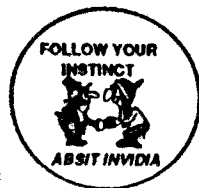


# FOLLOW YOUR INSTINCT

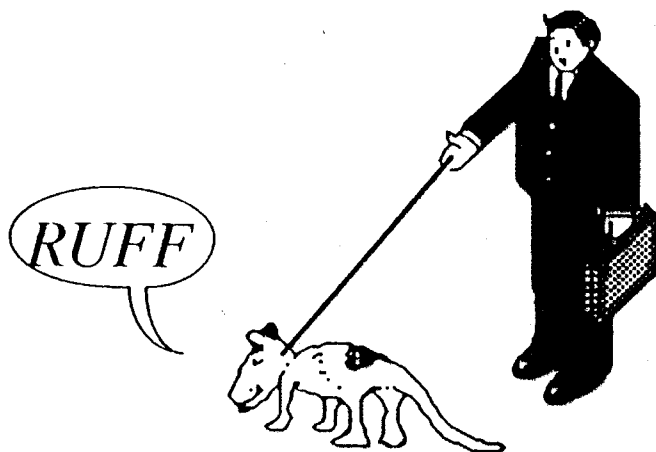


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A HALESOWEN TOWN FANZINE

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## Fans have their say after Farnborough disaster



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ISSUE FIVE

DEC/JAN 1991/2

PRICE: TEN BOB TO YOU

# *Follow Your Instinct*



6 , QUEENS GATE, LIPSON, PLYMOUTH PL4 7PW

2/1 4, GRINDLAY STREET, EDINBURGH

## MIDFIELD GENERALS :-

Frank and Poll

## TRICKY WINGER :-

Ada

## COACH :-

Alison

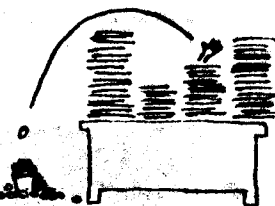
## DEFENSIVE WALL :-

Steve and Sarah, Kevin Harrison's Barber, Magnus McLain, JR, Cyril Waterman, Andy Miller, Esther, PM, Graham Speller, Dickay.

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

Things have been a bit up and down here at FYI mansions over the last few weeks mirroring our fortunes on the pitch. We've managed to get this issue out for Chrímbo anyway so you can all buy an extra copy for your nearest and dearest's present. Who could ask for more, eh ??



Since the last issue we've been unbelievably inconsistent in playing terms. After performances in the vein of those against Gravesend and the first Farnborough game we look like we can take on the whole world but then go three or four games without looking as if we could beat a local paperboy select eleven.

Overall the air of gloom has been lifted from over our heads and with a bit more consistency the results should start picking up a bit more. We're obviously not going to win the league but aiming for a higher position than last years eighth place is certainly within reach.

One thing we're definitely going to miss is Sean's presence in the mid field. While we wish him all the best for the future it must get frustrating for Johnny Morris having to keep rebuilding the team constantly. You expect to have to rebuild a new team every few years but not a couple of times a season. Looking back at some of the players we've lost over the last season or two makes for frustrating reading :- David Heywood, Tim Langford, Andy Pearce, Dean Spink, Sean Flynn..... how long before Frankie Bennett or Kevin Harrison get an offer thats too good to refuse ??

## KEVIN HARRISON - FOLLOWING IN SEAN'S FOOTSTEPS ??



### 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 :-

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

# Under The Influence

BECKETTS SPORTING VS STUDLEY BKL

INFL. COMB. DIV 1

More ramblings from your wanderer or, if you prefer more wanderings from your rambler !!

## GROUNDHOPPERS

An unavoidable change of date caused all plans of a day out in Wiltshire to be abandoned, so off I went to cold, dreary and windswept Becketts Farm, Wythall.

## TRAIN SPOTTERS

The match had virtually everything except skill ! With the referee missing a sending off offence after just 3 seconds you can guess the rest ! There were 6 goals, 3 penalties (2 taken in a fashion worse than our Mr. Hazlewood - is that possible I hear you say ?) , a few bookings, players kicked more often than the ball, a circus in the neighbouring field, and a very poor ineffective referee.

KEN BARLOW

The score at 90 mins

was 3-3 and was a scrappy affair typical of this level. The pitch and players short studs did not help matters either. I found it most amusing and entertaining to be neutral (as always), and listen to what the crowd/officials say, and judge the game through both eyes. I can recommend it to anyone, but you need to be a bit of an idiot to do it at this level (We'll agree - Eds !).

## WHAT HAVE

I shudder to think what we're like ourselves when our favourites are playing. Still as there was no charge for admission I can only say that I got what I paid for, in terms of petrol for the journey of course!

Enjoy the 90 mins.,  
PM

PS: Mr Scottish editor - This is another ground on my list, but sorry I could not add Baldock as well like what you did. Ha!Ha!

# Are The Yeltz That Bad ?

"No they aren't", is the message I want to tell you !! Having watched a total of 30+ matches at all levels of the pyramid so far this season, I feel I can comment on a more solid base than some critics.

## THEY ALL

I'd like to make it clear to those people who hanker for those long lost Banks's glory days that we are now a far better team than we were then, and of course only look worse because week in week out we play better opposition (quote the recent game against VS Rugby as an example).

## GOT IN

Progression up the non-league ladder has to stop or level out at some time. This is often evident to me when seeing many promoted teams at Kiddy who are just not good enough to stay in the Conference. Farnborough, after an earlier season at that level, seem to have

learn't this lesson very well so far as they currently top the league following their re-promotion.

