victorious.

This will be the second fixture for the new management team of Wenger and Rice. Recently, under Rice, Arsenal returned to its more direct and defensive way of playing, but there is little doubt that new manager Arsene Wenger will be trying to get his team playing in a more European style.

Last time Wimbledon played Arsenal at Selhurst Park they lost 0-3. This defeat was resultant from some superb running by the Gunners' three strikers, who caused much confusion in the Wimbledon defence. So far this season Wimbledon have looked a lot tighter and the game should be much tougher for Arsenal.

Home Stats are: 3 wins 7 losses.

### COVENTRY CITY

### SATURDAY 16th NOVEMBER

Last season Wimbledon's two fixtures with the Sky Blues were full of incident. At Highfield Road the Dons only managed a 3-3 draw, despite Coventry being reduced to 9 men. By the time the teams met again, on the 27th April, Wimbledon's Premiership status was fairly secure. Coventry, on the other hand, still in relegation trouble, desperately needed to beat the Dons.

Unfortunately for Wimbledon the day belonged to big-spending Coventry and, in particular, Peter Ndlovu. An interesting feature of manager Ron Atkinson's tactics was the positional deployment of Dion Dublin. For the match Dion was played out of his normal centre-forward position and used as a sweeper. This move took a lot of the sting out of Wimbledon's aerial attacks and also, by confusing Wimbledon's man-marking, provided Peter Ndlovu the extra space to score in.

Coventry have invested heavily in the team, but are currently struggling in the wrong half of the table. This season the Sky Blues should find Wimbledon formidable opponents.

Home Stats are: Wins 3 Losses 5 Draws 2.



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If teams could **transfer fans,**  
what would you be worth?

# my opinion

You could be forgiven for thinking that my pet subject is referees, given that I've spouted forth about them in the last couple of programmes. You could be forgiven, but you'd be wrong though. I'm quite famous around these parts for a number of things, but ask any innocent bystander who Reg Davis is and I bet you anything you like that person will say 'isn't he that bloke who's got a bee in his bonnet about foreign players' or something like that.

Well, I have to admit that I have. I'm not being irrational or racist or xenophobic or anything else you might call it - it's just that I question the wisdom of buying a foreign player purely because he's cheaper than a British one. It's the same with any commodity - you can buy an inferior quality CD player for £50 and have to spend £200 on getting it repaired over the next few years, or you can spend £200 on a good one. The choice is yours, and more often than not your choice is based on how much money you've got at the time. It's the same principles at work when you're buying footballers. You can shell out £1m on an injury prone Romanian who'll only play in 15 matches a season for you, or you can pay double that

## They don't come from round 'ere, do they

for a far more reliable British player. Better still, why not blood one of your best youth teamers and save yourself all that money.

I'm not against foreign players per se, far from it. The best of them illuminate our League. Messrs Cantona, Vialli, Ravanelli, Bergkamp, Juninho and Leonhardtsen (I owed him a favour) are consistent performers who give great value for money and offer attributes that the majority of British players don't have. Two seasons ago Jurgen Klinsmann almost single-handedly changed our opinions of the German nation, not just himself. Where I can see warning signs is with clubs like West Ham. Once known as the academy of football that produced players like Moore, Brooking and Hurst, think of West Ham now and it takes quite a while to think of any of their English players. The one that springs to mind first, Tony Cottee, has just been sold

to a Malaysian team. The Hammers currently have 10 foreign players on their books, but only three of them played in the last Premiership game. The other seven weren't all injured - some of them aren't first choice. And therein lies the problem.

Would it not be a better ruling to have to include the majority of your foreigners for every match? Take our most successful side at the moment, Manchester United. They have seven foreigners on their books, and regularly play five (Schmeichel, Johnsen, Cantona, Cruyff and Solskjaer) with the other two (Poborsky and Van der Gouw) on the bench. I still think that seven is far too many, but at least they play them, and to great effect too.

You don't need to look very far to find a shining example of a club who has a few foreign players, instead of relying on bargains from the lower divisions combined with the crop of the late-eighties youth squad. Take away Leo and you have an entirely British - or Irish-born squad (that includes Efan, who despite being a Nigerian international was born in Manchester), and we're not doing too badly are we?

Reg Davis

FOR THE LATEST ON THE DONS CALL 0891 12 11 75

Calls cost 39p per min. (cheap rate); 49p per min. at all other times



*It has been a while now since these two clubs have met in any competition and it was not so long ago that Wimbledon and Luton were doing battle in higher reaches. But aside from being two clubs who have succeeded on the smaller budget in recent times, Wimbledon and Luton Town have other things in common.*

Ray and Mick Harford share the same name but are not related. But they have enjoyed long careers in football of some significance, and have stopped off at Wimbledon FC along the way. Ray Harford began his managerial career at Fulham when he worked with the likes of Paul Parker and Dean Coney in Fulham's burgeoning youth team of the early 1980s. Ray was unfortunate as he developed from Youth Team boss, via Assistant Manager to Manager in 1984 as Fulham's Chairman Ernie Clay was hellbent on strangling the life out of a club that flirted with complete extinction during his tenure between 1984 and 1986.

As Fulham floundered, down the road in Wimbledon

something was stirring but Ray Harford was moving north to Luton where he soon graduated to Manager after spending a short time as assistant to John Moore. Ray Harford immediately lifted The Hatters to ninth place in the First Division and brought a fizz of cup excitement to Kenilworth Road. They reached the final of the Simod Cup only to lose 4-1 to Reading, but made up for that in fine style by winning the League Cup at Wembley where, with a little help from Gus Caesar, they beat the mighty Arsenal 3-2. Luton were only denied an amazing Wembley hat-trick by the efforts of the Crazy Gang at their most inconceivable.

Wimbledon arrived at White

Hart Lane in a combination of a mini-bus and cars in a rough and ready approach that was to prevail a month later at Wembley, but fell behind to a Mick Harford goal – the only one he scored against The Dons for Luton – only for a Fashanu penalty and a Dennis Wise goal to set up the finest day in Wimbledon's history.

Ray Harford was sacked as Luton manager in January 1990, with the club in 19th place in the then First Division. Town survived that season, missing the drop by a whisker and performed a similar escape act the following season when only two clubs, Sunderland and Derby fell through the trap door. However, Ray Harford's dismissal proved a blessing and his career hit an upward curve when he became Bobby Gould's assistant at Wimbledon. In the 1990-91 season his new charges did the double over Luton, 2-0 at home and 1-0 away. After

Bobby Gould's resignation in the summer, Ray became permanent boss in December 1990 – a job he combined with the management of England's Under 21's. Ray took Wimbledon to seventh place in his only full season in charge, bringing in player of the season Warren Barton from Maidstone as the club flourished in their last season at Plough Lane.

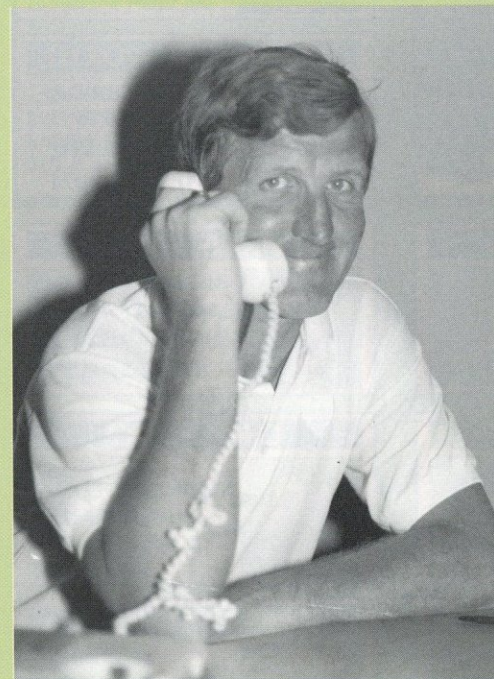
Opinions on Ray's departure from a club placed well in the First Division to one mid-table in the Second differ but Blackburn's subsequent rise has as much to do with Ray Harford's much respected coaching skills as they do to Jack Walker's pocket or Kenny Dalglish's footballing nous.

If you have watched football over the last decade or so the

chances are you've seen Mick Harford play for at least one club such as been the big man's wanderlust during his 19-year career. Mick has played for ten clubs in total including two spells with tonight's visitors Luton Town between 1984 and 1990 and a brief spell between 1991 and 1992. When Wimbledon paid £50,000 for his services at the start of the 1994-95 season it was the first time anyone had lashed out less than six figures for a player who has scored regularly for every club he has played for. Mick's best spell was his first at Luton Town when he scored 57 goals in 135 games, prompting Derby County to spend £450,000 for his services in January 1990 – the highest fee paid for him. But it was at Luton where his initial burst of 16

goals in 22 games during 1984-85 lifted a languishing side into mid-table and took The Hatters into the FA Cup Semi-Finals. His second spell with Luton again also prompted a healthy return of 12 goals in 29 appearances in the 1991-92 season.

Who knows, with his 38th birthday looming next February, big Mick could still be doing the business for someone at the ripe old age of 40, legs permitting!



Ray Harford

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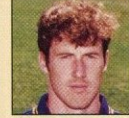
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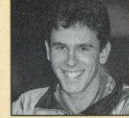
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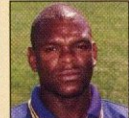
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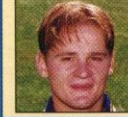
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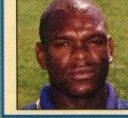
**JASON EUELL**  
  
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*Peter Fear*  
 Yet another of the young Dons, signed as an associated schoolboy in 1987 followed by a Y.T.S. place and signed professional in 1992.  
 Made his debut at Oldham in a depleted side that lost 2-6 on the 3rd April 1993. A former England U/21 player who netted his first senior goal for the club in the 1-0 home win against Leeds on 26th March 1994.  
 After the highs of the 1993/94 campaign Peter has had to battle for recognition over the last couple of seasons - but one who is sure to break through soon.  
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# Can Luton repeat 1988 League Cup glory?

Wimbledon and Luton last played each other in the 1991/2 season, which was to prove an eventful time for both clubs. The Dons had three managers this season: Ray Harford, Peter Withe and Joe Kinnear. They spent the season on a rollercoaster ride up and down the First Division, and looked in serious danger of relegation until Joe Kinnear took over as manager in January 1992. Luton struggled throughout the season, and even David Pleat's undoubted management skills were unable to save them from relegation. Since then, the Hatters have not enjoyed good fortune. After four years in the First Division, they were relegated again last May, finishing in bottom place. Last season they had managed only four wins in the League before Lennie Lawrence took over as manager in December. Lennie has an excellent track record of achieving great results with limited resources, but even he was unable to keep the club up after the poor start to the season. The only consolation for the fans was that local rivals Watford were also relegated. Luton's performances in the cup competitions last season were also very disappointing. They

were knocked out in the First Round of the Coca Cola Cup by Bournemouth (3-2 on aggregate) and were demolished by Grimsby in the Third Round of the FA Cup, losing 7-1 at Blundell Park. They had little success in the Anglo-Italian Cup losing three of their four games, though they did manage an outstanding 5-0 victory over Ancona in their final match.

This season Luton have returned to a division they last played in, 26 years ago. Fans will be hoping for a quick return to the First Division and will be disappointed if the club does not achieve a play-off place at the very least. The main problem could be finding a regular goalscorer. Dwight Marshall, who broke his leg last season, could prove decisive if he can recover his past form. However, Luton will face stiff competition for promotion from Watford, who mounted an impressive revival towards the end of last season after the return of Graham Taylor, although it was not enough to avoid relegation. The rivalry between the two clubs will undoubtedly add spice to the battle for promotion to the First Division.

The 1987/88 season will be remembered by supporters of both

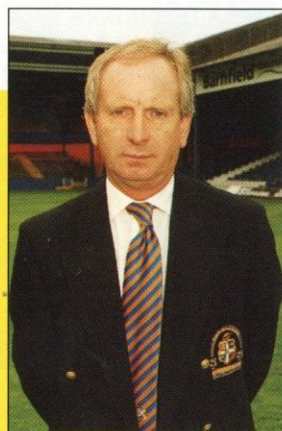
Luton and Wimbledon for their respective honours in the League Cup and FA Cup. Luton beat Arsenal 3-2 in one of the most memorable finals in this competition of recent years, they came close to appearing in the FA Cup Final as well, losing to the Dons in the semi-final at White Hart Lane. Whilst Luton may find it difficult to reach the Final in the Coca Cola Cup this season, Lennie Lawrence will obviously want them to progress as far as possible, preferably with victories over some clubs from higher divisions on the way. The Dons will not find tonight's game easy.

