

# FOLLOW YOUR INSTINCT



A HALESOWEN TOWN FANZINE



EXCLUSIVE !!

INSIDE THE  
SECRET TRAINING  
METHODS OF OUR  
VERY OWN TOP  
COACH -  
STUART HALL.

ISSUE 13

PRICE: TEN BOB TO YOU

JAN/FEB



# *Follow Your Instinct*



15, GASCOYNE PLACE, GREENBANK, PLYMOUTH PL4 8DF

2 CAMBURY COURT, KINGS HEDGES ROAD, CAMBRIDGE CB4 2QG

## MIDFIELD GENERALS :-

Frank and Poll

## TRICKY WINGER :-

Argus Ada

## COACH :-

Alison

## DEFENSIVE WALL :-

Kevin Harrison's Barber, Westy, Magnus McLain,  
Cyril Waterman, PM, Paul Chappell, The One Armed Bandit, J.R.,

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

So you thought we'd gone away and crawled back under whichever stone we came out from, eh ?? You should be so lucky !! We would like to apologise for the delay, though but, as we stated in the last issue, we will struggle to bring this literary masterpiece to you with quite the same regularity as before unless we receive more contributions, due to us having extra commitments here at FYI mansions this season. So if you feel the urge to write something for us - don't fight it !!



In terms of the league this season, things have gone from good to brilliant. Despite the results so far from 1994 at least we were top on 1st January. Whether we'll be top in May is anyone's guess. The league is as close as any I can remember in recent years with six or seven teams all in with a chance and not a lot to choose between them. The standards in the league in general seem to have narrowed this season with teams from the bottom regularly beating those from the top. Over Christmas Farnborough lost 5-0 to Bashley and we lost 1-0 at home to Moor Green (ok, so we were terrible in the first half, but it does show the point).

At least up until Christmas we were showing the consistency in the league, which seemed to have eluded us in previous seasons. The Farnborough result last weekend, as well as being disappointing, could prove crucial at the end of the season. Perhaps we showed a little bit of naivety towards the end by pushing forward for the extra goal. With the games in hand we have and the away fixture to come a draw would have suited us much better than them. Still, they've always been a bogey team for us, and we'll just have to stuff them at their place !!

On the cup side of things we're experiencing some very unusual sensations here at FYI Mansions. To be writing looking forward to a Trophy game in January is unheard of in these parts (unless it is looking forward to next seasons competition). Let's face it writing looking forward to a Trophy game in November is unusual !!

The game against Gateshead should be good, whatever, if only for the novelty of still being involved at this stage !! Looking at it realistically we've got an excellent chance, especially down The Grove and, if we are to get promotion in the near future, they are the sort of team we will have to beat at home to ensure we survive or prosper at the higher level.

The squad Johnny Morris has assembled down The Grove is one of the most exciting ones we've ever had, so the potential is there for greater things. Malcolm has been having one of his best seasons for us and Chris Jones has been a revelation at the back. With new signings Henry, Wright and Simon Robinson looking full of promise there is a marked air of confidence in the future permeating FYI Mansions at the present time. It will probably all come crashing down around our ears in the next few weeks, and you can say we told you so, (or we'll have 350 points deducted for fielding two players with blonde hair by the Worcester FA and be demoted to the Huntingtree Under 11's League), but we may as well enjoy it while it's here.

The greatest pleasure this season has been in the way the team have performed when the conditions are against us. We've become quite used to being near the top of the league sround August and September, but as soon as the rains come and the pitches start cutting up we usually begin a corresponding slide down the table.



This season things have been different which has also resulted in us getting the edge in closer games. Whereas in previous years we were forever drawing or losing games which we had dominated and should have won, now we're getting the points in games in which we have not played that well.

So, there you have it. All we have to do is win all the rest of our matches whether we deserve to or not, and everybody else loses all theirs, and we've won the league and the Trophy. I always said football was a simple game !

### CONTRIBUTIONS

Want to see your name in print so that you can impress all your mates ?? Well, send us your thoughts on any footballing topic, we'll print it, and your life may never be the same again !!

We are also now available from :-

Sportspages, Barton Sq., St. Annes Sq., Manchester  
Sportspages, Charing Cross Rd., London  
Strathclyde Programme Shop, Glasgow  
Wagon and Horses, Stourbridge Rd., Halesowen  
King Edward, Stourbridge Rd., Halesowen  
Behind the bar in the clubhouse

### BACK ISSUES

All 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.

# A Letter To Ed.

Dear Eds.

