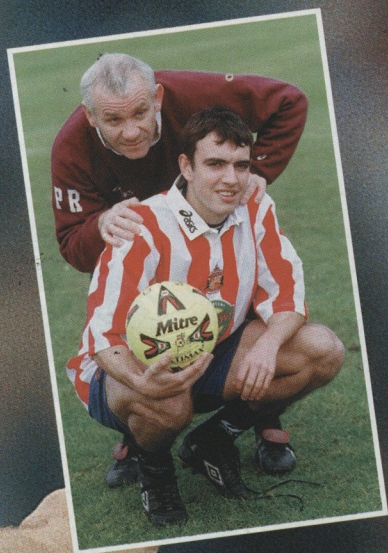


The 1998 Nationwide League Programme of the Year.

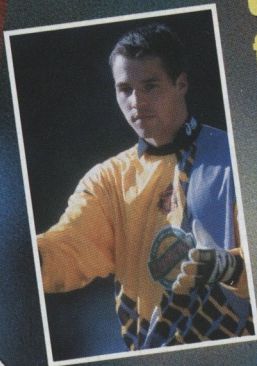


Red & White Review

Official Match Magazine £1.70



Inside...
Gavin signs for Reidy
Plus Thomas Sorensen Poster



Tuesday 1st December 1998 ♦ Worthington Cup Round Five

Sunderland v Luton Town

At the Sunderland Stadium of Light ♦ Kick-off: 7.45pm

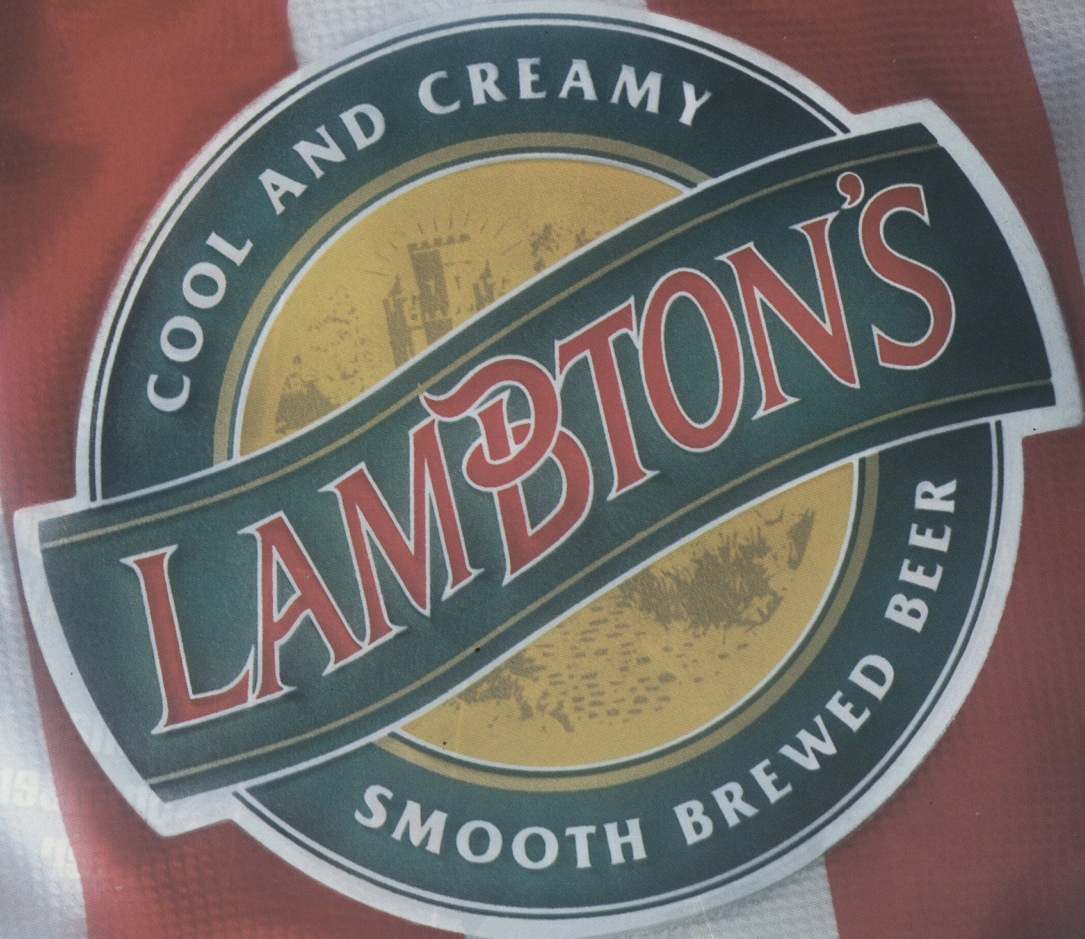
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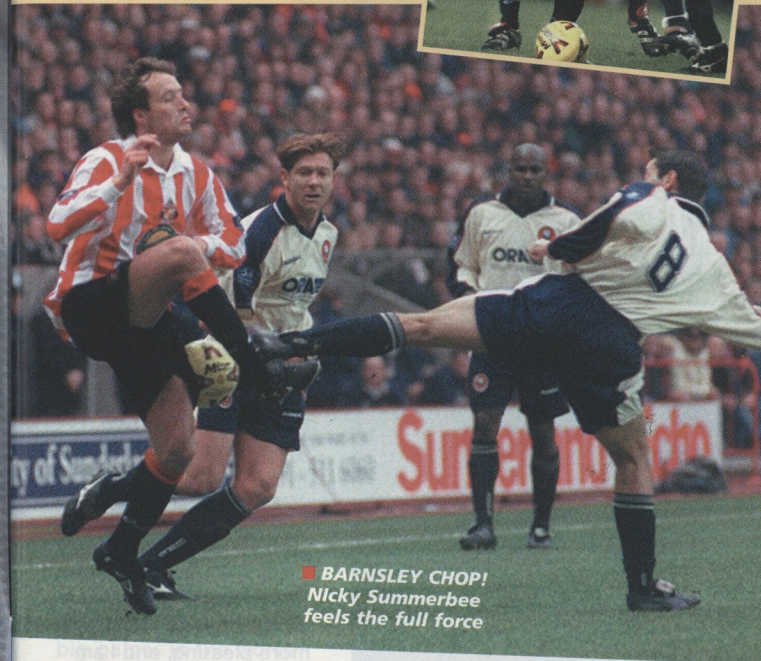


Record after all!

Disappointment reigned after Barnsley ended our unbeaten record in our last home game. However contrary to what many people believed on the day, the Lads have in fact broken the club's record for an unbeaten league run.

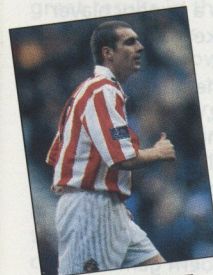
Unbeaten in our opening eighteen league games we had equalled the previous club record set in our championship season of 1995-96. However as we won our last league game of last season (*Having lost the previous one*) we have in fact now set a record of nineteen consecutive league games without defeat as Play Off matches do not count as League games!

Given that last season Peter Reid's side also achieved a seventeen game unbeaten run you have to take your hat off to the levels of consistency achieved since Peter Reid took over.



■ BARNSELY CHOP!
Nicky Summerbee
feels the full force

Inside your award winning Red 'n' White Review



Coverpic: Andy Melville

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**PLUS MUCH, MUCH MORE IN THE 1998 CMA
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE PROGRAMME OF THE YEAR!**

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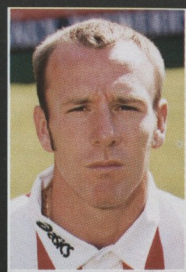
CLUB HONOURS

'OLD' FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONS:
1892, 1893, 1895, 1902, 1913, 1936
'NEW' FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONS: 1996
'OLD' DIVISION 2 CHAMPIONS: 1976
'OLD' DIVISION 3 CHAMPIONS: 1988
FA CUP WINNERS: 1937, 1973
'OLD' FOOTBALL LEAGUE RUNNERS-UP:
1894, 1898, 1901, 1923, 1935
'OLD' DIVISION 2 RUNNERS-UP:
1964, 1980
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On the Ball

With Captain
Kevin Ball



What a response to our first defeat!

THE fantastic win over Sheffield United came as no surprise to me after the disappointment of losing our unbeaten start to the season in the previous game.

I just thought the way the players were through the week they would be up for the game at Bramall Lane. They were bitterly disappointed the way it went against Barnsley, though we had enough chances to win it.

When you score two goals at home you should win, but we were all disappointed with the individual mistakes which you can't legislate for on the day.

But I thought we were superb the way we bounced back - we were top class and the two goals from Michael Bridges were excellent. I was just delighted the way everybody went about it.

We brought a new player into the club last week, which was even more pleasing, and I am sure Gavin McCann is going to be an asset to us. He's a hungry player and I like hungry players.

It's the quality I look for first, the desire to do well, and I'm sure our fans will be pleasantly surprised when they see him. He's a box-to-box player which is vital in the modern game.

Gavin will give us extra competition for places in the squad which already has a lot of strength in depth - and we are still on the look-out for quality players if they become available.

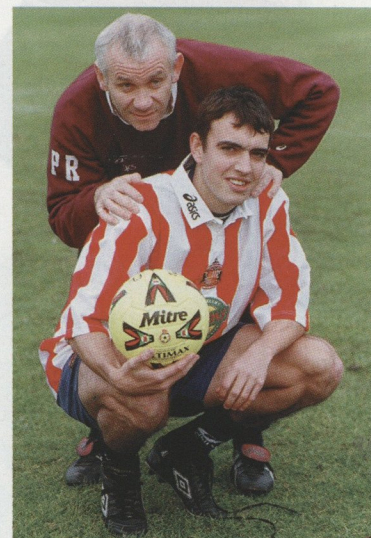
Tonight we turn our attentions to the Worthington Cup again with a place in the two-leg semi-final at stake. This is the first ever quarter-final of a cup competition at the Stadium of Light and we are all looking forward to a big crowd and a great atmosphere.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Luton Town, especially manager Lennie Lawrence and one of our former players, Phil Gray. Lennie is a great manager who ran the Great North Run with me.

Lennie is a smashing lad and knows what big games in the North East are all about. His side has had some great results in the competition this season and I know from experience that Lennie's teams are hard to play against.

We have a home tie and you can't ask for any more than that at this stage of the competition. We have

"It's the quality I look for first, the desire to do well, and I'm sure our fans will be pleasantly surprised when they see him."



to go out and play to our strengths, then it's in the lap of the gods.

Everybody at the club is delighted to have Alex Rae back. He starts afresh and he has looked sharp in training. He has just to get on playing his football and I am sure with the help of everybody here, especially the supporters who have been fantastic, there won't be any problem.

Mill
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It was of course disappointing to lose our record as the last unbeaten team in the country in our last home game. However despite the result the Gaffer and Sacko were upbeat in the dressing room afterwards. They pointed out to us that the run we'd been on was an excellent response to last season's events and the task that faced us after the Barnsley result was to go and put together a similar run to build on our encouraging start.

The reaction of the fans was excellent too. It was clear that you recognised the lads had done well to put such a run together and that we'd had a right good go at extending it against Barnsley only for it to prove to be not quite our day.

Let's face it the match was a very eventful encounter albeit one that concluded with a disappointing result. In the early stages of the game I felt that we'd made a good start and would go on to win.

Even when Barnsley took the lead through Ashley Ward after half an hour I felt that we would get back into the game and go on to win. A few minutes later though when they had the chance to double their lead with a penalty I wondered if it was going to be one of those afternoons but when the spot kick was missed I was confident things would go our way.

The incident which saw Ashley Ward sent off and various players involved probably gave Barnsley more resolve. Ten men often manage to grind out a result and we've done it ourselves so we knew that beating a depleted side wouldn't be a foregone conclusion. To try and make our greater

numbers count we tried to stretch them by playing the ball around and making them have to work hard to close people down.

We deserved to equalise before half time when we applied a lot of pressure with Mel hitting the post and several goal line clearances saving Barnsley.

We were keen to get at them in the second half but going a further goal behind within a minute made our task much more difficult although we didn't think it was beyond us.

Scotty brought us back into it with a well taken penalty after Deech was hauled down and when Quinny equalised with eighteen minutes left with a tremendous header I expected us to go on and win the game.

Barnsley's matchwinning penalty was a big disappointment especially for me as I was involved in it. I'd tracked back to cover and was watching the ball not the player when the penalty was given. I thought it was a harsh decision but I haven't seen a video of it to be sure.

What really bemused us was the almost slow motion way in which it was awarded. When the referee made his decision at first one or two people wondered if he was signalling for offside or some other infringement but unfortunately for us he was pointing to the spot again. Whether it was a penalty or not I'm not going to criticise the referee. Match officials have a hard enough job as it is and have to make decisions on the spot. Having different viewpoints is part and parcel of the game but it is always the referee's opinion that counts.

I'm writing this prior to our weekend match at Sheffield

United which I'll talk about in my column on Saturday but regardless of what happened at Bramall Lane tonight we must focus on making progress in the Worthington Cup.

The backing we got against Barnsley was superb and with a place in the semi final at stake I want to urge you all to get right behind us again tonight. I've always said that your support is vital and take it from me it is very much appreciated by the playing and coaching staff.

With tonight's fixture being one of four home games in a fortnight I know it will be hard on the pockets of people especially with Christmas coming up. Hopefully though you'll manage to be here to roar us on.

Making a welcome return to Wearside tonight will be Phil Gray who played a major part of our 1995-96 Championship success. I'm sure Phil will enjoy playing at The Stadium of Light for the first time and will have his eyes opened by the quality of the stadium.

The quality of the Stadium of Light has been further recognised by it being named as the only current non Premiership ground to be ranked as an 'A' class stadium in the country's attempts to bring the 2006 World Cup to England.

It's a great opportunity for Luton or ourselves to make it to the semi final. Luton have already proved that they are a good side by progressing this far and they'll provide a difficult obstacle.

This is the first really big cup tie we've had at The Stadium of Light - let's make it one to remember!

Enjoy the game,

KEVIN BALL

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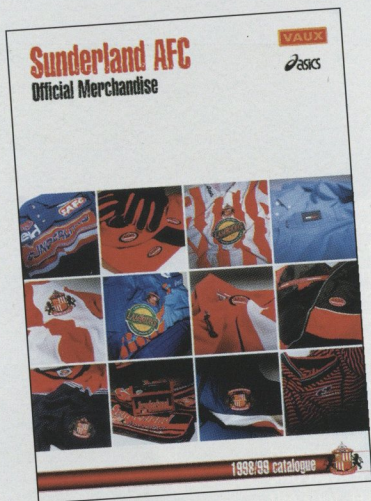
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LUTON TOWN manager Lennie Lawrence reckons there is a simple formula to the outcome of tonight's Worthington Cup quarter-final at the Stadium of Light, the only tie involving clubs from outside the Premiership.

The Hatters have dumped three First Division clubs in Oxford United, Ipswich Town and Barnsley as well as Premiership outfit Coventry City to reach the last eight and if his side plays to its full potential, then Peter Reid's record-breakers could be the next casualties.

"It's simple really," said the Luton boss when asked of the size

LENNIE LAWRENCE - Relishing tonight's challenge



of the task ahead. "We have got to hope Sunderland are below par for some reason and we have got to be absolutely at our best.

"Now if those two things occur, we have a chance. If they don't we lose, but it's all about what happens on the night and I'm all in favour of settling the tie tonight.

"It makes more sense than having replays. I would rather have been at home and ask my

"We have got to hope Sunderland are below par for some reason and we have got to be absolutely at our best."

LENNIE'S GIANT KILLING FORMULA

directors and I know they would prefer replays but from a football point of view, I go along with the current situation."

Lennie is no stranger to the North East, a spell as manager at Middlesbrough giving him a perfect insight to the passion of supporters in the area - not to mention the weather on a typical winter evening.