## COMMON ??

Our current side is obviously not good enough to win promotion, let alone survive in the Conference. We can blame the manager, players, committee etc if we like but at the end of the day (cliche time - Eds), we must realise the club needs a financial base like the Rock of Gibraltar before this is possible. I certainly want to see HTFC continue for another 108 years + , rather than become bankrupt in a couple of seasons paying extortionate wages to mercenary players as Worcester and Gloucester are now finding out.

## BIT OF AN

To all those who hanker after better things at this level go and watch Banks's football or Influence football for a season, and with no disrespect to these

leagues you would soon notice the difference. If you only want a small drop down then just get in touch with any Dudley Town fan ! But if you want to see what frightens me about the promotion everyone wants then watch Kiddy or Telford for a while.

EASY ONE, THAT.

That's part of my say, rightly or wrongly, and I feel it needs to be aired as some of our fans do talk \*!\$%&! at times. The Yeltz have many faults and failings, I'll admit that freely, but when the only superior non-league team in the area is playing at

the highest level of the pyramid then we can't have too much to complain about can we ?!!

PM

PS: True to my powers of prediction Larkhall Ath. lost 2-1 to Bristol Manor Farm in the preliminary round of the FA Vase.

Fairford Town are currently 2nd in the league.

Northfield Town, as you know, play at Shenley Lane

Why do Sandwell Borough only sign players with tree trunk legs and muscular torsos ?

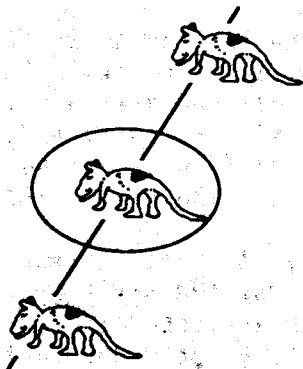
## THE ADVENTURES OF FIDO T DOG

No. 3

(Halesowen Harriers' Greatest Fan)

By Tony Lungs

THE HARRIERS' DESPERATE START TO THE SEASON HAD LED TO A FEW NEW FACES BEING BROUGHT IN UP FRONT.



# A Letter To Ed.

Dear Eds.,

How about inviting your readers to provide their top ten Yeltz players ? To set the debate off I would offer the following :- My most vivid recollections of Town matches go back to the '60s and so I find myself having to compare the stars of those years with those from our recent highly successful past. I feel sure that at least 3 of my boyhood heroes would compare with anyone who has ever played for the Yeltz, so here are the results of my deliberations.

In the '60s Mel Adams was a left half of the highest class while Aleec Wood was a highly talented inside forward who could both create and score goals, as anyone who witnessed the 7-0 defeat of Tamworth in 1964, when Alec netted 5 times, will know. Dave Culwick was as good a centre-half as you would find anywhere in non-league football. It is quite easy to believe that, given the chance, Dave could have achieved all that Andy Pearce has.

The Joinson twins have to figure in my choice. Lee was the more exciting of the two and the first to catch the eye with some dazzling wing play and superb goalscoring, although Paul's goalscoring continued for much longer. They both gave Yeltz regular followers more happy times than many other clubs supporters receive in a lifetime.

The player to have the most dramatic rise in the '80s must be Dean Spink. His last 5 months with us were as exciting as any other I can remember and it's just a pity that his stay was so brief. Similarly Andy Pearce. He seems to have a tremendous future and we just have to be grateful for the short time he played for us.

Mark Penn is a rarity. A loyal clubman whose reputation and respect increased alongside his playing years. Geoff Moss was a gifted player and his deft touches, with near post flick-ons a speciality, provided lasting memories



from many games. Malcolm Hazlewood possessed such outstanding quality in the early '80s that he was always destined for a higher level. Since returning there is no doubt that our mid field is so much the better for his flair, vision and first-time distribution along with an above average goal scoring tally.

My final listing is based not necessarily on standard of play but on enjoyment provided :-

- |                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 1 Lee Joinson  | 6 Malcolm Hazlewood |
| 2 Dean Spink   | 7 Geoff Moss        |
| 3 Dave Culwick | 8 Paul Joinson      |
| 4 Mel Adams    | 9 Mark Penn         |
| 5 Alec Wood    | 10 Andy Pearce      |

The decision was not easy. Many deserving players are omitted. Les Randle, Sean Flynn, Stuart Edmonds, Bobby Anderson, Sammy Roberts, Robert Shilvock, Les Prosser, Eric Smith to name just a few. Perhaps other readers can make me think differently ?

Cyril Waterman.

Dear FYI,

No doubt many supporters of Halesowen Town would quite rightly object to being labelled "Brummies". There are distinct cultural differences between the inhabitants of the Black Country and those of Britains "Second City" despite their close proximity. Speak to any intelligent inhabitant of either area and they will explain why.

I would therefore challenge the assumption in Quiz Time Issue 4 that the home of Fisher Athletic can be associated with the East End of London. Traditionally the East End refers to an area north of the Thames. Fisher is most definitely south lying in the old Surrey Docks area of Bermondsey. With few crossing points in this area the river is a clear divide.

# A Letter To Ed. CONT.

South London football supporters would object to the assumption that they are East Enders. East Enders can be more accurately associated with West Ham and Leyton Orient. South London is the Old Kent Road, Surrey Docks, The Greenwich Meridian, Woolwich Arsenal and all stations to Dartford. Footballing Loyalties lie with Charlton, Millwall, Fisher and Welling.

