

Wycombe Wanderers

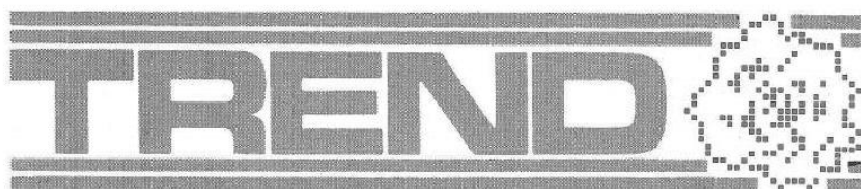
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Handbook 1987-88



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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the Wycombe Wanderers Handbook 1987/88, the third produced by the current Editorial team of Paul Lewis and myself.

Looking back over the three seasons we have been fortunate enough to have reviewed, we have been very lucky to have been faced with relatively easy tasks; 84/85 Promotion to the Gola League, 85/86 a thoroughly enjoyable and eventful season despite relegation, and 86/87 three trophies and promotion to the G.M.V.C.

Back in July 1986 watching the Wanderers slump to an embarrassing 3-1 defeat at the hands of Buckingham in a behind-closed-doors friendly at Bisham Abbey, did not inspire too much optimism towards the forthcoming season.

Alan Gane seemed to face an almost no-win situation. The Wycombe public expected nothing less than the League Championship itself, as indeed, no doubt, did the Yeovil public. Many predicted a two-horse race, and in the end they were right. The Club had committed itself to promotion to the G.M.V.C. (which inevitably meant that we would actually have to win the league,) and from then promotion to the Football League. With a similar ambition facing Yeovil, failure for us could have meant a frustrating 'spell' at the Vauxhall-Opel League with diminishing crowds, but instead success brought us more support and I for one had never envisaged printing 1,500 programmes for an "Isthmian" League match.

As the pre-season friendlies started, I personally felt that the signings that had been made would not be enough. With no disrespect to the players involved, very little was known of the likes of Kevin Durham, Paul Hackett, Andy Graham and Byron

Walton, who not only had the task of replacing the likes of Anton Vircavs, Declan Link and Simon Read, but also had to improve on that team. Then rumours started to spread around Loakes Park that we had signed two Enfield players Noel Ashford and Keith Barrett. "Didn't they used to play for England?" quizzed a more knowledgeable non-league follower. Suddenly the crowd was buzzing, and they never stopped buzzing for the rest of the season. Never in my memory has a season been so packed full of memorable events, the League Championship, the Berks & Bucks Cup, the Presidents Cup, record successive League wins, record number of wins, points and goals, headline signings not only of Ashford and Barrett, but also Barry Silkman, Declan Link, Carl Hoddle and ex-England Youth International Jason Seacole, and of course one who did not make the headlines when he signed, but deserved them in the end, Kirk Corbin. There were some incredible games at Loakes Park against Kingstonian, Windsor, Walthamstow and Barnet, and even more away from home at Slough, Barking, Orient, Bishops Stortford, Bognor, Dulwich and of course at Wolverton. All in all, personally it was my most enjoyable season in 17 years watching the club, and yes I do remember Middlesbrough. You all know the story of the season, but it's so good to relive it occasionally and so we give thanks to all those who played a part in achieving that success, and to all the contributors and advertisers who have made this publication possible.

My special thanks also to John Goldsworthy and P. K. Graphics for their special help towards producing this handbook.

Happy reading.....

Philip Ball

p.k. graphics

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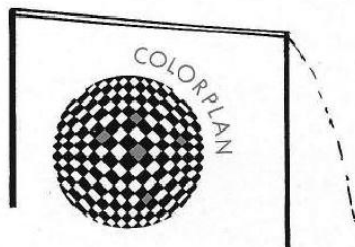
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FOREWARD

By Brian Lee

A season is a long time in the life of a football club especially when so many events can be crowded into a short space of time. This time last year we were reviewing our debut season in the Gola League when three points were awarded for an away win and two points for a home win. If only the rewards, appertaining last season, had applied the previous season — 3 points for a win home or away — we would not have been relegated. On the other hand we may not have enjoyed an exciting last season when interest in the club was aroused, gates increased and promotion gained.

This season we are going to experience a further experiment in our league by way of players not being offside from a free kick. Whilst it is good for the Conference to head the way, I only hope that the real issues of bread and butter league football in this country — promotion and relegation are not settled in the last match of the season by a controversial experimental decision.

Last season also hallmarked the arrival of two England Non League Internationals, and both Keith Barratt and Noel Ashford played significant parts in the league success. For a club who regularly produced international players in the old amateur days, it was particularly pleasing to see Noel play for his Country again and the Club represented at the highest level of Non League Football.

A further milestone was the activation of the Football Club Company and the new Board of Directors during the season and I would like to express my thanks to my colleagues for making a significant start to taking the Club into next decade.

The vexed question of finding a new site for the football ground to go along with our ambitions and

enabling the hospital to expand, continues to rear its head. The present proposal will soon be resolved, but whatever the decision, the Board is determined to develop the Club on and off the field in readiness for further challenges in the football world.

All the above of course, points towards the most exciting 'Break' for Non League Football in that promotion can now be automatic from the Conference into the Football League.

At the time we played in the Alliance it was known as the Gola League and now we return to the GM Conference — a rather confusing situation for somebody just dropping in from a neighbouring planet! Whatever the name, whoever the sponsors, the most important thing is that Wycombe Wanderers are back in the top flight of Non League Football.

Whilst we should congratulate Scarborough and wish them well in the Today Fourth Division we should also remember former Isthmians, Wimbledon, who played with skill and pride in the toughest football league in the world. These two clubs are the examples that we should all want to follow.

To all those people connected with the Club, either in the dressing room, in the Club or on the terraces, I hope we all enjoy an exciting season, with sportsmanship and team spirit at the top of the list of ingredients. Remember, football is a game of skill to be played fairly, but if it is not played fairly it cannot be played skillfully.

Lastly, our thanks are due to Philip Ball and Paul Lewis for researching, co-ordinating and producing this review of the 1986/7 season.

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THE STORY OF THE SEASON

The Capital League Presidents Cup may not be the world's most prestigious of football competitions, even to clubs at our level, but by 9.15 on the night of 8th May 1987, it had become another glorious symbol of a superbly successful season for Wycombe Wanderers F.C. As hundreds of supporters gathered in front of the main stand at Loakes Park for the presentation of the Trophy, most Blues fans had become quite familiar with the routine; in the preceding weeks there had been memorable scenes of celebration at Bognor Regis the night the Vauxhall-Opel League Championship was won, to be followed by the presentation of the Championship Trophy at Hitchin five days later, the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup at Wolverton a week later, and League Championship medals to the players after the final, record-breaking, victory at Dulwich on the last Saturday of the league season. Thus the Presidents Cup became the Club's third trophy of the campaign and provided us all with a fitting finale to an unforgettable season; a season which, following relegation from the Gola League could have easily seen a significant decline in the Club's fortunes, but in fact ended with Wycombe having enjoyed its best period for many years. This was well illustrated by a remarkable increase in attendances at Loakes Park. The average attendance for home league games was 1129, the highest recorded since 1976 and substantially higher even than in the solitary Gola League season, providing proof — if any was needed — of the potential support the Club can attract at Loakes

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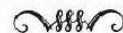
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Park. No less than ten home fixtures were watched by crowds in excess of 1,000, two of which were over 2,000. There was no shortage of support at away games either, with 19 Premier Division Clubs enjoying their highest league attendance when the "Chairboys" were visiting. In terms of results, the defeats suffered in the F.A. Trophy and F.A. Cup would, in other years, have started waves of criticism and protest from all quarters, but there was never any question that the VOL Championship, and hence a return to the newly named G.M. Vauxhall Conference, was the absolute priority; and so consistently did Alan Gane's men perform over the 42 league fixtures that, overall, the only people who had a poor season at Loakes Park were the moaners and whingers. Obviously there will be opportunities for them to bite again next season as the team will inevitably find life infinitely more difficult in the Conference — now generally accepted by the National media and general public alike as the Football League's Fifth Division, complete with its promotion and relegation to and from Division Four. But for the time being a VOL playing record of 32 wins, 5 draws and only 5 defeats — with over 100 points and 100 goals to the Club's name — is one to cherish and remember for some time to come.

It would, however, be fair to say that such success had not been widely anticipated before the season began. Expectations did rise considerably, though, when it was announced that two established Non-League International players had been signed from Enfield at a combined cost of £8,000. Keith Barrett, though a very different style of defender, was a natural replacement for Anton Vircavs, who had earlier been transferred to Cheltenham Town — ironically, largely due to Anton's wish to remain on the Gola/G.M.V.C. circuit, with or without Wycombe Wanderers. As for Noel Ashford, he quickly became something of a folk-hero with the Loakes Park fans, being that relatively rare type of forward able to combine irresistible natural skill with 100% commitment to his team's cause. The signing of these two players — in itself a major shock to the Non-League Football World — indicated a degree of ambition within the Club that instantly revived many people's enthusiasm for the coming season.

With the sleeping giant of Yeovil Town again poised to challenge for the VOL title it was evident that nothing less than an exceptional season would be sufficient to take the top spot; expectation were raised further by three pre-season victories over GMVC opposition. Just one month later, hopes were positively soaring as the 8th league fixture was completed with a 100% record intact.



Kevin Collins waves a final farewell to the Wycombe fans as he departs for Australia. He captained us for the first third of the season.

Croydon were the first of the eight in our opening fixtures, which featured the irrepressible Byron Walton scoring our first goal of the campaign in bizarre fashion, tapping into an empty net while the visitors lined up a defensive wall for a free-kick which their goalkeeper was still debating with the referee. Three days later our 2nd fixture, at Richmond Road, Kingston — one of our old familiar Isthmian venues — was decided by a Mark West goal in the opening 30 seconds. At Walthamstow the following Saturday it was necessary to come from behind with two superbly headed goals from West and Walton to earn win number 3, and Windsor were comfortably beaten at Loakes Park to make it 12 points out of 12. That brought us to a home fixture with Bognor Regis, who themselves had begun the season well and had a full England International, Dave Thomas, in their line-up. A 2-1 win for the Blues was earned by virtue of an own goal (we had much to thank Bognor for this season!) but was particularly creditable for the way the team coped with the loss of Gary Lester through injury for much of the second half, the green shirt first being taken by Noel Ashford and then Graham Bressington — an experience that was to stand

“Bressie” in good stead for a full 90 minutes between the sticks at Farnborough six months later.

Church Road, Hayes is still one of Wycombe’s least favourite grounds, but one man had a particular reason for wanting to do well there on this occasion — Byron Walton, who had left Hayes as their leading goalscorer during the close season. His two second-half goals were enough for a very satisfying 2-0 win, and morale among the Wanderers and their Supporters was sky high as we travelled to Bromley on the first Saturday of September. The scoreline of Bromley 0 Wycombe 4 was no more than an accurate reflection of the difference between the two sides, as was graciously acknowledged by several Bromley fans as well as their local paper, which wrote about the Blues performance in glowing terms. Now on the crest of a wave, a Tuesday night match against newly-promoted St. Albans brought the seasons first 1,000 plus crowd to Loakes Park. With 7 wins from 7 games, local interest in Wycombe Wanderers was beginning to increase noticeably. St. Albans may have thought so, as Noel Ashford opened the scoring with an exquisitely curved ground shot just inside a post from 25 yards. The final result of 3-0 sent most Wycombe people home happy, with the exception of Kevin Durham, who unfortunately sustained an injury which was to keep him on the side-lines for some time.

