

# FOLLOW YOUR INSTINCT



A HALESOWEN TOWN FANZINE

## Change in points system boosts promotion hopes

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
DOVER	24	13	9	2	39	18	40
CAMBRIDGE	27	12	9	6	47	35	39
HALESOWEN	23	6	10	7	36	32	36
TROWBR'GE	27	12	7	8	53	31	33
MOOR GRN	25	10	7	8	40	31	31
CHELMSFRD	25	9	7	9	35	34	30
DARTFORD	25	11	6	8	41	32	29
BASHLEY	24	16	4	4	45	21	28
BROMSGVE	20	10	6	4	32	16	28
DORCH'TER	23	10	6	7	41	35	28
POOLE	24	7	7	10	25	42	28
FISHER	26	4	8	14	35	63	28
VS RUGBY	24	15	4	5	44	27	27
GLOUCS C	27	10	5	12	45	47	25
WEALDSTNE	26	9	5	12	39	43	24
WORCESTER	23	5	6	12	29	35	23
BURTON	25	5	6	14	27	44	23
WAT'VILLE	25	7	5	13	22	35	22
CRAWLEY	22	9	4	9	40	37	21
CORBY	24	9	4	11	44	54	21
ATHERSTNE	22	6	5	11	25	38	21
GRAVESEND	23	5	4	14	23	57	17

In a shock announcement earlier today, the controversial Beazer Homes League Management Committee surprised the football world by deciding that from now on the points system for the league would be:-

3pts for a draw;  
1pt for a win;  
0pts for a defeat;

ISSUE SIX

FEB/MAR 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

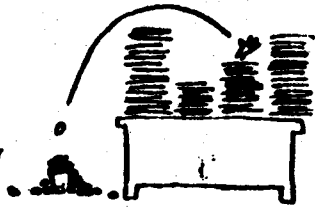
## DEFENSIVE WALL :-

Steve and Sarah, Kevin Harrison's Barter, Magnus McLain, JR, Cyril Waterman, Andy Miller, Esther, PM, Josie, Paul Chappell.

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

Well we're still here - Not exactly overbrimming with enthusiasm from the recent results but at least we actually got a win against Trowbridge at last. Mind you 3 months was a bit of a long time to have to wait for it. Let's hope that this is the turning point for the season after the recent inept performances against the likes of Hednesford.



So what has gone wrong, then?? Well obviously it's not that simple a question to answer otherwise we'd be managing the team and Johnny Morris would be writing this fanzine. A lot of reasons have been put forward such as the team being too small, physically, the pitch not suiting our style of play, etc, etc. When it comes down to it however the basic reason seems to be that after losing a number of class players recently the signings that have been made are just not good enough.

You don't have to be a genius to work out that, when it comes to the crunch, if the team you've got isn't good enough then you're going to struggle. Where the blame for this goes, who's to say? The scout has been removed and John Morris must be prepared to accept part to the blame, but we also seem to be in one of those situations where, when your confidence is low, nothing seems to go right. We're not going to start naming names etc as that's not going to get us anywhere but it does seem as if a number of players at the moment just aren't up to standard. Now that the ground is easily good enough perhaps it's time to put a bit more money in to the team before we end up with the best ground in the West Mids League !!!

## EDITORIAL (CONT.)

On to more positive things, it was good to see the committee and John Morris facing up to things and answering questions from supporters on the Yeltzline and in the programme. Whether or not you agree with the things said and the answers given at least the club were acknowledging that things have been going wrong and that the fans have been given a chance to put our views across. How positive the results of this are remains to be seen.

The FYI/Supporters football team managed to emulate the first team perfectly in suffering our first defeat (o.k. so it was only our second game !!) at Wealdstone details of which follow later. A great day out was had by all despite the results and thanks are due to the Wealdstone fans for their hospitality. Hopefully, by the time this issue hits the streets, we should have played the Moor Green supporters and other matches are being arranged for the near future against other supporters teams. If you want more details ask someone who looks like they might know.

### 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  
Strathclyde Programme Shop, Glasgow

**I TOLD YOU SO.....**

**...OR DID I?**

As no doubt my last article "How bad..." stirred up a veritable hornets nest I have since had points for and against judging from our recent performances. The same team was fielded in the space of 4 days for matches against Bashley and Hednesford respectively. The two displays from our heroes would have made an ideal plot for a Robert Louis Stevenson novel! An unjust defeat against the league leaders was then followed by pure embarrassment against a side from a league below us. It seems the boot is now on the other foot!

#### **"POOH'S FOUND**

Anyway I must try and regain some credibility by telling you about Evesham Utd's 3-1 win in the F A Vase over Buckingham Town. The latter were a poor offering for last season's southern Division Champions, only denied promotion by their poor facilities - and what a surprise that was!

Buckingham had probably 60/65% of the possession but were like a team of Les Randle's when arriving at the Evesham 18 yd box (no offence Les - I'm just referring to your goals tally here!). Evesham's attack was simple and direct and a pleasure to watch with a young left winger (name left out so as nobody signs him except us - ed) taking his fullback apart inside and out. To set up two goals and score the third in only your second game can't be bad. It brought back memories of Lee in full cry down the slope in those glory days - Nostalgia ain't what it used to be though and my references to this "sleepy little Worcs market town" at Wembley got some dirty looks as I'm told the town isn't "sleepy"!