"I've been to Roker Park many times, but not to the Stadium of Light so we are all looking forward to tonight's game," said Lennie. "I know all about the North East and it's nice to be involved at this stage of the competition and we are the only teams in the Nationwide League left.

"Sunderland are clear favourites but we have been the underdogs in probably every game we have played and have come through the hard way. Who knows just how much the Barnsley result will have affected them but obviously they will want to bounce back in the next home game, which is us."

Promotion remains the priority of the Kenilworth Road club but with clubs of the pedigree of Stoke City and Manchester City, not to mention money-bags Fulham, to contend with the task is enormous.

"A top two spot is not beyond us but Stoke and Fulham at the moment look as though they are running away with it," said Lawrence. "You don't normally in Division Two have clubs of the size of Manchester City, or indeed Stoke for that matter, but

never teams with the financial clout of Fulham.

"So at the end of the day we are facing things in this league this year that will have never had before. With all due respect to Sunderland when they were in this division ten years ago, they did not have the spending power of Fulham.

"We've got a lot of good young players, you have to at a club like this and we've also got some excellent senior professionals, but we have a massive percentage who have come through the ranks.

"There's good North East connections tonight in Steve Davis playing against his home town club, Phil Gray (below) is a former player and young Alan White was at Middlesbrough." ■



■ GAVIN McCANN - Our new £500,000 capture from Everton



McCann joins the clan!

THE signing of Everton's highly-rated Gavin McCann will intensify places in an already competitive Sunderland midfield.

Manager Peter Reid has been on the trail of the 20-year-old all season and when alerted Everton boss Walter Smith was under pressure to reduce an over-loaded squad, pounced with a £500,000 fee.

The youngster had been unable to force his way into the new manager's plans since the arrival at Goodison Park of French midfielder Olivier Dacourt and Scotland international John Collins.

The Blackpool-born McCann has agreed a three-and-a-half-year deal and but for a hairline fracture of his leg last season, would undoubtedly

have made more than five first team starts for his only club.

He was held in high esteem by the Everton coaching staff but quickly followed Duncan Ferguson out of the exit door because of the financial position at Goodison Park.

His arrival at the Stadium of Light gives Peter Reid further options now that record signing Lee Clark is back in action after recovering from a broken leg and Alex Rae has returned to the club determined to re-launch his career after fighting back from personal problems.

"I am delighted to get Gavin," said Peter Reid. "He is someone who I have admired for some time and he is a midfielder who can do a bit of everything.

"The lad is a good tackler and can also pass the ball. There were a few clubs after his signature so we are pleased he has come here." ■

HAD Thomas Sorensen not saved Ibrahima Bakayoko's penalty in the sudden death Worthington Cup shoot-out, teenager Michael Proctor could have emerged as an unlikely hero.

The 18-year-old striker, a surprise debutant substitute in the fourth round tie at Everton, was next in line from the spot had the excitement continued.

"Darren Williams was keen to have a go but I told him I was pretty confident and he told me to have a go," said the former Monkwearmouth Schoolboy.

"I've scored a couple of penalties for the Youth Team this season, but Thomas made a great save so I was not needed. There was a bit of pressure building up but Martin Scott told me just to remain confident and I would score."

Just to be involved in such a famous victory was enough for the youngster to savour on his first taste of the big time and what his

PENALTY POSER FOR PROCTOR

appetite for the future. Michael earned his unexpected call-up on the strength of two goals in a 5-1 win over Durham City and injury doubts in attack for the double stint at Everton and Port Vale.

"I did well on the Monday night and the next morning the gaffer told me I was travelling," he said. "I was over the moon as it was the first time I had been involved with the senior squad.

"I just expected to go for the experience and while he could name five substitutes for the cup game, I expected Sam Aiston to be ahead of me.

"Then when Michael Bridges twisted his knee, John Cook shouted to me when I thought it would be Neil Wainwright. The gaffer told me just to go out and enjoy it but to get an extra half-hour because of extra time, was unbelievable.

"Even though I was not involved at Port Vale, the whole week was brilliant. It makes you hungry for more once you have had the taste of it and you want to be involved again.

BEAVERS' NEAR MISS

PAUL BEAVERS was left to reflect on what might have been after twice coming close to making the vital breakthrough to a first team call-up.

The 20-year-old striker was only too pleased to answer Peter Reid's SOS call on the eve of the home game against Grimsby Town, when the manager faced the prospect of being without his entire strike force of Kevin Phillips, Niall Quinn, Danny Dichio and Michael Bridges.

But Quinn and Bridges got off their sick beds to play their part in another victory and quickly bring the prolific goalscorer at youth level over the last three seasons down to earth with a mighty bump.

Paul's dad Ken, however, was not as down-hearted to see his son miss out on a possible



"I just want the chance to get out there and show people what I am made of, I scored over 100 goals in three seasons for the youths and reserves, but now need experience."

debut after travelling almost half the globe.

"My dad has followed my career since I was nine-years-old," said Paul. "He is working in Singapore and I phoned him as soon as I could after being placed on stand by for the Grimsby game.

"They are seven hours ahead of us and he had already gone to bed as he was due to catch an early flight home on Saturday morning. It takes 14 hours so he would not have arrived back in time for the game.

"Unfortunately for me it didn't happen but in a way my dad was pleased as he did not want to miss out on my debut.

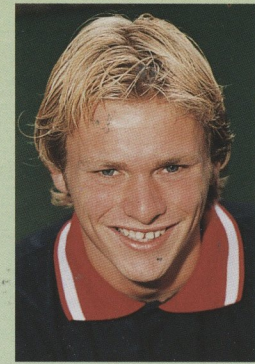
"I was told to report at the ground at 1.15pm with the rest of the lads, but it really fell apart from there.

"To be fair Niall Quinn and Michael Bridges did well considering they had not trained on the Friday, but I would have loved to have been involved."

The former Ashington High School forward scored his first goal of the season in a 5-1 win over Durham City but a knee injury scuppered any notions of a possible dream trip to Goodison Park.

"I just want the chance to get out there and show people what I am made of," added Paul. "I scored over 100 goals in three seasons for the youths and reserves, but now need experience.

"I would travel anywhere to go on loan just for the chance of first team football. I've been told scouts have been to the Reserve games, but as yet nothing has happened." ■



"It's up to me to keep scoring goals and I am pleased I have two bites of the cherry with the youths and reserves. I was hoping to get involved at some stage this season, but not as early as this.

"The call-up is a bonus and I've had my eyes opened a bit. Mark Maley, Paul Thirlwell and Chris Lumsdon have all had a taste and I was just pleased to be the next one.

"But I must keep my feet firmly on the ground. I've taken a bit of stick from some of the lads at the club, as you would expect, but it shows the gaffer will give young players a chance." ■

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TWIN TOWERS LURE FOR THOMAS

THOMAS SORESEN has his sights firmly set on another Wembley visit before the famous Twin Towers possibly bite the dust.

Sunderland's highly-rated goalkeeper has only once previously visited the country's most famous stadium - a customary look round on the eve of an international between England and Denmark.

But he is hoping to make a more worthwhile return in March in the final of the Worthington Cup, possibly boosted by a first full cap the previous month.

■ **THOMAS SORESEN** - Wembley trip would cap a great first season

"I've only been to Wembley once and even that was just a visit in the stands," explained manager Peter Reid's bargain buy in the close season.

"Two years ago I was over here for an Under-21 international. The next day Denmark lost 1-0 to England but we all had a look around the stadium.

"I would love to play there before they knock it down and no disrespect to Luton Town, but we could not have got a better chance to reach the semi-finals of the Worthington Cup."

Sorensen is currently Denmark's fourth-choice goalkeeper, behind Manchester United's Peter Schmeichel and Scandinavian-based pair Mogens Krogh and Peter Kjaer.

But with Schmeichel deciding to quit Old Trafford at the end of the season to cut back on his work load and the Danish season in the middle of a break, international coach Bo Johansson is expected to look to the future in a friendly against Croatia in Split on February 10.

Johansson watched Sorensen in Sunderland's 3-0 win at Bolton last month and admitted after the game the door was open for newcomers to force their way into his plans.

"Peter Schmeichel is still good enough to play for Denmark for a long time yet," said Thomas.

"He has so much experience and the fact he has decided not to play so many matches for his club, it should keep him fresher. "I am still young and I can't be expected to be thrown into the international team

and do as well as him. Maybe I will get a couple of games in the next year or two and then be ready when he finally calls it a day.

"There has been a lot of talk in Denmark about me being in the next squad, but all I know is they are playing in Croatia in February and that I might be in the squad.

"I've not been in the senior set-up and it doesn't help when the coach only names two goalkeepers in his squad - not three like they do in England. Perhaps as this is only a friendly, he may bring a few new players in."

Schmeichel will remain first choice for the Croatia game but with Krogh and Kjaer not involved at club level, Sorensen is expected to be his understudy.

Thomas, however, is looking no further than tonight's cup-tie and though a hero in the last round after a penalty shoot-out at Everton, will willingly settle for a more sedate finish.

Both sides had missed before Niall Quinn converted the first of the sudden death penalties and when Sorensen saved from Ibrahima Bakayoko, the lads were through.

"When he ran up I thought he was going to shoot to my right," said Thomas. "You need a bit of luck and it was nice to make the save after I had nearly given the game away near the end." ■



Tykes Torment

Sunderland AFC 2
Barnsley 3

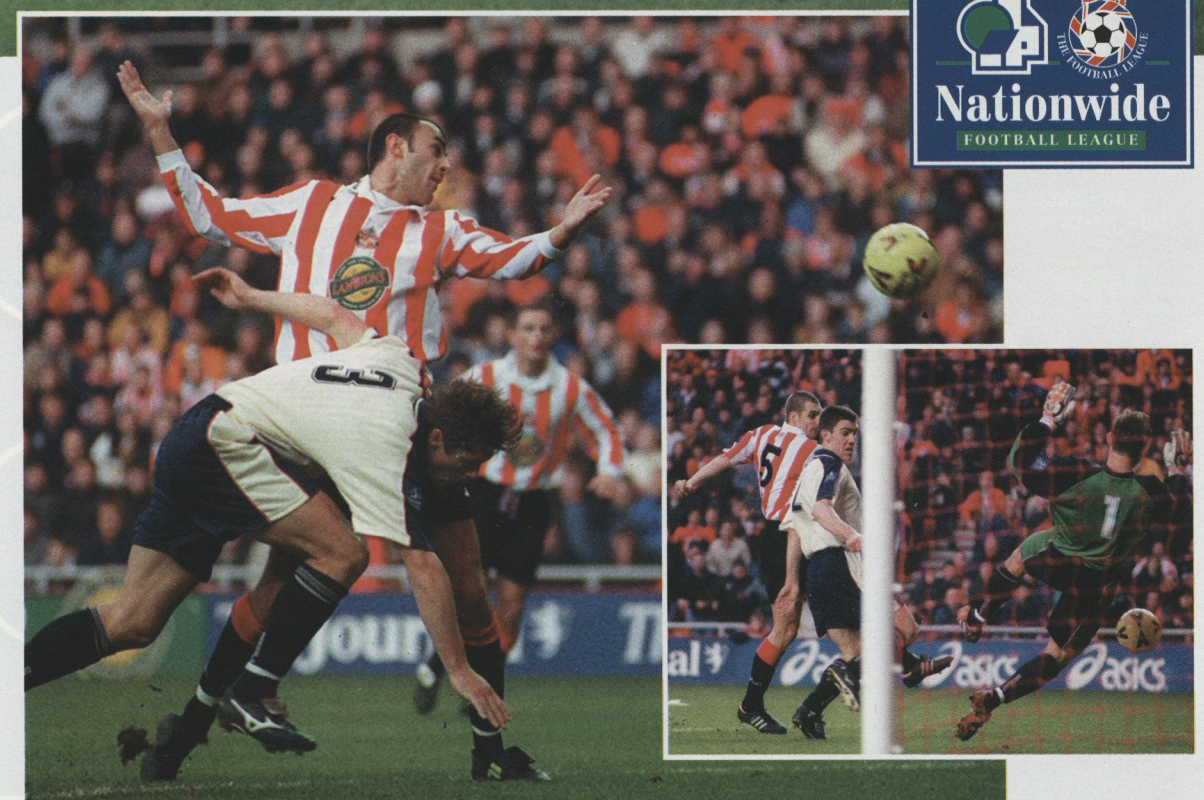
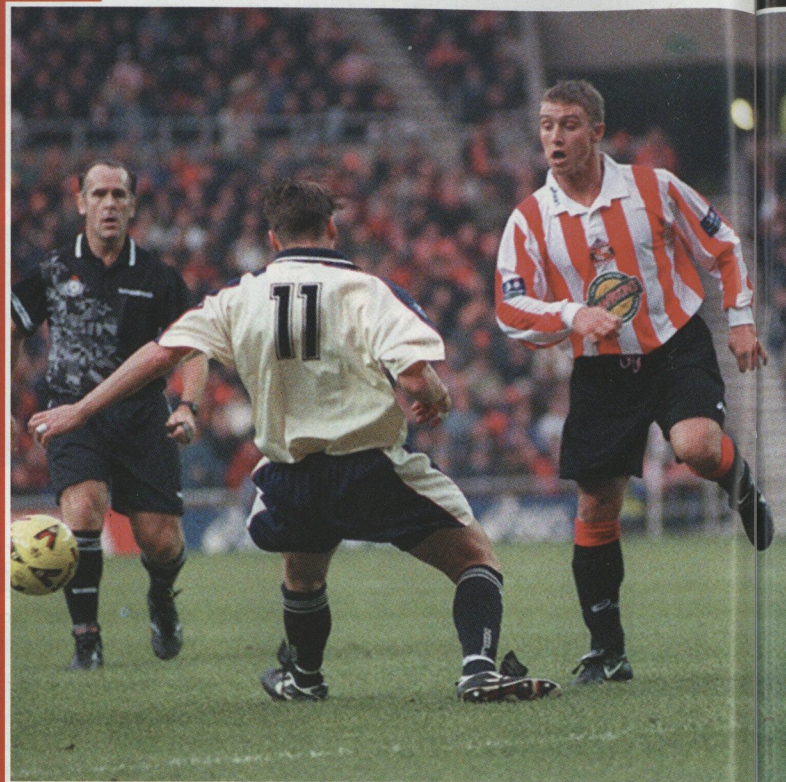
**NATIONWIDE LEAGUE
 DIVISION ONE
 SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 1998**

Well, it had to happen sometime. For the first time this season The Lads finished the game with nothing to show for their efforts.

Perhaps things would have been different had Danny Dichio taken a chance that fell in the opening 30 seconds of the game. As it was, Barnsley stormed into a two goal lead - as well as missing a penalty and having Ashley Ward sent-off.

The Lads clawed back with a penalty from Martin Scott and a goal from substitute Niall Quinn, but it was yet another penalty, this time converted by Darren Barnard that won the points for Barnsley ■

Light Action





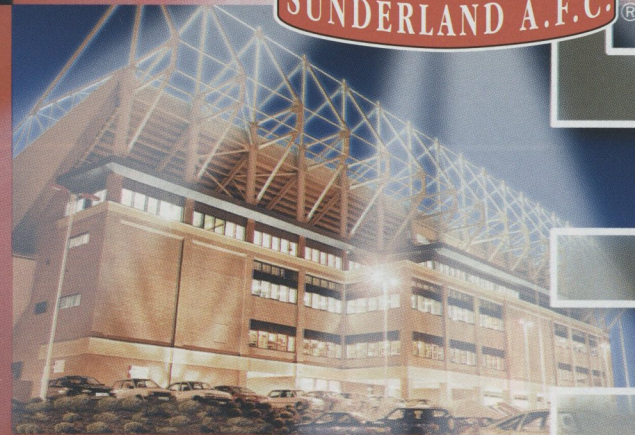
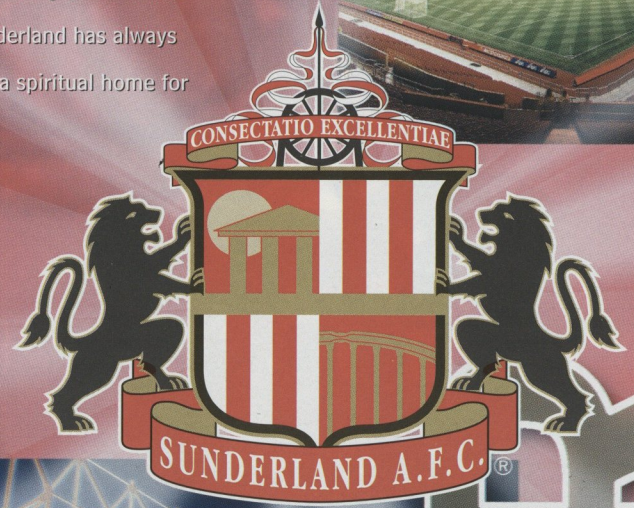
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A UNIQUE GLIMPSE BEHIND THE SCENES AT SUNDERLAND A.F.C.

