

FOLLOW YOUR INSTINCT



A HALESOWEN TOWN FANZINE

*MORRIS BRINGS IN NEW BLOOD
FOR LATE PROMOTION PUSH*



ISSUE SEVEN

APR/MAY 1991/2

PRICE: TEN BOB TO YOU

Follow Your Instinct



6 , QUEENS GATE, LIPSON, PLYMOUTH PL4 7PW

2/1 4, GRINDLAY STREET, EDINBURGH EH3 9AS

MIDFIELD GENERALS :-

Frank and Poll

TRICKY WINGER :-

Ada

COACH :-

Alison

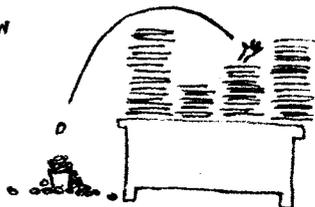
DEFENSIVE WALL :-

Steve and Sarah, Kevin Harrison's Barber, Magnus McLain, Cyril Waterman, PM, Josie, Paul Chappell, Charles Shakespeare, IR son of JR.

These random scribbles 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

Who'd have thought it ?? We've now been going for over a year and we're still here - who said miracles never happen ?? A fair bit of space this issue has been given over to an interview we had with Ron Moseley a few weeks back. The EGM should have been over by the time you read this and the club will now be a limited company. As far as we can tell this appears to be a step in the right direction, although not much will probably change apart from the assets being limited. Since half of the editorial committee were members of the club and didn't fancy having everything repossessed if the club went bust, we like the sound of that one !!



On the pitch things have been improving gradually rather than staggeringly - but any improvement is better than none !! The defence has tightened up considerably but we now seem to have problems putting the ball in at the other end. It was good to see Kevin scoring again against Chelmsford - he looked aa different player than in recent games - but the number of chances we missed after that was criminal.

One other minus point is that a few more players may be off to League clubs. Steve Brookes could be another on his way to Coventry and two more to Derby. This would take the total players taken by League clubs to eight in the last couple of seasons, plus Tim Langford to Telford, so it's hardly surprising that we're struggling to get some consistency together.

In case you were wondering where all the hard earned pennies you've been handing over to us have been going we can now let you know. After investing most of it in the Daily Mirror Pensions Fund the remaining cash just covered

(cont. over)

EDITORIAL (CONT.)

enough to sponsor the match ball for the game against Gloucester.

While we're on the subject of money, we are going to try and scrounge some more out of you over the next few weeks. We've got a load of raffle tickets available for the Football Against M.S. campaign at a quid a time, and will hopefully be holding a blanket collection at half-time of the Gloucester game. We will also be playing a match against the committee in the close season with the aim of raising money for the same cause. Please try to support one, two or all of the above. Cheers.

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 NUJ.

We are also now available from :-

Nostalgia & Comics, Smallbrook Queensway, B'ham
Sportspages, 94/96 Charing Cross Rd., London
Waggon & Horses, Stourbridge Rd., Halesowen
Strathclyde Programme Shop, Glasgow
Behind the bar in the club house

BACK ISSUES

All back issues are currently available (although we've only got a few left of some issues) from the address inside the front cover, or from a few dodgy looking characters outside the gates at most home matches.

What A Season !

Well, what a season it's been !! There's so much to mention I just couldn't possibly fit it all in to the space the Ed's have allowed me.

"POOH", SAID

For "The Yeltz" it's been one of ups and downs with periods of good/bad/indifferent form and no consistency. With a player sold to Coventry at the end of November still our leading goalscorer I don't think I need stress our No. 1 problem any further.

PIGLET NERVOUSLY

The absence of Vowlenbauer led to an alarming drop in the number of goals conceded, and with "steady" Steadman getting better by the game defence is a growing concern on the pitch. The absence of goals has been our undoing so Mr Morris I suggest that a quality goalscorer be on the summers shopping list (but hang on to Kevin as he's a good player, besides his barber needs the work !)

Looking at my hopes (see issue 2 I think) none really materialised, and we couldn't even manage the 2nd Qual. Rd. of the Trophy - again !! Back to the FA Vase next year to get the crowds in, the Joinsons and Geoff Moss back, Caldicott in goal etc., etc.

"YES ?" SAID

"Time waits for no man" says the poet so it looks like the Trophy again. Please Mr. John, other than a bye can we make an effort to get through this time ??

ONE OF THE CHAIRS

That's all the space I've got for now and with the cricket season nearly upon us it's time for me to sign off.

See you next season readers ???

Best Wishes,

PM.

F.A. Vase Update

Evesham Utd v Eastwood
(Hanley)

Going in search of those long gone glory days took me off again to Common Road on a bright, chilly afternoon in early February.

VASE

A 1200+ crowd assembled to see if Evesham's "giant killing" run could continue. The atmosphere was one of expectancy and anticipation, and I thought that it was this superb home support that carried "The Robins" through the 90 minutes.

URN

They were mostly outplayed by a slick "Hanley" side who only kept Chris Taylor in the home goal busy wondering how far he'd have to go to fetch their shots - which were abysmal !!

JAR

Both teams made a tentative start to the

game, but Eastwood settled first and after 19 mins. took the lead with a superb 20 yard strike from their right back.