There are a number of local connections in tonight's game. Lennie Lawrence is best known for his achievements as a manager, but as a player he turned out for Carshalton Athletic and Sutton United. The current Luton physiotherapist is Clive Goodyear, who will be familiar to Wimbledon fans as one of the 1988 Cup Final heroes. His well-timed tackle on John Aldridge, which led the referee to award an undeserved penalty to Liverpool, will be long-remembered along with the Dave Beasant penalty save.

## The Man in Charge

After the departure of Terry Westley, Lennie Lawrence was appointed manager of Luton Town in December 1995. As a player Mr Lawrence had spells with non-League Croydon, Carshalton Athletic and Sutton United. After moving into the role of assistant manager at Plymouth (where he was also caretaker manager) and at Lincoln, he became manager of Charlton Athletic in 1982 (having initially joined the team as reserve team coach). In the 1985/86 season Charlton finished as runner-up in Division Two and earned promotion into the top-flight after an absence of 29 years. The following season they were involved in the first promotion/relegation play-off final replay, but were relegated in 1990.

After nine years at Charlton (a period of time which made him the third longest-serving manager in the country), Mr Lawrence left the club in 1991. He then moved to Middlesbrough and in his first season took them into the Premiership. Unfortunately, Middlesbrough were relegated to Division One in 1993 and Mr Lawrence left for Bradford in 1994 after the appointment of Bryan Robson at Ayresome Park.



## Dons v Hatters

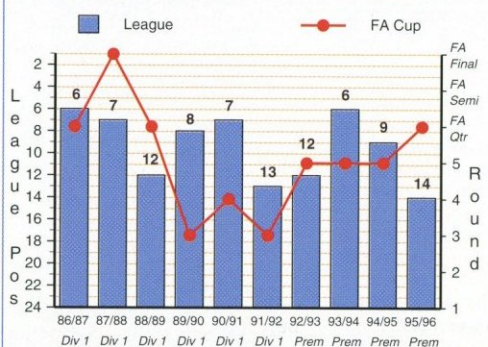
### Dons' last 20 Years in the Cup



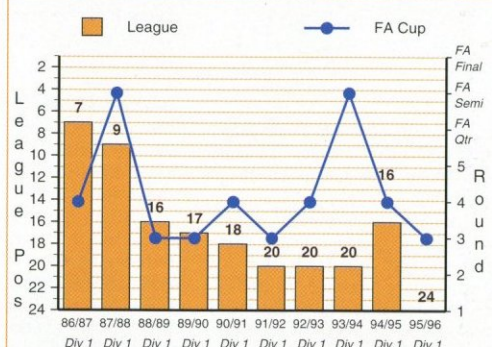
### .. and Luton's



### 10 years in League and FA Cup

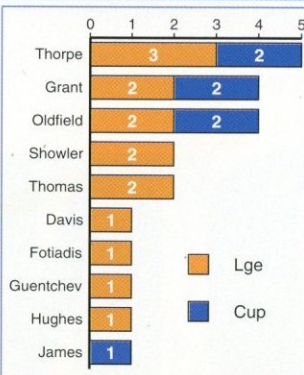


### Hatters' 10 Season Record

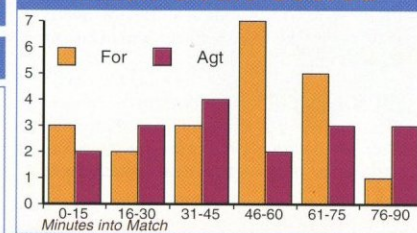


### Current Season

#### Goal Scorers

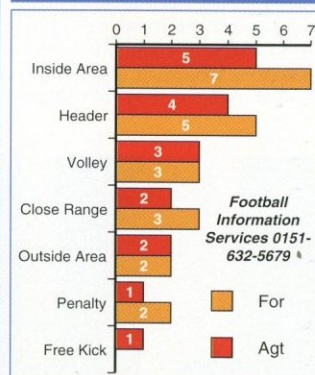


### When Goals Scored

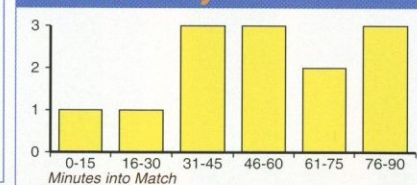


### Statistics

#### How Goals Scored



### When Players Booked



## IAN FEUER (Goalkeeper)



Ian signed for the Hatters from West Ham in December 1995, for a fee which could rise to £580,000 depending on appearances.

The 6ft 7ins American arrived at Luton in September, and spent three months on loan. Was Luton's Player of the Year for the 95/96 season.

At West Ham he was understudy to Ludek Miklosko, but never played a first team game, and due to restrictions on overseas players was kept off the bench by Les Sealey. His Luton debut wasn't his League debut though, as he was on loan at Peterborough in 1994/95, playing 16 games in Division Two.

Spotted by West Ham playing in Belgium, although he actually signed from Los Angeles Salsa.

## KELVIN DAVIS (Goalkeeper)

Kelvin is a highly-rated keeper who made his League debut for the Hatters on the final day of the 1993/94 season in a 2-2 draw at Stoke.

He spent a month on loan at Torquay in September/October 1994, before winning a place in the Luton starting line-up in March.

With Juergen Sommer on international duty, Kelvin made his home debut in the televised 'derby' with Watford, saving a penalty in the 1-1 draw. He kept his place until the end of the season, and also won two England youth caps.

Kelvin was selected for the England U-21 squad for the Toulon Tournament in June 1995. Signed new four-year contract in June 1995, and was again in England U-21 squads throughout the 95/96 season.

## STEVE DAVIS (Defender)

Steve joined the Hatters in the summer of 1995 after making over 160 league

appearances for Burnley, scoring 22 goals.

He joined the Turf Moor side in August 1991 for £60,000 from Southampton, after loans spells at Burnley and Notts County.

He captained Burnley during their rise up the League into Division One, and played in both their victories over Luton in the 1994/95 season.

Was a commanding figure for the Hatters in 95/96, but again suffered the agony of relegation as Luton, like Burnley the previous season, dropped out of Division One.

## JULIAN JAMES (Defender)

Julian joined Luton as a trainee, and was introduced to First Division football in 1988, but was sent off on his full debut in a Littlewoods Cup win at Leeds in November of that year.

A former England Under-21 international, he was a regular at left-back in the 1993/94 season, but made the right-back position his own in 1994/95 with a string of consistent displays which earned him the Player of the Year award from the Loyal Luton Supporters Club.

Was in and out of the side at the start of the 95/96 campaign, before an extended run at right-back after Christmas. Granted a benefit match in 1996.

## MARVIN JOHNSON (Defender)

Marvin made his Football League debut against Wimbledon in 1988, and quickly established himself as a versatile defender.

Started the 1994/95 season at left-back, but then switched to the centre of defence to form a reliable partnership with Trevor Peake.

Marvin was one of only three players to play in every first-team match in 94/95 season, and was awarded the Players' Player of the Year trophy.

He was again a consistent performer in 95/96 at centre-back, alongside Steve Davis for the most part, and Darren Patterson.

## DES LINTON (Defender)

Des signed for Luton from Leicester City in October 1991, along with Scott Oakes, as part of the deal which took

midfielder Steve Thompson to Filbert Street.

He was a regular at right-back during the 1993/94 season, but the 1994/95 campaign was dogged by a series of injuries.

He played briefly in a midfield role, but returned at right-back in the final matches of the season.

The 95/96 campaign was also disrupted by injury.

## MITCHELL THOMAS

(Defender)

The former England Under-21 international made over 100 appearances for Luton before moving to Spurs, shortly after David Pleat, in 1986.

He played in the 1987 FA Cup Final, and later moved to West Ham. He was on loan at Luton in the 1993/94 season before a permanent free transfer move, and after missing the start of the season through suspension was a regular at left-back in the 1994/95 campaign.

Recalled by new manager Lennie Lawrence in December 1995, and responded with an ever-present record until the end of the season.

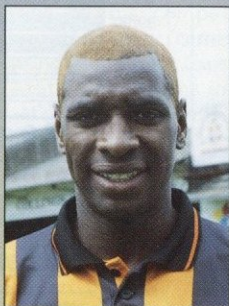
## GARY WADDOCK (Midfield)

Gary completed a free transfer move from Bristol Rovers in December 1994, after a three-month loan spell at Kenilworth Road.

Started his career with QPR making over 200 appearances, including the FA Cup final against Spurs in 1982, and the subsequent replay.

That was followed by a spell in Belgium with Charleroi as Gary recovered from a serious knee injury, and he also had spells at Millwall, QPR again, and Swindon, before moving to Bristol.

Gary missed only one game, through suspension, after joining the Hatters in



1994/95, and scored his first goal for the club on the final day of the season. His consistent displays in 95/96 were rewarded with the Players' Player of the Year Trophy.

## TONY THORPE (Midfield)

Tony made an immediate impact in the Town side when he scored for the Hatters on his full debut at Newcastle United, in the fourth round of the FA Cup in January 1994.

He joined the club at the start of the 1992/93 season, following a spell at Leicester.

He was restricted to just five substitute appearances during the 1994/95 campaign.

Scored Luton's winning goal at Southend in August 1995 - the Hatters' first win of the season, and their first under Terry Westley.

Signed a new contract in the summer of 1996.

## AARON SKELTON (Midfield)

Aaron signed professional forms for the Hatters in December 1992, and was drafted into the first-team squad on a number of occasions in 1992/93. But his progress was halted in 1993/94 with a serious thigh injury, and he had to wait until the opening day of the 1994/95 season to make his full League debut, at home to West Brom.

Injuries again restricted his opportunities, and he started only two more League games that season, although he finished the campaign in the reserves operating at centre-back. His wretched luck with injuries continued in 1995/96.

## DAVID OLDFIELD (Midfield)

David returned to Kenilworth Road in the summer of 1995, six years after leaving Luton Town.

He started his career with the Hatters, progressing through the junior ranks to a two-goal senior debut in a 2-1 Simod Cup win at Everton in February 1988. He also scored on his full League debut in a 2-1 home win over Watford in May 1988, and went on to make 29 League appearances for the Hatters, scoring four goals.

Australian-born Oldfield, who played for England Under-21s, joined

Manchester City for £600,000 in March 1989, before moving on to Leicester City.

## PAUL McLAREN (Midfield)

Paul made his debut in the Town first-team on the final day of the 1993/94 season, coming on as a substitute at Stoke City.

He joined the Hatters from school, and is an England youth international.

Started as a centre-half, but spent much of the 1994/95 season in the reserves in centre midfield.

Made his full debut at Tranmere in October 1995, and then played in the Anglo-Italian Cup game in Genoa.

## CERI HUGHES (Midfield)

Ceri was a regular in the Town midfield in the 1993/94 season, and his performances earned a call-up to the full Welsh side.

He made his Luton debut at Aston Villa in 1990, and has also represented his country at youth and Under-21 levels.

Scored seven goals in the 1993/94 season, but damaged knee ligaments against Grimsby in November 1994 and was ruled out for the rest of the campaign after just eight League starts. Made his comeback against Norwich on the opening day of the 95/96 season, but suspension and injury plagued his 95/96 campaign.

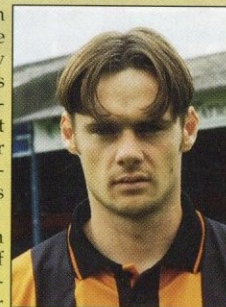
Played for Wales in Albania in November 1995. Had a trial period at Crystal Palace in summer 96, but they decided against a deal.

## GRAHAM ALEXANDER (Midfield)

Graham

joined the Hatters in July 1995, and was Terry Westley's first signing after being confirmed as Luton's new manager.

The Town coaching staff had been watching him for two seasons before deciding to make their move, with the fee in the region of



£100,000 with further payments depending on appearances.

## SEAN EVERS (Midfield)

Sean made his first-team debut in the Anglo-Italian Cup match against Perugia in September, making his League debut in the final home match of the season.

## BONTCHO GUENTCHEV (Forward)

The Bulgarian international signed for the Hatters after being released by Ipswich.

The 31-year-old striker, who played in the 1994 World Cup Finals in the USA when Bulgaria reached the semi-finals, had been at Ipswich for three seasons playing 58 games in the Premier League.

