

Blue Blood

A Historical Everton Fanzine

Volume 5 issue 29



The Gordon West Story page 15

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Editorial Blue Blood

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Radio Merseyside can be heard on www.bbc.co.uk/liverpool



Thank you for all the articles and emails, 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.



Mike Trebilcock
He only played in 15 games for Everton but the game at Wembley in 1966 will never be forgotten. He only scored five times for the Blues

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Editors Page "Orrsome View"

It might be a bit early but Happy Christmas to all Blue Blood readers, this is the last edition for 2005, the fourth already this season.

I hope to be selling it at the Newcastle, West Ham and Bolton games. I intend to have a break and not sell at the Derby match on the 28th December.

West Brom away, what went wrong? I have watched and listened to all reports and radio phone ins but no one and I mean no one has said that it was Moyes's selection that was wrong. Even before a ball was kicked Moyes in his wisdom decided to put Van Der Meyde in midfield, taking him away from the sparkling role he has played on both wings. To cover for him he brings in Kilbane, who is past his sell by date and can no longer keep up the pace, the goal that he gave away sums him up, we are three nil down, he's on the half way line and instead of trying to set up a scoring chance he turns and passes a lazy ball back into the middle of our defence, enough said. Then there was the non selection of Duncan Ferguson who had been ill all week!! but was fit enough to declare himself available to play. Moyes chose to rest him and leave Beattie with Bent. The Ferguson, Beattie partnership which has been excellent in the past three League games is abandoned. After everything that can go wrong, non penalties awarded, goalie and out farces, Moyes decides to bring on Dunc, great say the Evertonians, Dunc and Beattie will get us back into it. Moyes takes off Beattie for Dunc!!!! I am sorry but that is bloody stupid. We then see creative men like Arteta and Van Der Meyde taken off for Osman and McFadden.

Kilbane is left to struggle up and down the field getting nowhere, instead of being substituted. No wonder Arteta gave Moyes a look that could kill, he was as bewildered as the Evertonians in the crowd and those at home watching it on the box.

If Duncan can be brought on to fight a lost cause then he can start the game with Beattie, only Cahill was injured, the only change should have been Osman for Cahill. The team would then have been nearly the same as the one that has done well in the last three League games.

This brings me nicely on to 'Where the hell is Kroldrup' ? Moyes spent £5 million quid on this guy and he can't get into a team that gets tonked by West Brom, Portsmouth, Wigan, Dinamo Bucharest, Tottenham etc etc etc.

Everyone blames the players, some will say Hibbert is crap, some will say Dunc is not fit, some will say McFadden is the new Brett Angell , it doesn't matter who you call Moyes picks them and what's worse, he doesn't drop them.

Moyes has, as has been said many times in this fanzine got five of the worst records in Everton's long History, he has attained that in under four seasons. We are third from bottom with ten points and have only scored four goals but to most Evertonians it's not Moyes's fault!! We constantly hear about dressing room bust up's, players have left and openly said things about Moyes, Jeffers, Radzinski and others.

For me it's time for him to step down or start dropping the useless players and that includes Duncan, it drives me mad to hear his supporters say, "Yeah we know he can't do what he used to do or play a full ninety minutes but on his day" Jesus Christ, if you accept a non goalscoring unfit centre forward then why are you surprised about being third from bottom?

The reserves might as well not play, Moyes ignores them, McFadden can be as useless as he likes, he will not be replaced by a reserve team player, the same applies to Kilbane. Hibbert gets turned over too often, Davies should play in a Pink Kit, he's got no aggression whatsoever, it makes you want to see Carsley back (well almost).

Moyes has spent £25 million since January, can you tell, do you think he has bought wisely? If we hit Christmas in the bottom three, who do you think will come to the club in January? If Moyes was to leave who would take over in the New Year at a rock bottom club with no money? The time to act is now, it's up to Moyes but don't be surprised when he goes back to one up front and defends at home in strength. This is being written before the Newcastle game what chance is there of the one up front returning?

Blue Blood

This interview was undertaken by the Excellent Everton website

www.nсно.co.uk

Simon Paul the site manager has kindly allowed Blue Blood to reproduce it, I would like to thank him for his kindness.

Graeme Sharp Interview – 18/10/05

What is your job title at Everton and what does your job involve?

Fans Liaison Officer, which involves a broad spectrum of things, dealing with fans requests, for instance to meet the players, visiting fans in hospital, looking after the many charity requests that come in, and also helping out supporters groups with their requests as well.

It also involves representing the club at functions, you could say it involves a little bit of everything.

Was the variety something which attracted you to the job?

Not really, I mean when you're associated with a football club for as long as I was, I mean I played 13 seasons at Everton, and of course I'm still a supporter, so when Alan Myers, who was Everton's press officer at the time asked me if I'd be interested I said "Yeah". I mean of course I've got my media work as well, which they said that the job here wouldn't clash with, and it's not something which you call a 9 to 5 job, you fit in with the demand.

I'm here most days, but it's not as if I'm waiting for the phone to ring, I mean, there's always something to be done.

Has your work with the media ever clashed with your position within the club?

Well, yeah, it has done. You see, people come on the radio and ask me about the in's and out's of the football club, and I mean, unfortunately, I'm not at that end of the organisation, so when people ask me the in's and out's, I mean, I don't know anything about the financial situation. That's all discussed behind closed doors, and that's the way it should be done at a football club.

People expect me to know all the details, and unfortunately I don't have access to that sort of information.

If we can talk about your playing days now Graeme, while you were at Dumbarton, a number of clubs were interested in you. What made you choose Everton?

My older brother Richard played for Rangers and I had the opportunity to go to Rangers or Aberdeen, or Dumbarton, and my father, who was a big influence in my career, said "You might go to a big club where you might not get a game" so I signed for Dumbarton, knowing full well that if I got into the first team and did well, as they were a selling club then there would be a chance to move on.

I always had a dream to come down to England and I had the opportunity to go to Aston Villa, and spent a week there on trial where I really impressed Ron Saunders who was the manager there at the time, and it was a big club, so I thought I'd be going there, but I never heard anything of it after the trial. So then I went back to Dumbarton, played a game on the Tuesday night, and then I got a call on the Wednesday from Everton.

I spoke to Gordon Lee, travelled down on the Thursday just expecting the same thing, to come down and see the place. I came down, was shown around Bellefield, around Goodison, and was offered the chance to sign there and then.

It was a big, big decision for me, and one I was unsure of at the start, so I spoke to my dad who said that as I'd had the dream of coming down to England, and that Everton were a big club, and to jump at the chance. And after that there was no hesitation.

You scored 159 goals for Everton, do you have any that stand out as personal favourites?

Yeah, obviously people talk about the derby goal, and off the top of my head there's that one, one of my early goals against Tottenham here at Goodison, we drew 1-1 and the goal was a volley past Ray Clemence in goal. This was at a time when Spurs had a team of Archibald, Ardiles, Ricky Villa, they were a very good side at the time, so that was a very good goal to score.

Others that pop into my head of course are the Watford at Wembley in the 1984 FA Cup Final, as it brought the first piece of silverware to Everton for quite some time.

Graeme Sharp Interview

Then there's a goal against Sheffield Wednesday in a cup semi-final at Goodison which was a volley in a game we drew 1-1, and then went on to win the replay at theirs 5-0.

There are a few, when you look back, I mean, I'm not saying you can remember every single one, like if someone says to you "What about that goal against such and such" you look back and I have to say I can't picture it, but you do have a vague recollection of the game and the goals. But the one that sticks out for me is the one in the Cup Final, as everyone wants to play in a Cup Final, never mind score in one, and as I say, it brought the first piece of silverware here for some time.

"That" goal at Anfield is probably what everyone remembers you for, how do you feel about that?

People ask me what it was like, and of course it's fantastic to score against them, especially over there, and I think at that time it proved that we were more than a match for them, for years there was a fear factor going over there, and that goal won the match for us for the first time in years over there. And it showed that we could go on and achieve good things.

It was great to score, great for the supporters, and more importantly it was great for the team, it eliminated the fear of them, and it gave us a sense of belief that, "Yes we can do great things"

That started off a very successful period for Everton, during which time you got to play against Andy Gray, someone who you had idolised at school. What was that like?

{Laughs}

I speak to Andy regularly still, and he doesn't believe it. I mean, when I was playing at school, Andy was at Aston Villa scoring goals, and with him being Scottish as well, he was a hero of mine. So when he first came down, and he was introducing himself in the dressing room, obviously he needed no introduction to me, and speaking after a few years I told him and he wouldn't have it, he was saying things like "How old do you think I was?" but it was true, he was a hero of mine when I was at school!

People talk of turning points at Everton, Kevin Brock's back pass for instance, the introduction of Andy Gray, the introduction of Peter Reid, it was all a part of that. Andy came into the football club, and he's a great character, he was a star player as well, and there were a lot of young lads at the place, and he was someone who had "been there and done it."

He got us all believing, he was a great advocate of team spirit, so he got the lads all together, and he was a fantastic player, a great player to play with. You always went onto the pitch with Andy knowing he was going to give 100% and nothing else would do, he wouldn't let you slack.

Every game was a battle with Andy, a battle of wills, a battle of strengths, and he was a real, real joy to play alongside.

That "battle" spirit was really shown in the game against Bayern Munich at Goodison, and was a great example of how combative a striker you were.

{Laughs again}

Yeah, well it was something that I had to work on. People used to say that when I came down to Goodison perhaps I was too nice a striker and wasn't aggressive enough, and Howard [Kendall] and Colin [Harvey] tried to add that to my game, but it wasn't really until Andy came to the club that I really added that to my game.

It wasn't really that he had taught me anything necessarily, but playing alongside him, it rubbed off on me with his tremendous will and desire to win, so, you had to become aggressive and you had to adapt yourself, I mean, things have changed nowadays obviously.

So who were the toughest defenders you came up against?

When I came down for my debut, Brighton away, the centre back, Peter Southerby, gave me a right-hook off the ball, sort of "Welcome to English football" – Kenny Burns threatened to break my legs in a game at Goodison in which I scored.

But my dad always used to say that, my brother Richard – who was probably a better footballer than me – wasn't aggressive enough, and he always used to say to me, you know, don't take any messing off anyone, and get your retaliation in first.

Kenny Burns, who had also been an idol of mine, threatening to break my legs, and, well, I sorted him out. You start to get a reputation then, that the defenders can't just give you a good kick and you'll disappear out of the game. I think in those days you used to be able to say to a defender, you know, give him a good kick, he doesn't like that, and you won't hear from him again – that wasn't the case with me, if they kicked me then I'd kick them back!