Last season I attended Charltons away game at Leicester City. One of those games that crunches from tackle to tackle, the occasional pass, one sending off, a resulting penalty, two other goals and three points for the visitors. After one exceptional hard tackle from the Leicester defence the cry went up from the Charlton fans "You dirty Northern B\*!%\*s" The sort of language that gets football supporters a bad name. My companion who has distinctly Midland origins felt most offended. "The one thing I'm not" he said "is Northern". Charlton fans were guilty of making a very inaccurate judgement about the geographical location of Leicester

In the same way that Leicester is not in the North, Fisher Athletic is not in the East End, Halesowen is not in Birmingham, not all Londoners are East Enders or Cockneys.

Perhaps stereotyping can be added to the list of material that your editors will take away and burn to join that that is considered racist, sexist or obscene.

Otherwise we might have to send the boys round. Know what I mean ??

Yours Sincerely,

Graham Speller

What the hell are the Welsh FA playing at? Surely an Association is supposed to be just that - a group of clubs who joined together just to regulate competition between themselves. How can the FA of Wales presume to exclude eight of their most senior clubs just because they won't enter some competition that none of them wanted in the first place?

PS Rumours that Stourbridge have been turned down in favour of Aberdovey Sheepshearers FC for the League of Wales because their ground wasn't up to standard are completely unfounded.

Dear Editors,

Don't you think you've gone a bit over the top moaning about the Farnborough match in this issue. Ladbrokes had us 6-1 to win the replay so they didn't exactly think it was much of a shock. OK it was humiliating having the goals shown on 'Sportsnight' but at least we made it on to national TV for the first time. Pull yourselves together and cheer up a bit !!

Your parents

Fellow supporters,

How come we're playing away again on Boxing Day? We've played away four times out of the last eight years so surely it's about time we got a home tie. The only thing I enjoy about Xmas is going down The Grove and having a good grouch at the players. If they don't start winning soon I'll stop coming down and then they'll be sorry.

Yours,

A loyal Yeltz fan



Back by popular demand (I like setting them), the quiz that tests your loyalty to the cause. Rules as per usual - tot up your score at the end and see what you'll be getting in your Xmas stocking this year.

1. You're due to go round Granny's on Boxing Day afternoon but you've promised your mates you'll be going down to Gloucester. What do you do:
  - (a) Forget the footy - it is Xmas after all ?
  - (b) Go to Granny's in the morning and ply her with sherry so she doesn't miss you later in the afternoon ?
  - (c) Wrap her up in the Halesowen bobble hat and scarf you brought her for Xmas and set off down the M5 ?
2. Your stupid young nephew has decided he wants a Stourbridge Town strip from Santa. Do you:
  - (a) Scour the Black Country for that rarest of kits ?
  - (b) Give him your old red & white Halesowen away top ?
  - (c) Tell him there's no such thing as Father Christmas and not get him anything to teach him a lesson ?
3. Great Uncle Scrooge gives you a book token for 7/6 in old money. How do you use it:
  - (a) Put it down as first installment on a Non-league Yearbook ?
  - (b) Buy the last copy of 'From Banks's to Beazer' ?
  - (c) Trade it in for back copies of 'Follow Your Instinct' Issues 1-4, still available from the usual sources ?

How did you do?

Question	(a)	(b)	(c)
1	1	3	5
2	2	3	5
3	0	1	5

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| 0-4   | All you deserve is a red & white Yeltz scarf.    |
| 5-10  | You'll look smart in your Halesowen Town jumper. |
| 11-15 | You might get a game in your full away kit.      |

# A FAN IN EXILE

Way, way back in the heady days of the first Vase appearance and the West Mids League I remember a day when a certain editor came up with his second most stupid idea (this fanzine being his most).

## OH TO BE IN

Being avid fans of our beloved heroes a group of us, thanks to a mate's ageing green Renault, used to follow our instincts to most away games.

## HALESOWEN NOW

The ed. being one of this group was never one who was happy to mix in with the crowd. Keen to start a new trend to rival the Mexican Wave the ed pops up one night BB (yes the ed was in the BB !) "Why don't we wear pyjamas at Bilston tomorrow ??" Why not indeed ??

## THAT THE FOOTBALL SEASON

Well, I hardly slept that night partly due to the thought of being able to see again the immense talents of Hicky who had recently been transferred to Bilston. The trusty transport arrived and off we went with our go-faster stripes, the stripes being on the pyjamas.

## IS WELL UNDER WAY

I don't remember much about the game except we won (didn't we always yaa boo Stourbridge). Names that readily spring to mind Joinson, Caldicott, Penn, Woodhouse, Moss, Prosser, Randle... Ah, those far off days. I'll never forget the friendly welcome Hicky got from his adoring fans as he waved to the crowd - "AY ICKY - YOW'M A REJECT"

Dickay.

# WEATHER TO PLAY

I travelled home expectantly from the warm sub-tropical climate of the South West with the eager anticipation of watching us take on the might of table topping Cambridge the following morning.

## I WANDERED

Cruising along up the M5 the weather became progressively worse until, upon arrival at Digbeth, I stepped out into the middle of the next ice age. All hopes of the match being played having to be immediately discarded made me start to wonder - why ??

## LONELY AS

Who cares if the pitch is a bit frozen and slippery ?? A few adverse conditions could improve the entertainment value immensely. Players slipping and sliding everywhere, struggling to stand upright never mind run around - hours of endless fun.