He arrived on a free transfer after being released by the Portman Road club, but his wife's employment at the Bulgarian embassy now means he is free to continue playing in the UK.

Scored vital goals for the Hatters in 1995/96 and played for Bulgaria in the 1996 European Championships.

## KIM GRANT (Forward)

Signed from Charlton, where he had made his debut under Lennie Lawrence, for £250,000 in March 1996, and scored on his debut against Ipswich.

Was selected for the Ghanian national squad in the summer of 1996, playing against Egypt and Denmark.

## PAUL SHOWLER (Midfield/Forward)

Signed in August 1996, from Bradford City where he played under current Luton boss Lennie Lawrence. Played non-League football for Altrincham and Barnet, with League appearances for the latter following their promotion from the Conference.

## STUART DOUGLAS (Striker)

After an impressive scoring record in youth and reserve team football, Stuart made his first-team debut, as a second year trainee, against Oldham in November 1995, and scored after 41 minutes.

# LUTON

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# The Hatters '96-'97

Back row (left to right) Stuart Douglas, Jamie Woodsford, Sean Evers, Kim Grant, Paul McLaren, Darren Patterson, Gary Simpson, John Taylor, Ben Chenery, Bontcho Guentchev, Graham Alexander, Matthew Upson, Robert Kean, Chris Willmott. Third row (left to right) Cherry Newberry (Club Secretary), Clive Goodyear (Physio), Wayne Turner (First Team Coach), David Oldfield, Des Linton, Marvin Johnson, Nathan Abbey, Ian Feuer, Kelvin Davis, Mitchell Thomas, Aaron Skelton, Andrew Fotiadis, John Moore (Youth Team Coach), Trevor Peake (Reserve Team Coach), Les Shannon (Chief Scout). Seated (left to right) Julian James, Tony Thorpe, Steve Davis (Club Captain), Nigel Terry (Director), David Kohler (Chairman), Lennie Lawrence (Manager), Cliff Bassett (Director), Chris Green (Director), Gary Waddock (Team Captain), Dwight Marshall, Richard Harvey. Front row (left to right) Liam George, Gary Doherty, Jimmy Cox, Steve Augustine, Andrew Barr, Nick Webb, Russell Lawes, Terry Sweeney, Matthew Spring, Andre Scarlett, Andrew Smith, Ian Jones.



## The Last Time

WIMBLEDON 3 LUTON 0

7th September 1991

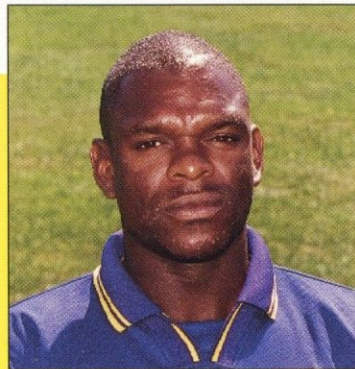
Attendance: 3,231

Referee: A. Bennett

This game was one of the first played by the Dons at Selhurst Park, and predictably press reports concentrated on the low attendance rather than the match itself. Indeed, the attendance was the third lowest in the top three divisions that Saturday. The lack of support seemed ominous at the time, drawing comparisons with Charlton Athletic, whose support had halved after they abandoned The Valley for Selhurst Park a few years before.

Fortunately, the Dons were able to rise above the dull

atmosphere to produce an excellent performance against Luton, who were already struggling even at this early stage of the season. Veteran striker Alan Cork replaced the suspended John Fashanu as centre forward, and his experience helped the Dons to victory. Andy Clarke scored the first goal in the 25th minute. In the second-half the much-maligned Vaughan Ryan, who had been injured for most of the previous season, scored twice in the 62nd and 75th minutes respectively. David Pleat, Luton's manager, was only too aware of his weak strike force, and signed former Luton favourite Mick Harford from Derby the following week. A month later Ray Harford moved



Andy Clarke scorer of The Dons opening goal the last time we met Luton here at Selhurst.

to Blackburn as Kenny Dalglish's assistant, heralding the short-lived Peter Withe era. Despite signing Mick Harford, Luton struggled for the rest of the season and were eventually relegated.

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# In the League

BY STEPHEN CRABTREE

A completely new account of the Dons first seasons in the Football League has been written by a long term fan of the Club. The heart of the book concerns the period from their Division 4 debut in 1977 to their return to the basement division in 1982. The years in between were a rollercoaster ride – a re-election battle, two promotions, two relegations, near merger with Palace

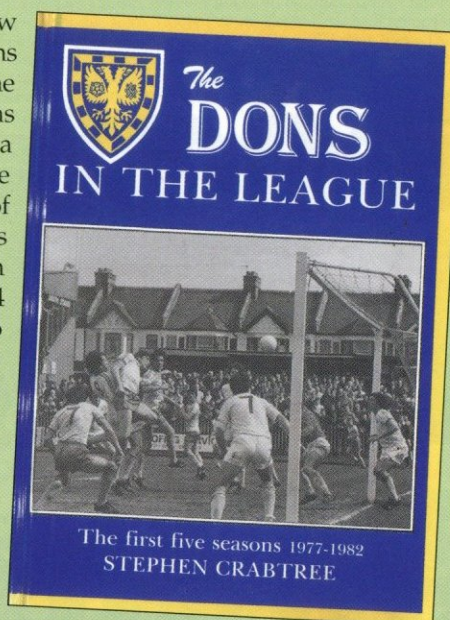
and the subsequent buyout by Sam Hammam. Youngsters who began their careers during those years and who subsequently carried Wimbledon to the very top included Alan Cork, Dave Beasant, Glyn Hodges and Kevin Gage. The highlights of the book:

- ★ A brief look at the Club's non-league years.
- ★ A detailed account of the three Southern League Championships between 1974 and 1977.
- ★ The story of the campaign to join the League.
- ★ Comprehensive chapters on each of the Dons first five seasons in the Football League.
- ★ Report on four memorable matches each season and a full statistics section.
- ★ Over 150 photos and a complete index.

Available now from the Club Shop price £17.95.

It is hoped that this will be the first volume in a full account of contemporary Wimbledon FC.

WRITTEN BY A DONS FAN FOR DONS FANS



# Weah...Great save by Sullivan

*A chance for you to see teams you haven't seen for a few years, and a chance for your squad players to have a run out. Kevin Borras's squad article has a run out too.*

At the time of writing, we're fifth in the Premiership having won six games in a row, winning seven and drawing one of our last eight matches in all competitions; Joe Kinnear has won the Carling Premiership Manager of the Month award, Efan Ekoku and Neil Sullivan came second and third in the Carling Premiership Player of the Month (congratulations to all three of them); and we've had eight players away on international duty for the last round of World Cup qualifiers. Why then, you may ask, am I about to bring a certain amount of doom with a hint of gloom to the pages of the programme...to be honest, I'm not too sure. But I thought that a brief run through of all the bad times we've had to endure since joining the League on my ninth birthday in 1977 might make us all appreciate just how far this club has come.

It's easy to get carried away. Despite the fact that we're only a quarter of the way through the season I've started thinking about next season's European campaign. I've been keeping track of which teams are

through to the next round of the cup in about 26 countries (AC Milan are still in the Coppa Italia by the way) and it's only through doing this that I realised that the English and Scottish Leagues are the only ones whose clubs contest two cup competitions that can get you into Europe (please write in to Reg if I'm wrong, he likes getting letters). We could qualify for the UEFA Cup if we finish seventh – on current form this is definitely possible. With four UEFA places available (including one for the winners of the Coca-Cola Cup) we've got a great chance. Thinking about playing in Europe, and being drawn against one of the Italian, Portuguese or Spanish giants (I know we'd be more likely to get Appolonia Nicosia in the first round and Dnepropetrovsk in the second, but bear with me) really does bring home to you how much Wimbledon FC has accomplished.

Supporting the Dons over the past 19 and a bit years hasn't always been the undoubted barrel of laughs that it is now. Many of the Dons current and steadily growing crop of supporters won't remember that difficult first season where, for a couple of months mid-season, it looked as though we might have to seek re-election at the first attempt. This was the season that we wore all white, but, at the risk of even coming close to quoting Michael Barrymore, we plainly weren't. Our first season in the League saw the end of a number of distin-

guished non-League careers that weren't quite distinguished enough to bridge the gap into the Football League. Players like Billy Edwards, Dickie Guy and Billy Holmes, non-League heroes to a man, were, frankly, just a bit too slow and non-League for the Fourth Division.

Quite a few of you probably weren't born when we had our disastrous first attempt at playing in the Third Division. The 1979/80 season started poorly (a 2-3 defeat at home to the mighty Chester, for whom Ian Rush was labelled a defender in the programme), continued poorly, carried on continuing poorly and then fizzled out altogether. Some spectacular defeats were the most significant souvenirs – three 0-4s and a 3-6 at home to Grimsby being the most memorable. We finished bottom, six points from safety.

We won promotion the following season, but that wasn't without its traumas. Before 1980 was out there were rumours that the whole first team squad had been put up for sale, and that the club were likely to merge with Crystal Palace. Chairman Ron Noades, half the board of directors and manager Dario Gradi all left for Selhurst, leaving Dave Bassett in charge. It didn't look too good on the pitch either as the Dons were 13th with 18 games to go. Not only did we win promotion, but Harry was destined

Ah, the  
Coca-Cola Cup.



to become the best-loved of all the Dons best-loved best-loved managers.

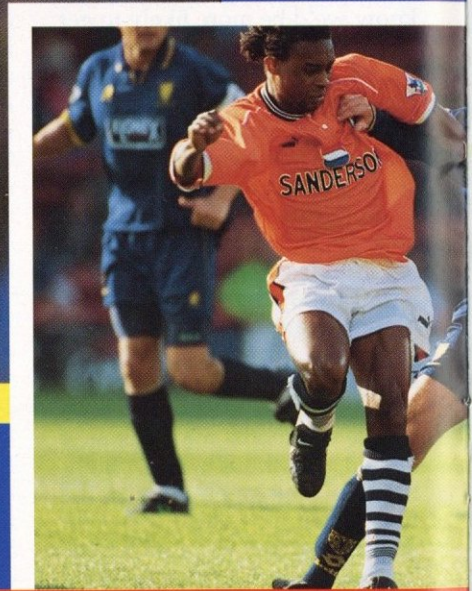
If the season before that was bad, you should have been around for 81/82. By May 1982, we were down again. It was close though – we only needed to win our last game by 12 clear goals to stay up. What made that season so outstanding for all the wrong reasons was how close we came to staying up, how far away from staying up we'd been at one point, that we would have stayed up were it not for converted striker John Leslie's TWO winning own goals for Carlisle and Oxford from right-back, the number of players Dave Bassett used during the 46 games (about 150, or thereabouts), the tragic, macabre and bizarre death of full-back Dave Clement (if you don't know how he died, you don't want to) and thoroughly humiliating 1-4 FA Cup defeat by non-League Enfield. Other than that, it was great.

We haven't really had a bad season since – but just think about it. Fifteen years ago Wimbledon were 13th in Division Four, now our thoughts are turning, with some justification, to playing in Europe next season. Good this, isn't it?