#### **THE NORTH**

However the Cup is a great leveller as the cliché goes and so it is only on our week in week out league performances we can ultimately judge the team.

If at the end of the season we manage to avoid relegation then I'm sure that some of you may actually agree with me. If so, well done !!

PS Mr Canny Scot -  
What's happened to Hearts  
? And have you ever been  
to Evesham Utd's ground ??

Watch through two eyes.

PM

## WHO KNOWS WHAT ?

Every football fan of course knows all that there is to be known about the game, and his knowledge is never surpassed by anyone elses. A quick shout of "Get the sub on Morris!" is all that's needed to turn a 2-0 deficit into an immediate 3-2 advantage to our beloved "Yeltz".

POLE" SAID

A blast of "Come on Harrison, get in there!" means our hero should sprint (or fly) from the flank to get on the end of a cross from the full back to whom he has just laid the ball off.

The manager isn't a mind reader (then why is he our manager I hear you cry!), and Kevin isn't concorde either, so let's use a bit of common sense before opening our mouths.

CHRISTOPHER

If a sub is needed, who goes off, who comes on, where and why etc. It'd serve some people right if he took the goalie off in one match just because it was time to "get the sub on".

We're all supporters, and all have the right to criticise as we well know. However it's much better for all concerned of that criticism is actually constructive rather than destructive. We may dislike the manager and/or certain players but all this must be put aside if the club is to progress on the field as the support can lift the side as we saw against Farnborough.

Ridiculous statements like "the players don't want to play for the manager" are childish because they don't play for him, they play for Halesowen Town FC, in the same way that we (should) support them.

## STRANGE, BUT TRUE

Whatever our manager's failings may be he certainly knows more than many in the area.

ROBIN

This true story from Aug 1990 involves a well known West Midland League manager who arrived at the delightful Shenley Lane ground of Northfield Town one late summer's evening for their home match with Highgate Utd. His conversation with a supporter 10 yards from me went as follows:

WMM - Evening

Spec - Evening

WMM - Who's playing?

Spec - Northfield Town vs

Highgate Utd

WMM - Which team is which?

Spec - Northfield are in yellow, Highgate in red.  
WMM - Has either team got any good players ??  
Spec - .....etc,etc

"ISN'T THAT LOVELY?"

I lost interest at this stage as I couldn't believe my ears. And I'm the man who unknowingly spotted Steve Bourne and Darren Grouett who as you know... And Mr WMM if you read this have a look at Northfields young player whose name and position escape me at the moment, cos he probably won't stop there long !!

PM

PS: I've been present at the last two encounters between Northfield and Highgate Utd at Shenley Lane and both have been disappointing 0-0 draws. There must be a moral there somewhere !! Enjoy the game

# THE ADVENTURES OF FIDO T DOG

No. 4

(Halesowen Town's Greatest Fan)

By Tony Lungs

## EXCLUSIVE !! FIDO BECOMES YELTZ FAN

Another searching  
question from Ed

SO, FIDO, WHAT MADE YOU  
CHANGE YOUR MIND ?

I'VE ALWAYS SUPPORTED CRAP TEAMS.  
AND THE WAY YOU LOT ARE PLAYING,  
YOU'RE EVEN WORSE THAN THE HARRIERS



What did Santa put in your stocking for Christmas ??

A survey of Yeltz fans on Boxing Day revealed that the most popular present was the recently issued CD of 1960's Dave Berry hits, including the top ten entries of The Plumbing Game and Little Fittings.

### BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

43 Corby Town v Halesowen Harriers .....1  
44 Poole Town v Crawley Town.....2

Delusions of grandeur ??

Derek Beasley's dreams all come true in one moment of madness by an "Independent" typesetter.

☐ *WHEN Dorchester Town football club played a recent home match in the Beazer Homes League, the ball was sponsored by the local St Mary's Church, and the game was sponsored by undertakers Grassby and Son. Their opponents? Gravesend.*

# A Letter To Ed.

Dear Eds,

Did anyone else who went to the Wealdstone game buy a programme that showed the Halesowen line up as it was in mine ?:-

- 1 Kevan Coton
- 2 Sean Bardsley
- 3 Stuart Rostron
- 4 Eric Sims
- 5 Steve Terry
- 6 Andy Jackett
- 7 Malcolm Callaghan
- 8 Leroy Barnes
- 9 Frankie Blissett
- 10 Robert Porter
- 11 Kevin Reilly

It just did not make sense to me. Where on earth did they get those names from ??

Yours etc  
Elton Taylor

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Dear FYI,

Having read your pitiful publication since its inception, I feel I must put pen to paper to protest most strongly about your persistent and unnecessary knocking of groundhoppers. Some of my best friends are groundhoppers and there is nothing I like better on a Saturday than to go off to some far flung ground in the West Lancs u-11's League. The journey is especially rewarding as I can combine it with my second great love - train spotting, before returning home for a glass of milk and a lie down.

Yours etc.,  
K. Barlow

# An Evening With Eric Smith

Top defender, karate brown belt and long-time hero to us kids, Eric Smith (plus wife Jackie) kindly agreed to answer a few questions we hastily thought up after another depressing loss down at Wealdstone just after Xmas. Their answers went something like this:-

FYI: For the first time in many a year Halesowen are going through quite a lean spell. Any idea what's been the difference this season ?