Imagine the fun to be had watching some poor oversized defender having to try and cope with a Frankie Bennett burst down the line when his feet keep trying to slide off in opposite directions.

## A FOOTY

The idea of a Stourbridge centre-back attempting to take the ball off of Kevin Harrison as he twists and turns like a twisty turny thing kept me amused for most of the following morning.

## FAN WITH

Wet weather could accord just as much mirth and jollity. Everyone likes a good goalmouth scramble and on a totally waterlogged pitch the possibilities are endless.

## NOWHERE TO

The conditions would be the same for both teams so there would be no unfair advantage and the extra entertainment provided would bring the crowds flocking back - I'm convinced.

# Nostalgia ~ It Sure Ain't

## What It Used To Be ! pt 2

A recent convert to non-league football and the Town in particular remarked that one of the differences between league and non-league football was the way defenders used the ball.

### GO 'COS

He had just watched a Halesowen defender boot the ball over the Harry Rudge stand when not under a lot of pressure. "If that had been 1st or 2nd Division", he said, "they would have tried to do something creative knowing that they could always knock it out if they had to".

### THE MATCH

This set my mind back to the days of Dave Culwick. Dave was the Town centre-half in the early '60s. Tall and slim with black, swept back hair Dave was the epitomy of what a centre-half should be. He was dominant in the air and his long legs telescoped out to make clean, excellently timed tackles. His trade mark

for me was the way he ran across the field nicking the ball away from advancing forwards. But instead of crashing it into the button factory or over the cricket pitch he kept control, pushed it a yard further and delivered the ball over the full-back to an advancing winger or to the feet of his wing-half. In an age when many centre-halves were cloggers, the "hard men" of the team, Dave stood out as a gentleman of the pitch.

### HAD BEEN

Dave's name lives on in football stadiums (I use the term loosely). When visiting Atherstone I am always curious to see DAVE CULWICK on an advert behind the top goal.

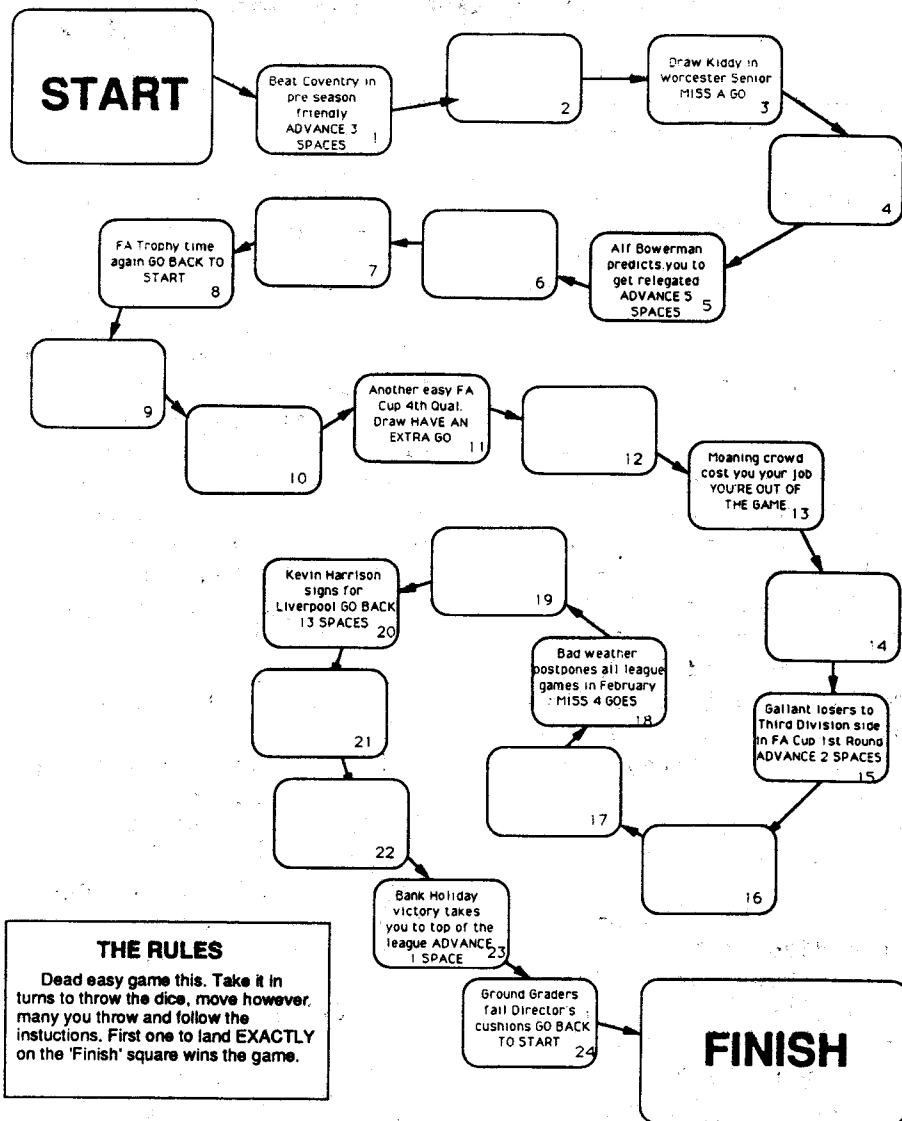
### CALLED OFF

If there was a Halesowen Town Hall of Fame then Dave's picture would hold one of the top places.

JR.

