



Nuneaton's Footballing Heritage

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1

Contents

| | Page No. |
|------------------------|------------|
| Introduction | 3 |
| 1991-1992 | 5 |
| 1992-1993 | 41 |
| 1993-1994 | 89 |
| 1994-1995 | 133 |
| 1995-1996 | 168 |
| Acknowledgements | 207 |



Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1

Introduction

Boro Wage Bill Threat

Nuneaton Borough liquidator Hedley Brunt says the club has had the last wages bill he is prepared to pay. Unless someone buys the club before next season it will have played its last game.

He said the latest bid to buy the club by a consortium of businessmen had not gone through, and he was now open to offers again after their four week first refusal option ran out.

But he stressed he was still hopeful the group would come up with the cash and the sale would go through.

Businessmen Buy Borough

Businessmen bidding for troubled Nuneaton Borough were tonight expected to announce they had bought the club. The consortium who made an offer for the club more than a month ago have called a press conference at Bangles, Bond Gate, tonight.

Mr Hedley Brunt, Borough liquidator, said the conference would only have been called if “something good and positive was going to be announced.” He said a deal to buy the club had not been legally completed, but the consortium’s rival bidders had been informed they were unsuccessful.

Mr Gordon Chislett, a member of the consortium, declined to comment today and would only say an announcement would be made this evening. But Mr Noel Kelly, the consortium’s rival bidder, said Mr Brunt told him contracts had been exchanged. Mr Kelly said: “It turned into a contract race and somebody had to win. All I can say is at least Borough will continue. That is the most important thing to all of us.

The consortium put in their bid nearly two months ago after a series of earlier offers fell through. North Warwickshire businessman Sean Patterson said he would step in to help the club in January, a month after a winding up order was granted in Coventry County Court. Mr Patterson withdrew his offer because he said a mystery group had put together a better package.

Borough Saved

Nuneaton Borough Football Club has been sold to a consortium of 13 businessmen, who say it is time to make soccer the priority at Manor Park. The new board officially relaunched the club as Nuneaton Borough Association

Football Club 1991 in front of an audience of die-hard supporters last night. As well as the new board the Borough also has a new manager – 43-year-old Liverpoolian George Rooney, who joins the club from Bath City. Mr Howard Kerry, board chairman, said the town had a fine footballing tradition and the consortium had bought the club with the aim of building on it.

We are determined the club and its reputation will grow in this town and in the world of football,” he said. “It will not be easy, it will not be cheap, and it will not happen overnight. But with goodwill, team work and effort on and off the field we can rescale those heights.”

Their announcement means Nuneaton Borough Football Club Ltd., the company dogged by crisis and trouble for more than four years is no more. They hope the last legal documents will be tied up by July 5, and it will then be up to the liquidator Mr Hedley Brunt to try and pay back the old club’s creditors who are owed a total of some £750,000. The new directors include five of the old company’s interim board which was in charge at Manor Park for three years from 1987.



New team in charge, standing (left to right) Brendan Dodd, John Wilson, Dave Radburn, John Harris, John Moore, Gordon Chislett, John Phillips, Paul Cleugh, Roger Stanford and David Lee. Sitting: Howard Kerry, George Rooney and Alf Scattergood. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

They are: Howard Kerry, chairman of the new board, John Harris, safety officer, John Wilson, John Moore, and Tony Sandy. Also on the board is president of the old club Alf Scattergood, back as life president. The new faces among the directors are Gordon Chislett, 59, who runs Godiva Bar Supplies in Coventry with fellow director Roger Stanford, 43, Paul Cleugh, 32, landlord of Hartshill’s Stag and Pheasant, Dave Radburn, 33, landlord of Coventry pub The Rose, David Lee, 52, co-director of MBK Motor Rewinds Ltd, Coventry, along with fellow director Brendan Dodd, 45, and John Phillips, who runs Bangles.

The appointment of British Telecom engineer Mr Rooney, a father of two, as manager, has been the board's first act. Mr Rooney last night told fans the name of Nuneaton was still known in the football world from the halcyon days of Graham Carr, and he hoped to join the new board in putting the club back where it belonged. The position of former player-manager Paul Sugrue is not yet known, but Mr Kerry publicly thanked him for the work he had done in the post.

He said it was still "early days" for any decision, lawyers were studying the position of players contracted to the old club, and the board was arranging for the safety certificate to be transferred from former chairman Joe Shooter to John Harris in time for an inspection on Wednesday.

Rooney New Borough Manager



Much-travelled George Rooney has taken over as manager of Nuneaton Borough. The 43-year-old Liverpoolian was officially announced as boss of the Manor Park side last night by the new board of directors. Rooney, who lives in Worcester, succeeds Paul Sugrue, who took over the reins on a caretaker basis after Les Green was dismissed in January as part of a cost-cutting exercise by the liquidator Hedley Brunt.

Rooney, who has a vast amount of experience as both a player and a manager started at Everton when he was 15. He then joined Coventry, where he suffered a broken leg, before moving to Southport. During the eighties he joined Altrincham where he was assistant manager-coach before he took over the Worcester City manager's post in 1986. He then moved on to Bath City and took them up into the GM Vauxhall Conference in his first full season in charge with a record haul of 98 points.

"Nuneaton had always been regarded as one of the major clubs in non-league football, and above, and hopefully I can help put the club back where it belongs..."

No Money For Creditors

Nuneaton Borough creditors are unlikely to receive any cash following the sale of the club. The firm of liquidators who took over the old company say most of the cash from the sale will go towards debts owed to banks and the Inland Revenue.

But disappointed creditor Stephen Percival, who brought the winding up petition against the club, said he had already written the money off. Mr Ian Gould of Birmingham firm Kidson Impey said they were still trying to work out the full extent of the old club's debts.

"The last estimate of the deficiency was £265,000. But we are still investigating how much is owed," he said. "The unsecured creditors, the trade creditors, are unlikely to receive any dividend following the sale of the business. The proceeds of the sale go in a specified order, and unsecured creditors are bottom of that list..."

True Blues Are Back

Nuneaton Borough Football Club's True Blues have offered to come back into the fold, after they broke away from the club in protest at internal wrangles. They have told the club's new board of directors that they want to become Nuneaton Borough Association Football Club 1991 True Blues Supporters Club.

The move would end years of fans sitting in the Cock and Bear in protest at club management, and a move back to the Borough Social Club which opened its doors again last night. Mr Gordon Chislett, board spokesman, said: "We met with the True Blues and they told us they want to come back to give the board their utmost support. They asked us if they could help with any of the improvements, and have undertaken to do the lights, six or seven of which are missing..."

John Barton New Player Coach

George Rooney has appointed ex-Everton full-back John Barton as his new player-coach. Barton has a pedigree in non-league football and represented Worcester City before joining Everton. He made 20 appearances for Everton's first team before joining Derby County, who he represented on 69 occasions.

True Blues Donate £600



True Blues' treasurer John Tallis watched by fellow members hands over £600 to Borough director Gordon Chislett. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune



1991-92

Lutterworth Town v Nuneaton Borough 03-08-1991

Borough travelled to Dunley Road to meet Lutterworth Town in a pre-season friendly match.

Martyn Twigger was once again the Nuneaton hero with a late goal. With just six minutes remaining it looked odds on Borough's first pre-season friendly ending in a draw when Twigger snatched the winner. Rich Hamer, last season's leading youth team scorer, had put Nuneaton in front after 71 minutes only to see Lutterworth level matters just seven minutes later.

It was a hard workout for the Manor Park side with last season's Leicestershire Senior League champions pushing them all the way. The hot, sticky conditions took their toll on both sides but Borough boss George Rooney will be happy to have got 90 minutes match play into his squad which contained many new faces.

Stockingford AA v Nuneaton Borough 06-08-1991

Borough travelled just up the road to play Stockingford AA in a pre-season friendly match.

Ali Wilson hit two goals to give Nuneaton Borough a 4-2 victory. The Borough defender was on target late in the second period to deny a battling Stockingford side a share of the spoils.

Earlier Nicky Andersen had given Borough the lead only for the Cabbage to hit back and go 2-1 ahead. Martyn Twigger then equalised to set the stage for Wilson to step in.

Chelmsley Town v Nuneaton Borough 08-08-1991

Borough travelled to The Pavilion to meet Chelmsley Town in a pre-season friendly match.

Under-strength Borough struggled to get a draw and were a goal down at half-time to the Scoreline Combination side and seemed to be heading for their first defeat of the pre-season campaign. But midfielder Kevin Seivwright snatched a late equaliser to give the visitors a share of the spoils.

Atherstone United v Nuneaton Borough 10-08-1991

Borough travelled to Sheepy Road to play Atherstone United in a pre-season friendly match.

Borough ended their pre-season preparations on a disappointing note with a 2-0 defeat. Both sides struggled before the break in the humid conditions, with neither goalkeeper being called into action.

But after half-time Adders took control and ended as deserved winners. Stuart Aubury gave the Sheepy Road side the lead early in the second half and a fine strike by Paul Wilson from the edge of the area confirmed United's superiority.

Dudley Town v Nuneaton Borough 17-08-1991

Dudley: Attwood, Tomlinson, Young, Lowe, Darkes, Clarke, Chambers (Brookes 75), Cooper, R. Smith, Baker, Corniffe. Sub: Casey.

Borough: Hopps, Ridding, Mower, Waters, Tarry, Brain (N. Smith 60), Andersen, Gocan (Wilson 68), Seivwright, Twigger, Simpson.

Borough travelled to The Round Oak Stadium to meet Dudley Town in a Southern League Midland Division match.

Tony Simpson had an early cross superbly taken by Richard Attwood but Borough offered very little in the opening stages. Baker got clear down the left when he beat the Nuneaton offside trap but John Ridding got back to clear the danger and then Robert Smith hooked a shot wide from inside the area after Jason Darkes had set up the opportunity.

But Borough hit back with an incisive move that should have brought them the lead. Kenny Mower's flighted free-kick set Nicky Andersen free inside the area with only the keeper to beat but he tried to lay the ball square and Paul Clarke scrambled the ball behind for a corner. Attwood had to react swiftly to hang onto a Simpson shot that took a wicked deflection, while at the other end Hopps showed his worth, going down low to his left to clutch Adrian Cooper's dipping cross. Nuneaton appeared to have recovered from their indifferent start and began to create some gaps in the home defence as they took charge during the latter stages of the half.

Simpson shot wide from close in after Attwood had dropped a Ridding cross under pressure from Martyn Twigger and then Borough had the ball in the net only for the goal to be disallowed. Dudley only cleared a left wing corner to the edge of the area and Peter Gocan hit a low volley into the bottom left hand corner. But Nuneaton's celebrations were cut short by the linesman's flag.

Kevin Seivwright glanced a header wide from a corner as Borough continued to look for the initial breakthrough but with the half into injury time the travelling supporters were stunned as Dudley snatched a surprise lead. Simpson lost possession around half way as he tried to cut inside and the ball was quickly switched forward to Baker, who calmly slipped the ball past the advancing Hopps.

Six minutes after the restart, any hopes that Borough had of pulling the game round virtually disappeared as the Robins stretched their lead. Borough were caught flat at the back and when Cooper knocked the ball over the top Baker was completely clear and had the simple task of scoring his second goal. Karl Corniffe had a chance to add a third when he went round Hopps but he took the ball too wide and the ball was scrambled clear.

Midway through the half, Seivwright missed a golden chance to cut the deficit, hooking the ball wide from inside the six yards box from Twigger's centre and Andersen should have done better with two efforts from the edge of the area. Shortly before the end Twigger raced clear with just the keeper to beat but Attwood smothered the ball at the striker's feet.



Nuneaton Borough v Hednesford Town 19-08-1991

Borough: Hopps, Mower, Robinson, Tarry, Wilson, Ridding, Andersen, Smith (Brain 85), Orbeson, Gocan, Simpson. **Sub:** Bartlett.

Hednesford: Hayward, White, Collins, Freeman, Walsh, Rudge, Turley, Brown, Knight (Malcolm 55), Burr, O'Connor. **Sub:** Snaith.

Borough welcomed Hednesford Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division match.

Borough produced the first threat with Kenny Mower looping a header wide of the target from Nicky Andersen's free-kick. But the Pitmen quickly made their intentions clear as they produced a wave of attacks that had Nuneaton pushed back into their own penalty area. Terry Knight glanced a header narrowly wide and then Burr was only crowded out at the last minute as he burst into the box.

However, Borough came within a whisker of opening the scoring after 18 minutes when Tony Simpson twisted his way past two defenders inside the area and it took a fine save from Paul Hayward to block the shot. Two minutes later Borough found themselves behind. Jim Brown knocked in a centre from the right and Knight held it up before laying it off to Burr who hit a ferocious drive into the right hand corner.

Borough had a let-off on the 30 minute mark as Joe O'Connor got clean through the middle and went round keeper Trevor Hopps only to slice his shot wide of a gaping goal. Nuneaton pieced together a neat four man move and when Simpson found Orbeson wide on the left he floated a centre to the far post for Andersen to head a foot wide. But seconds before the interval Borough were fortunate not to be two down when O'Connor beat Wilson and Hopps to a through ball and hooked the ball towards an empty net and watched in horror as it rolled inches wide of the far post.

But there was no escape for Nuneaton just two minutes into the second half when Hednesford put the game beyond recall. Dale Rudge found Burr on the left hand side of the area with a fine diagonal ball and the striker turned Robinson before unleashing a cracking rising drive across Hopps and into the far top corner. A couple of minutes later Burr could have had his hat-trick, hooking a close range effort wide of the far post with the Borough defence in a tangle.

But Borough stuck to their task and gradually came into the game as an attacking force and began to find a few gaps in the visitors's defence. Their efforts were rewarded after 69 minutes when Mark Freeman pushed Mower as he went up for an Andersen free-kick and Wilson made no mistake from the resulting penalty. Nuneaton were in trouble again straight from the kick-off when Matt Tarry's poorly-hit backpass let in O'Connor but as he went round Hopps, the keeper got a hand to the ball to drive him wide of goal and Borough managed to scramble the ball away.

In reality Borough seldom looked like salvaging a point against a side that will surely be amongst the promotion contenders again this season.

Borough Sign Newton

George Rooney has signed Doug Newton, an experienced midfielder, who joins Nuneaton from Hednesford. Newton has experience at Vauxhall Conference level and has previously played for Altrincham, Burton Albion, Boston United and Stafford Rangers.

Nuneaton Borough v Yate Town 24-08-1991

Borough: Hopps, Robinson (Smith 64), Wilson, Tarry, Mower, Ridding, Andersen, Newton, Carty (Duckers 82), Gocan, Simpson.

Yate: Stevenson, Rickett, Holtham, Ewens, Bryant, Jones, Hewlett, Tilley, Thaws, Thompson, Grimshaw. **Subs:** Good, Gardener.

Borough welcomed Yate Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Debutant Doug Newton had the first shot, firing across the face of goal, but Yate hit back after seven minutes when Peter Robinson lost possession on the edge of the box. Martin Grimshaw quickly found Darren Tilley, but Robinson redeemed himself with a timely tackle to clear the danger. But Borough took an early grip and the visitors were forced to defend in depth. Peter Gocan might have put Nuneaton ahead when Simpson beat a couple of men before slipping the ball inside but Gocan's drive was well saved by Terry Stevenson.

Andersen brought a fine save from Stevenson following a Carty cross before a poor back pass from Dave Ewens put the Yate defence under pressure. But Borough found themselves a goal down after 23 minutes, totally against the run of play. Thaws harassed Tarry and Hopps as he chased a long through ball to the edge of the area. All three finished on the floor and Thaws was first to his feet to tap the ball into an empty net.

Borough struggled to regain their earlier control although Dean Holtham was happy to concede a corner from Simpson's cross after Andersen had set the winger free. However, just 60 seconds after the restart, Nuneaton were back on level terms. Newton, Andersen and Robinson linked up to find Gocan on the edge of the area. He laid the ball off to Simpson, who skipped past a couple of defenders before cutting inside and firing a low shot across Stevenson and into the far corner.

This stung the visitors into action and Bryant failed to hit the target from inside the area after the home side had failed to clear Tilley's free-kick. But Borough could have taken the lead when Carty got free on the left and pulled the ball back to Simpson but he failed to connect properly with his shot and Yate scrambled away the danger. Gocan was only inches away from getting onto the end of Robinson's deep cross and then Carty hooked a shot over the top after Andersen had knocked a fine diagonal ball over the full back.

However, ten minutes from the end Yate snatched the winner. Borough were asleep for a free-kick on the edge of the box and Tilley quickly slipped the ball into the area for Thaws to accept his second simple goal of the afternoon. Even then

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



Borough should have salvaged a point but Tarry contrived to miss the best chance of the afternoon, hooking the ball high over the top from virtually on the line after Stevenson had failed to hold onto Ali Wilson's free-kick. In the last minute it took a superb save from Hopps, who turned over Grimshaw's scorching drive at full stretch.

Borough Sign Anastasi

Borough have signed Stafford Rangers' striker Savas Anastasi on a short term loan and he will make his debut against Tamworth. Anastasi scored 14 goals for Stafford in the Vauxhall Conference last season.

Tamworth v Nuneaton Borough 27-08-1991

Tamworth: Leech, Lockett, Kane, Eccleston, Cartwright, Ross, Bodkin, Perry, Morris (Jordan 77), Gordon, M. Smith. **Sub:** Woodings.

Borough: Hopps, Barton, Wilson, Tarry, N. Smith, Ridding, Anastasi, Newton, Orbeson, Gocan, Simpson. **Subs:** Duckers, Seivwright.

Borough travelled to The Lamb to meet Tamworth in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough should have been ahead from their first attack of the game. Trevor Hopps hit a long clearance to the edge of the home penalty area where Anastasi knocked it inside only for Gocan to shoot high over from ten yards with just the keeper to beat. Mick Perry headed wide from Corrigan Lockett's cross and then Steve Cartwright had a shot deflected for a corner. Ross dragged a shot wide after a surging run before Borough hit back with a neat build-up that ended with Smith finding space 20 yards out, but his shot was charged down. Midway through the half Borough had a let off when Perry put Darren Morris clear but he blazed his shot high over the top.

At the other end, Anastasi turned his marker as he moved onto Doug Newton's crossfield ball and his low shot skidded a foot wide. The Borough striker caused more problems for the home defence with an overhead effort that went narrowly wide. But three minutes before the break Borough broke the deadlock. A cross from the left was flicked on by Gocan, Simpson beat Kevan Kane and his low cross to the near post was flicked home by Anastasi. But Nuneaton's joy was short-lived as just two minutes after the restart Tamworth were back on level terms with Perry heading in from close range after Steve Ross had created the opening.

Anastasi fired in a fierce low drive that was deflected wide of the far post but Tamworth twice had opportunities to take the lead when Morris headed wide of the post on two occasions when he was unmarked at the far post. Gocan forced a fine save from Gary Leech before Borough regained the lead 17 minutes from the end. Newton again instigated the move and when Orbeson crossed from the left Gocan pounced to shoot past Leech.

Tamworth pressed forward as they searched for a second equaliser and it took a fine save by Hopps to deny Ross after he had broken clear into the area. But the home side were

caught short at the back by Gocan's pace and it took the combined attentions of Leech and Cartwright to prevent the Borough front man from increasing the visitors lead. However, just when it appeared the Borough were heading for victory, Tarry brought down Gordon and Smith equalised from the penalty spot. Then, in the dying seconds Gordon had a chance to snatch a dramatic winner for Tamworth but Hopps acrobatically turned his header over the top.

Redditch United v Nuneaton Borough 31-08-1991

Redditch: Burke, McCormack, Judd, Williams, McLean (Shaw 18), Molloy, Pollard (P. Joinson 59), Bennett, Campbell, Stanton, L. Joinson.

Borough: Hopps, Ridding, Wilson, Barton, Tarry, Cottrill (Smith 59), Carty, Newton, Anastasi, Gocan, Simpson. **Sub:** Orbeson.

Borough travelled to The Valley to meet Redditch United in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough made their intentions clear from the start with Anastasi being crowded out after making a fine break and then John Ridding's centre was touched away from the intruding Paul Carty at the expense of a corner. But Nuneaton were ahead after just three minutes. Paul Bennett made a hash of a back pass and Anastasi was quickly in to fire a low drive past the exposed Dennis Burke. Redditch were being put under considerable pressure as both Tony Simpson and Peter Gocan used their pace to stretch the home side's back four.

The first threat to Borough came when a mix-up between Ali Wilson and keeper Trevor Hopps gave away a needless corner and from the flag-kick Molloy was not picked up but he put a free header way over the top. But Borough were soon back in control and twice came close to increasing their lead as Cottrill, who joined Borough from Worcester on Friday, put in a cross that was headed off the line by Jimmy Williams and then the Borough newcomer was denied by a flying save from Burke.

The travelling Borough fans held their breath when Hopps failed to hold a Lee Joinson shot and the ball broke to Steve Campbell but he was slow to react and the Borough defence was able to clear the danger. Burke again saved the Reds, getting down smartly to his left to smother Carty's shot that had taken a deflection off Wilson, but he again needed the assistance of Williams shortly before the break when the defender denied Borough a second goal. Cottrill's fierce shot bounced to safety off his face.

Carty had a clear-cut chance to stretch Borough's lead immediately after the restart but he stabbed the ball wide from six yards following a bit of magic from Anastasi. Then a last ditch tackle by Robin Judd halted Anastasi as he looked to be going clear before a flowing three man move involving Doug Newton, Gocan and Simpson put Anastasi away but his shot beat Burke and also the far post as it trickled a foot wide. But there was no denying Borough and 17 minutes from the end they finally got the goal they had been threatening with Anastasi heading in Matt Tarry's right wing corner at the far post.

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



Gocan then brought a fine save from Burke, while at the other end Williams thought he had scored from Joinson's corner but Ridding hooked the ball clear. Shortly before the end Anastasi was inches away from his hat-trick with a shot wide of the far post following a neat Borough build-up.

Nuneaton Borough v Alvechurch 02-09-1991

Borough: Hopps, P. Robinson, Wilson, Barton, Tarry, Ridding, Carty, Cottrill (Smith 80), Anastasi, Gocan, Simpson. **Sub:** Orbeson.

Alvechurch: Biggs, Barry Williams (Bates 75), Owens, Booth, Hart, Chappell (Brian Williams 83), Richardson, Allbutt, Humphreys, Fullerton, S. Robinson.

Borough welcomed Alvechurch to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough produced the first threat when a Peter Robinson header sent Gocan racing clear but he failed to get in his centre and the opportunity was lost. However, the home fans were stunned as Alvechurch swept ahead from their first attack after just two minutes. Simon Robinson crossed from the left, the ball flicked off the top of John Barton's head and Royston Richardson headed in at the far post. Within 30 seconds the groans had turned to cheers as Borough equalised straight from the kick-off. Barry Williams and keeper Andy Biggs hesitated as they converged on a long through ball and Anastasi was in like a flash to stab the ball home from just inside the area.

Simon Robinson got away from his namesake Peter as the visitors hit back but Trevor Hopps was quickly out to smother the ball as the winger tried to go round him. But Borough were in front after 19 minutes with Anastasi getting his second goal. Paul Carty did the spadework beating two men as he jinked his way into the area and Anastasi buried a right footer from ten yards. However, the celebrations were cut short as just six minutes later Alvechurch were back on level terms. Richardson played a neat one-two with Lee Humphreys and his pace took him clear of the defence to hit a low cross-shot past Hopps.

Gary Booth brought a fine diving save from his own keeper with a fiercely struck back pass and then Anastasi glanced a header wide from Tony Simpson's cross. Borough had a let-off just five minutes into the second period when Simon Robinson got some space wide on the left and his deep cross found Richardson unmarked at the far post but he looped his header over the top. But Nuneaton were now beginning to get on top and Simpson twice broke clear to flash dangerous centres across the face of the visitors goal and then Cottrill glanced a header a foot wide.

Carty hooked a wild shot way off target following another wayward back pass by Booth. But Borough were caught pushing forward and Richardson broke away to steer a low shot a foot wide of the far post as Hopps came out. However, the goal that Nuneaton had been threatening came with just seventeen minutes remaining. Gocan cut into the area and when it appeared as though he was being crowded out he

turned the ball back to Cottrill, who hit a cracking 20 yarder past Biggs. That was the end of Alvechurch's brave fight and two minutes later their hopes plunged even further when Barry Williams was stretchered off with a suspected broken leg. There was a five minute hold up while Williams received treatment, but when play resumed Borough went further ahead. Simpson picked up a loose ball ten yards outside his own area and hit a perfect defence-splitting pass to send Gocan galloping through to score with ease. Then, with time running out, Anastasi intercepted a back pass by Bates to complete his hat-trick.

Nuneaton Borough v Leicester United 07-09-1991

Borough: Hopps, P. Robinson, A. Wilson, Ridding, Tarry, Cottrill, Straw, Newton, Hodgetts, Gocan (Cart 73), Simpson. **Sub:** Smith.

Leicester: Marsden, Riley, Randall, R. Wilson, Webster, Dalton, Pick (Weafer 85), Liquorish, Hallam, Robinson, Tonge (Hornsby 70).

Borough welcomed Leicester United to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough grabbed the early initiative and Peter Robinson was only inches away from giving them the quick breakthrough they were looking for with a cracking 25-yard drive that whistled past the angle. Leicester replied with a quick break on the right and when Alan Liquorish flicked on a ball into the area, Hallam planted a header over the top. But Borough took the lead after sixteen minutes. The visitors only cleared a corner to the edge of the area where Peter Gocan got possession. He fed Tony Simpson and the winger's low cross was turned past his own keeper by Rob Wilson.

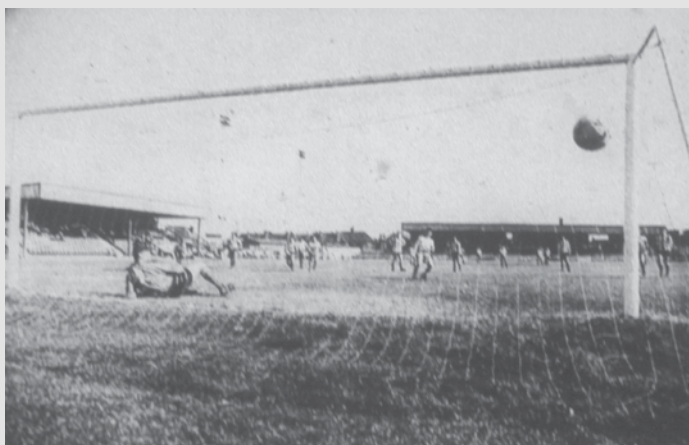
Nuneaton had loud appeals for a penalty ignored when Ian Cottrill went sprawling in the box and then the midfielder sliced a shot well off target. However, Nuneaton stretched their lead from the penalty spot after 25 minutes. Peter Robinson was fouled by Robin Dalton as he went for a high ball and Straw made no mistake from the spot. Two minutes later the visitors almost conceded another own goal with Ian Marsden having to go full length to save after Peter Robinson's shot had taken a deflection.

Hallam looped a header wide as United looked for a way back but Leicester were again fortunate when Simpson cut inside and drilled a centre into the area that hit Les Webster and flew straight into the arms of a grateful Marsden. Gocan should have put the issue beyond all doubt at the start of the second period but he hooked his effort high over the top from just 12 yards. Hodgetts forced his way into the area but Mark Randall got back to clear the danger and then a centre flew across the face of the United goal with no-one on hand to apply the finishing touch.

Hallam should have done better when he got clear of the Nuneaton defence but hammered a wild shot way off target. The big striker then made a fine break on the left but Trevor Hopps was out well to block him as he cut in and Ridding completed the clearance. Borough did not learn from their



escapes and midway through the half Tonge should have cut the deficit. Leicester again caught the home defence stretched and Stuart Robinson's cross from the left found Tonge all alone in front of goal but from six yards he hit the bar and the ball flew over the top. Straw produced a super turn to lose his marker and drill a left footer narrowly wide of the far post and then the lively front man forced a fine save from Marsden with a cracking drive.



Rob Straw makes no mistake from the penalty spot to put Borough 2-0 up after 25 minutes. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Once more the defence was all over the place as Wright broke clear on the left and his low centre was turned home by Chris Burton. With half-time approaching Borough had a let-off when John Mitchell was through on his own but sliced his shot well wide.

Borough started the second half in a more positive mood and suddenly the home defence looked in a panic. Straw was desperately unlucky to see his volley bounce clear of the foot of the post and then he fired into the side netting from an acute angle. But nine minutes after the restart Borough got the goal they had been threatening. Simpson flicked a ball towards the edge of the area and Lewis Claxton, under pressure from Andy Hodgetts lobbed the ball over his own keeper. However, Borough's celebrations were short-lived as just four minutes later the home side restored their two goal lead. Substitute Neil Smith needlessly gave away a free-kick on the edge of the area and Hawker was completely unmarked to power a header past Hopps.

Nuneaton were now coming under increasing pressure and Wright hooked a shot wide from inside the area when he should have done better. Burton then lost his marker to send Ian Mitchell galloping through but Wilson recovered to get back and turn the ball out for a corner. Gocan fired a left footer narrowly over the top in a rare Borough raid.

Solihull Borough v Nuneaton Borough 11-09-1991

Solihull: Houghton, Pinner, Claxton, Hawker, Mulders, Ollis, Powell, I. Mitchell, J. Mitchell, Wright (Latchford 79), Burton. Sub: Hyde.

Borough: Hopps, Robinson (Smith 45), Carty, Ridding, Wilson, Cottrill, Straw, Newton, Hodgetts (Whetton 67), Gocan, Simpson.

Nuneaton Boro' v Sutton Coldfield Town 05-10-1991

Borough: Hopps, Carty, Wilson, Barton, Whetton, Cottrill, Orbeson, Ridding, Duckers (Gocan), Twigger, Simpson. Sub: Hodgetts.

Sutton: Belford, Richards, Clarke, Caulfield, McKenzie, Sturgeon, Smith, Hadland, Whitehouse, Ward, Hunter

Borough travelled to Damson Park to meet Solihull Borough in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Nuneaton could have taken an early lead when Ian Cottrill won possession just outside his own area and found Peter Gocan in the centre circle. He played a fine ball inside the full back for Straw to move onto but the striker dragged his shot wide as the keeper came out to meet him. But Borough had keeper Trevor Hopps to thank that they were not a goal down after seven minutes as he raced off his line to deny John Powell who was allowed to race clean through the middle.

Straw failed to take advantage of another good opportunity, hitting a tame shot straight at the keeper, before Borough found themselves a goal down after ten minutes. They only partially cleared a long through ball and John Mitchell pounced on it in the area and fired a low cross shot past the exposed Hopps. Cottrill saw his shot hit Gocan before Straw found himself free, but he wanted too much time. Hopps then rescued Borough after Phil Hawker headed down a free-kick to Gary Wright, but the keeper turned the ball over.

Hawker headed wide from Pinner's free-kick while at the other end Cottrill fired a fierce drive straight at Houghton. Ten minutes before half-time Borough found themselves with a mountain to climb as Solihull grabbed a second goal.

Borough welcomed Sutton Coldfield to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough were reduced to ten men after just four minutes. Gary Smith got clear through the middle and forced his way past Trevor Hopps as the keeper came out. Despite losing his feet, Smith hooked the ball towards a gaping net only for Carty to handle to save a certain goal and he was sent off by the referee. But Hopps turned the cries of despair from the terraces to howls of delight as he got a foot to Adam Whitehouse's spot kick to turn the ball to safety.

The Nuneaton defence was in a tangle again when Shane Ward burst into the area but his shot lacked the power to trouble Hopps. Borough were finding it difficult to get a grip on the game but a neat build-up on the edge of the Sutton area sent Tony Simpson through but with just the keeper to beat he was pulled back for a handball.

But Borough stunned the visitors by grabbing a 24th minute lead. Simpson hit a long ball at the heart of the Sutton defence and when Nigel Richards and Dale Belford made a mess of things Martyn Twigger nipped in to calmly accept his third goal of the campaign. Stung into retaliation, the Royals pressed forward and it took a superb save from Hopps to turn away Tony Hadland's free-kick for a corner. However, ten minutes

before the interval Sutton were back on level terms with a tremendous goal. There seemed little danger as the ball came to Ward, fully 25 yards out, but he smashed a tremendous right foot volley into the bottom left hand corner.



Martyn Twigger is about to put Borough into the lead following a mix-up between Dale Belford and Nigel Richards. Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Borough stormed forward after this setback and twice in the space of two minutes were desperately unlucky not to regain the lead. Peter Gocan, on for the limping Mark Duckers, freed Ian Cottrill and he surged into the box only to be denied by a brave save from Belford, who benefited from a kind rebound as the ball ended up in his arms. The Royals had another let-off two minutes later when Cottrill curled in a free-kick from the edge of the box but it hit the bar and flew over the top with the keeper beaten.

Ali Wilson hooked a dangerous cross away at the start of the second half and despite being a man down Borough grabbed the initiative. McKenzie got in a boot to block Gocan's shot before Borough had appeals for a penalty waved away when Gocan was blatantly fouled. Borough continued to dictate the pace and midway through the half they were again out of luck. Gocan once more forced his way through and the ball broke to Simpson who fired at an empty net, but McKenzie got back to clear off the line.

The visitors survived another heated penalty appeal when Simpson twisted his way into the area where his shot was stopped by Richards, who looked to have used his hand. Paul Hunter dragged a shot across the face of the Borough goal in a rare Sutton raid but it was Borough who had the best chance to clinch all three points. Gocan sent Simpson racing through on his own but as he cut into the area he pushed the ball too far in front and Belford was able to get out and smother the winger's shot.

Rushden Town v Nuneaton Borough 12-10-1991

Borough: Hopps, Ridding, Carty, A. Wilson, Whetton, Cottrill (Orbeson 89), Straw, Smith (Barton 73), Gocan, Twigger, Simpson.

Borough travelled to Hayden Road to meet Rushden Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough made a bright start and could have been ahead after only two minutes when Straw's free-kick from wide on the right flashed across the face of the home goal with no-one able to get the finishing touch. But at the other end Trevor Hopps had to be alert to push a header over the top following

a free-kick by Kevin York. Paul Carty then sent Twigger into the area but Darren Watts was down smartly to cut out the low cross. Borough had a let off after 15 minutes when Peter Green clashed with Hopps and the ball dropped for Frankie Belfon but he put the ball high over the top from close in.

Borough hit back and Straw's far post cross only just evaded the in rushing Ian Cottrill and then Twigger was only inches away from the opening goal after Cottrill had flicked on a right wing corner. Andy Kirkup got clear on the left and Green's diving header looked destined for the net until Hopps flew to his right to beat the ball away. But it was Borough who made the initial breakthrough after 25 minutes. Gocan made himself space in the area and when Watts failed to hold his low cross shot, Twigger was left with an easy tap in.

There was danger for Borough when Kirkup got clear as the Russians looked for an equaliser but he wasted a promising opportunity by putting his cross into the side netting. With four minutes of the half remaining, the game exploded with a burst of action that brought a goal for both sides and some near misses. First Borough allowed Kirkup too much space on the left and his deep cross found Green unmarked at the far post to plant a header wide of Hopps.

However, just 60 seconds later Borough were back in front. Carty touched on a long clearance and Twigger lost his marker to hit a super volley into the top corner from inside the area. Hopps then flung himself to his right to touch a fierce free-kick from York onto the bar and Belfon headed wide from close range. Almost on half time Twigger was denied a hat-trick when Mick Garrett deflected his shot for a corner.

There was no slowing in the action at the start of the second half with Hopps again having to stretch himself full-length to touch a shot from Belfon onto the bar and over the top. At the other end Gocan freed Simpson, who raced into the area before pulling the ball back to Gocan who slipped the ball past Watts. However, Nuneaton's advantage was back to a single goal after 55 minutes with a stunning strike from Belfon. Kirkup again got free on the left and his centre found Belfon, who took it down and turned the ball into the net.

In the last minute Cottrill was stretchered off after receiving a bang on the head in a mid-air collision. The referee added eleven minutes for the injury, but Borough held on to their narrow lead.

Borough On Verge Of New Signing

Nuneaton Borough manager George Rooney is in negotiations with former Derby County and Telford United player Paul Grant and was hoping to complete the deal in time for him to play against Stroud.

"Ian plays either in midfield or at the back and comes highly recommended," said the Borough boss. "He was going to join a Belgian club but picked up an ankle injury that prevented him from moving, and that may be a good break for us," he added.



Nuneaton Borough v Stroud 14-10-1991

Borough: Hopps, Ridding, Wilson, Grant (Smith 55), Whetton, Cottrill, Straw, Carty, Gocan, Twigger, Simpson. **Sub:** Bartlett.

Stroud: Knott, Barry, Criddle, Kenwood, Hams, Harrison, Crouch, Darlaston, Bayliss, Hamilton, Peacey. **Subs:** Pollard, Hendry.

Borough welcomed Stroud to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough produced the first threat when Cottrill freed Rob Straw on the left but when he pulled the ball back from the bye-line there was no-one on hand to apply the finishing touch. Stroud replied with Simon Darlaston whipping in a dangerous centre from the left before Rich Criddle tested Hopps with a rising drive from the edge of the box.

Ali Wilson then hit a back pass short to Hopps and it took a fine stop from the Borough keeper to keep out Colin Peacey, who intercepted. However, Borough began to press forward and Straw and Paul Carty both put in poor crosses. Straw then had a fierce shot blocked following a short corner before Borough again had Hopps to thank that they were still on level terms.

Simon Darlaston picked up a loose ball in the centre circle and raced into the area but Hopps was well down low to his left to gather the midfielder's shot. Martyn Twigger then broke free on the left but yet again a weak centre allowed the visitors to comfortably clear the danger.

Borough should have been behind straight after the interval. John Hamilton was completely unmarked in the area when the ball was knocked in from the left but Hopps bravely flung himself at the big striker's feet to save. Cottrill put a close range header over the top as Borough hit back but Peacey missed a golden opportunity of breaking the deadlock, failing to make contact when just six yards out after Karl Bayliss had created the opening.

Grant, who had been limping for some time, was replaced by Smith just before Peacey wasted another clear-cut chance as he pulled his shot across goal with just Hopps to beat. But with 18 minutes left it was Borough who got the crucial goal. Twigger set Straw racing clear with a fine ball down the left and his early cross was turned past Alan Knott by Gocan.

Stroud were desperately unlucky that they were not back on level terms just 60 seconds later. Paul Harrison powered in a header from a right wing corner and the ball hit Wilson, who was standing on the line and rebounded straight into the keeper's arms. Darlaston shot wide from inside the area in another quick Stroud break before Borough put the game out of reach of the visitors with just seven minutes remaining. Tony Simpson robbed Chris Kenwood and drilled the ball to the far post. Twigger knocked the ball back into the area, Straw had a shot blocked and Cottrill pounced to force a close range shot past Knott. In the dying seconds Twigger missed a fine chance of adding a third when he failed to control the ball from Simpson's cross and Knott was able to clear.

Borough Sign Attwood

Borough have secured the services of former Dudley Town and Bromsgrove Rovers keeper Richard Attwood, who is ready to cover for Trevor Hopps, who is carrying a slight knock.

Nuneaton Borough v Tamworth 19-10-1991

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Wilson, N. Smith (Duckers 63), Whetton, Cottrill, Straw, Orbeson, Gocan, Twigger, Simpson. **Sub:** Bartlett.

Tamworth: Leake, Mulholland, Kane, Haywood, Cartwright, Ross, Parker, Perry, Finn, M. Smith, Green (Ecclestone 80). **Sub:** Morris.

Borough welcomed Tamworth to Manor Park to play a Midland Floodlit Cup first round first leg tie.

Borough, who had Richard Attwood making his first team debut, could have been ahead as early as the second minute with Tony Simpson missing a clear-cut chance from well inside the area. Gocan's searing pace left Steve Cartwright for dead wide on the right and when he pulled the ball back from the bye-line, Simpson was left with a clear sight of goal but he dragged his shot a foot wide from 12 yards.

There were more problems for the visitors when Dennis Mulholland and Sean Haywood got in a tangle and Gary Leake managed to block out Martyn Twigger as he got free in the box. Tamworth, facing a stiff breeze, were being penned back in their own half and Mark Smith kept them on level terms when he appeared on the far post to turn Straw's low cross off the line with Leake beaten. The Tamworth keeper then made a superb save to fingertip a Dave Whetton shot over the top after Ali Wilson had headed on a right wing corner.

But ten minutes before the interval Borough had a let-off when Andy Orbeson cleared off the line after Roy Green had climbed high to power in a header. Three minutes later they found themselves behind against the run of play. Perry lost his marker wide on the right and his flighted cross to the far side of the box found the unmarked Smith who fired past Attwood as he came out.

Twigger put a tame header straight at Leake as Borough looked for an equaliser at the start of the second period but they had another scare after 50 minutes. Steve Ross's through ball found Perry, who was allowed to go on despite looking to be well offside, but he wanted too much time and Whetton recovered to block the shot. Straw wasted a promising opportunity when he put his centre into the side netting with men waiting in the middle and then a Simpson free-kick bounced awkwardly in the goalmouth but Leake was down to gather.

Borough were still enjoying the majority of the play and with 16 minutes left they grabbed a deserved equaliser. Tamworth only cleared Straw's right wing corner to the edge of the area and Gocan pounced to fire a tremendous right foot volley past Leake and into the top left hand corner. But Borough's celebrations were cut short as Tamworth were back in front after just 60 seconds. Ross appeared to be well offside wide on the right but there was no flag and his deep cross found Perry who got up well to plant a fine header past Attwood



and into the top corner. Two minutes later the visitors were reduced to ten men when central defender Steve Cartwright was sent off for his second bookable offence. Twigger missed a chance of an equaliser when he was clean through and in the closing stages Perry went close with a header that Wilson cleared before Ross fired over the top.

Nuneaton Borough v Corby Town 21-10-1991

Borough: Hopps, Barton, Wilson (Bartlett 60), Orbeson, Whetton, Cottrill, Straw, Woodfine, Gocan, Twigger, Simpson. **Sub:** Duckers.

Corby: King, Curtis, D. Walker, Keeble, Russell, Oakes, McConnell, Archer, Diver, Genovese, Murphy. **Subs:** I. Walker, Roberts.

Borough welcomed Corby Town to Manor Park to play a Barclays Commercial Southern League Cup game.

Borough produced the first threat in the opening seconds with Ian Cottrill hitting a swerving shot narrowly wide from the edge of the area after Martyn Twigger had headed down Barton's free kick. Tony Simpson then cut inside to fire over a low centre from the left and the Steelmen were fortunate to scramble the ball to safety. But the Borough defence was in a tangle when Diver was allowed to make ground just outside the box and his crisp right-footer smacked against the angle with Hopps thinking that the ball was going wide.

Matt Murphy missed a good opening, poking the ball wide from close in after Dominic Genovese had got clear. Cottrill put a header over the top from a free-kick as Borough hit back and Straw was also off target after Simpson had worked a short free-kick. Borough had Hopps to thank that they were still on level terms on the half-hour mark when Dave Whetton gave the ball away just outside the box and Diver nipped in but Hopps was down well to turn his low shot away for a corner.

Twigger hooked a volley over the top and Richard King had to make a fine save to touch Andy Orbeson's shot over the top. But eight minutes before the interval Borough were behind to an unbelievable goal. They pushed out from a free-kick leaving Glen Russell yards offside but to everyone's amazement the linesman kept his flag down and the big central defender kept his composure to slip the ball past Hopps.

Peter Gocan was only inches away from turning in Twigger's fiercely hit cross early in the second half and then Twigger pulled his shot a foot wide of the target after Straw had put him through following Whetton's headed clearance. Corby then had a real let-off. Their defence was all over the place when Simpson hit in a low centre from the right, both Cottrill and Twigger lunged at the ball on the line but Paul Curtis somehow got the ball away while lying on the floor. Midway through the half Borough missed another golden opportunity when Straw got free on the left and whipped in a superb cross that found Simpson in front of goal. It only needed a touch but the winger headed over the top from inside the six yard box.

Borough continued to dictate the pace and Curtis almost sliced a Simpson centre into his own net and Straw fired a couple of feet wide from the edge of the area. But seven

minutes from the end it looked as though Borough would start the second leg two goals adrift when Steve Bartlett brought down Graeme Archer. But to the relief of the Manor Park faithful Diver hit the right hand post with his spot kick and the ball was hacked to safety. Twigger hit the post with a header before Bartlett rescued Borough, turning the ball back to the keeper when McConnell broke clear. However, with just two minutes left Borough grabbed themselves a lifeline. A long clearance was superbly flicked on by Twigger and Straw broke through the middle and calmly slipped a low shot past King and into the far corner of the net.

Nuneaton Borough v King's Lynn 26-10-1991

Borough: Hopps, Brogan, A. Wilson, K. Wilson, Whetton (Bartlett 72), Cottrill, Straw, Carty, Gocan, Twigger (Duckers 85), Simpson.

King's Lynn: Turner, Bryant, Boyers, Thompson, Creane, Worthington, Topliss, Rippin, McNally (Sharman 72), Gallagher, Rawcliffe. **Sub:** O'Keefe.

Borough welcomed King's Lynn to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

The visitors produced the first threat with Kevin Topliss cutting inside Ali Wilson to test Trevor Hopps with a rising drive. Borough were quick to respond with Twigger getting free on the left but Lee Turner, making his first appearance in the Lynn goal. But with 22 minutes gone, Borough had a let-off. Lee Rippin's ball into the area split the Nuneaton defence but Jackie Gallagher pushed his shot wide of the left hand post with only Hopps to beat.

That let-off sparked Borough into life and twice within the space of 60 seconds they could have broken the deadlock. It took a last ditch tackle by Ged Creane to deny Rob Straw a clear shot at goal after Twigger had made the opening and then Tony Simpson bravely dived in among the flying boots but his header sailed a foot over the top. At the other end, Creane was not picked up from a right wing corner but he put a tame header straight at the keeper. There was a glimpse of an opening for Borough when Simpson put Straw clear on the right but his low centre was easily cut out by the Lynn defence.

Borough should have been ahead five minutes after the break but when Twigger cleverly dummied Simpson's centre, Peter Gocan stepped inside his marker only to blaze his shot over the top as Turner came out. There was trouble for the home side as Gavin McNally won possession on the left hand edge of the area and he fed Peter Rawcliffe who hit a fierce shot that flew narrowly wide of the far post after taking a deflection. Midway through the half it looked as though Twigger had found the key to unlock the resolute visitors' defence as he beat the keeper to a through ball, but was forced wide and Paul Bryant hooked it away for a corner.

Turner turned away Simpson's deep cross under pressure before Borough were again denied the goal they were desperately looking for. Brogan was up above the Lynn defence for Straw's corner but with the Cock and Bear end ready to acclaim a goal, Bryant leapt to head it to safety as it

looked destined for the top corner. Whetton was helped off and replaced by Bartlett and seven minutes later Borough at last broke the deadlock.

Simpson found himself space wide on the right but his deep cross appeared to carry little threat until Graham Thompson handled and Twigger made no mistake from the resulting spot kick – his sixth goal of the season. But straight from the restart Borough could have seen their hard-won lead thrown away. A poor clearance by Hopps found Gallagher, but he hit a tame shot straight at the keeper. Straw beat Creane and Ian Cottrill was only inches away from turning in his cross. In injury time Gallagher did get the ball into the net following a corner but the whistle had already gone for a foul by Creane.

Hednesford Town v Nuneaton Borough 28-10-1991

Hednesford: Hayward, Turley, Collins, Freeman, Foster, Snaith, Rudge, Walsh, Knight, Burr, O'Connor. Subs: Riley, King.

Borough: Hopps, Brogan (Bartlett 64), A. Wilson, K. Wilson, Whetton, Cottrill, Straw, Carty, Gocan (Hodgetts 70), Twigger, Simpson.

Borough travelled to The Cross Keys to play Hednesford Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough were quickly on the defensive and failed to clear a free-kick by Russ Turley, and Trevor Hopps was forced to go down smartly to block an effort from Andy Walsh. There was more trouble for Borough following a right wing corner and again Hopps had to prove his worth to keep out Terry Knight's header. Nuneaton hit back with Straw hitting a shot over the bar, but the Pitmen were soon back in control as Kevin Collins curled a dangerous centre across the face of the visitors' goal.

Hopps made another fine save from Walsh but the goal Hednesford had been threatening arrived in the 21st minute. Turley's deep cross from the right found Walsh at the far post and his downward header was hacked away by the Borough defence but the referee ruled that the ball had crossed the line. Ian Cottrill wasted a chance after a run by Straw and then Paul Hayward had to stretch to cut out Tony Simpson's cross.

Borough opened the second half brightly with Turley just managing to get in a foot to deny Simpson as he cut inside and then Whetton planted a header wide from Straw's free-kick. The home side threatened again when Borough only cleared a corner as far as the edge of the box and Mark Freeman laid the ball off to Steve Snaith, who scooped a wild effort way over the bar. Nuneaton could have equalised after 60 minutes when Twigger made a neat break and turned the ball inside where Collins stuck out a foot to divert the ball away from the lurking Simpson and the ball flew just wide of the post.

Borough's hopes dipped three minutes later when Brogan was left sprawled on the turf following a mid-air collision and was led off with a nasty eye injury. Nuneaton's troubles deepened after 67 minutes when the home side increased their lead. Turley swung in a right wing corner and Knight lost his marker to glance a fine near post header into the bottom of the net. Manager George Rooney then threw on

Andy Hodgetts for Peter Gocan nine minutes from the end and Borough got back into the game when Twigger got up superbly to head on a through ball and Straw was into the box to force a close range shot past Hayward. A long ball caught out the Borough defence and Steve Burr raced through, but Hopps was out quickly to block the striker's effort. With the game three minutes into injury time Twigger should have levelled but he took the ball wide and Hayward smothered his shot.

But Hednesford were clearly rattled and two minutes later Nuneaton were on level terms with the goal of the season from Straw. Borough were awarded a free-kick on the edge of the area, Cottrill touched it short to Straw and he shimmied to his left before launching a rocket of a left footer that screamed past Hayward.

VPs And True Blues Make Cash Donations



Nuneaton Borough are determined to halt the crime wave that has hit Manor Park again in recent weeks. The social club has been the target on several occasions and the villains have also left an expensive trail of damage behind them.

Concerned directors have offered a cash reward for information that leads to anyone being convicted of offences at Manor Park and they have also undertaken to have a lot of security work done. Experts have estimated that it will cost in the region of £3,000 for the task to be completed and life president Alf Scattergood immediately presented a cheque

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



for £1,000 followed by £500 from vice chairman Brendan Dodd of MBK Rewinds.

The True Blues Supporters Club have also provided £500 and the Vice-Presidents' Club have come up with another £300 towards the cost.

In the top picture members of the True Blues present their cheque to Howard Kerry before last Saturday's match against King's Lynn at Manor Park while in the bottom picture Vice Presidents' Club chairman David Hall hands over their donation to the Borough chairman.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Nuneaton Borough v Newport AFC 02-11-1991

Borough: Hopps, Ridding, Barton, K. Wilson, Whetton, Cottrill (A. Wilson 89), Straw, Carty, Gocan, Twigger, Simpson. **Sub:** Hodgetts.

Borough welcomed Newport AFC to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Newport had hardly had time to stretch their legs following their long trip from South Wales when Ian Cottrill won the ball in midfield. He knocked it square to Peter Gocan who quickly transferred it to Martyn Twigger for him to send Straw racing through the middle to slip a low shot past Peter Mason. There were more problems for the visitors when Kevin Wilson got away from Phil Williams and drilled in a low cross to the near post. Straw met it first time but Jason Prew got in a boot to block the shot.

Trevor Hopps had to react smartly, going down at Phil Green's feet to deny the former Merthyr striker after Ashley Griffiths had sent him clear. But midway through the half Borough could have extended their lead. Twigger turned the ball inside to Simpson and he laid a glorious ball into the area for Gocan but he fired over the top with just Mason to beat. But Borough were fortunate to still be ahead after 25 minutes when they failed to clear a right wing corner allowing Green to get in a header but his effort lacked power and Ridding was able to clear off the line. Then five minutes before the interval it was Hopps again denying the Welshmen as he flew to his right to turn away a vicious swerving 30-yarder from Mark Price that looked to be destined for the top corner.

However, nine minutes after the restart Borough left the visitors with a mountain to climb as they grabbed the vital second goal. Simpson put Straw away down the middle with a delightful ball between the central defenders. Straw raced through into the area only to see his shot superbly beaten away by Mason, but Simpson was following up to slide the ball into the unguarded net. Borough stepped up a gear now and were unfortunate not to extend their lead even further shortly afterwards when Twigger found Simpson with a great crossfield ball but the winger's shot flew to safety off the angle of post and bar.

Gocan was forced to hurry his shot following a four man move, while at the other end Green missed a clear-cut chance

to cut the deficit, pushing a tame shot wide after substitute Chris Lilygreen had set him up. Barton caused problems with an underhit back pass and Green won a challenge with Hopps but Barton recovered to turn Paul Sanderson's shot away for a corner. Simpson was only a foot wide after Twigger had flicked on a through ball but in the dying seconds Borough again had Hopps to thank as he bravely dived at Bray's feet.

Alf's Picture Has Pride Of Place



Alf Scattergood, life president of Nuneaton Borough AFC 1991, now has pride of place in the Manor Park boardroom. His picture hangs on the main wall of the recently constructed inner sanctum – thanks mainly to director Gordon Chislett.

“Mr Scattergood is a highly respected member of this club and the board felt that he should be recognised in some way,” he said. “I had a photograph of him blown up and framed and it now hangs in the boardroom as a recognition of the service he has given to Nuneaton Borough over the years,” he added.

In the picture are, from left to right: directors David Lee, Gordon Chislett, Roger Stanford, Howard Kerry, Alf Scattergood, John Wilson, John Harris and Brendan Dodd.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Corby Town v Nuneaton Borough 06-11-1991

Borough: Hopps, Ridding, Barton, Bartlett (Gocan 75), Whetton, Brogan, Straw, Wilson, Carty, Twigger, Simpson. **Sub:** Hodgetts.

Borough travelled to Rockingham Triangle to play Corby Town in a BCC Southern League Cup first round second leg game.

Borough had an early let-off when Matt Murphy broke clear into the area and Trevor Hopps had to race off his line to force the Corby striker wide and block his shot. Borough hit back and Straw could have given them a breakthrough but twice he dragged his shot wide. But Nuneaton were struggling to get into the game and they had another escape when Corby had five shots blocked in an amazing goalmouth scramble. It then took a superb save by Hopps on the half hour to keep Borough on level terms, the big keeper parrying a close range header from Shaun Keeble following Murphy's deep cross.

In a rare Borough raid, Wilson freed Straw down the left and the striker neatly turned his marker to fire in a dangerous low ball but Richard King was down quickly to make a fine save. Archer made some room for himself at the start of the second half but his shot from the edge of the area was straight at



Hopps. But Borough hit back and twice in the space of a minute they were unfortunate not to break the deadlock. A neat build up put Carty in space but his cross flew inches wide of the far post. Then Brogan outjumped the home defence for a Straw corner and his header looked destined for the net until King flew to his left to turn it over the top.

Borough had a close call after 73 minutes when Murphy cracked a drive against the crossbar and then Barton was on hand to guide the ball back to Hopps as Keeble burst into the area. But the goal the Steelmen had been threatening came with just eight minutes of the game remaining and Borough were far from happy that it was allowed to stand. Hopps was clearly fouled by John Timlin as he punched a left wing corner out of the area. As the ball reached Archer the defence pushed out leaving Timlin on the floor in an offside position. Archer's shot bobbed into the unguarded net and the referee awarded a goal.

Borough had an opportunity to take the tie to extra time in the dying stages but Straw blazed a shot high over the top from a narrow angle when he had men waiting in the goal mouth. That was to prove Nuneaton's last opportunity as Corby rubbed salt into their wounds with a second goal from virtually the last kick of the match. Wilson failed to get forward as the Borough defence pushed out in an effort to catch Corby offside and Diver was through the middle on his own to scramble the ball past Hopps and into the far corner.

Racing Club Warwick v Nuneaton Borough 09-11-1991

Racing Club: Russell, Chambers, Whelan, Darby, Aldridge, Titterton, Byrne (Kelly 81), Hannam, Wootton, Deeley, Dhesi. **Sub:** Watts.

Borough: Hopps, Ridding, Barton, Brogan, Whetton, Cottrill, Straw, Carty, Gocan (Hodgetts 79), Twigger, Simpson. **Sub:** A. Wilson.

Borough travelled to Hampton Road to play Racing Club Warwick in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough could have gone ahead as early as the seventh minute when Rob Straw turned superbly to beat his man wide on the left but when he drilled in a low centre to the near post, Ian Cottrill failed to make contact from six yards and when Racing failed to clear Tony Simpson shot wide from close range. But two minutes later Borough had a let-off when the home side had what looked like a perfectly good goal ruled out. The referee awarded a free-kick and Lenny Darby was not picked up as he headed home, but the referee ruled that the defender had pushed Paul Brogan.

There was trouble for Borough when Deeley's pace took him clear on the right hand side of the area but John Ridding stepped in to hook away the centre. It then took a fine tackle from Moreton Titterton to stop Straw as he burst into the area while at the other end Trevor Hopps had to go full length to turn the ball away for a corner. Borough should have been ahead after 27 minutes when Twigger got free in the area but Andy Russell was quickly off his line to block the striker's shot. But Nuneaton could not get a grip on the game and

shortly before the break they were fortunate not to go behind as Hopps failed to make contact as he attempted to punch a right wing corner and Paul Aldridge's header sailed a couple of feet over the top.

Simpson had a shot deflected for a corner as Borough started the second period in a more determined fashion and then Straw wasted a promising situation, shooting weakly with Gocan up in support. On the hour mark Borough failed to clear a right wing corner and Titterton hooked a tame effort well wide.

Midway through the half Borough produced their best move of the match and were unfortunate not to break the deadlock. Straw did well to win the ball on the half way line and find Simpson. The winger beat two men in a mazy run and pulled the ball back to the edge of the box for Paul Carty to fire in a low shot that was heading for the bottom left hand corner until Russell flew across to turn the ball away. Straw put another poor cross behind the goal after Carty had made him some space and then Borough's penalty appeals resulted in a free-kick on the edge of the box after Simpson had been brought down by the keeper.

Nuneaton Borough v Halesowen Harriers 16-11-1991

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Brogan, K. Wilson, Whetton, Cottrill (Woodfine 63), Straw, Bartlett, Carty, Twigger, Simpson. **Sub:** Barton.

Halesowen: Lunn, Nicholls, Shepherd, Marsden, Thompson, Brain, Guise, Marchant, Brown, Shaw (Shotton 79), Waddington (Henley 79).

Borough welcomed Halesowen Harriers to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup second round game.

Borough made a bright start with Tony Simpson and Martyn Twigger working a neat one-two in the first minute and when Simpson picked out Paul Carty, keeper Chris Lunn had to react smartly to cut out his header. But Borough were in trouble when Attwood made a poor throw out which went straight to Glen Shepherd and his first time shot was only a yard wide. The visitors were showing plenty of attacking intentions and they were unfortunate not to snatch the lead after ten minutes when Paul Waddington got clear on the left and his fierce drive thumped against a post and rebounded to Rod Brown who shot wide from ten yards.

However, it was Borough who made the vital breakthrough with a goal from Straw after 19 minutes. Harriers failed to clear a free-kick on the edge of the box and when the ball was knocked back into the middle Straw was all alone to coolly guide it past Lunn. The visitors were clearly shaken by the setback and shortly after Lunn had to make a brave lunge at Twigger's feet as he moved onto a Straw centre. Four minutes before the break the Halesowen keeper was again in action to turn Ian Cottrill's goal-bound shot over the top. But on the stroke of half-time Lunn was fortunate when Cottrill's close range effort smacked against the bar.

Attwood had to make a smart save to turn Sean Marchant's shot away for a corner at the start of the second period but



nine minutes into the second half Borough should have put the game beyond the West Midlands League side. Straw got free on the left and his low centre found Simpson unmarked at the far post but the winger pulled a tame shot wide from six yards. Borough were almost made to pay for that miss as Harriers swept to the other end where Marchant dragged a shot wide of the far post with only Attwood to beat.

But there was no let-off for Borough on the hour mark as Steve Brain broke on the right and when he drilled a low centre into the area Brown was completely unmarked to turn the ball past the keeper. There was more trouble for Borough when Marchant again got clear and found Lee Shaw but his shot was way off target from just inside the area. Halesowen were now coming under increasing pressure and Borough regained the lead after 76 minutes. Straw's left wing corner found Whetton and he forced the ball home from close range.

The visitors were still reeling from that goal when Borough grabbed a third to put the issue beyond any doubt. John Ridding made a fine break on the right and freed Simpson. His cross found the unmarked Straw and his low shot evaded Lunn as it sped into the bottom right hand corner. Simpson then failed to take advantage when he broke free down the middle, allowing full-back Shepherd to get back and clear as he went round the keeper and Steve Woodfine, on as substitute for Cottrill, fired a rising drive over the top from the edge of the box.

Nuneaton Borough v Tamworth 18-11-1991

Borough: Hopps, Ridding, Brogan, A. Wilson, Whetton, Cottrill (Woodfine 82), Straw, Barton, Carty, Twigger, Simpson. **Sub:** Bartlett.

Tamworth: Whitehead, Mulholland, Kane, Keogh, Hayward, Ross, Parker, Perry (Morris 45), Bodkin, Gordon, Smith. **Sub:** Finn.

Borough welcomed Tamworth to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

The fans had barely had time to take their places on the terraces before Borough fell behind to a highly controversial goal. Sean Hayward clearly fouled Twigger deep in the Borough half but to everyone's amazement the referee waved play on and Steve Ross crossed for Mick Perry to head in off the base of the left hand upright. Straw swerved a fierce left-footer narrowly wide following a short free-kick by Tony Simpson as Borough came roaring back and they wiped out the deficit after just five minutes.

Paul Brogan's header smacked against the bar and Twigger was on the spot to knock in the rebound from close range. Straw was only a foot wide with a free-kick from the edge of the area and then shot wide with just the keeper to beat after Matthew Whitehead had failed to hold Simpson's rising drive. It was all Borough at this stage and it came as no surprise when they went ahead after 17 minutes. Paul Carty curled in a fine cross from the left, Twigger challenged in the air and when the ball broke to Straw he had no difficulty in sliding the ball home.

Two minutes later the Nuneaton fans were celebrating again.

Tamworth were again found wanting as Straw hit in a near post centre and Cottrill outjumped the defence to send a header soaring over Whitehead and into the net. The visitors were stung into action and when Dennis Mulholland drilled in a low centre from the left Barton had to go full length to head away with Ross poised to pounce at the far post. Straw was again only narrowly wide with another free-kick on the edge of the area while at the other end Russell Gordon drilled a low drive a foot off target after Ross had created a chance.

Tamworth came more into the picture after the break as Nuneaton sat back on their lead but Borough came agonisingly close to extending their advantage through John Ridding. Whitehead punched a free-kick out of the area straight to Ridding who volleyed the ball back towards the empty net but Kevan Kane recovered to clear the ball off the line. But with 18 minutes left, Tamworth hauled themselves back into the game as they cut the deficit. Ross made a fine break from midfield and found Smith who scored with a low cross-shot that went in off a post.

Two minutes later Borough could have restored their two-goal advantage when Cottrill turned smartly following a right wing corner but Whitehead made a magnificent point blank save to divert the ball for another corner. That was to prove a vital stop as with 12 minutes left the visitors grabbed an equaliser. A good build-up on the left ended with Smith having bags of space in the box and he made no mistake from close range. Simpson beat two men before sending Straw through with just the keeper to beat but he put his shot too close to Whitehead who blocked it with his feet.

Andrews Back With Borough

Mick Andrews has returned to Nuneaton Borough and looks certain to be in the starting line-up at Alvechurch. The big central defender has been at Hinckley Town this season but moved back to Manor Park following Les Green's departure from Leicester Road.

Alvechurch v Nuneaton Borough 23-11-1991

Alvechurch: Biggs, James, Humphreys, Angoy, Williams (Cooper 45), Heeley, Eastoe, Allbutt, Richardson, Treherne, Chappell. **Sub:** Hallam.

Borough: Hopps, Ridding, Tarry (A. Wilson 63), Andrews, Whetton, Cottrill, Straw, Barton, Carty, Twigger, Simpson. **Sub:** Bartlett.

Borough travelled to Lye Meadow to play Alvechurch in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough seized the initiative from the start and Andy Biggs was in action as early as the second minute, racing from his line to narrowly beat Martyn Twigger to Tony Simpson's through ball. An Ian Cottrill header from Rob Straw's cross had Biggs in trouble but he managed to scramble the ball off the line. Then Simpson found himself space on the right and cut inside to unleash a cross-shot that beat the keeper but rebounded to safety off the foot of the left hand post.

Andrews had to get in a fine clearing header to deny Royston



Richardson with the Nuneaton defence all at sea following a right wing cross from Andy Chappell. But Borough were well in control and they should have broken the deadlock midway through the half with Tarry failing to take advantage of a simple chance. Biggs, under pressure from Twigger, failed to hold Simpson's cross and the ball fell invitingly for Tarry but he failed to get over the ball and his shot flew high over the bar.

The home side almost snatched the lead after 38 minutes when Borough failed to clear a corner and Williams crashed a shot against the bar from the edge of the box. Nuneaton did not benefit from their let-off as 60 seconds later they were behind. Richardson was unmarked as he got up to knock down Chappell's free-kick and Heeley stole in on the blind side to prod a low shot past Trevor Hopps. Borough pressed forward looking for the equaliser and shortly before the break Paul Carty had a shot deflected wide and from the corner Andrews planted a header a foot outside the far post.

Borough forced a string of corners at the start of the second half but the home defence, well-marshalled by Colin Angoy, looked to be control. However, it looked as though Borough had found the way through on the hour mark when Twigger got Straw clear, but Biggs was out quickly to block the shot and gather the ball at the second attempt. Two minutes later Alvechurch should have extended their lead. Nuneaton were caught pushing forward and when Peter Eastoe whipped in a low cross from the right Jason Treherne trickled a tame shot straight at Hopps from ten yards.

Cottrill then put a far post header wide from Straw's cross but Borough were pushing more men forward as they chased the elusive equaliser and twice Treherne could have punished them. Borough pushed right to the end but their day was typified when Twigger hooked the ball high over the bar from almost on the goal line after Andrews headed on a corner.

Borough Sign Wells

Full back David Wells has signed for Borough and will find himself in familiar company when he takes in place in the side against Tamworth. Wells was a regular in the Tamworth side until finding himself out of favour earlier this season and joined Hednesford, from where he has joined Borough.

| Tamworth v Nuneaton Borough | 26-11-1991 |
|---|------------|
| <p>Tamworth: Whitehead, Mulholland, Kane, Waters, Cartwright, Ross (Ford 78), Bodkin, Perry, Seivwright, Gordon, Smith. Sub: Finn.</p> <p>Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Wells, Andrews, Whetton (Wilson 58), Tarry, Straw, Barton, Carty, Twigger, Olnier (Simpson 51).</p> | |

Borough travelled to The Lamb to play Tamworth in a Midland Floodlit Cup first round second leg tie.

Borough produced the first attack of note with John Ridding shooting over the top after Twigger had touched on Rob Straw's low centre. Kevan Kane forced a low save from Richard Attwood when Kevin Seivwright set him up and then Mick Perry failed to control an awkward low ball after Dennis

Mulholland's free-kick had skidded into the box. Tamworth continued to push forward and it took a timely tackle from Mick Andrews to halt Mark Smith as he weaved his way into the area before Gordon turned a low centre against the outside of a post. Ade Waters hit a superb long ball to free Mulholland on the right and his cross to the far post was headed over by Smith.

Matthew Whitehead got up well to take a right wing cross under pressure from Andrews and then Straw nipped in to take advantage of a mix up between Ross and Mulholland but he pulled his shot into the side netting. Seconds before the break Paul Carty fired a low centre across the face of the Tamworth goal, but neither Straw nor Olnier could get a touch. Whitehead then pulled off a magnificent save to keep out Twigger's header from a right wing corner.

Tony Simpson replaced Olnier after the break and almost immediately John Ridding went close to giving Borough the lead. The Borough midfielder shot just wide when a centre was only cleared to the edge of the box and the same player brought a fine save from Whitehead with a cracking 20 yard drive. But 12 minutes into the half Borough found themselves behind. Seivwright flicked on Mulholland's cross and Ross hit a tremendous volley into the roof of the net from a narrow angle.

Dave Whetton limped off with an ankle injury before Borough fell further behind as they gifted Tamworth a second goal. John Barton unluckily trod on the ball in the penalty area and Smith got the ball to Gordon, who prodded it into an empty net. Ridding put a rising drive over the top from the edge of the box as Borough looked for a way back but they had a let off when Smith was clean through, but Attwood deflected his shot for a corner.

Nuneaton got a goal back midway through the half when Steve Cartwright pulled down Straw as he burst into the box and Twigger made no mistake from the resulting penalty. Ford, on as substitute for Ross twice went close to adding a third goal for the home side, poking a shot wide with his first touch and then shooting over the top following a Waters free-kick.

| Bilston Town v Nuneaton Borough | 30-11-1991 |
|--|------------|
| <p>Borough: Attwood, Ridding, A. Wilson, Andersen, K. Wilson, Cottrill, Straw, Woodfine, Carty, Twigger, Simpson. Subs: Orbeson, Bartlett.</p> | |

Borough travelled to Queen Street to play Bilston Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough were in trouble from the first real attack of the game when they failed to pick up Mick Richards but he hurried his shot and sliced it off target. Bilston's leading scorer had another chance after just five minutes. Carty laid a back pass short and Richards nicked the ball away from a sprawling Richard Attwood only to see Mick Andrews recover to clear his goal-bound shot off the line. Rob Straw found space on the left as Borough began to get a grip but his centre was cut out by Mark Bowater and then Borough had appeals for a penalty turned down when Simpson was blatantly hacked down in



the area by Gary Jones. Simpson was again upended, this time on the edge of the box and after Woodfine had touched the free kick short, Straw brought a diving save from Gary Gibbs with a low left footer. Borough were now enjoying their best spell of the match and Gibbs was again in action as he raced out to head clear from Twigger. At the other end Gary Foster turned smartly to make space for a centre but he put the cross too near the goal and Attwood gathered.

Straw's left wing cross put the home defence in trouble and when they only cleared the ball to the edge of the area Twigger hooked a shot a yard wide of the right hand post. As half-time approached Ali Wilson floated a deep cross from a free-kick into the Bilston area and Cottrill picked up the rebound to test Gibbs with a low shot.

Borough started the second half in determined mood and Straw hammered a fierce left footer at Gibbs from a narrow angle. There was an anxious moment for the travelling Nuneaton fans when Foster beat Attwood to a through ball but it rolled a foot wide of the near post and then John Ridding had to step in smartly to clear up an awkward situation after Carty had slipped in the area. Twigger sliced a wild shot well wide of the mark when Straw sent him through in the 75th minute but four minutes later Borough got the vital break they had been looking for with Simpson bursting clear of the home defence to slip the ball past Gibbs.

Attwood had to make a smart save to keep out a Foster shot as Bilston looked for an equaliser but it was Borough who had the last word with Straw almost snatching a second goal right on the final whistle after Twigger and Cottrill had set up the opportunity.

Local Clubs Look To The Future

As the end of the millenium draws closer Nuneaton and Hinckley's premier sporting clubs are getting itchy feet. Once situated in open fields, the grounds have become choked by the development of the last century and plans to meet the challenge of a new era have already been drawn up. Nuneaton Borough and Nuneaton Rugby Club both want to move out of town and the chairmen of both Hinckley clubs, Town and Athletic, agree there can be only one by the year 2000. The winds of change have been accelerated in football by the demands of the Taylor Report into ground safety with many clubs opting for a move as the only way forward.

But dreams of multi-million pound leisure complexes have been rudely shattered in many cases by the realities of planning regulations and the lack of suitable sites. Mr John Fragley, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council's local planning manager, is the man that clubs have to convince if their dreams are to come true. New government rules say that future development must be mapped out in a local plan, regulating any changes in land use for the next five years.

Already the local plan has provoked controversy and a month-long public inquiry will begin next spring with council

chiefs warning that the cost could escalate beyond £20,000. Surprisingly there is no specific provision for what would be the most significant change in sports facilities for more than a century. Council bosses say they are very willing to help with any possible moves but Mr Fragley pointed out that any such plans are fraught with difficulty.

"The most important problems clubs face is finding a suitable site to move to and finding one that meets all the current planning criteria. It must fit in with the existing area, have good road access and car parking, and must not be sited on green belt land. But even given all that clubs would face very strong opposition if they proposed to build new leisure complexes on these sites because that would be classed as major development.

"There is a site of 40 acres north of Attleborough Industrial Estate that has been pencilled in for recreational use but most of it is on the flood plain of the River Anker and would be unsuitable for such a stadium. Nuneaton Borough's ground at Manor Park presents the most serious problems. The ground was sold to the club by the council with a "green covenant" placed upon it banning any future residential development on the site. I agree that the present site is unsuitable because of the traffic and noise on match days but finding another one is very difficult – nobody wants to live next to a football stadium."...

Fighting Through The Red Tape

The problems with Borough's Manor Park ground are plain to see. Ten years of financial in-fighting and neglect have left the stadium in a sorry state and its site presents a whole host of problems. Bordered by the Coventry Canal on one side and the houses of Beaumont Road on the other Manor Park's future development prospects look bleak.

Most football fans travel by car in the 1990s and the only access to the ground is via the main entrance placed halfway up the hump-backed bridge at the Cock and Bear. Residents in Beaumont Road constantly complain of parking problems on match days and it is a dilemma that has left the board of directors plumping for a radical solution.

They want to sell the ground to a large supermarket and hope this will finance a purpose-built 15,000 seater stadium and sports complex elsewhere in the town. In the last year a consortium of businessmen have come to the rescue of Borough, but say that maintaining the present ground is "like painting the Forth bridge".

Gordon Chislett, a Borough director, says the club would move immediately if they could only fight their way through a forest of red tape. "Nuneaton has expanded enormously in the last ten years and we think the town deserves a proper football stadium. The problems we have with Manor Park are unsolvable in the long term and we would be far better just on the edge of town with proper parking facilities.

"We were offered the site of Nuneaton Harriers for a new

stadium but an FA design expert said the site just wasn't wide enough. Ideally I'd like to see the new stadium on the Pingles Arena but the main problem is the Section 52 Act placed on the site by the council which bans commercial development. The council have been very sympathetic and I can appreciate their objections but they need to take a positive lead and help us clear through the red tape if the new stadium is ever to be built.

"We envisage selling the ground for up to £4 million to a major supermarket which would provide enough money to build the new ground and provide a whole range of other facilities for the people of Nuneaton to use."

Nuneaton Borough v Dudley Town 07-12-1991

Borough: Attwood, Carty, Wells, Andrews, Ridding, Cottrill, Straw, Woodfine, Draper, Twigger, Simpson. **Subs:** Whetton, A. Wilson.

Borough welcomed Dudley Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough were quickly into their stride with David Wells hitting a fine ball inside the full-back for Tony Simpson, but the winger's cross was comfortably cut out by Steve Carter. The Dudley keeper then distinguished himself with two fine saves. He bravely flung himself at Ian Cottrill's feet to block the midfielder's shot at point blank range and then went sprawling low to his left to take an awkward low centre from Wells. It was all Borough and Draper came within a foot of breaking the deadlock when he rose above the Dudley defence to Carty's deep cross but his header flew into the side netting.



Debutant Dave Draper was foiled by the Dudley keeper on this occasion, but he led the line with dash and aggression and was unfortunate not to grab a goal.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Simpson dragged a shot across the face of goal from six yards and Dudley had more problems when Draper got in a header from a corner but somehow the visitors managed to scramble the ball clear. Gary Wareing made himself space in a rare Dudley raid but his shot was deflected for a corner, and then Andy Horne drilled a dangerous low centre across the face of the home goal with no one on hand to get a touch.

Draper continued to trouble Dudley at the start of the second half and Carter had to be quickly off his line to nick the ball off the striker's toes. But Borough finally made the breakthrough five minutes after the break when Straw lost his marker and beat Carter with a low left footer from the edge of the area. Six minutes later Borough took a stranglehold on the game as they grabbed a vital second goal. Dudley failed to get away a right wing cross and Straw forced the ball home from close range.

Draper then headed wide and Simpson had a cross-shot well turned away by the Dudley keeper. Borough should have had a penalty in the 62nd minute when Simpson was blatantly fouled by Paul Clarke after being freed by Twigger but the referee ignored Nuneaton's heated appeals. Three minutes later the ball was on the spot when Carter was adjudged to have brought down Simpson and Twigger made no mistake. Draper steered a close range shot wide from Twigger's cross before Twigger spurned another good opportunity as he tried to set up Straw for his hat-trick instead of shooting.

But with 74 minutes gone, Straw was again on target, drilling a low shot wide of Carter when the visitors' defence was caught napping by a long throw-in. Carter then made a fine save to keep out a Draper header but he had no chance of denying Borough a final goal six minutes from the end. Cottrill hit a long ball down the left, Draper won possession with a tremendous challenge on Nigel Conniff and pulled the ball back for Twigger to hammer a shot past the helpless Carter. Dudley almost grabbed a late consolation after an almighty scramble, but the ball flew over the bar off Mick Andrews' knee. Twigger was inches wide in the last minute after being played clear by Wells.

Nuneaton Borough v Halesowen Town 17-12-1991

Borough: R. Attwood, Ridding, A. Wilson, Andrews, Whetton, Cottrill, Straw, Woodfine (Parker 75), Carty, Twigger, Simpson. **Sub:** Bartlett.

Halesowen: Williams, Abell, Edwards, Smith, Vowles, Bradley, Goodhall (A. Attwood 69), Hemans, Bennett, Shilvock, Harrison. **Sub:** Laker.

Borough welcomed Halesowen Town to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup third round game.

Borough could not have wished for a better start as Twigger fastened onto a poor back pass by Stephen Vowles. He went round Kevan Williams only to be brought down by the keeper and calmly drilled home his eleventh goal of the season from the resulting spot kick. Rob Straw then turned a neat ball inside for Simpson to cut into the area and fire a rising cross-shot a foot over the angle.



But Borough had a let-off after ten minutes when Ali Wilson's attempted back pass failed to reach Richard Attwood and Kevin Harrison touched it to the unmarked Frank Bennett, who looked certain to score, but Attwood did superbly to block the close range shot with his legs. It was then Halesowen's turn to have a fortunate escape. Williams raced out of his area to deny Simpson but made a hash of things after tapping the ball back into the box. Simpson got possession and slipped the ball into the empty net only for the referee to disallow the goal for a foul on the keeper.

Attwood saved at full stretch when Harrison tried a snap shot from the edge of the box and with half-time approaching Mick Andrews got up well to flick on a long throw in by Wilson, but Town managed to scramble the ball to safety.

Halesowen's hopes of making the quarter-finals were dead and buried within ten minutes of the restart as they went two goals down and were reduced to ten men. The second half was only three minutes old, when Williams had to race out of his area to deny Twigger, but his fly-hack only reached Simpson, who wasted no time in planting a delightful 25 yard lob into the unguarded net. Bennett put a header over the top for the visitors before Twigger forced a diving save from Williams. But Halesowen suffered another blow when Hemans was sent off in the 55th minute.

Straw had a shot cleared off the line by Andrew Bradley after Twigger had set up the opportunity but despite being down to ten men Halesowen were still making a fight of it. Bennett put a free header wide and then an Andrews back pass slid past Attwood and only a foot wide of the far post. But as the game wore on Borough should have given the scoreline a more emphatic look with Straw being through twice only for his first touch to let him down on both occasions. In the closing seconds Ian Cottrill flashed a left-wing corner across the face of the visitors' goal with no one to apply a touch.

Hopps Joins Bedworth

Trevor Hopps, who lost his place to Richard Attwood has joined Bedworth United and will face Borough in the Boxing Day derby at the Oval.

Nuneaton Borough v Bridgnorth Town 21-12-1991

Borough: Attwood, Carty, Wells, Andrews, Shepherd, Cottrill, Straw, Ridding, Draper, Twigger, Simpson. Subs: Whetton, A. Wilson.

Bridgnorth: Whitehouse, Beddow, Leonard, Duncombe, Harris, Taylor Meredith, Davidson, Fitzpatrick, Balshaw, Clarke. Subs: Kharia, Wilding.

Borough welcomed Bridgnorth to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough might have taken the lead from the first attack with Ian Cottrill sweeping a shot wide from inside the area after a neat build-up had created the space. But there was a moment of anxiety for Nuneaton when Kevin Harris was not picked up and glanced a header wide of the left hand post. However, Borough continued to dictate and it came as no surprise

when they opened the scoring after 14 minutes. The visitors failed to clear a left wing corner and when Shepherd knocked it back into the box Twigger rose to get in a header that took a deflection off a defender as it sped into the bottom left hand corner. Almost immediately Borough should have had a penalty when Simpson jinked his way past two men and cut into the box only to be hacked down from behind by Carlton Leonard, but the referee waved play on.

Carl Whitehouse produced an outstanding save to turn away a fierce shot from Rob Straw after he had turned smartly past Trevor Beddow. Meredith fired a free-kick a foot over the top as the visitors looked for an equaliser and then Borough got into a tangle from a free-kick and were happy to scramble the ball away for a corner. At the other end Simpson made space wide on the right before picking out Dave Draper with a deep cross, but the big striker put his volley well over the top.

Two minutes before the interval Bridgnorth stunned the home supporters as they snatched a surprise equaliser. There seemed little danger as Meredith got possession 35 yards out but he unleashed a rocket of a right footer that screamed past Attwood into the top right hand corner. However, Borough produced the perfect response as they regained the lead straight from the kick-off to cut short the visitors' celebrations. Bridgnorth's defence was slow to clear a left wing cross and Simpson swivelled between Leonard and Harris to hook a superb volley into the roof of the net from ten yards.

Within 60 seconds of the restart Borough were again in trouble when Mike Davidson got clear and swung a deep cross into the area, which Carty needlessly handled. But Attwood flung himself low to his right to smother Ian Clarke's penalty. Whitehouse turned a Carty cross over the top before Twigger was on inches away from turning in Straw's centre. Draper headed Simpson's cross over the bar and Straw hammered a shot across the face of goal. To their credit Bridgnorth kept throwing men forward and Phil Fitzpatrick shot into the side netting.

Carty freed Draper down the right and Twigger looked certain to score from the striker's cross but Beddow just got a touch to deflect the ball onto Twigger's shin and it flew straight into the keeper's grateful arms. With time running out Straw appeared to be pushed, but again penalty appeals fell on deaf ears.

Bedworth United v Nuneaton Borough 26-12-1991

Bedworth: Hopps, Wilkins, McGrory, Gethfield, Piggon, Smithers, Wright, Andersen, McBean, Hardwick, Thomas. Subs: Ward, Osborne.

Borough: Attwood, Carty, Wells, Andrews, Whetton, Cottrill, Straw, Shepherd, Draper, Twigger, Simpson. Subs: Wilson, Woodfine.

Borough travelled to The Oval to play Bedworth United in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough could have been behind as early as the second minute when Peter McBean broke clear on the right and crossed to Paul Thomas, who was unmarked in the area. It seemed that the Bedworth midfield man must score but

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



Richard Attwood further enhanced his growing reputation as he turned away Thomas' ten yard volley for a corner. Nuneaton responded quickly and from a free-kick on the right, Whetton got up above the United defence but his header flew straight to Trevor Hopps.

Ian Cottrill then had a fierce shot charged down following a left wing corner before Attwood had to race out of his area to prevent McBean getting to a long through ball. Rob Straw made a fine break but Hopps was down well to cut out the low centre, while at the other end Thomas hooked over the bar. There was danger for Borough when Thomas got clear on the left hand side of the box and pulled the ball back to McBean but Mick Andrews got back to block the shot.

Draper put a header wide from a free-kick and then Hopps got down to cut out the danger after Twigger had linked neatly with Straw. Thirteen minutes from the interval Borough should have broken the deadlock. Draper sent Twigger racing through with just Hopps to beat but the keeper was quickly out to block the shot. Former Borough favourite Nicky Andersen put a tame shot straight at Attwood following a good break by Owen Wright and then, almost on the half time whistle, Straw cut inside from the left to fire a shot a foot over the top.



Mick Andrews slides in to block a shot from Gary Hardwick.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

The Greenbacks seized the early initiative in the second half and twice came close to snatching a goal. Thomas found McBean in the area and he laid off the ball to Gary Hardwick who shot wide of the near post and then Attwood saved Borough, denying Thomas at the second attempt when he was clean through. Borough missed a couple of chances when Draper put a poor effort straight at Hopps and Andrews hooked a close range effort a foot over the bar.

Straw beat Wilkins on the outside before whipping in a superb far post cross that Donny Gethfield just touched away from the intruding Draper and Twigger could only manage to divert a Straw header into the arms of Hopps. Straw sent

Twigger through the middle but his shot from the edge of the area was saved low to his left by Hopps. In the dying minutes, Twigger could have won it for Borough when Gethfield made a poor header from Paul Carty's centre, but he was unable to get over the ball and put his shot over the bar.

Hinckley Town v Nuneaton Borough

28-12-1991

Hinckley: Hewitt, King, Purser, Chambers, Pears, Wilcox, Ratcliffe, Childs, Symonds, Massey (Orton 67), Akeredolu. Sub: Gray.

Borough: Attwood, Carty, Wilson, Andrews (Barton 26), Whetton, Cottrill, Straw, Shepherd (Woodfine 87), Draper, Twigger, Simpson.

Borough travelled to Leicester Road to play Hinckley Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough made the ideal start with Twigger grabbing his thirteenth goal of the season to give them the lead after only two minutes. Hinckley failed to clear Ali Wilson's long throw in from the right, Tony Simpson's shot was blocked but fell to Twigger, who only had to sweep the ball into an empty net. But Borough were fortunate to still be in front two minutes later. Barry Wilcox was not picked up from a left wing corner and his looping header clipped the bar before Richard Attwood snatched the ball to clear the danger.

Twigger put a header straight into Dennis Hewitt's arms before Attwood halted a promising Town move by cutting out Symonds' cross with Chambers boring in. Twigger had the ball in the net after 15 minutes but it was ruled out because of a push by Draper, but four minutes later Borough stretched their lead. Twigger flicked on a free-kick and Straw's pace took him clear of the home defence to hammer a tremendous shot into the roof of the net. John Barton replaced Mick Andrews who was forced to limp off before Hinckley reduced the arrears on the 30 minute mark. Symonds beat the offside trap on the left and cut into the area before sliding the ball into the six yard box for Chambers to tap into an unguarded net.

Two minutes later Borough should have regained their two goal advantage. Paul Carty put Twigger clean through the middle only for Hewitt to get a hand to the Nuneaton striker's shot and divert the ball for a corner. Draper had a header deflected over the top and then brought a fine save from Hewitt after Twigger had set up the opportunity. In the last two minutes of the first half Straw put Draper clear but Hewitt smothered the ball at his feet and then Straw broke clean through and beat Hewitt but the ball bobbed inches wide of the far post.

Jim Childs hooked a wild shot yards wide at the start of the second half, but five minutes later Town were on level terms. A long clearing header by King caught the Nuneaton defence square and Symonds raced through alone to draw Attwood and slip the ball into an empty net. Draper failed to get any power behind a header from Straw's free-kick but Borough threatened only in spasms. However, they came close to regaining the lead with Draper forcing a diving save from Hewitt with a shot from just inside the area while Simpson

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



wasted a good opportunity, putting his cross behind with the home defence stretched. But as Borough pushed forward they left gaps at the back and seven minutes before the end they almost paid the ultimate price. Ratcliffe whipped in a cross from the right and Symonds came steaming in on the far post to crash a left foot volley a foot over the angle. In the dying seconds Simpson curled in a superb cross from the right but three Borough players converged on the ball and they got in each other's way and the opening was lost.

Nuneaton Borough v Grantham Town 01-01-1992

Borough: Attwood, Carty, Wells, Ridding, Tarry, Cottrill, Straw, K. Wilson, Draper, Twigger, Woodfine (Simpson 53). **Sub:** A. Wilson.

Grantham: McDonagh, O'Hare, Swainston, Fletcher (Johnson 44), Speed, Igoe, Tiann (McCloughlin 61), Hurst, Whitehurst, Rolph, Grocock.

Borough welcomed Grantham Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough opened brightly with Draper turning inside his man to fire a cross shot wide of the far post. But there was early trouble for Borough when Chris Grocock got away from Paul Carty and Mark Hurst only narrowly failed to turn in the cross at the far post. Borough were again caught shortly afterwards when Hurst broke clear but somehow the Nuneaton defence got back to scramble the ball away.

Then with 20 minutes gone, the home side's hopes nose dived as they were reduced to ten men when Draper got his marching orders after going into keeper McDonagh with his foot up. The Nuneaton defence was in a tangle following a left wing corner and it needed a goal line clearance by Wells to keep them on level terms. Borough replied immediately with Ian Cottrill flicking on a long through ball to send Rob Straw into the box, but McDonagh was out quickly to block the shot with his legs. Five minutes before the interval Adrian Speed poked a close range shot wide after Dale Igoe had knocked on a left wing corner and then Richard Attwood did well to block a Grocock shot and Ridding completed the clearance.

Straw had a shot on the turn smartly taken low down by McDonagh at the start of the second half before Borough had two narrow escapes. Hurst looked offside as he broke clear, but Wells rescued Borough with a timely tackle to deny the Grantham striker. There was an immediate repetition as Peter Whitehurst broke but he dragged a shot wide as Attwood came out to meet him. Simpson replaced Woodfine eight minutes after the break and shortly after Borough should have taken the lead as Straw turned superbly to lose his marker and cut into the area before pulling a low cross back for Carty, who flashed a shot a foot over the bar from only eight yards out.

It took a timely tackle by Speed to halt Straw and Simpson had a fierce shot beaten away by the keeper. But Grantham should have broken the deadlock when a poor header by Ridding put Grocock through but Attwood blocked the winger's shot at the expense of a corner. Whitehurst and Hurst were only inches away from getting the vital touch after

Speed had headed a free kick back across the face of the home goal. However, it was Borough who finally made the breakthrough with the game two minutes into injury time. Simpson and Carty linked up on the right and the winger made himself space to drill in a low cross shot that Twigger touched in at the far post.

Nuneaton Borough v Rushden Town 04-01-1992

Borough: Attwood, Carty, Wells (Barton), Tarry, Whetton, Cottrill, Straw, Ridding, Draper, Twigger, Simpson. **Sub:** Woodfine.

Borough welcomed Rushden Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough could have gone ahead as early as the second minute when Andy Peaks went into the book for bringing down Tony Simpson with a scything tackle and from the free-kick, Rushden keeper Kevin Fox was relieved to grab Rob Straw's fierce 25 yarder at the second attempt. There were problems for Borough when Paul Carty gave away a free-kick on the edge of the area but Richard Attwood safely gathered the cross under pressure from Colin Waite. Cottrill's late run into the box made space from Straw's left wing corner as Nuneaton hit back but his first-time shot curled over the angle.

Borough fans had their hearts in their mouth when Attwood punched a left wing corner straight at Peter Green, but to their relief Attwood grabbed the ball at the second attempt as it bounced off the Rushden striker. Straw had a shot deflected for a corner as Borough looked for the vital breakthrough before Twigger had the ball in the net from Carty's through ball, but the referee had spotted a handball. The Russians failed to get away a left wing cross and Dave Draper had a clear sight of goal only to slice his shot wide of the near post.

But the visitors were always a threat and Green neatly turned to lose his marker but hooked a shot way off target. Shortly before the break Straw wildly blazed over the top from close range following an indirect free-kick.



Ian Cottrill fires home Borough's winner in the 89th minute.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Within 60 seconds of the restart Borough were caught square at the back and were made to pay the full price as they found themselves a goal down. Junior Wilson beat the Nuneaton offside trap with a superb break down the left and when Borough failed to get away his low centre Mick Kurila fired a low shot past Attwood. That stung Borough into immediate



retaliation and two minutes later they could have been back on level terms when Carty produced a superb run and cross from the right but Twigger pushed his shot well wide.

The Nuneaton full-back was in action again soon afterwards, curling in a deep cross that looked destined for Draper, but Mick Garrett diverted the ball out for a corner. Wells came off and was replaced by Barton as Borough pushed for an equaliser. They thought they had found it in the 53rd minute when Simpson carved out a golden chance for Twigger but his goalbound shot was scrambled away by Peaks. Carty then brought a fine save from Fox before Borough finally hauled themselves level. Simpson worked his way into the area where he was brought down by Peaks and Twigger made no mistake from the spot kick. Sixty seconds later Fox kept Rushden on level terms with a superb full-length save to keep out Whetton's powerful header. With eleven minutes left it looked as though the pressure was about to pay off. Fox pulled down Twigger as he moved into the area but Twigger drilled the penalty yards over the bar.

But with everything pointing to a draw, Borough snatched a dramatic winner. Rushden failed to get away a left wing cross, Simpson knocked it back into the middle and Cottrill swept it past Fox from eight yards. In the dying seconds Peaks was sent off for bringing down Simpson.

RIP Nuneaton Evening Tribune

After many years of providing Nuneaton Borough fans with extensive coverage of the goings-on at Manor Park, the paper ceased publication.

Leicester United v Nuneaton Borough 11-01-1992

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Barton, Tarry, Whetton, Cottrill, Straw, K. Wilson, Draper, Twigger, Simpson. **Subs:** Smith, Parker.

Borough travelled to Blaby to play Leicester United in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Promotion seeking Nuneaton Borough saw their hopes severely dented at frosty United Park as they tasted defeat for the first time in nine games. Andy Beckford's 70th minute goal proved decisive and gave United revenge for their 3-1 defeat at Manor Park earlier in the season. But the turning point of the match came on the hour when goalkeeper Richard Attwood was sent off – an incident that left the entire Nuneaton contingent seething.

Mark Hallam, looking to be well offside, broke clear and Attwood had to race well out of his area and appeared to handle the ball to deny the Leicester striker. He was sent off despite vehement protests from virtually the whole of the Nuneaton team and most of the fans on the far side of the ground. "I had a perfect view of the incident and Richard clearly did not handle the ball," said Borough boss George Rooney. "He attempted to play the ball with his foot and it ran up his body, striking him on the shoulder. That one decision cost us the game. We had done well to come back

from a goal down, we were well in control and I have no doubt we would have won comfortably."

Leicester grabbed the lead midway through the first-half when Alan Liquorish took full advantage of slips by both Dave Whetton and John Ridding to burst clear, round the keeper and slip the ball into an empty net. But three minutes before the break Rob Straw put Borough back on level terms, stepping inside two defenders before smashing a tremendous 20-yarder into the bottom left hand corner.

Borough totally dominated the second half until the sending off and then Beckford snatched the winner, forcing the ball home from close range after stand-in keeper Matt Tarry had mishandled a right wing cross.

Sleeuwenhoek Joins Borough

Striker Kris Sleeuwenhoek steps straight into the Borough side for their game against Stourbridge. The striker, on loan from Derby County, is the son of former Aston Villa centre-half John and has produced some impressive displays in the Rams reserve side.

Borough Complete Safety Work

Ambitious Nuneaton Borough are determined that their promotion hopes will be decided on the field – not off it. Nuneaton lost their place among the elite of the Vauxhall Conference six years ago because of the state of their Manor Park ground, which has never been fully operational since. But the new board of directors, who only took over last July, are in the middle of a programme of safety work that will ensure that the ground will be ready for a higher grade of football – should the opportunity arise.

"We have already completed a lot of the necessary work," said director and safety officer John Harris, "and the rest is well in hand. The stand is now in full use and we are hoping to start to erect a new perimeter fence around the playing area which has been neglected for a long time. We also have to renew some of the crush barriers on the Cock and Bear end and this, too, has been scheduled for this season.

"Whatever happens, the board is determined that our fate will be decided on the playing field. If George Rooney and the players earn the right to promotion then we aim to see that they will not be denied the opportunity of bringing a higher level of football to Manor Park due to any ground deficiencies," he added.

Nuneaton Borough v Stourbridge 18-01-1992

Borough: Attwood, Wells, Barton, Tarry, Whetton, Cottrill, Straw, Sleeuwenhoek, A. Wilson (Fry), Twigger, Simpson. **Sub:** Olner.

Borough welcomed Stourbridge to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Kris Sleeuwenhoek marked his Borough debut with a goal but he could not prevent the Manor Park side from dropping two more vital league points. The Derby County striker was

in the right spot to slide home an equaliser six minutes from the end after John Carmichael could only parry a fierce shot from Rob Straw. But Borough can consider themselves highly fortunate that they came out of the match with anything, despite playing against ten men for virtually the whole of the second half. They never got into the game and always found problems against the pace and height of the reigning Midland Division champions.

“It was our second disappointing result in a row,” said manager George Rooney. “But we cannot really complain as we struggled for most of the game – especially in the second half. We really lost it in midfield and we certainly missed the influence of John Ridding, who cried off just before the match with flu,” he added.

It had looked good for third in the table Borough when Straw put them ahead after 18 minutes, drilling a low shot into the bottom right hand corner after Martyn Twigger had been fouled on the edge of the box. But Stourbridge bounced back to snatch a deserved equaliser seconds before the interval, Nigel Barrows volleying home Dave Morbey’s left-wing cross at the far post.

The visitors then had plenty of defending to do after Alan Potter was sent off shortly after the interval for his second bookable offence. However, Michael Williams’ 72nd minute strike looked as though it would be good enough to bring the Glassboys three points until Sleuwenhoek’s late intervention.

Nuneaton Borough v West Bromwich Albion 20-01-1992

Borough: Attwood, Barton (Andrews), A. Wilson, Tarry, Whetton, Cottrill, Straw, Carty, Parker (Olner), Twigger, Simpson.

Borough welcomed West Bromwich Albion to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup quarter-final tie.



Hectic action from the early stages.

Photo: Coventry Evening Telegraph

Borough stormed into the semi-finals with a stunning second-half revival. George Rooney’s men, looking for revenge after their defeat by Albion in last season’s final, were decidedly second-best before the interval. Fielding eight men with first-team experience, the Baggies paraded their full repertoire of skill and technique as they dominated the show and threatened to run Borough ragged. But for all their superiority the Division Three outfit only had Neil Cartwright’s 21st minute goal to show for their first-half efforts.

They might have had more but for two outstanding pieces of goalkeeping by Richard Attwood in the space of 60 seconds late in the first-half. First Attwood spread himself superbly to block Cartwright’s shot when he burst clean through and then the keeper made a tremendous save to stop Kwime Ampadu’s close range effort when he looked certain to score. Albion had to pay a dear price for those misses with Borough taking the game by the scruff of the neck after the restart as they turned the game upside down.

The Manor Park side were back on level terms after 55 minutes with a magnificent goal from Ian Cottrill. Rob Straw swung in a peach of a corner from the right and Cottrill, timing his run to perfection, bulged the net with an unstoppable header. Adrian Foster then put a header wide at the far post from Stewart Bowen’s deep cross but Borough were now calling the shots and with 11 minutes left they snatched the winner.

Substitute Mick Andrews powered a header to the edge of the West Brom penalty area, Straw flicked it on and Twigger calmly slid the ball wide of Mel Rees into the bottom right hand corner. It took another superb save from Attwood to preserve Borough’s lead, going full length to block Foster’s fierce cross-shot. But Nuneaton had the last say with Twigger firing wide from six yards after Straw had set up a gilt-edged chance.

Symonds Signing Looks Unlikely

George Rooney’s hopes of bringing Hinckley Town striker John Symonds to Manor Park look doomed to failure. Despite having preliminary talks with Hinckley boss Dave Grundy the two clubs are miles apart in their valuation of the player and despite several directors being willing to put their hands in their pockets, the signing is beyond Borough’s reach.

Newport AFC v Nuneaton Borough 25-01-1992

Borough: Fry, Ridding, Wells, Tarry, Whetton, Cottrill, Straw, Carty, Sleuwenhoek (A. Wilson), Twigger (Andrews), K. Wilson.

Borough travelled to Somerton Park to play Newport AFC in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Phil Green snatched a last-gasp winner at sodden Somerton Park and sentenced Nuneaton to a miserable trek home from South Wales. With only 60 seconds remaining in a thrilling contest, the score was locked at 2-2. But the Nuneaton defence was caught pushing forward by Doug John’s long ball and Green was through on his own to coolly beat the totally exposed David Fry.



Borough found themselves a goal down after 19 minutes when Green got up well to plant a header into the bottom right hand corner. However, Nuneaton showed their battling qualities as they stunned the home side by hitting back to snatch the lead with two goals in a three minute spell. Rob Straw got the equaliser after 40 minutes, stepping inside two defenders before beating Peter Mason with a low shot.

Newport had still not recovered from that when Paul Collicutt brought down Ian Cottrill as he burst into the area and Martyn Twigger scored from the spot kick. But the former Football League club regained the initiative after the break and Phil Coyne hooked home the equaliser after Hewitt's 69th minute corner had been flicked on at the near post.

Borough Fans Warned About Behaviour

Concerned directors of Nuneaton Borough Football Club have issued a warning to their fans – behave yourselves or face being banned from all games. The ultimatum comes in the wake of several ugly incidents involving Nuneaton supporters at away matches. One person has already been banned following a clash with a linesman at Racing Club Warwick.

And Borough now face the wrath of the Football Association as a result of a recent trip to Leicester United when the referee and linesmen were hemmed in by a large group of abusive, chanting Borough fans as they left the pitch. They were threatened and spat at. It took prompt action by Nuneaton manager George Rooney and some of his directors to end the incident. As a result, Borough have been ordered to give their views on the matter to the FA in London...

Nuneaton Borough v Barry Town 01-02-1992

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Tarry, Whetton, Ridding, Cottrill, Straw, Carty, Parker (Andrews), Twigger, K. Wilson (Simpson).

Borough welcomed Barry Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough's slim promotion hopes were virtually buried at Manor Park as they tumbled to their second defeat in seven days at the hands of the Welsh. Chris Summers grabbed the only goal to send Barry home happy but it was a bitter pill for Borough following their setback at Newport. Richard Attwood, back from a one match suspension, had kept Nuneaton in the contest early on with two superb saves to deny Paul Hunter.

But he had no chance with Barry's winner after 31 minutes as Summers raced clear of a square Borough back four to calmly slip the ball home. However, Borough will be cursing themselves that they finished empty handed after missing two gilt-edged chances in a three minute spell shortly before the half-time whistle. Barry keeper John Roberts got a hand to a Martyn Twigger shot to turn it on to the woodwork and Ian Cottrill looked certain to score as he pounced on the rebound, but he pushed his shot wide from two yards. Then Kris Sleuwenhoek set up Twigger but Borough's leading

scorer somehow screwed his shot against the right upright from inside the six yards box when faced with an open goal.

The second half was virtually one-way traffic – but for all their possession and pressure, Borough seldom looked like beating the outstanding Roberts. John Ridding twice went close and Rob Straw saw his goalbound drive magnificently beaten away by Roberts after the visitors' defence had failed to clear a David Wells free-kick.

Paul Carty drilled a low shot across the face of the visitors' goal but six minutes from the end Borough again had Attwood to thank that they did not finish two down. Nuneaton were in trouble following a free kick on the left and when the ball broke to Simon Dyer in the area his fierce shot looked destined for the net until Attwood went full length to turn it round.

Symonds Signs

Striker John Symonds has been signed from Hinckley Town and will make his debut at Stourbridge. The former Derby County YTS player will team up with ex-strike partner Rob Straw in the Borough attack.

Stourbridge v Nuneaton Borough 08-02-1992

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Wells, Tarry, Whetton, Cottrill, Straw, Carty, Symonds, Shepherd (Twigger), Simpson (Parker).

Borough travelled to Amblecote to play Stourbridge in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Struggling Borough failed to halt their alarming slump as they crashed to their third defeat in a row with a rock bottom performance. Nuneaton, with just one point from their last five games, were always second best against Stourbridge, who are just a shadow of the team that romped to the Midland Division championship last season. George Rooney, in the middle of a rebuilding programme in preparation for next season, must now realise that he faces a bigger task than he thought.

The Borough boss relegated leading scorer Martyn Twigger to the substitute's bench to make way for new signing John Symonds and then saw Stourbridge snatch control with two goals in a five minute spell midway through the first half. Borough's encouraging start was wiped out as Dave Morbey swept the Glassboys into a 17th minute lead from Toby Hall's right wing cross and then Nigel Barrows got clear to calmly lob over the advancing Richard Attwood and into an empty net. It left Borough with a mountain to climb – a task they seldom looked like coming to terms with against the no-nonsense home defence.

Borough's best spell came after the interval with Rob Straw giving them hope as he cut the deficit after 68 minutes, producing a superb piece of close control to beat three men in the area before firing past John Carmichael. But any hopes that Borough had of salvaging something from the game disappeared almost immediately as Stourbridge swept back to score twice in four minutes. Attwood lost the ball on the edge of the area leaving Barrows with a clear shooting chance and

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



when Matt Tarry was adjudged to have used his hand to block the shot John Horne stepped up to bury the resulting spot kick. Before Borough had time to recover from that setback Stourbridge hit them with another hammer blow when Seamus Roche, completely unmarked on the far post, tapped home a right wing cross to complete a comprehensive victory.

Borough Ready To Shed Players

Some members of Nuneaton Borough's present squad could well have kicked their last ball for the club. Manager George Rooney has been hyperactive in the transfer market over the past week, bringing in three fresh faces as he begins his early preparations for next season.

John Symonds and Sylvester Cunningham have arrived from Hinckley Town and Bromsgrove Rovers respectively, while Bridgnorth Town provided midfielder Neil Meredith.

Yate Town v Nuneaton Borough 15-02-1992

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Wells (Twigger), Tarry, Whetton, Cottrill, Straw (Simpson), Shepherd, Cunningham, Symonds, Meredith.

Borough travelled to Lodge Road to play Yate Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Struggling Borough seldom looked like halting their dismal run of five games without a win and went behind to an early goal from Mike Davis and hardly troubled the home defence as they struggled to come to terms with the windy conditions.

Borough who had midweek signings Cunningham and Meredith making their debuts, made a bright start with Straw producing a mazy run that Holtham cut out at the expense of a corner. But Yate stunned Borough by snatching a 12th minute lead. A neat three man build-up carved out a shooting chance for Brown and when Attwood fingertipped the full back's shot onto a post Davis reacted swiftly to turn the ball into an empty net.

Nuneaton Borough v Solihull Borough 17-02-1992

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Wells, Tarry (Simpson), Andrews, Cottrill, Straw, Carty, Cunningham, Twigger (Symonds), Meredith.

Borough welcomed Solihull Borough to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Sylvester Cunningham opened his goal account as much-improved Nuneaton Borough ended their four-match losing streak against promotion-chasing Solihull. The big striker, in only his second game in a Nuneaton shirt, put Borough ahead after just 13 minutes, forcing the ball home from close range after Darrel Houghton had made a fine save from Martyn Twigger's header.

But Borough, who had to settle for a point after the Beazer Homes League Midland Division's leading scorer Chris Burton grabbed a second half equaliser, will be kicking themselves that they let victory slip through their fingers.

They dominated the first half and should have been ahead

as early as the fifth minute when Neil Meredith put Twigger clean through the middle but his shot rebounded off the keeper's legs.

Nuneaton Borough v Redditch United 22-02-1992

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Wells, Andrews, Whetton, Cottrill (Simpson), Straw, Carty, Cunningham (Symonds), Twigger, Meredith.

Borough welcomed Redditch United to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Leading scorer Martyn Twigger hit his first hat-trick for almost a year as Borough ended their worst spell of the campaign in convincing fashion. Nuneaton, without a win in their previous seven league outings, were always in control with further goals from David Wells and John Symonds completing the rout. Manager George Rooney got his pre-match demand for more quality crosses into the area and it certainly paid dividends as Borough equalled their best win of the season.

But the Reds, struggling at the bottom end of the table, made Borough battle for their victory despite playing for the last 51 minutes with only 10 men after Dennis Mulholland was sent off. The former Nuneaton defender was involved in a clash with Neil Meredith and appeared to head butt the Borough midfielder, leaving the referee with no alternative but to give him his marching orders.

Both teams struggled to come to terms with a bitterly cold swirling wind but Twigger pounced to break the deadlock after 34 minutes, calmly slipping a shot past Ian Webb after the visitors defence had failed to clear a right wing corner. Then came the Mulholland sending off and Redditch were still reeling from that blow when Wells moved onto a square pass on the edge of the area to drill a left-footer into the bottom right-hand corner for his first goal since joining the club.

Despite being a man short, Redditch posed the Nuneaton defence plenty of problems after the break with both Robert Smith and Steve Campbell going close to cutting the deficit. But two goals in a 10-minute spell midway through the second half put the scoreline in perspective and sealed a win.

With 64 minutes gone Robin Judd's header found Twigger in space in midfield and the Nuneaton striker burst into the area before slipping a low shot past the exposed Webb. Paul Carty then split the visitors defence wide open with a delightful through ball for Symonds to race clear and make it 4-0 with a clinical finish. To complete a miserable afternoon for Redditch, Seamus Luby upended Tony Simpson in the closing seconds and Twigger confidently tucked away the resulting spot kick.

Barry Town v Nuneaton Borough 25-01-1992

Borough: Attwood, Shepherd, Wells, Andrews, Ridding, Cottrill, Straw (Symonds), Carty, Cunningham, Twigger, Meredith. Sub: Simpson.

Borough travelled to Jenner Park to play Barry Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough's mini revival came to an abrupt end, despite



producing their most convincing display for several weeks. Four points from their last two outings had given them a big confidence boost and for three quarters of this game they were in the driving seat. Once they had got the stiffness out of their legs from the long journey, Borough took control and completely dominated high flying Barry. Skipper Neil Meredith put them in front after 18 minutes, working a superb 1-2 with Martyn Twigger before firing a low shot past John Roberts to register his first goal since joining the club.

From then on Barry were on the rack as Borough consistently pulled them apart and it seemed only a matter of time before George Rooney's men got the vital second goal. Paul Carty should have increased their lead shortly before the break, slicing his close range shot across the face of the goal after the home side had failed to clear a left-wing corner. Early in the second half Sylvester Cunningham flashed a shot narrowly wide of the far post and then Rob Straw missed two glorious chances to put the game out of reach for Barry.

