

FOLLOW YOUR INSTINCT

A HALESOWEN TOWN FANZINE

INSIDE:-

BUILDING PYRAMIDS
YOU ARE THE REF
UNBELIEVABLE ??
PLUS MUCH MORE



ISSUE ONE

MAR/APR 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

SUPPORTING PLAYERS :-

Steve and Sarah, Kev Williams (no relation), Kevin Harrison's Barber, Banks's, Happy Shopper T-bags, friends and family for post match food and shelter.

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.

CONTRIBUTIONS :-

All contributions gratefully recieved. Articles, cuttings, cartoons, letters, wads of money etc.. The more we get the better the quality will be so get scrawling. You don't need to be a member of the SUU.

Editorial

Well, here it is at last !! We've waited and waited for a HTFC fanzine to come out (even Rushden have got one and Dover three !) so, after the inspiration of a visit home and an evening in the Maypole, we decided to do it ourselves. Due to geographical difficulties we're not exactly ideally placed to bring out the most important piece of literature since Shakespeare said he'd have a go at writing the local school play for a laugh. Between the two of us a round trip to the Town and back covers 1100 miles, but hopefully we won't be too out of date.

Anyway, at the time of writing we are going well in the Banks's league....

It would be a great help, though if as many contributions etc. were sent in, in order to get issue two out before the end of the season. (Allright, so you've sussed us - it's an easy way to keep in touch without spending a fortune on the Yeltzline !!)

This fanzine has nothing whatsoever to do with Halesowen Town Football Club or its official supporters clubs, although we hope that they will appreciate it and maybe grow to love it as their own. It is not a matchday programme, or a rival to it in any way, as we have not the facilities or the inclination to bring it out every week. Hopefully it will become just as valid in its own right but we need your contributions.

Anyway, enough of this on with the drivel...



THE ED'S DECISION
IS FINAL !!

MID-TERM REPORT

Well, at the time of writing we're halfway through the first season in the dizzy heights of Beazer Premier footy and what do we make of it so far ??

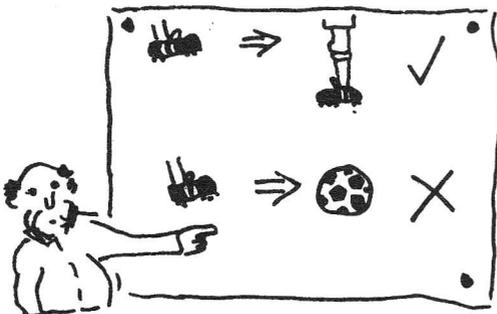
After a bit of a disappointing opening match against Farnborough things have been going pretty well really. The main problem would appear to be in defence but with the departure of Sean Hayward things might settle down a bit. 1990 was definitely not the Chinese year of the goalkeeper down the Grove either so, hopefully with a settled keeper and defence we can get a bit more consistency together for the rest of the season.

Highlights of the season so far include beating Worcester 2-0 with a crowd of 2500 for a league match and then going on to do the double over them, putting 8 past Alvechurch without reply, going 1-0 up against Tranmere in the cup and taking Cambridge apart to finish the yaer off in fine style.

Lowlights include having to watch Wealdstone, losing to Colwyn Bay and going out the Trophy early (again!!) and losing by four at home to Chelmsford

All in all, though, it's been a good start to our first season at a higher level and we look set for a top half of the table finish. Although this might seem a bit disappointing after the runaway successes of the last few years it is as much as any of us realistically hoped for at the beginning of the season and should give us a good base to launch a challenge on the title next year.

Secretly leaked to us a page from the Wealdstone coaching manual :



OBITUARY

Late news just in - Fido T. Dog , Halesowen Harriers greatest fan, sadly passed away last week. With his owner, a Mr. O.L.D. Mann, he made up the intimidating 'Tanhouse Roar' that has urged the lads on towards Football League status.

Mr. Mann told us :- " Although we never really watched the football, Fido always enjoyed our walks in the park."

Derek Beasley was unavailable for comment.

HONEST MALC - THE PUNTERS FRIEND

Earlier this year, the weekend the match vs Farnborough was called off, I was down the bookies. The 'osses was a pretty useless bunch of donkeys (was that really the Stourbridge chairman trying to get 'em to sign a contract ?), so I thought I'd best check me treble chance. I reckoned I'd got a bit of a chance seeing as there was a few Beazer games on the coupon, but I didn't allow for those old gits on the pools panel. Away win for us !! If they're the bloody experts - John Rhodes is better than Steve Bull !!

Malc's advice - stick to the geegees

DID YOU KNOW ??

That in order to comply with the Taylor Report for their bid for Football League status, Halesowen Harriers have installed an all seater stadium. Derek Beasley was spotted, only the other day, unloading a three piece suite from the back of a van...