Regarding the officials that have been allocated to our matches recently - do the Southern League ever vet the referees and linesmen ?? I believe half of them would not pass a simple eye test and there has been a lack of consistency and too many "Home Team" decisions. In particular games at Dorchester and Cheltenham last season and Telford in the FA Cup this season have been spoilt by quite appalling refereeing. This makes winning away from home very difficult in the Beazer Premier.

Yours  
The Doc.

Dear Ed.,

I was unable to attend the Staffs Senior Cup match in September between our two clubs because I had to attend to travel arrangements for our supporter for the match at Alvechurch.

I noted from the local press report that our official D. Beasley was booked by the referee. As he has a multi-functional role in the club - Chairman, Manager, Press Officer, Commercial Manager etc. - does this mean that the disciplinary points relating to this incident are multiplied by the number of roles he has within the club ?? If this is so, would he not have incurred enough points to be suspended for the remainder of the season ??

I would appreciate your thoughts,  
Miss Deb. Easley  
Supporter Transport Coordinator  
Halesowen Harriers

Dear Ed.,

I thought I should mention our reserves who are once again having a good season in the Skol Mid Comb. under Les Randle. Just one thing puzzles me - why do they never draw a Scottish side in the League Cup ??



Dear Editors,

You've previously highlighted the showbiz backgrounds of your management team of Johnny Morris & Stuart Hall, but you've managed to keep quiet the comedy careers of some of your players.

I've always said your defence is a bit of a joke, but it's not surprising when you play Smith & Jones as centre backs, along with 'Victoria' Wood and 'Jim' Bowen. Golly, I bet there are some humorous quips in the dressing room when those lads are around.

Yours informedly  
Nigel Dempster

Fellow Supporters,

Although I am as pleased as everyone else with our good run at the start of the season, I would like to remind you all that we're not as safe from relegation as you might think.

As I write we only have 36 points from 19 games; if you look back at last year's table 36 pts would have left us in the bottom three at the end of the season. Also we're only 21 points above bottom-placed Waterlooville, but they do have 4 games in hand.

We're not safe yet!  
Relegation Pete

Dear Sirs,

At away matches this season I have noticed a group of youthful supporters who stand behind the goal and actually cheer on the side. They sing Johnny Morris's blue and white army, barrack the opposition goalkeeper and generally encourage the team.

I know there is always a rebellious nature in young people but this sort of supportive behaviour is outrageous and totally against the custom and practices of the decent Halesowen supporter.

Come on you lads - be critical, abuse the manager, pick a player to victimise, always look on the dark side. Get back to the traditional cynicism of a seasoned Town supporter. In short - grow up !!

Yours Sincerely  
E. M. Thick

Dear FYI,

One of my best friends is getting married in May. May 21st 3.00pm. FA Trophy Final day. Over the past few seasons this certainly wouldn't have been a problem - but this year? After sneaking a couple of one goal away wins I've got a feeling that we may go all the way - and then what would I do ??

I won't be able to enjoy any Trophy game if I'm undecided about the final, so should I hope for a glorious defeat in an earlier round (4-3 at Kiddy ??) allowing us to concentrate on winning the league? Maybe I should pray for a clear run to Wembley, a draw after extra time and a replay when the honeymooners are safely on their way? Should I explain the situation to my friend (i.e. we're 6 games from Wembley and bound to win them all !!) and suggest that the next time he gets married on Trophy Final day I'll be at the wedding. Or should I cheer on the lads and graciously accept that I can't be there to share the glory of victory - no that's stupid if I can't be there nor can anyone else - it wouldn't be fair !!

I'd welcome any suggestions but probably the likeliest scenario is that after grappling with my conscience and coming to a decision ..... we lose to Gateshead - anyway I've been fitted for my suit now.

yours etc.,

Argus Ada.

PS: If you see a confused looking chap at Wembley in May wearing a top hat and monkey suit - it'll be me.



## FAX NOT FICTION

- Have you spent the New Year worrying about relegation?
- Do you find it difficult to say anything nice when you're watching a footy game?
- Or are you just a miserable old buffer who wants to cure himself of his addiction to moaning?

Then what you need is the new 'Ceefax-o-chuckle'© from FYI. Just follow the instructions and you'll soon be saying all kinds of positive things you never dreamt you could.