JUG

This spurred Evesham into action and within 2 mins. they were level with an even better goal from my left wing discovery (this time playing on the right). This led to Evesham's best spell of the match, but for the last 10 mins. Eastwood had regained control but couldn't convert their superiority into goals.

FLAGON

The second half continued in similar vein but it was Evesham who got the only goal when a long throw from the left was only half cleared and a falling volley from centre-half Cotterill flew into the top corner.

EVER

This sent the large crowd wild and their vocal

encouragement was non-stop until the final whistle. Eastwood set up camp in the Evesham half but never looked like scoring except from the odd sliced clearance, and if another goal was to come it would be from Evesham's direct, threatening counter attacks.

PITCHER

At 90 mins. Jimmy Hill would complain about justice not being done as the best footballing side had lost. Who cares ?? If they can't even shoot straight then are they that good ? Evesham knew where the net was and how to get the ball into it and that's what counts in cup football.

AMPHORA

A superb afternoon's entertainment and as the WN Police won well at Hungerford there is a fine chance of local representation at the semi-final stage.

I predict it won't be Evesham though, as Guisely will be too good for them, and I think they'll do well not to concede less than 4 goals up in Yorkshire, although I hope they can snatch a consolation or two.

DECANTER

A replay would be out of this world as I'd like to see 2000+ packed into the ground, with 500 on the huge railway embankment down one side. It's what the Non-league game is all about (cliche, cliche etc, etc).

My Tip - Guisely to retain the Vase.

PM.

Make your own deductions on our correspondents "predictions" as all the results are now known. - Eds.

THE FINAL WORD

What a surprise - The powers that be running football are making complete idiots of themselves once again !! Following the lead of the F.A., Premier League etc. the Worcestershire F.A. have decided to have a go as well.

ONE LAW FOR

We've been unceremoniously dumped out of the Worcester Senior Cup Final for fielding an inelligible player. Now as far as we know this has never happened before, as previous occurrences have resulted in the match being ordered to be re-played.

THEM AND

The player in question was Darren Steadman, who apparently played for Kiddy against Moor Green. Obviously, if this is the case, someone made a mistake at the club and he shouldn't have played, but given the fact that Ade Cooper and Richard Massey were both left out for the same reasons we can hardly be accused of trying to pull a fast one.

It is obvious to anyone that the club went out of it's way to ensure that all players were elligible. making a point of leaving players out. As we said before previous rule breaches of this kind have resulted in a rematch and this punishment far outweighs the crime and reeks of hypocrisy.

ANOTHER ONE

The club are not happy at all about the punishment and Ron Moseley told us that "the position of the club within the Worcestershire F.A. is being carefully considered".

FOR US ?

We're getting a funny taste in our mouths here at FYI Mansions - sour grapes perhaps ?? Is it a coincidence that a number of Kiddy and Worcester reps are on the Worcs. F.A. and that neither team managed to progress to the usual Worcester v Kiddy Final ?? If that's the way they want to play it why not just call it the Kiddy and Worcester Senior Cup and give both teams a bye to the final ??

A Letter To Ed.

Dear Editors,

Up here in Scotland a story has been doing the media rounds of how Cowdenbeath supporters call their team 'The Blue Brazil'. What about some similar nicknames for other teams? How about Stourbridge Town - 'The Red and White Northampton' - both play at cricket grounds and last had a half-decent team in the early seventies; or perhaps Halesowen Harriers - 'The Pink (or whatever colour they play in) Algeria' - it's not that their team's poor, it's that the other teams conspire against them.

Can your readers think of any other ones?

Michael Forsyth
Stirling

Fellow Supporters,

How come we always sell our best players to league teams? Most of those who've left weren't half as bad as the ones who we kept. Surely we should have sold our worst players to Coventry and kept the half-decent ones ourselves?

How many times do I have to write to this fanzine before anyone takes any notice of me? The manager must go! If he isn't sacked soon I shall stop going down and then they'll be sorry.

A loyal Yeltz fan

PS If Terry Butcher was such a good player, how come Ipswich never won the league?

FPS If he's not fit enough to play for Coventry, how come we'd consider playing him? Surely he's either fit or he isn't?

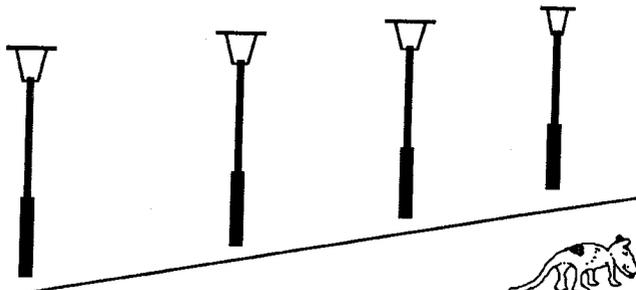
THE ADVENTURES OF FIDO T DOG

No. 5

(Halesowen Town's Greatest Fan)

By Tony Lungs

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON ...



I LEFT early on Saturday morning for my constituency in the West Midlands. I had my private interviews, first of all in Halesowen and then Stourbridge. These good people rarely complain and I only saw seven out of my 80,000 constituents. I had coffee in the town and watched the shoppers.

The people there are so decent and steadfast. They wait for you to recognise them first and then smile back broadly. I have been so lucky to represent these solid, respectable, loyal and kindly people for 22 years.