ERIC: Obviously this league is the strongest we've played in. In the Banks's you could give a forward five or six chances and he'd maybe only score from one of them; now one mistake can be fatal. You can't keep on winning all the time.

FYI: Has the extra travelling involved caused many problems?

ERIC: I'm lucky because I've got a good relationship with my employers who'll give me a half day off whenever I need it for a midweek game. I work 55 hours a week including most Saturday mornings when we're playing at home, and they know I'll always make my hours up.

FYI: (To Jackie) What do you think about Eric playing for Halesowen ?

JACKIE: I don't really mind, but it does get a bit much sometimes. The club expect the players to train twice a week and sometimes play two or three matches as well; they don't seem to realise the players have lives outside of football. I used to come down to watch Eric play but I got sick of everybody criticising all the time.

FYI: So does the crowd's moaning affect you when you're playing ?

ERIC: They're usually OK to me so I can't really say!

FYI: Talking of dodgy crowds, what exactly did happen after the game at Baldock ?

ERIC: The problems started because the players had to walk off the same way the crowd were leaving. Someone threw a coin at Rob Shilvock and hit him in the eye, then one hit me in the back. I saw the bloke who did it, and I would have hit him if I could have got to him.

FYI: We know you haven't got the greatest goal scoring record, but how come we never try to hit long corners on to your head ?

ERIC: The trouble down The Grove is that it's so tight you've only got a one step run-up to take a corner. It's just about impossible to knock a ball to the far post so most times we end up taking a short one.

FYI: A couple of years ago if you'd have asked us which of our defenders would be signed by a professional team, we'd have plumped for yourself. So why not ?

ERIC: No disrespect to the club, but I think I spent too long at Tipton. When I was at the age where clubs might have been interested in me, no-one would have gone down to Tipton to watch me. Also in those days it was a lot less common for a non-league player to be signed by a League club.

We went on to chat about other things but if you want to know any more you have to ask him yourself. Oh yeah, before we forget, Eric's favourite singer is George Benson, and he prefers steak & chips to curry any day of the week.

Thanks to Eric and Jackie for putting up with our daft questions. We still think it's about time you scored though!

# The Name's Bond, Harriers Bond

Our Man in the City recently sent in a report of rumours circulating the Stock Exchange which are set to overshadow completely the recent Maxwell scandal or the privatisation of British Rail.

## OUTSIDE

The hottest news on the grapevine is of the setting up of a bond scheme by another major footballing power following in the steps of Arsenal and West Ham, Namely, Halesowen Harriers.

## HIS HOUSE

These reports are, as yet, unconfirmed although speculation is rife that the club chairman, Mr D Beasley, has carried out a feasibility study into bringing the ground in to line with the Taylor Inquiry and this has emerged as the only viable option.

## HE FOUND

An undisclosed source

has told us that secretary, Mr D Beasley, has informed the club that through a bond scheme they could easily realise an income of upwards of £2.35p.

## PIGLET

The scheme suggested would involve any prospective investor being guaranteed a ticket for all Harriers home matches for the next 100 years, including preferential treatment when the club get into the Football and Premier Leagues within the next 10 years.

## JUMPING UP

In line with the other debenture schemes, being promoted at this time the major attraction in this investment is considered to be the chance to have your photograph taken with the team Manager, Mr D Beasley.

## AND DOWN

Unconfirmed reports have reached us that the manager is very much in favour of this scheme as it may bring a few quid in

to the club and could well result in a lot of cheap self-publicity.

#### TRYING TO

Any prospective investors wishing to part with the paltry sum of 47p in return for this amazing offer should contact committee man Mr D Beasley at the club.

#### REACH THE

In an attempt to find the views of the supporters we met Mr O.L.D. Mann editor of the Harriers fanzine "The Tanhouse Roar", to get his reponse to the speculation.

#### KNOCKER

"Obviously if such a scheme does go ahead", he told us, "I will be very much against it. We can't need too much money to be spent to bring the ground up to standard and I'm already guaranteed a good view of every game whilst walking my dog on a Saturday afternoon".

He went on to tell us how feelings were running high amongst the Harriers faithful. "I held a meeting with the rest of the crowd when I met him at the tea bar during the last home match", he continued, "and we decided that, if this scheme does go ahead, we may well decide to take our dogs for a walk up Clent instead on future Saturdays".

#### "HALLO PIGLET"

The Harriers, however, are also thought to be considering a share issue, although Mr O.L.D. Mann told us that this idea would not find much favour with the supporters either.

#### HE SAID

When we tried to get in touch with the club for confirmation of these rumours we were, unfortunately, unable to contact either the chairman, the manager, the secretary, the committee or the bloke who takes all the corners and throw ins.

# **TIME TO TALK**

Since the defeat by Farnborough there has been ample time during matches to reflect on topical questions. Rarely has a match passed by without at least 30 minutes of mediocrity when my attention has been gratefully drawn away from what's happening on the pitch.

## **HOW MUCH WILL WE MISS SEAN FLYNN ??**

Answer: A hell of a lot. Mr Bowerman in The News says he needs to be replaced. The truth is that he's irreplaceable. So were Spink, Cash, Langford and Pearce. Halesowen Town are obviously not in the market for players of League standard. Little or none of the money realised for these players has been used for quality replacements. The reason given is the cost of ground replacements. I can live with this in the short term but would like to see the balance redressed as the ground comes up to standard. We have no God given right to remain in the Premier just because we have excellent facilities.

