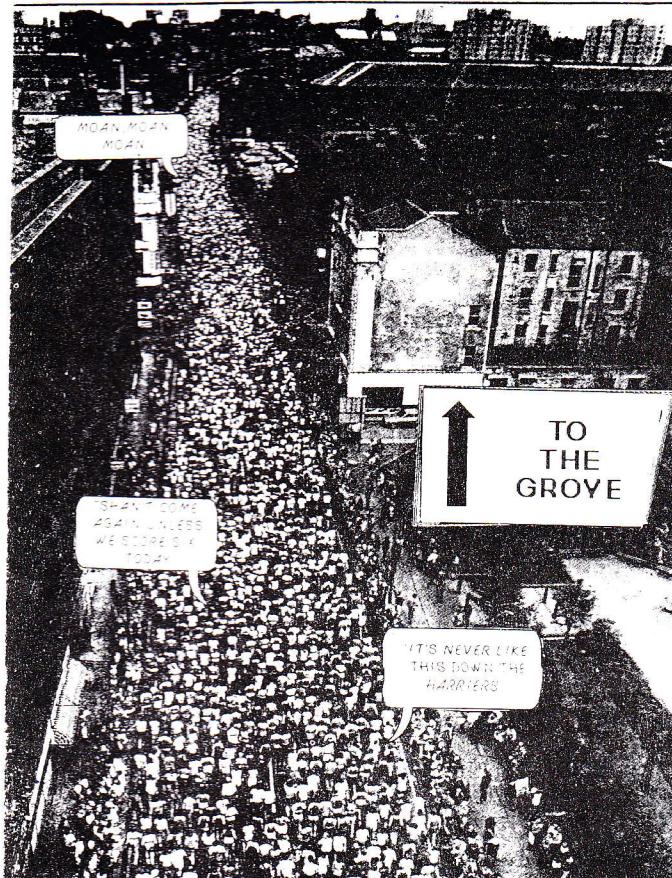


# FOLLOW YOUR INSTINCT



A HALESOWEN TOWN FANZINE



## INSIDE:-

THE REAL  
BLUEPRINT FOR  
FOOTBALL

PUNGUS CATFICH  
- A LEGEND  
REVEALED

+  
FREE  
LEAGUE  
LADDERS

ISSUE THREE

AUG/SEP 1991

PRICE: TEN BOB TO YOU

# *Follow Your Instinct*



6 , QUEENS GATE, LIPSON, PLYMOUTH PL4 7PW

1FL, 66, EAST CLAREMONT STREET, EDINBURGH EH7 4JR

## MIDFIELD GENERALS :-

Frank and Poll

## TRICKY WINGER :-

Ada

## COACH :-

Alison

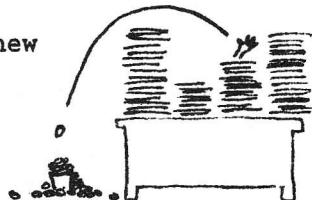
## DEFENSIVE WALL :-

Steve and Sarah, Kevin Harrison's Barber, Magnus McLain, When Saturday Comes, Dai at Fly Printers, Sid, Pete, Russell, John, Richard, Ant, Esther, PM.

These random scribblings have nothing whatsoever to do with Halesowen Town F.C. or its official supporters clubs. The views expressed are those of the people who wrote them down in the first place and not necessarily those of the editors. Any racist, sexist or obscene material will be taken away and burnt. Anybody sending in anything supporting Stourbridge or the Harriers - we'll notify the appropriate authorities and you can expect a visit soon.

# Editorial

Hello then, and a warm welcome to a new issue and a new season. We hope everyone had a bostin' summer - bet you thought (hoped ?) we'd have crawled back off to where we came from by now. You should be so lucky !! We're planning on sticking around for a while yet and, if this issue is anything to go by, we should be keeping well down to last season's low standards.



Firstly, a word of thanks to everybody who sent stuff in for us to print. We would like to point out, though, that any cartoons e.t.c. should be in black ink, otherwise we can't use them (blue won't come out on the photocopier) and we'd prefer photos in black and white please. Cheers.

All in all, last season's performance was very encouraging and we would also like to congratulate Eric on being voted player of the season. For this season just winning a match in the Trophy will be the cause of wild scenes of celebration in certain far flung outposts of this land. We would like to take this opportunity to wish Lee Joinson all the best for the future and thank him, from the hearts of our bottoms, for all he has done in the past as well. Cheers Lee and good luck.

Johnny Morris doesn't seem to have been quite as active in the transfer market as, perhaps, we'd have liked but we'll have to wait and see on that one. It was good to see most of the squad sign on again, though, so maybe it'll prove unnecessary. Having only managed to get to the Tranmere friendly thus far, due to holiday commitments, we are unable to say anything about the new signings, which would probably be unfair at this stage anyway. Not having seen the line ups either, it is difficult to know what to make of the pre-season results. Hardly encouraging at the time of writing, though. 0-6 against Tranmere, 1-5 against Cardiff and a 2-2

(cont. over)

draw at Minehead - we won't exactly be sending shivers through the rest of the league with results like that. Still, August 17th's when it matters so it's fingers crossed for then, and let's hope that this time next year we're reminiscing on another milestone reached by H.T.F.C. - the F.A. Trophy 2nd Qualifying Round !!

We're going to baffle a lot of people now, as well, by just saying that we wish Bloxwich all the best for the coming season and hope you take the Midland Combination by storm. Thanks a lot for helping us out John !!

Right then, on with the season and let's get behind the team from the start. After what we achieved last year with a lot of moaning at the players, imagine what we could do with the crowd behind them ?! Finally, don't forget to bring your old blankets along to the next home match in case there's another blanket collection at half-time !!

#### CONTRIBUTIONS

All contributions gratefully received. Articles, cuttings, cartoons, letters, wads of money etc.. The more we get the better the quality will be so get scrawling.



Stourbridge unveil new close season signing. Rumours abound that "Dobbin" has already put in a transfer request, due to the standard of his team-mates being way below that which he is used to !!

We are also now available from :-

Magpie Records, Queensway Mall, Halesowen  
Tara's News, Stourbridge Rd., Halesowen  
Nostalgia & Comics, Smallbrook Queensway, B'ham  
Sportspages, 94/96 Charing Cross Rd., London  
Waggon & Horses, Stourbridge Rd., Halesowen

# *Open to Question*

For those of you who didn't realise/didn't bother etc. there was an open day at the Grove on 13th July 1991 with a forum in the evening for supporters to put their questions to a panel consisting of :-

Chairman - Ron Moseley  
Manager - John Morris  
Social Club Chairman - Roger Wood  
Club Treasurer - John Slater  
Social Club Treasurer - Alan Hadley  
Reserve Team Manager - Steve Shilvock

We sent along our very own correspondent armed with a pen, notebook and a list of tricky questions and so here is their report on the proceedings :-

Q1 :- If it becomes obvious that new player(s) are needed after 7 or 8 games will money be made available ??