Thoughts of league results were temporarily put aside for the launch of the Club’s ambitious “League Line” promotion at the Town Hall, an event attended by supporters, officials, players and celebrities such as Alan Parry and Steve Coppell. Our first Cup match of the season brought Hornchurch to Loakes Park in the A.C. Delco Cup — the Division

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2 side probably feared a hiding but in the event were unlucky to lose 3-2, coming desperately close to forcing a replay when a header struck the underside of Gary Lester's crossbar in the last minute of extra-time.

As far as the sequence of league wins was concerned, the bubble had to burst sometime, and burst it did when Farnborough snatched a last-minute winner at Loakes Park the following Saturday.



Noel Ashford rounds Yeovil defender Tom Ritchie during our 2-1 defeat at the Huish

Then came the eagerly awaited trip to Yeovil. 3169 vociferous fans at the Huish ground gave the match an atmosphere not usually associated with the Isthmian League – nor the G.M.V.C., or even the 4th Division of the Football League for that matter. In a very evenly matched, tense contest Yeovil's late winner gave them all three points when many observers felt that a draw would have been a fairer result. Though the defeat was disappointing, it was certainly no disaster, being just one of 42 league matches to be played, but this result was followed by a frustrating goalless draw at home to Bishops Stortford, and then a 2-1 defeat at Harrow – despite the surprise appearance of ex-professional star Barry Silkman in a Wycombe shirt for the first time. This was another game which we were probably a little unfortunate to lose – suddenly, after having taken 24 points from the first 8 league matches, only a single point had come from the last 4 games. Clearly it was crucial to regain the winning habit as soon as possible but this was not, we feared, going to be easy – at Slough.

The pressure was all on Wycombe. Another defeat, it seemed, would raise questions as to the team's championship hopes, whereas Slough Town, who we all knew would like nothing more than to put a nice big dent in their local rivals' promotion dreams, were right on form. Over 1400 people – probably 50% from Wycombe – witnessed a 3-0 win for the "Chairboys" with goals by Graham (2) and Ashford giving a slightly flattering but very welcome scoreline in our favour, and putting the name of Wycombe Wanderers back on top of the V.O.L. table, with now a third of the league programme completed.

On a cool Saturday in October, Tooting at home



Barry Silkman in control at Harrow, whilst Richard Blue looks on

is not – with no disrespect intended to Tooting – usually one of our most attractive fixtures but on this particular weekend the town's people obviously wanted to see Wycombe play, and play they certainly did. With the prospect of Barry Silkman's home debut for the Wanderers and the Club looking down on the rest of the league, a crowd of 1243 turned out. Attendances of this size for routine league fixtures had not been seen at Loakes Park since the mid – 70's, and the extra supporters must have gone home delighted with what they had seen. The score-line of 4-0 gives only a partial indication to the ease and style with which victory was achieved that afternoon, though with the points always apparently secure there was little need for much over-exertion. At times the Silkman and Ashford Show was pure football theatre, and the memory of Barry leaving the pitch with applause ringing around the ground after a typical piece of trickery had set up Mark West for a goal just seconds earlier, will remain with many of us for a long time.



Noel Ashford thumps Wycombe's first in the 3-0 victory at Slough

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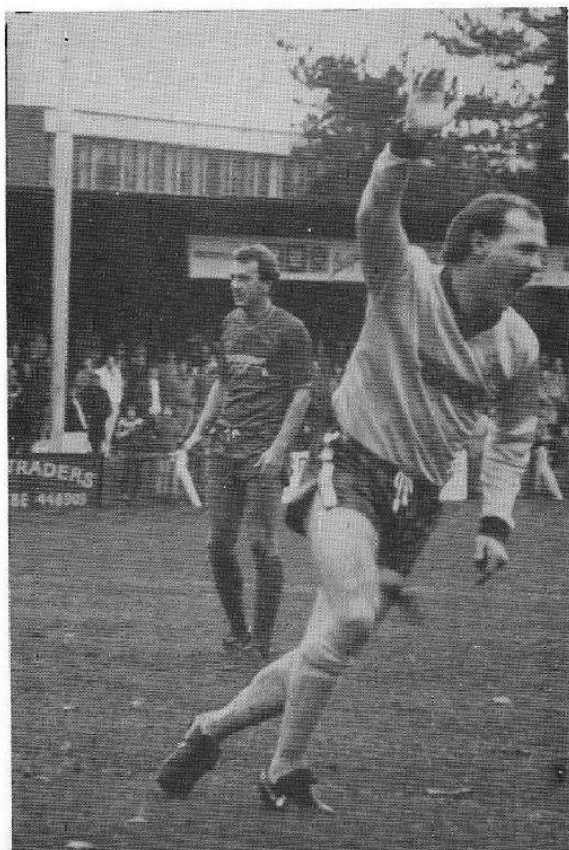
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Jason Seacole turns away triumphantly after notching the first of his hat-trick in the 4-2 victory over Worthing

7 days later, however, the script went badly wrong when Southern League VS Rugby arrived for an F.A. Cup 4th Qualifying Round tie. Despite their large support, they were generally regarded as being lambs to the slaughter but a sloppy goal to the visitors in the first minute, followed by a second soon after, sent the Blues on the way to a disastrous and embarrassing 5-1 home defeat. Thankfully, winning ways were restored the following Saturday, with a 4-2 league win at home to Worthing, and 3 days later with a 2-1 home win over Hayes, though not before the Middlesex side had taken an early lead. A dour match at Wokingham on a typically bumpy surface earned 3 more points by virtue of Byron Walton's quick thinking in setting up Noel Ashford for a second half winner, before Yeovil visited Loakes Park for a Tuesday night tie in the newly established G.M. Acceptance Corporation Cup (our very own Full Members Cup). This time Byron's enthusiasm resulted only in a long-term injury for Yeovil's £7,000 defender Tony Ricketts, and we slumped to a 4-1 defeat. Alan Gane then shocked everyone by announcing that Barry Silkman was to be released — not because of the other players reactions to his dress sense but because his flamboyant style of play had left the team vulnerable defensively. Such was the respect that Alan Gane now commanded among Supporters that little dissent was voiced from the terraces; similarly, only mild disagreement was expressed when the controversial step was taken to drop Mark West, then the VOL leading goalscorer, for the visit to Wokingham. Certainly there were few complaints as Hendon were demolished 5-0 at Loakes Park. Lowly

Worthing paid another visit for a midweek A.C. Delco Cup tie, played in torrential rain, and were beaten 2-1 after extra time, with Jason Seacole having netted a late equaliser in the first 90 minutes.



Despair on the faces of the Yeovil defenders, as Andy Graham forces the ball home. Yeovil had the last laugh as they won this GMAC Cup tie 4-1.



Jason Seacole fires home this very late equaliser to force extra-time in the A.C. Delco Cup tie against Worthing

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Wycombe now faced a sequence of three difficult away league fixtures on consecutive Saturdays, at Bishops Stortford, Barking, and Hendon. To Yeovil's acute disappointment, maximum points were taken from a trio of full-blooded matches involving a total of 17 goals. A powerful all-round performance at Rhodes Avenue had Stortford well and truly beaten by a score of 4-1, Noel Ashford opening the scoring in typically spectacular fashion, with second half goals by Seacole, Ashford again, and an own goal sealing the points. Then it was time for the visit to highly-placed Barking – George Borg, ploughed pitch and all. A goalless first half gave little indication of what was to come in the second period. Firstly a temporary floodlight failure delayed the restart – giving some Blues fans the chance to leave their Essex rivals in no doubt as to their opinions on their attempts to raise the Barking ground to the required Premier Division standard – and seven goals were interrupted by an injury to the match referee, who was eventually replaced by a linesman.



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Goals from Graham, Day, Durham and Walton had Wycombe leading 4-2 as the game entered its final stages. Barking succeeded in reducing the arrears to 3-4 and piled forward in a last-ditch attempt to level the scores, as the travelling Wycombe fans howled for the final whistle. With Gary Lester in some pain from a leg injury, the ball landed invitingly in the Wycombe 6 yard box, as our watches showed the game moving into the TENTH minute of stoppage time – Gary could only watch as the shot rebounded off his post before bouncing off himself, whereupon he was able to grab the ball, and the final whistle confirmed that it would be another happy journey home, with 3 more vital points in the bag.



Kevin Day heads home his only goal of the season in the mud at Barking

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And so to Hendon — no-one could say life with Wycombe was dull. The North London side, vastly improved from the outfit who had been swamped at Loakes Park 3 weeks earlier, spent most of the first half pressing forward determinedly but were left gasping by some ruthless finishing at the other end, with Durham, West and a crashing volley by Andy Graham giving Wanderers a 3-0 half-time lead. The second half, covered by LBC Radio, brought 2 goals for Hendon — one an own goal by Anthony Riley, the other a penalty — a double sending-off, with Graham Bressington taking the long walk to the dressing room after almost every player on the pitch had become involved in a brief flare-up — and the Wycombe debuts of Mark Dawber, a young winger signed from Woking, and Kirk Corbin, a free transfer from Wokingham. Mark's performances improved significantly as the season progressed and looked a fine prospect for the future, while Kirk almost immediately established himself as possibly one of the finest defenders ever seen in

more Cup defeats were just around the corner. Yeovil, once again, won 2-1 at Loakes Park after extra time in the A.C. Delco Cup, and VOL Division 2 side Leatherhead held out for a 0-0 draw in the 1st Round of the F.A. Trophy. The replay at Fetcham Grove, on a cold night two days before Christmas would have been won with a little more luck, but one could not begrudge Leatherhead their 1-0 win, disappointing though it may have been at the time. With the benefit of hindsight, of course, it can now be seen that early Cup defeats can be a blessing in disguise for a Club with league title aspirations — as any Aylesbury fan would agree.



Anthony Riley's delight is clear as he scores a rare goal against Dulwich

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It was against Kirk's former team-mates that the next league win was recorded, 2-0 at home against Wokingham, and Dulwich were comfortably beaten 4-1 (the ever-popular Anthony Riley notching a rare goal, this time at the correct end) for Wycombe's 11th consecutive league victory. But 2

One of the most remarkable matches seen at Loakes Park took place on the first Saturday after Christmas. Just over 1,000 people were present to witness, we hoped, Wycombe break a long-standing club record by winning their 12th consecutive league match, against Chris Kelly's Kingstonian team. Kelly's men immediately tore the script into shreds by racing into a 2-0 lead, and for a while Wycombe looked totally bewildered. Jason Seacole pulled a goal back before half-time, renewing hope for the home fans, but with less than 5 minutes remaining in the second half the Kingstonian defence was looking comfortable and confident of holding out for a 2-1 win. Mark West, however, is always likely to snatch a goal-or-two and he equalised smartly and set up an astonishing finale, reminiscent of the previous season's win at Enfield. Kingstonian were well worth the draw they appeared to have earned, but with literally seconds remaining a corner-kick eventually landed right in front of "Westie", who gleefully nudged the ball over the line for a 3-2 win which had Wycombe supporters dancing with delight; the final whistle blew and immediately the celebrating fans heard from the Tannoy Man that Yeovil had just lost at home to Croydon. It was, to put it mildly, a perfect end to the year.

Starting 1987 with a league record of played 24, won 20, drawn 1, lost 3, and Alan Gane's men now seemingly capable of winning vital games even when not playing particularly well, it was something of a shock to lose to a team of Croydon's calibre (no

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disrespect intended to them) though previous bleak experiences at the Croydon "Sports Arena" and their recent win at Yeovil had given some warning. With Rick Collier standing in for the absent Gary Lester, a soft goal was conceded early on and Mark West's impetuous retaliation reduced our line-up to 10 men; the subsequent inevitable 75 minutes of frustration and another poor playing surface meant we left defeated but comforted by the knowledge that morale at Yeovil would be a lot lower than ours, as their Manager Gerry Gow had announced his resignation shortly before his sides 1-1 draw at Hendon.



