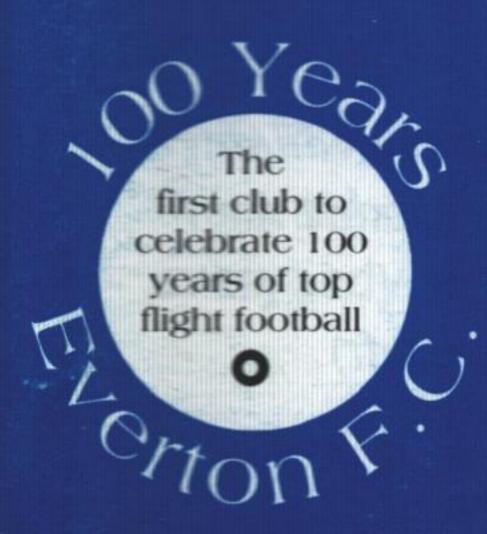
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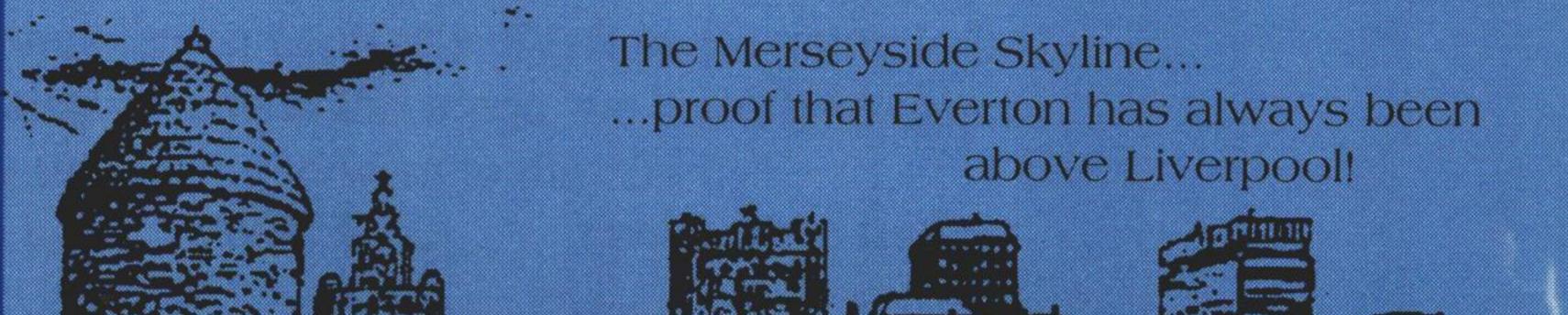
A Historical Everton Fanzine

VOL 2, Issue 11

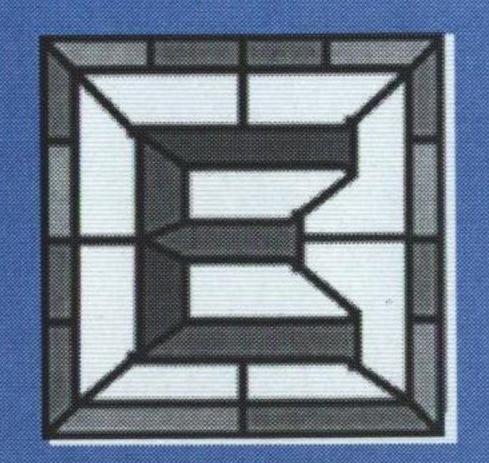
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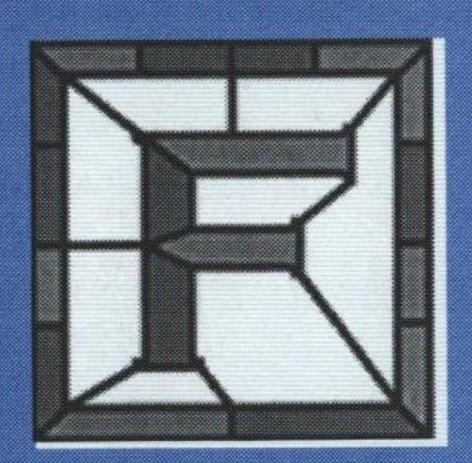


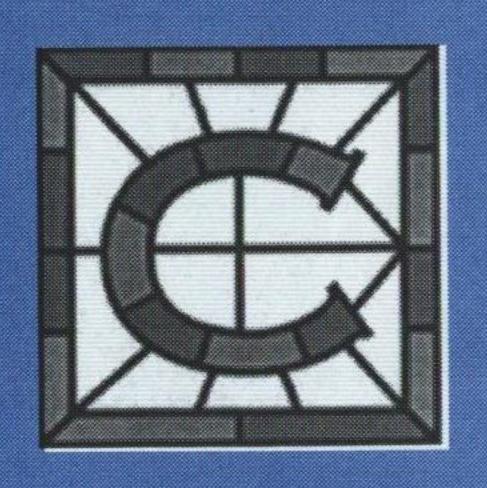
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Editorial - Blue Blood







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Thank you for all the articles and e-mails, keep up the good work. For those of you who are interested, on Friday nights between 8 & 8.30pm I do a small spot on Radio Merseyside 95.8FM, it's called Blue Watch and is all about E.F.C..

No obstructed Views

As long as your item is not racist, violent or offensive it will be considered for publication. All the views expressed in this fanzine are those of the contributor and not the editor so please don't sue me.

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Please make all cheques payable to George Orr.

The first news is, I have changed address, so please note the new one on page 2. Things are on the up at Goodison Park, Moyes has got the players fit and raring to go. These same players were always on "The Sick" over the last couple of seasons, so it's good to see so many playing week in week out.

Even though Moyes has done unbelievably well, we should not be blinded by the light, he does have faults, for me his substitutions are too few, too late. At Spurs Stubbs should have been taken off, roaming around in a daze, with blood streaming from his nose, it was there for all to see, he was left on and it cost us the game.

Shrewsbury was a disgrace, the worst defeat in our F. A. Cup history, no lower placed club has ever put us out of the Cup.

He also is in charge of a team that seems to lose concentration in the last ten minutes of a game, Man U, Villa, Spurs, and Charlton. All those games were thrown away, and even at home to poor teams like Bolton, Man City and Sunderland, we have found it difficult to impose our superiority over them.

But for all of those faults we are a far better team than the one from the previous four seasons. Moyes stands on the touchline, unlike Walter, who spent the first 70 minutes of a game sitting in the stands with his hands on his chin, looking totally disinterested in the game. Moyes shouts, screams and praises from the line, his instructions are clear, not like the stupid hand signals that Archie used to employ, the look on the players faces when he did those signals says it all. They were baffled by him, they didn't understand, there is no such communication breakdown with Moyes. They listen to him, look over towards the line and act on what he says. We have a great chance of qualifying for Europe, the players must get some faith in their own ability, then in one match soon, a team playing against Everton are going to get one hell of a hiding.

The Media are still treating us a "The Surprise Package" of the Premiership, let them, they are fickle and have no feelings for football or fans, their only aim is to make money and to be with the clubs at the top everyone else are "Put Up With" Everton have come a long way in a short time, we must not be too upset if we miss out on Europe this time.

The future looks bright, the football is better and the crowds are flocking back to Goodison Park, and there is no finer place to be on this planet than inside a full Goodison Park for a matchday.

With Wayne & Tony signing contracts, Everton are going to be the Club to watch, there are others also waiting in the wings, we know who they are and soon so will everybody else. I am looking forward to the "Derby"

Blue Blood

NINE DAYS THAT SHAPED EVERTON FOOTBALL CLUB.

By. SMART ARRIDGE.

We at Everton are in the middle of our most important set of monthly anniversaries in the whole history of the club.

Between January 17th and January 25th, THE most momentous occasions have occurred!

For once, everyone reading this article will recall at least one of the occasions that will be celebrated throughout the future history of our magnificent club.

That occasion is the commitment to Everton of Wayne Rooney.

Wayne signed his first professional contract with the club on the 17th January 2003.

Thus putting the minds at rest of every Everton fan who has seen him play. It has been a long wait since he turned 17 years old last October - when he was supposed to have signed - until he actually put pen to paper in January, committing until the end of the 2005/06 season.

Despite reported interest from Real Madrid, Inter Milan, and a whole host of other clubs. Plus the distraction of switching management agents. Wayne showed that he is a true blue at heart by making his 'boyhood' dream a reality, signing for the maximum length of time allowed under FA rules for a 17 year old.

This occasion will be remembered by all Evertonians, and will be written large in the history of the club - Wayne has a long way to go yet, but his talent has already been shown in the 9 outings so far made. Couple this with the fact that he is 'Everton's youngest ever goalscorer' and his potential to break even more Everton records, then this will indeed become a momentous date in Everton history. The next date on the calendar is 18th January, and it too, is anniversary to more Everton history.

Not only is it the date of our biggest ever win..... 11-2 v Derby in the FA cup in 1890, but is the date two of our best strikers were born.

One is a Legend from the 70's - Bob Latchford, and the other is a fleeting star of the 90's - Peter Beardsley.

Bob was top scorer for five seasons (in all competitions) for the Toffees and was a Legend almost from the day he signed. Whereas, Peter was top scorer in one of the two seasons he spent with us in the early 90's.

However, the MOST important anniversary on this date is of the occasion that has written itself into folklore at Everton. It is the day our destiny changed in 1984!a bad back pass by Kevin Brock, intercepted and slotted home by Adrian Heath for an equalizer, and Everton's eighteen-year wait for success had begun to change!

Everton got a draw at Oxford in the Milk cup, and went on to appear in the final of that competition – for the first time against Liverpool in a major cup final - as well as winning the FA Cup for the first time since 1966.

And the anniversaries keep coming !! - Fred Pickering's birthday is on 19th January.

Whilst 22nd January 1907 was the date THE best goalscorer EVER was born......
William Ralph 'Dixie' Dean.

'Dixie' should need no introduction to Everton fans, especially in this our 100th season in the top flight, with his image adorning the official commemorative icon. There is however, one current Everton player who also has a birthday on 22nd January – I'll let you find the answer to this yourself in the 'Roll Call' section of a current Everton Programme!

On to the 23rd January, and another Legend has a birthday today.

Born in 1940, he is the outfield player who has made the most League appearances for Everton, and the most appearances in league and major cup competitions combined. He was once quoted as stating the fact that "... One Blue is worth twenty reds ..." – he is Brian Labone!

Next is the 24th January 1880, Everton are reported to have played their second ever match against the team they made their debut against – St. Peter's.

But perhaps Everton's BIGGEST ANNIVERSARY is on the 25th January.

For this was the day in 1892 that Everton decided to break away from John Houlding, and take the name 'The Everton Football Club Limited' to Mere Green Field, later to be re-named Goodison Park......thus leavin. Anfield to become the home of the soon to be formed reds.

Whilst these are the major anniversaries, there is another, which I think will intrigue Everton fans. And that is the birth of Jack Taylor on 27^{th} January 1872. Jack holds a number of club records - being the first Everton player to appear in three of our F A Cup finals, he also was the first Everton captain to lift the trophy in

1906

But Jack was also the first Everton player to make 100 consecutive appearances for the club, and he did this straight from his debut!!

He also made the most appearances for Everton throughout the period 1900-1909.... an oldie, but definitely a good Blue!!