THE GUARDIAN 22/2/92

Words of wisdom from our outgoing MP and very own 'Knight of the Shire' (of Stourbridgeshire presumably?) Still I don't think he's been down The Grove very often; "These good people rarely complain" - try telling Johnny Morris that.

Limited Movement

Having heard various quotes in the press about the possibility of the club becoming a limited company we decided to find out more. Unfortunately the EGM has been called for the 16th April - after we've gone to the printers - but we thought that we'd track down somebody who knew more details anyway. The FYI Hit Squad was duly despatched armed only with a hard backed chair, a spotlight and a pair of leather gloves. After a brief scuffle they bundled Ron Moseley into a darkened room, switched the spotlight on him and began the interrogation.....

FYI: Can you give us any details about what is happening with the club being turned into a limited company ??

RM: Basically, the reasons for doing it are that there are not many clubs in our league which are not board run. We're probably one of the last few run by committee members. It's more professional and we believe it's the way we need to go to progress. It's getting so big now - we've got an accountant and are taking on another full-time commercial manager. It's a full-time club and a full-time job running it.

FYI: One of our worries is the way the allocation of shares will be made.

RM: I can't give you the exact details because it will have to be put before the members at an EGM first, but we shall definitely build in safeguards so that no one person can come in, like some clubs in the area, and swallow the whole lot and then leave.

FYI: At least at the moment though, the club is self-funding which means that although we haven't got that much money to play with it's better in a way because you know

exactly where the money's coming from. We're worried that someone could come in and buy say 51% of shares and have effective control of the club.

RM: That will be impossible - No one member will be able to take control. What tends to happen is that a chairman comes in and he's keen on the club. Say I was a millionaire, I wouldn't hesitate if John Morris came up to me and said "I'm really keen on this player" so we sign him. Then someone upsets me and I back out leaving the club with a huge wage bill and you get the people who are really hard working left and the club folds.

We will continue to be run as quite a large board. In general, people have 3 or 4 on the board. We will still have the same amount and be working directors, whereas other clubs tend to have directors who are purely that. I mean, you've seen them with other clubs where they have their club jacket and club tie, but.....

FYI: Where did the idea come from initially - it doesn't seem that common at our level ??

RM: Oh it is. I think every club we've visited this year has been directors and not committee run. I think you'll find only Notts. Forest are committee run. We've got to run the club as a business. Sadly so, but it's got to be done. The gates only account for 25% of the running costs.

FYI: It could be a very interesting proposition for someone with money and an ego to match, especially as we're quite a high profile club in the area, so although everyone will be limited to a number of shares initially can somebody then buy them all up afterwards ??

RM: Say you've got some shares and want to sell. You can't just go ahead and sell. Those shares have to come back on the table. Those are the sort of safeguards we'll be building in.

FYI: That makes us happier. You get these chairman who steam in with the money and say we'll be in the Football League within five years, which is always a good quote, then never hear of them again. Also with, say Hardanger, after sponsoring us for years when they ran into trouble if they'd had a controlling interest we'd have probably folded. We've been here for 100-odd years and want to be here in another 100.

RM: That's right - Dave [Berry] has proved to be a good sponsor and even more a good friend. He shows interest in the club but has no desire to interfere. I mean some clubs never see their chairman never mind their sponsor. I'm not saying they take anything out but they don't put anything in.

FYI: There was a worry before, especially after Harry went, about which way the club was going to go in, but things seem to have worked out o.k.

RM: That's it. We all want Conference football, but not at any cost. I was all for saying let's go for it and go straight through but we need time, and the first step is to become a limited company. The problem with some clubs is they shoot up from nowhere and then usually go out again very, very quickly. Steady progress - that's the way. A lot of clubs would like to be in our position - a lean year and we're 12th in the league, a solid base of 700/800 supporters and some good young lads both playing and running the club.

The people at this club love the club. We want to stand and shout on the terraces, we're in this club because we love it and that's what this club is about. There's no room for ego's here.

Thanks a lot to Ron for his time, he obviously has a lot of love for the club. We still have a few reservations about the whole thing, but hopefully these should have been cleared up after the EGM.

Doom and Gloom - Or is it ?

WE'RE GOING TO BE
RELEGATED !
SACK THE MANAGER !!
SACK THE BOARD !!
WE'RE OUT ALL THE CUPS !!
(except the Worcs.)
I'VE HAD MY SCARF NICKED
& CAN'T GET ANOTHER !!
(apart from those
aberrations with the
orange stripe)

We haven't won in the league since Nov 9th & crowds are dropping off (although the snoring has yet to disturb the players). Trowbridge are 5th in the league & on a roll. I think I'll stop at home and watch the rugby instead.

No ! I can't let Town's worst run for a decade put me off - I'm a loyal supporter. Still charging £3 ?? I thought there'd be a sale on - one-fifty and a free hot dog perhaps ?? What a terrible game - Trowbridge have been dragged down to our currently pitiful level. How can he be "resting" Kevin Harrison - we've hardly played for a month.

Half-time already ??
Anyone know how the rugby went ?? 38-9, 6 tries,

brilliant performance, well that's cheered me up - looks like I made the right choice there !! Come on lads - do *something*.

That's no good Malcolm - if you're going to dive at least make it look convincing. Hang on - what's the referee doing ? Pointing to the spot. He must be kidding.