RM :- "If generally agreed that right player available more money would be made available within reason."

[Questions here led on to - "would money be spent on the ground or the players ??"]

RM :- "Need to keep the balance between the two. Have already spent about £1/4 million on the ground in recent years but the team has improved at the same time. "

A supplementary question was asked here of whether John Morris was happy with last years team, to which he replied that we obviously needed a new keeper & centre-half. Last season he used 5 keepers and 4 no. 5's which he was not happy with.

Q2 :- Do you feel the side is good enough given that no special signings were made in the summer ??

JM :- "The side is good and fairly young with one or two to give experience, but will need time to develop. Can't just go out and buy the players needed, though.

(cont.)

John then gave an interesting example of how he went after a W.M. League player and the club wanted to start negotiating at £6,000 !!

**Q3 :- A new sponsor is putting in £10,000. Will this go on the ground or players ??**

AH :- "All income goes into a general pool - no separate ground/players split"

**Q4 :- Is there a timetable for getting into the Conference ??**

RM :- "Hard to predict but if we're in the top 4 at Xmas then the club will go all out to get the ground up to standard. Unsure if the team is good enough yet."

**Q5 :- Did the committee feel that Lee Johnson had been unfairly treated in the past 2 years ?? Why didn't they tell John Morris how good he was ??**

[Note from our correspondent : This question was greeted by howls of derision and :

- 1) Was embarrassing for Lee as he was present.
- 2) Sure JM knew all about Lee long before he came to Halesowen.
- 3) Lee wouldn't want to be picked on past performances]

A supplementary question was then raised as to whether the committee felt that all "Wembley" players had been hard done by ?? This was greeted by more derision and was answered from the floor by pointing out that if the players felt so hard done by how come they're all down the Grove every week !

**Q6 :- Did the committee think there was any coincidence that we got more points away than at home, where the crowd gets at the team ??**

JM :- "Young team needing time to develop."

John Morris also made a point that when he took Frank Bennett to Coventry for a trial, Terry Butcher told him that he rates Andy Pearce at almost £1 million.

**Q7 :- What's Mark Penn's role going to be ??**

JM :- "Manager !! It's a two man job anyway (ask his wife !!). Somebody to give a different perspective - been criticised for leaving subs too late etc.."

**Q8 :- Did Steve Shilcock think the reserves were good enough**

SS :- "Not really a squad. Only reason for existence is to feed players into a strong first team."

JM :- "A few players on verge of first team - a good sign."

**Q9 :- What happened to Hardanger ??**

Committee :- "They went broke !!"

The point was then made that D.Berry seems very involved with the club and is certainly around more. This was followed by D.Berry, from the floor, saying D.Berry & Co. were a good team and pleased to link up with another good team - HTFC [sales chat - your correspondent !!]

[Note from correspondent : Does seem more involved but might just be using the club for publicity - give him the benefit of the doubt so far !!]

A few other points were raised about players progressing to the Football League. John Morris and the club will not stand in their way by demanding "unreasonable" fees. John asked how many Kiddy players have gone into the League in the last 9 years - answer none. [Pre-Paul Jones - Ed's]. Graham Allner prices them out of the market. HTFC will not - not fair to the players, which means :

1) players move on  
BUT 2) better players should be attracted in the hope of being spotted.

There you have it then - a piece of investigative journalism brought to you exclusively by "Follow Your Instinct", Halesowen's most unruly tabloid !!

# NASTY...? US...?

Certain people have accused us here at FYI mansions of being too negative about our fellow Midland non-league teams (honest!). So just to prove them wrong, here are a few nice things we managed to cobble together to say about our local rivals.

## WINNERS

Well done Cradley Town for winning the highly competitive Banks's Brewery Division One last season. A big club like yours needs top level football to satisfy the demands of your large following.

## LOSERS

We were upset when Gresley lost the replay of the Vase final after delighting a huge 7,000-strong Wembley crowd with a thrilling fightback against all the odds. If only Halesowen could draw crowds like that, what a force we'd be.

## DRAWERS

Good old Stourbridge Town! After years of

being written off as complete no hopers they go and shock everyone by winning the Midland Division. Who needs a decent ground when your team can produce the goods on the pitch?

## PANTS

Thanks to the Halesowen News for providing us with accurate and informative news and articles on the lads. Your standards of journalism are something we humble amateurs can only dream of reaching. Keep up the good work!!

## KNICKERS

Isn't Derek Beasley a sound bloke? You ask the Harriers' fan and he'll tell you that if it wasn't for Derek's work behind the scenes, the club wouldn't be continually knocking on the door of the Beazer League. An unsung hero if ever there was one.

You can't say fairer than that.

Honest John

# BUILDING PYRAMIDS (PT. 2)

With all this talk of Super Leagues and reconstruction of the Pyramid, I thought I put my own twopenneth worth in.

18 is this month's magic number - the FA's 'ideal' number of teams for their proposed Premier League. Although their motives may be wrong in many respects, they are right when they say teams play too many games in a season. But surely this argument holds throughout football, maybe more so in the semi-professional game where squads are smaller and the number of competitions are greater.

Therefore I propose a radical restructuring of the league system. The Football League (I don't care who runs it) becomes a 5-division concern, each division having 18 clubs. The 2 remaining league teams plus the top 16 Conference teams make up the new 'Division 6', again having 18 teams. The 6 other Conference clubs then join up with the 66 from the Beazer, HFS and Isthmian Premiers to make 4 new feeder leagues, each conveniently comprising 18 teams.

The new 'Division 7' leagues could be called the Northern, Midland, Southern and Isthmian Premier Leagues. Using my trusty AA Road Map and my Non-League Year Book, I reckon next year's Midland Premier would be made up of the following clubs:-

Atherstone, Aylesbury, Bromsgrove, Burton, Buxton, Cambridge City, Cheltenham, Gloucester, Halesowen, Leek, Matlock, Moor Green, Rushden, Shropshire, Stafford, VS Rugby, Worcester and Witton Albion.

A farthest away game at Cambridge, and the majority of clubs at the most an hour and a half away; I'm sure crowds would be boosted by larger numbers of travelling supporters, especially for weekday evening games. Sadly, the chances of any of this coming about are approximately zero.