Both times he was through with just the keeper to beat but on each occasion he failed to find the target with Roberts saving comfortably. Borough were to pay dearly for those misses as a defensive mix-up presented Barry with a shock 69th minute equaliser. There seemed little danger as John Ridding and Dave Wells both converged on a through ball but they got in each other's way and Paul Hunter took full advantage to jab a shot past Richard Attwood. It looked as though Borough would end with a point when they were sunk by a stunning winner three minutes from the end. Ashley Griffiths got possession 25 yards out and launched a tremendous shot that screamed into the top right hand corner with Attwood helpless.

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| King's Lynn v Nuneaton Borough | 07-03-1992 |
| Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Shepherd, Tarry, Igoe, Cottrill (Simpson), Straw, Carty, Cunningham, Twigger, Symonds. Sub: Barton. | |

Borough travelled to The Walks to play King's Lynn in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Disappointing Borough again underlined the fact that they are among the worst travellers in the league as they tumbled to their sixth away defeat in a row. Martyn Twigger's 99th goal for Nuneaton put them in the driving seat but once more they flattered to deceive and finished a distant second best. As in most of their recent games, Borough had chances to have put the game beyond doubt but lacked the conviction and self-discipline to grasp the points.

Despite being left cooling their heels in the dressing room for almost an hour after the scheduled kick-off time due to a sit-down strike by the Kings Lynn players, Borough were quickly into their stride and dominated the first hour. John Symonds had Steve Lewis going full length to his right to save in only the second minute and Sylvester Cunningham hooked a clear chance over the top after the Linnets had failed to clear an Ian Cottrill free-kick.

Borough continued to dictate the pace and Rob Straw flashed a dipping 20 yarder inches over the top before Twigger broke the deadlock in the 29th minute. Symonds battled well to win the ball in the area and when it came to Paul Carty on the right he delivered a telling cross that Twigger volleyed past Lewis from 10 yards. However, Borough's hopes dipped during injury time at the end of the first half when Tim Callaby tried a speculative shot from all of 35 yards. It appeared to carry no threat whatsoever but Richard Attwood made a mess of a simple catch and allowed the ball to squirm out of his hands and into the net.

In spite of this setback, Borough still controlled the early stages of the second half with Cunningham having a fierce drive finger-tipped over the top by the keeper and Symonds firing a left footer into the side netting. But on the hour Nuneaton found themselves behind. Peter Rawcliffe made some space on the right and his cross took a cruel deflection that fell straight to the feet of Sean Frohawk, who made no mistake from close range. There appeared to be no way back for Borough now and they were highly fortunate not to fall further behind as the home side suddenly found an extra yard as they took control.

Jackie Gallagher was allowed to turn inside the area and his shot came out of the woodwork and then Gallagher again opened up the Nuneaton defence to pull a ball back for the in-rushing Derek Wood, but he shot high over the top from only 10 yards. However, Borough could still have salvaged a point in the closing seconds when Matt Tarry was completely unmarked from a Straw corner but the defender headed wide from inside the six yard box.

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| VS Rugby v Nuneaton Borough | 11-03-1992 |
| Borough: Attwood, Ridding, A. Wilson, Tarry (Woodfine), Whetton, Igoe, Straw, Carty, Symonds, Twigger, Simpson. Sub: Parker. | |

Borough travelled to Butlin Road to play VS Rugby in a Birmingham Senior Cup semi-final tie.

VS Rugby's dream of a league and cup double inched closer towards reality. As Beazer Homes League title challengers Bashley were failing to make the most of their game in hand by being held 0-0 at home by Chelmsford, Rugby booked a date in the final of the Birmingham Senior Cup with an accomplished semi-final success over their county rivals.

Borough bristled with early ambition, but made little impact in attack, and VS ultimately dismissed them with almost trouble free disdain. Defenders John Coe and Nigel Niblett laid the platform for victory. Coe planted home a deft 28th minute header from Niblett's cross, and Niblett then rose to thump in the second when Gary Bradder located him with a pinpoint 57th minute free-kick.

Borough, whose pacey threat on the counter-attack flattered to deceive, were killed off by substitute Mark Rosegreen in the 75th minute. Mark Boyland's tidy lay-off freed Gary Fitzpatrick, and when a deflected shot looped beyond

Borough goalkeeper Richard Attwood, Rosegreen swooped to stab the ball into the net. Borough pulled a goal back through Tony Simpson with six minutes left, but it was both futile and academic. By then, the game had long been won and lost.

Nuneaton Borough v Bilston Town 14-03-1992

Borough: Attwood, Barton, A. Wilson, Ridding, Whetton, Igoe, Twigger, Shepherd, Simpson, Straw, Symonds. **Subs:** Parker, Woodfine.

Borough welcomed Bilston Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Martyn Twigger's 100th goal for Nuneaton Borough was the only highlight in a dour draw. The game was marred by missed opportunities on both sides and Borough, missing five first team players, out through injury or suspension, were sadly lacking in cohesion. Bilston's forwards, Love, Davies and former Borough striker Andy Hodgetts were constantly buzzing around the Blues' area, threatening to get the breakthrough. The pressure forced Borough into making some desperate tackles and Dave Whetton picked up a booking early on when he scythed down Graig Love.

Bilston were unlucky not to go in front after 12 minutes when keeper Attwood fumbled a right wing corner from Williams for Davies to fire the shot over the bar. The threatened goal came in the 33rd minute after Whetton made a mistake to let in Hodgetts who beat two defenders before coolly shooting past Attwood. Bilston picked up where they left off in the first half and Borough's new signing Dale Igoe was in the thick of the action when he cleared a dangerous cross from a free-kick on the edge of the penalty area.



Martyn Twigger outwits the Bilston defence to head home his 100th goal for Nuneaton Borough.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Borough started to put some promising moves together and their efforts were rewarded in the 59th minute when Twigger headed in a Rob Straw corner from the right for his 100th goal for Borough. The goal gave Borough the boost they needed and a minute later they were unlucky not to grab a second when Tony Simpson fired in a shot from the right wing only to see the ball go wide. Bilston's goalscorer Hodgetts, was substituted in the 70th minute and two minutes later Borough's John Symonds was replaced by Richard Parker.

With six minutes to go Twigger was just inches from snatching

his second when a high ball was safely gathered by Jenkins in a goalmouth melee. In the final three minutes both sides had chances to settle the issue, first with Love for Bilston, who delayed too long on the edge of the Borough area after going clear. At the other end Simpson and Straw had no luck with several chances, especially Straw, whose fierce shot just before the end produced the save of the match from Jenkins.

Twigger Receives Goals Recognition



Martyn Twigger reached a magical milestone on Saturday with his 100th goal for Nuneaton Borough. The goal came in the 59th minute in the home game against Bilston when the popular striker headed in a corner from Rob Straw.

"I was a bit shocked to see the ball go into the net – I don't get many goals from headers," said Twigger, who joins an exclusive club with only three other players achieving the three figure tally. Paul Culpin, who played for the Borough in the 1980s, is top with 131 followed by Ken Plant from the 1950s era on 112 and Paul Cutler, who played in the giant-killing FA Cup side of the 1960s with 107.

Twigger, 32, joined the Borough in the 1989-90 season when Les Green was the manager and soon established himself as one of the league's sharpest strikers. He was voted Player of the Year for 1989-90 and equalled the all time scoring record by scoring in 13 consecutive league games.

Twigger commented: "My 100th goal for the Borough happens to come at a time when we are going through a very dodgy patch but I am playing with some very good players and I am sure we will get it together."

To crown his special day, Twigger was voted Man of the Match and he was presented with a lead crystal cut glass decanter by Mr Dave Lavery the sales manager of match sponsors Dema International.

Photo: Heartland Evening News



Nuneaton Borough v Hinckley Town 21-03-1992

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, A. Wilson, Igoe, Whetton, Cottrill, Straw, Woodfine, Cunningham, Twigger, Meredith. **Subs:** Simpson, Symonds.

Borough welcomed Hinckley Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough took maximum points from their local rivals at windswept Manor Park. It was obvious that both sides would have trouble controlling the ball, but with just seven minutes gone the visitors were rocked by Borough's opening goal. A cross from Whetton on the right found Cottrill, whose close range shot was parried by Hewitt to Twigger who made no mistake from eight yards. But Hinckley came back with Robbie Battison firing in a shot to produce a tremendous save from Richard Attwood. The Borough keeper was in sparkling form, denying both Chambers and Akeredolu in quick succession as the Eagles piled on the pressure.

Just before half-time, Rob Straw was out of luck when his stinging, low shot was deflected to safety following a promising move through Town's defence. Well into injury time a goalmouth melee brought gasps from the crowd as Attwood blocked a shot from Battison. Akeredolu headed the deflection straight back at the keeper who parried the ball onto the underside of the bar, onto the upright and across the open goalmouth to safety.

The second half was only minutes old when Straw latched onto a through ball from Meredith only to see his cross easily gathered by Hewitt. Tony Simpson came on for Steve Woodfine and found Twigger with his first touch, but the striker was ruled offside. But within a minute Twigger struck again, picking up a long clearance from Attwood to place the ball past the oncoming Hewitt for Borough's second goal.

Hinckley had a chance to pull one back towards the end when a free-kick from Harriman found Akeredolu but the striker was penalised in the aerial duel with Attwood. Well into injury time Twigger had a chance to make it three when he connected with a cross from Cunningham only to see his shot clear the bar. It proved to be the last attack of the game as referee Leach blew to end an unhappy afternoon for the visitors.

Borough Escape With Caution

Nuneaton Borough escaped disciplinary action after unruly fans had brought the club to the notice of the Football Association. The club chairman and directors had feared the worst after fans were involved in ugly scenes at two away matches earlier in the season. At a meeting held yesterday morning FA representatives decided that no action would be taken. However, the FA reminded the club that it was responsible for the behaviour of its fans at both home and away matches.

Chairman Howard Kerry said: "The Board have assured the FA that the club will continue to promote the good behaviour of its supporters."

Stroud v Nuneaton Borough 28-03-1992

Borough: Attwood, Shepherd, A. Wilson, Igoe, Whetton, Cottrill, Symonds (Straw), Carty, Cunningham (Simpson), Twigger, Meredith.

Borough travelled to The Lawn to play Stroud in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Frustrating Borough fell apart in the second half to crash to another hugely disappointing defeat. They appeared home and dry when skipper Neil Meredith and Martyn Twigger opened up a 2-0 lead at the break. But some awful defending saw their advantage wiped out by Russell Wilton within 11 minutes of the re-start – and Colin Peacey rubbed salt into their wounds with a stunning late winner.

Borough totally dominated the opening 45 minutes and really should have scored more. Meredith sliced an early effort well wide but made no mistake after 14 minutes, steering the ball wide of Glen Thomas after working a neat move with Sylvester Cunningham. It was all Borough at that stage, and Dave Stevenson was fortunate not to turn an Ali Wilson cross into his own net before Meredith blazed over the top from close range. But shortly before the break Ian Cottrill's through ball split the home defence and Twigger slipped a low shot past Thomas.

Stroud turned the game upside down, however, as they snatched two goals early in the second half to leave Borough shattered. Straight from the kick-off, the Nuneaton defence was caught asleep and, with Richard Attwood way off his line, Wilton nipped in to lob the ball over the stranded keeper. Ten minutes later John Hamilton drilled a low free kick into the six yard box and Wilton stuck out a foot to force the ball home.

Despite this double body blow Borough still had chances to have won it with Tony Simpson shooting wide, Cottrill being denied by a brave save from Thomas and Meredith seeing his shot touched onto the bar. But, with just three minutes remaining Stroud plundered an unlikely winner. Peacey had his back to goal when he got possession on the left touch line mid way inside the Borough half. But he hooked a speculative effort over his shoulder and, with Attwood again yards off his line, the ball sailed over the keeper's head.

Culpin Joins Borough

Ace goalscorer Paul Culpin has joined Nuneaton Borough after six seasons away. During that time he represented Coventry City, Northampton Town, Kettering Town, Hereford United and Peterborough United. He is included in the squad to travel to play Sutton Coldfield Town

Sutton Coldfield Town v Nuneaton Borough 01-04-1992

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, A. Wilson, Igoe, Whetton, Cottrill, Straw, Culpin, Cunningham, Twigger, Meredith. **Subs:** Simpson, Symonds.

Borough travelled to Coles Lane to play Sutton Coldfield Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough picked up their first away win in nine matches with a dream debut for Paul Culpin who opened the scoring. Sutton



were lucky to escape in the ninth minute when Straw fired in a fierce drive from six yards which produced an instinctive save from keeper Belford. Seconds later Ian Cottrill was foiled by Stainton McKenzie who managed to block his shot which had beaten the keeper. Sutton started to show the form which has lifted them to fourth place in the league after 25 minutes when a cross from Gary Smith found Lance Morrison whose point-blank range shot was saved magnificently by Attwood. In spite of the torrential rain both sides produced some delightful and entertaining end to end football.

Simpson came on for Cunningham in the 51st minute when the big striker was left hobbling after being scythed down as he made a break down the right wing. Ten minutes later Straw picked up a through ball from Neil Meredith and his accurate cross found Culpin, whose header flew into the goal from six yards. And he was unlucky not to make it two only to see his shot hit the base of the left hand post, cross the goalmouth and deflect off the post to safety. Sutton hit back after 64 minutes when a corner from left back Clarke found John Hunt, who beat the defence with a close range shot.

Borough took the lead in the 75th minute when Rob Straw latched onto a ball just inside Sutton's penalty area to slot a powerful shot low into the left hand corner of the goal. The Royals pressed forward with the troublesome Mickey Clarke giving the Borough side a headache and with just four minutes to go his high, arching lob into the heart of the Borough defence was converted by ex-Borough player Lance Morrison for Sutton's well deserved equaliser. The match looked like ending in another frustrating draw for the Borough when, in the final minute a free-kick from Straw dropped to Dale Igoe who made no mistake from close range.

Bridgnorth Town v Nuneaton Borough 04-04-1992

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Wilson, Igoe, Whetton, Cottrill, Carty, Meredith, Cunningham, Culpin, Twigger. Subs: Straw, Simpson.

Borough travelled to The Crown Meadow to play Bridgnorth Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Bridgnorth, with just one defeat in the past 12 games, held the upper hand before the break with Evans and Blakemore both failing to make the most of good opportunities, the former firing wide when well placed and the latter seeing his goalbound header cleared off the line by Borough striker Martyn Twigger, who was out of luck at the opposite end when his well struck shot clipped the angle of bar and post and flew to safety.

Town continued to look the more purposeful unit after the interval but they were unable to turn their dominance into goals although their task looked to be made easier when John Ridding was given his marching orders following a heavy challenge on Evans, the defender's second bookable offence. However, Ridding's dismissal acted as an inspiration to the visitors and 17 minutes from time they grabbed the match clincher when substitute Rob Straw, with his first

touch, floated in a free kick which was only half cleared and Culpin did the rest with a close range, angled drive that flew into the roof of the net. Culpin's crucial strike, his second goal in successive games since returning to Manor Park, came in the 73rd minute to give ten-men Borough their third win in four outings to strengthen their top six claims.

Nuneaton Borough v Crewe Alexandra 07-04-1992

Borough welcomed Crewe Alexandra to Manor Park to play a friendly game.

On a cold and muddy Manor Park pitch Borough played with great maturity and confidence which can only boost next season's prospects. And with four wins from their last five games, Borough are starting to look like a side with real potential. Crewe sent a strong side to Nuneaton for the friendly played in front of 366 die-hard Borough supporters. With the game just seven minutes old Borough won a corner which was quickly taken by Neil Meredith and the ball dropped to Dave Whetton who climbed above the defence to head the ball low into the right hand corner of the net.

Within minutes Crewe were threatening the Borough goal but Attwood was in tremendous form, saving a close range shot from Paul Kelly. Attwood and Kelly were testing one another within minutes with Attwood again coming out on top, making a desperate save with his feet as Kelly burst through. Crewe were stunned by Borough's second goal in the 20th minute when Martyn Twigger ran through from a Paul Culpin pass to bury the ball in the back of the net.

Borough were disciplined throughout, soaking up the Crewe pressure and leaving their forwards floundering as they tried to break through the well organised defence. But in the dying minutes of the half Crewe were unlucky not to score when Ron Fitcher played a through ball to Disley who fired his shot wide of the right post.

The second half was a repeat of the first with Borough stealing the limelight as Rob Straw went close to scoring twice within a minute. With the minutes ticking by, the match lost some of its momentum and became a battle for midfield. Borough ran out worthy winners and confidence will be running high with just three matches left to the end of the season.

Nuneaton Borough v Hinckley Town 13-04-1992

Borough: Attwood, Wilson, Tarry, Carty, Whetton, Cottrill, Straw, Culpin, Cunningham, Twigger (Simpson), Symonds.

Borough welcomed Hinckley Town to Manor Park to play a Scattergood Trophy game.

Despite the scoreline this match had little to commend it, with both sides struggling to overcome the blustery conditions. The game started at a furious pace with Borough depending on the long through ball, which paid off in the 11th minute. Martyn Twigger ran on to a ball which split the defence, his shot went past Hewitt, struck the post and bounced into the net. Goal-hungry Rob Straw pressed

forward at every opportunity but many of his efforts were wasted by poor finishing. Hinckley were unlucky not to snatch an equaliser when Ali Wajahat caught the defence napping only to see his shot hit the crossbar and rebound safely into the hands of Attwood. Borough contained Hinckley for the rest of the half, but lacked the vital finish.

The second half was only 12 minutes old when, predictably, Culpin struck. Straw's cross from the left was volleyed first time from eight yards to give Culpin his third goal in four games since re-signing for Borough last month. Rob Straw could have chalked up two in a minute, the first chance from a pass by Twigger went high and wide but he was unlucky with his second, a screamer which was just inches wide of Town's left post. Straw was rewarded in the 75th minute when he had a shot deflected in off a defender after some determined work by Tony Simpson.

The game was effectively sewn up ten minutes from time when Cunningham ran through from the half way line, calmly holding the ball until the last moment before slotting it past the advancing keeper. It was the big striker's second goal since moving from Bromsgrove in February.

Grantham Town v Nuneaton Borough 18-04-1992

Borough: Attwood, Carty, Wilson, Igoe, Whetton, Cottrill, Meredith, Culpin, Cunningham, Twigger (Straw), Symonds. **Sub:** Simpson.

Borough travelled to play Grantham Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Paul Culpin scored for the fourth consecutive game as Borough fought out a well-deserved 1-1 draw at Grantham. Culpin struck in the 77th minute when he hammered a close range drive into the roof of the net following a fine run and cross by substitute Rob Straw.

Nuneaton Borough v Bedworth United 20-04-1992

Borough: Attwood, Carty, Wilson, Igoe, Whetton, Cottrill, Meredith (Simpson), Culpin, Cunningham, Twigger (Straw), Symonds.

Bedworth: Reid, Bowden, McGory, Andersen, Tomlinson, Smithers, Osborne, Wilson, McBean, Hardwick, Taylor.

Borough welcomed Bedworth United to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Both sides took a long time to settle down on a hard, dry pitch which punished players who failed to control the first-time ball. Bedworth struck first after 12 minutes when Peter McBean charged down an Ali Wilson free kick before chipping over keeper Attwood who could only get his fingertips to the ball. McBean looked well inside ten yards when the kick was taken but referee Bullivant stayed silent as the centre forward ran through to score. Borough's Paul Carty and Sylvester Cunningham went into the book within minutes of one another as the teams battled for possession.

Borough piled on the pressure, trying to work the ball down both wings with Twigger, Igoe and Meredith just missing the final touch. Then, on 35 minutes Borough bounced back with

the equaliser after some good work by Symonds whose shot was parried by keeper Reid and fell to the goal hungry Culpin. Four minutes later Borough were awarded a penalty after Cunningham was pushed by defender Bowden in a goalmouth scramble. Twigger's shot was blocked by Reid but he followed up to blast the ball under the bar and into the net.



Paul Culpin is ready to pounce to put Borough back on level terms during Saturday's derby.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Nicky Andersen's inch perfect pass just four minutes after the re-start fell to McGory whose header went over the bar as Attwood covered. Borough soaked up Bedworth pressure but many of the Manor Park side's breakaway moves were wasted as players failed to find space. Bedworth's fate was sealed six minutes from time when Rob Straw struck a superb shot into the net after working a one-two with Cunningham from the left. Tony Simpson came on for Meredith in the 88th minute but by then it was all over and Borough ran out worthy winners.

Tempers flared after the final whistle when an incident just seconds from the end boiled over into the dressing rooms. Sylvester Cunningham was prevented from going into the Bedworth changing room after a tackle by Nicky Andersen left both players spreadeagled on the touchline.

Nuneaton Borough v Racing Club Warwick 25-04-1992

Borough: Attwood, Carty, Wilson (Straw), Igoe, Whetton, Cottrill (Simpson), Meredith, Culpin, Cunningham, Twigger, Symonds.

Borough welcomed Racing Club Warwick to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough ended a lack-lustre season with a shock defeat by lowly Racing Club, who stole the points against the run of play as Borough did everything but score in a game they should have comfortably won. A win would have given Borough their sixth consecutive match without defeat but Racing's skipper Lenny Darby snatched the honours with 18 minutes to go.

Borough dominated play from the first kick, in spite of the swirling wind and could have gone in front after three minutes but Cottrill took too long to get in his shot after a cross from Carty. A minute later Culpin had a shot go

inches wide of the far post after good work by Carty and Cunningham gave the on-form striker a scoring chance.

But Borough's defence looked lethargic at times, allowing Racing's forwards to steal some scoring chances, especially number eight Tim Emery who was always hovering around the area. Culpin was making things difficult for Racing up front when, after 15 minutes, he shook off his marker's long enough to get in a cross to Twigger whose header was fisted away by keeper Andy Russell. Minutes later Twigger went close again when his header from Symonds' corner hit the woodwork but the rebound took an awkward bounce and Cunningham struck it over the bar.

Racing hit back against the tide of Borough attacks and with 10 minutes to go to half-time Attwood was put under pressure from a high corner from Whitehead. He failed to gather the ball properly and the ever-present Emery's first-time shot was headed off the line by Igoe.

The second half turned into a repeat of the first with Borough's attacks constantly frustrated by Racing's defence under the solid Lenny Darby. Borough were doing everything but score and their efforts were summed up in the 50th minute when a header from Dale Igoe beat Russell only for number seven Titterton to head clear off the line.

Rob Straw came on for Ali Wilson as Borough desperately battled to break the deadlock. Then, to the dismay of Borough players and fans, Racing went in front when Darby pounced on a corner from Russell Jackson which the defence failed to clear. Culpin had a chance to snatch the equaliser in injury time but it was too late for Borough who should have had the game sewn up long before the final whistle.

Perimeter Fence Complete

Nuneaton Borough have completed the work to replace the fencing around the pitch at Manor Park. The work which cost in excess of £17,000 was completed by builders, officials and club regulars. Club director Gordon Chislett, said: "We are very thrilled with the fencing. We have looked everywhere and I think it is a lot better than many Third and Fourth Division standards. What we want to do now is concrete the section of terracing in front of the Cock and Bear stand."

Martyn Twigger – Player Of The Year

Goal ace Martyn Twigger netted another prized goal when he was voted Nuneaton Borough's Player of the Year at the club's annual presentation evening at Nuneaton Co-op Club, organised by the faithful band of True Blues supporters.

Twigger, who notched his 100th goal for Borough against Bilston in March, topped the poll for the prestigious award, which was presented to him by Scottish international striker David Speedie, capping a fine season for the popular frontman who has made such a big impact since joining the club from VS Rugby.

The "True Blues" award for the Away Player of the Year was

shared by midfielder Rob Straw and central defender Dave Whetton while Steve Bartlett took the Reserves Player of the Year trophy.

On the youth team front, skipper Steve Woodfine took the top individual award to highlight a splendid season for the club's youngsters who completed an excellent double by winning the Midland Floodlit Youth League and the Eric Huddleston Memorial Trophy.



Martyn Twigger (centre) is again on the ball as his Borough team-mates gather round for a picture call at the club's annual presentation night.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Southern League Midland Division 1991-92

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Solihull Borough | 42 | 29 | 10 | 3 | 92 | 40 | 97 |
| Hednesford Town | 42 | 26 | 13 | 3 | 81 | 37 | 91 |
| Sutton Coldfield Town. | 42 | 21 | 11 | 10 | 71 | 51 | 74 |
| Barry Town | 42 | 21 | 6 | 15 | 88 | 56 | 69 |
| Bedworth United | 42 | 16 | 15 | 11 | 67 | 63 | 63 |
| Nuneaton Borough | 42 | 17 | 11 | 14 | 68 | 53 | 62 |
| Tamworth | 42 | 16 | 12 | 14 | 66 | 51 | 60 |
| Rushden Town | 42 | 16 | 12 | 14 | 69 | 63 | 60 |
| Stourbridge | 42 | 17 | 8 | 17 | 85 | 62 | 59 |
| Newport AFC | 42 | 15 | 13 | 14 | 72 | 60 | 58 |
| Yate Town | 42 | 14 | 15 | 13 | 65 | 64 | 57 |
| Bilston Town | 42 | 15 | 10 | 17 | 56 | 67 | 55 |
| Grantham Town | 42 | 11 | 17 | 14 | 59 | 55 | 50 |
| King's Lynn | 42 | 13 | 11 | 18 | 61 | 68 | 50 |
| Hinckley Town | 42 | 14 | 8 | 20 | 61 | 87 | 50 |
| Leicester United | 42 | 12 | 13 | 17 | 56 | 63 | 49 |
| Bridgnorth Town | 42 | 12 | 12 | 18 | 61 | 74 | 48 |
| Racing Club Warwick | 42 | 11 | 14 | 17 | 45 | 61 | 47 |
| Stroud | 42 | 14 | 4 | 24 | 66 | 88 | 46 |
| Redditch United | 42 | 12 | 8 | 22 | 52 | 92 | 44 |
| Alvechurch | 42 | 11 | 10 | 21 | 54 | 88 | 43 |
| Dudley Town | 42 | 8 | 9 | 25 | 41 | 92 | 33 |



Chalfont St Peters — 1st Round Qualifying

Borough travelled to Mill Meadow to play a FA Cup 1st Qualifying Round tie.

Chalfont: Lester, Murphy, Fitzgerald, McLachlan, Thompson, Dixon, Bashir (Lawson 54), Dell, Bushay, Darlington, A. Smith. Sub: Toll.

Borough: Hopps, Ridding, Wilson, Tarry, Whetton, Cottrill, Carty, Newton, Straw, Gocan, Simpson. Subs: N. Smith, Orbeson.

Impressive Borough swept into the second qualifying round of the FA Cup with a vastly improved performance.

Nuneaton quickly put behind them the memory of the midweek disaster at Solihull as they strode to their most convincing win of the season.

George Rooney's men showed plenty of character and ability as they handled a potentially difficult tie in the most efficient manner.

A bone-hard, bumpy pitch was not conducive to good football but Borough took an early grip and hardly allowed the Diadora League outfit a sniff of victory.

First half goals from Peter Gocan and Ian Cottrill put Borough firmly in the driving seat and further strikes from Tony Simpson and Paul Carty completed the job.

Borough made two changes with Dave Whetton having a highly satisfactory game at the heart of the defence on his first full outing, partnering fit-again Matt Tarry, John Ridding switching to right back and Ali Wilson reverting to his customary number three role.

Nuneaton were quickly into their stride, forcing two corners in the opening minute but it was the Saints who produced the first real threat.

A long ball took a deflection off Carty to send Steve Darlington away on the left but Trevor Hopps was up well to gather the ensuing cross.

Wilson was happy to concede a corner from an awkwardly bouncing ball in the area, while at the other end Gocan

sliced an effort well wide of the target after Simpson and Rob Straw had set up the opportunity.

Bobby Dixon tested Hopps with a long range drive and then Darlington fired a cross-shot a foot wide of the far post after finding yards of space on the left hand edge of the box.

But Borough took the game by the throat with two goals in a five-minute spell midway through the half.

They made the vital breakthrough after 29 minutes when Guy McLachlan underhit a back pass, Gocan was in quickly to force the ball past keeper Gary Lester and tap into an empty net.

The Saints were still reeling from that body blow when Borough added a second. Doug Newton flighted a free-kick into the area where Cottrill timed his run perfectly to lose his marker and glance a header into the bottom corner.

Whetton was penalised for a foul on the edge of the area at the start of the second half but Hopps again showed excellent handling to pluck the free-kick out of the air and clear the danger.

However, any hopes the home side may have had of pulling the game out of the fire disappeared eleven minutes after the restart as Borough stretched their lead.

Simpson got possession wide on the right and turned inside two defenders before beating Lester with a low left foot shot on his near post.

But to their credit, Chalfont did not throw in the towel and twice in the space of three minutes they could well have cut the deficit.

Darlington outjumped the Borough defence to power in a header and force Hopps into a full-length save and then Ansil Bushay got clear but pulled his shot wide of the far post as the keeper came out to meet him.

Nuneaton were quickly back in control, however, and Newton was unfortunate to have a shot charged down after a neat build-up involving Carty and Straw.

Borough continued to apply the pressure and Straw went full length to get his head to a Cottrill shot but deflected the ball narrowly wide.

But with 14 minutes to go Borough had a let-off when Darlington took advantage of some hesitancy in the Nuneaton back four to flick a lob over Hopps as he came out but the ball clipped the top of the bar and flew over the top.

Four minutes later Borough made it four with the best goal of the match. The move began wide on the right and when the ball was switched left, Carty feinted to go outside his man but stepped inside to hammer a tremendous cross shot in off the far post.

Corby Town — 2nd Round Qualifying

Borough welcomed Corby to Manor Park to play a FA Cup 2nd Qualifying Round tie.

Borough: Hopps, Ridding, Carty, Tarry, Whetton, Cottrill, Straw (Orbeson 53), Newton (Smith 24), Duckers, Twigger, Simpson.

Tony Simpson produced his full range of skills to get Borough out of jail. There were only eight minutes left with Borough trailing 2-0 and they seemed destined for a certain FA Cup exit.

But the diminutive wingman turned the game upside down to earn Nuneaton a draw and a second chance at the Rockingham Triangle.

Firstly Simpson cut the deficit when he beat keeper Richard King with a cross-shot and then set up the equaliser for Martyn Twigger in the third minute of injury time.

Corby, who led through goals from Matt Murphy, after 17 minutes and Neil Edwards, 13 minutes after the interval, should have wrapped the game up long before Borough's late revival.

But both Murphy and former Nuneaton striker Dominic Genovese failed to accept clear-cut opportunities to put the tie beyond Nuneaton's reach.



Martyn Twigger slides in Tony Simpson's cross for Borough's equaliser in the third minute of injury time.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

after rounding the keeper, while at the other end Diver hooked a shot narrowly over after Borough had failed to clear a right wing corner.

Borough opened the second half in lively fashion with Paul Carty hitting a shot high over following a free-kick and then King got down well to turn a fierce shot from Twigger into the side netting.

But Nuneaton's hopes of progressing in the competition nose-dived 13 minutes into the second half as Corby extended their lead.

Borough failed to get the ball away on the right hand edge of their box and when the ball was switched into the middle Edwards was all alone to steer a shot wide of Hopps in off the post.

The visitors then had two chances to make the game safe but both Murphy and Genovese failed to take advantage.

Corby failed to clear a long ball into their area and it fell to Simpson, whose shot took a deflection as it sped past the keeper into the bottom corner.

However, it looked as though Borough's fight back was doomed to failure when in the last minute substitute Andy Orberson rose to Simpson's centre but held his head in his hands as Curtis cleared off the line.

But there was no such good fortune for the visitors when, with the game into the third minute of injury time, Simpson again got clear and his low centre left Twigger with the simple task of tapping the ball into an empty net.

Corby Town — 2nd Round Qualifying Replay

Borough travelled to Rockingham Triangle to play a FA Cup 2nd Qualifying Round replay.

Borough: Hopps, Ridding, Carty, Tarry (Wilson 96), Whetton, Cottrill, Orberson, Barton, Duckers, Twigger, Simpson.
Sub: Fleming.

Shaun Keeble stepped off the substitutes' bench to send Borough crashing out of the FA Cup.

Borough, already without Andy Hodgetts, who is cup-tied, suffered another set-back before the kick-off when striker Peter Gocan was ruled out with a hamstring injury.

The Steelmen looking to take revenge for last season when Borough did the double over them, produced the first threat after just five minutes. Rob Straw lost possession in midfield and Paul Curtis picked out Graeme Archer with a deep centre but he hooked his shot across the face of the home goal.

Twigger was only inches away from turning in Simpson's cross as Borough hit back and it took a last ditch tackle by Hamill to halt Simpson as he cut into the area.

Trevor Hopps was happy to turn over a Diver shot after Archer had set up the opportunity but the visitors made the vital breakthrough after 17 minutes.

Corby sprang the Borough offside trap and Murphy raced through unopposed to slip the ball past the unprotected Hopps.

Borough surged forward looking for a quick equaliser and Ian Cottrill tested King in the visitor's goal with a rising 25-yard drive before Doug Newton, who was highly doubtful before the game, limped off to be replaced by Neil Smith.

On the half-hour mark, Borough had a let-off when Diver put Genovese through but he wanted too much time and the Nuneaton defence recovered to scramble clear.

Duckers then hit a rising drive over the top and Twigger went full length to power a header just wide from Simpson's cross.

Nuneaton missed a fine chance of getting back on level terms with Duckers shooting into the side netting

Keeble had been on the pitch for only two minutes when he snatched the only goal of the game mid-way through the second period of extra time.

It was enough to earn Mark Lawrenson's side a trip to Alvechurch in the third qualifying round and end Borough's hopes of a money spinning run in the competition.

But Nuneaton will look back on this as a game they should have won after producing a marked improvement on Saturday's performance.

They ran out of steam during extra time but were much the better side over 90 minutes when they had their chances to have wrapped it up.

Nuneaton boss George Rooney was forced to make two changes in his line-up with John Barton and Andy Orberon coming in for Doug Newton and Rob Straw, who were both unfit.

Borough were quickly into their stride and Corby were happy to concede a corner as Martyn Twigger curled in a cross from the left and then keeper Richard King was down quickly to take Paul Carty's low ball into the six yard box.

Nuneaton missed a clear cut chance to make the vital breakthrough after 15 minutes. Mark Duckers went clean through the home defence but he dragged his shot well wide of the right hand upright.

There was danger for Nuneaton when Shaun Diver headed a corner back across the face of goal and Hopps only gathered at the second attempt. The Nuneaton keeper was again in action, going down to his right to save a diving header by Steve Hines.

At the other end, Ian Cottrill had a shot charged down by the Corby defence and Tony Simpson was floored by Jim Hamill when he was in full flight.

Borough missed another fine opportunity at the start of the second half when Twigger again put Duckers clear but his shot hit a defender and finished up in the keeper's arms.

Nuneaton were well in control at this stage and Duckers fired a rising drive over the top before Twigger hit a shot straight at King after being freed by Simpson.

Corby were in trouble from a deep Simpson cross until Lawrenson stepped in to hook the ball away while it took a fine header from Dave Whetton to clear up a dangerous situation for Borough after the home side had worked a short corner.

In the final minute Simpson missed a great chance to clinch the tie. Twigger's pass sent the winger clear but King was out quickly to superbly block Simpson's shot and then gather the rebound.

But in the time added on for injuries Borough had two real let-offs.

Firstly, Nuneaton failed to clear a cross from the left and Paul Curtis saw his shot rebound from a post, then Dominic Genovese was clean through but fired high over the top with only the keeper to beat.

Corby maintained their grip as the tie moved into extra time with Diver forcing a fine save from Hopps with a looping header.

Archer then blazed a shot high over the top from close range as Borough's legs began to tire.

Diver was only inches away from turning in Murphy's cross but Borough could have grabbed the lead, but Duckers failed to make contact with substitute Wilson's cross in front of an open goal.

Duckers then saw his 20 yarder touched over the top by King but the Steelmen finally broke the deadlock in the 11th minute.

Borough failed to clear a Lawrence free-kick and when the ball was headed back into the middle Keeble hooked in a shot that Hopps seemed to have covered but it took a deflection off centre-half Whetton and trickled into the net.

There was no way back for Borough now and Hines could have added a second for the home side, firing into the side netting after bursting into the penalty area.

Marine — 1st Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Marine to Manor Park to play a FA Trophy First Qualifying Round tie.

Borough: Hopps, Ridding, Wilson, Tarry, Whetton, Cottrill, Carty, Newton, Straw, Gocan (Hodgetts 85), Simpson. Sub: Smith.

Marine: O'Brien, Rooney, Proctor, Draper, Johnson, Gautrey, Murray, Haw, Grant (Maddock 80), Roach, King. Sub: Hanson.

Borough will make the long trek north to Merseyside hoping that history does not repeat itself. Four years ago, when Nuneaton last met Marine in the Trophy, the sides drew their original tie at Manor Park.

But Borough then went out in the replay at Rossett Park, the Lilywhites winning 2-1.

George Rooney's men could have won the tie during the first-half on Saturday but now face an unenviable task in the replay. Ian Cottrill twice went close to

making the vital breakthrough but in the end Borough could have no grumbles about the result with the visitors fully deserving their second chance.

In fact if it had not been for a fine fingertip save by Trevor Hopps, Marine could have snatched victory late in the game.

Although the odds now favour the Merseysiders, the tie is far from over and Borough will still fancy their chances of booking a place in the second qualifying round.

They were again much better at the back than in earlier matches, with Dave Whetton providing the dominance in the air that they had been lacking.

And with Peter Gocan and Tony Simpson looking capable of taking on the Marine back four, the Manor Park outfit could well spring a surprise.

Borough, had Andy Hodgetts on the

substitute's bench in place of Andy Orberson, the only change from the squad that won in the FA Cup at Chalfont St Peters. They could have been behind in only the second minute.

A long crossfield ball skidded off the top of John Ridding's head to give Brendan Grant a sight of goal but Matt Tarry recovered quickly to clear the danger at the expense of a corner.

But Borough hit back with Gocan making a super break from midfield. He found Paul Carty on the left and when he pulled the ball back to the edge of the area Cottrill was unlucky to see his shot charged down.

There was more danger for Borough when John Gautrey was unmarked for a deep cross from the right and he planted a header a foot wide of the far post.

Hopps then had to get down smartly to his right to deny Eddie Murray after Doug Newton had only cleared a corner as far as the edge of the area before Nuneaton came within inches of snatching the lead.

Newton floated a free-kick into the area and Cottrill, timing his run superbly, powered in a header that scraped the bar.

Simpson beat three men in a dazzling run but Marine scrambled away the winger's low cross and then, almost on the stroke of half-time Borough were again out of luck.

Cottrill was first to react to Rob Straw's low cross to the near post but his close range effort hit Andy Rooney on the line and rebounded straight into keeper Kevin O'Brien's hands.

Marine upped the pace at the start of the second half and Hopps did well to turn a curler over the top and then Whetton made a last ditch tackle to cut out John Roach.

Borough responded immediately with Cottrill sending Gocan racing down the middle but he hit his shot into the side netting.



Borough's Tony Simpson feels the full force of a Marine defender as he fouls the winger in full flight.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune



Andy Draper then handled on the edge of the area to halt Straw but Newton curled the free-kick well wide of the right hand post.

But the visitors were coming more into the game and Borough had Hopps to thank that they were still on level terms with 11 minutes of the tie remaining.

Steven Haw broke clear on the right and his deep cross to the far post found Gautrey who powered in a header that looked destined for the net until Hopps rose superbly to turn it over the top.

At the other end O'Brien distinguished himself going down low in a crowded goalmouth to hang onto the ball after Ali Wilson had flicked on Newton's left wing corner.

In the dying stages Haw twice got clear on the right but the Borough defence got back in sufficient numbers to scramble the ball clear on both occasions.

Marine – 1st Qualifying Round Replay

Borough travelled to Rossett Park to play Marine in a FA Trophy First Qualifying Round replay.

Marine: O'Brien, Rooney, Proctor, Johnson, Gautrey, Murray, Maddock, Grant (Haw 66), Roach, King. Sub: McDonough.

Borough: Hopps, Ridding, Carty, Tarry, Whetton, Cottrill, Straw, Newton, Gocan (Duckers 90), Twigger, Simpson. Sub: Smith.

Two goals in three minutes early in the second half put battling Borough in charge. Ian Cottrill and Martyn Twigger were both on target as Borough seemed poised to spring an upset over the Merseysiders.

But with just nine minutes remaining in normal time, Wayne Maddock grabbed the vital equaliser to send the tie into extra time.

Neither side really looked like snatching the winner during the added half an hour but great news for Borough fans is that they won the toss and will stage the third game at Manor Park.

Borough showed one change from

Saturday, Paul Carty dropping to left back in place of the unavailable Ali Wilson with Rob Straw taking over in midfield and Twigger coming in for his first game since the opening day of the season.

There was a nasty clash in the first minute when Maddock chased a long clearance into the Borough penalty area and was involved in a mid-air collision with Trevor Hopps which resulted in both players needing lengthy treatment.

Marine grabbed the early initiative and Eddie Murray was unfortunate to see his cross shot clip the bar and fly over the top.

A poor back pass by John Ridding then put Borough in trouble but Brendan Grant failed to control the ball and the opportunity was lost.

Nuneaton hit back with a good build up down the right but Twigger's cross was confidently gathered by Kevin O'Brien.

At the other end Hopps had to make a fine save at the expense of a corner when Ridding sliced a Peter King shot towards his own net.

Straw made a surging run down the left before hitting a shot into the side netting from an acute angle.

But Borough were having to withstand some considerable pressure and when Andy Draper headed a left wing cross back into the goalmouth Nuneaton only just managed to scramble it away.

The goal the home side had been looking for came nine minutes before the break when King's left wing corner evaded everyone and crept into the net.

However, with the stiff breeze now at their backs, the second half was an entirely different proposition as Borough penned the Lilywhites back in their own half.

Marine were fortunate to survive straight from the restart when O'Brien dropped a corner and then the home keeper was happy to turn a Doug Newton effort over the top.

Borough forced four corners in quick

succession before grabbing a superb equaliser after 55 minutes. Straw was felled on the left and Cottrill powered a header in off the post from Doug Newton's free-kick.

Keith Proctor then saved Marine by forcing the ball out for a corner after Twigger had twisted his way past the keeper.

But three minutes later Borough were in front and Marine were extremely fortunate that they were not down to nine men.

Draper blatantly kicked Cottrill off the ball following a left wing corner and Twigger scored from the resulting spot kick.

Keith Johnson then stamped on Twigger – both Marine players were booked but incredibly neither were sent off.

Midway through the half Borough came close to making the tie safe. A superb break on the left ended with Peter Gocan turning the ball inside. Twigger dummied and Straw flashed a shot narrowly wide of the far post with the keeper well beaten.

Marine threw men forward in a desperate bid to snatch the equaliser and Hopps showed superb handling to gather King's free kick on the near post under pressure from Murray.

However, nine minutes from the end Marine were back on level terms.

Johnson pumped a long free-kick down the middle, John Gautrey flicked it on, Murray turned it into the box and Maddock hammered it past Hopps to send the tie into extra time.

Newton was twice off target in the first period of added time while at the other end King's centre flashed dangerously across the Borough goal.

Murray had the travelling Nuneaton supporters biting their fingernails midway through the second period as he fired a volley a foot wide of the left hand upright when he was left unmarked from a corner.

Marine — 1st Qualifying Round 2nd Replay

Borough welcomed Marine to Manor Park to play a FA Trophy First Qualifying Round second replay.

Borough: Hopps, Carty, Ridding, Wilson, Whetton, Cottrill, Orbeson (Smith 55), Newton (Gocan 55), Hodgetts, Twigger, Simpson.

Marine: O'Brien, Robney, Protor, Johnson, Draper, Gautrey, Murray (Haw 60), Maddock, Grant, Roche, King. Sub: McDonagh.

Wayne Maddock ended Borough's FA Trophy hopes for another season as he grabbed the only goal of the game.

Marine's lively front runner pounced midway through the second half to settle this 1st Qualifying Round tie at the third attempt, earning the Merseysiders a trip to Goole.

The Lilywhites were full value for their win as they certainly mastered the blustery conditions far better than Borough and always carried the greater threat.

But Nuneaton had their chances with Andy Hodgetts failing to take advantage of two clear-cut openings.

Borough's injury problems were not helped by the fact that Doug Newton again limped off and John Ridding was sent off as the Manor Park side finished with ten men for the second time in three days.

John Barton failed to recover from his knee problem to make the starting line-up, so Ridding switched to a central defensive role with Newton taking over in midfield.

The visitors could have found

themselves a goal down after only three minutes when Andy Rooney headed a right wing cross narrowly over his own bar.

Kevin O'Brien's long clearance immediately switched play to the other end where Brendan Grant hooked a wild shot way over the top from inside the box.

But with seven minutes gone Borough missed a great opportunity. Andy Orbeson freed Martyn Twigger on the left and his early ball into the area gave Hodgetts a clear shooting opportunity but he dragged his effort wide from 15 yards with just the keeper to beat.

Hodgetts then failed to make contact with Newton's cross at the far post while Paul Carty did well to head away Rooney's deep centre with Eddie Murray boring in.

Borough were fortunate to still be on level terms after 18 minutes when they failed to clear a free-kick from the right and Andy Draper thumped a shot against the Nuneaton crossbar.

Marine were now dictating the pace and Keith Proctor shot wide from a good position before Maddock forced a good save from Trevor Hopps at the near post.

Murray then whipped a half-volley narrowly wide as Borough struggled to regain their earlier hold on the game.

John Roche and Murray both wasted promising opportunities at the start of the second period before George Rooney made a double substitution,

replacing Newton, who was obviously nowhere near full fitness and Orbeson with Peter Gocan and Neil Smith.

Gocan's pace had an immediate effect as he made a surging break from deep inside his own half before finding Twigger on the edge of the area but after stepping round his marker, his shot lacked the necessary power to trouble O'Brien.

But after 63 minutes Borough found themselves behind through a soft goal. There seemed little danger from a long through ball but Ridding allowed Maddock to get goalside of him and he raced into the area to beat Hopps with a low shot that appeared to go through the keeper's legs.

However, two minutes later Borough should have been level. Marine failed to clear Gocan's left wing cross and Hodgetts shot over the top from well inside the area.

Another Gocan run set up a shooting chance for Carty but his effort was half blocked while at the other end Hopps had to get down smartly to his left to smother a shot on the turn from Steve Haw.

Then with ten minutes left Borough's slim hopes nose-dived when Ridding was sent off for something he said to the referee over the awarding of a free-kick.

Tony Simpson was crowded out after making a jinking run into the box as Borough looked for a late equaliser but Marine had few problems in protecting their lead

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



Southern League Midland Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1991-92

Nuneaton Scores First

| Date | Opposition | Venue | Competition | Score | Scorers | Attendance |
|-------|-----------------------|-------|-------------|-------|------------------------------------|------------|
| 08.03 | Lutterworth Town | A | PSF | 2-1 | Hamer, Twigger | |
| 08.06 | Stockingford AA | A | PSF | 4-2 | A.Wilson (2), Andersen, Twigger | |
| 08.08 | Chelmsley Town | A | PSF | 1-1 | Seivwright | |
| 08.10 | Atherstone United | A | PSF | 0-2 | | |
| 08.17 | Dudley Town | A | L | 0-2 | | 326 |
| 08.19 | Hednesford Town | H | L | 1-2 | Wilson (pen) | 955 |
| 08.24 | Yate Town | H | L | 1-2 | Simpson | 605 |
| 08.27 | Tamworth | A | L | 2-2 | Anastasi, Gocan | 1314 |
| 08.31 | Redditch United | A | L | 2-0 | Anastasi (2) | 320 |
| 09.02 | Alvechurch | H | L | 5-2 | Anastasi (3), Cottrill, Gocan | 786 |
| 09.07 | Leicester United | H | L | 2-0 | R. Wilson (o.g.), Straw (pen) | 617 |
| 09.11 | Solihull Borough | A | L | 1-3 | Claxton (o.g.) | 288 |
| 09.14 | Chalfont St.Peters | A | FAC1Q | 4-0 | Gocan, Cottrill, Simpson, Carty | 250 |
| 09.21 | Marine | H | FAT1Q | 0-0 | | 675 |
| 09.24 | Marine | A | FAT1Qr | 2-2 | Cottrill, Twigger (pen) | 237 |
| 09.28 | Corby Town | H | FAC2Q | 2-2 | Simpson, Twigger | 667 |
| 10.02 | Corby Town | A | FAC2Qr | 0-1 | | 392 |
| 10.05 | Sutton Coldfield Town | H | L | 1-1 | Twigger | 527 |
| 10.07 | Marine | H | FAT1Qr2 | 0-1 | | 730 |
| 10.12 | Rushden Town | A | L | 3-2 | Twigger (2), Gocan | 410 |
| 10.14 | Stroud | H | L | 2-0 | Gocan, Cottrill | 628 |
| 10.19 | Tamworth | H | MFC1-1L | 1-2 | Gocan | 674 |
| 10.21 | Corby Town | H | BCC1-1L | 1-1 | Straw | 477 |
| 10.26 | Kings Lynn | H | L | 1-0 | Twigger (pen) | 456 |
| 10.28 | Hednesford Town | A | L | 2-2 | Straw (2) | 783 |
| 11.02 | Newport AFC | H | L | 2-0 | Straw, Simpson | 583 |
| 11.06 | Corby Town | A | BCC1-2L | 0-2 | | 122 |
| 11.09 | Racing Club Warwick | A | L | 0-0 | | 363 |
| 11.16 | Halesowen Harriers | H | BSC2 | 3-1 | Straw (2), Whetton | 366 |
| 11.18 | Tamworth | H | L | 3-3 | Twigger, Straw, Cottrill | 972 |
| 11.23 | Alvechurch | A | L | 0-1 | | 245 |
| 11.26 | Tamworth | A | MFC1-2L | 1-2 | Twigger (pen) | 749 |
| 11.30 | Bilston Town | A | L | 1-0 | Simpson | 228 |
| 12.07 | Dudley Town | H | L | 5-0 | Straw (3), Twigger (2, 1 pen) | 565 |
| 12.17 | Halesowen Town | H | BSC3 | 2-0 | Twigger (pen), Simpson | 318 |
| 12.21 | Bridgnorth Town | H | L | 2-1 | Twigger, Simpson | 549 |
| 12.26 | Bedworth United | A | L | 0-0 | | 1111 |
| 12.28 | Hinckley Town | A | L | 2-2 | Twigger, Straw | 560 |
| 01.01 | Grantham Town | H | L | 1-0 | Twigger | 804 |
| 01.04 | Rushden Town | H | L | 2-1 | Twigger (pen), Cottrill | 637 |
| 01.11 | Leicester United | A | L | 1-2 | Straw | 477 |
| 01.18 | Stourbridge | H | L | 2-2 | Straw, Sleuwenhoek | 593 |
| 01.20 | West Bromwich Albion | H | BSC QF | 2-1 | Cottrill, Twigger | 892 |
| 01.25 | Newport AFC | A | L | 2-3 | Straw, Twigger (pen) | 653 |
| 02.01 | Barry Town | H | L | 0-1 | | 509 |
| 02.08 | Stourbridge | A | L | 1-4 | Straw | 332 |
| 02.15 | Yate Town | A | L | 0-1 | | 266 |
| 02.17 | Solihull Borough | H | L | 1-1 | Cunningham | 715 |
| 02.22 | Redditch United | H | L | 5-0 | Twigger (3, 1 pen), Wells, Symonds | 606 |
| 02.29 | Barry Town | A | L | 1-2 | Meredith | 248 |
| 03.07 | Kings Lynn | A | L | 1-2 | Twigger | 298 |
| 03.11 | V.S.Rugby | A | BSC SF | 1-3 | Simpson | 647 |
| 03.14 | Bilston Town | H | L | 1-1 | Twigger | 473 |

Southern League Midland Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1991-92

Nuneaton Scores First

| Date | Opposition | Venue | Competition | Score | Scorers | Attendance |
|-------|-----------------------|-------|-------------|-------|------------------------------------|------------|
| 03.21 | Hinckley Town | H | L | 2-0 | Twigger (2) | 575 |
| 03.28 | Stroud | A | L | 2-3 | Meredith, Twigger | 190 |
| 04.01 | Sutton Coldfield Town | A | L | 3-2 | Culpin, Straw, Igoe | 233 |
| 04.04 | Bridgnorth Town | A | L | 1-0 | Culpin | 225 |
| 04.07 | Crewe Alexandra | H | F | 2-0 | Whetton, Twigger | 366 |
| 04.13 | Hinckley Town | H | ST | 4-0 | Twigger, Culpin, Straw, Cunningham | 243 |
| 04.18 | Grantham Town | A | L | 1-1 | Culpin | 382 |
| 04.20 | Bedworth United | H | L | 3-1 | Culpin, Twigger, Straw | 903 |
| 04.25 | Racing Club Warwick | H | L | 0-1 | | 561 |

KEY : L = Southern League Midland, FAC= F.A.Cup, FAT= F.A.Trophy, BCC= Barclays Commercial Cup (Southern League Cup), BSC= Birmingham Senior Cup, MFC= Midland Floodlit Cup, ST=Scattergood Trophy PSF= Pre season friendly, F= Friendly



Nuneaton Borough (Beginning of Season 1991-92)

Rear: Ian Brain, Nicky Andersen, Kenny Mower, Trevor Hopps, Ali Wilson,
Peter Robinson, Matt Tarry.

Front: John Ridding, Tony Simpson, Andy Orbeson, Steve Bartletts,
Neil Smith, Peter Gocan.

Meredith Moves To Atherstone

Popular Nuneaton Borough midfielder Neil Meredith has made the short journey up the A5 to sign for Beazer Homes League rivals Atherstone United. No fee was involved as Meredith was a non-contract player. It will be a sad blow for Borough manager George Rooney, who was not available for comment on the departure of the talented 24-year-old former Shrewsbury player.

Borough's Dream In Tatters

Nuneaton Borough's ambitions of regaining GM Conference status appear to be dashed after the league's weekend meeting. The club who were demoted six years ago, were hoping to return to the higher echelons through a technicality, but they were pipped to the post by three sides who won automatic promotion. Conference secretary Peter Hunter would not comment on the result of Borough's appeal, saying only that a letter would be sent to the club this week.

Former Player Dies

Former Nuneaton Borough centre-forward Bernard Forknell has died at the age of 78. Mr Forknell played for the first ever Nuneaton Borough side of 1937 after it had been reformed from the old Town team. He scored two goals for the club in 13 appearances and also turned out for Hinckley United during his soccer career.

Borough Player Crisis

Nuneaton Borough manager George Rooney could have a player crisis on his hands before the start of the season. With less than two months to go several players are reported to be unsettled about their future at Manor Park. Popular midfielder Neil Meredith has gone to local rivals Atherstone United while striker Rob Straw is rumoured to be on his way to Vauxhall Conference Club Telford United.

Borough Midweek Games Moved

Nuneaton Borough will be playing their home first team midweek matches on a Tuesday night. The move to change from the traditional Monday evening was announced following a meeting of the club's board of directors earlier this week.

Straw Quits Borough

Nuneaton Borough's crowd pleasing striker Rob Straw had finally ended speculation over his future and linked up with Vauxhall Conference side Telford United. Straw, who was squeezed out of the line-up with the arrival of former Borough favourite Paul Culpin, had been unsettled for some time. Because of his departure, manager George Rooney has stepped up his search for new players, and has confirmed that four or five new faces are likely to be joining the Manor Park outfit.

Ground Improvements

The 1992-93 football season is just over a month away and the Manor Park ground is set to be in tip top condition for the August 22 kick-off. Last weekend work on the canal side of the ground was completed which just leaves the terracing in front of the Cock and Bear end to be finished which director Gordon Chislett hopes will be inside the next week.

"We are well into it now and suddenly we can see light at the end of the tunnel. The concreting and infill is virtually completed although we have yet to get the two dug outs built," said Chislett. "Most of the materials are there and I should imagine by the end of next week they will be erected and ready for use in the friendlies. A lot of work has also been going on in the dressing rooms, especially the visitors, which were badly in need of improvement."

Chislett said the club was indebted to many people for their time and help during the close season to bring the ground up to scratch, in particular he pointed out the efforts of Ron Male and also Mr and Mrs Len Brookes, who have spent much of their spare time recently decorating the Social Club bar.



Loyal Borough fans get to grips with some concreting to complete the terracing that runs alongside the canal side of the ground. The workforce are from left: Dave Hall, John Wilson, Eddie Stevens, Stuart Swingler, Gerry Swingler and Phillip Aston. Photo: Heartland Evening News

Borough Snap Up Young Defender

Nuneaton Borough manager George Rooney has signed central defender Matthew Pugh from Highgate United. The 20-year-old, who played several games for Bromsgrove Rovers in the Beazer Homes Premier Division last term before moving to Highgate, has been watched by the Borough boss on several occasions and is regarded as a useful addition to the Manor Park squad.



Borough Prepare For New Season

Nuneaton Borough travel to Banbury for a friendly match which will herald a testing season for the slimmed down Borough squad. Extensive ground improvements in the close season has left the club with limited cash to spend on players. Borough will have a pool of around 14 players to call upon but manager George Rooney says he still hopes to produce a team capable of promotion.

“We just have to keep our fingers crossed that we steer clear of injuries. And we have had to back off approaching a few players we would have liked to have brought to the club. It means that overall we have had to close ranks with the squad we have,” he said.

1992-93

Banbury United v Nuneaton Borough 28-07-1992

Borough travelled to Spencer Stadium to play Banbury United in a pre-season friendly game.

Ace striker Paul Culpin gave Borough a confidence boosting start to their pre-season preparations when he grabbed a typical opportunist goal to give George Rooney’s men a 1-0 victory. The former Coventry City and Northampton Town frontman showed he has lost none of his sharpness as he made the home side pay for some uncertain defensive work to crash a close range drive into the net. It was no more than Borough deserved as they were the more classy outfit although the hard-to-please Rooney felt there was considerable room for improvement.

“It was a good workout but there were one or two things which we shall have to work on in the forthcoming matches. We put together some neat passing movements and overall were the better side,” said the Manor Park boss. The Banbury goal led a charmed life in the opening half and it was only a spate of fine saves from teenage keeper Tim Williams which denied the visitors on numerous occasions while it was the post that intervened to stop an Ian Cottrill 20 yarder finding its mark.

However, the main sufferer was recent acquisition Mark Rosegreen. He settled well in the Borough attack in his initial outing since moving from VS Rugby in an exchange deal involving Paul Carty, although he will be hoping for a little more luck in front of goal when the campaign gets underway in earnest.

“Their keeper had a fine game and was the main reason why we did not win more convincingly but it was nice to see us creating chances and when you have a strike force that includes Culpin, Rosegreen and Twigger then goals will surely come,” added Rooney. One player sure to make an impact at Manor Park is midfielder Darren Bullock, the ex-Malvern man showed plenty of grit and determination in the Borough engine room and looks to be a notable capture by Rooney. Other newcomers are Matthew Pugh (ex-Redditch) and Paul Allbutt, formerly with the now disbanded Alvechurch,

both acquitted themselves well in their first appearance in a Nuneaton shirt.

Worcester City v Nuneaton Borough 01-08-1992

Borough: Attwood, Bullock, Wilson (Tarry 45), Pugh (Culpin 58), Whetton, Cottrill, Allbutt, Evans (London 71), Rosegreen, Twigger, Symonds.

Borough travelled to St George’s Lane to play Worcester City in a pre-season friendly game.

Borough earned a creditable 0-0 draw at higher league Worcester City in their second pre-season friendly leaving manager George Rooney satisfied but still with work to do in readiness for the start of the season. Although City had more of the game, Borough were never made to play second fiddle and had the normally lethal Paul Culpin made the most of two excellent chances in the second half the Manor Park side could easily have been returning home with a win under their belts.

“We still have one or two things to look at in our defence and midfield but this was another good work out for the lads although I shall be looking for us to improve at Halesowen,” said Rooney. “Before the break we were a little sloppy with the final pass going astray far too often. However, in the second half we changed our formation and enabled us to come more into the game.

“The two chances Paul missed, he would normally have snapped up but it was certainly unlike him to squander both, although he has been suffering from a groin strain recently,” added Rooney.

On the plus side Dave Whetton did well, especially after the interval when partnered by Matt Tarry at the heart of the Borough back division which will be further strengthened by the return of full-back John Ridding at Halesowen.

New Secretary Moves In At Manor Park

Work commitments have forced Nuneaton Borough secretary Keith Parker to part company with the club but the directors at Manor Park have moved swiftly to fill the position. Peter Humphreys, formerly with Alvechurch and Moor Green, took over the post at the weekend and it delighted to be with the club. “I met most of the people involved over the past few days and I am sure the relationship will be a successful one,” said Humphreys.

“Nuneaton is one of the top non-league clubs in the Midlands and I hope I can play a vital part in taking them towards promotion and hopefully GM Conference football in the very near future,” he added.

His predecessor had been at the Borough for more than four seasons after taking over from present Atherstone secretary Keith Allen, but Parker felt he could no longer find the time or commitment necessary to do the job, regarded as one of the most important at any club. “I have enjoyed my time at Manor Park but now I am looking forward to a break from football,” said Parker.



New secretary Peter Humphreys (centre) joins other newcomers to Nuneaton Borough this season and they are players Matt Pugh (back left), Peter Allbutt (back right), Darren Bullock (front left) and Mark Rosegreen.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Borough and within eight minutes they were in front with a quality strike from former Hinckley Town front man John Symonds. There looked to be little threat to the “Yeltz” defence when Symonds received the ball on the halfway line but he showed superb acceleration to burst clear of two defenders before drawing the keeper and slotting a low drive just inside the post.

It seemed as though the visitors would go in at the interval with their noses in front, however, in the 43rd minute a left wing centre fell to Mark Goodall and he reacted far quicker than the Borough defence to fire past the exposed Attwood from close in. There were some impressive individual displays from Rooney’s outfit with Darren Bullock having an outstanding game on the right side of midfield while Dave Whetton was a commanding figure at the heart of the defence.

Pershore Town v Nuneaton Borough 08-08-1992

Borough: Attwood, Tarry, Evans, Pugh (M. Bullock), Wilson, Ridding, D. Bullock, Allbutt, Symonds, Twigger, London (Green).

Borough travelled to the King George V Playing Field to play Pershore Town in a pre-season friendly game.

Depleted Borough showed their fighting spirit when they pulled back a two goal deficit to win 4-2. Simon Judge scored twice for the home side inside 18 minutes but after the interval Borough got their act together to come right back into contention. Goals from John Symonds, Martyn Twigger and a screamer from former Oldswinford midfielder Steve Evans enabled Borough to take control while Symonds wrapped up the victory with a neat curler in the closing seconds.

Halesowen Town v Nuneaton Borough 04-08-1992

Borough: Attwood, Tarry, Evans (Ridding 62), Pugh (Simpson 75), Whetton, Cottrill, Bullock, Allbutt, Symonds, Twigger, London (Green 62).

Borough travelled to The Grove to play Halesowen Town in a pre-season friendly game.

Borough had to show all their battling qualities to extend their unbeaten run to three matches. In another disciplined display, Borough had to come from a goal down early on before giving their higher league rivals plenty to think about as Paul London and John Symonds notched splendid individual goals inside an eight minute period midway through the half. However, the home side took advantage of some hesitation in the Borough back division to grab an equaliser just prior to the break to complete an exciting first 45 minutes in which both sides produced some flowing football.

Halesowen were dominant in the opening exchanges and it was no surprise when their influential skipper Malcolm Hazelwood headed them in front after 12 minutes but the Manor Park men kept their composure and on the half-hour were back on terms with London’s first goal for the club. Gaining possession on the edge of the area, London powered past two defenders before rifling the ball past the Town keeper and into the net from 12 yards. The goal boosted

Solihull Borough v Nuneaton Borough 15-08-1992

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Whetton, Tarry, Bullock, Cottrill, Allbutt, Symonds, Rosegreen, Twigger, Culpin, Wilson, London, Mogford, Moverley.

Borough travelled to Moorlands to play Solihull Borough in a pre-season friendly game.

Newcomer Paul Allbutt struck a fine hat-trick as Borough produced a stunning 5-2 victory at reigning Beazer Homes Midland Division champions Solihull Borough with their most impressive performance of the pre-season build-up so far. While the former Alvechurch midfielder was showing his goal prowess, his team mates were also on form, especially in the second half when George Rooney’s men completely outplayed their rivals, who last season hammered the Manor Park outfit 3-1 on the same Moorlands ground. Nuneaton began well, Allbutt opening his account in the 14th minute with a simple tap in after Martyn Twigger had set up the opportunity with a cross after the striker’s pace had left former Coventry City defender Paul Dyson trailing in his wake.

However, the goal brought Solihull to life and they bounced back determinedly to take advantage of some indecisive play by the visitors to go in front with well-taken goals from Ricky Carter (25 minutes) and Jan Mulders (33 minutes). But the visitors, with ex-Worcester City duo Brian Mogford and

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



Simon Moverley both making favourable impressions on their debuts, were back on terms by the break as Twigger again set up Allbutt following a defence-splitting one-two.

After the interval, Nuneaton stunned the home team with some stylish approach play and positive finishing. Two goals in a 90-second spell on the hour emphasised their superiority with Mogford's fine run and neat chip over keeper Darren Houghton inching them ahead while almost immediately Mark Rosegreen opened his account for the club when firing into an empty net after good work by Allbutt. It was left to Allbutt to complete his three-timer and put the seal on an eye-catching show from Rooney's dazzlers when in the closing seconds Rosegreen's drive was blocked as he swooped to slot in the rebound.

Culpin And Mogford Sign

Goal ace Paul Culpin has finally put pen to paper and signed for Nuneaton Borough, much to the delight of manager George Rooney. "We have been negotiating with Paul for several weeks and I am pleased to announce that terms have been agreed and he will be in the squad for Saturday's opening game against Stourbridge.

Another boost for Borough is the signing of Brian Mogford from Worcester City. The utility player has impressed in the last two friendlies and like Culpin, signed forms before the team travelled to Bromsgrove.

Bromsgrove Rovers v Nuneaton Borough 18-08-1992

Borough: Attwood, Pugh, Tarry, Mogford (Twigger 68), Whetton, Cottrill, Bullock, Allbutt, Rosegreen, Culpin, Symonds. Subs: Evans, Ridding.

Borough travelled to The Victoria Ground to play Bromsgrove Rovers in a pre-season friendly game.

Although the game resulted in a 2-0 defeat for Borough, they again showed up well and the scoreline did them scant justice as they more than matched their GM Conference rivals virtually throughout the 90 minutes. Rooney's men were beaten by two second half goals but the Nuneaton boss must have been impressed with his team's competent display that augurs well for their Beazer Homes Midland Division campaign which gets under way at home to Stourbridge.

In a goalless opening period, Borough's other new recruit Mark Rosegreen headed wide when well placed following a splendid run and cross by John Symonds from the best opportunity of the opening half in which the home side had to play second fiddle.

However, two minutes after the restart Rovers went ahead against the run of play when Mark Crisp cracked a low 20 yarder wide of keeper Richard Attwood but the visitors continued to look dangerous with Symonds bringing out a good save from Scott Cooksey and Darren Bullock firing across the face of goal. Rosegreen rifled just over from 15 yards following a neat turn but straight from the goal kick Rovers went forward to grab a superb second goal, Kevin

Richardson hammering a speculative long range dipping and swerving drive beyond the bemused Attwood to sew up an undeserved home success.

Nuneaton Borough v Stourbridge

22-08-1992

Borough: Attwood, Pugh, Tarry, Allbutt, Whetton, Cottrill, Bullock, Culpin, Rosegreen, Twigger, Symonds. Subs: London, Barton.

Borough welcomed Stourbridge to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough looked like overwhelming the Glassboys from the opening whistle as they powered forward with new signing Darren Bullock showing some nice touches, hitting several inch-perfect long balls forward and across the park. The pressure almost paid off in the fifth minute when Mark Rosegreen latched onto a low cross from Symonds only to see his shot cannon off the bar from six yards out. But it looked like being one of those days for Paul Culpin when in the 11th minute he was left cruelly stranded by a bad bounce as he looked certain to go clear.



Last season's goal hero Martyn Twigger fights off a challenge from a Stourbridge defender.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Luck seemed to have deserted Culpin as a series of what would normally have been clear cut chances were hit well wide or gathered safely by keeper Crannage. At last, to the delight of the fans, the deadlock was broken in the 34th minute when midfielder Peter Allbutt put Borough in front with a calmly taken low shot into the right hand corner of the Stourbridge goal. The former Alvechurch regular picked up a half-hit clearance by Paul Joinson before picking his spot, leaving keeper Andy Crannage with no chance.



The goal was followed by a flurry of activity as Stourbridge came back and striker Evran Wright was unlucky seeing his half-struck shot gathered by the diving Attwood after squirming his way through a ruck of defenders. This was countered by six minutes of intense Borough pressure with first Cottrill firing high and wide and then Culpin producing a bit of magic as he turned on a sixpence on the Stourbridge line and lofted a ball which dropped inches behind the bar.

The second half was a complete turn around as Stourbridge stormed forward and Lewis Claxton looked certain to grab the equaliser in the 48th minute as he ran onto a through ball from Joinson but fired his shot straight at Attwood from 10 yards. Then came an unbelievable five minutes as Cottrill and ton-up heroes Twigger and Culpin squandered a number of chances to put the match beyond Stourbridge.

However, with just 20 minutes to go Stourbridge reduced the Borough fans to silence as Chris Jones' header flew into the net from a Steve Ingram corner. It was a hammer blow to Borough and it was followed by long periods of scrappy play from both sides which was not helped by the swirling wind and torrential rain which swept the ground. The final whistle came as a relief to the 716 fans who had little to cheer about in the final 20 minutes.

Borough Sign Anastasi

Borough have added further punch to their attack with the signing of Savas Anastasi from Tamworth. The former Stafford Rangers' striker was with Borough on loan last season, when he scored six goals in three games.

Bilston Town v Nuneaton Borough 25-08-1992

Borough: Attwood, Pugh, Tarry, Allbutt, Whetton, Cottrill, Bullock, Culpin (Anastasi 75), Rosegreen, Twigger, Symonds. **Sub:** Ridding.

Borough travelled to Queen Street to play Bilston Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

After a scrappy and uneventful opening, the game burst into life in the 12th minute when Culpin moved on to a Cottrill through ball to confidently lob over keeper Kevan Williams to put Borough in front. Midway through the half it needed a fine fingertip save from Richard Attwood to deny Mike Gayle's long range drive finding its target, a save that proved to be crucial as two minutes from the break the visitors extended their advantage from the penalty spot. Twigger was the man on target as he easily beat Williams from the spot after Cottrill had burst into the Town area only to be brought down by ex-Borough defender Kenny Mower.

However, Bilston refused to lie down and in injury time at the end of the period they cut the arrears after a corner kick was only half cleared to Howard Reban on the edge of the area and he thumped a rising shot high into the net past a bemused Attwood.

Twigger was denied by Williams early in the second half before Bilston shocked the 150 plus Borough fans by levelling the

scores. Centre-half Mark Bowater pouncing on another slack piece of defensive work by Borough to fire past Attwood. Seven minutes later Nuneaton were back in front. Culpin netted his second goal of the evening with a delightful glancing header from a Cottrill free-kick, but their joy was short-lived as Bilston bounced back almost immediately with Gary Jones notching a goal from the penalty spot after the out of touch Matt Tarry had tripped Danny Williams from behind.

The ding-dong tussle had a final twist after 70 minutes when Borough regained the initiative with a peach of a goal from Cottrill. Twigger's deft flick found Mark Rosegreen inside the area, his swift turn and pass split the home back line, leaving the unmarked Cottrill to slip the ball wide of Kevan Williams, much to the delight of the travelling contingent.

Tamworth v Nuneaton Borough 01-09-1992

Tamworth: Heyes, McKernon, Clarke, Minton, Gareth Williams, Grant, Bodkin, Smith, Taylor, Crawley, Darren Williams. **Subs:** Dodd, Eccleston.

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Tarry, Allbutt, Whetton, Cottrill, Simpson, Culpin (Twigger 79), Rosegreen (Anastasi 79), Mogford, Symonds.

Borough travelled to The Lamb to play Tamworth in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Mark Rosegreen was quickly into the thick of the action, being denied twice from close in by keeper Heyes and then by Rob Grant in the eighth minute. Tamworth's twin strike partnership of Taylor and Smith were soon causing consternation in the Borough defence when in the 11th minute they combined to force Attwood to make his first save of the night. It was one-way traffic for long periods of the first-half with Taylor making some inspired runs in from the right and it looked inevitable that Borough would concede a goal under the onslaught.

But they held firm and frustrated the Reds attack. The tension boiled over in the 18th minute in an ugly incident when Ian Crawley and Dave Whetton exchanged punches. The watching crowd fully expected referee Hubbard to give both players their marching orders but amazingly he produced a yellow card. A flurry of action on the half-hour saw Tamworth win three corners in as many minutes, but Borough hit back and could have gone ahead when a clearance by John Ridding was hit forward to the re-instated Tony Simpson.

Simpson, who has hit ten goals in his last five appearances for the second string, made it to the Tamworth line only to lose the ball as the lurking Paul Culpin was begging for a pass into the the centre. Keeper Richard Attwood did not have a good night and at times he looked very shaky, making some dreadful mistakes as he tried to clear high balls, and is was fortunate that the defence were on form to help out. Ian Cottrill, on the other hand had an inspired first-half and at times it looked as though his very life depended on him being involved in every move. With eight minutes to go to half-time he almost gave Borough the lead when he made a brave effort at full stretch to try and connect with a Simpson centre.

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



Borough stepped up the pressure at the start of the second-half but it was Tamworth that went closest with a 40-yard screamer from full-back Tony Clarke, which went just wide. Substitute Savas Anastasi went close soon after entering the fray, getting in a glancing header from John Symonds' cross. The former Tamworth man worked well with Simpson, who put a ball into the middle for Allbutt to fire wide.

Nuneaton Borough v Racing Club Warwick 05-09-1992

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Tarry, Allbutt, Whetton, Cottrill, Simpson, Culpin, Rosegreen, Mogford, Symonds. Subs: Twigger, Anastasi.

Borough welcomed Racing Club Warwick to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

The game started well for Borough as Tony Simpson tested the visitors' back line with two crosses, both of which found Ian Cottrill, but keeper Duncan Turk was ideally placed to save on both occasions. Culpin's hard low drive was hit straight back at him by a Racing defender and his return found the head of Mark Rosegreen but the striker was off balance and the ball went high over the bar.

Borough broke the deadlock after 31 minutes when a long clearance upfield found Simpson who broke in to the penalty area only to be chopped down. The referee immediately pointed to the penalty spot. Ian Cottrill stepped up to hammer the ball against the underside of the bar, from where the ball rebounded to safety. However, Racing's elation was crushed when referee Dixter consulted with the linesman and ordered that the penalty had to be retaken as keeper Turk had moved before the kick was taken. Culpin then took responsibility and for a split second it looked as if Racing would escape again as Turk palmed the ball against the left hand post, but Culpin followed up and made no mistake from close range.

Five minutes later Cottrill surprised everyone when what seemed to be a cross into the goalmouth hit the bar and came out with the keeper looking on in disbelief. Borough went further ahead in the 38th minute when the busy Simpson evaded a Hary Hannan tackle on the right to cross the ball to Rosegreen whose near-post header flew in from six yards. The woodwork saved Borough at the other end three minutes from the break. Quinn crossed the ball to Alan Dolby whose first-time volley hit the underside of the bar, beating Attwood who lost it for a second but nobody was following up.

The restart saw Borough pressing forward with the occasional retaliation from Racing but the men in the old gold shirts never looked like making an impression. In the 49th minute Culpin looked likely to add to his tally when he went clear with just the keeper to beat, but his first time touch was deflected high for a corner. Borough lacked that positive finish but could have had more before the 78th minute when Culpin made amends for a couple of earlier misses. Running onto a perfectly weighted through ball from impressive Brian Mogford, he turned defender Brian Flavell and slid the ball across goal and into the net off the upright. Some of the shine was taken off

Borough's win in the 86th minute when three defenders went for the same cross which fell to substitute Cairns who took the gift, volleying into the roof of the net from 12 yards.

Dudley Town v Nuneaton Borough

09-09-1992

Dudley: Scarr, Woodbine, S. Edwards, Clifton, Parry Young, Field, Whitehouse, Morgan, Mason, Hampson. Subs: Cole, A. Edwards.

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Tarry, Allbutt, Whetton, Cottrill, Simpson, Culpin, Rosegreen, Mogford, Symonds. Subs: Twigger, Martin.

Borough travelled to the Round Oak Stadium to play Dudley Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

The first flurry of excitement came after just three minutes when Ian Cottrill's indirect free-kick sailed straight into the net but was disallowed while Dudley's best chance came in the 18th minute as Kevin Hampton unbelievably fired over the bar from six yards out after the Borough defence had failed to clear a Stuart Edwards corner.

Four minutes later Mark Rosegreen picked up a long Peter Allbutt clearance and his cross was just a fraction too strong for the in-rushing Tony Simpson. But the deadlock was broken after 29 minutes with a well-executed move. Brian Mogford's deep cross was headed back across goal by Cottrill to Culpin who scored with a spectacular overhead kick. Goal-hungry Culpin was denied a second soon after when he was ruled offside after picking up a pass from Simpson who had tied five defenders in knots with a mesmerising run. Borough were well on top as half-time loomed and they should have increased their lead when a smart turn and cross by Rosegreen found Cottrill whose header flew inches wide.

The second half saw long periods of scrappy, negative play but the game burst into life in the 82nd minute with three goals in as many minutes. It started with Dudley's equaliser as Steve Field slotted home from close range following a Stuart Edwards centre. However, Borough hit back immediately to regain the initiative with Mogford's deep cross to the far post being headed against the underside of the bar by Cottrill, rebounding straight to Culpin who headed gleefully into the empty net.

Straight from the re-start the visitors sewed up the victory with another quality strike from the impressive Culpin. Latching onto a John Symonds' clearance, the former Coventry City and Northampton Town man struck a 25 yard screamer over the head of keeper Ian Scarr and into the roof of the net for the goal of the night and possibly the season. It came right out of the blue and sent Borough's large contingent of travelling supporters into raptures of delight.

Nuneaton Borough v Yate Town

19-09-1992

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Tarry, Allbutt (Barton 37), Whetton, Cottrill, Simpson, Culpin, Rosegreen (Twigger 15), Mogford, Symonds.

Borough welcomed Yate Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

It was Yate who threatened first when Kevin Thaws shot just wide in the second minute but Borough soon settled

down and Ian Cottrill was unlucky in the 11th minute when a superb cross from the left flank skidded across the goalmouth with nobody nearby. Twigger came on for Rosegreen in the 15th minute after the striker limped off with a suspected hamstring injury.



Martyn Twigger gives Borough a 1-0 lead with a bullet header.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Mid-way through the half a fine run by Allbutt saw him find Culpin whose mis-cued shot fell to Twigger who could only hit the ball into the side-netting. Soon after, Cottrill climbed to a pin-point cross from Tony Simpson, his header was cleared off the line to Dave Whetton following up, who could only look on as his shot was blocked. With just eight minutes to go before half-time Peter Allbutt was stretchered off with a knee injury after a heavy tackle, giving player-coach John Barton his first run-out with the first team this season.

A minute into the second half Yate shocked the home crowd by taking the lead through Kevin Thaws who had the simple task of tapping the ball in from close range after Attwood failed to collect a Howard Pritchard corner kick. The goal sparked Borough into life and what followed was some of their best football for many a day. Four minutes after going behind Borough were level when Twigger scored from the spot after he was brought down in the area by full-back Colin Towler. Paul Culpin went close to putting Borough in front in the 50th minute from a Twigger pass but his 20 yard left foot drive cannoned off the post.

Borough's threatened second goal came in the 64th minute when Twigger powerfully headed the ball into the roof of the net from a Brian Mogford corner. Two minutes later Twigger made it three with the best goal of the match when he blasted a brilliant back-heel return from Culpin into the net from an acute angle to the rapturous delight of the Borough faithful. Culpin put the seal on the match in the 73rd minute when he played a one-two with Simpson, rounded hapless keeper Stevenson and calmly slotted the ball into an empty net.

The game then fizzled out as Matt Tarry went off injured, leaving Borough to play out the game with ten men.

Twigger Signs For Bedworth

Nuneaton Borough striker Martyn Twigger put pen to paper and signed for local rivals Bedworth United last night to end a four month chase by Greenbacks' manager Brendan Phillips to sign the highly regarded goal machine. Remarkably, United have captured the 31-year-old without paying a penny as Twigger was not under contract with the club.

Nuneaton Borough v Wednesfield

22-09-1992

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Green, London, Whetton, Martin, Simpson, Culpin, Bullock, Mogford (Hart 72), Symonds. Sub: Cottrill.

Borough welcomed Wednesfield to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup first round tie.

Borough took the lead after only four minutes. There seemed little danger when the tenacious Darren Bullock held off the challenge of Carl Teece in centre midfield but Bullock strode forward to unleash a powerful drive that gathered pace off the wet surface to leave keeper Chris Lunn helpless. It needed two fine saves in rapid succession by Richard Attwood to deny Gary Smith and Kevin McKenzie respectively as Wednesfield battled determinedly for an equaliser. Attwood's contributions proved vital as in the 18th minute Borough extended their lead with Tim Williams diverting a fierce low cross from Simpson into his own net.

Immediately after the break Culpin coolly side-footed a Simpson centre beyond the wrong-footed Lunn from 12 yards to put Borough firmly in command although the best was still to come from the Manor Park goal king. A flowing five-man move down the right again involved the impish Simpson, who put Bullock clear down the line and when his tasty centre came into the area Culpin was on it in a flash to crash a stunning volley into the roof of the net from 15 yards.

To their credit Wednesfield cut the deficit four minutes later, John Owens turning a Kevin McKenzie corner kick wide of Attwood but Borough were far from finished and a two-goal burst in the 82nd and 86th minutes completed the demolition. A bizarre own goal by Mick Grass made it 5-1. Simpson drifted in a right wing free-kick which keeper Lunn completely missed with the ball going through to Grass, whose attempted clearance slithered off his boot and into the vacant net. It was apt that Culpin should have the final say and again Simpson was the architect. The diminutive winger baffled the visitors' back division with another tormenting run and then slid an inch perfect pass for Culpin to finish in style with a low, skidding drive.

Borough Sign Green

Borough have signed Rushden and Diamonds big, bustling striker Peter Green and he is expected to make his debut against Newport at Gloucester City's Meadow Park this weekend. The transfer finally went through after a contractual problem had kept the move on ice until Beazer Homes secretary Dennis Strudwick gave the go-ahead.

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



Kane Signs

Borough have secured the signature of Kevan Kane. The full-back has signed from Racing Club Warwick and is included in the squad for the game against Newport AFC.

Newport AFC v Nuneaton Borough 03-10-1992

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Kane, Bullock, Whetton, Tarry, Simpson, Culpin (Rosegreen 70), Green, Mogford, Symonds. Sub: Cottrill.

Borough travelled to Meadow Park, Gloucester, to play Newport AFC in a Southern League Midland Division game.

The Welshmen began as if their lives depended on it and could easily have gone ahead twice in the opening seconds. Good work by John Lewis sent Chris Lilygreen free but his well-struck shot was brilliantly palmed around the post by keeper Richard Attwood. Almost immediately it was newcomer Kane who came to Borough's rescue when he clear off the line from Darren Poretta, following a teasing run from the lively Lilygreen.

After weathering Newport's early fire, Borough settled down to their task as they upped a gear, playing some neat football and it was only the alert Kendall who saved the home outfit on the 15 minute mark when he raced off his line to clear from Tony Simpson to end a mazy run from the impish winger. Two minutes later Borough were ahead. An inch perfect pass from Simpson found the unmarked Darren Bullock and when his shot from the edge of the box was parried by Kendall, Paul Culpin pounced in typical fashion to fire home his 14th goal of the season and the 149th of his Nuneaton career.

Midway through the half, Green was booked for an off the ball incident and soon after Newport's George Brown received a yellow card for a crude challenge on Simpson. From the resultant free-kick Brian Mogford blasted into the defensive wall and Kane hammered the rebound just wide of the post. Newport should have equalised after 34 minutes, Mark Price crossing to Lilygreen but under no pressure he fired tamely wide from an ideal position.

However, inside a couple of minutes disaster struck for the Exiles when Green broke clear and his goalbound shot was handled outside the penalty box by Kendall leaving referee Shadwell little option but to give the former Wolves custodian his marching orders, with skipper Price taking over between the posts. It was the stand-in keeper who was at fault for Borough's second goal in the 43rd minute. Mogford floated over a teasing corner and Price who desperately came out to punch, could only divert the ball into his own net as Dave Whetton threatened.

The second period died a little as Borough soaked up pressure from Newport, who were unable to find a way through the disciplined visitors' back division in which Whetton and Kane were outstanding. Borough did not have a single effort on goal until the final ten minutes when Whetton headed another Mogford corner kick narrowly wide. Then in the 83rd minute a spectacular overhead kick by Bullock

flew over the bar and John Symonds had a shot blocked by a defender, following good work from Bullock and Simpson.

Borough sewed up the points in the last minute with a debut goal from Green. The battling Bullock won possession in midfield and his cross found substitute Mark Rosegreen, who turned his marker and fed Green who gleefully crashed the ball into the net from 12 yards.

Nuneaton Borough v VS Rugby 06-10-1992

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Kane, Bullock, Whetton, Tarry, Simpson, Cottrill, Green, Rosegreen, Symonds. Subs: Barton, Culpin.

Borough welcomed VS Rugby to Manor Park to play a Barclays Commercial Southern League Cup first round first leg tie.

Both sides created first-half chances with Mark Rosegreen going close for Borough when his mazy run took him past several defenders before shooting from just inside the area, forcing Rugby player-manager Mick Martin to save well. At the opposite end Mick Shearer went close on a couple of occasions. On the half-hour mark Borough's Darren Bullock was dispossessed by Gary Bradder whose square ball found Carty and he fed Shearer on the left flank.

The strong running midfielder hammered a hard, low cross into the penalty area which caused panic and confusion in the home back line, fortunately for George Rooney's men the ball was scrambled away when a breakthrough seemed certain. Rugby dictated play at the start of the second half, once again attacking the blue and whites goal, using both flanks and playing some attractive football. But Borough rode the storm.

Borough looked useful on the break and from one of John Symonds' surging runs down the left, which were a continual source of concern to Carty, he was unlucky not to score after challenging Martin in the Rugby area and then seeing the ball run loose. Tempers became fraught as the frustration of the Rugby players became evident and Nuneaton began to come more into the derby clash. Carty was booked for a high tackle on Kevan Kane and colleague Paul Olnier then appeared to lash out at Darren Bullock but the referee was unsighted enabling the midfielder to escape punishment.

Attwood made a fine save after a good Rugby move initiated by a fine Carty through ball that enabled substitute Robert Smith to break through. Four minutes later, a Symonds free-kick saw Peter Green flick on and force a fine reaction save from Martin while in the 77th minute Mark Rosegreen had a fine chance after an excellent Ian Cottrill tackle robbed Carty. The midfielder slid an inch perfect ball through for Rosegreen but with only Martin to beat, and with the home fans set to relish a goal, the linesman's flag was raised.

Rooney Manager Of The Month

Nuneaton Borough manager George Rooney has won the Beazer Homes League Midland Division's Manager of the Month award for September.



VS Rugby v Nuneaton Borough 20-10-1992

Borough: Manuel, Ridding, Kane (A. Green 25), Bullock, Whetton, Cottrill, Wade, Tarry, P. Green (London 60), Rosegreen, Symonds.

Borough travelled to Butlin Road to play VS Rugby in a Barclays Commercial Southern League Cup first round second leg tie.

Darren Bullock scored his fourth goal of the season to give a depleted Borough side a deserved victory. Borough were without regulars Richard Attwood, Paul Culpin, Tony Simpson and Brian Mogford but the reserve players drafted in performed magnificently. Reserve keeper Peter Manuel in particular had a gem of a game, playing with great maturity and crowned the evening with the Borough man of the match award. The win puts Borough into the second round and takes the season's tally to 15 games without defeat.

John Symonds tested the home side with some stunning bursts of speed on the left, linking with Peter Green in the 14th minute for the number nine to squeeze off a shot at close range with keeper Mick Martin beaten. Borough broke the stalemate in the 21st minute when a free-kick from Kevan Kane found Darren Bullock amidst a ruck of players and his spectacular overhead kick finished up in the right hand corner of the net. Kane left the field injured just four minutes later for Andy Green to come on for his second appearance of the season for the first string.

Both sides relied on long clearances to get the ball upfield but Borough combined well to smother the VS attacks, forcing them to shoot from long range. Just two minutes into the second half Ridding hooked an O'Leary cross off the goal line as the lively Smith menacingly closed in. A double substitution in the 60th minute saw London come on for Peter Green and Hardwick replaced by Warner for VS.

Former Borough favourite Paul Carty almost forced an error when his 69th minute cross was headed against the bar by John Ridding with the home crowd ready to applaud the equaliser. With seconds to go VS won two corners in quick succession but both efforts were wasted and the final whistle saw Borough run out worthy winners.

Nuneaton Borough v Grantham Town 31-10-1992

Borough: Manuel, Ridding, Tarry, Bullock, Whetton, Cottrill, Simpson (Green 78), Culpin, Rosegreen, Mogford, Symonds (Kane 45).

Grantham: Godwin, Bullimore, Stevenson, Moore, Speed, Mann, Topliss, Graham, Harris, Rippin, Grocock. Subs: Talbot, Holmes.

Borough welcomed Grantham to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough playing their first league game for a month, went behind in the second minute when they were caught flat footed as number nine Terry Harris picked up a cross from the left by Neil Mann and calmly slotted the ball home from six yards. Within two minutes Darren Bullock went close, hitting a ball just wide of the goal after an Ian Cottrill cross was headed into his path by Rosegreen.

The goal that Borough had been threatening came in the tenth minute after Bullock was fouled on the edge of the box following a Brian Mogford corner. Culpin took three steps and fired the shot over a wall of defenders into the roof of the net with keeper Jon Godwin well beaten.

From then on Borough piled on the pressure and were virtually dictating the game from midfield. Cottrill, Bullock, Mogford and Ridding were impressive, giving Grantham few opportunities to get forward. With four corners between the 15th and 20th minutes it was only a matter of time before Borough took the lead and Cottrill was close to snatching the vital goal when his 22nd minute header slammed against the bar. Three minutes later Borough went in front. A long ball from John Symonds on the left found Rosegreen who crossed from the edge of the six yard box for Tony Simpson to coolly control the ball before rifling it past Godwin.

A Culpin shot from 15 yards hit the post before Peter Manuel put a goal kick straight to Topliss, but Matt Tarry and Mark Rosegreen saved the day. Grantham were forced back and in the 34th minute Culpin notched his second goal when his shot from eight yards out was deflected off a defender and into the net. With two minutes of the first half to go Borough went further in front when an inch-perfect ball from Cottrill dropped for Culpin who made no mistake from 25 yards, his shot flying high into the roof of the net.

Adrian Smith went close for Grantham at the start of the second half and Borough skipper Dave Whetton was forced to make a timely tackle on Kevin Topliss. The fans were treated to long periods of intense Borough pressure with corner kicks from both wings, a free-kick on the edge of the box and near misses by Culpin, Bullock and Rosegreen. With 15 minutes to go Rosegreen got his reward when a deft little chip over the defence from Simpson found Culpin who turned, tapping the ball to the number nine, who drilled the shot through an impossibly small space between Godwin and the post.

Three minutes later Rosegreen made it six when he latched onto a cross from the left after good work by Cottrill and substitute Kevan Kane, and slammed the ball home from six yards. In the dying seconds Kane almost made it seven when he outpaced the Grantham defence to get well into the area and fire a shot against the angle with Godwin beaten.

Borough BBC Featured FA Cup Club

Nuneaton Borough will come under the national spotlight for their FA Cup tie at Woking following their exciting win over Wembley earlier this week as they now become BBC TV's featured club.

Every year the BBC kick-off the FA Cup competition at the fourth qualifying round stage by choosing one team and following their progress. However, when that team loses, the limelight automatically switches to the side that have knocked them out. The BBC chose Wembley Town this year, but they have now been deposed by Borough.



King's Lynn v Nuneaton Borough 07-11-1992

King's Lynn: Lewis, Fryatt (Brookes 45), Stewart, Worthington, Maxwell, Spauls, Watts, Clay, Webster (J. Howard 73), M. Howard, Robinson.

Borough: Manuel, Ridding, Tarry, Bullock, Whetton (Kane 57), Cottrill, Simpson, Culpin (Green), Rosegreen, Mogford, Symonds.

Borough travelled to The Walks to play King's Lynn in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough extended their unbeaten run to 20 matches, but at a price, as skipper Dave Whetton was stretchered off in the 57th minute with a knee injury. Borough dominated the first half with some delightful football with the first chance going to Paul Culpin in the seventh minute, but he shot wide from a fine through ball from Matt Tarry. The goal that Borough had been threatening came after 16 minutes when Culpin fired home from the spot after he was cynically hacked down from behind by Stewart.

Borough continued to call the tune and could have pushed the score along further when a Brian Mogford corner kick found Cottrill, whose header back across the goal just failed to pick out the unmarked Culpin. The second goal came on the half-hour when a pin-point cross from Cottrill was headed powerfully home by Mark Rosegreen for his seventh of the season. Two minutes later Rosegreen went close to grabbing his second when he hit a first time ball over the bar from close range after picking up John Ridding's defence splitting pass.

Just before the break a Mogford free-kick found the unmarked Darren Bullock whose powerful header looked a certain goal only for the ball to nestle into the side netting.

The second half started in the same vein as Borough increased their grip, Ian Cottrill going close in the 49th minute after some brilliant Borough interplay. Culpin, now on his 23rd goal of the season, was unlucky to see his header go wide minutes later after a good run and cross from John Symonds. Then came the Dave Whetton blow after he crashed to the turf clutching his knee after a tackle on Mark Howard. Kevan Kane came on as Borough quickly closed ranks, re-organised their defence and continued to dominate.

As the half wore on Kings Lynn came into the game but found keeper Peter Manuel and the Borough defence a formidable obstacle and never seriously looked like scoring. By this time Borough were content to soak up the pressure with an occasional foray into their opponents half, Rosegreen going close with minutes to go from yet another pin-point Cottrill cross. At the final whistle Borough were applauded from the field by their large travelling band of supporters who had helped to make it Kings Lynn's biggest gate of the season.

Whetton Doubtful

Central defensive kingpin Dave Whetton was taken to hospital by ambulance on Saturday. He misses the Barclays Commercial Service Cup game at Leicester and is fighting to be fit for the FA Cup tie at Woking.

Leicester United v Nuneaton Borough 10-11-1992

Leicester: Marsden, Steel, Akeredolu, Igoe, C. Tonge, D. Tonge, Dorsett, Hurst, Liquorish, Harbottle, Thomas. Subs: O'Hare, Kennedy.

Borough: Manuel, Wade, Tarry, Bullock (Simpson 45), Ridding, Cottrill, Symonds, Culpin, Rosegreen (Green 70), Mogford, Kane.

Borough travelled to Winchester Road to play Leicester United in a Barclays Commercial Southern League Cup second round tie.

Ian Cottrill got George Rooney's men off to a flying start with a goal inside two minutes as Borough extended their unbeaten run to 21 matches. The stunning opener came from a Brian Mogford corner which eluded top goal scorer Paul Culpin for Cottrill to stab the ball home from 10 yards. Borough, without injured skipper Dave Whetton, started in determined fashion and did not allow United to settle.

Borough extended their lead in the 13th minute when a cross from the left was headed on by Cottrill to Rosegreen who buried the ball in the net with a spectacular bicycle kick from six yards. With the two-goal edge Borough's grip on the game increased and John Symonds in particular was in superb form, ripping through United on the left and linking well with Kevan Kane. Leicester had a chance to cut the deficit on the half-hour from a header by midfielder David Tonge, but Borough held firm and quickly broke back.

Eight minutes before the break Cottrill had a chance to put Borough further ahead when a Symonds cross was knocked on by Culpin but the final touch wasn't strong enough to beat keeper Ian Marsden. Dangerman Mark Rosegreen needed treatment after being chopped down by Chris Tonge, who earned himself a booking for his trouble.

Tony Simpson came on for Bullock in the second half giving Borough extra width. United started to put some nice moves together as the half wore on giving Borough some anxious moments, with Matt Tarry being involved in the thick of the action and getting in a telling through ball to Symonds on 67 minutes. Symonds' cross was picked up by Rosegreen whose shot from the edge of the box was scrambled away.

Hurst went close a minute later as United pressed forward and it looked as though Borough would cave in under the barrage. Alan Liquorish was unlucky with a close-range header that flew straight to keeper Peter Manuel. With two minutes to go Peter Green, replacing Rosegreen, put the seal on a fine night's work by the visitors, striking home the rebound after Culpin's angled drive had struck the inside of the post.

Rooney Quits Borough

Shell-shocked Borough suffered a crushing blow with the news that manager George Rooney has quit Manor Park to return to former club Worcester City. The shock announcement was made by the Borough and Rooney is expected to take over at City within the next 24 hours. Rooney has led Borough to one of their best ever starts to a season,



as the side has notched up a run of 21 games without defeat until Saturday's sad loss against Woking in the FA Cup.

Borough chairman Howard Kerry was stunned by the news of Rooney's resignation saying: "It was a heck of a blow but I understand George's reasons and I would like to thank him for the endeavour he has put into Nuneaton Borough AFC as its first manager, giving the club a team and footballing base on which to grow and move upwards through the divisions."

Barton Takes Over

John Barton has been handed the chance of following his mentor George Rooney as the new boss of Nuneaton Borough. Barton, the former Everton and Derby County full-back, who was brought to the club as Rooney's right hand man, was always the favourite for the post after chairman Howard Kerry announced the club would be making a quick appointment.

The 39-year-old has played a significant part in the Borough's upturn in fortunes this season and is delighted to have been given the opportunity to manage the side.

Barton said: "I am over the moon at the news, and grateful that the board have the confidence in my ability to run the club. I do not intend to make any radically sweeping changes, because the foundations George and I have laid down have begun to take shape."

Nuneaton Borough v West Midlands Police 17-11-1992

Borough: Manuel, Wade, Bateman, Bullock, Ridding, Cottrill, Simpson, Culpin, Rosegreen, Martin (P. Green 80). **Sub:** Andy Green.

WM Police: Carmell, Hornby, Shaw, Smith, Hopcroft, West, Ingram, McMenamin, Hussey, Davidson, Small. **Subs:** Kiernan, Gilbert.

Borough welcomed West Midlands Police to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup second round tie.

Borough did not put in a vintage performance as the Police played a hard, running game and it was not until the third minute of extra-time that they got the vital breakthrough with a typical Paul Culpin strike to settle the issue. The win was overshadowed by the sending off of midfielder Darren Bullock, whose temper boiled over in the 81st minute following a highly questionable tackle by McMenamin.

The opening goal came in the 14th minute when Tony Simpson ran onto a pass 25 yards out and with keeper Darren Carmell off his line he hit a superb looping shot high over the defence, the ball just scraping the underside of the bar. Five minutes later Police were level. Gary Davidson firing home a cross from the left by left winger Sean Small. Borough, struggling to keep up with the pace of the game and missing the steadying influence of Whetton and Tarry, were punished for some slack marking when Davidson struck in the 26th minute to put the visitors in front.

The second half was only six minutes old when Borough were awarded a free-kick on the edge of the Police area. Culpin took two steps and hit a perfectly weighted free-kick around the defensive wall, low into the right hand corner. Borough

looked more confident from that point and were unlucky not to go in front 10 minutes later from Culpin and from efforts by Bullock in the 74th and Ian Cottrill with five minutes left.

Three minutes into extra time Culpin snatched what proved to be the winning goal, his second of the game, and 25th of the season. A ball from Peter Green on the left went to Simpson who found Culpin clear, drilling his shot low into the right hand corner. Symonds was unlucky not to get a fourth in the second half of extra-time when his fierce shot from eight yards cannoned off the angle.

Borough Fan Donates Kit

Nuneaton Borough, who less than a week ago were boosted by a new kit and tracksuit sponsorship, received another bonus this week when a lifelong fan now living in Essex donated a new playing strip to the Manor Park club.

John Ringrose, formerly of Nuneaton but now living in Romford, is an avid Borough supporter and recently won a competition in TeamTalk, a monthly magazine covering the non-league soccer scene. His prize was a new kit to be donated to the team of his choice and John, being a real true blue, had no second thoughts in offering it to the Borough.

Arson Attack On Borough Stand

Strict fire regulations introduced since the Bradford disaster probably saved Nuneaton Borough's main stand from being destroyed in a suspected arson attack. Damage estimated at between £500-£1,000 was caused to plastic seats and the wooden platform in the fire which ripped through the stand.

Sub officer Ian Tatton, of Warwickshire Fire Service, said anti-fire treatment had stopped the blaze from spreading to the rest of the stand. "The damaged seats and wood platform had to be cut away and the lounge and rooms underneath were smoke logged but damage could have been a lot worse.

Barton Appoints Eastoe

Nuneaton Borough boss John Barton has wasted no time in appointing a number two with former Everton colleague Peter Eastoe taking over the assistant manager's job at Manor Park. The much-travelled Eastoe, who was born in Dordon, has vast experience at Football League level, having played for QPR, Swindon, WBA and the Merseysiders, where in the early 80s he and Barton were colleagues in the Everton side.

Nuneaton Borough v Leicester United 21-11-1992

Borough: Manuel, Wade, Kane, Bullock, Ridding, Cottrill, Simpson, Culpin, Rosegreen, Mogford, Symonds (P. Green 67). **Sub:** Martin.

Borough welcomed Leicester United to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough battled through a strength-sapping quagmire to further reinforce their promotion claims. It was the third time this season that the two sides had met and despite the appalling conditions no one watching could say they did not



get the full value for money. Striker Mark Rosegreen had an inspired match, revelling in the action and deservedly scoring both goals. And Ian Cottrill was a rock in defence, taking on an unaccustomed role to marshal the back line and playing a major part in containing Leicester.

Borough struck in the third minute when John Symonds' pass put Kevan Kane clear on the left and his centre found Rosegreen who squeezed the ball home past the diving Ian Marsden. Alan Liquorish fired a shot over the bar from the edge of the Borough penalty area as the odd spot of rain turned into a torrential downpour and ball control became increasingly difficult. Bullock went close to adding a second when Marsden fumbled a free-kick from Brian Mogford and Kennedy cleared off the line.

With 23 minutes gone Tony Simpson made a lone charge from deep in his own half to the edge of the Leicester area but with Symonds unmarked on the left he hung onto the ball too long and was overwhelmed. The visitors pressed forward and Neil Dorsett was denied by keeper Peter Manuel before Anton Thomas, slipped at the last second as he looked certain to score. With ten minutes to half-time Borough blitzed United's goal with attacks going in left, right and centre as Simpson, Rosegreen and Paul Culpin all went close.

With the second half three minutes old Rosegreen was unlucky not to make it two when he ran onto a perfect through ball from Darren Bullock only to shoot wide. Brian Mogford's 51st minute corner was cleared to Bullock whose through ball set Culpin up only for his half-struck shot to be turned away for a corner. Liquorish drew the save of the match from Manuel in the 63rd minute when he climbed to meet a centre from Cheatle only to see his point-blank range header tipped over the bar. It was Leicester's best chance to get on level terms and they were punished six minutes later when Borough went 2-0 up.

It was Rosegreen, sliding in to push the ball over the line, and finish off a Borough attack that left a Culpin shot stuck in the mud with two defenders failing to clear. In spite of their uphill task, United continued the struggle, but the final quarter was marked by a whole series of Borough corner kicks with substitute Peter Green going close with a shot and a close range header in a minute of frenzied action. At the final whistle the pitch resembled a First World War battlefield.

Nuneaton Borough v Tamworth 24-11-1992

Borough: Manuel, Kane (Wade 45), P. Green, Bullock, Ridding, Cottrill, Simpson, Culpin, Rosegreen, Mogford (London), Symonds.

Borough welcomed Tamworth to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough suffered their first league defeat of the season to a confident Tamworth side in a gruelling battle. Borough had a good first 30 minutes and could have been two in front. Bullock in particular being unlucky on two occasions with just the keeper to beat. But Tamworth took their chances and that

was the difference between the sides. Early Borough pressure looked certain to pay off as the Lambs were trapped in their own half for long periods, the best chance coming in the sixth minute as Mark Rosegreen whipped in a chest high cross from the right, but keeper Williams gathered safely.

Tamworth's Mark Smith showed his pace, linking well with number 11 Darren Dickson to leave lingering doubts on Borough's limitations at the back. Bullock, at the other end, deserved better, his superb effort looked destined for the net until Williams at full stretch tipped the ball around the post for a corner. An even better chance was agonisingly snatched away a minute later when the ball stuck in the mud as Bullock ran through with just Williams to beat.

Tamworth went ahead in the 30th minute after Smith ran across the Borough area, evading Kevan Kane before squeezing an acute angled left-foot shot between Peter Manuel and the left post. Borough tried to get back on level terms with a number of good chances just needing a final touch but right on half-time Tamworth delivered a hammer blow with the second goal. Mark Boyland had all the time in the world as he controlled a cross from the left, side stepped a tackle before burying the ball into the net.

With the restart barely four minutes old the Lambs struck again when Manuel failed to hold on to a Boyland shot for Tony Eccleston to swoop for what proved to be the killer goal. Borough were badly missing the influence of Whetton and Tarry at the back as the home side pushed forward leaving glaring gaps in midfield. Martin Bodkin almost punished Borough further in the 60th minute, catching the defence wide open and forcing Manuel to make a fingertip save.

With 13 minutes to go Bullock was unlucky with Borough's best effort of the night, working his way to the edge of the area before unleashing a shot only for Williams to tip it over. Borough were rewarded for their efforts in the 81st minute when Mark Rosegreen was brought down in the area by McKenzie and Paul Culpin made no mistake from the spot. The final five minutes could have seen Borough level the scores as Symonds, Culpin and Green all went close.

Barton Denies Bullock Rumour

Nuneaton Borough manager John Barton has put paid to rumours that key player Darren Bullock may be leaving Manor Park. Speculation was rife on the terraces and in the town that Bullock could be on his way after recent reports linked him with GM Conference outfit Telford United.

But Barton said he wanted to squash speculation on Bullock's future right away. "I was approached by Telford but there is nothing doing. We are not interested in selling our best players and Darren is staying at Manor Park."

Midfielder Bullock, who was signed in the close season from Malvern Town, is on a lengthy contract and has been a key player in Borough's promotion challenge this term.

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



Borough Sign Gillett

Injury hit Nuneaton Borough have signed central defender Craig Gillett on a month's loan from Kidderminster Harriers. Gillett, 20, will be in the squad for the Beazer Homes Midland Division fixture at Redditch.

Redditch United v Nuneaton Borough 05-12-1992

Borough: Manuel, Ridding, Tarry, London, Gillett, Cottrill, Simpson (P. Green 76), Culpin, Rosegreen, Mogford, Symonds. Sub: Wade.

Borough travelled to The Valley to play Redditch United in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough showed their true fighting spirit with a well deserved three point haul. The game opened at a frantic pace in spite of the treacherous surface and Redditch's impressive Paul Snowball quickly made his presence felt with a telling fourth minute centre which was ably cut out by Matt Tarry. It was a baptism of fire for 20-year-old Craig Gillett. The centre back, who was brought in to buy time until the injured Dave Whetton returns to the side, made a confident debut and could be an asset to Borough in the weeks to come.

Tony Simpson seemed better able to handle the conditions and looked as if he had put Paul Culpin into a scoring position a minute later but the number eight shot wide. Simpson's celebrations were cut short in the eleventh minute when his goal was disallowed by referee Cox who ruled that Culpin was offside. The breakthrough came after 14 minutes when Culpin converted from the spot for his second penalty success in a row after Mark Rosegreen had been brought down by skipper Jimmy Williams.

However, Williams more than made up for his error when he climbed to head home a centre from Snowball for the equaliser. Redditch looked menacing from that point with winger Paul Levy showing his pace and linking well with Kevin Seivwright and Fabian Sandiford to worry the Borough defence. With ten minutes to go before half-time Borough were having their best spell, but Culpin was out of luck when he picked up a Tony Simpson pass, turned and shot in one move, only for Lee Webb to gather safely.

Ian Cottrill almost beat Webb straight after the break, following good work by Rosegreen. The Reds came back and caught Borough napping in the 52nd minute when Eric Sandiford headed down a Paul Levy centre and the ball struck the base of the post. Two minutes later Sandiford was within an ace of rounding Manuel, but the grounded keeper somehow got his fingers to the ball. Snowball gave Borough a fright when his 25 yard free-kick struck the bar, but the visiting fans erupted in the 62nd minute as the Redditch defence failed to clear a cross from John Ridding and John Symmonds guided the ball into the net with a spectacular overhead kick.

Eight minutes later Borough went two up. Culpin squeezed his foot between two defenders as the ball bobbed on the line for his 28th goal of the campaign. With the game nearing its conclusion tempers became frayed with Paul Molloy's name

going into the book in the 73rd minute following a heavy tackle on Symonds. Redditch pressure paid off with 60 second left when Fabian Sandiford drove home brother Eric's hard, low centre which left Manuel sprawling in the mud. Redditch made a desperate bid to grab an equaliser but time was against them.

Hinckley Town v Nuneaton Borough 12-12-1992

Hinckley: Hewitt, Rowe (Love), Purser, Taylor, Campbell, Hunt, Harriman, Dublin, Pearson (Allsopp), Smith, Tedds.

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, London, Gillett, Tarry, Cottrill, Simpson, Culpin, Rosegreen, Mogford, Symonds. Subs: P. Green, Wade.

Borough travelled to Leicester Road to play Hinckley Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough swept to the top of the league table with an easy victory over their local rivals. Nuneaton took the lead in the fourth minute via a Tarry header from a Brian Mogford centre. The goal gave Borough an early grip on the game which they never relaxed. Culpin flicked a ball over the Hinckley defence to Rosegreen who was within an ace of beating Hewitt.