FULL-TIME OCCUPATION

I couldn't help but notice, in a recent edition of the Sports Argus that John Morris was quoted as saying that he would like to become full-time manager at the Grove. Comparisons were drawn with the situation of Ally Robertson at Worcester and their successful start to the season (so we promptly went and did the double over them but that, as they say, is another story)

PROBLEMS

The situation as stands has served us admirably during the recent past seasons and both John Morris and Paddy Page, particularly, did a magic job under limited time and resources. It worked fine during the Banks's and Beazer Midland days and we could probably maintain the current position in the Premier division, perhaps gaining promotion to the Conference. This is the point where problems could well set in.

MONSTER

As John Morris pointed out he can't really do much

more on a part-time basis and with any future successes which (hopefully) are coming our way, could have difficulty holding it all together. Like Paddy was quoted as saying on his resignation, he had created a monster and it was just too big to keep it all together.

PROFESSIONAL

With the aim, rightly, of Conference football the situation will become drastically different. Since automatic promotion to the Football League the standard of the organisation of the clubs has improved dramatically, not just in footballing terms. It is now necessary to have a professional outlook off the field in order to even survive in the Conference. With relegated teams from the Football League maintaining a complete professional staff the step up to a full-time manager is practically essential.

FUTURE

The club would appear to be going in the right

direction so far and it was very pleasing to see the restarting of the reserves and the formation of the youth and colts teams, which can only bode well for the future. With the appointment of a full-time manager, though, much more time could be spent bringing on this young talent and, as John Morris stated, it could be possible to take them on as YTS trainees. With the situation as it is at present this young talent may well be lost elsewhere after all the good

work put in.

FINANCE

In terms of finance, with the state the club is in at present, this shouldn't be much of a problem. The commercial side of the club is well set up not counting the fact that average gates are up around the 1500 mark. If Conference football is to come to the Grove (and stay) perhaps this is a direction the club should look into ??

GROUNDS FOR IMPROVEMENT ??

While we're on the subject of the Conference, did anybody see the article in February's issue of "Non-League Football" by Conference secretary Peter Hunter ??

A few interesting points on ground criteria were made - among them a capacity of 3,000 but with a potential for 6,000 - 10,000 of which 1,000 must be covered - also 10% of capacity must be seated and the facility must be there for segregation.

Given the limited space available at the Grove it would be interesting to know how many of these criteria we do/could meet !!

LITERARY CORNER 1

"NON-LEAGUE CROWD BEHAVIOUR" by Desmond Morris

This interesting new book notes with concern the growth of a new kind of supporter - the 'Blazer Boy' (or BB) is easily identified by his ritual wearing of his club blazer to all matches, and by the following offensive behaviour :-

- 1) BB's think that they are extremely knowledgeable about football and insist on talking as loudly as possible to give the rest of the crowd the benefit of their insights.
- 2) BB's divide the players into two categories :-
 - (a) players who can do no wrong
 - (b) players who can do no right
- 3) Players who can do no wrong are encouraged by BB's at all times, especially when they are playing badly, missing open goals or not chasing back to defend.
- 4) Players who can do no right are discouraged by BB's at all times, especially when they are playing well, scoring spectacular goals or covering every inch of the pitch.
- 5) BB's will claim any victory as a personal achievement by strutting about on the pitch, waving to the crowd. Alternatively, any defeat is the fault of the manager and the players who can do no right.

1983 (Attendance:13,700)

V.S. Rugby 1 (Crawley) Halesowen Town 0

Referee: B. Daniels

V.S. Rugby: Burton, McGinty, Harrison, Preston, Knox, Evans, Ingram, Setchell, Owen, Beecham, Crawley. Sub: Haskin
Halesowen: Coldicott, Penn, Edmonds, Lacey, Randall, Shilvock, Hazelwood, Moss, Woodhouse, Joinson E., Joinson L. Smith

Is there another one we don't know about ?? Perhaps someone should be sent to find out !!

From Irthlingborough Diamonds programme :-

one of their former players, Paddy Bates was appointed Manager. For the past three years

Was this before or after Paddy Page ??

Also, in the same programme :-

the long awaited covered accomodation opposite the stand should get under way tomorrow morning.

We just hope that it had a nice time wherever it went !!

This interesting little snippet was spotted in "A Load Of Bull" fanzine :-

Yes, come to Dudley Town if you get the chance. Where else can you sing "Ooh Hughie! Hughie!" (wonder where they got the inspiration for that one from?!) with a dozen pre-pubescent Villa fans,

Nuff said !!!

Literary Corner 2

Inspired by the recent publication of "Banks's to Beazer" a trip to Halesowen reference library was planned and so, armed with a bottle of Vimto and a packet of Hobnobs, an assault on the archives was launched. After hours of fruitless searching and with tempers starting to fray, the following amazing document was unearthed.