Action from  
with Sheffield

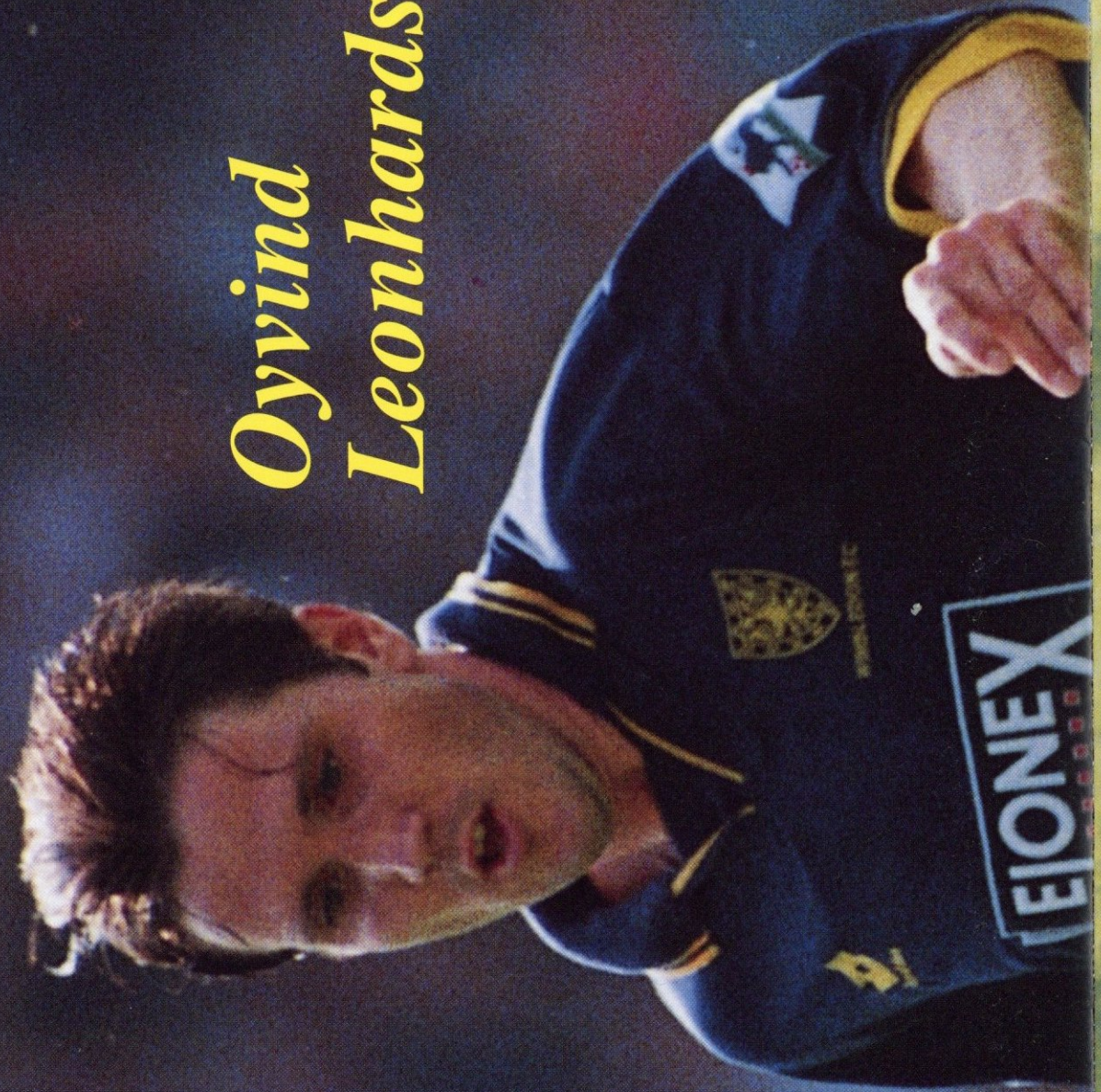
- Left: Chris again demonstrating his aerial ability in
- Right: Roll off Wednesday at Hyde.
- Below: Newcastle in this duel



*Action*

REPLAY REPLAY

*Oyvind  
Leonhardtsen*



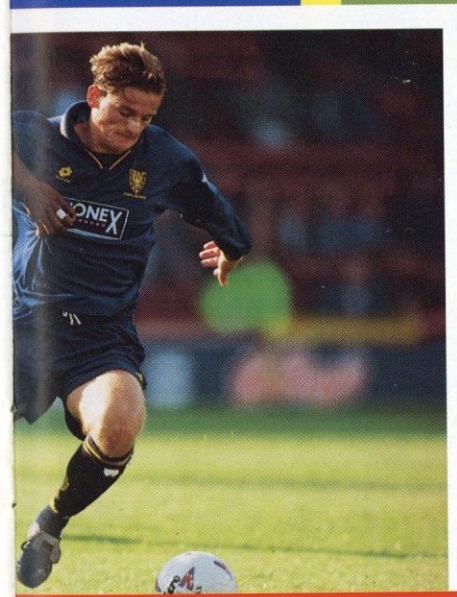


our encounter  
ld Wednesday.

s Perry once  
onstrates his  
the air.

bbie Earle holds  
sday's Graham

al Ardley wins  
with Regi Blinker.



**REPLAY REPLAY**

# Football *in the* Community



## PROGRAMME OF AFTER SCHOOL COACHING COURSES NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 1996

- ★ coaching in all the basic football techniques
- ★ lots of small sided games
- ★ a Certificate of Attendance
- ★ age group 6-14 years old
- Cost £15 per six sessions

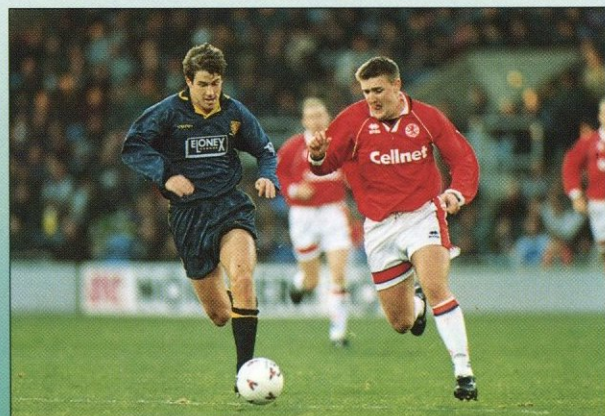
### Football Exclusive

#### \* MEET THE PLAYERS \*

#### EARLE, CUNNINGHAM AND THATCHER SIGN FOR McDONALD'S

Sources close to the worlds craziest football gang can reveal that three of Wimbledon's premier league team will be signing for McDonalds Restaurants Ltd. McDonalds, a new force in the Premier League have teamed up with Wimbledon Football Club's Community Scheme. The news of McDonald's move will not come as a shock to Dons boss Joe Kinnear for the players will be signing autographs in aid of Ronald McDonald Children's Charities!

- Meet:** Robbie Earle, Kenny Cunningham and Ben Thatcher  
**Venue:** McDonald's Restaurant, 11-17 Worples Road, Wimbledon  
**Date:** Thursday 24th October  
**Time:** 3pm-5pm



Bring your autograph book and camera. While you are there you have the opportunity to make a donation to McDonald's Children's Charities.

There will be a free draw for various football prizes. Be there!

Jim Lowther,  
Football in the Community Officer

*Cunningham races clear of the 'Boro midfield and heads for .... McDonald's!  
Thursday 24th October*

<b>NORTH CHEAM SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB</b> (London Transport Ground – Astro turf – outdoors)			
S11/AS1	Wednesdays	November 6, 13, 20, 27 December 4, 11	Time: 4.00pm – 5.00 pm
<b>ROSEHILL – SUTTON INDOOR TENNIS CENTRE</b> (Astro turf – outdoors)			
S11/AS2	Tuesdays	November 5, 12, 19, 26 December 3, 10	Time: 5.45pm – 6.45 pm
<b>CHESSINGTON SPORTS CENTRE, GARRISON LANE</b> (Indoor course with some outdoor work)			
K11/AS1	Sundays	November 3, 10, 17, 24 December 1, 8	Time: 10.00 am – 11.30 am
<b>COST £16.00 (This course only)</b>			
<b>CHESSINGTON SPORTS CENTRE, GARRISON LANE</b> (Indoor course)			
K10/AS2	Thursdays	November 7, 14, 21, 28 December 5, 12	Time: 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm

For an application form telephone Football in the Community on 0181-771 1772.

#### FURTHER VENUES:

Wandsworth, Merton, Kingston, Sutton, Wimbledon FC Training Ground.

Each participant will receive:-

- ◆ a certificate of attendance
- ◆ coaching in all basic football techniques
- ◆ 2 free tickets to a first team game
- ◆ a chance to meet the players if you attend our courses at the Training Ground.



*"Efan, great goal! 5th in the Premier League. Did you practice that on a Community Scheme Soccer Course?" Mick Harford.*

*It's not definite whether Mick Harford really did question Efan Ekeko regarding his training but it is definite that there are numerous after-school coaching courses for children aged 6-14 years.*



# THE MANAGERIAL-GO-ROUND

There appears to be a new type of manager in the world of football. Like many of his predecessors he has many of the following qualities: the power to motivate, a good tactical knowledge of the game, the ability to judge skilful and less skilful players, the ability to maintain discipline. However, the new breed also appears to be very fickle, with a strong desire to write cheques for huge amounts, believes he can go where angels fear to kick a ball and can often lead others out of the deep-fat fryer and into Stadium burger kitchens. Although this figure resembles his predecessors he is recognisable from his time-span at each club to which he goes. Ask any tortoise, on awakening from hibernation, to list from memory the managers in the first two divisions. He will undoubtedly get it wrong, with many of the incorrect names being the latest type of manager. When it seems like only yesterday that Joe Kinnear became manager of the Dons, it must come as a surprise to many to learn that he is the second longest serving Premiership manager, after Manchester Utd's Alex Ferguson (not to be mistaken with Sarah).

Okay, managerial jobs in football have never been very secure, but when a manager's expected life-span is shorter than an extra's from Star Trek, something has got to be going wrong, somewhere. Quite often this can be related to a questionable integrity on the manager's behalf, but sometimes clubs have to take responsibility. There is no doubt that expectations of clubs are changing. This can be closely indexed to the accelerated rate at which the Premiership's status is developing; the commercial aspect of football is ever encroaching upon the sporting one and this has significant implications, for the manager and his role within the club. Obviously, with the higher level of income which is coming into the game (from television rights, sponsorship and Jack Walker type figures) there has also been an increase in the level of player expenditure, for example Alan Shearer's who-needs-the-lottery 15 million pound move from Blackburn to Newcastle. With every purchase a manager makes he takes a gamble. Some must feel that the more they spend, the less of a gamble they incur. To some extent this is true. It is likely that Shearer will score lots of goals for

his new club, but, with the extra competition he faces at the team, it is perhaps not so likely that he will score as many as he did for Blackburn. Only time will tell. However, other high profile transfers have not always been so successful, and, it can be suggested, have, at the very least, influenced boards' decisions to fully back the manager, ie - give him the key to the door of Sack City. Leeds' Thomas Broolin could be seen as an example of this.

Another feature of the game's rising financial profile status is the major reversal in roles which, at some clubs, it has engendered. This has seen those warm and charismatic people known as accountants take a bigger slice of the action, and has, consequently, seen some managers feel frustrated by their limiting powers of attorney. This is believed to be one of the problems Bruce Rioch had at Arsenal, as it was reported that after he had selected his player targets, all negotiations were carried out by the board, and often ended in failure. However, as transfers regularly command fees in the millions, it is perhaps not too surprising that the boards of clubs wish to limit financial negotiations to those who are trained in this

field. On the continent this is already a matter of course, with each member of club personnel given specific duties, which has seen the term 'manager' change to 'coach'. This exercise in what is ultimately damage limitation, seems to work well, and perhaps takes some of the stress out of the manager/coach's job. In this country this system is still in its embryonic stages and appears to be causing more confusion than satisfaction at the moment.

Of course there can be the other type of additional interference for the manager, which can be about as subtle and pain-free for him as being pick-pocketed by Freddy Krugor. That's right, the club owner who not only finances the purchase of other players but seems intent on selecting them too. This reportedly happened recently at Crystal Palace after they sold Nigel Martyn to Leeds Utd. Allegedly, Wimbledon legend Harry 'Dave' Basset wanted to buy former Don, Simon Tracy, from Sheffield United as a replacement. However, Crystal Palace chairman, Ron Noades, perhaps thinking that Tracy sounded too much like a girl, wanted to buy former model and Tottenham Hotspur reserve goalie, Chris Day. Ron won and had his

Day, and Tracy became a thorn in Harry Dave's side. He was apparently so irked by this move that it reportedly influenced his decision to open negotiations with Manchester City.

However, this brings us onto perhaps the biggest fault of many current Premiership and lower division managers. Loyalty. Joe Kinnear and Harry Dave have shown this quality which many managers lack. Both of these men have had the opportunity to go to big clubs (Joe even turned down the managerial job for the Republic of Ireland). Okay, so Dave Basset *did* talk to City but he did not go. Perhaps he and Joe have realised that the bigger the job the bigger the expectations and, consequently, the bigger the chance of being sacked. There is only a certain amount any club can realistically achieve, but people like Bruce Rioch and Alan Ball took gambles which ultimately failed. Dave and Joe are not under so much pressure at Palace and Wimbledon. If the former had gone to City he would have had to get them promotion, whilst he is probably safe as long as the Eagles are at least in contention for this. Joe on the other hand has quite a task in maintaining Wimbledon's Premiership

status, but he has not got the pressure of expectation of having to win something on him. If the Dons have a good run in the cups this is considered an extra bonus. Although just surviving may seem a little negative to some, it is still a good target as it keeps a lot of pressure off the Wimbledon team, which is more than capable of staying up. Also, if one takes into consideration the number of teams which could have gone down last season, and perhaps had their expectations a little too high, then Joe's policy is probably the safest for the club.