Noel Ashford fires home this penalty to earn a 1-0 victory over Hitchin

A late penalty converted by Noel Ashford gave us a narrow 1-0 win at home to Hitchin the following Tuesday, an evening enlightened by the popular return of Declan Link to Loakes Park after a year-long absence. With the points gap between Yeovil and ourselves steadily increasing, and Alan Gane's squad improved significantly by the signings of Corbin, Dawber and now Link, there was (cautious) optimism among Wycombe fans looking forward to the final run in for the league title. Little resistance was anticipated from the sadly troubled Walthamstow Avenue, for whom merely completing fixtures had become something of an achievement in itself, and the 7-1 score-line was no surprise. After a couple of weeks of cold weather, and the few obligatory postponements, Bromley arrived in good form and ready to test Wycombe's playing strengths to the limit — which they did, but not in the way most of us had expected. Some of the tackling left a lot to be desired — Mark Dawber was carried off, a Bromley player was later sent off — but nevertheless the Wycombe players held their nerve and secured a solid 3-0 victory, while one or two

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visiting players apparently considered it more worthwhile to exchange threats with members of the paying public.



Keith Barrett leaves everyone stranded with this headed goal against Walthamstow

The following week proved to be a very entertaining one for the "Chairboys". On the Tuesday evening, Windsor and Eton provided the opposition for a Berks and Bucks Senior Cup tie. Though the Berkshire outfit were struggling at the wrong end of the Premier Division table, a tricky match was envisaged by most. It didn't exactly turn out that way though — After 15 minutes Wycombe had scored 4 times, led 7-0 by half-time, and finally ran out 11-1 winners. Supporters' delight at the proceedings was tempered only by the knowledge that Windsor were to be Yeovil's next opponents for league points, apparently giving little prospect of a result in our favour.

Our first Isthmian League visit to Clarence Park, St. Albans for many years, attracted a good crowd to the picturesque ground on a sunny January afternoon. Graham Bressington — put us a goal up on the half hour mark with a well struck, accurate ground shot from 20 yards, and further goals from Link (2) and Seacole completed a superb 4-1 win for the Blues over a very useful St. Albans team. Supporters were ready for an evening of celebration, regardless of the days other results, but when Radio 2 announced a result of Windsor 1 Yeovil 0, things began to get out of hand in some quarters....

Wycombe Wanderers were now sitting proudly at the top of the league table, with a staggering 17 points between themselves and 2nd placed Yeovil. It was evident that only a major disaster could cause such a lead to be lost — but of course, no chickens can ever be counted in football until they are well and truly hatched (12 months earlier, relatively few Wycombe people considered there to be much danger of relegation from the Gola League). There

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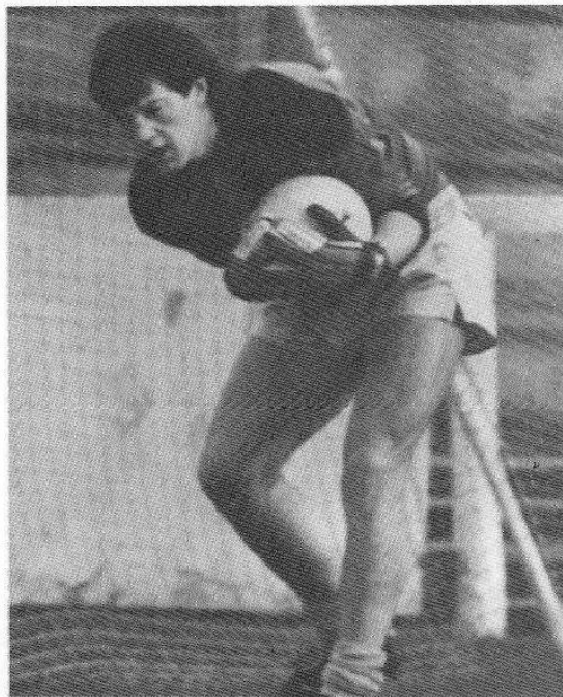


Declan Link flies in to slot this one home at St. Albans

were still some difficult fixtures to come, particularly during February, which began with the visit to 3rd placed Farnborough. The Wycombe contingent among the 1120 crowd were horrified to see their team take the field not only without Noel Ashford,



Declan Link goes close with this header in the 0-0 draw at Farnborough



Graham Bressington in the unfamiliar role as goalkeeper at Farnborough.

due to injury, but also with Graham Bressington wearing the goalkeepers jersey, Gary Lester having aggravated an injury in training 48 hours earlier and no reserve keeper being available. In the circumstances the 0-0 result was very acceptable and effectively ended any realistic hopes Farnborough had of remaining in the title race; their form during the final run-in slumped drastically, while Yeovil finally managed to achieve the kind of consistency they probably should have shown all season. Yeovil's third visit to Loakes Park, this time for league

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points, ended with the Somerset men recording another victory, with a solitary goal headed home directly from a corner. 2,473 people saw the match, a few of whom ended the day in police cells, after a number of Yeovil supporters were chased out of the ground. After a 3-0 home win over Mike Keen's Marlow (almost an ex-Wycombe XI) in the Berks & Bucks Quarter Finals, the short midweek trip to Windsor was obviously not going to finish with a similar result to the 11-1 County Cup romp. A clear-cut win was recorded though, with Declan Link's close range effort just before the break easing Wycombe's nerves, before Windsor, reduced to 10 men by a controversial sending-off, opened up again in the second period. Two Bressington specials were followed by both Mark Dawber and Neil Price notching their first ever goals for the Wanderers, and the 5-1 result put everyone in good spirit for the next Saturday's showdown with Slough Town at Loakes Park. Another crowd over 2,000 saw ex-Wanderer Kenny Wilson cause all kinds of problems for the home defence and inspired the Rebels to take a 1-0 lead, only for Jason Seacole to equalise before half-time. Two fine saves in the dying minutes by another ex-Wycombe player, Trevor Bunting, kept the scores level for a 1-1 result. The subsequent trip to Tooting resulted in another stalemate, despite Wycombe's almost total dominance of the play. Another dose of tense frustration came 7 days later with the visit of Harrow Borough, and the second consecutive goalless draw left Alan Gane to ponder on a sequence of 1 win from 6 league games.

There was a brief respite from the pressures of the League Championship at Gloucester the follow-



Declan Link moves aside as Jason Seacole blasts Wycombe's goal past Jeff Bateman in the 1-1 draw against Slough

ing Tuesday, when Noel Ashford became the first Wycombe player to play for England at Semi-Professional level, and scored a typically spectacular goal with a volley from the edge of the Wales penalty area. Noel was also to appear for England during a series of Internationals played in Scotland at the end of the season and also achieved the unusual distinction of playing for England (and scoring) against his own team-mates when Wycombe provided the England Squad with some match-practise at Bisham Abbey before the tournament in Scotland.

Back to the league story, now in late March. Just 7 fixture remained; there was still a healthy gap between ourselves and Yeovil, but the pressure was building up, and the trip to Worthing was made knowing that nothing less than 3 points could be considered satisfactory against the struggling seagulls. The depressing prospect of yet another goalless draw was increasing steadily as the hour mark was reached. A jaunt into the Worthing penalty area by Ashford ended with a badly judged tackle and gave Declan Link the chance to break the dead-

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Andy Graham and Trevor Bunting clash in the 1-1 draw with Slough. Noel Ashford and Jason Seacole stand by

lock from the penalty spot. The chance was missed, but thankfully 3 goals eventually sealed the vital points. Abingdon Town were then soundly beaten 5-0 to secure a place in the Berks & Bucks final, but at this point this was the least of our concerns. At Carshalton four days later it wasn't until the last 20 minutes that two goals secured another crucial victory. Carshalton had missed a first-half penalty, and



Noel Ashford clearly wins a penalty in our 3-0 win at Worthing



Declan Link secures our 3-0 victory at Worthing

it took a penalty converted by Mark West to open the scoring after he had come on as a substitute and been blatantly chopped over inside the box. Declan's emphatic finish a couple of minutes later sparked more celebration on the terraces – sorry, grass banks – as the Championship was now just 3 wins away, with 5 league matches to play.

Barking came to Loakes Park on the first Saturday in April – George Borg and his team having to use Wycombe's second strip for the afternoon – and though the result was only a narrow 2-1 win for the Wanderers, during the first half Wycombe had



Mark West coolly slots home the penalty which saved the day at Carshalton

played some of their best football of the season, with elegant, sweeping moves in torrential rain pulling the Barking defence apart, but only earning a 1-0 half-time lead. The return match with Carshalton was a strange affair; Kirk Corbin suffered an injury after 10 minutes which was to keep him out for the rest of the season, and his sudden absence from the back four, combined with the teams generally nervous approach, led to a jittery first-half performance during which the visitors spurned numerous guilt-edged opportunities to ruin the day for Alan Gane & Co. For a considerable time it was only Gary Lester and some horrendous shooting from Carshalton that kept us on course, but once Kevin Durham had shot through a crowd of players to put us ahead on the half-hour, there was no looking back, and the eventual 4-0 result left us knowing that the Championship could be clinched, realistically speaking, 2 days later at Bognor Regis.



Mark West tries to dig this penalty out of the mire against Bromley

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Literally hundreds of noisy fans made the trip to a misty Nyewood Lane that Monday night, and after 7 minutes they looked set to commence the celebrations as another penalty was earned by Noel, but the chance was missed by Declan. The score remained blank until with just a quarter of an hour remaining Kevin Day unfortunately deflected a hopeful cross past Gary Lester, but happily the last 15 minutes will remain etched on the memories of us all for a long time to come, as a mis-hit, scrambled equaliser by Kevin Durham and an own goal just seconds from full-time gave Wycombe a 2-1 win, 3 points, the VOL Championship, and a place in the Vauxhall Conference. Supporters, players and officials joined in unrestrained celebration, on the pitch, around the main stand and in the dressing rooms. After 8 months of dreaming, hoping, speculating, calculating and worrying, it all come true so suddenly.

From that point it seemed likely that the few remaining fixtures would be rather anti-climactic. In fact, those last few weeks were probably the most enjoyable ever spent with Wycombe Wanderers. Another last minute winner, this time by Andy Graham (which was appropriate as he had unfortunately missed the Bognor match, having missed the team coach) at Hitchin, secured another 2-1 win before the VOL officials presented the Championship Trophy to skipper Keith Barrett, and a fortnight later the final league match of the season was won by 4-1 at Dulwich. Wycombe had gone into this match knowing that victory would mean a record number of league wins by the club in one season, and that 4 goals would mean a record number of league goals. Mark Dawber duly smashed home the fourth goal 5 minutes from time, League

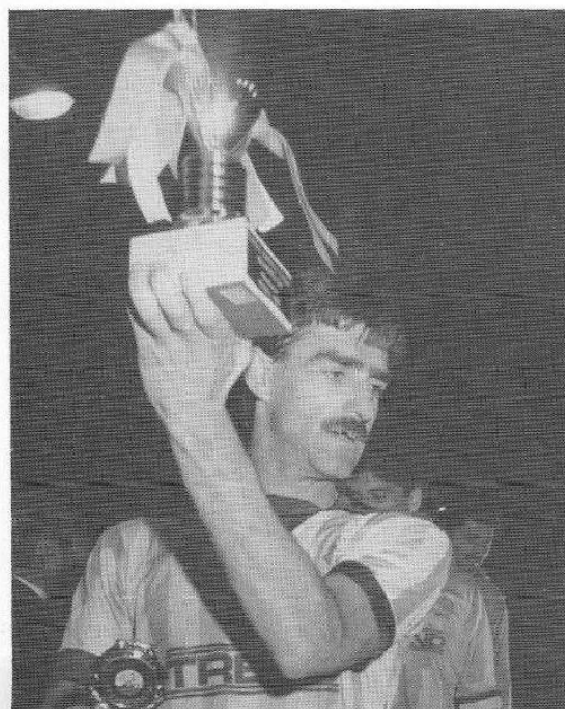
officials presented the players with their Championship medals, and it seemed that nothing was beyond Wycombe's capabilities now. Seven days earlier, in the quaint setting of the Wolverton Town ground, the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup had been taken from Aylesbury, whose tired players finally capitulated to extra-time goals by each of the Link brothers and Noel Ashford. A direct reversal of the previous season's final, this time it was Wycombe who had the last laugh, and this time it was the Aylesbury fans who trailed sadly out of the ground with their season falling around their ears.

quite spectacular volley led to yet another trophy presentation to Keith Barrett and his colleagues in front of a mass of supporters gathered around the main stand, who had witnessed the most enjoyable and successful season at Loakes Park for many years.



