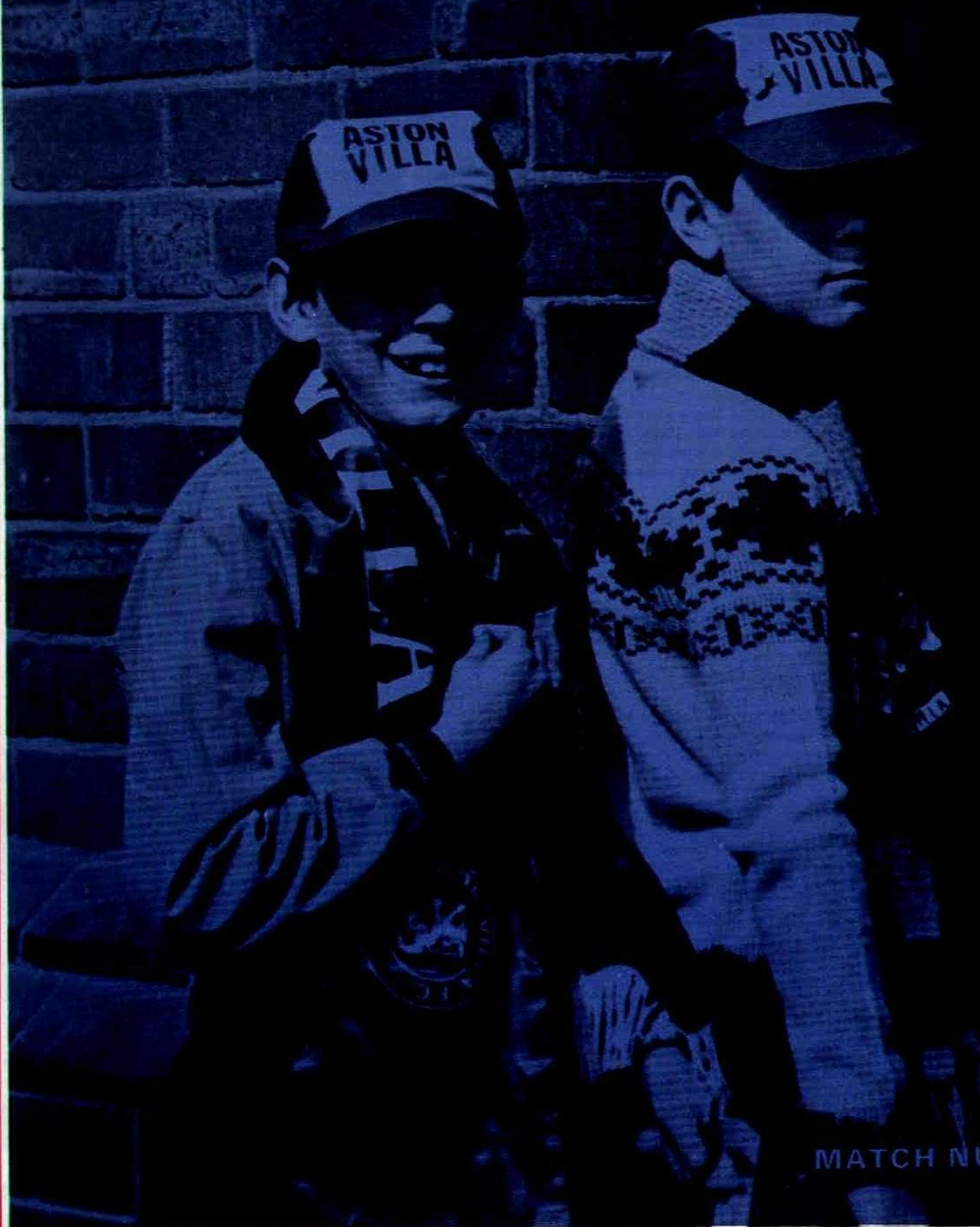


ASTON VILLA

NEWS & RECORD OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 7p



MATCH NUMBER 4

VIC CROWE TALKING...



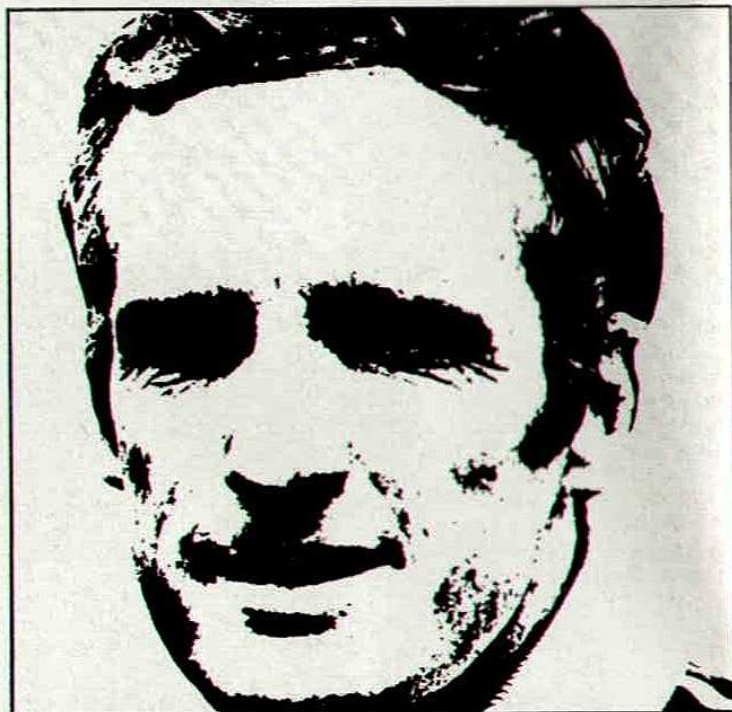
The fact that I was missing at Cardiff last week has caused some speculation that I was out and about looking at a player as a possible transfer target—and the speculators have expressed surprise that I should be still in the market when we have had a reasonable start to the season.

They have justified their surprise, however, by pointing out that, no doubt, I am doing my shopping ready for the First Division next season.

If only I could be sure . . .

There is nothing I resent more than suggestions that we are already home and dry, when the season has barely started and the wintergreen has not even been used. Frankly, I am delighted at the start we have made. I also know that without such a start you have precious little chance of keeping among the leaders.

But to suggest anything else is entirely irresponsible. Despite our good start I take back nothing of what I said only a few weeks ago at





the beginning of the campaign—namely, that it is going to be very hard all the way and just as difficult to get out of the Second as to get out of the Third.

The one thing I will not tolerate at Villa Park is complacency. I am just as eager for promotion, and just as willing to discuss our hopes, as the rest, but to assume that we can already start dreaming of the First Division is an insult to the intelligence of our players and staff.

On the other hand, to suggest I was looking at another player last week was an assumption which was right on the target. It was one of those very rare occasions when I had to see a specific player at a specific time. No other reason would have persuaded me to leave my own team. It happens only rarely, but when these circumstances arrive they have to be met.

We are all, after all, seeking the same thing. We are all employed in the same pursuit of excellence. We all have room for improvement and

this is why I, and every other manager in the game, constantly evaluates and assesses other players.

On New Year's Day last year I predicted in this column that 1972 would see the first £250,000 transfer and with four months to go I still believe my prediction will be reached. After all, following the reported figure for Derby County's signing of David Nish, we are only £25,000 away, and in this kind of rarified atmosphere that sum is neither here nor there.

Quite clearly transfer fees have rocketed during the past season, and they are still climbing. There are no signs, as yet, of fees levelling out; the opposite is more true. One of the reasons for this is that clubs are more and more believing that large transfer deals are an investment rather than a speculation. Those handful of clubs who can consider chasing players for one-quarter of a million pounds and more probably believe that to hesitate now might cost them another £50,000 next

year. This is, seemingly, the size of the inflationary transfer spiral.

I will continue to assess and evaluate players for the present as well as the future. We must always make the first yardstick of our playing staff that it is the best possible talent available. We set very high standards at Villa Park, and our public are entitled to expect to see the best.

We must always, therefore, try to aim for improvement and higher standards.

Left: Alun Evans marks his first full appearance for Villa by scoring an early goal against Nottingham Forest.

Below: Dejected Forest defenders sense the end of their unbeaten record—and Villa march onto a League Cup glamour tie against Leeds United.

Above: Alun Evans again bursts through the Forest defence, but, this time, just fails to make contact with a low centre.



PETER DOWNSBOROUGH, Goalkeeper. Born Halifax. Signed in August, 1965, from Halifax Town, where he was a product of local football. A fearless, agile player who has done much to strengthen the Town's defence. Regular member of the promotion-winning side of season 1968-69, Football League Cup winning team of 1968-69, Anglo-Italian League Cup Winners Cup winning team of 1969 and Anglo-Italian Competition winning team of 1969-70. Height: 5 ft 10½ in, Weight: 13 st 7 lb.

ROD THOMAS, Defender. Born Glyncorrwg. A former youth player with Swindon, he was signed from Gloucester City in July, 1964. Has gained Under-23 and full Welsh caps. A regular member of the promotion winning side of season 1968-69, Football League Cup winning team of 1968-69, Anglo-Italian League Cup Winners Cup winning team of 1969 and Anglo-Italian Competition winning team of 1969-70. Height: 6 ft 1½ in, Weight: 12 st 10 lb.