## **DID YOU SEE HALF AN HOUR OF MATTHEW MARTIN**

in the home game against Waterlooville ? Was there a touch of the Dean Spink about him ? The way he put himself about their back four, the little headed flick ons, the holding up and shielding of the ball, the obvious enthusiasm for the physical side of the game. I enjoyed that half hour and want to see more of him. Someone with potential I think.

## **WHAT ABOUT THE PITCH ?**

Forget the desert and camel jokes that will no doubt appear in rival fanzines, the state of the pitch must be of concern to all Town's fans, officials and players. It's obviously very difficult to play entertaining football on. Still if Man Utd and Villa can't get it

right what chance have we got ?

### **TEAM SELECTION! RESULTS! THE SQUAD!**

We have a squad of how many? Sixteen, seventeen... I don't know exactly. However, whichever eleven Mr Morris selects at the moment there are going to be at least five who are not good enough for Premier League standard. And only Malcolm Hazlewood and Eric Smith look comfortable at this level.

In recent weeks we have played five local Midland Division sides. We struggled to beat any of them and were comprehensively beaten by two of them. Apart from good displays against Farnborough and Crawley at home and a gutsy performance of character at Gloucester our recent League displays have been mundane to say the least.

Taking this into account I'm delighted with our league position at the moment. In fact, if we finish in a mid-table position with the present squad I would regard it as a tremendous achievement. However, to say I'm satisfied with our results under the circumstances doesn't mean that I wouldn't like the circumstances to change!

At the start of every season I hope to see Halesowen Town playing positive, attractive football and winning whichever league they happen to be in. To hope for anything less is defeatist. At the start of the season to hope for a mid table finish is complacent. At the end of this season to be satisfied with a mid table position, under the circumstances.... this season is realistic! But next season....

# SENT TO COVENTRY

It's been no surprise to us here at FYI Mansions that Sean Flynn has made an immediate impact at Coventry. Just for a change, rather than bore you with our views we tracked down the man himself to find out what he thought of his sudden elevation to superstardom.

WE'D RATHER

"The Coventry fans have really taken to me. They've started to chant my name already!" Sean told us - more than anyone ever did down The Grove. Not that he thought this was the only difference between the Beazer League and the First Division:

BACK THAN

"The football is a lot faster and more physical, but you also seem to get a bit more space. I started off as centre forward (!!) for the reserves and scored against Man Utd at Old Trafford, so the gaffer gave me a chance against Sheffield Utd on Boxing Day. We travelled up on Xmas Day and it was hinted to me that I'd be playing.

Before the game I was really, really nervous. By halftime I was still nervous; I hardly touched the ball in the first half. Then I crossed for Stewart Robson to score and knocked one in the top corner myself from 20 yards. I settled down a bit after that!"