HOLD CEEFAX 358 Thur 2 Dec 11:03:21  
December 1 BEAZER HOMES PREMIER 1/6

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Halesowen	16	9	3	4	28	18	30
2	Sittingbourne	14	8	5	1	21	10	29
3	Farnborough	15	8	2	5	19	13	26
4	Gloucester	18	7	4	7	22	22	25
5	Crawley	12	7	3	2	19	11	24
6	Cheltenham	14	6	5	3	28	16	23
7	Cambridge	12	7	2	3	17	11	23
8	Trowbridge	15	6	5	4	21	17	23
9	Hednesford	16	7	2	7	32	29	23
10	Atherstone	15	5	4	6	21	22	19
11	Chelmsford	12	5	4	3	16	17	19

1) Photocopy the diagram above, expanding it to the exact dimensions of your TV screen.

2) Stick the photocopy - a reproduction of a classic Ceefax page - on the front of your TV.

3) Stare at it for the next hour, occasionally shouting things like "Yesss!", "Top of the league!" and "Maybe that Morris-bloke is doing all right, after all."

If that doesn't cure your moaning, nothing will.

## QUIZ ANSWERS

We had hundreds of entries to the quiz. Unfortunately, as nobody got everything correct the fabulous holiday for 4 to the World Cup 1994 goes unclaimed. Anyway, here are the correct answers :-

- 1) Most of you thought the answer to this was Johnny Morris. The correct answer was, of course, Field Marshall Montgomery.
- 2) Chris Jones's favourite club is, in fact, his nine iron.
- 3) Snapper is adjusting his jock-strap. Many answers to this were similar but totally unprintable.
- 4) Very few people got this one right. The answer is my Auntie Joan does but only on cold nights.
- 5) One or two of you guessed that this was a trick question and that the answer was the fat git in black. The most popular incorrect answer was Halesowen Harriers.
- 6) An easy one - blue and white with twenty-two legs.
- 7) The wide man ?? Answers here included Ian Brown, Henry Wright, Darren Marsh and Simon Robinson. The correct answer was Richard Massey, at least a 44" chest.
- 8) Balls.
- 9) Balls with hexagonal black spots.
- 10) An Anorak, flask of tea, plastic carrier bag and a copy of the British Rail timetable.

Our thanks go to JR for the considerable time and effort he spent sifting through the post from the sad individuals who decided to enter. Unfortunately as no-one won we'll just have to go ourselves.



## IT SURELY CAN'T BE

As an avid non-league football watcher I've seen my fair share of Bromsgrove, Kidderminster and Stourbridge over the years. I hasten to add that this has only happened when the Town have not been playing.

### DONKEY - OTI

What's the connection between these clubs ?? It's Chris Jones, of course. How this player has changed over the years - at Kiddy a kicker, at Bromsgrove a donkey and at Stourbridge a joke who should hang up his boots.

### ASS YOU LIKE IT

At least, that was my impression and perhaps that of most Town supporters. True, he had two magnificent games against us last season but we played badly didn't we ??

### MULE ON THE FLOSS

It was an interesting close season signing, I thought. Chris Jones - 35 years plus, never regarded

as a top player at any level, very unskillful, reckless in the tackle and only fair in the air. At least that was my impression.

### FALL OF THE HORSE OF USHER

Then who is this man who has organised Town's defence so magnificently this season, who's carried the ball forward spraying long passes or one touch football along the back line, who's timing in the tackle is spot on and who has dominated in the air ?? The same Chris Jones, it surely can't be !!

### BLEAK HORSE

Or is it perhaps that I'm a touch biased - my mate says I am. He thinks that my analysis of non-Town players is tinged with prejudice and a tribal like loyalty to Halesowen. And why not ?? Chris Jones - Great player !!

JR.





## STORY TIME

Now that those dark winter nights are drawing in so early and with the thought in our minds that many of you save your copies of FYI to mull over in the toilet (what you use it for afterwards we have no wish to know !!), we set our literary correspondent on a mission to investigate a tale of the weird and supernatural that was recently brought to our attention. Now read on... (Eds Warning - Not for those of a nervous disposition !!)

The sun had gone down and night was closing in. An eerie mist swept across the moor, swirling around the tors and enveloping the land in a smothering pillow of fog.

As I left the car to walk to the pub strange noises echoed around me. "Stand up, stand up, don't foul !!". Then there was a crunch which sounded suspiciously like a Snapper tackle.

"Box it, box it !" came next. Out of the mist a white ball appeared. A shadowy figure lunged passed me and headed the ball towards two standing stones. At least, I thought it was the ball, but there on the ground, writhing and twitching, was the shadowy figure and it was .....  
.....headless !!