JOE BUTLER, Defender. Born Newcastle. Joined Swindon in August, 1965, from Newcastle United, where he had graduated to the senior ranks through the junior team. A tenacious player whose speed and ability amply make up for his lack of inches. Regular member of the promotion winning side of season 1968-69, Football League Cup winning team of 1968-69, Anglo-Italian League Cup Winners Cup winning team of 1969, and played in the Anglo-Italian Competition winning team of 1969-70. Height: 5 ft 7½ in, Weight: 10 st 10 lb.

ROGER SMART, Midfield. Born Swindon. Another local player who joined the club direct from Swindon Schoolboys team. At 17, he was appearing regularly at centre-forward in the reserve team, but excels as a deep-lying inside-forward. A versatile player who is able to play at wing-half. Regular member of the promotion winning side of season 1968-69, Football League Cup winning team of 1968-69, Anglo-Italian League Cup Winners Cup winning team of 1969 and played in the Anglo-Italian Competition winning team of 1969-70. Height: 6 ft, Weight: 11 st 10 lb.

FRANK BURROWS, Defender. Born Larkhall, Scotland. Joined Swindon from Scunthorpe United, for whom he played three seasons. Formerly with Raith Rovers. A strong defender who has made his mark as a regular member of the promotion winning side of season 1968-69, Football League Cup winning team of 1968-69, Anglo-Italian League Cup Winners Cup winning team of 1969, and played in

PERSONAL POINTS SWINDON

the Anglo-Italian Competition winning side of 1969-70. Height: 6 ft 1 in, Weight: 12 st 8 lb.

DON ROGERS, Forward. Born Paulton. He was signed by Swindon when only 15 and quickly came to the fore. Gained many England Youth caps—playing alongside Villa's Mick Wright—subsequently played in the England Under-23 team. A regular member of the promotion winning side of season 1968-69, Football League Cup winning team of 1968-69, Anglo-Italian League Cup Winners Cup winning team of 1969, and played in the Anglo-Italian Competition winning team of 1969-70. Height: 5 ft 10½ in, Weight: 12 st 7 lb.

PETER NOBLE, Forward. Born Sunderland. Joined Swindon in January, 1968, from Newcastle United, for whom he played for four years. Prefers to play an attacking role. Regular member of the promotion winning side of season 1968-69, Football League Cup winning team of 1968-69, Anglo-Italian League Cup Winners Cup winning team of 1969, and played in the Anglo-Italian Competition winning team of 1969-70. Height: 5 ft 8 in, Weight: 10 st 10 lb.

RON POTTER, Defender. Born Wolverhampton. Signed on a free transfer from West Bromwich Albion on 30th November 1970. Made only six League appearances in his first two seasons at Swindon, but established as the regular number six so far this term.

STEPHEN PEPLow, Forward. Born Liverpool. Played for Liverpool Schoolboys, and joined Liverpool from school. Made three first-team appearances in season 1969-70 for Liverpool and was a regular member of the team which won the Central League

for two consecutive years. Scored five times in the pre-season friendly against Newport County this year. Height: 5 ft 9 in, Weight: 11 st 2 lb.

DAVE MACKAY, Defender. Born Edinburgh. Began his professional career with Scottish club, Hearts, in 1951. Was subsequently transferred to Tottenham Hotspur in 1953 and left them to join Derby County in season 1967-68. Capped 26 times for Scotland and is the holder of a Scottish League Cup Winners medal, the Scottish Cup Winners medal and F.A. Cup Winners medal. In addition, he is also the possessor of a European Cup Winners medal which he obtained with Tottenham. He is probably the only player who has played both for the Scottish League and the English League. Signed by Swindon in May, 1971, and has now assumed the role of Team Manager. Height 5 ft 9 in, Weight: 13 st 4 lb.

PAUL PETERSON, Defender. Born Luton. Signed during the close season from Leeds United, whom he joined from school. Played three games for Leeds first-team and regularly for the Central League side. Originally played at outside-left. Height: 5 ft 7 in, Weight: 11 st.

RAY TREACY, Forward. Born Dublin. Joined Swindon from Charlton Athletic this summer for a reported £40,000. Prior to this, he was a member of the West Bromwich Albion squad. Ray has represented Eire at Schoolboy, Youth, Under-23 and full international levels. Excellent header of a ball and has been a regular marksman with his previous clubs, topping Charlton's scoring list last season. Height: 5 ft 9 in, Weight: 11 st 3 lb.

RONALD HOWELL, Midfield. Born Tottenham. Joined Swindon from Kettering, his previous clubs being Tottenham, Millwall and Cambridge United. He was also a member of the London Boys team. Ron is a forceful attacking midfielder player who has made his presence felt since joining the club this season. Height: 5 ft 8 in, Weight: 11 st.

TERRY HUBBARD, Forward. Born Newport. Former apprentice who signed professional in 1969. Has now established himself as a regular first-team player. Height: 5 ft 7½ in, Weight: 10 st 2 lb.

Back: J. Trollope, P. Downsbrough, R. Smart.
Centre: R. Potter, T. Hubbard, R. Thomas, F. Burrows, D. Anderson, coach. Front: D. Rogers, S. Peplow, R. Bunkell, D. Mackay, manager, R. Treacy, J. Butler.



ALL ABOUT.. SWINDON TOWN



Management

Dave Mackay has never been a loser—and he doesn't intend to start now that he is leading Swindon Town in his first full season as manager.

Not even two broken legs could crunch Dave's spirit as one of the most competitive half-backs of modern times. He was always a winner—playing many times for Scotland, assisting Tottenham to the famous 'double,' and then, almost in the twilight of a 20-year playing career, he gave Derby County on-the-field inspiration in building a Championship set-up.

Now he is a manager, although he has not yet officially retired as a player. "I do not intend to play at the moment," he said at the start of the season. "I shall come back only if I think it would improve the team."

He first took over responsibilities for the side's tactics last November when former manager Fred Ford left the club. Then, he regarded himself as team-captain with

extra duties. Now, he is manager first—player second.

His approach to a new career was in line with his reputation for toughness. "I did not feel the training programme was hard enough," he said. "It wasn't hard enough for me and it certainly wasn't tough enough for the young players."

To bring the training up to his demanding requirements, Mackay appointed Des Anderson as coach—in charge of a more demanding fitness schedule. Mackay commented: "When I took over, I told Des that I wanted a completely new training set-up aimed at making the players among the fittest in the League."

And there was a definite improvement. "I am most pleased—the lads have looked fit and sharp," said Mackay.

Another important change was the appointment of Les Allen, the former Queen's Park Rangers manager, as supervisor of the club's scouting. This is an especially vital department, for Town, after arranging a £100,000 loan from the local Corporation, are in the market for new signings.

As in the last decade, they are also well geared to find their own players. England Schoolboy international Jeff Chalklin is one of their bright hopes for the future.

The Mackay image has lifted hopes at the County Ground and the Chairman, Mr H. E. Lane, pinpointed the new spirit at the start of the season. "After a hard pre-season training schedule, Dave Mackay has got the team as sharp as I have ever seen at this time of the year. Dave is a dedicated type and only success will satisfy him, and I am sure that this attitude is now with the players."

Future

Dave Mackay will not be satisfied until Swindon Town are in the First Division and he is the kind of manager who is unafraid of promotion pressures or the potentially-expensive world of the top division.

Although results have not quite matched

his pre-season ambition, Mackay firmly believes that Swindon are capable of promotion THIS season. "There are no outstanding teams in the Division as in previous years," he argues. "Any two from a string of teams can go up and there is no reason why one should not be us."

His theory on promotion is simple—if ambitious. "A good start is essential. Every point you win at the beginning is one your opponents have to fight hard to pull back later on."



John Trollope and Frank Burrows

Swindon's fixture list was perhaps against the kind of winning start they wanted. After dropping an initial home point to Queen's Park Rangers, they were beaten in successive away games against Sheffield Wednesday and Carlisle United. Definitely not promotion form—and a situation demanding good results in the following home tests against Bristol City and Sheffield Wednesday.

Swindon came through with four points and Mackay commented: "We knew we had to win because we would have been



Pictured above Terry Hubbard and Ray Bunkell in action

a long way behind the top clubs. We had a terrible start, with a lot of bad luck, but we recovered well and are back in the running."

An injury to striker Peter Noble and an early suspension for new signing Ray Treacy meant that Swindon did not field their full-strength attack until the seventh game of the season against Blackpool.

This match produced a disappointing goalless scoreline that was out of character with Mackay's approach to the game. He wants Town to be successful—and entertaining. "I would like us to be the kind of team people come to watch because they know we will play good football."

History

Swindon Town's soccer star did not start to rise until they had been members of the Football League for over 40 years. Then Bert Head, now manager of Crystal Palace, raised their sights by taking one of the brightest young sides in the country to promotion from the Third Division for the first time.

Players like Ernie Hunt, Bobby Woodruff,

Mike Summerbee—all developed through Swindon's keen links with schoolboy football—made the County Ground a regular calling place for the scouts of the major clubs.

Eventually, some of the stars had to be sold in the face of tempting offers and Swindon dropped back to Division Three after only two seasons. They were destined to spend another four years 'down below', but when new manager Danny Williams launched the revival, it was in a big way.

Season 1968-69 was one of the greatest-ever sampled by a Third Division side. Promotion was clinched in second place behind Watford—they were beaten only on goal average—and Swindon went to Wembley to bring off one of the major upsets seen on the famous ground.

They trounced Arsenal 3-1 to win the Football League Cup—and that opened the gateway to European competition. Swindon were the first winners of a trophy put up for the winners of the English and Italian League Cups and, the following year, they were invited into the Anglo-Italian Tournament. They were the first holders of that trophy, too.

By the end of 1969-70, the First Division was also beckoning, but they were edged out of the promotion race, finishing fifth, though only three points behind promoted Blackpool.