Third time unlucky for Darren

DARREN Williams fears for further international recognition after being forced to withdraw from a third successive England representative squad.

The versatile 21-year-old missed out on a dream trip to Terni last week for the Nationwide League encounter against an Italian Serie B team after bruising ribs in the club's first defeat of the season.

Darren's withdrawal followed on quickly from pulling out of England Under-21 games against Sweden and the Czech Republic because of niggling injuries which have hampered his progress all season.

"That's three in a row," said a rueful Williams. "It's disappointing but that's how my season has gone so far. It's been nothing but one niggling injury after another which is just not me.

"Obviously it's a bit worrying and I must admit I am wondering whether it's going to go on all season. Maybe I have played with a slight injury and have been trying to compensate for it in another area and therefore picked up daft injuries that way.

"Touch wood there has been nothing serious, but it has crossed my mind will I get another chance if I keep dropping out of representative squads.

"I was really looking forward to the Italy trip and I just wish I had been there with Michael Bridges. Good luck to him, I think he has done brilliant for us and this was a great chance for him."

Darren was involved in the incident which led to Ashley Ward's dismissal in the Barnsley defeat but missed the stirring second half fightback when replaced by Niall Quinn.

"The lads worked ever so hard to get back into the game, but unfortunately I didn't see it," he said.

"Records have to go at some time and I think we can all be proud of the unbeaten start to the season."

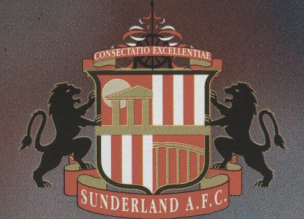
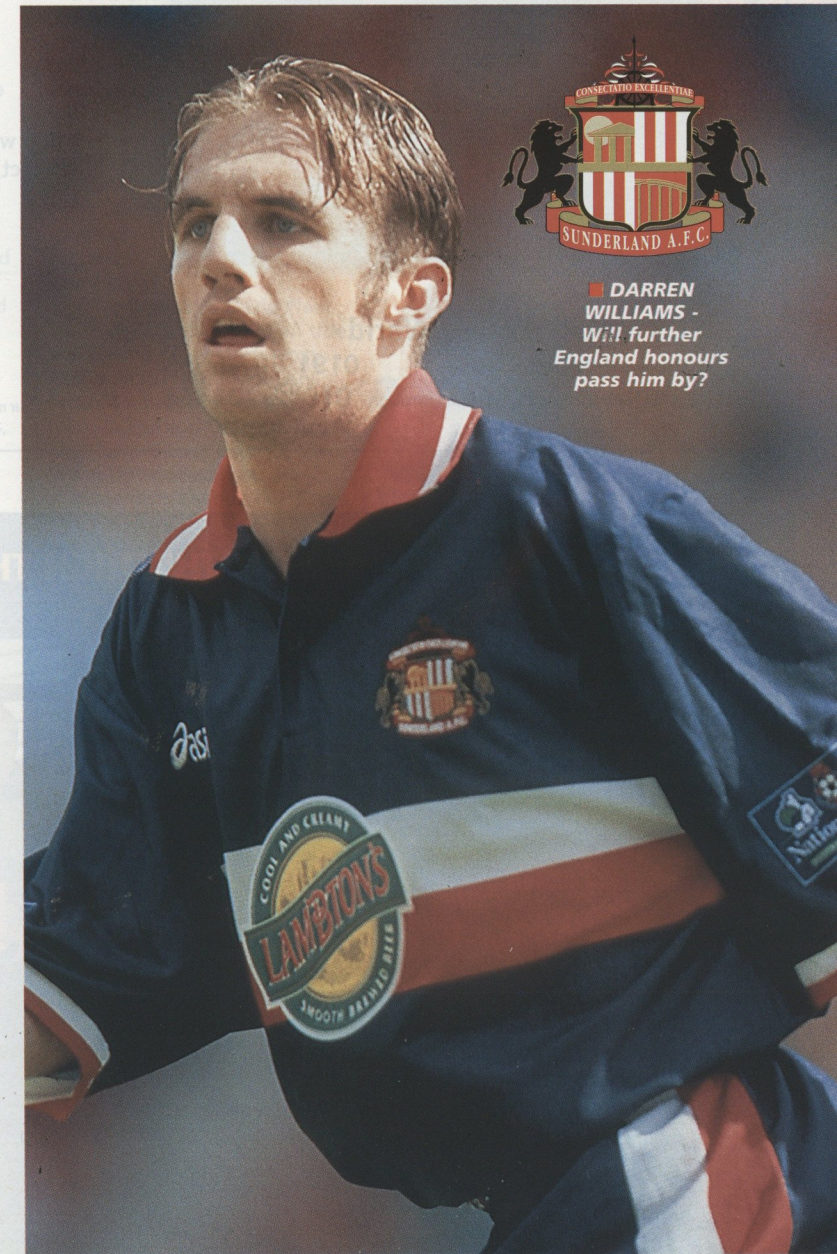
"I went straight to hospital for X-rays to make sure there was no fractures.

"Maybe I should not have come out for the second half. I felt a bit of discomfort and hoped it would wear off, but it didn't and I had to come off.

"Records have to go at some time and I think we can all be proud of the unbeaten start to the season. It was

quickly out of the system and we are all looking to make amends in tonight's cup-tie.

"I'm sure our fans will be out in force hoping we reach the semi-finals, but there is no way we will underestimate Luton. Both clubs have reached the last eight the hard way and there's no easy games at this stage of any cup competition." ■



■ **DARREN WILLIAMS** - Will further England honours pass him by?

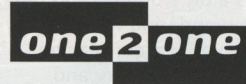
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TONIGHT



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Into the light... Luton Town



The ten-year gap since Luton Town last appeared in a League Cup quarter-final has spanned a period of considerable change. From the top division to the third. From experience to youth.

*IN 1988-89, the Hatters were well established in the old First Division and the squad which eventually reached Wembley was well stocked with internationals.

Steve Foster, Ricky Hill and Mick Harford had played for England, Ashley Grimes and Danny Wilson were regularly involved with the Irish nations, Kingsley Black was a Northern Ireland fledgling, and Roy Wegerle was to be adopted by the USA.

*IN 1998-99, the scenario is very different. After two relegation campaigns, the Hatters are in their third year in Division Two.

And their playing staff is so youthful that many were young schoolboys at the end of the 1980s when Luton won and lost in successive League Cup Finals.

The present team still has a core of know-how, with two 30-year-olds, Steve Davis and Marvin Johnson, occupying the centre back positions, and Phil Gray, also 30, able to look back on eight goals in Sunderland's last promotion-winning season.

Davis and Gray account for the bulk of the spending on a squad which is substantially a mixture of free signings and youth-team discoveries.

The ability to nurture talent was always a trademark during Luton's decade at the top level, an era which started and finished with the manager who laid the foundation for the most successful decade in the club's 113-year history.

In his first term, David Pleat landed the Second Division title, and during his absence from 1986 to 1991, John Moore secured a best-ever seventh place in Division One before Ray Harford took them to three Wembley appearances.

Aside from League Cup Finals against Arsenal (3-2) and Nottingham Forest (1-3), the Hatters were beaten by Reading in the Simod Cup Final in 1988.

Later years brought relegation skirmishes, and Mr Pleat's homecoming

■ PHIL
GRAY -
Returning
to
Wearside

MANAGER LENNIE LAWRENCE

BORN: Brighton, 14th December 1947

PLAYING CAREER

Clubs: None in Football League

MANAGEMENT CAREER

Clubs: Charlton Athletic (Nov. 1982-Jul. 1991), Middlesbrough (Jul. 1991-May 1994), Bradford City (May 1994-Nov. 1995), Luton Town (Dec. 1995 to date)

HONOURS

With Charlton:

Promotion from Division Two, 1985-86

With Middlesbrough:

Promotion from Division Two, 1991-92



STADIUM OF LIGHT TOURS HOTLINE 0191 551 5055

in 1991-92 unfortunately coincided with omission from the 22 who formed the Premier League.

While former opponents tapped new riches, Luton soldiered on through three difficult seasons in the new Division One, brightened by another Wembley outing for an FA Cup semi-final against Chelsea in 1994.

That Cup run brought into prominence a number of players who were to be involved in sizeable transfers. Something like £5m was received from Premier clubs for John Hartson, Paul Telfer, Scott Oakes and Ceri Hughes.

All four were brought up from the junior ranks, as were two others who commanded million-pound fees. Mark Pembridge left the relegated side to join Derby and teenager Matthew Upson played in only one League game before signing for Arsenal.

Luton can only wonder where they would be if they had been able to retain all these players. In practice, they dropped another division in 1996 when a new manager, Lennie Lawrence, was unable to sustain a notable recovery.

Inheriting a side at the foot of the table, he quickly supervised a six-game run worth 16 points, but

■ **GAVIN MCGOWAN** - Free transfer recruit from Arsenal



■ **KELVIN DAVIS** - An England U-21 international

■ **RAY MCKINNON** - Once signed by Forest for £750,000



another slide resulted in the wooden spoon.

The following season brought a concerted challenge for promotion in competition with Bury and Stockport County. The rivals claimed the automatic spots and the play-offs only brought intense disappointment with defeat by Crewe Alexandra.

The knockback was such that Luton found themselves in the bottom four in March this year. Happily, the fight for survival was turned in their favour with the help of six goals in eight games from Tottenham loanee Rory Allen.

Yet the season was not without its benefits. Young players broadened their experience and now many of them are contributing to a much brighter position.

While the national spotlight has fallen on Worthington Cup progress against four higher-division clubs, the more important task is to maintain an interest in promotion matters.

Luton reached third place in September after one defeat in eight games - their best start for many years. Another surge in October lifted them back into

third, only for defeats at Gillingham and Stoke to be wrapped around an impressive cup success against Coventry.

SQUAD ABC

NATHAN ABBEY: 18-year-old understudy goalkeeper, on the bench for all six Worthington Cup matches so far.

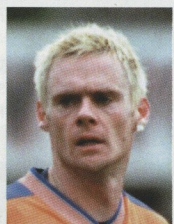
GRAHAM ALEXANDER (left): A regular at Scunthorpe United for four seasons, signed for £100,000 in 1995, useful goal-scorer with a dozen in 12 months from last October.

HERVE BACQUE: Free agent French striker signed from AS Monaco after scoring several goals in pre-season

JIMMY COX: Ex-trainee, aged 18, and given a senior debut in the Worthington Cup at Ipswich in September.

SEAN EVERS: Once-capped Wales winger, signed last season for £200,000 after 11 League games for Manchester United, for whom he won an FA Youth Cup medal in 1992.

KELVIN DAVIS: Became first-choice keeper after starting last



LUTON TOWN THREE IN A ROW

Three seasons in the League Cup

| DATE | VEN | OPPONENTS | RES | ATT | SCORERS |
|----------------|-----|-------------------|-----|--------|-----------------------------------|
| 1998-99 | | | | | |
| Aug 11 | H | Oxford United | 2-3 | 3,165 | Alexander 2 pens |
| Aug 18 | A | Oxford United | 3-1 | 5,099 | Gray Evers McLaren |
| Sep 15 | A | Ipswich Town | 1-2 | 9,032 | Douglas |
| Sep 22 | H | Ipswich Town | 4-2 | 5,655 | Fotiadis Douglas Davis(S) Johnson |
| Oct 27 | H | Coventry City | 2-0 | 9,051 | Gray Davis (S) |
| Nov 10 | H | Barnsley | 1-0 | 8,435 | Gray |
| 1997-98 | | | | | |
| Aug 11 | A | Colchester United | 1-0 | 2,840 | Thorpe |
| Aug 26 | H | Colchester United | 1-1 | 2,816 | Thorpe |
| Sep 16 | H | W.B. Albion | 1-1 | 3,437 | Douglas |
| Sep 23 | A | W.B. Albion | 2-4 | 7,227 | Davis (S) Thorpe |
| 1996-97 | | | | | |
| Aug 20 | H | Bristol Rovers | 3-0 | 2,643 | Grant Thorpe pen Oldfield |
| Sep 4 | A | Bristol Rovers | 1-2 | 2,320 | Oldfield |
| Sep 17 | H | Derby County | 1-0 | 4,459 | James |
| Sep 25 | A | Derby County | 2-2 | 13,569 | Grant Thorpe |
| Oct 22 | A | Wimbledon | 1-1 | 5,043 | Hughes |
| Nov 12 | H | Wimbledon | 1-2 | 8,076 | Blackwell o.g. |

season on loan at Hartlepool, previously a League debutant at 17 and capped three times at England Under-21 level.

STEVE DAVIS: The most expensive member of the squad, a £750,000 buy from Burnley in 1995, began his career with Southampton and now the skipper is past 300 League appearances with more than 40 goals.

GARY DOHERTY: Fast-track teenager who played in ten League games last season before winning a place on the bench for the Republic of

Ireland in a full international against Mexico in May. Later selected for the European Under-18 Championship.

STUART DOUGLAS: Talented striker from the London area, scored his first League goal as a 17-year-old in 1995, and on target in each of this season's cup meetings with Ipswich.

SEAN EVERS: Made League bow at 18 two years ago, scored three goals in 23 League outings last season, represented the Nationwide League in Italy last week.