"From the Belle Vale to Birmingham Combination" was in a pretty dilapidated condition when we stumbled across it and many tales of strength, heroism and battling against the odds had succumbed to the ravages of time. The following were put together from the bits we managed to salvage :

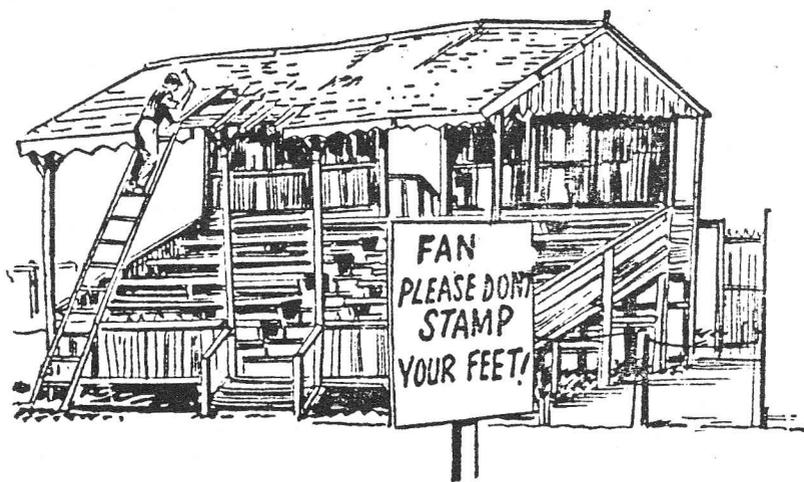
- 1843 - Contrary to popular belief there had been a football team playing at the Grove for 30 years before the Town, and Halesowen Hackers, as they were known, played twice a year in a match against the travelling fairground under - 11's side.
- 1845 - It was at this time that the nickname "Yeltz" was acquired, which was to be taken on by Halesowen Town 28 years later. The name apparently came from a local pub which stood next to the pitch at the time. In those days matches consisted of up to 50 players a side and often the whole of the pub would be playing. The expression "we're playing the Yeltz" then entered local folklore
- 1849 - With football gaining mass appeal and becoming more organised the first ever competitive match of football as we now (sort of) know it between Halesowen and Stourbridge took place. Stourbridge Strollers went 1-0 up after only thirty seconds but, according to the records, Halesowen hit back with eight goals in the last 10 mins. This was all the more remarkable for the fact that all 8 were scored by

59 year old centre-forward Albert "Woody" Hackett, so called because he played with a wooden leg after losing a limb at Waterloo (he was run over by a train). With a very one sided victory for Halesowen the tone was set for future meetings between the two Towns.

1850 - Halesowen entered their first league competition - the Belle Vale League but finished bottom for the first ten years. The highest position they ever recorded was one from the bottom so they decided to try their luck in the Birmingham Combination instead. This was also the year that their first trophy was won. Although only two teams entered the Mucklow Hill Corporation Tip Cup, Halesowen eventually overcame the Hayley Green Senior Citizens Club 10-9 after a titanic struggle.

more excerpts from this astounding document in the future (maybe)

Stourbridge in the running for staging a match in England's 1998 World Cup bid ??



UNSPOILT BY PROGRESS ?

Another phenomenon Desmond Morris could well look into has been seen creeping into the behaviour of spectators at the Grove. It is with great alarm that it's rise has been noted and we feel it is a negative aspect which should be stamped out immediately and certainly takes the edge off our enjoyment of a Saturday afternoon at the Grove.

SCANDAL

What is this major scandal ? I hear you cry. Pitched battles with away fans in the shed ? The mugging of tea ladies at half-time ? No and No respectively . The answer would appear to be an almost universal expectation of perfectionism !!

SUCCESS

Over the past few seasons we have been unbelievably lucky not just in the successes that have come our way , but also in the manner in which these successes have been

achieved. We have, rightly, gained a reputation for playing open attractive football and when you consider that, in the last nine years we have never finished lower than 6th in the league (including 5 league championships) plus the Vase successes and 1300 goals in 10 seasons, who could complain ?? Well, quite a lot of people apparently !!

JOKERS

These jokers, who seem to believe that in order to play for the Town you have to be a cross between George Best, Pele, Maradona and Frank Worthington (allright, but he meant a lot to me in my formative footballing years !!), appear to have lost all sense of what following a football team means. In order to help them I looked up my Oxford English Dictionary and found this definition :-

Support: v.t. to bear the weight of;to hold up;to endure;to sustain;to maintain; to back up; to strengthen;

supporter: an adherent; a defender

Now, obviously, things are not always going to go

according to plan and we're not going to be able to win 10-0 and play beautiful football every week. But when things do start to go wrong and we play badly the last thing the players need is for the crowd to turn on them instantly. They know they're playing badly and I'm sure the response they get often affects the players adversely. Surely a bit of encouragement is what is needed. I'm all for having a good moan but there is a time and a place for everything and surely it is not too much to suggest that a bit of encouragement would be a lot more helpful to the players, especially with the size of the crowds. A number of away teams used to much smaller gates may well be quite intimidated at first but if they raise their game the sound of 1500 people suddenly rounding on the home team would be an extraordinary lift for them. If, however they started to get on top and suddenly found 1500 people roaring the Town on, I have a sneaky feeling that the effect would be rather different on both

sets of players !!