Transfers

Swindon Town have never been regarded as big spenders. Instead, they have hunted out players for comparatively modest fees and often matured them into valuable assets.

Two of their best signings in recent years were goalkeeper Peter Downsborough, who was snapped up from Halifax for a small sum, and striker Peter Noble, who was plucked out of Newcastle United's reserves for a five-figure cheque.

Their policy in the last couple of seasons has been to sign young players who were not given regular League opportunities by powerful First Division clubs. Ray Bunkell, of Spurs, and Steve Peplow, are two bright young prospects who fall in this category. This season, Ron Potter, a former Albion reserve, has also emerged in the defensive position previously filled by Stan Harland and Dave Mackay.

During the summer, Town set about strengthening their striking power in a part-exchange deal with relegated Charlton Athletic. Arthur Horsfield, who had been a regular marksman for Swindon since leaving Newcastle, moved to The Valley and, by adding a cash sum, Town signed Charlton's top scorer, Ray Treacy.

Treacy, an Eire international, scored 13 League goals for Charlton last season and was bracketed among the best strikers in the Second Division.

SWINDON TOWN HISTORY . . .

Founded: 1881.

Elected to League Division Three: 1920.

Ground: The County Ground, Swindon, Wiltshire.

Record Attendance: 32,000 v Arsenal (F.A. Cup), January, 1972.

Runners-up, Division Three: 1962-63, 1968-69.

Football League Cup winners: 1969.

Anglo-Italian Tournament winners: 1970.

Ten year Record . . .

Season	Div	Posn	Won	Pts
1971-72	2	11th	15	42
1970-71	2	12th	15	42
1969-70	2	5th	17	50
1968-69	3	2nd	27	64
1967-68	3	10th	16	49
1966-67	3	8th	20	50
1965-66	3	7th	19	57
1964-65	2	21st	14	33
1963-64	2	14th	14	38
1962-63	3	2nd	22	58

THE GERRY HIT



Gerry arrives in Italy and there's a brand new car waiting for him.

Gerry Hitchens, England striker, Villa goal-gladiator and a grand master of Italian football for nine years, is now settled in the Welsh valleys—completely divorced from football.

The man who has thrilled millions of English and continental fans dashed, as ever, into the bustling community of Pontypridd and told me over lunch that it is an effort now to follow a match on TV and time doesn't permit him to attend the 'live' side.

So the blond-haired bomber, who shook his legion of supporters in the summer of 1961 when he announced the lure of the lira meant a fond farewell to Aston Villa, has now virtually shut himself off from soccer to give his full concentration to a family business, of which he is managing director.

Gerry returned from the lavish Italian scene about three years ago after nine magnificent years at the very top during which time his electrifying bursts for goals against the choking, massed Latin defences earned the former Highley village player a world-wide reputation as a fearsome striker.

From Highley Miners to the daz-

zling peaks of his profession with the cream of the Italian First Division sides. That was the 16 years soccer span of the former Villa hero, the man who set the terraces alight with 42 goals in his final 1960-61 season in British soccer when he turned the clocks back to the explosive days of Trevor Ford and Pongo Waring.

Unfortunately, the cash-laden millionaires of Italy swooped on England in 1961 and made luxury offers which clubs and players alike were tempted and finally unable to resist. The pursuit was backed by the incredible success of John Charles, the first prize capture by the Italians in 1957 when the Gentle Giant departed from Leeds and the Welsh international scene for a British record of £65,000—of which £10,000 went into his own pocket.

Four years later, the overseas scouts were back and with such glittering contracts pushed under the noses of the best strikers in Britain, who could blame the boys for taking the plunge?

Joe Baker, £73,000, inclusive of an £8,000 signing on fee, followed John Charles. Then Gerry Hitchens was captured by Internazionale (Milan) for an approximate £80,000 with

guaranteed earnings for the player of £25,000 in three years.

The very same month, Milan cornered the stardust goal-poacher of post-war years, Jimmy Greaves from Chelsea for about £83,000. Greaves got a guaranteed earnings over three years of a staggering £40,000, in addition to a reported 'ten grand' pocket-money to start.

And the transfer trail to Italy stayed red hot in a blazing June when, finally, Denis Law was reported to have received £40,000 from Turin in a £100,000 switch from Manchester City—the side he scored all six goals for in a Cup-tie later abandoned because of the weather.

No wonder the authorities introduced an export ban. If such a soccer drain had gone on unchecked, we might now all be committed to a crammed Saturday afternoon watching a below-par standard.

Of the 1961 transfer trio, only Gerry Hitchens made it. The other three seemed to be back home before English soccer had got used to being without them.

Hitchens, who shared his seven England appearances between his days at Villa and in Italy, is in no doubt what saved him from the same

HITCHENS STORY

disasters which ploughed up the Italian ambitions of Law, Baker and Greaves. "In a foreign country people are foreign to you—even though they may be playing the same kind of game. Luckily for me, I was married and beginning a family. In those early days, it was difficult for me to enjoy being amongst a squad of footballers with whom I couldn't make any real everyday conversation.

'The language problem was the real barrier. The only time I knew what the coaches were on about—apart from the obvious like run, walk, jump, etc., was when the blackboard came out. When we used to train for three long weeks in the mountains and only exchange a few grunted phrases, you can imagine how pleased I was to get back to my villa, where I could ask my wife, Meriel, for a cup of coffee and not get a blank look.

'I had to sympathise with Denis Law and Company who were front-page news wherever they went. I am sure they enjoyed playing the 90 minutes football each week. But, after that, they didn't have a wife and family to go home to and I am sure much of their troubles stemmed from this.

'I had my brushes with authority—a mere gesticulation was enough to get sent off—and the press. But it was nothing compared to the punishment the other English lads suffered."

Gerry, who can now speak fluent Italian and whose closely-knit family have certain members with more Italian characteristic than Anglo mannerisms, moved around in the top Italian circle and after one and a half seasons with Inter-Milan, he went on for nearly three campaigns with Turin.

The Latin-lovers of football went overboard at Hitchens because he brought a refreshing brand of individual attacking flair to the scene. 'There were generally only two of us totally committed up front. Two of us facing massed defences was the equivalent to taking a sledgehammer to crack a nut. It looked like that. But the bulk of the brain work took place behind me and when it came time for me to turn it on, the attacks were



already well inside the first defensive barrier.

'I think I was different in one particular way to anyone else whom the Italians had seen. I used to chase through, behind, across and play to a zig-zag pattern. The defence didn't know where I was likely to turn up next, and I even surprised myself at times.

After Turin, the Italian trail took the swashbuckling star to Atalanta for two years and then on to Cagliari. Though it was not the most powerful and strongest side in the Hitchens career—Inter-Milan were certainly that—the final chapter with Cagliari was in many ways one of the most memorable for a truly outstanding player.

Many of his colleagues went forward to play a major part in Italy's attack on the 1970 World Cup—when they were beaten only in the final by Brazil. Luigi Riva, whose soccer attributes earned him film-star adulation, was the kind of player next to Hitchens in the Cagliari line-up.

He broke his leg in the last season I was there, but the side still finished runners-up in the League."

Ironically, it would have suited the goal-master of the early Sixties if

Above: 'Welcome to Internazionale' says Helinio Herrera and Eddie Firmani.

Cagliari had been relegated. "I recognised my First Division days were virtually exhausted. But there were plenty of clubs in the Second who would have signed me if they could.

"However, there were strict laws on the number of foreigners who could play for Second Division sides and, for me, the door was closed."

Gerry Hitchens returned from Italy when that happened three years ago, but, "Had I managed to get a transfer or if Cagliari had dropped a grade, there is every chance that I might still have been there to this day."

It didn't happen for Hitchens and one of English football's prodigal sons returned home with a yearning to taste the competition on which he had originally been brought up. But a business opportunity and a wise head quickly convinced Gerry that it was time to say 'Arrivederci' to his world of the last 16 years.

● Reporter Norton Jones takes a further look at Gerry Hitchens' career in the next programme.



"He's only here for the beer — it's Double Diamond"

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PLAYER OF THE MONTH

When Bruce Rioch fractured his right wrist in the first home League game against Huddersfield Town on 19th August, he could hardly have imagined himself winning the Evening Mail Player of the Month title from candidates in all of the West Midlands 'Big Six' clubs. Ironically, the injury was responsible for the judges giving him the £50 cheque (donated by Birmingham businessman Nicholas J. Ratcliffe) in preference to Wolves' top scorer, John Richards. The panel of experts voted for Bruce because of his courageous return only eleven days after the fracture—and his fantastic winning goal against Carlisle United. Our picture shows Bruce 'trying on' the cheque as a new protection for his injured wrist. A nice pain reliever, Bruce?

FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP—THIRD ROUND

ASTON VILLA v LEEDS UNITED



Villa Park, Wednesday, 4th October, 1972

Kick-off: 7-30 pm

The match will NOT be all-ticket, and prices of admission will be:

Reserved Seats (all doors): 90p

Unreserved Seats (Trinity Road Enclosure): 60p (Boys: 30p)

Ground: 40p (Boys: 20p)

Season Ticket holders should apply not later than Wednesday, 20th September, enclosing Football League Cup, Round Three Voucher from their books and the correct remittance. PLEASE NOTE IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO SUPPLY EXTRA TICKETS.