Graeme Sharp Interview

We mentioned the Bayern game, does that stand out for you as the best game you played in for Everton?
Yeah, I think possibly more because of what it stood for, I think that was the final in itself, as they were the best team in the competition. Me, Andy, and Adrian Heath all went to see Celtic v Rapid Vienna at Old Trafford for the other semi-final and we were thinking "We'd take either of these teams in the final" and in the end Vienna won it, so we knew that if we beat Bayern Munich we'd get Vienna, and we knew we'd beat them.

It was a tough game over there, 0-0, we had a lot of injuries, but coming back here, the whole atmosphere of the game, the fact that the crowd were here, an hour and a half / two hours before the kick-off, it was jam packed outside, we knew it was a big game.

We went into it, expecting to win, and then went a goal behind, and everyone says, you know, it was silence inside Goodison Park, but we got back into it, and it was a great game. But I think more so for the crowd, the occasion, you know, a full house at Goodison and Howard uttered that famous phrase about keep going, push it up to the Gwladys Street and they'll suck one in, which they did do. And after that, we were back in it, and yeah, it was a battle, and they didn't like it, but they gave as good as they got, but at that time, throughout the side there was a tremendous desire to win.

Did Howard carry that on, telling you to get it towards the Gwladys Street to get a goal?

In a way, but we always liked kicking into the Gwladys Street in the second half as we always thought they could give you a lift. But that was it, 1-0 down at half-time, he knew we were gutted, but we could hear the crowd outside, and he said, you know, the atmosphere is here for you. He had a great belief in the players did Howard, and he didn't always say a lot in the dressing room at half time, but what he did say, everyone listened to.

Stoke City is another famous example of that, when we were having a hard time, and before the game, there was thousands of Evertonians there giving it loads, and he said, "If you can't do it for yourself, do it for these" and that's when he opened the windows and told us to go out and put on a show for them. That got us a bit of a closeness between the players and the fans, obviously when you're winning, confidence is a big, big thing, and the supporters feel it too, but we knew they were with us, even when we went on pre-season trips, wherever we went there was always hundreds of Evertonians, and they were great to get away with, and we formed a good bond with the fans.

Obviously after Bayern Munich, and winning the Cup Winners' Cup, things went a bit sour with the ban on European football, and when Ian Rush went to Juventus, he was asked who he wanted as a striker partner. Without hesitation he said "Graeme Sharp" – were you ever approached to go abroad?

Yeah, I had the opportunity to go to Bayern Munich, and an opportunity to go to Monaco, and of course, looking back on my career, I'd love to have played abroad. But when the Monaco thing came about, they thought that my contract was up, although I had a year left, and I don't think they were prepared to pay the kind of money that Everton wanted.

I had the opportunity to go to Manchester United as well, Ron Atkinson wanted to sign me, he wanted me to run my contract down and then go to Manchester United, but I didn't want to, I realised that we had a good team here. Obviously after the European ban, that was a bitter blow, so I wouldn't have ruled out moving abroad. Not just for the football, but for the lifestyle as well, I had a young family, and when I look at Michael Owen coming back now from Real Madrid I think it's absolute madness, and if that was me in his position, I'd have stayed at Real Madrid.

You know, bring up your kids with a different way of life, so, I fancied doing that. I had the opportunities, but it just wasn't to be, and yeah it was disappointing not to play in Europe after Hysel, that was really, really disappointing.

In your opinion did Everton suffer greatly as a result of the ban?

It led to the break up of the team, definitely, you know, Trevor [Steven] and Gary [Stevens] went, and we got new faces in, and Howard left as well, and it did work. You know, Colin [Harvey] did well, and you look at the positions we achieved then, a lot of people weren't happy with, but I think over the last ten years the same people would have jumped at those league positions.

The Hysel disaster did have a big, big effect on Everton Football Club in general though.

Now we're not assuming you had any dislike for any of the managers you've worked under, but did you have a "favourite" manager at Everton?

No, not at all. I've great respect for Colin Harvey, and I've always said that Colin was one of the major influences in my career, when I was here early on I used to think he was a swine, he used to work me really hard, work me in the morning and afternoon, and I used to think "He's picking on me" and he pulled me aside one day and he said, "I'll continue to pick on you, because I've got

The Graeme Sharp Interview

the belief that you can make a good player" – so I was delighted in that, that he had great belief in me, and when I was in the reserves behind the likes of Biley, Mickey Thomas, Ferguson, Ainscough, I used to think I wouldn't have a chance, so maybe I'd move away, but Colin kept pushing me and I got my chance against Notts County. He was great Colin, Howard was a different character, more approachable, more low-key, and more light hearted. He was a great manager as well. Obviously the first time he was fantastic, the second time people always thought "He can bring back the golden days" but you've got to have the players to do that.

I thought when Colin became manager he was fantastic as well. Managers are judged on the signings they make and the league positions they achieve, and he brought in a few players which didn't work out. People say there was animosity between the older players and the players he'd brought in, which was absolute rubbish, the older players try to adapt, and try and bring them into the way of life. They didn't want to adapt to that, so that's probably why they didn't work here. Then I was fortunate enough to move to Oldham with Joe Royle, another Evertonian, and Joe was fantastic as well. I've got a lot of time for all of my managers, and that goes back to Dumbarton with Davie Wilson, I really haven't had any problems with any of my managers. Of course you don't get along with them every single day or agree with every decision they make, but I always had enough respect for them to get over it.

You spent three years as manager of Oldham, did you pick up anyone's management style, or try to work the same way as any manager?

I think it's difficult, I mean, you like to think that you do, but I think that once you're in the job and you've got to make the decisions, and you can't say, "Well I'll do that cos' such and such did it" You do the best you can. When I took the manager's job it seemed like a natural progression, but looking back now it was the worst thing I could have done. Even the move to Oldham, although we stayed in the Premiership for three years it was probably the worst move of my career, and looking back I if I could do it again I probably wouldn't have moved.

When I got the managers job it was difficult, they'd just gone out of the Premiership, and all the board wanted to do was cost cut and it got to the stage where I was thinking, "Well, that's OK, but let the fans know where we're at" but no, they wouldn't do that. They wanted to keep telling people we were pushing for promotion while all the time cutting away, and it got to a no-win situation, and I just had to end it, I had a young family and I didn't need it.

Any plans to go back into management?

No, not really, I think it's getting harder and harder to be a manager and I'm quite happy with what I do now and the media work as well. I feel sorry for some of them, they're not that well paid, and the pressures that are on some of them is just amazing. And at the end of the day, it only ends in one thing, and that's your P45.

As a striker yourself, it must be pretty painful watching Everton at the moment, with our lack of goals, did you find that the less you score, the harder it becomes to score yourself?

Oh definitely! It plays on your mind, and when a chance does come down then you're snatching at it. Every striker's been there. What our strikers are probably saying now is, "If we're missing chances then all well and good" but we're not even giving them chances.

They're there to score goals, and of course goals matter, but they're not getting them. I think our football's good, until the last third, so it's difficult for the strikers, and it's difficult for the team when you're not scoring goals, so you've just gotta keep plugging away and hopefully you get a lucky deflection or it hits someone's backside and goes in.

Who was the best goalkeeper you ever came up against?

I'd have to say Neville. Even in training Neville was fantastic. As a striker if I was having a bad spell and need a bit of confidence, I'd think "Ahh, I'll go out in training and bang a couple in" but Neville was so good that he wouldn't let you do that! He'd take the mickey, like stand at one end of the goal, make you shoot to the other side, and then get across to save it and your confidence would be shattered! In that side in the 80's, when Neville was on his pomp, he was easily the best goalkeeper in the world. People draw comparisons with Peter Schmeichel, but Neville was an equal to Schmeichel, if not better. He was more athletic, he was just a phenomenal goalkeeper was Neville, and I think he gave a few people who didn't remember him or never saw him a reminder of how good he was in "The Match" on Sky the other week, he really was a fantastic keeper.

Who was the best striker you played alongside?

{Laughs}

People ask me this all the time, but it's so difficult, I mean I could say one and then Andy Gray would be on the phone giving me a bollocking for not saying him!

Graeme Sharp Interview

I was fortunate though, I played alongside Andy, Gary Lineker, Inchy [Adrian Heath] and they all had their own special attributes, but I probably enjoyed playing alongside Andy more, purely from an enjoyment aspect, we had a partnership and knew that we would look after each other, and apart from anything else, we won most of the games that we played in, so in terms of enjoyment, it was Andy. In terms of goalscoring, I'd have to say Lineker, he didn't add an awful lot to the game, he didn't join in, in between and we changed to be a bit more "route one" – long balls for me to flick on for him to run on to, but as a goalscorer, he was different class, and probably the best goalscorer I played with.

Footballer, Adrian Heath. He was one that, when he came to the club as the record signing, we got on together straight away from the first minute on and off the field.

All three of those, although I'd say Andy Gray and Inchy were probably the most enjoyable to play with, Inchy as a partnership and understanding. Andy with enjoyment and belief, having the belief that we were going to win. That was the thing with Andy in the side, even if we went a goal down, in fact even before we got off the bus, he would say "We ain't losing this game, come 5 o'clock when we get back on this bus, we won't have lost the game" – a prime example was Sheffield Wednesday away one year, when Andy scored and Neville made a couple of blinding saves, Andy got off the bus saying "We won't lose this"

Any that you didn't enjoy playing alongside so much?

Erm...somebody asked me the other day, and we went through a list of players I've played up front with, I think it was about 20, and there were some that perhaps could have done a little bit more work, Tony Cottee for instance. I know Tony scored a lot of goals at Everton but his general work rate wasn't great and Howard [Kendall] was a great believer that you worked as a partnership, the two of you had to share the work, so when the ball was coming out to full-backs, you were chasing them. I just thought that TC didn't do that so much, great in and around the box, but he wasn't the most energetic of strikers.

Strikers aside, who were the best players you played alongside?

It won't go down too well, but Souness and Dalglish for Scotland, without a shadow of a doubt were fantastic. For Everton, I was fortunate enough to play in that side, and from a selfish view, Kevin Sheedy on the left hand side, I always knew what he was going to do, and passing the ball there was no better. Asa Hartford when I first came down was excellent as well.

Best moment of your career?

Winning the FA Cup in 1984, because it was the first trophy we'd won for a long time, and after the disappointment of not winning the Milk Cup when we should have done, Hanson's handball etc and I think there was a doubt about us winning, but that gave us the belief and started everything off for us.

Going to the World Cup ranks highly up there as well in Mexico.

Any embarrassing moments you dare to share?

Oh, bloody hell! Erm, probably that hairstyle in the early 80's. But that was just one of those things you decide to do when you're young and daft!