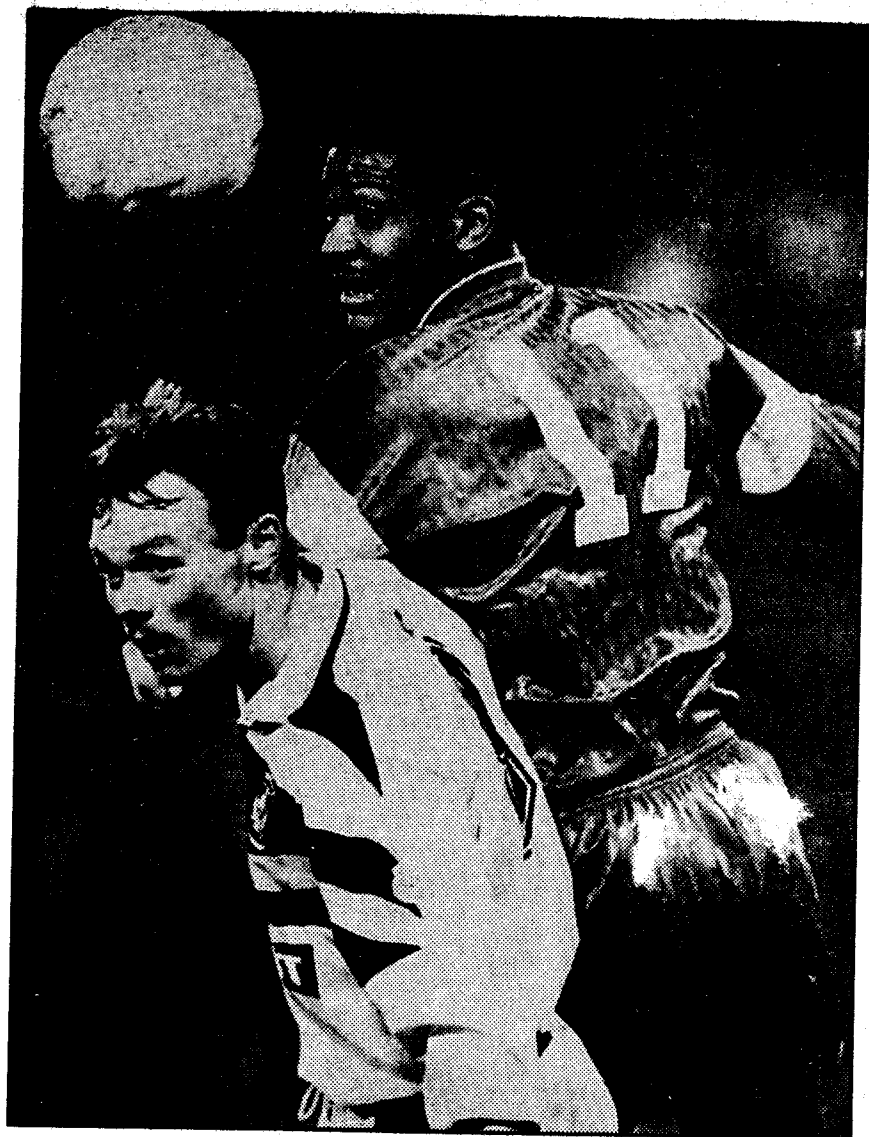
HAVE SEAN

We'd noticed the difference in Sean's play for Halesowen while he was training full-time with Coventry. He said our training was too easy, although things had improved a bit since Stuart Hall had arrived.

TERRY BUTCHER

So how can Halesowen start winning again? "The manager's got to sort out the players. There's a few in the side who don't really want to play for him." No names were mentioned, but maybe it explains some of the recent departures?

Anyway thanks to Sean for sparing us his time, and come back soon.



**KEPT OUT . . . Dons' Steve Anthrobus heads away from Brian Burrows of Coventry**

*Picture: ALISTAIR GRANT*

# Flynn lays on victory

## Sheffield United 0 Coventry City 3

■ DO NOT be too surprised if you find Sky Blues manager Terry Butcher scouring Black Country building sites this week, writes **NEIL WHITE**.

■ For Sean Flynn, the second bricklayer signed from non-League Halesowen Town, gave a debut contribution which could well be the platform for a place in the proposed Super League next season.

## Startling

■ Flynn, signed for £20,000 to follow in the footsteps of former Yeltz team-mate Andy Pearce, laid on a goal and scored spectacularly as Coventry realised a startling win. ■ Although a series of hair-raising challenges resulted in four bookings, there was little enterprise and few chances.

Sheffield United: Tracey; Gage, Cowan, Gannon (Late 56 mins), Gayle, Beasley, Hodges, Heyland, Littlejohn, Deane, Whitehouse. Sub not used, Marwood.

Coventry City: Ogrizovic; Borrows, Sansom, Robson, Billing, Atherton, McGrath, Flynn, Rosario (Furlong 55 mins), Gallacher, Smith. Sub not used, Hurst.

Goals: Robson (49) — close-range shot after Rosario had headed on Flynn's centre; Flynn (56) — Cracking shot from 35 yards into top corner; Billing (60) — Stunning 25 yard free-kick.

Referee: Mr T Fitzharris (Barnes).

Bookings: Robson, McGrath, Gallacher, Rosario (fools).

Attendance: 19,433.

Argus Anselm Man of the Match: Robson (8).

Miracle of miracles, the "former hod-carrier" can actually play football. How he managed to learn to kick a ball when he obviously spent most of his life whistling at passers by is beyond me.

Mr Butcher scouring the Black Country building sites indeed — they'll be predicting he'll be playing for Halesowen next.

A fascinating fact:—

Yeltz record this season with Sean:

P	W	D	L	F	A	Goals/Game
25	8	9	8	40	38	1.6

Yeltz Record since he left:

P	W	D	L	F	A	Goals/Game
12	1	5	6	11	20	0.9

Not that we're missing him or anything, especially because one of the wins didn't really count (it was against Stourbridge).

Still, when that screamer went in against Sheff Utd we all knew it was scored by a Halesowen player just guesting for Coventry. He'll always be one of ours.

Coventry City ..... 1

Tottenham Hotspur ..... 2

In the final two minutes Flynn headed wide and then volleyed

narrowly over after Thorstvedt had again performed his Bruce Grobbelaar impersonation. Flynn left work as a hod-carrier to sign from Halesowen barely a month ago. Lasting the pace well in only his third League match — in the space of six days — the midfielder deserved better, but at least he had rubbed shoulders with a true artist.

Coventry City: Ogrizovic; Borrows, Sansom, Robson, Pearce, Billing, McGrath, Flynn, Rosario, Gallacher, Smith (Furlong, 77). Substitute not used: Hurst.

Tottenham Hotspur: Thorstvedt; Fenwick, Van Den Hauwe, Sedgley, Howells, Mabbitt, Stewart, Walsh (Houghton, 78), Samways, Lincker, Allen. Substitute not used: Edinburgh.

Referee: J Key (Sheffield).

# Fact and Fiction

So what did happen with Terry Butcher then?? At the time of writing the situation is still not entirely clear and this has high-lighted again one of the major criticisms of the club.

## WHY ARE DENTISTS

Without the club making a clear statement on the issue the press reports left a very confusing muddle behind, which still hasn't been sorted out as yet. (although with our uncanny sense of timing here at FYI mansions it probably will be by the time we hit the streets)

## GRUMPY ??

On Friday 10th Jan the Express and Star had the main news on the back page that Terry was making his debut for us against Poole the following week. The following day it was announced in the Independent that he was making his debut against either Corby or Poole.

## BECAUSE THEY

However in the Mirror on the same day an article

on Don Howe and Coventry v QPR said "Terry Butcher has denied that he has signed for Halesowen".

## ALWAYS

It then emerges that he is training with the team regularly but is not available to play on a saturday.