AS LEEDS UNITED F.C. HAVE CLAIMED THEIR FULL ALLOCATION OF SEATS, WE REGRET THAT THERE WILL BE NO RESERVED SEATS AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP—SECOND ROUND, SECOND REPLAY

BOURNEMOUTH v BLACKPOOL



Villa Park, Monday, 18th September, 1972

Kick-off: 7-30 pm

Tickets are only being issued for Doors D and E of the Trinity Road Stand, and are available at the Ticket Office after today's match until 5-15 pm.

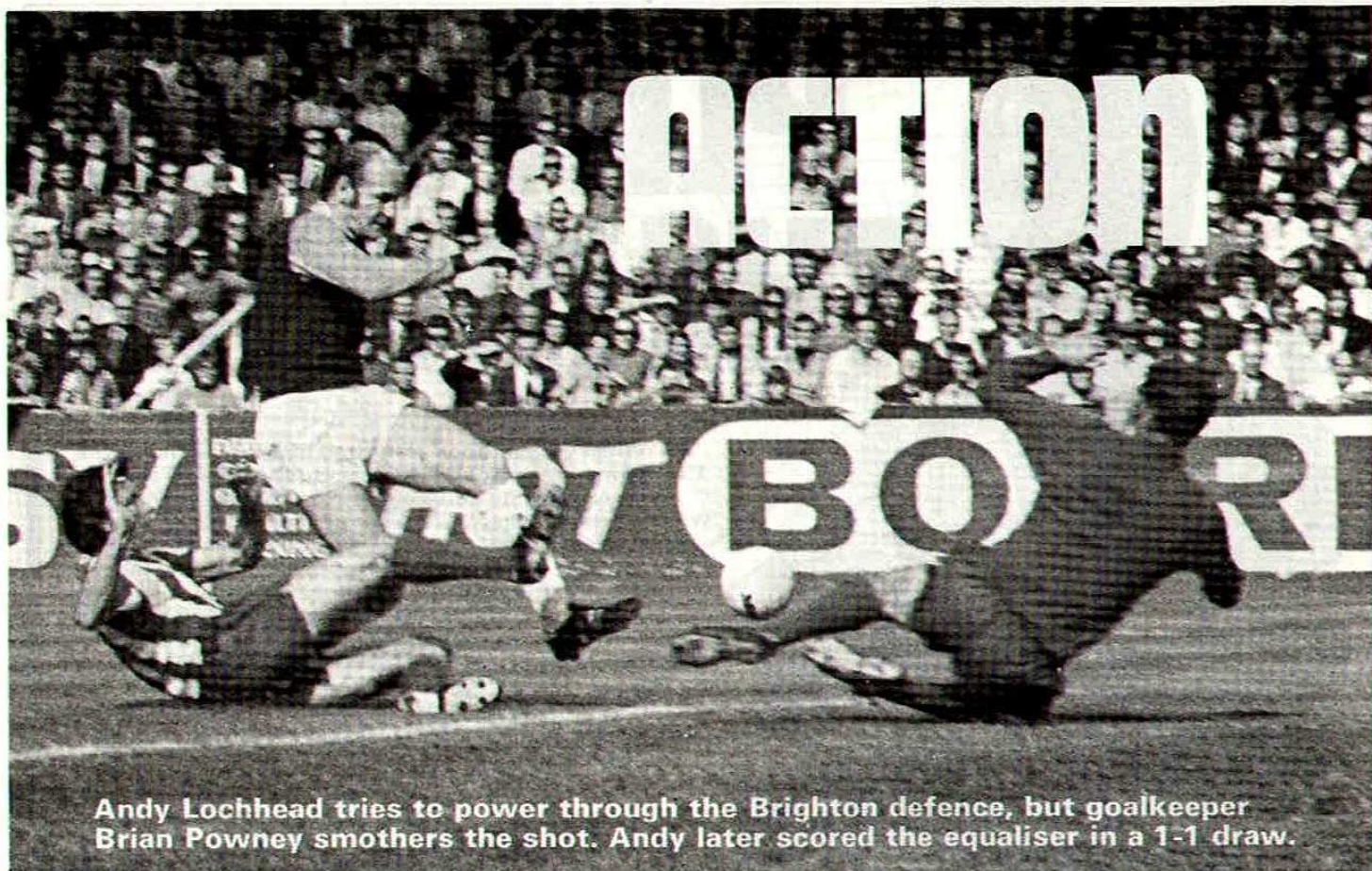
Entry to all other parts of the ground will be by payment at the turnstiles on Monday evening, at the following prices:

Stands: 90p

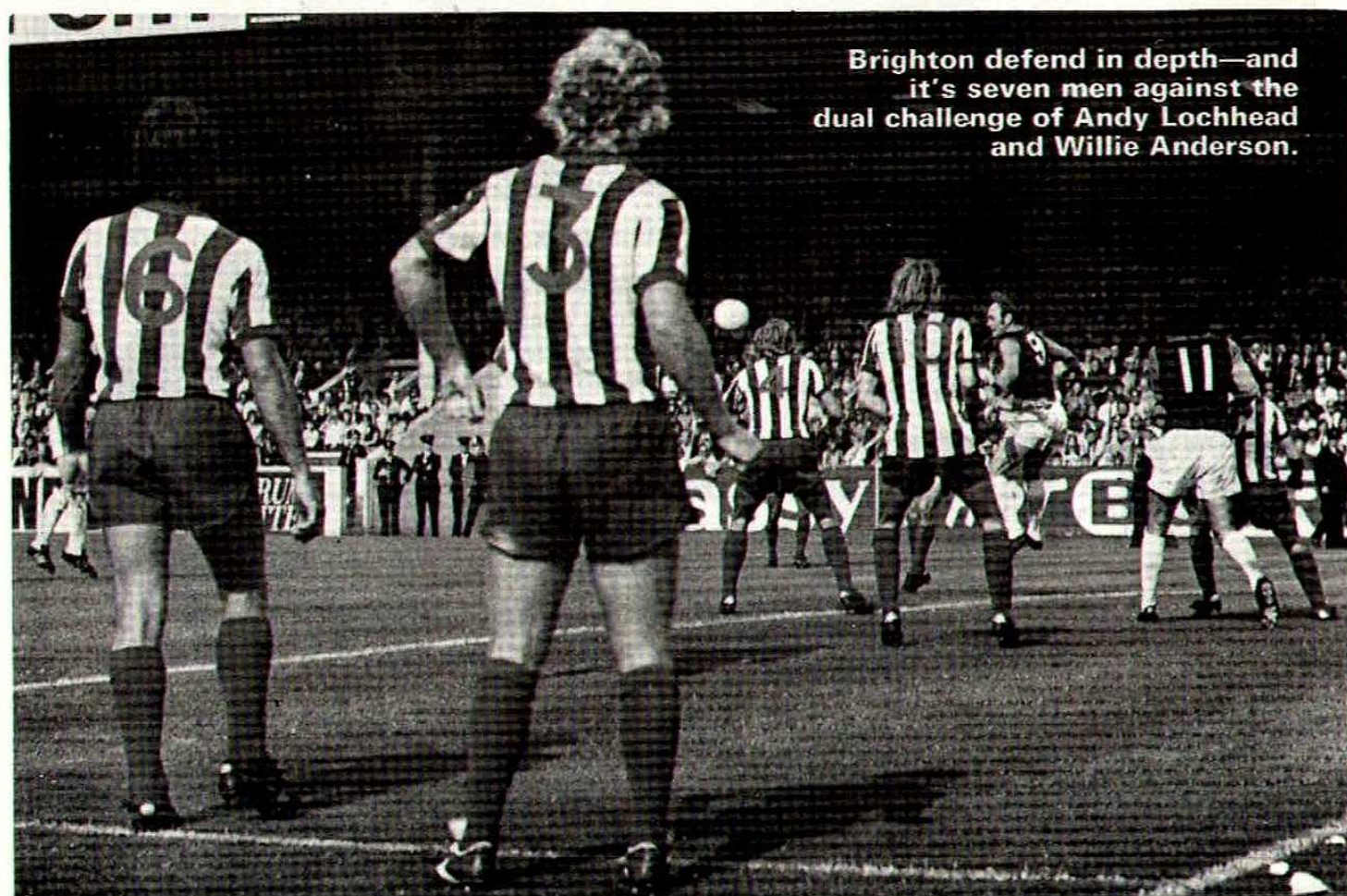
Trinity Road Enclosure: 60p (Boys: 30p)

Ground: 40p (Boys: 20p)

PLEASE NOTE OUR DIVISION TWO AWAY GAME WITH BLACKPOOL SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR TUESDAY, 17th OCTOBER.



Andy Lochhead tries to power through the Brighton defence, but goalkeeper Brian Powney smothers the shot. Andy later scored the equaliser in a 1-1 draw.



Brighton defend in depth—and it's seven men against the dual challenge of Andy Lochhead and Willie Anderson.

Flying goalkeeper Powney charges in between his centre half and Lochhead to punch away.



A shock for Villa. The second half is only a minute old as Peter O'Sullivan hammers Brighton into the lead.

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Fratton Park
Frogmore Road
Portsmouth PO4 8RA

Always enclose a stamped addressed envelope and correct remittance.