The successful Wycombe squad after the Berks & Bucks Cup Final victory

All that remained now was a 2-legged Capital League Presidents Cup Final with Barnet, the G.M.V.C. runners-up. Hitherto Capital League fixtures had been used, like other participating clubs, as little more than reserve matches, but both clubs agreed to field their strongest available sides for this Final. At the semi-final stage Wycombe had enjoyed an evening at Orient (or should I say Leyton Orient), a match which was won by 4-2, and the contest with Barnet was to provide yet another happy finale to the season. The first leg was played on the Hertfordshire club's bumpy, dust-bowl of a pitch on the May Day Bank Holiday afternoon and was won by a solitary Mark Dawber goal. The following Friday evening saw a 1,000 plus crowd turn out at Loakes Park, happy to have the opportunity to welcome home the successful Wycombe team. On Loakes Park's lush, green surface (perhaps even Rod Lavers deserving a Trophy for possibly being the only groundsman in non-league football actually prepared to water a pitch when necessary) the aggregate scores were deadlocked at 2-2 with the minutes ticking away, when Ashford spotted Kevin Durham ghosting into acres of space on the far side of the penalty area, and Kevin's



Keith Barrett holds aloft the Presidents Cup

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Wanderers clinch a dramatic last minute win at Bognor Regis to put the Vauxhall-Opel League Championship beyond the reach of the rest of the pack.



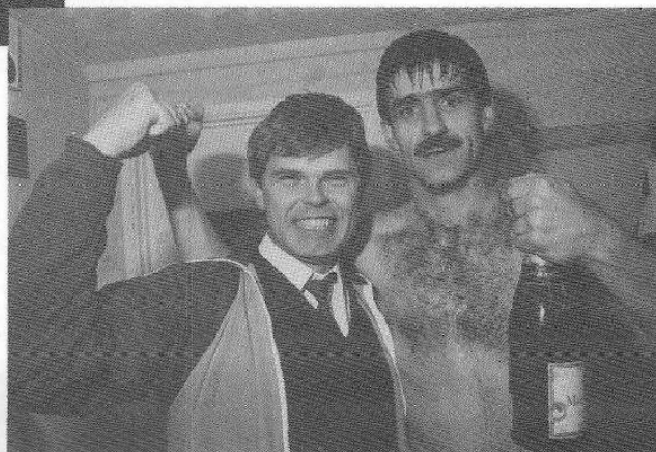
Noel Ashford and Mark Dawber cannot resist the chance to thank this Bognor defender who has just put through his own net to secure victory for the Blues.

The joyous Wycombe players celebrate after the game. Left to Right Anthony Riley, John Reardon, Mark Dawber, Declan Link, George Link, Alan Gane, Gary Lester, & Mark West



The successful Management Team relish the precious moments in the dressing room at Nyewood Road after the Bognor game. Left to right: Richard Teale (coach), John Reardon (Assistant Manager), Alan Gane (Manager) and Dave Jones (Physio).

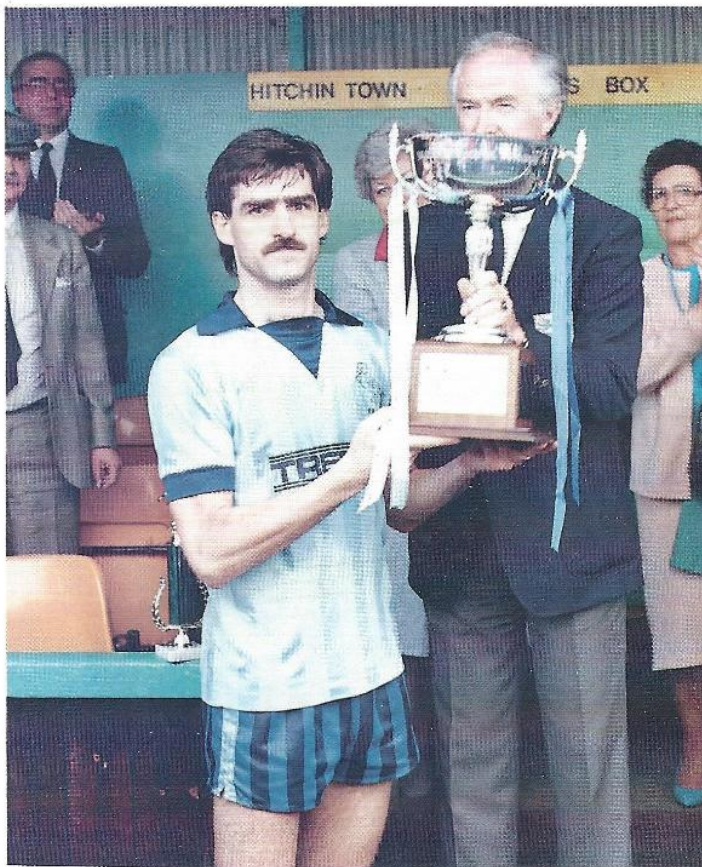
Manager and Captain together Alan Gane and Keith Barrett show that at last the pressure is off and they can enjoy a bottle of bubbly.



The Day We Won the



1. Declan Link slots home the first goal to make it 1-0.



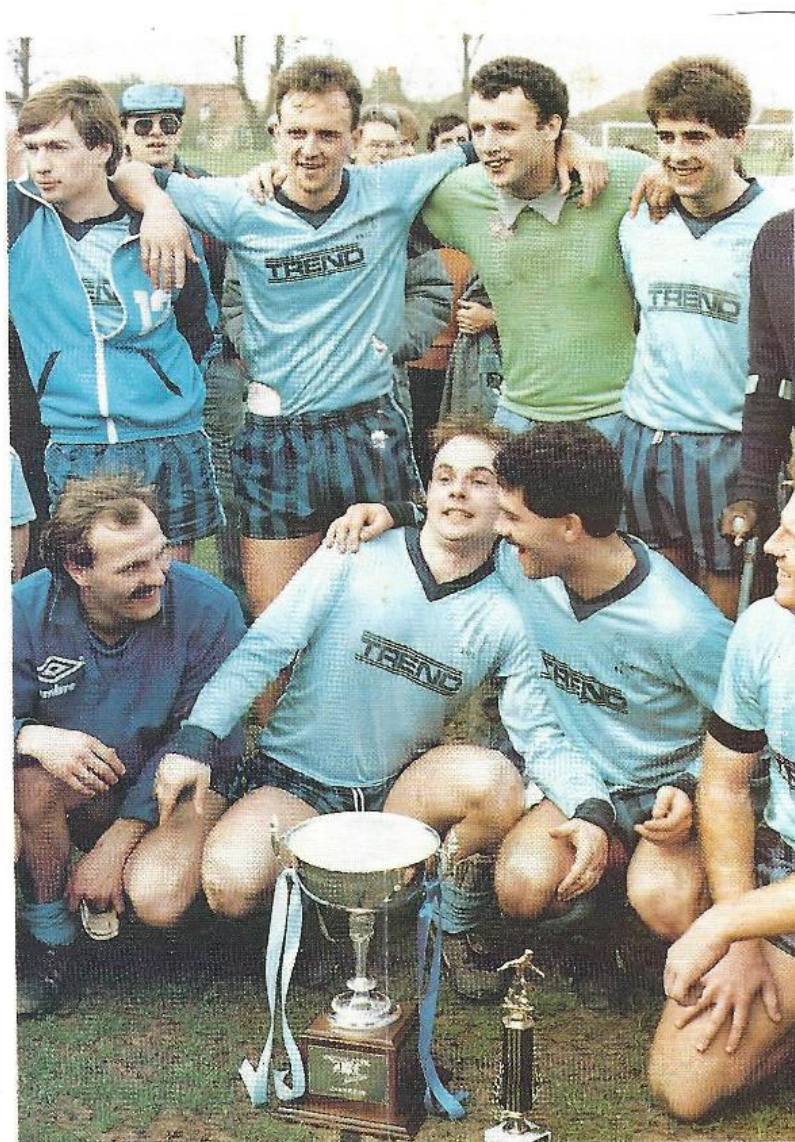
3. Keith Barrett received the VOL Championship Trophy.

Saturday 18th April, 1987

Hitchin 1

Wycombe Wanderers 2

Photos — Paul Lewis.



4. Neil Price does a neat body swerve to avoid getting the staple in his nose.

Vauxhall-Opel League



2. *Andy Graham (hidden) beats the Hitchin goalkeeper in the dying minutes to settle the match, and the Championship.*



5. *Kirk Corbin celebrates the win with a quick Dalek impersonation.*

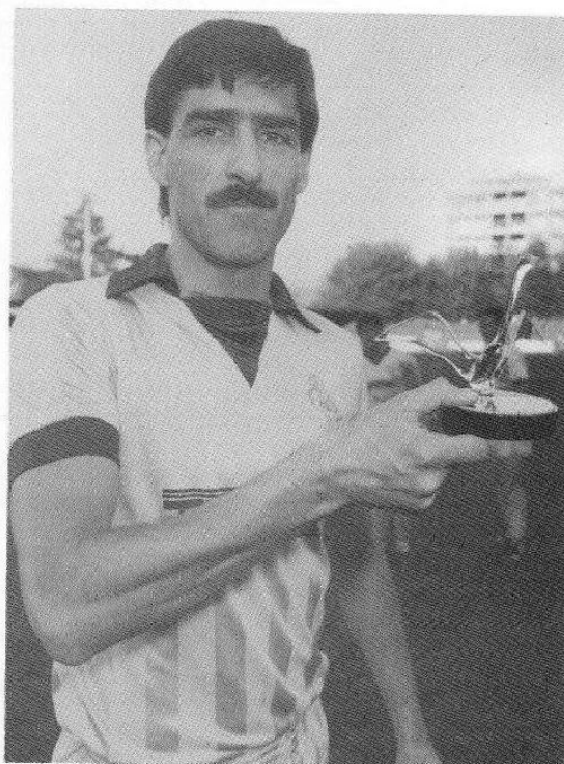
AWARDS 1986/87

**Club Person of the Season
(Supporters)**



Noel Ashford

**Player of the Season
(Club)**



Keith Barrett

Player of the Month

September
October
November
December
January
February
March
April

Noel Ashford
Andy Graham
Anthony Riley
Mark West
Graham Bressington
Kirk Corbin
Noel Ashford
None

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Portugal 1987

your correspondent **DAVE BURGESS**

This years end of season tour to Estoril in Portugal commenced by running into some familiar faces at Gatwick where Harrow F.C. were leaving for another part of Portugal. However, we were pleased to see they had picked the flight which was delayed for six hours.

Arrival at Hotel Lido and despatchment of the Tour Party to rooms was achieved despite the absence of Brian Lee.