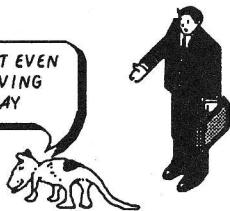
# THE ADVENTURES OF FIDO T DOG

(The Harriers' Greatest Fan)

By Tony Lungs

SEASON TICKETS, WHO NEEDS 'EM?

NO DEREK, NOT EVEN  
IF YOU'RE GIVING  
THEM AWAY



I'D RATHER HAVE AN EXECUTIVE BOX AT  
STOURBRIDGE

PREMIER LEAGUE  
STANDARD,  
OF COURSE



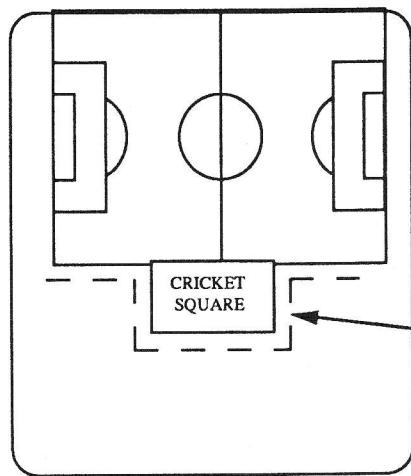
## Yeltz-Speak (No.1 in a dead short series)

An ERIC

Standing for Extremely Reckless In Cardiff, an ERIC is a perfectly legitimate tackle made inside the area that gives away a penalty.

## CLOSE-SEASON GROUND IMPROVEMENTS AT STOURBRIDGE

TO TOWN  
CENTRE



Beazer-Standard  
Rope

# Our P.M. Says....

Well, the 1991/92 season looms on the horizon but what do I care, as I'll still be playing cricket, lovely cricket, until mid September 1991, and so can only watch mid-week games until then. Still, it's one less moaner for the home games down the Grove !!

## CURRENT

Never the less, here's some hopes for the current season from your new correspondent/footy expert:

## SULTANAS

John Morris forgetting all this "defensive rubbish" as we never could and still can't !

The Second Round of the FA Cup.

The 2nd Qual. Rd. of the Trophy (look out Rhyl, eh!)

A good FA Vase run for Northfield Town.

Much to Mick Hipkiss' disgust, a good league and cup season for Kiddy Harriers. But please let us beat you in the Worcs.  
Senior Cup !!

An appreciation for all H.T.F.C. supporters of the week in, week out gulf between the Beazer Premier and the Conference. It's another world up there I'm afraid.

Farewell to bad language on and off the field.

Malcolm Hazlewood to avoid a "stupid" booking (bit hopeful that one we think - Ed's).

Better referees, getting near to my dad's standard (but not his age !!)

Kevin Harrison choosing the Grove instead of moving to Anfield.

A regular day job for Frank Bennett (if he stays with us ...).....  
.....WISH, WISH, WISH

## DATES

Well, there's my "three coins in the fountain". We'll all have to wait and see what happens now. It's over to all those mentioned - do your best please,

Thanks,  
A. Keen-non-league  
follower

# MORRIS OUT

**EXCLUSIVE!!!**

We phoned Johnny Morris up the other day and he wasn't in.

The above joke was written in response to those of you who told us we should write something "slagging off the blooming manager" or words to that effect. I'm afraid that's the best we could come up with.

Yes you're right. It's worrying that the manager who took us to our highest ever league place gets off so lightly. I knew we were out of touch, but there was I thinking that the present squad was the best we'd ever had, with the potential to be able to go up to the Conference (and stay there?!)

OK just to make you happy I'll give it a shot. If Halesowen don't win their first 5 games of the season by at least three goals, get to the 6th Round of the FA Cup and actually win a game in the Trophy I think we should kick Morris out and get somebody in who knows something about football. Someone like me for instance.

Easy when you don't think about it.

# *Hungary for Action*

## POSSIBLE DERIVATIONS OF THE HALESOWEN NICKNAME - No.1

It is a little known fact that immediately after World War II, Halesowen were one of the 1st clubs to field a foreign international - legendary Hungarian centre-forward Pungus Catfich.

### OVER HERE

Catfich, of course, played in the 30's for the mighty Banci-Hanso team, as well as the national side, for whom he scored many goals feeding off the wingers Detritius & Invertebratech, before the outbreak of War.

### SON

In 1946 he moved to England to play in the B'ham Combination which many people judged stronger than the Football League & Halesowen were the team lucky enough to secure his services (mainly because they found him work - the league was amateur - at the world famous Halesowen Button Factory).

Over the next few years Pungus became one of the most popular players ever to wear the Blue & White - yes even more popular than "Sir" Johnny Woodhouse. In 1949 a local brewery followed their instinct and immortalised him as no.1 in a series of dripmats.

### ON MY

Catfich returned to Hungary in the early 50's and apparently lived happily until his peaceful passing on in 1983, just weeks after seeing his beloved Yeltz at Wembley. YELTZ !??! - I KNEW there was something I had to mention !!

### HEAD

Although Pungus' English was good he often reverted to his native tongue on the pitch. Thus older Grove fans may remember his plaintive cry of "Yeltz, Albert, Yeltz" which roughly translated from the Magyar means "over here, son - on my head".

Ada.

# A Letter To Ed.

Dear Follow Your Instinct,

Thanks for your flattering comments in Issue Two about 'The Tanhouse Roar', the Halesowen Harriers fanzine. I was wondering who had bought the other copy. Our next edition contains a fascinating feature on my new dog Rover and his favorite Saturday afternoon walks.

Cheers

Mr O.L.D Mann

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Dear FYI,

If the reserves are so good, how come they didn't get promotion? Is the ground not good enough or something? I went down to see 'em last season and they only won 1-0 with a lucky goal in the last five minutes. Bloody useless. Shan't be going down there again. Don't like your fanzine either - not enough slagging off the club, manager, toilets.....

Yours etc.

A loyal Yeltz supporter

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Dear Editors,

So you think you know something about football then? In the first two issues alone I have counted 3 spelling mistakes, 4 typographical errors and incorrect facts too numerous to mention. The actual articles were pretty poor too. For 50p I expect a higher standard than that. Why don't you write something about groundhopping or something that the educated football follower would appreciate? I've written a piece on grounds in the Colley Gate Under 12's League that you might like to include.

Yours sincerely

Mr G Hopper

# AGAINST ALL ODDS

Saturday 6th July 1991 - 9.30 am - and the least likely looking sporting heroes ever assembled met together in the Foxhunt car-park. The occassion ?? The Never Say Dai (Newport) fanzine 6-a-side football tournament in South Wales.

Our intrepid band of football artists arrived in Cwmbran to be greeted by the sight of 7 other teams all geared out in the appropriate kit of their team and practising their flash set pieces. Not to be outdone, we donned our inside out black T-shirts and proceeded to trip over the ball, miss the goal from two yards out and generally show ourselves up.