BEHIND

At other clubs I visit this phenomena does not seem to exist (or not so obviously). Consider for a moment Stourbridge (and many, many others like them). Now I know this isn't a particularly nice proposition but although they play in front of about 200 people, at least it is 200 people who get behind the team for 90 minutes. Would you rather play in front of 200 people who'll back you to the hilt no matter what or 1500 who are likely to turn on you at your first mis-placed pass ? Think about it - if word gets around then we may have difficulty attracting players of the so-called "low quality" at the moment. Phrases like - "Halesowen ? - Oh no, if you don't score a hat-trick with your first three touches the fans crucify you" may not be so far-fetched.

COMPLAINTS

This is the best team we've ever had at the Grove and the highest quality of

football ever played here so why all the complaints ? These are the same people who will be saying, in five years time, "Oh yeah - but there not as good as the team we had in the first year in the Premier Division " !!

SLIDE

The main emphasis, at the moment, is on reinforcing our position in the Premier Division and it would definitely be preferable to spend a couple of seasons in mid table in this league than going all out for the Conference only to come crashing back down again in glorious failure because we weren't ready. Once these slides start they are often difficult to put a stop to and we could find ourselves back down with Cradley in the Banks's League.

Now, in a way, it is a compliment to the team and their performances that so many people expect so much from them and I'm the first to admit that it is very frustrating when they don't perform as well as they can. I know the fans pay with their hard earned cash and are entitled to voice their opinions but without John Morris we would still be in the Midland Division.

ENCOURAGE

So c'mon, lets get behind the team and encourage them. It's all too easy when we're winning and playing well but surely, after the last ten years, the least we can do is to give them a bit of support when things aren't going quite so well.

BLAH BLAH LEAGUE
42 Mossley v Gainsboro
43 S.Liverpool v Matlock
44 Southport v Shepshed
45 Stalybridge v Buxton

Evening Standard 11/01/91

Perhaps the sub-editor was once turned down after a trial with an HFS Loans club?

You R The Ref.

Following on in the tradition of all great footy magazines, we felt obliged to provide you with a quiz, so you can impress all your mates with your amazing footballing knowledge.

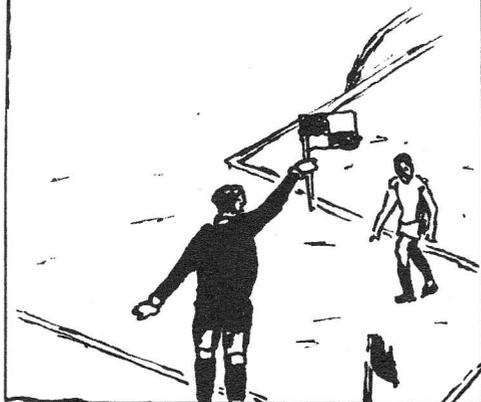
1 DURING A MATCH THE BALL IS PLAYED THROUGH TO KEVIN HARRISON.



2 ALTHOUGH 10 YARDS NEARER THE GOAL THAN THE LAST DEFENDER HE HAMMERS THE BALL INTO THE NET.



3 AT THIS POINT YOU NOTICE THAT THE LINESMAN IS FLAGGING WILDLY.



DO YOU ??

- (a) Give the offside and disallow the goal ??
- (b) Warn Kevin Harrison for time wasting and give the offside ??
- (c) Let the goal stand and tell the linesman to stop waving to his mates in the crowd ??

ANSWER : (c) (obvious really !!)

FORGET your Top Ten and go and look at Hull City.
They are the best-looking, most attractive collection of men
you could find anywhere.

?

IS IT TRUE ??

That when the F.A. asked Stourbridge what ground improvements they'd done in the summer they were told that the stand had been re-seeded.

SYMPATHY

On a more serious note we were all very sorry to hear the news of the death of Harry Rudge. There was a magnificent turnout for the funeral service and you certainly know that you've done something worthwhile for a lot of people after a response like that. Our sympathy goes to all his relatives and friends and we hope that the club will continue to flourish without him. If it wasn't for Harry, Saturday afternoons just wouldn't have been the same.

WANTED

Due to the travelling distances and finances involved we don't get to as many matches as we'd like to, especially away matches (see later article). Consequently we would appreciate hearing from anyone who is able to provide us with reports from away matches in order to keep any other fans in the same position aware of events in foreign parts.

Also, could David Preece of Telford, who wrote into When Saturday Comes, get in touch, with a view to a follow up on his letter. Cheers.

GO AHEAD PUNK. MAKE MY DAY

Fraternal greetings to the Brighton fanzine, recently sued by the club for writing things they didn't want to read. If it's any consolation we don't think much of Brighton F.C. either.

Any donations to the FYI fighting fund to ward off any legal action will be gratefully recieved.