SEASON TICKET COMPETITION

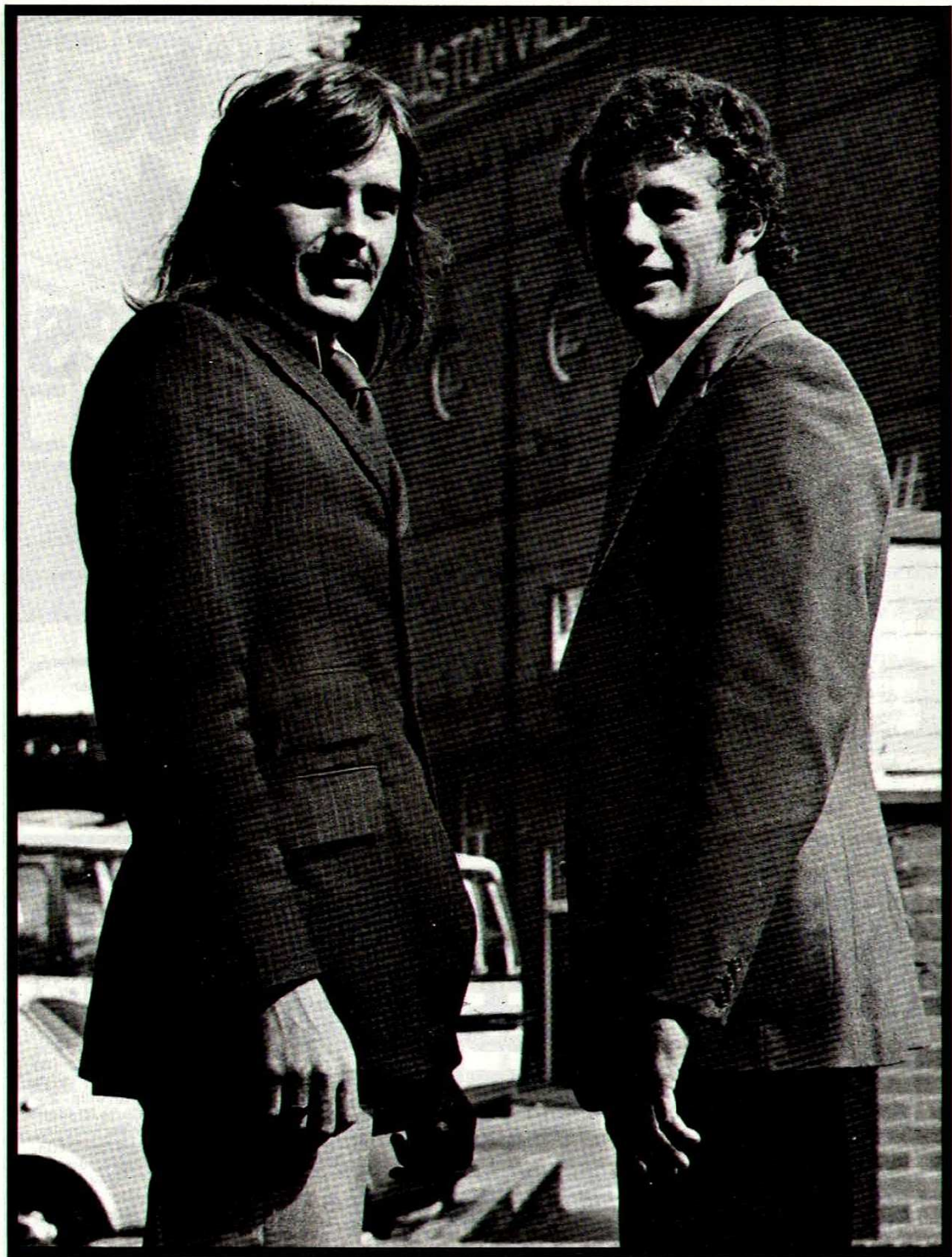
The winner of the Season Ticket donated by Mr A. H. Tattersall, of Natal, South Africa, was Martin Elmslie, of Balmoral Road, Castle Bromwich. He answered all the questions successfully and his fine effort won the Season Ticket for his grandfather, Mr W. Lawton, of 284 Brownfield Road, Shard End, Birmingham 34.

Mr Elmslie wrote of Mr Lawton: "He is an old age pensioner and because of this, cannot really spare the money to come to all the matches. He has, nevertheless,

RESULT RESULT RESULT

supported Villa since he was a boy and is now getting on for 80. A Season Ticket would be extremely useful to him."

The answers to the competition were: 1—(A) Ray Graydon, (B) Millmoor, Rotherham, (C) 11th March, 1972, (D) 2-0 to Villa. 2—Michael Wright and Chris Nicholl. 3—(A) Celebrations after winning the F.A. Youth Cup, (B) Brian Little, Alan Little, Frank Upton, Jimmy Brown, Jake Findlay, Tony Betts, Brian Melling, Dougie George, David Smith, Roy Stark, John Gidman.



THE BRAVES RETURN

Paul Child and Mike Hoban, the former England Amateur Youth internationals who were among last season's most regular players in Villa's Central League side, have just resumed second-team duties after spending the summer playing on loan for Atlanta Chiefs.

By arrangement with Vic Crowe, himself a former manager of the North American Soccer League Club, Hoban has had two seasons in the States and Child went over for the first time this year.

Paul, who joined us from Stanley Star, was top scorer for Villa's Reserves with 13 goals in 29 appearances last season and he carried that scoring thirst into the American League. Back in June, he set the city's soccer population alight by grabbing a hat-trick to pull Atlanta back from 2-0 down against Dallas Tornado.

One of the local papers hailed Paul's performance in typical American style. Reporter Norman Arey wrote: "There's a new show in town. It's called the Paul Child Show. No, Child doesn't sing, or dance, or do impersonations, or even tell jokes. In fact, it's doubtful if Child even shaves yet."

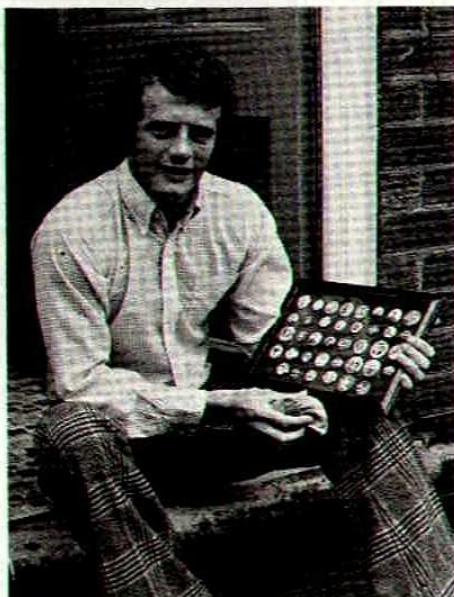
And then he came to the point: "Child made history Saturday night—he scored all three goals as the Atlanta Chiefs whipped Dallas Tornado 3-2. It wasn't just a victory for the Chiefs—it was a reincarnation—a rejuvenation."

"The Chiefs were officially declared dead after the Atlanta side dropped its first two games. But Saturday night in Atlanta Stadium belonged to the Chiefs."

Mike Hoban played his part in helping Paul to make the half-time score 2-2 and then Paul completed the victory to take his place in Atlanta goal-scoring history. The only other hat-trick men were Graham Newton (ex-Walsall) in 1969 and Kaiser 'Boy-Boy' Motaung, who scored five against St. Louis in 1969. And the local paper said: "Child is the hottest thing going for the Chiefs."

Paul was not frightened off by the tough American defences. He was quoted: "I enjoy a bit of needle or, as you say in this country, 'ringing somebody's bell' occasionally."

Chiefs, coach, Vic Rouse, the Welshman who used to keep goal for Crystal Palace was full of admiration for Paul's break through among the top scorers in the N.A.S.L. "He is just what we had been looking for," he commented. "He has guts. He got the hell kicked out of him and went right back in there. We've had players in the past who were scared to go back in



after they had been kicked, but not Paul."

Rouse likened him to a 'miniature Peter McParland'. In keeping with Villa's close links in Atlanta, Peter signed on for Chiefs at the same time as Vic Crowe, Phil Woosnam and Commercial Manager Eric Woodward went to the States to play their parts in the establishment of professional football.

Paul Child probably made an even more startling impression than the experienced Villa players who first went across the Atlantic. He had the advantage of being unknown to the public—and sprang into the headlines by scoring six goals in three matches.

The newspapers rushed to discover the

background of the 19-year-old 'Brummie' who was learning the carpentry trade before signing professional for Villa in March, 1971.

Vic Rouse wasn't slow to glow with praise for his goal-sense and also the sound defensive work of Mike Hoban. Through the summer, he kept us informed of the lads' progress and was generally delighted with their form.

Vic predicts a very bright future for Paul as a striker. "He makes the moves early; much earlier than most players in America. As a result, the defences lost sight of him until he had actually scored a goal."

Paul was impressed with life in the States and surprised by the standard of play. "Technically," he said, "It is inferior to English football, but there are good individual players. The major fault is the standard of refereeing."

"Unlike our officials, who have grown up with football, the American referees are often new to the game. You see more rough stuff as a result."

Paul earned a reputation among the Atlanta Press as an outspoken young man, and dared to take a knock at the hallowed game of baseball!

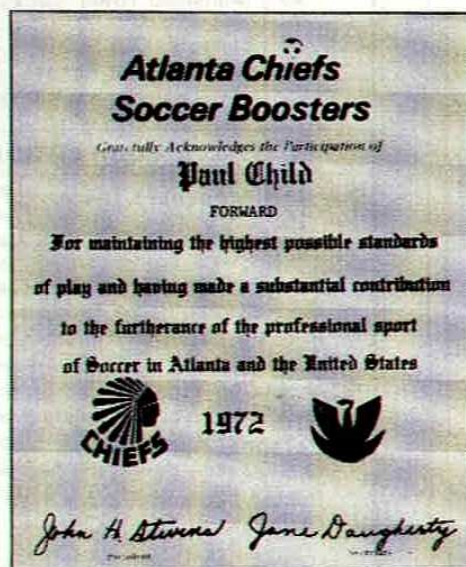
He told the *Atlanta Journal and Constitution*: "What really gets me are the sports announcers and the Press calling baseball players athletes. Their stomachs often hang over their belts and then the announcers say 'He's the fastest man on the team.'"