Malcolm's put it away. The shed's in apoplexy. 20 minutes left, can we hang on ?? To cut a long story short (*good - Ed's*), yes we can - just.

One - Nil, Three points, sheer relief all round. Let's get down the boozier. I won't have to kick the dog tonight and I might even give the missus a kiss. Is it too late to go for promotion ?? What a team !!

Saturday made me remember all that is great in football - winning even though you were terrible. Bring on VS Rugby - you don't worry us - honest .

Ada.

Amateur Stuff

Now we've been moaning on about this for far too long probably, but it's still getting us a mite angry here at FYI Mansions. It's the same patronising attitude that occurs over and over again towards Non-league football.

The clip below is taken from the Daily Mirror's Mike Langley, the "Voice of Mirror Sport" or whatever he's supposed to be.

I'd seen Sean Flynn, a non-League kid practically straight off a building site, often running as he liked through the seven internationals of United's defence and midfield screen.

Anybody would think Sean had never kicked a football before Coventry signed him. This attitude occurs everywhere. The BBC has us playing in the Other Pools Matches League - where does that one fit into the pyramid? - and any Non-league matches on the teleprinter are ignored completely as being not worthy of comment.

Danny Baker, on Radio 5 the other day, was totally

amazed that a Non-league club might take 70 or 80 to an away match !! A Coventry fan also included the following in a recent letter to "When Saturday Comes":-

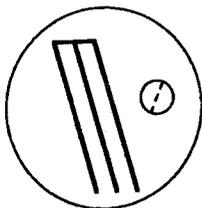
Sean Flynn joined Coventry City from amateurs Halesowen Town in the last week of November. He made his First

Since Halesowen Town had been eliminated from the Cup months earlier (before Flynn was even a professional footballer), there can be no sensible reason for preventing a fit player from practising his craft.

Try telling the players that they're all amateurs and aren't going to get paid this week !! The "months before" also happened to be a small matter of five weeks from the 1st Rd replay to the 3rd Rd.. While we're on the subject, didn't the bunch of amateurs from Halesowen recently beat the mighty Coventry first team 1-0 in a pre season friendly at Highfield Rd ?

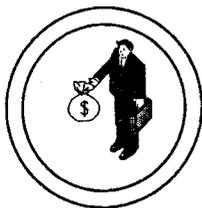
The Campaign for Recognition Of Semi-professional Soccer (CROSS) will be taking direct action in the near future - patronising sportswriters of the world beware !!

Spotted recently in the new "Rothman's Midland Non-League Club Guide" - £13.99 from few good bookstores.



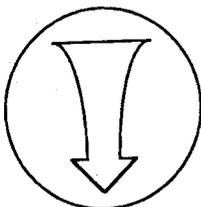
STOURBRIDGE TOWN

NICKNAME: The Cricketers
HONOURS: Welsh Urn 1897
Midland Division 1991 (sadly not promoted)
GROUND: Chick Bates Memorial Ground
CAPACITY: 150,000 (inc. Cricket Pitch)
RECORD ATTENDANCE: 109 (vs. Halesowen Reserves)
ONLY DECENT PLAYER: K.Harrison (now Halesowen)
METAL BADGES AVAILABLE: Yes



HALESOWEN HARRIERS

NICKNAME: The Crowdpullers
HONOURS: The Cradley Heath Sunday League 1947
GROUND: The Tanhouse San Siro Stadium
CAPACITY: 5,000 (4,000 in the flats)
RECORD ATTENDANCE: 3 old men and 2 dogs
CHAIRMAN, MANAGER,
SECRETARY, GROUNDSMAN
AND CHIEF BOTTLEWASHER: Derek Beasley
METAL BADGES AVAILABLE: No



DUDLEY TOWN

NICKNAME: The Sinkers
HONOURS: B'ham Senior Cup Runners Up 1984
GROUND: Round Oak Memorial Ground
CAPACITY: 200 (Parking for 20,000 at Merry Hill)
RECORD ATTENDANCE: 350 (Cricket Match at old ground)
ONLY ACHIEVEMENT: Appearing on 'Midlands Today' when
the old ground collapsed.
MOST SUCCESSFUL MANAGER: Paddy Page
METAL BADGES AVAILABLE: No

Winning Combinations

Everybody is supposed to remember where they were when JFK was shot. A few of us remember when Les Randle had a shot (the 6-a-side at the Alexander Stadium). But can you remember what you were wearing when we beat Trowbridge to end that long run without a win?

I WONDER

This is important. Not having won in the league for three months, the search for a lucky outfit had become desperate. After trying various combinations I finally hit upon my Halesowen top, tracksuit bottoms and (unfortunately) pink and white socks. Giorgio Armani didn't approve but we won 1-0 and the celebrations lasted for days.

WHAT COLOUR NEXT

Forget the players, our result is decided by what I'm wearing on the day of the game. After my lucky outfit had earned us another couple of wins, I thought I'd find out for sure and risk not wearing it for the VS Rugby game.

Sure enough we lost, not because they're top of the league but because I'd finally been persuaded to put on a different pair of socks.