LUTON TOWN ROLL CALL

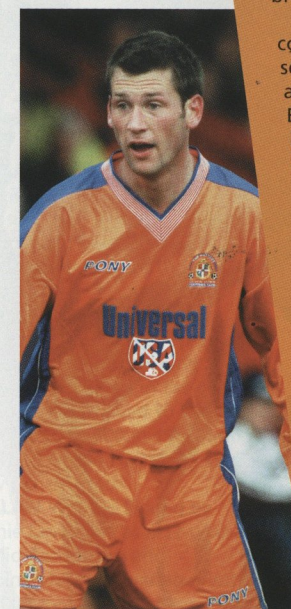
(1998-99 appearances for Nationwide League Division Two & Worthington Cup)

| PLAYER | BIRTHPLACE | BIRTHDATE | PREVIOUS CLUB | APPS | GLS |
|------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------------|-------|-----|
| Nathan Abbey | Islington | 11.7.78 | School | - | - |
| Graham Alexander | Coventry | 10.10.71 | Scunthorpe Utd | 23 | 4 |
| Herve Bacque | Bordeaux | 13.7.76 | AS Monaco | 3(5) | - |
| Jimmy Cox | Gloucester | 11.4.80 | School | 3(3) | - |
| Simon Davies | Winsford | 23.4.74 | Manchester Utd | 1 | - |
| Kelvin Davis | Bedford | 29.9.76 | School | 24 | - |
| Steve Davis | Hexham | 30.10.68 | Burnley | 23 | 8 |
| Gary Doherty | Donegal | 31.1.80 | School | (-3) | 1 |
| Stuart Douglas | London | 9.4.78 | School | 21 | 7 |
| Sean Evers | Hitchin | 10.10.77 | School | 24 | 3 |
| Andrew Fotiadis | Hitchin | 6.9.77 | School | 2(9) | 1 |
| Liam George | Luton | 2.2.79 | School | 2(5) | - |
| Phil Gray | Belfast | 2.10.68 | Fortuna Sittard | 22(1) | 10 |
| Marvin Johnson | Wembley | 29.10.68 | School | 22 | 1 |
| Gavin McGowan | Blackheath | 16.1.76 | Arsenal | 20(1) | - |
| Michael McIndoe | Edinburgh | 2.12.79 | School | 8(4) | - |
| Ray McKinnon | Dundee | 5.8.70 | Dundee United | 20(2) | 1 |
| Paul McLaren | High Wycombe | 17.11.76 | School | 3(5) | 1 |
| Kofi Nyamah | Islington | 20.6.75 | Stoke City | 1(1) | - |
| Andre Scarlett | Brent | 11.1.80 | School | (-1) | 1 |
| Matthew Spring | Harlow | 17.11.79 | School | 23(1) | - |
| Mitchell Thomas | Luton | 2.10.64 | West Ham Utd | 10(6) | - |
| Alan White | Darlington | 22.3.76 | Middlesbrough | 3(8) | - |

ALSO PLAYED: Dwight Marshall (to Plymouth) 6(1) apps, 1 goal.
(NOT including last Saturday's home match v Manchester City)



■ **PAUL MCLAREN** - Another home-grown talent



ANDREW FOTIADIS: Former England Schools and Youth forward, studied for his A levels before becoming a professional, and appeared in the 1997 play-offs as a 19-year-old.

STUART FRASER: Last season's youth team captain, making a senior debut in the last game against Carlisle.

LIAM GEORGE: Scored a vital penalty against Germany this summer to win the European Under-18 title for the Republic of Ireland, but broke a leg this season.

PHIL GRAY: Recently completed a memorable sequence with cup goals against Coventry and Barnsley, followed by a Northern Ireland recall for his 21st full cap. The former Tottenham trainee left the Hatters to join Sunderland in 1993 and won a Division Two medal before re-signing after brief spells in France and Holland.

MARVIN JOHNSON: A survivor from the old First Division days, made debut in 1988, and now approaching 300 League games with his only club.

GAVIN MCGOWAN: An FA Youth Cup winner with Arsenal in 1994, made one substitute appearance for the Champions last season, joined Luton on a free transfer after two loan spells at

Kenilworth Road.
MICHAEL MCINDOE: 19 this week and enjoying a promising first season in midfield after a debut in the opening Worthington Cup-tie against Oxford.

RAY MCKINNON: Six times a Scotland Under-21 player, first came to

Continued on page 21

The Hatters



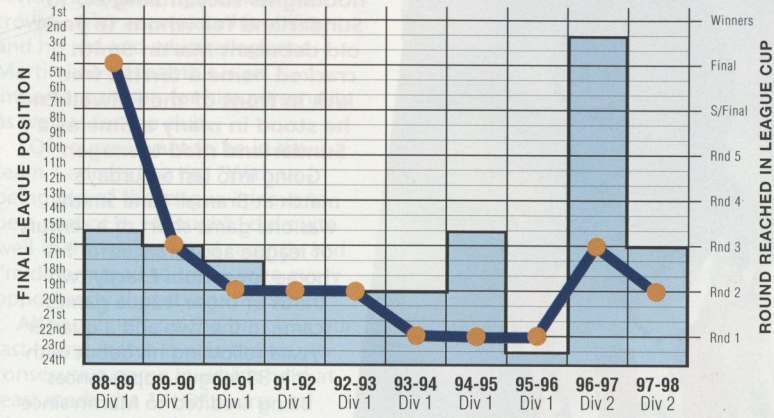
90% OF MALES ARE HAPPILY MARRIED. TO ELEVEN MEN.



BREWED IN SUNDERLAND

LUTON'S TEN-YEAR LEAGUE & LEAGUE CUP RECORD

Coloured area indicates league positions (see left), thick rule denotes progress in League Cup (right)



Continued from page 19

England in a £750,000 move to Nottingham Forest in 1992, resumed in Scotland with Aberdeen and then his first club, Dundee United, signed for Luton on a free transfer in August.

PAUL McLAREN: 22-year-old midfielder, an early starter at 17 in the first team, and became a regular last season with 43 League appearances.

KOFI NYAMAH: Ex-Kettering midfielder, signed from Stoke at the start of the season, given a full debut in the recent FA Cup win at Boreham Wood.

ANDRE SCARLETT: A first-year professional who made a dramatic entry in October with a goal against Oldham in a 20-minute stint as substitute.



MATTHEW SPRING (below): Eased into the League side with a dozen matches last season and played in every game this term up to his 19th birthday, last month.

MITCHELL THOMAS: First appeared for Luton some 15 years ago, won three England Under-21 caps before joining Tottenham, played in the 1987 FA Cup Final, moved to West Ham for £500,000 in 1991, and returned to the Hatters in 1993. Now player-coach.

ALAN WHITE: Signed by Lennie Lawrence as a 17-year-old at Middlesbrough and re-joined his first manager with a £40,000 move to Luton in September 1997. ■

NEXT HOME MATCH AT THE SUNDERLAND STADIUM OF LIGHT

If Stockport County have fallen off the pace which kept them in play-off contention until March, they are probably more difficult to break down on their travels.

Sixteen away defeats eventually pegged them back to eighth place last season, but this time they are proving to be extremely resilient when leaving the Manchester area.

Of their ten engagements, they have won two - with a particularly good start at Bradford City in August - and drawn six. The defeats were in successive trips to Birmingham and QPR.

The difference with last season, when they were only one point behind Ipswich Town with ten games to play, is in their record at Edgeley Park. Gary Megson's side won only two of the first nine home matches.

Stockport County

Their former Sunderland players met with mixed fortunes. Brett Angell was banned for three games before getting back into the groove with a hat-trick against Port Vale, and Stephen Grant balanced Eire Under-21 selection with a fairly regular role on the subs' bench.

Meanwhile, Chris Byrne, who scored seven League goals after last year's transfer from the Stadium of Light, is expected to be a long-term casualty after damaging knee ligaments against Huddersfield in September.

The club's transfer record was virtually trebled in the summer with a fee of £800,000 paid to Nottingham Forest for the former Tranmere Rovers

and England Under-21 striker, Ian Moore.

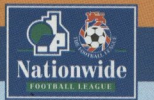
They also recruited Tranmere midfielder Graham Branch, but the squad was to be severely stretched by injuries. "I'm choosing from 12 players for ten outfield positions," said Mr Megson.

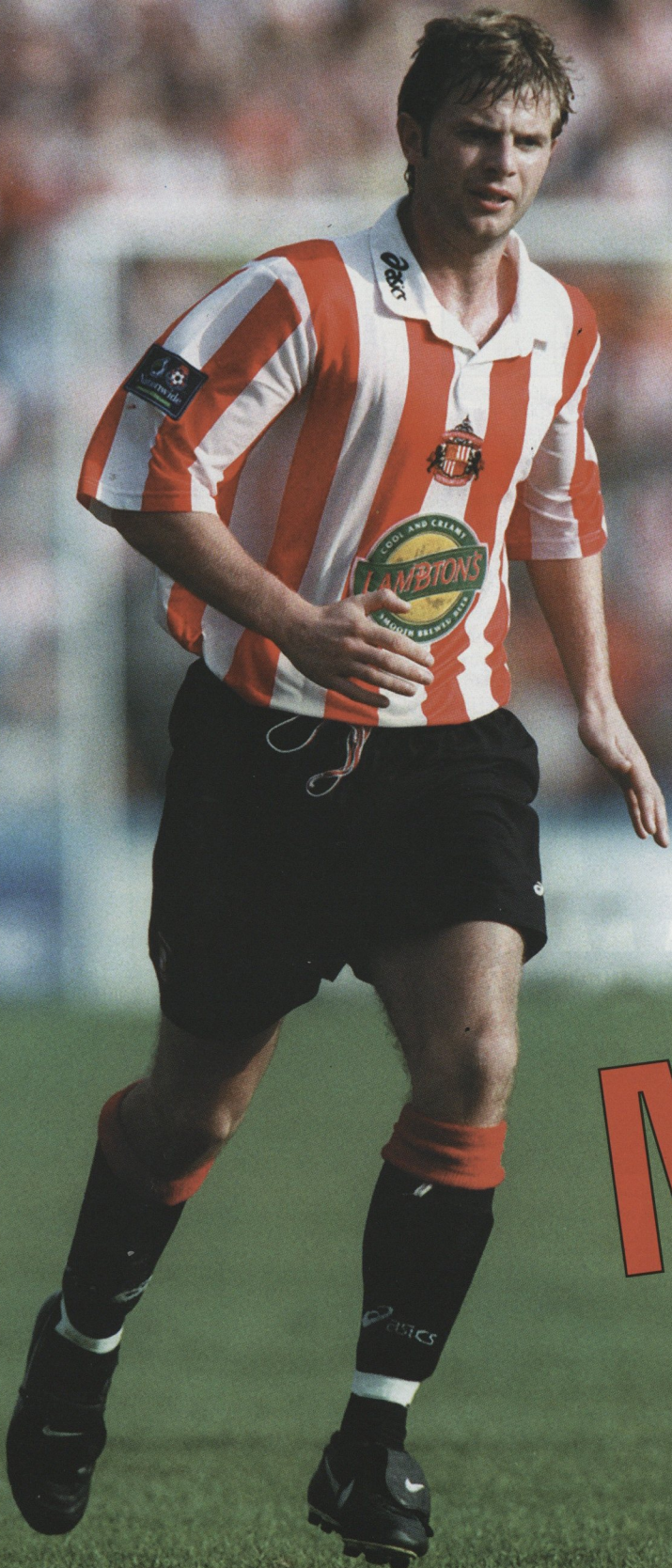
The situation was addressed with two signings in November. Midfielder Derek McInnes arrived from Rangers on a three-month loan and striker Rob Matthews cost £120,000 from Bury.

*LAST season's meetings with Stockport yielded four points. Lee Clark scored in a draw at Edgeley Park and Niall Quinn bagged a hat-trick in a 4-1 home win. ■

Snapshots

- Former manager John Moore guided the juniors to a title triumph in the South East Counties League last season.
- Kelvin Davis inherited the goalkeeping position after a four-year reign by two Americans, first Juergen Sommer and then Ian Feuer.
- Luton received £800,000 in February for Tony Thorpe, the Second Division's top scorer with 31 goals in 1996-97, his first season as a striker.
- The Hatters were unbeaten at home in the League from January to September when Andy Rammell scored a winner for Walsall at Kenilworth Road.
- The attendance for this season's cup-tie against Coventry was close to capacity at 9,051, compared with a ground record of 30,069 set nearly 40 years ago.
- England Under-21 defender Julian James was awarded a testimonial after a decade of first-team football but broke his right leg against Bristol Rovers in April.
- Ex-Barnet midfielder Paul Showler, who also played for Lennie Lawrence at Bradford City, has been another long-term casualty.





Five years ago last month Luton Town visited Wearside under floodlights succumbing 2-0 to Sunderland for whom 18 year old debutant Martin Smith cracked home a terrific free kick in front of the Fulwell End he stood in many a time as a Sunderland mad teenager.

Going into last Saturday's match at Bramall Lane Smithy was one game short of a century of league appearances for his home town club. Exactly two thirds of those league games came in the two and a quarter years following his debut with only 33 league appearances being credited to Martin since the end of 1995, of which only 18 have been in the starting line up.

Three weeks ago he marked his first league start since last November with a matchwinning two goal blast against Grimsby, prompting Peter Reid to describe him as "possibly the most talented player at the club" before adding: "Really he should be in the team every week but he's been out with injury and fitness problems."

There's no doubt that the fans agree with the

Leading Lights

Martin Smith

by Rob Mason

Gaffer's assessment of Smithy as one of the club's most talented players. Always a popular figure with the crowd - who appreciate his ability and his red and white allegiance - Martin knows that this is an important season for him personally, as well as for the club.

"Of course I want to be in the team," admits Martin. "With us being top of the league I'd love to be a part of it. I thought I did quite well in the games I had recently and I'm determined to try to take every opportunity that comes my way."

Although left on the bench in our last home match it was the fourth consecutive game in which he'd at least made the 14. Of course, as always happens when a side is doing well, it becomes very difficult to break into the first eleven when the people in the positions you're aiming at are in form.

Currently the Reserves top scorer with four goals in six games, Martin can do no more than keep working at his fitness and be ready to accept any opportunities that come his way.

Having turned 24 last month Martin, who is in the final year of his current contract, is young enough to have his best years still to come and is determined to put the stop-start nature of the last three years behind him. A variety of injuries, including groin and back problems but mainly a knee injury that required two operations, have prevented Martin from establishing a regular first team place in recent seasons but now with his injury problems over he needs games to further sharpen his match fitness.

"At my age I need first team football. Having recently played it



■ **MARTIN SMITH** - "Possibly the most talented player at the club"

"With us being top of the league I'd love to be a part of it. I thought I did quite well in the games I had recently and I'm determined to try to take every opportunity that comes my way."

makes me want it even more because having a brief taste shows what I'm missing. It was great to be able to go home after the Grimsby game knowing that I'd done my bit."

Martin made an immediate impact on Peter Reid following the manager's arrival in 1995. With the lads struggling to avoid the drop into the abyss of the new second division, Smithy scored in each of the final three games to enable Reidy to launch his championship winning side of the following year.

The third home game of Reidy's reign brought Swindon to Roker in one of the biggest 'Must Win' games the old stadium saw. The only goal of a tense game came spectacularly from Smithy who

finished as second top scorer behind Phil Gray, who we should see back in Luton colours tonight.

Peter Reid's first full season in charge saw Martin regularly involved in the first half of the season until a groin injury needed an operation which ruled him out until the final day of the campaign.

The injury came at a particularly bad time. Not only did Martin miss out on the glory of the charge for the championship but he had just broken into the England Under 21 side.

Despite making his debut at the home of Newcastle United where he received more stick as an England player than any of the opposing Republic of Ireland side, Smithy was inspired and produced a magnificent performance as a second half substitute for Chris Bart-Williams.

Further Under 21 honours were prevented by injury with Martin having to pull out of a squad for the annual Toulon tournament. However his international honours aren't restricted to his single under 21 appearance. Eight schoolboy international appearances included two at Wembley and two goals including one against West Germany in Berlin.

Two goals in the Final of the 1990 English Schools FA Trophy emphasised the potential that a string of the country's most glamorous clubs were keen to tap but for Martin Sunderland was the place to be.

Now the former Monkwearmouth pupil has to cope with the fact that first team newcomer Michael Proctor names him as his schoolboy hero! Coming from the same school and both winning town athletics titles as well as being fair haired forwards they have plenty in common but does Smithy now feel old at being a team mate's childhood hero?

"Well it was a surprise to find out but I don't feel old because I've not done much in the last couple of years so it's not as if I've got a lot of recent experience to look back on."