And if you know yer 'istory

Smart.

Jack Taylor, with the F. A. Cup in 1906



The Kings Dock Update part 5 Page 6

.It never ends, the saga of the "Dock", the whole thing has been a joke.

Nobody could argue with Uncle Bill and his supporters, I was told on many occasions that I didn't know what I was talking about, any time I mentioned my doubts about the project, I was laughed at, well for all of those fans who laughed, where are you

now? You have gone very quiet.

I was told "The Dock is ours, I've seen the plans," "We have got the money" "Trust me" "Everything is on line", quote after quote until deadline day, New Years Eve "Everton Lose Preferred Bidder Status" was the headline. What did Everton have to say about that? Well not a lot actually, "no Comment" came from a spokesman, it always baffles me that one, why is he called a spokesman when all he says is "no Comment".

Why didn't we have the money?, Why didn't we get told that we didn't?

We are slipping off the field, while on the pitch everything looks great. No Ex Large shirts have been available in the Megastore since November!! We haven't as yet cashed in on the Chinese connection.

Would it be hard to try and get ten companies to invest £3 million each in the Kings Dock, promise them three years of free sponsorship, give them a Box inside the stadium for three years anything but get their money

dium for three years anything but get their money.

Ok maybe I am being naïve but it seems that it's only been Kenwright trying to get "friends to invest"

Of course going back to my main point, I never believed in the "Dock Dream" there were too many things that didn't tie up. A transport system, no hotel or cinema group were ever mentioned as being interested. And now that we have fallen away, why isn't there someone else waiting in the wings to take over this golden opportunity?

The City will lose millions of pounds in European funding but nobody seems to care. Why haven't the "Bidders" who lost out to the Everton bid resurfaced? And as I said in the last issue, if the Kings Dock is to be a complex within the next year or so, why is the "Summer Pops" held at the Kings Dock, already getting bookings for bands such as The Beach Boys Status Quo and many, many more?

We need a stadium on Merseyside, not just for Football but for concerts, Bruce Springsteen, R.E.M U2 etc should be on at the Capital of British music but sad to

say it's Manchester who do things, we just seem to talk about doing things.

I can not believe that Everton have let this so called chance pass them by, unless as I always suspected, the whole thing has been a smoke screen, first of all to distract us from what was a truly awful Everton team under Walter Smith and relegation and then to give us the idea that we have a forward thinking on the ball Board of directors.

We have all been led down the garden path and it's only the fact that Wayne Rooney, David Moyes and our current form has let the board off the hook, because once again we are distracted. Not by a fantasy Stadium but by the more realistic dream of European football, now even I can believe in that.

George Orr

It had to happen, you could have had a bet on it. Who would be the first referee to send off Wayne Rooney?

Odds on from William Hill would have been David Elleray

The pompous schoolmaster, has ensured his place in football history, not by being the best referee but by being able to improve his eyesight as he gets older.

The season before at Goodison the same man missed a crunching tackle on Gravesen by a Spurs player. The sight of Tommy's blood spattered leg didn't persuade him that a terrible tackle had been performed and he had missed it.

With Wayne Rooney's tackle, the same happened in reverse. He once again didn't see it, but on seeing the blood on the Birmingham players leg, decided Wayne had to go.

Strange how Everton players always foul but never get fouled back.

Of course Elleray isn't the only one who is abysmal, he is just consistently worse than the rest.

But help is at hand, a few days ago I was browsing in an old bookstore and came upon what seems to be the answer to all our prayers.

A book called "How To Referee" by Pickford.

Now surely Mr Elleray can get his hands on a copy for his school library. Then he can lend it out to the other meatheads.

There are even pictures to help the poor little things.

W. PICKFORD LONDON: Published at 92, Fleet St. MANCHESTER: "Athletic News," Withy Grove. PRICE ONE SHILLING.

Blue Swayed Views

Page 8
Your letter



Dear George,

Have a read of this its quite funny, maybe you could use it in BLUEBLOOD

(top read).

Regards

Brian Preston

were all in Saudi Arabia, sharing a smuggled crate of booze.

All of a sudden Saudi police rushed in and arrested them. The mere possession of alcohol is a severe offence in Saudi Arabia, so for the terrible crime

of actually being caught consuming the booze, they were sentenced to death! However, after many months and with the help of very good lawyers, they were able to successfully appeal their sentence down to life imprisonment.

By a stroke of luck, it was a Saudi national holiday the day their trial finished, and the extremely

benevolent Sheikh decided they could be released after receiving just 20 lashes each of the whip. As they were preparing for their punishment, the Sheikh suddenly said, "It is my first wife's birthday today, and she has asked me to grant each of you one wish before your whipping." The UTD fan was first in line (he had drunk the least), so he thought about this for a while and then said, "Please tie a pillow to my back." This was done, but the pillow only lasted 10 lashes before the whip went through. The UTD fan had to be carried away bleeding and crying with pain when the punishment was done. The Liverpool fan was next up (he had almost finished

an entire six pack by himself), and after watching the scene, said "Alright! Please fix two pillows on

my back." But even two pillows could only take 15 lashes before the whip went through again, sending the Liverpool fan out crying like a little girl. The Everton fan was the last one up (he had finished off the crate), but before he could say any-

thing, the Sheikh turned to him and said,
"Your supporters are some of the best and most

your supporters are some of the best and most loyal football fans in the world. For this, you may have two wishes!"

"Thank you, your Royal Highness," the Everton fan replies.

"In recognition of your kindness, my first wish I that you give me not 20, but 100 lashes.

"Not only are you an honourable, handsome and powerful man, you are also very brave," the Sheikh says with an admiring look on his face. "If 100 lashes is what you desire, then so be it. And, your second wish what is it to be?" "Tie the Liverpool fan to my back."

Dear Blue Blood

I am still trying to come to terms with the Shrewsbury result. How can a team that beat Arsenal and have performed consistently well be so bad on the day?

I hope that it was just a blip, I think Moyes got a shock that day. Some of his players let him down badly, no need to name them but they have shown their true colours.

Moyes himself will feel that he has not yet found all the answers but if we can qualify for Europe most fans will forgive him.

I was sickened when I read the "footy pink" and saw an article on Walter Smith. In it he said that he missed the day to day running of Club Football. He had lost his enthusiasm at Everton and missed match days, being in the dug out. WHAT, he lost his enthusiasm? What enthusiasm, he was miserable all the time at Goodison.

Missed being in the dug out!!! He sat in the stands for over 70 minutes in most games. Walter don't ever, ever consider management again, football fans have not done anything wrong, they do not deserve you as boss.

Joe Sherman.

Blue Swayed Views

Page 9 Your letters



Dear George,

Firstly, let me inform you that I am a real blue of 52 years of age, born and bred in the Everton Valley/Walton Lane district.

In addition, I buy all, repeat all, of the E.F.C. Fanzines offered around Goodison on match days.

I Don't agree with a lot of the views offered therein, but consider that to be an integral and essential part of any supposed "democracy".

I also have to add, that having met you personally outside "The Wilmslow", you are the best advert for a fanzine I've ever seen. (a real Gentleman!).

However, being a "stickler for the truth" (i.e., a bloody nuisance!), i require clarification on a very important point.

It is this.

Whilst we rightly go on about "100 years of top flight football", i believe another very critical point is being totally overlooked!

Please bear with me, because this is quite important! In 1914, Everton where English League Champions. World War One broke out. We were thus unable to defend or win again this title (as was nobody else!), until five years later. Thus we remained Champions of England for a total of six years.

In 1939, War broke out again. At that time (wait for it!) Everton where English League Champions.

We were thus unable to defend or win again this title (as was nobody else!), until six years later. Thus we remained Champions of England for a total of seven years.

Now I know that games where played in the war years, and that trophies were awarded during that period, but they, (understandably) were officially named, and classed, as "war time trophies". (Christ, one of the best teams were Aldershot, purely on the basis that it was a "garrison town", full of good players from other clubs (including ours), who had been "called up" and billeted there!).

So here is "the rub". Based on the number of seasons we were (and remained), undisputed Champions of England, the total is twenty (20)!

So, in real terms, we have been Champions of England, (not just playing in its' top division), for twenty years (i.e. for longer than anyone else!). When you also take into account that we have been runners -up seven times (7), and third seven times (7), it means that in addition to being founder members of the Football League, and The Premier League, and enjoying 100 years in the top flight, we have actually spent 34 of those one hundred years (i.e. 34%) intop three! Has anyone ever thought this through!

Or advertised it!

Best Wishes,, and keep up the good work!

Bluenose (A nuisance!).

From: "Joe Wilson" Subject: The Blues - and other matters

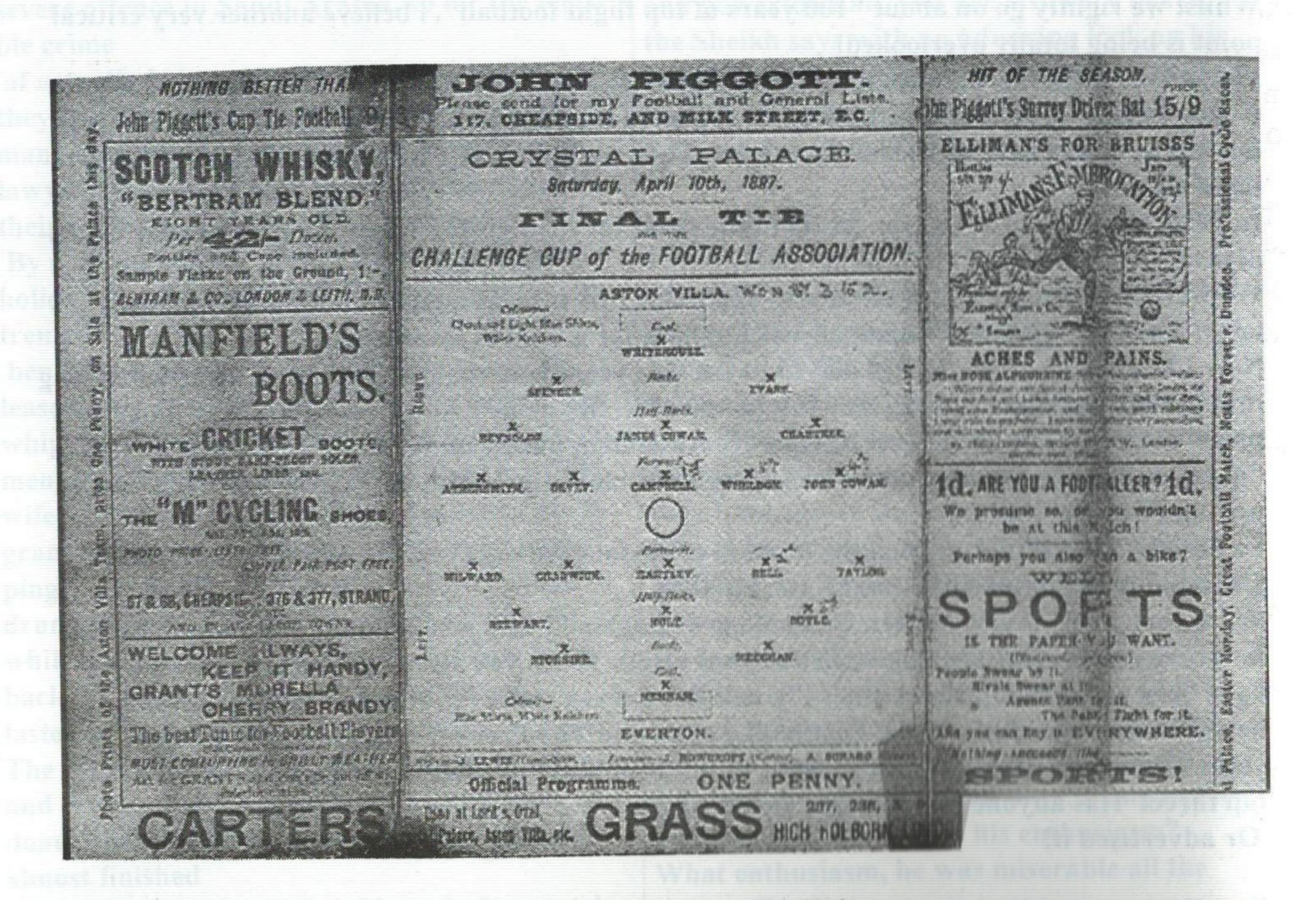
Please note new address 7 Beechwood, Forest Hill, Skelmersdale, Lanc's WN8 6UT

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Rare EFC Item For Auction

THE PROGRAMME FOR THE 1897 CUP FINAL BETWEEN ASTON VILLA AND EVERTON WAS DUE TO COME UP FOR AUCTION IN LONDON AT SOTHERBY'S ON FEBRUARY 18TH 2003.