After only two days to acclimatize to the change in climate and adapt to the nocturnal tendencies of this tour, we were thrown into serious action against Setubal, the Portugese Second Division Champions. Our first sight of our opponents was somewhat misleading as their warm up routine seemed more suited to the Royal Ballet than a football team. However, any hopes that we were in for an easy time were quickly dispelled as news filtered into the changing rooms that they would be fielding their complete first team in the first half, and introduce reserves as required during the second half.

The half time score was a respectable Setubal 2 Wycombe 1, with a well taken header from Neal Stanley counting for the tourists. Setubal introduced fresh legs in the second half and by scoring three goals in the last ten minutes against a fast tiring Wanderers XI, eventually ran out winners by six goals to one. This win for Setubal being obtained after an outstanding performance by Gary Lester, who, you have to hand it to, that despite handicaps on and particularly off the field, once again was at the centre of most of the action.

Two substitutes, Messrs Paul Bence and Alan Parry, (who received an award during the outward flight for the seasons most improved player) were far from happy at not having been allowed to show their skills. Parry in particular, who possesses an uncanny knack of being just where the action isn't, and Bence, whose Portugese complexion may have confused the opposition, both slapped in transfer requests immediately and seem likely to leave the club.

Physio Dave Jones seemed to enjoy Lisbon Airport, so much so that he left the First Aid Kit behind on arrival. He returned, along with John Goldsworthy and Monty Seymour, later in the week to collect it. The threesome were so pleased at being reunited with the First Aid Kit that they stopped for a celebration drink on the way back to the hotel, and unfortunately left the First Aid Kit behind again. It was retrieved again.

The Wanderers' Closed Golf Tournament was won by Richard (Stretch) Price from Mark Dawber, the latter completing the course in spite of being the most vivid shade of crimson anybody has ever seen, following unnecessary exposure to daylight.

A major tour crisis occurred on the Friday when it was spotted that Kirk Corbin's nose had begun to peel. Your correspondent retrieved the situation with a liberal application of Factor 3 Sun Cream.



The most surprising administration error by Bill (Blake Carrington) Cleere allowed Neil Price and Kevin Durham to share a room. The eater and the drinker combined to do everything in excess and proved that such talent should be more evenly distributed (or should that be diluted?).

The party returned to Loakes Park and dispersed into the night with the thought of pre season training a million miles away.

Your overseas correspondent,

David Burgess.

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Memories.....

of Alan Parry

My fondest memory of a truly unforgettable season came long after the final whistle. June was just a few hours away and the unlikely setting was an Air Europe jet, 25,000 feet above the Bay of Biscay.

I ought to explain that I am one of those frustrated footballers who would much rather be playing the game than watching it – or, in my case, talking about it in my job as a television sports commentator. Despite the imminence of my 40th birthday, I still turn out every Sunday for the T.V. Commentators XI, though it has been said that I am to the art of full-back play what Cyril Smith is to hang-gliding!

At the start of last season, Alan Gane suggested that my game might improve if I did some regular training with the lads. What he didn't say was that seeing me in action would boost the team's morale because they would realise that they were much better players than they thought!

Anyway, every Thursday night, come rain, hail, shine and quite a few more varieties of British weather, yours truly went through his paces at Loakes Park or Bisham Abbey. It often proved to be a humiliating experience, I can tell you. A man can be close to tears when he's always the last to be picked for the five-a-side; always the one the other players never pass to, even when they're in trouble; always the one who makes the others fall about laughing when it comes to practising skills with the ball.

However, I kept at it – and I did get better. Instead of being last in the sprints, I was only next-to-last (it was the weak Kirk Corbin on crutches); instead of being the chubbiest in the squad, I was only next-to-fattest (John Reardon gave up his diet); and instead of being the worst penalty taker, I suddenly found myself with plenty of competition!

What's all this got to do with my fondest memory and that jet above the Bay of Biscay? Well, at the end of May I joined the Wycombe tour party en route to Portugal. I promised to carry everyone's luggage and buy lots of gin and tonics for John Goldsworthy, so they let me fill a vacant seat on the plane.

In mid-flight, with a glass or two of champagne inside me, I suddenly heard my name being announced over the aircraft tannoy. The captain asked me to step forward to receive a special award. In front of 150 bemused passengers, Neil Price and Kevin Durham presented me with a foot-high trophy inscribed: 'Wycombe Wanderers F.C. Most Improved Player, 1986/87 - Alan Parry.'

Now, I know that commentators are never supposed to be lost for words – but I was speechless! Suffice to say that when you've had a football career like mine, the trophy cabinet at home isn't exactly packed to business point. That trophy now sits proudly atop the Parry television set – and woe betide any visitor who doesn't enquire what it was



given for. Thursday night training was just one aspect of the hours of enjoyment I derived last season from my involvement with Wycombe Wanderers. Ever since becoming a Vice-President back in the 1970's, I've followed the club's fortunes with great interest. In previous years, my work as a football commentator with 'Match of the Day' prevented me getting to many games, but since switching to I.T.V. to become their athletics commentator, I've found that many of my winter Saturdays are free. As a lifelong Liverpool fan, I do try to see the 'Pool play whenever they are in the South, but otherwise it's Wanderers I'll make for home or away.

To be involved, albeit on the fringe of things, in such a magnificent season, gave me a great deal of pleasure. I think that Wycombe has a unique atmosphere – clubs who are both successful and friendly are hard to find, and Wanderers have never lost that 'homely' touch.

Everyone who had a part to play last season should be congratulated. The players and management were, of course, magnificent. The board provided backing and sound judgement. You, the supporters, were loyal and vociferous.

But there's one man I'd like to single out for special praise – secretary John Goldsworthy. Even in professional football, club secretaries are the unsung heroes who make everything happen, despite little reward or limelight.

In non-league football, the secretary has an even more thankless task – and John must be the best in the business. His knowledge of the non-league scene is amazing, and he's a wonderfully efficient administrator. While many involved in the club could relax during the summer, John was busy planning the new season – and, like all of us, wondering what it holds in store.

The bitter memories of our last campaign in the highest level of non-league football are still very painful and the mistakes made that season must never be repeated.

Which brings me, finally, to my only real criticism of the club. As an outsider from a football-mad city like Liverpool, I was immediately struck by Wycombe's enormous potential. Unlike many non-league centres, Wycombe is a real football town.

The interest is there — the support is there. Players like the club because of its reputation for good football and its friendly atmosphere. Financially, the club is sound — and if the proposed sale of the ground goes through (the outcome of the planning appeal wasn't known at the time of writing), there'll be a brand new stadium and a lot of money in the bank.

And yet, too many people seem reluctant to move forward. In some quarters, there's still a hankering for the good old days of amateur football. Well, those days have gone forever. With automatic promotion from the GM Vauxhall Conference to the Football League, this level of the game is now a deadly serious business — and Wycombe must compete at every level.

Progress doesn't have to mean scrapping ideals — it just means adopting them to suit modern times. Wycombe must believe that not only can they be the best non-league club in the country — but the best club in the Fourth Division of the Football League. That dream could be just nine months away from becoming reality. Let's all look forward and believe it can happen.

After all, 12 months ago, who'd have believed that yours truly would win a trophy for playing football! Anything in life is possible.

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The 1987 tournament was the eighth to take place since its inception in 1979 with England and Scotland with three wins apiece and Italy with a solitary success on home soil in 1984, being the previous winners.

The 16 man England squad was made up of fourteen GMVC players plus "outsiders" Paul Walker of Northern League side Blyth Spartans and the reason for the Wycombe interest, Noel Ashford an experienced campaigner with 15 England Caps and joint leading scorer with five goals. Manager of the England squad was Kevin Verity,

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an experienced F.A. Staff Coach and he was assisted by former England Semi-Pro, Tony Jennings.

England opened their campaign with a match against Italy at East End Park, home of Dunfermline Athletic. A crowd of around 600 saw two well matched sides confine the majority of the action to the midfield but it was a defensive mix-up in the 35th minute that led to the first goal with Fabio VIVIANI shooting past Andy Pape in the England goal from fifteen yards to give the Italians the lead at half-time.

England began to press forward more in the second-half but had to endure the usual Italian tactics of false injuries and time wasting that reduced the flow of the game. An hour into the game Gary Abbott replaced the disappointing Kim Casey and three minutes later a move down the right wing from England led to Paul Davies drawing the Italian 'keeper from his goal and Davies' cross was stroked home by central defender Dave Howell to level the scores. However, it was a short lived joy for England as two minutes later the England off-side trap failed and VIVIANI began a solo run on the left wing. The move was finished with the Italian rounding Pape and knocking the ball high into the empty net much to the delight of his fellow team mates and the Italian bench.

Tempers frayed in the final stages with Paul Cuddy being shown the yellow card for a foul on Cornacchini while the Italian Captain, Tintisona was also booked for continually moving forward at an England free-kick. Final score England 1 Italy 2.
England Team (vs Italy) PAPE, SHIRTLIFF (sub JOSEPH), THOMPSON, HOWELL, CUDDY, ASHFORD, FARRELLY, SIMPSON, CARTER,

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DAVIES, CASEY (sub ABBOTT).

In the other game at Starks Park, home of Raith Rovers, a crowd of just under 1,000 saw Scotland miss a penalty but still beat Holland 1-0 thanks to a last minute goal from John McVEIGH of Kilmarnock.

Two days later the four teams again took to battle with England being matched with Holland at Starks Park and Scotland with Italy at East End Park. Due to the original kick-off times of 7.30 p.m. clashing with U.E.F.A. Cup Final between Dundee United and Göteborg, the kick-off times for both games were brought forward to 3.00p.m.

In heatwave conditions at the coastal resort of Kirkcaldy, England were hoping to get back to winning ways against the amateur Dutch side. England showed just one change from the side that lost

to Italy, with Anton Joseph coming in for Kim Casey. An afternoon crowd of less than 200 saw a slow start to the game but after 20 minutes the mechanical Dutch off-side trap failed when Run-corn's Mark CARTER collected a through ball and made his way around the on-coming 'keeper to give England the lead. With Noel Ashford pushing more up-front, England increased their lead when an Ashford cross after 40 minutes was cleared but eventually distributed forward to Anton Joseph. Despite looking suspiciously off-side CARTER slotted the ball home from 10 yards to send Suiker in the Dutch goal heading towards the half-way line to complain (to no avail) to the referee. More dismay came for Suiker when CARTER completed his hat-trick a minute later when he drove home a long cross from the right hand corner of the six yard box into the opposite corner of the net to give England a very commanding 3-0 half-time lead.

With Holland in disarray in the second-half, England could afford to relax but still nearly added to their score when Neil Thompson thundered a free-kick against the foot of the Dutch post. After 63 minutes Thompson was again on the scene when his miscued shot fell to CARTER, again lurking on the edge of the six-yard box, to complete his and England's fourth goal of the day.

Substitutions of Steve Humphries for Andy Pape in goal and Mark Golley for the injured Noel Ashford were followed by goal hero Mark Carter making an early exit when he was blatantly body checked by a Dutch defender and had to leave the field on a stretcher. England were left to complete the match with ten men while Holland were left with four bookings from an afternoon of frustration. Final Score England 4 Holland 0.

Meanwhile at East End park, Scotland found the Italians too hot to handle where an Andrea SILENZI hat-trick plus a single strike by Giovanni CORNACCHINI put the Italians into a 4-0 lead by the 81st minute. Scotland regained some pride with a late penalty by McVEIGH and then a header by Rowan ALEXANDER of Morton. Final score Scotland 2 Italy 4.