Paul was also surprised by the attitude of the American spectators. "I looked into the stands and people are eating popcorn and drinking beer and not even watching the game."

But they tended to give more attention to the soccer when Paul was on the ball. The Americans love goal scorers; indeed, they feel that there should be a lot more scoring, as there is in sports like basketball.

Unfortunately, they have yet to grasp the tactical situations that are readily understood by British fans. Paul showed us a cutting from the *Atlanta Journal* which underlined their simple approach to soccer. It read: "What soccer needs is a guy to score three goals every game. The crowds have been thin and professional soccer knows a high scorer might bring out the people."

Terry Weir's pictures show . . . Far left: Paul Child and Michael Hoban on their return to Villa Park. Above: Paul displays a collection of American political button badges, together with an official acknowledgement of his services to Atlanta Chiefs.



VILLA CALENDAR

FOOTBALL LEAGUE—DIVISION TWO 72-73				CENTRAL LEAGUE, 72-73					
Date	Opponents	Att	F A	Date	Opponents	F A	Date	Opponents	F A
Aug 2	Tottenham H (Friendly)	23,538	0 0	Aug 12	Preston North End	4 1	Dec 9	Derby County	
5	Manchester City	34,890	0 1	15	Huddersfield Town	2 2	16	Nottingham Forest	
Aug 12	Preston North End	17,371	1 0	19	Burnley	1 0	23	Huddersfield Town	
16	Hereford U. (LC1)	32,113	4 1	21	Blackpool	1 2	26	Preston North End	
19	Huddersfield Town	34,483	2 0	26	Newcastle United	2 0	30	Burnley	
26	Burnley	14,804	1 4	30	Wolverhampton W.	1 2	Jan 6	Newcastle United	
29	Carlisle United	29,047	1 0	Sept 2	Stoke City	1 3	20	Stoke City	
Sept 2	Brighton and Hove A	30,175	1 1	9	Sheffield Wed.	0 0	27	Sheffield Wednesday	
5	Nottingham Forest (L.C.2)	17,665	1 0	16	Bolton Wanderers		Feb 3	Blackburn Rovers	
9	Cardiff City	15,729	2 0	23	Manchester Utd.		10	Bolton Wanderers	
16	Swindon Town			26	Everton		17	Manchester United	
	Blackpool			30	Liverpool		24	Liverpool	
23	Nottingham Forest			Oct 7	Bury		Mar 3	Bury	
27	Sunderland			14	Manchester City		10	Manchester City	
30	Millwall			21	Everton		24	W. B. Albion	
Oct 4	Leeds United (L.C.3)			28	W. B. Albion		31	Sheffield United	
7	Fulham			Nov 4	Blackpool		April 7	Coventry City	
14	Queens Park Rangers			11	Blackburn Rovers		14	Derby County	
21	Portsmouth			18	Leeds United		16	Nottingham Forest	
28	Middlesbrough			25	Sheffield United		21	Leeds United	
Nov 1	League Cup (4)			28	Coventry City		28	Wolverhampton W.	
4	Sunderland								
11	Blackpool								
18	Luton Town								
22	League Cup (5)								
25	Oxford United								
Dec 2	Hull City								
6	League Cup (S.F.)								
9	Bristol City (F.A. Cup 2)								
16	Orient								
20	League Cup (S.F.)								
23	Sheffield Wednesday								
26	Nottingham Forest								
30	Huddersfield Town								
Jan 6	Burnley								
13	F.A. Cup (3)								
20	Brighton and Hove A								
27	Cardiff City								
Feb 3	F.A. Cup (4)								
10	Swindon Town								
17	Preston N.E. (L.C.F.)								
24	Orient (F.A. Cup 5)								
Mar 3	Fulham								
10	Queens Park Rangers								
17	Portsmouth (F.A.C. 6)								
24	Middlesbrough								
31	Oxford United								
April 6	Hull City								
7	F.A. Cup (S.F.)								
14	Bristol City								
21	Luton Town								
23	Millwall								
24	Sheffield Wednesday								
28	Carlisle United								
May 5	F.A. Cup (Final)								

MIDLAND INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE 72-73				
THE LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP				
Group 'B'				
Date	Opponents	F A		
Aug 12	Coventry City	3 3	Nov 4	Wolverhampton W.
19	Derby County	0 6	11	Leicester City
26	Mansfield Town	0 1	18	Derby County
Sept 2	Leicester City	1 4	25	Birmingham City
9	Nottingham Forest	3 0	Dec 2	Birmingham City
16	Coventry City		9	Stoke City
23	Derby County		16	Coventry City
30	Mansfield Town		30	Nottingham Forest
Oct 7	Leicester City		Jan 6	Shrewsbury Town
14	Nottingham Forest		13	W. B. Albion
			20	Walsall
			27	Mansfield Town
THE LEAGUE COMPETITION				
Oct 21	Mansfield Town		Feb 3	Wolverhampton W.
28	Walsall		10	Leicester City
			17	Derby County
			24	Coventry City
			Mar 3	Stoke City
			10	Shrewsbury Town
			17	Nottingham Forest
			24	W. B. Albion

Advance Bookings for Home League matches: Reserved Seats for individual home Football League matches are bookable in advance from the Ticket Office either by post or by personal application.

Applications by Post. Are accepted one month before the game and should be accompanied by the correct remittance—cheque or postal order—and a self-addressed return envelope.

Personal Applications. May be made during office hours—9-15 am to 5-00 pm—during the two weeks prior to the game.

Prices: 90p and 70p for Reserved Seats. Unreserved accommodation, Children and Senior Citizens—half price. Seats 60p, Ground 40p.

MIDLAND INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE 72-73

THE LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP

Group 'B'

Date	Opponents	F A
Aug 12	Coventry City	3 3
19	Derby County	0 6
26	Mansfield Town	0 1
Sept 2	Leicester City	1 4
9	Nottingham Forest	3 0
16	Coventry City	
23	Derby County	
30	Mansfield Town	
Oct 7	Leicester City	
14	Nottingham Forest	

THE LEAGUE COMPETITION

Oct 21	Mansfield Town	
28	Walsall	

Nov 4	Wolverhampton W.	
11	Leicester City	
18	Derby County	
25	Birmingham City	
Dec 2	Birmingham City	
9	Stoke City	
16	Coventry City	
30	Nottingham Forest	
Jan 6	Shrewsbury Town	
13	W. B. Albion	
20	Walsall	
27	Mansfield Town	
Feb 3	Wolverhampton W.	
10	Leicester City	
17	Derby County	
24	Coventry City	
Mar 3	Stoke City	
10	Shrewsbury Town	
17	Nottingham Forest	
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Division 2 Statistics

	HOME					AWAY					Leading Scorers
	P	W	D	L	F A	W	D	L	F A	P	
Sheffield W.	7	4	0	0	11 4	1	0	2	4 6	10	Joicey, Sheffield
Burnley	6	2	2	0	9 4	1	1	0	3 1	9	Irvine, Brighton
Villa	6	2	1	0	4 1	2	0	1	4 4	9	Clarke (D), Oxford
Blackpool	6	2	1	0	8 3	1	1	1	2 2	8	Sunley, Sheffield W.
Luton Town	6	2	0	1	5 2	2	0	1	3 2	8	Lathan, Sunderland
Nottingham F.	6	2	1	1	3 2	1	1	0	2 1	8	Lewis, Portsmouth
Sunderland	6	2	0	0	4 2	1	2	1	4 4	8	Peplow, Swindon
Oxford Utd	6	2	0	0	6 1	1	1	2	3 5	7	Bell, Cardiff City
Huddersfield	6	2	1	0	4 1	1	0	2	3 7	7	James, Burnley
Q.P.R.	5	1	1	0	6 4	0	3	0	4 4	6	Thomas, Burnley
Swindon T.	7	2	2	0	5 3	0	0	3	3 8	6	Pearson, Hull City
Portsmouth	6	1	0	2	4 5	1	1	1	3 2	5	Rioch, Villa
Hull City	6	2	1	0	4 0	0	0	3	2 7	5	Dyson, Blackpool
Preston N.E.	6	1	1	1	2 2	1	0	2	3 4	5	Aston, Luton
Brighton	6	1	2	0	5 4	0	1	2	3 8	5	Tueart, Sunderland
Middlesbrough	6	2	0	1	4 3	0	1	2	2 8	5	Cassidy, Oxford
Carlisle Utd	6	1	0	1	4 2	0	2	2	3 5	4	Skeen, Oxford
Bristol City	6	0	1	1	3 4	1	1	2	4 5	4	Gowling, Huddersfield
Cardiff City	6	2	0	2	4 5	0	0	2	2 5	4	Smith (D), Huddersfield
Millwall	6	1	0	2	2 3	0	1	2	3 5	3	Givens, Q.P.R.
Fulham	5	0	1	1	2 4	1	0	2	3 6	3	O'Rourke, Q.P.R.
Orient	6	1	1	2	3 4	0	0	2	0 3	3	Mills, Middlesbrough
											Smith, Middlesbrough
											Owen, Carlisle
											Spirling, Bristol City

ATTENDANCES—League Division Two

	Best	Average		Best	Average
Aston Villa	34,843	31,355	Middlesbrough	24,145	15,118
Blackpool	14,797	11,758	Millwall	13,207	11,817
Brighton	16,839	16,120	Nottingham Forest	13,175	10,230
Bristol City	15,648	14,010	Orient	7,249	5,838
Burnley	14,804	12,143	Oxford United	8,428	8,255
Cardiff City	16,364	13,650	Portsmouth	16,419	14,062
Carlisle United	7,747	7,686	Preston North End	17,371	11,583
Fulham	10,285	8,962	Queen's Park Ran.	12,977	11,789
Huddersfield Town	12,840	9,893	Sheffield W.	23,109	20,483
Hull City	11,189	9,319	Sunderland	12,658	12,166
Luton Town	11,507	10,177	Swindon Town	15,304	12,729

HIGHEST ATTENDANCE

34,843, Aston Villa v Huddersfield Town on 19th August, 1972.