SEASON'S AWAY

Think hard. Do you have an item of clothing that you've only worn on those days we've managed not to lose? I recommend keeping a diary, with Halesowen's results written alongside a record of your match outfit. Careful analysis should soon reveal what are the best things to wear to guarantee a successful outcome to the match. Imagine the effect of the whole crowd wearing their lucky clothes at once - promotion, FA Cup glory, FA Trophy 2nd Qualifying Round; who knows what peaks we could scale?

KIT WILL BE?

By the time you read this the lucky socks might have lost their powers, but these are desperate times and you have to try anything the way we've been playing.

An Evening With

MALCOLM HAZLEWOOD

After the home match against Dorchester we also got talking with Malcolm about the teams performances this season, we started off talking about what a promising player Matthew Martin was....

MH: He could become a very good player. He reminds me of Dean Spink when he first came but I reckon he's a better player. Deano had a nightmare in his first few games - the crowd were on his back and everything. To be fair though, if we trained until 9 o'clock Dean trained until 20 past 9. If we trained until 1/4 to 10, he trained until 10. Henry Crampton, who was the coach at the time, took a lot of time with Dean and helped him out a hell of a lot. He didn't "make" him as such but he helped him become the player he ended up. Matthew Martin needs the same type of coaching. He's big and he's strong but the training here is crap!!

FYI: How often did you see Terry Butcher?

MH: I think he's taken 3 sessions. 2 I was here for and one I was bad with flu. His idea of the game is completely different to mine.

FYI: Has he done much for the club?

MH: He's probably made the defenders kick it a bit further than they did before. All his idea is, is get it forward, get it forward. That's the way football league is played. Most teams play like that apart from a few - Notts Fst, Swindon, Liverpool... but I know which way I like to see the game played. I watched Swindon last week, O.K., so they lost 2-1, but what a great game to watch. That's the way football should be played. Get the ball down and pass it. They've got the same players as when Macari was there so they can do it. The players can adapt.

FYI: That's one thing we've noticed. We don't seem to be getting forward from mid-field to support the front players at all.

MH: A lot of times it's knocked forward from the back and we know we're not going to win it. Earlier in the season, especially, it was Alan and Kevin up front and we know full well that we aren't going to win the ball. If we run through and the opposition win it we're out of the game. So where do you draw the line ?? Do we go past or do we hang back ?? If we don't go past we aren't going to score, but if we do, and lose possession, ... ?? If Alan plays the ball back into mid-field there should be other mid-field players running into his space. Easy isn't it ?? We win every game 6-0 !!! It's all down to drawing the space. I've always built my game on Liverpool. Like Graeme Souness said on the radio last night, everyone tries to copy Liverpool but they can't do it. All Liverpool do in training is pass and move, pass and move. If you're doing that all week, what do you do on a Saturday ?? You don't do something else do you ?? How many times this season have you heard our supporters saying "Morris, get a big centre forward" ?? Now we've got one it's "What happened to the little 'uns and playing it on the floor" !! You can't win.

FYI: It's like that graffiti on the old dressing rooms saying "Sack Morris" - it went up after we'd just won 3 games in a row !!

MH: Well I'd love to go into management but I don't know that I'd want it here. John Morris has come through a lot of heartache this season. We got 60 pts last season which we can easily do again this year plus winning a cup.

FYI: Do you regret going to Dudley at all ??

MH: I'll tell you what my worst move was. Going from Dudley to Kiddy. I went to Dudley and got 22 goals

because I was playing where I wanted to play, but at Kiddy... I haven't scored enough this season but I don't think that's down to me completely. I'm not blaming the other players, don't get me wrong, but I just think we haven't got enough quality at times. We don't make the right decisions in passing the ball. We've a lot of young players and experience is the only way, which is why we are inconsistent.

FYI: For us it get's frustrating because we've had 10 or so years of "Oh we'll win 5-0 today"

MH: I'll tell you what - 10 years ago we had a very good side, especially for that standard. I had a good understanding with Paul and Lee. If Paul Joinson came back in this team I guarantee he'd score goals. I'm not saying sign him, but he'd score goals and always will. He's got the knack. If it means upsetting somebody - so what ?? We might have won 3-2 today with Paul in the team. I saw him down at Stourbridge the other day and he was crap, but he scored one and set another one up and he only touched the ball in the area twice !!

FYI: That's right. So many times we said "Paul was terrible today. O.K., he scored a hat-trick but he didn't play well !!"

MH: I like seeing Frankie Bennett in the side as well. He gives us a bit of pace. Kevin Harrison's also a good player though.

FYI: 3 up front ??

MH: You're losing a mid-field player then, though, which we need.

FYI: How much has the pitch affected our performances, as it doesn't really encourage a short passing game does it ???

MH: Mentally, the pitch has been on my mind, yeah. I don't know whether you agree or not but all my best games have been away from home this season. I don't think I've had a bad game away. The manager says it's all in my mind. He said about the Farnborough game, "I knew you'd have a good game that day because you shouted your mouth off in the press all week about how we were going to beat them." So I said to him "Do you want me to say that every week then ??". But I am a bit concerned with my own form.

Don't you think though, that the higher you go the more boring it gets ?? They were happy with a draw today. I'm convinced that if you made it twenty-five points for an away win and one for a draw you'd still say "That'll do - we got a point" if you drew away.

Cheers to Malcolm for his time. He seemed genuinely concerned with his and the teams form but appeared fairly optimistic about the future if we can get a bit of consistency together and a settled squad.