The final day's games took place a day before the England/Scotland Rous Cup tie at Hampden Park so the Semi-Professional version at Dunfermline had a little added atmosphere and meaning knowing a win for either side could give them the title if

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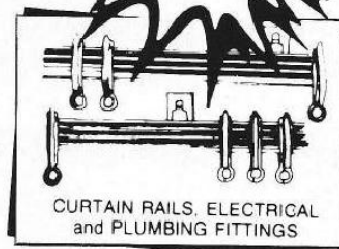
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ENGLAND SEMI-PRO SQUAD - SCOTLAND MAY 1987

Back Row: (l to r) Mark Golley (Sutton Utd), Paul Davies (Kidderminster H), Gary Abbott (Welling United), Dave Howell (Enfield), Andy Pape (Enfield), Steve Humphries (Barnet), Neil Thompson (Scarborough), Noel Ashford (Wycombe Wanderers), Mike Farrelly (Altrincham).

Front Row: (l to r) Anson Joseph (Telford Utd), Paul Shirtliff (Frickley Athletic), Kim Casey (Kidderminster H), Gary Simpson (Stafford Rangers), Mark Carter (Runcorn), Paul Walker (Blyth Spartans), Paul Caddy (Altrincham).

Italy slipped up against Holland.

The Scots chose their team from all but Premier Division Clubs and before a crowd approaching 2,500 had the most of the early chances. It was England, however, with Mark Golley in for Paul Shirtliff, who made the breakthrough five minutes before half-time. A 30 yard free kick from Neil

Thompson stunned East Fife 'keeper Ray Charles who could only push the ball onto the post and Dave HOWELL was on hand to stab the ball home from short range to give England a valuable lead.

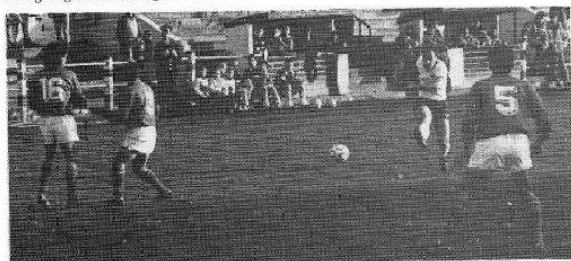
Noel Ashford failed to make it out for the second half due to injury and was replaced by Gary Abbott. Without the influence of Ashford, England lost



England's Paul Cuddy and Noel Ashford battle it out in the Italian the penalty area during the opening game at Dunfermline.



Neil Thompson of Scarborough sends a free-kick past the Dutch wall and towards the post during England's second game in Scotland.



Noel Ashford fires in a free-kick during the England/Italy game in Scotland.

their way in the second half and were forced to defend for long periods. However, in the 68th minute Mark Carter broke through towards the Scottish goal. The chance broke to Abbott who from 12 yard contrived to miss the goal by 5 yards with the 'keeper nowhere. That miss was made to look even worse when five minutes later a poor punch from Pape in the England goal fell to Martin NELSON of Alloa who headed the ball back towards the goal where John Watson of Dunfermline dummied and the ball crept under Pape into the goal. Fortunately for England six minutes from full-time these errors were forgotten as the ever lively Mark CARTER again broke down the right wing and scored through the legs of the advancing Charles from 10 yards to silence the locals.

Paul Walker made a late appearance for England when he came on for Paul Davies but marked his cap with a booking in injury time for an off-the-ball incident with John Watson who was also booked. Final Score Scotland 1 England 2.

News of the other match was that Italy had taken the title by virtue of a scoreless draw with Holland in an uninspired encounter at Starks Park. So England were left with the runners-up spot with Scotland in third and Holland taking the wooden spoon.

Report and photos — by Paul Lewis.

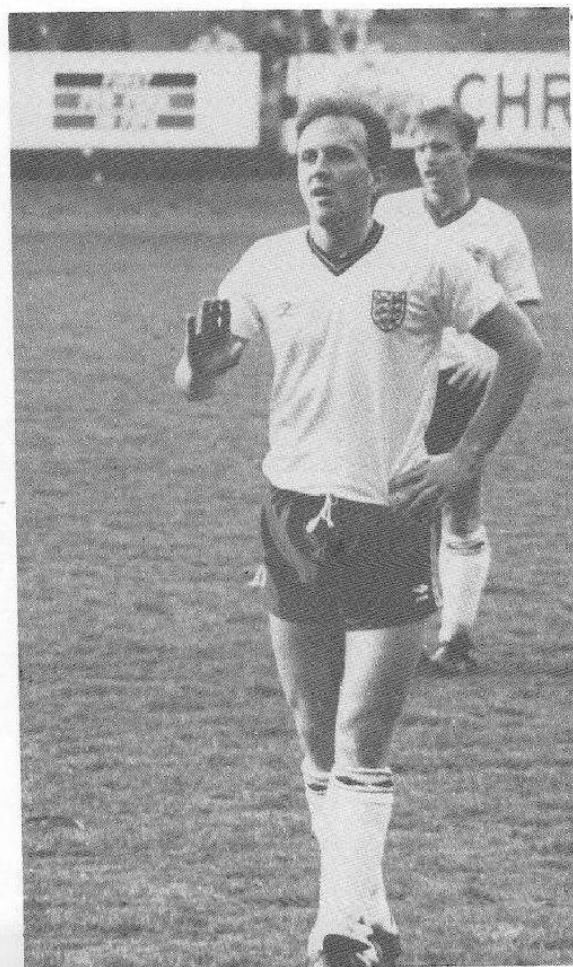
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Aylesbury 2
(C. Hercules 2)

Wycombe Wanderers 3 (A.E.T.)
(G. Link, D. Link, N. Ashford)



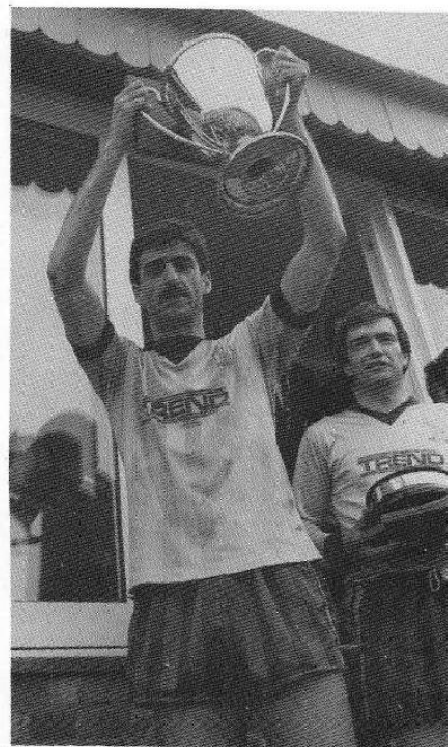
Goal 1. George Link makes it 1-0 as Mark Dawber looks on.



Goal 2. Declan Link nods home the second.



Goal 3. Noel Ashford fires home to wrap it up at 3-1, while Kevin James looks on helpless.



Keith Barrett proudly holds the Berks & Bucks Cup after the presentation.



Mark West with the Senior Cup.

BERKS & BUCKS SENIOR CUP

Preliminary Round

Amersham Town	3	Abingdon Town	7
Beaconsfield United	1	Buckingham Town	3

1st Round

Abingdon United	2	Abingdon Town	3
Burnham & Hillingdon	1	Newbury Town	0
Chalfont St. Peter	1	Wolverton Town	2
Didcot Town	0	Slough Town	3
Flackwell Heath	0	Buckingham Town	2
Hazells	1	Maidenhead United	0
Holmer Green	3	Maidenhead Town	1
Hungerford Town	2	Bracknell Town	4
Marlow	4	Reading	0
Milton Keynes Borough	1	New Bradwell St Peter	0
Thatcham Town	5	Newport Pagnell	0
Wallingford Town	2	Winslow United	2
Winslow United	1	Wallingford Town	1
Winslow United	2	Wallingford Town	1
Windsor & Eton	4	Wantage Town	1
Wokingham Town	5	Chesham United	1

2nd Round

Abingdon Town	11	Hazells	1
Buckingham Town	4	Bracknell Town	2
Burnham & Hillingdon	0	Marlow	0
Slough Town	5	Milton Keynes Borough	1
Winslow United	0	Aylesbury United	4
Wokingham Town	6	Thatcham Town	1
Wolverton Town	4	Holmer Green	0
Wycombe Wanderers	11	Windsor & Eton	1

3rd Round

Wycombe Wanderers	3	Marlow	0
Aylesbury Utd	1	Wokingham Town	0
Abingdon Town	0	Wolverton Town	0
Slough Town	7	Buckingham Town	4

Semi-Final

Slough Town	0 (4)	Aylesbury United	2 (4)
Wycombe Wanderers	5	Abingdon Town	0

Final at Wolverton Town F.C.

Wycombe Wanderers	3	Aylesbury United	2
		A.E.T.	

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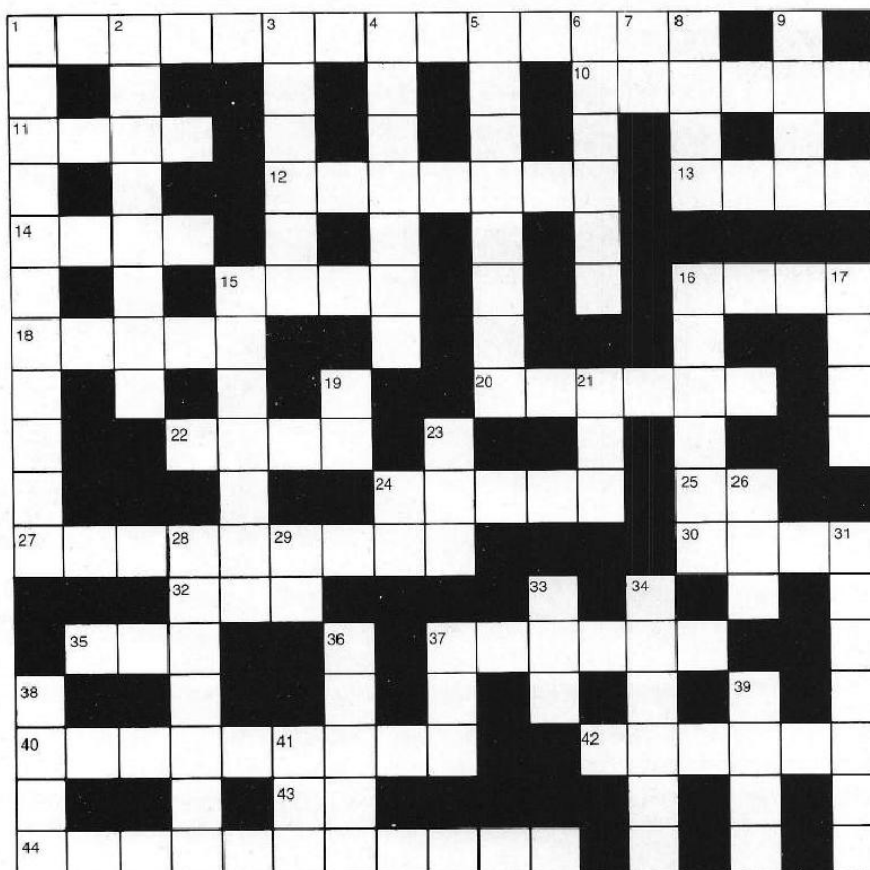
APPEARANCES & GOALSCORERS 1986/87