Tony Simpson revelled in the muddy conditions, frustrating the Eagles and making several defence-splitting breaks into the area. One of those penetrating moves led to Borough's second goal in the 19th minute. From a Mogford corner Simpson beat two defenders before unleashing a shot from a narrow angle which Hewitt could only parry into the net. Hinckley tried desperately to get to grips with what was fast becoming a rout, but that urgency led to Dave Tedds being shown a yellow card for a rash tackle on John Ridding.

Sixteen-year-old Chris Pearson shot wide from eight yards before Borough went three up in the 36th minute when Culpin slammed home a centre from John Symonds at close range. Symonds himself went close two minutes later as his dipping shot from wide on the left found the roof of the net. Culpin missed a chance to make it four when he shot straight into the hands of Hewitt five minutes before half-time.

Four minutes after the break Culpin sliced a shot wide from Simpson's centre before Hinckley put a few moves together, risking all as full backs Maurice Rowe and Paul Purser pushed forward. Rowe's free kick in the 60th minute was too high for Pearson and a minute later Dean Smith was crowded out. Two minutes later Hinckley were dealt another hammer blow when Rosegreen forced the ball home through a crowded defence after picking up a deflection from Culpin. Borough's leading scorer tried his luck from a free kick which he tried to chip over the wall, but he was inches wide.

The home side snatched a consolation goal with 12 minutes to go as Borough seemed to relax slightly, Clem Dublin climbing above a packed defence to head home a well worked Lee Harriman centre. Three minutes later it was all over. On-form striker Mark Rosegreen looked certain to score only for Purser to send him sprawling in the area. Referee Leach pointed to the spot and Culpin stepped up to bury the ball into the net for his third penalty success of the season.



Nuneaton Borough v Solihull Borough 15-12-1992

Borough: R. Attwood, Ridding, London, Gillett, Tarry, Cottrill (Wade 69), Simpson, Culpin, Rosegreen, Bullock, Symonds. **Sub:** Green.
Solihull: Lee, Pinner, Latchford, Boxall, Dyson, Ollis (Byrne 69), Mulders, A. Attwood (Ibrahim 79), Cougan, Carter, Burton.

Borough welcomed Solihull Borough to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup third round tie.

John Barton's men were excellent value for their success, although the visitors could easily have earned a replay if lively striker Chris Burton had not squandered a gilt-edged chance deep into injury time. Earlier in the tie Nuneaton dominated virtually throughout only for their finishing to surprisingly lack conviction as a number of clear-cut opportunities went begging.

On a heavy surface, both sides struggled to get fluency into their play with Nuneaton showing far more enterprise and inside the opening minute Craig Gillett, whose loan period from Kidderminster was extended to take in last night's tie, headed against the post from Ian Cottrill's left wing corner. Chances came at either end with home keeper Richard Attwood diving bravely at Alan Attwood's feet, while Rosegreen had a penalty appeal turned down after ex-Coventry defender Paul Dyson had blatantly held the front runner back.

On the break, Solihull, who had five players booked along with Bullock and Cottrill for the home outfit had their moments and when Burton skipped clear Attwood rescued the situation with a fine save low down. However, most of the goalmouth action was at the opposite end with fleet-footed Tony Simpson twice coming close to giving Nuneaton the lead. Solihull keeper Steve Lee superbly tipped over a John Symonds pile-driver and then watched helplessly as a rare Paul Culpin header flashed narrowly wide.

The breakthrough that had been threatening finally came on 28 minutes when Cottrill waded through two midfield challenges to find Simpson, and his run exposed the visitors' defence before he fed Bullock who ducked inside Clive Boxall to ram a fierce 15-yard left-foot drive into the corner of the net.

It took all of Lee's agility to keep out two explosive drives from man of the match Bullock. But the keeper had no answer to Rosegreen's classy finish that extended Nuneaton's lead after 75 minutes. The tireless Bullock rifled in a deep centre that Culpin acrobatically overhead volleyed into the path of the alert Rosegreen and he made no mistake with a crisp drive that bulged the back of the Solihull net.

With the tie seemingly out of reach, the visitors launched a late rally that brought its reward in the 85th minute when Reckey Carter's peach of a flick enabled the nimble Burton to move through a flat home back line to round Richard Attwood and shoot into an empty net. Seconds later Rosegreen completely miskicked with only Lee to beat before Solihull missed the chance of an equaliser when Burton shot wide in the dying seconds.

Stourbridge v Nuneaton Borough 19-12-1992

Stourbridge: Crannage, Lowe (Cadman 78), Claxton, Horne, Jones, Potter, Williams, Wright, Hall, Cooper, Evans. **Sub:** Joinson.
Borough: Attwood, Wade, Tarry, Bullock, Ridding, Cottrill, Simpson (London 71), Culpin (P. Green 44), Rosegreen, Mogford, Symonds.

Borough travelled to Amblecote to play Stourbridge in a Southern League Midland Division game.

The game opened at a tremendous pace as both sides battled to gain the upper hand in the treacherous conditions. Borough forced three corners in the opening ten minutes before Attwood had to punch clear from Stourbridge new-boy Adrian Cooper. Attwood had to save again from Cooper making an instinctive save from a powerful shot. Evran Wright, joint top scorer with Paul Culpin gave Borough a hard time, but the finishing touch eluded him. With 33 minutes gone a Matt Tarry free-kick was headed on by Ian Cottrill to Mark Rosegreen but his centre wrong-footed Culpin and Brian Mogford as Borough's best chance went begging.

But five minutes later Borough were in front. Full back Jason Lowe was penalised for handling on the edge of the box and Paul Culpin hit a perfect free-kick past the wall and just inside the right hand post. Attwood made another good save from Cooper with five minutes of normal time to go before half-time, but referee Curtis added on an additional eleven minutes, in which first Cottrill and then Mogford tested keeper Andy Crannage.

Stourbridge came out after half-time determined to level the scores and Wright again was in the thick of the action. With 12 minutes of the second half gone Cottrill made a solo run in from the left, but with players waiting in the centre he fired the shot into the side netting. Things started to look ominous as the Glassboys threatened to snatch the equaliser, but right on cue Borough added to their lead. A Mogford free-kick from the left found Bullock, who climbed to head home from the edge of the six yard box.

It was the boost Borough needed and from that point they never looked like losing in spite of almost constant pressure from the increasingly desperate home side. Both sides fought to the finish with Borough thoroughly deserving their win through effort alone and thanks to Richard Attwood

Bedworth United v Nuneaton Borough 28-12-1992

Bedworth: O'Connor, Dixon, McGrory, Rodwell, Smithers, Parker, Andersen, Emery, McBean, Twigger, Straw. **Subs:** Thomas, Osborne.
Borough: Attwood, Wade, Tarry, Bullock, Ridding, Cottrill, Simpson, Culpin, Rosegreen, Mogford, Symonds. **Subs:** P. Green, London.

Borough travelled to The Oval to play Bedworth United in a Southern League Midland Division game.

The match got off to a frantic start and Bedworth could have gone into an early lead when Peter McBean climbed for a high centre, only to be denied by keeper Richard Attwood. Five

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



minutes later it was the Greenbacks turn to breathe a sigh of relief when Paul Culpin looked certain to break through only for the impressive Jim Rodwell to make a timely tackle. Culpin seemed to be less sharp than usual and had a frustrating time against the home defence, particularly Timmy Smithers, who had an inspired game against his old club.

Bustling Darren Bullock tried to break the deadlock with a shot from fully 25 yards only for the ball to sail high over the bar. As the game progressed tempers became frayed with the result that Bullock and Nicky Andersen were both shown the yellow card. A free-kick from Shaun McGrory fell to McBean but the hard-working striker was again beaten to the ball by Attwood. With 28 minutes gone Borough's Tony Simpson burst through to the edge of the area, laying a pass off to Ian Cottrill, but his first time strike went high and wide.

A Mark Rosegreen header just cleared the bar but Bedworth should have scored in the final seven minutes of the half as Borough's goal was subjected to a battering. First Twigger missed with a volley from 18 yards and then Rob Straw fired in a shot which hit Attwood's legs. Straw won't want to remember his next chance two minutes before half time when a cross from Emery found him clear but he shot straight into Attwood's legs and then blasted the rebound against the post.

Borough came out after the break in more positive mood and Simpson did well to escape the attentions of Andersen before crossing to Rosegreen whose deft touch-on to Bullock 10 yards out was hit over the bar. Simpson got in a shot following good work by Bullock, who flicked on a Cottrill free-kick. With just 17 minutes left, the 2,000-plus crowd seemed resigned to a scoreless draw when Borough made the breakthrough. Mark Rosegreen broke clear into the area where he was upended by McGrory. The referee had no hesitation in pointing to the spot and Culpin slammed in his 33rd goal of the season.

To their credit the Greenbacks did not let their heads drop and came back with renewed energy. Straw was again in the thick of the action, and it was only the reflexes of Attwood that kept Borough's noses in front in a storming finish, but eventually Bedworth grabbed an equaliser. Tim Emery did well to beat two defenders to get in a perfect cross from the left for McBean to level the issue with five minutes remaining.

A minute later Twigger should have made it two as he latched on to a deflection only for Attwood to save at the foot of the post. But as the game moved into the fourth minute of injury time Twigger, the former Borough idol, buried the Blues with a clinical finish from close range.

Nuneaton Borough v Tamworth 05-01-1993

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, London, Bullock, Tarry, Cottrill, Gillett, Culpin, Rosegreen, Mogford, Symonds (Simpson). Sub: Wade.

Borough welcomed Tamworth to Manor Park to play a Barclays Commercial Southern League Cup third round tie.

Craig Gillett who returned on loan from Kidderminster Harriers had a hand in the own goal that gave Borough the

lead and then scored the second goal that saw Borough through to the quarter-final where they will meet either Halesowen or Gloucester City.

Nuneaton Borough v Sutton Coldfield Town 12-01-1993

Borough: Manuel, Ridding (Green 79), Gillett, Bullock, Tarry, Cottrill, Simpson, Culpin, Rosegreen, Mogford, Symonds. Sub: Wade.

Sutton: Belford, Ling, Clarke, Sturgeon, Whittingham, Jennings, Carroll, Lindsey, Smith (Mead), Rathbone (Richardson), Biddle.

Borough welcomed Sutton Coldfield Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough looked set to go in front two minutes into the game when Paul Culpin, usually so deadly, hit a close range shot wide following a poor clearance by keeper Dale Belford. That incident mirrored the match as time after time Belford denied the home side with a series of exasperating, but decisive, saves. Minutes later a superb centre from Mark Rosegreen found Culpin unmarked in the area but his first-time effort went wide.



Borough striker Paul Culpin finds a way through the Sutton defence but his rising drive from the edge of the area flew wide of the target.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

A poor back pass gave Culpin yet another golden opportunity to make the breakthrough but with the keeper frozen on his line he incredibly put the ball a yard wide of the left-hand post. Sutton looked to have no answer to a rampant Borough side and it looked only a matter of time before they caved in. The 907 spectators did not have long to wait. With 28 minutes on the clock a long ball from Ian Cottrill fell to Rosegreen who half-hit a pass for Culpin to bury the ball in the net from the edge of the area.



Culpin almost put Borough further in front when his cross from wide on the right was within a whisker of going in as it hit the top of the bar. The Royals had a chance to equalise five minutes before half-time when Lindsey climbed above the Borough defence to head down, but Manuel saved comfortably. Right on half-time Brian Mogford made a timely tackle on Matthew Carroll as the winger looked set to burst through, giving Manuel time to smother the ball.

Straight after the break Rob Sturgeon headed wide from a Micky Clarke centre before Tony Simpson set the crowd alight with two mesmerising runs within two minutes, carving his way through the defence only for Belford to save the first at point blank range and then mishitting a pass to Culpin with the defence in tatters. But that proved to be the solitary bright spot in the half for Borough and with 52 minutes gone Sutton drew level. Substitute Royston Richardson taking the honours with a clinical finish from a Jennings centre.

Richardson caused consternation in the Borough defence six minutes later, firing a centre in from the right for Clarke who flicked the shot past Manuel only for the ball to clear the open goal. Brian Mogford picked up a long clearance from Manuel, looked up and hit a first-time ball wide to the left for Cottrill who wasted a golden chance, firing straight at Belford with players waiting in the area.

Matt Tarry received a kick to the head from Lindsey, which resulted in a booking for the Sutton player and treatment off the field for Tarry. The loss of Tarry at a crucial time in the game upset Borough and Sutton capitalised with 20 minutes to go as Richardson grabbed his second from a pass by Andy Ling. Both sides suffered a blow in the 74th minute when referee Crompton gave Lindsey and Mogford their marching orders after punches were exchanged after a fierce tackle on Mogford.

Sutton kept up the pressure with Richardson and substitute Steve Mead going close and Rosegreen and Culpin again frustrated by Belford. Right on time Borough had a perfect chance to square the game when John Symonds made a superb run to cross from the edge of the area but with just Belford to beat Rosegreen headed high over the bar.

Nuneaton Borough v Rushden & Diamonds 16-01-1993

Borough: Attwood, Byrne, Symonds, Bullock, Gillett, Cottrill, Simpson (Culpin 68), P. Green, Rosegreen, Tarry, London. **Sub:** Ridding.

Rushden: Shoemake, Peakes, Johnson, Flower, Page, Leslie, Beech, Donegal (Watkins), Kearns, York. **Sub:** Mann.

Borough welcomed Rushden & Diamonds to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

John Symonds had two chances in the first seven minutes but Shoemake was equal to the task, continuing to deny Borough and easily taking the accolade as man of the match. Borough could not find a way through as time after time corners and free-kicks were wasted. Darren Bullock went close in the 23rd minute, beating two defenders on the left for Shoemake to take the head high shot at the near post.

Ten minute before half time the visitors had their first shot at goal when Leslie's half-hearted stab at the ball from the edge of the area hardly troubled Richard Attwood, back in the side after missing the match against Sutton. Peter Green, taking over from dropped striker Paul Culpin, missed an Ian Cottrill free kick from wide on the left which cleared the mass of players in the area but the ball skidded away with the open goal only yards away.

At the start of the second half Borough went looking for the vital breakthrough and Mark Rosegreen shook off his marker John Flower to get in a centre which was gathered by Shoemake as Green closed in. Then, with 57 minutes gone, Rushden went in front. A Borough clearance left Attwood hopelessly stranded off his line as Glenn Beech hit a first time shot from 35 yards, clearing the keeper before dropping under the bar. It looked as though Borough were heading for a cruel defeat when Culpin came on for Simpson with 22 minutes to go and turned the game around.

He should have put Borough level two minutes later but could only blast a shot high over the bar from eight yards after a superb John Symonds effort had been tipped over. Symonds more than made up for it with a flying header, connecting magnificently with a cross from Alan Byrne, making his debut on a month's loan from Solihull Borough. Rushden were reeling under the constant Borough pressure as first Culpin, Symonds, yet again, and Green subjected the visitors to a harrowing time but the goals would not come.

Nuneaton Borough v Aston Villa

19-01-1993

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, London (Wade 47), Bullock, Tarry, Cottrill, Gillett, P. Green, Rosegreen, Culpin, Symonds. **Sub:** Simpson.

Villa: Oakes, Evans, Pearce, Williams, Browne, Boden, Berry, Davis, Donnelly (Scimeza 64), Fenton, Farrell. **Sub:** Cowe.

Borough welcomed Aston Villa to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup quarter-final tie.

Villa opened a tremendous pace and it was only the lightning reactions of midfielder Craig Gillett, deflecting a shot around the post for a corner in the second minute, that kept Borough on an even keel. After weathering the initial shock the Blues settled down, producing some delightful play. Darren Bullock in particular revelling in the challenge and testing keeper Michael Oakes with a 20th minute header. Three minutes later goal-hungry Paul Culpin looked as if he had scored. But Oakes saved on the line to silence the supporters but Villa were not out of the woods as a succession of attacks threatened to break down their resistance.

With ten minutes to go to half-time Villa had their best chance, centre-forward Steve Donnelly firing just wide of the right post after picking up an inch perfect centre from winger David Farrell. But Villa made the breakthrough in the 41st minute with Graham Fenton finishing off a superb Farrell centre following a defence-splitting move down the left. The visitors were still celebrating two minutes later

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



when Borough equalised as Peter Green slotted home a Mark Rosegreen cross from close range.



Super striker Paul Culpin with acres of space between him and the rest of the outfield players puts Borough into the lead with their second goal.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Borough had a scare seven minutes after the restart when a bad clearance by Wade resulted in Neil Davis teeing up a shot from the edge of the area, with Richard Attwood scrambling back just in time. Borough took the lead in the 61st minute after a long ball down the middle saw Culpin challenge centre-half Paul Browne before taking the ball wide to the left of the area to calmly slot home from 15 yards. The lead was extended with 21 minutes to go with the goal of the match after Darren Bullock took on the defence single-handed, drawing players wide to the left before hitting a high, looping pass to Green who made no mistake, heading past the hapless Oakes.

Fenton capitalised on a defensive error in the 77th minute, darting through for a clinical finish to set up a nail-biting conclusion. Villa desperately threw everything into attack but Borough were equal to the task and could have gone further in front when Bullock's 25 yard free kick after Oakes handled outside the area was deflected for a corner.

Barri v Nuneaton Borough

23-01-1993

Barri: Roberts, Russell, Blakeney, Brown, Gordon, Morrison, Giles, Ian Mitchell, John Mitchell, Russell Turley (Hunter), Withers. **Sub:** Jukes.

Borough: Attwood, Byrne, Symonds, Bullock, Gillett, Cottrill (Ridding), Tarry, P. Green, Rosegreen, Culpin, Wilcox. **Sub:** Simpson.

Borough travelled to St George's Lane, Worcester, to play Barri in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough attacked from the opening whistle with Paul Culpin's second minute free-kick going just wide. Barri hit back in the tenth minute when Conroy Gordon caused panic in the Borough defence, picking up a lofted corner kick before hitting the ball high over the bar. From then on it was all Borough and it was only the tremendous goalkeeping skills of John Roberts that kept the scoreline down to four

as Barri slipped to their worst defeat of the season. Borough went in front in the 13th minute when Bullock blasted home from eight yards after picking up a tap on from Culpin. Three minutes later the prolific Culpin was celebrating his 36th goal of the season after latching onto a long clearance by Attwood.



Mark Rosegreen shows his agility with a high-flying overhead kick that was saved low down by John Roberts.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

New boy Bret Wilcox, on loan from Kidderminster, was booked along with former Borough player Lance Morrison, following a heated dispute. In spite of almost constant Borough pressure Barri were hanging on, keeper Roberts safely taking every ball that was centred into his area. With ten minutes to half-time Barri had their best chance to pull a goal back but Dave Withers slipped as he shot from the edge of the area and the ball cleared the bar. Culpin skyed a shot over the bar from Rosegreen's pass.

With the second half only two minutes old Peter Green was inches away from adding to the scoreline before Matt Tarry had a crack from a corner but Roberts saved comfortably. The home keeper saved again when Wilcox unleashed a tremendous shot, but Roberts saved high in the top left hand corner. Fifteen minutes into the half Barri won a corner and Paul Giles hit a perfect centre for Withers to convert from close range. Borough hit back, however, and Rosegreen looked on in disbelief as Roberts saved his shot from six yards.

Bullock then scored what could well be the goal of the season when he picked up a clearance deep in his own half before laying the ball off to Wilcox wide on the right and then ran the length of the field to volley the return home from 12 yards. Culpin then missed with a diving header, the ball going just wide of the post, but three minutes later it was all over. A nicely worked move from Bullock sent John Symonds sprinting down the left wing, hitting a centre to Rosegreen who took the ball into the area before laying it off to Culpin whose shot went spinning away from Roberts to clip the inside of the post and into the net. Right on time Culpin went close to notching his hat-trick, but the ball flew well clear.



Nuneaton Borough v Halesowen Town 26-01-1993

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Symonds, Bullock (London 74), Gillett, Cottrill (Simpson 56), Tarry, P. Green, Rosegreen, Culpin, Wilcox.

Borough welcomed Halesowen to Manor Park to play a Barclays Commercial Southern League Cup quarter-final tie. Things started to look ominous early on as Halesowen repeatedly swept down both wings to get in telling crosses and the only surprise was how Borough kept them out for so long but the threatened blow came in the 30th minute. Paul Joinson latched on to a through pass from Adam Patrick before calmly going round the sprawling Richard Attwood to side foot the ball into the net. Right on half-time a shot from Green was parried by Rowe for a corner resulting in a spectacular overhead kick by Darren Bullock which sailed harmlessly over the crossbar.

Mark Rosegreen had a chance to level the match just three minutes from the break after good work by Wilcox and Culpin but the visitors' defence was too sharp.

Two minutes later the tie was dead and buried for Borough as first Patrick, followed a minute later by number two Shane Abell, whose centre to the far post cleared Attwood to go into the net, putting the visitors out of reach. Borough began to look dispirited as chances came to nothing against the Halesowen defence but Attwood's match was rapidly turning into a nightmare as he almost let in a repeat of the third goal, the ball slipping through his hands to miss the goal by inches.

Fortunes plummeted further for Borough in the 70th minute when Marsh clashed with Bullock on the edge of the six yard box to steal number four. With five minutes left substitute Luke Yates drove the final nail into the Borough coffin, strolling virtually unchallenged into the area to pick his spot and hammering a low shot under Attwood.

Prestigious Friendly For Manor Park

Nuneaton Borough's Manor Park ground has been chosen to host one of the most important games in the club's history as part of the Southern Football League's centennial celebrations. The match, which is one of three to be staged across the country, the other two being at Sittingbourne and Dorchester, will take place in November with a Midlands Select tackling an England Non-League XI.

Nuneaton Borough v Atherstone United 02-02-1993

Borough: Manuel, Byrne, Kane (A. Green 77), Gillett, Ridding, Wilcox (Woodfine 68), Simpson, Wilson, P. Green, Martin, Symonds.

Atherstone: Spencer, Everitt, Upton, Judd, Wileman, Randle, Giddens, Donovan, Aubrey, Baddams (Whitehurst 58), Fry. **Sub:** Williams.

Borough welcomed Atherstone United to Manor Park to play a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

The visitors capitalised on Borough's uncertainty when Stuart Aubrey broke on the right, his centre finding Danny Donovan who completely sliced his close-range shot to Judd

who tapped in with Peter Manuel stranded. Judd looked set to make it two for the visitors with 32 minutes gone but his shot flew wide. Borough immediately won a corner resulting in Tony Simpson hitting a high centre for the excellent Lee Spencer to take from the head of Peter Green.

Simpson should have scored when he latched onto a through ball by Danny Martin, his low shot being stopped by Paul Upton for Spencer to gather the rebound.

Ten minutes into the second half Borough had chances galore to snatch the equaliser, first Simpson hitting a shot a yard over the crossbar from 18 yards then Martin, missing a glorious chance from close range and popping up again to turn and shoot in one movement for Spencer to gather safely. Troublesome Donovan caused consternation when he broke into the area with just Manuel to beat but he was denied by a timely tackle from Craig Gillett.

With five minutes remaining it looked as though Adders would hold onto their lead when Borough struck for a hotly disputed equaliser. A Peter Green overhead kick fell to Symonds who brushed off a tackle before blasting a shot which Spencer could only parry into the top left corner. Three minutes later it was all over after Everitt was penalised for pushing Simpson. Symonds calmly hitting the ball low into the net after an uncomfortably long wait as a player received treatment.

Dudley Town v Nuneaton Borough 04-02-1993

Borough: Manuel, Wade, Woodfine, A. Green, Willis, London, K. Wilson, Martin (Gardner 74), A. Wilson (Banks 74), Simpson, Grimshaw.

Borough travelled to the Round Oak Stadium to play Dudley Town in a Midland Floodlit Cup game.

Understrength Borough were good value for their 1-1 draw with virtually a full strength Dudley in their final group match in which both sides have already qualified for the quarter-finals. In a game that will easily be forgotten, Dudley had the better of the early stages with Steve Field and Andy Hodgetts going close although as the opening half wore on it was the visitors who took the initiative.

Three times the lively Tony Simpson broke clear only to fail to make the most of the opportunities but in the 49th minute Simpson proved his worth when his mazy run past two defenders enabled Danny Martin to slot home his low cross from close range. Dudley bounced back in dogged fashion to equalise on 70 minutes when Hodgetts brought out a fine diving save from Peter Manuel, but his parry enabled Chris Field to coolly slot home the rebound.

Borough Sign Bradder

Nuneaton Borough boosted their promotion prospects with the capture of highly regarded midfield orchestrator Gary Bradder from VS Rugby for a reputed fee of £800. The former VS and Atherstone United skipper put pen to paper and immediately joins the first team squad for the vital home league match against Redditch United.

Nuneaton Borough v Redditch United 06-02-1993

Borough: Manuel, Bryne, Kane (Wilcox 45), Ridding, Gillett, Cottrill, Bradder, P. Green, Rosegreen, Culpin, Symonds. **Sub:** Simpson.

Borough welcomed Redditch United to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

There was an early shock for Borough as with barely 60 seconds on the clock Steve Donnelly gave Redditch the lead from a Paul Snowball corner. Borough hit back from this early set-back and both Peter Green and Mark Rosegreen went close with first-time efforts before Borough were awarded a penalty after five minutes. A pass into the area found Culpin, who looked like going all the way only to be chopped down by Richard Holt and Culpin stepped up to put the spot kick past keeper Andy Biggs. Three minutes later Borough were in front. John Symonds grabbed his eighth goal of the season after Culpin's shot rebounded off a defender.

After 30 minutes Redditch went close as Dennis Mulholland hit a 20 yard effort against the post with Manuel beaten. But any hopes of a recovery were cruelly shattered for the visitors when Mulholland was given his marching orders for the second time in consecutive seasons, following a head-butt on Peter Green.

Redditch, realising they had nothing to lose, came at Borough after the break, winning a corner which was gathered safely by Manuel. Rosegreen hit a shot just wide before Borough extended their lead. A long through ball from Alan Byrne found Culpin, who in spite of claims for offside, calmly took the ball on to bury it in the corner of the net from the edge of the area. Five minutes later it was Craig Gillett's turn as the midfielder volleyed in a Symonds centre from close range. As Borough took hold of the game players were literally queuing up to have a crack.

With 23 minutes left Peter Green put Borough further in front as his 18 yard shot took a deflection to beat Biggs and four minutes later Green was on target again driving a low shot home from a Bret Wilcox pass. Justin Taylor blasted a shot wide of the post and Rosegreen had a goal disallowed before, with just nine minutes remaining, Rosegreen set up Culpin in a nice one-two for Borough's seventh goal. Just three minutes later Borough made it eight with a diving header from Byrne. Ian Cottrill could have added to the score in the dying seconds, but Biggs tipped his shot against the crossbar.

Nuneaton Borough v Bridgnorth Town 09-02-1993

Borough: Manuel, Byrne, Symonds, Bullock, Gillett, Cottrill, Bradder (Ridding 79), P. Green (Simpson 63), Rosegreen, Culpin, Tarry.

Borough welcomed Bridgnorth Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

The visitors more than matched Borough early on and capitalised on their early hesitancy by going ahead in the 12th minute. Jason Trehearne picked up a loose ball in centrefield and almost casually strolled through two tackles

to bury the ball into the net from the edge of the area. Borough hit back in typical fashion to equalise nine minutes later. Craig Gillett stealing in at the back post to power Ian Cottrill's deep free-kick past keeper Mick Wells. Gillett's second goal in consecutive matches.



Craig Gillett gets in behind the Bridgnorth defence to head Borough back on level terms after the visitors had taken a shock lead.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Bullock was within an ace of finishing off a one-two between Rosegreen and Culpin while at the opposite end Town went close as a free-kick from Paul Tester fell to the talented Danny Blocksidge, who managed to get a foot to the ball but keeper Peter Manuel was ideally positioned to save. Mark Rosegreen should have put Borough in front before the break from a deceptive cross from Gary Bradder, the striker seemed to duck under the ball at the crucial moment.

The visitors almost caught Borough napping at the start of the second half when Bob Macauley picked up a through ball to hit a first-time shot which Manuel parried. Peter Wilding latched on to the rebound but the keeper did well to push the goalbound drive to safety. Trehearne went close to snatching a second after Town broke away after Macauley linked with Tester to split the Borough defence but the ball was cleared.

Bullock, who had a relatively quite game, started to buzz with 15 minutes to go and Wells pulled off a save. But inevitably pressure paid off with Bullock climbing well to meet an Ian Cottrill corner and send a looping header into the net. Despite Bridgnorth's efforts to equalise Borough held out as Simpson entertained the crowd with some clever possession play during the last ten minutes.

Forest Green Rovers v Nuneaton Borough 13-02-1993

Borough: Manuel, Ridding, Symonds, Bullock, Gillett, Cottrill, Bradder, P. Green (Simpson 86), Rosegreen, Culpin, Tarry. **Sub:** Wade.

Borough travelled to The Lawn to play Forest Green Rovers in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough were shaken by Rovers' unrelenting pace and could easily have been three goals down in the first five minutes from efforts by centre-forward Dixon, Jones and the superb



Christian White. But Borough weathered the storm and struck back with seven minutes on the clock, a determined run and through ball by Ian Cottrill was tapped on by Paul Culpin for Mark Rosegreen to sidefoot home from 10 yards. Cottrill was revitalised following a mediocre performance against Bridgnorth in midweek and could have put Borough further in front three minutes later when his superbly struck free-kick brought off a magnificent save by Gary French.

Not to be outdone Rovers continued to pile on the pressure and in the 15th minute John Ridding was adjudged to have handled a shot by Clint Gobey and White fired the spot kick past Manuel to level the scores. The match switched from end to end and Cottrill again went close with a screamer from 18 yards and Rovers right back Spalding made it to the line to drive in a low centre with the defence rooted to the spot.

Bullock made a typical charge through the middle and was hacked down inches inside the area by defender Lee Spalding. Referee Clark had no hesitation in pointing to the spot for Paul Culpin to convert to put Borough 2-1 up with 32 minutes gone. Peter Green had an inspired game, with his best effort coming shortly before half-time from a Cottrill corner, which he met with a bullet-like header which French just managed to turn away.

Green was in action in the first minute of the second-half with another powerful header which went just wide. Borough were enjoying their best period of the match and five minutes later came the third goal. Culpin's superb overhead cross found the head of Green. French parried the header out to Rosegreen who headed home from six yards. To their credit Rovers never let their heads drop and as the game went into the final 30 minutes their confidence seemed to grow.

With 15 minutes left Gobey evaded a Gillett challenge and got in a centre to the near post. The ball took a deflection off the surprised John Symonds and went into the net as he closed on the lurking Dixon. From then on Rovers subjected Borough to unrelenting pressure

Nuneaton Borough v Bilston Town 16-02-1993

Borough: Manuel, Ridding, Symonds, Bullock, Gillett, Cottrill, Simpson, P. Green, Bradder, Culpin, Tarry. **Subs:** Wade, Martin.

Borough welcomed Bilston Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Bilston went straight onto the offensive from the opening whistle. Danny Williams just lost out to keeper Peter Manuel as he raced onto a Rob Bradley through ball. In spite of Borough's evident superiority they could not find the finishing touch and at times all it needed was a player following up. The case was well illustrated in the 11th minute when Culpin latched onto a bad clearance to race through, but with no support he was forced to go all the way as Lunn came out and smothered the shot. Lunn was having his work cut out and a Darren Bullock centre almost caught him by surprise as he tipped it over the crossbar.

Tony Simpson did well to get to the bye-line in the 26th minute, but his centre was cleared, but a repeat move a minute later went to Culpin, who had the simple task of running the ball into the net. Borough moved up a gear as Bilston were reduced to the occasional foray with Simpson being caught offside by inches and Bullock racing through before firing a terrific shot which Lunn could barely punch wide. With seconds to go till half-time Bilston's Paul Wilde lived up to his name, firing a shot high over the crossbar after picking up a centre on the edge of the area.

After the break Simpson was unable to break through the Bilston defence and the ball was cleared to Bullock, whose 25 yard shot went over the bar. The visitors were hanging on gamely as a succession of Borough attacks went in. Bullock again went close and Peter Green, with plenty of time, should have scored, but his left foot shot cleared the bar. With 24 minutes left the Tangerines capitalised with a quick break into space to squeeze the equaliser. Number seven Danny Williams headed home from a searching centre by winger John Baker.

The game settled into a stalemate until, with five minutes to go Bullock was chopped down on the edge of the penalty area for Culpin to step up for what has now become his speciality.

Nuneaton Borough v Newport AFC 20-02-1993

Borough: Manuel, Ridding (Simpson 72), Symonds, Bullock, Gillett, Cottrill, Bradder, P. Green, Rosegreen, Culpin, Tarry. **Sub:** Wade.

Newport: Mason, Jones, Vaughan, Brown, Coyne, Pengelly, Lowndes, Price, Chiverton, Beattie, Lilygreen. **Subs:** Threlfall, Williams.

Borough welcomed Newport AFC to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough had three chances to score within the opening five minutes, but Newport took advantage of the reprieve to snatch the lead. With 11 minutes gone Matt Tarry's headed clearance went to Chris Lilygreen who took the ball on only for Nigel Vaughan to pinch the shot and the ball, half blocked by Rosegreen, spun over Peter Manuel and bounced into the net. The goal spurred Borough into action, Cottrill's header, Green's shot and a first-time blast by Bullock, all just wide, came within a minute.

Newport almost went further ahead when Mark Price's near-post header from a Steve Lowndes' corner, struck the woodwork before being scrambled away. Culpin put a free-kick just wide of the post in the 27th minute before Lilygreen went close five minutes later as he latched on to a Price header, turning and shooting in one movement from eight yards, but clearing the crossbar. The last action of the half saw Manuel punch away from the head of Mark Price after Tarry was forced to give away a corner.

After the break John Symonds came into his own, using his speed to break down the left wing and for long period Newport were under siege in their own area. Time after



time Borough were within an ace of scoring as the visitors fought to repel the waves of attacks. Lowndes made a vital interception as a Culpin pass looked destined for Rosegreen. Coyne cleared off the line in the 64th minute following Culpin's long ball into the centre and Borough's desperation increased as full time loomed. Bullock again went close with a right foot 25 yard curler missing by inches and Culpin was desperately unlucky with a shot that was inches off the line after hitting the underside of the crossbar.

It looked as if time had beaten Borough's efforts, but an equaliser came out of the blue. A Symonds centre to the far post was volleyed by Culpin but Mason was in position to beat the shot away and in the melee that followed full back Linden Jones was penalised for handling. Culpin made no mistake from the spot, taking three steps and burying the ball in the back of the net to the delight and relief of the supporters. Newport to their credit pressed forward in the hope of snatching the winner but time was not on their side and honours were even at the final whistle.

Evesham United v Nuneaton Borough 24-02-1993

Borough: Manuel, Ridding, Symonds, Bullock, Gillett, Cottrill, Bradder, Green, Rosegreen, Culpin, Tarry. **Subs:** Simpson, Wade.

Borough travelled to Common Road to play Evesham United in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Although Evesham started well, Borough slowly began to warm to their task with Bradder trying his luck from the edge of the area only to see his drive fly just wide while home keeper Chris Taylor had to go low to keep out Green's low drive seconds later. When United broke forward Alan Attwood was only inches too high following a slick pass from Nick Jordan but it was the visitors who held the edge and when Bradder's defence-splitting through ball put John Ridding clear on the right, his cross was scrambled away for a fruitless corner.

Another 20 yard snap shot from Bradder whistled past a post and then a storming run from the outstanding Darren Bullock past three defenders ended with a 25-yarder that flew just off target. The Manor Park men continued to force the pace without finding the necessary fire power where it matters, and when Paul Culpin superbly put Bullock in space on the right, his resulting centre was met by Green's diving header that again missed the mark.

It was a familiar story after the break with the visitors taking the initiative and the highly motivated Bullock again causing problems with a smart turn and shot that scraped the bar and then seeing a goalbound header cleared off the line. Evesham continued to live dangerously and were lucky to survive penalty claims as Brett Fleetwood looked to have blatantly pushed Green over in the area. Evesham looked dangerous on the break, although Craig Gillett and Matt Tarry kept a tight grip on things.

Bradder's astute pass found Culpin in space, and the former Coventry City striker raced to the byeline before cutting the

ball back for Green to drill into the net from close range. Boosted by the breakthrough, Borough asserted their superiority in the 84th minute with another quality goal as Bradder opened his Borough account in brilliant style.

The ex-Adders and Greenbacks midfielder timed his run into the area perfectly to meet an Ian Cottrill free-kick and crash a powerful diving header wide of Taylor from 15 yards to sew up the points and send the 300-plus Borough fans in the 747 crowd home content, and in the knowledge their favourites are on course for promotion.

Nuneaton Borough v Hinckley Town 27-02-1993

Borough: Manuel, Ridding, Symonds, Bullock, Gillett, Cottrill, Bradder, P. Green (Wade 63), Rosegreen, Simpson, Tarry. **Sub:** Martin.
Hinckley: Hewitt, Symcox, Lane, Williams, Purser, Campbell, Saunders, Hill, Bufton (Taylor 25), Massey, Tedds. **Sub:** Beazley.

Borough welcomed Hinckley Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

The game was preceded by a two minute silence in memory of England World Cup winning captain Bobby Moore, who died from cancer last week.

Borough were straight into the hunt from the opening whistle, winning a free-kick after a Paul Purser challenge on Tony Simpson but Peter Green's header was cleared. Martin Symcox's chip from 30 yards went just wide with Peter Manuel off his line. Rosegreen and Bullock were showing a good understanding and their one-two in the 12th minute almost came off as Borough started to stamp their authority on the game with Hinckley firmly boxed up in their own half. The breakthrough came in the 25th minute when an Ian Cottrill corner was flicked on at the near post for Rosegreen whose dynamic overhead kick flew into the roof of the net.

Bullock's free kick from the edge of the area struck the post, while five minutes later another chance went begging when Peter Green failed to get hold of a shot which went tamely to Hewitt. Borough's second goal came eleven minutes from half-time when Bullock linked with Rosegreen to pick up the return, run on and calmly slot the ball home from six yards. The home side were knocking the ball around with arrogant ease with five minutes to go before the break and it only looked a matter of time before the third goal came. It did, but it was Hinckley who were celebrating. A back-pass by John Ridding looked safe, but for some inexplicable reason the keeper kicked the ball straight to Phil Hill who promptly fired home from 18 yards.

After the break Hill was again in action, his through ball to Andy Massey was good enough to produce the equaliser but the number 10 needed too much time. Bullock put a header wide, which was one of the few bright spots of the second half and later Green incredibly missed an easy chance from a cross by Rosegreen – his header scraping the wrong side of the post. Bradder tried a long range shot, but Hewitt saved before Hill should have made it 2-2 after bursting past Craig



Gillett, but instead of shooting he took the ball wide and Manuel closed the angle. Borough put in some last gasp efforts with a long range shot from Bullock, a Simpson effort hitting the crossbar and Symonds heading just wide.

Weston-super-Mare v Nuneaton Borough 02-03-1993

Borough: Attwood, Wade, Symonds, Bullock, Gillett, Cottrill (Simpson), Bradder, P. Green, Rosegreen, Culpin, Tarry. Sub: K. Wilson.

Borough travelled to Woodspring Park to play Weston-super-Mare in a Southern League Midland Division game.

The match started at a fearsome pace and did not let up, but on a bitterly cold night Borough were frozen out in spite of being awarded three free kicks and a corner in the first 20 minutes. Weston went ahead in the 23rd minute when Nigel Hawkins latched onto a poor clearance before rifling a low shot past Attwood into the far corner. Within a minute Borough should have been level but Peter Green fired wide from 10 yards. The home side went close to boosting their lead on the half hour when a centre by skipper Lee Rogers was hit wide from a first-time shot by Matt Lazenby. Rogers' opposite number Gary Bradder had a tentative shot four minutes later after picking up a clearance from a John Symonds corner.

Ricky Chandler was on target right on half-time with a free-kick 20 yards out which Attwood blocked for Craig Gillett to step in and make a timely clearance.

Weston increased their lead 13 minutes into the second half when Lazenby had two free headers in a goalmouth melee and Jon Bowering slammed a shot into the roof of the net. Two minutes later Ian Cottrill and Mark Rosegreen were replaced by Tony Simpson and on-loan midfielder Kevin Wilson. Simpson, looking confident after his mediocre performance against Hinckley on Saturday, added the extra width up front and for a time it looked as though Borough would claw their way back into the game.

Gillett was one of Borough's few successes on the night, going close with a header in the 63rd minute from a Symonds centre and volleying inches over the crossbar from a Bradder corner kick. With 17 minutes remaining Simpson drew gasps from the Borough faithful when he picked up a superb Paul Culpin centre before hitting his shot against the post. It was followed by a rare flurry of action from Borough culminating in a Darren Bullock snap shot which went yards high and wide.

With two minutes left Borough grabbed a consolation goal, a typical Culpin effort as he pounced on a half chance to bury the ball into the net from ten yards.

Borough Not Buying Cock And Bear

Furious Borough bosses have hit out at claims made in a local giveaway newspaper that they are about to bid for an old established Nuneaton hostelry. Indignant club press officer and director Gordon Chislett said: "Numerous statements made in the "freesheet" which stated we wanted to take over the Cock and Bear public house are totally untrue."

Grantham Town v Nuneaton Borough 07-03-1993

Grantham: Godwin, T. Cook, Watson, Spencer, Speed, A. Cook, Kilgour, Bullimore, Scotcher, Gore, Mann. Subs: Noble, O'Meara.

Borough: Attwood, Wade, Symonds, Tarry, Gillett, Cottrill, Simpson, Bradder, Rosegreen, Culpin, K. Wilson (Martin 60). Sub: P. Green.

Borough travelled to the South Kesteven Stadium to play Grantham Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

In front of Grantham's biggest gate of the season by more than 200, Borough looked to have quickly got the Weston defeat out of their system as goal ace Culpin struck twice in clinical fashion before the hosts had time to settle. His opener came on seven minutes. Tony Simpson found Culpin on the edge of the area and the former Coventry City hitman floated a left-foot shot over keeper Godwin and into the far corner of the net. Four minutes later the Gingerbreads, who lost 5-0 the previous day to Redditch, looked set for another severe drubbing when Culpin was put through by a fine Gary Bradder pass and though his initial effort struck the post he made no mistake from the rebound.

The visitors continued to dictate, Godwin doing well to deny Kevin Wilson, but in the 19th minute, and from their first positive attack, Grantham cut the deficit as Kilgour rose unmarked to thump a powerful 12-yard downward header well out of keeper Richard Attwood's reach. Although the hosts gained momentum from the breakthrough, Borough had the better chances with Ian Cottrill heading over the bar from a Bradder centre and then watching his cross shot fly just outside the far post. Rosegreen then failed to make the most of a one-on-one situation with Godwin and just after the interval Bradder had a header fly just wide. Bullimore forced Attwood to go full length with a 25-yarder and Tony Simpson headed wide following a fine John Symonds surge and cross down the left.

Mark Gore raced through on goal and it needed Attwood's legs to deny the frontman. With 15 minutes remaining, the Lincolnshire side grabbed the equaliser as Scotcher took full advantage of a hesitant Borough back division to prod the ball wide of the exposed Attwood from close in. But Borough showed their character to regain the lead after 85 minutes with the best goal of the game. Rosegreen latched on to a loose ball 20 yards out and turned his marker before unleashing a stunning left-foot drive that flew past Godwin and buried itself into the far corner of the net.

Nuneaton Borough v King's Lynn 09-03-1993

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Kane, Tarry (Whetton 78), Gillett, Cottrill, Simpson, Bradder, Rosegreen, Culpin, Symonds. Sub: P. Green.

Borough welcomed King's Lynn to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

The game began with an immediate booking as John Ridding fouled winger David Robinson on the half-way line. Borough responded with a direct attack as Ridding knocked the ball

over the top, beating the offside trap, for Culpin who crossed superbly from the right hand side along the six yard box, but Mark Rosegreen missed the ball by inches, after electing to kick rather than head the ball home. Symonds then placed a pinpoint pass over the top of the Linnets defence for Culpin, who let it bounce once and then hit it from 20 yards out only to see keeper Lewis push the ball away for a corner.

On the stroke of half-time, however, Borough won a free-kick from 40 yards out. Gary Bradder mishit his first attempt as the ball cannoned off a defender and bounced back to him. He quickly made up for the mistake as he spotted Culpin on the edge of the box and found him superbly with a probing right footed pass. Culpin knocked the ball off for a one-two with Rosegreen, receiving the ball again on the penalty spot before curling his left footed shot around the keeper and into the net.

The second half began as the first had left off as Borough immediately went on the attack with favourite Simpson who received the ball on the edge of the area and then dribbled his way toward the byline. He pulled the ball back from the right hand side and John Symonds made no mistake from eight yards as he hammered the ball into the roof of the net. Simpson then produced an inspired bit of running down the right hand wing to cross for Culpin who headed straight into the keeper's hands when a third looked imminent.

Ian Cottrill went close after a good build-up involving Symonds and Matt Tarry, who in turn found Culpin down the left hand side. His looping cross found the unmarked Cottrill who headed over the bar. Simpson's corner from the right hand side was cleared by Rippin out to the left hand side, only to find Tarry who lobbed the ball back into the box, finding Culpin who magnificently turned the ball from the left hand side of the box and hit the ball first time, only to see it cannon off the crossbar.

After 78 minutes winger Simpson knocked the ball from the right hand side finding the unmarked Culpin who hit the ball on the volley into the back of the net for Borough's third.



John Symonds coolly sidefoots the ball into the net to put Borough two goals up. Photo: Heartland Evening News

Yate Town v Nuneaton Borough 13-03-1993

Yate: Wescott, Towler, Harrison, Dunn, Twentyman, Hwelett (Gardiner 33), Davis, M. Winter, Thompson, Thaws, Smith. **Sub:** G. Davis.

Borough: Manuel, Ridding, Kane, Bullock, Tarry, Cottrill, Simpson, Bradder, Rosegreen, Culpin, Symonds. **Subs:** Green, Wade.

Borough travelled to Lodge Road to play Yate Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough, missing the services of Craig Gillett, called back from his loan spell by Kidderminster, could have gone in front inside a minute. Darren Bullock, back from suspension, beat four players and fired a fierce drive that keeper Andy Wescott parried straight to Culpin, who shot against the outside of the post. Thaws was put through by Gary Hewlett, but the alert Peter Manuel was off his line quickly to smother the ball.

Soon after, good work by Bullock gave Culpin a chance, but his snap shot was confidently dealt with by Wescott while Towler headed a Mark Rosegreen effort off the line. However, there was a shock in store for Borough in the 40th minute when the home side took the lead. A poor pass by John Symonds fell to Davis who ran unhindered to rifle a low drive wide of the exposed Manuel. Culpin had an effort blocked right on the stroke of half-time following a mazy Tony Simpson run.

In the second half Borough forced a series of corners that failed to bear fruit. Nine minutes into the half Yate extended their advantage. Steve Winter, on loan from Walsall, fed Davis and his inch perfect cross left Thaws with the easiest of tasks to turn the ball past Manuel and into the net. Straight from the restart, Symonds shot just over and on the hour a fine run and cross by the same player left Culpin in space but his shot was blocked by the on-rushing Westcott.

Borough had penalty appeals turned down after Rosegreen appeared to be pushed by Wescott while Gary Bradder and Rosegreen had efforts go just wide. However, Yate again made the most of their opponents' all out attacking policy to hit them on the break with six minutes remaining. The alert Davis was again the marksman as he latched on to Manuel's parry from a Winter 20-yarder to slip the loose ball into an empty net.

Sixty seconds later Borough gained a consolation goal. Tony Simpson went on a weaving run past two defenders only to be bundled over in the box. Up stepped Culpin to net the resulting spot kick to reach his half-century for the season.

Bedworth United v Nuneaton Borough 16-03-1993

Bedworth: O'Connor, Rodwell, McGrory, Piggon, Smithers, Parker, Anderson (Crowley 70), Emery, McBean, Twigger, Straw. **Sub:** Wilkins.

Borough: Attwood, Wade (P. Green 80), Ridding, Bullock, Whetton, Cottrill, Simpson, Tarry, Rosegreen, Culpin, Symonds (Gillett 20).

Borough travelled to The Oval to play Bedworth United in a Birmingham Senior Cup semi-final tie.

Bedworth put Borough under early pressure, winning two corners in the first two minutes but Borough looked

Rushden & Diamonds v Nuneaton Borough 18-03-1993

Borough: Attwood, Wade, Ridding, Bullock, Whetton (Kane 45), Cottrill, Simpson, Bradder, Rosegreen, Culpin, Tarry. Sub: Green.

dangerous on the break and John Symonds' powerful run in the fourth minute forced the home side into giving away a corner. Winger Tony Simpson was enjoying the firm, dry condition and linked well with striker Paul Culpin, hitting a return from the right for the striker to blast a shot just wide. Borough had the ball in the net in the 13th minute but Rosegreen's effort was disallowed for offside. A minute later Rosegreen hit a shot just over the bar from 18 yards.

Attwood took a high lob off McBean's head before Martyn Twigger and Rob Straw played a one-two, but Attwood again saved. Straw should have put the Greenbacks into the lead in the 33rd minute when he picked up a pass just inside the Borough penalty area, but he could not get enough power behind the shot. Two minutes from half-time Ian Cottrill made a last gasp tackle to deny Twigger as he ran onto a Shaun McGrory clearance with just Attwood between him and the goal.



Darren Bullock launches his header into the net to take Borough through to the final.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Ten minutes into the second half Bedworth supporters' hearts sank with a superb goal from Darren Bullock, who burst between two defenders to meet a centre from Tony Simpson and power a bullet header into the Bedworth net. The goal galvanised Bedworth into action and five minutes later a superb run by McBean ended with a low centre across the visitors penalty area, but Tim Emery was just inches short of making contact.

A period of intense Bedworth pressure followed with a Nicky Andersen free-kick from the edge of the Borough box flying clear to McBean whose header was gathered by Attwood. Andersen went close within a minute, his 20 yard cracker of a shot forcing Attwood into making a magnificent instinctive save. With time ticking away Bedworth became more desperate, pushing players forward, which left spaces for the visitors to exploit and on 70 minutes Borough were awarded a free-kick 30 yards out and Bullock blasted a sizzling shot just wide of the right hand post.

Bedworth sensed that the game was slipping away and the drama was heightened even more as referee Harbour added on five minutes of stoppage time.

Borough travelled to Nene Park to play Rushden & Diamonds in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Rushden's skilful Adie Mann drew a roar from the home supporters in the fourth minute with a superb shot drilled across the area with Attwood stranded. Mann proved to be troublesome and minutes later he shot just wide. Tony Simpson almost broke through after 17 minutes with just Kevin Fox to beat, but Dave Johnson got a deflection. Borough tried to steady the pace as the battle for midfield grew more intense and forced a couple of corners. Mark Rosegreen's snatched header cleared the bar and Dave Whetton climbed high to get in a header despite the attention of two defenders.

Diamonds' top scorer Glenville Donegal showed his first flash of form in the 29th minute, picking up a ball from the wing but Attwood was in position to cover the shot. Minutes later Donegal linked with Mann for the number eight to strike the home sides best chance of the half, his shot curling away from Attwood, who took the ball at full stretch. With ten minutes of the half remaining Borough were starting to put some good moves together and confounding sporadic attacks with cool efficiency. With referee Bullivant about to blow for half-time Borough stunned the home side with a goal out of the blue. A great through ball by Gary Bradder found Tony Simpson on the edge of the six yard box and he turned two defenders before hitting the ball past Fox to the delight of the Borough supporters.

The Borough goal came under severe pressure at the start of the second half. For a fraught five minutes it looked as though they would give way as Colin Waite used his height advantage to get in a free header, tipped over by Attwood and seconds later his header took a deflection and hit the post. But Borough weathered the storm and from then on they took the game by the scruff of the neck and proceeded to outplay Rushden. Borough went close in the 58th minute when Bradder's superb pass found Rosegreen, who beat Fox only for his shot to cannon off the base of the post.

With tension mounting tempers were understandably wearing thin and in a rare outburst Paul Culpin received a yellow card after reacting to a cynical tackle by Dave Johnson who was also booked. Culpin quickly shook off the memory in the 69th minute with Borough's second goal. It was Bradder again who fed the pass through for the number 10 to run the ball into the net.

Culpin again went close with 13 minutes to go, running onto a long ball from Darren Bullock only for Darrell Page to get in a timely tackle. The unthinkable happened four minutes from time when Culpin missed a penalty, skying the ball over the bar after Tony Simpson had been chopped down.

Nuneaton Borough v Forest Green Rovers 20-03-1993

Borough: Attwood, Wade, Kane, Bullock (P. Green 58), Tarry, Cottrill, Simpson, Bradder, Rosegreen, Culpin, Ridding. **Sub:** A. Wilson.
Forest Green: French, Spalding, Sivell, Collicutt, Churchward, Pearce, White, Wells, Dixon, Evans (Ford 79), Jones. **Sub:** Gobey.

Borough welcomed Forest Green Rovers to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Things looked ominous for Forest Green when Gary Bradder headed a magnificent fourth minute goal from an Ian Cottrill corner. Tony Simpson was buzzing and delighted the 1,000 plus crowd with the first of what was to be an afternoon of dazzling runs, as he laid on a centre for Paul Culpin, who slammed the shot against a post. Borough forged further ahead in the ninth minute with Matt Tarry leaping to head home a Cottrill corner. A further blow for the visitors came in the 17th minute when Culpin latched on to a Cottrill throw-in to turn and centre for Simpson to round two defenders and slot home past keeper Gary French.



Tony Simpson hooks a Culpin centre in for Borough's third goal.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Rovers tried to come to terms with the situation, striker Christian White in particular showing what a good player he is with some deft touches. Eleven minutes from half-time Cottrill was rewarded for his goal-making efforts when he grabbed one for himself, meeting a perfectly flighted Simpson centre to head home from six yards. With 41 minutes gone the final nail was driven home when Borough snatched their fifth goal. A beautiful centre by Wade was perfectly dummied by Culpin for Bullock to run in and slam home from close range.

Bullock almost returned the compliment a minute later when his tap on for Culpin saw the number ten fire his first-time shot over the crossbar.

After the restart Rovers looked to regain some lost pride and a free-kick on the edge of the Borough area went to Chris Wells who used his height to head goalwards but Attwood, standing on the line, saved after two attempts. Rovers knew the game

was up long before the end and Borough held out to keep a clean sheet to round off a scintillating week. Borough can expect a stronger challenge from second placed Gresley.

Nuneaton Borough v Gresley Rovers 23-03-1993

Borough: Attwood, Wade, Ridding (P. Green 82), Bullock, Whetton, Cottrill, Simpson, Bradder, Rosegreen, Culpin, Tarry. **Sub:** Kane.
Gresley: Aston, Foster, Swainston, Denby, Evans, Rigg, Wardle, Weston, Taplin (Scott 83), Devaney, Hurst. **Sub:** Marsden.

Borough welcomed Gresley Rovers to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough made a promising start when a powerful Darren Bullock header went just wide from a Tony Simpson centre in the second minute. The Blues won the first of 12 corner kicks after eight minutes, Ian Cottrill's deep centre finding Simpson who was quickly dispossessed by the alert Gresley defence. Both teams were sparring for the midfield with Rovers gradually gaining the upper hand by the 20th minute, just as Borough had their best chance to open the scoring.

John Ridding's pass inside from the left was knocked on by Gary Bradder for Bullock and Paul Culpin to play a one-two but the final touch just eluded Bullock's charge. Gresley exploited some glaring spaces in the Borough defence and Craig Weston had a free strike right on 20 minutes when he cut inside on the left before shooting from 20 yards to give Richard Attwood his first real taste of the action. The visitors had some amazing, and for the Borough exasperating, escapes as time and again keeper Bob Aston failed to gather centres cleanly, but the ball always seemed to evade a blue shirted player.

With 14 minutes to go before half time Cottrill hit a well-timed 30 yard shot just over the crossbar as Borough were enjoying a period of pressure. But they were punished when a quick breakaway gave Rovers the lead in the 37th minute. A long ball out to the right exposed Borough's defence as a first-time centre by Richard Wardle to the far post was headed home by Martin Devaney.

In spite of intense Borough pressure Rovers held onto the lead but with the start of the second half, Borough enjoyed their best period of the game. Bradder was unlucky with an attempt to chip Aston after good work by Bullock in hooking a centre in from the right. Bradder went close a minute later, his fierce drive being deflected for a corner after good work by Simpson and Culpin. Striker Mark Rosegreen, who had not been having a happy time, was unlucky not to level the match when he pounced on yet another fluffed centre by Aston but Stuart Evans was covering to clear off the line.

Gresley weathered the storm, but there was a ray of hope when Borough were awarded a free-kick on the edge of Rovers penalty area. Bullock steamed in to unleash a terrific shot for Aston to tip over the bar. From then the game petered out to its final conclusion but the home supporters were not too downhearted as they left, still cheering 'champions'.



Redditch United v Nuneaton Borough 25-03-1993

Redditch: Walker, Mulholland, B. Williams, Molloy (T. Donnelly 77), J. Williams, Holt, Seivwright (Slowey 83), Smith, Moss, S. Donnelly, Warner.
Borough: Manuel, Willis (Jones 85), Bartlett, Wilcox, Bateman, Woodfine, Hart, London, A. Wilson, Green, Alsop. Sub: Grimshaw.

Borough travelled to The Valley to play Redditch United in a Midland Floodlit Cup semi-final tie.

Borough made the early running with Julian Alsop heading wide from six yards following a Steve Woodfine cross while Green was also off target when a Ken Willis free-kick fell to him on the edge of the area. Redditch were looking distinctly ill at ease and their worries were confirmed in the 34th minute when Borough grabbed what proved to be the deciding goal with a fine opportunist effort from Green. There seemed to be little danger when the ball was played to the edge of the home penalty area but as two defenders hesitated, Green was in like a flash to gain possession and clip a superb lob over keeper Ron Walker and into the net.

Three minutes from the interval United could have pulled back on terms when Mike Warner blazed tamely over from close range after Ali Wilson had blocked Rob Smith's initial shot on the goal line.

After the break Redditch gained the upper hand but were unable to breach a determined Borough defence, although it did need a splendid save from Manuel to deny Steve Donnelly. Ex-Borough full-back Dennis Mulholland then tried his luck with a dipping 25-yard free-kick that Manuel expertly parried to safety. However, Smith's battlers kept their composure and shape to keep their lead intact. In fact, it was Borough who could have stretched their advantage late on as Dave Hart's neat through ball put Alsop in the clear but with only Walker to beat the tall striker rifled a couple of yards off target.

However, the miss was of no consequence as the Manor Park side confidently played out the final minutes to score a notable success in what was essentially a Borough reserve side against a Redditch first team.

Borough Sign Richard Landon

Highly rated Stratford Town striker Richard Landon, who had trials with Cambridge United earlier this season, has linked up with title-chasing Nuneaton Borough until the end of the season. Landon, who is in his early 20s, is leading scorer for the Ansell's Combination side.

Leicester United v Nuneaton Borough 27-03-1993

Leicester: Marsden, Jackson, Wall, A. Potter, Tonge, Ross, Bond, Dakin, Liquorish, R. Potter (Thomas 89), Taylor.
Borough: Attwood, Wade, Ridding, Bullock (London 54), Whetton, Cottrill, Simpson, Bradder, Rosegreen, Culpin (Green 52), Tarry.

Borough travelled to Blaby to play Leicester United in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough were under almost constant pressure from a lively

United side throughout the first half. Centre-forward Alan Liquorish gave Borough a taste of what was to come in the fifth minute when he played a through ball to Rob Potter whose close range shot almost went between Richard Attwood's legs. At the other end Ian Marsden did well to take a high centre from Paul Culpin as Ian Cottrill closed in.

Borough's defence was caught napping when unmarked Liquorish ran through to connect with a Stuart Bond centre and headed home from close range. Spirits were raised only four minutes later when referee Bayliss pointed to the spot after Tony Simpson was bundled off the ball by David Wall, who earned himself a yellow card. But seconds later the Borough faithful were stunned as Culpin fired inches wide. Simpson almost made amends minutes later when a Cottrill corner was cleared but his first-time shot was gathered low by Marsden.

A 25-yard drive by Wall was tipped over by Attwood before Mark Rosegreen failed to get hold of a shot after being set up by Simpson. With a minute left to go in the first-half Cottrill levelled the issue, snapping up a Simpson cross to calmly side-foot the shot past Marsden. Simpson almost returned the compliment with seconds to go when he latched on to a Cottrill centre, but Marsden was in position to block the shot.

Borough started the second half in determined fashion but suffered a blow after 52 minutes when Culpin went off with a hamstring injury. Substitute Peter Green was on the field for barely 30 seconds when he hit a blistering 25-yard shot that swerved and dipped high into the left hand corner of the net. Borough suffered another injury blow seconds later as Bullock left the field to be replaced by Paul London.

Gary Bradder's calming influence gave Borough that bit extra and United never regained their first half authority, only succeeding in making the odd break. Keith Dakin had the best chance in the 70th minute after running onto a through ball by Wall. Green might have added to his first goal had it not been for the hard-working Marsden but Borough ran out worthy winners and now have a week to lick their wounds.

Borough Sign Byrne

Injury hit Nuneaton Borough boosted their championship chances with the signing of influential defender Alan Byrne from Solihull Borough. Byrne, who made five appearance for Borough earlier in the year, signed for an undisclosed fee. Manager John Barton was also hopeful of adding former Kidderminster Harriers midfielder Anton Joseph as cover until the end of the season

Bridgnorth Town v Nuneaton Borough 03-04-1993

Borough: Attwood, Byrne, Ridding (Kane 45), Tarry, Whetton, Cottrill, Simpson, Bradder, Rosegreen, P. Green, Symonds (Wade 75).

Borough travelled to The Crown Meadow to play Bridgnorth Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

It was a day when no prisoners were taken as Borough bore the



brunt of some nasty tackles, one in particular on John Ridding left the defender needing stitches to a leg wound after his shin pad was split in two. Ridding was floored just four minutes into the game and ten minutes had gone before Borough had their first shot at goal, a 25-yard effort from Ian Cottrill which cleared the crossbar by a foot. The hard-working Cottrill went close in the 18th minute, climbing to win a header in the six yard box from skipper Gary Bradder's free-kick but the Town defence was able to scramble the ball away. Borough were well on top with 26 minutes gone but the threatened goal seemed as if it would never come when Peter Green brought the visiting supporters to life with a close range volley.

Goalkeeper Carl Whitehouse stood no chance as the ball flew into the net for Green's third goal in consecutive matches. Rosegreen should have put Borough further in front as he ran onto a Green pass, but his first touch was too strong. Bridgnorth's only real effort came seven minutes from half-time with a 25-yard shot from number eight Paul Tester which went well wide. Rosegreen shot high over the bar from three feet out after Simpson and Cottrill had battled to get the ball through to him.

Bridgnorth were saved by defender Paul Evans just after the break when he cleared an attempted chip by Simpson off the line. Tester tried the same thing seconds later when he raced through after centre-half Dave Whetton had misjudged a clearance. He tried to lob Attwood from 25 yards but the ball went just wide. Matt Tarry cleared from another Tester cross before Borough increased their lead with 34 minutes left on the clock. Symonds scored from the penalty spot after Cottrill had been scythed down just inside the penalty area.

Attwood pulled off the best save of the match as Bridgnorth started to come back into the game, saving at the second attempt from a low drive from Tester. But it was Borough's midfield which was bearing the brunt of Town's attack and Tester put in a corner kick from which the home side snatched a consolation. With 66 minutes played Martin Lander headed past the diving Attwood after the keeper had been put under pressure from the challenge of Craig Hammond.

Borough showed their character in the closing minutes and did not panic, soaking up Town's attacks and it was left to Tester to set up their final chance from a free-kick which was deflected off the defensive wall to Evans who shot well wide.

Nuneaton Borough v Weston-super-Mare 06-04-1993

Borough: Attwood, Byrne, Kane (Landon 52), Gillett, Tarry, Wade, Simpson, Bradder, Rosegreen, P. Green, Symonds. **Sub:** London.

Weston: Thomas, Lucas, Chattoe, Tatterton (Stearns 88), Bowering, Rogers, Hooker, Shrimpton, Lazenby, Elson, Payne. **Sub:** Adams.

Borough welcomed Weston-super-Mare to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

The Seagulls became the first team to take six points from Borough and continued with the same tactics that had proved successful in the match at Woodspring Park on March

2nd. For long periods it could have been mistaken for a tennis match as the ball was hit high back and forth with Borough failing to take a grip on the game. With only eight minutes gone Weston stunned the home supporters with the opening goal. A short corner kick by Rich Lucas found David Payne unmarked who made no mistake with a first-time left foot shot which cleared the defence, leaving Richard Attwood rooted to the spot.

Borough swept back and a move between full back Alan Byrne, Richard Wade and Tony Simpson deserved better as the final pass into the visitors penalty area was just too strong for Simpson. Striker Peter Green, looking for his fourth goal in consecutive games, was agonisingly inches short of succeeding when he hit a first-time shot across the goal, the ball flying by the left hand post. Borough's nightmare gathered pace in the 33rd minute when in the space of 60 second two corner kicks saw a Matt Tarry header cleared off the line by Lucas and Mark Rosegreen heading wide from inside the six yard box.

The second half was barely two minutes old when Borough were effectively killed off. A mistimed headed clearance by Tarry fell to Matthew Lazenby who gave Jon Bowering the simple task of stabbing the ball home from close range.

With Landon replacing Kevan Kane in the 52nd minute Borough looked more urgent and laid siege to Weston's goal. Green went close with an 18 yard drive and Simpson's shot 27 minutes from the end produced the save of the match by Glenn Thomas. Landon, playing in front of his home town crowd, saw his first effort for Borough fly wide through a ruck of players from six yards but the tall striker was luckier with three minutes left when he converted a Wade corner.

The final minutes were frantic to say the least, but Borough never looked like snatching the equaliser and it now leaves the leaders with everything to play for at Gresley.

Gresley Rovers v Nuneaton Borough 10-04-1993

Gresley: Aston, Foster, Martin (Moore 74), Dick, Evans, Land, Wardle, Weston, Devaney, Hurst (Scott 74), Rigg.

Borough: Manuel, Byrne, Symonds, Ridding, Whetton (Kane 90), Cottrill (Wade 85), Simpson, Bradder, P. Green, Culpin, Tarry.

Borough travelled to The Moat Ground to play Gresley Rovers in a Southern League Midland Division game.

The 1,528 supporters that packed into the Moat Ground did not have to wait long when Paul Culpin, back after missing the previous two matches with a pulled hamstring, made no mistake in the 15th minute, volleying home from close range for his 52nd goal of the season. Gresley had got off to a promising start when Martin Dick unleashed a 25 yard drive in the fifth minute which Manuel did well to tip over the crossbar. But it was one of the few serious saves that he had to make and following Culpin's goal Borough took a grip on the game and did not let go.

Gresley keeper Bob Aston soon became the busiest man on

the pitch as a succession of Borough attacks swept into Rovers' area. He kept the home side in contention with vital saves time after time, gaining some respite after 25 minutes as Gresley briefly came back at Borough, Richard Wardle's 15 yard drive was cleared off the line by Dave Whetton. Culpin went close twice in the last two minutes of the half, the first from a Tony Simpson pass and then shooting inches wide from 15 yards.

Gresley came out second half looking for an equaliser but barely five minutes after the restart Borough took over. Peter Green going close in the 51st minute and Simpson pouncing on the rebound in a clash with Aston as the ball bobbed close to the goal line.



Simpson battles for the ball with the Gresley keeper.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

With time running out Gresley became desperate, their haste was evident when, in the 63rd minute, substitute Chris Moore failed to control a centre in front of goal, only winning a corner kick. Borough had a chance to make it two just two minutes from full-time but Green hooked his shot wide with Culpin lurking unmarked on the edge of the penalty area.



The travelling Borough support celebrates their win at Gresley.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Nuneaton Borough v Bedworth United 12-04-1993

Borough: Manuel, Byrne, Symonds, Ridding (Rosegreen 74), Whetton, Cottrill, Simpson, Bradder, P. Green, Culpin, Tarry. **Sub:** Wade.

Bedworth: O'Connor, McGinty, McGrory, Rodwell, Smithers (Dixon 70), Andersen, Chapman (Osborne 17), Emery, Draper, Twigger, Straw.

Borough welcomed Bedworth United to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough settled down quickly and Paul Culpin did well to lose his marker Tim Smithers for an instant in the sixth

minute and got in a low centre which was ably smothered by Paul O'Connor. Sixty seconds later Tony Simpson should have given Borough the lead after he broke through to the edge of the six yard box only to shoot wide of the post. Peter Green was desperately unlucky in the 15th minute with a diving header, missing Simpson's centre by inches. Ian Cottrill could only look on in disbelief with 20 minutes gone as his delicate chip over O'Connor hit the bar and bounced to safety.

Rob Straw put in a high centre aimed at Draper, but Whetton climbed high above the centre forward to head away. Five minutes before half-time O'Connor was in the thick of it yet again, making a superb save from an equally electrifying John Ridding shot after latching onto a loose ball on the edge of a packed defence. The game started to look ominously like a 0-0, especially after a Green effort which looked a cert, was saved by the increasingly confident O'Connor.

The home crowd was stunned into silence when the Greenbacks went in front eight minutes into the second half through Draper. As the cross came in from the right wing, Peter Manuel cleared the centre straight into the path of the charging Draper who did not seem to connect properly as the ball rolled into the net. Within five minutes Borough supporters were screaming for a penalty after Simpson was sent crashing to the turf in a clash with O'Connor as the keeper made a desperate lunge to deny the tricky winger. But it was not to be as referee Hubbard waved play on and Borough's woes were increased as a Cottrill free-kick was fumbled by O'Connor for Simpson to pounce. His close range shot was cleared off the line by Jim Rodwell back to Simpson, whose first time low cross was slammed into the net by Green, but the linesman flagged for offside.

It looked as though Borough's luck had deserted them when, three minutes from full-time, Green struck. His first-time header from a Cottrill corner was deflected to Mark Rosegreen who passed back for the centre-forward to stab the ball home from two yards. As the game moved into injury time Rob Straw caused a scare on the Borough bench as he chased a long through ball before unleashing a terrific shot for Manuel to pull off an instinctive save to ensure both sides went away with a point apiece.



Peter Green's shot flies in to the Greenbacks' net to salvage a point for Borough.

Photo: Heartland Evening News



Racing Club Warwick v Nuneaton Borough 14-04-1993

Borough: Manuel, Byrne (Wade 21), Ridding, Tarry, Whetton, Cottrill (Rosegreen 90), Simpson, Bradder, P. Green, Culpin, Symonds.

Borough travelled to Hampton Road to play Racing Club Warwick in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Paul Culpin had a chance to open the scoring two minutes into the match, running onto a well-worked reverse pass from Alan Byrne and shooting on the turn for the ball to take a deflection, missing the goal by inches. Racing should have opened the scoring in the fourth minute when a long clearance saw James Deeley run through only to lose his nerve at the last second and shoot wide from 18 yards.

Culpin was on target again just short of the half hour, latching onto a low Gary Bradder free-kick and hooking a deft flick on for keeper Neil Stephenson to make a superb reflex save. Racing seemed to have a charmed life and Peter Green should have opened Borough's account seven minutes after the restart, only succeeding in blasting a Symonds centre over the crossbar from three yards. Striker Moreton Titterton gave the visitors a scare when he climbed above the defence to head a Loz Cairns centre just over the bar as Peter Manuel scrambled across to cover.

Green more than made up for his early miss with a terrific opportunist goal 29 minutes from time, slamming home a superb centre from Tony Simpson for his fifth success in seven matches. Borough settled down and proceeded to hem Racing into their own half and the second goal seemed inevitable when Symonds made a solo run down the left, into the penalty area for a deadly finish, lifting the ball past Stephenson into the far corner.

A last gasp effort by Racing three minutes from full-time saw Brendan O'Hare's header gathered safely by Manuel.

Nuneaton Borough v Barri 17-04-1993

Borough: Manuel, Byrne, Ridding (Bullock 68), Tarry, Whetton, Cottrill, Simpson, Bradder (Rosegreen 79), P. Green, Culpin, Symonds.

Barri: Roberts, Russell (Blakeney 45), Giles, Brown, Batchelor, John, Giles, Turley, Hunter, Beattie, Withers. Sub: Smith.

Borough welcomed Barri to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Barri, looking for revenge after the 4-1 drubbing they suffered at St George's Lane, almost got a shock breakthrough in the first minute. Paul Hunter made a lightning interception as Borough kicked off, robbing Gary Bradder before running through the centre and attempting to lob Peter Manuel, the ball going just wide. But the opening fright quickly turned into a nightmare as Barri took the lead with barely two minutes gone. A corner kick by Nigel Russell was headed on for centre-half Willie Batchelor to head home from three yards.

Despite the early setback Borough looked well in command and it only seemed a matter of time before the pressure

paid off with the equaliser. Paul Culpin was within inches of doing just that in the 17th minute as he ran onto a Gary Bradder through ball and hit a first-time shot wide of the upright. A minute later Batchelor almost scored in his own net as Roberts' clearance hit him on the back of the head and missed the goal by inches. By the 30 minute mark Borough had done everything bar score as Ian Cottrill, Peter Green and Culpin again, all went close to snatching a goal.

When it did come it was a gem. Ian Cottrill climbed to head on a perfectly flighted Simpson cross in the 33rd minute, giving Roberts no chance as the ball flew into the net from eight yards. Barri somehow held out in the face of intense Borough pressure as referee Jeffcoate added on almost four minutes.

After the break a transformation had taken place and Borough no longer had the same fire and Barri's second goal in the 61st minute set up the visitors for a shock victory. A free-kick by David Giles was headed on by Batchelor to David Withers in the six yard box, whose over-head kick struck the upright and dropped behind the line. Barri were inspired by the goal and despite Barton replacing John Ridding with Darren Bullock in the 68th minute, The Linnets pressed forward, silencing the 1,500 spectators 60 seconds later with their third goal.

Hunter's pass found Paul Giles on the left of the penalty area who volleyed home from 18 yards to crush Borough's hopes of getting back into the match. Barri were capitalising on Borough's unusual lethargy and with a two goal cushion they became more confident, with so much space even defender Keith Brown had a go, firing a shot just wide from eight yards. Borough's best and only real chance of the half came eight minutes from full-time when Green hit a sizzling shot against the crossbar from 10 yards with Roberts well beaten. The final effort three minutes from time came from John Symonds, but his shot failed to trouble Roberts.

Nuneaton Borough v VS Rugby 19-04-1993

Borough: Manuel, Wade, Ridding, Tarry, Whetton, Cottrill, Simpson, Bullock, Green, Culpin, Symonds. Subs: Rosegreen, London.

VS Rugby: Dudley, Young, McGinty, Harriman, Olnier, Sullivan, Redgate, Shearer, Smith (Warner 45), Hardwick, Green. Sub: Halford.

Borough travelled to The Hawthorns to meet VS Rugby in the final of the Birmingham Senior Cup.

Cup holders VS looked determined to hold on to the trophy and made all the early running. Kim Green made a break into the six yard box chasing a fifth minute through ball from Boyd Young but the ever-reliable Matt Tarry made a timely tackle to deny the number 11. Four minutes later Peter Green headed on for Culpin but the ball was a fraction too long as keeper Derek Dudley came out to save. As the match ebbed and flowed both teams were looking for the breakthrough. Midfield dynamo Darren Bullock, in only his second match since returning from injury, was desperately unlucky with a spectacular overhead kick which cleared Dudley, only for Kieron Sullivan to head off the goal line.



Then, as the game started to settle, Borough stunned VS with the opening goal. A poor clearance was headed on by John Symonds for Culpin, calmly running in from the right to pick his spot and drive the ball home from 25 yards. Sixty seconds later Lee Harriman was within an ace of levelling the match with a close range shot which Peter Manuel did well to get down to in time. Harriman was on target on the 30 minute mark, latching onto a pinpoint crossfield pass from Robert Smith to hit a first time shot for Manuel to save.

Ten minutes before half-time, Borough produced a defence-splitting move as a cross from John Ridding was headed down into the six yard box by Green into the path of the charging Ian Cottrill who missed the final touch by a fraction.

The restart was barely five minutes old when Borough added to VS's agony. Centre-half Dave Whetton linked with Bullock, who laid on a perfect through ball to Culpin who made no mistake from 10 yards. Borough had their tails up now and laid siege on their opponents' goal. Green had a superb overhead kick go just wide and Tony Simpson made the first of a number of dazzling runs to frustrate the cup holders' defence. VS suffered a bitter blow when Paul Olnier, who was also given his marching orders against Atherstone, was sent off in the 61st minute after a heated clash with Cottrill, and from then on they faced an uphill battle to contain the rampant Blues' attack.

Simpson looked certain to add to the scoreline nine minutes from time when he burst through the defence to the edge of the six-yard box to produce the save of the match from Dudley who deflected the ball over the bar in impressive style. Rugby to their credit did not roll over but the end, when it came, was inevitable as Borough ran out worthy winners and bring their first trophy of the season back to Manor Park.

Sutton Coldfield Town v Nuneaton Borough 24-04-1993

Borough: Manuel, Byrne, Ridding, Tarry, Whetton, Cottrill, Simpson, Bullock, Green (Rosegreen 78), Culpin, Symonds (Wade 89).

Borough travelled to Coles Lane to play Sutton Coldfield Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough were fired up for the contest and caught Sutton off guard as Ian Cottrill linked with John Symonds in the second minute for the speedy winger to lose out to a defender in front of goal. Peter Green almost opened Borough's account seconds later when he climbed above the defence to meet a Cottrill corner, the ball missing the left-hand post by inches. Borough's hard pounding paid off in the seventh minute when a sizzling free-kick by Darren Bullock was only blocked by keeper Dale Belford to Tony Simpson whose shot was deflected for skipper Dave Whetton to whip in the loose ball from three yards.

Sutton were never allowed to settle and it only seemed a matter of time before Borough added to the scoreline. It was only good defensive work by Bob Whittingham and Andy

Biddle that kept Borough at bay. The inevitable happened in the 20th minute when a Cottrill corner kick was only half cleared to Symonds who volleyed home an unstoppable drive from 20 yards to bury the ball in the roof of the net.

Borough, elated by their early success seemed to relax slightly and it was enough for Andy Dale to snatch one back two minutes later as sloppy marking allowed a corner kick to go astray. Paul Culpin, hovering on 55 goals to give him the club record, looked as if the drinks would be on him after the game when he ran onto a perfectly weighted chip from Green but the ball took an awkward bounce on the dry surface giving defender John Flaherty and Belford time to rob the striker.

The Royals went close to levelling the match through number eight Gareth Jennings whose 20 yard shot from a Matthew Carroll cross was superbly palmed away by on-form Peter Manuel. With five minutes of the half remaining Matt Tarry's header from a Cottrill corner was headed up by Biddle off the underside of the bar and safely cleared.

The second half opened with Borough winning two free kicks in succession, Darren Bullock again on target with a 25 yard drive which Belford did well to deflect from the top left-hand corner. Sutton returned the compliment minutes later, Andy Ling's shot being headed off the line by Tarry with Manuel beaten. The Royals fate was sealed in the 55th minute when Symonds' cross was flicked on by Culpin for a clinical finish by Green. From then on it was Borough all the way and the only surprise was that they did not add to the score.

Green was only inches short of his second goal following a fine move down the right by Alan Byrne, linking with Simpson who crossed only for Belford to deny the centre-forward. Culpin was out of luck with six minutes remaining, his volley from a Cottrill through ball being smothered by Belford and seconds later a close range snap-shot struck a defender to go clear. Mark Rosegreen, on for Green, did well to pull a free kick from Bullock back across an empty goal with no-one on hand to finish.

Nuneaton Borough v Dudley Town 27-04-1993

Borough: Manuel, Byrne, Ridding, Bullock, Whetton, Cottrill, Simpson, Bradder, Green (Rosegreen 80), Culpin, Tarry (Wade 87).

Dudley: Scarr, Leeding, Yates, Field, Day, Woodbine, Tomlinson, Stobart, S. Field (Moore 83), Mason, Harnett. Sub: Whitehouse.

Borough welcomed Dudley Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough should have had the game sewn up well before the break as time after time chances went begging. Robins' keeper Gary Scarr had a taste of what was to come in the fifth minute, keeping out a barrage of shots from Paul Culpin, Peter Green and Ian Cottrill in a frantic goalmouth melee. A roar of delight was quickly silenced in the seventh minute as Borough had a goal disallowed after referee Roberts saw a push on Scarr.

Dudley made a dangerous break as a Dave Whetton free-kick was intercepted and the centre-half had to race the length of the pitch to clear and Neil Tomlinson menaced the Borough goal. Crowd favourite Darren Bullock was inches away from snatching the opener when his 20 yard free-kick was palmed onto the angle by the agile Scarr. The next six minutes saw the Robins goal subjected to a battering as first Gary Bradder, Tony Simpson and Green had efforts saved. With Borough piling on the pressure Dudley had to make the most of the few breaks they had. Centre-half Anton Day went close in the 23rd minute, climbing above a crowded goalmouth to steal a header only for Manuel to save in the angle.



Peter Green (centre) leads the cheers as Tarry (right) celebrates Borough's first goal.

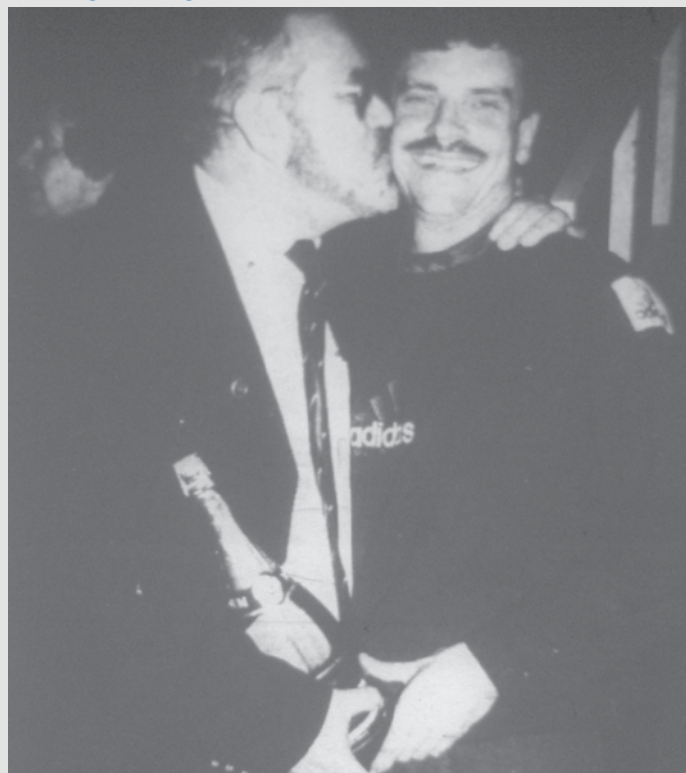
Photo: Nuneaton Evening News

Culpin, still looking for his record-breaking 55th goal of the season, was left to go it alone in the 28th minute as he ran onto a Green through ball, but with no-one in support his ambitious 25-yard shot flew over the crossbar.

With just ten minutes of the second half gone Borough grabbed the long-awaited goal. A Cottrill corner cleared Whetton for Tarry to head home from two yards. The goal was the boost Borough needed and from then on it was one-way traffic. Culpin made a great effort in pulling a ball back for Green hovering in the area, but the final touch eluded the centre-forward. Alan Byrne laid a ball off to Simpson, whose shot was deflected and Whetton had a close range header clear the crossbar by inches as pressure mounted until, with 20 minutes left, Borough were awarded a penalty. Green looked certain to score from a Simpson through ball only to be scythed down by Tomlinson, Bullock made no mistake, taking two steps before driving a low shot past Scarr.

Five minutes later a goalmouth misunderstanding saw full-back Stuart Leeding put the ball into his own net as he tried to clear past the post. The game was then effectively over as Borough saw out the final minutes before celebrating the reward of a long, hard season.

Borough Going Up!



Nuneaton Borough chairman Howard Kerry sealed last night's Beazer Homes League promotion with a kiss for manager John Barton, and a bottle of champagne to celebrate with. Borough's 3-0 victory over Dudley Town has returned them to the Premier Division, after their relegation in 1987-88. For supporters and players it was a night of celebration, and their final match at home against Evesham should see them clinch the championship

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Nuneaton Borough v Evesham United 01-05-1993

Borough: Attwood, Wade, Byrne, Bullock, Whetton, Cottrill, Simpson (Rosegreen 75), Bradder, Green, Culpin, Ridding. Sub: London.

Evesham: Taylor (Brennan 4), Smith, Whittington, Fleetwood, Cotterill, Rawle (Davies 71), A. Attwood, Jones, Pither, Crane, Hopkins.

Borough welcomed Evesham United to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough almost snatched an early lead when Tony Simpson laid a through ball into the area for Peter Green only for Andy Smith to clear. Simpson was in the thick of the action a minute later resulting in a sickening collision with keeper Chris Taylor who was taken to hospital needing stitches for a gashed chin and cuts to the inside of his mouth. Substitute Mick Brennan took on the keeper's role, coping as well as could be expected.

The threatened breakthrough came in the tenth minute. Ian Cottrill ran onto a quickly taken Darren Bullock free-kick, to squeeze a low shot into the left hand corner of the net.

Cottrill linked with Simpson in yet another raid on the Robins' goal but the final touch was just too strong for the lurking Green and Paul Culpin.

Culpin, needing just one goal to give him the club goalscoring record got his chance after Simpson was flattened by Brennan in the 27th minute goalmouth scramble. Referee Salter pointed to the spot as the ball was handed to Culpin. A deathly hush fell over Manor Park to be broken by a roar as Culpin took three steps and drove the shot past Brennan into the net. The goal heralded a virtual siege of the Evesham area, Simpson again hitting a flighted cross, almost lobbing the keeper as Culpin raced in.

Ten minutes from half-time, Culpin volleyed a terrific shot straight at Brennan from a Gary Bradder 35 yard free-kick. Borough put the game well out of the Robins' reach in the three minutes before half-time. Darren Bullock hammered a glorious dipping shot over Brennan from fully 35 yards and Green side-footed a close range shot home after Culpin had pulled a cross back from the bye-line. Bullock's goal was Borough's 100th of the season and in a day filled with superlatives it marked the high water mark of a long, hard struggle to win the double.

The second half continued in the same vein, Culpin's volley missing by inches from a Tony Simpson cross and Ian Cottrill having his header blocked on the line by Brett Fleetwood after Dave Whetton climbed to head the ball down. Evesham tried desperately to break clear of the constant Borough barrage but most attempts came to nothing. Nigel Hopkins' ineffectual 55th minute shot did not trouble Richard Attwood and it was merely an interlude before more Borough's forays.

Alan Byrne was enjoying one of his best games since joining Borough in early April and went close to adding to the scoreline when his 18 yard shot bounced awkwardly as Brennan was forced to dive. Borough's appeals for a penalty with 23 minutes to go after centre-half Cotterill was thought to have handled, were turned down by Mr Salter as Robins started to come back into the match. Scott Crane had a chance to snatch one back but the number 10 took too much time to get in his shot from well inside the area and did not trouble Attwood.

With 15 minutes remaining Green sealed Evesham's fate with his second goal and Borough's fifth, latching onto a brilliant lay off from Culpin to switch the ball to his right foot and firing a shot which Brennan could only palm into the net. The visitors pulled one back three minutes later, Alan Attwood heading past his namesake as Robins capitalised on a Borough defensive mix-up.

The match went on to its inevitable conclusion, a final flurry coming from Darren Bullock picking up a Byrne cross to hammer the ball over the crossbar from 25 yards. It was Borough's final effort in the Beazer Homes Midland Division as they took their place in the Premier League.

Borough Youngsters Lift Title



Back row: Malc Cannon, Paul Daly, Carl Wootton, Steve Bonell, Andy Gordon, Derren Brushett, Barry Rumble, Joe Harness. **Front row:** Adam Banks, Andy Kirkham, Darren Horne, Andy Morrell, Phil Warren, Matt Beard.

Nuneaton Borough youngsters held onto the Midland Floodlit Youth League title in a memorable 4-1 victory against West Bromwich Albion at Hayes Park last night. Borough almost got off to a dream start when they were awarded a penalty in the fifth minute which Darren Horne unfortunately put wide. Two minutes later the Baggies hit back with a goal following a misunderstanding in the Borough defence.

But Borough refused to lay down, fighting back magnificently to go in at half-time 1-1 through Matthew Beard.

It was all Borough after half-time and Andy Morrell gave them the lead after 80 minutes, beating the offside trap to lob the keeper. Paul Daly added a third and Morrell rounded off the scoring with his second.

Bedworth United v Nuneaton Borough 04-05-1993

Bedworth: O'Connor, McGinty, McGrory, Rodwell, Smithers, Parker, Straw, Osborne (Mee 45), Crowley, Twigger, Andersen. **Sub:** Kelleher.

Borough: Attwood, Byrne, Ridding, Bullock, Whetton, Cottrill, Simpson, Bradder, Green, Culpin, Tarry. **Subs:** Rosegreen, Wade.

Borough made the journey to The Oval to face Bedworth United in a Midland Floodlit Cup semi-final tie.

Borough could have taken an early lead but Bobby Parker cleared Dave Whetton's header off the line. Ian Cottrill hit a shot wide from Tony Simpson's inch perfect cross before Byrne started a break for Simpson who whipped in a centre for Green, whose attempted flick on was blocked by O'Connor. With 33 minutes gone Borough got the threatened breakthrough. Skipper Gary Bradder's 30 yard effort fooled O'Connor, cannoned off the post and into the path of Cottrill who drilled the ball home from 18 yards.

Defender Jim Rodwell almost sliced into his own net, while ex-Borough stars Martyn Twigger and Rob Straw produced a bit of magic in the dying seconds of the half. Twigger climbed above Byrne to head goalwards only for Attwood to save. Shaun McGrory knocked the ball back to far post for Nicky Andersen's diving header to cannon off Attwood's knees.

Thirteen minutes after the break Matt Tarry's rash tackle on Bobby Parker was ruled to be just inside the penalty area and Twigger made no mistake from the spot. The Bedworth striker

almost gave the home side the lead in the 65th minute with an acute shot which was beaten away by Attwood. A Cottrill corner was headed wide by Whetton as Borough hit back before Bullock escaped Dave Crowley and burst through the middle before laying off a perfect ball to Green, only for Jim Rodwell to save the day with a superbly timed tackle.

The tie looked set for an extra half-hour when, sixty seconds into injury time, Attwood turned a shot from Twigger into the path of Straw who blasted home from 15 yards to the delight of Greenbacks' supporters.

True Blues Chip In



Members of the True Blues hand over two cheques to Borough chairman Howard Kerry before October's FA Trophy encounter with Congleton at Manor Park. One was for the sponsorship of Darren Bullock, who is pictured far left, and the other was for helping towards the cost of the new dug-outs which have helped to make the Borough ground the most impressive it has looked for many years. Photo: Heartland Evening News

Southern League Midland Division 1992-93

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-----------------------|----|----|----|----|-----|----|-----|
| Nuneaton Borough | 42 | 29 | 5 | 8 | 102 | 45 | 92 |
| Gresley Rovers | 42 | 27 | 6 | 9 | 94 | 55 | 87 |
| Rushden & Diamonds | 42 | 25 | 10 | 7 | 85 | 41 | 85 |
| Barri | 42 | 26 | 5 | 11 | 82 | 49 | 83 |
| Newport | 42 | 23 | 8 | 11 | 73 | 58 | 77 |
| Bedworth United | 42 | 22 | 8 | 12 | 72 | 55 | 74 |
| Stourbridge | 42 | 17 | 9 | 16 | 93 | 79 | 60 |
| Sutton Coldfield Town | 42 | 17 | 9 | 16 | 82 | 78 | 60 |
| Redditch United | 42 | 18 | 6 | 18 | 75 | 79 | 60 |
| Tamworth | 42 | 16 | 11 | 15 | 65 | 51 | 59 |
| Weston-super-Mare | 42 | 17 | 7 | 18 | 79 | 86 | 58 |
| Leicester United | 42 | 16 | 9 | 17 | 67 | 67 | 57 |
| Grantham Town | 42 | 16 | 9 | 17 | 60 | 73 | 57 |
| Bilston Town | 42 | 15 | 10 | 17 | 74 | 69 | 55 |
| Evesham United | 42 | 15 | 8 | 19 | 67 | 83 | 53 |
| Bridgnorth Town | 42 | 15 | 7 | 20 | 61 | 68 | 52 |
| Dudley Town | 42 | 14 | 8 | 20 | 60 | 75 | 50 |
| Yate Town | 42 | 15 | 5 | 22 | 63 | 81 | 50 |
| Forest Green Rovers | 42 | 12 | 6 | 24 | 61 | 97 | 42 |
| Hinckley Town | 42 | 9 | 11 | 22 | 56 | 89 | 37 |
| King's Lynn | 42 | 10 | 6 | 26 | 45 | 90 | 36 |
| Racing Club Warwick | 42 | 3 | 7 | 32 | 40 | 88 | 16 |

Death Of Former Borough Star

The death has occurred of a man who was widely regarded as one of the best centre-forwards ever to appear for Nuneaton Borough. Eddie Friemanis, 73, of Riversley Road, who later changed his name to Freeman, was a former Latvian international who played for Peterborough and Northampton, before joining Nuneaton Borough in 1950.

His formidable goal scoring abilities were soon in evidence and he notched 41 goals in 43 appearance in his first season. A superb header of the ball, Eddie went on to grab 38 goals in 44 games in the 1951-52 season and 16 goals in 15 appearances in 1952-53 before illness ended his career prematurely.

Long time Borough fan and programme compiler John Moore said: "Without a doubt Eddie was one of the finest number nines I have seen in the blue and white outfit and I would rate him alongside Paul Culpin, Ken Plant and Ken Satchwell."

Borough Renew Old Rivalry Next Season

Rivalry will be renewed between old enemies Nuneaton Borough and Atherstone United next season with both clubs looking forward to establishing themselves as the area's premier outfit. Over the past four seasons, Adders have rightly claimed to be the top side in the region but after Borough's superb Beazer Midland Division title success, the Manor Park outfit will be gunning to take that mantle away from Sheepy Road.

John Harris Resigns

Nuneaton Borough director John Harris has resigned from the board in answer to an appeal for help from Beazer Homes Premier outfit Worcester City. John, who has been at Manor Park since taking on the chairmanship of the interim board in 1987, resigned his post as safety officer last Friday. He said: "It was one heck of a decision to leave but I felt there was not a lot more I could do for the Borough."

Borough Reserves Net Lynx Deal

Nuneaton Borough Reserves netted an unexpected £200 bonus thanks to the parents of one of their up and coming young players. Michael Bartlett, whose son Steve is a member of the Manor Park club's second string, works for Lynx Parcels Delivery of Coventry and it was through the company's own magazine that he spotted the possibility of a sponsorship deal for the club.

Borough Sign McGrory

Nuneaton Borough beat off a hotly contested challenge from two other clubs in the race to sign Bedworth United defender Shaun McGrory. He is one of the most highly rated full-backs in the Beazer Homes League and put his signature to the transfer form at Manor Park last night. Delighted manager John Barton said he was relieved to secure Shaun's services, especially with the interest shown by other clubs.

Boldmere St Michaels — Preliminary Round

Borough welcomed Boldmere St Michaels to Manor Park to play a FA Cup Preliminary Round tie.

Borough: Attwood, Pugh (Mogford 73), Tarry, Allbutt, Whetton, Cottrill, Bullock, Culpin, Rosegreen, Twigger (Ridding 83), Symonds.

Boldmere: Whitehouse, Holloway, Webber, Green Tycer, Brazier, Sullivan, Bennetts, Ames, Clifton, Gamble. Subs: Dean, Simmons.

Borough's blushes were saved by Paul Culpin's last gasp winning strike against Boldmere St Michaels. In spite of the win it was a disappointing game and failed to live up to expectations, as yet again Borough seemed to freeze in front of goal and failed to capitalise on a number of clear-cut chances.

Boldmere, who play in the Ansells Combination Premier Division, did not look like a side who had come to Manor Park to get a result. They played spoiling tactics and frustrated Borough's every move by a combination of guile and pure luck as many times the home side looked like breaking through only for a last second deflection to frustrate the attack.

Borough got the breakthrough in the 22nd minute when a free-kick from Symonds was headed down by Whetton to the waiting Mark Rosegreen who made no mistake from close range.

It was one of Borough's better worked moves and paid off handsomely but it was a rare instance, and most of the crosses were wasted as players failed to find the far post or put the ball too close to ex-Bedworth player Lee Whitehouse.

Dave Whetton had one of his best games for a long time, tidying up some bad Borough defensive work on several occasions and lending his height to the attack.

In a game filled with errors and poor quality play there were a few gems. Of particular note was a nicely worked move when a cross from Symonds was headed down by Rosegreen to Allbutt, whose measured side-foot chip found the head of the diving Culpin, the ball going just wide.

Boldmere's best chance in the first-half came after Neil Bennetts drove a hard, low cross towards the lurking Neil Holloway only for Attwood to make a timely, diving save.

The second half degenerated into a midfield duel with Boldmere content to pack their half of the field and rely on the odd breakaway with a long ball upfield to number nine Mick James.

It was James who was instrumental in setting up Boldmere's shock equaliser. With just nine minutes to go he beat Darren Bullock to the ball to flight a perfect cross to ex-Greenback Lee Sullivan whose header flew into the right hand corner, giving Attwood no chance.

Everyone watching was resigned to a replay at Church Road with three minutes left, when Culpin struck.

In a well worked move he put Darren Bullock clear on the left and picked up the return on the edge of the box to hit a first-time left foot shot through the defence.

The Borough fans voiced their frustration at the end as the reserve team's result was given over the tannoy. They chanted "Simmo, Simmo", referring to out of favour Tony Simpson, who has hit ten goals in five appearances for the second string.

Leicester United — 1st Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Leicester United to Manor Park to play a FA Cup 1st Qualifying Round tie.

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Tarry, Allbutt, Whetton, Cottrill, Simpson, Culpin, Rosegreen, Mogford, Symonds. Subs: Twigger, Green.

Leicester: Marsden, Newcombe (Mintus 43), Brown, Igoe, Weafer, Thomas, Doresett, Hurst, McBean (Wall 43), Harbottle, McLoughlin.

Borough's total domination of this tie was rewarded with a well earned win in front of the highest gate of the season.

Borough ran rampant against a curiously subdued Leicester side and could easily have scored six or seven goals but bad luck and poor finishing frustrated their efforts.

Two missed penalties by Paul Culpin



Mark Rosegreen has put Borough 1-0 up and Paul Culpin leads the celebrations.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening News

and Mark Rosegreen were the result of almost continuous Borough pressure following a 28th minute penalty goal by Rosegreen, his third success since joining the club.

And that man Culpin was there yet again when he hit a tremendous volley 18 minutes from the end, latching onto a cross from Cottrill on the left after it was tipped on by a defender.

Borough, fielding an unchanged side for the fourth successive game, attacked from the opening whistle and could have had a goal in two minutes when Rosegreen had a shot deflected to Culpin whose strike went just wide from 15 yards out.

A minute later former Borough centre-half Dale Igoe send Culpin crashing down in the area, and referee Wilkinson had no hesitation in pointing to the penalty spot. Culpin stepped up to take the spot kick and thumped his shot against the bar and away to safety.

United made the occasional foray into Borough's half in the first 25 minutes with the best chance falling to Anton Thomas in the 15th minute when he made a long, penetrating run from the left, his shot going just wide.

Borough's first goal came after Tony Simpson was sent sprawling in the penalty area by Thomas after a dazzling

run in which he beat two defenders.

Rosegreen made no mistake from the spot and it looked as if Borough were on their way to a hatful as pressure mounted on the Leicester goal.

Simpson was in fine form as time after time he punished some slack marking to rip the reds defence apart, one of his best chances coming in the 34th minute when he made a 40 yard run only for Thomas to foil the final shot.

Right on half-time Borough skipper Peter Allbutt had a chance for his second goal of the season when a shot by Culpin was deflected but his mistimed shot went high over the bar to the relief of keeper Ian Marsden.

The second half was marred by long periods of scrappy play with Leicester content to spoil Borough's best efforts and make an occasional break through a long upfield ball.

Rosegreen had a chance to make it two when Marsden brought Cottrill down after 52 minutes but his kick from the spot was blocked by the keeper.

Allbutt was unlucky yet again, when in the 24th minute, he picked up an inch perfect pass from Simpson and was teeing up the shot when the ball bobbed and he seemed to hit it shin high, sending it high over the bar.

Then in the 72nd minute Culpin struck for his ninth success in seven games, seemingly putting the game beyond Leicester's reach, but they had some consolation when five minutes later Mark Hurst snatched a chance from two yards out following a goalmouth melee.

Right on full-time Cottrill kept his head to lob the keeper from 20 yards out, the ball bouncing right on the goal-line and into the net for Borough's third and a well-deserved win.

Matlock Town — 2nd Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Matlock Town to Manor Park to play a FA Cup 2nd Qualifying Round tie.

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Barton, Bullock, Whetton, Cottrill, Simpson, Culpin, Tarry, Mogford, Symonds. Subs: Green, Martin.

A first half double from stand-in striker John Symonds was enough to see battling Borough through to victory in a hotly contested tie.

The "Gladiators" of Matlock found the Lions Den of Manor Park, where Borough have an impressive record this season, an imposing threat as George Rooney's men produced another solid, all round team performance that deservedly brought them victory.

Arriving just 20 minutes before the scheduled kick-off due to a serious accident on the M1, Town made a sluggish start and by the break Borough were well on their way to the next stage of English football's most lucrative competition.

There was no doubting that Borough were worthy of their success as they dominated for the opening hour with Symonds' brace giving them a decisive advantage, but to their credit Matlock worked tirelessly to get back into contention, especially in the closing stages, but their only reward was a finely taken goal from defender Andy Wood.

With just one win so far this season, Matlock were soon in trouble and



Paul Culpin, lying on the floor has thundered in an acute angled second goal and Mark Rosegreen cannot disguise his joy.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

after 15 minutes Symonds opened his account to give Borough the lead. A defensive mix-up let in Darren Bullock and though the defence managed to avert the immediate danger at the expense of a corner, the impressive Brian Mogford rifled in the flag kick which was flicked on by Dave Wehnton to the unmarked Symonds and he joyfully swept the ball home from inside the six yard box.

Three minutes later Town had a golden opportunity to pull level when winger Pete Jones was allowed to run unhindered through the home back division only to slice his effort badly off target with only keeper Richard Attwood to beat.

Matlock were made to rue that miss as Borough went further ahead nine minutes from half-time. Ian Cottrill broke down the left and his low, centre was met by the in-rushing Symonds who confidently slid the ball into an empty net from close range.

The second period opened quietly but in the 55th minute a smart turn and shot by Paul Culpin was well held by Jamie Booth in the Gladiators' goal, while a mazy run by the impish Tony

Simpson saw his drive from the edge of the area saved by Booth.



Borough's Dave Whetton challenges Matlock keeper Jamie Booth during Saturday's FA Cup tie. Photo: Heartland Evening News

Another good offering went begging in the 68th minute as Borough looked to sew up the tie when Culpin beat the offside trap only to delay his cross and the ball was scrambled for a corner with both Simpson and Symonds free inside the penalty area.

As the game entered its closing quarter, Matlock came more into the game and when Nick Tilley pounced on a Dave Whetton mistake the striker shot tamely straight at the grateful Attwood.

However, the goal that had threatened came in the 76th minute after Borough had failed to clear a throw-in. Wood picked up the loose ball on the edge of the home area and unleashed a splendid rising drive that flew past Attwood's outstretched arms and into the net.

The visitors upped the tempo from then on without being able to penetrate a gutsy home defence marshalled competently by Whetton. But Borough looked dangerous on the break and when Symonds skipped clear his cross found Culpin, whose drive was blocked by Booth, the keeper recovering quickly to save splendidly from Simpson's follow-up effort.

Anxious Borough fans had to endure more than four minutes of injury time before referee Stretton blew the final whistle.

Raunds Town — 3rd Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Raunds Town to Manor Park to play a FA Cup 3rd Qualifying Round tie.

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Tarry, Bullock, Whetton (London 87), Cottrill (Barton 43), Simpson, Culpin, Rosegreen, Mogford, Symonds.

Raunds: Bulliman, Field, Lewis (Jordan 34), Bird, Boatswain, Carr, McAlwane (Capone 62), Torrance, Keeble, Genovese, Goldsmith.

Borough pulled out all the stops to batter bemused Raunds to defeat in a four goal mauling. All four goals came in the first-half and the victory was all the sweeter as goal king Paul Culpin scored his 150th goal for the club.

It was a typical Culpin effort, picking up a neatly chipped through ball from Darren Bullock and fending off a defender before hitting a right foot shot past the "Shopmates" keeper Bulliman.



Striker John Symonds notches his second goal of the game.

Photo: Heartland Evening News



The one the crowd wanted . . . Paul Culpin thumps home his 150th goal for the club.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

The 1,200-plus crowd went wild with delight, giving Culpin a standing ovation as he ran a gauntlet of congratulations from his team mates.

Victory now puts Borough just one game away from the first round proper with a chance to take on league clubs and the vital money spinning opportunities that come with it.

Raunds failed to come up to expectations following their impressive win over Northwich Victoria in the last round and never looked like threatening Borough's grip on the game.

From the opening whistle the home side went straight on the offensive, winning a corner after three minutes when Mark Rosegreen and Bullock combined to force a diving save from keeper Pete Bulliman.

That proved to be just a foretaste of what was to come as Borough continued to torment the hapless visitors, piling on the pressure until, in the 16th minute, Bullock volleyed a loose ball from fully 25 yards.

The ball flew into the net over a melee of players giving the keeper no chance, but the roars of delight were quickly hushed as Borough's Ian Cottrill and Raund's defender Martin Lewis lay spreadeagled following a clash of heads.

Both players went off for treatment

to cuts and as play resumed Borough stunned the crowd with a second goal, coming in the 20th minute from Mark Rosegreen whose 30 yard shot took a deflection off a defender before looping over Bulliman and into the net.

Lewis returned to the field minutes later, his head swathed in bandages

and Cottrill was poised on the line ready for the fray when Culpin struck in the 32nd minute for Borough's third and his magic 150th.

With such a grip on the game Borough were on the crest of a wave and their confidence was well illustrated when Bullock tried a cheeky chip from fully 40 yards out when he looked up to see Bulliman off his line.

Raunds best chance of the half came in the 38th minute when Dean McAlwane fired a shot into a ruck of players in the Borough area but number 10 Dominic Genovese could only hit the ball high over the bar.

Borough skipper, centre-half Dave Whetton had a magnificent game and made his presence felt in midfield, hardly putting a foot wrong and frustrating the Raunds attack when it looked as though they might break through.

That commitment was personified in Borough's fourth goal in the 41st minute when Cottrill, his head tightly



A heavily bandaged Ian Cottrill summed up Borough's tremendous fighting spirit as he directs a diving header into the net.

Photo: Heartland Evening News



bandaged to stem the blood, climbed above the defence to connect with a perfect corner from Brian Mogford.

Cottrill's brave effort caused his wound to open up and he and Lewis were brought off the field and taken to hospital for medical attention.

With seconds to go to the interval Raunds put in a spirited attack with McAlwane again in the thick of the action but luckily for Borough his shot slammed into the bar from 15 yards.

The second half was a complete contrast to the first with Borough losing their way and failing to find the flowing play that had delighted the crowd just minutes earlier.

Both sides slid into a dour midfield struggle with Borough containing Raunds but seemingly unable to find a way to goal. Lively Tony Simpson was again the target man up front and as always he rose to the challenge, turning defenders inside out and making room for strikers Rosegreen and Culpin.

But the goals the crowd were willing to come never materialised in spite of good efforts from Rosegreen in the 65th minute and Simpson who went close with just five minutes remaining, his shot from the edge of the area just going inches wide of the post.

Wembley — 4th Qualifying Round

Borough made the journey to Vale Farm to play Wembley Town in a FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round tie.

Wembley: Fanner, Flaherty, Clark, O'Brien, Shields, Headlam, Adrian Smith, Andy Smith, Lawrence, Witter, Hutchinson. Subs: Page, Conway.

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Tarry, Bullock, Whetton, Cottrill, Simpson, Culpin, Rosegreen, Mogford, Symonds. Subs: Martin, Barton.

Borough battled back after conceding an early goal and were well worth a draw. Paul Culpin's deadly finishing brought the sides level with four minutes to go to half-time but it could so easily have been a Borough victory.

Chances that would normally have

been put away lacked that little bit of extra luck and both teams were at stalemate for long periods as they searched for an advantage.

Borough won the toss and went on the offensive. Tony Simpson going close in the first minute when his shot from just inside the area was stopped on the line by number four Andy O'Brien.

Three minutes later Brian Mogford's free-kick high into the area was a little too long, being gathered safely by the impressive Jeff Fanner.

The Lions hit back and it was only the skill of Borough keeper Richard Attwood that denied number nine Steve Lawrence getting his name onto the score sheet when his cross from the right was just tipped over for a corner.

Borough had the best chances in the first 25 minutes with Rosegreen, Bullock, Culpin and Cottrill all going close. Bullock especially, playing as if his very life depended on getting the vital breakthrough.

But it was Wembley who took the lead in the 25th minute through Harry Clark following a long throw in by Andy Smith. The Borough defence failed to clear the ball and the full-back made no mistake from the edge of the area.

Borough's faithful band of supporters, who outnumbered the home crowd by almost seven to one, were stunned into silence but the players on the field didn't flinch and the goal only served to galvanise Borough into action. Wembley were constantly hustling the visitors but with half-time looming Cottrill latched onto a ball on the left, beating three defenders before hitting an inch-perfect pass to Culpin whose header flew into the top left hand corner of the net.

The second half opened with Attwood being forced into making a diving save from the boot of Mark Witter as Wembley enjoyed a spell of pressure but Borough were up to the challenge.

Centre-forward Steve Lawrence, still to get his name on the scoresheet this

season, had chances to put Wembley ahead in the 14th and 20th minutes but he could make no impression.