## LOOK DOWN

Now I daresay the club may well have made an official announcement by now, but the delay has only caused rumour to pile upon rumour and make the whole situation extremely muddled.

## IN THE MOUTH

It is not the first time that something like this has occurred either. I know announcements on players the club are signing would not be in the best interests normally but in situations like this surely a brief statement put out to the press and on the Yeltz line, in the next programme etc would stop a lot of the rumours getting out of hand.

# View From Afar

The visit to Watford's ground over the festive period for the Wealdstone game once again brought to my mind the never ending saga of ground gradings and the requirements for clubs competing in leagues at their respective levels.

## WELL IT'S

I had eagerly awaited the fixture. At the start of the season it was earmarked as the one away trip to definitely make as it was a Football League ground I had not previously seen.

## GOODBYE

Walking behind the goal before the match started, I recalled seeing on TV a Glenn Hoddle chip into the very same net for one of the best goals that season to give Spurs an FA Cup victory, and the overall impression was that Watford have a fine set-up including their family enclosure and electronic scoreboard. It was certainly a novelty to see the names of the Halesowen team on it.

It was when the game got underway that my feelings started to alter. There we were, standing yards from the pitch and the action, having been charged 50p for a cuppa and having undesirable music blasted at us from the tea bar (the Elton John number - who else at Watford?! - over the PA had been much more tasteful [speak for yourself - Eds.] )

## YELLOW

The size of the ground in relation to the attendance mean't that only one side and behind one goal were open so we also knew that if we wanted to follow our usual custom and change ends at half time we would be charged 50p for the transfer and still have to sit down.

## BRICK

I started to think..... is this the sort of enviroment in which I want to watch my football?.... ...would I come here every week? The answer each time.....definitely NO !!

Although this was infinitely more pleasurable than watching a match in a ground where one side is a cricket pitch, give me Armitage or Bridgnorth any day than this new "home" of Wealdstone. Long ago I gave up the Football League with its segregation, high prices and other unattractable elements.

#### ROAD

There does appear to be a case for imposing on clubs requirements that ensure their facilities are in keeping with the level in the pyramid at which their respective league is positioned so that not only is it necessary to improve facilities for promotion but also to ensure that anomalies do not arise whereby for one league match only supporters have to endure conditions that are not the normal for the remainder of the season.

KEVIN HARRISON'S BARBER

PS : I hope everyone noticed and were impressed by Kevin's smartly cut locks just before Christmas for which I take all due credit. All we need now is for the goals to flow once again - keep at it Kev we've all got faith in you.

Eds note :

While we're on the subject it was drawn to our attention that although Vicarage Road may well be good enough for the Football League it's facilities do not come up to scratch for the Beazer Homes League. The reason ? The benches for the managers etc. during the match are normally uncovered, a legacy from the Graham "if the fans are getting wet then so will I" Taylor days. The Beazer ground graders then decided, in their infinite wisdom, that this was totally unacceptable and have ordered Wealdstone to cover them for every home league match !!!

# AWAY DAZE

17 DECEMBER 1991

BIRMINGHAM SENIOR CUP 3RD ROUND

NUNEATON 2 HALESOWEN 0

Unfortunately I was there. After 30 seconds Simpson was felled in the box, we were one down from the resultant penalty and from then on things gradually got worse.

Simpson, a fast tricky winger, shredded our defence time and again; if Nuneaton had been anything more than a workman-like team they would have won more comfortably. On the half-hour Kevin squared the ball to an open Frankie Bennett who shot straight at the keeper from six yards - it was to be our only chance of the game.

The second half began with a torrential downpour and Leroy being sent off for what appeared to be a back elbow. This left Eric as our midfield as well our back four. A little later Pancho lobbed a back pass woefully short, Willy fly-hacked straight to Simpson who gratefully chipped the ball into the empty net and that was that.

Williams made some good saves and Eric (captain for the day) was magnificent. As for the rest, a Nuneaton supporter aptly summed them up; "I expected a bit of football from a Premier side ... well a bit of something anyhow!"

He sounded as puzzled as I was despondent.

JR

23 DECEMBER 1991

LEAGUE CUP 2ND ROUND FIRST LEG

HEDNESFORD 3 HALESOWEN 0

TOWN: Williams; Abell, Laker, Smith, Cooper; Goodall,  
Hazlewood, Bradley, Beasley; Harrison, Attwood

SUBS: Bennett, Moore

Oh dear. A dismal display in dismal weather sent us home in a great mood just before Chrimbo - I was even looking forward to finding the usual two pairs of socks under the Xmas tree.

In the first minute Alan Attwood missed whilst we were making our way behind the goal. After that it wasn't exactly one way traffic but the longer the game went on Hednesford's class compared to our lack of it meant we were always going to be struggling - and what a sad thing to have to admit that is.

Somehow by half-time we'd kept it to 0-0 by twice clearing it off the line, Willy having his usual blinder dropping only every other cross. They were cutting through our midfield like a knife through brandy butter (*forced Xmas reference - eds*) and it was no surprise when they scored a couple soon after the break. Eric slipped to let them in for the first, and the second was a tap-in after a great save from a brilliant volley.

From then on they tore us apart and should have scored several more before finally getting a third. It could easily have been 8-1 (Frankie hitting the bar when right through) and despite Hednesford being a good team I can't remember being so outclassed by a team from lower league.