# 'RACE FOR THE BEAZER TITLE'

FOR AGES 8-80



## THE RULES

Dead easy game this. Take it in turns to throw the dice, move however many you throw and follow the instructions. First one to land EXACTLY on the 'Finish' square wins the game.

TOO OLD FOR DECENT PRESENTS THIS XMAS ? NOTHING TO DO EXCEPT WATCH NOEL EDMONDS ON CHRISTMAS MORNING ? PLAY 'RACE TO THE BEAZER TITLE' FROM FYI GAMES AND AND ENJOY A CHRISTMAS YOU'LL NEVER FORGET !!



# RING MY BELL

Don't tell anyone, but I've been ringing 0898 numbers. Sometimes I get so worked up I just have to waste 45p per minute on a call or I can't get to sleep.

RING

It can be more exciting phoning the Yeltzline than being at the game. What time will the latest update be put on? Will Roger Wood remember to mention the final score? Will you be able to make out what he says?

0898

All in all, the Yeltzline gets an FYI ThumbsUp. It's easy to mock, but the club do make an effort to update the line as quickly as possible. OK sometimes the match reports leave a little to be desired but most times you're only ringing up to find out the score.

446 882

I was going to phone the Halesowen Harriers' line (It really exists - 0898 664252) to compare the merits of the two services, but I couldn't

face listening to two minutes of Mr Beasley ranting on about "the Football League in five years, blah, blah, blah". Could you cope with the shame of being the first ever caller?

FOR A

My latest attempt to keep up-to-date is a Ceefax TV, bought mainly because I couldn't get to Farnborough for the replay. This is even more ridiculously exciting than the Yeltzline. It's easy to crack under the pressure of willing our score to change. At least at the game you can shout a bit to let off steam; it doesn't go down too well with the neighbours if you start a chorus of "You Only Sing When You're Winning" when the match is over 400 miles away.

GOOD TIME

I have a dream that one day all Halesowen games will be shown live on Sky, but until then I'll be suffering up here in Chilli-Jockoland with only my phone and my TV for comfort.

# MORE MAGIC MOMENTS

DATELINE - SOUTHEND NOVEMBER 1986

Our first FA Cup tie against league opposition, very much unknown territory as we had no real yardstick of the difference between Division 4 and the Midland Division of the Southern League.

## A MERRY

The morning of the match was bright and sunny but by 2.30 a muggy gloom had settled over Roots Hall, threatening a downpour on the 1200 or so Yeltz fans gathered on the seemingly huge open terrace.

## CHRISTMAS TO

Paddy's boys had an unfamiliar look, first there was no Johnny Woodhouse (a broken leg victim) secondly, and more worryingly, we were wearing an unusual black and white kit, specially "obtained" by Richard Heath for the occasion. The omens were not good.

## ALL OUR

Disaster struck almost immediately, Southend poured forward and scored

inside the first minute - Oh no ! Tragedy ! Total Humiliation ! Double figure defeat ! I wish I hadn't skived off work !

## READERS....

But ! I had reckoned without the lethal finishing of Geoff "Salmon" Moss. After 17 minutes we equalised - Ecstasy ! I can't recall the goal fully because :-

- a) It was down the other end.
- b) I'd had a lot to drink.
- c) Every time we got the ball I looked away.

What a magic moment though !!

After the goal we briefly looked capable of an upset, but Southend scored just before the break and finished us off as we tired in the last half hour. That night we drowned our sorrows and drank Geoff's health. We vowed that if we ever met him we'd quietly slip him a fiver for a decent haircut, at least then he'd look more like a soccer legend - the next time.

# Did He Jump Or.....

3.35pm Saturday 26th October, the ref's already booked three Baldock players for kicking Frankie Bennett and now Frankie's on the ground again being attended to by the trainer.

.... AND A

The ref hasn't blown so he probably didn't see the incident. Well, it was late and refs can't be expected to see everything can they ?

HAPPY NEW

Over he comes, to enquire about the injury I suppose. Pointing at Frankie he says "You did that yourself player trying to turn the fullback." I can't believe it !! If he didn't see the foul then fair enough but he's saying he did see it and it was Frankie's fault. I'm incensed !!

YEAR TO

The whole episode left a very sour taste. Here's what really happened ....  
... or my perception of it anyway.

Frankie recieves the ball on the touchline. The fullback is tight behind him. Frankie's control is not perfect and the fullback nicks the ball away. A split second later the Baldock number seven rushes in from the front. His foot is right over where the ball would have been. His studs crash into Frankie just above his knee. I wait for him to be sent off. Nothing happens until the ref runs over and has words with Frankie.

BOTH OF YOU

In view of this referees comments I would doubt not only his competence but also his professional attitude. His job on Saturday was surely to protect Frankie, whose speed was obviously worrying the Baldock defenders. He not only failed to do this but also completely misinterpreted a vicious incident then compounded his actions by making a totally unprofessional and uncalled for comment.

JR.

# A Fair Cop ?

The police are ruining the FA Cup. This is not sour grapes (of course not - eds); we failed against Farnborough because we didn't take our chances at home, but it was ridiculous that we had to play three games between the original game and the replay just because the FA won't stand up to the police and their selfish demands.

It was unfortunate that two Senior Cup ties had been arranged for that week, but in a congested season there will always tend to be at least one midweek game scheduled. Thus on average, a team drawing a match in the Cup will have to play two games in other competitions before they're allowed to play the replay.