Borough's best chance of the half came in the 73rd minute when a cross from the right by Rosegreen was deflected by Fanner past the lurking Culpin to Cottrill, whose first-time blast from eight yards was blocked by Fanner for the save of the match.

Attwood was busy at the other end, making two fine saves in two minutes from first O'Brien followed by Clark but with ten minutes to go Borough were well on top.

Bullock's determination got him into a shooting position in the 81st minute, his wickedly dipping effort being deflected by Fanner at full stretch but apart from a last minute scare when Bullock went down injured clearing a corner the game was all but over.

Wembley — 4th Qualifying Round Replay

Borough welcomed Wembley to Manor Park to play a FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round replay.

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Tarry, Bullock, Whetton, Cottrill, Simpson, Culpin, Rosegreen, Mogford, Symonds. Subs: Barton, Martin.

Borough and Wembley have to meet again after a frustrating goalless draw.

Borough's biggest gate for many years had little to cheer about as the tie went into extra time but neither side looked like scoring in a dour, uninspiring struggle.

The toss of a coin decided the two sides will meet at Wembley to see who goes forward to the first round proper.

A 15 minute delay to allow the droves of supporters to get through the turnstiles saw Wembley kick off facing the daunting Cock and Bear end.

Wembley put Borough under pressure in the third minute when number eight Andy Smith got a cross deep to the far post from the left but keeper Richard Attwood gathered safely.

Smith went close to causing an upset in the 18th minute when his powerful header from the edge of the box dropped low for Attwood who seemed to fumble the ball, almost losing it as a Wembley forward closed in.

Both sides seemed to be intimidated by the 2,512 crowd and Borough were guilty of some sloppy play, failing time after time to string more than two passes together.

Borough's best chance of the half came in the 24th minute when Ian Cottrill's low cross from the left beat keeper Jeff Fanner and found Mark Rosegreen who stabbed a foot at the ball only to see his effort cleared off the line by a defender.

Wembley settled to the task and did not allow Borough any freedom. Andy O'Brien and skipper Paul Shields keeping strikers Culpin and Rosegreen out of the game for long periods.

With three minutes to go to half-time Borough had the ball in the net but after a long, hard look the referee ruled that Cottrill had fouled the keeper.

That seemed to sum up the game and despite Borough taking charge of the second half they just could not find a way through.

Frustration got the better of both sides with the result that Headlam and Flaherty for Wembley and Mogford for Borough found their names in the referees notebook.

Borough's hopes were dashed twice within five minutes. The first effort coming from Tony Simpson who just failed to get a foot to a Cottrill pass and Rosegreen, whose close range shot was cleared off the line by Smith.

With nine minutes to go Simpson drew a roar from the subdued supporters when he jinked his way past three defenders only to fire a close range shot into the side netting.

In the dying seconds, with extra-time looming, John Symonds had a blast from the edge of the box but the ball bounced awkwardly and he could only watch as the shot went over the bar.

In extra time Simpson still looked full of running and got to the edge of the six yard box in the first minute but Culpin failed by inches to get to his low cross.

Borough pressure culminated in five corners being awarded but Borough still could not get the elusive winner.

With 15 minutes left Brian Mogford put a shot high over the bar after a one-

two with Cottrill and it was Culpin who was left with the last chance but at full stretch he could only get a toe to a long ball into the area.

Wembley — 4th Qualifying Round 2nd Replay

Borough made the journey to Vale Farm to play a FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round second replay.

Wembley: Fanner, Morse (Page), Clark, O'Brien, Shields, Headlam, Adrian Smith (Conway), Andy Smith, Larence, Witter, Hutchinson.

Borough: Manuel, Ridding, Tarry, Bullock, Whetton, Cottrill, Simpson, Culpin, Rosegreen, Mogford, Symonds. Subs: Martin, Barton.

The winning goal came in the dying seconds of injury time to the delight of the 300-plus Borough supporters.

Tony Simpson was hoisted shoulder high by fans after he decided the tie with his close range shot seconds before the final whistle.

And the victory was all the sweeter for battling Borough who were reduced to ten men in the 82nd minute when Matt Tarry was given his marching orders.

With Wembley's equaliser coming five minutes earlier the Lions looked like snatching victory. But the Blues hung on for a hard-fought win.

Borough went straight at Wembley from the off, laying siege to the home side's goal and winning three corners in the first five minutes.

Mark Rosegreen went close in the 20th minute after Paul Culpin raced to a long ball down the left before getting in a perfect cross but the final header flew just wide of the near post.

The Lions lived up to their nickname when they roared back with a free-kick on the ledge of the Borough box and a corner in quick succession, but it was the visitors who opened the scoring.

A 27th minute throw-in by Cottrill on the left touchline went to Darren Bullock who turned, looked up and hit a low, dipping shot from 20 yards, the ball skidding under Jeff Fanner.



The fans flocked back to Manor Park for the FA Cup tie, but action was thin on the ground.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Within five minutes Wembley went close to grabbing the equaliser but a timely tackle by Brian Mogford on centre-half Paul Shields saw the shot cleared off the line by John Symonds.

Borough were well in control by the half-hour point and could have gone two up in the 36th minute when Mogford had a shot cleared off the line in a goalmouth melee.



Tony Simpson races away in delight after netting Borough's injury-time winner.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Keeper Peter Manuel, standing in for the injured Richard Attwood, made the area his own, cutting out high balls and seeming to be untroubled by Wembley's sporadic attacks.

With two minutes to go to half-time, skipper Dave Whetton almost caught Fanner off guard when he hit a corner clearance fully 35 yards, the ball going just wide of the left post.

The second half saw Wembley come out in a determined mood as Borough relaxed slightly, Andy Smith going close with an attempted chip in the 49th minute which Manuel read perfectly.

Jon Conway, substituting for Adrian Smith, hit a free kick high into the Borough area putting the defence and the watching fans into a panic before the ball was cleared.

Twenty minutes into the second half Borough were under intense pressure as Wembley threw everything they had at the Blues goal and it only seemed a matter of time before they scored.

Leading goalscorer Bobby Hutchinson

linked with number eight Andy Smith as the two piled on the pressure with close range efforts being somehow cleared by the Borough defence.

Wembley deservedly equalised 13 minutes from time when Mark Witter got a foot to a through ball from Hutchinson as Borough paid the price for missed chances.

It looked as if the tie was destined for extra time for the second time in less than a week but Borough's heads did not drop and in the dying seconds Simpson sealed Wembley's fate.

Paul Culpin looked set to score before he was sent crashing to the turf in the area, referee Alcock was seen to reach for his whistle but the penalty was not needed as Simpson fired home from six yards.

Seconds later the final whistle heralded a pitch invasion by Borough fans who could hardly believe what they had just witnessed.

Woking — 1st Round Proper

Borough made the journey to the Kingfield Stadium to play a FA Cup 1st Round Proper tie.

Woking: Batty, Clement, Lloyd Wye, Nugent, Baron, Shane Wye, Fielder, Biggins, Senior, Puckett (Carroll 72), Steele (Fleming 77).

Borough: Manuel, Wade, Tarry, Bullock, Ridding, Cottrill, Simpson, Culpin, Rosegreen, Mogford, Symonds. Subs: Barton, Martin.

Borough were dealt a heart-rending losing hand in the last minute of an incident-filled clash. Borough, 2-1 up with 90 seconds to go, were dealt a cruel blow as Woking equalised.

As if that wasn't bad enough the Cards struck again three minutes into injury time with a last gasp winner to the delight of their supporters.

Borough fought the GM Conference side to a standstill and had them reeling with some superb football which deserved a better fate.

Cheered on by more than 1,100 supporters, Borough rocked the home



Nuneaton fans converge on goal hero Tony Simpson after his last gasp strike had secured a narrow 2-1 win.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

side in the second minute with a Darren Bullock 20 yard screamer which took a deflection over keeper Laurence Batty and into the roof of the net.

Woking's FA Cup fighting spirit lifted them, however, and two minutes later they were level. Defender Andy Clement fired a low drive in which Richard Wade desperately tried to clear but only succeeded in slicing into his own net.

As expected, Borough were put under pressure in the first 20 minutes as Woking tried to impress their dominance over the visitors, but the Blues stood their ground.

With 12 minutes gone Woking went close to pulling in front when Dave Puckett climbed to get his head to a Shane Wye centre but keeper Peter Manuel saved comfortably.

Number 11 Scott Steele proved to be a thorn in Borough's side, when in the 22nd minute he nodded on a cross from Trevor Senior to the lurking Puckett who was unlucky not to snatch his eighth goal of the season as Manuel smothered his header.

Borough were being put through the grinder as first John Symonds, who headed off the line and then Matt Tarry with a timely clearance from Colin Fielder, kept the Manor Park side in the match.

On the half-hour Borough were awarded a free-kick on the edge of the Woking area, Brian Mogford quickly hitting the ball to Ian Cottrill.

The midfielder looked certain to burst through with just the keeper to beat when he was cynically scythed down by Trevor Baron who was given his marching orders by referee Scobie.

Fielder was booked in the same incident and later Biggins and Fleming for Woking had their names taken, while Mogford, Ridding, Tarry and Cottrill were also booked.

From the free-kick Culpin hit the ball over the wall for a relieved Batty to tip

the ball over the bar for a corner at full stretch.

Culpin went close seconds later when he latched onto a Bullock free-kick from the left, climbing above the defence to get in one of his rare headers.

Borough's top scorer almost set up Mark Rosegreen who was within inches of connecting with a low centre as the goalmouth yawned in front of him.

With half-time looming Borough were coming back strongly and there was a definite concern creeping into the Woking ranks.

After the break the Cards came at the visitors, winning a corner and a free-kick on the edge of the Borough area within the first two minutes.

To the roar of their supporters packed into the Westfield Road end Borough stormed back and just nine minutes into the half they were rewarded with a superb second goal.

Mark Rosegreen tenaciously held on to a clearance to the centre of the park before putting an inch-perfect pass through to Mogford, whose cross into the area found the unmarked Culpin.

The ball seemed to bounce up awkwardly but Borough's record goalscorer made no mistake with his 23rd goal of the season.

The goal gave Borough the boost they needed and from then on they never looked like losing.

Woking had chances to draw level, mainly through Trevor Senior who was winning most of the crosses into the area. His best chance came in the 60th minute when Manuel was hard pressed to save his header from the edge of the six yard box.

Senior, whose former clubs include Reading, Portsmouth, Watford and Middlesbrough, put the Blues under pressure three minutes later, his header just clearing the bar.

With ten minutes to go Tony Simpson made a rare error. With Culpin unmarked in the centre he hit the ball straight to a defender but he made up for it a minute later when a superb ball found Culpin but a timely tackle blocked his shot.

Borough were within sight of a famous victory when Mark Biggins ran onto an 89th minute clearance and hammered a left foot shot low into the corner past Manuel.

Having equalised, Woking had the scent of victory, and three minutes into injury time substitute Robbie Carroll pounced on the ball to stab home the winner from 18 yards.



Borough fans go wild with delight after Paul Culpin had given Borough a 2-1 lead.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Congleton — 2nd Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Congleton to Manor Park to play a FA Trophy 2nd Qualifying Round tie.

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Kane, Bullock, Whetton, Cottrill, Simpson (Symonds 43), Culpin, Green, Mogford, Tarry. Sub: Martin.

Congleton: Powner, Nolan, Quine, Nicely, Wilcox (Biddle 77), Jones, Morgan, Deeley, Vigon, Bailey, Washington. Sub: Blake.

Impressive Borough stretched their unbeaten run to 14 games, and predictably ace marksman Paul Culpin was on the scoresheet again, snatching his 16th and 17th goals this season in all competitions.

Borough were too powerful in all departments for Congleton who were allowed few chances and their solitary goal was the result of one of the home side's rare lapses in concentration.

Goal-hungry Darren Bullock was into top gear from the start and the Bears were lucky not to go a goal down in the fourth minute when his centre was scrambled away by keeper Robert Powner as Peter Green closed in.

In the 11th minute full back John

Ridding found Ian Cottrill with a cross to the far post but the midfielder's shot was pushed away by Powner at full stretch.

Bustling Tony Simpson had the best chance in the first 20 minutes when he jinked past three defenders to fire in a wicked, close range shot but Powner was in perfect position to deny the Borough favourite.

Ian Cottrill, who had seven stitches removed only the day before from a head wound picked up a week earlier in the 4-0 thrashing of Raunds Town, was making his presence felt, putting in centres from deep in the Congleton half.

The pressure paid off in the 27th minute when Brian Mogford's corner from the left was headed on by Bullock to Culpin who turned and shot in one movement, burying the ball in the roof of the net from seven yards out.

Congleton's Mark Jones had their best chance in the 35th minute when he was unlucky in heading an Adam Vigon cross over the bar.

But three minutes later Jones had his

revenge when a bad clearance from a corner kick fell perfectly for him just inside the area and he made no mistake as he slotted the ball home for the equaliser.

The goal took Borough by surprise, coming as it did as the home side were strengthening their grip on the game.

Skipper Dave Whetton had another rock solid game and his play is rapidly gaining admirers who now regard him as one of the best centre halves playing at non-league level.

Borough's second goal came right on the stroke of half-time. A long, high ball upfield bounced above Culpin and defender Peter Wilcox who seemed to handle, but Borough's prolific marksman took the sort of chance he relishes, giving Powner no chance from close range.

The second half was full of niggling incidents as players' frustrations sometimes got the better of them in the heat of the competition with the result that the yellow card was shown to Congleton's number seven Andrew Morgan in the 52nd minute for a heavy tackle on Brian Mogford.

Two minutes later Bullock was only inches away from his second goal in two matches with a tremendous shot from 25 yards that cannoned against the crossbar and out to safety.

But his reward came in the 63rd minute when Bullock hit a low, powerful drive into the net past the outstretched fingers of the diving Powner.

Culpin was looking for his hat-trick with 20 minutes to go as Cottrill wormed his way to the Congleton line but his cross ball was three feet off the ground, dangerously low for the striker's brave header as left back Paul Quine booted the ball clear.

John Symonds came on for Tony Simpson with two minutes remaining but it was all over as Culpin had a final flourish, hooking a shot into the side netting as he tried to fool the keeper.



Paul Culpin turns in jubilation after scoring Borough's first goal. Photo: Heartland Evening News

Burton Albion — 3rd Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Burton Albion to Manor Park to play a FA Trophy 3rd Qualifying Round tie.

Borough: Manuel, Wade, Tarry, Bullock, Ridding, Cottrill, Simpson, Culpin, Rosegreen, Mogford, Symonds. Subs: P. Green, London.

Burton: Goodwin, Foster (Payne 55), Nelson, Kurila, Brain, Davies, Lindsey, Gretton, Redfern, Walldett (Moore 74)

Borough did everything but score against a mediocre Burton side. Borough looked revitalised after their home defeat against Tamworth and deserved to take the honours but victory escaped them. For long periods the Brewers' goal was under siege as countless corners and penetrating attacks went in and Burton have keeper Nick Goodwin to thank for the draw and a second bite of the cherry.

Goodwin was in magnificent form, and had to be, as first Paul Culpin then Ian Cottrill with three chances, all in the opening eight minutes, gave him plenty to think about.

Everyone knew it was going to be a match in which no prisoners were taken and that was reflected in the number of yellow cards shown.

Matt Tarry, back in the Borough

defence after a three match suspension picked up a booking in the 10th minute with Albion's Nick Foster, Darren Brain, Simon Redfern and Alan Kurila also going into referee Ian Cowley's book.

The action flowed rapidly end to end and was well illustrated in the tenth minute when Mark Rosegreen came within an ace of scoring from a Tony Simpson centre only for the long, threatening clearance upfield to be booted into touch by the excellent John Ridding.

Peter Manuel was finally brought into action just after the half hour mark as striker Paul Gretton burst through after a Borough move broke down in midfield but that was a rare sight and Burton's next best effort came in the dying second of the half from a diving header by Steve Nelson that flew wide.

With two minutes to go John Symonds was desperately unlucky not to do better when he almost got a foot to a well-worked Culpin centre, Borough's top scorer beating two defenders after latching on to a Cottrill free-kick.

After the interval Borough resumed where they had left off, Brian Mogford firing in a corner kick in the 47th minute that Goodwin punched clear under pressure.

At the other end, Brewers' full back Alan Davies took too long to tee up

a shot from inside the area and Matt Tarry came in with a timely clearance off the line.

With Borough looking for the elusive breakthrough Mogford had two chances to open the account. The first, a snap shot from 20 yards, was tipped over by Goodwin and the second, Borough's best effort of the match, hit the base of the post with the keeper beaten.

Seconds later Simpson put Rosegreen clear but with just Goodwin to beat he was halted by the hastily retreating defence and the chance was lost.

With less than 20 minutes to go Culpin, playing a typically unselfish role, laid off two superb first time passes, the first to Rosegreen who was just beaten to the ball by Goodwin and then Simpson, who just failed to squeeze a narrow angled shot past the keeper from 18 yards.

Goodwin rapidly closed the angle, leaving Simpson with no choice but to try for the far post but he was inches wide.

Darren Bullock, who will miss the replay due to suspension, forced Goodwin into a fine diving save with seconds to go and his last effort was deflected off a defender for a goal kick as the referee blew.

Burton Albion — 3rd Qualifying Round Replay

Borough made the journey to Eton Park to play a FA Trophy 3rd Qualifying Round replay.

Burton: Goodwin, Davies, Williams, Kurila, Brain, Nelson (Moore 73), Lindsey (Jones 66), Gocan, Gretton, Payne, Redfern.

Borough: Attwood, Wade, London, Ridding, Tarry, Cottrill, Simpson, Culpin, Rosegreen, Mogford, Symonds. Subs: Green, Woodfine.

Two goals in a five minute spell just before the interval from John Symonds and the impressive Mark Rosegreen put the Manor Park men on course for a superb win, while Paul Culpin's 29th goal of the season late on added the final nail to Albion's coffin.

Borough looked the sharper outfit for the



Darren Bullock battles for possession.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

first 30 minutes, but once Borough took the lead the result was never in doubt.

Neither outfit showed much flair or imagination in the opening phases with little goalmouth action at either end. However, in the 17th minute it was the Brewers who came close.

Simon Redfern rose well to head a Scott Lindsey corner kick into the danger zone where former Nuneaton striker Peter Gocan produced a speculative volley that was magnificently parried for a corner by keeper Richard Attwood.

Play was littered with free kicks as both teams showed more aggression than ability, and in a niggly six minute spell Burton's Steve Nelson was booked along with Borough's John Ridding and Brian Mogford.

Borough were finding it difficult to get into their rhythm and when Attwood mispunched a John Williams free-kick, Nelson's goalbound drive was blocked by Matt Tarry and hooked to safety.

Goodwin tipped a Rosegreen drive over the bar before the Borough took the lead. Rosegreen won possession and fed Tony Simpson whose low shot was blocked by Goodwin but the lurking Symonds was in the right place to head into an empty net from six yards.

It needed another vital save from

Attwood to deny Karl Payne's crisply struck drive from finding its target as Albion looked for a quick replay.

But it was slick moving Nuneaton who extended their advantage as the home defence was ripped apart in the 45th minute with a goal of high quality from the ever-dangerous Rosegreen.

Culpin superbly won possession just inside his own half, and his short pass to Simpson was delightfully slipped into the path of Rosegreen, who raced down the middle and despite being pressured by Nelson the striker clipped his shot over Goodwin's outstretched body and into a vacant net.

It was a blow that Burton never recovered from as Borough ran the show after the break with some fast, fluid build-ups that deserved to reap more rewards than Culpin's coup-de-grace.

Goodwin had to palm over a mishit clearance from his own defender, Darren Brian, while it needed a timely tackle from Alan Kurila to deprive Rosegreen from latching on to an astute Simpson through pass.

Redfern was cautioned for a clumsy tackle on Simpson before Attwood had to go down smartly to fend off a shot from Gocan.

Nelson became the fourth Burton

player to go in the book for a foul on Symonds as Borough continued to rule the roost.

Ian Cottrill's tackle on Redfern enabled him to send Rosegreen away, but the striker's finish from the edge of the box drifted wide of the far post. Rosegreen found the net in stunning fashion two minutes later when his acrobatic volley soared high into the rigging, but the effort was ruled out for offside.

However, there was nothing wrong with Culpin's explosive finish in the 87th minute to put an end to any hopes Burton may have had of a come back. Culpin took advantage of some neat approach play involving Brian Mogford, Simpson and Rosegreen to crash a tasty left-foot rising drive past the helpless Goodwin from 15 yards.

Murton — 1st Round Proper

Borough travelled to the Recreation Park to play a FA Trophy 1st Round Proper tie.

Murton: Stewart, N. Robson (Holborg), Kerr, Hargrave, Lormer, Young, D. Robson, Evans, Laws, Watson, Adamson (Burlinson).

Borough: Attwood, Wade, London (Simpson 53), Bullock, Tarry, Cottrill, Ridding, Culpin (P. Green 72), Rosegreen, Mogford, Symonds.

Borough were run ragged in the first half as they tried to come to terms with the frantic pace of the game and the biting, icy cold wind.

On reflection the long trip up to the North East could have left some players feeling jaded and below par, but following the interval the tie turned to the visitors' advantage and Borough came away with a well-deserved victory.

Central defender Matt Tarry gave Borough the lead in the 51st minute, heading home from close range for his second success of the season and Mark Rosegreen celebrated with number 14, converting an Ian Cottrill centre with 13 minutes to go.

The win puts Borough into the last 32 of the competition and whatever happens in future ties Borough know they have



Ace striker Paul Culpin shows his goalscoring prowess as he crashes home the third goal to complete Burton's misery.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

a deep well of character to draw on if it comes to a battle.

Both teams played hard but fair in spite of a total of ten bookings, with three going to Borough, many of which were questionable to say the least.

Murton brought shouts of joy to their supporters when a fourth minute shot by top scorer David Evans looked as if it had gone in but fortunately for the visitors the ball hit the side netting.

Using the wickedly swirling wind to their advantage, the home side forced Borough into making a number of errors and it was only sheer luck and some sterling defensive work that kept Murton at bay.

Borough made some tentative forays with the best chance coming in the 13th minute when Rosegreen latched onto a loose ball on the edge of the area but with the unmarked Paul Culpin only yards away he was overwhelmed by the defence.

With 18 minutes gone Borough were put under the hammer when number 11 Lee Adamson swept by Paul London on the right but the dependable Brian Mogford was on hand to cut out his cross into the six yard box.

The half settled into a format of Murton

applying all the pressure and Borough being forced to grit their teeth and hope they could hang on and settle to the task.

Richard Attwood did well to get to a David Robson shot, punching the ball out for a corner after some good work on the right by Gary Hargrave.

Hargrave tried a snap shot two minutes later from 25 yards, giving Attwood little trouble as it flew well wide.

At the other end Darren Bullock, who was not having a happy time in midfield, had a fierce drive blocked by keeper Nigel Stewart as Borough started to put a few good moves together.

That growing confidence was illustrated by striker Paul Culpin who tried, unsuccessfully, to chip Stewart from wide on the edge of the six yard box, the keeper palming the ball over for a corner.

Borough were enjoying a good spell with 15 minutes remaining to the half, winning three corners in five minutes, but Murton bounced back and Evans was unlucky as he attempted to lob Attwood, the ball dropping onto the roof of the net.

A frantic last ten minutes saw both sides go close, a Murton free-kick was cleared to John Symonds whose point-blank range shot was somehow

stopped by Stewart and a Borough free-kick by Culpin on the edge of the area was palmed away by the keeper.

Right on the whistle Rosegreen had a chance to give Borough the lead, his close-range header from an Ian Cottrill centre going just wide.

Borough came out revitalised, taking the game to Murton and it was barely three minutes old when Symonds went close from a cross by Cottrill, the keeper deflecting the ball onto a post for Kevin Young to clear off the line.

Within a minute Gary Lormer returned the compliment, forcing Attwood into making a fine save high into the left corner, but Borough pressure paid off in the 51st minute when they made the breakthrough.

Cottrill made a run on the right only to be chopped down on the edge of the area, Mogford took the free-kick to the far post and Tarry headed home from close range.

Murton closed ranks and hit back, number 10 Colin Watson tested Attwood with a header from the edge of the six yard box as the home side tried to use their height advantage.

Tony Simpson, who had come on for Paul London early in the half, added more width to the Borough attack, linking with Rosegreen to set up some promising attacks.

Peter Green replaced Culpin after 72 minutes and the striker was quickly in the thick of the action, picking up a through ball from Rosegreen but his shot was off target.

With 13 minutes to go Rosegreen put Borough further in front. Green's pass to Cottrill on the left was hit first time for the striker to buy the ball to the delight of the mass of supporters.

Eight minutes later Murton pulled on back when the substitute, assistant manager Brian Burlinson, volleyed home a perfect centre from Lee Adamson on the left.

Spectators were treated to a tense



Keeper Richard Attwood punches clear to foil a Murton attack and maintain Borough's lead.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

finish as Murton threw everything into the Borough half, leaving themselves open at the back and Green had a perfect chance to settle the issue with a minute remaining but with an open goal he fired wide.

Borough won with a solid workmanlike performance, adapting themselves well to the conditions after a shaky start but as has been seen this season they are well capable of playing better football.

Marine — 2nd Round Proper

Borough welcomed Marine to Manor Park to play a FA Trophy 2nd Round Proper tie.

Borough: Attwood, Wade, Kane, Gillett, Ridding, Cottrill, Simpson, P. Green, Rosegreen, Culpin, Symonds. Subs: Martin, London.

Marine: O'Brien, Ward, Hanson, Roche, Draper, Gautrey, Grant (J. Murray 83), Rowlands, Ross, Camden, Dawson.
Sub: E. Murray.

Marine maintained their unbeaten record against Borough but in spite of going out of the competition the home side were not disgraced and could have won the match but for the final touch in front of goal that left a lot to be desired on more than one occasion.

With several key players missing, including the suspended Matt Tarry and Darren Bullock and cup-tied Alan Byrne and Brett Wilcox, Borough knew they had a fight on their hands.

Kevan Kane made a welcome return to the side and came through his first competitive game for 14 weeks after suffering a knee injury.

The Lilywhites' goal, coming in the 54th minute following a defensive error came as a demoralising blow.

The visitors got off at a frantic pace, winning two free kicks and two corners within minutes of the kick-off.

Mark Rosegreen and John Symonds showed what they can do after breaking down both wings to get centres in but the well-organised Marine defence cleared comfortably.

Full-back Richard Wade laid on Borough's best chance after 10 minutes with a high, dipping centre which keeper Kevin O'Brien did well to take from the incoming Peter Green.

At the other end number eight Graham Rowlands took far too long to tee up a shot from just inside the area when Borough were caught square.

John Ridding, taking on the centre half role, was in a perfect position to beat Chris Camden to a centre from Brendan Grant after the number seven had escaped the attentions of Wade.

Borough were desperately unlucky when Tony Simpson's long ball intended for Rosegreen hit John Roche's back and was deflected for a throw-in.

With ten minutes to go to half-time Borough were having their best period, first Simpson then Green going close followed by Paul Culpin linking with Rosegreen only for the ball to fly high over the crossbar.

Ridding was the saviour yet again when, right on half-time, he denied Brian Ross following a long clearance from Draper.

Borough pushed forward after half-time, sensing the game was there to be won, Rosegreen hitting a far post centre only for O'Brien to gather safely with Culpin closing in.

Marine stunned the 1,000 plus crowd when they went into the lead in the 54th minute. Neal Hanson capitalised on Ian Cottrill's error to hit a centre off the crossbar, Camden passing the rebound to Brian Ross who made no mistake from eight yards.

Undismayed, Borough battled back, Rosegreen shaking off three markers in the area to get in a centre but O'Brien was in position to foil Culpin and Green.

Marine's menacing presence had evaporated midway through the second half and they rarely looked capable of adding to the score but their defence was good enough to frustrate everything that Borough threw at them.

Culpin and Symonds linked well in a promising one-two through the centre but as before O'Brien was well positioned for Culpin's first time shot from the edge of the area.

With the minutes ticking away Borough had two chances of squaring the game and a replay at Rossett Park but Green hit both shots agonisingly wide.

Everyone who saw the match will agree that Borough certainly gave Marine a match and but for those missed opportunities the Blues could have booked their place in the next round.



Paul Culpin waits for a loose ball that never came.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



Southern League Midland Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1992-93

Nuneaton Scores First

| Date | Opposition | Venue | Competition | Score | Scorers | Attendance |
|-------|----------------------|-------|-------------|-------|--|------------|
| 07.28 | Banbury United | A | PSF | 1-0 | Culpin | 148 |
| 08.01 | Worcester City | A | PSF | 0-0 | | 208 |
| 08.04 | Halesowen Town | A | PSF | 2-2 | London, Symonds | 303 |
| 08.08 | Pershore Town | A | PSF | 4-2 | Symonds (2), Twigger, Evans | 200 |
| 08.15 | Solihull Borough | A | PSF | 5-2 | Allbutt (3), Mogford, Rosegreen | 142 |
| 08.18 | Bromsgrove Rovers | A | PSF | 0-2 | | 230 |
| 08.22 | Stourbridge | H | L | 1-1 | Allbutt | 716 |
| 08.25 | Bilston Town | A | L | 4-3 | Culpin (2), Twigger (pen), Cottrill | 208 |
| 08.29 | Boldmere St.Michaels | H | FACPF | 2-1 | Rosegreen, Culpin | 515 |
| 09.01 | Tamworth | A | L | 0-0 | | 1247 |
| 09.05 | Racing Club Warwick | H | L | 3-1 | Culpin (2), Rosegreen | 679 |
| 09.09 | Dudley Town | A | L | 3-1 | Culpin (3) | 262 |
| 09.12 | Leicester United | H | FAC1Q | 3-1 | Rosegreen (pen), Culpin, Cottrill | 742 |
| 09.19 | Yate Town | H | L | 4-1 | Twigger (3, 1 pen), Culpin | 708 |
| 09.22 | Wednesfield | H | BSC1 | 6-1 | Culpin (3), Bullock, Grass (o.g.), Williams (o.g.) | 510 |
| 09.26 | Matlock Town | H | FAC2Q | 2-1 | Symonds (2) | 846 |
| 10.03 | Newport A.F.C. | A | L | 3-0 | Culpin, Whetton, P. Green | 668 |
| 10.06 | V.S.Rugby | H | BCC1-1L | 0-0 | | 658 |
| 10.10 | Raunds Town | H | FAC3Q | 4-0 | Bullock, Rosegreen, Culpin, Cottrill | 1206 |
| 10.17 | Congleton Town | H | FAT2Q | 3-1 | Culpin (2), Bullock | 794 |
| 10.20 | V.S.Rugby | A | BCC1-2L | 1-0 | Bullock | 380 |
| 10.24 | Wembley | A | FAC4Q | 1-1 | Culpin | 828 |
| 10.27 | Wembley | H | FAC4Qr | 0-0 | | 2512 |
| 10.31 | Grantham Town | H | L | 6-1 | Culpin (3), Rosegreen (2), Simpson | 896 |
| 11.03 | Wembley | A | FAC4Qr2 | 2-1 | Bullock, Simpson | 585 |
| 11.07 | Kings Lynn | A | L | 2-0 | Culpin (pen), Rosegreen | 385 |
| 11.10 | Leicester United | A | BCC2 | 3-0 | Cottrill, Rosegreen, P. Green | 328 |
| 11.14 | Woking | A | FAC1 | 2-3 | Bullock, Culpin | 3280 |
| 11.17 | West Midlands Police | H | BSC2 | 3-2 | Culpin (2), Simpson | 469 |
| 11.21 | Leicester United | H | L | 2-0 | Rosegreen (2) | 793 |
| 11.24 | Tamworth | H | L | 1-3 | Culpin (p) | 1241 |
| 11.28 | Burton Albion | H | FAT3Q | 0-0 | | 1019 |
| 12.05 | Redditch United | A | L | 3-2 | Culpin (2 1pen), Symonds | 369 |
| 12.08 | Burton Albion | A | FAT3Qr | 3-0 | Symonds, Rosegreen, Culpin | 633 |
| 12.12 | Hinckley Town | A | L | 5-1 | Culpin (2), Tarry, Simpson, Rosegreen | 664 |
| 12.15 | Solihull Borough | H | BSC3 | 2-1 | Bullock, Rosegreen | 497 |
| 12.19 | Stourbridge | A | L | 2-0 | Culpin, Bullock | 483 |
| 12.28 | Bedworth United | A | L | 1-2 | Culpin (pen) | 2009 |
| 01.05 | Tamworth | H | BCC3 | 2-1 | Gillett, o.g. | 704 |
| 01.09 | Murton | A | FAT1 | 2-1 | Tarry, Rosegreen | 289 |
| 01.12 | Suton Coldfield Town | H | L | 1-2 | Culpin | 907 |
| 01.16 | Rushden & Diamonds | H | L | 1-1 | Symonds | 856 |
| 01.19 | Aston Villa | H | BSCQF | 3-2 | P.Green (2), Culpin | 1124 |
| 01.23 | Barri | A | L | 4-1 | Bullock (2), Culpin (2) | 341 |
| 01.26 | Halesowen Town | H | BCCQF | 0-5 | | 599 |
| 01.30 | Marine | H | FAT2 | 0-1 | | 1165 |
| 02.02 | Atherstone United | H | MFC | 2-1 | Symonds (2, 1 pen) | 629 |
| 02.04 | Dudley Town | A | MFC | 1-1 | Martin | 123 |
| 02.06 | Redditch United | H | L | 8-1 | Culpin (3, 1 pen), P.Green (2), Symonds, Gillett, Byrne | 854 |
| 02.09 | Bridgnorth Town | H | L | 2-1 | Gillett, Bullock | 757 |
| 02.13 | Forest Green Rovers | A | L | 3-2 | Rosegreen (2), Culpin (pen) | 383 |
| 02.16 | Bilston Town | H | L | 2-1 | Culpin (2) | 1028 |
| 02.20 | Newport A.F.C. | H | L | 1-1 | Culpin (pen) | 1296 |
| 02.24 | Evesham United | A | L | 2-0 | P. Green, Bradder | 747 |

Southern League Midland Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1992-93

| Date | Opposition | Venue | Competition | Score | Scorers | Nuneaton Scores First | Attendance |
|-------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|-------|--|-----------------------|------------|
| 02.27 | Hinckley Town | H | L | 2-1 | Rosegreen, Bullock | | 1202 |
| 03.02 | Weston-super-Mare | A | L | 1-2 | Culpin | | 347 |
| 03.07 | Grantham Town | A | L | 3-2 | Culpin (2), Rosegreen | | 629 |
| 03.09 | Kings Lynn | H | L | 3-0 | Culpin (2), Symonds | | 1013 |
| 03.13 | Yate Town | A | L | 1-3 | Culpin (pen) | | 390 |
| 03.16 | Bedworth United | A | BSCSF | 1-0 | Bullock | | 1312 |
| 03.18 | Rushden & Diamonds | A | L | 2-0 | Simpson, Culpin | | 889 |
| 03.20 | Forest Green Rovers | H | L | 5-0 | Bradder, Tarry, Simpson, Cottrill, Bullock | | 1092 |
| 03.23 | Gresley Rovers | H | L | 0-1 | | | 2112 |
| 03.25 | Redditch United | A | MFCQF | 1-0 | P. Green | | 212 |
| 03.27 | Leicester United | A | L | 2-1 | Cottrill, P.Green | | 642 |
| 04.03 | Bridgnorth Town | A | L | 2-1 | P.Green, Symonds (pen) | | 485 |
| 04.06 | Weston-super-Mare | H | L | 1-2 | Landon | | 1123 |
| 04.10 | Gresley Rovers | A | L | 1-0 | Culpin | | 1528 |
| 04.12 | Bedworth United | H | L | 1-1 | P. Green | | 1954 |
| 04.14 | Racing Club Warwick | A | L | 2-0 | P. Green, Symonds | | 764 |
| 04.17 | Barri | H | L | 1-3 | Cottrill | | 1499 |
| 04.19 | V.S.Rugby | At Hawthorns | BSC F | 2-0 | Culpin (2) | | 1300 |
| 04.24 | Sutton Coldfield Town | A | L | 3-1 | Whetton, Symonds, P.Green | | 830 |
| 04.27 | Dudley Town | H | L | 3-0 | Tarry, Bullock (pen), o.g. | | 1696 |
| 05.01 | Evesham United | H | L | 5-1 | P. Green (2), Culpin (pen), Cottrill, Hart | | 2703 |
| 05.04 | Bedworth United | A | MFC S-F | 1-2 | Cottrill | | 865 |

KEY : L = Southern League Midland, FAC= F.A.Cup, FAT= F.A. Trophy, BCC= Barclays Commercial Southern League Cup, BSC= Birmingham Senior Cup, MFC= Midland Floodlit Cup, PSF= Pre season friendly



Nuneaton Borough 1992-93

Back Row (left to right): Paul Culpin, Matthew Tarry, David Whetton, Richard Attwood, Matthew Pugh, Peter Allbutt, Steve Evans.

Front (left to right): John Symonds, Brian Mogford, Darren Bullock, Mark Rosegreen, John Ridding, Ian Cottrill, Martyn Twigger.



Ex-Borough Ace Joins Gunners

Arsenal have signed former Nuneaton Borough star Eddie McGoldrick for £1 million in a four year deal. The move means the Crystal Palace star teams up with another local product in Nigel Winterburn, who played for Attleborough Mills and hails from Fillongley.

Manor Park Passes Inspection

Nuneaton Borough sailed through the ground inspection by the Beazer Homes League yesterday in preparation for next season. The only problem to arise from the inspection was a question mark over the strength of the safety barriers at the Cock and Bear end of the ground. But club press officer Gordon Chislett said that the problem had already been addressed and was currently being dealt with.

No Price Rises

Nuneaton Borough have said a big thank you to their legions of fans by freezing ticket prices for next season. A standing only season ticket will remain at £63, with a further saving of eight pounds if purchased before July 15. Senior citizens and children will pay £25. Season tickets which include ground entry and transfer to the stand will be £75 for adults and £35 for senior citizens and children.

Entry to the ground will be £3 for adults with senior citizens and children (up to 12 years) paying £1.30 and transfer to the stand will be £1 and 50p respectively.

City Lights Not For Manor Park

Nuneaton Borough have pulled out of a move to purchase Coventry City's floodlights. The Beazer Homes club were set to buy the Highfield Road lights in a bid to improve lighting at the club's Manor Park ground. However, Borough officials have switched direction after being informed that the City lights would have a blinding effect on players and fans alike.

Borough director and press officer Gordon Chislett explained: "We were all ready to purchase the Sky Blues' lights as they were getting new ones. At first this looked an ideal opportunity for us, especially as we are badly in need of new ones. But we have had to change our minds after being told that our pylons are not high enough to accommodate the City lights which need to be set on 90-foot towers and ours at Manor Park are only 70ft.

Culpin Signs

Paul Culpin, Nuneaton Borough's record scorer, has signed a new 12-month contract and will be gunning for goals as the Manor Park men aim towards promotion and a return to the GM Conference. The talented former Coventry City striker has been linked with numerous clubs during the close season, including Hartlepool, Gresley Rovers, Hednesford and Worcester City, but last night pledged his short-term future to Borough.

Willis Appointed Second Team Boss

Nuneaton Borough have appointed Kenny Willis as their new second team manager following the resignation of Pete Smith. Willis has considerable experience on the local non-league front having played for Bedworth United, Racing Club Warwick and more recently the Borough, although mainly at reserve team level. Last term Borough's second string finished runners-up in the Ansells Combination Reserve Division behind Tamworth.

1993-94

Stourport Swifts v Nuneaton Borough

07-1993

Borough travelled to Walshes Meadow to play Stourport Swifts in a pre-season friendly.

Paul Culpin kicked off the season in his own inimitable way by notching a splendid hat-trick as Nuneaton Borough's pre-season friendlies got underway in great style. Borough's record goalscorer tormented the Ansells Combination Premier Division outfit as he steered the Manor Park side to a resounding 6-0 success with Peter Green netting a brace and Darren Bullock, with a rousing 20-yarder, completed the glut.

Delighted Peter Eastoe, Borough's assistant manager, who is in charge of the side while team boss John Barton is on holiday, said: "I think we were all surprised with the way things slipped into gear. The attitude of the lads was excellent and the level of performance was really pleasing."

Stapenhill v Nuneaton Borough

08-1993

Borough travelled to Maple Grove to play Stapenhill in a pre-season friendly game.

Nuneaton Borough continued their confident pre-season preparations on Saturday with a decisive 4-2 victory. Paul Culpin netted twice to take his pre-season total to five in two matches. However, while Borough's record scorer was again showing his sharpness and cultured finishing, the whole side warrant praise especially in a first-half display that tore the Staffordshire side apart. At the break Borough led 4-0 and it was only in the second period when they dropped down a gear or two that Stapenhill made any impact, although they never looked in danger of depriving John Barton's men of a second convincing friendly success.

Borough took control midway through the opening period with a four-goal spurt in a quarter of an hour spell, central defender Dave Whetton (25 minutes) headed home a Darren Bullock free-kick to give them the lead while Culpin (30 mins) swooped on to a Richard Wade through ball to rifle the visitors further ahead.

Two minutes later John Symonds broke to the byline and his centre found the unmarked Culpin at the back post and he found the net off the inside of the post. To complete the salvo, Mick Shearer latched on to a loose ball on the edge of the area to crash a scorching rising drive into the roof of the net.

In the second half, Borough slowed the tempo allowing Stapenhill to come back into contention with evergreen Brian Beresford, who showed he has lost none of his finishing expertise by notching a quick double with goals in the 50th and 60th minutes.

Nuneaton Borough v Derby County 08-1993

Borough welcomed Derby County to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly game.

Nuneaton Borough's part-timers went down fighting as they took on the might of First Division Derby County in a thrilling pre-season encounter. Manor Park was a credit to the groundstaff and volunteers who had worked hard to prepare the pitch for Borough's first home game, the third of six pre-season friendlies. The pristine conditions suited goal ace Paul Culpin who almost took his tally to six after 15 minutes with a snap shot from 18 yards, the ball flying wide with keeper Taylor beaten.



Borough hot-shot Paul Culpin shoots for goal past Derby's £3 million worth of central defenders, Craig Short (ex-Notts County) and Darren Wassall (ex-Notts Forest) during last night's friendly.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Derby could have been two up with less than 20 minutes on the clock when Mark Stallard sliced a close range shot into a defender's face, the rebound ricocheting off the right hand post to safety. Borough, kicking towards the Cock and Bear end, ripped through on the left, Peter Green beating off a strong goal-line challenge to centre, only for Mark Taylor to deny the lurking Culpin with a fingertip save. With half-time looming Stallard clipped a shot wide of the goal.

Tony Simpson came on for John Symonds and Goulouzze replaced Craig Rammage as play resumed. "Simmo" was in the thick of the action within minutes but Darren Wassall cut out his dangerous centre in an aerial duel with Green. Gabbiadini's attempted curling shot into the right-hand corner went just wide as the Rams started to turn the screw with some delightful first touch football.

But Borough were determined to give the 1,100-plus crowd something to cheer about and Bullock, no respecter of reputations, provided the perfect answer when he left Gary Childs for dead, cut inside and slammed the ball low into the corner of the net. It was a memorable goal to send the crowd home happy and in spite of Derby clinching the game with goals in the 65th and 71st minutes Borough were not disgraced.

Borough VPs Threaten To Resign

Nuneaton Borough's Vice Presidents are about to get a raw deal from the club as the new season approaches. Just under half of the 28 VPs are set to resign following a £25 increase in their annual fee. Dave Hall, chairman of the VPs, cannot understand why it has fallen upon the VPs to part-subsidise other fans. He said: "The loyal supporters were rewarded for last season's fantastic support with no increase in admission prices. If we too are not loyal supporters then who are we? We are always going to support the club, no matter what league they are in."

Borough chairman Howard Kerry explained that the added costs are not to force the VPs into subsidising the other fans, but are simply natural inflationary increases. He said: "Last year the VPs charge should have been raised to £150 but we managed to keep them down to £100. So this year's increase is still low in proportions."

Hinckley Athletic v Nuneaton Borough 08-1993

Borough made the journey to Middlefield Lane to play Hinckley Athletic in a pre-season friendly game.

Tenacious Hinckley Athletic fought Nuneaton Borough to a standstill in an entertaining match before going down 2-1 to their illustrious rivals. Robins were determined to give nothing away and weathered an early Borough storm, holding the visitors to a 1-0 lead at half-time after deadly Darren Bullock fired a free-kick low into the corner.

Mick Shearer added a second midway through the second half before Sven Sinden cut the deficit late on for Hinckley. Manager John Barton said he was impressed by Hinckley's second half performance which at times had the Borough defence reeling.

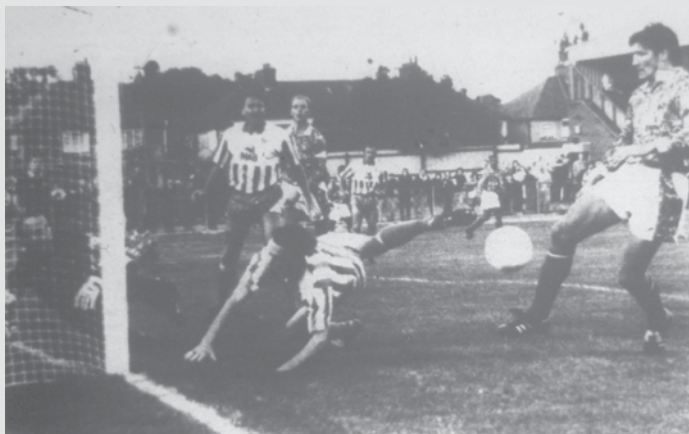
Nuneaton Borough v Coventry City 08-1993

Borough welcomed Coventry City to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly game.

No prisoners were taken in a hotly contested friendly as battling Borough failed to overcome a determined Sky Blues side. The scoreline could have been higher but for some tenacious defending and substitute keeper John Thompson, on loan from Derby, who redeemed an early error with a tremendous penalty save late on. Thompson, on in place of Richard Attwood, had fumbled a centre 10 minutes after the restart losing the ball to Lee Rogers who made no mistake

from six yards to give the visitors a 2-0 lead. Sky Blues, fielding seven of the squad that beat Rotherham by a single goal on Saturday, got the breakthrough in the 33rd minute through £200,000 Mick Harford, who climbed unchallenged in the six-yard box to head home past Attwood. Harford's height advantage had been exploited early on as City hit long, high balls forward, but Borough weathered the storm to strike back and could have taken the lead with two chances within as many minutes.

Darren Bullock broke through on the right to hit a superb ball to Paul Culpin whose first-time low centre to the charging Richard Wade was just too close to the frantically back-peddalling defence. Bullock again laid on a perfect centre for Culpin, his point-blank range effort was turned aside by Steve Ogrizovic on the line into the path of Peter Green who barely made contact as the ball spun away. City were not having things all their own way and Borough went close to levelling the scoreline in the 37th minute, Bullock picking up a penetrating pass from skipper Gary Bradder to slide past a defender only for "Oggy" to smother.



Borough striker Peter Green dives forward in a vain bid to capitalise on a parry from Steve Ogrizovic, while Sky Blues new striker Mick Harford looks on.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Tony Simpson, on for Bullock at the restart, added extra width to the Borough attack but with ten minutes gone the Sky Blues went further into the lead, Martin Booty laying on the centre for Rogers. Four minutes later City looked certain to go three in front after Paul London scythed down Jamie Barnwell in the penalty area but Thompson's tremendous save from Willy Boland drew a rousing cheer from the 1,600-plus crowd. Hopes were raised again with seconds to go when a shot from Bradder looked as if it was in the net but unfortunately the ball went just wide.

Shearer Signs

Mick Shearer ended weeks of speculation at Nuneaton Borough when he signed a 12-month contract. Borough beat off a strong bid by Telford to secure the services of the talented midfielder, who will be a welcome addition to the squad this coming season. Shearer was with VS Rugby and Kettering Town last term.

Nuneaton Borough v Stafford Rangers 14-08-1993

Borough welcomed Stafford Rangers to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly game.

A Darren Bullock penalty 13 minutes from time did little to ease a painful afternoon for the Blues as the visitors scored a comfortable victory. With the first match of the season just a week away, Borough looked sadly lacking in understanding and were guilty of putting themselves under unnecessary pressure at times as passes went astray. But with a side depleted of players such as Alan Byrne, Matt Tarry, John Symonds, Dave Whetton, Shaun McGrory and Peter Green, things were never going to be easy.

Borough started well and could have taken an early lead against their GM Conference league visitors. But luck was not with Borough as efforts by Mark Rosegreen, hitting his shot over the crossbar from six yards, Bullock with a shot deflected by keeper Ryan Price and an Ian Cottrill header came to nothing. Paul Culpin got in the act three minutes later but his effort to side-foot wide of the keeper was just too strong, clearing the right-hand post by a yard.

Rangers breakthrough came out of the blue in the 17th minute as a cross from the right by Ahmed Mettioui was helped home by Steve Burr past the stranded Richard Attwood. Eight minutes later the visitors went further in front. Borough failed to sort out a midfield mix-up leaving Darren Bowie clear to roll the ball into the net at his second attempt after Attwood intercepted.

Stafford, now with former Borough favourite and ex-Bedworth manager Brendan Phillips in charge, went through a testing time on the restart. Culpin only needed to touch a cracking cross from Bullock but last season's star striker seemed to misjudge the ball's flight, missing it by inches as it flew over his head. The game reverted to a midfield struggle with both teams making an occasional break. Gary Bradder went close on 62 minutes, his half-hit shot from a Cottrill corner kick almost evading Price on his line. Borough's hopes to tie the match rose when Bullock blasted home from the spot after Tony Simpson had been brought down by full-back Mark Bradshaw. But that was the final throw and manager John Barton will now be looking to restore confidence back into the squad for the opening league match with Crawley Town.

Crawley Town v Nuneaton Borough 21-08-1993

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Symonds, Keogh (Green 83), Whetton, Cottrill, Simpson, Bradder, Rosegreen, Culpin, Shearer. Sub: Wade.

Borough travelled to Town Mead to play Crawley Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough started well and were in control early on. They could have been in front from a third minute Mark Rosegreen header which just cleared the crossbar from John Symonds' free-kick. Keeper Neil Taylor did well to cut out a John Ridding centre and Paul Culpin pulled a left-foot shot wide following a



penetrating run by the confident Simpson. Crawley, who were protecting an unbeaten home record stretching back to the opening game of last season, knew they had got a fight on their hands and hit back. Steve Payne's effort caused panic in the Borough defence before Chris Keogh cleared off the line only as far as number 10 Craig Whittington who fired over the crossbar from 15 yards. Bradder then got in on the act with a 20 yard drive scraping the post to hit the side netting and Rosegreen again, hungrily pouncing on a poor clearance by Taylor only for the striker to see his shot blocked.

Borough were putting some nice moves together as Crawley strove to stem the flow and it was an obvious relief for the Reds when the breakthrough came. With 30 minutes on the clock the visitors fell for a sucker punch as centre-half Tony Vessey climbed unchallenged to head home Mark Ford's free-kick. Vessey's goal heralded a frantic ten minutes for Borough as attack followed attack but luck and some desperate defending kept the deficit to the solitary goal. Culpin was unlucky not to level the scores with two minutes to go before half-time, with a rare header safely gathered by Taylor after the ball took a deflection off a defender.

The second half was barely a minute old when Borough were awarded a free-kick which referee Foreman ordered to be retaken for Culpin to fire across the crowded goalmouth. Borough, sensing that the game was there to be won, threw everything into the attack. Simpson looked more like his old self as he took players on and almost snatched the equaliser when he cut inside to unleash a shot which Taylor did well to palm away for a corner.

Ian Cottrill's kick to the far post found Dave Whetton who climbed above the packed defence to head into the arms of Taylor. It was the Reds turn a minute later, Whittington drawing gasps from the crowd as his snap shot cannoned into safety from the angle. Borough were having the lion's share with 20 minutes remaining but the elusive equaliser would not come. Culpin went close, hitting the side netting and Simpson, with a perfect chance, pulled his shot wide from 12 yards. With 60 seconds of ordinary time remaining substitute Peter Green almost levelled the game when he volleyed John Symonds' centre inches over the crossbar. The Reds had the final effort as Paul Fishenden latched on to a poor clearance only to slam a rising shot into the stand.

Nuneaton Borough v Solihull Borough 24-08-1993

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Symonds, Keogh, Whetton, Cottrill, Simpson, Bradder, Rosegreen (Green 67), Culpin, Shearer (McGrory 45).
Solihull: Houghton, Pearson, Coogan, Boxall, Hopkins, Ollis, Mulders, Hawker, Canning (Clarke 71), Casey, Burton. **Sub:** Birtschin.

Borough welcomed Solihull Borough to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough enjoyed an opening period of dominance and could have been three goals in front in the opening 20 minutes but things started to look ominous following a Cottrill miss,

when he put a weak shot straight at keeper Darrell Houghton from eight yards. Within minutes Borough man of the match Tony Simpson went close after jinking past two defenders for Houghton to palm the shot against the post for a corner.

Solihull made a probing attack through Coogan whose centre was taken out by John Ridding but then came the blow that Borough feared. Old hand Kim Casey made the most of a covering tackle by Chris Keogh, going down as though pole-axed, and referee Wilkinson pointed to the spot. Centre-forward Andy Canning converted the kick and from that moment Borough's fate was sealed.

Gary Bradder was continuing where he left off on Saturday and on the half-hour hit a beautifully weighted pass for Simpson who only needed to make contact to beat the keeper but missed his header. Bradder's diving header deserved better from Mark Rosegreen's well worked centre but the half finished on a sour note with Ridding's name going into the book.

Shaun McGrory replaced Mark Shearer on the restart for his first league appearance in Borough colours. Off-colour Paul Culpin raced for Simpson's long ball into the area to be beaten by Clive Boxhall's headed clearance followed by a tremendous header by Bradder scraped off the line by John Pearson. That was Borough's last chance as the nails went into the coffin through Fanning, racing through the stranded defence to slide the ball past Attwood and Chris Burton completing the agony seconds later as he ripped through the wide open defence.

In spite of Peter Green coming on for Rosegreen with 20 minutes to go Borough never looked like regaining any pride from the debacle. John Symonds had a late run into the area only for his effort to be snuffed out.

Nuneaton Borough v Cheltenham Town 28-08-1993

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Symonds, Bullock, Keogh, Cottrill, Simpson, Bradder, Green, Culpin, Tarry (McGrory).

Borough welcomed Cheltenham Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.



Ian Cottrill scores the equaliser.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Borough recorded their first league win of the season, coming back from 1-0 down to secure a 2-1 victory. The Borough goals came when Ian Cottrill forced his way through to net

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



the equaliser and the winning goal was a first of the season for record goalscorer Paul Culpin, who put the finishing touch to a Tony Simpson cross.

Burton Albion v Nuneaton Borough 30-08-1993

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Symonds, Bullock, Keogh, Cottrill (McGrory 74), Simpson, Bradder, Green, Culpin, Tarry. **Sub:** Wade.

Borough travelled to Eton Park to play Burton Albion in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Peter Green gave Borough a 28th minute lead and Borough looked to be well in contention in spite of Karl Payne's equaliser seven minutes later.

However, after the break came a dramatic change in fortunes. With just six minutes gone of the second period Paul Gretton scrambled the ball over the line following a penetrating centre by Jason Rhodes. As if that was not bad enough Burton went further in front in the 63rd minute as Robbie Briscoe cut in from the left and drilled a low shot under the diving Attwood. That was only a taster as Briscoe had the ball in the net two minutes later with an unstoppable left-foot shot from the edge of the area.

And right on 69 minutes Briscoe twisted the knife with his hat-trick, converting from the spot after Rhodes had been brought down in a desperate tackle by John Symonds. Borough's agony was completed 60 seconds later as Karl Payne volleyed a centre home off defender Chris Keogh. The visitors failed completely to adjust to Burton's change in tactics as they cut out the midfield with long balls to scythe through Borough's tattered defence.

Tony Simpson, at least, was still full of running and with ten minutes to go laid on two chances for Borough to save face but Green and Culpin failed to finish. Borough were holding on grimly, praying for the final whistle but Burton refused to ease off and almost made it seven three minutes from the end as Gretton's shot scraped the right-hand post.

Nuneaton Borough v Waterlooville 04-09-1993

Borough: Attwood, Byrne, McGrory, Bullock, Whetton, Cottrill, Simpson, Bradder, Green, Symonds (Rosegreen 70), Tarry (Ridding 45).
Waterlooville: Goldring, Burns, Murphy, Gilbert, Elley, James, Male (Hore 72) Marks, Selby, Hillaire, Boyce (Thomas 57).

Borough welcomed Waterlooville to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

It was not until 11 minutes into the game that Borough made a threatening move, Simpson's long ball into the centre being headed on by John Symonds but the ball was just out of reach of Peter Green as keeper Mark Goldring covered. Alan Byrne showed his class with a clearance from a Vince Hilaire free-kick and followed up with a long pass to Green. Bullock was crowded out by a packed defence before the visitors put in their best effort so far with Kevin Murphy testing the diving Attwood with a drive from the edge of the area.

Then, right on the half-hour, Borough struck. A pin-point cross from the left by Green found Simpson whose deft backheel was blasted into the back of the net by Bullock from 20 yards. Five minutes later Symonds was desperately unlucky not to put Borough further ahead as he raced through to fire a shot against the base of the post for Goldring to gratefully snatch the rebound.

Ville's David Boyce went close to levelling the game in the 37th minute, cutting in from the right to hit a left-foot shot just wide of the post but a minute later Borough were two up. Tony Simpson broke through on a brilliant lone run from the half-way line, drawing Goldring off his line before slotting the ball home into the left hand corner. The goal was just the tonic that Borough needed to send them in with a comfortable lead.

John Ridding came on for Matt Tarry who suffered a muscle strain to his side as Borough kept up the pressure on the visitors who still looked full of fight. John Symonds suffered a bloody nose in a penalty area clash with defender Simon James to be sidelined for treatment before being taken to hospital. The two key players are now doubtful for the Worcester game. Mark Rosegreen replaced Symonds on 70 minutes and threw himself into the fray, laying off a ball for Borough man of the match Simpson who lost the impressive Murphy just long enough to get in a deep centre for Bullock only for Goldring to intercept. With 12 minutes remaining Rosegreen made a determined break on the right, beating two defenders before crossing to Green who calmly chipped the advancing Goldring for Borough's third goal.

Bullock went close to making it four three minutes into added time, picking up a through ball to fire a shot from the edge of the area which Goldring did well to take low down.

Worcester City v Nuneaton Borough 06-09-1993

Worcester: Martin, Richards, Lundon, McGrath, D. Benton, J. Benton (Clarke 63), Daly, Moverley, Goldsmith (Davidson 86), Judge, Smith.
Borough: Attwood, Byrne, McGrory, Bullock, Whetton, Cottrill, Simpson, Ridding, Green, Rosegreen, Keogh. **Subs:** Bradder, Culpin.

Borough travelled to St George's Lane to play Worcester City in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Darren Bullock's stunning eighth minute strike was enough to give Borough a well-deserved victory. From the opening whistle the match was played at a frantic pace and rarely let up. With both sides hungry for points there was bound to be intense rivalry which led to referee Collins reaching for the yellow card four times. City had the first chance to open the scoring, Simon Moverley's ground-hugging shot from 20 yards being taken comfortably by keeper Richard Attwood. A minute later Bullock connected with Ian Cottrill's free kick to volley the ball into the back of the net from seven yards to the delight of the large travelling Manor Park contingent.

From then on it was virtually one-way traffic as Borough gained impetus from the breakthrough. Cottrill brought a gasp from the 1,261 strong crowd with a free-kick which



was hastily scrambled away as two defenders clashed. On the 15 minute mark, it was Cottrill again, heading just wide following a nice move involving Peter Green, Bullock and Alan Byrne who provided the final pass into the area. Worcester were having problems up front as promising approach work came to nothing against the solid Borough defence but at the other end Mick Martin had to be on his toes as he dived full length to save a Bullock power drive.

The second half was only seconds old when Mark Rosegreen had the perfect chance to put Borough further in front but he seemed to hesitate, only succeeding in pulling the shot wide of the left-hand post. City broke back through Gary Smith whose dangerous centre was cut out by Dave Whetton, in his best performance this term, who climbed to head clear as City began to threaten.

But they were almost caught out in the 49th minute when Rosegreen was desperately unlucky with his half-hit shot which almost crept over the goal line only for man of the match Nigel Richards to race in and clear. In their efforts to snatch the equaliser George Rooney's men were leaving gaping holes at the back which pacy winger Tony Simpson was only too happy to exploit. With 17 minutes remaining he turned the defence inside out in a thrilling 50-yard run only to lose out on the edge of the six-yard box to the dependable Martin. The final ten minutes were frantic to say the least and Borough were forced to draw on their reserves of character as they put up the shutters to deny City.

Premier Club Have Eyes On Bullock

Talented midfielder Darren Bullock is being watched by FA Premiership neighbours Coventry City. Sky Blues manager Bobby Gould was at Worcester City on Monday to see Bullock snatch the only goal of the game in typical devastating style. Borough boss John Barton said he spoke to Gould who is considering putting a package together to approach the Manor Park board. "No firm offer has been made by Coventry," added Barton. "Bobby obviously knew about Darren and wanted to see the lad for himself."

Nuneaton Borough v Trowbridge Town 18-09-1993

Borough: Attwood, Byrne, McGrory, Bullock, Whetton, Cottrill (Symonds 65), Simpson, Bradder, Green, Rosegreen, Keogh. **Sub:** Culpin.

Trowbridge: Churchward, Bird, Howells, Thorpe, Kilgour, Reeves, Knight, Webb, Mitchell, Bavistock, Harris. **Subs:** Fredrickson, Lester.

Borough welcomed Trowbridge Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough could have taken the lead after seven minutes as winger Tony Simpson dribbled in from the right touchline before cutting inside the box. His square ball found the surging Darren Bullock who drilled a right foot shot which took a deflection wide of the post. Simpson was in the thick of the action again as he pulled the ball back from the right hand side of the area to find Mark Rosegreen on the penalty spot, who with his back to goal, teed up for Gary Bradder whose

scorching drive sailed over the bar. The Borough goal remained under no threat until the 21st minute when the ball was thumped forward from their back four, finding Keith Knight on the right. His square ball found full-back Ian Howells who crossed from the left into the box, but the danger was cleared.

Rosegreen was manhandled some 30 yards out and Ian Cottrill's whipped free-kick curled into the box, and Bullock leapt high but his header missed the upright by inches. Trowbridge winger, Ray Baverstock, should have put the Bees into the lead as a long ball over the top split the Borough defence but his lob sailed wide as Attwood came running out. Impressive Shaun McGrory was then fouled on the left touchline by Dave Mitchell who was booked and Cottrill's free-kick saw Bullock climb high above the defence but his effort was cleared. Two minutes before half-time a fierce Bullock free-kick was palmed down by keeper Alan Churchward.

Immediately after the restart, a rare attack by the visitors saw Baverstock cut in from the right, but his shot was pushed around the left post by the diving Attwood. Borough got back into their stride and Bullock was unlucky not to score as his header from Cottrill's inswinging corner was pushed onto the underside of the bar before being cleared. The persistent pressure from the home side was rewarded after 62 minutes with an own goal after Rosegreen had cut in from the left wing. He twisted past two players before curling the ball with his right foot which took a cruel deflection off Mike Kilgour.

Keeper Churchward was moving out for the cross but he changed direction and leapt at full stretch, but the ball looped over his outstretched finger tips and into the back of the net. The superb Simpson was quickly onto a Bradder through ball down the right channel. He ran some 15 yards before glancing up and stroking a cheeky lob which the impressive Trowbridge keeper fingertipped around the left upright. After 84 minutes, Borough appeared to have wrapped it up as Rosegreen turned on the left by-line and looped a left footed cross to the edge of the area. Simpson brought the ball down before putting in a right footed half-volley which Churchward tipped over.

Two minutes later, a Symonds mishit shot found right back Alan Byrne who stormed forward to the byline. He drilled the ball along the floor from the right touchline, and Rosegreen turned into the net past the keeper. Trowbridge should have pulled one back at the death as the ball dropped invitingly for substitute Steve Lester but his wild swing failed to make a proper connection and the ball bobbed out of play.

Halesowen Town v Nuneaton Borough 02-10-1993

Halesowen: Rowe, Wood, Bowen, Smith, Snape, Bettles, Hazlewood, Harrison, Bradley (Grosvenor 80), Joinson, Brown (Nelson 80)

Borough: Attwood, Byrne (Alsop 77), McGrory, Bullock, Whetton, Tarry, Simpson, Wade, Green, Culpin, Symonds. **Sub:** Hart.

Borough travelled to The Grove to play Halesowen Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

After a tight opening, the match sprang to life in the 11th

minute when Paul Culpin had the first real chance, turning Town's Ian Bettles before hitting a low shot which was well saved by keeper Tony Rowe. Seconds later the "Yeltz" took the lead, unmarked winger Ian Brown latched on to a superb 40-yard Malcolm Hazelwood pass to cross for Joinson to side-foot home. Borough hit back with Shaun McGrory finding John Symonds on the left and his low cross just eluded the diving Culpin at the far post. Soon after Joinson should have increased the home side's advantage when he sliced his shot badly off target.

But Joinson made up for that lapse in the 23rd minute as he picked up a centre from full-back Phil Wood, and drilled the ball confidently past keeper Richard Attwood from deep inside the penalty box. The league's top marksman then completed his quick-fire treble three minutes later when Brown robbed Tony Simpson of possession on the edge of the penalty area before threading a through pass to Joinson, who had the simple task of firing past the exposed Attwood. Two minutes beyond the half-hour mark Borough cut the arrears when midfield dynamo Bullock met Alan Byrne's free-kick to send a looping header over Rowe and into the net.

Borough were now enjoying their best spell, and were desperately unlucky not to grab a second in the 38th minute. A long through ball by Byrne found Culpin whose first-time shot was brilliantly saved by Rowe.

In the opening moments of the second period a header by Kevin Harrison struck the bar while five minutes later Joinson had another effort disallowed for offside. Borough then began to call the tune and a break down the left by Symonds ended with a cross that almost found the unmarked Culpin, Rowe just clutching the ball as Borough's record goalscorer was about to pounce. In a rare Town attack, Hazelwood chipped inches too high from the edge of the area before the visitors resumed control, and with 20 minutes remaining they should have narrowed the gap when Peter Green's tentative header flew wide when he should have done better.

Minutes later a fine Bullock through pass put Culpin away but he was denied by a last ditch tackle from home skipper Eric Smith. Nuneaton continued to plug away gallantly, and a Richard Wade cross was met by a firm header from teenager Julian Alsop, substituting for Byrne, that Rowe did well to hold. In the closing seconds, Halesowen's Harrison was sent off for a second bookable offence but the game ended with Borough on top, unfortunately with nothing to show for their efforts.

Nuneaton Borough v Solihull Borough 05-10-1993

Borough: Manuel, Byrne (Bartlett 50), McGrory, Bullock, Whetton, Tarry, Simpson, Wade, Green, Culpin, Symonds. **Sub:** Rosegreen.

Solihull: Watkins, Pinner, Coogan, Mulders, Brown, Beddows, Canning, Palgrave, Hopkins, Casey (Crawley 64), Burton. **Sub:** Stanner.

Borough welcomed Solihull Borough to Manor Park to play a Doc Martens Cup first round tie.

Solihull were first to threaten and looked like getting a

breakthrough after six minutes as Andy Canning shot over the crossbar from 25 yards as keeper Peter Manuel covered. Four minutes later it was Borough's turn as Green forced a centre down to Darren Bullock who struck a first-time lob just wide of the right hand angle. Borough could have had two goals in the following seven minutes through Richard Wade and Green and it was only a matter of time before Blues opened the scoring through Simpson who ran on to a loose ball and calmly slotted home from 12 yards.

Solihull tried to find the equaliser with little effect. Midfielder Mark Beddows had his shot in a crowded penalty area blocked by a mass of blue shirts. The 629 spectators who had turned out on a miserable, damp evening had more to cheer about when, with nine minutes to go to half-time, Green struck to make it 2-0. A one-two by Bullock and Paul Culpin ran through to Green who cut inside, beating a defender, to hit a right foot shot which came off keeper Andy Watkins and into the net.

Two minutes later it was Green again, leaping to head a McGrory centre into the right hand corner of the goal. The visitors enjoyed a flurry of activity in the dying minutes, first Jan Mulders testing Manuel with a chest high shot and Kim Casey, who was left holding his head in despair after skying a shot over the crossbar from 10 yards.

The second half began with Solihull pressing, trying to get back into a game which was rapidly slipping away from them, but Simpson again went close with an acutely angled shot after Watkins failed to clear. Culpin had an effort palmed over the bar from 18 yards in the 60th minute and three minutes later centre-half Dave Whetton made an incisive, well-timed tackle on Brian Palgrave who looked set to burst clear. With time ticking away for the visitors Green made it four with a cheeky headed lob over Watkins, the ball bouncing once before crossing the goal line.

It was now too late for Solihull to make a come-back and the final few minutes were marred by some totally unnecessary fouls. The Reds snatched a consolation goal from one such incident. Andy Canning converting from the penalty spot following a crunching tackle by Matt Tarry on Ian Crawley. Referee James played five minutes of added time to cover for the numerous stoppages.



The tragic loss of one of local football's best-known and well respected figures, Dave Lewis, was mourned at Manor Park last night, after the ex-Borough skipper died last weekend. Photo: Heartland Evening News



Dave Lewis Funeral

Many well-known names from the soccer world are expected to attend the funeral service of ex-Borough skipper Dave Lewis, who died at the weekend. The service will take place at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Hartshill this Friday at noon and will be followed by interment at Hartshill Cemetery.

Cottrill Out For Season

Ian Cottrill has been ruled out for the rest of the season after being told he has to have major surgery to a knee injury. The midfielder, who played a major part in Borough's success last season, was given the bad news last night following a visit to a specialist earlier in the week.

Hednesford Town v Nuneaton Borough 16-10-1993

Hednesford: Hayward, White, Collins, Freeman, Foster, Jones, Street, Green, Whitehouse, Hackett (Hallam 40), O'Connor. Sub: Rodwell.

Borough: Manuel, Byrne, Symonds, Bullock, Keogh, Tarry, Simpson, Bradder, Green, Culpin, Wade (Hedley 63). Sub: Rosegreen.

Borough travelled to the Cross Keys to play Hednesford Town in a Doc Martens Cup second round tie.

Skipper Gary Bradder made a welcome return in midfield and new signing David Hadley, on a month's loan from Kidderminster Harriers, came on late in the second half but they could make little impact on a Borough side destined for defeat. Both sides took time to settle but Borough should have got the breakthrough in the 13th minute when Peter Green mistimed a shot from ten yards which keeper Paul Hayward turned away for a corner.

The Pitmen had some lucky escapes as Borough pressed forward. Tony Simpson was well to the fore and caused a panic in the defence, scrambling past four tackles only to lose out as Hayward dashed from his line. Following a rare Hednesford attack in the 25th minute, Darren Bullock won a corner with a close range effort and from Richard Wade's kick the midfielder's header forced a diving save from Hayward.

Hednesford, looking for their first league win since August 28, refused to cave in and it was only a timely tackle by Alan Byrne, foiling the troublesome Street in the 33rd minute, that kept the game level. The Pitmen's Brendan Hackett was stretched off with a groin injury five minutes from half-time to be replaced by Mark Hallam. Three minutes later Hayward pushed a shot from Green against the upright, quickly clearing for Street to race through and fire a left foot shot past the flailing fingers of Manuel and in off the post. Within a minute Borough were level, Culpin slotting a Wade free-kick home from close range.

But Blues' celebrations were silenced three minutes into first-half injury time when Street played a one-two with Hallam before blasting into the net from eight yards. After the restart Borough briefly looked as though they would get back into the game but, following a Simpson centre cleared by Mark Freeman, the home side moved up a gear.

Recent signing Kim Green went close with a back header which eluded Manuel only for the ball to scrape the foot of the post. And two minutes later the talented Joe O'Connor could hardly believe his bad luck when his shot from Green's pass whistled inches wide of the open goal.

Borough's frustration started to show when Bullock's name went into the book in the 56th minute and Matt Tarry was spoken to following a desperate tackle on Street. Hednesford capitalised on Borough's disarray two minutes later when Green made the most of a terrible moment of indecision between Chris Keogh and Manuel to pounce for his first goal for the Pitmen. Keogh almost made amends with a thumping header from a John Symonds corner as Borough desperately tried to get back into the game but Hallam's free header 19 minutes from time proved to be the killer punch.

Solihull Borough v Nuneaton Borough 20-10-1993

Borough: Attwood, Byrne, Wade (Rumble 53), Bullock, Keogh, Tarry (Culpin 77), Simpson, Bradder, Green, Rosegreen, Symonds.

Borough travelled to the Moorlands to play Solihull Borough in a Doc Martens Cup first round second leg tie.

Borough buried the memory of the league defeat against Hednesford with a disciplined performance. Darren Bullock hammered home a superb 25-yard drive in the tenth minute to virtually settle the issue, serving as a damper to any thought of Solihull retrieving the three goal deficit from the first leg. But the Blues were not in the mood to relax, and put the tie out of the Reds' reach with Mark Rosegreen producing a clinical finish five minutes after the restart to sew up the tie.

The Premier Division's big spenders pulled one back through Chris Burton with a superbly executed volley from Brian Palgrave's cross in the 57th minute but it was too late to resurrect the game. The morale boosting win is vitally important in the light of Borough's visit to Stevenage Borough in the FA Cup. But Borough were not thinking ahead last night as every ball was hotly contested from the opening whistle. Solihull were outplayed on the night and it was only some last ditch defending that kept Borough down to two goals.

Twin strikers Mark Rosegreen and Peter Green went close while keeper Darrel Houghton did well to intercept a Tony Simpson centre after the nippy winger had left the defence in tatters. Skipper Gary Bradder was unlucky not to notch up his first success of the season seven minutes later when Jan Mulders cleared his close range shot off the goal-line.

Borough Drawn Away At Swansea

Nuneaton Borough have landed themselves an away tie against Swansea in the FA Cup First Round Proper and travel to the Vetch Field on November 13. Manager John Barton said: "We have got what we wanted – a league club." He added: "We can go to South Wales with confidence and I am sure it will be a great day out for everyone."



Fans Asked To Contribute To Cottrill Operation

Nuneaton Borough fans are being asked to play their part in saving the career of one of the club's most talented players, Ian Cottrill, by contributing to the cost of a vital knee operation. The club's chairman, Howard Kerry, has launched a fundraising appeal to help with the cost of treatment for the midfielder player.

Solihull Borough v Nuneaton Borough 27-10-1993

Solihull: Houghton, Pearson, Coogan, Judd, Dyson, Pinner, Mulders, Boxall, Crawley, Palgrave, Burton.

Borough: Attwood, Byrne, McGrory, Bullock, Keogh (Culpin 83), Tarry, Simpson, Bradder, Green, Rosegreen, Symonds. **Sub:** Wade.

Borough travelled to The Moorlands to play Solihull Borough in a Doc Martens Cup second round tie.

With three minutes on the clock striker Peter Green skied a shot high over the crossbar from close range and Mark Rosegreen lost out in an aerial duel with keeper Darrel Houghton. The only goal of the game came after 25 minutes when Ian Crawley got a lucky rebound off Richard Attwood's legs for a simple tap-in from 18 yards. The goal stunned Borough, as up until that time they were looking the most likely to open the scoring.

Rosegreen and Green linked well five minutes after Solihull had gone in front, Rosegreen losing two markers before chipping over the defence toward the waiting Green but Houghton climbed higher to foil the attempt. Right on half-time, midfielder Darren Bullock, who had been doubtful up until kick-off with an ankle injury, was desperately unlucky with a point blank range shot which was somehow cleared off the line by Clive Boxall. The build-up had been one of Borough's best moves of the half. For once they did what they do best – keeping the ball on the ground and taking men on. Byrne's first touch found Rosegreen on the edge of the area who laid a ball out to Tony Simpson for the winger to turn and shoot low into the crowded goalmouth.

On the restart, the hosts came out determined to hold onto the lead – in any way they could. At one stage the trainer seemed to be the busiest man on the field as red-shirted players made the most of every challenge. Borough were desperate to get on with the game and it was then that skipper Gary Bradder came into his own, marshalling the attack and laying off some superb passes. With John Symonds moving up on the left wing, Bradder and the outstanding Shaun McGrory were under the hammer, soaking up the pressure to set up moves which deserved better.

All too frequently Borough were guilty of snatching at attempts which should have found the net instead of the roof of the main stand. With 22 minutes left a pin-point pass from McGrory well inside his own half found Symonds whose centre into the six yard box was headed over by Green. Minutes later Green again went close with a free header which eluded Houghton only for the ball to drift wide of the

far post. New boy Robin Judd, making his own debut after signing from Atherstone Town, settled well and made his presence felt as Borough struggled to find the equaliser. Paul Culpin came on for Chris Keogh with seven minutes remaining but it was too late for last season's top scorer to make an impression on the game. It was Green who had the last say in the dying seconds, but his header was too near the safe hands of Houghton.

Hastings United v Nuneaton Borough 30-10-1993

Hastings: Rudgley, Henderson, Willard, Burt, Trott, Powell, White, Blondrage, Giles (Miles 89), Heritage, O'Shaughnessy.

Borough: Attwood, Byrne, McGrory, Wade (Culpin 54), Keogh, Tarry, Simpson, Bradder, Green, Rosegreen, Symonds (Bartlett 86).

Borough travelled to The Pilot Field to play Hastings United in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough, left licking their wounds following the midweek defeat at Solihull, made an electrifying start when a 20 yard drive from Richard Wade took a deflection off Mark Rosegreen and flew past keeper Simon Rudgley and into the net. The signs were looking good for a lot of goals from Borough when, five minutes later, Hastings struck back. From 25 yards out Terry White's free-kick flew over the badly positioned Richard Attwood, burying itself in the roof of the net to the delight of Town's supporters.

The first signs of desperation crept into Borough's play with the home side harrying the visitors as the game settled into a struggle for the midfield. Tony Simpson and Peter Green were unlucky not to push the score along in the closing stages of the half. Simpson lost out to Rudgley from a Gary Bradder centre and ten minutes from half-time defender Tony Burt had the height to beat Green to a John Symond's corner kick.

After the restart, Borough were awarded a corner, Rudgley punching straight out to Wade whose hastily struck shot soared over the bar from 18 yards. Frustration started to appear in the 54th minute when Alan Byrne was booked for a foul against Steve Powell but minutes later Culpin came on for Wade and the game took on a new sense of urgency. But Borough were rocked again when 30 minutes from time Hastings Kieran O'Shaughnessy broke away, luring Attwood off his line before delicately chipping the ball over the despairing keeper's fingers and into the net.

Attwood went some way to making up for his error within minutes, deflecting a close range shot from Burt. Borough began to exert some pressure and with 19 minutes remaining Culpin struck, volleying home a Green centre from six yards. Blues were revitalised by the goal and with two minutes left Tony Simpson was upended in the penalty area by centre-half Robin Trott and referee Hills had no hesitation in pointing to the spot. With first-choice penalty taker Darren Bullock sitting out a three match suspension, the onus fell on striker Paul Culpin, who put his head down and hit the ball hard into the net.



Sammels In For Memorial Match

Former Arsenal and Borough midfield maestro Jon Sammels will be displaying his silky talents at Manor Park in the Dave Lewis Memorial match. Sammels is among the most gifted players to ever grace the blue and white of Borough and his appearance will be appreciated by Borough fans.

Rodwell Joins Borough

Former Bedworth United defender Jim Rodwell, who joined Hednesford Town in the close season, has signed loan forms for a period of six weeks.

Borough Sign Sponsorship Deal



Nuneaton Borough FC have clinched a major deal with brewery giants M&B by signing a lucrative contract which could help fuel a total redevelopment programme at the Manor Park ground. A “five-figure” sum has been signed over to the Beazer Premier League club as part of a three-year deal which also secures the company’s name emblazoned on the famous blue and white Borough shirts for next season...

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Nuneaton Borough v Farnborough Town 06-11-1993

Borough: Manuel, Byrne, McGrory, Rodwell, Tarry, Wade, Simpson, Bradder, Green, Rosegreen, Culpin. **Subs:** Bartlett, Whetton.

Farnborough: Taylor, Stemp, Pratt, Jones (Walters 65), Coney, Broome, Boothe, Read, Baker, Turkington, Horton. **Sub:** Traylen.

Borough welcomed Farnborough Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough started well with a positive move in the fourth minute which saw Mark Rosegreen within inches of

connecting with a through ball from Paul Culpin. But the breakthrough eight minutes later took everyone by surprise. A short corner by Richard Wade fell to Tony Simpson whose first-time shot squeezed between dumb founded duo full back Wayne Stemp and keeper Maik Taylor.

Borough’s euphoria was shattered on the quarter of an hour mark when Town’s Simon Read pounced on a short back-pass by Shaun McGrory only to be hacked down by desperate Borough keeper Peter Manuel. Simon Turkington hammered in the equaliser from the spot giving the visitors a welcome boost. But Borough dug in, marshalled by the majestic quartet of Rodwell, McGrory, Byrne and Tarry. Striker Peter Green was working tirelessly up front and was desperately unlucky with a header against the post in the 28th minute, a shot over the bar minutes later and just losing out to Taylor from a Culpin pass right on the half-time whistle.

Borough restarted where they left off and Culpin was unfortunate with two chances in as many minutes but the half was only ten minutes old when Green got his reward. A free-kick by Wade on the left flew into the heart of the defence for the lanky number nine to volley home from six yards. But it was not Culpin’s day as his best chance of the game was somehow deflected by Taylor only for the keeper to stop the follow up shot from Rosegreen with his feet.

Town seemed mesmerised by the downward spiral and in spite of some good work in midfield their finishing left a lot to be desired. Chris Boothe epitomised their plight when he cut out an uncharacteristic loose ball by Rodwell only to lose his nerve with only Manuel to beat and inexplicably made a U-turn to lose the initiative. The visitors were within an ace of sneaking the equaliser ten minutes from time when Read hit the crossbar from Boothe’s centre, leaving a disbelieving Manuel rooted to the spot. From then on it was Borough all the way and it was only good fortune on Town’s part that kept cock-a-hoop Blues out.

Hednesford Town v Nuneaton Borough 08-11-1993

Hednesford: Hayward, Rudge, Collins, Freeman, Foster, Jones, Street, Green (Fitzpatrick 65), Whitehouse, Hallam, O’Connor. **Sub:** Berks.

Borough: Manuel, Wade, McGrory, Byrne, Tarry, London, Simpson, Bradder, Green, Rosegreen, Bartlett (Shearer 59). **Sub:** Rumble.

Borough travelled to The Cross Keys to play Hednesford Town in a Doc Martens Cup second round tie.

For long periods the game was locked in stalemate with neither side able to settle, the pace of the game upsetting Borough’s style as players struggled to keep the ball on the ground. Both sides looked vulnerable to a sudden through ball and it was from just such a move that Borough almost got the breakthrough in the 21st minute. Mark Rosegreen raced between two defenders but with just Paul Hayward to beat he shot too early outside the penalty area, gifting the keeper with a finger-tip save. The miss came home to the visitors two minutes later when the Pitmen dug deep with a



perfect corner which seemed to graze Peter Manuel's chest for Mark Hallam to head home from close range.

Undaunted, Borough attacked, Tony Simpson leading the charge from a Gary Bradder ball wide to the right, beating Hayward only for Mark Freeman to clear off the goal-line. Again it was Simpson and Rosegreen minutes later, linking to threaten the home goal but Hayward's lightning reflexes came to the rescue as he turned the shot away for a corner kick. Tyron Street, who was a thorn in Borough's side in their last league meeting, should have put the Pitmen further in front but only watched as Joe O'Connor's shot rolled past the post.

Borough had another let off ten minutes after the restart when Hallam climbed for a free header only for the ball to skid off his forehead and slip past the wrong side of the post. Borough seemed to lose their impetus as the home side attempted to steam roller their way through but they persevered and Green's equaliser gave the game the shot in the arm it needed.

Fine approach work down the right ended with Simpson cutting the ball back into the path of Rosegreen, whose low drive was parried by Hayward leaving Green to gleefully fire home from point blank range. As the game slipped into extra time Borough were under considerable pressure and it was a timely tackle by Matt Tarry that denied Street the honour of settling the issue.

Nuneaton Borough v Sutton Coldfield Town 06-11-1993

Borough: Attwood, Byrne, McGrory (Rumble), Keogh, Tarry, Wade, Simpson, Bradder, Green, Symonds, London (Bartlett).

Borough welcomed Sutton Coldfield Town to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup second round tie.

Borough sailed through their first title defence with a workmanlike performance. Borough shrugged off their injury problems with three players missing from the side that took Second Division Swansea all the way in Saturday's FA Cup thriller, to win comfortably. The game could not have got off to a better start as Borough immediately put Town under pressure, Shaun McGrory testing youth team keeper Carl Bishop with a fifth minute scorcher.

With just ten minutes on the clock Borough got the threatened breakthrough. Matt Tarry driving home from close range after Bishop fumbled Richard Wade's accurate corner kick. Bishop had little chance to settle as the attacks came in thick and fast and he was fortunate a defender was on hand after dropping a Peter Green header at the left post. The youngster's gloom deepened 20 minutes into the tie when John Symonds slipped past a defender before sliding the ball to Peter Green who had the simple task of tapping the ball over the line from two yards.

Sutton made up for their poor showing with a tremendous shot from John Hunt from just inside the penalty area

with six minutes to go to half-time, which drew an equally magnificent save from on-form Attwood.

The second half saw Sutton regaining their pride as they carried the game to Borough who started to look a little jaded following their exertions on Saturday. Chris Keogh made his presence felt as he made some timely tackles, none more so than in the 69th minute when he denied Matthew Carroll as the powerful winger unleashed a shot from the edge of the area. In spite of their efforts Sutton were unable to make an impression until two minutes from time when substitute Carl Rathbone calmly put the ball past Attwood from Gareth Jennings' centre.

Tony Hadland came close to snatching the equaliser in the dying seconds but time was up and Borough still had a firm grip on the Senior Cup.

Bullock Joins Huddersfield

Dynamic midfielder Darren Bullock has signed for Second Division Huddersfield Town in a deal worth £60,000 – a record fee for a Borough player. The midfield maestro agreed terms with "Terriers" manager Neil Warnock yesterday, signing a contract which will keep him at Leeds Road for two-and-a-half years. He has already trained with his new team-mates and is currently looking for a new home in the West Yorkshire area for his family.

Borough will receive an initial £40,000 with a further £20,000 to come depending on appearances.

Nuneaton Borough v Chelmsford City 20-11-1993

Borough: Attwood, Byrne, Symonds, Rodwell, Tarry, Shearer, Simpson, Bradder, Green, Rosegreen, Wade. Subs: Hadley, London.

Borough welcomed Chelmsford City to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

The game promised a lot with both sides on equal points and midway in the table, but hopes were quickly dispelled as neither team could settle. A series of scrappy moves saw City's Robbie Garvey getting a header from Kevin Hoddy's free-kick and John Symonds pushing too far past a defender after pouncing on a poor clearance. The first real danger for Borough came in the 13th minute when a long through ball found prolific goalscorer Tony Rogers whose first-time, looping chip caught Attwood off his line but the ball drifted wide.

Not to be outdone, Hoddy tested the keeper minutes later with a curling shot which eluded his outstretched fingertips to scrape the post. Borough responded to the threat led by Simpson who belied his stature to get in a header from Gary Bradder's centre despite the close attention of ex-West Ham defender Paul Brush. The visitors had numerous chances to capitalise but a combination of bad luck and stout defending kept them at bay and with half-time looming Borough started to look threatening. An inch-perfect ball from Mick Shearer found Mark Rosegreen unmarked whose first-time shot was gathered by Mervyn Cawston and seconds later Borough



were hammering on the City gates again as Bradder's shot cannoned off a defender. At the other end Rogers was unlucky as he tried to control an awkwardly bouncing ball, giving Attwood time to save at his feet.

After the break Bradder's quickly taken through ball pierced the City defence, finding Simpson who battled to win a corner kick which was just a taster as Borough proceeded to take the game by the scruff of the neck. The supporters did not have to wait long. A superb header by Matt Tarry found Green whose first-time hook cleared Cawston before bouncing once and coming to rest in the back of the net for his ninth success of the season.

Green went close to adding to his tally in the 69th minute, climbing to head down an Alan Byrne centre, but fortunately for the visitors nobody was following up. Then it was City's turn. Garvey looked set to break through after picking up Brush's pass but the steadfast Jim Rodwell, making a welcome return after being sidelined by his ineligibility in cup competitions, was on hand to make the tackle.

With seconds to go Borough looked well in control with three valuable league points safely in the bag but City's final effort struck gold as pressure produced a shock equaliser as the ball flew into the net off the unfortunate Symonds. Cup competitions are a welcome bonus but at the end of the day it is league points that really count and Borough must improve in front of goal if they are to boost their position in the table.

Nuneaton Borough v Hednesford Town 07-12-1993

Borough: Manuel, Byrne (Ridding 79), London (Rumble 84), Keogh, Tarry, Wade, Simpson, Bradder, Green, Rosegreen, Shearer.

Hednesford: Hayward, Rudge (Bestall 57), Collins, Freeman, Foster, Jones, Street, Fitzpatrick (Berks 79), Whitehouse, Hallam, O'Connor.

Borough welcomed Hednesford Town to Manor Park to play a Doc Martens Cup second round replay.

It was a scrappy start from both sides with the Pitmen having two efforts from a Kevin Collins free-kick and Mark Hallam forcing a corner kick after Peter Manuel made a diving save. But with 12 minutes on the clock Mark Rosegreen made an inspired run through the middle, shrugging off two tackles to hit a right foot shot against the post for Tony Simpson to fire home past Paul Hayward. Tyron Street, who gave Borough a torrid time in two previous meetings this season, carried on where he left off with a right foot hook which flew just wide.

Joe O'Connor evaded a desperate defence before hitting a loose shot across the open area with nobody following up, the ball clearing the far post by inches. Borough bounced back through good work by Rosegreen, battling to lay off to Peter Green who centred for Simpson but Kevin Foster was on hand to clear the danger. Manuel came under considerable pressure as O'Connor had two chances, first with a shot from the edge of the area and seconds later in an aerial duel which saw the Borough keeper diving to save as the ball bounced perilously close to the line.

Two minutes into the second half the 600 plus Borough faithful gasped as Hallam climbed to head goalwards forcing Manuel to make a fingertip deflection. Borough were punished six minutes later after Hallam slipped past Chris Keogh to centre for Street who coolly controlled the ball before hitting a low shot past Manuel. Hallam's efforts were rewarded right on 60 minutes as he finished off a pin-point chip by Gary Fitzpatrick, heading home with Manuel rooted to his line.

The Borough keeper redeemed himself within minutes, diving to smother a rebound off the crossbar as menacing Mark Freeman closed in ready to pounce. A Borough free-kick taken by Richard Wade gave Hayward little trouble as Matt Tarry climbed for the header but with 14 minutes to go the visitors struck again. It was text book stuff as Street ran onto a low cross from O'Connor to shoot past Manuel into the corner of the net. Rosegreen, having one of his best games for some time, had two bites as he jinked his way through the Pitmen's defence but had to give way before overwhelming odds.

Urgent Talks Over Police Costs

Urgent talks are being sought after Nuneaton Police set a massive £17,000 bill for the huge security operation at next week's FA Cup replay against Bournemouth. The size of the bill has sent shockwaves through soccer club directors, who want immediate discussions to reduce the cost. News of the policing costs came in a meeting this week between Nuneaton Borough FC officials and senior force officers. The previous replay against Swansea, cost just £4,500 to police.

Nuneaton Borough v Crawley Town 11-12-1993

Borough: Attwood, Wade, Byrne, Rodwell, Tarry, Symonds, Simpson, Bradder, Green (Hadley 73), Rosegreen, Shearer. Sub: Keogh.

Crawley: Taylor, Pearson, Turner, Shepherd Vessey, Jeffrey, Payne, Ford, Fishenden, Adam, Dack (Carroll 58) Sub: L. Turner.

Borough welcomed Crawley Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

A steady drizzle at the opening whistle soon turned into a driving, icy downpour, making good football virtually impossible as players slipped and skidded on the treacherous surface. On-form Mark Rosegreen took advantage of defender Matt Pearson's slip to get in a centre which was somehow scrambled away for Alan Byrne, following up, to force a diving save from Neil Taylor as Peter Green closed in.

Crawley's first real threat came in the 10th minute with centre-forward Paul Fishenden close to heading a goal from Jimmy Dack's free-kick. The tall, grey-haired striker almost took advantage of a moment of indecision by keeper Richard Attwood and centre-half Matt Tarry two minutes later, but the pace of the ball beat him as he raced towards the goal-line. That let-off summed up Crawley's finishing as promising build-ups came to nothing against Borough's well-drilled defence. Jim Rodwell, making his third appearance, and whose future at Manor Park is still the subject of heated debate, made some timely interceptions as Crawley pressed forward.

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



The lively Fishenden looked more likely than most to cause an upset when a shot looked certain to go in only for Byrne to get in the way and seconds later he had the ball in the net only for the linesman to flag for offside. Crawley's number 11 Jimmy Dack would in normal conditions have buried a chance seven minutes before half-time but with just Attwood to beat he sliced the greasy ball yards wide. The visitors then had an amazing two minutes as Steve Payne had a shot clip the woodwork and Viv Jeffrey was unlucky with a 25 yard effort which rebounded off the underside of the crossbar, hitting Attwood before sticking firmly in the mud.

Crawley were punished for their missed chances right on the half as Mark Rosegreen found the net with a back header from a short corner floated over by Tony Simpson. Minutes into the second half Byrne recovered well after Attwood half-cleared a pin-point centre as the visitors searched desperately for the equaliser. But Borough, boosted by the goal, moved up a gear. Rosegreen led the charge with a good effort missing the far post by inches and seconds later putting Taylor under pressure from a corner kick.

Simpson showed flair as he jinked past two defenders before unleashing a stinging shot from 15 yards which Taylor did well to block. With 64 minutes on the clock Borough went two in front, Gary Bradder's perfectly judged free-kick into the six yard box finding Green who headed home for his third success from the last four matches. Goal hero Green was replaced by Stuart Hadley shortly afterwards who soon showed his pace with some lightning runs at the Crawley defence. From then on it was Borough all the way.

Fishenden still looked capable of snatching a surprise equaliser and almost caught Attwood with a superb 30 yard effort which dipped wickedly as the keeper dived to smother the ball. With two minutes left to play Crawley snatched a consolation goal through defender Micky Turner who pounced on a half-cleared free-kick to fire home past Attwood.

Cheltenham Town v Nuneaton Borough 18-12-1993

Cheltenham: Thomas, Cooper, Jones, Tucker, N. Smith, Brown, Howells, Owen, D. Smith, Eaton, Warren. Subs: Mortimore, Wring.
Borough: Attwood, Byrne, McGrory (Wade 28 (Hadley 57)), Rodwell, Tarry, Symonds, Simpson, Bradder, Green, Rosegreen.

Borough travelled to Whaddon Road to play Cheltenham Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Bradder had a shot from 20 yards go just over the crossbar early in the match and new boy Jim Rodwell climbed well to head into the safe arms of Martin Thomas. Robins started to look dangerous and Borough's travelling supporters breathed a sigh of relief when striker Jason Eaton completely miscued a shot on the edge of the six yard box for John Symonds to make a desperate clearance.

But with barely 20 minutes on the clock Borough almost took the Robins by surprise. Bradder neatly ducked under a half-clearance from Symonds' corner kick, leaving the chance to

Mick Shearer who hit the ball over the crossbar. A moment's hesitation between Bradder and Symonds let Eaton through but Alan Byrne was on hand to tackle back, giving Richard Attwood time to cover. Within minutes the home side had the ball in the net through Lee Howells but referee Curtis ruled the goal out for offside. A repeat effort five minutes later by Eaton getting the same treatment as Borough held on.

The second half opened with a midfield struggle which saw Robins full-back Steve Jones and Shearer's names go into the book. Chances were there for the taking and Mark Rosegreen was unlucky not to level the game when he ran onto a Symonds' centre but Thomas was in position to save. At the other end Eaton was creating havoc as he sent a defence-splitting pass to the Premier Division's top scorer last season, Jimmy Smith, who was within inches of getting a touch as he slid into the box.

Midway through the half Cheltenham were calling the shots and it was only due to poor finishing and gritty Borough defending that the lead was kept down to a solitary goal. In a frantic ten minutes Symonds made a timely clearance after Warren gave Rodwell and Bradder the slip. Howells' pass just failed to find Eaton and Smith had a header clip the bar. But for all that the game was marred by too much kick and rush with little cohesion shown by either team. With 13 minutes remaining Borough were awarded a free-kick which Rosegreen hit into the six yard box only for Thomas to save from Green's challenge.

Borough were made to rue that missed effort minutes later when Steve Owen's corner kick was met by the flying Steve Jones, heading past Attwood amidst a ruck of players. Undaunted Borough came back and for the final ten minutes they had Robins reeling with a series of attacks culminating in a powerful drive by Stuart Hadley and Tarry's agonisingly close effort thumping against the bar from a corner kick.

Nuneaton Borough v Cambridge City 01-01-1994

Borough: Attwood, Byrne (Symonds 81), McGrory (Wade 65), Rodwell, Tarry, Shearer, Simpson, Bradder, Green, Rosegreen, Wilson.

Cambridge: Murray, Tovey, Scott, Lockhart, Beattie, Gawthrop, Wilkin, Pincher, Ryan, Grogan, Goddard.

Borough welcomed Cambridge City to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

From the opening whistle the visitors must have thought they were suffering from a hangover as Borough proceeded to play some delightful one-touch football in reducing the City defence to a shambles. Tantalising Tony Simpson provided the cutting edge as he carved his way through on several occasions and Borough could easily have been two goals in front in the first ten minutes with Green just failing to connect with a ball in front of goal and having a header saved on the line.

Kevin Wilson showed early promise with a close range header and seconds later Shearer was out of luck as he fired a shot inches over the crossbar as Borough laid siege to the visitors'

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



goal. But Cambridge held on and things began to look ominous when Chris Tovey found space only to be denied by Shaun McGrory's last gasp tackle and Pincher's free-kick flashed just wide of the post after Jim Rodwell was penalised for holding Laurie Ryan. With half-time looming it was Borough's turn to come under the hammer as City pressed forward and last season's top scorer Ryan looked certain to score when he shook off defender Matt Tarry only to shoot over the bar from 12 yards.

On the restart, it was goal-hungry Ryan again breaking through from Paul Wilkin's pass only for Rodwell to do enough to clear the danger but City looked increasingly dangerous on the break and lady luck smiled in the 13th minute as Steve Gawthrop headed low into the net from Andy Pincher's free-kick.

Try as they might Borough could not find their way back in spite of some gritty play, particularly in midfield where Gary Bradder turned in another solid performance. The home side made a brief recovery with 30 minutes remaining. Rodwell raising supporters' hopes for an instant when his first time shot resulting from Bradder's free-kick, slammed into the side-netting. In spite of John Symonds coming on for Alan Byrne with nine minutes remaining Borough never looked like pulling the deficit back.

Nuneaton Borough v Sittingbourne 08-01-1994

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Byrne (Wade 71), Rodwell, Tarry, Symonds (Keogh 81), Simpson, Bradder, Green, Rosegreen, Shearer.
Sittingbourne: Harper, Beard, Jones, Day, Hulme, Wynter, Bourne, Saunders, Giles (Eadie 74), McRobert, Stock (Barham 74).

Borough welcomed Sittingbourne to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough had a slight edge in the opening 20 minutes, due in no small part to Borough's battling qualities, and there was a welcome return to the first team for defender John Ridding who slipped into his accustomed role with confident ease. Once again it was Tony Simpson who set the pace as he tormented the Bourne defence skipping over the greasy surface to centre for Mick Shearer who fired a first-time shot over the crossbar from 20 yards.

Minutes earlier visiting full-back Murray Jones had been shown the yellow card for a cynical tackle on John Symonds with Jim Rodwell earning the same after he sent striker Paul Giles sprawling in the mud. Sittingbourne did little to conjure up images of their lofty status and it was not until the 22nd minute that they came anywhere near threatening a breakthrough as skipper Keith Day blasted a shot high over the bar and into the crowd.

The defence fared little better when a poor back-pass by Tim Hulme put Harvey into all sorts of trouble as he was forced to dive at the feet of Mark Rosegreen. Carlton Wynter went close with a superb snap shot from the edge of the area, the ball skimming the crossbar to bring the game to

life before Borough hit back with two chances in as many minutes from efforts by Symonds and a header from Matt Tarry flying just wide of the post. Wynter and Day linked well to cause a scare in the Borough penalty area after Alan Byrne uncharacteristically fluffed a clearance and the 0-0 scoreline looked certain to carry on into the second half when Green struck. Harper's agility almost paid off as he was wrong-footed by Green's perfect header but his despairing dive was not good enough as the ball crept under the crossbar to finish in the corner of the net.

But Harper had his hands on the ball immediately after the break – unfortunately for him, it was to pick it out of the back of the net after his ineffectual fisted clearance went to Symonds whose looping header gave Borough a dream start. Minutes later Bourne were awarded a free-kick on the edge of Borough's penalty area but keeper Richard Attwood was hardly troubled by Simon Beard's kick which cleared the crossbar.

Dave Bourne raced through the Borough defence with 21 minutes to go and shot past Attwood but the ball struck the foot of the post and Byrne cleared the danger. Borough were within an ace of adding to their score five minutes from the end when Bradder's free-kick found Simpson who could not believe his bad luck when his shot from 10 yards scraped the post. Then, just as it looked as though Borough were home and dry, a moment of indecision by Tarry gave full-back Simon Beard a taste of his former striker's role as he buried the ball in the corner of the net.

Nuneaton Borough v Tamworth 11-01-1994

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Keogh, Whetton, Tarry, Shearer, Simpson, Bradder, Green, Rosegreen, Wade. Subs: London, Woodfine.
Tamworth: Whitehead, Wilkins (Aubrey 48 (Alleyne 71)), Worsey, Cartwright, Robinson, Andersen, Harford, Smith, Scott, Eccleston, Gordon.

Borough welcomed Tamworth to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup third round tie.

Borough could not have wished for a better start when Dave Whetton headed Gary Bradder's 10th minute free-kick into the path of Mark Rosegreen who made no mistake from six yards. The goal spurred Borough to greater efforts and it was only desperate defending and luck that Lambs got through the following 20 minutes unscathed. But something had to give and after 33 minutes Borough struck again.

A determined run from the half-way line saw the impressive John Ridding carve his way down the right wing to link with Tony Simpson who set up Shearer and he made no mistake with a clinical finish from 15 yards. Lambs efforts to get back into the game were frustrated at every turn by Borough's rock-steady control and their best effort of the half, a back header from Tony Eccleston, cleared the crossbar by six inches as Richard Attwood covered the shot.

Rosegreen went close to snatching number three but keeper Matthew Whitehead pulled off a fine fingertip save while soon after the restart former Borough player Nicky Andersen's

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



and Peter Green's names went into referee Worrall's book following a flurry of fists.

Midfield dynamo Shearer was revelling in the challenge and with 56 minutes gone his penetrating pass set up Green, crossing to Simpson whose deft, curling chip missed the right post by inches. That effort was followed by numerous other chances as Borough kept the visitors bottled up in their own half and it was only in the closing stages that the Lambs looked threatening but the opportunity had gone and Borough now travel to Moor Green for the quarter-final.

Nuneaton Borough v Hednesford Town 15-01-1994

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Keogh, Rodwell, Tarry, Shearer (Wade 68), Simpson, Bradder, Green (Symonds 68), Hadley, Wilson.

Hednesford: Hayward, Rudge, Collins, Freeman, Dunphy, Jones, Fitzpatrick, Green (Wallace 88), Street, Bannister, O'Connor. **Sub:** S. Jones.

Borough welcomed Hednesford Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

From the opening whistle a home victory looked on the cards when Borough went on the offensive. Striker Stuart Hadley, making his home debut, showed his pace early on when he beat two defenders to the goal line before pulling the ball back into the penalty area. Seconds later the speedy forward almost snatched the opening goal as Hednesford keeper Paul Hayward crash dived to stop a close range shot. There was no let up for the visitors as Borough harried and chased every ball. Full-back John Ridding set up winger Tony Simpson with a super defence splitting pass but the final touch crept wide of the left-hand post.

The pressure seemed to jolt the Pitmen into life and seconds later Borough were breathing a sigh of relief as Richard Attwood made a fingertip save following rare, miscued clearance by Chris Keogh. That was the first hint of what was to come and it took a superb headed clearance by Mick Shearer from Paul Jones' corner kick to keep the visitors at bay. Tyron Street, who had been a thorn in Borough's side in previous meetings, broke down the left wing to hit a superb ball into the centre for Joe O'Connor to head inches wide of the post.

Borough survived the following ten minutes to regain the initiative in the 23rd minute when Hadley linked with Simpson on the edge of the penalty area but Hayward was on hand to make the save. Marksman Peter Green was within inches of adding to his season's tally of 13 goals when he hooked a centre from Ridding inches wide of the right hand angle from 15 yards. Borough had another let off five minutes before half-time as Attwood punched a corner kick out to Neil Bannister, whose shot looked destined for the net until Rodwell cleared off the line.

Rodwell was in the thick of the action again within seconds of the restart with yet another timely clearance, which led to an extraordinary sequence of six corners in two minutes. But Borough somehow held on and Attwood stopped the rot as

he dived to smother a Gary Fitzpatrick header from the edge of the six yard box. It was not a happy time for Borough's midfield as time and again players were caught in possession. Dale Rudge took advantage to hit a centre to Kim Green who turned and volleyed on the edge of the area over Attwood to scrape the crossbar.

With 11 minutes remaining Borough supporters thought the game was over. A short back pass by Rodwell put Attwood in trouble as O'Connor won the challenge, pushing the ball out to Bannister who, with the open goal yawning, slid a shot into the side netting. The luck stayed with Borough as Hednesford threw everything into clinching the winner but both sides had to be satisfied with a point.

Farnborough Town v Nuneaton Borough 29-01-1994

Farnborough: Taylor, Stemp, Walters, Broome, Jones, Terry, Boothe (Savage 73), Senior, Baker, Turkington, Horton (Read 81).

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Byrne, Rodwell, Tarry, Wilson, Simpson, Bradder, Green (Akeredolu 87), Hadley, Symonds. **Sub:** Keogh.

Borough travelled to Cherrywood Road to play Farnborough Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

The home side pushed forward early on and Borough suffered a scare as penalty appeals were turned down when Rodwell appeared to restrain Chris Boothe by his shirt tail. Undaunted, flying winger Boothe showed his pace seconds later and it was fortunate for the visitors that his finishing did not match up as he failed to capitalise on a through ball from Jamie Horton. Borough's defence was tested moments later as the impressive Steve Baker drove through the middle to link with Boothe but the attack was quickly snuffed out, the first of many occasions when the back four showed its class.

The visitors gained a brief respite with a break down the right wing by Tony Simpson, passing to Hadley but the Derby County player's first-time centre eluded the charging John Symonds. Veteran striker Trevor Senior saw his header go inches wide from a flick by Horton. Boothe showed centre-half Matt Tarry a clean pair of heels as he cut inside, slipping the ball to Baker whose attempted chip was saved by Attwood.

Borough had their best chance after 30 minutes when Rodwell linked with John Ridding to set up Peter Green, whose shot from the edge of the area was turned onto the base of the post by keeper Maik Taylor. Simpson's celebrations as he chipped Taylor were stifled as the linesman flagged Green offside. In a closing flurry Hadley had a looping shot cleared off the line by Wayne Stemp and Baker was unlucky at the other end with a solo effort which scraped the post as Attwood narrowed the angle.

From the restart Attwood was caught in a tangle as he cleared a loose ball from Boothe's centre with Baker waiting to pounce then it was Taylor's turn to breathe a sigh of relief as a shot from Simpson thundered against the crossbar, deflecting down onto the line and into safety. With so much action at both ends something had to give and, appropriately



it was Baker who provided the push, his 57th minute free-kick finding Senior whose looping header eluded Attwood to scrape into the net. But the home side's celebrations were cut short 60 seconds later as a right wing corner by Symonds fell to Rodwell who made no mistake from 10 yards.

As if that was not enough, Borough's fortunes took a giant leap three minutes later as Symonds again provided the final touch for Hadley to sweep the ball home from close range. A significant moment for both players with their first goals for the club. From then on it was Borough all the way and apart from a frantic final five minutes as Farnborough laid siege to the visitors goal, the three points looked firmly in Borough's grasp. Red headed Kevin Wilson went close to emulating the two debut goalscorers with a close range effort smothered comfortably by Taylor.

Then with 17 minutes remaining Simpson had a great chance to sew up the game as he closed to within ten yards only to pass inside with two defenders on his heels. The tireless Baker was still full of running, breaking down the left to cross only for Rodwell to head clear. Borough substitute Ku Akeredolu, on for Green with three minutes to go showed his speed, setting up Wilson on the edge of the area as the home defence closed in. Then it was Borough's turn to grit their teeth with three efforts cleared off the line in an intense, nail-biting finish.

Nuneaton Borough v Burton Albion 01-02-1994

Borough: Attwood, Ridding, Byrne, Rodwell, Tarry, Symonds, Simpson, Bradder, Green, Akeredolu.

Burton: Goodwin, Davis, Williams, Donnelly, Nelson, Grocut, Doughty, Redfearn, Gretton, Rhodes, Briscoe.

Borough welcomed Burton Albion to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Burton came at Borough from the opening whistle aided by a howling wind and keeping the home side boxed up in their own half for long periods. Jim Rodwell was commanding in defence, making two vital headed clearances as Richard Attwood was caught out of position and clearing from a corner kick to deny the rampant Brewers. The big number four made a saving pass inside to John Ridding minutes later only for the defender to lose out to Jason Rhodes who should have punished Borough but for Attwood who made a diving save.