With the apparent reluctance of many to take the managerial position at Manchester City, it could be inferred that perhaps the fickle side to management is on the decrease. Maybe it is being learned that money is not a certain route to success. No doubt, there will be some more changes on the carousel of football management, but as the more continental approach to managerial hierarchy becomes established within the English game, perhaps things will become a little more settled. But then, perhaps, Father Christmas exists.

Richard Holley

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**if not it will be presented after the game. IF YOU HAVE THAT WINNING TICKET ASK A STEWARD TO CONTACT OUR MAIN SWITCHBOARD WHERE ORGANISER TONY SHAW WILL BE WAITING TO FILL IN YOUR NAME ON THE CHEQUE. DON'T FORGET - IT COULD BE YOU!!!**

As the draw becomes more and more popular and we're sure it will, we will require presentable ladies and gents to become Wimbledon Super Draw sellers. If you are interested in helping the club, earning some sales commission and gaining free admission to the game after you've finished selling, contact Reg Davis now.

# MUSIC IS LIFE.



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Calls cost 45p per min. (cheap rate); 50p per min. at all other times

# DON'S SUPPORTERS CLUB

## Wimbledon Football Supporters' Club

### TRAVEL

#### MIDDLESBROUGH

(League)

Saturday 26th October

Coaches depart Plough Lane

Executive 7.15am

Members	£16.50
Crazy Gang	£18.50
Guests	£20.50

Standard 8.30am

Members	£15.50
Children & OAP	£13.50
Crazy Gang	£17.50
Guests	£19.50

#### LIVERPOOL

(League)

Saturday 23rd November

Coaches depart Plough Lane

Executive 7.30am

Members	£15.00
Crazy Gang	£17.00
Guests	£19.00

Standard 8.30am

Members	£14.00
Crazy Gang	£16.00
Guests	£18.00
Children & OAP	£12.00

(The above prices and times may be subject to alteration, please check the matchday programme prior to booking).

All trips depart and return to the Sportsman Public House in Durnsford Road SW19, and are stewarded in accordance with N.F.F.S.C. recommendations.

Please note: Bookings can be made before home matches in Crystals (above Sainsbury's) or during normal office hours at the box office either in person or by telephone on 0181-771 8841.

PLEASE BOOK EARLY TO SECURE YOUR PLACE AND AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT. ALL OUR BOOKINGS ARE TAKEN STRICTLY ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS AND MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A MINIMUM DEPOSIT OF £5.

Good evening and welcome once again to the Supporters Club page for tonight's Coca-Cola Cup game against Luton Town.

Another great win against Sheffield Wednesday making it six on the trot, hopefully by the time you read this it will be seven (notes written before the Chelsea game). If we are successful against Chelsea then we would have equalled our previous best since joining the Football League. This was fourteen years ago in the 1982/83 season, results were Darlington (home) 3-1, Hereford (away) 4-1, Crewe Alexandra (home) 3-2, Port Vale (home) 1-0, Crewe Alexandra (away) 2-0, Chester (home) 4-0, Blackpool (home) 5-0, making it an unbeaten run of 22 games, on the back of this run we were promoted to Division Three as Division Four Champions. Wouldn't it be great if we were Premier League Champions 1996/97 - Look out Manchester United!!

But we must concentrate on tonight's match first and hope that we can progress into the fourth round of the Coca Cola Cup. If we win don't forget the draw is on Sky tomorrow evening.

Should tonight's game be a draw the replay will take place at Kenilworth Road on Tuesday 12th November.

Details for Away Travel will appear on this page in our next programme Arsenal on 2nd November.

And should we be triumphant tonight and draw away in the next round, details will also appear in the Arsenal programme. Or you can call the box office from Monday 28th October.

## CHILDRENS XMAS PARTY

*This years party will take place on Sunday 15th December at Lavender Park, Mitcham.*

*Watch this space for further details soon.*

### AGM:

Apologies to Dave Norton who did not stand down as a committee member as stated in the last programme notes.

There are still places available on the committee, if you would like to be put forward please come and talk to someone on a match day in Crystals.

### Membership Package:

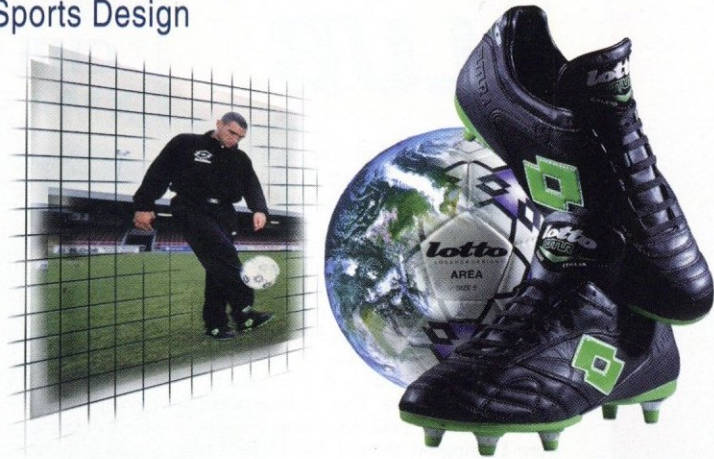
Becoming a member of Wimbledon Football Supporters Club offers you several benefits, as well as belonging to the official and independent supporters club. For just £5 you can make the most of: Discount on all WFSC away travel; NFFSC Insurance Cover; 5% Discount in the Club Shop; Annual Members Prize Draw; WFSC organised events such as the childrens Christmas Party, Player of the Year as well as many other social evenings; Regular Newsletter; Free entrance to members bar; Preferential ticket arrangements. Membership applications can be found before the game today in Crystals and at every home game. Join today and be a part of the Club, it really makes a difference.

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**LUCOZADE**  
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# It's.. **TRIVIA** **TIME**

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## TRUE or FALSE?

1. In 1938, England players were forced to give a Nazi salute before a game against Germany.

2. Germany were the first side to beat England at home.

3. Pele's playing career spanned 22 years, ending in 1978.

4. In 1987, Chelsea tried to buy Fulham FC.

## WHO'S TROPHY CABINET?

Which club has lifted the following trophies?

**FA Cup:** 1910, 1924, 1932, 1951, 1952, 1955  
**UEFA Cup:** 1968/69  
**Division 1 Championship:** 1904/05, 1906/07, 1908/09, 1926/27, 1992/93  
**Division 2 Championship:** 1964/65  
**Anglo Italian Cup:** 1972/73  
**Texaco Cup:** 1974, 1975

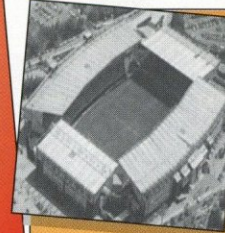
## ? QUICK QUIZ ?

1. What is the nickname of Wycombe Wanderers?
2. How long was Ron Atkinson's spell as coach of Atlético Madrid?
3. Who were the finalists in last season's Scottish Cup Final?
4. How much did Chelsea pay Sheffield Wednesday for Dan Petrescu?
5. In which year did Third Division QPR win the League Cup?
6. How is Osvaldo Giroldo Junior better known?

## IN WHICH YEAR DID...?

Derby County win the League, West Ham win FA Cup, Rangers win the Scottish League, Celtic win both Scottish Cup and Scottish League Cup, Leeds Utd lose the European Cup final to Bayern Munich, Malcolm MacDonald score five goals for England and the Scottish League increase in size to three Divisions for a second time in it's history?

**ALL THESE EVENTS TOOK PLACE IN THE SAME YEAR**

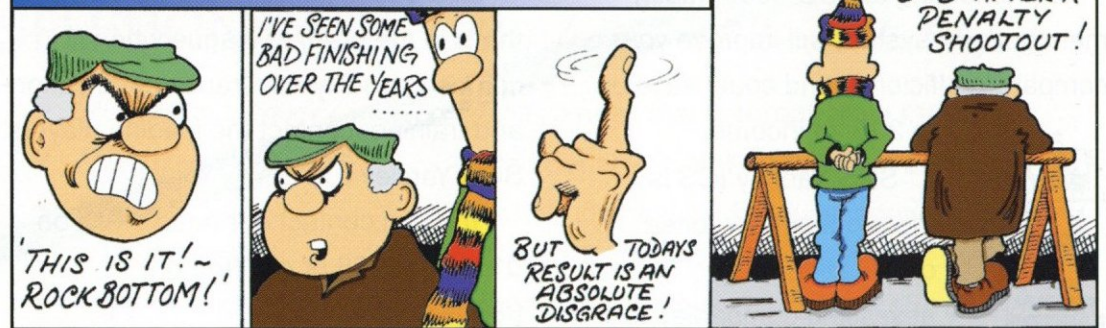


## SPOT THE GROUND

Originally a cycle and athletics track, the club were aided in the development of the ground by the Northampton Brewery Company. Artificial irrigation was used in the 1930's to suit the club's style of play. Two stands were closed after fire safety checks in 1985. A stand is named after a former captain who was the first to win 100 caps for England.

## 'Norm & Ec'

by Norman Hood



Answers

QUICK QUIZ: 1. The Chatterbox; 2. 4 months; 3. Rangers and Hearts; 4. £2.5million; 5. 1967; 6. Juninho.  
 WHO'S TROPHY CABINET: Newcastle United  
 TRUE OR FALSE: 1. True, then beat the Germans 6-3; 2. False, it was Hungary; 3. True; 4. False; 5. True; 6. Juninho.  
 IN WHICH YEAR: 1975.  
 SPOT THE GROUND: Molineux, Wolverhampton Wanderers.



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**A VALUED SPONSOR OF WIMBLEDON FOOTBALL CLUB**

# WIMBLEDON Ladies

Wimbledon Ladies travelled to face Ipswich Town as League leaders after three straight wins, but knowing Ipswich would provide a stern test. At a windy and bumpy Crane Sports ground, Wimbledon went ahead in the 17th minute when a speculative Plummer long-shot bounced up off the pitch and over the shoulder of the surprised Ipswich keeper. In the closing minutes of the half Ipswich realised that long through balls were the key to unlocking the visiting defence, and went close several times. Sarah Stanbury came on at half-time, and within 13 seconds had added to Wimbledon's lead when the keeper dived over a throughball, allowing her a simple tap in. In a flowing move involving Paglia, Stanbury and Hinder, Stanbury shot home but was off-side, and Williams hit a post, but it was mainly Ipswich now, and the home side reduced the arrears in the 69th minute when a free-kick was headed onto the bar and the rebound lashed home past the defenders on the line. For a while Wimbledon looked quite comfortable but Ipswich mounted a hectic grandstand finale, their best chance coming when a corner from the left was hacked over her own bar in injury time by Searle, but Wimbledon held out. After the game, Mal Searle announced her retirement.

Brighton and Hove Albion, the surprise team of the Division lying second in the table, were expected to provide strong opposition at Carshalton, but on the day Wimbledon's attackers all clicked and the Dons ran out as rather flattering 7-0 winners. Wimbledon went ahead in the 6th minute when Whitlock intercepted a poor back-pass to slot home, and five minutes later the same player crossed for Paglia to head number two. Paglia, then returned the compliment with a run down the line and cross for Whitlock to head home the third in the 24th minute, and nine minutes later, Hinder's corner bounced in at the near post. Whitlock had a goal disallowed for off-side before the break, but in the 69th minute completed a hat-trick when she ran through and slotted the ball into the corner. Two minutes later, Stanbury lobbed the keeper after a left-wing cross, and Paglia completed the scoring when she headed O'Callaghan's cross from the left into the right hand corner.

If Wimbledon were understandably elated, they were brought swiftly down to earth at Three Bridges, where they were outrun by a quick and well-drilled home side. Wimbledon's lack of pace and height were well exploited by the powerful home side, who were ahead after only 30 seconds, when a through ball eluded the visiting defence for the centre-forward to shoot home. Wimbledon equalised in the third minute when casual defending allowed Stanbury to cross from the right and Jacobs to poke the ball home at the near post. Wentworth made a good save but then, in the 22nd minute, a corner was only half cleared and the centre-half's punt from 30 yards was too good for Wentworth who could only head it in over her head.