	APPEARANCES				GOALS					APPEARANCES				GOALS			
	VOL	CUP	OTH	TOT	VOL	CUP	OTH	TOT		VOL	CUP	OTH	TOT	VOL	CUP	OTH	TOT
Noel Ashford	38	11	4	53	12	1	3	16	Carl Hoddle	2	-	1	3	-	-	2	2
Keith Barrett	39	14	5	58	3	-	-	3	Gary Lester	40	13	6	59	-	-	-	-
Jamie Bates	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	Declan Link	16	5	4	25	11	6	2	19
Richard Blue	6	2	3	11	-	-	-	-	George Link	8	4	3	15	1	1	-	2
Graham Bressington	31	8	4	43	4	1	-	5	Steve Moore	3	7	7	17	-	3	2	5
Trevor Bunting	-	1	4	5	-	-	-	-	Steve Norman	-	3	5	8	-	-	-	-
Dave Burgess	7	7	7	21	-	2	-	2	Graham Pearce	3	1	4	8	-	-	-	-
Rick Collier	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	Neil Price	37	11	4	52	1	-	-	1
Kevin Collins	13	1	3	17	2	1	1	4	Anthony Riley	28	11	8	47	1	1	-	15
Kevin Connolly	4	3	4	11	1	1	1	3	Jason Seacole	30	13	3	46	10	5	-	15
Kirk Corbin	18	7	2	27	-	-	-	-	Barry Silkman	6	2	-	8	-	-	-	-
Steve Curry	-	1	5	6	-	-	-	-	Rob Simpson	1	1	4	6	-	-	-	-
Mark Dawber	18	5	7	30	2	2	1	5	Neal Stanley	13	2	8	23	1	-	2	3
Kevin Day	29	10	8	47	1	-	-	1	Paul Walker	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	-
Kevin Durham	32	11	6	49	7	1	1	9	Byron Walton	19	6	6	31	8	-	3	11
Simon Fisher	2	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	Mark West	38	12	9	59	21	7	5	33
Andy Graham	32	15	5	52	15	9	3	27	Mike Worley	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Paul Hackett	8	-	2	10	-	-	-	-	Own Goals	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	5
									Maximum/Totals	42	15	15	72	103	42	28	179

Cups include F.A. Cup, F.A. Trophy, B&B, G.M.A.C., A.C. Delco & Presidents

Others include Capital League, Friendlies & Tour

Appearance include those as substitutes.



Clues Across

- 1 Our largest win of the season. (7,3,4)
 10 The number of goals we scored in our largest win. (6)
 11 The Blues Brothers (4)
 12 We beat them again, but then they didn't have, Ashford or Barrett. (7)
 13 Our winning goal against Kingstonian, Bognor and Hitchin. (very) (4)
 14 A leather one knocked us out of the Trophy. (4)
 15 A "Ruth-less" local newspaper. (4)
 16 We'll be back at this Street this season. (4)
 18 Steve, scored twice, against Windsor, one a cracker. (5)
 20 Local club could be called, Wycombe Past XI. (6)
 22 Initials of one of the cups Yeovil knocked us out of. (4)
 24 Day or Durham. (5)
 25 Former initials of Vauxhall-Opel League. (2)
 27 The club who epitomise League Line ambitions. (9)
 30 "Away The....", as they say in Anthony Riley land. (4)
 32 We needed this to, beat Aylesbury (initials). (3)
 35 Wow! see 17 down (first 3 letters of surname). (3)
 37 Marked by Woking. (6)
 40 Southern Leaguers who came so close, but won nothing (9)
 42 He scored 4 against Windsor. (6)
 43 Same as 25 across. (2)
 44 One half of one of the Premier Division new boys (11)

Clues Down

- 1 The Premier Divisions whipping boys. (11)
 2 They won't be in the GMVC, but they weren't relegated. (8)
 3 Leyton now. (5)
 4 Scored for the England Semi-Professional team. (7)
 5 Snatched our Gola place in the very last match of 85/86. (8)
 6 Dave Burgess' painful Achilles (6)
 7 Orients new initials, but wrong way round. (2)
 8 Price not Stanley (4)
 9 Top scorer (4)
 15 Ex-Oxford United, rumoured to have been born offside. (7)
 16 Second place again. (6)
 17 His injury against Carshalton was the only "Black" mark of his season. (4)
 19 Initials of Captain at start of season, left to join Sunshine Band down under. (2)
 21 What we didn't have in the F.A. Competitions. (3)
 23 Wilson made one guest appearance in the Capital League. (3)
 24 What we did get in the F.A. Competitions. (initials) (2)
 26 What referees have to enforce. (3)
 28 Even holding up trophies doesn't bring a smile, to his face (7)
 29 Initials of additional period. (2)
 31 This ground hopping player, thrilled us for just 8 games. (7)
 33 The number of home league defeats. (3)
 34 The Boy Link (6)
 36 What other teams committ, but never us. (5)
 37 Scored his only goal at Barking. (3)
 38 Sadly injury ended Hacketts appearances. (4)
 39 Noel Ashford fried Worthing with the best one of these of the season. (4)
 41 See 17 down (last 3 letters of surname). (3)

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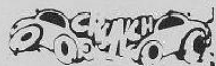
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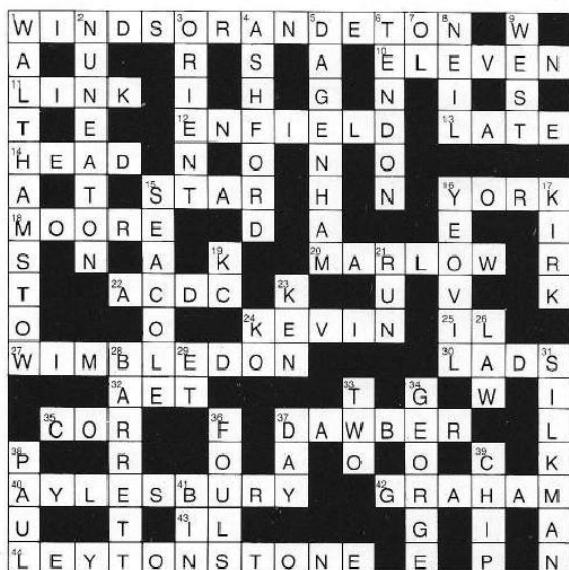
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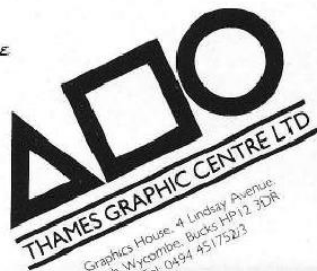
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September	Gerry Gow	Yeovil
October	Chris Kelly	Kingstonian
November	Alan Gane	Wycombe
December	Alan Gane	Wycombe
January	Trevor Ford	Bromley
February	Keith Chamberlin	Harrow
March	Ted Hardy	Hendon
April	Mick Leach	Dulwich

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Season 1986/87

TEAM	PL	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	DIFF
1 Wealdstone	7	5	1	1	18	8	16	10
2 Dagenham	7	5	1	1	18	11	16	7
3 Gillingham	8	4	2	2	21	12	14	9
4 Wycombe Wanderers	8	4	1	3	19	18	13	1
5 Wimbledon	8	3	3	2	20	15	12	5
6 Barnet	8	3	2	3	20	21	11	-1
7 Southend United	8	1	3	4	10	21	6	-11
8 Enfield	8	2	0	6	15	28	6	-13
9 Orient	8	1	1	6	13	20	4	-7

Wealdstone versus Dagenham match not played
League title awarded to Wealdstone.

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Season 1986/87

Vauxhall-Opel League : Premier Division

Final Table

POS	TEAM	HOME						AWAY						TOTAL						PTS
		PL	W	D	L	F	A	PL	W	D	L	F	A	PL	W	D	L	F	A	
1	Wycombe Wanderers	21	16	3	2	55	15	21	16	2	3	48	17	42	32	5	5	103	32	101
2	Yeovil Town	21	16	2	3	43	14	21	12	6	3	28	13	42	28	8	6	71	27	92
3	Slough Town	21	13	2	6	37	22	21	10	6	5	33	22	42	23	8	11	70	44	77
4	Hendon	21	8	5	8	27	28	21	14	2	5	40	26	42	22	7	13	67	54	73
5	Bognor Regis Town	21	11	4	6	40	25	21	9	6	6	45	36	42	20	10	12	85	61	70
6	Harrow Borough	21	12	4	5	45	22	21	8	6	7	23	22	42	20	10	12	68	44	70
7	Croydon	21	12	3	6	28	18	21	6	7	8	23	30	42	18	10	14	51	48	64
8	Barking	21	10	9	2	48	21	21	6	5	10	28	35	42	16	14	12	76	56	62
9	Farnborough Town	21	10	6	5	39	33	21	7	5	9	27	39	42	17	11	14	66	72	62
10	Bishops Stortford	21	10	9	2	39	24	21	5	6	10	23	33	42	15	15	12	62	57	60
11	Bromley	21	10	6	5	32	29	21	6	5	10	31	43	42	16	11	15	63	72	59
12	Kingstonian	21	8	5	8	30	27	21	8	4	9	28	23	42	16	9	17	58	50	57
13	Windsor & Eton	21	10	8	3	22	13	21	3	7	11	25	39	42	13	15	14	47	52	54
14	Saint Albans City	21	8	6	7	32	31	21	6	3	12	29	39	42	14	9	19	61	70	51
15	Carshalton Athletic	21	9	4	8	31	30	21	4	5	12	24	38	42	13	9	20	55	68	48
16	Wokingham Town	21	7	3	11	21	25	21	7	3	11	26	36	42	14	6	22	47	61	48
17	Hayes	21	8	6	7	29	35	21	4	6	11	16	33	42	12	12	18	45	68	48
18	Dulwich Hamlet	21	7	3	11	34	40	21	5	7	9	28	31	42	12	10	20	62	71	46
19	Tooting & Mitcham Utd.	21	8	4	9	24	20	21	4	5	12	18	33	42	12	9	21	42	53	45
20	Hitchin Town	21	9	3	9	38	37	21	4	2	15	18	32	42	13	5	24	56	69	44
21	Worthing	21	4	5	12	31	54	21	4	4	13	27	53	42	8	9	25	58	107	33
22	Walthamstow Avenue	21	2	4	15	18	43	21	2	2	17	18	70	42	4	6	32	36	113	18

Season 1986/87

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FINAL TABLE

POS	TEAM	HOME						AWAY						TOTAL						PTS
		PL	W	D	L	F	A	PL	W	D	L	F	A	PL	W	D	L	F	A	
1	Scarborough	21	12	7	2	31	19	21	15	3	3	33	14	42	27	10	5	64	33	91
2	Barnet	21	13	4	4	47	22	21	12	6	3	39	17	42	25	10	7	86	39	85
3	Maidstone United	21	14	4	3	43	16	21	7	6	8	28	32	42	21	10	11	71	48	73
4	Enfield	21	9	5	7	32	21	21	12	2	7	34	26	42	21	7	14	66	47	70
5	Altrincham	21	11	7	3	35	18	21	7	8	6	31	35	42	18	15	9	66	53	69
6	Boston United	21	11	4	6	40	28	21	10	2	9	42	46	42	21	6	15	82	74	69
7	Sutton United	21	12	4	5	52	24	21	7	7	7	29	27	42	19	11	12	81	51	68
8	Runcorn	21	12	7	2	45	23	21	6	6	9	26	35	42	18	13	11	71	58	67
9	Telford United	21	12	5	4	41	23	21	6	5	10	28	36	42	18	10	14	69	59	64
10	Bath City	21	9	5	7	35	31	21	8	7	6	28	31	42	17	12	13	63	62	62
11	Cheltenham Town	21	11	4	6	43	25	21	5	9	7	21	25	42	16	13	13	64	50	61
12	Kidderminster Harriers	21	10	4	7	46	34	21	7	0	14	31	47	42	17	4	21	77	81	55
13	Stafford Rangers	21	9	5	7	32	25	21	5	6	10	26	35	42	14	11	17	58	60	53
14	Weymouth	21	10	5	6	43	33	21	3	7	11	25	44	42	13	12	17	68	77	51
15	Dagenham	21	10	4	7	32	29	21	4	3	14	24	43	42	14	7	21	56	72	49
16	Kettering Town	21	8	5	8	35	28	21	4	6	11	19	38	42	12	11	19	54	66	47
17	Northwich Victoria	21	6	7	8	25	23	21	4	7	10	28	46	42	10	14	18	53	69	44
18	Nuneaton Borough	21	6	8	7	23	28	21	4	6	11	25	45	42	10	14	18	48	73	44
19	Wealdstone	21	7	5	9	26	34	21	4	5	12	24	36	42	11	10	21	50	70	43
20	Welling United	21	8	4	9	39	38	21	2	6	13	22	46	42	10	10	22	61	84	40
21	Frickley Athletic	21	5	7	9	28	37	21	2	4	15	19	45	42	7	11	24	47	82	32
22	Gateshead	21	3	7	11	26	45	21	3	6	12	22	50	42	6	13	23	48	95	31