Ridding broke on the right to provide on-loan Kevin Wilson with a through ball to the edge of the area, the resulting power drive curling away from the left post. But disaster struck in the 20th minute when Attwood attempted to punch a high, curling lob from Williams on the left wing only to steer the ball into his own net. Borough were rocked back on their heels by their opponents' shock breakthrough and Paul Gretton almost made it two as he outpaced Rodwell only to hit the shot over the crossbar as Attwood came out to cover.

But five minutes after the opening goal Burton went two up. A centre into the six yard box by Adrian Doughty was met by the flying Rhodes who slammed the ball past Attwood.

Borough were looking a beaten side with little chance to get back into contention until Byrne hit a long ball to the far post for the unmarked Peter Green who could only slam the ball into keeper Nick Goodwin's legs.

The Brewers continued the second half in the same determined mood with Robbie Briscoe thumping a shot high over the bar in the opening minute. The number 11 was unlucky with a rocket shot from just inside the area, the ball whistling past the left post as Borough breathed again. With eight minutes remaining Borough snatched a consolation goal as they began to put some good moves together. Ku Akeredolu heading home from a defender's fluffed clearance for his debut goal.

Borough's FA Cup Money Row

Some of Nuneaton Borough's FA Cup heroes may not receive a penny extra for their magnificent run in the world famous competition. The up-in-arms players could be in breach of their contracts and FA rules if they receive special payments not already agreed. Changes could be made to allow special bonus payments, but the FA must be told seven days before the match involved – it cannot be done after the game.

Speculation was rife that the Manor Park boys had been offered £75 last week as a 'thank you' for the performances that took the club to the FA Cup second round proper. Disappointment over the situation sparked the threat of a players' revolt, and there was a danger of them not taking to the field against Burton.

Nuneaton Borough v Worcester City 05-02-1994

Borough: Attwood, Byrne, Symonds, Rodwell, Tarry, Wilson (Akeredolu 63), Simpson, Bradder, Green, Rosegreen, Shearer. Sub: Keogh.

Worcester: Shoemake, Muckleburg, Hope, Davidson, Richards, Benton, Daly, Mason (Moverley 88), Robinson (Rutter 83), Green, Donovan.

Borough welcomed Worcester City to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough keeper Richard Attwood was quickly off the mark as he reached to gather a searching centre from Nigel Richards. From the clearance Tony Simpson took advantage of a defensive error, slipping the ball inside to Gary Bradder who just failed to get in a shot as Kevin Shoemake raced off his line. City won three corners in as many minutes. Phil Mason's kicking was deadly as he curled the second into the net only for referee Madgwick to blow for a foul on Attwood.

Back came City and with 15 minutes gone Roy Green, playing his first full game for some time, leapt to head on a Mark Hope free-kick but Attwood had spotted the danger and saved comfortably. Neither side was taking control, to the frustration of the 1,100 plus crowd, and clear cut chances were rare but striker Mark Rosegreen got in two shot in quick succession.

Bradder provided the first, chipping a ball from the edge of the area for stalwart Terry Muckleburg to make the saving tackle then Mick Shearer, in an almost identical move, headed the ball on but Muckleburg again stepped in.

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



Midfielder Mick Shearer fired wide with 14 minutes to go to the half, followed by Peter Green whose first time shot from Bradder's pass went well wide.

Worcester's Roy Green forced a corner with a close range header from which Neil Donovan saw his 20 yard shot tipped over the bar. Four minutes later City snatched the elusive opener. Appropriately it was the impressive Mason who struck the spark as Attwood failed to clear his corner kick for a delighted Donovan to head home. The half closed with City once more on the rampage, winning two corner kicks for Mason to test Attwood's nerve.

City restarted where they left off as Borough battled with their backs against the wall, their determination paying off with Mick Shearer's effort from a corner kick which centre half Nigel Richards did well to clear. With 27 minutes remaining Borough had still not had a shot on target. Then, just as it looked as though Borough had blown it, Mark Rosegreen hit a superb ball into the area for Mick Davidson to deny Green but giving Akeredolu a gift from 10 yards.



Borough substitute Ku Akeredolu volleys home the equaliser.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Stunned City came back and Roy Green got his head to a centre from Donovan, but he somehow squeezed the ball past the post from six yards. Green's luck deserted him once again minutes later as Attwood grabbed a looping header helped on by Colin Robinson from Donovan's centre. With the game stretching into injury time a Symonds' corner kick was cleared to Simpson who hit a perfect ball to Bradder whose header had three points stamped on it only for the dependable Muckleburg to clear off the line.

Moor Green v Nuneaton Borough 08-02-1994

Moor Green: Taylor, Gardiner, McLeish, Brogan, Gillard, McGarry, Davies, Talbot, Russell, Fearon, Evans.

Borough: Attwood, Wade, Keogh, Rodwell, Tarry (Byrne 80), Shearer, Simpson, Bradder, Akeredolu, Rosegreen, Symonds. **Sub:** Green.

Borough travelled to The Moorlands to play Moor Green in a Birmingham Senior Cup quarter-final tie.

Richard Attwood made a sensational save from centre-forward Guy Russell in the first minute as the visitors were not allowed to settle with Moors hustling and harrying for every ball. With 12 minutes on the clock Tony Simpson broke down

the right, crossing for Mark Rosegreen to head against the left hand upright, the deflection just beating the menacing Ku Akeredolu. Moors were awarded a corner and Paul Brogan headed inches over the crossbar as the home side kept pressing and with 25 minutes gone Richard Evans' corner kick flew over Attwood and straight in at the far post.

Borough battling against a freezing wind and drizzle came back and Chris Taylor was forced to make a diving save as Mick Shearer weaved his way into the area. The big number four, who was one of Borough's most effective players on the night went close with five minutes to go to half-time as he forced Paul Brogan to head off the line.

But then came the landslide. Borough were forced into their area and in the melee Richard Wade chopped Phil Davies down for Guy Russell to convert from the spot. Borough went further behind on the stroke of half-time as Davies slammed a shot home from close range and as if that wasn't bad enough Moors added a fourth as Dave Fearon lobbed Attwood and the defence from 20 yards.

The second half opened with Simpson racing through with a perfect chance to pull one back but his shot slammed into the safe arms of Taylor. The keeper was perfectly positioned to save two minutes later from a half-hit shot from Akeredolu, looking for his third goal in as many games. But once again Borough were punished as the Moors made a nonsense of the defence before Fearon made it five and his second of the night as he stroked the ball home. At the other end Akeredolu was in the thick of the action. With a superb display of ball control he slipped past two defenders to centre for Rosegreen to head wide from six yards.

In spite of enjoying most of the possession Borough failed to capitalise and everything they tried came to nothing. Rosegreen again hit the woodwork following good work by Simpson with Akeredolu missing the rebound from the crossbar by inches. Rosegreen saw another close range header go wide after neat skills by Simpson and Shearer but Borough throwing everything into attack, left themselves dangerously exposed at the back resulting in Phil Davies snatching a sixth goal from a breakaway move three minutes from the end. It was then left to Simpson, with a pass from Rosegreen, to break through for a token solo effort.

Waterlooville v Nuneaton Borough 12-02-1994

Borough: Manuel, Ridding (Akeredolu 82), Keogh, Rodwell, Tarry, Wilson, Simpson, Wade (Byrne 45), Symonds, Rosegreen, Shearer.

Borough travelled to Jubilee Park to play Waterlooville in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough started well and had The Ville on the ropes from the second minute. John Symonds, taking over the central strikers role, forced a corner kick early on, for Mick Shearer to centre for defender Matt Tarry to hit a low shot wide. Ville player-manager, Vince Hilaire, forced keeper Peter Manuel into making a diving save at the foot of the left hand post



after he made a lightning turn to shoot from ten yards. With nine minutes gone Borough's pressure paid off. Winger Tony Simpson linked with Symonds on the right, negotiating the treacherous surface to centre for Kevin Wilson to force an own-goal by defender Duncan Burns.

Burns almost provided the perfect reply 10 minutes later as he crossed for centre forward Steve Tate but Jim Rodwell did enough to put the striker off target as the ball squeezed through to Manuel. Symonds had a perfect chance to put the visitors two in front but his first touch was awful, allowing a thankful Mark Goldring to scoop up the ball. Ville tried to get back into the game but it was all they could do to stem the tide.

Jenkins provided Borough with what should have been their second goal as he was penalised by referee Ian Mitchell for handling a pass from Simpson. But Symonds let the moment go as he tamely struck the spot-kick into Goldring's arms. Right on the stroke of half time it was Tony Simpson who saved Borough's blushes as he dived in to stab a rebound off the foot of the post despite close attention from Goldring. Simpson was within inches of making it three as the half crept into injury time but veteran Billy Gilbert was on hand to cut out Richard Wade's low centre.

The restart was barely two minutes old when Symonds had a perfect chance as he raced into the area but inexplicably fired the shot straight at Goldring. Alan Byrne, on for Wade, was quickly into the action as he hammered a long ball into the six yard box for Simpson and Goldring to collide in a tangle of arms and legs before the danger was cleared.

Then, as Ville were looking more confident, Borough had a let-off when Manuel made a magnificent save from a spot-kick by Burns after Rodwell was ruled to have pushed Tate. Manuel then cleared Tate's shot to Calvin Hore who picked his spot at the top right corner, evading the lunging Rodwell. Borough seemed to come apart as they defended too deeply, letting the home side run through at will. The equaliser came three minutes later from a superb corner kick for Hore as Borough failed to clear the danger. Four minutes later Ville were in front for the first time, Paul Thomas heading over Manuel and Rodwell after the keeper chose to punch the ball clear.

Borough made a desperate attempt to salvage a point with Mark Rosegreen going close and Chris Keogh unlucky with a tremendous 25 yard drive clipping the top of the crossbar but The Ville were not about to let the three points go and thoroughly deserved their fifth home win of the season.

Borough Seek FA Guidance

Nuneaton Borough officials said FA guidance was being sought in relation to payment of bonuses and new players would be arriving at the club in the near future. These were the main facts to come out of last night's board meeting in which the directors of the club met with manager John Barton for talks, lasting three hours, to thrash out the problems which have beset the Premier Division outfit for the past three weeks.

Chelmsford City v Nuneaton Borough 19-02-1994

Borough: Manuel, Ridding, Keogh, Rodwell, Tarry, Symonds, Simpson, Bradder, Green, Rosegreen, Shearer. **Subs:** Akeredolu, Byrne.

Borough travelled to New Writtle Street to play Chelmsford City in a Southern League Premier Division game.

City, without a win in their last four home league games looked likely to be runners-up again as Borough started confidently, reinstated striker Peter Green hitting a Jim Rodwell centre just wide. John Symonds' corner kick a minute later gave veteran keeper Cawston little trouble. City marksman Tony Rogers went close with a looping header just inches over the crossbar, followed up two minutes later with a 20 yard volley from Wayne Hannigan which Matt Tarry did well to charge down.

Mark Rosegreen looked certain to get the opener as Green forced Cawston to fumble a long ball into the area by Ridding, but Green seemed to slip as he was about to shoot. Then, a minute before half-time, Tarry had a golden chance to put the visitors in front as he ran onto Cawston's clearance from Rodwell's free-kick only to hit the shot into the stand.

Following their first-half let-off City seemed to sense they could win the game, none more so than Rogers who fired inches wide in the opening seconds of the half. This was followed up by a flurry of action as City over-ran Borough's defence with Garvey, Martin and Morrison going close, but fortunately for Borough, their finishing was not up to the mark. Then, in an extraordinary moment of ill-discipline, City were reduced to ten men in the 57th minute as Cawston raced out of his area to scythe Simpson down as the winger raced through.

Despite Chelmsford losing their keeper, Borough failed to capitalise and City decided the best form of defence is attack and proceeded to take the game to the visitors. Simpson made one of his mesmerising runs through the defence before he was robbed on the edge of the area, the ball squeezing through to Rosegreen only for Keen to dive at his feet. But with 12 minutes to go Borough got a surprising breakthrough, a speculative shot by Simpson on the edge of the area somehow popped through Keen's arms and into the net to the relief of the Borough supporters.

Borough were forced to hang on as City came back and with four minutes to go a centre from Morrison found Rogers, who clipped the ball past Manuel with the outside of his right boot. Rogers and Morrison caused further concern in the dying seconds as Borough were forced to settle for a point.

Attwood Goes In Borough Shake-up

Borough have released goalkeeper Richard Attwood in a shake-up which will bring a GM Conference Division player to Manor Park. Attwood, who has suffered a loss of form in recent games, will be replaced by Telford keeper Darren Acton, who is due to sign loan terms on Thursday. Manager John Barton said that it was a difficult decision to make and Attwood leaves the club with everyone's best wishes.

Bennett Joins Borough

Former Football League striker Dave Bennett has joined Nuneaton Borough. Bennett, 34, who has played for Manchester City, Coventry City, Sheffield Wednesday and Swindon has signed Beazer Homes League forms. Following a number of dazzling performances with the reserves he joins Borough's first team at a critical time in the season.

Borough have also signed Kidderminster Harriers keeper Darren Steadman on a month's loan. Steadman has made 55 first team appearances for Kidderminster.

Atherstone United v Nuneaton Borough 02-03-1994

Atherstone: Williams, Everitt, Jackson, Randle, Russell, Merchant, Thurman, Whitehurst, Knight, Campbell, Ellison. **Sub:** Johnson, Barnwell.
Borough: Steadman, Ridding, Keogh, Rodwell, Tarry, Symonds, Simpson, Bradder, Green, Bennett (Rosegreen 69), Shearer. **Sub:** Byrne.

Borough travelled to Sheepy Road to play Atherstone United in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Kicking down the Sheepy Road slope, Borough were the quicker into their stride and should have taken the lead after ten minutes when John Symonds' overhead kick, following a Gary Bradder free-kick, fell to Peter Green who headed dismally over from close range. With the action fast, frantic and frenetic, but lacking quality, the visitors continued to have the better of things as United were forced to defend in depth and only the crossbar saved them after 17 minutes as Tony Simpson rifled an eight-yard rising drive against the face of the woodwork only for Jim Rodwell to put his header from the rebound tamely over.

Little was seen of Adders as an attacking force although Steadman had to show his alertness when Steve Campbell threatened to latch on to a Mick Thurman through ball but the keeper was off his line quickly to hack clear. One of the best moves of the match on 25 minutes almost brought Borough the lead. John Symonds and Mick Shearer combined in centrefield to set Bennett free inside the area, his initial effort was splendidly blocked by keeper Richard Williams, who was grateful to grasp the frontman's follow up effort.

United's response was a 25-yarder from Nick Whitehurst which he snatched well wide of the target while Rodwell's headed deflection from Leigh Everitt's piercing right-wing centre denied Ellison a certain goal. Play switched to the opposite end with United again a little lucky to survive as Symonds' corner kick was headed down by Green only for Bennett to pivot and volley wide from just outside the six-yard box.

The lively Shaun Merchant, whose pace proved to be the main threat to Borough then tried his luck from long range but his 25-yard looping drive sailed a yard wide with Steadman racing across his line to cover. Skipper Steve Jackson, who along with his central defensive partner Malc Randle, was outstanding for the hosts, caused a moment of alarm as his angled drive flew goalwards, but Steadman's handling was equal to the task. Borough ended the half as

they began it on the offensive, Williams going down low to his right to clutch Simpson's drive.

Williams had a rush of blood six minutes into the second half which could have cost his side dear. Bennett broke clear on the right but amazingly Williams rushed out of his goal and failed to make contact with either the ball or the striker, who whipped in a superb centre that Green tamely headed into the side netting. That proved to be the visitors' last clear cut opportunity as Adders had their best spell late in the action, Ellison having a ten-yard header fly wide and Thurman blasting way off target when well placed on the right of the area.

However, with a goalless draw looking a certainty, one flash of inspiration from Merchant proved to be decisive. He gained possession on the right and cut between two defenders only for the outstretched leg of Chris Keogh to send the former Halesowen Harriers winger crashing to the ground. Referee Frazer Stretton had no hesitation in pointing to the penalty spot from where Russell stepped forward to find the corner of the net off the outstretched right hand of Steadman. Although Borough pushed forward in the closing seconds, Adders stayed firm to take the points.



Santa came late to Sheepy Road and one fan was determined to enter into the festive mood.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Nuneaton Borough v Hastings Town 05-03-1994

Borough: Steadman, Byrne, Keogh (Green), Rodwell, Tarry, Ridding, Simpson, Bradder, Symonds, Rosegreen, Wilson. **Sub:** Wade.

Borough welcomed Hastings Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Steady rain from mid-morning, which had left much of the pitch covered in puddles, stopped shortly before the kick-off and a keen wind soon dried the worst affected area. But Borough's defence was left firmly rooted in the mire as Town took advantage from Liam Bartram's through ball to the unmarked O'Shaughnessy who fired a stinging shot past Darren Steadman. Kevin Wilson ran onto a through ball from Jim Rodwell, getting all the way to the goalline only for Phil Henderson to make the decisive tackle.

And Wilson could have done better minutes later when his 20 yard shot flew high over the crossbar following a bout of head tennis in the Town area. Borough were enjoying a brief

spell of pressure with a number of quick corners and Mark Rosegreen was unlucky from one by John Symonds which Tony Simpson knocked inside for him to give defender Tony Burt the slip only for keeper James Creed to dive on the ball. With 15 minutes played Borough's best chance to level the issue fell to Symonds whose close-range header from Chris Keogh's free-kick forced Creed into making a magnificent save, tipping the ball over the bar for a corner kick.

Hastings quickly came back and from a corner kick full-back Steve Willard hit a speculative long range shot which Steadman took with ease. Steadman again showed his prowess with 24 minutes on the clock as he forced a Steve Powell shot over the bar but Town's second goal gave him no chance. Dead-ball expert Terry White's free-kick from the right wing found Lovell unmarked who made no mistake in putting the visitors into a commanding position which Borough never looked likely to challenge.

Borough had a brief flurry shortly before half-time with skipper Gary Bradder floating a free-kick to the far post only for Simpson to lose out to Creed and the diminutive winger returning the compliment for Tarry whose glancing header went wide of the target. Borough were under pressure from the restart when a back-pass by Roswell was intercepted by O'Shaughnessy, luckily for Borough his centre was cut out by Steadman as Lovell closed in.

Rodman shrugged off the scare when he almost made amends at the far end as he climbed to meet Gary Bradder's deft chip but there was no power in the header and Creed had little trouble in cutting out the danger. Minutes later it was Rosegreen's turn but his close range effort from Keogh's pass flew high in the air to come to rest in the top netting.



Mark Rosegreen loses this battle with Hastings keeper James Creed.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Hopes were briefly raised in the 62nd minute as Bradder hit a superb first-time shot which Creed did well to parry with full-back Tony Burt covering the return as he headed Rodwell's shot off the line. As the seconds rapidly ticked away, Tony Simpson made one of his magical runs through the defence

but his shot from the edge of the area did not do his efforts justice as the ball flew well wide of the left-hand angle. With five minutes to go to full-time, many of the 909 disgruntled spectators were leaving the terraces as the shouts of 'what a load of rubbish!' echoed around a gloomy Manor Park.

Bashley v Nuneaton Borough

08-03-1994

Bashley: Flower, Morrell, Wardle, Powell, Ingman, Kerr, Stagg, Redknapp, Harrison, Harbut, Adams. Subs: Hughes, Bundy.

Borough: Steadman, Byrne (Ridding 73), Tarry, Rodwell, Whetton, K. Wilson, Simpson, Bradder, Symonds, Culpin, Wade (Rosegreen 78).

Borough travelled to The Recreation Ground to play Bashley in a Southern League Premier Division game.

On a playing surface, left greasy by a steady drizzle, Borough looked the better side in the early stages and after six minutes Jim Rodwell's pass found Tony Simpson with space on the wing but his cross was cleared by full-back Peter Morrell from the in-rushing Kevin Wilson. Soon after, the impressive Robin Harbut tested keeper Darren Steadman with a snap shot from the edge of the area while play quickly switched to the opposite end with Culpin firing a yard over the top after picking up a loose ball.

On the 15 minute mark Borough had a goal disallowed for offside when Simpson swung in a fine centre which John Symonds met with a firm header into the corner of the net. But the linesman's flag was raised and the score was chalked off in slightly controversial fashion.

But it was still the visitors on top and a few minutes later Whetton headed just over from a Simpson free-kick. It was against the run of play that the Hampshire outfit grabbed the goal that ultimately decided the issue. It came on 38 minutes and very much against the run of play as Neil Wardle's free-kick was punched away by Steadman only for the ball to drop to Jeremy Stagg who lobbed the ball into the empty net from fully 30 yards for his seventh goal of the season. Two minutes before half-time Bashley came close to extending their advantage when a Danny Adams header hit the underside of the bar and was scrambled away.

Early in the second period Simpson went on a mazy run before his centre homed in towards the well-placed Culpin but home defender Steve Ingman got back and happily hoisted the ball over his own bar. Three minutes later the hard-working Wade broke through on the left and carried the ball into the 18-yard box only for home keeper Nick Flower to race from his line and quickly smother the ball.

Just prior to the hour mark a fine Wilson pass freed Symonds on the left and his low cross seemed destined to find the unmarked Culpin. But yet again Ingman saved the day for Bashley as the defender's outstretched foot deflected the ball away from Borough's record-breaking marksman. After this incident the game deteriorated and was littered with too many offside decisions as neither side could stamp their authority on the game.



The one last chance for a Borough equaliser came in the 87th minute. Simpson clipped in a right wing free-kick that produced a neat glancing header from substitute Mark Rosegreen that seemed destined for the top corner of the net but Flower brilliantly tipped over to keep Bashley's narrow lead intact.

Dorchester Town v Nuneaton Borough 12-03-1994

Dorchester: Coombe, Birmingham, White, Coleman, Bradford, Conning, Hurdle, Brooks, Killick, McPherson, Borthwick.

Borough: Steadman, Byrne (Ridding 45), Tarry, Rodwell, Whetton, Wilson (Rosegreen 74), Simpson, Bradder, Symonds, Culpin, Wade.

Borough travelled to The Avenue Stadium to play Dorchester Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

The Magpies, with just 30 league points from 30 games, had to come at Borough and almost caused an upset in the 10th minute when Malcolm McPherson, on loan from West Ham, slammed a low shot against the post from a through ball by Mick Birmingham. Borough regained some composure and the game suddenly came alive two minutes after McPherson's effort when striker John Symonds fired a 25-yard free-kick inches over the crossbar. Seconds later it was that man McPherson again, this time slamming a point blank range drive into Steadman's legs as the keeper threw himself across the six yard box.

The usually immaculately poised Paul Culpin was way off target as he pulled a shot well wide of the right post with just Mark Coombe to beat. Culpin, who has scored some spectacular goals from set-pieces in the past, slammed a free-kick into the defensive wall, then Tony Simpson had two chances in quick succession. The first, from long range, was gathered low down by Coombe and the second was hit well wide following a delightful run through the defence.

Goal shy Borough, who have not made the score sheet in the last four games, kept trying and skipper Gary Bradder was unfortunate not to break the deadlock with a powerful shot from a poor clearance which Coombe did well to gather at the second attempt. Then, with 30 minutes gone, the Magpies were rewarded with a glittering prize – a penalty decision after Jim Rodwell was deemed to have handled following Tommy Killick's shot which thumped off the woodwork and back into play. Full-back Tony White made no mistake from the spot for his first goal of the season.

The goal was the boost the home side needed and they proceeded to take the game to Borough who were guilty of failing to pick up players at critical moments. The woodwork came in for a battering once more 15 minutes from half-time as McPherson ran unmarked onto a through ball.

John Ridding replaced Alan Byrne at full-back on the restart and within minutes Simpson had a shot blocked with some difficulty by Coombe on the edge of the area. There were too many long, upfield balls, which succeeded in reducing the game to a stalemate for long periods. Rare chances fell to

Symonds, who had two shots charged down by centre-half Lee Bradford in quick succession, and Simpson tried one from 20 yards. Steadman, having another fine game in spite of the eventual scoreline, was not fooled by Peter Conning's header after Killick left Rodwell behind to get in a pin-point centre to the number six. Mark Rosegreen came on for Kevin Wilson in the 74th minute to bolster the attack, just before Culpin slipped past two defenders only to be sent sprawling by Dave Coleman to appeals for a penalty from the Borough faithful.

McPherson had a perfect chance from Shaun Brooks' centre, but dithered and the Borough defence snuffed him out. He had a chance to make amends five minutes from full-time but only succeeded in blasting a shot high over the crossbar from the edge of the six yard box.

Barton Quits

Disillusioned Borough manager John Barton has quit the club following a 'final warning' note from the board concerning recent league results. Barton said he was embarrassed and devastated when he read the letter last week, adding that it left him with no alternative but to resign from the post he has held for the past 16 months.

"My decision has nothing to do with recent results," he said. "We just disagreed with the way things were run but that letter sealed it for me, I felt that enough was enough. It was obvious that the board had lost confidence in my abilities to manage the club. The way they wanted the club to be run was not my way of doing things."

Willis Appointed Caretaker Manager

Nuneaton Borough Reserve team manager Kenny Willis has been appointed caretaker manager and takes charge of the first team for the game against Corby Town at the Rockingham Triangle

Corby Town v Nuneaton Borough 16-03-1994

Borough: Steadman, Wright, Tarry, Rodwell, Whetton, Wade, Simpson, Bradder, Symonds, Culpin (Green), Akeredolu. **Sub:** Keogh.

Borough travelled to The Rockingham Triangle to play Corby Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Goalkeeper Darren Steadman, whose loan has been extended for a further month, was unable to prevent Borough slipping to yet another defeat despite putting in a magnificent display. Steadman was in action seconds from the kick-off when he blocked a terrific left-foot shot from 18 yards unleashed by the impressive Graeme Archer. But Borough weathered the opening storm to hit back through striker Paul Culpin who seemed to snatch at a right foot volley which flew high over the crossbar.

Corby always looked capable of turning the tables and it was only the lightning reactions of Steadman that saved Borough's blushes as Anton Thomas swept through, passing to Plummer who hammered a 15 yard drive straight at the



keeper. Following a brief stalemate the Steelmen looked certain to get the breakthrough when Mick Cook raced onto a loose ball only for Jim Rodwell to make the saving tackle.

Borough's hopes were raised in the 23rd minute as Richard Wade's corner kick found Ku Akeredolu at the far post who headed the ball down into a crowded six-yard box only for McKenzie to clear to Symonds who fired inches wide. With ten minutes to go before half-time Borough were creating the best chances. Flying winger Tony Simpson flashed a shot just wide from Rodwell's centre and Culpin was out of luck again, missing the target from a 25 yard free-kick.

Borough competed in the second half, but Steadman was called upon on more than one occasion, keeping the home forwards at bay. But even Steadman, who at times must have thought he was in a shooting gallery, could do nothing to prevent the only goal of the game, scored by Calvin Plummer in the 61st minute from close range following a corner kick into a crowded area.

Trowbridge Town v Nuneaton Borough 19-03-1994

Borough: Steadman, Wright, Tarry, Whetton, Rodwell, Wade, Simpson, Symonds, Bradder, Culpin (Daly 60), Akeredolu. **Sub:** Keogh.

Borough travelled to Axe and Cleaver Lane to play Trowbridge Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Culpin got his head to a Symonds free-kick with just seven minutes gone but the ball went inches wide of the post with keeper Mark Teasdale out of position. It was Symonds' turn minutes later but his volley from Gary Bradder's corner kick easily cleared the crossbar. Then Bees, urged on by their 300-odd band of supporters, were awarded a corner kick hit by Mark Adams short to full-back Ray Baverstock, whose looping centre was taken high at the angle by the dependable Darren Steadman.

Adams had a shot deflected by Steadman minutes later, his quick clearance resulting in Culpin unleashing a left footer from the edge of the area but there was no power in the effort and Teasdale gathered safely.

The visitors resumed on a positive note with Culpin hitting a ball wide to the left for Simpson but defender Toby Jackson intercepted only for centre-half Dave Whetton to foil a Bees breakout. The constant long, high ball by Trowbridge almost caught Borough defenders napping as Adams sneaked through to hammer a power-drive which Steadman pushed aside for a corner kick. From the clearance Jim Rodwell pushed the ball out to Richard Wade who passed inside for Culpin, but the striker looked off balance as he hit his shot over the bar from 15 yards.

Culpin went off shortly afterwards to be replaced by top reserve team marksman Paul Daly for his baptism of fire in the first string. Simpson then had a successful spell as he proceeded to torment the Bees defence with a series of mesmerising runs but even he was forced to give way against

the mass of orange shirted players. He did well in the 61st minute to get in a centre but Teasdale saved

Akeredolu should have done better as he hit a shot wide from the edge of the six yard box from Symonds' free-kick then, moments later, Bees fans were celebrating as Adams found the back of the net but they had not noticed the linesman who had flagged for offside as an attacker had cleared the grounded Steadman.

Buoyed up by the let-off, Borough went on the attack, Simpson and Akeredolu linking to set up Daly only for the keeper to intercept then, Simpson again, beating two defenders before hitting his shot over the bar.

Simpson Moves To Tamworth

Nuneaton Borough favourite and longest serving player Tony Simpson has made his last appearance for the club. After four-and-a-half years in blue and white he will now pull on the red and black shirt of Tamworth after deciding to join former Borough boss, Les Green at the Lamb Ground.

Tony Simpson's Letter To Borough Fans

To The Supporters of Nuneaton Borough

May I express my thanks for your continued support over the four-and-a-half years I have been at the club.

Many may say that I have 'jumped ship' when things have started to go wrong, but that is not the case as I have gone through worse things while being associated with the club (i.e. liquidation).

There is never a good time to leave a club that I have taken to my heart, and which is of great sentiment to me.

I never thought I would be in this predicament and I had hoped and wished that I could have finished my playing career at Manor Park, but circumstances have developed that I cannot ignore and it is with great sadness that I have decided to leave.

I hope this decision has not terminated the special bond that has developed between you and I since October 28, 1989.

I hope I have given you some special memories, I know that I have mine. May the club continue to climb up the pyramid as it is what the supporters surely deserve.

Anthony Simpson

Nuneaton Borough v Gloucester City 22-03-1994

Borough: Steadman, Wright, Tarry, Rodwell, Whetton, Wade (Daly 62), Hart, Symonds, Ridding, Culpin, Akeredolu. **Sub:** Keogh.

Gloucester: Crompton, Saunders, Willetts, Buckland, Bywater, Kemp, Callinan, Webb, Bayliss, Porter, Fishlock. **Subs:** Crouch, Bloomfield.

Borough welcomed Gloucester City to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough could not have got off to a worse start when with just seven minutes on the clock, Tigers' David Webb buried



a perfect 22-yard free kick low into the corner of the net past the despairing Darren Steadman.

The crowd of 813 – the lowest home gate of the season so far – did their best to get the blue-shirted players moving, Matt Tarry went close with a volley from a poor Tigers clearance but keeper Steve Crompton did well to get a fist to the shot. Paul Culpin looked certain to level the scores in the 13th minute when a Richard Wade free-kick fell to his feet eight yards out, but his shot struck Borough defender Dave Whetton in the back.

Gloucester, who had been hovering just below half-way in the table, were made to look a lot better than they were as Borough offered little resistance, looking a pale shadow of the tenacious outfit that took Trowbridge all the way. Borough were caught out with a number of superb centres from Webb and Karl Bayliss, and Steadman was frequently left exposed but fortunately the Tigers finishing matched the home side's for quality. The half finished with two Borough corner kicks in as many minutes but the Gloucester goal was hardly threatened.

Culpin's 50th minute strike came at just the right time. Wade's centre was touched on by Ku Akeredolu for Culpin to end his personal goal drought from the edge of the six yard box. The euphoria was short-lived, however, as eight minutes later Paul Bywater put the Tigers in front, heading home Webb's free-kick from the midst of the defence.

Reserve team striker Paul Daly came on for Wade as Borough chased for the equaliser but with six minutes left to play Bayliss hammered the final nail into the coffin with a free header from Kevin Willetts cross. Bayliss almost made it four for the visitors in the dying minutes when he pounced on a half-struck clearance by Steadman but the shot went wide.

Nuneaton Borough v Halesowen Town 26-03-1994

Borough: Steadman, Wright, Tarry, Whetton, Keogh, Wade, Rodwell, Symonds, Carmichael (Ridding 67), Culpin, Akeredolu (McGrory 73).
Halesowen: Martin, Bell, Bradley, Wood, Snape, Jones, Hazelwood, Marsh, Mulders, Robinson, Brown. Subs: Bettles, Colley.

Borough travelled to The Grove to play Halesowen Town in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Super striker Paul Culpin gave struggling Borough a dream start with his 199th goal for the Manor Park side with barely a minute on the clock. Borough, buoyed up by the tremendous boost of an early goal, put pressure on the visitors but wasted an early free kick by Matt Tarry as the defence quickly came out to catch Jim Rodwell offside. Flying winger Ian Brown showed his class as he broke down the left to hit a superb centre to Marsh who collided with the advancing Darren Steadman for the determined keeper to recover quickly and clear the danger.

Brown continued to give the home side's defence a nightmare experience for the rest of the nail-biting game as he proved

adept at getting crosses into the danger area with either foot – an example to Borough who are sadly lacking in that department at the moment. Mulders looked ungainly and ill at ease for much of the game and wasted a number of clear-cut chances. None more than in the 22nd minute when a free-kick resulting from Chris Keogh's foul on March was thrown away in a half-hearted header by the number nine. Halesowen had Borough under the hammer with five minutes to go in the half. March going close with a shot from 25 yards and Mulders latching onto Steadman's punched clearance, hitting a shot with goal written all over it only for Darren Wright to make a superb headed clearance off the line.

Yeltz keeper Mick Martin took a Tarry centre comfortably from the challenge of Akeredolu as Borough tried to add to the flimsy scoreline before half-time but the visitors looked more threatening as Andy Bradley fired a 25 yard shot over the crossbar from a good build up by Brown and Snape.

Brown was unlucky after the break as he got to the six yard box to hit a shot against the diving Steadman's legs. That proved to be a taster for Halesowen's 50th minute equaliser. In an extraordinary scramble, Mulders somehow got a boot to a shot from Robinson deflected by Steadman for the ball to creep into the net off the base of the post. Borough hit back through Culpin's long ball to John Symonds who made a good run to centre for Wade but the finish was poor, giving Martin little trouble. That, unfortunately was a feature of Nuneaton's game as centres were picked off with ease.

Shaun McGrory came on for Akeredolu for only his second appearance of the year following a battle with back injury. He laid on one of Borough's best chances of the half from a 78th minute free-kick but Martin beat Rodwell to the ball. Tarry got in a glancing header from a set piece seconds later and Steadman saved Borough in injury time as he smothered a ball from the menacing Robinson.

Elwyn Roberts Gets Borough Job

Nuneaton Borough will appoint Corby Town's Elwyn Roberts as manager. The 38-year-old takes over the Manor Park hot-seat in the knowledge that he is in charge of one of the top non-league sides in the country that he describes as a "sleeping giant". Roberts, a former player with Corby, Bedworth Town, Barnet and Kidderminster Harriers, is highly regarded on the Beazer Premier scene having steered the Steelmen to third place last season.

Borough Fail To Sign Matt Murphy

Nuneaton Borough's new manager, Elwyn Roberts, has suffered his first set-back, when the transfer of Oxford United striker Matt Murphy was ruled out on a technicality. The Borough boss said: "The Beazer Homes League told us we already have our quota of loan players with Darren Steadman from Kidderminster, and Coventry City's David Carmichael. It is disappointing as I know Matt well, having sold him to Oxford last year for £20,000."

Borough Planning Permission

Extensive building work costing thousands of pounds could transform Nuneaton Borough Football Club if planning chiefs give the go-ahead. The ambitious Manor Park stadium is looking to the future with the recent application made to Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council for a two storey extension with office, viewing boxes and changing rooms.

Borough Sign Andy Harris

Struggling Nuneaton Borough strengthened their relegation threatened squad with the signing of Exeter City midfielder Andy Harris. Harris, 23, who is said to be a powerful, confident player in the Darren Bullock mould, signed forms following talks with new Borough boss Elwyn Roberts.

Nuneaton Borough v Atherstone United 02-04-1994

Borough: Steadman, Keogh, McGrory, Whetton, Rodwell, Harris, Wade (Wright), Symonds, Bradder, Culpin (Carmichael), Percival.

Borough welcomed Atherstone United to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Atherstone completed a double of their near neighbours, with a well-deserved victory. Keith Russell's 26th minute goal from a through ball by man of the match Steve Campbell effectively killed off Borough's promising start when they had two good chances, both falling to new boy Jason Percival.

Paul Culpin also went close with an indirect free-kick 10 yards out, the ball just swinging wide of the right hand angle as the striker looked to get a deflection off the wall of defenders.

But the home side never looked like getting back on level terms against a highly effective and experienced Adders' defence. It was not a happy baptism for new manager Elwyn Roberts.

He said afterwards "The players' heads went down following the goal and their confidence is at rock bottom at the moment but it is vital that we break this run of poor results."



Debutant Jason Percival sees this deft lob fly inches too high as Adders' defender Malcolm Randle looks on.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Nuneaton Borough v Gresley Rovers 09-04-1994

Borough: Steadman, Wright, Tarry, Keogh, Rodwell, Cottrill, Wade (Carmichael 80), Symonds, Bradder, Rosegreen (Culpin 68), Percival.
Gresley: Wheatley, Dick, Swainston, Straw, Evans, Stanborough, Wardle, Rigg, Hurst, Holmes (Marsden 68), Deveney. Sub: Elliott.

Borough welcomed Gresley Rovers to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Conditions could hardly have been worse as a blizzard accompanied by thunder and lightning delayed the start. When the game did kick off it was reduced to a farce as players struggled to keep their feet let alone play football. It was a game where any mistakes were going to be punished and Borough suffered early on as Stanborough's header from Graeme Rigg's free-kick sneaked over the line. Steadman said later that the ball did not cross the line.

The goal gave Gresley the impetus they needed and striker David Holmes showed his speed as he ran onto a through ball forcing Jim Rodwell to make a well-timed saving tackle. John Symonds hit Borough's best centre of the game to find Percival at the far post, but the striker side-footed the ball inches wide.

Undaunted, Blues pressed home the attack and Ian Cottrill, making a welcome return to the first team, fired a free-kick against a wall of defenders for keeper Mark Wheatley to punch Rodwell's return volley clear. Wheatley, standing in for regular keeper Bob Aston, was in the thick of the action minutes later as he scrambled away yet another Cottrill free-kick followed by a clash with Percival as the lively striker followed up a deflected shot. With ten minutes to go before the break the visitors laid on a barrage of shots from Richard Wardle drawing a terrific save from Steadman, Stuart Evans firing a volley over the crossbar and Ian Straw, who should have put Rovers further in front, slicing a shot past the post.

The second half was just three minutes old when Straw struck with a close range free header from Hurst's cross. Cottrill was playing like a man possessed as he went agonisingly close with two chances in a minute. The first, from Wade's centre was nodded into his path by Percival for Wheatley to parry the shot. Wheatley did not see the second which struck him before flying over the bar to leave Cottrill holding his head in disbelief. Mark Rosegreen must have felt the same as his 62nd minute close range header looped over the bar from Cottrill's flick followed by Symonds also heading wide from Darren Wright's centre.

Gresley somehow hung on under intense pressure and to the despair of the 900-plus supporters went 3-0 up as Hurst turned and volleyed home a through ball from the edge of the area. Borough, showing great character, struck back as Culpin hit a stinging volley from 18 yards five minutes from time followed by Percival's header to set up a heart-stopping final two minutes.



Nuneaton Borough v Dorchester Town 12-04-1994

Borough: Steadman, Wright, Tarry, Keogh, Rodwell, Cottrill (Symonds 80), Bennett (Culpin 58), Harris, Bradder, Rosegreen, Percival.

Dorchester: Coombe, Birmingham, White, Coleman, Redknapp, Conning, Hurdle, Brooks, Killick, Waters, Lloyd. **Subs:** Borthwick, Pashen.

Borough welcomed Dorchester Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Tommy Killick almost pulled off a shock just two minutes into the game when, in spite of looking yards offside, he got to the edge of the area only for Steadman to make a superb save. The Dorset men enjoyed early pressure but never looked like getting the breakthrough. It was Borough who posed the threats, the first from Mark Rosegreen forced Mark Coombe into making a desperate fingertip save quickly followed by a super left-foot drive by Andy Harris from Gary Bradder's pass. But that early euphoria was destroyed with White's goal. Steadman and Chris Keogh seemed to be put off by the presence of Killick as the ball evaded everyone.

Rosegreen almost levelled the battle two minutes later, heading wide from Ian Cottrill's corner kick, as Borough struggled in the chase as the heavens opened up with a downpour of rain. Luck well and truly deserted the home side in the 34th minute when Bradder's bullet-like header cannoned off the right post and out to safety through a crowded area.

Four minutes after the break Waters almost grabbed the second when he dummied a defender but his shot from the edge of the area lacked power and Steadman gathered comfortably. Harris followed up, hitting a superb, first-time centre only for Coombe to pluck the ball out of the air but Borough's forwards were failing to follow up at the critical moment. With 34 minutes left to play striker Jason Percival lifted the supporters with a jinking run and turn to hit a ball to the far post forcing defender David Coleman to give away a corner kick.

But as the sands were rapidly running out for Borough the Magpies took advantage of some sloppy marking for Waters to convert Killick's cross. It was left to Paul Culpin, on as substitute for the struggling Dave Bennett, to give the home side the chance of a consolation goal but his drive cleared the crossbar by two feet.

Sittingbourne v Nuneaton Borough 16-04-1994

Sittingbourne: Harper, Beard, Day, Omagbehin (Jones 64), Saunders, Wynter, Bourne, Clarke, Buglione, McRobert (Searle 45), Strout.

Borough: Manuel, Keogh, Tarry (Percival 37), Whetton, Rodwell, Cottrill, Wade, Symonds, Bradder, Rosegreen, Culpin. **Sub:** Carmichael.

Borough travelled to Woodstock Park to play Sittingbourne in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough with a strong wind in their favour, took an early grip and twice in the first 15 minutes might have found the early breakthrough they were looking for. Mark Rosegreen fired a 12th minute drive straight at home keeper Lee Harper after Ian Cottrill had split the Bourne defence. Shortly afterwards

Cottrill again found Rosegreen free inside the area but the Borough striker wanted too much time and James Strouts recovered to get in a saving tackle.

A neat build-up put John Symonds in space on the left and when he crossed low into the box Paul Culpin had a clear sight of goal but dragged his shot well wide of the right-hand post. There was a moment of danger for the visitors when Colin Omagbehin's deep cross found the unmarked Beard, but his header was way off target.

However, ten minutes before the break Borough got the goal they had been threatening. Symonds and Gary Bradder combined to find Jim Rodwell who freed Chris Keogh wide on the right. And when he whipped the ball into the area Rosegreen got in front of the keeper to guide it home. Cottrill then fired a 25-yard drive a couple of feet over the top, but shortly afterwards Borough were forced to reshuffle with Symonds moving to left back as the limping Matt Tarry was replaced by Percival.

Nuneaton's hopes of their first win since January 29 nose-dived within six minutes of the restart as Stittingbourne stunned them with two goals in a 90 second spell. Borough failed to get the ball away in the 50th minute and the defence was all over the place as Strouts curled a centre to the far post to leave Beard with a simple tap in. The visitors did not have time to recover from that set-back before they found themselves behind. Steve Searle was given time and space and then Borough failed to get away his right wing cross Martin Buglione hooked the loose ball high into the net.

But Borough dug deep into their reserves and showed a lot of character as they hit back to snatch a 66th minute equaliser through Percival. Culpin superbly turned his marker to send the Borough substitute racing through the middle, and he held off two strong challenges before calmly slipping the ball past the advancing keeper. Borough were clearly lifted by this goal and looked well capable of finding the winner but had a real let-off after 78 minutes.

Wynter, looking well offside was allowed to race clear onto a through ball from Searle. He drew Manuel before slipping the ball to Buglione, who hit a post from point blank range with a goal gaping in front of him. Manuel was sent off four minutes from time for deliberate handball and Gary Bradder took over in goal. Borough could have snatched a last gasp winner with Percival freeing Culpin, but Harper got a hand to the striker's shot and a relieved Scott Saunders cleared.

Nuneaton Borough v Moor Green 19-04-1994

Borough: Steadman, Keogh, Symonds, Whetton, Rodwell, Cottrill, Wade, Percival, Bradder (Carmichael 38), Rosegreen, Culpin. **Sub:** Wright.

Borough welcomed Moor Green to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Culpin went close in the third minute, almost lobbing Chris Taylor from 20 yards, but the keeper wisely stayed on his line to gather safely. Sixty seconds later a super move started



by Richard Wade was helped on by man-of-the-match Mark Rosegreen only for defender John Price to get a boot to the ball with the menacing Culpin inches away. Rosegreen was a revelation in the unaccustomed midfield role and hardly put a foot wrong as he laid off a number of telling passes to keep Borough in control.

John Symonds also played a major role in defence, keeping a tight rein on the Moors as they looked to break down the right wing. Tireless Ian Cottrill forced a corner kick which the Moors did well to scramble away, then it was Borough's turn to suffer as burly striker Guy Russell looked certain to score only for defender Dave Whetton to make a great saving tackle.

At times Borough seemed tentative and lacked confidence when a quick, first time ball could have split the visitors defence. It was full-back Chris Keogh who showed the way in the 13th minute with a first time shot from the edge of the area which Taylor did well to stop at the second attempt.

Half way through the first-half it was Keogh again picking up a deft through ball from Culpin to fire a shot inches over the cross bar from 18 yards but Borough breathed a sigh of relief when David Fearon's shot from a free-kick struck the left hand angle. Skipper Gary Bradder came off with a groin pull to be replaced by striker David Carmichael as Borough saw out the half.

The restart opened well for Nuneaton with Cottrill firing in two free-kicks in quick succession, the second being steered home by Jim Rodwell, climbing above the defence to head into Taylor's arms. Then, lady luck smiled on Borough yet again as the lively Chris Brown forced Steadman into making two last gasp saves, first tipping a six yard shot against the bar and diving to stop a quick follow-up.

Then, out of the blue, Culpin turned his limpet-like watchdog Paul Brogan to snatch the all-important breakthrough. Culpin could have had a second within five minutes as he was perfectly placed for a shot in the packed penalty area but decided to let the ball go through.

Moors keeper Taylor almost did the same thing with 20 minutes to go, averting an embarrassing moment by the skin of his teeth as Keogh's long ball bounced on the hard surface forcing him to give away a corner. The watching supporters were forced to endure a nail biting finish as the visitors pumped everything into the Borough area. Fearon forced a fine diving save from Steadman who was on his toes as the unmarked Brown fired a sitter over the bar.

Cambridge City v Nuneaton Borough 21-04-1994

Cambridge: Murray, Tovey, Lockhart, Parmeter, Beattie, Gawthrop, Wilkin, Goddard, Ryan, Pope, Scott.

Borough: Steadman, Keogh (Wright 52), Symonds, Whetton, Rodwell, Cottrill, Wade, Percival, Carmichael (Lovelock 77), Rosegreen, Culpin.

Borough travelled to Milton Road to play Cambridge City in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough got off to a good start as the impressive Mark Rosegreen broke down the left to cross to the far post only

for defender Steve Gawthrop to head clear from Richard Wade. But with just nine minutes played Blues were made to suffer as they pushed forward. In what looked suspiciously offside a loose ball was knocked through Scott who ran on unchallenged to clash with the advancing Steadman only for the ball to squeeze past and trickle over the line. The goal triggered City as they piled on the pressure, Neil Pope almost punished a poor clearance by Steadman as he lashed a shot inches wide of the right post. Then it was Borough's turn as striker Paul Culpin raised the hopes of the supporters for an instant as he hit a first-time shot which Kevin Murray did well to push away for a corner.

Ryan showed why he is currently heading the goal-scoring table as he beat two defenders to get in a low cross for Steadman to make a vital diving save. Nuneaton were pushing hard for the equaliser with half time looming but the ball just would not run for them at critical moments, there always seemed to be a white shirt to snuff out a chance or a ball pushed a fraction too far to rob them of a glimmer of hope.

That glimmer went agonisingly close to a lightning bolt a minute into the second half as Culpin picked up a pass into the City area, crossing for Cottrill whose close range shot took a deflection off Paul Wilkin, flying inches wide of the post. Three minutes later Cambridge went two up. Scott left Wade in his wake, dodging the flailing Steadman to calmly slide the ball into the empty net. As if that was not bad enough Borough were made to suffer further four minutes later as Ryan scrambled the ball home in the midst of a packed penalty area.

Rosegreen almost raised Borough's spirits with a 57th minute effort from Cottrill's free-kick which was somehow cleared off the line in a flurry of arms and legs. Borough's night could have been summed up in Culpin's left foot volley which he uncharacteristically skied over the crossbar from ten yards and Cottrill's indirect free-kick which cannoned into the wall of white shirts and out to safety.

Nuneaton Borough v Corby Town

23-04-1994

Borough: Steadman, Wright, Symonds, Whetton, Greatrex (Lovelock 61), Cottrill, Wade, Percival, Akeredolu, Rosegreen, Culpin (Carmichael 24).

Corby: McKenzie, Rayment, Collins, Walker (McInerney 89), Retallick, Gunn, Devine, Archer, Plummer, Cook, Thomas (Reilly 89).

Borough welcomed Corby Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Culpin had a chance in the fourth minute as he chased a high, looping pass from Jason Percival but Chris McKenzie was alert to the danger, reaching to pluck the ball from the air. Percival began to buzz around the area and forced two corner kicks in quick succession and it was only stout defending by Chris Collins on the goal line that denied the striker his third goal in the 11th minute. But Corby always looked dangerous on the break. Borough escaped a 13th minute setback by the skin of their teeth when Graeme Archer pounced on Anton Thomas' header only to fire against the woodwork.

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



The Steelmen were pushing for all they were worth, creating most of the chances when, with 31 minutes on the clock and against the run of play, Borough got the breakthrough. A quick ball by Ku Akeredolu to Ian Cottrill was squared to Percival whose 18 yard shot took a deflection past McKenzie and into the net.



Ian Cottrill celebrates as Jason Percival is about to be swamped by teammates after putting Borough ahead. Photo: Heartland Evening News

Borough then, literally had to weather a storm as a cloudburst swept the ground as Corby went looking for revenge and almost snatched the equaliser as Steadman just got a fingertip to Steve Devine's corner kick. Then, with a minute to go to the half, Borough spirits soared as Percival made a run into the area from the left to switch the ball inside for Carmichael to put a superb shot wide of McKenzie for his first goal for the Borough. But the euphoria was short lived when just six minutes into the second half Devine's centre found Calvin Plummer who made no mistake as he headed past Steadman. There was panic in the Borough defence seconds later as Anton Thomas raced onto a long clearance, making it to the six yard line before defender Dave Whetton made a superbly timed tackle. The home side had to grit their teeth as the Steelmen laid siege to their goal. Thomas and Plummer in particular, gave the defence a tough time as they probed for an opening. Borough were determined to hang onto their lead and the precious points, however, and almost added to the scoreline three minutes from time as Percival fired a 35 yard shot over the crossbar. The supporters then had to endure a nerve-racking five minutes of injury time before referee James ended the agony.

Gresley Rovers v Nuneaton Borough 27-04-1994

Gresley: Aston, Dick, Swainston, Denby, Evans, Stanborough, Wardle, Rigg, Hurst (Moore 67), Holmes, Devaney.

Borough: Steadman, Byrne (Wright 75), Symonds, Whetton, Rodwell, Cottrill, Wade, Percival, Akeredolu, Rosegreen, Carmichael.

Borough travelled to The Moat Ground to play Gresley Rovers in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough took the lead in the 32nd minute following goals by Rosegreen and Percival only for Gresley to level the issue

at half-time as they cashed in on Blues abysmally poor defending. The second half was a disaster as the Moatmen added three more and for a time it looked as though the visitors were heading for their third six-goal defeat of the season but a late strike by Percival offered a final flicker. Borough now need maximum points from their last three games to retain a glimmer of hope but they badly need to tighten up at the back.

Corner kicks proved to be Borough's downfall as four times they failed to clear the danger. The first came after just nine minutes as Martin Devaney pounced to slam a half-volley into the net from close range. Borough pressure was rewarded 11 minutes later with the goal of the game. Jason Percival did well to hold off a defender, laying off a pass to Mark Rosegreen who struck an unstoppable 25 yard drive past the transfixed Bob Aston. The Gresley keeper was left to pick up the pieces in the 32nd minute when he fumbled a centre, losing the ball to Richard Wade who pushed a pass through to Percival for the agile striker to convert with a neat back heel. But Gresley, still smarting after the 2-0 defeat against lowly Bashley, hit back 60 seconds later through Mark Hurst who made no mistake in a crowded goalmouth.

The second half was barely three minutes old when the troublesome David Holmes put Gresley back into the lead, calmly slamming a penetrating corner kick past Steadman from 15 yards. As if that was not bad enough Borough's defence was caught flat-footed seven minutes later as Steadman made a hash of a centre for Holmes to dart in for his second. Then, with the visitors trying desperately to clear yet another threat from a corner kick, Hurst nipped in to snatch his second and Gresley's fifth.

That hammer blow, after 78 minutes, effectively killed off any chance of Borough claiming a point let alone three but the Borough faithful's hearts rose with Percival's looping shot which took a deflection onto the crossbar. Fittingly it was Percival who had the final say as he caught Aston off his line with a looping header which bounced on the line past a lunging defender.

Moor Green v Nuneaton Borough 30-04-1994

Borough: Steadman, Byrne, Symonds, Whetton, Rodwell, Cottrill, Wade, Percival, Akeredolu, Rosegreen, Carmichael (Wright 67).

Borough travelled to The Moorlands to play Moor Green in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough started in determined mood with Richard Wade going close to snatching his first goal for Borough but at the other end it was Steadman who stole the accolades with a magnificent ninth minute save from full-back Matt Gardner. Steadman kept Borough's heads above water six minutes later as he conceded a corner kick but Paul Frost's resulting header was off target.

Both sides looked terrified of making an error which severely hampered the flow of the game. But Borough went within an

ace of snatching the breakthrough when Carmichael's centre was chipped on by Jason Percival, his shot took a deflection off a defender and almost sneaked by Chris Taylor who palmed the ball away at full stretch. The Moors hit back and it was Steadman again who saved the day as he tipped striker Guy Russell's shot against the crossbar and over for a corner kick. That fired Borough into action through captain Ian Cottrill, standing in for the injured Gary Bradder. The Borough midfielder made it into the penalty area before hitting a low pass for Rosegreen to thump a shot against the base of the right-hand post.

Percival showed a defender a clean pair of heels as he chased a long ball which Taylor was covering as it ran towards the line but he did not count on the speedy Borough striker's determination and almost paid the price as the ball was slipped past him.

Minutes after half-time Moors striker Stewart Talbot caused a scare when he raced past defenders John Symonds and Alan Byrne to the dead ball line only to shoot straight into the grateful arms of Steadman. Cottrill followed up with an equally courageous diving header, forcing Taylor to concede a corner kick and with 25 minutes to go it was Cottrill's corner kick which almost gave Borough the lead as Ku Akeredolu climbed in the area only to head the shot against the bar.

The visitors were made to pay for their missed chances in the 74th minute when Russell ran through unchallenged on the left, hitting a crisp centre for Mick Stephenson to volley into the roof of the net from two yards out. Borough tried to climb back with efforts from Rosegreen and Rodwell, who should have converted Cottrill's free kick in the 80th minute but a point was never going to be good enough and the final whistle saw a dejected Borough side leave the field with the prospect of Midland Division football just three months away.

Nuneaton Borough v Bashley 04-05-1994

Borough: Steadman, Byrne, Symonds, Whetton, Rodwell, Cottrill (Carmichael 85), Wade, Percival, Akeredolu (Wright 82), Rosegreen, Culpin.
Bashley: Flower, Murrel, Ingman, Powell, Bye, Cornwall, Gowans, Kerr, Stone, Harbut (Arnold 85), Walker.

Borough welcomed Bashley to Manor Park to play a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough started well as Alan Byrne struck a through ball to surprise inclusion Paul Culpin, whose firm centre across the face of the goal proved too strong for striker Jason Percival. But with just five minutes played Bashley caught Nuneaton napping when Robin Harbutt ran onto Simon Gowans through pass to calmly place the ball wide of Darren Steadman, wrong-footing the keeper on his line. Richard Wade went close with a dipping 18 yard effort shrewdly left by Mark Rosegreen, but Nick Flower was on his toes to cover.

Borough were almost caught again on the half-hour as Lee Walker slipped a ball through to the diminutive Paul Stone but his final touch was not strong enough to beat Steadman in the

six yard box. Five minutes later the home side were on level terms Flower failed to hold onto Culpin's 25 yard free-kick for Rosegreen to nip in and hit the deflection past the keeper.

Borough started the second half in determined mood, almost snatching the lead in the 53rd minute from Culpin's accurate volley, once again, Flower foiled Borough as he collided with Rosegreen. Culpin looked sharper than of late and the watching supporters could only dream of what might have been if he had escaped injury, which left him sidelined for 26 league and cup games in mid-season. Ian Cottrill inspired Borough to a final effort as his long ball to the edge of the area was headed inside for Ku Akeredolu but the big centre-forward lost out in an aerial duel with Flower.

Culpin's Goalscoring Achievement Recognised



Borough took time off from their relegation worries to honour a special landmark in the club's history. Howard Kerry presented a silver salver to ace marksman Paul Culpin commemorating his 200th goal for the club.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Gloucester City v Nuneaton Borough 07-05-1994

Gloucester: Crompton, Saunders, Willetts (Crouch 15), Buckland, Bywater, Kemp, Callinan, Webb, Porter (Johnstone 59), Cook, Fishlock.
Borough: Steadman, Byrne, Symonds, Whetton, Rodwell, Cottrill, Wade, Percival, Bradder (Akeredolu 59), Rosegreen, Culpin.

Borough travelled to Meadow Park to play Gloucester City in a Southern League Premier Division game.

Borough took the wooden spoon when they finished their Beazer Premier Division season in bottom place. It was a sad end to a troubled season for Borough who started their campaign back in August with such high hopes of staking

their claim to a return to the top flight of non-league football. But Nuneaton did not look relegation material as they outplayed the Tigers for long periods and could easily have taken the honours if the fates had been a little kinder.

Midfielder Ian Cottrill was desperately unlucky in the second minute as Richard Wade and Jason Percival linked to set him up on the edge of the area but his deft chip struck the top of the crossbar. Six minutes later it was Cottrill again, heading a centre from Alan Byrne against the angle to rock Gloucester back on their heels. But Tigers weathered the storm and hit back through striker Dave Porter whose quick centre from Kevin Willett's pass was cleared by keeper Darren Steadman. Urged on by their band of faithful supporters Borough struck back and it was only good goalkeeping by Steve Crompton that denied them taking the lead in the 16th minute as Wade closed to meet Cottrill's centre into the six yard box.

Then Percival brought a gasp from the crowd as he jinked past two defenders to hit a low, right-foot drive past Crompton and inches wide of the post. The home side did not look like scoring and were making little impression with a number of speculative long-range shots until a tragic mix-up led to the breakthrough. A long ball cleared defender Jim Rodwell and bounced past Steadman as he raced out to clear the danger giving Tommy Callinan the simple task of running the ball into the empty net.

The goal galvanised Tigers into action and Steadman did well at the second attempt to deny Dave Webb's powerful drive from close range but with four minutes to go to half-time the visitors went further behind. Callinan headed Porter's centre on for Tony Cook to glide past Steadman for a clinical, close-range finish.

The second half was just three minutes old when Borough were given a glimmer of hope. Paul Culpin did well as he turned and centred for Crompton to block Wade's shot only for the lurking Mark Rosegreen to pounce and stab the ball home from six yards. Callinan went close to making it three for the Tigers as Steadman blocked Porter's shot but the keeper quickly smothered the loose ball to deny the winger. From then on it was virtually one-way traffic as Borough pushed for the equaliser. Skipper Gary Bradder went close with a header just minutes before he was substituted by Akeredolu, likewise Rosegreen who climbed well only for Crompton to push his header wide.

Set-piece specialist Culpin almost levelled the issue minutes from full-time as he drove a free-kick low into the box which Crompton did well to deflect.

Culpin Vows To Fight

Borough's record goalscorer Paul Culpin has pledged to fight for his future after being "written off" by the club. He said his one wish is to resurrect his career with Borough, but following manager Elwyn Roberts' decision not to renew his contract at the end of the season, the supporters' favourite is keeping his options open.

Southern League Premier Division 1993-94

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Farnborough Town | 42 | 25 | 7 | 10 | 74 | 44 | 82 |
| Cheltenham Town | 42 | 21 | 12 | 9 | 67 | 38 | 75 |
| Halesowen Town | 42 | 21 | 11 | 10 | 69 | 46 | 74 |
| Atherstone United | 42 | 22 | 7 | 13 | 57 | 43 | 73 |
| Crawley Town | 42 | 21 | 10 | 11 | 56 | 42 | 73 |
| Chelmsford City | 42 | 21 | 7 | 14 | 74 | 59 | 70 |
| Trowbridge Town | 42 | 16 | 17 | 9 | 52 | 41 | 65 |
| Sittingbourne | 42 | 17 | 13 | 12 | 65 | 48 | 64 |
| Corby Town | 42 | 17 | 8 | 17 | 52 | 56 | 59 |
| Gloucester City | 42 | 17 | 6 | 19 | 55 | 60 | 57 |
| Burton Albion | 42 | 15 | 11 | 16 | 57 | 49 | 56 |
| Hastings Town | 42 | 16 | 7 | 19 | 51 | 60 | 55 |
| Hednesford Town | 42 | 15 | 9 | 18 | 67 | 66 | 54 |
| Gresley Rovers | 42 | 14 | 11 | 17 | 61 | 72 | 53 |
| Worcester City | 42 | 14 | 9 | 19 | 61 | 70 | 51 |
| Solihull Borough | 42 | 13 | 11 | 18 | 52 | 57 | 50 |
| Cambridge City | 42 | 13 | 11 | 18 | 50 | 60 | 50 |
| Dorchester Town | 42 | 12 | 11 | 19 | 38 | 51 | 47 |
| Moor Green | 42 | 11 | 10 | 21 | 49 | 66 | 43 |
| Waterlooville | 42 | 11 | 10 | 21 | 47 | 69 | 43 |
| Bashley | 42 | 11 | 10 | 21 | 47 | 80 | 43 |
| Nuneaton Borough | 42 | 11 | 8 | 23 | 42 | 66 | 41 |

Matt Tarry Player Of The Year



Borough defender Matt Tarry took the accolades as the supporters' favourite at the annual trophy presentation evening at the Co-op Club over the weekend. Tarry's tenacious performances throughout a difficult season were marked by the True Blues with the award of the Player of the Year and Away Player of the Year trophies.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Tarry To Stay At Manor Park

Key defender Matt Tarry is “definitely staying at Nuneaton Borough said manager Elwyn Roberts who moved to squash rumours surrounding last season’s player of the year. But Roberts admitted he could be losing the services of club skipper Gary Bradder and central defender Jim Rodwell, who have both been transfer listed.

Roberts Signs Davies

Elwyn Roberts has fought off stiff competition to secure the services of Rothwell Town centre-half, Glyn Davies. It was a coup for the delighted Roberts who has had his eye on Davies for some time and the capture was all the sweeter as he beat his former club, Corby Town in securing the services of the 25-year-old.

The Borough boss has also landed 20-year-old midfielder Mark Wolsey from Kidderminster Harriers.

Kerry Fails In Committee Bid

Nuneaton Borough chairman Howard Kerry has failed in his bid to become a member of the ruling Southern League Management Committee. At last weekend’s Bournemouth AGM, Mr Kerry was beaten into third place behind Atherstone United secretary Keith Allen and Bedworth’s Graham Davison, who were both seeking re-election after completing their term in office.

Symonds Transfer Goes Ahead

The price on John Symonds’ head has been agreed and the multi-talented all-around is definitely on his way from Nuneaton Borough to Bedworth United. Greenbacks’ manager Billy Hollywood revealed today that over the weekend, a suitable fee for Symonds has been agreed by both clubs. It is believed to be in excess of £2,000.

Dave Lewis Memorial Match: November 1993



One of Nuneaton’s legendary players, Dave Lewis, who died late last year, was remembered in style at Manor Park with a special match involving old playing colleagues and friends of the ex-Borough skipper. Among the many well-known faces lining up for the memorial match between a Graham Carr Select, who won 9-4, and a Kirk Stephens XI were former winger Eddie McGoldrick, Jon Sammels, David

Speedie and Wayne Thomas, who drove all the way from Germany and back to take part in the proceedings.

A crowd of 728 flocked through the turnstiles for the memorial match in which all the proceeds will go to a trust fund for Dave’s children, while an auction of soccer memorabilia at the Social Club during the evening raised a staggering £580.

Photo: Heartland Evening News



Winterton Rangers — 1st Qualifying Round

Borough made the journey to West Street to play Winterton Rangers in a FA Cup 1st Qualifying Round match.

Winterton: Dougill, Wildbridge, Bean, Goldspink, Clarke, Carrick, Gibbon, Davison, Sugden, Deverson, Jickells. Subs: Blanchard, Young, Astbury.

Borough: Attwood, Byrne, McGrory, Bullock, Whetton, Cottrill, Simpson, Ridding, Green (Culpin 78), Rosegreen, Symonds. Subs: Keogh, Manuel.

Borough booked their place in the second qualifying round as they outclassed Winterton with a seven goal show in South Humberside.

John Barton's men could easily have doubled their goal tally against the Northerners in a tie that one-sided in every respect and which saw the Manor Park outfit book themselves a home encounter with West Midlands Police.

Tony Simpson led the way with a hat-trick while Mark Rosegreen netted a brace leaving Darren Bullock and Peter Green to complete the seven timer as the club raced to one of their biggest ever FA Cup successes.

On an excellent playing surface it was Winterton who had most possession in the early stages until Borough took a seventh minute lead when Shaun McGrory's free-kick found Peter Green who headed the ball back across the face of goal for Rosegreen to slot home from close range.

It was the Borough who called the tune from then on, Simpson had a shot flash just wide of the post after a neat one-two with Rosegreen while soon after the latter was fouled just outside the area and Bullock's fierce free-kick narrowly missed the target.

It was not until the half-hour mark that the home side had a shot in earnest, Paul Gibbons' long range effort dipping over the bar. However, four minutes later Borough increased their advantage with Rosegreen netting his second goal of the match.

Bullock broke down the left and his perfect centre found the unmarked former VS Rugby striker and he made no mistake from six yards. Just before the break he should have completed his hat-trick when put clear by Bullock but his lob over home keeper Simon Dougill bounced wide of the mark.

The second period continued as the first with the Borough dominating proceedings, Rosegreen having a clear-cut opportunity only to fire disappointingly wide. However, the 200-plus travelling Nuneaton fans had not long to wait for their favourites to go further in front.

Borough's third goal came in the 55th minute when a right wing cross from Simpson deceiving the defence and keeper Simon Dougill before hitting the far post and rebounding into the net. Within two minutes, it was the winger again who was the scourge of the Rangers' defence. Simpson picked up a loose ball from a corner to force the ball home.

A rare foray into the Borough half saw Winterton's Andy Sugden fire just wide after good work by winger Gibbon but it was one-way traffic with Rosegreen, Simpson and Peter Green all coming close to boosting Borough's goals tally.

With 15 minutes remaining Bullock got in on the scoring act as he won a midfield challenge, carried the ball to the edge of the box and sent a powerful low drive past the helpless Dougill.

Seven minutes later Simpson completed his three-timer when picking up a pass from Alan Byrne. Although his first effort was blocked, he fired the rebound high into the rigging.

With less than 60 seconds on the watch, Winterton grabbed a consolation when their best performer on the day, Andy Sugden, lobbed the on-rushing Richard Attwood. The joy was short-lived as Borough's record scorer, Culpin, stamped his mark on the tie with the goal of the match, a strike right out of the top drawer.

A Symonds centre found the unmarked former Coventry hit-man on the edge of the box and he unleashed an unstoppable right-foot volley that bulged the roof of the Winterton net.

West Midlands Police — 2nd Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed West Midlands Police to Manor Park to play a FA Cup 2nd Qualifying Round tie.

Borough: Attwood, Byrne, McGrory, Bullock, Whetton, Cottrill, Simpson, Bradder, Green (Culpin 81), Rosegreen (Symonds 50), Keogh. Sub: Manuel.

WM Police: Carmell, Hornsby, Shaw, Smith, Conway, Latchford, Ingram, McMenamin, Hussey, Davison, Small. Subs: Scriven, Southall, Blease.

Abysmal Borough blew a two-goal lead and then struggled to stay on level terms against an impressive West Midlands Police side.

Borough started the tie like an express train, and were two up by the 13th minute. The opener came after just three minutes when a Shaun McGrory cross found Tony Simpson in the box and his left-foot shot beat visiting keeper Darren Carmell.

Soon after the Police were further in arrears as Ian Cottrill touched a free-kick to Darren Bullock 20 yards out, and "Mad Dog" cracked a powerful low drive into the corner of the net.

At this stage, John Barton's men were cruising but an incident in the 28th minute turned the tie upside down. Borough were awarded a free-kick deep in Police territory which was quickly taken by Peter Green but he failed to find Gary Bradder with a short pass.

Impressive Police skipper Noel McMenamin seized upon the error and raced forward before feeding unmarked Oliver Latchford on the left, who powered forward unchallenged before drilling a left-foot shot past the stranded Richard Attwood.

The rest of the half saw the visitors on top which remained unchanged after

the break as Police took the game to their much higher league rivals.

It came as no surprise when the visitors pulled back on terms four minutes after the restart as a corner kick found centre-half James Conway unmarked and his looping header flew over Attwood and tucked itself just inside the post.

To Borough's credit they hit back and regained the initiative just four minutes later when Bradder's pinpoint free-kick found Bullock who darted through a square defence and rounded Carmell to coolly slot the ball home much to the relief of the 1,000-plus crowd.

However, it was still the visitors who called the tune and in the 62nd minute a Conway back header had Attwood at full stretch to turn over the bar.

With 15 minutes remaining more fine interplay by the Police saw McMenamin receive the ball 25 yards out, and his dipping drive was finger-tipped over by the busy Attwood.

But soon after Borough had two chances to wrap up the tie. A fine run from midfielder Cottrill took him to the by-line and his centre fell to Simpson, who fired against the underside of the

woodwork, the ball being scrambled clear by a grateful defence.

Almost immediately another good run and cross by Cottrill picked out Green but his downward header was saved by Carmell. Borough were to rue these misses as in the 80th minute came the equaliser.

McMenamin had a free kick charged down by the home defensive wall but the ball broke to Gary Davison who made no mistake from close range.

Bradder then broke through at the opposite end only to shoot tamely wide as the game moved towards extra-time in which neither side provided anything of note in the way of goalmouth action.

In the end Borough were just glad of another bite of the cherry.

West Midlands Police – 2nd Qualifying Round Replay

Borough made the journey to the Tally Ho! to play West Midlands Police in a FA Cup 2nd Qualifying Round replay.

Borough: Attwood, Byrne, McGrory (Hart 86), Bullock, Whetton, Symonds, Simpson, Wade, Green (Culpin 74), Rosegreen Tarry. Sub: Manuel.

After the disappointment of the 3-3

draw on Saturday, John Barton's men slipped into a far smoother rhythm at the second time of asking and despite having to wait until late in the tie before taking a grip they were always in the driving seat.

Borough dictated for long periods without finding the breakthrough while the Police created just one clear cut chance. However, once John Symonds fired the visitors ahead the result was never in doubt as Darren Bullock and substitute Paul Culpin completed a fine night's work for the Blues.

Borough began brightly as they took the game to the Police from the outset, Symonds rifling just wide from 20 yards after three minutes, while a fine run down the left by the same player ended in a low cross that just eluded the diving Mark Rosegreen.

Midway through the half Tony Simpson's snap shot almost caught Carmell napping but the keeper scrambled across his line to parry the ball around the post; then Bullock, who was only half fit due to a heel injury, launched a dipping free-kick inches over with Carmell again struggling to cover the danger.

Police rallied after their tardy start without putting together anything of consequence to worry a disciplined Borough back line, which looked far more purposeful than in the first encounter between the sides.

In the second period, the pendulum continued to swing Borough's way as they strove to turn territorial advantage into goals. A neat move involving Shaun McGrory and Green ended with the latter heading down for Bullock to unleash a 20-yard half-volley that flew straight at the grateful Carmell.

But the long-awaited breakthrough finally came after 79 minutes when Rosegreen's cross shot from the right was again hacked off the line but this time Symonds latched on to the loose ball to thunder a rising drive into the roof of the net from just inside the area.

Four minutes later, Police conjured up



Man of the match Darren Bullock gracefully fires home his second and Borough's third.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

their only clear cut chance of the tie as substitute Galvin Blease was given time and space inside the area but his angled drive was confidently held by the ideally positioned Richard Attwood.

Play quickly switched to the opposite end, and with four minutes remaining Borough extended their advantage from the penalty spot. Symonds played a long ball into the path of Culpin, who in his attempts to round Carmell was sent crashing to the ground by the keeper. Bullock hammered the resulting spot kick into the net via Carmell's desperate outstretched hand.

Three Police players, including Carmell, were booked for arguing with the referee to bring the total number of cautions over the two ties to 17.

Inside the final 90 seconds Borough put the seal on Police's fate when substitute Dave Hart lifted a long clearance into the path of Culpin, who joyfully lobbed the on-rushing Carmell from the edge of the area.

Worksop Town — 3rd Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Worksop Town to Manor Park to play a FA Cup 3rd Qualifying Round tie.

Borough: Manuel, Byrne, McGrory, Bullock, Whetton, Tarry, Simpson, Wade (Bartlett 62), Green, Culpin. Subs: Rosegreen, Bonell.

Worksop: Woodhead, Heyna, Whitehead, Rowlands, Barnet, Pickering, Howard, Wharton, Waller (Gee 40), Clarke, Campbell (Morris 54).



Culpin hits a spectacular volley for Borough's second goal.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Borough saved their best until the dying minutes with a three goal burst to tame the Tigers.

With seven minutes remaining it looked as though Borough would be making the trip to Sandy Lane for a replay. The tie was evenly balanced following Darren Bullock 30 yard blast four minutes after Scott Rowlands gave Worksop the lead.

Then came the Borough blitz. Culpin volleyed home from ten yards, the unfortunate Paul Barnet found his own net in a desperate attempt to deny Culpin and Bullock tidied up with a neat side-foot off the post.

It was Borough's second 4-1 win in cup competitions in four days, but manager John Barton said he was still not satisfied with the quality of play.

"Our distribution was disappointing in the first half and it was not until we got the breakthrough that things improved."

Borough's midfield has been decimated in recent weeks with Gary Bradder, Mick Shearer, Ian Cottrill and John Ridding unavailable through injury.

It was a frustrating first half for Borough, playing in front of the biggest home crowd of the season, for in spite of being well in control they just could not find the net.

Tigers' keeper John Woodhead was the busiest man on the park as his goal came under almost non-stop pressure.

Culpin, looking leaner and fitter than of late, tested him in the second minute with a low shot which almost squeezed under the diving keeper's body.

It was almost embarrassing the way Borough carved their way through the visitors defence only for players to miss chances which should have been put away.

Peter Green, looking to add to his superb hat-trick against Solihull Borough, hit a perfectly weighted Culpin pass too far in the 30th minute, allowing Woodhead to come out and smother the shot as he followed up.



Darren 'Mad Dog' Bullock celebrates in style with team-mate Peter Green.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

With eight minutes to go to the break Bullock was desperately unlucky as his powerful header struck Culpin in the back and from the clearance Tigers' Danny Campbell and Scott Rowlands swept into the attack only to be foiled by Dave Whetton who cleared for a corner kick.

After the break Borough went close through Green's deft back flick from John Symonds' free-kick, the ball flying across the face of the goal to scrape inches wide of the base of the post.

But Blues then seemed to lose concentration as Worksop came back into the game, looking more

composed and threatening with some penetrating moves which left many home supporters feeling uneasy about the outcome.

That fear was realised with a jolt when right on the hour the Tigers tore through Borough's defence, Ged Heyna's header from a corner was half-cleared to Rolands who made no mistake from three yards.

Stunned Borough were galvanised into action, quickly hitting back through Bullock's 30 yard equaliser which fairly ripped through the frozen defence.

With seven minutes remaining, full-back Alan Byrne, in his usual assured style, ran onto a pass from Bullock in midfield before hitting a superb ball for Culpin to volley home from 10 yards.

Workshop looked beaten from then on and Barnet's own goal a minute from time added a killer punch with Bullock's second in injury time being purely academic as referee Wiley played a further three minutes.

Stevenage Borough – 4th Qualifying Round

Borough made the journey to Broadhall Way to play Stevenage Borough in a FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round tie.

Stevenage: Fairbairn, Wilkinson, Joyce, Debnam, Blackwell (Nunn 74), Smith, Alzapiedi (Brown 74), Shanley, Gittings, Venables, Graham. Sub: McAuley.

Borough: Attwood, Byrne, McGrory, Bullock, Keogh, Tarry, Simpson, Bradder, Green (Culpin 63), Rosegreen, Symonds. Subs: Manuel, Wade.

A winning goal in the dying seconds of the match has propelled Borough into the First Round of the FA Cup with a buoyant team hoping to draw a big name in the next round.

After a lacklustre first-half, where both sides seemed to be paying too much respect to each other, the game suddenly exploded into action in the last part of the second half with the Borough rampant.

Goals from Darren Bullock and Mark Rosegreen in the last 15 minutes sealed the fate of Stevenage who had pushed throughout only to be thwarted by a tight defence and some excellent goalkeeping.



Borough's goal scoring heroes Mark Rosegreen and Darren Bullock cannot disguise their delight after the win.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

The match was transformed in the 63rd minute when an injured Paul Culpin came on to replace Peter Green, a move manager John Barton admits was a gamble.

Culpin who suffered an ankle injury

on Wednesday seemed to lift the side and he played a crucial role in both Borough goals.

After the win John Barton said: "I knew it was a gamble playing Culpin. I knew the ankle injury meant we couldn't get a full 90 minutes from him. But it worked. Green had had an excellent match and I knew replacing him with Culpin would be a risk, but it was worth taking."

And there was praise from the Nuneaton manager for Rosegreen who capitalised on poor defending to make space for himself in the box and fire home the winning goal late on in the 89th minute of the game.

John Barton said: "Rosegreen did a lot of very good work today. He did exactly what we asked of him, he held the ball back, he frustrated the defence and at the end of the day he produced the winning goal.

During the first-half it would have been difficult to predict the result with both sides wasting excellent chances which could have sealed the fate of either side before the half-time whistle went.

In the sixth minute after some tight action in midfield the ball went out to Tony Simpson who put in a long run down the wing and lofted a long, excellent cross into the box but the incoming Green was just inches short of finishing the job.

For the next 20 minutes the game



Borough fans celebrate Darren Bullock's equaliser.

Photo: Heartland Evening News



rattled from end to end with the Borough's Bullock, Green and Symonds each making excellent runs which they were unable to finish.

But in the 33rd minute the home side went ahead when Shaun Debnam used his skills to turn several Borough players before hitting a swerving volley from the edge of the penalty area into the top left hand corner of the net.

In the second half though Borough turned the tide and with increasing pressure a goal seemed inevitable.

Keeper Richard Attwood continually denied Stevenage with some excellent mid-air saves and at the other end Bullock, Rosegreen and Symonds were all denied.

Then in the 63rd minute Paul Culpin came on in place of Green and the game seemed to step up a pace.

In the 73rd minute Culpin tried to make the most of a run down the left side only to be stopped by the keeper. A poor clearance by the young goalkeeper left Culpin to capitalise, a pass just outside the penalty area to Rosegreen was transferred to Bullock who had found space and a hard hit right-foot shot left the keeper stranded and Borough level.

Then in the 89th minute Culpin on the right laid the ball off to Simpson who picked out the incoming Rosegreen on the left of the penalty area, leaving the Stevenage defence stranded and the Borough man volleyed home the winning goal.

Swansea City – 1st Round Proper

Borough made the journey to the Vetch Field to play Swansea City in a FA Cup 1st Round Proper tie.

Swansea: Freestone, Clode, Cook, Walker, Harris (Ford 22), Pascoe, Bowen (McFarlane 74), Chappell, Torpey, Perrett, Hayes.
Sub: Miles.

Borough: Attwood, Byrne, McGrory, Bullock, Tarry, Keogh, Simpson, Bradder, Green, Rosegreen (Shearer 67), Wade. Subs: London, Manuel.

Borough were within seconds of a triumphant win at the rain lashed Vetch Field, but victory, so tantalisingly close following Mick Shearer's barnstorming 79th minute opener – was cruelly snatched away with the Swans' last gasp effort two minutes into injury time.

A win would have put Borough through into the second round for the first time since 1967 when Swansea were their first round victims.

Now Blues have a chance of emulating that occasion in the replay on home territory. If sheer courage and tenacity are anything to go by Borough have little to fear as for long periods they matched the Second Division boys and had them reeling with 20 minutes to go to full-time.

Overnight rain continued on into the day and throughout the tie, transforming the midfield into what must have seemed like a rice paddy to the players who floundered in the ankle deep water.

And with Paul Culpin and John Symonds both failing a fitness test shortly before the kick-off, Borough were forced to withstand some early Swansea pressure.

A third minute scare was averted when full-back Shaun McGrory cleared Andy Cook's free-kick after Chris Keogh had pulled down Darren Perrett dangerously close to the penalty area.

Within three minutes Blues, roared on by a magnificent contingent of 1,000 plus supporters, forced the first corner of the game but Richard Wade's kick was cleared by Mark Harris in an aerial duel with skipper Gary Bradder.

Number 10 Perrett was not having a happy time against Borough right back Alan Byrne and it was from one of his foiled efforts that Swans had their first chance, a snatched 20 yard shot by Steve Torpey which cleared the crossbar by a yard.

A minute later Peter Green sliced his first-time shot, swinging the ball well wide of the right post.

Shortly afterwards Swans were reduced to ten men as Harris went off for what proved to be fruitless treatment to a knee injury as he was replaced by John Ford in the 22nd minute.

Most of the action was taking place in Borough's half and Perrett looked dangerous when he slipped between Byrne and Matt Tarry to whip in a shot from the edge of the area, clearing Attwood's outstretched arms to sail safely over the crossbar.

Attwood was again in the thick of it moments later, diving twice into the mire of the goalmouth in an attempt to smother a rain-sodden ball before Tony Simpson cleared the danger.

Borough's supporters hearts skipped a beat with eight minutes to go to half time when Attwood's punched clearance from Cook's free-kick fell to Shaun Chappell whose first-time shot rapped the top of the crossbar.

The visitors were gaining in confidence as half-time loomed and a move set up by Bradder in midfield ended with Roger Freestone smothering Wade's right-foot volley.

Freestone was well positioned for the final chance of the half from Darren Bullock, making a welcome return from suspension, whose free-kick over the wall flew into the keeper's arms.

Swans came out with a vengeance. Hayes centred for Torpey, climbing above a packed defence to head just inches wide of the left-hand post with Attwood beaten.

It was all happening now and Chappell was with an ace of putting the home side in front, drilling a low shot past Attwood with target man Torpey failing to connect.

Bullock stepped up to take his second free-kick in the 58th minute following a dubious foul on Wade, but his shot was off target, clearing the crossbar by two feet.

Bradder was winning the midfield battle with excellent support from Tarry

and Keogh and it was noticeable that Simpson was looking more and more threatening.

The heavy conditions did not seem to bother him as he ripped past the bigger defenders with ease as they struggled to keep their balance in the treacherous conditions.

With 30 minutes remaining Simpson raced onto a long clearance from Attwood before taking the ball on and crossing for Wade in the centre only for Mark Clode to intercept.

Striker Mark Rosegreen came off for Shearer seven minutes later as Borough began to dig deep into their reserves coming up with a stunning sequence which sent a shock wave around the Vetch Field.

An inspired Simpson took on three defenders before shooting at close range only for the ball to cannon off Freestone's feet.

Picking up the botched clearance he raced in, past Clode and laid off a perfectly weighted ball to Shearer who ran it home from six yards.

The stadium erupted in a roar as the Borough faithful gave vent to pent-up emotions, leaving the home supporters

stunned into disbelief. The unthinkable looked as if it was going to happen yet again.



Borough's wonder winger Tony Simpson shows his delight after carving out the Nuneaton goal that stunned the Vetch Field faithful.

Photo Heartland Evening News

What followed was an agony of suspense for the massed Borough supporters as they willed on the blue and white shirted players with chants of "Blue Army" and whistling for a merciful end.



This group of fans from the Royal Oak in Stockingford celebrate a great Borough performance after their team held Swansea 1-1.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

But the time went on . . . and on. Two-and-a-half minutes in fact as referee Holbrook wrung out the dying minutes of a thrilling tie.

Then, when it looked as if Borough were through, the crushing blow came. Chappel raced down the left wing to deliver a soaring centre which was met perfectly by Torpey who headed over Attwood and into the net.

Swans' feelings were perfectly summed up by Freestone, who, almost unnoticed in the uproar, sank to his knees, burying his head in his arms and shaking with relief.

So, after 26 years, Borough will once again entertain Swansea City at Manor Park with the reward of a second round place for the victors.

Swans won't relish the prospect as footballers are renowned for being notoriously superstitious and history always has an uncomfortable way of repeating itself.

Swansea City — 1st Round Proper Replay

Borough welcomed Swansea City to Manor Park to play a 1st Round Proper replay.

Borough: Attwood, Byrne, McGrory, Keogh, Tarry, Wade (Symonds 68), Simpson, Bradder, Green, Rosegreen, Shearer. Subs: Manuel, London.

Swansea: Freestone, Clode (Ford 79), Cook, Walker, Harris, Pascoe, Bowen, Chapple, Torpey, Cordforth, Hayes (McFarlane 91). Sub: Miles.

Manor Park was a scene of ecstatic jubilation as more than 4,000 fans hailed a magnificent Borough extra-time victory.

It was a match straight out of Boys Own Annual as the part-timers overcame a side determined to redeem its pride following the 1-1 draw at the Vetch Field.

Two goals from Tony Simpson, cancelled out Steve Torpey's 10th minute opener to send stunned

Swansea back to South Wales, the second time in 26 years that their FA Cup dreams have been shattered by the boys in blue and white.

Borough players and officials were on cloud nine at the final whistle as the adrenalin flowed – none more so than delighted manager John Barton.

“We got the better of them with 11 minutes to go,” he said. “The longer the game went on the more likely we looked to get the result.

“Unfortunately we surrendered the initiative we had gained at Swansea early on and we had to fight doubly hard to get back.

“They played a fast, slick game and it was important we got to the first-half holding them at 1-0 – you can still grasp things and the game is there to be on.

“It is a great footballing achievement for the club,” he said.

Borough were hemmed into their own half from the opening whistle and it was due to the magnificent back four of Alan Byrne, Shaun McGrory, Chris Keogh and Matt Tarry who kept hopes alive with some tenacious defending.

But with just nine minutes on the clock the visitors silenced the roar from the packed terraces with an opening goal.

A superb pass from Jason Bowen set up Steve Torpey who ran the ball between Tarry and keeper Richards Attwood, the ball seeming to take an age before crossing the line.

If anything the goal only served to stir Borough’s supporters into greater voice as Swansea swept back, looking to build on the scoreline.

City defenders got a taste of what was to come as Simpson started the first of a number of mesmerising runs in the 17th minute, producing a pass to the edge of the area for Bradder to let fly which Freestone did well to hold.

Bradder was again on target minutes later as Simpson laid the ball back after drawing the defence, but Freestone dived to smother the shot.

With 12 minutes to go the the interval Torpey had the ball in the net for the second time but referee Holbrook had already blown for offside as City’s efforts came to nothing.

Their luck on the night was summed up in the 40th minute when Martin Hayes hit a perfectly weighted pass to Bowen who overran the ball before regaining his balance to fire past Attwood across the face of the goal and just wide of the left post.

But Borough hung on and after the break it was a determined side that took to the field. The atmosphere became electric as it only looked a matter of time before Blues levelled the game.

Simpson again went close, almost beating Freestone from close range and Bradder with a 25 yard sizzler, drew gasps from the Cock and Bear stand.

Richard Wade, who had made a massive contribution to Borough’s fightback, was substituted by John Symonds with 21 minutes to go and his arrival heralded three thunderclap explosions from the stand as the excitement mounted.

Swansea were playing possession football now as the minutes ticked away but Borough bided their time and were unlucky not to break back when Symonds set up Rosegreen.

The number 10 weaved his way to the goal line before lashing a centre towards Peter Green only for Freestone to cut out the danger.

But with nine minutes left Manor Park exploded with wild cheering as Borough snatched the equaliser.

McGrory’s deft flick into the area found Rosegreen who dummied two defenders before pulling back across the face of the goal finding Simpson who made no mistake from close range.

It was desperate stuff now as Swansea realised the match was slipping into extra time but try as they might the crucial goal was as far away as ever.

Referee Holbrook blew for full-time to plunge Borough into unknown territory, but aching muscles were ignored as they set to with a will with the reward of a Second Round trip to Bournemouth on the table.

Seven minutes into the half and Borough were in front for the first time in the match. That man Simpson again, with a clinical finish after a flick on by Rosegreen from Byrne’s free-kick.

But the euphoria was brought down to earth with a crash four minutes later when Attwood was forced to hack down Colin Pascoe as the unmarked number six looked certain to break through.

A deathly silence hung over Manor



Borough fans celebrate as Tony Simpson notches the winner.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Park as City captain John Cornforth stepped forward, rifling the spot kick towards the top right hand corner, only for Attwood to make a superb finger tip save.

That was it as far as City were concerned, they could not recover from the psychological blow and Borough kept their cool to see out the remaining 19 minutes.

The whistle could not come soon enough for the nerve-wracked thousands who swamped the pitch, carrying heroes of the hour, Simpson and Attwood shoulder-high from the field.



Goal hero Tony Simpson takes the limelight as the fans carry him shoulder high from the pitch.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

AFC Bournemouth – 2nd Round Proper

Borough made the journey to Dean Court to play Bournemouth in a FA Cup 2nd Round Proper tie.

Bournemouth: Bartram, Chivers, Masters, Morris, Watson, Parkinson, O'Connor, McGorry, Beardsmore (Coterill 72), Wood, Leadbetter. Subs: Murray, Moss.

Borough: Attwood, Byrne, McGrory, Keogh, Tarry, Wade (Symonds 67), Simpson, Bradder, Green, Rosegreen, Shearer. Sub: Manuel, London.

FA Cup drama returns to Manor Park

following yet another stunning Borough performance in clinching a draw at Dean Court.

With 11 minutes remaining it looked as though Borough were bowing out of the competition following Alex Watson's 51st minute header but striker Peter Green answered Nuneaton's prayers with a magnificent close range volley.

Bournemouth had done their homework well and were not prepared to allow Borough to settle as they hussled the visitors from the opening whistle. But speedy winger Tony Simpson almost caught the Cherries on the hop after 30 seconds when he made a run down the right before slipping a ball inside towards the menacing Mark Rosegreen.

Goalkeeper Vince Bartram was alert to the danger and dived at the edge of the six yard box to cut out the threat.

At the opposite end Borough keeper Richard Attwood was soon in the thick of it and for the rest of the afternoon the Stourbridge postman had his hands full as the home team laid siege to his goal.

He had little trouble from Gary Chivers early effort which sailed high over the crossbar but Joe Parkinson's seventh minute screamer forced Attwood into making a diving save.

Mick Shearer, whose brother Peter is battling to regain lost form in the Cherries second string, linked well with

Gary Bradder in midfield as Borough were forced to grit their teeth under the onslaught.

The Reds were unlucky not to go in front on 12 minutes when a super shot from Brian McGorry on the edge of the area was deflected over for a corner kick. A minute later it was Parkinson again, running onto a pass inside from former Bristol Rovers and QPR striker Mark O'Connor, to shoot low, the ball flying only inches wide of the left post.

Borough were lucky not to concede a penalty when Simpson brought O'Connor crashing to the turf with a tackle from behind as his opposite number was teeing up a shot from 10 yards out.

Former Liverpool defender Mark Watson forced Attwood into making a brave save as he hooked a right foot shot from 10 yards but the keeper took a kick in the face as he cleared in the scramble that followed.

With time edging close to the break the Cherries searched in vain for the breakthrough as Borough defended magnificently, the back four of Byrne, McGrory, Keogh and Tarry keeping the visitors hopes alive on more than one occasion.

Borough's best chance came nine minutes from the break. Mick Shearer whipped a shot over the crossbar after latching onto Bartram's clearance.

And right on half-time Richard Wade



Mark Rosegreen puts the Bournemouth defence under pressure. Photo: Heartland Evening News

forced Bartram into making a low save after good work by Bradder and Green.

As expected, Bournemouth came at Borough with renewed vigour on the restart and forced the visitors into giving away free-kicks in the first six minutes, the third one proving lucky for the Cherries.

O'Connor looked set to break through on the left when he was brought down by Keogh. From the resulting free-kick Watson climbed to head superbly over the stranded Attwood and into the back of the net.

The blow did nothing to dent Borough's determination, in fact they looked more fired up as they proceeded to take the game to the Cherries.

Shortly after John Symonds came on for Wade, Borough won their first corner kick which Green, under considerable pressure, volleyed high over the crossbar.

But Borough, in trying to get players wide, almost suffered disaster when O'Connor found McGorry with a pass from midfield, the number eight's dipping shot finding the net only for referee Cooper to rule offside.

The let-off inspired Borough and within minutes they had snatched the well-deserved equaliser.

Substitute John Symonds' free-kick soared into the area before taking a deflection off Watson to Green, who volleyed home to a roar from the mass of blue and white at the Brighton Beach end.

The supporters were as good as a 12th man as Borough saw out the final minutes but it was the troublesome Paul Wood who had the last word almost two minutes into injury time with a shot which shaved the angle.

AFC Bournemouth — 2nd Round Proper Replay

Borough welcomed AFC Bournemouth to Manor Park to play a FA Cup 2nd Round Proper replay.

Borough: Attwood, Byrne, McGrory, Keogh, Tarry, Symonds (Wade 70), Simpson, Bradder, Green, Rosegreen, Shearer. Subs: Ridding, Manuel.

Bournemouth: Bartram, Pennock, Masters, Morris, Watson, Parkinson, O'Connor, McGorry, Fletcher (Murray 82), Cotterill, Wood. Subs: Chivers, Moss.

Never-say-die Nuneaton Borough's FA Cup dream ended in a fighting performance. It was a David and Goliath confrontation which had captured the attention of the nation but this time there was to be no fairy-tale ended as Cherries sheer professionalism saw them through.

An early scrambled goal by Steve Cotterill, capitalising on defender Chris Keogh's headed clearance against the crossbar, was enough to settle the issue.



Borough striker Peter Green is unable to get direction into this second-half header which flies harmlessly over the bar.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Borough were allowed few chances to shine as Bournemouth had done their homework well and from the opening whistle they laid siege to the Borough goal.

They won three corner kicks in as many minutes and it was Mark Rosegreen who provided a brief respite, cutting inside two defenders, into the penalty area to shoot well wide as Vince Bartram covered.

The visitors' seventh corner kick was cleared off the line by defender Alan Byrne before right on 11 minutes the visitors took the lead through Cotterill.



Borough goal hero Peter Green volleys this effort into the crowd as home keeper Vince Bartram struggled to cover a penetrating thrust.

Photo: Heartland Evening News



Borough striker Mark Rosegreen waits to pounce but Cherries defender Alex Watson manages to head clear.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

But as they have done in the past, Borough battled back with the main attack going down the right wing. Peter Green controlled an awkwardly bouncing ball before passing to Rosegreen who was ruled offside with just Bartram to beat.

Back the game flowed to the edge of Borough's area which resulted in Richard Attwood pulling off a superb save, diving to his right to turn Joe Parkinson's free-kick around the post for yet another corner kick.

Chris Keogh made his impression on the game with a crunching tackle on Brian McGorry just as the number eight looked certain to make a decisive break down the left wing.

But with such an intense barrage it was inevitable that someone would get through.

That someone looked almost certain to be Paul Wood, seven minutes from half-time when he forced Attwood into making a fingertip save from Neil Masters' centre.

Borough hung on and survived a frenzied last two minutes. Shaun McGrory, still recovering from a groin strain, cleared off the line from Cotterill and Wood headed against the post from yet another brilliant centre from Masters.

Borough came out after the half-time break looking for the equaliser and a free-kick from captain Gary Bradder deserved better as Bartram punched clear, but as has been seen before, Borough's set pieces left a lot to be desired.

Even Tony Simpson could not weave his spell this time as every time he looked like getting anywhere near the penalty area he was immediately surrounded by burly defenders.

He managed to elude his shadows long enough to win a corner in the 53rd minute after latching onto a through ball from Matt Tarry but in spite of some promising moves it was the Cherries who looked the most likely to score.

With 20 minutes remaining John

Symonds was replaced by Richard Wade as Bournemouth kept up the almost constant pressure, McGorry finishing fast after Cotterill got to the edge of the area before laying the ball back to the advancing number eight.

Wade laid on Borough's best centre of the match which Green met with a looping header which dropped just over the crossbar.

As the seconds ticked away Borough threw everything at the Bournemouth area, first Simpson trying a repeat of the finish against Swansea but crashing onto the defensive rocks of Adrian Pennock, Masters and Morris.

Then, with a final flourish, it was Simpson again, setting up Rosegreen with a superb through ball between two defenders but Bartram had the last laugh as he came off his line to deny the striker.

Referee Gallagher blew for full-time and the romance of the FA Cup was over for Nuneaton Borough for another year but Wembley Stadium is still not written off as the Borough still look good in the FA Trophy competition.



Some of the Manor Park faithful, who gave their side excellent support as John Barton's men saw their FA Cup run come to an end.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Aylesbury United — 3rd Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Aylesbury United to Manor Park to play a FA Trophy 3rd Qualifying Round tie.

Borough: Attwood, Byrne, Symonds, Keogh, Tarry, Wade (Hadley 85), Simpson, Bradder, Green, Rosegreen, Shearer. Sub: London.

Aylesbury: Meara, Stacey, Hall, Benning, Hayward, Fleming, Sullivan, Dirk (Lawford 75), Hercules, Blencowe, Bashir. Sub: Merritt.

Borough breathed a sigh of relief as the final whistle sounded to end a dour struggle. Looking decidedly weary, Borough hung on grimly after being twice in front and can count themselves lucky to force a replay.

Neither side looked comfortable from the start and Borough were almost caught in the first minute when Jason Hall's free-kick skidded under Attwood to strike the foot of the post.

Within five minutes Borough had their first chance. Richard Wade's right foot volley from 20 yards almost sneaking through only for Paul Benning's outstretched foot to spoil his day.

With 15 minutes on the clock Borough should have opened the scoring. Rosegreen broke through to the edge of

the six yard box but seemed to hook his shot across the face of the goal giving Tony Simpson an impossible task as he vainly raced in at the far post.

The visitors were hemmed into their own half just before the break and paid for some sloppy marking when Mick Shearer's centre found Peter Green.

He climbed above the defence to head past Russell Meara only for the shot to cannon off the crossbar to the waiting Simpson who gleefully stabbed the ball home from six yards.

Aylesbury refused to lie down and took the game to Borough, with Dirk and Matt Haywood both forcing Attwood to make saves but with 12 minutes to go to half-time Borough were caught.

A good move down the right wing to Cliff Hercules saw the centre forward elude two defenders before passing to Bashir who made no mistake.

Blues were forced to hang on and the position did not improve with the restart as the visitors made a storming assault on the Borough goal.

Hercules earned his shared man of the match award with a powerful performance and should have been rewarded with a goal but Attwood had

a charmed life and kept Borough in with a chance.

Then, with 25 minutes to go, Borough's tenacious rearguard broke out against the run of play to win a corner kick which Rosegreen snapped up for his eighth success of the season, the former VS Rugby frontman turning smartly to fire low into the net from eight yards.

Aylesbury showed great character as they pressed home, looking for the equaliser which came after a fatal lapse in concentration by Borough which allowed Stacey to go all the way before slipping the ball past Attwood.

Borough tired to get back but a combination of bad luck and some extraordinary refereeing decisions consigned the tie to a further 90 minutes.

Aylesbury United — 3rd Qualifying Round

Borough travelled to Buckingham Road to play Aylesbury United in a FA Trophy 3rd Qualifying Round replay.

Borough: Attwood, Wade, Byrne, Keogh, Tarry, Symonds, Simpson, Bradder, Green, Rosegreen, Shearer. Subs: Hadley, London.

Determination and character came through in a battling Borough display. There was no room for the faint-hearted as both sides gave everything.

But for more than 60 minutes it looked as though Cliff Hercules' eighth minute shock opening goal would be enough to see the Ducks through.

Borough were in no mood to lay down and die and in an extraordinary second half display they turned the tables, Mark Rosegreen's 62nd minute goal providing the spur for Peter Green's winner 16 minutes from full-time.

It was surprising that players did not suffer serious injury in the highly competitive struggle as both sides strove to gain the upper hand.

Borough went close five minutes from the start as Chris Keogh raced through the middle to get in a powerful header which flew inches wide of the post.

But any thoughts of a quick Borough



Tony Simpson tries his luck from 15 yards but his effort strikes keeper Russell Meara and rebounds to safety.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

lead were wiped out three minutes later with Hercules' powerful finish as he capitalised on Attwood's punched clearance.

The big striker drew cheers from all sides with a superb effort, turning two defenders before unleashing a powerful right-foot drive which just cleared the crossbar.

The game flowed back and forth with neither side looking capable of snatching the advantage. One exception came in the 24th minute when Matt Tarry's close range header was cleared off the goal line.

Lively winger Bashir, already with one success against Borough, went close to providing the Ducks' second. Leaving Richard Wade for dead he passed inside for Keith Dirke to hammer a shot which Attwood somehow blocked as it looked destined for the back of the net.

Borough came out for the restart with their sleeves rolled up. It was a time for someone to take the game by the scruff of the neck and that man was captain Gary Bradder who made his presence felt with an inspiring display.

Every ball was contested as Borough rocked the home side back on their heels and as the game wore on their slim lead started to look very shaky.

Hercules tried a 56th minute effort which Attwood did well to deflect over the cross bar but the miss was punished minutes later as Rosegreen struck.

John Symonds' corner kick was headed down by Bradder into a crowded goalmouth for the number 10 to pounce on a half hit clearance and finish off from six yards.

Aylesbury stretched themselves to get back and Hercules was teeing up a shot only for Richard Wade to make a last gasp tackle.

The pressure proved to be too much for the usually cool Paul Benning whose back header cleared keeper Russell Mears giving Green a gift as he slammed the ball into the roof of the net.

Cheltenham Town — 1st Round Proper

Borough made the journey to Whaddon Road to play Cheltenham Town in a FA Trophy 1st Round tie.

Cheltenham: Thomas, Cooper, Jones, Tucker, N. Smith, Brown, Howells, Owen, D. Smith, Eaton, Warren, Subs: Mortimore, Wring.

Borough: Attwood, Byrne, McGrory (Wade 28 (Hadley 57)), Rodwell, Tarry, Symonds, Simpson, Bradder, Green, Rosegreen, Shearer.

Lady luck was against Borough as they bowed out of the FA Trophy. It could have been so different as Borough outplayed the home side but unfortunately Robins' keeper Martin Thomas was in sparkling form, making a number of saves to spoil their day.

Nobody among the 1,118 crowd could say they did not get their money's worth as the action flowed back and forth with Borough having the better of the opening 20 minutes.

Gary Bradder's passing game was superb, as he quickly found his range, forcing Steve Owen to head off the goal line and seconds later giving Symonds a chance but his header was off target.

Shortly afterwards centre-forward Jimmy Smith was perfectly poised to open Robins' account as Christer Warren headed the ball into his path but he could only slam his shot over the bar.

Stuart Hadley, making only his second full appearance for Borough, showed his speed when he made a 25-yard run to the edge of the Robins' area only

for a defender to make the tackle for Thomas to smother the deflection.

The hosts had to do something to break Borough's tightening grip on the game and a good move saw Smith hit a shot past the diving Richard Attwood, the ball just going wide of the right post.

Smith was a constant threat and a fine ball into the centre found Lee Howells who headed wide from 10 yards but the number nine forced the best save of the tie when Attwood pushed his close range effort round the post.

But the resulting corner kick, 12 minutes from the interval proved costly for Borough as Steve Jones won the aerial duel with Attwood to head into the net.

Green went close to an equaliser as he headed goalwards, but Neil Smith raced back to clear.

Borough bombarded the Robins' goal but a tremendous header by Matt Tarry, quickly followed by a shot from Bradder and Jim Rodwell's superb headed effort were not enough.

Borough kept up the pressure after the break with Hadley teeing up a shot for Bradder from 25 yards, however, a miscued header by Ridding gave Andy Tucker a sight of goal, but his chip was inches over the crossbar.

Tarry saved Borough with a tenacious tackle on Warren before Borough hit back through Tony Simpson whose pass found Gary Bradder who chipped to the far post for Green, who headed inches wide.



Gary Bradder sees his stinging free-kick fly towards the net but keeper Martin Thomas produced a super finger-tip save.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



Southern League Premier Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1993-94

Nuneaton Scores First

| Date | Opposition | Venue | Competition | Score | Scorers | Attendance |
|-------|-----------------------|-------|-------------|-------|---|------------|
| 07.27 | Stourport Swifts | A | PSF | 6-0 | Culpin (3), Green (2), Bullock | |
| 07.31 | Stapenhill | A | PSF | 4-2 | Culpin (2), Whetton, Shearer | |
| 08.07 | Derby County | H | PSF | 1-3 | Bullock | |
| 08.07 | Hinckley Athletic | A | PSF | 2-1 | Bullock, Shearer | |
| 08.10 | Coventry City | H | PSF | 0-2 | | |
| 08.14 | Stafford Rangers | H | PSF | 1-2 | Bullock (pen) | |
| 08.21 | Crawley Town | A | L | 0-1 | | 763 |
| 08.24 | Solihull Borough | H | L | 0-3 | | 1240 |
| 08.28 | Cheltenham Town | H | L | 2-1 | Cottrill, Culpin | 1212 |
| 08.30 | Burton Albion | A | L | 1-6 | Green | 1078 |
| 09.04 | Waterlooville | H | L | 3-0 | Bullock, Simpson, Green | 1112 |
| 09.06 | Worcester City | A | L | 1-0 | Bullock | 1261 |
| 09.11 | Winterton Rangers | A | FAC1Q | 7-1 | Simpson (3), Rosegreen (2), Bullock, Culpin | 305 |
| 09.18 | Trowbridge Town | H | L | 2-0 | Rosegreen (2) | 1064 |
| 09.25 | West Midlands Police | H | FAC2Q | 3-3 | Bullock (2), Simpson | 1073 |
| 09.27 | West Midlands Police | A | FAC2Qr | 3-0 | Symonds, Bullock (pen), Culpin | 301 |
| 10.02 | Halesowen Town | A | L | 1-3 | Bullock | 1041 |
| 10.05 | Solihull Borough | H | DMC1R1L | 4-1 | Green 3, Simpson | 629 |
| 10.09 | Worksop Town | H | FAC3Q | 4-1 | Bullock (2), Culpin | 1382 |
| 10.16 | Hednesford Town | A | DMC2 | 1-4 | Culpin | 729 |
| 10.20 | Solihull Borough | A | DMC1R2L | 2-1 | Bullock, Rosegreen | 155 |
| 10.23 | Stevenage Borough | A | FAC4Q | 2-1 | Bullock, Rosegreen | 2187 |
| 10.27 | Solihull Borough | A | L | 0-1 | | 403 |
| 10.30 | Hastings Town | A | L | 3-2 | Culpin (2, 1 pen), Rosegreen | 420 |
| 11.06 | Farnborough Town | H | L | 2-1 | Simpson, Green | 1140 |
| 11.08 | Hednesford Town | A | DMC2 | 1-1 | Green | 547 |
| 11.13 | Swansea City | A | FAC1 | 1-1 | Shearer | 3532 |
| 11.16 | Sutton Coldfield Town | H | BSC2 | 2-1 | Tarry, Green | 721 |
| 11.20 | Chelmsford City | H | L | 1-1 | Green | 1195 |
| 11.23 | Swansea City | H | FAC1r | 2-1 | Simpson (2) | 4443 |
| 11.27 | Aylesbury United | H | FAT3Q | 2-2 | Simpson, Rosegreen | 1375 |
| 11.30 | Aylesbury United | A | FAT3Qr | 2-1 | Rosegreen, Green | 537 |
| 12.04 | A.F.C.Bournemouth | A | FAC2 | 1-1 | Green | 7000 |
| 12.07 | Hednesford Town | H | DMC2r | 1-3 | Simpson | 643 |
| 12.11 | Crawley Town | H | L | 2-1 | Rosegreen, Culpin | 1083 |
| 12.15 | A.F.C.Bournemouth | H | FAC2r | 0-1 | | 4138 |
| 12.18 | Cheltenham Town | A | L | 0-1 | | 863 |
| 01.01 | Cambridge City | H | L | 0-1 | | 1408 |
| 01.08 | Sittingbourne | H | L | 2-1 | Green, Symonds | 1338 |
| 01.11 | Tamworth | H | BSC3 | 2-0 | Rosegreen, Shearer | 818 |
| 01.15 | Hednesford Town | H | L | 0-0 | | 1281 |
| 01.22 | Cheltenham Town | A | FAT1 | 0-1 | | 1118 |
| 01.29 | Farnborough Town | A | L | 2-1 | Rodwell, S. Hadley | 578 |
| 02.01 | Burton Albion | H | L | 1-2 | Akeredolu | 1081 |
| 02.05 | Worcester City | H | L | 1-1 | Akeredolu | 1153 |
| 02.08 | Moor Green | A | BSCQF | 1-6 | Simpson | 347 |
| 02.12 | Waterlooville | A | L | 2-3 | Burns (o.g.), Simpson | 305 |
| 02.19 | Chelmsford City | A | L | 1-1 | Simpson | 635 |
| 03.02 | Atherstone United | A | L | 0-1 | | 1145 |
| 03.05 | Hastings Town | H | L | 0-2 | | 909 |
| 03.08 | Bashley | A | L | 0-1 | | 234 |
| 03.12 | Dorchester Town | A | L | 0-1 | | 607 |
| 03.16 | Corby Town | A | L | 0-1 | | 311 |

Southern League Premier Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1993-94

Nuneaton Scores First

| Date | Opposition | Venue | Competition | Score | Scorers | Attendance |
|-------|-------------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------------------|------------|
| 03.19 | Trowbridge Town | A | L | 0-0 | | 373 |
| 03.22 | Gloucester City | H | L | 1-3 | Culpin | 813 |
| 03.26 | Halesowen Town | H | L | 1-1 | Culpin | 951 |
| 04.02 | Atherstone United | H | L | 0-1 | | 1365 |
| 04.09 | Gresley Rovers | H | L | 2-3 | Culpin, Percival | 919 |
| 04.12 | Dorchester Town | H | L | 0-2 | | 691 |
| 04.16 | Sittingbourne | A | L | 2-2 | Rosegreen, Percival | 755 |
| 04.19 | Moor Green | H | L | 1-0 | Culpin | 769 |
| 04.21 | Cambridge City | A | L | 0-3 | | 222 |
| 04.23 | Corby Town | H | L | 2-1 | Percival, Carmichael | 902 |
| 04.27 | Gresley Rovers | A | L | 3-5 | Percival (2), Rosegreen | 946 |
| 04.30 | Moor Green | A | L | 0-1 | | 483 |
| 05.04 | Bashley | H | L | 1-1 | Rosegreen | 416 |
| 05.07 | Gloucester City | A | L | 1-2 | Rosegreen | 728 |

Key: L=Beazer Homes Southern League (Premier), FAC = F.A.Cup, FAT = F.A.Trophy, DMC = Doc Martens Cup, BSC = Birmingham Senior Cup



Nuneaton Borough 1993-94

Back Row (left to right): John Barton (Manager), John Ridding, David Hadley, Alan Byrne, Garry Bradder (Club Captain), Mark Rosegreen, Peter Manuel, Richard Attwood, Peter Green, Mick Shearer, Andy Cunningham (Physio).