How are teams expected to take the intervening games seriously when they've got the Cup game on their minds? Everyone agrees it was prudent to put a depleted team out against Dudley (don't they?) but now we're out of the FA Cup it would have been nice to have a Staffs Senior Cup run to keep the interest up through the rest of the season.

People will accuse me of getting things out of proportion; if the police require extra time (and penalties!?! - eds) to arrange their overtime then that is more important than the moans of a few football fans. All I can say is that if football is so unimportant then what sort of police state is this country turning into when we need permission from the authorities for 22 blokes to kick a ball about in front of a few people.

Here's the solution - replays should be played on the following Saturday. The advantages - the police should be happier because they have a few days to arrange policing, and they would have been covering games anyway; teams won't have to play games between the first tie and the replay; travel is easier for the away fans on a Saturday than on a weekday evening. The disadvantage - it's far too sensible for the football authorities to consider it seriously. Still, next year we are definitely going to get to the Second Round!

# AWAY DAZE

19 OCTOBER 1991

TROWBRIDGE TOWN 1 HALESOWEN 1

Edwards (Pen)

A picturesque drive down the M5/M4 via Bath sadly wasn't rewarded with a ground in similar vein. Rushden must wonder who they'd upset to be mandatorily demoted in favour of this set-up. Were they merely a warning for other clubs to heed?

The first half was very uninspiring. Too many promising moves broke down either through poor crossing, inaccurate passing or unnecessary offside - Alan Attwood being a notable culprit. We fell behind to an unfortunate own goal when Stuart Edwards' attempted goal-line clearance rebounded off Eric Smith.

Kicking downhill second half, we raised our game. The Trowbridge defence looked far from solid, and with more firepower up front we could have capitalised on having the greater possession. An earlier introduction of Frankie Bennett might have helped.

The draw - secured with a penalty from Stuart Edwards following a handball - meant we were undefeated in the last five games; a vast improvement on only one draw in the previous five.

Kevin Harrison's Barber

22 OCTOBER 1991

LEAGUE CUP 1ST ROUND FIRST LEG

BILSTON 3 HALESOWEN 2

Harrison (2)

TOWN: Rowe; Whittingham, Edwards, Vowles, Smith; Bradley, Hazlewood, Flynn, Shilvock; Harrison, Attwood

SUBS: Abell, Bennett

## AWAY DAZE (CONT.)

"A game of two halves" I think is the cliché to be rolled out for matches like these. We eventually managed to reach the ground after finding the road there was closed for repairs. Hours of fun were spent playing 'Spot A Car That Looks Like It Knows Where It's Going And Then Follow It'. After visiting a couple of supermarkets, 3 garages, a cinema and going halfway to Stafford we struck lucky and finally ended up at Queen Street.

45 minutes later we were 3-0 down and wondering whether it was worth it all. I must confess most of the first half passed me by (never - ed) as I was catching up on all the news having only just got back from Plymouth. Having a chat seemed an infinitely preferable way to pass the time than watching a defence that appeared to be passing the time in the same manner.

Whatever Johnny Morris said at halftime he should memorise it and repeat it before every match. The second half was a different story with Kevin taking two superb chances; his turn and shot into the far corner was a delight. Despite the usual odd scare at the back we were well in control and unlucky not to get a draw by the end.

26 OCTOBER 1991

FA CUP 4TH QUALIFYING ROUND

BALDOCK 1 HALESOWEN 1

Flynn

TOWN: Rowe; Abell, Vowles, Smith, Whittingham; Flynn,  
Hazlewood, Shilvock, Bradley; Harrison, Bennett

SUBS: Edwards, Laker

You can't beat the Cup. Suburban Hertfordshire was buzzing with excitement (there were a couple of posters up around the town) in anticipation of this one. Of course it's old hat to us but there was a cracking atmosphere as we set out to claim our usual place in the First Round proper.

Baldock started off like they meant business, and sure enough they took the lead from the usual free header after a cross from the right. Not to worry - we always win in this round, right? We had the better of the rest of the half without creating any clearcut chances and although Baldock didn't look up to much they were in front.

Then the fun began. I don't know what John said at half-time but we stormed straight into them pinning them back in their own half. Their defending got progressively more desperate ending up with the right-back taking a massive swipe at Frankie Bennett. Why he stayed on only the man with the white stick knows, but he made amends by not sending Eric off after he brought down a Baldock forward who was right through on goal.

We continued to throw everything at them (including a couple of punches), but it looked like being a dreaded "one of those days". Finally 'The Mighty' Flynn soared at the far post and nodded in the crucial equaliser. Frankie was poleaxed at the death, but miraculously his broken leg had mended by the time we got back to Halesowen. A great match, and excellent support from the Yeltz fans throughout.

2ND NOVEMBER 1991

GRAVESEND 1 HALESOWEN 8 (yes eight!!)

Harrison (3)  
Hazlewood (2)  
Flynn (2)  
Attwood

We were greeted with exorbitant prices - £3 ground admission, £1 to sit down and 80p for a programme. (the affluent South-East again!!) The attraction of the Rugby World Cup Final was probably the cause of a meagre attendance.

Stuart Hall's appointment as Assistant Manager already seems to be bringing a more co-ordinated and disciplined approach - ALL the players attend the pre-match workout and when the match starts the effect is evident immediately. The improvement in passing shown against Baldock continued here as we swept forward and extended the Gravesend defence to the full.

Malcolm sprayed the ball around with precision and they had no answer to Sean's speed; two first half goals for each of them were a just reward. Inbetween, Tony Rowe had brought off a superb fingertip save at full stretch and fears of the all too familiar sight of us losing a two goal lead were quickly dispelled.