Through the fog came a chorus of dreadful shrieks and hisses, "Didn't you see that, ref ?", "What game is he in ?", "Well, bloody 'ell !".

I rushed, screaming, into the pub faster than a Massey penalty.

There was a friendly warmth and comforting hubbub there, like the shed end on a wet day.

But as they noticed an intruder the patrons were silent and all slowly turned to icily stare at me. "Stourbridge supporters", was my first thought. "Can't be, there's too many of them."

They were an ugly assortment of all shapes and sizes. For a moment I

imagined myself at a Dartford training session. Now that would have been a real ghost story !!

I plucked up courage and strode to the bar. The barman was an old guy, tall, thin and gaunt, he looked a lot like Micky Touhy.

"Pint of Banks's, please", I stammered.

"It ain't no good Following Your Instinct here" replied the barman. "We bain't got no Banks's" (you'll have to imagine the Devon accent), "What be the matter with 'ee anyway ?"

"'Ee looks like 'e's just sat through the 1983 Vase Final, don't 'ee ??", chortled a tall, well built man with grey wavy hair and a blue Lucozade bag on his shoulder.

"I've just seen a headless footballer", I stammered.

"No lad", said the barman, "what you've just seen is an omen".

"An omen ?? Of what ??", I asked.

"Well", he said, "the shouting is obviously Malcolm Hazlewood geeing up the team, the criticism of the referee must be the Town directors."

"And the two stones ??", I enquired.

"The twin towers, of course".

"Of Wembley ??".

"Yes, of Wembley. It's the Trophy Final and the shadowy figure of theghost - Paul Joinson - nips in to score the winner".

"When will this be ???!", I cried excitedly.

"199...."

The barman faded away as my wife shook me awake.

The Trophy Final .....  
.....this year ???

Well....

JR.



Exclusively live from the fanzine that doesn't skirt around the important issues. FYI brings you the showdown that everyone's been waiting for:

### WHO'S THE BEST

## PELE

## OR

## MALCOLM



In the yellow and green corner, we have Brazil's finest and all-round good egg.

Real name:  
Edson + 3 others

Whilst in the blue corner, we have Halesowen's captain and genius incarnate.

Real name:  
Malcolm Hazlewood

SUCCESS	Pele appeared in three World Cup Finals ('58, '62 & '70), winning all three.	9	7	Malc appeared at Wembley three times ('83, '85 & '86), winning two out of three times.
SKILL	1970 World Cup - Brazil vs Czechs - Pele gets the ball on the halfway line, sees the keeper off his line and audaciously attempts to chip him. RESULT: Just wide	8	10	1993-94 BHL - Yeltz vs Bashley - Malcolm gets the ball on the halfway line, sees the keeper off his line and audaciously attempts to chip him. RESULT: Goalllllllll!
STREET-CRED	Pele is the only player who is well known in the USA.	0	4	Malcolm's going to Orlando for his hols this summer.
DISCIPLINE	Pele was so respected throughout the world of football that he often used to referee his own games as other teams knew he wouldn't cheat them.	10	7	Although Malcolm has been known to have the occasional brush with authority, it is rarely his fault - it's just everyone picks on him.
TOTAL	Although good in his day, Pele just wouldn't be able to cope with the speed of the modern game.	27	28	So it's proved beyond reasonable doubt: Malcolm is the best player who ever lived (around here anyway).

## HATS ALL FOLKS

I expect it was the same for you; there was something crucial missing something from my Xmas stocking this year. I was dead pleased with my Halesowen Town comb & case (£1.50), my Halesowen Town metal badge (£2.00) and my Halesowen Town mug (£3.00), but what I really wanted doesn't exist in the known universe - a Halesowen Town WOOLLY HAT.

### COME BACK ANGIE

For those of us who insist on standing down the Stourbridge road end when we're kicking that way, we're in desperate need of something to keep our bonces warm when it's persistently raining down. What would go better with the horrible orange & blue raining tops (£19.50) the less discerning supporters are wearing this year than a huge blue (no orange) teacosy-sized hat, Halesowen badge on the front and a lovely big bobble on top?

### CURLY'S STILL

Look at some of the rubbish you can get from the club shop - Halesowen Town baby's bibs (£1.50), useful perhaps for scoffing your post-match Balti after a few too many pints but not exactly the most stylish piece of terrace fashion. Or what about the personalised horse shoes (£8.00); the only use I can think of for these is for throwing at opposition defenders to underline any shouts of "donkey" you might be making towards them.