THE PRICE WAS EXPECTED TO BE AT LEAST £3,500.
THIS ITEM IS PART OF OUR ILLUSTRATIOUS HISTORY...



The 1897 Cup Final programme, played at Crystal Palace

...PITY WE LOST 3-2 BUT AT
LEAST WE GOT THERE.
IT WAS TO BE ANOTHER NINE YEARS BEFORE
THE LIFTED THE CUP.
WINNERS OVER NEWCASTLE 1-0

Good attitude and team work has enabled Everton to move up to Third in the table, and almost the whole squad have played some part in our rise!

Europe, if and when it comes, will be a big test and you need a rotation system to allow players to recover and get over any knocks. I believe that Moyesey has been working on this system, and looking forward further into our future than any of us realize! Obviously, I may be wrong, but at least he is having a good look at the players at his disposal and should now know any limitations or hitherto unknown talents any of our squad possesses.

I have not forgotten our injured players, I am (hopefully) leaving the best till last. Apart from the long injury layoffs for Pistone and Watson, who are now starting to get games again, we still have Ferguson and Rodrigo to return.

Both should, hopefully, return to action when the Christmas congestion is over. This is likely to be the period when we need a fresh injection of attacking options and tactical variations, as all of the Premiership coaches will have been watching Everton and their style of play – both at actual games and on TV– and will start to devise counter measures to try and halt our run!

The other forgotten hero from last season Nick Chadwick – who burst into our consciousness with a couple of handy goals and some really refreshing front play – is gradually rediscovering his form in the reserves and will also be a welcome pair of legs later in the season.

With Simonsen and Feng available, and getting regular reserve team action, we have a decent squad depth; with players who surprisingly have all played some part in Everton games over the last year or so.

Then there are the youngsters in the reserves, - oops sorry, not in the reserves but out on-loan gaining valuable WEEKLY first team action - albeit in the lower divisions. Leon Osman and until recently Peter Clarke, also now joined by Paul Gerrard at Ipswich.

With Kevin McLeod involved both with the first team squad and the reserves he is not short of match practice.

And this squad approach is central to the way Moyes works, if you are good enough and fit enough you are considered to be part of the first team squad and will be supported, encouraged and thought about — not left to idle away your contract in the backwaters of Widnes!!

It is a fine line between having happy or unhappy players when a rotation system is in use, and Winning and Europ are the only reasons players stay content...especially if most squad players are of similar ability.

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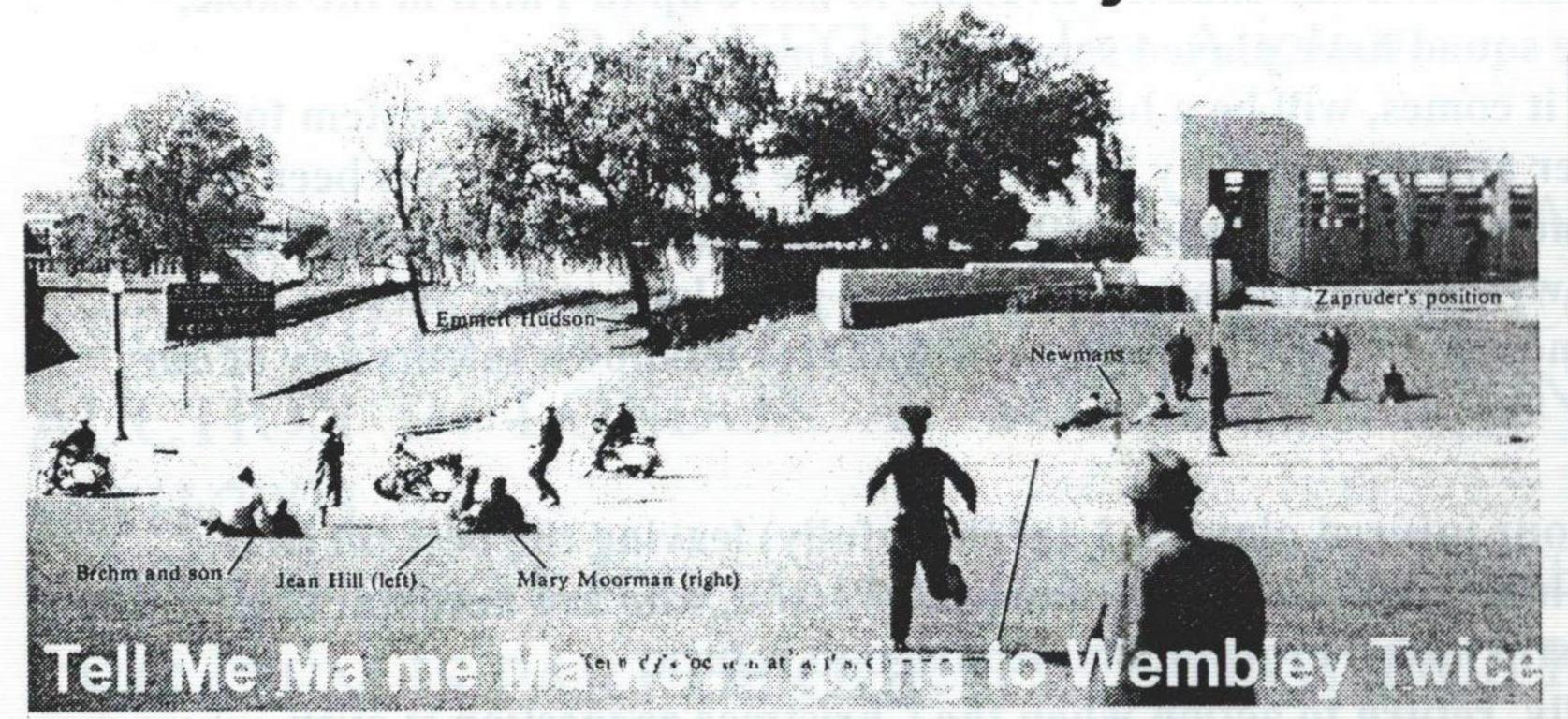
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controver selected to blue vertical

Hopefully Mr Moyes can walk this fine line and maintain our course!

"Smart Arridge"

View From The Grassy Knoll



"Just think about the free meals the officials can have".

The F.A. have come up with their best idea ever. "All F. A. Cup Semi Finals will be played at Wembley" was the short statement.

When asked to explain the reason, they said that it was the only way they could afford to build Wembley and help repay the debt.

So let's just look at this from the fans point of view, selfish I know, but hey we are important, we are aren't we?

If Newcastle reach the semi final and meet, let's say Middlesboro, then instead of a short trip to Sheffield or Old Trafford they can enjoy their day out at Wembley and to the victors? Err! another game at Wembley.

The price of a semi final, programme, pie, pint, ticket etc will not be cheap.

The only thing the F. A. see is profit, it's the be all and end all of their thinking, they believe that there is a never ending line of gullible fans ready to throw their wallets at them.

There was at one time reason to believe that but times change and the F. A. Cup is not the Competition that it was, some of the attendance's at this years games have been the lowest for a long, long time.

Why go to the Semi? If your team win you will be able to go to the final, if they don't never mind, there's always next year.

If they want stupid ideas why don't they allocate one tie from each round and let it be played at Wembley.

If Darlington v Farnborough had been played at Wembley then the F. A. would have made more money and the fans could have been inside a stadium for an F. A. Cup match that they would otherwise never see.

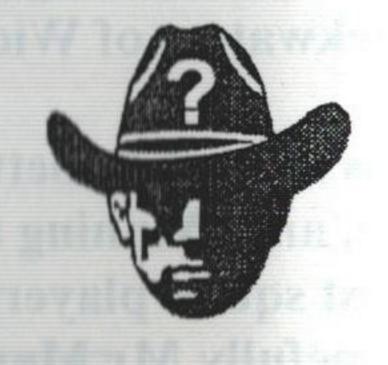
But as I said, it's only a joke, a stupid idea, I didn't mean it!!!!



Lee



Harvey



Oswald

One Hundred Issues At The Top

Everton celebrated 100 years at the Top Of English Football this season, next season they celebrate their 125 anniversary, squeezed in between these two great events is another memorable occasion for Evertonian's.

When Skies Are Grey the Everton Fanzine celebrates it's 100 issue and that in itself is enough for a round of applause. The fact that it is, to me anyway, the undisputed "King" of fanzines, is another reason to be proud.

How they have survived after court action, physical abuse, verbal abuse and torrential downpours, is amazing.

Never the ones to shy away from an issue they have also been able to present both sides of the argument and leaving you the reader to decide which way to go.

They have been given a rough ride by the media, the club and some Evertonian's but have stood their ground and good luck to them.

I have sat at home after the match, many a time, reading their latest issue and have been in tears of laughter, some of the articles are nothing short of pure class.

The things fellow Evertonian's get up to is mind boggling.

There would be no Blue Blood if there hadn't been a WSAG, the Overseas Correspondent in their early issues made want to write about my own life as an Evertonian. I loved his stuff, the way he described following Everton made me realise, we are on a special mission, it's not just football, it's far more than that. When you risk everything including your marriage following the Blues then it's nice to know, you are not alone.

To maintain the standard that they have is truly outstanding, from the editorial team to the lads selling on the streets, they made life easier for the likes of me and many others.

In the early days the Police would move them on, the Club shunned them and for a time the were treated as lepers but they carried on and I for one am glad they did.

I have many magazines on subscription and there is only one other a Bob Dylan magazine that I read from cover to cover, as soon as it drops on my doorstep.

So you might think it strange that the Editor of Blue Blood would praise a "Rival" in such glowing terms.

Well first of all, they are not a rival, they are a fellow fanzine and they are the best, you can only strive to be as good as them, that is the aim of Blue Blood, they are as much a part of Everton now as the team itself.

I always have people asking me "Where are the WSAG sellers and I point down the road and say "On the Island".