There was one time I was wrestling with my dog the night before the game, and couldn't play in the game because my hand was swollen up and I remember after the game I was asked what the injury was, and I had to answer "My dog bit me" and it got in the paper the next day, that was quite embarrassing!

Probably my fashion sense as well!



Thanks to www.nsno.co.uk

An independent Everton website



Hi George

I wish all you whingers would lay off Moyes. He has been this clubs biggest asset since the day he got here and sorted out Blomqvist and a few others.

Manager of the Season in 2 years out of 3 tells its own story. Ok he's not perfect, who is. Personally I don't care if some of the players don't like him.

Injuries have been a big factor this season and hopefully all his buys are going to be a success.

The boy's done good.

Come on you blues.

BARROW BLUE

PS. Blueblood gets better all the time

Blue Blood,

At last Moyes has seen sense, he has discovered that if you attack you might just score and keep the other team from attacking you.

Moyes makes many mistakes, that's ok, he's young but he doesn't learn from them.

Rangers are after him but as young and mistake ridden as he is, we need to keep him.

Because the day that Moyes believes in Moyes then he will become one of the great managers.

Confidence is his biggest challenge, he lacks it, he needs self belief and another good season will give him that.

Yours Sincerely

Dave Robinson

Blue Blood,

Just a few words to say how much I enjoy the fanzine, I can see that you put a lot of work into it, just reading the History Of Everton makes it worth the money.

How do you get so many facts and figures about the Blues?

Steve Draper

Editors Reply. I use a whole host of Everton books and counter check every detail.

George,

Amazing to hear all these know alls now that Moyes has got a few points on the board, why didn't they write in before, when we were rock bottom and support the guy then?

Easy to be smart after the event but you and others didn't moan until nine games had passed, these clowns praise him after three matches. If these fans are right why don't they want Moyes to return to one up front?

I hope Moyes succeeds but he did deserve telling off for the crap he was serving up as Everton Football, one forward at Goodison, it should never be that bad.

Martin Ford

Forty Years Ago These Men Lit Up Wembley Stadium



Above the reunion from left Alex Scott's son, Wilson, West, Pickering (Tommy Wright was ill) Labone, Temple, Gabriel, Young, Brian Harris, Colin Harvey, Mike Trebilcock



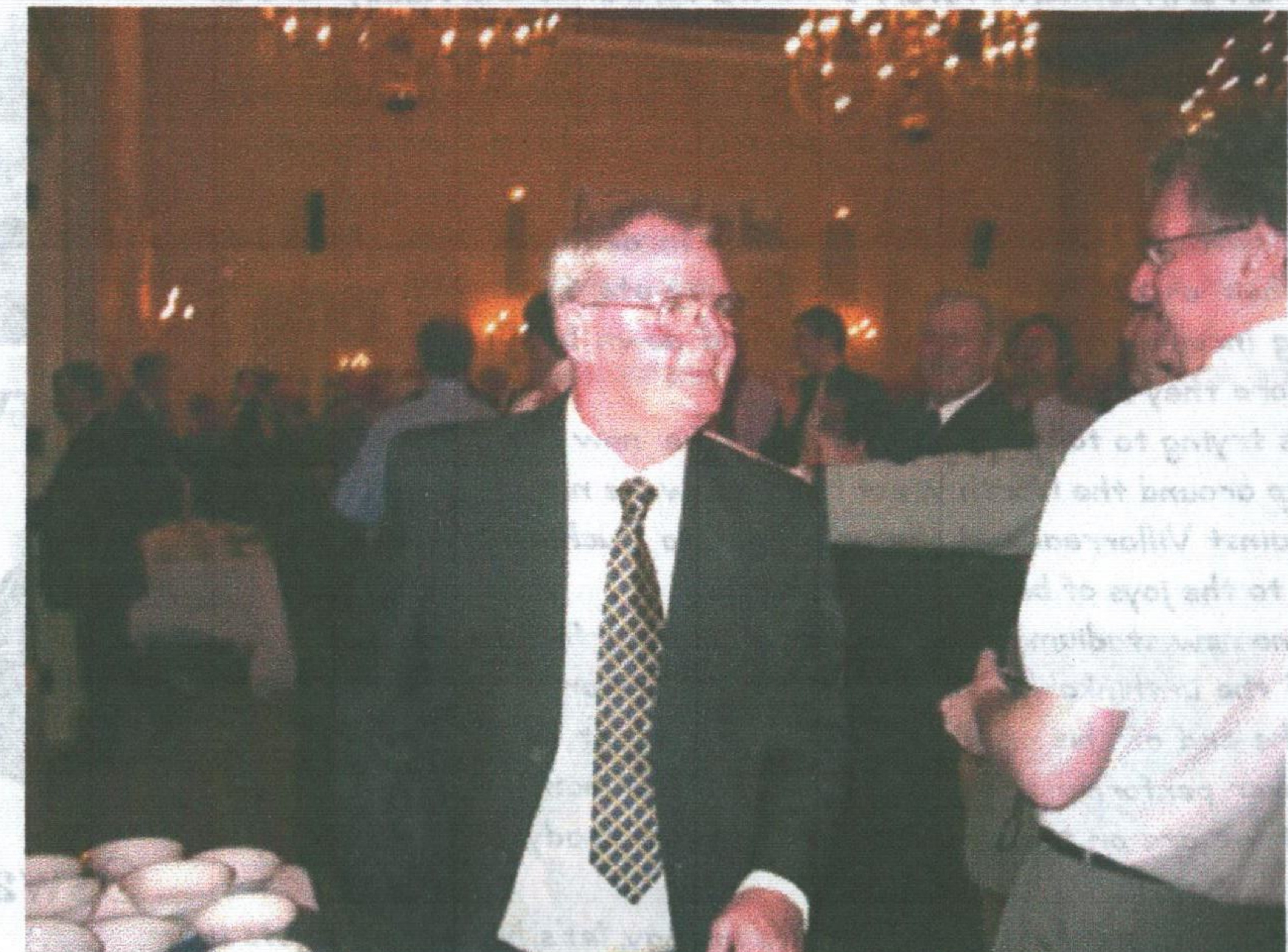
The one and only Gordon West



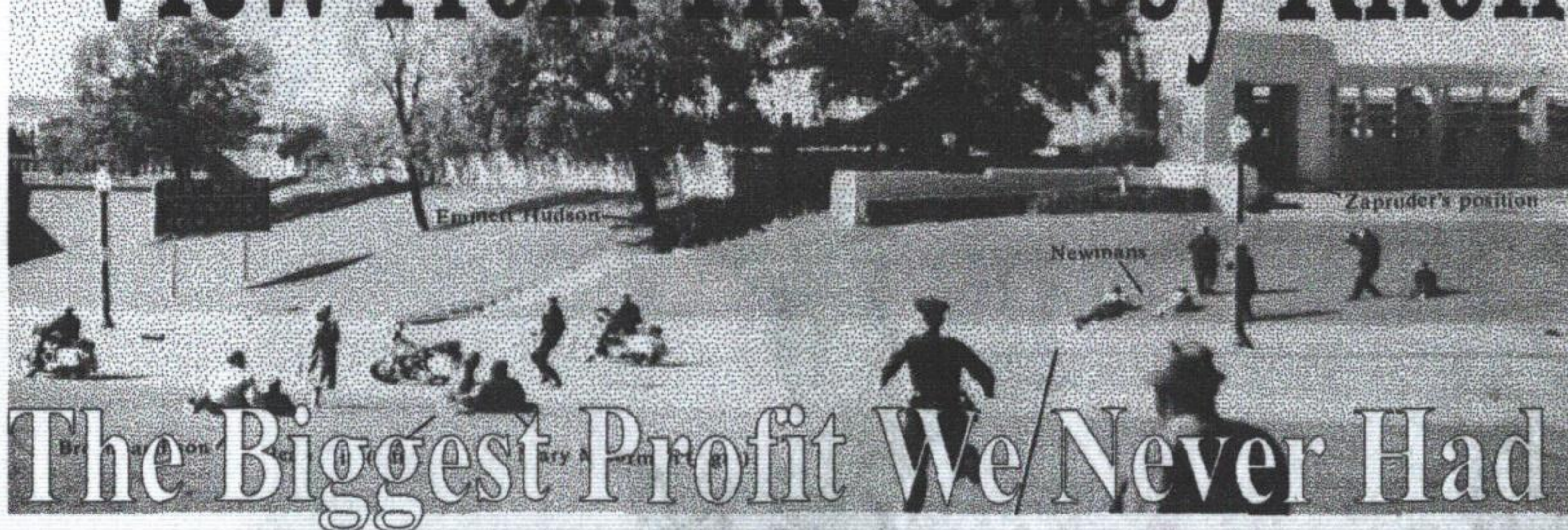
On Wednesday 2nd November at the Adelphi Hotel Liverpool Bluenose Promotions Presented A Tribute to the 1966 F.A. Cup Winning Team
WWW.borntobeblue.co.uk were there and kindly took these photo's thanks to Jonathan Bauer more photo's on page 11



The hero of the day 14th May 1966 Mike Trebilcock (above) and the man who had his dream shattered (below) Fred Pickering. Harry Catterick stunned Evertonians with his late choice but it proved to be the right one. Photos from Jon Bauer borntobeblue.co.uk



View From The Grassy Knoll



Kenwright

"The Million Dollar Bill"

The Liverpool Echo headlines screamed out 'Biggest Profit In Everton History!!!!!!'

Sadly it isn't correct, yes Everton did get more money into the Club last season but the bulk came from the sale of little Jumbo to Man U and Gravesen to Real Madrid.

Increased television fees and the European qualification money also added to the total. Take the increases in Lounge price tickets, the sale of the Eileen Craven Car Park, the increase in season ticket prices all of which add to this so called increase in turnover by 34%.

The actual figure is an operational profit of zero % on top of that we have spent £23.5 million since January but have had no income from player sales since then.

Wages alone have gone up £7 million since this time. Van der Meyde, Valente, Ferrari, Neville, Arteta, Per Kroldrup, Davies and Ruddy have all added to this bill.

Joe Bearswood an independent account and Evertonian has predicted a £16 million loss for this season, that equates to a £30 million loss in overall trade.

Everton Football Club are still £27 million in debt and they have sold most of their assets, ie the car park, Rooney etc, the small rise in merchandising income has been from plans laid down by Dunford and Andy Hosie before they left the Club.

Wyness is trying to take all the credit for the new Megastores that are opening up around the North West but they were not his idea. The ticket fiasco against Villarreal and the non flight to Bucharest where his contribution to the joys of being an Evertonian.