Wimbledon came back strongly and dominated the rest of the half without being able to force an equaliser. In the second-half, Wimbledon started on top, but the longer the game went on, the stronger the home side became. Three Bridges scored again in the 71st minute, when good work down the right set up a tap in for Beer, but Wimbledon reduced the arrears four minutes later when O'Callaghan's cross from the left was stabbed home by Jacobs at the far post. In the 80th minute, Three Bridges clinched victory when their substitute, who had only been on the pitch for a few seconds, thumped in a cross which sailed over Wentworth into the net. In the closing minutes, only good defending prevented the home side adding to the score, the match confirming Three Bridges as title challengers along with Berkhamsted Town and Wimbledon. Wimbledon's next matches are all away, on 27th October against Notts County at Greenwood Meadows FC, on 3rd November against Tottenham Hotspur in the FA Women's Cup at the Tesco Country Club, Theobald Park, Great Cambridge Road, Cheshunt, and on 10th November against Langford at Langford FC.

### SOUTHERN DIVISION (top 8) (up to and including 6th October 1996)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wimbledon	6	5	0	1	22	6	15
Berkhamsted Town	6	4	1	1	14	3	13
Three Bridges	6	4	1	1	17	7	13
Leyton Orient	6	3	1	2	17	14	10
Brighton & H.A.	6	3	0	3	21	17	9
Whitehawk	6	3	0	3	6	7	9
Ipswich Town	6	2	1	3	9	6	7
Langford	6	2	1	3	7	17	7

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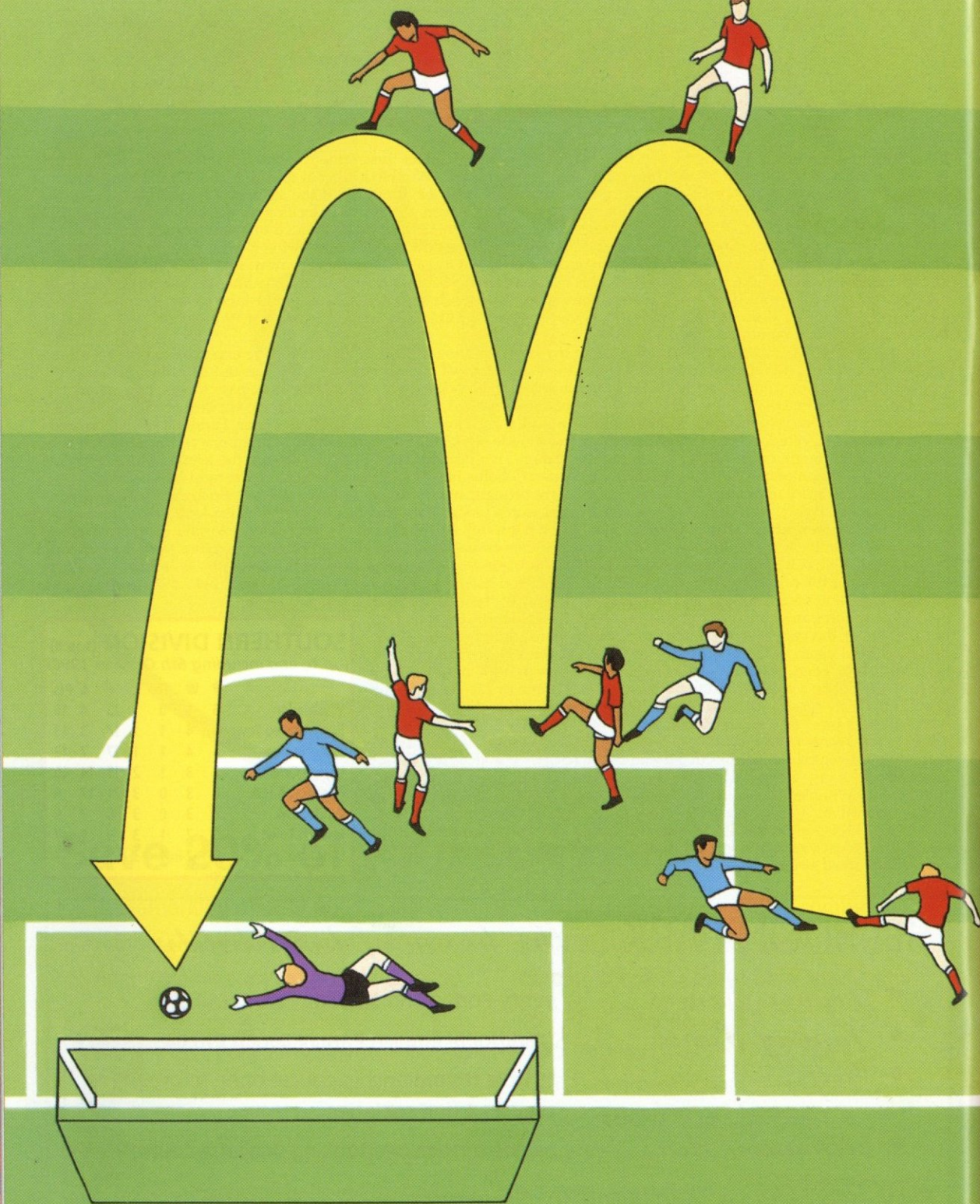
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# The Dons YOUTH SET-UP OVER THE YEARS – 1981-82 saw the Dons Youth set up firmly established

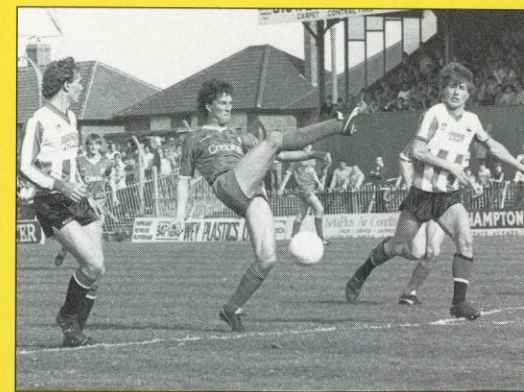
The 1981/82 season was one of contentment, without setting the world on fire the youth team held their own.

Owner Sam Hammam and his board of Directors continued to give their full support to a strong youth set-up. A policy that had certainly paid dividends so far and was to prove to be inspirational in later years.

After just four years in the League and the youth policy starting from scratch in the same season it was certainly a fine achievement that already six players had filtered through to the first team. Namely Mick Belfield, Kevin Gage, Glyn Hodges, Wally Downes, Mark Morris and Paul Fishenden.



Kevin Gage tests the Tranmere goalkeeper Scott Endersby.



The youth set-up at Wimbledon which was to become the envy of most other clubs was well and truly established.

A credible fifth position in the League, an exciting exit from the Southern Junior Floodlit Cup at Griffin Park losing just 1-2 to a very physical Brentford. The F.A. Youth cup started well with a 2-1 win against Maidenhead at Plough Lane, only to be knocked out in the next round by a very talented Spurs side 1-4, again the match was played at Plough Lane.

Left: Paul Fishenden – seen here in action against Brentford.

## The Junior Scene with Peter Prentice Review of the Youth from that years handbook

Once again we find ourselves in the close season with the prospect of the Seniors playing another season in the Fourth Division. I am sure that all of us commiserate with them after their magnificent efforts to avoid relegation.

Looking forward – our Youth Team have once again equipped themselves very well, finishing fifth in the South East Counties League Division Two. Of last years' apprentices, Steve Matthews is spending the summer playing in New Zealand. Brian Gayle is hoping to go to Finland, but at the time of writing is suffering from back trouble. Graeme Wadley and Gavin Mayoss will both stay in this country and join the five new apprentices who start on the 1st July. These lads, and I am sure you will remember some of the names which I prophesied would come through from last year's summary, are Andrew Sayer who scored 26 goals for the Youth Team last season, Michael Tupper another front player who lives at Betchworth, and Sean Priddle, a local lad who is a mid-field player. Added to these are Paul Ellis, a left-winger from Chessington and John Godbold, a central defender from Tooting. This will give us a total of 8 apprentices for next season: the most we have ever taken. Once again, this proves the Club's Youth Policy is being taken seriously at a time when a lot of clubs are looking to this area to cut back on finances.

Looking further to the future we have signed 17 boys as associate schoolboys and the names I mention with a view to apprentices next year could well be John Gannon, Nicky Savage, Paul Jones and Kevin Wedderburn. All these boys are Associate Schoolboys with the Club and we are very hopeful that they and some of their companions will be pushing for contracts.

I would close by wishing Andrew Clement and Douglas Hughes well in their quest for further honours with England Schoolboys as, at the time of writing they have both been called to the initial coaching sessions at Bisham Abbey.

I would also like to thank Dave Bassett, Alan Gillett and all the Directors for their magnificent support throughout the season.

JIMMIE OF SCOTLAND SPONSORS THIS PAGE

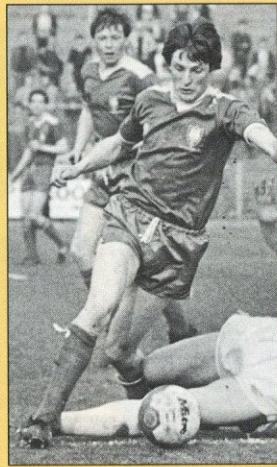


# A-B-C of the DONS

*'Football Historian Leigh Edwards continues his comprehensive catalogue of Wimbledon's 20 League seasons with 'E & F' for Stewart Evans and John Fashanu.'*

## MARK ELLIOTT

Welsh winger Mark Elliott came on as a substitute and scored for Wimbledon in the 1981/82 Group Cup final. Initially with Ton Pentre, he joined Brighton in February 1977 and helped to clinch promotion three months later. Moving to Cardiff City on a free transfer in September 1979, he had a loan spell with AFC Bournemouth before briefly rejoining Ton Pentre. Whilst on trial with Aldershot reserves, he was spotted by Alan Gillett and joined Wimbledon on a non-contract basis in February 1982, netting his sole goal in 11 Third Division games in the 3-0 win at Oxford United in May 1982. He joined Walton & Hersham for a year in June 1982, then spent ten seasons with Tonyrefail in the Welsh League and since October 1989 he has run Church Village Caterers with his wife Sandra in Tonyrefail.



## GARY ELKINS

Former England Youth left-back Gary Elkins was a versatile member of Wimbledon's squad over six seasons. An ex-Fulham apprentice, he signed professional in December 1983 and impressed under Ray Harford alongside future England star Paul Parker. Following a loan spell at Exeter City, he was reunited with Harford at Wimbledon for £20,000 in August 1990 and provided reliable cover for Terry Phelan. Securing a regular first-team place during the 1992/93 campaign, he netted the FA Cup fourth round equaliser at Aston Villa, then helped to beat title-chasing Newcastle United, Blackburn Rovers and Manchester United during the closing weeks of 1993/94. He scored three goals in 110 League outings prior to joining Swindon Town for £100,000 last month.

## JASON EUELL

Exciting young striker Jason Euell earned rave reviews for his Premiership performances last season when manager Joe Kinnear labelled him the 'new Ian Wright'. Training with Wimbledon from the age of 12, he quickly impressed in the youth team and scored over 50 goals in 1994/95 as The Dons were FA Youth Cup semi-finalists. He netted a classic overhead goal on his Premiership debut at home to Southampton in October 1995 and came on as a substitute for the injured Dean Holdsworth to score from a tight angle against Manchester United four months later. Also featuring in last season's FA Cup run and helping to beat Portsmouth in last month's Coca-Cola Cup second round tie, he has regularly been used as a substitute with two goals in ten Premiership outings to date for Wimbledon.

## WAYNE ENTWISTLE

Much-travelled former England Youth striker Wayne Entwistle featured in Wimbledon's 1982/83 Fourth Division title campaign. An ex-Bury apprentice, he signed professional in August 1976 and moved to Sunderland in November 1977. He followed Jimmy Adamson to Leeds United in exchange for John Hawley in October 1979 and gained top-flight experience, then played for Blackpool and Crewe Alexandra before Dave Bassett signed him on a free transfer in July 1982. Scoring three goals in nine Fourth Division outings, he briefly joined Grays Athletic in March 1983, then returned to Bury and starred in their 1984/85 promotion triumph. Subsequently with Carlisle United, Bolton Wanderers, Burnley, Stockport County, Bury again, Wigan Athletic, Altrincham, Hartlepool United and Radcliffe Borough, he now runs his own Farm Fresh Foods business in Bury.