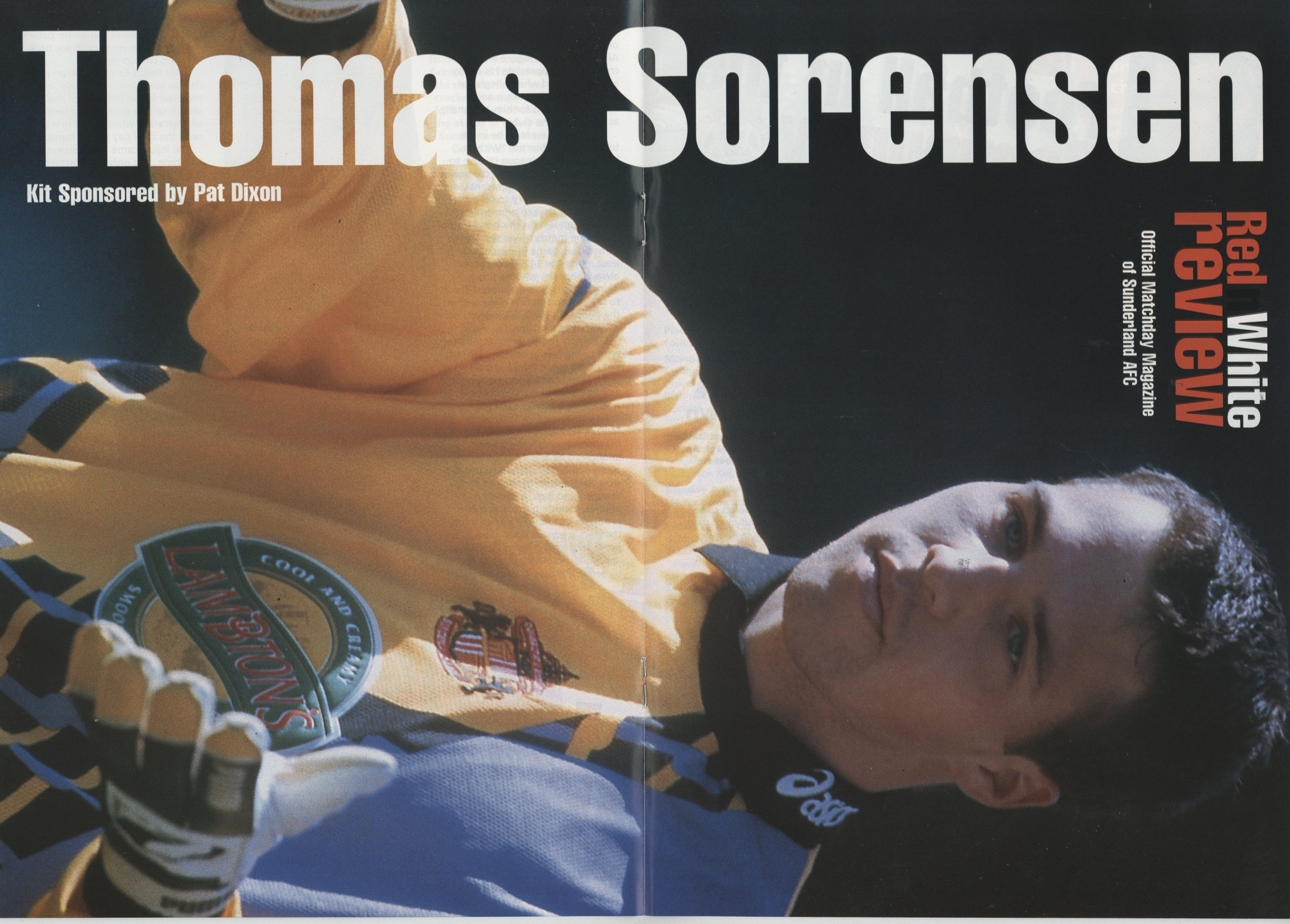
With three goals in five starts this season and a coolly taken pressure penalty in the last round of the Worthington Cup at Everton to his name, Smithy is doing all he can to show that when the chance comes he is ready to take it. ■

Thomas Sorensen

Kit Sponsored by Pat Dixon

Red White
PREVIEW

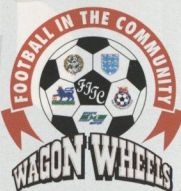
Official Matchday Magazine
of Sunderland AFC





Football in the Community

with Community Officer **BOB OATES**



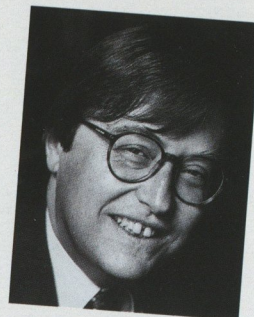
A Worthington Cup welcome to everyone tonight for this 'last 8' fixture against 'The Hatters' from Luton, made possible by that tremendous battle against Everton, and penalty shoot-out, at Goodison.



GIRLS, GIRLS, GIRLS

The first FA Sanctioned Girls Football Centre of Excellence in the North East swung into action recently at Downhill Astro Turf complex (Community North). The SAFC Girls are now training in three different age groups, under-12s, under-14s and under-16s, and we will soon be adding to the squad with trialists from Tyneside and

Durham. Shown here are some of the Sunderland ladies playing at the Stadium of Light recently. It is hoped that our Centre of Excellence will soon provide the Ladies team, under Manager Arthur Thompson, with a conveyor belt of talent to be able to compete with the best in the country.



The task force comes to town

I was very pleased to meet David Mellors Task Force last week on their last get together before reporting back to the Government with recommendations.

Several interesting points came out of the meeting, but more than anything I was struck by their genuine admiration of the Stadium of Light and everything going on here - another testament to the teamwork from our Directors and Peter, downwards.



Thanks to Sunderland High School

I would like to say a big thank you to **Sunderland High School**, who recently allowed us to use their marvellous facilities to train with Dungannon under-12s from Ireland, at very short notice. The Irish lads had a tremendous weekend enjoying themselves thoroughly, and who knows - we may attract a Dungannon Star of the future to Sunderland one day, as a result.

Sunderland University SAFC 4-a-side Leagues

Fourteen teams are now playing every week in mini soccer leagues played at the University Sports Hall on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. First results will be in our next programme - **ALSO STARTING** in January will be our **NISSAN 6-a-side** leagues organised at Nissan Sports and Social Club every Thursday evening. More details soon - registrations are currently being taken, if you are interested ring **0191 5515191**.



Seen here is **CHRIS MAKIN** signing some autographs at our last holiday courses - we will hopefully see some of the players visiting the Soccer Schools again at Christmas.

Christmas Soccer is Nearly Here!

Places are booking up fast for all venues at our Christmas Soccer Schools at the following venues...

Monday & Tuesday 21st & 22nd December
Southmoor School
Downhill Astro Turf
Biddick Comp
Durham Johnson Comp
Seaham Comp

Sunderland
Sunderland
Washington
Durham
Seaham

All courses are two days 10am to 3pm and cost ONLY £10. For further information and bookings call 0191 5515191

Wednesday & Thursday 23rd & 24th December
Silksworth Sports Centre
Temple Park Sports Centre
Houghton Kepier School

Sunderland
South Shields
Houghton le Spring

Tuesday & Wednesday 29th & 30 December
Monkwearmouth Comp
Low Hills Road
Bedale Leisure Centre
Hebburn CA (Clegwell)
Wolsingham Comp

Sunderland
Peterlee
Bedale
Hebburn
Wolsingham



ALL OUR HOLIDAY COURSES ARE SPONSORED BY



FINALLY congratulations to **Broadway Juniors, Planis Farm Primary and Holly Park Primary Schools** who won their respective qualifying round in our Year 4 schools tournament. Enjoy the game!




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ROTHMANS
 BOOK OF
FOOTBALL RECORDS

 JACK ROLLIN

RECORD ROTHMANS
 The Rothmans Football Yearbook is an essential part of any supporters library. Now executive editor Jack Rollin has produced the companion volume "The Rothmans Book of Football Records."

Covering British and international records in terrific detail the book will settle just about any argument you care to mention, be it settling the greatest number of penalties in a game (five - Palace v Brighton 1989) or as vague as who were the champions of Paraguay in 1936 (Olimpia) or the fewest defeats in a 46 game season in the new first division or equivalent (five - Chelsea 1988-89).

Sunderland are well covered, not least in the Championship winning teams section where the appearances and scorers are provided for every championship winning side since the league began while you can also discover the average attendances for every club for every season. League tables are provided for every season. Did you know for instance that Sunderland finished 10th in a 38 team wartime league table in 1941-42?

Typeset by Wearset of Boldon and published by Headline the book will cost you £25 in hardback and provide you with the definitive guide to the game's records.



AMAZING GATES

The Worthington Cup should now see increased attendances as a place in the semi finals is the prize for tonight's victors.

The gate of 28,132 for our last Worthington Cup game at Goodison Park included a contingent of 4,068 from Wearside.

Previous Worthington Cup matches have seen 469 Sunderland diehards at Chester for the second leg of a tie we led 3-0 in and 3,047 red and whites at York for our opening tie of the campaign. York brought 842 fans to the second leg at Sunderland while Chester's following numbered 844 at the Stadium of Light.



Club News

CHEYNE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Cheyne Middle School may be in Sheerness in Kent but their pupils are obviously being well educated.

Seen here is their girls team who play in the Medway Ladies League. Senior teacher - and Wearsider in exile - Paul Murray denies the colours have anything to do with him.

ST CLARE'S HOSPICE

A Race Night and pie and pea supper is being held this Thursday at Whiteleas Social Club in South Shields in aid of St. Clare's Hospice of Jarrow.

The Hospice was the home of two late Sunderland fanatics, Billy Buttons Bainbridge and Peter Wood. Further details are available from **0191 4516388**.



EVERYWHERE WE GO...

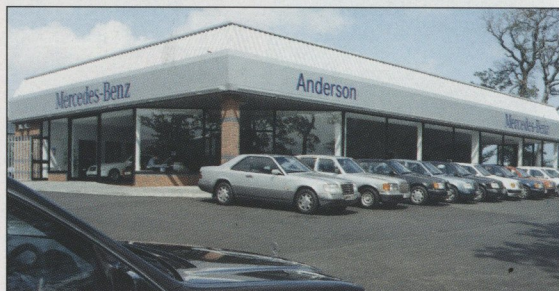
Seen in Yellowstone National Park is Mrs. Ellie Glenton, a ward sister from Ashington in Northumberland. A Sunderland fan since 1973 Ellie sits in the McEwans Stand with her husband John.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE WEBSITE

The Football league now has its own website available on www.football-league.co.uk.

TUNE IN

BBC Radio 5 now feature a Nationwide League Preview on Saturday mornings between 10.30 and 11.00.





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Conference & Banqueting



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DON'T MISS THE FOOTBALL ECHO!
On sale every weekend

Youth Profile Cliff Byrne

by Rob Mason

Sunderland currently have as fine a crop of young players as we have had for many a year. Arguably not since the late sixties when we won the FA Youth Cup twice in three years have we had so many talented youngsters at the club at one time.

Putting his feet on the first rung of the ladder at the moment is one of the brightest prospects at the club. Sixteen year old Clifford Byrne is the recently named Republic of Ireland Under 15 Player of the Year, an award he received at a televised ceremony in his native Dublin.

Coach Ricky Sbragia recognises Cliff's calibre: "He's been outstanding this season. He is a lovely lad with a super attitude. He's a good defender who has already been recognised at international level and he deserves it. Winning the Player of the Year Award was a tremendous accolade for him and one that not many get in an entire career. He gives his all. He's very consistent and is a strong competitor whose influence rubs off on others."

The most recent of Byrne's sixteen international appearances for Eire at Under 15 or 16 level came last month when he played in a 2-0 home win over Northern Ireland. Having begun his international career last year with a 3-2 win over Wales at Fishguard, Cliff had the pleasure of scoring his first international goal when he notched the winner against England earlier this season.

Unsurprisingly there were plenty of clubs chasing Byrne's signature. He had trials with his boyhood heroes Celtic as well as Hearts before coming to Sunderland. He visited Blackburn two weeks after coming to Sunderland and they were keen to take him but by then Cliff's mind was made up and he decided to join Sunderland and duly turned down trials at Leeds and Nottingham Forest.

"At Sunderland everyone was so friendly," he says "The coaches and the gaffer were great and being able to see the first team regularly was also encouraging."

Like many lads away from home for the first time Cliff suffered from



homesickness but he knew his impression of the friendliness of the club was well founded when Irish hero Niall Quinn took him as well as Thomas Butler and Shane Harte into his home for a week end to help them settle in. "He is always great with us and looks after us a treat," says Cliff.

Now nicely settled, Cliff explains, "I'm fine now I'm playing regularly but last year early on I needed a groin operation which people were hesitant about giving me at first because of my age but I had it and was out for three or four months and at that time I was very homesick."

Byrne's arrival at Sunderland was a fortunate one. "Robbie Howey was the Sunderland scout who got me to come over but really he'd come to see another player who was injured and so I got the chance to come over which was really lucky."

Cliff was spotted playing for the famous Home Farm club - he spent a year with their Under 14's having previously played as a centre half for Tolka Rovers from Under 9 level.

So how does it feel to be an Eire international centre half at a club whose previous claimant of such a title is a club legend? "When I'm at home and I tell people we play our home games at 'The Charlie Hurley Centre' they know all about him all right. He's a big hero at home." ■

Youth Spotlight

FA Premier Academy League Under 19s

| SEPTEMBER 1998 | | | |
|----------------|-----|---------------------|-------|
| 5 | Sat | BRISTOL CITY | H 3-1 |
| 12 | Sat | BLACKBURN ROVERS | H 1-0 |
| 19 | Sat | Charlton Athletic | A 3-1 |
| 26 | Sat | Sheffield Wednesday | A 1-1 |
| OCTOBER | | | |
| 3 | Sat | NOTTINGHAM FOREST | H 1-1 |
| 17 | Sat | Newcastle United | A 4-1 |
| 24 | Sat | Middlesbrough | A 1-1 |
| 31 | Sat | LEICESTER CITY | H 0-0 |
| NOVEMBER | | | |
| 7 | Sat | DERBY COUNTY | H 2-1 |
| 14 | Sat | LEEDS UNITED | H 4-1 |
| 21 | Sat | Barnsley | A 2-0 |
| 28 | Sat | Arsenal | A |
| DECEMBER | | | |
| 12 | Sat | Nottingham Forest | A |
| 19 | Sat | NEWCASTLE UNITED | H |
| JANUARY 1999 | | | |
| 16 | Sat | SHEFFIELD WED. | H |
| 30 | Sat | Leicester City | A |
| FEBRUARY | | | |
| 13 | Sat | NORWICH CITY | H |
| 20 | Sat | MIDDLESBROUGH | H |
| 27 | Sat | BARNLEY | H |
| MARCH | | | |
| 6 | Sat | Derby County | A |
| 20 | Sat | Leeds United | A |
| 27 | Sat | Aston Villa | A |

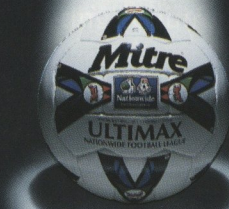
FA Premier Academy League Under 17s

| SEPTEMBER 1998 | | | |
|----------------|-----|---------------------|-------|
| 5 | Sat | BRISTOL CITY | H 3-0 |
| 12 | Sat | BLACKBURN ROVERS | H 2-2 |
| 19 | Sat | Charlton Athletic | A 4-0 |
| 26 | Sat | Sheffield Wednesday | A 1-1 |
| OCTOBER | | | |
| 3 | Sat | Nottingham Forest | A 0-2 |
| 17 | Sat | Newcastle United | A 1-0 |
| 24 | Sat | Middlesbrough | A 2-1 |
| 31 | Sat | LEICESTER CITY | H 2-1 |
| NOVEMBER | | | |
| 7 | Sat | DERBY COUNTY | H 4-1 |
| 14 | Sat | LEEDS UNITED | H 2-2 |
| 21 | Sat | Barnsley | A 4-0 |
| 28 | Sat | Arsenal | A |
| DECEMBER | | | |
| 12 | Sat | NOTTINGHAM FOREST | H |
| 19 | Sat | NEWCASTLE UNITED | H |
| JANUARY 1999 | | | |
| 16 | Sat | SHEFFIELD WED. | H |
| 30 | Sat | Leicester City | A |
| FEBRUARY | | | |
| 13 | Sat | EVERTON | H |
| 20 | Sat | MIDDLESBROUGH | H |
| 27 | Sat | BARNLEY | H |
| MARCH | | | |
| 6 | Sat | Derby County | A |
| 20 | Sat | Leeds United | A |
| 27 | Sat | Aston Villa | A |

Last Season
The Nationwide Football
League saw an Increase in
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The Quality of the Football

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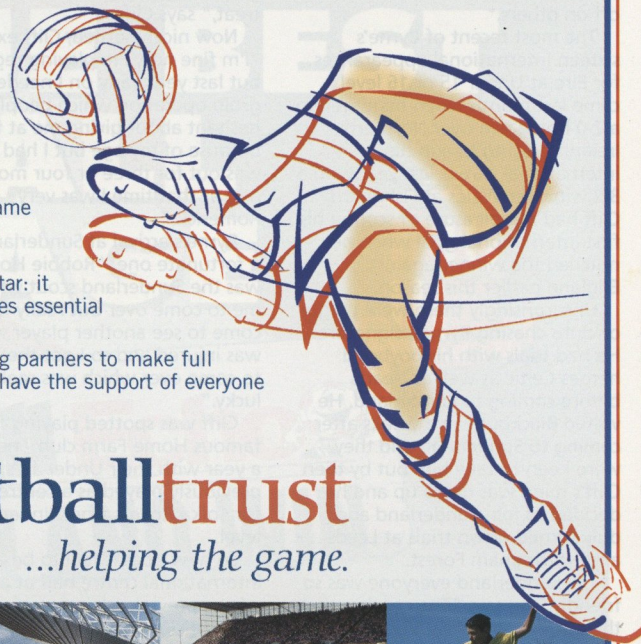
The Football Trust has been providing support for football throughout the UK for 22 years.