There is no new stadium and the team are not performing as well as last season. If the unthinkable, happened then relegation would be spelt liquidation. The end of this once great Club might just be a few kicks away but the ever performing artist that is our Chairman would have you believe that we are on the up, rolling in dosh and ready to buy, buy, buy in January.

The trouble is it could be Bye, Bye, Bye in May, let's hope Moyes gets it right because he has the ability to keep us afloat whereas Kenwright hasn't.



Lee



Harvey



Oswald

EVERTON STICKERS 1996/2000

The 1995 F. A. Cup Final saw Everton emerge triumphant, Paul Rideout's goal enough to see off Man Utd at Wembley. Merlin Premier League 1996 featured a sticker of the squad proudly displaying the clubs last trophy. One of the most featured players on Everton stickers debuted in this series Duncan Ferguson. Opinions on big Dunc vary from talismatic hero to expensive luxury. Foil team kits and 3d stickers represented Merlins willingness to experiment . A duplicate set of stickers were given away with Shreddies cereal and due to limited availability these are quite collectable nowadays. A double sticker featuring a rampant Duncan Ferguson in full flight was an attractive addition. Merlin had now settled and what seemed a standard formula of 15/18 squad members with variations in each series. For example 1997 saw the team pic almost double in size so that you actually had a chance of identifying the players. Another Dunc double sticker proudly proclaimed him international star even though he had refused to play for Scotland since his infamous jail term the previous year.

98.,99, and 2000 retained this formula and featured several large money signings such as Bilic, Williamson ,Materazzi, Dacourt, Barmby, Collins and Bakayoko . Baka was pictured against a tree , presumably when signing, which would have got on the move quicker was debateable ! Managers were now an absentee from the sets so Walter Smiths doleful grin never adorned an Everton sticker. Merlin issued several sub sets featuring new signings ,star players etc. while both they and Panini issued sets to record the international tournaments .Players such as Amokachi, Hottiger , Bilic featured with only Nick Barmby representing England, From 1996 to 1998 Panini in association with the PFA bought out three sets entitled Super Players. I well remember a bemused news vendor losing his stock of stickers and albums at Coventry prior to a league cup tie in 1997.The first set was printed so badly that the Everton royal blue shirt took on a distinctly greenish hue, possibly prompting that in the next two sets the players were pictured wearing anonymous training tops with resplendent PFA logs on. So on to the new millennium.. Everton after a last gasp escape from relegation in 1998 were staggering rather than striding purposefully under the guidance of the tactically challenged Walter Smith , I wonder if he left behind his manuals and guides for the present manager who seems only just less tactically bereft. albeit doing the job with one hand tied behind his back by a clueless board.

For sticker collectors and enthusiasts newer better stickers were on the way, however.

Barry Hewitt.



Share and Share Alike

There once was a Shareholders Association and everything looked fine, of course there were little squabbles every now and again but they usually sorted themselves out.

In June of this year the AGM saw some unrest. Mr Tom Cannon was all fired up and he let fly, he was not happy with the way the Association was being run and brought a 'Point of Order' to the committee. After a few minutes of bluster Mr Cannon's proposal for a vote of no confidence was put to the floor, it was outvoted.

The evening was disrupted on a few more occasions as discontents raised objection after objection, thankfully the meeting ended and it was agreed to have another AGM to clarify items that had been brought up.

This took place at Goodison Park on Monday 7th November 2005, there was only a small turnout and Mr Cannon was not present, neither were the other shareholders who had raised the objections. The meeting started and everything went smoothly, there were a couple of resignations announced and the meeting ended.

Then it was announced that there was to be a new Shareholders Association, it was being formed by the discontented ones who had over the last two years tried to obstruct the running of the committee and get their (outvoted) ideas across.

It was to rival the original organisation but would be more influential (friendly to the board) it would help them get their (self) opinions across.

This elite group of professional men and women think that the ordinary fan who only owns one share should not be able to represent them, so after they tried and failed to get their minority views across they, in simple terms, walked out and formed their own little click, which is now nice and cosy with no objectionable people to hinder their self promotion.

They are only interested in furthering their own image, wining and dining with the board is more their aim than challenging them for the ineptitude of the last few seasons.

They use the media every time they feel an injustice against themselves, DEMOCRACY is not a word that they understand.

Listening to them over the past two years has at times been hilarious, some performances have been of 'Oscar' level. Standing in front of the assembled audience they hold pieces of paper as if they were 'Scripts' they bellow their pointless opinions to a bored crowd, only their own self obsessed friends vote on their proposals, they hinder every meeting, it's like a courtroom drama at times.

The sad thing is that the genuine shareholder who is usually a fan who has saved their hard earned money to buy one share in their beloved club are made to feel not important enough to even be at a meeting.

The good thing is that now that these people, who can't get their own way, have left, there will be a more pleasant atmosphere at future meetings, ordinary fans can get on with the job of challenging the board and make them accountable to the shareholders, which after all is what a shareholder should do. Wanting to get your name or your companies name in the paper should not be the aim of a shareholder.

To the ordinary shareholder, these people who have probably bought their shares with Company Money are a throwback to the bad old days, of shoulder rubbing creeps who do not represent the majority but only themselves.

Their new organisation will not be for the fans but a self indulgent 'Beano' for the rich and 'Want To Be's.'

I am looking forward to going to the Old and Original Shareholders Association meetings without them. I will not be taking up their offer to join the new Association because if I did try I think I would find that this new and democratic organisation might just have lost my application form in the post.

The Silent Witness

The Gordon West Story Strikers? I Don't Like 'Em!

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY AT one time last season had fullback Wilf Smith up for sale, at £150,000. And I believe that the day will soon dawn when a goalkeeper will be transferred for that magical £100,000 fee. Why it hasn't happened, up to now, baffles me. Indeed, I have always been puzzled as to why a goalkeeper commands such a relatively low price on the transfer market.

Is he the worst player in the team? Is he the least valuable player in the team? Is he the player most easily expendable? To all of these questions, the answer in my view is a resounding No!

There are good goalkeepers and bad ones; flashy ones and the ones who make difficult saves look easy, and the easy saves look hardly worth a passing thought. But there are good players and bad players in every outfield position; players who flash briefly into a game, then disappear for a quarter of an hour; players who dazzle, and players who are sheer, hard grafters. In short, the goalkeeper is not necessarily any better or any worse than his colleagues.

For some reason I have been unable to fathom, the forwards who score goals carry the glamour tag. All right so goals are what the fans want. But does it make a scoring forward any more expensive, really, than a goalkeeper who SAVES-scoring shots?

Surely, in any manager's estimation, the 'keeper who can put up the shutters is just as valuable as the forward who can clobber opposing defences, and find the back of the net. What use is it, if a team can score three goals a game while the goalkeeper on their side is giving away four?

And, when you consider that the goalkeeper is the last line of defence, I am certain you will agree that he is not the player most easily expendable. Not unless he's letting in soft ones every week.

Yet the fact remains that the further back you go, the cheaper the price becomes. Allan Clarke forward with the scoring touch: £165,000. Ron Davies, of Southampton, could not be bought for under £200,000 if that. And what price that entertainer supreme, George Best? A cool quarter of a million, I would estimate ... and then some.

In the half back line, we have had big-money signings such as centre-half Mike England (Blackburn to Tottenham, for £95,000); wing-half Alan Mullery (Fulham to Spurs for £72,000). And before Wilf Smith had a £150,000 price tag put on his head, Blackburn were reputed to be wanting £100,000, initially, for their England defender, Keith Newton. Now Keith is an Everton player, and he still cost £80,000.

Yet what does the record fee stand at, for a goalkeeper? West Ham paid Kilmarnock £65,000 for Bobby Ferguson. And England's Gordon Banks commanded only a £52,000 fee, when he was transferred from Leicester to Stoke City although I suspect that, had Gordon been five years younger, he would have become the first £100,000 goalkeeper. However, the day will come.

Not that I believe this sort of money is a realistic appraisal of any player's real value. It is the old law of supply and demand which dictates the selling price and, let's be honest, there are players who have moved for fees far in excess of their true value. But let's be honest again the selling club has set the price, and the buying club has paid it. So you cannot blame the players.

I believe that our manager, Harry Catterick, has done Everton and the game, generally a service, in refusing to be stampeded into paying what he has considered excessive fees for players, even though he might have fancied them to strengthen his team.

It is one thing to get value for money, or pay even a little over the odds; it is another to

pay outrageously through the nose, just because a club demands a fantastic price. Harry Catterick has shown resolution and the courage of his convictions, more than once, in his dealings in the transfer market.

He has shown that he was not afraid to splash huge sums of money, when he thought the occasion and the player justified such expenditure. But he has also made it clear that neither he nor Everton intend to be held to ransom, just because someone else has thought of a figure and slapped it on a player's head.

When you sign a player, no matter how good he may be, you have to consider what service you can expect from him, and how much a season that service is going to cost your club. If it isn't a viable proposition, all things considered, then you are better forgetting about the deal. Still, as I have said, I believe that the day of the £x00,000 goalkeeper will come. I don't say it will be the right price to pay, but I still maintain that if you are paying top money, there seems to me no valid reason why a goalkeeper shouldn't cost as much as any other member of the team. After all, he's just as important as anyone else, even if his role is often less spectacular than that of others.

And talking of the spectacular, I remember a friend of mine telling me about a game he saw at Ewood Park, between Blackburn Rovers and Manchester City ... when that great goalkeeper, Bert Trautmann, saved TWO penalties in the same afternoon. And still City lost by four or five goals!

My pal said that Bert was fantastic, that afternoon, the way he got his hands to those penalty shots. He was always tremendously agile, and he had cat-like reflexes. That afternoon, he seemed to move like greased lightning.

Which brings me to another question: do goalkeepers sometimes cheat, when a penalty is being taken? The answer this time, I am convinced, is a resounding YES! And if to forgive is divine, let us remember that it is also human to err...

You can ask some of my Everton team-mates about spot-kicks, and goalkeepers. They will tell you, without a moment's hesitation, that they have missed penalties because the goalkeeper has moved, before the ball was kicked. I've seen it happen, too.

In theory, a goalkeeper shouldn't stand a chance, when he's facing a player taking a spot-kick. But there are instances, every season, when the 'keeper makes a save. Probably the best penalty expert is Chelsea 'keeper Peter Bonetti they don't call him 'The Cat' for nothing. But Alan Ball will swear that Peter once moved, as our inside forward prepared to shoot for goal from the spot and what was a 'cert.' became a miracle save.