## STEWART EVANS

Giant striker Stewart Evans was a key figure in Wimbledon's meteoric rise from the Fourth Division to First under Dave Bassett. A former Rotherham United apprentice, he had spells with Gainsborough Trinity and Sheffield United before Bassett snapped him up on a free transfer in March 1982. Making his League debut at Exeter City that month, he was leading scorer in 1984/85 and netted 50 goals in 175 League games prior to joining West Brom in August 1986. He moved to Plymouth Argyle in

## FA CUP WINNERS

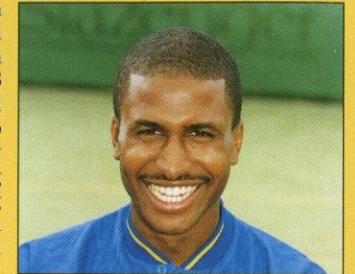
Wimbledon defeated West Brom, Mansfield Town, Newcastle United, Watford and Luton Town en-route to the FA Cup final on 14th May 1988 when Bobby Gould's team faced League Champions Liverpool in front of 98,203 at Wembley: Dave Beasant, Clive Goodyear, Terry Phelan, Vinnie Jones, Eric Young, Andy Thorn, Terry Gibson (John Scales), Alan Cork (Laurie Cunningham), John Fashanu, Lawrie Sanchez, Dennis Wise. Master-coach Don Howe's tactics were the key as Wimbledon won 1-0 with Lawrie Sanchez's glancing header from Dennis Wise's free-kick in the 36th minute to deny Kenny Dalglish's side the 'double'. Wimbledon's skipper Dave Beasant became the first goalkeeper to save an FA Cup final penalty at Wembley when he prevented John Aldridge from equalising in the 61st minute.

March 1987, returning to Rotherham in November 1988 and starring in their 1988/89 Fourth Division title success. After a loan spell at Torquay United, he joined Dario Gradi's Crewe Alexandra in September 1991 and featured in their 1993/94 promotion triumph. Since August 1994 he has played for Denaby United.



## CARLTON FAIRWEATHER

Skilful winger Carlton Fairweather made a significant contribution to Wimbledon's 1985/86 promotion success. Initially with Dulwich Hamlet, he followed John Biddle from Bromley to Tooting & Mitcham in July 1983 and was leading marksman in 1983/84. Dave Bassett paid a bargain £3,000 for him in November 1984 and he scored the winner on his League debut as Wimbledon won 1-0 at Oldham Athletic on New Year's Day 1985. An influential figure as The Dons finished sixth in their 1986/87 First Division debut campaign, he played in the 1988 Charity Shield at Wembley and scored 26 goals in 138 League games prior to briefly joining Carlisle United in July 1993. A three year stint in Hong Kong culminated in his selection for Hong Kong Golden XI against England in May 1996 and he has recently joined US team New York Fever.



## JOHN FASHANU

Strong, uncompromising centre-forward John Fashanu was capped twice by England while at Wimbledon. A Dr. Barnados boy and ex-Cambridge United junior, he followed his elder brother Justin to Norwich City in October 1979 and moved to Lincoln City for £15,000 in September 1983. Sold to Millwall for £55,000 in November 1984, he starred in their 1984/85 promotion success and FA Cup run and Dave Bassett paid a record £125,000 for him in March 1986. Helping to clinch First Division status two months later, 'Fash' was a key figure in Wimbledon's 1988 FA Cup final triumph and top scorer in six successive seasons with 107 goals in 276 League games before joining Aston Villa for £1,350,000 in August 1994. A knee injury ended his playing career a year later and he is now a successful TV presenter.

## PETER FEAR

Versatile ex-England U-21 midfielder Peter Fear remains a valuable member of Joe Kinnear's squad. Another product of Wimbledon's excellent youth policy, he came on as substitute for his Premier League debut as The Dons won 1-0 at Arsenal in February 1993, their first-ever League victory at Highbury. He secured a regular first-team place during the 1993/94 season when his surging runs created several goals and he featured prominently as Wimbledon defeated title-chasing Newcastle United, Blackburn Rovers and Manchester United in quick succession to finish sixth in the Premiership. Displaced by increased midfield competition during 1994/95, he has now scored twice in 45 Premiership outings and helped to beat Portsmouth in last month's Coca-Cola Cup second round tie.

  
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Youngsters from the Family Area looking for autographs after the two teams' warm-up session prior to the Sheffield Wednesday match. The Family Area is a members only section, so to get this close to the players - join the Crazy Gang.

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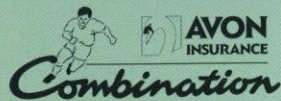


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LAURENCE LOWNE . . . LOYAL DONS SUPPORTER SINCE 1968





**Avon Insurance Combination  
Division One**  
(up to and including 9.10.96)

	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ipswich Town	4	3	1	0	11	2	10
Tottenham H.	3	3	0	0	11	3	9
Portsmouth	4	3	0	1	7	3	9
Chelsea	4	2	2	0	7	4	8
Arsenal	3	2	1	0	7	1	7
Wimbledon	3	2	1	0	9	5	7
Millwall	4	2	0	2	11	8	6
QPR	4	2	0	2	8	6	6
Swindon Town	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
Luton Town	4	2	0	2	5	4	6
Cardiff City	4	1	3	0	5	4	6
Watford	4	2	0	2	7	12	6
Bristol City	4	1	1	2	8	7	4
Swansea City	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Oxford Utd	4	1	1	2	8	9	4
West Ham Utd	3	0	3	0	1	1	3
Norwich City	4	0	3	1	5	6	3
AFC Bournemouth	3	1	0	2	4	7	3
Brighton & H.A.	4	0	2	2	9	12	2
Southampton	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Crystal Palace	4	0	1	3	1	10	1
Bristol Rovers	4	0	1	3	2	13	1
Charlton Athletic	3	0	0	3	3	13	0

**League Cup Group 2**

	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wimbledon	3	2	1	0	8	2	7
Bournemouth	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Southampton	3	1	1	1	3	2	4
Crystal Palace	3	1	1	1	6	6	4
Portsmouth	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Brighton	3	0	1	2	3	9	1

**SEASON 1996-97**

All matches kick-off at 2.00pm unless stated otherwise.

Thur 5 Sep Luton Town	2-1
Wed 11 Sep Brighton and Hove A (L.C.)	6-1
Wed 18 Sep Oxford United	3-3
Tue 24 Sep Crystal Palace	4-1
Wed 2 Oct Southampton (L.C.)	1-0
Wed 16 Oct Portsmouth (L.C.)	1-1
Mon 21 Oct Tottenham Hotspur 7.30pm	A
Wed 30 Oct Swansea City	H
Wed 6 Nov Bristol Rovers 7.30pm	A
Wed 13 Nov Cardiff City	H
Wed 27 Nov Ipswich Town 7.15pm	A
Tue 3 Dec Crystal Palace (L.C.)	A
Wed 11 Dec Brighton & Hove A	H
Thur 19 Dec Arsenal	A
Mon 23 Dec Chelsea	H
Wed 8 Jan A.F.C. Bournemouth	H
Wed 15 Jan Southampton 7.30pm	A
Wed 29 Jan Watford	H
Wed 5 Feb Norwich City 7.30pm	A
Wed 19 Feb A.F.C. Bournemouth (L.C.)	H
Tue 25 Feb Millwall	A
Tue 4 Mar West Ham United	H
Mon 17 Mar Queens Park Rangers	A
Wed 9 Apr Portsmouth	H
Wed 16 Apr Bristol City 7.30pm	A
Wed 23 Apr Swindon Town	H
Wed 30 Apr Charlton Athletic	H

# Reserves and Youth

**AVON INSURANCE  
COMBINATION  
LEAGUE CUP**

Wednesday 2nd October, 1996

**WIMBLEDON 1  
SOUTHAMPTON 0**

Team: Heald, O'Connor, Laidlaw, Pearce, Reeves, Fitzgerald, Newhouse, Castledine, Payne, Ewell, Harford.  
Subs: Cort for Payne, Hawkins for O'Connor, Renner (not used). Goalscorer: Castledine

The Reserves fielded a reasonably experienced team in our League Cup game against Southampton away. This was a very quick and lively encounter as befits two Premier League sides. A Stewart Castledine goal from a rebounding Andy Pearce thunderbolt of a free-kick finally separated the two sides. The game played at Southampton's training ground pulled out a good crowd who would have appreciated the quality on show from both sides. In the end we were fortunate to come away with the win after a last minute attack finished with a shot deflecting off Scott Fitzgerald via the post straight into Paul Heald's hands. This win puts us in the driving seat for qualification from Group 2 into the semi-finals of the League Cup - hopefully these are not the proverbial 'famous last words'.

Just a short message of good luck to Scott Fitzgerald and Grant Payne who have just started loan spells with Millwall and Woking respectively.

Laurie Sanchez

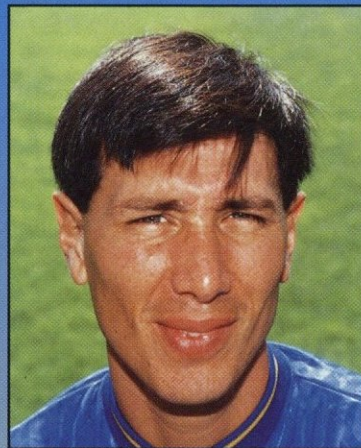
**JUNIORS**

**SOUTH EAST COUNTIES  
Saturday 5th October 1996**

**COLCHESTER UTD 5  
WIMBLEDON 1**

Team: Searle, Petrovic, Francis, Watkins, Reynolds, Hawkins, Odlum, Gardner, Hinds, Renner, Rotherham. Subs: Lake for Hawkins, Williamson R for Petrovic, Williamson L. n/u.  
Scorer: Watkins.

Wimbledon's youth team suffered their fourth successive defeat at Colchester's



Garrison B Ground. Playing against a stiff breeze, in the first half, Wimbledon started brightly, with a Hinds through ball miskicked by a defender to Renner, who was well tackled on the edge of the area. But it was Colchester who went ahead in the 9th minute when a corner from the left appeared to hit Hawkins and flash past Searle into the net. Reynolds did well to head a cross behind before Colchester went further ahead in the 18th minute, a slick move down the right ending with the ball drilled past Searle from the edge of the area. Six minutes later it was 3-0 as indecision by three Wimbledon defenders on the edge of the area allowed an opportunist strike across Searle into the far corner. Hinds then turned inside two defenders but was tackled at the edge of the six-yard box, then set up Rotherham for a shot past the post. Renner burst through two defenders but his shot was deflected wide, then a long ball out of defence saw a Colchester player lob Searle from 40 yards but Reynolds got back to clear off the line.

In the second-half, a Hawkins quick corner allowed Odlum to cross the ball, but the ball skimmed off Gardner's head and went wide. In the 54th minute, a corner from the right went over Searle's head and was tapped in at the far post, the marking being non-existent. Three minutes later, Hinds found Renner, who played a perfect through ball to Watkins, who clipped the ball past the keeper into the corner of the net to make it 4-1. Hinds had a shot blocked by the keeper's legs, Gardner's cross was headed on by Hinds

for a shot wide, before Reynolds did well to clear a dangerous cross. Colchester then scored again in the 71st minute when a Francis backheader was too weak allowing the Colchester forward a perfect lob into the far corner. A cross from the right was headed over Searle but drifted wide, then Wimbledon dominated the last 15 minutes. Hinds shot just wide, headed Rotherham's cross past the post, and set up Renner for a powerful drive held at the second attempt. Renner then went past a defender but his shot was blocked, Gardner's throw was headed on to Watkins for a shot deflected wide. Rotherham's free kick was backheaded inches wide by Gardner, then another free-kick was deflected just wide. The resulting corner was punched up in the air by the keeper and then headed off the line and behind for another corner, from which Lake's cross set up a scramble in which the ball was again kicked off the line. The defeat left Wimbledon 13th in the 16-team league.

**SOUTH EAST COUNTIES  
Saturday 12th October 1996**

**WIMBLEDON 0  
SOUTHAMPTON 1**

Team: Searle, Vella, Williamson L, Lake, Miller, Hawkins, Odlum, Rotherham, Hinds, Renner, Gardner. Subs: Francis for Williamson L, Watkins for Gardner, Houty n/u.