BIGGEST WIN

Blackpool 6, Brighton 2, on 19th August, 1972.

LOWEST ATTENDANCE

4,482, Orient v Bristol City on 9th September, 1972.

TOP LEAGUE SCORER

Brian Joicey (6) for Sheffield Wednesday.

APPEARANCES AND GOALSCORERS

First-team	League		Cup		Central League					
	A	G	A	G		A	G		A	G
Aitken	6	0	2	0	Bradley	4	0	McDonald	4	0
Anderson	6	1	2	0	Beard	5	0	Rioch (N)	2	1
Cumbes	6	0	2	0	Betts	1	0	Rudge	2	1
Evans	—	—	1	2	Brown	8	2	Stark	5	0
Gidman	3	0	1	0	Child	1	0	Tiler	7	0
Graydon	6	1	2	1	Evans	1	0	Turnbull	7	0
Hamilton	1	1	—	—	Findlay	2	0			
Lochhead	6	2	1	0	George	7	0			
McMahon	6	0	2	0	Gidman	4	1			
Nicholl	6	0	2	0	Gregory	2	0			
Rioch (B)	5	2	2	1	Hamilton	4	1			
Ross	6	0	2	0	Hoban	1	0			
Tiler	1	0	—	—	Hughes	6	0			
Vowden	6	1	2	1	Little (B)	7	1			
Wright	2	0	1	0	Leonard	8	5			

Up to and including Saturday, 9th September, 1972

FOR THE RECORD

12th August, League Division Two PRESTON NORTH END 0, VILLA 1

At Deepdale. Attendance: 17,371

Villa scorer: Anderson

PRESTON: Kelly; McMahon, McNab; Bird, Hawkins, Connor; Young, Lamb, McIlmoyle, Williams, Heppolette. Sub: Spark.

VILLA: Cumbes; Wright, Aitken; Rioch B, Nicholl, Ross; Graydon, McMahon, Lochhead, Vowden, Anderson. Sub: Evans.

Central League

VILLA 4, PRESTON NORTH END 1

Villa scorers: Leonard (2), Rudge, Brown

VILLA: Hughes; Gidman, Stark; Turnbull, Tiler, Gregory; George, Brown, Rudge, Leonard, Little B.

Midland Intermediate League

VILLA 3, COVENTRY CITY 3

Villa scorers: Campbell (2), Smith D.

VILLA: Findlay; Smith M, Overton (sub: Ridley); Pimblett, Dyer, Place; Smith D, Howson, Campbell, Fellows, Masefield.

15th August, Central League

HUDDERSFIELD TOWN 2, VILLA 2

Villa scorers: Gidman, Brown

VILLA: Hughes; Gidman, Stark; Turnbull, Tiler, Gregory; George, Brown, Rudge, Leonard, Little B, Sub: Betts.

16th August, League Cup—1

VILLA 4, HEREFORD UNITED 1

At Villa Park. Attendance: 32,314

Villa scorers: Rioch, Graydon, Vowden, Evans. Hereford: Johnston.

VILLA: Cumbes; Wright, Aitken; Rioch B, Nicholl, Ross; Graydon, McMahon, Lochhead (sub: Evans), Vowden, Anderson.

HEREFORD: Potter; Mallender, Naylor; Jones, McLaughlin, Tucker; Slattery, Hollett (sub: Johnston), Owen, Radford, Wallace.

19th August, League Division Two

VILLA 2, HUDDERSFIELD TOWN 0

At Villa Park. Attendance: 34,843

Villa scorers: Vowden, Graydon.

VILLA: Cumbes; Wright, Aitken; Rioch B, (sub: Evans), Nicholl, Ross; Graydon, McMahon, Lochhead, Vowden, Anderson.

HUDDERSFIELD: Wood; Jones, Hutt; Pugh, Lyon, Dolan; Krzywicki, Lawson, Gowling, Smith S, Chapman. Sub: Smith D.

Central League

BURNLEY 0, VILLA 1

Villa scorer: Rioch N.

VILLA: Hughes; Gidman, Stark; Tiler, Beard, Rioch N; George, Brown, Leonard, Hamilton, Little B, Sub: Betts.

Midland Intermediate League Cup

DERBY COUNTY 6, VILLA 0

VILLA: Lee; Smith M, Overton;

Pimblett, Dyer, Place; Ridley, Pelosie, Campbell, Fellows, Smith D (sub: Hunt).

21st August, Central League

BLACKPOOL 2, VILLA 1

Villa scorer: Leonard

VILLA: Findlay; Gidman, Turnbull; Tiler, Beard, George (sub: Stark); Rioch N, Brown, Leonard, Evans, Little B.



VILLA VILLA VILLA VIEW VIEW VIEW

Just three days ago, Michael Wright discarded his crutches and began to put full weight once again on the right knee on which he had a cartilage operation a fortnight earlier. It may not count a milestone in his career, but it meant a lot to him, I can tell you.

For this is the second big step in his recovery from an injury which occurred quite suddenly in the second half of the first home match with Huddersfield. The first big development came 24 hours after the operation when he was encouraged to try to raise his leg off the bed.

But I'll let Michael, whose second cartilage operation this was in two years, tell you all about it himself—after all, he should know how it feels and just how much sweat and discomfort the fight-back to fitness involves.

"The first I knew of any trouble was when the knee began to ache shortly after Bruce Rioch had gone off with a broken wrist. It didn't seem too much at the time, but, that evening, after I had returned home, it became quite painful.

"So I reported for treatment at the ground on Sunday morning and, by this time, our physiotherapist, Fred Pedley, and I had a pretty good idea what it was. So then we consulted our specialist Mr Kirkham.

"He examined me both visually and manually, but advised me to carry on for a few days and see how it responded to treatment. But, after a couple of sessions, it had not shown any improvement. Vic saw Mr Kirkham and came back and told me I would have to have an operation.

"To tell the truth, I was quite pleased that things had been settled so quickly. I had a fair idea that it would need surgery and the way I looked at it was that the sooner the better. The less time wasted, the more it would suit me."

I interrupted Michael at this point. "I honestly expected your reaction to the news to be 'Oh, no. Not again.' But you



MICHAEL WRIGHT

say you actually welcomed the operation?"

Michael replied: "I had virtually resigned myself to the trouble. My attitude was that if it has got to be done, then let's not waste time. Let's get it over with and get back to the job.

"A footballer has to accept that this is one of the hazards of the game. It's no use worrying about it—you just have to accept it and get back to fitness as promptly as you can. So into hospital I went and the job was done.

"The one thing about a cartilage operation is that they waste no time once surgery is over. The following day they come to you and start you on exercises. This is the most difficult and unpleasant part of the whole thing, because you look down at your bandaged leg and wonder whether it will stand up to it.

"At this particular time, the knee is extremely tender and as you try to raise your leg—perfectly straight—off the bed you sometimes wonder whether the stitches are going to burst open. But they know what they are doing and once you have mastered that exercise, you are on the way.

"From then on, it is just a question of repetition exercises to build back the muscles. You wear a special shoe with weights incorporated into it. At first, of course, the weights are very little and you spend your time doing 20 lifts and then resting for a minute before having a go at another 20.

"This goes on for an hour and a half in the morning and again in the afternoon. Once you have mastered that one particular weight, you move on to one which is slightly more. It is boring and your muscles ache like mad—but it's necessary and you have to get it done.

"It is absolutely remarkable how much muscle wastage there is in such a short time. I suppose there couldn't have been much more than 12 days of inactivity from the time I incurred the injury to the day I resumed exercises, but you have only to look at the thigh and quad muscles to see how much you have lost.

"Obviously, with an athlete used to training every day, the effect is more noticeable. But it's not only bulk of muscle that one sheds, it is also the tone of muscle. So that's the first job—get it back.

"The last time I underwent a cartilage there was quite a squad of us in the same boat—George Curtis, Bruce Rioch and Roy Stark—but this time I have to do it on my own. I am not too worried because I know what's ahead of me.

"I have set myself no target because it all depends on how the knee feels and reacts. But I will say I am hoping to be playing again early in November."

If you make it by the fifth, Michael, most of us will light a celebratory fire-work.

JOHN MOXLEY

SECOND SCENE...

ASTON VILLA OXFORD UNITED PRESTON N.E. FULHAM LUTON TOWN HULL CITY HUDDERSFIELD TOWN SUNDERLAND BLACKPOOL CARLISLE UNITED MILLWALL MIDDLESBROUGH BRIGHTON QUEENS PARK ORIENT NOTTINGHAM F SWINDON TOWN BURNLEY CARDIFF CITY PORTSMOUTH BRISTOL CITY SHEFFIELD WED ASTON VILLA OXFORD UNITED PRESTON N.E. FULHAM LUTON TOWN HULL CITY HUDDERSFIELD TOWN SUNDERLAND BLACKPOOL CARLISLE UNITED MILLWALL MIDDLESBROUGH BRIGHTON QUEENS PARK ORIENT NOTTINGHAM F SWINDON TOWN BURNLEY CARDIFF CITY PORTSMOUTH BRISTOL CITY SHEFFIELD WED ASTON VILLA O

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS completed a rather ironic twist of soccer fate when they paid out a club record fee—reported at £110,000—to sign Carlisle United forward **Stan Bowles**.