I don't blame Peter it was a truly magnificent save. And any goalkeeper must be off the mark as swiftly as possible, if he's to have any chance at all of getting to the ball. Even then, he's got to guess right, and go the right way otherwise he can look a proper Charlie. The referee, obviously, saw nothing wrong in the way Peter made his save, so there was no goal for Everton. But you'll never convince Alan Ball that Peter wasn't taking off, before the ball had left the spot. with most of his shots. He's the type of player who prefers to side-foot the ball home, placing it with accuracy, and yet putting plenty of zip behind the ball. Our centre forward, Joe Royle, adopts a different method he slams that ball as hard as he possibly can towards the goal.

Joe has taken quite a few penalties for Everton, too, and he pins his faith in power and speed. Joe leaves it until the last possible moment, before he decides where he's going to aim for 'I figure that if I don't know where I'm going to put the ball, how the heck can the goalkeeper work it out?' he says.

But when he does plant his boot behind the ball, he whams it as hard as he can. The method in his madness is that if the 'keeper does manage to get a touch to the ball, it will be going so hard that he won't be able to prevent it going into the net. I've seen Joe in action, and I can tell you that he really can crack a ball. One of these days, some goalkeeper is going to get in the way of a Joe Royle cannonball ... and we'll see the ball going right through his body, and into the net!

What about me, when it comes to saving penalties? Fortunately, I've had to face very few spot kicks, in my career, and I'm glad because, for one thing, I guess I'm too honest. I wait until the ball has left the ground, before I move. I'm probably too nervous, as well. I always seem to take an age to decide which way to dive or leap in fact, they keep telling me at Everton: 'Look, you've got to make up your mind before the ball is kicked. All right, if you go the wrong way, you look a mug but if you pick the right direction, you do have a chance of saving.'

I think, to date, that I've conceded four goals from the penalty spot, and saved two. I don't know whether or not you'd call that a good average. All I can say is that I've done my best, every time; and sometimes my best wasn't good enough.

There are goalkeepers who make notes in little black books, about the way certain players take penalty kicks, or the way some fellows score most of their goals. I'm not one of the notebook variety, either. I have to play the game by ear.

It's true to say that until I joined a League club, I had never had any training or coaching about keeping goal. I became a 'keeper by accident, as I have explained in an earlier chapter, and if I've done well at my trade it's because I've started off with a natural ability to stop shots and collect the ball from the air, with a pair of big and generally safe hands.

Of course, since I became a professional footballer, I have trained hard and been given good advice about improving my goalkeeping. And I've tried hard to take in what people have said, and act upon the advice. But I'm still really the natural type of player I play the game my own way, and if it's good enough, all right; if not, well So I cannot really advise any aspiring young goalkeeper on the best way to make good.

I really do believe that you have to have a natural eye for the ball, quick reflexes, and sound judgment. Plus guts. A goalkeeper has to take plenty of knocks, even though he is protected more now than ever before. But if he's chicken, and won't go down at a forward's feet, or if he is afraid to challenge for the ball in the air, then he'll never get the chance to use that safe pair of hands.

If you asked me to name the greatest save of my life, I don't suppose I could. But I can pick out two occasions when I know I made good saves if only because of the effect they had on the opposition. In one game, during an F.A. Cup run, we played the Wolves, and Ernie Hunt who later joined Everton, before moving on to Coventry collected the ball when he was about 20 yards from goal.

Ernie took the ball on the volley, and hammered a real rocket shot at goal. The ball was heading for the far corner of the net, and I literally hurled myself across the goal, in my efforts to reach it. I still couldn't tell you how I managed to save that shot luck and instinct, I suppose. But I got there in time, my hands grasped the ball and it stuck. Ernie looked thunderstruck ... but he wasn't half as surprised as I was!

The other memorable occasion came when we were playing Arsenal. This time, their forward, Bobby Gould, was only six yards away from me, when he let fly for goal. Again I got my hands to the ball, and held it. Poor Bobby looked mortified, as he held his head in his hands. But, sportingly, he shook my hand later, and congratulated me on making a fine save.

Is there a centre-forward whom I fear more than any other, in this game? No ... because I don't like any of 'em. And they don't have to be centre-forwards, either. If they play up front, and have a reputation for scoring goals, I'm always glad to see the back of them. By which I mean that I'm happy when I make a save from them, happier still when my own team mates make sure they don't get the chance to slam in a shot. And believe me, I really hate those freak shots which whip past you, just when you've got the ball safely covered. Or so you think.

You know what I mean. From 25 yards out, a forward slams a shot at goal. It's going for

the target, but maybe there isn't a great deal of power behind the shot, as it nears the goal. And in any case, you clearly have it covered. Then the ball hits a player, or bounces off a divot and before you know where you are, it's been deflected past you and into the net. But to come back to centre-forwards, I'll tell you the ones for whom I have most respect, as opponents. Allan Clarke, of Leeds; the two Davies's, Wyn (of Newcastle) and Ron (of Southampton); and (when we come to generalise about forwards) Jimmy Greaves, of Tottenham; Denis Law, of Manchester United; and Derek Dougan, of Wolves.



Gordon keeps his head out of the way in this Arsenal attack

For different reasons, too.

Allan Clarke is a real danger man and so nonchalant, with it. He always seems to be lurking around the 18-yard box, and he will pounce upon the ball and slot it home before you realise he's got possession. This fellow is a menace, and he's deceptive with it, too. Because he swoops and turns a half-chance into a goal, with a shot that can be amazingly accurate. The Davies boys? You've got to beware of them, whenever the ball is bobbing about in the air. They can rise to the occasion, and you have to be very much on your toes to sweep that ball from the head of either of them. The way they can get up is nobody's business—and you need every inch of height to combat the danger, when either Ron or Wyn is around.

Jimmy Greaves is a real goal specialist; a poacher who is as slippery as an eel. Billy Bremner will tell you that Greaves is the danger-man Leeds manager Don Revie always marks down and, as Billy says, somehow, even though you stick like glue to Greaves, and think that, for once, you've got him taped, you find that, suddenly, he's given you the slip. And in the twinkling of an eye, he's slipped the ball into the net.

Jimmy isn't one of the physical players; he gets his goals by sheer craft and I mean that in the complimentary sense of the word. Greaves can scent an opening, when no gap is apparent. He's like Allan Clarke one minute he's well out of harm's way, and the next you suddenly realise that there is Greaves, creating space out of nothing and while you're still recovering from the shock, the cheeky blighter has slipped the ball past you, sometimes through the narrowest of gaps.

Denis Law may not be quite the firebrand of old but I've always found that Denis is ready to go in where lesser men fear to tread. His quicksilver reflexes have taken him right into the trouble zone; and when you think you're collecting the ball, you suddenly find that Law is going in, all or nothing—and often the ball finishes in the back of the net. I reckon that Denis has suffered many of his injuries because he couldn't refuse the challenge of a half-chance. It's muck or nettles, as they say, when he Spots even the ghost of an opening and the chance of a goal.

Derek Dougan can score goals but you've got to be very wary about this fellow. Because one moment he's coming through, with that long, loping stride, and the ball at his feet; or maybe he's going up just a few yards out, to put in a goal bound header or so you think. Then you realise that he's slipped the ball to a team-mate, just a couple of yards away—and the danger is coming from a completely different direction.

The players I have mentioned have been around quite a while, now, of course. But if I had to tip a centre forward for the top, it would be our own Joe Royle. Joe, of course, has already come under the eye of Sir Alf Ramsey, and it will surprise me very much if he isn't wearing an England jersey in the World Cup year of 1974. Already, he has made his mark in the First Division which is just about the most demanding competition in club football, anywhere in the world. But I'm convinced that we haven't seen the best of Joe Royle, even yet. He scored 29 goals a couple of seasons ago, and last season he was soon the League's leading marksman. When you reach that standard, and you're only 20, you can hope to go on and become a world beater. Which is exactly what I believe Joe will become. Joe isn't likely to forget his early days in top class football with Everton. He was spotted by manager Harry Catterick as a raw boned youngster, playing at inside-forward, in a Lancashire schoolboys' game at Chester. Joe had also played a bit at wing-half in those days. But the Everton boss decided that this strapping lad could become a scoring centre-forward. A spearhead who would take the quickest route to goal. And even as a teenager, Joe had the full backing of his manager, who played him in a game at Blackpool, you may remember and became the victim of an attack by some louts, after Everton had lost. Possibly another manager might have decided that discretion was the better part of valour,

after that. But Harry Catterick was convinced that Joe Royle was going to be a good 'un and he persevered with Joe, even when other folk were saying that Joe would never really make the top grade.

Joe himself admits that at one time, he hadn't really got that killer instinct he could head a ball really well, he packed a powerful shot in either foot; but he lacked that vital spark which made him hungry for goals. Well, Everton worked on him and to good effect. The manager and the coaching staff drummed it into Joe that if he wanted to be a success, he couldn't afford to leave anything to chance.