We went on to talk about many other things such as the team tactics, other teams in our league - the common consensus was that Bromsgrove are currently the best - and generally put the world of football to rights.

Hopefully we may have more from Malcolm in a future issue, so we'll keep you posted. Here's hoping his optimism will be repaid next season.....

STOP PRESS: The Bashley trip on the last game of the season is being lined up for a fancy dress extravaganza. We haven't decided on a theme yet but all participants will be welcome to join us !!

£3.5m tax fraud

John Rhodes, 65, of Dudley, West Midlands, received a two-year prison sentence, with 12 months suspended, at Southwark Crown Court for masterminding a £3.5m tax fraud in the building industry. Two other men were jailed and a fourth received a suspended sentence.

He always had a wicked left foot but this is ridiculous. The former Tipton and Halesowen star fallen on hard times? Maybe not but can you imagine how the old pen-pictures could have been livened up :-

John Rhodes:

Mastermind of midfield and major tax frauds in the building industry. Signed from Tipton Town instead of Steve Bull.

High Society

"It's official!" There's no trouble at football any more because half of the crowd are high on Ecstasy.

Perhaps it's not the most representative of crowds, but the only evidence of drug-taking we've spotted down the Grove is the odd bottle of Vick's Sinex being passed round The Shed in the middle of January (although at times we've suspected the team are playing on Valium).

The ridiculous argument put forward by the tabloids goes something like this:

- (1) All football supporters are mindless yobbos.
 - (2) Trouble at matches is virtually non-existent.
- Therefore
- (3) the louts must be on something ie Ecstasy from last night's rave.

I don't need drugs to get me on a high when I'm watching the Yeltz play; the atmosphere and the excitement are enough. About four pints of mild before kickoff usually helps as well.

Sporting Response

I'm sick of it, a pathetic sight now common at football grounds; an injured player's on the ground, the ball's booted into touch and after the trainer has bored everyone for two minutes applying his magic sponge, it's meekly thrown back to the opposition with the crowd ecstatically applauding such good sportspersonship.

MARADONA

I think it's the pretence of fair play that really gets to me. Two teams who've been kicking poo out of each other all game will go through this charade, not because they've suddenly found a conscience but because it's now become the "done thing" to do.

IS A

Our Northern correspondent tells me that Rugby League have a much more sensible system of letting the trainer on. Unless he interieres with the action, play can continue whilst he treats the injured player. No more boring stoppages, a lot less injury time, it all seems sensible to me.

In any case, why should the ball have to be out of play before someone can be treated for an injury. It's stupid that, say, the keeper kicks it out only to get the ball back from the opposition in exactly the same position. Why not halt play immediately and then restart with the ball in the keeper's hands?

GOOD

Earlier in the season, Leicester (I think) scored a goal against Arsenal, refusing to give the ball back after Seaman had kicked it out because of an injury. A team after my own heart, none of this namby-pamby friendly rubbish (especially remembering Arsenal's dubious record of sportsmanship).

BLOKE

At best, if a team kicks it out against you, make sure you throw it to their worst player. Let's start a trend and bring back creative gamesmanship along the lines of Malcolm's somersaults in the box. No more Mr Nice Guys.

AWAY DAZE

19 FEBRUARY 1992

VS RUGBY 1 HALESOWEN 0

TOWN: Steadman; Abell, Smith, Bettles, Cooper; Goodall, Hazlewood, Massey, Bradley; Martin, Bennett

SUBS: Brookes, Beasley

Three wins in succession and over 270 minutes without conceding a goal - all we needed to keep this mini-revival going was a trip to, well, anywhere except Rugby.

We started brightly and nearly took the lead when Andy Bradley beautifully lobbed the keeper only for it to drop just wide. Frankie and Matt Martin certainly rattled Rugby back four and the home support, seeing everything wasn't going their way, started their "never lost at Wembley" routine - come on lads, that was the best part of ten years ago and we did manage to get back there again! (*yah boo sucks - eds*).

As we were playing so well it came as no surprise when Rugby took the lead after the obligatory goal-line scramble from a corner. We were still hopeful at half-time but the second half turned out to be one man show - a certain referee called M K Bullivant.

After (quite rightly) booking three in the first half, he quickly booked two home players before turning on the well-known Halesowen cheats:

- (1) Martin - not retreating ten yards.
- (2) Massey - an innocuous trip.
- (3) That dirty **?!? ** Goodall for tripping over the keeper. [At this point it looked liked we'd be needing some new committee members as several were having blood pressure problems.]
- (4) Stuart Hall - putting into words what everyone was thinking.

Oh, the football continued to be exciting with a fine performance from Darren Steadman keeping us in contention right up to the final whistle. However, the undoubted man of the match was the referee - what a star.

Ada (with thanks to IR, son of JR)

21 MARCH 1992

WATERLOOVILLE 1 HALESOWEN 0

TOWN: Steadman; Abell, Smith, Bettles, Cooper; Goodall, Hazlewood, Massey, Bradley; Shilvock, Harrison

SUBS: Laker, Mitchell

The prospect of travelling down to Hampshire was about as inviting as telling Les Sealey he's been dropped. However with Waterlooville precariously placed in the league, this might have been my last chance to see their ground (*Not another bloody groundhopper! - eds*).