### MISSING YOU

But the most confusing item of all is the Halesowen Town boxed kit (£5.00). We've got absolutely no idea what this could be - at that price it isn't the obvious answer of a kit in a box - perhaps it's a DIY cheapo Blue Peter-style outfit made out of old cornflakes packets and stickyback plastic.

Everyone here at FYI Mansions said they jump at the chance of buying a woolly hat if one was brought out. So does anyone out here fancy knitting us some?

Jeff Banks



Prompted by the recent fanzine articles on the above subject relating to ex-Halesowen players I thought that it might be interesting to take a similar look at clubs that we have played against over the past 10 years.

How often do you leave after a good game of football only to hear comments such as "we used to score a lot more in the Banks's". True, we did score a lot more but let's see who we were playing against. During the 4 years which we won the Banks's 83-86 in our best 16 results - against teams like Ledbury, Armitage, GKN Sankey, Brereton etc. - we scored a total of 106 goals with 8 conceded. They may have been better results but can anyone say they were better games ??

The progress the team has made in the past years in comparison to others gives a good indication of how things have changed. Of those we played in the Banks's only Atherstone and Hednesford have made anything like the progress we have (*What about Gresley ? - Eds.*)

In the draw for the FA Cup 1st round 1986 we were drawn against Southend if we beat Oldbury in the

replay. The general feeling was "it would be nice but it will be hard to beat Oldbury away" - Now we would expect to clear that obstacle with few problems.

During the Vase runs we were always wary of getting Buckingham - where are they now ?? - Where they were then !! We thought we had no chance against Kings Lynn in the cup. We never even dreamed of league matches against Wealdstone or Fisher - after all they were in the Conference. Where are they now ?? Three of the best Vase matches were against Wisbech, Warrington and Southall - have you seen the progress they've made (even Fleetwood could fall into this category - and VS Rugby ?? -)

So without labouring the point while we may not be scoring 5 or 6 each week we are playing (and matching) teams that we would, a few years ago, have regarded as tough matches. So don't expect big wins - they don't happen at this level with the same regularity as in the Banks's. Colne Dynamos did it much quicker - Where are ..... ?? etc.

Magnus McClain.

## IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS WITH

With the success of the Halesowen Town School of Excellence and it's mini soccer scheme the FYI editorial team decided to investigate. We despatched our top ace reporter Clark Staffordshire to find out more about the training methods that have made these schemes so successful as well as taken Halesowen to the top of the league at the beginning of the New Year.

Below are detailed some of the more unusual training techniques Halesowen coach Stuart Hall has used to achieve this success.

1) For the initial warming up exercises the cross bar of the goal at the Old Hawne Lane end of the ground is liberally coated with Vaseline. Each player must then take it in turns to attempt to make his way from one end to the other. Difficult enough you might think. However, the remaining players then line up on the edge of the area and take shots to try and knock the player off the bar. This also is not as easy as it sounds as all players taking shots must be wearing size 78 Dr. Martens.

2) The players are then divided up into four teams, each of which elects a captain. This captain must then wear the costume shown on the right, and run from one end of the pitch to the other whilst negotiating a simple set of obstacles such as the opposing teams trying to knock them over by throwing wet sponges at them from the Harry Rudge Stand.





## STUART HALL

3) Following the discussion of tactics for the next match the most crucial part of the session takes place. For this part each of the four teams may play a joker entitling the winners of the five-a-sides to the first showers before all the hot water goes.



Above: Ace footy coach  
Stuart Hall

This is by no means a typical game of five-a-side, however. The bibs the players wear are not the normal style but consist of attached head pieces on a rather large scale. These headpieces completely obstruct any form of vision and so each team designates a non-playing coach. This coach is given a loudhailer with which to instruct his team on the direction to move, pass or shoot.



Above: The headwear from  
the five-a-side  
bibs.

Some of these ideas may well be striking a few of you as unorthodox, to say the least. However, there can be no denying that they certainly get results.

Whilst they were briefly fashionable here during the 1970's, reports have reached us that they are still enjoying considerable popularity on the continent. Perhaps the next England manager should bear this in mind.

Clark Staffordshire.

# AWAY DAZE

16 OCTOBER 1993

FA TROPHY 2ND QUALIFYING ROUND

STOURBRIDGE 0 HALESOWEN 1

Abell

		Rowe		
Abell	Jones	Wood	Bowen	
Bradley	Snape	Hazlewood	Patrick	
	Massey	Jónson		
		SUBS: Smith, Richards		

The last time it happened was when Sean curled it around the keeper against Tranmere. Before this, it was when Lee scored the second one against Fleetwood - the one when Paul flicked it on with this head.