By the time we'd worked out that we were supposed to actually kick the ball (preferably to someone else in a black shirt) it was half-time in our first match and we were still holding the Stourbridge fanzine "Glass Routes" 0-0. Then enter John "Franco Baresi" Wilson stage left. With his inspired 2nd half hat-trick and one from Richard "Spaceboots" Weaver we'd won 4-0 and achieved everything we'd hoped. From now on anything else was a bonus and, having watched the other teams in our group, were quite prepared to let someone else win the group and then have a few beers and watch the semis & final. Alas, our drinking would have to be postponed until later. A single goal from Andy "Frank Worthington" Cummings and some inspired keeping from Pete "The Pussy" Sidaway, ably assisted in defence by Pete "Wobbly" Whyle and Alan "Tactics" Cummings, overcame Newport AFC SC.

It was at this point that we realised our best chance of scoring was to take off John "Crazy Legs" Pollard (he did hit the bar though) and in so doing in the next match Richard "Spaceboots" Weaver put the winner away against Never Say Dai.

And that was it !! We'd won our group with a record of played 3, won 3, goals for 6, goals against 0. (We'd like to point out here that Stourbridge finished bottom - serves them right for calling us Brummies !!)



ABOVE: Pete "The Pussy" Sidaway about to foil a Stourbridge attack by falling over his stomach at a rather opportune moment.

BELOW: The victorious members of the FYI squad.



For the semi-final we were drawn to play the team finishing second in the other group. "Raise the Roof" (Doncaster) and Cardiff were eliminated and we were set to play Barry in the semis.

In what turned out to be a hard fought and close game, with some desperate defending in the later stages, we held on to a 1-0 victory thanks to a goal from Andy "Frank" Cummings".

And so it was into the final for our battle weary warriors. After a brief spell in the oxygen tents and resuscitation units it was a case of once more unto the breach ... etc.. St. Julians were our opponents, having beaten Newport AFC SC in the other semi-final, and to everyone's surprise (most of all our own) we took the lead when Pete "Wobbly" Whyle got his just rewards for a fine defensive display throughout the tournament. With both teams tiring visibly a quick break by St. Julians resulted in catastrophe - we'd conceded our first goal, when only two minutes from victory, and the game was sent into extra time.

By this time we were far too tired to even think about running about, never mind actually doing it, and a 30 yard screamer from Russell "Stuart Psycho" Pearce was our only effort. The final whistle went with the score remaining 1-1 and it was down to penalties to decide the destination of the trophies.

John "Franco Baresi" Wilson, Richard "Spaceboots" Weaver and Ant "Aids" Lee all put their penalties away magnificently and, with Pete "The Pussy" performing more heroics in goal, it didn't matter when "Wobbly" Whyle missed his (sorry Pete !!). "The Pussy" saved the next and we'd won 3-0 on penalties !!

Setting up camp for the night in Usk, a tour of the local pubs was duly undertaken by way of celebration, followed, upon our return to Halesowen on Sunday lunchtime, by an open top tour of the town and a civic reception for these unlikeliest of heroes. (Well, we waved the trophy out of Sid's sunroof and went for a drink in the Maypole and the Waggon !!)

# PUBLICITY SHY ?

OR HOW MUCH COVERAGE DO HALESOWEN RECEIVE IN THE "WHO'S WHO OF NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL" ??

(Due to severe lack of finances, the research for the following article was carried out in WH Smiths. For those interested it's available there for £9.99)

Published by the same team who produce the excellent "Non-League Yearbook" & "The Mail On Sunday Non-League Magazine", the "Who's Who" is "a guide to the players whose teams compete in the Trophy & Vase". That's a pretty big guide if it's to be anywhere near comprehensive, after all that's the best part of 800 clubs - 10,000 plus players.

## MISSING

The guide actually has around 2,500 entries - so what's happened to the all the others? Apparently, anyone who is missing has only themselves to blame as the entries were based on questionnaires sent to the clubs to be passed on to the players for completion & return. Presumably a relatively big club like Halesowen would make an effort to be fully represented in such a venture - well, actually, no.

It seems that only one of our heroes was prepared to divulge his darkest personal secrets (birthday, job, nickname !) to the Great British Public - none other than Rob "Shanks" Shilcock. It's not only Halesowen who were apathetic in their responses - there's no sign of Henry Wright, Sylvester Cunningham, Steve Fergusson Paul Joinson, Martin Myers, Tim Langford & others. Hopefully, when people are approached to support the planned 2nd edition they respond a bit more positively.

## SUPERSTAR

One interesting feature is the Old Boys listing of ex-non-league players now playing professionally. This also, however, is far from complete - Dean Spink is included, as is Tim Clarke, whilst Coventry superstar Andy Pearce is not !!

# "WE'LL FINISH IN THE TOP 22 !!"

Many a long summer's evening here at FYI Mansions has been spent discussing what we reckon's going to happen in 1991-92. So in true Saint & Greav-esie style here's our predictions for the season ahead.

## CRYSTAL BALLS

Frank and Ada both reckon Gloucester are going to win the league (a bit controversial that one, lads!!) Meself I reckon Dover are going to do the business this year, closely followed by the third best team in Brum, Moor Green.

## NOSTRODAMUS

What of the Yeltz? None of us can see much silver-ware coming our way, but reckon we'll finish in the top 16 at least, maybe the top 14 if we can avoid injuries. Last night I dreamt we won a game in the Trophy, but I also dreamt Stourbridge got promoted so I don't suppose we can take much store from that.

## LARGE

Ada's stomach predicts Phil "The Cat(?)" Caldicott will be called on to solve yet another goalkeeping crisis sometime in 1992. Seeing as it used to belong to Russell Grant I don't think we can ignore this one.

## PORKIES

This one will definitely come true. Beazer will announce that their sponsorship of the league will cease at the end of the season. My stockbroker predicts their shares will continue falling, and tells me another building firm will take over as sponsors. Yes, in 1992-93 we'll be playing in the Wimpey League.