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OTHER APPEARANCES & GOALSCORERS 1986/87

	APPEARANCES				GOALS	
	CL	FR	TOUR	TOT	CL	
Mark Bolton	2	-	-	2		
Darren Britnell	1	-	-	1		
David Coles	1	1	-	2		
Anthony Dell	-	-	1	1		
Clevere Ford	3	-	1	4		
Paul Griffiths	-	2	-	2		
Andy Harman	-	-	1	1		
Mark Harrison	1	1	-	2		
Richard Holiday	1	1	-	2		
Dave Holl	2	-	-	2	1	
Billy Hubbick	-	-	1	1		
Andrew Kingsey	3	1	-	4	2	
Adam Markwell	-	-	1	1		
David Melli	-	1	1	2		
Leroy Messitt	3	-	1	4	1	
Ian Mitchell	1	1	-	2		
Alan Parry	-	1	-	1		
Richard Price	5	1	1	7		
Simon Read	-	1	-	1		
Danny Rippon	-	-	1	1		
Chris Seagraves	-	3	-	3		
Dave Shaw	2	-	-	2	2	
Kevin Sherry	2	-	-	2		
Sean West	3	1	-	4		
Ken Wilson	1	-	-	1		

Key: CL — Capital League FR — Friendly Tour — Tou. of Portugal
Appearances include those as substitute.

Players listed are those who have appeared in a "Competitive" match.

RESULTS FOR THE SEASON

No.	DATE	OPPOSITION	COMP	V	RESULTS	H-T	ATT	SCORERS
1	05/08/86	Enfield	Fr	H	W 4-3	(2-2)	388	og, West 2, Walton
2	09/08/86	Wealdstone	Fr	H	W 1-0	(1-0)	349	Collins
3	12/08/86	Sutton United	Fr	H	W 1-0	(1-0)	331	Walton
4	16/08/86	Croydon	VOL	H	W 3-1	(1-0)	806	Walton, West 2
5	19/08/86	Kingstonian	VOL	A	W 1-0	(1-0)	379	West
6	23/08/86	Walthamstow Avenue	VOL	A	W 2-1	(1-1)	312	West, Walton
7	26/08/86	Windsor & Eton	VOL	H	W 4-1	(2-1)	675	West 2, Ashford, Stanley
8	30/08/86	Bognor Regis Town	VOL	H	W 2-1	(1-0)	857	Collins, og.
9	02/09/86	Hayes	VOL	A	W 2-0	(0-0)	633	Walton 2
10	06/09/86	Bromley	VOL	A	W 4-0	(2-0)	448	West, Walton 2, Collins
11	09/09/86	Saint Albans City	VOL	H	W 3-0	(1-0)	1089	Ashford 2, West
12	16/09/86	Hornchurch	ACDC1	H	W 3-2	(0-1)	582	Collins, West 2
13	20/09/86	Farnborough Town	VOL	H	L 1-2	(1-1)	1151	West
14	23/09/86	Orient	CL	H	W 4-3	(2-3)	201	Stanley, Connolly, Graham, Walton
15	27/09/86	Yeovil Town	VOL	A	L 1-2	(1-1)	3169	Ashford
16	04/10/86	Bishops Stortford	VOL	H	D 0-0	(0-0)	965	West
17	07/10/86	Harrow Borough	VOL	A	L 1-2	(0-1)	647	Ashford, Graham 2
18	11/10/86	Slough Town	VOL	A	W 3-0	(2-0)	1435	Graham 2, Connolly, Seacole, Moore
19	15/10/86	Wimbledon	PC1	H	W 5-4	(2-2)	425	Connolly, Graham, West 2
20	18/10/86	Tooting & Mitcham United	VOL	H	W 4-0	(2-0)	1243	Seacole
21	25/10/86	V S Rugby	FAC 4Q	H	L 1-5	(0-3)	1362	Moore, Ashford 2, West
22	27/10/86	Oxford University	Fr	H	W 4-3	(3-1)	120	Seacole 3, Ashford
23	01/11/86	Worthing	VOL	H	W 4-2	(3-0)	853	Graham, Seacole
24	04/11/86	Hayes	VOL	H	W 2-1	(1-1)	773	Ashford
25	08/11/86	Wokingham Town	VOL	A	W 1-0	(0-0)	640	Graham
26	11/11/86	Yeovil Town	GMAC1	H	L 1-4	(1-1)	1255	Barrett, Ashford, Walton, Graham 2
27	15/11/86	Hendon	VOL	H	W 5-0	(3-0)	1042	Seacole, West
28	18/11/86	Worthing	ACDC2	H	W 2-1	(0-1)	827	Ashford 2, Seacole, Durham
29	22/11/86	Bishops Stortford	VOL	A	W 4-1	(1-1)	450	West
30	25/11/86	Southend United	CL	H	D 1-1	(0-1)	195	Day, Walton, Graham, Durham
31	29/11/86	Barking	VOL	A	W 4-3	(0-0)	305	Durham, Graham, West
32	06/12/86	Hendon	VOL	A	W 3-2	(3-0)	489	West 2
33	09/12/86	Wokingham Town	VOL	H	W 2-0	(1-0)	889	West, Graham 2, Riley
34	13/12/86	Dulwich Hamlet	VOL	H	W 4-1	(4-0)	964	Graham
35	16/12/86	ACDC3	H	H	L 1-2	(0-1)	1078	
36	20/12/86	Leatherhead	FAT1	H	D 0-0	(0-0)	834	
37	23/12/86	Leatherhead	FAT1R	A	L 1-0	(0-0)	380	
38	27/12/86	Kingstonian	VOL	H	W 3-2	(1-2)	1084	Seacole, West 2
39	03/01/87	Croydon	VOL	A	L 0-1	(0-1)	458	
40	06/01/87	Hitchin Town	VOL	H	W 1-0	(0-0)	749	Ashford
41	10/01/87	Walthamstow Avenue	VOL	H	W 7-1	(3-0)	1010	Durham 2, Barrett, West, Seacole 2, Link
42	24/01/87	Bromley	VOL	H	W 3-0	(0-0)	954	Link, Bressington, Link
43	27/01/87	Windsor & Eton	B&B2	H	W11-1	(7-0)	577	Graham 4, Seacole 2, Burgess 2, Bressington, Moore 2
44	31/01/86	Saint Albans City	VOL	A	W 4-1	(1-0)	1173	Bressington, Link 2, Seacole
45	07/02/87	Farnborough Town	VOL	A	D 0-0	(0-0)	1120	
46	10/02/87	Wimbledon	CL	H	W 2-1	(0-1)	404	Link, West
47	14/02/87	Yeovil Town	VOL	H	L 0-1	(0-0)	2473	
48	17/02/87	Marlow	B&B3	H	W 3-0	(2-0)	938	Riley, West 2
49	24/02/87	Windsor & Eton	VOL	A	W 5-1	(1-0)	680	Link, Bressington 2, Dawber, Price
50	26/02/87	R.A.F.	Fr	H	L 0-5	(0-2)	100	
51	28/02/87	Slough Town	VOL	H	D 1-1	(1-1)	2144	Seacole
52	03/03/87	Wealdstone	CL	H	L 1-2	(1-1)	244	Link
53	07/03/87	Tooting & Mitcham United	VOL	A	D 0-0	(0-0)	380	
54	11/03/87	Orient	PC S/F	A	W 4-2	(4-0)	153	Dawber, Link 3
55	14/03/87	Harrow Borough	VOL	H	D 0-0	(0-0)	1465	
56	16/03/87	Barnet	CL	A	L 0-5	(0-3)	126	
57	21/03/87	Worthing	VOL	A	W 3-0	(0-0)	556	Link 2, Graham
58	24/03/87	Abingdon Town	B&B S/F	H	W 5-0	(3-0)	691	Link 2, og, Graham, West
59	28/03/87	Carshalton Athletic	VOL	A	W 2-0	(0-0)	600	West, Link
60	04/04/87	Barking	VOL	H	W 2-1	(1-0)	1161	Graham, Link
61	09/04/87	Enfield	CL	A	W 3-0	(1-0)	100	Shaw, Kingsey, Dawber
62	11/04/87	Carshalton Athletic	VOL	H	W 4-0	(1-0)	1333	Durham, Graham, Link, Barrett
63	13/04/87	Bognor Regis Town	VOL	A	W 2-1	(0-0)	1030	Durham, og.
64	18/04/87	Hitchin Town	VOL	A	W 2-1	(0-0)	606	Link, Graham
65	21/04/87	Dagenham	CL	H	L 4-5	(2-1)	242	Kingsey, Shaw, Holl, og.
66	25/04/87	Aylesbury United	B&B F	N	W 3-2	(0-0)	1638	Link, Link, Ashford
67	28/04/87	Staines Town	Fr	A	L 4-5	(2-2)	150	Ashford, Graham 2, Durham
68	02/05/87	Dulwich Hamlet	VOL	A	W 4-1	(2-0)	580	Ashford, Graham, West, Dawber
69	04/05/87	Barnet	PC F1	A	W 1-0	(1-0)		Dawber
70	06/05/87	Gillingham	CI	H	W 4-1	(2-1)		Moore, Hoddle 2, Messitt
71	08/05/87	Barnet	PC F2	H	D 2-2	(1-1)	1157	West, Durham
72	/06/87	Setubal (Portugal)	Tour	A	L 1-6	(1-2)	125	Stanley

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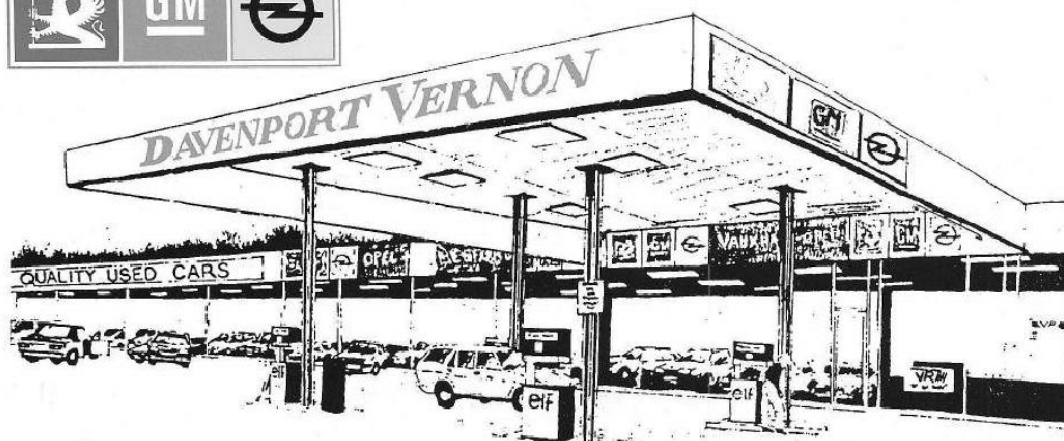
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