Eastern religions talk of moments of enlightenment when senses are heightened and your experience of reality slows down. When the ball left Shane's foot from the edge of the area, it seemed to take ages for the ball to get there, but you just knew it was going in the top corner. Whether a goal against Stourbridge counts as a religious experience is difficult to say but I know one thing for certain - it was bloody magic!!

The rest of the game had nothing to compare to the goal. The first half especially was very scrappy, with Stourbridge playing a sort of sub-Wimbledon style of knocking everything long over our full-backs but then not bothering to chase it. We always looked the better team but didn't create many chances despite our clear superiority. Still justice was done, and even if it wasn't so what; it's always right for us to beat Stourbridge.

PS The ground's still rubbish.

The Buddha of Halesowen



27 OCTOBER 1993

FA TROPHY 3RD QUALIFYING ROUND

BURTON 1 HALESOWEN 2

Brown  
Wright

Rowe

Bradley Jones Wood Bowen  
Snape Massey Hazlewood Brown  
Wright Joinson

SUBS: Owen Marsh

I know I'm going to regret writing this, but I've got the strangest feeling that this is going to be our year. Once again we didn't play that well, but just when we needed it we snatched a late winner.

We spent most of the first half watching the game from the chip queue, since they had the smallest fryer in the known universe. We were generally on top, but then Tony gifted them a "goal" with an impressive Brucie impersonation (Grobellar, not Forsyth).

Bradder rolled a backpass towards him, but Tony took an almighty swing at the ball and completely missed it. Although everybody and his mother saw that he got back and kept it from going over the line, the linesman decided from his perfect vantage point of near the halfway line it was a goal. Several bookings later we finally restarted the game, and equalised right on half-time when Brownie towered above their defence to head in the equaliser, leaving the scores on the doors 1-1.

From then on we were all over them without really looking like scoring. Then finally (ooh aah) Henry Wright found himself right through and smacked it in the corner. We may have been the little worse for wear after a hard day's travelling via the pubs of Burton, but we managed to celebrate in the victory in the time-honoured fashion, and worked out who we fancied in the next round.

8 JANUARY 1994

BIRMINGHAM SENIOR CUP

ASTON VILLA 2 HALESOWEN 0

TOWN:

Rowe  
Bradley Jones Wood Owen  
Marsh Snape Massey Brown  
Wright Joinson

SUBS: Bettles Harrison

I hate League clubs - there's no fun in their football. The highlight of my trip to Bodymoor Heath for this rapidly rearranged BSC tie was counting the number of company cars - 8 - and Villa minibuses - 4 - while waiting for Dave Sexton to break into a smile at one of my jokes.

The game itself was very poor - the Villa lads were quick and fit but their basic skills were very limited, while the Town decided that if Villa couldn't make passes then neither should we. The first half was enlivened only by the referee "sending off" 23 sundry HTFC officials and supporters for shouting behind the goal, and by Dave Sexton moving halfway round the pitch to escape two loud-mouthed yobs (me and Westy !!).

The second half consisted of two clinically taken Villa goals, a hand ball on the line by the Villa full-back resulting in his dismissal, and ultimately a penalty missed by Jason Owen, the return of Kevin Harrison (who looked very sharp - and I'm not talking about his haircut) and Henry Wright giving everyone the fright of their lives after a clash with their centre half.

The rest of the match rather passed me by - but who wants to go to Hednesford anyway ??

FINAL PREDICTABLE THOUGHT - How do Villa get 40,000 on here??

ARGUS ADA.



# quit rumours over town chairman

by  
Neil  
Moxley

Headline in the "Halesowen News" 30/12/93 shamelessly trying to cash in on the interest in the Town. Quite scary really isn't it, until you realise that it refers to Brierley Hill Town. Who ??

---

## NICK HALLING

---

Southampton .....	3
Chelsea .....	1

---

Paul Allen's probing runs were causing chaos in Chelsea's defence, and it was his cross from the byline that enabled Iain Dowie to claim his first goal since August after 66 minutes. It was no surprise when the substitute, Frankie Bennett, hit Southampton's third goal. Six months ago Bennett was playing non-League football with Halesowen Town, earning his living as a wine waiter. His pace and touch suggests a player of genuine potential.

His pace is nothing new to us, but his touch ???!

It's good to see Frankie doing well at Southampton anyway. Is there something about our ex-players that they feel the need to score spectacular goals on a Boxing Day ??