RECORD REVIEWS

Sean Flynn with Bronski Beat - "Small Town Boy"
A Tribe called Wealdstone - "Can I Kick It ?"
Nigel Kennedy with the Baggies Orchestra - "Four Seasons ('til the Beazer League)"

These records were all made out of vinyl and had a hole in the middle of them. They also had a label surrounding the hole covering approximately 12.23% of the surface area telling you what songs you'd hear when played.

Don't forget, you read it first in "Follow Your Instinct", the music paper that gives it to you straight.

BEAZER DEFENDERS DOPE TEST SHOCKER !!

In secret tests carried out by independent researchers, an appalling 79% of Beazer League defenders were positively tested as dopes. A report from 'The Graham Roberts Institute for Research into Crap Defending' reveals record levels of stupidity in the performances of the League's back fours.

Beazer officials were unavailable for comment, but an official spokesperson confirmed that they had known about this problem for years but done nothing.

ALTERNATIVE PEN-PICS

For those people who haven't been anywhere near the ground since Wembley you may well not recognise some of the players. If this is the case here is a brief guide to who's who.

KEVAN WILLIAMS

The beer-gut seems to be slowly receding especially after his brief visit to the Dudley Town Health and Beauty Farm. When he's not injured or cup tied can be pretty inspirational.

STEVE VOWLES

Another Dudley signing brought in to replace Sean Hayward. Definitely a good move. Seems to have settled down after a shaky start.

DAVID HEYWOOD

Oh no ! The dreaded utility defender ! After being played out of position at the beginning of the season is finding his form at left back.

ERIC SMITH

Seriously cool defender. Has even been known to cross the half way line when there's a blue moon

out. It's one thing he didn't pick up from playing with Steve Bull at Tipton.

IAN BETTLES

Often to be seen running out onto the pitch with plaster casts, neck brace, drip machine and a team of doctors in attendance. Can't fault his commitment though.

MALCOLM HAZLEWOOD

After sampling life at Kiddy he decided to return to his true home. Never been known to miss out on the chance of a penalty inside (or outside) the area.

SEAN FLYNN

Watch out for him on corners. He has been known to take off for a header and not come back down to earth until just before kick-off time on the following saturday.

LEROY HEMANS

The shock waves from some of his tackles have been known to cause minor avalanches in the Himalayas
A bit inconsistent.

ROBERT SHILVOCK

Stuck it out at Kiddy for longer than Malcolm but couldn't resist the little voices in his head saying "Come home, come home !".
Cost quite a bit of dosh to prise him away, apparently.

TIM LANGFORD

100% effort. Gives everything in a match. The trouble is , though, it's usually all in the first 60 mins. then he has to go off. Somebody ought to tell him a match lasts for 90 minutes. Can't fault the first 60 though !

KEVIN HARRISON

Haircut of the year !!
Forget all your hype about Ian Rush, Gary Lineker and company - this man is the business. Has been left sitting on the bench a lot more often than your humble Ed's would like.

LEE JOINSON

Hasn't been the same for a while now and so has been playing mainly in the reserves. Maybe he's missing his brother.

GAVIN WHITEHOUSE

Was looking good but then got injured before he'd settled down properly. We'll have to wait and see.

MARK PENN

Club stalwart. i.e. dead old ! Managed to keep up with the clubs improvement and was playing some of his best football when injury struck. Get well soon Penner !!

STUART EDWARDS

Ex-England international (even if it was only at schoolboy's level). Fighting it out with David Heywood for the coveted left-back spot.

HERBET HEATH

Eric Smith's understudy but needs a meaner haircut. Settling down now after some early jitters.

BUILDING PYRAMIDS

Do we really want to go up? The higher we climb up the leagues, the greater the worry that we might actually get promoted. Do you reckon we'd be ready for the Conference, or would it lead to an ignominious return back to where we started from ??

SUCCESS

Everyone agrees the pyramid has been a great success. The standard of football has improved right throughout the pyramid and the off-field organisation of the associated clubs has improved accordingly. Ambitious clubs are supposedly allowed to rise as high as their ability can take them. Except that their ground has to be up to standard. Just one small proviso, but one that can prove the ultimate barrier no matter how good the actual team is.

TROUBLE

Post-Hillsborough, football has, at last, been forced to take notice of the fans that provide the clubs livelihood. The trouble is that success on

the field is not the only criteria for advancement. You won't have to cast your minds back too far to remember all the trouble we had getting into the Midland division from the Banks's League and the rejections of our applications because of ground improvements required at that time. The problems that have arisen at Worcester have brought this point home. It is looking a distinct possibility that they could end the season as Premier Division champions while being relegated to the Midland Division because their ground isn't up to scratch. Grounds have to be improved, but what is the point in having feeder leagues to the Conference when two out of three "promoted" clubs are prevented from going up by the leagues regulations ??

BUBBLE

Colne Dynamos is an especially cautionary tale. Buying success is all very well until the bubble bursts. However well-intentioned Mr. Moneybags investments were, to leave his "beloved" club

in a position where it is unable to carry on is unforgiveable.