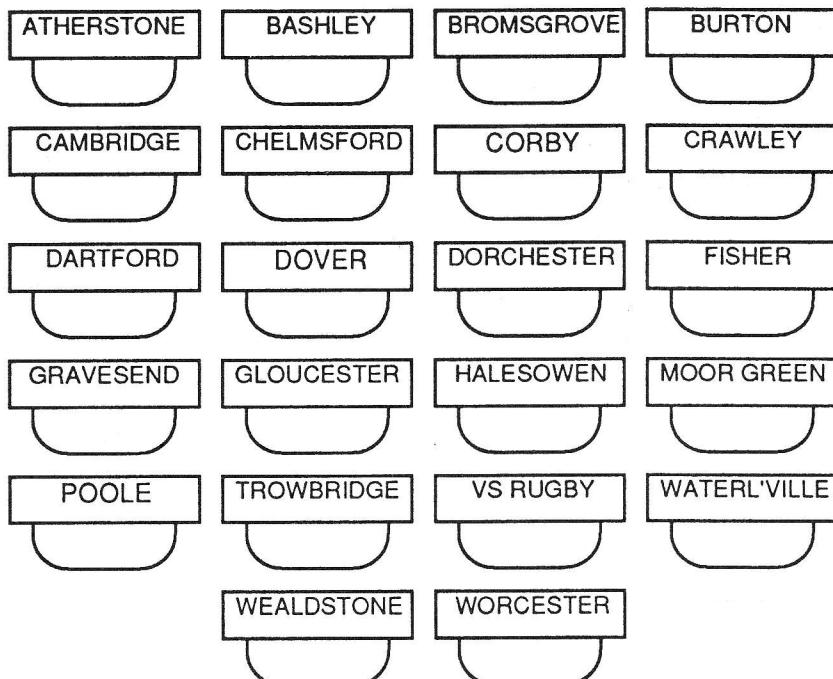
## NO CHANCE

How about this for wishful thinking? Halesowen get promoted despite finishing 7th in the league because the chairmen of the Conference really like the toilet facilities round the side of the Shed. We'll see.

In the best traditions of "Shoot!" here's your start of season League Ladders free gift. It's a bit D.I.Y. but we're not a mass publication glossy (you guessed), so tough !!

### Assembly Instructions

1. Cut out the shapes below and mount them on to sticky-backed plastic (or card if you can't find any)
2. Cut out the slits on the page opposite and insert team names.
3. That's it.



# FYI LEAGUE LADDERS

## BEAZER PREMIER

### 1991 - 92

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# European Vacation

Being on holiday for the pre-season friendlies was not going to deter one of your humble editors from watching a football match and so, finding myself in Vienna just after the Austrian season had started, I resolved to find myself a footy game to watch.

## WHO'S THE MOST

I couldn't believe my luck when I managed to get a ticket for the local derby between Rapid Vienna and Austria Vienna - the only two teams of note in Austria, apparently, apart from FC Tyrol. Austria were the reigning champions but, at the time, were lying in 6th spot while Rapid were top, of a 12 team league after 2 games of the season.

## UNPOPULAR PERSON

Rapid were the home team, playing in an all-seater stadium on the edge of town for 20,000 people. With all this talk of British grounds coming up to European standards all I can say is, if they're anything like this I shan't have too many complaints. (Although I understand it's the best ground in Austria by far ....)

The only drawbacks I could find were that there was nowhere to stand if you so wished (although behind the goals everybody seems to stand anyway) and the area behind both goals were uncovered. The fans were segregated, with each team

RAPID	
1:1	(0:0)
AUSTRIA	

RAPID: Konsel; Salaba, Schöttel, Pecl, Resch; Weber, Gager, Herzog, Metlitzky; Pfeifenberger, Fjörtoft. - AUSTRIA: Wohlfahrt; Sekerlioglu, Zsak, Pfeffer; Flögel, Stöger, Prosenik, Narbekowas, Kern; Ogris, Iwanauskas. - Hanappi-Stadion, Kaupe, 19.500 (ausverkauft).  
Tore: 1:0 Pecl (47.), 1:1 Stöger (87.).  
Austausch: Hatz für Salaba (19.), Poiger für Schöttel (33.); Hasenhüttl für Ogris (53.).  
Gelbe Karten: Weber, Poiger, Pfeffer, Zsak.  
Die Besten: Konsel, Pecl, Resch, Gager, Metlitzky; Zsak, Flögel, Prosenik, Iwanauskas.

getting one end, but along the sides all supporters were mixed in together, with separate enclosures for children and women only.

## ON THE

A ticket for the match cost 200 schillings (£10) for a seat at the side or

(cont. over)

130S (£6.50) for a seat at either end. For this you get an U-21 match and then the full match (including a penalty shoot out between the fans at half-time).

#### TERRACES AT A

At the present time Austrian football is at a bit of a low (remember the Faroe Islands ??) and, although my German's not exactly fluent, I gather their best players all play in the German league.

#### BORUSSIA

The kick-off was delayed for 15 mins as a large number of fans couldn't get in (sound familiar ??). When the match did start the most striking aspect was the pace of the game - not exactly 100 mph !! The 1st half was very defensive and the slow build up from the back gets a bit tedious after a while.

#### MUNCHENGLADBACH

On the whole a 0-0 half time score was fair, although Rapid (managed by Hans Krankl) were the more adventurous.

#### MATCH ??

The second half was a completely different story, though. Rapid came out well

fired up and within 2 mins, took the lead when Pecl beat the keeper to a corner.

#### THE PERSON

The 2nd half became a much better game with Austria taking more risks and end to end, edge of the seat stuff followed with Austria being led by the Central European answer to Steve Bull, who caused havoc, at times, in the Rapid defence.

#### WHO SHOUTS

Just when it appeared that Rapid had done enough to hold out, Stoger rounded the last defender and lobbed the keeper to give Austria a deserved equaliser.

#### GIVE ME A B ....

All in all, I would say that the standard was probably low 1st Division (but who can say from just one match ??) with one or two class players such as Gager for Rapid (central midfield) and the Bully lookalike for Austria (they don't have programmes so I've no idea of his name !!)

Rapid for the league !!

An audacious hoax was carried out last week by the so-called 'Citizen's Revenge Against Poor Play'. Preying on alleged prejudice in the sports media, the group claimed they were going to "out" several well-known footballers who had concealed the fact that they had absolutely no talent whatsoever. In the end no names were forthcoming, but the papers were full of rumours predicting which players would be exposed. Favorites included Steve McMahon, several West Brom players and at least three-quarters of a local non-league squad based just west of Halesowen.

A spokesperson for the group admitted "it was a elaborate hoax to show how critical journalists are about poor sportspersons just trying to do their job." However several members of the sports community admitted that they support the principle of "outing" as there is nothing wrong with being untalented.

We here at FYI couldn't agree more - we're all useless and proud of it.

#### Things we HATE about summer

1. No football
2. The weather
3. Women's Tennis
4. People enjoying themselves
5. Pale blokes in shorts
6. Stourbridge
7. No football
8. Jim Rosenthal
9. Everyone
10. No football

#### Things we LIKE about summer

1. Cricket
2. Test Match Special
3. Banks's Mild
4. Pre-season friendlies
5. Not a lot

# *In Strictest Confidence*

Due to a Post Office mix-up, a copy the FA's previously unpublished "Blueprint for Football : The Real Version" was delivered by mistake to FYI Mansions. After much heart-searching we decided it was in the public's interest to risk prosecution and reveal the contents of this secret report.