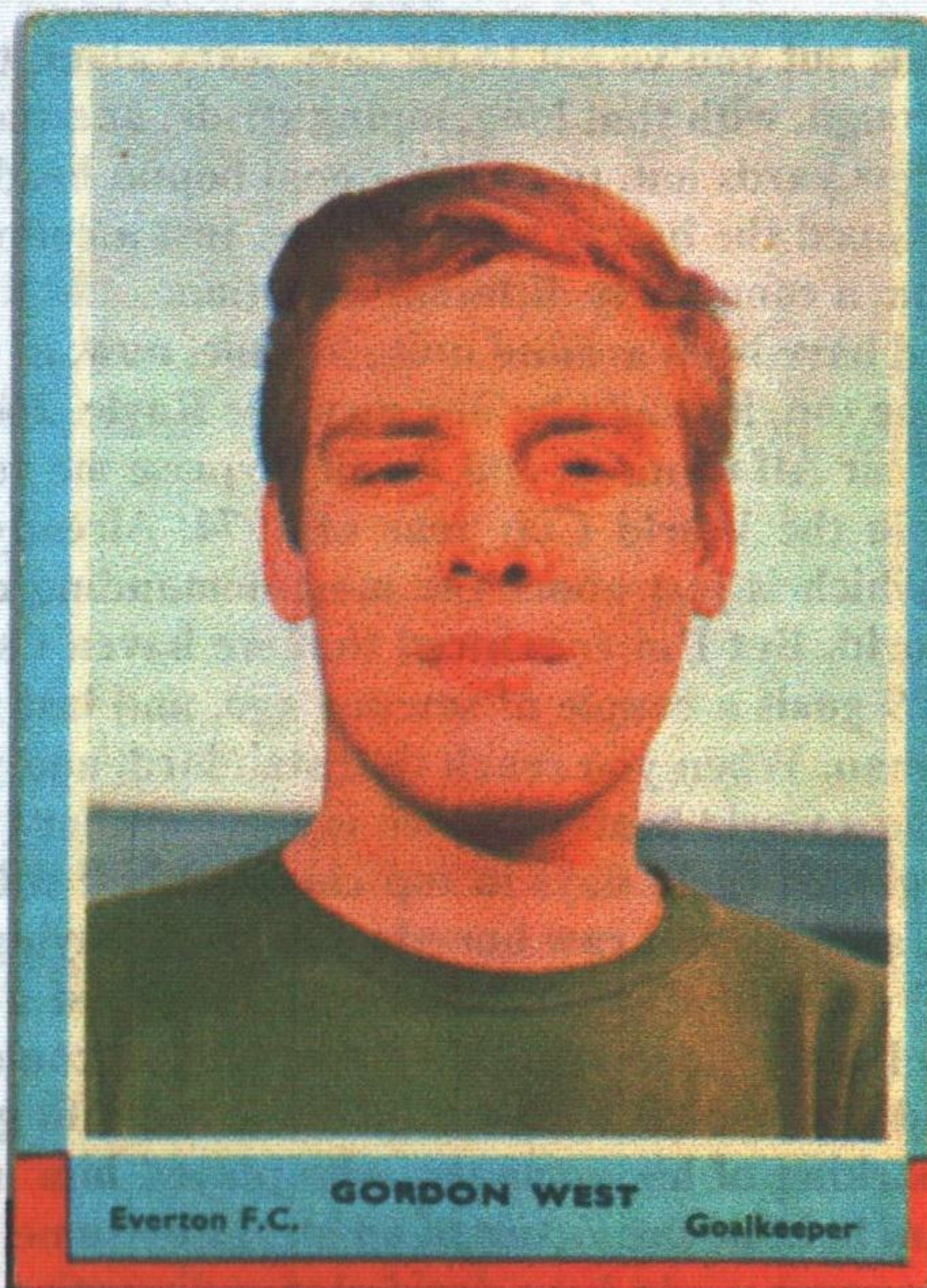
Goals were his trade, goals were what he was being paid to get; and he must be ruthless, when he spotted the chance of scoring. He had to hammer that ball with venom, and make quite sure the goalkeeper didn't stand a chance. Joe took in this advice, and his game began to improve no end.

I've often wondered just what Joe thought, when he learned that Everton had been in negotiation for Cohn Stein, of Hibernian. Stein, rated at £1000,000, didn't arrive at Goodison instead, when the deal fell through, he joined Glasgow Rangers. But I think that business must have acted as a spur to Joe Royle, and put him on his mettle.

I don't know if that was what 'the boss' intended but certainly Joe has come good since then. Nowadays, his play packs a fire and a punch which had been missing, at times, before. He's hungry for goals the more, the better. And he's going to get better, as he gains in experience.

So although I have mentioned players whom I rate highly, I'll finish this chapter by forecasting that Joe Royle can become the best of them all. He's a centre-forward in the old-fashioned style, although he can play a bit of football, as well. But it's his ability to head the ball home, and the punch he packs into his scoring shots, which will make him great.

Believe you me, I'm not kidding, when I say that I'm glad Joe is in OUR team. I wouldn't like to have to face him, even twice a year!



The Seven Circles of Hell

It struck me a couple of weeks ago that it was twenty years to the day since my first visit to Goodison. The date? 9 November 1985. Neil Pointon was making his debut too and hit a post as a rampant Everton thrashed Don Howe's Arsenal 6-1. Lineker got two, Heath two, and Steven and Sharp got the rest. Afterwards I told my grandfather that it was "The best game I'd ever seen." Well I would, wouldn't I?

Even now it stands out in my mind among the great afternoons amidst two decades that have largely been consumed with despondency and despair. By contrast, last Saturday's shocking display – careless, clueless, lethargic that it was – against West Brom was one of the worst I've had the misfortune to watch -- and I've had the misfortune to watch a lot of rubbish.

Since Blue Blood is increasingly becoming a forum for moaning and slagging off the "Moyesiah", here's my contribution for the month. No, not a celebration of the best Everton performances I've ever seen; but a look back at the worst over the past twenty years – and there's plenty there to keep the Moyes-knockers happy.

10: Aston Villa 6 Everton 2, November 1989

Finally it seemed as if Colin Harvey was building an Everton side capable of more than mediocrity. A good October had left Everton in touching distance of the top of the table when they went for a televised visit to Villa Park. It was Peter Beagrie's debut, but another winger – step forward Tony Daley – was the day's decisive influence, ripping through the Everton rearguard at will. Only two late goals, one from Tony Cottee, brought a semblance of respectability to proceedings. After that debacle Colin Harvey's men never got their confidence back, and within a year the great man was gone.

9: Everton 0 QPR 3, November 1993

In the early-1990s Rangers had a useful side, spearheaded by the great Les Ferdinand (the best number nine Everton never had) who was a perpetual torment. I hated playing QPR as we never seemed to get anything and Sir Les always seemed to get half his seasons goals against us. Even during the glory years, when they played on that horrible plastic pitch, we usually came away empty handed. This time, however, we were on home turf, and Ferdinand didn't even get on the scoresheet. Instead, a rampant Bradley Allen – usually better known for being the worst of his family's footballing clan – grabbed a hat-trick against a spineless Everton team.

8: Arsenal 7 Everton 0, May 2005

A balmy Spring evening, a few scoops with my Arsenal supporting mate beforehand, Everton are just in the Champions League, and 3,000 blueboys are singing "We're all going on a European tour". And then this. A combination of Richard Wright's ineptness, the previous weekend's hangovers kicking in, and everything going right for a wonderful Arsenal side led to a result that was more a freak than an embarrassment. Coming away from Highbury my friend's French wife called to see how we'd got on. After convincing her he wasn't lying about the score the line went momentarily dead as she took in Arsenal's stupendous result. Finally, she asked "...et James?" James, however, was already back in the pub and drowning his sorrows.

The Seven Circles Of Hell

7: Everton 2 Bradford City 3, January 1997

I can't remember whether the writing ("Royle Out") was already on the wall for genial Big Joe at this stage, but this FA Cup Fourth Round tie came in the midst of a horrendous run that saw Everton's season and his managerial career go tits up. Everton's tactics were achingly predictable (pass it to Unsworth who would run to a 90 degree angle of the penalty area and hoof it into Ferguson or Speed; or give it to a disinterested Kanchelskis who would run up a blind alley) and despite plenty of pressure they were turned over by a mesmerizing Chris Waddle. The worst moment came when a ludicrous back pass by Kanchelskis was intercepted by the one time magnificent mullet and he adroitly looped the ball over an aging Neville Southall from 40 yards. Soon after Kanchelskis, then Royle, then finally Big Nev all went; Everton have never quite been the same since.

6: Shrewsbury Town 2 Everton 1, January 2003

The worst result in Everton's history? This is one for the statos, but given that Shrewsbury finished the season bottom of the Football League, it possibly is. Okay, so we had Peter Clarke in the defence and several bit-part players, but a certain Wayne Rooney was up front and whichever way you look at it, it was a disgraceful, depressing result.

5: Everton 1 Sheffield Wednesday 2, April 1999

The day I thought Everton were going to be relegated. A passionless display against a poor Wednesday side at the tail end of a drab season – what other conclusion could you come to? David Unsworth and Marco Materazzi – the Everton defence's "Dumb and Dumber" – played Hare Kare, chucking away a Francis Jeffers lead by gifting Benito Carbone two second half chances which he took with aplomb. Everton looked doomed, although their recent loan signing had shown a few good touches. Little did we know then that Kevin Campbell would save us.

4: Dinamo Bucharest 5 Everton 1, September 2005

A season that promised so much effectively ended here. The strange thing is that Everton had been by far the better team in the first half and were unlucky not to go in at half time a couple of goals to the good. But as they seem to have an infuriating tendency to do under Moyes management, they fell apart after half time, conceding not just one or two goals but a disastrous four. Nearly three months on, our confidence still hasn't recovered. Some argue that it never will.

The Seven Circles Of Hell

3: Everton 1 Leeds United 4, December 1991

The nadir of Howard Kendall's second reign. Admittedly Leeds were a decent side and would go on to win the League Championship that year, but they were hardly immortal (their title defence a year later would pass without a single away win) and were better known for their graft than guile. I guess you could say they were a bit like us last season, but in a less competitive league. Everton, however, were all over the show and this could have been a defeat in double figures. Sadly, it also marked the end of Kevin Ratcliffe's Everton career. Banished to the reserves thereafter, a sad search for a club followed which would eventually lead him to Dundee and Chester City.

2: Manchester City 5 Everton 1, May 2004

We've had some awful results under Moyes (four of the ten games mentioned here were under his management, and there's still no room for the abject displays against West Brom, Arsenal or Newcastle) and it seems as if he sets out to match every high point with a crushing low. The Man City game was the worst of the worst, however. At the end of Everton's most abject ever season, Moyes's men put in a performance so crushingly bad that I couldn't have cared less if none of those players had ever pulled on an Everton shirt again. In fact, I'm convinced that the players themselves couldn't have cared less. This was a team that didn't want to play for the manager, and a manager who couldn't get them onside. I was at a wedding in France that afternoon, and my brother dutifully texted me every time the ball went into the net. When it got to four I turned off my phone, and dazed, drank a bottle of champagne in about five minutes flat to help me forget about things. Back home 48 hours later, I watched a video of the horror show -- and was soon reaching for the bottle again.

1: Everton 0 Tranmere Rovers 3, January 2001

Not just a disgrace, not just an abysmal scoreline, but a staggeringly inept performance that typified the decay of the Smith years. Former Everton hero Paul Rideout returned to Goodison after a four year gap (and bear in mind he'd looked on his last legs in 1997) and was made to look like Pele by Everton's clueless backline. 'They just fell apart, opened up and played into our hands,' said Rideout after the game. 'About 60 per cent of Everton's players let themselves and the fans down in front of a full house. They should have shown passion and they certainly didn't do that – I really couldn't believe how easy it was at times.' Smith should have gone there and then; instead we were treated to another fourteen months of this rubbish.

James Corbett

The Peoples Club

It's time to renew your membership of the Peoples Club, David Moyes needs your subscriptions and he needs them now.

After what seemed a revival the game at West Brom brought it home to most members of the Club that the manager no longer had what the paying membership wanted.

Only Cahill was injured, so why not just put Osman in and leave the rest alone, Ferguson & Beattie could have done the trick but no, Moyes had to put Bent in, not only that, he also had to recall the abysmal Kilbane. That meant that Andy Van Der Meyde could not play on the wing, where he has been so exciting and had formed a link with Beattie.