Whilst defensively our recent performances had improved considerably, our attacking qualities left much to be desired. Therefore the prospects looked gloomy when the Yeltz line-up was announced; just one recognised striker - Kevin Harrison - although he was supported up front by Robert Shilvock.

In the first half, both sides struggled to cope with a gusty wind and a hard pitch. This was one of our worst 45 minutes for some time; the biggest cheer followed Algy Webb's substitution of Gavin as trainer.

The second half saw us play better, with Richard Massey prominent. We always looked the more likely to score, but scorned several good chances, most notably Robert with a weak header. Then just when the predictable 0-0 was looming, we threw away the points in the last two minutes following a move which included a highly suspicious handball.

Waterman at Waterlooville

AWAY DAZE (CONT.)

15 FEBRUARY 1992 (AM)

HALESOWEN SUPPORTERS 3 MOOR GREEN 5

SUPPORTERS: Scouser; Jerry, Malcolm, Paul, Pete; Poll, PM, Tim; Frank, Paul, Nigel.

Our team was hastily thrown together; I couldn't get in touch with two lads (sorry Kev & Trev) and another had the feeble excuse of having to take his wife to France for Valentine's Day - what ever happened to a box of chocolates and a bunch of flowers?

We lasted all of ten minutes before we let in the first. Like our previous games this year the second followed shortly, and they would have had a third but for the honesty of one of their forwards who admitted he'd taken the ball over the goal-line before crossing. We struggled on to half-time, thus switching to having the wind behind us (as well as having the full vocal support of all four spectators) only 2-0 down.

We managed to pull one back from a superbly taken free kick from all of forty (*we thought nearer sixty - eds*) yards, but straight from the kickoff Moor Green got a third, and not long after that a fourth. Undeterred, we fought back to 4-3 after yet another superb free kick from the edge of the box and a poacher's goal from Nigel.

It was all set up for an exciting finish until yet again they scored straight from the kickoff. That was it; 5-3 to Moor Green with Roy Lynas grabbing a hat-trick. Special thanks to their Mike Preston who agreed to referee, and especially for the way he kept getting their wall back ten yards.

I'm not sure if I mentioned it but I scored with two superbly taken free kicks... (*that's enough - eds*)

Paul C

31ST MARCH 1992

BURTON 0 HALESOWEN 0

TOWN: Rowe; Abell, Smith, Laker, Lunt; Goodall, Hazlewood,
Massey, Bradley; Brookes, Harrison

SUBS: Bennett, Vowles

The night didn't start too well with the news that Darren Steadman had been recalled to Kiddy, with Ian Bettles also missing (presumably due to another heroic head injury). Still, it was good to see the return of Tony Rowe and Andy Laker to first-team duty. Burton had won their previous eight games but with a little bit of luck in front of goal we could have taken all three points.

We completely dominated the first half, with several fine efforts coming from Abell, Goodall and Massey, with Tony Rowe only tested from back-passes. However there was some strange and one-sided refereeing (*isn't there always? - eds*) with Andy Bradley and Malcolm being booked and The Boss being talked to following comments on the merits of the decisions.

The second half continued where the first had left off; we went close a couple of times before Burton began to threaten. Both teams had several chances to score, but the nearest anyone came to breaking the deadlock was with only four minutes left. Frankie (on for Brookes) beat his man and put over a teasing cross to the far post; a desperate Bobby MacDonald made contact, the ball flew towards the far corner, but it rebounded off the post to safety with their keeper stranded.

It just wasn't our night, but an excellent performance by the lads gave us a well-deserved point. This enabled us to boldly go in search of the Burton Bridge Brewery - the only thing worth going to Burton for (apart from the footy, of course!)

Paul C

MAGIC MOMENTS

Over the years The Yeltz have provided me with so many Golden Moments I find it very difficult to isolate just one individual occurrence from the others. Everytime I try to do this, however, I find myself gazing back at that glorious day in springtime of 1985.

WHAT'S THE

The pledge made two years earlier that we would return to Wembley had already been fulfilled. Our ineffective display in the 1-0 defeat by V S Rugby meant that everyone was just a little wary of there being a repeat performance. Moreover we all had the over-riding belief that the quality of our side deserved to leave a more worthwhile impression on a Wembley final.

BEST

Into the second half we were holding onto a 1-0 first half lead provided by Geoff Moss who had superbly controlled and

then drilled the ball into the Fleetwood goal. Mark Penn intercepted a Fleetwood attack and played the ball up to Paul Joinson who then passed out wide to Malcolm Hazlewood.

WAY TO

At this stage there was no indication of the magical football that was about to unfold before us but Malcolm has been the architect and executioner of so many quality moves and he it was who set the standard for the rest of this move. His initial pass was to Geoff Moss which was returned straight to him, then he struck a precise long ball at Paul Joinson which found Paul about 10 yards outside the penalty area, his back towards goal and Lee Joinson wider to his right.

HUNT BEAR ?

As the ball was reaching Paul, the Fleetwood defender began to close him down but it was here that Paul provided his brilliant

contribution. The Joinson telepathy became apparent as Paul looped a back header over the defender and on towards Lee, who was racing down on goal.

WITH

Lee chested down the ball, steadied himself for what seemed an eternity, chose his spot and thumped the ball past the chanceless goalie. Lee continued his run towards and then round the back of the goal to receive the acclaim of the masses of Yeltz fans and his teammates.