The central theme of the paper was the creation of a new Super League comprising 18 teams with a revolutionary new points scheme. Teams with only one word in their name (ie Liverpool, Arsenal, Everton, Spurs and ManU - the latter being the new name of the current Cup-Winners Cup holders) will receive 4 pts for a win, 3 for a draw and 2 for a defeat. Teams with more than one word in their name (ie Aston Villa, Nottm Forest, Chelsea United, Southampton City etc.) will receive 2 pts for a win, 1 for a draw and nothing if they lose.

Although this scheme appears a trifle harsh on some of the teams, there will be no relegation unless a club's ground falls below the required standard of "20,000 seats and really nice toilets for the visiting Chairman's wife".

For teams outside the Super League, it was envisaged they set up regional leagues of 3-4 teams (eg Wolves, Albion, Blues and Walsall) and play endless games against each other so fans would soon lose interest and spend all their money watching Super League football.

It was predicted that non-league football would benefit greatly from the new proposals as all teams outside the Super League would henceforth be designated 'non-league', resulting in a much strengthened FA Trophy. Semi-professional teams would be allowed to carry on much as before as long as they didn't make any money.

An FA spokesperson we phoned denied that the document actually existed, and even if it did the proposals were for the good of the game and absolutely nothing to do with the big clubs wanting to keep all the money for themselves, honest.

# *AWAY DAZE*

4 MAY 1991

CAMBRIDGE 1 HALESOWEN 3

Heywood

Bennett

O.G.

The 1990/91 season finished on a high note with a good performance that completed the double over the side that finished third in the table.

Their centre-half, having knocked a cup of tea out of the hand of a Yeltz fan with the ball before the match had even started, was made to suffer for it and found our front two far too hot to handle once the match was underway. An own goal and a couple of quality efforts from David Heywood and Frankie Bennett secured our victory.

With the season complete and a respectable 8th position achieved in our first Premier season, the return journey was the time to wonder about what might be in store for us when the next campaign opens in August.....

Will we be able to hang on to some of our players, Kevin Harrison and Frankie Bennett in particular ?? Will the 4-4-2 format be replaced with a more adventurous attitude ?? Surely valuable points, especially at home, were dropped through a lack of ambition as the failure to provide enough support to the front men mean't that too much pressure was placed on the back four and the goals conceded total gave cause for concern. Will we make at least a couple of quality signings from our own level or the Vauxhall Conference to supplement the many bargains that have been signed from lower leagues and developed into better players ?? Will we at long last have a consistent and competent goalkeeper ?? Will Lee Joinson be content to spend another season in the reserves and provide us with many more enjoyable moments ?? ( No - Eds.!!)

The World - (well, the bit round Halesowen) - holds it's breath .....

12/5/91

Just over a week later and wonderment has given way to dreams.....

It is the second Saturday in December 1991 and F.A. Cup Round Two day - the first time in their history that Halesowen Town have reached this far. An away win at Worcester in the 4th Qualifying round and then a home win over Stafford Rangers have been rewarded with another home tie.

Cup fever has once again gripped the town. The gates at the Grove are open early and there is a large police presence on all roads leading to the ground for the all-ticket 5,000 sell-out match. The clubs ability in staging such a big game is to be fully tested for today's opponents are a club that ten years ago was separated from the Yeltz by six leagues but now the gap is just two. In another five years time ? Well, who knows ??

At 2.55 pm it is West Bromwich Albion who take to the field to play in a match that many thought was never a possibility. The first half is played at a furious pace with neither side gaining the initiative and at half time the score remains 0-0.

Ten minutes into the second half Gary Pigott is sent tumbling inside the area by Eric Smith. Cyrille Regis, having returned to the Albion, steps up to balloon the spot-kick high and wide. Fifteen minutes later Eric makes amends when he rises to meet a corner and plants his header high in the roof of the net. The crowd erupts and remains at fever pitch until the final whistle as the Yeltz cling on for another milestone in the club's history. Next day, just after 6pm, the 3rd Round draw provides a money spinning away trip to Old Trafford..... Oh, what sweet dreams !! Or are they ?? Will they become reality ?? ..... see you in December.....

KEVIN HARRISON'S BARBER

(The Editors would like to apologise for this temporary breakdown but our correspondent assured us he'd kicked his narcotic habit. Unfortunately a brief trip to Bangkok has resulted in him living on another planet since his return. We hope to be able to resume normal service for next season.)

The following item appeared in "When Saturday Comes" the other month and we thought you might find some parts interesting, so here it is.....

No article about Wealdstone can start anywhere but in 1985. That was the year the club won the Gola League and the FA Trophy, the non-League 'double', a feat not accomplished before or since.

1985 was the beginning of the problem. Wealdstone weren't allowed to apply to join the Football League on account of their ground, although anyone who has visited Darsford-Maidstone or Bath-Bristol Rovers might be tempted to ask why. True, the main stand, a corrugated shack purchased second-hand in the 1920s, and general facilities are Neolithic, but for the standing supporter, the ground is near-perfect, terraced all round and with two covering ends virtually overhanging the goalmouths. However, Chairman David Morrit, as a property developer would, saw the way forward as selling Lower Mead as a prime, town centre development site, and building a new stadium in a cheaper location.

Unsurprisingly, the club struck the 'nimby' (not-in-my-back-yard) problem. Local residents would rather see a nuclear reprocessing plant built by the designers of Chernobyl go up on their doorstep than a football ground. In the Spring of 1988, the press reported that Morrit had offered to buy Elton John's shares in Watford, with money raised by the projected sale of Lower Mead. The idea was that Morrit would become Chairman at Vicarage Road and the clubs would ground-share, but the plan would have left Wealdstone with little or no future security.

Fortunately, Watford declined the offer. Morrit was hounded out of the club.