A major new funding package made up of annual contributions from The F.A. Premier League, The Football Association, The English Sports Council, The Football League and The Professional Footballers Association has been added to the Trust's pools derived income to secure its future.

The Trust has a major part to play in the success of the game and will continue its vital grant support for lower division clubs to complete the Taylor programme.

The Trust is about a great deal more than bricks and mortar: it can handle grant aid programmes of every sort and provides essential help for the game at all levels.

The commitment of the Government and the new funding partners to make full use of the Trust's grant aid experience and expertise will have the support of everyone who cares about the future of our national game.



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Harry Barrett is This column does not necessarily reflect the official views of Sunderland AFC Talking Football

Managing to stay afloat

"... it doesn't matter who the manager is we've got to get some results quickly" commented Blackburn skipper Tim Sherwood after Roy Hodgson's abrupt departure from Ewood Park 10 days ago.

While Rovers midfield general may not think it important who builds the squad, wheels and deals, sets the playing strategy, and picks the team, Jack Walker, club owner and sugar daddy, certainly does.

Rightly or wrongly Walker exercised his judgement and concluded that Blackburn, into whom he has poured as much money as a moderate sized hospital spends in a decade, was badly in need of treatment. Defeat by Southampton pushed Rovers to the

bottom of the Premiership with 40% of the season gone. Walker, like Alan Sugar at Tottenham, did not become filthy rich by giving people excessive amounts of time. Particularly when Judgement Day is five months away.

Sherwood, apparently did not see eye to eye with Hodgson. His "Match of the Day" interview said as much. Teammate Chris Sutton claimed in an interview published 24 hours after the sacking "I do not have the same confidence that we can get out of this position as I did when we struggled two years ago."

Fringe first teamer Gary Croft reckoned the players were good enough to secure Premiership safety. "Whoever comes in will have a good squad of players to work with," commented the former Grimsby defender. "He will certainly not be inheriting a squad of players lacking in ability. It's just a case of us all putting in a lot of hard work because we are the ones who can save us from this situation."

Well, if the players are "not lacking in ability" and it doesn't matter who the manager is" why are Rovers bottom of the pile? Who needs a manager?

Back to Messrs Sherwood and Croft.

"It's harsh to put the sole blame on Roy Hodgson, but at the end of the day results speak louder than words and we have not been getting them," suggested the Ewood captain, to which Croft added, "I think we need a little bit of direction."

So the players might have the ability and though the individual is unimportant, managers, it seems are needed. Not least because they carry the can.

Or do they? As Roy Hodgson was contemplating a return to Switzerland and Grasshoppers Zurich, that normally Happy Hammer, Harry Redknapp, was getting steamed up over Andrew Impey's £1 million plus transfer to Leicester. The deal was sealed by West Ham's Chief Executive Peter Storrie who accused Redknapp of "scare mongering" when he suggested it could be Rio Ferdinand leaving Upton Park next week. Then last week Walter Smith at Everton indicated he was close to resignation after Duncan Ferguson's £7 million move to Newcastle. That transfer had been conducted behind the manager's back.

Redknapp was furious that a key member of his first team squad was moved out at 48 hours notice without his approval. Just as incensed, Storrie suggested the manager knew last August a first team player valued at £1-£2 million would be jettisoned by November to balance the books.

Despite the verbals, Redknapp and Storrie will make up. West Ham are sixth in the table, dizzy heights for a club that have been perennial strugglers in recent years. At Goodison, Smith, barely six months into the job has already committed himself to the club. Everton after all are beginning to grind out some results.

In sharp contrast Blackburn are a club in trouble. Though they were sixth top last May, Rovers are currently down among the dead men. When a team is winning the manager is a hero; a run of defeats, well somebody has to take the blame. And as a rule that will not be the players, the board, or indeed the chief executive.

Hours before his departure, Roy Hodgson wrote in a weekly column for the Daily Telegraph, "It is crucial in situations like the present one for managers to keep their own equilibrium and not start mistrusting or doubting those around them."

Clearly it doesn't help any football manager to be paranoid. But positive thinking alone does not mean they are not out to get you. ■



■ **ANDY IMPEY** - This move to Leicester upset Harry Redknapp

1998/99 Kit Sponsorship

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Sunderland AFC have entertained thousands of visitors, staff and friends as sponsors in recent seasons.

Many of our sponsors return year after year and, we believe that, there can be few more entertaining, unusual and trouble free ways for you to do business.

The following Corporate Packages have a limited availability. For further information please ring the Commercial Department on **0191 551 5555**.

Associate Sponsorship

- Entertain 10 Guests
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- Four Course Meal including Wine
- Entertainment
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- Refreshments and Sandwiches at Full-Time
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- Sunderland AFC Autographed Football
- Man of the Match Awards
- Individual Gift for each Guest
- Company Gift
- Acknowledgement on PA System
- Reserved Car Parking

Director's Suite

- Champagne Reception
- Four Course Meal with Wine
- Private Bar Facilities
- Reserved Seat in Director's Box
- Complimentary Matchday Programme
- Coffee, Tea and Biscuits at Half-Time
- Refreshments and Sandwiches at Full-Time
- Reserved Car Parking

Executive Boxes

- Boxes accommodate 10, 12 or 25 Guests
- A self contained Private Box available for all First Team League and Cup Games played at the Stadium
- Boxes have a balcony with an unrivalled view of the match
- Complimentary Matchday Programme
- A hostess service will be available throughout the day
- Full sized dining table
- Minibar stocked on request
- Telephone and fax machine available
- Sky Television
- Free use of box on non-matchdays
- Reserved Car Parking

Executive Club

- Reserved Table for all games
- Four Course Meal
- Hostess Service
- Complimentary Matchday Programme
- Coffee, Tea and Biscuits at Half-Time
- Refreshments and Sandwiches at Full-Time
- Escorted Transfer to Sponsor's Executive Seats
- Executive Club Man of the Match Awards
- Reserved Car Parking

Matchday Carvery

- Restaurant overlooking the River Wear
- Carvery with choice of two Meats/Casserole/Vegetarian
- Private Bar Facilities
- Complimentary Matchday Programme
- Escorted Transfer to Sponsor's Executive Seats
- Hostess Service
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Man of the Match Sponsor





Red'n'White MESSAGES

■ Racing along to the match today will be **DAVID COULTHARD** of Ayton who was 13 last Tuesday. Seen here sporting his colours in Corfu this summer, season ticket holder David was hoping for tickets for next Saturday's away match at Sheffield United as a birthday treat. He attends matches with his Mam, Dad and brother Ian and lists his favourite players as Lee Clark and Allan Johnston.

■ Allan Johnston is also the favourite player of **LIAM PHILIP SHORT** of Barnard Castle who was ten on November 10th. Along with his Dad he has a season ticket in the South West corner.

■ **CRAIG HARRIMAN** of Peterlee was eight on November 29th while three days earlier his cousin James will be seven. Both are season ticket holders along with their Dads. One day they hope to be mascots in the same match. Happy birthday from Stephen, Julie and Rachel.

■ Steven White of Houghton has written to ask for a belated Happy Birthday for his son **DAVID WHITE** who was nine on October 31st. David who is seen here on a recent stadium tour hasn't missed a match since attending for the first time when we entertained Reading last season.

■ **MICHAEL QUINN** of Fulwell celebrated his 8th birthday last month. His favourite players are Niall Quinn and Kevin Phillips

■ **HOLLY JANE SOLOMAN** was six last month and is seen here with her cousins on the Stadium of Light tour. We are reliably informed that she regularly 'sings her heart out for the lads.'

■ **LIAM McGEARY** is a McDonalds Family Stand season

ticket holder and celebrates his 10th birthday today. Love is sent from all the family including his Aunt Julie who he is seen with here in Trafalgar Square.

■ **NICHOLAS HUME** was 6 on Sunday and was at Bramall Lane the day before for his first away game as a birthday treat. Nicholas of Burnopfield in Newcastle has a season ticket in the West Stand.

■ **JAMES KENT** of Lancaster is a Vaux Stand season ticket holder. Seen here at the end of the Junior Great North Run, James has just celebrated his 11th birthday. Birthday wishes come from Mum, Dad and Holly.

■ **DANIEL JOHNSON** was nine on Nov. 23rd. Seen here (on the left) on his way to Wembley with his friend Jonathan Simpkins, Daniel is sent lots of love from Mam, Dad and Laura.

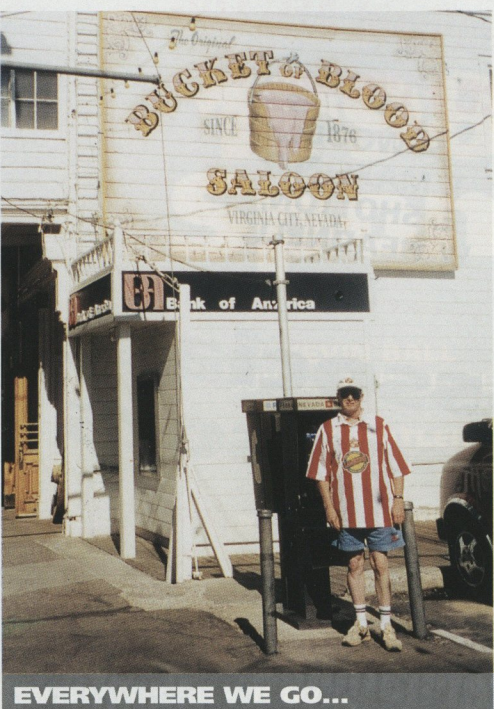
■ **PAUL NEWTON** was 40 the day before our last home game. Paul who is from Crook attends matches with children Glenn and Samantha as well as their Grandfather.

■ Happy 18th birthday today to **LEILA KIDD** of Gateshead. Love from Mam, Dad and Rhiannon.

■ **ANDREW HARLE** of Knaresborough became a teenager yesterday. Andrew's favourite player is Sampson the Cat! happy birthday from Mam, Dad and all the family.

■ Ten year old Kieran Mersh of Millfield has written to us to wish happy birthday to his brother **NATHAN AND AUNTY CAROL STUBBS** who are both season ticket holders.

■ **GEORGE KELLY** was 80 on November 14th. Love from Granddaughter Fiona.



EVERYWHERE WE GO...

ALISTER ANDERSON of Spennymoor has supported Sunderland for over half a century. He is seen here in The Bucket of Blood Saloon in Virginia City, Nevada.

FROM THE WISE OWL PUB, HUDDERSFIELD



We would like to thank your supporters that we had in our pub after your recent match at Huddersfield. We enjoyed their company and had no trouble as they were exceptionally well behaved. Sunderland fans are always welcome at our pub.
A & P Hanson.

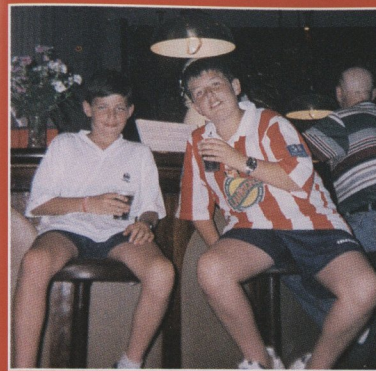
HOMES OF FOOTBALL

The celebrated photographic collection of The Football Trust photographer, Stuart Clarke, entitled 'the Homes of Football' is now on display in Ambleside. Telephone **015394 34440 / 34442** for further details

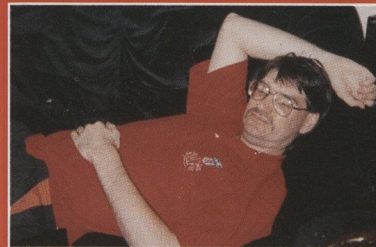
MATCHMAN SUMMERBEE

Match magazines monthly ratings for October list Nicky Summerbee as Sunderland's highest rating player with an average score of 7.25.

Interestingly no fewer than 18 other first division clubs have a highest player rating as high or higher than Sunderland's best despite the Lads topping the league.



DAVID COULTHARD



PAUL NEWTON



LIAM PHILIP SHORT



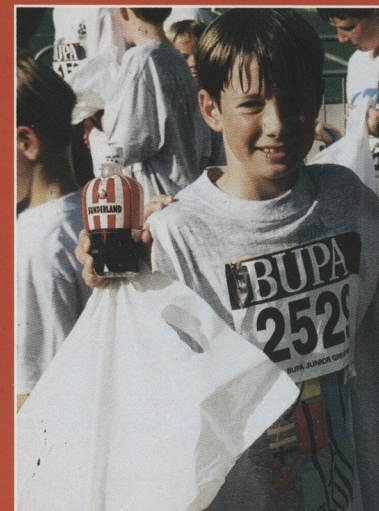
MICHAEL QUINN



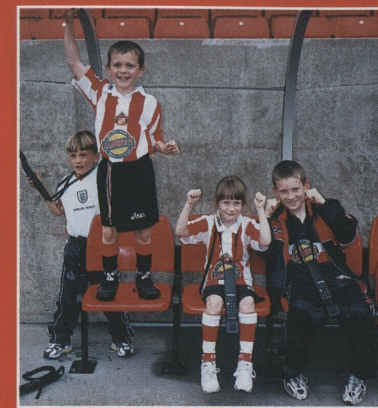
CRAIG HARRIMAN



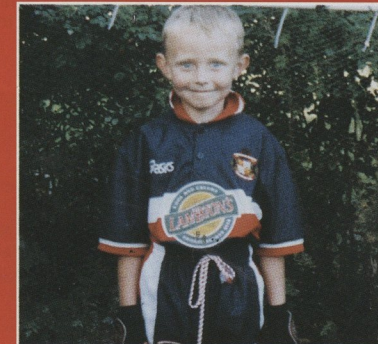
LIAM McGEARY



JAMES KENT



HOLLY JANE SOLOMAN



NICHOLAS HUME



DANIEL JOHNSON



DAVID WHITE

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Official Restaurant of the F.A. Premier League



Enjoy more

Box Office

HOME & AWAY TICKET INFORMATION

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE
SUNDERLAND AFC v STOCKPORT COUNTY
Saturday 5th December 1998
Kick off 3.00pm
TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE
SUNDERLAND AFC v PORT VALE
Saturday 12th December 1998
Kick off 3.00pm
TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE
SUNDERLAND AFC v CRYSTAL PALACE
Tuesday 15th December 1998,
Kick off 7.45pm
TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE
BIRMINGHAM CITY v SUNDERLAND AFC
Saturday 19th December 1998,
Kick off 3.00pm
SEASON TICKET PRIORITY SALE
Season ticket holders can apply from now until 5.30pm Monday 7th December, voucher 44 required. Please do not apply if

SUPER10
Super 10 tickets are now on sale until 11th December 1998. The ticket includes all home League matches starting from Ipswich Town on Saturday 16th January until Birmingham City on the 9th May 1998. Please contact the ticket office for further information.

you have not been to more than six away games via the priority system.
GENERAL SALE
There will not be a general sale.
TICKET PRICES
£16 Adults and £9 OAP's/Juniors under 16.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE
TRANMERE ROVERS v SUNDERLAND AFC
Saturday 26th December 1998,
Kick off 3.00pm
SEASON TICKET PRIORITY SALE

Season ticket holders can apply from now until Friday 11th December 1998, voucher 45 required.
GENERAL SALE
General sale will commence from Monday 14th December, subject to availability.
TICKET PRICES
£14 Adults, OAP's £7, Juniors under 16 £5.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE
SUNDERLAND AFC v CREWE ALEX
Monday 28th December 1998. Kick off 3.00pm
TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE.