The team was disrupted from the start, yes I know it wasn't a penalty and they should have had their goalie sent off but even with ten men and no goalie, we still wouldn't have beaten them.

The substitutions were another case of 'What the hell is he doing' when Ferguson came on we all thought that he would line up with Beattie but Moyes took Beattie off, unbelievable.

The rest is well documented but what really gets my goat is what has happened since that farce on Saturday. Moyes gives his by now usual, this is not good enough crap spiel but does nothing about it. Did they get told to come in for extra training on Sunday? Did they have to put in more hours in training Monday to Friday? Did any of them get played in the reserve game on Tuesday night at Blackburn Rovers?

The answer is no to all of those questions and while we are on about the reserve game where was Kroldrup and Vaughn neither played. How the hell can Kroldrup be on the substitutes bench in the Premiership when he can't even get match fit in the reserves?

All of this is frustrating and upsetting enough but believe me it pales into insignificance compared to what is coming next. After the weekend Marcus bent gave an interview to the Liverpool Echo, he paid the usual lip service to the fans who the players had let down badly but he went on to say that Moyes had said his piece and in his own words "He's had his go but he is one of the boys, he's one of the lads, he's Everton through and through, he'll stick with us and we will work on putting things right. We owe the fans a lot. We owe them from the start of the season."

Well Marcus I am glad Moyes is your mate because I am not, and neither are any of the fans who traveled down to West Brom, I know he will stick with you, because Moyes won't drop anyone not even Kilbane and he will not discard McFadden, you will not have to train harder or play in the reserves because your mate Moysie says so. If you cast your minds back to last season, we clinched the fourth spot, the next day Moyes took all of his mates (the team) for a drink that lasted into the early hours of Monday morning. Two days later Moyes's drinking partners better known as The Everton Football team got snotted 7-0 at Arsenal, the worst defeat in Everton history.

Thanks Mr. Moyes I hope you take some of your mates with you when you go.

'The Long Time A Traveling Blue' Graham Houghton



Aren't you glad we sold him?

Last seasons exploits in the F.A 'Cup had helped to produce Everton profits for the season at a record £16,372 with Players wages and other costs coming to £7,440 making a profit of nearly £9,000 Last seasons squad of twenty six had increased to thirty two, William Black left for Dumbarton having played twenty games, David Wilson also moved on to Portsmouth having only The new players were Hugh Adamson a Scottish Player at right half, John Borthwick from Hibs a centre half John Coleman from Woolwich Arsenal an inside right, Bert freeman a centre forward from Arsenal, Val Harris a versatile player from Shelbourne in Ireland, John Maconnachie a left back from Hibs. Harry Mountford an inside left from Port Vale, Daniel Rafferty a right winger from an unknown source having been a reserve Player, William Stevenson a right back signed from Accrington, Arthur Winterhalder an outside left from West Ham, Leonard Woods also an outside left who came through from the reserves, Everton were ready to take on everyone. They had been knocking on the door of the league and Cup double last season and most Evertonians thought that there was to be a prize at the end of the season. The 1907-68 season Started at Bristol City the Everton line up was Scott, Robert Balmer, William Balmer, Tom Booth, Jack Taylor, Walter Abbott, Joe Donnachie, Hugh Bolton, Sandy Young Fred Rouse, Harold Hardman.

Bristol, last seasons runners up in the League were not going to be easy. 14,000 watched an exciting game with five goals, Bolton and Hardman got the Everton goals but Everton let three in and lost. One week later and a home game against Manchester City, Makepeace replaced Booth, Sharp replaced Donnachie, 30,000 were inside Goodison and they were treated to a six goal thriller, both teams getting three each to share the points. Young got two and Rouse the other.

Two days later on a 9th September 1907 Everton had another home game against Preston North End, John Maconnachie makes his debut at Goodison Park in front of 15,000 fans, Abbott and Makepeace score in a 2-1 win,

Five days later and it's the return leg against Preston, Arthur Winterhalder replaces Hardman at outside left for his debut, Jack Taylor returns at Centre half, in place of Maconnachie Everton try to take the points but have to settle for a draw in front of a 12,000 crowd. the final score is. 2-2 Bolton and Sharp score, The 21st September and Everton entertain Bury at Goodison, entertain is the key word because they go on a spree, Hardman who came back into the team to replace Winterhalder played a blinder, he was everywhere and poor Bury couldn't cope. 25,000 Evertonians cheered every one of Evertons six goals, Bolton 2, Young 2, Hardman and Taylor Bury did manage to get a consolation goal but it ended 6.1 for Everton. Aston Villa away, Crelley replaces Robert Balmer at right back, the only change from the Bury game. 35,000 Mainlanders cheered on their heroes, they had started the season well and were confident they would beat Everton, the Blues however had other ideas, Settle and Sharp score in a brilliant 2-0 victory. 5th October 1907 and Goodison Park has 40,000 fans packed inside, it can mean only one thing the "Derby Match, yes our six toed friends are at Goodison Everton score twice through Settle and Sharp but the other lot get four, Everton lose 4-2 at home in the Derby, devastating unbelievable, no words can describe the dejection that hits every Evertonian.

One week later and away to Middlesboro, Thomas Chadwick replaces Makepeace, Booth is in for Taylor, they are the only two changes. 17, 000 Boro fans expect an easy win after Everton's sad display in the Derby but as ever Everton are at their best when everyone writes them off, Bolton and Young score in a fine 2-0 win.20,000 turn up at Goodison a week later



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for the game against Sheffield United on the 19th October 1907, a local newspaper photographed the crowd and did a 'is this your Photograph' competition, (see photos on next page) it is an early insight in to how Evertonians dressed' for a match.

Sandy Young last seasons top scorer was finding the net again with five goals in the first eight games, he got another two in this game and Everton won 2-1

Everton' next game saw them travel to a new ground, Chelsea had made it into the First Division and had high hopes of performing well. They also had a huge crowd of 50,000 urging them on. Everton struggled to hold the Londoners and lost 2-1 with Centre Half Tom Booth getting the Everton goal.

Nottingham Forest at home on November 2nd, Harry Mountford makes his debut at inside left, it is a winning debut and a goal scoring one, Harry gets the only goal of the game to give Everton the points, 12,000 Blues go home happy. Manchester United away, they are playing well and are on top of the league, 30,000 are inside their stadium to watch a fantastic game, Harry Mountford doesn't get a game, Settle replaces him, the game is end to end, attack after attack, seven goals are scored, unfortunately United get four and Everton three, Bolton Hardman and Settle are the Everton goal scorers.

Blackburn Rovers at home, again only 12,000 watch, Leonard Woods makes his debut at outside left surprisingly the only change. Everton get back to form and score four goals in a 4-1 win Settle 2, Bolton and Young. Bolton away, Woods makes way for Hardman, a lowly 5,000 watch as Everton fail to sparkle. Bolton put three past the Blues with no reply.

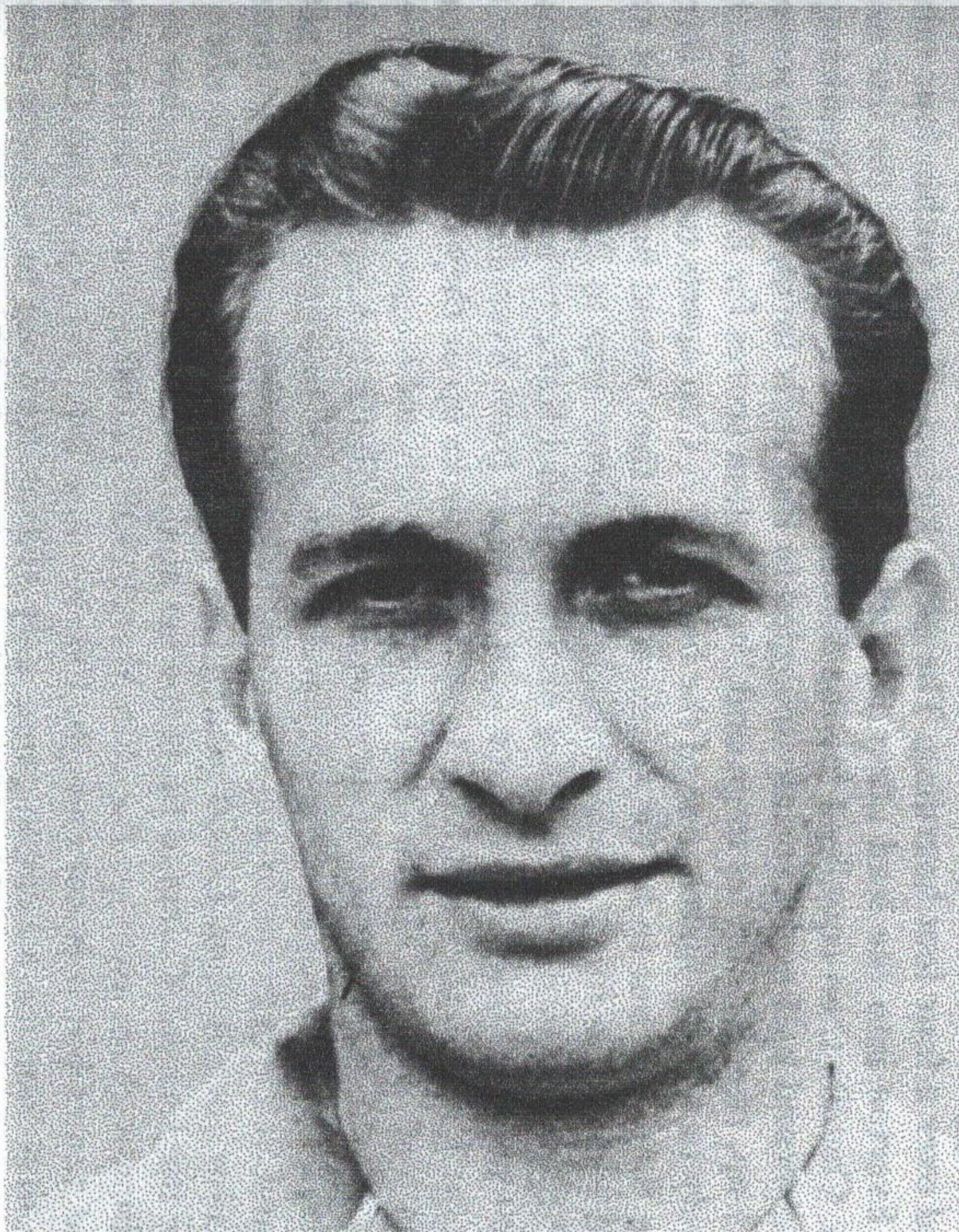
Into December and a trip to the frozen North at Newcastle, William Stevenson makes his debut at right back, Tom Jones gets a rare game at centre forward, Crelley is in at left back, Maconnachie is recalled at centre half, these four changes failed to stop the rot, 30,000 Geordies, with icicles hanging from their noses watch their team win 2-1, Settle gets the Everton goal. One week later and its time to get the Huskies out again, Sunderland away, Leonard Woods is back at outside left, Mountford plays his second game at inside left, Robert Balmer replaces Crelley, 10,000 Wearsiders see a revived Everton claim both point Jones and Mountford score in a 2-1 victory.