It's hard to say in words just how much they mean to many Evertonian's, through the bad times (and there have been tons of them) they are like an "Agony Aunt" allowing fellow Blues to rant and rave, to get off their chest what this club means to them, to talk to the magazine as if it were a relative.

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One Hundred Issues, brilliant, I want to be around for the next 100.

It seems like ages ago since we had anything to moan about. Shrewsbury was a big disappointment. I've always liked it when they had the flower show there. According to some of our fans we had a few "Pansies" on the pitch that day.

The Frenchman across the park has had something to moan about, he was going on about a "Dive" in London. Well I know what he means, I've been in a few "Dives"

there myself over the years.

He said that "Big Eared" lad, who used to play for us was involved. Well I told you so, remember when he first went to London, I said he'd come to no good. That London place is full of strange people, some of them can hardly speak English and then there's all them foreigners.

It's been freezing lately, cold enough to make a Geordie wear a long sleeved shirt. I

had to bring the cat in the other night just to defrost it.

Stanford Briggs ground bury below their Ferthington (up ste Lori Vinlandsy, As Rostian transfer poid Landsky the

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who there were.

"It was a province with ancies become and

tion I but subline DARY/ out that brody

I see we have another "Yank" over here, I'll keep my eye on him. Me mam said that during the war all the girls were after them. Can't have that. He'll have to score on the pitch first.

TRACKSUTS YOUSIRS

Everton stars get bum's rush in Chelsea for being scruffy!

Don't start any rumours the lads were
only looking.
The nearest chippy
was over a mile from
the nicest flat.

"Rooney" has finally signed his contract and that's good news but I will be watching where he throws his "Chewy" if it gets on my shoes he's in trouble, star or not.

There has been a lot of talk about "opening the window" in January. I don't mean to be sexist but only a man could think about opening a window in January, how would I get my washing dry?

I haven't seen Uncle Bill at the estate agents lately, I reckon his Kings Dock

mansion is no more.

Well while I am on the subject of estate agents, some of our boys were treated very badly down in London. They were down in Chelsea and with a couple of hours to spare before the game they had a stroll around. Kensington, is a very posh area, they have gold plated "Poop Scoops" and all that stuff. The lads wandered into the local estate agents to have a quick browse. The cheeky devil who worked there called the Police, she thought our boys were on the make. When it was discovered that they were well paid footballers, they fell over themselves to say sorry.

Our boys should stick to "Your Move" our Mary works there, she'll sort them out

with a nice little flat.

. A young Daily Post reporter is out there covering the story, his name is to crop up again in the 90s, a certain Philip Mc Nulty, he is seen in the picture with a 7 ft Arab bodyguard, he might want to hire that guy again one day.

Derby County at home and back to winning ways, Heath, Snodin & Steven score in a 3-0 win.

the 19th December and Arsenal away, they are playing well and we must get something out of this match, the Boys do us proud and snatch a 1-1 draw, this sets us up for Christmas. Things might just be going our way at last.

Boxing Day and a home game against Luton Town, Adrian Heath gives us two lovely presents called goals and we all go home happy. Two days later we lose at Man United 2-1.

New Years Day and we travel to Sheffield to take on the "Owls" it's not much of a Hoot because we lose 1-0.

Nottingham Forest at home, live on T.V. it turns out to be an exciting match but only 21,680 pay to watch, the rest watch it at home. Wayne Clarke gets the games only goal, he was playing because Graeme Sharp had been bitten by his dog and was not match fit, it would make a great quiz question but who would believe it.

F.A.Cup time and away to Sheff Wednesday, yes we were only here the other week and lost, so we have to do better, Peter Reid grabs a lucky equaliser and we take them back to Goodison. One bit of good news was that Mark Walters had turned down Everton to play for Rangers, thank heaven for that. He was said to have been scared off by Everton's Racist Fans, so then he goes and signs for one of the most bigoted clubs in the World.

The replay ends 1-1, it can't be settled on the night so we toss up and win, the next game is at Goodison Park. Meanwhile back in the League we play Norwich away, a special day, Big Nev's 200th League Game, he keeps a clean sheet and we win 3-0. Heath gets one & Sharp two.

Man City at home in the Littlewoods Cup and we go through 2-0, again Heath & Sharp are the scorers.

The 2nd replay at home to Sheff Wed, it goes to another replay, this is amazing. It will be played at Hillsborough. The marathon starts again on the 27th January, Ratcliffe misses his first match in 75, he was a great Captain, Pêter Reid took charge, the first three games had been very close, everyone though this match would go the same way, Everton went in at half time 5-0 up, yes 5-0. The crowd were stunned. We had been unbelievable, a Sharp hat trick and a goal each for Heath & Snodin. The second half is an anti climax and ends with no more goals being added to the score. It was good to see Adrian Heath getting in amongst the goals because some sad Blue Boys had been giving him stick.

The next round of the F.A. Cup and every Blue is made up that we are at home, after four games against Wednesday everyone is skint. That is the thing about Everton, they know how much travelling you have done, they know how much money you have spent so they go and draw, yes another bloody replay and this time to the worst place on this planet, Ayresome Park.

Up to the forsaken North East and loads of trouble, Boro fans seem to have it in for us,

Everton in The 80,s is available from me outside the Winslow for £1 it's an A4 size fanzine style booklet Please order it in advance as I can't carry to many with me.

there is murder at the match but on the pitch Everton grab a last gasp equaliser to take the Bonehead Boro Fans back to Goodison. Revenge is already being plotted on the coach journey home.

Another Littlewoods Cup match, the first leg of the Semi Final at Goodison against Arsenal, we lose 1-0, all the Cup Ties have knackered us.

The 9th February and Boro come to Goodison, they are met with a full scale assault force, vengeful Blues go on the rampage and Boro have nine of their fans stabbed many more are beaten up. Everton win 2-1 and after the match more trouble flares along County Road, the Red Brick sees plenty of the action.

A League match, yes we still do play in the League, even though it has been seven Cup ties on the bounce since the last game. Neil Pointon scores and we win 2-0 against Q.P.R.

Well as I have said many times already this season we have been involved in some stupid matches, it carries on, we play Luton at home in the massively important Simod Cup. 5,204 idiots (sorry fans) watch as we lose 2-1. Heartbroken they make their way home thinking of what could have been a nice day out at Wembley. Phil Jones made his debut, Gary Powell & Eddie Youds were the Subs.

The F.A. Cup 5th round and it's live on T.V., the opponents are those loveable Reds, Bracewell comes on as sub, his first game in over two years. We have already put them out of the Littlewoods Cup wouldn't it be nice to do the Cup Double?

It was not to be the Devils Mates win 1-0. Bobby Mimms leaves for Spurs, thank God for that, I never had any faith in him and always felt that he thought he was better than Southall.

The Littlewoods Cup Semi Final 2nd Leg, down to Highbury and I do mean down, we lose 3-1, so go out at the penultimate hurdle. All we had left now was an outside chance of the League but even that would mean winning every match, we start well by beating Southampton at home 1-0 with a goal from Power. Phil Jones is sub.

Newcastle at home and Wayne Clarke gets the only goal to keep the faithful happy. Spurs away and it all ends here, we lose 2-1 and have nothing left to look forward too except the "Derby". Chelsea away and a 0-0 draw isn't too bad a result.

The next match was the "Derby", even though they were running away with the League there was still something to get the Blues excited. The Red ones had not been beaten in the League for 29 games and they were trying to get the record by beating us, I was in two minds, as I said we are all from the same City and as a nice gesture we might let them win, if you believe that then you have wasted your money on this book, I prayed that we would win, it was to be live on T.V. so the whole World could watch as we frustrate them. The game starts and Everton step up the pace, we are not going to do them any favours (Good Lads) The ball comes to John Wayne Clarke and he slots it into the back of their net. We go mad, the roar is deafening, some Blues try to get onto the pitch to gloat. We win 1-0, their record attempt is shattered, I am made up. You can keep the Littlewoods Cup, F.A. Cup, Simod, everything just give me a video of this goal.

Into work on the Monday morning and trying to find a Kopite was very hard, they seem to be able to disappear at will. I said that their title hopes were on the "Wayne".

Watford away and the Street End's hero Clarke scores again along with Sheedy in a 2-1 win. Derek Mountfield played in the game, his first since last September.

Ian Marshall leaves Everton for Oldham, he was a reasonable player but again was not good enough to replace the forwards we had.

Wimbledon at home and in a bruising battle the Blues come out with just one point in a 2-2 draw. Some young players were getting a mention in the programme, Lee Elliott was one to look out for, he had been given many good reviews in the match day programme.

West Ham away and a poor 0-0 draw is followed by a home match against Portsmouth, we win

2-1 and this puts them in trouble, Alan Ball was known to be a bit of a "Jonah" it was said at the time that he should be in charge of a Mountain Rescue Team because it was well known that if anyone was in trouble Alan Ball would take them down. He did just that and they were relegated at the end of the season.

It's stupid match time again, with no game in the Cup Everton play Leeds in a Testimonial for Bobby Collins & John Charles. There are only 13,671 at Elland Road, paying about 50,000 we lose 3-2 but the terrible thing is that, "E.T." Ian Rush who is a Juventus player, "Guests" for Leeds and he gets a hat trick.

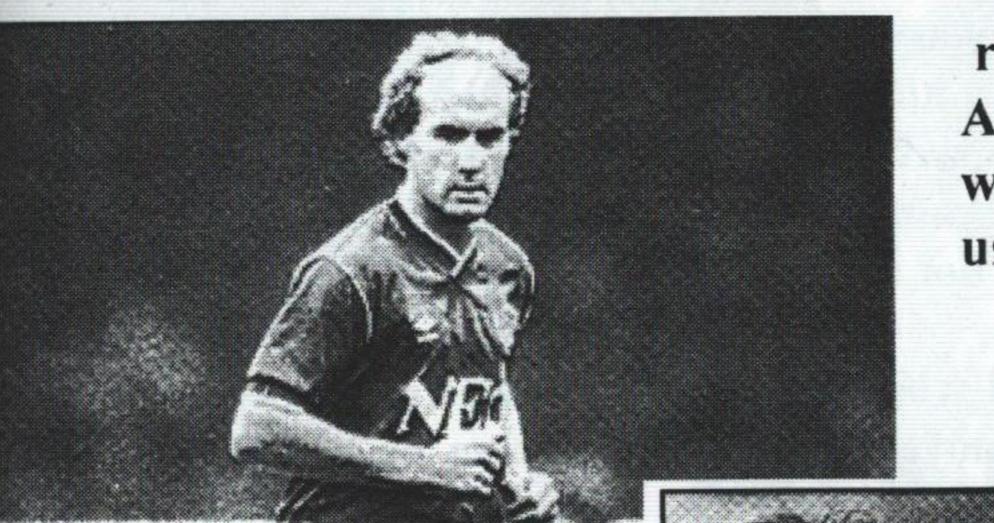
Coventry away, Heath & Sharp score in a 2-1 win for the Blues. Oxford away and we can't beat these sods, it ends 1-1. Charlton at home and we can only manage a draw, 1-1 with Trevor Stevens scoring. Derby away and another end of season bore draw 0-0.

The season ends with a home match against Arsenal, we lose 2-1. The programme was voted best programme for the 4th year on the trot and the programme for the Arsenal game had a tribute to Dixie Dean's 60 goals, it was sixty years ago that the great man achieved this brilliant feat. Also a new Director was introduced, Dr. David Marsh, he was soon to become well known to all Blue Boys.