Travel Club

v BIRMINGHAM CITY
Sat. 19th December 1998
Kick off 3.00pm
Departure Times:
Sunderland: 9.00am
Newcastle: 8.20am
Price: £15.00

v TRANMERE ROVERS
Sat. 26th December 1998
Kick off 3.00pm
Departure Times:
Sunderland: 9.00am
Newcastle: 8.20am
Price: £14.00

AWAY TICKET POSTAL APPLICATIONS

The club has reviewed the priority postal application procedure and would like to advise season ticket holders:-

(a) When making an away ticket postal application season ticket holders should enclose the relevant vouchers, a pre-paid S.A.E. and payment for only one match in their envelope

(b) Season ticket holders are also requested to mark the outside of their application envelope with the relevant match i.e. 'Swindon Town v SAFC'.

In addition supporters are reminded that Sunderland AFC does not guarantee to process any away ticket application unless it includes the following-

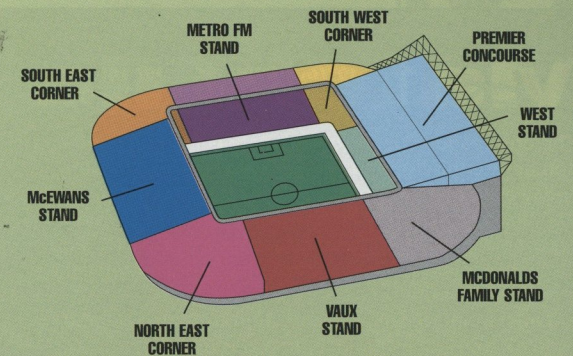
(1) The correct numbered voucher for the match

(2) Full payment - Cheque, credit card or postal order. Strictly no cash.

(3) A pre-paid self addressed envelope

SUNDERLAND STADIUM OF LIGHT TICKET PRICES

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| VAUX STAND | ALL £15 |
| METRO FM STAND | ADULT £17 JUNIOR £15 |
| WEST STAND | CENTRE £19 WINGS - ADULT £17 WINGS - JUNIOR £15 |
| MCEWANS STAND | CENTRE £19 WINGS - ADULT £17 WINGS - JUNIOR £15 |
| CONCESSION CORNERS | ADULTS £15 JUNIORS £5 |
| MCDONALD'S FAMILY ENCLOSURE | ADULTS £11 JUNIORS £5 |
| PREMIER CONCOURSE | CENTRE £22 WINGS - ADULT £17 WINGS - JUNIOR £15 |



TICKET OFFICE OPENING HOURS

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Monday to Friday | 10am - 5.30pm |
| Saturday | 10am - 1pm |
| Sunday | Closed |
| Match Day - midweek | 10am - Kick-off |
| Match Day - weekend | 9.30am - Kick-off |

SUNDERLAND AFC TICKET OFFICE,
STADIUM PARK, SUNDERLAND SR5 1SU.

Supporters are advised that Sunderland AFC now accepts telephone credit card bookings during ticket office opening hours on **0191 551-51-51.**

A booking fee of £1.50 per credit card or Switch card transaction will be charged.

TICKETMASTER

Alternatively, tickets can now be obtained for all home league games from Ticketmaster, subject to booking fee, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

TELEPHONE: 0990 862015



SUNDERLAND STADIUM OF LIGHT TOURS HOTLINE 0191 551 5055

Sunderland 3
(Clough 2, McNab)

Blackburn Rovers 2
(Lawther, Ashurst og).

THE LADS: Montgomery, Nelson, Ashurst, Harvey, Hurley, McNab, Hooper, Herd, Clough, Fogarty, Mulham.

ROVERS: Else, Bray, Newton, Clayton, Woods, McGrath, Ferguson, Lawther, Pickering, Douglas, Ratcliffe.

ATTENDANCE: 24,727.

Lads book semi spot

Harvey, only in the side because of injury to Stan Anderson, was a revelation and with Hurley supreme Blackburn were only in ascendancy for 10 minutes at either end of the game.

But those brief periods were almost Sunderland's undoing.

From the kick-off Rovers seized the initiative and former Roker hitman Ian Lawther netted after five minutes. The Lads were under the cosh. Then a truly magnificent goal from Clough levelled matters on 11 minutes and the number nine set up McNab 10 minutes later.

For the next hour Blackburn were second best, Sunderland threatened to increase the lead, but had to wait until the 83rd minute when Clough forced home a Fogarty cross. Rovers were incensed, claiming the ball had been hooked back from beyond the goal line.

At 3-1 with seven minutes remaining The Lads were home and dry. Well, not quite. Clearly believing an injustice had been done Rovers pounded Sunderland's goal. A minute later Len Ashurst put through his own goal and before the final whistle Lawther wasted two reasonable opportunities to equalise.

Had he scored the result would have been a travesty. The Lads had competed and won against a Division One top 10 team. The worst unemployment figures in Sunderland had just been published and the prospect of soccer success was one of the few things going for Sunderland.

MATCHDAY MEMORIES

by Harry Barrett

Clifford Hatley's conducting of Handel's Messiah at the Empire had just been proclaimed "a Triumph" by the Echo's classical music correspondent. Roker Park too was a theatre of excellence 36 years ago this week as Sunderland overcame First Division opposition and earned themselves a semi-final appearance in the third season of the League Cup.

The Lads, strong promotion contenders for the top flight, had seen off Oldham, Scunthorpe, and Portsmouth in the earlier rounds. A strong central spine - 19-year-old Monty between the sticks, King Charlie at centre-half and up front the prolific Cloughie, 23 goals already - had Wearside drooling. Well most of the town. Then as now there was the moaners. Allan Brown was being criticised for not buying a replacement



■ LEN ASHURST

for injury prone Harvey Hooper, and some Roker regulars were having a pop at management for the spartan spectator facilities, suggesting money could be diverted from "high players' wages" to "more comfort for the fans". "Plus ça change, plus la meme chose", as they say in the Brewery Tap.

Blackburn, unbeaten in eight First Division fixtures were pre match favourites. Rovers half-back line was seen as the deciding factor. Former England captain Ronnie Clayton, had tackling Eire International Mick McGrath and towering pivot Matt Woods who were supposedly a cut above their Second Division opponents. Sunderland's engine room thought differently. Jimmy McNab was the man of the match. In modern terms he controlled midfield and acted as a playmaker. Ulsterman



■ JIMMY McNAB

At a time when the Daily Mirror was conducting an in depth enquiry into the economic plight of the North compared to the more prosperous South, Roker was at least providing some hope for a region devastated by unemployment and poor health.

Half a life time later things don't change. The Lads are still promising top flight success and a semi-final place as a fillip to thousands who are victims of the Bank of England's conviction that sacrifices by the North are essential to preserve a buoyant southern economy.

Only difference is the Mirror now conducts a detailed enquiry into sports safety standards necessary for the Royal Princes.

Meanwhile, Lee Clark and Kevin Ball are the heirs apparent of Jimmy McNab and Martin Harvey. ■

MatchFile

■ The one League Cup encounter between Sunderland and Luton before this evening's match took place on a balmy Tuesday evening in August 1976. Billy Hughes netted twice in the first-half as The Lads, newly promoted to Division One, overcame their opponents, a league below, 3-1. Pop Robson was also on target, with Jimmy Husband replying in the second round tie.

The Lads: Montgomery, Malone, Bolton, Towers, Clarke, Moncur, Kerr, Hughes, Holden, Robson, Train.

Hatters: Barber, Price, Buckley, Chambers, Faulkner (sub Jim Ryan), P. Fletcher, Husband, Hill, Deans, Fuccillo, Aston.

Attendance: 22,390.

■ Sunderland are in the quarter-finals for the fifth time. In 1961-62 Brian Clough's goal at Roker was of consolation value only as Norwich won 4-1. Victory at the same stage 12 months later over Blackburn earned the club a two legged semi-final with Aston Villa. The midlanders won through 3-1 on aggregate.

■ Clive Walker's goal at Vicarage Road in January 1985 brought The Lads a stage closer to their only League Cup Final appearance.

■ Hopes were high for further success when Coventry visited Roker in round five nine years ago, and Sunderland had the better of the exchanges on a blustery January 1990 night. The game though, ended scoreless, but will be remembered for a flare up in front of the Clock Stand between Gary Bennett and Dave Speedie. Both players were red carded. Speedie was again the centre of attention in the replay, tangling with Gary Owers who was sent off. Needless to say the aforementioned Speedie was crossed off Roker's Christmas Card list. The Sky Blues won 5-0 at Highfield Road with Steve Livingstone, here with Grimsby last month scoring four goals.

■ Sunderland's fifth round matches are as follows ...

| | | | | |
|---------|-----------|---|-----|--------|
| 1961-62 | Norwich | h | 1-4 | 17,813 |
| 1962-63 | Blackburn | h | 3-2 | 24,727 |
| 1984-85 | Watford | a | 1-0 | 22,591 |
| 1989-90 | Coventry | h | 0-0 | 27,218 |
| | Replay | a | 0-5 | 21,219 |

■ Luton, winners of the League Cup in 1987-88 and runners-up the following season are in the last eight for the fifth time. Their first appearance came in 1978-79 when Leeds beat them 4-1 at Elland Road.

Luton's fifth round record...

| | | | | |
|---------|---------------|---|-----|--------|
| 1978-79 | Leeds | a | 1-4 | 28,177 |
| 1987-88 | Bradford City | h | 2-0 | 11,022 |
| 1988-89 | Southampton | h | 1-1 | 11,785 |
| | Replay | a | 2-1 | 18,872 |

■ Mick Harford netted six goals in the competition when Luton lifted the League Cup at Wembley in April 1988 after beating Arsenal 3-2. One of these strikes came in the quarter-final success over Bradford City, and the Wearsider was also on target in round five the following year when Southampton were beaten in The Dell replay.

■ Both clubs are heading for a third semi-final appearance in the League Cup. A summary of their respective records is as follows...

Round reached The Lads Hatters

| | | |
|------------------|----|----|
| Round One | 3 | 6 |
| Round Two | 18 | 15 |
| Round Three | 10 | 9 |
| Round Four | 3 | 4 |
| Round Five | 2 | - |
| Beaten Finalists | 1 | 1 |
| Winners | - | 1 |

■ Tonight could see a new home gate record for the competition established. Amazingly nearly 80,000 watched two second round replays in three days 25 years ago.

Top five Wearside crowds ...

| | | | | |
|--------|----------|---------------|-----|----------------------|
| 39,975 | 29-10-73 | v Derby | 2-2 | round two replay |
| 38,460 | 31-10-73 | v Derby | 3-0 | round two replay (2) |
| 33,559 | 31-10-79 | v Man City | 1-0 | round three replay |
| 33,237 | 12-01-63 | v Aston Villa | 1-3 | semi-final first leg |
| 30,831 | 04-10-76 | v Man Utd | 2-2 | round three replay |



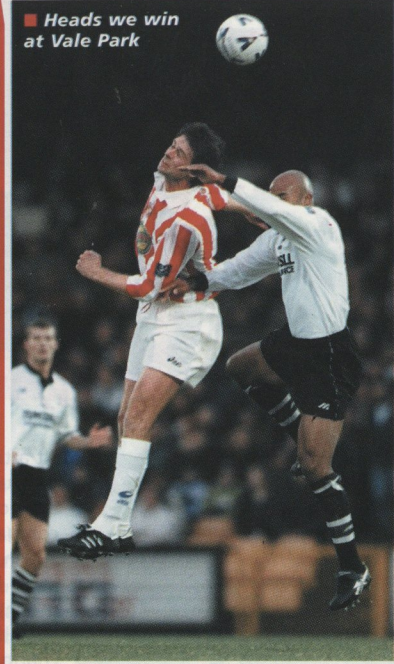
12TH With the first team squad away in the north west the injured Kevin Ball, Kevin Phillips and Darren Holloway joined Bob Murray and John Fickling in attending the meeting of the Football Task Force at the Stadium of Light. Broadcast live by BBC Radio Five, the evening was hosted by Eleanor Oldroyd and featured contributions from FA Chief Executive Graham Kelly and Mike Lee of the Premier League.

14TH Last year Vale Park was became the scene of one of Sunderland's most disappointing days but this time round the rednwhite army saw the Lads set a new club record of 19 league games unbeaten (including the final league game of last season). A cold miserable day in Burslem, a stadium undergoing improvements which meant the players changed in Portakabins and a hard working home side could have combined to upset the odds.

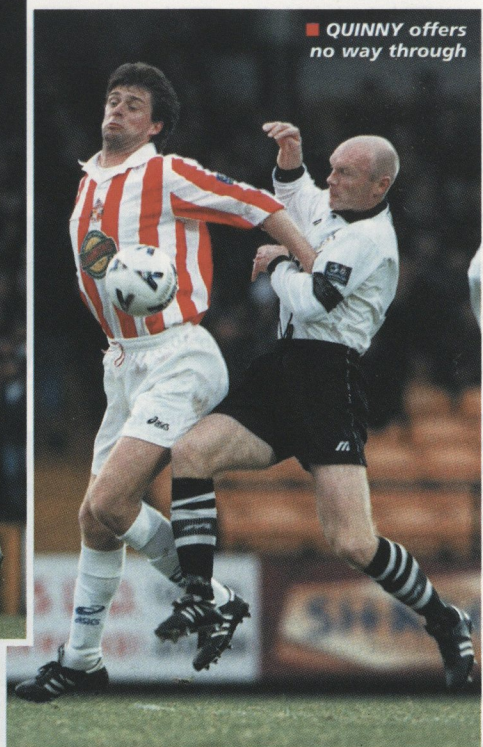
Martin Scott continued as captain in Kevin Ball's absence while in midfield there was the welcome sight of Lee Clark starting a game for the first time since the first game of the season. It was Clark who forced the breakthrough when his 27th minute cross was turned into his own net by Neil Aspin who had to play the ball as Niall Quinn breathed down his neck.

Only able to play after FIFA relaxed their five day rule regarding internationals Quinn made the most of his inclusion by getting his name on the scoresheet with a trademark header in the 64th minute to seal

Rob Mason's
**RednWhite
Diary**



Heads we win at Vale Park



QUINNY offers no way through

Michael Bridges impressed throughout and it was from his expertly delivered centre that his strike partner scored.

"We've had a busy week and a very hard game on Wednesday at Everton and we're pleased with the win because this is a real difficult place to come," was how Reidy read it.

Port Vale's long serving manager John Rudge joined the growing list of opposition managers who are backing Sunderland for promotion:

"Sunderland are the best team in the league. I've watched them three times in the last few weeks and against Everton in the first half of the game they were magnificent."

There was good news also for the Under 19's who went to the top of their table with a 4-1 win over Leeds at Whitburn while the Under 17's

fought out a 2-2 draw with their Elland Road counterparts.