26 DECEMBER 1991

GLOUCESTER 1 HALESOWEN 1  
Hazlewood

TOWN: Williams; Abell, Vowles, Smith, Edwards; Hemans,  
Hazlewood, Bettles, Shilvock; Harrison, Congrave  
SUBS: Bennett, Goodall

It was a difficult journey down, fighting through 'Nam on Boxing Day morning (Cheltenham). There were six changes from the team that failed against Hednesford including Richard

# AWAY DAZE (CONT.)

Congrave, signed an hour before the kick-off from Gloucester (as the PA repeatedly reminded us).

With Leroy and Ian Bettles in midfield (honestly) we looked a lot more solid in defence even if it did limit our attacking options a little. Not solid enough though, as after a period of sustained pressure the Tigers took the lead.

Highlight of the day was the half-time Xmas draw for the 57 varieties of prizes, including such irresistible attractions as Gloucester City glove puppets and Gloucester City oven gloves. I'm still all of a quiver waiting to hear if I've won.

Once Frank Bennett was on, having three up front made us look much more dangerous. Finally Congrave crowned a promising debut by crossing for Malcolm to equalise with a free header from six yards. After that we were much the better team and unfortunate not to win in the end. It just shows what a little bit of confidence can do.

28 DECEMBER 1991 (AM)

## WEALDSTONE SUPPORTERS & HALESOWEN SUPPORTERS 2

SUPPORTERS: Koz; Pete, Scouser, Westy, Kev; Trev, Paul, Poll, PM; Clive, Frank; SUBS: Tim, Steve

Fed up with too much food, booze and TV, the "Jolly Boys" (our world famous footy team) set off to Wealdstone for a day of football and socialising - such hardship.

Our eighteen strong party left Halesowen at 7.30, at that time eager and confident of a positive result; we'd drawn three-all with them earlier in the season. This soon evaporated as after only 15 minutes we found ourselves 3-0 down. Determined to put this minor set back behind us, we decided to step up a gear from 'reverse into neutral'.

Finally some good football (1st team take note!) paid off resulting in a 25 yard screamer from attacking fullback Pete 'Joinson' Johnson. Unfortunately we relaxed again and Wealdstone punished us again just before half time to make it 4-1.

We had several chances early in the second half; yours truly clipped the bar with a Gazza-type free kick and had a goal disallowed from a free kick inside the area after Frank had been thrown to the floor by a clumsy defender (one of many dubious refereeing decisions). Frank's new boots eventually scored, but our three man defence (Scouser had gone walkabout on the left wing) tired and we let in four late goals to end up 8-2 losers - Mike Kane scoring 5 for them. However, everything was soon forgotten in the bar as we tackled the Wealdstone lads in our second favourite sport of alcohol-consumption.

Thanks to Halesowen Town FC for the use of the kit and to the Wealdstone supporters who played the game in the right spirit - but can you keep it a bit simpler next time so we can join in ??

Paul



"Jolly Boys" getting the closest they managed to the goal for the next 90 mins.

28 DECEMBER 1991 PM

WEALDSTONE 2 HALESOWEN 1  
Bradley

TOWN: Williams; Abell, Vowles, Smith, Cooper; Hemans,  
Hazlewood, Bettles, Shilvock; Harrison, Congrave  
SUBS: Bennett, Bradley

How do they put up with this every week? Despite having one of their best crowds of the season, with the Yeltz supporters in fine voice ("We sing better than we play"), Vicarage Road was as atmospheric as a morgue on Christmas Day. Wealdstone have bought a part share of Watford's ground in a deal lasting 127 years so they're stuck playing in a near-empty stadium for evermore.

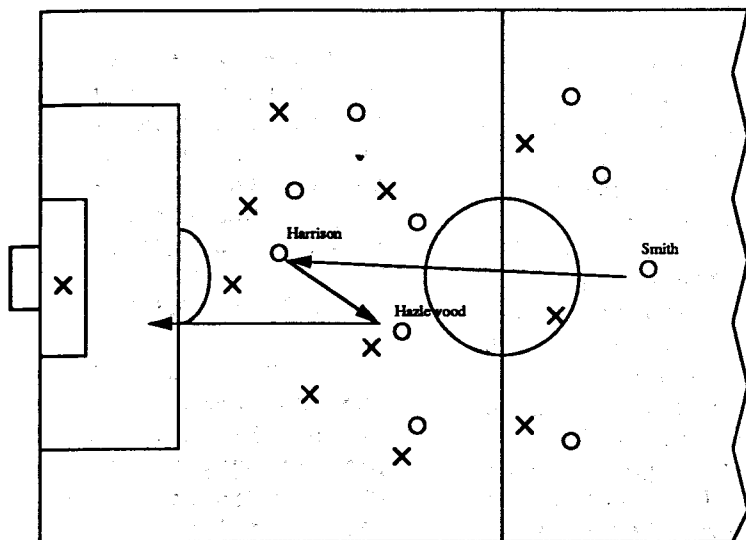
That said, it was quite a fun day out for us, what with the novelty of playing a game in a Football League ground. Unfortunately, there was nothing new about our performance as we went down to yet another defeat to a team we should be able to beat.

We started off brightly enough; playing on a good surface (compared to the Grove) helped us play some nice football and we could have had a couple early on. Despite having Bettles in 'midfield' again - I can't understand that at all - we still looked vulnerable at the back whenever they ran at us with the ball.