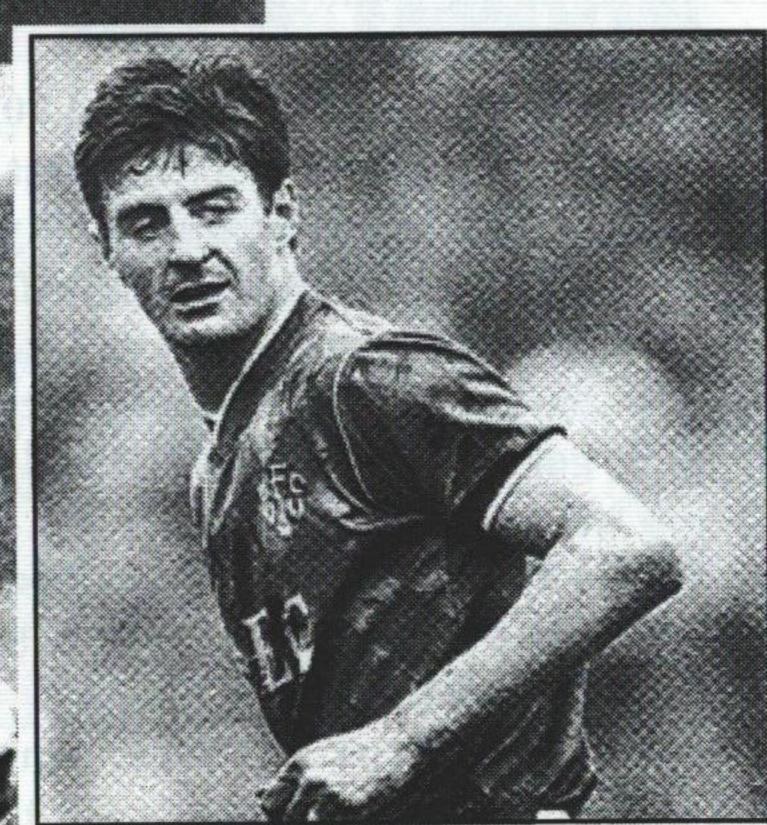
We finished in 4th place and that was very good considering all the injuries, Watson with 37, games was the most regular player, next came Steven on 36, followed by, Reid 32, Sharp 32, Pointon 32, Stevens 31, all the others played less than 30 games each.

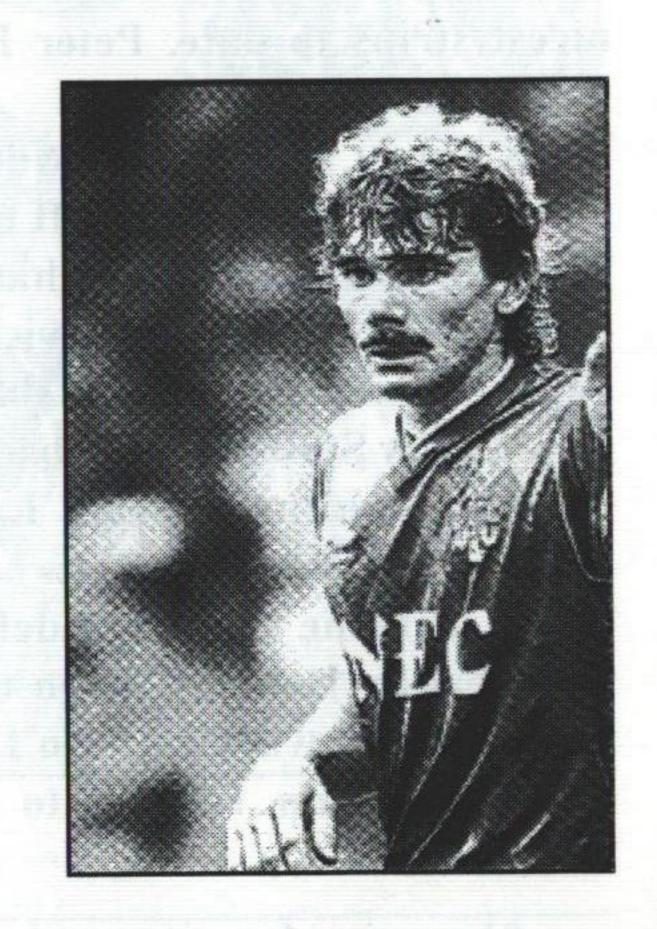
The only thing left to do now was sit at home and watch the Cup Final. It was between our beautiful neighbours and Wimbledon. Every Kopite I worked with said that it was going to be easy, no problem. It was great watching Wimbledon take the Cup off them. I think the Monday after the match was the all time "take the mickey out of them" occasion.

The Players below didn't always get the backing of the crowd, Ian Wilson was given some terrible stick and Neil Pointon was also not much appreciated Wayne Clarke however was not bad, he did try and of course stopped the heathens from setting that



record.
All in all it wasn't a good time to be a Blue, we felt that things were slipping away from us





88/89

Page 19

In June Everton saw one of the great Championship players leave Goodison Park for Villa Park. Derek Mountfield, the goalscoring centre half who did so much for the Blues has gone. Gary Stevens also left but he wanted to be a star in European Football and I thought that he had let Everton down, he should have waited for the ban to be lifted and stayed. Alan Harper also left, he was promised first team football at Sheffield Wednesday and nobody could blame him for going.

It wasn't all one way traffic though, Harvey had got out the cheque book and spent some big money. Tony Cottee was a record £2 Million signing from West Ham, Pat Nevin was another big buy from Chelsea. Stuart Mc Call was bought from Bradford and Neil Mc Donald came from Newcastle.

The pre - season tour in Switzerland gave Everton two wins and a draw.

Then over in Ireland, we played Drogheda and won 1-0, Trevor Stevens scored, this was a favourite place for the Everton players and many of them mentioned that it was the best place they had visited on a pre season tour.

Over the water again on the 17th August but this time it was only to Tranmere, they have a Chairman called Peter Johnson. The Blues then went to Spain to play Real Madrid at Racing Santander's New Stadium. As usual Adrian and all the other loyal Everton Fans are there to watch. Seve Ballesteros, who was a local lad, kicked off the match. Phil Jones played at right back and we performed better against Real than we did last year, we only lose 2-0. About seventy Blue Boys made their way to Bilbao, to watch Everton take on Kendall's team, Athletico. It was a fiery match, with many off the ball incidents taking place, we lost 3-2 but had played well.

The season starts with a home match against Newcastle, nobody expected to see Tony Cottee get a hat trick and E.F.C. winning 4-0 but that's what happened. The crowd was a good one of 41, 560, there was a good turn out from Newcastle and they were shell shocked. They had high hopes after signing Brazilian star Mirhandinhia. They also had Beasant in goal, yes the same man who denied the Red Rats at Wembley for Wimbledon. Everton showed them how to stick the ball past him. Another shock for Evertonians was the new haircut of Neil Pointon, gone was the wild burst mattress head and in it's place was a nice short back and sides.

Everton go to Old Trafford for the Mercantile credit Football League Centenary game, only 16,000 watch and we lose 1-0.

Coventry away and Tony Cottee does it again, no not a hat trick but he gets the only goal to give the Blues the points. Big Nev also saved a penalty.

Everton had a new away strip, it was a grey and white stripe top and was probably one of the nicest strips to date. Peter Reid turns down a move to Newcastle saying he wants to stay at Everton.

Notts Forest at home and Adrian Heath scores in a 1-1 draw, 34,003 watch this game, which was about right if you knock off the 7,000 Newcastle fans from the first match.

The next match was one that had been a talking point for many years, Millwall away, yes they had made it to the first Division at long last and wanted revenge for the day in the 70s when the game to Goodison and got slaughtered by the Street End Boys.

New Cross Station was a bad place to be but the action took place inside the ground when they tried to take the Everton Lads, they got chased again, pity we didn't do them on the pitch, Everton the Team lost 2-1.

Luton at home and a sad defeat, 2-0, Wayne Clarke is on the bench, I feel he has been given a raw deal by Harvey. When the big games come along Clarke has always been up for it and to leave him out when he hasn't played bad is wrong.

Martin Dobson returns to Goodison, in charge of Bury, who are our opponents in the

Littlewoods Cup. There are no old boy favours, as the Blues win 3-0. Sharp, Mc Donald and Mc Call both get their first goals for the club.

Wimbledon away and thank God only 6,367 are there to watch a dreadful Everton performance, we lose 2-1.

Ratcliffe returns to the team after nine months as we play Southampton at home. It is a happy return because we win in style 4-1, Cottee gets two, Steven & Watson the others.

Littlewoods Cup 2nd Leg at Gigg Lane Bury, the game ends 2-2 and the 4,592 fans go away fairly happy.

Terry Darracott is in charge of the team as Colin Harvey goes into hospital for a hip operation, we lose 2-0. Man United at home and we can only manage a 1-1 draw.

Sheff Wednesday away and thank God this 1-1 draw doesn't mean a bloody replay, only two points dropped. Talking of replays, guess what happens when we meet Oldham at home in the Littlewoods Cup, You're getting good at this aren't you, ? Yes we draw 1-1 and have to travel to the Plastic pitch in Oldham.

Charlton away in the League and at last a win, 2-1 Peter Reid & a Graeme Sharp special seal the points. only 8,627 watch, how do these clubs survive?

Norwich at home and 20,000 more fans watch this game than the Charlton one, they don't see us win though, another 1-1 draw. Trevor Steven scores from a penalty, that even the most biased Blue (yours truly) would admit should not have been given.



Tony Cottee gets the first of his three goals against New-castle. See also back page of fanzine for more Cottee celebrations from this game.

To be continued in issue 12

ARKONIKA MARKATAN MAR

Everton Firsts

In Celebration Of Everton's Achievement "100 Years At The Top Of English Football." Blue Blood Has Decided To Run A Series Of Articles On Other "Firsts" Gained By Either The Club Or It's Players

Today in the 21st Century The F. A. shy away from making any decision on using new technology. The case for electronic equipment to decide if the ball crossed the

line or not is getting ignored by those in charge.

What a difference over two centuries ago in 1889 when Liverpool man John Alexander Brodie was watching an Everton match at Anfield, the ball went into the goal but the referee "played on" saying the ball didn't go into the goal. A near riot erupted and the match was in danger of getting abandoned.

Brodie, decided he would do something about this situation and he came up with the

simple but brilliant idea "Goal Nets".

The F. A. approved them after a few trial games goal nets were introduced in 1891

and the rest is history.