16th Injury forced Darren Williams out of the England Under 21 squad for their match with the Czech Republic.

17th The Reserves lost their 13 month unbeaten home record five days before the first team emulated them.

Marlon Harewood scored the only goal of the game for Nottingham Forest in a match in which Lee Clark continued his return from injury.

Andy Marriott provided the games best moment with an 80th minute penalty save against one of his former clubs.

18th Niall Quinn played 72 minutes for Eire as a lone striker in their 1-0 Euro 2,000 qualifier in Yugoslavia.

21st Exactly a year after Barnsley upset the Premiership form book with victory at Anfield so they ended our unbeaten record at the Stadium of Light.

Defeat meant the end of the club's longest ever unbeaten start to a season and also ended our 14

month unbeaten home record, Barnsley becoming the third visiting club to take three points home from our new home.

"The run had to end somewhere and the players have been magnificent during it. It's a setback but these things happen and it was a crazy game of football. All credit to Barnsley," said Peter Reid afterwards.

Ashley Ward had hit Barnsley's winner at Liverpool twelve months earlier and the striker who worked with Peter Reid at Manchester City had an eventful afternoon. Barnsley had turned down a reported offer of £3.5m from Leicester for the powerful frontman who held Darren Williams off to open the scoring in the 33rd minute.

Three minutes later Ward blasted a penalty conceded by Chris Makin way over the bar and only two minutes later was sent off for a dreadful stamp on Darren Williams. Only just returning from being

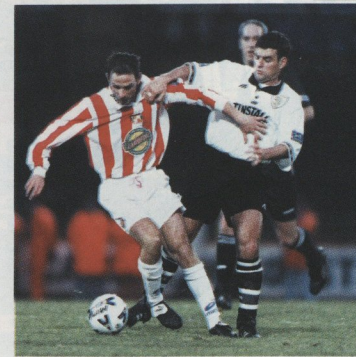
suspended after being sent off against Wolves, Ward became Barnsley's fifth sending off of the season and the first man to be sent off at the Stadium of Light since the ground's opening league game.

Having begun mounting up near misses in the 24th second when Danny Dichio's header forced a desperate save from Tony Bullock, Sunderland increased the pressure on the visitors goal which enjoyed a charmed life during a hectic spell in which Andy Melville hit a post and two other efforts were scrambled from the goal line.

The second half began as the first had - with an immediate clear cut chance only this time it fell to the visitors for whom Bruce Dyer scored splendidly to cap an outstanding personal performance. The former Crystal Palace man who played at Roker Park for England Under 21's two years ago worked tirelessly for his side and was a threat throughout the ninety minutes.

Stung by the goal, Sunderland and the crowd - which rose for the fifth successive league match - still believed we could come out on top.

It came as no surprise when parity was reached 25 minutes later and thoughts turned to a West Brom like triumph. Five minutes after Niall Quinn entered the fray in the 58th minute Martin Scott brought us back into it from the spot after Dichio was pulled down and eight minutes later Quinn grabbed



"Sunderland are the best team in the league. I've watched them three times in the last few weeks and against Everton in the first half of the game they were magnificent."

Port Vale manager John Rudge

his sixth goal in seven games with a looping header.

The television viewing public of Sweden and Finland watching the game live were being treated to an entertaining and open game as Barnsley to their credit continued to look to hit us on the break despite their reduced ranks. However it looked as if Sunderland would complete another comeback as the final corner count of 13 - 0 and on target stats of 14 - 4 indicated the home sides dominance.

The final twist in the tale though was provided by the game's third penalty when the referee ruled against Bally for a challenge on Sean McClare. Darren Barnard beat Sorensen to leave Wearside disappointed.

Lee Clark - playing at home for the first time since the opening day of the season - put the day into perspective: "Let's not get away from it, we're disappointed to get beat because it's a lovely habit when you don't get beat and you can carry things on but we've just got to pick ourselves up, remain upbeat, remain confident and just get on with it again."

Earlier in the day the Under 19 and Under 17 sides had both beaten Barnsley in their FA Premier Academy fixtures by scores of 2-0 and 4-0 respectively. ■



NIALL leads Vale a merry dance



All you need to know - past and present - about the League Cup quarter-finalists. The line under each club indicates rounds reached over the last ten seasons, from left (1989) to right (1998).

LEICESTER CITY
4-2-2-3-3-2-3-WON-3
WINS: 1964, Stoke City (4-3 agg), 1997, Middlesbrough, (1-1, 1-0 rep)
SCORERS 98-99:
Heskey 3 Cottee 2 Taggart 1
Fenton 1 Izzet 1 Parker 1 Wilson 1

BLACKBURN ROVERS
3-2-3-1-5F-4-4-4-3-3
BEST (SEMI-FINALS):
1962, Rochdale (3-4 agg)
1993, Sheffield W. (3-6 agg)
SCORERS 98-99:
Sutton 1 Sherwood 1

Leicester City
If the Foxes sniff out another trail to the Final, they will be fancied to hold off the chasing pack. Confidence is due to Martin O'Neill's impressive record at Wembley.

Twice a Wembley winner in this competition as a player, the former Nottingham Forest midfielder has consistently snaffled the silverware since becoming a manager.

With Wycombe Wanderers, his side twice landed the FA Trophy as well as winning a play-off final against Preston. With Leicester two years ago, he had to settle for a draw with Middlesbrough before going to Hillsborough to win the League Cup.



Blackburn Rovers
Roy Hodgson's last cup final was with UEFA Cup runners-up Internazionale two years ago. Sadly there won't be a Wembley follow-up with Blackburn this season.

Rovers announced the departure of their manager when the Ewood Park side slipped to the bottom of the Premiership after taking only point from his last six games. But the League Cup could still be a bright spot. So far, they have progressed through two rounds with two goals - one to win at Crewe, the other to draw at Newcastle, where new England Under-21 cap David Dunn won a penalty shoot-out.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR
4-5-5-SF-4-5-3-3-4-3
WINS: 1971, Aston Villa (2-0)
1973, Norwich City (1-0)
SCORERS 98-99:
Armstrong 3 Campbell 2 Nielsen 2
Carr 1 Dominguez 1 Vega 1
Iversen 1 Scales 1

MANCHESTER UNITED
3-3-RU-WON-3-RU-3-2-4-3
WINS: 1992, v Nottingham Forest (1-0)
SCORERS 98-99:
Solskjaer 3 Nevland 1

Tottenham Hotspur
If Martin O'Neill is a Wembley talisman for Leicester, don't underestimate George Graham's healing powers on behalf of Tottenham.



A quarter-final in the week of his 54th birthday offers a touch of nostalgia in a competition which has been good to the new Spurs manager. It brought his first trophy as player - with Chelsea in 1965. And his first as a manager - with Arsenal in 1987. A further triumph in 1993 was part of an unprecedented English cup double for the Gunners.

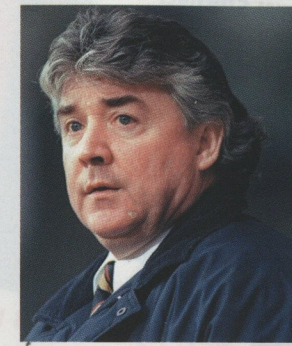
Manchester United
The big question is whether Alex Ferguson intends to continue his policy of resting the big names of Old Trafford.

So far United have won two home ties with a group of youngsters integrated with a few senior players, notably Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, the subject of bid from Spurs earlier in the season. It might be considered unwise to change now because United are bound to be looking ahead to the final Champions' League group game against Bayern Munich next week.

WIMBLEDON
4-4-2-2-3-5-3-2-SF-3
BEST (SEMI-FINAL):
1997, Leicester C. (1-1 agg, lost on away goal)
SCORERS 98-99:
Ekoku 3 Ardley 3 Gayle 1
Kennedy 1 Leaburn 1

CHELSEA
2-2-SF-2-5-3-3-2-3-WON
WINS: 1965, Leicester C. (3-2 agg)
1998, Middlesbrough (2-0)
SCORERS 98-99:
Vialli 5 Poyet 2 Flo 1 Leboeuf 1

Wimbledon
Joe Kinnear is fast approaching a 52nd birthday and the seventh anniversary of his appointment by the Dons.
Few managers would be more deserving of a trophy after his outstanding work in keeping the indomitable Crazy Gang in the Premiership.



The Irishman played for a successful Spurs side in two Finals in the early 1970s, but the closest he has been to Wembley as a manager was two years ago. Wimbledon were beaten in the semi-finals of both major cup competitions.



Chelsea
The management business has come easily to Luca Vialli. Little more than six months after succeeding Ruud Gullit, he had three trophies on the sideboard.

The League Cup set the ball rolling, soon to be followed by the Cup-winners' Cup and the Super Cup, the latter gained with a win against European champions Real Madrid. It helps, of course, when the manager can pop himself into the cup side and apparently score goals at will. He is the top scorer among this week's quarter-finalists after a hat-trick against Villa and two at Arsenal.

SUNDERLAND
2-5-3-2-1-3-2-2-3-3
BEST (RUNNERS-UP):
1985, Norwich City (0-1)
SCORERS 98-99:
Bridges 3 Dichio 2 Phillips 2
Johnston 1 Quinn 1 Scott 1
Smith 1

LUTON TOWN
RU-3-2-2-1-1-1-3-2
WINS: 1988, Arsenal (3-2)
SCORERS 98-99:
Gray 3 Alexander 2
S. Davis 2 Douglas 2 Evers 1
Fotiadis 1 Johnson 1 McLaren 1

SUNDERLAND AND THE LEAGUE CUP
Success has yet to come
Sunderland's way in the League Cup in any of its many guises.



Since our first match in the first year of the competition - a 4-3 defeat at Brentford in 1960 - we have only twice progressed beyond tonight's quarter final stage.

Runners up to Norwich City in what was then The Milk Cup in 1985 we also reached the semi finals in 1962-63 losing out to Aston Villa who won 3-1 in the first leg at Roker before holding us to a 0-0 draw at Villa Park.

Our only previous League Cup meeting with tonight's visitors Luton - who won the trophy in 1988 - came in 1976 when our current Director of Youth Pop Robson was one of the scorers in a 3-1 win.

There have been some great League Cup games, not least in the last round when with our squad stretched through injury the lads knocked out Everton at Goodison on

penalties. Three seasons ago Lee Howey inspired a fightback against Preston with the lads fighting back to win a game from being two down for the first time in twelve years.

Jimmy Montgomery made the first and last of his record 623 appearances for the club in the League Cup. Beginning with a 5-2 win over Walsall in 1961-62 which included a Brian Clough hat trick, Monty finally bowed out after being beaten by a Brian Greenhoff goal against Man Utd at Old Trafford in 1976 in a third round second replay.

The three games with Derby when we were FA Cup holders in 1973 were all brilliant matches. Fielding all but Dennis Tueart of the Cup Final team at the Baseball Ground we held the Champions of a year earlier 2-2 with Tueart's replacement John Lathan grabbing both of our

goals. Tueart returned to score and have a penalty saved by Colin Boulton in the drawn replay which ranks as one of the fastest, most exciting matches ever seen at Roker before Vic Halom embarrassed England centre half Roy McFarland with a hat trick in a 3-0 win just two nights later.

While promotion is the top priority this season the incentive of a semi final place against Premiership opposition and a ticket into the UEFA Cup for the team who lift the Worthington Cup in March there is everything to play for tonight.

Don't forget when the FA Cup was lifted in 1973 it was Luton who were beaten in the quarter final and the Hatters were amongst our victims on the road to Wembley in 1937 on the only other occasion Sunderland have won a major cup.

THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN
EDITOR ROB MASON'S GREATEST LEAGUE CUP MEMORIES

- 1) The 7-6 penalty shoot out win over Newcastle at St. James' Park. 2nd Rd 1979-80.
- 2) Vic Halom's hat trick against Derby County 2nd Rd 2nd replay 1973-74.
- 3) The 5-2 aggregate semi final win over Chelsea 1984-85.
- 4) Chris Turner's late penalty save from Spurs' Graham Roberts at White Hart Lane 4th Rd replay 1984-85
- 5) Gary Bennett's meeting with David Speedie. Quarter final with Coventry 1989 -90.
- 6) The 6-1 win at Bristol City. 2nd Rd 2nd leg 1990-91.

7) Being 4-0 up against Wolves in less than twenty minutes. 2nd Rd 2nd leg 1982-83.

ROUNDS IN WHICH SUNDERLAND HAVE LOST

| | | |
|--------|---|----------|
| 1st Rd | ~ | 3 times |
| 2nd Rd | ~ | 18 times |
| 3rd Rd | ~ | 11 times |
| 4th Rd | ~ | 3 times |
| 5th Rd | ~ | twice |
| Semi | ~ | once |
| Final | ~ | once |

YEARS LOST TO CUP WINNERS

| | | |
|---------|---|--------------|
| 1961-62 | ~ | Norwich |
| 1967-68 | ~ | Leeds |
| 1984-85 | ~ | Norwich |
| 1993-94 | ~ | Aston Villa. |

The Lads

The Hatters

GOALKEEPERS

ANDY MARRIOTT
THOMAS SORENSEN
LUKE WEAVER

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
| | |
| | |

NATHAN ABBEY
KELVIN DAVIES

DEFENDERS

PAUL BUTLER
JODY CRADDOCK
MICHAEL GRAY
DARREN HOLLOWAY
CHRIS MAKIN
ANDY MELVILLE
MARTIN SCOTT
DARREN WILLIAMS

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STEVE DAVIS
MARVIN JOHNSON
GAVIN MCGOWAN
MITCHELL THOMAS
ALAN WHITE

MIDFIELDERS

KEVIN BALL
LEE CLARK
GERRY HARRISON
ALLAN JOHNSTON
GAVIN MCCANN
JOHN MULLIN
ALEX RAE
NICKY SUMMERBEE
PAUL THIRLWELL
NEIL WAINWRIGHT

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GRAHAM ALEXANDER
SIMON DAVIES
SEAN EVERS
LIAM GEORGE
MICHAEL McINDOE
RAY MCKINNON
PAUL McLAREN
MATTHEW SPRING

FORWARDS

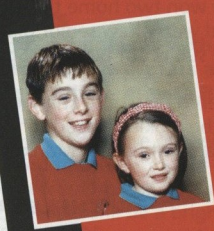
MICHAEL BRIDGES
DANNY DICHIO
KEVIN PHILLIPS
NIALL QUINN
MARTIN SMITH

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HERVE BACQUE
JIMMY COX
GARY DOHERTY
STUART DOUGLAS
ANDREW FOTIADIS
PHIL GRAY

Match Facts

Mascots



Tonight's mascots are **LUKE & NATASHA BALL**. Luke is aged 11 and Natasha is aged 6. They live in Houghton le Spring and both enjoy football.

Officials

REFEREE: Mr. Eddie Lomas (Manchester). A Trust Property Services Manager with Salford NHS, Mr. Lomas is married with two teenage children. Last refereed a cup match involving Sunderland at Rotherham in January and more recently retired at half time in our match at West Brom at Easter.

ASSISTANT REFEREES: Mr. I. Blanchard and Mr. A.C. Harteveld.

4TH OFFICIAL: Mr. P. Vickers.

The Squads

Match Record

HALF-TIME:

FULL-TIME:

SUNDERLAND SCORERS:

.....

.....

LUTON TOWN SCORERS:

.....

.....

Worthington Cup

QUARTER-FINAL DRAW

LEICESTER CITY V BLACKBURN
SUNDERLAND V LUTON TOWN
TOTTENHAM V MANCHESTER UTD
WIMBLEDON V CHELSEA



Next Home Match v STOCKPORT COUNTY

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE
DIVISION ONE, SATURDAY 5TH
DECEMBER, KICK-OFF 3.00pm



Did you know?

Sunderland have only twice been past this stage of the Worthington (League) Cup

Ladbrokes

Some people say it is a game of two halves. With LADBROKES you can bet on it.

Mitre Matchball Sponsor
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