There was no sitting back after the break as Kevin soon completed a fine hat-trick whilst scorning the chance of more. Alan Attwood came on to notch the eighth and his fourth of the season. Definitely a performance to saviour which will no doubt be recalled for years to come. However, Gravesend were a very poor outfit and there will be stiffer tests than this ahead.

**Kevin Harrison's Barber**

19 NOVEMBER 1991

BIRMINGHAM SENIOR CUP 2ND ROUND

STOURBRIDGE TOWN 1 HALESOWEN 1

Flynn

A short interlude before the serious stuff. (Don't worry, if you didn't know already we stuffed 'em in the replay)

26 NOVEMBER 1991

FA CUP 1ST ROUND REPLAY

FARNBOROUGH 4 HALESOWEN 0

TOWN: Rowe; Whittingham, Edwards, Vowles, Smith; Bradley, Hazlewood, Flynn, Shilcock; Bennett, Harrison

SUBS: Laker, Attwood



Well, we've only got ourselves to blame for this one. If we'd have done the job properly down The Grove there'd have been no need for this game. The number of chances we had then to finish it!!

The evening didn't exactly get off the the brightest of starts when we were charged 50p each just to get into the clubhouse, knowing that the nearest pub was too far away to get to in time. A quid for a cold pastie and you just knew it was going to be one of those nights.

We started pretty well with Malcolm especially looking good and we decided we were in with a chance. Then disaster struck. Twice. Within the space of five minutes basic mistakes at the back cost us the match. The second, in particular, was a killer blow with Tony Rowe dropping a simple cross at their centre-forward's feet. It summed up the night really; the sort of mistake he's never made before and probably never will again, but after that we were always chasing the game.

Although we had an equal share of the play we never looked like scoring and (the most disappointing aspect) didn't create a single chance. After seeing how useless their keeper was on crosses in the first game, the least we should have done was to get a few over. The only one we did (from a corner) he messed up completely and it was kicked off the line.

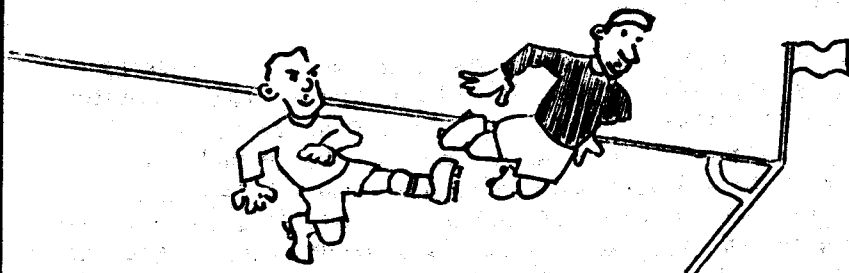
The last two goals came in the final eight minutes with another defensive error and the most dubious penalty decision since Cardiff but by then it was all over.

Farnborough are a good team, play dead nice football and deserved their win (though 4-0 was definitely flattering). We were never going to win the thing anyway and there's always next year, eh ???

# U R THE REF

No 3

**BALDOCK vs HALESOWEN. THE BALDOCK RIGHT BACK SMASHES INTO FRANKIE BENNETT, BUT IN A MOMENT OF MADNESS YOU DECIDE TO LET HIM OFF WITH ONLY A BOOKING.**



**MINUTES LATER, ERIC SMITH NUDGES THE BALDOCK CENTRE-FORWARD JUST AS HE ATTEMPTS TO SHOOT. THE INCENSED BALDOCK TEAM THEN GANG UP ON POOR ERIC AND PHYSICALLY ASSAULT HIM.**



**DO YOU:-**

- (a) SEND ERIC OFF FOR A PROFESSIONAL FOUL?
- (b) ONLY BOOK HIM TO EVEN THINGS UP FOR THE EARLIER FOUL?
- (c) CITING NATURAL JUSTICE, SEND THE BALDOCK FULL-BACK OFF AND RECOMMEND ERIC FOR THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE.

**ANSWER: EITHER (a) or (c) WOULD BE REASONABLE, BUT (b) IF YOU WANT TO GET ON THE FA LIST AND BECOME A "TOP-CLASS" REFEREE. AND A MERRY XMAS TO ALL REFS EVERYWHERE**

# OVER THE SEA TO ....

After Frank's trip to Austria I commandeered the takings from FYIS and hopped across (surely flying would have been easier - Eds) to Tampa, Florida - one of the probable World Cup '94 sites. So with less than three years to go how is real football coping in the states ?

The winter game is played indoors, 6-a-side, so we'll dismiss that with the contempt that it deserves and concentrate on the (much) less popular American Pro Soccer League - played outside, on grass, 11-a-side - looks promising so far ??

The league has just eight teams (Tampa, Fort Lauderdale & Miami in Florida; Albany, Maryland & Penn-Jersey in the north east and outposts in Colorado and San Francisco) and is divided into two "conferences", the winners and runners-up in each going through to the play offs.

Comfortingly the yanks play to exactly the same rules as the rest of us - the major difference being

the American obsession with a positive result - even in the league, thus the system works something like this :-

If scores are level at 90 minutes, sudden death comes into play - 7½ mins each way, with the first goal in this period settling the match - sudden death, see ?? If overtime fails to produce a result the ubiquitous penalties come in - hurrah !!