Despite having most of the play, Wimbledon lacked conviction up front, and it proved costly as Southampton nicked a goal on the break to seal the victory. After a quiet start, Vella did well to clear a dangerous cross, then headed down Rotherham's free-kick at the other end for Miller to play the ball through to Renner, who put the ball home but was offside. Odlum's shot hit Renner, then Rotherham's free-kick was headed to Lake, whose goalbound shot was kicked off the line. Lake then found Hinds for a shot saved, before Searle saved a low shot and another Saints effort drifted wide. Gardner's chip went over before a Southampton cross was headed away by Hawkins only for a Saints shot narrowly wide. Lake then cut inside two defenders but shot wide, then Renner intercepted a back-pass, only to roll the loose ball agonisingly wide of an open goal.

In the second-half, Gardner's looping

header from Rotherham's free-kick was just wide, and Southampton had the ball in the net but Searle had been clattered. Gardner ran through but shot wide, Hawkins made a good clearance, then a Hinds cross shot was turned round the post expertly by the keeper. A Saints free-kick was just wide, then a long Searle free-kick was headed on by Gardner for Hinds to clip the ball over the keeper but inches over the bar. Williamson had a long shot saved and Lake shot past the post before Southampton scored in the 69th minute, the left-winger running into a large gap in the middle of the Wimbledon defence to drill the ball past Searle. Odlum then did well to clear a dangerous cutback, a long ball over the top saw Hinds volley wide, then Searle made a great save at point-blank range from a far-post header. Rotherham curled a free-kick just wide, saw his low shot turned behind, and then his corner was headed on by Francis for Hinds to volley over. Gardner's cross was then plucked out of the air by the Saints keeper, and Wimbledon's last chance was gone.

**IN MEMORIUM**

**R W 'BILL' RUSH BEM  
(1920-1996)**

R W 'Bill' Rush BEM who died on Wednesday 9th October was a pillar of strength and a leading light in the Refereeing World particularly in the County of Essex. But in addition to this he had been closely associated with the South East Counties League and Southern Junior Floodlit Cup Competitions from inception in the mid-fifties. Early on he was universally regarded as the League's leading referee and when he retired from active refereeing in 1968 he took over the reigns of Referees' Secretary which office he held for 18 years. From 1976 through to 1989 he was elected Vice-Chairman and in 1989 until his passing he was President of the League and Cup Competitions.

Up until his recent illness Bill would be seen every Saturday morning at one of the South East Counties League matches and his dedication and service to Youth football at professional level was legend.

Bill will be sorely missed by his many friends in the football world.

He leaves Joan, his widow and sons Anthony and Terence.

October 1996

**South East Counties  
League Division Two  
(up to and including 12.10.96)**

	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Crystal Palace	8	5	3	0	17	5	13
Luton Town	8	4	2	2	19	8	10
Swindon Town	8	4	2	2	20	11	10
Southampton	8	5	0	3	13	7	10
Oxford United	8	4	2	2	16	11	10
AFC Bournemouth	8	4	2	2	14	13	10
Wycombe Wndrs	8	4	1	3	12	11	9
Brighton & H.A.	8	4	1	3	10	11	9
Tottenham H.	8	3	2	3	7	6	8
Colchester Utd	8	3	2	3	13	13	8
Bristol City	8	1	4	3	8	10	6
Brentford	8	2	2	4	9	12	6
Bristol Rovers	8	3	0	5	13	22	6
Wimbledon	8	2	1	5	9	13	5
Reading	8	2	1	5	11	25	5
Barnet	8	1	1	6	7	20	3

**SOUTH EAST  
COUNTIES**

**LEAGUE DIVISION 2  
SEASON 1996-97**

Home venue:

Richardson Evans Memorial Ground.  
Kick-off 11.00am unless stated otherwise.

Sat 17 Aug AFC Bournemouth	0-1
Sat 24 Aug Brighton & Hove Albion 3-1	
Tue 27 Aug Colchester Utd (S.J.F.C.P.) 3-1 (Plough Lane) 7.00pm	
Sat 31 Aug Brentford	2-0
Sat 7 Sep Bristol City	1-1
Sat 14 Sep Gillingham (L.C. 1)	3-1
Sat 21 Sep Bristol Rovers	1-2
Mon 23 Sep Charlton Athletic (S.J.F.C.1) (The Valley) 7.00pm	1-3
Sat 28 Sep Reading	1-2
Sat 5 Oct Colchester United	1-5
Sat 12 Oct Southampton	0-1
Sat 19 Oct West Ham United (L.C.2) 10.30am	H
Sat Oct 26 Luton Town	A
Sat 2 Nov Tottenham Hotspur	A
Sat 9 Nov Oxford United	A
Sat 16 Nov Swindon Town	H
Sat 23 Nov League Cup 3rd Round	
Sat 30 Nov Crystal Palace	H
Sat 7 Dec Wycombe Wanderers	
Sat 14 Dec Barnet	H
Sat 21 Dec AFC Bournemouth	H
Sat 4 Jan Barnet	A
Sat 11 Jan Brentford	A
Sat 18 Jan Bristol City	A
Sat 25 Jan Bristol Rovers	H
Sat 1 Feb Brighton and Hove Albion A	
Sat 8 Feb Reading	A
Sat 15 Feb Colchester United	H
Sat 22 Feb Southampton	A
Sat 1 Mar Luton Town	H
Sat 8 Mar Tottenham Hotspur	H
Sat 15 Mar Swindon Town	A
Sat 22 Mar Oxford United	H
Sat 5 Apr Crystal Palace	A
Sat 12 Apr Wycombe Wanderers	H





The Editor  
Wimbledon Football Club  
Selhurst Park  
London SE25 6PY

# From the Postbag

To: The Editor

I am a Wimbledon fan and travel regularly from Blackpool to watch Wimbledon. My son Gareth and I are Crazy Gang members. I am writing to enquire if any Wimbledon fans have an old style Wimbledon shirt for sale. The one I want is the blue shirt with the two yellow rings that went under the arms. The shirt was made by Admiral and was used in the 1992-93 season. I want a large or extra large and will pay a fair price for one in reasonable condition.

Shaun Whiteside  
Blackpool, Lancs.

Dear Sirs,  
As I was a member of the Crazy Gang throughout last season and I am a member this season (no. 040856) am I not entitled to a free copy of the 1996/97 Official Yearbook?

I would be grateful if you would let me know.

Yours faithfully  
Keith Parry  
Cheam Surrey.

ED. You are quite right Keith, they will be posted out to all Crazy Gang members in the next 10 days or so.

Dear Reg

To my daughter, Natalie's disappointment, the programme grémlins left her name out of the Crazy Gang birthday listings. She is Crazy Gangster 042245 and will become a teenager on 15th October.

We are still convinced that her arrival, 10 weeks prematurely, was due to the fact that 3rd Division Wimbledon beat their First Division aristocrats Nottingham Forest, with goals from Steve Galliers and Glyn Hodges in an exciting Milk Cup game on 4th October 1983. The excitement was too much and Natalie has been a Don's fan ever since!

Back in those days I was Chairman of the Supporters' Club and Natalie had her first mention in the programme's 'Lane Lines' on 1st November 1983.

In response to the programme letter about a video of the Leeds v Wimbledon FA Cup game in 1975. Yes, I would be interested! I became a Dons' fan as a result of that game. I've been hopelessly hooked since. Is there any news of a 1995/96 season's video as I'd love one of those too. Can I anticipate getting one in my Christmas stocking?

Finally, I seem to have money burning a hole in my pocket but there's so little to spend it on in the way of Lotto items in the club shop. I have 'the shirt'. Other clubs I have visited have had plenty of kit manufacturer's items for months - sweatshirts, run out tops, coats etc. Should I save my money in eager anticipation of new stock or shall I spend it on something else? Wimbledon seem to be missing out!

With all good wishes

Yours sincerely,

Greg Parker, Sutton, Surrey

ED. Two new catalogues are due out any day now and the Crazy Gang fashion collection will be a real must for anyone with money in their pockets.

P.S. Belated Happy Birthday Natalie.

Dear Sir,

Re: Wimbledon Football Club Limited  
Football in the Community

I am writing to thank and congratulate you personally on this excellent scheme run by your organisation. My two grandchildren Simon and Daniel Taylor (aged 9 and 7 respectively) attended and really enjoyed the course at Cottenham Park, Raynes Park during the Summer holidays. The enthusiasm, dedication and skill of your coaching staff can only be admired, together with your administrator Lynette the most helpful and efficient young lady, this is a package of which you must be very proud.

The bonus for me was the four complimentary tickets for The Dons v Sheffield Wednesday last Saturday. My two grandchildren had never been to a professional football match, nor had their father Brian. This was an experience they and I will treasure for ever. We thoroughly enjoyed the family atmosphere and the genuine camaraderie with your supporters. Their introduction to professional football could not have been finer, the game had everything, open play, team play, individual skills, excitement, suspense and six goals.

These young lads are Liverpool and Newcastle fans, for why I have no idea, but by heavens, did they cheer when the 'Dons' scored and when Neil Sullivan saved that penalty. By the final whistle they were elated and flush with excitement.

Unfortunately (but fortunate for my pocket) they live at Waterlooville, near Portsmouth, not too far away, but far enough that we can only see them once in a while. They are both disappointed that their County Council's half-term for schools is a week later than ours, which disqualifies them from your half-term coaching courses. Their keenness is such, that they wanted to bunk off school for a week, which of course is out of the question. No doubt when they are with us for the weekends they can attend the 'turn up and play' sessions and look forward to future courses at the end of term.

I have enclosed a S.A.E. which I hope you would be kind enough to pass on to your administration people, for application forms to join the Crazy Gang and the Junior Crazy Gang as I am informed that members are given preference when purchasing tickets for future games. Also I would be grateful for a catalogue of your shop merchandise.

May I conclude by congratulating your team, manager and not to forget yourself, for winning six consecutive games, no mean feat with the class of teams in today's Premiership League. May the fairy story that is Wimbledon F.C. continue in Europe next year. Once again thank you for this wonderful experience.

Yours sincerely

Richard T. Cutbill, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey

Dear Sirs,

Enclosed, a small bit of history.

P. Davies  
Chairman, Royal British Legion,  
Wimbledon Branch  
Grasmere Avenue, Merton Park

The following is a cutting from  
'South Londoner', September  
2nd 1970.

## 500 looking for promotion

**FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS  
are ten a penny nowadays...  
but supporters club vice-  
presidents are not so  
common.**

So if you fancy moving up a rung in the rattle and scarf world, Wimbledon FC is the club for you.

Down at Plough Lane Southern Leaguers Wimbledon are looking for five hundred supporters willing to become vice presidents of the club.

It is part of a novel fund raising scheme thought up by supporters club secretary Ken Chaplin.

He said: "We are looking for about five hundred fans with enough of the club at heart to make a donation of £2. In return they will be entitled to call themselves vice-presidents."

"We need £1,000 quickly to help the club and to improve our own facilities so that we can maybe entertain visiting supporters better."

"We must warn supporters that the title carries no particular privileges it is just a way of helping us raise money quickly for the club."

**STEPHEN RIDER**





# WIMBLEDON

Colours: All Blue

1	Neil SULLIVAN	
2	Kenny CUNNINGHAM	
3	Alan KIMBLE	
4	Vinnie JONES	
5	Dean BLACKWELL	
6	Ben THATCHER	
7	Oyvind LEONHARDSEN	
8	Robbie EARLE	
9	Efan EKOKU	
10	Dean HOLDSWORTH	
11	Marcus GAYLE	
12	Chris PERRY	
13	Paul HEALD	
14	Jon GOODMAN	
17	Brian McALLISTER	
18	Neal ARDLEY	
20	Mick HARMFORD	
21	Duncan JUPP	
22	Andy CLARKE	
23	Jason EUELL	
24	Peter FEAR	

# LUTON TOWN

Colours: All Yellow

■	Ian FEUER	
■	Julian JAMES	
■	Mitchell THOMAS	
■	Gary WADDOCK	
■	Steve DAVIS	
■	Marvin JOHNSON	
■	Ceri HUGHES	1
■	Graham ALEXANDER	
■	Tony THORPE	
■	Andrew FOTIADIS	
■	Bontcho GUENTCHEV	
■	Paul SHOWLER	
■	Kelvin DAVIS	
■	Paul McLAREN	
■	Stuart DOUGLAS	
■	David OLDFIELD	
■	Aaron SKELTON	
■	Des LINTON	
■	Sean EVERS	
■	Kim GRANT	



REFEREE:  
**MICK PIERCE**  
(Portsmouth)

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