YOUR

Such a tremendous move meant The F A Vase was won

in style and we had graced the Wembley turf with the football it merited. Lee Joinson had scored an excellent goal and we had all been given a golden moment to recall in years to come.

CLOTHES OFF

When the move was shown later on local TV it was evident that as the ball was reaching Lee, there were people already out of their seats in anticipation. Perhaps for once the Joinson telepathy had been transmitted to the crowd as even then Lee must have been certain he was going to score.

Charles Shakespeare.

COLT STATUS

Anybody listening to Simon Mayo recently on Radio 1 may have heard him referring to the Halesowen Town Colts fanzine. This is produced for the under nines team and we managed to get our grubby paws on a copy. It mainly consists of light-hearted reports on the matches and general news concerning the Colts and their performances. In the issue we've got they won every game, the smallest margin of victory being 5-0 !! A certain Mr Beasley must be a bit envious as their average attendance is around the 60 mark !! "Colt Miner Yeltz" is available from Bob Parker at 1 Oldfields Park Rd, West Hagley, Stourbridge, W Mids

FROM THE BARBER'S SHOP

Oh the heartaches attached to my trade !! I'd always thought I would be able to get a good living in return for an honest day's graft, but then I'd never expected to have a customer so highly regarded and admired by so many.

Looking back now, I can see that I started the season in a far too complacent state of mind. I knew that Kevin had not reached the same form this season as last but I was always confident that it was only a matter of time before he regained his magic touch.

The all too familiar pattern of Kevin's play this season was continuing until the Trowbridge match, when suddenly Kevin failed to appear without any explanation over the PA, just the formal announcement of the line-up. This was not particularly unusual as insufficient information about players is one of our club's main faults but it did set off a certain amount of concern within me.

If the truth be told, I couldn't wait for the match to finish. I dashed home and switched the Ceefax on - perhaps Kevin had become Big Ron's solution to the Villa's goalscoring problems. The answer was no and as the week passed the problem remained unsolved.

The next Saturday, unable to travel to Fisher, I made sure I was at the reserves to see Armitage. Perhaps there would be news of the first team line-up and my fears would be eased. However just the score was announced and the Argus later confirmed Kevin was still out of the side.

Any day I was expecting Kevin to be popping in for a "trim" but there was no sign of him, the mystery deepening further when a mate of mine reckoned that his brother's girlfriend's cousin's nephew had overheard someone say Kevin was having treatment.

For what? Hairloss? Surely not! Eventually, 3 weeks later, the programme confirmed he had picked up a hip injury. I was reading this at half-time during the Dorchester game when over the PA came the news that the reserves were leading 1-0 at Leicester followed by those sweet sounding words "AND THE SCORER IS KEVIN HARRISON". There was a cold, driving wind that day but to me it was immediately becalmed and I was finally at peace with the whole world. I returned to work on Monday filled with optimism for a sparkling run in to the season from Kevin.

KEVIN HARRISON'S BARBER.

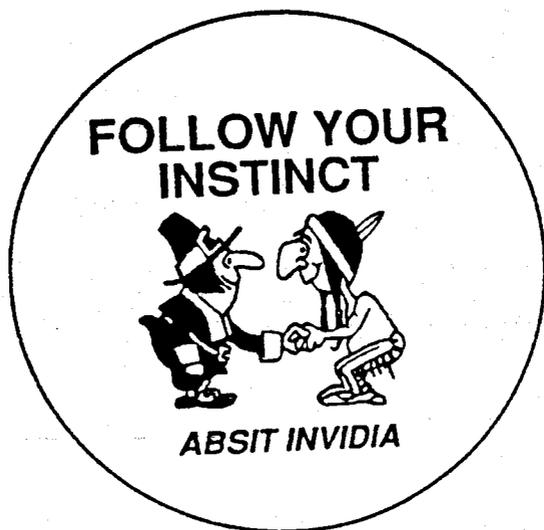
DID YOU HEAR THESE IN THE 1980'S ??

- 1) That's ten games in a row without a goal from either of the Joinson twins.
- 2) He is yet another in a string of high quality goalkeepers to have been produced at the Grove.
- 3) What was wanted today was a good deal more commitment from players such as Mark Penn and Les Randle.
- 4) Halesowen captain and crowd favourite John Woodhouse.
- 5) At this stage of the season all credit is due to Halesowen for the condition of their pitch.
- 6) Included in the Sandwell line-up is player-manager and highly respected newspaper columnist, Alf Bowerman
- 7) All players, officials and supporters of their local rivals Halesowen Harriers and Stourbridge as well as a little further afield such as Tamworth & Atherstone, are sharing in the glory and attention that have come to Halesowen Town through their Wembley escapades.
- 8) This season's Non-League award for sportsmanship :-
J. Chambers
- 9) Paul Joinson's disciplinary record still shows no improvement. He collected a further booking today and now faces another suspension.
- 10) Halesowen Harriers today successfully achieved their 5-year plan of Southern League football.
- 11) As a centre-forward Dean Spink is rated as nothing, as a centre-half it must be £400,000 (John Bond spot on as usual !!)

COMING

STRAIGHT OUTTA

HALESOWEN.....



FYI
is the Area!!