December 21st 1907 and it's Woolwich Arsenal at home, Hugh Adamson makes his debut at right half, but in the Everton tradition Mountford who has scored on both his appearances gets dropped to be replaced by Settle, only 10,000 are at Goodison to watch this game, Jones scores to earn Everton a point in a 1-1 draw.

Christmas Day and an away game at Notts County, Sandy Young is back after a three game absence, Mountford is recalled at Inside left, Bert Freeman makes what is only his second appearance for the Blues, 14,000 see Everton lose 2-1 Young scores.

Boxing Day and home to Bristol City, 30,000 Evertonians are hoping for a belated Christmas present, Settle and Sharp return after missing the game at Notts County, Makepeace is also back, as is Hugh Bolton but there was little to cheer in this drab 0-0 game, the last game of 1907 away at Sheffield Wednesday 14,000 watch at the Owlerton Stadium. Jack Taylor returns after five games out through injury, he is a tremendous influence at Centre Half, although he is getting on he still has the experience to get the best out of the team, a great captain and excellent Evertonian. Donald Sloan gets a very rare game in goal replacing Bill Scott, Sam Strettle also plays at left back which was to be his only appearance of the season.

Everton round the year off with a victory, Bolton and Young score in a 2-1 win. January 4th 1908 away to Manchester City, Billy Scott is back in goal Winterhalder plays, Freeman plays his first back to back game for Everton but its a poor start to the New Year, City win 4-2, Bolton and Taylor score, only 9,000 watched, Tottenham Hotspur a Southern League team are Everton's opponents in the F. A. Cup 21,000 watch a spirited display by the Southerners but Everton manage to scrape home 1-0 thanks to a goal from Sandy Young.



Tim Coleman a signing from Woolwich Arsenal.
The two photographs on the right were taken at Goodison Park on October 19th 1907 A newspaper 'Circled' two faces and gave a prize to those supporters.

IS IT YOUR PHOTOGRAPH?

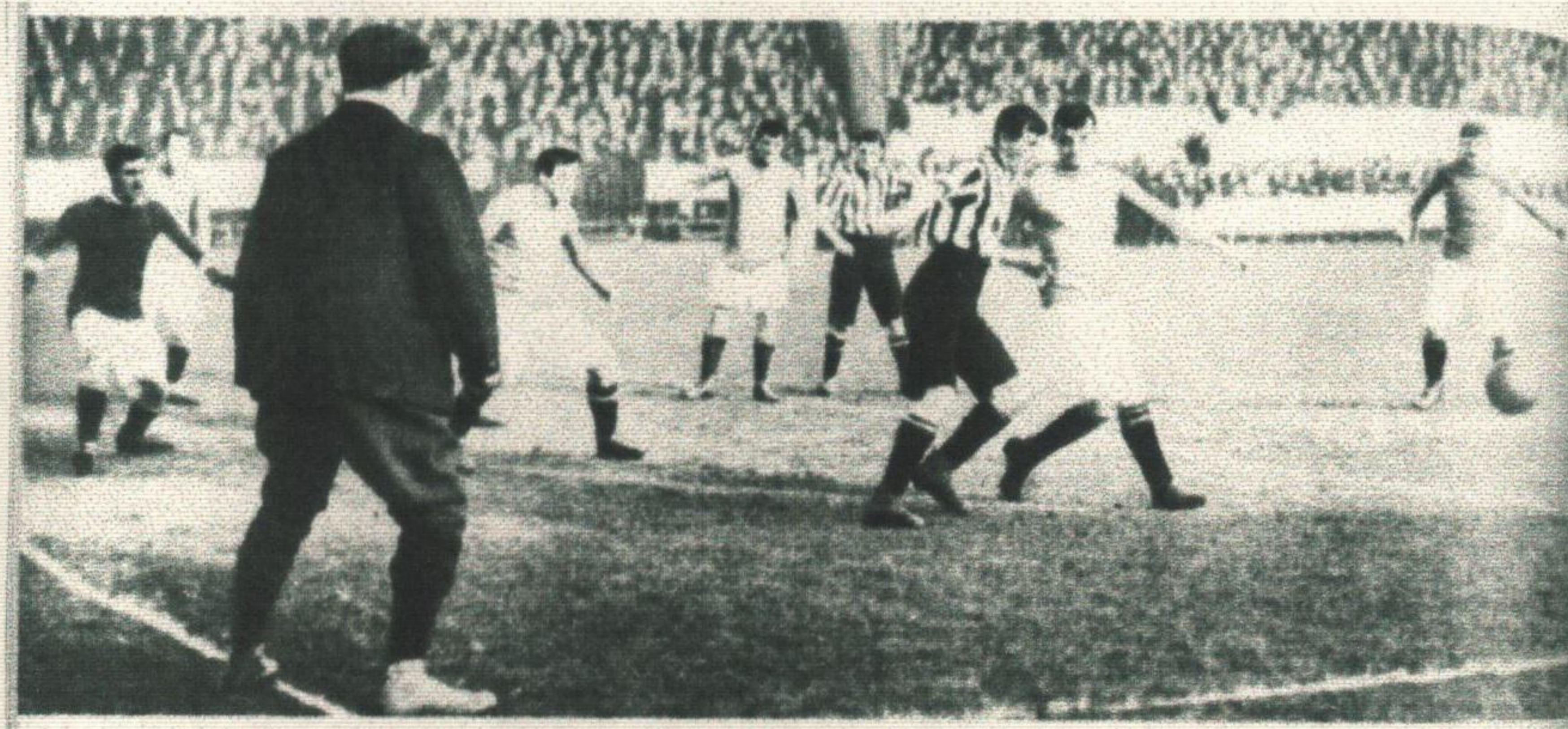


Plate 4. Shareholders at Goodison. Evening News, Sheffield & United, published

January 18th and away to Bury, the team Everton destroyed 6-1 at Goodison yes Everton do the Everton thing, and lose 3-0, 12,000 Bury fans go home to their Black Puddings, Everton just go home.

30,000 Evertonians arrive at Goodison Park for the visit of Aston Villa, they are always a handful at Goodison and Evertonians know they will see a high quality game. Its a hard game, Villa defend well but Sharp manages to breach their defence and Everton win 1-0. 1st February 1908 and the F. A. Cup takes Everton to Oldham a team riding high in the Second Division. 25,690 cram into the Oldham ground hoping to see a Cup upset, Val Harris Makes his debut for Everton at Centre Forward replacing the injured Sandy Young, Valentine Harris was an Irish Lad from Dublin he was 25 years old, normally a right half but could play anywhere and indeed during his time at Goodison played in six different positions he was to play a mayor role in the future of Everton Football Club, Robert Graham a Glasgow lad who played at a inside right played only three games for Everton this being his last, It was a strange line up for Everton and they nearly paid a heavy price. The game ended 0-0 and Everton were grateful for another chance, which came four days later at Goodison 25,000 are there for the replay. Sandy Young is back so is Bolton and the difference is soon seen, Hugh Bolton slams in four goals, Abbott and Young get one each in a 6-1 win. February 8th and a home game against Middlesboro, again there is no record of the attendance at Goodison but it is sure to have been over 25,000. Everton kept an unchanged team and made no mistake this time, they won 3-1 with Young getting two goals and Settle the other. In the league two days later Everton travelled down to Nottingham Forest, only 8,000 watch Everton, with eyes on the Cup more than the League, Everton brought in Winterhalder, Maconnachie, Jones, Crelly and John Coleman made his debut at inside right, Booth plays a rare game, so it wasn't that much of a surprise that Everton lost but it was the scoreline that was hard to, believe 5-2 for Forest!! Mountford scored one goal and the other was an own goal. Next game up is the F. A. Cup and Everton are at home to Southampton 40,000 came to Goodison Park to see the Southern League Club and what should be an easy win for Everton, easy or not Everton fielded their best team. The little team from Hampshire played well, closing down Everton and giving them few chances, the game ended 0-0.

Another replay and a long journey on top of that, 20,000 fans turned out for the replay and many more clambered over a four foot hoarding. The game kicked off and within four minutes Young had put Everton into the lead after his shot hit the underside of the bar and bounced over the line. Costello then equalised for the Saints then Bainbridge put Southampton into the lead. The second half and Everton struggled to find their form, Costello scored again to put Saints 3-1 up, twenty minutes to go and Hugh Bolton scores for Everton. Southampton hung on bravely to win the match, one of the biggest F A Cup upsets to date. A third trip on the trot to the final was not to be for the Evertonians, they would have to wait another year for a night out at the final. Three days later a shorter trip to Blackburn for a league match. Donald Sloan plays in goal in place of Scott, Daniel Rafferty makes his debut at outside right, 10,000 see Blackburn score twice with no reply from Everton, the League is defiantly out of reach for Everton they will have to pull their socks up or they could slip near the bottom. Birmingham at home on March 28th Everton's first home league game since Feb 8th. A poor Goodison crowd of 10,000 see Scott return in goal, Rafferty keeps his place and Coleman makes his third appearance Everton play well Young gets two goals, Coleman gets his first for the club and Settle gets one in a 4-1 victory. Three days later and another home game this time the visitors are Bolton, 15,000 watch this game Jack Taylor returns after a three game absence in the League, Coleman finds the net again and Sharp adds another in a 2-1 win for Everton, Birmingham away on the 28th March 1908, 12,000 attend, Coleman gets his third goal in three games but it is not enough, Everton lose 2-1. 1st April and Chelsea visit Goodison for the first time for a League game, only 10,000 turn out to welcome them, they had, had a hard season and were mid table which wasn't too bad for their first season, Everton didn't play well and Chelsea took them apart 3-0 the crowd left early, those who stayed did so to boo. (To be continued in issue 30) es



Hell At The Dell

Everton travelled to Southern League Club Southampton for an F.A. Cup replay. The Toffee's came unstuck and went out of the Cup in front of a delirious 20,000 Hampshire crowd.