SAFETY

Everyone wants better facilities, but should the restrictions be so stringent? It's a sad case of affairs when the most essential ground improvements have to be on the directors entertainment suite. THIS IS NOT A CRITICISM OF THE CLUB.

After the trouble we had getting into the league in the first place, they've rightly made sure that never again will we be held back by supposedly inferior facilities. But if the authorities really have spectator safety in mind, can somebody explain how a half-time G & T to a visiting committee member helps anyone? There must

certainly, be a large number of clubs within the pyramid struggling with very limited resources and low gates but a good squad and ambitions. Surely, what little money they have available should be spent on improving the safety of the ground rather than forcing these clubs to build expensive boxes for visiting directors and league officials.

OLD BOYS

The pyramid was set up because the top Non-league clubs were finding it nigh on impossible to break into that old boys club known as the Football League. It would be a pity if its only achievement was to distil such repressive attitudes down to the lower levels.

IT is difficult to promise that your football team will never walk alone if it has just become the property of a multi-millionaire who has never stood on its terraces, worn its scarf or waited outside the players' entrance with an autograph book.

Labour deputy leader Roy Hattersley on Robert Maxwell's attempt to buy into Tottenham Hotspur FC.

AWAY DAZE (CONT.)

Our hosts edged the first half, creating the better chances, but the second period was a different story as the Yeltz poured forward with attack after attack, of which unfortunately many ended in corners which were wasted through gross and frustrating inaccuracy. The Wealdstone back four had a nightmare 45 minutes which was even worse than ours during the 1-4 Chelmsford defeat. Only infrequently were they able to clear the ball to their own players so that it was soon returned as we swept forward at every opportunity. Twice the post was hit, via Steve Vowles and Malcolm Hazlewood, while Steve also clipped the bar with a header.

As the second half progressed so the Yeltz following became more vocal. Some had been involved in the morning fixture between the supporters clubs which had resulted in a 4-1 win for Wealdstone and undoubtedly their vocal chords had been well lubricated since the end of that game. Their encouragement was to be rewarded for, just when it seemed our superiority was going to count for nothing, Herbie Heath went on a run into the penalty area, going past defenders in a manner which would not have disgraced John Barnes. His cross was slotted home by Tim Langford who soon followed this with a second to reap the rewards for a gritty, lively and hard running display.

The referee's whistle soon blew and we had achieved a dramatic last minute victory and our first Beazer Premier double. The players walked off the pitch reciprocating the applause from the Yeltz fans.

We now have a very good away record and hopefully the Chelmsford match will prove only a temporary setback. It is interesting how we are achieving a more consistent level away from home. The large crowds at the Grove must bring an added pressure to our players and the 4-4-2 formation also seems more suited to away games.

KEVIN HARRISONS BARBER.

That this House believes that the growth of football fanzines is generally a healthy development which reflects the desire of more and more soccer fans to have a say in the running of their football clubs and to comment more widely on their games and therefore calls upon football clubs and the police to make arrangements for these fanzines to be sold at matches in the same way as club programmes are and without causing any obstruction

The early day motion above was signed by the following MP's :- Harry Barnes, Lawrence Cunliffe, Martin Redmond, Mike Watson, Alan Meade, Tom Pendry, Roland Boyes, Eric Illsey and Elliot Morley. Solid chaps all round !!

NOT WORTH THE WAIT

● BECAUSE two of Rossendale United's coaches broke down on the way to HFS Loans League fixture at Netherfield, the kick-off wasn't until 9.25p.m.

The match finished at 11.05 with around a hundred fans getting their money back because they

could not afford to wait.

They didn't miss much. The result was 0-0.

From "Non-League Football" No. 13

ATTENDANCE RECORDS 1990-91

Club	games	agg.	ave.
WITTON ALBION	11	9,099	827
HYDE UNITED	12	7,435	620
LEEK TOWN	14	8,010	572
SOUTHPORT	13	5,760	443
BUXTON	11	4,734	430
MATLOCK TOWN	13	5,405	416
STALYBRIDGE CELTIC	13	5,389	415
MORECAMBE	11	4,403	401
BANGOR CITY	9	3,326	370
MOSSLEY	14	5,133	367
CHORLEY	10	3,674	367
FLEETWOOD TOWN	9	3,268	363
DROYLSDEN	11	3,668	333
GOOLE TOWN	12	3,928	327
BISHOP AUCKLAND	11	3,482	317
MARINE	13	4,064	313
SHEPshed CHARTERHOUSE	11	3,380	307
GAINSBOROUGH TRINITY	12	3,650	304
FRICKLEY ATHLETIC	10	3,015	302
HORWICH	11	2,352	250
SOUTH LIVERPOOL	8	1,883	235

THE YELTZ

Matches Played	Agg	Ave
10	13612	1361
11	14633	1330
12	15770	1316

The Long and Winding Road

Now I daresay some of you may have noticed the addresses at the front and wondered what on earth a fanzine about Halesowen is doing being produced in Plymouth and Edinburgh. Well, to save you losing anymore sleep about it, the fact is that we both moved away from the town about six years ago in order to explore the outer reaches of the universe and to take the word to far flung distant civilizations (and you can't get much further from civilization than Plymouth, believe me !!) but, so far, this is as far as we've got. (A major campaign to get the Town results announced on the local television stations failed gloriously). The usual response is something along the lines of "Hailstone who ?? Are they they your local pub team ?"