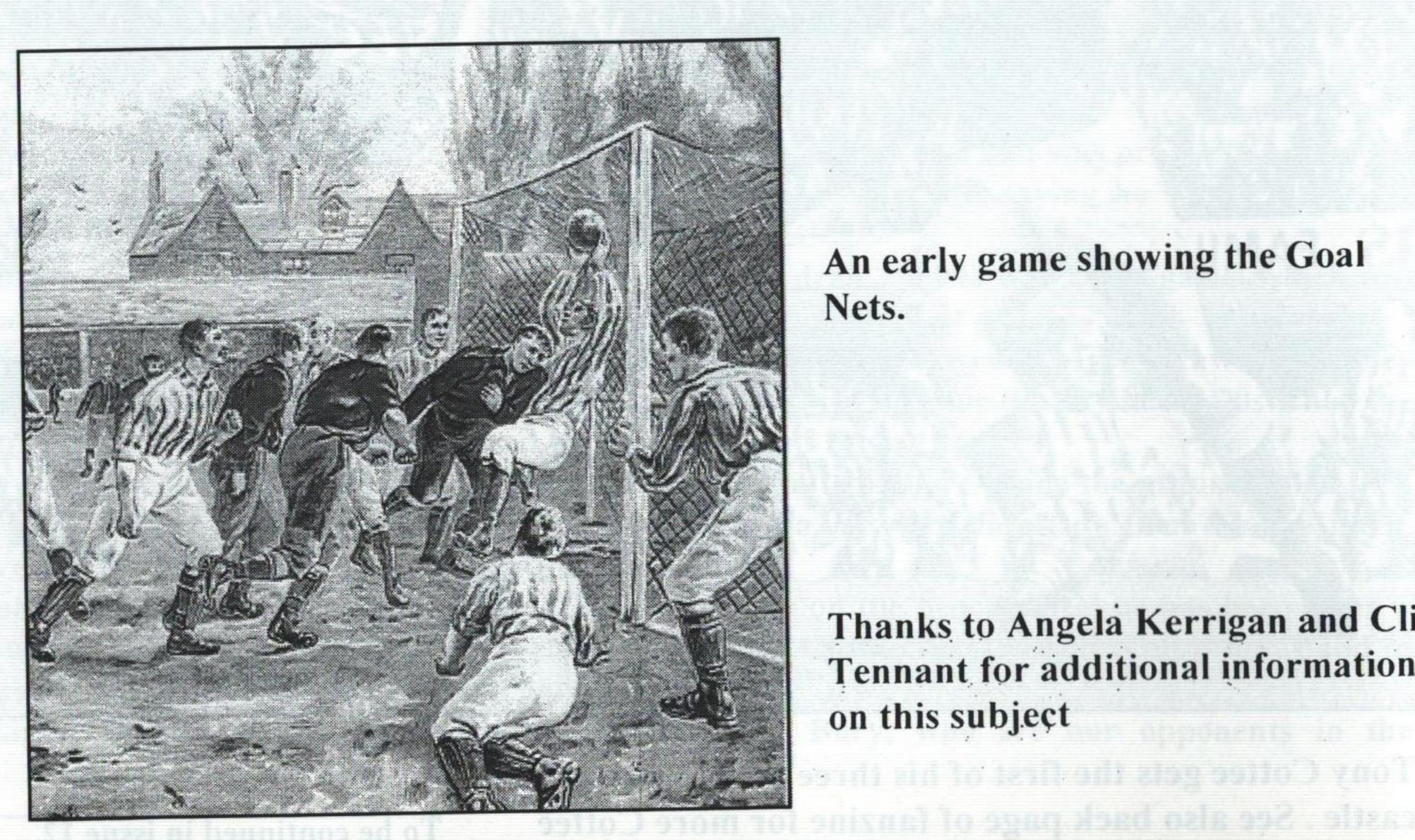
Everton Football Club said in 1928 that the invention of goal nets "Banished uncertainty, relieved the referees from their greatest difficulty and made the game more equitable and enjoyable for spectators and players.

One of the original manufactures of Brodie's design, Edwards of Bridport is still

making goal nets to this day.

John Alexander Brodie, didn't rest there, he was Liverpool City Engineer and helped design the first Mersey Tunnel, which opened in 1934, sadly the same year as Brodie died.

English Heritage unveiled the first of Liverpool's Blue Plaques to Brodie in July of 2000. He was also honoured by the City in the name of Brodie Avenue.



An early game showing the Goal Nets.

Thanks to Angela Kerrigan and Cliff Tennant for additional information on this subject

celebrations from this game.

Recently opened in Ormskirk, Bluebells stock a wide variety of flowers & plants





• Floral Tributes.

· Teleflorist

- Local, National & International Delivery
- Balloons for Birthdays, Anniversaries,
 Every Occasion
- Call in and discuss your requirements with our friendly staff
- Bluebells Florist, 19 Church Street, Ormskirk, Lanc's

Heroes From the Past



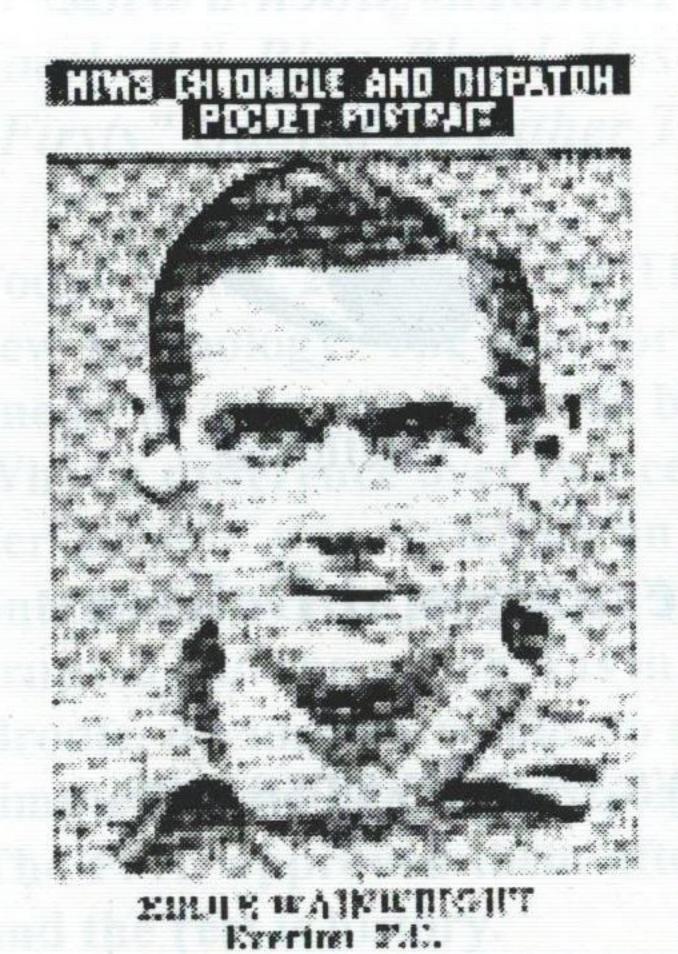
Dave Hickson

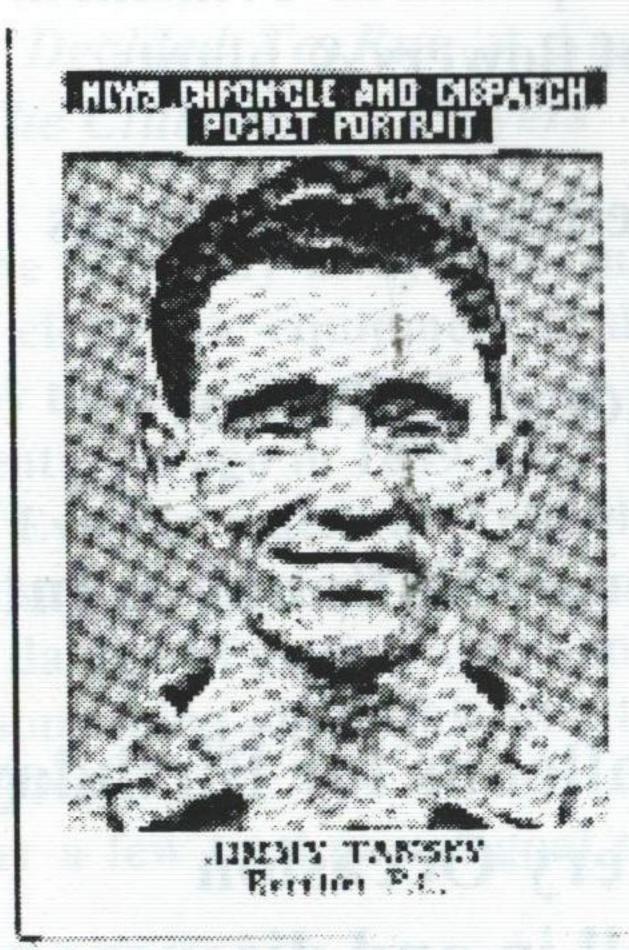


Peter Farrell

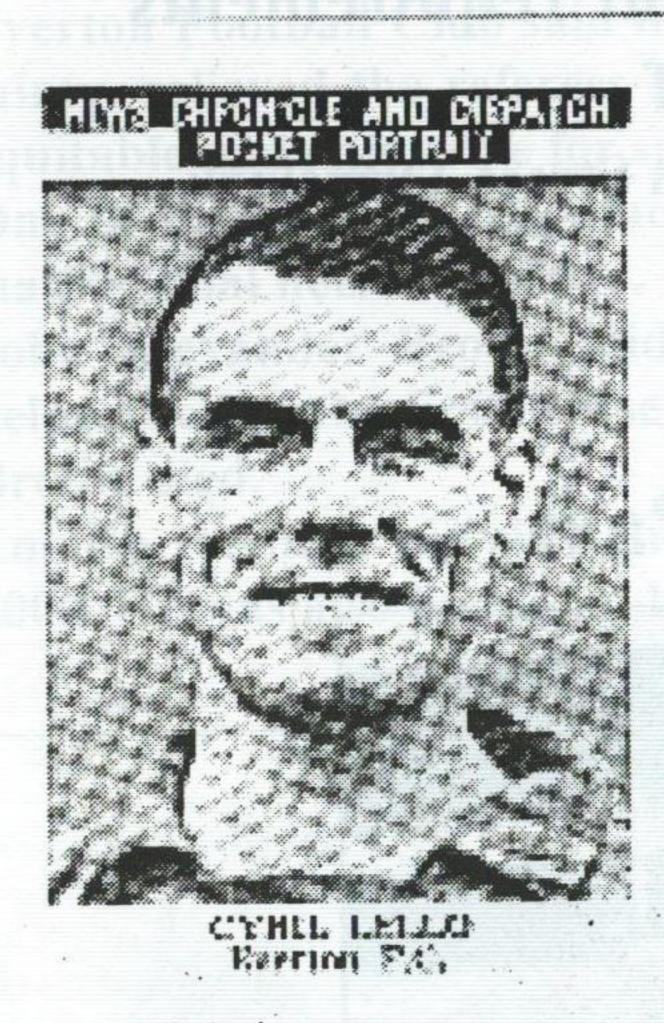
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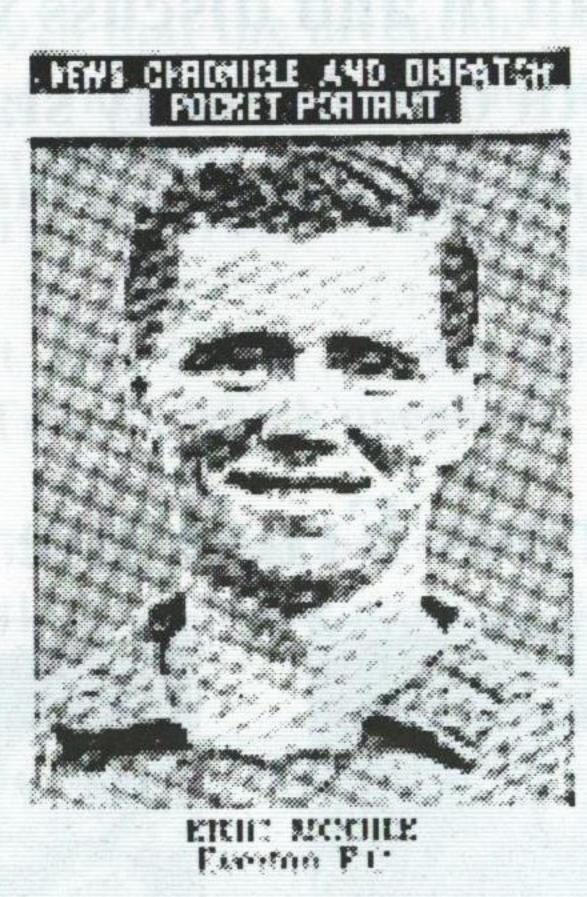
Some Of The Best EFC Cards













The last couple of issue has had the worst EFC cards so for a change I have decided to put in some of the best cards.