The Shepherd's Bush team had the money in the bank from last season's £200,000 transfer of **Rodney Marsh** to Manchester City—the club who had let Bowles go on a free transfer three years ago.

Bowles was at Carlisle for less than a year and in that time, the Cumberland team saw his value rise almost ten times the fee they paid to Crewe Alexandra. Bowles had previously been given a 'free' by Bury after spending only seven weeks at Gigg Lane.

Signed by former Carlisle chief **Ian MacFarlane**, Bowles proved himself an outstanding player with his fourth club, scoring 11 goals in 28 League matches—including a hat-trick against the Second Division Champions, Norwich City.

His departure was another indication of the economics which affect Carlisle almost every season. Last year they sold **Bob Hatton** to Blues for an estimated £80,000 and the previous season, they had taken a quoted £55,000 from Middlesbrough for **Hugh McIlmoyle**.

BRIGHTON manager **Pat Saward** was also busy in the transfer market just before his team came to Villa Park a fortnight ago. We saw former Chelsea, Blues, Q.P.R. and Millwall striker **Barry Bridges** make his debut for the Sussex club—and they had raised some of the £25,000 fee by selling **Kit Napier** and **David Turner** to Third Division Blackburn Rovers.

David 'Bronco' Layne is still battling to follow former England centre-half **Peter Swan** back into the SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY team. Layne returned to Hillsborough during the summer, but unlike Swan, has not had the best of fortune on the comeback trail.

Hamstring and tendon injuries prevented him from playing in a public match for two months, but he remains confident that he can resume League football. He says: "Peter has proved that it is possible to



TERRY VENABLES—Q.P.R.

come back and I am sure that this will be my experience, too.

"Anyway, I am just happy to be still part of the club, and get pleasure from just going down there and training when I can. But I have seen enough to know that Second Division standards are well within my reach."

Swan, meanwhile, has settled down so quickly that Wednesday fans can hardly believe he was away from the game for seven years. Manager **Derek Dooley** is well pleased as well and recently agreed details of a year's contract for Swan.

FULHAM had bad luck when **Alan Mullery's** return to Craven Cottage from Tottenham was cut short by an Achilles tendon injury after only three games. His leg was put in plaster, and just when he was hoping to get the OK to resume training, the plaster was ordered back on for another week.

Mullery's injury meant a resumption of captain's duties for former Chelsea midfielder player **Barry Lloyd**, who led Fulham out of the Third Division in 1970-71.

"It was a real blow for us when Alan was injured," says Barry. "I believe I can learn a lot from such a player and captain." Barry admits, however, he was disappointed to lose the skipper's job. "I enjoyed the responsibilities," he said. "But it doesn't mean I am upset by Alan's arrival."

Another man enjoying a return to captaincy is QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS' former Chelsea, Spurs and England player, **Terry Venables**. Last season he was put out for five months because of a groin injury and **Mike Ferguson** led the side in the later stages of an unlucky promotion bid.

Terry reckons that his absence has sharpened his appetite for soccer—and he predicts a bright future for the young Rangers side. "Q.P.R. are rather like Chelsea of ten years ago. That side was also in Division Two and containing youngsters, including myself. We won promotion and never looked back. I am sure the same could happen for Rangers."

Pat Wright, the former Blues' defender who is now with PORTSMOUTH, must rank among the busiest men in the Second Division. Apart from his important role as Pompey's first-team coach, Pat is also player-manager of 'nursery' club, Waterlooville, who won promotion to the Southern League Premier Division last season.

Despite his double work-load, Pat is happy at Fratton Park—so much so that he turned down an offer from Stoke City. "I gave it serious consideration," he says. "But Pompey have been very good to me and somewhere along the line, you must

NEWS & VIEWS..

show loyalty. So I decided to accept a three-year contract at Portsmouth."

Johnny Vincent, the Black Country-born forward who left Birmingham for MIDDLESBROUGH two seasons ago, has been placed on the transfer list at his own request. A similar plea was refused last year, but Johnny is now out of 'Boro's first-team and looking for a move to a club nearer the Midlands.

HULL CITY are taking every opportunity to get valuable striker **Ken Wagstaff** fit for first-team action after his second cartilage operation within a year. He felt no effects when playing with the juniors.

BLACKPOOL certainly seem to have the knack of finding 'brainy' players. Their team now contains four men with top educational qualifications. **Peter Sud-daby**, **Peter Hardcastle** and **Paul Fuschillo** all have University backgrounds, while £100,000-rated forward **Mickey Burns** is a former teacher.

The beauty is that all four were signed from amateur soccer and didn't cost a penny in transfer fees.

Now Blackpool are hoping they have found another winner in a player released by Everton as a junior and then turned down by Nottingham Forest. He is 19-year-old striker **Frank Corrigan**, who was spotted playing for Ormskirk in the Cheshire League. He was invited to play a trial game in the Central League against Burnley and Blackpool saw enough to sign him on professional terms the same day.

Although **Tim Ward** was relieved of his job as **CARLISLE UNITED** manager some years ago, he has never lost friendship with the Brunton club. Tim, now an executive with Burton-on-Trent building concern, watches Carlisle whenever they are in the Midlands and was a guest of the club at their game at Villa Park.

PRESTON NORTH END's injury problems increased when former Albion winger **Clive Clark** damaged ankle ligaments and joined **Alan Lamb** and **Hugh McIlmoyle** on the long-term casualty list. One consolation was that club skipper

Alan Spavin came back after his troublesome ankle injury, but even that was balanced by the loss of striker **Roger Davies**, recalled by Derby County after completing only two matches of his loan period.

Frank Parsons began the season as **CARDIFF CITY's** third-choice goalkeeper and suddenly found himself back in the League team at the end of August. "I thought I had played my last League game for the club a long time ago," said the former Crystal Palace player.

"I was playing quite well in the reserve sides, but **Billy Irwin** was doing well in the first-team and there was also competition from **Jim Eadie**." However, Irwin lost form and with Eadie on loan to Chester, manager **Jimmy Scouler** gave Parsons an unexpected comeback.

THE OTHER VIEW

"Cardiff City's defence creaked and cracked as Aston Villa gave them the run-around at Ninian Park. Using the flanks intelligently, Villa went two-up after 24 minutes through **Bruce Rioch** and **Andy Lochhead**. And, in the second half, City 'keeper **Frank Parsons** made a spectacular penalty save as the home side struggled in vain to get on terms.

"Beaten only once in seven games, Villa's source of destruction was through their flanks. **Graydon** and **Anderson**, each playing wide, with **Lochhead** the central spearhead, gave City early warning. **Anderson** left **Freddie Pethard** bedazzled."

PETER JACKSON (South Wales Echo).

All enquiries for back issues of the *Villa News* should be addressed to: **H. & H. Promotions Limited**, 550 Chester Road, Aldridge, near Walsall.

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1972/73
03

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1970/71-1971/72

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Aston Villa v Swindon Town

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION 2 SATURDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 1972 KICK-OFF 3.00 pm

TEAMCHECK...

ASTON VILLA

Claret & Blue Shirts, White Shorts

- 1 JIMMY CUMBES
- 2 JOHN GIDMAN
- 3 CHARLIE AITKEN
- 4 BRUCE RIOCH
- 5 CHRIS NICHOLL
- 6 IAN ROSS
- 7 RAY GRAYDON
- 8 PAT McMAHON
- 9 ANDY LOCHHEAD
- 10 GEOFF VOWDEN
- 11 WILLIE ANDERSON
- 12

TEAM CHANGES

SWINDON

Blue Shirts and Shorts

- 1 PETE DOWNSBOROUGH
- 2 ROD THOMAS
- 3 JOHN TROLLOPE
- 4 JOE BUTLER
- 5 FRANK BURROWS
- 6 RON POTTER
- 7 STEVE PELOW
- 8 RAY TREACY
- 9 PETER NOBLE
- 10 TERRY HUBBARD
- 11 DON ROGERS
- 12

TEAM CHANGES

SCORECHECK...

Arsenal v Liverpool
Coventry v Newcastle
C. Palace v WB Albion
Derby v Birmingham City
Everton v Southampton
Leeds v Leicester
Man City v Tottenham
Sheffield U v Chelsea
Wolves v Manchester Utd
Blackpool v Orient

A
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Bristol C v Middlesbrough
Carlisle v Cardiff
Fulham v Huddersfield
Hull v Burnley
Luton v Brighton
Oxford v Millwall
Portsmouth v Preston
QPR v Nottingham F
Sunderland v Sheffield W
Bolton Res v A. Villa Res.

L
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Y
Z

OFFICIALS...

Referee: R. E. RABY, Leeds

Linesmen:

D. N. HARWOOD, Nottingham, Red Flag
G. J. NAPTHINE, Sileby, Leics, Orange Flag

Robert Raby, a production engineer, began refereeing in the Sheffield and Hallamshire County F.A. in 1951-52 and progressed through the Yorkshire League to reach the full Football League list in 1970-71. He has since acted as linesman in important Cup games, including the Anglo-Italian Tournament and the U.E.F.A. Cup.