EDUCATE

The recent successes we've achieved have helped to educate the masses slightly but the majority of people who seem to think that football does not exist outside of Liverpool, Man. Utd.,

Spurs and Arsenal (e.g. ITV) watch out we're after you !!

DRAWBACK

The major drawback with this mission we've been assigned to is the fact that we don't get to as many as we'd like to. With the price of a train ticket to a match and back almost £50 it's not exactly the sort of thing you can do every week (especially when you're on the dole). "Why not take the coach ??" you may well say, and, if you did, I could only reply "Have you seen the timetables ??". As an example the away match at Weymouth recently caught my attention. "Ah, Weymouth", I thought. "That's not far from Plymouth and we should get a hatful there. I think I'll pop along.". So off I trot to the Bus Station armed with my coach card and a newly cashed giro. On arrival I'm shocked to be informed that the last coach back from Weymouth is at 8.30 in the morning. Well thanks a bunch !!

RAIN

So it's down to the last

resort. Half a cardboard box, a marker pen and my trusty left thumb. Now, for those of you who've never tried your hand at hitching you can get rid of all those romantic ideas of life on the open road. What it generally consists of is standing in the rain for two to three hours until you're soaked through watching hundreds of nice warm dry cars speeding past you with all the occupants making obscene gestures and telling you to "catch the train you scrounging git !!"

Ah, the milk of human kindness.

Anyway, in conclusion, the next time you're leaving a match at the final whistle and a soaked and bedraggled bloke with a bag full of soggy cardboard and a dismayed look on his face comes up and asks you what the score was, as he's only just managed to get there, spare a thought for him - he's got to go through it all again to get home !! (You could even buy a fanzine from him



UNBELIEVABLE !?!

Ian Scarr had stayed on his line as the ball was played forward. Stuart Edwards was beaten for pace and, as a dipping cross-shot was heading towards goal, Ian Scarr managed to just get his hands to the ball before it had crossed the line. As the match progressed the ball fell to Kevin Harrison six yards out and, just when it looked as though he'd missed, a wicked swerve at the last second resulted in a bulge in the back of the net.

And that was it - we'd actually done it !! We'd won 2-1 and been drawn away to Scunthorpe after getting through to the second round of the cup for the first time ever. After a dour 0-0 scrap in the mud at Scunthorpe the replay took place at the Grove before another sell-out crowd. Halesowen took an early lead through Rob Shilvock and, with some desperate defending in the later stages of the match, managed to hold out for another famous victory. In the third round, the headlines were taken away from Woking with Brighton losing 5-1 to Halesowen and Malcolm making a guest appearance on Match of the Day. Then the draw gives us the perfect tie - 4th round Liverpool vs Halesowen !!

Grandstand runs a special feature on how this jolly "little" club has actually played at Wembley, the biggest day of their squalid little lives etc. blah,blah,blah the usual patronising nonsense.

The game starts with Malcolm and Steve McMahon being booked after an early midfield flare up. Despite having most of the play, Liverpool are unable to breach our defences and at half-time it's still 0-0. Then the unbelievable happens - Langford races on to a through ball, outpaces Gillespie and calmly slots the ball under the advancing Grobelaar.

The Kop falls silent - but not for long ! The tension is unbearable as the former European Champions surge forward in search of an equaliser. First the post, then the bar saves Halesowen until, with only two minutes left the referee whistles for an Eric Smith tackle on Rush. Penalty !! Barnes steps up and

I Ay Bin There

Or "THE FYI GUIDE TO THE NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUBS OF THE MIDLANDS"

1) CRADLEY TOWN

On an irreversible slide into Sunday league football after reaching the dizzy heights of the Banks's Premier Division about 10 years ago. Somehow managed to con Portsmouth out of ridiculous amounts of money for a Banks's Division One player.

2) LYE TOWN

Still struggling to get out of the Banks's League and failing gloriously. The only decent players they ever had they sold to us about ten years ago.

3) HALESOWEN HARRIERS

They haven't just got a chip on their shoulder they've got a whole sack of spuds. Naff ground, naff team, 'nuff said.

4) STOURBRIDGE TOWN

Seem to think of themselves as some kind of rivals to us but it's just delusions of grandeur !! If you ever have to visit the place go in the summer and watch the cricket instead.

5) DUDLEY TOWN

Attempting to recover lost glories (??) after their pitch disappered into the Twilight Zone one night. Not succeeding too well.

6) KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS

Supposedly in the process of rebuilding the squad which seems to consist of getting rid of all their best players. At least the cycling track has gone so you dont need your binoculars anymore. Nowhere to park your bike now, though

For those of you who weren't at the Cardiff match last year, here's an excerpt from there fanzine - "O Bluebird Of Happiness" giving the views of your average punter on the terraces, so to speak. (And for those of you who were there note the comment on the "penalty").

CITY 1, HALESOWEN 0. (Sat Nov 18th) FA Cup 1st Round
CITY: Wood; Rodgerson, Gibbins, Abraham, Daniel; Morgan, Barnard, Kelly, Chandler; Pike, Griffith.
subs: Fry (for Chandler), Scott.

After the capers at Fulham the previous week, this game served as a sharp reminder to all of us that City are not quite Liverpool. Why is it that the teams we should beat easily are always the ones that give us problems - after all, how many Welsh Cup matches have we scraped by a one goal margin at Ninian? This game actually started well for us. A more than healthy contingent of away fans had come down from the Black Country and were packed together in the paddock, the Grange End being closed for some reason (apparently policing costs). However, Halesowen initially appeared not to take heart from this, and we were well on top for the first half-hour, with Kelly and particularly Barnard picking up all the loose balls in midfield. Having said that, our goal was, perhaps, a trifle dodgy. After twenty-one minutes, Rodgerson's through ball sent Chandler racing towards the empty Grange. Chandler went down, and the ref blew for a penalty. From my own position on the Bob Bank I couldn't tell you whether it was or it wasn't, but obviously the decision sparked off a bit of mild controversy from the visiting contingent. Anyway, Pike banged home the spot-kick and we were away. Again, we could have increased our lead, but failed to take advantage of the chances we were creating. Gradually we blew ourselves out and by half-time, we had allowed Halesowen to get back into the match.

Unfortunately, the second-half was more of the same. The visitors, now being egged on by a more voluble crowd, looked increasingly in command as our midfield was run ragged - but while Halesowen had all of the possession, they couldn't create anything in the penalty area, and George Wood, making his comeback in the side after injury, was seldom tested; on the odd occasions when he was, he looked up to the challenge. A bit of a match to forget from City's point of view. Still, let's be grateful for small mercies. At least they didn't do a Weymouth on us.

"INDEPENDENT" 6 FEB 1991 :-

I LOVE football fanzines. Every club has one now, even the non-League teams, and the big clubs have several, which rise and fall as the self-appointed editors grow up, lose their spots, start going out with girls.

I buy them partly for the abuse and the cheap jokes (see first paragraph), but also to support what I think are worthwhile organs. They are produced by supporters who do care, who are willing to work for what they believe in. It's not easy, abusing and joking. You have to turn it into print, then get out there and sell copies.

Their rise is to do with the arrival of cheap, desk-top publishing

Naturally, most clubs hate the fanzines, accusing them of being libellous, unfair, childish, totally non-constructive. They sit on the sidelines and criticise, putting nothing back into the game.

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 :-

- DOVER ATHLETIC - "Dover Soul" 40p from 9A St. Johns Road, Dover,
Kent CT17 9SE.
"Tales From the River End" 40p from 92 Wyndham Road
Dover, Kent.
"Rhodes Boyson - Go'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
GLOUCESTER CITY - "Tiger Roar" 20p from 70 Sussex Gardens, Hucclecote,
Gloucester GL3 3SU
KIDDERMINSTER - "The Soup" 50p from 29 Gilgal, Stourport, Nr. Kidderminster
Worcs.
RUSHDEN TOWN - "Russians Roulette" 40p from 22 Queen Street, Rushden,
Northants NN10 0AZ
STOURBRIDGE - "Glass Routes" 40p from 78 Meridan 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 Elsie Ender" 50p from 37 Grange Road, Kenton, Harrow,
Middlesex HA1 2PR
"Long Ball Down the Middle" £1 from 50 Hartington Close,
Sudbury Hill, Harrow, Middx.
ASTON VILLA - "Heroes and Villians" 50p from P.O.Box 1703, Perry Barr,
Birmingham, B42 1UZ
"Witton Wisdom" 50p from 60 High Road, Byfleet, Surrey
KT14 7QL
B'HAM CITY - "Tired and Weary" 50p from 133 Longmore Road, Shirley
Solihull, W.Mids B90 3EF
WALSALL - "Saddle Sore" 40p from 24 Blenheim Road, Horspath, Oxford
OX9 1RY
WEST BROM - "Grorty Dick" 50p from c/o 7 Ruth Close, Tipton, Staffs.
DY4 0AR
WOLVES - "A Load of Bull" 50p from Box 277, 52 Call Lane, Leeds
LS1 5DT

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

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

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF A FANZINE SELLER:-

'ERE, SONNY - YOU
CAN'T GO IN WITH
THEM - THEY COULD BE
USED AS OFFENSIVE
WEAPONS!!