The new Chairman, Alan Clifton, won support by promising to build a new ground in the Borough of Harrow and to keep Wealdstone at Lower Mead until the new ground was built. They were promises he rarely looked capable of keeping. He also won favour by doing what Morrit had refused to do - he put money into the team. Ironically, this probably wiped out any lingering hope that the club might stay at Lower Mead. Wealdstone ended up with a team barely able to hold its own in the Beazer Homes League costing more in wages and transfer fees than the side which won the double. Debts vanished. Debts spiralled. Within eighteen months, Clifton was forced to announce that Wealdstone would go out of business if they didn't vacate the ground at the end of 1989-90. At one stage, it seemed that Wealdstone would be buying Brent Council's athletics stadium at Willesden and rebuilding it as a proper football ground, moving in with Harrow Borough while the work was undertaken. Then the 'nimby' factor struck again. Local residents came up with all the paranoia they could muster, Brent Council lost enthusiasm for the deal and it was goodbye Willesden. Simultaneously, it emerged that Lower Mead was to be sold to Tesco for £6 million and they were intending to start building their supermarket sooner rather than later. To make matters worse, the Vauxhall League would no

# LEAGUE turned upside



The Lower Mead ground, Wealdstone, in its heyday

longer approve the ground-sharing with Harrow, since Wealdstone didn't have a permanent home to move to. Less than two months from the end of the 1990-91 season, the club had no ground, no ground-share and no site to build on. The Chairman did a reasonable impersonation of Corporal Jones in *Dads' Army* yelling "Don't panic!" The supporters panicked.

The Watford deal came out of the blue. We'd just about persuaded ourselves that, at best, we'd be moving in with a minor local club such as Wembley or Hillingdon with a view to some co-development. Financially, the new deal looks excellent. For £2.5 million Wealdstone have got their hands on a ground equipped for the First Division. Even after paying off debts and juggling with capital gains tax, there ought to be enough money left to build a team. Wealdstone are undoubtedly better equipped to 'do a Wimbledon' than Wimbledon ever were.

The supporters are cautious, however. What we're losing is the atmosphere at Lower Mead. On a good night, 500 at our current ground can create more noise and passion than 5,000 ever could at Watford.

With a crowd of 500, Vicarage Road will be a like a morgue and if the team play anything like they have in the latter part of 1990-91, they will be lucky to attract even that many. If the money is spent a lot more wisely than in the past and if the club show the flair for public relations which has been lacking until now, then in a few years nobody will look back at the Lower Mead days with anything more than nostalgia. But it is undeniable that the paying supporters have less than 100% faith in the abilities of the present board and even now they fear that there might be a new twist to the saga.

Wealdstone and Watford are so close geographically that the two sets of fans have grown up as friends and neighbours. We've all been to Watford. But if we'd wanted to watch League football, if we'd wanted to spend our Saturdays at Vicarage Road, we'd never have chosen to support Wealdstone in the first place. Lower Mead was Wealdstone. RIP.

Martin Lacey

■ For a non-League club supporter, the events on the field are the least of your problems - as our two correspondents know only too well...

# down



One of the guiding principles of a 'Super League' has been applied to 95% of English soccer for years. Namely, that if your ground isn't good enough for a higher standard of soccer, forget it. It doesn't matter if you've won the West Midlands League for three years in a row by huge margins and been to Wembley three times in the FA Vase Final (Halesowen Town), or won the Midland Combination three times in four years and the League Cup twice (Boldmere St Michaels). If your only stand resembles a cowshed, your directors' room is a portakabin and your press facilities are a telephone in a pub across the road, you've got less chance of promotion than Birmingham City.

I first encountered the ground-grading principle in 1983, when AP Leamington just pipped my hometown club, Kidderminster Harriers, to the Southern League Championship on the last day of the season.

The all-powerful grading committee turned them down for the Alliance Premier League, forerunner of the GM Vauxhall Conference, and within days

manager Graham Allner had left for Kidderminster with half the team. Leamington began the long, cruel slide out of the Southern Premier, into the Midland Division, the Scoreline Midland Combination and bankruptcy. They now play on a local park pitch.

On the other side of the coin, ground-grading has done wonders for those made to suffer. Halesowen's Grove Recreation Ground in their West Midlands League days was little more than a slope on the side of a slagheap, but having been turned down three times by the grading committee, the club now have one of the best-appointed grounds in the Beazer League, a credit to their 900+ gates.

Boldmere St Michaels built one of the most entertaining sides on the Midlands non-League scene at the end of the 1980s, but, with a slope like Mount Everest, no floodlights and a pitch resembling a ploughed field, they were persistently refused admission to the Beazer Homes League. Now, they're in the agonising position of having a thoroughly smart new stadium and an ageing team that was firmly rooted in the bottom half of their league last season.

Some, of course, slip through the net. The Tamworth-based village team, Mile Oak Rovers, spent four years confusing the punters with their once-a-year appearance on the pools coupon after promising the Beazer League graders that the necessary work would be done, then forgetting and hoping they wouldn't notice.

Eventually they did, though the Oak's dreadful team saved them from the wrath of the committee by getting relegated anyway. Sandwell Borough's wide-open spaces and a stand half a mile from the pitch must have caught the graders on a good day, while Dover thought they had done enough after winning the Beazer League last season and upgrading their ground, only to find that the regulations had been changed.

This year, though, the ground-graders acquired another power. Before the end of the season it was announced that not only would an unacceptable ground prevent a club from being promoted, but it could also mean relegation for any Premier Division side unable to complete the necessary improvements. In the event, Rushden Town, who finished 14th in the Premier Division, "accepted voluntary relegation" (oh yeah?) because of the state of their ground.

Some clubs gave up the fight, with erstwhile Midland Division leaders Tamworth (whose 1,000+ crowds surely justify Premier League soccer) admitting that their bombsite of a ground would rule out promotion whatever the team did, and diverting their cash into a £600,000 bid to buy the ground and secure their long-term future. After all, what's the point of spending £100,000 on promotion, playing like donkeys for a

season in the top flight and getting relegated again?

Midland Division winners, Stourbridge, were not promoted and neither were Buckingham, champions of the Southern Division. The two runners-up, Corby and Trowbridge, went up instead.

Coming up into the Midland Division from the subsidiary regional leagues below are Solihull Borough who got the nod ahead of former Beazer Homes club Oldbury United and FA Vase finalists Gresley Rovers. The latter won the Bank's West Midland League by sixteen points and have missed out on promotion for the past three years largely because their ground is surrounded by terraced housing with no room for expansion. Solihull sold their ground for a handy £4 million two years ago, and are presently sharing with Moor Green of the Premier Division. Their current rented home hardly counts among the smarter venues in the League and, as far as I know, there is no prospect of them moving into their own stadium in the near future. Clubs such as Gresley and Oldbury are scarcely going to be encouraged to push ahead with ground improvements when they see a promotion place handed to a club that doesn't even have a home of its own. Now that Solihull are in, what's to stop them not bothering to develop their own site, as they could clearly afford to, but remaining as tenants at Moor Green for ever more?