This set is from the 1950's and were issued by News Chronicle & Daily Dispatch.

The team might not have been great but the cards were brilliant.





A

One of the most pleasant things the club has done this season is to show 'Legends' of the past to the crowd at half time. It's particularly good for the likes of me, which need to point out heroes from the past, to their children.

During the break at the Bolton game, Derek (Shirley) Temple and Mountfield were introduced to the crowd. But I was disturbed by the relative applause for the two. First up was Derek Temple. Ok he was applauded but it paled into insignificance at the sound that greeted Mountfield. I'm not trying to say that he deserved more. Mountfield was and is a great Evertonian, Oh for a striker who can score as many goals as he did from the back.

Of course the difference in applause can be put down to the two men being from different eras. Or can it? A man, sat in the next seat to me in the balcony, asked me who the old man was? He certainly didn't sound as if he was from Bolton. In fact given his vintage, early sixties, was he the oldest 'Media' fan outside captivity? I can't believe that most Blues hadn't heard of him. Was it because 1966 was Black & White and from 1970 football was colour? Or am I becoming an 'Old Git'?

So those of you who see pre 1970 in terms of Black & White. Shirley, as we called him, scored the winner in the 1966 Cup Final.

That goal, along with Jimmy Gabriel's classic time wasting were great Evertonian moments of the 1960's. And great moments in my boyhood.

Michael Berry Michael is writing a short Biography of Jimmy Gabriel If any reader can help him with their own recollections, please write to him at 36, St Richards Road, Otley, West Yorkshire, LS 21 2AZ



Derek 'Shirley' Temple a brilliant winger for Everton in the late 50's and throughout the 60's Scored a memorable winner at Wembley in 1966

An Exhibition of Art by Gerard Houllier

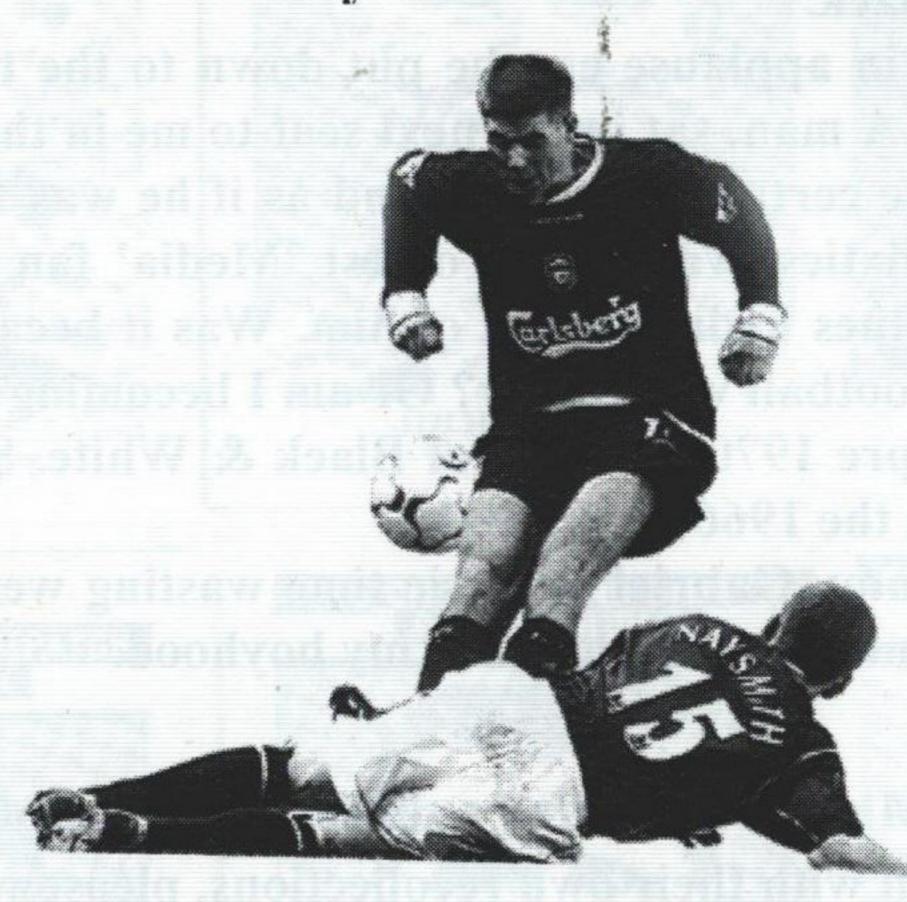
Blue Blood has uncovered the secret talent of the Frenchman from across the park.

Using his artistic name "Toulouse LePlotte" we have uncovered some of his recent work.

Some recent drawings have been Arsenal, Everton, Crystal Palace, most have been met with critical scorn.

His most controversial work "Le Tackle" is from his "Blue" period





Toulouse tried to explain this picture as "A young warrior, showing a hidden passion and innocence" Unfortunately the critics condemned it as "Violent" "Hateful" and influenced by the Impressionists. (it left an impression on Naysmith's thigh."

The Invincible

The Invincible, is another sketchy drawing by Le Plotte, this time he sees two different views of his young Invincible Chris Kirkland, in one drawing he has Kirkland as a hero rushing 30 yards off his line to clatter into young Wayne Rooney. Then in a darker, more sinister mood he throws scorn on Sheffield United's Brown for challenging his goalkeeping hero.

Again the critics didn't like what they saw and Toulouse has had to put up with some very bad reviews.

Whatever you may think of the happy Frenchman, it might be worth a visit to this exhibition.

It will be on at the Blue Coat from the 1st of April and if successful further exhibitions are lined up.

The Architect Phil Thompson is due to give a talk on the Wondrous Crystal Palace. Sponsored by Peenokio Mobile Phones.

Urban Myths

Chelsea are one of England's Top Clubs?

Well, no, they aren't actually, ok, at this moment in time they are doing fine, a top five place, good results in Cup competitions over the last few years but give me a break, they have only won the League once and that was back in 1955.

The last couple of seasons have given these South London posers a false sense of importance. Coming from a trendy part of the capital they can get a bit above themselves, for instance, their traditional nickname, The Pensioners was deemed too old fashioned for these high flyers, so now they are "The Blues".

With more right wingers in their fan base than every football club put together they see nothing wrong with pinching the Socialist song "The Red Flag" and change it to the Blue Flag, and why not? History and tradition means nothing to them, only success.

The "Bates Hotel" was built on their ground and the promise of "Floodgates of money" didn't really happen and the club that was bought for one penny, now looks like it was too expensive.

Urban Myths

Newcastle United are one of England's Top Clubs?

Sorry but no they are not, they can dress up like Bar Codes and prance about as much as they like but the fact is the last time these Perma-Frosts won the League Dixie Dean got 60 goals the following season.

They crave success, their Chairman can insult them and their wives it doesn't matter, they might win them the League.

When genuine football fans at Arsenal and West Ham were fighting their clubs introduction of the Bond system, (which for a payment of £1,000 you could have the right to buy a season ticket) by running onto the pitch and organising, these so called fans were queuing up to buy them.

Then when, two years later they were told that the seats that they had not only paid a Bond for but also paid a season ticket price for, were no longer going to be theirs, the club wanted to install sponsorship Boxes, the seats were ripped out an the fans relocated.

Feelings of outrage had them taking their beloved club to court and then they had the cheek to ask other fans to help them out with the court costs.

Sorry but this club live on hype, talk fondly of a past they never had and are obsessed with trying to win the Premiership at all costs.

The pretence that they are a fun loving jovial crowd is dispelled as soon as you enter their ground and are confronted by their stewards and Police force.

Apart from all that they have Alan "can't do anything wrong) Shearer.

The History Of Everton Football Club

Part 11 1894/95

1894/95

April 13th 1895, the venue Goodison Park, the occasion, Derby County at home in the League. Nothing very special there you might say, even the scoreline, a 3-2 defeat wasn't too shocking. So what makes this game special in the History of Everton Football Club?

The player Fred Geary is the answer, first of all he scored, which wasn't unusual for Fred, but unfortunately it was to be his last goal for Everton. after 98 games and 86 goals the fans favourite was on his way across the Park to Anfield. Therefore becoming the first player in Merseyside Football History to be sold to the opposition.

Jack Southworth had replaced him and for that he always felt a bit of resentment, feeling that the board and fans had let him down. When Southworth finished playing he was supposed to pick up the pieces and return to being the hero. His feelings of betrayal seemed to affect his game and although he would still bang them in, he had lost his enthusiasm.

The game against Derby was another setback for Everton, who had ideas of winning the League.

The next game would be a vital one, Sunderland away, a must win game if Everton were to be Champions. It was not to be Sunderland were the better team and won 2-1 Chadwick got the Everton goal. Andrew Hartley had taken over from Geary but didn't find the net.

On the 24th April the season ends with Everton visiting Aston Villa, the game ends 2-2 with Boyle and Hartley scoring. It means Everton finish in second place. There was one piece of god news for all the Evertonian, the Red ones had been relegated, so after just one "Derby" season it was back to normal.