After two Wealdstone goals early in the second-half the game looked dead, but after that we were all over them. Malcolm was everywhere from sweeper to centre-forward; the subs came on and Andy Bradley scored a screamer from 30 yards following a corner. It was too late though and our dive down the league continued.

# Up, Back and a Goalkick

Here's the first in a series of tips from Halesowen's Assistant Manager and master tactician. Stuart admires his mate Don Howe's approach of getting the ball forward as quickly as possible. He reasons that you can only score if you're near your opponent's goal so you should put the ball into the danger area as soon as you can. If Stuart has his way, his "Up, Back & Through" manoeuvre will be a common sight down The Grove as we march back up the league.



## UP, BACK AND THROUGH - THE STUART HALL WAY

Smith knocks it early  
UP to Harrison; he lays  
it BACK to Hazlewood  
who then plays it  
THROUGH to someone  
running through from  
midfield.

Simple when you know how! OK so we haven't had the best of results since Stuart joined us earlier in the season, but obviously this is due to a host of other factors. Any team that can beat Gravesend 8-1 must be a force to be reckoned with. It's only a matter of time before Stuart sorts the tactics out and we can look forward to another victory.

Don't miss next month's issue for more tips to improve your game, and to let you appreciate what's really happening on the pitch when Halesowen are playing.

# **WELSH RULES, OK ?**

I groundhopped to Kidderminster recently to see their Welsh cup replay with Swansea. In a good game Swansea deservedly won 3-1 with John Williams, their purchase from Cradley, outstanding.

## **HOW WAS**

I entered the ground to hear the Kiddy P.A. man giving his usual string of information to the supporters. I rate this man. He's jovial, interesting and always positive; The man whose wife was giving birth was told that if he was in the ground he shouldn't be etc, when Kiddy scored he didn't just say, "The Kidderminster goal scorer was Peter Howells," no it was Kidderminster's first goal was.....

## **THE BLIND**

On this night his main theme was that the game was being played under Welsh F.A. rules. Apparently their offside rule says that you can't be offside if the ball has been played from your own half unless it's from a

free kick. The announcers pointed out that if anyone felt like shouting at the officials (not that Kiddy supporters do that, of course [tongue in cheek] then they should remember this Welsh F.A. rule.

## **CARPENTER**

I assume that the rule was meant to open the game out so that defences pushing up would not confine the majority of play to the boring middle third of the pitch.

## **ABLE TO SEE ??**

To an extent this is what happened. Certainly two of the goals came from players who, under normal rules would have been yards offside.

## **HE PICKED**

It was interesting how the rule effected the tactics of the teams. Swansea left Williams upfield all the time and basically thumped the ball down to him if they won it in their half or played it out wide and tried to reach the goal line if

they won it in Kiddy's half. Kiddy, however, started trying to play neat, passing football through their mid field. This they did very well until the edge of the box where they were constantly thwarted and the ball was then walloped down towards Williams again. Unfortunately, they learnt from Swansea and early in the second half, when Kiddy were 3-0 down, Howells came on as sub and successfully played the Williams game.

#### UP HIS

The result of this rule had two effects on the game :-

1) it did open the game out and doubled the number of goals  
BUT

2) it lured the teams (especially Kidderminster) into playing the long ball instead of the passing

game. Therefore the standard of play was in my opinion lowered.

#### HAMMER

As for football teams playing to differing sets of rules, as Mr Kiddy P.A. said, "Don't shout at the ref. 'cos the player won't be offside tonight - next Saturday he will, but not tonight. Confused?"

#### AND SAW

I must admit I'm for any experimentation with the rules that will lead to better football (passing, dribbling etc), more goalmouth incident and more goals whilst still retaining the nature of the game. In the long run I'm not sure that this particular experiment will do that.

JR

Richard Sharp is completing a final year project on "The Rise and Fall of Football Hooliganism". Anyone with anything that might prove useful can contact him at : 16 Gascoyne Place, Lipson, Plymouth.

# Nostalgia - It Still Ain't What It Used To Be !

My mates used to laugh at me for being a fan of Gordon Field. What they saw was an uncultured left back who was just as likely to slice the ball and his winger out of play as he was to make a positive contribution.

## FIELD

What I saw was much more than that.

Gordy was short with brushed back, light hair receding at the temples and a brow furrowed by determination. His sleeves were rolled up to expose his knobbly elbows that pumped like pistons as he ran and the back of his shorts and shirt were always muddy due to his sliding tackles. A football cartoonist of the early sixties would certainly have drawn him as a typical full-back of the age.

## MEADOW

For me the intensity of his play was phenomenal, Gordy simply never gave up.

He tackled like a bulldog and flew into sliding tackles with particular venom. Very few wingers consistently got past him, and when they did he often got back at them before they could do much damage.

## PASTURE

Despite his rugged game and sometimes mistimed tackles he was a great sportsman. He didn't pull shirts, 'trash' opponents, trip from behind or argue with referees.

## MOOR

Gordon has two sons playing for the Lye at the moment. He was to be seen down the Grove a year or so ago watching Steve, a youngster given the rather unfair task of following in Dean Spink's footsteps.

## HEATH

If we are partly products of our early experiences then I'm glad that I didn't miss the sporting virtues that Gordy had to offer.

# ***IT'S TWELVE INCHES HIGH...***

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