The points system is something akin to county cricket i.e. bloody confusing :-  
6 pts for a win in normal or overtime  
4 pts for a win after penalties  
2 points for a defeat after penalties.

Also there is a point for each goal scored in normal time, to a maximum of 3 per game. If a similar system is adopted for '94 surely the most entertaining feature of the tournament will be Saint & Greavsie getting their heads round the qualifying procedure !!

Ada.

# A RIGHT GOOD MOAN

After his team struggled to beat Gretna over two games, the Rochdale manager proclaimed that non-league teams shouldn't be allowed in the FA Cup as "they have enough competitions of their own". Fostered by mis-informed and often wilfully ignorant media coverage, this sort of comment is typical of so-called experts who know next-to-nothing about the semi-professional game.

OK I'M

Taken to it's logical conclusion; perhaps Brains of Rochdale thinks we should go straight to Arsenal-Liverpool in May and not bother with the other rounds. Rochdale have their Leyland DAF Trophy or whatever it's called this month, so why should they have the chance of playing teams in higher leagues?

UPSET AFTER

The top professional clubs, run by financiers more interested in money than football, seem to be turning away from the

concept of knockout football. The group format of the European 'Cup' is typical of this attitude; let's try to guarantee we make as many readies as possible rather than allow smaller clubs their chance of glory.

LOSING TO

Maybe non-league football (and who thought that ridiculous term up) should have nothing to do with the FA and set up a governing body of its own. In Scotland, Junior Football (not a bunch of kids but Junior as opposed to the Senior professional version) has existed separately to the SFA for well over a century. The top Junior sides regularly attract crowds of over 3,000, and the Scottish Junior Cup achieves extensive TV coverage with the Final screened live each year on STV.

FARNBOROUGH

The only drawback is the teams are denied the chance of achieving glory by beating professional teams in the Scottish Cup.

However, despite the claims of the regularly inaccurate 'Non-league Football' magazine, most of the Junior sides prefer to be completely separate to the Scottish FA, and would not want a Pyramid system set up.

#### AND I FELT LIKE

'Non-league Football' is read with increasing frustration here at FYI Mansions. If they call Kevin Harrison a left-sided midfielder once more I'm going to write to that smug-looking chappie with the soft-focus mugshot inside the front cover and get really really angry with him. A magazine that writes "clubs don't come more friendly than Baldock Town" and can't recognise Stourbridge's San Siro Memorial Ground doesn't inspire much confidence in its ability to cover non-league football with any semblance of accuracy.

#### HAVING A

It's depressing to contrast STV's informed coverage of Junior Football

with the patronising drivel we're given from the BBC and their FA Cup First Round coverage. Not particularly of Mr Read's hat-trick, but their comments on "postman" Timmy Langford's two assists in helping Telford beat Stoke are typical of their small-mindedness. Since Tim left the Yeltz he's been able to train full-time due to Telford arranging sympathetic employers who allow him time off work whenever required, but if you believed Gerald Sinstadt you'd think he played a pile of mail stuffed down his shorts to post on his way home after the game.

#### GOOD MOAN

So what can we do? Hundreds of "Why Oh Why..." letters to Anne Robinson would only provoke more patronising on little people getting worked up over little matters. With the risk of sounding like Norman Tebbit, the prejudice of the BBC, the media and League clubs is so ingrained that I don't think things will ever change for the better.

# R N L I

It's been over a thousand days since the death sentence was passed on journalist Basil "Salmon" Rushdie by the extremist 'Recognition for Non-League Institutions' (RNLI) terrorist group. Basil wrote a controversial piece questioning the accuracy of attendance figures at semi-professional games, claiming they are works of fiction rather than actual numbers of people attending the games.

The RNLI does not permit any criticism of non-league football in any shape or form, and under its strict laws sentenced Rushdie to death. In the intervening three years the relationship between the media and non-league football has greatly improved, and there are high hopes that a compromise can be reached to release the writer from danger.

LATE NEWS: Rushdie has moved some way towards a compromise position by admitting his statement on falsified crowd figures only applied to FA Cup games where clubs have to pay a percentage of the receipts to the Football Association.

## POETRY CORNER

So Farewell,  
then  
Sean Flynn.  
Sent to Coventry  
(only in the  
football sense)  
but we  
remember  
the ball  
curling round  
the keeper  
against  
Tranmere.  
R.I.P.

N. Pearson  
(Aged 13½)

# THEY SAID WHAT

"We'll murder this lot in the replay"

Anon. Old Hawne Lane End, v Farnborough.

"The defeat at Bilston shows that Halesowen are no longer one of the Premier's stronger teams"

Alf Bowerman in the Halesowen News the day before the Gravesend match.

"We should have hit double figures but I wouldn't pass in the second half. I was on a hat-trick !"

Sean Flynn after the Gravesend match.

"Where's my money ??"

Ex-Halesowen left-back.

"I don't know what all the fuss is about"

Ada appraising Farnborough demi-god  
Simon Read after the home tie.

"I've got a feeling - 3-0 to us"

Frank, Farnborough Social Club 7.30, 26th Nov.

"No problem - 3-1"

Frank, Farnborough terraces 8.02

"We've come back from worse"

Frank, 8.07.

"I fancy extra time, three in 10 minutes - easy"

Frank, 9.08

"I don't think we can do it now"

Ada, 9.12

"Maybe not but that was never a penalty"

Frank.

"We'll stuff them next season"

Glass Routes #7, referring to the outcome of

Stourbridge v "the piggies" this year. Sorry boys !!

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



**FYI  
in the Area!!**