## PM's Question Time

Will this one pass through the editors desk ?? Now is the time to forget the club's differences with the Worcs. FA and re-enter the Worcs. Senior Cup. I hope to make a good case for our return to such, in place of the Staffs. Senior Cup.

If we cast our minds back to the fateful semi-final vs Sutton Coldfield then who is responsible for the error in Mr Steadman being selected ?? We can argue all night over that one without reaching an agreeable conclusion. Suffice to say the club broke the rules and were punished for it - rather harshly in my view. The Worcs. FA shot themselves in the foot and cost themselves several thousand pounds by destroying what would have been a very lucrative final in Bromsgrove's promotion season.

It was then decided that the club would no longer participate in the Worcs Senior Cup, and gone were the days of keen competition against the likes of Kidderminster and Bromsgrove. In its place we still have the delights

of the Staffs. Senior Cup and the prospect of night matches at Congleton, Macclesfield and Newcastle-under-Lyme, with the relevant 3/4 hour round trips on traffic choked motorways.

The Worcs. Senior Cup involves 10 clubs including Kidderminster, Bromsgrove, Moor Green and Stourbridge.

The Staffs. Senior Cup - 32 clubs - including Armitage, Chasetown, Hednesford, Rushall, Stoke City, Stafford, Tamworth, Pelsall, Knypersley, Rocester, Port Vale and Leek Town.

All clubs in the former competition are to my reckoning within a 40 mile radius and easily accessible by road (within 1 hours journey comfortably), so providing an attractive evening trip for supporters. Judging from this seasons away form this appears to be our limit as far as actually gaining a victory is concerned !! Apart from a handful of clubs that overlap the competitions and another handful of lower league clubs within the region most away journeys would necessitate



a trip north into Staffordshire. This can be a nightmare for supporters, and must put many (myself included) off from travelling. The same must work in reverse too with little evidence of away support at the Grove in this competition. There must also be the same problem with the players.

If they have done a days work then got held up in traffic and arrive late for the match then we can not expect them to perform at their best during the game. The problem would be almost eliminated (as I'm sure it was never evident) in the Worcs. Senior Cup.

On the revenue front I feel that all Worcs. Senior Cup matches would be more attractive both home and away, and also incur less travel costs to both club and supporters. If the argument of ties against two league clubs is used then how do Stoke and Port Vale compare with Kidderminster and Bromsgrove. I certainly know which I'd find more attractive at The Grove for a midweek game.

If we are to gain promotion to the Conference then we must look to minimise our fixtures as Graham Allner has decided his Kidderminster team must do in their quest for the Football League. The Worcs. Senior Cup would supply us with hopefully two rounds and a two-legged final after the season ends, whereas the Staffs Senior Cup involves four rounds and a two-legged final when convenient. It may therefore be in the club's interest to save it's resources on the playing front for better things to come.

I could ramble on but space does not permit. I hope the club will review the decision and reconsider. I have nothing against the Staffs. senior Cup but feel that when it comes down to choosing two senior cups to enter we must stay true to our traditions and go for the Worcs. and B'ham Senior Cups every time.

Bury the hatchet please and see sense. It may well be for the long term good of the club.

PM.

## WESTY'S WAFFLINGS

We all know how disappointing the sign "MATCH POSTPONED" on the Stourbridge Road gates is, particularly over the festive period when we all like to escape the turkey, tinsel and James Bond. For the groundsman and his band of merry men the feeling must be 10-fold, in view of the work undertaken in the previous hours or days.

### UNDERSOIL HEATING

A visit to the Grove on New Years Eve would have opened many eyes to the effort that goes into the club prior to a kick-off. The hard work of the Directors and a hardy band of individuals can be nothing but admired, bearing in mind that H.T.F.C. do not, as yet, possess the high tech, mega expensive gadgets for ground care. So many times one hears the moans of usual critics, but the same moaners do not realise the work put into preparing for the match.

### IS CRAP

In order to ensure that the Moor Green fixture went ahead many of those previously mentioned were seen with a wide variety of implements from rollers to garden forks working busily on the pitch. Somehow, I cannot see other Midland's football clubs chairmen and directors e.g. Deadly Doug, David Sullivan, Trevor Summers going to such heartfelt efforts on New Year's Eve to ensure their respective clubs fixtures kick-off.

### IF IT RAINS !!

Needless to say, some of you will be muttering "The way they played against Moor Green they shouldn't have bloody bothered" but, for those who enjoy their football on a Saturday, please remember the heroes don't all run out at 2.50pm !!