## NON-LEAGUE SOCCER

### Rushden relegated because of ground

By Geoff Young

RUSHDEN TOWN, who finished 14th in the Beazer Homes Premier Division, have become victims of tough new ground requirements and relegated because their Hayden Road home does not

With only one promotion from each division Waterloo and Crayford along with Hendon and Weymouth filled the bottom four places have been reprimed.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE

THE TELEGRAPH 23/5/91

A club fresh into the Beazer Homes Midland Division is theoretically only three seasons away from joining the Football League, and surely should be permitted to make gradual improvements to their ground as they progress rather than having it all thrown at them in one go.

If this principle was applied to the Football League, it would sink clubs such as Wimbledon, while Wolves would probably have to sell Steve Bull in order to re-open the two deserted sides of Molineux. And it would throw a lifeline to the likes of Birmingham City. After all, finishing just out of the play-off positions and going up because they've got the best ground in Division Three could be their only hope...

Martin Warrillow

# **UNFAIR PENALTY ?**

This article was going to be a pseudo-intellectual Motson/Hill-type analysis of how penalty shootouts ruin football, negative European Cup Final, unfair results reduce players to tears, blah blah, I know best cos I'm on TV - you know the sort of thing. Then we went and won the 6-a-side on penalties (see elsewhere) and I saw the light.

Football isn't supposed to be fair; if the best team always won there'd be no point turning up. If you've fought against the odds to remain level after extra time, why shouldn't things be evened up a bit? The best team is the one who score the most goals in the game, and that's the only criteria for judging.

## **THE SHOOT-OUT BLIGHT**

1987: African Super Cup 6-a-side Final - FYI 1 St. James 1 (3-2 aps).  
1991: European Cup final: Red Star Belgrade 0 Marseille 0 (5-3 aps).  
1991: Fourth Division promotion play-off: Torquay United 2 Blackpool 2 (5-4 aps).  
1990: World Cup semi-finals: West Germany 1 England 1 (4-3 aps); Argentina 1 Italy 1 (4-3 aps). Quarter-finals: Argentina 0 Yugoslavia 0 (3-2 aps). Second round: Republic of Ireland 0 Romania 0 (5-4 aps).  
1988: European Cup final: PSV Eindhoven 0 Benfica 0 (6-5 aps).  
1988: UEFA Cup final: Bayer Leverkusen 3 Español 3 on aggregate (3-2 aps).  
1986: World Cup quarter-finals: France 1 Brazil 1 (4-3 aps); West Germany 0 Morocco 0 (4-4 aps); Belgium 1 Spain 1 (5-4 aps).

1986: European Cup final: Steaua Bucharest 0 Barcelona 0 (2-0 aps).  
1984: European Cup final: Liverpool 1 Roma 1 (4-2 aps).  
1984: European Championship semi-finals: Spain 1 Denmark 1 (5-4 aps).  
1984: UEFA Cup final: Tottenham 2 Anderlecht 2 on aggregate (4-3 aps).  
1982: World Cup semi-finals: West Germany 3 France 3 (5-4 aps).  
1980: European Championship third-place play-off: Czechoslovakia 1 Italy 1 (9-8 aps).  
1980: European Cup Winners' Cup final: Valencia 0 Arsenal 0 (5-4 aps).  
1976: European Championship final: Czechoslovakia 2 West Germany 2 (5-3 aps).

Independent on Sunday 2/6/91

The best moment of the last World Cup was when Ireland won on penalties. The worst was when we lost to the Germans. The tournament only came to life, after the tedium of the group matches, when it became sudden-death. So what if the "best" team didn't always win - the double has only been done 5 times in over a century but nobody moans how unfair the FA Cup is. Long live the penalty shootout !!

# *Further Reading*

We were going to review the fanzines available but who are we to criticise anybody ?? All of them have their own merits and so here's a list of some which might be of interest to somebody

## GENERAL NON-LEAGUE

"Lets Get Talking" - 50p from 41 Lockington Avenue, Hartley, Plymouth,  
Devon PL3 5QG

"Non-League Football Fanfare" - 40p from 26 Orchard Road, Kingston Upon Thames  
Surrey KT1 2QQ

## OTHERS INCLUDE :-

- DARTFORD - "Light at the End of the Tunnel" 50p from 19 The Terraces,  
Dartford, Kent.
- DOVER ATHLETIC - "Dover Soul" 40p from 9A St. Johns Road, Dover,  
Kent CT17 9SE.
- FARNBOROUGH TOWN - "Tales From the River End" 40p from 92 Wyndham Road  
Dover, Kent.
- GLOUCESTER CITY - "Rhodes Boyson - Da's Ee Play For ?" 50p from 72  
Longfield Road, Dover, Kent.
- FARNBOROUGH TOWN - "Simon's Haircut" 50p from 129 Roberts Road, Aldershot  
Hants, GU12 4RA
- KIDDERMINSTER - "The Soup" 50p from 29 Gilgal, Stourport, Nr. Kidderminster  
Worcs.
- MOOR GREEN - "Moors Code" 50p from 69 Fitzroy Ave., Harborne,  
Birmingham B17 8RH
- RUSHDEN TOWN - "Russians Roulette" 40p from 22 Queen Street, Rushden,  
Northants NN10 0AZ
- STOURBRIDGE - "Glass Routes" 40p from 78 Meridian Avenue, Wollaston,  
Stourbridge, W.Mids. DY8 4QS
- WATERLOOVILLE - "Flippin' Eck Ref. That was a Foul Surely" 50p from 268  
Somers Road North, Fratton, Portsmouth, PO1 1PL
- WEALDSTONE - "The Elmslie Ender" 50p from 37 Grange Road, Kenton, Harrow,  
Middlesex HA1 2PR
- ASTON VILLA - "Long Ball Down the Middle" £1 from 50 Hartington Close,  
Sudbury Hill, Harrow, Middx.
- B'HAM CITY - "Heroes and Villians" 50p from P.O.Box 1703, Perry Barr,  
Birmingham, B42 1UZ
- VALSALL - "Vitton Wisdom" 50p from 50 High Road, Byfleet, Surrey  
KT14 7QL
- WEST BROM - "Tired and Weary" 50p from 133 Longmore Road, Shirley  
Solihull, W.Mids B90 3EF
- WOLVES - "Saddle Sore" 40p from 24 Blenheim Road, Horspath, Oxford  
OX9 1RY
- "GRORTY DICK" 50p from c/o 7 Ruth Close, Tipton, Staffs.  
DY4 0AR
- "A Load of Bull" 50p from Box 277, 52 Call Lane, Leeds  
LS1 6DT

"WHEN SATURDAY COMES" is also available at newsagents, W H Smiths e.t.c.

REMEMBER : Please enclose an SAE when writing away for fanzines.

**COMING  
STRAIGHT OUTTA  
HALESOWEN.....**



FYI  
in the Area!!