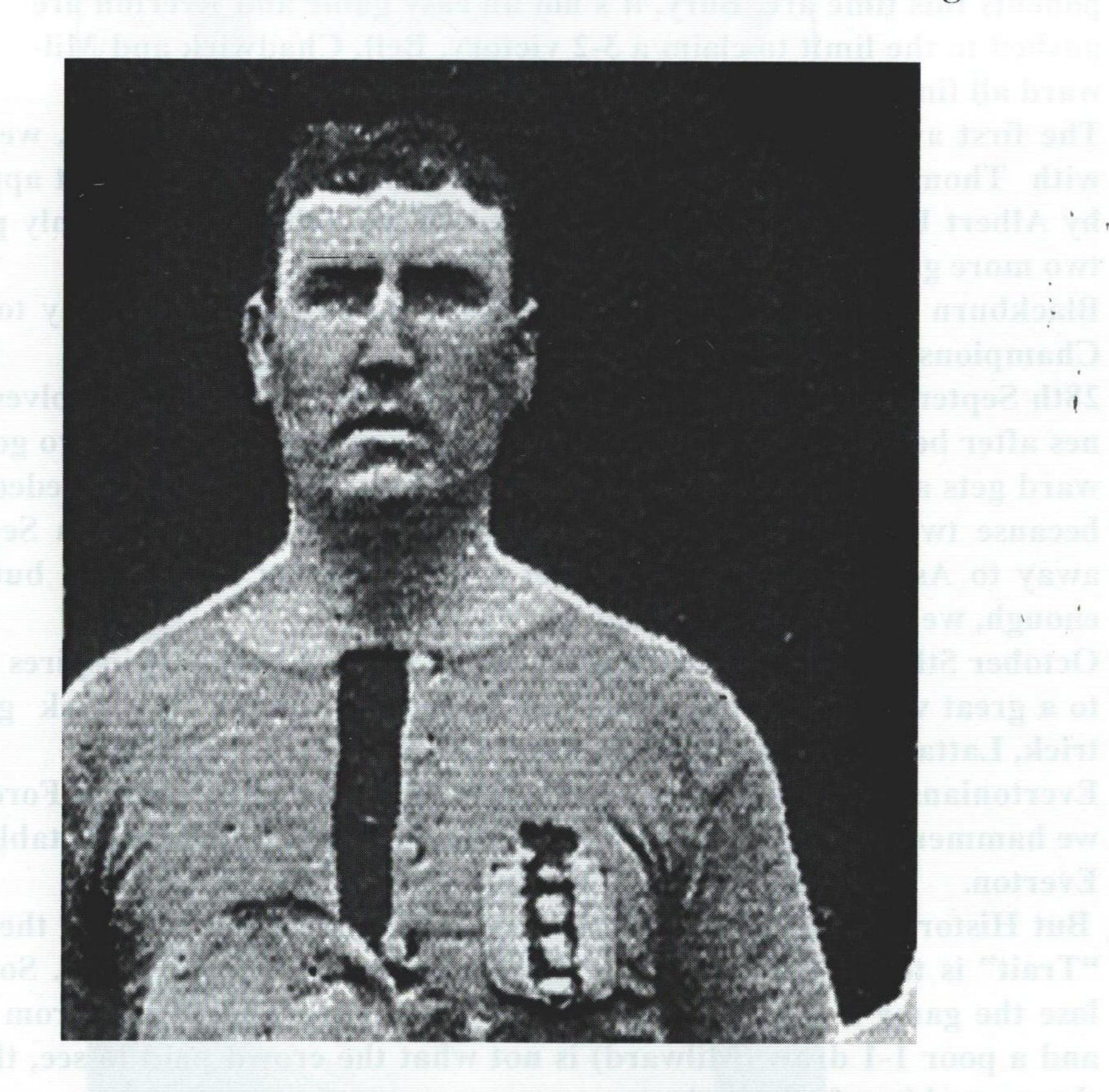
1895/96

15,526 had been the average attendance for last season and Everton were looking to increase that amount of fans, it would be hard to do as there was now no "Derby" match.

Five new players were to appear during the coming season but no major changes were made to the team.

The season starts with a game at home to Sheffield Wednesday, it is a hard fought game and ends in a 2-2 draw, Boyle and Milward get the goals for Everton.

Home again the following week, this time the visitors are Nottingham Forest. Albert Flewitt makes his debut as centre forward, he was bought from Lincoln City and scored on his debut the game ends with an amazing 6 goals being put past Forest, who had hit 2 themselves, Chadwick 2, Milward 2, Bell and Flewitt all score, this is the way to get the attendance's up.



Jack "Happy Jack" Hillman

Jack Hillman was a "Stocky Lad" for a goalkeeper, he was also something of a "Cowboy".

He was born in Tavistock and signed for Everton from Burnley in February 1895 and made his debut against his old club Burnley on 16th March 1895 he made 35 League appearances and 3 F. A Cup games He made his last appearance against Derby County on the 7th April 1896, we sold him to Dundee.

In Scotland he was suspended for "Not Trying" and returned to Burnley for the princely sum of £130.

He attempted to bribe some Nottingham Forest players and was suspended for a full season.

Towards the end of his career in the 1906/07 season he was again suspended for 8 months, for receiving illegal payments whilst playing for Manchester City.

He had the distinction of being the first England goalkeeper to be beaten by a penalty. He won a bet that he could keep goal in a charity match, with one hand tied behind his back and not concede a goal!!.

His Everton record for those of you who like Statistics is as follows Played 38, Conceded 58 average 1.526 per game 9 clean sheets, 23.684% clean sheets Two days later and another home game, the third on the trot, op-Page28 ponents this time are, Bury, it's not an easy game and Everton are pushed to the limit to claim a 3-2 victory. Bell, Chadwick and Milward all find the net.

The first away game of the season and the first defeat, Bolton, we lose 3-1 with Thomas McInnes scoring our only goal, it was also the last appearance by Albert Flewitt, the man who scored on his debut but then only played in two more games was sold to West Brom.

Blackburn at home and another defeat, 2-0, this is not the way to win the

Championship.

28th September and our sixth game in this month is away to Wolves, Mc Innes after being dropped for the Blackburn game returns with two goals, Milward gets another and we win 3-2. A brilliant result, a much needed booster because two days later we are playing again, the 7th game in September, away to Aston Villa. John Bell get a hat trick for the Toffees but it's not enough, we lose 4-3, despair sets in.

October 5th and the much awaited return of Alex Latta, he inspires the team to a great victory, we beat Sheffield United 5-0 Edgar Chadwick gets a hat trick, Latta gets one and Alf Milward gets the other.

Evertonians are looking forward to the next match, Nottingham Forest away, we hammered them at Goodison and it is expected to be a comfortable win for Everton.

But History is not History if it doesn't throw up a "Trait" and the Everton "Trait" is to do the opposite to what everyone wants you to do. So we duly lose the game 2-1, Chadwick gets the consolation goal. West Brom at home and a poor 1-1 draw (Milward) is not what the crowd paid to see, they leave the ground in a foul mood.

Burnley away and another 1-1 draw, Hartley saves our skin. The next game at home is on November 2nd against Wolves, a must win game if we are to try and keep pace with the leaders. We manage to get the victory, with goals from Chadwick and Milward. Indeed Milward was banging, them in, it was his eighth goal in twelve games.

He was on target again in the next match, away to Sheffield United, we win 2-0 Hartley getting the other goal.

Sunderland at home and another fine display on the wing from Milward, another goal, another win 1-0 both Milward and the Toffees are on fire. West Bromwich Albion away and he does it again, Milward, Hartley and McInnes also score in a 3-0 win.

November 30th and Burnley at home, James Adams, a signing last season from Hearts gets a goal, it was to be his only one in 45 appearances for Everton but as a full back, it wasn't expected of him to score. He has one other goalscorer on the day to help him out, Richard Boyle, we win 2-1.

Milward had failed to score in the game against Burnley, the first time in

Fred Geary Everton Legend



Fred Geary arrived at Anfield Road in 1889, he was only 21 years old but had a reputation for finding the back of the net.

He was a fast sprinter, an asset that he would need in the rough, tough world of Victorian football. He scored 86 goals in 96 games for Everton. He helped us win the Championship in 1890/91 He was an ever present that season but missed the Cup Final in 1893.

He moved to Liverpool, therefore becoming the first player to be sold between the clubs. Back at Anfield he scored 14 goals in 45 games.

He was the first Everton player to score at Goodison Park, hitting the target in the Friendly against Bolton in September 1892.

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five games, he made up for it on the trip to Small Heath (soon to become Birmingham) all three goals are scored by our Alfred the Great, we win 3-0.

It was December 12th 1895 and trouble was brewing at Goodison, nothing to do with the players or board but at the turnstiles. In Thomas Keats brilliant book "History of the Everton Football Club 1878 – 1928 he has two pages on the "Fraud"

But far be it for me to change Everton History, his dates do not line up with the events.

The Turnstile Fraud of 1895/96 has been documented by many Everton writers but all, I think have used Keats as their source. If this is so then the date is wrong, Keats says that on December 12th 1895 Everton were at home to Sunderland. They were not, we didn't play until 14th and that was against Stoke City. We played Sunderland on November 16th 1895 and 15,000 watched the game. We did however play Sunderland on the 12th December 1896 but that was an away game. Did Keats get his dates wrong? Was the Turnstile Fraud perpetrated on November 16th 1895? or on the 12th December against Stoke? Either way it makes good reading (see page31)

Back to the season in question and Stoke City at home, the attendance was given as 10,000 so fraud or no fraud a fair gate. Those fans inside the ground were in for a treat, Everton exploded and slammed in seven goals, Stoke hit two and the crowd saw nine goals in all. Thomas McInnes got a hat trick, Bell got 2, John Cameron, who had been bought from Queens Park got one and the ver reliable Milward got the other.

The 21st December 1895 and a bumper 30,000 fans fill Goodison for the visit of Aston Villa In a pulsating game Everton come out victors by 2-0. Bell and McInnes get the goals.

The next match is also noted in Keats book and many other ones as well, it was the home game against Small Heath and it turned out to be a very eventful game indeed.

The week before the game had seen heavy downpours of rain, the pitch was a quagmire and the crowd was only a third of the average gate. But for all of that, the referee, a Mr. West of Lincoln decided that the game could go ahead..

Everton scored and looked good but the rain persisted, the pitch was impossible to run on, the ball stuck in the mud and the game was turning into a farce. After 37 minutes during which the heavens opened, the referee called both teams together and suggested that the game be abandoned.

The players from both teams wanted to continue but Mr. West was adamant that it should be abandoned and it was. He led the teams off the field and then all hell broke loose.

To be continued in issue 12

The Goodison Park Turnstile Fraud

On the occasion of the League match with Sunderland, at Goodison Park on December 12th, 1895, a startling sensation disturbed the serenity of the Club. For some time the directors had reason to suspect that there was something wrong with the cash returns from the turnstiles; there was a disparity between the registered admissions and the estimated attendance of spectators. A vague suspicion developed into a disagreeable conviction of misappropriation by somebody.

But who? And how contrived? The machines had a reputation for reliability, and no plausible explanation was apparent. An experienced member of the staff had instructions to examine the mechanism weekly and to repair and report any defect.

The representatives of the Press, experienced in estimating the numbers at public assemblies, on being sounded confirmed the suspicions, and the directors then decided that they must make an attempt to solve the mystery. They could not locate their suspicion. The starting numbers on the machines were noted by one or more of the directors before the gates were opened, and again at half-time when the gates were closed; the payments of the machine men were invariably correct, or a mere shilling or so over or under, which wrong change would account for.

On the day of the Sunderland match, one of the directors, accompanied, as usual, by the groundsman, noted the numbers half an hour before the gates opened. But something unusual was done; two directors, ten minutes before the gates opened again inspected the numbers and found to their consternation that at several of the stiles the figures had been altered 200 units against the Club. Only the groundsman had a key; questioning led to an employee being taken to Westminster Road Bridewell, and plain clothes officers watched the working of every stile.

The watchers must have been seen, or the double check had sounded an alarm, for seven men brought in £5 each more than their stiles had registered. They could not account for the excess, pleaded ignorance of any irregularity, and were allowed to go. In the meantime, the employee at the Bridewell had unmasked the details of the conspiracy and the conspirators; as a result over a dozen of the stile men, the mechanic, and the groundsman stood in the dock at Dale Street, before Stipendiary Stewart, on the following Monday. All of them, except the instigators were dealt with very leniently.

"The Everton Turnstiles Fraud" caused a great sensation at the time. The directors decided to install a new set of improved machines, and have not been troubled by anything suspicious since.