Front Row (left to right): Shaun McGrory, Chris Keogh, Dave Whetton, Paul Culpin, Darren Bullock, Richard Wade, John Symonds, Tony Simpson, Peter Eastoe (Coach).



Culpin To Move On

An era has come to an end with the news that record breaking goalscorer Paul Culpin is to leave Manor Park. Fans' favourite "Cully" who has scored more than 200 league and cup goals in two stints at Manor Park, will be starting the new season at Leicestershire Senior League club Oadby Town.

VPs Threaten To Resign

Struggling Nuneaton Borough face being thrown into turmoil just weeks before the new season starts as the club faces the mass resignation of all their vice-presidents. A cash row has erupted between the 25 VPs and the football team's chairman Howard Kerry.

The group are furious because their annual fees have been nearly doubled and they have been accused of not bringing enough money into the club – which is about to begin a campaign to climb back into the Beazer Homes Premier Division after last season's relegation. The row began after the senior club members were told their annual subscription fee for next year was rising from £125 to £200. At the same time a letter from Howard Kerry, allegedly criticising the VPs, also caused uproar.

Vice president Mick Gilbert said: "Feelings are running very high. It is ridiculous putting up the fees when the side has just been relegated. It doesn't cost as much to do the same at Coventry City where you have got a Premiership side and an all-seater stadium."

Plummer Signs

Nuneaton Borough boss, Elwyn Roberts, went back home to clinch his latest signing as Corby Town striker Calvin Plummer became the club's newest capture. Thirty-one-year-old Plummer put pen to paper last night and is the first of three new signings expected in the next few days. Plummer notched 27 goals for the Northamptonshire club last season.

Bradder Joins Hinckley Town

Hinckley Town have signed Nuneaton Borough skipper Gary Bradder for a "substantial figure". Eagles manager Dave Grundy broke his silence and revealed the talented midfielder is Town-bound.

Season 1994-95

Nuneaton Borough v Notts County 18-07-1994

Borough: Belford, Green, Tarry, Masefield, Rodwell, Davies, Wolsey, Talbot, Houghton, Archer, Keogh.

Borough welcomed Notts County to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly game.

Spot the player was the name of the game as Borough took on the youngsters of Notts County. It was easy for the 500-plus supporters to pick out Borough regulars Matt Tarry and Jim Rodwell and Jason Percival, who joined from Exeter late

last season, but then speculation took over. Many watching would have recognised Graeme Archer from Corby, who was a thorn in Borough's side at the Rockingham Triangle last term, Paul Masefield, who had a spell at Manor Park when Les Green was in charge and former Hinckley Town keeper Dennis Burke who came on for Dale Belford, who has also been on Borough's books in the past.

Borough went in front in the 52nd minute when a goalmouth scramble resulted in Jim Rodwell getting a touch which the keeper turned into the net. But with 15 minutes left to play the exuberant County boys forced the equaliser as Ian Pawley stroked the ball home.

Borough boss, Elwyn Roberts, said the 1-1 final scoreline was purely academic at this stage. "It was a good run-out for the lads and gave me an opportunity to look at players. There were quite a few new faces, and as much as I would like to see them at Manor Park, at the end of the day the club probably cannot afford them. I was pleased with new lads Mark Wolsey and Glynn Davies who showed great potential in midfield and Dave Bennett. He came through well after putting in some hard work in the close season to recover from injury."

A question mark still hangs over the future of Ian Cottrill who has been rumoured to have been training at Worcester City and was conspicuous by his absence last night. Cottrill is said to be keen on a move to Worcester, but the clubs cannot agree on a fee.

Nuneaton Borough v Kettering Town 23-07-1994

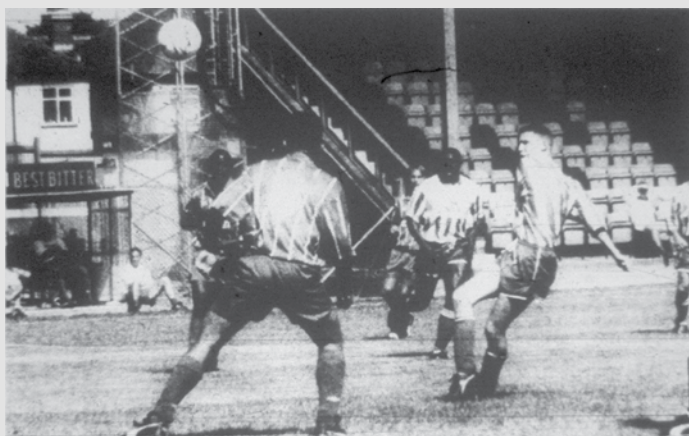
Borough: Belford, Green, Tarry, Keogh, Rodwell, Wolsey, Hart, Masefield, Percival, Plummer, Archer.

Borough welcomed Kettering Town to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly game.

Borough celebrated a 2-0 victory against the non-league high flyers. With 31 minutes on the clock a deft shot from Stoke City defender Anthony Green cleared the stranded keeper to strike the inside of the post before finding the net. Continued pressure was rewarded a minute before half-time as last season's reserve team stalwart David Hart volleyed home from 20 yards.

There were noticeable changes from Monday's game against Notts County, especially up front, where new signing Calvin Plummer impressed on his debut. The former Corby Town striker added strength in depth and was not slow in chasing back to provide vital cover.

Elwyn Roberts, still in the throes of building the team, and the new season less than a month away, said he was delighted with the performance. "Despite several players being unavailable it was a good workout for us. Chris Keogh did well and Jim Rodwell insisted on playing in spite of having spent a day in hospital last week for treatment to chest muscles."



David Hart gives the Poppies no chance with a screamer from outside the penalty area.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Pershore Town v Nuneaton Borough 04-08-1994

Borough: Belford, Wade, Crane, Masefield, Davies, Keogh, Wolsey, Hart, Percival, Plummer, Archer.

Borough travelled to the King George V Playing Field to play Pershore Town in a pre-season friendly game.

Borough were head and shoulders in class above their Midland Alliance opponents and it was only the inspired goalkeeping of Mark Davidson that kept the sides level at half-time. But six minutes after the break the pressure proved too much for the West Midland League side as Mark Wolsey struck and from then on it was one-way traffic as Borough ran rampant.

With 20 minutes to go to the final whistle Jason Percival made it two for the visitors with David Hart out of luck three minutes later when his goal was ruled offside. Borough were comfortably in control and delighting their 100 plus travelling supporters with some attractive football when new boy Graeme Archer settled the issue with a superb 20 yard drive, giving Davidson no chance.

Manager Elwyn Roberts must have had itchy feet, because with just a few minutes remaining he brought himself on. Shaun Diver, who has been much in evidence in recent games, stood in briefly for Percival in the first half with Peter Manuel covering for Dale Belford.

Hinckley Athletic v Nuneaton Borough 06-08-1994

Borough: Belford, Green, Crane, Masefield, Tarry, Davies, Wolsey, Houghton, Greenwood, Plummer, Archer.

Borough travelled to Middlefield Lane to play Hinckley Athletic in a pre-season friendly.

Honours were even as Borough clawed their way back from 2-0 down to earn a 2-2 draw. It was a match that both managers were satisfied with as Robins began brightly, but as the game wore on the Borough began to take a grip on proceedings but suffered through a combination of wasteful finishing and some inspired goalkeeping.

The home side's early promise was rewarded on 18 minutes when Glyn Davies under-hit a back pass and the predatory Mark Hodgkins anticipated well to nip in ahead of keeper Dale Belford to open the scoring. Just before the interval Shevlin was beaten but Shaun Diver's shot came back off a post while early in the second period Dean Grassby upended Jason Percival in the box but Calvin Plummer's penalty was saved by substitute keeper Mark Ullah, diving to his right.

Nuneaton were to reflect on that miss just five minutes later as Hinckley went two up when Darren Dickson ran onto Hodgkins' reversed pass and fired home from an acute angle. Borough pulled a goal back on the 65th minute courtesy of a bizarre incident involving a lack of communication in the home defence. Shaun Diver nipping in between the defenders to walk the ball into an empty net.

The Robins had not yet weathered the storm, with five

Cottrill Joins Worcester

Nuneaton Borough midfielder stalwart Ian Cottrill has signed for Worcester City for an undisclosed fee, ending weeks of speculation about his future at Manor Park.

Archer Joins Borough

Elwyn Roberts has looked to proven talent by signing Corby Town winger Graeme Archer. It is the second time in a month that Roberts has returned to his former club after luring Calvin Plummer to Manor Park.

Masefield Signs

Nuneaton Borough have secured the signature of former Football League midfielder Paul Masefield. The 23-year-old was released by Preston North End at the end of last season and had been a major target for Borough boss, Elwyn Roberts.

Bolehall Swifts v Nuneaton Borough 28-07-1994

Borough: Belford, Hillier, Crane, Masefield, Tarry, Rodwell, Wolsey, Greenwood, Diver, Plummer, Archer.

Borough travelled to the Rene Road Ground to play Bolehall Swifts in a pre-season friendly game.

In front of 115 spectators, most of them from Nuneaton, Borough dominated the play and went in front in the 38th minute following a 25 yard screamer from Calvin Plummer – his first goal in a Borough shirt. Four minutes later and Borough went further into the lead as Shaun Diver finished off a good move with a tap in from close range.

But the Swifts were far from finished and pulled one back in the 60th minute before drawing level from the penalty spot with 18 minutes remaining. Then, with eight minutes to go to full-time, new boy Mark Wolsey picked up a loose ball in midfield, leaving the Swifts defenders in his wake before calmly slotting the ball home.

"It was a good work out for us," said Roberts, who added: "once again there were a few new faces on the park and we made a lot of changes during the game."

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



minutes left Jim Rodwell's blockbuster of a shot was beaten away by Ullah but the inevitable equaliser arrived a minute later when Diver cut the ball back to his former Corby team mate Archer on the edge of the box and he drilled his shot home off the bar.

Stewarts & Lloyds v Nuneaton Borough 08-08-1994

Borough: Belford, Davies, Tarry, Masefield, Crane, Keogh, Wolsey, Archer, Percival, Diver, Hart.

Borough travelled to Occupation Road to play Stewarts & Lloyds in a pre-season friendly game.

It took Borough 27 minutes to make the breakthrough against their United Counties League opponents, Percival bursting through to slot the ball into the net after his initial effort had rebounded off the keeper. Ninety seconds prior to the break Stewart and Lloyds fell further in arrears, Plummer forcing his close range drive into the net after neat approach play.

Any hopes the home side had of getting back into contention were finally vanquished within a minute of the second half getting underway, Diver rifling an angled shot past the keeper, who had parried the striker's first effort.

The best goal of the friendly proved to be the final one after 82 minutes. Diver pivoted smartly to deceive a defender and then hammered a low cross shot into the net.

Barwell v Nuneaton Borough 13-08-1994

Borough: Belford, Trotter, Crane, Masefield, Rodwell, Davies, Wolsey, Hart, Plummer, Diver, Archer.

Borough travelled to Kirkby Road to play Barwell in a pre-season friendly game.

Borough's final friendly ended in disappointment as they went down 3-2. Two goals from Leonard and one from Lucas decided the issue in the home side's favour with well-taken efforts from Graeme Archer and in the closing seconds, Jason Percival, making the final score more respectable for unimpressive Borough.

Defensively, the Manor Park side looked ill-at-ease throughout although going forward they showed signs that things are beginning to progress.

Roberts said: "The score was not important, this game gave me the opportunity to try out one or two players."

Ilkeston Town v Nuneaton Borough 20-08-1994

Ilkeston: Rigby, Campbell, Morris, Fletcher, Igoe, Bailey, Duffy, Humphreys, Kay, M. Harbottle, Thompson. Subs: Miles, Taylor.
Borough: Belford, Davies, Crane, Masefield, Trotter, Keogh, Hart, Archer, Percival, Plummer, Wolsey. Subs: Roberts, Rodwell.

Borough travelled to the New Manor Ground to play Ilkeston Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Ilkeston could have gone ahead inside 90 seconds when the uneasy Dale Belford mishandled a Duffy shot that trickled

through the keeper's fingers and on to the post before being cleared. However, Borough failed to take advantage of the let-off and after five minutes the Derbyshire outfit took the initiative from the penalty spot with Belford's uncertainty being punished this time as he mispunched a centre straight to Thompson, whose cross was handled by Adrian Crane and Harbottle made no mistake from the spot.

Borough's loyal travelling fans were in for another shock seven minutes later as Ilkeston extended their advantage when Harbottle coolly lobbed into the net past Belford from 15 yards after the ball had twice been scrambled off the line following a Campbell free-kick. Wolsey and Graeme Archer both had efforts go close as Borough strived to lift their game but after 40 minutes, the points were virtually sealed for Town as they extended their lead to 3-0. Again it was down to poor defending when Harbottle was given time and space to get in a shot that clattered against the woodwork, the rebound falling to Duffy whose pinpoint centre was headed home by Humphreys.

The goal stung Borough into more positive action and with the half in its dying throes they cut the deficit with Wolsey bursting through the left side of the area to drill a low cross shot beyond keeper Alan Rigby and into the net.

Borough could easily have conceded a fourth goal within seconds of the second half as Duffy's stinging shot was superbly tipped away by Belford. There was no doubting that the visitors were showing more commitment to the cause with Paul Masefield and Jason Percival striving to make things happen. But it was Town who struck what was ultimately the killer blow with 15 minutes to go as Duffy found himself unmarked to chip perfectly over Belford and into an unguarded net.

To their credit, Borough kept working away in search of a miracle that never seemed likely to happen, although they did reduce the arrears late on as Calvin Plummer planted a low angled effort wide of Rigby.

Nuneaton Borough v Stourbridge 23-08-1994

Borough: Belford, Davies, Tarry, Masefield, Rodwell, Keogh, Harris, Archer, Percival, Plummer, Wolsey. Subs: Crane, Diver.
Stourbridge: Taylor, Gardiner, Cooper, Gordon, Madeley (Haughton 45), Lowe, Marsh, Goodall, Hall, Clarke, Henley (Vaughan 67).

Borough welcomed Stourbridge to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Expectations were high from the 855 strong partisan supporters who lined the sunlit terraces for Borough's opening game of the season. And they did not have long to wait as Percival pounced on Graeme Archer's fifth minute corner kick to stab the ball home from close range. Shell-shocked Stourbridge still suffering from their 3-0 thrashing at Moor Green, forced a corner in the 11th minute but Dale Belford was untroubled as Colin Gordon skied his shot high over the crossbar.

Four minutes later Borough went two up as Plummer's superb near-post header from Percival's pass eluded keeper James Taylor's despairing dive. From then on it was virtually one-way traffic and looked a matter of time before Borough added to the scoreline. Plummer almost snatched a second on the half-hour as his header flew inches over the bar and Paul Masefield missed the mark by inches as he drilled the ball past Taylor. Then 13 minutes before half-time, Stourbridge were plunged further into the mire as Percival met Glyn Davies' centre, sending Taylor the wrong way with a well-judged header.



Calvin Plummer superbly heads home Borough's second goal.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Stourbridge resumed in determined mood, desperately trying to make an impression on Borough's defence but with little effect. With a three goal advantage Borough lost their first-half impetus and allowed the visitors to claw their way back into the game. A better organised side would have punished Borough's lax attitude but Stourbridge were reduced to relying on opportunist efforts. Belford gathered Gordon's header 22 minutes from full-time but Warren Haughton deserved better as he volleyed over the bar from 15 yards.

Borough shook off that fleeting scare and moved up a gear in the dying minutes, Plummer almost snatching his second with a cheeky back-heel and Mark Wolsey mistiming a low shot past Taylor after pouncing on a poor clearance.

Buckingham Town v Nuneaton Borough 29-08-1994

Borough: Belford, Davies, Tarry, Masefield, Rodwell, Keogh, Harris, Archer, Percival, Plummer, Wolsey.

Borough travelled to Ford Meadow to play Buckingham Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough could not have got off to a worse start, conceding two goals in ten minutes. With maximum points from their two opening league games the Robins hit Borough from the opening whistle as troublesome trio Cliff Cousins, Kevin Wheeler and Danny Nichols, ripped through the defence. Borough won a brief respite as Paul Masefield's effort looped over the crossbar but with five minutes on the clock Nuneaton were rocked with a 'sucker' goal. A searching free-kick left Dale Belford flailing blindly and as the ball ran, Chris Keogh collided with the menacing Wheeler, giving Nicholls a simple tap-in.

The appalling and well-named Ford Meadow, a minefield of bumps and hollows mocked Borough's efforts to play a passing game as Buckingham reinforced their grip with the second goal. Jim Rodwell's desperate lunge against the charging Wheeler in the tenth minute was immediately punished by referee Brockwell for Nicholls to convert from the spot. Watching supporters could hardly believe what was happening. It seemed like Ilkeston all over again as Borough struggled to weather the storm, making occasional forays into their opponents' half.

Nuneaton were lucky not to go further behind as the unmarked Wheeler headed inches wide with Belford glued to his line and Cousins mis-hit a volley from eight yards. Borough's efforts were confined to Graeme Archer who lost the initiative as he tried to turn inside only to run into a red wall and Rodwell, going close with a header on the stroke of half-time.

Borough's battling qualities, seemingly buried in the first-half came alive on the restart. Stung into action by Paul Covington's near miss, they forced the Robins back, drawing a roar from supporters as a defender looked to have handled a close range shot from Jason Percival. Unfortunately the referee thought otherwise but there was no doubt about Plummer's 53rd minute strike as he outjumped the defence to find the net. Belford went a long way to redeeming his first-half nightmare as he stopped a powerful drive by Wheeler.

But Borough should have capitalised with two clear-cut chances from Plummer and Archer in the 61st and 63rd minutes but the finishing left a lot to be desired as both efforts cleared the crossbar. Borough's desperation to find the equaliser increased as the game slipped away.

Everything was thrown into attack but at times there seemed to be more red shirts than blue and white. The visitors almost forced a point with 17 minutes to go as Plummer unsettled Warnecki with Archer lurking and Plummer again, agonisingly close with a looping header from Andy Harris' free-kick. Buckingham should have made it three in the 87th minute as Cousins, lurking on the far post, unbelievably blasted an inch-perfect pass from Wheeler over the crossbar.

Belford Breaks Wrist

Borough could be without a first-choice goalkeeper for up to seven weeks after it was revealed that Dale Belford has a broken wrist. Belford, who moved to Manor Park from Sutton Coldfield in the close season, suffered the injury in the first minute of the league game against Buckingham Town.

Nuneaton Borough v Redditch United 03-09-1994

Borough: Manuel, Davies, Tarry (Crane 55), Masefield, Rodwell, Keogh, Harris, Bennett (Diver 83), Percival, Plummer, Wolsey.

Borough welcomed Redditch United to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough got off to a confident start with two quick corner kicks. The second effort was cleared to Jim Rodwell who

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



miscued his shot. The Reds, without the talented Michael Warner, hit back through Delroy Amory and Carl Tymon but defender Glyn Davies proved to be up to the challenge as he confidently cut out the danger. Livewire Jason Percival gave the defence something to think about as he ran onto Dave Bennett's through ball, cleverly evading two challenges before hitting a 20 yard shot inches over the bar.

With constant Borough pressure something had to give and it was with tremendous relief from the 800-plus supporters when Chris Keogh supplied the answer in the 25th minute. Arnold was slow to respond to Masefield's corner kick as the tall defender picked his spot with a well-timed header. Things were looking good as Borough comfortably cruised towards the break but, with six minutes to go, the team was reduced to ten men when Masefield received his second booking for a foul on Ian Atkins and was ordered from the field.

Borough refused to buckle and could have gone two in front as Mark Wolsey's low, skidding shot bounced out of Arnold's grasp only for Darren Williams to cover as Wolsey closed in. Right on the stroke of half-time Redditch were lucky not to lose a player when Shaun O'Meara deliberately handled the ball.

Borough could have scored in the 47th minute as Rodwell climbed above the defence only to head the ball against the left-hand post from Andy Harris' superb corner kick. Minutes later Adrian Crane came on for the visibly limping Matt Tarry. In spite of some stern resistance it was obvious that ten man Borough were struggling and Redditch took the initiative in the 58th minute as Delroy Amory got his head to Mick Burton's return, after the Borough defence failed to clear a corner.

Striker Jason Withe, looking to emulate his famous father, Peter, forced Manuel into making a diving save with a left foot drive from the edge of the area. His disappointment was soon forgotten, however, with eight minutes left to play, as Wolsey was judged to have handled in the penalty area and Withe made no mistake from the spot. That proved to be enough for Redditch to clinch the points.

Newport AFC v Nuneaton Borough 07-09-1994

Newport: Roberts, Lewis (Evans 80), Spencer, Coyne, Cole, John, Porretta, Tucker, Jones, Williams, Vaughan. Subs: Pengelly, Knott.

Borough: Manuel, Davies, Crane, Masefield, Rodwell, Keogh, Harris (Bennett 80), Archer, Percival, Plummer, Wolsey. Subs: Diver, Wade.

Borough travelled to Newport AFC to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Newport were first to show and on eight minutes Mark Tucker went on a fine run down the left but his cross was cleared by Chris Keogh. A minute later home skipper Linden Jones saw his 20 yard shot skim the top of the crossbar. Jones, however, did not have long to wait before he put Newport into the lead after 12 minutes when he shot powerfully home from close range following good work by fellow striker Ceri Williams. Soon after the home side had strong claims for a penalty turned down when Jones was fouled by Keogh.

Borough came back strongly and in the 32nd minute, stunned the home crowd with an equaliser. A free-kick on the left was floated over by Ade Crane for Calvin Plummer to knock down to the waiting Mark Wolsey whose deflected shot nestled into the corner of the net.

This gave Borough's confidence a big boost as they started to take control of the game and, with four minutes before half-time they took the lead. Fine individual work by Jason Percival set himself up for a powerful shot that was well saved John Roberts. From the resulting Paul Masefield corner, Percival rose unchallenged to head firmly into the roof of the goal.

The second period kicked off in driving rain with both sides continuing to play some delightful football. The first chance in the 54th minute fell to the Exiles when a pinpoint Williams cross was headed just over by John Lewis. Three minutes later Peter Manuel rescued Borough with a fine double save from a Jones header. But it was the Borough custodian who was at fault a minute later when Newport equalised. Nigel Vaughan's speculative 25-yarder evading keeper Manuel when he should have done better.

Borough still kept on playing their part in an end-to-end game and in the 63rd minute nearly regained the lead when Masefield saw his 20-yard free-kick skid just past the post. Then came Newport's turn as Mark Spencer shot over the bar from a poor Jim Rodwell clearance and Darren Porretta blazed over the top from six yards after good work from Lewis. Back came Borough again when Percival's fine cross just evaded the diving Wolsey. With only 15 minutes remaining, Porretta broke clear on the left and his low centre shot skidded across the open goal with no body there for the final touch.

The 80th minute saw Andy Harris limp off with an ankle injury and he was replaced by the former Coventry City ace, Dave Bennett. The final minutes passed with both sides vying with each other to gain the upper hand but it was Borough who clearly had the final say deep into injury time. Masefield picked up a loose ball in midfield and he unleashed a 25-yard blockbuster that seemed destined for the goal only for Roberts to brilliantly turn the ball away for a fruitless corner.

King's Lynn v Nuneaton Borough 24-09-1994

King's Lynn: Lewis, Sullivan, Curtis, Bloodworth, Watts, Clarke, Bryant, Stanhope, Edey, Riley, Russell. Subs: Hipwell, Setchell.

Borough: Manuel, Davies, Tarry, Hart, Rodwell, Keogh, Harris, Archer, Percival, Plummer, Wolsey. Subs: Diver, Heywood.

Borough travelled to The Walks to play King's Lynn in a Southern League Midland Division game.

In a performance oozing with character Nuneaton pulled themselves back from the brink of defeat to deliver a devastating blow to their high-flying opponents. The first-half was a different story, however, as Nuneaton, who were aiming to build on a recent revival in their fortunes, were



forced to battle after Darren Edey put the Linnet's in front in the tenth minute. The goal overturned Nuneaton's early dominance and the home side began to look more and more menacing as successive attacks cut through the reeling defence.

Borough were confined to two half chances in the 22nd and 25th minutes, the first a free-kick by Percival was cut out by centre-half Chris Watts and the second, a snap shot by youngster David Hart, flew harmlessly over the crossbar. Two minutes later the impressive Andy Stanhope left the Borough defence in tatters as he broke through to set up Edey but his shot cannoned back off the bar from 10 yards. Missed chances were a prominent feature of the game and both teams could easily have had five or six goals each by the final whistle.

With the break looming, Percival looked certain to snatch the equaliser as he ran on to a through ball from Hart only to be overwhelmed in a bone-crunching sandwich as two defenders snuffed out the danger. But the diminutive front-man's disappointment was soon forgotten when three minutes into the second half Borough were awarded a corner kick.

Mark Wolsey's first effort was half cleared giving him a second bite for Percival to head home from six yards. Nuneaton's elation was deflated seven minutes later when Stanhope made Borough pay for lax marking as he hit a centre into the six yard box for Edey to bundle the ball over the line. The action was at fever pitch now as Nuneaton dug deep into their reserves of character to force a 58th minute corner. Mark Wolsey's powerful delivery was cleared by Stanhope straight to Plummer whose instinctive header flew through a ruck of players and into the net.

The jubilant supporters had barely enough time to draw breath before Borough found themselves in the lead. A defender panicked as Graeme Archer jinked his way into the area, flooring the winger with a push from behind for referee Ogilvie to point to the spot. Plummer must have had the coolest head in the stadium as he stepped up and calmly hit the ball low into the net causing keeper Steve Lewis to vent his frustration on the ball.

From that point it was Nuneaton all the way as the Linnet's lost much of their early composure, allowing the visitors to stamp their authority with a number of defence-splitting forays. But the troublesome Edey brought a gasp from the Borough fans with 20 minutes to go as he twisted and turned before unleashing a close range shot which Peter Manuel did well to smother.

With the seconds ticking away the home side desperately sought to snatch the points and Borough should have sewn it up with two chances from Hart and Archer but it was left to Percival to hammer the final nail in the Linnet's coffin. In a classic 90th minute finish he raced onto a long clearance, fittingly from Plummer, to blast his shot past Lewis, the ball rebounding like a rocket off the stanchion.

Nuneaton Borough v Darlaston 27-09-1994

Borough: Manuel, Wade, Tarry, Hart (Heywood 78), Rodwell, Diver, Harris, Archer, Percival, Plummer, Wolsey (Bennett 68).

Darlaston: J. Singh, H. Singh, Dowling, M. Patel, Chapman, Iqbal, I. Patel, Macdonald, Johnson, Humphries, Jeavons.

Borough welcomed Darlaston to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup first round tie.

Borough were rarely troubled as they cruised through to the next round against an indifferent Darlaston side. It was a pity that Borough could not have kept a clean sheet but the biggest problem they faced was maintaining concentration for 90 minutes. The 431 supporters who endured a sudden downpour of rain midway through the game must have been wondering when the floodgates would open for a Nuneaton goal spree.

Following some close calls with Shaun Diver hitting the angle from a yard out and Richard Wade firing inches wide from the edge of the area it was Diver who broke the deadlock in the 35th minute. Goalkeeper Jaziner Singh had little chance as Diver pounced on a miscued shot by Andy Harris before driving a shot low into the back of the net. Six minutes after the restart a superbly headed lay-off by the impressive Calvin Plummer found Diver but Darlaston escaped as his shot flew across the face of the goal inches wide of the far post.

As Borough queued up for shots, David Hart should have put them further in front with a sitter right in front of goal which Singh deflected. The feeling was that Borough were going to score again but it was 19 minutes from time before Plummer punished the floundering defence with a perfectly placed header which clipped the base of the post before going in.

It was Plummer's eighth goal in as many games. The Borough faithful will be hoping he can maintain such an impressive strike rate in the future. Four minutes later and it was all over for the visitors as Jim Rodwell curled a right foot shot past Singh's outstretched fingers and into the top right-hand corner.

Darlaston plucked a consolation goal out of the air in the 82nd minute as Brian Humphries, who looked suspiciously offside, calmly placed the ball past Peter Manuel. Plummer, for once, was off target as he fluffed a penalty kick three minutes from time, showing Singh too much of the ball.

Nuneaton Borough v Leicester United 01-10-1994

Borough: Manuel, Davies, Tarry, Hart, Rodwell, Keogh, Harris, Archer, Percival, Plummer, Wolsey. **Subs:** Bennett, Wade.

Leicester: Marsden, Jackson, Gibson (Lissaman 20), Glover, Adams, Lealy, Spencer (Neasham 30), Ross, Parker, O'Neill, Bond.

Borough welcomed Leicester United to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough, looking for their third victory in eight days, grabbed the early initiative with Graeme Archer firing a rising drive a foot over the top. They should have been ahead after 11 minutes when Calvin Plummer exchanged passes with

Jason Percival and burst clear into the box but the former Nottingham Forest striker slipped as he shot and Ian Marsden was able to divert the ball for a corner. Plummer then glanced a header inches wide and David Hart smashed a 20-yarder against the bar as Borough continued to call the tune.

But Leicester stunned the home side as they snatched a shock 26th minute lead. Jim Rodwell allowed Richard Parker to turn on the left hand side of the area and his cross found Jeff Lissaman who headed firmly past Peter Manuel. Despite the setback, Borough quickly reasserted their authority with the visitors once again forced to defend in depth.

Mark Wolsey was out of luck shortly after the break when his goalbound drive was deflected onto the roof of the net with Marsden struggling. Then Borough missed out on three opportunities in as many minutes to find the elusive equaliser. First, Percival was bundled over by Steve Jackson when he looked certain to score, but there was no penalty, and then Andy Harris thumped a shot against the foot of a post after a flowing four-man move.



Leicester keeper Ian Marsden attempts to punch clear as Borough's Jim Rodwell looks to get in a header. Photo: Heartland Evening News

United were still under heavy pressure and Wolsey put a free header over the top from six yards after Harris had set up the opportunity. It was all Borough and Plummer put another header inches wide before the equaliser they had been threatening arrived on 72 minutes. Wolsey swung in a corner from the left and Archer glanced home a near-post header, his first goal for the club. But Borough's joy and relief did not last long as just seven minutes later the visitors were again in front.

Steve Ross was not picked up from a short free-kick and he worked his way into the area before knocking a cross to the far post where Craig Adams was totally unmarked to head home from close range. However, within 60 seconds the terraces were celebrating again as Borough stormed back onto level terms. Archer made a superb run from around half way and his driven cross found Plummer who powered a downward header well beyond the reach of Marsden.

Borough still might have snatched a late winner but Percival's curling shot from the edge of the area swerved agonisingly the wrong side of the right-hand upright.

Nuneaton Borough v VS Rugby

04-10-1994

Borough: Manuel, Davies, Tarry, Masefield, Rodwell, Keogh, Harris, Archer, Percival, Plummer, Wolsey (Bennett 66). Subs: Diver, Wade.

VS Rugby: Batchelor, Young, McGinty, Statham, Olnor, Redgate, Wallace, Whetton, Martin, Crawley (Harriman 81), Weafer. Subs: Aston, Clay.

Borough welcomed Redditch United to Manor Park to play a Doc Martens Cup first round first leg tie.

Goalmouth action was at a premium in the opening stages with Paul Masefield back after suspension, testing keeper Batchelor from long range. But on 12 minutes it was the visitors who made the initial breakthrough as Wallace darted through a static home rearguard to round Peter Manuel and slot into an empty net. Borough responded and on 25 minutes were back on level terms when Andy Harris' corner was only half cleared by the Rugby defence straight to Plummer and he made no mistake with a blistering close range drive high into the rigging.

Jason Percival then saw a diving header bring out a fine save from Batchelor but deep into injury time at the end of the first half it was VS who regained the initiative. Wallace was felled inside the area by Jim Rodwell's rash tackle and the striker picked himself up to confidently beat Manuel from the resultant spot kick.

On the hour, Borough were again punished for some slack defending as Rodwell was again punished for an untimely challenge that sent Danny Martin toppling to the ground enabling Wallace to complete his three-timer by crashing the penalty well out of reach of Manuel. It looked doom and gloom for Borough as VS seemed to take a firm grip, however, against the run of play Borough cut the deficit on 70 minutes as Plummer's neat header paved the way for Archer to slot a low 15 yarder beyond Batchelor. It still looked as though the visitors would be taking a slender lead into the second leg as the tie entered its final throes, but the fightback was completed in the 93rd minute as battling Borough grabbed a deserved equaliser.

Masefield's slick through ball put Archer within sight of goal only for Gary Redgate to send the midfielder sprawling with a clumsy challenge that earned him a booking. Plummer stepped forward to hammer the penalty past Batchelor.

Sutton Coldfield Town v Nuneaton Borough 08-10-1994

Sutton: Parsons, Ling, Randall, Maulton, Richardson, Whitehouse, Richards, Chambers, McDonald, Hadland, Biddle. Subs: Morton, Wright.

Borough: Manuel, Davies, Tarry, Masefield, Rodwell, Keogh, Harris, Archer, Percival, Plummer, Bennett. Subs: Wade, Hart, Belford.

Borough travelled to Coles Lane to play King's Lynn in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough, who had Dave Bennett back in the side for the injured Mark Wolsey, could have found themselves behind just 30 seconds after the kick-off. The Nuneaton defence was caught flat-footed by a through ball from Micky Richards and



the travelling Borough fans breathed a sigh of relief when the referee turned down Sutton's appeals for a penalty after Manuel had appeared to bring down Marcus McDonald.

Richards then put a volley over the bar before Borough stunned the home side by snatching the lead from their first attack of note. Bennett started the move with a neat ball to Percival wide on the right and the striker's pace took him into the area before knocking in a far-post cross for Plummer to head home from close range.

There was an anxious moment for Borough when Andy Biddle set up an opening for Adam Whitehouse but Jim Rodwell blocked the shot and then Richards was way off target from the edge of the area. But Borough quickly regained their grip and were twice unfortunate not to extend their lead before the interval. Plummer was desperately unlucky when his bullet header from Matt Tarry's cross smacked against an upright and the striker sent his overhead kick flashing inches wide.

Sutton upped the pace at the start of the second period as they looked for an equaliser but they made little impression on a solid Borough rearguard. But it was a different story at the other end with The Royals again fortunate not to find themselves further behind. Plummer was again out of luck with a header that flew narrowly wide with John Parsons struggling to get across his line and then Paul Masefield should have done better with a close-range header after Graeme Archer had carved out the opportunity.

However, the inevitable second goal arrived in the 69th minute. Archer made the initial opening as he freed Plummer inside the area and Percival was ideally positioned to sweep home the low cross. Substitute Paul Morton pulled a shot across the face of the Nuneaton goal and Whitehouse was well off target as Sutton vainly looked for a way back. But Borough had no trouble protecting their lead and shortly before the end Percival might have made it three.

VS Rugby v Nuneaton Borough 19-10-1994

VS Rugby: Batchelor, Weafer (Harriman 80), McGinty, Statham, Olner, Smithers, Wallace, Whetton, Martin, Smith (Crawley 80), Redgate.

Borough: Manuel, Hillier, Tarry, Wolsey, Rodwell, Duffy, Harris, Archer (Diver 85), Percival, Plummer, Bennett. Sub: Crane.

Borough travelled to Butlin Road to play VS Rugby in a Southern League Midland Division game.

The game came alive in the 28th minute as Peter Manuel made a diving fingertip save from Gary Statham's close range header for Danny Martin to blast the deflection into the side netting. VS were heartened by this and Matt Wallace should have punished Borough as he broke free from the attentions of Matt Tarry and looked certain to go all the way but chose to go wide, giving the defence time to regroup.

The home side were marginally on top with ten minutes to go to the break but Borough suddenly regained their confidence. Good efforts from Graeme Archer, Jim Rodwell and super

skills from the impressive Dave Bennett could easily have given the visitors the lead.

That impetus took off after the break with Bennett, in his best performance to date, going within an ace of snatching the breakthrough only for Gary Redgate to produce a last gasp tackle. Jason Percival forced Paul Batchelor into giving away a corner from a searching header and linked with Andy Harris in forcing the hapless keeper into fumbling a centre as VS reeled under the blue and white onslaught. Percival was buzzing now as he hustled Batchelor on his line after Mark Wolsey and Calvin Plummer had ripped through the tottering defence.

Seconds later a relieved Batchelor denied Archer as his attempted lob dropped too close to the keeper. New boy Daryl Duffy was next. Charging in to meet Harris's free-kick only to see his header fly inches wide as the VS defence was caught cold. VS struggled to break back with Robert Smith turning well to hit a right foot shot which dipped wickedly as Manuel saved. Plummer went close to adding to his impressive tally with a header which just cleared the crossbar and Bennett deserved better as his low drive shot across the goalmouth.

It was left to Manuel to keep the scoreline blank with a superb acrobatic one handed save from Crawley's header from point blank range. In spite of going out of the competition Borough looked a good side and the game should provide them with the boost they need for Saturday's FA Cup tie.

Morrell For Middlesbrough?

Talented Nuneaton Borough reserve team striker Andy Morrell could soon be packing his bags for the north-east after catching the attention of Football League outfit Middlesbrough, managed by former England skipper, Bryan Robson. Andy, 19, who hails from Market Bosworth, is a product of the Borough system having started out in the ranks of the highly successful youth team before making the move to the reserves at the start of last season.

Second string boss, Kenny Willis, said: "Middlesbrough want him. He is going up to Ayresome Park this week for talks with officials of the Division One club."

Hill Back At Borough

Former Nuneaton Borough midfield star Richard Hill has made a surprise return to Manor Park. Hill, who was a member of the great Borough side of the early 1980s, left the club in the 1984/85 season, lured away to league outfit Northampton Town by ex-Borough boss Graham Carr. Subsequent moves to Watford and Oxford United eventually saw Hill rejoin Carr at Kettering Town after injury cut short his league career.

He was persuaded to leave his present club, Beazer Homes Southern Division outfit Witney Town, and signed forms last night and his registrations was immediately faxed to the Beazer Homes League and Hill will be available to play against Bilston.

Nuneaton Borough v Bilston Town 29-10-1994

Borough: Manuel, Hillier, Tarry (Keogh 72), Wolsey, Rodwell, Duffy, Hill, Diver, Percival, Plummer, Bennett. **Sub:** Wade.

Borough welcomed Bilston Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Bilston, who were two places below Borough before the game, were rocked when a superb fifth minute cross by Mark Wolsey found the flying Jason Percival whose unstoppable header crashed into the back of the net. The cheers had barely had time to subside before Hill put Nuneaton further in front with a well-struck shot which struck the ground in front of Attwood before going in.



Richard Hill fails to find the net with a 25 yard strike.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Shell-shocked Town had no answer to Borough's overwhelming dominance and were reduced to just one ineffectual effort in the first 20 minutes as Toby Hall turned and hit a first time ball high over the crossbar. Striker Calvin Plummer looking for his 14th goal of the season, was out of luck twice in quick succession with a shot from the edge of the area and a free header which flew wide.

Wolsey, much improved following a recent poor spell, was in the thick of the action and kept the Bilston defence under pressure with a number of superb centres.

That pressure paid off with eight minutes to go to the half when a deft one-two between Plummer and Shaun Diver saw the number eight calmly slip the ball past Attwood. Percival panicked the visitors with a minute to go before half-time as he pounced on an inch-perfect cross from Hill but the opportunity went as he checked and attempted to slip inside as the defence recovered.

Bilston threw caution to the wind after the break and attacked, surprising Borough with a goal from Robbie Grant whose low shot escaped the clutches of Peter Manuel before rolling into the net. The goal galvanised Bilston into action and for the next 15 minutes they enjoyed their best spell of the game but it could not last and it was Dave Bennett who slammed the door in the 62nd minute. It was Plummer the provider on the right, slipping a pass inside for Diver and on to Bennett for a clinical close range finish. That effectively finished Bilston's revival and the penalty converted by Wayne Scally had little effect on the outcome.

Nuneaton Borough v Dudley Town 05-11-1994

Borough: Manuel, Hillier, Tarry, Wolsey, Rodwell (Keogh 28), Duffy, Hill, Diver, Percival, Plummer, Bennett.

Dudley: Crannage, Ingram, Hamilton, Horne, Potter, Clifton, Whitehouse, Turpin, Tomlinson, Piggott, Claxton.

Borough welcomed Dudley Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Dave Bennett went close in the second minute as he struck Matt Tarry's perfect centre over the crossbar and it was only a vital interception by John Horne which foiled Mark Wolsey three minutes later. Dudley were living a charmed life as Wolsey's header flew across the face of the goal and Shaun Diver had acres of space as he ran onto Plummer's pass only to check and lose the initiative with just keeper Andy Crannage to beat.

The division's top scorer, Gary Piggott, was rarely allowed to show his prowess thanks to some astute defending and it was fellow striker Lewis Claxton who had the Robins' best effort in the 20th minute, hitting a clearance from Wolsey wide of the target. Midfielder Richard Hill, enjoying his second stint at Manor Park after a nine-year gap, had a shot cleared from Jim Rodwell's free-kick but that was virtually the big defender's last effort as minutes later he was carried off to be replaced by Chris Keogh.

Robins' Neil Tomlinson drew a confident stop from Manuel and Bennett again went close only for Steve Ingram to make a timely goal line clearance. But with the constant Nuneaton pressure something had to give and it was Plummer who provided the answer with a deadly 38th minute header. Dudley must have been thanking their lucky stars that Borough's lead had been kept to the solitary goal as they went in at the break.

The half was only four minutes old when Tomlinson raced into the penalty area, evading Darren Hillier's despairing tackle to fire a shot past Manuel which ricocheted off the base of the post and flew into the opposite corner. The goal merely prompted Borough to go up a gear and from then on it was one-way traffic.

With 17 minutes to play Borough were awarded a penalty following an off-the-ball incident in which John Horne was shown the red card for a cynical tackle on Diver. The stadium was hushed as Plummer stepped up to take the kick, calmly hitting a low shot into the corner of the net. Five minutes later it was Percival's turn, heading home from close range following a nice little one-two between Hill and Wolsey.

Bennett was out of luck again with two minutes to go but the credit must go to Crannage for pulling off the save of the match from Bennett's 15 yard rocket. But Bennett retaliated with a gem of a defence splitting pass for Plummer to link with Percival, the tenacious striker hitting the ball to Diver for what was the coup-de-grace for Dudley.



Nuneaton Borough v Moor Green 08-11-1994

Borough: Manuel, Hillier, Crane, Wolsey, Keogh, Duffy, Hill, Diver, Percival (Wade 45), Plummer, Bennett.

Moor Green: Taylor, Byrne, Clegg, Brogan, Gillard, Jones, Davies, Baddams, Frost, Agar, Evans.

Borough welcomed Moor Green to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Both Moor Green goals came from terrible defensive errors. The first, straight from a corner kick by Paul Jones in the 24th minute, struck the far post before going in to the stunned disbelief of the fans. Borough's equaliser in the 60th minute was as much a surprise to the home supporters as it was to the visitors, but the finish by Calvin Plummer was pure class as he clipped a low centre from Mark Wolsey past Chris Taylor. But the winner, coming just two minutes later, was even harder to bear as Peter Manuel was caught in two minds on the edge of the area, hesitating long enough for Brian Agar to steal the game and the three precious points.

From the opening whistle the game quickly settled into a dour midfield struggle with both teams looking to make a quick break but moves broke down and Borough's set pieces were wasted on several occasions. A speculative shot by Paul Brogan went wide with Manuel covering and Borough's Darren Hillier was unlucky with a 25-yard drive following good work by Wolsey and Bennett on the right. At the opposite end, Ade Baddams then drew a good save from Manuel after picking up a long ball from centre half Chris Gillard but that was virtually all there was to grab the attention before Borough were stunned by Jones' corner kick.

Borough's efforts came to nothing for the rest of the half and the supporters had little to cheer about apart from a shot by Hill which flew inches wide of the post two minutes before Plummer struck. Moor Green's quick follow-up goal left Borough chasing but they never looked like pulling a point from the mire. Shaun Diver brought a glimmer of hope with 19 minutes left to play as he forced Taylor into making a fine save from Wolsey's free-kick but that was virtually the final spark as the game petered out to a merciful ending.

Rothwell Town v Nuneaton Borough 12-11-1994

Rothwell: Liquorish, Meeds, Hornby, Humphrey, Bates, Sheerin, Coe, Torrance, McPolin, Maguire, Akeredolu.

Borough: Belford, Hillier, Crane, Wade, Keogh, Duffy, Hill, Diver, Percival, Plummer, Bennett.

Borough travelled to Cecil Street to play Rothwell Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Hit-man Calvin Plummer powered home his 16th goal of the season to give Borough a well deserved win. It was Plummer's fourth success in three league games and came 22 minutes from the end of a gruelling strength-sapping slog against a team who refused to give an inch right up to the final whistle.

Borough needed no urging as they attacked from the opening

whistle and had the Bones reeling with a succession of set pieces with Richard Hill, Plummer and Jason Percival all having early chances. Eager full-back Darren Hillier forced a good stop by Danny Liquorish as he closed to within 10 yards after good work by Plummer and Dave Bennett was also out of luck as he blasted Diver's pass wide.

The game was being played at a tremendous pace as driving rain turned the surface into a skating rink. Rothwell's determination was almost rewarded with a goal in the 30th minute when Mark Humphrey broke clear on the left, his centre evading Ade Crane for Shaun McPolin to head inches wide. Borough fans, who had helped to make it Rothwell's biggest league gate of the season, gasped as former Nuneaton striker, Ku Akeredolu's header cannoned off the bar. That close call seemed to spur the Bones on and it was Akeredolu again, right on the half, forcing Dale Belford into an acrobatic save with a header from Gary Torrance's penetrating pass.

The lanky striker caught Borough napping eight minutes after the break with a defence splitting pass to Les Hornby but Belford was quickly off his line to make a super diving save. Borough kept their heads and forced the Bones back into their own half, Chris Keogh almost converted Ade Crane's corner, but Liquorish made a fine fingertip save. But there was a feeling around the ground that something had to give and it was to a thunderous cheer from the Borough faithful when Plummer found acres of space to head home Diver's lofted centre.

From that moment Nuneaton effectively called all the shots and Plummer went within inches of making it two as he chipped neatly past Liquorish only to see the ball clip the wrong side of the post. Bones' centre half Nigel Bates tried a speculative 25-yard shot which hardly troubled Belford but the home side had Liquorish to thank as he made the save of the match from Jason Percival's point blank range header.

Takeover Rumours Quashed

Nuneaton Borough chairman Howard Kerry quashed growing rumours of a £600,000 takeover move for the club. Kerry described the story, that an unknown Birmingham-based businessman had announced his intentions to buy the club as 'absolutely ridiculous'. "There is no way that Nuneaton Borough will be sold off – not while I am chairman."

Nuneaton Borough v Buckingham Town 15-11-1994

Borough: Belford, Hillier, Crane, Harris, Keogh, Duffy, Hill, Diver, Percival, Plummer, Bennett. Subs: Orben, Wade.

Buckingham: Warnecki, Tubbs, Covington, Mansfield, Grant, Nicholls, Corbett, Lamb, Wheeler (Searle 76), Cousins, Spencer. Sub: Joyce.

Borough welcomed Buckingham to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough dominated a dour struggle but could not turn their superiority into goals against the league leaders. Following an indifferent first-half Borough had chances galore to turn the tables on the team who had taken the points at Ford



Meadow in early August. But at times it seemed as if the Robins had a charmed life as time after time what seemed to be certain goals were denied. Andy Harris, in his first game back following a six-match suspension, was unlucky as Dave Bennett's free-kick bobbed awkwardly, causing him to mishit the ball straight to Paul Warnecki.

Seconds later Robins' Cliff Cousins had a close range shot deflected and Dave Bennett fired over the crossbar from six yards. Buckingham bounced back with three corner kicks in quick succession; Cousins again going close as he hit a shot wide after full-back Darren Hillier failed to clear. With minutes to go to the half-time whistle Borough went within an ace of snatching the breakthrough, courtesy of Robins' defender Paul Covington who headed Calvin Plummer's centre inches wide of his own goal.

The impressive Shaun Diver was left flailing on the Robins' goal-line six minutes into the restart as Bennett's downward header bounced awkwardly, giving Warnecki time to recover. Plummer had not been enjoying his usual freedom thanks to the attentions of towering centre-half Barry Grant but he brought a roar from the fans as he pounced on a poor clearance before sliding the ball past Warnecki. But the shot lacked the power to reach the line as Chris Tubbs cleared the danger.

Plummer linked with Bennett to set up Jason Percival in a perfect scoring position but the chance went as he unbelievably blasted the ball over the bar. Percival completely wrong-footed the Robins' defence as he raced onto Hillier's pass into the area but his attempt to find the far corner flew well wide. It was left to Richard Hill to pull the three points out of the fire with a 90th minute free-kick but, once again, Borough were out of luck as the ball flew inches wide.

Racing Club Warwick v Nuneaton Borough 19-11-1994

Racing Club: Bulliman, Osborne, Emery, Williams, Jameson, Parsons, Carmichael, Halford, Titterton, Stackman, Dalton.

Borough: Belford, Hillier, Tarry, Harris, Keogh, Duffy, Hill, Wade, Percival, Plummer, Bennett. **Subs:** Crane, Albrighton.

Borough travelled to Hampton Road to play Racing Club Warwick in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough were quick off the mark with Bennett and Plummer linking well only for Robin Dalton to make a timely tackle. Bennett gave defenders a torrid time and in the 10th minute he hit a low centre to the feet of Percival but he slipped as he struck the ball which flew wide. Racing then had a whiff of a chance with a free-kick, causing a panic in the Blues area as Daryl Duffy clashed with Scott Stackman but Dale Belford and Chris Keogh somehow cleared the danger. A minute later Moreton Titterton hit a first-time shot high over the bar.

Richard Wade, who has been relegated to the subs' bench in recent games, was making the most of his opportunity in place of Shaun Diver but control let him down as he met a penetrating pass from Darren Hillier on the edge of Racing's

area. Hill was in action at both ends within minutes as he went close with a left foot shot from a deflection by Percival from Bennett's cross and raced back to clear Tim Emery's free-kick.

Percival was desperately unlucky five minutes from the break almost slotting the ball past Bulliman only for the keeper to pull off a last gasp save. But there was no denying Hill as he picked his spot on the stroke of half-time to place his free-kick in the top left hand corner with almost arrogant ease.

Wade made a good run down the middle at the start of the second half but his lay-off to Bennett caught the number 11 off balance and his shot was deflected by Mark Parsons. But Wade almost made amends with a right foot shot which cleared the bar after Percival shook off his markers long enough to get in a telling pass. Percival was having little reward for his hard work and could only look on in despair as Bulliman spoiled his day yet again with a great save after the lively striker pounced on Carmichael's back pass.

Plummer harassed and badgered with Bennett causing all sorts of trouble on the far side but still Racing kept Borough at bay. Unexpectedly it was Andy Harris who hit the right note with a cracker of a finish from Percival's flick on, rifling the ball past Bulliman at close range. Hill brought roars of encouragement from the Borough faithful with a great solo run in the 80th minute, drawing Bulliman off his line but just failing to clear the keeper as he dived to block the shot. Percival then had his well-deserved reward on the stroke of full-time as he ran onto Hillier's through pass to slide the ball neatly past the advancing Bulliman.

Nuneaton Borough v Highgate United 22-11-1994

Borough: Belford, Hillier, Tarry, Harris, Keogh (Robinson 64), Duffy, Hill, Wade, Percival, Plummer, Wolsey (Orben 64).

Borough welcomed Highgate United to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup second leg tie.

Richard Wade celebrated his first Borough goal in a 3-0 victory. Coming between Jason Percival's brace it was a moment to savour for Wade as he headed home Richard Hill's near-post corner kick in the 64th minute. Borough should have had the tie sewn up well before the break but the final touch was woefully lacking in quality as time after time promising moves were wasted. The subtle talents of Dave Bennett were missed as the influential forward was rested with a thigh injury which should have cleared up by Saturday.

Percival went close in the fourth minute as he worked well to get into the area but lost out as keeper John Strong closed the angle. Top marksman Calvin Plummer was also out of luck minutes later as he miscued a searching centre from Mark Wolsey and Hill almost pulled off one of his free-kick specials as the shot cannoned off the wall, almost sneaking in at the left post. Highgate were effectively boxed up in their own half and never looked threatening on their rare forays upfield. One such move was immediately punished as Matt Tarry broke down the left.

His centre found Percival only for centre-half Lee Robinson to make a desperate saving tackle as Wade closed to hit a looping, side-foot shot but Strong was on hand to save. Highgate were confined to a speculative long-range shot from Andy Taylor which failed to trouble Belford. The long-awaited breakthrough came ten minutes into the restart as Andy Harris's long through ball was clipped on by Wade for Percival who made no mistake from close range. Percival then had two chances to increase the lead, both coming from Hill free-kicks. The first, a glancing header going just wide and the second, more promising effort, spoiled by Strong who did well to smother the shot.

Then it was Wade's turn. Hill, the supplier, with a perfect corner kick which the number eight confidently converted. Seven minutes later Borough went further in front as a good move started by Harris in midfield led to Tarry striking a screamer which Strong failed to hold for Percival to pounce for this second of the night.

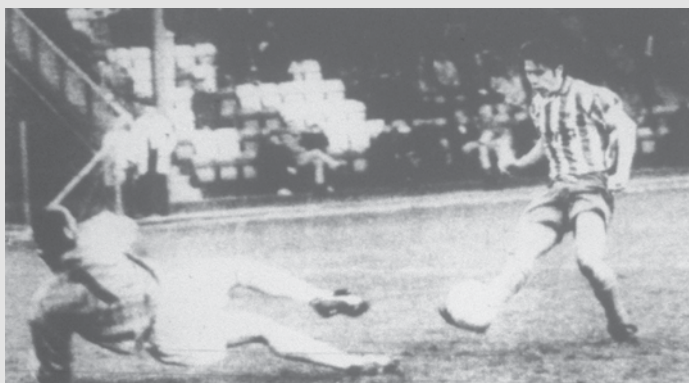
Nuneaton Borough v Forest Green Rovers 26-11-1994

Borough: Belford, Hillier, Tarry, Harris, Keogh, Duffy, Hill, Wade (Diver 61), Percival, Plummer, Bennett. **Sub:** Wolsey.

Forest Green: Book, Underhill, Wilmott, Skidmore, HENDY, Marshall, Kennedy, Callinan, Collicutt (Cook 74), Bloomfield, O'Driscoll (Doughty 65).

Borough welcomed Forest Green to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Paul Bloomfield soon showed his worth as he led two attacks and Borough defender Daryl Duffy did well to shake off the attentions of Mark O'Driscoll to clear a centre from Ian Wilmott in the sixth minute. Midfield general Richard Hill made a breakthrough as he reached Rovers area to fire a shot wide of the left post with Steve Book covering but the visitors hit back as Allan Kennedy raced down the right for Duffy, once again, to make the saving tackle.



A goal looks certain, but Percival's effort hits the post.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Borough were starting to put some good moves together and should have capitalised but bad luck, the final touch and the dour back four conspired to get in the way. Bennett, though, looked certain to score in the 20th minute following a superb solo run which took him into Rovers' area only for Book to

spoil his day with an acrobatic diving save at the foot of the post. On-form defender Darren Hillier foiled two attacks in quick succession, stopping a long range shot by Bloomfield and blocking a Tommy Callinan pile-driver from the edge of the area. At the other end Jason Percival brought a roar to the throats of Borough's biggest gate of the season so far as he dived headlong into the six yard box only to miss Richard Wade's centre by inches.

Borough pressure almost paid off ten minutes from the break as Percival, with just Book to beat, slammed the ball against the left-hand upright but Rovers almost pinched the lead as Marshall made a solo run only to be bounced by Belford and Duffy yards from the Borough line.

With the restart 15 minutes old Nuneaton were out of luck again as Hill's 18 yard free-kick slammed into the upright but, fortunately for Blues, Kennedy was off target as he ripped through the defence only to clip the outside of the post with Belford beaten. Shaun Diver, on for Wade, skied a shot over the bar from eight yards, but three minutes later Borough found the net. Hill combined with Matt Tarry in a short corner-kick before hitting a gem of a centre for Plummer to crash home an unstoppable header from six yards – his 18th success of the season.

Borough, buoyed up by the long-awaited breakthrough, laid siege to Rovers' goal but there was always a nagging suspicion that they could snatch a point and it was only quick reactions by the defence that foiled Kennedy's break two minutes from time.

Grantham Town v Nuneaton Borough 03-12-1994

Grantham: Hardcastle, Watson, Banks (Corden 84), Pearson (Oseni 86), Appleyard, Dye, Potts, Tomlinson, Ward, Williams.

Borough: Belford, Hillier, Tarry, Harris, Davies (Wade 89), Duffy, Hill, Diver, Percival, Plummer, Bennett. **Sub:** Wolsey.

Borough travelled to the South Kesteven Stadium to play Grantham Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough got off to a promising start as Shaun Diver raced down the right before hitting a centre to Jason Percival for keeper Guy Hardcastle to make a brave diving save. In a sparkling move, Dave Bennett linked with thrusting full back Darren Hillier who laid on a penetrating cross which just escaped the lunging Percival and Diver as Grantham were caught cold. Calvin Plummer was wildly off target as he skied a long through ball from Bennett over the crossbar but, to those watching, it only seemed a matter of time before Borough found the net. But as Borough pushed forward they frequently left gaping holes at the back which Grantham tried to capitalise on with a number of breaks.

Jeff Potts was within inches of becoming the hero of the hour as he raced onto a short back-pass by Davies for Dale Belford to race off his line to make a timely interception. That was a rare threat from the Gingerbreaks as Nuneaton continued to ask all the questions – but, to the growing frustration of

the supporters, the answers were not there. Things looked promising with nine minute to go to half-time as Hill was sent crashing to the turf on the 18 yard line for referee Leach to award a free-kick. Surprisingly, Hill, who has scored two spectacular goals from similar set pieces, gave Bennett the kick who unfortunately fired the shot high over the bar. Belford did well to stop a close range shot by Paul Tomlinson in the dying seconds of the half which ended with Borough followers hoping that the following 45 minutes would see a change in fortunes.

But that precious element, luck, was absent again as Hill struck Diver's headed pass over the bar from 15 yards and Hardcastle looked relieved moments later to snatch a bobbling ball at the feet of Diver. A good build-up was frustrated with a diving save by Hardcastle on the six yard line from Plummer's shot and the keeper's busy day continued as he saved at the foot of the post from an Andy Harris header in the 58th minute. Percival was unlucky with a scorching 15 yard effort and Bennett, unbelievably, attempted to side-foot what looked a certain goal from 10 yards – straight into Hardcastle's arms.

As the game looked to be heading for a dreary goalless end, Hill struck with an unstoppable screamer after a moment of brilliance from Percival as he turned defender Jim Watson inside out before providing a perfect pass. Belford pulled off the save of the game from Mark Appleyard with seven minutes left but there was no stopping Dean Dye's point-blank range effort resulting from a goalmouth scramble as Borough failed to clear the danger.

| Nuneaton Borough v Hinckley Town | 10-12-1994 |
|---|------------|
| Borough: Belford, Hillier, Terry, Harris, Davies, Duffy, Hill, Diver, Percival, Plummer, Bennett. | |
| Hinckley: Clay, McGinty, Purser, Griffin, Tonge, Hardwick, McKernon, Bradder, Scott, Machin, Bond. | |

Borough welcomed Hinckley Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

In front of the biggest league gate of the season Nuneaton looked ill-at-ease as the visitors got off to a furious pace with Ian Scott testing Dale Belford as he fired a low drive from the edge of the penalty area. Darren Hillier was in the thick of the action as he tidied up a Hinckley breakthrough before racing clear to lay on a superb centre to Jason Percival only for John McGinty to deflect the header away for a corner kick. Percival, who has not been having the best of luck since getting a brace against Highgate in November, should have scored as keeper Richard Clay deflected Shaun Diver's shot into his path in the 19th minute. But he seemed to miscue, giving Clay time to recover and save the danger.

Glyn Davies, in his second game since returning from a lengthy lay-off, pulled off an equally vital tackle seconds later as he got a foot to a Machin centre with Scott closing in for the kill. The home fans were treated to a nail biting final ten minutes to the

half as Eagles pushed Borough back and were unlucky not to capitalise with good efforts from Machin just clearing the bar from 18 yards and Gary Hardwick desperately unlucky as his goal-bound shot took a deflection off a team mate.

The restart saw Borough waste a corner kick as Clay gathered a good centre by Harris unchallenged in his six yard area but Hinckley breathed a sigh of relief as Richard Hill's wicked, downward header bounced to Clay with the menacing Plummer closing rapidly. A superb break by Dave Bennett deserved better as he raced to the edge of the area before laying off an inch perfect ball to the on-rushing Matt Tarry for Clay to smother his first-time shot.

Eagles' player-manager Gary Bradder, in his first visit to his old club since moving to Leicester Road in the close season, was looking to maintain his team's shape when he waved away an attempted 72nd minute substitution in no uncertain manner but there was no stopping the Borough breakthrough.



Calvin Plummer puts Borough ahead.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Plummer made no mistake from Bennett's pass into the area and Harris finished the visitors off with a scorcher after a good one-two by Percival and Hill.

| Bridgnorth Town v Nuneaton Borough | 17-12-1994 |
|---|------------|
| Bridgnorth: Withington, Beddow, King, Evans, Bywater, Lander, Sankey, Tester, Reed, McBean, Yates. | |
| Borough: Belford, Wade, Tarry, Harris, Davies, Duffy, Hill, Diver, Percival, Plummer, Bennett. | |

Borough travelled to The Crown Green to play Bridgnorth Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Both sides struggled to find any cohesion, but it was Borough who had the first chance to break the deadlock. The 13th minute proved unlucky for Hill as he latched onto a pass from Percival, only to pull his close-range shot wide. Plummer went close as he connected with Hill's free-kick, clipping the shot over the crossbar and it was left to Town defender Paul Evans to save the day moments later as Diver raced onto a long clearance from Andy Harris in midfield.

Then, when the breakthrough looked certain, Borough supporters cheers were stifled as keeper Andy Withington came out to foil Plummer's charge. That miss was punished

two minutes later as McBean evaded two desperate defenders to slide the ball into the net. The goal boosted Town and they almost made it two a minute later as Ian Sankey dodged Duffy and Davies to squeeze off a shot for Belford to save. Withington was in superb form as he pushed Hill's free kick away from the menacing Plummer with only moments remaining of the half.

Borough went on the offensive from the restart with Richard Wade shooting wide through a ruck of players but Town's well drilled defence was frustrating the visitors at every turn. Jason Percival battled to win a half chance wide on the right but his efforts were wasted as Bywater and Tester combined to clear the danger. McBean raced away with Lander's clearance but chose to go wide with Reed fuming on the edge of the area. Borough kept chipping away at Town's seemingly impregnable defence and Plummer was frustrated yet again as he beat two defenders only for Paul Tester to make a timely clearance.

The home fans were preparing to celebrate three points when disaster struck as Bywater hacked Diver down just inside the area for Plummer to calmly bury the ball in the net from the penalty spot.

Nuneaton Borough v Bedworth United 26-12-1994

Borough: Belford, Hillier, Tarry, Harris, Davies (Keogh 72), Duffy, Hill, Diver, Percival, Plummer, Bennett. **Sub:** Wolsey.

Bedworth: Starkey, John, Smith, Mee (Woodfine 81), Wileman, Wilcox, Andersen, Seivwright, Symonds, Straw, Martin (Thurman 81).

Borough welcomed Bedworth United to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Bedworth, looking to overturn a recent run of poor results, attacked from the opening whistle and despite two early efforts from Nuneaton marksman Calvin Plummer they looked dangerous on the break. Borough were punished with just ten minutes played as Hill failed to cut out Andersen's pass to Matt Martin for a flick on to Symonds who bundled the ball over the line.

Bedworth supporters were still celebrating when Nuneaton hit back 60 seconds later as a quick ball down the right was taken on by Diver who broke into the area before hitting a low drive past Starkey into the far corner. The quick reply lifted Borough and Dave Bennett had the defence reeling moments later following good work by Darren Hillier and Diver but the visitors hit back with a looping ball from Symonds to Andy Mee whose centre beat Belford but went wide.

Andy Harris' header was off target as Starkey failed to hold a high ball into the area followed immediately by a great shot from Kevin Seivwright, forcing Belford into making an equally superb save as he pushed the ball onto a post and into safety.

Then came the ugly incident which gave referee Ellicott little choice but to show the red card to Hill and Andersen.

With both sides reduced to ten men Bedworth caught Borough napping with a quick break by Symonds who bided his time before laying on a perfect pass for Straw to slide the ball home.



Players from both sides pile in to try to avert any more bad feeling after Nicky Andersen and Richard Hill had been involved in an off-the-ball incident which resulted in both players being sent off.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

The restart was only three minutes old when Barry Wilcox was penalised for handling the ball in his own area for Plummer to quickly take the spot kick in style for his second penalty goal in successive games. As Nuneaton pushed forward they left themselves dangerously exposed at the back and an uncharacteristic error by Glyn Davies let Symonds through but he pulled his shot wide of the post as the home fans held their breath.

Borough were creating most of the chances with 20 minutes left, forcing the visitors back and it was Starkey who saved the day, turning Bennett's shot around the post followed by a header by Plummer which crept inches wide with Starkey beaten. With a minute to go the result could have been so different if first, Bennett had had more luck with a low drive which went inches wide of the post and then Straw, who could only hold his head in despair as he blasted a left foot shot wide from 15 yards.

Nuneaton Borough v West Bromwich Albion 28-12-1994

Borough: Belford, Hillier, Tarry, Harris, Keogh, Greatrex, Hill, Archer (Wade 75), Percival, Wolsey, Bennett. **Sub:** Albrighton.

WBA: Germaine, Parsley, Darton, Herbert, Strodder, Phelan, Clarke (Taylor 77), Cresswell, Rees (Hughes 75), McCue, Smith.

Borough welcomed West Bromwich Albion to Manor Park to play a Birmingham Senior Cup third round tie.

Graeme Archer, making his first appearance since the FA Cup match against Heybridge Swifts, settled quickly and almost caught the Baggies' defence napping in the tenth minute as an attempted one-two with Mark Wolsey was cut out by Graig Herbert. Within minutes it was Dave Bennett's turn, enjoying

the extra space he side-stepped two tackles before hitting a low drive across the face of the goal and inches wide of the far post. But Borough's best effort came in the 21st minute when a high, searching ball from Darren Hillier evaded the outstretched fingers of Gary Germaine and cannoned off the cross bar into the path of Jason Percival who slammed the rebound into the arms of the keeper from six yards.

Percival had Germaine in a panic moments later as he latched onto Richard Hill's mishit shot from the edge of the area, bending the ball around the keeper and missing the goal by inches. As the half wore on West Brom's extra pace began to show itself as flying winger David Smith evaded two defenders only for Belford to race off his line and foil the attempted chip shot. Smith, the former Coventry City striker, had Borough's defence in knots on the stroke of half-time laying off an inch perfect pass inside to Jim McCue who miscued his close range shot for the ball to fly clear.

The second half was barely four minutes old when Baggies Mark Cresswell blasted a shot wide from the edge of the area. This was followed by a period of Borough possession as Bennett's corner kick was cleared to Tarry for the two to ward off a number of tackles before Bennett centred to Hill whose shot was blocked by centre-half Gary Strodder. Belford was quick to spot the danger as he came out to block Smith's shot from a superb through ball by captain Mike Phelan and at the other end Percival was out of luck again as the close attentions of a defender forced him to volley a shot over the bar.

With 15 minutes left to play Borough were stroking the ball around, Hill especially, was finding players with almost arrogant ease and Germaine did well to hold his wicked cross into the crowded area. Both teams made a number of substitutions to relieve tired legs but there was no stopping Borough's late burst as first Percival and then the outstanding Hill could easily have snatched victory for Borough.

Nuneaton Borough v Tamworth 31-12-1994

Borough: Belford, Hillier, Tarry, Harris (Wolsey 77), Davies, Keogh, Hill, Diver, Percival, Plummer, Bennett. **Sub:** Wade.

Tamworth: Phillips, Mulholland (Christopher 45), Osborne (Young 4), Foy, Hyde, Andrews, Simpson, Luby, Moss, Pinner, Canning.

Borough welcomed Tamworth to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough were quick off the mark with Jason Percival taking on the Lambs defence before he was unceremoniously shut out but Borough were not to be denied and thoroughly deserved the fifth minute lead. Andy Harris' centre was clipped on by Percival for Matt Tarry to force the ball over the line for his first goal of the season. But, Tamworth hit back when a long clearance by Belford failed to find a blue shirt as defender Glyn Davies ducked under the ball for Andy Canning, fully 45 yards out, to hit a first time lob over Belford and into the empty net.

Within minutes Borough were back in the driving seat as Richard Hill struck an inch-perfect cross from the left for

Calvin Plummer to head home his 22nd goal of the season. Former Borough favourite Tony Simpson was beginning to create problems and Belford had to race off his line as a through ball almost found striker Chris Moss. Nuneaton's dominance was emphasised after 28th minutes as Hill gave Mark Phillips no chance with a tremendous finish following a neat one-two with Plummer.



Richard Hill, having created the first two goals, completes an outstanding first-half by adding Borough's third goal.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Moss attempted to rally the Lambs in a number of determined attacks but Borough closed ranks and it was all the visitors could do to hold out and were rescued by the half-time whistle.

Simpson should have done better three minutes into the second half but he could only hit a shot over the crossbar. Tamworth were looking revitalised and caught Borough's defence on 52 minutes as Mick Andrews headed a corner kick into the path of Moss who stabbed the ball home from close range. Once again the home side found themselves fighting to maintain a slim lead and almost paid the price of some slack defending as Moss hit the bar after a free run down the left.

But with 22 minutes remaining Shaun Diver was rewarded for his efforts as he ran onto a through ball from Hill and kept his head to hit a rebound off Phillips into the net. It looked all over until 60 seconds later a mix up in the defence gave Seamus Luby space to hit a deflection in off the right-hand post. With two minutes to go Plummer almost made it five as he hooked a shot inches wide before Borough had to resort to some desperate defending as the Lambs threw everything in to snatch the point but Nuneaton held on for a deserved win.

Moor Green v Nuneaton Borough 07-01-1995

Moor Green: Moran, Byrne, Evans (Clegg 83), Brogan, Gillard, Frost, Davies, Baddams, Walker, Agar, Williams.

Borough: Belford, Hillier, Tarry, Wolsey (Archer 79), Davies, Keogh, Hill, Diver, Percival, Plummer, Bennett. **Sub:** Wade.

Borough travelled to The Moorlands to play Moor Green in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Moor Green had Borough on the ropes for most of the first-half. Adrian Baddams took seconds too long as he tried to tee up a shot in Borough's six yard box and Paul Frost was ruled



to have fouled Dale Belford as he clashed with the keeper in the sixth minute. Nuneaton had a brief respite when Calvin Plummer linked with Richard Hill for the midfielder to blast his shot inches over the crossbar but the Moors swept back with Agar, Evans and Williams leading a promising move only for Chris Keogh to stop the rot with a timely tackle. Phil Davies had Borough's defence in a panic as he evaded three defenders to get to the goal line but his centre lacked power, giving Belford time to save at the near post.

With ten minutes to go to half-time the visitors had another let-off as Glyn Davies failed to stop a through ball giving Mick Walker a free run on the edge of the area. Then, when it looked as though Borough had done enough to survive to half-time, they caught The Moors in a frantic goalmouth scramble. Hill's corner was headed back in by Shaun Diver for Percival to stab the ball home from close range in a tangle of legs.

Borough were revitalised after the break and Mark Wolsey, in for the injured Andy Harris, linked with Dave Bennett down the right wing only for Paul Brogan to cut out the danger. But with four minutes gone the game was levelled as Borough failed to clear a corner kick and from the ensuing scramble Brian Agar had time to chest the ball down before volleying home from six yards.

The visitors were temporarily forced back onto the defensive but after Williams was given his marching orders in the 60th minute the Moors had to change tactics and tried to shut up shop. Nuneaton took the initiative and Bennett in particular, found space on the right to lay on a number of promising moves, the best chance coming on 67 minutes when keeper Moran did well to parry his centre with Percival lurking. Plummer was out of luck with a glancing header for Moran to save but Borough kept pressing, winning a string of corner kicks, but a combination of bad luck and desperate defending kept the scores level.

Nuneaton Borough v Ilkeston Town 14-01-1995

Borough: Belford, Hillier, Tarry, Wolsey, Rodwell, Keogh, Wade, Archer (Diver), Percival, Plummer, Bennett. **Subs:** Hart, Albrighton.

Borough welcomed Ilkeston Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

It was a nervous start from two teams challenging for a promotion place but Ilkeston settled first as Campbell came within inches of connecting with John Humphrey's centre. Campbell almost broke through as he ran on to a long ball from Mark Pennant resulting in a sickening collision with goalkeeper Dale Belford and Graeme Archer which resulted in the latter leaving the field with two dislocated fingers.

The 1,000-plus crowd breathed a sigh of relief as Craig Maddison's 35 yard drive whistled past the angle with Belford looking on but the tables were almost turned minutes later as Borough surged forward. A through ball found Shaun Diver, on for Archer, who beat a defender before hitting a neat lob over the advancing Cameron Miles only for the ball

to strike the right post and go clear. The visitors were hit on the stroke of half-time as Maddison was stretchered off with a dislocated shoulder to be replaced by Jamie Kay. The changed did not help as both sides struggled for supremacy.

But, following three corner kicks in as many minutes, Borough had the best chance a minute before the break as Wolsey's shot looked certain to go in only for Robinson to clear off the line.

Nuneaton were under severe pressure four minutes after the break with Mark Harbottle going close with a lob followed by a tremendous drive blocked by Matt Tarry. The tide turned in Borough's favour again as Chris Keogh connected with Dave Bennett's free-kick only to see his effort clear the crossbar and their luck was in as Kay headed wide from Harbottle's cross. But with 19 minutes to go Borough supporters were incensed when referee Lee ignored appeals for a penalty after Bennett had been cynically scythed down by Robinson.

Borough shrugged off the incident and were rewarded in the 77th minute as Percival evaded two tackles to hit a pass to the far post for Wolsey to force the ball over the line. The game, and three precious points, should have been in the bag, but with only two minutes remaining Jason Campbell rescued Ilkeston with an equaliser.

Roberts Bids For Three Players

Elwyn Roberts announced his intention to move for three players to shore up his promotion chasing, but ailing squad. He has put in seven days notice for Dudley striker Gary Piggott, Bedworth front man Rob Straw and King's Lynn centre-forward Darren Edey.

West Bromwich Albion v Nuneaton Borough 23-01-1995

WBA: Lange, Parsley, Lilwall, Herbert, Strodder, Phelan (Hunter 77), Coldicott (Hughes 77), McNally, Heggs, McCue, Smith. **Sub:** Cutler.

Borough: Belford, Wade, Tarry, Wolsey, Rodwell, Keogh, Archer (Albrighton 77), Diver, Percival (Payne 77), Plummer, Bennett. **Sub:** Manuel.

Borough welcomed West Bromwich Albion to Manor Park for a Birmingham Senior Cup third round tie.

Dave Bennett stunned West Brom with a gem of a goal after just two minutes. Keeper Tony Lange was caught cold as Jason Percival's pass was drilled home by Bennett from 20 yards. But it was soon obvious that the Baggies, fielding nine players with first team experience, were not going to allow the tie to slip away. West Brom were back on equal terms after 13 minutes when David Smith made no mistake with a powerful drive into the far corner.

With many key players missing it was obvious Borough were in for a torrid time and with 22 minutes gone the home side took the lead with a quality goal. James McCue forced his way into the area, laying off a pass to Mike Phelan and the former Manchester United man struck the ball with the outside of his right foot, curling it around the defence and into the top corner of the net. Smith almost made it three but failed to



get hold of the shot, giving Belford time to save. Moments later Lange did equally well to deny Borough striker Calvin Plummer's close range effort. With half-time looming West Brom turned on the style with some delightful one touch football and had Borough boxed in their own half.

The second half opened with a torrential downpour as Percival went close to connecting with Bennett's pass. Borough fell further behind 14 minutes after the break as Chris Keogh upended Smith just inside the area for referee Barratt to point to the spot. Centre-forward Carl Heggs took two steps and made no mistake with a clinically executed kick to put the visitors well in command. But there was no question of the Baggies relaxing. They continued to put Nuneaton under pressure and Heggs went close to snatching number four only for the ball to take a deflection.

Two free-kicks in quick succession kept Borough bottled up before Graeme Archer, with two fingers heavily bandaged, and Percival came off to be replaced by Mark Albrighton and Chris Payne. The two youngsters threw themselves into the game. Payne tried a speculative long range shot nine minutes from time but Lange was in position to save comfortably. It was a pity that Borough could not have conjured up a second goal to warm the spirits of the dedicated 400-plus supporters who turned out but on the night professionalism shone through and West Brom went through to meet Solihull Borough.

Straw Signs For Borough

Borough have signed Rob Straw from Bedworth United, despite the player's pledge to remain with United. Straw is expected to make his debut against King's Lynn.

Nuneaton Borough v King's Lynn

28-01-1995

Borough: Belford, Hillier, Tarry, Smith (Wolsey 77), Rodwell, Keogh, Harris, Straw, Percival, Plummer, Bennett. Subs: Diver, Manuel.

King's Lynn: Lewis, Bryant, Curtis, Casey, Watts, Edey (Wales 84), Clarke, Stanhope, Sullivan, Riley, Russell. Subs: Franz, Walters.

Borough welcomed King's Lynn to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Following a shaky start, the Linnets carved a ninth minute opening down the left for David Riley to hit a low centre, giving the unmarked, ex-Peterborough striker Andy Stanhope a simple tap-in. If that was not bad enough the 1,000-plus supporters were stunned into silence five minutes later as Stanhope capitalised on a fluffed clearance by Matt Tarry to put the visitors two up. The shock lead was cut just 60 seconds later as new signing Rob Straw, back at Nuneaton after two seasons at Bedworth, linked with Calvin Plummer who laid a delightful flick on for Jason Percival to stab the ball home from close range. Borough had their tails up from then on and proceeded to take the game to the Linnets with some of the best football seen at Manor Park this term.

The pressure paid off in the 24th minute as Dave Bennett's penetrating corner kick found debut boy, Richard Smith, on

loan from Notts Forest, who climbed above the defence to head home in style. From then on the question was when would Borough take the lead. Straw almost provided the answer with a minute to go to the break as his thumping header from Andy Harris' corner kick was somehow palmed onto the bar by the agile Steve Lewis. The rebound fell to Percival who emulated Straw with another header against the post from which Plummer blasted wide.

The second half could not have been more different as the game plunged into a drab mire of missed chances and ragged play. It was Bennett who offered a ray of hope with 20 minutes remaining as he played a one-two with Plummer only to miss a good chance as Smith closed in support. The Linnets should have taken the lead as Dave Russell brushed some feeble defending aside but chose to have a go himself with two players unmarked in support and Belford saved.

Plummer hooked a loose ball high over the bar after Lewis dropped Harris' high lob into the area and defender, Tom Casey, did well to clear off the line in a close challenge with the Borough striker. Plummer's best chance came four minutes from time as he thumped a volley inches over the bar from Mark Wolsey's cross to the groans of the supporters packed into the Cock and Bear end.

Simmo Rumours

Nuneaton Borough manager Elwyn Roberts said that he has no plans to bring former club favourite Tony Simpson back to Manor Park. Roberts said: "There is no truth in the rumour that Simpson is returning to Nuneaton."

Rumours were rife on the terraces at the weekend that Roberts had put in seven days notice of approach for Simpson, who left Nuneaton for Tamworth towards the end of last season as Borough were heading for relegation.

Roberts said that two players had been brought into the squad in the past week and there were no plans for further acquisitions in the immediate future.

Manor Park To Be Football League Standard

A major facelift which will transform the Manor Park ground of Nuneaton Borough to almost Football League standards has been revealed. In a project worth more than £100,000 a large scale refurbishment of the main stand at the ground is set to take place giving vastly improved facilities.

Borough's commercial director, Phil Clayton, said: "Our plans are aimed at creating a ground that would be eligible for Conference status. "The facilities we are bringing in will help transform the ground and make it up to the standard of many league grounds."

And work is also about to begin to create a new covered area alongside the canal side of the pitch. This £20,000 project has been funded through a sponsorship with brewers Mitchells & Butlers, and will be known as the M&B Family Stand. This new

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



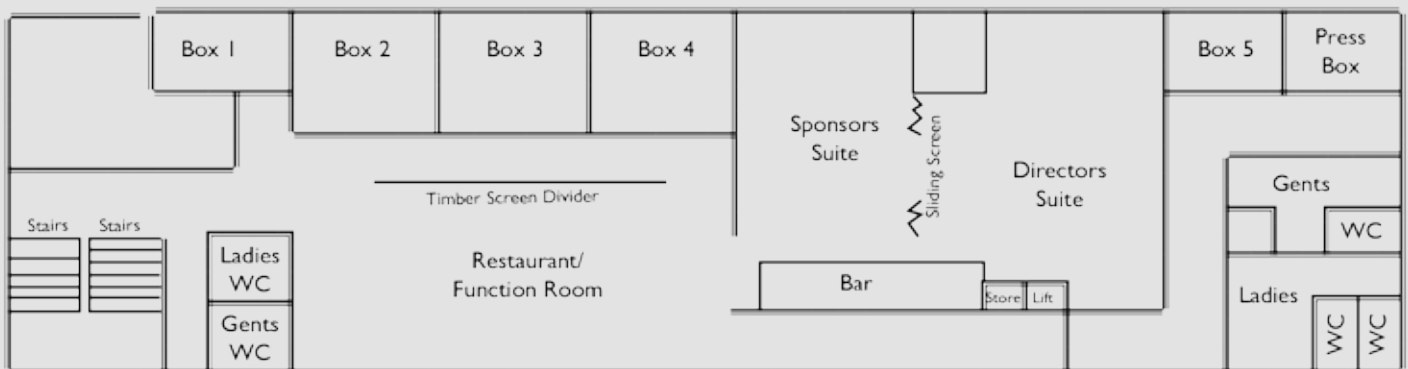
structure will provide a long covered terrace and could be upgraded to a full stand with seating for 1,000 people.

Work to create the canal terrace covered area is set to start this month and it is hoped the major conversion of the grandstand will begin in May and be ready for the start of the new season in September. The football club has already won planning permission from Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council and among the new facilities within the main seating stand, which is to be rebuilt at the back, is a restaurant, which the club aims to open to the public at lunchtimes and evenings other than when matches are on.

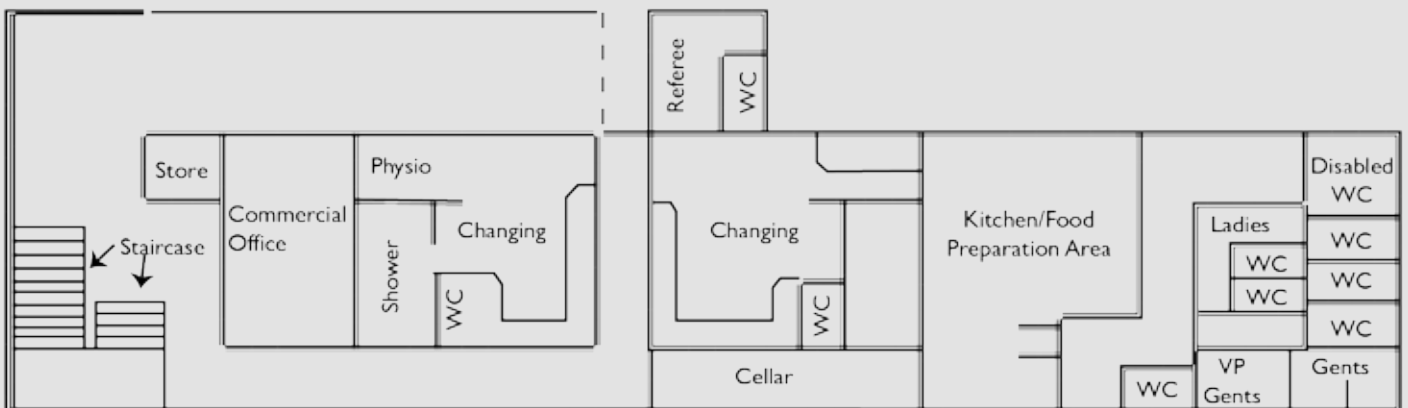
Mr Clayton added: “Some people might ask why we have not spent this money on something else, such as players. What I would say to them is that the ground has become run down. The facilities are the end of their useful life and we need to do something.

“What we are creating is not only our best ever facilities, but also something for the people to be proud of. With the restaurant we are diversifying, but also providing new facilities for the community.”

It is hoped that the new development will make the ground eligible for the GM Vauxhall Conference League.

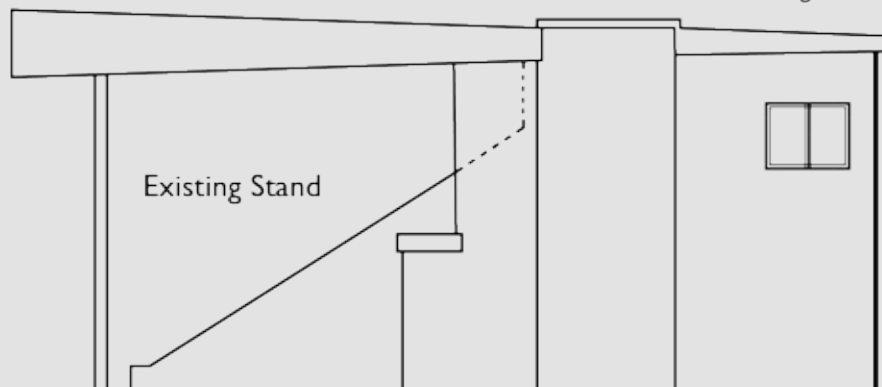


Above: The new executive boxes will look out over Manor Park, where sponsors and directors can entertain guests before the game in the new plush restaurant and function rooms.

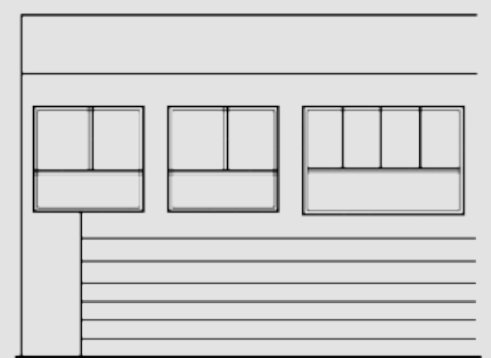


Above: The bottom half of the building will house new changing rooms and kitchen area, as well as physio areas for home home and away teams.

Below: How the new extension will fit on to the existing stand



Below: How the new executive boxes will look as you see them from the pitch.



Bilston Town v Nuneaton Borough 04-02-1995

Bilston: Attwood, Leeding, Hill, Smith, Bowater, Jones, Drakeford (Rhodes 80), Grant, Hall (Green 86), Edwards, Berks.

Borough: Belford, Hillier, Tarry, Smith, Rodwell, Davies, Hill, Archer (Percival 70), Straw, Plummer, Bennett. Subs: Diver, Wolsey.

Borough travelled to Queen Street to play Bilston Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Bilston took the initiative as Ade Edwards almost snatched a first minute goal as he climbed to head Toby Hall's cross over the bar. Within two minutes Borough hit back, Straw whipping a shot in only for the superb Richard Attwood to push the ball wide, following up with a waist high save as Calvin Plummer connected with Hill's corner. Hill, back after a three match suspension, headed high over the crossbar from Hillier's well judged centre and Straw was out of luck again as he drove a 25 yard shot inches wide.

Panic reigned in the Steelmen's area as Archer's corner kick was headed down by Jim Rodwell into Straw's path only for Attwood to cut out the danger. Rodwell's header two minutes from the break flew wide thanks to the attentions of centre-half Mark Bowater and at the other end Belford kept his nerve to foil Edwards as he ran into space only to miscue a great chance to open the scoring.

Nuneaton's first half promise evaporated five minutes into the restart as Hall pounced on Grant's blocked effort to blast the return past Belford. As if that wasn't bad enough, Borough's hopes were dealt a crushing blow as Smith ran the ball into the net after Bowater headed on a right wing corner kick. From then on the home side were in the driving seat as Borough were reduced to a shambling imitation of a side.

Straw had the ball in the net 25 minutes from time only to be ruled offside and Percival came on for Archer as Borough desperately tried to claw their way back into the game but the vital spark was missing. Attwood effortlessly dealt with any threat that the visitors could offer and the final nail in the coffin was academic as a poor back pass by Richard Smith let in Edwards who rounded Belford before slotting the ball home.

Simpson Rejoins Borough

Tony Simpson is a Nuneaton Borough player again – less than a year after leaving the club for Tamworth. The wing wizard, who could do no wrong in the eyes of legions of Borough fans, signed on the dotted line last night.

Nuneaton Borough v Armitage 11-02-1995

Borough: Belford, Hillier, Tarry, Harris, Rodwell, Keogh, Hill, Simpson, Straw, Plummer, Bennett. Subs: Wade, Percival.

Armitage: Cooke, McLeod, Fry, McGrotty, Owen, Shepherd, Knight, Langstone, Ward, Hanson (Jackson 52), Yates. Sub: Wardle.

Borough welcomed Armitage to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Both sides struggled to keep their feet on the treacherous

surface and good football was almost impossible. Jim Rodwell received a yellow card, his fifth of the season, followed by a second and a red, 20 minute from time. The key defender automatically earns himself a three match ban at a critical time when Nuneaton will need every man.

As if that was not bad enough, Armitage struck first. A break down the right led to a ball going loose in front of goal which Hanson forced under Belford from close range. That was followed by a surge of optimism from the relegation haunted visitors as Knight's free kick was headed on by impressive centre-forward Mick Ward but Belford was in position to make a diving save on his line. That was virtually The Targe's swan song as Borough steamed forward and it was no surprise when Darren Hillier's 39th minute centre was converted with an unstoppable headed goal by Plummer to give him his first success since January 31. Plummer could have had a second minutes from the break as Straw ripped through the defence on the left but as he was poised for the expected pass Straw chose to shoot only for Cooke to clean up.



Rob Straw feels the full force of a challenge from Armitage defender Josh Owen.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Borough had a scare a minute after the break as Frank McLeod's centre was headed over Belford by Ward only for Rodwell to clear off the line into the grateful arms of the keeper. The siege continued at the other end as Bennett tested Cooke with a header from Hill's corner kick and it was from a set piece that Borough deservedly went in front. Tarry's 53rd minute free kick set Straw on an unstoppable run down the left, outpacing two despairing defenders before hitting a low shot past Cooke which sneaked in at the foot of the far post.

With conditions worsening Nuneaton seemed to get better and the only surprise was that the scoreline was kept below double figures. Players were queueing up for attempts at goal and new signing Simpson was providing supporters with some delightful skills as he ran the hapless defence ragged. He deserved a goal with 25 minutes to go with a penetrating run only for Cooke to spoil his effort as he pushed the shot around the post. But, in spite of Rodwell's departure and a brief flurry by the visitors with Belford being forced to make a diving save to stop McGrotty's 25-yard shot, it was only a matter of time before Borough scored again, and fittingly,



it was Simpson who was on target. Straw made yet another surging run from Bennett's long clearance to cross for the number eight to control the ball before rounding Cooke and stroking the ball home.

Nuneaton Borough v Newport AFC 14-02-1995

Borough: Belford, Albrighton, Tarry, Harris, Rodwell, Keogh, Hill, Simpson, Straw, Plummer, Bennett (Percival 78). **Subs:** Wade, Manuel.
Newport: Roberts, Lowndes, S. Williams, Dowd, Coyne (Porretta 78), John, Tucker, Price, Jones (Foley 78), G. Williams, Vaughan. **Sub:** Johansen.

Borough welcomed Newport AFC to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

The visitors enjoyed a good start with a fourth minute corner kick ably cleared by Calvin Plummer who was soon in action at the opposite end as he laid on a centre for Dave Bennett only for the capable Jon Roberts to cut out the danger. There was a scare for Borough moments later as Jim Rodwell's challenge on striker Lindon Jones forced the ball out to Ceri Williams, following up, who snatched at the shot, skying high over the crossbar.

Williams inspired a promising break down the right but Belford was quickly off his line to snuff out the cross into the crowded penalty area. In spite of flu symptoms, Hill was in the thick of the action in midfield and put Rob Straw through with a defence splitting pass only for Exiles captain Brendan Dowd to make a timely tackle. Borough pressure ten minutes from the break led to referee Galley awarding a free-kick which Hill fired over the defensive wall only for Roberts to make a comfortable save. Nuneaton supporters breathed again as Mark Price put a shot over the bar from 18 yards out but the whole complexion of the game changed on the restart.

It was a case of who was going to fold first but neither side was prepared to take prisoners in the increasingly competitive battle. Chris Keogh earned himself a yellow card for a foul on Lowndes which was quickly followed by Borough's best chance of the game. A delightful one-two between Simpson and Plummer led to a telling ball into the heart of the Newport defence which Andy Harris headed inches over to the roar of the fans massed in the Cock and Bear stand.

Harris more than made up for his miss with the golden 66th minute free-kick to Hill who made no mistake with a perfect header past the despairing Roberts. Stunned, Newport attempted to haul themselves back into the game but they wasted a number of chances from set pieces and at the crucial moment their shooting was woefully off target. Borough had their tails up now and could have snatched a second as a long clearance to Plummer caught the Exiles napping.

But the ball stuck in a patch of mud, giving the defence time to recover as the striker tested Roberts with a cracking shot from ten yards. Newport made two late changes but it was too late for the visitors who were consigned to a long trip home with nothing to show for their efforts.

Work Starts On New Stand

Workers moved in at Nuneaton Borough's Manor Park stadium to prepare the ground for the long awaited canal side stand. The project, which is costing around £20,000 and will take a month to complete, is being paid for by club sponsors, M&B Breweries. Club commercial director, Phil Clayton, said the new covered area will be known as the Brew XI Family Stand.

Forest Green Rovers v Nuneaton Borough 18-02-1995

Forest Green: Book, Underhill, Pearce, Skidmore, Hendy, Collicutt, Kennedy, Callinan, Hoskins, Bayliss, Marshall. **Subs:** Thompson, O'Driscoll, Turner.
Borough: Belford, Hillier, Tarry, Harris, Rodwell, Keogh, Hill, Simpson, Straw, Plummer, Bennett. **Subs:** Percival, Archer, Roberts.

Borough travelled to The Lawn to play Forest Green Rovers in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Rovers, currently lying fourth from bottom knew they had to take the game to Borough, but Belford handled a second minute free-kick with ease from Karl Bayliss' challenge. Both keepers were on excellent form and Steve Book made Hill's eighth minute free-kick and Dave Bennett's corner look easy. It was almost exclusively Borough from then on with Rovers depending on breakaways from Book's long kicks and Belford had to be on his toes to save from Gary Marshall's 20 yard drive. Rob Straw had a great chance to make the breakthrough with 12 minutes on the clock as he ran through but Book was off his line smartly to parry the shot for a corner.

Straw then laid on a far post ball for Tony Simpson who was desperately unlucky as his shot glanced off the crossbar to be cleared by the panicked defence. For all their domination it was a mystery why Borough were not in front and Rovers were always liable to snatch a goal. Allan Kennedy almost did just that as he pounced on Chris Keogh's missed clearance to force Belford into making a super save. But with 24 minutes on the clock Nuneaton were rewarded for their efforts as Straw won a corner. Harris' kick found Jim Rodwell who nodded the ball into the path of Straw for the striker to make no mistake from close range.

The goal set Borough up for a period in which they had Rovers on the rack. Straw linked with Plummer for Borough's top scorer to force Book into making yet another reflex save and a delightful one-two between Simpson and Hill saw the midfielder shooting inches wide.

The second half was only moments old before first Keogh then Rodwell, went close in set pieces but it was defender Darren Hillier who saved Borough's blushes as he made a vital last gasp tackle on Bayliss who had the goal in his sights. The home team were showing more fight as Borough struggled with an awkward crossfield wind but with 18 minutes left the ball fell to Simpson, who provided a bit of magic before hitting a low shot past Book. That effectively killed off Rovers' chances of salvaging a point but Borough were not finished and everyone watching was treated to a

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



moment that will stay in the memory for years to come as Nuneaton went three up.

A nod on by Plummer resulted in a high ball from the right which was superbly controlled by Bennett who went on, outpacing a defender, before hitting a magnificent shot past Book and inches inside the far corner. A fourth goal looked on the cards as Matt Tarry released Straw with a long clearance which he took on, getting in a shot despite the attentions of Collicutt but Book was on hand to save.

Nuneaton Borough v Racing Club Warwick 25-02-1995

Borough: Belford, Hillier, Tarry, Harris, Greatrex, Keogh, Hill, Simpson, Straw, Plummer, Bennett. **Subs:** Percival, Archer.

Racing Club: Bulliman, Daley, Muckleburgh, Williams, Jameson, Gethfield, Dalton, Titterton, Donavan, Pearson, Halford. **Subs:** Osborne, Culpin.

Borough welcomed Racing Club Warwick to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Rob Straw set up an early chance for Calvin Plummer as the home side pressed forward from the start. Then, on five minutes, Hill had a snap-shot well held by Bulliman, before Plummer, who is a shadow of the player he was earlier in the season, played Straw clear, but he was beaten to the ball by Bulliman. Straw and Simpson were beginning to make life difficult for the visitors' defence as they continued to carve out chances. But Racing had the bit between their teeth and Chris Keogh had to come to Borough's rescue when he cleared off the line with Dale Belford beaten.

Borough had a handball appeal turned down when Tony Simpson's cross was clumsily cleared by a defender before Hill was involved in two attacks, as his free-kick to Plummer was headed wide and then after 30 minutes he shot narrowly over after a swift inter-passing movement with Simpson. The pressure eventually brought a breakthrough on 36 minutes when Darren Hillier grabbed his first goal for the club, firing home from the edge of the box after a Straw-Simpson combination had set up the chance. Borough continued to press without capitalising on several good chances.

Then, against the run of play Racing Club came back into the game with a 46th minute equaliser from Tom Jameson, who shot through a crowded six-yard box after Borough failed to clear their lines. The home side, stung by this blow, went back on the attack, and Straw waltzed past several defenders before he nonchalantly placed the ball past the keeper. But as he turned to celebrate, the ball bounced off the post and into the arms of Bulliman.

Straw was in action again straight after the break with a shot which shaved the post. A typically surging Hill run produced a dangerous swerving cross which Bulliman was happy to push away. On the hour mark Straw put Borough back in front when he ran onto a ball from Hill and fired home. Hill was really turning it on and running the show in midfield and it was no surprise when Andy Harris grabbed a third goal on 65 minutes. This virtually killed off the visitors, who were one of

the best Racing Club sides seen at Manor Park, and the only noticeable cheer after this was when Paul Culpin came on as a substitute for the Warwick side. He had already received a standing ovation when his name was announced at the start of the match.

Leicester United v Nuneaton Borough 04-03-1995

Leicester: Robbins, Stephens, Crane, Glover, Fitzpatrick, Orton, Tonge, Mintus, Doherty, Moore, O'Neill. **Subs:** Ndukwu, Taylor, Marsden.

Borough: Belford, Hillier, Tarry, Harris, Greatrex, Keogh, Hill, Simpson, Straw, Plummer, Bennett. **Subs:** Percival, Archer, Roberts.

Borough travelled to Winchester Road to play Leicester United in a Southern League Midland Division game.

The first 15 minutes was a dour nondescript affair with both sides struggling to come to terms with a swirling wind. The strong running United side were certainly causing the visitors problems as they ran through midfield after 17 minutes, Matt Tarry had to block a Liam O'Neill drive after the former Atherstone striker had carved out a good chance. The tricky number 11 was creating problems for Borough and it was no surprise when Tarry was booked after 19 minutes for protesting over what the referee saw as an over-zealous challenge on the diminutive front man.

But after 22 minutes the large contingent of Nuneaton fans were stunned into silence as the hosts took the lead, and it was their old boy Adie Crane who did the damage, latching on to a bobbling ball in the six yard box after a corner had not been cleared and smashing the ball home. Inspired by the goal Leicester came at Borough and Ade Greatrex was booked for a clumsy tackle. But as the interval loomed Borough began to claw their way back into the match, and Calvin Plummer had a well placed header saved by keeper Paul Robins.

Straw put Borough back on level terms with a well-taken individual goal after 41 minutes. He ran on to a long probing ball from Hill and after fighting off the attentions of Tyrone Mintus, he fired home from the edge of the box. A minute later Straw almost grabbed a second when he latched onto the hard working Harris' free kick, but Robins punched the ball off his head.

After the interval, Borough seemed to gain their second wind and appeared more motivated, but sadly Straw still failed to win any real support from his fellow forwards. Tony Simpson was having his quietest game since returning to the club and both Plummer and Dave Bennett looked as if they had played too many games in recent weeks.

Borough had a penalty appeal turned down on 47 minutes and four minutes later Bennett looked certain to score after dancing his way through the Leicester defence but his shot hit the post and Hill shot wide from the rebound. Disaster struck for the visitors on 54 minutes, when the unfortunate Greatrex was adjudged to have brought down danger man O'Neill and Paul Fitzpatrick made short work of despatching the spot kick.

A minute later Dale Belford had to come to Borough's rescue as he dived to push away a Tarry deflection which was heading towards goal. On the hour Straw notched the equaliser when he latched onto a Plummer cross shot and squeezed the ball into the corner of the net. The goal signalled another spell of Borough pressure and Harris was robbed as he was poised to score.

Plummer headed against the bar from Simpson's cross before, against the run of play, O'Neill hit a wonderful goal for Leicester which flew into the net past the bewildered Belford on 82 minutes. Then, five minutes later Moore was set up by Ndkuwu to score a fine individual goal with a well disguised lob. Time was running out for Borough by now, but Simpson's deflected shot on 88 minutes completed the scoring.

Nuneaton Borough v Grantham Town 11-03-1995

Borough: Belford, Hillier, Tarry, Harris, Greatrex (Archer 70), Keogh, Hill, Simpson, Plummer, Bennett. **Sub:** Percival.

Grantham: Hardcastle, Barker, Watson, Appleyard, Speed, Stoutt, Hardwick, Parkinson, Dye, Ward, Daly (Oseni 87). **Sub:** Rawlinson.

Borough welcomed Grantham Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

The theme of the match was set early on when after only seven minutes, Rob Straw found his way through the Grantham defence and found the head of Calvin Plummer, only for him to put the header just wide of the post. Two minutes later the ball was put on the head of Plummer again, but his usual clinical finishing in the air was again missing. On the ten minute mark Borough found the sort of form they needed to overcome the Gingerbreads when Richard Hill found himself through to the penalty area and fired off a shot which was saved by Hardcastle who fumbled the ball which dropped to the feet of Straw who volleyed home.

The rest of the first half was one of missed chances for Borough as they easily overcame the visitors, cutting runs from winger Tony Simpson and Dave Bennett fed chances through to Plummer and Straw, but none of them came to anything. At the other end Grantham did little to trouble the Borough defence and Dale Belford was not tested once during the opening 45 minutes.

The second half was a similar story and it did not take long for Borough to get the better of Grantham. After 55 minutes, Simpson again took Borough forward and as the Grantham defence crowded the box, crossed to Hill about 20 yards out. Almost walking, Hill stepped round one defender and then unleashed a long range left foot shot which left keeper Hardcastle without a chance as it thundered into the top corner of the net. For the next ten minutes Borough dominated with near misses from Simpson, Bennett, Plummer, Straw and Hill.

Borough won a corner in the 61st minute which was taken short and passed to Hill who fired it into the box where it found the boot of Straw who guided it home for the third goal.



Rob Straw acknowledges the cheers after netting his second goal

Photo: Heartland Evening News

The Gingerbreads got their consolation goal almost a minute later when a long shot up field left their forwards struggling and an apparently easy clearance for full-back Adrian Greatrex. But he mishit the ball only to leave it at the feet of Dean Dye in front of an empty net and the ball was pushed over the line.

Evesham United v Nuneaton Borough 14-03-1995

Borough: Belford, Hillier, Tarry, Harris (Archer 40), Rodwell, Keogh, Hill, Simpson, Straw, Plummer (Percival 69), Bennett.

Borough travelled to Common Road to play Evesham United in a Southern League Midland Division game.

It was the Robins who made the point last night as they soaked up early Borough pressure in which the visitors had a number of chances to open the scoring. A free-kick from Richard Hill whistled inches past the post, catching keeper Billy Turley off-guard with Tony Simpson offering good support in a series of tantalising runs.

Some decisions were eccentric to say the least, beginning with a deliberate hand ball which stopped a Borough attack dead as Rob Straw raced through but referee Isaacs did not speak to the guilty player. But Borough could not turn their early dominance into goals and paid the price in the 20th minute as Evesham made a quick break. Steve Yates did the hard work before laying off a pass to Ian Mitchell who hit a deft chip shot over defenders heads into the top left-hand corner of the net. Borough were having more possession but repeated attacks came to nothing as every loose ball and stray pass seemed to go to a red shirted player.

With the break only seven minutes away Borough suffered a devastating blow as a terrible defensive error allowed striker Liam Dixon a free header from Roberts' right wing centre, leaving Belford completely flat footed as the ball popped in at the post. Then came the long break as the ground was plunged into darkness and it was 9.15pm, 50 minutes later, when the game was restarted.

Nuneaton were desperate to salvage something from the game as time rapidly drained away. Calvin Plummer went close, firing a shot just wide after running on to a long clearance by Hill as Straw closed in support. What looked suspiciously like a penalty was turned down as Yates was scythed down in Borough's area in one of Evesham's rare attacks. At the other end Nuneaton's luck was definitely out as three corner kicks in rapid succession were somehow cleared and two free-kicks by Hill failed to impress.

As in the first-half the Robins were depending on quick breaks and three minutes from time Chris Townsend almost lived up to his goal poaching reputation as he left Jim Rodwell for dead only for Belford to make the only save of the half.

Nuneaton Borough v Rothwell Town 18-03-1995

Borough: Belford, Hillier, Davies, Harris, Rodwell, Keogh, Hill, Simpson, Straw, Plummer, Bennett (Percival).

Rothwell: Liquorish, McGuire, Collins, Wills, Humphries, Sheerin, Coe, Torrance, Edwards, McDonald, McPolin (Akeredolu).

Borough welcomed Rothwell Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

The opening 20 minutes were scrappy to say the least with neither side able to put a concerted move together. Dave Bennett forced his way into the area, laying off a pass to Richard Hill only for the midfielder to be unceremoniously dumped by Coe. The Bones hit back through centre-forward Neil Edwards who ran on to Kevin McGuire's through ball but Belford was quickly off his line, foiling the raid as the two went down in a tangle on the edge of the six yard box. The nervous tension on the field was obvious when Darren Hillier's attempted clearance went to a red-shirted player who fired in a low return straight into the arms of a relieved Belford.



Calvin Plummer's goal attempt is saved by the keeper.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Straw, who looked the only Borough player with any appetite for the game, laid on a superb centre for Calvin Plummer in the 25th minute only for the ball to take an awkward bounce

at the crucial moment leaving the striker flailing for a contact. The visitors were enjoying their best period 10 minutes from the break as Shaun McPolin had a shot go wide and forced a corner kick but Bennett should have found the net as he snapped up a deflection by Steve Collins only to fire inches wide from ten yards. Right on half-time a Borough attack saw some frantic defending by the Bones with keeper Danny Liquorish deflecting two shots before Straw hammered a goalbound effort only for Edwards to head off the line.

Borough continued to pressure the visitors on the restart with Straw and Harris both testing the keeper but following an amazing miss by Plummer inside the six yard box the Bones stunned Manor Park with the killer strike. Shaun Wills wriggled his way past three defenders before hitting a penetrating ball for Adrian Sheerin to run in from the left, making no mistake from 15 yards.

Borough, stunned by the set-back, switched up a gear and proceeded to throw everything at the visitors. What followed is hard to describe as Straw went on a virtual one man crusade against the Bones. There could easily have been five Borough goals in the closing minutes as the opposition's goal was peppered with shots from set pieces and breakaways but time ran out and with it any hope of a return to Premier Division football.