WESTY.



## Ter-race Issue

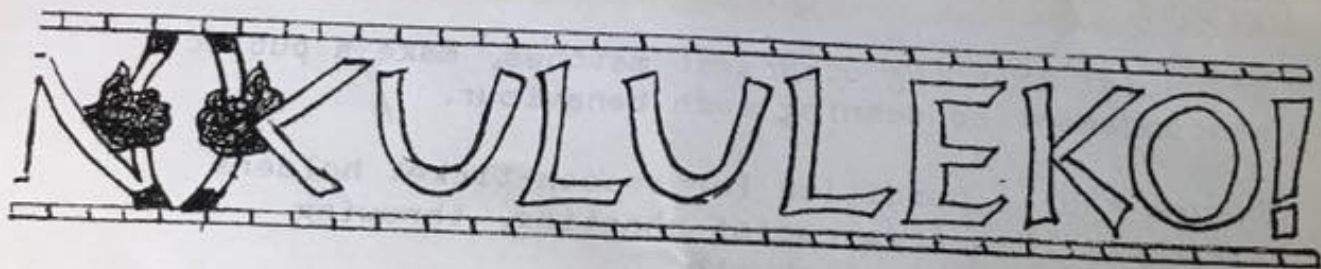
Following on from last issue's announcement of the "Let's Kick Racism Out Of Football" campaign, an action plan for football clubs has now been drawn up. Listed below are the points that the Commission for Racial Equality, with backing from the FA, wish clubs to correspond to: -

- 1) Adopt a policy statement outlining the club's opposition to racism, and the actions it will take on supporters who shout indecent or racist chanting (as outlined by the Football Offences Act 1991). This should be included in match programmes and displayed permanently in a prominent part of the ground.
- 2) If racist chanting occurs at matches, make a public announcement condemning such behaviour.
- 3) Ensure that a condition for season-ticket holders prohibits them from racist chanting, throwing missiles onto the pitch etc.
- 4) Take action to prevent the sale or distribution of racist literature in and around the grounds on match days.
- 5) Take disciplinary action against any players who racially abuse players during matches.
- 6) Liase with supporters clubs to make the club's opposition to racism clear.
- 7) Ensure that stewards and police have a strategy for working together to eject supporters (or to take appropriate action with those) who are contravening the Football Offences Act. If, in the case of individuals who are behaving in a racist or otherwise anti-social way, it would seem dangerous or inappropriate to take action against them during the

match, that those individuals be identified and barred from all further matches.

- 8) Remove all racist graffiti from the grounds as a matter of urgency.
- 9) Adopt an equal opportunities policy in the areas of employment and service provision.

Whilst some of the above points obviously have little relevance to a club of Halesowen's size some interesting aspects arise. Perhaps the club ought to look into the possibility of involving itself in some, where and when this is possible. Food for thought .....



We have also received an appeal from Nkululeko/Freedom from South Africa. They are desperately trying to raise funds and awareness for 21 prisoners still being held. They have obtained donations from many groups within football but would appreciate any donations towards sports and football equipment anyone feels that they are able to make.

Please send any cheques, postal orders etc., to the London address on the next page.



## **South African ANC Political Prisoners Sports Equipment Appeal**

Last May, 21 ANC political prisoners in Leeuwkop maximum security prison in Johannesburg went on hunger strike for 14 days to protest at the lack of progress in winning an amnesty for them. Because of the hunger strike, and subsequent campaign, some prisoners have now been given release dates. The Professional Footballers' Association made a donation to the campaign.

The "crimes" these prisoners were convicted for were either committed in the struggle to bring down apartheid, or in defence of their communities from armed attacks. We are now continuing the campaign for an amnesty for all of them.

The prison conditions they face are very harsh. However, they are allowed to receive gifts, including football equipment and videos. Football is the number one sport for black South Africans. We are therefore asking football supporters in Britain for donations to a fund to buy football and other sports equipment and videos for these prisoners.

Please send donations to: Nkululeko/Freedom, P.O.Box 524, London E9 5QX (Make cheques payable to Nkululeko/Freedom).

A cheap football in South Africa costs £7, so every donation, however large or small, will be gratefully received.

Thank you for your support

**Sharon Ekambaram**  
Secretary, Leeuwkop Political Prisoners Support Committee

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

**FOLLOW YOUR  
INSTINCT**



**ABSIT INVIDIA**

**FYL**  
**in the Area!!**