Armitage v Nuneaton Borough 25-03-1995

Armitage: Steeples, Knight, Fry, McGrotty, Roper, Shepherd, Whitehurst, Hanbon, Ward, Smith, Warrican.

Borough: Belford, Hillier, Tarry, Harris, Rodwell, Keogh, Hill, Simpson, Straw, Costello, Bennett. Subs: Davies, Plummer.

Borough travelled to Kings Bromley Lane to play Armitage in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Armitage, staring relegation in the face, came at Borough from the opening whistle, attempting to unsettle the visitors, but both teams were having a tougher battle trying to control the ball as a howling wind swirled across the ground. Richard Hill hit a free-kick from 25 yards which went inches over the bar before Armitage hit back as Warrican linked with Mick Ward who closed dangerously only for Dale Belford to deny the striker with a courageous dive to save at Ward's feet. Hill headed against the bar from Bennett's corner while at the other end Belford again came under pressure as he punched Chris Smith's high, looping centre clear in an aerial duel with Ward, and from the clearance Costello was almost through only for Knight to make a vital tackle.

Steeple was lucky to get a touch on Hill's 38th minute free-kick as the ball took an awkward bounce on the uneven surface but he was well beaten by Costello's narrow angle shot which flew just wide. The final moments of the half belonged to Armitage as Ward forced Belford into making a finger-tip save followed by a quickly taken corner resulting in Chris Smith's header flying over the bar.

Borough began to pile on the pressure after the break



and Costello went close with a close range shot quickly followed by a neat pass to the impressive Rob Straw only for a defender to foil the move. Costello was poised to meet Bennett's neat centre only for Steeples to spoil the chance with another finger-tip clearance and Straw followed suit in the 52nd minute with a ball to the far post but once again Armitage escaped. But there was no denying Costello as he met Bennett's 59th minute corner kick with a deft glancing header which somehow slipped through the packed defence and into the net.

Hill almost snatched a second four minutes later as Steeples made a fine diving save to stop the midfielder's screaming free-kick. It was all Borough now and Straw had full-back Knight on the ropes in the closing minutes as he proceeded to take the Armitage defence apart with a series of powerful runs. Costello almost caught Steeples off his line with a high, looping ball from 25 yards and finished off a good move with a shot which the keeper did well to push around the post.

In spite of the pressure Borough could not add to the scoreline as Armitage desperately defended. They now looked destined for relegation and it remains to be seen if Borough can climb in the other direction.

Diver Leaves Borough

Unsettled midfielder Shaun Diver has rejoined former club, Rothwell Town, just weeks short of completing his debut season at Manor Park. Diver scored five goals in 18 appearances but lost his place with the arrival of Rob Straw and Tony Simpson.

| Redditch United v Nuneaton Borough | 01-04-1995 |
|---|------------|
| Redditch: Adey, Moore, Davis (Morris 64), Mears, Williams, Woodall, Dyer, Stirk, Tuohy, Baker, Grosvenor (Mackenzie 54). Sub: Barnes. | |
| Borough: Belford, Hillier, Tarry, Percival, Rodwell, Keogh, Hill, Simpson, Straw, Costello, Bennett. Subs: Plummer, Archer, Roberts. | |

Borough travelled to The Valley to play Redditch United in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Redditch, with a poor home record this term, almost suffered an early setback when Tony Simpson fired in a close-range effort, forcing a good save from keeper Dave Adey. But the Reds hit back when Stuart Grosvenor pounced on a loose ball following a free-kick, hammering a first time shot against the base of the post. Adey kept Redditch alive as he turned a shot from Jason Percival around the post and from Bennett's corner kick he made a finger-tip save to deny Chris Keogh.

Minutes later Costello was inches away from following up his debut goal at Armitage as he volleyed a centre from Straw just off target but with 18 minutes on the clock Redditch were stunned by Borough's breakthrough goal. A long goal-kick by Jim Rodwell found Straw who controlled the ball amidst a ruck of players, turned in one movement and struck a superb 30 yard shot past Adey. Borough went close to increasing their lead five minutes later as Hillier and Percival linked to

set up Straw but once again Adey was ideally positioned to save. Straw missed another gilt-edged chance on the half-hour as he allowed Costello's through ball to get away, giving Adey time to sprint off his line and clear the danger.

The watching supporters, who formed Redditch's biggest league gate of the season which included about 300 Borough followers, could only wonder how the visitors were not three or four goals to the good with half-time looming as Redditch, for all their spirit were not looking comfortable up front. There was a brief flurry as a Redditch free-kick went loose in the area, resulting in a melee before Belford smothered the danger but Borough knew that one goal was not going to be enough.

Borough pushed to increase their lead after the break but the pitch and determined defending foiled efforts that on other occasions would have been in the net. Straw was kicking himself as he blasted a close range shot over the crossbar, taking too long as two defenders reacted quickly to close him down but other strikers were having equally bad luck. Costello laid on a perfect centre from Bennett's superb defence-splitting pass but, unbelievably, the ball ran through a packed area with no-one getting a touch.

The closing 15 minutes saw Redditch hitting back for all they were worth as Borough were forced to defend. Hill was caught in possession, giving Mark Stirk a free run as he passed to Carl Morris who hit a first-time shot past Belford and against the woodwork. That miss proved that it was Borough's day and Straw hammered the message home with four minutes remaining as he took Hill's through ball on with a powerful run, fending off a defender to fire past the diving Adey.

| Tamworth v Nuneaton Borough | 08-04-1995 |
|---|------------|
| Tamworth: Phillips, Seivwright, Osborne, Foy, Howard, Piggon, Smith, Whitehouse, Alsop, Moss, Mulholland. | |
| Borough: Belford, Hillier, Tarry, Percival, Rodwell, Keogh, Hill, Simpson, Straw, Costello (Plummer 63), Bennett. Subs: Davies, Manuel. | |

Borough travelled to The Lamb to play Tamworth in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Passions were high as the highest gate of the season packed into the Lamb ground and it was almost a cup final atmosphere with so much to play for. Borough got off to a good start, winning two corner kicks in succession and were rewarded with a penalty in the ninth minute after former Bedworth skipper Adrian Piggon handled in the area. It was just the start that Borough were looking for but Hill's shot was too close to Phillips who made a superb diving save. Nuneaton-born striker Julian Alsop led a Tamworth breakthrough with a neat header on for Whitehouse, who linked with Foy only for Tarry and Hillier to snuff out the danger.

But there was no stopping Whitehouse's 27th minute glancing header from yet another free kick by Foy. Whitehouse was unlucky minutes later as he slipped on the hard, dusty surface in the area following a good move by Moss and Alsop and Belford was forced to make a brave stop as the number eight

was teeing up another effort. Straw, who had been having a quiet game, burst into life just before the break as he latched onto Percival's neat through ball, turning and shooting in one movement for Phillips to make a diving save.



Dave Bennett weaves his way through the Tamworth defence but his run came to nothing.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Tony Simpson, who had been having no luck against Osbourne, was switched inside on the restart, linking with Straw but veteran Dennis Mulholland made the crucial tackle as Borough pushed for the equaliser. Three efforts in seconds from a corner kick resulted in Keogh heading off the line and a quick return striking the woodwork but Borough almost took the Lambs by surprise as Straw broke free, the ball going loose for Phillips to dash back and clear the ball with inches to spare. Borough were level with 24 minutes remaining as a throw-in from Percival found Hill at the near post who held Seivwright off long enough to turn and shoot low into the net. The visitors went on the rampage with Percival missing a spectacular overhead kick. Plummer, on for Costello, also had two close efforts and Straw fired a foot wide from the edge of the area and also went agonisingly close as Phillips' outstretched foot denied him yet again. But there was no denying Whitehouse as his 81st minute penalty shot flew into the net following Matt Tarry's foul on Moss.

Hinckley Town v Nuneaton Borough 11-04-1995

Hinckley: Clay, McGinty, Purser, Griffin, Tonge, Bradder, Andersen, Emery, Scott, Hardwick, McKernon. **Subs:** Bond, Robinson.

Borough: Belford, Hillier, Tarry, Harris, Rodwell, Keogh, Hill, Simpson (Percival 77), Straw, Costello (Plummer 45), Bennett.

Borough travelled to Leicester Road to play Hinckley Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Town adapted to the hard uneven surface early on, Scott having two efforts, the best of which flew into the side netting following a flick-on by Gary Hardwick. Borough keeper Dale Belford was kept busy by Scott and smothered his powerfully driven 22nd minute free-kick at the second attempt, but could only watch as Nicky Andersen's volley screamed just wide of the post.

Borough, who were struggling to find any balance, were almost caught cold but a quickly taken free-kick by former skipper Gary Bradder had a little too much pace for the chasing Hardwick. With a minute to go before half-time Nuneaton's patient supporters were given a moment of hope. Bennett controlled an awkwardly bouncing ball to find Hillier who laid on a long pass to Straw only for two defenders to snuff out the danger.

Calvin Plummer replaced Peter Costello after the break but it was the defence that were battling for possession as a good Town move by Bradder and Andersen set up Paul Purser whose fiercely-driven centre forced Belford into making a diving save. Borough broke back following a clearance by Tarry to Straw, who beat two defenders before finding Plummer at the near post but his first-time effort flew inches wide as Tim Griffin moved in. Tarry made a timely tackle moments later, cutting out the danger on the edge of the area as Andersen's through ball almost picked out Scott. But Scott was luckier with 23 minutes remaining as his wickedly dipping 20 yard shot flew over Belford, clipped the underside of the bar and buried itself in the net.

With time running out Jason Percival replaced Tony Simpson as Borough strove to snatch a point and there were ironic cheers as the visitors were awarded their first corner kick in the 78th minute. Borough went close to grabbing that elusive point three minutes from time in a flurry of action as the ball flew across the goalmouth, Hill hit the crossbar before Straw's return found Percival, who headed over from three yards out. Many of the fans were making their way home by the time Straw's final effort, an overhead scissor kick, flew over the bar.

Nuneaton Borough v Evesham United 15-04-1995

Borough: Belford, Hillier, Tarry, Harris, Rodwell, Davies, Hill, Simpson, Straw, Plummer, Bennett (Costello) **Sub:** Percival.

Borough welcomed Evesham United to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Two-goal Rob Straw earned Borough a 2-0 victory, both goals coming in the last ten minutes of a dour lack-lustre encounter. However, Straw's first goal was well worth the admission money alone as he rifled a thrilling volley into the top of the net from 25 yards following a free-kick. It was Straw again just before the end when he latched on to Tony Simpson's through pass to steer a low drive past keeper Billy Turley.

Bedworth United v Nuneaton Borough 17-04-1995

Bedworth: Starkey, Wilkins, Young, Woodfine, Wileman, Wilcox, Kelly (Beard 78), Wilson, Symonds, Owen, Mee. **Sub:** Wood.

Borough: Belford, Albrighton, Davies, Hart, Rodwell, Keogh, Hill, Simpson, Straw, Plummer, Bennett. **Subs:** Percival, Costello.

Borough travelled to The Oval to play Bedworth United in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough kicked off only to immediately lose possession as full-back Peter Wilkins hit a long ball up the right hand side

to Symonds who lobbed the advancing Belford with barely 20 seconds on the clock. Symonds almost set up Matt Owen two minutes later but Chris Keogh won the aerial duel as he headed clear. Nuneaton swept back through Hart who laid on a neat ball for former Bedworth striker Rob Straw, who, ignoring the vocal attentions of a section of the crowd, thumped a stinging shot inches wide of the post.



Tony Simpson's left-foot volley flies off target.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Bedworth were pumping balls upfield, searching for front-runner Symonds who looked certain to break clear but for the attentions of the Jim Rodwell who made the vital tackle. Straw, constantly buzzing around the Bedworth area was unlucky as he ran onto Richard Hill's deft chip over the defence only to be foiled by Wileman's quick clearance.

Nuneaton were trying to counter the Greenbacks more aggressive play by keeping the ball down and building attacks. Dave Bennett, in his best performance for several weeks, evaded three tackles to get to the by-line but his ball to the far post was just too long for Simpson. It was back and forward stuff as half-time loomed. Steve Woodfine, another Borough exile, did well to head a dangerous ball from Simpson away as Calvin Plummer challenged. Borough's best chance of the half came as Hill struck a powerhouse drive which Starkey could only block and Wilcox cleared. Starkey saved at Simpson's feet following Plummer's flick on.

The second half was ten minutes old when Hill's long throw-in from the right caused a panic in the defence before Plummer got a touch on to Hart who made no mistake from ten yards. Starkey made an instinctive save from Plummer's point-blank range header as Borough tried desperately to get a second but Bedworth's defence held fast. Symonds went close as the game was petering out to a midfield contest, but Belford was quickly off his line.

Bedworth's tide washed upfield again as Mee laid on a high, searching ball for Owen and Wilson but, once again, Belford won the ball in a tight challenge. With minutes left, Hart had a superb chance to clinch the game as he ran on to Simpson's through ball but he struck the ball wide from 15 yards. Rodwell was given his marching orders in the dying minutes following two yellow cards in quick succession.

Rumours Denied

Growing rumours that Nuneaton Borough manager Elwyn Roberts' job is up for grabs have been quashed by a club spokesman – for the time being. Press officer and director, Gordon Chislett, said Roberts' contract runs to the end of the season on May 6 and the board would have talks on the matter at the appropriate time.

Nuneaton Borough v Bridgnorth Town 22-04-1995

Borough: Belford, Hillier, Tarry (Keogh 72), Harris, Rodwell, Davies, Hill, Simpson, Straw (Costello 45), Plummer, Hart.

Borough welcomed Bridgnorth Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Bridgnorth almost had a perfect start when Hill lost possession in midfield. Paul Tester hit a through ball to former Borough and Bedworth striker Peter McBean but Dale Belford was quickly off his line to bravely block the attack – the first of several stunning saves made by the on-form keeper during the afternoon. Nuneaton, looking more relaxed than of late, pushed forward and almost took the lead as Rob Straw ran onto Hill's neat pass only for the ball to take an awkward bounce giving Andy Withington time to snuff out the danger.

Town danger man, and last season's leading goalscorer, Jason Yates, attempted to chip Belford, seeing the keeper off his line but only succeeded in hooking the shot over the crossbar. That miss was punished 60 seconds later as David Hart flicked Rodwell's free-kick on to Plummer who whipped the ball into the net from eight yards. Belford had to be on his toes two minutes later as Paul Tester forced him into making a diving save, the ball ricocheting off his outstretched foot to go for a corner kick.

As if that was not enough Belford pulled off the save of the game on the half hour mark after dropping a centre under pressure from Eccleston to stop McBean's close range follow-up effort. Both sides quickly retaliated as attacks foundered and Borough deserved better as a superb move involving Hart, Straw and Plummer ended with Tony Simpson cutting inside and unleashing a shot from the edge of the area which Withington did well to stop on his line. Right on half-time Nuneaton went close to going further in front as Tarry and Simpson linked to set up Hill at the far post whose volley beat Withington, flying inches wide of the post.

Plummer forced Withington into an instinctive near-post save shortly after the break and it was only the attentions of defender Paul Bywater that foiled the striker's follow-up moments later. Town were looking dangerous as Borough's early dominance began to fade. Yates forcing Belford into making a timely save from McBean's flick-on.

Costello, who had replaced Straw, picked up Hart's clearance to find Plummer in midfield and with Town furiously back pedalling, set up Simpson whose snap-shot flew past



Withington – and the post. But the diminutive midfielder more than made up for the miss with 15 minutes remaining as he ran fully 50 yards, evading four desperate tackles but the centre wrong-footed Hill and Plummer as the defence recovered.

Captain, Glyn Davies, who was not expected to play after aggravating an ankle injury at Bedworth on Easter Monday, had an inspired game, setting up a number of breakthroughs with inch-perfect passes, none better than an 81st minute ball down the line to Costello to relieve growing Town pressure. McBean and Yates combined to force one last effort but, once again, Belford was in position to break the visitors' hearts with another super save. Then, as it was looking like Nuneaton had done enough, Simpson hit a superb pass into the Town area to Hill only for Mick Davidson to lose his head as he whipped the midfielder's legs from under him. Referee Jeffcoate had no hesitation in pointing to the spot for Plummer to take two steps and slam the ball low into the net.

Stourbridge v Nuneaton Borough 25-04-1995

Stourbridge: Lowe, Tivey, Trend, Davies, Laker, Rudge, Walker, Clarke, Jeevons, Haughton, Guest. **Subs:** Johnson, Potter, Vaughan.

Borough: Belford, Albrighton, Tarry, Harris, Rodwell, Keogh, Hill, Simpson, Straw, Plummer, Percival. **Subs:** Costello, Archer, Manuel.

Borough travelled to Amblecote to play Stourbridge in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Neither side could settle as scrappy play dominated the early stages and it was the 24th minute before the game burst into life as The Glassboys took the lead. Borough keeper Dale Belford had little chance as Warren Haughton pounced on a loose ball on the edge of the area before delivering a clinical finish. Six minutes later Nuneaton almost pulled level when a superb long range effort by Rob Straw flashed narrowly wide of the post. Seconds later Straw's name went into the book after he and Tony Davies were pulled up for fighting. Andy Harris could only blast the resultant free-kick over the bar.

Ten minutes before the break Richard Hill laid on a pin-point pass from the right to Calvin Plummer, who headed straight at keeper Matt Lowe. The Glassboys increased their lead six minutes later when a long throw-in by Calvin Guest found the unmarked Tony Davies and he headed into the roof of the net.

Borough looked more determined after the break and were rewarded with a goal on 52 minutes. Jason Percival's cross fell to Plummer whose shot was blocked by Lowe for Simpson to tidy up with a simple tap in. The goal galvanised Borough into action and five minutes later they were level. Good work by Straw found Plummer, who fired in a 25-yard drive, which itself in the net to the delight of the Nuneaton contingent.

Unbelievably, Borough seemed to sit back and allowed the Glassboys to dictate play and it came as no surprise when the hosts regained the lead in the 69th minute. Belford pulled off a magnificent save to deny Jamie Jeevons but from the resulting corner kick the striker got the final touch after the defence

failed to clear. In a game clearly stamped as an end of season affair, Nuneaton lacked the will to recover from the blow.

Dudley Town v Nuneaton Borough 29-04-1995

Dudley: Crannage, Ingram, Hamilton, Horne, Brown, Williams, Cooper, Dale, Hall, Piggott, Harrison. **Subs:** Clifton, Cartwright.

Borough: Belford, Albrighton, Tarry, Harris, Rodwell, Keogh, Hill, Simpson, Straw, Plummer, Hart. **Subs:** Costello, Percival, Roberts.

Borough travelled to The Round Oak Stadium to play Dudley Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough went a goal down with just three minutes on the clock. Everyone was taken by surprise as Adrian Cooper latched on to a clearance after the Robins had forced a corner, hitting a superb 35 yard drive past the despairing Dale Belford. Nuneaton were shocked into retaliation and Straw got into a good position to cross to the far post but Andy Crannage climbed to cut out the danger from the lurking Calvin Plummer.

Borough began to pull themselves back into the game, winning two corner kicks in quick succession but Dudley's goal seemed impervious as efforts by Hart and then Hill went wide. Straw was almost clear from Mark Albrighton's 17th minute through pass but the ball took an awkward bounce, giving Cooper and Horne time to cover the danger. Tony Simpson had the same problem as Straw when the ball bobbed as he pounced on a poor clearance, forcing his shot wide for Crannage to push around the post for a corner.

In spite of their initial superiority, Dudley were missing chances through desperate defending and a number of brave stops by Belford, but there was no denying the Robins' 26th minute success. A superb run by the impressive Gary Piggott left Borough's defence in disarray before laying off a pass to Mick Williams who played a neat one-two with Hall before slamming a sharply angled shot into the far corner. Six minutes later Piggott did the damage again, hitting a curling shot off the post for centre-forward Toby Hall to tidy up with a simple tap in.

With ten minutes to go before half-time Borough dug deep into their reserves as Hill picked up a loose ball, ran through to the edge of the area and chipped the advancing Crannage. Borough had turned the tables on their opponents with some inventive football and could have levelled the game on the break as Albrighton and Simpson linked down the right but Plummer and Hart both overran the low centre.

Straw had a golden chance to pull Borough level two minutes into the second half but his attempted clip with the outside of his left foot went inches wide. Piggott was unlucky as his attempted chip cleared Belford but drifted wide. Straw had some reward for his hard work as Plummer's 68th minute pass found Simpson who crossed for the striker to side-foot the ball home from close range.

But the expected late burst never materialised as both teams settled into a midfield battle. Plummer had another close range header slip over the bar from Rodwell's flick-on and

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



Dale went close with a low shot which Belford did well to stop at the second attempt.

Roberts Sacked

Nuneaton Borough manager Elwyn Roberts has hit out at the way the club is run following the board's decision to sack him at a special board meeting. Roberts, whose contract ends with the final game of the season against Sutton Coldfield said the board does not allow a manager to do his job.

"I think it is the most amateurishly run club I have been at. The board questions every decision and they have even played about with the retained list I was asked to draw up. Nuneaton are a Midland Division club and until the board allow the manager to manage they will stay that way," he said.

Nuneaton Borough v Sutton Coldfield Town 22-04-1995

Borough: Belford, Albrighton, Tarry, Harris, Davies, Keogh, Hill (Percival 79), Simpson, Straw, Plummer (Costello 79), Hart.

Sutton: Parsons, Ling, Richards, Manton, Richardson, Chambers, Swann, Martin, Ayres (Farquarson 62), Hadland, Wright (Slowey 85).



Andy Harris rises high to get in a fine header, only for a Sutton defender to head the ball off the line.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Borough welcomed Sutton Coldfield Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough, under manager Elwyn Roberts for the last time, got off to a good start as Tony Simpson controlled a high ball inside the area, passing inside for Straw who turned and shot only to be foiled by John Parsons who followed up with an equally impressive save to deny David Hart's reply. Three minutes later Borough were hit by Wright's superb solo effort as he controlled a high centre before smashing a 20 yard volley past Belford and high into the corner of the net.

Borough were still recovering from the early setback when Wright struck again, racing in unmarked to convert Larry Chambers' long looping ball into the six yard box. In spite of the scorching conditions Nuneaton went up a gear and took the game to the visitors. Hart had two golden chances within a minute of levelling the game but wasted two centres from Rob Straw, missing the target from close range. That was the story of Borough's repeated efforts for the rest of the half as time after time shots went desperately close. It was the hard working Tony Simpson who found the net with a minute to go before half-time, as he controlled a high ball before chipping the advancing Parsons into the empty net. Plummer almost snatched an equaliser on the break with a diving header which Parsons did well to save at the foot of the post.

Sutton opened the second half with Micky Ayres blasting a shot against the post and Mark Swann forced Belford into making a spectacular diving save but from then on Borough were in the driving seat. Hart made up for his early misses in the 59th minute with a superbly taken right foot shot from Simpson's long, midfield pass to level the game. At the other end, Belford had to be on his toes as substitute Pete Slowey and Swann both stormed in after Andy Ling's tremendous shot went loose in the area but Borough had their chances to take the game.

Glynn Davies played a captain's part, leading from the front, and went close with a header 17 minutes from time but Swann was on the line to clear the danger. Jason Percival and Peter Costello replaced Hill and Plummer with 11 minutes remaining but it was left to Straw to provide the final gasp as he unleashed a powerful drive, drawing a save from Parsons.

Southern League Midland Division 1994-95

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-----------------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Newport AFC | 42 | 29 | 8 | 5 | 106 | 39 | 95 |
| Ilkeston Town | 42 | 25 | 6 | 11 | 101 | 75 | 81 |
| Tamworth | 42 | 24 | 8 | 10 | 98 | 70 | 80 |
| Moor Green | 42 | 23 | 8 | 11 | 105 | 63 | 77 |
| Bridgnorth Town | 42 | 22 | 10 | 10 | 75 | 49 | 76 |
| Buckingham Town | 42 | 20 | 14 | 8 | 55 | 37 | 74 |
| Nuneaton Borough | 42 | 19 | 11 | 12 | 76 | 55 | 68 |
| Rothwell Town | 42 | 19 | 7 | 16 | 71 | 71 | 64 |
| King's Lynn | 42 | 18 | 8 | 16 | 76 | 64 | 62 |
| Racing Club Warwick | 42 | 17 | 11 | 14 | 68 | 63 | 62 |
| Dudley Town | 42 | 17 | 8 | 17 | 73 | 64 | 59 |
| Bilston Town | 42 | 17 | 8 | 17 | 73 | 64 | 59 |
| Bedworth United | 42 | 17 | 7 | 18 | 64 | 68 | 58 |
| Evesham United | 42 | 14 | 10 | 18 | 57 | 56 | 52 |
| Hinckley Town | 42 | 14 | 10 | 18 | 61 | 76 | 52 |
| Stourbridge | 42 | 15 | 7 | 20 | 59 | 77 | 52 |
| Sutton Coldfield Town | 42 | 12 | 10 | 20 | 62 | 72 | 46 |
| Forest Green Rovers | 42 | 11 | 13 | 18 | 56 | 76 | 46 |
| Redditch United | 42 | 8 | 14 | 20 | 47 | 64 | 38 |
| Leicester United | 42 | 10 | 8 | 24 | 51 | 99 | 38 |
| Grantham Town | 42 | 8 | 9 | 25 | 55 | 93 | 33 |
| Armitage | 42 | 2 | 5 | 35 | 35 | 116 | 11 |

Time Board Looked At Themselves

Dear Editor

So the board at Nuneaton Borough have sacked another manager. Isn't it about time they, the board, sat back and had a look at themselves? It must be the hardest job in non-league soccer being the Borough manager with 12 – or is it 14 – bosses all wanting their say about team affairs. Just because they are on the board having put money into the club does not make them experts on what is required on the field.

All this talk about Nuneaton Borough being a sleeping giant is nonsense. It's not sleeping – it's in a coma. If the club is to go forward then the appointment of a full-time manager is essential. Someone who knows non-league soccer inside out. Forget the David Speedie's and other so-called big names being bandied about. We need someone like Brendan Phillips, Ron Bradbury or Graham Carr – people who know non-league soccer inside out.

If the manager is full-time he can put his heart and soul into the team and club, and have time to see the good players in the reserve and youth teams, and make sure they are given the incentive to stay with the club and not be allowed to drift away to other clubs as has happened over the last two or three seasons.

He will have time to travel about and look at players with potential with a view to bringing them in at the Borough. Let him build a team that the wonderful Borough supporters deserve. If the quality of the football played at the Borough is allowed to deteriorate, as it most definitely has over the last 12 months or so, then I can see the Borough losing their Beazer Midland status.

What price the Borough being the club with the best ground in junior non-league soccer? It could happen! The fans at Nuneaton Borough deserve more from the board. It's not all about big money. Just ask Keith Allen and Kevin Haskins at Atherstone. I wonder where the Adders would be with Borough's income? Vauxhall Conference!

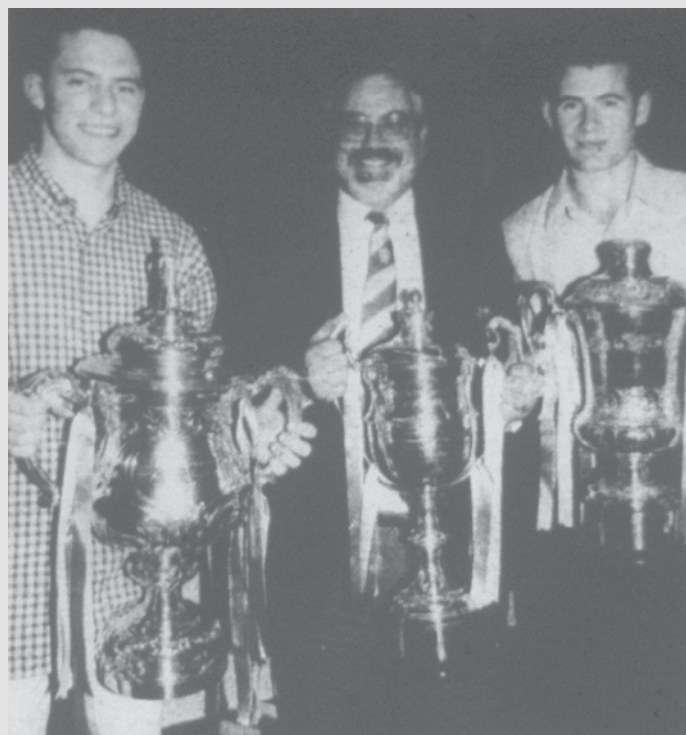
So come on Borough board. If there are those among you who are there for the ego trip get off and let the genuine Borough people on the board get on with running the club and for goodness sake let the new manager, whoever he may be, get on with running the team without interference.

BOROUGH FAN HOME AND AWAY

Borough Manager To Be Announced

Nuneaton Borough supporters anxiously waiting to hear who will take over the managerial hot seat following the sacking of Elwyn Roberts, will have to be patient a little longer – until Friday at least. The new manager will be announced at the True Blues Annual Dinner and Dance at the Co-op Club in Dugdale Street, late on Friday night.

It is expected that the successful applicant will be chosen on Friday when final interviews will take place with a short-list of three applicants.



Chairman Howard Kerry and reserve team players Mark Albrighton and Ade Greatrex proudly show off the Bedworth Nursing Cup and League Winners Cup.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Dale Belford Player Of The Year



Player of the Year Dale Belford with Miss Nuneaton Borough Teresa Pickering.

Photo: Heartland Evening News



Borough Appoint Brendan Phillips

Ex-England Non-League International and Borough player Brendan Phillips has been appointed as manager of Nuneaton Borough.

Phillips has an excellent background in non-league soccer, not only as a player where he graced Manor Park for numerous seasons with his silky smooth skills back in the 80s, but also on the managerial front where he did a splendid job before trying his luck at Stafford.

However, a lack of cash, injuries and misfortune seemed to bedevil him at Marston Road as the Rangers slumped into the lower reaches of the GM Conference and he parted company with the club earlier this season.

Borough Make Four Man Swoop

Success hungry Nuneaton Borough celebrated a major coup with the signing of four players inside the past 24 hours. New manager, Brendan Phillips, and club chiefs were delighted when the quartet of Ian Drewitt, David Crowley, Paul Shepstone and Seamus Luby put pen to paper.

Club press officer, Gordon Chislett, said: "A lot of clubs have been after these lads, especially Drewitt, who was being chased by Graham Carr when he was manager at Kettering and since taking over at Weymouth.

"Drewitt turned down Weymouth to come to Nuneaton. He is a proven striker who is equally at home in midfield," said Mr Chislett. Drewitt, 25, lives in South Wales, and has a wealth of experience in both League and non-league football having played for Swansea, Ton Pentre, Merthyr Tydfil and Stafford Rangers. The Brendan Phillips-Stafford connection also figures strongly with the other three. Crowley, 25, played midfield for the GM Conference outfit and has also spent time with Coventry City and neighbours Bedworth United.

Meanwhile 24-year-old Shepstone also knows the area well having been crowned Hinckley Athletic's Players' Player of the Year for the 1994-95 season. He brings Football League experience in his midfield role, having previously displayed his talents with Coventry City, Blackburn Rovers and Motherwell.

Last but not least, Seamus Luby, 28, is a utility player and has been a stalwart in that department with former clubs, Redditch United, Tamworth and Stafford Rangers.

Simpson Selected For Student Games

Nuneaton Borough favourite Tony Simpson will soon be performing for an international audience after being selected to play for Great Britain at the World Student Games in Japan in August.

"I am delighted to have been selected," he said. "It is a tremendous honour and achievement, especially as 10,000 entered at the start before gradually being whittled down to a final squad of 18 players. New Borough Boss Brendan Phillips gave his blessing to the trip, in spite of the fact that Simpson will miss the first two weeks of the new season."

Hill Rejected By Phillips

Fears of a clash of personalities may have been the reason for the shock rejection of Nuneaton Borough midfielder Richard Hill by new boss Brendan Phillips. Hill, is still stunned after being told that he would not be kicking off the new season in the blue and white Borough colours.

He said: "I am disappointed and upset over the decision which came about because I had applied for the manager's job and I feel that people should know why I have been released. I bumped into Brendan as I was leaving the interview and he was going in. It was a little embarrassing at the time but I thought no more about it."

Phillips who took over at Manor Park on May 19 said he felt that Hill's age was against him and, added to his injury problems, he had to make a decision. "And regarding the manager's post, would Richard have considered me as number two if he had been in the same position?"

Borough Sign Tuff

Brendan Phillips has signed Leicestershire Senior League player David Tuff. The signing follows hard on the heels of central defender Jim Rodwell agreeing to stay at Manor Park. Phillips said: "David is equally at home in the back four or in midfield and I believe that he could have a promising future. We are delighted to be able to give him this opportunity," he said. Phillips has also secured the signature of former Hinckley Town and Stafford Rangers' midfielder Andy Massey and will be talking to more players in the near future.

Phillips Brings In Two More

Nuneaton Borough boss Brendan Phillips has secured the services of former Football League star Richie Norman, who will take over as physio at Manor Park, breaking a seven year link with GM Conference outfit Kettering Town. Also on his way to Manor Park is former VS Rugby striker Robert Smith, who started out in the Leicestershire Senior League before joining Aylesbury and then moving on to VS.

Gary Statham Joins Borough

Nuneaton Borough have clinched the signing of central defender Gary Statham, but they now face a battle with local rivals VS Rugby to decide a transfer fee. The 23-year-old put pen to paper last week, however, the two clubs are at loggerheads over the transfer fee involved.

Borough manager Brendan Phillips said that the club was preparing itself for a FA tribunal as he and his VS Rugby counterpart, Ron Bradbury have a difference of opinion over Statham's value.

"I have got to stress from the outset that we have done nothing underhanded in signing Gary," said Phillips. "Everything has been done correctly, the lad was out of contract so we talked, he liked what I had to say and, in the end, he was glad to join Nuneaton Borough."

Heybridge Swifts — 4th Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Heybridge Swifts to Manor Park to play a FA Cup 4th Qualifying Round tie.

Borough: Manuel, Hillier, Tarry, Wolsey (Wade 70), Rodwell, Davies, Hart, Archer, Percival, Plummer, Bennett. Sub: Diver.

Heybridge: McCutcheon, Bain, Adcock (Hull 62), Game, Rolfe, Brush, Jenkins, Springett, Matthews, Jones, Pollard. Sub: Caldon.

A shock first-minute goal was overshadowed by an equally stunning equaliser as Heybridge Swifts got out of jail in a tense Cup tie.

Borough looked to have the game in the bag after taking the lead in the 75th minute through Jim Rodwell's superb header but a tragic defensive error gave the Swifts a shock draw and a second bite of the apple.

"We let it slip," said disappointed manager Elwyn Roberts. "It was a very tense second half and they played it very tight at the back and just nipped in at the end."

Roberts said that Heybridge were as surprised as the Borough when the ball went in but he remains confident



Borough fans celebrate the second goal.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

that Borough can win at Scraley Road tomorrow night.

Swifts got off to a dream start in the opening minute as Mitchell Springett forced a corner with a blistering 30 yard shot which Keith Bain fired home from six yards.

Undeterred, Nuneaton swept back and almost levelled the game as top marksman Calvin Plummer's half-hit third minute shot struck the post.

The tie was living up to expectations as Swifts sought to unsettle Borough

with lightning moves down the right inspired by the impressive duo of Dave Matthews and Matt Jones.

Matthews almost pinched a second for the visitors with a close range header which Peter Manuel did well to deflect with a diving save.

Nuneaton went close as Plummer hit an inch perfect cross over Mark McCutcheon to the far post for full-back Darren Hillier to head into the side netting but with 14 minutes on the clock Borough were level.

A superb defence splitting pass by the revitalised Dave Bennett put Jason Percival clear as he ran on and poked the ball past the advancing McCutcheon.

A superb defence splitting pass by the revitalised Dave Bennett put Jason Percival clear as he ran on and poked the ball past the advancing McCutcheon.

From that moment Borough virtually took charge and created a number of fine moves. Rodwell went close with a header in the 31st minute and Bennett forced McCutcheon into giving away a corner with a near post attempt four minutes later.

Hemmed in Swifts were depending on break aways and Matthews almost punished Borough but Hillier saved the day with a well-judged, vital interception.



Jason Percival tries a long-range effort.

Photo: Heartland Evening News



Percival was desperately unlucky as the ball took a bounce as he hit a centre with Swifts defence in a panic and at the other end Springett forced Manuel into making yet another spectacular save.

Heybridge went on the offensive with the restart and Jones should have scored from Matthews' pass but only succeeded in skying the shot over the crossbar.

The game settled into a stalemate for long periods broken by David Hart's back header which eluded McCutcheon but went just wide.

It was looking ominously like a replay situation until, 15 minutes from time, a corner from Graeme Archer found Jim Rodwell whose looping header sneaked under the crossbar to give Borough a well-deserved lead.

But tragically for Nuneaton the glory of a first round tie had to be put onto the back burner as Matthews nipped in and pinched the equaliser with 11 minutes remaining, following a defensive error.

Heybridge Swifts — 4th Qualifying Round Replay

Borough made the journey to Scraley Road to play Heybridge Swifts in a 4th Qualifying Round Replay.

Heybridge: McCutcheon, Bain, Adcock, Game, Rolfe, Brush (May 70), Jenkins, Springett, Matthews, Jones, Pollard.
Subs: Hull, Shultz.

Borough: Manuel, Hillier, Tarry, Wolsey, Rodwell, Davies, Hart (Wade 3), Archer, Percival, Plummer, Bennett. Sub: Diver, Belford.

Elwyn Roberts' men trooped off with heads hung low after throwing away a glorious opportunity to book themselves a home First Round Proper encounter with Third Division Gillingham, a tie that has now been handed on a plate to the Diadora First Division outfit, who grabbed the winner in injury time.

A bitterly disappointed Elwyn Roberts said: "Lack of discipline cost us the

game. The rest of the lads were superb but we were let down by two.

"The supporters were magnificent and gave the lads a standing ovation when they went off at the end.

"We were 2-1 up on the stroke of half-time when Graeme was given his marching orders and 2-2 when Matt was sent off and from then on we were up against it. They pushed everybody forward and were awarded a corner in injury time and to be fair the lad did well to score but it effectively killed us off."

Roberts added that in spite of going out the players still had their heads high and showed great character. "We have a problem with suspensions in the next few weeks but our main aim now is to pick up as many league points as possible," he said.

The kick-off was delayed by 15 minutes to allow the Swifts record gate to get into the ground but it was Borough who were first to show when Calvin Plummer headed just wide from an Archer free kick. Then came a period of home pressure as Wayne Adcock, Mitchell Springett and Dave Mathews all had efforts that gave Peter Manuel little trouble.

Borough weathered this, and on 21 minutes took the lead, Jim Rodwell's free-kick was only cleared to Mark Wolsey on the edge of the 18 yard box, he headed back in for Calvin Plummer to score with an overhead kick.

Just prior to the half-hour mark the visitors increased their lead with a brilliantly worked goal. Archer started the move as he fed Plummer who immediately set Tarry tearing down the left and his pinpoint cross found Jason Percival who swivelled and hammered an unstoppable left-foot shot into the roof of the net.

At this stage the visitors were looking comfortable but in the 39th minute they suffered a blow when David Hart was stretchered off with a knee injury and during first-half stoppage time

came two incidents that were to turn the game against them.

Firstly Jim Rodwell was adjudged to have fouled John Pollard inside the area. Springett blasted home the resulting spot kick while less than 60 seconds later came Archer's dismissal. The midfielder kicked the ball away after the home side were awarded a free-kick and instead of accepting a yellow card, he foolishly decided to argue the point very strongly and referee Clingo of Wisbech showed him a red card.

Five minutes into the second half Borough came close to increasing their advantage when Richard Wade set Percival away down the right and as he cut in he unleashed a shot which narrowly went over.

But a minute later Heybridge equalised as Wayne Adcock shot home after Manuel could only parry a Dave Mathews shot. A second hammer blow to Borough's hopes came straight after when Matt Tarry was given his marching orders for his second bookable offence when he stupidly chopped down Dave Jenkins with the ball nowhere in sight.

To their credit the nine men kept Heybridge at bay for long periods and in fact created two late chances that could have won the match.

On 78 minutes Jim Rodwell's header was just tipped over by McCutcheon from Wolsey's corner and late on Borough had a penalty appeal turned down when Percival was bundled over in the box.

Dave Bennett went on a run down the left that took him past two defenders and fired a shot just over with both Plummer and Percival screaming for a pass into the box.

The inevitable winner came in injury time when Springett fired home from 20 yards, sending the Heybridge crowd and players wild with delight and leaving Borough rueing the two sendings off that cost them so dear.

Horwich RMI — 1st Qualifying Round

Borough made the journey to Grundy Hill to play Horwich RMI in a FA Trophy 1st Qualifying Round tie.

Borough: Manuel, Davies, Tarry, Harris, Rodwell, Keogh, Bennett, Archer (Hart 74), Percival, Plummer, Wolsey. Subs: Diver, Wade.

Borough moved into the next round after an impressive win. It was a solid, hard working all round performance that saw them through.

Borough were the first to show on seven minutes when a Jim Rodwell cross found Calvin Plummer whose powerful shot was blocked by home defender Andy Pilling.

There was some scrappy play, before Jamie Fahey picked up a loose ball in midfield and his low drive was well held by Peter Manuel.

But it was the Borough who took the lead in the 32nd minute when Dave Bennett's cross was headed on by Jason Percival to Calvin Plummer whose bullet header bulged the back of the net.

Eight minutes later Nuneaton increased their lead when Plummer's dipping long range effort was brilliantly tipped over by home keeper Mike Allison. From the resulting Mark Wolsey corner Plummer rose unchallenged to head into the roof of the net.

It was all Borough now and in the 43rd minute a defence splitting pass from Wolsey set Archer free on the right and his low cross was met by Jim Rodwell, who saw his low drive go wide. It was the same player who had a goal chalked off a minute later when he headed home an Archer corner only for referee Evans to indicate use of the elbow.

The second period started with the Borough again nearly increasing their lead when Jason Percival's close range effort after good work by Bennett was well blocked by Allison. After that Horwich threw caution to the wind as they sought to get back into the game

and in the 50th minute an Andy Leach cross shot went just wide of the post.

A minute later the same player had a powerful left foot drive well held by Manuel. Soon after Manuel was in action again when he parried a Barry Diamond snap shot and two minutes later another long range effort was pushed round the post by the Borough custodian for a fruitless corner.

In the 72nd minute came the incident that knocked the stuffing out of Horwich when they were awarded a penalty after Graeme Archer fouled Andy Leach but Barry Diamond's spot kick was brilliantly held by Peter Manuel to cap a faultless display from the Borough keeper.

After this heads dropped in the Horwich side and on 77 minutes Borough killed off the game with their third goal when Jason Percival slotted home from close range from a Calvin Plummer cross.

Ashton United — 2nd Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Ashton United to Manor Park to play a 2nd Qualifying Round tie.

Borough: Manuel, Davies, Tarry, Wolsey, Rodwell, Keogh (Diver 80), Harris, Archer, Percival, Plummer, Bennett. Sub: Hillier.

Ashton: Cole, Unsworth, Wall, Williams, Hughes, Boyle, Monk, Shirley, Riddings, Evans, Holt. Subs: Raymond, Allcock.

Visitors Ashton just about merited their victory in what became a war of attrition as Borough were reduced to nine men after Andy Harris and Graeme Archer were given their marching orders.

Nuneaton had a dream start with just seven minutes on the clock as Bennett hit a somewhat wayward shot that took a deflection off a defender, wrong-footing keeper Peter Cole as the ball found the back of the net.

Borough's early shine quickly began to tarnish, however, as Ashton's Mark Shirley wriggled his way past two

defenders and was within inches of success as Archer and Peter Manuel completely mis-read the situation.

Top scorer Calvin Plummer went close to grabbing number 13 with a well directed header from Bennett's centre but with Cole well out of position the ball skidded inches wide of the post.

Fellow marksman Jason Percival was also out of luck on the half-hour mark as he ran onto a super headed pass from Plummer only to pull the shot wide for Cole to gather safely.

Ashton's pressure began to show as first Archer then Harris went into the book. Harris redeemed himself with a goal line clearance when it looked as though Dave Riddings' shot was going in.

But Borough's hopes of maintaining the lead into the second half were dashed in the 45th minute as Riddings crashed a half-volley home after good support work from Matt Holt.

Ashton's physical presence was much in evidence as Borough's set pieces came to nothing; an early corner from Mark Wolsey proving the point as central defender Bernie Hughes cleared the danger unchallenged.

With Nuneaton looking decidedly uncomfortable Ashton struck in the 55th minute. From what seemed to be a safe clearance, Justin Wall struck a perfectly timed 30 yard rocket which flew past Manuel to give the visitors the lead for the first time.

A minute later Harris was sent off for a second offence and Borough, in desperation, threw everything into attack to retrieve the situation.

Plummer went close with a header from Wolsey's corner kick but with Archer's departure 12 minute from time Borough's fate was sealed.

The visitors coasted through the final minutes, doing just enough to secure the win and end Borough's hopes of their best chance of a Wembley appearance this season.

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



Southern League Midland Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1994-95

Nuneaton Scores First

| Date | Opposition | Venue | Competition | Score | Scorers | Attendance |
|-------|-----------------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| 07.18 | Notts County | H | PSF | 1-1 | Rodwell | 537 |
| 07.23 | Kettering Town | H | PSF | 2-0 | Green, Hart | 421 |
| 07.28 | Bolehall Swifts | A | PSF | 3-2 | Plummer, Diver, Wolsey | 115 |
| 07.30 | Pershore Town | A | PSF | 3-0 | Archer (2), Percival | 105 |
| 08.06 | Hinckley Athletic | A | PSF | 2-2 | Diver, Hart | 502 |
| 08.08 | Stewart & Lloyds | A | PSF | 4-0 | Diver (2), Percival, Plummer | 100 |
| 08.13 | Barwell | A | PSF | 2-3 | Archer, Percival | 175 |
| 08.20 | Ilkeston Town | A | L | 2-4 | Wolsey, Plummer | 735 |
| 08.23 | Stourbridge | H | L | 3-0 | Percival (2), Plummer | 855 |
| 08.29 | Buckingham Town | A | L | 1-2 | Plummer | 507 |
| 09.03 | Redditch United | H | L | 1-2 | Keogh | 805 |
| 09.07 | Newport A.F.C. | A | L | 2-2 | Wolsey, Percival | 1203 |
| 09.17 | Horwich RMI | A | FAT1Q | 3-0 | Plummer (2), Percival | 95 |
| 09.24 | Kings Lynn | A | L | 4-2 | Percival (2), Plummer (2, 1 pen) | 448 |
| 09.27 | Darlaston | H | BSC1 | 3-1 | Diver, Plummer, Rodwell | 431 |
| 10.01 | Leicester United | H | L | 2-2 | Archer, Plummer | 986 |
| 10.04 | V.S.Rugby | H | DMC1-1L | 3-3 | Plummer (2, 1 pen), Archer | 636 |
| 10.08 | Sutton Coldfield Town | A | L | 2-0 | Plummer, Percival | 488 |
| 10.15 | Ashton United | H | FAT2Q | 1-2 | Bennett | 973 |
| 10.19 | V.S.Rugby | A | DMC1-2L | 0-0 | | 413 |
| 10.22 | Heybridge Swifts | H | FAC4Q | 2-2 | Percival, Rodwell | 1131 |
| 10.25 | Heybridge Swifts | A | FAC4Qr | 2-3 | Plummer, Percival | 915 |
| 10.29 | Bilston Town | H | L | 4-2 | Percival, Hill, Diver, Bennett | 902 |
| 11.05 | Dudley Town | H | L | 4-1 | Plummer (2, 1 pen), Percival, Diver | 1002 |
| 11.08 | Moor Green | H | L | 1-2 | Plummer | 1020 |
| 11.12 | Rothwell Town | A | L | 1-0 | Plummer | 502 |
| 11.15 | Buckingham Town | H | L | 0-0 | | 1000 |
| 11.19 | Racing Club Warwick | A | L | 3-0 | Hill, Harris, Percival | 545 |
| 11.22 | Highgate United | H | BSC2 | 3-0 | Percival (2), Wade | 511 |
| 11.26 | Forest Green Rovers | H | L | 1-0 | Plummer | 1031 |
| 12.03 | Grantham Town | A | L | 1-1 | Hill | 390 |
| 12.10 | Hinckley Town | H | L | 2-0 | Plummer, Harris | 1102 |
| 12.17 | Bridgnorth Town | A | L | 1-1 | Plummer (pen) | 447 |
| 12.26 | Bedworth United | H | L | 2-2 | Diver, Plummer (pen) | 2121 |
| 12.28 | West Bromwich Albion | H | BSC3 | 0-0 | | 601 |
| 12.31 | Tamworth | H | L | 4-3 | Tarry, Plummer, Hill, Diver | 1458 |
| 01.07 | Moor Green | A | L | 1-1 | Percival | 505 |
| 01.14 | Ilkeston Town | H | L | 1-1 | Wolsey | 1240 |
| 01.23 | West Bromwich Albion | H | BSC3r | 1-3 | Bennett | 428 |
| 01.28 | Kings Lynn | H | L | 2-2 | Percival, Smith | 1095 |
| 02.04 | Bilston Town | A | L | 0-3 | | 425 |
| 02.11 | Armitage | H | L | 3-1 | Plummer, Straw, Simpson | 932 |
| 02.14 | Newport A.F.C. | H | L | 1-0 | Hill | 1105 |
| 02.18 | Forest Green Rovers | A | L | 3-0 | Straw, Simpson, Bennett | 308 |
| 02.25 | Racing Club Warwick | H | L | 3-1 | Hillier, Straw, Harris | 1149 |
| 03.04 | Leicester United | A | L | 3-4 | Straw (2), Simpson | 584 |
| 03.11 | Grantham Town | H | L | 3-1 | Straw (2), Hill | 938 |
| 03.14 | Evesham United | A | L | 0-2 | | 342 |
| 03.18 | Rothwell Town | H | L | 0-1 | | 836 |
| 03.25 | Armitage | A | L | 1-0 | Costello | 308 |
| 04.01 | Redditch United | A | L | 2-0 | Straw (2) | 470 |
| 04.08 | Tamworth | A | L | 1-2 | Hill | 1229 |
| 04.11 | Hinckley Town | A | L | 0-1 | | 607 |

Southern League Midland Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1994-95

Nuneaton Scores First

| Date | Opposition | Venue | Competition | Score | Scorers | Attendance |
|-------|-----------------------|-------|-------------|-------|--------------------|------------|
| 04.15 | Evesham United | H | L | 2-0 | Straw (2) | 625 |
| 04.17 | Bedworth United | A | L | 1-1 | Hart | 902 |
| 04.22 | Bridgnorth Town | H | L | 2-0 | Plummer (2, 1 pen) | 601 |
| 04.25 | Stourbridge | A | L | 2-3 | Simpson, Plummer | 228 |
| 04.29 | Dudley Town | A | L | 2-3 | Hill, Straw | 276 |
| 05.06 | Sutton Coldfield Town | H | L | 2-2 | Simpson, Hart | 676 |

KEY : L = Southern League Midland, FAC= F.A.Cup, FAT= F.A.Trophy, DMC= Southern League Cup, BSC= Birmingham Senior Cup, PSF= Pre season friendly, F= Friendly



Nuneaton Borough 1994-95

Back Row (left to right): Andy McGowan, Adrian Crane, Graeme Archer, Calvin Plummer, Chris Keogh, Peter Manuel, Dale Belford, David Hart, Jim Rodwell, Glyn Davies, Paul Culpin, Joe Taylor.

Front Row (left to right): Roger White, Mark Wolsey, Richard Wade, Shaun Diver, Andy Harris, Paul Masefield, Jason Percival.



Belford To Fight For Place

Nuneaton Borough goalkeeper Dale Belford is determined to keep his place in the first team, ending speculation that his Manor Park days could be over. Belford has told new Borough boss, Brendan Phillips, that he wants to figure in his plans for the coming campaign. The former Sutton Coldfield custodian, who moved to Borough in the summer of 1994, filled the vacuum created by the departure of Darren Steadman, who joined on loan from Kidderminster Harriers after Richard Attwood had left earlier in the year.

Williams Signs

Brendan Phillips took another step towards his new-look squad with the signing of Redditch defender Barry Williams. The central defender/midfielder comes from the Birmingham area and was on Redditch's books before catching the attention of Football League Division Two outfit Cambridge United. He has been on trial at the Abbey Stadium while playing for local club Ely, while at the same time working towards his college degree.

Phillips Signs Two More

Borough boss Brendan Phillips has strengthened his squad with the signing of two more players from over the Northamptonshire border – 32-year-old goalkeeper Peter Gleasure and midfielder Warren Donald, 29, both former Kettering and Northampton Town players, who come with a vast amount of league and non-league experience

Season 1995-96

Nuneaton Borough v Mansfield Town 19-07-1995

Borough: Gleasure, Williams, Luby, Statham, Rodwell, Donald, Hart, Smith, Burton, Drewitt, Simpson, Morrell, Wade, Penny, Morrison, Clamp.

Borough welcomed Mansfield Town to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly game.

Borough presented their supporters with a feast of goals in an emphatic 4-0 win. Ian Drewitt set the tone with a perfectly taken penalty five minutes from the break after Borough had gone close through a number of efforts by frontmen, Chris Burton and Robert Smith. The impressive Drewitt made it a double 15 minutes from time, giving the Stags little chance with a powerful 20 yard drive after Burton had put Borough 2-0 ahead just after the restart.

It was virtually one way traffic as Mansfield's youngsters tried to stem the tide but it was only a matter of time before Borough added to the score. With two minutes remaining, Lloyd Morrison, on for Burton, made no mistake with a superb volley to send the 700-plus supporters home looking forward to the next game against Derby County.

Delighted Borough boss, Brendan Phillips, said: "I was quite pleased overall, although Mansfield were not the strongest opposition."

Nuneaton Borough v Derby County 25-07-1995

Borough: Gleasure, Williams, Luby, Statham, Penney, Donald, Smith, Shepstone, Straw, Clamp, Simpson. Subs: Wade, Hart, Albrighton, Morrison.

Borough welcomed Derby County to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly game.

Derby proved to be a tough test as their class came through, especially in the second half, when their strength proved to be just too much for the part-timers. But the result was not important to Borough manager, Brendan Phillips, who was eager to see his players in action against quality opposition.

The goal that Borough so desperately fought for came tantalisingly close in the eighth minute as Rob Straw, in his first game since the end of last season, almost got through only for Ashby and Kavanagh to snuff out the danger. Borough's Tony Simpson was denied a penalty in both halves, the second coming a minute from full-time, but referee Andy Black was not impressed by the loud appeals from the supporters as he waved play on.

The home side held out until the 28th minute when full-back Gary Rowett latched onto a low centre from Mark Stallard, shrugging off two defenders before slotting the ball past Gleasure. Four minutes later Derby were two up. Paul Trollope, on for Marco Gabbiadini, heading in at the near post from Paul Williams' right wing cross. With the break looming Stallard made it three with a glancing six-yard header and the restart was only two minutes old when Lee Mills snatched the first of his double success of the night.

What was without doubt the goal of the game came in the 55th minute as Paul Simpson smashed an unstoppable 25-yard volley past the stunned Gleasure. With less than 20 minutes remaining Borough were still sniping at Derby's defence but the sixth goal, when it came, was no surprise as Mills finished off with another close range effort.

Tom McGinty Signs

Nuneaton Borough manager Brendan Phillips announced another signing – just hours before the club goes to tribunal to decide a transfer problem. VS Rugby defender, Tom McGinty, put pen to paper earlier in the week. The Manor Park club will also be looking to resolve the stalemate that exists between Borough and VS Rugby regarding the transfer fee for Gary Statham. VS have put a price tag of £20,000 on the defender's head, but the transfer will be settled by a tribunal at Birmingham City's St Andrew's ground.

Nuneaton Borough v Stalybridge Celtic 29-07-1995

Borough: Gleasure, Williams, McGinty, Statham, Rodwell, Donald, Smith, Clark, Straw, Drewitt, Simpson. Subs: Luby, Shepstone, Penney, Dutton.

Borough welcomed Stalybridge Celtic to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly game.

Two-goal Rob Straw broke the back of the GM Conference



side. Watched by more than 400 fans, Borough again showed plenty of determination and endeavour with Straw's brace securing them a well-deserved success over the Cheshire outfit. Manager Brendan Phillips is certainly knitting a useful side into shape with several of the new boys making favourable impressions including the former VS Rugby twosome of Rob Smith and Gary Statham, whose transfer fee of £6,500 was announced by an FA Tribunal at the weekend.

Smith has been outstanding in the friendlies so far and is certainly going to be a valuable asset to the Borough strike force, especially with Straw and the nippy Tony Simpson also striking the right chords. Phillips is also pleased with the way Statham has settled into defence. A new face that slipped into the Borough line-up was ex-Coventry City defender, Howard Clark. He has made 136 League appearances for the Sky Blues since his debut in the 1988-89 season and the all-round experience and skill of the 27-year-old was plain to see.

With the Beazer Midland season now less than three weeks away from kick off, Borough's preparations seem to be going to plan with the Stalybridge game offering far more information than the encounters with Mansfield and Derby County. Against a very youthful Stags side, Borough were not really stretched while it was the opposite side of the coin in their battle with a vastly confident and slick-moving Rams, whose virtual first-team line-up proved too hot for the Manor Park men.

However, back to something like their own level Borough showed plenty of guile and discipline in the hot, humid conditions with Straw's close range drive firing them ahead on the half-hour. It was the same player who lobbed the second on 53 minutes while Bauruss cut the deficit late on for Celtic.

Kidsgrove Athletic v Nuneaton Borough 05-08-1995

Borough: Ullah, Williams, Luby, Statham, Clark, Donald, Clamp, Massey, Straw, Smith, Graham. **Subs:** Morrell, Burke.

Borough travelled to Clough Hall to play Kidsgrove Athletic in a pre-season friendly game.

Borough slipped to a 3-2 defeat, but more disturbing were the injuries suffered by Gary Statham, Barry Williams and striker Rob Smith as Borough went down to a goal three minutes from time. Phillips was already missing seven of his first-team squad, but was pleased with the performance of youngster Scott Clamp and proven Conference hot-shot Jon Graham, who scored both Borough goals. The players missing were Peter Gleasure, Ian Drewitt, Jim Rodwell, Tom McGinty, Dave Crowley, Paul Shepstone and Tony Simpson.

Phil Lockett lobbed Kidsgrove ahead just past the half hour while Clamp and Rob Straw combined to set up Graham for the equaliser on 40 minutes. Just before the hour, Graham raced on to a Straw through ball to ease Borough ahead while keeper Mark Ullah, on loan from Hinckley Athletic, saved a Craig Brookes penalty after Howard Clark had been spotted shirt pulling an opponent in the box.

But on 77 minutes the Stoke-on-Trent side pulled back on terms when Dave Shaw shot into an empty net after Craig Brammell's 25 yarder had clattered against the post. The Kidsgrove winner came on 87 minutes as Alan Oliver scrambled the ball after Ullah had blocked a 25-yard Lockett free-kick.

Nuneaton Borough v Leicester City 08-08-1995

Borough: Gleasure, Donald, Luby, Williams, Rodwell, Crowley, Smith, Clamp, Straw, Drewitt, Simpson. **Subs:** Wright, Graham, Statham, Morrell.

Leicester: Poole, Grayson, Lewis, Hill, Carey, McMahon, Lawrence, Blake, Lowe, Gee, Philpott. **Subs:** Smith, Clark, Hallam, Bedder.

Borough welcomed Leicester City to Manor Park to play a pre-season friendly game.

Borough did themselves proud when they faced an experienced Leicester side and battled hard for their creditable goalless draw. The Foxes, who paraded several players with Premiership experience, can count themselves a little fortunate after Borough came close on several occasions to breaking the deadlock.

Borough were first to show when Ian Drewitt found Rob Straw but the danger was snuffed out by Kevin Poole in the City goal. After 15 minutes Mark Blake had a snap shot well held by Peter Gleasure and, soon after a fine run by Drewitt, saw his left foot drive just clear the crossbar.

The middle period of the half saw Leicester dominate, but their slick play was met by some stout defensive work from the Borough back four in which Barry Williams excelled. Five minutes before the interval, another fine run down the left by Drewitt saw his cross miskicked by the intruding Tony Simpson and again, another splendid opportunity went begging.

The second period started with Borough again showing a positive attitude and they were desperately unlucky not to take the lead on 50 minutes. Full-back Seamus Luby received the ball 25 yards out, however, his sweetly struck left foot shot skimmed the top of the Leicester crossbar. Four minutes later, Borough triallist Owen Wright replaced Scott Clamp and was soon in action when his header from a Simpson cross went narrowly over.

City's Lee Philpott fiercely struck a free-kick from 20 yards out, only to see, what many believed to be an unstoppable effort, brilliantly turned away by Gleasure. The Foxes missed their best opportunity when the well placed Jamie Lawrence mishit his shot which went for a fruitless corner. In the dying moments of the match, a final thrust from Borough nearly produced a winner, Warren Donald's throw-in found Rodwell, whose first time cross went to John Graham and his powerful header went just over.

Despite the goalless scoreline, Borough can have few complaints as they showed plenty of skill and tenacity in what Phillips felt was an excellent work out for his men, especially with the season just ten days away.

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



Pershore Town v Nuneaton Borough 12-08-1995

Borough: Gleasure, Donald, Gregory, Statham, Clark, Crowley, Smith (Shepstone 45), Clamp, Straw (Morrell 43), Drewitt, Graham.

Borough travelled to the King George V Playing Field to play Pershore Town in a pre-season friendly game.

Borough rounded off their pre-season by handing out a seven goal thrashing to their Midland Alliance opponents. Manager Brendan Phillips was satisfied with the teams' performance and said: "I'll be honest, we were never going to be the team to lose, but I wanted to win in style and the lads did just that.

"They worked together as a team from the first kick. Above all, and like every manager in the business, I was looking for a confidence booster before the season gets underway, and I certainly got that..." Ian Drewitt netted a hat-trick, Rob Straw found the goal twice while Andy Morrell and Graham completed the rout.

Willis Quits

Nuneaton Borough reserve team manager Kenny Willis has quit the club, claiming that was not being allowed to do his job. But Borough manager Brendan Phillips said the reserves were there to provide players for the first team, adding: "This was not happening. I looked at last season's reserve squad and felt that players were not making the necessary progress. There should have been more rotation between the second team and the youth squad."

Willis, who steered the reserves to the Skol Combination title and the Bedworth Nursing Cup, refuted Phillips' words saying: "Where do you get better players than we had in the second team? Brendan is asking for players who are just not there. Where do you find lads of 18 and 19 who are ready to jump into the first team?"...

Phillips Adds To Squad

Nuneaton Borough have been boosted by the news that former Coventry City defender Howard Clark, has finally signed for the Manor Park club. Twenty-seven-year-old Clark, who made 136 Football League appearances for the Sky Blues, will add experience and know-how to the Borough side, who are regarded as favourites to take the Beazer Midland crown. Two other signings are Ade Gregory and the young former Coventry City and Bedworth goalkeeper Jamie Cleland.

Nuneaton Borough v Sutton Coldfield Town 19-08-1995

Borough: Gleasure, Williams, McGinty, Statham, Clark, Crowley, Wright, Clamp (Luby 76), Smith, Drewitt, Donald. Subs: Cleland, Gregory.

Sutton: Parsons, Ling, Fry (Chambers 72), Bannister, Manton, Pearson, Whitehouse, Spence, Hunt, Ward (Wright 66), Swann (Richardson 87).

Borough welcomed Sutton Coldfield Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough started cautiously and it was the fifth minute before Drewitt caused a stir in the Royals' defence as he strove to

control Smith's centre. Drewitt drew a cheer from the 1,000-plus crowd 16 minutes into the half as he beat two defenders but keeper John Parsons was in position to tidy up. In spite of the heat, Borough kept the momentum going and were rewarded with two quick corners but Sutton coped with the pressure. Drewitt should have done better just before the half-hour as he mistimed a superb ball from Smith ten yards out.

Roars of elation greeted Statham's thundering shot which slammed into the roof of the net from Drewitt's corner but within 60 seconds those cheers were silenced as the Royals hit back. The defence was nowhere to be seen as Swan ran onto Ling's through pass to slip the ball under the diving Peter Gleasure. Nuneaton did not show their despondency and harassed the visitors, Smith supplying yet another clear cut chance for Drewitt, who also linked well with Clamp as the two combined to force another corner kick for Borough. John Hunt cut past two defenders but instead of passing he chose to have a go from 20 yards, his shot going well wide.



Barry Williams leaving his man standing. Photo: Heartland Evening News

The second half began with Drewitt producing a bit of magic as he jinked and twisted past two defenders after Owen Wright had somehow managed to pull the ball back but his finishing was abysmal as he fired over. But within minutes Borough were punished for some woeful marking as Whitehouse was allowed all the time in the world to convert Swan's corner kick.

What could easily go forward as the save of the season came with 27 minutes to go as Drewitt fired in a screamer from 15 yards only to see Parsons make a superb diving save. Both teams made a number of changes but the outcome was inevitable as Borough seemed to lose cohesion and two glaring misses by Warren Donald in the closing minutes summed up the half and an easily forgettable opening day to the season.

Dudley Town v Nuneaton Borough 23-08-1995

Dudley: Crannage, Richards, Claxton, Brown, Jones, Hyde, Cooper (Nelson 75), Williams, Hall, Piggott, Harrison. Subs: Clifton, Patrick.

Borough: Gleasure, Williams, McGinty, Statham, Clark, Crowley, Smith, Luby, Straw (Wright 75), Drewitt, Donald (Clamp 74).

Borough travelled to the Round Oak Stadium to play Dudley Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Following an easily forgettable first-half, Borough proceeded



to put the Robins under the hammer, culminating in Ian Drewitt's well deserved 59th minute goal that decided the issue.

Neither side looked like scoring in spite of early efforts from Borough's Smith and Drewitt and Robins' Lewis Claxton, whose 18th minute free-kick drew a good save from keeper Peter Gleasure. Gary Statham was off target shortly before the half hour as his header flew wide from Tom McGinty's corner, while Rob Straw was unlucky as he attempted to slide the ball past the advancing Andy Crannage. Just before the break, Gleasure caused a panic in the defence when he failed to hold on to a lofted corner kick but redeemed himself moments later with a fine save from Gary Piggott's close range shot.

The second half was barely five minutes old when Crannage was forced into making a finger tip save from Straw's right wing cross. Straw then laid on a super pass for Smith, who, with plenty of time, inexplicably hit a tame shot which Crannage gathered comfortably. But there was no stopping Drewitt's 59th minute effort. Straw kept his cool, taking his time to set up the number 10 whose angled, right-foot shot evaded the clutches of Crannage to finish in the far corner.

The goal gave the visitors a terrific boost, leading to three corner kicks in a matter of minutes as Dudley struggled to stem the tide. Smith, again, had a perfect chance with 24 minutes remaining but with just Crannage to beat he was left holding his head in despair as his close range shot cannoned off the crossbar. Tom McGinty's crosses into the box were causing panic in the Dudley area and the central defence, which had defied Borough's early efforts, was visibly wilting under the pressure.

However, Piggott had a great chance to square the game for the Robins with five minutes remaining, but snatched at the shot, hitting the ball way off target when ideally placed to do better. Borough supporters were then forced to endure almost five minutes of injury time before the referee, Mr Haslewood, blew the final whistle.

Solihull Borough v Nuneaton Borough 12-08-1995

Borough: Gleasure, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Andersen, Smith, Straw (Clamp), Drewitt, Clark. **Subs:** Luby, Cleland.

Borough travelled to The Moorlands to play Solihull Borough in Southern League Midland Division game.

Goal happy Ian Drewitt yet again showed his scoring talents as he netted Borough's match winner in their impressive 1-0 victory. Drewitt pounced after 35 minutes when he latched on to a Warren Donald through pass to confidently drill the ball beyond the home keeper Darryl Houghton for his second success in consecutive matches.

In an impressive team performance that thrilled manager Brendan Phillips, Drewitt's slick finish gave Borough another win to add to their well-deserved success against Dudley.

Nuneaton Borough v Racing Club Warwick 28-08-1995

Borough: Gleasure, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Andersen, Smith, Clark, Drewitt, Clamp. **Subs:** Luby, Albrighton, Cleland.
Racing: Bulliman, Halford, Sullivan, Williams, Jameson (Ashenden 73), Francis, Daly, Titterton, O'Neil, Blencowe, Green (McGrotty 79).

Borough welcomed Racing Club Warwick to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough made a bright start with Rob Smith almost forcing a breakthrough only for Simon Williams to make a vital tackle and new boy Nicky Andersen went close with a 25-yard volley. A Borough goal seemed inevitable and when Borough scored, once again it was Drewitt who had the supporters roaring with delight as he stabbed home the 12th minute opener.

Racing were pinning their hopes on the long ball but it was almost 20 minutes before they had anything resembling a chance, a 25-yard volley by Mark Jameson which did not trouble keeper Peter Gleasure. Bulliman looked uncomfortable as Borough's Warren Donald hit a high, lofted cross which the keeper was thankful to tip over the crossbar. Just before the break Racing came more into the game and it was Moreton Titterton who led the revival with a good header from Tom Daly's inch-perfect cross from the right and had Gleasure at full stretch moments later with a wicked downward header from Blencowe's corner kick.

After the break Borough were drawn into Racing's aerial style as the ball was booted up and down the field. It was Drewitt who provided some quality with a superb centre from the left which Howard Clark somehow headed wide from inside the six yard box. Clark repaid the complement with 54 minutes on the clock as his low centre met the diving Drewitt whose powerful header looked destined for the net only for Bulliman to make a finger-tip save.

The tables were almost turned as an awful back pass by Statham found Jameson but the centre-half fluffed his golden chance and stroked the ball wide of the post. Smith was again unlucky as Keiron Sullivan made a saving headed clearance at the post from Statham's centre as Racing broke away, Daly providing Titterton with the through pass, who hit a low shot past Gleasure – and the goal.

Borough Sign Burton

Borough boss Brendan Phillips has acquired the services of Chris Burton, who is currently with West Midland Police, but has signed Beazer Homes forms with Borough.

Moor Green v Nuneaton Borough 02-09-1995

Moor Green: Day, Pinner, Evans, Brogan, Byrne, Jones, Davies, Hayde, Walker (Fearon 67), Agar (Frost 67), Smith.

Borough: Gleasure, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Andersen, Burton, Clark Drewitt (Smith 70), Clamp (Luby 82). **Sub:** Cleland.

Borough travelled to The Moorlands to play Moor Green in a Southern League Midland Division game.

The two sides were evenly matched early on before striker Howard Clark had Moor's keeper Myles Day at full-stretch with a close range header while at the other end Mick Walker and dangerman Phil Davies both went close. Moors were looking the favourites to get a breakthrough as Borough soldiered on before winning their first corner in the 15th minute which resulted in Clark missing the angle by inches as he curled a shot in from 25 yards. Walker should have put the home side in front just before the half-hour but his 15 yard effort was wildly off-target much to Gleasure's relief.

Then, against the run of play, Drewitt ran onto Chris Burton's 28th minute pass before rounding the keeper and calmly sliding the ball home. The goal was the boost Borough were looking for and they went close to adding to the scoreline as Chris Burton, on loan from West Midlands Police, ran onto Tom McGinty's through ball only for Day to save. With half-time looming, Davies, who notched up 50 league and cup goals last term, almost squared the game with a delicate 20 yards chip which Gleasure tipped over for a corner kick.

The second half saw both teams pushing forward. Burton had several efforts blocked by Day while Davies had Gleasure beaten with a repeat of his first-half curling effort which again missed the far post. Pressure paid off for Borough when, with 57 minutes on the clock, Drewitt pounced onto an appalling back pass by Paul Brogan to slip the ball past the stranded Day. The game then slipped into a grinding battle for the midfield which was marked by several players being cautioned by referee Appleyard. Phillips will not have been pleased to see first defender Gary Statham and then substitute Rob Smith, go into the book for totally unnecessary free-kick incidents.

Moors desperately threw everything into attack as the final minutes ticked away but thanks to some excellent defending by Warren Donald, Barry Williams, McGinty and Statham, their efforts came to nothing.

Nuneaton Borough v Redditch United 05-09-1995

Borough: Gleasure, Donald, Luby, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Andersen (Rodwell 79), Shepstone (Clamp 76), Clark (Straw 79), Drewitt, Simpson.

Borough welcomed Racing Club Warwick to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough with Tony Simpson and Paul Shepstone in for the first time this season, surged ahead in the fifth minute as defender Barry Williams climbed above a packed penalty area to head home Tony Simpson's free-kick. The Reds had some lucky escapes in the following minutes but there was no denying the penalty decision as Simpson was sent crashing to the turf by Trevor Whittington.

Following a heated exchange former Borough player Mark Wolsey was given his marching orders and Whittington was booked before Ian Drewitt scored his sixth goal of the season as he followed up the spot kick to blast the rebound past Green. Borough almost went three up five minutes before the

break but Drewitt was wrong-footed as Green charged down Howard Clark's shot, just missing the connection by inches.



Gary Statham celebrates Barry Williams fifth minute goal.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Redditch came out looking to level the game with Peter Sutton, on for defender Nigel Conniff, leading the charge with a shot against the crossbar from the edge of the area. Reds' goal, when it came, was a surprise to everyone watching as referee Stretton pointed to the spot in the 61st minute, apparently for pushing but Neil Mackenzie made no mistake as he blasted the ball past Gleasure. The celebrations were short lived, however, as Howard Clark struck a superb pass from Drewitt past the advancing Green with 15 minutes remaining.

Fittingly, it was Drewitt who rounded off the goal spree as he ran onto Nicky Andersen's defence-splitting pass to hit a low, hard drive into the corner of the net. Drewitt gave up his chance of a hat-trick in the dying seconds as he generously passed to Rob Straw who missed the chance to make it five as Green recovered to save at the striker's feet.

Hinckley Town v Nuneaton Borough 16-09-1995

Hinckley: Russell, McGinty, Emery, Griffin, Keogh, Olner, Hardwick, Bradder, Percival, Sinden (Harriman 67), Roderick.

Borough: Gleasure, Donald, McGinty (Luby 56), Statham, Williams, Crowley, Andersen (Rodwell 44), Shepstone (Clark 56), Straw, Drewitt, Simpson.

Borough travelled to Leicester Road to play Hinckley Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough's opener was a typical Drewitt effort as keeper Andy Russell palmed away Straw's shot into the path of the lurking striker. Town had spent more than £7,000 in improving the pitch during the close season but it was Borough who reaped the benefit as they forced a number of corner kicks in the early stages. But Hinckley broke back in the 18th minute as Martin Roderick put Percival through but Gary Statham was in position to block the shot.

Percival should have done better two minutes later as he latched onto Sven Sinden's pass, only to slice his shot well wide of the target. Nuneaton's disciplined defence coped with Hinckley's probing forays but Bradder went close with a brave diving header as he beat Statham to the ball. A superb ball from Crowley into space for Tony Simpson put the dashing winger onto the edge of the penalty area only to hit a centre over the goalmouth and into space. With half-time looming,

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



Roderick's free-kick found Percival to hit a first-time shot but Peter Gleasure was in position to save. Moments later, midfielder and former Hinckley star, Nicky Andersen was sent crashing to the turf following a crunching tackle by Paul Olnier who earned a red card for his efforts. It was feared that Andersen's leg was broken but later tests showed that he had suffered severe bruising.



Straw puts the ball past Andy Russell. Photo: Heartland Evening News

home through a narrow gap from Liam Dixon's centre. Drewitt was inches away from squaring the game but keeper Steve Corbett just managed to get a hand to his sharply dipping header to deflect the shot against the bar. With seven minutes to go before the break Sean Cotterill gave Evesham hope as he bundled Mark Tipton's free-kick over the line.



Hat-trick hero Rob Straw steers the ball into the net. Photo: Heartland Evening News

The restart saw both sides having chances but the watching 800-plus supporters were disappointed until Straw put Borough further in front on the hour following Simpson's corner, headed on by Howard Clark for a simple tap in. Borough kept up the pressure and Drewitt was denied his second in the 73rd minute as referee Singh blew for offside. Mr Singh stayed silent, in spite of loud appeals for offside from Town players, as Straw completed Borough's victory with nine minutes remaining as he ran onto a through pass before calmly stroking the ball past Russell.

Rodwell Joins Halesowen

Borough central defender Jim Rodwell who cost £6,000 when signed from Hednesford two years ago has joined Beazer Premier League outfit Halesowen on a free transfer.

| Nuneaton Borough v Evesham Town | 16-09-1995 |
|---|------------|
| Borough: Gleasure, Donald, Luby, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Andersen, Clark, Straw (Smith 78), Drewitt, Simpson. Subs: Clamp, Hart. Evesham: Corbett, Roberts (Jordan 78), Wright, Clear, Cotterill, Bloomfield, Jones, Judge (Shurmer 31), Tipton, Yates, Dixon. | |

Borough welcomed Evesham Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

With yet another 1,000-plus crowd to spur them on Borough could not have had a better start as Tony Simpson linked with Nicky Andersen to lay on a superb cross for Straw to sidefoot into the net. Lowly Robins were hard put to make an impression as Nuneaton turned the screw with shots coming thick and fast and Straw was unlucky as he missed with a close range effort after superb skills from Barry Williams. But there was no denying Straw's 20th minute volley as Simpson again provided the final ball from Ian Drewitt's right wing cross.

Everyone was expecting Borough to have the game sewn up by the break but Robins' Steve Yates had other ideas as he headed

Straw was left holding his head in disbelief as Corbett somehow got a fingertip to his 50th minute effort which had goal written all over it as he ran into space and within minutes Borough were rueing the miss as Paul Bloomfield gave the visitors the lead with an unstoppable 25-yard rocket.

Borough were stung into action and from then on Evesham hardly had a look in as Straw clinched a deserved hat-trick in the 62nd minute with a looping header which beat the stranded Corbett. Three minutes later, skipper, David Crowley snatched his first goal for Borough as he hooked an acutely angled shot from the left and into the net. Then, inevitably, it was Ian Drewitt's turn as he made no mistake with his ninth goal of the season. Howard Clark was left to add the icing on the cake with a tremendous right-foot volley right on time from Andersen's inch perfect pass.

| Nuneaton Borough v Dudley Town | 19-09-1995 |
|--|------------|
| Borough: Gleasure, Donald, Luby, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Andersen, Clark (Smith 75), Straw, Drewitt, Simpson. Subs: Clamp, Hart. Dudley: Crannage, Richards, Claxton, Horne, Jones, Ingram, Cooper, Williams, Hall, Piggott (Patrick 77), Parker. Subs: Brown, Clifton. | |

Borough welcomed Dudley Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough started confidently with Nicky Andersen testing Andy Crannage with a 20-yard drive but with just three minutes on the clock a poor back pass by Barry Williams plunged Nuneaton into trouble. Peter Gleasure cleared the danger only for the ball to be knocked back in to Piggott who turned and shot past the diving Gleasure. The home team came back with some thrilling football with efforts from Drewitt then Rob Straw and best of all Seamus Luby, who hit a terrific shot from fully 35 yards which cannoned off the base of the post to be gathered by Crannage.

Then, in the 21st minute, and against the run of play,



Dudley went two in front, Piggott once again capitalising on Gary Statham's defensive error to hit a low shot under the advancing Gleasure. Straw went close with a first time shot from Tony Simpson's 34th minute corner kick but Borough's finishing left a lot to be desired as they tried but failed to pull one back before the break.

Things started to look a little more promising when, six minutes after the break, Simpson was bundled over in the area by Chris Jones to give Drewitt his tenth goal of the season as he fired home from the spot. Borough's euphoria was crushed a minute later when Toby Hall bundled the ball home after an awful defensive mix-up. As if that was not bad enough Dudley went 4-1 in front in the 55th minute as Piggott left Statham for dead, rounding the centre-half before hitting a superb shot into the far corner of the net.

With time ticking away Borough threw everything into the attack and were rewarded in the 64th minute as Andersen knocked Simpson's corner kick into the path of Straw who made no mistake from 10 yards. Hopes rose as people started to believe that Borough could snatch a point at the death and it was substitute Rob Smith, on for Howard Clark, who set up a nail biting final ten minutes as he coolly placed the ball past Crannage. Statham went close with a header which sailed inches past the post and Smith was desperately unlucky with an attempted chip right on full-time.

Grantham Town v Nuneaton Borough 23-09-1995

Grantham: Lakin, Campbell, Speed, Bullimore, Rogers, Stoutt, Hardwick, Taylor, Leonce, Ward, Hebbard.

Borough: Gleasure, Donald, Luby, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Andersen, Clark (Shepstone 65), Straw (Smith) Drewitt, Simpson. **Sub:** Clamp.

Borough travelled to the South Kesteven stadium to play Grantham Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Following an early effort by Rob Straw which whistled over the crossbar and a nice move between Ian Drewitt and Tony Simpson which broke down at the final touch, the visitors were stunned when Grantham took the lead. An eighth minute corner kick by Trevor Hebbard flew to Scott Taylor at the near post who headed home unchallenged.

Nuneaton looked decidedly shaky as they tried desperately to get back into the game but passes went astray and the home defence was hardly troubled by a long upfield ball from Gary Statham to Rob Straw whose pass to Ian Drewitt was too long. Drewitt, looking for his eleventh goal of the season, fired the Borough supporters' spirits with an 18th minute effort which clipped the crossbar and Simpson was unlucky as a defender blocked what looked to be a certain goal eight minutes later.

Gingerbreads' Steve Stoutt almost put the home side further in front as he pounced after Howard Clark failed to clear but his finishing was off as the ball flashed inches wide of the post. Right on the break Straw set up Drewitt after a nice break from the left but the number 10's header was well wide as he ran into a sea of black and white shirts.

Borough looked more positive after the break as Simpson linked with Straw before the centre-forward hit a ball wide across the face of the goal as Grantham were forced back on the defensive. Straw went close with a 25 yard shot which struck the side-netting before Drewitt put Nuneaton on level terms in the 61st minute with a neat chip which cleared the advancing Martyn Lakin before dropping over the line.

Shortly after that the game was held up for 15 minutes after fighting erupted on the terraces leading to one Grantham fan receiving a knife wound to the arm and 15 arrests followed. Order was eventually restored and the game had barely restarted before Donald latched onto a crossfield pass from the left to hit a tremendous volley which left Lakin standing. The goal knocked the stuffing out of Grantham and Borough could have added to the scoreline as first David Crowley with a tentative looping shot which cleared the bar then Drewitt, who was foiled as Lakin ran out to block the ball.

Borough Sign Donnelly

Brendan Phillips gave his squad a boost with the signing of former Redditch and Telford striker Steve Donnelly. Aged 21, Donnelly is included in the squad to travel to Bridgnorth.

Bridgnorth Town v Nuneaton Borough 30-09-1995

Bridgnorth: Perks, Hull, Hammond, Hancock, Lander, Peters (Davies 86), Eccleston, Sankey, K. Mackenzie (M. Mackenzie 79), McBean, Morris (Evans 72).

Borough: Gleasure, Donald, Luby, Statham (Smith 63), Williams (Clark 52), Crowley, Clamp, Shepstone, Straw (Donnelly 63), Drewitt, Simpson.

Borough travelled to The Crown Meadow to play Bridgnorth Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Ian Drewitt was the first to show with a solo run down the left which saw his low cross elude everyone. Another Drewitt run on 12 minutes saw the Welshman find himself in the 18-yard area only to be denied by a toe end clearance by Garry Hancock. With 15 minutes gone Gary Statham wasted a good chance when he badly miscued from 18 yards after a Paul Shepstone corner had fallen to the Borough centre back. Ten minutes later a Statham pass set Rob Straw on a forward run and his right foot shot was held by home custodian Steve Perks.

Soon after Straw should have scored after receiving a Drewitt pass as he fired tamely at Perks when well placed. On the half-hour mark, Drewitt robbed Iain Sankey and saw his long range effort fly narrowly over the bar as Borough continued to hold the upper hand. Six minutes later, Borough were to rue their earlier missed opportunities as Town took the lead against the run of play. Statham obstructed ex-Borough hit man Peter McBean, just outside the 18 yard box and Ronnie Morris powered in a left-foot indirect free kick which Peter Gleasure parried into the net.

The second period started with Borough again on the offensive and good work down the left from Luby and Shepstone set up Drewitt who headed well wide. Soon after a Warren Donald free-kick was met by a Straw header that

failed to hit the target. On 62 minutes, a double substitution saw Rob Smith replace the injured Statham and new boy Steve Donnelly on for the out of sorts Rob Straw but the move failed to reap any dividends. It was not long before Donnelly was in action, glancing a header just wide of the post from a Scott Clamp free-kick. Just after, Howard Clark saw his well struck free-kick saved by the ideally placed Perks.

The 87th minute saw controversy reign when Martin Lander chopped down Drewitt in the box but referee Parkes waved aside Borough's penalty appeals. Immediately the ball was cleared downfield to McBean, standing yards offside but the linesman's flag stayed down allowing the Bridgnorth forward a clear run at goal only for his shot to be well-saved by Gleasure. The last minute again saw McBean through on goal after sloppy Borough defensive work, only to be denied again by Gleasure. Deep into injury time, one last desperate attempt from Borough saw a fine left wing cross by Drewitt find the unmarked Shepstone but his tame header flew straight into the grateful arms of Perks and the chance, and game were lost.

Hayward And Carr Join Borough

Brendan Phillips has bolstered his squad with the signings of ex-Hednesford Town keeper Paul Hayward and ex-Coventry City centre back Gerrard Carr.

VS Rugby v Nuneaton Borough 03-10-1995

VS Rugby: Batchelor, Young, Ricky Smith, Redgate (Wood 57), Tarry, Martin, Owen (Murphy 74), Mason, Green, Warner, Dickson. Sub: Oldfield.
Borough: Hayward, Donald (Clamp 70), Luby, Clark, Carr, Crowley, Andersen, Rob Smith, Drewitt (Straw 58), Simpson. Sub: Gleasure.

Borough travelled to Butlin Road to play VS Rugby in a Doc Martens Cup first round first leg tie.

Borough were first to show with Rob Smith shooting narrowly wide after a pin-point Paul Shepstone cross. Soon after Drewitt sent Shepstone away but he blazed wide. Hayward was called into action after 25 minutes making a fine save from Matt Owen following a goalmouth scramble. Three minutes later Drewitt was unlucky as his dipping shot went a yard over the bar following a Simpson corner.

Borough deservedly grabbed the lead on 35 minutes when Rob Smith flicked home a Drewitt cross after a precise pass by Shepstone had set him free. The visitors increased their advantage eight minutes later when Simpson picked up a poor back pass by Ricky Smith and coolly slotted the ball past the advancing keeper, Paul Batchelor.

The opening minute of the second half saw Rob Smith send Drewitt down the left but his teasing cross just failed to find the in-rushing Simpson on the wing. However, Rugby strived hard to cut the arrears and on 48 minutes their efforts were rewarded when Darren Dickson went on an unchallenged run down the left and as he cut into the box, he squared the ball into the path of Danny Martin who fired home from close

range. Ten minutes later and Borough regained their two-goal advantage when Simpson was hacked to the ground by Matt Tarry and Drewitt scored from the spot and was immediately replaced by Rob Straw.

After 60 minutes Dickson had a snap shot pushed around the post by Hayward following good work by Martin and from the corner, Dickson found Kim Green, who saw his powerful header well held by the Borough custodian. Rugby, at this stage, were enjoying their best spell of the match and on 69 minutes, Hayward was again forced to test his skills and made a good save from an Ashley Warner shot. A minute later, full-back Ricky Smith's effort went just wide following a tense goalmouth scramble.

With 15 minutes to go Straw shot from an acute angle, but it was brilliantly saved by Batchelor, who pushed it over the bar for a fruitless corner. Straw was quickly in the thick of things again and he was put through by Nicky Andersen but poor control by the Borough front runner saw the chance lost.

VS fought back tenaciously and in the 80th minute they cut the deficit when Green headed home after Warner's cross had eluded the ball-watching visitors rearguard. However, the damage was soon repaired as within 60 seconds Borough netted their fourth goal when debutant Carr, who was loitering at the far post, headed into the roof of the net from a Simpson centre. Howard Clark came close to adding a fifth when he saw his header from a Simpson free-kick stretch Batchelor to his limit as he made a superb one-handed save.

Nuneaton Borough v Corby Town 07-10-1995

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Luby, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Andersen, Shepstone, Smith, Drewitt, Simpson. Subs: Carr, Straw, Clark.
Corby: Beresford, Slinn, Murphy, Preston, Hawthorn, Harris, Clarke, Gilsenan, North, Archer, King. Subs: Bryant, Wood, Edwards.

Borough welcomed Corby Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.



Ian Drewitt is chopped down in the box, resulting in the penalty that gave the home side a 1-0 win.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Borough started promisingly enough with Simpson prominent in the early stages, but too often he failed to



deliver the final killer pass. On six minutes Borough won a corner and from the resulting cross Barry Williams connected with a header which was just over the bar. Shortly afterwards, Nicky Andersen, in impressive form, beat two defenders before putting Drewitt through, but his shot was blocked by Corby keeper Beresford. A Drewitt snapshot went just wide as Borough looked dangerous and a goal looked on the cards. Corby, however, always looked dangerous on the break and they crammed their midfield to stifle Borough.

New keeper Paul Hayward made a competent home debut and had a quiet first half until, after 26 minutes Corby were awarded a corner and from the resulting cross, Hayward tipped over. From the second corner Malc North got in a tremendous header only to see it hit the post. When the same player hit the rebound it again found the post and bounced away to safety.

This seemed to stir Borough and their attacking play gained three corners in a minute before Shepstone put Simpson clear, but Beresford raced out to clear the danger. Frustration started to creep in as half-time approached and the lightweight Borough attack seemed devoid of ideas. On 41 minutes Drewitt shot over from a narrow angle on the left with Simpson screaming for a cross as he stood unmarked on the penalty spot.

The home side pressed straight after the break as Shepstone had an effort blocked by the keeper and then Andersen shot over the bar with only Beresford to beat. After 55 minutes Simpson skilfully beat his man on the right and crossed to Drewitt, who wanted too much time. Then Williams had a scorching drive pushed over the bar and Gary Statham had a header saved on the line.

Shepstone was replaced by Gerrard Carr on the hour mark as the home side pushed for the vital breakthrough. On 70 minutes Simpson slipped his marker but was left stranded waiting for someone to cross to, before Drewitt beat Beresford in a chase, but the ball ran away from him and went just past the post. A draw began to look inevitable although Corby looked dangerous on the break and Neil Edwards went forward, beating two men before having his shot blocked for a corner.

Rob Straw came on after 77 minutes, replacing the ineffectual Robert Smith, and immediately brought pace and mobility to the front line and Corby looked to turn to strong arm tactics as Simpson appeared to have a valid penalty appeal turned down after he had been brought down in the box. And moments later Straw had a vicious free-kick saved by Beresford. With play moving into injury time, the Borough faithful were rewarded. Another jinking Simpson run saw him scythed down in the box and this time the official had no hesitation in pointing to the spot. The coolest man on the pitch was Ian Drewitt, who stroked the ball to the left of the keeper just inside the post to keep the Manor Park club on course for the promotion spot they and their long suffering fans are so desperate to achieve.

Gleasure Released

Beazer Midland Division leaders Nuneaton Borough have released goalkeeper Peter Gleasure. The break, which was described by manager Brendan Phillips as amicable, comes less than a week after the arrival of Paul Hayward from Hednesford Town.

Borough Lose Clark And Shepstone

Nuneaton Borough midfield players Howard Clark and Paul Shepstone have left the club following an approach from Beazer Premier outfit Crawley Town

Racing Club Warwick v Nuneaton Borough 24-10-1995

Racing Club: Bulliman, Clarke, Sullivan, Francis, Daley, Halford, Blencowe, Titterton, O'Neill (Green 69), Thorpe.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Luby, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Andersen, Carr, Straw, Drewitt, Simpson. Subs: McGinty, Clamp, Donnelly.

Borough made the journey to Hampton Road to play Racing Club Warwick in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Racing, with three consecutive victories, caught Borough napping in the third minute when Morton Titterton broke through but Hayward was quickly off his line. With torrential rain lashing across the field, Tony Simpson struck a pass through for Straw who hit a first time shot wide of the target but Ian Drewitt was more fortunate with 12 minutes on the clock. It was Simpson again, setting Drewitt free and the front runner chipped over the advancing Peter Bulliman.

Borough were soaking up the pressure from Racing who were reduced to ten men in the 15th minute when full back Kieran Sullivan was given his marching orders after hacking Straw down from behind. But, as is usually the case when a team loses a player, Racing hit back and it was only a timely headed clearance by Barry Williams that kept Tony Clarke's 23rd minute effort out. Then, following a number of foiled attempts at goal, Straw found the net, calmly slotting the ball past Bulliman with Simpson once again the provider.

Borough were still celebrating 60 seconds later when, following an uncharacteristic mistake by Williams, Racing struck. Blencowe made the most of his chance, slamming a 25 yard shot in off the post. Nuneaton kept pushing with half-time looming, and Straw got a touch from Simpson's pass, the ball flying wide with Drewitt lurking in space. Drewitt almost succeeded with an overhead kick as Bulliman closed in.

Simpson went close two minutes into the second half when he chipped over Bulliman only for the ball to clip the top of the crossbar. The woodwork foiled a later effort by Straw as Borough desperately sought to put the game beyond Racing's reach. Simpson, with Nicky Andersen in space to his left, chose to go all the way and suffered the consequences when the defence shut him out on the edge of the six yard box. He was shown a yellow card moments later for diving in a clash with Bulliman.

At times there were too many blue shirts in Racing's area

with little idea of what to do. In spite of some near misses Borough's efforts at goal were not good enough and it came as little surprise when the home side snatched the equaliser. A break down the right saw Halford miss the cross from close range for Steve Thorpe to calmly tap the ball home from ten yards. The game seemed to lose its way from then on as both teams ran out of steam and it was Drewitt who provided the final ray of hope with a 15-yard shot which cleared both Bulliman and the crossbar.

Nuneaton Borough v King's Lynn 28-10-1995

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Luby, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Andersen, Carr, Straw, Drewitt (Donnelly 38), Simpson. Subs: McGinty, Clamp.

King's Lynn: Lewis, Matthews, Skelly, Bloodworth, Pascoe, Curtis, Cooper, Harrison, Hudson, McNamara, Munton (Setchell 72). Subs: Dolby, Hales.

Borough welcomed King's Lynn to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

The Linnets, who came to Manor Park as potential championship rivals, were forced to weather early Borough pressure as the home side were awarded two corner kicks in the opening minutes. Rob Straw went close after 11 minutes, picking up Tony Simpson's pass into the area to fire an angled drive inches past the post.



Tony Simpson shrugs off a challenge from a King's Lynn defender.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Full-back Seamus Luby, pushed a pass through to top marksman, Ian Drewitt, but his chance to add to his tally of 15 league and cup goals went by the board as he sliced the shot into the stand. The game was locked after 37 minutes when Richard Skelly charged down an attempted clearance by Paul Hayward from Donald's back pass, allowing Lee Hudson plenty of time to stroke the ball home. A minute later Ian Drewitt went off following a cynical tackle from behind by Robbie Curtis, to be replaced by Steve Donnelly. Nicky Andersen went close with a rising shot which just cleared the crossbar from 15 yards and Luby, pushing forward

again, tried a shot from fully 40 yards but Steve Lewis safely watched the ball whistle over the bar.

The second-half was six minutes old when Straw latched onto Gerard Carr's centre but Lewis was quickly off his line to narrow the angle as the ball skidded inches wide. Then, with 55 minutes on the clock and to the delight of Borough's highest league gate of the season, Simpson levelled the game with a neat left foot shot past Lewis from Andersen's free-kick.

From then on it was Borough all the way and it seemed only a matter of time before the floodgates opened but numerous chances were missed as first Simpson and then Straw, who ran onto Gary Statham's through ball only to lose out as he tried to switch the ball to his favourite left foot, went close. Right on full-time, midfielder Barry Williams saved the day with some great covering play as Martin Matthews looked certain to break through as the Linnets made one last gasp effort.

Culpin Is Back

Nuneaton Borough favourite, Paul Culpin, has returned to the Manor Park fold for his third stint with the Blues. The popular striker, who holds the club record goal tally, signed forms following Saturday's home draw against King's Lynn.

Nuneaton Borough v VS Rugby 31-10-1995

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams (Clamp 58), Carr, Andersen, Luby, Straw, Donnelly, Simpson. Subs: London, Mallabone.

VS Rugby: Batchelor (Oldfield 90), Young (Mason 62), Smith, S. Wood, J. Wood, Owen, Martin, Murphy, Lenton, Rosegreen, Wallace (Warner 77).

Borough welcomed VS Rugby to Manor Park to play a Doc Martens Cup first round second leg tie.

Tom McGinty, back in the team after several weeks, settled well and laid on a seventh minute pass for Williams to head over the crossbar from close range. Rob Straw had a close range effort go inches wide before Steve Donnelly climbed unchallenged in the area to head home Tony Simpson's 15th minute free-kick. VS were confined to sporadic breakaways, invariably resulting in long range efforts, the best being Matt Wallace's tentative 30 yarder on the 20 minute mark that did not trouble Paul Hayward.

Straw was again out of luck when he pulled a low drive across the face of the goal but Borough were in trouble moments later when Dan Murphy pounced on Gerard Carr's short back pass and fired his effort over the bar. But Martin was more fortunate with the clock on 28 minutes, shaking off his marker long enough to strike a superb angled drive just inside the post. The score remained the same at half-time despite a number of efforts by Straw and Simpson which went close.

The second-half was only 12 minutes old when Williams put Borough in front again and sealed the tie with a goal-line header, after Batchelor failed to hold Donnelly's close-range effort following Simpson's corner kick. Williams hobbled off moments later to be replaced by Scott Clamp as Borough proceeded to dominate the game. Simpson went close with

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



the best shot of the match following a delightful run to the edge of the VS area. Right on time, Seamus Luby forced Batchelor into making a spectacular diving save from a 20 yard free-kick resulting in the keeper striking his forehead against the post, which resulted in Oldfield substituting.

Redditch United v Nuneaton Borough 14-11-1995

Redditch: Adey, O'Meara, Rowley (Dankenbrink 36), Young, Pugh, Dyer (Ricketts 45), Smith, Moore, Mullings, Grosvenor (Sutton 68), Bradley.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Luby, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Andersen (Clamp 78), Carr, Straw, Drewitt (Culpin 68), Simpson (Donnelly 68).

Borough travelled to The Valley to play Redditch United in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Redditch, currently languishing at the foot of the table, were taken completely by surprise as Warren Donald's penetrating pass found Straw who took his time before whipping the ball past keeper Dave Adey. Tony Simpson, who was still full of running following his exertions at Barrow, chased a long pass to the goal line, evading defender Wayne Rowley before crossing to Straw, but his final touch was too short for the lurking Ian Drewitt. Reds best chance came after Barry Williams cleared an eighth minute corner kick which fell short with Steve Mullings racing in but his finishing was off as Paul Hayward tidied up.

Redditch, who have found the net just twice in their last six games were punished again in the 17th minute as Simpson raced through, passing inside to Straw whose low, hard cross was driven into the roof of the net by Gerard Carr. Borough were continually catching Redditch with quick through balls from midfield and went close to adding to their lead on 22 minutes but Nicky Andersen's pass was just too long for Straw as he chased the ball a yard wide of the post.

The conditions were hampering a neat passing game and several chances were missed as players were foiled by the glue-like surface but Simpson looked certain to skate past Adey on his way to goal seconds before the break until defender Barry Young stepped in. It was a bad step by Young, however, as he upended Simpson in the area for referee Cleasby to point straight to the spot. A delighted Ian Drewitt converted to take his season's tally to 16. Redditch came out in a more determined mood and were quickly awarded a free kick but Shaun O'Meara's ball was too close to Hayward as Mullings challenged strongly.

They continued to plug away but Borough's defenders were just too organised. Again, Reds best chance came from a long 65th minute clearance but instead of lifting the ball over Hayward, Mullings elected to fire low, giving the keeper time to block the shot. Then, with 21 minutes left Culpin and Donnelly replaced Simpson and Drewitt and within seconds the ball was in the net. Adey did well to block a shot but could do nothing as Culpin struck the rebound into the net.

Redditch cut the deficit in the 79th minute when Marcus Ricketts raced to the dead ball line to cross for substitute

Peter Sutton to fire in from six yards. It was a brief moment of euphoria, however, as Borough struck back. Young earned himself a red card for his 87th minute tackle on Donnelly before Culpin blasted a classic penalty kick past Adey.

Nuneaton Borough v Buckingham Town 18-11-1995

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Luby, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Andersen, Carr, Straw, Drewitt (Culpin 79), Simpson. Subs: Gibson, Clamp.

Buckingham: Redman, Sherlock, Lawley, Mansfield, Attfield. Grant (Searle 63), Corbett, Tubbs, Hamilton (Wheeler 57), Young (Marshall 73), Covington.

Borough welcomed Buckingham Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough started in confident mood with Rob Straw forcing Sean Redman into making a diving save after jinking past two defenders. Two corner kicks followed in quick succession before Buckingham drew some respite from the pressure as striker Tony Hamilton broke clear but Paul Hayward had little trouble tidying up.

Hayward had more trouble dealing with Chris Tubbs' 14th minute effort as an awkwardly bouncing ball evaded the keeper and almost crept over the line as the crowd held its breath. But two minutes later that was forgotten as Ian Drewitt's 17th goal of the season set the terraces alight. Straw made a good break down the left, passing inside to Tony Simpson, who drew two defenders before slipping the ball to Drewitt who picked his spot, neatly side-footing past the keeper into the top right-hand corner. But Borough were immediately hit as Jason Young ran onto a through pass two minutes later before chipping the ball over the advancing Hayward and into the net.



A Buckingham defender fails to pull Straw back, but the striker failed to capitalise on the chance.
Photo: Heartland Evening News

The goal lifted the visitors who almost went in front when Jon Corbett's free-kick went clear across the open goalmouth with Chris Tubbs and Lee Attfield missing making contact by inches before Hamilton crashed the ball into the side netting. Simpson went close on the half-hour, beating two defenders before being foiled by Redman and at the other end Mark Sherlock was unlucky as he struck a volley wide from Paul Covington's pass.



Both teams were all square at the break but the second half looked more promising as Straw battled to get a shot in after good work by Nicky Andersen and Simpson. The visitors were on the defensive with 30 minutes remaining but Borough were missing the chance to press home their advantage. Drewitt did not look happy, especially after taking another knock on his injured right ankle. Young was proving to be a handful as Buckingham made occasional breaks and forced Hayward into making yet another vital stop shortly before being replaced by Micky Marshall.

Paul Culpin came on for Andersen with 11 minutes remaining as Borough strove to break the deadlock but even he could not find a way through the wall after Simpson won a free-kick on the edge of the area. Centre-half Attfield provided the visitors' best chance in the closing minutes but by then the momentum had gone out of the game.

Nuneaton Borough v Bilston Town 02-12-1995

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams (Snowball 80), Carr, Donnelly, Luby, Straw, Drewitt, Simpson. **Subs:** Clamp, Gibson.

Bilston: Attwood, Butler (Heywood 16), White, Smith, Bowater, Jones, Hazlewood, Grant, Harnett (King 65), Edwards, Berks (Stokes 80).

Borough welcomed Bilston Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Everyone was taken by surprise when Bilston took a first minute lead. A mistake by Statham gave Peter Berks the chance to slip a pass to Adrian Edwards who curled a shot past the diving Paul Hayward. Borough hit back through Seamus Luby linking with Steve Donnelly down the left wing who passed inside to Straw but former Nuneaton keeper Richard Attwood was in position to palm his shot aside for a corner. Luby laid on another superb ball for Straw moments later, but everyone missed his pass across the face of an open goal.

Williams thwarted a promising attack as Rob Grant almost broke through and at the other end Straw was in the thick of the action as he appealed – and failed – to win a penalty after Mark Bowater looked to have handled in the area. Donnelly went close with a looping shot which substitute David Heywood headed off the line but with the break looming Borough looked to be out of luck.

That is until Tony Simpson cut inside from the right before finding Straw on the 18 yard line who side stepped his marker before lashing the ball in off the underside of the crossbar with Attwood rooted to the spot. A minute into injury time Borough were in the lead for the first time as the Steelmen failed to clear Simpson's corner before Statham bundled the ball over in a goalmouth scramble.

Bilston came out well on the restart with Malc Hazlewood breaking down the right to hit a high looping ball into the six yard box which Hayward took comfortably. Then Tom McGinty, in his first full game for many weeks, linked with Straw who hit a centre for Attwood to take under pressure from Simpson. But minutes later Simpson again tested

Attwood with a shot which deflected off a defender for the keeper to palm away at the last second. Then with Williams stretched off, Borough piled on the pressure but Bilston weathered the storm and could have snatched a late equaliser with a dangerous cross seconds from the end which Hayward cleared to the relief of Borough supporters.

Burton Albion v Nuneaton Borough 05-12-1995

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Luby (Snowball 78), Carr, Donnelly, Clamp, Straw, Drewitt, Simpson. **Subs:** London, Gibson.

Borough travelled to Eton Park to play Burton Albion in a Birmingham Senior Cup second round tie.

Borough made a promising start with Rob Straw forcing keeper Darren Acton into a low save after just three minutes while a superb ball from the lively Tony Simpson put the same player clear on the left of the area and again the ex-Telford custodian was equal to the task. It was very much against the run of play that the Brewers took the lead although the goal was full of quality as Richard Smith's defence splitting pass over the visitors back division found Paul Gretton wide and when his low cross came into the area it was Rhodes who reacted the quicker to volley home from five yards.

Burton were vibrant at this point and inside three minutes they should have increased their advantage when Borough keeper Paul Hayward saw his rushed clearance strike Gretton and bounce to Rhodes, who was bundled to the ground by Seamus Luby. But from the resulting penalty, Rhodes fiercely struck spot kick cannoned off the base of the post and careered 30 yards upfield. The let-off lifted Borough's spirits and in a 15 minute spell prior to the interval, outplayed their hosts but unfortunately the killer instinct in front of the net was missing although Clamp did find the target with a back post header following brilliant work by Simpson only for a lineman's offside flag to cut short celebrations.

The well-placed Straw then forced two fine saves from Acton in quick succession, both after neat work from Simpson while the same combination again confounded the Albion rearguard but Straw scooped his final shot well over from 15 yards. However, right on half-time the equaliser deservedly came Borough's way and it was an exquisite piece of work from Gerry Carr that manufactured it. Burton were penalised on the right side of their area and from the free-kick Carr curled a delightful shot around the defensive wall and into the net off the inside of the post as Acton scrambled vainly across his line.

After the break Rhodes was a constant thorn in Borough's side and when he swivelled smartly on the right, his pinpoint centre was met by substitute Mark Wood, whose close range volley grazed the bar. Hayward then did well to save from another Rhodes drive before Burton regained the initiative on 68 minutes. Gary Statham wildly sliced away a clearance for a corner and from Alan Davies' inswinging kick, Rhodes was on hand to steer a glancing header past Hayward.



Borough again strived to bounce back and when the grafting Steve Donnelly broke clear on the right his low cross found Straw, whose first touch cost him dear as the ball sped into the grateful arms of Acton. Straw then brought out another good save from Acton, the striker's goalbound drive being parried away but in the frantic race to win the loose ball, the pair collided, with the Borough man becoming his side's fifth caution of the night.

It was Burton who finished the stronger and when Rhodes escaped attention inside the area his angled drive seemed destined for the net only for a slight deflection off a Borough defender to divert the ball inches wide of the post for a fruitless corner.

The Umbrella Stand

Dear Editor

I would like to congratulate the board of directors at Nuneaton Borough AFC for pulling out all the stops to get the roof on the canal side stand. Despite numerous promises emanating from the mouth of Phil Clayton, guaranteeing completion by as early as February this year, fans still have no roof above their heads.

Perhaps at the next board meeting the chairman and directors should think about officially re-naming that side of the ground "The Umbrella Stand", because that is the predominant feature now that winter is here.

It's a good chance that many of the forthcoming games will be played in rain, snow or sleet, which means that all but the die-hards will be squashed into the Cock & Bear end. With the impending visit of Bedworth on New Year's Day, which is sure to attract a huge crowd, bad weather could force everyone beneath the same roof.

This could result in a potentially explosive situation if the behaviour of a minority of Greenbacks fans is to be believed. So come on Borough board, follow Bob Holness's example and "Raise The Roof" for the Borough supporters who like to stand on that side of the ground.

COCK & BEARER

Sutton Coldfield Town v Nuneaton Borough 09-12-1995

Sutton: Parsons, Ling, Biddle, Bannister, Manton, Richardson (Brown 71), Whitehouse, Chambers, Swann, Pearson (Marshall 45), Wright. **Sub:** Hodgson.
Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty (Gibson 85), Statham, Carr, Crowley, Andersen, Luby, Straw, Drewitt, Donnelly (Simpson 65). **Sub:** Snowball.

Borough travelled to Coles Lane to play Sutton Coldfield in a Southern League Midland Division game.

The Royals showed little of the form which, until a month ago, had powered them to second place in the table. Striker Mark Swann could have done better as he struck a sharply angled fifth minute shot wide of the post, following up with a run at goal from a pass by Larry Chambers but the impressive Gary Statham was on hand to clear the danger. Borough's patience and superior football paid off in the 13th minute as Dave Crowley and Nicky Andersen combined to set up Straw

who found the net with a neat shot under the diving Parsons. Sutton's efforts to get back into the game were reduced to a half chance from Dean Wright's centre as he briefly escaped the attentions of Statham, but Swann never looked like getting to the ball.

Pressure from an increasingly confident Borough side was rewarded with two corners in as many minutes, Parsons dropping the first by Andersen for Ling to clear and a second from Tom McGinty being cleared to Straw but Drewitt was ruled offside. Wright was sent off with six minutes to go before the break after clipping Crowley's ankle but on a frozen and slipper surface the decision seemed a little harsh.

After the break, Drewitt, back to near pre-Barrow form, proceeded to cause the Royals all sorts of problems with a number of skilful runs, linking with Straw and Steve Donnelly as Borough took control. That control was converted into a well deserved goal on 62 minutes as Straw forced Andersen's corner kick over the line from close range. Seconds later Borough went 3-0 in front when a ball from the right found the unmarked Seamus Luby, whose first-time shot struck the base of the post.

Straw hit the side netting before Tony Simpson came on for Steve Donnelly, adding extra width to the Borough attack, his best effort coming in the 70th minute as he clipped the top of the crossbar. With Nuneaton virtually queueing up for a chance at goal, something had to give and a neat move in the 77th minute opened the door. Drewitt broke clear in the middle, finding Andersen, whose first shot was blocked by Parsons and the follow-up looked destined for the back of the net only for Manton to palm the ball over. Referee Wilkinson pointed to the spot while reaching for the red card and Manton glumly left the field before Drewitt gleefully took his chance and buried the spot kick.

Borough, enjoying the luxury of a three goal cushion, turned the screw but there were no more goals and Sutton were resigned to defeat long before the final whistle.

Atherstone United v Nuneaton Borough 12-12-1995

Atherstone: Williams, Everitt, Knight, Hart (Wade 85), M. Albrighton, Randle, Judd, Ellison, D. Albrighton (Dickson 73), Harriman (Campbell 50).
Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Carr, Crowley (Burton 75), Andersen, Luby, Straw, Drewitt, Simpson. **Subs:** Snowball, London.

Borough travelled to Sheepy Road to play Atherstone United in a Doc Martens Cup second round tie.

Right from the opening whistle it was Adders who made the running with the pacy Keith Russell causing serious problems down the left and from one of his spearing runs it was only the fingertips of Hayward that denied Robbie Ellison. Hayward twice denied Dean Albrighton before the game turned in a 60 second spell as Adders squandered a glorious chance at one end and almost immediately Borough swept forward and stole the lead. Russell was the United villain as he latched on to an astute through ball from David

Nuneaton Borough v Solihull Borough 16-12-1995

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Carr, Crowley, Andersen, Luby, Straw, Drewitt, Simpson. **Subs:** Snowball, Gibson, London.

Solihull: Houghton, Abell, Cook, Kurila, Mulders, Gillett, Harris, Hopkins, Coppin, Dowling (Beagin 75), Coogan. **Subs:** Woodvine, Cooper.

Hart to round Hayward but his cross shot towards an empty net struck the outside of the post and rebounded to safety. Play then switched to the opposite end and when Nicky Andersen's penetrating pass put Straw in behind the Adders' rearguard, his low angled drive left keeper Richard Williams helpless as the ball struck the base of the post and then into the net. Borough were lifted by the breakthrough and when Simpson raced clear minutes later only a fine full-length dive and parry by Williams frustrated the diminutive winger.



Tony Simpson hammers home Borough's second goal.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Dean Albrighton found himself with only Hayward to beat but Statham got back to clear, and Borough made the most of the let-off on 39 minutes when they hit Adders with another stunning blow. Leigh Everitt's miscued clearance fell to Straw, whose superb centre flew across the face of goal to Andersen and though his cross shot was fended away by Williams, Simpson was perfectly placed to rifle home from 10 yards. Right on half-time Mark Albrighton's looping header was touched onto the bar by Hayward, who seconds earlier had tipped a superb Russell centre away from the onrushing Ellison.

Borough had a penalty appeal turned down when Everitt looked to have upended Seamus Luby, but for the next 20 minutes the visitors came under constant pressure. Substitute Steve Campbell just failed to reach a Russell cross with an empty net begging and Ellison curled a shot wide while Dean Albrighton's header lacked accuracy Simpson went close to a second goal before Russell had a goalbound drive deflected wide. Adders deservedly cut the deficit on 74 minutes as the winger's flag kick swung beneath the bar and over the line despite Hayward's vain attempt to save.

But the lifeline that had been thrown for United was quickly hauled back as Borough regained their two-goal cushion. Everitt and Albrighton were guilty of sloppy play and Simpson laid off a tasty square ball into the path of Drewitt and the Borough hotshot never looked like missing as he drilled a low 20-yarder beyond the flailing fingers of Williams. That knocked the stuffing out of the hosts and in the closing minutes Borough could have added to their lead as Straw's fierce shot clattered the post and rebounded back into play and Williams had to be at his best to frustrate Chris Burton and Drewitt.

Deep into injury time Mark Albrighton squandered a good offering, his initial effort being blocked while his follow up shot from eight yards flew aimlessly over.

Borough welcomed Solihull Borough to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough had a promising start with Gerard Carr heading inches wide from Andersen's third minute cross but the visitors were out of luck when Craig Gillett's header was disallowed following a push on Paul Hayward. The 800-plus crowd were then treated to the spectacle of Rob Straw in full flight as he picked up a ball 10 yards inside the visitors' half before battling his way to the edge of the area and unleashing a tremendous shot which cannoned off the post. However, in the 14th minute the home team's hearts sunk as Coppin had the simple task of tapping home a cross which evaded Hayward's despairing dive.

Borough were knocked sideways by the shock goal but proceeded to roll their sleeves up and fight back. The reward came four minutes from the half as Tony Simpson hit a short corner for Andersen's perfect first-time strike to level the scores. Simpson went close to putting Borough in front as he took on Seamus Luby's pass, leaving Shane Abell in his wake to shoot past Houghton only for a defender's outstretched leg to save the visitors.

From the restart it was virtually one-way traffic as Borough threatened to overwhelm Solihull. Luby had a great chance from Straw's cross but headed over from six yards and Ian Drewitt fired a point-blank range shot against the keeper. Drewitt was out of luck again as a similar effort was thwarted but there was no stopping Straw's 73rd minute strike which flew past Houghton – a perfect finish from an equally perfect defence-splitting pass from Andersen.

Robert Hopkins almost snatched a shock equaliser from the kick-off as he connected with a great cross from Mark Coogan but it was their last chance and Borough had another three precious points in the bag.

Borough Hope To Complete Canal Side Stand

Nuneaton Borough club chiefs are hoping for an early Christmas present – the green light to put the finishing touches to the canal-side stand. But British Waterways and the local authority have been dragging their feet, resulting in a frustrating Catch 22 situation.

Club commercial director, Phil Clayton, said he was just as disappointed as the supporters. "We cannot put the roof on the stand until the drains are in, and we are also told that the water is not allowed to run into a foul-water drain. Until we get permission from the relevant authorities how we are to disperse drainwater from the roof we are in a cleft stick," he said.

Nuneaton Borough v Stourbridge 23-12-1995

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty (Luby), Statham, Williams, Crowley, Andersen, Carr, Straw, Drewitt (Culpin), Simpson. **Sub:** Gibson.

Borough welcomed Stourbridge to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Spot on Ian Drewitt gave Borough manager Brendan Phillips the Christmas present he wanted most as his second half penalty earned the Manor Park men three precious points in a 1-0 win over battling Stourbridge. Drewitt netted his 20th goal of the season on 65 minutes after Rob Straw had been upended in the area by visiting keeper Matt Lowe, the diminutive Welshman's resulting penalty bringing welcome relief to the Borough faithful.

Earlier in the proceeding, the Glassboys could easily have broken through inside four minutes when Albert Johnson glanced a header wide of a begging net with the home defence in complete disarray.



Rob Straw sees his drive go just wide. Photo: Heartland Evening News

Despite being far from their best, Borough still held the upper hand with Drewitt grazing the bar with a header and Tony Simpson's cross shot being parried away by Lowe, who then denied Drewitt with a brave save at the striker's feet after he had fumbled the Borough hotshot's low shot.

Early in the second half, Straw fired wide with just Lowe to beat and Crowley was denied by a goalline clearance before Drewitt found the key to unlock a stubborn Stourbridge rearguard from the spot. Straw then failed to capitalise on two gilt-edged offerings although near the end only a superb stop by Paul Hayward prevented Clive Walker from netting a late leveller.

Nuneaton Borough v Bedworth United 01-01-1996

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Luby, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Burton, Carr, Straw, Drewitt, Simpson. **Subs:** London, Culpin, Morrell.

Bedworth: Starkey (Wood 46), Blyth, Wilkins, Thomas, Williams, Penny, Corden, Wileman, Symonds, Graham, Platnauer. **Subs:** Morrison, Beard.

Borough welcomed Bedworth United to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough had a slight edge in the first-half as both sides battled to come to terms with the conditions, but with the

restart the Greenbacks settled down and looked the better side. But, in spite of a number of chances, neither side looked like scoring. That is until the 70th minute when Borough failed to clear a free-kick, giving Graham time to fire a shot in off the post. The goal stunned Nuneaton into action and eight minutes later they equalised, the goal coming again from a set piece situation as Ian Drewitt's low free-kick from the left was headed home by Gerard Carr.

Borough were on top for a few minutes and could have gone in front as Rob Straw set Tony Simpson free on the left, the winger closing rapidly before unleashing a shot which substitute keeper Robert Wood did well to save at the foot of the post. That was the home side's best chance. Then, with just six minutes left to play Borough were stunned when defender Warren Donald was judged to have fouled Graham. The resulting free-kick from player-manager, Dean Thomas, found Wileman unmarked in the six yard box and he made no mistake with a perfectly struck header.

It was Borough's first league defeat since September 30 when they went down 1-0 at Bridgnorth Town.

Nuneaton Borough v Bury Town 02-01-1996

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Luby, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Culpin (Clamp 45), Carr, Straw, Drewitt, Simpson. **Subs:** McGinty, London.

Bury: Pitman, Kilgour, Hubbard, Henry, Curtis, England (Layne 60), Austin, Vince, Collins, Young, P. Smith. **Subs:** M. Smith, Jay.

Borough welcomed Bury Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

After a scrappy start with neither side impressing, Gerard Carr broke the deadlock in the 21st minute with a close range header from Rob Straw's corner kick. It was the signal for Nuneaton to pile on the pressure and two minutes later they went further in front as Gary Statham steered a well directed back header into the danger zone where the ball flew off a defender's outstretched boot.



Gary Statham's header ricochets off a Bury defender and flies into the net.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

The home side looked well in charge and could have added to the scoreline but luck was not running for Straw on the half-hour or Tony Simpson three minutes later as keeper Glen



Pitman foiled their efforts. But the persistence of Straw paid off ten minutes from the break when an attempted clearance by Dale Vince went towards the exposed Pitman, giving the striker time to race in and score. Vince, who has had trials with Ipswich Town in the past, had been unlucky earlier on as he almost caught Hayward unawares with a fierce right-foot shot which bounced just in front of the keeper.

But his team-mate Trevor Collins drew gasps from Borough supporters three minutes before half-time as he fired a first-time shot against the underside of the bar, the ball ricocheting down inches from the goal line. Scott Clamp, back from injury, replaced Paul Culpin at the break after the striker, in his first start since rejoining the club in November, had limped off after suffering two bone crunching tackles. The youngster was soon in action, laying off a neat pass to Straw who gave two defenders the slip but Pitman was in position to save the 20 yard shot.

Straw looked certain to get his second of the day as once again, he left two defenders in his wake before hitting a low shot past Pitman which struck the base of the left post, giving the keeper time to smother the rebound.

With 25 minutes left to play Borough should have been 4-0 up as Drewitt prepared to take the spot kick after Straw had been upended in the area. But, unbelievably, the club's top scorer, with 20 goals to his credit – seven from the spot – struck the ball wide. Seven minutes later Bury clawed a goal back when Scott Young forced the ball over the line after a scramble, but Hayward was unhappy with the decision and earned himself a yellow card for dissent.

Nuneaton then crushed any hope of a revival by the visitors with two goals in five minutes – both from Tony Simpson. With 14 minutes remaining he went on a long solo run down the right wing, cutting inside the area before hitting a superb shot into the far corner. "Simmo" was celebrating again after a breathtaking run by defender Barry Williams from deep inside his own half which carved a path to within 20 yards of the Bury goal before passing to Simpson, who made no mistake from 15 yards. Drewitt put a shot inches wide just before the final whistle.

Buckingham Town v Nuneaton Borough 10-01-1996

Buckingham: Warnecki, Sherlock, Covington, Mansfield, Attfield, Brown, Walker, Tubbs, Wheeler, Hamilton, Marshall (Wilson 78). **Sub:** Curley.

Borough: Hayward, Williams, McGinty, Statham, Carr, Crowley, Andersen, Clamp, Straw, Drewitt, Simpson. **Subs:** London, Luby.

Borough travelled to Ford Meadow to play Buckingham Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Straw was a thorn in the Robins' side throughout and had keeper Paul Warnecki in trouble as early as the fifth minute with a low centre that flashed across the goalmouth with nobody able to get a touch. Warnecki did well to palm a close-range shot over the crossbar and foiled Straw again as he blocked a pass from Nicky Andersen. Buckingham were

desperately trying to contain the visitors and could only manage an early effort by player-manager, Mark Sherlock, which hardly troubled Paul Hayward and a good centre from Marshall into the six-yard box for the keeper to save from striker, Kevin Wheeler.

The goal, when it came on the half hour, was no surprise, but it was the way that Straw took it that stunned those watching. The striker picked up a through pass from Ian Drewitt on the right before cutting inside and unleashing a tremendous left-foot drive from 25 yard which whistled past Warnecki and into the back of the net. Not content with that, Straw added to his season's tally six minutes later as he ran on to Dave Crowley's pass before rounding the keeper and stroking the ball home.

Borough had a scare just before the break when Walker broke away down the left before hitting a superb ball across the face of the goal which everyone managed to miss.

The second half opened with Robins trying desperately to put Borough under pressure, but to little effect as Marshall shot wide. Scott Clamp did well to deny burly Tony Hilton as he looked certain to break down the left wing as the game settled into a midfield tussle. However, Borough, with Crowley, Gerard Carr and Andersen in good form and backed up by Williams and McGinty, were not about to let things slip. And there was always a threat from the three front men who ran Robins ragged as the half wore on. Drewitt was particularly energetic and left his markers for dead on several occasions as he ripped through the defence.

The pressure paid off with five minutes remaining when Borough had a short corner. Simpson passed inside to Andersen who hit a ball into the area for Statham to find the net in a goalmouth melee. Straw had another tremendous effort blocked by Warnecki before Derek Brown saved Robins honour with a close range effort two minutes from time.

Culpin Could Have Played Last Game For Borough

Paul Culpin may have played his last game for Borough after manager Brendan Phillips revealed that he was free to find another club. Culpin suffered a knee injury against Bury and has been ruled out for the foreseeable future.

Paget Rangers v Nuneaton Borough 13-01-1996

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Luby, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Andersen (Clamp 74), Carr, Straw, Drewitt, Simpson. **Subs:** McGinty, London.

Borough travelled to Coles Lane to play Paget Rangers in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough had Paget on the ropes from the first whistle as front runners Rob Straw, Tony Simpson and Ian Drewitt ripped through the defence time after time. Straw put a shot into the side netting while Drewitt got himself into a good position six yards out, but decided to pass. But something had to give and in the 14th minute Borough were rewarded. Drewitt found Straw, who hit a superbly weighted pass to Simpson

who ran on, shooting past Gary Price and into the net. Rangers hit back with centre-forward Ian Bennett going close as Hayward took a high ball into the six-yard box and Mick Chawner tried a 15-yard shot after Warren Donald's header went astray. But they were among Paget's rare efforts in a half which belonged to Borough. In spite of the away side's pressure, Paget held on grimly and must have felt themselves lucky to go in at the break only lagging by a solitary goal.

The second half was only four minutes old when Barry Williams launched one of his lone runs which ended with Price denying Williams on the edge of the area.

Straw volleyed wide but Borough's push left them dangerously exposed at the back and in the 55th minute Paget pounced. A loose ball was knocked upfield for Bennett who showed good control before chipping over a defender for Brendan McCarthy to run in and fire over Hayward and into the net.

Borough were still trying to come to terms with that setback when, five minutes later, Rangers struck again. Mark Caulfield's short corner to Bennett was knocked back for him to hit a ball to the far post and the waiting Rasheed Anifowose who headed home unchallenged.

Anifowose almost made it three for Paget four minutes later as he hit the crossbar as Borough's defence failed to clear Brown's cross. With 16 minutes remaining Scott Clamp replaced Andersen but Borough were still being caught cold as players were pushed forward. A free-kick, like so many others had little impact, as Gerrard Carr's challenge was swept aside by the tightly packed defence.

Paget were reduced to ten men in the 83rd minute when a moment of madness saw Stuart Clark stamp on Drewitt which led to a renewed onslaught by the visitors. Drewitt, who must have been the smallest man on the field, forced Price to concede a corner kick after challenging the keeper to Straw's super 86th minute cross, but the equaliser looked as far away as ever. The game was two minutes into injury time when Simpson was sent sprawling in the area for referee Turner to point straight to the spot. Drewitt more than made up for his last penalty miss against Bury as he struck the ball past Price. Seconds later Borough almost snatched a dramatic winner as Straw's header was cleared off the line by alert defender Mick Brown.

Borough Make Two Signings

Brendan Phillips has strengthened his squad with two new signings. Experienced midfielder, Nigel Shaw, agreed to a move from Vauxhall Conference outfit Stalybridge, joining striker, Gary Hardwick, from Beazer Midland Division neighbours Hinckley Town.

"Nigel is very experienced, having seen time at Altrincham and Macclesfield and also played in a FA Trophy Final for Runcorn," said Phillips. "And I know Gary from his time at Bedworth. He is a fine player and has always done a good job for me, so we are delighted to get him."

Nuneaton's Oldest Surviving Player?



In the programme notes for a recent Nuneaton Borough home game the name William Harry Bright cropped up. Who, you may ask, is he? Well he is, possibly, the oldest surviving Nuneaton player. Harry, as he prefers to be called, is fast approaching his 92nd birthday and still has vivid memories of an era long gone, but not forgotten.

Born in Coventry in 1904, he spent the early part of his life in London, then shortly after World War One, returned to Coventry where he has lived ever since.

At the age of 17 his football career kicked off at Coventry City Reserves as an outside left, but ironically he moved for more money to Hinckley United, the predecessor of Athletic, who at that time played at the Holywell.

In 1928 he signed for Nuneaton Town, where he enjoyed great success winning a string of honours in his two years at the club. Among them were the Birmingham Combination and the Nuneaton Hospital Cup, a memento of which still sits proudly on the sideboard at his home in Potters Green.

Following a move to Atherstone Town, he retired at the end of the 1930-31 season at the ripe old age of 27 and for most of his career he picked up the princely sum of just £1.50 a week. "People packed in younger during those days at about 25 or 26," he explained. "I enjoyed my time with Nuneaton playing in front of crowds of about 2,000 to 3,000."

As for today's crop of players and the modern game he says: "Football now is different altogether. It's difficult to say whether it was better then. I think it probably was. We had some good goalscorers, like George Naylor, who went on to do well for Blackpool. He scored 50 the year we won the league."

Nuneaton Borough v Hinckley Town 03-02-1996

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Shaw, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Donnelly (Andersen 53), Carr (Hardwick 70), Straw, Drewitt, Simpson. **Sub:** Luby.
Hinckley: Belford, Robinson, McKernon, Griffin, Wilcox, Olnier, Jameson (Emery 70), Sinden, Percival, Machin, McBean. **Subs:** Quinn, McGinty.

Borough welcomed Hinckley Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Hinckley were looking to reverse the 3-0 defeat at Leicester Road earlier in the season and tested the home defence in the opening minutes with a free kick from Paul Olnier and two good centres from former Borough striker Jason Percival. But Paul Hayward was in position to save and the only serious threat came when Percival pounced on a loose ball after the keeper failed to hold onto Olnier's free-kick.

Straw was unlucky with a close range shot which crashed into the side-netting after side stepping two defenders and an equally good effort minutes later that the agile Belford turned around the post for a corner kick. Steve Donnelly should have put Borough in front seven minutes before the break as he climbed to meet a cross from Straw in the six yard box but, once again, Belford was there to save.

Belford pulled off yet another superb stop at the feet of Barry Williams before Town's Sven Sinden almost grabbed the breakthrough goal with a close range header which Hayward blocked before recovering to clear the danger. Right on the break Belford pulled off yet another super save to deny Donnelly.



Borough's winning goal is on its way as Rob Straw races into the area with only Dale Belford to beat. Photo: Heartland Evening News

Borough looked certain to take the lead at the start of the second-half when Tony Simpson weaved his way through a pack of claret shirts, helped by a neat backheel by Donnelly, only to hit the shot wide from ten yards. Straw was also disappointed as Belford made a brave diving save at his feet but alert Gerard Carr was the man of the moment as he cleared off the line after Sinden had rounded Hayward.

Nicky Andersen came on for the limping Donnelly just before Borough's appeals for a penalty were turned down after a clash between Simpson and Belford. The pressure was beginning to show and ten minutes later Drewitt and Griffin were given their marching orders after both players went down in a tangle of arms and legs. Straw provided a bit of

magic as he switched left, then right, before hitting a low centre which went behind Hardwick as the sub stormed through into the area. Hardwick connected with a centre from Simpson hitting a first time shot which drew a great diving save from Belford but the keeper was unable to prevent Straw's clincher in the dying seconds. Debut boys Nigel Shaw and Gary Hardwick linked to set up Straw who took his chance and smashed a left foot shot past Belford into the far corner of the net.

Evesham Town v Nuneaton Borough 10-02-1996

Evesham: Hamblin, Bloomfield, Haines, Jordan, Clark, Cotterill, Jones, Brain, Davis, Dixon (Tipton 29), Criddle (Smith 83). **Sub:** Collicutt.
Borough: Hayward, Donald, Shaw, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Andersen, Carr, Straw (Hardwick 67), Drewitt, Simpson. **Subs:** Luby, Clamp.

Borough travelled to Common Road to play Evesham Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough's grip on the game was plain for all to see from the opening minutes as Simpson hit the side netting from 18 yards with the Robins limited to a 30-yard effort by player-manager, Nick Jordan. Nuneaton's persistence paid off in the 11th minute when Ian Drewitt set Straw free down the left and he squared for Simpson to calmly drill the ball home from ten yards. Midfielder Gerard Carr, almost made it two with a first-time shot from Simpson's pass into the area and it was defender Paul Bloomfield's quick reactions that save the Robins as he cut out Drewitt's centre with Straw closing.

Straw, however, made no mistake with 18 minutes gone giving keeper Chris Hamblin no chance with a powerful strike following good work by Simpson on the left. Straw almost snatched a third moments later as he tested Hamblin with a 25-yard shot. The Robins were struggling to come to terms with Borough's cut and thrust style of play and it was only the efforts of Hamblin and a strong, swirling wind that kept the scoreline down with the break approaching.

Drewitt saw another effort fly over the crossbar and into the stand and Simpson was unlucky with a low shot which was heading for the corner of the net when Hamblin pulled off another impressive save. Evesham tried to salvage some pride on the stroke of half-time as Bloomfield hit a long, speculative shot which hardly troubled Paul Hayward and Richard Criddle was off target with a cross.

Ian Drewitt started the second half with a yellow card after an altercation with Mark Davis before Carr went close, heading Straw's corner goalwards, but Danny Haines cleared off the line. A Barry Williams tackle halted Simon Brain, when he looked certain to score as Evesham refused to roll over. However, something had to give and Borough's third goal came from an uncharacteristic mistake by Hamblin in the 63rd minute. A poor clearance went straight to Simpson who raced through before hitting a neat pass to Straw, who had the simple task of tapping the ball into the empty net.

An entertaining piece of possession play by Warren Donald,

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



Nicky Andersen and Simpson down the right led to a through pass for Drewitt to chase but Hamblin was quickly off his line to clear the danger. Straw went off to be replaced by Gary Hardwick moments before a delightful back-heel by Simpson saw Drewitt fire a 25-yarder which cleared the bar by inches. Robins' substitute Smith, on for Criddle, beat Hayward with a low angled drive, scraping the far post, and Tipton was desperately unlucky in the closing seconds as he volleyed Haines' cross straight at Hayward.

Nuneaton Borough v Crewe Alexandra 14-02-1996

Borough welcomed Crewe Alexandra to Manor Park to play a friendly game.

A Rob Straw penalty late on failed to save Nuneaton from a 2-1 defeat in their hastily arranged friendly. Borough boss Brendan Phillips was more than satisfied with his side's performance against the Division Two side which included at least four players with first team experience. Tom McGinty, who has been struggling to fend off a niggling knee injury and the ever-reliable Gary Statham, both caught the eye for Borough in front of an attendance of approximately 150.

Nuneaton Borough v Grantham Town 17-02-1996

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Andersen, Carr (Luby 54), Straw, Donnelly (Hardwick 86). **Sub:** Clamp.

Grantham: Hardcastle, Campbell, Dye, Bullimore, Speed, Gethfield, Evans (Bogan 45), Parkinson, Piggott, Taylor, McDaid. **Subs:** Macek, Drury.

Borough welcomed Grantham Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

It was the eighth minute when Andersen pounced on a poor clearance to fire a powerful shot against the post for Simpson to bury the rebound into the net with a diving header from close range. Grantham's first chance came five minutes later after Gary Statham handled but Steve Parkinson's free-kick was woeful to say the least, giving Paul Hayward little trouble. But Borough looked to be in trouble when Hayward failed to clear, the ball going to Scott Taylor who made a hash of his opportunity as he sliced his shot well wide from the edge of the area.

Defender Tom McGinty, in for the injured Nigel Shaw, impressed with his forceful play and laid on a superb free-kick for Statham to head wide as Borough pressed hard for a second goal. Straw was tasked with the set pieces but Barry Williams could only glance his 36th minute free-kick wide of the target after Brendon McDaid had performed a hatchet job on Dave Crowley. Taylor again failed to take advantage of a golden opportunity after Andersen was caught in possession on the edge of Borough's area, giving Hayward a simple task of clearing up.

With the break approaching, Andersen had a shot whistle inches past the post and Steve Donnelly, back after missing the Evesham game a week ago, climbed to connect with Andersen's free-kick but Grantham's defence combined to clear.

Borough maintained the pressure with the restart but it became obvious that Gerard Carr was struggling and he was replaced by Seamus Luby. With 25 minutes left to play Luby provided the cross which led to Borough's second goal. Donnelly flicked the ball on to Simpson who found Andersen unmarked in front of goal for the midfielder to drill a powerful shot past Hardcastle.

Parkinson went close to pulling one back for the visitors with a shot inches wide of the post but the best effort of the game went to Andersen whose powerful drive looked destined for the top left hand corner of the net only for Hardcastle to make a spectacular diving save. Andersen saw another shot flash wide of the post but Borough had done enough and Grantham were reduced to a late free-kick effort which only succeeded in eluding every red shirted player.

Leicester United v Nuneaton Borough 20-02-1996

Leicester: Selby, Hawkins, Jackson, Campbell, Robinson, Langston, Henry (Milne 73), Richards, Lennon, Bennett, Vinter. **Subs:** Coates, Robbins.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Andersen, Shaw, Straw, Hardwick, Simpson. **Subs:** Luby, Clamp, Lavery.

Borough travelled to Winchester Road to play Leicester United in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Following a dour first-half, the hosts broke the deadlock in the 53rd minute when the talented Mark Lennon pounced on a mistake by Barry Williams before slipping the ball past keeper Paul Hayward. Up to that moment, Borough had rarely been in trouble thanks to sterling midfield performances from Dave Crowley, Nicky Andersen and the excellent Gary Statham, who refused to leave the action in spite of suffering a broken nose following an aerial clash.

Nuneaton constantly carved out the best chances with Andersen, Rob Straw and Gary Hardwick having shots inches off target and Statham heading over the bar from a Tom McGinty free-kick. United's best player on the night, Mark Lennon, always looked menacing on the break but he was limited to a solitary shot early on, a fierce drive which Hayward did well to stop.

Simpson came into his own on the restart and proceeded to give the United defence a nightmare as he jinked his way over the ice, leaving players in his wake. But, against the run of play, Leicester struck with Lennon taking his chance well. Undeterred, Borough upped a gear and began to bombard United's goal and it was a mystery how no-one got a touch to McGinty's low drive which passed clean through a packed penalty area.

With 22 minutes remaining a piece of memorable magic saw Simpson snatch the equaliser. A quick pass from Straw in midfield found "Simmo" unmarked, and he raced to the edge of the box before curling a shot past Rich Selby and into the net. Simpson was virtually unstoppable and it was his pace that led to Borough's second goal in the 84th minute when desperate defender Steve Jackson hacked him down on the

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



edge of the six yard line. With usual penalty taker, Ian Drewitt missing through suspension, it was left to Straw to power a fierce spot kick past Selby. Straw was inspired and set the crowd alight with a 50-yard run which ended with a long range drive past the diving Selby and inches wide of the post.

Bilston Town v Nuneaton Borough 24-02-1996

Bilston: Attwood, White, Hill, Smith, Bowater, Stokes, Hazlewood, Edwards, Perry, King, Berks (Hanson 67). Subs: Jones, Love.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Andersen, Luby, Straw, Hardwick, Simpson. Subs: Shaw, Clamp, Lavery.

Borough travelled to Queen Street to play Bilston Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough were first to show when Nicky Andersen's corner found Gary Statham whose powerful header was palmed away by Richard Attwood only to fall to Tony Simpson and his shot was blocked on the line by Phil Hill, which resulted in a fruitless corner. On three minutes Straw tested Attwood from 25 yards before good work from Crowley found Andersen and his shot from 18 yards was saved by the Bilston keeper. A last ditch tackle from Eric Smith halted Straw and it was all Borough. Seamus Luby set Straw free and the striker again tested Attwood. Ten minutes later Crowley set Luby on a run down the left and his cross found Crowley whose shot brought yet another save from Attwood.

Towards the end of the first-half Bilston started to get back into the match and three minutes from the break nearly took the lead. A low right wing cross by Richus White found Ian Perry who back headed the ball to Adrian Edwards and his shot was deflected wide. Perry headed narrowly wide from the corner kick. Borough took the lead in first-half injury time when Richard Attwood undid all his previous good work with a dreadful mistake when he failed to control Smith's back pass and the alert Rob Straw nipped in to rob the former Borough custodian and slip the ball into the empty net.

The second half was just three minutes old when Bilston had a chance to equalise. A long clearance from Attwood set Archie King free but he shot tamely at the advancing Paul Hayward. It was Bilston who were now enjoying the lion's share of possession and on 55 minutes good work down the right by Adrian Edwards sent Ian Perry free in the box but he was foiled by the alert Hayward who was off his line quickly.

On the hour Luby's cross found Straw, but he was halted by Eric Smith. Six minutes later Tony Simpson set Rob Straw free down the middle and as the Borough striker rounded Attwood he shot badly high and wide. The visitors could have rued that miss when in the 74th minute a fine run down the right by Edwards saw his shot from the edge of the box go narrowly wide, but a minute later Borough wrapped up the points with their second goal.

A pass from Straw found Simpson in the Bilston area and as Mark Bowater challenged Simpson he appeared to foul the Borough winger and the referee immediately pointed to the

spot amid protests from the home team. Rob Straw kept his cool and struck the ball home low into the corner of the net for his 26th goal of the campaign. The remainder of the match was comfortably played out by Borough.

Bury Town v Nuneaton Borough 27-02-1996

Bury: Pitman, Bryant, Curtis, Henry, England, Collins (Layne 84), Clarke, Wales, Metcalf, De Vito, Vince. Subs: Chandler, Martin.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Andersen, Luby (Massey 77), Straw, Hardwick (Shaw 77), Simpson. Sub: Lavery.

Borough travelled to Ram Meadow to play Bury Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

From the opening whistle, Borough had the hosts on the ropes, with two quick corner kicks and promising efforts from Straw and Tony Simpson who pounced on a poor clearance but keeper Glen Pitman recovered to block his low pass into the box. Defender Warren Donald, had a free-kick cleared but with 12 minutes on the clock a second from Nicky Andersen found Statham who rose unchallenged to clip the ball over Pitman and into the net.

Undaunted, Bury came back at their tormentors and caused a rush of panic in the Borough defence as Hamish Curtis' cross from the left beat Paul Hayward before skidding away off the crossbar. Straw was causing all sorts of problems with a number of powerful runs and nine minutes before the break almost put Borough two in front with a shot which flew into the side-netting. Moments later a through pass took an awkward bounce as Simpson chased but he slipped in the muddy penalty area, giving the defence time to chase back and clear the danger.

Bury's talented young striker, Claudio de Vito, showed silky skills as he slipped past two defenders but the alert Hayward was off his line to tidy up. Andersen had a 20-yard shot cannon off the right post before Hayward pulled off a spectacular diving save from Trevor Collins' looping shot.

The second half was two minutes old when Bury stunned Borough with the equaliser. A defensive error allowed Matt Metcalf to slip in before rounding Hayward and slotting the ball home. Town were lifted by the goal and for the following 20 minutes took the game to Borough. De Vito, again leading the revival as he linked with Mark Wales to get to the goal-line but his low centre somehow slipped through. Midfield general, Dave Crowley, linked with Simpson to set up Gary Hardwick but again, Pitman saved the day with a good stop.

Bury then made a fatal mistake by dropping their guard and a quickly taken free-kick by Andersen found Straw, unmarked, who had the simple task of shooting past the hapless Pitman. Bury had one last chance to level the game as Metcalf struck a powerful drive which Hayward did well to turn around the post for a corner kick. Predictably it was Simpson who set up the killer goal when, with the seconds ticking away, he found Straw with a defence splitting pass, the striker controlling well before finishing with a carbon copy of his first goal.

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



Round Signs

Nuneaton Borough have acquired the services of Steve Round from Derby County. He is expected to take his place in the team to play Corby Town tomorrow.

Corby Town v Nuneaton Borough 02-03-1996

Corby: Beresford, Luke (Rowland 65), James, Mason, C. Tonge, Fitzpatrick, D. Tonge (Archer 28), Simpson, Spencer, Rowe, Culpin. Sub: Marsden.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Andersen (Massey 66), Round, Straw, Hardwick, Simpson. Subs: Luby, Carr.

Borough travelled to The Rockingham Triangle to play Corby Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough's confidence was high from the opening whistle which showed as full-back, Warren Donald, went close with a good effort as he followed on Tony Simpson's heels. That early pressure continued as new boy Steve Round and Gary Statham both went close from corners. Gary Hardwick could not get enough power behind a shot as Beresford failed three times to clear a dangerous Borough attack. Paul Hayward had little trouble in dealing with Wayne Spencer's header as Corby failed to make any impression on Borough's defence, while they had their work cut out in trying to keep Straw under control.

But the determined front man would not be denied and it was his forceful play that led to the first goal. With 29 minutes gone a goal looked certain as he raced into the area but defender Simon Mason rashly hacked him down and referee Jim Hubbard pointed to the spot. Straw took no time in placing the ball and burying it in the back of the net. Borough were almost two up moments later as Nicky Andersen's corner kick found Simpson at the far post but Chris Tonge was in position to block the shot.

Dean Culpin showed a flash of older brother Paul's skills as he hit a low shot into the box for Hayward to save and Round's cultured first touch set Straw free as Nuneaton counter attacked but Mason blocked the shot to give away yet another corner. It was Straw's attacking style that resulted in Borough's second goal three minutes before the break as he was upended on the edge of the area. Andersen's neat free-kick cleared the wall to cannon off the crossbar for Simpson to race round and fire the rebound into the roof of the net.

That goal led to an extraordinary three minutes as Corby hit back through Fitzpatrick, converting a corner kick and Borough replying 60 seconds later as Gary Hardwick found the net with a perfect strike from Simpson's pass – his first success since moving from Hinckley Town last month.

The second half looked ripe for a hatful of goals but try as they might, Nuneaton could not add to the scoreline. Straw went agonisingly close on a number of occasions, one particularly good effort in the 62nd minute looked destined for the net but Beresford pulled off an equally good save. The half was marred by a number of bookings, Barry Williams' name going in the book for what looked to be a fair tackle

and Andersen for not moving away quickly enough from a free-kick situation. Phillips immediately replaced him with Richard Massey, fearing a possible red card. Borough were virtually queueing up for shots as the game closed, and came off to tumultuous applause from their faithful followers.

Nuneaton Borough v Paget Rangers 09-03-1996

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Andersen, (Hardwick 86), Round, Straw, Drewitt, Simpson (Massey 86). Sub: Carr.

Paget: Price, Whittingham, Clark, Brown, Tucker, Rosborough (Williams 83), Burroughs, Chawner, McArthy, Anifwosa, McDonald (Paul 72). Sub: Lee.

Borough welcomed Paget Rangers to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough's luck seemed to desert them early on as chances by Tony Simpson, Rob Straw and Ian Drewitt, came to nothing. The visitors contented themselves with a 35 yard shot by skipper Stuart Tucker, which hardly troubled Paul Hayward and a break away effort by Rasheed Anifowosa which was halted by Gary Statham. Drewitt got into scoring positions twice in the dying minutes of the half, the first from a Straw corner kick which he failed to get hold of properly and a ten yard sitter which cleared the crossbar by three feet. Nicky Andersen set Straw up with a delightful pass, but, with the goal looming he fired the shot at Gary Price's legs.



Tony Simpson fights off a Paget defender. Photo: Heartland Evening News

The second half saw Straw close in from the right wing and choosing to take the ball on, again slamming the ball at Price with Andersen unmarked in front of goal. Simpson somehow missed a gift as he headed Tom McGinty's 60th minute free kick wide from eight yards two minutes before Paget stunned the supporters with the breakthrough. A quickly taken free-kick by McDonald found Tucker who fired a 30 yard drive into the corner of the net past the diving Hayward.

McDonald almost followed suit minutes later as he chipped past Hayward but Borough breathed a sigh of relief as the ball struck a post for Warren Donald to tidy up. Straw looked certain to score as he evaded two defenders, teeing up a shot

on his favourite left foot, only to blast the ball over the bar. Drewitt fared little better again as he headed over from on the goal line. But things got worse as, with five minutes to go, a terrible missed clearance by Statham allowed Anifowosa in who found his way past Hayward to roll the ball into the net.

That effectively killed the game dead as Borough tried to snatch a consolation goal but it was not their day. Fortunately, other teams in the title chase fared little better and Nuneaton still retain their 10 point lead.

Nuneaton Borough v Gresley Rovers 14-03-1996

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Carr, Statham, Williams (London 45), Massey, Hardwick, Burton, Straw (Clamp 80), Drewitt, Simpson (Lavery 80).

Gresley: Wheatley, Lees, Guyett, Dowell, Ellis (Fisher 45), Futch, Sallis (McGinty 45), McAndrew (Allsopp 45), Taylor, Fowkes, Hurst.

Borough welcomed Gresley Rovers to Manor Park to play a Doc Martens Cup fourth round tie.

Gresley were on the ropes in the early stages with keeper Mark Wheatley thwarting Burton and Simpson and a Straw close-range header. But there was no denying Borough's leading goalscorer when, with 14 minutes played Straw let fly with a terrific left foot shot which flew through Wheatley's outstretched hands and into the net. As the tension mounted Borough's Barry Williams was booked for a two footed challenge on Ian Lees, the resulting free-kick going to Gavin McAndrew whose full-blooded drive cannoned off a defender.

But that attack was a rarity as Borough carried the game to Gresley, earning them a second goal in the 33rd minute as a nice one-two saw Straw's pass hit home by Simpson. Gary Hardwick lost out in a Gresley sandwich with the goal yards away after good work by Richard Massey and Burton and Ian Drewitt was denied his 22nd goal of the season in the dying seconds of the half by referee Singh as he smashed a penalty kick rebound home past Wheatley.

Gresley looked more determined after the break as substitute Kevin Allsopp laid on a superb, penetrating cross from the right wing, fortunately missing every red shirted player in the box. Burton saw a close range header cannon off the bar from Straw's cross, moments before Straw was left holding his head in frustration as he blasted a close range effort into the stand. The visitors pulled a goal back with 37 minutes left to play as David Taylor took advantage of some hesitant defending to slip the ball past Hayward.

That was the signal for Nuneaton to go up a gear as the Gresley goal began to resemble a shooting gallery. Drewitt, Simpson and Straw, again going close but a seven minute avalanche saw Burton netting twice. The first, in the 68th minute was headed home from Straw's deep cross followed by a neat move by Drewitt and Hardwick 15 minutes from the end, giving the number eight time to tap home from close range. Taylor was disappointed as Warren Donald skilfully cleared up a defence splitting pass from Allsopp which turned out to be Gresley's last real effort before full-time.

Phillips Dismisses Rumours

Nuneaton Borough manager Brendan Phillips has dismissed rumours that he is to quit the Manor Park club for a top Vauxhall Conference outfit. Speaking after Borough's emphatic 4-1 Dr Marten's Cup win over Gresley Rovers, where rumours had swept round the terraces, he was quick to praise both the board and his players. He said: "This club has ambitions to go all the way but there is still a long way to go and I am determined to go up with them. My position is quite simple at Nuneaton Borough. That is to get promotion, and that is the ambition of the lads and myself."

Nuneaton Borough v Moor Green 16-03-1996

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Andersen, Round, Straw, Drewitt, Simpson. Subs: Massey, Hardwick, Luby.

Moor Green: Green, Hamilton, Russell, Byrne, Gillard, Jones, Walker, Williams, Marshall, Moore (Merchant 71), Cotterill. Sub: Bailey.

Borough welcomed Moor Green to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough began brightly with Steve Round hitting an early ball into the box for Straw to head past keeper Ron Green only for a defender to clear. A nice one-two on the edge of the Moor's box saw Straw beat former Borough defender Alan Byrne, before passing to Round who forced Green into making a fingertip save with a deft chip. But all Green's experience could not prevent the breakthrough goal when, with 14 minutes on the clock, Straw put in a storming run, passing to Drewitt who slid the ball into the net from six yards.



Ian Drewitt (hidden) shoots Borough into the lead.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Moors' Ricky Marshall hardly troubled Paul Hayward with a rather tame breakaway effort but it was a different story at the other end as David Crowley blasted a half clearance goalwards only for Byrne to block the shot. With Nuneaton well on top, the Moors were virtually penned in their own half, Marshall's 28th minute cross falling short as Hayward gathered safely with Micky Moore closing. Straw went close as Green parried a shot inches wide of the post before, and against the run of play, the visitors made the most of Paul Jones' 33rd minute corner kick.

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



Borough failed to clear the danger, allowing Mick Walker to find Moore, who had the simplest task to tap in from close range. Tony Simpson went close to putting Borough two up before the break as he missed Straw's low pass across the face of the goal.

The second half was barely started when Straw picked up a pass from Gary Statham 25 yards out before brushing a defender aside in a blistering run to hit a devastating shot past the stunned Green. Borough were almost caught napping seconds later as Moore went agonisingly close as he lobbed Hayward and former Nuneaton favourite Ian Cotterill just missed out on the goal-line, foiled by superb cover play by Warren Donald.

Moor Green were punished when with 24 minutes left to play, a poor free-kick was cleared to Straw, finding Nicky Andersen who hit a defence splitting pass to the lurking Drewitt to jink his way past Green and a defender before finding the net. With the supporters chanting 'we want four,' Simpson almost gave them their wish but Green was on his toes to push his close range header over the bar.

Nuneaton Borough v Moor Green 19-03-1996

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Luby, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Massey (Donnelly 57), Round (Hardwick 74), Straw, Drewitt, Simpson. **Sub:** McGinty.

Moor Green: Green, Merchant, Russell (Hamilton 27), Byrne, Gillard, Jones, Moore (Bailey 74), Cotterill, Marshall, Walker, Hayde. **Sub:** Heir.

Borough welcomed Moor Green to Manor Park to play a Doc Martens Cup semi-final tie.

The tie was only eight minutes old when keeper Ron Green, failed to hold onto Ian Drewitt's low shot for Straw to snap up the rebound, feeding Simpson who slipped past a defender before rolling the ball over the line. Green had a let off when a terrible clearance went straight to Simpson who found Drewitt inside the box, but his sights were wildly off target as he blasted the shot over the bar.

Following an exciting opening 15 minutes, the tie began to slump with neither side threatening, the best chance going to Moors' defender Shaun Merchant, who evaded his marker before shooting past Hayward but his luck was out as the ball crept inches wide of the post.

Straw had the crowd on its toes just seconds into the second half as he hit a deep cross onto the top of the crossbar and Moors' Ricky Marshall fluffed a gilt-edged chance as he struck Ian Cotterill's corner kick over the bar from eight yards out. Marshall slipped up at the last hurdle minutes later as he put in a great solo run from midfield only for Hayward to spring off his line to make a brave, diving save.

For a time the Borough keeper was the busiest man on the park as a terrible mix-up between Seamus Luby and Gary Statham let Mick Moore through but Hayward, once again, was in position to save Borough's blushes. Straw was unlucky with 20 minutes to go to full-time as he raced through to the edge of the area only for Merchant to make a

last-gasp tackle and Barry Williams should have done better after a great solo run only to tamely chip the ball over the keeper – and the bar.

But there was no stopping Borough's top marksman when, with referee Curson about to blow his whistle, Straw ran onto Gary Hardwick's pass to punch a drive past Green for his 31st goal of the season to put his side on course for a final date against the winners of the Salisbury City v Baldock Town tie.

Stourbridge v Nuneaton Borough 23-03-1996

Stourbridge: Lowe, Gardiner, Trend, Byrne, Bastable, C. Walker, R. Walker, Smith, Harnett (Freeth 73), Palmer, Wood (Rudge 87). **Sub:** Yeep.

Borough: Haywood, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Andersen, Round, Straw, Drewitt, Simpson. **Subs:** Hardwick, Massey, Luby.

Borough travelled to Amblecote to play Stourbridge in a Southern League Midland Division game.

The match, played on a heavy pitch and in front of the Glassboys' biggest gate of the season got off to a slow start with the first quarter of an hour getting bogged down in midfield. The first action of note came on 16 minutes as Rob Straw tried to break through the home defence and was fouled, which led to a scuffle involving several players.

The result was a stern warning from referee Foster of Hereford. Steve Round's free kick was well held by home custodian Matt Lowe. Four minutes later Tony Simpson had a chance when he pounced on a loose ball just outside the 18 yard box but his tame shot was easily gathered by Lowe. On 38 minutes an Ian Drewitt run down the left saw his corner missed by Straw when well placed and just before the break at the opposite end, good work by the much sought after Les Palmer set up Andy Harnett, who shot tamely wide from 18 yards.

The second half opened with Stourbridge on top and after good work by Palmer on 47 minutes, his right wing cross just evaded the in-rushing Clive Walker. Soon after, a Nicky Andersen free-kick picked out Drewitt but the Welshman struck his shot high and wide. It was Drewitt in action again on 55 minutes when he headed into the side netting from Rob Straw's cross. Just before the hour mark, slack work by the Borough defence saw a loose ball picked up by Jason Smith and his chip shot flew narrowly wide of the post with Hayward struggling to cover.

With 15 minutes remaining a Steve Round free-kick found Gary Statham and he headed a yard wide, but the goal Borough badly wanted came in the 81st minute. A fine run by Simpson took him past two defenders before he fed the unmarked Rob Straw on the edge of the box and he coolly and clinically slotted the ball past Lowe to send the huge travelling support wild with delight.

Five minutes later another fine Simpson run again set up Straw but this time his shot went just wide. Borough then comfortably held on to their slender advantage.

Tamworth v Nuneaton Borough 26-03-1996

Tamworth: Phillips, Mulholland (Mann 65), Osbourne, Brogan, Howard, Mitchell, Foy, Bennett (Christopher 80), Alsop, Harbottle (Whitehouse 65), Baddams.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Andersen, Round, Straw, Drewitt, Simpson. **Subs:** Hardwick, Luby, Clamp.

Borough travelled to The Lamb to play Tamworth in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough could have got off to the worse possible start but Ian Bennett contrived to miss a gilt-edged chance after being set up by Julian Alsop. With only Paul Hayward to beat the former Paget Rangers and Leicester United hitman somehow shot wide. On ten minutes, good work by Steve Round gave Straw the opportunity to send Ian Drewitt down the left, but his shot flew wide. Soon after a teasing Tony Simpson run saw the Borough winger get the better of Gary Osbourne, his ring wing cross found Round who headed just wide. The goal that Borough had threatened came in the 21st minute and what a peach it was. A Round cross picked out Straw and he swivelled majestically to smash a fierce left foot shot in off the underside of the crossbar.



Ian Drewitt joins Rob Straw in celebrating his second goal of the game.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

The rampant visitors nearly increased their lead two minutes later when Drewitt's cross shot was cleared off the line by Howard. On the half-hour mark the busy Round cut in from the left and shot just over the bar. Six minutes later a rare Tamworth attack saw Bennett's low cross evade Hayward but Warren Donald was on hand to tidy up. Five minutes before the break fine work by Drewitt sent Straw streaking away down the left and as he cut inside his bullet like shot was superbly tipped over by Mark Phillips.

Early in the second half, a crude tackle by David Foy on Round earned the home midfielder a yellow card, but in the 54th minute Borough effectively killed off the game with their second goal. Barry Williams started the move with a run from deep inside his own half and on the edge of the Tamworth area he found Ian Drewitt who jinked past three home defenders before smashing a left-foot shot past the helpless Phillips.

From then on the home side tried in vain to get back into the match but they came up against a brick wall Borough

defence, restricting Tamworth to long range efforts, one of which from Ian Mitchell cleared the stand and fence and hit the chimney of a house backing on to the ground at the Meadow Street end. On 72 minutes, it looked like Simpson was going to increase Borough's advantage but good covering work by Foy saw the ball roll out for a goal kick. Three minutes later a 50-yard crossfield pass by Donald picked out Straw, but his low cross just evaded the far post.

Twelve minutes from time, Borough put the seal on a first-class showing with another gem. A slide rule pass from Nicky Andersen split the Tamworth defence wide open and Straw ran on unchallenged to fire home past the stranded Phillips. The remainder of the local derby was played out with some exhibition one touch football from Borough who at the final whistle received a standing ovation from their huge following, who now realise that this latest success bring Beazer Premier football so tantalisingly close for next season.



Delighted Borough fans salute their favourites' superb 3-0 win that almost guarantees a promotion place.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Nuneaton Borough v Rothwell Town 30-03-1996

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Hardwick, Round, Straw, Drewitt, Simpson. **Subs:** Clamp, Luby, Massey.

Rothwell: Liquorish, McGuire (Westley 79), Foley, Humphrey, Torrance, Waite, Orton, Coe, Calvert (Bone 45), Beards, Lord. **Sub:** McDonald.

Borough welcomed Rothwell Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

Borough made the early running and a neat one-two between Williams and Crowley after eight minutes saw the latter's pass just fail to reach the well-placed Rob Straw. On 15 minutes Borough had appeals for a penalty turned down after Tony Simpson robbed Mark Orton and was tripped, but Mr Roberts waved away the appeal. Five minutes later a fine mazy run from Straw sent Drewitt free in the box but he shot against keeper Danny Liquorish when he should have done better. Midway through the half a Steve Round free-kick found Gary Statham but his shot went straight to Liquorish.

Eight minutes from half-time the Rothwell custodian was back in action when a run from Tony Simpson down the right found Straw on the edge of the box and his powerful low left foot drive was well held by Liquorish. A minute later John Coe was booked for a foul on Straw and from Crowley's free-kick

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



the Borough striker picked up the clearance outside the box and his first time drive whistled just past the post. In first-half injury time a Steve Round cross was met by a Statham header, but the ball went a yard wide.

The second period opened with the Borough again on the attack and on 48 minutes a fine Steve Round pass found Straw and his shot was superbly saved by Liquorish. The home side were again out of luck three minutes later when Straw's corner from the right fell to Drewitt and his chip shot crashed against the crossbar and was scrambled clear. Soon after Gary Hardwick picked up a loose ball just outside the box and his shot curved just wide of the post. The Borough midfielder was again unlucky on 66 minutes when he picked up a pass from Steve Round and his cross shot was cleared off the line.

Eleven minutes later a Gary Statham pass sent Warren Donald on a run down the middle and from 20 yards out he saw his shot dip a yard over the bar. Eight minutes from time Borough wasted another good opportunity when Straw's back heel set Simpson free on the edge of the box, but he shot tamely wide when a pass to the unmarked Drewitt would have brought a better result.



Borough's Gary Statham is first to the ball. Photo: Heartland Evening News

Borough could have been made to pay for that miss three minutes later when Rothwell wasted their one and only chance of the match. A John Coe pass split the Borough defence wide open to leave Ben Lord with only Paul Hayward to beat but the home custodian bravely dived at the feet of Lord to rescue the Blues. Try as they might Borough failed to get the vital breakthrough during the final minutes and at the whistle there was an air of disappointment around the ground.

Moor Green v Nuneaton Borough 02-04-1996

Moor Green: Green, Byrne, Russell, Williams, Gillard, Jones, Davies, Cotterill, Marshall, Walker, Hayde. **Subs:** Hamilton, Moore, Scandrett.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Luby, Massey (Lavery 81), Clamp (M'Briwa 59), Round, Straw, Hardwick, Simpson. **Sub:** Morrell.

Borough travelled to The Moorlands to play Moor Green in a Doc Martens Cup semi-final second leg tie.

Borough started in determined mood as Straw put a neat pass through to Steve Round, who left a defender in his wake to fire a shot inches wide of the target. But Moors, with all the work

to do, pressed forward and it was only the combined efforts of Tom McGinty and Hayward that kept Davies at bay. The Moors winger was buzzing around the edge of Borough's box minutes later before slamming Paul Jones' pass wide of the right-hand post, but the visitors never looked to be in serious trouble and always looked capable or retaliating. This was in spite of the lack of key players – Barry Williams, David Crowley, Nicky Andersen and Ian Drewitt – all sidelined with minor injuries.

Round was busy just before the half-hour mark as he had two bites at a corner kick, finding Gary Statham in front of goal but the defender's header was just off target. Davies was causing trouble again and it needed a brave dive by Hayward to foil the fleet footed striker. Then, with seconds to go to the break, former Borough defender Alan Byrne, racing down the right, evading the attentions of defender, McGinty, before crossing into the six-yard box but, once again, Hayward was in position to cut out the danger.

Moors' keeper Ron Green drew on his many years of experience as he foiled a move by Gary Hardwick and Tony Simpson, but 60 seconds later there was no way he could prevent Borough's vital breakthrough goal. Simpson, revitalised after a quiet first-half, broke down the right, crossing low into the area for Straw to stab the ball past Green, for his 36th goal of the season. Rallying again, Moors' Ian Cotterill battled his way through on the right wing before crossing to Davies, but Hayward was on his toes to save his looping shot.

With a four goal wall facing them, Moors' heads never went down and they continued to battle against the improbable odds. Green kept a glimmer of hope alight as he saved from Simpson and Hardwick and pulled off a magnificent stop from a close range Straw special. Fittingly, it was Davies who scored Moors' consolation goal as he converted Mick Hayde's cross with a bullet-like header but by then it was all over and Borough came off looking forward to their first appearance in the final for 33 years.

Bedworth United v Nuneaton Borough 06-04-1996

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Andersen, Round, Straw, Drewitt, Simpson. **Subs:** Hardwick, Massey, Luby.

Borough travelled to The Oval to play Bedworth United in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Matt Wileman was once again the toast of Bedworth, as for the second time this season he scored the goal that gave United victory. His 52nd minute goal proved to be decisive as the Greenbacks' triumphed 1-0, and what a strike it was as he lashed a stunning 30 yarder past Borough keeper Paul Hayward. In truth, it was not a classic game, but the Oval outfit were good value for their win carving out the only two clear cut chances of the afternoon, both squandered by striker John Symonds and midfielder Tom Daly.

The closest the visitors came to scoring was a stunning 12-yard volley from Rob Straw five minutes from time that came back off the underside of the bar and out to safety.

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



Nuneaton Borough v Tamworth

08-04-1996

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Andersen, Round, Straw (Burton 75), Drewitt, Simpson. **Subs:** Luby, Massey.

Tamworth: Phillips, Mulholland, Osbourne, Grogan, Howard, Mitchell, Seivwright, Bennett (Christopher 72), Alsop, Baddams (Mann 80), Campbell (Whitehouse 54).

Borough welcomed Tamworth to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

In spite of their obvious physical presence, the visitors failed to impress in front of goal. Their early game was summed up in an effort by David Campbell who, unmarked, headed Gary Osbourne's corner kick wide of the target. Tony Simpson then made a break down the right before cutting inside to fire a 25 yard drive which did not trouble keeper Mark Phillips. Too many passes were going astray at critical times and Tamworth were packing their defence and hitting everything high upfield at every opportunity.

After starting the season as strong contenders for promotion, Tamworth have since fallen badly by the wayside and their sorry plight was reflected in some poor finishing. What would have once been a certain goal for Julian Alsop in the 23rd minute was tamely tapped to Hayward from the edge of the box after good work by Dennis Mulholland. But Borough's leading striker Rob Straw, was not doing a lot better as he clipped a volley wide from 15 yards but soon made up for the miss with a devastating run at the defence to set up Simpson, who fired a right foot volley into the net from ten yards.

Unbelievably, it was only Borough's second goal in their last four league and cup games, but it could not have come at a better time. Straw had a chance to make it two just before the break but was unable to control an awkward bobbling ball to give Phillips time to save. The goal was just the tonic that Borough needed and everyone was expecting more of the same in the second half but, try as they might, they were unable to force home their advantage.

Substitute, Derek Christopher, blasted a shot over the bar from Adrian Baddams' headed pass. Borough had to run a gauntlet of bruising body checks and niggling tackles, leading to Kevin Seivwright and Borough's Warren Donald having their names taken. With the game well into injury time, Chris Burton left two markers for dead on the edge of the box, but once again, Lambs were reprieved with a poor finish.

King's Lynn v Nuneaton Borough

06-04-1996

King's Lynn: Lewis, Stanhope, Skelly, Bloodworth (Setchell 70), Pascoe, Curtis, McLoughlin, Harrison, Hudson (Carus 77), McNamara, Hopkins. **Sub:** Hawthorn.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Massey (Luby 79), Andersen (Hardwick 79), Round, Straw, Drewitt, Simpson. **Sub:** Clamp.

Borough travelled to The Walks to play King's Lynn in a Southern League Midland Division game.

It was a fitting stage for Borough's big moment with The Walks Stadium bathed in spring sunshine and watched by 3,635 fans

– King's Lynn's biggest gate for 25 years. Linnets were having trouble from the start as Borough marshalled their strength in defence with striker Rob Straw the lone front man and Drewitt, playing deep, ready to swoop on any slip-up.

The home team escaped an early Borough effort as Nicky Andersen fired inches wide before Craig Hopkins forced his way to the edge of the area, whipping in a pass across the face of the Nuneaton goal, just missing leading scorer, Brett McNamara. But Linnets were failing to follow up, unlike Borough who were constantly picking up the loose ball. That will to win paid off with just 12 minutes on the clock when Drewitt was bundled off the ball before calmly sending Steve Lewis the wrong way from the spot.



Ian Drewitt's 12th minute penalty is on its way into the net to put Borough on their way to victory.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Linnets looked anxious at times as they tried to break the midfield down while contending with the troublesome, roving Straw. Paul Hayward was hardly troubled by Steve McLoughlin's 20 yard free-kick before the home side were forced to defend as Drewitt, Simpson and Straw had the goal under siege. Borough were equally adept in defence when just before the half-hour, Jason Pascoe's header from Stanhope's corner kick looked destined for the net only for Steve Round to head off the line.

Hayward calmed a dangerous moment as he took McNamara's close range shot at the second attempt, but Borough's best worked move deserved better as Gary Statham's pass was headed on to Barry Williams whose shot cannoned off the post. McNamara tested Hayward twice within minutes but try as they might they could not match Borough's spirit, summed up in the dying seconds of the half by Drewitt, as he carved his way through three thumping tackles before getting the ball away to Straw.

King's Lynn were transformed after the break, forcing the visitors to defend. Rich Skelly hitting the side netting and winning two corners in quick succession. The only chance, once again, flying wide as Lee Hudson's shot was deflected. After all that effort it must have been heart breaking for the



home fans as Hudson broke free and looked certain to score only for Statham to make the tackle of the game, clearing the ball off the striker's toe with the goal only yards away. Straw almost caught Lewis as the keeper hit a terrible clearance and had to race back as the ball looped to within a yard of the open goal.

Borough's top scorer was frustrated yet again as, with the game three minutes into injury time and following a five minute break after fighting broke out on the terraces, his fierce drive struck the post. Both teams went off to a standing ovation and it now remains to be seen if Borough can crown their season with the championship title.

Baldock Town v Nuneaton Borough 17-04-1996

Baldock: Jones, Bruce, Cullum, Bowgett (Kilby 60), Stanton, Woolgar (Howell 53), Debnam, Wallace, Chattoe. **Sub:** Goodwin.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Andersen, Hardwick, Straw, Drewitt, Simpson. **Subs:** Massey, Clamp, Lavery.

Borough travelled to Norton Road to play Baldock Town in a Doc Martens Cup Final first leg tie.

Borough were first to show after five minutes when Rob Straw left Paul Bowgett for dead and his angled drive was turned round the post by keeper Jimmy Jones. From Nicky Andersen's corner Gary Statham shot tamely into Jones' arms. Five minutes later Matt Woolgar picked up a loose ball on the edge of the visitors' box but his powerful drive was tipped over the bar by Paul Hayward for a fruitless corner. On the 15 minute mark, a mazy run from Tony Simpson took him to the edge of the home 18-yard box before firing high over the bar and as Borough continued to call the shots, it came as no surprise when they took the lead in the 32nd minute. Straw was fouled by Bowgett 20 yards out and Nicky Andersen curled the resulting free-kick into the top corner of the net giving Jones no chance in the home goal.

Ten minutes before the break Town's best player, Glen Russell, had a fierce 20 yard drive well saved by Paul Hayward. On the stroke of half-time, Baldock had the ball in the net when Russell's cross found Andy Wallace but the Reds centre-forward used his hand to help the ball across the line and the effort was disallowed.

The second period started with Brendan Phillips' men on the attack and after 50 minutes they increased their lead. Simpson fed Drewitt down the right and as he cut into the middle he in turn found the unmarked Straw who made no mistake from 12 yards out. Five minutes later another long range Baldock effort, this time from Wallace was again matched by the ever safe Hayward and on 57 minutes Borough effectively killed the game off with their third goal of the night. Tony Simpson broke through two tackles before freeing Straw and Borough's top marksman produced a clinical finish by slotting home his second goal of the night, sending the visiting contingent wild with delight.

It was all Borough by now and after 63 minutes a fine

Andersen through ball found Straw but this time his snap shot was well saved by Jones. With 15 minutes left Baldock pulled a goal back when Warren Donald fouled Shaun Debnam inside the area and from the resulting spot kick Hayward could only help Andy Wallace's penalty into the net.

After this Town stepped up a gear, but they could not find their way through a resolute Borough defence and it was the Blues who should have increased their lead with three minutes remaining. A short Simpson corner found Andersen whose cross picked out the unmarked Gary Statham who headed badly wide from just six yards. Borough comfortably played out the remaining time and now must be hot favourites to claim the trophy.

Nuneaton Borough v Bridgnorth Town 20-04-1996

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Massey, Crowley, Andersen, Hardwick (Lavery 84), Straw (Luby 43), Drewitt, Simpson. **Sub:** Round.

Bridgnorth: Law, Bradley, Hammond, Evans, Lander, Tulloch, Guest (Peters 77), Sankey, Saunders, Martin, Tester. **Subs:** Sullivan, Jefferies.

Borough welcomed Bridgnorth Town to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

There was an air of expectancy as the game kicked off but neither side looked comfortable as passes went astray and it was the eighth minute before there was a shot on target when Richard Massey, in for the suspended Barry Williams, blocked Lee Martin's close range effort. Tony Simpson began to find his way down the right wing, finding top marksman Rob Straw, who passed to Ian Drewitt, but his finish lacked power and drifted wide of the target. Bridgnorth, staring relegation in the face, had to take their chances but team captain Ian Sankey allowed his emotions to rule his head as he snatched a good chance from a corner kick high and wide.

With so much to play for it was understandable that tensions would spill over and Drewitt found his name going into the book following a goalmouth incident. But that was soon forgotten when, with 31 minutes on the clock, Drewitt pounced on Straw's looping pass into the box to bury a glorious volley into the roof of the net. Straw did not have a chance to add to his season's impressive tally when he limped off two minutes before the break with a badly bruised right thigh, an injury which could see him miss the trip to Rothwell.

Town looked more determined after the break and went desperately close to closing the gap when Carl Saunders headed inches wide from Calvin Guest's well worked cross. Defender Seamus Luby, on for Straw, found himself in the striking role and went close to pushing the score along but Martin Lander made a timely tackle after Nicky Andersen got a boot to Simpson's pass from the right wing. Bridgnorth did not look at all happy as Borough pushed forward and almost committed a cardinal sin when a back pass from Hammond caught keeper Law in two minds as he hastily kicked the ball off his line.

Law looked better as he made a spectacular diving save from

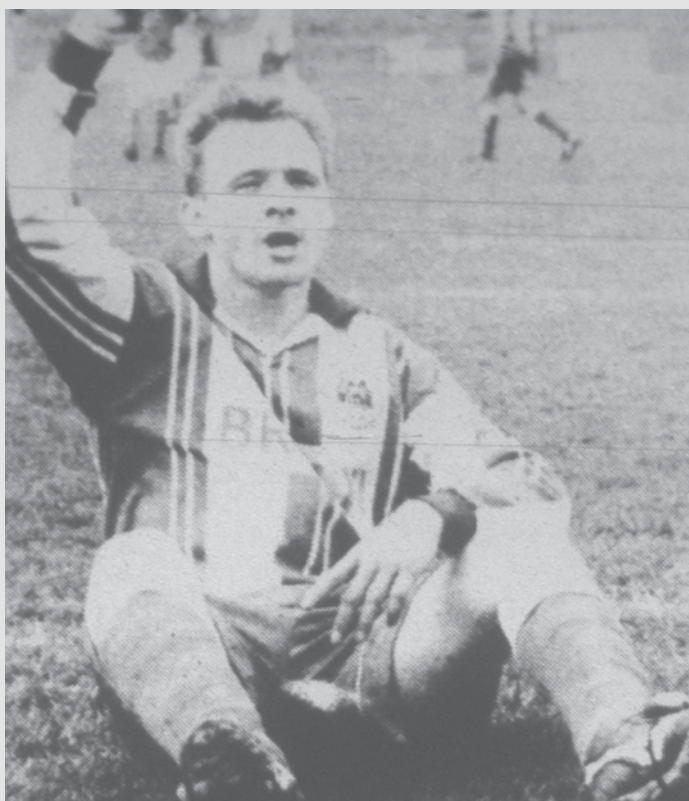
Andersen's powerful drive but there was no way he could prevent Borough's second goal as a clash between Lander gave Drewitt the simple task of gleefully hammering the ball home from 10 yards. Saunders almost pulled one back for the visitors in closing stages but, once again, his shooting was off as he cleared Paul Hayward and the crossbar.

Cries of 'Champions, Champions' echoed around Manor Park as the news came in that Bedworth had beaten King's Lynn and Borough fans staged a rare celebration of a Bedworth win.



It's all smiles in the Borough dressing room as the team celebrate the news of a Bedworth win, giving Borough the championship.

Photo: Heartland Evening News



Ian Drewitt sits this one out as he awaits the congratulations of his colleagues after notching his second goal. Photo: Heartland Evening News

Rothwell Town v Nuneaton Borough 23-04-1996

Rothwell: Liquorish, McGuire, Meeds (Orton 79), Humphrey, Torrance, Foley, McDonald, Coe, Calvert, Beards, Lord. Subs: Wills, Tiday.

Borough: Hayward, Massey, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Lavery (Hardwick 89), Luby, M'Briwa (Clamp 76), Drewitt, Simpson. Sub: London.

Borough travelled to Cecil Street to play Rothwell Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

The outcome may have been very different if Sarh M'Briwa, making his first start, had finished what began as a very promising break. He did well in avoiding Danny Liquorish's despairing dive but could only watch as defender Dean Foley somehow scrambled the ball away. Liquorish did better moments later as he denied M'Briwa again, the ball striking his legs as he threw himself across the box. Borough were having the best of the contest but the final touch was letting them down badly as The Bones somehow kept their heads above water.

Ian Drewitt, chasing the absent Rob Straw's impressive goal tally, almost added to his own as he forced Liquorish into making an instinctive diving save ten minutes from the break. But with seconds to go before half-time and against the run of play, The Bones stunned Borough as Paul Hayward failed to hold onto Stew Beard's powerful drive for top scorer Kevin McGuire to stab the ball home.

Hayward did better moments after the break as he made a fine save from Beard's acutely angled shot but that was one of the rare highlights as the game settled into a drab midfield slogging match lit by the odd break. Unfortunately that odd break led to Bones second goal after Hayward brought Beards down in the box before McGuire converted from the spot.

Barry Williams in an unaccustomed full-back position, added a flicker of hope in the final minute as he made a penetrating run from deep inside his own half but, once again, the finish was abysmal as Hardwick tamely tapped the ball to Liquorish.

Nuneaton Borough v Leicester United 27-04-1996

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Andersen (Massey 40), Luby (Clamp 79), M'Briwa (Hardwick 57), Drewitt, Simpson.

Leicester: Robbins, Knight, Saunders, Campbell, Robinson, Langston, Weafer (Lennon 40), Thompson, Johnson, Agar, Howkins. Subs: Mills, Selby.

Borough welcomed Leicester United to Manor Park to play a Southern League Midland Division game.

With Warren Donald back to bolster the defence after a one match suspension, Borough never looked in trouble but there was little to excite the 1,000-plus crowd until the 13th minute when Seamus Luby whipped in a cross for Tony Simpson to clip a shot inches wide of the post. United had to grit their teeth as Nuneaton won two quick corner kicks, Ian Drewitt going close with a diving header which keeper Paul Robbins did well to stop at close range. Luby went close to getting his name on the scoresheet with a super shot, forcing Robbins into making a spectacular diving save for yet another corner,

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



but Leicester's set piece just before the half hour from Warren Campbell was easily cleared by Barry Williams. Crowley and Gary Statham easily dealt with two Leicester breakaway moves just before half-time as Nicky Andersen limped off to be replaced by Richard Massey.

Following a pep talk from Brendan Phillips, revitalised Borough were rewarded two minutes after the break with a rare goal from Barry Williams. The defender's third success of the season was well worth waiting for as he met Tom McGinty's corner kick to head home past Robbins. Simpson was disappointed as Robbins made a flying save and McGinty went close with a curling shot which flew wide of the angle as Borough pushed for the second to clinch the game.



Barry Williams climbs above the Leicester keeper to power a fine header into the net. Photo: Heartland Evening News

They did not have to wait too long, when, with 18 minutes left to play, Richard Massey's powerful header from Simpson's cross tore through Robbins' arms and into the net. United offered little from then on as the home side comfortably kept them virtually bottled up in their own half as the fans started their celebrations.

Nuneaton Borough v Baldock 30-04-1996

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Luby, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Andersen, Hardwick (Massey 81), Burton, Drewitt, Simpson. **Sub:** M'Briwa.

Baldock: Jones, Bruce, Bowgett, Graves, Stanton, Debnam, Chattoe, Fenton (Woolgar 85), Howell, Wallace, Bates. **Subs:** Kilby, Cattnur.

Borough welcomed Baldock to Manor Park to play a Doc Martens Cup final second leg tie.

Borough went into the tie with a commanding 3-1 advantage from the first leg but there was always a nagging fear that Baldock would snatch an early goal, putting the home side under pressure. That moment almost came in the 11th minute when veteran Paul Bowgett's 25-yard free-kick looked destined for the net only for Paul Hayward to make a superb diving save. Hayward continued to frustrate the Reds for the rest of the game and thoroughly deserved the award for Nuneaton man of the match.

Borough had a great chance to put the game beyond Baldock's reach when Nicky Andersen and Tony Simpson linked to find Chris Burton, in for injured Rob Straw, but keeper Jimmy Jones quickly closed down the angle to force the shot wide for a corner kick. Ian Drewitt's volley from the resulting set-piece cannonned off a defender for a second corner as Borough harried and chased to protect their lead.

The defence was busy on the 20 minute mark as Darren Fenton missed a good chance in a goalmouth melee and Shaun Debnam had two shots blocked, first by Gary Hardwick then Seamus Luby. Hayward then pulled off the save of the game as he dived low to his right to foil Fenton's powerhouse free-kick. But Fenton was luckier with ten minutes to go to the break as his corner kick eluded everyone in the area, bouncing once before going in at the unmarked far post. Two minutes later Borough were level after defender Marcelle Bruce sent Simpson crashing to the turf for Drewitt to calmly stroke the ball home from the spot.

The second half opened with Andy Wallace trying a shot from the edge of the box which cleared Borough's cross bar by inches before Andersen laid on a superb ball to Simpson, who forced his way into the heart of the Reds' defence. But his pass to Dave Crowley bobbled awkwardly on the hard ground, giving Jones time to clear. Hayward then pulled off another athletic diving save, predictably from a Fenton free kick as time began to tick away for the visitors. Burton almost sealed the tie as he side-footed Simpson's pass over the bar to a roar from the fans packed into the Cock and Bear stand and Drewitt got the same response as he missed adding to his tally with a close range effort.

Howell and Bates were left wondering what went wrong as they pounced on a rare error by defender Warren Donald only to lose out to the lightning reactions of Hayward. It looked all over with eight minutes left to play when suddenly it was. Simpson hit a short corner before closing to the edge of the box and rifling a neat looping shot over the defence and inches under the bar to set Manor Park alight.

There were wild scenes at the final whistle as the players showed the trophy to the supporters, who ignored the driving rain to cheer their team. Gallant losers Baldock joined in as they clapped the winners into the tunnel. There were nice touches at the end as Chris Burton handed his winner's medal to Rob Straw and Warren Donald gave his precious memento to a young supporter, who will no doubt remember last night for the rest of his life.

Former Borough Steward Dies

Former Nuneaton Borough Social Club steward, Joe Gibson, has died suddenly. Joe, aged 70, who was a popular figure behind the bar at the club during the late 60s and 70s, was out walking yesterday morning when he collapsed. Brother, Bill Stewart, said: "It has come as a big shock. Joe was just strolling in Exeter Park when he just keeled over. He had moved down to Exeter to live with his daughter, Wendy."



Buckingham Town v Nuneaton Borough 04-05-1996

Buckingham: Warnecki, Cuddy, Palmer, Allen, Brown, Hartwell (Butler 59), Sherlock, Hamilton, Marshall, Goodridge. Subs: Mansfield, Pullman.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Andersen (Clamp 43), Luby, Massey, Drewitt, Simpson. Subs: Hardwick, Lavery.

Borough travelled to Ford Meadow to play Buckingham Town in a Southern League Midland Division game.

Many players must have had next season on their minds as they had Robins on the ropes from the opening whistle. Tony Simpson had the defence in all sorts of trouble as he weaved his way to the edge of the penalty area and his final pass found Massey, who pulled his shot over the crossbar. Buckingham's only chance came after eight minutes as Declan Cuddy crossed for Tony Hamilton in the box but he tamely side footed the ball into Paul Hayward's arms. Then with 14 minutes on the clock, Robins went one down as Borough struck with a tremendous move started by Dave Crowley in midfield.

Massey played a one-two with Ian Drewitt before thrusting his way past two defenders and drilling an unstoppable shot past Paul Warnecki. Borough were playing some delightful football as Robins struggled to stem the tide but the flood gates gave way in two minutes of frantic action as Nuneaton overwhelmed their hosts. Nicky Andersen's 25th minute corner kick found Gary Statham who headed home through a ruck of defenders.

Two minutes later Simpson completed the rout with a determined finish as he made the most of his second bite of the cherry to fire home a deflected shot past Warnecki. Andersen went off shortly before the break following a bone-crunching tackle to be replaced by Scott Clamp and Borough missed his incisive passing in the second half which gave Robins opportunities to claw their way back.

After battling with little success, Buckingham got their reward

when Barry Williams was penalised for a push on Hamilton in the 76th minute for Marshall to convert from the spot. The hit-man was on target five minutes later as Borough's defence allowed captain Mark Sherlock time to slip a pass through to Marshall, who beat Hayward with a shot, low into the corner.

Nuneaton tightened up in the last ten minutes and could have snatched a fourth goal as Simpson failed to put away Seamus Luby's cross but they had done enough on the day and came off worthy winners.

Southern League Midland Division 1995-96

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-----------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| Nuneaton Borough | 42 | 30 | 5 | 7 | 82 | 35 | 95 |
| King's Lynn | 42 | 27 | 5 | 10 | 85 | 43 | 84 |
| Bedworth United | 42 | 24 | 10 | 8 | 76 | 42 | 81 |
| Moor Green | 42 | 22 | 8 | 12 | 81 | 47 | 74 |
| Paget Rangers | 42 | 21 | 9 | 12 | 70 | 45 | 72 |
| Tamworth | 42 | 22 | 3 | 17 | 97 | 64 | 69 |
| Solihull Borough | 42 | 19 | 9 | 14 | 77 | 64 | 66 |
| Rothwell Town | 42 | 17 | 14 | 11 | 79 | 62 | 65 |
| Buckingham Town | 42 | 18 | 9 | 15 | 74 | 62 | 63 |
| Dudley Town | 42 | 15 | 16 | 11 | 83 | 66 | 61 |
| Stourbridge | 42 | 17 | 8 | 17 | 60 | 63 | 59 |
| Bilston Town | 42 | 16 | 9 | 17 | 61 | 62 | 57 |
| Sutton Coldfield Town | 42 | 16 | 9 | 17 | 62 | 67 | 57 |
| Grantham Town | 42 | 17 | 5 | 20 | 71 | 83 | 56 |
| Redditch United | 42 | 14 | 11 | 17 | 57 | 77 | 53 |
| Leicester United | 42 | 13 | 13 | 16 | 58 | 72 | 52 |
| Hinckley Town | 42 | 14 | 7 | 21 | 62 | 83 | 49 |
| Racing Club Warwick | 42 | 10 | 13 | 19 | 67 | 90 | 43 |
| Evesham United | 42 | 11 | 6 | 25 | 59 | 94 | 39 |
| Corby Town | 42 | 9 | 7 | 26 | 52 | 95 | 34 |
| Bury Town | 42 | 8 | 8 | 26 | 57 | 95 | 32 |
| Bridgnorth Town | 42 | 7 | 6 | 29 | 53 | 112 | 27 |

Shock Resignations

A shock move has seen a top football boss walk out on his club just days after the end of one of the team's most successful seasons ever.

Mystery surrounds the motives of Nuneaton Borough Football Club vice-chairman Brendan Dodd, who this week submitted his resignation.

It is understood that Mr Dodd's close friend and fellow director, Borough company secretary Dave Lee, has also resigned his position.

It is just a few weeks since Borough achieved promotion from the Beazer

Midland Division to the Beazer Premier Division.

They then followed this triumph by winning the Dr Marten's Cup.

Both Brendan Dodd and Dave Lee were among the original 14 directors who provided a rescue package in 1991, keeping the club alive.

Chairman Howard Kerry, said: "I think all of us have considered resignation at one time or another. It's been a difficult time running the Borough since we bought the club, a lot of time and money. When we took it on it was finished and dusted

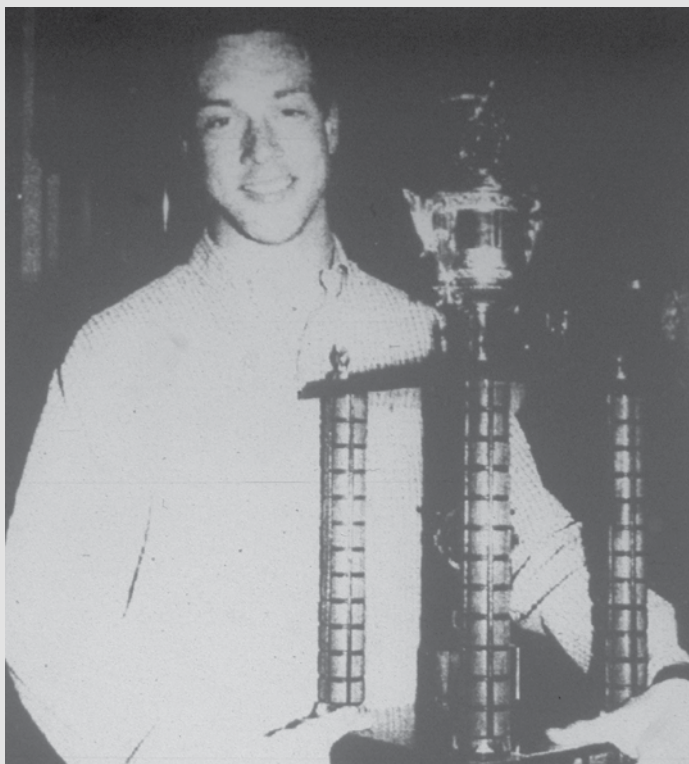
and we kept it going as far as we can.

"I think Brendan felt it was time to develop his own business interests and leave the Borough. To some people the best time to go out is when you're at the top.

"I can make it clear that it's not a case of him being told to go, it was a completely voluntary move."

Mr Kerry added that Mr Dodd had also resigned all of his shares in the club. All 14 directors had an equal share ownership. Mr Dodd who owns a Coventry car dealership, was unavailable for comment.

Barry Williams - Player Of The Year



Nuneaton Borough supporters turned out in force for the annual Player of the Year celebrations.

Influential defender, Barry Williams, took the honours

following a gruelling season in which he performed exceptionally well and drew a roar of approval from fellow players and the True Blues as he was presented with his trophy by master of ceremonies, John Tallis. It was a case of standing room only in the concert room at the Co-op Club in Dugdale Street, Nuneaton, as the trophies for a tremendous season were handed over.

Rob Straw deservedly won the Goal of the Season for his superb strike at Tamworth on March 26 and club captain Dave Crowley, was voted Away Player of the Year. And outgoing reserve team boss, Paul London, was awarded the Reserve Player trophy for his efforts in pulling the second string back from the depths of the Skol Combination Reserve Division.

Youth Team Scrapped

Nuneaton Borough have delivered a crushing blow to their successful youth team with the news that the youngsters are now surplus to requirements.

Consequently, the youth team, who have flown the flag for the Borough so successfully on the Midland Floodlit circuit for the past five seasons, have now been disbanded. Manager Malc Cannon has been told that the pitch is required for use by Coventry City Reserves, who will play at Manor Park next season. However, Cannon is far from happy with the decision and said: "In a town where there is little organised sport for teenagers in the 16-18 age bracket this is a terrible blow. For the board to put the interests of Coventry City before local youngsters leaves me very disappointed."



Nuneaton Borough players and their loyal fans applaud as skipper Dave Crowley receives the Beazer Midland Championship trophy.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Evesham — 4th Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Evesham to Manor Park to play a 4th Qualifying Round FA Cup tie.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Luby, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Andersen, Clamp, Straw, Drewitt, Simpson. Subs: Donnelly, McGinty, Ward.

Evesham: Nash, Tipton, Davis, Jordan, Clark, Cotterill, Bloomfield, Wright, Judge, Yates (Emms 77), Brain. Subs: Jones, Clear.

Borough earned themselves a 1st Round Proper tie away at Northern Premier League Barrow with a comprehensive win over Evesham.

A philosophical Brendan Phillips said the draw was disappointing but everyone had to remember that there were still a lot of non-league clubs left in the competition. "I will be thinking about the tie a little more in the next few weeks but now our sights are firmly set on the league programme," he said.

Phillips added that he was very, very pleased with Saturday's win – especially the second half when Borough blew Robins away with a five goal blitz.

"The forwards were terrific after the first half when the game went away from us a little and Evesham's free kick miss shortly after the restart was a crucial moment for us.

"I was a little disappointed that we did not win the second ball in midfield which meant that David Crowley had a lot of work to do but we always knew that Evesham were going to be a tough proposition.

"In spite of their using five men at the back we tore them apart and once they had a player sent off that was effectively it as far as the game went and the scoreline speaks for itself," he said.

With a 6-3 league victory over Evesham already under their belts this season, there was a feeling around Manor Park that Borough would come through again.

It certainly looked that way when, straight from the kick-off, Rob Straw



Tony Simpson nets Borough's third goal, despite a brave attempt to block from Evesham goalkeeper Paul Nash.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

chased a through ball into the area and almost stole a shock goal when keeper Nash's clearance cannoned off his body and sailed over the crossbar.

Straw, in the thick of the action and looking fit after weeks of injury problems, laid a superb pass inside

for Scott Clamp but the youngster's shot looped into the area for Nash to gather safely.

Borough were having the best of the opening minutes and reaped a rich reward when Tony Simpson was sent tumbling in the area by Chris Wright.



Gary Statham heads home his second goal.

Photo: Nuneaton Evening Tribune

Ian Drewitt calmly stepped up to the spot to bury the ball in the net for his 14th goal of the season.

Evesham kept up a dour defence and foiled repeated efforts by Nuneaton to push the scoreline along and it was a surprise to everyone watching when they drew level.

A bit of slack marking allowed Simon Brain to find Steve Yates on the edge of Borough's area who turned inside Seamus Luby before stabbing the ball past Hayward.

Undaunted, Simpson went on one of his long, solo runs which Nuneaton fans have been deprived of seeing for some time, threading his way unchallenged through the Robins' defence before forcing a diving save from Nash.

Straw followed up with a 25-yard effort which failed to trouble Nash but defender Luby brought a roar from the throats of the biggest gate of the season with a superb 45-yard rocket which Nash did well to tip over the bar.

The half finished on a bright note for the visitors as Yates unleashed a powerful shot which looked destined for the top right hand corner of the net until Hayward, at full stretch, made a splendid and crucial finger-tip save.

The restart saw Borough galvanised into action, winning a quick corner kick which Robins somehow cleared but with 51 minutes on the clock Nash fumbled a high centre from Andersen for Gary Statham to pounce, burying the ball in the net from close range for his second goal of the season.

Evesham bravely came back and should have levelled the tie when Simon Judge raced in to hit the rebound following an excellent stop by Hayward from Mark Tipton's free kick. But the gods were on Nuneaton's side and Hayward smothered the ball. A goal then could have inspired Evesham to greater efforts but any hopes they had were effectively snuffed out in a two goal blast in as many minutes as Borough ran amok.

First Simpson, following up a shot by Luby, squeezed the ball past Nash in the 66th minute followed two minutes later by a repeat of the earlier effort by Statham as he crashed home Straw's header on the line. That was followed by a bizarre incident 18 minutes from time when player manager Nick Jordan almost headed past his own keeper as he tried desperately to clear a Borough attack, the ball striking the post before a friendly boot hooked the danger away.

It was almost a shooting gallery for Borough in the closing minutes. Andersen celebrated with his first goal of the season as he converted Straw's 79th minute pass from 18 yards.

Fittingly, it was Straw who set the seal on the occasion with an 83rd minute penalty after defender Sean Cotterill was sent off for a deliberate hand ball.

Barrow — 1st Round Proper

Borough made the journey to Holker Street to play Barrow in a FA Cup First Round Proper tie.

Barrow: Deegan, Speak, Kennedy, Harold, Parker, Brown (E. Kennedy 45), Todhunter, Humphreys, Dobie, Morton, Hoskin. Subs: Ventre, Cumberbatch.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Luby, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Andersen, Carr, Straw, Drewitt (Donnelly 80), Simpson. Subs: Clamp, Culpin.

Never-say-die Borough took First Round FA Cup opponents Barrow all the way in a thrilling encounter – in spite of being reduced to nine men late in the second half.

In an amazing 60 seconds, team captain David Crowley and midfielder Nicky Andersen were given their marching orders as referee Lynch topped off his match score of ten cards – eight yellow, six of those going to Borough. But such was the fighting spirit displayed by Borough that the home side were forced back into their own half, almost conceding the equaliser, as Barry Williams skied a close-range shot over the crossbar in the dying seconds.

Manager Brendan Phillips, who was reduced to tears at the end after watching his team play their hearts out, said: "The lads did us, and the town, proud today with an absolutely tremendous battling performance.

"It was almost a home game for us as our supporters drowned out the opposition who were whistling for time ten minutes before the end and it was upsetting to have so much possession and come away with nothing.

"Barry was so unlucky at the end but we knew we were going to be put under pressure from the start and after they scored we came back tremendously well to level. I believe that if we could have held them at half time then we would have won."

Phillips gave glowing credit to Barrow for their win but was less complimentary about the referee. "The game was too big for him. He refereed it as if it was a Sunday league kick-about.

"I have no complaints about Warren Donald's and Nicky Andersen's



Tony Simpson swoops to put Borough level in the 28th minute.

Photo: Heartland Evening News



A first-half Borough attack is thwarted by Stuart Todhunter, despite the attentions of Gary Statham.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

cards but every other decision was questionable to say the least," he said.

Rain-lashed Holker Street, was seething with almost 3,000 supporters as the match kicked off and, as predicted Barrow charged forward winning a free-kick after 90 seconds which Paul Hayward took comfortably.

Hayward was busy minutes later as veteran striker Mark Dobie linked with Stuart Todhunter to set up a good chance. That was the format from then on as Barrow's front-runners, including Ashley Hoskin and Neil Morton had Borough on the ropes. The visitors had lucky escapes as Gary Statham cleared Todhunter's header and Morton missing a loose ball by inches as the goal gaped only feet away.

The pressure told as both full-backs, Donald and Seamus Luby, went into the book but Rob Straw provided a breather as he made a break but with little support his effort came to nothing.

After 20 minutes a lull settled on the game as both teams seemed to ease off but seven minutes later Barrow went in front. Borough's defence was caught as Todhunter raced through

onto Dobie's pass, his shot deflected into the path of Morton who made no mistake from ten yards.

Borough were stung into retaliation and from the restart Gerard Carr fired in a low shot from the edge of the area which was blocked only for Simpson to find the net from 15 yards.

Straw went close with a sharply angled effort as he turned and shot in one move but Mark Deegan was on his toes to make a diving save.

Barrow's Stuart Humphrey was foiled as Hayward stopped a tremendous 25-yard shot and Dobie clipped one wide of the post before the visitors were stunned as Hoskin broke on the left to deliver a pinpoint pass into the area for Dobie to finish with an unstoppable header.

With seconds to go before half-time, Ian Drewitt, who confounded all predictions by starting the game, was caught in two minds as Simpson's free-kick was cleared into his path but the resulting shot gave Deegan little trouble as he saved from Carr following up.

The second half resumed with Andersen trying a speculative 40-yard

shot which Deegan cleared to Dobie who tried to go all the way when a pass to the lurking Hoskin would have been more productive.

Williams did well to rob Morton moments later as the striker put on a virtuoso display and ten minutes into the half Barrow were in a confident mood but Drewitt went close to bursting the bubble as he lost his marker long enough to shoot from the edge of the area only to see the ball strike the side netting.

Andersen, Straw and Drewitt linked in a penetrating attack but Barrow held out. Then, with the roar of 500-plus supporters in their ears, Borough proceeded to reduce the Bluebirds to shambling desperation.

Simpson linked with Donald who hit a low centre which sailed harmlessly through then Williams headed wide from Andersen's cross before Simpson's free kick was fired inches wide by Andersen.

The home supporters were whistling desperately for the end as the tension became almost unbearable and Barrow's slender lead started to crumble.

Borough had to endure a counter attack when Hayward dropped John Kennedy's free kick Hoskin made yet another penetrating run but Borough were not finished even when Crowley and Andersen departed they kept hammering away at Barrow's defence.

The last gasp effort would have been just reward as a short corner kick from Simpson to Straw was fired in for Williams to hit first time – over the crossbar from 18 yards. It was a desperate moment and Williams summed up everyone's feelings as he stood holding his head in frustration and despair.

That was virtually the last kick of the game and no-one was more relieved than Barrow and their fans when the final whistle sounded.

Knowsley United – 2nd Qualifying Round

Borough welcomed Knowsley United to Manor Park to play a FA Trophy 2nd Qualifying Round tie.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, McGinty, Statham, Williams, Carr, Andersen, Luby, Straw, Donnelly, Simpson. Subs: Clamp, Mallabone, London.

Knowsley: Williams, Cook (Orr 45), Holiday, Stevens, Johnson, Barton, Wilson, Fahy, Jones, Brown, Clark. Subs: Arnold, Gouldbourne.

Harry Houdini could not have put on a more heart-stopping finale as Nuneaton Borough emerged triumphant with a late strike against Knowsley United.

Borough supporters had resigned themselves to a trip to Merseyside on Tuesday when with the tie deep into injury time, Tony Simpson pounced to give Nuneaton a place in the third qualifying round of the FA Trophy.

However, the 1,000-plus crowd's nerves should have been spared as Nuneaton were by far the better of the two sides and completely dominated the first-half.

But, in spite of going in front through Steve Donnelly in the 26th minute, Borough again failed to take their



Rob Straw unleashes the shot that brought the equaliser

Photo: Heartland Evening News

chances. Rob Straw, in particular, was desperately unlucky, missing a penalty kick in the seventh minute after defender Michael Holliday handled and heading Simpson's 23rd minute corner kick against the crossbar.

Straw must have thought luck had deserted him for good after missing out on at least four occasions but manager, Brendan Phillips, said he was happy with his striker's overall performance.

"Rob missed a few chances in the first half but I was pleased with the way he did not let it get to him and kept going to the end," said Phillips.

"I knew this would be a hard, physical game, and we have a hard week coming up so the last thing I wanted was a trip to Merseyside on Tuesday," he added.

Borough allowed Knowsley to get back into the game in the 34th minute after Paddy Wilson took two bites to beat Paul Hayward following a powerful run down the left wing by Basil Brown.

Moments later, Borough were almost plunged into deeper trouble when striker Mick Jones ran into a yawning space, catching the home side square but his final shot cleared the keeper – and the bar.

Knowsley's two front runners provided a bit of magic with minutes to go to the break as Brown showed Tom McGinty a clean pair of heels before hitting a super cross for Wilson but his header flew inches wide.

The restart was only seven minutes old when Wilson grabbed his, and his team's second goal, after running onto captain Joe Barton's pass and chipping the advancing Hayward before sliding the ball into the empty net.



Match-winner Tony Simpson torments the Knowsley defence

Photo: Heartland Evening News



Three minutes later Simpson's corner kick flew to Straw following a mid-air collision between Gary Statham and Lee Williams but he sliced the final touch with the goal yawning in front of him.

All that was forgiven in the 63rd minute, however, as Straw found the net with his favourite left foot to level the tie following a good move down the right by Andersen and Simpson.

Simpson was inches away from adding to his own tally but Andersen's defence splitting pass was just too strong as Williams came off his line to save.

Then came a nail biting final 20 minutes as Borough did everything but score.

Donnelly had a shot blocked for Straw to follow up, slamming the rebound into the side netting from six yards and Simpson, with a chance to sew up the game, failed to find the finishing touch.

And Knowsley's Tony Clark drew gasps from the terraces with a low drive which Hayward failed to hold as the ball bobbed inches past the foot of the post.

Then, minutes into injury time, when the tie looked destined for a draw, Borough were awarded a free-kick on the edge of Knowsley's area.

Andersen's low drive found Straw who turned and shot for Williams to palm the ball into the path of Simpson who made no mistake from two yards.

That was effectively the end, but referee Sutton kept the supporters in suspense for a further four minutes.

Spennymoor United – 3rd Qualifying Round

Borough made the journey to The Brewery Field to play Spennymoor United in a FA Trophy 3rd Qualifying Round tie.

Spennymoor: Swan, O'Hara, Skedd, Watson, Coatsworth, Alderson, Ainsley, Goodrick, Osbourne, Ludlow (Cowell 73), Veart.
Subs: Pearson, Richardson.

Borough: Hayward, Donald, Luby, Statham, Williams, Clamp (McGinty 58), Donnelly, Carr, Straw, Frewitt, Simpson. Subs: Gibson, Culpin.

Steve Donnelly capped a remarkable comeback from injury with a superb goal six minutes from full-time to seal Nuneaton Borough's victory against Spennymoor on Saturday.

Rob Straw had given Borough the lead just before the break as he volleyed home a deflection from a Tony Simpson shot to set up a nail-biting finale.

But less than 24 hours before the kick-off at the Brewery Field, Donnelly looked certain to miss the crucial tie as he battled to overcome an ankle injury.

Nobody who was watching would have suspected as much, or that manager Brendan Phillips had been forced to reshuffle his side with captain David Crowley and midfielder Nicky Andersen, both of whom were beginning three match suspensions.

Nuneaton, backed by their magnificent band of supporters, never looked in trouble and for long periods had their opponents reeling with some tremendous attacking football.

Following a promising start with a number of penetrating moves down both flanks Spennymoor were forced to resort to long, high balls as Borough, marshalled by impressive twin centre-halves, Barry Williams and Gary Statham, made their half a virtual no-go area.

Paul Hayward in the Borough goal was hardly troubled by efforts from Veart and Ludlow before a good move saw Ian Drewitt set up Straw who crossed for Donnelly but Osbourne was on hand to head clear.

Straw's powerful running was causing Moors all sorts of problems and keeper Adrian Swan, was forced into making a full-length save. After the striker cut inside two defenders to unleash a powerful 20 yard drive.

Ian Drewitt, was looking for his 18th goal of the season but Swan spoiled his day as first Straw then Williams, with a long clearance, set up the Welshman with the defence in disarray.

It was just the opposite at the far end as Moors' Veart, hit a penetrating cross into the area only for Warren Donald to calmly clear the danger.

With 14 minutes to go to the break Borough were well on top when Donnelly found Simpson wide on the right whose shot was palmed away by Swan into the path of Straw who volleyed home from 10 yards.

Moors tried desperately to close the gap before half-time, the best effort coming from Ludlow who forced Hayward into tipping the ball over the crossbar with a close range header.

Nuneaton caught the home side napping shortly after the break as Straw and Donnelly set up Drewitt, whose long, looping shot almost fooled Swan.

Moors found fresh reserves as Osbourne made a break down the right but, once again, the effort came to nothing as Statham tidied up at the back and, in pushing forward they left themselves dangerously exposed to the counter attack.

Straw almost exposed the space in two tremendous efforts within a minute as he raced onto long, upfield passes forcing Swan to make two excellent saves.

Spennymoor's best chance came 15 minutes from the end as Borough failed to clear a corner kick, Ludlow's header hit the post with the rebound going to Ainsley who also struck the opposite upright before Hayward smothered the danger.

Simpson started to find space down the right with a number of tantalising runs, one of them resulting in the frustrated Coatsworth being sent off, before hitting a superb 84th minute ball to the far post for Donnelly to head home.

The goal crushed the heart out of Moors and Borough could have gone further in front as Swan blocked a shot by Donnelly before recovering quickly to foil the lurking Straw.

Gainsborough Trinity — 1st Round Proper

Borough made the trip to Netherholme to play Gainsborough Trinity in a FA Trophy 1st Round Proper tie.

Gainsborough: Ingham, Price, Smith, Cooper, Lee, Ellender, Morrow (Matthews 45), Bishop, Evans (Kabia 86), Stiles, Snodin. Sub: Tingy.

Borough: Hayward, Luby (Clamp 45), McGinty, Statham, Williams, Crowley, Andersen (Donnelly 86), Carr, Straw, Drewitt, Simpson. Sub: London.

Poor defending and missed chances shattered Borough's FA Umbro Trophy dream with former Leeds United midfield ace, Glyn Snodin, the destroyer-in-chief with a fine hat-trick.

Following a lively start with Nuneaton's Rob Straw and Ian Drewitt testing the home defence, Trinity hit back with two goals in eight minutes and added a third just before the break.

Straw pulled on back in the 44th minute but the mountain was too steep for Borough to climb back. It was a tribute to Nuneaton's fighting character when Trinity's keeper, Gary Ingham, was voted man of the match.

Brendan Phillips said: "We dominated the game at the start but we were let down by bad defending and after 30 minutes we let it slip."

Borough were determined to go for it from the opening whistle, Straw forcing Ingham to make a finger-tip save and Drewitt panicking the defence with an angled shot which Paul Ellender did well to clear.

The home side were forced back in their own half but began to look dangerous on the break when Bishop crossed for Paul Hayward to save from a robust challenge by Morrow.

Trinity's Glyn Snodin and Gary Stiles began to make their presence felt as the home side pushed back which led to a 17th minute free-kick when Bishop was brought down on the edge of Borough's area.

Former Leeds midfielder, Snodin,

picked his spot and struck the ball into the top left hand corner, avoiding Hayward's despairing dive.

Nuneaton failed to emulate that effort in the 18th minute when a free-kick was cleared to Tony Simpson who brought a fine save from Ingham with a 25-yard drive.

But Gainsborough were creating most of the chances and caught Borough cold with 20 minutes to go to the break when Morrow robbed Seamus Luby, played a neat one-two with Evans before hitting a low shot into the corner of the net.

Undaunted, Nuneaton came back with Straw and Drewitt setting up Simpson but the final pass was too strong as he chased the ball into the area.

There were loud appeals for a penalty from the away support, when Drewitt looked to have been pulled down by Price but referee Prost was unimpressed.

Five minutes later and 90 seconds before the break, Snodin made it three as he smashed a close range shot into the net from Hayward's deflection.

Straw pulled one back for Borough from Andersen's free kick, the ball just crossing the line as Ellender raced back to clear.

Nuneaton restarted in determined mood and Scott Clamp, on for the injured Luby, needed too long to control the ball as Ingham came off his line to save.

Straw drew a roar from the Borough fans as he fired in a shot which Ingham did well to tip around the post into the side netting and the keeper had to be on his toes moments later as he blocked Andersen's free-kick with Tom McGinty closing in.

Borough's best chance of the half came with 25 minutes remaining as Straw hit a superb cross for Simpson to head straight into Ingham's arms from five yards. A foot either side and Nuneaton may have been looking at a possible draw.

But in spite of throwing everything into the attack, Borough were unable to break Trinity's defence. In seeking the elusive goal, the visitors left themselves dangerously exposed and with four minutes remaining Gainsborough moved in for the kill.

Substitute Neil Matthews broke free down the right before hitting a penetrating pass high over Hayward to the far post and the waiting Snodin, who side footed home with arrogant ease for his hat-trick and Trinity's fourth goal.



Rob Straw converts a difficult chance to reduce Gainsborough's lead to 3-1, a minute before the interval.

Photo: Heartland Evening News

Nuneaton Borough 1991-2000 – Part 1



Southern League Midland Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1995-96

Nuneaton Scores First

| Date | Opposition | Venue | Competition | Score | Scorers | Attendance |
|-------|-----------------------|-------|-------------|-------|--|------------|
| 07.19 | Mansfield Town | H | PSF | 4-0 | Drewitt (2, 1 pen), Burton, Morrison | 707 |
| 07.25 | Derby County | H | PSF | 0-6 | | 830 |
| 07.29 | Stalybridge Celtic | H | PSF | 2-1 | Straw (2) | 404 |
| 08.05 | Kidsgrove Athletic | A | PSF | 2-3 | Graham (2) | 210 |
| 08.08 | Leicester City | H | PSF | 0-0 | | 907 |
| 08.12 | Pershore Town | A | PSF | 7-0 | Drewitt (3), Straw (2), Morrell, Graham | 121 |
| 08.19 | Sutton Coldfield Town | H | L | 1-2 | Statham | 1002 |
| 08.23 | Dudley Town | A | L | 1-0 | Drewitt | 357 |
| 08.26 | Solihull Borough | A | L | 1-0 | Drewitt | 340 |
| 08.28 | Racing Club Warwick | H | L | 1-0 | Drewitt | 1010 |
| 09.02 | Moor Green | A | L | 2-0 | Drewitt (2) | 571 |
| 09.05 | Redditch United | H | L | 4-1 | Drewitt (2), Williams, Clark | |
| 09.09 | Hinckley Town | A | L | 3-0 | Straw (2), Drewitt | |
| 09.16 | Evesham Town | H | L | 6-3 | Straw (3), Crowley, Drewitt, Clark | 1415 |
| 09.19 | Dudley Town | H | L | 3-4 | Drewitt (pen), Straw, Smith | |
| 09.23 | Grantham Town | A | L | 2-1 | Drewitt, Donald | 543 |
| 09.30 | Bridgnorth Town | A | L | 0-1 | | 475 |
| 10.03 | V.S.Rugby | A | DMC1-1L | 4-2 | Smith, Simpson, Drewitt (pen), Carr | |
| 10.07 | Corby Town | H | L | 1-0 | Drewitt (pen) | 1075 |
| 10.21 | Evesham Town | H | FAC 1Q | 6-1 | Statham (2), Drewitt (pen), Simpson, Andersen, Straw (pen) | 1049 |
| 10.24 | Racing Club Warwick | A | L | 2-2 | Drewitt, Straw | 450 |
| 10.28 | Kings Lynn | H | L | 1-1 | Simpson | 1202 |
| 10.31 | V.S.Rugby | H | DMC1-2L | 2-1 | Donnelly, Williams | 629 |
| 11.04 | Knowsley United | H | FAT2Q | 3-2 | Donnelly, Straw, Simpson | 1017 |
| 11.11 | Barrow | A | FAC1 | 1-2 | Simpson | 2869 |
| 11.14 | Redditch United | A | L | 5-1 | Culpin (2, 1 pen), Straw, Carr, Drewitt (pen) | 385 |
| 11.18 | Buckingham Town | H | L | 1-1 | Drewitt | 1103 |
| 11.25 | Spennymoor United | A | FAT3Q | 2-0 | Straw, Donnelly | 486 |
| 12.02 | Bilston Town | H | L | 2-1 | Straw, Statham | 942 |
| 12.05 | Burton Albion | A | BSC2 | 1-2 | Carr | 343 |
| 12.09 | Sutton Coldfield Town | A | L | 3-0 | Straw (2), Drewitt (pen) | 498 |
| 12.12 | Atherstone United | A | DMC2 | 3-1 | Straw, Simpson, Drewitt | 467 |
| 12.16 | Solihull Borough | H | L | 2-1 | Andersen, Straw | 869 |
| 12.23 | Stourbridge | H | L | 1-0 | Drewitt (pen) | 975 |
| 01.01 | Bedworth United | H | L | 1-2 | Carr | 1936 |
| 01.06 | Bury Town | H | L | 5-1 | Simpson (2), Carr, Statham, Straw | 935 |
| 01.10 | Buckingham Town | A | DMC3 | 3-1 | Starw (2), Statham | 127 |
| 01.13 | Paget Rangers | A | L | 2-2 | Simpson, Drewitt (pen) | 760 |
| 01.20 | Gainsborough Trinity | A | FAT1 | 1-4 | Straw | 867 |
| 02.03 | Hinckley Town | H | L | 1-0 | Straw | 1061 |
| 02.10 | Evesham Town | A | L | 3-0 | Straw (2), Simpson | 460 |
| 02.14 | Crewe Alexandra | H | F | 1-2 | Straw (pen) | c.150 |
| 02.17 | Grantham Town | H | L | 2-0 | Simpson, Andersen | 1031 |
| 02.20 | Leicester United | A | L | 2-1 | Simpson, Straw (pen) | 223 |
| 02.24 | Bilston Town | A | L | 2-0 | Straw (2) | 489 |
| 02.27 | Bury Town | A | L | 3-1 | Straw (2), Statham | 218 |
| 03.02 | Corby Town | A | L | 3-1 | Straw (pen), Simpson, Hardwick | 602 |
| 03.09 | Paget Rangers | H | L | 0-2 | | 1179 |
| 03.14 | Gresley Rovers | H | DMC4 | 4-1 | Burton (2), Straw, Simpson | 606 |
| 03.16 | Moor Green | H | L | 3-1 | Drewitt (2), Straw | 937 |
| 03.19 | Moor Green | H | DMCSF-1L | 2-0 | Simpson, Straw | 528 |
| 03.23 | Stourbridge | A | L | 1-0 | Straw | 507 |

Southern League Midland Division: Fixtures, Results & Scorers- 1995-96

Nuneaton Scores First

| Date | Opposition | Venue | Competition | Score | Scorers | Attendance |
|-------|------------------|-------|-------------|-------|--------------------------|------------|
| 03.26 | Tamworth | A | L | 3-0 | Straw (2), Drewitt | 1635 |
| 03.30 | Rothwell Town | H | L | 0-0 | | 901 |
| 04.02 | Moor Green | A | DMCSF-2L | 1-1 | Straw | 340 |
| 04.06 | Bedworth United | A | L | 0-1 | | 1540 |
| 04.08 | Tamworth | H | L | 1-0 | Simpson | 1388 |
| 04.13 | Kings Lynn | A | L | 1-0 | Drewitt (pen) | 3635 |
| 04.17 | Baldock Town | A | DMCF-1L | 3-1 | Straw (2), Andersen | 386 |
| 04.20 | Bridgnorth Town | H | L | 2-0 | Drewitt (2) | 1245 |
| 04.23 | Rothwell Town | A | L | 0-2 | | 443 |
| 04.27 | Leicester United | H | L | 2-0 | Williams, Massey | 1055 |
| 04.30 | Baldock Town | H | DMCF 2L | 2-1 | Drewitt (pen), Simpson | 1248 |
| 05.04 | Buckingham Town | A | L | 3-2 | Massey, Statham, Simpson | 472 |

KEY : L = Southern League Midland, FAC= F.A.Cup, FAT= F.A.Trophy, DMC= Southern League Cup, BSC= Birmingham Senior Cup, PSF= Pre season friendly, F= Friendly



Nuneaton Borough 1995-96

Back Row (left to right): Gordon Lee (kitman), Richard Lavery, Richard Massey, Seamus Luby, Gary Statham, Paul Hayward, Barry Williams, Steve Round, Rob Straw, Scott Clamp, Richie Norman (Physio).

Front Row (left to right): Brendan Phillips (Manager), Warren Donald, Tony Simpson, Gary Hardwick, Dave Crowley (Captain), Tom McGinty, Ian Drewitt, Nicky Andersen, Colin Welsh (Assistant Manager).

Acknowledgments

A great debt is owed to the dedicated people who spent many long hours researching library records, archives and county records to provide the information for this website and its e-books.

Credit is due to the late John T. Moore, who dedicated many long hours of research, as well as to Roderick Grubb, Robert Forryan, Brian Anderson, Scott Renshaw, Andy Pace, Paul Sawyer, Kevin Brown, Geoff Cooke, John Hobson, Dave Hall, and the man behind the inspiration for this project Mike Turner.

Others, too numerous to mention, have also contributed – their names may not be mentioned but their services and knowledge of both the football club and the town have been invaluable.



[/FromTown2Town](#)



[@FromTown2Town](#)